

1 **Avidity-driven polarity establishment via multivalent lipid-**
2 **GTPase module interactions**

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13

13 **Abstract**

14 While Rho GTPases are indispensable regulators of cellular polarity, the
15 mechanisms underlying their anisotropic activation at membranes have been
16 elusive. Using the budding yeast Cdc42 GTPase module, which includes a
17 Guanine nucleotide Exchange Factor (GEF) Cdc24 and the scaffold Bem1,
18 we find that avidity generated via multivalent anionic lipid interactions is a
19 critical mechanistic constituent of polarity establishment. We identify Cationic-
20 enriched Lipid Interacting Clusters (CLICs) in Bem1 that drive the interaction
21 of the scaffold-GEF complex with anionic lipids at the cell pole. This
22 interaction increases lipid acyl chain ordering, thus contributing to membrane
23 rigidity and feedback between Cdc42 and the membrane environment.
24 Sequential mutation of the Bem1 CLIC motifs, PX domain and the PH domain
25 of Cdc24 lead to a progressive loss of cellular polarity stemming from
26 defective Cdc42 nanoclustering on the plasma membrane and perturbed
27 signaling. Our work demonstrates the importance of avidity via multivalent
28 anionic lipid interactions in the spatial control of GTPase activation.

29 Introduction

30 Cellular polarity, the anisotropic organization of cellular constituents, is
31 essential for basic cellular functions including migration, division and polarized
32 growth ¹. In diverse eukaryotes, cellular polarity is regulated by GTPases of
33 the Rho family, including Cdc42 ²⁻⁶. The temporal and spatial control of Cdc42
34 activity on the plasma membrane ensures the anisotropic activation of the
35 protein, and thus its function as an essential regulator of cellular polarity.

36 Cdc42 is prenylated at its C-terminus via the covalent addition of an S-
37 geranylgeranyl group and methylesterification of a cysteine residue ⁷. These
38 modifications, together with juxtaposed polybasic residues, facilitate the high
39 affinity binding of the GTPase to membrane ^{8, 9}. While lipid modification
40 ensures the membrane association of the protein, it is not sufficient to account
41 for its anisotropic localization ^{10, 11}. Rather, the enrichment of Cdc42 at the cell
42 pole is thought to reflect the local activation of the GTPase by its GEF Cdc24
43 and stabilization of the GEF-Cdc42 complex involving the scaffold Bem1 ^{12, 13}.

44 How then, are Bem1 and Cdc24 recruited to the plasma membrane to
45 locally activate Cdc42? Both are peripheral membrane proteins containing a
46 Pleckstrin-Homology (PH) domain in the case of Cdc24 and a Phox (PX)
47 domain in Bem1. However, the PH domain in Cdc24 displays no detectable
48 phosphoinositide specificity *in vitro*, nor is fusion of the PH domain to GFP
49 sufficient for membrane targeting ¹⁴. These features reflect the low affinity of
50 the Cdc24 PH domain for phosphoinositides (PI) ($K_d > 20 \mu\text{M}$ for PI4,5P2, for
51 example)¹⁴. The PX domain of Bem1 binds PI3P, PI4P and
52 phosphatidylserine (PS) *in vitro*. While the affinity of the Bem1 PX domain for

53 PI3P is low ($K_d > 100 \mu\text{M}$), its interaction with PS and PI4P was observed to
54 be stronger^{15, 16}. However, neutralization of a critical arginine required for
55 electrostatic interactions with anionic lipids within the Bem1 PX domain did
56 not disrupt Bem1 localization unless additional pathways that guide Cdc42
57 activation were also blocked¹⁷. The mechanism accounting for the site-
58 specific recruitment of these critical Cdc42 regulators to the plasma
59 membrane therefore represents a key unanswered question.

60 At the plasma membrane of diverse eukaryotes, anionic lipids including
61 PS, contribute to the net negative charge of the membrane and the
62 recruitment of peripheral membrane proteins^{18, 19}. Moreover, the localization
63 of a PS reporter is anisotropic with respect to both the lateral plane of the
64 plasma membrane and the inner leaflet of the membrane¹⁸. PS has been
65 shown to play an important role in the anisotropic localization of Cdc42 and
66 Bem1 in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*^{20, 21}. Work from our lab indicates that PS
67 is required for the spatial organization of Cdc42 in nanoclusters on the plasma
68 membrane, whose size correlates with Cdc42 activity. The addition of PS to
69 wild type cells results in larger Cdc42 nanoclusters at the cell pole in a Bem1-
70 dependent manner²². PS is emerging as a key regulator of nanoclustering in
71 diverse signaling pathways, including Ras signaling²³⁻²⁵. Defining how Cdc42
72 activators interact with anionic lipids including PS would therefore address
73 one of the most upstream events during polarity establishment and may
74 provide insight into more general features of Ras-family signaling that are
75 conserved among eukaryotes.

76 Here, using complementary quantitative *in vivo* imaging and
77 reconstitution experiments, we identify a mechanism through which the Cdc42

78 regulators are recruited to anionic lipids. The interaction of Bem1 with PS and
79 PI4P induces lipid ordering and consequent membrane rigidity. The affinity of
80 Bem1 for anionic lipids is also sufficient to target the associated GEF to this
81 membrane environment, while robust membrane targeting of the GEF-scaffold
82 complex involves multivalent protein-lipid interactions that promote Cdc42
83 nanoclustering, signaling and cell polarity.

84 **Results**

85 **PI4P and PS are essential for plasma membrane targeting of Cdc42** 86 **regulators *in vivo*.**

87 The sole PS synthase *CHO1* is not an essential gene in budding yeast,
88 whereas the anisotropic localization of Cdc42 is essential, suggesting that
89 other lipids may compensate for the lack of PS in *cho1Δ* cells to promote
90 Cdc42 polarization. Recent work uncovered a mechanism of PS transport
91 from the ER to the plasma membrane involving the counter transport of PI4P
92 in the opposite direction^{26, 27}. Thus, it is possible that plasma membrane PI4P
93 levels may be elevated in *cho1Δ* cells, prompting us to examine whether this
94 PI4P pool could account for the residual Cdc42 localization in the *cho1Δ*
95 mutant.

96 First, we examined the localization of Bem1-GFP in *cho1Δ* cells and
97 confirmed that the percentage of cells displaying polarized Bem1-GFP was
98 reduced compared to a wild type (WT) control population (26% cells with
99 polarized Bem1-GFP in *cho1Δ*, 71% in WT; Fig. 1a, b)²¹. In addition, the
100 fluorescence intensity of Bem1-GFP was also reduced at the pole of those
101 *cho1Δ* cells that displayed polarized Bem1-GFP (Supplementary Fig. 1a). We

102 reasoned that the residual cohort of *cho1Δ* cells might display polarized
103 Bem1-GFP due to elevated PI4P levels, since PI4P would be predicted to
104 accumulate at the plasma membrane in the *cho1Δ* mutant as a consequence
105 of reduced PI4P-PS exchange. Consistent with this reasoning, and with the
106 previously reported elevated global PI levels in *cho1Δ* cells detected by mass
107 spectrometry ²¹, we observed an approximately 2.5-fold increase in the
108 intensity of a PI4P probe by quantitative imaging in *cho1Δ* cells (Fig. 1c, d).
109 Next, the levels of plasma membrane PI4P and PS were ablated by
110 appending an auxin-inducible degron to the PI-4-kinase Stt4 in the *cho1Δ*
111 mutant ^{28, 29}. As expected, the double mutant was sensitive to the presence of
112 auxin and choline in the media (Supplementary Fig. 1b, c). Quantitative
113 imaging indicated reduced plasma membrane levels of a PI4P probe upon
114 auxin treatment (Supplementary Fig. 1d, e). In addition, the levels of 9XMyc-
115 AID-stt4 were reduced after auxin treatment, consistent with its degradation
116 (Supplementary Fig. 1f). The percentage of cells displaying polarized Bem1-
117 GFP when PI4P and PS were ablated dropped from 25% to 3%. Upon PS and
118 PI4P attenuation, Bem1-GFP accumulated in puncta in 55% of cells (Fig. 1e
119 and f). Simultaneous imaging of the GEF Cdc24-mCherry and Bem1-GFP
120 indicated that the Bem1-GFP puncta also contained the GEF, reflecting
121 association of the two proteins in a protein complex (Fig. 1g and h). These
122 results underscore the key role of PS and plasma membrane PI4P in the
123 localization of Bem1 and Cdc24 *in vivo*, and the importance of these anionic
124 lipids in the spatial control of Cdc42 activity.

125 **Identification of a robust anionic lipid targeting sequence in Bem1.**

126 Previously, the PX domain of Bem1 was shown to interact directly with anionic
127 lipids; however, it is unknown whether the interaction is sufficiently robust to
128 target the full-length protein to these lipids^{15, 16}. We established liposome
129 floatation assays to address this question. In the assay, liposomes were
130 mixed with Bem1 purified from bacteria and floated through dense sucrose. In
131 the event of a sufficiently strong interaction, the protein is found in the
132 supernatant, associated with the liposomes (Fig. 2a). A panel of neutral to
133 anionic lipids were tested. While BSA did not interact appreciably with any of
134 the lipids (Supplementary Fig. 2a), Bem1 displayed a robust interaction with
135 anionic liposomes. Strikingly, liposomes containing 20% PS, 5% PI4P and 75
136 % PC, mimicking the composition of the plasma membrane (PM lipids),
137 recruited around 93% of the Bem1 in the assay, indicating that the full-length
138 protein binds strongly to these lipids in the absence of additional proteins (Fig.
139 2b).

140 The region of Bem1 responsible for the PS-PI4P lipid interaction was
141 next mapped (Fig. 2c). While the PX domain interacted weakly with PM lipids
142 in the assay (16% floatation), an N-terminal 72 amino acid sequence
143 interacted more strongly with this lipid mix (41% floatation)(Fig. 2d, mauve
144 bar). The sequence was enriched in clusters of basic residues that we refer to
145 as a Cationic-enriched Lipid Interacting Clusters (CLICs). We next addressed
146 the mechanism through which the CLICs interact with PM lipids by mixing
147 liposomes with the CLICs and analyzing the interaction using ²H solid-state
148 NMR spectroscopy. Strikingly, the CLICs had a structural impact on the entire
149 length of the lipid acyl chain, increasing the degree of order in the 14 carbon
150 atoms of the lipid PC acyl chain in the presence of PS and PI4P, while the

151 acyl chains in liposomes containing only PC remained unaffected by the
152 CLICs (Fig. 2e). These results indicate that Bem1 interacts with anionic lipids
153 via anionic lipid interacting motifs, and in doing so, Bem1 in turn increases
154 ordering along the length of the acyl chain backbone in a reciprocal fashion.

155 **The Bem1 CLIC motifs can act as a heterologous plasma membrane**
156 **targeting signal *in vivo*.**

157 The N-terminus of Bem1 contains 3 clusters of basic residues, or CLIC motifs,
158 totaling 14 lysine and arginine residues. We mutated each cluster individually
159 or all 14 residues simultaneously (Fig. 3a). We first performed liposome
160 floatation assays to identify the CLIC motif that contributed most to Bem1
161 anionic lipid targeting. Of the 3 clusters of basic residues, the most N-terminal
162 CLIC-1 cluster appeared to be the most important (Fig. 3b). In addition,
163 mutation of all basic residues to alanine (*clic-14A*) or a charge swap to
164 glutamate (*clic-14E*) strongly attenuated the interaction of these full-length
165 Bem1 constructs with PM lipids *in vitro*. We next verified that the resulting *clic-*
166 *14E* mutant protein retained the ability to boost Cdc24 GEF activity in a GEF
167 assay, and had thus not been non-specifically damaged by the charge-swap
168 mutations. This FRET-based mant-GTP loading assay serves as a sensitive
169 readout for Bem1 function, since Bem1 boosts GEF activity via interactions
170 with Cdc24 and Cdc42 that are distinct from the N-terminal CLIC motifs³⁰⁻³².
171 The *clic-14E* mutant was chosen for these experiments because it was
172 expressed at similar levels to wild type Bem1 *in vivo*, as demonstrated below.
173 In these assays, the *bem1 clic-14E* mutant and wild type Bem1 boosted
174 Cdc24 GEF activity indistinguishably, consistent with the idea that the *clic*

175 mutations had not resulted in non-specific Bem1 mis-folding, (Fig. 3c and
176 Supplementary Fig. 2b).

177 The CLIC motifs in Bem1 are necessary for the interaction with anionic
178 lipids, but are they sufficient? We tested whether a single CLIC motif in Bem1
179 was sufficient for heterologous targeting of proteins to the plasma membrane
180 *in vivo*. The viability of budding yeast requires a Cdc42 C-terminal polybasic
181 sequence containing 4 lysines that interact with anionic lipids, providing an *in*
182 *vivo* system in which to test the functional importance of a single CLIC motif⁹.
183 We generated budding yeast in which the wild type copy of *CDC42* was
184 expressed from the conditional *GAL1* promoter. Expression of wild type
185 *CDC42* was repressed by plating cells on dextrose and then we tested
186 whether the most N-terminal Bem1 CLIC-1 motif could support the viability of
187 the *cdc42* polybasic mutant when engineered onto the C-terminus of *cdc42*
188 immediately preceding the geranylgeranylation site. While the *cdc42*
189 polybasic mutant was unable to support cellular viability when grown on
190 dextrose, as indicated by the lack of colony growth on dextrose plates (Fig.
191 3d, blue box), appending the Bem1 CLIC-1 motif to this mutant restored
192 viability, albeit with a reduced rate of colony formation compared to wild type
193 control cells (Fig. 3d, red box). Control experiments indicated that the loss of
194 *CDC42* function required mutation of all 4 C-terminal lysines (Supplementary
195 Fig. 2c). The CLIC-1 motif was also sufficient to target the polybasic *cdc42*
196 mutant to the plasma membrane in an anisotropic manner (Fig. 3e, red box).
197 These results indicate that the CLIC motifs are necessary for the strong
198 interaction between Bem1 and anionic lipids in the reconstituted assay, and
199 that the affinity of the single CLIC-1 motif for these lipids is sufficient to

200 support viability when heterologously appended to a *cdc42* lipid-binding
201 mutant *in vivo*.

