

1 **Rab8, Rab11, and Rab35 coordinate lumen and cilia formation during Zebrafish**  
2 **Left-Right Organizer development**

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21 **Running Title:** Lumen and cilia formation during LRO development

1 **ABSTRACT**

2

3 An essential process during *Danio rerio*'s left-right organizer (Kupffer's Vesicle, KV)  
4 development is for the majority of developing KV cells to form a motile cilium that extend  
5 into the KV lumen. Left-right beating of motile cilia within the KV lumen directs fluid flow  
6 to establishment the embryo's left-right axis. However, when KV cells start to form cilia  
7 and how cilia formation is coordinated with KV lumen formation has not been examined.  
8 We identified that nascent KV cells form cilia at their centrosomes at random intracellular  
9 positions that then move towards a forming apical membrane containing cystic fibrosis  
10 transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR). Using optogenetic clustering  
11 approaches, we found that Rab35 positive membranes recruit Rab11 to modulate CFTR  
12 delivery to the apical membrane, which is required for lumen opening, and subsequent  
13 cilia extension into the luminal cavity. Once the intracellular cilia reach the CFTR positive  
14 apical membrane, Arl13b-positive cilia extend and elongate in a Rab8 dependent manner  
15 into the forming lumen once the lumen reaches an area of 300  $\mu\text{m}^2$ . These studies  
16 demonstrate the need to acutely coordinate Rab8, Rab11, and Rab35-mediated  
17 membrane trafficking events to ensure appropriate timing in lumen and cilia formation  
18 during KV development.

19

## 1 INTRODUCTION

2

3 A fundamental question in cell biology is how a cilium is made during tissue  
4 formation. A primary or motile cilium is a microtubule-based structure that extends from  
5 the surface of a cell and can sense extracellular cues to transmit to the cell body. Defects  
6 in cilia formation can lead to numerous disease states collectively known as ciliopathies  
7 [1,2]. Foundational studies identified two distinct pathways for ciliogenesis *in vivo* using  
8 tissues from chicks and rats [3]. One mechanism for ciliogenesis which we refer to as  
9 extracellular, was found in lung cells where the centrosome first docks to the plasma  
10 membrane followed by growth of the ciliary axoneme into the extracellular space [4]. The  
11 second mechanism, which we refer to as intracellular, was identified in smooth muscle  
12 cells and fibroblasts where the centrosome forms a cilia first within a ciliary vesicle in the  
13 cell cytosol before docking to the plasma membrane [3]. These studies raise the  
14 possibility that different ciliated tissues construct their cilia differentially due to the nature  
15 of how a tissue develops. This presents an important hypothesis that variations in cilia  
16 formation mechanisms may occur *in vivo* during specific types of tissue morphogenesis.

17 Here we examine cilia formation during *Danio rerio* (zebrafish) organ of asymmetry  
18 (Kupffer's Vesicle, KV) development. The KV is required to place visceral and abdominal  
19 organs with respect to the two main body axes of the animal [5]. KV formation begins  
20 from a sub-population of endoderm cells. The endoderm is induced by high levels of  
21 Nodal signaling during early development that contributes to the formation of the liver,  
22 pancreas, intestine, stomach, pharynx, and swim bladder [6]. A subset of the endoderm,  
23 called dorsal forerunner cells (DFCs) are precursors of the KV [7–9]. The number of DFCs  
24 range from 10-50 cells per embryo that can expand into >100 cells that make up the fully  
25 functional KV [10,11]. Early studies reported that these DFCs present as mesenchymal-  
26 like and are migratory. They lack clear apical/basal polarity (lack of aPKC distribution)  
27 until KV cells establish into rosette-like structures [9]. Apical polarity establishment of  
28 aPKC, at least in part, coincides with cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance  
29 regulator (CFTR) accumulation at apical sites, which is a requirement for ultimate lumen  
30 expansion [9,12]. KV cell rosette-like structures can either form as multiple cells  
31 congressing to make a single rosette or cells assembling multiple rosettes which then

1 transition to a single rosette-like structure. The rosette center is the site where a fluid-  
2 filled lumen forms and KV cells will then extend their cilia into [12]. Once KV cilia are  
3 formed they beat in a leftward motion to direct fluid flow essential for the establishment of  
4 the embryo's left-right axis [13]. While much is known about KV post-lumen formation  
5 [5,14–17], little is known about the spatial and temporal mechanisms that regulate cilia  
6 formation during KV development.

7 *In vitro* cell culture assays have been used to identify regulators of lumen  
8 establishment or ciliogenesis and have identified 3 potential Rab GTPases that are  
9 involved in both: Rab11, Rab8, and Rab35 [18–24]. Here we investigated the role of these  
10 three Rab GTPases in KV development. Using a combination of depletion and  
11 optogenetic clustering approaches we have identified conserved yet unique roles for  
12 Rab8, Rab11 and Rab35 in coordinating KV lumen and cilia formation. While much is  
13 known about Rab8, Rab11, and Rab35, in ciliogenesis and/or lumen formation in the  
14 context of mammalian cell culture conditions, our findings were surprising in that Rab8  
15 did not seem to affect lumen or cilia formation to a similar extent that it does in mammalian  
16 cell culture [18–21]. In mammalian cells, Rab8 and Rab11 work together in a GTPase  
17 cascade that is required for both cilia and lumen formation. However, in KV Rab35 and  
18 Rab11 seem to be coordinated and Rab8 is dispensable for lumen formation suggesting  
19 that specific cell types during potentially different developmental processes may have  
20 different dependencies on Rab GTPases that can be identified using developmental  
21 model systems such as zebrafish.

22

23

## 1 RESULTS

2

3 Previous work in mammalian culture systems and preliminary morpholino studies  
4 in zebrafish KV have implicated Rab8, Rab11, and Rab35 in cilia and/or lumen  
5 establishment [18,19,21–24]. However, their cellular distribution during KV development  
6 has not been investigated, nor has it been positioned in relation to KV cilia formation.  
7 Foundational studies have demonstrated that at least one of the paralogs of Rab8,  
8 Rab11, and Rab35 is broadly expressed throughout zebrafish development, including KV  
9 [22,25–27]. In consideration of these findings, we assessed Rab8a, Rab11a, and Rab35  
10 distribution in the zebrafish KV marked by the plasma membrane marker GFP-CAAX by  
11 expressing fluorescently tagged mRNA through injection (Figure 1A-B, S1A-C, Video S1)  
12 or in an endogenously GFP tagged transgenic line of Rab11 (Figure 1C, 1E, S1B [28]).  
13 Different stages of KV development, pre-rosette during the 1 somite stage (SS, 8-9 hours  
14 post fertilization, hpf), rosette during the 3 SS (10 hpf), and lumen during 6 SS (12 hpf,  
15 Figure 1A) were monitored using live or fixed embryo imaging preparations. We identified  
16 that Rab8 and Rab11 were broadly recruited to the apical membrane during rosette  
17 formation and remained there during lumen opening (Figure 1B-C, S1A). Embryos were  
18 fixed at the KV rosette stage (Figure 1E, top) and lumen stage (Figure 1E, bottom), and  
19 cilia were immunostained for acetylated tubulin. At the KV rosette stage cilia are  
20 organized intracellularly surrounded by Rab11 membranes organized at the center of the  
21 rosette, while Rab8 is organized at the base of the cilia where the centrosome resides  
22 (Figure 1E, centrosome staining in S1D). As the KV develops to a lumen stage, Rab11  
23 reorganizes to the base with Rab8 (Figure 1E, S1B). Throughout the developmental  
24 stages Rab35 organized to cell boundaries (Figure 1D, S1C) with no specific localization  
25 to the cilia itself (Figure S1C).

