Noroviruses subvert the core stress granule component G3BP1 to promote viral VPg-dependent translation.

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1 Abstract (148)

2 Knowledge of the host factors required for norovirus replication has been hindered 3 by the challenges associated with culturing human noroviruses. We have combined 4 proteomic analysis of the viral translation and replication complexes with a CRISPR 5 screen, to identify host factors required for norovirus infection. The core stress 6 granule component G3BP1 was identified as a host factor essential for efficient 7 human and murine norovirus infection, demonstrating a conserved function across 8 the Norovirus genus. Furthermore, we show that G3BP1 functions in the novel 9 paradigm of viral VPg-dependent translation initiation, contributing to the assembly of 10 translation complexes on the VPg-linked viral positive sense RNA genome by 11 facilitating 40S recruitment. Our data suggest that G3BP1 functions by providing viral 12 RNA a competitive advantage over capped cellular RNAs, uncovering a novel 13 function for G3BP1 in the life cycle of positive sense RNA viruses and identifying the 14 first host factor with pan-norovirus pro-viral activity.

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17 Keywords (10)

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20 Introduction:

21 Positive sense RNA viruses rely heavily on host cell factors for all aspects of their life 22 cycle. They replicate on host derived membranous vesicles that are induced 23 following viral infection, the formation of which requires the activity of key membrane 24 bound viral enzymes (Altan-Bonnet, 2017). Within the membrane bound viral 25 replication complex, translation of the viral genome and the synthesis of new viral 26 RNA occurs in a highly coordinated process. Positive sense RNA viruses have 27 evolved novel gene expression mechanisms that enable them to overcome the 28 genome size limitations that accompany error-prone replication and which might 29 restrict their overall coding capacity (Firth and Brierley, 2012). In addition, viral 30 modification of the host cell translation machinery often provides a competitive 31 advantage allowing for the efficient translation of viral RNA in an environment where 32 competing cellular RNAs are in abundance (McCormick and Khaperskyy, 2017). 33 This ability to compete with cellular RNAs is particularly important for the initiation of 34 infection where the incoming viral genome may be present at only a single copy per 35 cell.

36 We have previously described a novel paradigm of viral translation that relies on the 37 interaction of host translation initiation factors with a virus-encoded protein (VPg), 38 covalently linked to the 5' end of the genome of members of the *Caliciviridae* family 39 of positive sense RNA viruses (Chaudhry et al., 2006; Chung et al., 2014; 40 Goodfellow et al., 2005; Hosmillo et al., 2014; Leen et al., 2016). Unlike the 22-41 amino acid VPg peptides from picornaviruses, the VPg protein linked to the genomes 42 of caliciviruses is significantly larger and is essential for the translation of viral RNA 43 and viral RNA infectivity (Goodfellow, 2011).

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45 Human noroviruses (HuNoV) and sapoviruses (HuSaV) are enteropathogenic 46 members of the Caliciviridae family of positive sense RNA viruses, and together 47 cause >20% of all cases of gastroenteritis (GE). They are also a significant cause of 48 morbidity and mortality in the immunocompromised; individuals with genetic immune-49 deficiencies, cancer patients undergoing treatment and transplant recipients often 50 experience chronic norovirus infections lasting months to years (van Beek et al., 51 2016). The economic impact of HuNoV is estimated to be at least ~\$4.2 billion in 52 direct health care costs, with wider societal costs of ~\$60 billion (Bartsch et al., 53 2016). Despite their socioeconomic impact, we have, until very recently lacked a 54 detailed understanding of much of the norovirus life cycle and many significant 55 questions remain unanswered. HuNoV replicons (Chang et al., 2006), a murine 56 norovirus that replicates in cell culture (Karst et al., 2003; Wobus et al., 2004) and 57 the recent B cell (Jones et al., 2014), stem-cell derived organoid (Ettayebi et al., 58 2016) and zebrafish larvae infection models (Van et al., 2019), have all provided 59 invaluable tools to dissect the norovirus life cycle. However, due to the technical 60 limitations associated with many of these experimental systems, in comparison to 61 other positive sense RNA viruses, our knowledge of the intracellular life of 62 noroviruses is significantly lacking (reviewed in Thorne and Goodfellow, 2014).

In the current study, we have combined three independent unbiased approaches to identify host factors involved in the norovirus life cycle. Combining experimental systems that incorporated both murine and human noroviruses, allowed the identification of cellular factors for which the function is likely conserved across the *Norovirus* genus. By combining three complimentary approaches, we identify the

host protein G3BP1 as a critical host factor required for norovirus VPg-dependent
 translation, identifying a new role for G3BP1 in virus-specific translation.

70 **Results:**

71 Comparative analysis of the norovirus translation initiation complex.

72 The MNV and the prototype HuNoV Norwalk virus (NV) VPg proteins contain a 73 highly conserved C-terminal domain (Fig 1A) which we have previously shown to be 74 necessary and sufficient for binding to the translation initiation factor eIF4G (Chung 75 et al., 2014; Leen et al., 2016). Using affinity purification on m7-GTP sepharose, we 76 confirmed that the NV VPg protein, as produced during authentic virus replication in 77 a NV replicon bearing cell line, interacts with the cap-binding complex eIF4F (Fig 78 1B). Components of the eIF4F complex, namely the eIF4E cap-binding protein, the 79 eIF4A helicase and the eIF4GI scaffold protein, along with poly-A binding protein 80 (PABP) and eIF3 subunits, were readily purified on m7-GTP sepharose, whereas 81 GAPDH was not. In NV-replicon containing cells, mature VPg was also enriched on 82 m7-GTP sepharose but the NS3 protein, known to have RNA binding and helicase 83 activity (Li et al., 2018), was not. Furthermore, we demonstrated that transfection of 84 GFP-tagged versions of either the MNV or NV VPg proteins into 293T cells allowed 85 for the affinity purification of eIF4F components and that mutations in the eIF4G 86 binding domain of VPg reduced this association (Fig 1C).

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We next used quantitative mass spectrometry of the affinity purified complexes isolated from cells transfected with the GFP-Tagged VPg proteins to identify host factors specifically enriched on the norovirus VPg protein (Fig 1D, Fig S1 and Table

91 S1). Most of the proteins identified were components of the host cell translation 92 complex including ribosomal proteins, translation initiation factors and host RNA 93 binding proteins. These data agrees with but significantly extend our previous 94 observations using a less sensitive multi-step affinity purification approach to 95 characterise host factors associated with the MNV VPg protein only (Chaudhry et al., 96 2006; Chung et al., 2014). In addition, we identified hnRNPA1 which we have 97 previously shown to act in norovirus genome circularization (López-Manríquez et al., 98 2013). YBX1, DDX3 and several other proteins that we have previously found to 99 interact with the 5' end of the viral RNA (Vashist et al., 2012b) were also enriched on 100 VPg (Fig S1). To validate a select number of these interactions and to assess 101 whether the interaction of VPg with eIF4G is required for their association with VPg, 102 we performed western blot analysis of complexes purified from cells transfected with 103 either the WT or eIF4G-binding mutants (Fig 1E). Except for YBX1, the association 104 of all proteins tested were reduced by the introduction of eIF4G-binding site 105 mutations into the MNV VPg protein. Together, these data extend our previous 106 observations and confirm that the norovirus VPg proteins interact with a complex 107 network of host factors, many of which have been implicated in the host cell 108 translation initiation process.

109

110 Determination of the norovirus replication complex proteome.

To further identify the components of the norovirus translation and replication complex, as formed during authentic viral replication in highly permissive cells, we utilised two recombinant infectious MNV strains that carried epitope purification tags within the NS1/2 or NS4 proteins (McCune et al., 2017) (Fig 2A). The insertion

115 positions were previously identified using a transposon based mutagenesis screen 116 as sites that tolerate insertions, without compromising virus viability (Thorne et al., 117 2012). Our approach was somewhat analogous to that recently published for 118 coronaviruses (V'kovski et al., 2019) but instead used stable isotope labelling of 119 permissive cells and the FLAG affinity purification tag rather than proximity labelling. 120 Unlabelled or stable isotope labelled highly permissive BV-2 microglial cells were 121 infected with either wild type MNV or the equivalent virus carrying the FLAG epitope 122 purification tag in either NS1/2 or NS4, and the viral replication complex was purified. 123 The experiment was performed three times by swapping the labelled derivatives of 124 arginine and lysine as described in the materials and methods. Silver stain of the 125 purified complexes confirmed the presence of the bait proteins, with both the 126 uncleaved and cleaved forms of NS1/2 and NS2 being highly enriched (Fig 2B). As 127 expected, complexes purified from NS1/2-Flag virus infected cells co-purified 128 untagged NS4 and vice versa (Fig 2B), as we have previously shown these proteins 129 to interact to form a complex (Thorne et al., 2012). Western blot analysis of the 130 purified complexes confirmed that viral non-structural and structural proteins were 131 specifically enriched in the purified complexes, including NS5 (VPg)-containing 132 precursors (Fig 2C). We noted that anti-NS4 monoclonal antibody was unable to 133 detect protein in the extracts prior to enrichment, which most likely reflected the 134 limited sensitivity of the antibody. Quantitative mass spectrometry of the purified 135 complexes allowed the identified of viral and cellular proteins enriched in the 136 complex (Fig 2D and Table S2).

As expected, all viral proteins, including the VF1 protein product of ORF4, an innate immune antagonist (Bailey et al., 2011), were enriched in the viral replication complex. There was a significant correlation between the relative enrichment of

140 proteins identified using NS1/2 and NS4 (Spearman correlation of 0.8832), fitting 141 with our prior knowledge that both proteins form a complex during viral replication 142 (Thorne et al., 2012). Ontology analysis indicated that proteins involved in vesicle 143 transport and fatty acid metabolism were significantly enriched (Fig S2 and Table 144 S3), fitting with previous observations that the viral replication complex is associated 145 with cytoplasmic membranous structures (Cotton et al., 2017; Hyde and Mackenzie, 146 2010; Hyde et al., 2009). Several host proteins previously identified in a variety of 147 biochemical and genetic screens were enriched (Fig S2 and Table S3) providing 148 additional confidence that the approach identified biologically relevant interactions. 149 We noted that the VapA and the paralogue VapB, which we have recently identified 150 as binding to the NS1/2 protein (McCune et al., 2017), were both highly enriched. 151 Comparison with the data obtained using VPg as a bait protein (Fig 1) showed some 152 degree of overlap, however it is worth noting that most of the factors that were 153 identified using VPg were enriched by >2 fold using only the NS1/2 tagged virus and 154 not the NS4 tagged virus (Fig S2). One of the exceptions to this was the core stress 155 granule protein G3BP1, which was enriched by both MNV and NV VPg proteins, and 156 was also enriched in complexes purified using both NS1/2 and NS4-tagged viruses.

157

158 Identification of host factors required for norovirus infection using a CRISPR159 knockout screen.

A high density CRISPR library screen was undertaken to identify genes that contribute to the norovirus life cycle. The Brie library (Doench et al., 2016) was selected due to the reduced off-target effects relative to previously described CRISPR libraries used for norovirus studies (Haga et al., 2016; Orchard et al., 2016).

