Programmed ribosomal frameshifting during *PLEKHM2* mRNA decoding generates a

constitutively active mediator of kinesin-1-dependent lysosome transport

Yousuf A. Khan[1,2,3,4]*, Raffaella De Pace[5], Irwin Jungreis[6,7], Gionmattia Carancini[8], Jonathan

M. Mudge[9], Ji Wang[10,11], Manolis Kellis[6,7], John F. Atkins[8], Pavel V. Baranov[8], Andrew E.

Firth[10], Juan S. Bonifacino[5], Gary Loughran[8]*

[1]Department of Molecular and Cellular Physiology, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA.

[2]Department of Neurology and Neurological Sciences, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA

[3]Department of Structural Biology, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA

[4]Department of Photon Science, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA

[5]Neurosciences and Cellular and Structural Biology Division, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National

Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD

20892, USA.

[6]MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, Cambridge, MA, USA.

[7]Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Cambridge, MA, USA.

[8]School of Biochemistry and Cell Biology, University College Cork, Cork, Ireland.

[9]European Molecular Biology Laboratory, European Bioinformatics Institute, Wellcome

Genome Campus, Hinxton CB10 1SD, Cambridge, UK.

[10]Department of Pathology, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK.

[11]Current affiliation: Institute of Precision Medicine, The First Affiliated Hospital, Sun Yat-sen

University, Guangzhou 510080, Republic of China.

*Corresponding authors: yousuf@stanford.edu, g.loughran@ucc.ie

Abstract
Programmed ribosomal frameshifting is a translational recoding phenomenon in which a
proportion of ribosomes are stimulated to slip backwards or forwards on an mRNA[1], rephasing
the ribosome relative to the mRNA. While frameshifting is often employed by viruses[2], very few
phylogenetically conserved examples are known in vertebrate genes and the evidence for some
of these is controversial[3,4]. Here we report a +1 frameshifting signal in the coding sequence of
the human gene *PLEKHM2*, encoding the ARL8-dependent, lysosome–kinesin-1 adaptor protein
PLEKHM2[5]. This +1 frameshifting signal, UCC_UUU_CGG, is highly conserved in vertebrates
and exhibits an influenza virus-like frameshift motif with similar efficiency[6,7]. Purification and
mass spectrometry of GFP-tagged trans-frame protein from cells confirms frameshifting.
Structure prediction shows that the new C-terminal domain generated by this frameshift forms an
alpha-helix. This additional domain relieves PLEKHM2 from autoinhibition, allowing it to move
to the tips of cells via association with kinesin-1 without requiring activation by ARL8. Thus, the
frameshift proteoform generates a constitutively active adaptor of kinesin-1.

Main
Ribosomes catalyze the synthesis of proteins, a tightly coordinated, regulated, and
conserved process[8]. During elongation, each codon of an mRNA is matched to its amino acid-
specific tRNA. The nascent peptide chain is then constructed in a sequential manner as tRNAs
continue to deliver amino acids[9]. Maintenance of the reading frame is critical to ensure that
proteins are correctly synthesized. A network of interactions between the ribosome, tRNAs, and
other factors help to maintain translation fidelity[10]. Thus, the rate of spontaneous frameshifting,
where the ribosome shifts reading frame during elongation, is exceptionally low[11].
Programmed ribosomal frameshifting (PRF) occurs when a proportion of elongating
ribosomes are induced to shift their reading frame by +1, −1, or −2 nucleotides upon
encountering specific signals in *cis-* or a *trans*-acting factor[1]. *Cis*-acting PRF signals may include
a slippery site where tRNAs can re-pair in an alternative reading frame, a 3′ RNA-element, or a
nascent peptide that can interact with the ribosome's peptide exit tunnel. *Trans*-acting
stimulators of PRF include proteins[12,13] or small molecules such as polyamines[14]. Except where a
stop codon is immediately encountered, PRF results in ribosomes synthesizing a distinct
polypeptide from sequence 3′ of the PRF site. Several known PRF sites are 5' adjacent to an
original frame stop codon resulting in synthesis of truncated and extended proteoforms with
identical N-termini. In some instances, no termination codon exists adjacent to the PRF slippery
site in either reading frame, leading to the synthesis of a "transframe" protein in addition to the
product of standard translation. Many viruses, including SARS-CoV-2[15] and HIV-1[16], and
virally-derived sequences require PRF to regulate their gene expression . In several viruses,
transframe proteins are synthesized from overlapping open reading frames (ORFs)[2]. In
vertebrates, there are few known examples of PRF in cellular genes. Most are retrovirally-
derived −1 PRF mRNAs[17,18]. Reported cases of non-retrovirus derived −1 PRF in vertebrate
genes were shown to be artefacts[3,4]. The gene for antizyme - a negative regulator of cellular

polyamine levels - requires +1 PRF to translate and synthesize a single antizyme product as part
of an autoregulatory circuit where the efficiency of PRF increases in response to elevated
polyamine levels[14]. While examples of translation from long overlapping reading frames in
vertebrates are known[19,20], these result from leaky scanning or alternative splicing rather than
PRF. An influenza virus-like +1 PRF site has been bioinformatically predicted in the vertebrate
gene *ASXL1*, though this has not been experimentally validated[21]. To date, there are no
experimentally confirmed PRF signals in vertebrate cellular genes that provide ribosome access
to internally overlapping ORFs.
Here, we report a highly conserved +1 PRF signal and overlapping reading frame in the
mRNA encoding PLEKHM2 (also known as SKIP) that mediates ARL8-dependent coupling of
lysosomes to the anterograde microtubule motor kinesin-1[22]. PRF results in the synthesis of a
transframe protein, PLEKHM2-FS. PLEKHM2-FS does not contain the autoinhibitory C-
terminal domain of PLEKHM2-WT and instead is predicted to contain an α-helical domain that
we found to promote self-association. This results in a proteoform that does not require
activation by ARL8 to promote kinesin-1-driven lysosome transport.
80
PLEKHM2 **contains a highly conserved +1 PRF signal and overlapping ORF**
During bioinformatic scans for alternative ORFs, we noticed a long, conserved
overlapping ORF in one of the coding exons of *PLEKHM2* (**Fig. 1a**). Our extensive surveying of
transcriptomics datasets did not provide evidence that this overlapping frame can be accessed by
alternative splicing or transcriptional initiation. Towards, the 5′ end of this alternative ORF is a
potential +1 PRF cassette, UCC_UUU_CGG, almost identical to the influenza A virus
UCC_UUU_CGU +1 PRF cassette, that is conserved in vertebrate *PLEKHM2* mRNAs (**Fig. 1b**).
For influenza A virus PRF, slippage is thought to occur when UUU is positioned in the
ribosomal P-site and CGU is positioned in a presumably empty A-site[6]. Both UUU and UUC are
decoded by the same tRNA isoacceptor whose anticodon, 3′-AAG-5′, has a higher affinity for
UUC in the +1 frame than for the zero-frame UUU[23]. Subjecting *PLEKHM2* transcript sequence
alignments to both Synplot2[24] and MLOGD[25] analysis, we found that, in mammals, sauropsids,
amphibians and teleost fish, in the region of the *PLEKHM2* gene that is overlapped by the *FS*
region, there is statistically significantly enhanced synonymous site conservation, and a positive
coding signature specifically in the +1 reading frame (**Fig. 1c-f**).
PhyloCSF, an algorithm used to predict coding genomic regions, measures protein coding
potential by computing the log-likelihood of a multispecies alignment under coding and
noncoding models of evolution[26]. The PhyloCSF tracks in the UCSC Genome Browser indicate a
conserved change of reading frame in exon 9 of *PLEKHM2* followed by coding resumption in
the original reading frame downstream of the *FS* stop codon, in both mammals and birds (**Fig
2a,b**), suggesting a potential PRF[27]. A whole genome alignment of 100 vertebrate species
rendered using CodAlignView (https://data.broadinstitute.org/compbio1/cav.php) shows that (i)
both the CCUUUC 6-mer in the key portion of the potential PRF cassette and the *FS* stop codon
are present in all aligned species, (ii) there is a preponderance of synonymous substitutions

