Pat1 promotes processing body assembly by enhancing the phase separation of the DEAD-box ATPase Dhh1 and RNA

Ruchika Sachdev[1], Maria Hondele[1], Miriam Linsenmeier[1], Pascal Vallotton[1], Christopher F. Mugler[1,2,3], Paolo Arosio[1], and Karsten Weis [1, 4]

[1] **ETH Zurich, 8093 Zurich, Switzerland**

[2] **University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley CA, 94720, USA**

[3] **Current address: Amyris Inc. 5885 Hollis Street, Emeryville, 94608, California, USA**

[4] **To whom correspondence should be addressed**

Email: karsten.weis@bc.biol.ethz.ch

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Abstract

Processing bodies (PBs) are cytoplasmic mRNP granules that assemble via liquid-liquid phase

separation and are implicated in the decay or storage of mRNAs. How PB assembly is regulated in cells

remains unclear. We recently identified the ATPase activity of the DEAD-box protein Dhh1 as a key

regulator of PB dynamics and demonstrated that Not1, an activator of the Dhh1 ATPase and member

of the CCR4-NOT deadenylase complex inhibits PB assembly *in vivo* [Mugler et al., 2016]. Here, we

show that the PB component Pat1 antagonizes Not1 and promotes PB assembly via its direct

interaction with Dhh1. Intriguingly, *in vivo* PB dynamics can be recapitulated *in vitro*, since Pat1

enhances the phase separation of Dhh1 and RNA into liquid droplets, whereas Not1 reverses Pat1-

Dhh1-RNA condensation. Overall, our results uncover a function of Pat1 in promoting the

multimerization of Dhh1 on mRNA, thereby aiding the assembly of large multivalent mRNP granules

that are PBs.

Introduction

Cells are often subjected to severe environmental fluctuations such as nutrient deficiency,

temperature changes or osmotic shock. To cope with stresses, a variety of mechanisms have evolved

allowing cells to respond acutely and survive. These include changes in the gene expression program,

which are often driven by robust transcriptional responses. Yet cells must also inactivate old mRNAs

that may interfere with adaptation to the new condition, and therefore, post-transcriptional regulation

and RNA turnover are critical to enable rapid changes in gene expression (Ashe et al., 2000; Mager and

Ferreira, 1993).

The post-transcriptional fate of eukaryotic mRNAs is tightly linked to the complement of proteins that

associate with it to form mRNPs (messenger ribonucleoproteins). For example, the presence of the m^7

G cap structure at the 5' end is crucial for eIF4E binding, while Pab1 binds the 3' poly-A tail, both of

which protect the mRNA against degradation and promote translation initiation. On the other hand,

mRNA turnover is thought to initiate via deadenylation by the Ccr4/Pop2/Not1 complex (Muhlrad and

Parker 1992; Meyer et al., 2004; Sheth and Parker, 2004), followed by cap removal by the decapping

enzyme Dcp1/2 and 5'-3' degradation of the transcript by the exonuclease Xrn1 (Coller and Parker

2004; Larimer and Stevens, 1990). Thus, the processes of mRNA translation and decay are coupled and

act antagonistically (Radakrishnan et al., 2016; Beelman and Parker, 1994; Schwartz and Parker, 1999;

Schwartz and Parker, 2000; Sun et al,. 2012; Hu et al., 2009; Chan et al., 2018)

The balance between mRNA translation and decay is not only temporally but also spatially controlled.

For instance in yeast, upon glucose starvation, the majority of cellular translation halts and

untranslated mRNA as well as many factors of the RNA decay machinery concentrate in large

cytoplasmic mRNP granules, so called processing bodies [PBs] (Brengues et al., 2005; Sheth and Parker,

2003; Teixeira et al., 2005). PBs contain major components of the 5'-3' RNA decay pathway, e.g. Dcp1/2

and Xrn1, as well as activators of decapping - namely, the DEAD-box ATPase Dhh1, Pat1, Edc3 and the

Lsm1-7 complex. PBs presumably form around mRNAs sequestered away from active translation, and

in support of this, inhibition of translation initiation leads to induction of PBs (Frank and Anderson,

2008; Chan et al., 2018; Teixeira et al., 2005; Lui et al., 2010). On the contrary, inhibition of translation

elongation, for example by the drug cycloheximide which traps mRNA on ribosomes, and prevents

their influx into PBs, has the opposite effect and leads to PB disassembly (Texeria et al., 2005; Mugler

et al., 2016).

In consequence, PBs have been implicated in a variety of post-transcriptional processes such as

translational repression (Holmes et al., 2004; Coller and Parker, 2005), mRNA decay (Sheth and Parker,

2003; Cougot et al., 2004; Mugler et al., 2016), mRNA storage (Brengues et al., 2005; Bhattacharya et

al., 2006), and in higher eukaryotes, micro RNA-mediated repression (Liu et al., 2005; Pillai et al., 2005).

PBs and related mRNP granules such as stress granules, P granules in germ cells, neuronal granules etc.

form in a number of different species from yeast to mammals, and in a variety of cell types and

biological contexts, suggesting that these structures are crucial for cellular function or survival (Barbee

et al., 2006; Seydoux and Braun, 2006). Indeed, there is evidence that PBs can be essential for cell

survival under stress. For instance, cells unable to form PBs show a drastic loss in viability in stationary

phase (Ramachandran et al., 2011; Shah et al., 2013). However, the precise role of PBs in the regulation

of gene expression is a matter of debate and in order to understand PB function it is critical to examine

how PBs assemble and are regulated.

Numerous recent studies have shown that PBs are dynamic, membraneless organelles that assemble

from a variety of multivalent but weak RNA-protein, protein-protein and RNA-RNA interactions; a

phenomenon called liquid-liquid phase separation [LLPS]. The resulting granules are liquid-like,

spherical, dynamic and are dissolved by the alcohol 1,6-hexanediol, all key features of LLPS (Decker et

al., 2007; Fromm et al., 2012, 2014; Guo and Shorter, 2015; Mugler et al., 2016; Kroschwald et al.,

2015).

Although PB formation occurs via a plethora of multivalent protein-RNA interactions in a redundant

fashion (Rao and Parker, 2017), there are key players whose deletion drastically attenuates PB

assembly (Decker et al., 2007; Pilkington and Parker, 2007; Scheller et al., 2007). One such component

is the highly abundant DEAD-box ATPase Dhh1 (DDX6 in humans). Dhh1 is an enhancer of decapping

and is involved in the translational repression of mRNAs (Carroll et al., 2011; Coller and Parker,

2005; Fischer and Weis, 2002, Coller and Parker 2001). We recently showed that Dhh1 undergoes

phase separation *in vitro*, and controls PB dynamics *in vivo* via its RNA-stimulated ATPase activity

whereas the ATPase activator Not1 dissolves Dhh1 droplets *in vitro* and inhibits PB formation *in vivo.*

However, whether additional factors assist Dhh1 in promoting PB formation remains to be determined

and is the focus of this study.

One such candidate is the eukaryotic PB component Pat1, an evolutionarily conserved multi-domain

RNA binding protein that, like Dhh1, functions in both translational repression and mRNA decay

(Pilkington and Parker, 2008; Teixeira and Parker, 2007). In yeast, Pat1 acts as a scaffold that brings

together repression and decay factors (Dhh1, Edc3, Lsm1-7, Dcp1/2 etc.) via direct and/or indirect

interactions with mRNPs (Nissan et al., 2010). Dhh1 for example directly binds acidic residues in the N-

terminal domain of Pat1, an interaction that is conserved across species (Sharif et al., 2013; Conti;

Ozgur and Stoecklin, 2013). Deletion of *PAT1* in yeast alters the localization of PB components, whereas

its overexpression induces the formation of constitutive PBs even in unstressed cells (Pilkington and

Parker, 2007; Coller and Parker, 2005). Furthermore, it was shown that phosphorylation of Pat1 by the

cAMP-dependent protein kinase A (PKA) inhibits PB formation, and cells expressing a phospho-mimetic

mutant of Pat1 are defective in PB assembly (Ramachandran et al., 2011). However, the mechanism

by which Pat1 regulates PB assembly is unclear.

Here, we demonstrate that Pat1 promotes PB formation via Dhh1, and we show that the interaction

between Pat1 and Dhh1 is critical for robust PB assembly *in vivo*. Using a liquid phase separation assay

we can recapitulate this function of Pat1 *in vitro* as addition of recombinant Pat1, but not of a Pat1

variant that cannot bind Dhh1, enhances phase separation of Dhh1 and RNA. Overall, our *in vivo* and

in vitro data suggests that during stress Pat1 antagonizes the inhibitory effect of Not1 on PB assembly

and promotes the multimerization of Dhh1 on mRNA, leading to the formation of PBs.

Results

Constitutive PB formation upon Pat1 overexpression is Dhh1 dependent

The PB components Pat1 and Dhh1 were each previously shown to be required for PB formation in

yeast (Pilkington and Parker, 2008; Ramachandran et al., 2011; Mugler et al., 2016; Rao et al., 2017).

To understand the relationship between Pat1 and Dhh1 in the regulation of PB assembly, we took

advantage of the observation that overexpression of Pat1 leads to constitutive PB formation (Coller

and Parker 2005). This allowed us to characterize their respective regulatory contributions without

external influences such as nutrient starvation signals. As expected, Pat1 overexpression from its

endogenous locus using the galactose promoter in the presence of Dhh1 led to the formation of

constitutive PBs, as visualized by co-localization of Dhh1-GFP and Dcp2-mCherry foci (Figure 1A). No

foci were formed when Pat1 was not overexpressed or when we overexpressed the human influenza

hemagglutinin (HA) tag alone (Figure S1A). Notably, when Pat1 was overexpressed in cells that lack

Dhh1, a drastic reduction in the number of PBs was observed, as visualized by the *bona fide* PB marker

Edc3-GFP and its co-localization with Dcp2-mCherry (Figure 1 A, B). This demonstrates that formation

of constitutive PBs upon Pat1 overexpression requires Dhh1.

124   Pat1 and Dhh1 interaction is essential for PB assembly

Pat1 is an 88 kDa protein that consists of an N-terminal un-structured domain (Pat1-N) followed by a

proline-rich stretch plus middle domain and a C-terminal globular fold (Pat1-C). The N-terminal domain

of Pat1 directly binds Dhh1's RecA2 core via a conserved DETF motif (Sharif et al., 2013; Ozgur and

Stoecklin, 2013). Furthermore, Pat1's C-terminus harbors two serine residues that are phosphorylated

by the cAMP-dependent protein kinase A (PKA) negatively regulating the interaction with Dhh1 and PB

formation (Ramachandran et al., 2011).

In order to understand how these Pat1 domains influence liquid-liquid phase separation and PB

assembly, we wanted to characterize various Pat1 mutants both *in vivo* and *in vitro*. Unfortunately, we

were unable to recombinantly express functional, full-length Pat1. Based on the structures published,

we therefore developed a minimal Pat1 construct encompassing both N- and C-terminal domains that

we refer to as Pat1-NC [amino acids: 5-79 (N) and 456-787 (C) connected with a $(GGS)_4$ linker](Figure

1C). The expression of this *PAT1-NC* construct rescued the *pat1Δ* growth phenotype (Figure S1B) and

upon glucose starvation, induced PBs to a similar level as wild-type *PAT1* (Figure 1D, E) indicating full

functionality *in vivo*. Furthermore, upon re-addition of glucose, PBs in the *PAT1-NC* expressing cells

rapidly dissolved demonstrating that they are reversible and dynamic rather than anomalous granules.

