Comprehensive Proteomic Characterization of Intra-Golgi Trafficking Intermediates

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Abstract

The Conserved Oligomeric Golgi (COG) complex is critical for efficient intra-Golgi trafficking and glycosylation. Prior research has demonstrated that COG dysfunction or RNAi-induced depletion leads to the accumulation of non-tethered COG complex-dependent (CCD) vesicles. However, the precise connection between COG deficiency, degradation of Golgi enzymes, and its impact on vesicular trafficking has not been fully elucidated.

In this study, we conducted a comprehensive proteomic analysis of Golgi-derived vesicles from both wild-type and COG-depleted cells. We specifically analyzed three distinct populations of vesicles immunoisolated with antibodies targeting transmembrane proteins from the cis, medial, and trans-Golgi sub-compartments. Our findings reveal that, while the vesicle content encompasses the entire Golgi proteome, the molecular signatures of vesicles derived from wild-type cells were markedly distinct, underscoring a robust recycling mechanism for Golgi-dependent proteins. Notably, these vesicles retained various vesicular coats, and COG depletion significantly accelerated their uncoating. Furthermore, the increased overlap in molecular signatures upon COG depletion indicates that persistent defects in vesicle tethering severely compromise intra-Golgi sorting mechanisms.

Crucially, our analysis highlights that the entire Golgi glycosylation machinery recycles within

CCD vesicles in a COG-dependent manner, while secretory proteins and components involved

in ER-Golgi and Golgi-endosome trafficking were not enriched. These results strongly support a

model of multi-step intra-Golgi vesicular recycling of the glycosylation machinery, orchestrated

by the COG complex in concert with a cisternae-specific array of vesicular coats, coiled-coil

tethers, Rabs, and SNARE proteins.

Keywords

30　CCD vesicles, conserved oligomeric Golgi complex (COG), glycosylation, vesicle IP, mass-

31　spectrometry

List of abbreviations

33　COG – conserved Oligomeric Golgi

34　CCD: COG Complex Dependent

35　vIP: Vesicle Immunoprecipitation

36　CCD-vIP: CCD-Vesicle Immunoprecipitation

Introduction

Membrane trafficking is a crucial process in eukaryotic cells. More than 30% of the proteins

synthesized by the cell undergo modifications through the secretory pathway, which relies on

the proper functioning of the membrane trafficking machinery (D'Souza et al., 2020; Wallin &

von Heijne, 1998). Proteins in this pathway can be either soluble or transmembrane and may be

directed to various destinations, internally or externally, depending on the specific protein.

Vesicular membrane trafficking within cells relies on a delicate balance of anterograde and

retrograde transport to ensure the correct delivery of proteins and lipids to their destinations and

to maintain organelle homeostasis. The Golgi apparatus serves as the cell's primary packaging,

sorting, and processing center (Füllekrug & Nilsson, 1998; Kienzle & von Blume, 2014; Maccioni et al., 2002; Munro, 1998; Polishchuk & Mironov, 2004). Glycosylation is a significant modification of cargo primarily carried out by the Golgi (Stanley, 2011). Several models have been proposed to explain how Golgi resident proteins and enzymes are sorted and retained (Banfield, 2011; Emr et al., 2009; Glick & Nakano, 2009; Nilsson et al., 2009; Pantazopoulou & Glick, 2019; Rothman & Wieland, 1996; Sahu et al., 2022; Tu & Banfield, 2010; Welch & Munro, 2019, 2019). All these models include vesicle-mediated trafficking between Golgi cisternae, but the details of intra-Golgi vesicle trafficking are poorly understood. The vesicular trafficking machinery consists of several distinct modules responsible for driving vesicle budding from a donor compartment, its subsequent transport, tethering, and fusion with the acceptor compartment (Bonifacino & Glick, 2004; Cai et al., 2007; Cottam & Ungar, 2012; Park et al., 2021). Vesicle tethering is achieved by both coiled-coil and multi-subunit tethering complex (MTC) tethers, followed by vesicle fusion with a specific Golgi subcompartment in a SNARE-dependent reaction (Arab et al., 2024; Blackburn et al., 2019; Bonifacino & Glick, 2004; Gillingham & Munro, 2016; Stanton & Hughson, 2023; Willett, Ungar, et al., 2013). The Conserved Oligomeric Golgi (COG) complex plays a crucial role in intra-Golgi retrograde trafficking by interacting with various cellular components of the vesicle docking/fusion machinery through specific interaction sites on its subunits (D'Souza et al., 2020; Laufman et al., 2013; Miller et al., 2013; Stanton & Hughson, 2023; Ungar et al., 2002, 2006; Willett, Kudlyk, et al., 2013). In humans, malfunction of COG can lead to global glycosylation defects known as COG-related congenital disorders of glycosylation (COG-CDGs) (D'Souza et al., 2020; Foulquier, 2009; Sumya et al., 2021). Previous studies conducted by our lab and others have shown that malfunction or RNAi-induced depletion of COG leads to the accumulation of non-tethered COG complex-dependent (CCD) vesicles (Cottam et al., 2014; Wuestehube et al., 1996; Zolov & Lupashin, 2005). The accumulation of CCD vesicles is transient (Shestakova et al., 2006), which created technical challenges for their isolation and characterization. Moreover,

the extent of intra-Golgi recycling of Golgi resident proteins, specifically Golgi glycosylation

machinery, was still a matter of fierce debate. It was not clear how intimately COG deficiency

was connected to the degradation of Golgi enzymes and how this enzyme degradation is

related to vesicular trafficking. The introduction of a degron-driven COG4 degradation system

has enabled the acute and consistent accumulation of CCD vesicles (Sumya, Pokrovskaya,

D'Souza, et al., 2023; Sumya, Pokrovskaya, & Lupashin, 2023). In this study, we combined

degron-assisted COG4 degradation with vesicle immunoprecipitation and data-independent

acquisition (DIA) mass spectrometry to comprehensively characterize intra-Golgi trafficking

intermediates. This approach allowed us to evaluate the overall dependence of intra-Golgi

trafficking on COG function and provided deeper insights into the composition and function of

COG-dependent trafficking intermediates.

Materials and Methods

Cell Culture and Auxin Treatment

hTERT RPE1 (Retinal Pigment Epithelial) cells were purchased from ATCC. hTERT RPE1

COG4 KO expressing OsTIR1-9myc (RPE1-COG4KO-OsTIR1) or co-expressing OsTIR1 and

COG4-mAID-mCherry (RPE1-COG4-mAID-mCherry) cells were described previously (Sumya,

Pokrovskaya, D'Souza, et al., 2023). Cells were cultured in Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's

Medium (DMEM) containing Nutrient mixture F-12 (DMEM/F12, Corning 10–092-CV)

supplemented with 10% Fetal Bovine Serum (Atlas Biologicals, CF-0500-A). Cells were

incubated in a 37°C incubator with 5% CO_2 and 90% humidity.

For rapid COG4 degradation, a stock solution of 0.5 M Indole-3-acetic acid sodium salt (auxin,

IAA, Sigma # I5148) was prepared in water and stored in a frozen aliquot. Time course

treatment of cells was performed with 500 µM IAA for 2 hours at 37°C. The RPE1 WT cells with

auxin treatment (first experiment) and the hTERT RPE1 COG4 KO co-expressing OsTIR1 and

COG4-mAID cells without auxin treatment (second experiment) were considered as controls.

Construction of COG4-mAID-3myc plasmids

To produce COG4-mAID-3myc in pENTRA1A, mAID portion was first amplified by PCR from COG4-mAID-mCherry in pENTRA1A (Sumya, Pokrovskaya, D'Souza, et al., 2023) using primers 5′- GCCTGGGTACCGGATCCGGTGCAG -3′, and 5′- GGCGGGTACCTTTATACATCCTCAAATCGAT -3′ following KpnI digestion and ligation of PCR fragment with similarly digested COG4-3myc in pEntra1A (Sumya et al., 2021).

The COG4-mAID-3myc in pEntra1A was recombined into the pLenti COG4$_{pr}$ Neo DEST (as referenced in (Khakurel et al., 2021; Sumya et al., 2021; Sumya, Pokrovskaya, D'Souza, et al., 2023) using the Gateway LR Clonase II Enzyme Mix (Thermo Fisher). The resulting COG4-mAID-3myc pLenti plasmid was then transformed into Stbl3 competent cells following the manufacturer's instructions. DNA extraction was performed using the QIAprep Spin Miniprep DNA extraction Kit. Correct COG4-mAID-3myc pLenti clones were verified through restriction analysis. The expression of COG4-mAID-3myc was confirmed by transfecting HEK293T cells with selected COG4-mAID-3myc pLenti plasmids, followed by Western blot analysis of total cell lysates using COG4 and myc antibodies.