26 A striking finding was that a significant population of KV cells started to form cilia  
27 at the centrosome in the cell body before a KV lumen formed (Figure 1E, S1D-E). During  
28 the pre-rosette stage,  $33.25 \pm 3.33\%$  of KV cells already had cilia; that increased to  
29  $48.06 \pm 5.94\%$  at the rosette stage and averaged at  $64.82 \pm 5.27\%$  early on during lumen  
30 formation (Figure 1I, S1D-E). These studies suggested that KV cells were forming cilia  
31 before they had an extracellular space (KV Lumen) to position into and that KV lumen

1 formation correlated with a significant increase in KV cells having cilia. Our findings  
2 suggest a cellular mechanism where cilia first are formed through an intracellular pathway  
3 that then will extend into the lumen (Figure 1F). To further test that cilia were forming  
4 through a potential intracellular pathway versus an extracellular pathway, volumetric  
5 projections of surface rendered KV cells were performed at the pre-rosette, rosette, and  
6 lumen stages. KV cell outlines were obtained using GFP-CAAX and cilia were  
7 immunostained using acetylated tubulin (Figure S1E) along with a marker for the ciliary  
8 membrane cap, Myosin Va (Myo-Va, [29,30], Figure 1F-G). Surface rendering using  
9 IMARIS software allowed for the spatial positioning of cilia in KV cells across KV  
10 developmental stages to be assessed (Figure S1E, Video S2). The boundaries of the cell  
11 (GFP-CAAX), cilia (acetylated tubulin), and Myo-Va were highlighted to create a three-  
12 dimensional space filling model of both cell, cilia, and ciliary cap (Figure 1G). We identified  
13 that as KV develops from pre-rosette to rosette, then to the luminal stage, intracellular  
14 cilia surrounded by Myo-Va approach the apical membrane (Figure 1F-H, S1E, Video  
15 S2). Once a lumen is formed, the cilia extend into the developing KV lumen (Figure S1E,  
16 Video S2). Once the cilium extended out into the lumen, Myo-Va remained at the cilium's  
17 base (Figure 1G). To identify if KV cell cilia were positioning towards the center of the KV  
18 cellular mass over the course of its development, we calculated the relative distance of  
19 cilia from the cell boundary closest to the KV center from the embryos shown in Figure  
20 S1D (modeled in Figure S1F; calculations in Figure 1J). When values approach 0, cilia  
21 are approaching the cell boundary closest to the KV center. This occurs significantly as  
22 KV cells transitioned from a pre-rosette organization to KV cells organized around a fluid  
23 filled lumen (Figure 1J). This suggests that KV cell cilia are constructed intracellularly,  
24 then positioned to the cell boundary closest to KV center where they are primed to extend  
25 their cilia into the forming lumen. These studies suggest a mechanism where KV cell cilia  
26 are forming through an intracellular pathway that recruits pre-ciliary vesicles positive for  
27 Myo-Va. These Myo-Va vesicles then form a ciliary cap for the cilia to grow within. The  
28 cilia with associated cap can then fuse with the plasma membrane and KV cilia can extend  
29 into the lumen (Figure 1F, left).

30 We next tested when cilia extend into the forming KV lumen. To do this we  
31 employed two strategies. We first imaged live Sox17:GFP-CAAX embryos that ectopically

1 expressed the cilia marker Arl13b-mCardinal (Figure 1H). With the second strategy we  
2 fixed GFP-CAAX embryos at various lumen sizes ranging from 0 to  $5 \times 10^3 \mu\text{m}^2$  and  
3 measured the percentage of KV cells that had luminal cilia (Figure 1K) and cilia length  
4 (Figure 1L). These approaches demonstrated that cilia dock at the apical membrane  
5 during early lumen formation and then extend into the lumen (Figure 1H) once the lumen  
6 area approaches approximately  $300 \mu\text{m}^2$  (Figure 1K). We then compared these studies  
7 to when cilia start to elongate (Figure 1L). We find that cilia, when inside a KV cell, can  
8 reach a length of  $2.5 \mu\text{m}$ , but once a lumen is formed ( $300 \mu\text{m}^2$  in area), the cilia can  
9 extend into the lumen and grow to their final approximate length of  $4 \mu\text{m}$  (Figure 1L).

10 To test the requirement of Rab11, Rab8, and Rab35 for KV cell cilia formation we  
11 employed two strategies, acute Rab GTPase optogenetic clustering assay (modeled in  
12 Figure 2A-B, S2A) and morpholino (MO) transcript depletion using MOs that have been  
13 previously characterized ([18,22,31], Figure S2B). Since Rab11, Rab8, and Rab35 are  
14 broadly expressed during zebrafish embryo development [22,25–27], we chose to employ  
15 an optogenetic strategy to acutely inhibit their function during KV development. This  
16 optogenetic strategy causes an acute inhibition of CIB1-Rab11-, CIB1-Rab8-, and CIB1-  
17 Rab35-associated membranes through a hetero-interaction between cytochrome2  
18 (CRY2) and CIB1 upon exposure to blue light during KV developmental stages [32–34].  
19 Previous studies identified that upon blue light exposure, CIB1-Rab5 or CIB1-Rab11-  
20 associated membrane compartments cluster together creating an intracellular traffic jam  
21 and inhibiting the specific Rab's membrane compartment from sorting intracellular cargo  
22 and regulating cellular functions [32–34]. Our studies herein find that optogenetically  
23 clustering Rab11- or Rab35-membranes during early KV development caused significant  
24 defects at 6 SS when the KV should have a lumen and many of the cells should be ciliated.  
25 Under control conditions (CRY2 injected) and Rab8 clustered conditions,  $78.03 \pm 3.86\%$   
26 and  $64.43 \pm 3.85\%$  of KV cells formed cilia respectively, whereas Rab11 and Rab35  
27 clustered embryos had a significant decrease in the percentage of ciliated cells  
28 ( $35.81 \pm 8.79\%$  for Rab11,  $49.72 \pm 5.50\%$  for Rab35, Figure 2B-C, S2A). KV cells that could  
29 form cilia under Rab11- and Rab35-clustered conditions had most of their cilia stuck in  
30 the cell volume (Figure 2B, 2D). Rab11-, Rab8-, and Rab35-clustered cells that made  
31 cilia demonstrated significantly decreased cilia length ( $2.92 \pm 0.14 \mu\text{m}$  for Rab11,



1 3.15±0.08  $\mu\text{m}$  for Rab8, and 2.02±0.05 for Rab35) compared to control CRY2 conditions  
2 (4.13±0.06  $\mu\text{m}$ , Figure 2E). This significant decrease in cilia length with Rab11, Rab8,  
3 and Rab35 clustering, is consistent with Rab11, Rab8, or Rab35 depletion using  
4 morpholinos (Figure S2B-C). Interestingly, Rab8 clustering did cause a significant  
5 decrease in cilia length (Figure 2E), but not in the formation of cilia or its extension into  
6 the KV lumen (Figure 2C-D, S2A). These findings suggest that centrosomes that  
7 construct a cilium under Rab11- and Rab35-clustering conditions are unable to extend  
8 the cilium into the lumen and that this could be the underlying reason for cilia being  
9 significantly shorter in length. To test the role of Rab35-, Rab11- and Rab8-membranes  
10 in intracellular cilia positioning during KV development, the associated centrosome  
11 distances from the plasma membrane closest to KV center were measured under  
12 clustered conditions and compared to control conditions (CRY2). If centrosomes are  
13 positioning towards the KV center, then the number should approach 0. Rab11- and  
14 Rab35-clustered embryos measurements averaged around 0.70±0.10 and 0.75±0.11  
15 respectively, whereas with Rab8 clustered and control conditions the centrosome  
16 distance approached 0 with a value of 0.23±0.06 and 0.30±0.03 (Figure 2F). These  
17 studies suggest that Rab11 and Rab35 coordinate centrosome and cilia positioning  
18 during KV development.

