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YAP is essential for tissue tension to ensure vertebrate 3D body shape

Sean Porazinski[1†], Huijia Wang[1†], Yoichi Asaoka[2†], Martin Behrndt[3†], Tatsuo Miyamoto[4†],

Hitoshi Morita[3], Shoji Hata[2], Takashi Sasaki[5], S.F. Gabriel Krens[3], Yumi Osada[6], Satoshi

Asaka[2], Akihiro Momoi[6], Sarah Linton[1], Joel B. Miesfeld[7], Brian A. Link[7], Takeshi Senga[8],

Nobuyoshi Shimizu[5], Hideaki Nagase[9], Shinya Matsuura[4], Stefan Bagby[1], Hisato Kondoh[6, 10],

Hiroshi Nishina[2]*, Carl-Philipp Heisenberg[3]* and Makoto Furutani-Seiki[1, 6]*

[1] Department of Biology and Biochemistry, University of Bath, Bath, BA2 7AY, UK

[2] Department of Developmental and Regenerative Biology, Medical Research Institute, Tokyo

Medical and Dental University (TMDU), Tokyo 113-8510, Japan

[3] IST Austria, Am Campus 1, A-3400 Klosterneuburg, Austria

[4] Department of Genetics and Cell Biology, Research Institute for Radiation Biology and

Medicine, Hiroshima University, Hiroshima 734-8553, Japan,

[5] Department of Molecular Biology, School of Medicine, Keio University, Tokyo 160-8582

Japan.

[6] Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), ERATO-SORST Kondoh Differentiation

Signaling Project, Kyoto, 606-8305, Japan

[7] Department of Cell Biology, Neurobiology, and Anatomy, Medical College of Wisconsin,

Milwaukee, WI 53226, USA

[8] Division of Cancer Biology, Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine, Nagoya, 466-

8550, Japan

[9] Matrix Biology Section, Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology, University of Oxford, Oxford,

OX3 7FY, UK

[10] Graduate School of Frontier Bioscience, Osaka University, Osaka 565-0871, Japan

[†]These authors contributed equally.

*Correspondence: mfs22@bath.ac.uk, heisenberg@ist.ac.at, nishina.dbio@mri.tmd.ac.jp

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1   Vertebrates have a unique 3D body shape in which correct tissue/organ shape and

2   alignment are essential for function. For example, vision requires the lens to be

3   centred in the eye cup which must in turn be correctly positioned in the head[1]. Tissue

4   morphogenesis depends on force generation, force transmission through the tissue, and

5   response of tissues and extracellular matrix (ECM) to force[2,3]. Although a century ago

6   D'Arcy Thompson postulated that terrestrial animal body shapes are conditioned by

7   gravity[4], there has been no animal model directly demonstrating how the

8   aforementioned mechano-morphogenetic processes are coordinated to generate a body

9   shape that withstands gravity. Here, we report a unique medaka mutant, *hirame* (*hir*),

10   which is sensitive to deformation by gravity. *hir* embryos display a markedly flattened

11   body caused by mutation of YAP, a nuclear executor of Hippo-signaling that regulates

12   cell proliferation. We show that actomyosin-mediated tissue tension is reduced in *hir*

13   embryos, leading to tissue flattening and misalignment, both of which contribute to

14   body flattening. By analyzing YAP function in 3D-spheroids of human cells, we

15   identify the RhoGAP ARHGAP18 as an effector of YAP in controlling tissue tension.

16   Together, these findings reveal a previously unrecognized function of YAP in

17   regulating tissue shape and alignment required for proper 3D body shape.

18   Understanding this morphogenetic function of YAP could facilitate the use of

19   embryonic stem cells to generate complex organs requiring correct alignment of

20   multiple tissues.

21   Via exhaustive mutant screening in medaka and zebrafish[5,6], we identified medaka

22   *hir* mutants displaying pronounced body flattening around stage (st.) 25-28 (50-64

23   hours post fertilization, hpf; Fig. 1a). Although general development was not delayed,

24   *hir* mutants exhibited delayed blastopore closure (Fig. 1b, c) and progressive body

25   collapse from mid-neurulation (st.20, 31 hpf) (Fig. 1d), surviving until just before

26   hatching (6 days post-fertilization, dpf). During body collapse, tissues and organs

1 including neural tube and somites gradually became flattened and improperly aligned

2 (Fig. 1d). Lenses were misaligned outside the eyes (Fig. 1a2, 2'). Mutant lens placodes

3 expressing *sox3* normally formed adjacent to the retina up to st.20, but then became

4 fragmented and detached from the retina (Fig. 1e1', 2', Extended Data Fig.1a and b,

5 Supplementary Videos 1, 2). These fragments gradually rounded up with some re-

6 attaching to the retina to form ectopic lenses that were not incorporated (Fig. 1e).

7 Thus, tissue flattening and misalignment defects are associated with the flattened

8 mutant phenotype.

9   Positional cloning identified a mutation of [164]Leu (TTG to TAG) in the WW1

10 domain of YAP in *hir* (Extended Data Fig. 1c, d). YAP is the nuclear executor of the

11 Hippo pathway and regulates organ growth via stimulation of cell proliferation[7-9]. In

12 wild type (WT) embryos, YAP transcripts are ubiquitous throughout normal

13 development[10]. Medaka maternal *YAP* mRNA was present at st.10 in *hir* before onset

14 of zygotic gene expression but undetectable after st.18 (Extended Data Fig. 1e).

15 Morpholino (MO) YAP knock-down (KD) in WT embryos recapitulated the *hir*

16 phenotype (Extended Data Fig. 2a-c, Supplementary Table 1, 2), and ubiquitous

17 recombinant YAP mRNA expression rescued the *hir* phenotype (Extended Data Fig.

18 1f). In addition, perturbation of maternal *YAP* mRNA translation in *hir* mutant

19 embryos by YAP translation-blocking (TB) MO (mYAP KD *hir* embryos) elicited a

20 more severe blastopore closure and body flattening phenotype than in *hir* zygotic YAP

21 mutants (Fig. 1b3, 3', c, Supplementary Table 2). Blastopore closure defects, but not

22 flattening, have been reported in YAP KD zebrafish and *Xenopus*[11]. Since TAZ is a

23 functional paralog of YAP[12], we evaluated its contribution to the YAP KD phenotype

24 in zebrafish. YAP;TAZ double KD zebrafish embryos exhibited more pronounced

25 blastopore closure defects than YAP KD alone (Extended Data Fig. 2d-h). YAP-4SA,

26 which lacks four serines and predominantly localizes to the nucleus[13], rescued the *hir*

1   phenotype more efficiently than WT YAP (Extended Data Fig. 1f), suggesting that the

2   *hir* phenotype depends on nuclear YAP. The main nuclear function of YAP is to

3   promote proliferation and inhibit cell death[14]. *hir* embryos had increased cell death

4   from st.22 to 26 after body flattening had initiated (increased cell death *per se* does not

5   lead to body flattening[5,6]). Cell proliferation remained close to normal in *hir* embryos

6   but was strongly suppressed in TAZ KD (and YAP/TAZ double KD) medaka embryos

7   (Extended Data Fig. 2i, j). Thus, in medaka, cell proliferation is mainly regulated by

8   TAZ, while YAP is predominantly required for 3D body shape.

9   3 dpf *hir* mutants showed different orientations of body flattening. We therefore

10   examined whether collapse correlated with the direction of gravity. Mutant embryos

11   maintained either right-side or left-side down relative to the earth collapsed towards

12   the earth as indicated by the ventricle tangent (Fig. 2a). Average collapse angle, θ, in

13   mutant embryos was 17.3±10.7° (*n*=14; Fig. 2b) compared to 5.6±3.3° (*n*=26, *p*< 0.01)

14   in WT. Mutant embryos maintained dorsal side down exhibited apparently uniform

15   dorso-ventral compression (Fig. 2a2, 2'). Thus, flattening in *hir* embryos reflects an

16   inability to withstand external forces (i.e. gravity), suggesting reduced tissue tension.

17   Tissue tension is generated primarily by actomyosin contraction[15]. During WT

18   organogenesis, global levels of phosphorylated myosin regulatory light chain

19   (pMRLC), indicative of actomyosin activity, increased (Fig. 2c), whilst in *hir* mutants

20   they began decreasing as the blastopore closes (st.17, 25 hpf), and continued

21   decreasing coinciding with tissue collapse and body flattening. To assess tissue tension

22   during blastopore closure, we analyzed a surface epithelial cell layer, the enveloping

23   layer (EVL)[16] (Extended Data Fig. 3a1). Comparison of EVL shape anisotropy

24   between WT and *hir* embryos suggested that tissue tension in *hir* is reduced within the

25   EVL (Extended Data Fig. 3a, b). We also quantified actomyosin network tension

26   within the yolk syncytial layer (YSL) of zebrafish embryos with compromised YAP

4

1   function expressing EGFP myosin light chain protein, Tg(*actb1:myl12.1-eGFP*)[17]. The

2   YSL actomyosin network close to the EVL margin (Fig. 2d, AR) was cut along a 20

3   μm-long line perpendicular to the margin to reveal circumferential tension (Fig. 2e).