164 In addition, to minimise the impact of gRNAs that may have deleterious effects on 165 long term cell viability and to increase our ability to detect genes that may be 166 important, but not essential, for norovirus-induced cell death, the infection was 167 reduced to 24 hours as compared to 2-10 days post infection in previous studies. 168 BV-2-Cas9 expressing cells were infected with lentiviruses carrying the Brie gRNA 169 library carrying 78,637 independent guide RNAs to 19,674 genes (Doench et al., 170 2016). The transduced cells were then infected with two MNV strains, CW3 and 171 CR6, which cause acute and persistent infections in immunocompetent mice 172 respectively (Nice et al., 2012; Thackray et al., 2007), and guide RNA abundance 173 compared to mock infected cells at 24 hours post infection as illustrated in Fig 3A. 174 Genes that were enriched by STARS analysis following MNV infection represent 175 putative pro-viral factors which when disrupted result in slower cell death, whereas 176 those with a negative STARS value represent putative anti-viral factors where virus-177 induced cell death has occurred quicker, resulting in their underrepresentation in the 178 final pool of cells. MNV-CR6 infection resulted in 212 genes being enriched and 43 179 being negatively selected (Fig 3B), whereas for MNV-CW3 279 and 19 genes were 180 positively and negatively selected respectively (Fig 3B). In most cases, there was a 181 clear correlation between the datasets obtained using either strain (Fig 3C). STARS 182 analysis was used to ranks genes with positive and negative values (Table S4). In 183 both screens, the MNV receptor Cd300lf was the most highly positively selected 184 gene identified, in agreement with previous reports (Haga et al., 2016; Orchard et al., 185 2016). The second most highly enriched gene was G3BP1, a gene also identified in 186 one of the two previous CRISPR screens performed on norovirus infected cells 187 (Orchard et al., 2016).

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189 A comparison of the data obtained from all three approaches allowed us to identify 190 several host proteins that were common to all screens (Table S5). G3BP1, the core 191 stress granule component was identified in all three screens as a potential host 192 factor essential for norovirus infection. G3BP1 was found to be associated with the 193 MNV and NV VPg proteins (Fig 1D), enriched in viral replication complexes purified 194 using either NS1/2 or NS4 flag tagged viruses (Fig 2D) and identified in a CRISPR 195 screen using two different MNV strains as a putative pro-viral factor involved in the 196 norovirus life cycle (Fig 3C).

197

198 G3BP1 is essential for murine norovirus replication

199 To validate the importance of G3BP1 in the norovirus life cycle we generated G3BP1 200 deficient BV-2 cell lines (Fig 4A) and examined the impact of G3BP1 ablation on 201 MNV infection. Western blotting confirmed the loss of G3BP1 in the three lines 202 tested and we noted that at in some cases, a concomitant increase in G3BP2 203 expression was observed as has been previously noted (Kedersha et al., 2016). A 204 clear defect was observed in the ability to replicate to produce infectious virus in 205 three independently selected $\Delta G3BP1$ cell lines (Fig 4B). This effect was mirrored by 206 an inability to induce cytopathic effect leading to virus-induced cell death (Fig 4C). In 207 contrast, the ability of encephalomyocarditis virus (EMCV) to infect and cause cell 208 death was unaffected by the deletion of G3BP1(Fig 4C). These data confirm that 209 cells lacking G3BP1 are highly resistant to norovirus infection.

210

G3BP1 is essential for human norovirus replication in cell culture

212 To determine if the G3BP1 was also essential for HuNoV, we examined the impact 213 of loss of G3BP1 on human norovirus replication in cell culture using the Norwalk 214 virus replicon. To establish the experimental system, we first confirmed that the 215 presence of VPg on the 5' end of the Norwalk RNA was essential for the replication 216 of the replicon RNA and for the capacity to form G418 resistant colonies. 217 Transfection of replicon RNA, purified from replicon containing cells, into BHK cells 218 readily resulted in the formation of antibiotic resistant cell colonies (Fig 5A). In 219 contrast, RNA that was proteinase K treated prior to transfection was unable to 220 produce replicon containing colonies. Transfection of replicon RNA into wild type 221 U2OS osteosarcoma cells allowed the formation of replicon-containing colonies, 222 although the efficiency of formation was significantly less than that seen in BHK cells 223 (Fig 5B). CRISPR modified U2OS cells that lacked G3BP1 (Kedersha et al., 2016) 224 were unable to support NV replication, as evident by the lack of antibiotic resistant 225 colonies (Fig 5B). To further examine the role of G3BP1 in human Norwalk virus 226 replication, WT or G3BP1 deficient U2OS cells were transfected with NV replicon 227 VPg-linked RNA, and RNA synthesis monitored overtime following the addition of 228 G418. While a significant increase in NV viral RNA levels was seen in WT U2OS 229 cells, those lacking G3BP1 were completely unable to support NV RNA synthesis 230 (Fig 5C). These data indicate that like for MNV, G3BP1 is essential for human 231 Norwalk virus replication.

232

The RNA-binding domain of G3BP1 is required for its function in the norovirus
life cycle.

235 To confirm the role of G3BP1 in the norovirus life cycle we examined the ability of full 236 length and truncated versions of G3BP1 to restore norovirus replication in G3BP1 237 knockout cells. A mouse BV-2 G3BP1 knockout cell line was complemented with 238 either full length G3BP1 or variants lacking the RGG or both the RGG and RRM 239 binding domains (Fig 6A) and the impact on viral replication assessed. 240 Complementation with full length murine G3BP1 restored the ability of MNV to 241 induce cell death (Fig 6B) and to produce infectious virus (Fig 6C) back to near wild 242 type levels. In contrast, complementation with a variant carrying a deletion of the 243 RGG domain resulted in limited complementation, and deletion of both the RGG and 244 RRM domains together resulted in complete loss of complementation capacity (Fig 245 6B&C). These data confirm that the RNA binding domains of G3BP1 are essential 246 for its function in the norovirus life cycle.

247

248 **G3BP1** is required for a post entry step in the norovirus life cycle.

249 To further define the role of G3BP1 in the norovirus life cycle we examined whether 250 G3BP1 functioned at the level of viral entry or post-entry. We therefore bypassed the 251 entry phase of the infection process and transfected viral VPg-linked RNA into WT 252 and two independently generated BV-2 Δ G3BP1 cell lines and examined the impact 253 on norovirus replication. Transfection of MNV viral VPg-linked RNA into WT cells 254 resulted in high yields of infectious virus (Fig 7A) and viral proteins (Fig 7C). The 255 levels of infectivity obtained following transfection of Δ G3BP1 cell lines with MNV 256 viral RNA was comparable to that obtained in WT cells in the presence of the 257 nucleoside analogue 2'-C-methylcytidin (2CMC), a known inhibitor of the norovirus 258 RNA polymerase (Rocha-Pereira et al., 2012; 2013) (Fig 7A). No viral proteins were

259 detected in either of the Δ G3BP1 cell lines suggesting a defect at a very early stage 260 in the viral life cycle (Fig 7C). Transfection of VPg-linked RNA into the Δ G3BP1 cell 261 lines reconstituted with WT G3BP1 restored the ability to produce infectious virus 262 (Fig 7B) and the production of viral proteins (Fig 7D). A minor increase in viral 263 infectivity was observed in the Δ G3BP1 cell line reconstituted with the Δ RGG 264 construct producing viral titres that were higher than those obtained from the WT complemented line in the presence of 2CMC, suggesting low levels of viral 265 266 replication (Fig 7B). However, the levels of viral proteins produced in this line was 267 below the limit of detection by western blot (Fig 7D). These data confirm that G3BP1 268 is required for a post entry stage of the norovirus life cycle and that in the absence of 269 G3BP1 only residual norovirus replication is observed.

270

271 G3BP1 is required for viral negative sense RNA synthesis

272 To define the precise role of G3BP1 in the early stages of the virus life cycle, we 273 used strand-specific RT-qPCR to quantify the levels of viral positive and negative 274 sense RNA in WT and Δ G3BP1 cell lines following infection with MNV. As a control, 275 2CMC was included following virus inoculation as illustrated in the experimental time 276 line (Fig 8A). The production of viral positive sense RNA was reduced to background 277 levels in the absence of G3BP1, comparable to levels observed when the 2CMC was 278 present during the infection (Fig 8B). Viral negative sense RNA synthesis was also 279 reduced to below the detection limit of the assay in Δ G3BP1 cell lines (Fig 8C). 280 Surprisingly, we were able to detect an ~5 fold increase in viral negative sense RNA 281 production at 6 hours post infection of WT cells in the presence of 2CMC, which,

given that 2CMC was added after the inoculation phase (Fig 8B), likely represents the first round of viral negative sense RNA synthesis, confirming the sensitivity of the assay. Addition of 2CMC during the inoculation phase reduced this background levels (data not shown).

286 Similar results were obtained following transfection of viral RNA into cells to bypass 287 the entry phase; viral positive and negative sense RNA synthesis was near (or 288 below) the sensitivity of the assay following transfection of viral VPg-linked RNA into 289 two independent Δ G3BP1 cell lines (Fig 8D & E). Complementation with WT G3BP1, 290 but not the mutant forms lacking the RNA binding domains, also restored viral 291 positive and negative sense RNA synthesis (Fig 8F & G). We did not detect viral 292 positive or negative sense RNAs in the Δ RGG complemented cell line, despite the 293 presence of low levels of viral infectivity (Fig 7B). This discrepancy likely reflects the 294 relative sensitivities of the assays and the nature of the strand specific qPCR assay 295 which requires low levels of RNA input to maintain strand specificity. Together these 296 data suggest that the function of G3BP1 is prior to, or at the level of viral negative 297 sense RNA synthesis, with the most logical steps being either viral RNA translation 298 or the formation of viral replication complexes.

299

300 G3BP1 is required for the association of VPg with 40S ribosomal subunits.

We have previously shown that norovirus VPg interacts with eIF4G to recruit ribosomal subunits and direct viral translation (Chaudhry et al., 2006; Chung et al., 2014). The interaction between VPg and eIF4G occurs via a direct interaction between the highly conserved C-terminal region in VPg and the central HEAT

305 domain of eIF4G (Leen et al., 2016) and does not require any additional cellular 306 cofactors, at least in vitro. The interaction between the eIF4G HEAT domain and the 307 eIF3 complex plays a central role in the recruitment of the 40S ribosomal subunit for 308 translation initiation (Marcotrigiano:2001ug; Kumar et al., 2016; Villa et al., 2013). 309 Our proteomics analysis also confirms that the norovirus VPg proteins form a 310 complex that contains multiple components of the 40S subunit (Fig 1D) and it has 311 been established previously that G3BP1 associates with 40S subunits (Kedersha et 312 al., 2016). To assess a potential role for G3BP1 in the formation of VPg-driven 313 translation complexes in cells, we examined the ability of GFP tagged version of 314 MNV VPg to pull down 40S subunits in the presence and absence of G3BP1. GFP-315 tagged WT MNV VPg was readily able to pull down eIF4G, G3BP1 and RpS6, a 316 component of the 40S subunit (Fig 9A). However, in the absence of G3BP1, the 317 ability to pull down RpS6 was lost (Fig 9A). Furthermore, we found that disruption of 318 the VPg-eIF4G interaction by the introduction of the F123A mutation into the eIF4G 319 binding domain, also significantly reduced the ability to pull down RpS6 (Fig 9B). 320 These data suggest that the interaction of VPg with eIF4G is important for complex 321 formation with ribosomal proteins and that that G3BP1 contributes in some manner 322 to the formation of this complex.