19 Our initial studies demonstrated that KV cilia extend into the lumen once the lumen  
20 reaches an area 300  $\mu\text{m}^2$  (Figure 1K). Then KV cilia can reach their maximum length of  
21 approximately 4  $\mu\text{m}$  (Figure 1L). These findings suggested that mechanisms regulating  
22 lumen formation may also play an important role in coordinating cilia formation. We tested  
23 the requirement of Rab11, Rab8, and Rab35 on KV lumen establishment using MO  
24 transcript depletion (Figure S2B, S3A-B) and the optogenetic clustering strategy (Figure  
25 2A, 3A-C). With acute optogenetic clustering of Rab11- and Rab35-associated  
26 membranes in CFTR-GFP (Figure 3A) or Sox17:GFP-CAAX embryos (Figure 3B, S3C-  
27 D) we identified severe defects in KV lumen development that was consistent when  
28 depleting transcripts using MOs (Figure S2B, S3A-B) when comparing to control  
29 conditions (CRY2, Figure S3C; control MO, S3A-B). This was measured both by following  
30 lumen formation live using an automated fluorescent stereoscope set up for a set time  
31 frame (Figure 3B, S3C, Video S3) and at a fixed developmental endpoint (6 SS, Figure



1 3C, S3D). For live embryo analysis, Sox17:GFP-CAAX embryos were imaged just past  
2 75% epiboly for over 4 hours, during this time, the Rab35 and Rab11 clustered embryos  
3 were not able to form a lumen when compared to control (CRY2) or Rab8-clustered  
4 embryos (Figure 3B, S3C, Video S3). When assessing at a fixed developmental endpoint  
5 (6SS, 12 hpf), we found that Rab11 and Rab35 clustered embryos presented with defects  
6 in forming a rosette (23.7% of embryos for Rab11, 21.3% for Rab35) or transitioning from  
7 a multiple rosette state to a single rosette state (18.3% of embryos for Rab11, 14.9% for  
8 Rab35, Figure 3C) compared to CRY2 embryos or Rab8 clustered embryos (98.8% and  
9 98.6% form lumen, Figure 3C, S3C, Video S3). With Rab35 and Rab11 clustering, less  
10 than 50% of KVs were able to form a lumen (Figure 3C), and the lumens they did form  
11 were significantly decreased in size (Figure S3D). Interestingly, Rab35-clustered  
12 embryos were able to form separate rosettes that were not in the same cellular KV mass  
13 and in some cases one of the rosettes could transition to a small KV structure with a  
14 lumen (refer to rosette 1 in Figure 3A, quantification in Figure 3C, and additional example  
15 in Figure S3E). While a Rab11-Rab8 GTPase cascade during lumen formation has been  
16 proposed in the context of mammalian cell culture conditions [21], our findings were  
17 surprising in that acute Rab8 clustering conditions or Rab8 depletion conditions by MO  
18 does not affect lumen formation during KV development, but instead Rab11 and Rab35  
19 play a predominant role.

20 Since both Rab11 and Rab35 optogenetic clustering, but not Rab8, resulted in  
21 lumen formation defects we wanted to examine whether they disrupted CFTR recruitment  
22 to the apical membrane. CFTR is a master regulator of fluid secretion into luminal  
23 spaces. CFTR is transported through the secretory pathway to the apical membrane  
24 where it mediates chloride ion transport from inside the cell to outside the cell. Loss of  
25 CFTR-mediated fluid secretion impairs KV lumen expansion leading to laterality defects  
26 [12]. Our studies find that Rab11 optogenetic clustering causes a severe defect in CFTR  
27 delivery to the apical membrane where CFTR-GFP becomes trapped in Rab11- and  
28 Rab35-clustered membrane compartments (Figure 3A, 3D). With both Rab11 and Rab35  
29 clustering, there was significantly less CFTR that was able to be delivered to forming  
30 apical membranes. This is consistent with defects in KV rosette and lumen formation  
31 observed with Rab11 and Rab35 clustered embryos (Figure 3C). Interestingly, some

1 Rab35 clustered embryos assemble multiple rosettes in a KV, with one rosette being  
2 competent for lumen formation but defective in expansion (Figure 3A). When this occurs,  
3 we find that the rosette that is competent in opening has some CFTR localized to the  
4 apical membrane (Rosette 1, Figure 3A), as opposed to the secondary rosette that cannot  
5 open (Rosette 2, Figure 3A). No defect in CFTR delivery to the apical membrane was  
6 noted with Rab8 optogenetic clustering (Figure 3A, 3D), consistent with the lack of  
7 observed defects in lumen formation with both optogenetic clustering (Figure 3B-C) and  
8 depletion of Rab8 using morpholinos (Figure S3A-B).

9         Some GTPases are known to work together on the same membrane compartment.  
10 For instance, Rab11 and Rab8 were reported to function together in a GTPase cascade  
11 on recycling endosomes to regulate cellular events such as lumen formation and  
12 ciliogenesis. In this situation, Rab11 acts upstream of Rab8 by recruiting the Guanine  
13 Exchange Factor (GEF) for Rab8, Rabin8 [18,19,21]. Based on our findings that both  
14 Rab11 and Rab35 cause defects in lumen formation and CFTR trafficking, we asked if  
15 Rab11, Rab35, and/or Rab8 could act on the same membrane compartment. To test this,  
16 we performed optogenetic clustering of Rab35 or Rab11 and determined whether  
17 clustering one recruited Rab11, Rab35, or Rab8. Optogenetic clustering of Rab11  
18 resulted in the recruitment of Rab8 but not Rab35 (Figure 3E-F, S3F). This is consistent  
19 with the idea that a Rab11 cascade may still exist between Rab11 and Rab8, but that this  
20 cascade is not required for CFTR transport or KV lumen formation. It also suggests that  
21 Rab11 is not acting upstream of Rab35. Interestingly, upon optogenetic clustering Rab35  
22 membranes, Rab11 becomes co-localized (Figure 3E-F) suggesting that Rab35 is  
23 upstream of Rab11. In summary, we find that Rab35 may act upstream of Rab11 to  
24 ensure appropriate lumen formation through managing CFTR trafficking to the forming  
25 apical membrane.

26         Mechanistically we have found that during the KV pre-rosette stage, cells start to  
27 assemble a cilium inside the cell (Figure 3Ga). The cilium and associated centrosome are  
28 repositioned inside the cell towards the center of the KV cell mass at a similar time KV  
29 cells are rearranging into a rosette like structure (Figure 3Gb). This movement of the  
30 centrosome and rearranging into a rosette like structure also rely on Rab11 and Rab35  
31 (Figure 3Gc). Forming and expanding the lumen likely depends on the ability of Rab11

1 and Rab35 to mediate CFTR transport to the apical membrane (Figure 3Gc, top). Once  
2 this occurs, the KV cell cilia can extend and elongate into the lumen in a Rab8 dependent  
3 manner (Figure 3Gc, bottom).

4 The consequences associated with KV lumen expansion and cilia formation can  
5 have downstream developmental defects that include defects in the left-right development  
6 of the brain, heart, and gut [5]. Based on this, we wanted to examine the developmental  
7 defects associated with acute optogenetic clustering of Rab8-, Rab11-, or Rab35-  
8 associated membranes during KV development (Figure 4A). Embryos expressing CIB1-  
9 Rab8, -Rab11, or -Rab35 with CRY2 were exposed to blue light to induce clustering at  
10 75% epiboly when KV precursor (Dorsal Forerunner) cells are first visualized until 6 SS  
11 (12 hpf) when KV lumen is forming. The interaction between CIB1 and CRY2 is dependent  
12 on blue light, and after blue light is removed membranes can become unclustered [32].  
13 At 6 SS blue light was removed and the embryos were left to develop to high pec (42 hpf).  
14 Gross phenotypes observed with animals having Rab8-, Rab11-, or Rab35-  
15 optogenetically clustered membranes included a significant increase in animals with  
16 curved tails (Figure 4B-C). Rab35 clustering specifically resulted in a significant increase  
17 of animals displaying no tails and/or a one-eye phenotype when compared to control  
18 conditions (CRY2, Figure 4B-C). We then examined heart development due to its  
19 laterality being easily assessed in live embryos (Figure 4D). Using a *cmlc2:GFP*  
20 transgenic line to label zebrafish heart cells specifically, we assessed the process of heart  
21 looping. Abnormal heart looping includes reversed looping, no loop, or bilateral heart  
22 looping (Figure 4D-E, Video S4). Over 70% of animals presented with abnormal heart  
23 looping when Rab8-, Rab11-, or Rab35- was acutely clustered during KV developmental  
24 stages compared to control animals expressing CRY2 ( $13.55 \pm 1.59\%$ ). While this was not  
25 surprising for Rab11 and Rab35 optogenetic clustering during KV development due to  
26 embryos presenting with severe lumen and cilia formation defects (Figure 2, 3), this was  
27 surprising for Rab8 optogenetic clustering conditions where embryos formed normal  
28 lumens but had slightly shorter cilia (Figure 2D). This suggests that even subtle defects  
29 in cilia length and potential function during KV development may result in significant  
30 developmental defects. Taken together, these studies propose that Rab8-, Rab11-, and