202 **The Bem1 CLIC sequence is required for Bem1 targeting to the cell pole**
203 ***in vivo*.**

204 We next addressed the importance of the anionic lipid targeting CLIC motifs
205 within Bem1 *in vivo*. Since previous work demonstrated that the PX domain in
206 Bem1 was only important for the localization of the protein when additional
207 pathways that guide polarity were also inactivated¹⁷, we reasoned that the PX
208 domain may function with the CLIC motifs in a multivalent fashion to confer
209 robust membrane targeting. The importance of the CLIC and PX membrane
210 targeting sequences were tested *in vivo* by replacing the wild type copy of
211 *BEM1* with the *bem1 clic-14E* mutant, a *bem1 px* domain mutant (K338M,
212 K348A, R349A, R369A)¹⁵, or a mutant in which both sequences were
213 mutated. As a measure of Bem1 function, the rate of colony formation at 37°C
214 was observed, since *bem1Δ* cells display a growth defect at this temperature
215 that has been attributed to defective organization of the actin cytoskeleton³³,
216³⁴. While the *bem1 px* mutant displayed a rate of colony formation
217 indistinguishable from wild type cells, the *bem1 clic-14E* mutant displayed a
218 reduced rate, which was exacerbated in the double *bem1-14E px* mutant (Fig.
219 4a). The mutant proteins were not non-specifically destabilized by the
220 mutations, since 3xHA-tagged mutants were expressed comparably to wild
221 type Bem1-3xHA (Fig. 4b).

222 The percentage of cells displaying polarized GFP fluorescence was
223 reduced in the *bem1 clic-14E-GFP* mutant compared to wild type, and even

224 more diminished in the *bem1 clic-14E px-GFP* double mutant (77% wild type,
225 49% *clic-14E* and 41% *clic-14E px* double mutant, Fig. 4c, d). Moreover, the
226 intensity of GFP fluorescence at the pole in single cells indicated that all three
227 mutants displayed significantly reduced levels of GFP signal compared to wild
228 type cells (Fig. 4e). These results, which are consistent with our reconstitution
229 experiments, identify the importance of the CLIC motifs in targeting Bem1 to
230 the cell pole *in vivo*.

231 **Multivalent protein-lipid interactions drive avid targeting of the GTPase**
232 **module to anionic lipids *in vitro* and *in vivo*.**

233 Previous work reported that the GEF Cdc24 is targeted to, but not maintained
234 at the pole in *bem1Δ* mutants¹². Conversely, Bem1 polarization is not
235 maintained in *cdc24* mutants¹², suggesting that Cdc24 may display some
236 affinity for lipids *in vivo*, likely via its PH domain¹⁴. This led us to test whether
237 multivalent protein-lipid interactions in Bem1 and Cdc24 may drive recruitment
238 of the GEF-scaffold complex to the pole (Fig. 5a). First, we tested whether
239 Cdc24 has appreciable affinity for anionic lipids in the liposome floatation
240 assay. Approximately 33% of Cdc24 interacted with PM lipids in the assay,
241 and the association was reduced to around 15% when a mutation was
242 introduced into a conserved cationic residue in the beta-2 sheet of the PH
243 domain (*cdc24* K513A, which we refer to as *cdc24 ph*)(Fig. 5b and
244 Supplementary Fig. 2e)³⁵. The addition of Bem1 dramatically increased the
245 amount of Cdc24 associated with PM lipids from 33% to more than 88% (Fig.
246 5c). While mutation of the CLIC motifs in Bem1 had the strongest impact on
247 Cdc24 association with PM lipids, successive neutralization of the CLIC and
248 PX motifs in Bem1, combined with mutation of the PH domain in Cdc24

249 resulted in a progressive reduction in the interaction of Cdc24 with PM lipids
250 (Fig. 5c). We directly tested whether avidity is generated via multivalent
251 interactions by varying the concentration of Bem1 and plotting the amount of
252 Cdc24 associated with PM lipids (Fig. 5d). Fitting the curves with an
253 equilibrium-binding model revealed that the K_d of Cdc24 for anionic lipids was
254 acutely sensitive to Bem1 lipid binding. The apparent K_d of Cdc24 for PM
255 lipids in the presence of wild type Bem1 was 6 nM, 117 nM in the *bem1 clic-*
256 *14A* mutant and 180 nM in the *bem1 clic-14A px* mutant. These results
257 indicate that multivalent lipid binding motifs in Bem1, conferred by the CLIC
258 motifs and PX domain, contribute to the avid targeting of Cdc24 GEF activity
259 to anionic lipids in the reconstituted system. Of these interactions, the CLIC
260 motifs that we identify in Bem1 provide the strongest anionic lipid targeting to
261 the GEF-scaffold complex. These results are consistent with a model of GEF-
262 scaffold targeting via multivalent anionic lipid avidity.

263 The multivalent avidity model was next tested *in vivo*. Mutation of the
264 Bem1 CLICs, PX domain and the Cdc24 PH domain resulted in a
265 progressively more pronounced temperature sensitive phenotype (Fig. 5e).
266 Importantly, by appending a geranylgeranylation sequence to these mutants,
267 it was possible to restore growth at 37°C, indicating that temperature
268 sensitivity was a result of reduced membrane targeting and not non-specific
269 protein mis-folding due to mutation (Supplementary Fig. 2d). Morphological
270 defects consistent with a loss of cell polarity in the mutants also became more
271 severe as additional mutations in the identified lipid tethering motifs were
272 combined, even at 25°C (Fig. 5f). We addressed whether the loss of cellular
273 polarity observed *in vivo* was associated with specific Cdc42 signaling

274 pathway defects. Cdc24 multi-site phosphorylation by the p21 Activated
275 Kinase (PAK) Cla4 occurs optimally in the presence of Bem1 when Cdc24 is
276 localized on the plasma membrane^{12, 31, 36, 37}. We therefore predicted that
277 Cdc24 might display aberrant phosphorylation in the GEF-scaffold lipid-
278 binding mutants. Consistently, Cdc24 phosphorylation was observed to be
279 dramatically reduced in the *bem1 clic-14E* mutant, and all combinations
280 thereof, as indicated by the increased hypophosphorylated form of Cdc24 in
281 electrophoretic mobility shifts during SDS-PAGE (Fig. 5g). These results
282 indicate that the CLIC motifs identified in Bem1 and the multivalent anionic
283 lipid interactions displayed by the GEF-scaffold complex are required for the
284 spatial control of Cdc42 activation, signaling via PAK, and the ensuing control
285 of cellular polarity.

286 **Scaffold tethering to anionic lipids affects Cdc42 dynamics and**
287 **activation *in vivo*.**

288 The loss of cell polarity ensuing from reduced Bem1 tethering to the plasma
289 membrane suggested that Cdc42 dynamics would be altered in the *bem1 clic-*
290 *14E* mutant. At the cell pole in wild type cells, Cdc42 displays reduced
291 diffusion compared with elsewhere on the plasma membrane, reflecting
292 activation of Cdc42 at the cell pole^{22, 38}. Previous work from our lab
293 demonstrated that Bem1, which boosts Cdc42 activation³¹, and PS, which
294 recruits Cdc42 activators, contribute to the reduced diffusion and
295 nanoclustering of Cdc42 at the pole²². We therefore reasoned that the
296 reduced rate of Cdc42 diffusion and its nanoclustering at the pole may be
297 linked to the lipid rigidification exerted by the Bem1 CLIC motifs. To test this

298 hypothesis, we monitored mEOS-Cdc42 dynamics in live wild type, *bem1 clic-*
299 *14E* and *bem1 clic-14E px* mutant cells by single particle tracking
300 Photoactivation Localization Microscopy (sptPALM)(Fig 6a). From high-
301 frequency sptPALM acquisitions (50 Hz), trajectories were obtained from
302 mEOS-Cdc42 at the pole and non-pole regions of cells. The mean square
303 displacement of the protein, which is a measure of Cdc42 mobility, was
304 extracted from the assembled single molecule tracks. In wild type cells,
305 mEOS-Cdc42 displayed more confinement at the pole than at the non-pole,
306 as expected. However, reduced mobility of mEOS-Cdc42 was not observed at
307 the pole of *bem1 clic-14E* and *bem1 clic-14E px* mutants (Fig. 6b). This was
308 also borne out quantitatively by calculating the diffusion coefficient, D, from
309 the slope of the MSD curves (Fig. 6c). We next fixed cells and looked at the
310 organization of mEOS-Cdc42 by PALM. Whereas mEOS-Cdc42 nanoclusters
311 were larger at the pole of wild type cells, we observed no difference in the size
312 of mEOS-Cdc42 nanoclusters between the pole and non-pole of *bem1 clic-*
313 *14E px* mutant cells (Fig. 6d, e). These results indicate that the interaction
314 between the CLIC motifs in Bem1 and anionic lipids, which rigidifies the lipid
315 acyl chain, is required for the reduced diffusion of Cdc42 and its organization
316 in large nanoclusters at the pole. In order to directly link the alteration in
317 Cdc42 nanoclustering with Bem1 lipid tethering and Cdc42 activation, we
318 monitored Cdc42-GTP levels by quantitative imaging using a *gic2*₍₁₋₂₀₈₎-yeGFP
319 probe, which contains a CRIB motif that interacts with the active GTPase. The
320 levels of the probe were reduced in the *bem1 clic-14E* and *clic-14E px* mutant
321 compared to a wild type control (Fig. 6f). Collectively, these results indicate
322 that Bem1 lipid tethering via the CLIC motifs is required for three key

323 properties of Cdc42 at the cell pole: its reduced diffusion, its organization in

324 large nanoclusters and its optimal activation.

325

326

327 **Discussion**

328 The mechanisms underlying the targeting of the Cdc42 regulators Bem1 and
329 Cdc24 to the plasma membrane represent a longstanding enigma, despite the
330 budding yeast polarity system being one of the most intensively studied
331 among eukaryotes. Previous studies in diverse experimental models have
332 highlighted a crucial role for positive feedback in amplifying the levels of active
333 polarity factors at the cell pole during polarity axis establishment³⁹⁻⁴³. In
334 budding yeast, Bem1 is proposed to play a role in this feedback⁴⁴⁻⁴⁶;
335 however, the mechanisms that localize Bem1 to the plasma membrane to
336 trigger the positive feedback have been enigmatic. Combining the rapid
337 ablation of plasma membrane lipids *in vivo* with a sensitive reconstituted
338 system and solid-state NMR spectroscopy, we identify a mechanism
339 underlying the spatial tethering of Bem1 and the GEF Cdc24 to anionic lipids
340 enriched at the cell pole. The interaction between Bem1 and anionic lipids is
341 reciprocal in that Bem1 induces the ordering of lipid acyl chains, rigidifying the
342 local membrane environment (Fig. 7). In a wider context, our work also
343 identifies the critical role of multivalent protein-lipid interactions in the control
344 of cellular polarity.

345 Previous studies identified an important role for the anionic lipid PS in
346 the anisotropic plasma membrane recruitment of Cdc42 and its regulator
347 Bem1, although the underlying mechanism was unknown²¹. While the PX
348 domain of Bem1 interacts with PS *in vitro*, mutation of the relevant cationic
349 residues in the Bem1 PX domain did not result in a phenotype unless
350 additional pathways that guide polarity were also inactivated *in vivo*^{15, 17}. It
351 was therefore unknown if additional lipid binding sites existed in Bem1. We

352 demonstrate that Bem1 does indeed employ a second anionic lipid region
353 composed of CLIC motifs, which together with the PX domain, mediates the
354 robust interaction of Bem1 with negatively charged lipids.

355 Five lines of evidence support the involvement of the CLIC motifs in the
356 anionic lipid targeting of Bem1. First, mutation of the cationic residues that
357 constitute the motifs dramatically reduced the affinity of Bem1 for these lipid
358 species in a reconstituted system. Second, a CLIC motifs construct was
359 sufficient to interact with liposomes mimicking plasma membrane lipid
360 composition. Third, appending a single *CLIC* motif to a *cdc42* mutant that is
361 defective in anionic lipid recruitment is sufficient to restore viability to this
362 otherwise lethal mutant *in vivo*. Fourth, mutation of the *CLIC* motifs reduces
363 the localization of Bem1 to the cell pole at a population and at a single cell
364 level *in vivo*. Finally, as discussed below, solid-state NMR data indicate a
365 specific interaction between Bem1 and anionic lipids.

366 Anionic lipids recruit Bem1 and this interaction in turn induces ordering
367 of the lipid acyl chain backbone in a PS-PI4P-dependent manner, increasing
368 membrane rigidity. Upon recruitment of Bem1 to anionic lipids, the interaction
369 of the CLIC motifs with these lipids decreases membrane fluidity, likely
370 reducing the diffusion of Cdc42 GTPase components locally. In eukaryotes,
371 diverse Ras-family GTPases display heterogeneous diffusion on the plasma
372 membrane, where active GTPases and other signaling proteins have been
373 imaged in discrete sub-diffraction limited ensembles, also referred to as
374 nanoclusters^{24, 25, 47-52}. Cdc42 is organized in nanoclusters that are larger at
375 the cell pole²², where Bem1 contributes to GTPase activation³¹. These larger
376 nanoclusters at the pole require Bem1 and phosphatidylserine. Indeed,

377 exogenous addition of PS is sufficient to induce the organization of Cdc42 into
378 large nanoclusters, but only if Bem1 is present ²². We therefore propose that
379 Bem1-dependent Cdc42 nanoclustering via PS is likely to be mediated by the
380 CLIC motifs in Bem1. The increased membrane rigidity generated by CLIC-
381 like sequences in other proteins, combined with the potential of PS to span
382 the two leaflets of the lipid bilayer ²³, may constitute critical ingredients for
383 nanocluster-mediated signaling on the plasma membrane.