relative to the +1 frame in the latter portion of the potential dual coding region, indicating
purifying selection on the amino acid sequence translated from that frame, and (iii) there are no
stop codons in the +1 frame within the potential dual coding region despite many stop codons in
the flanking sequences on both sides of the aligned sequences (**S1a-d**).
Given that this overlapping ORF is highly conserved, we were curious if it encoded a
protein with a high-confidence predicted structure. Using ColabFold's[28] implementation of
AlphaFold2[29], and assuming PRF on UCC_UUU_CGG, we input the sequence of the predicted
FS protein. While ColabFold reliably predicted the N-terminal portion of the FS protein (**Fig.**
2c), it was unable to predict a structure from the portion of the protein encoded by the alternative
ORF. However, given that AlphaFold2 relies on multiple sequence alignments (MSAs) from
available databases to extract critical coevolutionary information, we reasoned that it would not
have *a priori* knowledge on PLEKHM2-FS since its C-terminal sequence is absent from all
existing databases. We generated custom MSAs for PLEKHM2-FS across all vertebrates,
injected them into the model and were able to predict a high confidence α-helical domain in the
transframe portion of the protein, further suggesting that this was a bona fide +1 PRF signal that
enabled expression of a functional transframe protein.
121
Experimental evidence of +1 PRF in *PLEKHM2*
Possible PRF into the +1 reading frame was tested experimentally by inserting the
putative frameshift site and flanking sequence from *PLEKHM2* between *Renilla* and *firefly*
luciferase ORFs such that a +1 PRF event would give rise to a ~100 kDa fusion product of the
two reporter polypeptides[30,31]. These constructs were transfected into HEK293T cells and cell
lysates were immunoblotted with anti-*Renilla* antibody. This demonstrated PRF in a WT
construct, but not upon mutation of the putative PRF cassette from UCC_UUU_CGG to
agC_UUc_aGa (**Fig. 3a**).
To measure the PRF efficiency of *PLEKHM2*, we used a dual luciferase reporter system
that we previously described[32]. Briefly, the test sequence is flanked by tandem StopGo sequences
from foot-and-mouth disease virus[33] that, while allowing continued protein synthesis, prevents
peptide bond formation at a specific site in its sequence, resulting in expression of the reporter as
separate proteins (**Fig. 3b**). This arrangement avoids potential artefacts that can arise when the
test sequence fusion alters the individual reporter activities or stabilities[3,4,32]. Furthermore, we
changed a +1 frame AUG within the *PLEKHM2* cassette to minimize the possibility of firefly
translation due to initiation on potential low abundance mRNAs that may be generated by cryptic
splicing or cryptic promoters. Dual luciferase assays on lysates prepared from HEK293T cells
transfected with *PLEKHM2* constructs indicated a PRF efficiency of ~1.3% for WT and ~1.1%
for WT minus AUG (**Fig. 3b** and **Ext 1a,b**). The slight decrease in firefly activity upon mutation
of the +1 frame AUG indicates some level of internal initiation on this codon and further
militates for controlling against such artefacts.
Although +1 PRF by mammalian ribosomes on influenza virus-like shift sites, such as in
influenza A virus and *PLEKHM2*, do not appear to require *cis*-acting stimulators, we noticed a

potential stem-loop 3′ of the *PLEKHM2* shift site that appears to display sequence conservation

(**Fig. S2a**). To test the possible stimulatory role of this putative stem-loop structure, we

introduced mutations to disrupt (delta SL), restore (restore SL) or strengthen (strong SL) the

stem-duplex (**Fig. S2b**). Disrupting the putative stem-loop structure decreased *PLEKHM2* PRF

efficiency to ~0.75%. However, WT levels of PRF were not restored by changes that were

predicted to restore stem-loop formation or strengthen the stem-loop (**Fig. 3b** and **Ext 1a,b**).

Although +1 PRF on the *PLEKHM2* mRNA does not appear to require the predicted stem-loop

RNA secondary structure, there may be a weak stimulatory effect. It is possible that in certain

cell types or under certain conditions the RNA secondary structure may modulate +1 PRF in

PLEKHM2 expression.

Polyamines stimulate the translation of the full antizyme 1 protein (encoded by *OAZ1*)

by using +1 PRF to bypass an early stop codon in the zero-frame[34], a mechanism conserved from

protists to mammals. Therefore, we tested whether +1 PRF in the *PLEKHM2* gene may also be

stimulated by polyamines, since polyamines have been proposed to stimulate +1 PRF in a

sequence-independent manner[35,36]. HEK293T cells transfected with *PLKEHM2* or *OAZ1* dual

luciferase constructs were treated with spermidine and assayed for PRF efficiency. Although

baseline *OAZ1* PRF (32.5%) is much higher than *PLEKHM2* (~1 %), we observed a similar 1.5-

fold increase in PRF efficiency for both *OAZ1* and *PLEKHM2* when spermidine was added (**Fig.

3c** and **Ext. 1c,d**). This indicates that *PLEKHM2* PRF efficiency can be regulated. To assess

whether *PLEKHM2* PRF may be more efficient in other cells or tissues, we compared ribosome

read densities extracted from publicly available ribosome profiling data, upstream and

downstream of the PRF cassette in the *PLEKHM2* mRNA. Although subtle differences in read

densities were observed among different tissues, the baseline rate of PRF is too low to determine

if these differences are significant (**Fig. S3**).

To determine the precise site and direction of PRF, we aimed to identify transframe

peptides by mass spectrometry. We generated a construct in which an ORF encoding green

fluorescent protein (GFP) was fused in-frame to the 3′ end of the transframe ORF (**Fig. 3d,e**). An

additional construct (PLEKHM2-K-GFP) introducing a lysine codon close to the slip site was

used to increase the chances of identifying the junction tryptic peptide (**Ext. 1e**). Synonymous

mutations in the zero-frame were introduced to alter two +1 frame AUG codons to avoid

potential initiation in the +1 frame. Frameshift expression from these constructs would result in

the transframe fusion PLEKHM2-GFP or PLEKHM2-K-GFP, which could be affinity-purified

on GFP-Trap beads, while non-frameshift expression would result in products that do not contain

GFP. Constructs were expressed in HEK293T cells, and transframe fusions were affinity-

purified from cell lysates and resolved by SDS-PAGE. Both constructs directed synthesis of a

specific protein migrating at the predicted molecular weight for PLEKHM2-FS-GFP (~34 kDa).

Gel slices containing these proteins were excised, digested with trypsin, and the resulting

peptides were analyzed by liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS).

Tryptic peptides covering 59% of the PLEKHM2-FS-GFP construct and 85% of the PLEKHM2-

K-FS-GFP construct were identified, including peptides encoded both upstream and downstream

of the shift site (**Fig. 3f and Ext. 1e**). Importantly, three peptides spanning the shift site itself

were identified. These peptides, AEPPDQSFGPALPGTPR (from PLEKHM2-FS-GFP),

QSFGPALPGTPR and AEPPKQSFGPALPGTPR with a missed tryptic cleavage (from

PLEKHM2-K-FS-GFP), define the shift site (UCC_UUU_CGG) and direction (+1) of PRF.

The PLEKHM2-FS proteoform is constitutively active

Next, we investigated the activity of the PLEKHM2-FS proteoform. PLEKHM2[37]

comprises a RUN domain that interacts with the lysosome-associated small GTPase ARL8[22],

WD-WE motifs that interact with kinesin-1[38], a largely disordered region, and three

autoinhibitory PH domains[5] (**Fig. 4a**). ARL8 both recruits PLEKHM2 to lysosomes[22] and

relieves PLEKHM2 autoinhibition[5]. These properties enable PLEKHM2 to function as a

regulated adaptor for ARL8-dependent coupling of lysosomes to kinesin-1 and consequent

transport toward the plus end of microtubules[5,38].

