

BIOCHEMISTRY

Promotion of row 1–specific tip complex condensates by Gpsm2-Gai provides insights into row identity of the tallest stereocilia

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The mechanosensory stereocilia in hair cells are organized into rows of graded height, a property crucial for auditory perception. Gpsm2-Gai-Whirlin-Myo15-Eps8 complex at tips of the tallest stereocilia is proposed to define hair bundle row identity, although the underlying mechanism remains elusive. Here, we find that Gpsm2 could undergo phase separation. Moreover, row 1–specific Gpsm2-Gai complex significantly promotes the formation of the five-component tip complex density (5xTCD) condensates. The 5xTCD condensates display much stronger actin-bundling ability than those without Gpsm2-Gai, which may provide critical insights into how Gpsm2-Gai specifies the tallest stereocilia. A deafness-associated mutation of Gpsm2 leads to impaired formation of the 5xTCD condensates and consequently reduced actin bundling, providing possible clues for etiology of hearing loss in patients with Chudley-McCullough syndrome.

INTRODUCTION

Stereocilia in the cochlea are organized into rows of graded height, a property crucial for auditory perception. The tallest stereocilia are organized into a staircase-like structure (1, 2). Stereocilia are organized into rows of graded height (3, 4). A row 1–specific tip complex density (5xTCD) condensates display much stronger actin-bundling ability than those without Gpsm2-Gai, which may provide critical insights into how Gpsm2-Gai specifies the tallest stereocilia. A deafness-associated mutation of Gpsm2 leads to impaired formation of the 5xTCD condensates and consequently reduced actin bundling, providing possible clues for etiology of hearing loss in patients with Chudley-McCullough syndrome.

Previous studies have shown that the tallest stereocilia are organized into a staircase-like structure (1, 2). Stereocilia are organized into rows of graded height (3, 4). A row 1–specific tip complex density (5xTCD) condensates display much stronger actin-bundling ability than those without Gpsm2-Gai, which may provide critical insights into how Gpsm2-Gai specifies the tallest stereocilia. A deafness-associated mutation of Gpsm2 leads to impaired formation of the 5xTCD condensates and consequently reduced actin bundling, providing possible clues for etiology of hearing loss in patients with Chudley-McCullough syndrome.

LLPS (liquid-liquid phase separation) is a process in which molecules or macromolecules aggregate to form a dense phase (14).

Here, we show that Gpsm2-Gai complex undergoes LLPS in the presence of Whirlin, Myo15, and Eps8. Moreover, row 1–specific Gpsm2-Gai complex significantly promotes the formation of the five-component tip complex density (5xTCD) condensates. The 5xTCD condensates display much stronger actin-bundling ability than those without Gpsm2-Gai, which may provide critical insights into how Gpsm2-Gai specifies the tallest stereocilia. A deafness-associated mutation of Gpsm2 leads to impaired formation of the 5xTCD condensates and consequently reduced actin bundling, providing possible clues for etiology of hearing loss in patients with Chudley-McCullough syndrome.

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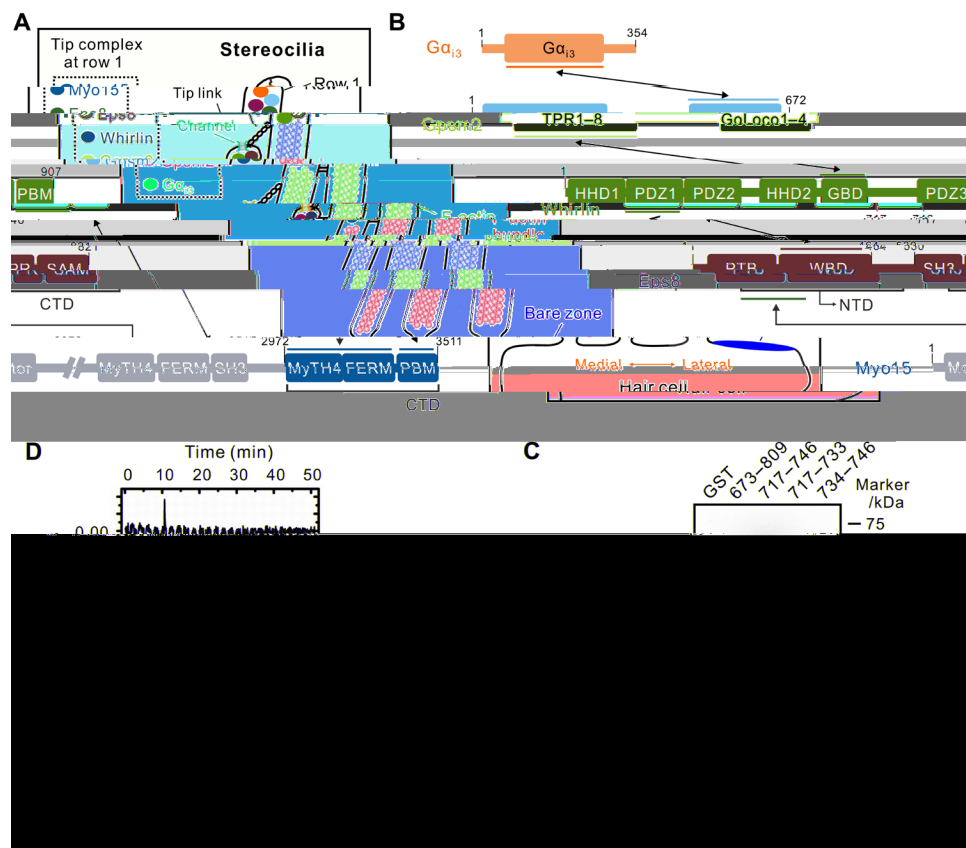


Fig. 1. The Gpsm2-Whirlin interaction. (A) A schematic diagram illustrating the organization of hair cell stereocilia. An apical compartment (termed as the “bare zone”) with a sharp microvilli exclusion boundary along the mediolateral planar polarity axis is highlighted with a blue area. The five-component tip complex is also shown. (B) Domain organizations of the tip complex in stereocilia. The two-way arrows indicate direct interactions. TPR, tetratricopeptide repeat; HHD, harmonin homology domain; PDZ, PSD-95/Discs-large/ZO-1 homology; PBM, PDZ binding motif; PTB, phosphotyrosine binding; WBD, Whirlin binding domain; SH3, src homology 3; PR, proline-rich region; SAM, sterile alpha motif; MyTH4, myosin tail homology 4; FERM, 4.1/ezrin/radixin/moesin; GBD, Gpsm2-binding domain; NTD, N-terminal domain; CTD, C-terminal domain. Note that Eps8^{NTD} contains PTB and WBD domains; Eps8^{CTD} contains SH3, PR, and SAM domains with actin-bundling activity. Myo15^{CTD} contains C-terminal MyTH4, FERM, and PBM domains, amino acids 2972 to 3511. Myo15^{CTD} was used in the in vitro condensate reconstitution assays. (C) GST pull-down assays showing that the minimal GBD on Whirlin is the fragment encompassing amino acids 717 to 746. Gpsm2^{TPR}: amino acids 15 to 350; IB, immunoblot. (D) ITC assay showing the binding affinity between Gpsm2^{TPR} and Whirlin^{GBD}.

