

## Stress granules display bistable dynamics modulated by Cdk

Yahya G<sup>1,2</sup>, Pérez AP<sup>1,3,4</sup>, Mendoza MB<sup>1,4</sup>, Parisi E<sup>1,4</sup>, Moreno DF<sup>1</sup>, Gallego C<sup>1,\*</sup>, Aldea M<sup>1,3,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Molecular Biology Institute of Barcelona (IBMB), CSIC, Catalonia, 08028, Spain

<sup>2</sup>Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Zagazig University, 44519, Egypt

<sup>3</sup>Department of Basic Sciences, Universitat Internacional de Catalunya, 08195, Spain

<sup>4</sup>These authors contributed equally to this work

\* [carme.gallego@ibmb.csic.es](mailto:carme.gallego@ibmb.csic.es); [marti.aldea@ibmb.csic.es](mailto:marti.aldea@ibmb.csic.es)

### Abstract

Stress granules are conserved biomolecular condensates that originate in response to many stress conditions. These membraneless organelles contain nontranslating mRNAs and a diverse subproteome, but our knowledge on their regulation and functional relevance is still incipient. Here we describe a mutual-inhibition interplay between stress granules and Cdc28, the budding yeast Cdk. Amongst Cdc28 interactors acting as negative modulators of Start we have identified Whi8, an RNA-binding protein that localizes to SGs and recruits the mRNA of *CLN3*, the most upstream G1 cyclin, for efficient translation inhibition and Cdk inactivation under stress. However, Whi8 also contributes to recruiting Cdc28 to SGs, where it acts to promote their dissolution. As predicted by a mutual-inhibition framework, the SG constitutes a bistable system that is modulated by Cdk. Since mammalian cells display a homologous mechanism, we propose that the opposing functions of specific mRNA-binding proteins and Cdks subjugate SG dynamics to a conserved hysteretic switch.

**Keywords:** Stress granule / biomolecular condensate / bistability / cell cycle / RNA-binding protein / Cdk / cyclin

## 1 Introduction

2 Phase separation of proteins and nucleic acids into condensates is emerging as a general  
3 mechanism for cellular compartmentalization without the requirement of surrounding  
4 membranes (Banani *et al*, 2017; Alberti & Dormann, 2019; Shin & Brangwynne, 2017). These  
5 biomolecular condensates are based on weak multivalent interactions among component  
6 molecules that are mobile and exchange with the adjoining medium, and play essential roles in  
7 cell physiology as reaction crucibles, sequestration centers or organizational hubs. In a  
8 dynamic environment, cells need to control phase separation to form or dissolve condensates  
9 as a function of spatial and temporal cues. Thus, the molecular mechanisms that modulate  
10 phase separation will be critical to understanding how cells use biomolecular condensates to  
11 execute and control a growing list of cellular processes (Alberti *et al*, 2019; Snead & Gladfelter,  
12 2019; Bratek-Skicki *et al*, 2020).

13 Stress granules (SGs) are conserved cytoplasmic condensates that contain (1) pools of  
14 nontranslating mRNAs and (2) a variety of proteins, including translation initiation factors and  
15 RNA-binding proteins that form core stable substructures in SGs (Protter & Parker, 2016). Non  
16 RNA-binding proteins such as post-translational modification factors, and protein or RNA  
17 remodeling complexes, are recruited to SGs by protein–protein interactions often mediated by  
18 intrinsically-disordered regions (IDRs), and modulate SG assembly and disassembly. However, a  
19 predominant role has been recently attributed to intermolecular RNA-RNA interactions as  
20 upstream determinants of stress granule composition (Van Treeck *et al*, 2018). Although SGs  
21 are thought to downregulate translation and protect recruited mRNAs in many different stress  
22 conditions, we still do not have sufficient experimental evidence to comprehend the relevance  
23 of SGs in cell physiology.

24 Stress restricts cell-cycle progression and budding yeast cells display a diverse set of  
25 mechanisms as a function of the stress signal. The HOG pathway constitutes a prominent  
26 paradigm, and operates on specific molecular targets to modulate different cell-cycle phases  
27 and transitions in response to osmotic stress (Solé *et al*, 2015; De Nadal *et al*, 2011). Regarding  
28 entry into the cell cycle, osmotic shock causes a temporary repression of the G1/S regulon  
29 (Bellí *et al*, 2001), in which Hog1-mediated phosphorylation of Whi5 and Msa1 contributes to  
30 inhibiting transcription (González-Novo *et al*, 2015). Downregulation of G1/S genes was also  
31 observed during heat and ER stress (Rowley *et al*, 1993; Vai *et al*, 1987) and, since chaperones  
32 play important but limiting roles at Start (Vergés *et al*, 2007; Yahya *et al*, 2014; Parisi *et al*,  
33 2018), we proposed that, by compromising chaperone availability, all stressful conditions  
34 would target the chaperome as a common means to hinder entry into the cell cycle (Moreno

1 *et al*, 2019). However, the precise molecular environment in which diverse stress conditions  
2 would converge to modulate Start is still unknown.

3 Here we describe the interplay between a common actor in stress, SGs, and the budding  
4 yeast Cdk, Cdc28. In a screen for Cdc28 interactors acting as negative modulators of Start we  
5 identified Whi8, a putative RNA-binding protein previously localized to SGs. Whi8 recruits the  
6 mRNA of *CLN3*, the most upstream G1 cyclin, to SGs and contributes to inhibiting its  
7 translation under stress conditions. On the other hand, Whi8-dependent recruitment of Cdc28  
8 is important for timely dissolution of SGs when stress conditions are relieved. We also  
9 identified the key elements of a homologue mechanism in mammalian cells, and we propose  
10 that Cdks create a conserved bistable system that regulates SG dynamics.

11

## 12 **Results**

### 13 **Whi8 is a Cdc28 interactor that hinders cell cycle entry**

14 We previously identified and characterized a Cdc28<sup>wee</sup> mutant that produces premature entry  
15 into the cell cycle causing a small cell-size phenotype and, to uncover new negative  
16 modulators of Start, we used quantitative proteomics to compare the interactomes of wild-  
17 type and wee Cdc28 proteins (Yahya *et al*, 2014) (Fig 1A). Among the group of proteins  
18 displaying a lower binding to Cdc28<sup>wee</sup> we found YGR250c, a putative RNA-binding protein that  
19 was localized to stress granules (Buchan *et al*, 2008) and recently isolated as a multicopy  
20 suppressor of ER-mitochondria tethering complex defects (Kojima *et al*, 2016). To ascertain its  
21 role as a negative regulator of the yeast Cdk at Start we measured the budding volume of cells  
22 lacking YGR250c, and found a clear reduction that strictly required the presence of Cln3, the  
23 most upstream G1 cyclin (Fig 1B). Since overexpression of YGR250c produced the opposite  
24 effect and increased the budding volume by nearly 50%, we named YGR250c as Whi8,  
25 following the nomenclature of genes modulating cell size at Start. Similarly to Whi3 (Wang *et*  
26 *al*, 2004) and Whi7 (Yahya *et al*, 2014), loss or overexpression of Whi8 increased or decreased,  
27 respectively, the nuclear levels of Cln3 (Fig EV1).

28 As expected, Whi8 levels were lower in Cdc28<sup>wee</sup> immunoprecipitates compared to wild-  
29 type Cdc28 (Fig 1C), suggesting that the negative role of Whi8 at Start is mediated by physical  
30 interaction with the Cdc28 kinase. Notably, a bioinformatics analysis of 480 Cdc28 interacting  
31 proteins pinpointed Whi8 as the only gene product that (1) displays RNA-binding motifs, (2) is  
32 induced by heat shock and (3) is present in SGs (Fig 1D). In all, Whi8 emerged as a putative  
33 mediator of SG-born signals restraining entry into the cell cycle.

## 1 **Whi8 binds and recruits the *CLN3* mRNA to SGs**

2 Since *cln3* was totally epistatic to the loss of Whi8 with regards to the cell size phenotype, we  
3 wanted to test whether the role of Whi8 at Start would be exerted on *CLN3*, perhaps due to its  
4 RNA-binding properties. We found that the *CLN3* mRNA was enriched 10-fold in Whi8  
5 immunoprecipitates (Fig 2A), thus displaying a similar behavior to Whi3, a protein previously  
6 shown to bind the *CLN3* mRNA and regulate cell cycle entry (Gari *et al*, 2001; Colomina *et al*,  
7 2008). Supporting shared roles in modulating *CLN3* expression by their RNA-binding motifs,  
8 Whi8 and Whi3 were found to co-immunoprecipitate in an RNA-dependent manner (Fig 2B).  
9 By contrast, the interaction between Whi8 and Pub1, a component of SGs, did not depend on  
10 RNA (Fig 2C).

11 The *CLN3* mRNA was clearly enriched in Pub1 pulldowns (Fig 2D) which, considering the  
12 abovementioned interactions, suggested that Pub1 could recruit the *CLN3* mRNA through  
13 Whi8. In agreement with this idea, enrichment of the *CLN3* mRNA in Pub1 pulldowns was  
14 strongly diminished in *whi8* cells and totally abrogated in double *whi8 whi3* cells (Fig 2D). We  
15 next tested whether the *CLN3* mRNA colocalized with Whi8 in SGs. To avoid the strong effects  
16 in cell size produced by high levels of Cln3, we expressed a *cln3<sup>nd</sup>* mRNA that produces an  
17 inactive cyclin. As already described (Buchan *et al*, 2008), Whi8-GFP readily formed bright  
18 granules in the cytoplasm under stress conditions and, although the *cln3<sup>nd</sup>* mRNA formed a  
19 much lower number of foci, most of them colocalized with Whi8-GFP granules (Fig 2E).  
20 Although the *CLN3* mRNA was previously found in SGs with Whi3 (Holmes *et al*, 2013; Cai &  
21 Futcher, 2013), the presence of Whi3 was totally dispensable. We found that colocalization of  
22 the *CLN3* mRNA with Pub1-mCherry granules required Whi8 and, to a much lesser extent,  
23 Whi3 (Fig 2F), which gives further support to the notion that the *CLN3* transcript is recruited to  
24 SGs with the essential role of Whi8.

25

## 26 **Whi8 is recruited to SGs via an IDR and is required to inhibit *CLN3* mRNA translation under** 27 **stress conditions**

28 Whi8 contains a C-terminal region of 120 residues largely dominated by disorder-prone amino  
29 acids (Fig 3A), suggesting that Whi8 could be recruited to SGs by an IDR. Deletion of these  
30 amino acids did not have any noticeable effect on cell size under normal growing conditions,  
31 but Whi8- $\Delta$ IDR was completely absent in the ER fractions as compared to the wild-type protein  
32 (Fig 3B). Moreover, although Whi8- $\Delta$ IDR was still recruited to SGs under stress conditions, the  
33 number of foci per cell and the fraction of Whi8- $\Delta$ IDR in SGs were sharply reduced (Fig 3C-F).

1 One of the hallmarks of SG-recruited mRNAs is translation inhibition which, particularly for  
2 short-lived proteins such as Cln3, may have important effects in the corresponding  
3 downstream processes. We found that Cln3 levels rapidly decreased under stress conditions  
4 (Fig EV2A), reaching a five-fold reduction in less than 30 min, while the *CLN3* mRNA was only  
5 reduced by 40% compared to unstressed cells (Fig EV2C). Notably, levels of Cln3 decreased  
6 very slowly in cells lacking Whi8 (Fig EV2A), thus reinforcing the notion that Whi8 would recruit  
7 the *CLN3* mRNA to SGs to inhibit its translation under stress conditions. Overexpression of SG  
8 components promotes SG formation and recapitulates inhibition of SG-reporter gene  
9 expression in non-stressed cells (Kedersha & Anderson, 2007). Accordingly, when we  
10 overexpressed Whi8 in the absence of stress we observed a significant decrease in Cln3  
11 protein levels (Fig EV2B), while mRNA levels remained unchanged (Fig EV2C). These data  
12 would explain the observed large cell-size phenotype and low Cln3 levels in the nucleus of  
13 Whi8-overexpressing cells, and emphasize the idea that Whi8 acts as a negative regulator of  
14 Start by modulating expression of the *CLN3* mRNA.