The PRF that generates PLEKHM2-FS preserves the RUN domain and WD-WE motifs

but parts of the disordered region and the three PH domains are absent (**Fig. 4a**). As previously

shown[5,38], overexpression of HA-tagged PLEKHM2 (HA-PLEKHM2) in WT HeLa cells (**Ext.

2a**) results in the redistribution of a large fraction of lysosomes immunolabeled for the lysosomal

markers LAMP1 (**Fig. 4b,4c** and **Ext. 3a**) and LAMTOR4 (**Ext. 2b**) to cell tips (also referred to

as vertices; indicated by yellow arrows). Overexpression of HA-PLEKHM2-FS or a truncated

HA-PLEKHM2 1-437 lacking the three PH domains and the FS sequence (**Fig. 4a, Ext. 2a**)

similarly redistributed lysosomes to cell tips (**Fig. 4b, 4c, Ext. 2b, 3a**). All these HA-PLEKHM2

variants themselves redistributed to cell tips along with lysosomes. PLEKHM2–lysosome

clusters exhibited a tighter appearance and were occasionally observed to be more centrally

located for the HA-PLEKHM2-FS and HA-PLEKHM2-1-437 constructs compared to the HA-

PLEKHM2 construct (**Fig. 4b, Ext. 2b, 3a**; centrally located clusters are indicated by magenta

arrows), a phenotype that likely stems from the removal of the C-terminal sequences. These

observations thus demonstrated that PLEKHM2-FS is as active as PLEKHM2, and that this

activity does not depend on the FS sequence, when overexpressed in WT cells.

Knock out (KO) of both the ARL8A and ARL8B paralogs in HeLa cells (referred to as

ARL8 KO) prevented the association of HA-PLEKHM2 with lysosomes (due to loss of ARL8-

dependent recruitment) and kinesin-1 (due to loss of ARL8-dependent relief from

autoinhibition), thereby impeding the overexpression-induced redistribution of both lysosomes

and PLEKHM2 to cell tips (**Fig. 4c, 4d, Ext. 2a**). Importantly, although overexpressed HA-

PLEKHM2-FS failed to redistribute lysosomes, it could itself relocate to the tips of ARL8-KO

cells (**Fig. 4c, 4d, Ext. 2c**, green arrows). This latter phenotype differs from that observed for

HA-PLEKHM2 and is likely attributable to the absence of the autoinhibitory PH domains in

PLEKHM2-FS. These observations indicated that PLEKHM2-FS is constitutively active,

requiring no activation by ARL8 for association with kinesin-1 and movement toward cell tips.

In ARL8-KO cells, the truncated HA-PLEKHM2-1-437 exhibited a more cytosolic

distribution (**Fig. 4d, Ext 2c, S4a, S4b**) and substantially reduced movement to cell tips

compared to PLEKHM2-FS (**Fig. 4c, 4d, Ext. 2c, 3b, S4a, S4b**). These observations suggest that

the FS sequence does not just replace an autoinhibitory sequence but also enhances the

interaction with kinesin-1. Co-immunoprecipitation of HA- and myc-tagged constructs showed

that PLEKHM2-FS interacted with itself much more than with PLEKHM2 or PLEKHM2-1-437

(**Ext. 2d**). Thus, the FS sequence likely promotes self-association, a property that may contribute

to its enhanced ability to undergo kinesin-1–driven movement toward the cell tips.

We conclude that PLEKHM2-FS is a constitutively active variant of PLEKHM2 that

does not require ARL8-dependent activation for kinesin-1–dependent movement toward the cell

periphery (**Fig. 4e**). How the presence of this constitutively active form of PLEKHM2 affects the

dynamics of kinesin-1-driven lysosomal distribution within cells remains an open question.

PLEKHM2-FS could provide a basal level of lysosome transport, while PLEKHM2 would

enable another level of regulated lysosome transport in response to stimuli such as starvation[39] or

growth factor receptor activation[40]. Furthermore, PLEKHM2-FS may not just be constitutively

activated, but could also play a role in activating the WT proteoform. The function of

PLEKHM2-FS is likely critical in vertebrates, given its extensive conservation in all the species

we were able to query.

The ability of polyamines to similarly stimulate both *OAZ1* and *PLEKHM2* +1 PRF lends

additional evidence to significant latitude in sequences at which polyamines stimulate +1

PRF.While polyamine stimulation of *OAZ1* PRF has evolved to maintain polyamine levels

within a narrow cellular concentration, it is possible that polyamine stimulation of *PLEKHM2*

PRF could be incidental - perhaps polyamines directly or indirectly affect elongation rates that is

especially seen in PRF events.

The discovery of the first +1 PRF signal in vertebrate cellular genes that provides

ribosome access to internally overlapping ORFs thus marks a major milestone and sets the stage

for further searches in vertebrate genomes. Other conserved PRF signals may exist but may not

have been as highly selected for or evolved as early as the one in *PLEKHM2*, making them less

readily identifiable through traditional bioinformatic searches. However, the increasing number

of viral and cellular examples of PRF signals may lend itself to complementary computational

techniques, such as machine learning, and improved high-throughput assays.

Figure Legends

Figure 1 | Synonymous site conservation and coding potential within the *PLEKHM2* dual

coding region. a. Schematic of the main *PLEKHM2* transcript. Pink-dashed lines indicate exon-

exon junctions and black bars represent untranslated regions (UTRs). The predicted PRF cassette

is indicated with an arrow. The pink rectangle represents the +1 frame, conserved ORF. **b.**

Sequence logo of putative PRF cassette, generated from alignment of *PLEKHM2* mRNA

sequences from mammals, sauropsids, amphibians and teleost fish. **c-f.** Synplot2 and MLOGD

plots. Top schematic shows stop codons (blue) in aligned sequences in +1 frame. Next row

shows stop codons in +2 frame. O/E plot shows ratio of observed to expected substitutions under

a null model of neutral evolution at synonymous sites and p-val plot shows corresponding p-

value. Bottom row shows MLOGD coding potential plot for all three frames (purple 0, blue +1,

yellow +2). **c.** Generated plots for mammals. **d.** Generated plots for sauropsids. **e.** Generated

plots for amphibians. **f.** Generated plots for teleost fish.

Figure 2 | PhyloCSF and AlphaFold2 predictions on PLEKHM2. a-b. UCSC Genome

Browser tracks showing evolutionary signature of protein coding potential in each of three

reading frames as measured by PhyloCSF in mammals (**a**) and birds (**b**). Part way through the

dual coding region (blue) between the PRF cassette (green arrow) and the +1 frame stop codon

(red arrow), the PhyloCSF signal changes to the +1 frame, indicating greater amino acid

conservation in the +1 frame, then resumes in the zero frame downstream of the +1 frame stop

codon. **c.** AlphaFold2 predictions of PLEKHM2-FS using the standard workflow (left) and by

generating MSAs with trans-frame sequence (right). pLDDT coloring scheme is shown in the

bottom right.