LLPSca ab e,5 TCDc de a e d a ch ge ac -
 b d gab ha M 15-E 8a d Wh -M 15-E 8d ,
 h ch a dec ca gh h G 2-Ga ec fe
 he a e e c a a d f e ha b de de N ab
 a CMCS-a caed a f G 2 e fe e h hec de
 aef a a dc e e a ac b d g, ffe g
 bec e f hee g f CMCS- e a ed hea g ...

RESULTS

Characterization of the Gpsm2-Whirlin interaction

G 2-Ga e e Wh a a ada each he f he
 a e e e c a a d f he M 15-E 8-Wh -G 2-Ga
 c e ec fc 1 (21). We f e d ec he e ac
 be ee G 2 a d Wh . Pe e e h ed ha fa g e
 f Wh [a ac d 672 810] e ac ed h N-e a d -
 a f G 2 (23). G 2 c a e gh e a c e de e ea.
 (TPR) a N e [he eaf e G 2^{TPR} (a ac d 15
 350)] a d f G L c (GL) f a C e (Fig. 1B). D g
 c de e a fa e cce d , G 2 e e

a a ada g he de e a ach e h he
 c ca a c e() b b d g I ca d he cea c
 a a a (N MA) a TPR a d Ga a GL, e ec e (28).
 We c f ed he G 2-Wh e ac b h g ha g -
 a h e S- a fe a e (GST) Wh 673 809 effec e b d fed
 G 2^{TPR} (Fig. 1C). F he ca -ba ed b d ga a d ca ed
 ha Wh 717 746 (he eaf e Wh GBD, h f G 2-b d g
 d a) a f f ce a d ec e a f G 2^{TPR} b d g a f he
 de e f Wh GBD e he a N e (Wh 737 746)
 C e (Wh 717 733) d hed he b d g (Fig. 1C). M e-
 e, he a a ca e (ITC) ba ed a a gh gh
 fed e h ed ha G 2^{TPR} b d Wh GBD ha
 d ca c a (K_d) f 1.4 μM (Fig. 1D).

Gpsm2-Whirlin complex structure

T ga gh he a e b c e f he G 2-Wh
 c e, e ed c a each e cc c h ch
 Wh GBD a f ed C-e a G 2^{TPR}. We e e abe
 b a c a f he ch e ad ff ac g 2.6- e . We
 ed he c e c eb ec a e ace e a d ef ed

... a $R_{f_{ee}}$ f28.3 a da R_{gh} f23.1 (ab eS1). The f a c-
 e c de hee e e gh f $G_{2^{TPR}}$ a da ac d 729
 743 fWh .
 I hec e c e, $G_{2^{TPR}}$ f d a a gh-ha ded e -
 he cea ga e c ca eg e ha h d he e e ded
 Wh GBD e de a a a e a e (Fg. 2, A a d B). Each
 TPR e ea c f he ce, αA a d αB , c ec ed b a
 h (Fg. 2A). The e gh TPR ac ge he f ac ed
 α -he ca e d, h αA he ce fac g he e face c ac -
 g he e ga ed Wh GBD e de (Fg. 2A). I ed ha he
 e a c f a f he a e b e ce f h e f
 $G_{2^{TPR}}$ c e h he a e cha N MA, I c, a d
 Afad (fg. S1) (29-32).

The Gpsm2-Whirlin interface

The $G_{2^{TPR}}$ -Wh GBD e face a ed a ed b e ec -
 a c e ac a d h d ge b d g e ac R221/R236
 a d K106 f $G_{2^{TPR}}$ f a b dge h E732 Wh a d
 D734 Wh , e ec e (Fg. 2C). The de cha f Y139 $^{G_{2^{TPR}}}$

f a h d ge b d h he a cha f P733 Wh (Fg. 2C).
 N100 $^{G_{2^{TPR}}}$ a d R136 $^{G_{2^{TPR}}}$ f a h d ge b d a a b dge
 h he a cha a d de cha f E737 Wh , e ec e
 (Fg. 2D). D81 $^{G_{2^{TPR}}}$ f add a e ec a c e ac h
 R739 Wh (Fg. 2D). I h d be e ed ha he h d h b c
 e ac be ee L741 Wh a d L18/A21/L22/F40/A56/I57 f
 $G_{2^{TPR}}$ f he ab e hec e a e b (Fg. 2E). C -
 e a ha d he e a e ac ea e ed
 e e ab hed he $G_{2^{TPR}}$ -Wh GBD e ac ITC-ba ed
 a a (Fg. 2F). I a c a, b f E732 f Wh GBD h
 A a a ab hed he e ac (Fg. 2F), gge g ha E732
 e e a f he e ac, h che a h Wh $^{734\ 746}$ d d
 e ac h $G_{2^{TPR}}$ he GST -d a a (Fg. 1C).
 N ab e e de Wh GBD ha c b e he e face
 a e ab e c e ed a g d ffe e e e (Fg. 2G), g
 he d e ab ef c f he $G_{2^{TPR}}$ -Wh c e h gh-
 hee .