323

324 G3BP1 is require for efficient polysome loading of norovirus VPg-linked RNA

To assess the impact of G3BP on the selective translation of viral VPg-linked RNA following viral infection, we evaluated the impact of loss of G3BP1 on the recruitment of viral RNA to polysomes under conditions where viral RNA synthesis was inhibited, namely in the presence of 2CMC. This approach enabled us to assess only the

329 capacity of the incoming parental viral RNA to assemble into translationally active 330 complexes, a stage often referred to as the "maiden round" of RNA virus genome 331 translation. To this aim, cells were infected with MNV in the presence of 2CMC and 332 polysomes profiling on extracts prepared from cells at 4 and 9 hours post infection 333 performed (Fig 10A). Quantification of the viral RNA levels in cells in the presence of 334 2CMC confirmed that the absence of G3BP1 has no impact on the overall levels 335 present at the time points examined (data not shown). We noted that even in the 336 presence of 2CMC, which inhibits viral RNA synthesis, there was a small but 337 measurable increase in free 80S ribosomes over time in WT cells but not in cells 338 lacking G3BP1 (Fig 10A). We have previously found that MNV infection results in 339 translation shut off and that this effect is at least partualkly due to the activity of the 340 NS6 protease (Emmott et al., 2017). The fact we observed 80S accumulation in WT 341 cells, even in the absence of viral RNA synthesis, but not in cells lacking G3BP1, 342 indirectly lead us to suspect that translation of viral RNA had occurred in WT cells, 343 but was much less efficient in cells lacking G3BP1. Further analyses indicated that 344 while most ribosome-associated norovirus RNA in WT cells was found in polysomes 345 containing fractions, less viral RNA was found in ribosome-containing fractions (1-12 346 in Fig 10A & B) in the absence of G3BP1 cells and, in comparison to WT cells, very 347 little viral RNA was found in fractions containing polysomes (Fig 10B). Extending the 348 fractionation to include the free RNA and ribonucleoprotein complexes at the top of 349 each gradient confirmed that in the absence of G3BP1 norovirus RNA is less 350 efficient at assembling into polysomal fractions, suggesting a defect at the level of 351 viral protein synthesis (Fig 10C). Together these data support the hypothesis that 352 G3BP1 functions to promote the translation of norovirus VPg-linked RNA, by 353 facilitating the association with 40S subunits.

354

355 **G3BP1** is require for efficient norovirus VPg-dependent translation in the 356 presence of cellular capped RNAs.

357 To further examine a potential role of G3BP1 in norovirus VPg-dependent 358 translation, cytoplasmic translationally competent extracts were prepared from WT 359 and Δ G3BP1 cell lines and the translation of highly purified viral VPg-linked viral 360 RNA (Fig S11A&B) examined. Cap-dependent and cricket paralysis virus IRES 361 (CrPV)-dependent translation were comparable in nuclease treated extracts 362 prepared from WT and Δ G3BP1 cell lines (Fig 11A), whereas norovirus VPg-363 dependent translation was reduced (Fig 11B). Quantification of multiple experiments 364 indicated that translation in nuclease treated extracts was on average reduced by 365 ~40-50% because of G3BP1 ablation (Fig 11C). A similar reduction in *in vitro* 366 translation was observed across multiple time points (Fig S11C).

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368 The ability of VPg-linked norovirus RNA to be translated in the presence of 369 increasing amounts of total cellular RNAs was then examined to assess the relative 370 role of G3BP1 under conditions where cellular RNA are present. Total RNA isolated 371 from uninfected cells was titrated into the nuclease treated extracts and the impact 372 norovirus VPg-dependent translation examined (Fig 11D). We found that in the 373 presence of cellular RNAs, the translation of norovirus VPg-linked RNA in extracts 374 from Δ G3BP1 cells is reduced by up to 80% in comparison to extracts from WT cells. 375 In agreement with our data using polysome profiling, these data suggest that G3BP1 376 functions to provide a competitive advantage for norovirus VPg-linked RNA under 377 conditions where cellular RNAs are present.

378

379 Discussion

In this study, we have used a combination of biochemical and genetic approaches to identify host factors involved in the norovirus life cycle. Our combined approaches resulted in the identification of the core stress granule component G3BP1 as a host protein critical for the replication of both murine and human noroviruses in cell culture. Furthermore, we determined that G3BP1 plays a key role in the processes of norovirus VPg-dependent protein synthesis, uncovering a new function for G3BP1 in facilitating RNA virus genome translation.

387 The orthogonal approaches used in the current study provide an unprecedented 388 insight into the identity of host factors with potential roles in the norovirus life cycle. 389 The detailed proteomic analysis of the viral replication and translation complexes 390 formed during MNV infection (Fig 2) resulted in the identification of several host 391 factors with previously identified roles in the MNV life cycle. We focused our efforts 392 on G3BP1 as it was identified in all three approaches and was also identified in a 393 CRISPR screen published during this study (Orchard et al., 2016). Furthermore, we 394 have previously shown that feline calicivirus (FCV), a relative of noroviruses within 395 the Vesivirus genus, cleaves G3BP1 to inhibit stress granule formation (Humoud et 396 al., 2016). In contrast, MNV infection does not result in G3BP1 cleavage and instead 397 forms cytoplasmic foci the composition of which is distinct from canonical stress 398 granules (Brocard et al., 2018).

G3BP1 is one member of a group of G3BP proteins (Ras-GTPase-activating protein(SH3 domain)-binding proteins), referred to as Rasputin in insects, that possess

401 RNA binding activity and have multiple cellular functions including the regulation of 402 RNA stability and translation in response to stress. Originally identified as a protein 403 that interacted with Ras-GTPase activating protein (RasGAP), more than two 404 decades of research have significantly expanded our knowledge of the 405 multifunctional role in cellular processes. It is now well accepted that G3BPs play a 406 role in cancer cell survival, cancer metastasis and invasion, processing of specific 407 miRNAs and stress granule formation (Reviewed in (Alam and Kennedy, 2019). 408 Stress granules are dynamic cytoplasmic ribonucleoprotein complexes that form 409 rapidly under stress conditions and within which cellular RNAs are stored in stalled 410 translation complexes (Protter and Parker, 2016). In the context of viral infection, 411 numerous studies have suggested that many, if not all, viruses must interact in some 412 manner with stress granules as there is growing evidence that the formation of 413 cytoplasmic stress granules is part of the antiviral defence mechanism (Reviewed in 414 (McCormick and Khaperskyy, 2017). Some viruses interact with stress granules to 415 promote viral replication (Cristea et al., 2010; Kim et al., 2016; Panas et al., 2014; 416 2012) whereas some do so to counteract the inhibitory effect of stress granules on 417 the translation of viral RNA (Panas et al., 2015; White et al., 2007).

418 Our data suggests that G3BP1 plays a key role in promoting the translation of 419 norovirus VPg-linked viral RNA. Positive sense RNA viruses have evolved 420 mechanisms to ensure the efficient translation of their viral genomic RNAs in the 421 presence of high concentrations of competing cellular RNAs. These mechanisms 422 include the use of internal ribosome entry site elements (IRES), modified cap-423 dependent mechanisms (Firth and Brierley, 2012; Jaafar and Kieft, 2019) and the 424 ability to target the host cell translation machinery to generate an environment where 425 viral RNA translation is favoured over cellular capped RNAs (Walsh et al., 2013).

426 G3BP1 is known to associate primarily with free 40S subunits and not 80S 427 monosomes (Kedersha et al., 2016). Our data supports a hypothesis whereby the 428 association of G3BP1 with 40S ribosomal subunits provides a selective advantage 429 for norovirus VPg-dependent translation, thereby uncovering a new function in virus 430 specific translation. The mechanism by which G3BP1 contributes to this process has 431 yet to be fully explored but our data supports the hypothesis that G3BP1 directly or 432 indirectly promotes the recruitment of 40S ribosomal subunits to VPg-driven 433 translation complexes. The RGG motif of G3BP1 is known to be essential for the 434 association between G3BP1 and 40S subunits as well as the ability to from stress 435 granules, whereas data would suggest that the RRM may play a regulatory role 436 (Kedersha et al., 2016). These domains were also required for the function of G3BP1 437 in the norovirus life cycle (Fig 6) confirming that the G3BP1 association with 40S is 438 important for its role in promoting norovirus VPg-dependent translation. Importantly, 439 RGG domains are known to have many functions (Thandapani et al., 2013) and 440 therefore in the context of G3BP1 function in the norovirus life cycle, may also 441 contribute to unknown interactions that promote norovirus translation. Previous work 442 on alphaviruses have shown that G3BP1 is sequestered by binding to the nsP3 443 protein (Panas et al., 2012; 2014; 2015). Furthermore, this interaction occurs via an 444 FGDF motif also found in other viral proteins including the ICP8 protein of herpes 445 simplex virus (Panas et al., 2015). While the MNV VPg protein has a similar motif 446 FGDGF (Fig 1A), this motif is not conserved in the GI Norwalk virus VPg protein. 447 Therefore our data suggest that the interaction of VPg with G3BP1 is not direct, 448 fitting with our observation that this interaction is reduced by mutations in the eIF4G 449 binding domain (Fig 1A and Fig 9B.) While our data fit with a primary role for G3BP1 450 in norovirus translation, we are unable to exclude the possibility that G3BP1 plays

other roles in the viral life cycle. Recent studies have confirmed that G3BP1 is
enriched at sites of viral RNA synthesis (Brocard et al., 2018; Fritzlar et al., 2019) so
it is possible that G3BP1 makes multiple contacts between the 40S subunit and viral
RNA genome directly.

The technical challenges associated with studying human norovirus replication in cell culture have limited the experimental approaches we could use to validate the role of G3BP1 in human norovirus translation. However, our results have clearly demonstrated that in the absence of G3BP1, human Norwalk virus is unable to replicate or form replicon-containing colonies. The presence of G3BP1 in the NV VPg-containing complexes again fits with our hypothesis that G3BP1 plays a role in promoting viral VPg-dependent protein synthesis.

462 We have previously found that norovirus infection leads to a translation bias whereby 463 cellular mRNAs induced in response to infection are inefficiently translated (Emmott 464 et al., 2017). Our data suggested that this modification of host cell translation was at 465 least partially driven by the ability of the viral NS6 protease to cleave PABP and the 466 induction of apoptosis which results in cleavage of cellular translation initiation 467 factors (Emmott et al., 2017). Furthermore, we have more recently shown that the 468 ability of the protease to cleave PABP and other substrates is controlled by 469 polyprotein processing and interactions with other viral proteins (Emmott et al., 470 2019). Recent work would agree with our observations and confirms that the 471 translational bias is not driven by phosphorylation of eIF2 α and that activation of 472 GCN2 leads to the phosphorylation of $elF2\alpha$ (Brocard et al., 2018). We note however 473 that others have suggested that NS3 may contribute to translational shut off (Fritzlar 474 et al., 2019), with the caveat that this observation was made outside of the context of

infected cells and using overexpressed tagged proteins. We suspect that noroviruses use multiple mechanisms that work co-operatively to enable the control of host gene expression and the subsequent translation of the cellular mRNAs. The relative contribution of these processes in any given cell type may also differ depending on the degree to which the cells can sense and respond to viral infection through the induction of innate and apototic responses.

481 The observation that many of the factors enriched using the VPg protein were only 482 enriched on complexes purified with NS1/2 tagged infectious MNV, could suggest 483 that the viral proteins present in the viral translation complex are distinct from those 484 present in complexes active for viral RNA synthesis. However, we cannot formally 485 rule out other possible explanations including the possibility that the specific 486 enrichment of translation factors on NS1/2 occurs because NS1/2 is the first protein 487 to be translated from ORF1, therefore unprocessed NS1/2 at the N-terminus of the 488 ORF1 polyprotein being actively translated could function as an anchor, facilitating 489 the enrichment of ribosomes and the associated factors. In addition, we have 490 previously seen that VPg-containing precursors may bind the translation initiation 491 factor eIF4G less well (Leen et al., 2016), which could prevent some VPg (NS5) 492 containing precursors associating with translation initiation complexes.

In conclusion, our data adds significantly to the growing body of literature on the role of G3BP proteins in the life cycle of viruses and further extends the functional roles of G3BP1 to include the promotion of viral translation processes. We identify G3BP1 as a host protein that has a critical role in the life cycle of murine and human noroviruses, identifying the first cellular pro-viral protein with pan-norovirus activity. Furthermore, given the apparent importance of G3BP1 to an early stage of the

499 norovirus life cycle, this work suggests that targeting G3BP1 may hold future500 therapeutic potential.

