

1 **Synaptic mitochondria are critical for hair-cell synapse formation and function**

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21 **Summary**

22 Sensory hair cells in the ear utilize specialized ribbon synapses. These synapses are
23 defined by electron-dense presynaptic structures called ribbons, composed primarily of the
24 structural protein Ribeye. Previous work has shown that voltage-gated influx of Ca²⁺ through
25 Ca_v1.3 channels is critical for hair-cell synapse function and can impede ribbon formation. We
26 show that in mature zebrafish hair cells, evoked presynaptic-Ca²⁺ influx through Ca_v1.3 channels
27 initiates mitochondrial-Ca²⁺ (mito-Ca²⁺) uptake adjacent to ribbons. Block of mito-Ca²⁺ uptake in
28 mature cells depresses presynaptic Ca²⁺ influx and impacts synapse integrity. In developing
29 zebrafish hair cells, mito-Ca²⁺ uptake coincides with spontaneous rises in presynaptic Ca²⁺ influx.
30 Spontaneous mito-Ca²⁺ loading lowers cellular NAD⁺/NADH redox and downregulates ribbon
31 formation. Direct application of NAD⁺ or NADH increases or decreases ribbon formation
32 respectively, possibly acting through the NAD(H)-binding domain on Ribeye. Our results present
33 a mechanism where presynaptic- and mito-Ca²⁺ couple to confer proper presynaptic function
34 and formation.

35

36 **Keywords:** Hair cell, ribbon synapse, mitochondria, Ca²⁺, NAD(H) redox

37

38 **Introduction**

39 Neurotransmission is an energy demanding process that relies heavily on mitochondria.
40 In neurons, mitochondria dysfunction has been implicated in synaptopathies that impact
41 neurodevelopment, learning and memory, and can contribute to neurodegeneration (Flippo
42 and Strack, 2017; Lepeta et al., 2016; Todorova and Blokland, 2017). In hair cells, sensory
43 neurotransmission relies on specialized ribbon synapses to facilitate rapid and sustained vesicle
44 release that is particularly energy demanding (reviewed in: Johnson et al., 2019; Lagnado and
45 Schmitz, 2015; Matthews and Fuchs, 2010; Safieddine et al., 2012). Although mitochondria
46 dysfunction has been implicated in hearing loss (Böttger and Schacht, 2013; Fischel-Ghodsian et
47 al., 2004; Kokotas et al., 2007), the precise role mitochondria play at hair-cell synapses remains
48 unclear.

49 Ribbon synapses are characterized by a unique presynaptic structure called a “ribbon”
50 that tethers and stabilizes synaptic vesicles at the active zone (reviewed in: Matthews and
51 Fuchs, 2010). In hair cells, neurotransmission at ribbon synapses requires the presynaptic-Ca²⁺
52 channel Cav1.3 (Brandt et al., 2003; Kollmar et al., 1997; Sidi et al., 2004). Hair-cell
53 depolarization opens Cav1.3 channels, resulting in a spatially restricted increase of Ca²⁺ at
54 presynaptic ribbons that triggers vesicle fusion. Tight spatial regulation of presynaptic Ca²⁺ is
55 important for ribbon-synapse function and requires efficient Ca²⁺ clearance through a
56 combination of Ca²⁺ pumps, Ca²⁺ buffers and intracellular Ca²⁺ stores (Carafoli, 2011; Mulkey
57 and Malenka, 1992; Tucker and Fettiplace, 1995; Yamoah et al., 1998; Zenisek and Matthews,
58 2000). While ER Ca²⁺ stores have been implicated in hair-cell neurotransmission, whether
59 mitochondrial-Ca²⁺ (mito-Ca²⁺) stores play a role in this process remains unclear (Castellano-
60 Muñoz and Ricci, 2014; Kennedy, 2002; Lioudyno et al., 2004; Tucker and Fettiplace, 1995).

61 In addition to a role in hair-cell neurotransmission, presynaptic Ca²⁺ and Cav1.3 channels
62 also play an important role during inner-ear development. In mammals, prior to hearing onset,
63 auditory hair cells fire spontaneous Ca²⁺ action potentials (Eckrich et al., 2018; Marcotti et al.,
64 2003; Tritsch et al., 2007, 2010). In mammalian hair cells, these Ca²⁺ action potentials are
65 Cav1.3-dependent and are thought to be important for synapse and circuit formation. In

66 support of this idea, *in vivo* work in zebrafish hair cells found that increasing or decreasing
67 voltage-gated Ca^{2+} influx through $\text{Ca}_v1.3$ channels during development led to the formation of
68 smaller or larger ribbons respectively (Sheets et al., 2012). Furthermore, in mouse knockouts of
69 $\text{Ca}_v1.3$, auditory outer hair cells have reduced afferent innervation and synapse number
70 (Ceriani et al., 2019). Mechanistically, how $\text{Ca}_v1.3$ -channel activity regulates ribbon size and
71 innervation, and whether hair-cell Ca^{2+} stores play a role in this process is not known.

72 Cumulative work has shown that ribbon size varies between species and sensory
73 epithelia (reviewed in Moser et al., 2006); these variations are thought to reflect important
74 encoding requirements of a given sensory cell (Matthews and Fuchs, 2010). In auditory hair
75 cells, excitotoxic noise damage can also alter ribbon size, and lead to hearing deficits (Jensen et
76 al., 2015; Kujawa and Liberman, 2009; Liberman et al., 2015). Excitotoxic damage is thought to
77 be initiated by mito- Ca^{2+} overload and subsequent ROS production (Böttger and Schacht, 2013;
78 Wang et al., 2018). Mechanistically, precisely how ribbon size is established during
79 development or altered under pathological conditions is not fully understood.

80 One known way to regulate ribbon formation is through its main structural component
81 Ribeye (Schmitz et al., 2000a). Perhaps unsurprisingly, previous work has shown that
82 overexpression or depletion of Ribeye in hair cells can increase or decrease ribbon size
83 respectively (Becker et al., 2018; Jean et al., 2018; Sheets, 2017; Sheets et al., 2011a). Ribeye is
84 a splice variant of the transcriptional co-repressor Carboxyl-terminal binding protein 2 (CtBP2) –
85 a splice variant that is unique to vertebrate evolution (Schmitz et al., 2000a). Ribeye contains a
86 unique A-domain, and a B-domain that is nearly identical to full-length CtBP2. The B-domain
87 contains a nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NAD^+ , NADH or NAD(H)) binding site (Schmitz et
88 al., 2000; Magupalli et al., 2008). NAD(H) redox is linked to mitochondrial metabolism
89 (Srivastava, 2016). Because CtBP is able to bind and detect NAD^+ and NADH levels, it is thought
90 to function as a metabolic biosensor (Stankiewicz et al., 2014). For example, previous work has
91 demonstrated that changes in NAD(H) redox can impact CtBP oligomerization and its
92 transcriptional activity (Fjeld et al., 2003; Thio et al., 2004). Interestingly, *in vitro* work has
93 shown that both NAD^+ and NADH can also promote interactions between Ribeye domains

94 (Magupalli et al., 2008). Whether NAD⁺ or NADH can impact Ribeye interactions and ribbon
95 formation or stability has not been confirmed *in vivo*.

96 In neurons, it is well established that during presynaptic activity, mitochondria clear and
97 store Ca²⁺ at the presynapse (Devine and Kittler, 2018). Additionally, presynaptic activity and
98 mito-Ca²⁺ can couple together to influence cellular bioenergetics, including NAD(H) redox
99 homeostasis (reviewed in: [Kann and Kovács, 2007](#); [Llorente-Folch et al., 2015](#)). Based on these
100 studies, we hypothesized that Ca²⁺ influx through Cav1.3 channels may regulate mito-Ca²⁺,
101 which in turn could regulate NAD(H) redox. Changes to cellular bioenergetics and NAD(H) redox
102 could function to control Ribeye interactions and ribbon formation or impact ribbon-synapse
103 function and stability.

104 To study the impact of mito-Ca²⁺ and NAD(H) redox on ribbon synapses, we examined
105 hair cells in the lateral-line system of larval zebrafish. This system is advantageous for our
106 studies because it contains hair cells with easy access for *in vivo* pharmacology, mechanical
107 stimulation and imaging cellular morphology and function. Within the lateral-line, hair cells are
108 arranged in clusters called neuromasts. The hair cells and ribbon synapses in each cluster form
109 rapidly between 2 to 3 days post-fertilization (dpf) but by 5-6 dpf, the majority of hair cells are
110 mature, and the system is functional (Kindt et al., 2012; McHenry et al., 2009; Metcalfe, 1985;
111 Murakami et al., 2003; Santos et al., 2006). Thus, these two ages (2-3 dpf and 5-6 dpf) can be
112 used to study mito-Ca²⁺ and NAD(H) redox in developing and mature hair cells respectively.

113 Using this sensory system, we find that presynaptic Ca²⁺ influx drives mito-Ca²⁺ uptake.
114 In mature hair cells, mito-Ca²⁺ uptake occurs during evoked stimulation and is required to
115 sustain presynaptic function and ultimately synapse integrity. In developing hair cells, mito-Ca²⁺
116 uptake coincides with spontaneous rises in presynaptic Ca²⁺. Blocking these spontaneous
117 changes in Ca²⁺ leads to the formation of larger ribbons. Using a redox biosensor, we
118 demonstrate that specifically in developing hair cells, decreasing mito-Ca²⁺ levels increases the
119 NAD⁺/NADH redox ratio. Furthermore, we show that application of NAD⁺ or NADH can increase
120 or decrease ribbon formation respectively. Overall our results suggest that in hair cells
121 presynaptic Ca²⁺ influx and mito-Ca²⁺ uptake couple to impact ribbon formation and function.

122

123 **Results**

124

125 **Mitochondria are located near presynaptic ribbons**

126 In neurons, synaptic mitochondria have been shown to influence synapse formation,
127 plasticity and function (Flippo and Strack, 2017; Todorova and Blokland, 2017). Based on this
128 work, we hypothesized that mitochondria may impact synapses in hair cells. Therefore, we
129 examined the proximity of mitochondria relative to presynaptic ribbons in zebrafish lateral-line
130 hair cells. We visualized mitochondria and ribbons using transmission electron microscopy
131 (TEM) and in live hair cells using Airyscan confocal microscopy.

132 Using TEM, we examined sections that clearly captured ribbons (Example, Figure 1C).
133 We were able to observe a mitochondrion in close proximity ($< 1 \mu\text{m}$) to ribbons in 74 % of the
134 sections (Figure 1D, median ribbon-to-mitochondria distance = 174 nm, $n = 17$ out of 21
135 sections). To obtain a more comprehensive understanding of the 3D morphology and location
136 of mitochondria relative to ribbons in live cells, we used Airyscan confocal microscopy. To
137 visualize these structures in living cells, we used transgenic zebrafish expressing MitoGCaMP3
138 (Esterberg et al., 2014) and Ribeye a-tagRFP (Sheets et al., 2017) in hair cells to visualize
139 mitochondria and ribbons respectively. Using this approach, we observed tubular networks of
140 mitochondria extending from apex to base (Figure 1A-B, E-E', Figure S1A, Movie S1). At the base
141 of the hair cell, we observed ribbons nestled between branches of mitochondria. Overall our
142 TEM and Airyscan imaging suggests that in lateral-line hair cells, mitochondria are present near
143 ribbons and are poised to impact ribbon synapses.

144

145 **Mito- Ca^{2+} uptake at ribbons is MCU and $\text{Ca}_v1.3$ dependent**

146 In zebrafish hair cells, robust rises in mito- Ca^{2+} have been reported during mechanical
147 stimulation (Pickett et al., 2018). Due to the proximity of the mitochondria to the ribbon, we
148 predicted that rises in mito- Ca^{2+} levels during mechanical stimulation are related to presynapse-
149 associated rises in Ca^{2+} .

150 To test this prediction, we used a fluid-jet to mechanically stimulate hair cells and evoke
151 presynaptic activity. During stimulation, we used MitoGCaMP3 to monitor mito- Ca^{2+} in hair

152 cells. As previously reported, we observed robust mito- Ca^{2+} uptake during stimulation (Figure
153 1E-F). We examined the subcellular distribution of MitoGCaMP3 signals over time and found
154 that the signals initiated near ribbons (Figure 1E). During the latter part of the stimulus, and
155 even after the stimulus terminated, the MitoGCaMP3 signals propagated apically within the
156 mitochondria, away from the ribbons (Example, Figure 1E-E'', regions 1-3). We characterized
157 the time course of MitoGCaMP3 signals with regards to onset kinetics and return to baseline.
158 During a 2-s stimulus, we detected a significant rise in MitoGCaMP3 signals 0.6 s after stimulus
159 onset (Figure S1B). Interestingly, after the stimulus terminated, MitoGCaMP3 levels took
160 approximately 5 min to return to baseline (Figure S1C-C'). As previously reported, the kinetics
161 of MitoGCaMP3 signals in hair cells mitochondria were quite different from signals observed
162 using cytosolic GCaMP3 (CytoGCaMP3) in hair cells (Pickett et al., 2018). Compared to
163 MitoGCaMP3 signals, CytoGCaMP3 signals had faster onset kinetics, and a faster return to
164 baseline (Figure S1B-C, time to rise: 0.06 s, post-stimulus return to baseline: 12 s). These
165 differences in kinetics indicate that mito- Ca^{2+} loading operates over slower timescales
166 compared to the cytosolic compartment. It also confirms that hair-cell stimulation can initiate
167 long lasting increases in mito- Ca^{2+} .

168 To verify that MitoGCaMP3 signals reflect Ca^{2+} entry into mitochondria, we applied
169 Ru360, an antagonist of the mito- Ca^{2+} uniporter (MCU). The MCU is the main pathway for rapid
170 Ca^{2+} entry into the mitochondria (Matlib et al., 1998). We found that stimulus-evoked
171 MitoGCaMP3 signals were blocked in a dose-dependent manner after treatment with Ru360
172 (Figure 1F). Due to the initiation of mito- Ca^{2+} near ribbons, we examined whether presynaptic
173 Ca^{2+} influx through $\text{Ca}_v1.3$ channels was the main source of Ca^{2+} entering the mitochondria. To
174 examine $\text{Ca}_v1.3$ channel contribution to mito- Ca^{2+} uptake, we applied isradipine, a $\text{Ca}_v1.3$
175 channel antagonist. Similar to blocking the MCU, blocking $\text{Ca}_v1.3$ channels eliminated all
176 stimulus-evoked MitoGCaMP3 signals (Figure 1F). Overall our MitoGCaMP3 functional imaging
177 indicates that in hair cells, evoked mito- Ca^{2+} uptake initiates near ribbons and is dependent on
178 MCU and $\text{Ca}_v1.3$ channel function.

179

180 **Mito- Ca^{2+} uptake occurs in cells with presynaptic Ca^{2+} influx**

181 Interestingly, we observed that mito- Ca^{2+} uptake was only present in ~40 % of cells
182 (Example, Figure 2A'; n = 10 neuromasts, 146 cells). This observation is consistent with previous
183 work demonstrating that only ~30 % of hair cells within each neuromast cluster have
184 presynaptic Ca^{2+} signals and are synaptically active (Zhang et al., 2018b). Because presynaptic
185 Ca^{2+} signals initiate near mitochondria, it is probable that mito- Ca^{2+} uptake may occur
186 specifically in hair cells with synaptic activity.

187 To test whether evoked mito- Ca^{2+} uptake occurred exclusively in cells with presynaptic
188 Ca^{2+} influx, we performed two-color functional imaging. We used a double transgenic approach
189 that utilized a membrane-localized GCaMP6s (GCaMP6sCAAX; green) to measure presynaptic
190 Ca^{2+} signals at the base of hair cells (Jiang et al., 2017a; Sheets et al., 2017), and concurrently
191 used MitoRGECO1 (red) to examine mito- Ca^{2+} signals (Figure 2A-B'). Our two-color imaging
192 approach revealed a strong correlation between the magnitude of the GCaMP6sCAAX and
193 MitoRGECO1 signals (Figure 2B, $R^2 = 0.8$, $p < 0.0001$; n = 209 cells). We found that the median
194 MitoRGECO1 signals were 400 % larger in presynaptically active hair cells compared to
195 presynaptically silent hair cells (Figure 2B'). Together these results suggest that mito- Ca^{2+}
196 uptake occurs specifically in hair cells with evoked presynaptic- Ca^{2+} influx.

197

198 **Blocking Mito- Ca^{2+} entry depresses presynaptic Ca^{2+} signals in mature hair cells**

199 Although we observed mito- Ca^{2+} uptake specifically in hair cells with active Ca^{2+}
200 channels, the impact of mito- Ca^{2+} uptake on the function of hair-cell synapses was unclear.
201 Based on previous studies in neurons (Billups and Forsythe, 2002; Levy et al., 2003; Chouhan et
202 al., 2010; Kwon et al., 2016), we reasoned that mitochondria may also be important to remove
203 excess Ca^{2+} from the hair-cell presynapse to regulate neurotransmission.

204 To determine if mito- Ca^{2+} uptake impacted presynaptic function, we assayed evoked
205 presynaptic- Ca^{2+} signals by monitoring GCaMP6sCAAX signals adjacent to ribbons as described
206 previously (Example, Figure S2, Sheets et al., 2017; Zhang et al., 2018b). We examined
207 GCaMP6sCAAX signals in mature-hair cells at 5-6 dpf when neuromast organs are largely
208 mature (Kindt et al., 2012; McHenry et al., 2009; Metcalfe, 1985; Murakami et al., 2003; Santos
209 et al., 2006). Using this approach, we assayed presynaptic GCaMP6sCAAX signals before and

210 after a 20-min application of the MCU antagonist Ru360 (Figure 2C-D'). We found that during
211 short, 200-ms stimuli, GCaMP6sCAAX signals at ribbons were reduced after complete MCU
212 block (10 μ M Ru360, Figure 2C-C'). Reduction of GCaMP6sCAAX signals were further
213 exacerbated during sustained 10-s stimuli, even when the MCU was only partially blocked (2
214 μ M Ru360, Figure 2D-D'). These results suggest that in mature hair cells, evoked mito-Ca²⁺
215 uptake is critical for presynaptic Ca²⁺ influx, especially during sustained stimulation.

216

217 **Evoked mito-Ca²⁺ uptake is important for mature synapse integrity and cell health**

218 MCU block could impair presynaptic Ca²⁺ influx through several mechanisms. It could
219 impair the biophysical properties of Cav1.3 channels, for example, through Ca²⁺-dependent
220 inactivation (Platzer et al., 2000; Schnee and Ricci, 2003). In addition, mito-Ca²⁺ has been
221 implicated in synapse dysfunction and cell death (Esterberg et al., 2014; Vos et al., 2010; Wang
222 et al., 2018), and MCU block could be pathological. To distinguish between these possibilities,
223 we assessed whether synapse or hair-cell number were altered after MCU block with Ru360.

224 To quantify ribbon-synapse morphology after MCU block, we immunostained mature-
225 hair cells (5 dpf) with Ribeye b and MAGUK antibodies to label presynaptic ribbons and
226 postsynaptic densities (MAGUK) respectively. We first applied 2 μ M Ru360 for 1 hr, a
227 concentration that partially reduces evoked mito-Ca²⁺ uptake (See Figure 1F') yet is effective at
228 reducing sustained presynaptic Ca²⁺ influx (See Figure 2D-D'). At this dose, Ru360 had no impact
229 on hair cell or synapse number (Figure 3E). In addition, we observed no morphological change
230 in ribbon or postsynapse size (Figure 3F, Figure S3A). These findings indicate that partial MCU
231 block can impair presynaptic function without any observable pathology.

232 We also tested a higher dose of Ru360 (10 μ M) that completely blocks evoked mito-Ca²⁺
233 uptake (See Figure 1F). Interestingly, a 30-min or 1-hr 10 μ M Ru360 treatment had a
234 progressive impact on synapse and cellular integrity. After a 30-min treatment with 10 μ M
235 Ru360 we observed significantly fewer complete synapses per hair cell, but not fewer hair cells
236 compared to controls (Figure 3E; Hair cells per neuromast, control: 16.3, 30-min 10 μ M Ru360:
237 15.5; $p = 0.5$). In addition, after the 30-min treatment, ribbons were significantly larger (Figure
238 3F). The pathological effects of MCU block were more pronounced after a 1-hr, 10 μ M Ru360

239 treatment. After 1-hr, there was both fewer hair cells per neuromast (Hair cells per neuromast,
240 control: 18.1, 1-hr 10 μ M Ru360: 12.0; $p > 0.0001$) and fewer synapses per hair cell (Figure 3E).
241 Similar to 30-min treatments with Ru360, after 1 hr, ribbons were also significantly larger
242 (Figure 3F). Neither 30-min nor 1-hr 10 μ M Ru360 treatment altered postsynapse size (Figure
243 S3A). Overall, our results indicate that in mature hair cells, partial block of mito- Ca^{2+} uptake can
244 impair presynaptic function without altering presynaptic morphology or synapse integrity.
245 Complete block of mito- Ca^{2+} uptake is pathological; it impairs presynaptic function, alters
246 presynaptic morphology, and results in a loss of synapses and hair-cells.

247

248 **Spontaneous presynaptic and mito- Ca^{2+} influx pair in developing hair cells**

249 In addition to evoked presynaptic- and mito- Ca^{2+} signals in hair cells, we also observed
250 instances of spontaneous presynaptic- and mito- Ca^{2+} signals (Example, Figure 4A-A''', Movie
251 S2). Numerous studies have demonstrated that mammalian hair cells have spontaneous
252 presynaptic- Ca^{2+} influx during development (Eckrich et al., 2018; Marcotti et al., 2003; Tritsch et
253 al., 2007, 2010). Therefore, we predicted that similar to mammals, spontaneous presynaptic-
254 Ca^{2+} uptake may be a feature of development. Furthermore, we predicted that spontaneous
255 mito- Ca^{2+} uptake may correlate with instances of spontaneous presynaptic- Ca^{2+} influx.

256 First we tested whether spontaneous presynaptic- Ca^{2+} signals were a feature of
257 development. In zebrafish neuromasts, hair cells are rapidly added between 2-3 dpf, but by 5-6
258 dpf relatively fewer cells are added and the hair cells and the organs are largely mature (Kindt
259 et al., 2012; McHenry et al., 2009; Metcalfe, 1985; Murakami et al., 2003; Santos et al., 2006).
260 Therefore, we examined the magnitude and frequency of spontaneous, presynaptic
261 GCaMP6sCAAX signals in developing (3 dpf) and mature hair cells (5 dpf). We found that in
262 developing hair cells, spontaneous GCaMP6sCAAX signals occurred with larger magnitudes and
263 more frequency compared to those in mature hair cells (Figure 4B-C). Our spontaneous
264 GCaMP6sCAAX imaging demonstrates that similar to mammals, spontaneous presynaptic Ca^{2+}
265 activity is a feature of developing zebrafish hair cells.

266 Next, we tested whether spontaneous mito- Ca^{2+} uptake and presynaptic- Ca^{2+} influx
267 were correlated. For this analysis we concurrently imaged GCaMP6sCAAX and MitoRGECO1

268 signals in the same cells for 15 mins to measure presynaptic and mito- Ca^{2+} responses
269 respectively. We found that spontaneous presynaptic- Ca^{2+} influx was often associated with
270 spontaneous mito- Ca^{2+} uptake (Example, Figure 4A-A'''). Overall, we observed a high
271 correlation between the rise and fall of these two signals within individual cells (Figure A''-A''').
272 Both of these signals and their correlation are abolished by application of the $\text{Ca}_v1.3$ -channel
273 antagonist isradipine (Figure S4). Together these experiments indicate that, similar to our
274 evoked experiments, spontaneous presynaptic- and mito- Ca^{2+} signals are correlated.

275

276 **Spontaneous mito- Ca^{2+} uptake regulates ribbon formation**

277 Previous work in zebrafish demonstrated that $\text{Ca}_v1.3$ channel activity plays a role in
278 ribbon formation specifically during development (Sheets et al., 2012). This work found that a
279 transient, 1-hr pharmacological block of $\text{Ca}_v1.3$ channels increased ribbon size, while $\text{Ca}_v1.3$
280 channel agonists decreased ribbon size (Figure 5E; Sheets et al., 2012). Therefore, spontaneous
281 $\text{Ca}_v1.3$ and MCU Ca^{2+} activities could function together to control ribbon size in developing hair
282 cells.

283 To characterize the role of MCU function and spontaneous mito- Ca^{2+} uptake on ribbon
284 formation, we applied the MCU antagonist Ru360 to developing hair cells (3 dpf). After this
285 treatment, we quantified ribbon synapse morphology by immunostaining hair cells to label
286 presynaptic ribbons and postsynaptic densities. After a 1-hr application of 2 μM Ru360 to block
287 the MCU, we observed a significant increase in ribbon size in developing hair cells (Figure 5A-B,
288 E). In contrast, this same treatment did not impact ribbon size in mature hair cells (Figure 3F).
289 We also applied a higher concentration of Ru360 (10 μM) to developing hair cells for 1 hr. In
290 developing hair cells, after a 1-hr 10 μM Ru360 treatment, we also observed a significant
291 increase in ribbon size (Figure 5A, C, E). Unlike in mature hair cells (Figure 3), in developing hair
292 cells, these concentrations of the MCU antagonist did not alter the number of hair cells, nor the
293 number of synapses per hair cell (Figure 5D; Hair cells per neuromast, control: 9.0, 1-hr 10 μM
294 Ru360: 8.8, $p = 0.3$). All morphological changes were restricted to the ribbons, as MCU block did
295 not alter the size of the postsynapse (Figure S3C).

296 In addition to larger ribbons, at higher concentrations of Ru360 (10 μ M) we also
297 observed an increase in cytoplasmic, non-synaptic Ribeye aggregates (Figure 5F, G). Previous
298 work in zebrafish reported both larger ribbons and cytoplasmic aggregates of Ribeye in $\text{Ca}_v1.3a$ -
299 deficient hair cells (Sheets et al., 2011a). These parallel phenotypes indicate that spontaneous
300 presynaptic Ca^{2+} influx and mito- Ca^{2+} uptake may couple to shape ribbon formation. Our results
301 suggest that during development, spontaneous Ca^{2+} entry through both $\text{Ca}_v1.3$ and MCU
302 channels continuously regulate ribbon formation; blocking either channel increases Ribeye
303 aggregation and ribbon size.

304

305 **MCU and $\text{Ca}_v1.3$ channel activities regulate subcellular Ca^{2+} homeostasis**

306 Our results indicate that spontaneous Ca^{2+} influx through $\text{Ca}_v1.3$ channels and
307 subsequent loading of Ca^{2+} into mitochondria regulates ribbon formation in developing hair
308 cells. But how do these two Ca^{2+} signals converge to regulate ribbon formation? It is possible
309 that mitochondria could buffer Ca^{2+} during spontaneous presynaptic activity and function to
310 decrease resting levels of cytosolic Ca^{2+} (cyto- Ca^{2+}); cyto- Ca^{2+} levels could be a signal that
311 regulates ribbon formation. To examine resting cyto- Ca^{2+} levels in hair cells, we examined the
312 fluorescence signal change of the cytosolic Ca^{2+} indicator RGECO1 (CytoRGECO1) before and
313 after a 30-min pharmacological manipulation of $\text{Ca}_v1.3$ or MCU channels (Figure 6A-C).

314 We observed that treatment with the $\text{Ca}_v1.3$ channel antagonist isradipine and agonist
315 Bay K8644 decreased and increased resting CytoRGECO1 fluorescence respectively (Figure 6B).
316 However, treatment with MCU blocker Ru360 did not significantly shift resting CytoRGECO1
317 fluorescence levels (Figure 6B). Similar results with Ru360 were observed in developing and
318 mature hair cells (Figure 6B-C). These data suggest that, unlike $\text{Ca}_v1.3$ channel function, MCU
319 function and associated mito- Ca^{2+} uptake does not play a critical role in buffering steady state
320 cyto- Ca^{2+} levels.

321 Alternatively, it is possible that rather than impacting cyto- Ca^{2+} levels, both $\text{Ca}_v1.3$ and
322 MCU activity are required to load and maintain Ca^{2+} levels within the mitochondria. In this
323 scenario, mito- Ca^{2+} levels could be a signal that regulates ribbon formation. To test this
324 possibility, we used MitoGCaMP3 to examine resting mito- Ca^{2+} levels before and after

325 modulating Cav1.3 or MCU channel function (Figure 6D-F). We observed that blocking Cav1.3
326 channels with isradipine or the MCU with Ru360 decreased resting MitoGCaMP3 fluorescence
327 (Figure 6E-F). Conversely, Cav1.3 channel agonist Bay K8644 increased resting MitoGCaMP3
328 fluorescence (Figure 6E). These results were consistent in developing and mature hair cells
329 (Figure 6E-F). Our resting MitoGCaMP3 measurements indicate that the effects of Cav1.3
330 channel and MCU activity converge in to regulate mito-Ca²⁺ levels. When either of these
331 channels are blocked, the resting levels of mito-Ca²⁺ are decreased. Therefore, if presynaptic
332 Ca²⁺ influx and mito-Ca²⁺ regulate ribbon formation through a similar mechanism, they may act
333 through mito- rather than cyto-Ca²⁺ homeostasis.

334

335 **Mito-Ca²⁺ levels regulate NAD(H) redox in developing hair cells**

336 If mito-Ca²⁺ levels signal to regulate ribbon formation, how is this signal transmitted
337 from the mitochondria to the ribbon? An ideal candidate is via NAD(H) homeostasis. Ribeye
338 protein, the main component of ribbons contains a putative NAD(H) binding site. Because
339 mitochondria regulate NAD(H) redox homeostasis (Jensen-Smith et al., 2012) we reasoned that
340 there may be a relationship between mito-Ca²⁺ levels, NAD(H) redox and ribbon formation.

341 To examine NAD(H) redox, we created a stable transgenic line expressing Rex-YFP, a
342 fluorescent NAD⁺/NADH ratio biosensor in hair cells (Figure 6G). We verified the function of the
343 Rex-YFP biosensor in our *in vivo* system by exogenously applying NAD⁺ or NADH for 30 min. We
344 found that incubations with 100 μM NAD⁺ increased while 5 mM NADH decreased Rex-YFP
345 fluorescence; these intensity changes are consistent with an increase and decrease in the
346 NAD⁺/NADH ratio respectively (Figure 6H). Next, we examined if Cav1.3 and MCU channel
347 activities impact the NAD⁺/NADH ratio. We found that 30-min treatments with either Cav1.3 or
348 MCU channel antagonist increased the NAD⁺/NADH ratio (increased Rex-YFP fluorescence) in
349 developing hair cells (Figure 6H). Interestingly, similar 30-min treatments did not alter Rex-YFP
350 fluorescence in mature hair cells (Figure 6I). Together, our baseline MitoGCaMP3 and Rex-YFP
351 measurements indicate that during development, Cav1.3 and MCU channel activities normally
352 function to increase mito-Ca²⁺ and decrease the NAD⁺/NADH ratio. Overall, this work provides
353 strong evidence that links NAD(H) redox and mito-Ca²⁺ with ribbon formation.

354

355 **NAD⁺ and NADH directly influence ribbon formation**

356 Our Rex-YFP measurements suggest that spontaneous Cav1.3 and MCU Ca²⁺ activities
357 normally function to decrease the NAD⁺/NADH ratio; furthermore, this activity may function to
358 restrict ribbon formation. Conversely, blocking these activities increases the NAD⁺/NADH ratio
359 and may increase ribbon formation. If the NAD⁺/NADH ratio is an intermediate step between
360 Cav1.3 and MCU channel activities and ribbon formation, we predicted that more NAD⁺ or
361 NADH would increase or decrease ribbon formation respectively. To test this prediction, we
362 treated developing hair cells with exogenous NAD⁺ or NADH.

363 After a 1-hr treatment with 100 μM NAD⁺, we found that the ribbons in developing hair
364 cells were significantly larger compared to controls (Figure 7A-B, E). In contrast, after a 1-hr
365 treatment with 5 mM NADH, ribbons were significantly smaller compared to controls (Figure
366 7A, C, E). Neither exogenous NAD⁺ nor NADH were able to alter ribbon size in mature hair cells
367 (Figure 7F-H, J). These concentrations of NAD⁺ and NADH altered neither the number of
368 synapses per hair cell nor postsynapse size in developing or mature hair cells (Figure 3D, I,
369 Figure S3B, D). These results suggest that in developing hair cells, NAD⁺ promotes while NADH
370 inhibits Ribeye-Ribeye interactions or Ribeye localization to the ribbon. Overall these results
371 support the idea that during development, the levels of NAD⁺ and NADH can directly regulate
372 ribbon formation *in vivo*.

373

374 **Discussion**

375 In this study, we determined in a physiological setting how mito-Ca²⁺ influences hair-cell
376 presynapse function and formation. In mature hair cells, evoked Cav1.3-channel Ca²⁺ influx
377 drives Ca²⁺ into mitochondria. Evoked mito-Ca²⁺ uptake is important to sustain presynaptic Ca²⁺
378 responses and maintain synapse integrity (Figure 8B). During development, spontaneous Cav1.3
379 channel Ca²⁺ influx also drives Ca²⁺ into mitochondria. Elevated mito-Ca²⁺ levels rapidly lower
380 the NAD⁺/NADH ratio and downregulate ribbon formation (Figure 8A). Furthermore, during
381 development, NAD⁺ and NADH can directly increase and decrease ribbon formation

382 respectively. Our study reveals an intriguing mechanism that couples presynaptic activity with
383 mito-Ca²⁺ to regulate the function and formation of a presynaptic structure.

384

385 **Functional significance of ribbon size**

386 Our work outlines how presynaptic activity controls the formation and ultimately the
387 size of ribbons. When either presynaptic Ca²⁺ influx or mito-Ca²⁺ uptake was perturbed, ribbons
388 were significantly larger (Figure 5A-C, E; [Sheets et al., 2012](#)). But why regulate ribbon size?

389 Previous work has reported variations in ribbon size and shape among hair-cell types
390 and species (Moser et al., 2006). Although ribbon morphology is predicted to impact synapse
391 function, the functional consequence of presynapse structure on function has primarily been
392 explored in the auditory inner hair cells of mice. In these auditory hair cells, studies have
393 identified two distinct populations of ribbon synapses that spatially segregate within each cell
394 (Kalluri and Monges-Hernandez, 2017; Liberman and Liberman, 2016; Liberman et al., 2011; Yin
395 et al., 2014; Zhang et al., 2018a). Structurally, one population has smaller ribbons, while the
396 other population has significantly larger ribbons. Functionally, compared to smaller ribbons,
397 larger ribbons are associated with afferent fibers with less spontaneous activity and higher
398 thresholds of activation ([Furman et al., 2013](#); [Kalluri and Monges-Hernandez, 2017](#); [Liberman et al., 2011, 2015, 1990](#); [Merchan-Perez and Liberman, 1996](#); [Song et al., 2016](#); [Yin et al., 2014](#)).

400 Overall, the combined use of these two types of ribbon synapse is thought to increase the
401 range of sensitivities for each individual auditory hair cell (Costalupes et al., 1984; Ohn et al.,
402 2016). Interestingly, in mice these two populations of ribbons can be distinguished structurally
403 just after the onset of hearing (Liberman and Liberman, 2016). This timing suggests that similar
404 to our data (Figure 4-5), activity during development may help determine ribbon size.

405 Previous work in the zebrafish-lateral line has also examined how ribbon size impacts
406 synapse function (Sheets et al., 2017). This work overexpressed Ribeye in zebrafish-hair cells to
407 dramatically enlarge ribbons. Functionally, compared to controls, hair cells with enlarged
408 ribbons were associated with afferent neurons with lower spontaneous activity (Sheets et al.,
409 2017). Furthermore, the onset encoding, or the timing of the first afferent spike upon
410 stimulation, was significantly delayed in hair cells with enlarged ribbons. Together, both studies

411 in zebrafish and mouse indicate that ribbon size can impact the functional properties of the
412 synapse. Based on these studies, we predict that the alterations to ribbon size we observed in
413 our current study would impact functional properties of the synapse in a similar manner. For
414 example, pharmacological treatments that enlarge ribbons (Figure 5: MCU channel block;
415 Figure 7: exogenous NAD⁺) would also lower spontaneous spiking in afferents and delay onset
416 encoding.

417

418 **Ribeye and CtBP localization at synapses**

419 In this study, we found that NAD(H) redox state had a dramatic effect on ribbon
420 formation. NAD⁺ promotes, while NADH reduces ribbon formation (Figure 7). The main
421 component of ribbons is Ribeye. Ribeye has two domains, a unique A domain and a B domain
422 that contains an NAD(H) binding domain (Schmitz et al., 2000a). *In vitro* work on isolated A and
423 B domains has shown that both NAD⁺ and NADH can affect interactions between A and B
424 domains as well as B-domain interactions (Magupalli et al., 2008). In the context of ribbons, the
425 B domain has been shown to concentrate at the interface between the ribbon and the
426 membrane opposing the postsynapse (Sheets et al., 2014). Therefore, promoting B domain
427 homodimerization may act to seed larger ribbons at the presynapse. In this scenario, NAD⁺ and
428 NADH could increase and decrease B domain homodimerization to impact ribbon formation.
429 Because we also saw an increase in cytoplasmic Ribeye aggregates after MCU block (Figure 5F-
430 G) it is alternatively possible that NAD⁺ and NADH could impact interactions between A and B
431 domains to more broadly impact Ribeye interactions and accumulation.

432 Regardless of the exact mechanism, the effect of presynaptic activity and related
433 changes in NAD(H) redox homeostasis may extend beyond the sensory ribbon synapse. Ribeye
434 is a splice variant of the transcriptional co-repressor CtBP2 (Schmitz et al., 2000b). While the A
435 domain is unique to Ribeye, the B domain is nearly identical to CtBP2 minus the nuclear
436 localization sequence (NLS) (Hübler et al., 2012). In vertebrates, the CtBP family also includes
437 CtBP1 (Chinnadurai, 2007). CtBP proteins are expressed in both hair cells and the nervous
438 system, and there is evidence that both CtBP1 and CtBP2 may act as scaffolds at neuronal
439 synapses (Hübler et al., 2012; tom Dieck et al., 2005). Interestingly, in cultured neurons, it has

440 been shown that synaptic activity is associated with both an increase in CtBP1 localization at
441 the presynapse, as well as a decrease in the NAD⁺/NADH ratio (Ivanova et al., 2015). In our *in*
442 *vivo* study, we also found that the NAD⁺/NADH ratio was lower in developing hair cells with
443 presynaptic activity (Figure 6H). But in contrast to *in vitro* work on CtBP1 in cultured neurons,
444 we found that Ribeye localization to the presynapse and ribbon size was reduced when the
445 NAD⁺/NADH ratio was lowered (Figure 7A-C). It is unclear why presynaptic activity regulates
446 Ribeye localization differently from that of CtBP1. Ribeye and CtBP1 behavior may differ due to
447 the divergent function of their N-terminal domains. Synaptic localization may also be influenced
448 by external factors, such as the cell type in which the synapse operates, whether the study is
449 performed *in vitro* or *in vivo*, as well as the maturity of the synapse. Overall, both studies
450 demonstrate that CtBP1 and Ribeye localization to the presynapse can be influenced by
451 synaptic activity and NAD(H) redox state.

