

Structural Organization of the Retriever-CCC Endosomal Recycling Complex

Daniel J. Boesch^{1#}, Amika Singla^{2#}, Yan Han^{3#}, Daniel A. Kramer¹, Qi Liu², Kohei Suzuki²,
Puneet Juneja⁴, Xuefeng Zhao⁵, Xin Long², Michael J. Medlyn⁶, Daniel D. Billadeau⁶, Zhe
Chen^{3*}, Baoyu Chen^{1*}, Ezra Burstein^{7*}

Affiliations:

¹Roy J. Carver Department of Biochemistry, Biophysics & Molecular Biology, Iowa State University, 2437 Pammel Drive, Ames, IA 50011, USA.

10 ²Department of Internal Medicine, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, 5323 Harry
11 Hines Boulevard, Dallas, TX 75390, USA

12 ³Department of Biophysics, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, 6001 Forest Park
13 Road, Dallas, TX 75390, USA

14 ⁴Cryo-EM facility, Office of Biotechnology, Iowa State University, 2437 Pammel Drive, Ames, IA
15 50011, USA

16 ⁵Research IT, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Iowa State University, 2415 Osborn Dr,
17 Ames, IA 50011, USA

18 ⁶Division of Oncology Research, College of Medicine, Mayo Clinic, Rochester MN, 55905, USA
19 ⁷Department of Molecular Biology, University of Texas, Southwestern Medical Center, 5320

20 Harry Hines Boulevard, Dallas, TX 75390, USA

— 22 —

29 Correspondence: Ezra.Burstein@bwh.harvard.edu,
30 415 St. Michael's Hospital,
31 300 College Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5G 1X8

25 stone@astate.edu

25 www.englishsouthwestern.org
26

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30 **Abstract**

31 The recycling of membrane proteins from endosomes to the cell surface is vital for cell signaling
32 and survival. Retriever, a trimeric complex of VPS35L, VPS26C and VPS29, together with the
33 CCC complex comprising CCDC22, CCDC93, and COMMD proteins, plays a crucial role in this
34 process. The precise mechanisms underlying Retriever assembly and its interaction with CCC
35 have remained elusive. Here, we present the first high-resolution structure of Retriever
36 determined using cryogenic electron microscopy. The structure reveals a unique assembly
37 mechanism, distinguishing it from its remotely related paralog, Retromer. By combining
38 AlphaFold predictions and biochemical, cellular, and proteomic analyses, we further elucidate
39 the structural organization of the entire Retriever-CCC complex and uncover how cancer-
40 associated mutations disrupt complex formation and impair membrane protein homeostasis.
41 These findings provide a fundamental framework for understanding the biological and
42 pathological implications associated with Retriever-CCC-mediated endosomal recycling.

43

44 **Main**

45 The plasma membrane (PM) proteome comprises a diverse array of components,
46 including receptors, transporters, channels, and numerous other factors, which altogether
47 account for nearly 11% of all proteins present in human cells^{1,2}. With the constant flux of
48 membranes to and from the cell surface, PM proteins are frequently internalized into the
49 endosomal system. Subsequently, these proteins require either recycling back to the cell
50 surface for reuse or routing to lysosomes for degradation. Given the crucial roles of many PM
51 proteins in cellular functions, the process of endosomal recycling is vital for maintaining cellular
52 homeostasis. Multiple pathways exist in the cell to ensure the proper regulation of this recycling
53 process.

54 One ancient pathway conserved from humans to yeast relies on a trimeric complex of
55 ~150 kDa known as Retromer, which is composed of VPS35, VPS26A/B, and VPS29³⁻⁵.
56 Retromer facilitates the recycling of cargo proteins by directly binding to the cytoplasmic tails of
57 certain receptors, including Cl-M6PR and DMT1, or by interacting with various sorting nexin
58 proteins, including SNX1, SNX2, SNX5, SNX6, SNX3, and SNX27. These sorting nexins in turn
59 recruit various cargo proteins such as the copper transporters ATP7A and ATP7B, the glucose
60 transporter GLUT1, and others⁶⁻⁹. Aside from cargo recognition, Retromer is essential for
61 recruiting several cytosolic factors required for endosomal recycling. Among these is the WASH
62 complex, a heteropentameric protein assembly containing a member of the Wiskott-Aldrich
63 Syndrome Protein family named WASH, which stimulates the Arp2/3 complex to polymerize
64 actin at the cytosolic side of endosomal membranes¹⁰⁻¹³. Without WASH-dependent actin
65 polymerization, cargoes are trapped in the endosomal compartment, leading to their default
66 trafficking to lysosomes for degradation.

67 Another crucial component involved in endosomal recycling is the
68 COMMD/CCDC22/CCDC93 complex¹⁴ (CCC), a multiprotein assembly that has co-evolved with

69 the WASH complex. The CCC complex was identified through proteomics as an assembly
70 containing members of the COMMD protein family¹⁵, ranging from COMMD1 to COMMD10,
71 together with two coiled-coil containing proteins, CCDC22 and CCDC93, which share distant
72 homology with the kinetochore proteins Nuf2 and Ndc80¹⁶. The founding member of the
73 COMMD family of proteins, COMMD1, contains an area of homology at its C-terminus, termed
74 the COMM domain which mediates homo and heterodimer formation^{15,17}, and an N-terminal
75 globular domain of tightly packed helices¹⁸. COMMD1 was initially discovered for its role in
76 copper homeostasis in mammals^{19,20}. This function was soon linked to the role of CCC in
77 regulating endosomal recycling of copper transporters ATP7A and ATP7B^{14,21}. Subsequent
78 studies have revealed the involvement of CCC in the recycling of numerous other PM proteins,
79 including those regulated by Retromer (such as Glut1 and Cl-MPR) and proteins independent of
80 Retromer (such as LDLR and Notch2)²²⁻²⁴. Defects in recycling have been observed in cultured
81 cells, mouse models of CCC deficiency²⁵, and patients carrying CCDC22 mutations^{22,24}.
82 Through interactome analysis, FAM45A (now known as DENND10) was identified as a
83 significant CCC-interacting protein²². DENND10 contains a DENN domain characteristic of a
84 family of Rab guanine exchange factors (GEF), which activate Rab GTPases crucial for
85 endomembrane trafficking^{26,27}. While DENND10 appears to be tightly associated with CCC, its
86 precise function, potential Rab targets, and contributions to the endosomal sorting process
87 remain to be fully defined^{22,26}.

88 Unbiased proteomic screenings of CCC-interacting proteins and SNX17-associated
89 factors also led to the discovery of another crucial component for endosomal recycling called
90 Retriever²³. Retriever is a trimeric complex of ~160 kDa exhibiting a distant relationship with
91 Retromer. Both Retriever and Retromer contain VPS29, while the other two subunits of
92 Retriever, VPS35L and VPS26C, share less than 25% sequence identity with the corresponding
93 subunits of Retromer, VPS35 and VPS26A/B, respectively. Similar to Retromer, Retriever is
94 responsible for endosomal recycling of myriad client proteins, including integrins, members of

95 the LDL receptor family, and likely numerous others²³. Furthermore, recycling events involving
96 Retriever are also dependent on proper activation of the WASH complex, which when
97 dysregulated, prevents the recycling of LDL receptor family members and other Retriever
98 cargoes^{22,24}.

99 The precise mechanisms underlying the assembly of Retriever and its regulation of
100 endosomal recycling are still largely unknown. Proteomic analyses indicate that the CCC and
101 Retriever subunits are closely linked²². Other studies examining protein assemblies across
102 distinct organisms confirmed that CCC subunits (CCDC22, CCDC93 and 10 COMMD proteins)
103 form a large conserved protein assembly as had been originally described¹⁴ and renamed the
104 assembly as Commander²⁸. Subsequently, through review of prior studies examining protein-
105 protein interaction data, the same research group proposed that CCC and Retriever may form a
106 larger assembly and utilized the term “Commander” to describe this proposed model²⁹. At the
107 same time, blue native gel electrophoreses have indicated that Retriever, defined as the trimer
108 of VPS35L, VPS26C, and VPS29, migrates as an assembly with an apparent mass of ~240
109 kDa, much like Retromer. On the other hand, CCC migrates with an apparent mass of ~700-720
110 kDa. When the CCC complex fails to assemble in COMMD3 deficient cells, the Retriever
111 complex migrating at ~240 kDa remains unaffected²². Therefore, while Retriever and CCC are
112 closely linked molecular entities, the exact nature of their interaction and whether they function
113 as one entity or as dynamically regulated individual entities in specific aspects of endosomal
114 regulation are still unclear.

115 In this study we report the first high-resolution structure of Retriever determined by
116 cryogenic electron microscopy (cryo-EM) and present an overall architecture of the Retriever-
117 CCC complex derived from a combination of computational, biochemical, cellular, and
118 proteomic approaches. These studies provide a comprehensive foundation to understand how
119 these essential regulatory proteins work together to carry out their functions.

120

121 **Results**

122 **Cryo-EM structure of Retriever reveals an assembly mechanism distinct from Retromer**

123 To determine the structure of human Retriever, we co-expressed its three subunits,
124 VPS29, VPS26C and VPS35L, in Sf9 cells using individual baculoviruses, in which only VPS29
125 contained a His₆ tag at its C-terminus (CT) to facilitate purification. The purified Retriever eluted
126 as a single peak in size-exclusion chromatography ([Extended Data Fig. 1A](#)), which gave rise to
127 high-quality cryo-EM grids with homogeneous single particle distributions ([Extended Data Fig.](#)
128 [1B](#)). We then determined the cryo-EM structure of Retriever to a resolution of 2.9 Å using single
129 particle reconstruction ([Table 1](#)). We applied local refinement to further improve the map quality
130 in the region encompassing VPS29 and its interaction with VPS35L ([Fig. 1A](#); [Extended Data](#)
131 [Fig. 1C-G](#)).

132 The overall structure of Retriever assumes a semicircular configuration measuring ~55 x
133 90 x 160 Å, which is dominated by the extended conformation of VPS35L adopting an α/α
134 solenoid fold that comprises 32 α -helices. Within the complex, the globular structure of VPS29
135 is partially embraced within an extensive pocket formed by the CT region of VPS35L, while the
136 VPS26C binds to the outer ridge of the solenoid at the opposite end of VPS35L ([Fig. 1A, B](#)).
137 Another key feature of the complex is the first 37 amino acids (a.a.) at the N-terminus (NT) of
138 VPS35L. This NT peptide, hereafter referred to as the “belt” sequence due to its resemblance to
139 a seatbelt, wraps around the CT region of VPS35L and the bound VPS29 ([Fig. 1, dark green](#)).
140 Following the NT “belt” is a long, unstructured peptide linker of ~72 residues, which extends
141 toward the opposite end of the complex ([Fig. 1A, B, dashed green line](#)).

142 In many aspects, Retriever exhibits similar, yet distinct structural features compared to
143 Retromer ([Fig. 1B](#); [Extended Data Fig. 2](#)). The overall conformation of Retriever is more
144 compact and twisted than Retromer, shorter by ~40 Å in its longest dimension ([Fig. 1B](#)).
145 Moreover, the overall molecular surface of Retriever is less negatively charged than Retromer

146 (Extended Data Fig. 2A). Although VPS35L and VPS26C in Retriever share only ~15% and
147 23/24% sequence identity with VPS35 and VPS26A/B in Retromer, respectively, their
148 secondary structures exhibit remarkable similarities. Both VPS35L and VPS35 adopt the α/α
149 solenoid fold with a similar number and organization of helices (Fig. 1B; Extended Data Fig. 2B).
150 Both VPS26C and VPS26A consist of two domains formed by a similar number and
151 arrangement of β -strands, which pack into a deeply curved β -sandwich resembling an arrestin
152 fold (Fig. 1B; Extended Data Fig. 2B). Despite these similarities, however, VPS35L exhibits a
153 more compact structure than VPS35 and contains several unique features absent from VPS35.
154 These include the NT “belt” peptide, which makes extensive contacts with VPS29 and the CT
155 region of VPS35L, and several additional short helices and a β -hairpin, which are inserted
156 between the common solenoid helices (Fig. 1B). Similarly, VPS26C is also more compact than
157 VPS26A and contains several distinct short β -strand insertions compared to VPS26A (Fig. 1B;
158 Extended Data Fig. 2B). In contrast, the VPS29 subunit, which adopts a globular,
159 phosphodiesterase/nuclease-like fold, has nearly identical structures in both Retriever and
160 Retromer, with a root mean square deviation (RMSD) of ~1 Å for all C α atoms between the two
161 complexes (Extended Data Fig. 2B).

162 The interface between VPS35L and VPS29 in Retriever buries a solvent accessible area
163 of ~2,400 Å², which is significantly larger than the interface between VPS35 and VPS29 (~1,400
164 Å²) in Retromer (Extended Data Fig. 2C). This difference is largely contributed by the interface
165 between VPS29 and the NT “belt” peptide of VPS35L, which alone accounts for a buried solvent
166 accessible area of ~700 Å². Even when considering only the interface between the CT of
167 VPS35L and VPS29, it is still ~20% larger (~1,700 Å²) than the corresponding interface in
168 Retromer, likely due to the more compact architecture adopted by VPS35L (Extended Data Fig.
169 2B, C). Moreover, the interface between VPS35L and VPS26C in Retriever (~1,000 Å²) is ~50%

170 larger than the interface between VPS35 and VPS26A in Retromer ($\sim 670 \text{ \AA}^2$). This further
171 underscores the more compact nature of the Retriever complex ([Extended Data Fig. 2D](#)).

172

173 **The NT “belt” sequence of VPS35L plays a key role in stabilizing Retriever**

174 Given the distinctive feature of the NT “belt” sequence in VPS35L and its extensive
175 contact with both the CT region of VPS35L and the bound VPS29, we asked whether the “belt”
176 sequence could play an important role in stabilizing Retriever assembly. Close inspection of the
177 structure reveals two major anchoring points in the “belt” sequence ([Fig. 2A](#)). First, the NT 11
178 residues of the “belt” sequence winds through a deep trough on the CT region of VPS35L
179 formed by the ends of helix $\alpha 29$, $\alpha 30$, $\alpha 31$, and $\alpha 32$, largely through structural complementarity
180 ([Fig. 2A, C](#)). Consequently, this interaction makes the “belt” sequence an integral part of the CT
181 region of VPS35L. The interaction is centered around W6, a highly conserved residue in
182 orthologs ranging from amoeba to humans ([Fig. 2B](#)). W6 inserts into a deep pocket formed by
183 L825, L828, S829, C864, M868, I898, G902, and L909 from VPS35L ([Fig. 2C](#)). This interface is
184 stabilized by extensive *van der Waals* interactions and a few hydrogen bonds. At the boundary
185 of this extensive interaction surface, the conserved residue R11 of the “belt” sequence is
186 supported by salt bridges with two conserved residues, E16 of the “belt” sequence itself and
187 D99 from the bound VPS29 ([Fig. 2B, C](#)).

188 The second conserved anchoring point of the “belt” sequence is located at its C-
189 terminus, where it interacts with VPS29 largely through a conserved “HPL” motif in Retriever
190 ([Fig. 2C-D](#)). This interaction is unique to Retriever and absent between VPS29 and VPS35 in
191 Retromer ([Fig. 1B](#)). It is remarkable that the HPL motif is virtually 100% conserved in all
192 examined organisms ([Fig. 2B](#)). The motif adopts a type-I β -turn structure through a network of
193 intrapeptide hydrogen bonds ([Fig. 2D](#)). At the tip of the β -turn, P34 and L35 of the “HPL” motif
194 insert into a conserved and largely hydrophobic pocket on VPS29 formed by $\beta 1$, $\beta 9$, $\beta 10$ and

195 the linker connecting α 1 and β 2, consisting of L6, L29, L30, K34, I35, F154, L156, Y167, and
196 Y169 ([Fig. 2D, 3A](#)). This interaction is further stabilized by a hydrogen bond network involving
197 K34 and Y169 from VPS29 and H33, P34, and L35 from VPS35L ([Fig. 2D](#)).

198 Consistent with the observation that the belt is an integral component of the CT region of
199 VPS35L and essential for VPS29 binding, deleting the first 10 amino acids of VPS35L was
200 sufficient to abrogate VPS35L-VPS29 interaction in cells, as noted in co-immunoprecipitation
201 (co-IP) experiments ([Fig. 2E](#)). In contrast, complete deletion of the “belt” sequence or even the
202 first 100 amino acids, which include the unstructured linker sequence, had no effect on the
203 binding between VPS35L and VPS26C ([Fig. 2F](#)), in agreement with the presented Retriever
204 structure. Surprisingly, disrupting the interaction between VPS29 and VPS35L eliminated the
205 interaction between VPS35L and the CCC subunits CCDC22, CCDC93, and COMMD1, as well
206 as DENND10 ([Fig. 2E](#)). This suggests an interdependence between VPS29-VPS35L and
207 Retriever-CCC interactions, as will be examined in later parts of the paper.

208

209 **Conserved surfaces in VPS35L that bind to VPS26C and VPS29 are mutated in cancer**

210 In addition to the NT “belt” sequence contacting VPS29, the CT region of VPS35L
211 interacts with VPS29 using a slightly concave and extensive surface ([Fig. 3A, Extended Data](#)
212 [Fig. 2C](#)). This interface between VPS35L and VPS29 in Retriever is analogous to the binding
213 interface between VPS35 and VPS29 in Retromer. On VPS29, it involves the four extended
214 loops connecting β 1 and α 1 (herein referred to as Loop1), β 3 and β 4 (Loop2), β 5 and α 3
215 (Loop3), and β 8 and β 9 (Loop4) ([Fig. 3A, B](#)). On VPS35L, it involves the solenoid helices α 21,
216 α 23, α 25, α 27, α 29, and α 31, as well as the β -hairpin inserted between α 26 and α 27 ([Fig. 3A,](#)
217 [B](#)). Many residues in the CT region of VPS35L establish extensive polar and non-polar contacts
218 with VPS29 through this broad interaction surface ([Fig. 3B](#)).

219 The similarity between VPS29-VPS35L interface in Retriever and VPS29-VPS35
220 interface in Retromer poses a challenge in the design of a mutation that can specifically disrupt
221 one interaction without affecting the other. To specifically disrupt VPS29-VPS35L interaction in
222 Retriever, instead of mutating this extensive surface, we introduced Y169A to VPS29 to disrupt
223 the interaction between VPS29 and the “HPL” motif in the “belt” sequence (Fig. 3A). Y169 is
224 located at the base of the hydrophobic pocket forming hydrogen bonds and a π - π interaction
225 with the “HPL” β -hairpin (Fig. 2D). As expected, Y169A significantly decreased the binding of
226 VPS29 to VPS35L (Fig. 3H). Interestingly, this mutation simultaneously increased the binding to
227 Retromer components VPS35 and VPS26A/B (Fig. 3H), suggesting a potential competition
228 between Retriever and Retromer for the same pool of VPS29 in cells. Next, we tested the effect
229 of a mutation in VPS29, I95S, which was previously shown to disrupt the VPS29-VPS35
230 interaction in Retromer³⁰. Interestingly, although I95 in VPS29 has a close contact with both
231 VPS35 and VPS35L, this mutation selectively reduced the binding to VPS35, but preserved the
232 interaction with VPS35L (Fig. 3H). This result highlights the differences in the binding
233 mechanism of VPS29 between Retromer and Retriever.

234 The interaction between VPS35L and VPS26C is mediated by an extensive and
235 conserved interface involving β 12 and β 13 of VPS26C and α 4, α 5, α 6, and α 8 of VPS35L (Fig.
236 3C-D, Extended Data Fig. 2D). A similar set of β -strands and solenoid helices are also involved
237 in the VPS26A-VPS35 interaction in Retromer (Extended Data Fig. 2D). The interaction surface
238 comprises a largely hydrophobic core region surrounded by a series of polar interactions in the
239 periphery involving E210, Q233, N234, Q236, D241, and R256 in VPS26C and E275, N279,
240 S286, R288, E289, R293, Q367, and T372 in VPS35L (Fig. 3D, Extended Data Fig. 2D).

241 Previous studies reported that the rate of mutation in VPS35L exceeds random mutation
242 burden when the gene length is considered³¹. Our review of the COSMIC database
243 (<https://cancer.sanger.ac.uk/cosmic>) also indicates that the rate of somatic mutations in VPS35L

244 exceeds that of its closest paralog, VPS35, across all tumor types ([Fig. 3E](#)). We first used the
245 SNAP2 tool to assess the potential impact of the missense mutations³², through which we
246 identified a number of somatic mutations with high likelihood of functional impairment,
247 accounting for 25 – 52% of total 235 missense mutations, depending on the evaluation
248 stringency ([Extended Data Table 2](#)). When projected onto the cryo-EM structure of Retriever,
249 several of these mutations were found to potentially disrupt the interaction between the NT “belt”
250 and the CT region of VPS35L, while others were clustered over the binding surfaces for VPS29
251 and VPS26C ([Fig. 3F](#)).

252 We then selected several mutations, including a few derived from our structural
253 analyses, to test how they may impact Retriever assembly. We found that mutations predicted
254 to disrupt the interaction between the NT “belt” and the CT region of VPS35L, including W6D,
255 S829E, and the cancer-derived mutation G902E, abolished the binding to VPS29 without
256 affecting VPS26C binding ([Fig. 3G](#)). In addition, these mutations simultaneously disrupted the
257 binding to CCC components, including CCDC93, CCDC22, and COMMD1, as well as the
258 binding to DENND10. The same effects were observed when the “belt” sequence was deleted,
259 as shown earlier ([Fig. 2E, VPS35L Δ10](#)). In contrast, the cancer-derived mutation G325E
260 specifically disrupted VPS35L binding to VPS26C, without affecting the binding to VPS29 or
261 CCC components ([Fig. 3G](#)). This suggests that, unlike VPS29, the association of VPS26C with
262 VPS35L does not contribute to the Retriever-CCC interaction. Other mutations in the NT “belt”
263 or the CT region of VPS35L did not exhibit appreciable effects on complex assembly under our
264 experimental conditions, when they were transiently expressed and mutated in isolation ([Fig.](#)
265 [3G, Extended Data Fig. 3D](#)).