4   Recoil velocities were significantly reduced in YAP;TAZ KD (n=50) compared to

5   control KD embryos (n=40; 11.2±0.8 μm/min *vs* 23.8±2.3 μm/min) (Fig. 2f-h),

6   suggesting reduced actomyosin network tension. Consistent with this, epiboly

7   movements in YAP;TAZ double KD zebrafish embryos were significantly reduced

8   (KD embryos: 53.63±3.93%; control embryos: 70.0±2.18% deep cell epiboly). To test

9   whether reduced actomyosin network tension is also responsible for neural tube tissue

10   flattening in *hir*, we performed micropipette aspiration experiments[18]. *hir* neural

11   explants were significantly less resistant to external forces applied by aspiration than

12   WT, indicating reduced neural tube tissue tension. The higher deformability of *hir*

13   neural tube tissue was paralleled when myosin activity was reduced by ROCK

14   inhibition (Fig. 2i-k). Together, these analyses indicate that YAP is required for

15   actomyosin-mediated tissue tension in medaka and zebrafish.

16   Single cell tracking analysis of the growing neural tube in *hir* showed that tissue

17   flattening was associated with failure to stack cells and increase in cells slipping to one

18   side after perpendicular cell division (Fig.3a, Extended Data Fig. 4, 5). Live imaging

19   showed loss of filopodia between lens and retina which tether lens to retina during lens

20   invagination[1] (Extended Data Fig. 1b, 6a,b). The formation of lens-retina filopodia

21   requires fibronectin (FN)-integrin signaling and contractile actomyosin[1]. While st.22

22   WT embryos had elongated thin FN fibrils between invaginating lens and retina, *hir*

23   retina showed punctate FN patches (Fig. 3b1", 2"), suggesting defective FN fibril

24   formation. In addition, large ectopic FN deposits were found on the retina in *hir* (Fig.

25   3b2'). Similar loss of normal FN fibrils and large FN deposits were observed

26   throughout *hir* embryos (Fig. 3b4', 3b5'). Furthermore, integrin β1 accumulation

1   between lens and retina was lost in *hir* (Extended Data Fig. 6c). In contrast, cell-cell

2   adhesion and apical markers, including pan-cadherin, atypical PKC (aPKC) and ZO-1,

3   were unaltered in *hir* (data not shown). Mosaic expression of YAP in *hir* and

4   transplantation experiments both showed that the *hir* mutation acts in a non-cell

5   autonomous manner (Extended Data Fig. 7, Supplementary Table 4). For instance, in

6   invaginated *hir* lens rescued by mosaic expression of YAP, non-YAP expressing *hir*

7   cells recovered filopodia (Extended Data Fig. 7b, 6b). These data suggest that YAP

8   functions in tissue alignment by regulating FN assembly.

9   To identify downstream YAP effectors regulating tissue tension, we used a

10   human 3D spheroid *in vitro* culture system employing the human retina pigmented

11   epithelial cell line hTERT-RPE1 (RPE1), which displayed a relatively mild

12   proliferation defect upon YAP KD. YAP KD spheroids collapsed upon exposure to

13   external forces by slow centrifugation, unlike normal spheroids (Fig. 4a, b). pMRLC

14   levels were reduced in YAP KD spheroids (Fig. 4c), as in *hir*, suggesting that YAP

15   maintains tissue tension also in human 3D tissues. YAP KD spheroids also lacked the

16   typical beehive-like pattern of FN fibrils and, instead, contained large FN deposits,

17   reminiscent of the *hir* retina phenotype (Fig. 4d). Cortical actomyosin contraction is

18   required for polymerizing FN monomers to form fibrils[19,20]. Consistently, FN fibril

19   formation on the basal surface of control spheroids coincided with cortical F-actin

20   bundles (Fig. 4d). In contrast, loss of normal FN fibrils in YAP KD spheroids was

21   associated with marked reduction of cortical F-actin bundles (Fig. 4d and f). Instead,

22   we observed F-actin aggregates, some of which were associated with large FN

23   deposits suggesting that they have increased local tension (Fig. 4d). A similar

24   distribution of F-actin and FN was observed in *hir* (Extended Data Fig. 8a). Gene

25   expression profiling of YAP KD spheroids identified only forty genes with reduced

26   expression (see Methods), including *ARHGAP18*, encoding a RhoGAP that suppresses

1 F-actin polymerization by inhibiting Rho[21]. *ARHGAP18* transcripts and protein levels

2 were reduced in YAP KD spheroids (Fig. 4c), and ARHGAP18 KD spheroids

3 exhibited a similar phenotype to YAP KD spheroids, including reduced pMRLC levels

4 (Fig. 4c), and aberrant F-actin and FN assembly (Fig. 4e). This suggests that both

5 disruption of cortical F-actin bundles and ectopic F-actin aggregates (Fig. 4f) arise

6 from F-actin over-polymerization in YAP KD spheroids (Extended Data Fig. 8b) and

7 ARHGAP18 KD cells. Together, these results suggest that ARHGAP18 acts

8 downstream of YAP and is required for cortical actomyosin network formation and

9 tissue tension.

10   To analyze the contribution of actomyosin tension-mediated FN assembly defects

11 to the *hir* eye phenotype, we blocked FN assembly to a similar extent to that in *hir* by

12 overexpressing 70kDa N-terminal FN1a and 1b fragments in WT embryos[22] (Fig. 3b3',

13 3"); this caused near dislocation of the lens and fewer filopodia between lens and

14 retina (Fig. 3b3). *hir* mutants had fewer filopodia than FN assembly blocked embryos

15 (Extended Data Fig. 6a, b), suggesting that contractile actomyosin defects in *hir*

16 exacerbate the incomplete lens dislocation caused by FN assembly defects. In contrast,

17 FN assembly blocked embryos did not exhibit flattened tissues (Fig. 3b1-3).

18 Furthermore, the medaka FN1 mutant *fukuwarai* (*fku*) also exhibited lens mislocation

19 but not tissue flattening (Extended Data Fig. 8c), suggesting that FN is specifically

20 required for tissue alignment, but not generally for YAP-dependent tissue shape.

21 ARHGAP18 mRNA levels were significantly reduced in *hir*, and mRNA injection of

22 plasma membrane-targeted myristoylated ARHGAP18 (*myrARHGAP18*) into *hir*

23 substantially rescued FN assembly defects, lens invagination and body flattening

24 (Extended Data Fig. 9a, b). In contrast, inactivation of ARHGAP18 alone was

25 insufficient to produce a recognizable phenotype (data not shown), suggesting that

26 multiple ARHGAP18 related genes function downstream of YAP. Consistently,

1   siRNA knock-down screening in human cells identified five ARHGAP genes with

2   similar functions to ARHGAP18, homologs of which are conserved in medaka and

3   zebrafish (Extended Data Fig. 9c, d). These results suggest that ARHGAP18-related

4   genes function as effectors of YAP essential for both tissue shape and FN-dependent

5   tissue alignment. The *hir* phenotype is not simply due to reduced myosin contraction,

6   because injecting mRNA of an activated form of MRLC-DD[23] did not rescue the *hir*

7   phenotype (Extended Data Fig. 3a6, b, 8d). Similarly, injection of dominant negative

8   MRLC-AA[23] in WT embryos failed to fully phenocopy the *hir* tissue or body

9   flattening phenotype (Extended Data Figs. 3a5, b). Collectively, these results suggest

10   that YAP function in 3D tissue shape and FN assembly is conserved in human cells

11   and is at least partly mediated by ARHGAP18-related genes.

12   We propose that YAP is essential for tissue tension, acting through ARHGAP18

13   and related genes to regulate cortical actomyosin network formation (Fig. 4g). YAP-

14   dependent actomyosin network tension is required for both proper tissue shape and

15   alignment to ensure organ/body shape. Several upstream regulators of YAP-mediated

16   cell proliferation have been identified, including cellular environment stiffness,

17   suggesting YAP can function as a mechanosensor[24]. Our data show that YAP also

18   functions as a mechanoregulator of tissue tension. Reduced cortical actomyosin

19   tension is the most probable cause of attenuated tissue tension in *hir* mutants. F-actin

20   over-polymerization perturbs F-actin turnover required for actomyosin contraction in

21   the cytokinetic ring[25]. Our finding that ARHGAP18, a suppressor of F-actin

22   polymerization, functions downstream of YAP further supports a critical role of F-

23   actin polymerization in contractile actomyosin network formation. YAP is required for

24   basal-level actomyosin activity, consistent with ubiquitous expression of actin

25   modulator ARHGAP18[21], additional to which spatiotemporal modulation of

26   actomyosin activity defines tissue shape. Since ARHGAP18 suppresses actin

1 polymerization, which in turn reduces nuclear localization of YAP[26], ARHGAP18

2 might suppress YAP activity via a negative feedback mechanism. This points to a

3 possible mechanical feedback loop where tissue tension controls YAP, and YAP in

4 turn is required for tissue tension.

