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K. Knoeringer, Carina Groh, L. Kraemer, Kevin C. Stein ...+5 more authors

Institutions: Stanford University, Kaiserslautern University of Technology, Harvard University

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1 **The unfolded protein response of the endoplasmic reticulum supports mitochondrial**
2 **biogenesis by buffering non-imported proteins**

3

4 Katharina Knöringer^{1*}, Carina Groh^{1*}, Lena Krämer^{1*}, Kevin C. Stein², Katja G. Hansen³,
5 Johannes M. Herrmann¹, Judith Frydman^{2,4}, Felix Boos^{1,5#}

6

7 ¹Cell Biology, Technische Universität Kaiserslautern, 67663 Kaiserslautern, Germany

8 ²Department of Biology, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305, USA

9 ³Department of Genetics, Blavatnik Institute, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA 02115, USA

10 ⁴Department of Genetics, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305, USA

11 ⁵Current address: Department of Genetics, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305, USA

12

13 *, K.K., C.G. and L.K. contributed equally to this work

14 #, corresponding author, fboos@stanford.edu

15 **Abstract**

16 Almost all mitochondrial proteins are synthesized in the cytosol and subsequently targeted to
17 mitochondria. The accumulation of non-imported precursor proteins occurring upon mitochondrial
18 dysfunction can challenge cellular protein homeostasis. Here we show that blocking protein
19 translocation into mitochondria results in the accumulation of mitochondrial membrane proteins at
20 the endoplasmic reticulum, thereby triggering the unfolded protein response (UPR^{ER}). Moreover,
21 we find that mitochondrial membrane proteins are also routed to the ER under physiological
22 conditions. The levels of ER-resident mitochondrial precursors is enhanced by import defects as
23 well as metabolic stimuli that increase the expression of mitochondrial proteins. Under such
24 conditions, the UPR^{ER} is crucial to maintain protein homeostasis and cellular fitness. We propose
25 the ER serves as a physiological buffer zone for those mitochondrial precursors that can't be
26 immediately imported into mitochondria while engaging the UPR^{ER} to adjust the ER proteostasis
27 capacity to the extent of precursor accumulation.

28

29

30 **Introduction**

31 The ability of cells to maintain protein homeostasis (proteostasis) is crucial for organismal health.
32 Imbalances in protein synthesis, targeting, folding and degradation are associated with numerous
33 diseases and are also hallmarks of aging¹⁻⁵. Cells constantly monitor their proteome to quickly
34 sense proteotoxic perturbations and launch stress-reactive programs to restore homeostasis. Of
35 particular importance are the compartment-specific stress responses to misfolded proteins of the
36 cytosol and nucleus (heat shock response) as well as of the endoplasmic reticulum (unfolded protein
37 response of the ER, UPR^{ER}) and mitochondria (UPR^{mt}). Via the activation of dedicated transcription
38 factors, these pathways elevate the levels of chaperones, proteases and other quality control factors
39 in the compartment where protein misfolding is sensed⁶⁻⁹.

40 When misfolded proteins accumulate in the ER, the ER membrane kinase Ire1 dimerizes,
41 autophosphorylates and then splices the mRNA of *XBPI* (*HAC1* in yeast). This enables its efficient
42 translation, giving rise to a potent transcription factor that induces the UPR^{ER}¹⁰. Besides increasing
43 the expression of ER chaperones and other biogenesis factors, the UPR^{ER} can considerably expand
44 the ER of a cell. In yeast, the Ire1-Hac1 pathway is the only dedicated regulator of the UPR^{ER},
45 while mammalian cells have two additional branches of the UPR^{ER} that control transcription,
46 translation and eventually apoptosis via PERK and ATF6¹¹.

47 Cellular organelles have clearly distinct organizations and functions, yet they are no independent
48 entities; instead, they form tight physical contacts¹²⁻¹⁴ and functionally cooperate in the synthesis of
49 proteins, lipids and metabolites^{15,16}. Hence, they mutually influence and rely on the homeostasis of
50 one another. In many protein folding diseases, defects in proteostasis are observed in multiple
51 organelles at the same time, even though the primary perturbation occurs in most cases in only one
52 compartment^{17,18}. As a consequence, the different stress response programs need to act in concert
53¹⁹⁻²³. For instance, perturbations of mitochondrial proteostasis often compromise mitochondrial
54 protein import so that non-imported precursor proteins accumulate in the cytosol^{19,24-26}.
55 Consequently, mitochondrial dysfunction not only activates mitochondrial quality control pathways,

56 but also the expression of cytosolic chaperones and the ubiquitin-proteasome system, which
57 mitigate the deleterious effects of mistargeted precursors²⁷⁻²⁹. In addition, the synthesis of many
58 mitochondrial proteins is muted by transcriptional repression as well as global translation
59 attenuation to further reduce the burden on cytosolic proteostasis^{28,30,31}.

60 While numerous pathways of cross-compartment communication under proteotoxic stress have
61 been identified, our understanding of the connections between organellar stress response programs
62 is still incomplete. Here we show that defective mitochondrial protein import not only activates
63 mitochondrial and cytosolic stress responses, but also triggers the unfolded protein response of the
64 ER. This is at least in part attributable to the targeting of mitochondrial membrane proteins to the
65 ER. The UPR^{ER} is functionally relevant both under conditions of compromised protein import, and
66 conditions that induce mitochondrial biogenesis such as metabolic adaptations. Thus, the UPR^{ER}
67 supports mitochondrial biogenesis by buffering the adverse consequences of elevated levels of non-
68 imported mitochondrial precursor proteins.

69

70

71 **Results**

72 **The unfolded protein response of the ER is triggered by long-lasting mitoprotein-induced** 73 **stress**

74 Cellular adaptations to imbalances in mitochondrial proteostasis have been studied using mutants of
75 protein import components²⁷, chaperones²⁹, folding-incompetent mitochondrial proteins^{31,32}, or
76 defects in the respiratory chain^{33,34}. Many of these perturbations converge on the impairment of
77 mitochondrial protein import. Model systems in which protein import can be acutely blocked have
78 proven particularly useful to decipher the mechanistic details of responses to such mitoprotein-
79 induced stress. A way of achieving this is the overexpression of mitochondrial precursor proteins
80 that are intrinsically prone to premature folding and stalling inside the narrow mitochondrial
81 translocases³⁵. For instance, the well-characterized ‘clogger’ protein *b*₂-DHFR can be used for this
82 purpose^{28,36}. This fusion protein consists of the N-terminal 167 amino acids of cytochrome *b*₂
83 (including its mitochondrial targeting signal) and the rapidly and tightly folding dihydrofolate
84 reductase DHFR (Fig. 1A)³⁷⁻³⁹. Expression of the clogger results in accumulation of non-imported
85 precursor proteins (Fig. 1B) and impairs cell growth (Fig. 1C). In baker’s yeast, the expression of
86 *b*₂-DHFR can be tightly controlled by using a *GAL* promoter that can be switched on by the addition
87 of galactose to the lactate-based growth media. This allows for a tight temporal resolution and the
88 discrimination between short-term and long-term responses to an acute and specific blockade of
89 protein import.

90 We previously characterized the immediate reactions of the cellular transcriptome to mitoprotein-
91 induced stress²⁸. An induction of many chaperones and the proteasome and a repression of
92 OXPHOS components and ribosomes all took place within 1.5 h of clogger expression, some of
93 them even markedly earlier (Fig. 1D). However, many cellular adaptations change when acute
94 stress persists and becomes long-lasting⁴⁰⁻⁴². We therefore asked whether cells undergo additional
95 adaptations when exposed to long-term mitoprotein-induced stress. To this end, we reanalyzed our
96 previously collected data to examine changes in the cellular proteome after up to 18 h of clogger

97 expression²⁸. We queried for changes in the proteome that were evident at time points no earlier
98 than 4.5 h, which corresponds to approximately one cell doubling in respiratory medium.
99 Interestingly, this criterion identified a group of proteins that are associated with the unfolded
100 protein response of the ER (Fig. 1E and S1A)²¹. Some individual targets of the UPR^{ER}, such as e.g.
101 Ero1 and Kar2, were induced at earlier time points, presumably due to their responsiveness to the
102 transcription factors Hsf1 and/or Rpn4 that form the first line of defense against mitoprotein-
103 induced stress. Moreover, a small number of UPR targets were decreased over time. These proteins
104 (Hem15, Mdl1, Coq6, Mgr1) almost exclusively localize to mitochondria and their levels are likely
105 affected by the import block or the clogger-induced downregulation of mitochondrial components.
106 However, most UPR targets showed a consistent upregulation that was observed 9 h after clogger
107 induction, and even more so after 18 h (Fig. 1E and S1A).

108 In yeast, the UPR^{ER} is activated by splicing of an intron from the *HAC1* mRNA in the cytosol
109 through the ER-resident kinase Ire1. Only the spliced isoform of the mRNA (called *HAC1ⁱ*) can be
110 translated and gives rise to a transcription factor¹⁰. To test whether *HAC1* was indeed spliced and
111 translated under mitoprotein-induced stress, we analyzed clogger-expressing cells by ribosome
112 profiling. Here, ribosome footprints from cells expressing *b₂*-DHFR or cytosolic DHFR were
113 sequenced 4.5 h after induction, and the changes in the translome were compared to the changes
114 in the transcriptome (Fig. 1F). For the large majority of all genes, transcriptional and translational
115 changes correlated tightly. For *HAC1* however, we observed a slight reduction of mRNA levels,
116 while we found four times more ribosome footprints on *HAC1* mRNA in clogger-expressing than in
117 control cells (Fig 1G). In fact, *HAC1* was one of the most prominent outliers in this comparison,
118 ranking as the gene with the second-highest gain in translational efficiency when mitochondrial
119 import was blocked (Fig. S1B). The increase in ribosome occupancy was restricted to the exon
120 region of the mRNA, while the intron region of *HAC1* was free of ribosome densities in both
121 conditions (Fig 1H).

122 We next sought to more precisely determine the timing of the UPR^{ER} activation. To this end, we set
123 up an RT-qPCR assay which quantifies the spliced isoform of *HAC1ⁱ* by using a primer-probe
124 combination which specifically recognizes the exon-exon junction of *HAC1ⁱ* (Fig. S1C, D). We
125 induced *b₂*-DHFR by addition of 0.5% galactose to cultures that were previously grown in lactate
126 medium and followed *HAC1* splicing over time. The earliest time point at which we could detect a
127 considerable difference between clogger-expressing and control cells was 3 h (Fig. 1I). As a certain
128 delay between the onset of *HAC1* splicing and downstream changes in protein levels of UPR^{ER}
129 targets is expected, this is consistent with our earlier observation that UPR^{ER} induction is a rather
130 late event in mitoprotein-induced stress signaling.

131 We conclude that under long-term impairment of mitochondrial protein import, cells induce the
132 UPR^{ER} via the canonical Ire1-Hac1 pathway.