266 We proceeded with the four mutations that had profound effects on Retriever assembly
267 to further examine how they may impair Retriever function in cells. For this, we used
268 CRISPR/Cas9 mediated gene editing to knock out *VPS35L* from liver cancer Huh-7 cells and
269 then stably reconstituted VPS35L expression using an empty vector (EV), or VPS35L variants,

270 including wild-type (WT), W6D, S829E, G902E, and G325E ([Extended Data Fig. 3A](#)). The stable
271 expression of VPS35L variants produced similar results obtained from the transient
272 transfections shown in Fig. 3G, in which mutants of VPS35L affecting the NT “belt” interaction
273 (W6D, S829E, and G902E) failed to bind VPS29 or CCC components in co-IP, while G325E
274 specifically abrogated VPS26C binding while not affecting VPS29 or CCC binding ([Extended](#)
275 [Data Fig. 3A](#)).

276 Using these stable cell lines, we purified VPS35L-associated complexes using HA tag-
277 mediated immunoprecipitation. The native complexes were eluted by HA peptide competition in
278 a non-denaturing, physiological buffer and then resolved through blue native gel
279 electrophoresis. Consistent with previous findings²², we found that VPS35L WT partitioned in
280 two distinct complexes: a smaller complex with an apparent Mw of ~240 kDa corresponding to
281 Retriever, and a larger complex with an apparent Mw of over 720 kDa, which contained CCC,
282 as confirmed by immunoblotting for COMMD1 ([Extended Data Fig. 3B](#)). Interestingly, CCC has
283 a unique band at ~500 kDa devoid of VPS35L, suggesting that the interaction between
284 Retriever and CCC is likely not constitutive, leading to their dissociation during electrophoresis
285 ([Extended Data Fig. 3B](#)). In contrast to VPS35L WT, all mutations that abolished VPS29 binding
286 (W6D, S829E, and G902E) failed to precipitate Retriever or CCC, while the mutation that
287 disrupted VPS26C binding (G325E) resulted in the absence of the Retriever complex at ~240
288 kDa, while still maintaining the binding to CCC ([Extended Data Fig. 3B](#)).

289 To further investigate the impact of the four mutations in VPS35L on protein-protein
290 interactions, we conducted semiquantitative unbiased proteomics. Compared to the empty
291 vector control, VPS35L WT bound most intensely to VPS26C and CCC complex components
292 (with VPS29 binding not detectable above background signals in this approach), followed by
293 weaker binding to several additional known interactors, such as WASHC5, and many previously
294 unreported interactors ([Extended Data Fig. 3C](#)). In contrast, compared to VPS35L WT, the
295 W6D, S829E, and G902E mutations were devoid of CCC binding while preserving the

296 interaction with VPS26C. Conversely, G325E showed a complete loss of VPS26C binding, while
297 preserving the interaction with CCC ([Extended Data Fig. 3C](#)). These proteomic results aligned
298 well with the co-IP experiments ([Fig. 3G](#), [Extended Data Fig. 3A-B](#)) and provided further
299 validation for the cryo-EM structure of Retriever. It is worth noting that none of these mutations
300 affected other interactions, such as the binding to WASHC5, a component of the WASH
301 complex, suggesting that the mutations were specific and did not interfere with protein folding or
302 disrupt other surfaces involved in additional protein-protein interactions.

303

304 **Disrupted Retriever assembly alters PM homeostasis**

305 The specific effects of structure-guided and cancer-associated mutations in VPS35L
306 allowed us to examine the physiological function of Retriever assembly in cell models. First, we
307 observed that all VPS35L variants maintained endosomal localization, irrespective of their ability
308 to interact with CCC, which is evident from their co-localization with the WASH subunit FAM21
309 ([Extended Data Fig. 4A](#)). We confirmed our prior observation that loss of the CCC complex, as
310 a result of *COMMD3* or *CCDC93* deficiency, increased VPS35L cytosolic staining²², but did not
311 completely abrogate endosomal recruitment of VPS35L ([Extended Data Fig. 4B](#)). Thus,
312 Retriever recruitment to endosomes, while enhanced by CCC, is not fully dependent on it, thus
313 explaining the similar localization of VPS35L mutants on FAM21-positive endosomes ([Extended](#)
314 [Data Fig. 4A](#)). While VPS35L is predominantly endosomal, we observed that a small amount of
315 the protein is detectable in LAMP1+ vesicles. Interestingly, mutants that lost the ability to bind to
316 VPS29 and CCC (i.e., W6D, S829E and G902E) had reduced localization to this compartment,
317 while the G325E mutation disrupting VPS26C binding had no significant effect ([Fig. 4A, B](#)).

318 Next, we assessed the impact of disrupting Retriever assembly on the trafficking of a
319 well-established cargo protein, Integrin- β 1 (ITGB1). Loss of VPS35L is known to impair ITGB1
320 endosomal recycling^{22,23}, which was also observed in Huh-7 *VPS35L* knockout cells rescued by
321 empty vector (EV), where we observed significant endosomal trapping of ITGB1 ([Fig. 4C, D](#)).

322 Compared to EV, however, the impact on ITGB1 recycling was not as profound for other
323 mutants in VPS35L, with G902E showing significant endosomal trapping, while other mutants
324 showing a milder and statistically insignificant effect (Fig. 4C, D). Thus, these data suggest that
325 the mutations did not fully abrogate the function of Retriever.

326 To further delineate the functional effects of these mutations we used surface
327 biotinylation followed by mass spectrometry analysis to examine the PM proteome in cells
328 expressing various VPS35L mutants. First, when using tandem mass tagging (TMT)-based
329 proteomics to compare isogenic *VPS35L* knockout cells re-expressing EV versus VPS35L WT,
330 we identified 236 proteins showing significant changes in abundance within the biotinylated pool
331 ($p < 0.05$ and fold change greater than 1.5 or lower than 0.65). When more stringent abundance
332 cutoff values were applied (greater than 2-fold or lower than 0.5-fold), 67 proteins showed
333 statistically significant changes in abundance. When we repeated the quantification using
334 spectral counts instead of TMT, 23 of 34 proteins with 2-fold reduced PM expression in the EV
335 condition showed similarly reduced surface expression (Fig. 4E). Between the two quantification
336 methods, the largest discrepancies were accounted for by low expression and absent
337 quantification when using spectral counts for quantification. It is remarkable that various
338 VPS35L mutants, particularly the cancer-associated ones (G902E and G325E), recapitulated
339 many of the changes caused by the deletion of *VPS35L* (EV column) (Fig. 4E).

340 Among these proteins were various membrane anchored proteins (e.g., CD14, SLC7A2)
341 as well as membrane proximal proteins (e.g., ACTR1, ACTR2, ARPC1A, ARPC2, ARPC4).
342 Prominent in the latter group were several components of the Arp2/3 complex. It was previously
343 shown that Arp2/3 is more extensively recruited to endosomes in CCC and *VPS35L* deficient
344 cells²². This is consistent with our observations here that Arp2/3 was correspondingly reduced
345 from the PM (Fig. 4E). In agreement with the proteomic findings, we observed significant
346 reduction measurement in the cortical actin compartment after knockout of *VPS35L* (EV) and in
347 all the VPS35L mutants, (Fig. 4F, G). Moreover, VIL1 (Villin1), an actin binding protein localized

348 to the brush border of epithelial cells, also displayed decreased expression in mutant cells by
349 flow cytometry analysis, correlating well with the reduction in Arp2/3 seen by proteomics and
350 with the reduction in cortical actin (Fig. 4E-H). Finally, surface levels of CD14, another PM
351 protein noted in our proteomic analysis, were also reduced in mutant cells (Fig. 4I). Altogether,
352 these studies demonstrated that disruption in Retriever assembly has a profound impact in PM
353 homeostasis.

354

355 **Structural model of Retriever – CCC complex formation**

356 In the aforementioned results, it is intriguing that all mutations disrupting the VPS29-
357 VPS35L interaction also led to the dissociation of Retriever from CCC and DENND10 (Fig. 3,
358 [Extended Data Fig. 3](#)). To understand the structural mechanisms underlying this observation,
359 we employed AlphaFold 2 multimer (AFM) to predict how Retriever and CCC interact with each
360 other^{33,34}. Through extensive rounds of iterations where we systematically examined various
361 combinations of subunits, we were able to obtain highly reliable models that depict the
362 architecture of the entire Retriever-CCC complex. These models were further validated using
363 our biochemical and cellular assays. In the following sections, we will describe the structural
364 models in separate segments.

365

366 **The CCDC22-CCDC93 dimer binds to the outer ridge at the CT of VPS35L**

367 We first evaluated the reliability of AFM predictions by examining its capability to predict
368 the structure of Retriever itself, for which no homologous structures were yet available.
369 Remarkably, all predicted models exhibited a near perfect alignment with our cryo-EM structure,
370 with an average RMSD of ~2 Å ([Extended Data Fig. 5A-C](#)). It is interesting that the variations
371 among the predicted models mainly arose from the subtle differences in model compactness
372 ([Extended Data Fig. 5A](#)). This phenomenon mirrors what we observed during cryo-EM structure
373 determination, where the cryo-EM particles displayed some heterogeneity in compactness, and

374 larger motions were observed near both ends of the elongated VPS35L, leading to reduced
375 resolution in these areas (Extended Data Fig. 1C-G). Equally reliable AFM models were
376 obtained for Retromer, which also aligned near perfectly with the published cryo-EM structure
377 (not shown). Hence, AFM can reliably predict unknown structures of large complexes. In all our
378 AFM predictions, we applied three criteria to evaluate the reliability of the predicted models^{33,34}.
379 These included the predicted local difference distance test (pLDDT) scores to assess the
380 accuracy of the local structure, the predicted aligned error (PAE) scores to evaluate the distance
381 error between every pair of residues, and the visual consistency of at least 25 solutions when
382 aligned to evaluate the convergence of predictions. In most cases, we found that the visual
383 consistency of the 25 aligned models agreed well with the PAE and pLDDT criteria.

384 In all the AFM predictions involving different subunits of CCC and Retriever, only
385 CCDC22 and CCDC93 always bound to VPS35L in a highly consistent manner, while none of
386 the other subunits were able to establish a reliable contact between CCC and Retriever. In all
387 solutions, CCDC22 and CCDC93 form an extended heterodimer containing four coiled coils.
388 The last two and a half-coiled coils (CC2b, CC3, and CC4) at the C-termini were consistently
389 predicted to interact with a conserved surface at the outer ridge of the CT region of VPS35L,
390 with CC3 and CC4 adopting a sharp V-shaped configuration (Fig. 5A-B, Extended Fig. 5D-F).
391 These prediction results were not affected by the presence or absence of other CCC or
392 Retriever components (not shown). We hereafter refer to the CC2b, CC3, and CC4 regions as
393 the VPS35L binding domain (VBD). In addition to the VBD, the small globular domain located at
394 the N-terminus of CCDC22, known as the NDC80-NUF2 calponin homology (NN-CH) domain¹⁶,
395 consistently occupies the space between the V-shaped CC3 and CC4, irrespective of the
396 presence of VPS35L (Fig. 5A-B). The NN-CH domain does not directly contact VPS35L and
397 likely plays a structural role in stabilizing the CC3-CC4 conformation.

398 The VBD interacts with VPS35L at two conserved surfaces. The first surface
399 encompasses helix α 24 and the connecting loops between α 25 and α 26, α 27 and α 28, and α 29

400 and α 30 (Fig. 5B). The second surface is contributed by helix α C, which precedes the solenoid
401 helix α 1 (Fig. 5B). This α C helix is absent in VPS35 and is not visible in our cryo-EM map of
402 Retriever. Interestingly, the first VBD binding surface is located at the opposite side of the same
403 solenoid region of VPS35L that binds to VPS29. In addition, the coiled coil CC2b is in close
404 proximity to the “belt” peptide (Fig. 5B). This configuration provides a plausible explanation for
405 why disrupting the “belt” peptide or VPS29 binding impacted the binding to CCC (Fig. 3,
406 Extended Data Fig. 3). We propose that loss of the “belt” peptide or VPS29 disturbs the local
407 conformation of the CT region of VPS35L, which in turn allosterically destabilizes the binding of
408 CCDC22-CCDC93 binding to Retriever.

409 To validate the predicted model, we purified the recombinant CCDC22-CCDC93 VBD
410 dimer tagged with MBP (maltose binding protein) and used an MBP pull-down assay to test if
411 the VBD directly interacts with purified Retriever. Given the apparent importance of the NN-CH
412 domain of CCDC22 for the VBD structure, we introduced a flexible linker, (GGSK)₆, to connect
413 the NN-CH domain to the N-terminus of CCDC22 CC2b helix. The linker length used was of
414 adequate to connect the C-terminus of the NN-CH domain to the N-terminus of CCDC22 CC2b
415 helix if the AFM model is correct.

416 Consistent with the predicted model, the MBP-tagged VBD dimer robustly retained
417 Retriever in pull-down assays (Fig. 5C, lane 2). To test if the interaction was specific, we
418 introduced mutations in conserved residues that were predicted to be crucial for binding. These
419 residues include R490 in CCDC22, which forms hydrogen bonds with S739 and Q740 in
420 VPS35L, V501 in CCDC22, which interacts with a hydrophobic surface near P713 on α 24 of
421 VPS35L, R483 in CCDC93, which engages in a network of polar and π - π interactions with D742,
422 P787, D788, and H789 on VPS35L, and A492 in CCDC93, which forms a close hydrophobic
423 contact with A703 on α 24 of VPS35L (Fig. 5B). All of the mutations impacted the interaction
424 between the purified VBD and Retriever, although to different extents (Fig. 5C). R490D in

425 CCDC22 and R483E in CCDC93 partially impaired the binding, while V501R in CCDC22 and
426 the R483E/A492W double mutation in CCDC93 completely abolished Retriever binding (Fig.
427 [5C](#)).

428 Consistent with the in vitro pull-down results, when CCDC22 or CCDC93 bearing the
429 same mutations were expressed in mammalian cells, they lost the interaction with VPS35L in
430 co-immunoprecipitation experiments, but still maintained the interaction with other CCC
431 components and DENND10 ([Fig. 5D-E](#)). Conversely, reciprocal mutations in VPS35L, including
432 A703W and S739W, also affected the interaction. A703W completely abolished the binding to
433 CCC complex and DENND10 (but not VPS29), while S739W exhibited a milder effect ([Fig. 5F](#)).
434 Together, the above results provide strong validation of the AFM predicted model depicting how
435 CCDC22-CCDC93 interacts with VPS35L.

436 Finally, we tested if VPS35L alone is sufficient for binding to CCDC22-CCDC93 VBD or
437 if the presence of VPS29 is necessary for the interaction. Our earlier results demonstrated that
438 mutations in VPS35L impacting VPS29 binding also affected the binding to CCC ([Fig. 3](#),
439 [Extended Data Fig. 3](#)), suggesting that VPS29 plays a role in VPS35L binding to CCDC22-
440 CCDC93. To test this hypothesis, we used CRISPR/Cas9 to knock out VPS29 and asked if the
441 remaining VPS35L could immunoprecipitate CCC. The loss of VPS29 expression led to reduced
442 expression of VPS35L, but did not affect the levels of CCC components, including CCDC93,
443 CCDC22, and COMMD1 ([Fig. 5G, left](#)). Consistent with our mutagenesis data, VPS35L alone
444 could not bind to CCC in VPS29 knockout cells ([Fig. 5G, right](#)), confirming that VPS29 is indeed
445 necessary for the interaction between VPS35L and CCC. As VPS29 is not expected to have a
446 direct contact with CCDC22-CCDC93, this result further supports our hypothesis that VPS29
447 facilitates a favorable conformation of VPS35L that is required for the interaction with CCC;
448 mutations that disrupts VPS29 binding to VPS35L destabilizes this conformation, leading to the
449 loss of CCC interaction.

450

451 **DENND10 binds directly to the CCDC22-CCDC93 dimer**

452 During our AFM predictions, we included DENND10 to explore its relationship with the
453 overall assembly of Retriever-CCC. We found that all AFM predictions involving CCDC22,
454 CCDC93, and DENND10 consistently yielded a highly coherent model showing that DENND10
455 binds specifically to the CC1 and CC2a coiled coils of the CCDC22-CCDC93 heterodimer (Fig.
456 [6A](#), [Extended Data Fig. 6A-C](#)), but not to any other components of the CCC or Retriever (not
457 shown). This result suggests that the interaction between Retriever and DENND10 is indirect
458 and is mediated by CCDC22-CCDC93. This model explains our experimental observations.
459 First, Retriever could only co-immunoprecipitate DENND10 whenever CCC was also co-
460 precipitated ([Fig. 3G](#)). Second, mutations in VPS35L specifically disrupting the binding to
461 CCDC22-CCDC93 VBD similarly affected the binding to DENND10 ([Fig. 5F](#)). Third, mutations in
462 CCDC22-CCDC93 VBD specifically disrupted the binding to VPS35L without affecting the
463 interaction with DENND10 ([Fig. 5D-E](#)).

464 The AFM model reveals that DENND10 consists of two closely packed domains, the N-
465 terminal domain (NTD) and the C-terminal domain (CTD), similar to the crystal structure of the
466 DENN domain from DENND1³⁵ ([Fig. 6A](#), [Extended Data Fig. 6D](#)). DENND10 is positioned
467 above the junction between the CC1 and CC2a coiled coils, where the coiled coils make a sharp
468 turn to adopt a V-shaped configuration ([Fig. 6A](#)). We hereafter refer to the CC1 and CC2a coiled
469 coils as the DENND10 binding domain (DBD). While it remains unknown whether DENND10
470 possesses Rab GEF activity like other DENN-domain containing proteins, the probable GTPase
471 binding surface is partially blocked by the interaction with the CCDC22-CCDC93 DBD
472 ([Extended Data Fig. 6D](#)).

473 To validate the predicted structure, we purified the DBD heterodimer and DENND10
474 recombinantly and used size-exclusion chromatography to test whether they can directly
475 interact with each other. Individually, the untagged DBD dimer and DENND10 eluted at ~15 mL,
476 corresponding to their similar molecular weight of ~40 kDa. When the two components were

477 combined, a new peak appeared at ~13 mL, indicating the formation of a complex (Fig. 6B). The
478 peak contained all three proteins in near 1:1:1 stoichiometry, confirming the direct interaction
479 and stable complex formation between the DBD and DENND10 (Fig. 6B).

480 To further validate the predicted structure, we used MBP pull-down assays and co-
481 immunoprecipitation to test if mutations in the conserved residues predicted to be crucial for the
482 interaction could disrupt the binding. Consistent with the AFM model, the W30D and Y32D
483 mutations in DENND10 completely abolished its binding to CCDC22-CCDC93 DBD (Fig. 6D).
484 Both residues are located at the center of the interaction surface between the NTD of DENND10
485 and the CC2a coiled coil of CCDC22-CCDC93, where they form extensive *van der Waals*, polar,
486 and π - π interactions with residues from both CCDC22 (V414, A418, W421, E422, and R425)
487 and CCDC93 (Q399 and F403) (Fig. 6C). Similarly, mutating surface residues in CCDC22 DBD
488 (A411D/A418D/E422R or R425D/R433D/R436D) or CCDC93 DBD (F430D or E410R/F403D)
489 also abolished the interaction (Fig. 6C, E). The E410R mutation in CCDC93 DBD did not cause
490 an appreciable effect, likely due to its location at the periphery of the interaction surface (Fig.
491 6C, E). These results are consistent with our co-immunoprecipitation data when these mutant
492 proteins were expressed in cells, showing that while E410R had minimal impact on the binding
493 to DENND10, the E410R/F403D double mutation completely abolished the interaction (Fig. 6F).
494

495 **CCDC22-CCDC93 binds to COMMD oligomers**

496 While our models had unraveled the roles of the coiled coils at the C-termini of CCDC22-
497 CCDC93 heterodimer in the binding to Retriever and DENND10, respectively, prior work had
498 identified the significance of the N-terminal sequences of the CCDC22-CCDC93 dimer in
499 binding to COMMD proteins¹⁴. The ten members of the COMMD protein family are known to
500 readily form heterodimers both in vitro and in cells through their conserved C-terminal COMM
501 domains^{15,17}. However, the precise stoichiometry and assembly of COMMDs in vivo remain
502 unknown. To address these questions, we used AFM to predict how the COMMD proteins

503 associate with each other in different combinations and stoichiometries, in the presence or
504 absence of different fragments of CCDC22-CCDC93.

