

# Regulator of calcineurin-2 is a centriolar protein with a role in cilia length control.

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## Abstract

Almost every cell in the human body extends a primary cilium. Defective cilia function leads to a set of disorders known as ciliopathies characterised by debilitating developmental defects affecting many tissues. Here we report a new role for regulator of calcineurin 2, RCAN2, in primary cilia function. It localises to centrioles and the basal body and is required to maintain normal cilia length. RCAN2 was identified as the most strongly upregulated gene from a comparative RNAseq analysis of cells in which expression of the Golgi matrix protein giantin had been abolished by gene editing. In contrast to previous work where we showed that depletion of giantin by RNAi results in defects in ciliogenesis and in cilia length control, giantin knockout cells generate normal cilia on serum withdrawal. Furthermore, giantin knockout zebrafish show increased expression of RCAN2. Importantly, suppression of RCAN2 expression in giantin knockout cells results in the same defects in cilia length control seen on RNAi of giantin itself. Together these data define RCAN2 as a regulator of cilia function that can compensate for loss of giantin function.

## 28 Introduction

29 Ciliogenesis, the emergence of a microtubule axoneme from the mother centriole, is fundamental for the  
30 ability of non-cycling cells to sense and respond to their environment (Lechtreck, 2015). Defects in the  
31 formation and/or function of the cilium lead to a cohort of human diseases known as ciliopathies (Braun  
32 and Hildebrandt, 2016) which affect multiple tissues leading to problems with respiratory, kidney, and  
33 heart function as well as vision, hearing, and fertility. Cilia defects are also linked to obesity and diabetes.  
34 Movement of cargo and signalling complexes into and out of cilia requires intraflagellar transport (IFT), the  
35 process by which microtubule motors drive motility along the axoneme. The ability of cilia to act as  
36 confined signalling hubs directing key developmental and homeostatic pathways, such as those linked to  
37 sonic hedgehog (Shh) signalling (He et al., 2016) or mechanosensing, requires the trafficking of receptors  
38 and associated signalling molecules into cilia (He et al., 2016; Sung and Leroux, 2013). This includes ligand-  
39 gated receptors, G-protein coupled receptors, Ca<sup>2+</sup> channels, and transcription factors. Considerable work  
40 supports a major role for Ca<sup>2+</sup> in ciliary function (Delling et al., 2013). Resting cilium [Ca<sup>2+</sup>] is substantially  
41 higher than resting cytoplasmic [Ca<sup>2+</sup>] and ciliary [Ca<sup>2+</sup>] is important for cells to respond to Shh through  
42 activation of Gli transcription factors (Delling et al., 2013).

43 We have shown previously using RNAi that the golgin giantin is required for ciliogenesis *in vitro* (Asante et  
44 al., 2013). This was linked to the accumulation of the dynein-2 motor complex around the ciliary base.  
45 Dynein-2 is the major motor driving retrograde IFT along the axoneme and is, among other functions,  
46 required for the transduction of the Shh signal (He et al., 2016). Consistent with our findings using RNAi in  
47 cultured cells, morpholino knockdown of giantin in zebrafish resulted in fewer but longer cilia in the neural  
48 tube (Bergen et al., 2017). In contrast, recent characterisation of giantin KO zebrafish shows that, while  
49 breeding and developing grossly similar to wild-type fish, giantin knockout (KO) fish show a significant  
50 decrease in body length (more notable in young adults) and have defects in extracellular matrix, cartilage  
51 and bone formation, but only minor cilia defects (Bergen et al., 2017).

52 We recently generated a KO cell line that no longer expresses giantin (Stevenson et al., 2017). Here we  
53 show that in contrast to depletion of giantin, complete knockout of the gene does not prevent cells from  
54 generating cilia on serum withdrawal. We hypothesised that compensatory mechanisms might enable KO  
55 cells to produce normal cilia, while acute suppression of expression using RNAi did not allow such  
56 compensation. Such mechanisms would also explain the relatively mild manifestation of ciliary defects in  
57 giantin mutant zebrafish compared to *in vivo* morpholino knockdown. RNAseq showed that RCAN2  
58 (Regulator of Calcineurin-2, also called calcipressin-2 and ZAKI-4) is the most strongly upregulated gene in  
59 these giantin KO cells. Here we show that RCAN2 localises to centrioles and its depletion affects  
60 ciliogenesis. Furthermore, removal of RCAN2 in giantin KO cells recapitulates the giantin RNAi ciliary length  
61 phenotype.

## 62 Results and Discussion

### 63 *Giantin KO cells show no gross defects in ciliogenesis*

64 Using RNAi, we have shown previously that a reduction in expression of giantin is associated with a  
65 ciliogenesis defect in cells (Asante et al., 2013). Giantin-depleted cells produce fewer cilia and those that  
66 remain are longer suggesting a defect in length control. In contrast, analysis of giantin knockout RPE-1 cells  
67 (Stevenson et al., 2017) shows no gross defects in ciliogenesis at the level of light microscopy (Fig. 1A,  
68 quantified in B) or any significant change in cilia length (Fig. 1A, quantified fully in later experiments). Using  
69 serial section transmission electron microscopy, we detect no obvious abnormalities in the structure of the  
70 basal body, appendages, or ciliary pocket (Fig. 1C, enlarged in Cii). Furthermore, Golgi structure appears  
71 normal (see (Stevenson et al., 2017)). This phenotypic discrepancy between knockdown and KO cells is  
72 consistent with our observations in zebrafish (Bergen et al., 2017) and led us to hypothesise that altered  
73 expression of another gene or genes compensates for loss of giantin.

74 RNAseq of triplicate RNA samples from these and control cells followed by pairwise statistical comparison  
75 identified 1025 genes whose expression level is decreased >4-fold. These data are described in Stevenson  
76 et al. (2017) and the raw data are available via the ArrayExpress database ([www.ebi.ac.uk/arrayexpress](http://www.ebi.ac.uk/arrayexpress))  
77 under accession number E-MTAB-5618. The most highly upregulated gene, and therefore the most likely to  
78 underpin any compensation for loss of giantin, is RCAN2. RCAN2 is a negative regulator of calcineurin and  
79 modulates Ca<sup>2+</sup>-dependent signalling. Calcineurin is required for transcriptional signalling; RCAN2 acts as a  
80 negative regulator of nuclear factor of activated T-cells (NFAT) activation and therefore of NFAT-dependent  
81 transcription. RNAseq showed that in giantin KO cells, RCAN2 is >256x upregulated compared to the  
82 parental cell line (Stevenson et al., 2017), implicating RCAN2 in adapting cells to the lack of giantin.