452

453 **Role of evoked mito-Ca²⁺ uptake in mature hair cells**

454 Studies in various neuronal subtypes have demonstrated that mitochondria play
455 multiple roles to maintain neurotransmission including ATP production, Ca²⁺ buffering and
456 signaling, and neurotransmitter synthesis. (reviewed in Kann and Kovács, 2007; Vos et al.,
457 2010). Our study found that in mature zebrafish-hair cells, even partially blocking evoked mito-
458 Ca²⁺ uptake can impair presynaptic Ca²⁺ influx during sustained stimuli (Figure 2E-F). But how
459 does mito-Ca²⁺ uptake impact presynaptic Ca²⁺ activity? Although mito-Ca²⁺ uptake could
460 function to buffer cyto-Ca²⁺ to maintain presynaptic function, our current work indicates that
461 blocking mito-Ca²⁺ uptake does not raise cytosolic Ca²⁺ levels (Figure 6A-C). Therefore mito-Ca²⁺
462 uptake may not be required to buffer or clear Ca²⁺ from the cytosol during steady-state.
463 Alternatively, mito-Ca²⁺ uptake could buffer Ca²⁺ locally during presynaptic activity to prevent
464 Ca²⁺-dependent inactivation of Cav1.3 channels. In hair cells, Cav1.3 channels exhibit reduced
465 Ca²⁺ dependent inactivation (Koschak et al., 2001; Platzer et al., 2000; Song et al., 2003; Xu and
466 Lipscombe, 2001). This reduction has been proposed to be important to transmit sustained
467 sensory stimulation (Kollmar et al., 1997). Perhaps local removal of Ca²⁺ into the mitochondria
468 during presynaptic activity is another mechanism in place to sustain neurotransmission.

469 Alternatively, if mito- Ca^{2+} uptake does not buffer Ca^{2+} , it could be critical to produce ATP for
470 other cellular tasks to maintain neurotransmission. Additional work is necessary to understand
471 how evoked mito- Ca^{2+} uptake functions to sustain presynaptic Ca^{2+} influx in mature-zebrafish
472 hair cells.

473 In addition to innate cellular roles, in neurons and in hair cells, mito- Ca^{2+} loading is also
474 associated with pathological processes such as reactive oxygen species (ROS) production, cell
475 death and synapse loss (Cai and Tammineni, 2016; Court and Coleman, 2012; DiMauro and
476 Schon, 2008; Esterberg et al., 2013, 2014; Sheng and Cai, 2012). Interestingly, recent work has
477 demonstrated that noise-induced hearing loss is associated with measurable changes in ribbon
478 morphology and synapse number (Jensen et al., 2015; Kujawa and Liberman, 2009; Liberman et
479 al., 2015). Work studying this type of hearing loss has shown that auditory inner hair cells in the
480 high frequency region of the mouse cochlea have enlarged ribbons immediately after noise,
481 followed later by synapse loss (Liberman et al., 2015). This pathology is reminiscent of our 1-hr
482 pharmacological treatments that completely block the MCU in mature zebrafish hair cells
483 (Figure 3E-F). After this treatment, we observed a reduction in the number hair cells and
484 synapses, and an increase in ribbon size. Surprisingly, these same treatments applied to
485 developing hair cells increased ribbon size but did not reduce cell or synapse number (Figure
486 5D). Recent work has suggested that younger hair cells may be more resilient to ototoxins,
487 perhaps because they have not yet accumulated an excess of mitochondria oxidation (Pickett et
488 al., 2018). This could explain why complete MCU block is not pathological to developing hair
489 cells. Overall these studies, along with our own data indicate that in mature hair cells, the
490 mitochondria and the MCU may be associated with pathological processes associated with
491 ototoxins and noise-exposure.

492 In further support of this idea, recent work in mice has investigated the role of the MCU
493 in noise-related hearing loss (Wang et al., 2018). This work demonstrated that pharmacological
494 block or a loss of function mutation in MCU protected against synapse loss in auditory inner
495 hair cells after noise exposure. Although this result is counter to our observed results where
496 complete MCU block reduces synapse number (Figure 3E), it highlights an association between
497 mito- Ca^{2+} , noise exposure and synapse integrity. It is possible that these differences can be

498 explained by transitory versus chronic alterations in mito- Ca^{2+} homeostasis. These differences
499 may be resolved by studying the hair cells in a zebrafish MCU knock out. In the future it will be
500 interesting to examine both mito- Ca^{2+} uptake and ribbon morphology during other pathological
501 conditions that enlarge ribbons such as noise exposure, ototoxicity and aging.

502

503 **Role of spontaneous mito- Ca^{2+} uptake in developing hair cells**

504 Although mitochondria have been studied in the context of cellular function and cell
505 death, relatively few studies have examined the role mitochondria play in development. We
506 found that mitochondria spontaneously take up Ca^{2+} during hair-cell development (Figure 4B-
507 C). Although studies in mammalian hair cells have demonstrated that there are spontaneous
508 rises in presynaptic Ca^{2+} during development (Marcotti et al., 2003; Tritsch et al., 2010), these
509 Ca^{2+} signals have not been reported in zebrafish hair cells. Our work highlights the mitochondria
510 as a downstream signaling organelle that couples presynaptic- Ca^{2+} influx to ribbon formation
511 (Figure 8A). In the future, zebrafish will be a useful model to further explore the origin and role
512 of these spontaneous Ca^{2+} signals.

513 In our study, we also found that altering baseline mito- Ca^{2+} levels rapidly influenced the
514 NAD^+/NADH ratio and altered ribbon size in developing hair cells (Figure 5, 6, 7). However, in
515 mature hair cells, while alterations to mito- Ca^{2+} levels increased ribbon size they did not
516 influence NAD(H) redox (Figure 6I). One reason why NAD(H) redox does not change in mature
517 hair cells is that ribbon enlargement could be occurring through a different mechanism. For
518 example, ribbon enlargement could be a pathological byproduct of synapse loss (Figure 3E). In
519 mature hair cells, after MCU block it is possible that individual ribbons are not enlarging, but
520 instead ribbons are merging together as synapses are lost. In the future live imaging studies will
521 help resolve whether there are different mechanisms underlying ribbon enlargement in mature
522 and developing hair cells.

523 Overall this study has demonstrated the zebrafish-lateral line is a valuable system to
524 study the interplay between the mitochondria, and synapse function, development and
525 integrity. In the future it will be exciting to expand this research to explore how evoked and

526 spontaneous mito-Ca²⁺ influx are impacted by pathological treatments such as age, noise and
527 ototoxins.

528

529 **Method Details**

530

531 *Zebrafish husbandry and genetics*

532 Adult *Danio rerio* (zebrafish) were maintained under standard conditions. Larvae 2 to 6
533 days post-fertilization (dpf) were maintained in E3 embryo medium (in mM: 5 NaCl, 0.17 KCl,
534 0.33 CaCl₂ and 0.33 MgSO₄, buffered in HEPES pH 7.2) at 28°C. All husbandry and experiments
535 were approved by the NIH Animal Care and Use program under protocol #1362-13. Transgenic
536 zebrafish lines used in this study include: *Tg(myo6b:GCaMP6s-CAAX)^{idc1}* (Jiang et al., 2017b),
537 *Tg(myo6b:RGECO1)^{vo10Tg}* (Maeda et al., 2014), *Tg(myo6b:GCaMP3)^{w78Tg}* (Esterberg et al., 2013),
538 *Tg(myo6b:mitoGCaMP3)^{w119Tg}* (Esterberg et al., 2014), and *Tg(myo6b:ribeye a-tagRFP)^{idc11Tg}*
539 (Sheets, 2017). Experiments were performed using Tübingen or TL wildtype strains.

540

541 *Cloning and Transgenic Fish Production*

542 To create transgenic fish, plasmid construction was based on the tol2/Gateway zebrafish
543 kit developed by the lab of Chi-Bin Chien at the University of Utah (Kwan et al., 2007). These
544 methods were used to create *Tg(myo6b:mitoRGECO1)^{idc12Tg}* and *Tg(myo6b:Rex-YFP)^{idc13Tg}*
545 transgenic lines. Gateway cloning was used to clone *Rex-YFP* (Bilan et al., 2014) and
546 *mitoRGECO1* into the middle entry vector pDONR221. For mitochondrial matrix targeting, the
547 sequence of cytochrome C oxidase subunit VIII (Rizzuto et al., 1989) was added to the N-
548 terminus of RGECO1. Vectors p3E-polyA (Kwan et al., 2007) and pDestTol2CG2 (Kwan et al.,
549 2007) were recombined with p5E *myosinVlb* (*myo6b*) (Kindt et al., 2012) and our engineered
550 plasmids to create the following constructs: *myo6b:REX-YFP*, and *myo6b:mitoRGECO1*. To
551 generate transgenic fish, DNA clones (25-50 ng/μl) were injected along with *tol2* transposase
552 mRNA (25-50 ng/μl) into zebrafish embryos at the single-cell stage.

553

554 *Pharmacological treatment of larvae for immunohistochemistry*

555 For immunohistological studies, zebrafish larvae were exposed to compounds diluted in
556 E3 with 0.1% DMSO (isradipine, Bay K8644, NAD⁺ (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO), Ru360
557 (Millipore, Burlington, MA)) or Tris-HCl (NADH (Cayman Chemical, Ann Arbor, MI)) for 30 min or
558 1 hr at the concentrations indicated. E3 with 0.1% DMSO or Tris-HCl were used as control
559 solutions. In solution at pH 7.0-7.3, NADH oxidizes into NAD⁺ by exposure to dissolved oxygen.
560 To mitigate this, NADH was dissolved immediately before use, and was exchanged with a
561 freshly dissolved NADH solution every half hour. Dosages of isradipine, Ru360, NAD⁺ and NADH
562 did not confer excessive hair-cell death or synapse loss unless stated. After exposure to the
563 compounds, larvae were quickly sedated on ice and transferred to fixative.

564

565 *In vivo imaging of baseline Ca²⁺ and NAD(H) redox*

566 To prepare larvae for imaging, larvae were immobilized as previously described (Kindt et
567 al, 2012). Briefly, larvae were anesthetized with tricaine (0.03%) and pinned to a chamber lined
568 with Sylgard 184 Silicone Elastomer (Dow Corning, Midland, MI). Larvae were injected with 125
569 μ M α -bungarotoxin (Tocris, Bristol, UK) into the pericardial cavity to paralyze. Tricaine was
570 rinsed off the larvae with E3.

571 For baseline measurements of Rex-YFP and cytoRGECO1 fluorescence, larvae were
572 imaged using an upright Nikon ECLIPSE Ni-E motorized microscope (Nikon Inc., Tokyo, Japan) in
573 widefield mode with a Nikon 60x 1.0 NA CFI Fluor water-immersion objective, 480/30 nm
574 excitation and 535/40 nm emission filter set or 520/35 nm excitation and 593/40 emission filter
575 set, and an ORCA-D2 camera (Hamamatsu Photonics K.K., Hamamatsu City, Japan). Acquisitions
576 were taken at 5 Hz, in 15 plane Z-stacks every 2 μ m. For baseline measurements of
577 MitoGCaMP3, larvae were imaged using a Bruker Swept-field confocal microscope (Bruker Inc.,
578 Billerica, MA), with a Nikon CFI Fluor 60x 1.0 NA water immersion objective. A Rolera EM-C2
579 CCD camera (QImaging, Surrey, Canada) was used to detect signals. Acquisitions were taken
580 using a 70 μ m slit at a frame rate of 10 Hz, in 26 plane Z-stacks every 1 μ m. MitoGCaMP3
581 baseline intensity varied dramatically in controls between timepoints. To offset this variability,
582 we acquired and averaged the intensity of 4 Z-stacks per time point. For all baseline
583 measurements transgenic larvae were first imaged in E3 with 0.1% DMSO or 0.1% Tris-HCl as

584 appropriate. Then larvae were exposed to pharmacological agents for 30 minutes and a second
585 acquisition was taken. Any neuromasts with cell death after pharmacological treatment were
586 excluded from our analyses.

587

588 *In vivo imaging of evoked Ca²⁺ signals*

589 To measure evoked Ca²⁺ signals in hair-cells, larvae were prepared in a similar manner
590 as described for baseline measurements. After α -bungarotoxin paralysis, larvae were immersed
591 in neuronal buffer solution (in mM: 140 NaCl, 2 KCl, 2 CaCl₂, 1 MgCl₂ and 10 HEPES, pH 7.3).
592 Evoked Ca²⁺ measurements were acquired using the Bruker Swept-field confocal system
593 described above. To stimulate lateral-line hair cells, a fluid-jet was used as previously described
594 to deliver a saturating stimulus (Lukasz and Kindt, 2018).

595 To measure presynaptic GCaMP6sCAAX signals at ribbons, images were acquired with 1
596 x 1 binning with a 35 μ m slit at 50 Hz in a single plane containing presynaptic ribbons. Ribbons
597 were marked in live hair cells using the *Tg(myo6b:ribeye a-tagRFP)^{idc11Tg}* transgenic line (Figure
598 S2). Ribbons were located relative to GCaMP6s signals by acquiring a Z-stack of 5 planes 1 μ m.
599 To correlate presynaptic GCaMP6sCAAX signals with mitoRGECO1 signals in hair cells, 2-color
600 imaging was performed. Images were acquired in a single plane with 2 x 2 binning at 10 Hz.
601 MitoGCaMP3 signals were acquired in Z-stacks of 5 planes 1 μ m apart at 2 x 2 binning. High
602 speed imaging along the Z-axis was accomplished by using a piezoelectric motor (PICMA P-
603 882.11-888.11 series, Physik Instrumente GmbH, Karlsruhe, Germany) attached to the objective
604 to allow rapid imaging at a 50 Hz frame rate yielding a 10 Hz volume rate. For pharmacological
605 treatment, acquisitions were made prior to drug treatment and after a 20-min incubation in the
606 pharmacological agent. Any neuromasts with cell death after pharmacological treatment were
607 excluded from our analyses.

608

609 *In vivo imaging of spontaneous Ca²⁺ signals*

610 To measure spontaneous Ca²⁺ signals in hair-cells, larvae were prepared in a similar
611 manner as described for evoked Ca²⁺ measurements. Spontaneous Ca²⁺ measurements were
612 acquired using the Bruker Swept-field confocal system described above. To measure

613 spontaneous presynaptic GCaMP6sCAAX signals, images were acquired with 2 x 2 binning with
614 a 70 μm slit at 0.33 Hz in a single plane for 900 s. For acquisition of two-color spontaneous
615 presynaptic GCaMP6sCAAX and mitoRGECO1 signals images were acquired with 2 x 2 binning
616 with a 70 μm slit at 0.2 Hz in a single plane for 900 s.

617

618 *Electron microscopy*

619 Larvae were prepared for electron microscopy as described previously (Sheets, 2017).
620 Transverse serial sections (~60 nm thin sections) were used to section through neuromasts.
621 Samples were imaged on a JEOL JEM-2100 electron microscope (JEOL Inc., Tokyo, Japan). The
622 distance from the edge of a ribbon density to the edge of the nearest mitochondria was
623 measured (n= 17 ribbons). In 74 % of ribbons, a mitochondrion could be clearly identified within
624 1 μm of a ribbon in a single section (17 out of 21 ribbons). All distances and perimeters were
625 measured in FIJI (Schindelin et al., 2012).

626

627 *Immunofluorescence staining and Airyscan imaging*

628 Whole larvae were fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde in PBS at 4°C for 3.5-4 hr as
629 previously described (Zhang et al., 2018b). Fixative was washed out with 0.01% Tween in PBS
630 (PBST) in 4 washes, 5 min each. Larvae were then washed for 5 min with H₂O. The H₂O was
631 thoroughly removed and replaced with ice-cold acetone and placed at -20°C for 3 min for 3 dpf
632 and 5 min for 5 dpf larvae, followed by a 5 min H₂O wash. The larvae were then washed for 4 x
633 5 min in PBST, then incubated in block overnight at 4°C in blocking solution (2% goat serum, 1 %
634 bovine serum albumin, 2% fish skin gelatin in PBST). Primary and secondary antibodies were
635 diluted in blocking solution. Primary antibodies and their respective dilution are: Ribbon label:
636 Mouse anti-Ribeye b IgG2a, 1:10,000 (Sheets et al., 2011b); PSD label: Mouse anti-pan-MAGUK
637 IgG1 #75-029, 1:500 (UC Davis/NIH NeuroMab Facility, Davis, CA); Hair cell label: Rabbit anti-
638 Myosin VIIa, 1:1000 (Proteus BioSciences Inc., Ramona, CA). Larvae were incubated in primary
639 antibody solution for 2 hr at room temperature. After 4 x 5 min washes in PBST to remove the
640 primary antibodies, diluted secondary antibodies were added in and samples were incubated
641 for 2 hr at room temperature. Secondary antibodies and their respective dilution are: goat anti-

642 mouse IgG2a, Alexa Fluor 488, 1:1000; goat anti-rabbit IgG (H+L) Alexa Fluor 568, 1:1000; goat
643 anti-mouse IgG1 Alexa Fluor 647, 1:1000 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA). Secondary
644 antibody was washed out with PBST for 3 x 5 min, followed by a 5 min wash with H₂O. Larvae
645 were mounted on glass slides with Prolong Gold Antifade Reagent (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA)
646 using No. 1.5 coverslips.

647 Prior to Airyscan imaging, live samples were immobilized in 2 % low-melt agarose in
648 tricaine (0.03%) in cover-glass bottomed dishes. Live and fixed samples were imaged on an
649 inverted Zeiss LSM 780 laser-scanning confocal microscope with an Airyscan attachment (Carl
650 Zeiss AG, Oberkochen, Germany) using an 63x 1.4 NA oil objective lens. The median (\pm median
651 absolute deviation) lateral and axial resolution of the system was measured at 198 ± 7.5 nm
652 and 913 ± 50 nm (full-width at half-maximum), respectively. The acquisition parameters were
653 adjusted using the control sample such that pixels for each channel reach at least 1/10 of the
654 dynamic range. The Airyscan Z-stacks were processed with Zeiss Zen Black software v2.1 using
655 3D filter setting of 7.0. Experiments were imaged with the same acquisition settings to maintain
656 consistency between comparisons.

657

658 **Quantification and Statistical Analysis**

659 *Analysis of Ca²⁺ and NAD(H) signals, processing, and quantification*

660 To quantify changes in baseline Ca²⁺ and NAD(H) homeostasis, images were processed in
661 FIJI. For our measurements we quantified the fluorescence in the basal-most 8 μ m (4 planes) to
662 avoid overlap between cells. The basal planes were max Z-projected, and a 24.0 μ m (Rex-YFP
663 and RGECO1) or 26.8 μ m (MitoGCaMP3) circular region of interest (ROI) was drawn over the
664 neuromast to make an intensity measurement. To correct for photobleaching, a set of mock-
665 treated control neuromasts were imaged during every trial. These mock treatments were used
666 to normalize the post-treatment intensity values.

667 To quantify the magnitude of evoked changes in Ca²⁺, fluorescent images were
668 processed in FIJI. Images in each time series were aligned using Stackreg (Thevenaz et al.,
669 1998). For evoked MitoRGECO1, MitoGCaMP3, CytoGCaMP3 and two-color GCaMP6sCAAX and
670 MitoRGECO1 signals, Z-stack were max z-projected, and a 5 μ m diameter circular ROI was

671 drawn over each hair cell. For ribbon-localized measurements, GCaMP6sCAAX signals were
672 measured within a 1.34 μm round ROIs at individual ribbons, and intensity of multiple ROI
673 within a cell were averaged. Cells with presynaptic Ca^{2+} activity is defined by max $\Delta\text{F}/\text{F}$ of > 0.05
674 for MitoRGECO1 and MitoGCaMP3, and max $\Delta\text{F}/\text{F} > 0.25$ for GCaMP6sCAAX for a 2-s
675 stimulation.

676 To quantify the average magnitude and frequency of spontaneous Ca^{2+} changes in
677 GCaMP6sCAAX signals, images were processed in Matlab R2014b (Mathworks, Natick, MA) and
678 FIJI. First, images in each time series were aligned using Stackreg (Thevenaz et al., 1998). To
679 measure the average magnitude during the 900 s GCaMP6sCAAX image acquisition, a 5 μm
680 diameter circular ROI was drawn over each hair cell and a raw intensity value was obtained
681 from each time point. Then the raw traces were bleach corrected. Next, the corrected intensity
682 values were normalized as $\Delta\text{F}/\text{F}_0$. F_0 is defined as the bottom 15th percentile of fluorescence
683 values (Babola et al., 2018). Then, values of $\Delta\text{F}/\text{F}_0$ of less than 10 % were removed. These values
684 were considered to be noise and our threshold value for a true signal. A 10 % threshold was
685 determined by imaging spontaneous GCaMP6CAAX signals in the presence of isradipine where
686 no signals were observed (Figure S4). The averaged magnitude of spontaneous activity per cell
687 was obtained by dividing the integral/sum of GCaMP6sCAAX signals ($\Delta\text{F}/\text{F}_0 > 10\%$) during the
688 whole recording period by 300 (300 frames in 900 s). The frequency of GCaMP6sCAAX signals
689 was defined as the average number of peaks per second during the whole recording period.

690

691 *Image processing and quantification of synapse morphology*

692 To quantify synapse morphology and pairing, images were first processed in ImageJ
693 (NIH, Bethesda, MD), and then synapses were paired using Python (Python Software
694 Foundation, Wilmington, DE) in the Spyder Scientific Environment (MIT, Cambridge, MA). In
695 ImageJ, each Airyscan Z-stack was background subtracted using rolling-ball subtraction. Z-stacks
696 containing the MAGUK channel were further bandpass filtered to remove details smaller than 6
697 px and larger than 20 px. A duplicate of the Z-stack was normalized for intensity. This duplicated
698 Z-stack was used to identify individual ribbon and MAGUK using the Simple 3D Segmentation of
699 ImageJ 3D Suite (Ollion et al., 2013). Local intensity maxima, identified with 3D Fast Filter, and

700 3D watershed were used to separate close-by structures. The centroid for each identified
701 ribbon and MAGUK was obtained using 3D Manager and were used to identify complete
702 synapses. The max Z-projection of the segmented Z-stack was used to generate a list of 2D
703 objects as individual ROIs corresponding to each punctum. This step also included a minimum
704 size filter, Ribeye: $0.08 \mu\text{m}^2$, MAGUK $0.04 \mu\text{m}^2$. For quantification of extrasynaptic Ribeye b
705 puncta, the minimum size filter was not applied. The 2D puncta ROI were applied over the max
706 Z-projection of the original Z-stack processed only with background subtraction. This step
707 measures the intensity of the antibody label. Centroid and intensity information were exported
708 as a CSV spreadsheet (macro is available upon request).

709 In Python, the 3D centroid coordinates for each ribbon punctum was measured against
710 the coordinates of every post-synaptic MAGUK punctum to find the MAGUK punctum within a
711 threshold distance. This threshold was calculated by taking the 2D area of the Ribeye and
712 MAGUK punctum measured in the max Z-projection to calculate an approximate radius by
713 dividing by π and taking the square root. The two radii were then summed to get the threshold.
714 Puncta that were not paired were excluded from later statistical analyses of synaptic ribbon and
715 postsynaptic MAGUK puncta. Hair cell and synapse count were confirmed manually. Hair cell
716 counts were performed with myosin VIIa antibody label in treatments where synapse or cell
717 numbers were reduced.

718

719 *Statistics*

720 Statistical analyses and data plots were performed with Prism 8 (Graphpad, San Diego,
721 CA). Values in the text and data with error bars on graphs and in text are expressed as mean \pm
722 SEM unless indicated otherwise. All experiments were performed on a minimum of 2 animals, 6
723 neuromasts (posterior lateral-line neuromasts L1-L4), on 2 independent days. For 3 and 5 dpf
724 larvae each neuromast represents analysis from 8-12 hair cells; 24-36 synapses and 14-18 hair
725 cells; 42-54 synapses respectively. All replicates are biological. Based on the variance and effect
726 sizes reported previously and measured in this study, these numbers were adequate to provide
727 statistical power to avoid both Type I and Type II error (Sheets et al., 2012; Zhang et al., 2018b).
728 No animals or samples were excluded from our analyses unless control experiments failed—in

729 these cases all samples were excluded. No randomization or blinding was used for our animal
730 studies. Where appropriate, datasets were confirmed for normality using a D'Agostino-Pearson
731 normality test and for equal variances using a F test to compare variances. Statistical
732 significance between two conditions was determined by either unpaired Welch's unequal
733 variance *t*-test, a Mann-Whitney U test or a Wilcoxon matched-pairs signed-rank test as
734 appropriate. For comparison of multiple conditions, a Brown-Forsythe or a Welch ANOVA with
735 Games-Howell post hoc were used.

736

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742

743 **Declaration of interests**

744 The authors declare no competing financial or non-financial interests.

745

746 **Author contributions**

747 Conceptualization, Methodology, Writing, H.C.W., K.S.K., Formal Analysis, H.C.W., Investigation,
748 H.C.W., Q.X.Z., A.J.B., R.S.P., Y.-X.W., and Supervision, K.S.K.

749

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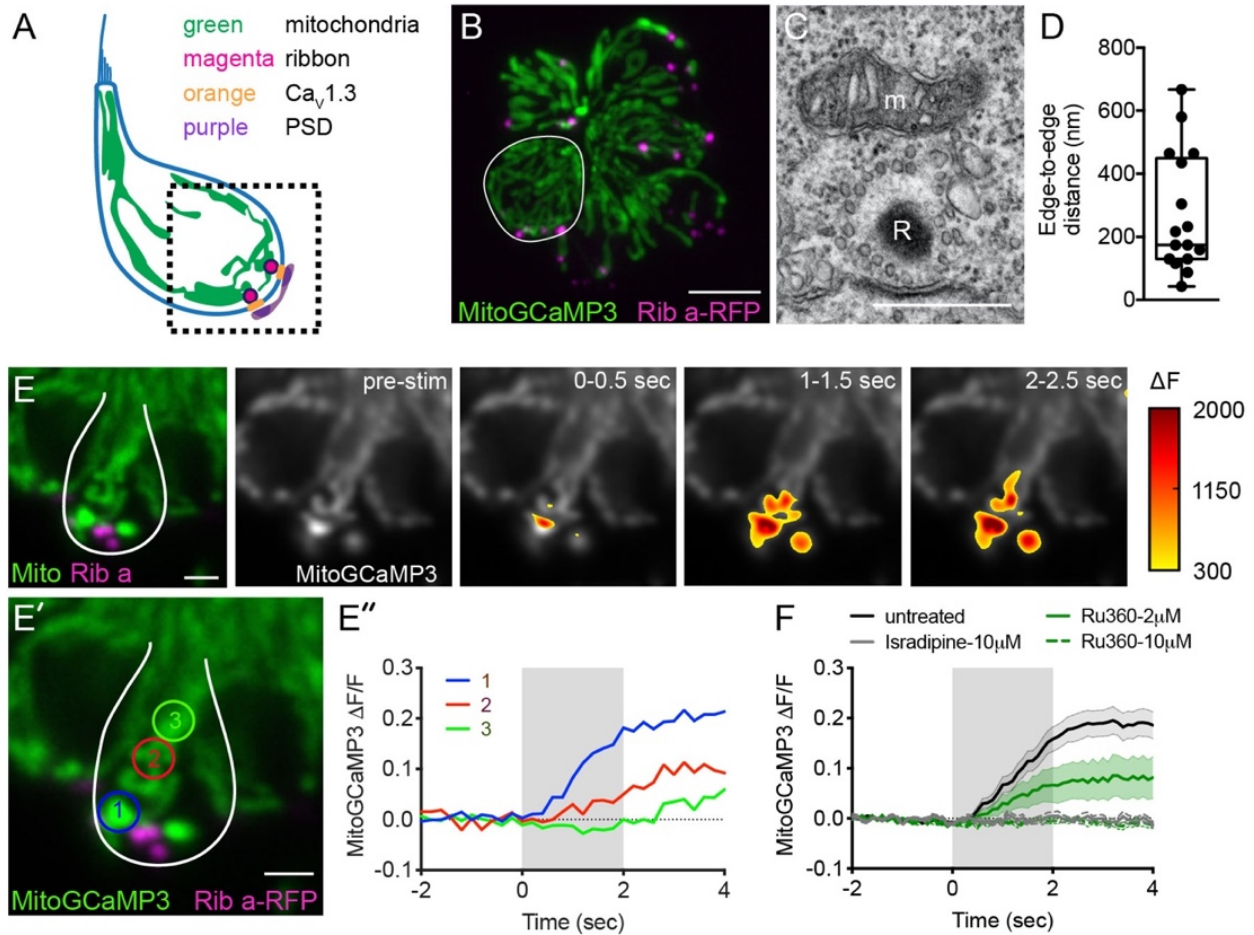
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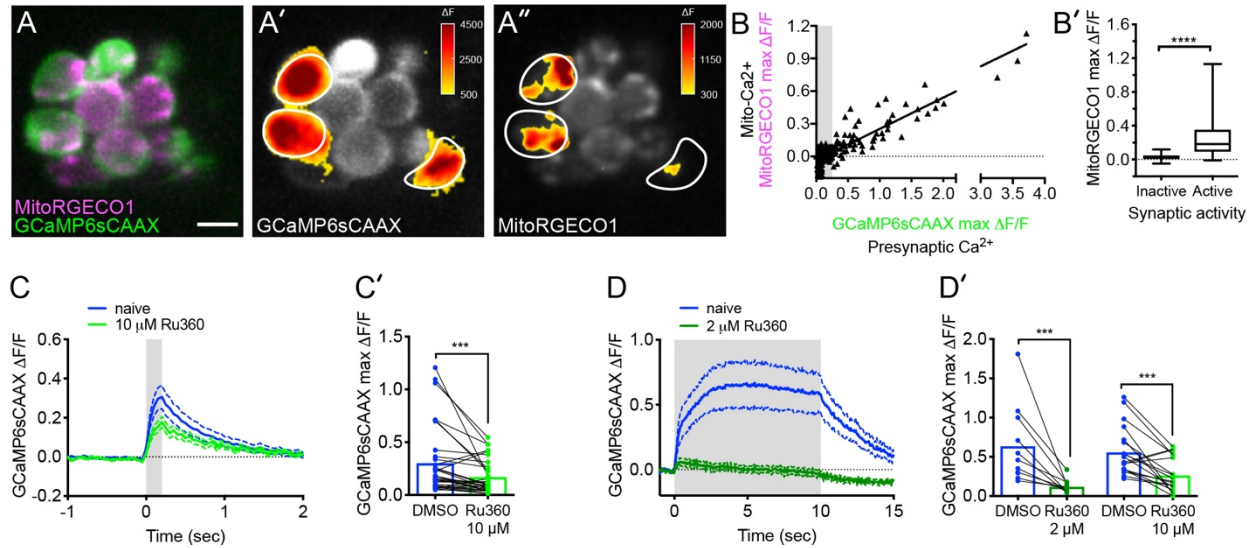
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Figure 1. Mito- Ca^{2+} uptake initiates adjacent to ribbons. A, cartoon illustration of a lateral-line hair cell containing: an apical mechanosensory bundle (blue), mitochondria (green), presynaptic ribbons (magenta), $\text{Ca}_v1.3$ channels (orange) and postsynaptic densities (purple). B, Airyscan confocal image of 6 live hair cells (1 cell outlined in white) expressing MitoGCaMP3 (mitochondria) and Ribeye a-tagRFP (ribbons) in a developing neuromast at 2 dpf. Also see Figure S1. C, A representative TEM showing a mitochondrion (m) in close proximity to a ribbon (R) at 4 dpf. D, Quantification of mitochondrion to ribbon distance in TEM sections ($n = 17$ sections). E, Side-view of a hair cell (outlined in white) shows the spatio-temporal dynamics of evoked mito- Ca^{2+} signals during a 2-s stimulation at 6 dpf. The MitoGCaMP3 signals are indicated by the heatmap and are overlaid onto the pre-stimulus grayscale image. E'-E'', Circles 1-3 (1.3 μm diameter) denote regions used to generate the temporal traces of mito- Ca^{2+} signals in E'': adjacent to the presynapse ("1"), and midbody ("2" and "3") in the same cell as E. F, Average evoked mito- Ca^{2+} response before (solid black) and after 30 min incubation with 10 μM

1032 Ru360 (dashed green), 2 μ M Ru360 (green), or 10 μ M isradipine (gray) (3-5 dpf, $n \geq 9$ cells per
1033 treatment). Error bars in D are min and max; in F the shaded area denotes SEM. Scale bar = 500
1034 nm in C, 5 μ m in B and 2 μ m in E and E'.



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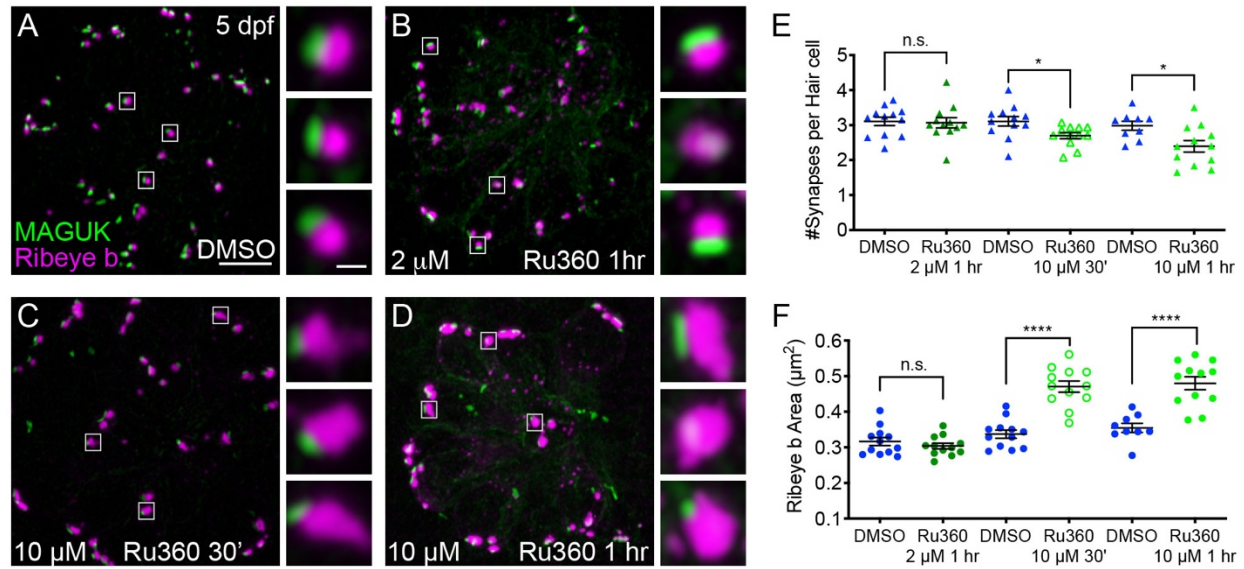
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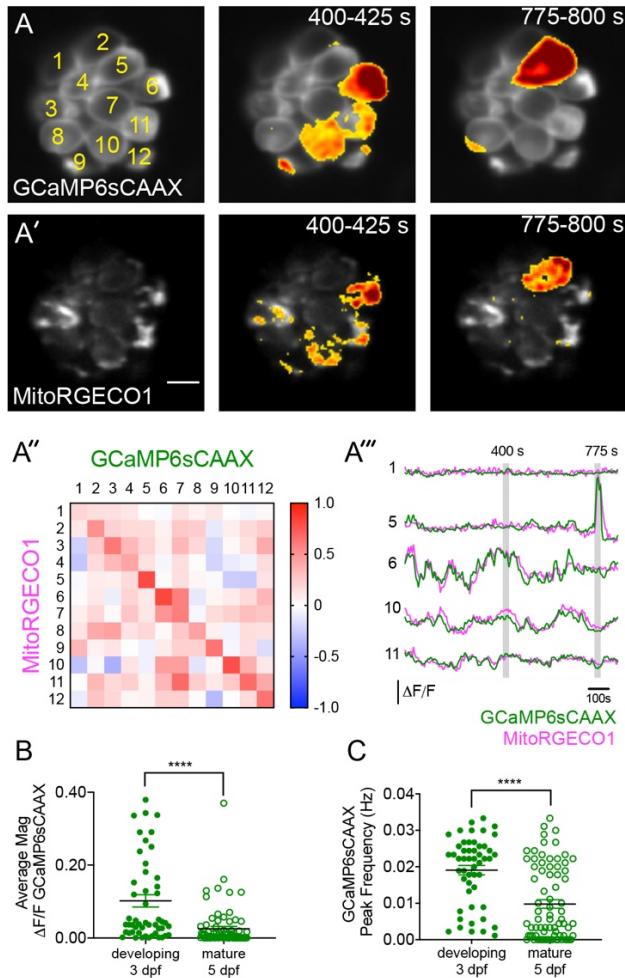
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Figure 2. Mito- Ca^{2+} uptake can impact presynaptic Ca^{2+} signals. A, A live Image of a neuromast viewed top-down, expressing the presynaptic- Ca^{2+} sensor GCaMP6sCAAX (green) and mito- Ca^{2+} sensor MitoRGECO1 (magenta) at 3 dpf. The GCaMP6sCAAX (A') and MitoRGECO1 (A'') signals during a 2-s stimulation are indicated by the heatmaps and occur in the same cells (white outline). B, Scatterplot with linear regression of peak presynaptic- and mito- Ca^{2+} response for individual cells at 3-5 dpf, $n = 209$ cells. Gray background in graph denotes presynaptic- Ca^{2+} signals below 0.25, a threshold used as a cutoff for presynaptic activity (below inactive, above active). B', Plot of mito- Ca^{2+} responses segregated based on the activity threshold in B. C-D', Presynaptic- Ca^{2+} response (example in Figure S2) averaged per cell before (blue) and after 30 min of 10 μM Ru360 (light green) or 2 μM Ru360 (dark green), $n \geq 10$ cells per treatment. C and D show averaged traces while C' and D' show before-and-after dot plots of the peak response per cell. Whiskers on plots in B' represent min and max; error (dashed lines) in plots C and D represent SEM. Mann-Whitney U test was used in B'; Wilcoxon matched-pairs signed-rank test was used in C' and D'. *** $p < 0.001$, **** $p < 0.0001$. Scale bar = 5 μm in A.