15

#### 16 **Cdc28 is recruited to SGs and modulates SG dynamics**

17 Cdc28 has been colocalized with Pbp1 in foci of stationary-phase cells (Shah *et al*, 2014) and,  
18 although not quantitative, a proteomic survey reported the presence of Cdc28 in SGs (Jain *et*  
19 *al*, 2016). To ascertain this possibility, we analyzed Cdc28-GFP and Pub1-mCherry in live cells  
20 under stress conditions and found that both proteins displayed extensive colocalization  
21 patterns (Fig 4A). Careful measurement of the relative levels of the two proteins in SGs yielded  
22 a steeper slope when Cdc28-GFP was taken as a dependent variable (Fig 4B), favoring Pub1 as  
23 an upstream factor for Cdc28 localization to SGs. Notably, the ratio of Cdc28-GFP to Pub1-  
24 mCherry in SGs decreased to ca. 40% when comparing *whi8* with wild-type cells (Fig 4C).  
25 Similarly to other components of the SG (Youn *et al*, 2018), Cdc28 and Pub1 were found to co-  
26 immunoprecipitate under non-stress conditions (Fig 4D). In all, these data underscore the  
27 relevance of Whi8 and Pub1 in recruiting Cdc28 to SGs.

28 A significant number of SG proteins (Jain *et al*, 2016) may be phosphorylation targets of  
29 Cdc28 (Fig 4E) and, in addition to Whi8, we found several translation initiation factors that are  
30 thought to be involved in translational repression in SGs (Fig EV3A). This observation led us to  
31 hypothesize that Cdc28 could play a role in SG assembly and dissolution. To test this  
32 possibility, we carefully measured the dissolution kinetics of Pub1-mCherry foci by time-lapse  
33 microscopy, and first compared cells carrying wild-type *CDC28* and thermosensitive *cdc28-13*

1 alleles. Glucose was added to induce release from stress, but the temperature was only  
2 decreased to 37°C to maintain a restrictive scenario for the *cdc28-13* allele. As shown in Fig 4F,  
3 wild-type cells readily dissolved SGs under these partial-release conditions, and the levels of  
4 Pub1-mCherry in SGs decreased to 50% in only 21 min. By contrast, SG dissolution was much  
5 slower in *cdc28-13* cells, taking longer than 60 min to reach a 50% reduction in Pub1-mCherry  
6 in SGs (Fig 4F). As an independent approach we used a G1-cyclin conditional strain that lacks  
7 Cln1,2 and holds Cln3 under the control of a regulatable promoter, which causes cells to arrest  
8 in G1 with no Cdk activity under repression conditions. We found a strikingly similar delay in  
9 SG dissolution when comparing G1-arrested and cycling cells (Fig 4G), which confirms the key  
10 role of Cdk activity in SG dissolution. Giving further support to this notion, cycling wild-type  
11 cells displayed clear differences in SG dissolution kinetics depending on cell cycle position,  
12 being slower when Cdk activity is lower, i.e. G1 phase (Fig EV3B). Finally, overexpression of  
13 Cln3 produced the opposite effects and reduced by 30% the half-life of SGs after release from  
14 stress (Fig 4F). Albeit surprisingly, the presence of *CLN3-1*, a truncated hyperstable allele that  
15 reproduces most phenotypes of *CLN3* overexpression, was much less effective in SG  
16 dissolution (Fig EV3C). Cln3-1 lacks a putative 91-aa IDR that could play additional roles in  
17 recruiting the Cdc28/Cln3 complex to SGs.

18

### 19 **Mammalian SGs contain Cdk-cyclin factors and are modulated by cell cycle position**

20 SGs from yeast and mammalian cells display a highly significant overlap in composition and  
21 share distinct substructural traits (Jain *et al*, 2016). Thus, we anticipated that our findings in  
22 yeast cells would also apply to mammalian SGs. To test whether G1 cyclin mRNAs are recruited  
23 to mammalian SGs we used the same MS2-based approach as in yeast and observed a clear co-  
24 localization of a *CCND1-MS2* mRNA with TIA1, the Pub1 mammalian homologue, in SGs of  
25 HeLa cells (Fig EV4A). It was shown that Caprin1, a component of SGs, binds the cyclin D2  
26 mRNA in non-stressed 293T cells (Solomon *et al*, 2007). We found that Caprin1 and *CCND1-*  
27 *MS2* mRNA also colocalized in SGs (Fig 5A). Interestingly, shRNA-driven downregulation of  
28 Caprin1 levels was accompanied by a reduction in the number of foci produced by the *CCND1-*  
29 *MS2* mRNA under stress conditions (Fig 5B), suggesting that Caprin1 could act as a functional  
30 homologue of Whi8 in mammalian cells, where cyclin D1 protein levels are also strongly  
31 downregulated during SGs formation (Fig EV4B).

32 Next, we decided to test whether Caprin1 and Cdk4, a G1 Cdk, interact by co-  
33 immunoprecipitation as in yeast cells, and found that these proteins are bound in a stress-

1 dependent manner in HeLa cells (Fig 5C). Moreover, we observed almost overlapping patterns  
2 of localization of Caprin1 and Cdk4 in SGs (Fig 5D).

3 The rate of SG dissolution has been shown to be strongly diminished by Cdk inhibitors in  
4 HeLa and U2OS cells (Wippich *et al*, 2013). Hence, the presence of a G1 Cdk and the Caprin1-  
5 mediated recruitment of a G1 cyclin mRNA in SGs suggested that cell cycle progression could  
6 also play a role in SG dynamics in mammalian cells. As in yeast cells, Cdk activity is low in G1,  
7 suddenly increases during the G1/S transition, and becomes maximal during mitosis until  
8 anaphase. Using an mCherry-G3BP1 reporter to analyze SG dissolution kinetics in U2OS cells  
9 expressing a mVenus-Gem<sup>1-110</sup> fusion that is stable from S phase to anaphase, we found that  
10 SG half-life was reduced by 2-fold in cells progressing through S-G2-M phases, when Cdk  
11 activity is high, compared to G1 cells (Fig 5E,F). These data confirm our findings in yeast cells  
12 and point to the notion that SGs would antagonize Cdk activity by restraining cyclin translation  
13 under stress conditions and that, in turn, Cdk would accelerate SGs dissolution during release  
14 from stress.

15

## 16 **Mutual inhibition as a bistable system for SG dynamics**

17 To gain insight into the relevance of the counteracting effects between SGs and Cdk activity,  
18 we modeled SG dynamics in a mutual-inhibition system with Cdk (Fig 6A and Fig EV5A). Briefly,  
19 we assumed that active Cdk ( $Cdk_{Cyc}$ ) would act as an enzyme with specific catalytic ( $k_c$ ) and  
20 Michaelis-Menten ( $K_M$ ) constants to promote dissolution of SG factors ( $SG$ ) as free  
21 components ( $SG_{Comp}$ ). All other processes were defined by simple mass-action laws with  
22 explicit rate constants. We tried to keep the model as simple as possible in order to obtain all  
23 the kinetic parameters from experimental data. The  $K_M$  for Cdc28 was previously determined  
24 *in vitro* (Bouchoux & Uhlmann, 2011), and the maximal substrate concentration in SGs was  
25 estimated as described in Fig EV5B. We obtained the basal SG-dissolution rate constant ( $k_{bd}$ )  
26 by fitting the model to SG dissolution in the *cdc28-13* mutant in the absence of stress (Fig  
27 EV5C), where all other variables have no effect. We then used SG formation and dissolution  
28 data from wild-type cells to estimate the remaining rate constants (Fig EV5D). With these  
29 experimental parameters, the mutual-inhibition model predicted a bistable switch as a  
30 function of the stress signal (Fig 6B). To observe how the bistability of the model arises, in Fig  
31 6C we plotted the steady-state levels of condensed SG factors ( $SG$ ) and active Cdk ( $Cdk_{Cyc}$ ) as  
32 independently predicted by each of the two modules of the system, either (1)  $SG$  dissolution as  
33 a function of  $Cdk_{Cyc}$  and the stress level ( $Stress$ ) or (2)  $Cdk_{Cyc}$  inactivation as a function of  $SG$ .



1 At low stress, *SG* dissolution and *Cdk<sub>Cyc</sub>* inactivation curves intersect only once and the system  
2 is monostable, with high active Cdk1 and low condensed SG factors. When stress reaches a  
3 certain value, the system creates a saddle-node bifurcation and a new stable steady state, with  
4 low active Cdk1 and high levels of condensed SG factors. At higher stress levels, the *SG*  
5 dissolution curve is pushed further and the system becomes monostable again, with low active  
6 Cdk1 and high SG condensation (Fig 6C). The relative  $K_M$ , which incorporates SG component  
7 concentration, has strong effects on the predicted bistability (Fig 6D), thus highlighting the  
8 importance of substrate accumulation in the SG itself to attain a bistable system.

9 We then tested whether SG steady states followed a pattern compatible with bistability as  
10 a function of stress. As a tunable stress effector we used  $\text{NaN}_3$  at different concentrations and  
11 measured SG formation after 1h of treatment. We found that steady-state SG levels increased  
12 with stressor concentration following bistable kinetics, and displayed a hysteretic behavior as  
13 predicted by the model when stressor concentration was reversed (Fig 6E,F). Finally, we used  
14 the G1-cyclin conditional strain to test the effects of Cdk activity in the switch-like behavior of  
15 SG formation as a function of  $\text{NaN}_3$  concentration. Although a sigmoidal curve was still  
16 observed, G1-arrested cells with no Cdk activity advanced SG formation at lower stress levels  
17 in a similar fashion to what the model predicts if kinase levels are decreased (Fig 6G,H). These  
18 data support the important role of Cdk in SG dynamics, and suggest that other kinases or  
19 factors important for SG formation and dissolution also act in mutual-inhibition modules.

20

## 21 Discussion

22 Here we identified Whi8 (YGR250C) as a protein that interacts with the Cdc28 Cdk and recruits  
23 the *CLN3* cyclin mRNA to SGs for translational repression and, hence, Cdc28 inactivation under  
24 stress conditions in G1 cells. Moreover, the yeast Cdk is also recruited to SGs with the  
25 important participation of Whi8, and plays a crucial role in SG dissolution when cells are  
26 returned to non-stress conditions. We found a similar scenario in mammalian cells, where the  
27 *CCND1* cyclin mRNA is translationally repressed by stress and recruited to SGs with the  
28 contribution of Caprin1, an RNA-binding protein that interacts with Cdk4, a G1 Cdk, in a stress-  
29 dependent manner. While Cdk4 colocalizes with Caprin1 in SGs, SG dissolution is slower in cells  
30 where Cdk activity is lower, i.e. G1 cells, when released from stress conditions. Thus, Whi8 and  
31 Caprin1 would act as molecular links between Cdk inactivation and Cdk-dependent SG  
32 dissolution during adaptation to and recovery from stress, respectively. Finally, our data show



1 that SGs behave as a Cdk-dependent bistable system that only switches when stress levels  
2 reach a minimal threshold or normal conditions are almost completely restored.

3 Recent work analyzed the presence of mRNAs in yeast SGs (Khong *et al*, 2017), and found  
4 that G1 cyclin mRNAs were enriched in the SG fraction, 4-fold for *CLN3* and about 2-fold for  
5 *CLN1,2*, but levels of G1 cyclin mRNAs were still significant in the soluble fraction. Moreover,  
6 similar data from mammalian cells showed no or only a modest enrichment of *CCND1,2,3*  
7 mRNAs in SGs (Khong *et al*, 2017; Namkoong *et al*, 2018). Thus, although recruitment to SGs  
8 likely plays an important role, other mechanisms such as eIF2 $\alpha$  inhibition by phosphorylation  
9 (Crawford & Pavitt, 2019) could act to ensure full inhibition of translation of G1 cyclin mRNAs  
10 under stress conditions. On the other hand, recruitment of a fraction of cyclin mRNAs to SGs  
11 could increase local Cdk activation when translation resumes after release from stress.