133

134 **UPR^{ER} induction is required for cellular fitness under mitoprotein-induced stress**

135 We asked whether UPR^{ER} induction is functionally relevant under sustained mitoprotein-induced
136 stress, given that its magnitude is rather mild when compared to harsh ER insults such as treatment
137 with tunicamycin (*cf.* Fig. S1C). To this end, we compared the fitness of UPR^{ER}-deficient cells with
138 that of wild type cells when mitochondrial import was blocked. Indeed, when either *HAC1* or *IRE1*
139 were deleted, cells exhibited synthetic growth defects upon clogger expression, both in liquid
140 medium and on plates (Fig. 2A, B).

141 We examined the relevance of UPR^{ER} signaling when mitochondrial import is impaired by an
142 approach orthogonal to clogging the translocases. To this end, we deleted *HAC1* or *IRE1* in a strain
143 that carries a temperature-sensitive mutation in the essential import component Mia40. Mia40 is
144 responsible for the import and oxidative folding of cysteine-containing mitochondrial
145 intermembrane space proteins^{43,44}. The import defects in the *mia40-4* mutant were shown to trigger
146 cytosolic adaptations (unfolded protein response activated by mistargeting of proteins, UPR^{am})

147 similar to those elicited by the clogger²⁷. Indeed, *mia40-4* cells grew worse at semi-permissive
148 growth conditions when *IRE1* or *HAC1* were deleted, demonstrating that UPR^{ER} signaling is
149 relevant when protein import into the IMS is perturbed (Fig. 2C).

150 In conclusion, defects in mitochondrial protein import trigger the UPR^{ER}, which is required for
151 cellular fitness under such conditions (Fig. 2D).

152

153 **Mitochondrial membrane proteins accumulate at the ER when mitochondrial protein import** 154 **is impaired**

155 What could be the cause for UPR^{ER} activation in situations when mitochondrial import is impaired?
156 Blocking import should elevate levels of mitochondrial precursor proteins in the cytosol. Therefore,
157 we reasoned that a portion of these non-imported precursors, perhaps comprising membrane
158 proteins, may be targeted to the ER, where they would accumulate and engage folding and protein
159 quality control systems, thus triggering UPR^{ER} activation.

160 To test this hypothesis, we labelled the mitochondrial inner membrane protein Oxa1 with
161 ymNeonGreen, and coexpressed it with Sec63-ymScarletI as an ER marker, followed by analysis of
162 their subcellular distribution by fluorescence microscopy. When we expressed cytosolic DHFR, the
163 green Oxa1 signal and the red Sec63 signal partitioned into separate structures with no considerable
164 colocalization. In contrast, when *b₂*-DHFR was expressed for 4.5 h, we found that a fraction of
165 Oxa1-ymNeonGreen colocalized with Sec63-ymScarletI in the typical ring-shaped structures of the
166 perinuclear and peripheral ER (Fig. 3A). This ER co-localization was observed in around 30% of
167 the clogger-expressing cells, but only in around 1% of control cells (Fig. 3B).

168 Fusions with fluorescent proteins can interfere with the function, localization, folding and stability
169 of proteins⁴⁵⁻⁴⁷. In particular, a large, stably folding C-terminal moiety might generate a
170 mitochondrial clogger, as exemplified by *b₂*-DHFR itself, and interfere with import and
171 localization. We therefore sought to verify our results by a method that avoids the fusion of large

172 protein domains to mitochondrial precursors and also minimizes the need for manual categorization
173 of microscopic images with high mitochondrial background signal. To this end, we adapted a split-
174 GFP method specifically designed to assess protein localization *in vivo*⁴⁸. Superfolder GFP is split
175 into two parts, GFP¹⁻¹⁰ and GFP¹¹, which only emit fluorescence when co-localized to the same
176 compartment (Fig. 3C). The GFP fragments do not alter the folding behavior of the fusion proteins
177 and their affinity is high enough to promote self-association without the need for a direct protein-
178 protein interaction of the fusion partners⁴⁹⁻⁵¹. The GFP¹¹ tag consists of only 17 amino acid
179 residues and is therefore unlikely to affect translocation across the mitochondrial membranes.

180 To first verify that the split-GFP assay captures the subcellular localization of mitochondrial
181 proteins, we fused the GFP¹¹ fragment to the C-terminus of Oxa1 (inner membrane, C-terminus at
182 matrix side), Mia40, Dld1 (inner membrane, C-terminus at IMS side) and Om45 (outer membrane,
183 C-terminus at IMS side) and the GFP¹⁻¹⁰ fragment to Oxa1 (IM, matrix side), Mia40 (IM, IMS
184 side), Sec63 (ER membrane, cytosolic side) and Ssa1 (cytosol) (Fig. S2A)⁵²⁻⁵⁸. In the absence of
185 any stress, the by far strongest fluorescence signal was detected for the combinations that
186 recapitulate the known localization and topology for all proteins tested (Oxa1-GFP¹¹ / Oxa1-GFP¹⁻
187 ¹⁰, Mia40-GFP¹¹ / Mia40-GFP¹⁻¹⁰, Dld1-GFP¹¹ / Mia40-GFP¹⁻¹⁰, Om45-GFP¹¹ / Mia40-GFP¹⁻¹⁰),
188 while all other combinations resulted in much lower fluorescent signals (Fig. 3D and S2B-D,
189 control condition in blue). This showed that the approach can measure protein localization with sub-
190 organellar resolution.

191 We next expressed either *b*₂-DHFR or cytosolic DHFR for 4.5 h in strains carrying the split-GFP
192 reporters. *b*₂-DHFR expression evoked a marked increase in signal for Oxa1-GFP¹¹ with the Sec63-
193 GFP¹⁻¹⁰ and the Ssa1-GFP¹⁻¹⁰ reporters, while with cytosolic DHFR, only very little signal was
194 detected (Fig. 3D). This points towards relocation of a fraction of newly synthesized Oxa1-GFP¹¹ to
195 the ER surface or, potentially, the cytosol. We used fluorescence microscopy to confirm that the
196 fluorescence we measured in a plate reader setup indeed originated from ER-localized GFP
197 complementation (Fig. 3E and S2E-F). For the mitochondrial outer membrane protein Om45-

198 GFP¹¹, we found a similar redistribution to the ER under import stress (Fig. 3F and S2B), while
199 neither Mia40-GFP¹¹ nor Dld1-GFP¹¹ showed detectable ER localization (Fig. S2C, D). Obviously,
200 some but not all mitochondrial membrane proteins are routed to the ER when their entry into
201 mitochondria is delayed.

202 How is the timing of precursor localization to the ER after mitochondrial import is blocked? To
203 assess this question, we grew cells expressing Oxa1-GFP¹¹ and Sec63-GFP¹⁻¹⁰ in a plate reader,
204 induced *b₂*-DHFR or cytosolic DHFR by addition of galactose and monitored split-GFP
205 fluorescence over time in living cells. Constitutively expressed ymScarletI was used to normalize
206 for differences in cell growth and translation rates. Clogger-expressing cells showed elevated split-
207 GFP signals from around 3 h after induction (Fig. 3G). Strikingly, the induction of the UPR^{ER} and
208 the detection of Oxa1 at the ER perfectly coincided in time (*cf.* Fig. 1I).

209 In conclusion, when mitochondrial import is blocked, some mitochondrial preproteins accumulate
210 at the ER membrane which likely evokes the UPR^{ER} (Fig. 3H).

211

212 **The UPR^{ER} maintains cellular fitness during adaptation of mitochondrial biogenesis**

213 Is the UPR^{ER} only a stress-reactive system that comes into play when mitochondrial import is
214 defective, or is it of more general relevance for mitochondrial biogenesis? Accurate protein sorting
215 is a challenging task for cells, and the ER might constantly encounter a certain load of
216 mitochondrial precursor proteins. To check whether there is evidence for mitochondrial proteins
217 routed to the ER in the absence of stress, we reanalyzed several high-resolution datasets on protein
218 targeting. Proximity labeling of ribosomes close to the ER or the mitochondrial outer membrane
219 and subsequent ribosome profiling determined the ‘local translome’ at the ER and mitochondrial
220 surface in yeast^{59,60}. Interestingly, while most mitochondrial proteins were enriched in the vicinity
221 of mitochondria, a subset of mitochondrial proteins was found to be translated close to the ER,
222 notably including Oxa1 (Fig. 4A). Also in human cells, mRNAs of some mitochondrial proteins

223 were found at the ER surface (Fig. S3A)⁶¹. Finally, we reanalyzed datasets from studies that
224 determined which nascent chains interact with the signal recognition particle (SRP) in yeast by
225 pulldown of SRP and subsequent sequencing of the bound transcripts^{62,63}. SRP is a major targeting
226 factor for secretory proteins that carry a signal sequence or transmembrane domains⁶⁴⁻⁶⁷. While
227 secretory proteins were clearly the most enriched among the SRP substrates, a subset of
228 mitochondrial encoding ribosome-nascent chains were also bound by SRP to a lesser extent, but
229 significantly above what was found for cytosolic proteins (Fig. S3B). Both in yeast and in human
230 cells, ER-localized mitochondrial transcripts include, but are not limited to proteins with known
231 dual localization to mitochondria and ER. Apparently, some mitochondrial precursors have a
232 tendency to be targeted to the ER even in the absence of stress, possibly mediated by ‘low priority’
233 SRP-binding to at least some of these precursors.

234 We did not observe considerable fluorescence in our split-GFP assays without applying import
235 stress. However, under steady state conditions, precursors might only very transiently localize to the
236 ER because they can be efficiently rerouted to mitochondria with the help of the ER-resident J
237 protein Djp1 in a process called ER-SURF¹⁵. Loss of this pathway does not impair mitochondrial
238 import *per se*, but would trap mitochondrial orphans at the ER. To test this, we employed our split-
239 GFP assay in the ‘ER-trapping’ *Δdjp1* mutant and found accumulation of Oxa1 at the ER even
240 under optimal growth conditions (Fig. 4B). Hence, there is indeed a constitutive flux of
241 mitochondrial precursors to the ER in the absence of stress.