501

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509

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524 Figure Legends

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526 Figure 1. The norovirus VPg proteins interacts with ribosome associated 527 translation initiation factors. A) Amino acid sequence alignment of the GV murine 528 norovirus VPg sequences with VPg from representative human noroviruses from GI 529 Norwalk virus (NV), GII, and GIV. The position of the site of RNA linkage to the 530 highly conserved tyrosine residue is highlighted in green. The eIF4G binding motif is 531 boxed and the position of the C-terminal single amino acid change known to interfere 532 with eIF4G binding highlighted in orange. B) m7-GTP sepharose was used to affinity 533 purify eIF4F containing complexes from either wild-type BHK cells (BHK) or BHK 534 cells containing the Norwalk virus (NV) replicon (BHK-NV). Samples of the lysate (L) 535 or the affinity purified complexes (m7) were separated by SDS-PAGE then analysed 536 by western blot for the indicate proteins. Molecular mass shown on the left of the 537 gels represent the positions of molecular weight markers. C) GFP fusion proteins to 538 either the wild type (WT) or C-terminal eIF4G binding domain mutants of the MNV 539 and NV VPg proteins (F123A, F137A) were transfected into human 293T cells and 540 subjected to immunoaffinity purification using anti-GFP. Samples of the input lysates 541 (Input) and the purified complexes (GFP-IP) were then separated by SDS-PAGE and 542 analysed by western blot analysis for the indicated proteins. Mock transfected cells 543 served as a specificity control. The approximate expected molecular mass of each 544 protein is shown to the left. D) Quantitative proteomics was used as described in the 545 text to identify host factors that were affinity purified following transfection of GFP-546 tagged derivative of either the NV or MNV VPg proteins. Proteins specifically enriched in comparison to the GFP control are shown. Data visualisation was 547 548 performed using Cystoscape (Shannon et al., 2003). E) Western blot analysis of cell

extracts (Input) or immunoprecipitated (GFP IP) complexes isolated from cells
transfected as described in panel C. For clarity, the molecular masses shown in this
panel refer to the expected mass of the protein being examined.

552

553 Supplementary Figure 1: Host factors binding to the norovirus VPg. 554 Quantitative proteomics was used as described in the text to identify host factors that 555 were affinity purified following transfection of GFP-tagged derivative of either the NV 556 or MNV VPg proteins. Proteins specifically enriched in comparison to the GFP 557 control are shown in Panels A and B respectively and where protein binding was 558 reduced . Panel C illustrates the proteins previously found to interact with the 5' or 3' 559 termini of the MNV genome (Bailey et al., 2010; Vashist et al., 2012b) or to associate 560 with MNV VPg using tandem affinity purification (Chung et al., 2014). Data 561 visualisation was performed using Cystoscape (Shannon et al., 2003)

562

563 Figure 2: Proteomic characterisation of the norovirus replication complex using infectious epitope tagged MNV. A) Schematic representation of NS1/2-564 565 FLAG and NS4-FLAG viruses contain insertions of nucleotide sequences encoding 566 the FLAG peptide DYKDDDDK (in yellow) in their coding sequences. The NS1/2-567 FLAG virus FLAG peptide was inserted between 2 of the 3 caspase-3 cleavage sites 568 present in NS1/2 (underlined). B) BV-2 cells labelled with stable derivatives of 569 arginine and lysine were infected with either wild type MNV (WT) or recombinant 570 epitope-tagged MNV as described in the materials and methods. 12 hours post 571 infection samples were lysed, samples pooled and immunoaffinity purifications 572 performed as described in the text. Samples of the cell lysates (Input) and the affinity 573 purified complexes (IP:Flag) were analysed by SDS-PAGE on a 4-12% gradient gel

574 prior to silver staining. The positions of the NS1/2, NS2 and NS4 proteins is shown. 575 C) Western blot analysis of lysates purified from cells infected as described in panel 576 B, for various viral proteins, confirming the specific enrichment of viral replicase 577 components. Plot showing detailing overlapping proteins identified in pulldowns from 578 cells infected with FLAG-tagged NS1/2 or NS4 expressing viruses. All MNV proteins 579 were identified in association with NS1/2 and NS4 (light blue) including the viral 580 polymerase NS7, demonstrating enrichment of the MNV replication complex. 581 Proteins previously identified as host factors potentially involved in some aspect of 582 the norovirus life cycle through various biochemical or genetic screens are shown in 583 red. Selected highly enriched proteins are highlighted in black. The NS1/2 binding 584 partner VapA (McCune et al., 2017) and paralog VapB were both enriched by NS1/2 585 and NS4.

586

587 Supplementary Figure 2: Additional analyses of NS1/2 and NS4-associated 588 proteins. MNV proteins highlighted in light blue, and G31 in gold. A) Gene ontology 589 analysis of proteins copurifying with NS1/2 or NS4 (Log₂ SILAC ratio >2 for either 590 protein). Proteins in selected, mutually exclusive gene ontology categories were 591 identified using PANTHER overrepresentation analysis and are plotted in different 592 colors. B) A number of factors previously identified as MNV host factors using 593 proteomics or CRISPR approaches (Orchard et al., 2016, Chung et al., 2014, 594 Vashist et al., 2012) copurified in pulldowns of NS1/2 and NS4 (highlighted red). C) 595 Novel putative MNV host factors highly enriched (Log₂ SILAC ratio >4 for either 596 protein) by NS1/2 and NS4 are plotted in black. D) Proteins identified in pulldowns of 597 NS1/2 and NS4 which were also identified in pulldowns of MNV VPg are plotted in 598 red. E) Proteins enriched in pulldowns of NS1/2 and NS4 which were also identified

using CRISPR screening as MNV host factors are plotted in red (positive hostfactors) and yellow (negative host factors), along with G3bp1 in gold.

601

Figure 3: CRISPR screen identifies host genes positively and negatively selected upon MNV infection. A) Schematic overview of the infection CRISPR screen workflow. B) Volcano plot identifying candidate genes enriched upon MNV-CW3 (red) or MNV-CR6 (blue); red or blue labelled genes correspond to the top-ten positive or negatively selected genes ranked by the STARS algorithm.

607

608 Figure 4: CRISPR knockout of G3BP1 renders cells non permissive for MNV 609 **replication.** A) Western blot analysis of three independent Δ G3BP1 clones for 610 GAPDH, G3BP1 and G3BP2. B) High multiplicity, single cycle growth curve analysis 611 of the impact of G3BP1 ablation on MNV replication. BV-2 Δ G3BP1 clone C cells 612 were infected at a MOI of 10 TCID50/cell, samples were collected at the time points 613 illustrated, the samples then processed and titrated by TCID50 as described in the 614 text. The error bars represent standard errors of three biological repeats and the 615 data are representative of at least three independent experiments. C) Wild type (WT) 616 or Δ G3BP1 clone C BV-2 cells were plated in a 96 well plate and subsequently 617 infected using a serial dilution of either EMCV or MNV. Cells were fixed in 618 paraformaldehyde and stained with crystal violet 5 days post infection. D) Light 619 micrographs of WT or Δ G3BP1 cells either mock infected (-) or infected with EMCV 620 or MNV and visualised 5 days post infection.

621

Figure 5. G3BP1 is required for human Norwalk virus replication in cell culture.
A) Colony formation ability of human norovirus VPg-linked RNA isolated from BHK-

624 NV replicon containing cells is dependent on the presence of VPg. NV VPg-linked 625 RNA isolated from BHK-NV cells was either mock treated or treated with proteinase 626 K prior to transfection into BHK cells. Wells were transfected with either 1.5µg or 627 0.75µg of total RNA isolated from NV replicon containing BHK cells. Following 2 628 weeks of antibiotic selection with G418, surviving replicon containing colonies were 629 fixed and stained with crystal violet in paraformaldehyde. B) NV replicon colony 630 forming assay in WT and G3BP1-/- U2OS cells performed as described in panel A, 631 with the exception that colonies were stained 12 days post transfection. C) 632 Quantification of NV replication in WT or Δ G3BP1 U2OS cells following transfection 633 of viral VPg-linked RNA. Viral RNA was guantified by RT-gPCR following 634 transfection and antibiotic selection. The error bars represent the standard error of 635 three biological repeats and are representative of three independent experiments.

636

637 Figure 6: MNV replication in BV-2 cells requires the RNA binding activity of **G3BP1.** Western blot analysis of wild type BV-2 cells (WT) or a Δ G3BP1 cells (clone 638 1B2) and the respective complemented lines expressing either WT or the various 639 640 G3BP1 truncations. Cells were lysed prior to separation by 12% SDS-PAGE. B) WT 641 or Δ G3BP1 cells complemented with the indicated constructs were plated in a 96 642 well plate then infected with a serial dilution of MNV, before being fixed and stained 5 643 days post infection as described in the text. C) WT or \triangle G3BP1 cells complemented 644 with the indicated constructs were infected with MNV at an MOI of 10 TCID50 per 645 cell. After 24 hours the virus yield was determined by TCID50. The error bars represent the standard error of three independent repeats. The data are 646 647 representative of at least two independently repeated experiments.

648

649 Figure 7: Loss of G3BP1 results in a defect following transfection of viral VPg-650 **linked RNA into** <u>AG3BP1 cells</u>. A) The indicated cell lines were transfected with 651 MNV viral RNA and harvested at 9 hours post transfection for TCID50 to assess the 652 virus yield. In some instances, the nucleoside analogue 2CMC was included to 653 inhibit viral replication. The dotted line indicates the limit of detection (LOD) and the 654 error bars represent the standard error from three biological repeats. B) Infectious 655 virus yield from Δ G3BP1 and reconstituted cell lines performed as described in panel 656 A. C) and D) illustrate the accompanying western blots for samples prepared in 657 panel A and B respectively. Samples were prepared at 24 hours post transfection, 658 prior to harvesting, separation by SDS-PAGE on a 4-12% gradient gel prior to 659 western blotting for the indicated proteins.

660

661 Figure 8: The Lack of G3BP1 results in a failure to produce viral negative 662 **sense RNA.** The experimental design is illustrated in A. Wild type or Δ G3BP1 (1B2) cells were infected prior to the addition of the nucleoside analogue 2CMC to prevent 663 664 viral RNA synthesis. Samples were harvest at the indicated time post infection and 665 viral positive (B) and negative sense RNA quantified by stand specific RT-qPCR (C). 666 Error bars represent standard error of three biological repeats. LOD refers to the limit 667 of detection of the assay. D) and E) Viral RNA synthesis following transfection of 668 viral VPg-linked RNA into WT or two Δ G3BP1 cell lines. F) and G) Viral RNA 669 synthesis following transfection of viral VPg-linked RNA into Δ G3BP1 (1B2) 670 complemented with full length G3BP1 or truncated derivatives.

671

Figure 9: G3BP1 is required for the association of VPg with 40S ribosomal
subunits. A) GFP-Trap immunoprecipitation of complexes isolated on with GFP

674 alone or GFP tagged wild type MNV-VPg demonstrating the pull down of eIF4G1, G3BP1 and 40S subunits (Rps6). BVv2 cells were transfected with the relevant 675 676 constructs, lysates prepared and GFP-Trap pull downs performed as detailed in the 677 text. Samples were separated by SDS-PAGE and western blotted for the proteins as 678 shown. B) Mutations in the eIF4G binding domain ablate the association of VPg with 679 G3BP1 and 40S subunits. GFP-Trap pull downs were performed as described in 680 panel A with the addition of the MNV VPG Fq123A mutation known to reduce the 681 association with eIF4G.

682

683 Figure 10: G3BP1 is required for polysome association of viral RNA 684 **association.** A) Polysome profiles of the ribosome containing fractions from mock or 685 MNV infected wild type (WT) or △G3BP1 (1B2) BV-2 cells at 4 and 9 hours post 686 infection (moi 3 TCID50/cell). B) Relative viral RNA levels present in ribosome 687 containing fractions expressed relative to WT infected BV-2 cells. C) Extended 688 gradient fractionation of WT or Δ G3BP1 cells infected with MNV and harvested 9 689 hours post infection. Viral RNA levels across the gradient are expressed as 690 described in panel B.