12 A very significant number of proteins belonging to SGs may be phosphorylated by Cdc28 in  
13 yeast cells and, not surprisingly, most of them have functional homologues in mammalian cells  
14 (Fig EV3A). The reason Cdc28 would have such a high number of targets in SGs likely resides in  
15 their dependence on multivalent protein-protein interactions, which also agrees with the fact  
16 that no single protein has been found to be essential for SG formation (Yoon *et al*, 2010; Yang  
17 *et al*, 2014; Buchan *et al*, 2013). Intriguingly, a comparative analysis of Cdc28-target  
18 phosphosites revealed that their position, rather than being conserved, is very dynamic within  
19 disordered regions (Holt *et al*, 2009).

20 We show that SG dynamics obey a bistable system where the Cdk is an important effector,  
21 and we have recapitulated this behavior with a simple mutual-inhibition model. Notably, the  
22  $K_M$  to substrate ratio was crucial to attaining bistability and, if Cdk substrates were always in a  
23 soluble form in the cytoplasm, the model would only predict monostable steady-states at  
24 varying stress levels. In other words, the higher substrate concentration attained in SGs is what  
25 decreases the  $K_M$ /substrate ratio and makes the model bistable. Thus, the effects of mutual-  
26 inhibition would be especially relevant during SG dissolution, rather than SG assembly. If this  
27 were the case, SG components would not be necessarily phosphorylated when soluble in the  
28 cytoplasm under normal conditions and, hence, the Cdc28 phosphoproteome could include  
29 many other SG proteins in addition to those listed in Fig EV3A. Alternatively, since many SG  
30 components display physical interactions even in the absence of stress (Youn *et al*, 2018), they  
31 could interact with Cdc28 in supramolecular complexes to increase their effective  
32 concentration as substrates also under non-stress conditions. Favoring the later possibility, we  
33 found that Cdc28 and Whi8 co-immunoprecipitate very efficiently in the absence of stress.

1 SG dissolution requires the Cdc48 segregase in yeast (Buchan *et al*, 2013) and mammalian  
2 (Wang *et al*, 2019) cells, and we previously found that Cdc28 phosphorylates Cdc48 to enhance  
3 its segregase activity in releasing Cln3 from the ER during G1 (Parisi *et al*, 2018). Therefore,  
4 Cdc28 could also act on SG dissolution by modulating the affinity and/or segregase activity of  
5 Cdc48 towards components of the SG.

6 Giving support to our results, a screen in mammalian cells had pinpointed Cdk inhibitors by  
7 their marked effects in delaying SG dissolution (Wippich *et al*, 2013). These authors identified  
8 Dyrk3 as a key factor modulating SG dynamics, and recently showed that this kinase is also  
9 important for dissolution of specific membraneless organelles during mitosis (Rai *et al*, 2018).  
10 Also in mammalian cells, SG dissolution is modulated by FAK-dependent phosphorylation of  
11 Grb7 (Tsai *et al*, 2008). In yeast, Sky1 is recruited to SGs, where it phosphorylates Npl3 and  
12 modulates their dynamics (Shattuck *et al*, 2019). Therefore, fast and efficient SG assembly and  
13 dissolution would result from the concerted action of different protein kinases. Nonetheless,  
14 the unique mutual inhibitory roles of Cdk and SGs would provide bistability and hysteresis to  
15 prevent SG formation at low levels of stress and sustain their presence until normal conditions  
16 are entirely restored. Indeed, as our data suggest, the SG-Cdk mutual inhibitory scenario  
17 should also apply to other condensation modulators, thus subjugating SG dynamics to a robust  
18 switch as a function of different facets of the cellular physiological status.

19

## 20 **Acknowledgements**

21 We thank E. Rebollo for technical assistance, and B. Futcher, R. Singer and T. Stracker for  
22 providing strains, cell lines and plasmids. We also thank C. Rose for editing the manuscript.  
23 This work was funded by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation, and the European  
24 Union (FEDER) to C.G. (BFU2017-83375-R) and M.A. (BFU2016-80234-R). A.P.P. and D.F.M.  
25 received FI fellowships of *Generalitat de Catalunya*.

26

## 27 **Author contributions**

28 G.Y., A.P.P., M.M.B., E.P. and D.F.M. built genetic constructs and strains, and performed the  
29 experiments. M.A. implemented the mathematical model and performed the informatics  
30 analysis. C.G. and M.A. conceived the study, analyzed the data and wrote the manuscript.

31

32

## 1 **Materials and Methods**

2 **Cells and growth conditions.** Yeast strains and plasmids are listed in Tables EV1 and EV2, and  
3 methods used for chromosomal gene transplacement and PCR-based directed mutagenesis  
4 were previously described (Ferrezuelo *et al*, 2012). With the exception of overexpression  
5 experiments, all gene fusions in this study were expressed at endogenous levels. Cells were  
6 grown for 7-8 generations in SC medium with 2% glucose at 30°C unless stated otherwise.  
7 *GAL1p*-driven gene expression was induced by addition of 2% galactose to cultures grown in  
8 2% raffinose at OD<sub>600</sub>=0.5 or, in the presence of glucose, by adding 1 μM β-estradiol to cells  
9 expressing the Gal4-hER-VP16 transactivator (Louvion *et al*, 1993). When indicated,  
10 overexpression of *CLN3* was performed with a *tetO*-based expression system (Gari *et al*, 1997).  
11 SG formation was routinely induced by transferring cells to 42°C for 30 min in SC medium  
12 without glucose, and SG dissolution was assessed by returning stressed cells to 30°C in SC  
13 medium supplemented with glucose. In experiments shown in Fig 4F, SG dissolution was  
14 assessed at 37°C to maintain restrictive conditions for the thermosensitive *cdc28-13* allele.  
15 Finally, SG steady states were analyzed by treating cells with the indicated concentrations of  
16 NaN<sub>3</sub> for 60 min at 30°C in SC plus 1% glucose.

17 Human HeLa and U2OS cells were grown at 37°C in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium  
18 (DMEM) supplemented with glutamine, antibiotics and 10% FBS. Transfection with Caprin1-  
19 directed or control shRNAs and vectors expressing NLS-MCP-GFP, 3HA-Cdk4, Geminin<sub>1-110</sub>-  
20 mVenus or mCherry-G3BP1 proteins, or *CCND1-MS2* mRNA, was performed as described (Ruiz-  
21 Miro *et al*, 2011). Cycling cells were analyzed 18 hr after replating, and SG formation was  
22 induced by addition of 0.5 mM NaAsO<sub>2</sub> for 30 min, unless stated otherwise. SG steady states  
23 were analyzed after 60 min in NaAsO<sub>2</sub> at the indicated concentrations.

24 **Subcellular fractionation, immunoprecipitation and immunoblot analysis.** Subcellular  
25 fractionation was as described (Vergés *et al*, 2007). FLAG-tagged proteins were  
26 immunoprecipitated with αFLAG (clone M2, Sigma) beads (Wang *et al*, 2004), and immunoblot  
27 analysis was performed as described (Gallego *et al*, 1997). Used antibodies are listed in Table  
28 EV3.

29 **Time-lapse wide-field and confocal microscopy.** Cells were analyzed by time-lapse microscopy  
30 in 35-mm glass-bottom culture dishes (GWST-3522, WillCo) in SC media at 30°C essentially as  
31 described (Ferrezuelo *et al*, 2012), using a fully-motorized Leica AF7000 microscope with a  
32 63X/1.3NA oil-immersion objective. Time-lapse images were analyzed with the aid of BudJ, an  
33 ImageJ (Wayne Rasband, NIH) plugin to obtain cell dimensions and fluorescence data as

1 described (Ferrezuelo *et al*, 2012). Intracellular foci were detected with BudJ as pixels with a  
2 fluorescence value above a certain threshold relative to the median cell fluorescence that  
3 produced a contiguous area with a minimum size (both set by the user). In a typical set up,  
4 pixels were selected if at least 30% brighter than the cell median, with a minimal size of 0.2  
5  $\mu\text{m}$ . Photobleaching during acquisition was negligible (less than 0.1% per time point) and  
6 autofluorescence was always subtracted. Images z-stacks were obtained in a Zeiss 780  
7 confocal microscope, and processed with ImageJ to produce average projections.

8 **Mutual-inhibition mathematical model.** A wiring diagram and a set of differential equations  
9 were produced with the aid of COPASI (Hoops *et al*, 2006) to describe the mutual inhibition  
10 framework (Fig EV5A). First, we considered SG factors as either free components ( $SG_{Comp}$ ) or in  
11 a condensed state ( $SG$ ), the stress signal ( $Stress$ ) acting as a positive modulator in their  
12 condensation. Regarding SG dissolution, we assumed two independent mechanisms, a basal  
13 process that reverses condensation in the absence of stress, and a Cdk-dependent dissolution  
14 reaction, in which active Cdk ( $Cdk_{Cyc}$ ) acts as an enzyme with specific catalytic ( $k_c$ ) and  
15 Michaelis-Menten ( $K_M$ ) constants. In turn, active Cdk ( $Cdk_{Cyc}$ ) is inactivated ( $Cdk$ ) as a function  
16 of condensed SG factors ( $SG$ ) to simulate translation inhibition of G1 cyclin mRNAs by SGs.  
17 Finally, we assumed stress-independent reactivation kinetics of the Cdk. With the exception of  
18 Cdk-dependent SG dissolution, all processes were defined by mass-action laws with explicit  
19 rate constants. This simplicity allowed us to estimate all kinetic parameters from experimental  
20 data using COPASI in deterministic mode. First, the  $K_M$  for Cdc28 was previously determined *in*  
21 *vitro* (Bouchoux & Uhlmann, 2011), and the maximal substrate concentration in SGs ( $SG_{max}$ )  
22 was estimated as described in Fig EV5B, allowing us to obtain a relative  $K_{Mr} = K_M / SG_{max}$ . We  
23 obtained the basal SG-dissolution rate constant ( $k_{bd}$ ) by fitting the model to SG dissolution in  
24 the *cdc28-13* mutant in the absence of stress (Fig EV5C), where all other variables have no  
25 effect. We then used SG formation and dissolution data from wild-type cells to estimate the  
26 remaining rate constants (Fig EV5D).

27 **Miscellaneous.** Determination of mRNA levels by RT-qPCR and immunofluorescence analysis in  
28 yeast (Wang *et al*, 2004) and HeLa (Ruiz-Miro *et al*, 2011) cells were performed as described.  
29 Used antibodies are listed in Table EV3.

30 **Statistical analysis.** Sample size is always indicated in the Fig legend. For single-cell or single-  
31 focus data, median and quartile (Q) values are shown. Pairwise comparisons were performed  
32 with a Mann-Whitney U test; and the resulting p-values are shown in the corresponding Fig  
33 panels. Time-lapse data from single cells during SG formation or dissolution are represented as  
34 the mean value of the population along time, while the shaded area represents the 95%

1 confidence limits of the mean. Protein and mRNA levels were determined in triplicate samples  
2 and mean + SEM values are shown. Venn diagrams were generated with InteractiVenn  
3 (Heberle *et al*, 2015).

4 **Data and software availability.** The model was deposited in the BioModels (Chelliah *et al*,  
5 2015) database as MODEL2003140002 in SBML format together with a COPASI (Hoops *et al*,  
6 2006) file to reproduce simulations with the parameter set shown in Fig EV5. BudJ (Ferrezuelo  
7 *et al*, 2012) can be obtained as an ImageJ (Wayne Rasband, NIH) plugin from  
8 [ibmb.csic.es/groups/spatial-control-of-cell-cycle-entry](http://ibmb.csic.es/groups/spatial-control-of-cell-cycle-entry).