242 We therefore wondered whether the UPR^{ER} might be required to buffer fluctuations in the levels of
243 ER-localized mitochondrial precursors under physiological conditions. Mitochondrial biogenesis is
244 strongly dependent on the carbon source in the growth media: The levels and, hence, synthesis of
245 many mitochondrial proteins are low on glucose, but considerably higher on raffinose, galactose,
246 glycerol or lactate⁶⁸⁻⁷⁰. In fact, we observed that the extent of steady state *HAC1* splicing was low
247 when cells were grown on glucose, but elevated on all other carbon sources, particularly on
248 galactose and glycerol (Fig. 4C). To assess the functional relevance of the UPR^{ER} under different

249 states of mitochondrial metabolism, we grew wild type, $\Delta hac1$ and $\Delta ire1$ cells to exponential phase
250 in liquid medium containing glucose, galactose or lactate as sole carbon source. Then we washed
251 the cells, resuspended them in glucose, galactose and lactate medium in all possible combinations
252 and monitored their growth (Fig. 4D). While there was no difference between wild type and ER-
253 deficient strains when they remained in the media they were cultured in before, $\Delta hac1$ and $\Delta ire1$
254 mutants had problems to adapt when carbon sources were switched to a medium with higher levels
255 of *HAC1* splicing. Likewise, ER-deficient strains grew well during exponential phase in glucose,
256 but exhibited a phenotype at high optical densities, shortly before the cultures entered the stationary
257 phase. At this point, yeast cells respond to the depletion of glucose and switch to respiratory
258 metabolism, a growth phase called diauxic shift in which mitochondrial biogenesis is strongly
259 induced^{71,72}. Hence, the UPR^{ER} is important when such a remodeling takes place.

260 Would a stronger UPR^{ER} help cells to adapt to respiratory growth conditions? Yeast cells grew
261 better on respiratory media when exposed to moderate amounts of the reducing agent dithiothreitol
262 (DTT), which is a known trigger of the UPR^{ER} and, consequently, is toxic for UPR-deficient strains
263 (Fig. 4E). However, its beneficial effect on respiratory growth might – at least in part – also result
264 from UPR^{ER}-independent effects. We therefore sought to induce the UPR^{ER} directly without any
265 stress treatment by expressing the spliced isoform of *HAC1* from a β -estradiol-inducible *GAL*
266 promoter²³. Cells were precultured in glucose medium and, upon shift to either glucose or lactate
267 medium, exposed to various β -estradiol concentrations, i.e. to different levels of *HAC1ⁱ* expression.
268 Indeed, cells grew better in lactate when *GAL-HAC1ⁱ* was induced with up to 50 nM β -estradiol,
269 while they were not affected when grown in glucose (Fig. 4F). Higher concentrations of β -estradiol
270 delayed growth, consistent with earlier reports that overshooting UPR^{ER} activation can be toxic^{73,74}.

271 Obviously, a functional UPR^{ER} is not only important when mitochondrial protein import is blocked,
272 but also maintains cellular fitness under physiological conditions with elevated mitochondrial
273 biogenesis. We propose that a fraction of mitochondrial precursor proteins is always localizing to
274 the ER, either transiently as part of the ER-SURF pathway or terminally mistargeted. When the

275 influx of precursors is altered due to changes in gene expression or by mitochondrial dysfunction,
276 the UPR^{ER} acts as a ‘rheostat’ and adjusts the protein folding and quality control components of the
277 ER accordingly (Fig. 4G).

278

279 **Discussion**

280 Precursor proteins that accumulate outside mitochondria impose a burden on cellular proteostasis.
281 Many precursors remain in the cytosol³¹ or end up in the nucleus⁷⁵, where chaperones and the
282 proteasome mitigate the adverse effects of mistargeted proteins and eventually degrade them
283^{27,28,76,77}. Membrane proteins are particularly prone to misfolding and aggregation in an aqueous
284 environment. Hence, their prolonged presence in the cytosol can be very hazardous for cells^{78,79}.
285 We found in this study that cells can adsorb precursors of mitochondrial membrane proteins to the
286 surface of the ER and employ the UPR^{ER} to buffer their elevated levels at the ER. Apparently,
287 mitochondrial proteins associate with the ER even under physiological conditions. However, the
288 accumulation of mitochondrial precursors at the ER is exacerbated by import defects as well as by
289 metabolic stimuli that increase the expression of abundant mitochondrial enzymes, many of which
290 are membrane proteins. Our observations identify the UPR^{ER} as an important cellular response to
291 promote cellular fitness under such conditions, especially during the phase of adaptation.

292 There are numerous reasons why engaging the ER as a venue for buffering mitochondrial
293 membrane proteins can be beneficial: (1) The large ER membrane provides a favorable
294 environment for proteins with hydrophobic transmembrane domains that would otherwise misfold
295 in the aqueous cytosol. (2) The ER has a remarkable capacity to prevent protein aggregation, even
296 exceeding that of the cytosol for some classes of proteins^{80,81}. (3) Besides having chaperones that
297 promote protein folding, the ER harbors an elaborate machinery for ER-associated protein
298 degradation (ERAD). ER components have been found to participate in the degradation of cytosolic
299 and, more recently, mitochondrial proteins^{82,83}. (4) ER and mitochondria share many components
300 in their protein biogenesis and quality control systems, e.g. the Hsp40 co-chaperone Ydj1 or
301 Cdc48/VCP/p97 and many of its cofactors^{36,84-86}. In addition, some organelle-specific factors of ER
302 and mitochondria physically interact and functionally cooperate with each other⁸⁷. (5) Protein
303 transfer between mitochondrial and ER membranes is possible via dedicated machineries that can
304 extract mislocalized proteins from the membrane and set them back en route to the respective other

305 organelle^{15,88-91}. (6) The close proximity of mitochondria and ER at membrane contact sites might
306 facilitate the exchange of proteins between the two organelles. Interestingly, ER-mitochondria
307 contact sites are enriched with ER chaperones and other UPR^{ER} effectors⁹² and their loss activates
308 the UPR^{ER}⁹³. In addition, contact sites are crucial for the initiation of autophagy^{94,95}.

309 Based on the above considerations, it is possible that routing of mitochondrial precursors to the ER
310 could be more than a mere ‘mistake’ in protein targeting, but rather an actively regulated quality
311 control pathway. In line with this idea, our analyses show that SRP recognizes and binds nascent
312 chains of some mitochondrial proteins, suggesting that a portion of the mitochondrial proteome is
313 synthesized at the ER surface. Also the GET pathway (guided entry of tail-anchored proteins) was
314 recently identified to be involved in ER targeting of mitochondrial tail-anchored proteins and some
315 carrier proteins^{88,96}.

316 Our findings add to a significant body of observations linking the stress responses and homeostasis
317 mechanisms of mitochondria and ER⁹⁷. Several processes connect mitochondrial and ER
318 homeostasis in the context of stress: the flux of lipids between mitochondrial and ER membranes⁹⁸;
319 the generation of ATP as well as reactive oxygen species by the respiratory chain^{99,100}; the transport
320 of calcium^{16,101}; or the availability of building blocks for glycosylation of secretory proteins,
321 provided by mitochondrial carbohydrate metabolism¹⁰². We propose that mitochondria and ER are
322 also linked in the management of mitochondrial biogenesis.

323 Our findings open the question which of the many components and pathways that are reinforced by
324 the UPR^{ER} are the most important for the management of ER-localized mitochondrial proteins. It
325 will be exciting to disentangle the exact contributions of storage and handling of misfolding-prone
326 precursors, their transfer to mitochondria or their degradation at the ER surface.

327 We suggest that cells engage the ER and its proteostasis capacity – augmented by the UPR^{ER} when
328 necessary – as a buffer for proteins that can’t be immediately imported into mitochondria. From
329 there, they can be either degraded or kept on hold for a second attempt of mitochondrial import.

330 Therefore, we should consider to rethink the classical concept of ‘mislocalization’ as a problem that
331 cells need to avoid. Rather, spatial sequestration (transient or terminal) of proteins to compartments
332 other than those they are primarily targeted to might be a productive step in protein biogenesis. It
333 will be exciting to explore this concept and the components that are involved in the future.

334

335

336

337 **Materials and Methods**

338 **Yeast strains and plasmids**

339 All yeast strains used in this study are listed in Supplementary Table S1 and were based on the wild
340 type strain W303 or YPH499^{103,104}. The *mia40-4* strain was a gift from Agnieszka Chacinska⁴⁴.

341 Yeast strains were grown on YP medium (1% yeast extract, 2% peptone) or synthetic medium
342 (0.17% yeast nitrogen base and 0.5% (NH₄)₂SO₄) containing 2% glucose, 2% galactose, 2%
343 raffinose, 2% glycerol or 2% lactate and supplemented with appropriate amounts of amino acids
344 and nucleobases for selection.

345 pFA6a-ymNeongreen-*CaURA3* and pFA6a-ymScarletI-*CaURA3* were kindly provided by Bas
346 Teusink (Addgene plasmids # 125703 and # 118457)¹⁰⁵. Genomic tagging with ymNeonGreen was
347 performed by amplifying the ym-NeonGreen-*CaURA3* cassette with overhangs homologous to the
348 *OXA1* locus and transforming yeast cells using the lithium acetate/ss carrier DNA/PEG method¹⁰⁶.
349 Genomic deletion of *IRE1* and *HAC1* in the *mia40-4* background was performed by amplifying a
350 kanMX4 cassette from a pFA6a plasmid with overhangs homologous to the sequences up- and
351 downstream of the genomic open reading frames of the target genes¹⁰⁶. Yeast cells were
352 transformed with the PCR product and grown on plates containing 150 µg/ml G418 for selection.
353 Deletions were confirmed by colony PCR on the targeted genomic loci.

354 The sequences of GFP¹¹ (pSJ1321, pRS315-NOP1pr-GFP11-mCherry-PUS1) and GFP¹⁻¹⁰
355 (pSJ2039, pRS316-NOP1pr-GFP1-10-SCS2TM) were a gift from Sue Jaspersen (Addgene
356 plasmids # 86413 and # 86418)⁴⁸. Cloning of the split-GFP constructs into the pYX122, pYX142
357 and pNH605 plasmids used in this study was performed by Gibson Assembly with the HiFi DNA
358 Assembly Master Mix (New England Biolabs, #E2621L) according to the manufacturer's
359 instructions. The GFP¹¹ part was fused to the different proteins by integration of the sequence
360 (5' AGA GAT CAT ATG GTT TTG CAT GAA TAT GTT AAT GCT GCT GGT ATT ACT
361 TAA 3') into the corresponding primers. GFP¹⁻¹⁰ was amplified from the plasmid (pSJ2039) with
362 overhangs homologous to the end of the fusion partner and the plasmid pYX122.

363 **Isolation of RNA and RT-qPCR**

364 RNA was extracted from yeast cells using either the acid phenol-chloroform method or an RNeasy
365 Mini kit with on-column removal of DNA (Qiagen), both as previously described²⁸. In either case,
366 3 OD₆₀₀×ml of cells were collected by centrifugation (17,000 × g, 3 min, 2°C), washed with
367 prechilled water, snap-frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80°C.