Gpsm2 undergoes phase separation in liv0.00cells.158 Gpsm1 under0

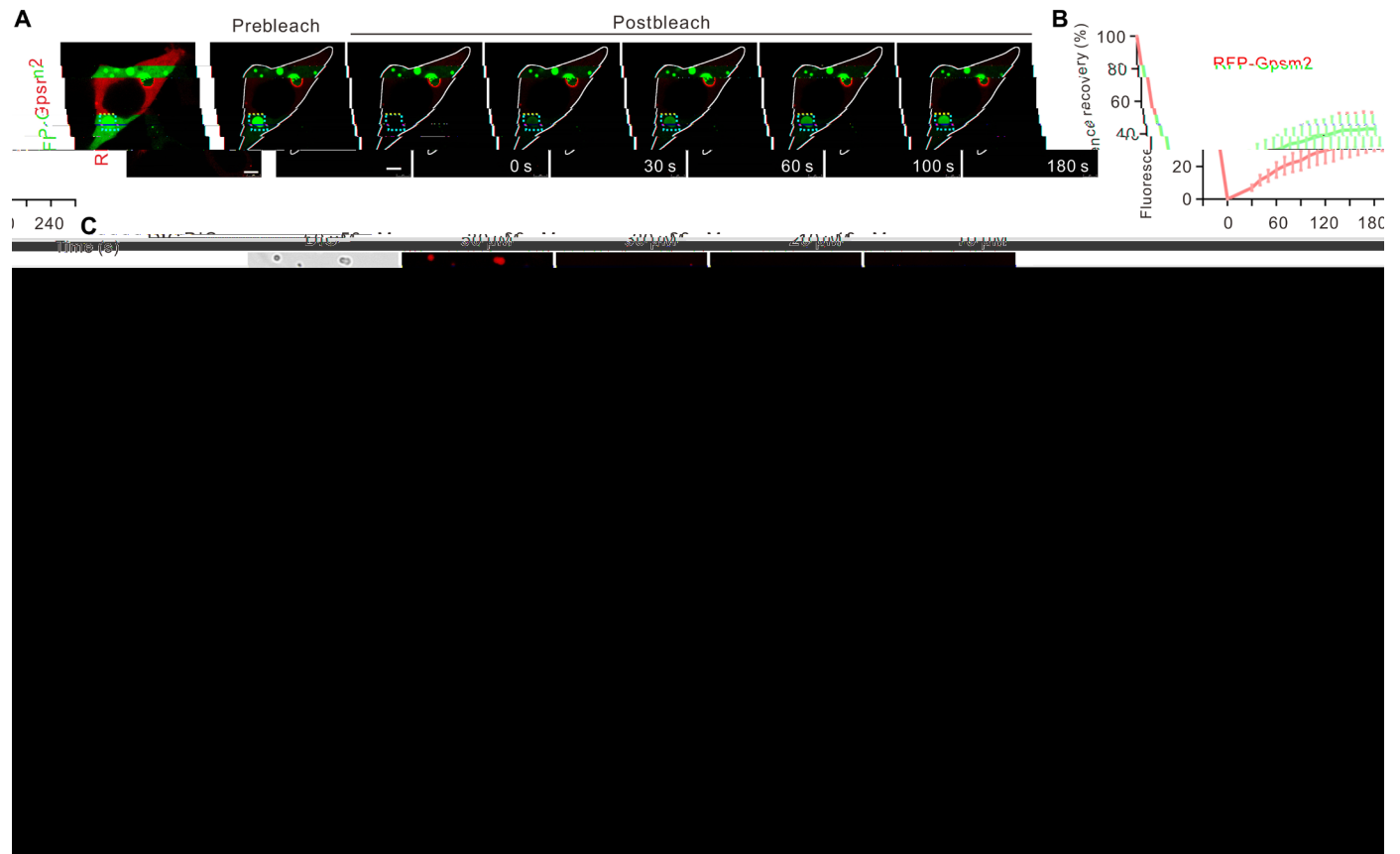


Fig. 3. Gpsm2 undergoes phase separation in vitro and in living cells. (A) Representative images showing expression of RFP-Gpsm2 in human embryonic kidney (HEK) 293T cells produced many spherical puncta. FRAP experiments showing that RFP-Gpsm2 signals recovered quickly after photobleaching within a short period of time. The photobleached area is indicated with a yellow dotted box. Scale bar, 5 μm. (B) Quantitative results for FRAP experiments of RFP-Gpsm2 in puncta and cytoplasm of HEK293T cells. Time 0 refers to the time point of the photobleaching pulse. All data are represented as means ± SEM from five droplets (*n* = 5) in cells. (C) Representative DIC and fluorescence images showing that purified full-length Gpsm2 protein underwent phase separation at indicated concentrations. Gpsm2 was sparsely labeled by Cy3 at 1%. Scale bar, 5 μm. (D) Representative images showing the Gpsm2 liquid-like droplets (indicated by arrows) fused with each other over time. Scale bar, 1 μm. (E) Fluorescence images showing that the number of the Gpsm2 droplets were reduced with increased NaCl concentration. Scale bar, 5 μm. (F) Schematic diagram showing the domain organization of Gpsm2. The deafness-associated mutation Gpsm2^{R318RfX8} was also indicated. Note that there is a lysine-rich region (poly-K loop) in the linker region between TPR and GL domains. (G) The percentage of cells showing spherical puncta with various Gpsm2 constructs. All data are expressed as means ± SEM. Five batches of cultures with 30 cells counted in each batch.

h g fG₂, a h gh he e ha eh gh c e ed f c a d a (fg.S3). G e he e a e f he -K LLPS, AGS3, h ch ac h e e ce, d d f LLPS a e ec ed (Fg. 3G).

A CMCS-associated mutation interferes with Gpsm2 LLPS

N ab a a f Gpsm2, R318Rf X8, a f d a e h CMCS (23). R318Rf X8 e c de a ca ed e ac g he -K a da f GL f (Fg.3F). Beca e e e e e edf LLPS a e g h ca ed e , G₂^{R318Rf X8} fa ed f LLPS a e ec ed (Fg. 3G).

Cocondensation of Gpsm2 and Whirlin

We ce h ed ha Wh c df ha e e a a ed c de a b h a d gce (14). Beca e G₂ h ca e ac h Wh , e e de ed he he he G₂ c de a e a d he Wh c de a e ca ce h each he . Gee f e ce e (GFP) Wh e fec c ca ed h

RFP-G₂ he b gh ca he he e e e ed h a e b c d e (HEK) 293T ce (Fg. 4A). B h GFP a d RFP, ga he c ac d ec e afe h beach g h a h e d f e (Fg. 4B). We a f d ha ge a a f C₅- abe ed G₂ a d C₃- abe ed Wh ga e e c de ed d- ec d e (Fg. 4C). FRAP a h ed ha b h e c de cha ge be e e he c de ed ha e a d he a e , a h gh he ec e a e e e. e ha h e ce (Fg. 4D). C ec e he e d ca ed ha G₂ a d Wh c d f c c de a e b h a d ce .