505 Remarkably, we could obtain a highly convergent model when we included one copy of
506 each of the ten COMMD proteins, with or without the CCDC22-CCDC93 heterodimer. This
507 model is consistent with our quantitative proteomic analyses of the native CCC-Retriever
508 complex isolated from blue native gels, where the ratio of all 10 COMMD proteins, except for
509 COMMD7, is nearly equimolar ([Extended Data Table 1](#)). The resulting AFM model consistently
510 suggested the formation of a ring-like structure resembling a pentagram, with a height of ~90 Å
511 and a diameter of ~100 Å ([Fig. 7A-C, Extended Data Fig. 7](#)). The structure consists of five
512 COMMD-COMMD heterodimers assembled mainly through interactions between COMM
513 domains. The ten COMMDs are arranged in a highly organized manner, following the sequence
514 of (1/6)-(4/8)-(2/3)-(10/5)-(7/9). Subunits within the same parentheses form a heterodimer
515 through a face-to-face “hand shaking” interaction between their COMMD domains. These
516 heterodimers further pack into a ring through a back-to-back stacking of β -sheets with
517 neighboring heterodimers ([Fig. 7A](#)). The resulting ring formed by the COMMD domains provides
518 a flat pentagram base of ~20 Å in thickness, while the N-terminal globular domains are
519 positioned on alternating sides of the ring ([Fig. 7B](#)). The five COMMDs facing the same
520 clockwise direction, 1-4-2-10-7 or 6-9-5-3-8, orient their N-terminal globular domains towards
521 the same side of the ring, approximately above the COMMD domains of the subsequent
522 heterodimer ([Fig. 7B](#)). When viewed from the top or bottom of the COMMD ring, the globular
523 domains project in a counterclockwise order from their corresponding COMM domain. Because
524 COMMD6 in humans lacks a globular domain, the COMMD ring has five globular domains on
525 one side and four on the other side.

526 The NT regions of CCDC22 (a.a. 125-261) and CCDC93 (a.a. 130-304) separately make
527 extensive contacts with two opposite sides of the COMMD ring, resembling “tweezers” pinching
528 into a “donut” ([Fig. 7C](#)). We hereafter refer to these regions as the COMMD binding domain

529 (CBD) of CCDC22 and CCDC93, respectively. The CCDC93 CBD binds to one side of the ring
530 encompassed by (2/3)-(10/5)-(7/9), while the CCDC22 CBD binds to the opposite side of the
531 ring encompassed by (3/2)-(8/4)-(6/1)-(9/7). The N-terminal NN-CH domain of CCDC93 (a.a. 1-
532 130) does not directly interact with the COMMD ring, for which AFM could not identify a
533 consistent position relative to the ring and showed poor alignment relative to the rest of the
534 structure ([Fig. 7C](#)). Immediately following the NN-CH domain of CCDC93 is the CBD, which
535 adopts several helices that wind through the space between the globular domains and the
536 central COMM domain base. Within the CBD is a region containing two short β strands, a short
537 helix, and a long helix, separated by an extensive unstructured loop. We name this region the
538 helix-loop-helix domain (HLHD) of CCDC93. The majority of the HLHD domain does not directly
539 interact with the COMMD ring ([Fig. 7C](#)). As for CCDC22, its NN-CH domain is already involved
540 in stabilizing the VBD domain ([Fig. 5A](#)) and is separated from the CBD by a short, flexible linker
541 of \sim 15 residues. The CBD of CCDC22 adopts a more extended conformation than CCDC93,
542 winding through a larger area on other side of the COMMD ring.

543 To validate the AFM model, we extended our predictions of the COMMD ring in other
544 species, including fish and amoeba, which possess all the 10 COMMD proteins, as well as
545 CCDC22 and CCDC93. Strikingly, the positioning of COMMD orthologs within the ring follows
546 the exact sequence predicted for human proteins ([Extended Data Fig. 7](#)). Similarly, the regions
547 of CCDC22 and CCDC93 that interact with the ring and the points of contact on the ring itself
548 are also highly consistent across these species ([Extended Data Fig. 7](#)). It is interesting to note
549 that the globular domains of COMMD6 and COMMD9 show variations between species. While
550 humans lack the globular domain of COMMD6, zebrafish possess it, but amoeba lacks the
551 globular domains from both COMMD6 and COMMD9, reflecting the evolutionary divergence in
552 the structure and composition of the COMMD ring across species.

553 Using the AFM model as a guide, we introduced specific mutations to the residues in the
554 CBD of CCDC22 that are predicted to make critical contacts with the COMMD ring and

555 therefore are likely crucial for CCC assembly. These mutations include W142D and F164D (Fig.
556 7D). W142 is located within a cavity formed between COMMD2, COMMD3, and COMMD5,
557 making *van der Waals*, polar, and π - π interactions with A170, T171, and H174 in COMMD2 and
558 H90 in COMMD5. F164 is sandwiched between a helix of CCDC22 itself and a composite
559 surface formed by COMMD2/4/3/8, where it forms a cation- π interaction with R138 in COMMD2
560 and hydrophobic interactions with I118 in COMMD3. The conformation of R138 is further
561 stabilized by a cation- π interaction with F120 from COMMD4 and E208 from the CBD of
562 CCDC22. When these mutant proteins were expressed in cells, they indeed impacted the
563 binding to COMMD proteins (Fig. 7E). CCDC22 F164D failed to bind to all tested COMMD
564 proteins, supporting the accuracy of the AFM model. In contrast, CCDC22 W142D showed an
565 intriguing pattern of disruption: it retained normal binding to the COMMDs present on the same
566 side of the ring as CCDC22, including COMMD dimers (1/6), (4/8), and (2/3), but exhibited poor
567 binding to COMMDs on the opposite side of the ring contacted by CCDC93 CBD, including (9/7)
568 and (5/10) (Fig. 7E). Notably, both mutations reduced the binding of CCDC22 to Retriever,
569 DENND10 and CCDC93 (Fig. 7E), even though the mutated residues are not expected to
570 directly interact with these proteins. These results suggest that the binding to the COMMD ring
571 creates a supra-structure that may be critical to support other protein-protein interactions
572 involved in the proper assembly and function of the Retriever-CCC complex.

573

574 **Overall model of the Retriever-CCC assembly**

575 With the above knowledge of the individual components of the Retriever-CCC assembly,
576 it becomes evident that the CCDC22-CCDC93 dimer serves as a scaffold to connect three
577 separate components, Retriever, DENND10, and the COMMD ring, with each section of the
578 CCDC22-CCDC93 dimer forming a stable subcomplex with the corresponding component (Fig.

579 8A). We next wondered what configuration the entire Retriever-CCC complex would adopt when
580 fully assembled.

581 To assemble the complete Retriever-CCC complex, we “stitched” the three
582 subcomplexes, including VBD-Retriever, DBD-DENND10, and CBD-COMMD ring, by aligning
583 their overlapping regions. The assembly must satisfy two constraints: first, the N-terminal NN-
584 CH domain of CCDC22 needs to interact with the C-terminal VBD, for which CCDC22 has to
585 adopt a “looped” configuration, and second, there are short peptide linkers between the NN-CH
586 domain of CCDC22 and its CBD (12 a.a.), between the CBD and DBD in CCDC22 (9 a.a.), and
587 between CBD and DBD in CCDC93 (6 a.a.). These short peptide linkers limit the placement of
588 the two opposite sides of the CBD-COMMD ring relative to VBD-Retriever and DBD-DENND10
589 (Fig. 8B, dashed lines). With these constraints, the final Retriever-CCC complex, which
590 comprises 16 polypeptide chains, unambiguously adopts a compact configuration. When seen
591 from the side, the complex resembles a “scorpion”, with Retriever forming the body, and the
592 COMMD ring appearing like a curled tail. Within this complex, the COMMD ring is locked into a
593 position where the globular domains of COMMD1 and COMMD3 and the heterodimeric COMM
594 domains of COMMD8 and COMMD2 are in close proximity to the back ridge of VPS35L. As
595 there is no evidence that the COMMD proteins can directly interact with Retriever, the location
596 of the COMMD ring is mainly determined by the peptide linkers in CCDC22 and CCDC93, rather
597 than through a specific interaction surface on Retriever. Therefore, while the relative position
598 and orientation of the COMMD ring with respect to the rest of the complex are expected to
599 remain stable, the internal components of the Retriever-CCC complex are likely to exhibit a
600 certain degree of flexibility. This flexibility may play a role in the binding to regulatory molecules
601 or cargo proteins.

602

603

604

605 **Discussion**

606 Retriever and CCC play crucial roles in cellular and organismal physiology, as evident by
607 myriad phenotypes identified thus far when these systems are disturbed, ranging from
608 developmental alterations in humans and mouse models³⁶⁻⁴¹, to changes in copper^{25,42-44} and
609 lipid metabolism^{24,45,46}, and alterations in immune signaling⁴⁷⁻⁴⁹ and function⁵⁰⁻⁵³. However,
610 despite two decades of work in this area, the structural mechanism underlying the assembly of
611 these complexes remained elusive. Here, our study fills this knowledge gap by presenting the
612 first high-resolution structure of Retriever and an experimentally validated model of Retriever-
613 CCC assembly. Our data provide important structural and molecular insights into their
614 implications in cell biology and human disease.

615 One key observation reported here is that cancer-associated missense mutations in
616 VPS35L can dramatically affect Retriever assembly. The precise mechanism by which the loss
617 of Retriever assembly may affect the oncogenic process remains to be determined. Our findings
618 open the door to further investigate the potential client proteins whose disrupted recycling and
619 cellular localization may be advantageous during cancer development and progression. More
620 broadly, the structural model provides a comprehensive roadmap to understand how other
621 complexes and cofactors may interact with this assembly and how inherited mutations in CCC
622 and Retriever subunits, which result in Ritscher-Schinzel/3C syndrome^{37,38}, may disrupt protein
623 function.

624 The model of Retriever highlights key distinctions from Retromer, in both structure and
625 regulation. Retriever has a more compact structure and a unique mechanism of intramolecular
626 interaction between the NT and CT portions of VPS35L. In particular, the “belt” sequence at the
627 NT of VPS35L provides a direct binding interface for VPS29, a feature completely absent in
628 Retromer. Another feature unique to Retriever is the long unstructured peptide linker in VPS35L
629 that follows the “belt” sequence. The primary sequence of this serine-rich unstructured linker is

630 highly conserved in vertebrates, suggesting that it may be a site for regulatory interactions or
631 post-translational modifications, which remain to be elucidated.

632 Our study also uncovered how Retriever encounters CCC to assemble a larger complex.
633 We find that the CCDC22-CCDC93 heterodimer is the essential scaffold around which all the
634 components, including DENND10, are assembled. Rather than being “beads on a string”, the
635 structure of Retriever-CCC is highly compact and selectively oriented, with only limited internal
636 flexibility. If we extrapolate a potential orientation for the Retriever-CCC complex guided by the
637 orientation of Retromer on endosomal membranes⁵⁴, in which the concave aspect of VPS35
638 faces the membrane, the prediction would orient the COMMD ring toward the cytosolic
639 environment where it can potentially interact with regulatory molecules or phospholipid-
640 containing vesicles. Within this assembly, the contributions of its individual components remain
641 to be fully understood. For example, the role of DENND10 and its putative GEF activity in this
642 complex is unclear. While Retriever-CCC is localized to WASH-positive early endosomes,
643 DENN10 has been reported to localize to late endosomes and multivesicular bodies, and to act
644 on Rab27a/b²⁶, which have not been implicated as cellular or molecular targets of Retriever-
645 CCC. Therefore, these observations remain to be reconciled and expanded.

646 One crucial question to be addressed is the functional importance of the COMMD ring
647 and the exquisite conservation of its assembly through evolution. Our studies show that
648 mutations that prevent binding of CCDC22 to the ring also impaired its ability to dimerize with
649 CCDC93 or bind to DENND10 and VPS35L. Based on these observations, we propose that the
650 COMMD ring helps assemble or stabilize the CCDC22-CCDC93 heterodimer and is therefore
651 essential to the assembly of the entire complex. This could explain why the CCDC22-CCDC93
652 heterodimer is destabilized whenever any given COMMD protein is knocked out in cells or in
653 tissues^{14,25,46}.

654 The COMMD ring assembly may have intermediate states. We previously reported⁴¹ that
655 when COMMD9 is knocked out, CCDC22 cannot bind COMMD5 or COMMD10 but retains its

ability to bind to COMMD6, COMMD4, COMMD8. Our structural model of the CCC complex provides a plausible explanation for this selective binding, when taking into account the points of contact made by CCDC22 and CCDC93 with the ring. According to the model, CCDC22 contacts specific COMMD dimers, (1/6), (4/8), and (2/3), while CCDC93 CBD mainly contacts (9/7) and (5/10). Therefore, deleting COMMD9 would disrupt the CCDC93 part of the ring, including COMMD5 and COMMD10, without affecting the other half of the ring stabilized by CCDC22, including COMMD6, COMMD4 and COMMD8 (Fig. 7E). In this study, we observed similar phenomena using point mutations in the CBD of CCDC22. CCDC22 F164D destabilized the binding to all COMMD proteins, likely because this residue is in the middle of the CBD contacting a combined surface created by COMMD2/4/3/8. In contrast, the disruption caused by CCDC22 W142D is highly selective. The W142D mutant binds to all the COMMD proteins mainly contacted by CCDC22 CBD, including (1/6), (4/8), and (2/3), but not to any of the COMMD proteins mainly contacted by CCDC93 CBD, including (9/7) and (5/10), analogous to the effect of COMMD9 deficiency. This is likely because W142D is located at the NT of the CBD, contacting an interface composed by COMMD (2/3)-5.

Based on these results, we propose that the ring may be formed by two half intermediate precursors, with each half stabilized independently by CCDC22 or CCDC93. The formation of the ring promotes dimerization and stabilization of CCDC22-CCDC93, providing a platform for VPS35L and DENND10 binding. Evidence of these precursor complexes is present in our proteomic data, where CCDC93 is detected at about 240 kDa Mw in blue native gels in ~1:1 equimolar ratio with its associated COMMD proteins (Extended data Table 1). Altogether, these observations suggest that the complex may be dynamically regulated, rather than being a static entity. The mechanism by which the ring is fully assembled from precursor complexes will likely play a key role in the function of the CCC complex.

Another intriguing feature of the COMMD ring is the highly conserved order of assembly of its ten COMMD proteins. Presumably, the high conservation of each of the COMMD family

682 members is essential to yield this arrangement. In the structure, the central part of the ring is
683 created by COMM domain-mediated heterodimers, which are then the building blocks to
684 assemble the ring. Therefore, we postulate that unique sequence variability in the COMM
685 domains favors specific heterodimers over others. The model also shows that these
686 heterodimers are further “glued” together by the CBDs of CCDC22 and CCDC93, as well as the
687 N-terminal globular domains of each COMMD through conserved interfaces. Since the globular
688 domains of COMMD proteins provide most of the exposed surface of the ring, we speculate that
689 they likely provide key interfaces for regulatory interactions between the ring and other proteins.

690 Finally, concurrent with our effort, two other groups independently provided other
691 structural aspects of this assembly^{55,56}. These studies are complementary to ours, as they did
692 not resolve the experimental structure of Retriever but determined the cryo-EM structure of the
693 CCC ring, which turned out to be highly similar to our predicted and tested models. Therefore,
694 our study is unique in providing the high-resolution cryo-EM structure of Retriever and
695 uncovering the presence of cancer-associated mutations in VPS35L that impair Retriever
696 assembly. Together, our work opens the door to answer many questions related to Retriever-
697 CCC in biology and disease, including endosomal membrane recruitment, client protein
698 recognition, interaction with various regulators, dynamic assembly of the holo-complex, and
699 function of distinct parts of these complexes.

700

701

702 **Methods**

703 **Plasmids:** All constructs used here were created by standard molecular biology procedures,
704 verified by Sanger sequencing. Constructs used for recombinant protein production are
705 described in detail in [Supplementary Table 1](#), along with the resulting recombinant proteins,
706 ([Supplementary Table 2](#)), and the DNA oligonucleotides used for construct generation
707 ([Supplementary Table 3](#)). The ORF for VPS35L that was PCR amplified using the IMAGE clone
708 6452778 as a template, and codes for a 963 amino acid protein listed as isoform 1 in NCBI
709 Gene (Gene ID: 57020). The ORF for CCDC22 and CCDC93 have been previously
710 described^{14,49}. VPS29 and DENND10 ORF's were PCR amplified using the IMAGE clones
711 3461977 and 4688412, respectively.

712 Site-Directed Mutagenesis was performed using Platinum SuperFi II DNA polymerase (Thermo
713 Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA) to generate different mutant constructs. Human full-length
714 VPS35L (untagged), full-length VPS26C (untagged), and full-length VPS29 (isoform 2)
715 containing a C-terminal (GGS)₂-His₆ tag were cloned in a modified pFastBacTM vector for insect
716 cell expression (PMID: 19363480). Fragments of human CCDC22 and CCDC93 and full-length
717 human DENND10 were ordered as GeneStrings (ThermoFisher) with the gene codon optimized
718 for *E. coli* expression. The Head-VPS35L-binding domain (VBD) of CCDC22 and the VBD of
719 CCDC93 contains MBP-CCDC22 (1-118)-(GGSK)₆-(436-727) and MBP-CCDC93 (442-631),
720 respectively. The DENND10-binding domain (DBD) of CCDC22 and CCDC93 contains MBP-
721 CCDC22 (280-446) and MBP-CCDC93 (305-433), respectively.

722 ***E. coli* strains for protein expression:** Standard, commercial *E. coli* strains used in this study
723 include Mach1^{T1R} (Thermo Fisher), BL21 (DE3)^{T1R} (Sigma), and ArcticExpressTM (DE3)RIL cells
724 (Stratagene), and are grown in Luria-Bertani or Terrific Broth medium using standard molecular
725 biology conditions.

726 **Insect cell lines for protein expression:** Standard, commercial insect cell lines used this study
727 include *Sf9* cells (Invitrogen) and *Tni* (High-Five) cells (Expression System). *Sf9* cells were used

728 for baculovirus preparation and maintained in Sf900 II serum free medium (Thermo Fisher). *Tni*
729 cells were used for large-scale protein expression and are maintained in ESF 921 serum free
730 medium (Expression Systems).

731 **Cell culture:** HEK293T and HeLa cell lines were obtained from the American Type Culture
732 Collection (Manassas, VA). Huh-7 cell lines were a gift from Dr. Jay Horton (University of Texas
733 Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX, USA). All cell lines were cultured in high-glucose
734 Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM) containing 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS) and 1%
735 penicillin/streptomycin, in incubators at 37°C, 5% CO₂. Periodic testing for Mycoplasma spp.
736 using PCR based detection was performed to exclude infection of the cultures. HeLa cells with
737 VPS26C deficiency (generated using CRISPR/Cas9) and complemented with HA-tagged
738 VPS26C have been previously reported²³. A HeLa line with COMMD1 deficiency was previously
739 reported⁵⁷; these cells were complemented using a lentiviral vector with HA-tagged COMMD1.

740 **CRISPR/Cas9-mediated gene deletion:** VPS35L and VPS29 knockout cell lines were
741 generated using CRISPR/Cas9, as previously described. Briefly, in vitro assembled Cas9-
742 ribonucleotide complexes were transfected onto Huh7 cells for VPS35L and onto HeLa cells for
743 VPS29. The degree of VPS35L or VPS29 protein expression was examined in this polyclonal
744 population pool through immunoblotting, and if deemed greater than 50% decreased from the
745 parental cells, the transfected pool was subjected to clonal isolation. Clones were isolated
746 through limiting dilution and screened by immunoblot for protein expression. CRIPSR guide
747 RNA sequences used in this study are listed in [Supplementary Table 4](#).

748 **Transfection and lentiviral methods:** Lipofectamine 2000 (Life Technologies) was used to
749 transfet plasmids in HEK 293T cells and cultured for either 24 or 48 hours before analysis.
750 VPS35L Huh-7 knockout cells generated by CRISPR/Cas9 as detailed above were
751 reconstituted with either HA empty vector or HA-tagged VPS35L wild type or mutants, using a
752 lentivirus system. All lentivirus experiments were performed with a standard viral vector
753 production and selection protocol as previously described.

754 **Immunofluorescence staining:** We followed the protocols that we have previously
755 reported^{14,22}. In brief, cells were fixed in cold fixative (4% paraformaldehyde in phosphate-
756 buffered saline; PBS) and incubated for 18 min at room temperature in the dark, followed by
757 permeabilization for 3 min with 0.15% Surfact-Amps X-100 (28314, ThermoFisher Scientific,
758 Rockford, IL) in PBS. Samples were then incubated overnight at 4 °C in a humidified chamber
759 with primary antibodies in immunofluorescence (IF) buffer (Tris-buffered saline plus human
760 serum cocktail). After three washes in PBS, the samples were incubated with secondary
761 antibodies (1:500 dilution in IF buffer) for 1 h at room temperature or overnight at 4 °C in a
762 humidified chamber. After four washes in PBS, coverslips were rinsed in water and affixed to
763 slides with SlowFade Anti-fade reagent (Life Technologies, Grand Island, NY). The primary and
764 secondary antibodies used for staining are detailed in [Supplementary Table 5](#). Alexa Fluor 488–
765 phalloidin (A12379, Life Technologies, Grand Island, NY) was used to visualize F-actin. Images
766 were obtained using an A1R confocal microscope (Nikon, x60 /1.4 oil immersion objective).
767 Fluorescence signal values were quantified using Fiji (ImageJ, NIH). Data were processed with
768 Excel (Microsoft) and plotted with Prism6 (GraphPad). Each dot represents the value from a
769 single cell; the horizontal bar in these graphs represents the mean and the error bars
770 correspond to the standard deviation (SD). Pearson's correlation coefficient was measured
771 using Colocalization Threshold Fiji Plugin within manually outlined regions of interest (ROIs).
772 **Flow cytometry:** Cells were detached from plates using a cell scraper in 1 x PBS and spun at
773 3,000 RPM for 5 min. The cells were resuspended in fresh PBS and rinsed one time with a
774 repeat spinning step. For CD14 staining cells were immediately processed and resuspended in
775 FACS buffer (PBS, 1% BSA) containing CD14 antibody for 30 min on ice protected from light.
776 After this, cells were rinsed by spinning and resuspension in FACS buffer, 3 times. For Villin
777 staining, cells were fixed and permeabilized using BD Cytofix/Cytoperm solution kit according to
778 the manufacturer's instructions (BD Biosciences). Thereafter, they were incubated with Villin
779 antibody overnight at 4°C in BD Perm/wash buffer, followed by 3 washes using the same buffer.