5   Actomyosin contraction promotes FN assembly[27]. The tissue misalignment

6 phenotype in *hir* is most likely due to failure of YAP-dependent actomyosin

7 contractility in controlling FN assembly. Since FN initiates ECM organization[27],

8 actomyosin contraction-mediated FN assembly could be a critical *in vivo* mechanism

9 that integrates mechanical signals (e.g. tension generated by actomyosin) with

10 biochemical signals (e.g. integrin signaling). Notably, the phenotype of YAP KO

11 mouse embryos resembles that of FN KO mouse embryos[28], suggesting that YAP and

12 FN have similar functions in mouse development. Interestingly, while YAP in medaka

13 is predominantly required for tissue tension, its paralog TAZ appears to be required for

14 cell proliferation (Supplementary Discussion). Given the high degree of conservation

15 of YAP and other Hippo pathway components across metazoa[29], it will be worth

16 investigating whether the extent of tissue three-dimensionality and alignment correlate

17 with the emergence of YAP-mediated resistance to gravity at the evolutionary

18 transition from uni- to multi-cellular organisms. Generation of 3D eye cups from

19 iPS/ES cells depends on tissue self-organization involving mechanical processes of

20 which the mechanism remains elusive[30]; since YAP-dependent force-mediated

21 morphogenesis could be involved in tissue self-organization, our findings could help

22 in making more complex organs.

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Acknowledgements

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Author information

9   **These authors contributed equally to this work.**

10   Sean Porazinski, Huijia Wang, Yoichi Asaoka, Martin Behrndt, Tatsuo Miyamoto

11

12   **Affiliations**

13

14   Department of Biology and Biochemistry, University of Bath, Bath, BA2 7AY, UK

15

16   Department of Developmental and Regenerative Biology, Medical Research Institute,
17   Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Tokyo 113-8510, Japan

18

19   IST Austria, Am Campus 1, A-3400 Klosterneuburg, Austria

20

21   Department of Genetics and Cell Biology, Research Institute for Radiation Biology and
22   Medicine, Hiroshima University, Hiroshima 734-8553, Japan

23

24   Department of Molecular Biology, School of Medicine, Keio University, Tokyo 160-
25   8582 Japan.

26

27   Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), ERATO-SORST Kondoh Differentiation
28   Signaling Project, Kyoto, 606-8305, Japan

29

30   Department of Cell Biology, Neurobiology, and Anatomy, Medical College of
31   Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI 53226, USA

32

33   Division of Cancer Biology, Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine, Nagoya,
34   466-8550, Japan

35

36   Matrix Biology Section, Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology, University of Oxford,
37   Oxford, OX3 7FY, UK

38

39   Graduate School of Frontier Bioscience, Osaka University, Osaka 565-0871, Japan

40

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Contributions

S.P., H.W., Y.A., M.B., T.M., H. M., S.H., T.S., SF.G.K., Y.O., S.A., A.M., S.L., J.B.M., B.A.L. T.S., S.B., and M.F-S performed experiments. S.P., H.W., Y.A., M.B., T.M. and M.F.-S conceived the study. S.B., N.S., H.N., S.M., H.K., C.-P.H., H.N. and M.F- S. supervised the study. C.-P.H. and M.F- S. wrote the paper. All authors interpreted data.

Competing financial interests

The authors declare no competing financial interests.

Corresponding authors

Carl-Philipp Heisenberg, Hiroshi Nishina and Makoto Furutani-Seiki

Correspondence to: Makoto Furutani-Seiki

Figure legends

Figure 1 | Organ/tissue collapse and misalignment in *hir* mutants. **a,** 1, 1',
Lateral view of live wild-type (WT) and *hir* mutant embryos, anterior to the left.
Arrowheads: heart. Brackets: embryo thickness; 2, 2', Dorsal view, anterior
upwards. Arrowheads: mislocated lenses; 3, 3' Transverse section at the plane
shown in 1 and 1'. Neural tubes (black dots) and somites (red dots). **b,** 1-3 lateral
and 1'-3' dorsal views of live embryos. Arrowheads: blastoderm margin. Epiboly
quantified (%) in (c). Error bars ± S.E.M. (**$P < 0.01$, ***$P < 0.001$; one-way
ANOVA with Dunnett's T3 post hoc. Figure 1 source data). **d,** Transverse sections
at 5th somite level, neural tube (encircled) and somites (blue) by *myoD in situ*
hybridization. **e,** Time-lapse sequence of dorsal view of WT and *hir* mutant right
eyes. Arrowheads: lens placode; arrows: invaginating retina. Fragmented and
detaching lens placode demarcated by dotted lines in 1' and 2'. Scale bars: 40 µm.

Figure 2 | Tissue tension is reduced in *hir* mutants. **a,** Embryos kept left side
down (1, 1'), dorsal facing down (2, 2') and right side down (3, 3') from st.17 - 26,
stained with phalloidin (green, F-actin) and TO-PRO-3 (blue, nucleus). Large black
arrow: direction of gravity, θ: angle that the tangent along the brain ventricle (dotted
lines in 1, 1') makes with horizontal solid line. **b,** Range of collapse of mutant and WT
embryos kept sideways. Error bars: ± S.E.M. **$P < 0.01$, *t-test* (Figure 2 source data).
c, Immunoblotting of phospho-myosin regulatory light chain (pMRLC, Ser19) and
control (GAPDH) (Supplementary Figure 1). **d,** Actomyosin-labelled
Tg(*actb1:myl12.1-eGFP*) zebrafish embryos at 75% epiboly. Arrowhead: YSL
actomyosin ring (AR) at the margin of the EVL. Bracket: for analysis of EVL shape
anisotropy (Extended Data Fig. 3**a**). **e,** The actomyosin ring was cut along a 20 µm-

1   long-line (red) perpendicular to the EVL/YSL boundary in MO-injected embryos,

2   when control MO injected embryos were at 70-80% epiboly. **f,** Particle image

3   velocimetry (PIV) quantifies the velocity field (yellow arrows) of the recoiling

4   actomyosin network. **g,** Averaged temporal recoil velocity curves, control MO (n=41)

5   and YAP;TAZ KD conditions (n=50). Error bars: error of the mean at 95%

6   confidence. Exponential fit function with a linear offset (black solid line) yields the

7   characteristic decay time (inset) and **h**, the initial recoil velocity for the control MO

8   (23.8±2.3 µm/min) and YAP;TAZ KD conditions (11.2±0.8 µm/min). Error bars: 95%

9   confidence interval for the fit results. **i**, Snapshot at the end of aspiration (600 sec) of

10   st.22 neural tube with constant pressure (ΔP=4.5 mbar). **j,** The curves of the tongue

11   length over time to measure the aspiration of WT, *hir* mutant and ROCK inhibitor

12   (Y27632) treated neural tube explants. Error bars: ± S.D. Maximum tongue length

13   measured at 600 sec were compared by *t-test* in **k**. Box plots represent 5%, 25%,

14   median, 75%, and 95%. *$P < 0.05$, ***$P < 0.001$. Scale bars, 40 µm in **a, i**, 10 µm in

15   **e**.

16

17   **Figure 3 | Cell and tissue dynamics in *hir* mutants.   a,** Schematic: *hir* neural

18   tube collapse is associated with long chain-like arrangements of neuroepithelial

19   cells generated by increased cell slippage and randomized oriented cell division

20   (Extended Data Fig. 4, 5). **b,** Whole-mount FN immunohistochemistry (IHC) of

21   st.22 embryos, dorsal view, anterior to the top. 1-1", Cont (control), WT embryos

22   injected with out-of-frame 70kD N-terminal medaka FN1a+1b mRNA (250 pg)

23   (n=20); 2-2", uninjected *hir* mutants (n=11); 3-3", WT embryos injected with N-

24   terminal 70kDa FN1a+1b mRNA (250 pg) (n=39). 1-3, left anterior head of live

25   embryos (asterisks, lens; triangle, forebrain ventricle); 1'-3', left eye of FN IHC

26   (green), boxed area magnified in 1"-3"; 4, 5, surface view of FN stained neural

1   tube, WT (n=15) and *hir* (n=14) corresponding to the region in 1 and 2,

2   respectively, boxed area magnified in 4' and 5'. Arrowheads: FN fibrils/puncta,

3   arrows: FN large deposits. Scale bars, 40 µm in b1, 1', 4; 5 µm in b1'', 4'.

4

5   **Figure 4 | YAP regulation of tissue tension and FN assembly is mediated by**

6   **ARHGAP18.   a, b,** Confocal 3D sectioning of longest and shortest axes of YAP and

7   control (cont) KD RPE1 spheroids (n=5, 7) after centrifugation. b, Ratio of longest (L)

8   /shortest (S) axes. Error bars: ± S.E.M. **$P < 0.05$, *t-test* (Figure 4 source data). **c,**

9   Immunoblotting of YAP and ARHGAP18 KD spheroids for the indicated proteins

10 (Supplementary Figure 1). **d, e** Whole-mount imaging of basal surfaces of spheroids

11 transfected with control siRNA (n=17), YAP siRNA (n=13), and ARHGAP18 siRNA

12 (n=15), stained for F-actin (red) and FN (green). 2-4 magnified view of boxed areas in

13 1. Arrowheads: cortical regions; arrows: ectopic F-actin aggregates and aberrant FN

14 fibrils. **f,** Schematic; fine extracellular FN fibrils form in close proximity to cortical F-

15 actin in normal cells, while in YAP and ARHGAP18 KD cells, FN fibrils are reduced

16 and aberrant FN deposits coincide with ectopic F-actin aggregates. **g,** Schematic

17 summarizing how YAP/ARHGAP18-dependent actomyosin network contraction

18 controls tissue shape and alignment. Scale bars, 40 µm in a; 30 µm in d1, e1; 15 µm in

19 d2, e2.