83 To determine whether RCAN2 upregulation is a conserved response to loss of giantin, we examined  
84 expression of RCAN2 in two giantin knockout (KO) zebrafish lines (Bergen et al., 2017). Using cDNA derived  
85 from young adult dissected jaw and skull bone and cartilage elements, qPCR expression analyses showed  
86 that zebrafish *rcan2* is 3.9 and 2.5-fold up-regulated in giantin *X3078* and *Q2948X* mutant lines respectively,  
87 when normalised to  $\beta$ -actin (*actb1*) as control (Fig. 2A). Expression levels of hypoxanthine-guanine  
88 phosphoribosyl transferase 1 (*hprt1*) and glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (*gapdh*) were not  
89 significantly changed. This shows that upregulation of RCAN2 following loss of giantin is conserved and is  
90 therefore consistent with the hypothesis that the limited phenotypes seen in both giantin KO models are  
91 due to compensation. We postulated that if this dramatic increase in expression is responsible for the  
92 limited phenotypes of giantin knockouts, then RCAN2 should have a key role in ciliogenesis.

93 The localisation of RCAN2 has not been reported. Immunofluorescence of RCAN2 in RPE-1 cells showed  
94 that it localised to centrioles (Fig. 2B) and occasionally showed enhanced localisation to the mother  
95 centriole (25% +/- 11%, n=3 independent experiments) from which the primary cilium extends (shown by

96 acetylated tubulin labelling in Fig. 2C). This was confirmed by labelling with the distal appendage protein  
97 CEP170 (Fig. 2D) which can be used as a marker of the mother centriole (Huang et al., 2017). In those cases  
98 where only one centriole is evident from RCAN2 labelling (7% of cells +/- 3% n=3 independent  
99 experiments), we always see the axoneme extending from, and CEP170 associated with, that centriole.

100 To determine whether RCAN2 was compensating for giantin depletion with respect to cilium length, we  
101 depleted RCAN2 using two individual siRNA duplexes (Fig. 3) as well as a pool of 4 duplexes (Supplemental  
102 Figure S1). This experiment validated the specificity of the antibody used since centriolar labelling was lost  
103 following RNAi suppression of RCAN2 expression (Fig. 3A). The efficacy of suppression was measured as a  
104 function of the intensity of RCAN2 labelling at the centrioles (Fig 3B). Unfortunately, the antibody was not  
105 found suitable for immunoblotting. Depletion of RCAN2 did not affect the proportion of cells that could  
106 generate cilia following serum withdrawal (Fig. 3C). Quantification of these data showed that in WT RPE-1  
107 cells, suppression of RCAN2 resulted in shorter cilia (Fig. 3D). In contrast, depletion of RCAN2 in giantin KO  
108 cells resulted in longer cilia, even when compared to controls. Our hypothesis was that RCAN2 could be  
109 suppressing the phenotypes seen following acute loss of giantin in RNAi experiments, namely an increase in  
110 cilia length. Consistent with this, we see that reducing the levels of RCAN2 in giantin KO cells recapitulates  
111 the longer cilia phenotypes seen on giantin knockdown in WT cells (Asante et al., 2013). Depletion of  
112 RCAN2 has no effect on the integrity of the Golgi, nor on targeting of the glycosyltransferase  
113 galactosyltransferase T (GalT) (Supplemental Fig. S1B versus S1A). The efficacy of depletion of RCAN2 using  
114 a pool of 4 siRNA duplexes is also shown (Fig. S1D). It was not possible to study the effects of RCAN2  
115 overexpression in these experiments as transfection with myc-RCAN2 blocked ciliogenesis in >80% of  
116 transfected cells. Attempts to titrate expression levels were unsuccessful.

117 Our data strongly suggest that upregulation of RCAN2 ameliorates defects in cilia length control. The  
118 phenotypes we observe following acute and partial depletion of giantin in mammalian cells (Asante et al.,  
119 2013) and zebrafish embryos (Bergen et al., 2017) are not seen following permanent loss of function of  
120 giantin. The fact that RCAN2 depletion leads to shorter cilia in WT cells and longer cilia in giantin KO cells  
121 likely reflects a general loss of length control rather than a linear relationship whereby increasing RCAN2  
122 levels lead to reducing cilium lengths. In WT cells depleted of RCAN2, cilia are unable to maintain their  
123 length and so become shorter, whereas in giantin KO cells the loss of length regulation means the effects of  
124 giantin loss become dominant and cilia become longer.

125 It is interesting that our data implicate cilium length control by compensatory pathways *in vitro* in  
126 proliferating cells. The importance of cilia to cell growth in culture is poorly understood and so we cannot  
127 predict whether defective ciliogenesis alone would provide sufficient adaptive pressure for RCAN2  
128 upregulation. It is possible however that loss of giantin results in a pro-ciliary phenotype which is  
129 compensated by upregulation of RCAN2. In support of this, we find that overexpression of myc-RCAN2  
130 results in far fewer cells (<20%) that produce cilia (Fig. 4A) and indeed incidences where we can detect

131 Arl13b positive structures that are devoid of acetylated-tubulin labelling (Fig. 4B). These are similar in  
132 appearance to “decapitated” cilia that have been described by others to drive cilia resorption and cell cycle  
133 progression (Phua et al., 2017). In addition, RCAN2 may be acting as a regulator of gene transcription  
134 through NFAT signalling to correct other deficiencies in the KO cells. For example, we have shown  
135 previously that the glycosyltransferase content of the Golgi apparatus is altered in giantin KO cells  
136 suggesting glycosylation defects arising from loss of giantin function might have been corrected to generate  
137 bioequivalent glycans (Stevenson et al 2017).