780 Thereafter, secondary antibody incubation was performed in BD Perm/wash buffer, followed by
781 3 washes using the same buffer. The primary and secondary antibodies used for staining are
782 detailed in [Supplementary Table 5](#). Samples were processed by the Flow Cytometry core at UT
783 Southwestern using a Cytek Aurora instrument. Data analysis was performed using FlowJo
784 software.

785 **Mammalian protein extraction, immunoblotting and immunoprecipitation:** For most
786 experiments, whole cell lysates were prepared by adding Triton X-100 lysis buffer (25 mM
787 HEPES, 100 mM NaCl, 10 mM DTT, 1 mM EDTA, 10% Glycerol, 1% Triton X-100)
788 supplemented with protease inhibitors (Roche). Immunoprecipitation, SDS-PAGE, and
789 immunoblotting experiments were performed as previously described. The antibodies used for
790 immunoprecipitation and immunoblotting are detailed in [Supplementary Table 5](#).

791 **Blue native electrophoresis and immunoblotting:** Cell lysate preparation was performed
792 using MRB buffer as lysis buffer (20 mM HEPES pH 7.2, 50 mM potassium acetate, 1 mM
793 EDTA, 200 mM D-Sorbitol, 0.1% Triton X-100). After immunoprecipitation using HA affinity
794 beads (Roche), associated complexes bound to 2xHA-VPS35L, HA-COMMD1 or HA-VPS26C
795 were eluted using lysis buffer containing HA peptide (1 mg/mL). The eluted complexes were
796 then loaded to NativePAGE™ 3-12% Bis-Tris protein gels, with one lane containing
797 NativeMark™ Unstained protein standard. For immunoblotting, the proteins in the gel were
798 transblotted to PVDF membranes. After transfer, the proteins were fixed by incubating the
799 membrane in 8% acetic acid for 15 minutes, followed by immunoblotting as described above.
800 For proteomic experiments, gels were stained with Coomassie blue and gel slices of specific
801 apparent mass were cut and submitted for analysis.

802 **Cell surface biotinylation:** Cell surface biotinylation was performed as previously reported¹⁴.
803 Briefly, cells were incubated at 4°C with Sulfo-NHS-SS-biotin (Pierce, Rockford, IL) in
804 biotinylation buffer (10 mM triethanolamine, 150 mM NaCl, 2 mM CaCl₂, pH 8.0). After 30 min
805 of labeling, cells were lysed in Tris-lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, 150 mM NaCl, 1% NP-

806 40, 0.5% Na deoxycholate, 5 mM EDTA, 5 mM EGTA) supplemented with protease inhibitors
807 (Halt Protease/Phosphatase inhibitor, ThermoFisher). Biotinylated proteins were precipitated
808 using nanolink Streptavidin magnetic beads (Solulink) and washed 3 times with the same lysis
809 buffer, 1 time in high salt buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, 500 mM NaCl), and 1 time in low salt
810 buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, 5 µM Biotin). Precipitated protein-containing beads were eluted
811 using 3 x LDS/DTT gel loading buffer at 95°C. The samples were loaded on an SDS/PAGE gel
812 and the bands cut from the stacker portion of the gel to be submitted to the Proteomics core at
813 UT Southwestern for further processing. For TMT proteomics, the eluted proteins in solution
814 were directly submitted to the core.

815 **Protein affinity purification:** HA-, HA-VPS35L wild-type or mutants transduced knockout cells
816 were grown on cell culture dishes and lysed in Triton-X lysis buffer. Cell lysates were cleared,
817 and equal amounts of protein were then added to HA-resin to capture HA-tagged proteins. HA
818 beads were washed using lysis buffer and proteins were eluted using HA peptide (1 mg/mL).
819 Eluted material was resuspended in 3x LDS sample buffer with DTT. Proteins were then
820 subjected to SDS-PAGE and analyzed by LC-MS/MS mass spectrometry at the UT
821 Southwestern Proteomics core.

822 **Proteomic interactome and cell surface analysis:** Protein identification, abundance (based
823 on spectral index) and enrichment ratios (compared to empty vector) were utilized to identify
824 putative interacting proteins. This process consisted first of overnight sample digestion with
825 trypsin (Pierce) following reduction and alkylation with DTT and iodoacetamide (Sigma-Aldrich).
826 The samples then underwent solid-phase extraction cleanup with an Oasis HLB plate (Waters)
827 and the resulting samples were injected onto an Orbitrap Fusion Lumos mass spectrometer
828 coupled to an Ultimate 3000 RSLC-Nano liquid chromatography system. Samples were injected
829 onto a 75 µm i.d., 75-cm long EasySpray column (Thermo) and eluted with a gradient from 1-
830 28% buffer B over 90 min. Buffer A contained 2% (v/v) ACN and 0.1% formic acid in water, and
831 buffer B contained 80% (v/v) ACN, 10% (v/v) trifluoroethanol, and 0.1% formic acid in water.

832 The mass spectrometer operated in positive ion mode with a source voltage of 1.8-2.4 kV and
833 an ion transfer tube temperature of 275 °C. MS scans were acquired at 120,000 resolution in
834 the Orbitrap and up to 10 MS/MS spectra were obtained in the ion trap for each full spectrum
835 acquired using higher-energy collisional dissociation (HCD) for ions with charges 2-7. Dynamic
836 exclusion was set for 25 s after an ion was selected for fragmentation.

837 For the plasma membrane and interaction proteomics samples, raw MS data files were
838 analyzed using Proteome Discoverer v3.0 (Thermo), with peptide identification performed using
839 Sequest HT searching against the human protein database from UniProt. Fragment and
840 precursor tolerances of 10 ppm and 0.6 Da were specified, and three missed cleavages were
841 allowed. Carbamidomethylation of Cys was set as a fixed peptide modification, with oxidation of
842 Met set as a peptide variable modification. The false-discovery rate (FDR) cutoff was 1% for all
843 peptides.

844 For protein complex composition in native gel samples, raw MS data files were analyzed using
845 MaxQuant v.2.0.3.0, with peptide identification performed against the human protein database
846 from UniProt. Fragment and precursor tolerances of 20 ppm and 0.5 Da were specified, and
847 three missed cleavages were allowed. Carbamidomethylation of Cys was set as a fixed peptide
848 modification, oxidation of Met was set as a peptide variable modification, and N-terminal
849 acetylation was set as a protein variable modification. iBAQ quantitation was used for
850 performing protein quantitation within each sample.

851 **TMT proteomics:** Samples used for TMT-based proteomic quantification were processed as
852 follows. 25 µL of 10% SDS, 100 mM triethylammonium bicarbonate (TEAB) was added to each
853 sample and vortexed to mix. 2 µL of 0.5M tris(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine (TCEP) was added to
854 reduce the disulfide bonds and the samples were incubated for 30 min at 56°C. The free
855 cysteines were alkylated by adding 2 µL of 500 mM iodoacetamide (IAA) to a final IAA
856 concentration of 20 mM, and the samples were incubated in the dark at room temperature for 30
857 min. 5.4 µL of 12% phosphoric acid was added to each sample along with 300 µL of S-Trap

858 (Protifi) binding buffer, and the samples were loaded on to an S-Trap column. 1 µg of trypsin
859 was added and the sample was digested overnight at 37°C. Following digestion, the peptide
860 eluate was dried and reconstituted in 21 µL of 50 mM TEAB buffer. Equal amounts of the
861 samples based on NanoDrop A(205) reading were labelled with TMT 6plex reagent (Thermo),
862 quenched with 5% hydroxylamine, and combined. The peptide mixture was dried in a
863 SpeedVac, desalted using an Oasis HLB microelution plate (Waters), and dried again in a
864 SpeedVac. 50 µL of 2% acetonitrile, 0.1% TFA was added to the sample, and this was injected
865 onto an Orbitrap Eclipse mass spectrometer coupled to an Ultimate 3000 RSLC-Nano liquid
866 chromatography system. Samples were injected onto a 75 µm i.d., 75-cm long EasySpray
867 column (Thermo) and eluted with a gradient from 1-28% buffer B over 180 min, followed by 28-
868 45% buffer B over 25 minutes. Buffer A contained 2% (v/v) ACN and 0.1% formic acid in water,
869 and buffer B contained 80% (v/v) ACN, 10% (v/v) trifluoroethanol, and 0.1% formic acid in
870 water. The mass spectrometer operated in positive ion mode with a source voltage of 2.0 kV
871 and an ion transfer tube temperature of 300°C. MS scans were acquired at 120,000 resolution
872 in the Orbitrap over a mass range of m/z = 400-1600, and top speed mode was used for SPS-
873 MS3 analysis with a cycle time of 2.5 s. MS2 was performed using collisionally-induced
874 dissociation (CID) with a collision energy of 35% for ions with charges 2-6. Dynamic exclusion
875 was set for 25 s after an ion was selected for fragmentation. Real-time search was performed
876 using the reviewed human protein database from UniProt, with carbamidomethylation of Cys
877 and TMT 6plex modification of Lys and peptide N-termini set as static modifications and
878 oxidation of Met set as a variable modification. Two missed cleavages and up to 3 modifications
879 per peptide were allowed. The top 10 fragments for MS/MS spectra corresponding to peptides
880 identified by real-time search were selected for MS3 fragmentation using high-energy collisional
881 dissociation (HCD), with a collision energy of 65%. Raw MS data files were analyzed using
882 Proteome Discoverer v3.0 (Thermo), with peptide identification performed using both Sequest
883 HT and Comet searching against the human protein database from UniProt. Fragment and

884 precursor tolerances of 10 ppm and 0.6 Da were specified, and two missed cleavages were
885 allowed. The same modifications were used in the search as for the real-time search. The false-
886 discovery rate (FDR) cutoff was 1% for all peptides.

887 **Recombinant protein purification:** Retriever was expressed by co-infecting Sf9 cells at 2
888 M/mL cell density (Expression Systems) with individual baculoviruses prepared by the Bac-to-
889 Bac system used in other studies^{58,59} (Invitrogen). Retriever was purified by Ni-NTA agarose
890 beads (Qiagen), followed by cation exchange chromatography using a 2-mL Source 15S
891 column, anion exchange chromatography using a 1-mL CaptoTM HiRes Q 5/50, and size
892 exclusion chromatography using a 24-mL Superdex Increase 200 column. CCDC22 and
893 CCDC93 fragments and DENND10 were expressed in BL21 (DE3)^{T1R} cells (Sigma) at 18 °C
894 overnight after induction with 1mM IPTG. MBP-tagged CCDC22 and CCDC93 proteins were
895 purified using Amylose beads (New England Biolabs), mixed in approximately 1:1 stoichiometry,
896 incubated overnight at 4°C to promote dimer formation, and were further purified by anion
897 exchange chromatography using a Source 15Q column and size exclusion chromatography
898 using a Superdex 200 column. His₆-Tev-DENND10 was purified using Ni-NTA agarose resin
899 (Qiagen), followed by anion exchange chromatography using a Source 15Q column, and size
900 exclusion chromatography using a 24-mL Superdex Increase 200 column. All ion exchange and
901 gel filtration chromatography steps were performed using columns purchased from Cytiva on an
902 ÄKTATM Pure protein purification system.

903 **Size exclusion chromatography analysis:** MBP-CCDC22 DBD and MBP-CCDC93 DBD
904 proteins were assembled into a dimer after amylose purification and further purified using a
905 Source 15Q column, followed by TEV cleavage overnight to remove the MBP tags. His₆-
906 DENND10 was purified using a Source 15Q column and treated with TEV protease overnight to
907 remove the His₆ tag. The cleaved CCDC22-CCDC93 DBD dimer and DENND10 were further
908 purified using a Source 15Q column. The concentration was determined using the absorbance
909 at 280 nm and the extinction coefficient generated by Expasy ProtParam. The DBD dimer and

910 DENND10 proteins were mixed and purified over a Superdex 200 column equilibrated in 100
911 mM NaCl, 10 mM HEPES pH 7.0, 5% (w/v) glycerol, and 1 mM DTT. The individual dimer and
912 DENND10 proteins were diluted to the same concentration as they were in the trimer complex
913 with buffer and the same amount of protein was purified over the same Superdex 200 column,
914 in the same buffer as the trimer.

915 **In vitro pull-down assays:** MBP pull-down experiments were performed as previously
916 described⁶⁰. Briefly, bait (100-200 pmol of MBP-tagged proteins) and prey (60 pmol for Retriever
917 or 500 pmol for DENND10) were mixed with 20 μ L of Amylose beads (New England Biolabs) in
918 1 mL of binding buffer [10 mM HEPES pH 7, 150 mM NaCl, 5% (w/v) glycerol, 0.05% (w/v)
919 Triton-X100, and 5 mM β -mercaptoethanol] at 4 °C for 30 min. The beads were washed three
920 times with 1 mL of the binding buffer each time. Bound proteins were eluted with binding buffer
921 supplemented with 2% (w/v) maltose and were examined by SDS-PAGE and Coomassie blue
922 staining.

923 **Sample preparation for electron microscopy:** The Retriever complex (3 μ L at 0.25 mg/ml) in
924 a buffer containing 10 mM HEPES (pH 7.0), 150 mM NaCl, 2 mM MgCl₂, 2 mM DTT, and 5%
925 (w/v) glycerol was applied to a Quantifoil 300-mesh R1.2/1.3 grid (Quantifoil, Micro Tools
926 GmbH, Germany), which had been pre-treated with glow discharge using Pelco EasiGlow
927 immediately before use. Following a 30-second preincubation, the grid was blotted for 4 sec
928 under 100% humidity at 4°C and then plunged into liquid ethane using Vitrobot Mark IV (Thermo
929 Fisher Scientific).

930 **Electron microscopy data acquisition:** A pilot dataset was collected using a 200 kV Glacios
931 microscope (Thermo Fisher Scientific) equipped with a K3 camera (Gatan). For large data set
932 collection, sample grids were screened on a 200 kV Talos Artica microscope (Thermo Fisher
933 Scientific). The final cryo-EM data were acquired on a Titan Krios microscope (Thermo Fisher
934 Scientific) operated at 300 kV and equipped with a post-column energy filter (Gatan) and a K3
935 direct detection camera (Gatan) in CDS mode using SerialEM⁶¹. Movies were acquired at a

936 pixel size of 0.415 Å in super-resolution counting mode, with an accumulated total dose of 60 e-
937 /Å² over 60 frames. The defocus range of the images was set between -1.2 to -2.4 μm. In total,
938 3,594 movies were collected and used for data processing.

939 **Electron Microscopy data processing:** The cryo-EM data were processed using
940 cryoSPARC⁶² v4.2.1. To correct for beam induced motion and compensate for radiation damage
941 over spatial frequencies, the patch motion correction algorithm was employed using a binning
942 factor of 2, resulting in a pixel size of 0.83 Å/pixel for the micrographs. Contrast Transfer
943 Function (CTF) parameters were estimated using patch CTF estimation. After manual curation,
944 a total of 2,892 micrographs were selected for further processing from the initial 3,594
945 micrographs. For particle picking, a 4.3 Å map of the Retriever complex obtained from the pilot
946 dataset was used as a template, resulting in the identification of 1,221,095 particles. After 2D
947 classification, 1,105,321 particles were selected and subjected to *ab initio* 3D reconstruction,
948 followed by heterogeneous refinement ([Extended Data Fig. 1](#)). The best resolved 3D class,
949 containing 426,624 particles, was selected for the final non-uniform refinement followed by the
950 CTF refinement, producing a full map with an overall resolution of 2.94 Å with a binned pixel
951 size of 1.0624 Å/pixel. DeepEMhancer⁶³ was then used with the two unfiltered half maps to
952 generate a locally sharpened map (EMD-40885/PDB-8SYM). To better resolve the interaction
953 between VPS29 and VPS35L, a mask was applied around VPS29 and the adjacent C-terminal
954 region of VPS35L and signals outside the mask were subtracted ([Extended Data Fig. 1G](#)). Next,
955 3D classification without alignment was applied to the subtracted particle stack, resulting in a
956 class containing 83,654 particles with better resolved density of the “belt” sequence. Local
957 refinement of this class resulted in a map with an overall resolution of 3.18 Å, which was further
958 sharpened by DeepEMhancer. This map was then aligned with the full map and combined using
959 the “vop maximum” function in UCSF Chimera based on the maximum value at each voxel⁶⁴.
960 This composite map (EMD-40886/PDB-8SYO) is used to show the overall features of the

961 Retriever complex in **Fig. 1A**. All reported resolutions followed the gold-standard Fourier shell
962 correlation (FSC) using the 0.143 criterion⁶⁵.

963 **Atomic model building:** A Retriever model predicted by AlphaFold Multimer 2.2.3 was used as
964 the initial model³⁴ for model building using COOT^{33,66} with the DeepEMhancer sharpened maps.
965 The model was built through iterations of real-space refinement in Phenix⁶⁷ with secondary
966 structure restraints. Model geometries were assessed using the MolProbity module in Phenix,
967 the Molprobity server⁶⁸ (<http://molprobity.biochem.duke.edu/>), and the PDB Validation server⁶⁹
968 (www.wwpdb.org). Figures were rendered using PyMOL (The PyMOL Molecular Graphics
969 System, Schrödinger) or ChimeraX⁷⁰. Interface area calculation was done using the PISA server
970 (<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/pdbe/pisa/>).

971 **AlphaFold prediction and analysis:** Versions 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2.3, 2.2.4, 2.3.0, and 2.3.1 of
972 AlphaFold (<https://github.com/deepmind/alphafold>) were installed on local NVidia A100 80GB
973 GPU computers hosted by Iowa State University ResearchIT or High-Performance Computing
974 for performing AlphaFold Multimer prediction. The standard AlphaFold procedures were
975 followed^{33,34}, with the following specifics. The full genetic database was used for multiple
976 sequence alignment. For each multimeric complex, five models were generated, and five
977 predictions were performed for each model, resulting in a total of 25 unrelaxed models. These
978 unrelaxed structures were relaxed using Amber energy minimization and ranked based on the
979 predicted template modeling (pTM) scores. The typical memory allocations are 128-256 GB for
980 CPU and 80 GB for GPU. The command option “maximum template release date” was set to be
981 2021-11-01, as we used multiple versions of Alphafold (2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2.3, 2.2.4, 2.3.0, and
982 2.3.1) to predict structures for the same sequence since 2021, and the three databases used in
983 AlphaFold were older than 2021-11-01 and could be obtained from the following sources:
984 SOURCE_URL=http://wwwuser.gwdg.de/~compbio/data/hhsuite/databases/hhsuite_dbs/old-releases/pdb70_from_mmcif_200401.tar.gz,
985 and

986 SOURCE_URL=https://storage.googleapis.com/alphafold-
987 databases/v2.3/UniRef30_2021_03.tar.gz
988 The reliability of the predicted models was assessed by three different means, including the
989 predicted local difference distance test (pLDDT) scores, the PAE scores, and the manual
990 examination of the consistency of 25 solutions when they were aligned in Pymol.
991 **Reproducibility and statistical analysis:** To assess statistical significance, one-way ANOVA
992 with Dunnett's post-hoc test was applied to compare multiple groups with one control group.
993 Statistical analyses were performed using Prism 9.5.1. An error probability below 5% ($p < 0.05$; *
994 in Fig. panels) was considered to imply statistical significance. All imaging, FACS, and co-
995 precipitation experiments were performed at least in two to four independent iterations. Large
996 scale proteomics were performed once, and key results confirmed with other methods.
997

998 **Data availability**

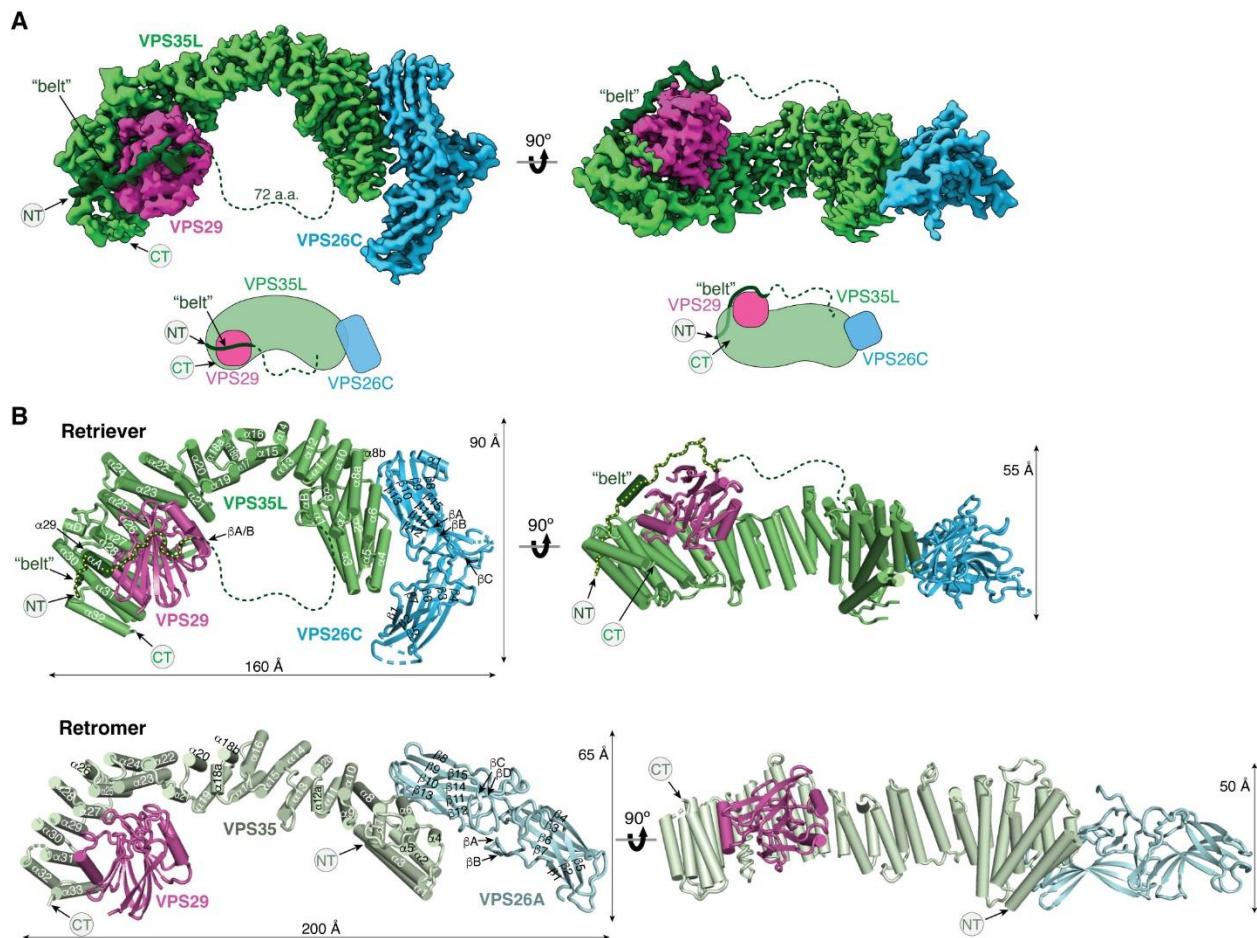
999 Cryo-EM maps have been deposited in the EMDB and PDB (accessions noted in Table 1).
1000 Mass spectrometry data have been deposited at the MassIVE repository (accession numbers
1001 MSV000092100, MSV000092102, MSV000092103, MSV000092104). Source data are
1002 available for all uncropped western blots and all image and FACS quantification used in these
1003 studies. Further information and requests for resources and reagents including DNA constructs,
1004 cell lines, and structural models should be directed to and will be fulfilled by Ezra Burstein
1005 and/or Baoyu Chen. Any additional information required to reanalyze the data reported here will
1006 be shared upon reasonable request. This paper does not report original code.

