Replicative aging impedes stress-induced assembly of a key human protein disaggregase

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Abstract

The collapse of protein homeostasis manifests itself in a toxic protein aggregation cascade, which is associated with degenerative diseases and aging. To solubilize aggregates, dedicated protein disaggregases exist in unicellular organisms, but these have no nuclear/cytosolic orthologs in metazoa. Alternative metazoan disaggregation machines have been described, but how these are operated and regulated *in vivo* remained unknown. We show that protein disaggregases are functionally diversified in human cells to efficiently target different types of stress-induced aggregates in sequential and temporally distinct phases. In particular, we show the selective assembly of an Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 trimeric disaggregase that forms during late phase of stress recovery., *i.e.*, after VCP-dependent solubilization of non-native proteins that accumulate in cellular condensates such as nucleoli or stress granules. When activated, the trimeric disaggregase provides resistance to stress toxicity and contributes to amyloid disposal. Strikingly, this disaggregase collapses early in cells undergoing replicative aging with important underlining pathophysiological consequences.

Keywords

Protein disaggregation, cellular aging, senescence, heat shock, Hsp70, J-domain proteins, VCP, amyloid

Main

The collapse of protein homeostasis and the increase in protein aggregation are closely associated with aging and many age-related diseases.[1,2] Healthy cells maintain protein homeostasis by an elaborate protein quality control (PQC) network that supports the proper flux of protein biogenesis (protein synthesis, folding, transport) to protein degradation. Thereby, protein function is ensured, and the accumulation of potentially toxic misfolded or aggregated proteins is prevented. However, these PQC pathways can be overwhelmed by acute

or chronic proteotoxic stresses, resulting in the accumulation of toxic protein aggregates that could trigger cell death. Cells have evolved survival mechanisms to reverse such deleterious effects of protein aggregation through protein disaggregation function.[3,4] Previous studies show that the disruption of protein disaggregation function significantly decreases cell fitness and organismal lifespan.[5-8]

The machinery that performs aggregate solubilization is well understood in unicellular organisms (e.g., bacteria and fungi),[9] where AAA+ ATPases of the Hsp100 class of chaperones (e.g., bacterial ClpB; yeast Hsp104) use a threading mechanism to untangle and release aggregate-trapped polypeptides.[9-11] Metazoans lack cytosolic/nuclear Hsp100 disaggregases and instead appear to have evolved aggregate solubilization machines based on Hsp70.[12] Evidence for metazoan protein disaggregation is provided by proof-of-principle biochemical studies showing the disassembly of artificially formed protein aggregates by reconstituted disaggregases with different Hsp70s and J-domain proteins (JDP).[12-15] *In vivo* evidence is, however, limited to observational data showing the disappearance of aggregated proteins,[7,16] reactivation of stress-insolubilized model proteins,[17,18] and large-scale proteomics studies that monitored proteome solubility dynamics after proteotoxic stress insults.[19,20] Although the induction of molecular chaperones including various Hsp70s and JDPs and the state of thermotolerance correlate with stress-induced aggregate disappearance,[7,21] direct visualization of the assembly of functional Hsp70-based disaggregase complexes in metazoan cells has not been achieved. This aspect is challenging due to the unavailability of approaches that disentangle the effects of Hsp70 machineries that prevent protein aggregation (e.g., holdase and foldase) from possible disaggregase function.

Here, we used a protein-protein interaction-based method to track the complete assembly of a major disaggregase consisting of a trimeric Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 complex on

endogenous protein aggregates, which, for the first time, allowed us to dissect how aggregate

solubilization is activated and regulated during repair of human cells after proteotoxic stress in

space and time. Strikingly, the assembly of this trimeric disaggregase occurs in the late phase

of stress recovery, sequential to and dependent on the resolubilization of stress-unfolded

proteins from biomolecular condensates (nucleoli and stress granules). Resolubilization of

condensates during the early phase of stress recovery is dependent on the action of another

mammalian disaggregase, the AAA+ ATPase Valosin-Containing Protein (VCP).[22-24] The two

distinct disaggregases act on substrates with different solubility properties. Importantly, the

late-acting Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 trimeric disaggregase is crucial to stress tolerance and

enhances the capacity of the cell to dispose of amyloid-type aggregates. Importantly, we show

that activation of this Hsp70 disaggregase is severely hampered in human cells that undergo

replicative aging, which correlates with increased occurrences of pathological protein

aggregation. These findings establish previously unresolved critical crossing points for protein

disaggregation, cell repair, and senescence.

Heat shock triggers selective assembly of the Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 trimeric

chaperone complex

Previously, we tested the ability of four human class A and B JDP proteins in ten different

configurations to assist Hsp70 (HSPA8) in solubilizing preformed aggregates of firefly

luciferase biochemically (Supplementary Data Fig. 1a).[12] A synergistic increase in

disaggregation and refolding of aggregated luciferase was observed only for those JDP

members that could form interclass JDP complexes with Hsp70 (Supplementary Data Fig. 1b),

consistent with previous findings.[12] The Hsp110 cochaperone, which functions primarily as a

nucleotide exchange factor (NEF) for Hsp70, was added to reactions to power protein

disaggregation efficiency.[25]

Next, we optimized and used the *in situ* proximity ligation assay (PLA)[14,26] to trace the

assembly of trimeric Hsp70 disaggregases in human cells (Fig. 1a). After signal amplification,

six intra- and interclass JDP assemblies could be detected in unstressed (U) HeLa cells, albeit

at low frequencies (yellow, false-colored puncta; Fig. 1b; Supplementary Data Fig. 2a).

Controls consisting of only one of the JDP-specific primary antibodies did not generate

fluorescent puncta (Supplementary Data Fig. 2b). The specificity of the interaction was further

confirmed by depleting the JDP members using RNAi, which strongly decreased the PLA

signal (Supplementary Data Fig. 2c, d). To induce protein aggregation, we next applied a

proteotoxic stress using a 60 min heat shock (HS) at 43°C (Supplementary Data Fig. 2e). This

led to a significant increase in the assembly of the DNAJA1-DNAJB1 scaffolds, exclusively

(Fig. 1b; Supplementary Data Fig. 2a). We also observed an increase in the interaction between

Hsp70 and the two JDPs on a very similar time scale (Fig. 1c). A mutant of DNAJB1

(DNAJB1^{RRR}; RRR denotes D4R, E69R, and E70R) that we previously identified as defective

in interacting with class A JDPs for disaggregase function *in vitro*,[12] but fully active in assisting

other functions of Hsp70 (e.g., refolding of heat-denatured luciferase[12] and capable of shuttling

into and out of nucleoli during resolution of heat-denatured proteins (Supplementary Data Fig.

3a)),[27-29] showed a strong decrease in PLA foci formation (Supplementary Data Fig. 3b). A

similar observation was made for a DNAJB1 mutant with a disrupted HPD motif

(DNAJB1^{H32Q}) that cannot bind to Hsp70 (Supplementary Data Fig. 3c).[30] Together these data

indicate that PLA captures direct interactions between specific JDPs and Hsp70s that appear to

assemble a trimeric chaperone complex in cells with the same configuration as the

biochemically identified Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase complex (Supplementary

Data Fig. 1b). Disassembly of this trimeric chaperone complex to the basal levels occurred

within 24h after HS (Fig. 1b, c). Disassembly was delayed in cells that were simultaneously

depleted of all three Hsp110-type NEFs that were previously described to specifically increase

the efficacy of protein disaggregation, *in vitro*.[25] Depleting other types of NEFs such as BAG1

and HSPBP1 had no effect (Supplementary Data Fig. 4a, b). This further suggests that the activity of Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 complex is related to disaggregase function in cells. The scaffold was also assembled upon relatively mild temperature elevations that resemble mild-moderate fever (37 °C to 39 °C) although to a lesser degree and shorter induction time (Fig. 1d; Supplementary Data Fig. 4c), supporting its physiological relevance.

The late induction of Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase is geared to specifically target a distinct population of aggregates in human cells

The delayed induction of the Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 trimeric complex during stress recovery (which peaked approximately at 6h post-HS) (Fig. 1b) was puzzling because heat-induced aggregate formation (measured as the appearance of denatured protein containing foci or insoluble detergent protein material) occurs almost immediately in cells. Many of these initial aggregating proteins are associated with or sequestered in biomolecular condensates such as nucleoli and stress granules (SG).[27-29,31] Furthermore, the majority of detergent-insoluble material and condensates were found to disappear before the first 6 hours after HS (Supplementary Data Fig. 5a,b)[27,28,31,32], *i.e.*, before the trimeric Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 complex peaks in its assembly. Thus, the late induction of this complex might be functionally unrelated to the disassembly of these aggregated/ condensated proteins induced by HS. Therefore, we hypothesized that this trimeric Hsp70 disaggregase might be performing a unique task, perhaps targeting a different population of aggregated protein species, different from condensates that escape the early clearance phase. To detect whether such escaping aggregated species exist in human cells, we expressed the catalytically inactive yeast Hsp104 (E285Q, E687Q Double Walker B) tagged with GFP (Hsp104[DWB]-GFP) which decorates stress-induced aggregates.[33] Hsp104[DWB]-GFP showed a diffuse fluorescent GFP signal in unstressed cells (cyan, false-colored; Fig. 1e; Supplementary Data Fig. 6a). Immediately after HS, fluorescent puncta (white arrows), denoting aggregates, emerged predominantly in the

cytosol (Supplementary Data Fig. 6a). Notably, no enrichment of Hsp104^{DWB}-GFP positive puncta was detected in nucleoli containing stress-induced condensates immediately after HS. At 6h after HS recovery, the number of Hsp104^{DWB}-GFP positive aggregates increased in number and became more compact in appearance in cells. However, 24h after stress recovery, these aggregates were completely resolved (Fig. 1e; Supplementary Data Fig. 6a). The prevalence of Hsp104^{DWB}-GFP positive aggregates was consistent with the timing of the assembly and disassembly of the Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 complexes. To further test whether Hsp104^{DWB}-GFP positive aggregates were targeted by the Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 trimeric complex, we used VER-155008, a specific adenosine-derived small molecule inhibitor of Hsp70.[34] VER-155008 significantly inhibited disaggregase activity mediated by Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1, *in vitro* (Supplementary Data Fig. 6b). The addition of VER-155008 to cells immediately after HS has been shown to block the early recovery of insoluble proteins accumulated in nucleoli.[27,28] Therefore, to allow the completion of this recovery and specifically inhibit the activity of the Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 trimeric complex, we added VER-155008 5h after HS. Treatment with VER-155008 completely blocked the disappearance of Hsp104^{DWB}-GFP positive aggregates (Fig. 1e; Supplementary Data Fig. 6a). In line, DNAJA1-DNAJB1 scaffolds also persisted up to 24h after HS (Supplementary Data Fig. 6a). The presence of VER-155008 caused the PLA signal from DNAJA1 and DNAJB1 complex formation (Fig. 1f) to strongly overlap with Hsp104^{DWB}-GFP positive foci (Mander's overlap correlation coefficient (r) = 0.984), which is consistent with JDP scaffolds forming on aggregate surfaces to drive the assembly of this trimeric Hsp70 disaggregase during protein disaggregation. Washing out VER-155008 12h after HS led to re-initiation of Hsp104^{DWB}-GFP positive aggregate resolution (Supplementary Data Fig. 7a, b). These results indicate that the disassembly of Hsp104^{DWB}-GFP positive aggregates requires Hsp70 activity. The resolution of the aggregates in the washed cells VER-155008 coincided with the disassembly of the DNAJA1-DNAJB1 scaffolds (Supplementary Data Fig. 7c), suggesting that they help recruit

active Hsp70 to form disaggregases on the aggregates. To further test this hypothesis, we

expressed wildtype yeast Hsp104, which cooperates with the mammalian Hsp70 system to

form very potent disaggregases *in vitro* (Supplementary Data Fig. 8a) and *in vivo*,[35] in HeLa

cells. The frequency of DNAJA1-DNAJB1 scaffolds was strongly reduced in cells expressing

Hsp104-GFP 6h after HS (Supplementary Data Fig. 8b) due to a rapid decrease in aggregate

load (see below section; Supplementary Data Fig. 8c), indicating a functional redundancy

between Hsp104 and the trimeric Hsp70 disaggregase systems. Furthermore, the data

suggested that the presence of aggregates could also be a trigger for the assembly of DNAJA1-

DNAJB1 scaffolds.

Next, we used DNAJB1 mutants defective in assembling the trimeric complex to assess

whether JDP scaffolding is required to solubilize HS-induced Hsp104^{DWB}-GFP positive

aggregates. The *in vitro* disaggregation of heat aggregated luciferase was significantly reduced

in reactions containing DNAJB1^{RRR} and DNAJA1 (Supplementary Data Fig. 9a). Accordingly,

ectopically expressed DNAJB1^{RRR} in *DNAJB1* knocked out (KO) HEK 293 cells (confirmed

by immunoblotting; Fig. 1g) was unable to solubilize Hsp104^{DWB}-GFP positive aggregates

induced by HS compared to wild type DNAJB1 (Fig. 1h-j; Supplementary Data Fig. 9b-d). A

similar result was observed with DNAJB1$^{H32Q,\ D34N}$ (DNAJB1^{QPN}), which is defective in

binding to Hsp70. However, DNAJB1^{QPN} readily complexed with endogenous DNAJA1 after

HS (Fig. 1g, k), but these JDP scaffolds could not support disaggregation, presumably due to

the decreased ability to recruit Hsp70, and as a consequence prevented efficient aggregate

resolution in recovering cells (Fig. 1k, Supplementary Data Fig. 9c). Together, these findings

support that the Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 trimeric complex represents a real, functional

disaggregase in mammalian cells, tentatively crucial for solubilizing a population of stress-

induced aggregates that are distinct from those accumulated in condensates.

218 To investigate whether the DNAJA1-DNAJB1 scaffold is interchangeable with other class A

219 and B members as observed in biochemically reconstituted systems (Supplementary Data Fig.

220 1),[12] we knocked down DNAJA1 or DNAJB1 in HeLa cells using RNAi, which, as expected,

221 decreased the assembly of the JDP scaffold after HS. However, knocking down DNAJA1 or

222 DNAJB1 did not result in the remaining unpaired partner complexing with other JDPs (e.g.,

223 DNAJB1 with DNAJA2 or DNAJA1 with DNAJB4) in cells (Supplementary Data Fig. 10a).

224 Thus, regardless of the expression and HS induction of other JDP paralogs (Supplementary

225 Data Fig. 10b) in mutual subcellular locations (Supplementary Data Fig. 11), this particular

226 Hsp70 disaggregase is cogged to assemble with DNAJA1 and DNAJB1 during the late phase

227 of stress recovery in human cells. In line with this, DNAJB1 activity could not be fully restored

228 in *DNAJB1* KO cells by overexpressing other JDPs tested (Supplementary Data Fig. 9e). These

229 data highlight the strict dependency on DNAJB1 for the functionality of this disaggregase. The

230 observations also indicate that single JDP-containing disaggregases described

231 biochemically[14,36-39] are ineffective in solubilizing this persisting fraction of heat-induced

232 aggregates in human cells.