138 Many studies have shown that RCAN2 regulates calcineurin-dependent activation of NFAT signalling and  
139 subsequently NFAT-dependent transcriptional programmes. To confirm that upregulation of RCAN2 in  
140 giantin KO cells is of functional importance, we examined NFAT localisation in WT and giantin KO cells by  
141 immunofluorescence (Fig. 4C). As shown in Fig. 4D, the ratio of nuclear vs cytoplasmic levels of NFAT1 was  
142 higher in giantin KO cells compared to WT. This nuclear localisation was further enhanced in response to  
143 serum starvation. The distribution of NFAT1 in cells depleted of giantin by shRNA was similar to that in wild-  
144 type cells, supporting our argument that acute giantin depletion does not induce adaptation in these  
145 timescales, hence the longer cilia. The higher RCAN2 expression level seen in the giantin KO cells thus  
146 results in greater activation of the calcineurin/NFAT signalling pathways and is functionally relevant.  
147 Although RCAN2 is commonly considered to be a negative regulator of calcineurin (Cao et al., 2002; Loh et  
148 al., 1996) other studies have found it can positively promote NFAT signalling (Sanna et al., 2006) as appears  
149 to be the case here. Alternatively, enhanced RCAN2 expression could result from attempts to suppress  
150 upregulated calcineurin-based signalling. Activation of NFAT signalling has been described to occur  
151 downstream of  $\alpha 6\beta 4$  integrin activation in metastatic cancer cells (Jauliac et al., 2002) and RCAN1 has been  
152 shown to modulate cancer cell migration (Espinosa et al., 2009). Of note, both giantin KO cells and giantin  
153 KO fish have substantial defects in extracellular matrix related functions (Bergen et al., 2017, Stevenson et  
154 al., 2017).

155 Rodent knockouts for giantin (rat (Katayama et al., 2011) and mouse (Lan et al., 2016)) exhibit defects in  
156 extracellular matrix secretion and assembly, cartilage and bone formation, and have syndromic cleft palate.  
157 RCAN2 KO mice are viable but show selective defects in osteoblast function (Bassett et al., 2012), in  
158 impaired intramembranous ossification, and in cortical bone formation. Indeed, loss of RCAN2 function is  
159 associated with reduced bone mass whereas giantin mutant zebrafish (with increased RCAN2) shows  
160 enhanced bone formation in the intervertebral discs (Stevenson et al., 2017). Evidence also exists that  
161 inhibition of calcineurin using cyclosporin is linked to cilia function, shown by the presence of abnormal  
162 basal bodies in proximal convoluted tubule cells from patients receiving Cyclosporin A (Kirwan, 1982).  
163 Ciliary dysfunction is frequently linked with skeletal defects. Indeed, the “skeletal ciliopathies” are grouped  
164 according to phenotypic descriptions of skeletal defects (Huber and Cormier-Daire, 2012). These diseases  
165 include Jeune syndrome in which subunits of the dynein-2 motor are mutated. Intriguingly, our work has

166 led from the biology of giantin to the dynein-2 IFT motor (Asante et al., 2013) to the identification of RCAN2  
167 as a key regulator of ciliary function.

168 These and other findings implicate RCAN2 and calcineurin in transcriptional regulation via cilia. This  
169 provides a potential point of integration at the nexus of Ca<sup>2+</sup> and ciliary signalling. In support of this, tax-6,  
170 the *C. elegans* orthologue of calcineurin, regulates the trafficking of the key ciliary protein, polycystin-2  
171 (PKD2) (Hu et al., 2006). PKD2 is a Ca<sup>2+</sup> permeable cation channel and is mutated in 15% of cases of  
172 autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease. Of note here, the partner of PKD2, PKD1 (mutated in the  
173 other 85% of ADPKD cases) is understood in osteoblasts to be a mechanoreceptor transducing signals from  
174 the cilia to induce osteoblastic gene transcription by potentiating Ca<sup>2+</sup>-dependent calcineurin/NFAT  
175 signalling (Dalagiorgou et al., 2013). Its role in canonical NFAT signalling suggests a mechanism by which it  
176 could regulate coupling of ciliary Ca<sup>2+</sup> to cellular functions through transcriptional control. Our findings also  
177 have significant potential for understanding the mechanisms of cilia-based Ca<sup>2+</sup>-dependent signal  
178 transduction, including modulation of Shh signalling through Gli (Delling et al., 2013). One possibility is that  
179 the concentration of RCAN2 at the base of the cilium acts to quench calcium-dependent calcineurin  
180 signalling restricting it to the cilium itself. Understanding the role of RCAN2 in ciliary signalling will  
181 therefore have significant implications for diverse areas of fundamental importance to our understanding  
182 of cell function as well as of clinical relevance including bone formation, renal function, developmental  
183 signalling and mechanosensing.

184 **Author contributions**

185 We would like to thank Roderick Skinner for his help with zebrafish related work and the Wolfson  
186 Bioimaging Facility staff for help with microscopy. NLS and DJB designed and performed experiments and  
187 analysed data. AX, EW, FH, JM, and LV performed experiments and analysed data, DJS and CLH conceived  
188 and managed the project and contributed to data analysis. All authors co-wrote the manuscript.

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## 262 **Materials and Methods**

263 All reagents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich unless stated otherwise.

### 264 *Cell culture*

265 Human telomerase-immortalised retinal pigment epithelial cells (hTERT-RPE-1, ATCC) were grown in  
266 DMEM-F12 supplemented with 10% FCS (Life Technologies, Paisley, UK). Cell lines were not authenticated  
267 after purchase other than confirming absence of mycoplasma contamination. Transfections were  
268 performed using Lipofectamine 2000™ according to the manufacturer's instructions (Invitrogen, Carlsbad,  
269 CA). Myc-DDK-tagged-human regulator of calcineurin 2 (RCAN2, accession number NM\_005822.2) was  
270 purchased from Generon (Maidenhead, UK).

### 271 *Knockout models*

272 Giantin KO RPE-1 cells are described in (Stevenson et al., 2017). Giantin KO zebrafish are described in  
273 (Bergen et al., 2017). London AB, Tupfel long fin (TL), and AB/TL zebrafish were used and maintained  
274 according to standard conditions (Westerfield, 2000), kept in 3.5 litre tanks in groups of max 15 adult fish,  
275 and staged accordingly (Kimmel et al., 1995). Ethical approval was obtained from the University of Bristol  
276 Ethical Review Committee using the Home Office Project License number 30/2863.