9

## References

- Alberti S & Dormann D (2019) Liquid–liquid phase separation in disease. *Annu. Rev. Genet.* **53**: 171–196
- Alberti S, Gladfelter A & Mittag T (2019) Considerations and challenges in studying liquid-liquid phase separation and biomolecular condensates. *Cell* **176**: 419–434
- Banani SF, Lee HO, Hyman AA & Rosen MK (2017) Biomolecular condensates: organizers of cellular biochemistry. *Nat. Rev. Mol. Cell Biol.* **18**: 285–298
- Bellí G, Garí E, Aldea M & Herrero E (2001) Osmotic stress causes a G1 cell cycle delay and downregulation of Cln3/Cdc28 activity in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. *Mol. Microbiol.* **39**: 1022–1035
- Bertrand E, Chartrand P, Schaefer M, Shenoy SM, Singer RH & Long RM (1998) Localization of ASH1 mRNA particles in living yeast. *Mol. Cell* **2**: 437–445
- Bouchoux C & Uhlmann F (2011) A quantitative model for ordered Cdk substrate dephosphorylation during mitotic exit. *Cell* **147**: 803–814
- Bratek-Skicki A, Panca R, Meszaros B, Van Lindt J & Tompa P (2020) A guide to regulation of the formation of biomolecular condensates. *FEBS J.*: (online ahead of print)
- Buchan JR, Kolaitis RM, Taylor JP & Parker R (2013) Eukaryotic stress granules are cleared by autophagy and Cdc48/VCP function. *Cell* **153**: 1461–1474
- Buchan JR, Muhlrud D & Parker R (2008) P bodies promote stress granule assembly in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. *J. Cell Biol.* **183**: 441–455
- Cai Y & Futcher B (2013) Effects of the yeast RNA-binding protein Whi3 on the half-life and abundance of CLN3 mRNA and other targets. *PLoS One* **8**: e84630
- Chelliah V, Juty N, Ajmera I, Ali R, Dumousseau M, Glont M, Hucka M, Jalowicki G, Keating S, Knight-Schrijver V, Lloret-Villas A, Natarajan KN, Pettit J-B, Rodriguez N, Schubert M, Wimalaratne SM, Zhao Y, Hermjakob H, Le Novère N & Laibe C (2015) BioModels: ten-year anniversary. *Nucleic Acids Res.* **43**: D542–D548
- Colomina N, Ferrezuelo F, Wang H, Aldea M & Gari E (2008) Whi3, a developmental regulator of budding yeast, binds a large set of mRNAs functionally related to the endoplasmic reticulum. *J. Biol. Chem.* **283**: 28670–28679

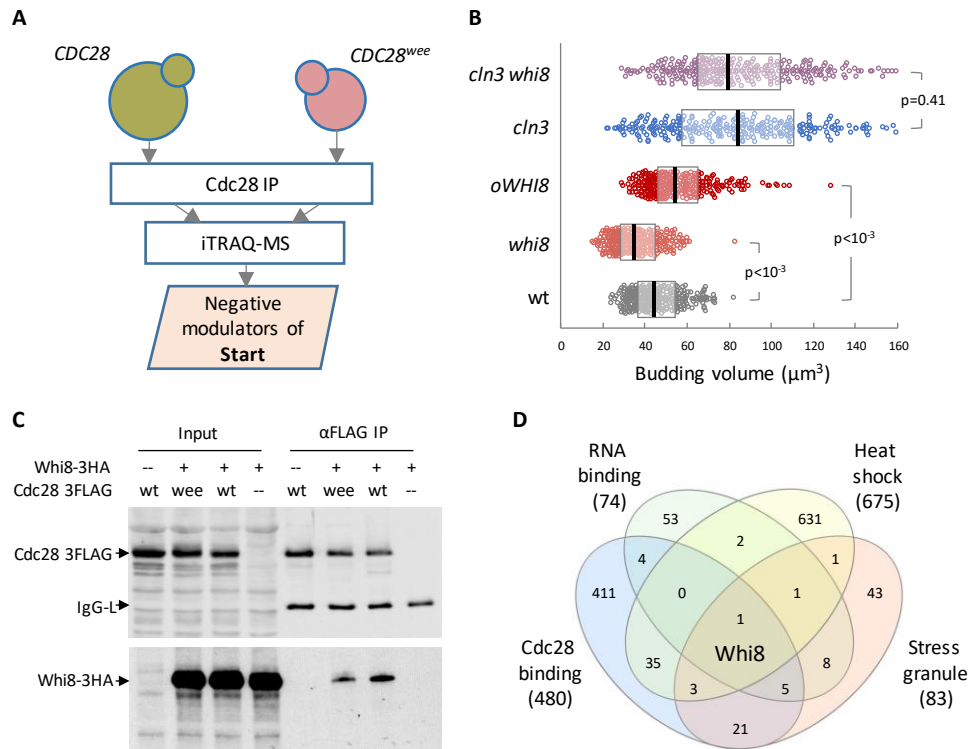
- Crawford RA & Pavitt GD (2019) Translational regulation in response to stress in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. *Yeast* **36**: 5–21
- Ferrezuelo F, Colomina N, Palmisano A, Garí E, Gallego C, Csikász-Nagy A & Aldea M (2012) The critical size is set at a single-cell level by growth rate to attain homeostasis and adaptation. *Nat. Commun.* **3**: 1012
- Gallego C, Garí E, Colomina N, Herrero E & Aldea M (1997) The Cln3 cyclin is down-regulated by translational repression and degradation during the G1 arrest caused by nitrogen deprivation in budding yeast. *EMBO J.* **16**: 7196–7206
- Garí E, Piedrafita L, Aldea M & Herrero E (1997) A set of vectors with a tetracycline-regulatable promoter system for modulated gene expression in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. *Yeast* **13**: 837–848
- Garí E, Volpe T, Wang HY, Gallego C, Futcher B, Aldea M, Gari E, Volpe T, Wang HY, Gallego C, Futcher B, Aldea M, Garí E, Volpe T, Wang HY, Gallego C, Futcher B & Aldea M (2001) Whi3 binds the mRNA of the G1 cyclin CLN3 to modulate cell fate in budding yeast. *Genes Dev.* **15**: 2803–8
- González-Novo A, Jiménez J, Clotet J, Nadal-Ribelles M, Cavero S, de Nadal E & Posas F (2015) Hog1 targets Whi5 and Msa1 transcription factors to downregulate cyclin expression upon stress. *Mol. Cell. Biol.* **35**: 1606–1618
- Heberle H, Meirelles GV, da Silva FR, Telles GP & Minghim R (2015) InteractiVenn: a web-based tool for the analysis of sets through Venn diagrams. *BMC Bioinformatics* **16**: 169
- Ho B, Baryshnikova A & Brown GW (2018) Unification of Protein Abundance Datasets Yields a Quantitative *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* Proteome. *Cell Syst.* **6**: 192–205
- Holmes KJ, Klass DM, Guiney EL & Cyert MS (2013) Whi3, an *S. cerevisiae* RNA-binding protein, is a component of stress granules that regulates levels of its target mRNAs. *PLoS One* **8**: e84060
- Holt LJ, Tuch BB, Villén J, Johnson AD, Gygi SP & Morgan DO (2009) Global analysis of Cdk1 substrate phosphorylation sites provides insights into evolution. *Science* **325**: 1682–6
- Hoops S, Sahle S, Gauges R, Lee C, Pahle J, Simus N, Singhal M, Xu L, Mendes P & Kummer U (2006) COPASI—a complex pathway simulator. *Bioinformatics* **22**: 3067–3074
- Jain S, Wheeler JR, Walters RW, Agrawal A, Barsic A & Parker R (2016) ATPase-modulated stress granules contain a diverse proteome and substructure. *Cell* **164**: 487–498
- Kedersha N & Anderson P (2007) Mammalian stress granules and processing bodies. *Methods Enzymol.* **431**: 61–81
- Khong A, Matheny T, Jain S, Mitchell SF, Wheeler JR & Parker R (2017) The stress granule transcriptome reveals principles of mRNA accumulation in stress granules. *Mol. Cell* **68**: 808–820
- Kojima R, Kajiura S, Sesaki H, Endo T & Tamura Y (2016) Identification of multi-copy suppressors for endoplasmic reticulum-mitochondria tethering proteins in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. *FEBS Lett.* **590**: 3061–3070
- Louvion JF, Havaux-Copf B & Picard D (1993) Fusion of GAL4-VP16 to a steroid-binding domain provides a tool for gratuitous induction of galactose-responsive genes in yeast. *Gene* **131**: 129–134



- Moreno DF, Parisi E, Yahya G, Vaggi F, Csikász-Nagy A & Aldea M (2019) Competition in the chaperone-client network subordinates cell-cycle entry to growth and stress. *Life Sci. Alliance* **2**: e201800277
- De Nadal E, Ammerer G & Posas F (2011) Controlling gene expression in response to stress. *Nat. Rev. Genet.* **12**: 833–845
- Namkoong S, Ho A, Woo YM, Kwak H & Lee JH (2018) Systematic characterization of stress-induced RNA granulation. *Mol. Cell* **70**: 175–187
- Parisi E, Yahya G, Flores A & Aldea M (2018) Cdc48 / p97 segregase is modulated by Cdk to determine cyclin fate during G1 progression. *EMBO J.* **37**: e98724
- Protter DSW & Parker R (2016) Principles and properties of stress granules. *Trends Cell Biol.* **26**: 668–679
- Rai AK, Chen JX, Selbach M & Pelkmans L (2018) Kinase-controlled phase transition of membraneless organelles in mitosis. *Nature* **559**: 211–216
- Rowley A, Johnston GC, Butler B, Werner-Washburne M & Singer RA (1993) Heat shock-mediated cell cycle blockage and G1 cyclin expression in the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. *Mol. Cell. Biol.* **13**: 1034–1041
- Ruiz-Miro M, Colomina N, Fernandez RMH, Gari E, Gallego C & Aldea M (2011) Translokain (Cep57) interacts with cyclin D1 and prevents its nuclear accumulation in quiescent fibroblasts. *Traffic* **12**: 549–562
- Shah KH, Nostramo R, Zhang B, Varia SN, Klett BM & Herman PK (2014) Protein kinases are associated with multiple, distinct cytoplasmic granules in quiescent yeast cells. *Genetics* **198**: 1495–1512
- Shattuck JE, Paul KR, Cascarina SM & Ross ED (2019) The prion-like protein kinase Sky1 is required for efficient stress granule disassembly. *Nat. Commun.* **10**: 3614
- Shin Y & Brangwynne CP (2017) Liquid phase condensation in cell physiology and disease. *Science (80-. )*. **357**: eaaf4382
- Snead WT & Gladfelter AS (2019) The control centers of biomolecular phase separation: how membrane surfaces, PTMs, and active processes regulate condensation. *Mol. Cell* **76**: 295–305
- Solé C, Nadal-Ribelles M, de Nadal E & Posas F (2015) A novel role for lncRNAs in cell cycle control during stress adaptation. *Curr. Genet.* **61**: 299–308
- Solomon S, Xu Y, Wang B, David MD, Schubert P, Kennedy D & Schrader JW (2007) Distinct structural features of caprin-1 mediate its interaction with G3BP-1 and its induction of phosphorylation of eukaryotic translation initiation factor 2alpha, entry to cytoplasmic stress granules, and selective interaction with a subset of mRNAs. *Mol. Cell. Biol.* **27**: 2324–42
- Van Treeck B, Protter DSW, Matheny T, Khong A, Link CD & Parker R (2018) RNA self-assembly contributes to stress granule formation and defining the stress granule transcriptome. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.* **115**: 2734–2739
- Tsai N-P, Ho P-C & Wei L-N (2008) Regulation of stress granule dynamics by Grb7 and FAK signalling pathway. *EMBO J.* **27**: 715–26
- Vai M, Popolo L & Alberghina L (1987) Effect of tunicamycin on cell cycle progression in budding yeast. *Exp. Cell Res.* **171**: 448–59



- Vergés E, Colomina N, Garí E, Gallego C & Aldea M (2007) Cyclin Cln3 is retained at the ER and released by the J chaperone Ydj1 in late G1 to trigger cell cycle entry. *Mol. Cell* **26**: 649–662
- Wang B, Maxwell BA, Joo JH, Gwon Y, Messing J, Mishra A, Shaw TI, Ward AL, Quan H, Sakurada SM, Pruett-Miller SM, Bertorini T, Vogel P, Kim HJ, Peng J, Taylor JP & Kundu M (2019) ULK1 and ULK2 regulate stress Granule disassembly through phosphorylation and activation of VCP/p97. *Mol. Cell* **74**: 742–757
- Wang HY, Garí E, Vergés E, Gallego C & Aldea M (2004) Recruitment of Cdc28 by Whi3 restricts nuclear accumulation of the G1 cyclin-Cdk complex to late G1. *EMBO J.* **23**: 180–190
- Wippich F, Bodenmiller B, Trajkovska MG, Wanka S, Aebersold R & Pelkmans L (2013) Dual specificity kinase DYRK3 couples stress granule condensation/dissolution to mTORC1 signaling. *Cell* **152**: 791–805
- Yahya G, Parisi E, Flores A, Gallego C & Aldea M (2014) A Whi7-Anchored Loop Controls the G1 Cdk-Cyclin Complex at Start. *Mol. Cell* **53**: 115–126
- Yang X, Shen Y, Garre E, Hao X, Krumlinde D, Cvijović M, Arens C, Nyström T, Liu B & Sunnerhagen P (2014) Stress granule-defective mutants deregulate stress responsive transcripts. *PLoS Genet.* **10**: e1004763
- Yoon J-H, Choi E-J & Parker R (2010) Dcp2 phosphorylation by Ste20 modulates stress granule assembly and mRNA decay in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. *J. Cell Biol.* **189**: 813–27
- Youn JY, Dunham WH, Hong SJ, Knight JDR, Bashkurov M, Chen GI, Bagci H, Rathod B, MacLeod G, Eng SWM, Angers S, Morris Q, Fabian M, Côté JF & Gingras AC (2018) High-density proximity mapping reveals the subcellular organization of mRNA-associated granules and bodies. *Mol. Cell* **69**: 517–532