In addition, Pat1-NC-GFP itself localized to PBs upon stress in a reversible manner (Figure S1C). Finally,

when we overexpressed Pat1-NC using a GAL promoter, robust PBs were induced in the absence of

stress (Figure 1F, G).

We next examined whether Pat1-NC can interact with Dhh1 *in vitro*, and as expected, Pat1-NC

displayed strong binding to full-length Dhh1 in a GST pull down assay (Figure 2A). However, this

interaction was completely abolished for a Pat1-NC variant in which the N-terminal DETF motif was

mutated to four alanines [Pat1$^{4A-Dhh1}$, see supplemental table S2B for a list of all mutants used in this

study] (Figure 2A).

We next investigated the effect of the *pat1$^{4A-Dhh1}$* mutant in the context of the full-length protein on

PB formation *in vivo*. While cells expressing *pat1$^{4A-Dhh1}$* showed a mild growth defect compared to the

wild type *PAT1*, they grew significantly better than *pat1Δ* cells, indicating that this protein is at least

partially functional (Figure S2A). To examine whether the interaction between Pat1 and Dhh1 is

required for PB formation, we monitored PB assembly upon stress in the absence of glucose in wild-

type (*PAT1*) or the *pat1$^{4A-Dhh1}$* background. As expected, the number of PBs was drastically reduced in

the complete absence of Pat1, as visualized by Dhh1-GFP (Figure S2B). Importantly, *pat1$^{4A-Dhh1}$*

expressing cells also demonstrated a drastic reduction in PB number compared to cells expressing *PAT1*

(Figure 2B, C) and the Pat1$^{4A-Dhh1}$-GFP protein itself showed a significant defect in localizing to PBs

(Figure 2D, E).

We were unable to overexpress the *Pat1$^{4A-Dhh1}$* mutant in yeast. In order to investigate PB formation

independently of carbon starvation stress, we therefore treated cells with the drug hippuristanol,

which inhibits the eukaryotic translation initiation factor eIF4A (Bordeleau, M.E., et al., 2006). In

consequence, hippuristanol prevents translation initiation and robustly induces PB formation within

minutes in cells expressing wild-type *PAT1* (Chan et al., 2018) [Figure 2F, Movies 1 and 2]. Cells

expressing *pat1$^{4A-Dhh1}$* however, did not show PB formation until 2hrs after hippuristanol addition.

Taken together, our data reveal that direct binding of Pat1 to Dhh1 is required for robust PB assembly.

Pat1 phosphorylation status influences RNA binding

Pat1 is a target of the cAMP-dependent protein kinase A (PKA) and phosphorylation of two serines

(amino acids 456/457) in the C-terminus of Pat1 under glucose-rich conditions was previously shown

to negatively regulate PB formation (Ramachandran et al., 2011). To better understand how Pat1

phosphorylation controls PB assembly, we sought to characterize the influence of the phosphorylation

status of Pat1 on PB formation in the absence of additional stresses. Overexpression of *PAT1$^{WT/SS}$* (WT=

wild-type) and *pat1^AA* (non-phosphorylatable) led to constitutive PB formation as visualized by Dhh1-

GFP and Dcp2-mCherry positive foci. However, upon overexpression of *pat1^EE* (phospho-mimic)*,* foci

number was reduced (Figure 3 A, B). Cells expressing the *pat1^EE* mutant also showed a defect in PB

formation upon stress in agreement with published literature (Figure S3 A, B and Ramachandran et al.,

2011).

Pull-down experiments from cell extracts previously suggested that PKA-dependent phosphorylation

of Pat1 diminishes its interaction with Dhh1 (Ramachandran et al., 2011). To test whether this effect

is direct, we performed pull-down assays with recombinant Pat1-NC protein and the Pat1-NC^EE variant.

However, in this assay there was no significant difference in Dhh1 binding between Pat1-NC and Pat1-

NC^EE (Figure 2A). Since the strong DETF binding site in Pat1-N might mask any weaker interaction in

Pat1-C, we also tested for direct binding of Pat1-C to Dhh1 but were unable to detect any interaction

(Figure 3C), indicating that the DETF-motif in Pat1-N provides the major interaction surface for Dhh1.

Pat1-C was previously shown to bind RNA (Pilkington and Parker, 2008; Chowdhury et al., 2014). We

therefore tested whether RNA binding is regulated by PKA-dependent phosphorylation by performing

RNA oligo gel shift assays using recombinant proteins. Whereas wild-type Pat1-C robustly binds the

RNA oligo and shifts it to higher molecular weight in a native PAGE gel, Pat1^EE displayed a significantly

reduced RNA shift (quantified in Figure 3D). Taken together, our *in vivo* and *in vitro* results on the

phospho-mimic Pat1^EE mutant suggest that in addition to Pat1-Dhh1 binding, also the interaction

between Pat1 and RNA is important for PB formation.

Pat1 and Not1 act antagonistically *in vivo*

Our lab previously showed that Not1 promotes PB disassembly by activating the ATPase activity of

Dhh1, and cells expressing a Not1 mutant that cannot bind to Dhh1 (*not1^9X-Dhh1*) form constitutive PBs

in non-stressed cells. Yet these PBs are less intense and fewer in number than those formed upon

glucose starvation (Mugler et al., 2016), indicating that additional mechanisms prevent PB formation

in glucose-replete conditions.

Since in glucose-rich media PB assembly is also inhibited by the PKA-dependent phosphorylation of

Pat1 (Ramachandran et al., 2011), we wanted to test whether expression of the non-phosphorylatable

pat1^AA variant enhances PB formation in the *not1^9X-Dhh1* strain background. While expression of *pat1^AA*

alone was not sufficient to induce constitutive PBs as observed before (Ramachandran et al., 2011 and

Figure 4 A, B), expression of *pat1^AA* on top of *not1^9X-Dhh1* significantly increased the number of

constitutive PBs compared to cells expressing *not1^9X-Dhh1* alone (Figure 4 A and B). Yet, these PBs are

still not as bright and numerous as in stressed wild-type cells. Interestingly, PB intensity strongly

increased when these strains were further treated with hippuristanol, a drug that blocks initiation and

liberates mRNA molecules from polysomes. The percentage of large PBs was highest in the *pat1^AA +*

not1^9X-Dhh1 strain, followed by the *not1^9X-Dhh1* and then *pat1^AA*.

Overall, this suggests that there are at least three determinants that act cooperatively to enhance the

formation of PBs: (a) direct interactions between Pat1-Dhh1 and Pat1-RNA; (b) lack of Not1 binding to

Dhh1 and in consequence low Dhh1 ATPase activity (Mugler et al., 2016); and (c) the availability of PB

client mRNAs that are not engaged in translation. Furthermore, our results suggest that Pat1 and Not1

act antagonistically on PB dynamics. Whereas Pat1 binding to Dhh1 enhances the assembly of PBs, the

interaction of Not1 with Dhh1 promotes PB disassembly, likely through activation of the ATPase

activity of Dhh1.

Pat1 promotes PB assembly by enhancing the phase separation of Dhh1 and RNA

At least two mechanisms of how Pat1 promotes PB formation via Dhh1 could be envisioned: first, Pat1

could slow the ATPase cycle of Dhh1, for example by preventing Not1 binding and/or inhibiting ATP

hydrolysis, second, Pat1 could directly promote oligomerization and condensation of Dhh1 on RNA.

To test the first hypothesis, we used an *in vitro* ATPase assay using purified protein components in

which Not1 robustly stimulates the ATPase activity of Dhh1 (Mugler et al., 2016). However, we did not

observe a significant inhibition of the Not1-stimulated ATPase activity upon addition of Pat1-NC (Figure

S4A), suggesting that Pat1 does not directly interfere with the mechanism of ATPase activation.

We had previously shown that PB dynamics are regulated by the ATPase activity of Dhh1 (Carroll et al.,

2011; Mugler et al., 2016). To test Pat1's effect on the Dhh1 ATPase cycle *in vivo,* we therefore also

examined the turnover of PBs that form upon Pat1 overexpression. The drug cycloheximide (CHX) traps

mRNAs on polysomes and thereby stops the supply of new RNA clients to PBs. Since active Dhh1

constantly releases mRNA molecules from PBs, a lack of mRNA influx eventually leads to their

disassembly and in consequence the catalytic dead mutant of Dhh1 that is locked in the ATP- state

(Dhh1^{DQAD}) inhibits PB disassembly and was shown to have negligible turnover rates (Mugler et al.,

2016; Kroschwald et al., 2015). We observed that PBs formed upon Pat1 overexpression were more

dynamic than PBs formed in the presence of Dhh1^{DQAD} and their dis-assembly kinetics was comparable

to PBs formed upon stress in a wild-type *DHH1* background (Figure S4B, C and Movies 3,4,5). Thus,

overall, our *in vitro* and *in vivo* findings are not consistent with the conclusion that Pat1 blocks the

ATPase activation of Dhh1.

The second hypothesis is that Pat1 promotes higher-order mRNP assembly by directly or indirectly

promoting Dhh1 oligomerization, thereby acting as a scaffold and providing additional protein-protein

or protein-RNA interactions (Coller and Parker, 2005; Roy and Parker, 2017). We have previously

shown that recombinant Dhh1 can undergo liquid-liquid phase separation (LLPS) in the presence of

RNA and ATP, and that these Dhh1 droplets can recapitulate aspects of *in vivo* PB dynamics. (Mugler

et al., 2016). We therefore utilized this *in vitro* system to test Pat1's impact on the phase separation

behavior of Dhh1.

Dhh1 droplets were assembled from purified components as described previously (Mugler et al.,

2016). Interestingly, while no LLPS of Pat1 alone was detected (Figure S5A), addition of increasing

concentrations of wild-type Pat1 strongly enhanced the LLPS of Dhh1 in the presence of ATP and RNA

as judged by an increase in the area * intensity of Dhh1 droplets (Figure 5A). Furthermore, Pat1 itself

enriched in Dhh1 droplets, suggesting that Pat1 and Dhh1 co-oligomerize with RNA to form a

composite phase-separated compartment.

To test the specificity of LLPS stimulation, we tested the Pat1$^{4A-Dhh1}$ (Dhh1 binding) and Pat1^{EE} (phospho-

mimic) mutants both of which both drastically reduce PB formation *in vivo* (see Figure 2A, 3A and S2B).

Consistent with the *in vivo* results, Dhh1-RNA droplet formation was either not at all or only mildly

stimulated upon addition of these Pat1 variants (Figure 5A).

We previously demonstrated that the MIF4G domain of Not1 prevents formation of Dhh1-RNA

droplets, presumably by activating the ATPase cycle of Dhh1 (Mugler et al., 2016). We therefore next

analyzed whether the Pat1-Dhh1 droplets are still responsive to Not1. Similar to what we observed *in*

vivo (Figure 4), Not1^{MIF4G} also diminishes formation Dhh1 droplets in the presence of Pat1 *in vitro*

(Figure 5B).