20

Methods

Fish maintenance and fish strains

Medaka (*Oryzias latipes*) and zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) strains were maintained and

raised according to previously published procedures[31]. Medaka and zebrafish embryos

were raised in E3 solution at 28°C. Fish care and procedures were approved by the

University of Bath Ethical Review Committee, and are in compliance with the

Animals Scientific Procedures Act 1986 of the UK. Medaka WT strains K-Cab, K-

Kaga, and the mutant strain *hir*[54-20C], were used[6]. Zebrafish WT strain AB,

Tg(actb1:myl12.1-eGFP) and *Tg(actb1:utrophin-mcherry)*[17,32] that allow visualization

of myosin and actin, respectively, were used.

Embryological experiments: For fixation and live imaging, embryos were

anaesthetized with 0.01% tricaine. For live imaging, embryos were embedded in 0.8%

low melting temperature agarose (Type IV-A, Sigma, USA) in 35mm glass-base

dishes (Iwaki, Japan) at 28°C. Detailed procedures for the standard embryological

experiments including, dechorionation, fixation, *in situ* hybridization,

immunohistochemistry, microinjection and cell transplantation were carried out

according to previously published procedures[31]. Cells were transplanted to the region

fated to become the eye and Cuvier's duct according to our fate map[33].

1

2 **Positional cloning of *hir***

3 The *hir* mutation induced in the K-Cab strain was crossed with the polymorphic K-

4 Kaga strain to carry out genetic mapping according to a previously published

5 procedure[34]. To map the *hir* mutation on the chromosome, bulked segregant analysis

6 was performed using M-markers[35] on DNA isolated from 48 homozygous mutant

7 embryos and 48 WT siblings from F2 embryos of mutant/ K-Kaga mapping crosses.

8 Chromosome walking on chromosome 13 was performed using restriction fragment

9 length polymorphism markers between K-Cab and K-Kaga strains to map to the two

10 BAC clones. For fine mapping, 1908 meioses were analyzed to identify 9

11 recombinants mapping *hir* mutation close to YAP. YAP cDNA was amplified from *hir*

12 mutants by RT-PCR and sequenced directly to identify the mutation.

13

14 **RT-PCR cDNA cloning and construction**

15 Total RNAs were isolated using TRIzol (Life Technologies) and were converted to

16 cDNA using the RNA-PCR kit ver.3 (Takara Bio, Japan) followed by PCR using

17 KOD plus polymerase (Toyobo, Japan). For mRNA production, PCR amplified full-

18 length cDNAs (medaka *YAP, 70KDaFN1a,b, ARHGAP18*) were cloned into pCS2+

19 and for *in situ* hybrization medaka *sox3* cDNA was cloned into pBluescript II SK(-).

20 *pCS2+myr-ARHGAP18* was constructed by adding the myristoylation sequence using

21 oligonucleotides to produce myristoylated ARHGAP18 mRNA. mRNAs were

22 synthesized using SP6 mMESSAGE mMACHINE Kit (Ambion, USA). Primer

23 sequences are shown in Supplementary Table 5.

24

25 **Gravity experiment**

19

1 Dechorionated embryos were embedded in 0.8% low melting temperature agarose in

2 three orientations against gravity at st.19, fixed at st.24 and subjected to

3 cryosectioning to determine the direction of tissue/organ collapse. Collapse of

4 embryos towards gravity was assessed using images of sections stained with TO-PRO-

5 3 and Phalloidin.

6

7 **Microinjection**

8 mRNA, DNA and Morpholino were injected at 1-cell or 8-cell stages to deliver them

9 to all cells or in a mosaic manner. The volume of one-shot of injection was 0.5

10 nanoliters.

11

12 **Phenotypic rescue experiments:** Embryos from *hir*+/- heterozygote crosses were

13 injected with mRNA of YAP variants. For transplantation phenotypic rescue

14 experiments, embryos were genotyped by PCR using primers (Supplementary Table

15 5).

16

17 **Morpholino KD analysis in medaka and zebrafish**

18 Morpholino oligonucleotides (MOs) from Gene Tools (USA) were used

19 (Supplementary Table 6). Specificity of KD by MO was confirmed in a slightly

20 different manner in medaka and zebrafish. Since rescue of the phenotype by mRNA

21 injection did not work effectively in zebrafish, three different types of MOs,

22 translation blocking (TB), splicing blocking (SB) and 5'UTR MOs, were used and all

23 were confirmed to induce a similar phenotype. In medaka, TB and SB MOs were used,

24 and the phenotype was rescued by co-injecting corresponding mRNAs. To determine

25 efficiency of KD, semi-quantitative RT-PCR was carried out using primers that

26 distinguish defective splicing from normal forms of mRNA (Supplementary Table 5).

1

2 **Immunohistochemistry**

3 Embryos were fixed in either 4% PFA, Dent fixative or 1% TCA for 1-3 days and

4 subjected to cryosectioning as described previously[31]. Antibodies used were: anti-FN

5 antibody (Ab), Sigma F3648 at 1:100; β-integrin monoclonal Ab, 8c8 (Developmental

6 Studies Hybridoma Bank, USA) at 1:10; anti-aPKC C-20 (SC216, Santa Cruz Biotech,

7 USA) at 1:100; anti-PCNA (PC10, Santa Cruz Biotech, USA) at 1:500; anti-laminin

8 (Ab-1, NeoMarkers, USA) at 1:100 and anti-ZO-1[36] (gift from Dr M Itoh) at 1:1.

9 Sections were counterstained with Alexa Fluor 488 or 546 Phalloidin (A12379,

10 A22283, Invitrogen USA) at 1:250 and TO-PRO-3 (T3605, Invitrogen, USA) at

11 1:1000.

12

13 **Time-lapse microscopy and image analysis**

14 Time-lapse analysis of lens dislocation was carried out using a Leica MZ16FA

15 dissecting microscope. Confocal microscopy used a Leica TCS SP5 and images were

16 analyzed by Imaris 7.3 (Bitplane, ANDOR Technology, UK) and Amira 5.1 (Visage

17 Imaging, USA). Cell division orientation (θ) of telophase cells in time-lapse sequences

18 was determined by drawing an axis from the ventricular zone-attached non-moving

19 daughter cell (asterisk Extended Data Fig. 5c) towards the non-attached moving

20 daughter cell[37]. The acute angle of this axis was then measured against the axis of the

21 ventricular zone. Imaging was carried out dorsal side down using an inverted

22 microscope. Rose diagrams were generated using Oriana v4 (Kovach Computing

23 Services, UK).

24

25 **Spheroid analysis**

26 hTERT-RPE1 cells (American Type Culture Collection; CRL-4000) were seeded (2 x

21

1   10^5 cells per well in 6-well plates). Each stealth RNA (100 pmol) of Opti-Mem

2   medium (Life Technologies) was transfected using Lipofectamine RNAi Max (Life

3   Technologies) followed by incubation for 24h at 37°C. Trypsin treatment was used to

4   collect RNAi-transfected cells from wells which were resuspended in 2 ml of 10%

5   FBS (Hyclone, ThermoFisher Scientific)-DMEM. These resuspensions were seeded to

6   6 wells of a 12-well plate (Hydrocell, CellSeed Japan) and incubated for 48 hr at 37°C.

7   Spheroids were fixed in 3% formalin and subjected to immunostaining. Reagents used

8   for immunostaining: anti-β-catenin (BD transduction, 610154, 1:200), anti-FN (Sigma

9   F3648, 1:500), Alexa Fluor 546 Phalloidin (Invitrogen, A22283,1:200). For the list of

10   primers see Supplementary Table 5.

11

12   **Western blotting**

13   Spheroids were lysed in lysis buffer (0.5% TritonX-100, 150 mM NaCl, 20 mM Tris-

14   HCl pH7.5). The lysates were sheared with a 21-gauge needle, incubated on ice for 30

15   minutes and clarified by centrifugation at $20,817 \times g$ for 15 minutes at 4°C. The

16   extracted proteins were separated by SDS-PAGE and transferred to immobilon

17   transfer membrane (Millipore) for Western blotting analyses. The primary antibodies

18   were anti-YAP1 pAb (#4912 Cell Signaling, 1:500), anti-Fibronectin pAb (F3648,

19   Sigma Aldrich, 1:1000), anti-ARHGAP18 pAb (1:10000)[17,21], anti-MYH9 pAb (#3403

20   Cell signaling, 1:1000), anti-Phospho Ser1943-MYH9 pAb (#5026 Cell Signaling,

21   1:1000), anti-MYH10 mAb (#8824 Cell Signaling, 1:1000), anti-Phospho-Ser19

22   MLC2 (#3675, Cell signaling, 1:100), and anti-GAPDH mAb (sc32233, Santa Cruz,

23   1:5000).