368 For acid phenol-chloroform extraction, cell lysates were prepared in lysis buffer (50 mM Tris/HCl
369 (pH 7.0), 130 mM NaCl, 5 mM EDTA, 5% (w/v) SDS) with a FastPrep-24 5 G homogenizer (MP
370 Biomedicals) with 3 cycles of 20 s, speed 6.0 m s⁻¹, 120 s breaks, lysis matrix Y). RNA was
371 purified with repeated extraction with acid phenol–chloroform (5:1, pH 4.5, two times) and 24:1
372 chloroform–isoamylalcohol (24:1). Then, 0.3 M sodium acetate (pH 5.5) was added, RNA was
373 precipitated with ethanol and solubilized in water. DNA was removed using a Turbo DNA Free kit
374 (Ambion) following the manufacturer’s instructions. RNA purity and concentration were assessed
375 using a DeNovix DS-11 FX+ Fluorometer.

376 RT-qPCR was performed with a CFX96 Touch Real-Time PCR Detection System (Bio-Rad). 100
377 ng total RNA per 20 µl reaction were analyzed using the Luna Universal Probe One-Step RT-qPCR
378 Kit (NEB, # E3006) in technical triplicates. cDNA was generated by reverse transcription for 10
379 min at 55°C. PCR amplification was then carried out under the following conditions: initial
380 denaturation for 1 min at 95°C, followed by 45 cycles of 10 s at 95°C (denaturation) and 30 s at
381 60°C (extension). Primer-probe combinations for qPCR are listed in Supplementary Table 3. For
382 the specific detection of the spliced isoform of *HAC1*, primers were chosen to flank the intron and
383 the fluorescent probe spans the exon-exon junction (Fig. S1B). Primer efficiency was determined by
384 measuring serial dilutions of pooled cDNA and only primer-probe combinations with an efficiency
385 within 90% and 110% were used. C_q values were obtained with the Bio-Rad CFX Manager 3.1 with
386 C_q Determination Mode set to “Single Threshold” and Baseline Setting set to “Baseline Subtracted
387 Curve Fit”. Gene expression was normalized to the geometric mean of the expression values of the

388 reference gene *TFC1*¹⁰⁷. Statistical significance was assessed with paired two-tailed Student's *t*-
389 test.

390 **Growth Assays**

391 Growth curves were performed automated in a 96 well plate in technical triplicates using the
392 ELx808 Absorbance Microplate Reader (BioTek). Precultures of 100 μ l were inoculated at an
393 OD₆₀₀ of 0.1 in round bottom microtiter plates and sealed with an air-permeable membrane
394 (Breathe-Easy; Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO). The growth curves started at OD₆₀₀ 0.1 and
395 incubated at 30°C for 72 h under constant shaking. The OD₆₀₀ was measured every 10 min.

396 For the Halo assay, strains were grown in liquid YPD media to mid-log phase, washed and plated
397 on YPG plates. A filter plate was placed onto the plate and soaked with 10 μ l of a 3 M DTT
398 solution. Plates were incubated at 30°C for 2 days.

399

400 **Preparation of Cell Extracts for Western Blotting**

401 For whole cell lysates yeast strains were cultivated in selective lactate media. Clogger expression
402 was induced by adding 0.5% galactose. After 4.5h, 2 OD₆₀₀×ml of cells were harvested by
403 centrifugation (5,000g, 5 min, RT) and washed with water. The cells were resuspended in 40
404 μ l/OD₆₀₀ 1x Laemmli buffer (125 mM Tris/HCl (pH 6.8), 5% SDS (w/v), 25% glycerol, 0.0005%
405 bromophenol blue) and transferred to a screw-cap tube containing glass beads (0.5 mm). Cell were
406 lysed using a FastPrep-24 5 G homogenizer (MP Biomedicals) with 3 cycles of 20 s, speed 6.0 m/s,
407 120 s breaks, lysis matrix Y. Cell extracts were boiled for 10 min at 96°C. Samples were stored at -
408 20°C until usage. An equal amount of lysate corresponding to 0.4 OD₆₀₀×ml per sample was loaded
409 on an SDS gel.

410

411 **Immunoblotting**

412 Proteins were separated by size using discontinuous sodium dodecyl sulfate polyacrylamide gel
413 electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE). They were transferred to a nitrocellulose membrane by semi-dry
414 western blotting with blotting buffer (20 mM Tris, 150 mM glycine, 0.08% SDS (w/v), 20%
415 methanol). To visualize the transferred proteins, the membrane was stained with Ponceau S solution
416 (0.2% (w/v) Ponceau S, 3% (w/v) acetic acid) for 5 min. The membrane was cut in pieces to
417 decorate against several antibodies at once and unspecific binding was blocked by incubation for 30
418 min in 5% milk in 1X TBS buffer (10 mM Tris/HCl (pH 7.5), 150 mM NaCl). The first antibodies
419 were incubated over night at 4°C. The membrane was washed extensively with 1X TBS Buffer.
420 Afterwards, the membrane was incubated for 90 min at room temperature with the secondary
421 antibody containing the horseradish peroxidase (anti-Rabbit). The membrane was again washed
422 extensively before ECL1 (100 mM Tris/HCl (pH 8.5), 0.044% (w/v) luminol, 0.0066% p-coumaric
423 acid) and ECL2 (100 mM Tris/HCl (pH 8.5), 0.03% H₂O₂) solutions were mixed 1:1 and poured
424 onto the membrane. Thereby chemo luminescence is produced by horseradish peroxidase coupled
425 to the secondary antibody, which was detected on Super RX Medical X-Ray Films (Fuji) using the
426 Optimax Type TR-developer.

427

428 **Antibodies**

429 The antibodies for the use in immunoblotting of *S. cerevisiae* cell extracts were raised in rabbits
430 using purified recombinant proteins. The secondary antibody was ordered from Biorad (Goat anti-
431 Rabbit IgG (H+L)-HRP Conjugate #172-1019). Antibodies were diluted in 5% (w/v) nonfat dry
432 milk-TBS (Roth T145.2) with the following dilutions: anti-Sod1 1:1,000, anti-Rip1 1:750, anti-
433 Mdj1 1:125, anti-Rabbit 1:10,000. anti-Rip1 and anti-Mdj1 sera were a gift from Thomas Becker.

434

435 **Split-GFP Assay**

436 Cells containing were transformed with one of the plasmids pYX142-Oxa1-GFP¹¹, pYX142-Om45-
437 GFP¹¹, pYX142-Dld1-GFP¹¹ or pYX142-Mia40-GFP¹¹ in combination with either pYX122-Sec63-
438 GFP¹⁻¹⁰, pYX122-Oxa1-GFP¹⁻¹⁰, pYX122-Mia40-GFP¹⁻¹⁰ or pYX122-Ssa1-GFP¹⁻¹⁰. All
439 combinations contained also either the plasmid pYX233-*b*₂-DHFR or the control plasmid pYX233-
440 *cyt* DHFR. Cells were grown in selective medium containing 2% lactate to mid log phase.
441 Mitoprotein-induced stress was induced by addition of 0.5% galactose for 4.5 h. 3 OD₆₀₀×ml were
442 harvested, resuspended in 100 µl medium containing 2% lactate, transferred into a black 96 well
443 plate and centrifuged (5 min at 30 g). The fluorescence was measured with the excitation/emission
444 wavelengths 485±15/530±20 nm in a fluorescence microplate reader (Clariostar, BMG labtech).

445 For the time course measurement of split-GFP fluorescence in a growing culture, the split-GFP
446 cassette with Oxa1-GFP¹¹ and Sec63-GFP¹⁻¹⁰ was genomically integrated into the *LEU2* locus of
447 yeast cells. In addition, a constitutively expressed *TEF1p*-ymScarletI was integrated into the *HIS3*
448 locus. The cells were transformed with a pYX233 plasmid for either cytosolic DHFR or *b*₂-DHFR
449 expression and grown to mid-log phase in synthetic lactate medium. The cells were then diluted to
450 an OD₆₀₀ of 0.4 in 100 µl lactate medium with (inducing) or without (non-inducing) 0.5% galactose
451 in a microtiter plate sealed with an air-permeable membrane (Breathe-Easy; Sigma-Aldrich, St.
452 Louis, MO) in *n*=6 replicates. A WT strain not expressing no fluorescent protein was used for
453 correction of the background fluorescence of cells or media. The plate was incubated at 30°C under
454 recurrent shaking in a ClarioStar spectrofluorometer (BMG Labtech) and fluorescence was
455 measured every 10 min with the following excitation/emission wavelengths: 485±15/530±20 nm for
456 split-GFP and 580±15/631±36 nm for ymScarletI. Background fluorescence was subtracted and
457 the split-GFP signal was divided by the ymScarletI signal to control for growth and overall
458 translation. The average fluorescence intensity at timepoint 0 was set to 1.

459

460 **Fluorescence microscopy**

461 To analyze the localization of the fluorescence signal in the different split-GFP combinations, mid
462 log phase cultures were shifted to media containing 0,5% galactose to induce the expression of the
463 *b₂*-DHFR clogger or cytosolic DHFR as control. After centrifugation of 1 OD₆₀₀×ml of cells (1 min
464 at 16.000 g at RT), the cells were resuspended in 50 µl sterile water. The cell suspension was
465 transferred to a microscope slide for fluorescence imaging using the HCX PL APO 63x oil
466 immersion objective of a Leica TCS SP5II confocal laser scanning microscope. GFP was excited at
467 488 nm and emission was detected by a photomultiplier through a 530/30-nm band pass filter.
468 Microscopy images were processed using Leica software LAS X (v3.3) and Fiji (v2.1.0).

469

470 **Ribosome Profiling**

471 *Library Preparation*

472 Yeast cultures were grown to mid-log phase in minimal medium containing 2% lactate. Expression
473 of *b₂*-DHFR or cytosolic DHFR was induced by addition of 0.5% galactose for 4.5 h. Cells were
474 harvested by vacuum filtration (pore size 0.45 µm). In one out of three independent replicates,
475 100 µg/ml cycloheximide was added to the yeast culture 2 min before harvesting and lysis to inhibit
476 translation elongation, while in the other replicate, cells were not in contact with cycloheximide
477 prior to cell lysis. Cells were flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen and lysed in a mixer mill (Retsch, MM
478 301) in lysis buffer (20 mM Tris/HCl (pH 7.4), 140 mM KCl, 1.5 mM MgCl₂, 0.5 mM DTT, 100
479 µg/ml cycloheximide, 1% (v/v) Triton X-100) in 50 ml stainless steel grinding chambers under
480 cryogenic conditions for 1 min at 20 Hz. Lysates were thawed in a water bath at room temperature,
481 immediately followed by centrifugation at 15,000 g at 4°C for 10 min. RNA concentration was
482 quantified with a NanoDrop fluorometer (absorbance at 260 nm) and RNA digestion was performed
483 with RNase I (Ambion, #AM2294, 2.5 µl / mg RNA) for 45 min at room temperature. Digestion
484 was stopped by the addition of SUPERase-In RNase inhibitor (Ambion, #AM2696, 2 µl / 100 µl
485 digestion). Ribosomes were isolate by centrifugation through a 25% (w/v) sucrose cushion in a

486 TLA 100.2 rotor (Beckman) at 72,000 rpm for 20 min at 4°C. RNA was extracted from the
487 ribosomal pellet using the hot SDS-Phenol-Chloroform method and 24-35 nt ribosome footprints
488 were size selected on a 15% (w/v) polyacrylamide TBE-urea gel. Ribosomal RNA was removed
489 with the RiboZero Gold kit (Illumina). Sequencing libraries were then prepared as previously
490 described¹⁰⁸. Libraries were quantified by qPCR (Kapa Biosystems) and sequenced using a HiSeq
491 4000 (Illumina).

