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Biochemical insight into novel Rab-GEF activity of the mammalian TRAPPIII complex

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22 **Abstract**

23 Transport Protein Particle complexes (TRAPP) are evolutionarily conserved
24 regulators of membrane trafficking, with this mediated by their guanine nucleotide
25 exchange factor (GEF) activity towards Rab GTPases. In metazoans evidence suggests
26 that two different TRAPP complexes exist, TRAPP^{II} and TRAPP^{III}. These two complexes
27 share a common core of subunits, with complex specific subunits (TRAPPC9 and
28 TRAPPC10 in TRAPP^{II} and TRAPPC8, TRAPPC11, TRAPPC12, TRAPPC13 in
29 TRAPP^{III}). TRAPP^{II} and TRAPP^{III} have distinct specificity for GEF activity towards Rabs,
30 with TRAPP^{III} acting on Rab1, and TRAPP^{II} acting on Rab1 and Rab11. The molecular
31 basis for how these complex specific subunits alter GEF activity towards Rab GTPases
32 is unknown. Here we have used a combination of biochemical assays, hydrogen
33 deuterium exchange mass spectrometry (HDX-MS) and electron microscopy to examine
34 the regulation of TRAPP^{II} and TRAPP^{III} complexes in solution and on membranes. GEF
35 assays revealed that the TRAPP^{III} has GEF activity against Rab1 and Rab43, with no
36 detectable activity against the other 18 Rabs tested. The TRAPP^{III} complex had
37 significant differences in protein dynamics at the Rab binding site compared to TRAPP^{II},
38 potentially indicating an important role of accessory subunits in altering the active site of
39 TRAPP complexes. Both the TRAPP^{II} and TRAPP^{III} complexes had enhanced GEF
40 activity on lipid membranes, with HDX-MS revealing numerous conformational changes
41 that accompany membrane association. HDX-MS also identified a membrane binding site
42 in TRAPPC8. Collectively, our results provide insight into the functions of TRAPP
43 complexes and how they can achieve Rab specificity.

44 **Introduction**

45 Membrane trafficking is an essential process in all eukaryotic cells and requires
46 tightly coordinated transport of cellular material to distinct intracellular organelles.
47 Numerous different proteins are involved in regulating this pathway but one of the most
48 important protein families involved are Rab GTPases. Rabs act as molecular switches
49 that cycle between GTP-bound active and GDP-bound inactive states. Rabs recruit
50 downstream effector molecules depending on their nucleotide binding state, including
51 molecular motors, and tethers which control membrane trafficking events. The activation
52 of Rabs is catalyzed by Guanine nucleotide exchange factors (GEFs) [1–3] which mediate
53 the exchange of GDP for GTP. Defining how Rabs are targeted by GEFs is important in
54 understanding their function in membrane trafficking. The Transport Protein Particle
55 (TRAPP) complexes are evolutionarily conserved in all eukaryotic cells, and are potent
56 Rab GEFs playing important roles in secretion, autophagy, and Golgi trafficking [4–9].

57 Metazoans are proposed to form two different TRAPP complexes: TRAPP^{II} and
58 TRAPP^{III}. TRAPP^{II} can activate Rab1, but it has been proposed that its main role is to
59 activate Rab11, therefore playing key roles in secretion from the Golgi [10–13]. TRAPP^{III}
60 does not have activity against Rab11, and instead is proposed to primarily mediate
61 activation of Rab1, an important regulator in ER-Golgi, intra-Golgi trafficking and
62 autophagy [11,14–16]. The mammalian TRAPP^{II} complex has additional activity on
63 Rab19 and Rab43 [10]. Rab19 and Rab43 are both Golgi-localised Rabs, with Rab43
64 being involved in mediating GPCR trafficking [17]. Defining the molecular mechanisms

65 that mediate GEF specificity of mammalian TRAPP complexes will be critical in
66 understanding their roles in membrane trafficking.

67 TRAPPI, TRAPPII and TRAPPIII all share seven conserved subunits that make up
68 the TRAPP “core” (TRAPPC1, TRAPPC2, TRAPPC2L, TRAPPC3A/B, TRAPPC4,
69 TRAPPC5, TRAPPC6A/B) [18]. Mammalian TRAPPII is composed of the core and two
70 additional complex specific subunits (TRAPPC9, TRAPPC10) with mammalian TRAPPIII
71 composed of the core and four additional complex specific subunits (TRAPPC8,
72 TRAPPC11, TRAPPC12, TRAPPC13) [11,19,20]. The importance of TRAPPIII as a Rab1
73 GEF is highlighted by TRAPPC8 and TRAPPC11 being essential for cell survival and
74 Rab1 activation [11,21]. Highlighting the critical role of TRAPP complexes in human
75 disease is that mutations or deletions in TRAPP specific subunits have been found to be
76 involved in several neurodevelopmental disorders collectively known as
77 “TRAPPopathies” [5,6,9].

78 Structural studies using X-ray crystallography and electron microscopy have
79 revealed the architecture of the conserved core of the TRAPP complexes and how they
80 associate with Rab GTPases (Fig. 1A) [18,22]. The structure of the yeast TRAPP core
81 complex bound to Ypt1 (Rab1 homolog) revealed the Rab binding interface which is
82 composed of TRAPPC1, TRAPPC3, and TRAPPC4 [18,22]. The cryo-electron
83 microscopy (cryo-EM) structure of the yeast TRAPPIII complex revealed the interactions
84 of the core with TRAPPC8, with an additional interaction of TRAPPC5 with the hyper-
85 variable tail (HVT) of Ypt1 (Rab1 homolog) [23]. The cryo-EM structure of the Drosophila
86 TRAPPIII complex bound to Rab1 shows how the additional TRAPPIII complex specific

87 subunits are arranged in relation to the core, with a novel interaction between TRAPPC8
88 and Rab1 [24]. Despite these insights into the assembly of TRAPPIII complexes, it is still
89 not understood how the TRAPPIII complex specific subunits change the way the
90 conserved subunits interact with Rab substrates, and how substrate selectivity is
91 controlled.

92 Here we have carried out biochemical and biophysical analysis of the mammalian
93 TRAPPIII complex using a combination of in-vitro GEF assays, electron microscopy, and
94 hydrogen deuterium exchange mass spectrometry (HDX-MS). We have purified both
95 mammalian TRAPP2 (composed of TRAPPC1, TRAPPC2, TRAPPC2L, TRAPPC3,
96 TRAPPC4, TRAPPC5, TRAPPC6A, TRAPPC9, TRAPPC10) and TRAPPIII (composed
97 of TRAPPC1, TRAPPC2, TRAPPC2L, TRAPPC3, TRAPPC4, TRAPPC5, TRAPPC6A,
98 TRAPPC8, TRAPPC11, TRAPPC12, TRAPPC13). Single-particle electron microscopy
99 analysis of the purified TRAPPIII revealed an overall architecture resembling that of
100 TRAPPIII isolated from *Drosophila*. We characterised TRAPPIII GEF activity against 20
101 different Rab GTPases both in solution and on membranes. We found TRAPPIII mediated
102 GEF activity for Rab1 and Rab43, but no activity towards other any other Rab GTPases
103 tested. HDX-MS comparing the TRAPP2 and TRAPPIII complexes showed extensive
104 differences at the Rab binding site, revealing a potential role of complex specific subunits
105 in reshaping the GEF catalytic site. GEF activity of both TRAPP2 and TRAPPIII was
106 enhanced on membranes, with HDX-MS revealing extensive conformational changes
107 upon membrane binding and identifying a conserved membrane binding site in the
108 TRAPPIII specific subunit TRAPPC8. Overall, this work provides unique insight into the

109 architecture and dynamics of TRAPP complexes, and the mechanisms by which their
110 GEF activity is regulated.

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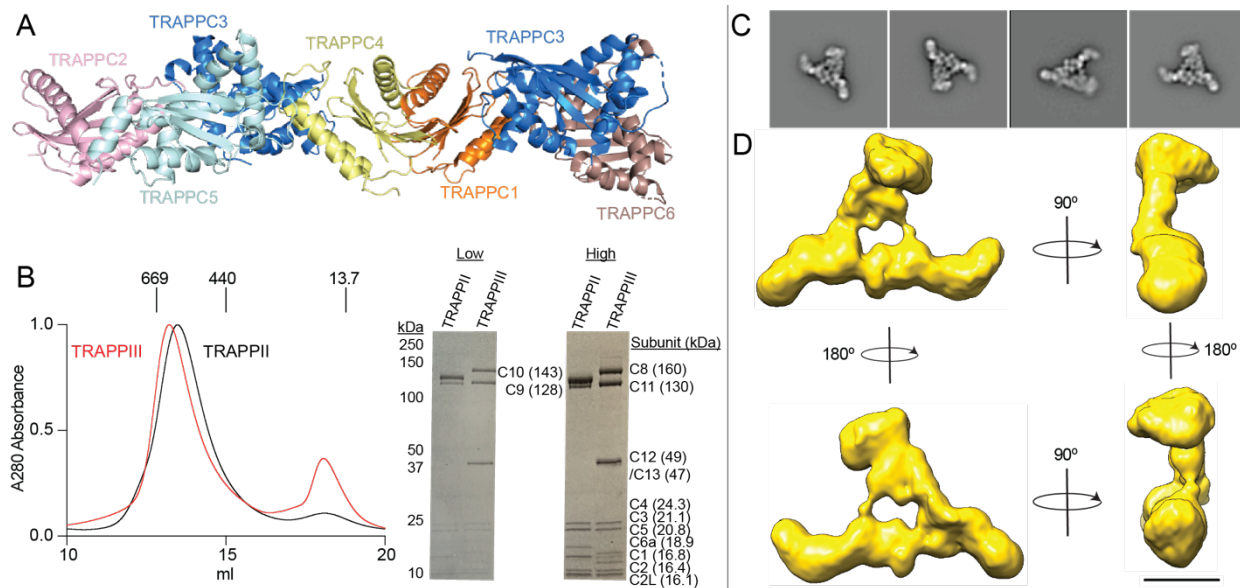
112 **Results**

113 ***Purification and architecture of the mammalian TRAPPIII complex***

114 We recombinantly purified TRAPP^{II} and TRAPP^{III} using a similar approach to our
115 previous work on TRAPP^{II} [10]. TRAPP^{II} and TRAPP^{III} complexes were generated using
116 the biGBac multi-promoter system [25] in *Sf9* insect cells and protein purification was
117 carried out using HisTrap and StrepTrap affinity columns followed by gel filtration (Fig.
118 1B). The details outlining the specific plasmids and TRAPP subunit boundaries used can
119 be found in Table S1. TRAPP^{III} eluted at a size consistent with one copy of all subunits
120 (exception being two copies of TRAPPC3) on size exclusion chromatography. Tandem
121 mass spectrometry (MS/MS) analysis of the purified TRAPP^{II} and TRAPP^{III} complexes
122 identified peptides covering all expressed subunits.

123 To investigate the architecture of the mammalian TRAPP^{III} complex we subjected
124 purified mammalian TRAPP^{III} to negative stain single particle electron microscopy (EM)
125 analysis (Fig. 1C-D, Fig. S1). Raw images revealed triangular-shaped particles similar to
126 *Drosophila* TRAPP^{III} [24] but distinct from the smaller-sized yeast TRAPP^{III} [23]. Two-
127 dimensional (2D) analysis and 3D reconstruction revealed mammalian TRAPP^{III} is
128 composed of an elongated rod-like region reminiscent of the TRAPP core (TRAPPC1,
129 TRAPPC2, TRAPPC3A/B, TRAPPC4, TRAPPC5, TRAPPC6A), two “arms” capping the
130 ends of the putative TRAPP core, and a peripheral region extending from the core (Fig.