Figure 3 | PRF on *PLEKHM2* mRNA. a. Representative immunoblot of whole cell lysates

prepared from HEK293T cells transfected with *PLEKHM2* dual luciferase constructs. WT: wild-

type (UCC_UUU_CGG), SS: frameshift mutant (agC_UUc_aGa), IFC: in-frame control

(agC_UUc_Ga) with both reporters in the zero-reading frame, MOCK: no plasmid transfected. **b.**

PRF efficiencies (%) of *PLEKHM2* determined by dual luciferase assays. WT: wild-type

(UCC_UUU _CGG), SS: frameshift mutant (agC_UUc_aGa). Change of +1 frame AUG to ACG

labeled as '-AUG'. Delta SL, restore SL and strong SL changes are depicted in Supplemental

Data Fig. 2b. $n = 4$. **c.** PRF efficiencies for *PLEKHM2* and *OAZ1* PRF cassettes upon addition of

2 mM spermidine (SPD). $n = 4$. **d.** Schematic depicting how mRNA of *PLEKHM2* corresponds

to frameshifted fusion product. **e.** Schematic of mass-spectrometry construct. **f.** Mass-

spectrometry results, with identified peptides highlighted in red font and junction peptide

underlines. Junction peptide coverage shown below, with line depicting the transition from 0- to

+1-frame, confirming the site of PRF.

Figure 4 | The PLEKHM2-FS proteoform is constitutively active for moving lysosomes

towards the cell periphery. a. Schematic representation of PLEKHM2 variants. The different

294 domains/motifs are indicated by colored boxes: RPIP8, UNC-14, and NESCA (RUN); Trp-Asp

295 (WD); Trp-Glu (WE); pleckstrin homology (PH). Arrows and dashed lines indicate positive and

296 negative interactions, respectively, with binding partners. Amino acid numbers are also

297 indicated. **b**. WT HeLa cells were transiently transfected with the indicated HA-tagged

298 PLEKHM2 constructs for 48 h and analyzed by confocal immunofluorescence microscopy for

299 the HA epitope (green) and endogenous LAMP1 (lysosomes, red). Nuclei were labeled with

300 DAPI (blue). Cell edges were outlined by staining of actin with Alexa Fluor™ 647-conjugated

301 phalloidin (not shown) and indicated by dashed lines. Arrows indicate clusters of PLEKHM2

302 together with lysosomes (yellow arrows) or without (green arrows) at cell tips or more centrally

303 (magenta arrows). Scale bars: 20 μm. **c.** Quantification of the percentage of WT (panel **b**) and

304 ARL8-KO cells (panel **d**) displaying accumulation of PLEKHM2 variants or LAMP1 at cell tips.

305 More than 150 cells per sample were scored. **d.** ARL8-KO HeLa cells were transfected and

306 analyzed as described for panel **b**. Scale bars: 20 μm. **e.** Schematic representation of the BORC-

307 ARL8-dependent activation and recruitment of PLEKHM2 to a lysosome (top), and the

308 recruitment of the constitutive, ARL8-independent activity but ARL8-dependent recruitment of

309 PLEKHM2 to a lysosome (bottom).

311 **Extended Figure 1 | PLEKHM2 luciferase assays and additional mass-spectrometry data**.

312 **a.** Absolute firefly luciferase values. **b.** Absolute *Renilla* luciferase values; all values are within

313 the same order of magnitude. **c.** Absolute firefly luciferase values in spermidine experiments. **d.**

314 Absolute *Renilla* luciferase values in spermidine experiments. **e.** Mass-spectrometry results of

315 PLEKHM2-K-GFP constructs; covered peptides are shown in red font with the junction peptide

316 underlined. The transition of the reading frame is shown below.

318 **Extended Figure 2 | Expression, activity, and self-association of PLEKHM2-FS. a.** WT or

319 ARL8-KO HeLa cells were transiently transfected with the indicated HA-tagged PLEKHM2

320 constructs (see scheme in Fig. 4a) for 48 h and analyzed by SDS-PAGE and immunoblot

321 analysis with antibodies to the HA epitope. β-tubulin was used as a loading control. The

322 positions of molecular mass markers (Mr, in kDa) are indicated on the left. **b.** WT HeLa cells

323 like those shown in panel **a** were analyzed by confocal immunofluorescence microscopy for the

324 HA epitope (green) and endogenous LAMTOR4 (lysosomes, red). Nuclei were labeled with

325 DAPI (blue). Cell edges were outlined by staining of actin with fluorescent phalloidin (not

shown) and indicated by dashed lines. Arrows indicate clusters of HA-PLEKHM2 together with
lysosomes (yellow arrows) or without (green arrows) at the cell tips or more centrally (magenta
arrows). Scale bars: 20 μm. Notice how all HA-PLEKHM2 constructs drive distribution of both
HA-PLEKHM2 and lysosomes to cell tips. **c.** ARL8-KO HeLa cells were transfected and
analyzed as described for panel **b**. Scale bars: 20 μm. Notice that HA-PLEKHM2 is unable to
localize to and drive lysosomes to cell tips in ARL8-KO cells. In contrast, HA-PLEKHM2-FS
can localize to, but cannot drive lysosomes to cell tips. HA-PLEKHM2-1-437 is incapable of
moving either protein to cell tips. **d.** HEK293T cells were co-transfected with plasmids encoding
the indicated HA-tagged constructs with myc-PLEKHM2-FS and subjected to
immunoprecipitation with an antibody to the myc epitope. Immunoprecipitates (IP) and cell
extracts (10%, Input) were analyzed by SDS-PAGE and immunoblotting (IB) for the HA and
myc epitopes, or β-tubulin (loading control). Red arrows indicate the HA constructs that are co-
immunoprecipitated with the myc-PLEKHM2-FS construct. The positions of molecular mass
markers (Mr, in kDa) are indicated on the left. Notice the much greater co-immunoprecipitation
of myc-PLEKHM2-FS with HA-PLEKHM2-FS relative to HA-PLEKHM2 and HA-PLEKHM2-
1-437.
342
Extended Figure 3 | Airyscan microscopy of WT and ARL8-KO HeLa cells expressing
different PLEKHM2 variants. a. WT HeLa cells were transiently transfected with the indicated
HA-tagged PLEKHM2 constructs for 48 h and analyzed by immunofluorescence microscopy for
the HA epitope (green), endogenous LAMP1 (red) and Alexa Fluor™ 647-conjugated phalloidin
(magenta). Cells were imaged using a higher-resolution Airyscan confocal microscope. Arrows
indicate clusters of PLEKHM2 together with lysosomes (yellow arrows) or without (green
arrows) at cell tips outlined by Alexa Fluor™ 647-conjugated phalloidin. Scale bars: 5 μm.
Notice that HA-PLEKHM2-FS or HA-PLEKHM2-1-437 form tight clusters with lysosomes. **b.**
ARL8-KO HeLa cells were transfected, stained, and imaged as described for panel **a**. Notice the
absence of HA-PLEKHM2 and the reduction of HA-PLEKHM2-1-437 at cell tips. Scale bars: 5
μm.
354
Figure S1 | Genomic alignment of 100 vertebrate species in a neighborhood of the dual
coding region, with features relevant to protein-coding evolution color-coded by

CodAlignView. For clarity, insertions relative to the human sequence are not shown in (a) and

(b); the same alignments including these insertions are shown in (c) and (d), respectively. (a)

Codonization and color coding with respect to the +1 frame. Preponderance of synonymous

substitutions (light green) in the latter portion of the dual coding region indicates purifying

selection on the amino acid sequence translated from this frame. There are many TGA (yellow),

TAG (magenta), and TAA (cyan) stop codons in other species in this reading frame both 5' of

the PRF cassette (green arrow) and 3' of the +1 frame stop codon (red arrow), but none within

the dual coding region. The CCTTTC in the PRF cassette is perfectly conserved in all aligned

species. (b) Same region codonized and color-coded with respect to the 0 frame.

Figure S2 | Potential RNA secondary structure downstream of slippery site. **a.** Predicted

RNA secondary structure using forna[41] and CodAlignView with secondary structure regions

highlighted. Uppercase letters in the diagram indicate which nucleotides were inputted for

structure prediction. **b.** Diagram showing what structural mutants were made.