492 *Data analysis*

493 Sequencing reads were demultiplexed with Illumina CASAVA v1.8 and adaptor sequences were
494 trimmed using Cutadapt v2.8. Reads that mapped to ribosomal RNAs were removed using Bowtie
495 v.1.2.3¹⁰⁹ and remaining reads were aligned to the yeast reference genome obtained from the
496 *Saccharomyces* genome database (genome release R64-2-1).

497 For each read, reads were summed at each nucleotide by customized python scripts. Metagene
498 analysis was performed separately on each fragment length to remove lengths that did not exhibit
499 the 3-nucleotide periodicity that is characteristic for ribosome footprints. Each of the remaining
500 reads was assigned to the first A-site nucleotide. To this end, a nucleotide offset from the 5' end of
501 each fragment length was empirically determined, using the characteristic high ribosome density at
502 the start codon. Nucleotide reads at each codon were then summed and used for all downstream
503 analysis.

504 Gene-level differential expression analysis was performed using HTSeq¹¹⁰ and the DESeq2
505 package¹¹¹ within the Bioconductor v3.12 project in the statistical programming language R v.4.0.3
506¹¹².

507

508 **Analysis of published datasets on mRNA localization**

509 The dataset on translation close to the ER and mitochondrial surface in yeast was obtained from Jan
510 et al. (2014)⁵⁹. In this study, the authors fused the biotin ligase BirA to Sec63 (ER) or Om45

511 (mitochondrial) and pulled down ribosomes that were biotinylated after a short pulse of biotin and
512 translation inhibition with cycloheximide (CHX). The genes were filtered for those that code for
513 mitochondrial proteins according to ⁷⁰ and log₂ fold enrichments of ribosome footprints at the ER (7
514 min CHX) or mitochondrial membranes (2 min CHX) over total ribosome footprints were plotted.

515 The dataset on transcript localization in human cells was obtained from Fazal et al. (2019)⁶¹. Here,
516 the authors used the biotin ligase APEX2 fused to proteins of different cellular localizations to
517 directly biotinylate RNA. Mitochondrial genes were filtered according to MitoCarta 3.0 ¹¹³ and log₂
518 fold enrichment of ER- or mitochondria-localized transcripts over total transcripts were plotted.

519 The dataset on the SRP-bound translome in yeast was obtained from Chartron et al. (2016)⁶³. The
520 authors compared ribosome-nascent chain complexes purified by pulldown of SRP to total
521 ribosomes by ribosome profiling. Genes coding for secretory, cytosolic and mitochondrial proteins
522 were filtered according to the author's categorization and the distribution of the log₂ fold
523 enrichment of SRP-bound polysomes over total ribosome footprints was plotted.

524

525 **Data and material availability**

526 The data produced in this study are presented in this published article and its supplementary
527 material. The ribosome profiling data on clogger-expressing yeast cells are deposited into GEO ¹¹⁴
528 with accession number GSE172017.

529 All yeast strains, plasmids and primers used in this study are listed in Supplementary Tables 1-3 and
530 are available from the authors upon request. The plasmids pYX233 DHFR and pYX233 *b*₂-DHFR
531 for expression of the mitochondrial clogger are available via Addgene (plasmids #163761 and
532 #163759).

533

534 **Author contributions**

535 F.B. and J.F. conceived and supervised the study. F.B. and K.C.S. prepared the ribosome profiling
536 libraries and performed the bioinformatics analysis of the sequencing data. K.K., L.K., C.G. and
537 F.B. generated constructs and strains. K.K., L.K. and C.G. performed *in vivo* experiments. K.K. and
538 F.B. analyzed *HAC1* splicing by RT-PCR. K.K. established and performed the split-GFP assay.
539 K.K. performed fluorescence microscopy and K.K. and K.G.H. analyzed the results. K.G.H. and
540 F.B. analyzed ribosome profiling data on localized and SRP-bound translation of mitochondrial
541 proteins. K.K., C.G., L.K., K.G.H., J.M.H., J.F. and F.B. analyzed the data. F.B. wrote the
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543

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556

557 **Competing interests**

558 The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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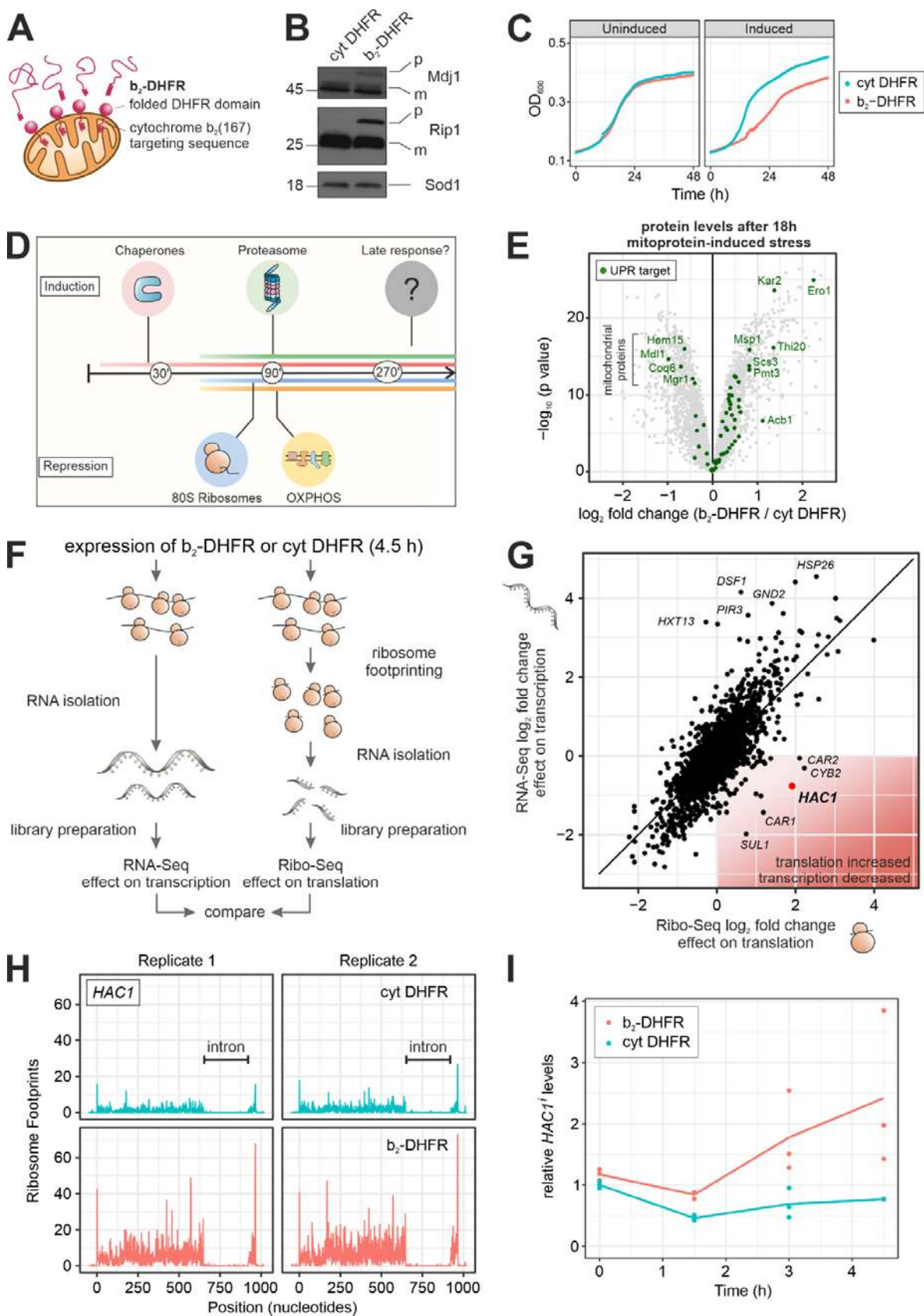
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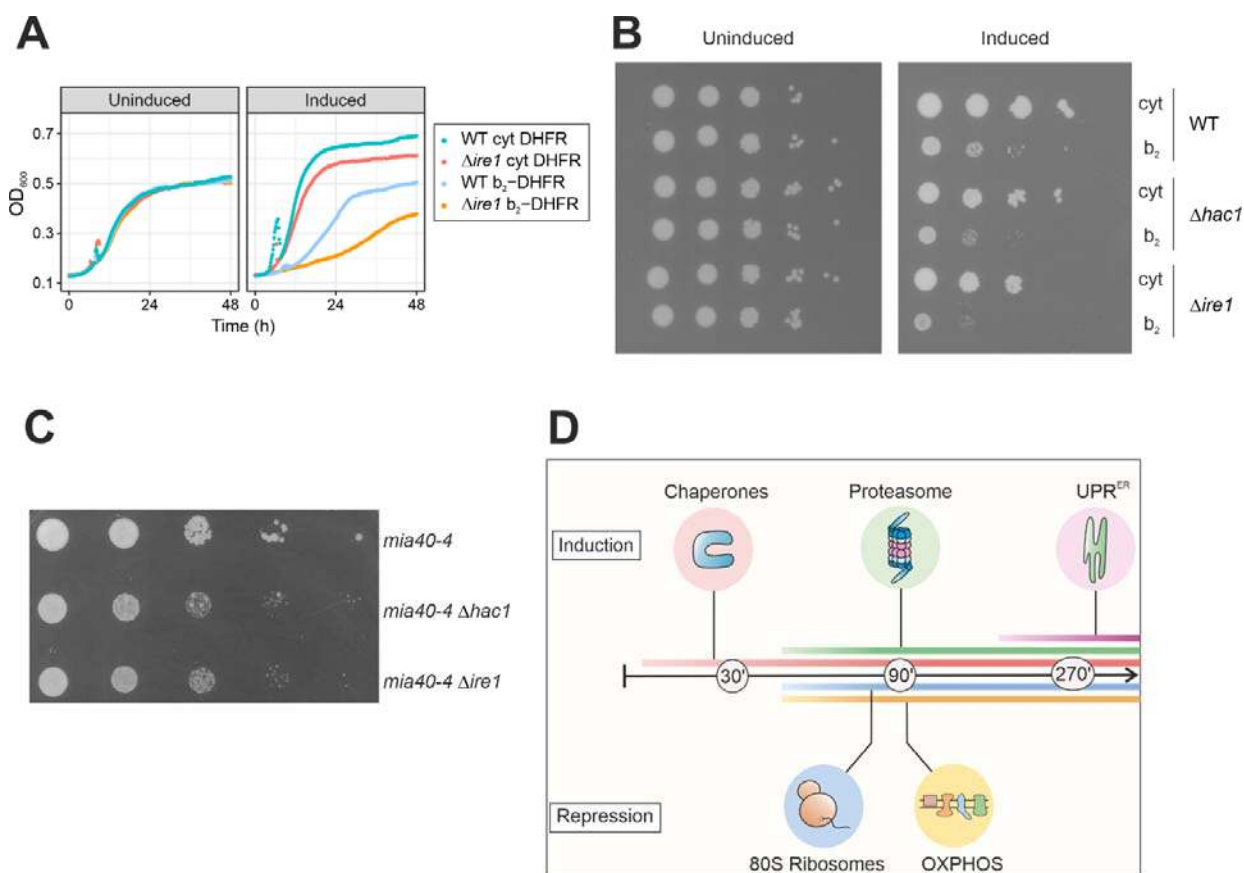
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835 **Figures and Figure Legends**