234 To identify the protein composition of the aggregates targeted by Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1

235 disaggregase in HeLa cells, we applied a two-phase fractionation approach coupled to a

236 proteomic workflow (Supplementary Data Fig. 12a).[19] Data were agnostically clustered into

237 four different response patterns by k-means clustering (see Methods; Supplementary Data

238 Table 1). The proteins in cluster (iii) showed a pattern of aggregation and recovery that was

239 consistent with being potential substrates for this disaggregase activity. Specifically, they

240 appeared to show impaired solubility recovery after treatment with VER-155008 between 6

241 and 12 hours (Supplementary Data Fig. 12b, c). Approximately half of the hits in this cluster

242 included RNA-associated proteins (Supplementary Data Table 1). Two proteins in cluster (iii),

243 Heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein K (HNRNPK; solubility profile in Fig. 2a) and

Adenosylhomocysteinase (AHCY; solubility profile in Fig. 2b), were selected for further

analysis. Both HNRNPK and AHCY formed puncta that persisted at 6h after HS in HeLa cells,

but they were completely solubilized and redistributed to original subcellular locations at 12h

after stress recovery (Fig. 2c, d). The addition of VER-155008 (Fig. 2c, d; Supplementary Data

Fig. 12d) as well as the knocking down of DNAJA1 or DNAJB1 (Fig. 2e) prevented this

resolubilization. Fluorescent recovery after photobleaching (FRAP) analysis showed that the

HNRNPK puncta were immobile, suggesting tight protein packing in these aggregates

(Supplementary Data Fig. 12e). The formation of these HS-induced immobile HNRNPK

puncta was completely suppressed after expressing the yeast Hsp104 disaggregase

(Supplementary Data Fig. 8c). This explains the reduced assembly of the trimeric disaggregase

after HS in cells ectopically expressing Hsp104 (Supplementary Data Fig. 8b).

Cellular heterogeneity in aggregate solubilization by sequentially activated Hsp70-

DNAJA1-DNAJB1 and VCP-based disaggregase systems

The assembly and disassembly kinetics of the Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase and the

disaggregation of HNRNPK and AHCY are highly distinct from the recovery of protein

aggregates that accumulate in biomolecular condensates after HS. Though HNRNPK and TIA-

1 are both RNA-binding proteins, they sequestered into spatially distinct aggregates

(HNRNPK; cyan) and SGs (TIA-1; yellow) in the cytosol after HS (Fig. 2f). Compared to

HNRNPK aggregates, the disassembly of the TIA-1 SGs occurred rapidly within 6h after HS

and did not rely on Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase activity, as evident from VER-

155008 treatment and JDP knockdown experiments (Fig. 2f, g; Supplementary Data Fig. 13),

suggesting that these SGs are processed through a distinct nonoverlapping disaggregase

activity. We also noted the presence of a fraction of highly ubiquitinylated proteins that

immediately insolubilized, but rapidly resolved before 6h into recovery from HS

(Supplementary data Fig 5a, right panel). Recent findings show that AAA+ ATPase VCP (p97)

is not only recruited to ubiquitylated substrates, but is also required for their disaggregation in

cooperation with the ubiquitin proteasome machinery.[22-24] Furthermore, VCP was found to be

involved in SG clearance in mammalian cells.[40] To test whether VCP targets the heat-induced

Ub+ insolubilize protein fraction, we depleted the AAA+ ATPase using RNAi, which indeed

resulted in a considerable delay in resolving the Ub+ aggregated proteins (Fig. 3a) and TIA-1

SGs (Fig. 3b, c). Surprisingly, however, VCP depletion also delayed the solubilization of

HNRNPK and Hsp104^{DWB}-GFP positive aggregates (Fig. 3b, c; Supplementary Data Fig. 14a)

that largely lacked an Ub signature (Supplementary Data Fig. 14b). In line, the disassembly of

the Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase was also delayed after VCP knockdown

(Supplementary Data Fig. 14c). To test whether loss of VCP directly affected the action of

Hsp70 disaggregase or whether VCP itself also facilitated the resolution of non-condensate-

associated Hsp104^{DWB}-GFP positive aggregates, we treated cells with the VCP inhibitor NMS-

873[41] at 0h or 5h after HS. Adding NMS-873 at 0h post-HS triggered the same phenotype as

that of depleting VCP. However, blocking VCP function using a low (1 µM) or high (10 µM)

dose of NMS-873 5h after HS, *i.e.* after clearing of Ub+ aggregates, did not affect Hsp104^{DWB}-

GFP positive aggregate solubilization (Fig. 3d; Supplementary Data Fig. 14d). Consequently,

under this condition, the Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase disassembled back to basal

levels at 24h after HS (Fig. 3e). Inversely, increasing VCP levels did not affect the activation

of the Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase during stress recovery (Supplementary Data

Fig. 15), which is in stark contrast to observations made under overexpression of the yeast

Hsp104 disaggregase (Supplementary Data Fig. 8). These observations suggest that the

function of trimeric Hsp70 disaggregase cannot be compensated for by stimulating the function

of VCP in human cells. Together, these data describe for the first time how protein

disaggregation activity is organized into two phases (early and late) in living human cells

undergoing stress recovery. The stress-induced trimeric complex Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1

forms a crucial part of an integrated network of at least two distinct disaggregase systems that

function sequentially and in a non-redundant manner to target different populations of heat-

induced aggregated substrates.

Regulation of Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase

Next, we asked how the kinetics of these sequentially acting disaggregases are regulated by

stress signaling. VCP, which acts at the early phase of aggregate solubilization, is not induced

by proteotoxic stresses (Fig. 3a, left panel)[42] and knocking down its levels prior to heat stress

affects the disassembly of Ub+ aggregates/SGs (Fig. 3a,b). On the contrary, the Hsp70-

DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase, which shows low abundance in unstressed cells, is massively

induced after HS, indicating that this disaggregase is highly regulated. In HeLa cells, the peak

assembly of the DNAJA1-DNAJB1 scaffold (Fig. 1b), which initiates the assembly process

and provides specificity for this PQC machine, coincided with the highest expression of the

disaggregase components in protein (Supplementary Data Fig. 16a), but not mRNA levels

(Supplementary Data Fig. 16b). Induction of machine components after stress suggests that the

heat shock response (HSR) might modulate the formation of this disaggregase in repairing

cells. Knocking down the HSF-1 transcription factor, the central regulator of the HSR, inhibited

the synthesis of disaggregase components and reduced the assembly of the disaggregase

(Supplementary Data Fig. 16c) and subsequent resolution of its substrates (Supplementary Data

Fig. 16d; Supplementary Data Fig. 17a). In contrast, HSF-1 knockdown had no effect on the

VCP-dependent disassembly of TIA-1 SGs (Supplementary Data Fig. 17a) again highlighting

the nonoverlapping disaggregase activities of the two systems. Similar to HSF-1 depletion,

treatment of cells with the translational inhibitor cycloheximide (CHX) immediately after HS

also blocked the assembly of Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase (Supplementary Data

Fig. 17b). In contrast, HSF-1 depletion or CHX treatment did not affect the HS-induced

localization dynamics of pre-HS synthesized Hsp70s and JDPs (Supplementary Data Fig. 18;

Supplementary Data Fig. 19) coinciding with the extraction of denatured/aggregated proteins

from nucleoli SGs immediately after HS.[27-29] This implies that the late phase, but not the early

phase of aggregate solubilization is under tight transcriptional regulation. This regulation also

allows the assembly of spatially and temporally separated Hsp70 machines through pre- and

post-HS synthesized DNAJA1 and DNAJB1 molecules. In essence, this serves as a strategy to

efficiently organize different chaperone machines that cater to various cellular needs on a

priority basis, for example, to promote rapid recovery of proteins associated with translational

machinery crucial for immediate stress adaptation[43-46] followed by resolving persistent

aggregated protein junk to reduce downstream cytotoxicity.

Physiological relevance of Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase: heat resistance,

replicative aging, and pathological protein aggregation

To address the physiological relevance of the Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase, we first

evaluated the impact of its assembly on the fitness of human cells recovering from heat stress

using the lactate dehydrogenase (LDH)-Glo-based cytotoxicity assay (Supplementary Data

Fig. 20a). Again, VER-155008 was added after the completion of rapid recovery of heat-

denatured proteins from nucleoli immediately after HS.[29] The Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1

disaggregase activity inhibited HeLa cells (Supplementary Data Fig. 20b) showed increased

heat toxicity compared to control cells treated with DMSO (Supplementary Data Fig. 20c).

This shows that the resolution of aggregates escaping early clearance contributes significantly

to the cellular tolerance of acute proteotoxic stress.

To address whether the trimeric Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase also plays a role in

chronic stress conditions resulting from aging and age-related diseases, we first assessed its

assembly in six lines of primary dermal fibroblasts (HDF) derived from humans with ages

ranging from 21 to 75 years. We did not observe a substantial chronological age-driven

variation in the inducibility of Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase after HS in all

fibroblast lines tested (Fig. 4a; Supplementary Data Fig. 21a). Similar to immortalized HeLa

cells, primary dermal fibroblasts also only induced the DNAJA1-DNAJB1 scaffold after HS

(Supplementary Data Fig. 21b), underscoring that this assembly, with the same kinetics and

specific components, is also active in normal human diploid cells.

Recent work shows that during chronological aging, senescent cells resulting from replicative

aging accumulate progressively in various mammalian tissues.[47-49] Therefore, we evaluated

whether replicative aging has an effect on activating the Hsp70 disaggregase. Three of the

human dermal fibroblast lines (derived from 21-, 55-, and 75-year-old donors) were subjected

to replicative aging by *ex vivo* passaging (P) of cells up to 18 times (Fig. 4b, see Methods).

Senescence was detected using lysate-based SPiDER-Gal activity assay and direct cell staining

for senescence-specific β-galactosidases levels. Compared to non-senescent P 6 cells, cells in

P 12 showed a rise in the senescent signal, which increased further in P 18 cells in all lines,

regardless of the chronological age of the donor (Fig. 4c; Supplementary Data Fig. 21c, d).

Strikingly, the stress-induced assembly of Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase observed

in cells at P 3 or P 6 was completely absent in cells at P 12 and P 18 (Fig. 4d). Importantly, no

notable differences were observed in the heat inducibility of disaggregase components between

P 6 and P 12 cells (Fig. 4e). Consistently, HSR, which is reported to collapse in cells at late

senescence with permanent cell cycle arrest,[50,51] was still fully intact in still replicating P 12

cells, as indicated by robust induction of the HSF-1 dependent HSPA6 chaperone[52]

(Supplementary data Fig. 22a). This finding argues that additional pathways beyond the HSR

are required for the assembly of the Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase. Furthermore, as

in P 6 cells, P 12 cells also showed similar levels of heat-induced i) nuclear shuttling of ATF-

6 to activate the unfolded protein response of the endoplasmic reticulum (UPR$_{ER}$)

(Supplementary Data Fig. 22b), and ii) proteasome activity (Supplementary Data Fig. 22c) that

decline in human cells at late senescence.[53] We also did not observe any decrease in VCP levels

in fibroblasts in P 6 vs P 12 (Supplementary Data Fig. 22a). Together, these intriguing findings

indicate that Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase is a PQC component that declines very

rapidly with replicative aging. The early decline of this disaggregase activity has functional

consequences as P 12 fibroblasts showed an inability to resolve heat-induced protein

aggregates (Supplementary Data Fig. 23a, b), showed reduced fitness after HS (Fig. 4f), and

contained aggregated proteins even under non-stressed conditions (Supplementary Data Fig.

23b), a hallmark of aging cells.

Replicative aging, which drives chronic senescence, has been implicated in the etiopathology

of several neurodegenerative diseases.[47] Therefore, we evaluated how impairment of this

Hsp70 disaggregase during replicative aging affects the aggregation of pathological proteins

associated with Huntington's disease (HD). Appearance of intracellular Huntingtin protein

(Htt) exon 1 containing expanded polyglutamine (polyQ) amyloid aggregates drives

neurotoxicity in HD.[2] These aggregates form in cells independent of proteotoxic stresses such

as HS (Supplementary Data Fig. 24a). Our findings showed that priming of Hsp70-DNAJA1-

DNAJB1 disaggregase assembly through HS reduced the accumulation of polyQ aggregates

(HttQ46-mEmGFP) in a Hsp70, DNAJA1, and DNAJB1 dependent manner in HeLa cells

(Supplementary information 1, Supplementary Data Fig. 24). Unlike HeLa cells, Htt46Q-

mEmGFP was largely soluble with only a mild aggregation phenotype in unstressed dermal

fibroblasts at P 6 and P 12 (Fig. 4g). However, after HS, the soluble Htt46Q-mEmGFP formed

into prominent aggregates (punctated cyan fluorescent signal, 6h after HS) in both P 6 and P

12 cells, which is in line with an acute overloading of the PQC pathways that prevents the

initiation of polyQ aggregation in stressed cells. Strikingly, these polyQ aggregates

subsequently disappeared in P 6, but not P 12 fibroblasts (Fig. 4g) that can activate the trimeric

Hsp70 disaggregase. These proof-of-principle findings unravel a critical breakdown of

amyloidogenesis suppression in cells undergoing senescence. Together, our data reveal that the

in vivo assembly of this Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 trimeric chaperone complex vitally

contributes to cellular resistance to stress and declines rapidly during replicative aging with

putative relevance to disease-related amyloidosis.

Discussion

The critical role of recovery of aggregated proteins through Hsp100-based disaggregation

activity in unicellular organisms such as bacteria and yeast after heat stress has been widely

accepted.[54-56] Whilst metazoa lack cytosolic/nuclear Hsp100 disaggregases,[10] a number of

recent studies suggested that these organisms possess several functionally equivalent protein

disaggregase systems composed of different proteins with chaperone or chaperone-like

properties (e.g. Hsp70, VCP, and DAXX).[12,23,57] Importantly, however, it was not understood

how these different protein disaggregase systems are assembled (if at all) and regulated

similarly or differently in time and space in live cells exposed to protein aggregation stresses.

It was also not understood how these disaggregase systems are organized (if at all) in cells

during cell repair. Here, we describe for the first time how proteotoxic stress induces the

selective assembly of an *in vitro* identified Hsp70-based disaggregase with a specific DNAJA1

and DNAJB1 containing JDP scaffold in primary and immortalized human cells. We show that

this trimeric disaggregase operates in the late phase of aggregate solubilization sequentially to

the action of a VCP-based disaggregase. The early phase of aggregate solubilization is

predominated by the activity of VCP-based disaggregase. VCP largely depends on a Ub signal

to recognize its aggregates/SG components, but could also function independently of Ub to

disassemble some protein complexes.[58] Following the initial aggregate solubilization phase,

the trimeric Hsp70 disaggregase assembles on remaining aggregates. The data suggest that the

Hsp70 disaggregase is particularly effective in "mopping up" tightly packed solid-like

cytotoxic protein aggregates that were not sequestered into condensates (e.g., SG or nucleoli)

and hence escaped the early phase of clearance. Although the late phase depends on the

completion of the early phase, it does not require VCP. In terms of the fate of disaggregated

polypeptides, there is likely a culmination of protein recovery and degradation during both

phases.[59-62]

The two disaggregase systems affect resistance to cellular stress and appear to be associated

with age-associated human diseases. Recent work shows the ability of VCP to target tau

amyloids associated with Alzheimer's disease.[23] Genetic defects in VCP activity were found

to cause inclusion body myopathy associated with Paget's disease of the bone and front-

temporal dementia (FTD).[63] Additionally, VCP activity was reported to be important for

clearing stress granules,[40] and mutations in VCP alter SG dynamics closely linked to ALS and

FTD pathologies.[62] Our data show that assembly of the Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1

disaggregase also leads to resistance against acute (heat) stresses. Once induced, this trimeric

disaggregase is capable of targeting pathological amyloids (e.g., HttpolyQ amyloids associated

with HD).