Taken together our results suggest that Pat1 enhances the multivalency of protein-protein and

protein-RNA interactions in a Dhh1-Pat1 mRNP and in consequence promotes the formation of higher-

order, liquid-like mRNP droplets akin to *in vivo* PBs.

In vitro* phase separated droplets mimic the stoichiometry of PB components *in vivo

To examine how well our *in vitro* droplets resemble *in vivo* PBs we investigated the stoichiometric ratio

of Dhh1:Pat1 in these granules. In order to determine the stoichiometry *in vivo,* we measured the

number of PBs and the fluorescence intensity of GFP-tagged Dhh1 and Pat1 in these foci. Briefly, we

glucose starved both Pat1-GFP and Dhh1-GFP expressing cells to induce PBs (Figure S6A) and used the

single particle tracking software Diatrack to count the number and intensity of PBs in an unbiased and

automated manner in each strain [Vallotton et al., 2013]. Surprisingly, despite the fact that the cellular

concentration of Pat1 is ten-times lower than Dhh1 (Figure S6B), the ratio of the two PB components

was approximately 2:1+/-0.18 (Dhh1:Pat1) after 0.5-4 hours of starvation (Figure 6A). Extended

starvation resulted in enhanced Dhh1 recruitment to PBs until reaching a Dhh1:Pat1 ratio of 2.5:1+/-

0.23, suggesting that PB composition matures over time (Figure 6).

In order to determine the stoichiometry of Pat1 and Dhh1 droplets *in vitro*, we imaged Dhh1-mCherry

and Pat1-GFP droplets with a confocal microscope (Figure S6C). The protein concentration of both

Dhh1 and Pat1 in the droplet was calculated from a standard curve determined from values measured

for different concentrations of the respective soluble fluorophores (Figure 6B). Remarkably, we found

a stoichiometric ratio of 2.7:1 +/- 0.13 of Dhh1 to Pat1 in the *in vitro* phase-separated droplets, closely

resembling the Dhh1:Pat1 ratio of mature PBs *in vivo* (Figure 6B).

Thus, while other mRNA decay factors also contribute to PB formation *in vivo*, our data demonstrate

that with a minimal number of constituents, namely Dhh1, RNA, ATP and Pat1 higher-order dynamic

liquid droplets can be formed *in vitro*. The *in vitro* droplets recapitulate various properties of PBs

formed *in vivo* such as (a) the stoichiometry of PB components, and (b) the dynamics of Pat1-

stimulated assembly and Not1-stimulated disassembly of *in vivo* PBs identifying Pat1 as an important

player in PB formation promoting LLPS via Dhh1.

Discussion

Tug-of-war model between Pat1 and Not1 to regulate PB dynamics

The ability of proteins and RNA to undergo liquid-liquid phase separation (LLPS) has emerged as an

essential fundamental biological process allowing cells to organize and concentrate their cellular

components without the use of membranes. Yet, how these membraneless organelles assemble, are

kept dynamic and are regulated remains enigmatic. One such cellular phase-separated compartment

is the PB and our results presented here together with our prior work (Mugler et al., 2016) identify and

characterize both positive and negative regulators of PB assembly and provides novel insight into the

regulation of membraneless organelle formation.

Overall, our work uncovers a function of Pat1 as an enhancer of PB formation that acts via Dhh1 and

counteracts the inhibitory function of Not1. Based on our results, we propose that there are at least

three inputs that cooperatively regulate PB dynamics *in vivo* (Figure 6C). First, the availability of mRNA

clients acting as seeding substrates to initiate PB formation. mRNA availability is inversely proportional

to the translation status, which is regulated by different stress responses and the metabolic state of

the cell (Figure 2C). Second, the activity of cAMP-dependent PKA negatively regulates PB assembly in

nutrient-rich conditions, at least in part through phosphorylation of Pat1. However, since expression

of non-phosphorylatable Pat1^{AA} at endogenous levels (in contrast to overexpression) is not sufficient

to induce PBs, Pat1 availability appears to be limiting (Figure 6, 3A, S2B and Ramachandran et al.,

2011). Third, activation of the Dhh1 ATPase cycle by the CCR4-Not1 deadenylation complex stimulates

mRNA release and negatively regulates PB assembly. It is of note that Not1 itself might also be subject

to post-translational regulation, in response to metabolic state and/or cell cycle stages of the cell

(Mugler et al., 2016; Braun et al., 2014).

In this model, a tug-of-war between Pat1 and Not1 regulates PB assembly and disassembly: whereas

a tight Pat1-Dhh1 interaction in the presence of RNA clients, promotes PB formation, Not1, induces PB

turnover via stimulating the ATPase activity of the DEAD box ATPase Dhh1 (Figure 6C). Remarkably,

our *in vivo* findings are corroborated *in vitro* wherein, Pat1 enhances the LLPS of Dhh1 and RNA, a step

critical for the assembly of large mRNP granules, and by contrast, Not1 reverses the LLPS of Pat1-Dhh1-

RNA droplets (Figure 6, 4, 5B). Furthermore, the observed stoichiometry of Dhh1 and Pat1 in PBs is

recapitulated in our *in vitro* phase separation assay.

The interaction between Pat1 and Dhh1 is critical for PB assembly

Inducing PB formation by Pat1 overexpression or hippuristanol treatment allowed us to dissect distinct

mechanisms that govern PB assembly and characterize the crucial role of the Pat1-Dhh1 interaction in

this process. The benefit of these modes of PB formation are that they bypass the characteristic

stresses associated with PB formation, such as nutrient starvation, that might have more widespread

and confounding effects on translation, mRNA degradation, or on the regulation of other PB

components.

Our experiments reveal that Pat1 functions in PB formation through Dhh1 since PB induction by Pat1

overexpression is strictly dependent on the presence of Dhh1 (Figure 1A). Furthermore, a mutant in

the DETF motif in the N-terminus of Pat1 mediating direct binding to Dhh1 (Pat1$^{4A-Dhh1}$ variant) fails to

promote PB assembly (Figure 2). These results were further confirmed using the drug hippuristanol

that inhibits translation initiation wherein PBs were induced in wild-type cells but not in cells

expressing the Pat1[4A-Dhh1] mutant (Figure 2E, Chan et al., 2018) suggesting that high mRNA load alone

is inadequate for PB formation and that a direct physical interaction between Pat1 and Dhh1 is

obligatory as well. Since the DETF motif in Pat1 is conserved across evolution and was suggested to

regulate PB assembly in human cells as well (Sharif et al., 2013; Ozgur and Stoecklin, 2013), the Pat1-

Dhh1 interaction likely plays a critical role in PB formation across species.

Our results seem to be at odds with a previous publication, which suggests that Pat1 acts

independently of Dhh1 to promote PB formation (Coller and Parker 2005). However, in this study Pat1

was overexpressed from a plasmid, on top of the endogenous copy. When recapitulating these

conditions, we observed that PB components mislocalize to the nucleus [observed by DAPI and a

nuclear rim marker, see Figure S7A, B.] and it is possible that in the absence of additional organelle

markers, this nuclear accumulation was misinterpreted as PB formation.

Pat1 enhances the LLPS of Dhh1, thereby promoting PB formation

How does Pat1 enhance PB formation? One hypothesis is that Pat1 directly counteracts the Not1-

stimulated ATPase activation of Dhh1, but we do not favor such a model since i) Pat1 does not inhibit

Dhh1's ATPase activity at physiological protein ratios *in vitro* (Figure S3A), ii) Not1[MIF4G] dissolves Pat1-

Dhh1 condensates, while droplets formed from catalytic-dead Dhh1[DQAD] are Not1-resistant (Figure 6

and Mugler et al., 2016)*,* and iii) *in vivo*, PBs formed upon Pat1 overexpression are much more dynamic

than those formed from Dhh1[DQAD] (Figure S3B).

Instead, our data are consistent with a model in which Pat1 promotes PB assembly by directly

enhancing the LLPS of Dhh1. DDX6, the human homolog of Dhh1 can oligomerize (Lange et al., 2012),

and given the fact that both DDX6 and Dhh1 are found in molar excess over mRNA, we propose that

Pat1 functions as a scaffold, providing additional multivalent interactions with Dhh1 and RNA, thereby

aiding in the fusion of Dhh1 LLPS droplets and promoting assembly of microscopically-detectable

mRNP condensates (Figure 5). Interestingly, both functional binding to Dhh1 in Pat1-N and RNA-

binding in Pat1-C are required for this mechanism as individually mutations in each of the domains

alter PB assembly *in vivo* and fail to enhance Dhh1's phase separation *in vitro*. Furthermore, the Pat1[4A-

Dhh1] (Dhh1 binding mutant) and Pat1[EE] (phospho mimic mutant) not only have a drastically reduced

number of PBs, but also much lower intensity (reduced by 7 and 8 fold respectively, Figure S7C)

compared to Pat1 wild-type PBs. It is interesting to note that Pat1-N was previously shown to interfere

with the ability of Dhh1 to interact with RNA (Sharif et al., 2013). This might explain why RNA-binding

by Pat1's C-terminus that is under the regulation of PKA (Figure 3, S3) is critical for LLPS and PB

assembly.

Our recent findings also show that the un-structured poly-Q rich C-terminal tail of Dhh1 is required for

PB formation *in vivo* and Dhh1 LLPS *in vitro* (Hondele et al., *under revision*). Thus, Pat1 might potentially

enhance Dhh1 multimerization via the low complexity tails of Dhh1. Structural studies will now be

needed to clarify how Pat1 facilitates oligomerization and PB formation of the Dhh1-Pat1- RNA

complex.

The emerging importance of liquid-liquid phase separation in diverse aspects of cell biology and the

power of *in vitro* reconstitution systems

As non-membrane bound organelles, it is of interest to understand how cells assemble large RNP

granules and regulate their dynamics. PBs are prominent membraneless cellular compartments, which

have been shown to be not only involved in numerous aspects of mRNA turnover, but also crucial for

survival under various cellular stresses. With an *in vitro* phase separation tool in hand that faithfully

reconstitutes certain aspects of PB formation, we are now in a position to dissect how PBs form and

characterize their biophysical behavior. This will aid us not only in elucidating key components of PB

formation, but also help us elucidate the function of PBs in regulating mRNA turn-over. At this stage,

our in *vitro* systems are limited to Dhh1, Pat1, Not1 and RNA and it must be pointed out that several

additional PB components have been characterized. It will thus be critical to examine also these

components in future experiments and to evaluate their role in PB dynamics and how they function

together with Pat1 and Dhh1. For example, this includes the low complexity-domain containing factors

Edc3 and Lsm4 that were shown to be critical for PB formation *in vivo*. Recently, it was demonstrated

that in addition to regulatory inputs through signaling pathways a threshold concentration of low-

complexity domain containing proteins is required for robust PB assembly (Protter et al., 2018). In the

future, it will thus be important to evaluate the effect of concentration thresholds on Dhh1-based LLPS

in vitro and PB formation *in vivo* to understand the complex interplay of various inputs that regulate

PB assembly.