### 277 *RNAi*

278 RCAN2 was depleted in RPE-1 cells using RNA interference. siRNA duplexes directed against RCAN2 were  
279 made by Dharmacon (MQ-020054-01-0002 siGENOME Human RCAN2 (10231), Dharmacon, GE Healthcare).  
280 Transfections were carried out using either a control or RCAN2 siRNA. Four pooled siRNAs were used to  
281 deplete RCAN2, with the following target sequences, RCAN2 siRNA #1 (GGAUAGAGCUUCAUGAAAC), RCAN2  
282 siRNA #2 (CGUAUAAACUUCAGCAAUC), RCAN2 siRNA #3 (CCACGCCAGUCCUCAACUA) and RCAN2 siRNA #4  
283 (GCUCUACUUUGCACAGGUU). GL2 control siRNA (CGUACGCGAAUACUUCGAUU) was used as a negative  
284 control. All siRNA reagents were prepared in 2M CaCl<sub>2</sub> and incubated for 5 min at room temperature before  
285 an equal volume of 2X BES buffered solution (BBS) was added to the solution and allowed to equilibrate for  
286 a further 30 min at room temperature. Final siRNA concentrations used were 5 µM. Confluent RPE-1 cells  
287 grown on round 22 mm glass coverslips in Costar 6-well plates. Cells were incubated at 37°C, 3% CO<sub>2</sub> for 24  
288 h before replacing the growth media. Cells were grown for an additional 24 h at 37°C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub> then serum  
289 starved for ciliogenesis assays.

### 290 *Antibodies, labelling and microscopy*

291 Antibodies used: mouse monoclonal anti-giantin (full length, Abcam, Cambridge, UK, ab37266), rabbit  
292 polyclonal anti-giantin (N-terminus, Covance, CA, PRB-114C), rabbit anti-RCAN2 (GTX31373, Insight  
293 Biotechnology, London UK), anti-Arl13b (17711-1-AP, Proteintech, Manchester, UK), sheep anti-my was a  
294 kind gift from Harry Mellor (University of Bristol), sheep anti-GRASP65 was a kind gift from Jon Lane

295 (University of Bristol), anti-GalT (CB002, CellMab, Gothenberg, SE), anti-NFAT1 (GTX127932, GeneTex,  
296 Insight Biotechnology, London UK).

297 For antibody labelling, cells were grown on autoclaved coverslips (Menzel #1.5, Fisher Scientific,  
298 Loughborough, UK), rinsed with PBS and fixed in MeOH for 4 minutes at -20°C. Cells were then blocked in  
299 3% BSA-PBS for 30 minutes and incubated with primary then secondary antibody for 1 hour each, washing  
300 in between. Nuclei were stained with DAPI [4,6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (Life Technologies, Paisley, UK,  
301 D1306)] for 3 minutes and coverslips mounted in Mowiol (MSD, Hertfordshire, UK) or Prolong Diamond  
302 antifade (Thermo Fisher, Paisley, UK). Fixed cells were imaged using an Olympus IX70 microscope with 60x  
303 1.42 NA oil-immersion lens, Exfo 120 metal halide illumination with excitation, dichroic and emission filters  
304 (Semrock, Rochester, NY), and a Photometrics Coolsnap HQ2 CCD, controlled by Volocity 5.4.1 (Perkin  
305 Elmer, Seer Green, UK). Chromatic shifts in images were registration corrected using TetraSpek fluorescent  
306 beads (Thermo Fisher). Images were acquired as 0.2µm z-stacks.

### 307 *Reverse transcriptase PCR and quantitative Real-Time PCR*

308 Young adult fish (60 and 63 days post fertilisation for Q2948X (F4) and X3078 (F3) lines respectively, 3  
309 individuals each genotype group) were lethally anaesthetised (<0.15% Tricaine) and their frontal skull and  
310 ventral jaw bone and cartilage elements were carefully dissected using a standard dissecting microscope.  
311 From these separate samples, total RNA was isolated using RNeasy mini kit (cat# 74104, Qiagen) and  
312 reverse transcriptase reaction was performed by using Superscript III (cat# 18080093, ThermoFisher  
313 Scientific) according to the manufacturers' protocols. Quantitative Real-Time PCR (qPCR) reaction [Primers:  
314 *rcan2* (ENS DART00000143379.2): F-5'CCAGGTGCAGAACCCAGTAT; R-5'CCTCAGACCCTGGTTGTGTT, *hprt1*: F-  
315 5'ATGGACCGAACTGAACGTCT; R-5'GGTCTGTATCCAACGCTCCT, *actb1*: F-5'TCAACACCCCTGCCATGTAT, R-  
316 5'CAGGAAGGAAGGCTGGAAGA; *gapdh*: F-5'TGTTCCAGTACGACTCCACC, R-5'GCCATACCAGTAAGCTTGCC]  
317 was undertaken with DyNAmo HS SYBR green (F410L, ThermoFisher Scientific) on 175 ng/µl cDNA libraries,  
318 cycling (40 times) at 95°C 25 seconds, 57.5°C 30 seconds, and 70°C 45 seconds followed by a standard melt  
319 curve (QuantStudio3, Applied Biosystems).

### 320 *RNAseq*

321 Triplicate samples of total RNA (three independent passages) from WT and giantin KO RPE-1 cells were  
322 analysed by RNAseq by the Earlham Institute (formerly The Genome Analysis Centre). The methodology  
323 and analysis is fully described in (Stevenson et al., 2017).

### 324 *Quantification and statistical analysis*

325 Statistical analyses were performed using Graphpad Prism 7.00. The tests used and sample sizes are  
326 indicated in the figure legends, p-values are shown on the figures. All tests met standard assumptions and  
327 the variation between each group is shown. Sample sizes were chosen based on previous, similar  
328 experimental outcomes and based on standard assumptions. No samples were excluded. Randomisation

329 and blinding were not used except where the genotype of zebrafish was determined after experimentation.  
330 Statistical significance was tested using one-way, non-parametric ANOVA (Kruskal-Wallis test) with multiple  
331 comparisons using Dunn's test.