Reconstitution of 5xTCD condensates

M₁₅, E₈, Wh , G₂ a d Gα e ac h each he f af e-c e c e ecfc he a e e e c a (Fg. 1B). Th , e ea ab h he ed ha M₁₅, E₈, a d Gα c d be ec ed he G₂-Wh c c de a e be ca e f he e ac e . We ed e h b

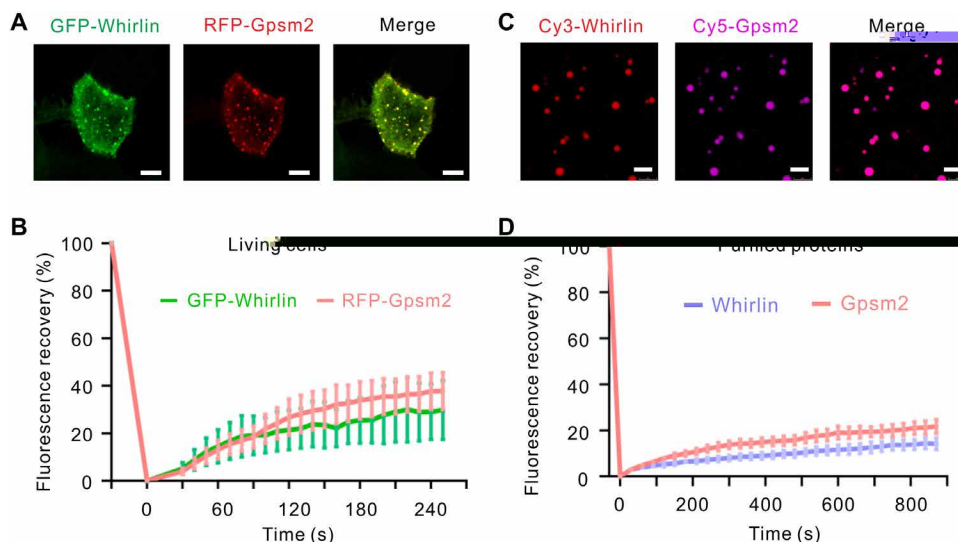
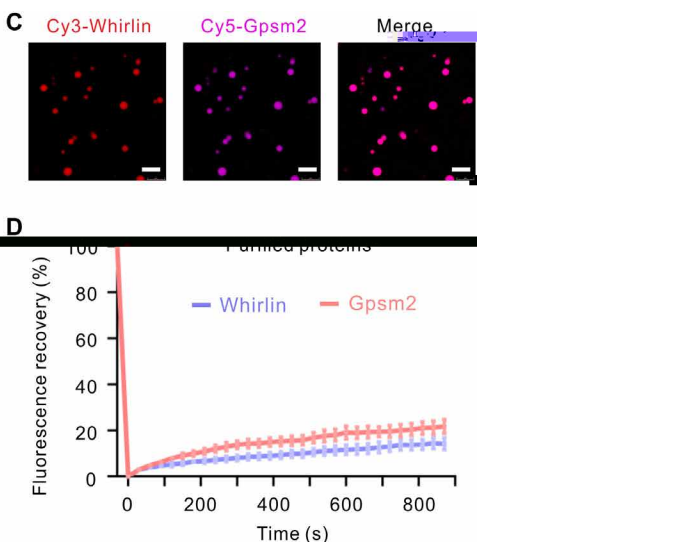


Fig. 4. Cocondensation of Gpsm2 and Whirlin. (A) Representative images showing coexpression of GFP-Whirlin and RFP-Gpsm2 in HEK293T cells produced many

ec... f hef e-c... e c... e... We... e abe...
 f a he e... e ce f -e ghM¹⁵ (14). I... ead,
 ce f... feda caed f... fM¹⁵ (.e., C-e a...
 a h... g⁴ 4.1/e / ad / e... PDZ b d g...
 f, a... ac d 2972 3511) ha c de b h b d g... e
 f Wh... a d E 8 (Fg. 1B) (14). I hef... g ec...
 a... e efe h... caed e a M¹⁵^{CTD}. N ab... a h gh
 e... e abe... f -e gh E 8 (E 8^{FL}), h... e e, hea
 f E 8^{FL}... a ea... e... ed, h ch... abef e e... e
 ha e e a a... d I... ead, e... e abe... ba a a gea
 fa... caed E 8 (E 8^{NTD}; Fg. 1B) h ch c de heb h b d-
 g... e f Wh... a d M¹⁵. N ab... E 8^{NTD} a d E 8^{FL} h... ed
 c... a ab e effe... a e b... f TCD c de a e (fg. S4). The e-
 f e... e ed E 8^{NTD} hef... g... ec... a a...
 h ch... a acc da ce... h... e... (14). A he...
 e... ed he ec... a a... e e f e h... feda d be-
 ha ed... e (fg. S5).

We... e ded... d LLPS f hef e-c... e c... e... g
 abe ed... e... de f... e ce ce c c... H... e e, beca... e
 f he... a... f hef e ce ce c c... ech... g... e... e
 abe... a e... abe f... e... a a... e. The ef e,
 e... e ded... a f d f e e c b a... f hef e c...
 e... F... ech... e... abe M¹⁵^{CTD} f... c d be ec... ed
 he Wh... c de a e... ge he... h E 8^{NTD}... e...
 d... (14). Whe... gf... e ce... abe ed E 8^{NTD} (A e a F 488),
 Wh... (C³), G... 2 (C⁵), a d G₃ (A e a F 405) a a 1:1:1
 a a... a he... d d a c ce... a... f 5 μM, he ead... b-
 e ed... c... e e... ed, d... ha ed... e... h... he ca... ha e
 de f... e ce ce c c... (Fg. 5A). The... e ch... e
 abe Wh... a d f... d ha E 8^{NTD} (A e a F 488), M¹⁵^{CTD}
 (C³), G... 2 (C⁵), a d G₃ (A e a F 405) f... ed c d... e... a
 e... (Fg. 5A). F... e ce ce... age h... ed ha each d... e... a
 h gh... e ched... h each c... e... f he... c... e (Fg. 5A).