384 Taking advantage of the newly identified CLIC motifs as a starting
385 point, we addressed more generally the mechanistic basis of GEF-scaffold
386 anionic lipid targeting. We identified multivalency in the protein-lipid
387 interactions as a critical constituent of avid GTPase module targeting to the
388 plasma membrane. Intuitively, multivalency as a means of avid protein
389 targeting is appealing, since multiple juxtaposed ligand binding sites in a
390 target have the potential to confer multiplicative rather than additive affinity ⁵³.
391 Consistently, a previous study demonstrated that the electrostatic-based
392 interaction of N-WASP with PIP₂ is multivalent, and that this contributes to
393 both the cooperativity of this protein-lipid interaction and to the ultrasensitive,
394 switch-like kinetics of actin polymerization ⁵⁴. Since polarity establishment is
395 also a switch-like phenomenon, it is feasible that cooperativity in the Bem1-
396 lipid interaction may contribute to these properties. Multivalent protein-lipid
397 interactions also underlie Par polarity complex localization to anionic lipids at
398 the cortex, where basic-hydrophobic domains resemble the CLIC motifs that
399 we identify in Bem1 ⁵⁵. Similarly, multivalent protein-lipid interactions play a
400 role in the recruitment of dynamin, EEA1, retromer and ESCRT-III complexes
401 to membranes ⁵⁶⁻⁵⁹. Future experiments examining the degree of lipid

402 penetration by the membrane targeting signals in these proteins are
403 warranted to understand whether they too change the local membrane
404 environment.

405 In the case of the Cdc42 module in budding yeast, additional peripheral
406 membrane proteins associated with Cdc24 and Bem1 are likely to contribute
407 additional multivalent effects. For example, both Boi1 and Boi2, which interact
408 with Bem1 and Cdc24, each contain a PH domain, as do Cdc42 GAPs^{37, 60,}
409⁶¹. These proteins may increase the avidity of the Cdc42 GTPase module for
410 PS-PI4P further, or, if their affinity for other lipid species is sufficient, they may
411 contribute additional lipid-specific targeting functions to the GTPase module.

412

413

413 **Methods**

414 **Plasmid construction**

415 Bem1 expression plasmids were generated using a modified pGEX6P-2
416 backbone in which the BamHI site in the multiple cloning site was changed to
417 NdeI. Full-length Bem1 and the truncated proteins were amplified by PCR,
418 introducing NdeI and XhoI restriction sites and cloned into the modified
419 pGEX6P-2 vector to generate pDM256, pDM548, pDM514, pDM516 and
420 pDM577, respectively. The *clic* mutants (*clic-1*, *clic-2*, *clic-3*, *clic-14A* and *clic-*
421 *14E*) were synthesized with NdeI and BamHI restriction sites (Bio-Basic,
422 Markham, Canada). The NdeI/BamHI fragments were cloned into the modified
423 pGEX6P-2 vector to generate pDM602 (*clic-1*), pDM604 (*clic-2*), pDM599
424 (*clic-3*), pDM600 (*clic-14A*) and pDM890 (*clic-14E*).

425 *BEM1*, *bem1 clic-14E* and *bem1 clic-14E px* constructs were cloned into a
426 yeast integrating plasmid (pRS306) containing 0.4 Kb upstream of the *BEM1*
427 start codon and 0.143 Kb downstream of the stop codon. The *BEM1* coding
428 sequence and mutants were ligated as XhoI–EagI fragments, generating
429 pDM865, pDM906 and pDM947, respectively.

430 Supplementary Table 1 contains a list of the plasmids used in this study.

431 **Yeast strains and growth conditions**

432 The *cho1* Δ strains were generated by replacing the *CHO1* gene with kanMX6-
433 or hphNT1- selectable markers^{62, 63}. For experiments employing the *cho1*
434 mutant, minimal medium supplement with 1 μ M choline was used, except

435 where noted. *cho1* Δ strains were routinely tested to ensure choline
436 auxotrophy⁶⁴.

437 The AID-stt4 strains were generated as follows: pDM589 was digested
438 using PmeI to release *TIR1* for integration at *LEU2*. Next, pDM585 was used
439 to generate *pKan-pCUP1-9xMyc-AID-stt4* for Stt4 N-terminal tagging by
440 homologous recombination. Transformants were tested for auxin sensitivity
441 and verified by pcr and DNA sequencing.

442 The *bem1 px* mutant (K338M, K348A, R349A & R369A) was generated
443 by directed mutagenesis of pDM256. The *bem1 px* coding sequence was then
444 amplified by pcr and transformed into a *bem1* Δ ::*CaURA3* strain (DMY2179).
445 Transformants were selected for loss of the *URA3* marker on 5-FOA and
446 integration of the *bem1 px* mutant was verified by PCR and sequencing,
447 yielding DMY2199.

448 *BEM1*, *bem1 clic-14E* and *bem1 clic-14E px* strains were generated
449 using the pop-in-pop-out strategy⁶⁵. In the first pop-in step, pDM865, pDM906
450 and pDM947 were linearized by digestion with an enzyme recognizing a
451 restriction site within the *BEM1* or *bem1* ORF, then transformed into
452 DMY2105 and selected on SC -URA for recombination at the *BEM1* locus. In
453 the pop-out step, homologous recombination between the wild type *BEM1*
454 and juxtaposed *bem1* mutant occurs randomly, generating some
455 transformants in which the wild type or mutant *bem1* sequence is present at
456 the *BEM1* locus. After counter selection against *URA3* on 5FOA media,
457 transformants containing untagged *BEM1* or *bem1* at the genomic locus were
458 identified by PCR and DNA sequencing.

459 The *cdc24 K513A-3xHA* mutant was generated by directed
460 mutagenesis of pDM032, generating pDM737. The wild type or mutant *cdc24*
461 *K513A-3xHA* were then integrated at the endogenous *CDC24* locus and
462 checked by PCR, sequencing and western blotting using anti-HA antibodies.
463 Supplementary Table 2 contains a list of the yeast strains used in this study.

464 **Protein expression and purification**

465 GST-Bem1, Cdc24-6xHis and derivative mutants were expressed and purified
466 from BI21-CodonPlus (DE3) cells, essentially as previously described ³¹.
467 Briefly, cells were grown in terrific broth at 37 °C until an OD_{600nm} ~3.
468 Expression was induced by the addition of IPTG to 0.3 mM for Bem1 and 0.8
469 mM for Cdc24, after which cells were grown overnight at 18 °C. Cells were
470 then harvested and flash frozen in liquid nitrogen. The cell pellets were
471 subsequently ground to a fine powder in a chilled coffee grinder.

472 For purification of Cdc24-6xHis, room temperature lysis buffer (50 mM
473 Tris-HCL (pH = 8.0), 1 M NaCl, 5 mM imidazole, 5% glycerol, 0.1% tween)
474 supplemented with EDTA-free Protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche, Basel,
475 Switzerland) and 1 mM freshly prepared PMSF was added to the chilled
476 bacterial powder. After sonication on ice, the lysate was centrifuged at
477 70,000x g for 1 hour and the supernatant was loaded on a Ni²⁺-IMAC
478 column. Beads were washed with 50 mM Tris-HCL (pH = 8.0), 1 M NaCl, 20
479 mM imidazole, 5% glycerol, 0.1% tween and Cdc24-6xHis was eluted with 20
480 mM Tris-HCL (pH = 8.0), 300 mM NaCl, 500 mM imidazole. Cdc24-6xHis was
481 extensively dialysed (50 mM Tris-HCL (pH = 8.0), 150 mM NaCl) then flash
482 frozen in liquid nitrogen for storage. The same protocol was used to purify

483 bem1 CLICs-6xHis, except that the lysis buffer was modified (50 mM Tris-
484 HCL (pH = 7.5), 1 M NaCl, 5 mM imidazole, 5% glycerol, 0.5% tween). The
485 protein was analyzed on a 16% Tris-tricine gel ⁶⁶.

486 For GST-Bem1 purification, a modified lysis buffer was used (50 mM
487 Tris- HCL (pH = 7.5), 1 M NaCl, 0.1% Tween-20 and 5 mM DTT, EDTA-free
488 Protease inhibitor cocktail and 1 mM freshly prepared PMSF). The lysate was
489 sonicated, centrifuged as above and the supernatant was added to
490 glutathione agarose beads for 2 hours in batch. After extensive washing (50
491 mM Tris-HCL (pH = 7.5), 250 mM KCl, 0.05% Tween-20 and 0.5 mM DTT),
492 the beads were equilibrated in 3C protease buffer (50 mM Hepes (pH = 7.6),
493 250 mM KCl, 0.05% Tween-20 and 0.5 mM DTT). The GST tag was digested
494 directly on the glutathione agarose using the same buffer, supplemented with
495 rhinovirus 3C protease. The flow-through, containing untagged Bem1, was
496 dialysed extensively in 50 mM Tris-HCL (pH = 7.5), 150 mM NaCl then flash
497 frozen in liquid nitrogen for storage.

498 Cdc42 lacking the C-terminal CAAX sequence was tagged with 10xHis and
499 expressed and purified from BI21-CodonPlus (DE3) cells. Room temperature
500 lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCL (pH = 7.5), 1 M NaCl, 25 mM imidazole),
501 supplemented with EDTA-free Protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche, Basel,
502 Switzerland) and 1 mM freshly prepared PMSF was added to bacterial
503 powder. The lysate was stirred, sonicated and centrifuged as described
504 above, and the supernatant was loaded onto a Ni²⁺-IMAC column. The
505 column was washed in 50 mM Tris-HCL (pH = 7.5), 1 M NaCl, 25 mM
506 imidazole, and Cdc42-10xHis was eluted in 20 mM Tris-HCL (pH = 7.5), 300
507 mM NaCl and 250 mM imidazole. To obtain nucleotide-free Cdc42, the protein

508 was dialysed in 20 mM Tris-HCL (pH = 7.5), 150 mM NaCl, 5% glycerol
509 supplemented with 25mM EDTA, then dialyzed extensively (20 mM Tris-HCL
510 (pH = 7.5), 150 mM NaCl, 5% glycerol). Samples were flash frozen in liquid
511 nitrogen for storage.

512 **Liposome preparation**

513 Liposomes were prepared freshly from lipid stocks (Avanti Polar Lipids Inc.,
514 Alabaster, USA). The origin and composition of the lipids is provided in
515 Supplemental Table 3. Lipids dissolved in chloroform were lyophilized for 15
516 minutes at 45 °C to evaporate the chloroform. Lipids were washed in 50 µL
517 ultra-pure water and lyophilized until dry. Lipids were then resuspended in 20
518 mM Tris (pH = 7.5), 150 mM NaCl to have a final lipid concentration of 2 mM.
519 After 6 cycles of freeze-thaw in liquid nitrogen and at 45°C in a water bath,
520 liposomes were sonicated for 15 minutes in a bath sonicator. This method
521 yielded monodisperse preparations of ~100 nm diameter liposomes, as
522 assessed by dynamic light scattering.

523 **Liposome floatation assays**

524 The final concentration of liposomes was 0.5 mM in floatation experiments,
525 while protein was 2 µM unless indicated differently. Liposomes were mixed
526 with buffer alone (20 mM Tris (pH = 7.5), 150 mM NaCl), or with protein, in a
527 final volume of 150 µL in a 500 µL polycarbonate ultracentrifuge tube. The
528 mixtures were incubated at room temperature for 30 minutes. 100µL of a 75
529 % sucrose solution was mixed with the protein-liposome mixture to give a final
530 sucrose concentration of 30%, which was gently overlaid with 200 µL of 25%
531 sucrose. Finally, 50 µL of 20 mM Tris (pH = 7.5), 150 mM NaCl was overlaid

532 to give a final volume of 500 μ L. Tubes were centrifuged for 1 hour at 23°C at
533 120,000x g. 100 μ L of supernatant and 200 μ L of pellet were precipitated in
534 10% Tri-Chloroacetic Acid. The pellet was resuspended in 15 μ L of SDS-
535 PAGE sample buffer (65 mM Tris-HCl (pH = 6.8), 2% SDS, 10% glycerol, 5%
536 β -mercapto ethanol, 100 mM β -glycerophosphate, 50 mM sodium fluoride),
537 boiled for 5 minutes, analyzed by SDS-PAGE and stained with Coomassie
538 brilliant blue R250. The intensity of the protein bands in the supernatant and
539 pellet were analyzed using a Bio-Rad Gel Doc system running Image Lab
540 software.

541 The percentage of floating protein was calculated using the equation:

542 $\left\{ \frac{\text{Supernatant}^{\text{band intensity}}}{\text{Supernatant}^{\text{band intensity}} + \text{Pellet}^{\text{band intensity}}} \right\} * 100$

543 **Solid-state NMR spectroscopy**

544 Liposomes containing DMPC-d54, DMPS and brain PI(4)P were prepared by
545 mixing powders in organic solvent (chloroform/methanol, 2:1) in the presence
546 or absence of the Bem1 CLIC motifs (amino acids 1-72) and adjusting the
547 lipid/protein ratio (25:1). Solvent was evaporated under a flow of N₂ to obtain
548 a thin lipid film. Lipids were rehydrated with ultrapure water before
549 lyophilisation. The lipid powder was hydrated with an appropriate amount of
550 deuterium-depleted water (80 % hydration ratio) and homogenized by three
551 cycles of vortexing, freezing (liquid nitrogen, -196°C, 1 min) and thawing
552 (40°C in a water bath, 10 min). This protocol generated a milky suspension of
553 micrometer-sized multilamellar vesicles.

