

1 **Dual clathrin and adhesion signaling systems regulate growth factor receptor activation.**

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9

10 **ABSTRACT**

11 The crosstalk between growth factor and adhesion receptors is key for cell growth and migration. In  
12 pathological settings, these receptors are drivers of cancer. Yet, how growth and adhesion signals are  
13 spatially organized and integrated is poorly understood. Here we use quantitative fluorescence and  
14 electron microscopy to reveal a mechanism where flat clathrin lattices partition and activate growth  
15 factor signals via a coordinated response that involves crosstalk between epidermal growth factor  
16 receptor (EGFR) and the adhesion receptor  $\beta$ 5-integrin. We show that ligand-activated EGFR, Grb2, Src,  
17 and  $\beta$ 5-integrin are captured by clathrin coated-structures at the plasma membrane. Clathrin structures  
18 dramatically grow in response to ligand activation into large flat plaques and provide a signaling  
19 platform that link EGFR and  $\beta$ 5-integrin through Src-mediated phosphorylation. Disrupting this  
20 EGFR/Src/ $\beta$ 5-integrin axis prevents both clathrin plaque growth and receptor signaling. Our study  
21 reveals a reciprocal regulation of clathrin lattices and two different receptor systems to enhance cell

22 growth factor signaling. These findings have broad implications for the control of growth factor  
23 receptors, mechanotransduction, and endocytosis.

24

## 25 INTRODUCTION

26 Cellular communication begins with a cascade of molecular interactions initiated by plasma  
27 membrane (PM) receptors of which the receptor tyrosine kinases (RTKs) are one of the major  
28 superfamilies. RTKs are ubiquitous integral membrane proteins in eukaryotes that perform numerous  
29 actions including the regulation of cell proliferation, differentiation, survival and migration<sup>1</sup>.  
30 Epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) is one of the most widely studied members of the RTK  
31 superfamily, which regulates epithelial tissue development and homeostasis. In lung, breast, and  
32 head and neck cancers, EGFR is a driver of tumorigenesis and is a major target for therapy<sup>2,3</sup>. EGFR  
33 spans the membrane and contains a ligand-interacting domain facing the extracellular space and a  
34 tyrosine kinase region in the cytoplasm<sup>4</sup>. The binding of EGFR to epidermal growth factor (EGF)  
35 triggers receptor dimerization and cross-phosphorylation of tyrosine residues within its cytosolic  
36 domain<sup>5,6</sup>. This provides docking sites for the recruitment of scaffold proteins including Grb2 and the  
37 activation of downstream tyrosine kinases such as Src<sup>7-9</sup>. The EGFR pathway can be activated either  
38 directly by its cognate ligands or through transactivation by other signaling proteins including  
39 integrins<sup>10,11</sup>.

40 Integrins are adhesion molecules that are responsible for cell-cell and cell-matrix interactions, and  
41 relay mechanical signals bidirectionally between the extracellular space and the cytoplasm<sup>12</sup>. In this  
42 way, integrins sense the local environment and control tissue rigidity, cell growth, and movement<sup>13</sup>.  
43 Dysregulation of integrin signaling contributes to cancer and metastasis<sup>14</sup>. Integrins are thought to be  
44 heterodimers of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  subunits, each containing a large multidomain extracellular region (>700

45 residues) for ligand binding, a single transmembrane helix, and a short cytoplasmic tail (13-70  
46 residues)<sup>15</sup>.  $\beta$ -integrin cytoplasmic tails lack enzymatic activity. Instead, they harbor distinct  
47 regulatory sequences including two NPxY motifs (Asn-Pro-x-Tyr) that can be phosphorylated<sup>16</sup>. NPxY  
48 motifs have a high affinity for phosphotyrosine binding domain proteins<sup>17</sup>. This allows them to bind  
49 to signaling partners including clathrin-mediated endocytosis (CME) accessory proteins<sup>18, 19</sup>. While  
50 these proteins are known to interact generally, how they are spatially organized at the PM to control  
51 signaling and crosstalk is unclear.

52 EGFR and integrins can be regulated through CME—the main pathway used by eukaryotic cells to  
53 internalize receptors into the cytoplasm<sup>20, 21</sup>. During CME, clathrin and adaptors assemble to bend the  
54 membrane into  $\Omega$ -shaped pits<sup>22, 23</sup>. Scission of clathrin-coated pits (CCPs) from the PM yields closed  
55 spherical vesicles with an average diameter of  $\sim 100$  nm<sup>24</sup>. Besides CCPs, cells exhibit a subset of clathrin  
56 coats known as flat clathrin lattices (FCLs) or plaques<sup>25, 26</sup>. In contrast to CCPs, FCLs are long-lived on the  
57 PM and display a variety of two-dimensional shapes<sup>27, 28</sup>. FCLs are abundant in myocytes and can bind  
58 cortical actin during muscle formation and function<sup>29, 30</sup>. FCLs are also important for the adhesion  
59 between osteoclasts and bone<sup>31, 32</sup>. During cell communication, different types of receptors including  
60 EGFR are clustered at FCLs<sup>33</sup>. Additionally, FCLs are enriched with  $\beta 5$ -integrin<sup>34-36</sup>. Yet, it is unknown how  
61 flat clathrin lattices are regulated and their general functions are still unclear.

62 Here, we identified an EGFR/ $\beta 5$ -integrin/Src signaling axis that regulates flat clathrin lattice biogenesis  
63 during growth factor stimulation. Using a combination of quantitative fluorescence and electron  
64 microscopy, we showed that EGF triggers large ultrastructural changes in the membrane of human  
65 squamous (HSC3) cells. These changes include the generation and expansion of large FCLs and  
66 required EGFR interactions with EGF as well as Src kinase and  $\beta 5$ -integrin. Agonist stimulation leads to  
67 persistent recruitment of EGFR, Grb2, and  $\beta 5$ -integrin into clathrin structures, and a corresponding loss

68 of Src kinase. We provide evidence of  $\beta$ 5-integrin phosphorylation mediated by Src that regulates this  
69 signaling system. These data reveal a mutual regulation of FCLs and two different receptor systems:  
70 EGFR and  $\beta$ 5 integrin. Thus, an EGFR/ $\beta$ 5-integrin/Src axis contributes to the biogenesis of FCLs, which  
71 in turn act as dynamic signaling platforms to partition and enhance growth factor signaling at the PM  
72 of human cells.