691

Figure 11: G3BP1 is required for efficient norovirus VPg-dependenttranslation.

Translation competent extracts from Δ G3BP1 cells are fully competent for capdependent and CrPV IRES dependent translation (A). B) Translation of MNV VPglinked viral RNA is diminished in extracts prepared from Δ G3BP1 cells. Translation of viral RNA in rabbit reticulocyte lysates (RRL) are used as a side by side comparison. The positions of the viral proteins are indicated (1-5). C) Quantification of protein

products and total translation levels across multiple experiments. The error bars represent the standard error of three independent experiments. D) Norovirus VPgdependent translation in extracts from WT or Δ G3BP1 cells in the presence of increasing concentrations of total cellular RNA isolated from uninfected cells. Translation of viral RNA in rabbit reticulocyte lysates (RRL) are used as a side by side comparison. E) Quantification of viral proteins produced in panel (D).

705

706 Supplementary Figure 11: A) Characterisation of viral VPg-linked RNA. The 707 sensitivity of purified MNV VPg-linked RNA to various nucleases was compared to in 708 vitro transcribed capped MNV gRNA (cap-gRNA) and the MNV1 full length cDNA 709 construct. RppH was included as a decapping enzyme require for Xrn1-mediated 710 cleavage of capped RNAs. Following digestion, the samples were analysed on a 1% 711 native agarose gel. B) In vitro translation of viral VPg linked RNA in rabbit 712 reticulocyte lysates demonstrated robust translation and the production of a protein 713 profile indistinguishable from in vitro transcribed capped genomic RNA (cap-g). 714 Capped sub-genomic (cap-sg) RNA was included to demonstrate the location of the 715 VP1 and VP2 proteins. C) The translation of MNV VPg-linked RNA in extracts 716 prepared from Δ G3BP1 cells is reduced across multiple time points. In vitro 717 translations prepared in rabbit reticulocyte lysates (RRL) using in vitro transcribed 718 capped genomic RNA (cap-g) or capped sub-genomic (cap-sg), along with viral VPg-719 linked RNA, was used as a reference for the expected mass of the viral proteins.

720

721 Materials and methods.

722 **Cells.** The murine microglial BV-2 cell line (Blasi et al., 1990) was provided by 723 Jennifer Pocock (University College London). BV-2 cells were maintained in DMEM 724 supplemented with 10% FCS (Biosera), 2 mM L-glutamine, 0.075 % sodium 725 bicarbonate (Gibco) and the antibiotics penicillin and streptomycin. BHK cells 726 engineered to express T7 RNA polymerase (BSR-T7 cells, obtained from Karl-Klaus 727 Conzelmann, Ludwid Maximillians University, Munich, Germany) were maintained in 728 DMEM containing 10 % FCS, penicillin (100 SI units/ml) and streptomycin (100 729 µg/ml), and 0.5 mg/ml G418.

730

731 **Generation of G3BP1 KO cells**. BV-2 cells were cultured in DMEM containing 10% 732 FBS and 1% HEPES. G3BP1 knockout BV-2 cells were generated using two 733 approaches. The clone 1B2 was generated by transiently transfected with Cas9 and 734 a sgRNA (5TTCCCCGGCCCCGGCTGATGNGG) targeting exon 7 of G3BP1. BV-2 735 cells were then single cell cloned and G3BP1 was sequenced by Illumina HiSeg. BV-736 2 cells are polyploid at the G3BP1 locus as described previously (Orchard et al., 737 2016). Clone 1B2 also had three independent deletions at the sgRNA binding site 738 resulting in deletions of 1, 2, and 5 base pairs respectively. The mutations introduced 739 into the IB2 BV-2 cell clone resulted in frame shifts at nucleotide positions 253, 254 740 and 244 and the absence of detectable G3BP1 protein as measured by western blot. 741 G3BP1 knockout BV-2 cell clones A, C and F were generated using an independent 742 approach that relied on first generating a pool of three lentiviruses carrying guide 743 **RNAs** TGTGCAACATGTCCGGGGGCC. CAAACTCCCGCCCGACCAGC and 744 TAGTCCCCTGCTGGTCGGGC targeting the first 100bp of the coding sequence, 745 cloned into pLentiCRISPRv2 (Sanjana et al., 2014). BV-2 cells were then transduced

with the pool of 3 lentiviruses, selected by puromycin treatment for 72 hours, prior to
cloning by limiting dilution. Individual clones were then screened by western blot for
the absence of G3BP1.

749

750 G3BP1 complementation. Mouse G3BP1 cDNAs were subcloned into pCDH-MCS-751 T2A-puro-MSCV lentiviral vector (System Biosciences) by NEBuilder HiFi DNA 752 assembly (New England Biolabs). Mouse G3BP1 was subcloned from pCM6-G3BP1 753 (MR207441; Origene). Mouse G3BP1 lentiviral constructs deficient in the C-terminal 754 RGG $(mG3BP1\Delta RGG)$ RGG RRM domain and the and domains 755 (mG3BP1ARGGRRM) were generated by Gibson cloning from the pCMV6-G3BP1 756 vector. Lentivirus was generated by co-transfecting pCDH-G3BP1-T2A-puro-MSCV 757 with pCMV-VSV-G and pSPAX2 into 293T cells with Trans-IT LT1 (Mirus 758 Biosciences) per manufacture instructions. Two days post-transfection, supernatants 759 were harvested, filtered through a 0.22 micron filter, and stored at -80C. Lentivirus 760 encoding G3BP1 or an empty control was then used to transduce G3BP1 KO 1B2 761 BV-2 cells. Two days post-transduction BV-2 cells were selected with puromycin 762 (2.5ug/ml) for six days.

763

764 MNV growth curves

To determine the effects of G3BP1 disruption on MNV replication G3BP1 WT, KO, or complemented cells were plated in each well of a flat bottom 96-well plate and then infected with either MNV strains CW1, CW3, or CR6 as described in the text. Infected cells were flash frozen at -80°C at the times post infection indicated in the text. Viral replication was then assessed by plaque assay or TCID50 in BV-2 cells as described in the text. In cases where the appearance of virus-induced cytopathic

effect was examined, infected monolayers were either visualized by light microscopy

directly or fixed with crystal violet in formalin, prior to washing and imaging.

773

774 **CRISPR screens.** The CRISPR screen was performed similarly to that described 775 previously (Orchard et al., 2016) with a number of modifications that included the use 776 of the Brie gRNA library to reduce off target effects (Doench et al., 2016) and shorter 777 infection times to improve the recovery of gRNAs that may also compromise cell 778 viability. BV-2 cells stably expressing Cas9 nuclease (Orchard et al., 2016) were 779 transduced with the Brie library using previously described protocols (Doench et al., 780 2016). MNV strains CW3 and CR6 were used to infect BV-2 CRISPR library at MOI 781 5 pfu/cell and cells were isolated 24 hours post infection and preparation of gDNA 782 for sequencing as described previously (Orchard et al., 2016). The screen relies on 783 the premise that guide RNAs targeting genes that are overrepresented following 784 infection represent genes that when disrupted are protected against infection and 785 therefore likely represent factors with pro-viral activity. Likewise, genes for which 786 guide RNA are underrepresented suggest that infection had proceeded faster and 787 the gene is antiviral. Following sequencing, the data was analyzed by STARS 788 method as previously described (Doench et al., 2016; Orchard et al., 2016). 789 Visualization of candidate genes was accomplished using R (RStudio, Inc., Boston, 790 MA).

791

Maintenance of SILAC cell lines. Stable isotope labelling of amino acids in cell
culture of BV-2 cells (SILAC, Ong et al., 2002), was carried out in high-glucose
DMEM lacking arginine and lysine (Sigma-Aldrich), supplemented with dialyzed fetal
bovine serum, 1% L-glutamine, 1X nonessential amino acids, 10 mM HEPES, and

1X penicillin/streptomycin. SILAC media were supplemented with Light (R0K0), Medium (R6K4) or Heavy (R10K8) Arginine and Lysine (Cambridge Isotope Laboratories). BV-2 cells were maintained in SILAC medium for 2 weeks to ensure complete metabolic labelling of proteins. Labelling of HEK-293T cells was performed essentially as described for BV-2 cells, with the omission of 10 mM HEPES and 1X non-essential amino acids from the cell culture media.

802

DNA based recovery of murine norovirus. Experiments were performed according to previously published protocols (Chaudhry et al., 2007). Briefly, BSRT7 cells were infected to an MOI of 0.5-1 PFU/cell with fowlpox virus expressing T7 RNA polymerase. Cells were then transfected with a plasmid encoding the MNV full length clone, or a derivative thereof (e.g. pT7 MNV 383FLAG 3'Rz or pT7 MNV 2600FLAG 3'Rz, our FLAG-tagged virus constructs containing FLAG tags in either NS1/2 or NS4 respectively). MNV was harvested by freeze-thaw at 24h post-transfection.

810

811 To generate higher titre stocks, WT MNV, NS1/2-FLAG MNV, and NS4-FLAG MNV 812 (Thorne et al., 2012) generated using the DNA based recovery method described 813 above were passaged once in BV-2 cells. After 80-90% of cells displayed visible 814 cytopathic effects (CPE) of viral infection, flasks containing infected cells were frozen 815 at -80°C. Flasks were frozen and thawed twice before cell debris was removed by 816 centrifugation at 4000 rpm for 10 minutes in a benchtop centrifuge. Viruses were 817 pelleted by centrifuging over a 30% sucrose cushion at 76,755xg in a SW32ti rotor 818 for 2 hours at 4°C. Virus pellets were resuspended overnight in PBS to achieve 100-819 fold concentration. Concentrated virus was then passed through a 23-gauge blunt

needle 15 times, and clarified by centrifugation at maximum speed in a benchtop

821 microcentrifuge for 10 minutes. Supernatant aliquoted, and titrated prior to use.

822

823 Infection of SILAC labelled BV-2 cells with FLAG-tagged viruses. SILAC-824 labelled BV-2 cells were infected with WT MNV, NS1/2-FLAG or NS4-FLAG viruses 825 at an MOI of 10 TCID50 cell. Infections were performed in triplicate, using different 826 combinations of SILAC-labeled BV-2 cells each time to control for any impact of the 827 SILAC labelling. Infected cells were then plated in the appropriate SILAC media. At 828 10 hours post-infection, cells were harvested by scraping, and pelleted at 500xg for 5 829 minutes. Cells were then washed 3 times with ice-cold PBS, and were lysed in (0.5% 830 Nonidet-P40 substitute, 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 0.5 mM EDTA, 2 mM 831 MgCl). Benzonase nuclease (Sigma-Aldrich) was added to lysis buffer to a 832 concentration of 5 µl/ml to prevent nonspecific interactions mediated by RNA or 833 DNA.

834

835 Transfection of SILAC labelled HEK-293T cells with GFP-tagged VPg. SILAC-836 labelled HEK-293T cells were transfected with pEGFP-C1 (control) or derivatives 837 thereof containing either human or murine norovirus VPg protein as described in 838 Emmott & Goodfellow, (2014). GFP fusions of both wild-type protein or mutant VPg 839 containing a mutation to inhibit initiation factor binding (MNV: F123A, HuNoV: 840 F137A) were used. Cells were transfected using Lipofectamine 2000 (Life 841 Technologies) according to the manufacturers protocol, using antibiotic-free SILAC 842 media in place of Opti-mem. The experiment was performed in triplicate and SILAC 843 labels switched in one of the replicates.