The physical basis of LLPS has attracted a great deal of attention recently, at least in part because of

the critical role that proper mRNP assembly plays in pathological neurodegenerative diseases and

stress responses (Ramaswami et al., 2013; Alberti and Hyman 2016; Patel et al., 2015; Aguzzi and

Altmeyer, 2016; Hyman et al., 2014). An important challenge is to understand how these granules are

kept dynamic and functional under some conditions whereas the formation of solidified and aberrant

aggregates are triggered under others. Robust *in vitro* reconstitution systems that can recapitulate

mRNP granule assembly, dynamics and stoichiometry will be invaluable in addressing these research

questions and increase our understanding of the molecular mechanism of how cells age and deal with

stress.

Materials and methods

Construction of yeast strains and plasmids

S. cerevisiae strains used in this study are derivatives of W303 and are described in table S1. ORF

deletion strains and C-terminal epitope tagging of ORFs was done by PCR-based homologous

recombination, as previously described (Longtine et al., 1998). Plasmids for this study are described

in table S2A. Mutations in Pat1 were generated by introducing the mutation in the primer used to

amplify the respective Pat1 regions and stitched together with the selection marker from the plasmid

(table S2B). Mutations in Dhh1 and Not1 were generated as in Mugler et al., 2016. Primer sequences

for strain construction are listed in table S2C.

Overexpression of Pat1 wild-type and mutants

399   The samples were grown overnight in synthetic media containing 2% raffinose, diluted to OD_{600} = 0.05

400   or 0.1 the following day, and grown to mid-log phase (OD_{600}= 0.3–0.4). The culture was split into two

401   and to one-half galactose was added to 2% final concentration and the corresponding protein induced

402   for 2-3 hours. The cells in both raffinose and galactose were imaged using a wide-field fluorescence

403   microscope.

PB induction and disassembly kinetics

PBs were induced via glucose starvation stress. Samples were grown overnight in synthetic media

containing 2% glucose, diluted to OD_{600} = 0.05 or 0.1 the following day, and grown to mid-log phase

(OD_{600}= 0.3–0.8). Cells were harvested by centrifugation and washed in ¼ volume of fresh synthetic

media +/− 2% glucose, then harvested again and re-suspended in 1 volume of fresh synthetic media

+/− 2% glucose and grown 30 min at 30°C. Cells were then transferred onto Concanavalin A-treated

MatTek dishes (MatTek Corp., Ashland, MA) and visualized at room temperature. For cycloheximide

experiments, final concentration of 50ug/mL (Sigma-Aldrich, CH) were used to examine PB disassembly

kinetics. For PB induction and to determine the kinetics of PB assembly we used hippuristanol (a

generous gift of Junichi Tanaka, University of the Ryukyus) at a final concentration of 10μM.

Wide-field fluorescence microscopy

Cells were transferred onto Concanavalin A-treated MatTek dishes (MatTek Corp., Ashland, MA) and

visualized at room temperature. Microscopy was performed using an inverted epi-fluoresence

microscope (Nikon Ti) equipped with a Spectra X LED light source and a Hamamatsu Flash 4.0 sCMOS

camera using a 100x Plan-Apo objective NA 1.4 and the NIS Elements software. Representative images

were processed using ImageJ software. Brightness and contrast were adjusted to the same values for

images belonging to the same experiment and were chosen to cover the whole range of signal

intensities. Image processing for PB analysis was performed using Diatrack 3.05 particle tracking

software (Vallotton et al., 2013) as described below.

Automated image analysis for PB quantification

In order to quantify PB formation in live cells, we used an automated image analysis in a manner similar

to Mugler et al., 2016. First, PBs were counted using Diatrack 3.05 particle tracking software using local

intensity maxima detection, followed by particle selection by intensity thresholding and particle

selection by contrast thresholding with a value of 5% (Vallotton et al., 2017). To speed up the analysis,

we renamed all our images in a form that can be recognized as a time-lapse sequence by Diatrack, and

placed them all in a single directory, such that they all will be analyzed using exactly the same image

analysis parameters. Renaming and copying was done by a custom script (supplementary code 1),

which also performed cell segmentation using a method adapted from (Hadjidemetriou et al., 2014).

Briefly, the method first detects all edges using a Laplacian edge detection step, and then traces

normals to those edges in a systematic manner. These normals tend to meet at the cell centre where

the high density of normals is detected, serving as seeds to reconstruct genuine cells. Our script thus

counts cells and reports their number for each image - information which is output to an excel table.

The results from Diatrack PB counting are imported from a text file into that table, and the number of

PB is divided by the number of cells for each image.

Protein purification

Dhh1 and Not1 were purified as described previously (Mugler et al., 2016). V5-Pat1-C and GST-Pat1-

NC constructs as described in Supplementary table S2A were cloned into pETM-CN vectors. These

expression vectors were transformed into chemically competent *E. coli* BL21 DE3 under the selection

of ampicillin and chloramphenicol. Pre-cultures were grown in LB at 37°C over-night, and diluted 1:100

into rich medium the next morning. Cells were grown at 37°C to an OD_{600} of 0.6 and induced with 200

mM IPTG (final concentration). Cells were then grown overnight at 18°C, harvested and resuspended

in 30 mL lysis buffer (500mM (Pat1-C) or 300 mM NaCl (Pat1-NC), 25 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 10 mM

imidazole, protease inhibitors, 10% glycerol) per cell pellet from 2 L of culture. After cell lysis by

EmulsiFlex (Avestin Inc, Ottawa, CA), the 6xHis tagged proteins were affinity extracted with Ni^{2+}

sepharose in small columns, dialyzed into storage buffer (MH200G (Pat1-C): 200 mM NaCl, 25 mM Tris

pH 7.5 (RT), 10% glycerol, 2 mM DTT), MH300G (Pat1-NC): same with 300mM NaCl) with simultaneous

protease cleavage of the His-tag and GST-tag (unless required for pull-down assays) and further

purified by size exclusion with a Superdex 200 column on an AEKTA purifier (both GE Life Sciences,

Marlborough, MA) in storage buffer. Protein expression levels, His eluates and gel filtration fractions

were analyzed by SDS-PAGE. Clean Superdex elution fractions were pooled, concentrated using

Millipore Amicon Centrifugation units and snap frozen as ~ 20 µl aliquots in siliconized tubes in liquid

nitrogen.

ATPase assays

ATPase assays were performed according as described (Montpetit et al., 2011) with the following

modifications: final concentration 2 µM Dhh1-mCherry was mixed with 0.5 µM Not1 and Pat1-mCherry

(1 and 3µM) as indicated and protein volumes equalized with storage buffer (MH200G). 2 µL 10x

ATPase buffer (300 mM HEPES-KOH pH 7.5, 1 M NaCl, 20 mM MgCl$_2$), 4 µL 10 mg/ml polyU (unless

indicated otherwise), RNase inhibitors, 13.3 µL 60% glycerol, 2.7 µL 10 mg/mL BSA, were added to a

final volume of 36 µL. Reactions were set up in triplicate in a 96-well NUNC plate. The assay was

initiated by the addition of 40 µL of a master mix containing 1x ATPase buffer, 2.5 mM ATP (from a

100 mM stock in 0.5 M HEPES-KOH pH 7.5), 1 mM DTT, 6 mM phosphoenolpyruvate, 1.2 mM NADH

(from a 12 mM stock in 25 mM HEPES-KOH pH 7.5) and 125–250 units / mL PK/LDH. NADH absorption

was monitored with a CLARIOstar plate reader (BMG Labtech, Ortenberg, Germany) at 340 nm in 30 s

intervals for 400 cycles.

In vitro **liquid droplet reconstitution assay**

Reactions were pipetted in 384-well microscopy plates (Brooks 384 well ClearBottom Matriplate, low

glass). Proteins were diluted to 50 µM (Dhh1) or 100 µM (Not1, Pat1) stocks with storage buffer and

mixed as droplets at the side of the well; volumes were equalized to 5 µl with storage buffer. Next, a

master mix of 12.5 µl 150 mM KCl buffer (150 mM KCl, 30 mM HEPES-KOH pH 7.4, 2 mM MgCl$_2$), 2µl

ATP reconstitution mix (40 mM ATP, 40 mM MgCl$_2$, 200 mM creatine phosphate, 70 U/mL creatine

kinase), 2.5 µl 2mg/ml polyU (in H$_2$O) as an RNA analog, 1 µl 1M HEPES-KOH pH 6.4 buffer and 2 ml

10mg/ml BSA were added and mixed by pipetting, the droplets still at the side of the well, since this

later on produced more equal droplet distribution. First imaging was performed after 20 minutes

incubation at room temperature; just prior to imaging, droplets were spun down at 100 g for 1

minute. For subsequent analysis, plates were stored in the fridge. Pictures displayed were recorded

after 1 hour incubation.

Stoichiometry analysis of Dhh1 and Pat1 in PBs *in vivo*

In order to estimate the relative amount of Dhh1 to that of Pat1 in PBs *in vivo*, we labelled both proteins

with eYGFP in two separate strains, and imaged them in exactly the same conditions after inducing

carbon (glucose) starvation stress for indicated times (Figure 6A). Using exactly the same endogenous

probe for both proteins allowed us to deduce ratios of abundances directly from ratios of intensities

(no spectral corrections are necessary). We then measured the intensity of the 10 brightest PBs as a

function of time and in both cases took the median intensity value as representative of the more visible

PBs (at least 10 PBs were present in every image for both strains and at each time point). Finally, we

divided the median value obtained for Dhh1 by that for Pat1 and plotted that ratio as a function of

time post-stress.

Stoichiometry of Dhh1 and Pat1 in phase-separated *in vitro* droplets

For the analysis of the *in vitro* phase transition of Dhh1 in the presence of Pat1, 2 µM mCherry-tagged

Dhh1 and 4 µM GFP-tagged Pat1-NC were added to 0.1 mg/mL polyU and 5 mM ATP in 150 mM KCl,

30 mM HEPES-KOH, pH 7.4 and 2 mM MgCl$_2$. After 1 hour incubation, the phase-separated droplets

were imaged in both the mCherry and the GFP channel by confocal fluorescence microscopy (Leica TCS

SP8) with a 63x NA 1.4 oil objective (Leica). The protein concentration was evaluated from the

fluorescence intensity via a standard curve obtained by measuring a series of samples at different

known concentrations for each fluorophore. The size distributions were obtained by analyzing the

images obtained by fluorescence microscopy with an in-house code written in Matlab.

GST pull-down assays

25 µl of 100 µM recombinant purified GST Pat1-NC was bound to 30 µl GST-slurry (Sigma), and one

aliquot of GST-beads was included without added Pat1-NC as negative control. Reactions were

incubated for 30mins rotating at 4°C and washed 4-times with wash buffer (300 mM NaCl, 10 mM Tris

pH 7.5, 0.05 % NP40). 4 µl 250 µM Dhh1 was added in 500 µl wash buffer and incubated rotating at

4°C for 1 hour. Reactions were washed 5-times, proteins eluted by boiling with 4x SDS loading buffer

and separated on a 12% acrylamide gel and stained with Coomassie. For V5-pulldown assays, the bait

(15 µl 100 µM Pat1-C construct) was bound to 15 ml V5-slurry (Sigma), the bait 3 µl 200 µM Dhh1-

mCherry, and incubation / wash buffers as above with salt concentration as indicated in the blot. Final

washes were only performed three times.