Importantly, we show that the ability to assemble the Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase

is highly impaired during replicative aging that causes chronic senescence. Mechanistically,

the breakdown of this disaggregase activity is due to the inability to effectively assemble the

DNAJA1-DNAJB1 JDP scaffold. Importantly, our results revealed that the assembly of Hsp70-

DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase is impaired even before human cells undergoing replicative

aging lose several proteotoxic signaling routes, such as the HSR and the UPR_{ER}, which have

often been considered to precede the collapse of protein homeostasis upon aging.[53,64] This early

collapse could explain the accumulation of difficult-to-resolve aggregates in unstressed cells

(Supplementary Data Fig. 23b) and may act as a trigger that contributes to (rather than being

the result of) senescence, and thereby rapidly prevent damaged cells from propagation.

Interestingly, compared to human cells, non-metazoans such as budding yeast, modulate

protein disaggregation function entirely differently during replicative aging. Instead, yeast cells

that undergo senescence significantly enhance protein disaggregation function by inducing

Hsp104 disaggregase levels to counteract proteostasis defects[65] suggesting that stress-induced

protein disaggregation activity is wired differently in aging unicellular and multicellular

organisms.

The implications related to the inactivation of this PQC machine during replicative aging could

be significant. As we show, the assembly of this disaggregase already occurs at fever-like

temperatures (Fig. 1d). In cells already expressing a high load of aggregation-prone proteins,

this mild stress can trigger amyloidogenesis, as here exemplified in polyQ-expressing dermal

fibroblasts (Fig. 4g). If Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase activity is reduced, as we see

in cells undergoing replicative aging, these amyloids will not resolve and could lead to disease

progression. This may also contribute to the faster decline rates observed for processes

associated with aging in HD models and HD patients.[66] Collectively, our data show how

metazoa have evolved an intricate network of protein disaggregase machines that perform

different sequential tasks, all required to ensure cell resilience to acute and chronic stresses,

relevant to mammalian cellular aging and organismal health span.

Figure Legends

Figure 1. The Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 trimeric complex forms a heat-induced protein

disaggregase which targets aggregates that escape early clearance. **a,** Detection of Hsp70-

JDP and JDP-JDP interactions during the assembly of Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 trimeric

complex *in situ* through proximity ligation assay (PLA). Captured protein-protein interactions

generate fluorescent puncta (yellow) after signal amplification by rolling circle PCR.

Fluorescently labeled oligonucleotides hybridize with an amplified DNA bundle to enhance

the proximity signal. **b,** Top: Detection of multiple JDP^A-JDP^B scaffolds that support *in vitro*

Hsp70 disaggregase activity in unstressed (U) and heat shocked (HS, red) HeLa cells using

PLA. Upon HS, cells show selective induction of the DNAJA1-DNAJB1 scaffold (PLA

fluorescent signal, yellow). Nuclei stained with DAPI (magenta). HS was performed at 43 ° C

for 1h; Stress recovery at 37 ° C for 0h, 6h and 24h. Scale bar 20 µm (n = 3). Images are

maximum intensity projections (all channels). Bottom: Quantification of PLA signal from (data

are mean +/- s.e.m.; see supplementary methods for details). **c,** Top: PLA-based detection of

DNAJA1-Hsp70 and DNAJB1-Hsp70 interactions during the formation of Hsp70-DNAJA1-

DNAJB1 trimeric complex. The Hsp70 antibody used in PLA recognizes both constitutively

expressed Hsc70 (HAPA8) and the stress-induced Hsp70 paralog (HSPA1A). Scale bar 20 µm

(n = 3). Bottom: Quantification of PLA signal (data are mean +/- s.e.m.). **d,** Assembly of

DNAJA1-DNAJB1 scaffold at 39 ˚C *vs* 42 ˚C for 2h that mimic mild-moderate and high fever,

respectively. Quantification of PLA signals (data are mean +/- s.e.m.). **e,** Resolution of heat-

induced aggregates in cells +/- Hsp70 inhibitor VER-155008. Top: HS triggered the formation

and solubilization of Hsp104^{DWB}-GFP positive aggregates (cyan; punctated fluorescent signal

pointed by white arrows) in HeLa cells. U denotes unstressed cells. Heat shock (HS) in red.

Scale bar 20 µm (n = 3). Bottom: Visualization of assembly and disassembly of Hsp70

disaggregase through formation of the JDP scaffold (PLA; yellow) in HeLa cells recovering

from heat shock (HS). Nuclei in magenta. Scale bar 20 µm (n = 3). The inhibitor was added to

cells 5h after HS. Scale bar 20 µm (n = 3). DMSO, vehicle control for VER-155008.

f, Assembly of DNAJA1-DNAJB1 scaffolds (PLA, yellow, see Methods) on Hsp104^{DWB}-GFP

positive heat-induced aggregates (cyan) during HS recovery (37 ° C for 12h) in HeLa cells.

Inset shows zoomed in region of interest. Cells were treated with cycloheximide (CHX) at 3.5h

and VER-155008 at 5.5h after HS. Mander's coefficient (r) = 0.984 (s.e.m. = 0.004). Manders'

overlap correlation coefficients were calculated using thresholded images (n=5). Nuclei in

magenta. Scale bar 20 µm. **g,** Immunoblot showing expression levels of wild type DNAJB1-

HA, DNAJB1^{RRR}-HA and Hsp70-binding defective DNAJB1^{QPN}-HA (H32Q+D34N) mutant

in *DNAJB1* knocked out (KO) HEK 293 cells. **h-k,** Defective assembly of Hsp70-DNAJA1-

DNAJB1 disaggregase results in persistence of heat-induced aggregates in cells. Top:

Visualization of solubilization of Hsp104^{DWB}-GFP positive heat-induced aggregates during HS

recovery in *DNAJB1* KO HEK 293 cells ectopically expressing (**h**) empty vector (control), (**i**)

wild type DNAJB1-HA, (**j**) DNAJB1^{RRR}-HA, and (**k**) DNAJB1^{QPN}-HA. Bottom:

(Dis)assembly dynamics of DNAJA1-DNAJB1 scaffold by PLA (yellow) in *DNAJB1* KO

HEK 293 cells ectopically expressing (**h**) empty vector (control), (**i**) wild type DNAJB1-HA,

(**j**) DNAJB1^{RRR}-HA, and (**k**) DNAJB1^{QPN}-HA. U denotes unstressed cells. Scale bar 20 μm (n

= 3).

Figure 2. Endogenous substrates of the Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase. a-d,

Solubilization of heat aggregated HNRNPK and AHCY (SAHH) requires the induction of

Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase. **a,** Solubility profile of HNRNPK: Graphs show

representative traces for ΔpSup in the presence of DMSO (left panel) or VER-155008 (center

panel), and the corresponding ΔΔpSup (right panel) (n = 3). See methods for the two-phase

fractionation approach coupled to a proteomic workflow used to identify aggregated substrates

recovered by Hsp70- disaggregase activity. **b,** As in (**a**), for AHCY (n = 3). **c,** Solubilization

of heat aggregated HNRNPK in HeLa cells visualized using immunocytochemistry

(HNRNPK, cyan; DAPI stained nuclei, magenta). Hsp70 is inhibited with VER-155008 added

5h after HS. Cycloheximide (CHX) was added to inhibit protein synthesis at 5h after HS. White

arrows indicate heat-aggregated HNRNPK. Aggregate solubilization is indicated by the

disappearance of the punctated fluorescence signal and the appearance of a diffused signal.

DMSO, vehicle control for VER-155008. Heat shock (HS) in red. U denotes unstressed cells.

Scale bar 20 μm (n = 3). **d,** As in (**c**), for AHCY (n = 3). **e,** Disruption of DNAJA1-DNAJB1

JDP scaffold formation prevents solubilization of heat-aggregated HNRNPK. Left:

Immunoblot showing JDP knockdown efficiencies in HeLa cells. Right: Persistence of heat

aggregated HNRNPK in DNAJA1 and DNAJB1 depleted HeLa cells. The non-targeting

control siRNA (siScrambled) is used as the control for RNAi. Scale bar 20 µm (n = 3). **f,** Stress-

induced Hsp70 disaggregase targets different aggregate types in cells. Top: Hsp70-depended

solubilization of HNRNPK aggregates (cyan) *vs* TIA-1-GFP containing SGs (yellow) in HeLa

cells recovering from heat stress. The addition of VER-155008 at 0h after HS blocks resolution

of HNRNPK aggregates, but not TIA-1 SGs. The inset depicts zoomed-out cells. Scale bar 20

µm. **g,** Quantification of TIA-1 SGs and HNRNPK aggregates (n = 3, data are mean +/- s.e.m.

* adjusted p-value < 0.05, one-way ANOVA LSD post hoc test).

Figure 3. VCP and Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregases operate sequentially and

nonredundantly in cells recovering from heat stress. a, Disaggregase activity exerted by

VCP facilitates rapid resolution of heat-induced ubiquitin (Ub) positive protein aggregates. 1%

NP-40 insoluble aggregates were isolated at indicated time points during heat stress recovery

using a two-phase fractionation approach and probed with antibody against ubiquitin (n = 3).

Immunoblots show depletion of VCP delays the disaggregation and clearance of Ub positive

protein aggregates in HeLa cells. VCP protein levels show knockdown efficiency. GAPDH,

loading control. **b,** Solubilization of heat-induced HNRNPK aggregates (cyan) and TIA-1-GFP

containing SGs (yellow) are affected in VCP depleted HeLa cells. The inset depicts zoomed-

out cells. The non-targeting control siRNA (siScrambled) is used as the control for RNAi (same

from Supplementary Data Fig. 13). Nuclei stained with DAPI (magenta). Scale bar 20 µm. **c,**

Quantification of TIA-1 SGs and HNRNPK aggregates (n = 3, data are mean +/- s.e.m. *

adjusted p-value < 0.05, ** adjusted p-value < 0.01, ns - not significant, one-way ANOVA

LSD post hoc test). **d,** Blocking VCP disaggregase activity with inhibitor NMS-873 (1 µM,

low dose) after 5h post-HS does not inhibit the resolution of Hsp104^{DWB}-GFP positive

aggregates by Hsp70 disaggregase. On the contrary, the addition of NMS-873 at 0h post-HS

results in a phenotype similar to the depletion of VCP. DMSO, vehicle control for the inhibitor

(n = 2). Nuclei stained with DAPI (magenta). **e,** Disassembly of DNAJA1-DNAJB1 scaffold

is delayed in HeLa cells treated with NMS-873 at 0h post-HS, but not at 5h post-HS (PLA

signal, yellow). Nuclei stained with DAPI (magenta). Heat shock (HS) in red. U denotes

unstressed cells. Scale bar 20 μm (n = 3).

Figure 4. Pathophysiological consequences of the collapse of Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1

disaggregase in cells undergoing replicative aging. a, Chronological age has no effect on

Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase activation in human cells. The PLA signal (yellow)

shows the induction of Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase in heat-stressed primary

human dermal fibroblasts derived from 21-year-old (21-y), 55-y and 75-y human subjects.

Nuclei stained with DAPI (magenta). U denotes unstressed cells. Heat shock (HS) in red. Scale

bar 20 μm (n = 3). **b,** Experimental scheme showing replicative aging of human dermal

fibroblasts. P denotes cell passage (see Methods). **c,** Cells at P = 12 and 18 show a considerable

increase in the marker of senescence. Cellular senescence correlates with the increased levels

of senescence specific β-galactosidase activity in replicating fibroblasts. **d,** HS-induced

assembly of Hsp70 disaggregase collapses in cells undergoing replicative aging. The level of

induction of Hsp70 disaggregase assemblies after HS in human dermal fibroblasts at P = 6, 12

and 18 using PLA. Scale bar 20 μm (n = 3). **e,** Immunoblot analysis of the induction of

components of the disaggregase machine after HS (n = 3). **f,** Cells defective in activating

Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase due to aging (replicative) show reduced cellular

fitness after HS. Level of cytotoxicity measured with Ultra-Glo rLuciferase-based cytotoxicity

assay in unstressed (blue) and HS recovering (red) human dermal fibroblasts at P 6 and P 12

cells. Error bars depicted as s.e.m. (n = 3). **g,** Human dermal fibroblasts at P 12 lose the ability

to solubilize Htt46Q-GFP aggregates (cyan) by assembling Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1

disaggregase. Cycloheximide (CHX) was added to prevent protein synthesis. Scale bar 20 μm

(n = 3).

Methods

Plasmids

Exon 1 carrying C-terminally tagged HttQ25-EmGFP and HttQ46-EmGFP were generated in the mammalian expression vector pTREX (Invitrogen). VCP (wt)-EGFP (Addgene, catalog number: 23971), pFRT/TO eGFP TIA1 (Addgene, catalog number: 106094) and pCMV3-GFP-hnRNPK (LSBio, catalog number: LS-N40093) were purchased. pcDNA5/FRT/TO HttQ119-eGFP was previously generated.[67] pEGFP-N1 Hsp104 and pEGFP-N1 Hsp104 [E285Q, E687Q] were kind gifts from Bernd Bukau, Ph.D. (Heidelberg University). The generation of Hsp70 (HSPA8), Hsp110 (HSPH2), DNAJA1, DNAJA2, DNAJB1, DNAJB4, and mutant variants tagged with 6xHis-Smt3 in the vector pCA528 for recombinant expression and purification was previously described.[12,25] Standard recombinant DNA techniques described by Sambrook et al.[68] combined with standard site-directed mutagenesis with Phusion Plus DNA Polymerase (Thermo Fisher Scientific) were used to generate V5-DNAJA1, V5-DNAJA2, V5-DNAJB1, V5-DNAJB4, V5-DNAJB1[H32Q], DNAJB1-HA, DNAJB1[D4R,E69R,E70R]-HA, DNAJB1[H32Q,D34N]-HA in pcDNA5/FRT/TO mammalian expression plasmid (Thermo Fisher Scientific).[69] Gene sequences were verified by sanger sequencing.