332 *Data and software availability*

333 Raw RNAseq data are available in the ArrayExpress database ([www.ebi.ac.uk/arrayexpress](http://www.ebi.ac.uk/arrayexpress)) under accession  
334 number E-MTAB-5618.

335

336 **Figure Legends**

337 **Figure 1: Giantin knockout RPE1 cells have no obvious defects in ciliogenesis.** (A) Representative images of  
338 RPE1 WT and giantin KO cells fixed after 24 h of serum starvation and labelled for Arl13B (red), acetylated  
339 tubulin (green) and DAPI (blue). Scale bars are 10µm and 5µm on the merge and insert respectively. (B)  
340 Quantification of the experiment represented in A (n=3). The mean percentage of cells producing cilia does  
341 not change upon KO of giantin. Error bars represent SD, statistics Mann-Whitney. (C) TEM images of (i)  
342 serial and (ii) single plane 70 nm sections through representative WT and giantin KO cilia at two different  
343 magnifications.

344 **Figure 2. RCAN2 localises to centrioles.** (A) QPCR of two giantin zebrafish mutant lines (Q2948X and X3078)  
345 compared to wild-type sibling controls shows that *rcan2* is strongly upregulated when compared to the  
346 housekeeping gene beta-actin (*actb1*). In contrast, *hprt1* and *gapdh* are not upregulated. (B) Endogenous  
347 RCAN2 (red) localises to centrioles (labelled with  $\gamma$ -tubulin (green) in hTERT-RPE1 cells. Bar = 10 µm. (C)  
348 RCAN2 is frequently (25% +/- 11%, n=3 independent experiments) found concentrated at the mother  
349 centriole (from which the cilium extends) as shown by acetylated tubulin labelling of the ciliary axoneme  
350 (arrowhead). Where only one puncta of RCAN2 labelling is found (asterisk, (7% of cells +/- 3%, n=3  
351 independent experiments)), a ciliary axoneme is always found extending from this centriole. Bar in B = 5  
352 µm. (D) The distal appendage protein CEP170 is found associated with the brighter of the two RCAN2-  
353 positive centrioles (arrowhead) as well as with single centrioles positive for CEP170 (asterisk). Boxes are 5 x  
354 5 µm.

355 **Figure 3. RCAN2 compensates for loss-of-function of giantin in cilia length control.** (A) Depletion of RCAN2  
356 using two different siRNA duplexes (1 and 2) is effective as judged by reduced centriolar labelling compared  
357 to cells transfected with control siRNA (GL2), quantified in (B). Depletion of RCAN2 results in shorter cilia in  
358 WT RPE-1 cells but longer cilia in giantin KO cells compared to GL2-transfected controls. Two examples are  
359 shown in each case. (C) Depletion of RCAN2 does not affect the ability of cells to produce cilia. (D)  
360 Quantitation of cilia length in RCAN2-depleted WT and giantin KO RPE-1 cells. Depletion of RCAN2 in wild-  
361 type RPE-1 cells results in a decrease in cilium length. In contrast, depletion of RCAN2 in giantin knockout  
362 RPE-1 cells increases cilia length, even when compared to WT cells. Statistical significance was tested using  
363 one-way, non-parametric ANOVA (Kruskal-Wallis test) with Dunn's multiple comparisons test. >35 cilia  
364 were measured in each case from 3 independent biological replicates.

365 **Figure 4. Giantin KO cells show higher levels of NFAT1 activation.** (A) Representative images showing WT  
366 and giantin KO and knockdown (KD) cells grown in serum or serum deprived for 24 hours and then  
367 immunolabelled for NFAT1. Scale bar 10 µm. (B) Quantification of the ratio of nuclear: cytoplasmic NFAT1  
368 staining intensity in experiments represented in A (n=3, bars represent median and interquartile range, p

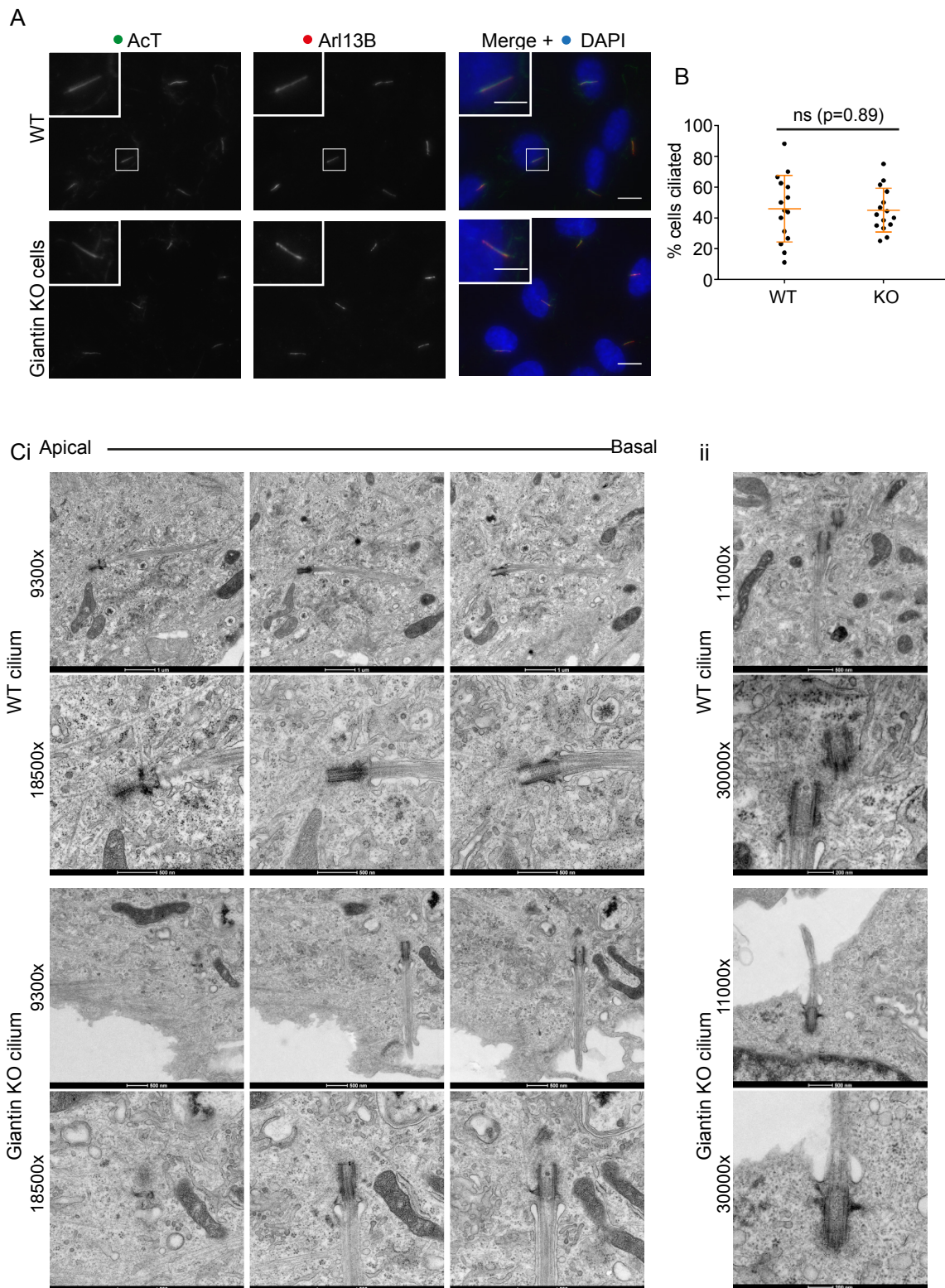
369 values calculated using non-parametric ANOVA (Kruskal-Wallis test) with Dunn's multiple comparisons  
370 test).