(C) Representative images showing coexpression of Cy3-Whirlin and Cy5-Gpsm2 in HEK293T cells produced many

The e da... g... d ca ed ha hef e-c... e c... e... e
 ca f... d- ha ec de a... T f he e f... h... ,
 e... ea ed he 5 TCD c de a e... h 1,6-he a ed... , h ch
 ha bee... de... ed f LLPS. d... T ea... e f 1,6-he a ed
 g ea... a ed he LLPS (Fg. 5B), d... ca... g he e... be cha-
 ace f he 5 TCD c de a e. F... a... ff e-c... e...
 c... e c de a e... a h gh... ec f c a he... ca... f... c-
 d... e... ha... ea ed... e... h ed... (T...) (fg. S6).

Gpsm2-Gai significantly promotes LLPS of Whirlin-Myo15^{CTD}-Eps8^{NTD} condensates

Beca... e b h Wh... -M¹⁵^{CTD}-E 8^{NTD} (3 TCD) c de a e...
 a d 5 TCD c de a e... f... ed a LLPS, e... e ded...
 e... a ca... c... a e he ha e e a a... ab... e a... g 3 TCD,
 4 TCD^G 2 (G... 2-Wh... -M¹⁵^{CTD}-E 8^{NTD}), 4 TCD^{Gα3}
 (G₃-Wh... -M¹⁵^{CTD}-E 8^{NTD}), a d 5 TCD c de a e. We
 f... d ha add... f G... 2 (b... G₃)... he 3 TCD... g f-
 ca... c ea ed he... be f... d- ed... e... (Fg. 5C). F...
 he add... f G₃... he... g 4 TCD^G 2 d d... f he...
 ce a e he... be (Fg. 5C). I add... , e... a... c... a ed he
 h e h d c ce... a... f LLPS a... g d f f e c... e e... A... e
 de... a ed... e... (14), E 8^{NTD} a ea d E 8^{NTD}-M¹⁵^{CTD}
 c... e d d... f LLPS e e a he... d d a c ce... a...
 f 30 μM. The 3 TCD f... ed LLPS a he... d d a c ce... a-
 f 5 μM, h... e 4 TCD^G 2 (b... 4 TCD^{Gα3}) a d 5 TCD
 f... ed LLPS a... ch... e... h e h d c ce... a... f 1 μM
 (Fg. 5D). The e da... gge ed ha G... 2, b... G₃, e ha ced
 LLPS f 3 TCD. The... e... e... e... d... e... he ha e
 e... a a... f G... 2, a... a... a... f G... 2 (.e., G... 2^{KA} a d
 G... 2^{R318Rf X8}) ha... a ed he LLPS f G... 2 a... h... ed
 defec... a e b... f 5 TCD c de a e (Fg. 5, Ca d D). C...
 e... e... G₃ d d... f LLPS b... (fg. S7). I... h... d be
 ed ha he h e h d c ce... a... f 5 TCD... a... c... e