Protein purification

Human Hsp70, Hsp110, DNAJA1, DNAJA2, DNAJB1, DNAJB4, JDP mutants and firefly luciferase were recombinantly expressed and purified as previously described.[12,25] Briefly, *E. coli* strains BL21 (D3E)/ pRARE carrying the corresponding expression vectors were induced for protein expression with 0.5 mM isopropyl-1-thio-D-galactopyranoside (IPTG, Sigma-Aldrich) for three hours at 30 ° C. Cells were lysed in 50 mM HEPES-KOH, pH 7.5, 750 mM KCl, 5 mM $MgCl_2$, protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche), 2 mM phenylmethylsulphonyl fluoride, 10% glycerol (for human JDP purifications) or 50 mM HEPES-KOH, pH 7.5, 300 mM KCl, 5 mM $MgCl_2$, protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche), 2 mM phenylmethylsulphonyl fluoride, 10%

glycerol (for human Hsp70/110 purifications). After centrifugation at 30000 x g (30 min, 4 °

C) the resulting supernatants were applied to the Ni-NTA/Ni-IDA matrix and incubated for 60

min at 4 ° C. Subsequent washing steps were performed with high salt buffers (50 mM HEPES-

KOH, pH 7.5, 750 and 500 mM KCl, 5 mM $MgCl_2$ and 10% glycerol or 50 mM HEPES-KOH,

pH 7.5, 300 and 100 mM KCl, 5 mM $MgCl_2$ and 10% glycerol for human JDP and Hsp70/110

purifications, respectively). In the case of Hsp70/110 purification, an additional wash step was

included with ATP buffer (50 mM HEPES-KOH, pH 7.5, 100 mM KCl, 5 mM $MgCl_2$, 5 mM

ATP). Protein elution was performed with 300 mM imidazole in the corresponding low salt

buffers. Dialysis was performed overnight at 4 ° C in the presence of 4 μg of the 6xHis tagged

Ulp1 per mg of substrate protein for proteolytic cleavage of the 6xHis-Smt3 tag. The 6xHis-

Smt3 tag and Ulp1 were removed by incubating the dialyzed proteins in a Ni-NTA/ Ni-IDA

matrix for 60 min at 4 ° C. Pyruvate kinase was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. Proteins were

further purified using Superdex 200 (GE Healthcare).

Luciferase disaggregation assay

Luciferase disaggregation assays were performed as previously described.[14] Briefly, 20 nM

firefly luciferase was incubated at 45 ° C for 15 minutes in HKM buffer (50 mM Hepes-KOH

pH 7.5, 50 mM KCl, 5 mM $MgCl_2$, 2 mM DTT, 2 mM ATP pH 7.0, 10 μM BSA) to generate

thermally denatured luciferase. Protein disaggregation was initiated by adding 1 μM HSPA8,

100 nM HSPH2, 250 nM JDP/mutant variants (total) and an ATP regenerating system (3 mM

phosphoenolpyruvate (PEP) and 20 ng/μl pyruvate kinase) to the preformed luciferase

aggregates followed by shifting the reaction to 30 ° C. 1 μM of recombinant yeast Hsp104

(kind gift from Yuki Oguchi, Ph.D.) was added to generate the bichaperone disaggregation

system. Luciferase activity was measured at the indicated time points with a Lumat tube

luminometer (Berthold Technologies) by transferring 1 μL of the sample to 100 μL of assay

buffer (25 mM Glycylglycin, pH 7.4, 5 mM ATP pH 7, 100 mM KCl, 15 mM $MgCl_2$) mixed

with 100 µL of 0.25 mM luciferin. The Hsp70 inhibitor VER-155008 (Sigma, SML0271) was

added at a working concentration of 5 µM.

Cell culture

Human adenocarcinoma epithelial cell line HeLa (ATCC CRM-CCL-2) and human embryonic

kidney HEK 293 cells (ATCC CRL-3216) were obtained from the American Type Culture

Collection. HEK 293 *JB1* KO cells were kindly provided by Christian Hansen, Ph.D. (Lund

University). These cell lines were cultured in DMEM (Gibco, Thermo Fisher Scientific, catalog

number: 10569044) supplemented with 10% (v/v) heat inactivated fetal bovine serum (FBS:

Gibco catalog number: 10082147), 1x L-alanine-L-glutamine dipeptide (Gibco Glutamax 100x

catalog number: 35050061), 10 mM sodium pyruvate (Gibco catalog number: 11360070) and

100 U/ml penicillin/streptomycin (Gibco 1x 104 U/ml catalog number: 15140122) at 37 ° C in

5% CO_2. Human dermal fibroblasts were isolated and grown from 6 mm skin punch biopsies

as previously described.[70] Dermal fibroblasts were cultured on 0.1% gelatin (Sigma catalog

number: G1890) treated wells using fibroblast media consisting of DMEM (Gibco catalog

number: 10569044), 10% FBS, 0.1 mM MEM non-essential amino acids solution (Gibco

catalog number: 11140050), 100 U/ml penicillin/streptomycin, 0.1mM 2-Mercaptoethanol,

(Gibco catalog number: 21985023). Cell passaging: 0.25 million dermal fibroblasts were

seeded in a 10 cm culture plate until cell confluency reached 70%. This was defined as a

passage (P), and the process was repeated to generate replicatively aged cell lines. Mycoplasma

contamination of cells was tested and ruled out with the LookOut Mycoplasma Detection kit

(Sigma-Aldrich; catalog number: MP0035).

Heat shock and drug treatments

Heat shock was performed by exposing HeLa cells to 43 ° C for 1 hour in a water bath or

otherwise indicated. A 42 ° C, 2 hours heat shock in an incubator was applied to HEK 293 and

human dermal fibroblasts. Following heat shock, cells were returned to 37 ° C for stress

recovery. Temperature measurements for heat shock conditions in the water bath and incubator

were determined using a VOLTCRAFT K101 digital thermometer (Conrad). Hsp70 inhibitor

VER-155008 (Sigma, catalog number: SML0271) was used at a working concentration of 5

µM (*in vitro*) or 50 µM (in cells) or otherwise stated. Protein synthesis was inhibited by adding

cycloheximide (CHX) (Sigma, catalog number: 01810) at a final concentration of 100 µg/mL.

NMS-873 (Sigma, catalog number: SML 1182) was used for VCP inhibition at a final

concentration of 1 or 10 µM.

***In situ* proximity ligation assay (PLA)**

PLA was performed as previously described.[14,26]. Cells were washed 2x with PBS, fixed with

4% paraformaldehyde in PBS, and the proximity ligation assay was performed according to

the DUOLINK manufacturer's guideline for mammalian cells (Sigma-Aldrich). DNA was

stained with DAPI-containing mounting medium (Sigma-Aldrich, catalog number:

DUO82040). The staining, imaging, processing, and analysis conditions were kept consistent

for each experiment.

Immunocytochemistry and staining

Cells were cultured on soda lime glass diagnostic slides masked with epoxy resin (Marienfield-

superior, catalog number: 1216530) until 70-80% confluence. Cells were washed 2x with PBS,

fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde in PBS for 10 minutes, and washed 2x again with PBS. Cells

were permeabilized with 0.2% Triton X-100 in PBS for 10 minutes. After permeabilization,

cells were washed 2x with PBS and blocked for 10 minutes in PBS containing 0.5% bovine

serum albumin and 0.15% Glycine (PBS+ buffer). Primary antibodies were diluted in PBS+

buffer and incubated for 1.5 hours at room temperature (RT) or overnight at 4 ° C. After

incubation, cells were washed 4x with PBS+ buffer. Secondary antibodies were diluted in

PBS+ buffer and incubated for 1.5 hours at RT, followed by 2x washes in the same buffer.

DNA was stained with DAPI-containing mounting medium (Sigma-Aldrich, catalog number:

DUO82040) or Hoechst staining (Thermo Scientific, catalog number: 62249) according to the

manufacturer's guidelines.

Transfections and siRNA knockdowns

Plasmid transfections were performed according to standard protocols using Lipofectamine

2000 or 3000 (Thermo Fisher Scientific). siRNA transfections were carried out according to

standard protocols using DharmaFECT one transfection reagent (Dharmacon, DHA-T-2001).

HeLa cells were transfected with 25-50 nM of Dharmacon onTarget Plus smartpool siRNA

against DNAJA1 (Dharmacon, L-019617-00), DNAJA2 (Dharmacon, L-012104–01),

DNAJB1 (Dharmacon, L-012735–01), DNAJB4 (Dharmacon, L-015678-01), HSF-1

(Dharmacon, L-012109-02), BAG1 (Dharmacon, L-003871-00), HSPBP1 (Dharmacon, L-

016607-00), HSPH1 (Dharmacon, L-004972-00), HSPA4 (Dharmacon, L-012636-00),

HSPA4L (Dharmacon, L-017633-00), VCP (Dharmacon, L-008727-00), or scrambled non-

targeting siRNA (Dharmacon, D-001810–10) for 48 hours. The knockdown efficiencies were

verified by immunoblotting using specific antibodies.

Confocal microscopy

LSM 780 and LSM 980 laser scanning confocal systems on inverted stands with diode 405 nm,

argon 488 nm, and DPSS 561 nm lasers (Carl Zeiss, Germany) were used for microscopy. The

images were taken with the Plan-Apochromat 40x/1.4 oil objective (Carl Zeiss) and identical

acquisition settings with a pinhole of approximately 1 AU. Maximum projection images were

generated from acquired z-stacks. Linear adjustments of brightness and contrast were

performed to the same degree within each experiment. The DAPI, PLA, and GFP signals were

pseudo-colored in magenta, yellow, and cyan. Fluorescence intensity profile plots (line scans)

were generated on the raw images using the RGB Profiler plugin in Fiji.

PLA quantification

The PLA signal was quantified using custom code (https://github.com/Sanudish/Punctate-

Detection.git) in MATLAB R2021a using functions from the Image Processing Toolbox, and

Statistics and Machine Learning Toolbox. Briefly, the brightest slice of each volume,

determined by the cumulative intensity of the slice, was extracted to perform the quantification.

The nuclei-stained channel of the images was first processed with a median filter followed by

a maximum filter, both of which utilized a 4x4 kernel. The user input-based percentile

thresholding was then applied to the processed images. The connected nuclei were then further

segmented through the implementation of a Watershed transformation. To refine nuclei

segmentation, user inputs for the degree of connectivity and area were utilized. The output

enabled quantification of the number of cells per image. Next, for extraction of puncta,

logarithmic frequency histograms of the intensity profiles were plotted to generate a

normalized user input range between -1 and 1 to threshold out puncta. To improve the

segmentation of the puncta from noise, area thresholding was implemented. The resulting

number of puncta, and their characteristics were measured. The product of the average punctate

mean intensity per cell and the number of punctate structures per cell was calculated to obtain

the PLA raw parameter. The final induction of Hsp70 and JDP assemblies were reported as a

PLA fold change to an unstressed condition.

Colocalization between PLA signal and Hsp104^{DWB}-GFP positive heat-induced foci

Hela cells expressing Hsp104^{DWB}-GFP were heat shocked at 42 ° C for 2h and allowed to

recovery at 37 ° C for 12h. Cells were treated with cycloheximide (CHX) at 3.5h and VER-

155008 at 5.5h after HS. Super-resolution images were acquired using LSM 980 Airyscan

super-resolution module (Carl Zeiss, Germany). Raw images were processed using the Zen

Blue software's Airyscan Processing function in 3D mode. Colocalization analysis between

PLA signal and Hsp104^{DWB}-GFP foci was conducted using Fiji

plugin Just Another Colocalization Plugin (JACoP).[71] Manders' overlap correlation

coefficients were calculated using thresholded images (n=5).

Aggregate quantification

Endogenous protein aggregates and TIA-1 biomolecular condensates in HeLa cells were

quantified using a Fiji macro termed AggreCount as previously described.[72] Briefly, the

aggregates were extracted by processing images with gamma enhancement, mean background

reduction, and a user-based threshold. The contrast enhancement of the nuclei enabled

segmentation of nuclei regions, which were then utilized to generate a composite image with

the preprocessed image. The signal-enhanced composite image enables the detection of local

maxima of cell regions. Implementing the watershed algorithm, a Voronoi diagram was

generated and the proportion of cells with aggregates was measured. The fold change was

determined by calculating the difference of each parameter in the stress recovery conditions

and the unstressed condition. When segmenting hnRNPK aggregates, the threshold diameter

of inclusions was set at 1 μm to avoid intranuclear inhomogeneities being falsely detected as

aggregates. The aggregates in HEK 293 cells were calculated manually as previously

described[73] because AggreCount segmentation was less efficient.

Fluorescence Recovery After Photobleaching

HeLa cells expressing GFP tagged hnRNPK were exposed to 43 ° C for 1 hour in a water bath

and returned to 37 ° C for 1 hour. FRAP was performed on heat-induced hnRNPK aggregates

using an LSM 780 laser scanning confocal system on inverted stands at 37 ° C with argon 488

nm laser (Carl Zeiss, Germany). The images were taken with the Plan-Apochromat 40x/1.4 oil

objective (Carl Zeiss). Aggregates were photobleached using 100% FRAP laser power for 10

ms. Images were obtained every 500 ms to observe fluorescence recovery up to 40 s. Images

were analyzed using easyFRAP.[74] Recovery curves were normalized to background

fluorescence for subtracting noise, and adjacent non-bleached aggregates for fluorescence

intensity fluctuations. Average and standard errors were calculated from seven individual

traces.

Immunoblotting

Immunoblot analysis was performed using standard methodologies.[14] Briefly, cells were lysed

in RIPA buffer with a protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche cOmplete - EDTA free, catalog

number: 05056489001) and sonicated (3x cycles, each cycle at 5 seconds and 50% amplitude)

in a Branson SFX150 Digital Sonifier (Emerson). Protein concentrations were determined

using the bicinchoninic acid protein assay kit (PierceTM, BCA, catalog numbers: Reagent-A:

23228, Reagent-B: 23224). Protein samples were stabilized with 1x sample buffer and boiled

for 5 minutes at 95 ° C. For SDS-PAGE, 25 μg total protein was loaded into 4% stacking gel

and resolved through 12% running gel. Protein transfer to a PVDF membrane was performed

using a Bio-Rad transfer tank (Mini Trans-Blot Cell). Anti-rabbit (800CW; C90220-05) and

anti-mouse (680RD; C90219-05) antibodies from LI-COR Biosciences were used as secondary

antibodies. The detection was carried out with an Odyssey Immunoblotting Imaging System

(LI-COR).