1 Rab35-mediated membrane trafficking is necessary for forming a functional KV during  
2 development.

3

#### 4 **DISCUSSION**

5

6 While select Rab GTPases have been extensively studied, most of them have not  
7 been assigned a detailed function or localization pattern during early embryonic  
8 vertebrate development. Rab GTPases have approximately 60 genes in vertebrates, with  
9 each Rab GTPase localizing to specific intracellular membrane compartments in their  
10 GTP-bound (active) form. These active Rabs then bind to effector proteins to aid in  
11 various steps in membrane trafficking some of which will facilitate cilia, polarity, and/or  
12 lumen formation [35,36]. Because Rab GTPases are potentially required for a variety of  
13 cellular functions and developmental contexts, we needed to employ a strategy to acutely  
14 disrupt their function. Herein, we used an optogenetic strategy that takes advantage of  
15 Rab GTPases membrane association, where the Rab GTPase of interest is attached to  
16 CIB1 and we express CIB1's optogenetic binding partner CRY2. Upon exposure to blue  
17 light, CIB1 will form heteromeric complexes with CRY2 essentially causing the Rab  
18 associated membranes to cluster together and become non-functional (modeled in Figure  
19 2A, 4A). This approach is versatile in developmental models due to its acute triggering  
20 and reversibility. For instance, we can acutely cluster Rab-associated membranes during  
21 a specific developmental stage, and then release the clustering through the removal of  
22 blue-light and examine downstream developmental consequences (Figure 4A). Zebrafish  
23 embryos are an ideal developmental system for this work due to their optical transparency  
24 and external development making them easily accessible to blue light addition [33,34]. In  
25 these studies we focused on three Rab GTPases (Rab8, Rab11, and Rab35) that have  
26 been linked to lumen and cilia formation in mammalian cell culture models [18,19,21,24]  
27 and employed a combination of optogenetic approaches and traditional depletion  
28 approaches using MO to examine their roles *in vivo* during left-right organizer  
29 development.

30 The left-right organizer is a conserved tissue in vertebrate embryos that  
31 establishes the embryo's left-right axis. We used zebrafish as a model system to better

1 understand left-right organizer development. In zebrafish, previous foundational studies  
2 identified that cells that make up the left-right organizer (KV) need to assemble into a cyst  
3 like structure surrounding a fluid filled lumen, with the majority of KV cells having a motile  
4 cilium [9,17,37]. Motile cilia beating in a left-right manner within the KV lumen directs fluid  
5 flow, which is essential for the establishment of the embryo's left-right axis [5]. However,  
6 when KV cells start to form cilia and how cilia formation is coordinated with KV lumen  
7 formation had yet to be identified. Our studies have established that KV precursor cells,  
8 DFCs, assemble a cilium inside the cell before the KV cells start to assemble into a cyst-  
9 like structure (Figure 1E, S1D-E, Video S2). We noted that cilium and the associated  
10 centrosome reposition inside the cell towards the center of the KV cellular mass at a  
11 similar time KV cells are rearranging into a rosette like structure (Figure 1J, S1D-E), a  
12 pre-requisite structure that precedes lumen formation. This movement of the centrosome  
13 and rearranging into a rosette like structure relies on the small GTPases Rab11 and  
14 Rab35 (Figure 2 and 3). Specifically, we find that Rab35 acts upstream of Rab11 on the  
15 same membrane compartment, likely recycling endosomes [38], to assist in forming and  
16 expanding the lumen by regulating the delivery of CFTR to the apical membrane (Figure  
17 3). Previous foundational work identified that CFTR recruitment to the apical membrane  
18 is a requirement for lumen expansion [12]. We identified that once the lumen expands to  
19 a specific area (Figure 1F, K), which is mediated by Rab11 and Rab35 (Figure 3), the KV  
20 cilia can extend and elongate into the lumen in a Rab8 dependent manner (Figure 2).

21 Interestingly, the only significant defect we identified with acute disruption of Rab8  
22 was cilia length (Figure 2E), whereas with Rab11 and Rab35 we found defects in KV  
23 development that included rosette formation and transition to forming a lumen (Figure 3A-  
24 C, S3A-E), along with a defect in cilia formation (Figure 2, S2). This was surprising due  
25 to previous reports identifying a GTPase cascade between Rab11 and Rab8 that was  
26 needed for lumen formation and for cilia formation in mammalian tissue culture  
27 [18,19,21,39,40]. While we argue that this cascade may not be required for lumen or cilia  
28 formation in KV cells, it may still be intact in regulation of cilia length (Figure 2E, S2C).  
29 Our findings demonstrate that both conserved and divergent mechanisms are likely  
30 involved in cilia formation dependent on the developmental requirements of the tissue  
31 being formed. For instance, there may be a possible connection between Rab35 and

1 Rab11 that is coordinated during cilia and lumen formation, where both Rab35 and Rab11  
2 clustered membranes result in the sequestration of CFTR (Figure 2A, 2D), and that  
3 Rab35 clustering results in the partial recruitment of Rab11 (Figure 2E-F). Interestingly,  
4 there is no colocalization with Rab35 and cilia (Figure S1C), unlike Rab11 (Figure 1E).  
5 One potential unique mechanistic possibility that we have already touched upon is that  
6 Rab35 and Rab11 work together in coordinating lumen formation through CFTR transport  
7 (Figure 3G). In support of this scenario, Rab11 or Rab35 clustering prevents CFTR from  
8 accumulating appropriately at the apical membrane, resulting in incomplete lumen  
9 formation that would consequently cause cilia to remain inside the cell. This is indeed the  
10 case where we find with acute inhibition of Rab11 and Rab35 associated membrane  
11 compartments, a significant increase in KV cells have internalized cilia compared to  
12 control and Rab8 membrane inhibition (Figure 2D). These same conditions cause defects  
13 in lumen formation (Figure 3A-C, S3A-E) and the KVs that do form a lumen are  
14 significantly decreased in area and rarely reach that 300  $\mu\text{m}^2$  lumen area threshold that  
15 is required for cilia to extend into the lumen (Figure 1H, 1K-L). An additional more  
16 conserved mechanism for Rab11, like what is reported in mammalian cell culture, is a  
17 direct role at the cilium where Rab11 localizes to (Figure 1E). In this scenario, Rab11 can  
18 regulate cilia formation and potential elongation in a cascade with Rab8. We argue that  
19 this cascade is likely in place based on our findings that acute inhibition of Rab11-  
20 associated membranes through optogenetic clustering recruits Rab8 to these  
21 membranes, but clustering Rab8 does not recruit Rab11. These findings suggest that  
22 Rab11 is upstream of Rab8 and can recruit Rab8 to the same membrane compartment  
23 to potentially regulate cilia elongation (Figure 2E, modeled in Figure 3G).

24 Our findings demonstrate that both conserved and divergent mechanisms for cilia  
25 formation likely exist, and Rab GTPases relative roles are likely dependent on the  
26 developmental requirements of the tissue being formed. Our studies validate zebrafish  
27 to be a versatile model to identify the potential mechanisms of function for Rab  
28 GTPases *in vivo*.