131 1D). The ultrastructure of mammalian TRAPPIII is consistent with the cryo-EM structure
132 of *Drosophila* TRAPPIII which identified a triangular-shaped complex with a similar rod-
133 like TRAPP core that contains TRAPPC8 and TRAPPC11 “arms” on either end of the
134 core with a peripheral TRAPPC12/C13 region extending from this core region. This
135 suggests a highly conserved architecture between TRAPPIII complexes in metazoans.
136



137 **Figure1. Purification and Architecture of the mammalian TRAPPIII complex**

138 **A.** Model of the mammalian TRAPP conserved subunits. The model was generated
139 through a combination of the following structures (PDB: 2J3T, 2J3W, and 3CUE) Phyre2
140 was used to generate structures of mammalian TRAPP subunits with no solved crystal
141 structure [26].

142 **B.** left: Size Exclusion Chromatography (SEC) trace of TRAPPII and TRAPPIII on a
143 Superose 6 gel filtration column with molecular weight markers indicated in kDa.
144 Absorbance is normalized to max absorbance. Right: SDS-PAGE gel of purified

145 mammalian TRAPP^{II} and TRAPP^{III} complex. Protein composition is shown on the right.

146 High and low labels refer to protein amount loaded (high=3.6 μg and low= 1.4 μg).

147 **C.** Representative 2D negative stain electron microscopy class averages of the TRAPP^{III}

148 complex. Box edge length is 670 Å.

149 **D.** 3D EM reconstruction of TRAPP^{III} with different orientations of the complex. Scale bar

150 represents 100 Å.

151

152 ***Determination of mammalian TRAPP^{III} Rab Specificity***

153 To examine the specificity of the GEF activity of the mammalian TRAPP^{III} complex

154 we tested 20 different Rab GTPases. We focused on Rab GTPases that are evolutionarily

155 similar to Rab1 and Rab11, to identify possibly overlooked Rabs. GEF assays were

156 carried out using Rabs preloaded with the fluorescent GDP analog 3-(N-methyl-

157 anthraniloyl)-2-deoxy-GDP (Mant-GDP) and nucleotide exchange was determined as a

158 function of TRAPP concentration. Rab GTPases were designed with a C-terminal his tag

159 which allowed for GEF activity to be measured in the presence of NINTA containing

160 synthetic membranes.

161 In solution, the TRAPP^{III} complex had GEF activity on Rab1 with a catalytic

162 efficiency of $\sim 1.7 \times 10^3 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$ which is similar to the catalytic efficiency that we previously

163 determined for TRAPP^{II} on Rab1 ($2.9 \times 10^3 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$) and consistent with TRAPP^{III}'s role as

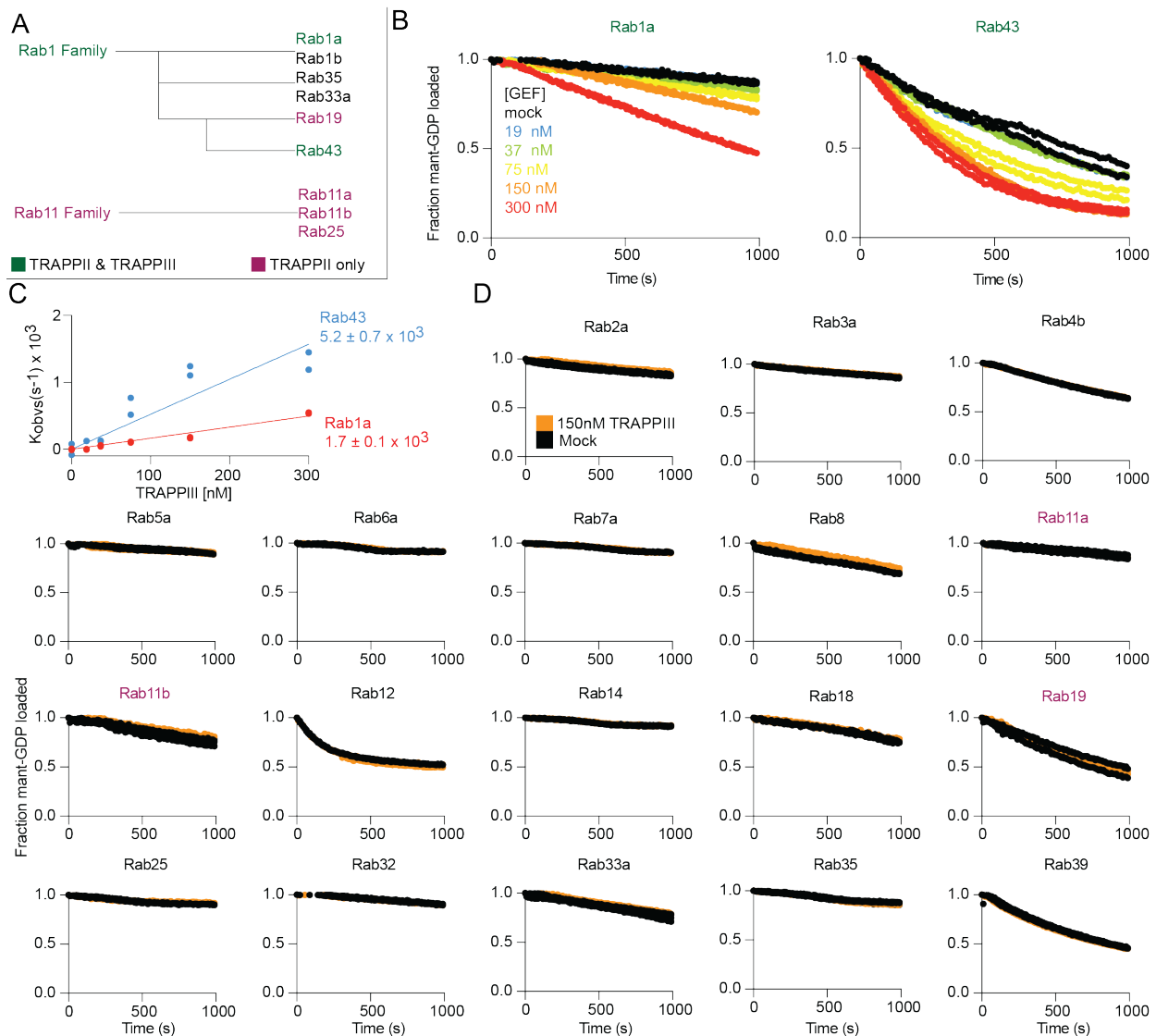
164 a Rab1 GEF [11,14] (Fig. 2C). Similar to TRAPP^{II}, we found TRAPP^{III} mediated activity

165 towards Rab43. TRAPP^{III} showed increased catalytic efficiency for Rab43 compared to

166 Rab1 ($5.2 \times 10^3 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$ vs $1.7 \times 10^3 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$, respectively) which was a similar trend to what

167 was observed with the mammalian TRAPP2 complex (Fig. 2C) [10]. There was no
168 detectable TRAPP3 mediated GEF activity for any other Rab GTPase tested including
169 Rab11a, Rab11b, or Rab19 which are substrates for mammalian TRAPP2 (Fig. 2D). This
170 is consistent with TRAPP3 having GEF activity for Rab1 but not Rab11 in both
171 metazoans and yeast [11,27]. The lack of GEF activity for TRAPP3 with Rab19 was
172 striking because Rab43 and Rab19 are very evolutionarily similar to each other, only
173 diverging in vertebrates with TRAPP2 being able to activate both Rab19 and Rab43. A
174 conserved alignment of these GTPases is shown in supplemental figure 2.
175 Collectively, our *in-vitro* analysis of TRAPP3 shows that TRAPP3 is a specific GEF for
176 Rab1a and Rab43 in solution and reveals insight into an unexpected difference in GEF
177 activity between TRAPP2 and TRAPP3 towards Rab19. There is no clear sequence
178 relationship explaining the selectivity of why TRAPP2, but not TRAPP3, is active on
179 Rab19/Rab11 (Fig. S2), presenting a need for further high resolution structural studies to
180 help define this.

181



182

183 **Figure 2. Biochemical analysis of the mammalian TRAPPIII complex against a panel**
 184 **of different Rab GTPases.**

185 **A.** A simplified Rab evolutionary schematic (based on [28]) . Rabs are colored according
 186 to their TRAPPII and TRAPPIII GEF activity.

187 **B.** In-vitro GEF assay of TRAPPIII on Rab1a and Rab43. Nucleotide exchange was
 188 monitored by measuring the fluorescent signal during the TRAPPIII (19nM-300nM)

189 catalyzed release of Mant-GDP from 4 μ M of Rab-His6 in the presence of 100 μ M
190 GTP γ S. Each concentration was conducted in duplicate (n=2).

191 **C.** Nucleotide exchange rates of Rab1 and Rab43 plotted as a function of TRAPPIII
192 concentration (n=2).

193 **D.** In vitro GEF assay of TRAPPIII on the panel of Rab GTPases. 4 μ M Rab was loaded
194 with Mant-GDP in the presence of 150nM TRAPPIII. Each concentration was either
195 conducted in duplicate or triplicate (n=3 for Rab11a, Rab11b, Rab18, Rab19, Rab33,
196 Rab35, n=2 for the others).

197

198 ***Determining conformational differences upon Rab1 binding to mammalian***

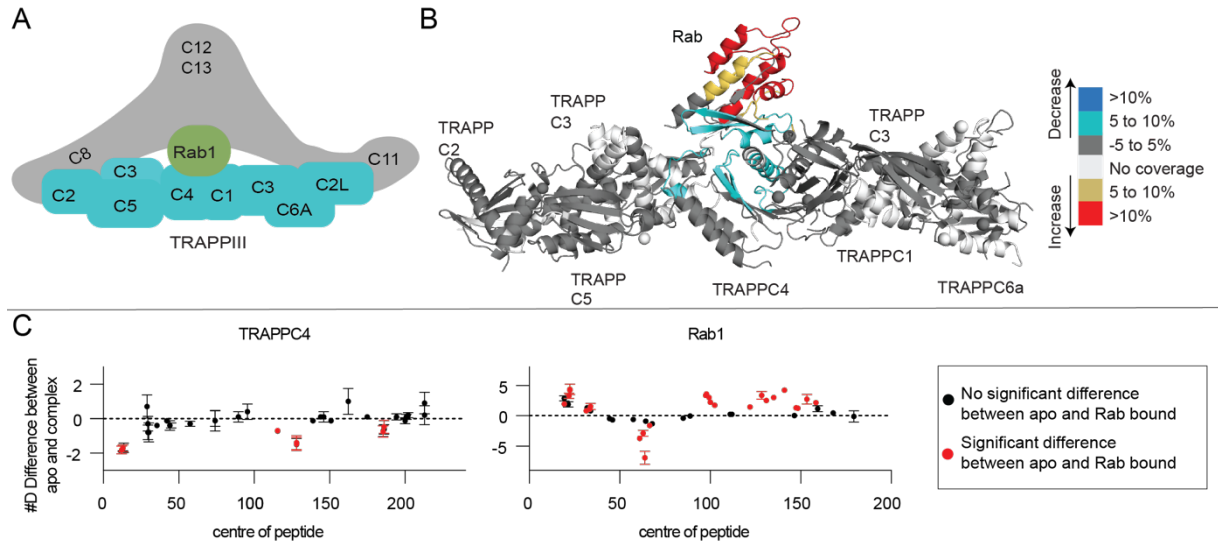
199 ***TRAPPIII***

200 We carried out HDX-MS experiments of TRAPPIII binding to Rab1 to understand
201 the molecular basis for how TRAPPIII binds to and activates Rab1. HDX-MS measures
202 the exchange rate of amide hydrogens in solution, with the rate being primarily
203 determined by stability of secondary structure. It is a powerful tool to measure protein
204 conformational dynamics. Deuterium incorporation in HDX-MS requires the generation of
205 pepsin peptide fragments spanning the entire complex. We obtained peptide maps
206 spanning 69-97% of the entire complex (**Core**: TRAPPC1, TRAPPC2, TRAPPC2L,
207 TRAPPC3, TRAPPC4, TRAPPC5, TRAPPC6A; **TRAPPII specific**: TRAPPC9,
208 TRAPPC10; **TRAPPIII specific**: TRAPPC8, TRAPPC11, TRAPPC12, TRAPPC13), with
209 specific coverage values listed in Table S2-S4. Significant differences in exchange

210 between conditions were defined as differences at any timepoint fitting the following three
211 criteria (>5%, >0.5 Da, and two tailed T-test p value <0.01).