Supernatant-pellet assay

HeLa cells were grown in 100 mm cell culture plates. Before lysis, cells were washed 1x with

ice-cold PBS, scraped, and collected with 500 μl of ice-cold PBS. Cells were collected at 600

x g for 5 minutes at 4 ˚ C. Cell pellets were resuspended in lysis buffer containing 25 mM

HEPES, 75 mM NaCl, 1 mM $MgCl_2$, 1% NP-40, 75 U/ml Benzonase (EMD Millipore) and

Protease Inhibitors cocktail (Roche) and lysed by vortexing for 20 seconds and subsequently

for 5 seconds every 10 minutes over the course of 1 hour. Protein quantification was performed

using the DC-protein assay (Bio-Rad) and the samples were equalized. 10% of the total protein

lysate was transferred to a fresh Eppendorf tube and boiled in Laemmli buffer (60 mM Tris pH

6.8, 2% SDS, 10% glycerol, 5% β-mercaptoethanol). From the remaining lysate, the pellet

fractions were isolated by centrifuging the samples at 20,817 x g for 30 minutes at 4 ˚ C and

removing the supernatant. The pellet fractions were washed and resuspended in urea buffer

(8M Urea, 50 mM Tris pH 7.4, 2% SDS, 50 mM DTT). The resuspended samples were shaken

at 1000 rpm in a heating block at 60 ˚ C for 1 hour and subsequently at 1000 rpm in RT,

overnight, and boiled prior to SDS-PAGE.

qRT-PCR

HeLa cells were washed with ice cold PBS, scraped in TRIzol reagent (Invitrogen) and

incubated at RT for 5 minutes. Chloroform was added to cell lysates, vortexed for 15 seconds

and incubated for 2-3 minutes before centrifugation at 18,000 x g for 15 minutes at 4 ˚ C. The

aqueous phase was transferred to a tube without DNAase/RNAase, isopropanol was added and

incubated in RT for 10 minutes. RNA was precipitated by centrifugation at 18,000 x g for 10

minutes at 4 ˚ C. The supernatants were removed, 75% ethanol was added to the pellets, and

the samples were centrifugated at 18,000 x g for 5 minutes at 4 ˚C. The supernatants were

removed and the pellets were resuspended in DNA/RNAase-free H_2O. DNAases were removed

with the Turbo DNAase free kit (Invitrogen) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

cDNA synthesis was performed using M-MLV reverse transcriptase (Invitrogen) according to

the manufacturer's instructions. The primers used in the PCR step were previously described.[75]

LDH-Glo cytotoxicity assay

Heat shock-induced cytotoxicity was determined using the LDH-Glo cytotoxicity assay

(Promega, catalog number: J2380) according to the manufacturer's guidelines. Briefly, HeLa

cells and human dermal fibroblasts were cultured in a 6-well plate at 37 ° C. Heat shock was

performed at 43 ° C in a water bath for 1 hour and returned to the 37 ° C incubator for recovery.

VER-155008 (5 μM) and cycloheximide (100 μg/mL) treatments were performed 2.5 hours

after heat shock. 5 μL samples from the cell culture media were collected at indicated time

points during heat shock recovery, and immediately mixed with 95 μL of LDH storage buffer

and kept at 4 ° C. The LDH-Glo cytotoxicity assay was performed using a plate reader

(CLARIOstar[Plus], BMG Labtech).

Cellular senescence detection assay

Cellular senescence was assessed using fluorescence- and immunocytochemistry-based assays.

The fluorescence-based assay was performed with the Cellular Senescence Plate Assay Kit-

SPiDER-βGal (Dogindo, catalog number: 05-05) according to the manufacturer's guidelines.

Fluorescence intensity was measured using a plate reader (CLARIOstar[Plus], BMG Labtech;

Excitation: 535 nm/ emission: 580 nm). SA-β-Gal activity was normalized to cell count

determined using a hemocytometer. The immunocytochemistry-based assay was performed

with Senescence β-Galactosidase Staining Kit (Cell Signaling Technology, catalog number:

9860) according to the manufacturer's guidelines. DIC images were obtained on a Leica DMi8

system using Plan-Apochromat 40x/1.4 oil objective. The percentage of cells positive with β-

Galactosidase signal was quantified manually.

Proteasome activity assay

The chymotrypsin-like activity of the 20S proteasome was assessed using a commercially

available fluorometric proteasome activity assay kit (Abcam, catalog number: ab107921)

according to the manufacturer's guidelines. Fluorescence intensity was measured using a plate

reader (CLARIOstar^{Plus}, BMG Labtech; Excitation: 350 nm/ emission: 440 nm). The readout

was normalized to the protein concentrations of the lysate samples determined using the

bicinchoninic acid protein assay kit (PierceTM, BCA, catalog numbers: Reagent-A: 23228,

Reagent-B: 23224).

847 Multiple reaction monitoring mass spectrometry

HeLa cells were cultured in 150 mm cell culture plates until 70-80% confluence. Light samples

were grown as previously described. To generate a heavy internal standard, cells were grown

in arginine and lysine-depleted DMEM (Thermo Fisher Scientific) supplemented with 100

mg/L L-arginine-HCl, $^{13}C_6$, $^{15}N_4$ (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and 100 mg/L L-Lysine-2HCl

$^{13}C_6$, $^{15}N_2$ (Thermo Fisher Scientific). The cells were grown in the heavy medium for 6 passages

until the incorporation of heavy amino acids was at least 95%. To ensure that all proteins of

interest were detectable, a heavy standard was generated from lysates of unstressed and heat

shocked cells for 1 hour at 43 ˚ C. Before lysis, cells were washed with ice-cold PBS and

detached by scraping with 1 ml of ice-cold PBS. Cells were pelleted at 500 x g for 5 minutes

at 4 ˚ C and the supernatant was discarded. Cell pellets were snap frozen in liquid nitrogen and

stored at -80 ˚ C or processed immediately. Cell pellets were resuspended in Benzonase

containing urea buffer (6 M Urea, 50 mM Tris pH = 7.5, 2 mM MgCl$_2$, 50 mM DTT, 0.25 U

µL^{-1} Benzonase) and lysed for 10 minutes at RT. The lysate was centrifuged at 5,000 x g for

10 minutes in RT. The supernatant was transferred to a fresh tube. Protein quantification was

performed using the DC Protein Assay (Bio-Rad).

Light samples and heavy internal standards were mixed in a 1:1 (w/w) ratio and 100 µg of total

protein was precipitated using a mixture of methanol and chloroform according to a published

protocol [76]. For in-solution digestion, precipitated protein pellets were resolved in 50 µL of

urea buffer (8 M Urea, Carl Roth, 100 mM NaCl, Applichem, in 50 mM triethylammonium

bicarbonate (TEAB), pH 8.5, Sigma-Aldrich). To reduce disulfide bridges, the sample was

incubated with 10 mM 1,4-dithiothreitol (Sigma-Aldrich) for 30 min at RT, constantly agitated

at 350 rpm. Next, alkylation was performed with 30 mM iodacetamide (Sigma-Aldrich) in

100 mM TEAB buffer for 30 min at RT in the dark. Sample predigestion was performed by

adding 2.5 µg Lysyl Endopeptidase® (Wako Chemicals) and incubating for 4 hours at 28 °C

and 350 rpm agitation. After diluting the urea concentration to 2 M by adding 50 mM TEAB

buffer, 1 µg of trypsin (Thermo Fisher Scientific) was added and the samples were incubated

for 16 hours at 28 °C and 350 rpm agitation. The digestion process was stopped by reducing

pH < 2 by adding trifluoroacetic acid (TFA, Sigma-Aldrich) to a final concentration of 0.4 –

0.8% (v/v). The samples were centrifuged for 10 min at 20,000 x g in RT and the supernatant

was desalted using SepPak C18 cartridges (500 mg; Waters) and the Waters Extraction

Manifold. The SepPak C18 cartridges were equilibrated by adding 3 ml of 100% acetonitrile

(ACN), then 3 ml of 50% ACN / 0.1% TFA and finally 3 ml of 0.1% TFA. Digested peptide

samples were loaded onto SepPak cartridges and washed with 3 ml of 0.1% TFA. Finally, the

samples were eluted into fresh LoBind tubes using 1 ml of 50% ACN / 0.1% TFA. The samples

were dried in a vacuum centrifuge and stored at -20 ° C until LC-MRM analysis. Before LC-

MRM analysis, the peptides were resolubilized in 10 µL of 20% ACN / 0.1% (v/v) TFA and

incubated for 5 min in RT, then diluted 10-fold with 0.1% TFA to obtain a final concentration

of 2% ACN. 5 µg of tryptic digest including a set of 11 synthetic peptides for indexed retention

time scheduling[77] were analyzed per LC-MRM injection. The samples were measured in a

randomized order using a nanoACQUITY UPLC System (Waters) online-coupled to an ESI-

QTrap 5500 via a NanoSpray III Source (both Sciex). The UPLC was equipped with a trapping

column (Waters, Symmetry C18; 2 cm length, 180 µm inner diameter, 5 µm C18 particle size,

100 Å pore size) and an analytical column (Waters, M-Class Peptide BEH C18; 25 cm length,

75 µm inner diameter, 1.7 µm C18 particle size, 130 Å pore size). The peptides were trapped

for 7 min at a flow rate of 10 µL min^{-1} with 99.4% of buffer A (1% v/v ACN, 0.1% v/v FA)

and 0.6% of buffer B (89.9% v/v ACN, 0.1% v/v FA) and separated at the analytical column

temperature of 60°C, with a flow rate of 300 nl min^{-1} and a 37 min linear gradient of buffer B

in buffer A from 3 to 37% B, followed by washing and reconditioning of the column to 3% B.

Uncoated precut emitters (Silica Tip, 20 μm inner diameter, 10 μm tip inner diameter, New

Objectives, Woburn, MA) were used and a voltage of approximately 2.6 kV was applied for

electrospray ionization. QTrap 5500 was operated in scheduled mode at Unit resolution for Q1

and Q3 with 180 sec MRM detection window width and 2.5 sec target scan time. Peptide

retention times for scheduling were previously determined using commercial synthetic peptide

standards (JPT).

LC-MRM data and statistical analysis

The MRM data was first manually reviewed using Skyline 64-bit version 20.1. Data sets were

imported into Skyline, and signal quality was assessed using the Peak Areas and Retention

Time visualization features. We ensured via the Results Grid that all reference dot-product

(rdotp) correlations for ratios of the observed transition intensities between the corresponding

light and heavy precursor pairs were equal to or above 0.9. Then, all data were exported from

Skyline and imported into R version 4.0.3 (2020-10-10) "Bunny-Wunnies Freak Out" for

further analysis using a custom script. Briefly, all quantitative transitions were summed up

across proteins, and log2 light/heavy ratios were computed to account for technical variance.

In addition, all samples were normalized to their respective tubulin alpha-1A protein level to

account for biological variance. Then, pairwise group comparisons were performed using linear

regression models between protein ratios of different conditions and the unstressed control.

The slope of the linear regression corresponded to the fold change between the respective

condition and the control and was plotted together with its respective standard error.

Identification of aggregated proteins recovered by Hsp70 disaggregase activity (post 6h heat shock)

Briefly, HeLa cells were heat-shocked followed by sustained recovery over 12h. We chose recovery time points that encompass the evolution and resolution (i.e. 6h and 12h post-HS) of aggregates that appeared to be the main target of Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1. To quantify cellular proteins that change solubility at different harvest time points, we used isobaric labeling (Tandem mass tag; TMT), a method that allows for multiplexing of samples collected at different time points in a recovery course into a single experiment (Supplementary Data Fig. 12a). The gist of TMT is that peptides are labeled with one of several distinct agents of the same mass, but cleave into distinct reporter ions during mass spectrometry fragmentation. The workflow included a parallel examination of stress recovery in which Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase activity was inhibited using VER-155008 to identify potential substrates. The proportion of proteins in the supernatant compared to the total proteome (pSup) was normalized to solubility prior to HS (ΔpSup), and then the effect of VER-155008 was compared to the DMSO control ($\Delta\Delta$pSup). As expected, we observed a significant decrease in the median pSup at 6h after HS in both DMSO and VER-155008 treated samples (Supplementary Data Fig. 12b; p value < 0.0001, paired Wilcoxon rank test) that supports aggregation throughout the proteome as a result of heat denaturation. After 12 hours of recovery, more than 75% of proteins had recovered their solubility. However, as expected, a subset of proteins recovered differently in the presence of VER-155008, as measured by $\Delta\Delta$pSup. Proteins with $\Delta\Delta$pSup > +/ 0.26 (determined by Gaussian thresholding at the 99th percentile of pseudo pre-HS ΔpSup) were considered to have significantly altered solubility due to the presence of VER-155008. Of these proteins, those that were less soluble in the presence of VER-155008 compared to DMSO ($\Delta\Delta$pSup > 0) at at least one time point were identified as potential clients solubilized by the disaggregase machinery (a total of 51 proteins, Supplementary Data Table 1). We then sought to describe the general behavior of $\Delta\Delta$pSup

among these proteins using unsupervised k-means clustering. The proteins of interest were sorted into four distinct patterns (Supplementary Data Fig. 12c); (i) those that were more soluble at 6h-HS in the presence of VER-155008 compared to the DMSO control, but whose recovery was inhibited compared to the DMSO control at the 12h timepoint, (ii) those that were less soluble at 6h post-HS in the presence of VER155008 but then recovered similarly to the DMSO control at 12h, (iii) those with no difference in solubility due to VER-155008 at 6h post-HS, but whose recovery was inhibited compared to the DMSO control at the 12h timepoint, and (iv) those that were less soluble at both 6h and 12h post-HS in the presence of VER-155008 (Supplementary Data Table 1). Protein degradation and processes such as the recently discovered ubiquitinome reshaping during stress recovery could have in part influenced the generated patterns we observed.[61] Given that the addition of VER-155008 was at 5h post-HS, we postulated that its impact on disaggregation would be most visible at the 12h timepoint. Therefore, we considered proteins with minimal differences in solubility at 6h but inhibited recovery at 12h in the presence of VER-155008 (cluster iii) for validation. **Cell fractionation by ultracentrifugation**: HeLa cells were grown in T75 cell culture flasks (Nunc EasYFlask, catalog number: nun156472). Before lysis, cells were washed with 1x ice-cold PBS, scraped and collected with 10 mL of ice-cold PBS. The cells were then pelleted by a mild centrifugation step at 120 x g for 6 minutes at 4 ° C twice and the supernatant was discarded. Cell pellets were resuspended in 500 µL of lysis buffer 1 containing 50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 1% (v/v) IGEPAL CA-630, 10 units/mL DNase I, 1:1,000 protease inhibitor, and Protease Inhibitors cocktail (Roche, catalog number: 11836145001) and lysed by extrusion through a 27-gauge needle for 25 times, followed by a 31-gauge needle for 10 times. Subsequently, EDTA was added to a final concentration of 2 mM. Cell lysate was then divided into two, one for the assessment of total protein and the other pelleted at 100,000 x g for 20 min at 4 ° C. The resulting supernatant was the collected sample. The volume of total protein and supernatant samples was measured and resuspended in an equal volume of a lysis buffer 2

containing lysis buffer 1, 4% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS, Thermo Scientific, catalog number:

28365) and 4 mM 1,4-dithiothreitol (DTT, Thermo Scientific, catalog number: R0861).