24

25   **Actomyosin tension measurement by laser cutting**

26   Laser cutting experiments were carried out using a UV-laser ablation system as

1 previously described[17]. Tg(*actb1:myl12.1-eGFP*)[32] embryos were mounted in 1% low

2 melting point agarose (Invitrogen) embedded in E3 medium inside a glass bottom petri

3 dish (Mattek). A 63x water immersion objective (NA=1.2, Zeiss) was used to visualize

4 the YSL actomyosin ring at respective epiboly stages. Cuts were made at a distance of

5 20 μm from the EVL/YSL boundary by applying 25 UV pulses at 1 kHz to 40

6 equidistant sites along a 20 µm-long-line perpendicular to the EVL margin as depicted

7 in Figure 2e. Fluorescent images of embryos were captured using an iXon DU-897-

8 BV camera (Andor Technology) with a 380 ms exposure time and 500 ms frame rate

9 (LabVIEW v10.0.1). The ablation procedure itself took 1.2 s during which no images

10 were acquired. Temperature was kept constant at 28.5±1°C throughout the experiment

11 by means of a custom-built temperature chamber and an objective heating ring. The

12 recoil velocity of the cortex in response to the cut opening was analyzed using

13 customized Matlab (v7.12) scripts based on particle image velocimetry (PIV) as

14 previously described[17,38]. The component of the PIV flow field that is orthogonal to

15 the cut line was averaged in two adjacent rectangles (Figure 2f) for time frames up to 9

16 seconds post-ablation. The resulting recoil velocity curves for single embryo ablation

17 experiments were averaged to yield the mean temporal recoil velocity curve for the

18 depicted conditions (Figure 2g). Laser ablation experiments that caused wound

19 response recognizable by a strong accumulation of myosin following the ablation were

20 discarded from the analysis. In these experiments leakage of yolk cytoplasm through a

21 membrane opening may interfere with the cortical tension measurements[17].

22

23 **Micropipette aspiration analysis**

24 The whole neural tube was dissected out from st.22 medaka embryos and was cut

25 using a tungsten needle at the level of diencephalon-midbrain boundary. The

26 micropipette was connected to a Microfluidic Flow Control System (Fluigent,

1   Fluiwell) which was controlled via a custom-programmed Labview (National

2   Instruments) interface. In the BSS medium, the neural tube was aspirated from the

3   open end by a micropipette (internal radius=30-35 µm) at a constant pressure (ΔP=4.5

4   mbar) for 10 minutes. Aspiration was imaged at 500 msec intervals by a Leica SP5

5   inverted confocal microscope using a Leica 20X, 0.7 NA objective. Temperature in

6   the dish was kept constant at 28°C by a heated sample holder. Measuring the tongue

7   length of the tissue within the micropipette using FIJI software over time yielded the

8   characteristic tissue flow curves during aspiration for WT and *hir* mutant neural tube

9   explants. To reduce cortical tension WT neural tube explants were treated with ROCK

10 inhibitor Y27632 (250 µM dissolved in water) for 15 minutes before performing the

11 micropipette aspiration experiment.

12

13 **Oligo DNA microarray analysis**

14 For the Oligo DNA microarray analysis, total RNA samples were collected from

15 hTERT-RPE1 multicellular spheroids. 3D-Gene Human Oligo chip 25k (TORAY)

16 was used. Total RNA of YAP siRNA-transfected spheroids and that of negative

17 control siRNA were labeled with Cy3- or Cy5- using the Amino Allyl MessageAMP

18 II aRNA Amplification Kit (Life Technologies), respectively. The Cy3- or Cy5-

19 labeled aRNA pools and hybridization buffer were mixed, and hybridized for 16 h at

20 37°C. The hybridization was performed using the supplier's protocols (www.3d-

21 gene.com). Hybridization signals were scanned using a 3D-Gene Scanner 3000

22 (TORAY). Detected signals for each gene were normalized by a global normalization

23 method (Cy3/Cy5 ratio median = 1). Genes with Cy3/Cy5 normalized ratios greater

24 than 2.0 or less than 0.5 were defined, respectively, as commonly up- or down-

25 regulated genes. The results were deposited at GEO under the accession number

1 GSE54146.

2

3 **Quantitative RT-PCR analysis**

4 Total RNA was isolated from WT and *hir* mutant embryos at various developmental

5 stages using TRIzol (Invitrogen) according to the manufacturer's instructions. First-

6 strand cDNA was synthesized from 1 μg total RNA using Superscript III reverse

7 transcriptase (Invitrogen) with an oligo-dT primer. Each quantitative real-time RT-

8 PCR was performed using the CFX96 real-time PCR detection system (Bio-Rad).

9 Primers used for RT-PCR analysis are shown in Supplementary Table 5. For a 10 μl

10 PCR, cDNA template was mixed with the primers to final concentrations of 250 nM

11 and 5 μl of SsoFast™ EvaGreen® Supermix (Bio-Rad), respectively. The reaction was

12 first incubated at 95°C for 3.5 min, followed by 45 cycles at 95°C for 30 s, 65°C for

13 30 s and 72°C for 30s.

14

15 **Phylogenetic analysis of ARHGAP18 related genes in 11 metazoan species**

16 Lists of homologs of ARHGAP18 family (TF314044) and its closely related families

17 ARHGAP6 (TF316710) and ARHGAP11 (TF332212) in 11 metazoan model species

18 were downloaded from Treefam database. We also obtained the members of the

19 ARHGAP23 (TF329345) family. ARHGAP23 silencing mimics the round phenotype

20 observed in an RNAi screen knocking down ARHGAP18 in HeLa cell line. Amino-

21 acid sequences for these genes were downloaded from Ensembl. Multiple sequence

22 alignment was performed using the PRANK package. This alignment was used to

23 infer the phylogenetic relationship of these genes using Maximum Likelihood using

24 FastTree 2.1.

25

26 **ARHGAP siRNA screening in HeLa cell line**

1   A library of siRNAs targeting human GAPs was obtained from Invitrogen. HeLa cells

2   cultured in 24-well plates were transfected with siRNAs (20 nM) using Lipofectamine

3   RNAiMAX. After 72 h, cells were fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde and stained with

4   FITC-labeled paclitaxel (Invitrogen). Images were taken using an Olympus IX71

5   fluorescence microscope.

6

7   **Statistical analyses**

8   Statistical significance between WT and mutant groups was tested using independent

9   two-tailed *t*-tests (for two-way comparisons) and one-way ANOVAs (for multiple

10   comparisons), with a Dunnett's T3 post-hoc where necessary, in SPSS 20 (IBM) or

11   Prism v5.0 (GraphPad). The Dunnett's T3 post-hoc assumes variances to be unequal

12   and allows comparisons of groups with different n numbers. To test for differences in

13   mitotic orientation between WT and *hir* we performed the Kolmogorov-Smirnov (KS)

14   test (http://www.physics.csbsju.edu/stats/KStest.n.plot_form.html). The KS test makes

15   no assumptions about the distribution of data being tested. Sample size was not pre-

16   determined. We repeated experiments a minimum of three times with sufficient n

17   numbers for each repeat to be confident that reported results are representative.

18   Randomization was not applied to allocate embryos to experimental groups. Blinding

19   to group allocation was not used. Error bars on graphs show ± standard error of the

20   means (S.E.M.), except when stated otherwise. Data points that deviated by more than

21   ± 3X the standard deviation of the sample mean were excluded from analysis.

1

2   **_P_ values and sample sizes:** p-values vs WT unless specified. Fig. 1c: n_{cont} = 39, n_{hir} =

3   25 (p = 0.002), $n_{mYAPKDhir}$ = 24 (p = 0.000), $n_{mYAPKDhir+YAPmRNA}$ = 22 (p = 1.000). Fig.

4   2b: n_{WT} = 26, n_{hir} = 14 (p = 0.0001). Fig. 4b: $n_{contsiRNA}$ = 7, $n_{YAPsiRNA}$ = 5 (p = 0.023).

5   Extended data Fig. 2h: n_{contMO} = 20, $n_{ZFYAPTBMO}$ = 11 (p = 0.000), $n_{ZFYAP;TAZTB}$ = 10 (p

6   = 0.000). Extended data Fig. 2i: n_{WT} st.20 = 5, st.22 = 8, st.24 = 13, st.26 = 6, st.28 =

7   10, n_{hir} st.20 = 8, st.22 = 4, st.24 = 6, st.26 = 9 (p = 0.0284), st.28 = 5 (p = 0.0088),

8   n_{TAZMO} st.20 = 5, st.22 = 5, st.24 = 10, st.26 = 12, st.28 = 12. Extended data Fig. 2j:

9   n_{WT} st.20 = 11, st.22 = 7, st.24 = 10, st.26 = 11, st.28 = 11, n_{hir} st.20 = 7, st.22 = 7,

10   st.24 = 11, st.26 = 13 (p = 0.0158 vs TAZMO st.26), st.28 = 7 (p = 0.0075 vs TAZMO

11   st.28), n_{TAZMO} st.20 = 5, st.22 = 5, st.24 = 10 (p = 0.0007), st.26 = 8 (p = 0.0008), st.28

12   = 6 (p = 0.0120). Extended data Fig. 3b: n_{WT} = 174, n_{hir} = 70 (p = 0.000), $n_{mYAPKDhir}$ =

13   85 (p = 0.000), $n_{MRLCAA>WT}$ = 135 (p = 0.000), $n_{MRLCDD>hir}$ = 92 (p = 0.145 vs _hir_).