Native PAGE

Proteins were diluted to 20 µM. 0, 2 or 4 µl of protein solution was filled to 4 µl with storage buffer

(200mM NaCl, 25mM Tris pH 7.5, 10% glycerol, 2 mM DTT). Proteins were mixed with a master mix

containing per reaction 2 µl 10x ATPase buffer (300 mM HEPES-KOH pH 7.5, 1 M NaCl, 20 mM MgCl2),

0.3 µl Cy5-labeled *in vitro* transcribed RNA oligo (29nt, 1.1 µg/µl), 2 µl 2.5M NaCl, 13.7 µl H2O and 3 µl

60% glycerol. Reactions were incubated on ice for 20 min and separated on a precast Bis-Tris Native

gradient Gel (Invitrogen) in 1x running buffer (50 mM Bis-Tris 50 mM Tricine pH 6.8) at 100V 4C for

about 2.5hrs.

Growth curve

Overnight yeast cultures were grown in permissive conditions in SCD media. Growth curves were

acquired using CLARIOstar automated plate reader (BMG Labtech, Ortenberg, Germany) at 30°C in 24-

well plastic dishes (Thermo Fisher) from overnight pre-cultures diluted 1:125 in the specified synthetic

liquid media.

Western blotting

For Western blot analysis, roughly 5 OD$_{600}$ units of log growing cells were harvested and treated with

0.1M NaOH for 15 mins at room temperature. The samples were vortexed in between and finally

centrifuged to remove the NaOH. SDS sample buffer was added and homogenates were boiled.

Proteins were resolved by 4–12% Bolt Bis-Tris SDS PAGE (Thermo Fischer, Waltham, MA), then

transferred to nitrocellulose membrane (GE Life Sciences, Marlborough, MA). Membranes were

blocked in PBS with 5% non-fat milk, followed by incubation with primary antibody overnight.

Membranes were washed four times with PBS with 0.1% Tween-20 (PBS-T) and incubated with

secondary antibody for 45 min. Membranes were imaged and protein bands quantified using an

infrared imaging system (Odyssey; LI-COR Biosciences, Lincoln, NE). The following primary antibodies

were used for detection of tagged proteins at the indicated dilutions: mouse-anti-GFP (1:1000) (Roche

Cat# 11814460001, RRID: AB_390913), and rabbit-anti-Hxk1 (1:3000) (US Biological Cat# H2035-01,

RRID: AB_2629457, Salem, MA). IRdye 680RD goat-anti-rabbit (LI-COR Biosciences Cat# 926–68071,

RRID: AB_10956166) and IRdye 800 donkey-anti-mouse (LI-COR Biosciences Cat# 926–32212, RRID:

AB_621847) were used as secondary antibodies.

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Figure legends

Figure 1. (A) Overexpression (OE) of Pat1 leads to constitutive PB formation but only in the presence

of Dhh1. Cells co-expressing the indicated PB components were grown in synthetic complete (SC)

raffinose media to exponential growth phase after which Pat1 was overexpressed via addition of

galactose. Cells in both raffinose and galactose were observed by fluorescence microscopy. In all Pat1

OE strains the endogenous promoter of Pat1 was replaced by the galactose 1-10 promoter (*p-GAL-*

PAT1). Scale bar: 5µm. (B) Quantification of images in A depicting number of PBs/cell. N= 3 biological

replicates with >800 cells/replicate. Error bars: SEM. (C) **Pat1-NC (AA 5-79 + 456-587) is functional *in***

***vivo*.** Cartoon of the Pat1-NC construct (see text for details). **(D) *PAT1-NC* induces PB formation upon**

stress *in vivo*. Cells co-expressing the indicated the PB components in *PAT1* full length or *PAT1-NC*

background were grown in synthetic complete (SCD) media to exponential growth phase then shifted

to glucose-rich or glucose-starvation conditions for 30 minutes and observed by fluorescence

microscopy. PBs induced in the *PAT1-NC* background were dissolved by addition of 2% glucose

demonstrating reversibility. Scale bar: 5µm. (E) Quantification of images shown in A depicting number

of PBs/cell. Bars: SEM. N=3 biological replicates with >800 cells/replicate. **(F) *PAT1-NC* (AA 5-79 + 456-**

587) OE leads to constitutive PB induction. *p(GAL)-PAT1* or *p(GAL)-PAT1-NC* cells expressing Dhh1-

GFP were grown in SC raffinose media to exponential growth phase after which Pat1 OE was induced

with galactose. Scale bar: 5µm. (G) Graph depicts Dhh1 PBs/cell, SEM. N= 3 biological replicates with

>800 cells/replicate. [Diatrack 3.05 and cell segmentation using in house Matlab code was used for the

quantification of PB and cell numbers respectively for all the experiments shown in the manuscript].

Figure Supplementary S1. (A) Controls for the Pat1 OE, relating to Figure 1. Upper panel: *PAT1*

(endogenous promoter) cells expressing Dhh1-GFP were grown in (SC) raffinose media to exponential

growth phase after which galactose was added and cells were imaged by fluorescence microscopy.

Lower Panel: *p(GAL)-HA pat1Δ* (Hemagglutinin tag) OE does not lead to constitutive PB formation.

Scale bar: 5µm. **(B)** *PAT1-NC* **rescues the** *pat1Δ* **growth phenotype**. *PAT1, pat1Δ* and *PAT1-NC* cells

were grown overnight in SCD media to saturation and the next day the different strains were

inoculated to OD 0.1 in SCD. Absorbance based growth measurements were recorded for 24 hours.

The growth curve depicts O.D. 600 nm versus time. **(C) Pat1-NC localizes to PBs upon stress** *in vivo*.

Cells co-expressing Pat1-NC-GFP and Dcp2-mCherry as an additional PB marker were grown in SCD

media to exponential growth phase then shifted to glucose-rich or glucose-starvation conditions for

30 minutes and observed by fluorescence microscopy. After visualization 2% final concentration of

glucose was added for one hour to demonstrate reversibility and dissolution of Pat1-NC PBs. Scale bar:

5µm.

Figure 2. (A) Recombinant Pat1-NC$^{4A-Dhh1}$ is defective for Dhh1 binding. GST pull-down with GST-Pat1-

NC and mutants thereof as matrix-bound bait and Dhh1 as prey. After 1h of binding at 4°C, the samples

were washed 5 times with a buffer containing 300 mM NaCl and visualized by Coomassie staining after

separation on a 12 % acrylamide gel. **(B) Expression of** *pat1* $^{4A-Dhh1}$ **(Dhh1 binding mutant) leads to a**

drastic reduction in PB formation. Cells co-expressing the indicated PB components in the *PAT1* or

pat1$^{4A-Dhh1}$ background were grown in SCD media to exponential growth phase, then shifted to glucose-

rich or glucose-starvation conditions for 30 minutes and observed by fluorescence microscopy. Scale

bar: 5µm. (C) Quantification of images in B depicting number of PBs/cell, (Dhh1-GFP PBs co-localizing

with Dcp2-mCherry) are shown, bars: SEM. (D) *Pat1* $^{4A-Dhh1}$ **mutant is defective for PB localization.** Cells

expressing either Pat1-GFP or the Pat1$^{4A-Dhh1}$-GFP mutant were grown in SCD media to exponential

growth phase then shifted to glucose-rich or glucose-starvation conditions for 30 minutes and

observed by fluorescence microscopy. Scale bar: 5µm. (E) Quantification of images shown in D

depicting number of PBs/cell. N= 3 biological replicates with >500 cells/replicate. Error bars: SEM. (F)

pat1$^{4A-Dhh1}$ **mutant is defective in PB formation upon hippuristanol treatment.** Cells expressing either

PAT1 or the *pat1$^{4A-Dhh1}$* were grown in SCD media to exponential growth phase after which they were

treated with 10uM hippuristanol for 2hrs. The kinetics of PB formation was monitored using Dhh1-GFP

and its co-localization with Dcp2-mCherry. Quantification of PBs/cell is depicted. Stills from the live

imaging time course are shown. N= 2 biological replicates with >300 cells/replicate, SD.

Figure Supplementary S2. (A) *pat1^{4A-Dhh1}* mutant has a slight growth defect. *PAT1*, *pat1Δ* and *pat1^{4A-}*

^{Dhh1} cells were grown overnight in SCD media to saturation and the next day the different strains were

inoculated to OD 0.1 and growth curves were recorded for 24 hours. The growth curve depicts O.D.

600 nm versus time. **(B) *pat1Δ* abolishes PB formation.** Cells expressing Dhh1-GFP in *pat1Δ or PAT1*

strains were grown in SCD media to exponential growth phase then shifted to glucose-rich or glucose-

starvation conditions for 30 minutes and observed by fluorescence microscopy. The graph depicts the

number of PBs/cell. N=2 biological replicates, 300 cells per replicate, SD.

Figure 3. (A, B) Overexpression (OE) of *p(GAL)-PAT1^{WT}*(wild type) and *p(GAL)-pat1^{AA}* (non-

phosphorylatable) leads to constitutive PB formation but OE of *p(GAL)-pat1^{EE}* (phospho-mimic) does

not. Cells co-expressing the indicated PB components were grown in SC raffinose media to exponential

growth phase after which OE of different Pat1 alleles was induced by galactose addition. Cells were

imaged using fluorescence microscopy. Quantification of images shown in C depicting number of

PBs/cell. Scale bar: 5µm, SEM. N=3 biological replicates with >800 cells/replicate. (C) **Pat1-C-terminal**

domain does not bind Dhh1. V5 pull-down with V5-Pat1-C and V5-Pat1-C^{EE} as matrix-bound bait and

Dhh1-mCherry as prey. After 1h of binding at 4°C, the samples were washed 4 times with a buffer

containing NaCl as indicated and visualized by Coomassie staining after separation on a 12 %

acrylamide gel. **(D) Pat1-C^{EE} weakens the interaction with RNA compared to Pat1-C.** Recombinant

Pat1-C (WT) and Pat1-C^{EE} were incubated with a Cy5-labeld 29nt RNA oligo in the presence of 300mM

NaCl and separated on a NativePage gradient gel. The fluorescence of the oligo was detected by LI-

COR imaging. Reactions were performed in triplicate and the intensity of the upper shifted RNA oligo

band was quantified. Equal input of the Pat1-C proteins was verified by acrylamide PAGE and

Coomassie staining. Error bars: SD.

Figure Supplementary S3. *PAT1* and *pat1*^{AA} **lead to PB induction upon stress, which is drastically reduced in the *pat1*^{EE} background.** (A) Cells expressing the indicated GFP-PB markers (in the *PAT1*$^{WT/SS}$, *pat1*^{AA} and *pat1*^{EE} backgrounds) were grown in SCD media to exponential growth phase then shifted to glucose-rich (left panel) or glucose-starvation conditions (right panel) for 30 minutes and observed by fluorescence microscopy. Scale bar: 5μm. (B) Quantification of images shown in A depicting PBs/cell. Bars:SEM, N= 3 biological replicates with >800 cells/replicate.