212 HDX-MS experiments were performed in the presence of EDTA to generate a
213 nucleotide free stabilised Rab-GEF complex. Experiments were carried out under three
214 conditions: EDTA treated Rab, TRAPPIII alone, and TRAPPIII bound to Rab1. We
215 observed decreased exchange upon formation of the Rab-TRAPPIII complex in
216 TRAPPC4 (5-19, 112-136, 180-191) and Rab1a (49-79) (Fig. 3B+C). There were multiple
217 regions with increased exchange in Rab1a (12-40, 91-108, 116-165), likely driven by GEF
218 mediated nucleotide loss. The full HDX-MS data for all subunits and Rab1a is outlined in
219 the source data. Decreases in exchange in TRAPPC4 (180-191) mapped onto the
220 putative Rab binding site consistent with this peptide being protected when Rab was
221 incubated with TRAPP II [10]. Decreases in exchange in Rab1 were observed in the
222 interswitch and switch III regions upon binding the complex (49-79) (Fig. 3B+C). Rab1 was
223 also destabilized in the nucleotide binding pocket as would be expected with the loss of
224 nucleotide upon binding its GEF. No other significant changes were observed in the
225 TRAPPIII complex upon Rab binding. These results suggest that both mammalian
226 TRAPP II and TRAPPIII complexes are binding Rabs at a similar interface.

227



228

229 **Figure 3. Defining the Rab binding site in the mammalian TRAPPIII complex**

230 **A.** Cartoon schematic highlighting TRAPPIII with bound Rab GTPase.

231 **B.** Significant differences in HDX observed across all time points when Rab1 was
232 incubated with TRAPPIII are mapped onto the predicted model of the TRAPP core.
233 Regions with differences are coloured according to the legend.

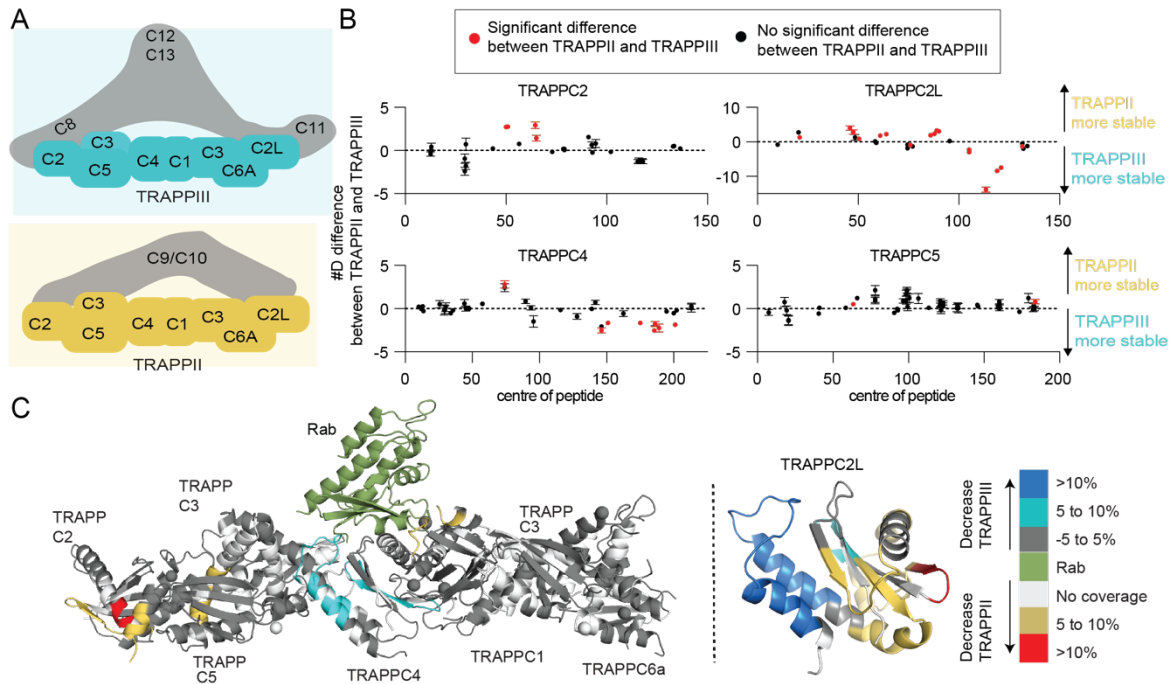
234 **C.** The number of deuterium differences for all analysed peptides over the entire deuterium
235 exchange time course for TRAPPIII in the presence of Rab1 (n=3). Only subunits with
236 significant differences (defined as >5%, >0.5 Da, two tailed T-test p value <0.01), are
237 shown. Every point represents the central residue of an individual peptide with significant
238 differences being indicated by points colored red.

239

240

241 ***Dynamic differences exist at the Rab binding site of the core subunits in the***
242 ***mammalian TRAPPII and TRAPPIII complexes***

243 We carried out hydrogen deuterium exchange mass spectrometry (HDX-MS)
244 experiments comparing TRAPP^{II} vs TRAPP^{III} to understand any conformational
245 differences that occur in the core between the two complexes. H/D exchange differences
246 between TRAPP^{II} and TRAPP^{III} can be analyzed only in the shared core components.
247 Multiple different subunits had significant differences in deuterium exchange. TRAPP^{III}
248 was more protected than TRAPP^{II} in TRAPPC2L (72-80, 100-135), and TRAPPC4 (137-
249 155, 170-204) (Fig 4B). TRAPP^{II} was more protected than TRAPP^{III} in TRAPPC2 (47-
250 53, 59-70), TRAPPC2L (17-25, 37-66, 81-99), TRAPPC4 (65-83) and TRAPPC5 (58-69,
251 180-188) (Fig 4B). The full HDX-MS data for all subunits is summarized in the source
252 data. The TRAPP^{III} complex was more protected than TRAPP^{II} at the canonical Rab
253 interface in TRAPPC4 (170-204). This region in TRAPPC4 would likely be in contact with
254 the N and C termini of the Rab substrate (Fig 4C). Intriguingly, this is in the same region
255 that was protected in TRAPPC4 (181-191) with Rab1a (Fig 3C). The large protections
256 observed in the TRAPPC2L subunit are likely due to interactions with TRAPP^{III} specific
257 subunits which is consistent with cryo-EM data showing TRAPPC2L being at the interface
258 with TRAPPC11 in the *Drosophila* TRAPP^{III} complex [24]. Regions of TRAPPC2 were
259 more protected in the TRAPP^{II} complex, which is unexpected since this is the putative
260 binding interface for the TRAPP^{III} specific subunit TRAPPC8. Together these data
261 suggest that TRAPP^{II} and TRAPP^{III} have dynamic differences in their core subunits that
262 are involved in Rab binding, which may be playing a role in mediating Rab specificity.



263

264

265 **Figure 4. Comparative HDX-MS reveals dynamic differences within the core of**
 266 **TRAPPIII compared to TRAPPII**

267 **A.** Cartoon schematic highlighting protections or destabilisations in TRAPPII and
 268 TRAPPIII.

269 **B.** The number of deuterium differences for all analysed peptides over the entire deuterium
 270 exchange time course for TRAPPIII compared to TRAPPII (n=3). Red points indicate
 271 peptides with significant differences (defined as >5%, >0.5 Da, two tailed T-test p value
 272 <0.01) in HDX. Only subunits with significant differences between complexes are shown.

273 The full H/D exchange data is summarized in the source data. Increases in the number
 274 of deuterons indicates a stabilization in TRAPPII while a decrease in the number of
 275 deuterons indicates a stabilization in TRAPPIII. Every point represents the central residue
 276 of an individual peptide.

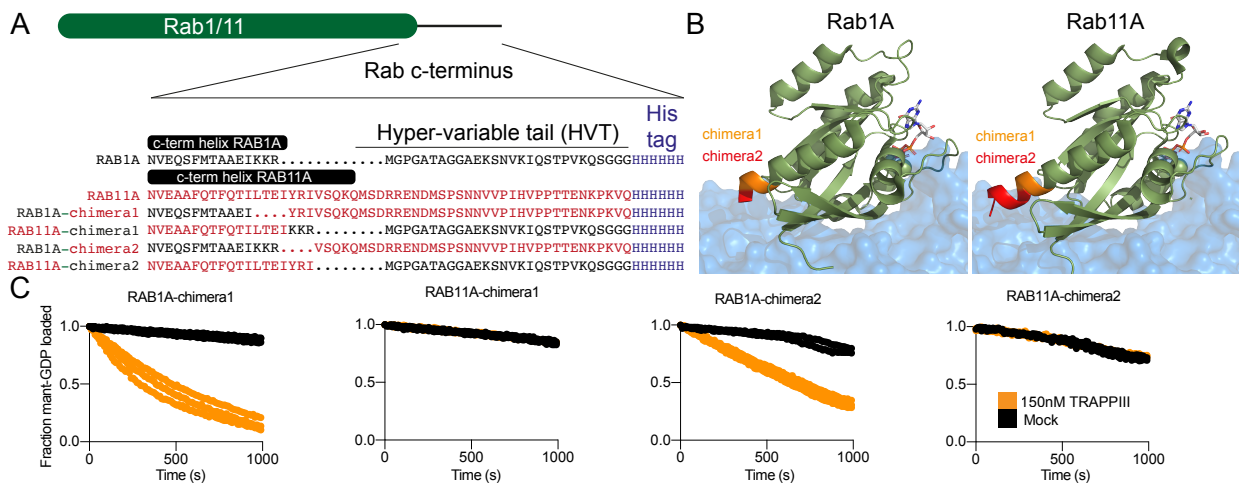
277 **C.** Significant differences in HDX between the TRAPP complexes are mapped on to the
278 core and TRAPPC2L model, with Rab shown to illustrate the binding interface. Increases
279 in exchange are regions that are more stable in TRAPP^{II}, with decreases in exchange
280 representing regions that are more stable in TRAPP^{III}. Regions with differences are
281 coloured according to the legend. The exact molecular details for how TRAPPC2L
282 associate with the core is unknown, however, it is proposed to bind TRAPPC6, and is
283 positioned on this side of the complex [24].

284

285 ***The C-terminus of Rab GTPases is not the sole determinant of selectivity for***
286 ***mammalian TRAPP complexes***

287 The conformational differences observed in the TRAPPC4 subunit between
288 TRAPP^{II} and TRAPP^{III} at a region that interacts with the N-terminus and C-terminus of
289 Rab substrates led us to investigate the potential role of the Rab C-terminus in controlling
290 substrate specificity. We generated two chimeras of both Rab1 and Rab11 where we
291 replaced part of the C-terminal helix and the entire hyper-variable tail (Fig. 5A+B). We
292 conducted GEF assays using TRAPP^{III} against the four different constructs and found
293 that changing the C-terminus of Rabs did not alter the substrate specificity, with no activity
294 at all against Rab11 with different C-termini, and slightly increased activity with toward
295 Rab1A with the chimeric Rab11A C-termini (Fig. 5C). The hyper-variable tail of Rabs play
296 an essential role in controlling Rab selectivity in the yeast TRAPP^{II} and TRAPP^{III}
297 complexes, with this mediated by a steric gating mechanism [27]. The chimera data with
298 mammalian TRAPP complexes reveals that there is some determinant of Rab selectivity

299 that is independent of the C-termini and may be driven either by conformational changes
 300 in the Rab binding site, or additional interactions between the TRAPP^{II} or TRAPP^{III}
 301 specific subunits and the substrate Rabs.
 302



303
 304 **Figure 5. The C-terminus of Rab1A and Rab11 is not the major determinant of Rab**
 305 **selectivity for mammalian TRAPP^{III}**

306 **A.** Alignment of the C-terminus of Rab1A and Rab11A, covering the C-terminal helix of
 307 the Nucleotide binding domain, and the hyper-variable tail. The lipidated cysteine residue
 308 is replaced by a his-tag, to allow for Ni-NTA mediated coupling to membranes. Chimeras
 309 of Rab1 and Rab11 were generated replacing the C-terminus of Rabs as indicated by the
 310 sequence alignment. Rab1A sequence is in black, with the Rab11A sequence in red.