14   Extended data Fig. 4b: n_{WT} = 3, n_{hir} = 3. Extended data Fig. 5b: n_{WT} cell stacking = 9,

15   cell slippage = 8, parallel division = 5, n_{hir} cell stacking = 3 (p = <0.01), cell slippage

16   = 21 (p = <0.05), parallel division = 5. Extended data Fig. 5d: KS-test, p=0.01, n_{WT}

17   st.22-24 = 32, st.25-26 = 13, n_{hir} st.22-24 = 14, st.25-26 = 20. Extended data Fig. 6b:

18   n_{WT} = 10, $n_{FN70kDa>WT}$ = 13 (p = 0.0032), n_{hir} = 6 (p = 0.0001), $n_{YAPS87A>hir}$ = 10 (p =

19   0.0013).

20

21

Extended Data Figure legends

Extended Data Figure 1 | YAP is mutated in *hir* mutants. **a**, *In situ* hybridization of *sox3* showed that the lens placode (arrowhead) is specified in *hir* mutant embryos (n=3) at st.21. At st.22, the nascent lens invaginated in WT (n=21), but did not in *hir* mutant embryos (n=13, arrowhead). **b,** Two frames from time-lapse imaging of retina of embryos injected with membrane EGFP and nuclear RFP (MNFP) mRNAs. In WT (n=10), the nascent lens invaginates from st.21 (1, margins of the lens indicated by arrowheads with retina to the right), whereas in *hir* (n=7) the lens mostly detached from the retina (2', arrowheads show lens remnants attached to the retina). Scale bars: 80 µm in a; 30 µm in b. **c,** Nine recombinants in 1908 meiosis mapped *hir* close to the YAP gene on chromosome 13 (R: recombinant, C: non-recombinant embryos). **d,** YAP cDNA encodes six protein binding domains/motifs and one transcription activation (TAc) domain; a non-sense mutation in WW1 domain in *hir*. **e,** RT-PCR analysis of YAP mRNA during development. *β-actin* as control. **f,** mRNA of normal YAP and its variants were injected into *hir* mutants. The numbers represent: *hir* phenotype rescue judged via brain thickness, heart migration and Cuvier's duct formation; mutants (judged by genotyping when necessary); survived injected embryos of *hir* (+/-) crosses. High dose (400 pg) mRNA of *YAP^{hir}* variant was injected into WT embryos to examine dominant-negative effects. The rescue by *YAP^{4SA}* variant required only 20% of the amount required to rescue using normal *YAP* mRNA.

Extended Data Figure 2 | Morpholino knock-down in medaka and zebrafish

a, Design of medaka YAP TB and SB MOs relative to translation start (ATG), exons (numbered boxes) and introns. Primers (arrows) used to assess the efficiency of SB

28

1 MO KD. **b,** Upper panel, proper splicing of YAP transcripts (579 bp) was nearly fully

2 blocked (343 bp, <5% of normal level) by YAP SB MO (5 ng), assessed by RT-PCR;

3 Lower panel, *β-actin* control. **c,** WT embryos injected with YAP TB MO and standard

4 control MO. 1-3 dorsal and 1'-3' lateral views (also Supplementary Table 1).

5 Arrowheads indicate location of heart progenitors. Body flattening and bilateral

6 cardiac progenitor cell migration was affected in a dose-dependent manner. 2, 2',

7 Bilateral cardiac progenitor cells fused at the midline but did not migrate anteriorly; 1,

8 1' their migration arrests next to the ears at the high dose. The two distinct YAP

9 morpholinos (YAP TB and SB MOs) mimicked the *hir* phenotype in a dose-dependent

10 manner. To further verify specificity of the YAP MOs, YAP TB MO was co-injected

11 with human YAP mRNA that does not hybridize with the YAP TB MO. Injection of

12 YAP TB (but not YAP SB) MO into *hir* mutant embryos enhanced the blastopore

13 closure phenotype of *hir* mutants (Fig. 1b,c, Supplementary Table 2). These maternal

14 YAP KD *hir* mutant embryos failed to close the blastopore. Less than half the amount

15 (2 ng) of YAP TB MO was required for causing this phenotype in *hir* mutants

16 compared to that required for WT embryos (5 ng). This blastopore closure phenotype

17 was rescued by medaka YAP mRNA (200 pg) co-injection. **d-g,** Zebrafish (ZF) WT

18 embryos injected with three distinct ZFYAP MOs (TB, 5'UTR and SB) exhibit the

19 blastopore closure phenotype as in medaka (Supplementary Table 3). Efficiencies of

20 ZF YAP and TAZ SB MO KD (1.5 ng each) were assessed by RT-PCR using primers

21 in d, f, respectively as in a, b. As reported by Gee et al., co-injection of ZF YAP

22 mRNAs did not rescue the ZF YAP MO phenotype in zebrafish[11]. **h,** Co-injection of

23 ZF TAZ MO (total 2 ng) enhanced slow epiboly of YAP TB KD-injected embryos;

24 control = 89±4.16% (n=20), YAP KD = 70.09±4.7% (n=11), YAP/TAZ KD =

25 52.5±2.64% (n=10). Error bars show ± S.E.M. ***$P < 0.001$, one-way ANOVA. **i, j,**

26 TUNEL for cell death and phosphohistone H3 (PH3) antibody staining for cell

1 proliferation (see methods for sample sizes). Stained cells in the neural tube were

2 counted. Error bars indicate ± S.E.M. *$P < 0.05$, **$P < 0.01$, ***$P < 0.001$, one-way

3 ANOVA (Extended Data Figure 2 source data).

4

5 **Extended Data Figure 3 | Anisotropic EVL cell shape analysis in *hir* mutants**

6 **a,** 1, Schematic of sectional view of blastoderm margin of a gastrulating embryo (TJ,

7 tight junction; AR actin ring; YSL, yolk syncytial layer; EVL, enveloping layer); 2-6,

8 EVL shape was visualized in phalloidin-stained fixed medaka embryos at 75% epiboly

9 (st.16, 21 hpf) and compared among, 2 WT (n=14); 3 *hir* (n=9); 4 maternal YAP KD

10 *hir* mutants (mYAPKD*hir*,) by TB MO-injection into *hir* embryos (n=12), 5 MRLC-

11 AA (dominant negative form) mRNA-injected WT (n=6); and 6, MRLC-DD

12 (constitutive active form) mRNA-injected *hir* embryos (n=4). **b,** EVL shape

13 anisotropy quantification by the length/width ratio (LWR, shown in a2) of marginal

14 EVL cells (up to 4 rows back from the EVL/YSL boundary, shown in Fig. 2d bracket).

15 While EVL shape anisotropy was reduced in *hir* mutant embryos (3) to a level

16 comparable to that of MRLC blocked embryos (5), activation of MRLC in *hir* (6) did

17 not rescue it. Parentheses indicate number of cells measured. Scale bar 30 µm. Error

18 bars represent ± S.E.M. ***$P < 0.001$, one-way ANOVA (Extended Data Figure 3

19 source data).

20

21 **Extended Data Figure 4 | Flattening of the *hir* neural tube is associated with**

22 **string-like cell arrangements**   **a,** Increasing height [indicated by brackets in (1)

23 and (5)] of WT neural tube (outlined, n=10) was associated with cell stacking. Time in

24 minutes from st.21 shown bottom left of each sub-panel. Red fluorescent cells, e.g.

25 cell 1 in (1), labeled by photo-converting Kaede fluorescent protein, rounded up at the

26 ventricular zone [arrowhead in (2)] and divided along the ventricular zone

1   [perpendicular cell division in (3)] to generate stacked daughter cells 1-1, 1-2, making

2   the neural tube thicker in (5). **b,** Width/height ratio of spinal cord, measured from

3   time-lapse imaging of single embryos (WT, *hir* n=3 each), showed that flattening

4   occurred progressively in *hir*. Error bars are ± S.E.M. (Extended Data Figure 4 source

5   data). **c,** Single-cell tracking of clones (labeled by membrane-GFP and nuclear-RFP)

6   of the growing neural tube at the level of the fifth somite. Lower panels for WT and

7   *hir* show magnified views of shaded regions in upper panels. The flatter and wider

8   neural tube of the *hir* mutant at st.27 was associated with long chain-like cell

9   arrangements (asterisks, bottom panels of *hir*) tracked from a single neuroepithelial

10   cell at st.22, as compared with the thick cell group generated by cell stacking in WT

11   embryos. Scale bars, 40 µm.