Production of COG4-mAID-myc lentivirus and RPE1-COG4-mAID-3myc stable cell line

To produce lentiviral particles, equal amounts of the lentiviral packaging plasmids pMD2.G (a gift from Didier Trono, Addgene plasmid #12259, http://n2t.net/addgene: 12259, RRID: Addgene_12259), pRSV-Rev, pMDLg/pRRE (Dull et al., 1998), and COG4-mAID-3myc pLenti were mixed and transfected into HEK293FT cells using Lipofectamine 3000 following the manufacturer's protocol. The transfected cells were placed in serum-reduced Opti-MEM supplemented with 25 μM Chloroquine and 1× GlutaMAX. The next day, the medium was changed to Opti-MEM supplemented with 1× GlutaMAX. At 72 h after transfection, the medium was collected, and cell debris was removed by centrifugation at 600× g for 10 min. The supernatant was filtered through a 0.45 μM polyethersulfone (PES) membrane filter, and the

lentiviral medium was stored at 4°C overnight or divided into aliquots, snap-frozen in liquid

nitrogen, and stored at –80°C.

RPE1-COG4KO-OsTIR1 cells (Sumya, Pokrovskaya, D'Souza, et al., 2023) were seeded in two

wells of a 6‑well plate with a complete medium to achieve 90% confluency the following day.

One well was designated as a control for antibiotic selection. The next day, the cells were

transduced with 500 µl of lentiviral supernatant. After 48 hours post-transduction, the lentiviral

media was replaced with cell growth media containing G418 (500 µg/mL final concentration,

selection dose). Following 48 hours of selection, the media was switched to complete media

containing 200 µg/mL of G418 (maintenance dose). The cells were then cultured at 37°C and

5% CO2 for 48 hours. Following G418 selection, single-cell clones were isolated into 96-well

plates by serial dilution. The cells were allowed to grow for two weeks, collected by trypsin

treatment, and each colony was expanded into a 12‑well plate with a complete medium

containing G418. Subsequently, WB and IF analyses were conducted to identify the clone with

COG4-mAID-3myc expression. Clones demonstrating uniform expression of COG4-mAID-3myc

(RPE1-COG4-mAID-3myc) were transferred to 10‑cm dishes, and aliquots were cryopreserved

in 2× freezing medium (80% FBS with 20% DMSO) mixed with growth medium.

Immunoprecipitation of Golgi-derived vesicles

Cells cultured in 15 cm dishes, until they reached 90% confluency, were rinsed with PBS and

harvested by trypsinization, followed by centrifugation at 400× g for 5 min. The cell pellet was

then resuspended in 1.5 ml of cell collection solution (0.25 M sucrose in PBS) and centrifuged

at 400× g for 5 min. Subsequently, the pellet was resuspended in 1.5 ml of a hypotonic lysis

solution (20 mM HEPES pH 7.2, containing protein inhibitor cocktail and 1 mM PMSF) and

passed through a 25 G needle 20 times to disrupt the cells. The efficiency of cell lysis was

assessed using phase-contrast microscopy. Following this, KCL (to a final concentration of

150 mM) and EDTA (to a final concentration of 2 mM) were added. Unlysed cells and cell

nuclei were separated by centrifugation at 1000×□g. The postnuclear supernatant (PNS) was

then transferred to a 1.5□ml Beckman tube (#357488), and the Golgi-enriched fraction was

sedimented at 30□000×□g for 10□min. The Supernatant (S30) was transferred into a new

Beckman tube. Samples from each fraction were prepared for WB analysis, while the remaining

samples were utilized for IP or MS analysis.

In the initial step of the First vesicle IP experiment, the S30 supernatant was combined with an

affinity-purified anti-Giantin antibody (1.33 µg/mL) and left to incubate at room temperature on a

rotating platform for one hour. Following this, 30 µl of Dyna Protein G magnetic beads

(ThermoFisher Scientific #10004D) were added, and the mixture was rotated at room

temperature for an additional hour. Subsequently, the magnetic beads with attached Giantin-

positive membrane were isolated using the DynaMag^{TM}-2 (Magnetic particle concentrator,

ThermoFisher), washed three times in a wash buffer consisting of 20□mM HEPES pH□7.2,

1□mM PMSF, 150 mM KCL, 2 mM EDTA. Proteins bound to the beads (G-vIP) were extracted

by adding 2X sample buffer with 10% β-mercaptoethanol and heating at 95°C in a heat block for

5 minutes. Next, the unbound material, flow through from the first vesicle IP (S30-G-FT) was

successively exposed to affinity-purified anti-golgin-84 antibody for one hour to produce g84–

vIP and S30-g84-FT. Finally, S30-g84-FT was incubated with affinity-purified anti-GS15

antibody for two hours, producing GS15-vIP and ST-FT. In the second vesicle IP, the vesicle

isolation procedure was identical to the first experiment except the sequence of the antibody

precipitations. In this experiment the S30 was sequentially incubated with STX5, Giantin,

VAMP7, and GS15 antibodies for one hour, except for GS15 (two hours).

Western Blot Analysis

Protein samples (10-20 µg) were loaded into either a Bio-Rad (4-15%) or Genescript (8-16%)

gradient gel. The proteins were then transferred onto a 0.2 µm nitrocellulose blotting membrane

(Amersham^{TM} Protran^{TM}) using the Thermo Scientific Pierce G2 Fast Blotter. Afterward, the

membranes were washed in PBS, blocked in Bio-Rad blocking buffer for 20 minutes, and

incubated with primary antibodies for 1 hour at room temperature or overnight at 4°C. Following

this, the membranes were washed with PBS and incubated with secondary fluorescently-tagged

antibodies diluted in Bio-Rad blocking buffer for 1 hour. All the primary and secondary

antibodies used in the study are listed in Table 1. The blots were then washed with PBS and

imaged using the Odyssey Imaging System. The images were processed using the LI-COR

Image Studio software.

Proteomic analysis using Orbitrap Exploris DIA

The vesicle IP was performed as described above. For MS, before eluting, the Protein-G

magnetic beads were washed three more times in wash buffer to remove excess detergent

Purified proteins were reduced, alkylated, and digested on-bead using filter-aided sample

preparation (Wiśniewski et al., 2009) with sequencing grade-modified porcine trypsin

(Promega). Tryptic peptides were then separated by reverse phase XSelect CSH C18 2.5 um

resin (Waters) on an in-line 150 x 0.075 mm column using an UltiMate 3000 RSLCnano system

(Thermo). Peptides were eluted using a 60 min gradient from 98:2 to 65:35 buffer A:B ratio.

Eluted peptides were ionized by electrospray (2.2 kV) followed by mass spectrometric analysis

on an Orbitrap Exploris 480 mass spectrometer (Thermo). To assemble a chromatogram library,

six gas-phase fractions were acquired on the Orbitrap Exploris with 4 m/z DIA spectra (4 m/z

precursor isolation windows at 30,000 resolution, normalized AGC target 100%, maximum inject

time 66 ms) using a staggered window pattern from narrow mass ranges using optimized

window placements. Precursor spectra were acquired after each DIA duty cycle, spanning the

m/z range of the gas-phase fraction (i.e. 496-602 m/z, 60,000 resolution, normalized AGC target

100%, maximum injection time 50 ms). For wide-window acquisitions, the Orbitrap Exploris was

configured to acquire a precursor scan (385-1015 m/z, 60,000 resolution, normalized AGC

target 100%, maximum injection time 50 ms) followed by 50x 12 m/z DIA spectra (12 m/z

precursor isolation windows at 15,000 resolution, normalized AGC target 100%, maximum

injection time 33 ms) using a staggered window pattern with optimized window placements.

Precursor spectra were acquired after each DIA duty cycle.

Buffer A = 0.1% formic acid, 0.5% acetonitrile

Buffer B = 0.1% formic acid, 99.9% acetonitrile

Following data acquisition, data were searched using an empirically corrected library against the

UniProt *Homo sapiens* database (April 2022), and a quantitative analysis was performed to

obtain a comprehensive proteomic profile. Proteins were identified and quantified using

EncyclopeDIA (Searle et al., 2018) and visualized with Scaffold DIA using 1% false discovery

thresholds at both the protein and peptide level. Protein MS2 exclusive intensity values were

assessed for quality using ProteiNorm (Graw et al., 2020). The data was normalized using cyclic

loess (Ritchie et al., 2015) and analyzed using proteoDA to perform statistical analysis using

Linear Models for Microarray Data (limma) with empirical Bayes (eBayes) smoothing to the

standard errors (Ritchie et al., 2015; Thurman et al., 2023). Proteins with an FDR adjusted p-

value < 0.05 and a fold change > 2 were considered significant.

Proteomic analysis using Orbitrap Exploris 480 DIA

The vesicle IP was performed as described above. For MS, before eluting, the Protein-G

magnetic beads were washed three more times in wash buffer to remove excess detergent

Protein samples were reduced, alkylated, and digested on-bead using filter-aided sample

preparation (Wiśniewski et al., 2009) with sequencing grade-modified porcine trypsin

(Promega). Tryptic peptides were trapped and eluted on 3.5um CSH C18 resin (Waters) (4mm x

75um) then separated by reverse phase XSelect CSH C18 2.5 um resin (Waters) on an in-line

150 x 0.075 mm column using an UltiMate 3000 RSLCnano system (Thermo). Peptides were

eluted at a flow rate of 0.300uL/min using a 60 min gradient from 98% Buffer A:2% Buffer B to

95:5 at 2.0 minutes to 80:20 at 39.0 minutes to 60:40 at 48.0 minutes to 10:90 at 49.0 minutes

and hold until 53.0 minutes and then equilibrated back to 98:2 at 53.1 minutes until 60 minutes.