73

## 74 **RESULTS**

### 75 **EGF triggers changes in the ultrastructure of clathrin lattices**

76 First, we tracked the ultrastructure of clathrin at the PM during growth factor stimulation. To accomplish  
77 this, we used genome-edited HSC3 cells endogenously expressing EGFR tagged with GFP, an established  
78 model to study EGFR endocytosis and human EGFR-dependent head and neck carcinoma<sup>37-39</sup>. We  
79 treated HSC3 cells with vehicle (Ctrl) or EGF for 2, 5, 15, 30 and 60 min. Then, we mechanically unroofed  
80 cells to directly visualize clathrin at the cytoplasmic face of the PM using platinum replica transmission  
81 electron microscopy (PREM)<sup>40</sup>. In these images, we measured the structure and distribution of clathrin  
82 coated structures (CCSs) across the PM of control and EGF stimulated cells. Remarkably, CCSs were 4.6-  
83 fold more abundant in cells stimulated with EGF for 15 min (Fig. 1a-d and Sup. Fig.1).

84 PREM allowed us to segment distinct CCSs based on their curvature into three subclasses: 1) flat clathrin  
85 lattices (FCLs), where no curvature is evident (shown in green); 2) dome, curved but the clathrin edge is  
86 visible (blue); and 3) sphere, highly curved and edge is not observable (magenta) (Fig. 1a-d)<sup>41</sup>.

87 Representative segmentation masks illustrate the densities of diverse CCSs densities at different time  
88 points of EGF stimulation (Fig. 1e). We compared the differences in densities by quantifying the  
89 membrane occupation of all CCSs (Sup. Fig. 1) and individual subclasses (Fig. 1f-h). All CCSs in control  
90 cells occupied  $0.84 \pm 0.2\%$  membrane area and markedly increased 2.5-, 4.6- and 5-fold after EGF

91 stimulation for 5, 15, and 30 min, respectively. The area of all CCSs decreased to near baseline levels  
92 after 60 min ( $0.67\pm 0.33\%$ ) (Sup. Fig. 1). Notably, membrane area occupation of FCLs followed a similar  
93 time course to all CCSs classes, with a peak at 15 and 30 min post-EGF ( $3.2\pm 0.58\%$ , 6.5-fold;  $3.3\pm 1.92\%$ ,  
94 6.7-fold), reaching near-baseline levels at 60 min ( $0.5\pm 0.22\%$ ) (Fig. 1f). In contrast, the mean membrane  
95 occupation of domed and spherical clathrin structures remained below 1% with no significant  
96 differences across the times tested (Fig. 1g-h). Thus, EGF specifically increased the total area occupied  
97 by FCLs at the plasma membrane.

98 FCLs were considerably bigger after EGF treatment (Fig. 1a-d). The distribution range of the size of  
99 hundreds of FCLs changed starting at 5 min EGF treatment ( $6,753.5\text{-}131,167.9\text{ nm}^2$ ), with a peak after 15  
100 min ( $3,461.5\text{-}282,649.1\text{ nm}^2$ ) and 30 min ( $3,838.7\text{-}244,634.4\text{ nm}^2$ ) and approached to control level after  
101 60 min ( $6,847.3\text{-}101,739.3\text{ nm}^2$ ) (Fig. 1i). The average size of domed ( $21,993.9\pm 4294.8\text{ nm}^2$ ) and  
102 spherical clathrin structures ( $11,075.2\pm 1,714.7\text{ nm}^2$ ) were similar to their respective controls through  
103 the time course (Fig. 1j-k). Together, our nanoscale analysis revealed a direct connection between the  
104 ultrastructure of FCLs and the temporal response to EGF at the plasma membrane.

### 105 **EGFR, Src and $\beta 5$ -integrin are required for flat clathrin lattice formation**

106 EGF triggers phosphorylation cascades that activate distinct cellular effectors. We considered that  
107 signaling can regulate FCL biogenesis during growth factor stimulation. To identify the possible members  
108 of the EGFR signaling pathway involved in this process, we performed a pharmacological screen (Fig. 2g).  
109 We first targeted EGFR using gefitinib (Gefi), a drug that blocks receptor activity by binding to the ATP-  
110 pocket in the tyrosine kinase domain<sup>42</sup>. PREM of HSC3 cells preincubated with gefitinib followed by EGF  
111 treatment showed a percentage of FCLs membrane area occupation (Gefi+EGF=  $0.66\pm 0.13\%$ ) similar to  
112 control cells (Ctrl=  $0.48\pm 0.11\%$ ) (Fig. 2a-c). Thus, gefitinib decreased the effect of EGF on FCL formation  
113 by 4.8-fold (Fig. 2h). We then aimed to evaluate the role of the tyrosine kinase Src for two main reasons.

114 First, Src is a master effector immediately downstream of EGFR. And second, Src has been reported to  
115 directly phosphorylate proteins key to the endocytic machinery<sup>43-45</sup>. We used PP2, a specific Src family  
116 kinase inhibitor<sup>46</sup>, and then challenged the cells with EGF. We observed a 4.1-fold decrease in FCLs  
117 occupation compared to EGF alone, and similar as compared to control cells (PP2+EGF= 0.77 ±0.24%)  
118 (Fig. 2d). We also targeted the  $\beta$ 5-integrin, a known component of FCLs<sup>19, 34</sup>. We treated cells with  
119 cilengitide acid (CTA), a molecule that specifically prevents  $\beta$ 5-integrin interaction with the extracellular  
120 matrix<sup>47</sup> followed by EGF stimulation. We detected a 2.2-fold inhibition of FCL stimulation by EGF  
121 consistent with the other two drugs tested (CTA+EGF= 1.48. ±0.73%) (Fig. 2e). Representative  
122 segmentation masks illustrate the diversity of CCSs in the presence of the three blockers (Fig. 2f). The  
123 drugs additionally showed a similar inhibitory effect on the size of FCLs (Fig.2i). The drugs did not  
124 significantly affect the percentage of membrane area occupied or the size of domed and spherical  
125 clathrin structures, in the presence or absence of EGF (Sup. Fig.3). Overall, these data indicated that  
126 activated EGFR, the downstream tyrosine kinase Src, and  $\beta$ 5-integrin are all required for the EGF-  
127 induced biogenesis of FCLs.