Figure 4. (A) *not1*$^{9X-Dhh1}$ **(Dhh1 binding mutant) combined with *pat1*^{AA} (non-phosphorylatable Pat1) enhances constitutive PB formation.** Cells expressing either *not1*$^{9X-Dhh1}$ or *pat1*^{AA} or the combination of both mutants were grown in SCD media to exponential growth phase and PBs visualized by fluorescence microscopy using Dcp2-mCherry as a *bona fide* PB marker. Scale bar: 5μm. (B) The graph depicts the number of Dcp2 positive PBs/cell. N= 2 biological replicates with >500 cells visualized in each replicate, bars: SEM.

Figure Supplementary S4. (A) Pat1 does not inhibit the Not1^{MIF4G}**-stimulatd ATPase activity of Dhh1**. ATPase reactions were performed under saturating concentrations of polyU using a Not1^{MIF4G} concentration that stimulates Dhh1 to 0.75 V_{max}. Pat1 was added to either 2- and 6-fold excess over Not1. Three biological replicates (each of three technical replicates); mean and standard deviation of k_{cat} values. The values are corrected for blank (that is Pat1 alone or Not1 alone). P values are obtained from a two-tailed t-test. **(B) Pat1 OE PBs are more dynamic than the Dhh1**^{DQAD} **PBs.** Cells expressing Dcp2-mCherry in the *p(GAL)-PAT1* OE strain were grown in (SC) raffinose to exponential growth phase after which galactose was added to 2% final concentration for 2hrs to induce PBs. Then the cells were treated with 50μg/ml cycloheximide (CHX) and disappearance of Dcp2-mCherry PBs per cell was monitored for 90 minutes by fluorescence microscopy. In order to study PB dynamics in the *DHH1* and *dhh1*^{DQAD} background cells were grown as described before except PBs were induced by carbon starvation and their disassembly monitored by CHX. Each time point shows a representative image. (B) The graph shows the foci number per cell measurements for Dcp2-mCherry normalized to 1 to account

 for differences in PB formation under different PB induction conditions. Scale bar: 5µm. N=2 biological

replicates with >200 cells counted per experiments. Error bars: SD.

Figure 5. Pat1 WT but not Pat1$^{4A-Dhh1/EE}$ mutant enhances the phase separation of Dhh1 and RNA *in*

***vitro*.** (A) 4 µM Dhh1-mCherry was mixed with 3.2 mM ATP and 0.2 mg/ml polyU as RNA-analog in a

150mM KCl buffer. Pat1-NC-GFP and mutants thereof were added in increasing concentrations, as

indicated. mCherry and GFP intensities are scaled identically in all images displayed. Representative

images, scale bar 25 µm. Quantification of the droplet intensity multiplied by area (mCherry and GFP

channels separately normalized to Dhh1 alone and Pat1 4µM respectively) of three technical replicates

of the reactions displayed in Figure 5A, mean and standard deviation. (B) **Not1 prevents droplet**

formation also in the presence of Pat1. Proteins were mixed as indicated, and droplet formation

induced by addition of low salt buffer, ATP and polyU. Scale bar 25 mM, quantification (intensity

multiplied by area) of two biological replicates (one to three technical replicates each), mean and

standard deviation.

Figure Supplementary S5. (A) **Pat1 by itself does not phase separate *in vitro*.** Reactions are performed

in the presence of ATP and polyU at indicated protein concentrations.

Figure 6. Stoichiometry of Pat1 and Dhh1 in PBs *in vivo* and in liquid droplets *in vitro*. (A) Pat1-GFP

and Dhh1-GFP expressing cells were grown in SCD media to exponential growth phase and then shifted

to SC (minus glucose) for the indicated time points. PB formation was visualized by fluorescence

microscopy. Graph depicts the ratio of Dhh1: Pat1 in PBs *in vivo*. (B) Calibration curves to determine

the protein concentration of Dhh1-mCherry and Pat1-NC-GFP within the droplets: the fluorescence

intensity of homogeneous solutions of the respective proteins was measured at different protein

concentrations (blue circles). The unknown protein concentration was determined by linear fitting of

this calibration curve (violet circle). Confocal fluorescence microscopy images of phase-separated

droplets of Dhh1-mCherry in the absence and presence of Pat1-GFP are shown. Scale bar: 20µM. **(C)**

Tug-of-war model between Pat1 and Not1 to regulate PB dynamics. Model depicting three inputs

that cooperatively regulate PB formation. The solid black arrows on the left show interaction between

the Pat1 N-terminus with the RecA2 core of Dhh1, Pat1 C-terminus with RNA, Dhh1 interaction with

RNA and potential Dhh1-Dhh1 interactions via low-complexity unstructured tails. The dotted grey

arrows on the right demonstrate multivalent interactions in a PB driven by the LLPS of Dhh1 and RNA

(a process enhanced by Pat1). Colors: green: inputs that promote PB assembly, red factors that

negatively regulate PB formation. Violet: Dhh1, light green: Pat1-NC, blue: RNA.

Figure Supplementary S6. (A) Images of the Pat1-GFP and Dhh1-GFP stoichiometry. Cells expressing

Pat1-GFP and Dhh1-GFP were grown in SCD media to exponential growth phase then shifted to

glucose-starvation conditions for different time points as indicated and PBs were imaged by

fluorescence microscopy. Images are representative for each times. Scale: 5µM. (B) Dhh1-GFP and

Pat1-GFP expressing cells (used for imaging in A) were grown in SCD media to exponential growth

phase and protein levels were measured using Western blot with an anti-GFP antibody. Hexokinase

was used as a loading control. The graph depicts the expression levels of Dhh1 and Pat1 normalized to

the loading control. (C) **Size distributions of *in vitro* assembled Dhh1 and Pat1 LLPS droplets** (relating

to Figure 6B). In presence of Pat1, the droplet size increases and the size distribution shifts to larger

radii. Moreover, the number of droplets decreases, thereby indicating that the droplets have higher

propensity to fuse in presence of Pat1. Scale bar: 20µm.

Figure Supplementary S7. OE of Pat1 on top of the endogenous copy of Pat1 [*p-PAT1* +p(GAL)-*PAT1*]

leads to the nuclear localization of PB components. Cells expressing Dhh1-GFP [*p-PAT1* +p(GAL)-*PAT1*

background] were grown in SC raffinose media to exponential growth phase after which Pat1 OE was

induced with galactose. Localization of Dhh1-GFP to the nucleus was confirmed by co-localization with

DAPI staining after 2hrs of *PAT1* or *pat1^{AA}* OE. White arrows depict the co-localization of Dhh1-GFP and

DAPI. Scale bar: 5µm. N= 2 biological replicates. (B) HDEL Td tomato was used as a marker of the

nuclear rim, scale bar: 5µm. **(C) PBs formed in *pat1^{4A-Dhh1}* and *pat1^{EE}* expressing cells are less intense**

than PBs formed in *PAT1* wild-type cells. Graph showing the average intensity of PBs (obtained from

Figure 2B and S3).

Movie legends

Movie 1: **Hippuristanol induces PBs in cells expressing wild-type *PAT1*.** The movie depicts PB

formation (Dhh1-GFP and Dcp2-mCherry co-localization) in cells expressing wild-type *PAT1* upon

hippuristanol treatment. (2hrs movie, 5 min intervals; movie played at 7 fps). Each frame is a single

plane.

Movie 2: **Hippuristanol fails to induce PBs in cells expressing *pat1^{4A-Dhh1}* mutant.** The movie depicts

failure to form PBs (Dhh1-GFP and Dcp2-mCherry co-localization) in cells expressing *pat1^{4A-Dhh1}* upon

hippuristanol treatment. (2hrs movie, 5 min intervals; movie played at 7 fps). Each frame is a single

plane.

Movie 3: **Cycloheximide treatment causes wild-type PB disassembly.** Dcp2-mCherry expressing cells

in the *DHH1* background were grown in (SC) raffinose media to exponential growth phase, after which

galactose was added to 2% final concentration for 2hrs and then starved for 30 mins to allow PBs to

form. The cells were then treated with 50 μg/mL cycloheximide for 90 mins and disappearance of foci

was monitored using fluorescence microscopy. (5 min intervals; movie played at 7 fps). Each frame is

a single plane.

Movie 4: **Cycloheximide treatment causes Pat1 OE PB disassembly albeit faster than PB disassembly**

in cells expressing *dhh1 ^{DQAD}*. Cells expressing Dcp2-mCherry in the *p(GAL)-PAT1* OE strain were grown

in (SC) raffinose to exponential growth phase, after which galactose was added to 2% final

concentration for 2hrs to allow PBs to form. Thereafter, the cells were treated with 50μg/mL

cycloheximide (CHX) for 90 mins and disappearance of foci was monitored using fluorescence

microscopy. (5 min intervals; movie played at 7 fps). Each frame is a single plane.

Movie 5: **Cycloheximide treatment of *dhh1 ^{DQAD}* PBs.** Dcp2-mCherry expressing cells in the *dhh1^{DQAD}*

mutant background were grown in (SC) raffinose to exponential growth phase, after which galactose

was added to 2% final concentration for 2hrs. The cells were then carbon starved for 30 mins to allow

PBs to form after which, 50 µg/mL cycloheximide was added and disappearance of foci was monitored

for 90 mins using fluorescence microscopy. (5 min intervals; movie played at 7 fps). Each frame is a

single plane.

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE S1

Yeast strains in this study

Strain #	Genotype
KWY165	*MAT a ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1*
KWY276	*MAT a ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 dhh1::DHH1-GFP-HisMX6*
KWY1972	*MAT a ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 dcp2::DCP2-mCherry-NatMX6*
KWY1973	*MAT a ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 dhh1::DHH1-HisMX6 GFP dcp2::DCP2-mCherry-NatMX6*
KWY2226	*MAT a ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 pat1Δ::KanMX6*
KWY3238	*MAT alpha ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 dhh1Δ::KanMX6 dcp2::DCP2-mCherry-NatMX6 pDHH1-GFP-URA3*
KWY3239	*MAT alpha ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 dhh1Δ::KanMX6 dcp2::DCP2-mCherry-NatMX6 pDHH1^{DQAD}-GFP-URA3*

KWY3280	*MAT a ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 pat1::PAT1-GFP-HisMX6*
KWY4901	*MAT alpha ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 dhh1Δ::KanMX6 dcp2::DCP2-mCherry-NatMX6 pDHH1^{5X-Not}-GFP-URA3*
KWY5157	*MAT alpha ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 dhh1Δ::TRP dhh1Δ::KanMX6*
KWY5221	*MAT alpha ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 dhh1Δ::TRP pat1Δ::KanMX6 pDHH1 GFP-URA3*
KWY5224	*MAT alpha ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 dhh1Δ::TRP pat1Δ::KanMX6 pDHH1^{DQAD}-GFP-URA3*
KWY5227	*MAT alpha ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 dhh1Δ::TRP pat1Δ::KanMX6 pDHH1^{RNA3X}-GFP-URA3*
KWY5230	*MAT alpha ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 dhh1Δ::TRP pat1Δ::KanMX6 pDHH1$^{DQAD/RNA3X}$-GFP-URA3*
KWY5601	*MAT a ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 pat1:: PAT1-HisMX6 dhh1::DHH1 GFP-URA3*
KWY5603	*MAT a ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 pat1::PAT1 AA::HisMX6 dhh1::DHH1 GFP-URA3*
KWY5609	*MAT a ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 pat1::PAT1 EE-HisMX6 dhh1::DHH1 GFP-URA3*