Eluted peptides were ionized by electrospray (2.4 kV) through a heated capillary (275°C)

followed by data collection on an Orbitrap Exploris 480 mass spectrometer (Thermo Scientific).

Precursor spectra were acquired with a scan from 385-1015 Th at a resolution set to 60,000

with 100% AGC, max time of 50 msec, and an RF parameter at 40%. DIA was configured on

the Orbitrap 480 to acquire 50 x 12 Th isolation windows at 15,000 resolution, normalized AGC

target 500%, maximum injection time 40 ms). A second DIA was acquired in a staggered

window (12 Th) pattern with optimized window placements.

Buffer A = 0.1% formic acid, 0.5% acetonitrile

Buffer B = 0.1% formic acid, 99.9% acetonitrile

Following data acquisition, data were searched using Spectronaut (Biognosys version 18.6)

against the UniProt *Homo sapiens* database (January 2024) using the directDIA method with an

identification precursor and protein q-value cutoff of 1%, generate decoys set to true, the protein

inference workflow set to maxLFQ, inference algorithm set to IDPicker, quantity level set to

MS2, cross-run normalization set to false, and the protein grouping quantification set to median

peptide and precursor quantity. Protein MS2 intensity values were assessed for quality using

ProteiNorm (Graw et al., 2020). The data was normalized using RLR (robust linear regression)

and analyzed using proteoDA to perform statistical analysis using Linear Models for Microarray

Data (limma) with empirical Bayes (eBayes) smoothing to the standard errors (Ritchie et al.,

2015; Thurman et al., 2023). Proteins with an FDR adjusted p-value < 0.05 and a fold change >

2 were considered significant.

Table 1. List of antibodies

Antibody	Source/Catalog #	Species	Dilution (WB)	Dilution (IP)
Giantin/GOLGB1)	Invitrogen, PA552772	Rabbit	1:1000	1:100 (1.33 µg/mL)
Golgin84/GOLGA5	Warren's Lab	Rabbit	1:1000	-
Golgin84/GOLGA5	Warren's Lab	Rabbit	-	1:100
B4GalT1	R&D Systems AF-3609	Goat	1:500	-
GS15/Bet1L	Lab	Rabbit	1:500	1:100
Syntaxin5 (STX5)	Lab	Rabbit	1:2000	1:100
VAMP7	CST, 13876	Rabbit		1:100
VAMP7	CST, 14811	Rabbit	1:1000	-
GALNT2 (GalNacT2)	R&D, AF7507-SP	Sheep	1:1000	-
MGAT1 [EPR14247]	Abcam, ab180578	Rabbit	1:500	-
IRDye 800 anti-Goat	LiCOR/926-32214	Donkey	1:20000	-
IRDye 800 anti-Mouse	LiCOR/5-32210	Goat	1:20000	-
IRDye 800 anti-Rabbit	LiCOR/8100901	Donkey	1:20000	-
Alexa Flour 647 anti-Goat	Jackson Immuno Research/705605-147	Donkey	1:4000	1:500

Alexa Fluor 647 anti-Sheep	Jackson Immuno Research/705605-147	Donkey	1:4000	1:500
Alexa Fluor 647 anti-mouse	Jackson Immuno Research/705605-151	Donkey	1:4000	1:500
Alexa Fluor 647 anti-rabbit	Jackson Immuno Research/705605-152	Donkey	1:4000	1:500

CCD vesicle re-routing to Golgin-84-decorated mitochondria

Golgin84-HA-OMP DNA construct encoding human GOLGA5 (aa 1-698) without C-terminal transmembrane domain fused with HA epitope and C-terminal transmembrane domain of OMP25 (aa 110-145) was synthesized by GenScript and subcloned into pcDNA3.1. Similar construct without GOLGA5 sequence was used as a control.

COG4-mAID cells were cultivated on 12-mm round coverslips until they reached 80%-90% confluency. Subsequently, they were transiently transfected with Golgin-84-HA-OMP using Lipofectamine 3000 as per the manufacturer's protocol. After 24 hours of transfection, the cells were treated with IAA for two hours to accumulate CCD vesicles. Control and IAA-treated cells were fixed with freshly prepared 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA) diluted in PBS for 15 minutes at room temperature. The cells were permeabilized with 0.1% Triton X-100 for 1 minute, followed by treatment with 50 mM ammonium chloride for 5 minutes, and then washed twice with PBS. Blocking was performed by incubating the cells twice for 10 minutes each in 1% BSA and 0.1% saponin in PBS. Subsequently, the cells were incubated with the primary antibody (diluted in 1%

cold fish gelatin and 0.1% saponin in PBS) for 45 minutes, washed, and then incubated with

fluorescently conjugated secondary antibodies diluted in the antibody buffer for 30 minutes.

After washing the cells four times with PBS, the coverslips were dipped in PBS and water 10

times each and then mounted on glass microscope slides using Prolong® Gold antifade reagent

(Life Technologies). Finally, the cells were imaged using a 63X oil 1.4 numerical aperture (NA)

objective of an LSM880 Zeiss Laser inverted microscope with Airyscan using ZEN software.

Statistical Analysis

All mass spectrometry results are based on at least four biological replicates. The Western blot

images represent two repeats and were quantified using LI-COR Image Studio software. Error

bars in all graphs indicate standard deviation. The GO enrichment analysis was conducted

using the Shiny GO 0.81 website, and Venn diagrams were created using the "Bioinformatics

and Evolutionary Genomics" website.

Results

Isolation of Golgi-derived vesicles from control and COG complex–deficient cells

Previous studies reported the accumulation of heterogenous non-tethered COG complex-

dependent (CCD) vesicles in cells acutely depleted for COG3 (Shestakova et al., 2006; Zolov &

Lupashin, 2005) or COG4 (Sumya, Pokrovskaya, D'Souza, et al., 2023) COG complex subunits.

Since CCD vesicles accumulate several Golgi resident proteins with large cytoplasmic domains,

native immunocapturing was utilized for purification and characterization of trafficking

intermediates. To obtain cruse vesicle fraction, both control and COG4-depleted hTERT-RPE1

cells were first disrupted by a gentle mechanical procedure (Sumya, Pokrovskaya, D'Souza, et

al., 2023) followed by differential centrifugation to remove large membranes (nucleus,

mitochondria, ER, plasma membrane, and Golgi). Next, Golgi-derived vesicles were isolated

from the S30 fraction (total vesicle fraction) by native membrane immunoprecipitation (IP) using

affinity-purified antibodies to Golgi-resident transmembrane proteins and Protein-G magnetic

beads. Cis-medial resident Giantin/GOLGB1 (Linstedt & Hauri, 1993; Sönnichsen et al., 1998),

medial Golgi resident golgin-84/GOLGA5 (Bascom et al., 1999; Diao et al., 2003; Satoh et al.,

2003) and trans-Golgi resident GS15/BET1L (Volchuk et al., 2004) were chosen as "handles"

for isolation of different vesicle populations **(Figure 1A)**. These transmembrane (TM) proteins

were previously found in Golgi-derived vesicles and significantly redistributed to the CCD

vesicle fraction upon COG dysfunction (Sohda et al., 2010; Sönnichsen et al., 1998; Sumya,

Pokrovskaya, D'Souza, et al., 2023; Zolov & Lupashin, 2005). The vesicle IPs (vIP from control

cells and CCDvIP from COG4-depleted cells) were performed consecutively. The first

precipitation was done with giantin antibodies (G-vIP and G-CCDvIP). Flow-through from

Giantin-IP was precipitated with anti-golgin84 (g84-vIP and g84-CCDvIP), and finally, golgin84-

IP flow-through was used to precipitate GS15-positive vesicles (GS15-vIP and GS15-CCDvIP)

(Figure 1A). WB analysis reveals the enrichment of Giantin, golgin-84, and GS15 in the Giantin-

IP, golgin-84, and GS15-IP, respectively, validating the approach **(Figure 1B)**. Some Giantin

was also detected in golgin-84 vesicles isolated from COG4-depleted cells, and some golgin-84

signal was found in GS15 IPs, suggesting that the immunoisolated vesicle populations are

partially mixed and may not represent entirely distinct entities. This was expected, as the IP time

was intentionally shortened to minimize protein and membrane degradation. However, the

immunoisolated vesicle populations remained significantly distinct, and follow-up proteomic

analysis (see below) confirmed this distinction.