### 128 **EGFR, Src and $\beta$ 5-integrin are differentially located in flat clathrin lattices**

129 We envisioned that EGFR, Src and  $\beta$ 5-integrin are spatially located in close proximity to FCLs to regulate  
130 their formation during EGF signaling. Using total internal reflection fluorescence microscopy (TIRFM)  
131 along with a high-throughput correlation analysis<sup>48</sup>, we mapped the location of EGFR, Src and  $\beta$ 5-  
132 integrin at thousands of individual clathrin-coated structures in an unbiased manner. Correlation  
133 analysis illustrates how often proteins of interest are spatially associated with clathrin. We assessed the  
134 correlation between EGFR and clathrin. To do this, we used the genome-edited HSC3 endogenously  
135 expressing EGFR-GFP and transfected them with mScarlet tagged clathrin light chain A (mScarlet-CLCa).  
136 Figure 3a shows clathrin as diffraction-limited puncta, whereas EGFR appears as a more diffuse

137 fluorescent signal across the bottom PM in control cells ( $C=0.15\pm0.06$ ). EGF stimulation caused the  
138 appearance of pronounced EGFR clusters and a 2.4 -fold increase in its correlation with clathrin  
139 ( $C=0.3\pm0.15$ ) (see white in overlay). We observed a similar increase in wild type (WT) HSC3 cells co-  
140 transfected with EGFR-GFP and mScarlet-CLCa stimulated with EGF (Sup. Fig. 5). We then imaged control  
141 cells expressing Src-GFP that showed diffuse fluorescence similar to EGFR (Fig. 3a). Likewise, the Src signal  
142 correlated with clathrin ( $C=0.41\pm0.1$ ), but decreased 2.2-fold in the presence of EGF ( $C=0.18\pm0.1$ ) (Fig.  
143 3b). Interestingly, the  $\beta 5$ -integrin signal appeared as discrete puncta that markedly correlated with  
144 clathrin in both control ( $C=0.79\pm0.11$ ) and EGF treated cells ( $C=0.76\pm0.07$ ) (Fig. 3a-b). Thus, EGFR, Src  
145 and,  $\beta 5$ -integrin differentially correlate with clathrin. To further confirm this, we measured the EGFR  
146 and Src signal using  $\beta 5$ -integrin as a reference. Similarly, stimulation increased the  $\beta 5$ -integrin  
147 correlation with EGFR, but decreased correlation with Src (Sup. Fig. 6). Of note, we tested other  
148 members of the  $\beta$ -integrin subfamily including  $\beta 1$ ,  $\beta 3$ , and  $\beta 6$  as well as  $\alpha V$ , the most frequent partner  
149 of  $\beta 5$ -integrin. However, the correlation values were 2- to 4-fold smaller when compared to the  $\beta 5$ -  
150 integrin correlation with clathrin (Sup. Fig. 7). Altogether, these data support the idea that EGF leads to  
151 a persistent recruitment of EGFR and  $\beta 5$ -integrin into CCSs with a concurrent loss of Src.

## 152 **EGFR and $\beta 5$ -integrin are connected through Src-mediated phosphorylation**

153 Next we assessed the biochemical connection between EGFR, Src and  $\beta 5$ -integrin. EGF binding elicits  
154 EGFR dimerization leading to Src tyrosine kinase activation<sup>49</sup>.  $\beta 5$ -integrin cytoplasmic domain has three  
155 tyrosine residues (Y766, Y774 and Y796) that are highly conserved among their orthologues and  
156 paralogues (Sup. Fig. 8). *In silico* analysis suggested Src, among other kinases, has a substantial likelihood  
157 of catalyzing phosphorylation at all tyrosines of the  $\beta 5$ -integrin cytoplasmic domain (Sup. Fig 8). We  
158 therefore hypothesized that these proteins form a signaling loop that can regulate clathrin remodeling  
159 through phosphorylation. To support this hypothesis, we used a luciferase-coupled system to measure

160 the phosphorylation of synthetic peptides corresponding to the  $\beta$ 5-integrin cytoplasmic domain (Fig.  
161 4a). We detected a 13.6-fold increase in the phosphorylation of the WT peptide in the presence of Src,  
162 as compared to the negative control containing only the WT peptide (Fig. 4b). By contrast, this effect  
163 was reduced when we tested the non-phosphorylatable peptide 3Y-F. As a positive control, we  
164 incubated a peptide corresponding to amino acids 6-20 of p34<sup>cdc2</sup>, a well characterized Src substrate<sup>50</sup>, in  
165 the presence of purified and active Src, and we found an incremented phosphorylation. While  $\beta$ 5-  
166 integrin has been reported to be phosphorylated by PAK4 at S759 and S762<sup>51</sup>, we did not detect  
167 phosphorylation when the WT  $\beta$ 5-integrin peptide was incubated with purified PAK4 (Fig. 4b). These  
168 data indicate that the intracellular domain of  $\beta$ 5-integrin is a bona fide Src substrate *in vitro*.

169 To evaluate the cellular effects of tyrosine phosphorylation of  $\beta$ 5-integrin, we co-transfected WT HSC3  
170 cells with mScarlet-CLCa plus either the  $\beta$ 5-integrin-GFP wild type (WT), carboxyl-truncated ( $\Delta$ C), non-  
171 phosphorylatable (3Y-F), phosphomimetic (3Y-E), or PAK targeted (2S-A) mutants (Fig. 4a). We tested  
172 this mutants using two-color TIRFM as previously described. In control cells, we observed that the  
173 fluorescent signal of either WT, 3Y-F, 3Y-E or 2S-A mutants appeared as diffraction-limited punctate that  
174 highly correlated with clathrin ( $C=0.79\pm 0.1$ ,  $0.81\pm 0.11$ ,  $0.76\pm 0.08$ ,  $0.82\pm 0.09$ , respectively) (Fig. 4c-d). In  
175 contrast, the  $\Delta$ C mutant exhibited a diffuse fluorescence across the membrane and a greatly decreased  
176 correlation with clathrin ( $C=0.41\pm 0.08$ ). In cells stimulated with EGF, we observed that the WT  $\beta$ 5-  
177 integrin strongly correlated with clathrin ( $C=0.84\pm 0.05$ ) (Fig. 4 and Fig. 5c-d). This spatial correlation was  
178 abolished in the  $\Delta$ C ( $C=0.18\pm 0.12$ ) and the 3Y-F mutant ( $C=0.46\pm 0.21$ ). By contrast, the correlation with  
179 clathrin persisted in the 3Y-E ( $C=0.76\pm 0.04$ ) and the 2S-A mutants ( $C=0.8\pm 0.07$ ). Thus,  $\beta$ 5-integrin  
180 requires tyrosine phosphorylation to spatially correlate with clathrin. Moreover, these experiments  
181 suggest that crosstalk between EGFR and  $\beta$ 5-integrin mediated by Src takes place at CCSs.