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1053 **Figure 3.** Mito- Ca^{2+} is important for ribbon size and synapse integrity in mature hair cells. A-D,
1054 Representative images of mature neuromasts (5 dpf) immunostained with Ribeye b (magenta,
1055 ribbons) and MAGUK (green, postsynapses) after a 1 hr 0.1% DMSO (A), a 1 hr 2 μM Ru360 (B),
1056 a 30 min 10 μM Ru360 (C), or a 1 hr 10 μM Ru360 (D) treatment. Insets show 3 example
1057 synapses (white squares). E-F, Scatter plots show synapse counts (E), and ribbon area (F) in
1058 controls and in treatment groups. $N \geq 9$ neuromasts per treatment. Error bars in E-F represent
1059 SEM. A Welch's unequal variance t -test was used in E-F. * $p < 0.05$, **** $p < 0.0001$. Scale bar = 5
1060 μm in A, and 2 μm in inset.



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1062 **Figure 4.** Spontaneous presynaptic- Ca^{2+} influx and Mito- Ca^{2+} uptake are linked.

1063 A-A', A live Image of a neuromast viewed top-down, expressing the presynaptic- Ca^{2+} sensor

1064 GCaMP6sCAAX (A) and mito- Ca^{2+} sensor MitoRGECO1 (A') at 3 dpf. Example GCaMP6sCAAX (A')

1065 and MitoRGECO1 (A') signals during two 25-s windows within a 900-s acquisition are indicated

1066 by the $\Delta\text{F}/\text{F}$ heatmaps and occur in the same cells. A'', A heatmap of Pearson correlation

1067 coefficients comparing GCaMP6sCAAX and MitoRGECO1 signals from the cells in A-A'.

1068 A''', Example GCaMP6sCAAX (green) MitoRGECO1 (magenta) traces during the 900-s acquisition

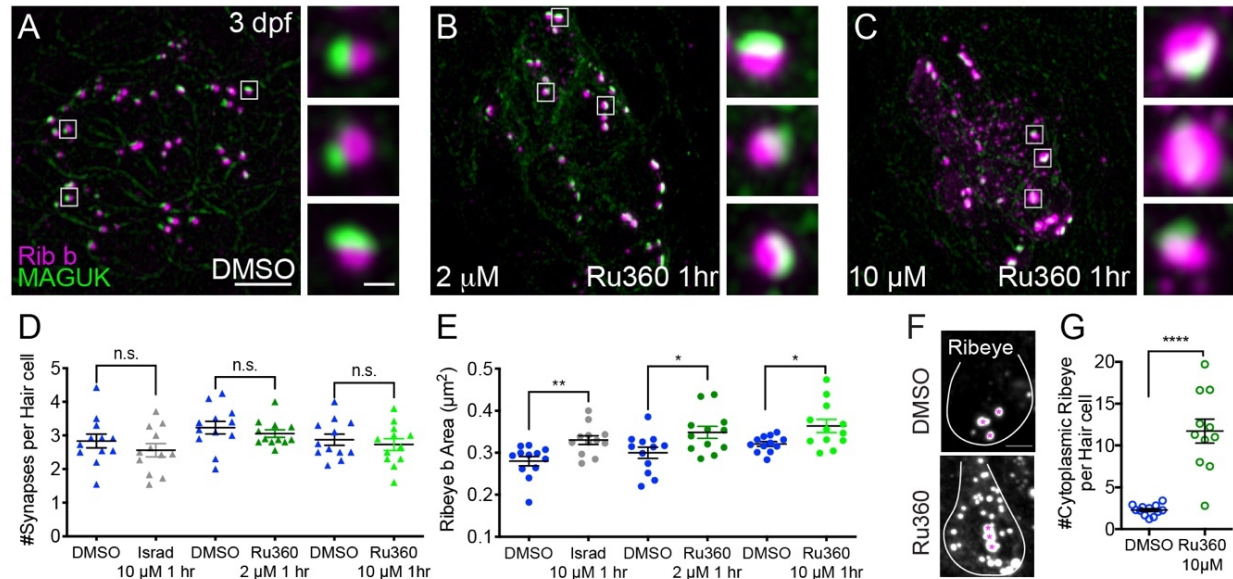
1069 from the 5 cells numbered in A, also see Movie S2. B, Scatterplot showing the average

1070 magnitude of GCaMP6sCAAX signals in developing and mature hair cells, $n = 6$ neuromasts per

1071 age. C, Scatterplot showing frequency of GCaMP6sCAAX events in developing and mature hair

1072 cells, $n = 6$ neuromasts. Error bars in B-C represent SEM. A Mann-Whitney U test was used in

1073 and C. **** $p < 0.0001$. Scale bar = $5 \mu\text{m}$ in A.



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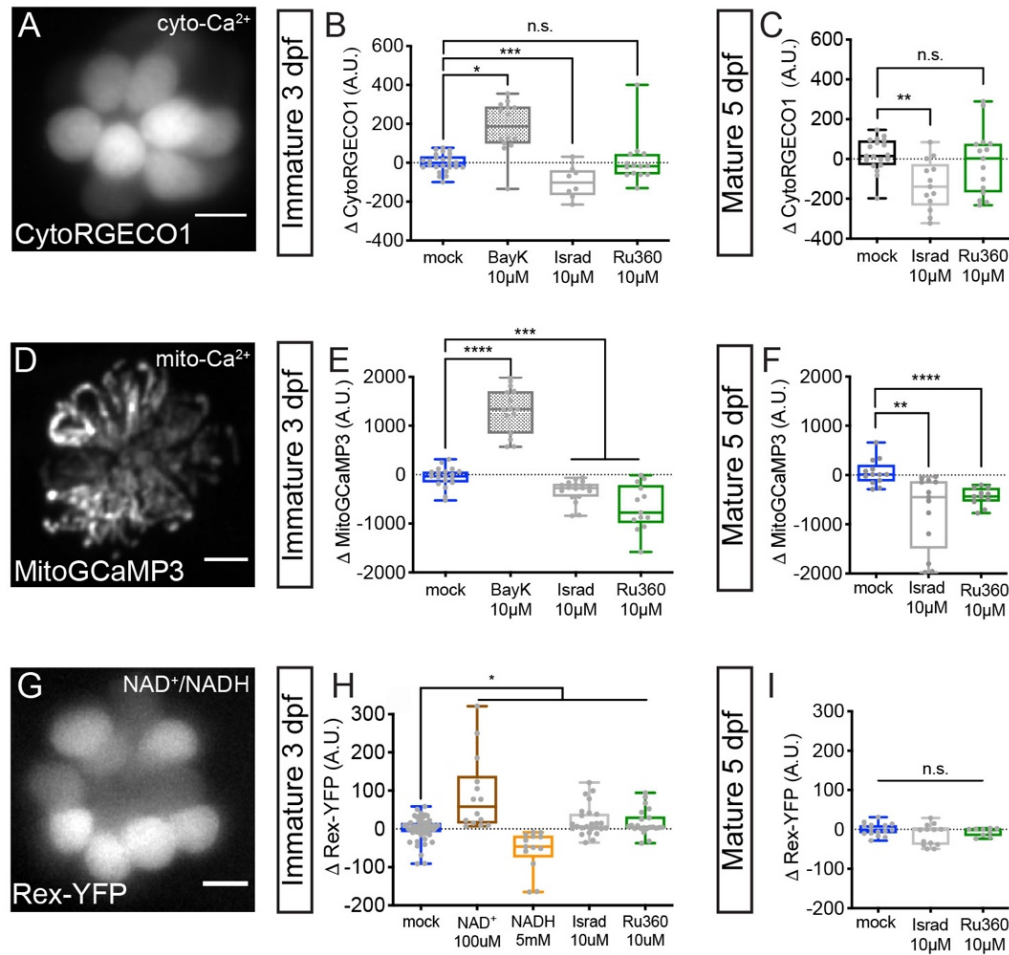
1075 **Figure 5.** Mito- Ca^{2+} regulates ribbon formation. A-C, Representative images of immature
1076 neuromasts (3 dpf) immunostained with Ribeye b (magenta, ribbons) and MAGUK (green,
1077 postsynapses) after a 1 hr 0.1% DMSO (A), 2 μM Ru360 (B) or 10 μM Ru360 (C) treatment.
1078 Insets show 3 representative synapses (white squares) for each treatment. (D-E) Scatterplot

1079 show quantification of synapse number (D), and ribbon area (E) in controls and in treatment
1080 groups. F, Side-view of hair cell (white outline) shows synaptic ribbon (magenta asterisks) and

1081 extrasynaptic Ribeye b aggregates after a 1 hr 0.1% DMSO or 10 μM Ru360 treatment.
1082 Quantification of extrasynaptic Ribeye puncta (G). $N \geq 12$ neuromasts per treatment. Error bars

1083 in B-C represent SEM. Welch's unequal variance t -test was used in D-E and G, * $p < 0.05$, ** $p <$
1084 0.01, **** $p < 0.0001$. Scale bar = 5 μm in A, 2 μm in insets and F.

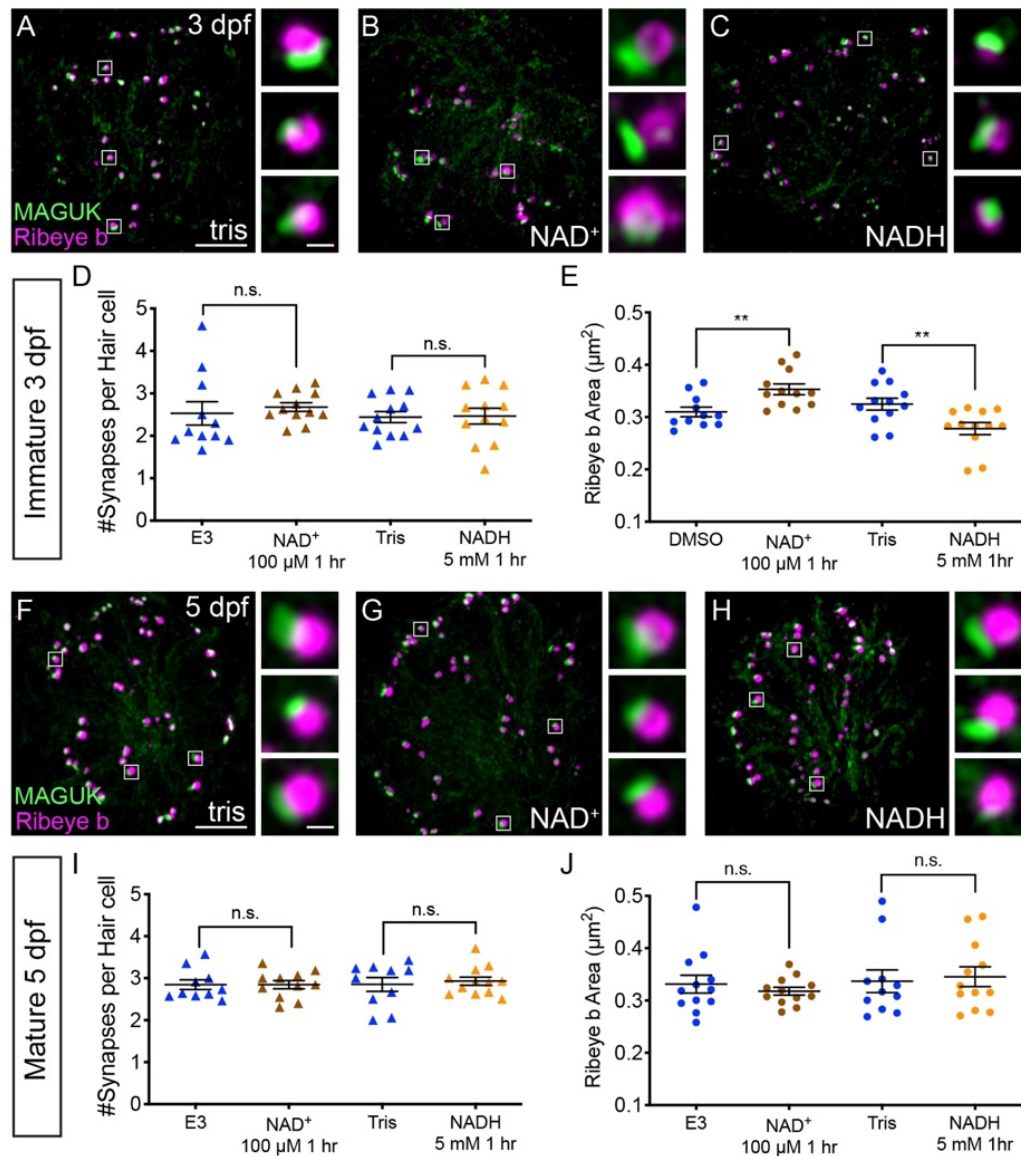
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1087 **Figure 6.** Cyto- Ca^{2+} , mito- Ca^{2+} and NAD⁺/NADH redox baseline measurements. Live hair cells
 1088 expressing RGECO1 (A), MitoGCaMP3 (D), or Rex-YFP (G) show resting cyto- Ca^{2+} , mito- Ca^{2+} or
 1089 NAD⁺/NADH levels respectively. B-C, RGECO1 baseline measurements before and after a 30 min
 1090 mock treatment (0.1% DMSO), or after a 30 min 10 μM Bay K8644 (BayK), 10 μM isradipine, or
 1091 10 μM Ru360 treatment. E-F, MitoGCaMP3 baseline measurements before and after a 30 min
 1092 mock treatment (0.1% DMSO), or after a 10 μM BayK, 10 μM isradipine, or 10 μM Ru360
 1093 treatment. H-I, Rex-YFP baseline measurements before and after 30 min mock treatment (0.1%
 1094 DMSO), or after a 30 min 100 μM NAD⁺, 5 mM NADH, 10 μM isradipine, or 10 μM Ru360
 1095 treatment. All plots are box-and-whiskers plot that show median, min and max. N \geq 9
 1096 neuromasts per treatment. One-way Brown-Forsythe and Welch ANOVA with Dunnett's T3 post
 1097 hoc was used to calculate the difference in B-C, E-F, and H-I, * p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001,
 1098 **** p < 0.0001. Scale bar = 5 μm in A, D and G.

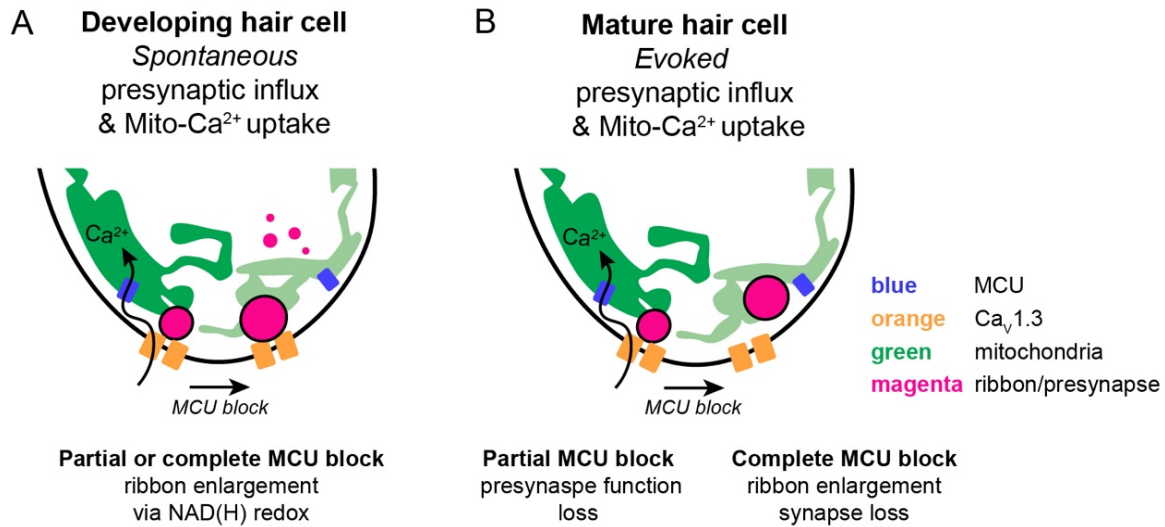
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1101 **Figure 7.** NAD⁺ and NADH directly influence ribbon formation. Representative images of
 1102 immature (A-C, 3 dpf) and mature (G-H, 5 dpf) neuromasts immunostained with Ribeye b
 1103 (magenta, ribbons) and MAGUK (green, postsynapses) after a 0.1% Tris-HCl (A, F), 100 μ M NAD⁺
 1104 (B, G) or 5 mM NADH treatment (C, H). Insets show 3 example synapses (white squares). D-E
 1105 and I-J, Scatterplots show synapse count (D, I) and ribbon area (E, J) in controls and treatments
 1106 groups. N \geq 10 neuromasts per treatment. Error bars in B-C represent SEM. A Welch's unequal
 1107 variance *t*-test was used for comparisons, ***p* < 0.01. Scale bar = 5 μ m in A and F, 2 μ m in insets.

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1110 **Figure 8.** Schematic model of mito- Ca^{2+} in developing and mature hair cells. A, In developing
1111 hair cells, spontaneous presynaptic- Ca^{2+} influx is linked to mito- Ca^{2+} uptake. Together these
1112 Ca^{2+} signals function to regulate ribbon formation. When the $\text{Ca}_v1.3$ or MCU channels are
1113 blocked, ribbon formation is increased leading to larger ribbons. These Ca^{2+} signals regulate
1114 ribbon formation via NAD(H) redox. B, In mature hair cells, evoked presynaptic- Ca^{2+} influx is
1115 linked to mito- Ca^{2+} uptake. When the MCU is blocked in mature hair cells there are
1116 synaptopathic consequences. Ribbons are enlarged and synapses are lost.

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1118 **Movie S1.** Airyscan image of MitoGCaMP3 and Rib a-tagRFP at the base of a single live hair cell.

1119 **Movie S2.** Spontaneous ΔF GCaMP6sCAAX (left) and ΔF MitoRGECO1 (right) signals acquired at

1120 3 dpf, 25-s per frame.

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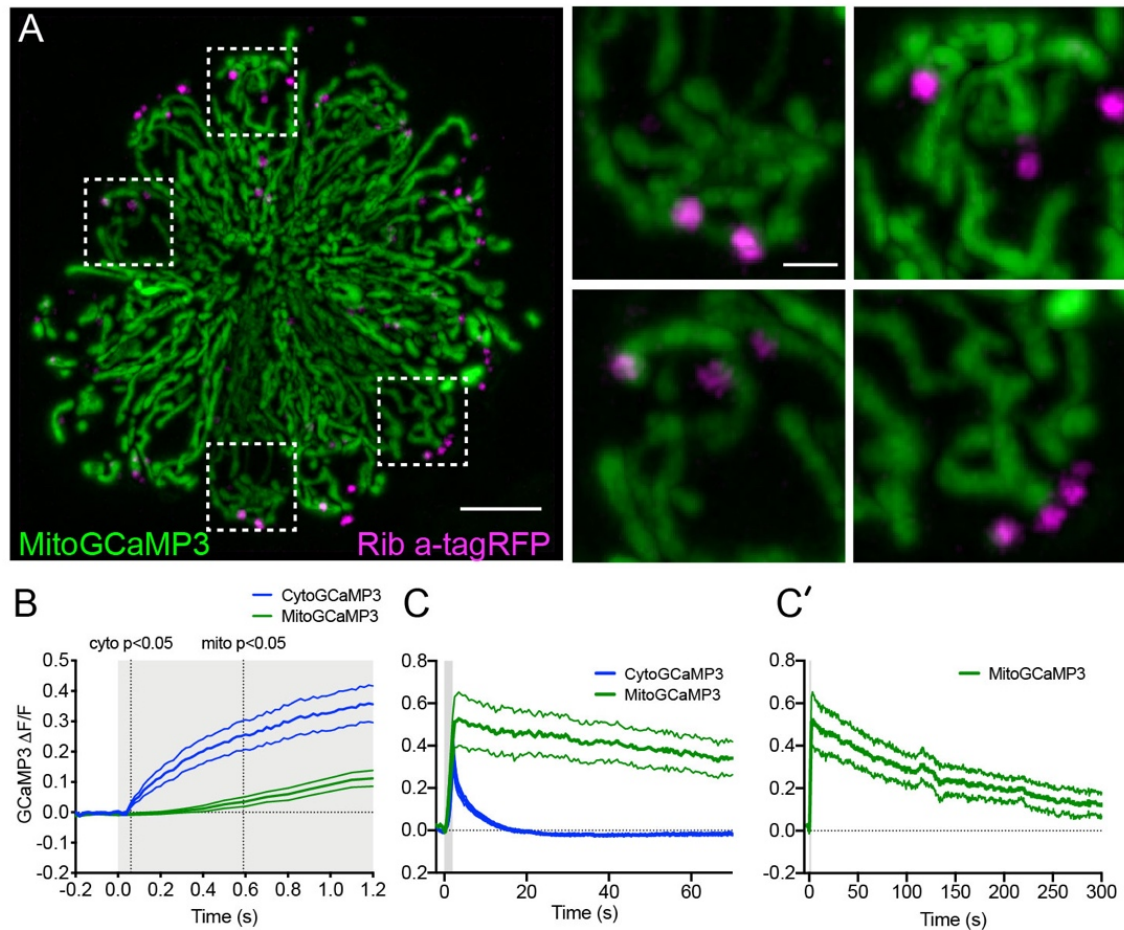
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1137 **Figure S1.** The time course of mechanically-evoked mito-Ca²⁺ and cyto-Ca²⁺ signals are distinct.

1138 A, Airyscan confocal image of a live, neuromast expressing MitoGCaMP3 (mitochondria) and

1139 Ribeye a-tagRFP (ribbons) at 6 dpf. Insets show the base of 4 individual hair cells from the

1140 neuromast in A (dashed white boxes). B, Average cyto- (blue) and mito-Ca²⁺ (green) signals

1141 during the onset of a 2-s stimulus. Mito-Ca²⁺ signals rise with a delay compared to cyto-Ca²⁺

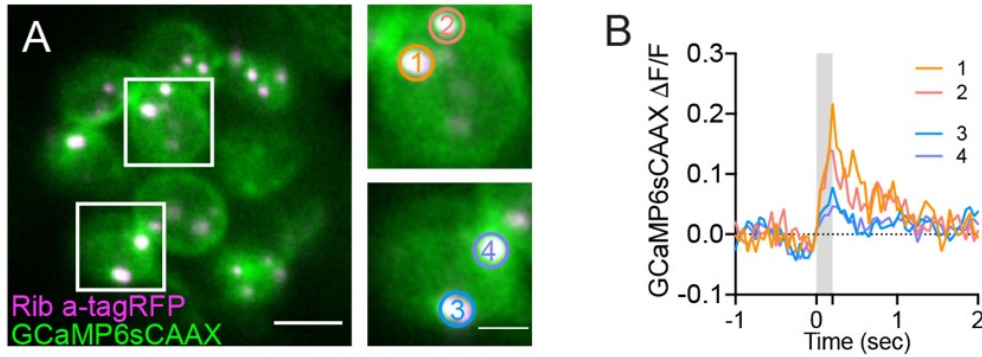
1142 signals (3-6 dpf, n ≥ 18 cells). C-C', Average cyto- and mito-Ca²⁺ signals during and after a 2-s

1143 stimulation shows that cyto-Ca²⁺ signals return to baseline shortly after stimulation (C), while

1144 mito-Ca²⁺ remains elevated up to 5 min after stimulation (C-C') (3 dpf, n ≥ 7 cells). Error in panel

1145 B-C' represent SEM. Scale bar = 5 μ m in A and 2 μ m in inset.

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1148 **Figure S2.** Presynaptic Ca^{2+} signals at the ribbon synapse. **A**, Live image of a neuromast viewed
1149 top-down, expressing the presynaptic- Ca^{2+} sensor GCaMP6sCAAX (green) and ribbon label
1150 Ribeye a-tagRFP (magenta) at 3 dpf. Example cells show evoked synaptic- Ca^{2+} signals during a
1151 0.2-s stimulation (white boxes, duplicated on right). Circles 1-4 (1.3 μm diameter) denote
1152 regions used to generate the temporal traces of presynaptic- Ca^{2+} signals in **B**. Scale bar = 5 μm
1153 in **A** and 2 μm in insets.

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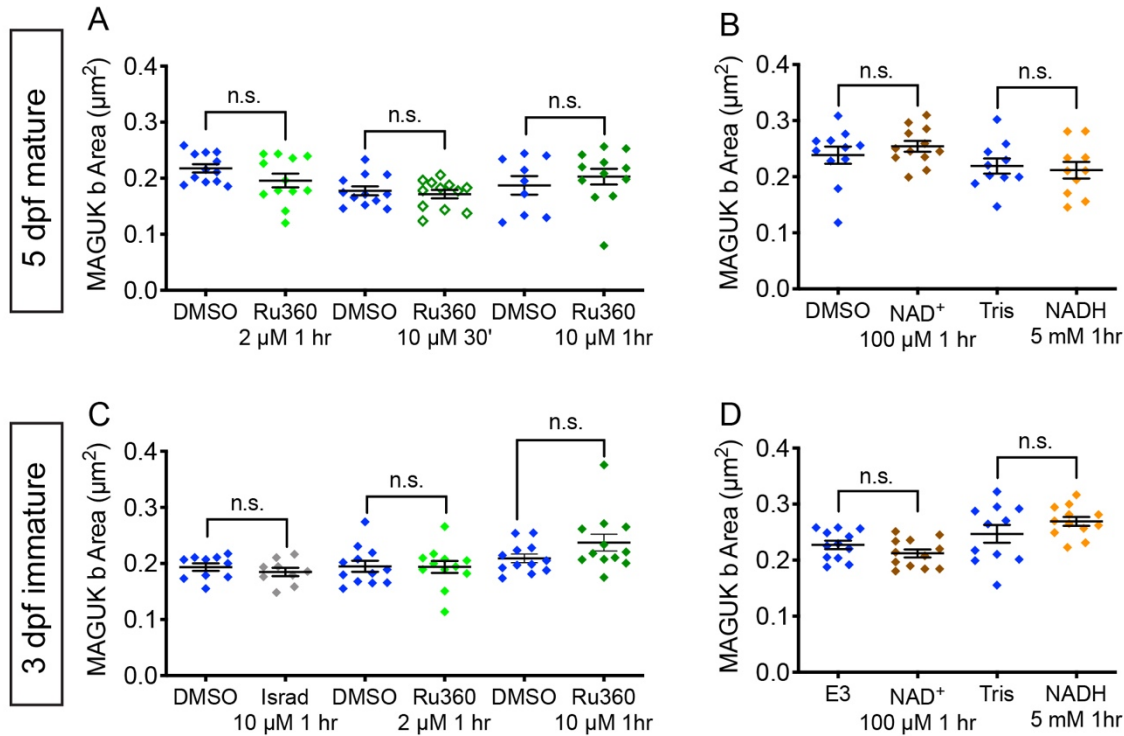
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1162 **Figure S3.** NAD⁺, NADH and Ru360 treatments do not impact postsynapse size. (A-D).

1163 Quantification of postsynapse size assayed by MAGUK immunolabel in mature (A-B) and

1164 developing neuromasts (C-D). Treatments with E3, 0.1% DMSO, 0.1% Tris-HCl, 100 µM NAD⁺, 5

1165 mM NADH treatment, 2 µM Ru360, 10 µM Ru360 do not significantly alter postsynapse size

1166 compared to controls. (C, H). N ≥ 9 neuromasts per treatment. Error bars in B-C represent SEM.

1167 A Welch's unequal variance *t*-test was used for comparisons.

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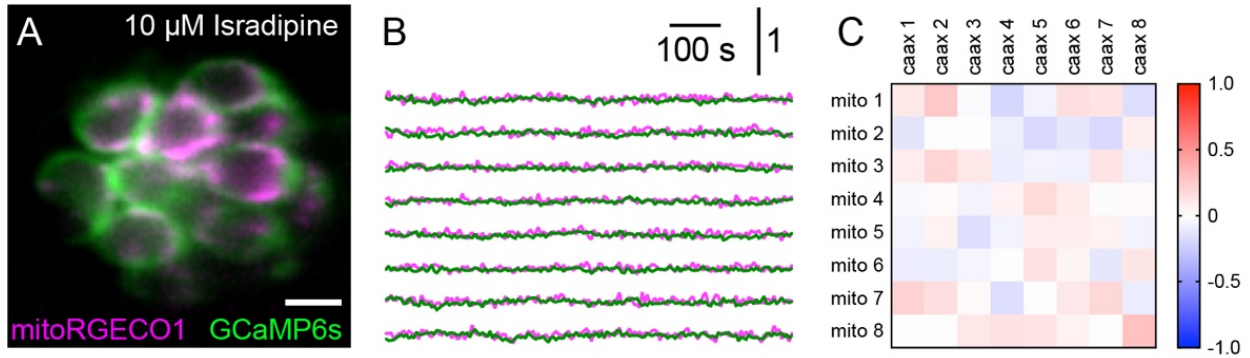
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1176 **Figure S4.** Spontaneous presynaptic and mito- Ca^{2+} signals are abolished by $\text{Ca}_v1.3$ channel
1177 antagonist isradipine. A, A live Image of a neuromast viewed top-down, expressing the
1178 presynaptic- Ca^{2+} sensor GCaMP6sCAAX (green) and mito- Ca^{2+} sensor MitoRGECO1 (magenta) at
1179 6 dpf. B, Representative GCaMP6sCAAX (green) and MitoRGECO1 (magenta) traces during a
1180 900-s continuous image acquisition in the absence of stimuli and 10 μM isradipine. C, There is
1181 no correlation between GCaMP6sCAAX and MitoRGECO1 signals within each cell in the
1182 presence of isradipine.