844

845 FLAG and GFP-TRAP immunoprecipitation. FLAG immunoprecipitations were 846 performed following the manufacturer's protocol (FLAG M2 beads, Sigma Aldrich) as 847 described (Thorne et al., 2012). In brief, protein concentration in lysates was 848 normalized using BCA. Lysates were then diluted with 1 volume of wash buffer (10 849 mM Tris-Cl pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 0.5 mM EDTA). Equal volumes of anti-FLAG 850 affinity gel were dispensed into either WT infected cell lysates, or lysates of cells 851 infected with NS1/2-FLAG or NS4-FLAG. Binding was carried out overnight at 4°C 852 with rotation. After binding, beads were washed 3 times with wash buffer. All liquid 853 was carefully removed from each tube, before boiling in SDS-PAGE loading buffer 854 10 minutes. GFP-trap immunoprecipitation of GFP-tagged VPg was for 855 accomplished using GFP-trap beads (Chromotek) per the manufacturer's protocol, 856 as described (Emmott and Goodfellow, 2014). RNase cocktail (Ambion) was also 857 included in the lysis buffer at a concentration of 5 µl/ml to prevent non-specific 858 interactions mediated by RNA. In all cases, light, medium, and heavy-labelled 859 proteins eluted from the beads for each experimental replicate were pooled together 860 in a ratio of 1:1:1 before submission for mass spectrometry analysis at the University 861 of Bristol Proteomics Facility.

862

Mass spectrometry analysis. Mass spectrometry analysis was performed at the University of Bristol Proteomics Facility. In brief, samples were run into precast SDS-PAGE gels for 5 minutes, the entire sample cut from the gel as a single band, and then subjected to in-gel tryptic digestion including reduction and alkylation using a ProGest automated digestion unit. The resulting peptides were fractionated using a Dionex Ultimate 3000 nanoHPLC system in line with an LTQ-Orbitrap Velos or Orbitrap Tribrid Fusion mass spectrometer.

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870

871 Interpretation of SILAC Proteomics data. Raw data files were processed and 872 quantified using Maxquant v1.5.5.1 or 1.6.0.16 (Tyanova et. al. 2016). The GFP-VPg 873 experiments were searched against the Uniprot human database (70,550 entries, downloaded September 19th 2016) plus a custom FASTA file containing the wild-type 874 875 and mutant VPg sequences. The raw data, search results and FASTA files can be 876 part of PRIDE submission PXD007585 (Reviewer username: found as 877 reviewer75984@ebi.ac.uk, Password: BH2pTctW). The FLAG-virus experiments 878 were searched against the Uniprot mouse database (Swiss-prot only, 16,966 entries, 879 downloaded May 19th 2018) plus a custom FASTA file containing the various Murine 880 norovirus proteins. The raw data, search results and FASTA files can be found as 881 of PRIDE submission PXD011779 (Reviewer part username: 882 reviewer49419@ebi.ac.uk, Password: eLYwivNP). Data were searched with default 883 Maxquant parameters including upto 2 missed tryptic cleavages, oxidation of 884 variable methionine and N-terminal acetylation as modifications, and 885 carbamidomethylation of cysteine as a fixed modification. The data were searched 886 against a reverse database and PSM and Protein FDR were set to 0.01. The 887 requantify option was not selected.

888

GFP-VPg data were analysed as described previously (Emmott and Goodfellow, 2014). FLAG-virus experiments were analysed by computing the pairwise ratios of samples infected with NS1/2-FLAG or NS4-FLAG relative to WT MNV-infected controls. Log₂ SILAC ratios for proteins identified in at least 2/3 replicates were averaged, and ratios for NS1/2-FLAG:WT and NS4-FLAG:WT were plotted for comparison of host cell proteins by viral replication complex-associated proteins.

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895

Assessment of virus-induced cytopathic effect. BV-2 WT, KO G3BP1 or respective G3BP1 complemented cells as described in the text, were seeded onto 96 well plates and infected with serial 10-fold dilutions (starting at MOI=10 TCID50/cell) of MNV (CW1) or EMCV. At 48h post-infection, cells were fixed in icecold methanol and stained with toluidine blue prior to washing and imaging.

901

902 Cap-Sepharose purification for eIF4F complex. Cell lysates were prepared from 903 BHK parental cells or BHK containing GI Norwalk virus (BHK-NV) replicon cells in 904 cap-Sepharose lysis buffer (100 mM KCl, 0.1 mM EDTA, 10% glycerol, 2 mM MgCl₂, 905 20 mM HEPES, pH 7.6 in KOH) with 1% TX-100, proteinase and phosphatase 906 inhibitor cocktails (Calbiochem). Cytoplasmic extracts were centrifuged and RNase 907 treated for 15 min at room temperature. At least 1000 µg of the cell lysates were 908 incubated with Sepharose beads coupled to 7-methylguanosine (m⁷GTP, Jena 909 Biosciences). Input cell lysates were collected for western blot analysis while the 910 remaining were incubated overnight with continuous rotation at 4°C. The eIF4F-911 enriched complex was precipitated and washed 2 times with cap-sepharose lysis 912 buffer. Bound proteins were eluted in 2x reducing SDS-PAGE samples buffer and 913 resolved by SDS-PAGE prior to western blot.

914

915 Human Norwalk virus colony formation assay. Total RNAs extracts from BHK or 916 BHK-NV replicon-containing cells (Kitano et al., 2018) were pretreated with and 917 without proteinase K (10 µg/ml) in 10 mM Tris, pH 8.0, 1.0 mM EDTA, 0.1 M NaCl, 918 and 0.5% SDS. Pretreated RNAs were immediately purified using GenElute RNA 919 purification columns (Sigma). Serial 10-fold dilutions of mock or proteinase K-treated

920 RNAs were transfected in BHK cells and 24 h post transfection, cells were passaged 921 and maintained in growth media containing 0.5 mg/ml G418. Colonies began to form 922 after 5 d and were allowed to grow until 14 d. All plates were harvested at day 14 923 and well-formed colonies were fixed in 10% formaldehyde and stained with toluidine 924 blue. A similar protocol was followed to assess colony formation in U2OS cells with 925 the exception that selections were maintained for up to 12 days post transfection. 926 Where indicated, cell aliquots from each time point were collected for qRT-PCR 927 analysis to assess viral RNA synthesis over time.

928

929 Polyribosome fractionation analysis. BV2 WT and BV2 AG3BP1 cells were 930 seeded at a density of 7.5 x 10⁶ cells per T-75 flask, and then either mock infected or 931 infected with MNV1 (CW1) at MOI 3 TCID50 per cell in the presence of 2-CMC 932 (400µM) for each set of infection. After 1h, the inoculum was then removed; the cells 933 were washed and maintained in growth media containing 2-CMC accordingly until 934 the cells were harvested at 4h and 9h p.i. Prior to harvesting, cells were treated with 935 cycloheximide (CHX) for 10 mins at 37°C (Sigma-Aldrich; 100 µg/ml) and were 936 rinsed with 5 ml of ice-cold PBS supplemented with CHX 100 µg/ml. Polysome lysis 937 buffer [20 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 5mM MgCl, 1 mM DTT, 1% Triton X-938 100, 100 µg/ml cycloheximide, 25 U/ml TURBO DNase (Life Technologies)] was 939 used to lyse the cells. Lysates were clarified by centrifugation for 20 min at 13,000 q940 at 4°C. Aliquots of the lysates were collected for BSA assay and qPCR analysis 941 against MNV1 RNA before proceeding with fractionation. Input lysates were 942 normalized to total protein concentration and RT-qPCR was used to confirm the 943 levels of viral RNA in samples were comparable. Lysates were subjected next to 10-944 50% sucrose gradient centrifugation for 90 mins SW41Ti rotor at 190,000 x g at 4°C.

945 The gradients were fractionated at 0.5 ml/min and the levels of RNA in each sample 946 measured using an in line-254 nm spectrophotometer connected to a chart recorder. 947 RNAs were extracted from each fraction, converted to cDNA and immediately used 948 for qPCR. The distribution of viral RNA across the gradient was then calculated as 949 percentage (%) of the viral RNA seen in WT BV-2 cells using the reference gene 950 (GAPDH) to obtain normalized values across the gradient. Samples were performed 951 in duplicates on the same qPCR plate, and the observations were robust across 952 three independent experiments. Data were collected using a ViiA 7 Real-Time PCR 953 System (Applied Biosystems).

954

955 Transfection of VPg-linked MNV RNA into BV-2 cells. VPg-linked RNA purified 956 from MNV-1 virus particles was transfected in BV-2 cells using NEON[™] as 957 previously described (Yunus et al., 2010). Total cell lysates were harvested at 3 and 958 9 hours post transfection with RIPA buffer. 10µg total lysates were analysed by 4-959 12% SDS-PAGE (Invitrogen) and antibodies against MNV, VPg, G3BP1 and GAPDH 960 were used for detection using LI-COR® Odyssey® CLx. Virus yield was determined 961 by TCID₅₀. For strand-specific qPCR detection of MNV RNA, total cellular RNA was 962 extracted using GeneElute Mammalian Total RNA Miniprep kit (Sigma). RT-qPCR 963 was performed as described previously (Vashist et al., 2012a).

964

Purification of MNV VPg-linked RNA. BV-2 cells were infected at an MOI=0.01 TCID₅₀ per cell and harvested after ~30 post infection. Cell debris was removed by low speed centrifugation for 10 minutes and supernatant loaded onto 5 ml of 30% sucrose solution in PBS. MNV particles were pelleted using a SW32Ti rotor at 25,000 RPM for 4 hours at 4 $^{\circ}$ C. Virus was then resuspended in PBS and total RNA

970 extracted from soluble fraction. Where detailed, the authenticity of the viral RNA was 971 examined by nuclease digestion. 500 ng of viral RNA or plasmid DNA was treated 972 with DNase I (10U, Roche), XrnI+RppH (1U XrnI + 5U RppH, both from NEB) or 973 RNase cocktail (0.5U RNase A + 20U RNase T1, ThermoFisher) at 37 $^{\circ}$ C for 10 974 minutes. Then analysed on 1% agarose gel.

975

976 Preparation of BV2 S10 cytoplasmic extracts. Preparation of BV-2 S10 extracts 977 was based on a previously published protocol (Rakotondrafara and Hentze, 2011; 978 2006). BV-2 cells were harvested, washed with PBS, and lysed with 1x packed 979 volume of hypotonic buffer containing 10 mM HEPES pH7.6, 10 mM potassium 980 acetate, 0.5 mM magnesium acetate, 5 mM DTT, 1x protease inhibitors cocktail 981 (EDTA-free, Roche). Cells were lysed on ice for 45 minutes, then passed through 982 25G and 27G needles to achieve >95% lysis. Cell lysates were then centrifuged at 983 10,000 x g for 10 minutes at 4 $^{\circ}$ C twice and the supernatant collected. The total 984 protein concentration was measured by Bradford assay and normalised to 20 mg/ml 985 before freezing at -80 °C until use. For micrococcal nuclease treatment, S10 extracts 986 were thawed on ice, 1 mM calcium chloride and 200 unit/ml final concentrations of 987 micrococcal nuclease (NEB). Cell lysates were incubated at 25 $^\circ$ C for 15 minutes 988 before adding 3 mM final concentration of EGTA was added.

989

In vitro translation of BV2 S10 lysates. *In vitro* translation assays were set up based on a previous protocol (Favre and Trepo, 2001). Translation reactions were set up in 12.5 μ l total volume containing 5 μ l BV2 S10 lysate, 2.5 μ l 5X translation buffer, 0.25 μ l of 5 mg/ml creatine kinase, 1.25 μ l RRL, 0.225 μ l of 5 M potassium acetate, 0.25 mM of 100 mM magnesium acetate, 5.13 μ Ci ³⁵S-labelled methionine

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995 (PerkinElmer) and 10-100 ng/µl RNA as detailed in the text. 5X translation buffer 996 contains 350 mM HEPES, 75 mM creatine phosphate, 10 mM ATP, 3.75 mM GTP, 100 µM amino acid minus methionine, 3.75 mM spermidine and 0.375 mM S-997 998 adenosyl-methionine. For control experiments using RRL (Promega), the reactions 999 were set up according to manufacturer's instructions using 0.5-1 ng/µl RNA. 1000 Reactions were incubated at 30 °C for 90 minutes before addition of 12.5 µl transstop buffer containing 10 mM EDTA and 0.1 mg/ml RNase A and incubated at room 1001 1002 temperature for 10 minutes, then 25 µl 5X loading buffer was added to the reaction 1003 and heated at 95 $^\circ$ C for 5 minutes. 10 μ I lysates were resolved in 15% SDS-PAGE 1004 and exposed to a phosphorimager screen and visualised using a TyphoonFLA7000 1005 machine. For non-radioactive translation, 1.25 µl of 1 mM methionine was used instead of ³⁵S-labelled methionine, and the reactions were stopped with 100 µl 1x 1006 1007 passive lysis buffer (Promega) and the luminescence read using a GloMax 1008 luminometer (Promega).

