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**Membrane Protrusion Formation Mediated by Rho/ROCK Signalling  
and Modulation of Chloride Flux**

**Akiko Hori<sup>1</sup>, Kenji Nishide<sup>2</sup>, Yuki Yasukuni<sup>1</sup>, Kei Haga<sup>1</sup>, Wataru Kakuta<sup>1</sup>,  
Yasuyuki Ishikawa<sup>3</sup>, Matthew J Hayes<sup>4</sup>, Shin-ichi Ohnuma<sup>4</sup>, Hiroshi Kiyonari<sup>5</sup>,  
Kazuhiro Kimura<sup>6</sup>, Toru Kondo<sup>2,7</sup> and Noriaki Sasai<sup>1\*</sup>**

1. Developmental Biomedical Science, Division of Biological Sciences, Nara Institute of Science and Technology, 8916-5, Takayama-cho, Ikoma 630-0192, Japan

2. Laboratory for Cell Lineage Modulation, Centre for Developmental Biology, 2-2-3, Minatojima-Minamimachi, Chuo-ku, Kobe 650-0047, Japan

3. Department of Systems Life Engineering, Maebashi Institute of Technology, 460-1, Kamisadori-cho, Maebashi, Gunma, 371-0816, Japan

4. Ocular Biology and Therapeutics Unit (ORBIT), Faculty of Brain Sciences, UCL Institute of Ophthalmology, University College London, 11-43 Bath Street, London EC1V 9EL, United Kingdom

5. Laboratory for Animal Resources and Genetic Engineering, RIKEN Center for Biosystems Dynamics Research, 2-2-3, Minatojima-Minamimachi, Chuo-ku, Kobe 650-0047, Japan

6. Department of Ophthalmology, Yamaguchi University School of Medicine, 1-1-1 Minamikogushi, Ube 755-0046, Japan

7. Division of Stem Cell Biology, Institute for Genetic Medicine, Hokkaido University, Kita-15, Nishi-7, Kita-Ku, Sapporo 060-0815, Japan

\*Correspondence to Noriaki Sasai

Tel: +81-743-72-5650

[noriakisasai@bs.naist.jp](mailto:noriakisasai@bs.naist.jp)

33 **ABSTRACT**

34 Membrane protrusion is an important structural property associated with various cellular functions. The  
35 pentaspan membrane protein Prominin-1 (Prom1/CD133) is known to be localised to the protrusions and  
36 plays a pivotal role in migration and the determination of cellular morphology; however, the underlying  
37 mechanisms have been elusive. Here, we demonstrate that Prom1 is sufficient to trigger membrane  
38 protrusion formation. Overexpression of Prom1 in the RPE-1 cells triggers multiple long cholesterol-  
39 enriched protrusions, independently from actin and tubulin polymerisation. For this protrusion formation,  
40 the five amino acid stretch located at the carboxyl cytosolic region is essential. Moreover, the small GTPase  
41 Rho and its effector kinase ROCK are essential for this protrusion formation, and the intersection point of  
42 active Rho and Prom1 is where the protrusion formation initiates. Importantly, Prom1 causes the chloride  
43 ion efflux induced by calcium ion uptake, and protrusion formation is closely associated with the chloride  
44 efflux activity. Altogether, this study has elucidated that Prom1 plays critical roles for the membrane  
45 morphology and chloride ion flux.

## 46 INTRODUCTION

47 Each cell has a unique shape corresponding to its specific functions. Cell morphology is mainly  
48 controlled by the combination of cytoskeletal proteins and dynamicity of plasma membrane protrusion,  
49 curvature and invagination.

50 Cilia, cytonemes and microvilli are representative protrusions (1). Cilia contain microtubules and  
51 act as antennae for physical stimuli or extracellular signal molecules. Cytonemes, which comprise actin, are  
52 presumed to transport the signal molecules distant from the cell body. Microvilli, which are often formed at  
53 the luminal membrane in the intestine, are also membrane protrusions rich in cholesterol (2), and are formed  
54 to widen the cell surface and to efficiently incorporate extracellular materials into the body. In general, these  
55 protrusions transduce essential information into the cells in order to decide the cell response to these stimuli.  
56 Therefore, the mechanisms for cell shape regulation is one of the central questions of cell biology.

57 In the vertebrate retina, the photoreceptor cell has a long cell shape, and is divided into different  
58 functional compartments. Among these compartments, the discs, which are responsible for initial light  
59 perception, are continuously formed in the outer segment. Disc formation commences with the curvature of  
60 the membrane at the adjacent region of the connecting cilium, which is then separated from the cell  
61 membrane to form microvesicles in the photoreceptor cell (3).

62 Prominin-1 (CD133, Prom1) encodes a pentaspan transmembrane glycoprotein, highly expressed  
63 in the retina, kidney, and testis (4). Prom1 is localised at the connecting cilium and in the outer segment (5),  
64 and is recognised as a crucial gene for the homeostasis of photoreceptor cells (5). The loss of Prom1 function  
65 leads to photoreceptor degeneration (6-8). In pedigrees with mutations in the Prom1 gene, individuals  
66 carrying the homologous mutation suffer from inherited macular dystrophies termed as Stargardt's disease  
67 and retinitis pigmentosa (RP); the symptoms begin in childhood, followed by gradual vision loss (7-9). In  
68 our previous study, we employed Prom1 gene deficient (*Prom1*KO) mice to demonstrate that photoreceptor  
69 degeneration occurs in response to light stimulation (10). In *Prom1*KO mice, photoreceptor development  
70 and retinal structure at the perinatal stages are normal, but the membrane structure of the photoreceptor cells  
71 starts deforming once the eyes open (10). Nevertheless, as detailed molecular characterization of Prom1 is  
72 lacking, the underlying mechanisms for the initiation of retinal degeneration remain unclear.