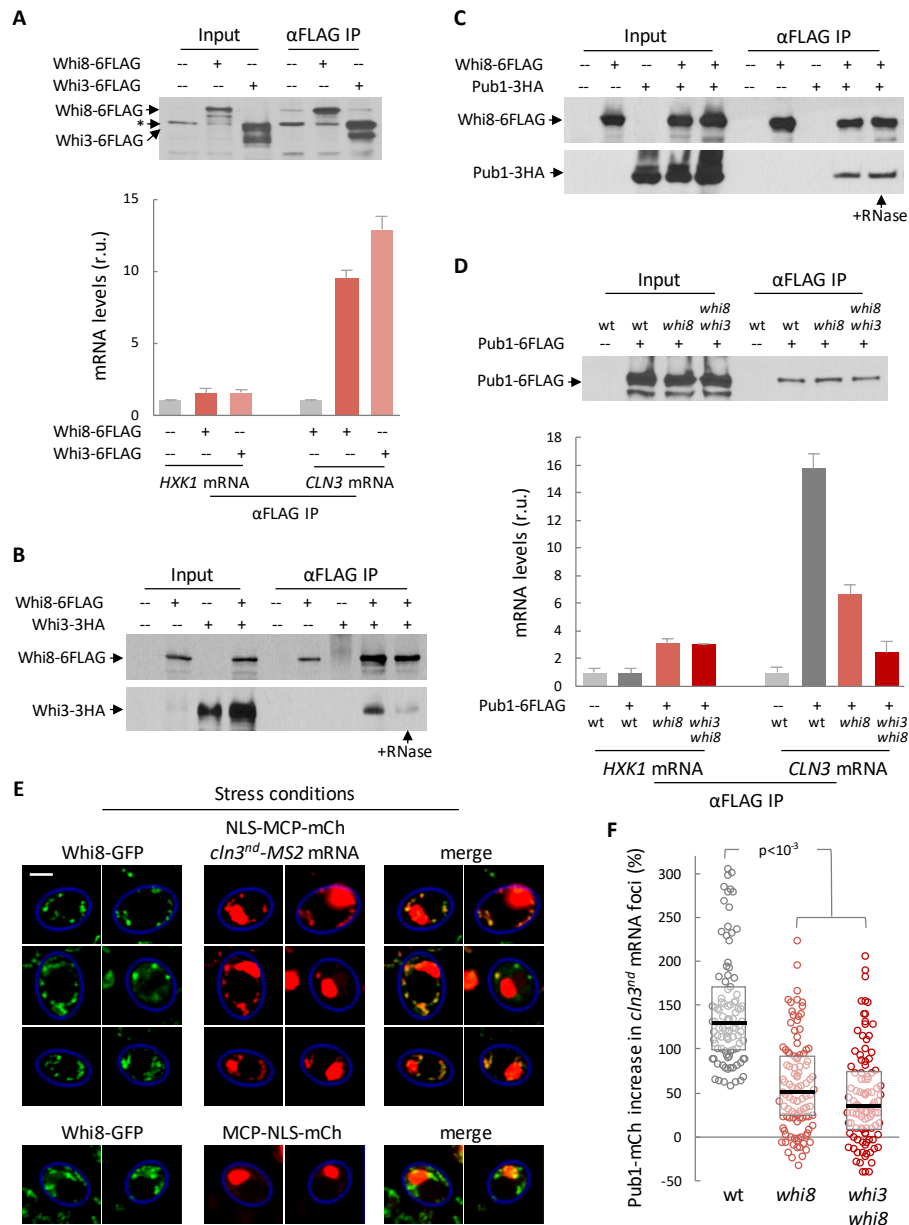
**Figure 1 - Whi8 is a Cdc28 interactor that hinders cell cycle entry.**

A Schematic of the screen for Cdc28 interactors as negative regulators of Start (Yahya *et al*, 2014). Briefly, pulldowns of wild-type and *wee* Cdc28 were analyzed by iTRAQ-based proteomics to identify proteins with a reduced affinity for Cdc28<sup>wee</sup>.

B Cells with the indicated genotypes were analyzed to determine cell size at budding. Individual data ( $n > 300$ ) and median  $\pm$  Q values are plotted. Shown p-values were obtained using a Mann-Whitney U test.

C Immunoblot of input and  $\alpha$ FLAG immunoprecipitation samples from *WHI8-3HA* cells expressing wild-type or mutant (*wee*) Cdc28-3FLAG proteins.

D Venn diagram showing the overlapping of proteins that are (1) physical interactors of Cdc28, (2) contain demonstrated or putative RNA-binding domains, (3) are upregulated by heat shock and (4) were identified as SG components.



**Figure 2 - Whi8 binds and recruits the CLN3 mRNA to SGs.**

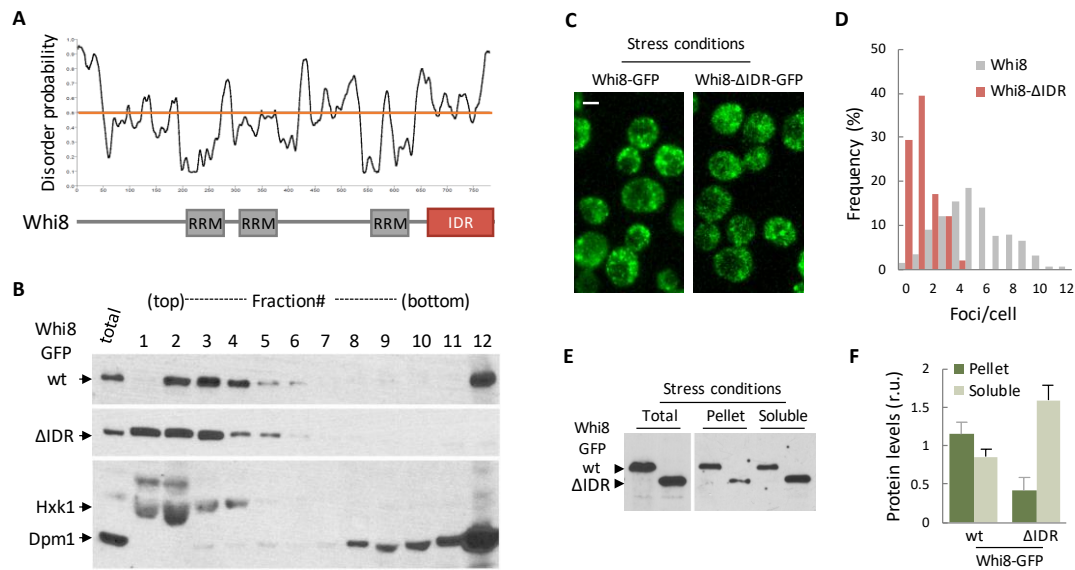
A Immunoblot of input and αFLAG immunoprecipitation samples from *WHI8-6FLAG*, *WHI3-6FLAG* or untagged cells (top). Levels of *CLN3* and *HXK1* (as control) mRNAs in immunoprecipitates were determined and mean + SEM values (n=3) are plotted (bottom).

B, C Immunoblots of input and αFLAG immunoprecipitation samples from cells expressing the indicated proteins. RNase was added during immunoprecipitation when indicated.

D Immunoblot of input and αFLAG immunoprecipitation samples from wild-type, *whi8* or double *whi8 whi3* mutant cells expressing Pub1-6FLAG (top). Levels of *CLN3* and *HXK1* (as control) mRNAs were determined and mean + SEM values (n=3) are plotted (bottom).

E Control (bottom) or *cln3<sup>nd</sup>-MS2* cells expressing Whi8-GFP and MCP-NLS-mCherry after 30 min at 42°C in the absence of glucose. Bar, 2 μm.

F Cells with the indicated genotypes expressing Pub1-mCherry, MCP-NLS-GFP and a *cln3<sup>nd</sup>-MS2* mRNA were stressed for 30 min at 42°C in the absence of glucose, and the relative increase of Pub1-mCherry in *cln3<sup>nd</sup>-MS2* foci was measured. Individual data (n=100) and median ± Q values are plotted. Shown p-values were obtained using a Mann-Whitney U test.



**Figure 3 - Whi8 contains an IDR important for SG recruitment.**

A Disorder probability of Whi8 amino acids and predicted RRM and IDR.

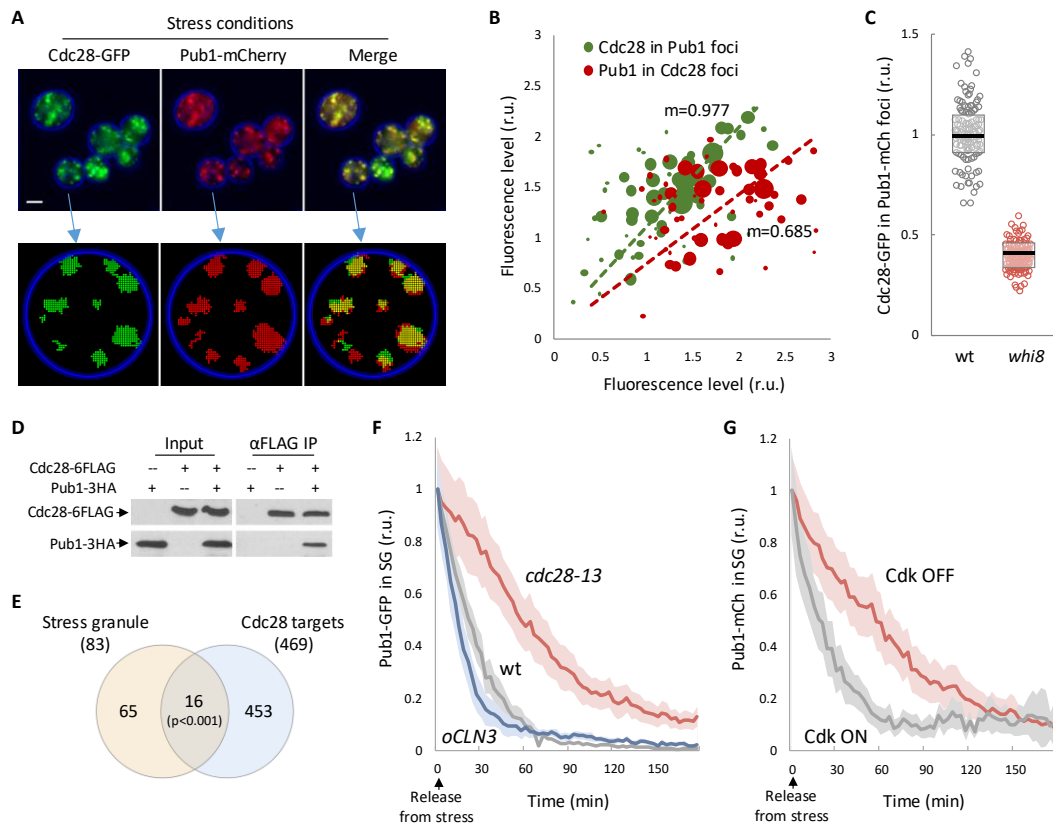
B Immunoblot analysis of the distribution of wild-type and  $\Delta$ IDR Whi8-GFP in sucrose gradients. Hxk1 and Dpm1 are shown as soluble and ER markers, respectively.