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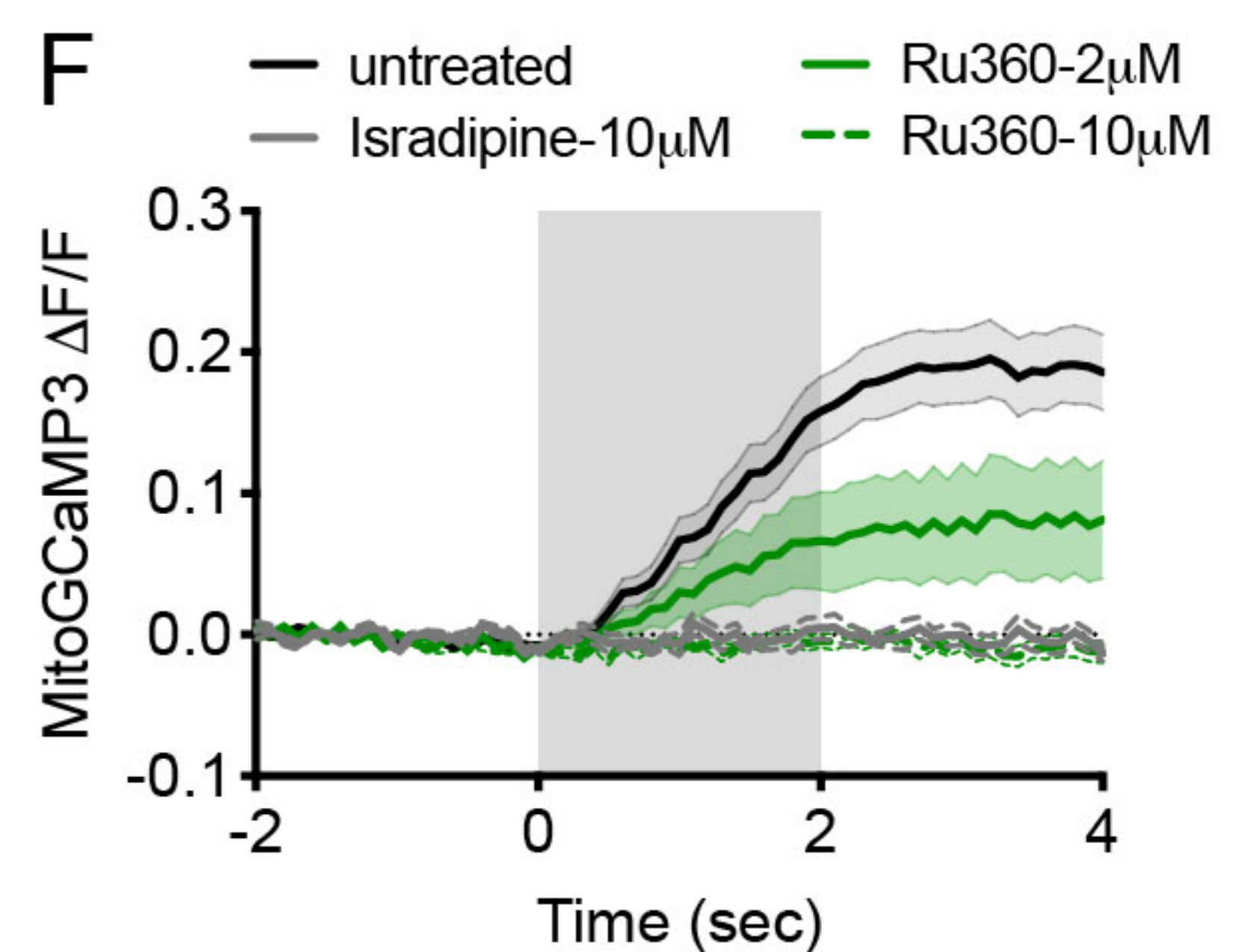
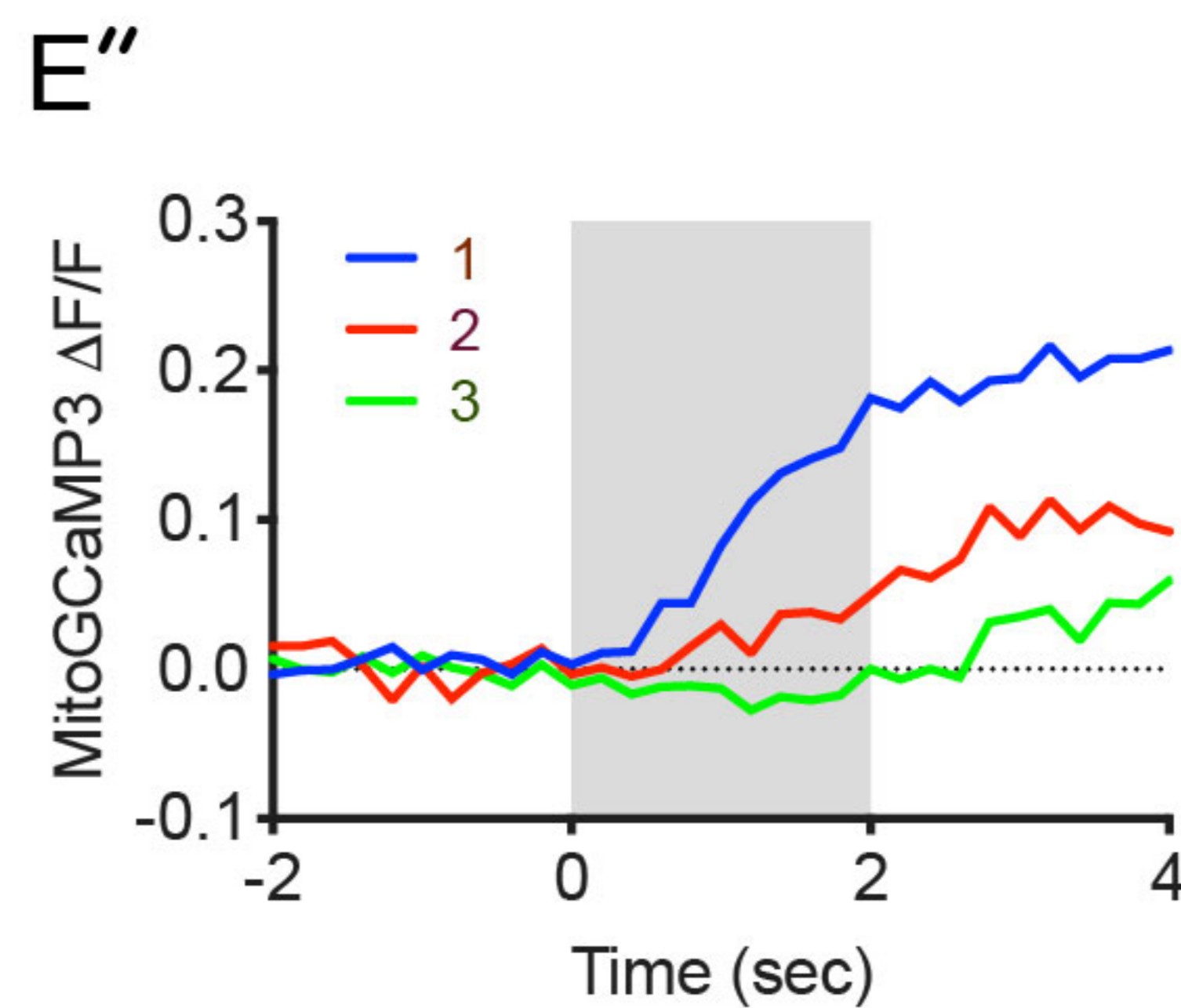
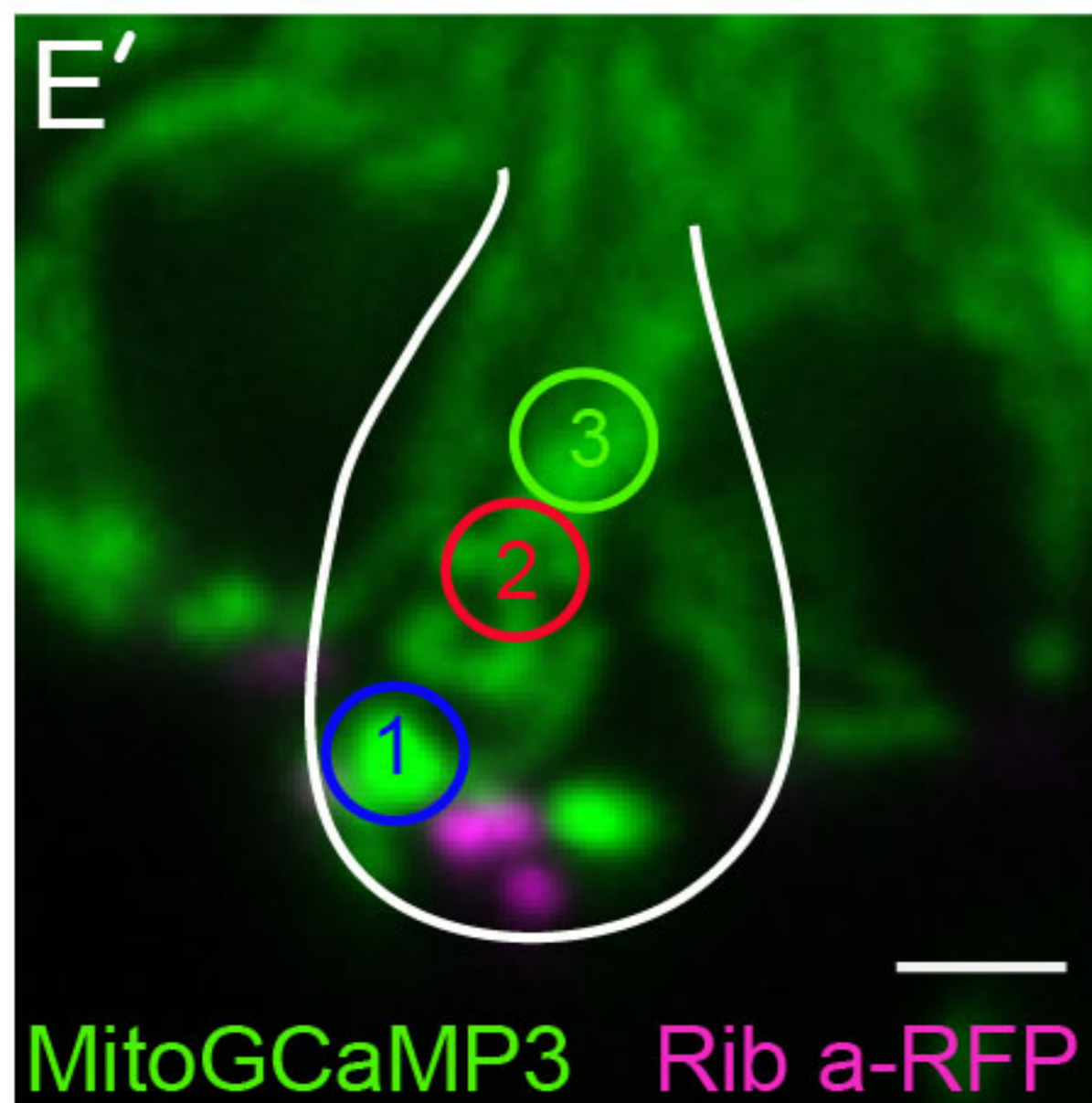
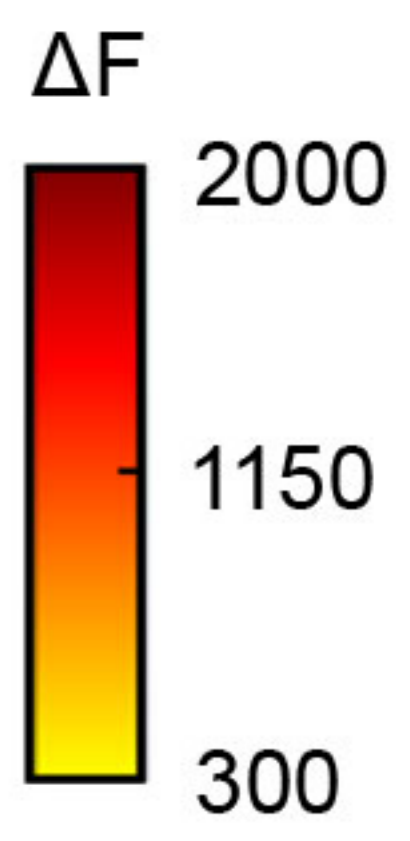
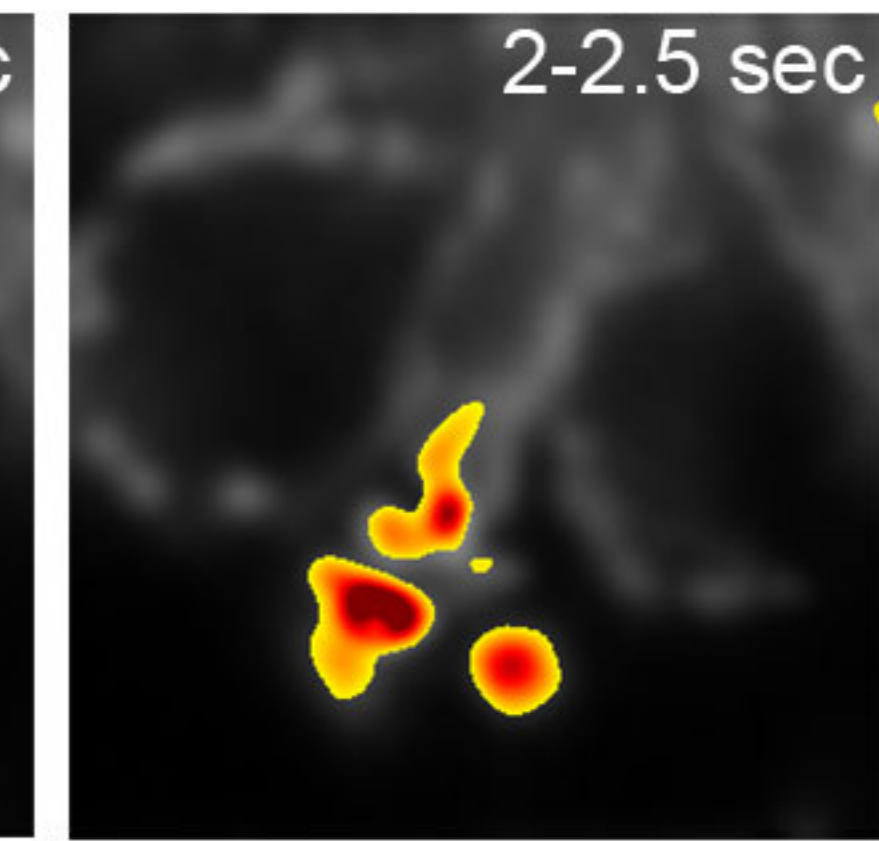
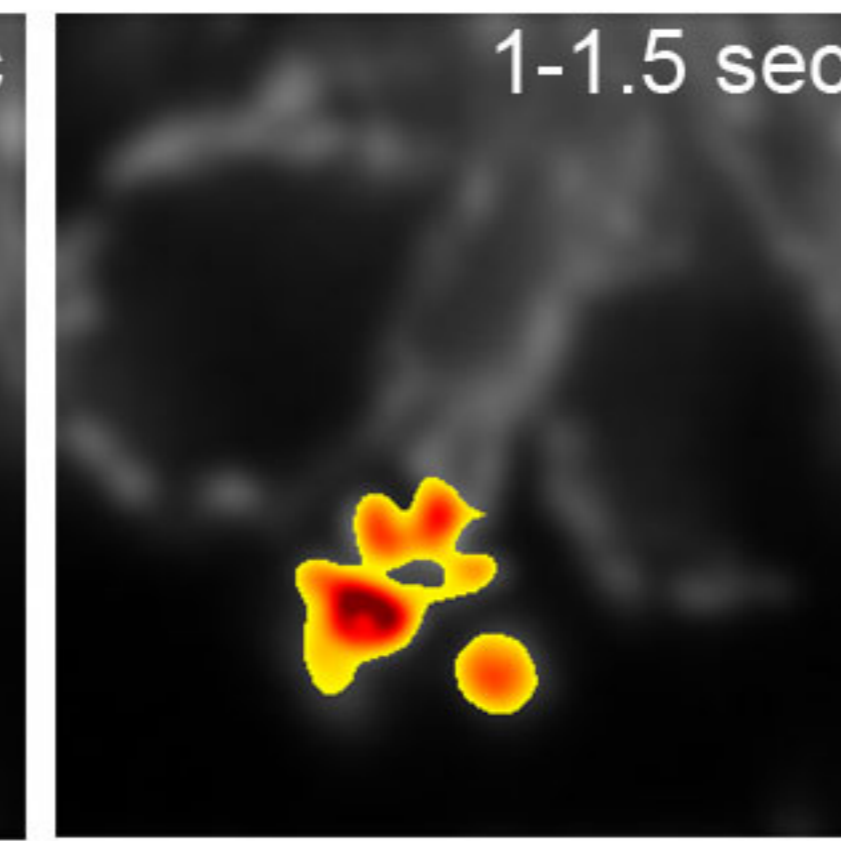
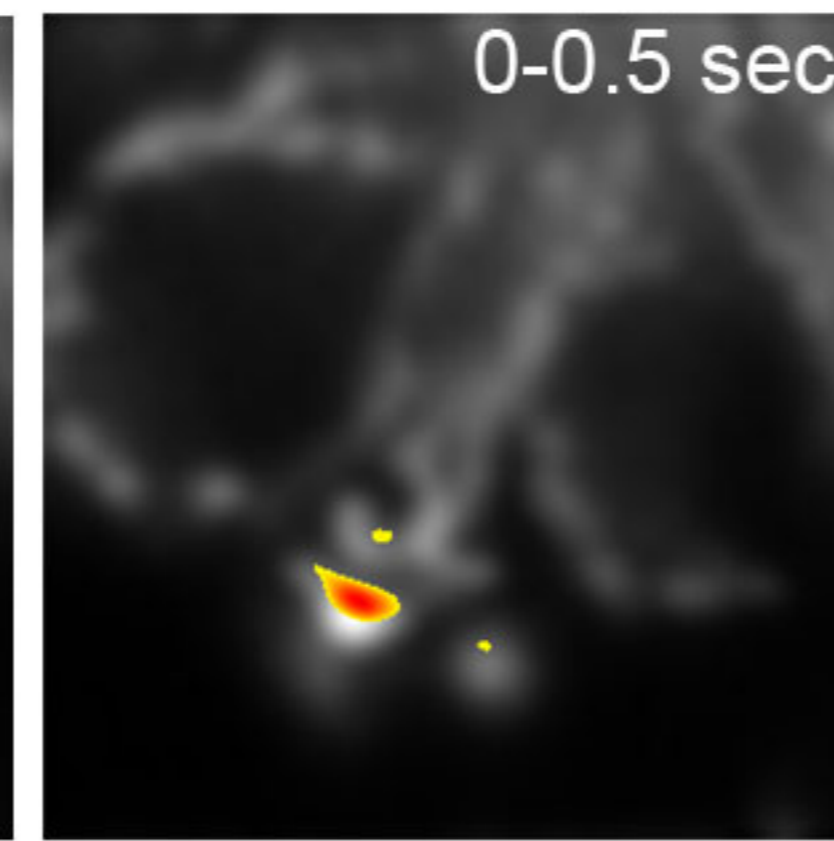
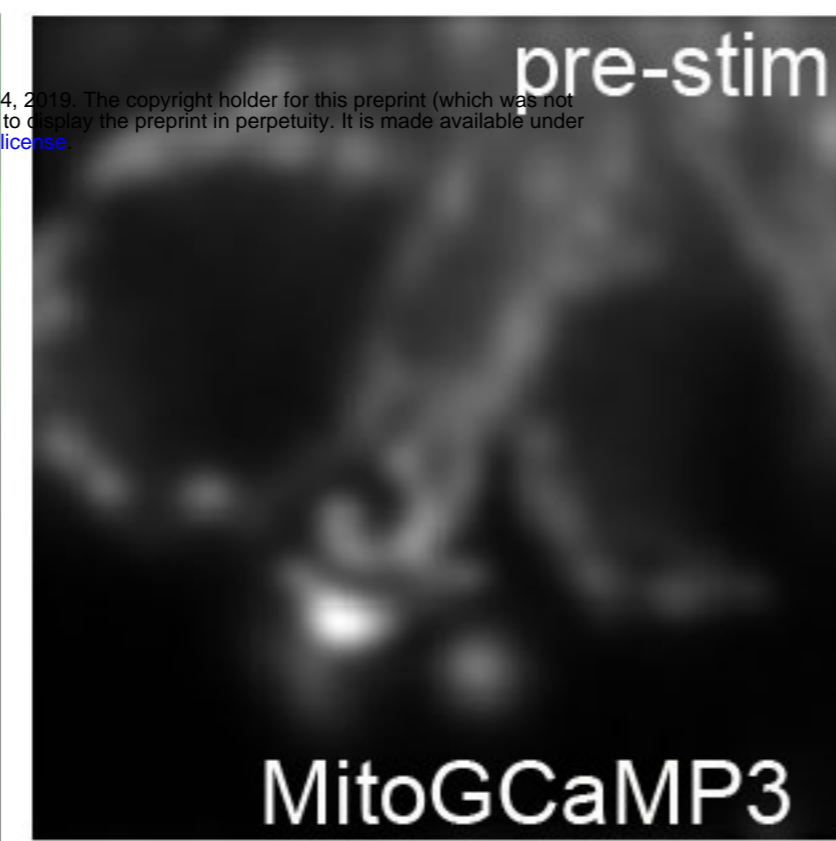
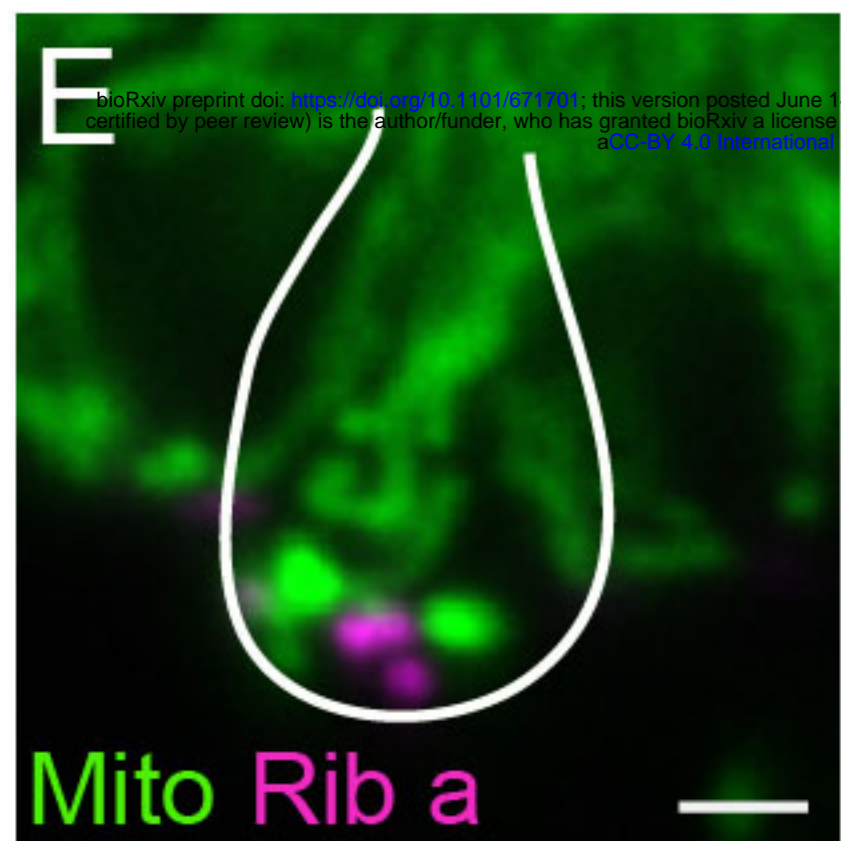
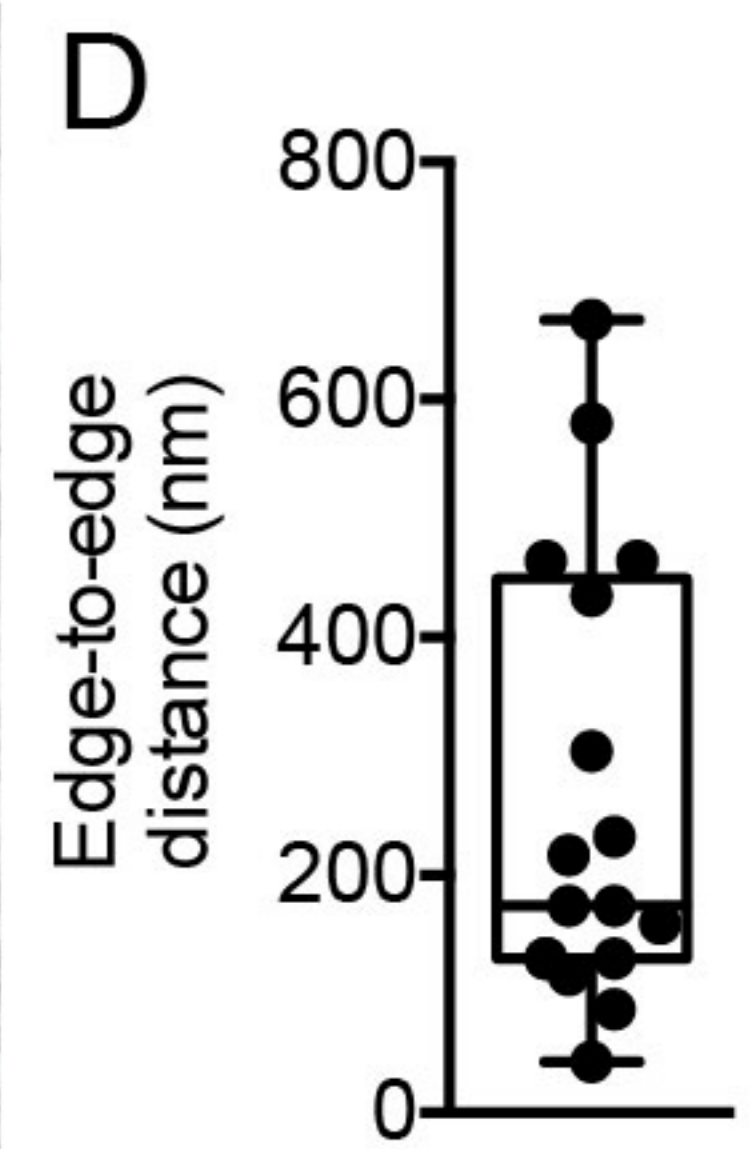
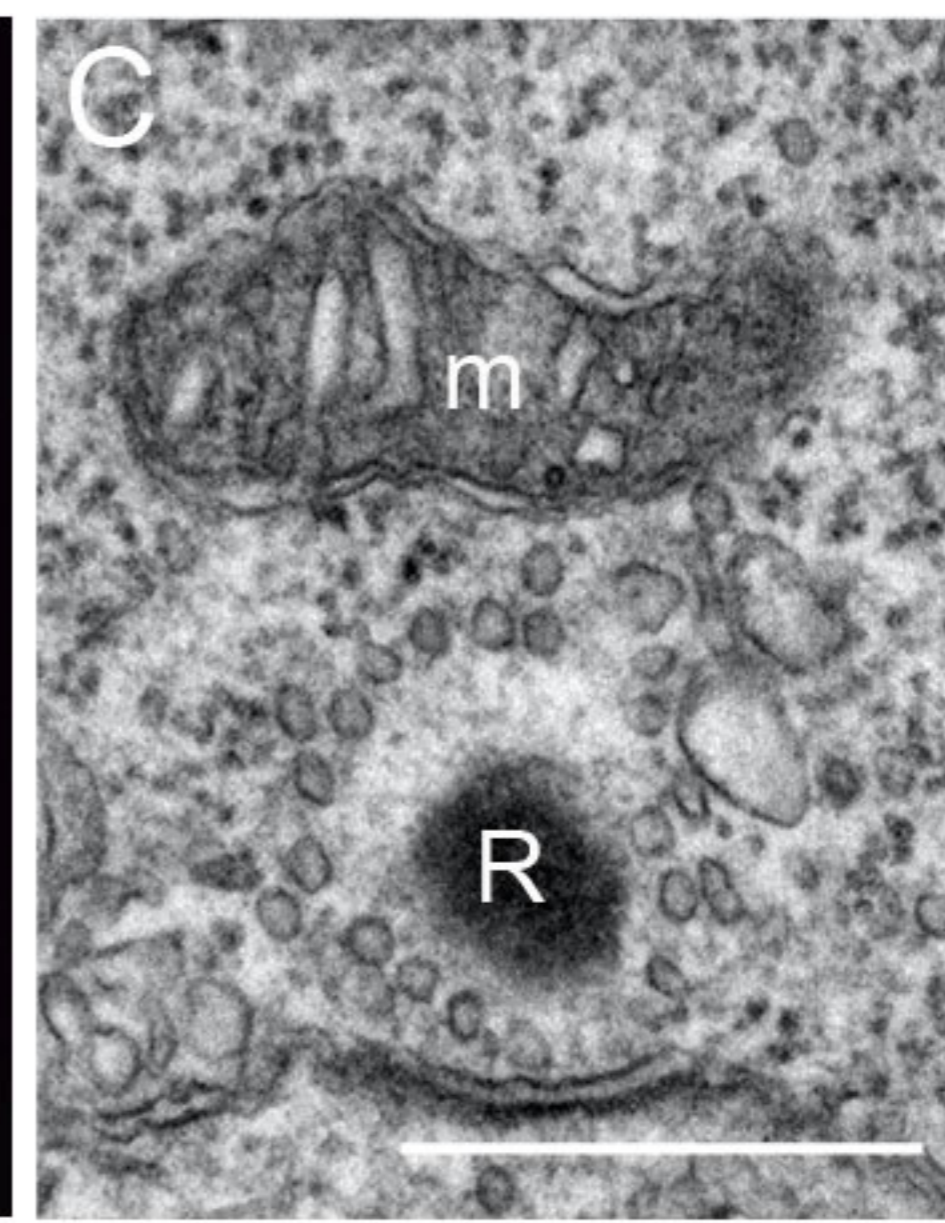
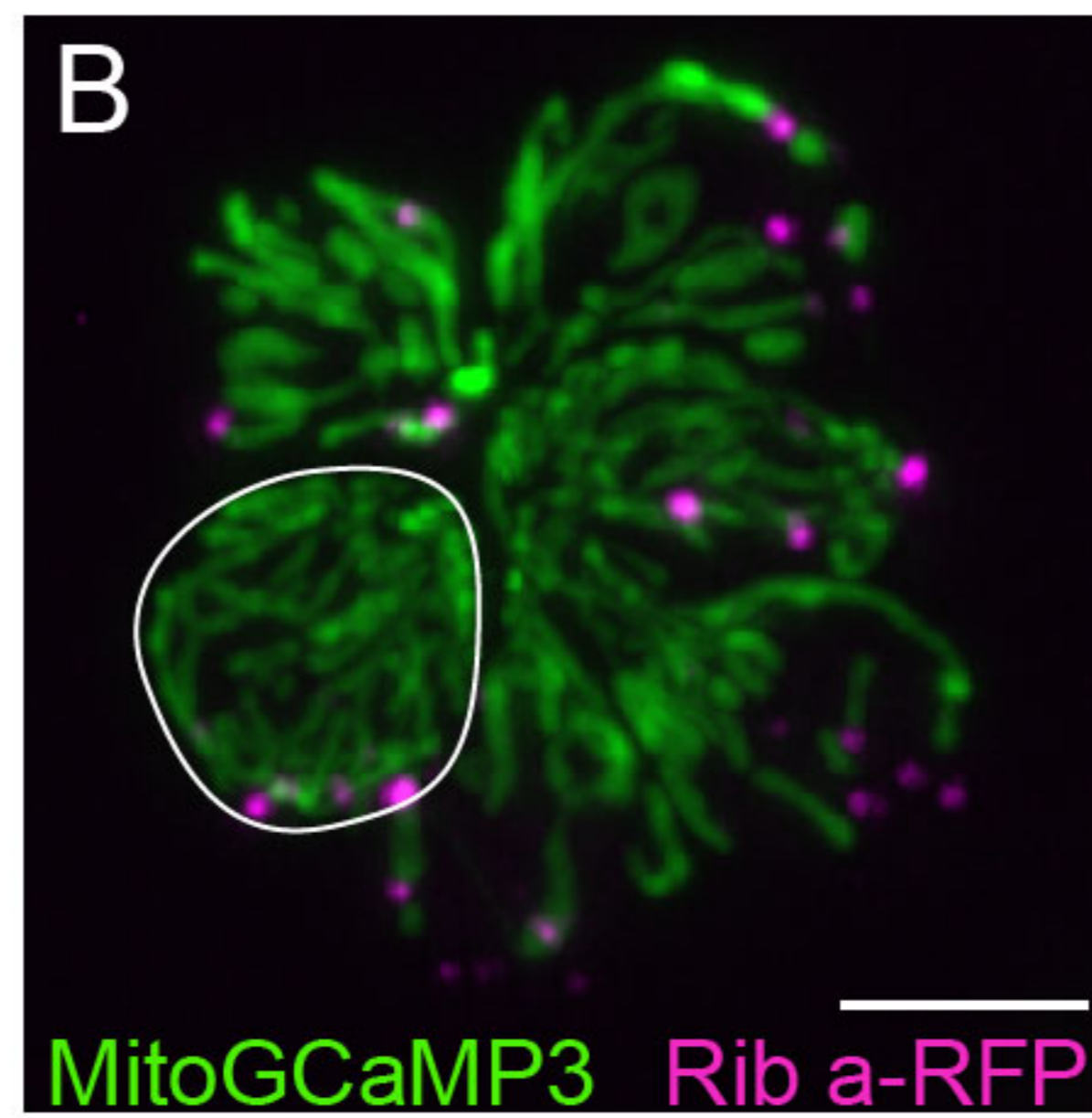
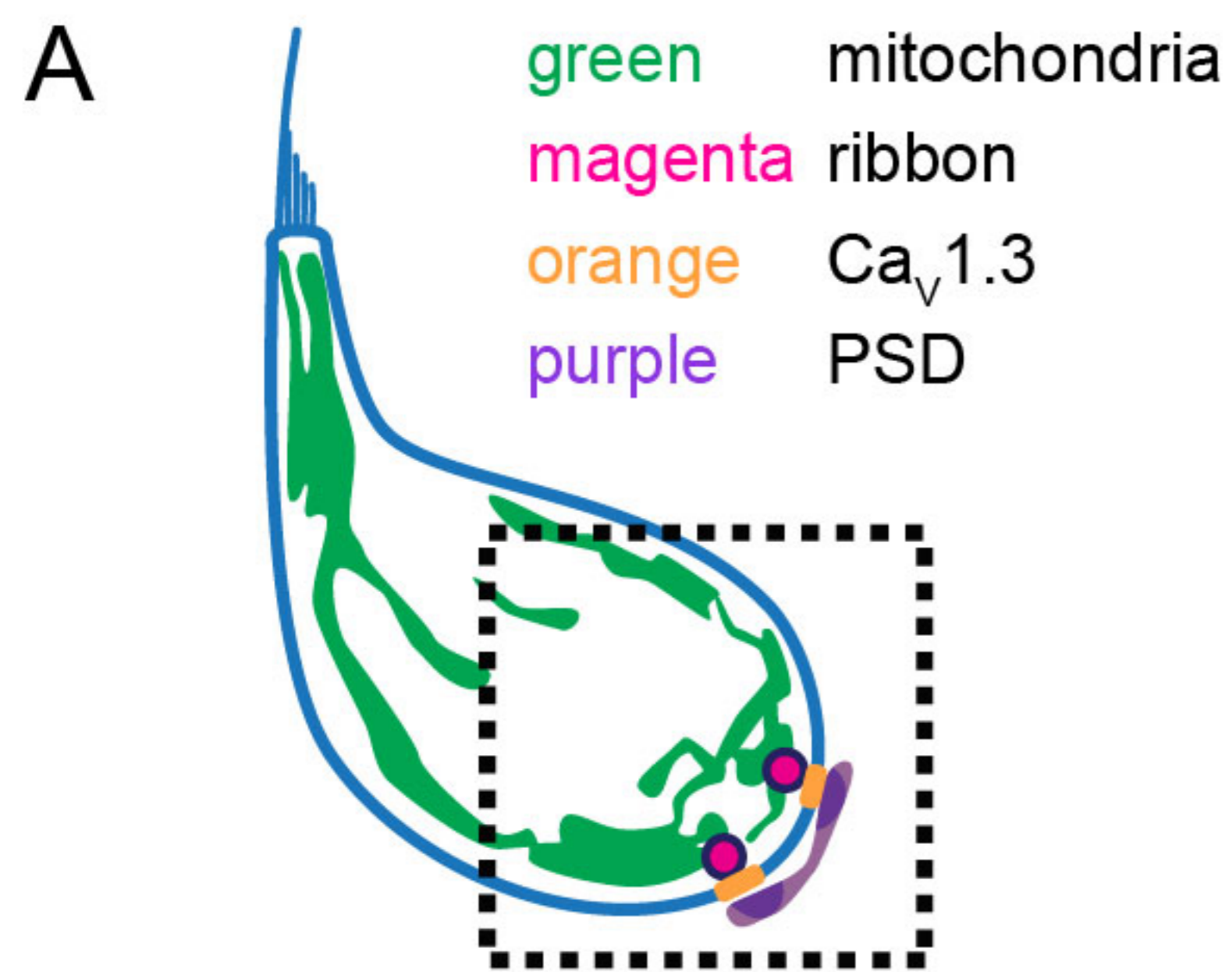
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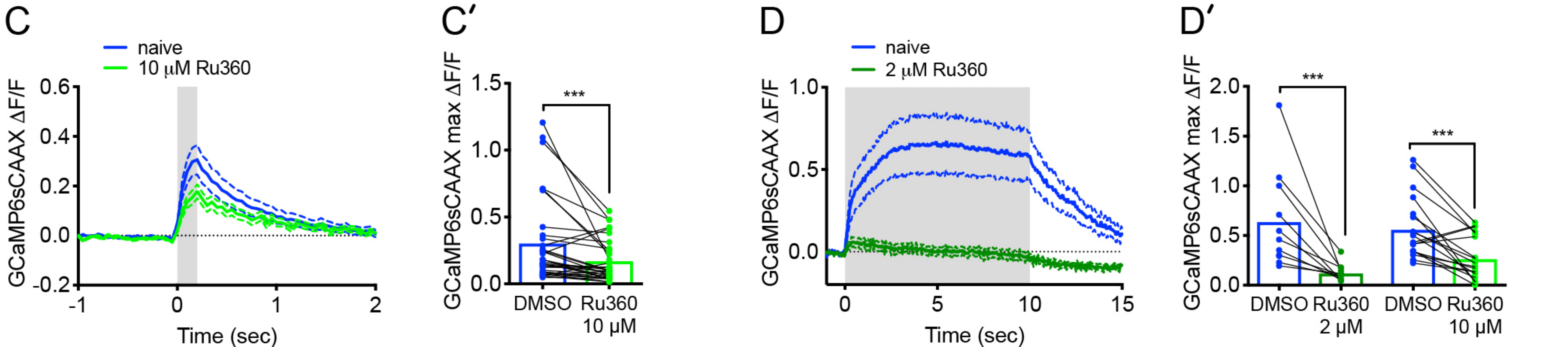
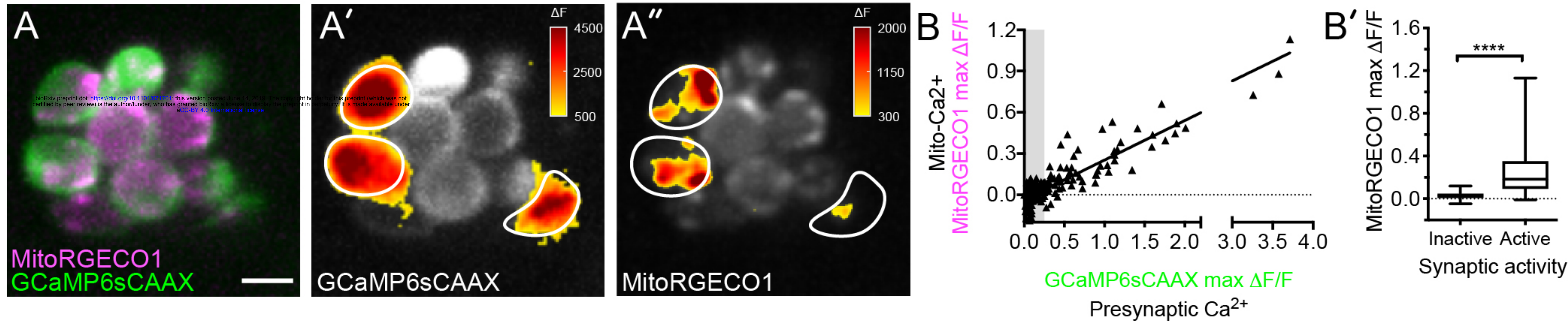
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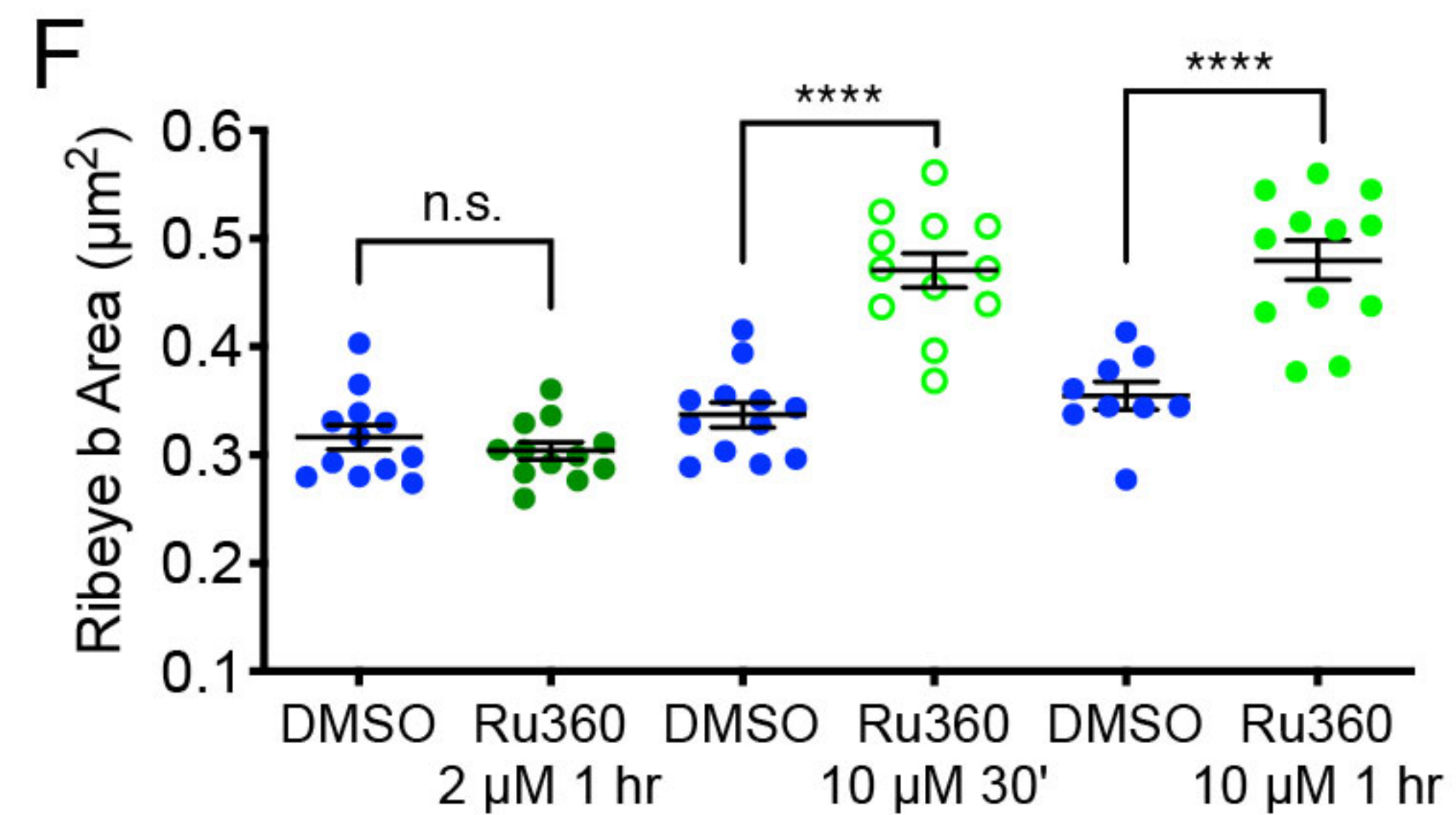
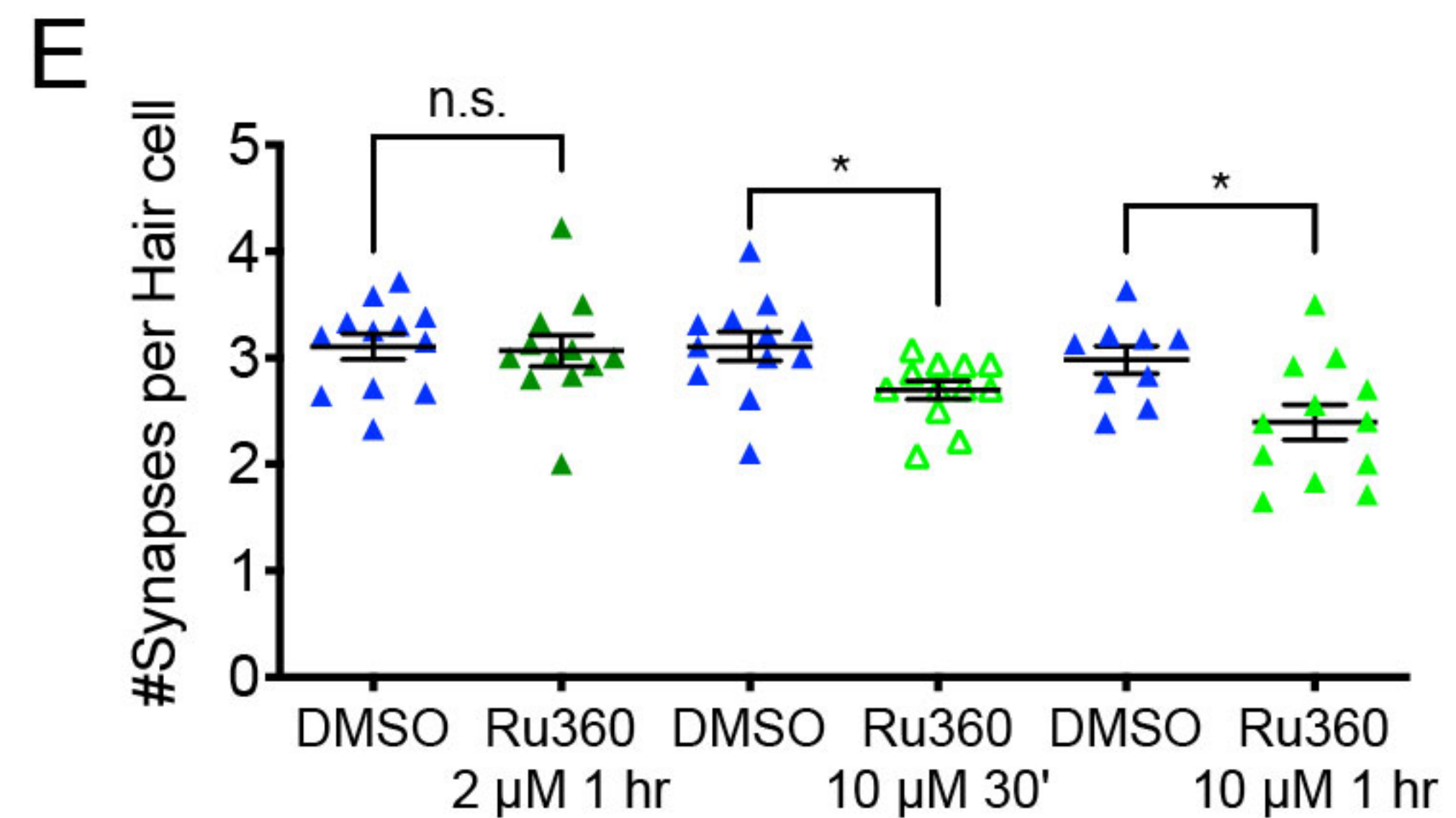
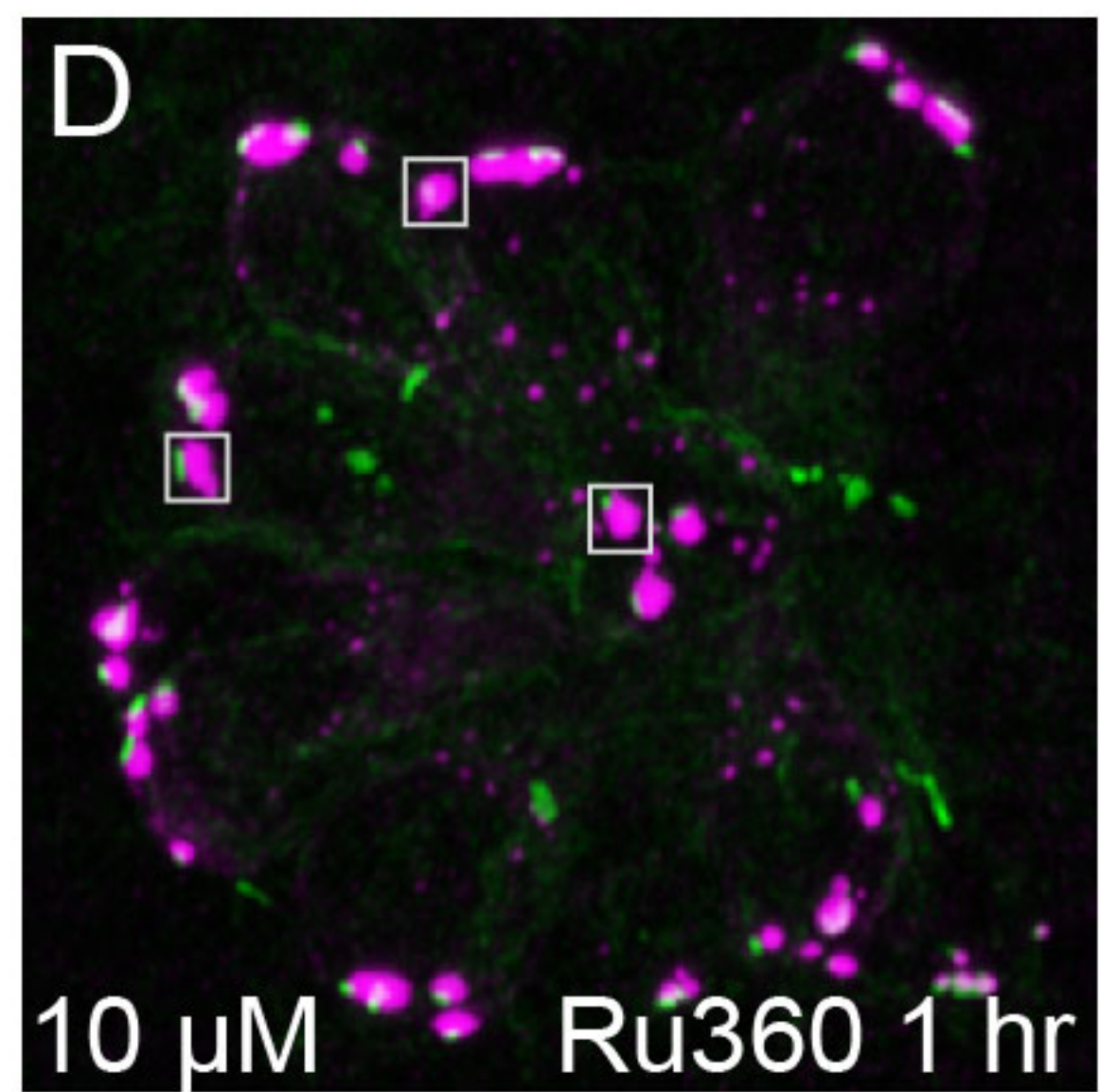
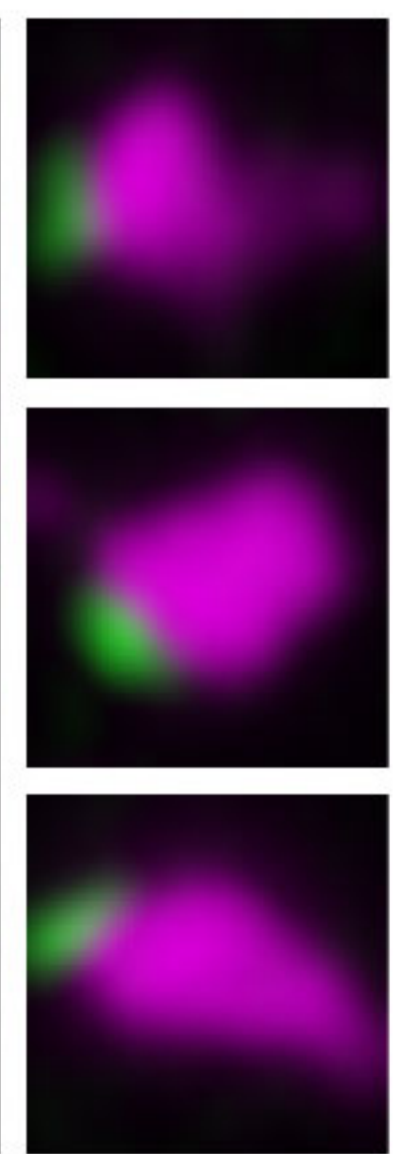
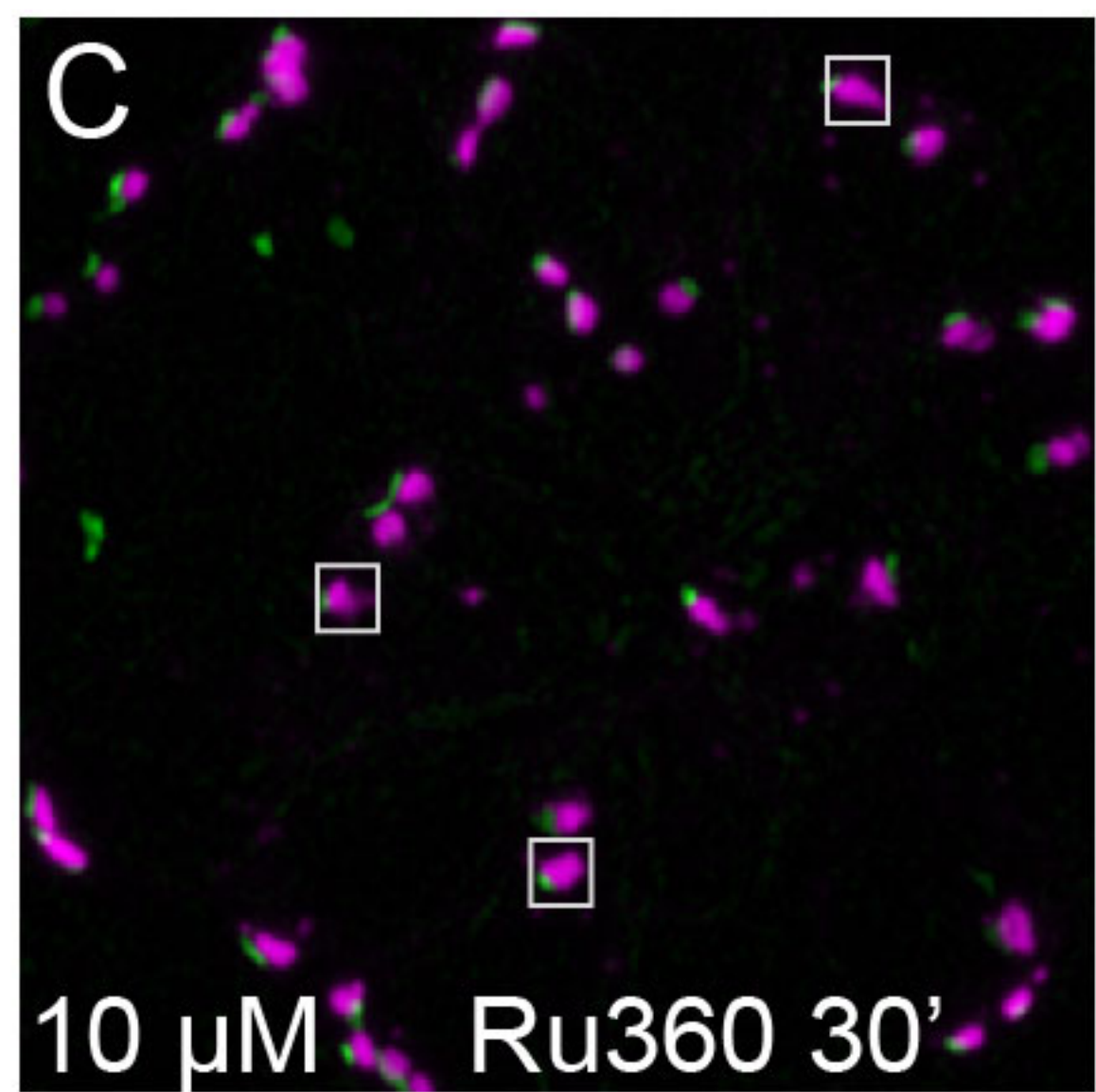
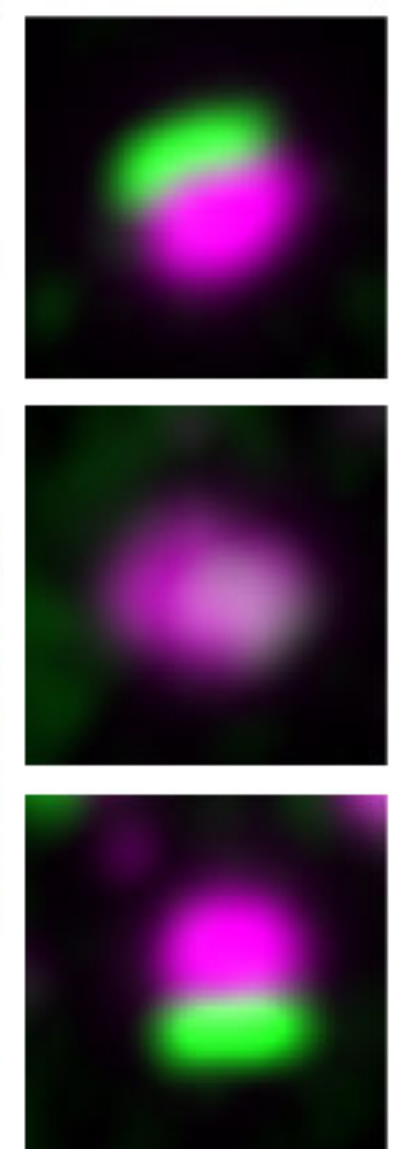
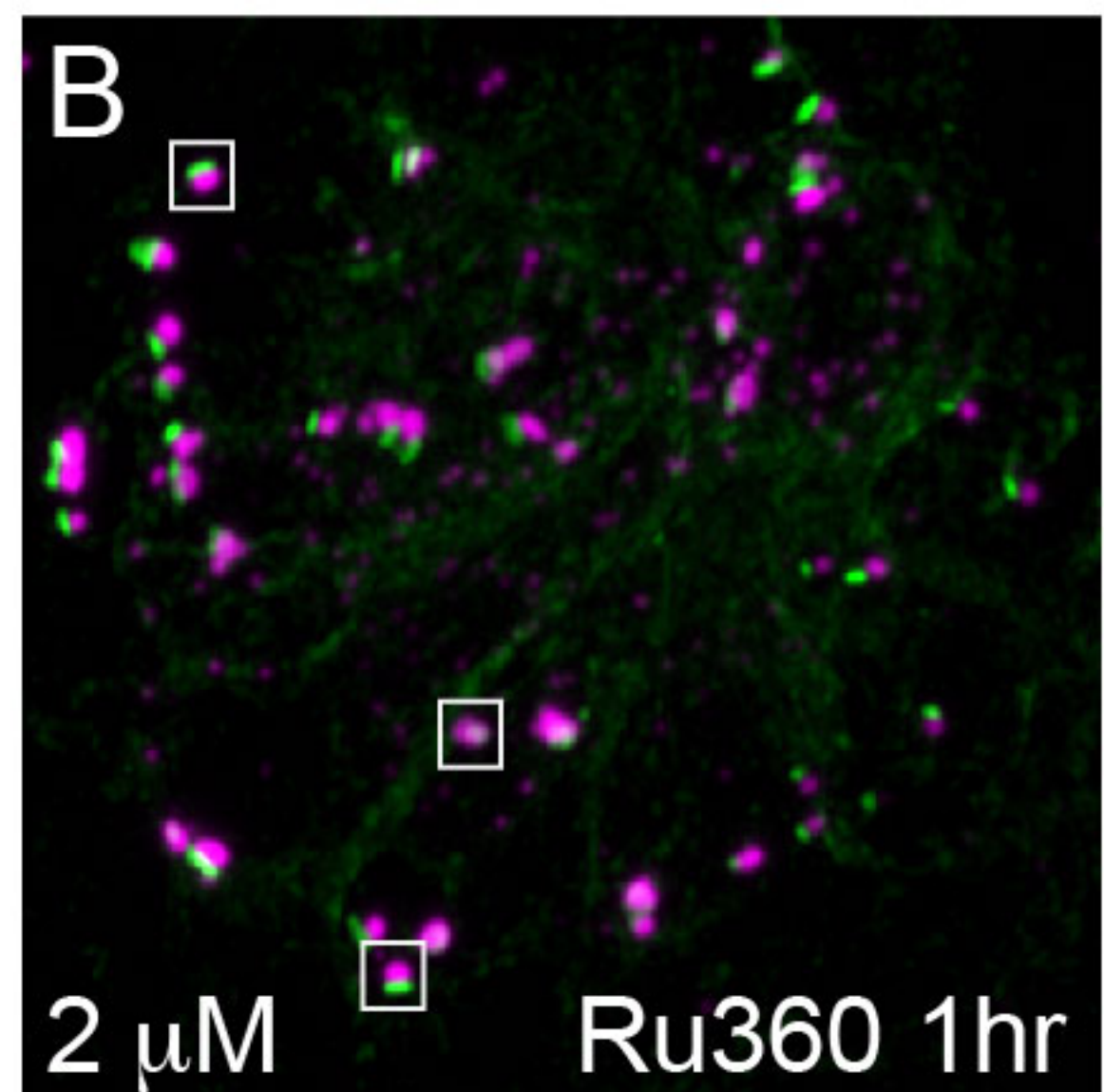
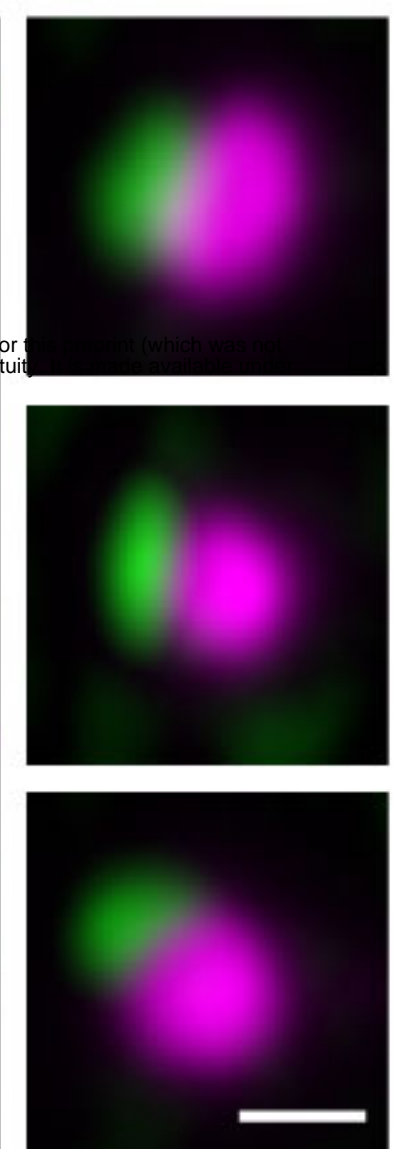
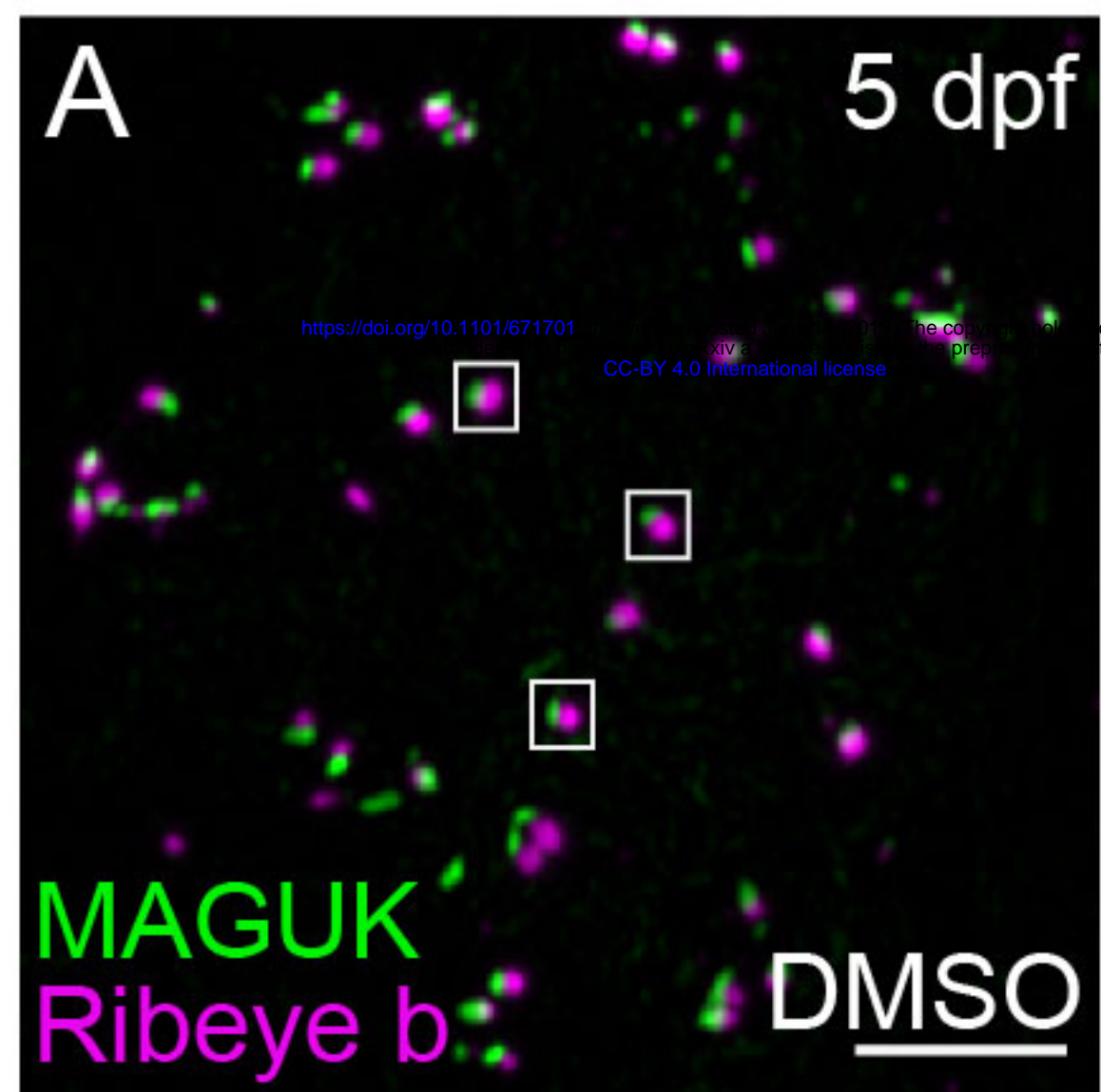
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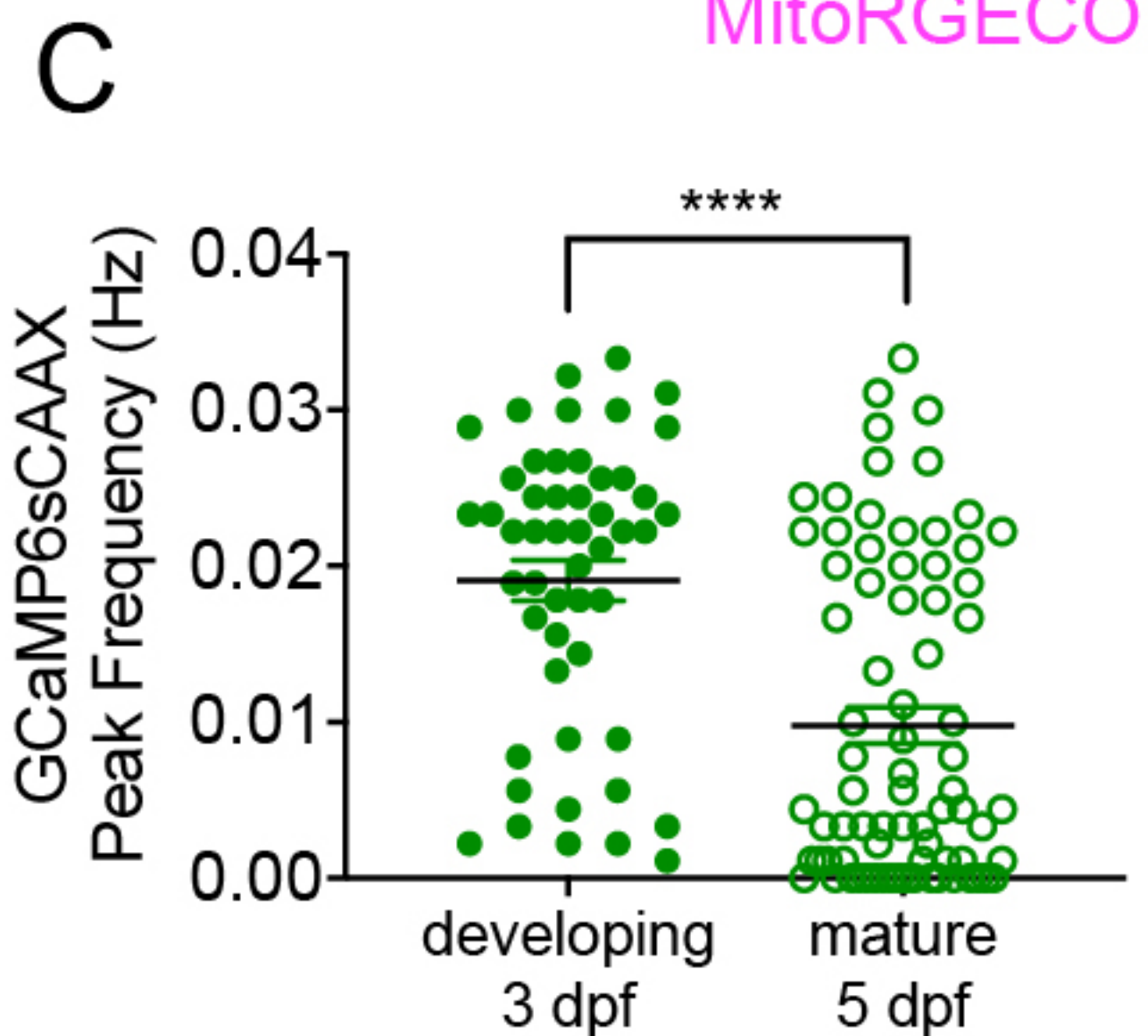
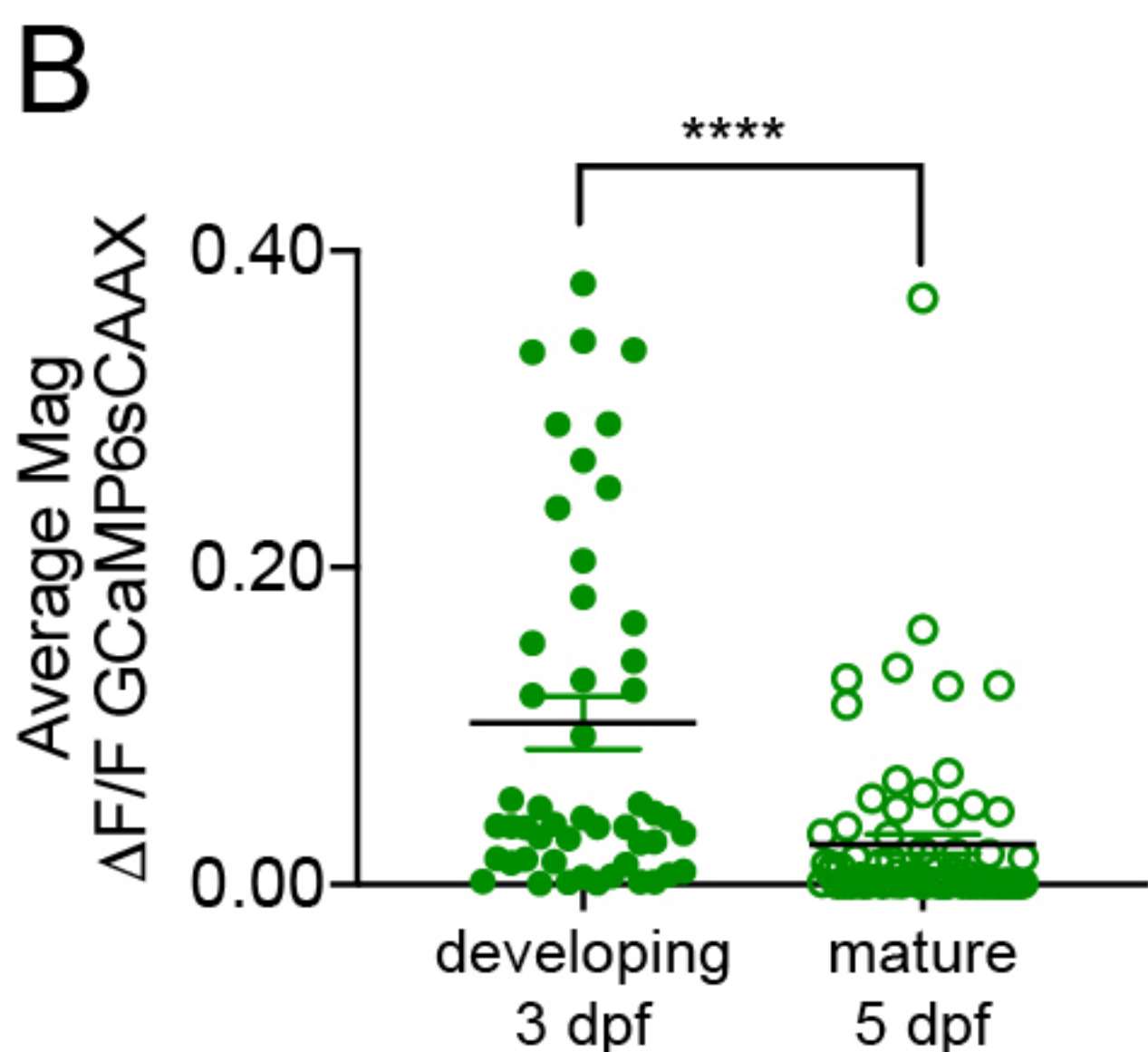
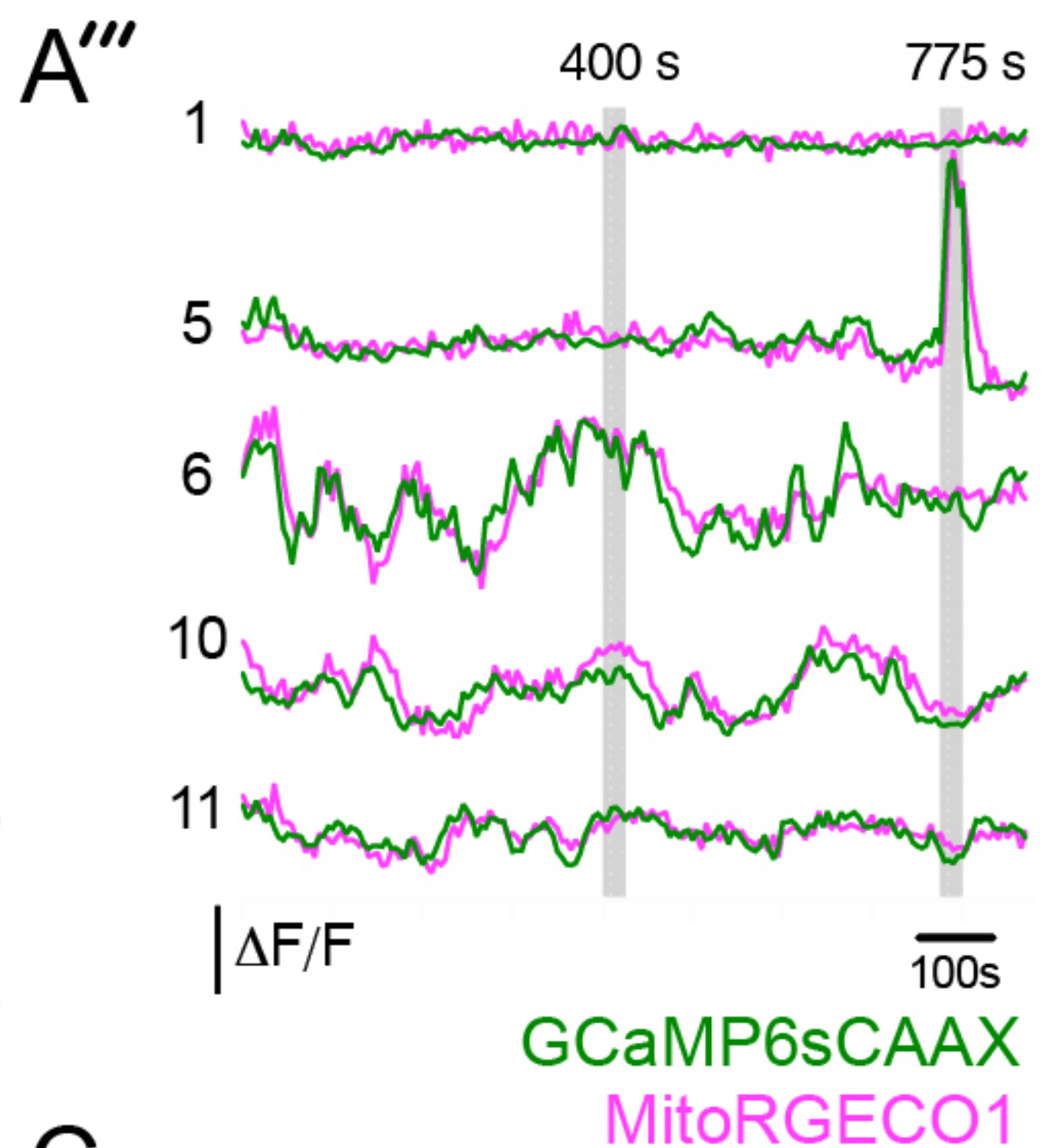
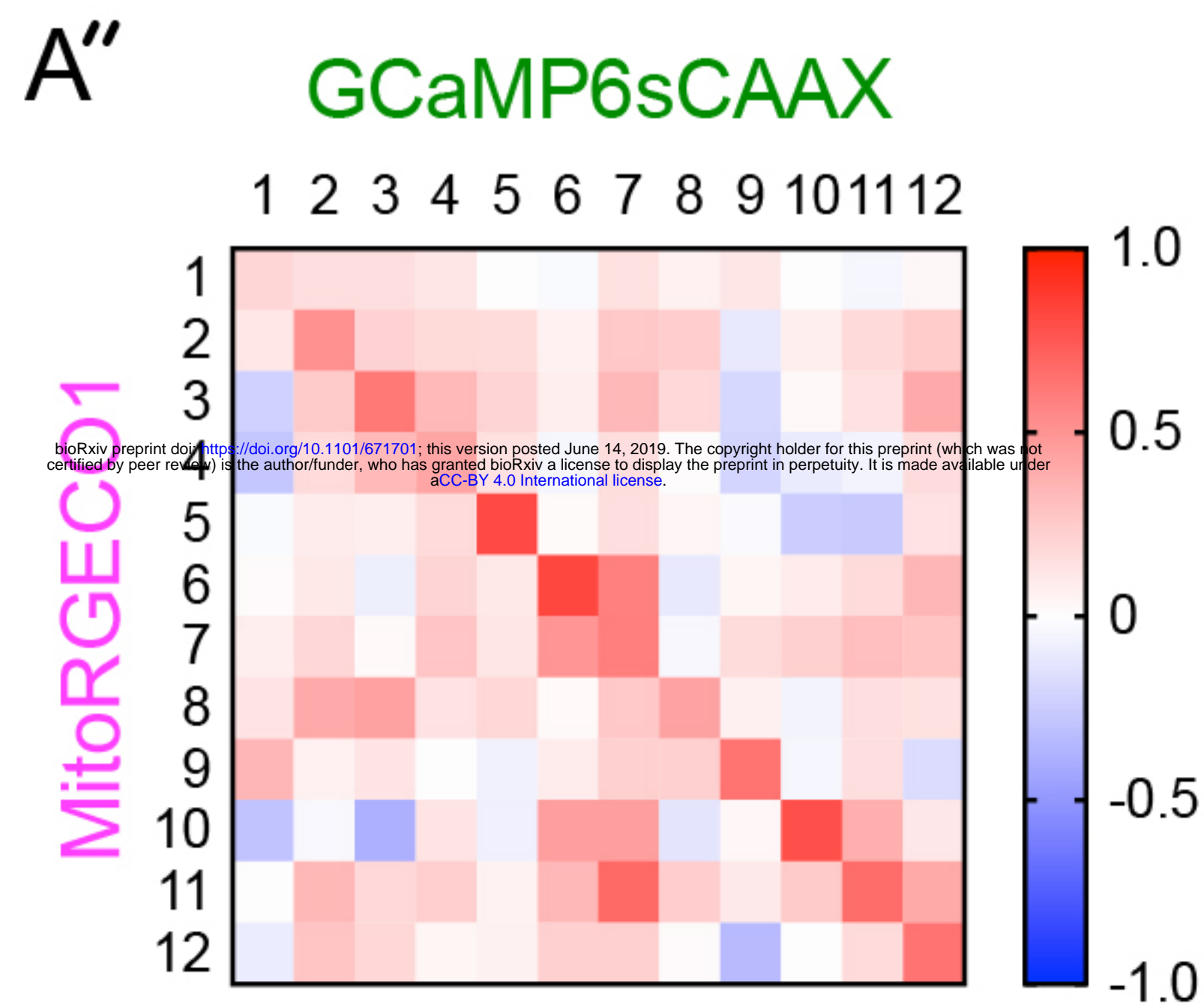
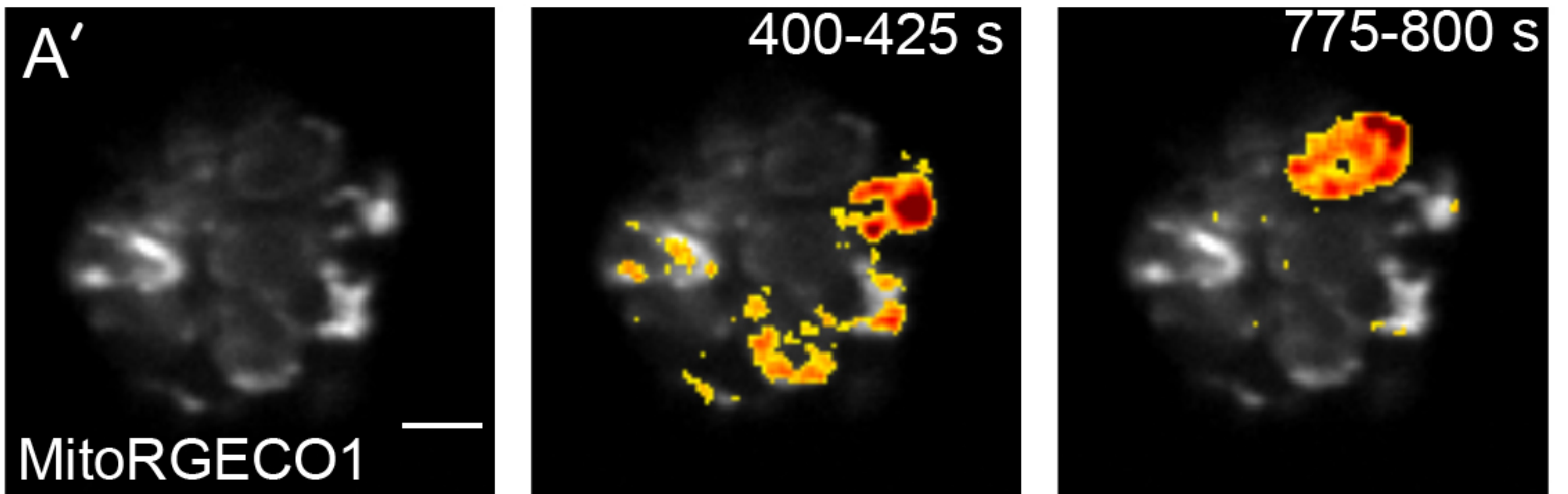
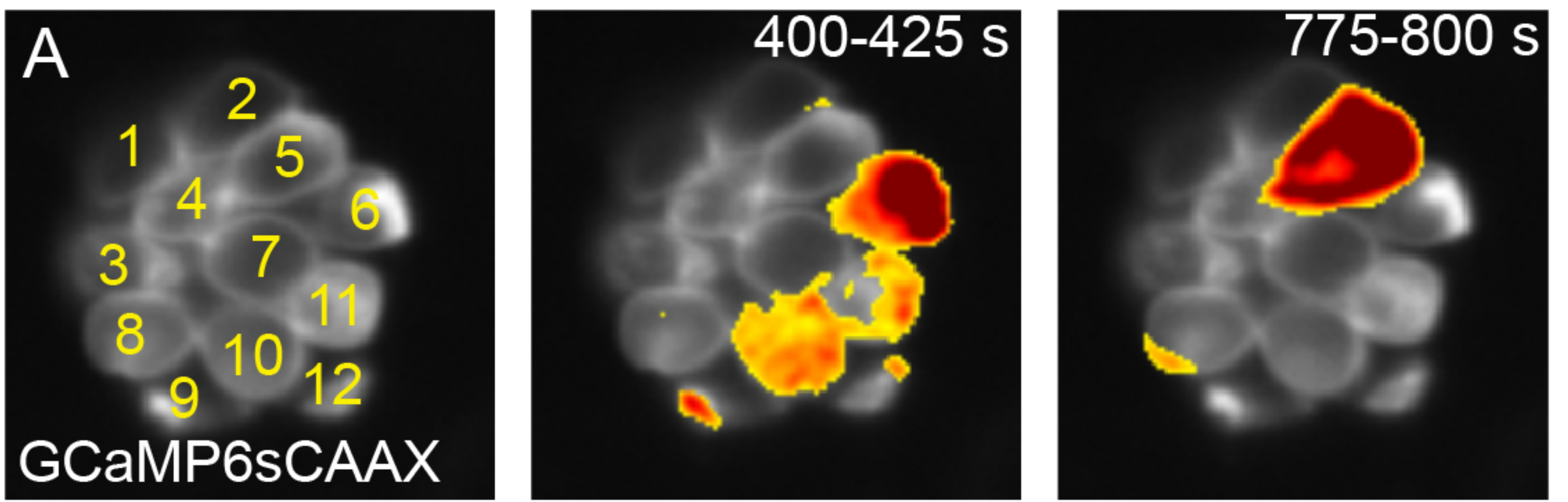
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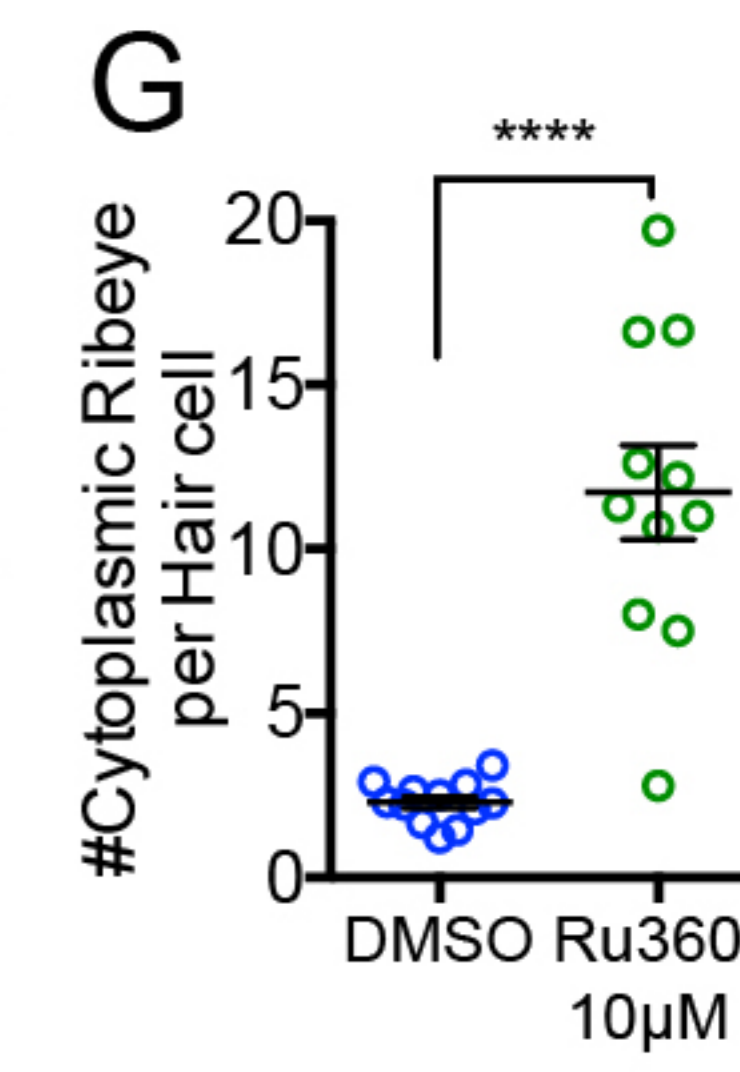
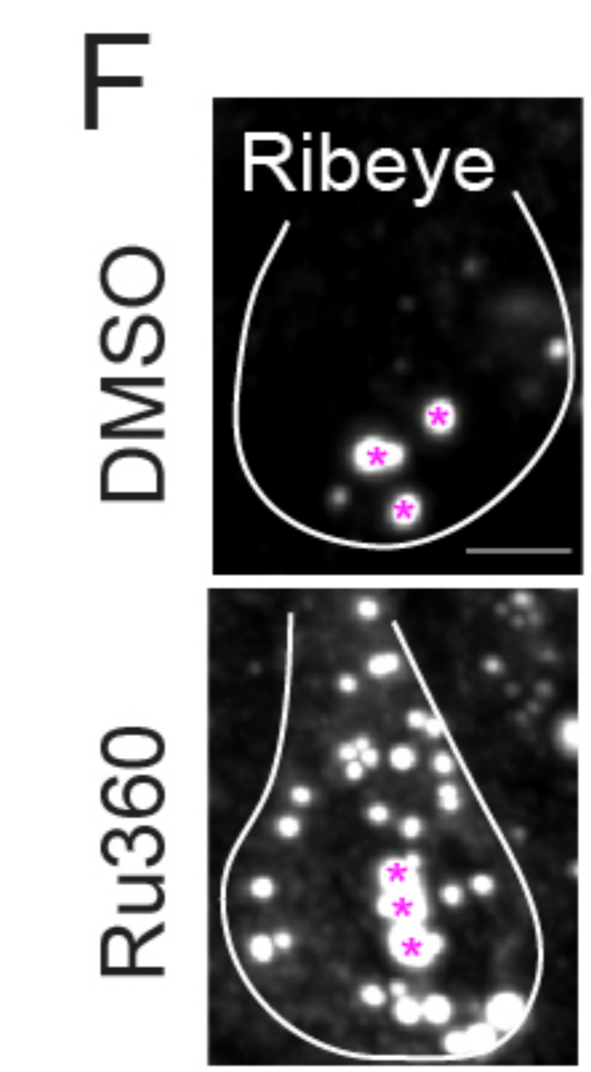
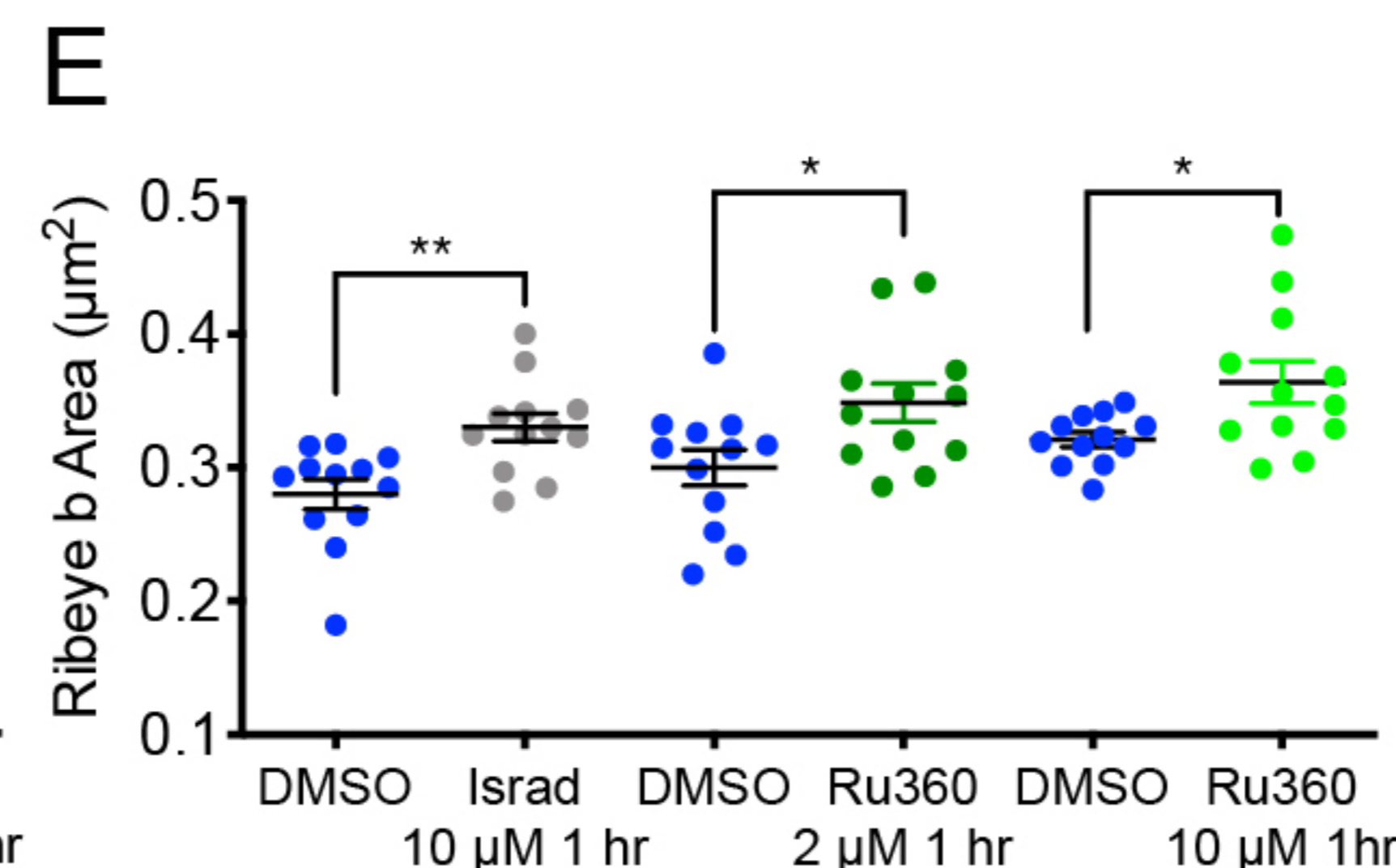
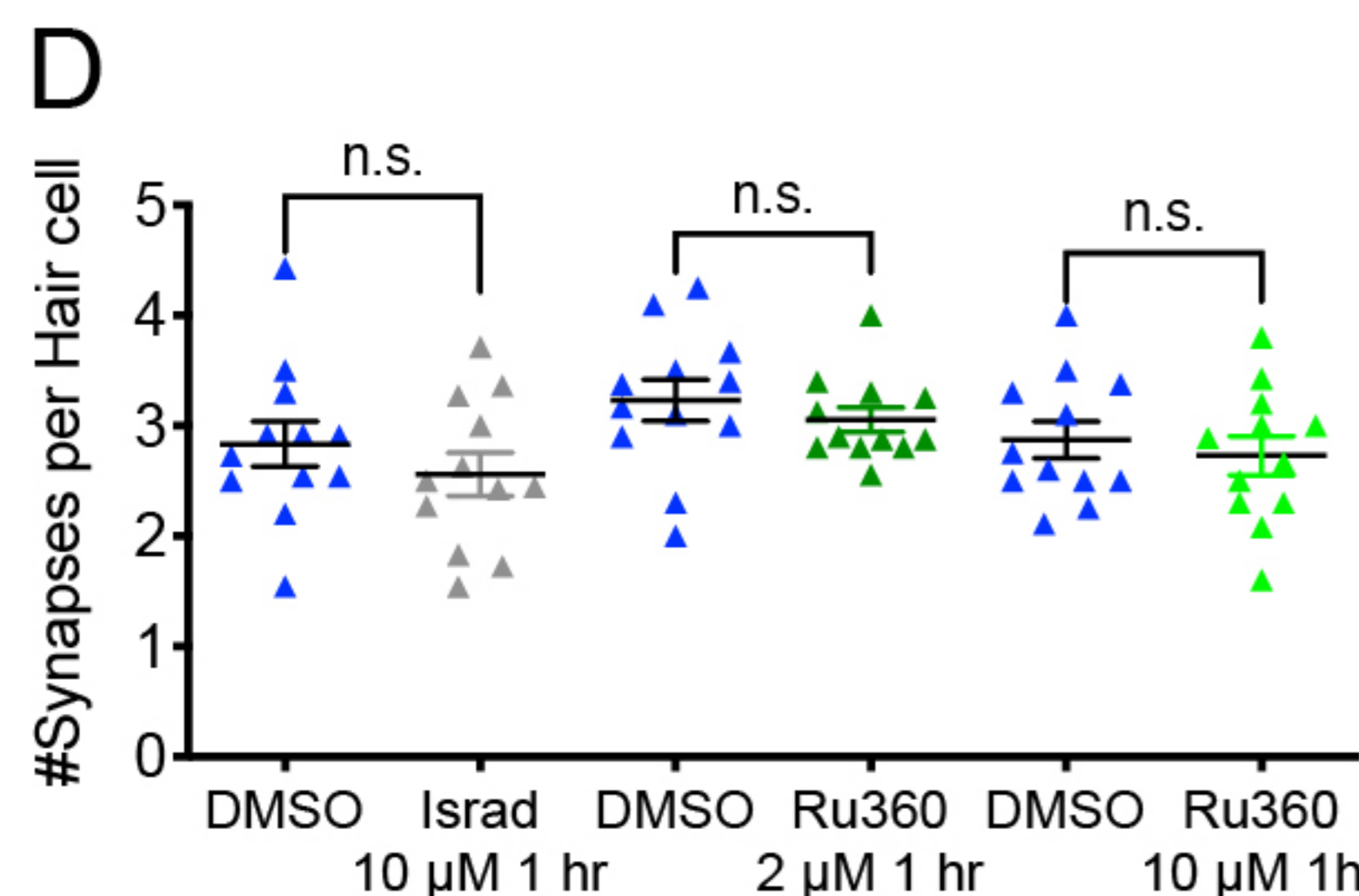
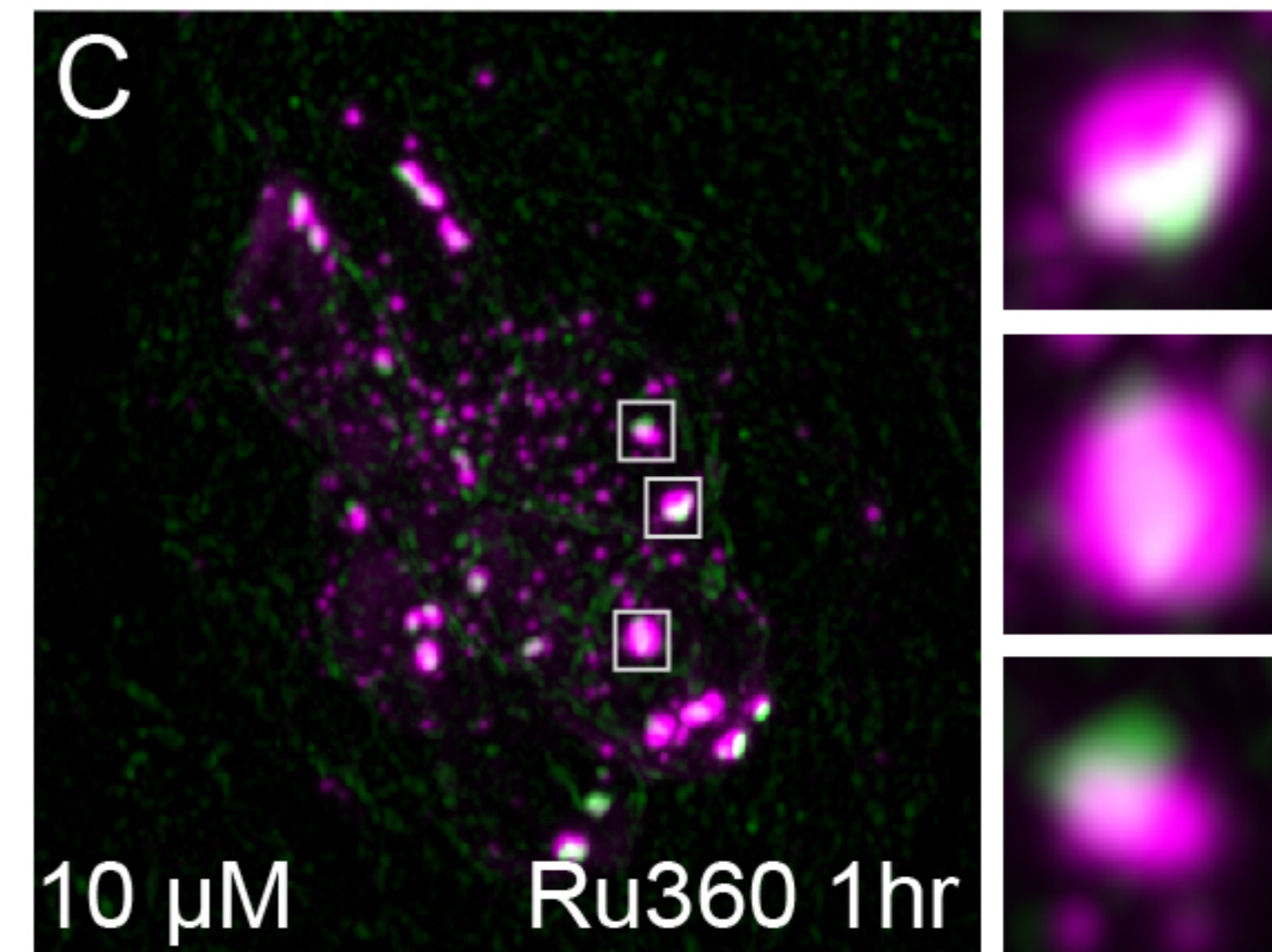
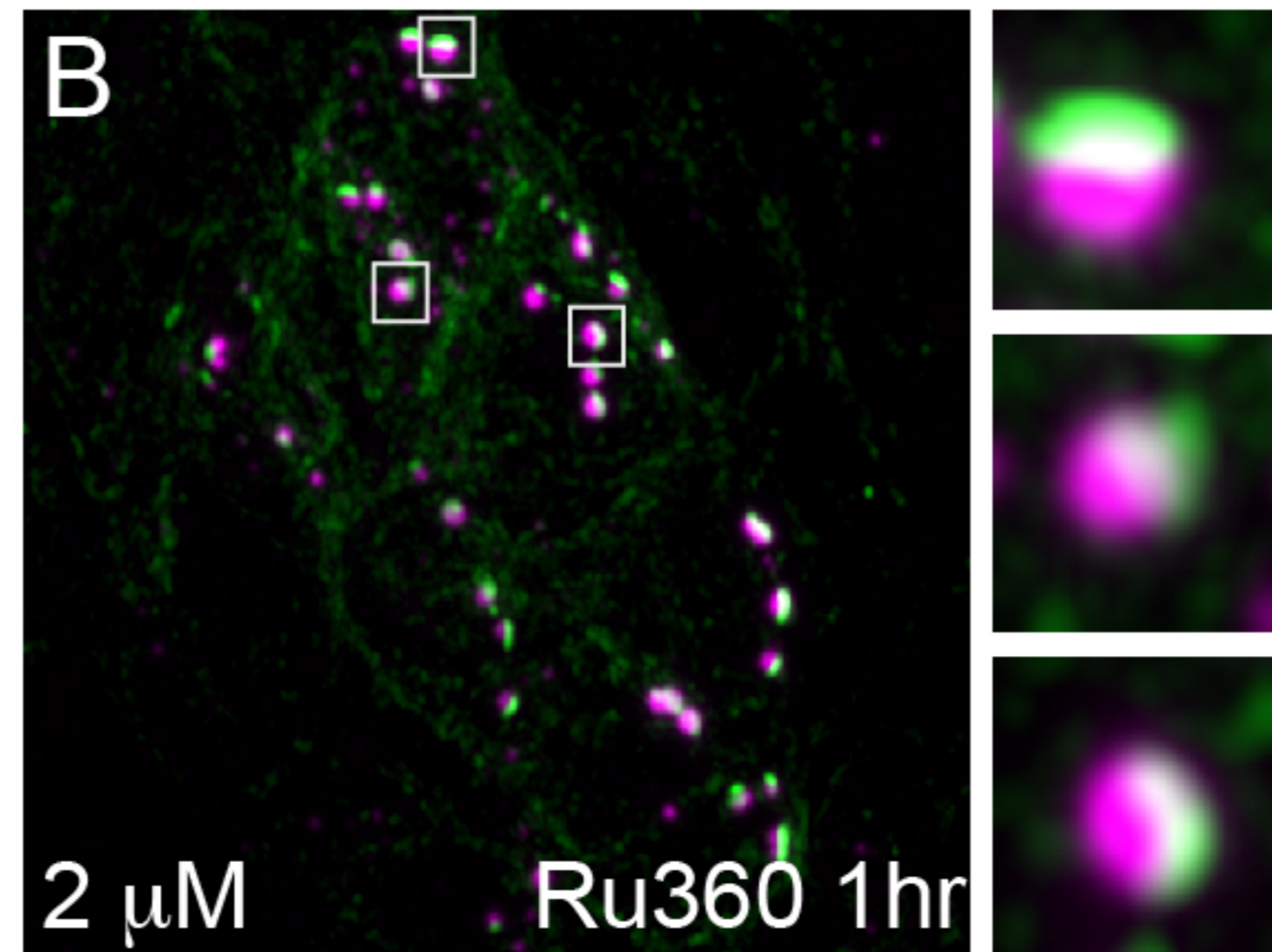
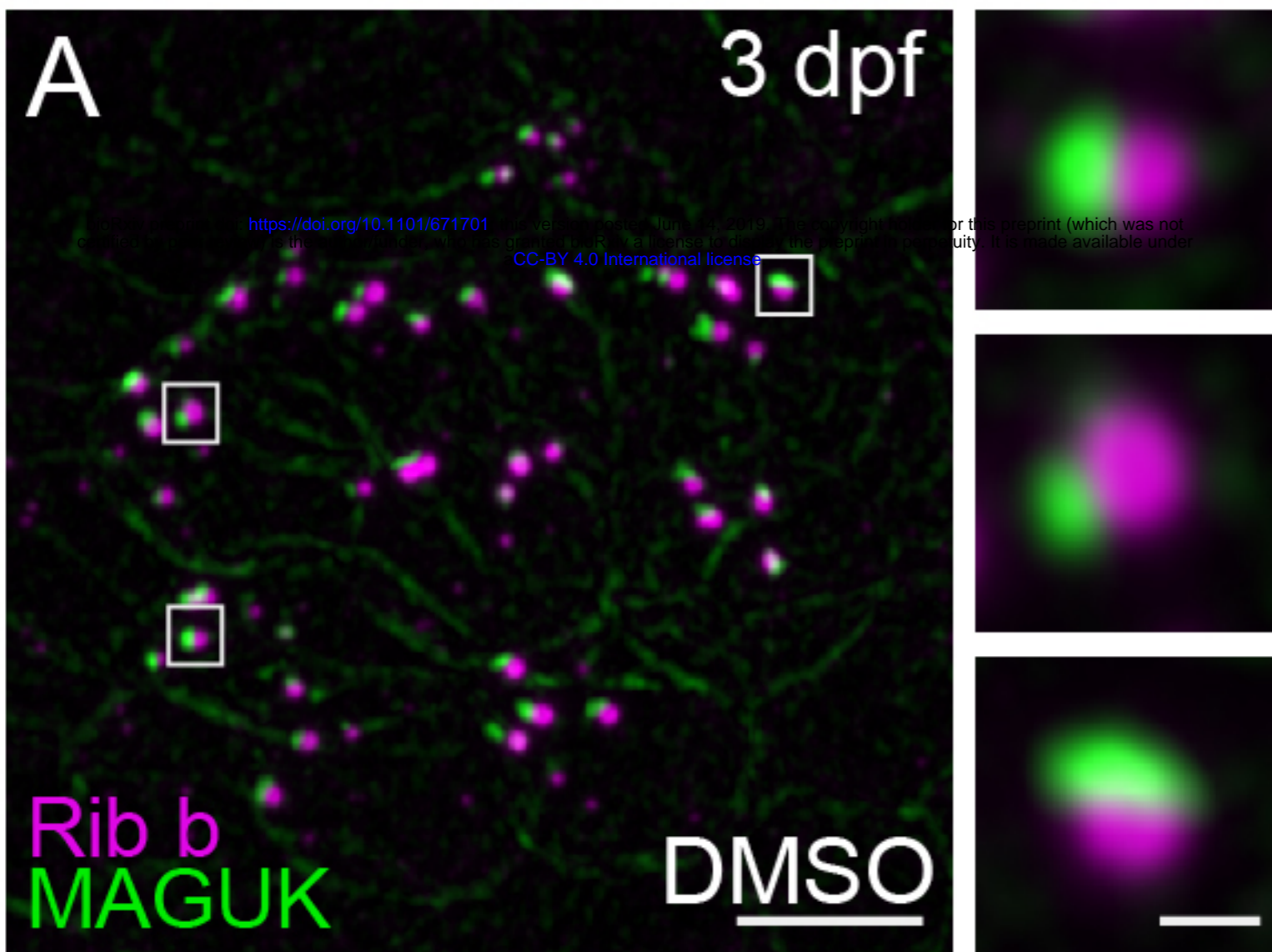