1007

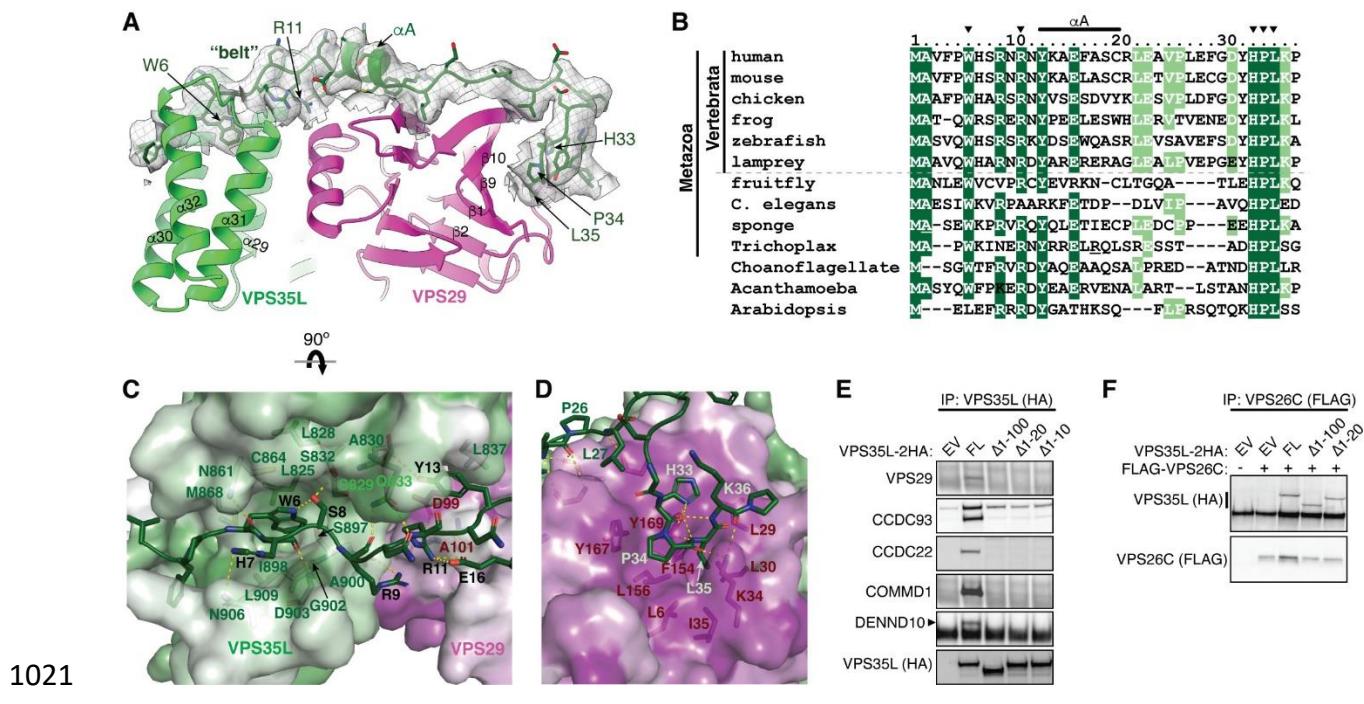
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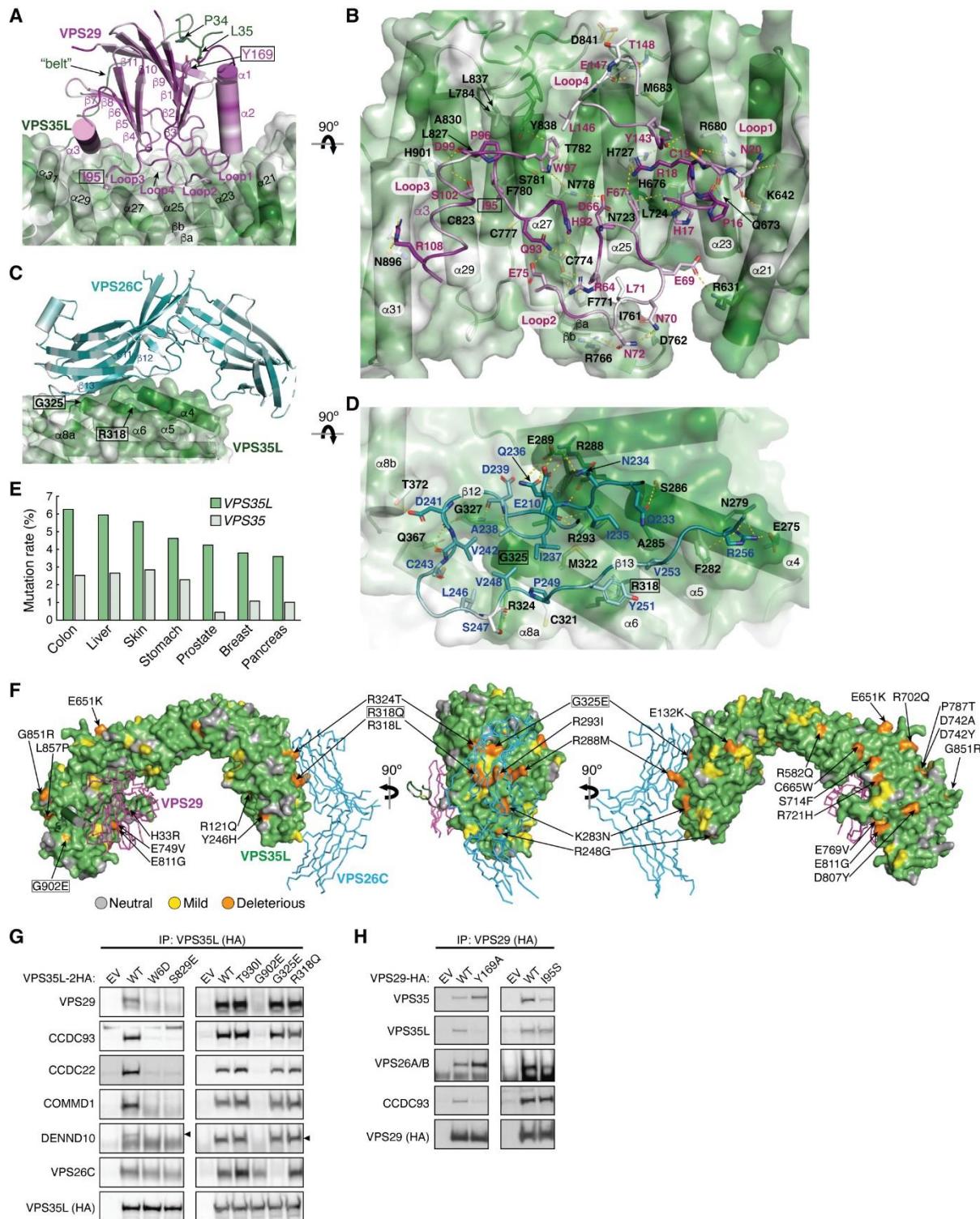
1009 **Figures and Legends**

1010



1014 **Fig. 1. Cryo-EM structure of Retriever reveals a unique assembly mechanism. (A)** Cryo-
1015 EM map (EMD: 40886; PDB: 8SYO) and schematic of the Retriever complex. Dotted lines
1016 represent the putative flexible linker sequence in VPS35L not observed in the map. **(B)**
1017 Structural comparison between Retriever (top) and Retromer (bottom, PDB: 7U6F). Secondary
1018 structural elements of the remotely homologous proteins, including VPS35L vs. VPS35 and
1019 VPS26C vs. VPS26A, are labeled. The “belt” sequence unique to VPS35L is traced by yellow
1020 dotted lines.





1039 **Fig. 3. VPS35L bridges VPS26C and VPS29 through conserved surfaces. (A-D)** Interaction
 1040 surface of VPS35L with VPS29 (A-B) and VPS26C (C-D). The binding surface is colored based

1041 on conservation score using the same scheme shown in Fig. 2. Contacting residues are shown
1042 as sticks. Yellow dashed lines indicate polar interactions. For clarity, the backbones of VPS29
1043 and VPS26C in (B) and (D) are shown as loops. **(E)** Mutation rates (%) for *VPS35L* and *VPS35*
1044 across multiple tumor types. **(F)** Overall structural model of Retriever showing the location of
1045 cancer-associated mutations on the surface of VPS35L. Residues mutated in this study are
1046 outlined with a black box. For clarity, VPS29 and VPS26 are shown as ribbons. **(G-H)**
1047 Immunoprecipitation of VPS35L (G) or VPS29 (H) carrying indicated point mutations expressed
1048 in HEK293T cells. Interactions with various components of Retriever and CCC were assessed
1049 by immunoblotting.

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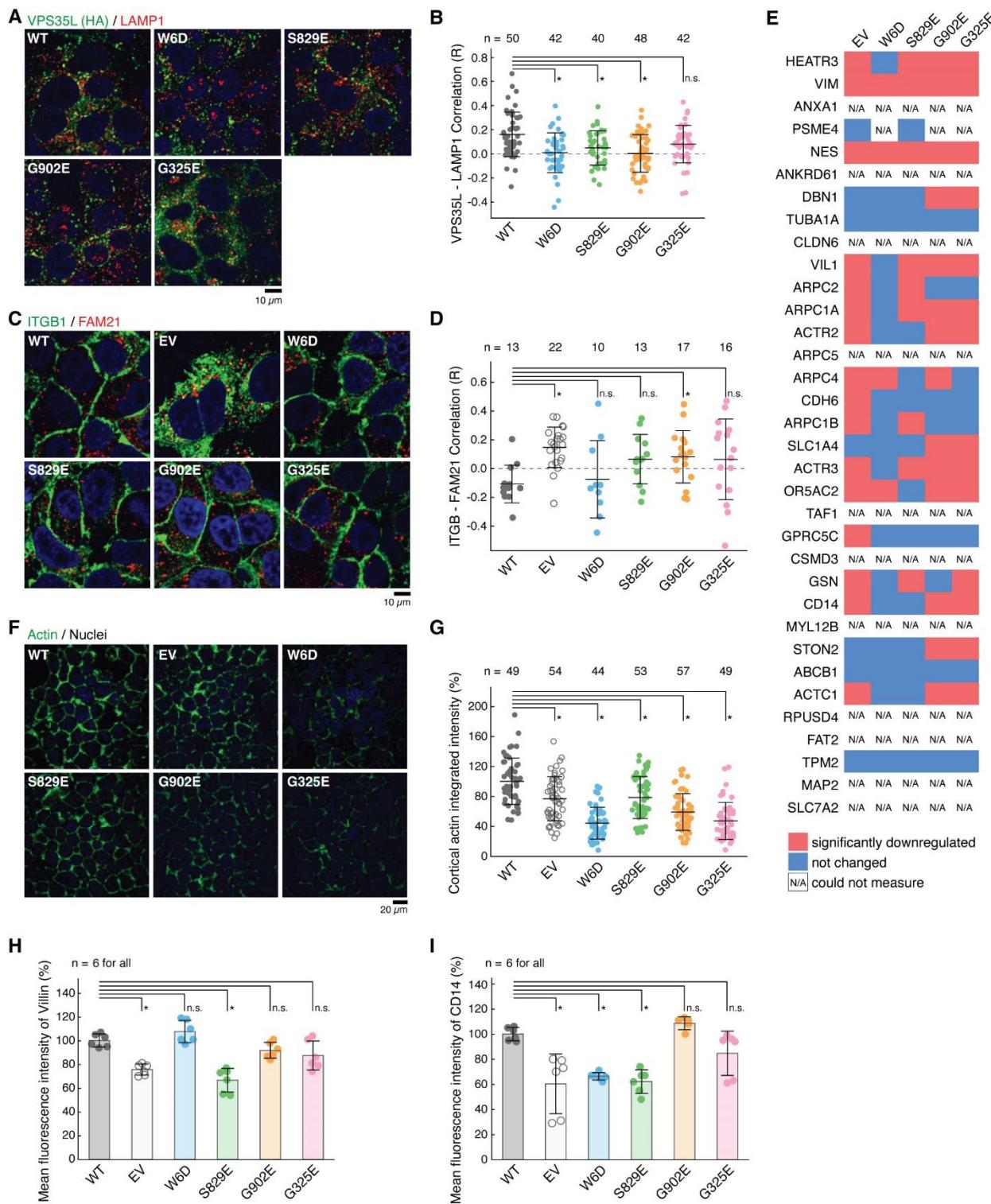
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1069 **Fig. 4. Disruption of Retriever assembly affects membrane protein homeostasis. (A)**

1070 Immunofluorescence staining for VPS35L (green channel, using HA antibody), LAMP1 (red

1071 channel), and nuclei (DAPI, blue channel) in the indicated stable Huh-7 cell lines. **(B)**
1072 Quantification of the correlation coefficient for VPS35L and LAMP1 localization for the images
1073 shown in (A). Each dot represents an individual cell. **(C)** Immunofluorescence staining for
1074 ITGB1 (green channel), FAM21 (red channel), and nuclei (DAPI, blue channel) in the indicated
1075 stable Huh-7 cell lines. **(D)** Quantification of the correlation coefficient for ITGB1 and FAM21
1076 localization for the images shown in (C). Each dot represents an individual cell. **(E)** Surface
1077 biotinylation and protein isolation, followed by proteomic quantification was performed and
1078 protein abundance was compared against VPS35L WT in the indicated cell lines stable Huh-7
1079 cell lines. Red indicates values for proteins with at least 50% reduction compared to VPS35L
1080 WT cells, blue represents values that were not significantly reduced, while N/A represents
1081 proteins that could not be quantified. **(F)** Phalloidin staining for F-Actin (green channel) and
1082 nuclei (DAPI, blue channel) in the indicated stable Huh-7 cell lines. **(G)** Quantification of the
1083 cortical actin staining in the images shown in (F). Each dot represents an individual cell. **(H-I)**
1084 Quantification of Villin (H) and CD14 (I) fluorescence staining intensity as determined by FACS,
1085 expressed as % compared to VPS35L WT cells.

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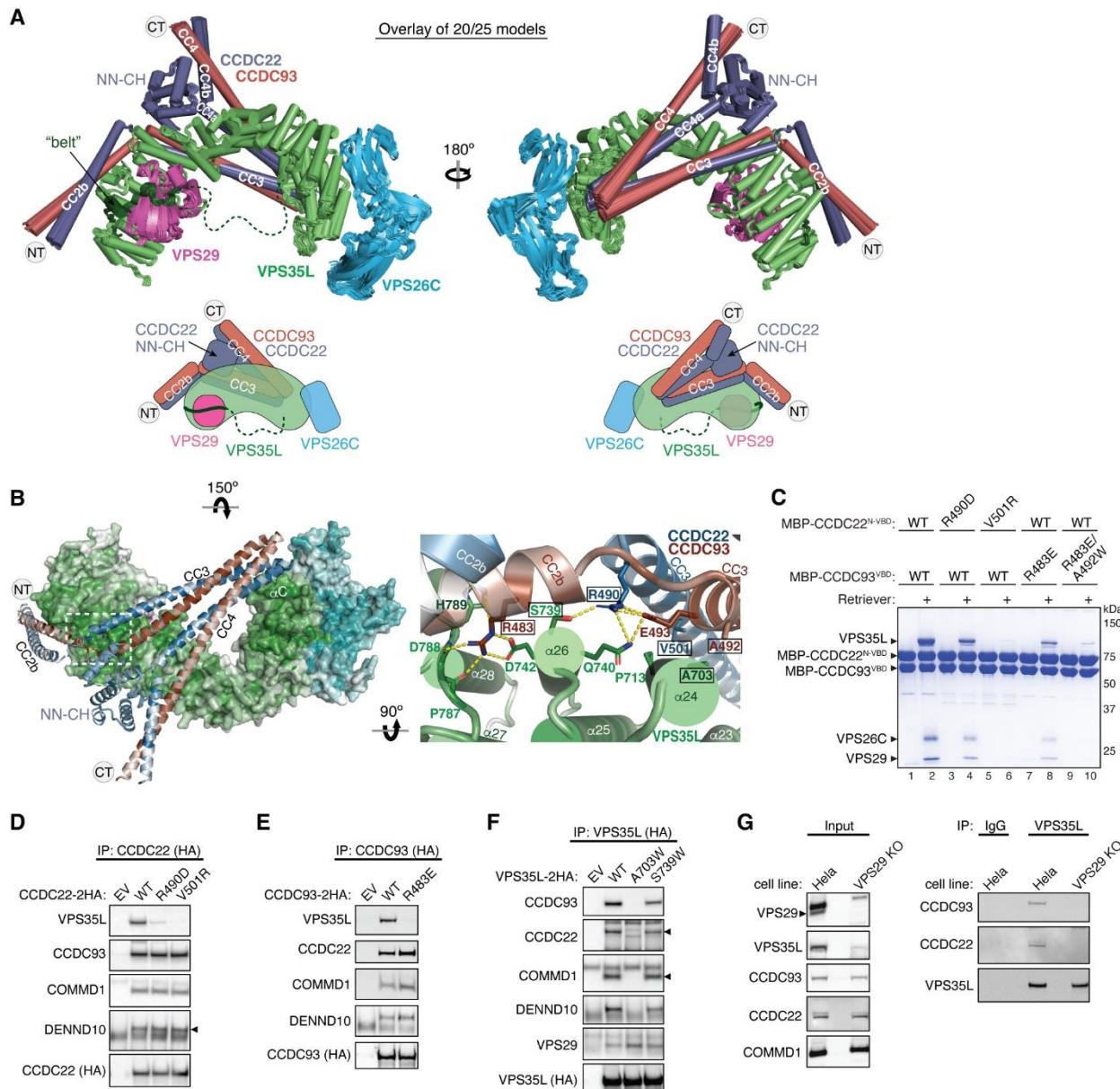
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1099 **Fig. 5. Structural model of CCDC22-CCDC93 binding to Retriever. (A)** Overlay of AlphaFold
1100 Multimer models and schematic showing Retriever binding to CCDC22-CCDC93. For clarity,
1101 inconsistent models (5 out of 25 total models) are excluded. Unreliable structural regions
1102 showing inconsistency between models and high PAE scores are removed, including the
1103 peptide linker following the “belt” sequence in VPS35L (dotted green line). **(B)** Interaction
1104 surface between Retriever and CCDC22-CCDC93 colored by conservation score using the

1105 same scheme shown in Fig. 2. Key interactions are shown as sticks and polar interactions are
1106 represented with a dashed yellow line. Residues mutated in this study are outlined with a black
1107 box. **(C)** Coomassie blue-stained SDS PAGE gel showing indicated variants of MBP-CCDC22
1108 NN-CH-VBD/MBP-CCDC93 VBD dimers (200 pmol) pulling down Retriever (60 pmol). **(D-F)**
1109 Immunoprecipitation of indicated mutants of CCDC22 (D), CCDC93 (E), and VPS35L (F)
1110 expressed in HEK293T cells and immunoblotting of indicated proteins. **(G)** Immunoprecipitation
1111 and immunoblotting of VPS35L from parental HeLa cells and a *VPS29* knockout line derived
1112 from these cells.