182 **Flat clathrin lattices regulate sustained signaling at the plasma membrane**



183 Finally, we hypothesized that FCLs mediate EGFR membrane-associated signal transduction by  
184 regulating the distribution of active receptors and downstream interactors in both space and time. Using  
185 TIRFM, we visualized the presence of active EGFR at the PM by immunolabeling endogenous phosphor-  
186 Y1068 (P-EGFR), a well-established marker of EGFR activity (Fig. 5a). In stimulated cells, the correlation  
187 of P-EGFR with clathrin increased 3.5-fold ( $C=0.6 \pm 0.11$ ) with respect to the control ( $C=0.17 \pm 0.1$ ).  
188 Conversely, disruption of FCLs formation by CTA treatment (Fig.2e), decreased the P-EGFR correlation  
189 with clathrin by ~30% ( $C=0.41 \pm 0.14$ ) (Fig 5b). A similar trend was observed when we measured the  
190 fluorescence intensity of P-EGFR at the PM (Fig. 5c). Furthermore, we measured the fluorescence  
191 intensity of the total EGFR-GFP signal (T-EGFR) at the PM as an indicator of receptor internalization. We  
192 observed that EGF led to a 41.7% decrease of the T-EGFR, and CTA treatment further decreased  
193 receptor at the PM (68.7%) (Fig. 5d). We also examined the location of the downstream master scaffold  
194 Grb2 in FCLs (Fig. 5e). While EGF caused an increase in both Grb2 correlation with clathrin and  
195 recruitment of the adaptor to the PM, CTA blocked these effects (Fig. 5e-). Together these data suggest  
196 that FCLs activate growth factor signals at the PM by delaying endocytosis of a population of active EGFR  
197 along with key partner proteins such as Grb2. These events are mediated by the phosphorylation-  
198 dependent cross talk between EGFR, integrins, and clathrin at the plasma membrane.

199

## 200 **DISCUSSION**

201 Crosstalk between signaling systems allows for biological processes to be integrated, responsive, and  
202 adaptable<sup>52</sup>. There is an emerging hypothesis that FCLs can act as signaling zones or adhesion sites at the  
203 PM, filling unique roles outside of endocytosis. Here, we show that activated EGFR, Src, and  $\beta 5$ -integrin  
204 are coupled to a dramatic growth and maintenance of FCLs in human cells. These planar clathrin sites in  
205 turn partition and enhance growth factor signals at the PM (Fig. 6). Thus, two receptor systems (growth

206 factor and adhesion) are connected, clustered, and controlled at the nanoscale by endocytic proteins.  
207 We propose that a reciprocal feedback loop operates where FCLs facilitate local crosstalk between  
208 EGFR,  $\beta$ 5-integrin, and other signaling proteins to create dynamic signaling hubs across the PM.  
209 First, we observed clathrin using platinum replica electron microscopy to structurally distinguish flat  
210 from curved clathrin structures. Surprisingly, EGFR activation resulted in a dramatic increase in FCLs size  
211 and density. Other shapes of clathrin were unchanged. Blocking the receptor abolished these effects. Of  
212 note, the structural changes we see follow a time course similar to the activation dynamics of  
213 downstream kinases<sup>53</sup>, further supporting the direct connection between clathrin remodeling and cell  
214 signaling. Our pharmacological screening linked the tyrosine kinase Src and the adhesion receptor  $\beta$ 5-  
215 integrin to FCL formation and EGFR activation. Historically, growth factor receptors and integrins have  
216 been biochemically connected to Src in several ways<sup>10</sup>. Here, we show a new direct spatial connection.  
217 We also found that FCLs are preloaded with a subpopulation of Src. This kinase was released from the  
218 complex in response to EGF. In contrast,  $\beta$ 5-integrin is enriched in FCLs<sup>19, 34, 35</sup>, and we found that this  
219 correlation with clathrin persisted in response to EGF. Thus, EGFR, Src and  $\beta$ 5-integrin are dynamically  
220 coupled through FCLs to regulate EGF signaling.  
221 We showed that this new pathway is controlled by phosphorylation. Specifically, *in silico* analysis and  
222 biochemical assays indicated that the  $\beta$ 5-integrin intracellular domain is a Src substrate. Src activation  
223 kinetics are fast and occur within 5 minutes<sup>54</sup>. Thus, it is possible that at an early stage of clathrin  
224 growth, Src phosphorylates targets and is then released. While our results point toward an early  
225 phosphorylation event in  $\beta$ 5-integrin mediated by Src, it is also possible that Src continually cycles on  
226 and off clathrin during receptor activation and plays a more extensive role in the process. Likewise, Src is  
227 a promiscuous kinase and might phosphorylate additional substrates located on other PM structures  
228 such as caveolae and focal adhesions<sup>55, 56</sup>.

229 Second, we found that deletion of the  $\beta$ 5-integrin cytoplasmic domain and non-phosphorylatable  
230 mutations (3Y-F) block integrin association with clathrin. These effects were rescued by a phosphomimic  
231 mutant (3Y-E), suggesting that tyrosine phosphorylation of  $\beta$ 5-integrin is a molecular switch in this  
232 process. Interestingly, the  $\beta$ 5-integrin cytoplasmic domain interacts with endocytic proteins including  
233 Eps15, ARH, and Numb<sup>19</sup>. Integrin cytoplasmic tails can also induce profound differences in the behavior  
234 of integrins<sup>57</sup>. Thus, we propose that a phosphorylation switch in  $\beta$ 5-integrin is the regulator for the  
235 orchestrated recruitment of the endocytic machinery to sites where FCLs form and grow. In this regard,  
236 the growth factor response is directly linked to the cellular adhesion system through activation of  
237 endocytic proteins and controlled by phosphorylation.

238 A recent hypothesis proposes that long-lived FCLs arise from adhesive forces generated from integrins  
239 that physically prevent clathrin from curving—a process called frustrated endocytosis<sup>34, 27, 58</sup>.  
240 Interestingly, we observed the FCL formation and the enrichment of active EGFR and Grb2 peak after 15  
241 min of stimulation with EGF (Fig. 1 and 5). At the same time, we detected a decrease in the overall signal  
242 of EGFR at the PM. This decrease suggests that EGF triggers the internalization of a population of EGFR  
243 into the cell. In parallel, some phosphorylated and active receptors remain at the PM in clathrin. By  
244 preventing endocytosis of a subpopulation of EGFR, this clathrin/adhesion complex could prolong EGF  
245 signaling at these sites. These domains might also act as diffusion traps for EGFR and other growth  
246 factor receptors whose diffusion decreases after agonist stimulation<sup>59-62</sup>. Using fluorescence microscopy,  
247 EGFR and other structurally diverse receptors have been reported to form long-lived complexes<sup>27, 63-66</sup>. In  
248 contrast, stimulation of LPA1 receptor has been shown to trigger the depolymerization of FCLs<sup>33</sup>. Thus,  
249 different systems might activate or deactivate these structures to regulate their activity. How  
250 endocytosis, adhesion, and receptor diffusion cooperate across the entire population of active receptors  
251 to control signaling will be an important future area of study.