311 **B.** Structures of Rab1A (pdb: 3tkl) [29] and Rab11A (pdb: 6djl) [30] with the approximate
 312 position of the TRAPP core as described in Cai et al (pdb: 3cue) [22] The colors indicate
 313 the locations where the sequence is swapped for the two chimeras.

314 **C.** In vitro GEF assay of TRAPP^{III} against Rab1a and Rab11a c-terminal chimeras. 4 μ M
 315 Rab was loaded with Mant-GDP in the presence of 150 nM TRAPP^{III}. Control

316 experiments without GEF present were conducted in duplicate for Rab1A and
317 Rab11A chimera1 (n=2), all other concentrations and controls for all other experiments
318 were done in triplicate (n=3).

319

320 ***Membrane binding enhances GEF activity of TRAPP_{II} and TRAPP_{III}, and leads to***
321 ***extensive conformational changes***

322 To investigate the role that membranes play in altering TRAPP_{II} and TRAPP_{III} Rab
323 activity we compared TRAPP_{II} and TRAPP_{III} mediated GEF activity of Rab1 on extruded
324 liposomes and conducted HDX-MS experiments examining conformational changes that
325 occur upon membrane binding for both TRAPP_{II} and TRAPP_{III}. We tested TRAPP_{II}'s and
326 TRAPP_{III}'s ability to activate Rab1a on synthetic membranes, with both having enhanced
327 GEF activity. The TRAPP_{III} complex was more active than TRAPP_{II} with membrane
328 localised Rab1a ($43.2 \times 10^3 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$ vs $8.8 \times 10^3 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$ respectively, Fig. 6A+B). This is
329 consistent with TRAPP_{III} being the primary activator of Rab1 *in-vivo* and further validates
330 that TRAPP complexes are more efficient GEFs when their substrates are presented on
331 a membrane surface.

332 Increased GEF activity on membrane surfaces could be mediated by a multitude
333 of mechanisms. Activity could be enhanced by increased local concentration of GEF and
334 substrate on membranes, and/or conformational changes in the TRAPP complex may
335 occur upon membrane binding. We compared differences in HDX-MS upon membrane
336 binding for both TRAPP_{II} and TRAPP_{III} (Fig. 6D+E). Liposomes were composed of 45%

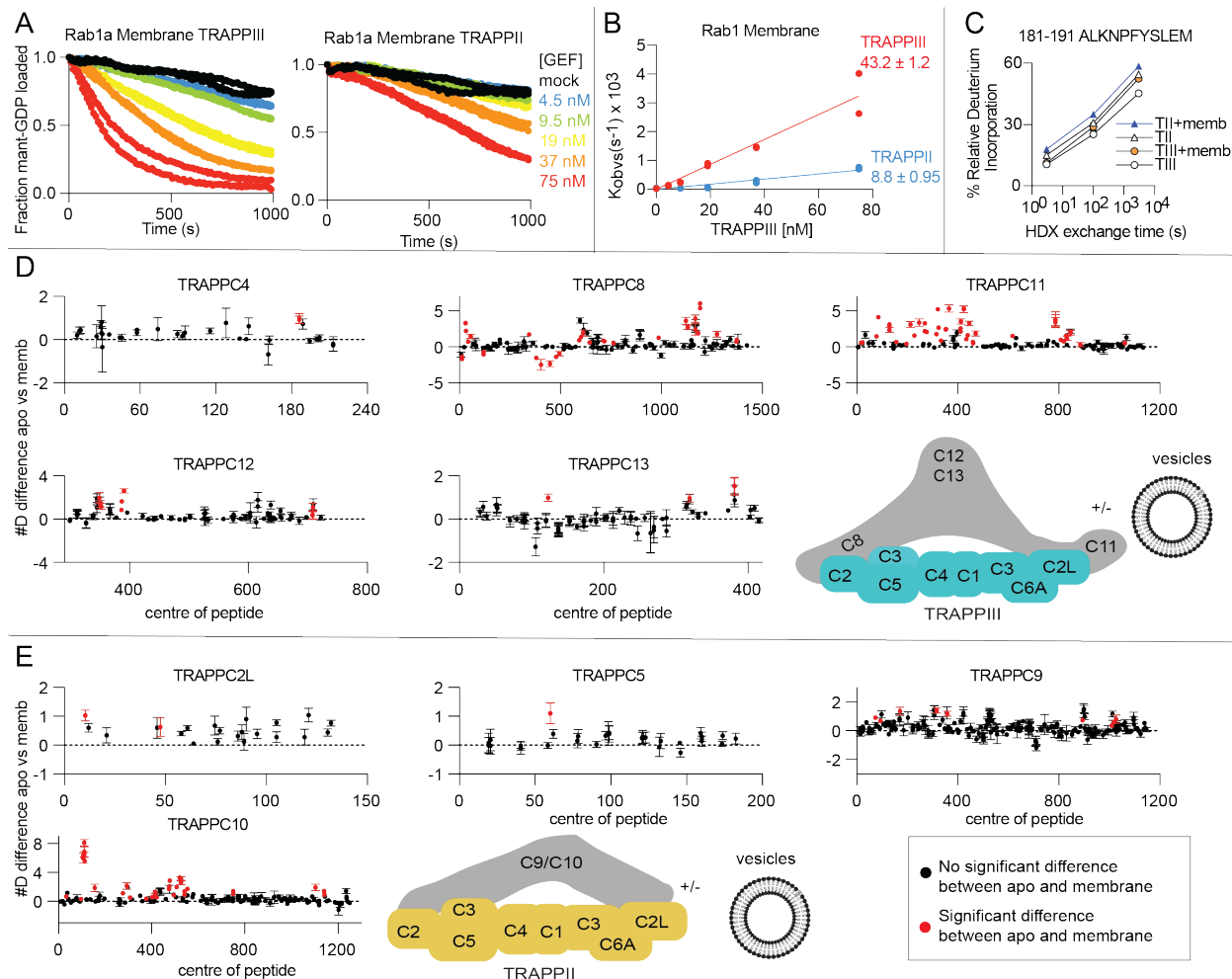
337 PC, 10% PI, 15% PE, 10% PS, 10% DGS NTA, 10% PI(4)P, mimicking the composition
338 of the trans Golgi network (TGN).

339 Numerous differences were observed in multiple subunits of both TRAPP_{II} and
340 TRAPP_{III} in the presence of liposomes (Fig. 6D+E). There was decreased exchange in
341 TRAPP_{III} in TRAPPC8 (5-21, 115-126, 376-421, 440-457, 471-487, 492-498) and
342 increased exchange was observed in TRAPPC4 (181-191), TRAPPC8 (24-62, 340-350,
343 588-620, 643-647, 710-720, 759-767, 981-992, 1105-1139, 1159-1198, 1266-1284,
344 1369-1380), TRAPPC11 (13-25, 74-96, 120-139, 152-161, 193-259, 266-281, 312-338,
345 349-373, 405-477, 612-621, 773-852, 882-889, 1056-1066), TRAPPC12 (341-358, 382-
346 399, 701-716), and TRAPPC13 (119-127, 311-327, 375-387).

347 We observed increased exchange in TRAPP_{II} upon membrane binding in
348 TRAPPC2L (8-16, 56-66), TRAPPC5 (51-69), TRAPPC9 (68-80, 87-99, 160-180, 311-
349 322, 352-363, 890-896, 1006-1033) and TRAPPC10 (30-37, 95-124, 149-162, 272-310,
350 374-381, 397-423, 469-487, 489-562, 740-760, 1093-1112, 1133-1147). The full list of
351 HDX-MS data for all subunits is compiled in the source data. The decreased exchange
352 observed in TRAPPC8 upon membrane binding (5-21, 115-126, 376-421, 440-457, 471-
353 487, 492-498) could be contact sites between TRAPPC8 and membrane or interactions
354 between TRAPPC8 and different subunits that are enhanced in the presence of
355 membranes. The protection in TRAPPC8 (376-421) in the presence of liposomes is
356 consistent with a conserved amphipathic helix present in the yeast TRAPPC8 homolog
357 trs85 (368-409) that was found to be important for membrane binding [23]. This region is

358 highly conserved (Fig. S3) and reveals a key role of TRAPPC8 in driving membrane
 359 binding of TRAPPIII.

360 Increased exchange was observed in the TRAPPIII complex specific subunits
 361 (TRAPPC8, TRAPPC11, TRAPPC12, TRAPPC13), and the TRAPPII complex specific
 362 subunits (TRAPPC9, TRAPPC10) as well as in the core subunits TRAPPC2L, TRAPPC4,
 363 and TRAPPC5 suggesting that large conformational changes occur upon membrane
 364 binding. The increased exchange in the core subunits of TRAPPIII (TRAPPC4) include
 365 regions that span the Rab binding site (TRAPPC4 181-191) and reveal a possible
 366 conformational driven mechanism of activation of TRAPP GEF activity on membranes.



367

368 **Figure 6. Membrane binding increases GEF activity of both TRAPP^{II} and TRAPP^{III},**
369 **and leads to large scale conformational changes**

370 **A.** In vitro GEF assay of TRAPP^{III} and TRAPP^{II} at various concentrations (4.5nM – 75nM)
371 against Rab1a (4 μ M) in the presence or absence of 150 nm extruded liposomes at
372 0.2mg/ml (45% PC, 10% PI, 15% PE, 10% PS, 10% DGS NTA, 10% PI(4)P, n=2).

373 **B.** Nucleotide exchange rates of Rab1 plotted as a function of TRAPP concentration
374 (n=2)

375 **C.** Changes in percent deuterium exchange of the TRAPPC4 peptide 181-191 for
376 TRAPP^{III} (T^{III}) with and without membrane and TRAPP^{II} (T^{II}) with and without
377 membrane.

378 **D.** The number of deuterium difference for all analysed peptides over the entire deuterium
379 exchange time course for TRAPP^{III} in the presence and absence of 150 nm extruded
380 liposomes (45% PC, 10% PI, 15% PE, 10% PS, 10% DGS NTA, 10% PI(4)P) (n=3). Only
381 subunits with significant differences are shown (defined as >5%, >0.5 Da, two tailed T-
382 test p value <0.01). Every point represents the central residue of an individual peptide
383 with significant differences indicated in red.

384 **E.** The number of deuterium difference for all analysed peptides over the entire deuterium
385 exchange time course for TRAPP^{II} in the presence and absence of 150 nm extruded
386 liposomes (45% PC, 10% PI, 15% PE, 10% PS, 10% DGS NTA, 10% PI(4)P) (n=3). Only
387 subunits with significant differences are shown (defined as >5%, >0.5Da, two tailed T-test
388 p value <0.01). Every point represents the central residue of an individual peptide with
389 significant differences indicated in red.