837 **Figure 1. Mitoprotein-induced stress triggers the UPR^{ER}.** **A**, Fusion of DHFR to the N-terminus
838 of Cytochrome *b₂* generates a mitochondrial ‘clogger’ that jams the protein import machinery. **B**,
839 The mitochondrial clogger *b₂*-DHFR or cytosolic DHFR were expressed for 4.5 h. The precursor
840 form of the mitochondrial proteins Mdj1 and Rip1 were detected by Western Blotting. **C**,
841 Expression of *b₂*-DHFR leads to attenuated growth. **D**, The mitoprotein-induced stress response
842 encompasses an early transcriptional induction of chaperones and the proteasome and a
843 downregulation of cytosolic ribosomes and OXPHOS components. **E**, Protein levels in clogger-
844 expressing versus control cells after 18 h of induction were measured by quantitative mass
845 spectrometry²⁸. Highlighted are proteins which are reported targets of the UPR^{ER}²¹. Data from *n*=3
846 independent biological replicates are shown. **F**, **G**, The cellular transcriptome and translome after
847 4.5 h of clogger induction were measured by RNA-Seq (*n*=4)²⁸ and ribosome profiling (*n*=3),
848 respectively. Shown are log₂ fold changes of *b₂*-DHFR versus cytosolic DHFR. *HAC1* transcripts
849 are slightly reduced, but its translation is upregulated. **H**, Ribosome footprints along the *HAC1* gene
850 from cells expressing *b₂*-DHFR or cytosolic DHFR for 4.5 h are shown. **I**, Levels of spliced *HAC1*
851 mRNA in cells expressing *b₂*-DHFR or cytosolic DHFR were measured by RT-qPCR over time
852 (*n*=3).

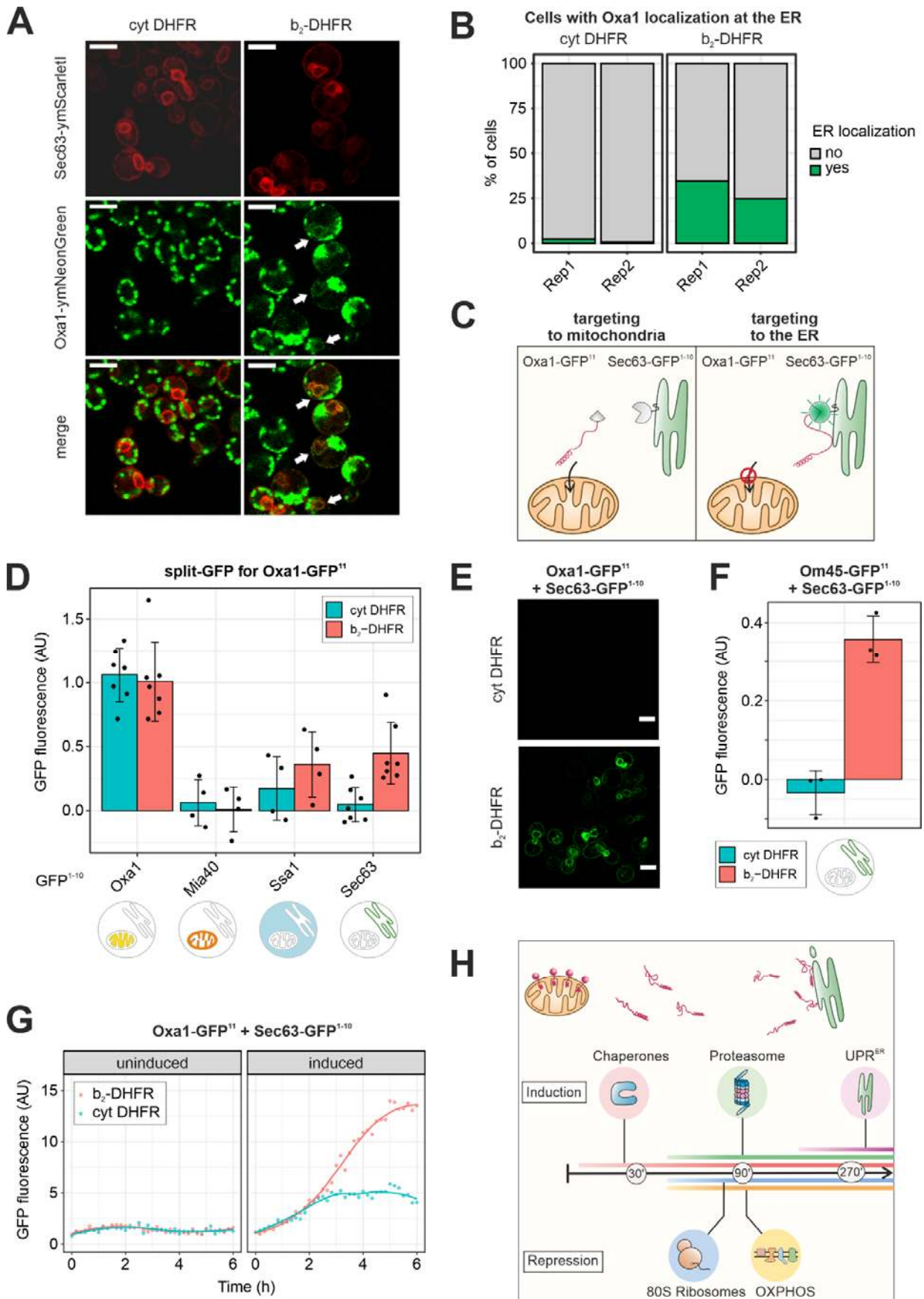
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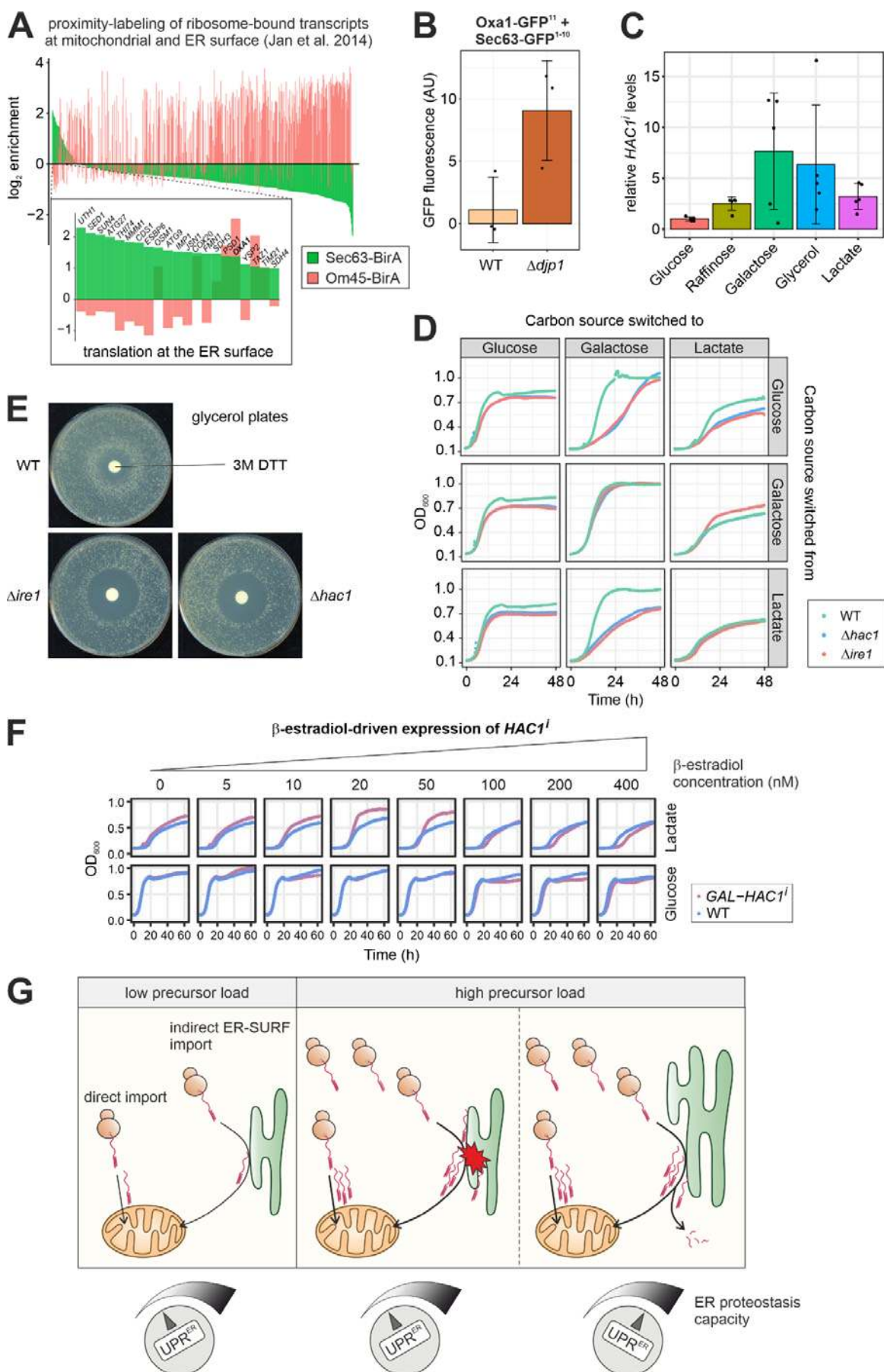
855 **Figure 2. The UPR^{ER} is required for cellular fitness under mitoprotein-induced stress**
 856 **conditions.** **A**, Wild type and *Δire1* cells were grown under non-inducing (left) or inducing (right)
 857 conditions, expressing either *b₂*-DHFR or cytosolic DHFR. *Δire1* cells are more susceptible to
 858 mitoprotein-induced stress. **B**, Tenfold serial dilutions of wild type, *Δire1* and *Δhac1* cultures were
 859 dropped on lactate plates with ('induced) or without ('uninduced') 0.5% galactose. The UPR^{ER}-
 860 deficient mutants show synthetic growth defects with expression of *b₂*-DHFR. **C**, *HAC1* and *IRE1*
 861 were deleted in temperature-sensitive *mia40-4* mutants. Cells were grown in glucose medium and
 862 serial dilutions were spotted on glucose plates and incubated at the semi-permissive temperature of
 863 30°C. Loss of the UPR^{ER} results in synthetic growth defects. **D**, Early cytonuclear adaptations to
 864 mitoprotein-induced stress are accompanied by the induction of the UPR^{ER} as a second line of
 865 defense.