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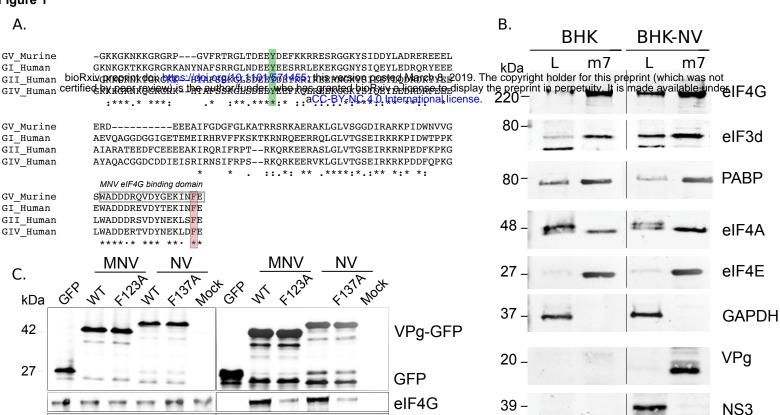
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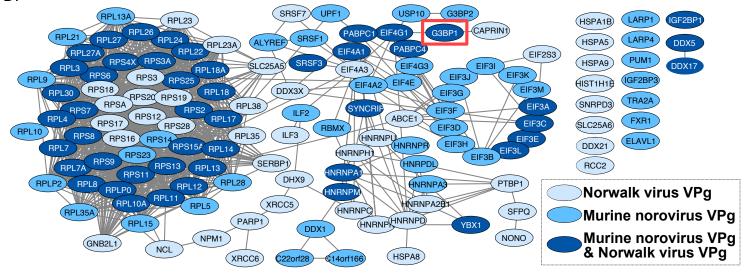
elF4E

GAPDH

D.

25 37

Input



GFP-IP

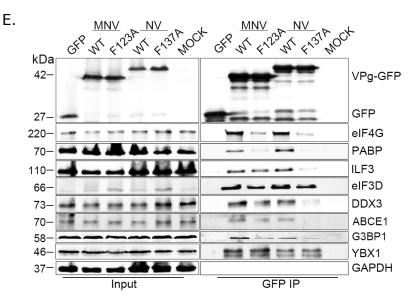
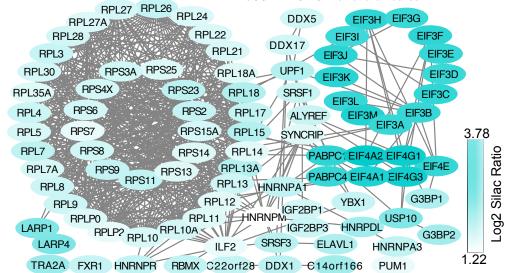


Figure 1

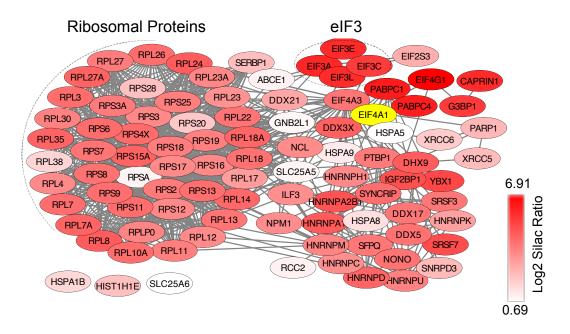
Supplementary Figure 1

A. Host proteins binding to the murine norovirus VPg protein

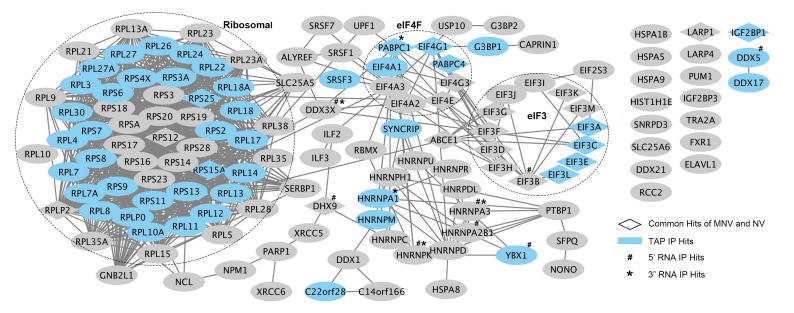
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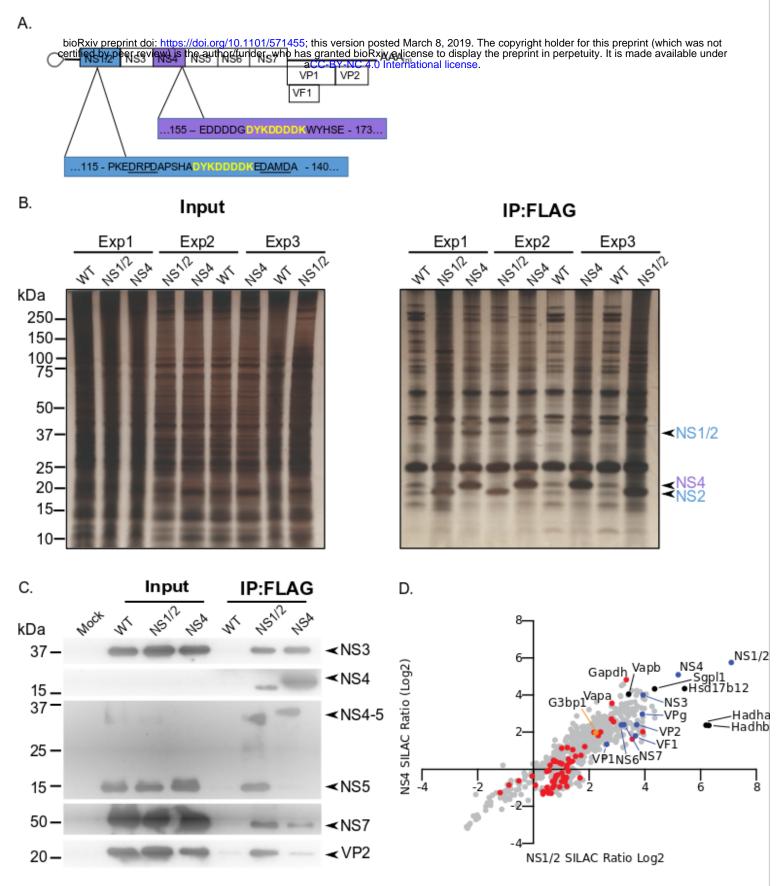


B. Host proteins binding to the Norwalk virus VPg

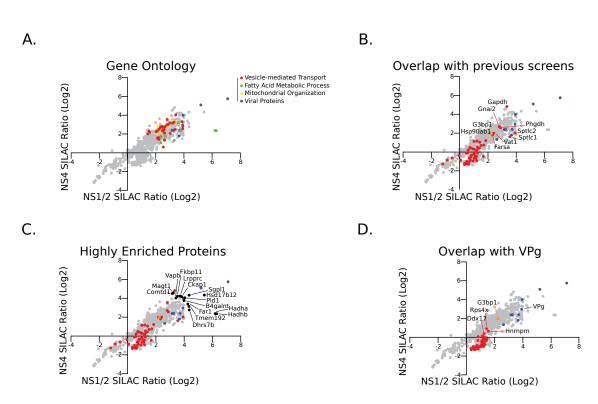


C. Host proteins previously identified as interacting with the MNV VPg protein or the termini of the MNV genoimic RNA

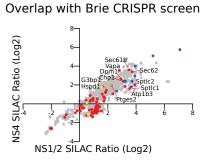


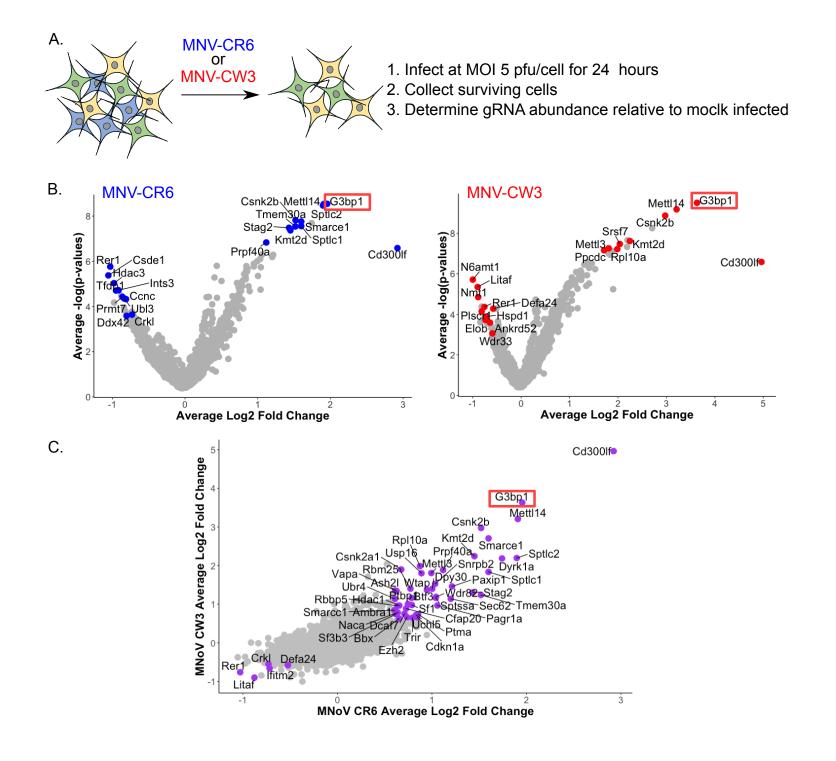


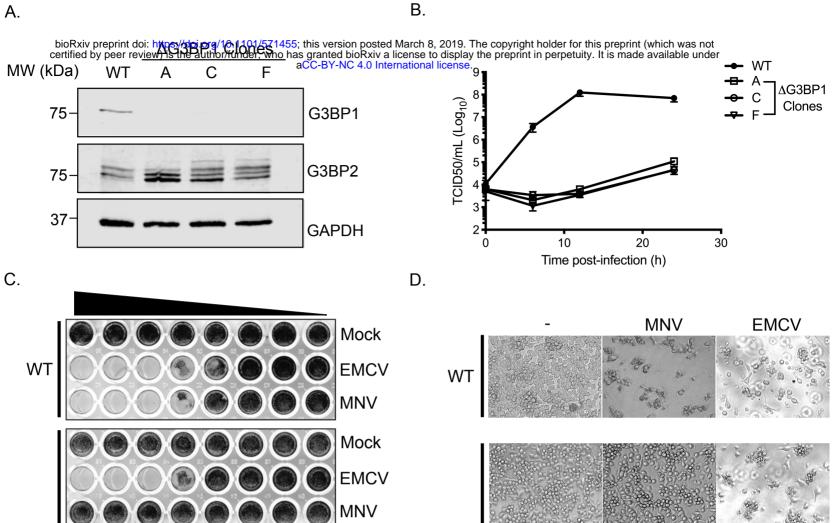
Supplementary Figure 2



E.