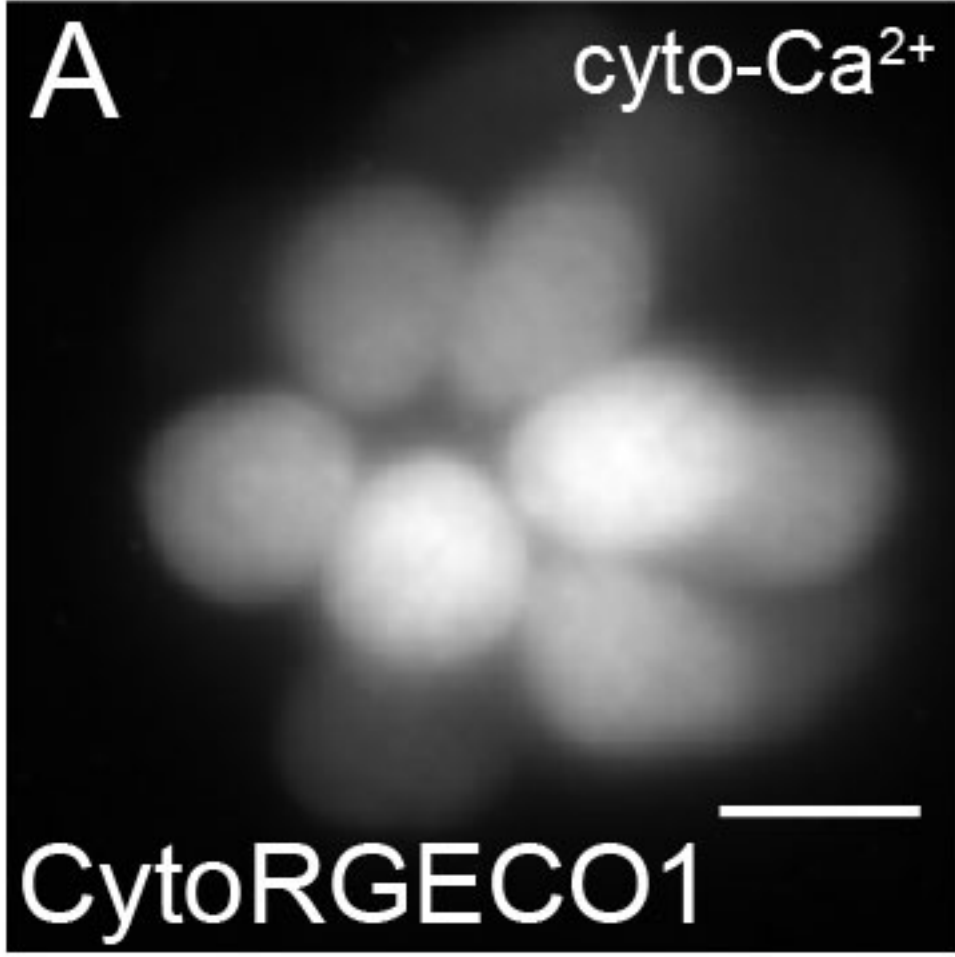
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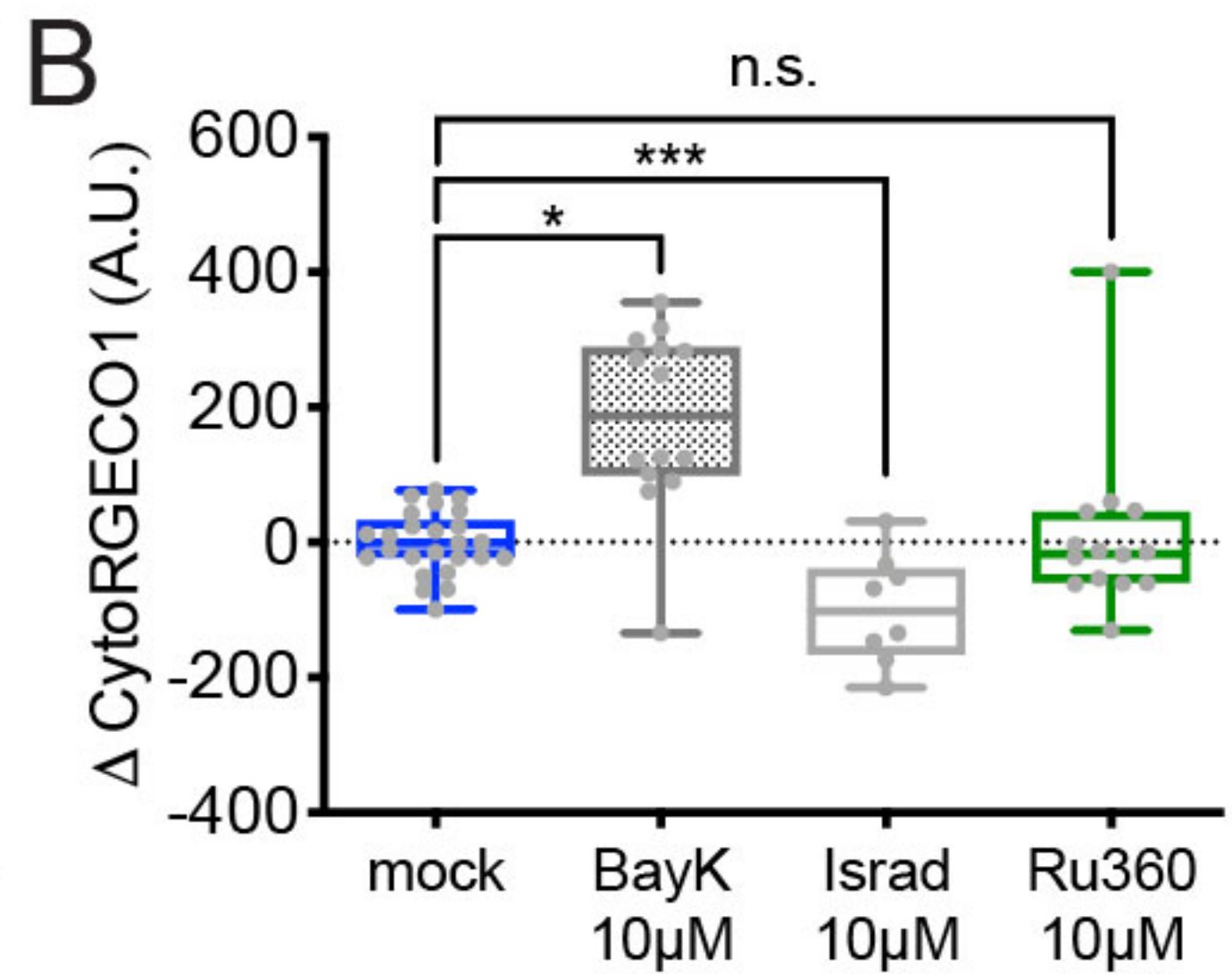