KWY5915	*MAT alpha ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 dhh1Δ::TRP pat1Δ::KanMX6 edc3::EDC3-mcherry:: HisMX6 pDHH1 GFP-URA3*
KWY5917	*MAT alpha ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 dhh1Δ::TRP pat1Δ::KanMX6 edc3::EDC3-mcherry:: HisMX6 pDHH1^{DQAD}-GFP-URA3*
KWY5933	*MAT alpha ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 dhh1Δ::TRP pat1Δ::KanMX6 dcp2::DCP2-mcherry:: HisMX6 pDHH1 GFP-URA3*
KWY5935	*MAT alpha ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 dhh1Δ::TRP pat1Δ::KanMX6 dcp2::DCP2-mcherry:: HisMX6 pDHH1^{DQAD}-GFP-URA3*
KWY5943	*MAT alpha ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 pat1:: PAT14A-HisMX6*
KWY5978	*MAT alpha ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 pat1:: PAT1-HisMX6 dhh1::DHH1 GFP-URA3 pGAL-PAT1-3XV5-LEU2*
KWY5980	*MAT alpha ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 pat1:: PAT1-HisMX6 dhh1::DHH1 GFP-URA3 pGAL-PAT1AA-3XV5-LEU2*
KWY5983	*MAT alpha ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 pat1:: PAT1-HisMX6 dhh1::DHH1 GFP-URA3 pGAL-PAT1 EE-3XV5-LEU2*
KWY6003	*MAT alpha ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 pat1Δ::KanMX6 dhh1Δ::TRP pDHH1^{5X-Not}-GFP-URA3*

KWY6056	*MAT alpha ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 pat1::PAT14A-HismX6 dhh1Δ::TRP pDHH1^{DQAD}-GFP-URA3*
KWY6058	*MAT alpha ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 pat1::PAT14A-HismX6 dhh1Δ::TRP pDHH1-GFP-URA3*
KWY6180	*MAT alpha ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 pGAL-PAT1 3X HA::KanMX6 dhh1::DHH1 GFP::URA3*
KWY6279	*MAT a ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 pat1::PAT1-HisMX6 edc3::EDC3 GFP-URA3*
KWY6403	*MAT alpha ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 pat1Δ::pGAL-3X HA::KanMX6 dhh1::DHH1 GFP URA3*
KWY6467	*MAT a ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 pat1::PAT1AA-HisMX6 edc3::EDC3 GFP-URA3*
KWY6469	*MAT a ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 pat1::PAT1AA-HisMX6 dcp2::DCP2 GFP-URA3*
KWY6471	*MAT a ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 pat1::PAT1-HisMX6 dcp2::DCp2 GFP-URA3*
KWY6478	*MAT a ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 pat1::PAT1EE-HisMX6 dcp2::DCP2 GFP-URA3*
KWY6480	*MAT a ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 pat1::PAT1EE-HisMX6 edc3::EDC3 GFP-URA3*

KWY6544	*MAT a ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 trp1-1 leu2-3, 112Δ::CG-LEU2-NOT1$^{9X-Dhh1}$-TAP not1Δ::TRP1 dcp2::DCP2-mCherry-NatMX6*
KWY6637	*MAT alpha ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 dhh1::DHH1 GFP-URA3 dcp2::DCP2-mCherry-NatMX6 pGAL-PAT1 AA-3XV5-LEU2*
KWY6643	*MAT alpha ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 pGAL-PAT1-3X HA::KanmX6 dhh1::DHH1 GFP: URA3 dcp2::DCP2-mCherry-NatMX6*
KWY6692	*MAT alpha ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 pGAL-PAT1 EE-3X-HA::KanMX6 dhh1::DHH1 GFP::URA3 dcp2::DCP2-mCherry-NatMX6*
KWY6836	*MAT alpha ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 pGAL-PAT1 3XHA::URA3 dhh1Δ::KanMX6 edc3::EDC3 GFP-HisMX6 dcp2::DCP2-mCherry-NatMX6*
KWY7370	*MAT a ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 pat1::p-GAL- PAT1 NC-3X-HA-HYG dhh1::DHH1 GFP-URA3*
KWY7420	*MAT alpha ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 pGAL-PAT1 3XHA::KanMX6 dhh1::DHH1 RNA3X GFP-HismX6*
KWY7481	*MAT a ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 pat1::PAT14A GFP-URA3*
KWY7484	*MAT a ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 pat1::PAT1 NC-HYG dhh1::DHH1 GFP-HisMX6 dcp2::DCP2-mCherry-NatMX6*

KWY7554	MAT a ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 pat1::PAT14A GFP-URA3 dcp2::DCP2 mcherry-KanMX6
KWY7557	MAT a ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 pat1::PAT1N-C GFP-HismX6
KWY7562	MAT a ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 pat1::PAT1N-C GFP-HisMX6 dcp2::DCP2 mcherry-NatMX6
KWY7890	MAT a ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 leu2-3, 112 trp1-1 dhh1::dhh1^{DQAD}-GFP-HisMX6 dcp2::DCP2-mCherry-NatMX6
KWY8378	MAT a ade2-1 can1-100 GAL phi+ his3-11,15 ura3-1 trp1-1 leu2-3, 112Δ::CG-LEU2-NOT1$^{9X-Dhh1}$-TAP not1Δ::TRP1 pat1::PAT1AA-HisMX6 dcp2::DCP2-mCherry-NatMX6

 SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE S2

728 A) Plasmids used in this study

Plasmid #	Description
pKW2312	pRS316 P(DHH1)-DHH1-GFP
pKW2313	pRS316 P(DHH1)-DHH1^{DQAD}-GFP
pKW2867	pRS316 P(DHH1)-DHH1^{3X-RNA}-GFP
pKW3040	pRS316 P(DHH1)-DHH1$^{DQAD/3X-RNA}$-GFP
pKW3333	pRS316 P(DHH1)-DHH1^{5X-Not}-GFP

pKW3477	pRS316 P(DHH1)-DHH1$^{DQAD/3X\text{-}RNA}$-6xHis-PP7CP
pKW3756	pNH605-PGAL-Pat1 WT (XbaI)-3X V5
pKW3757	pNH605-PGAL- Pat1^{AA} (XbaI)-3X V5
pKW3758	pNH605-PGAL- Pat1^{EE} (XbaI)-3X V5
pKW3631	pETMCN_HisV5_Dhh1-mCherry
pKW3688	pETMCN_His_Dhh1-mCherry
pKW3641	pETMCN_HisV5_Pat1-C
pKW3702	pETMCN_HisV5_ Pat1-C^{EE}
pKW4225	pETMCN_GST-Pat1-NC-mCherry
pKW4356	pETMCN_GST-Pat1-NC-GFP
pKW4357	pETMCN_GST- Pat1-NC$^{4A\text{-}Dhh1}$-GFP
pKW4358	pETMCN_GST- Pat1-NC^{EE}-GFP

731 B) Dhh1, Pat1 and Not1 mutants used in this study

Mutant Protein	Mutation(s)
Dhh1^{DQAD}	E195Q
Dhh1$^{Q\text{-motif}}$	F66R, Q73A
Dhh1$^{3X\text{-}RNA}$	R322A, S340A, R370A
Dhh1$^{5X\text{-}Not}$	R55E, F62E, Q282E, N284E, R335E
Dhh1$^{DQAD/3X\text{-}RNA}$	E195Q, R322A, S340A, R370A
Dhh1$^{5X\text{-}Not/3X\text{-}RNA}$	R55E, F62E, Q282E, N284E, R322A, R335E, S340A, R370A

Not1[9X-Dhh1]	F791A, N795A, K804A, E823R, N834A, Y835A, K962A, F967A, E970A
Pat1[AA]	S456A S457A
Pat1[EE]	S456E S457E
Pat1[4A-Dhh1]	D39A E40A T41A F42A
Pat1-N-C	Pat1 N (5-79)- (GGS)4- C- (456-787)

734 C) Oligos used in this study

Oligo #	Sequence	Description
CH393	tgttcattattcatcatggaccaagccgataaaatgttatctcgt	DHH1, fw; mutagenic primer E195Q for Dhh1[DQAD] mutant
CH394	acgagataacattttatcggcttggtccatgatgaataatgaaca	DHH1, rev; mutagenic primer E195Q for Dhh1[DQAD] mutant
CH574	atggttttttcaaaaccggcttcttcaatacccattaacagctctcttttcaaataaaaatc	DHH1, rev; mutagenic primer F62E for Dhh1[5X-Not] mutant
CH575	cttaaatacaaagggtaatacttttgaagattttttatttgaaagaagagctgttaatgggtattttt	DHH1, fw; mutagenic primer R55E for Dhh1[5X-Not] mutant
CH576	gattttatttgaaaagagagctgttaatgggtattgaagaagccggttttgaaaaaccat	DHH1, fw; mutagenic primer F62E for Dhh1[5X-Not] mutant
CH577	aaaaatacccattaacagctcttctttcaaataaaaatcttcaaaagtattaccctttgtatttaag	DHH1, rev; mutagenic primer R55E for Dhh1[5X-Not] mutant

CH578	cacggttagtagaattacaaaaaataatggcttgctcaatt tcaagcttagagaataaagtatttaaacaatgtagc	DHH1, rev; mutagenic primer Q282E and N284E for Dhh1[5X-Not] mutant
CH579	gctacattgtttaaatactttattctctaagcttgaaattgag caagccattattttttgtaattctactaaccgtg	DHH1, fw; mutagenic primer Q282E and N284E for Dhh1[5X-Not] mutant
CH580	atcggagcagaccaatgtttcaaccttaccttgacgaaatt cgtgg	DHH1, rev; mutagenic primer R335E for Dhh1[5X-Not] mutant
CH581	ccacgaatttcgtcaaggtaaggttgaaacattggtctgctc cgat	DHH1, fw; mutagenic primer R335E for Dhh1[5X-Not] mutant
Ch849	atcaaattcccctcttctgatgcttaattgccccgattgcagc ctgttattgatactatt	For stich PCRs to make Pat1 AA and EE, pringle fw
CH853	taaaaaataagggagaaaaaaaaatacatgcgtaagtac attaaaattacaggaaaaatc gaattcgagctcgtttaaac	For stich PCRs to make Pat1 AA and EE , pringle rev
CH854	attaccgttgttgaacgcgtaagcagctcttcttctttgctta ga	For stich PCRs to make Pat1 AA, rev
CH855	tctaagcaaagaagaagagctgcttacgcgttcaacaacg gtaat	For stich PCRs to make Pat1 AA, fw
CH856	attaccgttgttgaacgcgtattcttctcttcttctttgcttag a	For stich PCRs to make Pat1 EE, rev
CH857	tct aag caa aga aga aga gaa gaa tac gcg ttc aac aac ggt aat	For stich PCRs to make Pat1 EE, fw