Subsequently, the samples were incubated at 95 ° C for 20 minutes. **NanoESI-LC-MS/MS**:

Samples were prepared for mass spectrometry as previously detailed.[19] Freeze-dried peptides

were resuspended in 80 µl of distilled water and quantified by the BCA assay (Thermo Fisher

Scientific) according to the manufacturer's instruction. 20 µl of each sample was diluted into

a final volume of 40 µl containing 100 mM TEAB and 30% (v/v) acetonitrile. The samples

were then labeled with TMT 11-plex (Thermo Scientific, catalog number: A37725) according

to the manufacturer's protocol. The samples were analyzed by nanoESI-LC-MS/MS using an

Orbitrap Exploris mass spectrometer (Thermo Scientific) equipped with a nanoflow reversed-

phase-HPLC (Ultimate 3000 RSLC, Dionex) fitted with an Acclaim Pepmap nano-trap column

(Dionex—C18, 100 Å, 75 µm × 2 cm) and an Acclaim Pepmap RSLC analytical column

(Dionex—C18, 100 Å, 75 µm × 50 cm). For each iteration of LC-MS/MS, 0.6 µg of the peptide

mix was loaded onto the enrichment (trap) column at an isocratic flow of 5 µl min^{-1} of 2%

ACN containing 0.1% (v/v) trifluoroacetic acid for 5 min before the enrichment column was

switched in-line with the analytical column. The eluents were 0.1% (v/v) formic acid/5%

DMSO (v/v) (solvent A) and 100% ACN/0.1% formic acid/5% DMSO (v/v) (v/v) (solvent B),

flowed at 300 nL min^{-1} using a gradient of 3–22% B in 90 min, 22–40% B in 10 min and 40–

80% B in 5 min then maintained for 5 min before re-equilibration for 8 min at 3% B prior to

the next analysis. All spectra were acquired in positive ionization mode with full scan MS

acquired from m/z 300-1600 in the FT mode at a mass resolving power of 120 000, after

accumulating to an AGC target value of 3.00e^6, with a maximum accumulation time of 25 ms.

The RunStart EASY-IC lock internal lockmass was used. Data-dependent HCD MS/MS of

charge states > 1 was performed using a 3 s scan method, at a normalized AGC target of 75%,

automatic injection, a normalized collision energy of 30%, and with spectra acquired at a

resolving power of 15000. Dynamic exclusion was used for 20s. **Peptide identification:** The

initial analysis of raw mass spectra was carried out using MaxQuant (v 1.6.14.0) against the

Swissprot Homo Sapiens database (downloaded 04/03/2020; containing 20350 entries).

Searches were conducted with 20 ppm mass tolerance for MS, and 0.2 Da for MS/MS, with

one missed cleavage allowed and match between runs enabled. The MS2 reporter ion was set

to TMT 11-plex and isotopic distribution correction was applied according to the product data

sheet. Variable modifications included methionine oxidation and N-terminal protein

acetylation, while the carbamidomethylcysteine modification was fixed. The false discovery

rate maximum was set to 0.005% at the peptide identification level (actual was 0.005 for each

replicate) and 1% at the protein identification level. All other parameters were left as default.

Ratio correction and scaling: Further analysis was performed with custom Python scripts.

The logic was as follows. First, common contaminant proteins were removed, and quantified

proteins were considered as those identified by at least one unique peptide. The ratio of

abundance for each protein in the supernatant as compared to total samples (pSup) was

corrected for differences in total protein amount as quantified via BCA assay described

previously.[19] The relative change in solubility for individual proteins after heat shock (ΔpSup)

was then determined by normalizing to the preheat shock value, such that a protein with no

change in solubility due to heat shock would have a value of 1. The resulting data were then

scaled using a p-value weighted correction.[78] This correction weights the mean ratio of

biological replicates (*n=4*) according to the relative confidence with which it deviates from the

expected value (in this case, 1) as per equation 1:

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$$R = \frac{1 - m}{-20^p}$$

where *m* corresponds to the mean of the ΔpSup ratios and *p* corresponds to the p-value derived

from a one-sample t-test of the ratios against the expected value under a single timepoint and

treatment regime. Finally, the difference in relative solubility at 6 and 12h post-heat shock

between the DMSO and VER-155008 treated samples (ΔΔpSup) was calculated as $\Delta pSup_{DMSO}$

– $\Delta pSup_{VER}$, such that no difference in relative solubility between the DMSO and VER-155008

treatments would yield a ratio of 0. **Identifying proteins of interest:** To define a $\Delta\Delta$pSup at

which the changes in solubility could be considered biologically relevant, we first generated a

pseudo-control $\Delta\Delta$pSup by subtracting per-protein randomized pre-heat shock ratios (ΔpSup$_{R\text{-}}$

$_{Control}$) from the observed pre-heat shock ratios (ΔpSup$_{Control}$). The resulting frequency

histogram of pseudo-control $\Delta\Delta$pSup values was then fit to a Gaussian distribution, and by

calculating three times the derived variance parameter (σ) we determined the interval

encompassing 99.7% of the pseudo-control $\Delta\Delta$pSup values. The boundaries of this interval (in

this case $\pm$ 0.26, consistent with previous estimates of $\pm$ 0.3 applied to similar data sets[19] were

then used to threshold the $\Delta\Delta$pSup values at each time point. Proteins that exceeded the

$\Delta\Delta$pSup threshold at least one time point were collected for additional analyzes. Functional

overrepresentation was tested using PantherGOSlim (http://pantherdb.org), with a Bonferroni-

corrected significance cutoff of p < 0.05 against the complete list of proteins identified.

Annotated protein-protein interactions were collected from STRINGdb[79] via Cytoscape (v

3.7.2).[80] Finally, $\Delta\Delta$pSup traces over time were clustered using k-means as implemented via

the scikit-learn package.[81]

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Statistical Methods

All quantified experiments were performed at least in triplicate. Data are shown as mean $\pm$

s.e.m. and error bars indicating s.e.m. All statistical analyzes not described elsewhere were

performed on RStudio (Version 1.1.447) or GraphPad Prism 8. One-way between groups

analysis of variance (ANOVA) was conducted for multiple group comparisons. All analyses

were considered statistically significant at p<0.05.

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1046   **Ethics**

1047 Derivation of human dermal fibroblasts from skin punch biopsies was performed with approval

1048 from the Monash University and Monash Medical Centre Human Ethics Committees (approval

1049 number 10006A).

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Data availability and code availability

The mass spectrometry proteomics data have been deposited with the ProteomeXchange

Consortium through the PRIDE[82] partner repository with the data set identifier PXD029161.

All analysis scripts are available on request. The multiple reaction monitoring data will be

deposited in the <u>ProteomeXchange</u> Consortium through the <u>Panorama</u> Public[83] partner

repository upon manuscript acceptance and can be reviewed at

https://panoramaweb.org/siDAP.url

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1244   **Competing interests**

1245   The authors declare no competing interests.

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1251   **Supplementary Materials**

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Supplementary Data Figure legends

Supplementary Data Figure 1. Reactions containing interclass JDP scaffolds show increased protein disaggregation/refolding activity, *in vitro*. **a,** Top: Schematic diagram of Hsp70, JDP and Hsp110 mediated protein disaggregation. JDP scaffolds presumably assemble on aggregates and recruit Hsp70. Hsp110's primarily function as nucleotide exchange factors (NEFs) for Hsp70. Bottom left: Domain architectures of class A (green) and class B (blue) JDPs (depicted as dimers). JD, J-domain; CTD, C-terminal domain; ZFLR, Zink finger like region; DD, dimerization domain. Bottom right: Intra and interclass JDP complexation which results in the formation of homo or hetero JDP scaffolds (minimum is a dimer of a dimer) is driven by intermolecular interactions between JD and CTD.[12] **b,** Left: Luciferase disaggregation/refolding assay. Heat denaturation triggers misfolding and aggregation of luciferase. Right: Disaggregation/refolding efficiencies by different JDP scaffolds containing Hsp70 disaggregases, *in vitro* (n = 3, data are mean + / - s.e.m., * adjusted p-value < 0.05, ** adjusted p-value < 0.01, one-way ANOVA Tukey post hoc test). Hsp110 functions as a NEF.

Supplementary Data Figure 2. JDP-JDP and JDP-Hsp70 complex formation during disaggregase assembly monitored by PLA in heat shocked human cells. a, Formation of intraclass JDP scaffolds between DNAJA1 and DNAJA2, and DNAJB1 and DNAJB4 in HeLa cells during HS recovery. PLA signal in yellow. DAPI (magenta) staining indicates nuclei. HS indicated in red. Unstressed cells indicated as U. Scale bar 20 μm (n = 3). **b,** Technical controls of PLA for antibody specificity. PLA was performed in HeLa cells with single primary antibodies only. Signal amplification (yellow) was not observed in any of the controls. Scale bar 20 μm (n = 2). **c,** Immunoblot (IB) showing RNAi knockdown efficiencies for DNAJA1, DNAJA2, DNAJB1, DNAJB4 in HeLa cells. GAPDH, loading control. **d,** RNAi knockdown-based controls of PLA for antibody and complexation specificity. RNAi knockdown of single JDPs decreased JDP[A]-JDP[B] and JDP[A/B]-Hsp70 complex formation (yellow puncta) in HeLa

cells. The non-targeting control siRNA (siScrambled) is used as the control for RNAi. Scale

bar 10 μm (n = 2). **e,** Top: The graphs show the temperature changes observed in two HS

regimes (at 42 ˚C 2h in an incubator *vs.* 43 ˚C 1h in a water bath) used in the study. Bottom:

Induction of the DNAJA1-DNAJB1 scaffold (PLA signal, yellow) after applying the two HS

regimes to HeLa cells. Nuclei stained with DAPI (magenta). HS indicated in red. Unstressed

cells indicated as U. Scale bar 20 μm (n = 3).

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Supplementary Data Figure 3. PLA signals capture direct interactions between

disaggregase machine components during assembly. a, DNAJB1^{RRR} can shuttle in and out

of nucleoli immediately after heat shock to support chaperoning function(s) similar to wild type

DNAJB1. The immunocytochemical signal from the HA tag (yellow) shows that both

DNAJB1-HA and the JDP scaffold forming defective mutant DNAJB1^{RRR}-HA rapidly localize

into the nucleoli of HeLa cells immediately after heat shock (HS), and relocate out of the

nucleoli before 6h post-HS. RRR denotes the D4R + E69R + E70R mutations in DNAJB1.

Unstressed cells are denoted as U. Nuclei stained with DAPI (magenta). The nucleoli are

unstained by DAPI and appear as dark spots in the nucleus. Line scans across the nucleoli are

indicated in white. Corresponding line scan plots are shown on the right. **b,** The PLA signal

captures the direct interaction between DNAJA1 and DNAJB1 during the formation of the JDP

scaffold. A decreased PLA signal (yellow) is observed for the interaction between the JDP

scaffold forming defective mutant DNAJB1^{RRR}-HA and endogenous DNAJA1 or DNAJA2.

Nuclei stained with DAPI (magenta). Scale bar 20 μm (n = 2). Immunoblot shows expression

levels of mutant and wild type DNAJB1. **c,** As in (**b**), a similar decrease in the PLA signal is

observed for the interaction between Hsp70 binding defective mutant V5-DNAJB1^{H32Q} and

endogenous Hsp70. Scale bar 20 μm (n = 2). Immunoblot shows expression levels of mutant

and wild type DNAJB1.

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Supplementary Data Figure 4. Hsp110-type nucleotide exchange factors (NEF) impact the disassembly of DNAJA1-DNAJB1 scaffold. The Hsp110 chaperone family of NEFs functions redundantly to facilitate the dissociation of ADP from Hsp70 and stimulate the disaggregation activity. **a,** Mini RNAi screen targeting NEFs from Hsp110 (HSPH1, HSPH2, and HSPH3), Bag (BAG-1), and HSPB1 (HSPB-1) families in HeLa cells. Single NEF depletions do not affect the assembly or disassembly of DNAJA1-DNAJB1 scaffold (PLA signal, yellow) during heat stress recovery (HS, red). Triple knockdown of the Hsp110s, which removes functional redundancy, results in delayed disassembly of the JDP scaffold. The non-targeting control siRNA (siScrambled) and depletion of HSF-1 (see section on HSF-1 mediated assembly of DNAJA-DNAJB1 scaffold) are used as controls for RNAi. Nuclei stained with DAPI (magenta). Scale bar 20 μm (n = 3). **b,** Quantification of the PLA signals from (**a**). Data are mean +/- s.e.m. **c,** Cells tune the activation of DNAJA1-DNAJB1 scaffold according to the level of protein damage sustained after HS. Heat stress at 39 ˚C *vs* 42 ˚C for 2h mimics mild-moderate and high fever, respectively. PLA signal in yellow. Quantification of PLA signal reported in Fig 1d. The nuclei stained with DAPI (magenta). Scale bar 20 μm (n = 3).

Supplementary Data Figure 5. Resolution of different heat-induced aggregates/SGs in cells. a, Detection of heat-induced ubiquitin (Ub) positive protein aggregates. 1% NP-40 insoluble aggregates were isolated at indicated time points during heat stress recovery using a two-phase fractionation approach and probed with antibody against ubiquitin (n = 3). Immunoblots show the clearance of Ub-positive protein aggregates in HeLa cells before 6h post-HS. GAPDH, loading control. **b,** Resolution of TIA-1-GFP containing stress granules (SGs; yellow) also occurs in HeLa cells before 6h post-HS. Nuclei stained with DAPI (magenta) (n = 3).

Supplementary Data Figure 6. Heat-induced aggregate solubilization after inhibition of Hsp70 with VER-155008. a, Resolution of heat-induced aggregates in cells +/- Hsp70 inhibitor VER-155008. Top: Schematic diagram illustrating the decoration of heat induced aggregates by the yeast HSP104^{DWB}-GFP. Hsp70-JDP chaperone system facilitates the loading of the inactive mutant of Hsp104 onto aggregate surface. Bottom: HS triggered the formation and solubilization of Hsp104^{DWB}-GFP positive aggregates (cyan; punctated fluorescent signal pointed by white arrows) in HeLa cells. U denotes unstressed cells. Heat shock (HS) in red. Scale bar 20 μm (n = 3). Below: Visualization of assembly and disassembly of the DNAJA1-DNAJB1 scaffold (PLA; yellow) in HeLa cells recovering from heat shock (HS). The inhibitor was added to cells 5h after HS. DMSO, vehicle control for VER-155008. Nuclei in magenta. Scale bar 20 μm (n = 3). Quantification of Hsp104^{DWB}-GFP positive aggregate levels in HeLa cells during HS recovery (see Methods). Data are mean +/- s.e.m. **b,** Inhibition of disaggregation/refolding of preformed luciferase aggregates by the Hsp70 inhibitor VER-155008, *in vitro* (n = 3, data are mean +/- s.e.m. ** adjusted $p < 0.01$, one-way ANOVA Tukey post hoc test).

Supplementary Data Figure 7. Disaggregation of heat-induced aggregates re-initiates after washing off VER-155008. **a,** VER-155008 wash-off experimental setup. **b,** Washing off VER-155008 by cell culture medium change at 12h post-HS results in the resumption of Hsp104^{DWB}-GFP (cyan) positive aggregate solubilization in HeLa cells recovering from heat stress. VER-155008 was added to cells at 5h post-HS. DMSO, vehicle control for VER-155008. Nuclei stained with DAPI (magenta). Aggregates are indicated by white arrows. Scale bar 20 μm (n = 3). **c,** The assembled DNAJA1-DNAJB1 scaffolds (PLA signal, yellow) support the resumption of protein disaggregation after washing off the Hsp70 inhibitor. VER-155008 washed off HeLa cells show efficient disassembly of the DNAJA1-DNAJB1 scaffold of the

1360 disaggregase at 24h after HS compared to control with the inhibitor. DMSO, vehicle control

1361 for VER-155008. Nuclei stained with DAPI (magenta). Scale bar 20 μm. (n = 3).