C Maximum projections of confocal images from cells expressing wild-type and  $\Delta$ IDR Whi8-GFP after 30 min at 42°C in the absence of glucose. Bar, 2  $\mu$ m.

D Cells expressing wild-type and  $\Delta$ IDR Whi8-GFP were treated at 42°C in the absence of glucose, and analyzed as in Fig 4A. Foci frequencies per cell are plotted.

E Immunoblot of wild-type and  $\Delta$ IDR Whi8-GFP in the indicated fractions from cells as in D.

F Whi8-GFP levels as in e were quantified and mean + SEM values (n=3) are plotted.



**Figure 4 - Cdc28 is recruited to SGs and modulates SG dynamics.**

A Maximum projections of confocal images from cells expressing Cdc8-GFP and Pub1-mCherry after 30 min at 42°C in the absence of glucose (top). Bar, 2 μm. GFP and mCherry foci detected for quantification in a sample cell with the aid of BudJ are also shown (bottom).

B Cdc8-GFP levels in Pub1-mCherry foci (n=60), and vice versa, from cells as in (A) are plotted with point diameter corresponding to foci size. Slope (m) values are also shown.

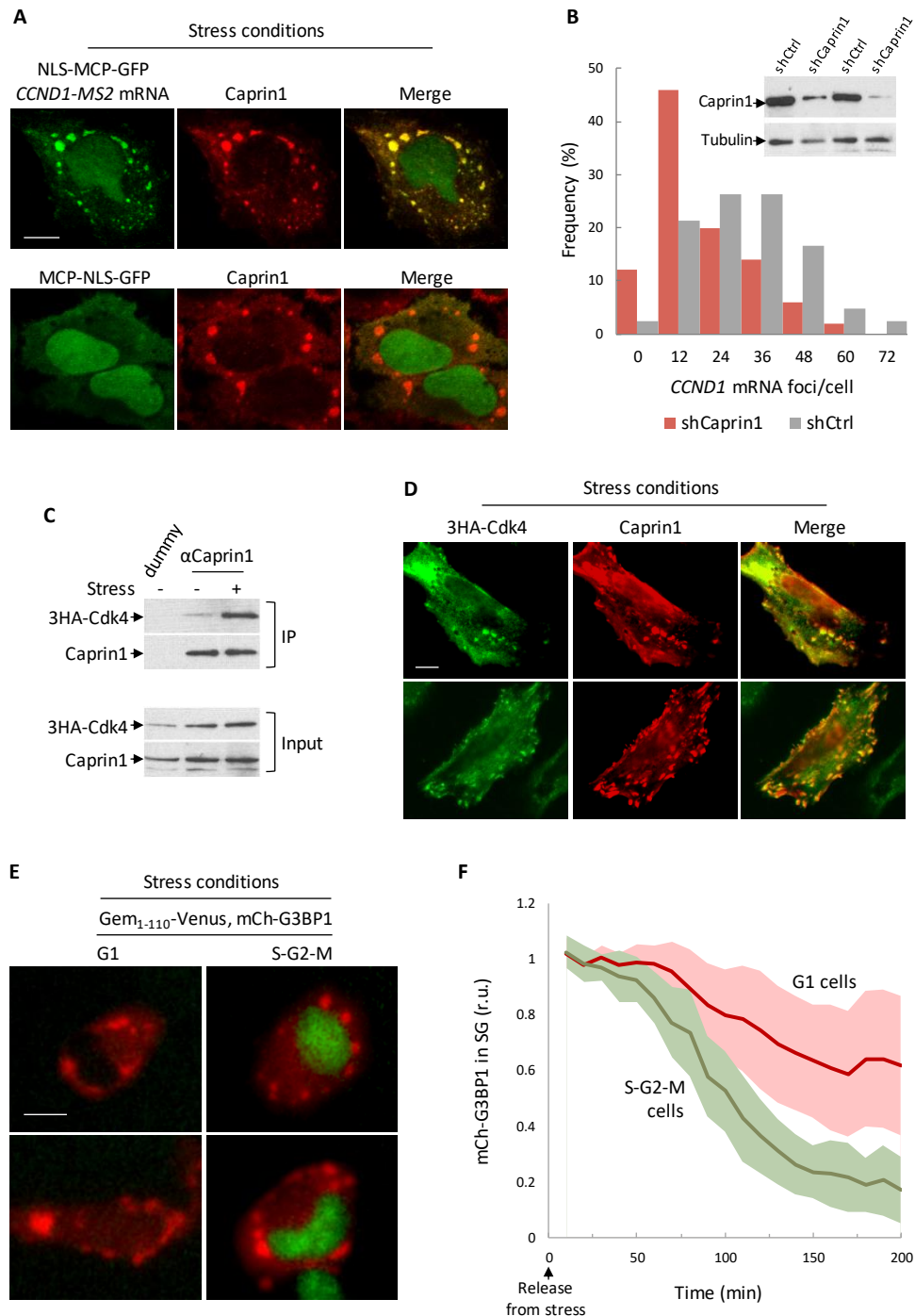
C Cdc8-GFP levels in Pub1-mCherry foci were measured in wild-type and *whi8* cells stressed for 30 min at 42°C in the absence of glucose. Individual data (n=125) and median ± Q values are plotted.

D Immunoblot of input and αFLAG immunoprecipitation samples from cells expressing Cdc28-6FLAG and Pub1-3HA.

E Venn diagram showing the overlapping of proteins that (1) were identified as SG components and (2) are putative phosphorylation targets of Cdc28. The indicated p-value was obtained assuming completely independent allocations.

F Wild-type, *cdc28-13* and *oCLN3* (*tetO<sub>2</sub>-CLN3*) cells expressing Pub1-mCherry were stressed for 30 min at 42°C in the absence of glucose and, once released at 37°C in the presence of glucose, Pub1-mCherry levels in foci were measured at different time points. Mean values (n>30) and confidence limits for the mean (α=0.05) are plotted.

G *GALp-CLN3 cln1,2* expressing Pub1-mCherry were grown in galactose and arrested in G1 by transfer to glucose for 2 hr (Cdk OFF). Cells were then stressed for 30 min at 42°C in the absence of glucose and, once released at 30°C in the presence of glucose to maintain the G1 arrest, Pub1-mCherry levels in foci were measured at different time points. As control, *CLN3 cln1,2* cells (Cdk ON) were subject to the same experimental conditions. Mean values (n>30) and confidence limits for the mean (α=0.05) are plotted.



**Figure 5 - Mammalian SGs contain Cdk-cyclin factors and are modulated by cell cycle position.**

A HeLa cells expressing NLS-MCP-GFP and either a *CCND1-MS2* mRNA or none (as control) were subject to 0.5 mM NaAsO<sub>2</sub> for 30 min and analyzed by immunofluorescence with a αCaprin1 antibody. Bar, 5 μm.

B HeLa cells expressing NLS-MCP-GFP, a *CCND1-MS2* mRNA and either shCaprin1 or shCtrl were subject to 0.5 mM NaAsO<sub>2</sub> for 30 min, and analyzed as in Fig 4A. Foci frequencies per cell are plotted. Inset: Immunoblot analysis of Caprin1 levels in total extracts of HeLa cells expressing shCaprin1 or shCtrl. Tubulin serves as loading control.

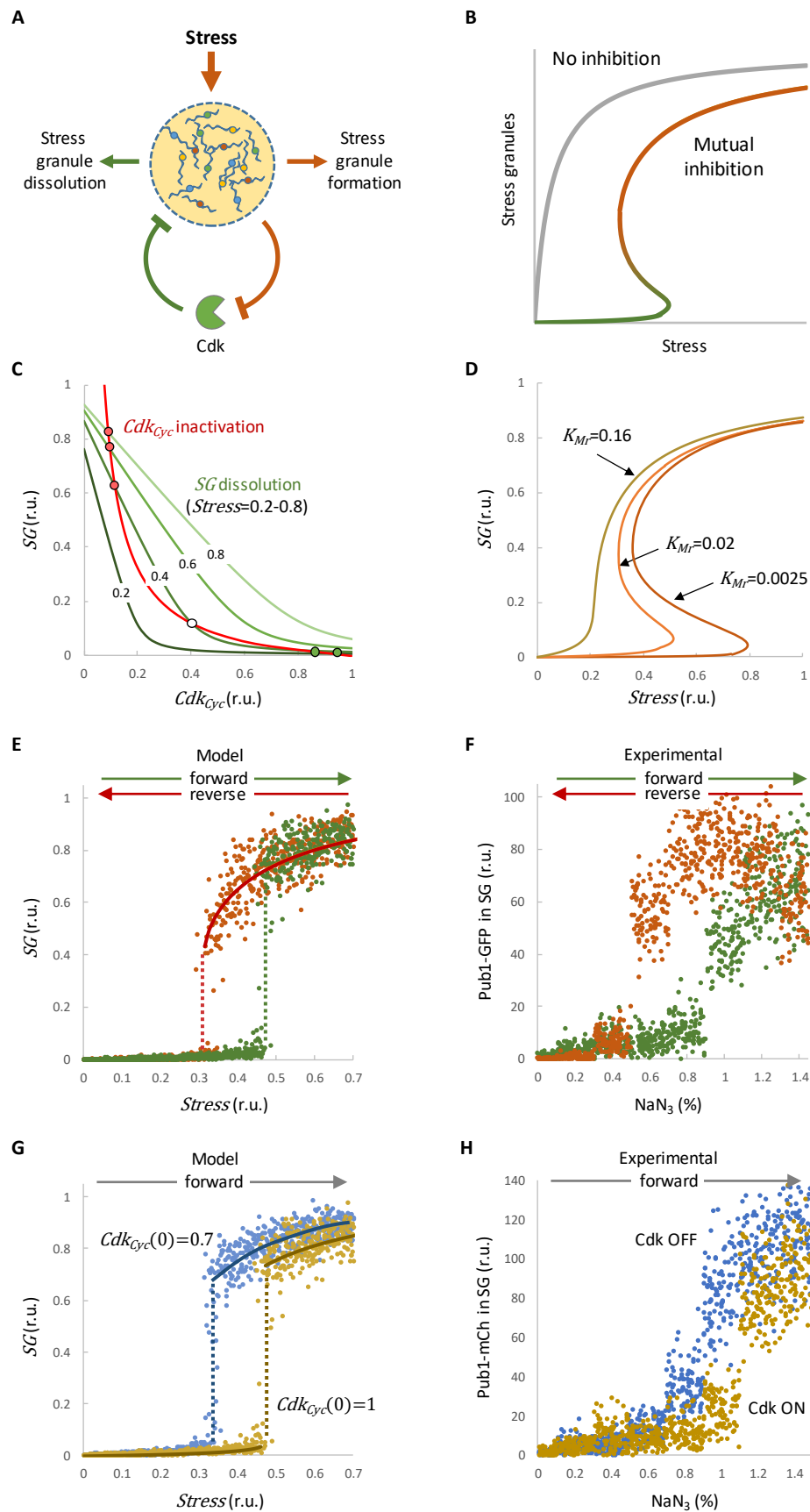
C Immunoblot of input and  $\alpha$ Caprin1 immunoprecipitation samples from HeLa cells expressing 3HA-Cdk4 in the presence (+) or absence (-) of 0.5 mM NaAsO<sub>2</sub> for 30 min.

D HeLa cells expressing 3HA-Cdk4 were subject to 0.5 mM NaAsO<sub>2</sub> for 30 min and analyzed by immunofluorescence with  $\alpha$ HA and  $\alpha$ Caprin1 antibodies. Bar, 5  $\mu$ m.

E Representative images of U2OS cells expressing Geminin<sub>1-110</sub>-mVenus and mCherry-G3BP1 after treatment with 0.5 mM NaAsO<sub>2</sub> for 30 min. Bar, 5  $\mu$ m.

F U2OS cells expressing Geminin<sub>1-110</sub>-mVenus and mCherry-G3BP1 were treated with 0.5 mM NaAsO<sub>2</sub> for 30 min as in (E) and, once released in fresh medium, mCherry-G3BP1 levels in foci were measured at different time points. Mean values (n=25) and confidence limits for the mean ( $\alpha=0.05$ ) are plotted.