390

391

392 **Discussion**

393 The TRAPP^{II} and TRAPP^{III} complexes play critical roles in activating Rab
394 GTPases during membrane trafficking processes, with these complexes being conserved
395 in all Eukaryotes. They have well established roles in a diverse set of pathways including
396 secretion, ER-Golgi transport and autophagy [13–16,31]. Many biochemical and
397 structural studies have revealed the architecture of these complexes in both yeast and
398 metazoans showing how these complexes are assembled and how they bind and activate
399 Rab GTPases [14,18,22,32–34]. However, the exact molecular details for TRAPP
400 complex Rab substrate selectivity and membrane activation is still ambiguous. Our
401 biophysical and biochemical analysis of the mammalian TRAPP^{III} complex has revealed
402 novel insight into TRAPP^{III} substrate specificity, how complex specific subunits alter the
403 Rab binding interface of the core, and how membranes lead to large scale conformational
404 changes in both TRAPP^{II} and TRAPP^{III}.

405 The mammalian TRAPP^{II} complex has activity towards Rab1, Rab11a/b, Rab19
406 and Rab43 [10]. The TRAPP^{III} complex is a well validated GEF for Rab1a [11,14,15,35],
407 however, the substrate specificity towards other Rab GTPases for mammalian TRAPP^{III}
408 is unknown. We find that mammalian TRAPP^{III} has activity towards Rab1a and a novel
409 activity towards Rab43. There was no detectable GEF activity for Rab19 or the other 17
410 Rab GTPases tested. The observation that TRAPP^{III} is a GEF for Rab43 but not Rab19
411 is intriguing since Rab43 and Rab19 are in the Rab1a family and are very evolutionarily

412 similar [28]. TRAPP_{II} was equally active against both Rab43 and Rab19, revealing an
413 additional substrate selectivity between TRAPP_{II} and TRAPP_{III}. Extensive sequence
414 analysis between Rab1/Rab43 with Rab19/Rab11 does not reveal a simple difference for
415 how TRAPP_{II} and TRAPP_{III} obtain substrate selectivity. Further biochemical and high
416 resolution structural data will be required to decipher the exact molecular mechanism of
417 Rab specificity.

418 Multiple conformational differences were observed between TRAPP_{II} and
419 TRAPP_{III} in the shared subunits. TRAPP_{III} was more stable at the Rab-binding interface
420 compared with TRAPP_{II}, which suggests initial insight into a possible mechanism for how
421 these complexes can mediate Rab specificity. The C-terminus of TRAPPC4 was more
422 stable in TRAPP_{III}, with these being very similar regions to those protected upon Rab
423 binding in TRAPP_{III} and TRAPP_{II} (180-191 in TRAPPC4) [10]. It's possible that this
424 alteration in the conformation of the putative Rab binding site prevents association with
425 either Rab11 or Rab19 for TRAPP_{III}. The recent Cryo-EM structure of *Drosophila*
426 TRAPP_{III} allowed for a comparison between the two complexes seen in the mammalian
427 complexes [24]. Intriguingly, the interfaces identified between TRAPPC2 with TRAPPC8
428 and TRAPPC2L with TRAPPC11 identified in the *Drosophila* TRAPP_{III} cryo-EM structure
429 were more protected from H/D exchange in TRAPP_{II} compared to TRAPP_{III}. This
430 suggests that there are shared interfaces between the core and the TRAPP_{II} and
431 TRAPP_{III} unique subunits. Further details of the differences will require high resolution
432 structural data of the TRAPP_{II} complex.

433 Rab substrates had increased activity in the presence of synthetic membranes for
434 both TRAPP^{II} and TRAPP^{III}, consistent with studies of the yeast TRAPP^{II} and TRAPP^{III}
435 complexes [14]. The TRAPP^{III} complex activated Rab1a significantly faster in the
436 presence of membranes compared to TRAPP^{II} which is consistent with TRAPP^{III} being
437 the primary activator of Rab1 *in-vivo*. This increased activity may be driven by the
438 membrane binding site identified in HDX-MS studies in TRAPPC8. We found multiple
439 peptides with significant protections spanning TRAPPC8 including the region 376-421.
440 This region corresponds to an amphipathic helix (368-409) discovered in yeast Trs85,
441 where mutants of this region decreased membrane recruitment and Rab activation [23].
442 This highlights a conserved role throughout evolution of the TRAPPC8 subunit in
443 mediating membrane association and activation of Rab1. Multiple TRAPP^{II} and TRAPP^{III}
444 specific subunits were destabilised upon membrane binding. These increases in
445 exchange are likely driven by conformational rearrangements of the subunit-subunit
446 interacting regions. Further detailed structural studies will help interpret how these
447 changes may mediate membrane binding or alter GEF activity.

448 The emerging set of clinical mutations in either TRAPP core or complex specific
449 subunits demonstrates the important roles that both TRAPP^{II} and TRAPP^{III} play in
450 membrane trafficking [5,6,9,36]. Interestingly, our HDX-MS experiments revealed
451 conformational differences between TRAPP^{II} and TRAPP^{III} located at or near these sites
452 of mutations. These differences occurred in TRAPPC2 and TRAPPC2L. The mutations
453 D47Y, H80R, and F83S in TRAPPC2 have been associated with the skeletal disorder
454 spondyloepiphyseal dysplasia tarda (SED^T; also abbreviated SED^L) [37,38]. TRAPP^{II}

455 was protected compared to TRAPPIII in peptides spanning 47-53 and 59-70 of
456 TRAPPC2. The D47Y mutation has been shown to disrupt both the TRAPPIII and
457 TRAPP II complexes through disrupting the interactions between TRAPPC2 with
458 TRAPPC9 or TRAPPC8 [37] with the equivalent D46Y mutation in yeast only disrupting
459 the TRAPPIII complex [38]. The mutation D37Y in TRAPPC2L has been associated with
460 neurodevelopmental delay [39]. The equivalent yeast mutant (D45Y) disrupts the
461 interaction between TRAPPC2L and the TRAPP II specific subunit TRAPPC10 [39]. We
462 found large stabilisations in TRAPP II compared to TRAPPIII in a peptide spanning 37-58
463 which would be consistent with this mutation disrupting the TRAPPC2L-TRAPPC10
464 interaction. These differences between TRAPP II and TRAPPIII at these important
465 residues indicate that the clinical mutants could possibly target TRAPP II and TRAPPIII
466 differently depending on unique interactions with complex specific subunits.

467 HDX-MS experiments examining differences upon membrane binding revealed
468 secondary structure differences at or near regions mutated in human disease, specifically
469 in TRAPPC9 and TRAPPC11. The mutation L178P in TRAPPC9 has been implicated
470 with severe intellectual disability [40]. HDX-MS experiments comparing apo-TRAPP II to
471 membrane bound TRAPP II showed an exposure in a peptide spanning 160-180.
472 Furthermore, the mutations Q284P and Q777P of TRAPPC11 have been implicated in
473 muscular disorders by elevated creatine kinase levels and cerebral atrophy [41,42] and
474 we found that TRAPPC11 was exposed in the peptides 266-281 and 773-801. The
475 peptide spanning 266-281 lies extremely close to the Q284 residue and the peptide
476 spanning 773-801 completely contains the Q777 residue. These secondary structure

477 differences could indicate that these clinical mutants alter the membrane activation of
478 both TRAPP^{II} and TRAPP^{III} complexes. More research is needed to investigate the exact
479 molecular mechanisms of these clinical mutants and how they alter TRAPP's function.

480 The TRAPP complexes are some of the most important regulators of membrane
481 trafficking and activators of Rabs at the Golgi. Our data highlights the critical dynamic
482 differences between the two complexes at the Rab binding site which likely has a role in
483 regulating Rab specificity. Continued biochemical and structural studies will be required
484 to decipher the exact mechanism of this specificity with this work helping provide a strong
485 start point for these future studies.

486

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494

495 **Contributions**

496 JEB, NH and MLJ designed all biophysical/biochemical experiments. NH cloned the
497 TRAPP^{III} complex. NH, MP and MLJ carried out protein expression/purification. NH and

498 MLJ carried out all biochemical studies. NH, MLJ, KDF and MP carried out HDX-MS
499 experiments. UD SEN and CKY carried out electron microscopy studies. NH, MLJ, and
500 JEB wrote the manuscript with input from all authors.

501

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696

697 **Materials and Methods**

698 *Plasmids and antibodies*

699 The full length TRAPP^{II}, and Rab genes were used as described previously [10].
700 TRAPPC8, TRAPPC11, and TRAPPC12 genes, were purchased from DNASU (C8-
701 HsCD00347731 & HsCD00399392, C11- HsCD00082480, C12- HsCD324976) and
702 TRAPPC13 was ordered from Thermofisher Geneart. Genes were subcloned into pLIB
703 vectors, and in the case of TRAPPC12 a TEV cleavable c-term 2x strep tag was added
704 while a TEV cleavable c-term 6x his tag was added to the c-term of TRAPPC11. Genes
705 were subsequently amplified following the biGBac protocol to generate 2 plasmids that
706 together contain all the TRAPP^{III} genes [43]. A table summarizing the plasmids used is
707 outlined in Table S1.

708 *Protein expression*

709 All TRAPP^{II} complexes were similarly expressed as previously described [10]. In short,
710 to express TRAPP^{II}/TRAPP^{III} complexes, an optimized ratio of baculovirus was used to
711 co-infect *Spodoptera frugiperda* (Sf9) cells between $1-2 \times 10^6$ cells/mL. Co-infections were

712 harvested at ~66-hours and washed with ice-cold PBS before snap-freezing in liquid
713 nitrogen. Rab constructs were all expressed in BL21 C41 *E.coli*, induced with 0.5mM
714 IPTG and grown at 37°C for 4hrs. Pellets were washed with ice-cold phosphate-buffered
715 saline (PBS), flash frozen in liquid nitrogen, and stored at -80°C until use.

716 *Protein purification*

717 TRAPP II complex and Rabs were purified as described previously [10]. TRAPP cell
718 pellets were lysed by sonication for 1.5 minutes in lysis buffer (20mM Tris pH 8.0, 100mM
719 NaCl, 5% (v/v) glycerol, 2mM β -mercaptoethanol (BME), and protease inhibitors
720 (Millipore Protease Inhibitor Cocktail Set III, Animal-Free)). Triton X-100 was added to
721 0.1% v/v, and the solution was centrifuged for 45 minutes at 20,000 x g at 1°C. The
722 supernatant was then loaded onto a 5 mL HisTrap™ FF column (GE Healthcare) that had
723 been equilibrated in NiNTA A buffer (20 mM Tris pH8.0, 100 mM NaCl, 10 mM imidazole
724 pH 8.0, 5% (v/v) glycerol, 2 mM bME). The column was washed with 20 mL of NiNTA
725 buffer, 20 mL of 6% NiNTA B buffer (20 mM Tris pH 8.0, 100 mM NaCl, 200 mM imidazole
726 pH 8.0, 5% (v/v) glycerol, 2 mM bME) before being eluted with 100% NiNTA B. The eluate
727 was subsequently loaded on a 5ml Strep™ column and washed with 10ml SEC buffer
728 (20mM HEPES pH 7.5, 100mM NaCl, 0.5mM TCEP). The Strep-tag was cleaved by
729 adding SEC buffer containing 10mM BME and TEV protease to the column and
730 incubating overnight at 4°C. Protein was pooled and concentrated using Amicon 50K
731 concentrator and size exclusion chromatography (SEC) was performed using a Superose
732 6 increase 10/300 column equilibrated in SEC Buffer. Yield can be improved by taking
733 pooled TRAPP complex before SEC and manually running protein through a 1 mL

734 HisTrap™ FF column (GE Healthcare) that had been equilibrated in NiNTA A buffer
735 followed by buffer exchange into SEC buffer using a 5 mL HiTrap® Desalting Column
736 (GE Healthcare). Fractions containing protein of interest were pooled, concentrated, flash
737 frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80°C.