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Supplementary Data Figure 8. Expression of yeast Hsp104 disaggregase in human cells

decreases the assembly of DNAJA1-DNAJB1 scaffold of the Hsp70 disaggregase. a, Yeast

Hsp104 cooperates with human Hsp70-JDP system to target and solubilize preformed

luciferase aggregates more effectively compared to Hsp70-JDP disaggregase alone, *in vitro* (n

= 3, data are mean +/- s.e.m., **** adjusted p value < 0.0001, one-way ANOVA with Tukey

post hoc test). Hsp110 functions as NEF. **b,** Assembly of DNAJA1-DNAJB1 scaffold of the

Hsp70 disaggregase (PLA signal, yellow) is reduced in HeLa cells overexpressing wild-type

Hsp104-GFP (cyan) compared to GFP control. Nuclei stained with DAPI (magenta). Heat

shock (HS) in red. Scale bar = 20 μm (n = 3). Immunoblots show the induction of DNAJA1

and DNAJB1 after HS. GAPDH, loading control. **c,** Rapid solubilization of HNRNPK

aggregates (cyan, indicated by white arrows, see section on endogenous substrates of Hsp70-

DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase) immediately after heat shock in HeLa cells overexpressing

Hsp104-GFP (yellow). Control cells express GFP alone (yellow). Nuclei stained with DAPI

(magenta). Heat shock (HS) in red. Scale bar = 20 μm (n = 3).

1377

Supplementary Data Figure 9. Cooperation between DNAJB1 and DNAJA1 is crucial for

efficient Hsp70 disaggregase function in cells. a, The reaction containing class A JDP

binding defective mutant DNAJB1^{RRR} (RRR denotes D4R+E69R+E70R) shows decreased

disaggregation of heat-induced luciferase aggregates, *in vitro* (n = 3, data are mean +/- s.e.m.

** adjusted p-value < 0.01, one-way ANOVA Tukey post hoc test). **b,** Top: Solubilization of

heat-induced Hsp104^{DWB}-GFP (cyan) positive aggregates in HEK 293 cells recovering from

heat stress. The nuclei stained with DAPI (magenta). Aggregated proteins are indicated by

white arrows. Heat shock (HS) in red. Scale bar 20 μm (n = 3). Bottom: Visualization of the

(dis)assembly dynamics of DNAJA1-DNAJB1 scaffold of the Hsp70 disaggregase (PLA signal, yellow) in HEK 293 cells recovering from heat shock. Scale bar 20 μm (n = 3). **c,** Quantification of heat-induced Hsp104^{DWB}-GFP positive protein aggregates from Figure 1h-k and Supplementary Data Figure 9b (data are mean +/- s.e.m.). **d,** Rapid assembly of DNAJA1-DNAJB1 scaffold in heat shocked *DNAJB1* KO HEK 293 cells overexpressing DNAJB1 *vs* wild-type HEK 293 cells (PLA, yellow). Nuclei stained with DAPI (magenta). Scale bar 20 μm (n = 3). **e,** The role of DNAJB1 in Hsp70-mediated disaggregase function cannot be substituted for by other class A and B JDPs in stress recovering cells. Left: Overexpression levels of DNAJA1, DNAJA2, DNAJB1 and DNAJB4 tagged with V5 in *DNAJB1* KO HEK 293 cells visualized by immunoblotting. Right: Resolution of heat-induced Hsp104^{DWB}-GFP positive aggregates (cyan) in *DNAJB1* KO cells ectopically expressing V5-tagged DNAJA1, DNAJA2, DNAJB1 or DNAJB4. Nuclei stained with DAPI (magenta). Aggregated proteins are indicated by white arrows. Scale bar 20 μm (n = 3).

Supplementary Data Figure 10. Heat induced Hsp70 disaggregase is cogged to assemble with DNAJA1-DNAJB1 scaffold. a, depleting either DNAJA1 or DNAJB1 via RNAi does not result in unpaired JDPs forming alternative scaffolds with DNAJA2 or DNAJB4. Left: Levels of DNAJA1-DNAJB1 and DNAJA2-DNAJB1 scaffolds in DNAJA1 depleted HeLa cells. Right: Levels of DNAJA1-DNAJB1 and DNAJA1-DNAJB4 scaffolds in DNAJB1 depleted HeLa cells. The non-targeting control siRNA (siScrambled) is used as the control for RNAi. Scale bar 20 μm (n = 3). Corresponding immunoblots show JDP knockdown efficiencies. GAPDH, loading control. **b,** HS triggered increase in DNAJA1, DNAJA2, DNAJB1 and DNAJB4 protein levels in recovering HeLa cells measured through multiple reaction monitoring (MRM, see Methods) mass spectrometry (normalized to tubulin alpha-1A and unstressed JDP levels). Error bars reflect fold change +/- s.e. of regression (n = 4).

Supplementary Data Figure 11. Localization of DNAJA1, DNAJA2, DNAJB1 and DNAJB4 in unstressed and heat shocked cells. a, DNAJA1 is localized in both cytosol and nucleus in unstressed (U) HeLa cells monitored by immunocytochemistry (yellow). DNAJA1 rapidly localizes into nucleoli immediately after heat shock, and relocates out of nucleoli before 6h post-HS. Nuclei stained with DAPI (magenta). The nucleoli are unstained by DAPI and appear as dark spots in the nucleus. Line scans across the nucleoli are indicated in white. Corresponding line scan plots are shown on the right. Scale bar 10 μm (n = 3). (**b-d**), As in (**a**). (**b**) DNAJA2 shows a predominantly nuclear localization signal in both unstressed and heat shocked cells. (**c**) DNAJB1 is localized predominantly in the nucleus in unstressed (U) cells and rapidly localizes into nucleoli immediately after heat shock, and relocates out of nucleoli before 6h post-HS. (**d**) DNAJB4 displays both cytosolic and nuclear localization and does not show detectible heat stress induced dynamics in HeLa cells.

Supplementary Data Figure 12. Identification of aggregated proteins recovered by stress-induced Hsp70 disaggregase activity. a, Schematic representation of the proteomics workflow used to identify aggregated proteins rescued by stress-induced Hsp70 disaggregase. The fractions were distinguished by isobaric labeling and proteins that regained solubility between 6-12h in DMSO, but not in cells treated with VER-155008 were identified and quantified by LC-MS/MS (see Methods). **b,** Ridge plot showing the distribution of solubility (pSup) for all proteins during post-HS recovery. **c,** Proteins for which the change in relative solubility due to the VER-155008 treatment (ΔΔpSup) exceeding 0.26 in at least one time point were clustered via k-means into four patterns. Mean ΔΔpSup for all proteins in each cluster is shown, where colored bands represent ± s.d. (n = 4). **d,** Visualization of Hsp70-based disaggregation of heat aggregated HNRNPK in HeLa cells by immunocytochemistry (HNRNPK, cyan; DAPI stained nuclei, magenta). Heat-induced Hsp70 disaggregase was inhibited with VER-155008 +/- cycloheximide (CHX) at 5h after HS. CHX inhibits protein

synthesis. The white arrows indicate HNRNPK aggregated with heat. Aggregate solubilization

is indicated by the disappearance of the punctated fluorescence signal and the appearance of a

diffused signal. DMSO, vehicle control for VER-155008. Heat shock (HS) in red. U denotes

unstressed cells. Scale bar 20 μm (n = 3). **e,** Fluorescence recovery after photobleaching

(FRAP) analysis of heat-induced HNRNPK-containing aggregates shows poor recovery of the

fluorescent signal after photobleaching. GFP-HNRNPK was transiently expressed in HeLa

cells, and FRAP was performed after heat shock. The fluorescence signal of the selected

inclusions was reduced to ~50% by photobleaching with the 488-nm laser (photobleached area

indicated by the white squire), and its recovery was recorded for 40 seconds. The fluorescence

intensity of GFP-HNRNPK after photobleaching was normalized as described in Methods.

Selected images of a cell containing GFP-HNRNPK positive aggregates (green) before

photobleaching and at indicated intervals after photobleaching are shown. The white arrows

indicate GFP-HNRNPK aggregates. Scale bar 2 μm (n = 7).

1451

Supplementary Data Figure 13. TIA-1 containing stress granules disassembly is not

affected in cells depleted of class A and B JDPs. Depletion of DNAJA1, DNAJA2, DNAJB1,

and DNAJB4 via RNAi has no effect on the resolution of TIA-1 SGs (yellow) in heat stress

recovering HeLa cells. DNAJA1 and DNAJB1, but not DNAJA2 and DNAJB4 knockdown

results in inhibition of HNRNPK (cyan) aggregate solubilization. The inset depicts zoomed out

cells. The non-targeting control siRNA (siScrambled) is used as the control for RNAi. Nuclei

stained with DAPI (magenta). Scale bar 20 μm. Below: Quantification of TIA-1 SGs and

HNRNPK aggregates (n = 3, data are mean +/- s.e.m. * adjusted p-value < 0.05, ** adjusted p-

value < 0.01, ns - not significant, one-way ANOVA LSD post hoc test).

1461

Supplementary Data Figure 14. Resolution of Hsp104^{DWB}-GFP positive aggregates in

VCP depleted/inhibited cells. a, Resolution of heat-induced Hsp104^{DWB}-GFP positive

aggregates (cyan; punctated fluorescent signal pointed by white arrows) is blocked in HeLa

cells RNAi depleted of VCP. The non-targeting control siRNA (siScrambled). Scale bar 20 μm

(n = 3). Nuclei stained with DAPI (magenta). Heat shock (HS) in red. U denotes unstressed

cells. **b,** Heat-induced Hsp104^{DWB}-GFP positive aggregates do not have a ubiquitin signal.

Colocalization of the immunofluorescence signal from ubiquitin (Ub, yellow) and the

fluorescence signal from Hsp104^{DWB}-GFP (cyan) in HeLa cells recovering from heat shock

(HS) (6h post-HS). Nuclei stained with DAPI (magenta). Line scans are indicated in white.

Corresponding line scan plots are shown on the right. Scale bar 10 μm (n = 3). **c,** Disassembly

of Hsp70 disaggregase is delayed in VCP depleted HeLa cells (PLA signal, yellow). The non-

targeting control siRNA (siScrambled) and depletion of HSF-1 are used as controls for RNAi

(see section on HSF-1 mediated assembly of DNAJA-DNAJB1 scaffold). Nuclei stained with

DAPI (magenta). Heat shock (HS) in red. U denotes unstressed cells. Scale bar 20 μm (n = 3).

d, Blocking VCP disaggregase activity with inhibitor NMS-873 (10 μM, high dose) after 5h

post-HS does not inhibit the resolution of Hsp104^{DWB}-GFP positive aggregates by Hsp70-

DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase. On the contrary, the addition of NMS-873 at 0h post-HS

results in a phenotype similar to the depletion of VCP. DMSO, vehicle control for the inhibitor

(n = 3). Nuclei stained with DAPI (magenta).

1481

1482   **Supplementary Data Figure 15. Cells overexpressing VCP still activate Hsp70-DNAJA1-**

1483   **DNAJB1 disaggregase during heat stress recovery.** The assembly and disassembly

1484   dynamics of DNAJA1-DNAJB1 scaffold of Hsp70 disaggregase is not affected in HeLa cells

1485   overexpressing VCP (PLA signal, yellow; VCP-EGFP signal, cyan). GFP-alone is expressed

1486   as control. Nuclei stained with DAPI (magenta). Scale bar 20 μm (n = 3).

1487

Supplementary Data Figure 16. Disaggregation of heat-induced Hsp104^{DWB}-GFP positive

aggregates requires an intact heat shock response. **a,** Immunoblots showing changes in

steady-state protein levels of DNAJA1, DNAJB1 and Hsp70 after HS in HeLa cells. **b,**

Induction of DNAJA1 and DNAJB1 mRNA measured by qRT-PCR ($\log_2$ fold (-ΔCt; relative

to GAPDH mRNA) in HeLa cells recovering from HS. s.e.m. calculated from ΔCt value per

experiment. Error bars reflect mean +/- s.e.m. (n = 3). **c,** Inhibition of DNAJA1 and DNAJB1

protein synthesis after HS through HSF-1 depletion blocks DNAJA1-DNAJB1 scaffold

assembly. Left: Immunoblots show HSF-1 knockdown by RNAi and inhibition of JDP

synthesis after HS. GAPDH, loading control. Right: PLA shows a decreased assembly of

Hsp70 disaggregase in HSF-1-depleted cells. The non-targeting control siRNA (siScrambled)

is used as the control for RNAi. Scale bar 20 µm (n = 3). **d,** Disruption of the heat shock

response by depleting HSF-1 blocks solubilization of heat-induced Hsp104^{DWB}-GFP (cyan)

positive aggregates in recovering HeLa cells. Aggregated proteins are visualized as punctated

fluorescence signals and indicated by white arrows. Nuclei stained with DAPI (magenta). Line

scans across the nucleoli are indicated in white. Corresponding line scan plots are shown on

the right. Scale bar 10 µm (n = 3).

1504

Supplementary Data Figure 17. Resolution of different heat-induced aggregate/SG types

in cells. a, The resolution of TIA-1 containing stress granules occurs independent of the heat

shock response. Inactivation of the heat shock response through depletion of HSF-1 does not

affect the disassembly of TIA-1-GFP containing SGs (yellow). In contrast, activation of the

stress signaling pathway is required to solubilize heat-induced HNRNPK aggregates (cyan).

HSF-1 depletion results in inhibition of the disaggregation of HNRNPK aggregates in HeLa

cells. The inset depicts zoomed out cells. The non-targeting control siRNA (siScrambled) is

used as the control for RNAi. Nuclei stained with DAPI (magenta). Scale bar 20 µm. Scale bar

20 µm. Below: Quantification of TIA-1 SGs and HNRNPK aggregates (n = 3, data are mean

+/- s.e.m. * adjusted p-value < 0.05, ** adjusted p-value < 0.01, ns - not significant, one-way

ANOVA LSD post hoc test). **b,** DNAJA1 and DNAJB1 molecules synthesized before HS are

not involved in Hsp70 disaggregase formation. Left: Cycloheximide (CHX) is added to HeLa

cells to block the induction of DNAJA1 and DNAJB1 at specific time points during recovery

from heat stress. DNAJA1 and DNAJB1 induction after heat stress is shown by

immunoblotting. GAPDH, loading control. DMSO, vehicle control for CHX (n = 2). Right:

The newly synthesized DNAJA1 and DNAJB1 molecules are used to assemble the DNAJA1-

DNAJB1 scaffold of Hsp70 disaggregase after heat shock (HS, red). The addition of CHX at

0h after HS, which inhibits the synthesis of new DNAJA1 and DNAJB1 molecules, completely

blocks the assembly of the JDP scaffold (PLA signal, yellow). Treatment of cells with CHX at

2.5h post-HS does not prevent the synthesis of new DNAJA1 and DNAJB1 molecules, and

assembly of the JDP scaffold. Nuclei stained with DAPI (magenta). DMSO, vehicle control for

CHX. Scale bar 20 μm (n = 3).