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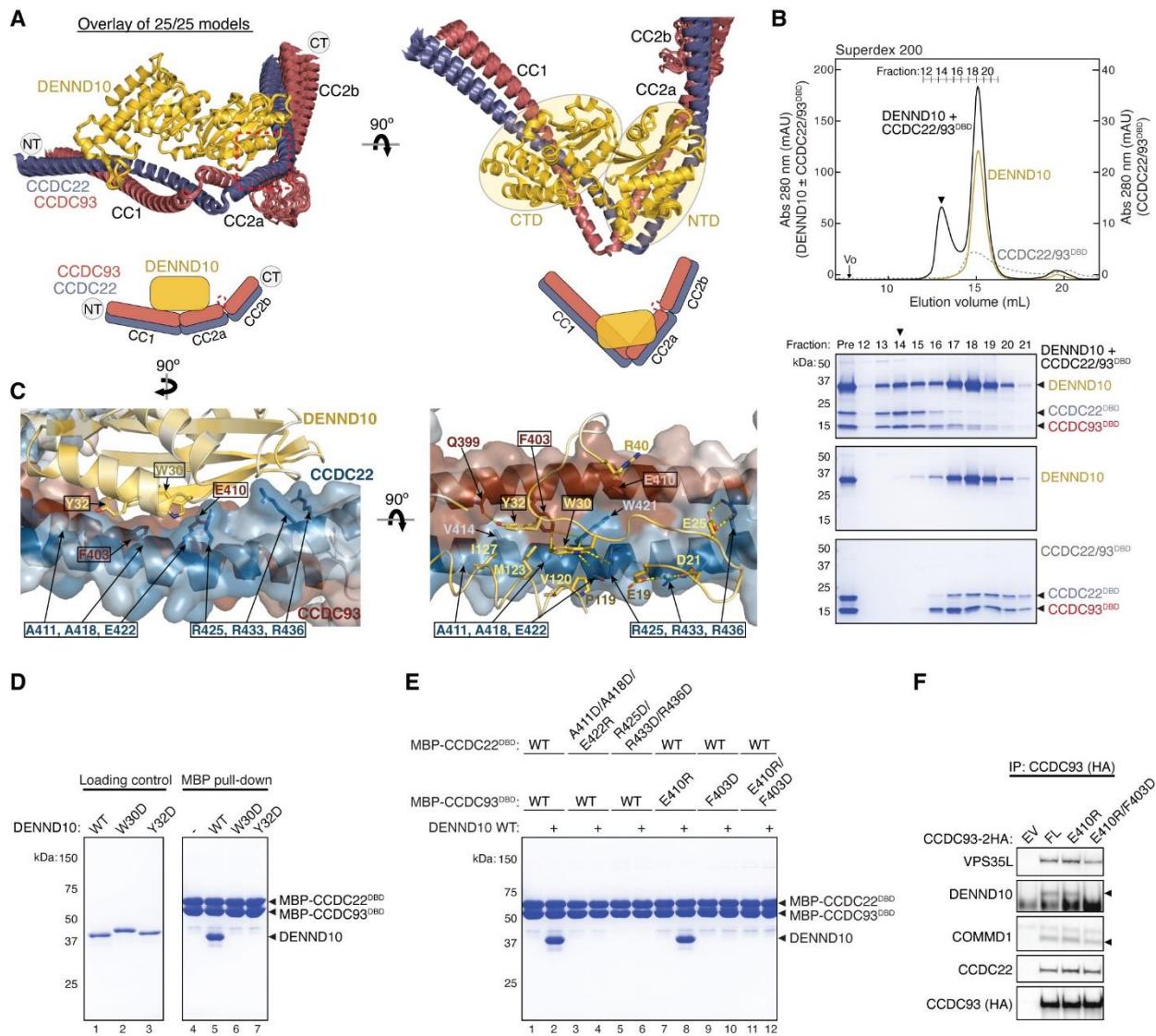
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1131 **Fig. 6. Structural model of CCDC22-CCDC93 binding to DENND10. (A)** Overlay of all 25
 1132 AlphaFold Multimer models and schematic showing DENND10 binding to CCDC22-CCDC93.
 1133 **(B)** Gel filtration of DENND10 and CCDC22-CCDC92 DBD, individually and in combination.
 1134 Coomassie blue-stained SDS-PAGE gels of the indicated fractions are shown. The arrowhead
 1135 indicates the peak fraction of the trimer. **(C)** Interaction surface between DENND10 and
 1136 CCDC22-CCDC93 DBD colored by conservation score using the same scheme shown in Fig. 2.
 1137 Key interactions are shown as sticks and polar interactions are represented with a dashed
 1138 yellow line. Residues mutated in this study are outlined with a black box. **(D-E)** Coomassie blue-
 1139 stained SDS PAGE gels showing MBP-tagged CCDC22-CCDC93 DBD (200 pmol) pulling down

1140 DENND10 (500 pmol). Mutations in corresponding constructs are indicated. **(F)**
1141 Immunoprecipitation of CCDC93 carrying indicated point mutants expressed in HEK293T cells
1142 and immunoblotting for the indicated proteins.

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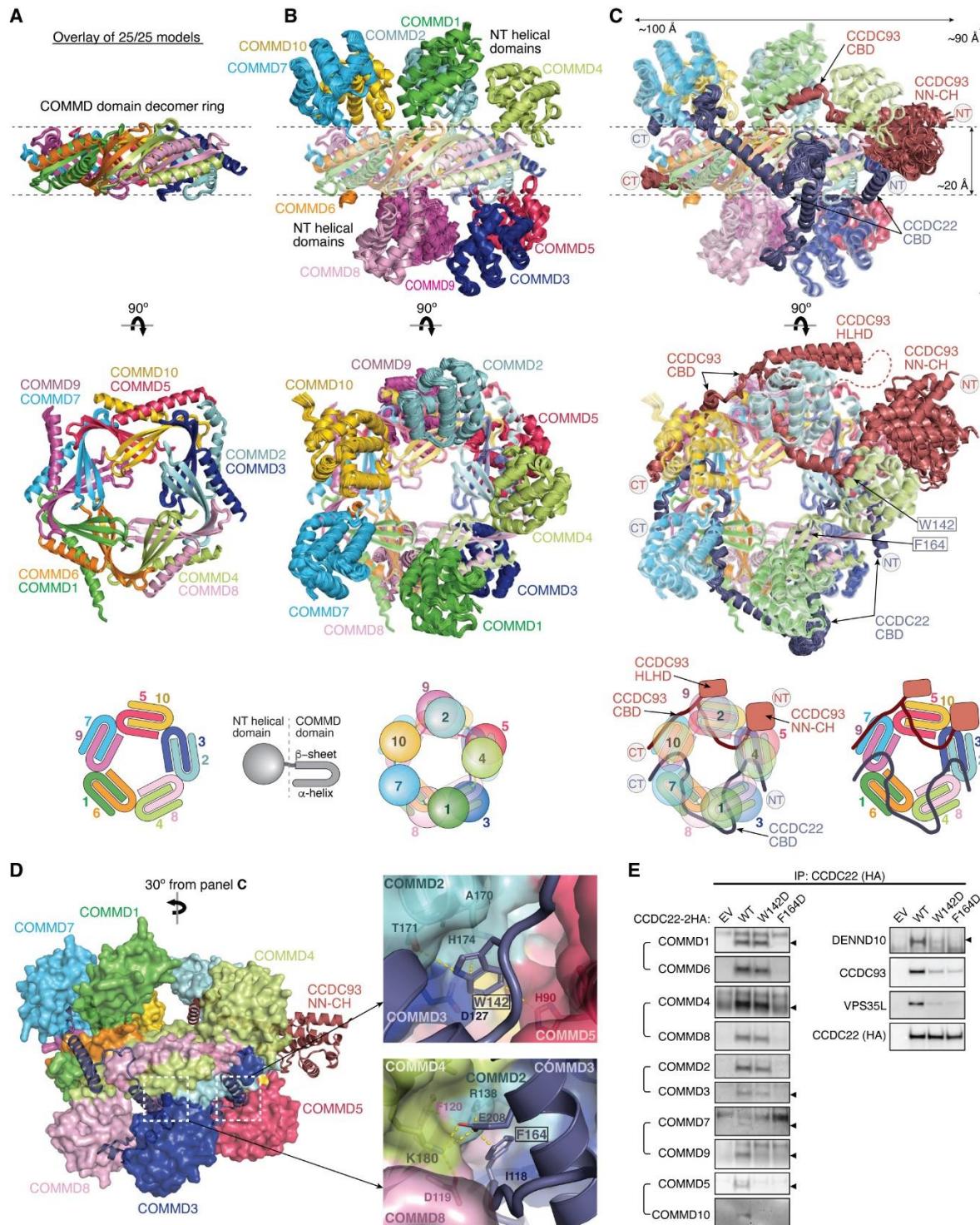
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1168 **Fig. 7. Structural model of CCDC22-CCDC93 binding to COMMD. (A-C)** Overlay of all 25
 1169 AlphaFold Multimer models and schematic showing COMMD decamer ring binding to CCDC22-

1170 CCDC93, with (A) highlighting the central ring of the COMM domain, (B) highlighting the
1171 globular domains on the two sides of the ring, and (C) highlighting the conformation of CCDC22
1172 and CCDC93 CBDs. **(D)** Interaction surface between the COMMD ring (surface representation)
1173 with CCDC22-CCDC93 CBDs (cartoon). Key interactions are shown as sticks and polar
1174 interactions are represented with a dashed yellow line. Residues mutated in this study are
1175 outlined with a black box. **(E)** Immunoprecipitation of CCDC22 carrying indicated point
1176 mutations expressed in HEK293T cells and immunoblotting for the indicated proteins.

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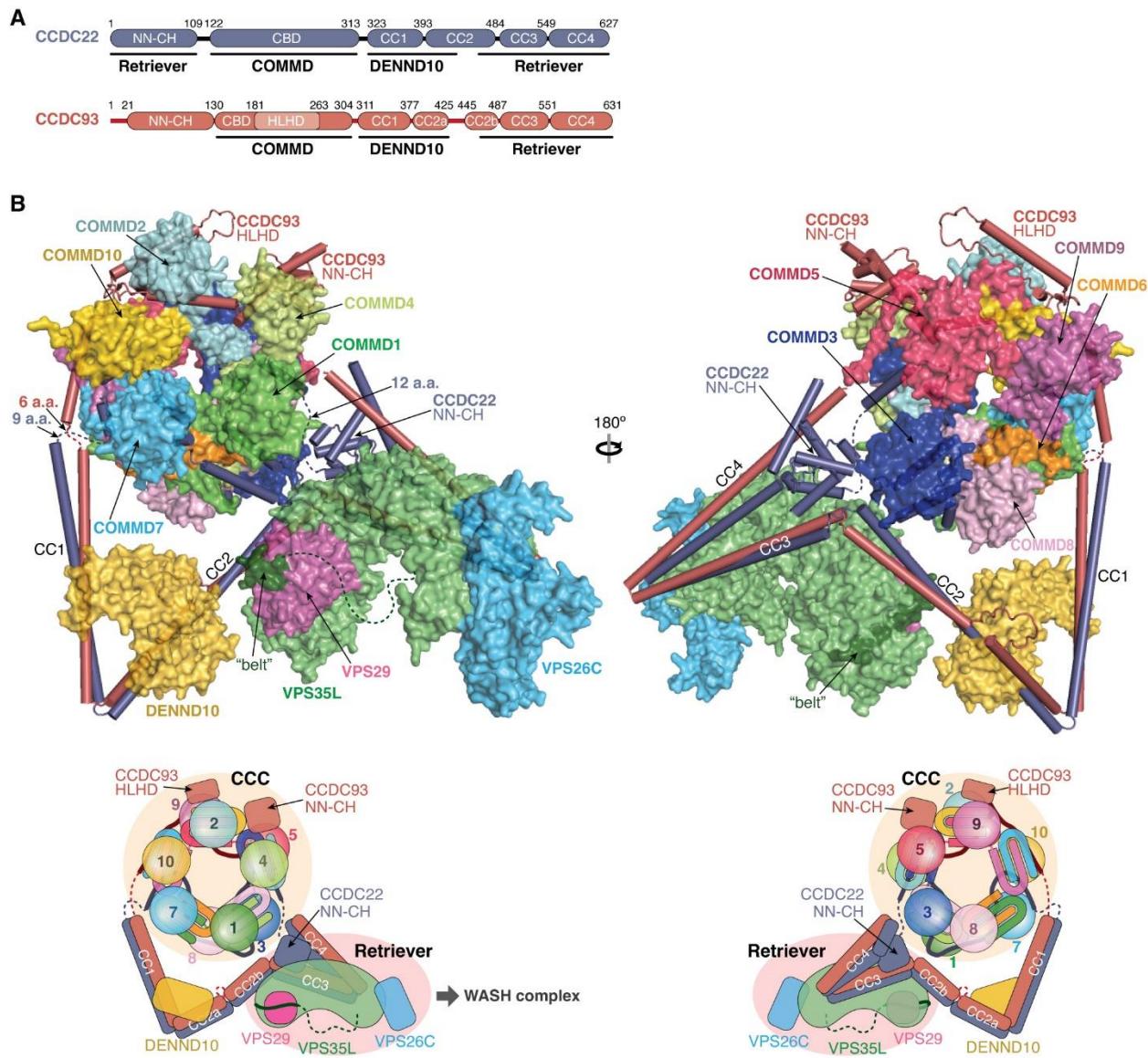
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1199 **Fig. 8: Overall model of the Retriever-CCC complex. (A)** Schematic showing the domain
1200 organization and the corresponding interaction partners of CCDC22 and CCDC93 derived from
1201 AlphaFold Multimer prediction. **(B)** Overall structural model and schematic of the Retriever-CCC
1202 complex derived from AlphaFold Multimer prediction of individual subcomplexes. The peptide
1203 linkers in CCDC22 and CCDC93 serving as distance constraints are shown as dashed lines.

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1205 **Table 1. Cryo-EM data collection, refinement, and validation statistics.**

	VPS35L-VPS29- VPS26C (EMDB: 40885) (PDB: 8SYN)	VPS35L(partial)- VPS29 (EMDB: 40884) (PDB: 8SYM)	Composite Map (EMD: 40886) (PDB: 8SYO)
Data collection and processing			
Magnification	105,000		
Voltage (kV)	300		
Electron exposure (e ⁻ /Å ⁻²)	60		
Defocus range (μm)	-1.2 to -2.4		
Pixel size (Å)	0.83		
Symmetry imposed	C1	C1	
Initial particle images (no.)	1,221,095	426,624	
Final particle images (no.)	426,624	83,654	
Map resolution (Å)	2.9	3.2	
FSC threshold	0.143	0.143	
Map pixel size (Å)	1.0624	1.0624	
Refinement			
Initial model used (PDB code)	-	-	
Model composition			
Nonhydrogen atoms	10,070	4,487	10,070
Protein residues	1,259	560	1,259
Ligands	0	0	0
R.m.s. deviations			
Bond lengths (Å)	0.005	0.004	0.005
Bond angles (°)	0.550	0.454	0.550
Validation			
MolProbity score	1.66	1.45	1.66
Clashscore	7.56	8.24	7.56
Poor rotamers (%)	0	0	0
Ramachandran plot			
Favored (%)	96.4	98.0	96.4
Allowed (%)	3.6	2.0	3.6
Disallowed (%)	0	0	0
Protein residues included in the model	VPS35L: 3-37, 110-139, 175-254, 268-924 VPS29: 3-186 VPS26C: 3-29, 38-56, 61-81, 86-127, 132-222, 225-297	VPS35L: 3-37, 580-602, 607-924 VPS29: 3-186	VPS35L: 3-37, 110-139, 175-254, 268-924 VPS29: 3-186 VPS26C: 3-29, 38-56, 61-81, 86-127, 132-222, 225-297

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1384 to E.B. and D.D.B.

1385

1386 **Author Contributions**

1387 E.B., B.C., and D.D.B. conceived the project. E.B. oversaw cell biological and proteomic
1388 experiments performed by A.S. with the help from Q.L., K.S and X.L. B.C. oversaw protein
1389 purification, biochemical experiments, and AlphaFold predictions performed by D.J.B. with the
1390 help from D.A.K. and X.Z. Z.C. and Y.H. oversaw cryo-EM grid preparation, data collection,
1391 single particle reconstruction and atomic-model building. P.J. supervised initial cryo-EM grid
1392 preparation and data collection performed by D.J.B. at Iowa State. M.J.M and D.D.B. helped
1393 with cellular experiments and data interpretation. B.C., Z.C. D.J.B., and Y.H. analyzed
1394 structures. E.B., B.C., and Z.C. drafted the manuscript and prepared the Figs with assistance
1395 from all other authors.

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1398 **Ethics Declarations**

1399 The authors declare no competing interests.

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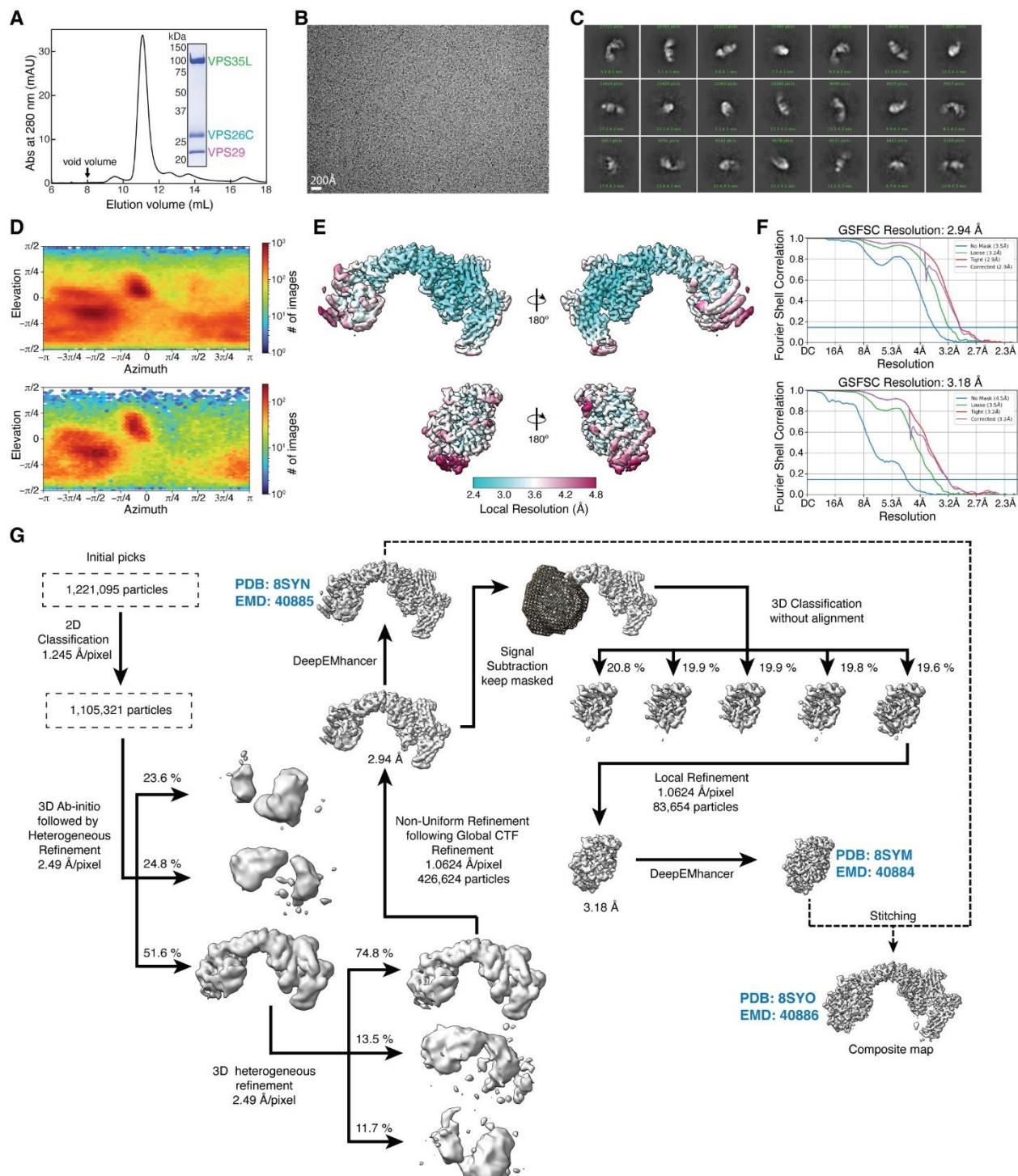
1401 **Additional Information**

1402 Correspondence and request for materials should be addressed to

1403 Ezra.Burstein@UTSouthwestern.edu or stone@iastate.edu.

1404

1405 **Extended Data Figures**



1406

1407 **Extended Data Fig. 1. Purification and cryo-EM structural determination of Retriever. (A)**

1408 Gel filtration chromatography of the purified Retriever complex. (B) Representative cryo-EM

1409 micrograph. **(C)** Representative 2D class averages. **(D)** Euler angle distribution plots for
1410 Retriever (upper) and the locally refined VPS29 with the NT “belt” peptide and the CT region of
1411 VPS35L (lower). **(E)** Local resolution map of Retriever (upper) and the locally refined VPS29
1412 with the NT “belt” peptide and the CT region of VPS35L (lower). **(F)** Fourier Shell Correlation
1413 (FSC) plot for Retriever (upper) and the locally refined VPS29 with the NT “belt” peptide and the
1414 CT region of VPS35L (lower). **(G)** Schematic showing cryo-EM data processing steps for
1415 obtaining 3D reconstruction of Retriever. The three maps deposited to PDB/EMDB are labeled.