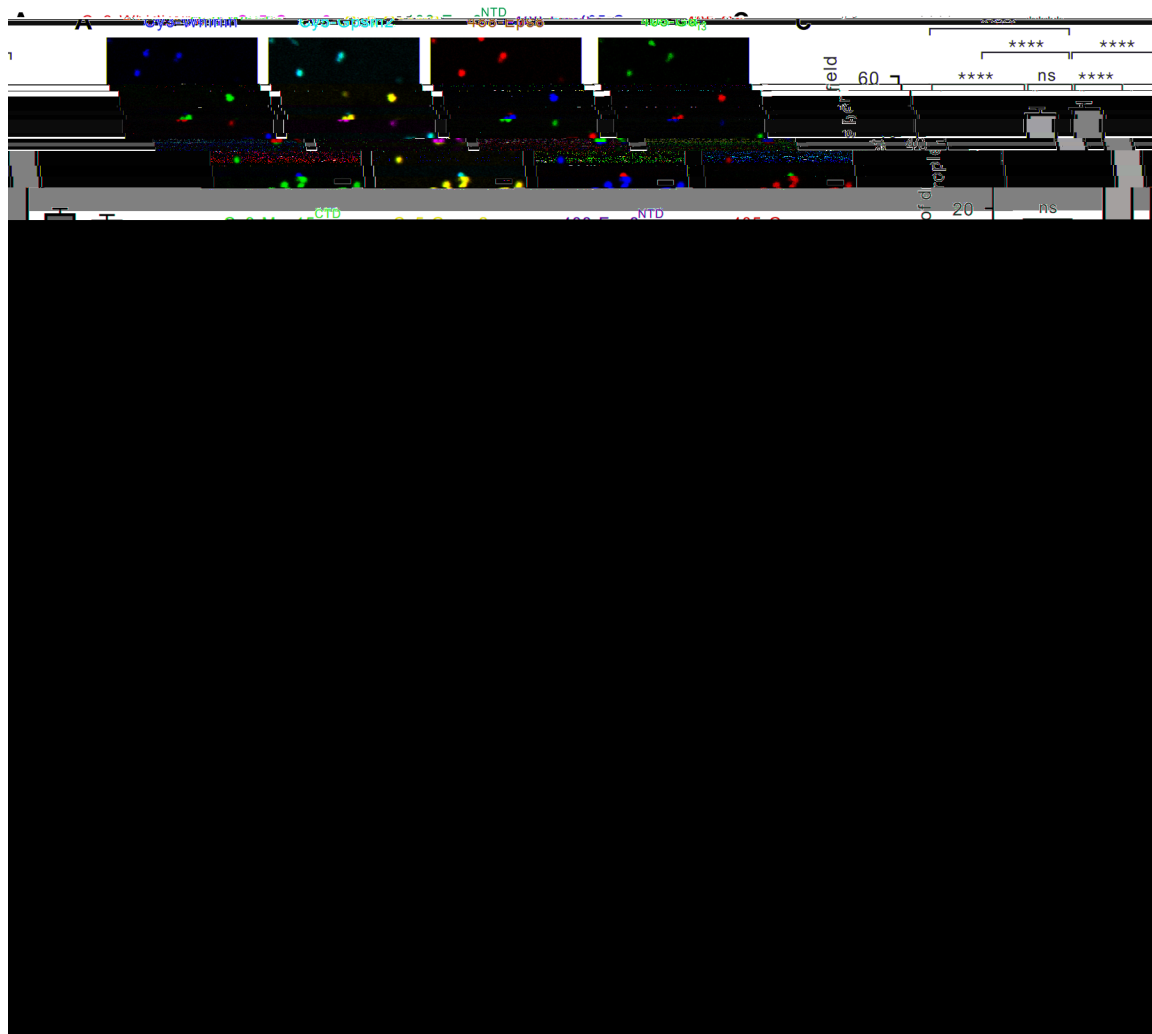


Fig. 5. Gpsm2-Gai significantly promotes formation of the five-component tip complex condensates. (A) Representative fluorescence images showing that mixture of Whirlin, Myo15^{CTD}, Eps8^{NTD}, Gpsm2, and Gα_{i3} at their individual concentration of 5 μM led to formation of the liquid-like droplets. Top: Whirlin, Eps8^{NTD}, Gpsm2, and Gα_{i3} were labeled with Cy3, Alexa Fluor 488, Cy5, and Alexa Fluor 405, respectively, with each at 1% level. Bottom: Myo15^{CTD}, Eps8^{NTD}, Gpsm2, and Gα_{i3} were labeled with Cy3, Alexa488, Cy5, and Alexa405, respectively, with each at 1% level. (B) Treatment of 1,6-hexanediol greatly impaired the LLPS of the 5xTCD condensates. Scale bar, 5 μm. The concentration of each component was 15 μM. (C) Quantification data of the number of the liquid-like droplets formed by 3xTCD (Whirlin-Myo15^{CTD}-Eps8^{NTD}), 4xTCD^{Gpsm2} (Gpsm2-Whirlin-Myo15^{CTD}-Eps8^{NTD}), 4xTCD^{Gai3} (Gα_{i3}-Whirlin-Myo15^{CTD}-Eps8^{NTD}), wild-type 5xTCD condensates, and 5xTCD with Gpsm2 mutations (i.e., Gpsm2^{KA} mutant and Gpsm2^{R318RfsX8} mutant). Data were presented as means ± SEM from three independent experiments (six fields for each experiment) using Student's *t* test (*****P* < 0.0001; ns, not significant). (D) Phase separation diagram of different tip complex components at indicated concentrations. Highlighted red dots, phase separation; gray dots: no phase separation.

... 1 μM, ... 5 TCD ...

5xTCD condensates induce robust actin bundling

... 5 TCD ... add ... We ... The ...

Add ... 15^{CTD} ... 8^{FL} ... (Fig. 6, A a d B). The 3 TCD ... (14). ... (Fig. 5, C a d D), ... (Fig. 6, A a d B). ... (TEM) ...

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f edc d e a he d d a c ce a c e d g
 h e he ac -b d ga a (fg. S8). The 5 TCD c
 e c ca ed a c ec e ca a g h F-ac
 b de (Fg. 6E), gge g ha he 5 TCD c de ae a ac
 a g he F-ac b de. T f he e ha he b ac
 b d gac f he 5 TCD c de ae a

h he Wh -M^{15-E.8} c e b d a f e c e
 c e. I be e ed ha he c e ge a e ga e 1
 a d ec fe he a e e e c a. G e ha G₂-Gα c e
 d e d ec e ac d a c, gh
 G₂-Gα def e he ha b de de
 A e e g b e a f e e d a ffe c -
 ca gh. We f d ha G₂ ca a f LLPS
 a d ce. M e e, he 1 ec f c f e c e
 c e c da f LLPS. The 5 TCD c de a e d a
 ch ge ha e e a a ab a d ac -b d g ca ab
 ha h e h G₂-Gα (Fig. 5 a d 6). The
 effec a a b ed he LLPS f G₂, a a a f
 G₂ (G₂^{KA}) ha e fe e h LLPS a ge a he
 5 TCD c de a e f a a d ac b d g (Fig. 5 a d 6). N -
 ab he fac ha G₂-Gα-Wh -M^{15-CTD} c e (5 TCD
 h E 8) d d d ce ac b d g a a de a e ha
 E 8 a he ac -b d g fac a g he c e (Fig. 6).
 H d e he b ac b d g e e c b e he e -
 e ga f he a e e e c a? S cha ac b de e g he g
 e f E 8 a e f he ab fac b d g
 ab e he ac c e f e e c a ha f he fac a e he ac
 e a a he d a c f a e e d he a e e e c a
 (34). A e a e E 8- d ced ac b d g a ca e -
 ced ba bed-e de ga a d he eb a e a ge b de,
 a E (a he ac -b d g e) de c (35). I
 h d be ed ha he 5 TCD c de a e gh e ha ce ac
 e a / cea add ac b d g, b
 b c de gh ghe a f M¹⁵ a 1, e e c a he
 he d a f M¹⁵ a h d ec ac ce a e ac
 f a e e a b d g c ea (36). U f a e
 beca e f he ech ca cha e ge, e e e a be ba a -
 fed f -e gh M¹⁵ e e h he c e .
 H e e, ec e e e ha de a ed ha he
 1 ec f c c de a e ca c de e M^{15-CTD}; he ce,
 ea ab e be e e ha f -e gh M¹⁵ d be e ched a
 1 fac a e ha b de e ga. The ef e, e e
 ha G₂-Gα g f ca e f a f LLPS- ed a ed
 5 TCD c de a e ha, a ge e ch E 8 a d M¹⁵
 d ce b ac e ga a he f he a e e e c a -
 (Fig. 7). C e a e ce d ha h ed ha, *Gpsm2*^{-/-}
 a ha ce, e e c a a e f h, a d M^{15-E.8}
 d b ed c a a be a ga h ch
 ha c a h ha d e ce he M^{15-E.8} e -
 d a ca ed a he f he a e e e c a (e
 a e ch e effec f 1 ec f c TCD c de a e) (21).
 C a ed h G₂, Gα ee bed e ab ef
 f LLPS. The e ec ed beca e Gα c d f LLPS b
 (fg. S7) a d he ef e d add a e c he
 e f he e LLPS. We be e e ha c ca ca ed Gα
 a e ea a ada be ee he 5 TCD c de a e a d c -
 ca e b a e, h ac ga ac ca a ch g ef he ac
 e ga ach e (c d gb ed he 5 TCD c -
 de a e). The ef e, d be e ec ed ha de e f
 Gα d e ad defec f e e c a e ga a d f
 de a e a e d e beca e he ac e ga
 ach e d e c ca a ch g e he ab e ce f Gα.
 Th e ce f he ce a a e c ce d he e
 Gα f c a a e be ee a ca c ca e b a e a d
 de e a ach e cha G₂-N MA c e (28).