554 ²H NMR spectroscopy experiments were performed using a Bruker
555 Avance II 500 MHz WB (11.75 T) spectrometer. ²H NMR spectroscopy

556 experiments on ^2H -labelled DMPC were performed at 76 MHz with a phase-
557 cycled quadrupolar echo pulse sequence ($90^\circ\text{x-t-}90^\circ\text{y-t-acq}$). Acquisition
558 parameters were as follows: spectral window of 500 kHz for ^2H NMR
559 spectroscopy, $p/2$ pulse width of 3.90 ms for ^2H , interpulse delays (t) were of
560 40 ms, recycled delays of 2 s for ^2H ; 3000 scans were used for ^2H NMR
561 spectroscopy. Spectra were processed using a Lorentzian line broadening of
562 300 Hz for ^2H NMR spectra before Fourier transformation from the top of the
563 echo. Samples were equilibrated for 30 min at a given temperature before
564 data acquisition. All spectra were processed and analyzed using Bruker
565 Topspin 3.2 software. Spectral moments were calculated for each
566 temperature using the NMR Depaker 1.0rc1 software [Copyright (C) 2009
567 Sébastien Buchoux]. Orientational order parameters (S_{CD}) were calculated
568 from experimental quadrupolar splittings ($\Delta\nu_{\text{Q}}$) after spectra simulations
569 according to equation 1 :

$$570 \quad 1 \quad \Delta\nu_{\text{Q}}\theta = 32A_{\text{Q}}3\cos 2\theta - 12SCD$$

571 in which A_{Q} , the quadrupolar coupling constant for methyl moieties is 167 kHz,
572 and θ is the angle between the magnetic field and the bilayer normal.

573 **Western blotting**

574 Samples for Western blotting were prepared by collecting 1 OD $_{600\text{nm}}$ of mid-
575 logarithmic phase cells, adding glass beads and flash freezing in liquid
576 nitrogen³⁷. Samples were vigorously agitated in 60 μL SDS sample buffer
577 supplemented with 1 mM fresh PMSF. Samples were immediately boiled and
578 analyzed by SDS-PAGE, Western blotting and probed with appropriate
579 antibodies.

580 **Imaging**

581 Cells were imaged using a wide-field inverted microscope (Zeiss Axiovert
582 200M) with a 100× objective (oil, numerical aperture [NA] 1.4, plan Apo), and
583 an electron-multiplying charge-coupled device (EMCCD) camera (Evolve;
584 Photometrics, Tuscon, AZ). MetaMorph 7.7 software (Molecular Devices,
585 Sunnyvale, CA) was used for image acquisition and analysis. Filter sets
586 LF488-B-000 (FFO2- 482/18, FFO1-525/45, Di01-R488 [exciter, emitter,
587 dichroic]) and LF561-A-000 (FFO2-561/14, FFO1-609/54, Di01-R561) were
588 used to sequentially image cells expressing Bem1-GFP and Cdc24-mCherry
589 ⁶⁷.

590 **Image analysis**

591 Deconvolution was performed for visualization, where indicated, using a plug-
592 in running within Metamorph software ⁶⁸. All Images were analyzed and
593 processed using ImageJ software on raw data, not on deconvolved images.

594 To calculate the enrichment of PI4P at the plasma membrane, the integrated
595 intensity (II) and area (A) of the entire cell (E) and the cytosol (C) were
596 determined for each cell after background subtraction. Next, the mean gray
597 value of the plasma membrane (MGVP) for each cell was determined as
598 follows: $MGVP = (IIE-IIC)/(AE-AC)$. The values were plotted using GraphPad
599 Prism software.

600 To calculate the enrichment of Bem1 at the pole, the mean gray value of the
601 pole (MGVP) and the cell (MGVC) were determined for each cell using an
602 empirically determined threshold value that enabled the cell pole to be

603 identified. Next, the MGVP was normalised as follows: normalised mean gray
604 value of the pole = $(MGVP-MGVC)/MGVC$. The values were plotted using
605 GraphPad Prism software.

606 **Cdc24 GEF assay**

607 Förster resonance energy transfer (FRET) between Cdc42 and N-
608 methylantraniloyl-GTP (mant-GTP) was measured to monitor the Cdc24-
609 mediated GDP to mant-GTP exchange reaction on Cdc42 in real time. Trp97
610 of Cdc42, which is in close proximity to the GTP binding site, was excited
611 using 280 nm wavelength light using a 5 nm bandwidth. The FRET signal was
612 detected at the emission peak of mant-GTP, at 440 nm using an 8 nm
613 bandwidth. All fluorescence measurements were performed at 27°C on a
614 Tecan Infinite M1000PRO plate reader (Tecan Group, Männedorf, Germany)
615 in 384-well, non-binding microplates (Greiner Bio-One, Courtaboeuf, France),
616 in a 10 µl reaction volume. The final buffer conditions were 20 mM Tris-HCl
617 (pH = 8.0), 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM DTT, 5 mM MgCl₂, 100 nM mant-GTP,
618 supplemented with 100 µM GMP-PNP nucleotide. Cdc24 was used at a final
619 concentration of 60 nM after 30 min room temperature pre-incubation with
620 Bem1 at 5 µM. The reaction was initiated by adding Cdc42 to 9 µM final
621 concentration and exchange was monitored for at least 2000 s with 15 s
622 intervals. For each sample, a mock reaction was used in the absence of GDP-
623 loaded Cdc42 to normalise for bleaching and to subtract possible sources of
624 background noise such as Cdc24-mant-GTP interaction. The intrinsic GDP to
625 mant-GTP exchange rate of Cdc42 was determined in the absence of Cdc24.

626 Fitting of the kinetic trace data was performed in GraphPad Prism using a
627 single exponential equation and the observed kinetic rate constants were
628 compared.

$$629 \quad I = I_{\text{Max}} + (I_{\text{Max}} - I_{\text{Min}})(1 - e^{-k_{\text{obs}}t}),$$

630 where I is the fluorescence intensity change, I_{Max} is the maximal
631 fluorescence intensity, I_{Min} is the minimal fluorescence intensity, k_{obs} is the
632 observed kinetic rate constant and t is the time in seconds.

633 **Cdc24 affinity for anionic lipids in the presence of Bem1**

634 The affinity of Cdc24 for anionic lipids in the presence of Bem1 was estimated
635 using nonlinear regression analysis⁶⁹. In the analysis, we assume an
636 approximate initial K_d between Cdc24 and anionic lipids of 1 μM¹⁴. A
637 nonlinear regression fit with equation 2 was used to obtain the corresponding
638 K_d for the Cdc24 interaction with anionic lipids in the presence of Bem1:

$$639 \quad (2) \quad Y = N_u + (N_b - N_u) \cdot \frac{\{x + (P) + K_d\} - [\{x + (P) + K_d\}^2 - (4 \cdot x \cdot (P))]^{0.5}}{2 \cdot (P)}$$

640 where Y is the percentage of Cdc24 found in the supernatant at the lipid
641 concentration P. P was chosen based on the following: first, around 30% of
642 Cdc24 interacted with anionic liposomes (see Figure 5B). Second, the PH
643 domain is assumed to interact with 3-5 lipid molecules⁷⁰. In the floatation
644 experiments involving Bem1 and Cdc24 shown in Figure 5B, C and D, 1 μM of
645 Cdc24 was used, so P = [Cdc24] * (30%) * 3 lipid molecules = 0.9 μM lipids that
646 are estimated to interact with Cdc24. In the equation, N_u and N_b are the
647 maximum unbound and bound percentage of Cdc24, respectively, and x is the
648 Bem1 concentration.

649 **Single Particle Tracking Photoactivation Localization Microscopy**
650 **(sptPALM)**

651 Live cells were imaged using a widefield, inverted microscope (Axiovert 200M;
652 Carl Zeiss, Marly le Roi, France) equipped with a 100X TIRFM objective (oil,
653 NA 1.46, plan Apo), iLas² TIRF system (Roper Scientific) and an EMCCD
654 camera (Evolve; Photometrics, Tuscon, Arizona). The imaging system was
655 maintained at a constant temperature of 25°C using a custom designed
656 incubator (Box and Cube, Life Imaging System, Basel, Switzerland).
657 MetaMorph 7.7 software (Molecular Devices, Sunnyvale, USA) was used for
658 image acquisition and analysis.

659 For *in vivo* imaging, cells expressing mEOS-Cdc42 were grown to mid-
660 log phase and imaged at 25°C. Coverslips (High precision 18 x 18 mm, 1.5 H,
661 Marienfeld, Lauda-Königshofen, Germany) were washed overnight in a
662 solution of 1M HCl and 1M HNO₃ then rinsed three times the next day in
663 ultrapure water. After a 30-minute incubation in water, then 30 minutes in
664 ethanol, the coverslips were dried and used for imaging. Imaging was
665 performed in a highly oblique illumination (HiLo) mode. mEOS-Cdc42 cells
666 were imaged using a 561 nm laser with additional continuous
667 photoconversion using a 405 nm laser. The 405 nm laser was maintained at
668 low power (0.3-1 µW) for adequate separation of stochastically converted
669 molecules. The iLas² system was used in arc mode for live imaging and
670 ellipse mode for fixed samples. These settings set the pattern of rotation of
671 the lasers on the back focal plane of the TIRF objective. The fluorescence
672 was collected on the EMCCD camera after passing through a combination of
673 dichroic and emission filters (D101-R561 and F39-617 respectively; Chroma,

674 Bellows Falls, VT). Images were acquired in streaming mode at 50 Hz (20 ms
675 exposure time). During *in vivo* imaging, 16,000 to 20,000 images were
676 collected for each cell. Multicolour fluorescent 100 nm beads (Tetraspeck,
677 Invitrogen) were used as fiduciary markers in all super-resolution imaging
678 experiments to register long-term acquisitions for lateral drift correction.

679 For fixed-cell imaging, cells were grown to log phase ($OD_{600\text{ nm}}$ of <0.8)
680 and fixed with 3.7% formaldehyde and 0.2% glutaraldehyde for 10 minutes.
681 After washing in PBS three times, cells were resuspended in PBS and directly
682 used for imaging. Image acquisition of fixed cells was performed using the
683 same protocol as for living cells, as described above. 32,000 to 40,000
684 images were acquired per cell, at which point the pool of photoconvertible
685 single molecules was completely depleted.

686

687 **Single particle localization, tracking and nanocluster detection by** 688 **Voronoi Tessellation**

689 Image stacks collected for each sptPALM experiment were analyzed using a
690 custom-written software operating as a plugin within MetaMorph software,
691 PalmTracer, to compute single molecule localizations and dynamics. Diffusion
692 coefficients obtained for each strain are listed in Table 1. Single molecules
693 were localized in each image frame and tracked over time using wavelet
694 segmentation and simulated annealing algorithms²². The sptPALM image
695 resolution, defined as $FWHM = 2.3 \times$ the pointing accuracy, was estimated to
696 48 nm. The pointing accuracy, measured to be 20.86 nm, was computed from
697 the acquisition of mEOS-Cdc42 in fixed cells by bidimensional Gaussian fitting

698 of the spatial distribution of 80 single molecules localized for more than 20
699 consecutive time points. Tracking data and subsequent MSDs were
700 generated from the membrane-bound population of mEOS-Cdc42. Proteins in
701 the freely diffusing cytosolic pool of mEOS-Cdc42 were not tracked in these
702 experiments because cytosolic diffusion is much higher than diffusion in a
703 membrane environment, and would not be localized and tracked with 20 ms
704 exposure time.

705 In our observations, all MSDs have a quasi-linear dependence at short
706 times, enabling computation of the instantaneous diffusion coefficient (D) per
707 molecule by linear regression on the first four points of the MSD of all
708 trajectories that are longer than 6 consecutive frames.

709 Cdc42 nanoclusters were quantified from the reconstructed super-
710 resolution images of fixed cells using SR-Tesseler analysis²². This software is
711 based on Voronoï tessellation, wherein single molecule localizations are
712 treated as seeds around which polygons are assembled. In our analysis, we
713 defined regions of interest (ROI) as the pole or non-pole of the cell after visual
714 inspection of the widefield 491 nm image acquired at the outset of the
715 experiment. The surface area of the polygon drawn around the detected
716 single molecule is proportional to the local molecular density, such that the
717 area of the polygon decreases as the local density of single molecule
718 localizations increases. PALM images were corrected for single-molecule
719 blinking within the SR-Tesseler software²². This takes into account mEOS
720 photophysics, and a pointing accuracy of 20 nm as a radius of search, which
721 would otherwise overestimate the number of single molecule detections. After
722 blinking correction, nanoclusters were defined as those areas containing a

723 minimum of five localizations at a local density that was at least two-fold
724 higher than the average density within the selected ROI. Nanocluster
725 characteristics including diameter, area and the number of localizations were
726 exported from SR-Tesseler into Excel (Microsoft) for further statistical
727 analysis.

728 **Statistical Analysis**

729 The diffusion coefficients were represented as box plots displaying the
730 median as a line and the percentiles (25–75%). Statistical comparisons were
731 made using a non-parametric, two-tailed Mann–Whitney rank sum test. Non-
732 Gaussian distributions of nanocluster sizes were represented by data-points
733 displaying median as a line and the percentiles (25–75%) and also compared
734 using a non-parametric, two-tailed Mann–Whitney rank sum test. Statistical
735 analyses were based on cluster area values calculated by SR-Tesseler. Only
736 areas greater than 2000 nm² were used, corresponding to a diameter of 48
737 nm, the resolution of our imaging system.