738 For Rab purification, cell pellets were lysed by sonication for 5 minutes in lysis buffer
739 (20mM Tris pH 8.0, 100mM NaCl, 5% (v/v) glycerol, 2mM β-mercaptoethanol (BME), and
740 protease inhibitors (Millipore Protease Inhibitor Cocktail Set III, Animal-Free)). Triton X-
741 100 was added to 0.1% v/v, and the solution was centrifuged for 45 minutes at 20,000 x
742 g at 1°C. Supernatant was loaded onto a 5ml GSTrap 4B column (GE Healthcare) in a
743 superloop for 1.5 hours and the column was washed in Buffer A (20mM Tris pH 8.0,
744 100mM NaCl, 5% (v/v) glycerol, 2mM BME) to remove non-specifically bound proteins.
745 The GST-tag was cleaved by adding Buffer A containing 10mM BME and TEV protease
746 to the column and incubating overnight at 4°C. Cleaved protein was eluted with Buffer A.
747 Protein was further purified by separating on a 5ml HiTrap Q column with a gradient of
748 Buffer A and Buffer B (20mM Tris pH 8.0, 1M NaCl, 5% (v/v) glycerol, 2mM BME). Protein
749 was pooled and concentrated using an Amicon 30K concentrator, and were flash frozen
750 in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80°C.

751 *Lipid vesicle preparation*

752 Nickelated lipid vesicles were made with 10% phosphatidylserine (bovine brain PS,
753 Sigma), 10% L-α-phosphatidylinositol-4-phosphate (PI4P, Avanti) 30%
754 phosphatidylcholine (egg yolk PC, Sigma), 10% L-α-Phosphatidylinositol (Liver PI,
755 Avanti), 15% L-α-Phosphatidylethanolamine (egg yolk PE, Sigma), and 10% DGS-

756 NTA(Ni) (18:1 DGSNTA(Ni), Avanti). Vesicles were prepared by combining liquid
757 chloroform stocks together at appropriate concentrations and evaporating away the
758 chloroform with nitrogen gas. The resulting lipid film layer was desiccated for 20 min
759 before being resuspended in lipid buffer (20mM HEPES (pH 7.5) and 100mM KCl) to a
760 concentration of 1mg/ml. The lipid solution was vortexed for 5 min, bath sonicated for 10
761 min, and flash frozen in liquid nitrogen. Vesicles were then subjected to three freeze thaw
762 cycles using a warm water bath. Vesicles were extruded 11 times through a 150nm
763 NanoSizer Liposome Extruder (T&T Scientific) and stored at -80°C.

764 *In-vitro GEF assay*

765 C-terminally His-tagged Rabs were purified, and nucleotide loaded as described
766 previously [10]. Reactions were conducted in 10 μ l volumes with a final concentration of 4
767 μ M Mant-GDP loaded Rab, 100 μ M GTP γ S, the appropriate amount of TRAPP (4.5 – 300
768 μ M) and synthetic vesicles (0.2mg/ml). Rab and membrane were aliquoted into a 384-
769 well, black, low-volume plate (Corning 3676). To start the reaction, TRAPP and GTP γ S
770 were added simultaneously to the wells and a SpectraMax® M5 Multi-Mode Microplate
771 Reader was used to measure the fluorescent signal for 1hr (Excitation λ = 366nm;
772 Emission λ = 443nm). Data was analyzed using GraphPad Prism 7 Software, and k_{cat}/K_m
773 analysis was carried out according to the protocol of [44]. GEF curves were fit to a non-
774 linear dissociate one phase exponential decay using the formula $I(t)=(I_0-I_\infty)*\exp(-k_{obs}*t) +$
775 I_∞ (GraphPad Software), where $I(t)$ is the emission intensity as a function of time, and I_0
776 and I_∞ are the emission intensities at $t=0$ and $t=\infty$. The catalytic efficiency k_{cat}/K_m was

777 obtained by a slope of a linear least squares fit to $k_{obs}=k_{cat}/K_m*[GEF]+k_{intr}$, where k_{intr} is
778 the rate constant in the absence of GEF.

779 *Hydrogen deuterium exchange (HDX)*

780 *TRAPP^{II} vs TRAPP^{III}*

781 HDX reactions comparing both complexes were conducted in 50 μ l reaction volumes with
782 a final concentration of 160nM for TRAPP^{II} or TRAPP^{III}. Exchange was carried out in
783 triplicate for five time points (3s at 4°C and 3s, 30s, 300s and 3000s at 20°C). Hydrogen
784 deuterium exchange was initiated by the addition of 40 μ l of D₂O buffer solution (10mM
785 HEPES pH 7.5, 50mM NaCl, 97% D₂O) to give a final concentration of 78% D₂O.
786 Exchange was terminated by the addition of acidic quench buffer at a final concentration
787 0.6M guanidine-HCl and 0.9% formic acid. Samples were immediately frozen in liquid
788 nitrogen at -80°C.

789 *Hydrogen deuterium exchange (HDX) TRAPP^{II} and TRAPP^{III} apo vs Membrane*

790 HDX reactions comparing both complexes bound to membranes were conducted in 50 μ l
791 reaction volumes with a final concentration of 120nM for TRAPP^{II} or TRAPP^{III} and
792 0.1mg/ml membranes. Exchange was carried out in triplicate for three time points (3s,
793 100s and 3000s at 20°C). Prior to the addition of D₂O, TRAPP was incubated at 20°C
794 with vesicles for one minute to facilitate TRAPP-membrane interactions. Hydrogen
795 deuterium exchange was initiated by the addition of 32.1 μ l of D₂O buffer solution (10mM
796 HEPES pH 7.5, 50mM NaCl, 97% D₂O) to the protein/membrane solutions, to give a final
797 concentration of 62% D₂O. Exchange was terminated by the addition of acidic quench

798 buffer at a final concentration 0.6M guanidine-HCl and 0.9% formic acid. Samples were
799 immediately frozen in liquid nitrogen at -80°C.

800 *Hydrogen deuterium exchange (HDX) TRAPPIII apo vs Rab bound*

801 HDX reactions comparing TRAPPIII and TRAPPIII-Rab1 complex were conducted in 50 μ l
802 reaction volumes with a final concentration 100nM TRAPPIII per sample and 560 nM
803 Rab1. Exchange was carried out in triplicate for four time points (3s, 30s, 300s and 3000s
804 at 20°C). Prior to the addition of D₂O, proteins were incubated on ice in the presence of
805 20mM EDTA for 30 minutes to facilitate release of nucleotide. Hydrogen deuterium
806 exchange was initiated by the addition of 43.1 μ l of D₂O buffer solution (10mM HEPES pH
807 7.5, 50mM NaCl, 97% D₂O) to give a final concentration of 82% D₂O. Exchange was
808 terminated by the addition of acidic quench buffer at a final concentration 0.6M guanidine-
809 HCl and 0.9% formic acid. Samples were immediately frozen in liquid nitrogen at -80°C.

810 *HDX-MS data Analysis*

811 Protein samples were rapidly thawed and injected onto an integrated fluidics system
812 containing a HDx-3 PAL liquid handling robot and climate-controlled (2°C)
813 chromatography system (LEAP Technologies), a Dionex Ultimate 3000 UHPLC system,
814 as well as an Impact HD QTOF Mass spectrometer (Bruker) [45]. The protein was run
815 over one (at 10°C) immobilized pepsin column (Trajan; ProDx protease column, 2.1 mm
816 x 30 mm PDX.PP01-F32) at 200 μ L/min for 3 minutes. The resulting peptides were
817 collected and desalted on a C18 trap column (Acquity UPLC BEH C18 1.7mm column
818 (2.1 x 5 mm); Waters 186003975). The trap was subsequently eluted in line with an
819 ACQUITY 1.7 μ m particle, 100 x 1 mm² C18 UPLC column (Waters), using a gradient of

820 3-35% B (Buffer A 0.1% formic acid; Buffer B 100% acetonitrile) over 11 minutes
821 immediately followed by a gradient of 35-80% over 5 minutes. Mass spectrometry
822 experiments acquired over a mass range from 150 to 2200 m/z using an electrospray
823 ionization source operated at a temperature of 200C and a spray voltage of 4.5 kV. The
824 resulting MS/MS datasets were analyzed using PEAKS7 (PEAKS), and a false discovery
825 rate was set at 1% using a database of purified proteins and known contaminants [46].
826 HDEaminer Software (Sierra Analytics) was used to automatically calculate the level of
827 deuterium incorporation into each peptide. All peptides were manually inspected for
828 correct charge state and presence of overlapping peptides. Deuteration levels were
829 calculated using the centroid of the experimental isotope clusters. Differences in
830 exchange were in a peptide were considered significant if they met all three of the
831 following criteria: >5% change in exchange, >0.5 Da difference in exchange, and a p
832 value <0.01 using a two tailed student t-test. Samples were only compared within a single
833 experiment and were never compared to experiments completed at a different time with
834 a different final D₂O level.

835 The data analysis statistics for all HDX-MS experiments are in supplemental tables
836 2-4 according to the guidelines of [47]. The mass spectrometry proteomics data have
837 been deposited to the ProteomeXchange Consortium via the PRIDE partner repository
838 [48] with the dataset identifier PXD025928.

839 *Negative stain single-particle electron microscopy (EM) and image analysis*

840 Purified TRAPP III complex was adsorbed to glow discharged carbon coated grids
841 and stained with uranyl formate. The stained specimens were examined using a Talos

842 L120C transmission electron microscope (ThermoFisher Scientific) operated at an
843 accelerating voltage of 120 kV and equipped with a Ceta charged-coupled-device (CCD)
844 camera. 100 micrographs were acquired at a nominal magnification of 45,000x at a
845 defocus of $\sim 1.2\mu\text{m}$ and binned twice to obtain a final pixel size of $4.53\text{ \AA}/\text{pixel}$. Contrast
846 transfer function (CTF) estimation for each micrograph was carried out using CTFFind4
847 [49]. 200 particles were manually picked then aligned to generate 2D class averages for
848 template-based autopicking in Relion 3.0 [50]. 38,062 particles were autopicked and
849 extracted with a box size of 148 pixels. Particles were then subjected to 2D classification
850 and 1034 particles which did not classify well were discarded. The remaining particles
851 were transferred to cryoSPARC v2.14 [51] for *ab initio* reconstruction using 2 classes
852 which were refined by heterogenous refinement. A final particle stack of 32,429 particles
853 was used to carry out homogenous refinement of the better model, yielding a final map
854 at 14.2 \AA resolution based on the gold-standard 0.143 Fourier Shell Correlation criterion
855 (Fig. S1). The EM data have been deposited to the EMDB with the accession code: EMD-
856 23997.