73 With respect to the signalling pathway associated with Prom1, it has been demonstrated that two  
74 carboxyl cytoplasmic tyrosines of Prom1 protein are phosphorylated by the oncogenic protein kinases Fyn  
75 and Src (11). Moreover, the PI3K (phosphoinositide 3-kinase) mediated signalling pathway acts  
76 downstream of Prom1 in the glioma stem cells (12). Nevertheless, whether this activation module and the  
77 signalling pathway active in different context or the cells is elusive. Importantly, in the photoreceptor cells,  
78 PI(3)P, the product of PI3K, is predominantly localised at the inner segment, whereas Prom1 is mainly  
79 localised at the outer segment (5,13). The deletion of p85 $\alpha$ , a subunit of PI3K, does not lead to a severe  
80 retinal degeneration (14). This suggests that the signalling pathway directly triggered by Prom1 in the  
81 photoreceptor cells is distinct from the one mediated by PI3K.

82           In this study, we attempted the molecular characterisation of the Prom1 protein, and identified the  
83 signalling pathway triggered by Prom1 in the retina. We found that cell morphology was considerably  
84 altered by the overexpression of Prom1 in the retinal pigmented epithelium derived cell line; numerous and  
85 long membrane protrusions, enriched in cholesterol, were formed. By using this as the evaluation criterium,  
86 we identified the essential amino acids and the downstream signalling pathway to trigger this morphological  
87 change. Importantly, chloride efflux is closely associated with the formation of the membrane protrusion.  
88 We discuss the involvement of Prom1 in membrane morphogenesis through the activity of chloride  
89 conductance.

## 90 **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### 91 **Membrane protrusions by Prom1 are formed independently from that of tubulin or actin** 92 **polymerisation.**

93 In order to characterise the Prom1 protein, we performed a forced expression analysis of Prom1  
94 tagged with YFP in hTERT-RPE1 (RPE1) cells. At 24 h post-transfection, we observed more than 50  
95 membrane protrusions per cell, each with a length of more than 20  $\mu\text{m}$ , on the cell surface, which were  
96 missing in the control YFP-transfected cells (Fig. 1A-C). Moreover, the overexpressed Prom1 protein was  
97 localised to these aberrantly formed protrusions (Fig. 1A).

98 As the protrusions often comprised actin (for cytoneme) and microtubules (for cilia) (1), we  
99 assessed whether the protrusion formation is dependent on these cytoskeletal proteins, and treated the cells  
100 with cytochalasin B and nocodazole in order to block actin polymerisation and microtubule formation,  
101 respectively. Neither of these treatments perturbed protrusion formation upon the transfection of Prom1-  
102 YFP, despite actin polymerisation (Fig. 1D) and microtubule formation (Fig. 1E) being considerably  
103 disturbed. These findings revealed that the protrusions formed by Prom1 are independent of these major  
104 cytoskeletal components with respect to both the structure and the trigger of formation.

105 Previous studies have reported that Prom1 is a cholesterol-binding protein (15-17). Therefore, we  
106 investigated whether cholesterol is an essential component for protrusion, and treated the cells with the  
107 cholesterol-synthesising inhibitor Simvastatin (18). The inhibitory effect was confirmed using a fluorescein  
108 sterol probe TMN-AMCA (19), and protrusion formation was completely abolished (Fig. 1F). This suggests  
109 that the cholesterol accumulation is required for protrusion formation induced by Prom1.

110 Various mutations have been found in the RP patients in the Prom1 gene, resulting the production  
111 of the truncated Prom1 polypeptides (Fig. 1G) (5,6,8). We therefore asked if these mutant forms of Prom1  
112 have correlations with the protrusion formation, and overexpressed them in the cells. As the result, we found  
113 that neither of them did form the membrane protrusions (Fig. 1H), suggesting that protrusion formation and  
114 photoreceptor deformation are associated with each other.

115 Whilst Prom1 is known to be localised at the tips of cilia (20), the protrusions formed by Prom1  
116 was not related to cilia (Fig. 1E). Moreover, they are enriched in cholesterol and do not require main  
117 cytoskeletal proteins for the formation (16) (Fig. 1). Thus, the Prom1 activity on cell morphology is exerted  
118 via direct rearrangement of the membrane components, without affecting on microtubule or actin.

119

### 120 **The five amino acids located at the carboxyl terminus are responsible for protrusion formation**

121 Next we asked the amino acids responsible for membrane protrusion formation. Since most Prom1  
122 mutations in the RP patients result in the production of the polypeptide lacking with its carboxyl-terminal  
123 region (Fig. 1G), we constructed a series of Prom1 truncation mutants in speculation that the responsible  
124 amino acids would reside in the carboxyl terminus (Fig. 2A).

125 The membrane protrusion was missing in the overexpression of the Prom1 deletion mutant whose  
126 translation ends at the 813th amino acid (Fig. 2A-D). Nevertheless, when the deletion mutant that contains

127 the five amino acids KLAKY (Lysine-Leucine-Alanine-Lysine-Tyrosine; Prom1-818) was transfected into  
128 the cells, the number and the length of the protrusion were essentially the same as those formed upon the  
129 full-length of Prom1 transfection (Fig. 2A-D), whereas the constructs that comprised a part of the KLAKY  
130 residues (Prom1-815 and 817; Fig. 2A) led to the formation of incomplete protrusions. Conversely, the  
131 construct containing the full-coding regions except for the AKY amino acid stretch form had a significantly  
132 reduced, and the construct without KLAKY had no activity to form protrusions (Fig. 2A-D). Together this  
133 finding suggests that these five amino acids are responsible for protrusion formation. We further evaluated  
134 whether the last tyrosine (Y818) requires phosphorylation for the complete activity of protrusion formation,  
135 and transfected a construct in which the tyrosine was replaced with phenylalanine (Y818F). However,  
136 protrusion formation was comparable with that with Prom1-FL (Fig. S1A). Thus, phosphorylation at this  
137 site is unlikely to be necessary for protrusion formation.