866



868 **Figure 3. Non-imported mitochondrial membrane proteins localize to the ER.** **A**, The
869 mitochondrial inner membrane protein Oxa1 was genomically tagged with ymNeonGreen, the ER
870 marker Sec63 was tagged with ymScarletI. Confocal fluorescence microscopy was performed after
871 4.5 h of expression of either *b*₂-DHFR or cytosolic DHFR. When the clogger was induced, a
872 fraction of Oxa1-ymNeonGreen colocalized with Sec63-ymScarletI. Scale bar, 5 μm. **B**,
873 Quantification of the number of cells from A in which ER localization of Oxa1-ymNeonGreen was
874 observed. **C**, Schematic depiction of the split-GFP strategy to measure ER localization of
875 mitochondrial proteins. **D**, The GFP¹¹ fragment was fused to Oxa1 and the GFP¹⁻¹⁰ fragment was
876 fused to Oxa1, Mia40, Ssa1 or Sec63. *b*₂-DHFR or cytosolic DHFR were induced for 4.5 h and
877 fluorescence was measured in a platerreader. Mean values and standard deviations are shown for
878 *n*=7 (Oxa1-GFP¹⁻¹⁰, Sec63-GFP¹⁻¹⁰) or *n*=4 (Mia40-GFP¹⁻¹⁰, Ssa1-GFP¹⁻¹⁰) independent biological
879 replicates. **E**, Fluorescence microscopy of cells expressing Oxa1-GFP¹¹ and Sec63-GFP¹⁻¹⁰ and
880 either *b*₂-DHFR or cytosolic DHFR after 4.5 h of induction. Scale bar, 5 μm. **F**, The GFP¹¹
881 fragment was fused to Om45 and the GFP¹⁻¹⁰ fragment to Sec63. Clogger expression for 4.5 h
882 evoked an increase in fluorescence (mean values and standard deviations for *n*=3 independent
883 biological replicates). **G**, Cells expressing Oxa1-GFP¹¹ and Sec63-GFP¹⁻¹⁰ were cultured in lactate
884 medium before either *b*₂-DHFR or cytosolic DHFR were induced by addition of 0.5 % galactose.
885 Fluorescence was monitored in a Clariostar plate reader every 10 min for *n*=6 biological replicates.
886 Constitutively expressed ymScarletI was used to normalize for growth and overall translation rates.
887 After around 3 h of induction, elevated split-GFP signals in clogger-expressing cells indicated
888 accumulation of Oxa1 at the ER. **H**, Model for the connection between mitochondrial import block
889 and UPR^{ER} induction. Clogging the mitochondrial translocases leads to accumulation of precursor
890 proteins in the cytosol as well as at the ER surface, which triggers the ER stress response.

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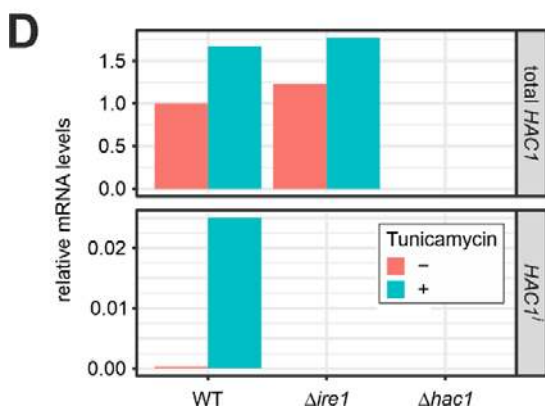
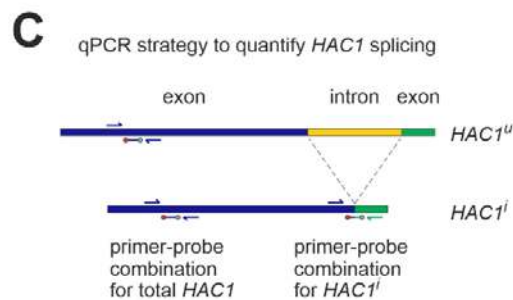
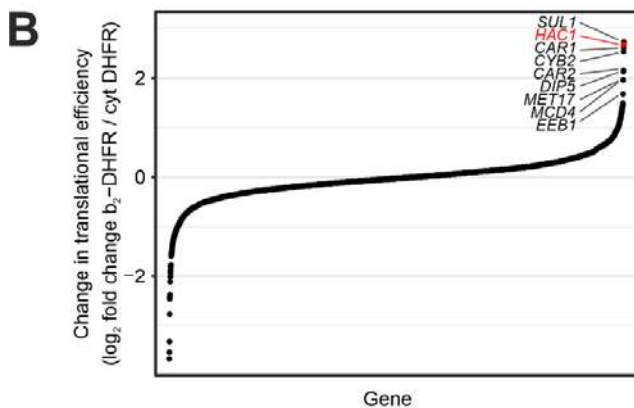
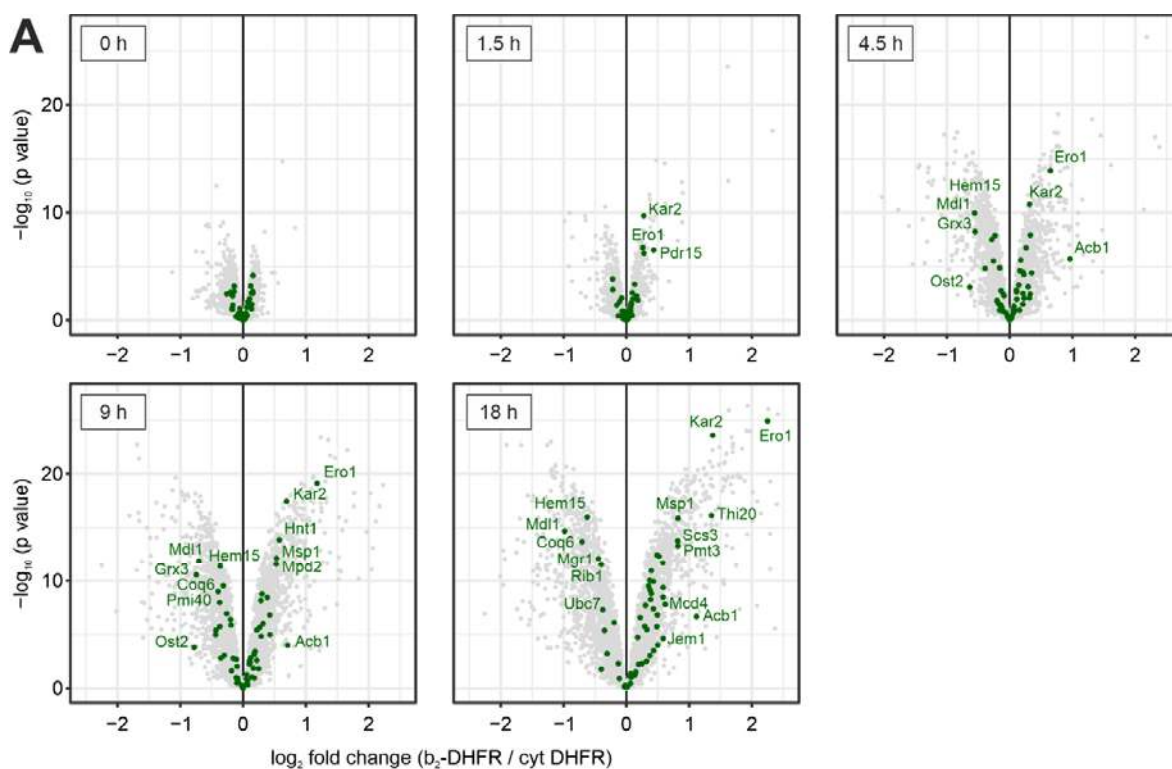


893 **Figure 4. The UPR^{ER} maintains cellular fitness during changes in mitochondrial biogenesis. A,**
894 Data from Jan et al. (2014)⁵⁹ on the localized translation near the mitochondrial and the ER surface.
895 For all mitochondrial proteins in the dataset, the log₂ enrichment of ribosome-nascent chain
896 complexes at the ER membrane (Sec63-BirA) and the mitochondrial outer membrane (Om45-BirA)
897 over the total ribosomes are shown. While most translated mRNAs localize to the mitochondrial
898 membrane, some transcripts are also or even exclusively enriched near the ER surface (expansion
899 shows genes with more than 2-fold enrichment at the ER). **B,** The ER localization of Oxa1 was
900 determined with the split-GFP assay in wild type and $\Delta djp1$ cells that were grown to log phase in
901 glucose medium. Oxa1 is trapped at the ER in $\Delta djp1$. Mean values and standard deviations from
902 $n=3$ independent biological replicates are shown. **C,** *HAC1* splicing in wild type cells grown to log
903 phase in media with the indicated carbon sources was measured via RT-qPCR. *HAC1ⁱ* levels were
904 normalized to total *HAC1* levels. Mean values and standard deviations from $n=5$ independent
905 biological replicates are shown. **D,** Wild type, $\Delta ire1$ and $\Delta hac1$ cells were grown to log phase in
906 glucose, galactose and lactate media, washed and switched to glucose, galactose and lactate media
907 in all combinations. Growth was monitored by OD₆₀₀ measurement in a plate reader. Both UPR^{ER}-
908 deficient mutants showed impaired growth when the carbon source was switched to one that
909 promotes higher levels of *HAC1* splicing in wild type cells. **E,** Wild type, $\Delta ire1$ and $\Delta hac1$ cells
910 were plated on glycerol and 10 μ l of a 3 M solution of the UPR^{ER}-inducing agent dithiothreitol
911 (DTT) were applied on a filter dish in the middle of the plate. Note the ring-like growth of the wild
912 type around the filter dish. **F,** Wild type cells and cells that express *HAC1ⁱ* from an estradiol-
913 inducible *GAL* promoter were grown to log phase in glucose medium. They were washed,
914 resuspended in either glucose or lactate medium supplemented with the indicated concentration of
915 estradiol. Ectopic expression of low levels of *HAC1ⁱ* result in better growth in lactate, but not in
916 glucose medium. **G,** Schematic model for the role of the UPR^{ER} in mitochondrial protein
917 biogenesis. A fraction of mitochondrial precursor proteins constantly localizes to the ER. Global
918 changes in expression of mitochondrial genes increase the influx of precursors to the ER. Defects in

919 protein import also elevate the levels of ER-resident mitochondrial precursors. In both cases,
920 activation of the UPR^{ER} adjusts the proteostasis capacity of the ER.