Figure S3 | Ribosome profiling analysis mined from across different tissues. Individual

datasets are represented by dots coloured by the tissue of origin. The orange dashed line and red

solid line represent three and four z-score thresholds, respectively. The y-axis shows the log2

ratio of ribosome protected fragments mapped downstream of the +1 frame stop codon over

upstream (see Methods). The x-axis shows the total number of fragments aligned to the

considered region of the PLEKHM2 mRNA.

Figure S4 | Enhanced ARL8-independent localization of PLEKHM2-FS to cell tips. a.

ARL8-KO HeLa cells were transiently transfected with the indicated HA-tagged PLEKHM2

constructs for 48 h and analyzed for confocal immunofluorescence microscopy for the HA

epitope (green), and endogenous LAMP1 (lysosomes, red). Nuclei were labeled with DAPI

(blue). Cell edges were outlined by staining of actin with fluorescent phalloidin (not shown) and

indicated by dashed lines. Scale bars: 20 μm. **b.** Quantification of the percentage of cells

displaying localization of HA-PLEKHM2 variants to cell tips (left panel) or cytosol (right panel)

from more than 150 cells per sample. Notice that HA-PLEKHM2-1-437 is less tip-localized and

more cytosolic relative to HA-PLEKHM2-FS, suggesting a role for the transframe sequence in

ARL8-independent localization of HA-PLEKHM2-FS to cell tips, indicative of interaction with

kinesin-1.

390
391
392   **Methods**

393
394   **Bioinformatic analysis**

395   Reference sequences representing mammals, bird, amphibians and fish were used to

generate sequences for each of these clades, in a manner previously reported[19]. For each clade,

the sequences were translated to amino acids, aligned using MUSCLE[42], and the amino acid

alignments were used to guide codon-respecting nucleotide sequence alignments using EMBOSS

tranalign[43]. For the MLOGD and synplot2 analyses, the alignments were mapped to the

coordinates of a specific reference sequence by removing alignment columns that contained a

gap character in the reference sequence. The reference sequences used were the coding regions

of NCBI accession numbers NM_015164.4 (*Homo sapiens*), XM_417616.8 (*Gallus gallus*),

XM_041569881.1 (*Xenopus laevis*) and NM_001130783.1 (*Danio rerio*) for the mammal,

sauropsid, amphibian and teleost fish alignments, respectively. These alignments were analysed

with synplot2[24], using a 15-codon window size, and MLOGD[25], using a 25-codon window size.

406
407   **Cell Culture and Transfections**

408   For **Fig. 3**, HEK293T cells (ATCC) were maintained in DMEM supplemented with 10%

409   FBS, 1 mM L-glutamine and antibiotics. For western blotting, cells were transfected with

410   Lipofectamine 2000 reagent (Invitrogen) in 6-well plates using the 1-day protocol in which

411   suspended cells are added directly to the DNA complexes in 6-well plates, with 1 mg of each

412   indicated plasmid. The transfecting DNA complexes in each well were incubated with 5×10^5

413   cells suspended in 3 ml DMEM + 10% FBS and incubated for 36 h at 37°C in 5% CO_2.

414   For GFP-Trap transfections, 1×10^7 cells were forward-transfected with Lipofectamine

415   2000 reagent in 15 cm Petri dishes with 10 mg of each indicated plasmid. Cells were incubated

416   for 48 h at 37°C in 5% CO_2.

417   For dual luciferase assays, cells were transfected with Lipofectamine 2000 reagent, again

using the 1-day protocol described above. The following were added to each well: 25 ng of each

plasmid plus 0.2 μl Lipofectamine 2000 in 25 μl Opti-Mem (Gibco). The transfecting DNA

complexes in each well were incubated with 3×10^4 cells suspended in 50 µl DMEM + 10% FBS

at 37°C in 5% CO_2 for 20 h.

For polyamine experiments, cells were transfected using Lipofectamine 2000 reagent as

described above. Suspended cells were supplemented to a final concentration of 1 mM

aminoguanidine hydrochloride (Sigma), or 1 mM aminoguanidine hydrochloride plus 2 mM

spermidine (Sigma) before adding to transfecting DNA complexes. Luciferase activities were

measured 20 h after spermidine treatment.

For **Fig. 4,** HeLa and HEK293T cells were cultured in DMEM (Quality Biological, #112-

319-101), supplemented with 2 mM L-glutamine (GIBCO, #25030081), 10% fetal bovine serum

(BSA) (Corning, # 35-011-CV), 100 U/ml penicillin-streptomycin (GIBCO, # 15140122)

(complete DMEM) in a 37°C incubator (5% CO_2, 95% air). HeLa cells grown on 6-well plates

were transiently transfected with 2 µg plasmid DNA using 8 µl Lipofectamine 3000 (Invitrogen,

#L3000001), according to the manufacturer's instructions. Approximately 24 h after transfection,

40,000 cells were replated onto 12-mm coverslips coated with collagen (BioTechne, #3442-050-

01). The remaining unseeded cells were used for SDS-PAGE and immunoblotting. Cells were

then cultured for an additional 24 h before fixation and immunofluorescent labeling. For co-

immunoprecipitation experiments, HEK293T cells grown on 6-well plates were transiently

transfected for 48 h with 1.5 µg of each plasmid DNA and 8 µl Lipofectamine 3000 (Invitrogen,

#L3000001) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Expression constructs

PLEKHM2 fused dual luciferase constructs (for immunoblotting) were generated by

either 1-step or 2-step PCR on *PLEKHM2* gBlock1 (IDT) using primer sequences which

incorporated 5′ *Xho*I and 3′ *Bgl*II restriction sites (outlined in Supplementary Table 1). PCR

amplicons were digested with *Xho*I / *Bgl*II and cloned into *Psp*XI / *Bgl*II digested pDlucV2.0.

pDlucV2.0 is a version of pDluc[30] generated by introducing silent mutations into the *Renilla*

coding sequence to disrupt two potential donor splice sites (TGGgtaagt).

PLEKHM2-X-GFP and PLEKHM2-K-X-GFP were synthesized as gBlocks with flanking 5′

*Sac*I and 3′ *Bam*HI restriction sites and cloned into pcDNA3.4.

PLEKHM2 unfused dual luciferase constructs (for dual luciferase assay) were generated by

either 1-step or 2-step PCR on a *PLEKHM2* G Block (IDT) using primer sequences which

incorporated 5′ *Xho*I and 3′ *Bgl*II restriction sites (outlined in Supplementary Table 1). PCR

amplicons were digested with *Xho*I / *Bgl*II and cloned into *Psp*XI / *Bgl*II digested pSGDlucV3.0

(Addgene 119760)[32]. *OAZ1* dual luciferase expression constructs were described previously[44].

All clones were verified by Sanger sequencing (Eurofins). All constructs used for cell biology

assays were directly synthesized by Twist Biosciences for overexpression in mammalian cells.

Antibodies and chemicals

The following primary antibodies were used for immunoblotting (IB) and/or

immunofluorescence microscopy (IF) (catalog numbers, sources and working dilutions are in

parentheses): rat anti-HA (12158167001, Roche, IF 1:500, IB 1:1,000), mouse anti-LAMP1

(H4A3, DSHB, IF 1:500), rabbit anti-LAMTOR4 (13140, Cell Signaling, IF 1:500), rabbit anti-

myc-tag (2272, Cell Signaling, IB 1:1,000), mouse anti-tubulin-HRP (sc-32293, Santa Cruz, IF

1:1,000). Secondary antibodies: HRP-conjugated goat anti-rat IgG (H+L) (112-035-003, Jackson

Immuno Research, IB 1:5,000), HRP-conjugated goat anti-rabbit IgG (H+L) (111-035-003,

Jackson Immuno Research, IB 1:5,000), Alexa Fluor 555-conjugated donkey anti-mouse IgG (A-

31570, Thermo Scientific, IF 1:1,000), Alexa Fluor 555-conjugated goat anti-rabbit IgG (A-

21428, Thermo Scientific, IF 1:1,000), Alexa Fluor 488-conjugated goat anti-rat IgG (A-11006,

Thermo Scientific, IF 1:1,000). Cell edges were outlined by staining of actin with Alexa

FluorTM 647-conjugated phalloidin (A22287, Thermo Scientific, IF 1:500).