138 These analyses suggest that the five amino acids located immediately downstream of the fifth  
139 transmembrane domain are essential for the membrane protrusion formation.

140

#### 141 **Rho/ROCK signalling is required for the formation of protrusions by Prom1**

142 We next explored the essential factors that mediate the protrusion formation by Prom1. As PI3K  
143 signalling pathway (12) and the tyrosine kinases Src and Fyn (11) are essential downstream components,  
144 we observed the cell protrusion formed upon the Prom1 transfection in the cells pre-treated with LY294002  
145 or CGP77675, pan-PI3K and Src inhibitors, respectively. However, no effect of these chemical treatments  
146 on protrusion formation was observed (Fig. S1B,C). Moreover, the substitution mutant Y828F, which  
147 abolishes the essential phosphorylation for the Src signalling activation (12), was as active as Prom1-FL  
148 regarding the protrusion formation (Fig. S1D). This observation suggests that Prom1 has distinct  
149 downstream branches, and the membrane protrusions formed by Prom1 are induced via differing signalling  
150 mediator(s) from those previously reported.

151 We therefore screened the downstream signalling of Prom1 by evaluating protrusion formation  
152 following treatment with signal inhibitors. We specifically emphasized the inhibitors of the small GTPases,  
153 including Rho, Rac and Cdc42, as these GTPases are often involved in membrane protrusion formation (21).

154 While EHT1864 and ZCL279, selective inhibitors for Rac1 and Cdc42, respectively, did not have  
155 an effect on protrusion formation by Prom1 (Fig. 3A-C), we observed that the ROCK inhibitor Y-27632  
156 substantially reduced the number and the length of the protrusions (Fig. 3A-C). As the ROCK inhibitor  
157 affects both Rho and Rac, we further attempted to identify the molecule, and used C3, a membrane-  
158 permeable recombinant protein that specifically blocks the Rho signal. C3 had a similar effect to that of Y-  
159 27632 (Fig. 3A-C); protrusion formation was profoundly blocked. Consistently, the co-transfection of the  
160 dominant-negative RhoA in combination with Prom1 blocked protrusion formation (Fig. 3D). These  
161 findings suggest that the Rho-associated signalling pathway is essential in the membrane protrusion  
162 formation by Prom1.

163           Conversely, as revealed by the transfection of the constitutively-active form of RhoA, the active  
164 Rho was co-trafficked into the protrusions formed by Prom1 (Fig. 3E). Eventually, we highlighted the initial  
165 moment when the protrusion was formed. We co-transfected GFP-rGBD (22), which visualises the activated  
166 Rho, together with Prom1-mCherry into the cells, and evaluated the individual proteins via time-lapse  
167 analysis. We found that Rho was activated at the plasma membrane, and protrusion formation was initiated  
168 at the membranous point where the active Rho and Prom1 were encountered (Fig. 3F and movie S1).  
169 Collectively, these findings suggest that the membrane protrusion formed by Prom1 is mediated by the small  
170 GTPase RhoA.

171           Protrusion formation by Prom1 requires co-localization with active Rho (Fig. 3). Nevertheless,  
172 according to the immunoprecipitation analysis, Prom1 does not bind to or activate Rho (Fig. S2). This  
173 suggests that Rho is activated by another triggering factor(s), including specific RhoGEFs (Rho family  
174 specific GDP-GTP guanine exchanging factors), and interacts with Prom1 weakly or transiently.

175

### 176 **Prom1 drives the chloride ion efflux upon the intracellular calcium ion uptake**

177           The high-dimensional structure-based homology search algorithm HHPred (23) predicted that  
178 Prom1 is highly homologous with the membrane proteins TTYH1/2 (Fig. S3A). (24). The overexpression  
179 of TTYH2 in the RPE cells induced membrane protrusions in a manner similar to Prom1 (Fig. S3B),  
180 suggesting that Prom1 and TTYH2 have functional similarities. As the TTYH-type receptors are known to  
181 act on the calcium-activated chloride currents (25), we hypothesised that Prom1 has a similar function.

182           To address this question, we used mouse embryonic fibroblast (MEF) cells extracted from wild-  
183 type or *Prom1* gene-deficient (*Prom1* knockout; *Prom1*KO) embryos (10,26), and measured the temporal  
184 change of the intracellular chloride ion level upon calcium uptake by using the chloride-sensitive fluorescent  
185 indicator MQAE (N-(ethoxycarbonylmethyl)-6-methoxyquinolinium bromide). As MQAE is quenched by  
186 chloride ion, the fluorescein intensity is reciprocal to the intracellular chloride ion concentration. Once the  
187 intracellular calcium uptake was provoked by the calcium ionophore A23187, significant chloride efflux  
188 was observed in the wild-type cells within a several minutes (8 min; Fig. 4A,B and movie S2A). In contrast,  
189 the extent of the efflux was reduced approximately by 50% in the *Prom1*KO cells (8 min; Fig. 4A,B and  
190 movie S2B), suggesting that the chloride ion was accumulated in the cells. A similar result was obtained in  
191 another analysis in which the cell mass was measured (Fig. S4A). Importantly the extent of the calcium  
192 uptake upon the A23187 treatment was comparable (Fig. S4B), suggesting that the perturbation of chloride  
193 ion efflux was not the secondary effect caused due to the change in calcium influx. Collectively, these  
194 observations suggest that Prom1 modulates the dynamic intracellular chloride current upon the calcium  
195 uptake.