To account for potential trafficking abnormalities associated with the usage of tagged COG4, a

second vesicle IP experiment was conducted. In this setup, vesicles were immunoprecipitated

from the same cell line, either untreated or treated with IAA to induce COG4 degradation

(Supplementary Figure 1A). To eliminate potential vesicle contamination from small fragments

of Golgi cisternae that may result from mechanical disruption, the S30 fraction was pre-cleared

with STX5 IP in the second experiment. While STX5 interacts with the COG complex

(Shestakova et al., 2007; Suvorova et al., 2002), it does not partition into CCD vesicles (Sumya,

Pokrovskaya, D'Souza, et al., 2023). We were out of custom-made golgin-84 antibodies for IP,

and commercial antibodies are unavailable; therefore, in the second experiment, commercial

affi-pure antibodies to VAMP7 were used. We have shown previously that VAMP7 is a part of

STX5/SNAP29/VAMP7 Golgi SNARE complex, and that anti-VAMP7 antibody are suitable for

the native IP (D'Souza et al., 2023). Additionally, the first round of vesicle IP indicated that

VAMP7 is a COG-sensitive protein that is significantly increased in abundance in G-CCDvIP

and GS15-CCDvIP **(Table S1)**. The second vesicle IP was evaluated by label-free MS analysis

using more sensitive detection tools (see Materials and Methods), which allows the detection of

more proteins than the first experiment **(Table S2)**. Similarly to the first experiment, vesicle IPs

were validated with WB analysis **(Supplementary Figure 1B)**.

Exploring the proteome of Golgi-derived vesicles

Label-free quantitative mass spectrometric analysis of immunoprecipitated vesicles resulted in

the identification of 2172 proteins **(Table S1)**. 417 of these proteins were previously detected in

the "Golgi set" (Fasimoye et al., 2023), and an additional 16 are potential Golgi resident

proteins. Notably, the degree of recovery of Golgi resident proteins in vesicle-IPs was

comparable to the number of resident proteins identified in recently published Golgi-IP

(Fasimoye et al., 2023), indicating the high efficiency of vesicle-IPs and validating our approach.

Results of the second round of vesicle IP included 5638 proteins (Table S2), with 739 of them

found in the "Golgi set" (Fasimoye et al., 2023), and 37 are putative Golgi proteins. The first

vesicle IP resulted in the identification of 62 members of the Golgi glycosylation machinery, 146

other transmembrane (TM), 54 lumenal/secretory, and 171 peripheral Golgi proteins. The

second set of vesicle IP detected 110 members of the Golgi glycosylation machinery, 296 other

TM, 89 lumenal/secretory, and 281 peripheral Golgi proteins **(Table S5)**. For further analysis,

we focused on proteins that were significantly enriched at least 2-fold (logFC > 1) in the vesicle

IP compared to the crude vesicle fraction (S30). First, GO enrichment analysis was performed

on 696 proteins in G-vIP, 658 proteins in g84-vIP and 580 proteins in GS15-vIP **(Figure 2,**

Table S3). The GO analysis of all three vesicle IPs from control cells revealed that the vesicular

proteins primarily belong to ER-Golgi and intra Golgi vesicle transport and glycosylation

pathways **(Figure 2A-C, left panels, Table S3)**. In addition, an enrichment in "intermediate

filament organization pathway" was detected in both g84-vIP and GS15-vIP vesicles, indicating

potential involvement of intermediate filaments in the intra-Golgi vesicular trafficking. Analysis of

the second vesicle IP dataset confirmed the primary involvement of immunoisolated proteins in

Golgi trafficking and glycosylation **(Supplementary Figure 2A-C, left panels, Table S3)**. GO

enrichment analysis for the cellular component revealed major enrichment in proteins

associated with Golgi apparatus sub-compartments and Golgi membrane **(Figure 2A-C right**

panels, Supplementary Figure 2A-C right panels, Table S3), validating vesicle

immunoprecipitation strategy. The GO enrichment analysis for biological processes and cellular

components of CCD vesicles immunoisolated from COG4 depleted cells (G-CCDvIP, g84-

CCDvIP, GS15-CCDvIP, and V7-CCDvIP) revealed similar results **(Figure 3A, B, C and**

Supplementary Figure 3A, B, C, Table S3). This suggests that acute COG inactivation did not

mislocalize transmembrane vesicle "handles," and all analyzed vesicle populations originated

from Golgi membranes.

Characterization of immunoprecipitated vesicle populations

To identify the specific "molecular signatures" of immunoprecipitated vesicle populations, we

first analyzed the composition of the top 50 transmembrane proteins enriched in each vesicle-IP

compared to the input (S30). We hypothesized that some peripheral proteins might be removed

from the membrane surface due to the multiple wash steps involved in vesicle isolation. In

contrast, TM proteins, which are stably embedded in the vesicle membrane, would remain

associated. This approach allowed us to focus on the most reliably enriched membrane-bound

proteins in each vesicle population. In the first set of vesicle IP **(Table S3)**, we found that one

TM protein, the glycosylation enzyme ST6GALNAC4, was detected only in vIPs, while others

were enriched 15-100-fold. In all six vesicle groups isolated from control and COG4-depleted

cell IPs, 64-84% of the most enriched TM were affiliated with the "Golgi set", validating the

vesicle isolation approach. The analysis revealed that the molecular signature of G-vIP, g84-

vIP, and GS15-vIP vesicles isolated from control cells was significantly distinct, with only eight

proteins being shared for all three vesicle populations **(Figure 2D)**. Common proteins include

intra-Golgi v-SNARE GS28/GOSR1 (D'Souza et al., 2023; Sumya, Pokrovskaya, D'Souza, et

al., 2023) and a putative Golgi autophagy receptor YIPF4 (Hickey et al., 2023). 32 Golgi

proteins were among fifty most enriched TM proteins in the G-vIP fraction **(Table S3)**. This set

contains 14 enzymes and sugar transporters, including cis-medial Golgi N-glycosylation

enzymes MAN1A2, MGAT2, FUT8, O-glycosyltransferases GALNT2, 7, 10, and a 3'-

phosphoadenylyl sulfate:adenosine 3',5'-bisphosphate antiporter SLC35B2.

g84-vIP membranes were enriched with 42 Golgi TM proteins, including 18 enzymes and sugar

transporters from both N-glycosylation (MAN2A1, MGAT2) and O-glycosylation (GALNT2,

B4GAT1) pathways **(Table S3)**. The presence of cis (MAN1A2), medial (MGAT1), and trans-

Golgi (CHST14) resident enzymes indicates that g84-vIP trafficking intermediates are employed

for protein recycling from multiple Golgi compartments.

GS15-vIP membranes were enriched in 42 Golgi resident TM proteins, including several trans-

Golgi enzymes and sugar transporters (B4GALT1, B4GALT5, BPNT2, EXTL3, SLC35E1) as

well as TGN SNAREs STX16 and VTA1A, cargo receptors TGOLN2/TGN46, MP6R, IGF2R,

and SORT1 and autophagy protein ATG9A **(Table S3)**. The molecular signature of GS15-vIP

vesicles indicate that these carriers are preferentially derived from TGN/trans-Golgi. The

presence of multiple species of Golgi enzymes in different vesicle populations isolated from

control cells supports the model of continuous vesicular recycling of Golgi resident proteins.

The second round of vesicle IP employed a more sensitive mass-spec instrument and detection

program, resulting in a higher protein detection rate, with many proteins identified exclusively in

the vesicle population. Consequently, to identify molecular signatures of immunoprecipitated

vesicles, we conducted an analysis of the 100 most enriched TM proteins. A comparison of

Giantin, VAMP7, and GS15 vIPs revealed that only 24% of TM proteins were common in all

three groups, indicating that three membrane isolations represent significantly distinct vesicle

populations **(Supplementary Figure 2D, Table S3)**. Common proteins include SNAREs

(SEC22A, VAMP4), Golgi enzymes (B4GALT7, GALNT11), and transporters (SLC9A7,

SLC30A6, SLC35B1, and SLC35E1) **(Table S3)**.

77 Golgi proteins were among the 100 most enriched TM proteins in the G-vIP fraction. This set

contains 28 enzymes and sugar transporters, including cis-medial Golgi N-glycosylation

enzymes MAN1A2, MANEA, MGAT4B, O-glycosyltransferases GALNT4, 7, 11, 13, and

nucleotide sugar transporters SLC35A5, SLC35B1.

V7-vIP (VAMP7 vesicles) set was enriched with 84 Golgi TM proteins, including 18 enzymes

and sugar transporters, mainly from the O-glycosylation (GALNT4, GALNT7, GALNT11,

B3GNT9) pathway. GS15-vIP was enriched in 62 Golgi resident TM proteins, including 18 trans-

Golgi enzymes and sugar transporters (ST3GAL1, CHST3, ST8SIA6, SLC35A5) as well as

trans-Golgi/TGN SNAREs STX10, STX16, VAMP4 and VTA1A, and cargo receptors

TGOLN2/TGN46, MP6R **(Table S3)**.

After acute COG4 depletion, the molecular signature of each vesicle population was slightly

altered with the increase of Golgi resident proteins and, most notably, components of

glycosylation machinery **(Figure 3D, Table S3)**. The comparison of molecular signatures of G-

CCDvIP, g84-CCDvIP and GS15-CCDvIP reported the increase in common proteins from 8 to

21. Similarly, in the second vesicle IP, the comparison of vesicle protein content revealed that the overlap between G-CCDvIP, V7-CCDvIP, and GS15-CCDvIP increased from 21 shared proteins in control in the control vIP to 42 in CCD vesicles **(supplementary Figure 3D, Table S3)**.