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752 **Author contributions**

753 DMcC conceived the study. All authors designed experiments and analyzed
754 the data. JM and AML performed the experiments, with the exception of NMR
755 spectroscopy, which was performed by DM and analyzed by AL and BH.
756 DMcC wrote the manuscript.

757 **Competing interests**

758 The authors declare no competing interests.

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964 **Figure legends**

965 **Fig. 1. PI4P and PS are essential for the anisotropic plasma membrane**
966 **targeting of the Cdc42 GEF-scaffold complex *in vivo*.**

967 **a**, Representative images of Bem1-GFP and the PS marker LactC2-GFP
968 (cyan) in wild type and *cho1* Δ cells. Merged DIC-fluorescence images are also
969 shown. Images show average intensity projections of deconvolved z-stacks.
970 Scale bars, 2 μ m in all images. **b**, Frequency of cells displaying polarized
971 Bem1-GFP signal in wild type and *cho1* Δ cells ($n > 100$ cells counted in each of
972 3 independent experiments). Bars represent mean and SD. Student t-tests
973 were performed where confidence is $**p < 0.01$). **b**, Imaging of the PI4P probe
974 GFP-2xPH^{Osh2} in wild type and *cho1* Δ cells. Images show average intensity
975 projections of deconvolved z-stacks. **d**, Scatter dot plot showing PI4P levels at
976 the plasma membrane (see experimental procedure for details of the
977 quantification) in wild type and *cho1* Δ cells ($n =$ around 100 cells observed
978 over 3 experiments). Bars represent mean and SD. Mann-Whitney tests were
979 performed where confidence is $****p < 0.0001$). **e**, Images of Bem1-GFP (cyan)
980 in *cho1* Δ *9xMyc-AID-stt4* cells after 30 min treatment with or without 0.5 mM
981 auxin. Merged DIC-fluorescence images are also shown. Images are average
982 intensity projections of deconvolved z-stacks. **f**, Frequency of cells with
983 polarized Bem1-GFP signal or Bem1-GFP in puncta in *cho1* Δ *9xMyc-AID-stt4*
984 cells treated with or without auxin as shown in E ($n > 100$ cells counted in each
985 of 6 independent experiments). Bars represent mean and SD. Student t-tests
986 were performed where confidence is $***p < 0.001$ and $****p < 0.0001$). **g**, Images
987 of Bem1-GFP (cyan) and Cdc24-mCherry (red) signals in *cho1* Δ *9xMyc-AID-*
988 *stt4* cells with or without auxin as shown in E. Merged DIC-fluorescence

989 images are also shown. Images show maximum intensity projections of z-
990 stacks. **h**, Graphs showing the line-scans (yellow dashed line in G) of Bem1-
991 GFP and Cdc24-mCherry signals. The top and bottom graphs correspond to
992 the top and bottom images in G, respectively. The line-scan reveals the
993 colocalization of Bem1 and Cdc24 at the pole in a non-treated cell and in the
994 puncta in cells treated with auxin.

995 **Fig. 2. Identification of an anionic lipid targeting sequence in Bem1 and**
996 **its effect on the ordering of lipid acyl chains.**

997 **a**, Schematic of the liposome floatation assay. In the assay, liposomes of
998 defined lipid composition were floated through a dense sucrose gradient by
999 ultracentrifugation. Protein that associates with the liposomes become
1000 enriched in the supernatant. **b**, Upper panel. SDS-PAGE stained with
1001 Coomassie blue in which Bem1 is indicated. Lower panel. The liposomes
1002 were composed of 100% phosphatidylcholine (PC), 80% PC and 20%
1003 phosphatidylethanolamine (PE), 95% PC and 5% phosphatidic acid (PA),
1004 95% PC and 5% phosphatidylinositol (PI), 95% PC and 5% PI(4,5)P2
1005 (PI(4,5)P2), 95% PC and 5% PI4P (PI4P), 80% PC and 20%
1006 phosphatidylserine (PS) or 75% PC 20% PS 5% PI4P (PS+PI4P). (S)
1007 supernatant, (P) pellet, Lower panel displays the percentage of Bem1
1008 associated with liposomes containing the indicated lipids from 3 independent
1009 experiments. Error bars display SD. Student t-tests were performed where
1010 confidence is **p<0.01, ***p<0.001 and ****p<0.0001. **c**, Scheme of full-length
1011 Bem1 with its domains and the Bem1 deletion constructs used to identify the
1012 anionic lipid interacting sequences. **d**, Percentage of the indicated bem1
1013 constructs associated with liposomes containing 75% PC, 20% PS and 5%

1014 PI4P. Error bars show SD (n=3 experimental replicates). Student t-tests were
1015 performed where confidence is ***p<0.001. **e**, Lipid ordering determined by ²H
1016 solid-state NMR analysis of liposomes containing PC-d54/PS/PI4P (15:4:1
1017 molar ratio) in the presence or the absence of the Bem1 CLIC motifs.
1018 Calculation of oriented-like spectra from Pake patterns (de-Pake-ing) and
1019 simulation of ²H solid-state NMR spectra were applied to measure individual
1020 quadrupolar splittings for PC-d54 and determine order parameter accurately.

1021 **Fig. 3. The Bem1 CLIC sequence can act as a heterologous plasma**
1022 **membrane targeting signal *in vivo*.**

1023 **a**, Schematic showing Bem1 domains with the lipid interacting motifs including
1024 the cationic lipid interacting clusters (CLICs) and the PX domain. The Bem1
1025 N-terminus contains 3 CLICs. The first cluster (CLIC-1) is composed of 6 K/R
1026 residues, the second cluster (CLIC-2) of 3 K/R residues and the third cluster
1027 (CLIC-3) of 5 K/R residues. The scheme shows the full-length bem1
1028 constructs where none, one or all CLICs were mutated. **b**, Percentage of the
1029 different full-length bem1 clic mutants associated with liposomes containing
1030 75% PC 20% PS and 5% PI4P. Error bars display SD (n=3 experimental
1031 replicates). Student t-tests were performed where confidence is **p<0.01 and
1032 ****p<0.0001. **c**, Fluorescence intensity change associated with the nucleotide
1033 exchange of GDP-Cdc42 for mant-GTP Cdc42. Fluorescence was measured
1034 after the addition of GDP-Cdc42 to reactions containing Mant-GTP (100 nM),
1035 GMP-PNP (100 μM) and the proteins indicated. **d**, Ten-fold serial dilutions of
1036 cells and subsequent colony formation on the indicated plates, where
1037 expression of wild type *GALp-CDC42* is either induced in the presence of Gal
1038 or repressed in Dex. Note how mutation of the wild type Cdc42 (KKSKK) to

1039 MMSMM is lethal (see blue box), whereas appending the Bem1 CLIC-1 motif
1040 to this *cdc42* mutant restores viability (red box). **e**, Representative images of
1041 the mEOS-*cdc42* mutants signal (cyan) after inducing the expression of
1042 *GAL1p-CDC42* in the presence of Gal or repressing it in the presence of Dex.
1043 The cells in the blue and red boxes correspond to the cells in the blue and red
1044 box in panel **d**. Images are average fluorescence intensity projections.
1045 Merged DIC-fluorescence images are also shown.

1046 **Fig. 4. The Bem1 CLIC sequence is required for Bem1 targeting to the**
1047 **cell pole *in vivo*.**

1048 **a**, Ten-fold serial dilutions of the indicated mutant cells and subsequent
1049 colony formation at the temperatures indicated. Note how mutations on both
1050 the CLICs and PX in *bem1* compromise growth at the restrictive temperature.
1051 **b**, Western blots probed with anti-HA antibody to detect the indicated *bem1*
1052 constructs tagged with 3XHA (top panel). Detection of Ade13 was used as
1053 loading control (bottom panel). **c**, Representative images of the indicated
1054 *bem1*-GFP construct signals (cyan, top panels). The GFP images are average
1055 intensity projections. GFP images were also merged with DIC (bottom
1056 panels). **d**, Frequency of cells with polarized Bem1-GFP fluorescence ($n > 100$
1057 cells in each of at least 3 independent experiments). Bars display the mean
1058 and SD. Student t-tests were performed where confidence is $**p < 0.01$ and
1059 $***p < 0.001$). **e**, Scatter dot plot showing the level of the indicated *bem1*-GFP
1060 construct at the cell pole ($n > 100$ cells observed over 3 experiments). Bars
1061 indicate mean and SD. Mann-Whitney tests were performed where
1062 confidence is $***p < 0.001$ and $****p < 0.0001$).

1063 **Fig. 5. Multivalent protein-lipid interactions drive avid targeting of the**
1064 **Bem1-Cdc24 complex to anionic lipids.**

1065 **a**, Scheme of Bem1 and Cdc24 proteins indicating the relative position of the
1066 mutations in the lipid tethering motifs (black x). **b**, Percentage of full-length
1067 Cdc24 and *cdc24* ph domain mutant (*cdc24* ph) associated with liposomes
1068 containing 75% PC 20% PS and 5% PI4P. Error bars display SD (n=3
1069 experimental replicates). Student t-tests were performed where confidence is
1070 $***p < 0.001$. **c**, Percentage of Cdc24 and *cdc24* ph mutant associated with
1071 liposomes of the composition shown in B in the presence of the indicated
1072 *bem1* protein. Note how additive mutations in the Bem1 lipid binding
1073 sequences reduce the percentage of Cdc24 associated with the liposomes. **d**,
1074 Percentage of Cdc24 and *cdc24* ph associated with liposomes of the
1075 composition shown in B as a function of the indicated *bem1* protein
1076 concentration. The curves denote the regression fit of the data to equation 2
1077 in the materials and methods. Error bars correspond to SD (n=3 experimental
1078 replicates). Student t-tests were performed where confidence is $***p < 0.001$
1079 and $****p < 0.0001$. **e**, Ten-fold serial dilutions and subsequent colony
1080 formation of the indicated mutant cells at the indicated temperatures. **f**, DIC
1081 images of the indicated *bem1* and *cdc24* mutants showing the increased
1082 morphological defects ensuing from loss of lipid tethering in the *bem1* and
1083 *cdc24* mutants. **g**, Western blots probed with anti-HA antibody to detect
1084 Cdc24 or *cdc24* ph tagged with 3XHA in the indicated mutant strains (top
1085 panel). Detection of Ade13 was used as a loading control (bottom panel).

1086 **Fig. 6. The Bem1 CLIC motifs are required for reduced Cdc42 diffusion,**
1087 **large nanoclusters and optimal Cdc42 activation at the cell pole.**

1088 **a**, Scheme of the *bem1* mutants used for imaging. **b**, Global average MSD
1089 curves of mEOS-Cdc42 in the strains indicated at the Pole (P) and Non-Pole
1090 (NP) of cells. Trajectories longer than 6 frames were analyzed. Number of
1091 trajectories analyzed: *BEM1* (N=11 cells: NP: 1854 tracks; P: 706); *bem1 clic-*
1092 *14E px* (N=10 cells: NP: 1793 tracks; P: 908); *bem1 clic-14E* (N=13 cells: NP:
1093 1714 tracks; P: 975). **c**, D coefficients of mEOS-Cdc42 in the strains indicated
1094 (in box-plots displaying the median (line), the 25-75 percentiles (box) and the
1095 mean (cross)), which were compared using a non-parametric, two-tailed
1096 Mann–Whitney rank sum test. The resulting P-values are indicated as follows:
1097 ns, $P > 0.05$; * $P < 0.05$; ** $P < 0.01$, *** $P < 0.001$, **** $P < 0.0001$. **d**, SR-Tesseler
1098 images of mEOS-Cdc42 nanocluster organization in *BEM1* (5312 localizations
1099 shown in image) and *bem1 clic-14E px* cells (3739 localizations shown).
1100 Insets show mEOS-Cdc42 after 491 nm widefield laser excitation to identify
1101 the cell pole. Scale bar: 2 μm . A zoom of the pole region shows the
1102 organization of the detected nanoclusters, circled in light blue, in the strains
1103 indicated. Scale bar in the zoom: 60 nm. **e**, Distribution of nanocluster area at
1104 the pole (P) and non-pole (NP) regions of *BEM1* (diameter NP: 59 nm \pm 1 nm
1105 (s.e.m); P: 74 nm \pm 3,2 nm) (N=16 cells. NP: 570 clusters; P: 162 clusters)
1106 and *bem1 clic14E px* cells (diameter NP: 59 nm \pm 1,5 nm (s.e.m); P: 57 nm \pm
1107 2,4 nm) (N=15 cells. NP: 421 clusters; P: 141 clusters). Data are presented as
1108 scatter dot-plots displaying the median as a line and the 25-75 percentiles.
1109 Data were compared using non-parametric, two-tailed Mann–Whitney rank
1110 sum test. **f**, Active Cdc42-GTP levels were quantified in the strains indicated
1111 using a *gic2*₍₁₋₂₀₈₎-yeGFP probe. Bars indicate mean and SD (n<30 cells

1112 observed over 2 experiments). Mann-Whitney tests were performed where
1113 confidence is **** $p < 0.0001$.

1114 **Fig. 7. Schematic illustrating the reciprocal relationship between Cdc42**
1115 **regulators and the membrane environment.**

1116 1) The Bem1-Cdc24 complex is recruited to the plasma membrane via
1117 multivalent interactions with anionic lipids. The CLIC motifs in Bem1 provide
1118 the strongest affinity for anionic lipids at this step.