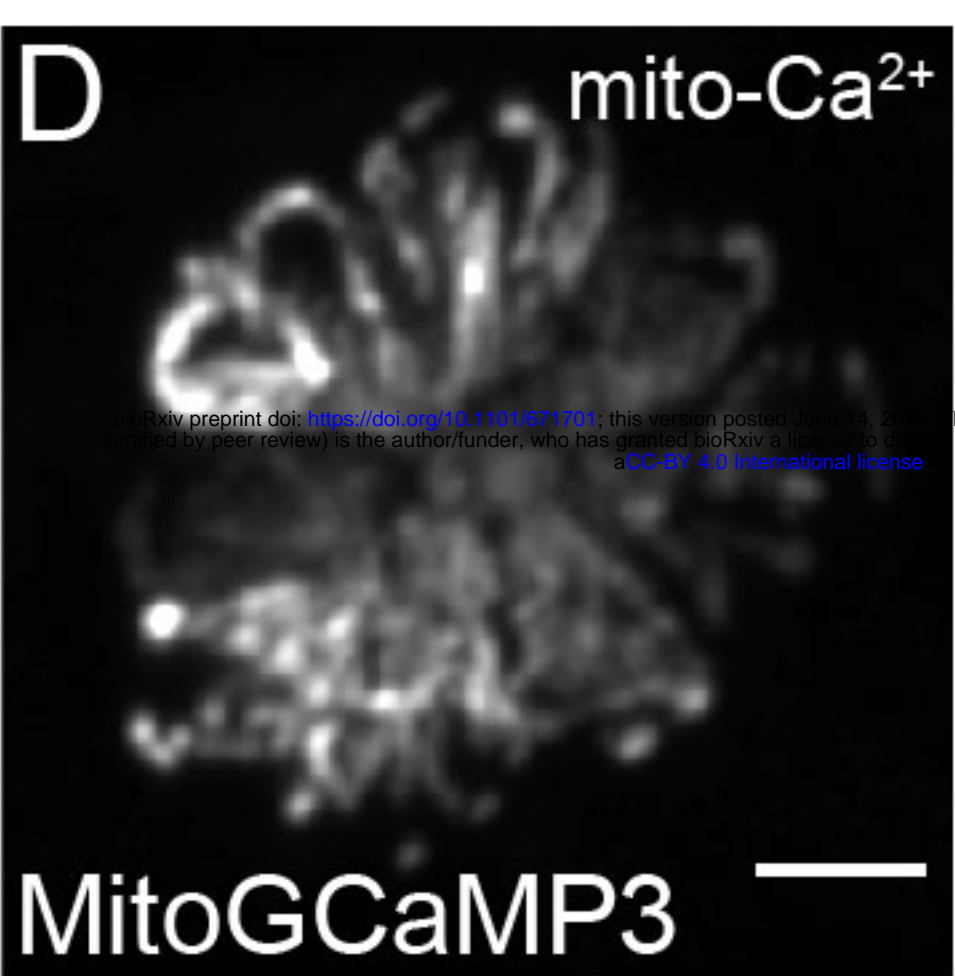
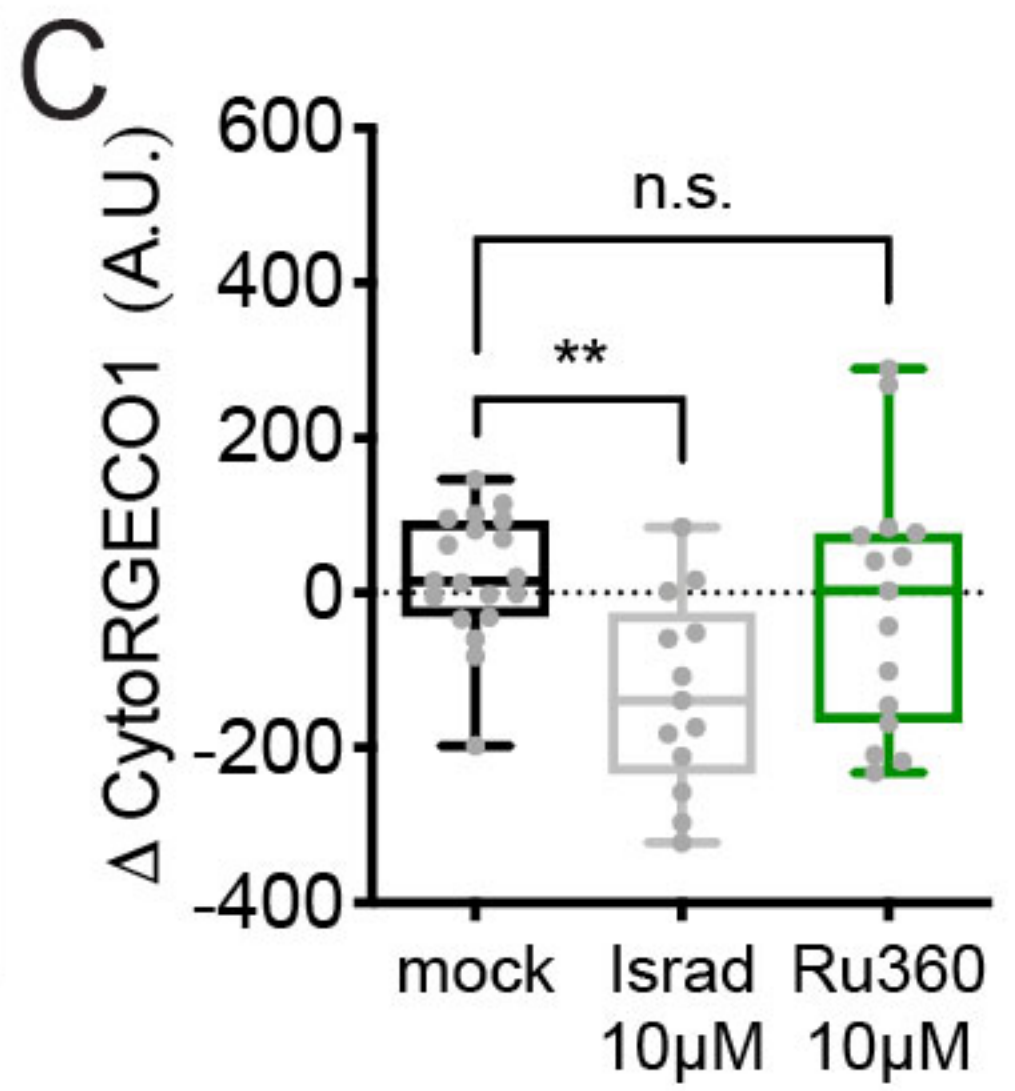