COG depletion leads to quantitative increase in vesicle-associated glycosylation machinery

Since the molecular signatures of the three isolated Golgi vesicle pools were significantly distinct, we proceeded to compare the total proteomes of each CCD-vIP with their corresponding control vesicles. This comparison aimed to identify Golgi proteins specifically enriched or depleted in COG-depleted vesicles, providing insights into how COG complex dysfunction affects the composition and function of intra-Golgi vesicular trafficking intermediates. This analysis allowed us to determine the extent to which the Golgi resident proteins and trafficking machinery depend on COG function for proper recycling and localization. Notably, 87% of the glycosylation machinery was significantly increased in G-CCDvIP vesicles **(Figure 4B, Table S4)**. Among glycosyltransferases, the highest increase was detected for medial-Golgi enzymes CHST11 (22-fold), MGAT5 (18-fold), and MAN1A1 (14-fold) **(Table S4)**. The volcano plot illustrates the accumulation of GALNT2, MGAT2, MAN1A1, and MAN2A1 enzymes in G-CCDvIP **(Figure 5A, Table S1, S4)**. WB analysis of Giantin-pulled vesicles revealed a significant increase of MGAT1 and GALNT2 and a moderate increase of B4GALT1 **(Figure 5B)**, corroborating mass spectrometry data. Conversely, only 39% of other Golgi transmembrane proteins showed an increase in G-CCDvIP **(Figure 4A, 4C)**. The most substantial increases were observed for Glutaminyl-peptide cyclotransferase-like protein QPCTL (11-fold) and soluble calcium-activated nucleotidase CANT1 (10-fold) (**Table S4)**. Several TM proteins, including CAV1, GJA1, LDLR, SURF4, and VAMP2, exhibited decreased abundance in G-CCDvIP vesicles, suggesting that COG does not regulate their trafficking.

Furthermore, although only 28% of luminal Golgi residents accumulated in G-CCDvIP **(Figure**

4D), several, including FAM3A, STC2, DIPK2A, and SDF4, showed a 7-10-fold increase in

abundance. The majority (80%) of peripheral membrane proteins did not show significant

changes in abundance in G-CCDvIP, with the exception of vesicular coat components ARF1,

ARF3, AP1B1, and COPG2. These coat proteins exhibited a marked decrease in abundance,

suggesting that the disassembly of vesicle coats from the surface of stalled vesicles **(Figure 4E,**

Table S4). Among the 21 Golgi Rab proteins detected in G-CCDvIP, only 5 Rabs (Rab2A,

Rab2B, Rab7A, Rab11B, and Rab15) showed some increased in abundance, indicating that the

majority of Rab proteins did not recycle in Giantin-positive vesicles in a COG-dependent

manner.

Notably, COG4 depletion did not result in a significant accumulation of Golgi resident proteins in

g84-CCDvIP vesicles **(Figure 4A, Table S4)**. Among glycosyltransferases, the most significant

increase in abundance was detected for MGAT5 (5 fold) and DSE (4 fold), but 89% of

glycosylation machinery did not change **(Figure 4C, Table S4)** or even decrease (FUT8,

GALNT1, CHST3, NDST1, MANEAL) in abundance, indicating that golgin84-positive membrane

carriers are not widely utilized in the COG-dependent recycling route **(Figure 5C, Table S1,**

S4). WB analysis of golgin84-pulled vesicles showed an increase in MGAT1 and GALNT2

(Figure 5D). The lack of changes in this vesicle pool was puzzling but could be related to a

significant accumulation of golgin-84 protein in G-CCDvIP vesicles.

The analysis of GS15-CCDvIP revealed that a substantial fraction (69%) of glycosylation

machinery was increased in abundance in GS15-CCDvIPs **(Figure 4B, Table S4)**. A significant

increase in abundance was detected for medial-trans Golgi enzymes MAN1A1 (22-fold), NDST1

(17-fold), and CHST12 (15-fold) (**Table S4**), indicating that COG dysfunction may cause the

rerouting of earlier enzymes to the later Golgi compartments. In the volcano plot, we observed

the accumulation of B4GALT1, B4GALT5, and SORT1 in GS15-CCDvIP compared to GS15-vIP

(Figure 5E, Table S1, and S4). WB analysis of GS15-pulled vesicles indicated an observable

increase in B4GALT1 and a moderate increase in MGAT1 and GALNT2 enzymes in GS15-

CCDvIP **(Figure 5F)**. In addition to glycosylation machinery, 56% of other TM proteins were

also increased in abundance in GS15-CCDvIP **(Figure 4C, Table S4)**. The most notable

increase was observed for QPCTL (39-fold), SFT2D3 (12-fold) and BSG (12-fold) **(Figure 4A,**

Table S4). More than a third (35%) of luminal Golgi resident proteins increased in abundance in

GS15-CCDvIPs **(Figure 4D, Table S4)**, indicating that GS15-positive transport vesicles, along

with Giantin-positive, serve as primary retrograde transport carriers in COG-dependent intra-

Golgi recycling pathway. There was no increase in peripheral membrane proteins in GS15-

CCDvIP **(Figure 4E)**.

Several Golgi TM proteins did not show any change (SLC30A7, UGGT1, ATP9A, CD63,

ERGIC1, ERGIC3, FURIN, SEC22B), or even decreased significantly in abundance (GLT8D2,

ERGIC2, LMAN1, SURF4) in CCDvIPs, indicating that these proteins do not recycle in COG-

dependent trafficking intermediates.

Analysis of the second round of vesicle precipitations revealed a similar trend with an increase

in Golgi resident proteins **(Supplementary Figure 4B, Table S4)**. The results revealed that

86% of glycosylation machinery proteins was increased in abundance in all three vesicle pools

(G-CCDvIP, V7-CCDvIP, and GS15-CCDvIP) compared to the control **(Supplementary Figure**

4A, 4B, Table S4), agreeing with results obtained with the first vesicle isolation. The abundance

of Golgi TM proteins unrelated to glycosylation showed little change in all CCD-vIPs, suggesting

that the COG-dependent vesicles are not involved in their recycling **(Figure Supplementary**

4A, 4C, Table S4). The majority of luminal and peripheral membrane proteins also did not show

any significant changes in CCD-vIPs, with the notable exception of coat components such as

AP1S1, ARF1, ARFGAP1, and all COPI subunits, which showed a marked decrease in

abundance. **(Supplementary Figure 4A, 4D, 4E)**. This finding corroborated the results from the

first vesicle-IP, confirming that coat disassembly is a specific response to COG complex dysfunction.

Notably, several components of the glycosylation machinery (CHST10, PXYLP1, and ST6GALNAC3) were detected only in G-CCDvIP and not in G-vIPs, indicating exceptional enrichments of these protein species in vesicles upon COG depletion. Over 50 other enzymes and sugar transporters were significantly enriched in G-CCDvIPs compared to Giantin-IP vesicles isolated from control cells **(Table S4)**. The volcano plot revealed significant accumulation of the cis-medial enzymes in G-CCDvIPs **(Supplementary Figure 5A)**. Western blot analysis showed substantial increase in GALNT2 and a moderate increase in MGAT1 and B4GALT1 in G-CCDvIP **(Supplementary Figure 5B)**.

The composition of V7-vIP trafficking intermediates also experienced a significant increase (> 50%) in the enrichment of components of Golgi glycosylation machinery **(Supplementary Figure 4B)**. At least 26 members of the glycosylation machinery from various Golgi cisternae were detected in V7-vIP only after COG4 depletion, making it difficult to quantify the extent of their enrichment. Notable increases were observed for C1GALT1C1 (16-fold), C1GALT1 (13-fold), and POMGNT1 (11-fold) **(Table S4)**. The volcano plot of V7-CCDvIP vs V7-vIP showed accumulation of GALNT7, MGAT1, GALNT4, B3GANT9 **(Supplementary Figure 5C)**. Western blot analysis indicated an observable increase in GALNT2 and a moderate increase in B4GALT1 enzymes in V7-CCDvIP **(Supplementary Figure 5D)**.

The Golgi proteome of GS15-CCDvIP showed moderate changes like those observed in the first experiment **(Supplementary Figure 5E, 5F)** and highlighted by the increase in members of Golgi glycosylation machinery **(Supplementary Figure 4B)**, particularly in the enzymes localized in trans-Golgi compartments **(Table S4)**. Enrichment in trans-Golgi enzymes (B4GALT1, CHST14), SNAREs, and mannose-6-receptors M6PR and IGF2R supported the

notion that GS15-CCDvIP trafficking intermediates are preferentially originated from late Golgi

subcompartments.