196           Furthermore, we investigated whether this efflux perturbation in the *Prom1*KO cells was rescued  
197 upon the transfection of the wild-type Prom1 and Prom1- $\Delta$ KLAKY. When we transfected Prom1-FL  
198 in the *Prom1*KO cells, the chloride efflux was found to be restored to the same level as in the wild-type  
199 MEF cells (7 cells; Fig. 4C, Fig. S5A and movie S3). However, this outflow failed to occur upon the

200 transfection of Prom1- $\Delta$ KLAKY, suggesting that the amino acids stretch KLAKY (Fig. 2A) was essential  
201 for the regulation of the chloride efflux. Moreover, the wild-type MEF cells pre-treated with Rho/ROCK  
202 inhibitors Y-27632 or C3 perturbed the chloride efflux upon the calcium uptake (Fig. 4D, Fig. S5B and  
203 movie. S4). Collectively, these findings suggest that the function of Prom1 as the membrane morphology  
204 modulator and the chloride ion current regulator are closely associated with each other.

205 In this study, we demonstrated that Prom1 induces the formation of membrane protrusions enriched  
206 with cholesterol, and this activity is dependent on the carboxyl-terminal domain of the protein. We also  
207 demonstrated that Prom1 is structurally similar to TTYHs, proteins involved in the calcium-activated  
208 chloride currents (25,27), and it is involved in the chloride current activated by calcium uptake (Fig. 4).  
209 While the physiological significance of TTYHs in the retinal homeostasis remains unclear, ionic current in  
210 the photoreceptor cells is apparently crucial for their functions (28). In physiological level, one major protein  
211 that uptakes the intracellular calcium ion is rhodopsin. Rhodopsin is a GPCR (G-protein coupled receptor)  
212 that converts light stimuli to the cGMP activation followed by the intracellular calcium uptake (29). In our  
213 immunoprecipitation analysis, rhodopsin interacted with Prom1 (Fig. S6), suggesting that these two proteins  
214 act in conjugation with each other. As rhodopsin is activated by light stimuli, it can induce Prom1 activity,  
215 and protrusion formation and chloride current may occur. In *Prom1*KO mice, the outer segment of the  
216 photoreceptor cells is not appropriately formed (9,10). Moreover, as it has been reported that the newly  
217 formed discs are enriched in cholesterol (30). Therefore it is reasonable to speculate from our data that  
218 Prom1 controls the evagination of the newly formed disc by interacting with cholesterol.

219 Future analyses, including single photoreceptor recordings of the temporal change of chloride ion  
220 and the membrane evagination in wild-type and *Prom1*-mutant cells, will identify the initial step of the  
221 photoreceptor degeneration and will provide new insight in developing novel therapeutic methods for  
222 intractable hereditary retinopathies.



## 223 **Materials and Methods**

### 224 **Ethical statement on animal experiments**

225 All animal experiments were carried out with the approval of the animal welfare and ethical review  
226 panel of Nara Institute of Science and Technology (approval numbers: 1533 and 1810 for animal research,  
227 and 311 for genetic modification) and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of RIKEN Kobe branch.  
228 *Prom1*KO mice established previously (26) (CDB0623K: <http://www2.clst.riken.jp/arg/methods.html>) were  
229 reared as a hybrid genetic background of C57BL/6 and CBA/NSIc (10).

230

### 231 **Cell culture, transfection and Rho activation assay**

232 hTERT-RPE1 (ATCC CRL-4000) was cultured in high-glucose Dulbecco's Modified Eagle  
233 Medium (DMEM; Wako, Japan) containing 10% FBS (Gibco) supplemented with non-essential amino acids,  
234 glutamine and penicillin/streptomycin (Wako, Japan).

235 While multiple isoforms have been reported for the Prom1 transcripts (4,31), we employed the  
236 isoform encoding 865 amino acid. The Prom1 constructs were carboxyl-terminally fused with YFP or  
237 mCherry as indicated. DN-Rho and ca-Rho were constructed as described previously (32).

238 The plasmids were transfected with Lipofectamine-2000 (Invitrogen). Rho activation assay was  
239 performed by using the Rho activation assay kit (Millipore). Immunoprecipitation was performed with the  
240 magnetic beads conjugated with myc antibody.

241 Antibodies used in this study were; GFP (rabbit; MBL; #598), myc (mouse; CST; #2276S), HA  
242 (mouse; SIGMA; #H9658). Chemicals were ; cytochalasin B (Wako, Japan; #030-17551), nocodazole  
243 (SIGMA; #M1404), Simvastatin (Cayman chemical; #10010344), EHT1864 (Cayman chemical; #17258),  
244 ZCL278 (TOCRIS; #4794), Y-27632 (Wako, Japan; #251-00511), C3 (Cytoskeleton,Inc; #CT04).  
245 LY294002 (Wako, Japan; #129-04861), CGP77675 (Cayman Chemical; #21089).

246

### 247 **Immunofluorescence microscopy and protrusion analysis**

248 Immunofluorescence microscopy was performed as described previously (33). Fluorescence  
249 microscopic analyses were carried out using DeltaVision Elite Microscopy System (GE Healthcare, UK).  
250 Z-axial images were taken at 0.2  $\mu$ m with a 40X objective lens. Deconvolution of images was performed  
251 using DeltaVision SoftWoRx software. Captured images were processed with Adobe Photoshop CS5. The  
252 numbers and lengths of protrusions formed on the cell membrane were measured with ImageJ software and  
253 at least 20 cells were analysed on each experiment.