371 **Supplementary Figure legend**

372 **Figure S1: RCAN2 is not required to maintain Golgi structure.** (A, B) Depletion of RCAN2 in RPE-1 cells (B)  
373 does not affect targeting of GalT (galactosyltransferase) to the Golgi compared to controls (A). Cells were  
374 labelled with antibodies to detect GalT (green), RCAN2 (red, top panels) and GRASP65 (far red, bottom  
375 panels). The localisation of RCAN2 to centrioles (arrowheads) is lost following depletion using RNAi. Golgi  
376 structure is not grossly affected by depletion of RCAN2. Images shown are from WT RPE-1 cells, the same  
377 effect is seen when using giantin KO cells. Bar = 10  $\mu$ m. (C) The average number of Golgi elements per cells  
378 (dots show the means of 10 fields of view) does not differ between control and RCAN2-depleted cells. (D)  
379 Quantification of the intensity of RCAN2 labelling shows the efficacy of the siRNA in these specific  
380 experiments, n=3 independent replicates.

381

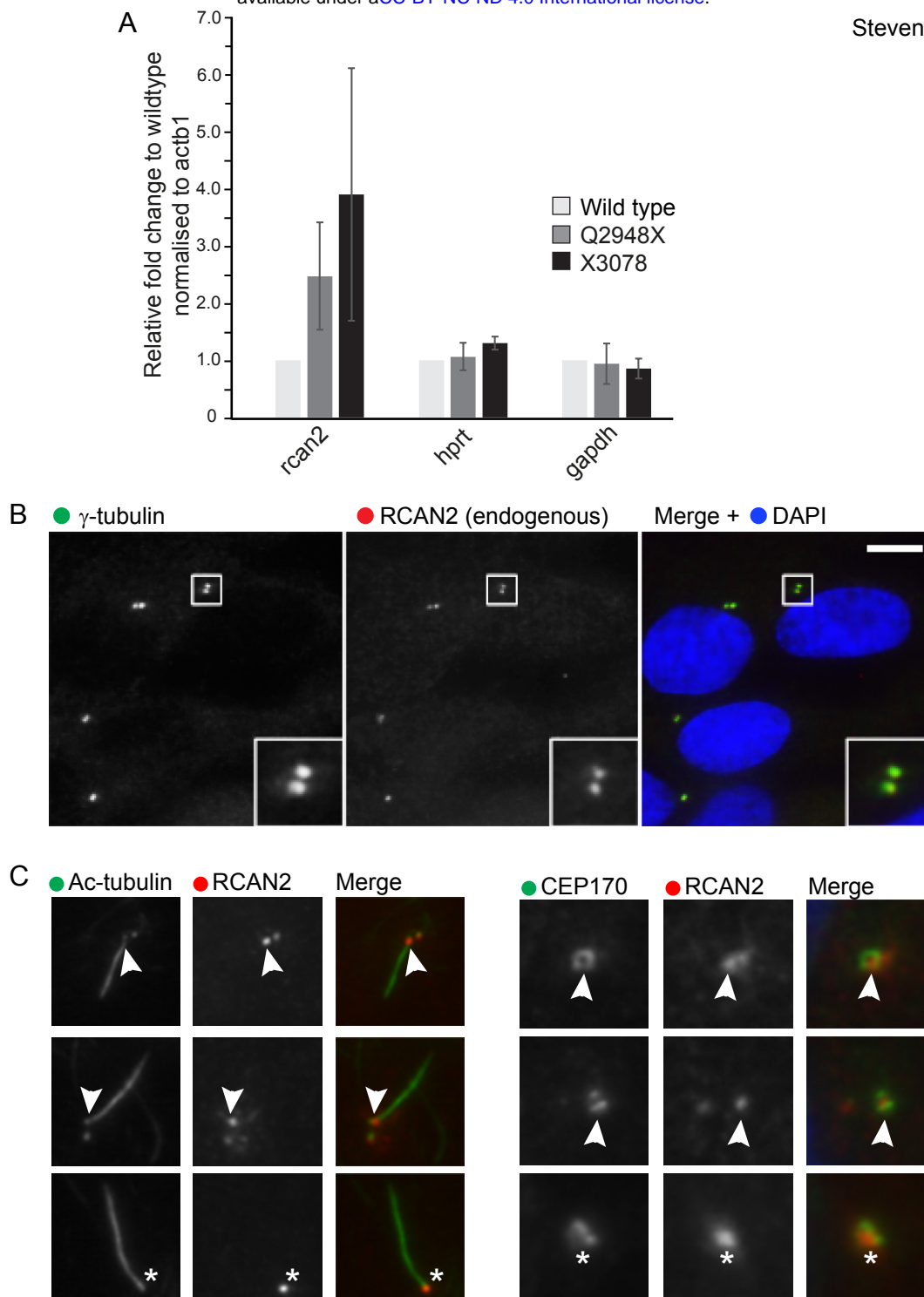




**Figure 1: Giantin knockout RPE1 cells have no obvious defects in ciliogenesis.**

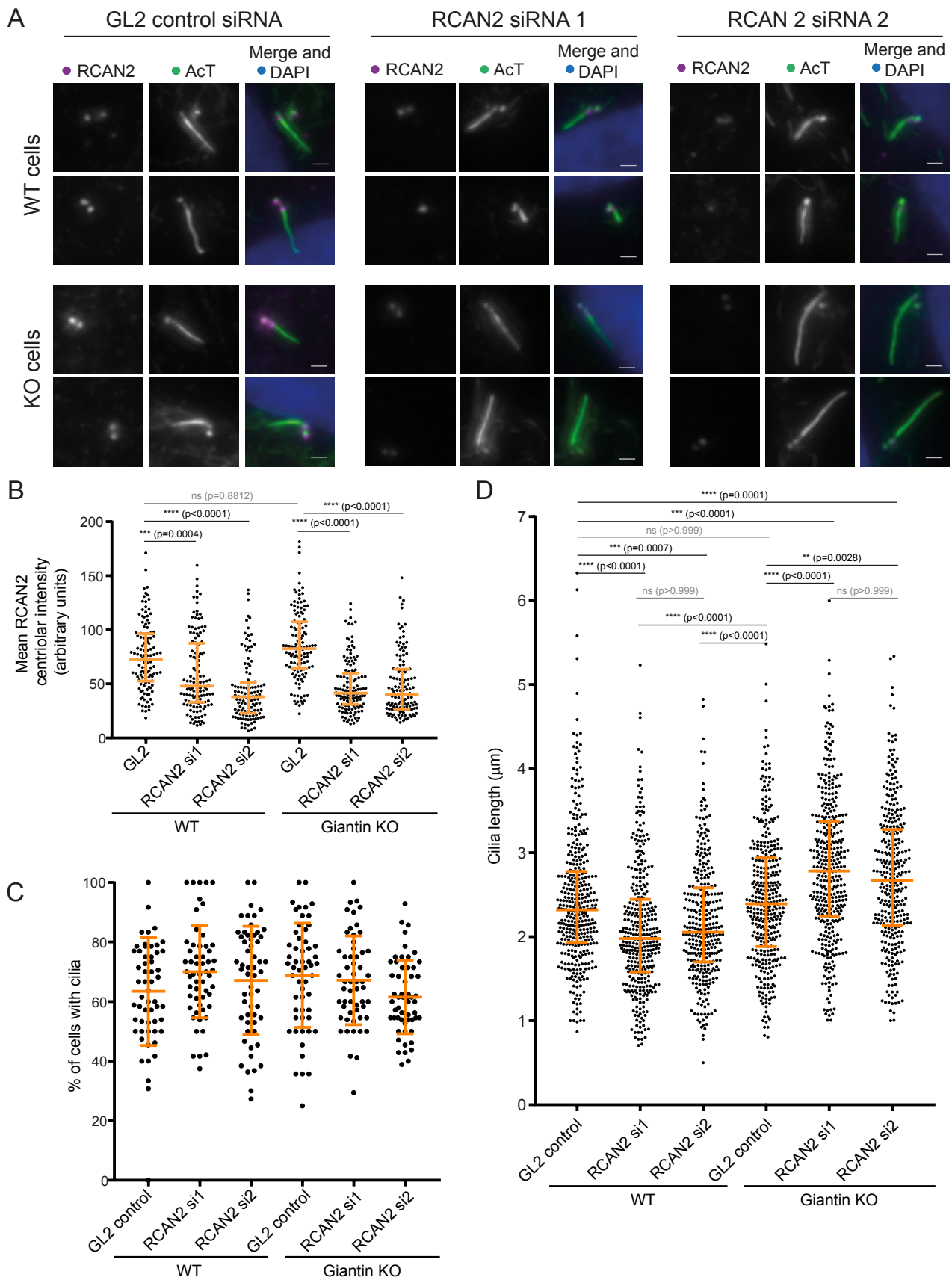
(A) Representative images of RPE1 WT and giantin KO cells fixed after 24 h of serum starvation and labelled for Ari13B (red), acetylated tubulin (green) and DAPI (blue). Scale bars are 10 $\mu$ m and 5 $\mu$ m on the merge and insert respectively. (B) Quantification of the experiment represented in A (n=3). The mean percentage of cells producing cilia does not change upon KO of giantin. Error bars represent SD, statistics Mann-Whitney. (C) TEM images of (i) serial and (ii) single plane 70 nm sections through representative WT and giantin KO cilia at two different magnifications.