Dual Luciferase Assay

Relative light units were measured on a Veritas Microplate Luminometer with two

injectors (Turner Biosystems). Transfected cells were lysed in 15 μl of 1 × passive lysis buffer

(PLB: Promega) and light emission was measured following injection of 50 μl of either *Renilla*

or firefly luciferase substrate[45]. Recoding efficiencies were determined by calculating relative

luciferase activities (firefly/*Renilla*) from test constructs and dividing by relative luciferase

activities from replicate wells of in-frame-control constructs. Four replicate biological samples

were assayed each with four technical repeats. Statistical significance was determined using a

two-tailed, homoscedastic Student's *t*-test.

SDS-PAGE and immunoblotting

For **Fig. 3**, transfected cells were lysed in 100 ml 1 × PLB. Proteins were resolved by

SDS-PAGE and transferred to nitrocellulose membranes (Protran), which were incubated at 4°C

overnight with primary antibodies. Immunoreactive bands were detected on membranes after

incubation with appropriate fluorescently labeled secondary antibodies using a LI-COR

Odyssey® Infrared Imaging Scanner.

For **Fig. 4,** cells were washed twice with ice-cold phosphate-buffered saline (PBS;

Corning, #21-040-CM), scraped from the plates in 1x Laemmli sample buffer (1x LSB) (Bio-

Rad, #1610747) supplemented with 2.5% v/v 2-mercaptoethanol (Sigma-Aldrich, #60-24-2),

heated at 95°C for 5 min, and resolved by SDS-PAGE. Gels were blotted onto nitrocellulose

membrane and blocked with 5% w/v non-fat milk in Tris-buffered saline, 0.1% v/v Tween 20

(TBS-T) for 20 min. Membranes were sequentially incubated with primary antibody and

secondary HRP-conjugated antibody diluted in TBS-T. SuperSignal West Dura Reagents

(Thermo Fisher, #34075) were used for detection of the antibody signal with a Bio-Rad

Chemidoc MP imaging system. β-tubulin was used as a control for sample loading.

Immunoprecipitation

For **Fig. 3**, Cells were lysed in 700 ml PLB and then incubated with 20 ml of protein G

Agarose beads plus anti-HA (3 mg) overnight at 4°C with gentle rocking. The beads were

washed with ice-cold 1 × PLB buffer and then removed from the beads by boiling for 5 min in 2

× SDS-PAGE sample buffer for SDS-PAGE and western blotting. For GFP

immunoprecipitation, GFP-Trap (Chromtek) was used following the manufacturer's instructions.

Briefly, cells were lysed in 100 ml NP-40 lysis buffer (10 mM Tris/Cl pH 7.5; 150 mM NaCl;

0.5 mM EDTA; 0.5% NP-40) then 95 ml lysate was diluted to 700 ml in dilution buffer (10 mM

Tris/Cl pH 7.5; 150 mM NaCl; 0.5 mM EDTA) before incubation with 20 ml of GFP-Trap beads

for 1 h at 4°C with gentle rocking. The beads were washed with ice-cold dilution buffer and then

removed from the beads by boiling for 5 min in 2 × SDS-PAGE sample buffer for SDS-PAGE

and Coomassie staining.

For **Fig. 4**, transfected HEK293T cells were lifted in ice-cold PBS and centrifuged at 500

g for 5 min. The pellet was washed twice with ice-cold PBS and lysed in 10 mM Tris-Cl pH 7.5,

150 mM NaCl, 0.5 mM EDTA, 0.5% v/v Nonidet P40 supplemented with a protease inhibitor

cocktail (Roche). Cell lysates were clarified by centrifugation at 17,000 *g* for 10 min and the

supernatant (10% was saved as input) was incubated with anti-myc magnetic agarose beads

(Thermo Fisher, #88842) at 4°C for 2 h. After three washes with 10 mM Tris-Cl pH 7.5, 150

mM NaCl, 0.5 mM EDTA, the immunoprecipitates were eluted with 1x LSB at 95°C for 5 min.

The immunoprecipitated samples and inputs were analyzed by SDS-PAGE and immunoblotting.

Immunofluorescence microscopy

Cells were seeded on collagen-coated coverslips in 24-well plates at 40,000 cells per well

in regular culture medium. After 24 h, cells were fixed in 4% w/v paraformaldehyde (Electron

Microscopy Sciences, #15700) in PBS for 20 min, permeabilized and blocked with 0.1% w/v

saponin, 1% w/v BSA (Gold Bio, #A-421-10) in PBS for 20 min, and sequentially incubated

with primary and secondary antibodies diluted in 0.1% w/v saponin, 1% w/v BSA in PBS for 30

min at 37°C. Coverslips were washed three times in PBS and mounted on glass slides using

Fluoromount-G (Electron Microscopy Sciences, #17984-24) with DAPI. Z-stack cell images

were acquired on a Zeiss LSM 900 inverted confocal microscope (Carl Zeiss) using a Plan-

Apochromat 63X objective (NA = 1.4) with or without Airyscan detection. Maximum intensity

projections were generated with Zeiss ZEN Black software, and final composite images were

created using ImageJ/Fiji (https://fiji.sc/).

Ribosome profiling

Gencode v.46 transcript ENST00000375799 (4134 bp) was used as a representative

mRNA of PLEKHM2. The frameshift cassette (UCC_UUU_CGG) is located between the

coordinates 1545 - 1553, and frameshifted ribosomes terminate at an early stop codon in the new

reading frame (+1) at coordinates 1789 - 1791 (*TAG*). Intuitively, PRF is expected to reduce the

number of ribosome protected fragments (RPFs) aligning downstream of the frameshift-

introduced stop codon, and as such the reduction in read density reflects the efficiency of

PRF.This relationship can be mathematically represented as the ratio between read density

downstream over the one upstream the frameshift cassette.

To limit the effect of aberrant pauses around translation initiation and termination sites,

the 100 nt downstream and upstream, respectively, have been discarded. In a similar reasoning,

the region from 50 nt upstream the frameshift cassette and up to 50 nt downstream the

frameshift-introduced stop codon has been excluded from the analysis. Specifically, the region

between coordinates 340 - 1494 was used to estimate the density of RFPs upstream the

frameshift cassette, while coordinates 1842 - 3199 identify the region used to estimate the

density downstream of the frameshift-introduced stop codon. TPM (transcripts per kilobase

million) values for corresponding regions were obtained from RiboCrypt (https://ribocrypt.org/)

for each individual dataset, and to calculate the ratio the mean value of TPM for each region was

considered. The ratios were then log2-transformed for the further steps of the analysis.

The classification by tissue of origin was based on the curated metadata available in

RiboSeq Data Portal (https://rdp.ucc.ie). To assess the statistical significance of the ratio

variation, we used a sliding window Z-score approach similar to what was described earlier[46].

Briefly, the log2 ratios from each study were sorted by ascending values of "total counts" - that

is to say, the sum of all the raw counts mapping to each nucleotide position in the regions before

and after the frameshift cassette. Then the ratios were grouped into bins of size 300 and

descriptive statistics (mean and standard deviation) were calculated and stored. The window was

then shifted with a step of 10 and the statistics recomputed, until the end of the available ratios.

At that point, each ratio had a collection of means and standard deviations which were averaged

and used to obtain the Z-score value for that specific log2 ratio.