CH858	ttaattaacccggggatccg ttactttagttctgatatttcaccatcgcgatacaccaaccccc ataac	For stich PCRs to make Pat1 EE, rev
CH944	aacttcttcaagtcctgcttgtcccaggagggttcaggga	For stich PCRs to make Pat1 4A GFP tagged, fw
CH945	aac ctg aac att atc acc agc agc agc agc gttcaaatagtcgttctc	For stich PCRs to make Pat1 4A GFP tagged, rev
CH946	gaacgactatttgaac gct gct gct gct ggtgataatgttcaggttgg	For stich PCRs to make Pat1 4A GFP tagged, fw
CH1035	tttcatggcgatgccacctggtcagtcacaaccccagtat cggatccccgggttaattaa	Dhh1, fw; C-terminal GFP tagging
CH1036	gcgtatctcaccacagtagttattttttcttagatattct gaattcgagctcgtttaaac	Dhh1 rev; C-terminal GFP tagging
CH1037	ttcagggtctaatgaattattaagcattttgcataggaag cggatccccgggttaattaa	Dcp2, fw; C-terminal mcherry tagging
CH1038	catttacagtgtgtctataaaacgtataacacttattcttga attcgagctcgtttaaac	Dcp2, rev; C-terminal mcherry tagging
CH1039	tgatctttttcgtcactgacgggtccctgctattagatttgcgg atccccgggttaattaa	Edc3, C- terminal mcherry, fw
CH1040	tatacgtatgtatccagtttaggctaaagtaattcttggtga attcgagctcgtttaaac	Edc3, C- terminal mcherry, rev
CH1116	gaggagaacgactatttgaac gct gct gct gct ggtgataatgttcaggtt	For stich PCRs to make Pat1 4A GFP tagged, fw (pringle)
CH1117	aacctgaacattatcacc agc agc agc agc gttcaaatagtcgttctcctc	For stich PCRs to make Pat1 4A GFP tagged, rev (pringle)

CH1550	ttccccatttatcaaaaatcatcctgccaccattttgtccaa ggatcgcactatcgccc gaattcgagctcgtttaaac	Pgal-Pat1 tagging: fw
CH1551	ttcaaagtccagaggaccatcccgcgcattaccgctattttc taacccaaagaaggacat gcactgagcagcgtaatctg	Pgal-Pat1 tagging: rev
CH1768	aaaataagggagaaaaaaaaatacatgcgtaagtacatt aaaattacaggaaaaatctta gcactgagcagcgtaatctg	K/O Pat1 in Pgal-3HA-Pat1 : rev
CH1879	aaggttttaaccggaagtaagagcagcaagaagcactagc agaacgcggccgccagctgaa	Pat1, fw; C-terminal GFP tagging
CH1878	tacatgcgtaagtacattaaaattacaggaaaaatcttatg aattcgagctcgtttaaac	Pat1, rev; C-terminal GFP tagging
UC1943	ctcttgcgttactatggtggtattattgatgctaatacgggcg cataggccactagtggatc	For pat1 delete, rev
UC1942	aaggttttaaccggaagtaagagcagcaagaagcactagc agaacgcggccgccagctgaa	For pat1 delete,fw
CH2394	ttccccatttatcaaaaatcatcctgccaccattttgtccaa ggatcgcactatcgccctcactatagggagaccggca	Pgal-Pat1 tagging: fw
CH2395	ttcaaagtccagaggaccatcccgcgcattaccgctattttc taacccaaagaaggacat cattttgagatccgggtttt	Pgal-Pat1 tagging: rev
CH2762	gggttagaaaatagcggtaatgcgcgggatggtcctctgg	For stich PCRs to make Pat1 NC, fw
CH2768	tcgcttatttagaagtggcgcgttacttaagctcgagcataa cgtttaggaa	For stich PCRs to make Pat1 NC, rev
CH2769	cgttatgctcgagcttaagtaacgcgccacttctaaataag cgaatttctta	For stich PCRs to make Pat1 NC, fw

CH2790	ttaaagccttcgagcgtcccaaaaccttctcaagcaaggttt tcagtataat	For stich PCRs to make Pat1 NC, rev
CH2791	taaaaaataagggagaaaaaaaaatacatgcgtaagtac attaaaattacaggaaaaatcttaaagccttcgagcgtccc aa	For stich PCRs to make Pat1 NC, rev
CH2766	gacgtcccggactatgcaggatcctatccatatgacgttcc agattacgctgctcagtgcgggttagaaaatagcggtaa	For Pat1 NC HYG (pgal OE), fw
CH3005	gtacaccttgaaggaagcaaaggtttttaaccggaagtaag agcagcaagaagcactagca gggttagaaaatagcggtaa	For stich PCRs to make Pat1 NC, fw
CH3054	gggttagaaaatagcggtaatgcgcgggatggtcctctgg	For stich PCRs to make Pat1 NC GFP tagged, fw
CH3060	catgttaattaacccgggggatccgcttaagctcgagcataa cgtttaggaac	For stich PCRs to make Pat1 NC GFP tagged, rev
CH3061	gttcctaaacgttatgctcgagcttaagcggatccccgggtt aattaacatg	For stich PCRs to make Pat1 NC GFP tagged, fw
Ch3062	gaattcgagctcgtttaaactggatggcggcgttagtatcg aatcgacagca	For stich PCRs to make Pat1 NC GFP tagged, rev
CH3058	gtacaccttgaaggaagcaaaggtttttaaccggaagtaag agcagcaagaagcactagcagggttagaaaatagcggta a	For stich PCRs to make Pat1 NC GFP tagged, fw (pringle)
CH3063	taaaaaataagggagaaaaaaaaatacatgcgtaagtac attaaaattacaggaaaaatcgaattcgagctcgtttaaac t	For stich PCRs to make Pat1 NC GFP tagged, rev (pringle)
US5021	ttcgtacattggtctgcgccgatttattgacccgt	DHH1, fw; mutagenic primer S340A for Dhh1[3X-RNA] mutant

US5022	acgggtcaataaatcggcgcagaccaatgtacgaa	DHH1, rev; mutagenic primer S340A for Dhh1[3X-RNA] mutant
US5023	ccaaaacggcagaaacatatttacatgctattggtagatcc ggtagg	DHH1, fw; mutagenic primer R370A for Dhh1[3X-RNA] mutant
US5024	cctaccggatctaccaatagcatgtaaatatgtttctgccgt tttgg	DHH1, rev; mutagenic primer R370A for Dhh1[3X-RNA] mutant
UC6097	atcccaggcctaaaatacgacaagaaagaaaatagtagt a*atgggttccatcaataataa*	DHH1; fw; For integrating *DHH1* mutants into *dhh1Δ* strains
UC6098	tatctcaccacagtagttattttttcttagatattct*taatac tggggttgtgactgac*	DHH1; rv; For integrating *DHH1* mutants into *dhh1Δ* strains

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A.

Dhh1-GFP   Dcp2-mCherry   merge

p(GAL)-PAT1 DHH1

RAF

GAL

Edc3-GFP   Dcp2-mCherry   merge

p(GAL)-PAT1 dhh1Δ

RAF

GAL

B.

GAL

Dhh1-GFP
Dcp2-mCherry
EDC3-GFP
Dcp2-mCherry

PBs/cell

0.6
0.5
0.4
0.3
0.2
0.1
0

DHH1   dhh1Δ

p(GAL)-PAT1

Figure 1

C.

Pat1-NC construct

AA   5   79   456   787

Pat1   N   (GGS)4 linker   C

DETF (Dhh1 binding)   SS: PKA phospho site

D.

PAT1-NC

Dhh1-GFP   Dcp2-mCherry   merge

(+) glucose

(-) glucose

Add back   glucose

PAT1 FL

Dhh1-GFP   Dcp2-mCherry   merge

(+) glucose

(-) glucose

E.

PBs/cell (-) glucose

0.6
0.5
0.4
0.3
0.2
0.1
0

PAT1 FL   PAT1-NC   PAT1 FL   PAT1-NC

Dhh1-GFP
Dcp2-mCherry

F.

RAF   GAL

Dhh1-GFP

PAT1 OE

PAT1-NC OE

G.

PBs/cell

0.5
0.4
0.3
0.2
0.1
0

PAT1 OE   PAT1-NC OE

A.

Dhh1-GFP

p (*PAT1*) no OE

p(GAL)-*HA* OE

Raf   Gal

B.

OD_{600nm}

pat1∆
PAT1-NC
PAT1

Time (hours)

C.

Pat1-NC-GFP   Dcp2-mCherry   merge

(-) glucose

Add back glucose

Figure 2

A.

B.

Figure 3

A.

B.

A.

n.s. P value=0.069

n.s. P value=0.552

k_{cat}

0.08

0.06

0.04

0.02

0.00

Dhh1+Not1

Dhh1+Not1+1X Pat1

Dhh1+Not1+3X Pat1

B.

PB disassembly

50µg/mL cycloheximide: Dcp2-mcherry

	0'	5'	20'	40'	90'
DHH1					
p (GAL)-PAT1					
dhh1 ^{DQAD}					

C.

PB percentage

0   20   40   60   80   100

Time (mins)

DHH1
dhh1 ^{DQAD}
p-GAL-PAT1

A.

A.

2:1 +/-0.18

2.5:1 +/-0.23

Dhh1/ Pat1 *in vivo* in PBs

time of glucose starvation (hours)

B.

Stoichiometry of Dhh1/Pat1 in *in vitro* LLPS droplets

Dhh1-mCherry

Intensity [-]

Dhh1-mCherry concentration (uM)

Dhh1-GFP(A206K) same GFP as Pat1-GFP

Intensity [-]

Pat1-NC-GFP concentration (uM)

2 µM Dhh1, 5mM ATP, 0.1 mg/ml pU

2 µM Dhh1, 5 mM ATP, 0.1 mg/ml pU + 4uM Pat1

Dhh1:Pat1 in *in vitro* droplets= 2.7:1+/- 0.13

C.

Tug of war model between Pat1 and Not1 to promote PB assembly and Disassembly respectively

Stress

Translation

① mRNA clients

Dhh1

RNA

N C

PAT1

N C

N

② PAT1 AA

PKA

③ Dhh1 ATP

Not1

Enhanced LLPS of Dhh1 and RNA

P-Body

A.

	0.5h	1h	2h	4h	6h	8h	20h

Pat1-GFP

Dhh1-GFP

B.

Dhh1-GFP   Pat1-GFP

kDa

250
130
100
*   *
70
55
loading control (LC)
(HXK)
35

Expression normalised to LC

1.2
1
0.8
0.6
0.4
0.2
0

Dhh1-GFP   Pat1-GFP

C.

size distributions

no. of droplets

0
0   5   10
Radius [µm]

0
0   5   10
Radius [µm]

2 µM Dhh1, 5mM ATP, 0.1 mg/ml pU

2 µM Dhh1, 5 mM ATP, 0.1 mg/ml pU + 4µM Pat1

A.

Dhh1-GFP DAPI merge

$p(GAL)$-$PAT1^{WT}$ OE — GAL, RAF

$p(GAL)$-$pat1^{AA}$ OE — GAL, RAF

B.

$p(GAL)$- $PAT1^{WT}$

Dhh1 GFP DAPI HDEL (nuclear rim) merge

C.

PB intensities in Pat1 mutants

Intensity

1.2
1
0.8
0.6
0.4
0.2
0

$PAT1$ $pat1^{4A\text{-}Dhh1}$ $pat1^{EE}$