Preferential accumulation of Golgi Glycosylation machinery in CCD vesicles

The comparison of proteomes of G-CCDvIP, g84-CCDvIP, and GS15-CCDvIP vesicle

populations revealed that most of the Golgi resident proteins tend to accumulate in G-CCDvIP

and GS15-CCDvIP. In g84-CCDvIP, only golgin84/GOLGA5 showed specific accumulation

compared to the other two vesicle populations. The majority of Golgi residents accumulated in

G-CCDvIP consisted of cis-medial Golgi enzymes, including MGAT1, MGAT2, MAGT4b,

MAN1A2, MAN2A1, GALNT1, GALNT2, GALNT7, and GALNT10 **(Figure 4A, Table S4)**. The

largest set (63) of Golgi proteins was specific to the GS15-CCDvIP vesicles, containing several

trans-Golgi enzymes (B4GALT1, B4GALT5, ST3GAL4, CHST3, CHST11, CHST12, NAGPA)

and a significant number of Golgi SNARE proteins **(Figure 4A, Table S4)**. Side by side

comparison of protein enrichment in different populations of CCD vesicles analyzed in the

second vesicle IP set was generally in agreement with the results of the first Golgi vesicle pull-

down. A comparison of the protein composition of G-CCDvIP with GS15-CCDvIP vesicles

confirmed that cis-medial localized components of glycosylation machinery are preferentially

accumulated in Giantin-positive transport carriers. Similarly to the first vesicle IP, MAN1A2,

MGAT2, MGAT4B, GALNT2, GALNT7 and GALNT10 were enriched in G-CCDvIP

(Supplementary Figure 4A, Table S4). V7-CCDvIP did not exhibit specific enrichment in Golgi

recycling proteins when compared to G-CCDvIP **(Supplementary Figure 4, Table S4**),

suggesting a significant overlap between the two and indicating that V7-CCDvIP likely

represents a sub-population of G-CCDvIP intermediates.), suggesting a significant overlap

between the two and indicating that V7-CCDvIP likely represents a sub-population of G-CCDvIP

intermediates.

Non-tethered CCD vesicles specifically captured by ectopically expressed golgin-84

To test the functionality of CCD vesicles, we employed their capture by golgins relocated to mitochondria. Munro's lab has reported that several golgins, including golgin-84, when relocated to mitochondria, can capture intra-Golgi vesicles (Wong & Munro, 2014). This capture required disruption of the Golgi ribbon using the microtubule depolymerization agent nocodazole, likely to facilitate close spatial association between mitochondria covered with golgin-84 and vesicles budding from multiple Golgi ministacks. We hypothesized that acute COG inactivation increases the number of non-tethered vesicles, thereby removing the need for disruption of the Golgi structure. Indeed, golgin-84-decorated mitochondria effectively captured CCD vesicles carrying Giantin and GALNT2 (**Fig.6A**). This efficient vesicle capture required COG4 depletion (**Fig 6A, 6B**) and was specific; vesicles carrying GS15 and B4GalT1 were not captured by ectopically expressed golgin-84 (**Figure 6D**). Additionally, an expression construct lacking the golgin-84 module did not capture any CCD vesicles (**Fig 6C**.). Our data confirmed the ability of golgin-84 to capture the specific subset of intra-Golgi vesicles identified by Munro's lab and clearly indicated that the CCD vesicles that transiently accumulate in COG-deficient cells are identical to the transport intermediates present in wild-type cells. As expected, expressing golgin-84 on the outer mitochondrial membrane in COG4-depleted cells "glued" vesicles between mitochondria, resulting in an aggregation/fragmentation phenotype. A similar phenotype has previously been observed by us and others in HeLa cells expressing either COG subunits (Willett, Kudlyk, et al., 2013) or golgins (Wong & Munro, 2014) on the mitochondrial surface.

Discussion

In this study, we performed an unbiased analysis of the Golgi-derived vesicle proteome by immunoisolating endogenous trafficking intermediates and conducting high-resolution data-independent acquisition mass spectrometry. This approach identified 776 proteins from a curated "Golgi set" (Fasimoye et al., 2023), with 386 Golgi proteins significantly enriched in the

isolated vesicles. The Golgi proteome coverage was comparable to that of the recently

published Golgi-IP method (Fasimoye et al., 2023), demonstrating the high efficiency of the

vesicle-IP approach. By utilizing three distinct vesicle markers from different Golgi sub-

compartments, we separated the vesicle pool into three semi-independent populations of Golgi

trafficking intermediates, allowing for a detailed analysis of intra-Golgi recycling. Additionally, the

acute depletion of the COG vesicles tethering machinery enabled us to focus on trafficking

intermediates and Golgi resident proteins that depend on the COG complex for their recycling,

localization, and function. Our findings suggest that nearly all components of the Golgi

glycosylation machinery are COG-dependent for proper recycling and localization.

Ontology analysis of the proteomes from all twelve vesicle-IP experiments revealed a significant

enrichment of proteins involved in ER-Golgi and intra-Golgi vesicle transport and glycosylation

processes. Despite this common trend, there were notable differences in the protein

composition of G-vIP, g84-vIP, and GS15-vIP. While most Golgi resident proteins were detected

across all three vesicle populations, cis and medial TM proteins were predominantly found in G-

vIP, whereas trans-Golgi TM proteins were more abundant in GS15-vIP. The third vesicle pool,

identified as g84-vIP in the first vesicle MS and VAMP7-vIP in the second, was distinct from

both G-vIP and GS15-vIP, indicating that intra-Golgi trafficking is mediated by at least three

different vesicle carrier types.

The overlap in vesicle molecular signatures increased upon COG depletion, suggesting that

persistent defects in vesicle tethering compromise intra-Golgi sorting mechanisms. Furthermore,

the presence of nearly all species of Golgi enzymes across the different vesicle populations in

wild-type cells supports the concept of continuous vesicular recycling of the Golgi glycosylation

machinery. More than 92% of Golgi glycosylation enzymes, and 68% of other TM proteins,

showed a significant increase in abundance in at least one type of CCD-vIP, indicating that the

recycling of these proteins is dependent on COG function. Given that COG-KO cells lose more

than 90% of Golgi enzymes (Bailey Blackburn et al., 2016; Sumya, Pokrovskaya, D'Souza, et

al., 2023), we conclude that the entire Golgi glycosylation machinery relies on COG-dependent

vesicular recycling for its localization and function.

Approximately 48% of lumenal proteins showed a significant increase in at least one type of

transport vesicle, indicating that nearly half of Golgi lumenal proteins are recycled via CCD

vesicles. Notably, Golgi resident proteins NUCB1/2 and Cab45/SDF4 were significantly

accumulated in CCD vesicles, whereas the levels of transiently passing cargo, such as

secretory proteins prosaposin (PSAP) and SERPINEH1, remained relatively unchanged.

Since the role of intra-Golgi vesicular trafficking in delivering secretory proteins remains unclear,

we compared the proteins accumulated in CCD vesicles with those previously identified in the

RPE1 secretome (Sumya et al., 2021). To eliminate potential contaminants, we manually

selected soluble secretory proteins with known signal sequences using data from the UniProt

database (Apweiler et al., 2004). A comparative analysis of the resulting 360 proteins showed

that 11% and 18% of "soluble secretory proteins" were significantly enriched in CCD vesicles in

experiments 1 and 2, respectively (**Supplementary Figure 6, Table S5**).

Interestingly, only 20 proteins were common between both experiments, including ten known

Golgi-resident lumenal proteins. Furthermore, only nine proteins (CFB, DCD, LAMB1, LOX,

NT5E, PLOD3, PTX3, SERPINE1, and THBS1) that are not typically found in intracellular

compartments were significantly increased in CCD vesicles. One possible explanation for the

presence of specific secretory proteins in CCD vesicles is their prolonged interaction with the

glycosylation machinery due to the extensive processing required for glycosylation. This

strongly suggests that CCD vesicles primarily recycle Golgi-resident proteins rather than

proteins destined for secretion.

Analysis of peripheral membrane proteins in the vesicle proteome revealed the presence of at

least three vesicular coats—COPI, AP1, and AP3—indicating that the immunoisolated vesicles

were formed through multiple sorting/budding mechanisms. It has been previously proposed

that transport vesicles remain coated until the coat is recognized by a specific tether (Cai et al.,

2007). Interestingly, several coat components, including ARF1, COPA, COPG2, and AP1B1,

were significantly reduced in vesicles isolated from COG-deficient cells, implying that stalled

vesicles lose their coats in the absence of coat-tether interaction. These findings suggest that

vesicle-forming machinery initially bound to recycling vesicles becomes dissociated from

trafficking carriers that are unable to tether and fuse with Golgi cisternae.