252 Is this mechanism unique to EGFR? Many receptors including 7-transmembrane receptors and B cell  
253 receptors trigger clathrin nucleation at the PM upon binding their ligands<sup>27, 63-66</sup>. For the  $\beta_2$ -adrenergic  
254 receptor, the increase in clathrin occurs with a delay in clathrin-coated vesicle maturation and no  
255 differences in the overall rate of vesicle scission<sup>64</sup>. Our data revealed a similar increase in clathrin  
256 nucleation during EGF stimulation, but the major changes to clathrin occurred specifically and  
257 exclusively with a dramatic growth in FCLs. It is possible that other receptor cargos also stabilize flat  
258 clathrin coats to act as nanoscale receptor signaling domains. Thus, FCLs could be generalized signaling  
259 hubs at the PM. Future work is needed to test this hypothesis.

260 Growing evidence suggests that signaling systems are locally organized by organelles and cytoskeletal  
261 structures. We propose that FCLs are a unique plasma membrane scaffold that dynamically capture and  
262 organize receptors and signaling molecules in space and time through multivalent interactions at the  
263 nanoscale. We suggest that crosstalk between EGFR and  $\beta_5$ -integrin through Src phosphorylation occurs  
264 in FCLs and simultaneously regulates their biogenesis. Finally, because of the importance of  
265 EGFR/Src/ $\beta_5$ -integrin in physiology, and the connection between dysregulation of this system and  
266 cancer, FCLs likely play a broader role in coordinating the cellular responses to chemical and mechanical  
267 stimuli. Understanding these pathways is key to understanding cellular functions in both health and  
268 disease. Our data provide a new nanoscale signaling platform that dynamically organizes, coordinates,  
269 and regulates this essential biology.

## 270 **METHODS**

### 271 **Cell culture and transfection**

272 Wild-type HSC-3 (human oral squamous carcinoma) cells were obtained from the JCRB Cell Bank  
273 (JCRB0623). Genome-edited HSC-3 cells expressing endogenous EGFR-GFP were previously reported<sup>39</sup>  
274 and kindly donated by Dr. Alexander Sorkin (University of Pittsburgh). Cells were grown at 37 °C with

275 5% CO<sub>2</sub> in phenol-free Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM) (Thermo-Fisher, Gibco™,  
276 31053028) containing 4.5 g/L glucose and supplemented with 10% (v/v) fetal bovine serum (Atlanta  
277 Biologicals, S10350), 50 mg/mL streptomycin - 50 U/mL penicillin (Thermo-Fisher, Gibco™, 15070063),  
278 1% v/v Glutamax (Thermo-Fisher, 35050061), and 1 mM sodium pyruvate (Thermo-Fisher, Gibco™,  
279 11360070). Cell lines were used from low-passage frozen stocks and monitored for mycoplasma  
280 contamination. For experiments, cells were grown on 25 mm diameter rat tail collagen I-coated  
281 coverslips (Neuvitro Corporation, GG-25-1.5-collagen). For transfections, cells were incubated for 4 h  
282 with 500 ng of the indicated plasmid(s) and 5 μL of Lipofectamine 3000 (Thermo-Fisher, L3000015) in  
283 OptiMEM (Thermo-Fisher, Gibco™, 31985062). Experiments were performed 18 h after transfection.

#### 284 **Plasmids**

285 EGFR-GFP #32751, Src-GFP #110496, Src-mCherry #55002, αV-integrin-mEmerald #53985, β1-integrin-  
286 GFP #69804 were purchased from Addgene. β5-integrin-GFP was kindly donated by Dr. Staffan  
287 Strömblad (Karolinska Institutet). EGFR-mScarlet, mScarlet-CLCa, β3-integrin-GFP, β6-integrin-GFP, β5-  
288 integrin-GFP lacking 743-799 amino acids (ΔC), β5-integrin-GFP containing point mutations Tyr766, 774,  
289 794Phe (3Y-F), Tyr766, 774, 794Glu (3YE), and Ser759, 762Ala (2S-A), were built using either Q5 Site-  
290 Directed Mutagenesis Kit (New England Biolabs, E0554S) or In-Fusion HD Cloning Plus (Clontech,  
291 638911) following manufacturer's instructions. All plasmids were confirmed by sequencing (Psomagen).

#### 292 **EGF pulse-chase stimulation and drug treatments**

293 Cells were incubated in starvation buffer (DMEM containing 4.5 g/L D-glucose, supplemented with 1%  
294 v/v Glutamax and 10 mM HEPES) for 2 h before the pulse-chase assay. Then, cells were pulsed in  
295 starvation buffer supplemented with 0.1% w/v bovine serum albumin at 4 °C for 40 min with 50 ng/mL  
296 human recombinant EGF (Thermo-Fisher, Gibco™, PHG0311L) to allow ligand bind to the EGFR. In brief,

297 cells were washed twice with PBS (Thermo-Fisher, Gibco™, 10010023). Synchronized receptor activation  
298 and endocytosis were triggered by placing the coverslips in pre-warmed media and incubation at 37 °C  
299 for the indicated times. To stop stimulation, cells were washed twice with iced-cold PBS. To block EGFR,  
300 Src, and β5-integrin cells were incubated for 20 min before chase and during pulse with 10 μM gefitinib  
301 (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, 184475-35-2), 10 μM PP2 (Thermo-Scientific, 172889-27-9), and 10 μM  
302 cilengitide acid (CTA) (Sigma-Aldrich, SML1594), respectively.

### 303 **Cell unroofing and fixation**

304 After EGF pulse-chase stimulations, cells were rinsed briefly with stabilization buffer (30 mM HEPES, 70  
305 mM KCl, 5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 3 mM EGTA, pH 7.4). Fixed cell membranes were obtained with application of  
306 unroofing buffer containing 2 % paraformaldehyde in stabilization buffer using a 10 mL syringe with a  
307 22 gauge, 1.5 needle. The syringe was held vertically within 1 cm of the coverslip during the mechanical  
308 unroofing. Afterwards, the coverslips were moved to fresh unroofing buffer containing 2 %  
309 paraformaldehyde for 20 min. They were rinsed 4× with PBS followed by electron or fluorescent  
310 microscopy preparation.