29

1 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

2 We thank the Michel Bagnat lab at Duke University School of Medicine for sharing their  
3 eGFP-Rab11 transgenic zebrafish lines. This work was supported by National Institutes  
4 of Health grants R01GM127621 (H.H.) and R01GM130874 (H.H.).

5

6 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

7 A.A., D.P., J.S., H.H., N.K., J.M., C.T., E.I., N.A.H and F.O. designed, performed, and  
8 analyzed experiments; H.H. wrote manuscript; J.F. provided molecular reagents and  
9 zebrafish husbandry. All authors provided edits. H.H. oversaw project.

10

11 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

12 The authors declare no competing interests.

13



## 1 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

2

3 **Figure 1.** *KV cilia form prior to KV lumen formation using an intracellular pathway.* **(A)**  
4 Model depicting KV lumen formation across developmental stages of the zebrafish  
5 embryo. **(B-D)** Live confocal videos of mRuby-Rab8 (cyan, **B**), GFP-Rab11 (gray, **C**),  
6 and mRuby-Rab35 (gray, **D**) localization in KV cells marked by GFP-CAAX (inverted  
7 LUT, **B**) during lumen formation. Scale bar, 10µm. Refer to Video S1. **(E)** Left, model of  
8 KV developmental stages, rosette (top) and lumen (bottom), with centrosome (magenta)  
9 and cilia (cyan) positioning. Right, confocal micrographs with GFP-Rab11 (cyan),  
10 mRuby-Rab8 (magenta), and cilia (acetylated-tubulin, gray), shown. Bar, 10 µm. **(F)**  
11 Model demonstrating intracellular versus extracellular pathways for cilia formation. **(G)**  
12 3D surface rendering of representative KV cells with cilia (acetylated-tubulin, cyan)  
13 inside versus outside of KV plasma membranes (KV membranes, Sox17:GFP-CAAX,  
14 gray), Myo-Va (magenta). Bar, 5 µm. **(H)** KV cell building and extending a cilium  
15 (Arl13b-mCardinal, inverted gray) into the lumen of the KV. KV plasma membranes  
16 (Sox17:GFP-CAAX) shown. Bar, 5 µm. **(I)** Percentage of ciliated KV cells at the different  
17 KV developmental stages. **(J)** Relative distance of cilia from cell border closest to KV  
18 center. **(I-J)** Shown as a violin plot with median (yellow line). One way ANOVA across  
19 KV developmental stages, n>7 embryos, \*\*p<0.01. **(K)** Scatter plot demonstrating the  
20 percentage of KV cells with lumenal cilia per embryo in relation to KV lumen area. n=29  
21 embryos. Goodness of fit R<sup>2</sup>= 0.8577. Please refer to Table S1 for additional statistical  
22 information. **(L)** Scatter plot depicting average cilia length within KV cells per embryo  
23 across n=29 embryos in relation to lumen area. Error bars, ± SEM.

24

25 **Figure S1.** *KV cilia form prior to KV lumen formation using an intracellular pathway.* **(A)**  
26 Live confocal videos of mCherry-Rab11 (cyan) localization in KV cells during lumen  
27 formation. KV plasma membrane noted with GFP-CAAX (inverted gray). Scale bar, 10  
28 µm. **(B-C)** Confocal micrographs of KV lumen stage with cilia (acetylated-tubulin, cyan),  
29 GFP-Rab11 (magenta, **B**), mRuby-Rab8 (yellow, **B**), mRuby-Rab35 (magenta, **C**), and  
30 actin (yellow, **C**). Bar, 2 µm. **(D)** Confocal micrographs of KV developmental stages with  
31 cilia (acetylated-tubulin, cyan), centrosome (γ-tubulin, magenta), and actin (phalloidin,

1 gray). Scale bar, 10  $\mu\text{m}$ . **(d')** Magnified insets from **(D)** depicting centrosome and cilia  
2 positioning in KV cells at different KV developmental stages. Bar, 7  $\mu\text{m}$ . **(E)** 3D surface  
3 rendering of a representative KV cell during pre-rosette, rosette, and lumen KV  
4 developmental stages with cilia (acetylated-tubulin, cyan) and KV plasma membranes  
5 (KV membranes, Sox17:GFP-CAAX, gray) rendered. Refer to Video S2. Bar, 5  $\mu\text{m}$ . **(F)**  
6 Model depicting quantification of relative distance of the cilium from the cell border  
7 closest to KV center. Cilia, cyan. Nucleus, gray. Center of KV cells, yellow. Pink dashed  
8 line is distance of cilium from cell membrane. Black dashed line is distance of cell center  
9 to cell membrane.

10

11 **Video S1.** *Videos of Rab8, Rab11, and Rab35 distribution during KV lumen formation.*  
12 Live confocal videos of mRuby-Rab8 (cyan), GFP-Rab11 (gray), and mRuby-Rab35  
13 (gray) localization in KV cells during lumen formation. KV plasma membranes  
14 (Sox17:GFP-CAAX) shown with actin and Rab8 (inverted gray). Bar, 10  $\mu\text{m}$ . Refer to  
15 Figure 1B-D.

16

17 **Video S2.** *Cilia cellular positioning in 3D.* 3D surface rendering from Figure S1A of a  
18 single KV cell at the KV pre-rosette, rosette, or lumen stage rotated 360 degrees around  
19 the X-axis. Bar, 5  $\mu\text{m}$ . Inset shows full KV with cilia (cyan) and KV plasma membrane  
20 (Sox17:GFP-CAAX, gray). Refer to Figure S1E.

21

22 **Figure 2.** *Cilia extension into the KV lumen requires Rab11- and Rab35-associated*  
23 *membranes, but not Rab8.* **(A)** A model depicting the use of optogenetics to acutely  
24 block Rab-associated trafficking events during KV developmental stages. **(B)** Confocal  
25 micrographs of cilia (acetylated tubulin, cyan) in CRY2 (control), Rab8-, Rab11-, and  
26 Rab35-clustered Sox17:GFP-CAAX embryos (gray). Centrosomes denoted by  $\gamma$ -tubulin  
27 (magenta). Clusters not shown. Yellow dashed lines, KV cell cortical membranes.  
28 Orange arrow, centrosome. Bar, 2  $\mu\text{m}$ . **(C-F)** Violin plots of percentage of KV cells with  
29 cilia **(C)**, percentage of KV cilia in cell volume **(D)**, cilia length **(E)**, and the relative  
30 distance of cilia from the cell boarder closest to KV center **(F)**. One way ANOVA with

1 Dunnett's multiple comparison to CRY2 (control) was performed.  $n > 4$  embryos, n.s. not  
2 significant,  $**p < 0.01$ ,  $***p < 0.001$ ,  $****p < 0.0001$ . Statistical results detailed in Table S1.

3  
4

5 **Figure S2.** *Cilia extension into the KV lumen requires Rab11- and Rab35-associated*  
6 *membranes, but not Rab8.* (A) Confocal micrographs of cilia (acetylated tubulin, cyan)  
7 in CRY2 (control), Rab8-, Rab11-, and Rab35-clustered Sox17:GFP-CAAX embryos  
8 (gray). Clusters not shown. Lumen outline is orange dashed lines. Bar, 10  $\mu\text{m}$ . (B)  
9 Agarose gel demonstrating RT-PCR of Rab8, Rab11, and Rab35 MO treatment  
10 compared to control MO conditions. Amplification of Rab8, Rab11, and Rab35  
11 transcripts shown. NC, negative control. (C) Violin plot depicting cilia length from  
12 control, Rab8, Rab11, and Rab35 MO treatment. Dots represent individual cilia length  
13 values. Median denoted by line. One-way ANOVA with Dunnett's multiple comparison  
14 test, compared to CRY2.  $****p < 0.0001$ . Statistical results detailed in Table S1.