Since COG complex interacts with COPI coat (Oka et al., 2004; Suvorova et al., 2002; Willett et

al., 2014) and proteomics data suggest that at least some CCD intermediates are formed by

COPI machinery, we compared vesicle proteomics data obtained in this study with the proteome

of in vitro formed COPI vesicles (Adolf et al., 2019). A comparison of 277 Golgi proteins

enriched in CCDvIP **(Table S6)** with the 207 proteins identified in COPI vesicles isolated from

HeLa cells revealed that 109 Golgi proteins are common for COPI and CCD-vIP

(Supplementary Figure 7A). The remaining 166 proteins are unique to CCD-vIP, suggesting

that these proteins are incorporated into COPI vesicles only in the in vivo setting or recycled in

trafficking intermediates formed by AP coats. Further comparison of the CCD-vIP proteome with

the 38 Golgi proteins common to all COPI vesicle proteomes from HeLa, HepG2, and iMΦ cell

lines, revealed that more than 90% of COPI vesicle core proteome is shared with CCD-vIP

(Supplementary Figure 7B). The remaining three proteins unique to the COPI vesicle

proteome—KDELR1, SLC30A6, and ERP44 were detected in vIPs, but their abundance did not

increase in COG4-depleted cells, indicating their independence from the COG complex

machinery. KDELR1 and ERP44 are known to recycle through the ER, likely via the DSL1/NZR-

dependent pathway (Lewis & Pelham, 1992; Tempio & Anelli, 2020). The Zn2+ transporter

ZnT6/SLC30A6, which regulates ERP44 activity (Amagai et al., 2023), likely follows the same

COG-independent recycling route. We concluded that a significant fraction of the CCD-vIP Golgi

proteins recycle in a vesicle formed by COPI coat machinery.

Our findings support the model that Golgi residents recycle in separate, distinct vesicles formed

from different cisternae through various sorting and budding mechanisms. The entire Golgi

glycosylation machinery, along with a significant fraction of other Golgi residents, recycles in a

COG-dependent manner, while a subset recycles independently of COG **(Figure 7).**

The presence of the same Golgi resident protein in multiple vIP populations suggests that their

intra-Golgi recycling itinerary involves several consecutive (from TGN to trans, from trans to

medial, etc.) or complementary (from TGN, trans, and medial to cis) trafficking steps.

Previous studies have shown that mitochondria-relocated golgins can capture specific sets of

trafficking intermediates (Wong & Munro, 2014). Notably, disruption of Golgi structure through

nocodazole treatment was essential for capturing intra-Golgi vesicles by relocated golgins. In

contrast, COG4 depletion accumulates non-tethered vesicles which can be captured by golgin-

decorated mitochondria without the need for the nocodazole-induced Golgi disruption. The

demonstration that giantin- and GALNT2-positive CCD vesicles are captured by ectopically

relocated golgin-84 causing mitochondria aggregation, supports the overall conclusion that CCD

vesicles are functional, freely diffusible trafficking intermediates. The mitochondrial aggregation

test can be further developed by identifying additional components of the vesicle tethering

machinery in cells where COG function has been acutely depleted.

How does the COG complex regulate the tethering of such a diverse population of vesicles?

COG is localized throughout the Golgi stack (Vasile et al., 2006) and interacts with multiple

SNAREs and Rabs (Blackburn et al., 2019). Additionally, proximity biotinylation assays using

endogenously expressed COG-TurboID fusions suggested that COG is in close proximity to

nearly all coiled-coil vesicle tethers, golgins, which are localized on distinct Golgi cisternae (F.S

and V.L unpublished data).

We propose a combinatorial vesicle tethering model in which the COG complex uses its C-
terminal extending "arms" (Ha et al., 2016) to control the assembly of specific SNARE-Rab-
golgin docking and fusion stations at the rim of each Golgi cisterna. Supporting this model, we
have recently identified two additional Golgi SNARE complexes: STX5/SNAP29/VAMP7 and
STX5/VTI1B/STX8/YKT6 (D'Souza et al., 2023). In this model, a deficiency in an individual v-
SNARE, Rab, or golgin would compromise only a subset of intra-Golgi trafficking, and this
defect could potentially be repaired by utilizing remaining complementary components or
alternative trafficking routes. Similarly, mutations in individual COG "arms" are likely to have
partial effects. In contrast, dysfunction of the entire COG complex compromises multiple
trafficking mechanisms, leading to unreparable situations that result in missorting and
degradation of the entire glycosylation machinery. In the future

What is the machinery for recycling and localization of COG-independent proteins? One
possibility is that they recycle in transport intermediates that are uniquely tethered by golgins.
Indeed, STX5 interacts with p115/USO1 (Diao et al., 2008; Xu et al., 2002) and TGN46 vesicles
can be captured by mitochondria-localized GOLGA1 (Wong & Munro, 2014). Another possibility
is that COG-independent proteins are recycled via transient tubular connection between
cisternae by kiss-and-run mechanism (Mironov et al., 2013). The third possibility is that the
itinerary of COG-independent proteins includes compartments outside the Golgi apparatus. For
instance, STX5 was shown to recycle via ER (Hui et al., 1997), while TGN46 recycle via
endosomal system (Banting & Ponnambalam, 1997). In this case their trafficking and
localization should be controlled by ER-localized DSL1/NRZ and TGN-localized GARP
complexes. In support to this scenario, TGN46 expression depends on GARP complex
(Khakurel et al., 2024).

Authors Contributions

Farhana Taher Sumya wrote the article and made substantial contributions to conception and

design, acquisition of data, analysis, and interpretation of data. Walter Saul Aragon Ramirez

participated in drafting the article, performed DNA cloning and mitochondrial relocalization

experiments, and interpreted the data. Vladimir V. Lupashin edited the article and made

substantial contributions to conception, design and data analysis.

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Figure Legends

Figure 1 Immunoisolation of Golgi-derived vesicles. A) Schematic diagram showing

immune-isolation of vesicles from RPE1 WT and RPE1 COG4 KO cell line expressing COG4-

mAID-mCherry and OsTIR1-9myc (RPE1 COG4-mAID cells) using Giantin, Golgin-84 and

GS15 antibodies after 2 hours of IAA treatment for Mass Spectrometric Analysis. The vesicles

isolated from control cells are named G-vIP, g84-vIP, and GS15-vIP, and the vesicles isolated

from acute COG-depleted cells are called G-CCDvIP, g84-CCDvIP, and GS15-vIP, respectively.

B) WB analysis of Giantin, Golgin-84, and GS15 proteins in Golgi fraction (P30), a soluble

fraction (S30), Giantin, Golgin-84, and GS15 pulled down vesicles before and after IAA treatment.

Supplementary Figure 1 Immunoisolation of Golgi-derived vesicles. A) Schematic diagram illustrating immune-isolation of vesicles from RPE1 COG4 KO cell line expressing COG4-mAID-mCherry and OsTIR1-9myc (RPE1 COG4-mAID) using STX5, Giantin, VAMP7 and GS15 antibodies before and after 2 hours of IAA treatment for Mass Spectrometric Analysis. The vesicles isolated from control cells are named G-vIP, V7-vIP, and GS15-vIP, and the vesicles isolated from acute COG-depleted cells are called G-CCDvIP, V7-CCDvIP, and GS15-vIP, respectively. **B)** WB analysis of Giantin, VAMP7, GS15 in Golgi fraction (P30), a soluble fraction (S30), Giantin, VAMP7, and GS15 pulled-down vesicles.

Figure 2 Composition of different populations of vesicle proteome isolated from control cells. A) Gene Ontology (GO) term enrichment analysis of biological process and cellular components for proteins enriched (≥ 2-fold, P ≤ .05) in **A)** Giantin pulled down vesicles (G-vIP), **B)** Golgin-84 pulled down vesicles (g84-vIP) and **C)** GS15 pulled down vesicles (GS15-vIP) isolated from control cell compared to input (S30). **D)** Venn diagram depicting the overlap of top 50 enriched transmembrane proteins in Giantin (G-vIP), Golgin-84 (g84-vIP), and GS15 pulled-down vesicles (GS15-vIP) in steady state (control cell).

Supplementary Figure 2 Composition of different populations of vesicle proteome isolated from control cells. A) Gene Ontology (GO) term enrichment analysis of biological process and cellular components for proteins enriched (≥ 2-fold, P ≤ .05) in **A)** Giantin pulled down vesicles (G-vIP), **B)** VAMP7 pulled down vesicles (V7-vIP) and **C)** GS15 pulled down vesicles (GS15-vIP) isolated from control cell compared to input (S30). **D)** Venn diagram depicting the overlap of top 100 enriched transmembrane proteins in Giantin (G-vIP), VAMP7 (V7-vIP), and GS15 pulled-down vesicles (GS15-vIP) in steady state (control cell).

Figure 3 Composition of different populations of vesicle proteome isolated from Acute COG-depleted cells. A) Gene Ontology (GO) term enrichment analysis of biological process and cellular components for proteins enriched (≥ 2-fold, P ≤ .05) in **A)** Giantin pulled down vesicles (G-vIP), **B)** Golgin-84 pulled down vesicles (g84-vIP) and **C)** GS15 pulled down vesicles (GS15-vIP) isolated from acute COG4 depleted cell compared to input (S30). **D)** Venn diagram depicting the overlap of top 50 enriched transmembrane proteins in Giantin (G-CCDvIP), Golgin-84 (g84-CCDvIP), and GS15 pulled-down vesicles (GS15-CCDvIP) in acute COG4 depleted cells.