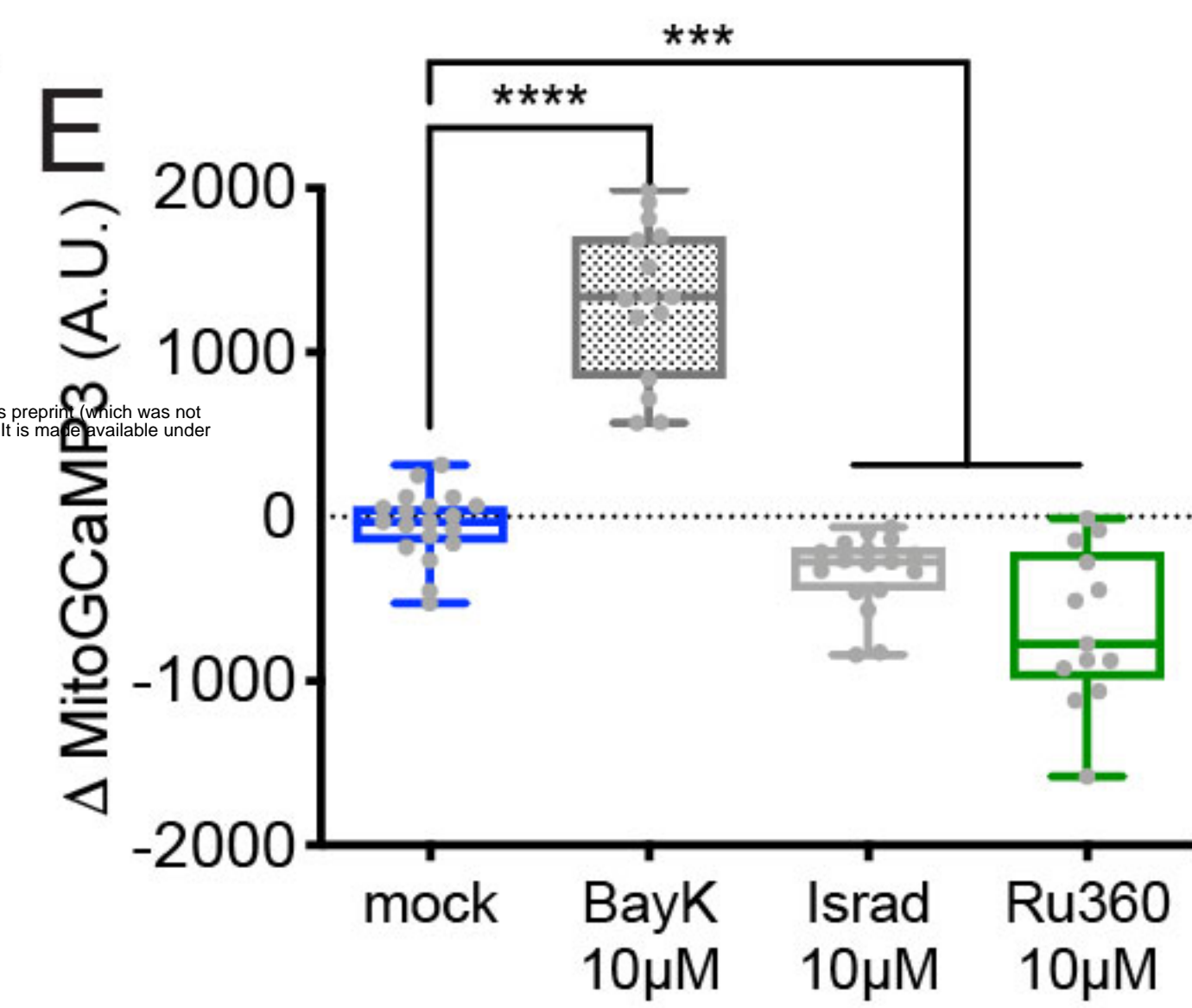
Immature 3 dpf



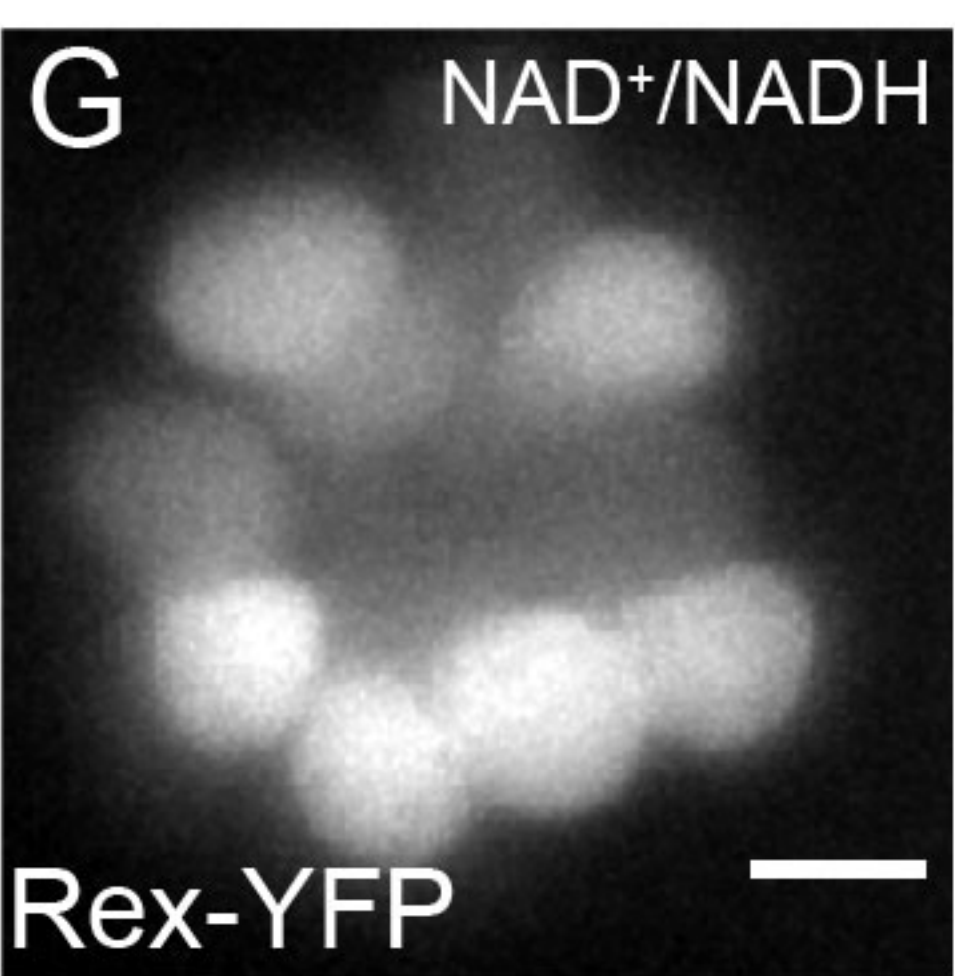
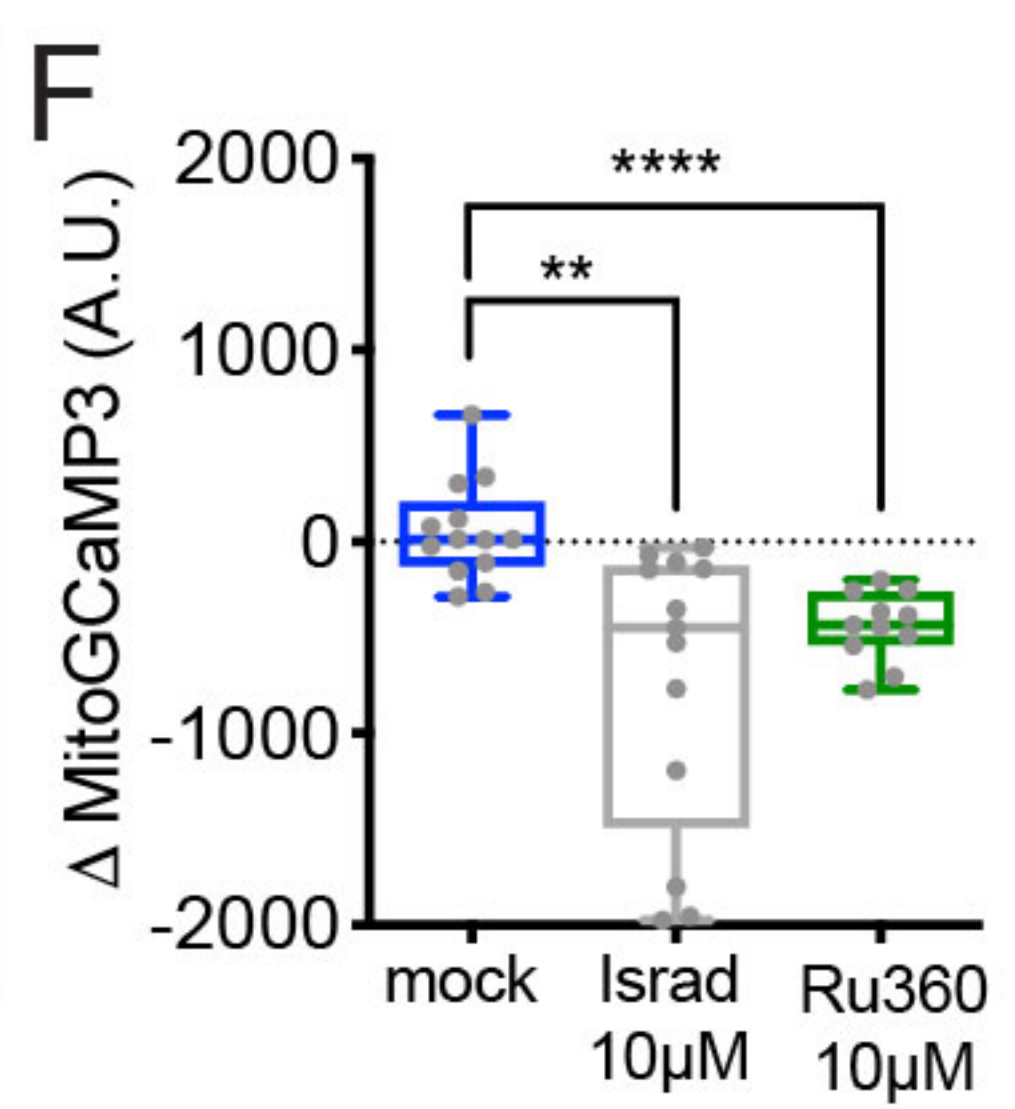
Mature 5 dpf



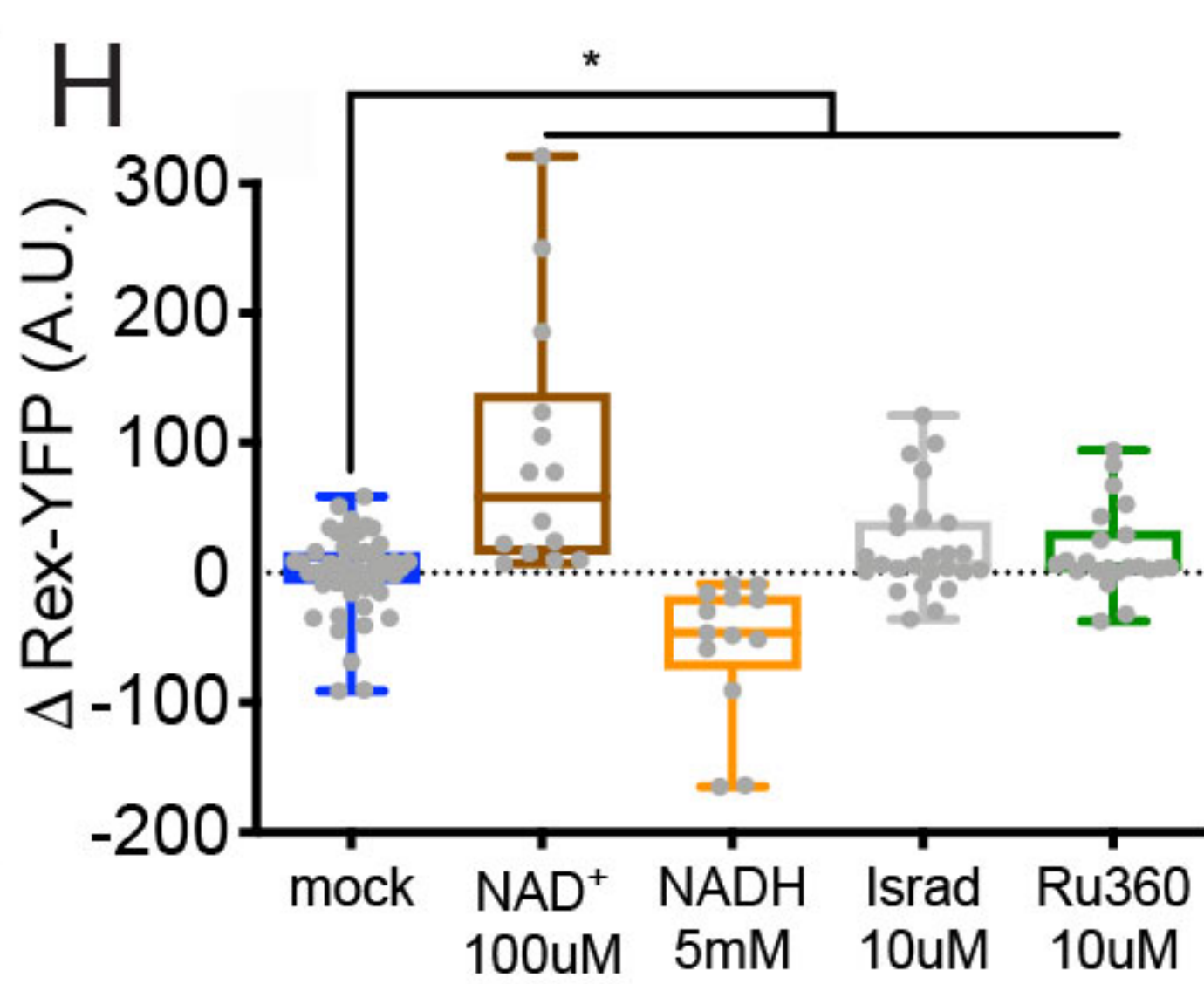
Immature 3 dpf



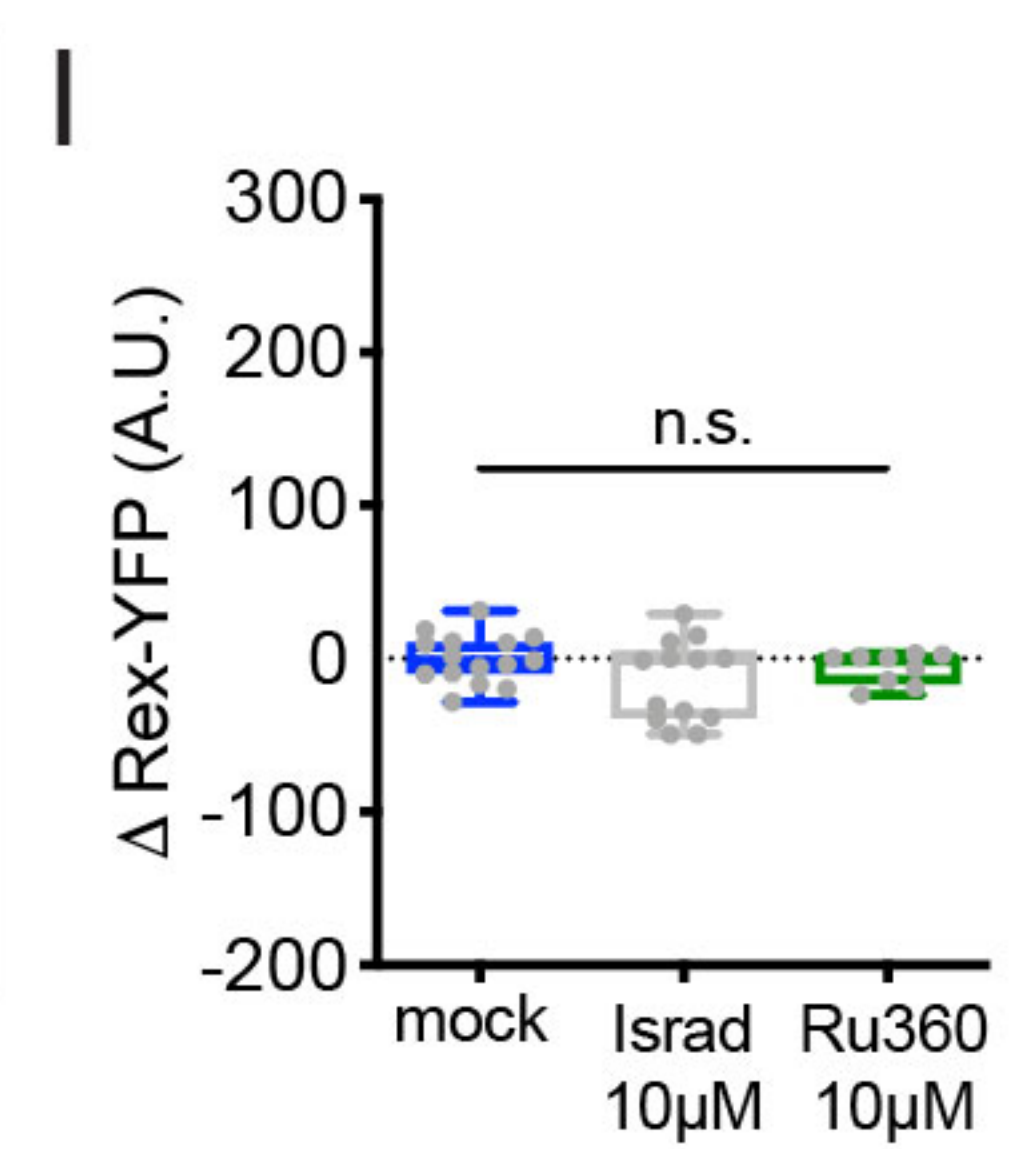
Mature 5 dpf

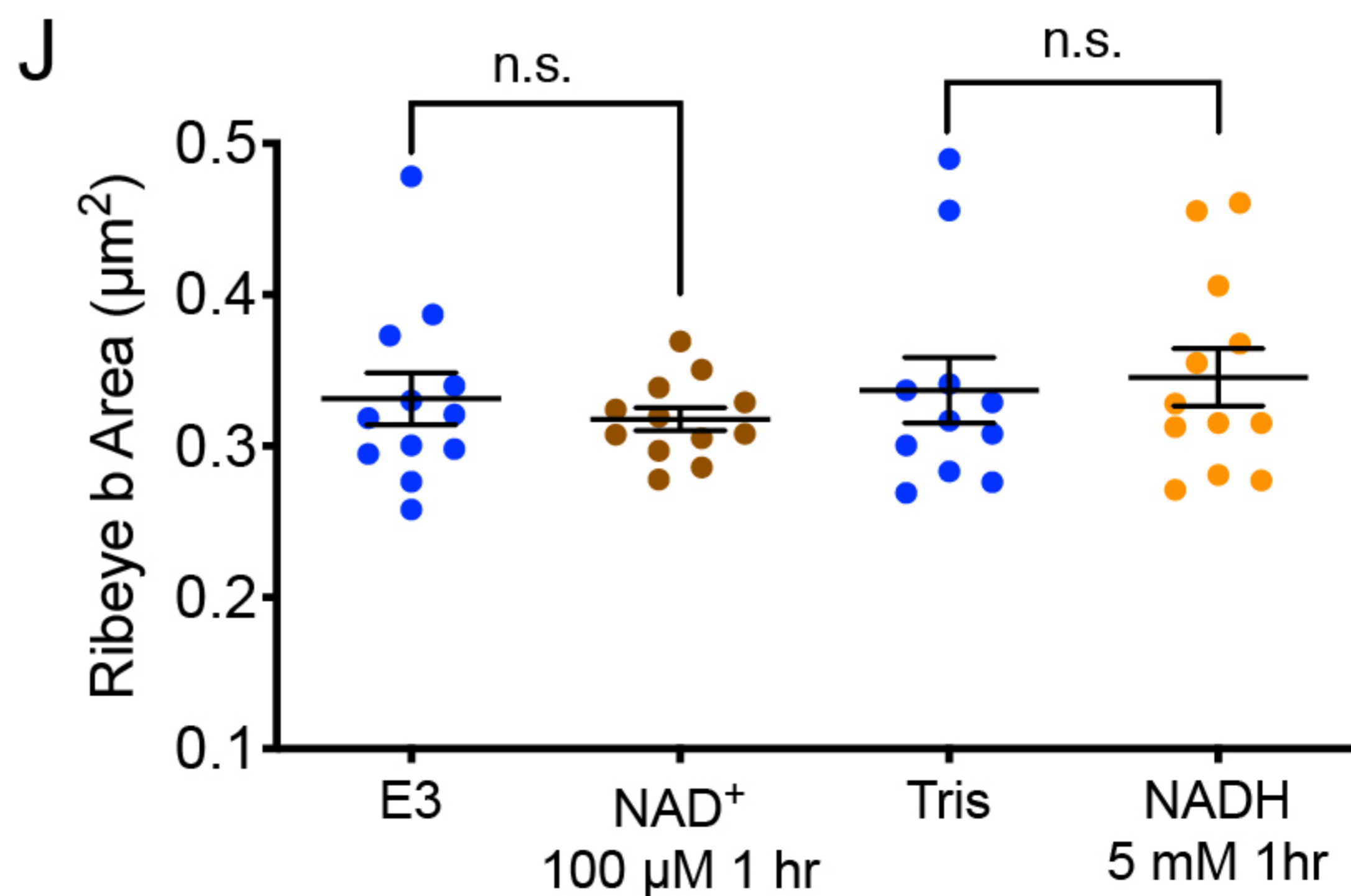
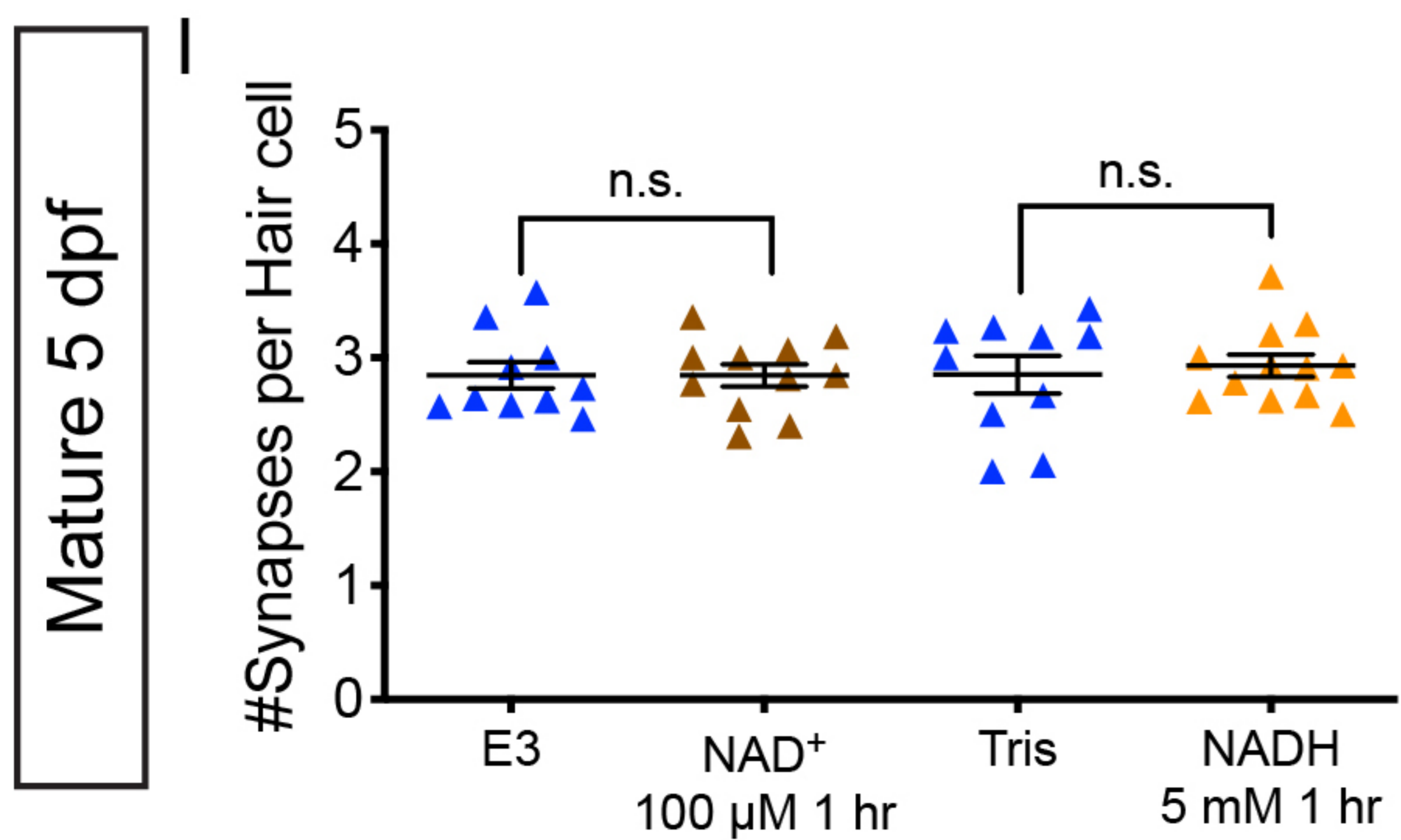
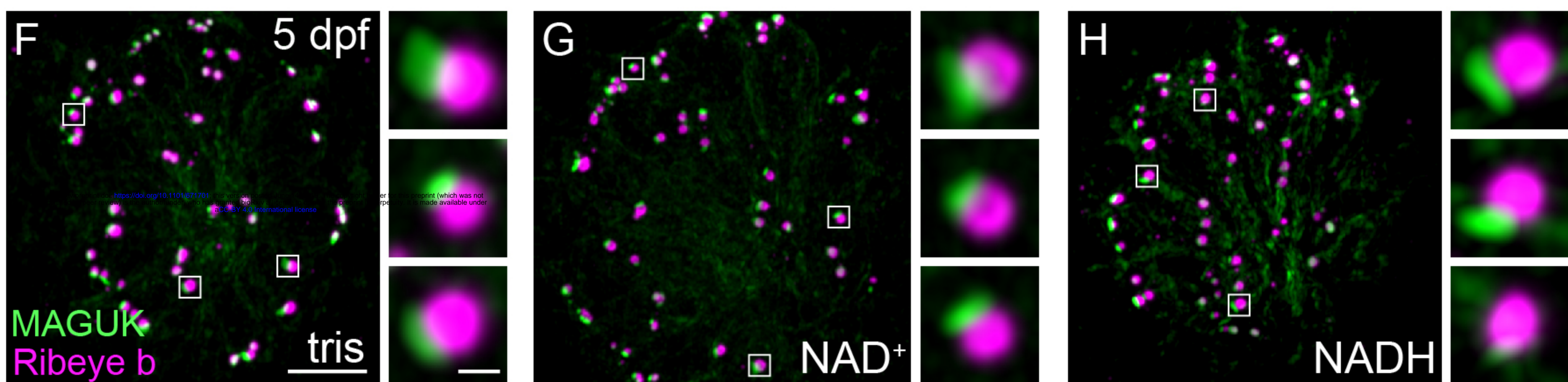
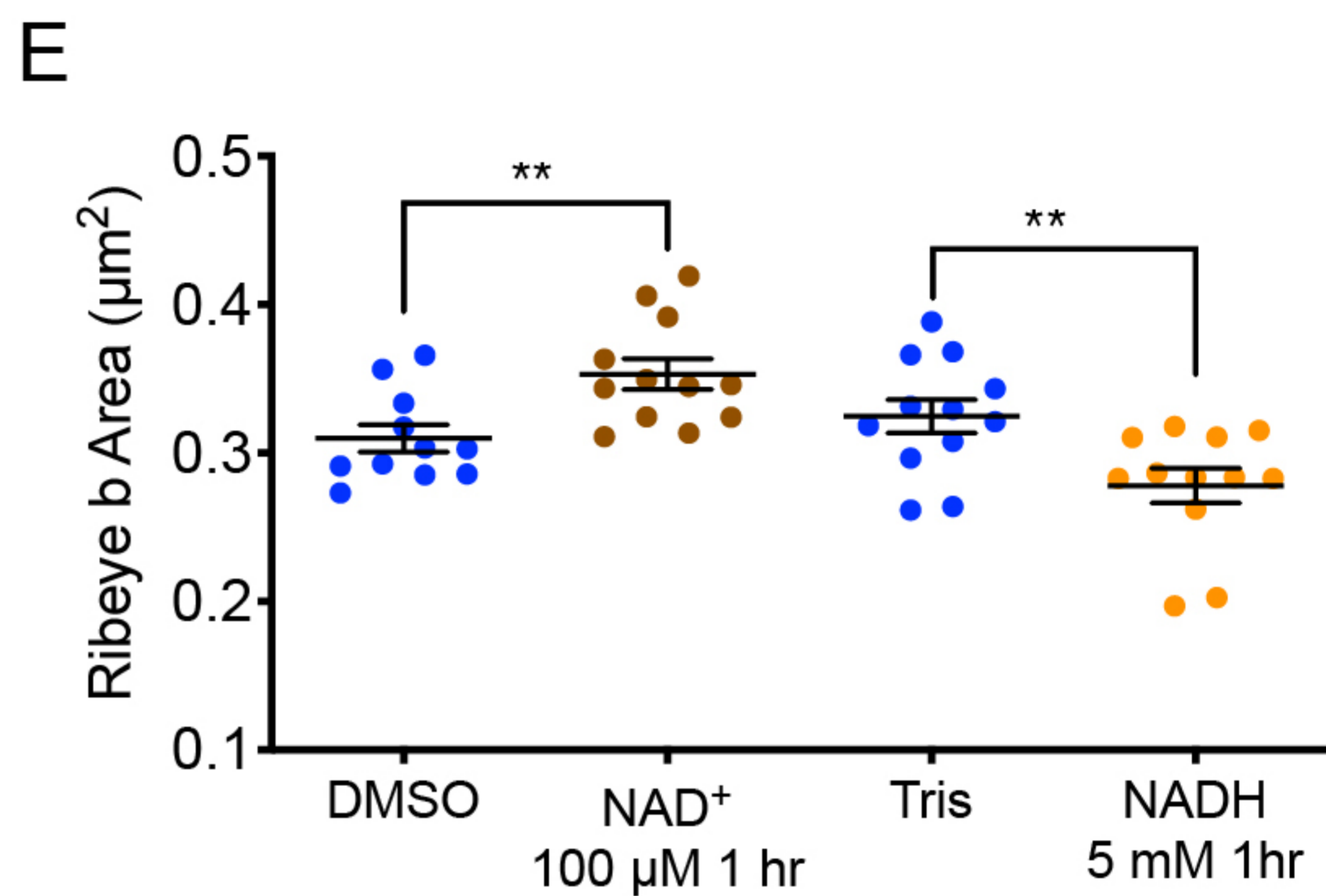
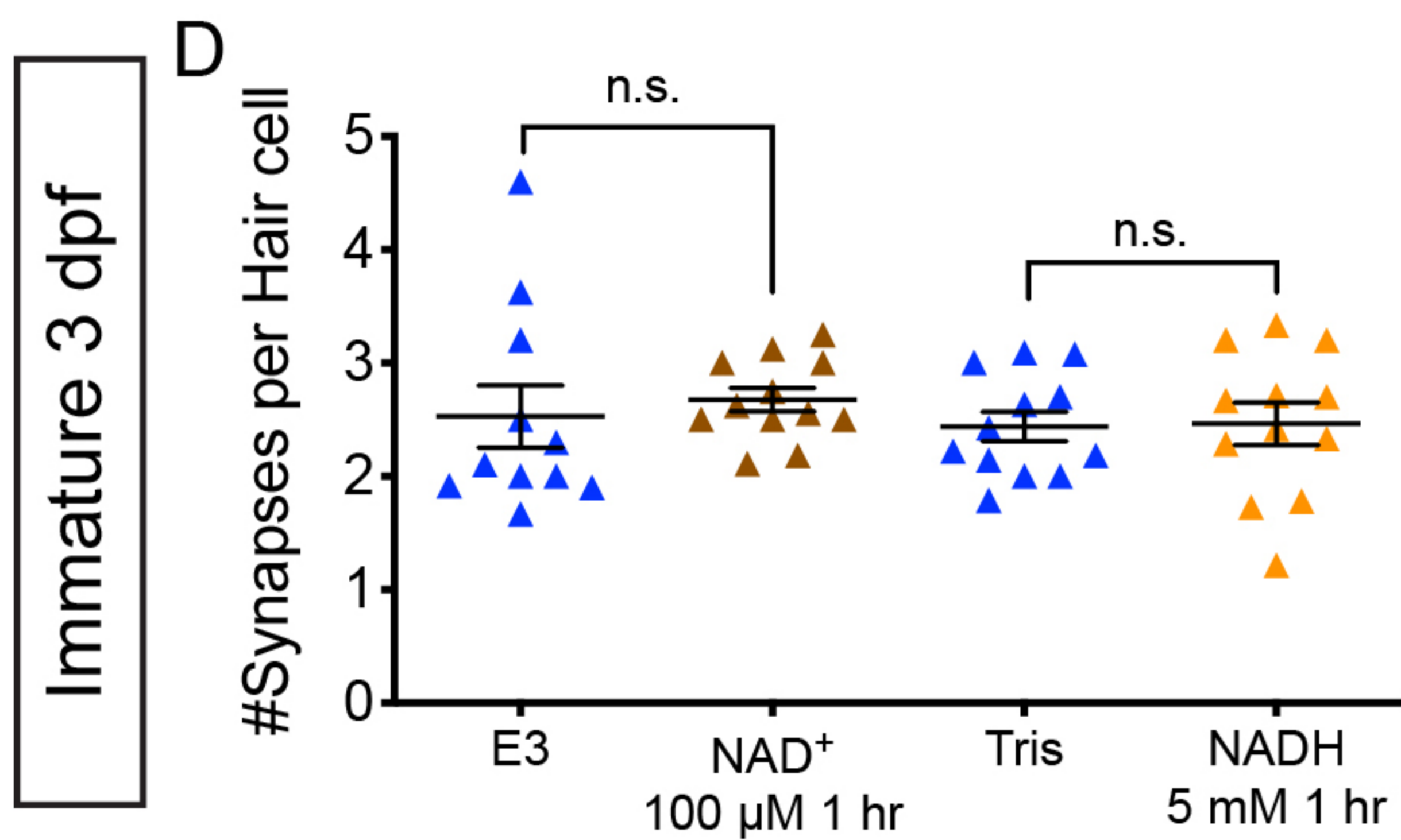
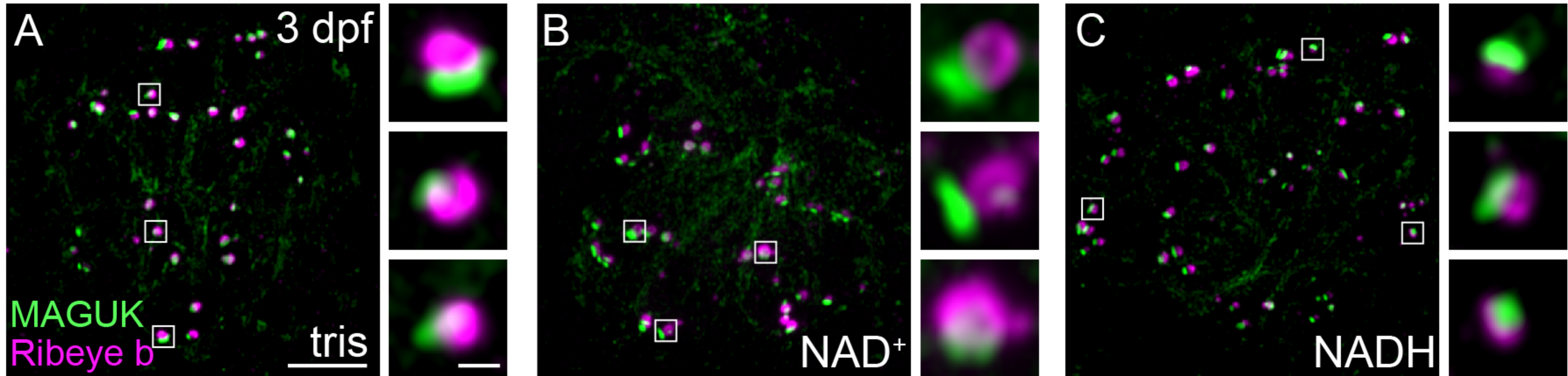