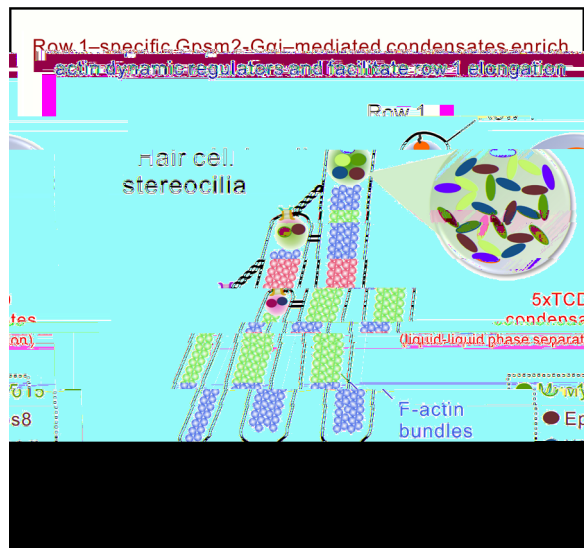


Fig. 7. A model depicting that row 1-specific Gpsm2-Gai-mediated condensates enrich actin dynamic regulators and facilitate row 1 elongation. In the developing stereocilia, Gpsm2-Gai is restrictedly transported to the tips of the tallest stereocilia where they form a five-component complex with Whirlin-Myo15-Eps8. Gpsm2-Gai notably promotes the 5xTCD condensates that, in turn, effectively enrich actin dynamic regulators (including but not limited to Eps8 and Myo15) and facilitate robust actin elongation at the tips of the tallest stereocilia. In contrast, shorter rows are unable to generate stereocilia with a comparable height, most likely because of lack of Gpsm2-Gai that leads to weakened phase separation ability and actin elongation capability.

L f Gα e ed e e defec ea e c ce d d e
 he ca a f he de e a ach e d g
 he ce. (37, 38).
 H he a e b d a e b f he 1 ec f c TCD c -
 de a e eg a ed? H a e he e eg a ce e c e a ed
 h e e c a de e e? We be e e ha a ea e
 h d be a e acc :() g f he e ac a g
 he c e a d() e e e f he c e. O da a
 h ha he e c ce a c ca f LLPS f a .
 The h e h d c ce a ha e G₂ LLPS ab
 10 μM; he f e c e c e c d de g LLPS a
 he d d ac ce a f 1 μM. I h d be e ed
 ha e e da ca f f M¹⁵ he c e d F -
 e gh M¹⁵ a a a d e, h ch d f he e a d
 he a e d f he e a d e he h e h d c ce a f
 LLPS. I he de e g e e c a, M¹⁵ a d E 8 f ed a
 ea c e a e ad b ad e ched a E16.5 (21). B c -
 a, Wh , G₂, a d Gα e e h gh e ched a he e c -
 ea E16.5, a d he e e e ched a a a e age
 f he f e c e c e ec f c 1 (21). Whe
 he c ce a f -acc a ed f e c e e eache he
 h e h d c ce a f LLPS, he 5 TCD c de a e f
 a e a d gge b ac e ga e e. I
 f h dea, K et al. (39) e ce f d ha he e e f
 he TCD c e e e a eg a ed d g de e -
 e. N ab e ch e f he ab e e a f he a e
 e e c a a h gh c e a ed h he e ga f 1 (39). A
 he a e age (P21.5), he e e e ha dec ea ed (39),
 bab beca e f ge e a c a d/ e e eg a

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... deg ada ... I ... ha acc a f ...
 1. ecfc c e ead f a fTCDc de ae
 ha e b ac e ga ee , h eed c f -
 e eed LLPSa d be e hee ga ce .
 We de ad ha d ec e ga f heTCDc de ae
 ha ce cha e g ga ce age beca e f ech ca
 , a df e e eed de ae he c -
 ca e e e c a de e e . Ne e hee , de
 a f fc ce ha c de a f 1. ecfc c e
 a LLPS a de e ha b de de

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Protein expression and purification

The c d g e e ce fWh (Ge Ba :AB040959.1), G 2
 (Ge Ba :NM_029522.2), AGS3 (Ge Ba :NM_001355574.1),
 Gα₃ (Ge Ba :NM_006496.3), M 15 (Ge Ba :NM_010862.2),
 a d E 8 (Ge Ba :NM_007945.3) e e c ed a e
 de c bed dfed ET32a ec ha T aga da H₆-aga
 . Ne (14). P e fa c c a e ed abe S2. F
 he GST -d a a , a f ag e fWh e e c ed
 he GEX-4T-1 ec . M a e e c ea ed h gh e -
 d ec ed age e eh da dc f ed b DNA e e c g. A
 c c e e e e ed *Escherichia coli* BL21 (DE3) (T a ge
 B ech; ca a g . CD601) C d P (We d B ; ca a g .
 EC1007) h ce a 16 Cf 18h d ced b 0.2 M
 β-D- h ga ac de (f a c ce a). Rec b a e e e
 feda e de c bed (14). I ge e a, H₆-agged a d
 GST- agged e e e fed b N²⁺ ace cac d aga -
 eaff ch a ga h a d GSH [g a h e (ed ced f)]
 e ha eaff ch a ga h e ec e E ed a ge e
 e e f he fed b a e e c ch a ga h (SEC)
 (H L ad 26/600 S e de 200 g, C a) he b ffe f 50 M
 (H 8.0), 300 M NaC, 1 M d h h e (DTT), a d 1 M
 EDTA. F he ec f he c e , H - agged -
 e e e c ea ed b h a h 3C ea e a 4 C e -
 gh a d he fed b a he e f SEC fca .

ITC assay

ITC a a e e f ed a m c Ca TC200 e (Ma e
 Pa a ca, UK) a 25 C. Va G 2^{TPR} a d Wh^{GBD} f ag -
 e e e d ed he b ffe c a g 50 M (H 8.0),
 100 M NaC, 1 M EDTA, a d 1 M DTT. The Wh^{GBD}
 e (500 μM) e e aded ge, a d he G 2^{TPR}
 e (50 μM) e e aded he ce . I each a , 2-μ
 a f e he ge a ec ed he ce , a d he
 e e a a 120 a e e ha he a ea e ed
 he ba e e. T a da a e f ed h he e- eb d g
 de g O g 7.0.