254

### 255 **Intracellular chloride ion measurement on MEF cells**

256 Mouse embryonic fibroblasts (MEF) were prepared from 14.5 dpc (days post-coitum) mouse  
257 embryos as described previously (34). For measuring the intracellular chloride ion level, the chloride-  
258 sensitive fluorescent indicator MQAE (Dojindo) was used and was used to treat the MEF cells according to  
259 the manufacturer's instruction. Briefly, MEF cells were cultured in the low-chloride medium (Krebs-HEPES

260 buffer; 20 mM HEPES-NaOH (pH 7.3), 128 mM NaCl, 2.5 mM KCl, 2.7 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 1 mM MgSO<sub>4</sub>, 16  
261 mM glucose) and the final concentration of 5 mM of MQAE was added, along with measurement of the  
262 basal chloride level. The calcium ionophore (A23187; Sigma) was then added at 5 μM and the temporal  
263 change in the chloride ion was measured using LSM 710 confocal microscope (Zeiss) or with the plate  
264 reader Tristar2 (Berthold Technologies) at 1 min intervals.

265

### 266 **Structure prediction, images, and data analysis**

267 The homology search based on the secondary structure was conducted using the prediction  
268 algorithm HHPred (23). Images were observed using LSM 710 confocal microscope (Zeiss) or DeltaVision  
269 Elite (GE Healthcare) and processed by the Photoshop software (Adobe). Statistical analysis was performed  
270 by two-tail t-test using the Prism software (graphpad.com) and *p*-values (\*; *p* < 0.05, \*\*; *p* < 0.01, \*\*\*; *p* <  
271 0.001) are indicated in each graph.

272

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282 role in study design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the manuscript.

283

### 284 **Author Contributions**

285 NS and TK conceived the project. KN initially found the phenotype induced by Prom1, and MJH  
286 predicted that Prom1 is involved in ion flux. AH performed the majority of the experiments and analysed  
287 the data with assistance from YY, KH, WK and YI. HK, SO and KK contributed to the establishment and  
288 maintenance of the *Prom1*-deficient mice. All authors joined the discussion. NS drafted and AH edited the  
289 manuscript.

290 **Figure Legends**

291 **Fig. 1 Prom1 induces cell membrane protrusions enriched in cholesterol.**

292 (A) Control *YFP* or *Prom1-YFP* were transfected into the RPE1 cells and cells were harvested to be stained  
293 with GFP antibody or phalloidin. In the high-contrasted image, yellow arrowheads indicate the tips of actin.  
294 (B,C) Quantitative data for (A). The numbers (B) and lengths (C) of the protrusions were counted and  
295 measured, respectively. (D) Cells were treated with DMSO (control), 10  $\mu$ M of cytochalasin B (D), 20  $\mu$ M  
296 of nocodazole (E), 1  $\mu$ M of simvastatin (F) for 6 h and the expression plasmid conveying *Prom1-YFP* was  
297 transfected. At 24 h after the transfection, cells were analysed by staining with GFP (D-F) and phalloidin  
298 (C),  $\alpha$ -tubulin (B) antibodies or TNM-AMCA (F). Enlarged images corresponding to the white squares are  
299 shown in the right panels. (G) A schematic representation of Prom1 mutations. The deletion at the 869th  
300 guanine nucleotide (869 delG), the insertion at the 1349th thymine (1349 insT) and the deletion at the 1878th  
301 guanine nucleotide (1878 delG) lead to the precocious stop codon immediately downstream of the mutation.  
302 Nucleotide count is enumerated from the start codon ATG. (H) These mutant constructs were transfected  
303 into the cells and analysed with GFP antibody and the phalloidin staining. Scale bar, 10  $\mu$ m (A, D, E, F, H),  
304 1  $\mu$ m (D, E, F; two right panels).

305

306 **Fig. 2 The five amino acids in the carboxyl terminal region are essential for the formation of the cell**  
307 **membrane protrusions.**

308 (A) A schematic representation of the Prom1 protein and its deletion mutants. (B) Representative images of  
309 the cells transfected with each deletion mutant. The expression plasmids conveying Prom1-FL (Full-length  
310 of Prom1), Prom1-813 (as indicated in (A)), Prom1-815, Prom1-817, Prom1-818, Prom1- $\Delta$ AKY or Prom1-  
311  $\Delta$ KLAKY were transfected into the cells, and the cells were analysed by staining with GFP antibody and  
312 with phalloidin at 24 hpt. Scale bar, 10  $\mu$ m. (C,D) Quantitative data for (B). The numbers (C) and lengths  
313 (D) of the protrusions were counted and measured, respectively. More than 10 cells were counted and  
314 measured.

315

316 **Fig. 3 RhoA is essential for protrusion formation induced by Prom1.**

317 (A) The inhibitors targeting the small GTPases, as indicated, were treated before *Prom1-YFP* was  
318 transfected. Scale bar, 10  $\mu$ m. (B,C) Quantitative data for (A). The numbers (B) and lengths (C) of the  
319 protrusions were counted and measured, respectively. (D) The plasmid conveying *myc-tagged dominant-*  
320 *negative version of RhoA (dn-RhoA)* was co-transfected with *Prom1-FL*. Staining was performed with GFP  
321 (for Prom1), myc (for dn-RhoA) antibodies and phalloidin. (E) The plasmid conveying *myc-tagged*  
322 *constitutively-active version of RhoA (ca-RhoA)* was co-transfected with *Prom1-FL*. Staining was performed  
323 with GFP (for Prom1), myc (for dn-RhoA) antibodies and phalloidin. Enlarged images corresponding to the  
324 white squares are shown in the bottom three panels. (F) The plasmids conveying *GFP-rGBD* and *Prom1-*  
325 *mCherry* were co-transfected and time-lapse imaging was performed for 6 minutes at 24 hpt. Yellow  
326 arrowheads show the protruding membrane. Scale bar, Scale bar, 10  $\mu$ m (A, E), 20  $\mu$ m (D), 1  $\mu$ m (F).