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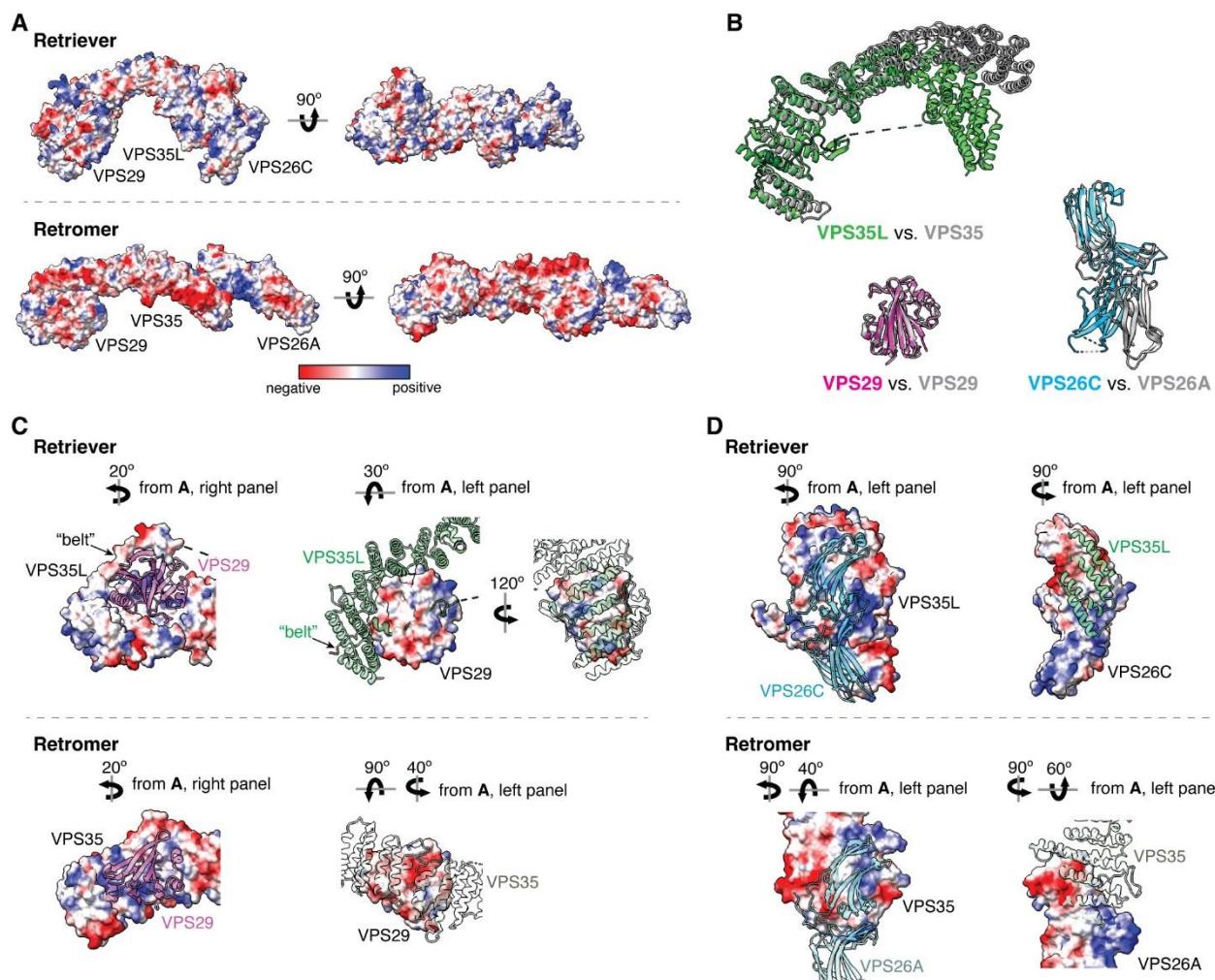
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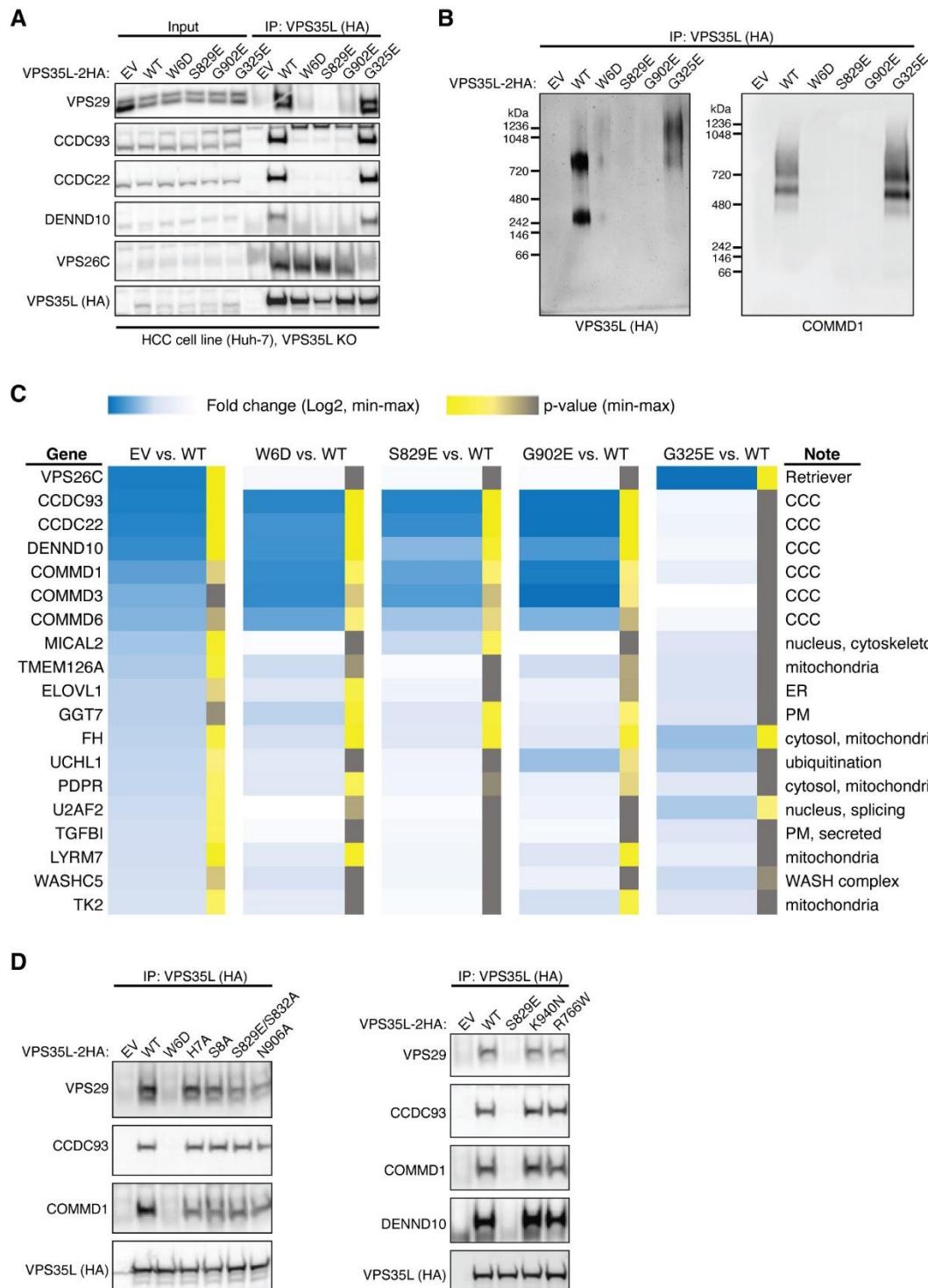


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1437 **Extended Data Fig. 2. Structural comparison between Retriever and Retromer. (A)** Surface
1438 representation of electrostatic potentials of Retriever vs. Retromer (PDB: 7U6F). **(B)**
1439 Superimpose of individual subunits from Retriever (colored) vs. Retromer (gray). **(C)**
1440 Intermolecular interface between VPS35L and VPS29 vs. VPS35 and VPS29, shown as surface
1441 representations of electrostatic potentials. **(D)** same as in (C), with VPS35L and VPS26C vs.
1442 VPS35 and VPS26A.

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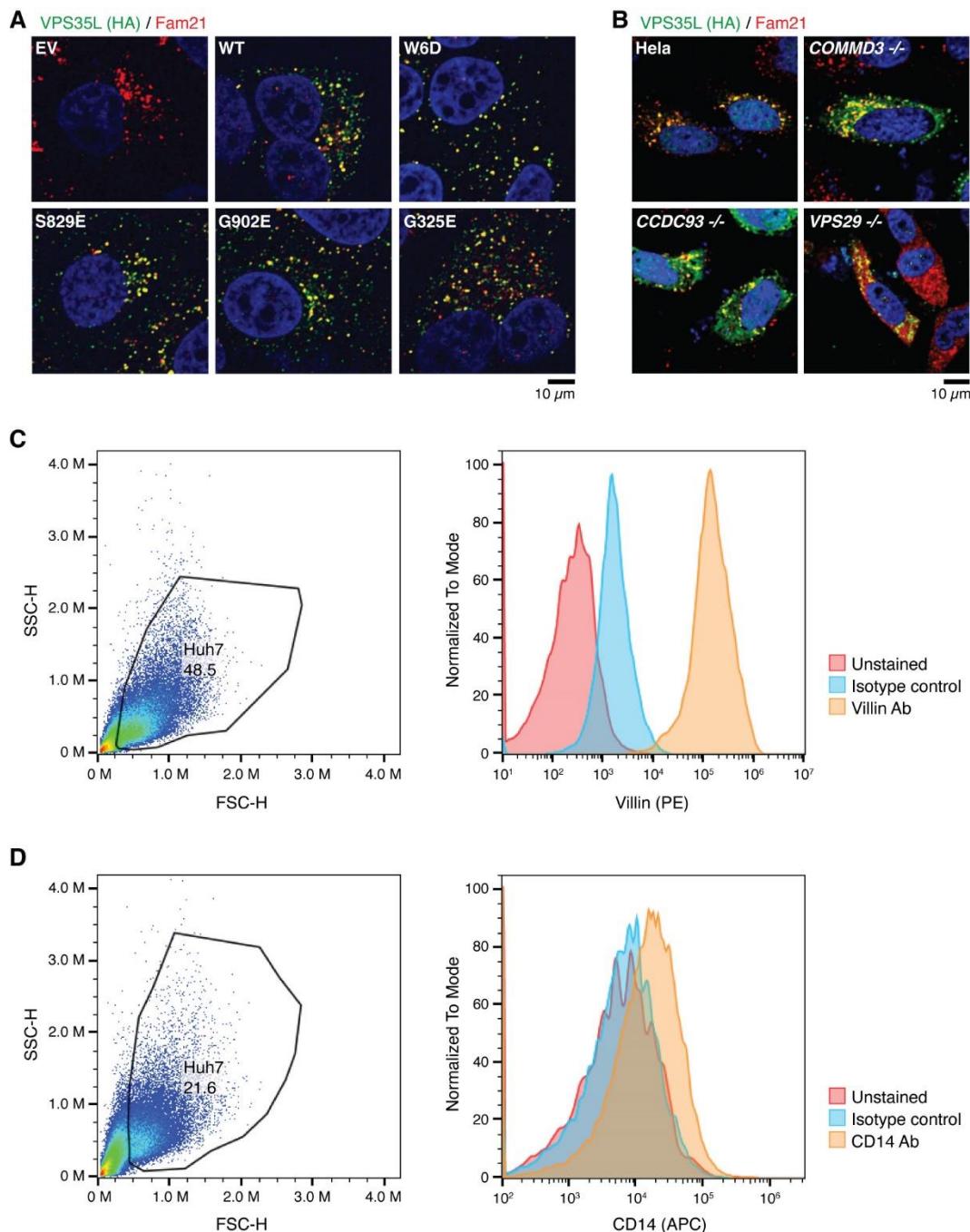
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1447 **Extended Data Fig. 3. Cellular and proteomic analysis of VPS35L mutants. (A)** Huh-7
1448 hepatocellular carcinoma cells carrying the indicated mutations in VPS35L (EV, empty vector).

1449 Immunoprecipitation of VPS35L followed by western blot for the indicated proteins is shown. **(B)**
1450 Immunoprecipitation of VPS35L followed by competitive elution of native complexes using HA
1451 peptide, and separation of the complexes in blue native gels. After transfer, the complexes
1452 were immunoblotted with the indicated antibodies. **(C)** Heatmap representation of protein-
1453 protein interaction results using proteomics. VPS35L was immunoprecipitated from the indicated
1454 Huh-7 stable cell lines (in triplicate samples) and the results are expressed as fold compared to
1455 Huh-7 control cells (darker blue depicts greater fold difference). Statistical significance is
1456 indicated in color scale (yellow indicating $p<0.05$, and grey indicating $p>0.05$). **(D)**
1457 Immunoprecipitation of VPS35L carrying indicated point mutations expressed in HEK293T cells
1458 and immunoblotting for the indicated proteins.
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1478 **Extended Data Fig. 4. VPS35L localization and PM proteome effects. (A)**

1479 Immunofluorescence staining for VPS35L (green channel, using HA antibody), FAM21 (red
1480 channel), and nuclei (DAPI, blue channel) in the indicated stable Huh-7 cell lines. **(B)**

1481 Immunofluorescence staining for VPS35L (green channel, using HA antibody), FAM21 (red
1482 channel), and nuclei (DAPI, blue channel) in the indicated HeLa knockout cell lines transfected
1483 with HA-VPS35L. **(C-D)** Representative gating and acquisition parameters for Villin and CD14
1484 staining by flow cytometry.

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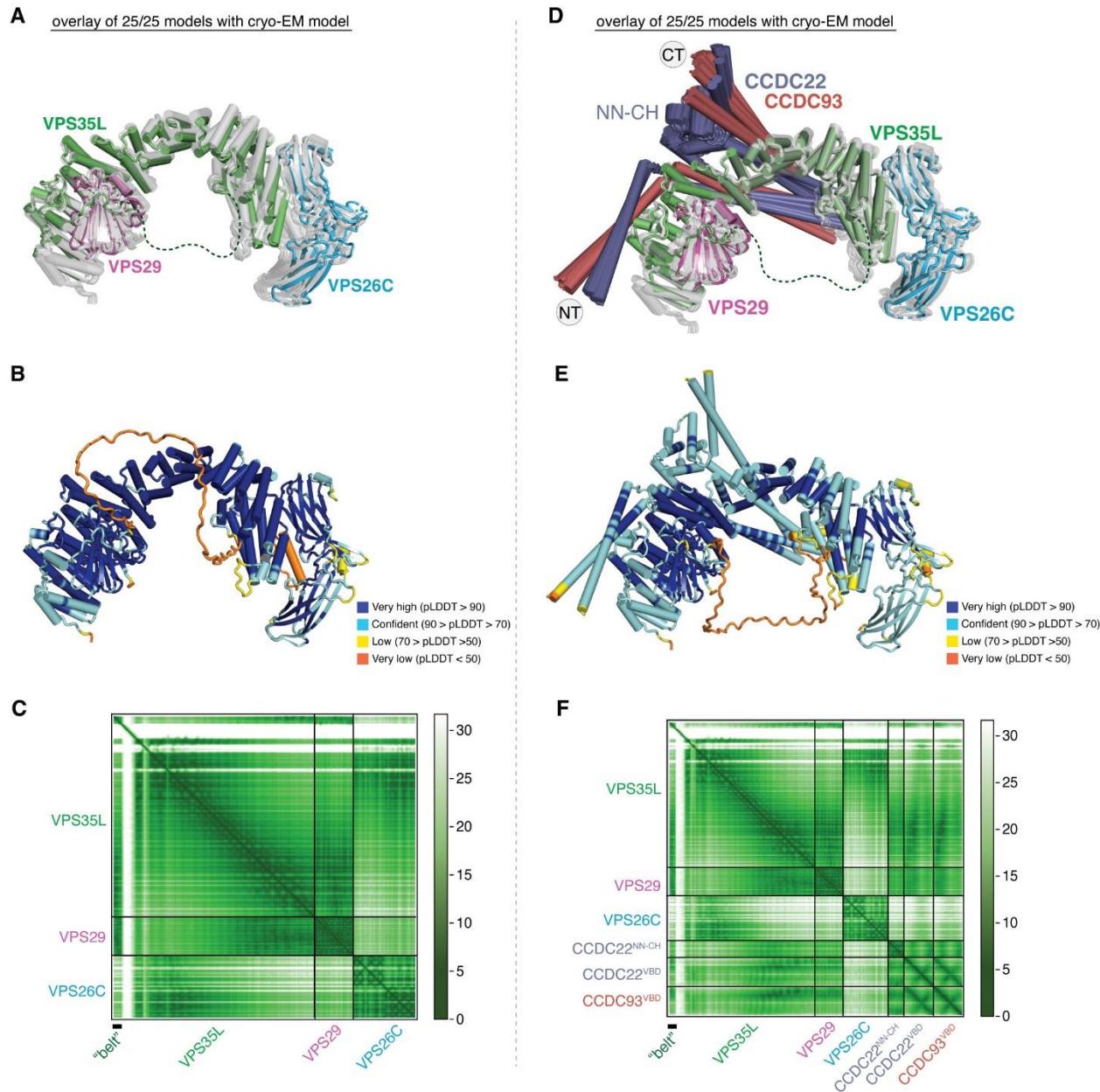
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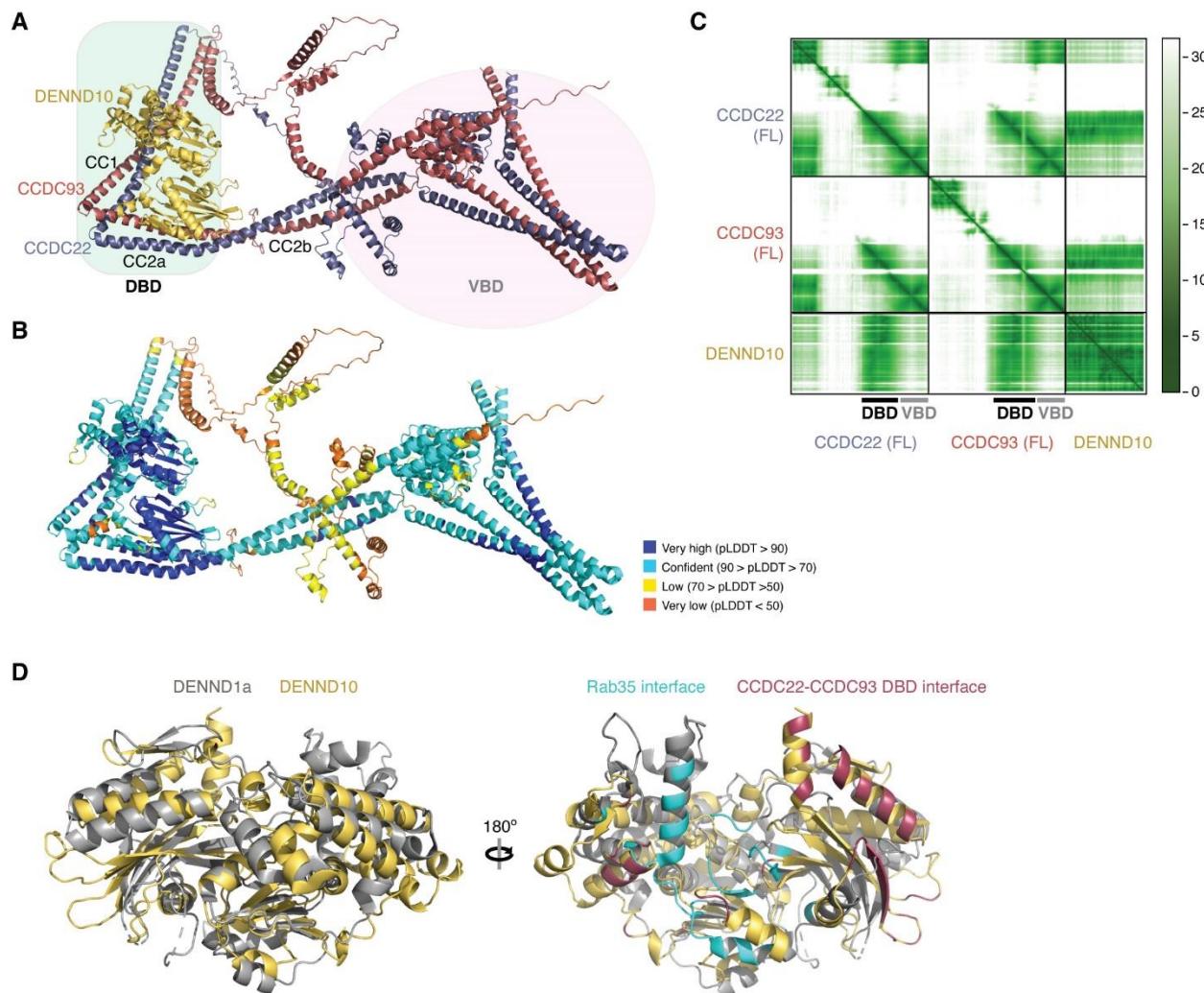
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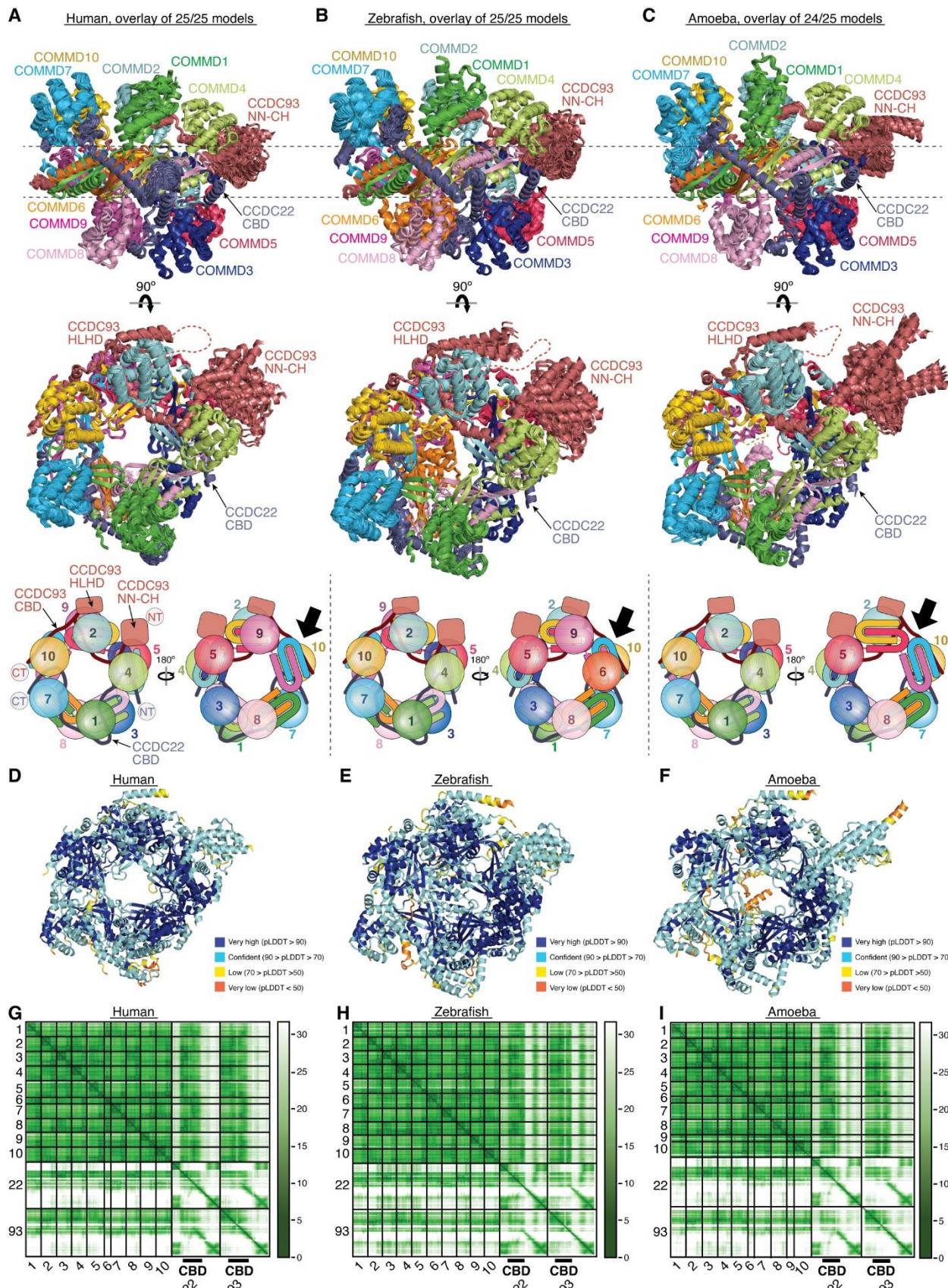