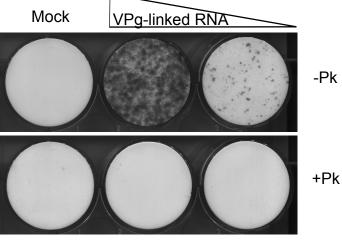


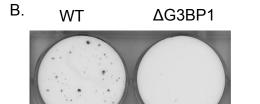


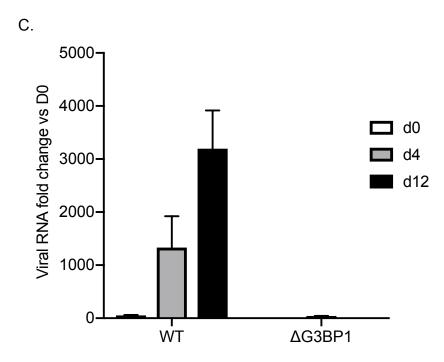
В.

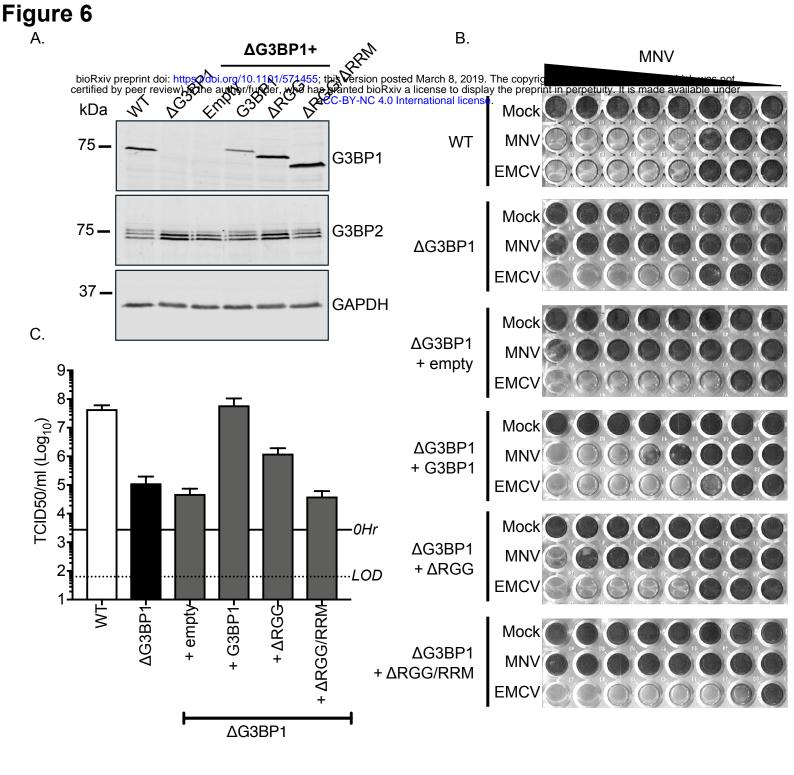


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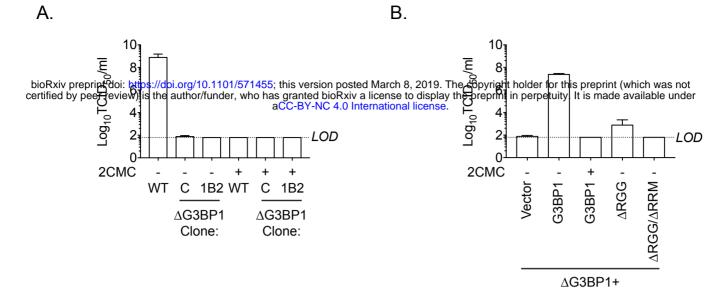






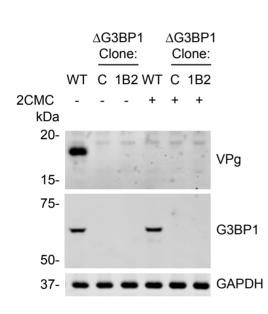


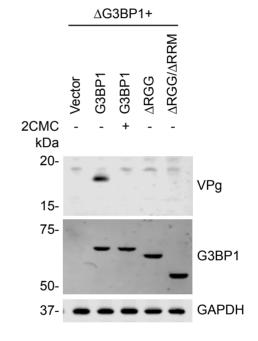




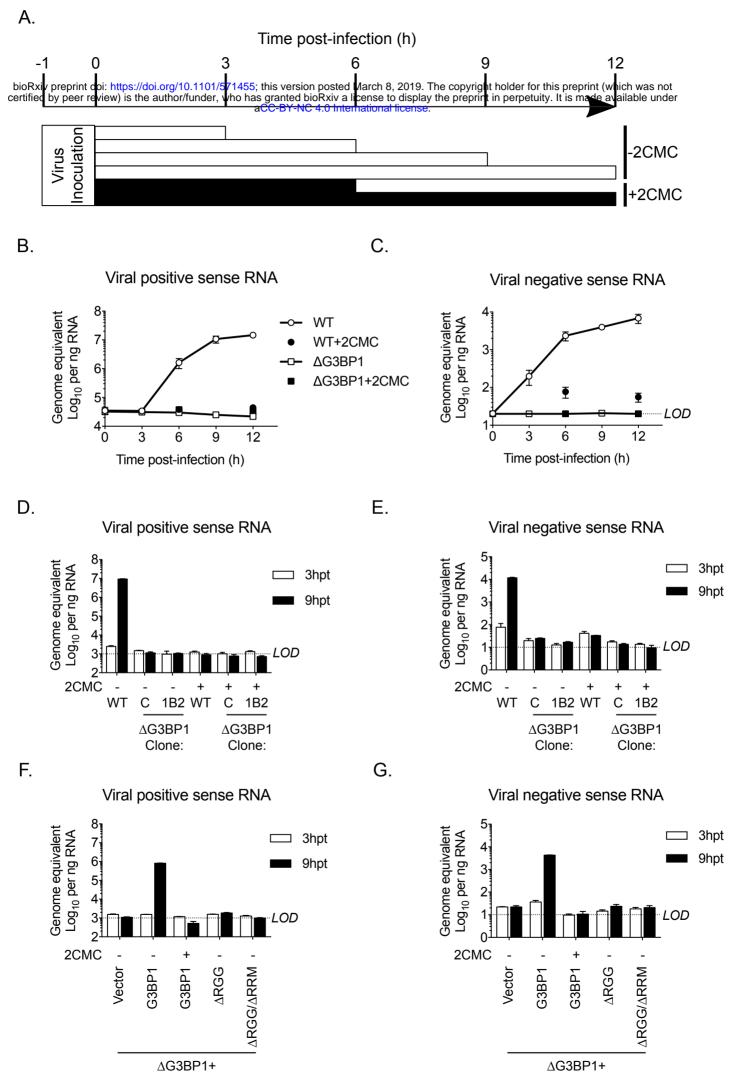
C.

D.

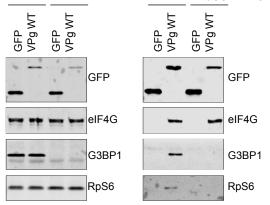


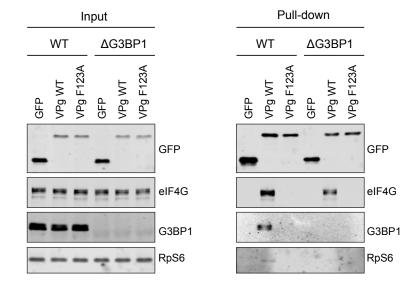






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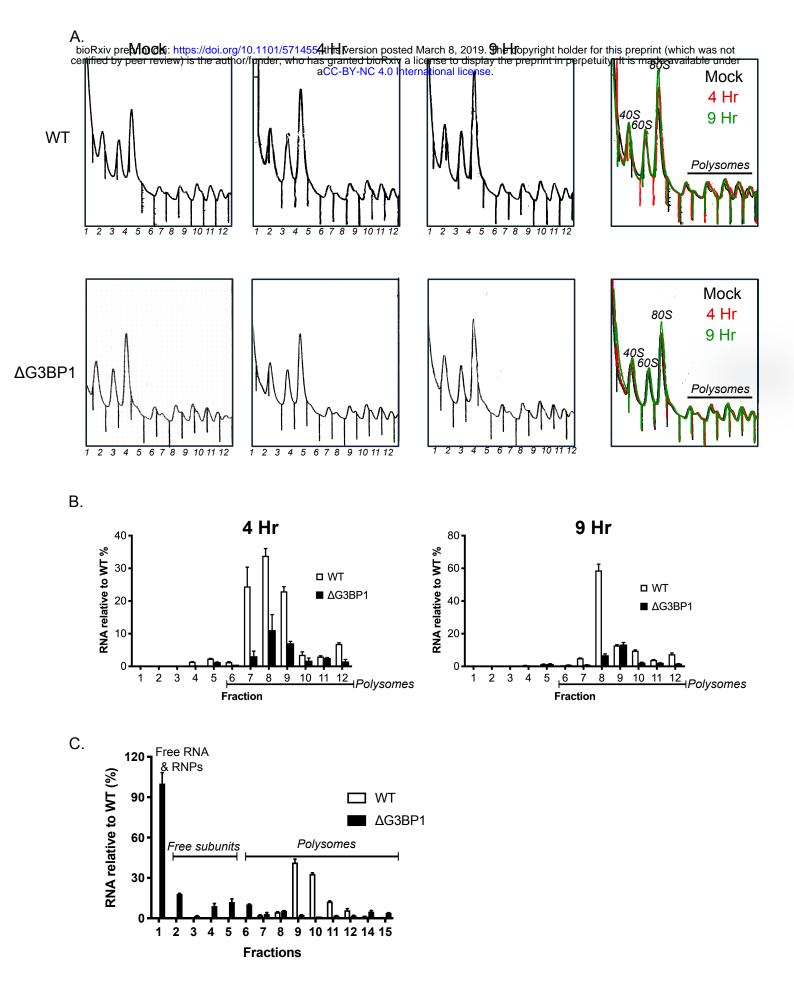
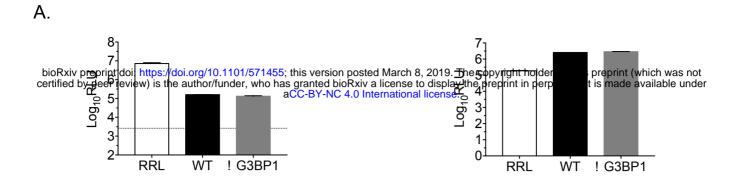
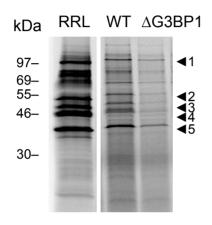


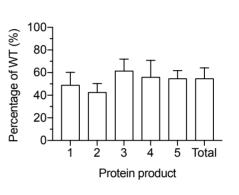
Figure 11



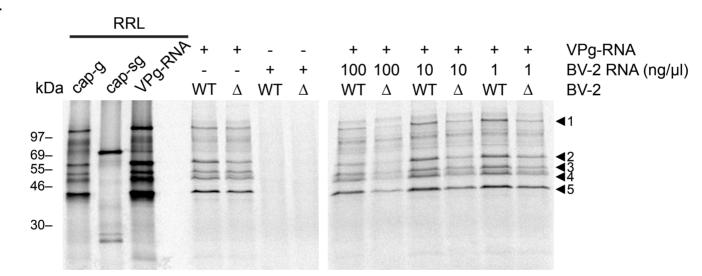
Β.



C.







Ε.

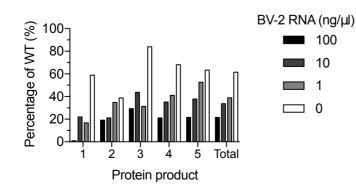


Figure S11