### 311 **Platinum replica electron microscopy (PREM)**

312 Coverslips were transferred from glutaraldehyde into 0.1% w/v tannic acid for 20 min. Then,  
313 coverslips were rinsed 4× with water, and placed in 0.1% w/v uranyl acetate for 20 min. The  
314 coverslips were dehydrated, critical point dried, and coated with platinum and carbon as previously  
315 described<sup>40</sup>. The replicas were separated from glass coverslips using hydrofluoric acid and mounted  
316 on glow-discharged Formvar/carbon-coated 75-mesh copper TEM grids (Ted Pella 01802-F).  
317 Transmission Electron Microscopy imaging was performed as previously described<sup>67</sup> at 15,000×  
318 magnification (1.2 nm per pixel) using a JEOL1400 (JEOL) and SerialEM software for montaging.  
319 Montages were stitched together using IMOD<sup>67</sup>. Images are presented in inverted contrast. Each

320 montage was manually segmented in imageJ<sup>68</sup> by outlining the edge of the membrane, flat clathrin  
321 structures (no visible curvature), domed clathrin structures (curved but can still see the edge of the  
322 lattice), and sphere clathrin structures (curved beyond a hemisphere such that the edge of the lattice  
323 is no longer visible) as previously described<sup>41</sup>. The percentage of occupied membrane area was  
324 defined as the sum of areas from clathrin of the specified subtype divided by the total area of visible  
325 membrane.

### 326 **Immunofluorescence**

327 Unroofed cells were incubated in PBS containing 3% w/v bovine serum albumin (Fisher Bioreagents,  
328 BP9703) and 0.1% v/v triton X-100 (Sigma-Aldrich, T9284) for 1 h at room temperature. The cells  
329 were then immunolabelled with the indicated primary antibodies for 1 h at room temperature:  
330 1:1000 anti-Clathrin Heavy Chain monoclonal antibody X22 (Thermo-Fisher, MA1-065), 1:800 anti-  
331 Phospho-EGF Receptor (Tyr1068) (D7A5) XP<sup>®</sup> Rabbit mAb (Cell Signaling, 3777), 1:50 anti-Grb2 Y237  
332 (Abcam, 32037). Then, cells were washed 5x and incubated in 2.5 µg/mL of the corresponding  
333 secondary antibody conjugated with Alexa Fluor 647 for 30 min at room temperature (Invitrogen, anti-  
334 mouse A21237, anti-rabbit A21246). When indicated, cells were labeled with 16.5 pmol of Alexa Fluor  
335 488-Phalloidin for 15 min (Invitrogen, A12379). The coverslips were then rinsed 4x with blocking  
336 buffer, 4x with PBS, and then post-fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde in PBS for 20 min and imaged  
337 immediately or refrigerated overnight.

### 338 **Total Internal Reflection Microscopy (TIRFM)**

339 Cells were imaged on an inverted fluorescent microscope (IX-81, Olympus), equipped with a 100x, 1.45  
340 NA objective (Olympus). Combined green (488 nm) and red (561 nm) lasers (Melles Griot) were  
341 controlled with an acousto-optic tunable filter (Andor) and passed through a LF405/488/561/635  
342 dichroic mirror. Emitted light was filtered using a 565 DCXR dichroic mirror on the image splitter

343 (Photometrics), passed through 525Q/50 and 605Q/55 filters and projected onto the chip of an  
344 electron-multiplying charge-coupled device (EMCCD) camera. Images were acquired using the Andor IQ2  
345 software. Cells were excited with alternate green and red excitation light, and images in each channel  
346 were acquired at 500-ms exposure at 5 Hz. Automated correlation analysis was performed on aligned  
347 images as described previously<sup>48</sup> and the fluorescence intensity signal at the plasma membrane was  
348 assessed using ImageJ software by measuring the integrated density (mean gray value) of the  
349 background subtracted from that of the cell and normalizing this value to the total cell area.

### 350 ***In silico* analysis**

351 Integrin sequences were obtained from the UniProt Knowledgebase.  $\beta$ 5-integrin orthologs: *H.*  
352 *sapiens* (ID P18084); *M. musculus* (ID O70309); *B. taurus* (ID P80747); *P. cynocephalus* (ID Q07441); *X.*  
353 *laevis* (ID Q6DF97); *D. rerio* (ID F1Q7R1). Integrin orthologs:  $\beta$ 1-integrin (ID P05556);  $\beta$ 2-integrin (ID  
354 P05107);  $\beta$ 3-integrin (ID P05106);  $\beta$ 6-integrin (ID P18564);  $\beta$ 7-integrin (ID P26010). The sequence  
355 alignments were performed using the blast-protein suite (protein-protein BLAST,  
356 (<http://www.uniprot.org/blast/>). The prediction of phosphorylation sites was obtained using  
357 NetPhos 3.0 (<http://www.cbs.dtu.dk/services/NetPhos>) and the Group-based Prediction System, GPS  
358 2.0 (<http://gps.biocuckoo.org/>) on-line services, employing cut-off values of 0.75 and 4, respectively.  
359 Prediction of the probable protein kinases involved was obtained using GPS 2.0.

### 360 ***In vitro* kinase assay**

361 Identification of the  $\beta$ 5-integrin carboxyl domain as Src substrate was determined using the ADP-Glo  
362 Kinase Assay (Promega, V6930) following protocols recommended by the manufacturer. All reactions  
363 were performed in kinase buffer (40 mM Tris, pH 7.5, 20 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 2 mM MsSO<sub>4</sub>, 100 mM Na<sub>3</sub>VO<sub>4</sub>,  
364 10 mM DTT) supplemented with 50 mM ATP, 1 mM of the indicated peptide, and 50 ng of purified  
365 active Src (Millipore-Sigma, 14-326) or PAK (Millipore-Sigma, 14-584).  $\beta$ 5-integrin peptide



366 corresponding to amino acids 743-799 and Y766, 774, 794F were chemically synthesized (Biobasic). As a  
367 positive control we used a bona fide Src substrate peptide corresponding to amino acids 6-20 of  
368 p34<sup>cdc2</sup> (Millipore-Sigma, 12-140). The reactions were carried out at room temperature in a total  
369 volume of 25  $\mu$ L for 40 min in white 96-well, F-bottom, non-binding microplates (Greiner Bio-one,  
370 655904). Signal was recorded using a luminometer (Biotek) with an integration time of 0.5 s.