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1516 **Extended Data Fig. 6. AlphaFold Multimer prediction of CCDC22-CCDC93 binding to**
1517 **DENND10. (A)** AlphaFold Multimer prediction of DENND10 binding to full-length (FL) CCDC22-
1518 CCDC93. **(B)** Representative AFM models colored using pLDDT scores. **(C)** PAE score matrix
1519 of the AFM model shown in (B). Boundaries of protein sequences and important structure
1520 regions are indicated. **(D)** Superimpose of the AFM model of DENND10 with the crystal
1521 structure of DENND1a (PDB: 6EKK). Rab35 binding surface of DENND1a and CCDC22-
1522 CCDC93 binding surface of DENND10 are colored to show the partial overlap of the two
1523 surfaces.

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1527 **Extended Data Fig. 7. AlphaFold Multimer prediction of CCDC22-CCDC93 binding to**
1528 **COMM. (A-C)** Overlays of AlphaFold Multimer models and schematic showing CCDC22-
1529 CCDC93 binding to COMM decamer ring for proteins from Human (A), Zebrafish (B), and
1530 Amoeba (*Dictyostelium*) (C). **(D-F)** Representative AFM models colored using pLDDT scores.
1531 **(G-I)** PAE score matrices of the AFM models shown in (D-F). Boundaries of protein sequences
1532 and important structure regions are indicated.

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1552 **Extended Table 1: Proteomic analysis of complexes resolved by blue native**
 1553 **electrophoresis.** CRISPR/Cas9 knockout cells stably rescued with HA-tagged COMMD1 (C1)
 1554 or HA-tagged VPS26C (26C), were used to immunoisolate CCC and Retriever. The complexes
 1555 were eluted under native conditions (with HA peptide), resolved in blue native gels, and
 1556 corresponding bands were subjected to proteomics with iBaqq quantification. Average ratios for
 1557 each protein against VPS35L, CCDC22, CCDC93, COMMD4 and COMMD9 were calculated to
 1558 estimate molar ratios.

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720 MW complex		Spectral counts / MW (sample name)			Ratio to VPS35L	Ratio to CCDC22	Ratio to COMMD9
MW	Protein	Control	COMMD1 IP	VPS26C IP			
109,563	VPS35L	1822	1748200	1422000	1.000	0.446	
33,010	VPS26C	0	530920	457950	0.312	0.139	
20,496	VPS29	75264	138070	144540	0.089	0.040	
40,513	DENND10	3720.5	792910	521280		0.185	
70,756	CCDC22	2345.7	4090000	3015300		1.000	
73,198	CCDC93	0	2588900	2013300		0.648	
21,819	COMMD9	0	2003200	1968900		0.559	1.000
22,966	COMMD10	0	2415900	1909600		0.609	1.089
21,764	COMMD4	0	1150600	1127600		0.321	0.574
24,670	COMMD5	0	1075200	1264900		0.329	0.589
22,151	COMMD3	0	1529200	1065500		0.365	0.653
21,178	COMMD1	0	1899100	1641000		0.498	0.891
22,745	COMMD2	0	1247500	1061900		0.325	0.581
21,090	COMMD8	0	751900	596320		0.190	0.339
22,540	COMMD7	0	1003500	700460		0.240	0.429
9,638	COMMD6	0	1581400	1202800		0.392	0.701

480 MW complex		Spectral counts / MW (sample name)			Ratio to VPS35L	Ratio to CCDC22	Ratio to COMMD4
MW	Protein	Control	COMMD1 IP	VPS26C IP			
109,563	VPS35L	6365.7	852460	915390	1.000	0.120	
33,010	VPS26C	0	361700	336020	0.395	0.048	
20,496	VPS29	67894	229980	392090	0.352	0.042	
40,513	DENND10	0	1706100	660430		0.161	
70,756	CCDC22	0	8984600	5699900		1.000	
73,198	CCDC93	0	4502000	2461300		0.474	

21,764	COMMD4	0	3421700	2212600		0.384	1.000
21,819	COMMD9	0	4004700	2489000		0.442	1.153
22,151	COMMD3	0	4270600	2278200		0.446	1.162
24,670	COMMD5	0	2685500	1786300		0.305	0.794
22,745	COMMD2	0	2876700	1956600		0.329	0.858
21,178	COMMD1	0	4035300	2739700		0.461	1.202
22,966	COMMD10	0	4248800	2980500		0.492	1.283
21,090	COMMD8	0	1549600	1319200		0.195	0.509
22,540	COMMD7	0	2559000	1340400		0.266	0.692
9,638	COMMD6	0	3698000	2411000		0.416	1.084

240 MW complex		Spectral counts / MW (sample name)			Ratio to VPS35L	Ratio to CCDC93	Ratio to COMMD9
MW	Protein	Control	COMMD1 IP	VPS26C IP			
109,563	VPS35L	0	2020800	1207400	1.000	0.632	
33,010	VPS26C	0	1428200	720550	0.666	0.421	
20,496	VPS29	90357	1113600	1333900	0.758	0.479	
40,513	DENND10	0	690080	223770		0.179	
73,198	CCDC93	0	3679300	1427000		1.000	
70,756	CCDC22	0	1688300	309660		0.391	
21,819	COMMD9	0	2943600	1454200		0.861	1.000
24,670	COMMD5	0	2450000	972230		0.670	0.778
22,966	COMMD10	0	3433200	1536200		0.973	1.130
21,764	COMMD4	0	1215600	120040		0.262	0.304
22,540	COMMD7	0	1375800	592580		0.385	0.448
21,178	COMMD1	0	1019100	148690		0.229	0.266
9,638	COMMD6	0	1086100	75972		0.228	0.264
22,151	COMMD3	0	782380	100480		0.173	0.201
21,090	COMMD8	0	810520	111830		0.181	0.210
22,745	COMMD2	0	739430	127670		0.170	0.197

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1566 **Extended Table 2: Cancer associated mutations ranked by predicted severity.** Mutations
1567 downloaded from the COSMIC database were analyzed using SNAP2. Shown here are
1568 mutations with high likelihood of functional impairment (score>50, left), as well as mutations with
1569 moderate likelihood of functional impairment (score1-49, right).

Position	CDS Mutation	AA Mutation	SNAP2 score	Occurrence
Mutations with high likelihood of functional impairment (SNAP2 score > 50)				
87	c.259G>T	p.D87Y	56	1
117	c.351G>T	p.W117C	67	1
121	c.361C>T	p.R121W	79	1
121	c.362G>A	p.R121Q	50	1
128	c.382T>C	p.Y128H	59	1
132	c.394G>A	p.E132K	53	2
159	c.475C>T	p.R159W	55	1
161	c.482G>A	p.R161Q	53	1
181	c.542A>C	p.Q181P	58	1
226	c.676T>G	p.F226V	52	1
227	c.680A>G	p.Y227C	81	2
229	c.685A>C	p.S229R	73	1
236	c.706G>T	p.D236Y	81	1
246	c.736T>C	p.Y246H	54	3
248	c.742C>G	p.R248G	84	2
280	c.839G>T	p.W280L	85	1
283	c.849G>C	p.K283N	66	1
288	c.863G>T	p.R288M	74	1
293	c.878G>T	p.R293I	89	2
297	c.891G>T	p.E297D	71	1
299	c.896C>T	p.S299F	63	1
318	c.953G>T	p.R318L	90	1
318	c.953G>A	p.R318Q	86	1
324	c.971G>C	p.R324T	86	1
325	c.974G>A	p.G325E	94	1
329	c.985C>T	p.P329S	77	1
336	c.1007G>A	p.R336H	55	1
360	c.1078G>T	p.D360Y	63	1
391	c.1171T>C	p.Y391H	68	1
436	c.1306C>T	p.R436W	83	3
466	c.1397G>T	p.R466L	61	1
469	c.1406G>A	p.G469E	92	1
469	c.1406G>T	p.G469V	86	1
507	c.1519G>A	p.E507K	55	1
516	c.1546C>G	p.H516D	71	1
582	c.1744C>T	p.R582W	86	2
582	c.1745G>T	p.R582L	75	1
582	c.1745G>A	p.R582Q	58	4

590	c.1769T>C	p.M590T	52	1
610	c.1829T>A	p.L610H	76	1
636	c.1908G>C	p.L636F	58	1
651	c.1951G>A	p.E651K	77	1
665	c.1995C>G	p.C665W	55	1
682	c.2044G>C	p.A682P	64	2
702	c.2105G>A	p.R702Q	56	1
704	c.2111G>A	p.C704Y	92	1
714	c.2141C>T	p.S714F	77	1
721	c.2162G>A	p.R721H	64	2
742	c.2224G>T	p.D742Y	85	1
742	c.2225A>C	p.D742A	66	1
766	c.2296C>T	p.R766W	60	2
769	c.2306A>T	p.E769V	67	1
787	c.2359C>A	p.P787T	76	1
807	c.2419G>T	p.D807Y	57	1
811	c.2432A>G	p.E811G	61	1
846	c.2536A>G	p.N846D	79	1
851	c.2551G>A	p.G851R	74	1
856	c.2568C>A	p.F856L	55	1
857	c.2570T>C	p.L857P	62	1
902	c.2705G>A	p.G902E	81	1
Mutations with moderate likelihood of functional impairment (SNAP2 score > 0 & <50)				
33	c.98A>G	p.H33R	11	1
39	c.115A>C	p.T39P	17	1
55	c.164C>A	p.S55Y	31	1
74	c.220G>A	p.D74N	11	2
75	c.223G>T	p.G75W	30	1
102	c.304C>T	p.R102C	4	1
113	c.337G>T	p.D113Y	43	2
124	c.372C>G	p.I124M	24	1
129	c.385A>G	p.T129A	28	2
131	c.392C>T	p.T131I	30	3
141	c.422G>C	p.G141A	3	2
177	c.531G>C	p.L177F	23	1
181	c.541C>A	p.Q181K	48	2
203	c.609G>T	p.Q203H	23	2
206	c.618G>T	p.K206N	29	1
222	c.665G>T	p.S222I	40	1
234	c.702C>G	p.I234M	5	1
244	c.730C>A	p.L244I	3	1
271	c.811G>A	p.D271N	40	2
281	c.841T>G	p.F281V	35	2
292	c.874C>T	p.P292S	12	4
304	c.912C>G	p.N304K	24	1
322	c.966G>A	p.M322I	34	1
343	c.1028G>C	p.G343A	44	1

357	c.1070A>C	p.N357T	7	1
368	c.1103T>G	p.I368S	25	1
394	c.1180G>A	p.A394T	36	1
400	c.1199A>C	p.Q400P	25	1
403	c.1208C>T	p.S403F	18	1
431	c.1292T>C	p.V431A	22	1
436	c.1307G>A	p.R436Q	33	1
441	c.1322C>T	p.A441V	44	1
456	c.1367A>G	p.E456G	23	1
466	c.1397G>A	p.R466Q	47	1
488	c.1462G>A	p.E488K	19	1
537	c.1609C>T	p.R537C	34	1
571	c.1711C>A	p.P571T	4	1
575	c.1725G>T	p.M575I	9	1
599	c.1795G>A	p.E599K	20	1
604	c.1811C>A	p.P604Q	30	1
634	c.1901C>T	p.S634L	17	1
635	c.1903T>C	p.Y635H	7	1
645	c.1934C>T	p.S645F	32	4
664	c.1990T>C	p.F664L	16	2
689	c.2066T>C	p.M689T	42	1
693	c.2077C>A	p.H693N	25	1
693	c.2077C>T	p.H693Y	17	1
730	c.2190G>T	p.Q730H	30	1
753	c.2258C>T	p.P753L	1	1
754	c.2261A>C	p.E754A	32	1
756	c.2267C>T	p.P756L	41	1
789	c.2365C>T	p.H789Y	48	1
819	c.2455C>T	p.R819C	14	1
845	c.2534C>T	p.S845F	45	2
881	c.2641G>T	p.D881Y	39	1
886	c.2656C>T	p.R886C	27	1
905	c.2713C>T	p.R905C	5	3
924	c.2771G>A	p.G924D	33	1
927	c.2779G>A	p.D927N	8	2
930	c.2789C>T	p.T930I	13	1
940	c.2820G>T	p.K940N	11	1
951	c.2852C>T	p.T951M	7	3
951	c.2852C>G	p.T951R	6	1
Mutations with low likelihood of functional impairment (SNAP2 score < 0)				
2	c.5C>A	p.A2D	-24	2
2	c.5C>T	p.A2V	-94	1
3	c.7G>A	p.V3I	-94	1
11	c.32G>A	p.R11K	-13	2
19	c.56C>T	p.S19L	-33	1
20	c.59G>A	p.C20Y	-69	1
31	c.91G>A	p.D31N	-51	1

38	c.114A>G	p.I38M	-70	2
44	c.132G>C	p.K44N	-49	1
51	c.151A>G	p.K51E	-41	1
52	c.154G>A	p.G52R	-7	1
56	c.167C>T	p.S56F	0	2
59	c.176C>T	p.S59F	-4	1
60	c.179C>T	p.S60F	-11	1
65	c.193G>A	p.V65M	-71	1
66	c.196G>A	p.V66M	-51	1
66	c.196G>T	p.V66L	-55	1
71	c.212G>C	p.S71T	-75	1
72	c.214G>A	p.V72I	-73	2
73	c.217C>T	p.L73F	-14	2
73	c.217C>A	p.L73I	-21	1
88	c.263C>T	p.P88L	-50	1
89	c.265G>A	p.A89T	-88	1
89	c.265G>T	p.A89S	-92	1
94	c.280G>A	p.A94T	-39	1
97	c.290G>A	p.S97N	-31	1
98	c.293C>G	p.S98C	-55	1
102	c.305G>A	p.R102H	-8	3
103	c.309T>A	p.D103E	-79	1
108	c.323C>T	p.S108F	-32	3
112	c.335C>T	p.S112L	-59	1
125	c.373C>A	p.L125I	-25	1
167	c.501C>A	p.D167E	-52	1
171	c.511G>T	p.G171C	0	1
175	c.523G>A	p.E175K	-9	1
201	c.602C>T	p.S201L	-45	1
250	c.749T>C	p.F250S	-45	1
251	c.752C>T	p.S251F	-11	1
257	c.770G>A	p.R257H	-9	2
259	c.775G>A	p.V259I	-90	5
300	c.900C>G	p.I300M	-57	1
305	c.914A>G	p.K305R	-82	1
309	c.926A>G	p.K309R	-69	1
310	c.929C>T	p.T310M	-32	1
344	c.1031T>C	p.M344T	-15	1
346	c.1036G>A	p.V346M	-34	2
347	c.1039G>A	p.A347T	-90	1
352	c.1054G>C	p.E352Q	-47	1
355	c.1064A>G	p.N355S	-56	1
364	c.1091C>T	p.T364M	-18	1
372	c.1115C>T	p.T372M	-8	1
378	c.1132G>T	p.V378L	-67	1
389	c.1166C>A	p.P389H	-50	1
399	c.1197C>A	p.F399L	-91	2

406	c.1216G>T	p.A406S	-66	2
412	c.1235C>T	p.T412I	-41	2
422	c.1265G>A	p.G422E	-51	2
432	c.1296G>T	p.M432I	-48	1
441	c.1321G>A	p.A441T	-28	1
442	c.1325C>A	p.T442K	-59	2
453	c.1357G>C	p.E453Q	-90	1
463	c.1387C>G	p.L463V	-62	2
467	c.1399T>A	p.S467T	-82	1
479	c.1435G>A	p.E479K	-61	1
480	c.1439G>A	p.S480N	-93	1
481	c.1442A>T	p.D481V	-9	1
487	c.1460A>C	p.N487T	-7	1
525	c.1573G>A	p.V525I	-82	1
533	c.1597A>G	p.M533V	-9	1
563	c.1687C>A	p.L563I	-71	1
588	c.1763G>A	p.C588Y	-44	1
597	c.1791A>C	p.Q597H	-19	1
600	c.1798C>T	p.P600S	-19	1
626	c.1877T>A	p.L626H	-54	1
639	c.1916G>T	p.G639V	-22	1
644	c.1930G>A	p.V644I	-61	1
648	c.1943G>A	p.R648H	-16	1
659	c.1977G>T	p.E659D	-61	1
680	c.2039G>A	p.R680Q	-70	2
716	c.2147C>T	p.A716V	-93	1
722	c.2164C>G	p.L722V	-27	2
736	c.2208G>T	p.Q736H	-69	1
753	c.2257C>G	p.P753A	-35	1
766	c.2297G>A	p.R766Q	-20	1
767	c.2299C>T	p.P767S	-72	3
768	c.2303C>T	p.S768L	-34	1
771	c.2313C>A	p.F771L	-11	1
782	c.2345C>T	p.T782I	-1	1
785	c.2353A>T	p.I785L	-88	1
792	c.2375A>G	p.H792R	-74	2
797	c.2389C>G	p.L797V	-62	2
800	c.2399A>C	p.E800A	-49	1
814	c.2441G>A	p.S814N	-2	1
815	c.2443G>A	p.D815N	-13	1
816	c.2446G>A	p.E816K	-60	2
816	c.2448G>C	p.E816D	-93	1
824	c.2470G>A	p.V824I	-57	1
824	c.2471T>C	p.V824A	-66	2
830	c.2488G>A	p.A830T	-68	2
852	c.2555G>T	p.G852V	-3	1
866	c.2597C>T	p.T866M	-20	4

869	c.2606C>T	p.A869V	-74	1
873	c.2619G>T	p.E873D	-71	2
884	c.2650C>A	p.L884M	-70	1
891	c.2671G>A	p.G891S	-63	1
905	c.2714G>A	p.R905H	-22	2
908	c.2722A>C	p.K908Q	-22	2
914	c.2741T>C	p.V914A	-16	1
922	c.2765G>A	p.R922K	-93	1
924	c.2770G>A	p.G924S	-26	3
925	c.2774G>A	p.C925Y	-70	2
932	c.2795T>C	p.V932A	-17	1

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1572 **Source Data**

1573 **Source data western blots:** All uncropped western blot images are provided here with the
1574 corresponding figure annotation.

1575 **Source data image quantification files** (Fig. 4)

1576 **Source data FACS quantification files** (Fig. 4)