327  
328 **Fig. 4 Prom1 modulates the chloride conductance upon intracellular calcium uptake.**

329 (A) The temporal change in fluorescein intensities of MQAE was measured. The wild-type and *Prom1*KO  
330 MEF cells were incubated with low-chloride Krebs's medium (see materials and methods) and the  
331 intracellular calcium uptake was provoked by adding 5  $\mu$ M of the calcium ionophore A23187 onto the  
332 medium (time 0). The temporal change of the fluorescein intensity was imaged at 1 min intervals up to 15  
333 min after the ionophore treatment under the confocal microscope. Representative images are presented.  
334 Scale bar, 10  $\mu$ m. (B) Quantitative data for (A). Eight cells were selected from each of wild-type and  
335 *Prom1*KO cells, and the fluorescein intensities at each time point were quantified. Data are represented as  
336 the mean values  $\pm$  s.e.m. (C) The expression plasmids conveying *Prom1-FL* or *Prom1- $\Delta$ KLAKY* were  
337 transfected into the *Prom1*KO MEF cells, and cells were incubated in the presence of MQAE. The  
338 transfected cells were identified by YFP expression, and the fluorescein intensities from each transfection  
339 were traced. (D) The chloride efflux is perturbed upon the treatment with Rho inhibitors Y27632 and C3.  
340 Wild-type MEF cells were treated with 20  $\mu$ M of Y-27632 or with 0.5  $\mu$ g/ml of C3 for 2 hours at the same  
341 time of the MQAE treatment and were subjected to the fluorescein measurement as in (B) and (C).