15

16 **Figure 3.** *Rab11 and Rab35, but not Rab8, regulates KV lumen formation by mediating*  
17 *CFTR trafficking to the apical membrane.* (A) Optogenetic clustering of Rab11, Rab8,  
18 and Rab35 (magenta) in KV cells. Localization with CFTR-GFP (inverted LUT) is  
19 shown. Bar, 20  $\mu\text{m}$ . (B) KV lumen area over time ( $\pm$ SEM for  $n = 3$  embryos per condition)  
20 in control (CRY2 injection) and Rab8, Rab11 and Rab35 clustering conditions. See  
21 Figure S3C and Video S3 for representatives. (C) KV morphologies measured from  
22 optogenetically-clustered then fixed embryos at 12 SS (12 hpf).  $n > 47$  embryos per  
23 condition measured across  $n > 9$  clutches. (D) Percent of optogenetic clusters that  
24 colocalize with CFTR.  $n > 9$  embryos,  $**p < 0.01$ ,  $****p < 0.0001$ . (E) Optogenetic clustering  
25 of Rab11 and Rab35 (cyan). Rab11 clusters localization with Flag-Rab8 (magenta) or  
26 mRuby-Rab35 clusters with GFP-Rab11 (magenta) shown. Bar, 7  $\mu\text{m}$ . (F) Percent of  
27 optogenetic clusters that colocalize with Rab8, Rab35, or Rab11 was calculated.  $n > 9$   
28 embryos,  $****p < 0.0001$ . Statistical results detailed in Table S1. (G) Model depicting KV  
29 lumen and cilia formation across KV developmental stages. Centrosome depicted in  
30 magenta, cilia in cyan and CFTR in green. In short, a proportion of centrosomes start to  
31 assemble cilia at the pre-rosette stage that then reposition towards the center of the KV

1 at the rosette stage in a Rab11 and Rab35 dependent manner. At this stage, Rab11  
2 and Rab35 mediate CFTR transport to the apical membrane. The rosette stage then  
3 transitions to a lumen stage where most of the centrosomes can then locate at the  
4 CFTR-positive apical membrane and extend their cilia into the lumen where cilia can  
5 elongate to their full length in a Rab8 dependent manner.

6

7 **Figure S3.** *Rab11 and Rab35, but not Rab8, regulates KV lumen formation by*  
8 *mediating CFTR trafficking to the apical membrane. (A)* Representative 3D rendering of  
9 KV under Rab8, Rab11, and Rab35 MO treatment. Lumen trace (orange), cell  
10 membrane (GFP-CAAX, inverted LUT), and actin (magenta) shown. Bar, 25  $\mu\text{m}$ . **(B)**  
11 Violin plot depicting lumen area normalized to uninjected control values in control,  
12 Rab8, Rab11 and Rab35 MO injected embryos. Dots represent individual KV values.  
13 Median denoted by line. One-way ANOVA with Dunnett's multiple comparison test,  
14 compared to control MO.  $n > 12$  embryos, n.s. not significant, \*\*\*\* $p < 0.0001$ . **(C)**  
15 Optogenetic clustering of Rab11 and Rab35 blocks KV lumen formation compared to  
16 CRY2 control and Rab8. Imaged on an automated fluorescent stereoscope. Bar, 50  $\mu\text{m}$ .  
17 KV marked with Sox17:GFP-CAAX, lumens highlighted in orange, clusters shown in  
18 cyan. Refer to Video S3 and Figure 3B. **(D)** Violin plot depicting lumen area from Rab8,  
19 Rab11, and Rab35 clustering conditions normalized to uninjected control values. Dots  
20 represent individual KV values. Median denoted by line. One-way ANOVA with  
21 Dunnett's multiple comparison test, compared to CRY2.  $n > 9$  embryos, \*\*\*\* $p < 0.0001$ . **(E)**  
22 Representative image of optogenetic clustering of Rab35 (cyan) in KV cells; CFTR-GFP  
23 (inverted LUT) shown. Bar, 25  $\mu\text{m}$ . **(F)** Optogenetic clustering of Rab11 in KV cells.  
24 Rab11 clusters localization with mRuby-Rab35 (magenta) shown. Bar, 7  $\mu\text{m}$ . Statistical  
25 results detailed in Table S1.

26

27 **Video S3.** *Rab11 and Rab35 modulate KV lumen formation.* Optogenetic clustering of  
28 Rab11 and Rab35 blocks KV lumen formation compared to Rab8. Embryos imaged on  
29 automated fluorescent stereoscope every 10 min. Bar, 100  $\mu\text{m}$ . KV marked with  
30 Sox17:GFP-CAAX. Refer to Figure 3B and S3C.

31

1 **Figure 4.** *Acute optogenetic disruption of Rab8, Rab11, and Rab35 membranes during*  
2 *KV development results in left-right asymmetry defects. (A)* A model depicting the use  
3 of optogenetics to acutely block Rab GTPase-associated trafficking events during KV  
4 developmental stages and assessment of downstream developmental consequences at  
5 42 hpf. **(B)** Images demonstrate characterized developmental phenotypes observed that  
6 include curved tail, no tail, and single eye. Yellow arrows point to abnormalities. Bar,  
7 100  $\mu\text{m}$ . **(C)** Violin plot displaying percentage of embryos displaying a no tail, curved  
8 tail, or single eye phenotype (shown in **(B)**) over  $n>3$  clutches across the optogenetic  
9 clustering conditions compared to control. \* $p<0.05$ , and \*\* $p<0.01$ . **(D)** Images  
10 demonstrate characterized abnormal heart looping in clustered embryos compared to  
11 normal leftward heart looping in control CRY2 embryos. Refer to Video S4. Bar, 100  
12  $\mu\text{m}$ . **(E)** Violin plot displaying percentage of embryos with abnormal heart looping  
13 (shown in **(D)**)  $n>3$  clutches across the optogenetic clustering conditions compared to  
14 control. \*\*\* $p<0.001$  and \*\*\*\* $p<0.0001$ . Statistical results detailed in Table S1.

15  
16 **Video S4.** *Acute optogenetic disruption of Rab8, Rab11, and Rab35 membranes during*  
17 *KV development results in abnormal heart looping.* Stereo microscope video showing  
18 ventral view of a 48 hpf *cmic2:GFP* (green) fish marking the heart. In CRY2 control,  
19 heart tube loops to the left. Rab8-, Rab11-, and Rab35- optogenetic clustered zebrafish  
20 reveal defective heart loop phenotype from Figure 4D. Size bar, 100  $\mu\text{m}$ . 0.25s time  
21 interval.

22

## 1 **EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES**

2

### 3 **Resource Availability**

4

5 *Lead contact:* For further information or to request resources/reagents, contact Lead  
6 Contact, Dr. Heidi Hehnly ([hhehnly@syr.edu](mailto:hhehnly@syr.edu))

7

8 *Materials availability:* New materials generated for this study are available for  
9 distribution.

10

11 *Data and code availability:* All data sets analyzed for this study are displayed.

12

### 13 **Experimental model and subject details**

14

#### 15 **Fish Lines**

16 Zebrafish lines were maintained using standard procedures approved by Syracuse  
17 University IACUC (Institutional Animal Care Committee) (Protocol #18-006). Embryos  
18 were raised at 28.5°C and staged (as described in [41]). Wildtype and/or transgenic  
19 zebrafish lines used for live imaging and immunohistochemistry are listed in key  
20 resource table (Table S2).

21

#### 22 **Method Details**

23

#### 24 **Antibodies**

25 Antibody catalog information used in mammalian cell culture and zebrafish embryos are  
26 detailed in key resource table (Table S2).

27

#### 28 **Plasmids and mRNA**

29 Plasmids were generated using Gibson cloning methods (NEBuilder HiFi DNA  
30 assembly Cloning Kit) and maxi-prepped before injection and/or transfection. mRNA

1 was made using mMESSAGE mMACHINE<sup>TM</sup>SP6 transcription kit. See key resource  
2 table for a list of plasmid constructs and mRNA used.