1119 2) Upon their recruitment to anionic lipids, the Bem1 CLIC motifs influence the
1120 membrane environment by increasing acyl chain order and rigidifying the local
1121 membrane environment.

1122 **Supplementary Fig. 1.**

1123 **a**, Scatter dot plot showing the level of Bem1-GFP signal at the cell pole. ($n >$
1124 100 cells observed from 3 experiments). Bars correspond to mean and SD.
1125 Mann-Whitney tests were performed where confidence is **** $p < 0.0001$). **b**,
1126 Ten-fold serial dilutions and subsequent colony formation of cells of the
1127 indicated genotype. Cells were grown at 30°C for two days on YPD plates
1128 with or without 0.5 mM auxin. **c**, Ten-fold serial dilutions and subsequent
1129 colony formation of cells of the indicated genotype. Cells were grown at 30°C
1130 for three days on SCD plates with or without 0.1 mM choline. **d**,
1131 Representative images of a GFP-tagged PI4P probe signal (GFP-2xPH^{Osh2})
1132 (cyan) in *cho1Δ*, *9xMyc-AID-stt4* cells after 2h treatment with or without 0.5
1133 mM auxin. Merged DIC-fluorescence images are also shown. Images show
1134 average intensity projections of deconvolved z-stacks. **e**, Scatter dot plot of

1135 PI4P levels in *cho1Δ 9xMyc-AID-stt4* cells after 2h treatment with or without
1136 0.5 mM auxin (n>80 cells in 3 independent experiments). Bars correspond to
1137 mean and SD. Mann-Whitney tests were performed where confidence is
1138 ****p<0.0001. **f**, Western blots probed with anti-Myc antibody (top panel) to
1139 detect AID-stt4, anti-GFP antibody (middle panel) to detect Bem1 or anti-
1140 Ade13 antibody (bottom panel) as a loading control. Note that Bem1 levels in
1141 *cho1Δ, 9xMyc-AID-stt4* cells treated with auxin for 2h remain similar to the
1142 wild type.

1143 **Supplementary Fig. 2.**

1144 **a**, Upper panel. SDS-PAGE stained with Coomassie blue displaying BSA.
1145 Lower panel. Quantification of the percentage of BSA associated with
1146 liposomes containing the lipids indicated. Error bars display SD (n=3
1147 experimental replicates). **b**, Observed kinetic rate constants of GEF loading of
1148 mant-GTP Cdc42. Values were obtained by fitting trace data to a single
1149 exponential equation. Error bars show SD. Values were compared using
1150 Student t-tests. **c**, and **d**, Ten-fold serial dilutions of the cells indicated were
1151 grown at the temperatures displayed for three days. **e**, Alignment of the
1152 second β sheet in the PH domain of the proteins indicated. Note how a
1153 conserved cationic residue is followed by a hydrophobic patch.

1154

1154 **Tables and their legends**

1155 **Supplementary table 1. Plasmid constructs.**

Name	Description	Reference
pDM256	pGEX6P2 <i>GST-BEM1</i>	³¹
pDM272	pET21 <i>Cdc24-6xHis</i>	This study
pDM469	pET21 <i>cdc42ΔCAIL-10xHis</i>	This study
pDM514	pGEX6P2 <i>GST-bem1 PX-PB1 (285-551)</i>	This study
pDM516	pGEX6P2 <i>GST-bem1ΔPB1 (1-412)</i>	This study
pDM548	pGEX6P2 <i>GST-bem1 PX (266-413)</i>	This study
pDM577	pGEX6P2 <i>GST-bem1 SH3-1 SH3-2 PX (73-413)</i>	This study
pDM585	pMK38 <i>pKan-pCUP1-9xMyc-AID</i>	Helle Ulrich's lab
pDM589	<i>pTIR4::LEU2</i>	Doug Koshland's lab
pDM600	pGEX6P2 <i>GST-bem1 clic-14A (K3A, K6A, K9A, R10A, K16A, R18A, K36A, K39A, R44A, K54A, R57A, K62A, R64A, K68A)</i>	This study
pDM602	pGEX6P2 <i>GST-bem1 clic-6A (K3A, K6A, K9A, R10A, K16A, R18A)</i>	This study
pDM604	pGEX6P2 <i>GST-bem1 clic-3A (K36A, K39A, R44A)</i>	This study
pDM606	pGEX6P2 <i>GST-bem1 clic-5A (K54A, R57A, K62A, R64A, K68A)</i>	This study
pDM636	pGEX6P2 <i>GST-bem1 clic-14A px (K3A, K6A, K9A, R10A, K16A, R18A, K36A, K39A, R44A, K54A, R57A, K62A, R64A, K68A, K338M, K348A, R349A, R369A)</i>	This study
pDM890	pGEX6P2 <i>GST-bem1 clic-14E (K3E, K6E, K9E, R10E, K16E, R18E, K36E, K39E, R44E, K54E, R57E, K62E, R64E, K68E)</i>	This study
pDM683	pET21 <i>cdc24 ph (K513A)</i>	This study
pDM729	pGEX6P2 <i>GST-bem1 CLICs (1-72)-GAGAGA-PX (266-413)</i>	This study
pDM924	<i>pet21a bem1 CLICs (1-72)</i>	This study
pDM596	pUC57 <i>bem1 clic-14A (K3A, K6A, K9A, R10A, K16A, R18A, K36A, K39A, R44A, K54A, R57A, K62A, R64A, K68A)</i>	This study
pDM597	pUC57 <i>bem1 clic-6A (K3A, K6A, K9A, R10A, K16A, R18A)</i>	This study
pDM598	pUC57 <i>bem1 clic-3A (K36A, K39A, R44A)</i>	This study
pDM599	pUC57 <i>bem1 clic-5A (K54A, R57A, K62A, R64A, K68A)</i>	This study
pDM889	pUC57 <i>bem1 clic-14E (K3E, K6E, K9E, R10E, K16E, R18E, K36E, K39E, R44E, K54E, R57E, K62E, R64E, K68E)</i>	This study
pDM655	pRS315 <i>CDC42p-mEOS-4xGA-cdc42 MMSMK (K183M, K184M, K186M)</i>	This study
pDM656	pRS315 <i>CDC42p-mEOS-4xGA-cdc42 MMSMK (K183M, K184M, K186M, K187M)</i>	This study
pDM803	pRS315 <i>CDC42p-mEOS-4xGA-cdc42 KSKK-bem1 CLIC1-CAIL</i>	This study
pDM805	pRS315 <i>CDC42p-mEOS-4xGA-cdc42 MMSMK-bem1 CLIC1-CAIL (K183M, K184M, K186M)</i>	This study
pDM807	pRS315 <i>CDC42p-mEOS-4xGA-cdc42 MMSMM-bem1 CLIC1-CAIL (K183M, K184M, K186M, K187M)</i>	This study

pDM843	pRS315 <i>CDC42p-mEOS-4xGA-cdc42 KSKM (K187M)</i>	This study
pDM865	pRS306 <i>BEM1p-BEM1</i>	This study
pDM906	pRS306 <i>BEM1p-bem1 clic-14E (K3E, K6E, K9E, R10E, K16E, R18E, K36E, K39E, R44E, K54E, R57E, K62E, R64E, K68E)</i>	This study
pDM947	pRS306 <i>BEM1p-bem1 clic-14E px(K3E, K6E, K9E, R10E, K16E, R18E, K36E, K39E, R44E, K54E, R57E, K62E, R64E, K68E, K338M, K348A, R349A, R369A)</i>	This study
pDM904	pRS416 <i>CYC1p-CDC24-mCherry-6xHis-ADH1t</i>	This study
pDM032	pDK51 <i>CDC24p-CDC24-3xHA:URA3</i>	37
pDM737	pDK51 <i>CDC24p-cdc24K513A-3xHA:URA3</i>	This study
pDM659	pRS416 <i>GFP-2xPH-plcδ</i>	This study* ¹
pDM489	pRS416 <i>Lact-C2-GFP</i>	¹⁹
pDM661	pRS416 <i>GFP-2xPH-osh2</i>	This study* ²

1156 *1 Derived from Addgene 36092 ⁷¹. *2 Derived from Addgene 36095 ⁷².

1157 71. Stefan, C.J., Audhya, A. & Emr, S.D. The yeast synaptojanin-like
 1158 proteins control the cellular distribution of phosphatidylinositol (4,5)-
 1159 bisphosphate. *Mol Biol Cell* **13**, 542-557 (2002).

1160 72. Stefan, C.J. *et al.* Osh proteins regulate phosphoinositide metabolism
 1161 at ER-plasma membrane contact sites. *Cell* **144**, 389-401 (2011).

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1163 **Supplementary table 2. Yeast strains.**

Name	Genotype	Reference
DMY2000	BY4741; MATa, his3-1, leu2-0, met15-0, ura3-0, SSD1-V, bar1Δ::kanMX6, cdc42Δ::CaURA, pDM303 (pRS315 mEOS-CDC42).	This study
DMY2023	BY4741; MATa, his3-1, leu2-0, met15-0, ura3-0, SSD1-V, bem1Δ::kanMX6, cdc42Δ::CaURA3, pDM303 (pRS315 mEOS-CDC42).	This study
DMY2105	BY4741; MATa, his3-1, leu2-0, met15-0, ura3-0	This study
DMY2129	BY4741; MATa, his3-1, leu2-0, met15-0, ura3-0, pGD1-osTIR-LEU2::leu2-0	This study
DMY2144	BY4741; MATa, his3-1, leu2-0, met15-0, ura3-0, pGD1-osTIR-LEU2::leu2-0, pKan-pCUP1-9xMyc-AID-stt4	This study
DMY2168	BY4741; MATa, his3-1, leu2-0, met15-0, ura3-0, pGD1-osTIR-LEU2::leu2-0, pKan-pCUP1-9xMyc-AID-stt4, BEM1-GFP::HIS5	This study
DMY2176	BY4741; MATa, his3-1, leu2-0, met15-0, ura3-0, BEM1-GFP::HIS5	This study
DMY2179	BY4741; MATa, his3-1, leu2-0, met15-0, ura3-0 bem1Δ::CaURA3	This study
DMY2199	BY4741; MATa, his3-1, leu2-0, met15-0, ura3-0, bem1 px (K338M, K348A, R349A, R369A)	This study
DMY2234	BY4741; MATa, his3-1, leu2-0, met15-0, ura3-0, bem1 px (K338M, K348A, R349A, R369A)-GFP::HIS5	This study
DMY2266	BY4741; MATa, his3-1, leu2-0, met15-0, ura3-0, CDC24-3xHA::URA3	This study
DMY2268	BY4741; MATa, his3-1, leu2-0, met15-0, ura3-0, cdc24 ph (K513A)-3xHA::URA3	This study
DMY2307	BY4741; MATa, his3-1, leu2-0, met15-0, ura3-0, cho1Δ::kanMX6	This study
DMY2309	BY4741; MATa, his3-1, leu2-0, met15-0, ura3-0, cho1Δ::kanMX6, BEM1-GFP::HIS5	This study
DMY2323	BY4741; MATa, his3-1, leu2-0, met 15 -0, ura3-0, bem1 px (K338M, K348A, R349A & R369A), CDC24-3xHA::URA3	This study
DMY2325	MATa, his3-1, leu2-0, met 15 -0, ura3-0, bem1 px (K338M, K348A, R349A & R369A), cdc24 ph (K513A)-3xHA::URA3	This study
DMY2340	BY4741; MATa, his3-1, leu2-0, met15-0, ura3-0, pGD1-osTIR-LEU2::leu2-0, pKan-pCUP1-9xMyc-AID-stt4, BEM1-GFP::HIS5, cho1Δ ::kanMX6	This study
DMY2398	BY4741; MATa, his3-1, leu2-0, met15-0, ura3-0, bem1 ΔN-term (Δ1-68)	This study
DMY2470	BY4741; MATa, his3-1, leu2-0, met15-0, ura3-0, bem1 ΔN-term (Δ1-68) px (K338M, K348A, R349A & R369A)	This study
DMY2472	BY4741; MATa, his3-1, leu2-0, met15-0, ura3-0, bem1 clic-14E	This study

DMY2478	BY4741; MATa, <i>his3-1, leu2-0, met15-0, ura3-0, bem1 px (K338M, K348A, R349A, R369A)</i> -3xHA::HIS5	This study
DMY2486	BY4741; MATa, <i>his3-1, leu2-0, met15-0, ura3-0, BEM1</i> -3xHA::HIS5	This study
DMY2496	BY4741; MATa, <i>his3-1, leu2-0, met15-0, ura3-0, bem1 clic-14E</i> -3xHA::HIS5	This study
DMY2498	BY4741; MATa, <i>his3-1, leu2-0, met15-0, ura3-0, bem1 clic-14E-GFP</i> ::HIS5	This study
DMY2502	BY4741; MATa, <i>his3-1, leu2-0, met15-0, ura3-0, bem1 clic-14E px (K338M K348A R349A R369A)</i>	This study
DMY2508	BY4741; MATa, <i>his3-1, leu2-0, met15-0, ura3-0, bem1 clic-14E px (K338M K348A R349A R369A)</i> -GFP::HIS5	This study
DMY2510	BY4741; MATa, <i>his3-1, leu2-0, met15-0, ura3-0, bem1 clic-14E px (K338M K348A R349A R369A)</i> -3xHA::HIS5	This study
DMY2520	BY4741; MATa, <i>his3-1, leu2-0, met15-0, ura3-0, bem1 clic-14E, CDC24</i> -3xHA::URA3	This study
DMY2522	BY4741; MATa, <i>his3-1, leu2-0, met15-0, ura3-0, bem1 clic-14E, cdc24 K513A</i> -3xHA::URA3	This study
DMY2523	BY4741; MATa, <i>his3-1, leu2-0, met15-0, ura3-0, bem1 clic-14E px (K338M, K348A, R349A & R369A), CDC24</i> -3xHA::URA3	This study
DMY2524	BY4741; MATa, <i>his3-1, leu2-0, met15-0, ura3-0, bem1 clic-14E, px (K338M, K348A, R349A & R369A), cdc24 px (K513A)</i> -3xHA::URA3	This study
DMY2532	BY4741; MATa, <i>his3-1, leu2-0, met15-0, ura3-0, pGD1-osTIR-LEU2::leu2-0, pKan-pCUP1-9xMyc-AID-stt4, cho1Δ</i> ::kanMX6	This study