To represent thresholds of Z-scores of 3 and 4 over the log_2 ratio distributions, we used the

binning-and-sliding window approach mentioned before to calculate the standard deviations and

means for each value, but with bin size of 50 and step of 10. The intervals between 3 and 4

standard deviations from the mean were then computed for each datapoint and plotted on the

graph as two threshold lines (Fig. S3).

Acknowledgements

Y.A.K. was supported by a Knight-Hennessy Scholarship, a NSF Graduate Research Fellowship

Program award, and an NIH F31 grant (F31MH134477). A.E.F. and J.W. were supported by

Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellowships (106207/Z/14/Z, 220814/Z/20/Z) and a European

Research Council grant (646891) to A.E.F. J.F.A. was supported by an Irish Research Council

Advanced Laureate Award (IRCLA/2019/74). P.V.B. was supported by Science Foundation

Ireland Frontiers for the Future Award (20/FFP-A/8929) and SFI-HRB-Wellcome Trust

Biomedical Research Partnership Investigator Award in Science (210692/Z/18/Z). Work in the

J.S.B. lab was supported by the Intramural Program of NICHD, NIH (project ZIA HD001607).

J.M.M. and I.J. were supported by the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) of

the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) under award number (2U41HG007234). I.J. was

also supported by NIH R01 HG004037. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors

and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health. J.M.M.

was also supported by the Wellcome Trust (108749/Z/15/Z) and the European Molecular

Biology Laboratory (EMBL). Ensembl is a registered trademark of EMBL. For the purpose of

open access, the authors have applied a CC BY public copyright license to any Author Accepted

article version arising from this submission. The authors would like to acknowledge Michael Z.

Palo for discussions related to this manuscript.

References

1. Atkins, J. F., Loughran, G., Bhatt, P. R., Firth, A. E. & Baranov, P. V. Ribosomal

frameshifting and transcriptional slippage: From genetic steganography and cryptography to

adventitious use. *Nucleic Acids Res.* **44**, 7007–7078 (2016).

2. Hill, C. H. & Brierley, I. Structural and Functional Insights into Viral Programmed Ribosomal

Frameshifting. *Annu. Rev. Virol.* **10**, 217–242 (2023).

3. Khan, Y. A. *et al.* Evaluating ribosomal frameshifting in CCR5 mRNA decoding. *Nature* **604**,

E16–E23 (2022).

4. Loughran, G., Fedorova, A. D., Khan, Y. A., Atkins, J. F. & Baranov, P. V. Lack of evidence

for ribosomal frameshifting in ATP7B mRNA decoding. *Mol. Cell* **82**, 3745-3749.e2 (2022).

5. Keren-Kaplan, T. & Bonifacino, J. S. ARL8 Relieves SKIP Autoinhibition to Enable

Coupling of Lysosomes to Kinesin-1. *Curr. Biol. CB* **31**, 540-554.e5 (2021).

6. Firth, A. E. *et al.* Ribosomal frameshifting used in influenza A virus expression occurs within

the sequence UCC_UUU_CGU and is in the +1 direction. *Open Biol.* **2**, 120109 (2012).

7. Jagger, B. W. *et al.* An Overlapping Protein-Coding Region in Influenza A Virus Segment 3

Modulates the Host Response. *Science* **337**, 199–204 (2012).

8. Ramakrishnan, V. Ribosome Structure and the Mechanism of Translation. *Cell* **108**, 557–572

(2002).

9. Chen, J., Tsai, A., O'Leary, S. E., Petrov, A. & Puglisi, J. D. Unraveling the Dynamics of

Ribosome Translocation. *Curr. Opin. Struct. Biol.* **22**, 804–814 (2012).

10.   Milicevic, N., Jenner, L., Myasnikov, A., Yusupov, M. & Yusupova, G. mRNA reading

frame maintenance during eukaryotic ribosome translocation. *Nature* **625**, 393–400 (2024).

11.   Rodnina, M. V. *et al.* Translational recoding: canonical translation mechanisms

reinterpreted. *Nucleic Acids Res.* **48**, 1056–1067 (2020).

12.   Li, Y. *et al.* Transactivation of programmed ribosomal frameshifting by a viral protein.

638   *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.* **111**, E2172-2181 (2014).

639   13.   Napthine, S. *et al.* Protein-directed ribosomal frameshifting temporally regulates gene

640   expression. *Nat. Commun.* **8**, 15582 (2017).

641   14.   Matsufuji, S. *et al.* Autoregulatory frameshifting in decoding mammalian ornithine

642   decarboxylase antizyme. *Cell* **80**, 51–60 (1995).

643   15.   Bhatt, P. R. *et al.* Structural basis of ribosomal frameshifting during translation of the

644   SARS-CoV-2 RNA genome. *Science* **372**, 1306–1313 (2021).

645   16.   Jacks, T. *et al.* Characterization of ribosomal frameshifting in HIV-1 gag-pol expression.

646   *Nature* **331**, 280–283 (1988).

647   17.   Shigemoto, K. *et al.* Identification and characterisation of a developmentally regulated

648   mammalian gene that utilises -1 programmed ribosomal frameshifting. *Nucleic Acids Res.* **29**,

649   4079–4088 (2001).

650   18.   Wills, N. M., Moore, B., Hammer, A., Gesteland, R. F. & Atkins, J. F. A functional -1

651   ribosomal frameshift signal in the human paraneoplastic Ma3 gene. *J. Biol. Chem.* **281**, 7082–

652   7088 (2006).

653   19.   Khan, Y. A. *et al.* Evidence for a novel overlapping coding sequence in POLG initiated at

654   a CUG start codon. *BMC Genet.* **21**, 25 (2020).

655   20.   Loughran, G. *et al.* Unusually efficient CUG initiation of an overlapping reading frame in

656   POLG mRNA yields novel protein POLGARF. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.* **117**, 24936–

657   24946 (2020).

658   21.   Dinan, A. M., Atkins, J. F. & Firth, A. E. ASXL gain-of-function truncation mutants:

659   defective and dysregulated forms of a natural ribosomal frameshifting product? *Biol. Direct*

12, 24 (2017).

22.   Rosa-Ferreira, C. & Munro, S. Arl8 and SKIP act together to link lysosomes to kinesin-1.

Dev. Cell **21**, 1171–1178 (2011).

23.   Eisinger, J., Feuer, B. & Yamane, T. Codon-anticodon binding in tRNAphe. *Nature. New*

Biol. **231**, 126–128 (1971).

24.   Firth, A. E. Mapping overlapping functional elements embedded within the protein-

coding regions of RNA viruses. *Nucleic Acids Res.* **42**, 12425–12439 (2014).

25.   Firth, A. E. & Brown, C. M. Detecting overlapping coding sequences in virus genomes.

BMC Bioinformatics **7**, 75 (2006).

26.   Lin, M. F., Jungreis, I. & Kellis, M. PhyloCSF: a comparative genomics method to

distinguish protein coding and non-coding regions. *Bioinformatics* **27**, i275–i282 (2011).

27.   Mudge, J. M. *et al.* Discovery of high-confidence human protein-coding genes and exons

by whole-genome PhyloCSF helps elucidate 118 GWAS loci. *Genome Res.* **29**, 2073–2087

(2019).

28.   Mirdita, M. *et al.* ColabFold: making protein folding accessible to all. *Nat. Methods* **19**,

679–682 (2022).

29.   Jumper, J. *et al.* Highly accurate protein structure prediction with AlphaFold. *Nature* **596**,

583–589 (2021).

30.   Fixsen, S. M. & Howard, M. T. Processive selenocysteine incorporation during synthesis

of eukaryotic selenoproteins. *J. Mol. Biol.* **399**, 385–396 (2010).

31.   Grentzmann, G., Ingram, J. A., Kelly, P. J., Gesteland, R. F. & Atkins, J. F. A dual-

luciferase reporter system for studying recoding signals. *RNA N. Y. N* **4**, 479–486 (1998).