3

#### 4 **Morpholinos**

5 Morpholinos (MO) were ordered from Gene Tools. Previously characterized Rab8,  
6 Rab11, and Rab35 MO sequences were used from [18,22,40]. See Supplementary key  
7 resource table in Table S2 for a list of morpholinos used.

8

#### 9 **RNA extraction and RT-PCR**

10 Total RNA was extracted from either an isolated embryo or several embryos injected  
11 with control, Rab8, Rab11 or Rab35 morpholinos using TRIzol reagent. The RT-PCR  
12 was performed on each sample using OneTaq One-Step RT-PCR Kit (see key resource  
13 table) with the forward primers “tcagtatggcgaagacctacgat”, “gttagcatggctactgcctaatac”,  
14 “gtaatgagcgactgactgctgac” and reverse primers “tcttcacagtagcacacagcga”,  
15 “catgtcattgtctcggcggtc”, “gtgcaaggagaaaataagatcaagttagagaatca” for Rab8, Rab11  
16 and Rab35 consecutively. RT-PCR reaction was run using the following cycling  
17 conditions: 48 °C for 30 min, 94 °C for 1min followed by 40 cycles of 94 °C for 15 sec,  
18 54 °C (Rab8 and Rab11) or 53 °C (Rab35) for 30 sec, 68 °C for 2 minutes with final  
19 extension at 68 °C for 5 min.

20

#### 21 **Immunofluorescence**

22 Fluorescent transgenic and/or mRNA injected embryos (refer to strains and mRNAs in  
23 key resource table, and for injection protocols refer to [42,43]) were staged at Kupffer’s  
24 Vesicle (KV) developmental stages as described in [33,44] and fixed using 4%  
25 paraformaldehyde with 0.1% triton-100. Standard immunofluorescent protocols were  
26 carried out (refer to [43]). Embryos were then embedded in low-melting 2% agarose  
27 (see key resource table) with the KV positioned at the bottom of a #1.5 glass bottom  
28 MatTek plate (see key resource table) and imaged using the spinning disk confocal  
29 microscope or laser scanning confocal microscope (see details below).



1

## 2 **Imaging**

3 Zebrafish embryos were imaged using Leica DMI8 (Leica, Bannockburn, IL) equipped  
4 with a X-light V2 Confocal unit spinning disk equipped with a Visitron VisiFRAP-DC  
5 photokinetics unit, a Leica SP8 (Leica, Bannockburn, IL) laser scanner confocal  
6 microscope (LSCM) and/or a Zeiss LSM 980 (Carl Zeiss, Germany) with Airyscan 2  
7 confocal microscope. The Leica DMI8 is equipped with a Lumencore SPECTRA X  
8 (Lumencore, Beaverton, OR), Photometrics Prime-95B sCMOS Camera, and 89 North-  
9 LDi laser launch. VisiView software was used to acquire images. Optics used with this  
10 unit are HC PL APO x40/1.10W CORR CS2 0.65 water immersion objective, HC PL  
11 APO x40/0.95 NA CORR dry and HCX PL APO x63/1.40-0.06 NA oil objective. The  
12 SP8 laser scanning confocal microscope is equipped with HC PL APO 20x/0.75 IMM  
13 CORR CS2 objective, HC PL APO 40x/1.10 W CORR CS2 0.65 water objective and HC  
14 PL APO x63/1.3 Glyc CORR CS2 glycerol objective. LAS-X software was used to  
15 acquire images. The Zeiss LSM 980 is equipped with a T-PMT, GaASP detector, MA-  
16 PMT, Airyscan 2 multiplex with 4Y and 8Y. Optics used with this unit are PL APO  
17 x63/1.4 NA oil DIC. Zeiss Zen 3.2 was used to acquire the images. A Leica M165 FC  
18 stereomicroscope equipped with DFC 9000 GT sCMOS camera was used for staging  
19 and phenotypic analysis of zebrafish embryos.

20

## 21 **Optogenetic experiments in zebrafish embryos**

22 Tg(sox17:GFP-CAAX), TgBAC(cftr-GFP), Tg(sox17:GFP), Tg(sox17:DsRed) and  
23 TgKleGFP-Rab11a zebrafish embryos were injected with 50-100 pg of CRY2 and/or  
24 CIB1-mCherry-Rab11, CIB1-mCherry-Rab8 or CIB1-mRuby-Rab35 at the one cell to 4  
25 cell stage. Embryos were allowed to develop in the dark until uninjected embryos  
26 reached the 75% epiboly stage where we can screen embryos for KV cells and expose  
27 them to 488nm light using the NIGHTSEA fluorescence system until the six-somite  
28 stage [33]. Embryos were then fixed and immunostained (refer to [43]).

29

1 **Analysis of Zebrafish developmental defects and heart looping defects following**  
2 **acute optogenetic clustering**

3 Zebrafish embryos injected with optogenetic constructs were exposed to 488nm light  
4 from 8 hpf-12 hpf as described in [33]. Embryos were incubated at 28.5°C until 42 hpf.  
5 Zebrafish were manually dechorionated using forceps and mounted in 2% agarose before  
6 imaging. Heart loop assessment and imaging were carried out on Leica M165 FC  
7 stereomicroscope equipped with DFC 9000 GT sCMOS29camera. A Plan Apochromat  
8 1X objective and GFP excitation emission filter was used. Images were acquired using  
9 LAS-X software and post-image processing was done using thunder imaging system from  
10 Leica. Lateral view and ventral view of zebrafish were obtained from bright field imaging.  
11 Time lapse video of heart looping was performed at 0.25 seconds interval. Heart looping  
12 was characterized by leftward, rightward, and severely defective looping. Gross embryo  
13 phenotypes were categorized into no tail, curved tail, and single eye phenotypes.  
14 Categorization was performed over 787 embryos over n>3 clutches with at least 88-274  
15 embryos per condition.

16

17 **Image and data analysis**

18 Images were processed using FIJI/ImageJ. Graphs and statistical analysis were  
19 produced using Prism 9 software. Surface rendering (refer to [33]) and analysis of KV  
20 cells were performed using Bitplane IMARIS software. Videos were created using  
21 FIJI/ImageJ or IMARIS. Cilia length was measured as the distance from the base of the  
22 cilia to the tip using line function in IMARIS. For percentage of ciliated KV cells, the  
23 number of cells with cilia was counted and represented as a percentage over the total  
24 number of cells in the cyst forming tissue.

25

26 *Relative cilia distance from cell border closest to KV center:* the distance from cilia to  
27 the cell membrane closest to KV center (l2) was measured and divided by the distance  
28 of the center of the cell (nucleus) to the cell's membrane closes to KV center(l1);  $d=l2/l1$   
29 (refer to Figure S1F). This was done for KV cells with positive cilia staining at each  
30 developmental KV stage.

31

1 *Calculating colocalization of CFTR and Rab GTPases with select optogenetic clusters:*  
2 From fixed embryos the total number of Rab GTPase clusters were counted for each  
3 KV. The number of Rab clusters that had CFTR or Rab GTPase being tested  
4 overlapping with the Rab GTPase cluster was counted and presented as a percentage.

## 6 **Statistical Analysis**

7 Unpaired two-tailed t-tests and one way ANOVA were performed using PRISM9  
8 software. \*\*\*\* denotes a p-value<0.0001, \*\*\* p-value<0.001, \*\*p-value<0.01, \*p-  
9 value<0.05, n.s. not significant. For further information on detailed statistical analysis  
10 see supplemental table 1.