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1165 **Supplementary table 3. Source of lipids and composition.**

Avanti number	Name	Origin	Major structures
840051C	L- α -phosphatidylcholine (PC)	Egg, Chicken	16:0 (32.7%), 18:1 (32%)
840021C	L- α -phosphatidylethanolamine (PE)	Egg, Chicken	18:0 (24.2%)
840101C	L- α -phosphatidic acid (PA)	Egg, Chicken	16:0 (34.2%), 18:1 (31.5%)

840044C	L- α -phosphatidylinositol (PI)	Soy	18:2 (50%)
840046X	L- α -phosphatidylinositol-4,5-bisphosphate (PI(4,5)P ₂)	Brain, Porcine	18:0 (37%), 20:4 (36.8%)
840045X	L- α -phosphatidylinositol-4-phosphate (PI4P)	Brain, Porcine	18:0 (37.3%), 20:4 (33.1%)
840032C	L- α -phosphatidylserine (PS)	Brain, Porcine	18:0 (42%), 18:1 (30%)

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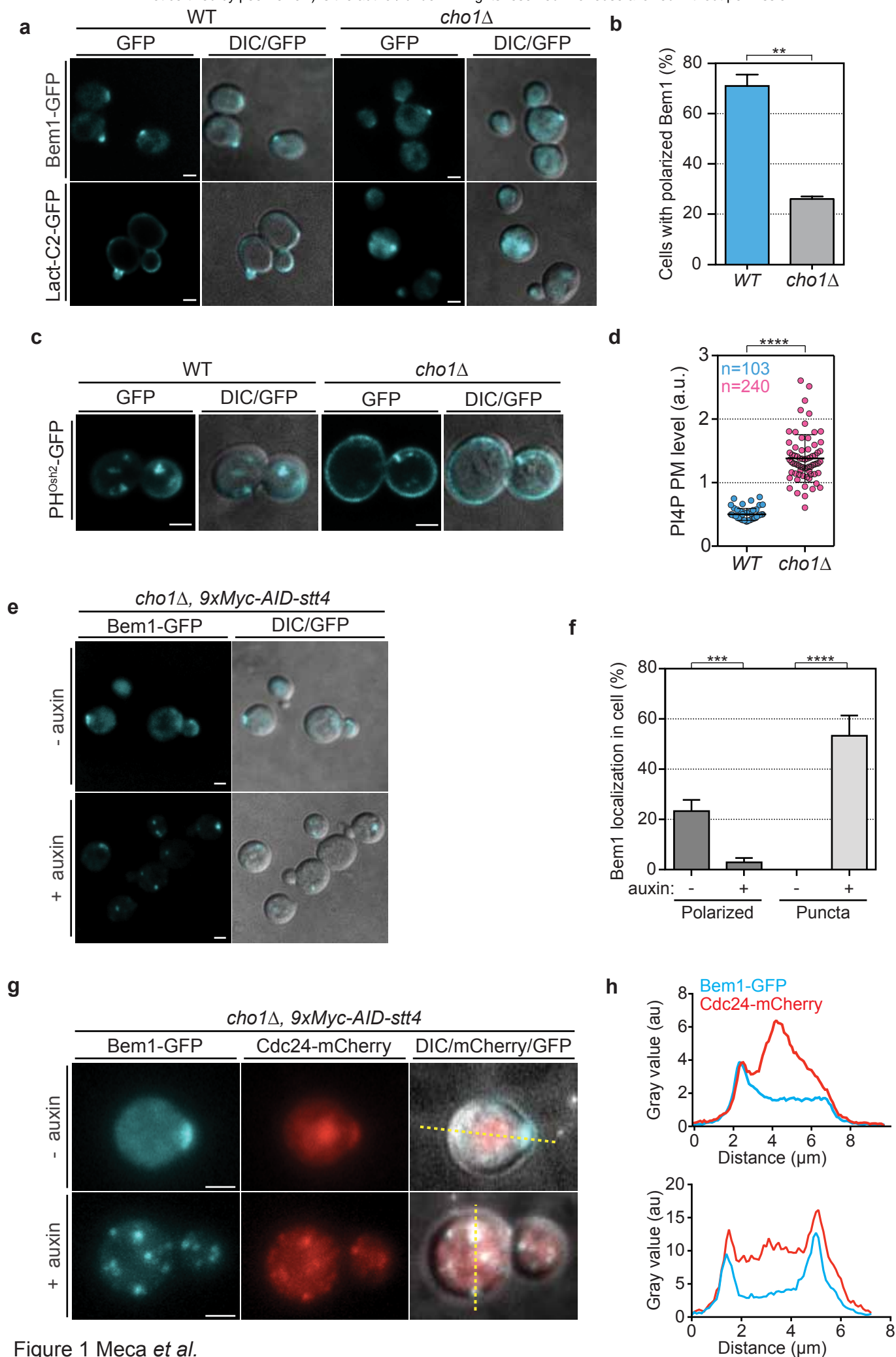