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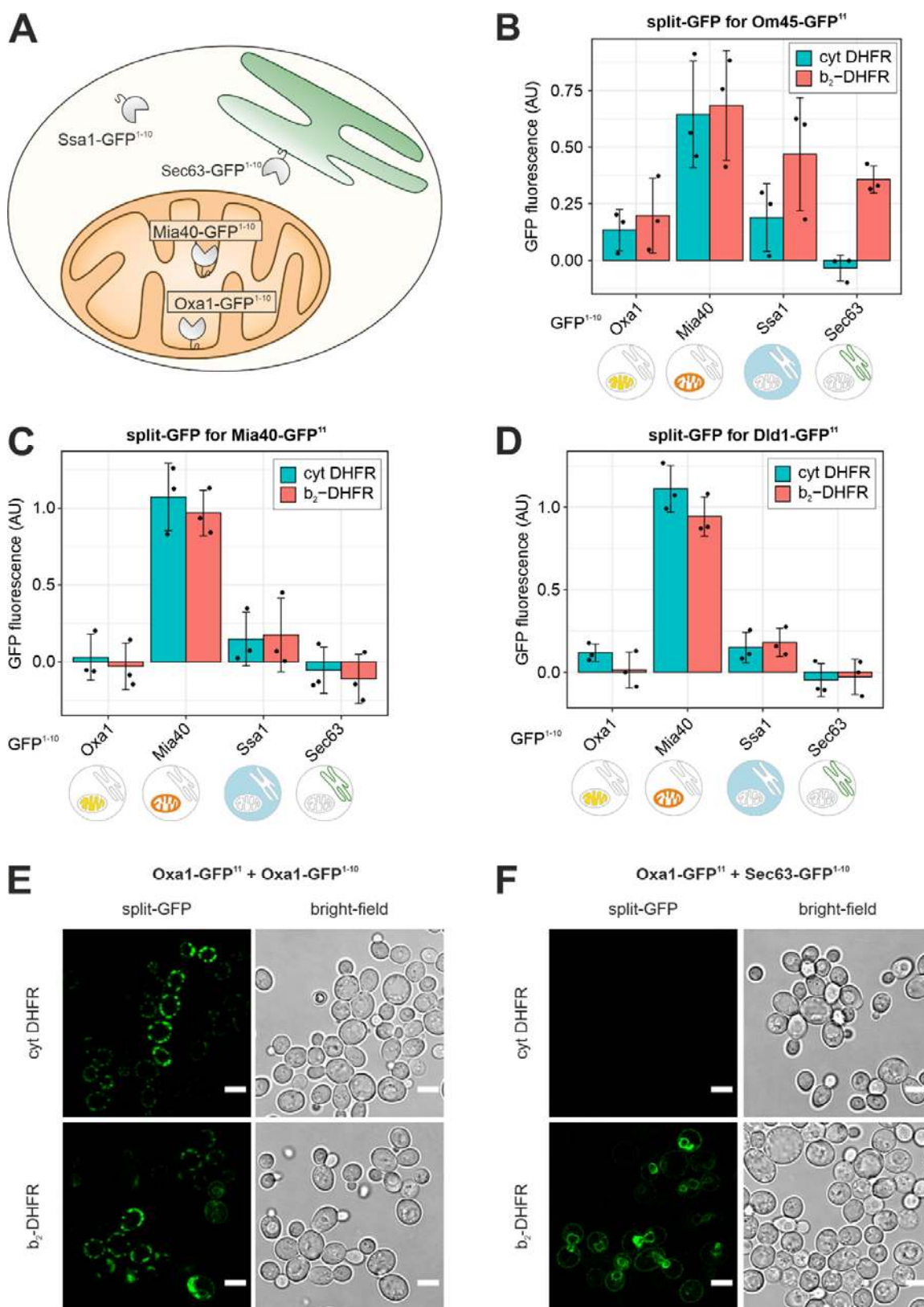
922 **Supplementary Figures**



924 **Supplementary Figure 1. Detection of UPR^{ER} induction with mass spectrometry and RT-**
925 **qPCR.**

926 **A**, Protein levels in clogger-expressing versus control cells after different times of induction were
927 measured by quantitative mass spectrometry²⁸. Highlighted are proteins which are reported targets
928 of the UPR^{ER}²¹. Data from $n=3$ independent biological replicates are shown. The data for 18 h are
929 the same as shown in Fig. 1E. **B**, The change in translational efficiency after 4.5 h clogger
930 expression was calculated for all genes measured in both the RNA-seq²⁸ and Ribo-Seq on clogger-
931 expressing cells by dividing the translome fold change by the transcriptome fold change. **C**,
932 Schematic depiction of the primer-probe combinations used to quantify total *HAC1* as well as
933 spliced *HAC1ⁱ* mRNA levels via RT-qPCR. **D**, Wild type, $\Delta ire1$ and $\Delta hac1$ cells were grown in
934 presence or absence of 1 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ tunicamycin and *HAC1* and *HAC1ⁱ* levels were analyzed with the
935 primer-probe assay shown in C. As expected, *HAC1ⁱ* levels increased in wild type cells treated with
936 tunicamycin, but no *HAC1ⁱ* was detected in cells lacking *HAC1* or *IRE1*, confirming the specificity
937 of the RT-qPCR assay.

938

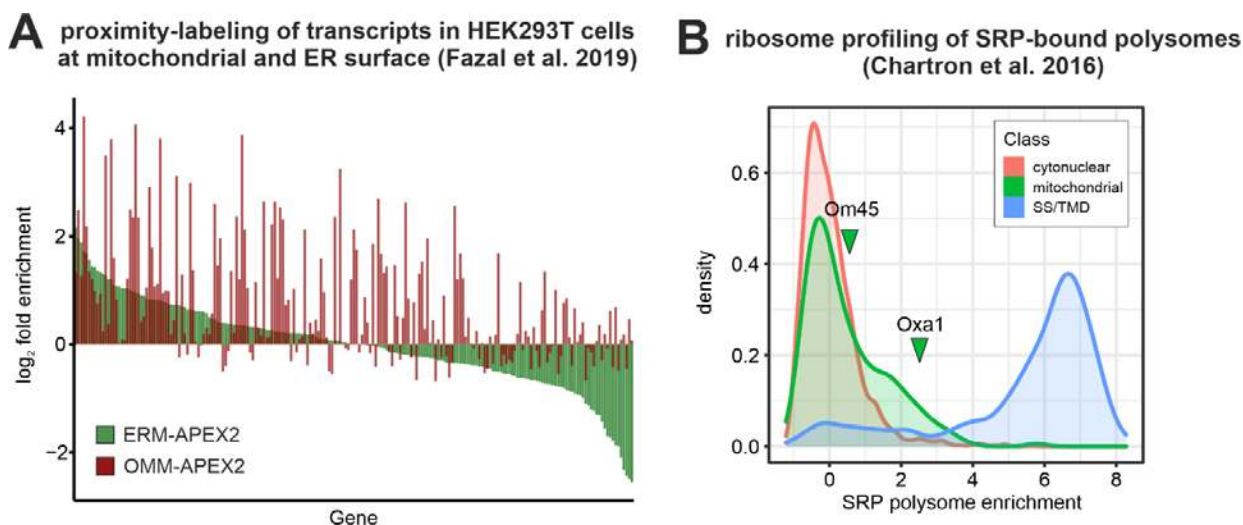


939

940 **Supplementary Figure 2. A split-GFP assay to assess the subcellular localization of**
 941 **mitochondrial precursor proteins. A, The GFP¹¹ fragment was fused to Oxa1, Om45, Mia40 and**

942 Dld1, and the GFP¹⁻¹⁰ reporter was fused to Oxa1 (mitochondrial inner membrane, matrix side),
943 Mia40 (mitochondrial inner membrane, IMS side), Sec63 (ER membrane, cytosolic side) and Ssa1
944 (cytosol). **B-D**, The split-GFP constructs described in A were co-expressed with *b*₂-DHFR or
945 cytosolic DHFR and fluorescence was measured with a Clariostar plate reader. Under non-stressed
946 conditions (expression of cytosolic DHFR), the split-GFP signals recapitulated the known
947 localizations of Oxa1, Om45, Mia40 and Dld1. Under mitoprotein-induced stress (*b*₂-DHFR
948 expression), Om45-GFP¹¹ also evoked a fluorescence signal when combined with Sec63-GFP¹⁻¹⁰
949 and Ssa1-GFP¹⁻¹⁰, indicating accumulation at the cytosolic side of the ER membrane. **E**,
950 Fluorescence microscopy of cells expressing Oxa1-GFP¹¹ and Oxa1-GFP¹⁻¹⁰ and either *b*₂-DHFR or
951 cytosolic DHFR after 4.5 h of induction. Scale bar, 5 μm. **F**, Fluorescence microscopy of cells
952 expressing Oxa1-GFP¹¹ and Sec63-GFP¹⁻¹⁰ and either *b*₂-DHFR or cytosolic DHFR after 4.5 h of
953 induction. Scale bar, 5 μm. GFP Images are identical to those in Figure 3E.

954



955

956 **Supplementary Figure 3. Certain mitochondrial proteins are synthesized close to the ER**

957 **surface and recognized by SRP. A**, Data from Fazal et al. (2019)⁶¹ on the subcellular distribution

958 of mRNA in HEK293T cells. The biotin ligase APEX2 was localized to the ER or mitochondria and

959 biotinylated mRNAs were purified and sequenced (APEX-Seq). For all mitochondrial proteins in

960 the dataset, the log₂ enrichment of mRNAs at the ER membrane (ERM-APEX2) and the

961 mitochondrial outer membrane (OMM-APEX2) over the total mRNAs are shown. While most

962 mRNAs localize to the mitochondrial membrane, some transcripts are also enriched near the ER

963 surface. **B**, Data from Chartron et al. (2016)⁶³ on the SRP-bound translato

964 immune-purified from cell lysates and the co-isolated ribosome-nascent chains complexes were

965 analyzed by ribosome profiling. The distribution of the log₂ fold enrichment SRP-bound ribosome-

966 nascent chain complexes over total ribosomes is shown for cytonuclear and mitochondrial proteins

967 and proteins that carry a signal sequence or transmembrane domain for ER targeting (SS/TMD).

968 Some mitochondrial proteins, including Oxa1, are bound by SRP.

969 **Supplementary Tables**

970 **Supplementary Table 1.** Yeast strains used in this study.

971 **Supplementary Table 2.** Plasmids used in this study.

972 **Supplementary Table 3.** Primers used in this study.