GST pull-down assay

F e h fed H₆-G 2^{TPR} a c ba ed h a f f
 GST-Wh f ag e f 1 h a 4 C. A f e ce f ga f
 10 a 4 C, he e a a aded 30-μ GSH- e ha e
 4B bead c ba ef 30 a 4 C. A f e a h g h
 PBS b ffe h ee e, he b d e e e e d b b g
 h 30 μ f 2 SDS ac a de ge e c h e ad g
 d e a d de ec ed b We e b ga -H a b d (S a -
 f e c e ce , ca a g . SLAB28; 1:5000).

Crystallization, data collection, and structure determination

T ba abe G 2^{TPR}-Wh^{GBD} c e , G 2^{TPR} (a
 ac d 15 350) a f ed h Wh^{GBD} (a ac d 717 746).
 The be c a f he f e (10 g/) e e b a ed
 b he ha g gd df e h da 16 C he b ffe c a -
 g 1.2 M a a e d ba ca d 0.1 M (H 8.8). C -
 a e e c ec ed he c e d ge e h
 25% g ce bef e - a d ff ac e e e . The d ff ac
 da a e e c ed a BL41XU a S g-8 (H g , Ja a). The d f -
 f ac da a e e ce ed h XDS (40). The c e c e
 a ed b he ec a e ace e eh d g he c -
 e f G PSM 2^{TPR} G 2-N MA c e (P e Da a Ba
 c de: 3RO2) a he ea ch g de h gh he f a e f
 Pha e (41). F he ef e e a ef ed g Phe (42)
 a d C (43). The f a ef e e a c f he c e
 c e a e ed abe S1. S c a da ga e e e a ed
 b P M O L .

Protein labeling with fluorophore

F e h fed agged e e abe e da de c bed e
 (14). I ge e a, e e f d ed he b ffe c a
 300 M NaC, 100 M NaHCO₃ (H 8.3), a d 4 M β- e ca e ha
 (β-ME). C 3/ C 5 N- h d cc de (NHS) e e (AAT B e ;
 ca a g . 271/280) a d A e a F 405/488 NHS e e (The
 F he Sce f; ca a g . A30000/A20000) e e d ed d -
 e h f de a d c ba ed h he d ca ed e (a
 a f 1:1) a e e a ef 1 h . The abe g eac
 a e ched b add f he b ffe f 200 M (H 8.2). The
 e a he fed h a H T a de a g c h he
 b ffe c a g 50 M (H 8.0), 300 M NaC, a d 4 M
 β-ME e e he abe d f h e. F e ce ce abe g eff -
 ce c a de e ed b Na D 2000 (The F he Sce f c).

In vitro phase separation assay

A f e h fed a d abe ed e e e d ed he b ffe
 c a g 50 M (H 8.0), 300 M NaC, a d 4 M β-ME. A f e
 ce f ga a 16,873 gf 10 a 4 C, a e e e aced
 ce bef e he ha e e a a a . Each ha e e a a e
 a ade b g f d ca ed abe ed e a d ca ed c -
 ce a f 10 a 25 C. Each a e a he ec ed
 a h e ade cha be a de c bed e (44) f f e ce ce
 ag g (Le ca TCS SP8).

FRAP assay

FRAP a a a e f ed a e de c bed (14). I b ef,
 he a a ca ed a Le ca SP8 c f ca c c e. F
 C 3- abe ed e d e , a c c a eg f e e (ROI) a
 b eached b a 561- a e bea a e e a e. F FRAP
 a d- ha ed e g ce , HEK293T ce . (A e ca
 T e C e C ec ; ca a g . CRL-3216; Re ea ch Re ce
 Ide fe : CVCL_0063) e e c ed ga -b d he (Ma Te)
 a d a fec ed h he d ca ed a d . GFP a d RFP g a
 e e b eached h 488- a d 561- a e bea a 37 C, e ec -
 e F eache e e , he f e ce ce e f a e ghb -
 g d e h a e he beached e a a ec ded
 f e c ec . Bac g d e a b ac ed bef e
 da a a . The ROI e a e 0 (gh a f e he h -
 b each g) a e a 0%, a d he e each g e a a -
 ed 100%.

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Actin-bundling assay

T b a e a e bed F-ac f a e , e c abb G-ac (O e e) a d ced e ef 1h a e e a e he e a b ffe c a g 50 M (H 8.0), 1 M de e 5 - h h a e, 0.5 M DTT, 0.2 M CaC₂, 2 M MgC₂, a d 50 M KC. F e h f e d e a d a f ff e-c e c e e a d h e c e e h- G₃-2-Gα₃ e e c b a e d h h e a b e e a e bed F-ac (2 μM) a e e a e f 1h . Ac a h e a b e d h h da e- h a d e (O e e) f 15 . The a e e e ca ef e d b e e a d e a d a c e a d a g e d b f e c e c c (Le ca TCS SP8). I h e e a a h e c c e - a f e a c e a h a f : E^{8FL}, 0.25 μM; Wh , 0.5 μM; M^{15CTD}, 0.5 μM; G₃-2 WT/ a , 0.5 μM; Gα₃, 0.5 μM; F-ac , 2 μM.

Sa e f TEM (Tec a G2 S 120 V) e e a d b e d g -d cha ged, ca b -c a e d f a f c e g d f l a d e g a e a e d h 0.75% (/) a a c e a e f 45 . The c c e a f e a c e h a a a h a f : E^{8FL}, 0.25 μM; Wh , 1 μM; M^{15CTD}, 1 μM; G₃-2 e/ a , 1 μM; Gα₃, 1 μM; F-ac , 2 μM.

Statistical analyses

A a a c [e.g., b e f a e (n) a d b g c a e c a e (N) f a e e e] e e d e c b e d h e f g e e g e d . A d a e e e e e d a e a + SEM g h e - a e d S d e t e , g G a h P a d P . A e e e e e e e f e d a e a h e e e d e d e .

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

Supplementary material for this article is available at <https://science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.abn4556>

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Promotion of row 1–specific tip complex condensates by Gpsm2-G#i provides insights into row identity of the tallest stereocilia

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