32.   Loughran, G., Howard, M. T., Firth, A. E. & Atkins, J. F. Avoidance of reporter assay

distortions from fused dual reporters. *RNA* **23**, 1285–1289 (2017).

33.   Ryan, M. D. & Drew, J. Foot-and-mouth disease virus 2A oligopeptide mediated

cleavage of an artificial polyprotein. *EMBO J.* **13**, 928–933 (1994).

34.   Ivanov, I. P. & Atkins, J. F. Ribosomal frameshifting in decoding antizyme mRNAs from

yeast and protists to humans: close to 300 cases reveal remarkable diversity despite

underlying conservation. *Nucleic Acids Res.* **35**, 1842–1858 (2007).

35.   Oguro, A. *et al.* Translation efficiency affects the sequence-independent +1 ribosomal

frameshifting by polyamines. *J. Biochem. (Tokyo)* **168**, 139–149 (2020).

36.   Higashi, K. *et al.* Enhancement of +1 Frameshift by Polyamines during Translation of

Polypeptide Release Factor 2 in *Escherichia coli**. *J. Biol. Chem.* **281**, 9527–9537 (2006).

37.   Boucrot, E., Henry, T., Borg, J.-P., Gorvel, J.-P. & Méresse, S. The intracellular fate of

Salmonella depends on the recruitment of kinesin. *Science* **308**, 1174–1178 (2005).

38.   Sanger, A. *et al.* SKIP controls lysosome positioning using a composite kinesin-1 heavy

and light chain-binding domain. *J. Cell Sci.* **130**, 1637–1651 (2017).

39.   Pu, J., Keren-Kaplan, T. & Bonifacino, J. S. A Ragulator-BORC interaction controls

lysosome positioning in response to amino acid availability. *J. Cell Biol.* **216**, 4183–4197

(2017).

40.   Filipek, P. A. *et al.* LAMTOR/Ragulator is a negative regulator of Arl8b- and BORC-

dependent late endosomal positioning. *J. Cell Biol.* **216**, 4199–4215 (2017).

41.   Kerpedjiev, P., Hammer, S. & Hofacker, I. L. Forna (force-directed RNA): Simple and

effective online RNA secondary structure diagrams. *Bioinformatics* **31**, 3377–3379 (2015).

42.   Edgar, R. C. MUSCLE: multiple sequence alignment with high accuracy and high

throughput. *Nucleic Acids Res.* **32**, 1792–1797 (2004).

43.   Rice, P., Longden, I. & Bleasby, A. EMBOSS: the European Molecular Biology Open

707   Software Suite. *Trends Genet. TIG* **16**, 276–277 (2000).

708   44.   Loughran, G., Li, X., O'Loughlin, S., Atkins, J. F. & Baranov, P. V. Monitoring

709   translation in all reading frames downstream of weak stop codons provides mechanistic

710   insights into the impact of nucleotide and cellular contexts. *Nucleic Acids Res.* **51**, 304–314

711   (2023).

712   45.   Dyer, B. W., Ferrer, F. A., Klinedinst, D. K. & Rodriguez, R. A noncommercial dual

713   luciferase enzyme assay system for reporter gene analysis. *Anal. Biochem.* **282**, 158–161

714   (2000).

715   46.   Andreev, D. E. *et al.* Oxygen and glucose deprivation induces widespread alterations in

716   mRNA translation within 20 minutes. *Genome Biol.* **16**, 90 (2015).

a

b

c

RUN-domain

PLEKHM2

TF-domain

RUN-domain

PLEKHM2-FS

pLDDT

0   50 70 90 100

a

kDa   WT   SS   IFC   Mock

100 —   Frameshift product

75 —

                                         Anti-Renilla

50 —

                                         0-frame product

37 —

37 —   Anti-β-actin

b

WT, SS, IFC

Renilla SG   SG   Firefly

Frameshifting (%)

2.0
1.5
1.0
0.5
0.0

WT   WT-AUG   SS   SS-AUG   delta SL   restore SL   strong SL

c

Frameshifting (%)

           2mM   2mM
        Spermidine   Spermidine
          -    +   -   +
                ****
        **

1
        PLEKHM2   OAZ1

d

PLEKHM2 mRNA

5'   3'
              ↑
           +1 FS site

              Frameshift fusion product

e

PLEKHM2-GFP

5'   3'
       ↑
    +1 FS site

              Frameshift fusion product

f

MAAQK**LISEE DLLLSK**VIDQ LNGQLDPSTW CSR**AEPPDQS FGPALPGTPR** RGRRFATLVR **GFQPQWTSTA LPSRVQALLH**
QVAATTTLQG LANRCTFLVA LRLLAKKKRE EEERDR**RLGP Y**VSKGEELFT **GVVPILVELD GDVNGHKFSV SGEGEGDATY**
GKLTLK**FICT TGK**LPVPWPT LVTTLTYGVQ CFSRYPDHMK QHDFFK**SAMP EGYVQERTIF FKDDGNYK**TR **AEVKFEGDTL**
VNRIELKGID FKEDGNILGH KLEYNYNSHN VYIMADKQKN GIKVNFKIRH NIEDGSVQLA DHYQQNTPIG DGPVLLPDNH
YLSTQSALSK DPNEKRD**HMV LLEFVTAAGI TLGMDELYK**

A   E   P   P   D   Q   S   F   R   T   G   S   P   G   D   A   P   E   R
GCU GAG CCC CCA GAC CAG UCC UUU CGG ACC GGC UCU CCC GGG GAC GCC CCG GAG AGG CC   0-frame
                            GGA CCG GCU CUC CCG GGG ACG CCC CGG AGA GGC   +1-frame
                            G   P   A   L   P   G   T   P   R   R   G

e

MAAQK**LISEE DLLLSK**VIDQ LNGQLDPSTW CSR**AEPPKQS FGPALPGTPR** RGRRFATLVR **GFQPQWTSTA LPSRVQALLH QVAATTTLQG LANRCTFLVA LR**LLAKKKRE EEERDR**RLGP YVSKGEELFT GVVPILVELD GDVNGHKFSV SGEGEGDATY GK**LTLK**FICT TGK**LPVPWPT LVTTLTYGVQ CFSRYPDHMK QHDFFK**SAMP EGYVQERTIF FKDDGNYK**TR **AEVKFEGDTL VNRIELKGID FKEDGNILGH KLEYNYNSHN VYIMADK**QKN GIKVNFKIRH NIEDGSVQLA DHYQQNTPIG DGPVLLPDNH YLSTQSALSK DPNEKR**DHMV LLEFVTAAGI TLGMDELYK**

A	E	P	P	K	Q	S	F	R	T	G	S	P	G	D	A	P	E	R		
GCU	GAG	CCC	CCA	AAG	CAG	UCC	UUU	CGG	ACC	GGC	UCU	CCC	GGG	GA<u>C</u>	GCC	CCG	GAG	AGG	CC	0-frame

GGA CCG GCU CUC CCG GGG ACG CCC CGG AGA GGC   +1-frame
G   **P**   **A**   **L**   **P**   **G**   **T**   **P**   **R**   R   G

a

Stem loop

Slippery site

Spacer

b

Delta SL: mismatch base stem loop:
AGAGG

Restore SL: restore match by inverting
other side: UCUCC

Strong SL: Make base stem loop all C:G

a

ARL8-KO HeLa

HA-PLEKHM2 -FS   LAMP1   Merge

HA-PLEKHM2-1-437   LAMP1   Merge

b

HA-PLEKHM2 variants
at cell tips

% cells

+HA- PLEKHM2 -FS
+HA- PLEKHM2 -1-437

ARL8-KO HeLa

Cytosolic
HA-PLEKHM2 variants

% cells

+HA- PLEKHM2 -FS
+HA- PLEKHM2 -1-437

ARL8-KO HeLa