12

13   **Extended Data Figure 5 | Flattening of the *hir* neural tube is associated with cell**

14   **stacking failure** Single-cell analysis in *hir* neural tube shows cell stacking failure

15   occurred after mitosis (a, b) and during mitosis (c, d). Neural progenitor cells divided

16   with spindle orientation "perpendicular" or "parallel" to the ventricular zone

17   ("perpendicular" or "parallel" cell division, respectively). **a,** While daughter cells

18   (asterisks) in WT remained stacked after 45 minutes following perpendicular cell

19   division (first row), those in *hir* exhibited cell slippage (second and third rows).

20   Telophase neuroepithelial cells in the neural tube, first column; magnified views in

21   second to fourth columns. Dotted lines show division planes. Two types of cell

22   slippage were observed: ventral slippage (VS) where the dorsal daughter cell slipped

23   towards the ventral (second row), and dorsal slippage (DS) where the ventral daughter

24   cell slipped towards the dorsal (third row). After parallel cell division, daughter cells

25   did not change their positions in *hir* (fourth row). **b,** Cell stacking was reduced and

26   cell slippage increased after perpendicular cell division, but cells after parallel cell

31

1 division remained unaltered in *hir* mutants. Cell numbers in parentheses. Error bars, ±

2 S.E.M. *$P < 0.05$, **$P < 0.01$, *t-test* (Extended Data Figure 5 source data). **c,** During

3 perpendicular mitosis, daughter cells did not stack properly in *hir* mutants. Cell

4 division orientation (θ) was measured in time-lapse sequences as the acute angle of the

5 telophase cell axis against that of the ventricular zone (e.g. dotted line 26° in a). **d,**

6 Rose diagrams showing frequency and angle of parallel cell divisions. At st.25-26 (50-

7 54 hpf) perpendicular cell divisions generated stacked cells against gravitational forces

8 in WT (n=3 embryos at both stages). Far fewer stacked cells were observed in *hir* (n=4

9 embryos at st.22-24, n=3 embryos at st.25-26). These results are illustrated in Fig. 3a.

10 Scale bars, 15 µm in a, 40 µm in c.

11

12 **Extended Data Figure 6 | Detachment of lens is associated with loss of filopodia in**

13 ***hir*   a,** Representative live images of filopodia (arrowheads) from single lens cells

14 (asterisks) expressing lifeact-GFP in a mosaic manner; (1) WT, (2) *hir* and (3)

15 70kDaFN mRNA-injected WT embryos at st.21.5 when lenses are detaching in *hir*

16 mutants (see Extended Data Figure 1b for larger views). (3) Non-mosaic expression of

17 70kDaFN mRNA in WT embryos was confirmed by co-injected H2A-RFP in the

18 nucleus (red). L, lens; R retina. **b**, Filopodia number/cell was compared (see Extended

19 Data Fig. 7b4 for YAPS87A injected *hir* embryos). n, number of analyzed embryos.

20 Error bars indicate ± S.E.M. **$P < 0.01$, ***$P < 0.001$, one-way ANOVA (Extended

21 Data Figure 6 source data). **c,** Transverse section of integrin-β1 IHC. Strong integrin-

22 β1 localisation between lens and retina in st.22 WT (n=2) (1, arrowhead); no such

23 localisation in *hir* (n=3) (2). At st.23 in *hir* (n=3), weak localisation where rounded up

24 lens reattached to retina (2', arrowhead). Scale bars, 10 µm in a; 40 µm in c.

25

1 **Extended Data Figure 7 | The *hir* mutation acts cell non-autonomously**

2 **a,** Mosaic expression of EGFP-YAPS87A by mRNA injection at 16-cell stage in *hir*

3 mutant embryos rescued the *hir* eye phenotype in (2) as compared to (1) WT and (3)

4 *hir*. The boxed area in (2) is magnified in the lower panels (2'-2''') fluorescence,

5 merged and bright-field views, respectively. Arrowheads in 2' indicate EGFP-

6 YAPS87A expressing clones. **b**, Non-cell autonomous rescue of filopodia in *hir*

7 mutant lens cells. YAPS87A+ mCherry-CAAX (labels membrane red) mRNA, and

8 Lifeact-EGFP mRNA (labels F-actin green) were injected into different cells at 8-16

9 cell stage. (1) In the invaginated (arrow) *hir* mutant lens (boxed area magnified in 2

10 and 3, n=10) rescued by mosaic expression of YAPS87A (red), YAPS87A non-

11 expressing mutant cells recovered filopodia (arrowheads in 4, magnified view of 3).

12 Filopodia number/cell was compared between WT and *hir* in Extended Data Figure

13 6b. **c, (**1) Cells from donor embryos injected with rhodamine (red, top left) were

14 transplanted to a recipient embryo (top right, blastula stage st.12) at the location fated

15 to be eyes (bottom, animal pole view). (2) WT, (3) *hir* and (4) WT cells transplanted

16 into *hir* mutant eye, causing the lens (arrowhead) to invaginate into the retina as in WT

17 at st.23 (note that this confocal sectional view represents a fraction of transplanted

18 cells in the whole eye, see Supplementary Table 4 for the frequency of rescue). Scale

19 bars, 40 μm.

20

21 **Extended Data Figure 8 | F-actin and FN localizations in *hir***   **a,** Whole-mount

22 imaging of WT (n=5) and *hir* (n=4) embryos stained for F-actin (red) and FN (green).

23 (1, 1') whole dorsal view of embryos anterior up, only FN shown; (2-4, 2'-4')

24 magnified view of area indicated by asterisks in (1, 1'); merged (2, 2'), F-actin (3, 3')

25 and FN (4, 4'). Arrowheads indicate cortical F-actin and FN fibrils in WT and

26 corresponding region in *hir* (3, 4, 3', 4'); arrows show ectopic F-actin aggregates and

1   aberrant FN fibrils in (3', 4'). **b,** Immunostaining of 2D cultured RPE1 cells

2   transfected with control (Cont, n=21) and YAP siRNAs (n=19) stained with Phalloidin

3   (1, 1'), β-catenin (2, 2') and merged with DAPI (3, 3'); Phalloidin (4, 4'), FN (5, 5')

4   and merged with DAPI (6, 6'). In marked contrast to the 3D spheroids, FN deposits

5   were not altered in YAP KD cells (5, 5') despite of increased F-actin stress fibers (1,

6   1' and 4, 4'). **c,** The medaka *fku* mutants exhibit lens mislocation (arrows). Live dorsal

7   view of the head of (1) WT, (2) *fku* and (3) *hir* mutant embryos at st.24. (4) The *fku*

8   mutation was mapped to LG21 to the region encompassing the FN1 gene (0

9   recombinants/1130 meiosis). Positional cloning identified a non-sense mutation of

10   ^{593}Glu (GAA to TAA) in FN1 (2503 amino acids). FN1 morpholino KD in WT

11   embryos mimicked the *fku* mutant phenotype. **d,** Constitutive-active MRLC-DD

12   mRNA markedly increased body thickness of WT embryos, but did not rescue the

13   flattened body (brackets in lower panels) and dislocated lens phenotypes of *hir* (n=48).

14   Upper panels, live lateral view (insets, dorsal views of left eyes); lower panels, frontal

15   sections stained with Phalloidin (red) and TO-PRO-3 (blue) at st.25. Scale bars 30 μm,

16   except a2, 15 μm and b, 50 μm.

17

18   **Extended Data Figure 9 | *in vivo* analysis of ARHGAP18 function. a,** Quantitative

19   RT-PCR analysis showed that ARHGAP18 mRNA expression in the *hir* mutant is

20   significantly reduced to 76% of WT level. EF1α as an internal control. Data are shown

21   as means ± S.E.M. [n=10 each; *$P < 0.001$ Student's t-test (two-tailed)]. **b,**

22   *myrARHGAP18* mRNA (150 pg) injection rescued the *hir* phenotype (21 rescued/39

23   *hir*/112 survived embryos). Upper panels, live dorsal view; lower panels, frontal

24   sections stained with Phalloidin (red) and TO-PRO-3 (blue) at st.23; (1) uninjected *hir*,

25   (2) injected *hir* and (3) WT. The lens (asterisk) invaginated into retina (arrows, upper