Supplemental Information for

**Biochemical insight into novel Rab-GEF activity of the
mammalian TRAPPIII complex**

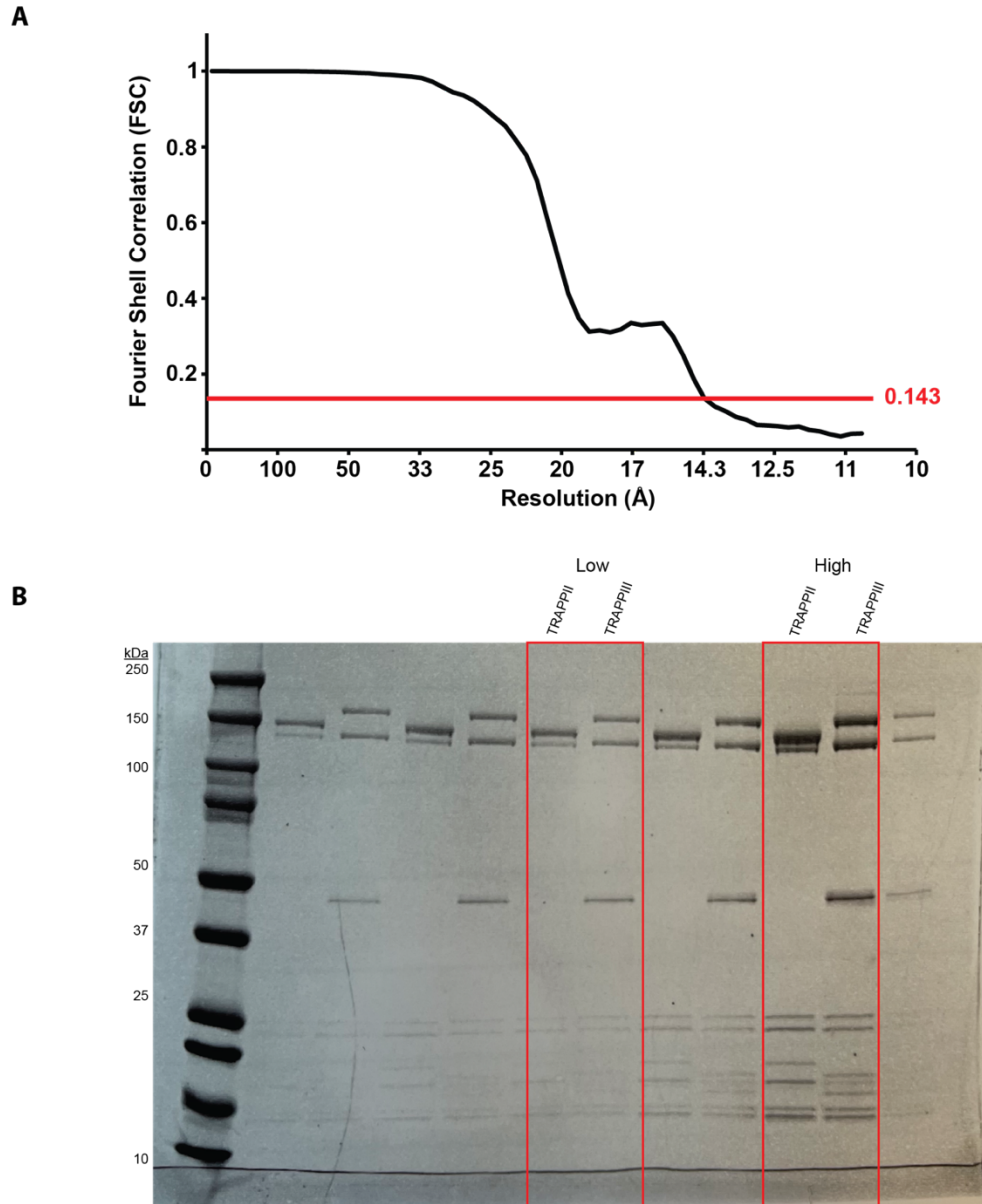
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Matthew AH Parsons¹, Calvin K Yip², John E Burke^{1,2%}

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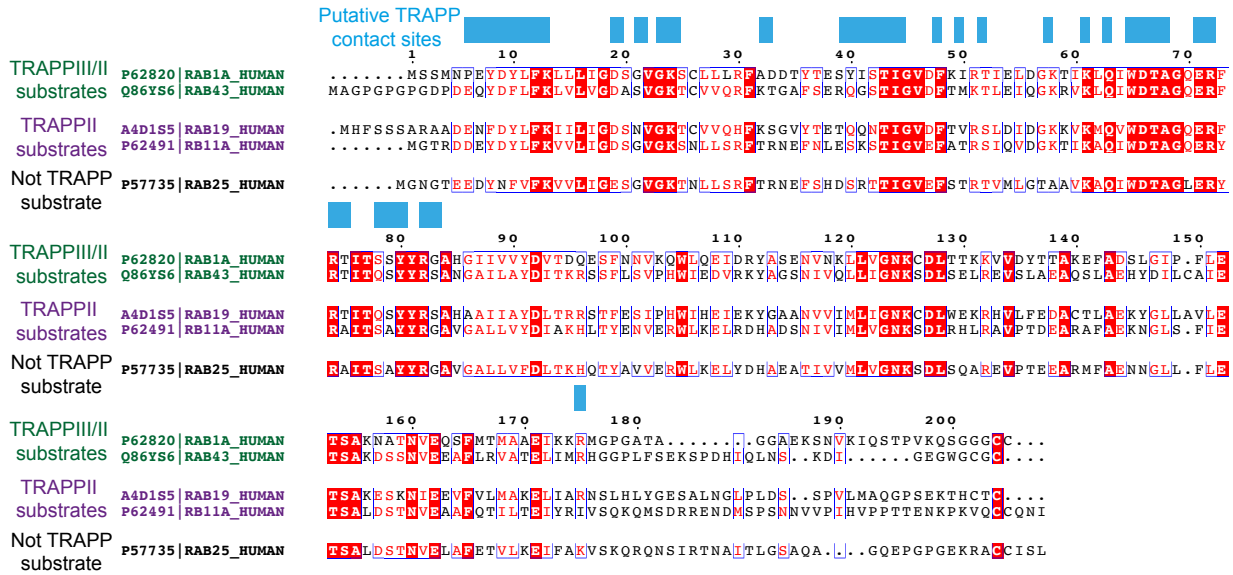
Tel: 1-250-721-8732, email: jeburke@uvic.ca



Supplemental Figure 1. Gold-standard Fourier shell correlation and SDS-PAGE gel of purified TRAPP complexes.

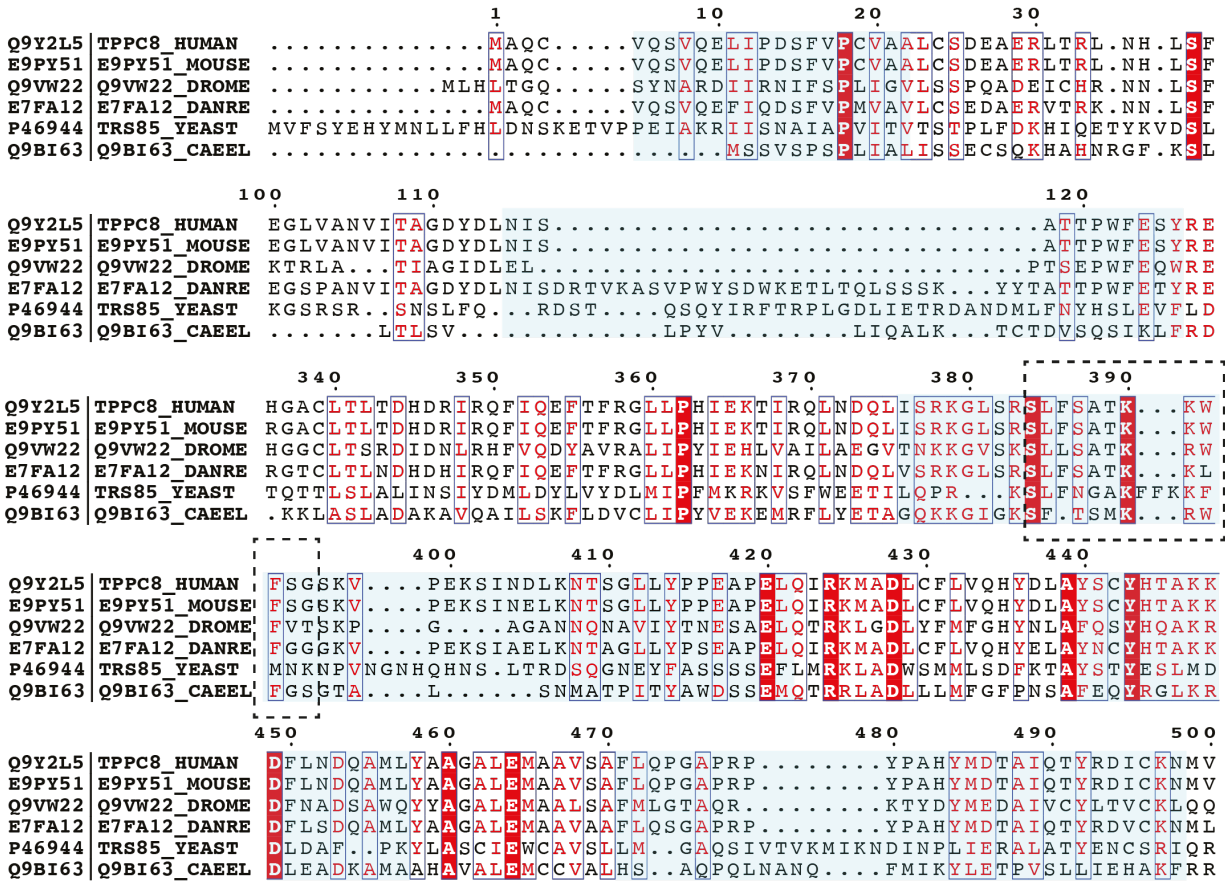
(A) Gold-standard Fourier shell correlation curve showing the resolution of the TRAPP/III model in figure 1.

(B) Uncropped SDS-PAGE gel of TRAPP/II and TRAPP/III used in figure 1. High and low refer to protein amount loaded (high=3.6 μ g and low= 1.4 μ g). 4-20% NuPAGE gradient gel run at 225V for 35 min and stained with Coomassie Brilliant Blue dye.



Supplemental Figure 2. Alignment of substrate Rabs for mammalian TRAPP complexes.

Alignment of Rab1, Rab43, Rab19, Rab11a, and Rab25. Putative contact sites with the TRAPP core are based on the pdb: 3CUE. Alignment was generated using Esprint [1].



Decreases in exchange with membranes

Supplemental Figure 3. Alignment of TRAPPC8

Decreases in exchange upon membrane binding are highlighted in light blue. The putative amphipathic helix from Trs85 is indicated in the boxed dotted line. Alignment was generated using Esprict [1].

Supplemental table 1. All plasmids used in this study.