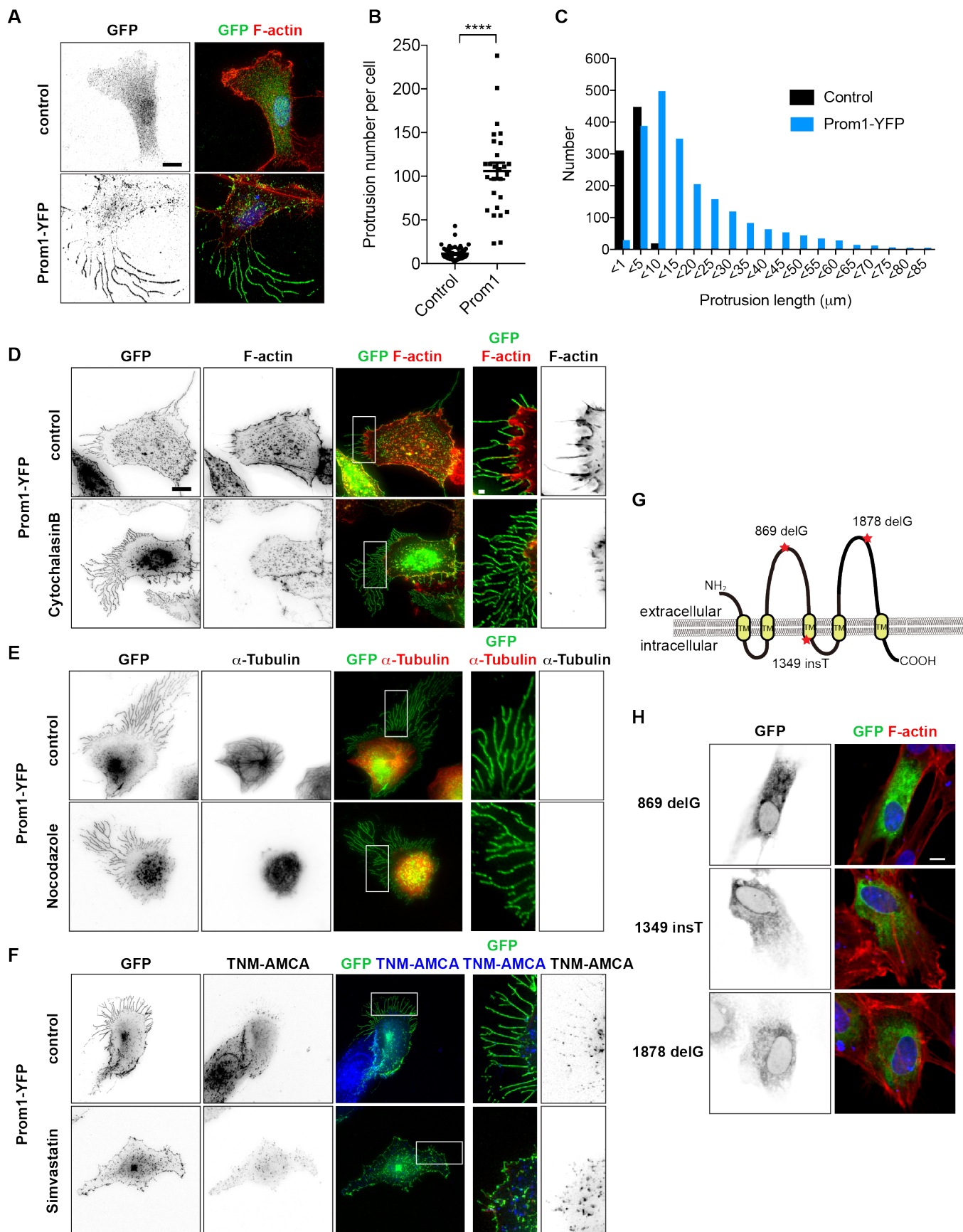
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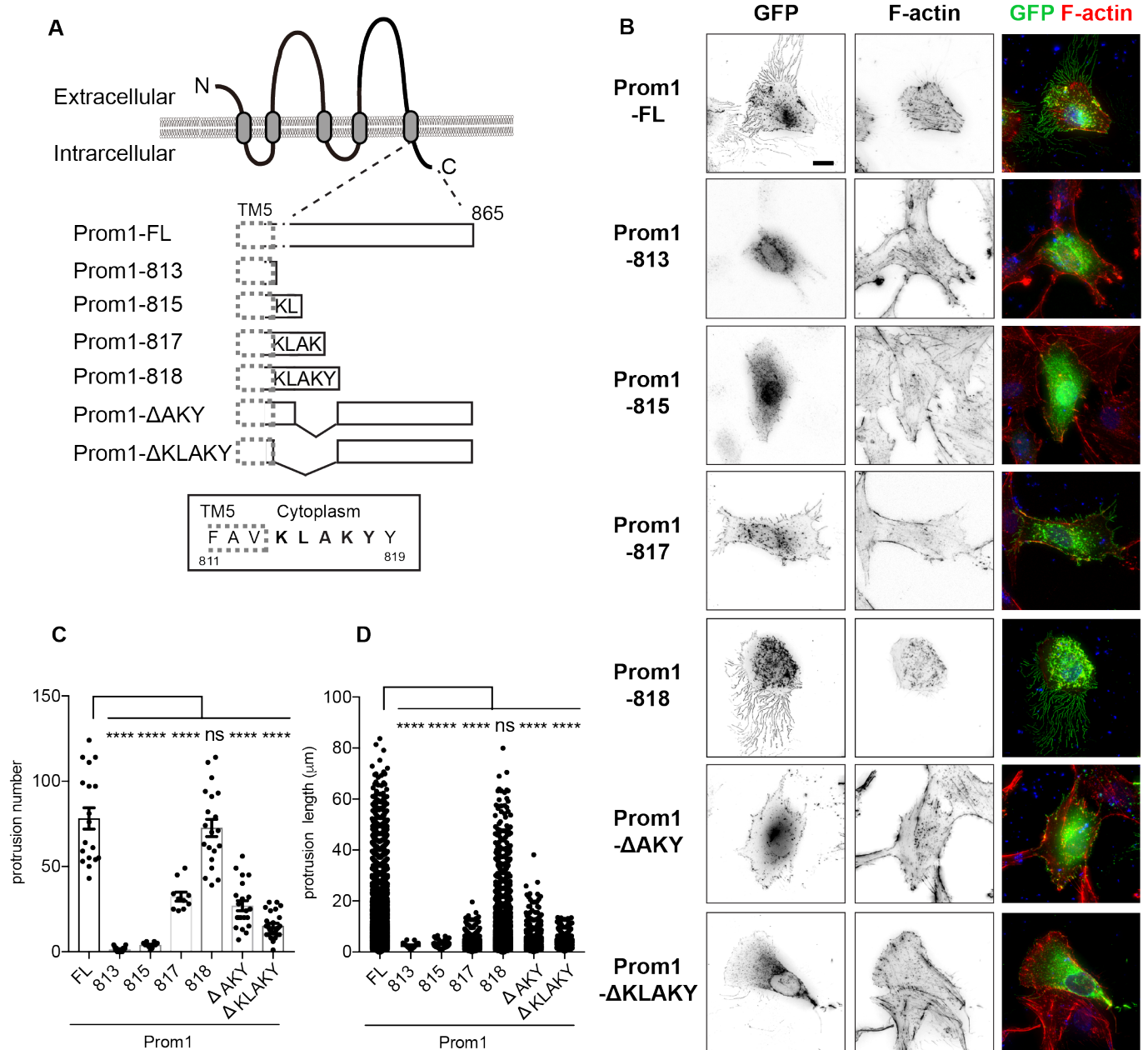
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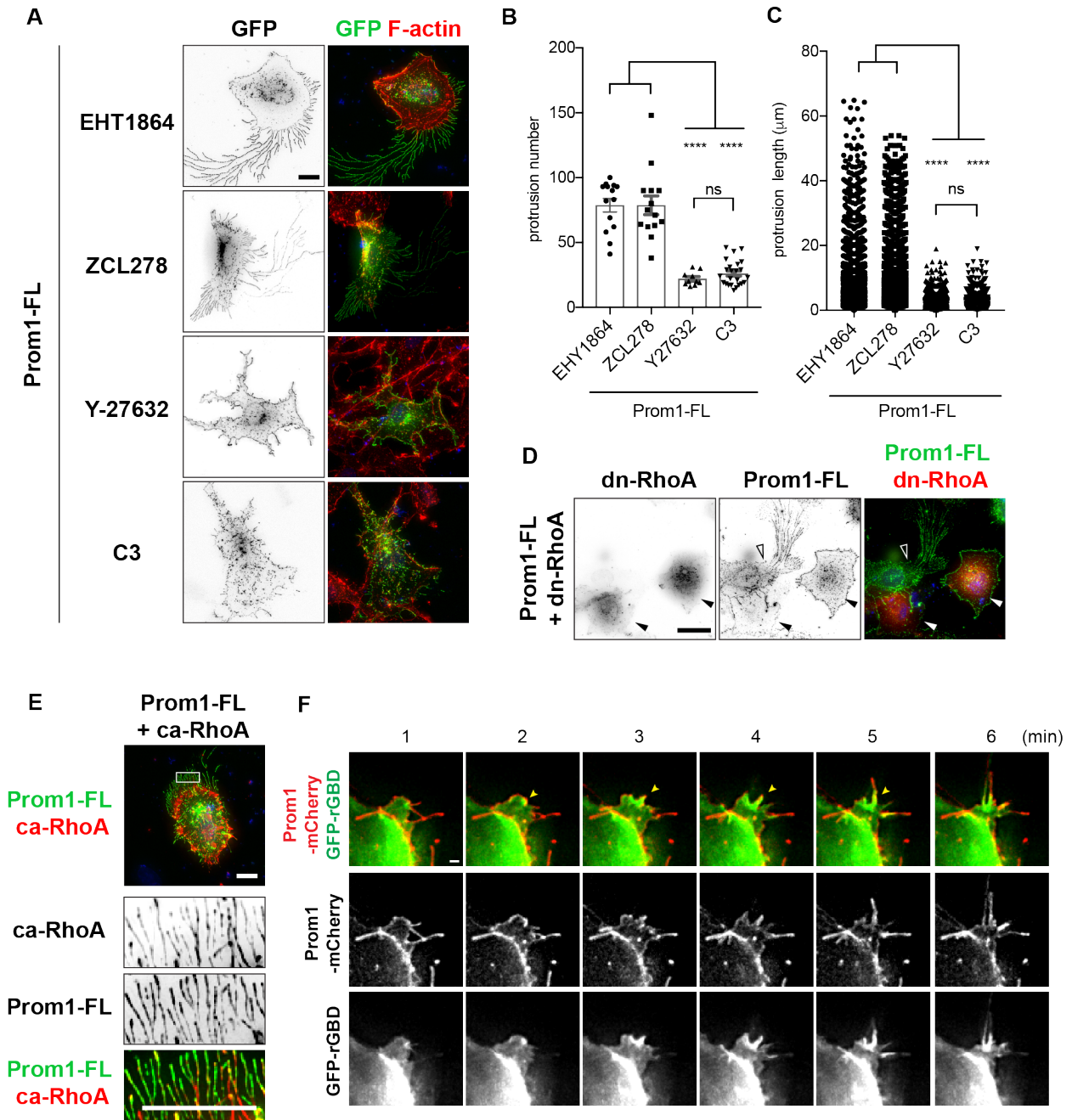