Figure 1 Meca *et al.*

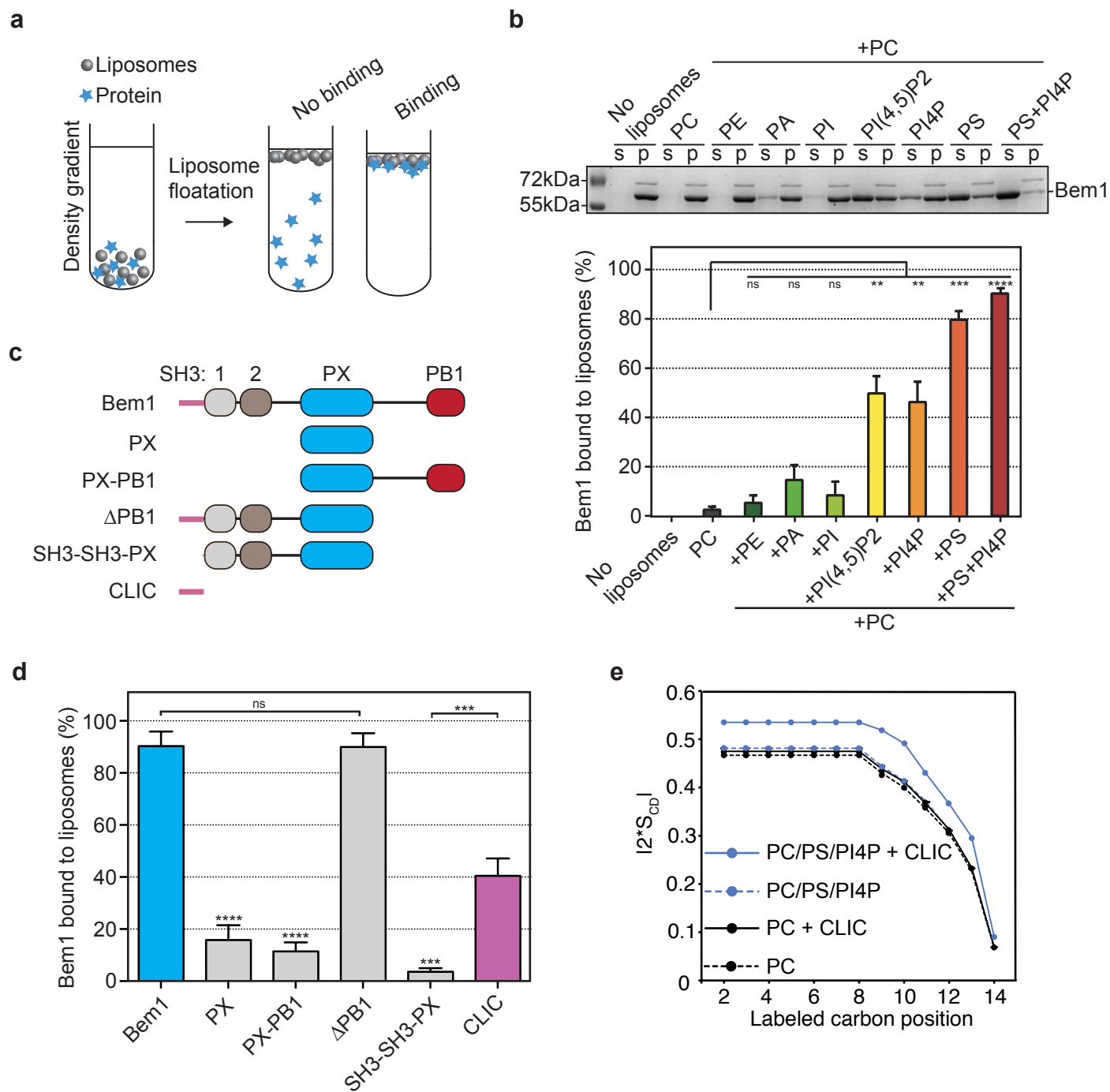


Figure 2 Meca *et al.*

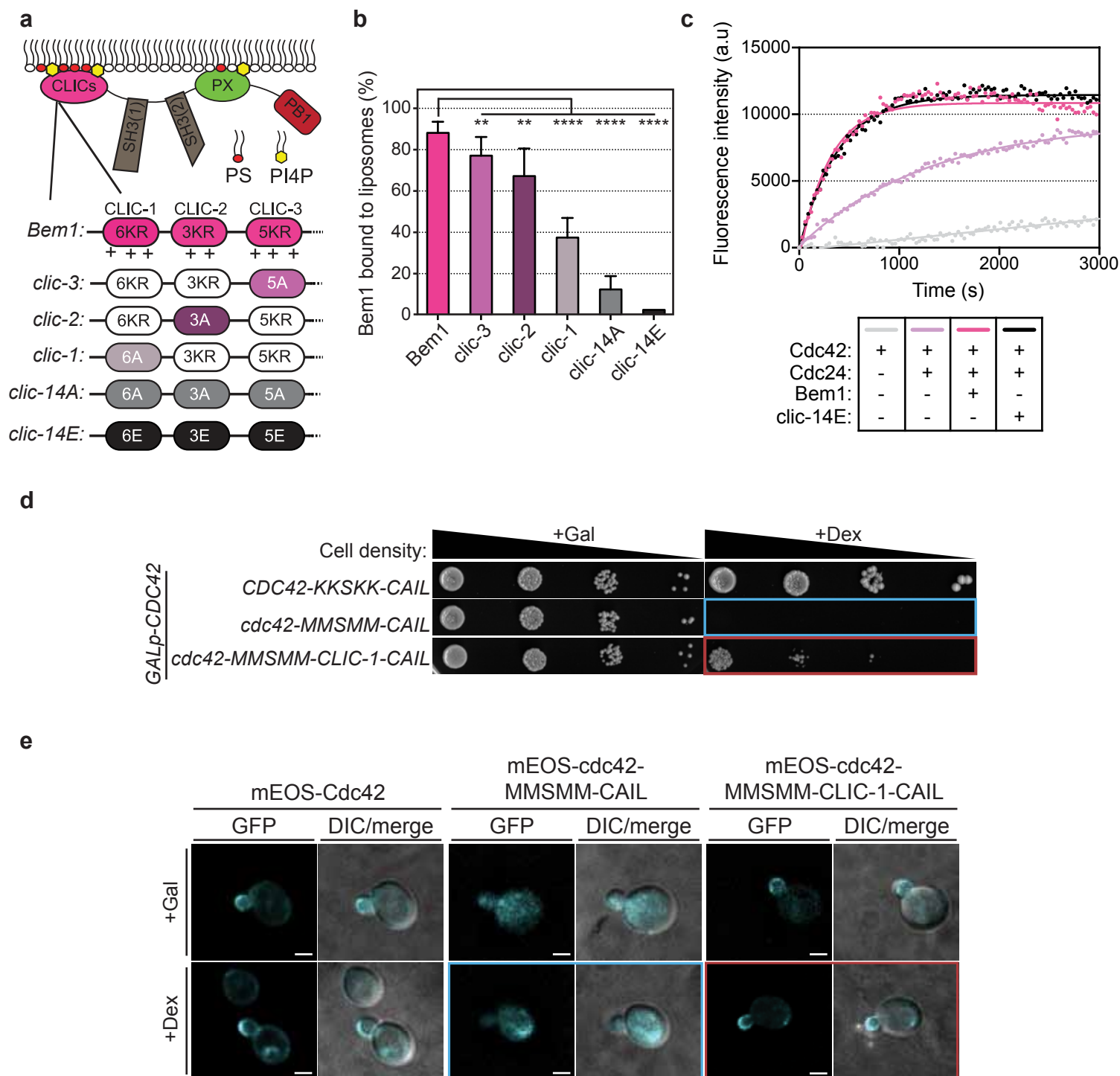


Figure 3 Meca *et al.*

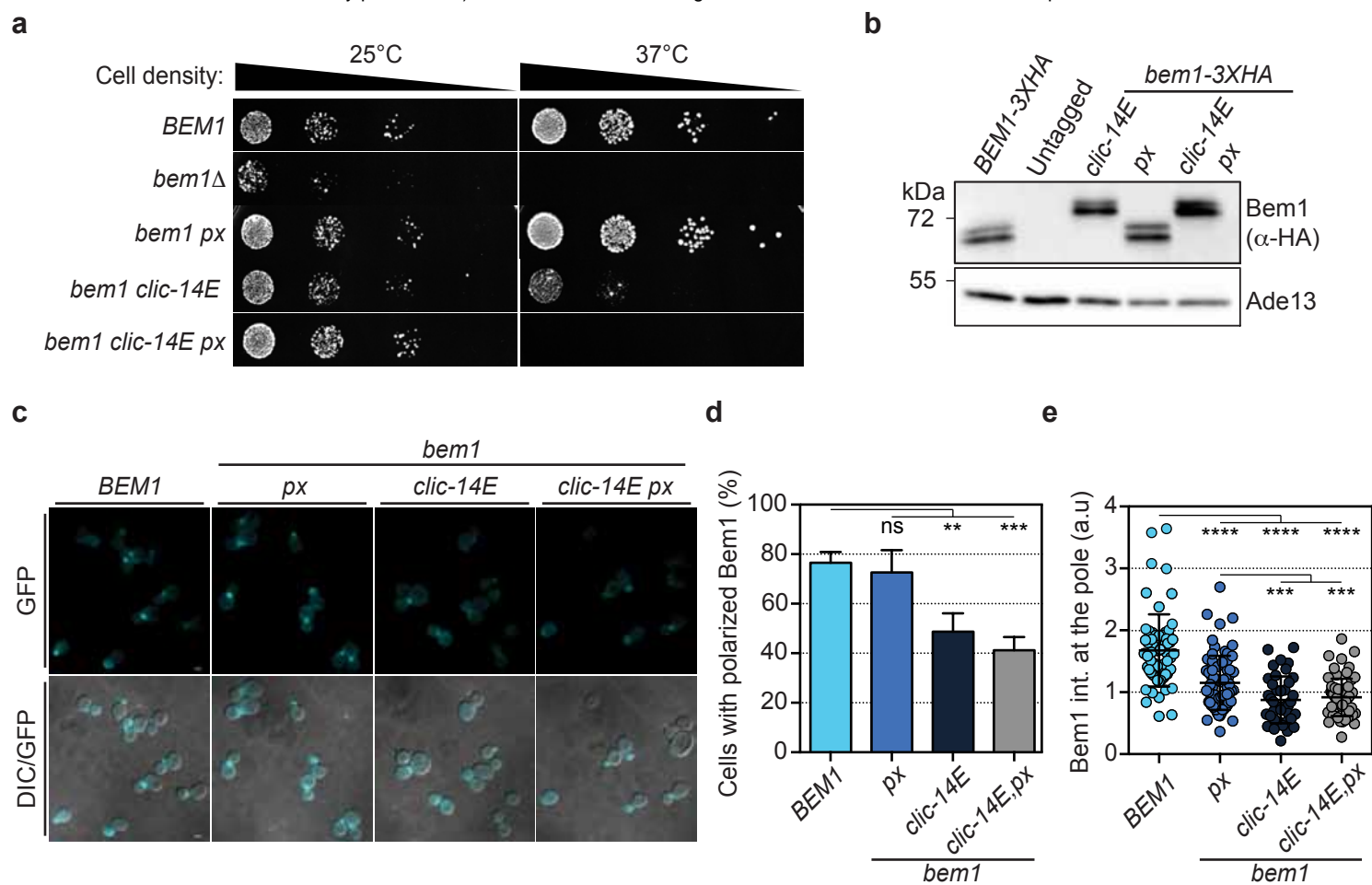


Figure 4 Meca *et al.*

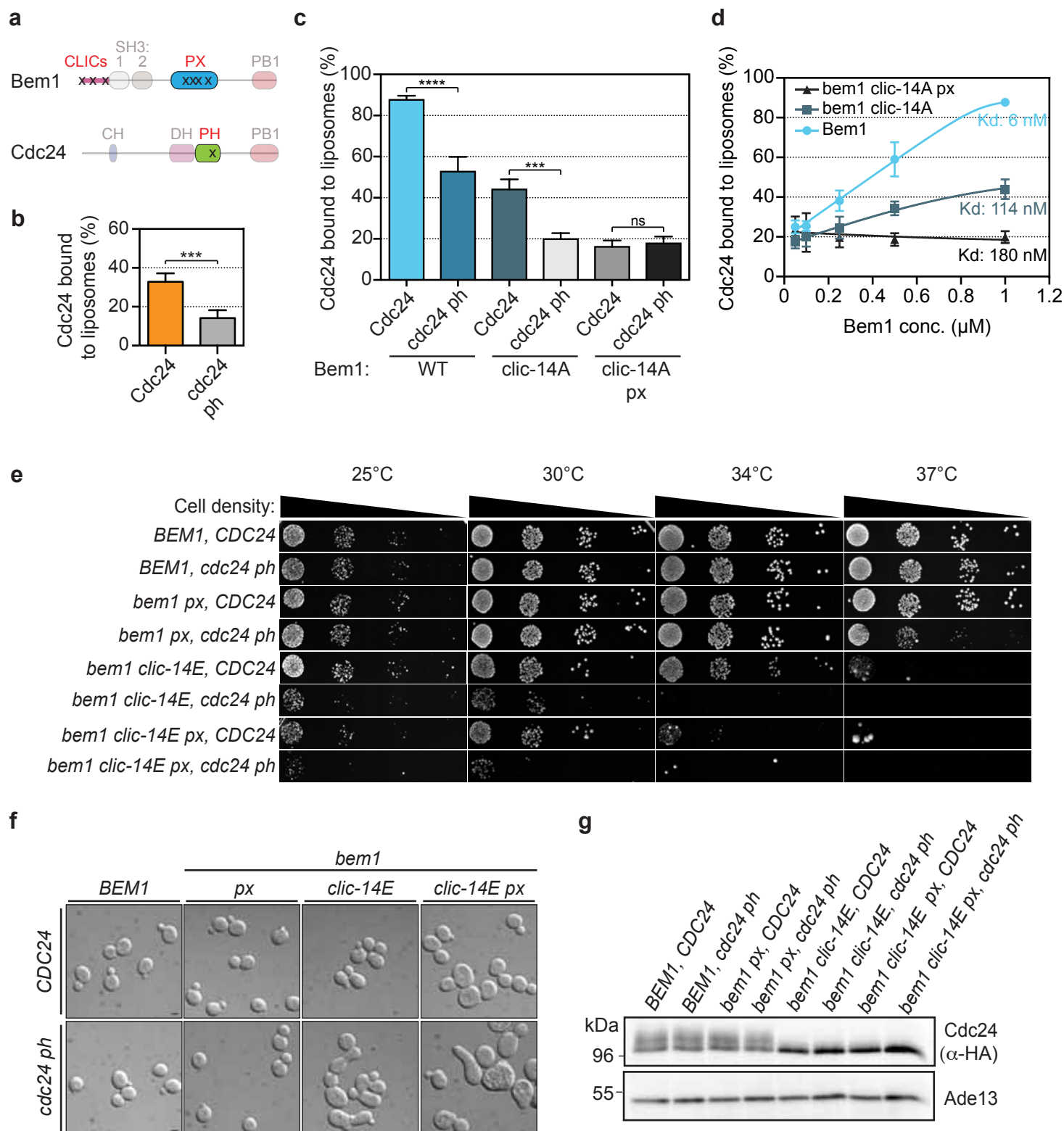


Figure 5 Meca *et al.*

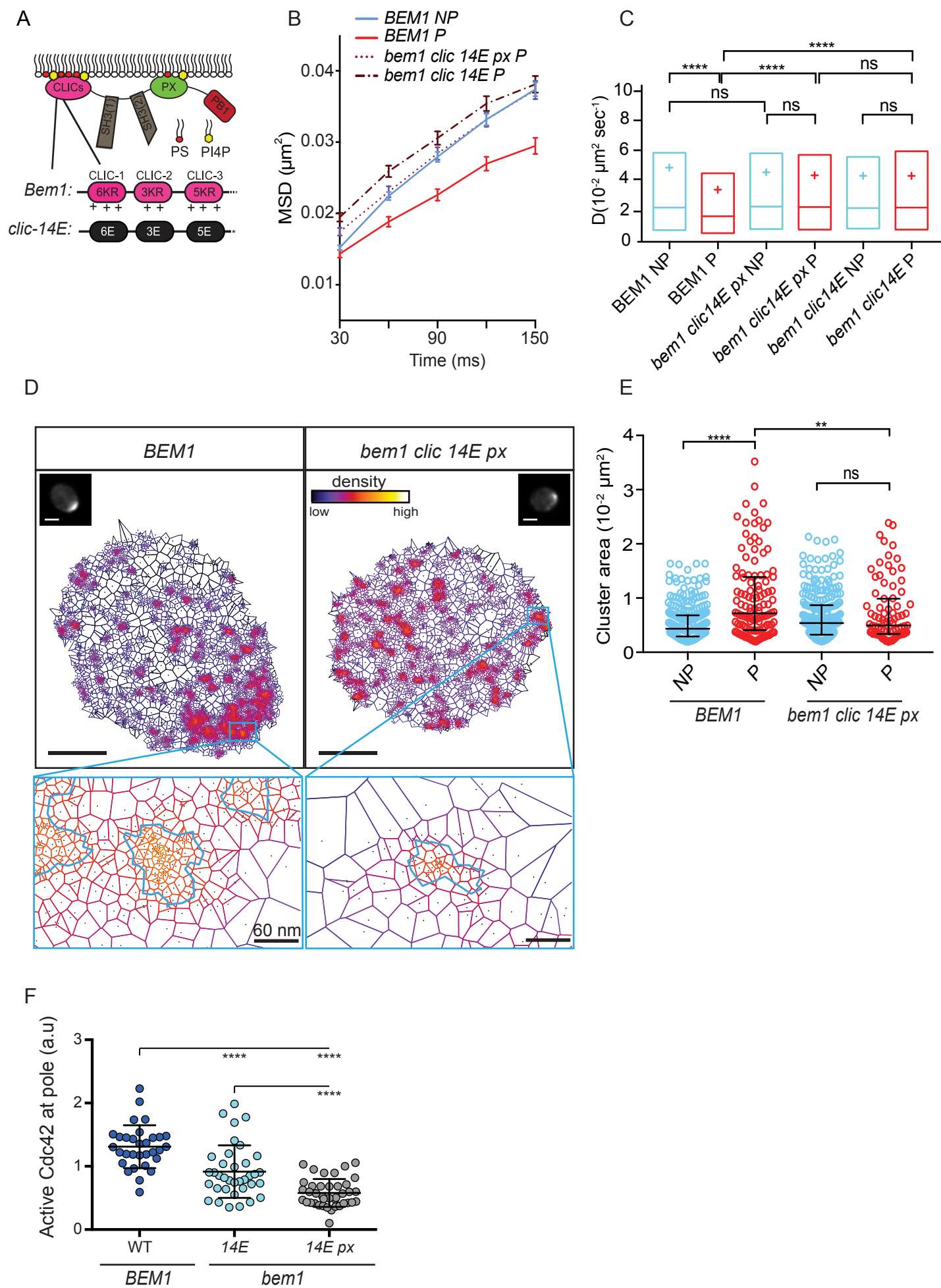


Figure 6 Meca et al.

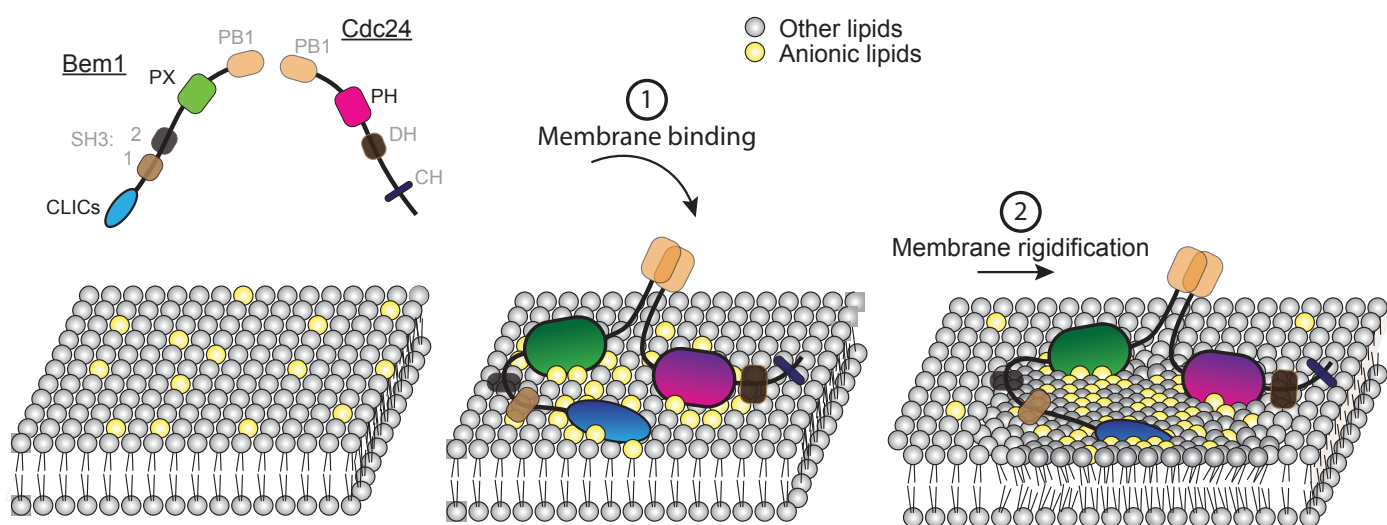


Figure 7 Meca *et al.*