11

12

13

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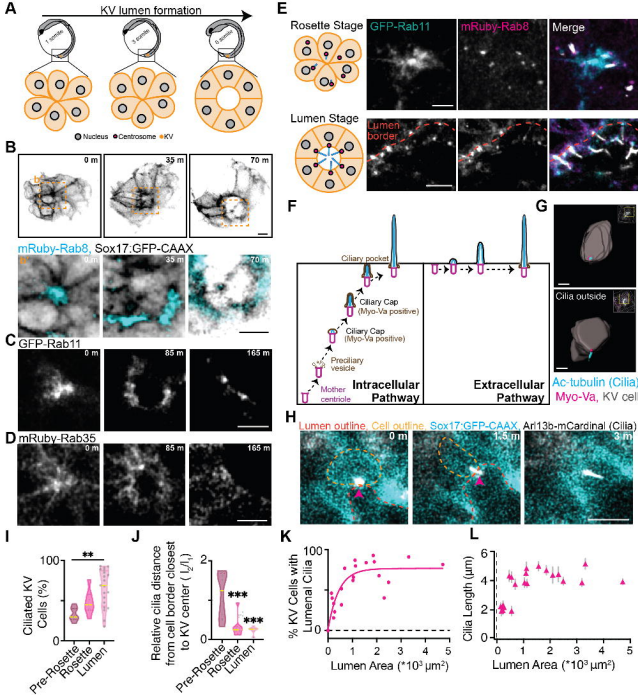
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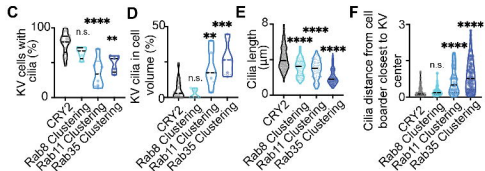
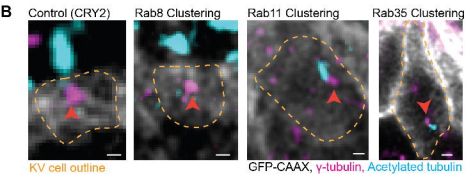
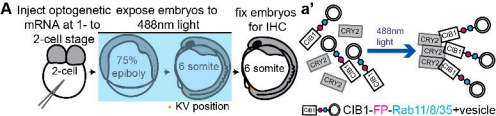
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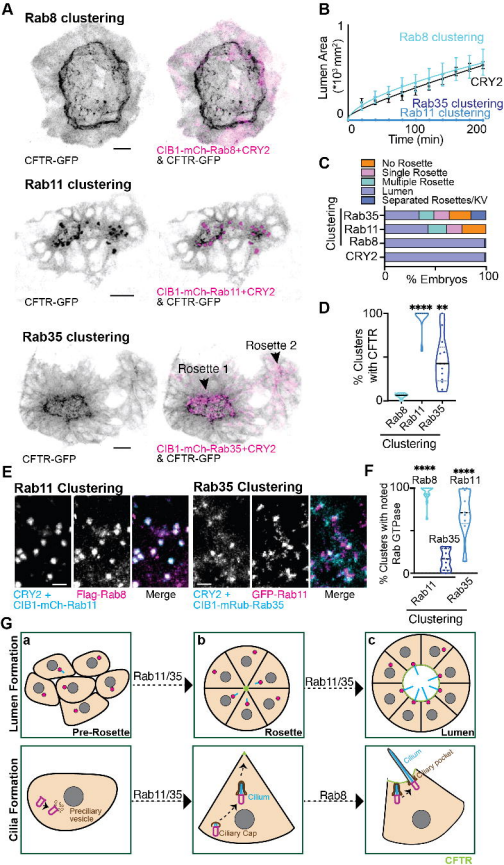




**Figure 1.**



**Figure 2.**



**Figure 3.**

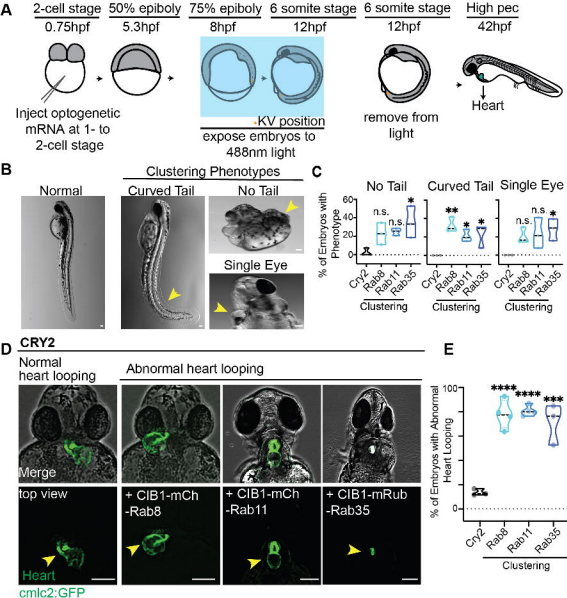
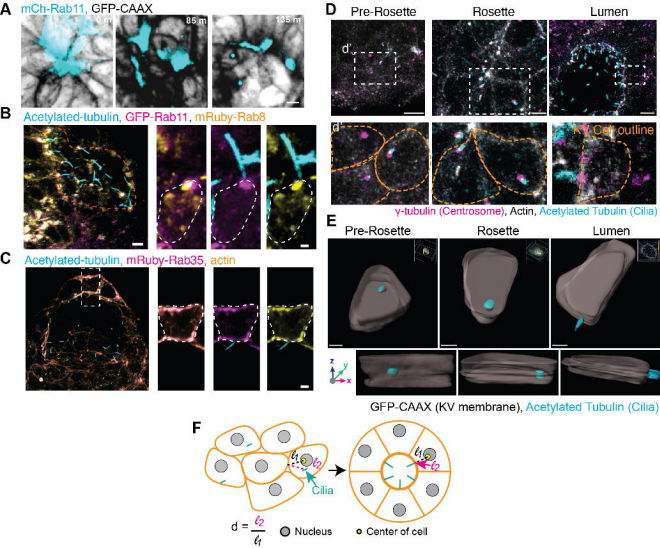
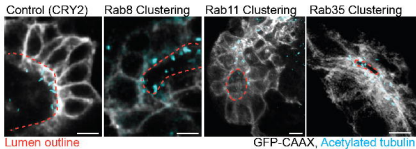
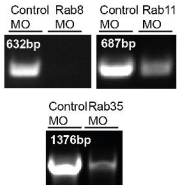
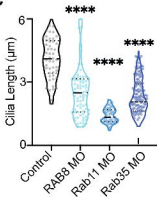
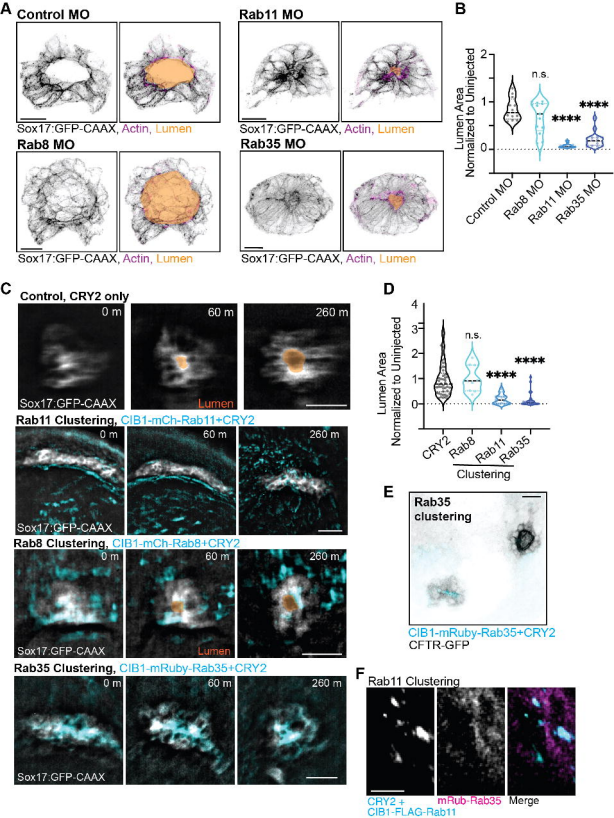


Figure 4.



**Figure S1.**

**A****B****C****Figure S2.**



**Figure S3.**