Immature 3 dpf



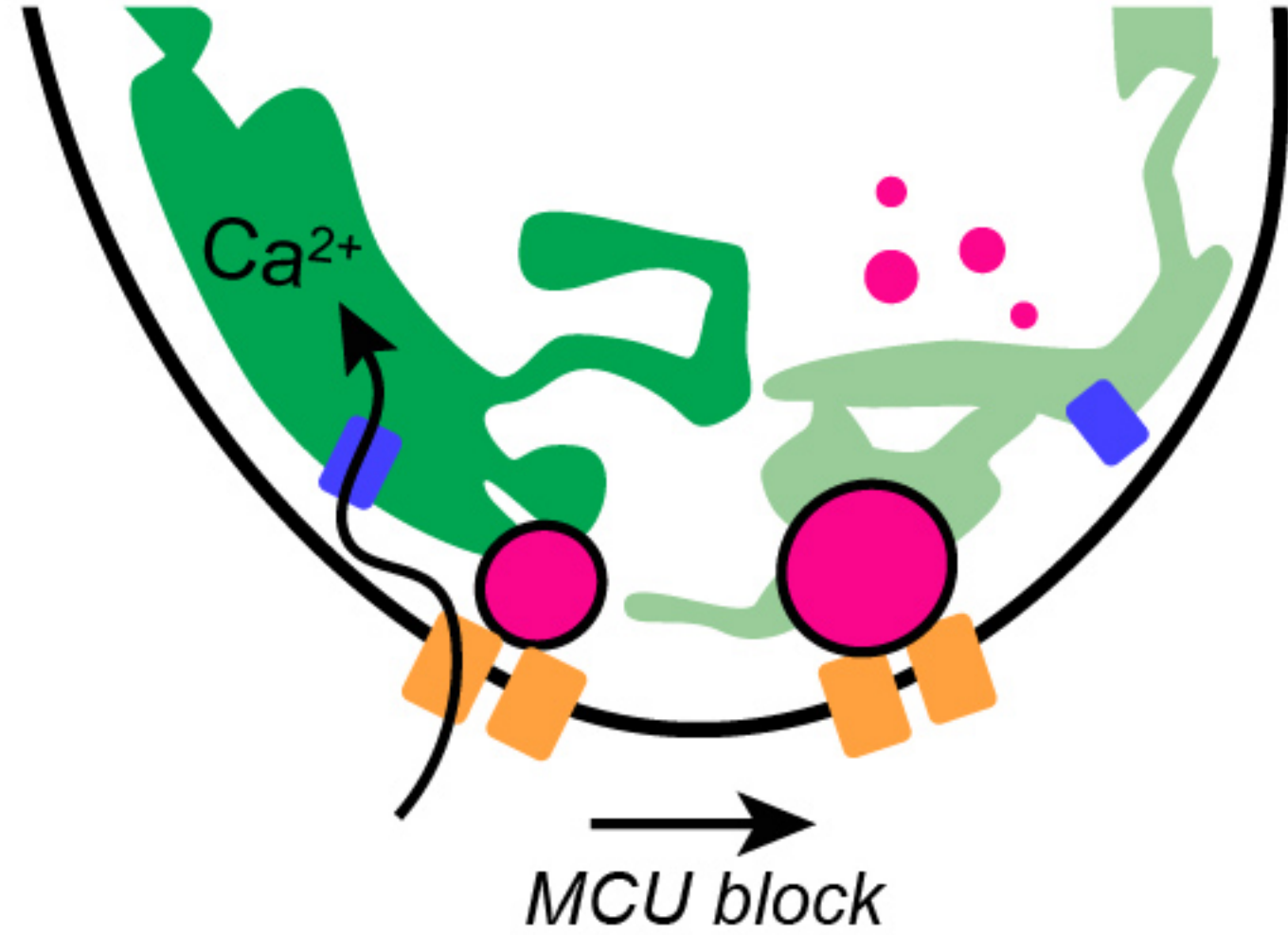
Mature 5 dpf





A Developing hair cell

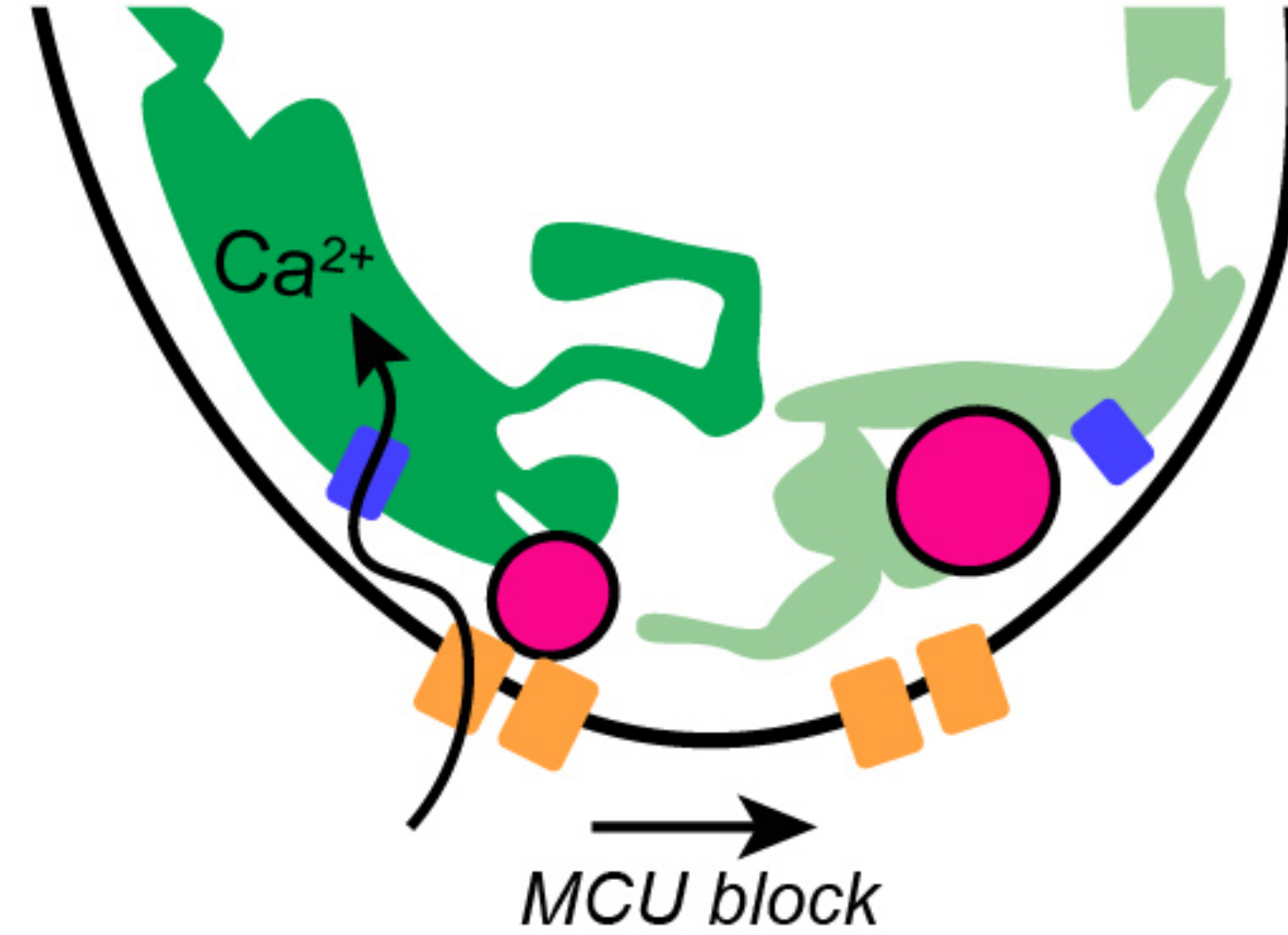
Spontaneous
presynaptic influx
& Mito- Ca^{2+} uptake



Partial or complete MCU block
ribbon enlargement
via NAD(H) redox

B Mature hair cell

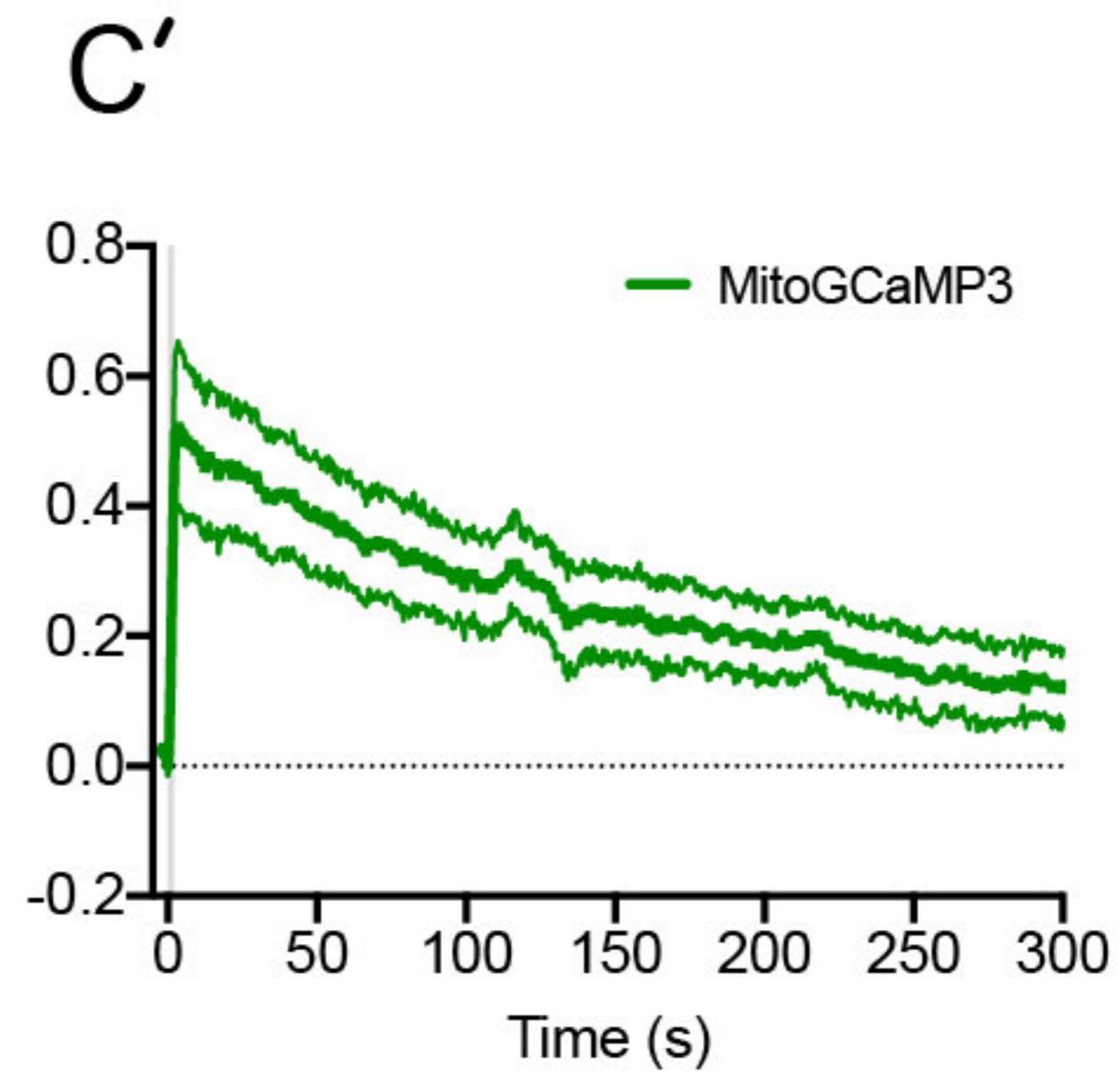
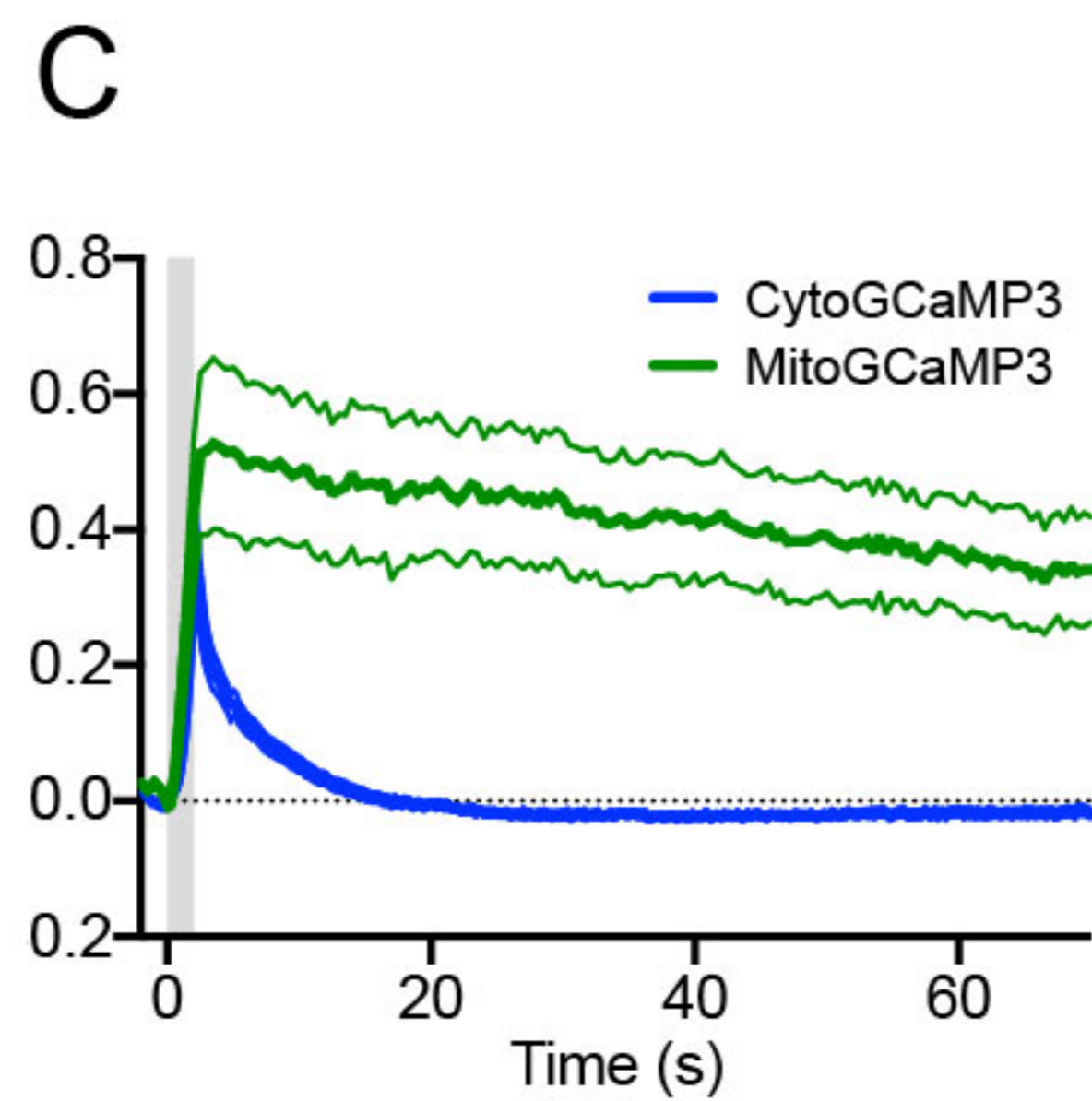
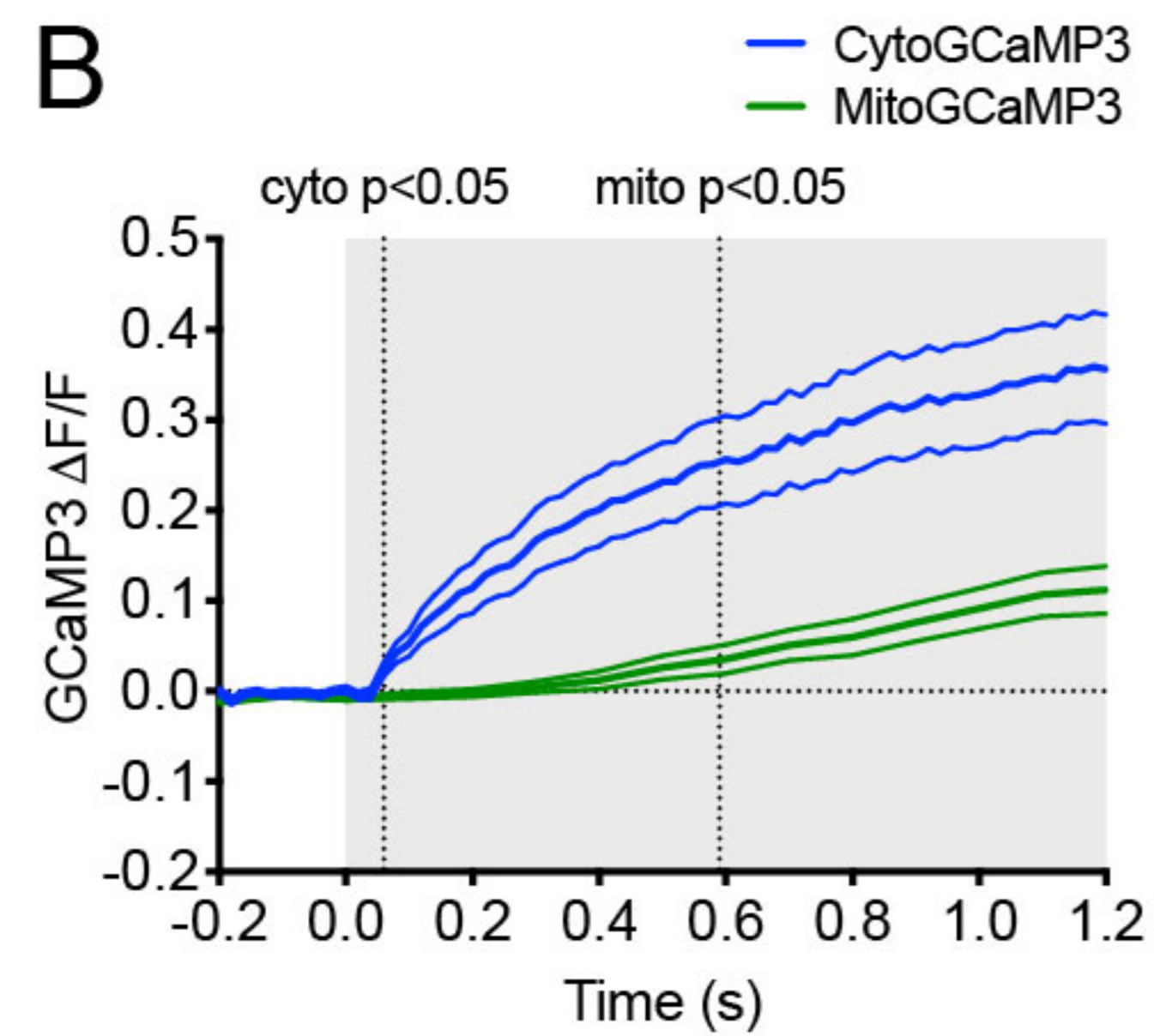
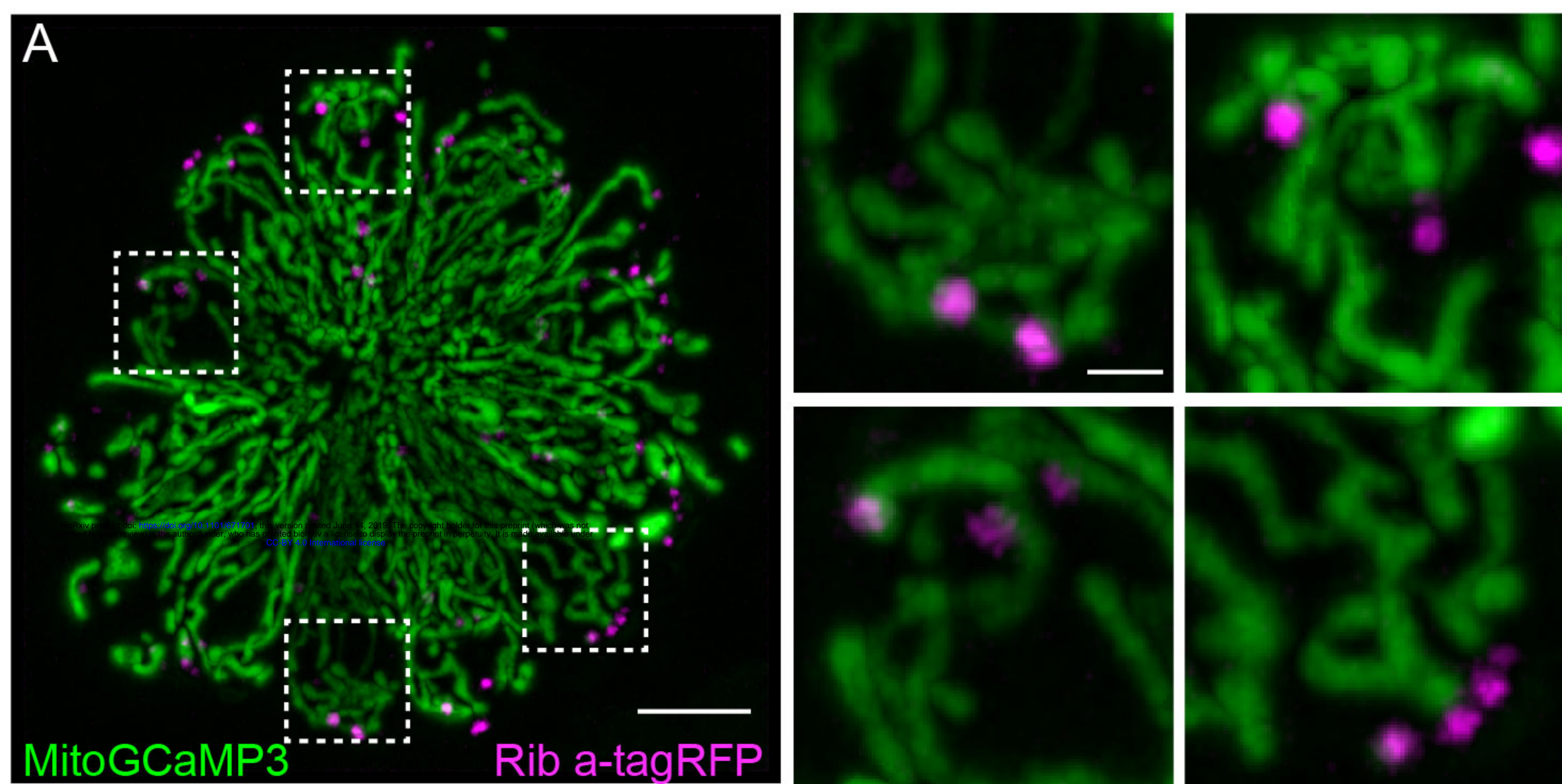
Evoked
presynaptic influx
& Mito- Ca^{2+} uptake

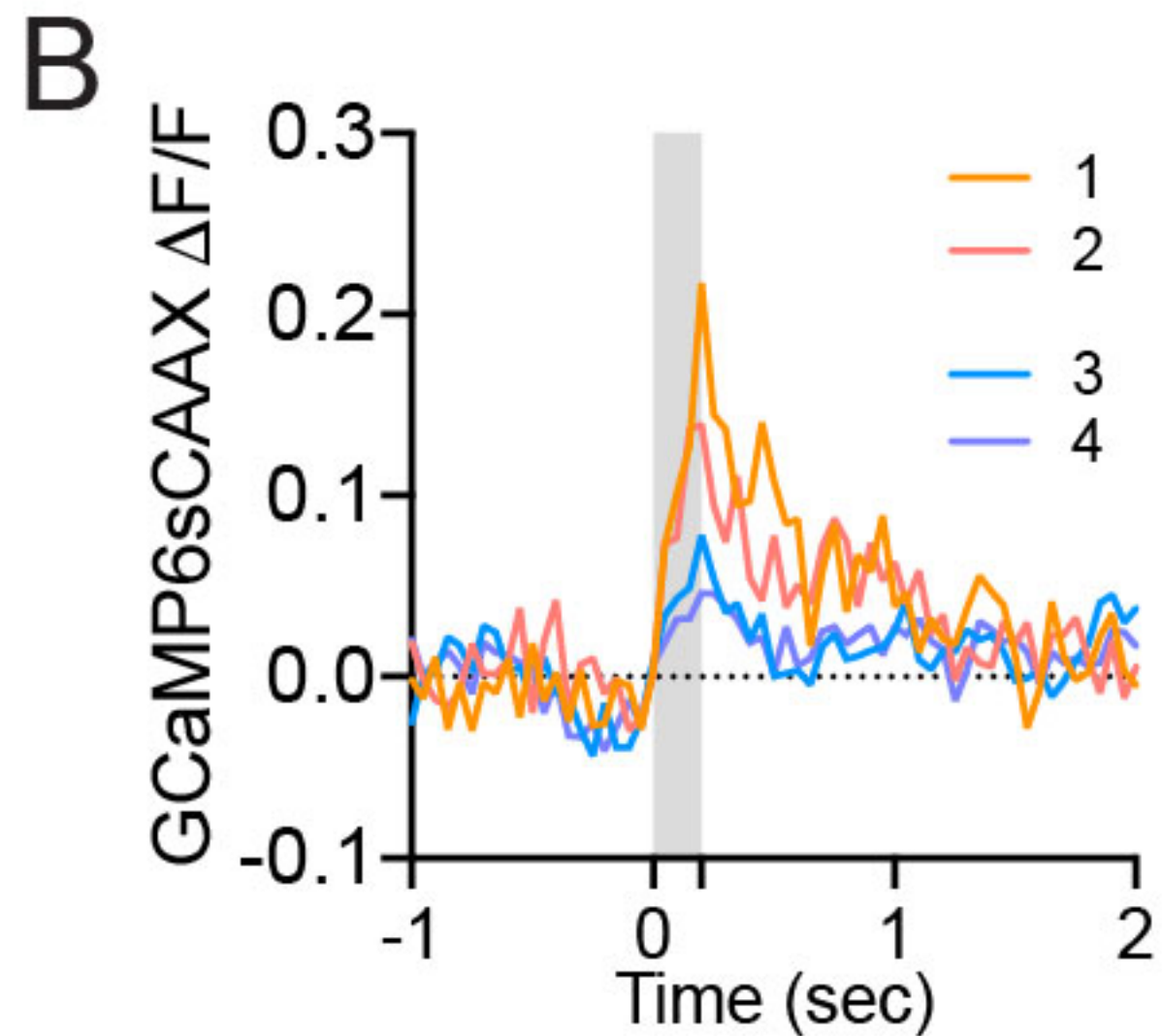
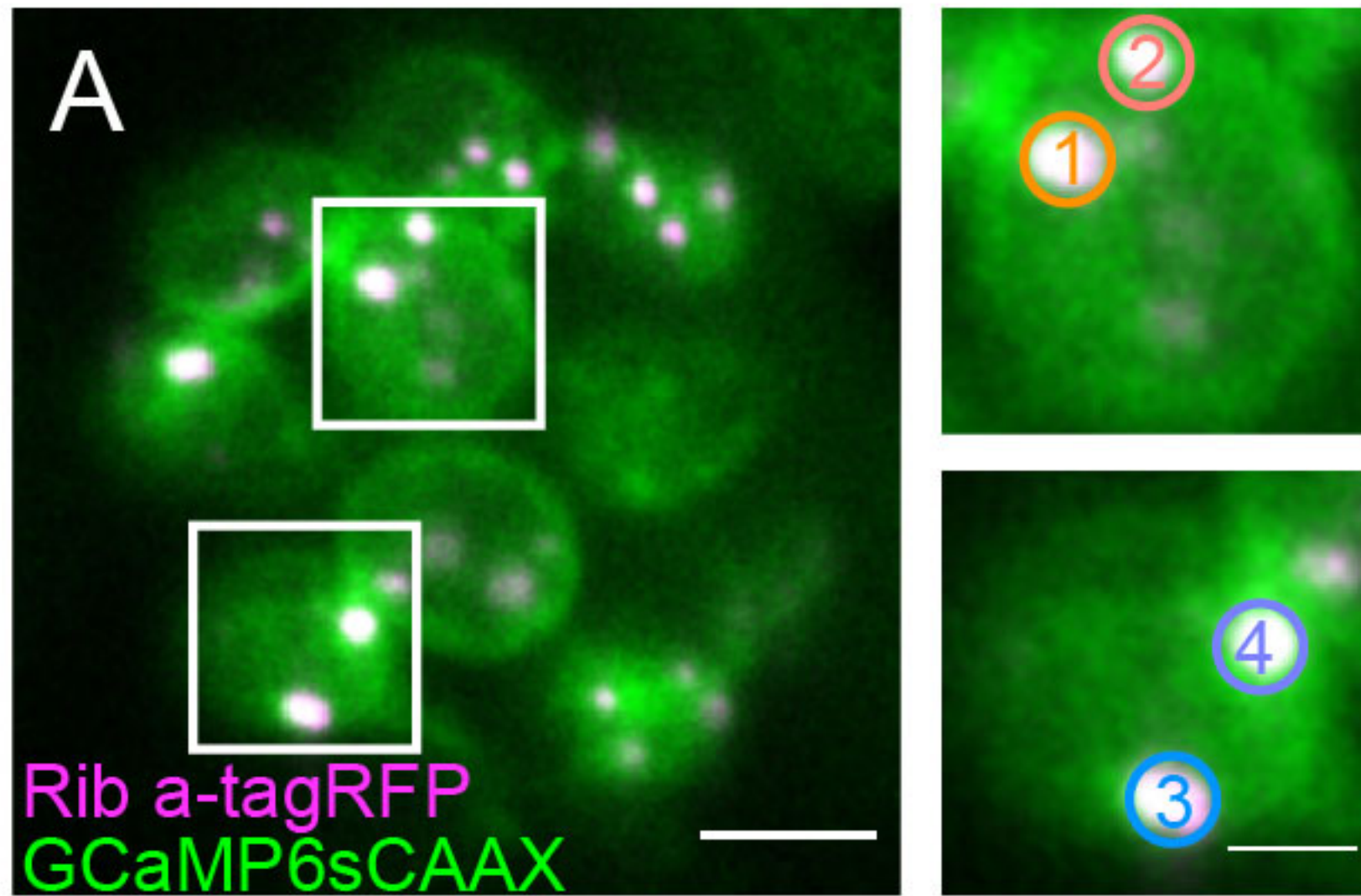


Partial MCU block
presynapse function
loss

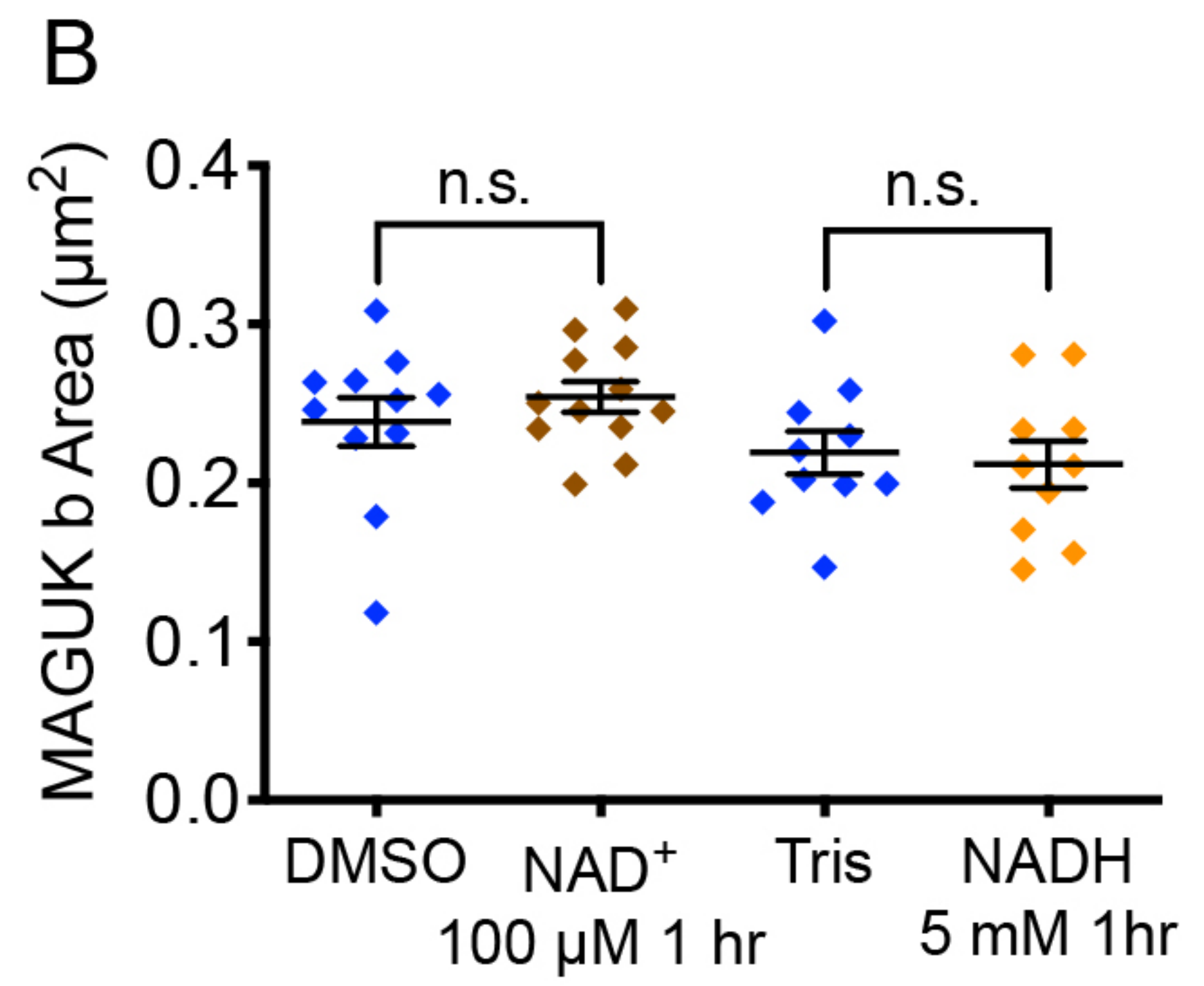
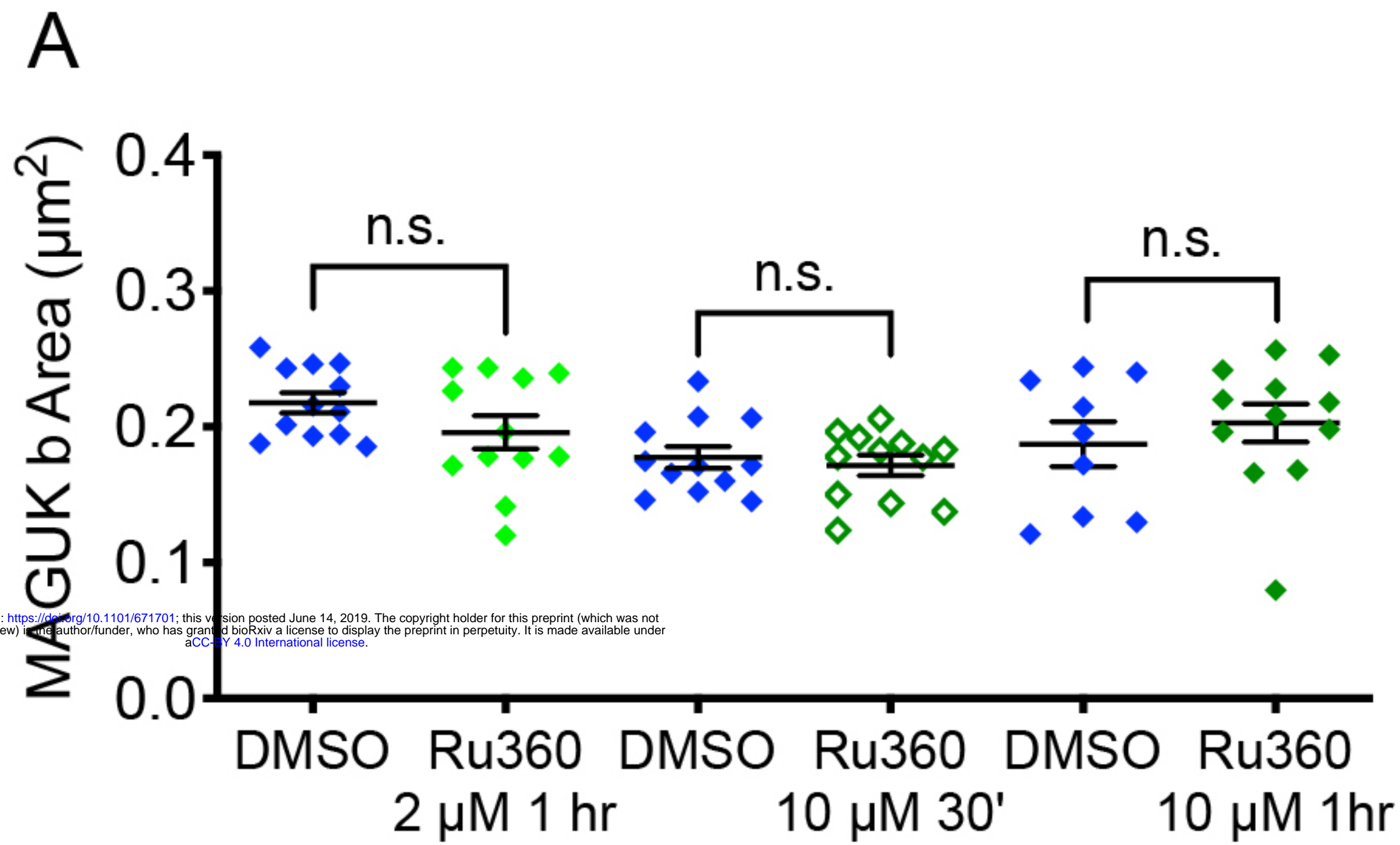
Complete MCU block
ribbon enlargement
synapse loss

blue MCU
orange $\text{Ca}_v1.3$
green mitochondria
magenta ribbon/presynapse





5 dpf mature



3 dpf immature