### 371 **Statistics**

372 Data were tested for normality and equal variances with Shapiro–Wilk. The statistical tests were chosen  
373 as follows: unpaired normally distributed data were tested with a two-tailed *t*-test (in the case of similar  
374 variances) or with a two-tailed *t*-test with Welch’s correction (in the case of different variances). All tests  
375 were performed with Origin 2015.

### 376 **Data availability**

377 All data supporting this work are available upon request to the corresponding author.

### 378 **Author contributions**

379 MAAM, KAS and JWT designed experiments. KAS developed software for data analysis. MAAM  
380 performed experiments and analyzed data. MPS performed molecular cloning and helped with in vitro  
381 phosphorylation assays. MAAM wrote and JWT edited the manuscript and all authors commented on  
382 the work. JWT supervised the project.

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### 390 Declaration of Interests

391 The authors declare no competing interest.

392

### 393 FIGURE LEGENDS

394 **Figure 1. EGF modifies the ultrastructure of clathrin at the plasma membrane. a,** Montaged PREM  
395 image of an unroofed control HSC3-EGFR-GFP cell and the mask created after segmentation of the full  
396 membrane outlined (yellow). Flat, dome, and sphere clathrin-coated structures (CCCs) are shown in  
397 green, blue, and magenta, respectively. **b,** High-magnification of the cropped PREM in (a); the different  
398 segmented CCCs are color-coded as in (a), with native grayscale in magnified insets. **c,** Montaged PREM  
399 image of an unroofed HSC3-EGFR-GFP cell treated with 50 ng/mL EGF for 15 min and the mask created  
400 after the segmentation. **d,** High-magnification of a representative region of the PREM in (c), the  
401 magnification insets are shown at the same scale and are outlined with dashed squares in each image. **e,**  
402 Representative masks of the EGF stimulation time course for 0, 2, 5, 15, 30 and 60 min. PREM images  
403 corresponding to the masks and cropped images are shown in Supplementary Figure 2. **f-h,**  
404 Morphometric analysis of the percentage of plasma membrane (PM) area occupation for each CCS. I-  
405 shaped box plots show median extended from 25th to 75th percentiles, and minimum and maximum  
406 data point whiskers with a coefficient value of 1.5. **i-k,** Morphometric analysis of the size of flat, dome,  
407 and sphere CCCs during the EGF time course. Dot plots show every structure segmented, the bar is the  
408 median. 0 min:  $N_{\text{flat}}=141$ ,  $N_{\text{dome}}=46$ ,  $N_{\text{sphere}}=68$ ,  $N_{\text{cells}}=4$ ; 2 min:  $N_{\text{flat}}=164$ ,  $N_{\text{dome}}=32$ ,  $N_{\text{sphere}}=30$ ,  $N_{\text{cells}}=3$ ; 5  
409 min:  $N_{\text{flat}}=184$ ,  $N_{\text{dome}}=26$ ,  $N_{\text{sphere}}=36$ ,  $N_{\text{cells}}=4$ ; 15 min:  $N_{\text{flat}}=559$ ,  $N_{\text{dome}}=67$ ,  $N_{\text{sphere}}=207$ ,  $N_{\text{cells}}=4$ ; 30 min:

410  $N_{\text{flat}}=395$ ,  $N_{\text{dome}}=149$ ,  $N_{\text{sphere}}=113$ ,  $N_{\text{cells}}=3$ ; 60 min:  $N_{\text{flat}}=81$ ,  $N_{\text{dome}}=15$ ,  $N_{\text{sphere}}=57$ ,  $N_{\text{cells}}=5$ . Scale bars in (a)  
411 and (c) are 5000 nm. Scale bars in (b, d, e) are 1  $\mu\text{m}$ ; insets are 200 nm.

412

413 **Figure 2. Flat clathrin lattice formation requires EGFR, Src and  $\beta 5$ -integrin.** a, Representative PREMs of  
414 control HSC3-EGFR-GFP cells (Ctrl), (b) treated either with 50 ng/mL EGF alone (EGF) for 15 min in  
415 presence of (c) 10  $\mu\text{M}$  gefitinib (Gefi+EGF), (d) 10  $\mu\text{M}$  PP2 (PP2+EGF) and (e) 10  $\mu\text{M}$  cilengitide acid  
416 (CTA+EGF). The magnification insets are shown at the same scale and are outlined with dashed squares  
417 in each image. Flat, dome and sphere clathrin-coated structures (CCSs) are shown in green, blue and  
418 magenta, respectively, with native grayscale in magnified insets. f, Representative masks of segmented  
419 cells treated as in (a-e). PREM images corresponding to the masks and cropped images are shown in  
420 Supplementary Figure 4. g, A diagram shows the respective targets of the drugs used in (a-e). h,  
421 Morphometric analysis of the percentage of plasma membrane (PM) area occupation for flat clathrin  
422 structures. I-shaped box plots show median extended from 25th to 75th percentiles, and minimum and  
423 maximum data point whiskers with a coefficient value of 1.5. i, Morphometric analysis of the size of flat  
424 structures of cells treated as indicated in (a-f). Dot plots show every structure segmented, the bar  
425 indicate the median. Ctrl:  $N_{\text{flat}}=141$ ,  $N_{\text{cells}}=4$ ; EGF:  $N_{\text{flat}}=554$ ,  $N_{\text{cells}}=4$ ; Gefi+EGF:  $N_{\text{flat}}=160$ ,  $N_{\text{cells}}=4$ ; PP2+EGF:  
426  $N_{\text{flat}}=267$ ,  $N_{\text{cells}}=4$ ; CTA+EGF:  $N_{\text{flat}}=244$ ,  $N_{\text{cells}}=4$ . Scale bars in (a-f) are 1  $\mu\text{m}$ ; insets are 200 nm. Ctrl and  
427 EGF data are from Figure 1 and shown for reference.

428

429 **Figure 3. Differential location of EGFR, Src and  $\beta 5$ -integrin in clathrin coated structures.** a,  
430 Representative TIRF images of genome-edited HSC3 expressing EGFR-GFP and transfected with  
431 mScarlet-CLCa or HSC3 WT cells co-transfected with mScarlet-CLCa + Src-GFP or  $\beta 5$ -integrin-GFP before  
432 (Ctrl) or after 50 ng/mL EGF stimulation for 15 min. Scale bar is 10  $\mu\text{m}$ ; insets are 7.3x7.3  $\mu\text{m}$ . b,  
433 Automated correlation analysis. Dot box plots show median extended from 25th to 75th percentiles,

434 mean (square) and minimum and maximum data point whiskers with a coefficient value of 1.5.