**Figure 6 - Mutual inhibition as a bistable system for SG dynamics.**

A SGs maintain cyclin mRNAs translationally inactive and, hence, inactivate the Cdk. In turn, active Cdk promotes SG dissolution and cyclin mRNA release and translation, thus accelerating SG disassembly.

B SG and Cdk mutual inhibition creates a bistable system that elicits SG formation only above a certain degree of stress and maintains SG integrity until normal conditions are almost fully restored.

C Steady-state balance plots of *SG* and *Cdk<sub>cyc</sub>* as derived from *Stress*-modulated SG dissolution by active Cdk (green lines) or Cdk inactivation by SGs (red line) reactions. Unstable (white circle) and stable (red and green circles) steady states are indicated.

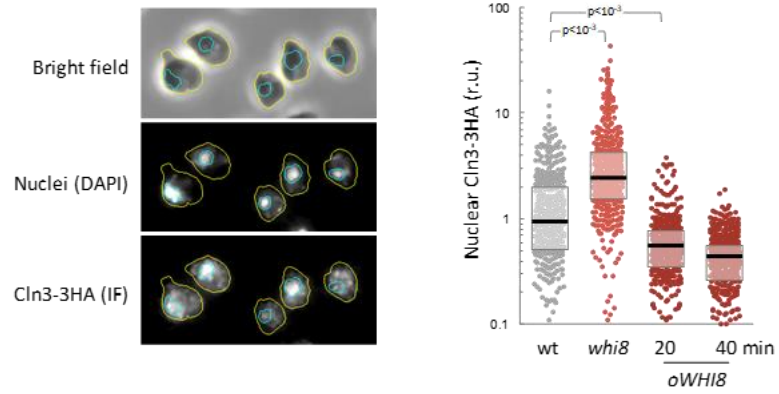
D *SG* steady states vs *Stress* as a function of the  $K_{Mr}$ .

E Simulations of *SG* levels in forward or reverse modes. The plot shows final *SG* steady states when the initial *Stress* variable was set to 0 (forward mode, green) or set to 1 (reverse mode, red), simulating non-stressed and stressed cells, respectively. Both deterministic (lines) and stochastic (dots) simulations are shown.

F SG steady-state levels in forward or reverse mode experiments. In forward mode (green), exponentially-growing wild-type cells expressing Pub1-GFP were subject to different  $\text{NaN}_3$  concentrations for 60 min. In reverse mode, cells were first subject to 1.4%  $\text{NaN}_3$  for 60 min, and then incubated in the presence of different  $\text{NaN}_3$  concentrations for an additional 60-min period. Pub1-GFP levels in foci were measured in single cells ( $n>300$ ) and bootstrapped ( $n=50$ ) mean values are plotted.

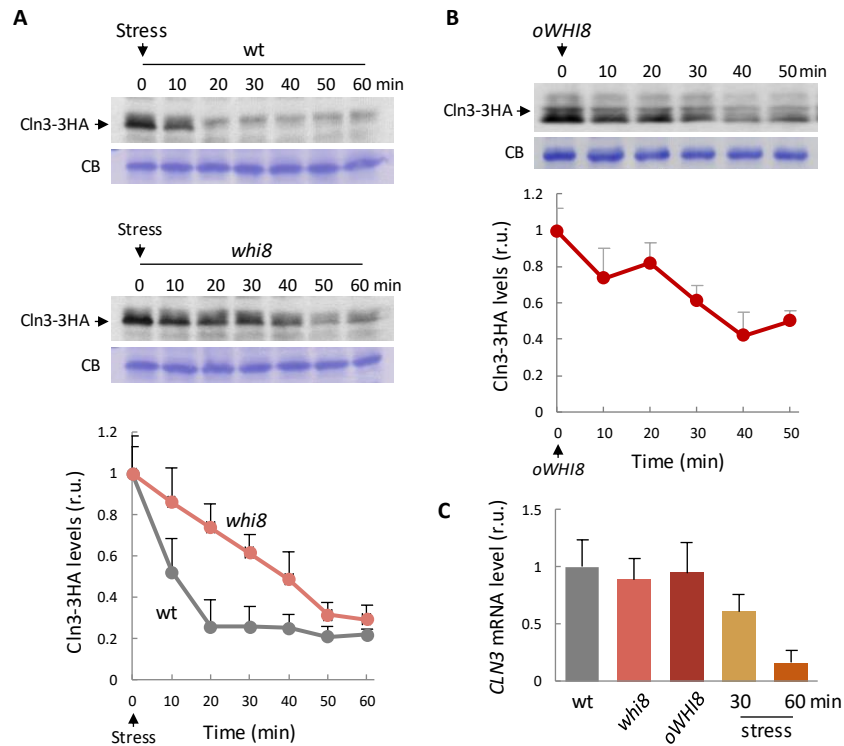
G Simulations of *SG* levels as a function of the total Cdk levels in forward mode. The plot shows final *SG* steady states when the initial *Cdk<sub>cyc</sub>* variable was set to 1 (yellow) or reduced to 0.7 (blue). Both deterministic (lines) and stochastic (dots) simulations are shown.

H SG steady-state levels in forward mode experiments with cycling and G1-arrested cells with no Cdk activity. *GALp-CLN3 cln1,2* expressing Pub1-mCherry were grown in galactose and arrested in G1 by transfer to glucose for 2 hr (Cdk OFF). Then, cells were stressed for 60 min in the presence of different  $\text{NaN}_3$  concentrations. As control, *CLN3 cln1,2* cells (Cdk ON) were subject to the same experimental conditions. Pub1-mCherry levels in foci were measured in single cells ( $n>300$ ) and bootstrapped ( $n=50$ ) mean values are plotted.



**Figure EV1 - Whi8 counteracts nuclear accumulation of Cln3.**

Cells with the indicated genotypes were analyzed to determine Cln3-3HA nuclear levels by immunofluorescence (left, Vergés *et al*, 2007). Individual data ( $n > 400$ ) and median  $\pm$  Q values are plotted (right). Shown p-values were obtained using a Mann-Whitney U test.



**Figure EV2 - Whi8 is required to inhibit *CLN3* mRNA translation under stress conditions.**

A Immunoblot analysis of Cln3-3HA after transferring wild-type (top) or *whi8* (bottom) cells to 42°C in the absence of glucose. Total cell extracts were stained with Coomassie blue and a prominent band is shown as loading control. Cln3-3HA levels were quantified and mean + SEM values (n=3) are plotted.

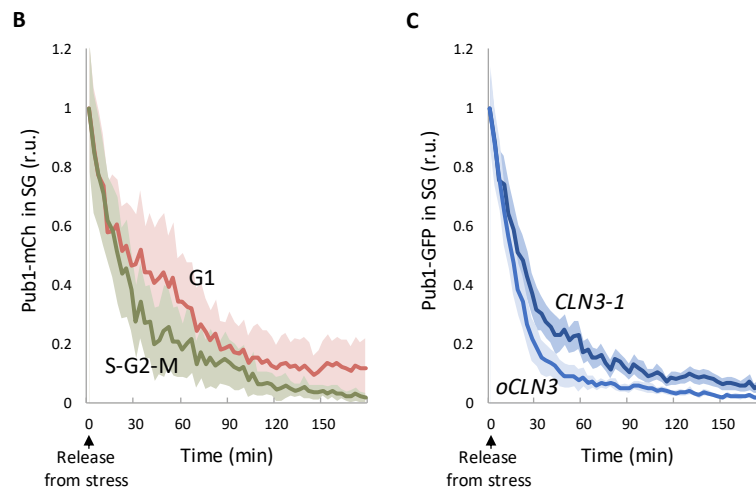
B Immunoblot analysis of Cln3-3HA after 1 μM β-estradiol addition to induce a *GAL1p-WHI8* fusion in cells expressing the Gal4-hER-VP16 transactivator. A prominent band in the total cell extract is shown as loading control. Cln3-3HA levels were quantified and mean + SEM values (n=3) are plotted.

C *CLN3* mRNA levels were determined in cells of the indicated genotypes under normal conditions, or 30-60 min after transfer to 42°C in the absence of glucose. Mean + SEM values (n=3) are plotted.

**A**

Cdc28 targets in SGs

Yeast	Human	Gene description
CDC33	EIF4E	Translation initiation factor eIF4E
FUN12	EIF5B	Translation initiation factor eIF5B
HSP26	HSPB1	Small heat shock protein (sHSP) with chaperone activity
KSP1	TBK1	Serine/threonine protein kinase
LEU1	ACO1	Isopropylmalate isomerase
NRP1	--	Putative RNA binding protein that localizes to stress granules
PBP1	ATXN2	Component of glucose deprivation induced stress granules
PPH21	PPP2CB	Catalytic subunit of protein phosphatase 2A, PP2A
RPS0A	RPSA	Subunit of the cytosolic small ribosomal subunit
SRO9	LARP1B	RNA-binding protein involved in cytoplasmic translation
TEF4	EEF1E1	Gamma subunit of translational elongation factor eEF1B
TIF35	EIF3G	eIF3g subunit of the eukaryotic translation initiation factor 3 (eIF3)
TIF4632	EIF4G1	Translation initiation factor eIF4G and scaffold protein
TYS1	YARS1	Tyrosine-tRNA ligase that couples tyrosine to tyrosyl-tRNA
WHI8	CAPRIN1	RNA binding protein that localizes to stress granules (this work)
YEF3	--	Translation elongation factor 3

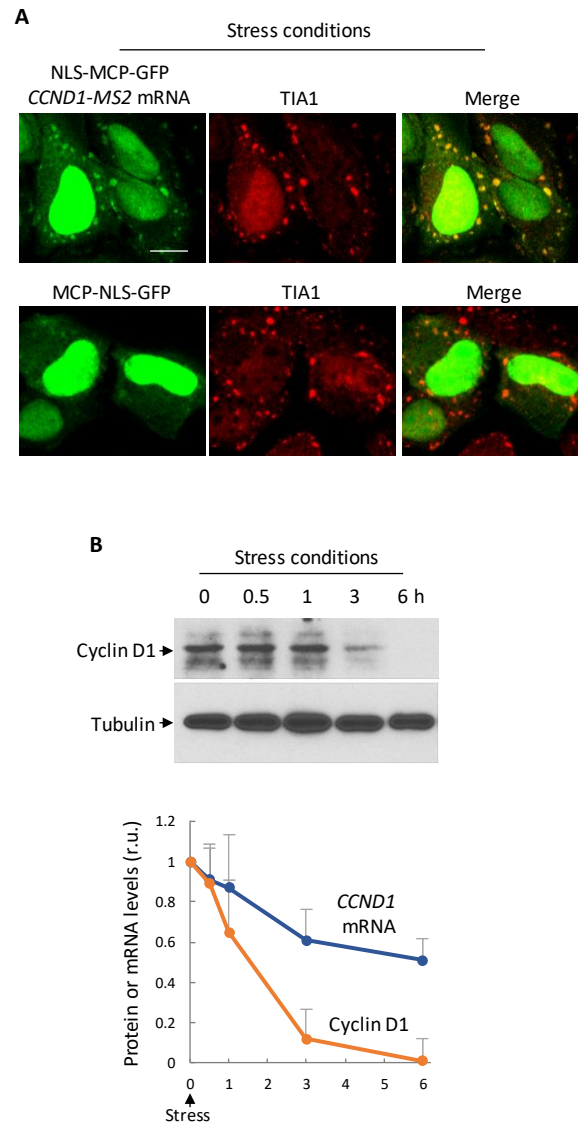


**Figure EV3 - Cdc28 modulates SG dynamics.**

A Proteins in SGs with experimentally validated phosphosites complying with a Cdk consensus: (S/T)P with at least one basic amino acid from -2 to +3.

B Wild-type cells expressing Pub1-mCherry were stressed for 30 min at 42°C in the absence of glucose and, once released at 30°C in the presence of glucose, Pub1-mCherry levels in foci were measured at different time points in unbudded (G1) or budded (S-G2-M) cells. Mean values ( $n>30$ ) and confidence limits for the mean ( $\alpha=0.05$ ) are plotted.