Name	Plasmid	Protein(s)	Sequence(s)	Modifications/Tags	Source
MJ153 [TRAPPIIa]	pBIG1a	TRAPPC1; TRAPPC2L; TRAPPC5; TRAPPC6a; TRAPPC10;	1-145; 1-140; 1-188; 1-173; 1-1259	TRAPPC10 – C-term His Tag (TEV)	[2]
MJ85 [TRAPPIIb]	pBIG1a	TRAPPC3; TRAPPC2; TRAPPC4; TRAPPC9	1-180; 1-140; 1-235; 1-1148	TRAPPC3 – C-term Strep Tag (TEV)	[2]
NH40 [TRAPPIIIa]	pBIG1a	TRAPPC8; TRAPPC11; TRAPPC12; TRAPPC13	1-1435; 1-1147; 300-735; 1-417	TRAPPC12 - C-term Strep Tag (TEV); TRAPPC11 - C-term His Tag (TEV)	This paper
NH42 [TRAPPIIIb]	pBIG2ab	TRAPPC1; TRAPPC2; TRAPPC2L; TRAPPC3; TRAPPC4; TRAPPC5; TRAPPC6a	1-145; 1-140; 1-140; 1-180; 1-235; 1-188; 1-173;		This paper
MJ117	pOPTGcH	Rab1a	1-203	N-term GST Tag(TEV); C-term His Tag	[2]
MJ37	pOPTGcH	Rab2a	1-210	N-term GST Tag(TEV); C-term His Tag	[2]
EM11	pOPTGcH	Rab3a	1-217	N-term GST Tag(TEV); C-term His Tag	[2]
MJ36	pOPTGcH	Rab4b	1-210	N-term GST Tag(TEV); C-term His Tag	[2]
DH1	pOPTGcH	Rab5a	1-212	N-term GST Tag(TEV); Q79L mutation	[2]
EM13	pOPTGcH	Rab6a	1-205	N-term GST Tag(TEV); C-term His Tag	[2]
NH20	pOPTGcH	Rab7a	1-204	N-term GST Tag(TEV); C-term His Tag	[2]
MJ40	pOPTGcH	Rab8a	1-203	N-term GST Tag(TEV); C-term His Tag	[2]
EO7	pOPTGcH	Rab11a	1-211	N-term GST Tag(TEV); C-term His Tag	[2]
MJ28	pOPTGcH	Rab11b	1-213	N-term GST Tag(TEV); C-term His Tag	[2]
MJ39	pOPTGcH	Rab12	1-242	N-term GST Tag(TEV); C-term His Tag	[2]
MJ38	pOPTGcH	Rab14	1-212	N-term GST Tag(TEV); C-term His Tag	[2]
EM15	pOPTGcH	Rab18	1-198	N-term GST Tag(TEV); C-term His Tag	[2]
MJ167	pOPTGcH	Rab19	1-214	N-term GST Tag(TEV); C-term His Tag	[2]
MJ27	pOPTGcH	Rab25	1-208	N-term GST Tag(TEV); C-term His Tag	[2]
NH19	pOPTGcH	Rab29	1-201	N-term GST Tag(TEV); C-term His Tag	[2]
NH21	pOPTGcH	Rab32	1-223	N-term GST Tag(TEV); C-term His Tag	[2]
EM17	pOPTGcH	Rab33a	1-234	N-term GST Tag(TEV); C-term His Tag	[2]
Em19	pOPTGcH	Rab35	1-199	N-term GST Tag(TEV); C-term His Tag	[2]
EM23	pOPTGcH	Rab39a	1-214	N-term GST Tag(TEV); C-term His Tag	[2]
EM25	pOPTGcH	Rab43	1-209	N-term GST Tag(TEV); C-term His Tag	[2]
MJ210	pOPTGcH	Rab11A chimera 1	1-209	N-term GST Tag(TEV); C-term His Tag; Rab11 tail swapped with Rab1 tail	This paper
MJ211	pOPTGcH	Rab1A chimera 1	1-217	N-term GST Tag(TEV); C-term His Tag; Rab1a tail swapped with Rab11a tail	This paper
MJ201	pOPTGcH	Rab11A chimera 2	1-209	N-term GST Tag(TEV); C-term His Tag; Rab11a tail swapped with Rab1 tail	This paper
MJ202	pOPTGcH	Rab1A chimera 2	1-217	N-term GST Tag(TEV); C-term His Tag; Rab1a tail swapped with Rab11 tail	This paper

Supplemental Table 2. HDX Statistics for Figure 3 - TRAPPIII Rab

Data set	TRAPP C1	TRAPP C2	TRAPP C2L	TRAPP C3	TRAPP C4	TRAPP C5
HDX reaction details	%D.O=82% pH _{int} =7.5 Temp=20°C	%D.O=82% pH _{int} =7.5 Temp=20°C	%D.O=82% pH _{int} =7.5 Temp=20°C	%D.O=82% pH _{int} =7.5 Temp=20°C	%D.O=82% pH _{int} =7.5 Temp=20°C	%D.O=82% pH _{int} =7.5 Temp=20°C
HDX time course (s)	3, 30, 300, 3000	3, 30, 300, 3000	3, 30, 300, 3000	3, 30, 300, 3000	3, 30, 300, 3000	3, 30, 300, 3000
HDX controls	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Back-exchange	Corrected based on %D.O	Corrected based on %D.O	Corrected based on %D.O	Corrected based on %D.O	Corrected based on %D.O	Corrected based on %D.O
Number of peptides	18	25	22	24	29	23
Sequence coverage	97.2	87.1	90.7	58.3	96.3	87.2
Average peptide /redundancy	Length=11.9 Redundancy=1.5	Length=13.3 Redundancy=2.4	Length=11.9 Redundancy=1.9	Length=10.6 Redundancy=1.4	Length=12.2 Redundancy=1.6	Length=13 Redundancy=1.6
Replicates	3	3	3	3	3	3
Repeatability	Average StDev=0.9%	Average StDev=0.7%	Average StDev=1.4%	Average StDev=1.1%	Average StDev=1%	Average StDev=1.1%
Significant differences in HDX	>5% and >0.5 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.5 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.5 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.5 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.5 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.5 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01
Data set	TRAPP C6	TRAPP C8	TRAPP C11	TRAPP C12	TRAPP C13	Rab1a
HDX reaction details	%D.O=82% pH _{int} =7.5 Temp=20°C	%D.O=82% pH _{int} =7.5 Temp=20°C	%D.O=82% pH _{int} =7.5 Temp=20°C	%D.O=82% pH _{int} =7.5 Temp=20°C	%D.O=82% pH _{int} =7.5 Temp=20°C	%D.O=82% pH _{int} =7.5 Temp=20°C
HDX time course (seconds)	3, 30, 300, 3000	3, 30, 300, 3000	3, 30, 300, 3000	3, 30, 300, 3000	3, 30, 300, 3000	3, 30, 300, 3000
HDX controls	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Back-exchange	Corrected based on %D.O	Corrected based on %D.O	Corrected based on %D.O	Corrected based on %D.O	Corrected based on %D.O	Corrected based on %D.O
Number of peptides	21	157	126	50	84	41
Sequence coverage	73.4	89	77.2	82.7	95.7	87.3
Average peptide /redundancy	Length=9.2 Redundancy=1.1	Length=15.1 Redundancy=1.7	Length=12.4 Redundancy=1.4	Length=13.7 Redundancy=1.6	Length=11.2 Redundancy=2.2	Length=14 Redundancy=2.8
Replicates	3	3	3	3	3	3
Repeatability	Average StDev=1.4%	Average StDev=0.9%	Average StDev=0.9%	Average StDev=0.9%	Average StDev=0.9%	Average StDev=0.9%
Significant differences in HDX	>5% and >0.5 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.5 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.5 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.5 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.5 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.5 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01

Supplemental Table 3. HDX Statistics for Figure 4 - TRAPP II vs TRAPP III

Data set	TRAPP C1	TRAPP C2	TRAPP C2L	TRAPP C3	TRAPP C4	TRAPP C5	TRAPP C6
HDX reaction details	%D.O=78% pH _{inc} =7.5 Temp=4-20°C	%D.O=78% pH _{inc} =7.5 Temp=4-20°C	%D.O=78% pH _{inc} =7.5 Temp=4-20°C	%D.O=78% pH _{inc} =7.5 Temp=4-20°C	%D.O=78% pH _{inc} =7.5 Temp=4-20°C	%D.O=78% pH _{inc} =7.5 Temp=4-20°C	%D.O=78% pH _{inc} =7.5 Temp=4-20°C
HDX time course (s)	3 at 4 °C 3, 30, 300, 3000 at 20°C	3 at 4 °C 3, 30, 300, 3000 at 20°C	3 at 4 °C 3, 30, 300, 3000 at 20°C	3 at 4 °C 3, 30, 300, 3000 at 20°C	3 at 4 °C 3, 30, 300, 3000 at 20°C	3 at 4 °C 3, 30, 300, 3000 at 20°C	3 at 4 °C 3, 30, 300, 3000 at 20°C
HDX controls	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Back-exchange	Corrected based on % D.O	Corrected based on %D.O	Corrected based on %D.O	Corrected based on %D.O	Corrected based on %D.O	Corrected based on %D.O	Corrected based on %D.O
Number of peptides	22	29	27	27	35	39	25
Sequence coverage	96.6	96.4	94.3	69.4	96.3	88.3	85.5
Average peptide /redundancy	Length=14.5 Redundancy=2.2	Length= 13.4 Redundancy=2.8	Length=13.6 Redundancy= 2.6	Length=12 Redundancy= 2.1	Length=12.5 Redundancy= 2.0	Length=13.5 Redundancy= 2.8	Length=12.1 Redundancy= 1.8
Replicates	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Repeatability	Average StDev=0.6%	Average StDev=0.6%	Average StDev=0.9%	Average StDev=0.8%	Average StDev=0.7%	Average StDev=0.8%	Average StDev=0.7%
Significant differences in HDX	>5% and >0.5 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.5 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.5 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.5 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.5 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.5 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.5 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01

Supplemental Table 4. HDX Statistics for Figure 6 – Membrane

Data set	TRAPP C1	TRAPP C2	TRAPP C2L	TRAPP C3	TRAPP C4	TRAPP C5	TRAPP C6
HDX reaction details	%D.O=62% pH _{int} =7.5 Temp=20°C	%D.O=62% pH _{int} =7.5 Temp=20°C	%D.O=62% pH _{int} =7.5 Temp=20°C	%D.O=62% pH _{int} =7.5 Temp=20°C	%D.O=62% pH _{int} =7.5 Temp=20°C	%D.O=62% pH _{int} =7.5 Temp=20°C	%D.O=62% pH _{int} =7.5 Temp=20°C
HDX time course (s)	3, 100, 3000 at 20°C	3, 100, 3000 at 20°C	3, 100, 3000 at 20°C	3, 100, 3000 at 20°C	3, 100, 3000 at 20°C	3, 100, 3000 at 20°C	3, 100, 3000 at 20°C
HDX controls	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Back-exchange	Corrected based on %D.O	Corrected based on %D.O	Corrected based on %D.O	Corrected based on %D.O	Corrected based on %D.O	Corrected based on %D.O	Corrected based on %D.O
Number of peptides	16	26	21	16	29	26	19
Sequence coverage	84.1	88.6	86.4	60.0	91.3	82.4	87.9
Average peptide /redundancy	Length=11.5 Redundancy=1.3	Length=12.8 Redundancy=2.4	Length=12.3 Redundancy=1.8	Length=12 Redundancy=1.1	Length=12.9 Redundancy=1.7	Length=13.8 Redundancy=1.9	Length=10.7 Redundancy=1.2
Replicates	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Repeatability	Average StDev=0.7%	Average StDev=0.6%	Average StDev=0.9%	Average StDev=0.6%	Average StDev=0.8%	Average StDev=0.9%	Average StDev=1%
Significant differences in HDX	>5% and >0.5 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.5 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.5 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.5 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.5 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.5 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.5 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01
Data set	TRAPP C8	TRAPP C9	TRAPP C10	TRAPP C11	TRAPP C12	TRAPP C13	
HDX reaction details	%D.O=62% pH _{int} =7.5 Temp=20°C	%D.O=62% pH _{int} =7.5 Temp=20°C	%D.O=62% pH _{int} =7.5 Temp=20°C	%D.O=62% pH _{int} =7.5 Temp=20°C	%D.O=62% pH _{int} =7.5 Temp=20°C	%D.O=62% pH _{int} =7.5 Temp=20°C	
HDX time course (seconds)	3, 100, 3000 at 20°C	3, 100, 3000 at 20°C	3, 100, 3000 at 20°C	3, 100, 3000 at 20°C	3, 100, 3000 at 20°C	3, 100, 3000 at 20°C	
HDX controls	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Back-exchange	Corrected based on %D.O	Corrected based on %D.O	Corrected based on %D.O	Corrected based on %D.O	Corrected based on %D.O	Corrected based on %D.O	
Number of peptides	142	192	190	132	62	49	
Sequence coverage	82.3	95.9	85	87.3	89.1	78.2	
Average peptide /redundancy	Length=15 Redundancy=1.5	Length=13 Redundancy=2.2	Length=13.6 Redundancy=2.0	Length=12 Redundancy=1.4	Length=14.4 Redundancy=2.0	Length=10.8 Redundancy=1.3	
Replicates	3	3	3	3	3	3	
Repeatability	Average StDev=1%	Average StDev=0.9%	Average StDev=0.8%	Average StDev=0.9%	Average StDev=0.8%	Average StDev=1%	
Significant differences in HDX	>5% and >0.5 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.5 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.5 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.5 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.5 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	>5% and >0.5 Da and unpaired t-test ≤0.01	

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