Supplementary Figure 3 Composition of different populations of vesicle proteome isolated from Acute COG-depleted cells. A) Gene Ontology (GO) term enrichment analysis of biological process and cellular components for proteins enriched (≥ 2-fold, P ≤ .05) in **A)** Giantin pulled down vesicles (G-vIP), **B)** VAMP7 pulled down vesicles (V7-vIP) and **C)** GS15 pulled down vesicles (GS15-vIP) isolated from acute COG4 depleted cell compared to input (S30). **D)** Venn diagram depicting the overlap of top 100 enriched transmembrane proteins in Giantin (G-CCDvIP), VAMP7 (V7-CCDvIP), and GS15 pulled-down vesicles (GS15-CCDvIP) in acute COG4 depleted cells.

Figure 4 The CCD vesicles comprise different types of Golgi resident proteins. A) The captured image from Table 2 indicates the upregulation (Red), downregulation (Blue), and unchanged portion (transparent) of Golgi resident proteins in CCD vesicles pulled down by Giantin (G-CCDvIP), Golgin-84 (g84-CCDvIP), and GS15 (GS15-CCDvIP) compared to control. The bar graph shows the percentage of upregulated, unchanged, and downregulated **B)** Glycosylation machinery, **C)** Other transmembrane proteins **D)** Lumenal secretory proteins, and **E)** Peripheral membrane proteins in G-CCDvIP, g84-CCDvIP, and GS15-CCDvIP compared to G-vIP, g84-vIP, and GS15-vIP respectively

Supplementary Figure 4 The CCD vesicles comprise different types of Golgi resident proteins. A) The captured image from Table 2 indicates the upregulation (Red), downregulation (Blue), and unchanged portion (transparent) of Golgi resident proteins in CCD vesicles pulled down by Giantin (G-CCDvIP), VAMP7 (V7-CCDvIP), and GS15 (GS15-CCDvIP) compared to control. The bar graph shows the percentage of upregulated, unchanged, and downregulated **B)** Glycosylation machinery, **C)** Other transmembrane proteins **D)** Lumenal secretory proteins, and **E)** Peripheral membrane proteins in G-CCDvIP, V7-CCDvIP, and GS15-CCDvIP compared to G-vIP, V7-vIP, and GS15-vIP respectively

Figure 5 Characterization of the different populations of vesicle proteome isolated from control and acute COG4-depleted cells. Label-free mass spectrometry analysis of G-vIP/G-CCDvIP, g84-vIP/g84-CCDvIP, and GS15-vIP/GS15-CCDvIP respectively. **A)** Volcano plot depicting fold changes of proteins from four independent experiments of a direct comparison of G-vIP (control cells) and G-CCDvIP (acute COG4 depleted cells). **B)** The left panel shows the WB analysis of Giantin, MGAT1, GALNT2, and B4GALT1 in Giantin pulled-down vesicles before and after IAA treatment. The right panel shows the quantification of fold enrichment of MGAT1, GALNT2, and B4GALT1 in G-CCDvIP compared to G-vIP. **C)** Volcano plot depicting results from four independent experiments of a direct comparison of g84-vIP (control cells) and g84-CCDvIP (acute COG4 depleted cells). **D)** The left panel shows the WB analysis of Golgin-84, MGAT1, GALNT2, and B4GALT1 in Golgin-84 pulled-down vesicles before and after IAA treatment. The right panel shows the quantification of fold enrichment of MGAT1, GALNT2, and B4GALT1 in g84-CCDvIP compared to g84-vIP. **E)** Volcano plot depicting results from four independent experiments of a direct comparison of GS15-vIP (control cells) and GS15-CCDvIP (acute COG4 depleted cells). **F)** WB analysis of GS15, MGAT1, GALNT2, and B4GALT1 in GS15 pulled-down vesicles before and after IAA treatment. The upper right panel shows the quantification of MGAT1, GALNT2, and B4GALT1 fold enrichment in GS15-CCDvIP compared

to GS15-vIP. In volcano plots, data are from four replicates each. Colors indicate red, fold-

change > 2 and p < 0.05; grey, fold-change > 2 or <2 and p > 0.05; blue, fold-change < 2 and p

< 0.05.

Supplementary Figure 5 Characterization of the different populations of vesicle proteome

isolated from control and acute COG4-depleted cells. Label-free mass spectrometry

analysis of G-vIP/G-CCDvIP, V7-vIP/V7-CCDvIP, and GS15-vIP/GS15-CCDvIP respectively. **A)**

Volcano plot depicting fold changes of proteins from four independent experiments of a direct

comparison of G-vIP (control cells) and G-CCDvIP (acute COG4 depleted cells). **B)** The left

panel shows the WB analysis of Giantin, MGAT1, GALNT2, and B4GALT1 in Giantin pulled-

down vesicles before and after IAA treatment. The right panel shows the quantification of fold

enrichment of MGAT1, GALNT2, and B4GALT1 in G-CCDvIP compared to G-vIP. **C)** Volcano

plot depicting results from four independent experiments of a direct comparison of V7-vIP

(control cells) and V7-CCDvIP (acute COG4 depleted cells). **D)** The left panel shows the WB

analysis of VAMP7, MGAT1, GALNT2, and B4GALT1 in VAMP7 pulled-down vesicles before

and after IAA treatment. The right panel shows the quantification of fold enrichment of MGAT1,

GALNT2, and B4GALT1 in V7-CCDvIP compared to V7-vIP. **E)** Volcano plot depicting results

from four independent experiments of a direct comparison of GS15-vIP (control cells) and

GS15-CCDvIP (acute COG4 depleted cells). **F)** WB analysis of GS15, MGAT1, GALNT2, and

B4GALT1 in GS15 pulled-down vesicles before and after IAA treatment. The upper right panel

shows the quantification of MGAT1, GALNT2, and B4GALT1 fold enrichment in GS15-CCDvIP

compared to GS15-vIP. In volcano plots, data are from four replicates each. Colors indicate red,

fold-change > 2 and p < 0.05; grey, fold-change > 2 or <2 and p > 0.05; blue, fold-change < 2

and p < 0.05.

Figure 6: CCD vesicles are functional transport intermediates that can be rerouted to

golgin-decorated mitochondria. Airyscan superresolution immunofluorescence (IF) analysis

of RPE1 COG4-mAID cells transiently expressing either golgin84-HA-OMP25 or HA-OMP25-

HA. All scale bars are 10µm. Far right panels are the line scan plots of relative intensity of the

designated distance. Prior to fixation, cells expressing golgin84-HA-OMP25 were either **A)**

treated with IAA for 2h (depleted COG4) or **B)** untreated (intact COG4/Control). Cells were then

stained for the golgin84-capturable vesicle components GALNT2 (Blue) and Giantin (Red). Cells

were also stained for HA (Green) to visualize the ectopically expressed golgin-84. **C)** Cells

expressing HA-OMP25 were treated with IAA for 2h prior to fixation and then stained for

GALNT2 (Blue), Giantin (Red), and HA (Green). **D)** Cells ectopically expressing golgin-84 were

treated with IAA for 2h prior to fixation and then stained for vesicle components not known to be

captured by golgin-84, B4GALT1 (Blue) and GS15 (Red). Cells were also stained for HA

(Green).

Supplementary Figure 6 Comparison of CCD vesicle proteomes with RPE1 secretome. A)

Venn diagram depicting the overlap between proteins significantly enriched in G-CCDvIP, g84-

CCDvIP, GS15-CCDvIP and the secretome of RPE1 cells. **B)** Venn diagram depicting the

overlap between proteins significantly enriched in G-CCDvIP, V7-CCDvIP, GS15-CCDvIP and

the secretome of RPE1 cells. **C)** Venn diagram depicting the overlap between soluble secretory

proteins enriched in CCD-vIP of experiment 1 (EXP1) and experiment 2 (EXP2). **D)** List of

soluble secretory proteins enriched in CCDvIP.

Supplementary Figure 7 Comparison of CCD vesicle proteomes with COPI vesicle

proteome.   A**)** Venn diagram depicting the overlap between Golgi proteins significantly

enriched in CCDvIP and COPI proteome (HeLa cell line). B) Venn diagram depicting the overlap

between Golgi proteins significantly enriched in CCDvIP and COPI essential proteome

(common for three different cell lines).

Figure 7 Model depicting the intra-Golgi intermediates in control and Acute COG depleted cells. Some Golgi residents recycle in COG-dependent vesicles (CCD vesicles), but some recycle independently as they remain in Golgi upon COG4 depletion.

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1073

A

B

A

G-vIP (696 proteins) Biological Process

Cellular Component

B

g84-vIP (658 proteins) Biological Process

Cellular Component

C

GS15-vIP (580 proteins) Biological Process

Cellular Component

D

Steady state

A

B

C

D

Control

Acute COG4 depletion

TGN

Trans

Medial

Cis

AP1 GGA COPI coats

v-tether G-vIP

Golgi enzyme and resident protein

g84-vIP

Rab-GTPases t-SNARE t-tether GS15-vIP

COG v-SNARE