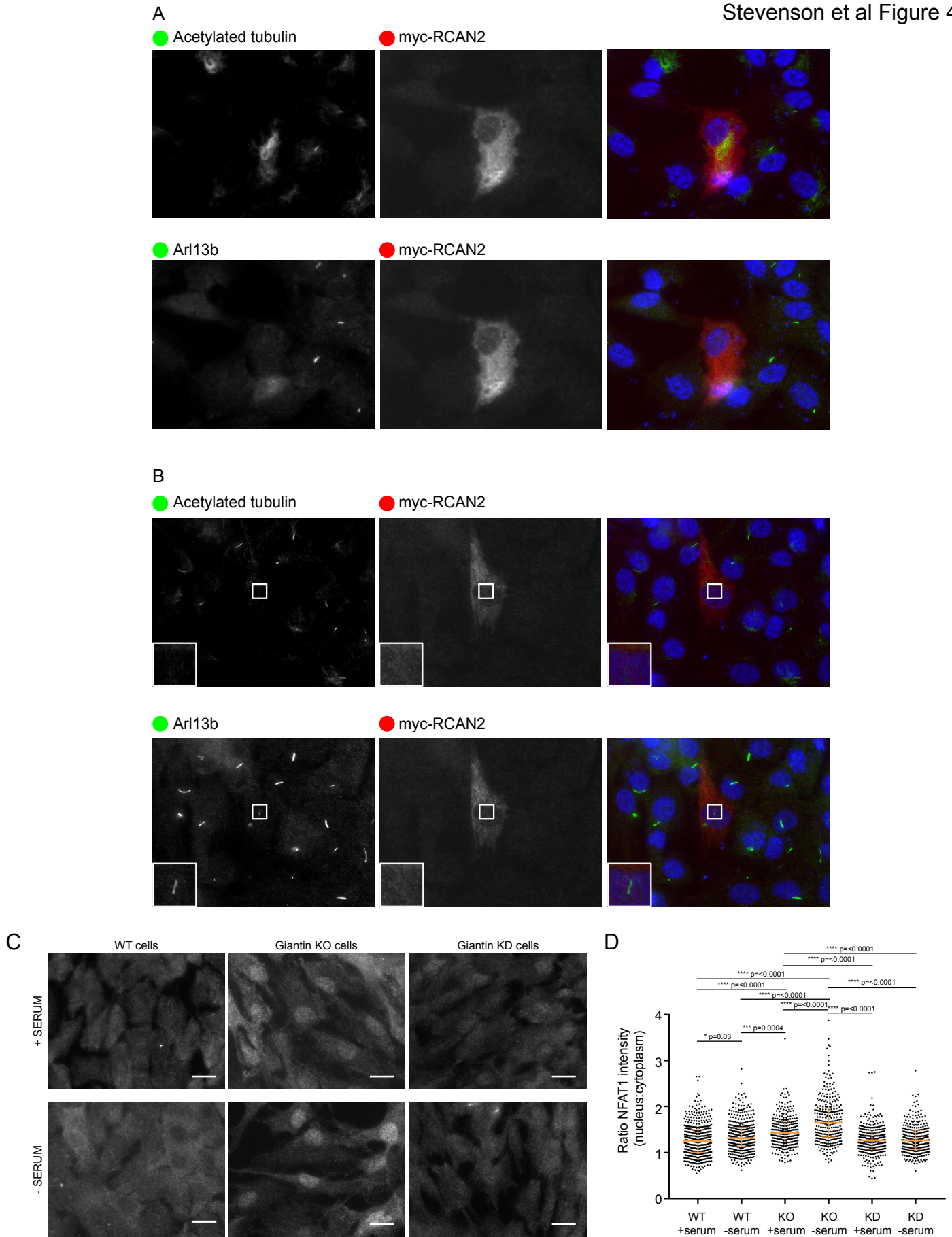
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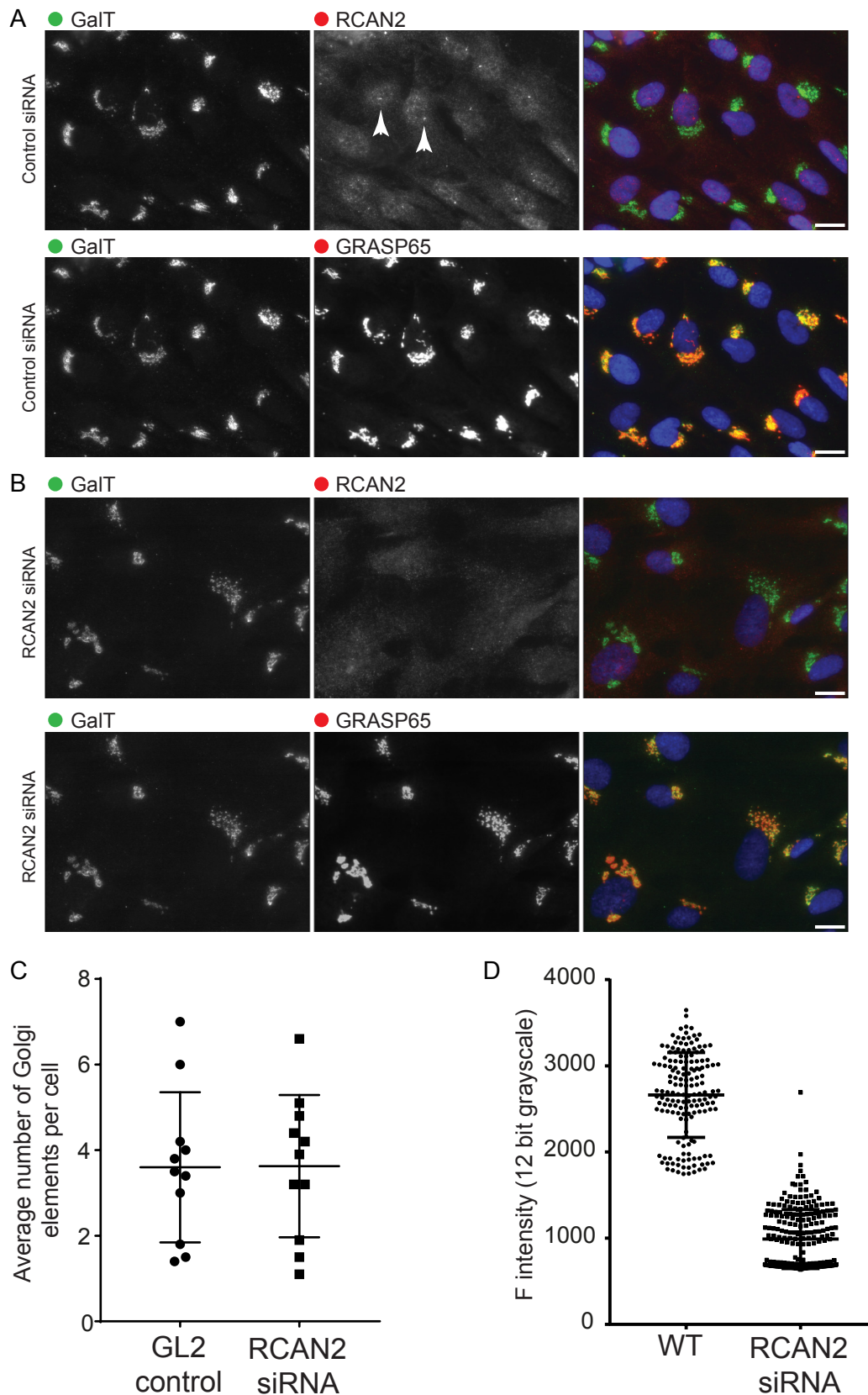
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