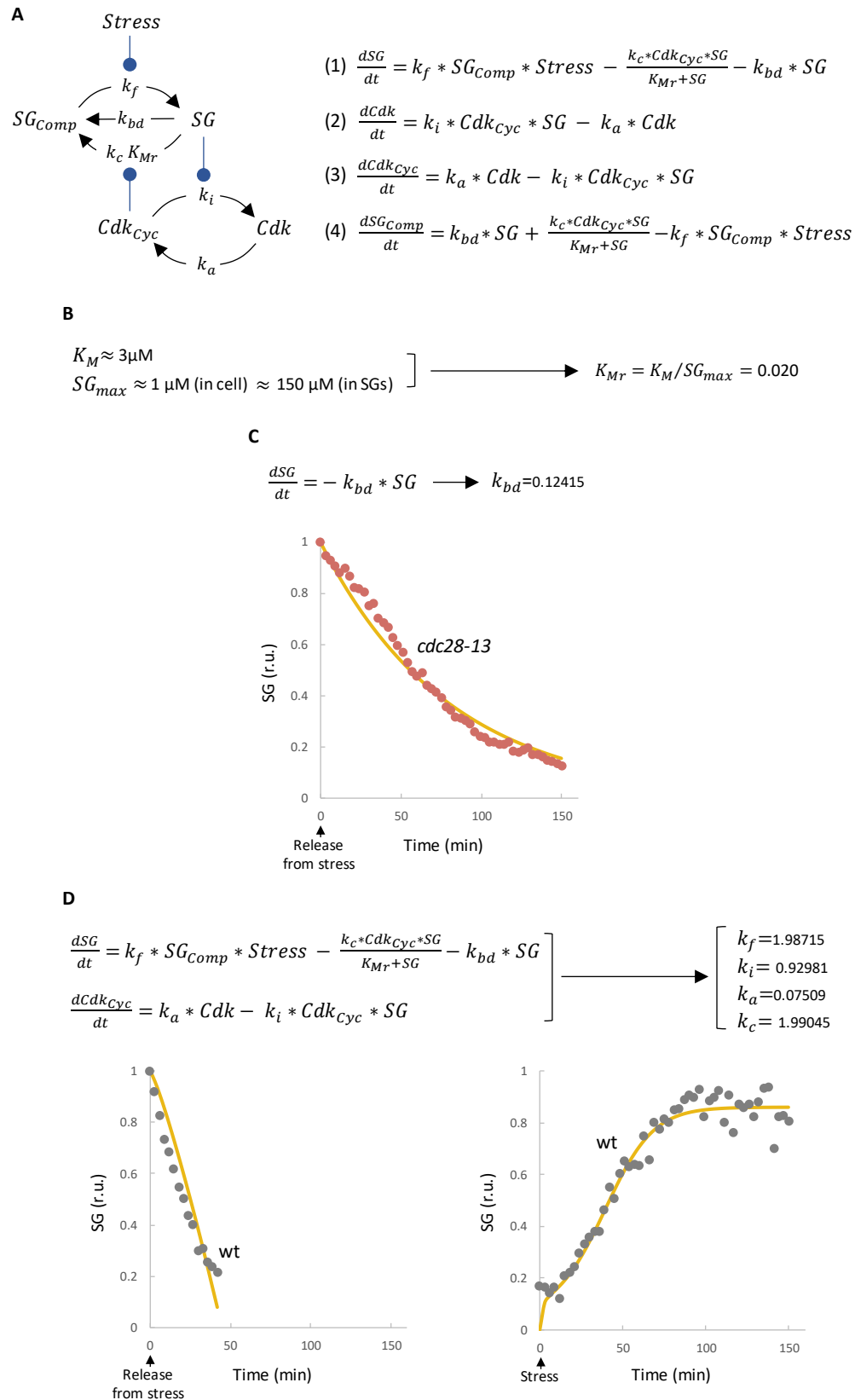
C Cells expressing Pub1-mCherry and a hyperstable allele (*CLN3-1*) or overexpressing wild-type Cln3 (*oCLN3*) from the *tetO<sub>2</sub>* promoter were stressed for 30 min at 42°C in the absence of glucose and, once released at 30°C in the presence of glucose, Pub1-mCherry levels in foci were measured at different time points. Mean values ( $n>30$ ) and confidence limits for the mean ( $\alpha=0.05$ ) are plotted.



**Figure EV4 - The *CCND1* mRNA is recruited to SGs and cyclin D1 levels are downregulated by stress.**

A HeLa cells expressing NLS-MCP-GFP and either a *CCND1-MS2* mRNA or none (as control) were subject to 0.5 mM NaAsO<sub>2</sub> for 30 min, and analyzed by immunofluorescence with a  $\alpha$ TIA1 antibody. Bar, 5  $\mu$ m.

B Immunoblot analysis of cyclin D1 in HeLa cells at the indicated times after addition of 0.5 mM NaAsO<sub>2</sub>. Tubulin is shown as loading control. Cyclin D1 protein and *CCND1* mRNA levels were quantified and mean + SEM values (n=3) are plotted.



**Figure EV5 - Equations and parameter fitting in the mutual-inhibition model.**

A Wire diagram of the mutual inhibition model opposing SG formation and Cdk activity. Variables and parameters used in the model are indicated. This model has four state variables:  $SG_{Comp}$ , SG free components;  $SG$ , SG condensed factors;  $Cdk_{Cyc}$ , active Cdk-cyclin complexes;



and *Cdk*, inactive Cdk molecules. With the exception of SG dissolution by Cdk, all reactions are driven by simple mass-action laws with explicit parameters. Stress acts on SG formation by modulating condensation of SG components with  $k_f$ , the formation rate constant. SG dissolution, in turn, takes place through (1) a default basal process with rate constant  $k_{bd}$ , and (2) a Cdk-mediated enzymatic mechanism with  $k_c$  (catalytic constant) and  $K_{Mr}$  (relative Michaelis-Menten constant) parameters. Cdk is activated at a constant rate ( $k_a$ ) and, as cyclin mRNA becomes translationally inhibited, is downregulated by SGs with an inactivation constant  $k_i$ . The set of non-linear differential equations used to simulate the model is also shown.

B Cdc28 has a mean  $K_M \approx 3 \mu\text{M}$  (Bouchoux and Uhlmann, 2016), and putative Cdc28 targets in SGs (Fig EV3A) display an average concentration close to  $1 \mu\text{M}$  (Ho *et al*, 2018). We carefully analyzed Whi8-GFP and Pub1-GFP levels (as in Fig 4A) and estimated that these proteins increase their concentration by ca. 150-fold in SGs under stress conditions. Thus,  $K_{Mr} = K_M / SG_{max} \approx 0.02$ .

C The basal SG-dissolution rate constant ( $k_{bd}$ ) was obtained by fitting the model to SG dissolution in the *cdc28-13* mutant in the absence of stress, where all other variables have no effect. Equations used and the resulting fitted curve (yellow line) are shown.

D The remaining parameters of the model were obtained by fitting the model to SG formation and dissolution experimental data (gray points) from wild-type cells. Equations used and the resulting fitted curves (yellow lines) are shown.

**Table EV1. Yeast strains.**

Yeast strains	Source
CML128 ( <i>MATa leu2-3,112 ura3-52 trp1-1 his4-1 can'</i> )	(Gallego <i>et al</i> , 1997)
CML203 ( <i>CLN3-3HA::GEN</i> )	(Gallego <i>et al</i> , 1997)
CML211 ( <i>cln3::LEU2</i> )	(Gallego <i>et al</i> , 1997)
CML391 ( <i>WHI3-3HA::GEN</i> )	(Garí <i>et al</i> , 2001)
CYC14 ( <i>WHI3-6FLAG::GEN</i> )	(Wang <i>et al</i> , 2004)
MAG220 ( <i>GAL4-ER-VP16::URA3</i> )	(Parisi <i>et al</i> , 2018)
MAG226 ( <i>whi8::LEU2</i> )	This study
MAG245 ( <i>CLN3-3HA::GEN whi8::URA3</i> )	This study
MAG253 ( <i>NAT::GAL1p-CDC28 WHI8-3HA::TRP1</i> )	This study
MAG279 ( <i>CLN3-3HA::GEN GAL4-ER-VP16::URA3</i> )	This study
MAG286 ( <i>WHI8-6FLAG::GEN</i> )	This study
MAG462 ( <i>WHI8-GFP::GEN</i> )	This study
MAG464 ( <i>cln3::LEU2 whi8::URA3</i> )	This study
MAG717 ( <i>PUB1-mCherry::GEN</i> )	This study
MAG754 ( <i>PUB1-6FLAG::GEN</i> )	This study
MAG755 ( <i>PUB1-6FLAG::GEN whi8::NAT</i> )	This study
MAG756 ( <i>PUB1-6FLAG::GEN whi8::NAT whi3::HYG</i> )	This study
MAG757 ( <i>PUB1-mCherry::GEN whi8::NAT</i> )	This study
MAG758 ( <i>PUB1-mCherry::GEN whi8::NAT whi3::HYG</i> )	This study
MAG841 ( <i>WHI8ΔIDR-GFP::GEN</i> )	This study
MAG842 ( <i>PUB1-3HA::GEN</i> )	This study
MAG2503 ( <i>PUB1-GFP::GEN</i> )	This study
MAG2505 ( <i>PUB1-GFP::GEN cdc28-13<sup>ts</sup></i> )	This study
MAG2513 ( <i>CDC28-GFP::GEN PUB1-mCherry::HYG</i> )	This study
MAG2538 ( <i>CDC28-GFP::GEN PUB1-mCherry::HYG whi8::LEU2</i> )	This study
MAG2546 ( <i>PUB1-mCh::HYG GAL1p-CLN3::URA3 cln1::HIS3 cln2::TRP1</i> )	This study
MAG220 ( <i>GAL4-ER-VP16::URA3</i> )	This study
MAG226 ( <i>whi8::LEU2</i> )	This study

**Table EV2. Plasmids.**

Plasmids	Source
pCM192 ( <i>ARS-CEN URA3 CLN3-1-3HA</i> )	(Gallego <i>et al</i> , 1997)
pCM194 ( <i>ARS-CEN URA3 CLN3-3HA</i> )	(Gallego <i>et al</i> , 1997)
pCM255 ( <i>ARS-CEN URA3 tetO2-CLN3-3HA tTA</i> )	(Gallego <i>et al</i> , 1997)
pCYC22 (2 $\mu$ m <i>URA3 GAL1P-cln3<sup>nd</sup>-MS2</i> )	This study
pCYC2077 ( <i>UBIp-3HA-CDK4</i> )	(Ruiz-Miro <i>et al</i> , 2011)
pG14-MS2-GFP (2 $\mu$ m <i>LEU2 GPDp-NLS-MCP-GFP</i> )	(Bertrand <i>et al</i> , 1998)
pMAG140 ( <i>ARS-CEN LEU2 CDC28-3FLAG</i> )	(Yahya <i>et al</i> , 2014)
pMAG141 ( <i>ARS-CEN LEU2 CDC28<sup>w<sup>ee</sup></sup>-3FLAG</i> )	(Yahya <i>et al</i> , 2014)
pMAG231 ( <i>ARS-CEN TRP1 GAL1p-WHI8</i> )	This study
pMAG752 (2 $\mu$ m <i>LEU2 GPDp-NLS-MCP-mCherry</i> )	This study
pMAG786 ( <i>CMVp-CCND1-MS2</i> )	This study
pMAG788 ( <i>CMVp-NLS-MCP-GFP</i> )	This study
pMAG1307 ( <i>ARS-CEN LEU2 WHI8-6FLAG</i> )	This study
pMAG2491 ( <i>CMVp-mCherry-G3BP1</i> )	This study

**Table EV3. Antibodies**

Antibodies	Source	Identifier
$\alpha$ Caprin1	Proteintech	15112-1-AP
$\alpha$ CcnD1	Upstate	AB_1977143
$\alpha$ Dpm1, clone 5C5A7 (mouse)	Invitrogen	A6429
$\alpha$ FLAG, clone M2 (mouse)	Sigma	MAB2200
$\alpha$ GFP, clones 7.1 and 13.1 (mouse)	Roche	11814460001
$\alpha$ HA, clone 12CA5 (mouse)	Roche	11583816001
$\alpha$ HA, clone 3F10 (rat)	Roche	11867423001
$\alpha$ Hxk1	US Biological	H2035-03
$\alpha$ TIA1	Santa Cruz Biotechnology	sc-1751