Hori et al., Figure 1

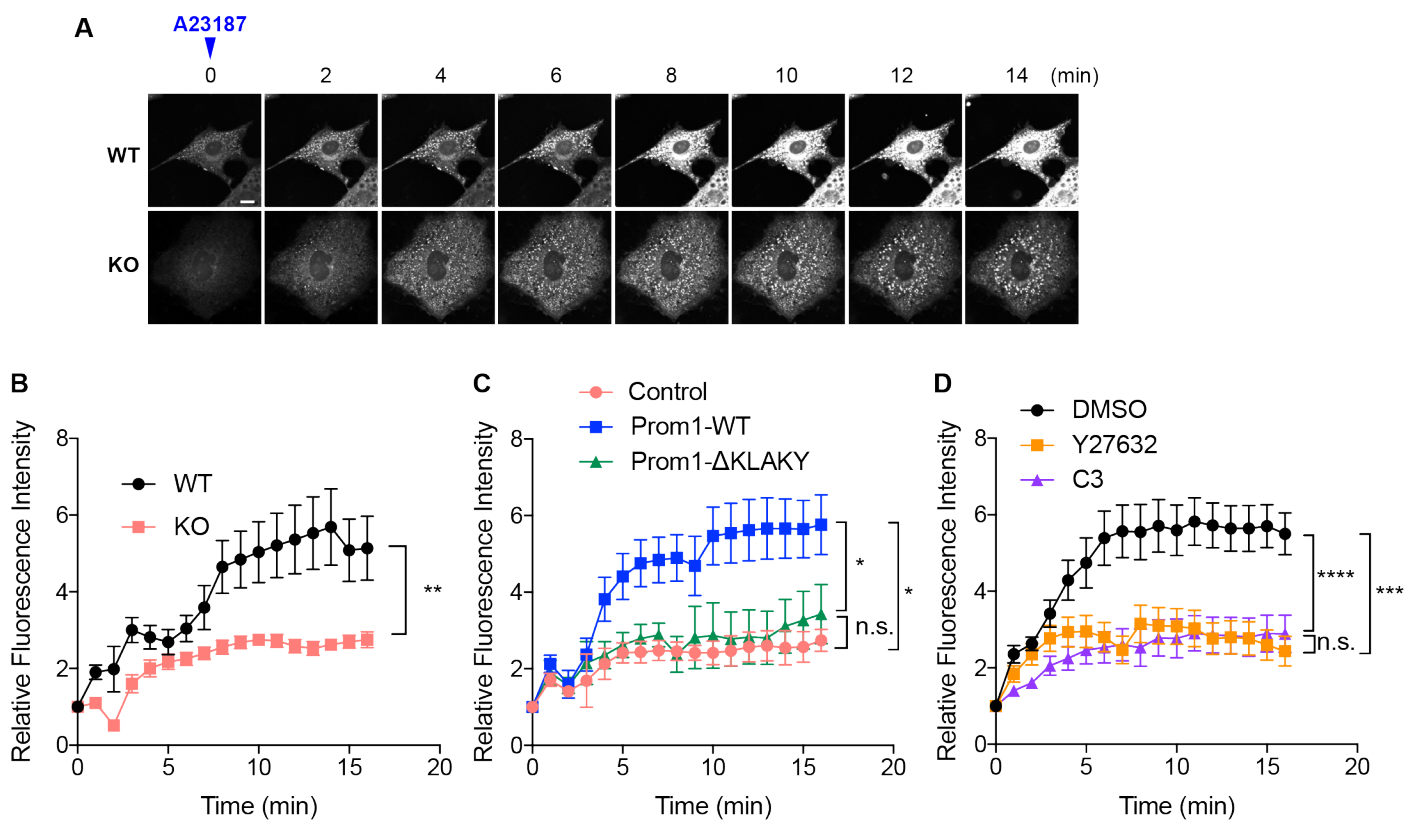


Hori et al., Figure 2





Hori et al., Figure 3



Hori et al., Figure 4