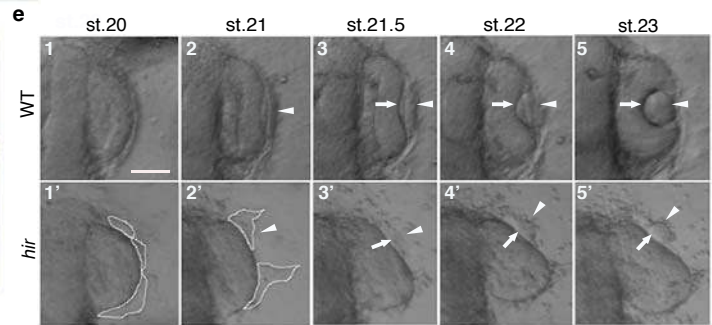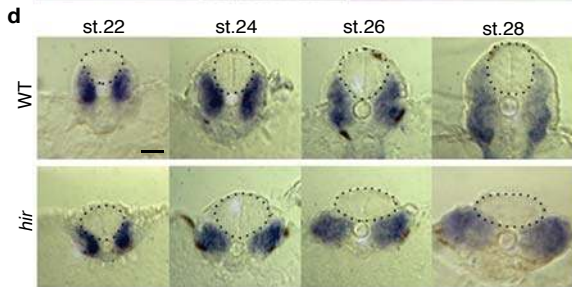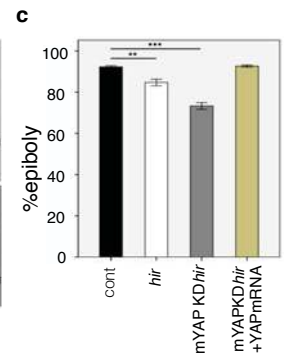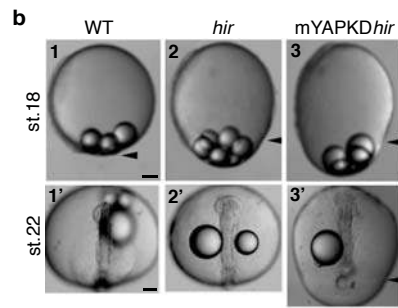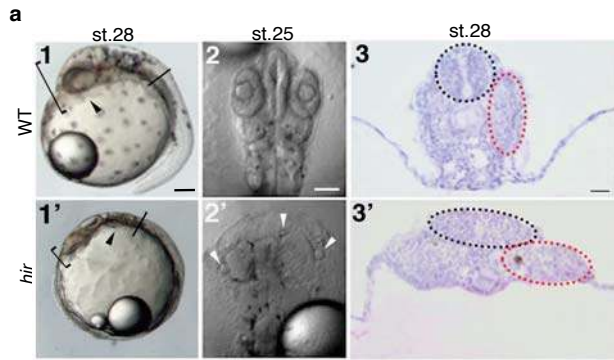26   panel) and the neural tube became thicker (brackets in lower panels) in the

myrARHGAP18 mRNA-injected *hir* mutant embryos. (2') FN staining of

myrARHGAP18 mRNA-injected *hir* mutant embryos; boxed area magnified in

subsequent panel to the right; invaginated lenses had fine FN fibrils (arrowheads)

between lens and retina as in WT (see Fig. 3b1"). **c,** Phylogenetic analysis identified

16 ARHGAP18 paralogs in vertebrate lineages. Arrowheads show medaka orthologs.

d, siRNA screening of 40 human ARHGAP genes in HeLa cells showed that knock-

down of five ARHGAP genes exhibited the rounding up phenotype similar to
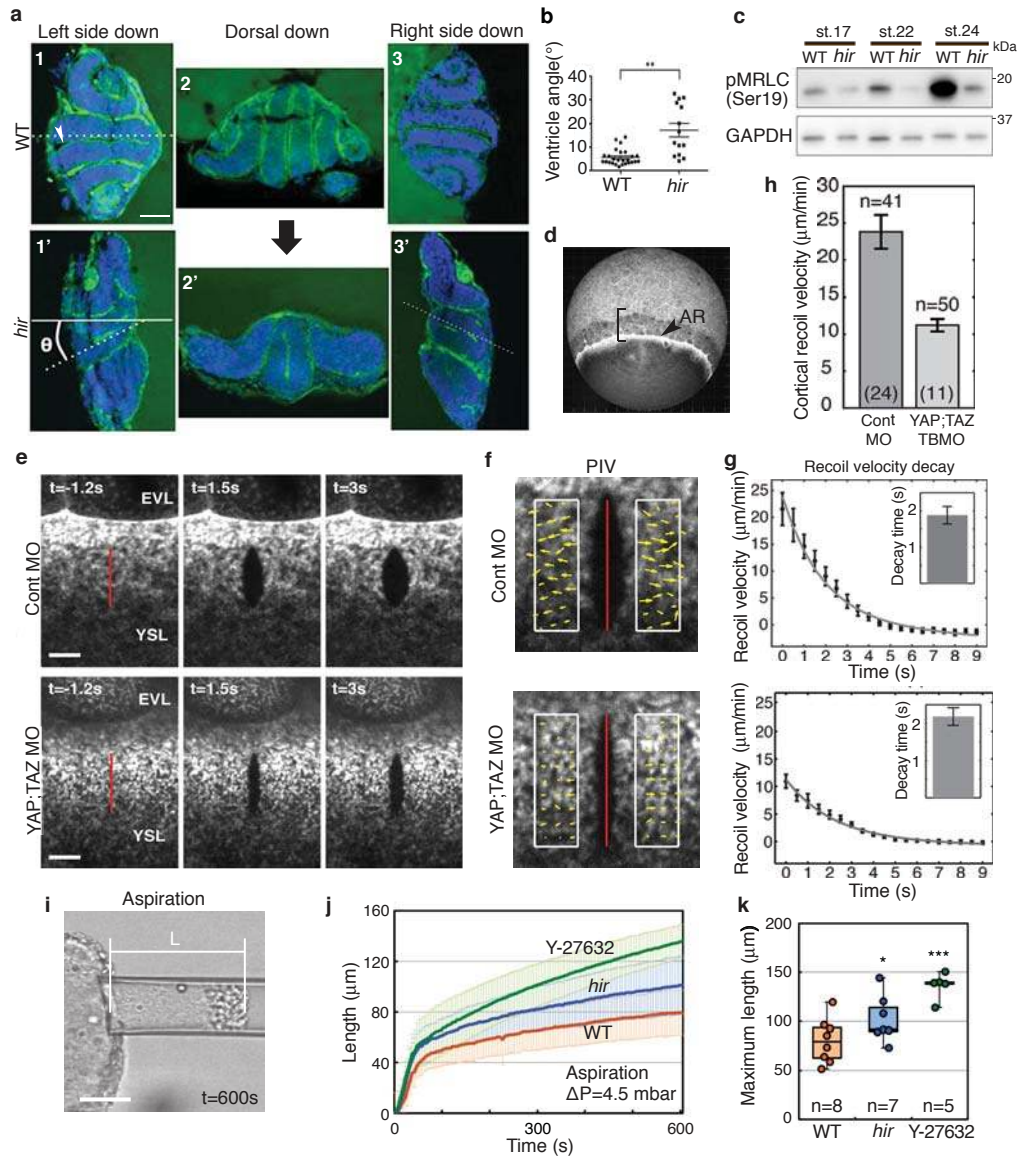
ARHGAP18 inactivation,

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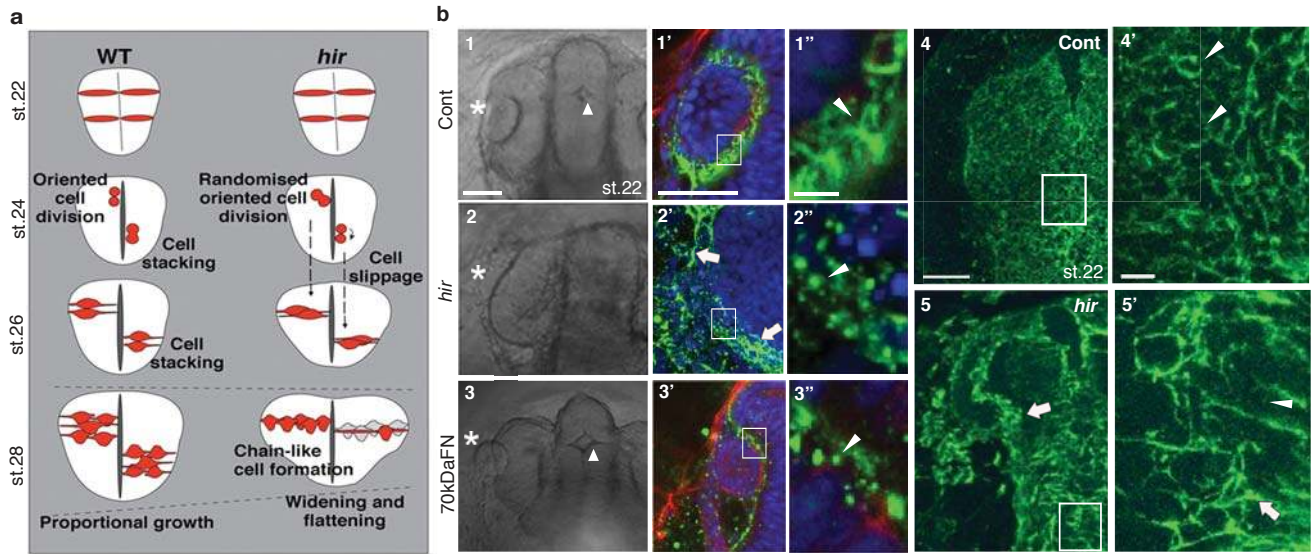
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a

st.28   st.25   st.28

WT

1   **2**   **3**

hir

1'   **2'**   **3'**

b

WT   *hir*   mYAPKD*hir*

st.18

1   **2**   **3**

st.22

1'   **2'**   **3'**

c

%epiboly

cont   *hir*   mYAPKD*hir*   mYAPKD*hir*+YAPmRNA

d

st.22   st.24   st.26   st.28

WT

hir

e

st.20   st.21   st.21.5   st.22   st.23

WT

1   **2**   **3**   **4**   **5**

hir

1'   **2'**   **3'**   **4'**   **5'**