1527

Supplementary Data Figure 18. The localization of DNAJA1 and DNAJB1 into nucleoli

immediately after heat shock occurs independent of the heat shock response. a, Cellular

HSF-1 levels after RNAi knockdown are shown by immunoblot. GAPDH, loading control. The

non-targeting control siRNA (siScrambled) is used as the control for RNAi. **b,** DNAJA1

molecules synthesized prior to heat stress rapidly localize into nucleoli immediately after heat

shock (HS, red), and relocate out of nucleoli before 6h post-HS at similar levels in both HSF-

1 depleted and control (siScrambled) HeLa cells. Subcellular localization of DNAJA1 in

unstressed (U) and heat shocked (HS) HeLa cells monitored by immunocytochemistry

(yellow). Nuclei stained with DAPI (magenta). The nucleoli are unstained by DAPI and appear

as dark spots in the nucleus. Line scans across the nucleoli are indicated in white.

Corresponding line scan plots are shown on the right. Scale bar 10 μm (n = 3). **c,** As in (**b**),

DNAJB1 molecules synthesized prior to HS rapidly locate into nucleoli immediately after HS,

and relocates out of nucleoli before 6h post-HS to a similar degree in HSF-1 depleted and

control cells. Scale bar 10 μm (n = 3).

1542

Supplementary Data Figure 19. Pre-HS synthesized DNAJA1 and DNAJB1 shuttle to

nucleoli immediately after heat stress. a, DNAJA1 molecules predominantly synthesized

before heat stress show similar level of localization into nucleoli immediately after heat shock

(HS, red), and relocate out of the nucleoli before 6h post-HS. Cycloheximide (CHX) was added

to inhibit protein synthesis at 0h after HS. DMSO added at 0h post-HS as vehicle control.

DNAJA1 detected in unstressed cell (U) and heat shocked HeLa cells by immunocytochemistry

(yellow). Nuclei stained with DAPI (magenta). The nucleoli are unstained by DAPI and appear

as dark spots in the nucleus. Line scans across the nucleoli are indicated in white.

Corresponding line scan plots are shown on the right. Scale bar 10 μm (n = 3). **b,** As in (**a**),

Pre-HS synthesized DNAJB1 molecules in CHX treated cells rapidly locate into nucleoli

immediately after HS, and relocate out of nucleoli before 6h post-HS similar to control (DMSO

treated) cells. Scale bar 10 μm (n = 3). **c,** Hsp70 molecules rapidly localize into nucleoli

immediately after heat shock, and relocate out of the nucleoli before 6h post-HS. Scale bar 10

μm (n = 3).

1557

Supplementary Data Figure 20. Stress-induced Hsp70 disaggregase provides heat

tolerance. a, Simplified scheme of Ultra-Glo rLuciferase-based cytotoxicity assay. Leaked

LDH is detected as a readout for damaged or dying cells. **b,** Assembly of DNAJA1-DNAJB1

scaffold of the Hsp70 disaggregase (PLA, yellow) in cells treated with VER-155008 at 2.5h

after HS. Control, cells without HS. DMSO, vehicle control for VER-155008. The nuclei

stained with DAPI (magenta). Scale bar 20 μm (n = 3). **c,** Disruption of stress-induced Hsp70

disaggregase activity increased heat toxicity in cells. Cytotoxicity level in unstressed (blue)

and HS recovering HeLa cells (red) with and without VER-155008 treatment. DMSO, vehicle

control for the inhibitor. Error bars depicted as s.e.m. (n = 3).

1567

Supplementary Data Figure 21. Assembly of Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase is not affected in dermal fibroblasts obtained from young *vs* old human donors. a, Induction of the DNAJA1-DNAJB1 scaffold of Hsp70 disaggregase in heat shocked primary dermal fibroblasts (HDFs) derived from humans of different chronological ages (21 years of age (21y), 26y, 55y, 58y, 70y, and 75y) in cells at passage (P) 3. Nuclei stained with DAPI (magenta). U denotes unstressed cells. Heat shock (HS) in red. Scale bar 20 μm (n = 3). **b,** The assembly dynamics of different JDP scaffolds formed between members of class A (DNAJA1 and DNAJA2) and class B (DNAJB1 and DNAJB4) (PLA signal, yellow) in human dermal fibroblasts after HS. Nuclei stained with DAPI (magenta). Scale bar 20 μm. (n = 3). **c,** Dermal fibroblasts undergoing replicative aging show increased senescence-specific β-galactosidase levels. Detection of senescence-specific β-galactosidase levels in P 6, P 12 and P 18 HDFs derived from 21-year-old (21y) human donor (see Methods). DIC images show cells at P 12 and P 18 stained positive for senescence-specific β-galactosidase (white arrows). Scale bar 20 μm. (n = 4). **d,** Quantification of senescence-specific β-galactosidase positive cells at P 6, P 12 and P 18. Data are mean +/- s.e.m. **** adjusted p-value < 0.0001, one-way ANOVA Tukey post hoc test).

Supplementary Data Figure 22. Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase activity is one of the earliest PQC functions to collapse during replicative aging of cells. a, Immunoblot analysis shows similar induction patterns of HSPA6 chaperone after heat shock (HS) in non-senescent P 6 and replicative aging P 12 human dermal fibroblasts (HDFs) derived from donors aged 21, 55 and 75 years indicating that HSR is fully intact in all cells. VCP levels also do not change in P 6 and P 12 HDFs. GAPDH, loading control, (n = 3). **b,** Nuclear shuttling of ATF-6 (cyan) required to activate the endoplasmic reticulum unfolded protein response (UPR$_{ER}$) is equally active in P 6 and P 12 HDFs. Nuclei stained with DAPI (magenta). U and HS denote unstressed and heat shocked cells, respectively. HS performed at 44 °C for two hours in the

1594   incubator.[53] Line scans across the nuclei are indicated in white. Corresponding line scan plots

1595   are shown on the right. Scale bar 20 μm (n = 3). Insets depict magnified cells. **c,** P 6 and P 12

1596   HDFs show similar proteasome activity (see Methods) immediately after HS. ns – not

1597   significant, one-way ANOVA Tukey post hoc test.

1598

Supplementary Data Figure 23. Persistence of heat-induced aggregates in aged human

dermal fibroblasts. a, Regardless of chronological age, nonsenescent P 6 cells can efficiently

solubilize heat-induced protein aggregates during recovery. Levels of Hsp104^{DWB}-GFP

positive aggregates (cyan) in unstressed and heat-shocked P 6 dermal fibroblasts derived from

21- and 75-year-old humans. Nuclei stained with Hoechst (magenta). White arrows show

aggregates. U denotes unstressed cells. Heat shock (HS) in red. Scale bar 20 μm (n = 3). Insets

depict magnified cells. **b,** Human dermal fibroblasts undergoing replicative aging (P 12) show

defects in solubilizing heat-induced protein aggregates during recovery. Note that even

unstressed cells (U) show Hsp104^{DWB}-GFP positive aggregates. As in (**a**), Hsp104^{DWB}-GFP

positive aggregates (cyan) in unstressed and heat-shocked P 12 human dermal fibroblasts (21y

and 75y). Nuclei stained with Hoechst (magenta). White arrows show aggregates. Scale bar 20

μm (n = 3). Insets depict magnified cells. P denotes the cell passage.

1611

Supplementary Data Figure 24. Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase activity

disassembles disease-linked polyQ aggregates in cells. a, Disassembly of polyQ amyloids

by disaggregation. **b,** Amyloid aggregates formed by HttQ46-GFP can be solubilized by

inducing Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase activity. Top: The PLA signal (yellow)

shows the induction of Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase in HeLa cells after heat shock

(HS, red). Bottom: Solubilization of amyloids formed by HttQ-GFP variants with different

lengths of glutamine stretches (HttQ23-GFP, HttQ46-GFP and HttQ119-GFP) after activation

of Hsp70 disaggregase. HttQ23-GFP, a control that does not aggregate. Punctated GFP

fluorescence (cyan) indicates aggregated polyQ (white arrows). Non-aggregating or solubilized

polyQ generates a diffused fluorescence signal. Nuclei stained with DAPI (magenta). **c,** As in

(**b**), inhibition of heat-induced Hsp70 disaggregase activity 5h after HS by adding VER-155008

blocks HttQ46-GFP amyloid disassembly. DMSO, vehicle control for the inhibitor. Cells were

treated with cycloheximide (CHX) at 5h after HS to block the translation of new HttpolyQ

proteins. U denotes unstressed cells. Scale bar 20 µm (n = 3). **d,** Depletion of DNAJA1 or

DNAJB1 inhibits Hsp70-mediated polyQ disassembly. Top: The disassembly of HttQ46-GFP

aggregates is inhibited in DNAJA1 and DNAJB1 depleted HeLa cells. Punctated GFP

fluorescence (cyan) indicates aggregated HttQ46-GFP (white arrows). The solubilized HttQ46-

GFP generates a diffused fluorescence signal. The non-targeting control siRNA (siScrambled)

is used as the control for RNAi. Nuclei stained with DAPI (magenta). Hsp70-DNAJA1-

DNAJB1 disaggregase is activated by HS. CHX was added 5 h after HS to inhibit the synthesis

of new HttQ46-GFP molecules. Bottom: Immunoblot showing knockdown of DNAJA1 and

DNAJB1 in HeLa cells expressing HttQ46-GFP. **e,** Disassembly of HttQ inclusions by heat-

induced Hsp70 disaggregase is masked by high levels of aggregation of newly synthesized

amyloidogenic proteins. Cells treated with +/- CHX with and without VER-155008. CHX was

added 5h after HS to inhibit HttQ-GFP synthesis. VER-155008 was added 5h after HS to inhibit

heat-induced Hsp70 disaggregase activity. DMSO, vehicle control for the inhibitor. GFP

fluorescence (cyan) indicates the aggregated (punctated signal, indicated by white arrows) and

non-aggregated (diffused signal) state of HttQ23-GFP, HttQ46-GFP, and HttQ119-GFP.

HttQ23-GFP, HttQ control that does not aggregate. The nuclei stained with DAPI (magenta).

Scale bar 20 µm (n = 3).

Supplementary information 1.

Disassembly of disease-linked polyQ aggregates by Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1

disaggregase. For this analysis, we used GFP tagged Huntingtin protein (Htt) exon 1

containing an expanded polyglutamine sequence (polyQ) (Supplementary Data Fig. 24a).
These cytotoxic aggregates could form independently of proteotoxic stresses, such as heat.
PolyQ aggregation was induced in unstressed HeLa cells (cyan foci, Supplementary Data Fig.
24b) by overexpressing Htt exon-1 carrying varying lengths of sequential glutamine stretches
(HttQ46-mEmGFP and HttQ119-GFP; HttQ23-mEmGFP, non-aggregating control). The
Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase was activated by HS and cycloheximide (CHX) was
added 5h after HS to prevent aggregation of newly synthesized HttpolyQ molecules. CHX
addition at 5h after HS had minimal effects on the induction of Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1
disaggregase. We observed the solubilization of pre-existing HttQ46-mEmGFP aggregates
(disappearance of fluorescent puncta and appearance of a diffuse signal 12h after HS) with
induction of the disaggregase (Supplementary Data Fig. 24b). Adding the Hsp70 inhibitor with
CHX 5h after HS (Supplementary Data Fig. 24c) or knocking down DNAJA1 and DNAJB1
using RNAi (Supplementary Data Fig. 24d), completely abrogated amyloid solubilization.
Together, these results indicate that Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase also has the
ability to target amyloid aggregates in cells. Interestingly, the omission of CHX treatment from
the experimental regime prevented the previously observed decrease in the steady-state level
of HttQ46-mEmGFP aggregates (Supplementary Data Fig. 24e) despite the induction of Hsp70
disaggregase. Given the highly aggregate-prone nature of HttpolyQ species, we presume that
the aggregation rate of newly synthesized HttQ46-mEmGFP monomers was faster than the
disaggregation rate of the Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 chaperone machine. In contrast, the
amyloids formed by Htt exon-1 with a longer Q stretch (HttQ119-GFP) were completely
resistant to the action of Hsp70-DNAJA1-DNAJB1 disaggregase even after blocking the
aggregation of newly synthesized proteins using CHX (Supplementary Data Fig. 24b, e). These
observations highlight important functional boundaries associated with the inherent capacity
of this disaggregase to modulate amyloid load in cells.

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1717

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 4

a

b

a

b

c

a

	total lysate	NP-40 insoluble aggregates

| | 1 2 3 4 5 6 | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |

αUb

αGAPDH

Key

unstressed
0h post HS
1h post HS
6h post HS
12h post HS
24h post HS

b

HS   stress recovery ➤

U   1H   6H

DAPI

TIA1-GFP

Merged

a

b

c

a disaggregation & refolding (40 min)

Luciferase reactivation (fold Δ against no chaperone control)

Hsp104 / Hsp70 / Hsp104+ Hsp70 / no chaperones

.5x DNAJA1+ .5x DNAJB1+ Hsp110

****

b

native protein → (heat) misfolded → protein aggregate → Hsp104-GFP → rapid aggregate solubilization immediately after heat shock → decreased aggregate levels in recovering cells

HS stress recovery

U 0h 3h 6h 9h

DAPI

+ αDNAJA1+ αDNAJB1

GFP

Merged DAPI & PLA

Merged

U 0h 3h 6h 9h

1 αDNAJA1
2 αDNAJB1
3 αGAPDH

HS stress recovery

U 0h 3h 6h 9h

DAPI

+ αDNAJA1+ αDNAJB1

Hsp104 -GFP

Merged DAPI & PLA

Merged

U 0h 3h 6h 9h

1 αDNAJA1
2 αDNAJB1
3 αGAPDH

c

HS stress recovery

U 1h 6h 24h

DAPI

αHNRNPK

GFP

Merged

HS stress recovery

U 1h 6h 24h

DAPI

αHNRNPK

Hsp104 -GFP

Merged

a

b

stress recovery time (h)

a

Key
a unstressed   d 3h post-HS
b 0h post-HS   e 6h post-HS
c 1h post-HS   f 24h post-HS

b

a

b

c

a

HS — stress recovery

P 3

21y, 26y, 55y, 58y, 70y, 75y

U | 1h | 6h | 24h

αDNAJA1+αDNAJB1 +

b

HS — stress recovery

αDNAJA1+αDNAJB1

αDNAJA1+αDNAJB4

αDNAJA2+αDNAJB1

αDNAJA2+αDNAJB4

U | 1h | 6h | 24h

+

c

human dermal fibroblasts

αSA-β-GAL

P 6 | P 12 | P 18

21y

d

% of cells positive for αSA-β-GAL

**** ****

P6 P12 P18

a

21y, P 6

75y, P 6

b

21y, P 12

75y, P 12