435 Significance was tested by a two-tailed unpaired t-test. EGFR,  $*P=5.9\times 10^{-7}$ ; Src,  $*P=1.7\times 10^{-11}$ ;  $\beta 5$ -

436 integrin,  $^{ns}P=0.358$ .  $N_{EGFR-Ctrl}=23$  cells – 3728 spots,  $N_{EGFR-EGF}=22$  cells – 2173 spots,  $N_{Src-Ctrl}=28$  cells –

437 1394 spots,  $N_{Src-EGF}=27$  cells – 1407 spots,  $N_{\beta 5-Ctrl}=21$  cells – 1037 spots;  $N_{\beta 5-EGF}=29$  cells – 1011 spots.

438

439 **Figure 4.  $\beta 5$ -integrin phosphorylation controls spatial correlation with clathrin. a,** Diagram of  $\beta 5$ -

440 integrin and magnification of the cytoplasmic domain showing different mutants. Numbers indicate the

441 residue positions, and letters identify the amino acid. Truncated line in the diagram, indicates deletion

442 of sequence coding for amino acids 743-799, Wild type (WT), carboxyl truncated ( $\Delta C$ ), none-

443 phosphorylatable (3Y-F), phosphomimetic (3Y-E), and PAK-targeted (2S-A). **b,** *In vitro* phosphorylation

444 assay using purified Src or PAK4 and peptides corresponding to the  $\beta 5$ -integrin carboxyl domain (742-

445 799) WT and mutants in (a). Significance was tested by a two-tailed unpaired t-test,  $*P=1.51\times 10^{-4}$ ,

446  $**P=0.002$ ,  $***P=1.09\times 10^{-5}$ ,  $^{ns}P=0.0205$ .  $N=4, 6, 5, 6, 6$ . **c,** Representative TIRF images of HSC3 WT cells

447 co-transfected with mScarlet-CLCa and  $\beta 5$ -integrin-GFP WT or containing the different mutations shown

448 in (a), either before (Ctrl) or after 50 ng/mL EGF stimulation for 15 min. Scale bars are 10  $\mu m$ ; insets are

449 7.3x7.3  $\mu m$ . **d,** Automated correlation analysis of (a). Dot box plots show median extended from 25th to

450 75th percentiles, mean (square) and minimum and maximum data point whiskers with a coefficient

451 value of 1.5. Significance was tested by a two-tailed unpaired t-test,  $^{ns}P_{\beta 5-WT}=0.0811$ ,  $***P_{\beta 5-\Delta C}=4.03\times 10^{-7}$ ,

452  $***P_{\beta 5-3Y-F}=8.9\times 10^{-5}$ ,  $^{ns}P_{\beta 5-3Y-E}=0.9149$ ,  $^{ns}P_{\beta 5-2S-A}=0.5331$ .  $N_{\beta 5-WT-Ctrl}=20$  cells – 1499 spots,  $N_{\beta 5-WT-EGF}=16$  cells

453 – 872 spots,  $N_{\beta 5-\Delta C-Ctrl}=17$  cells – 1199 spots,  $N_{\beta 5-\Delta C-EGF}=19$  cells – 1440 spots,  $N_{\beta 5-3Y-F-Ctrl}=15$  cells – 826

454 spots,  $N_{\beta 5-3Y-F-EGF}=17$  cells – 1099 spots,  $N_{\beta 5-3Y-E-Ctrl}=17$  cells – 1245 spots,  $N_{\beta 5-3Y-E-EGF}=16$  cells – 1122 spots,

455  $N_{\beta 5-2S-A-Ctrl}=16$  cells – 1326 spots,  $N_{\beta 5-2S-A-EGF}=16$  cells – 953 spots.

456

457 **Figure 5. Flat clathrin lattices partition sustained signals at the plasma membrane. a,** Representative  
458 TIRF images of control (Ctrl) unroofed genome-edited HSC3 cells expressing EGFR-GFP transfected with  
459 mScarlet-CLCa and immunolabeled with anti-phospho EGFR (P-EGFR) coupled to Alexa 647, treated with  
460 50 ng/mL EGF alone (EGF) or in the presence of 10  $\mu$ M cilengitide acid (CTA+EGF). **b,** Automated  
461 correlation analysis of (a). \* $P=1.11 \times 10^{-19}$ , \*\* $P=1.70 \times 10^{-5}$ .  $N_{\text{Ctrl}}=30$  cells,  $N_{\text{EGF}}=25$  cells,  $N_{\text{CTA+EGF}}=23$  cells. **c,**  
462 Fluorescence intensity measurements of the signal from P-EGFR. \* $P=1.13 \times 10^{-9}$ , \*\* $P=4.33 \times 10^{-6}$ .  $N_{\text{Ctrl}}=21$   
463 cells,  $N_{\text{EGF}}=19$  cells,  $N_{\text{CTA+EGF}}=18$  cells. **d,** Fluorescence intensity measurements of the signal from total  
464 EGFR-GFP (T-EGFR). \* $P=1.95 \times 10^{-4}$ , \*\* $P=6.00 \times 10^{-4}$ .  $N_{\text{Ctrl}}=29$  cells,  $N_{\text{EGF}}=18$  cells,  $N_{\text{CTA+EGF}}=18$  cells. **e,**  
465 Representative TIRF images of HSC3 WT cells transfected with mScarlet-CLCa and Grb2-GFP before (Ctrl)  
466 or after 15 min EGF stimulation. **f,** Automated correlation analysis of (e). \* $P=2.43 \times 10^{-7}$ , \*\* $P=1.06 \times 10^{-11}$ .  
467  $N_{\text{Ctrl}}=27$  cells,  $N_{\text{EGF}}=38$  cells,  $N_{\text{CTA+EGF}}=23$  cells. **g,** Fluorescence intensity measurements of the signal  
468 coming from immunolabeled Grb2. \* $P=2.17 \times 10^{-11}$ , \*\* $P=1.06 \times 10^{-4}$ .  $N_{\text{Ctrl}}=21$  cells,  $N_{\text{EGF}}=19$  cells,  
469  $N_{\text{CTA+EGF}}=19$  cells. Scale bars are 10  $\mu$ m; insets are 7.3x7.3  $\mu$ m square. Dot box plots show median  
470 extended from 25th to 75th percentiles, mean (square) and minimum and maximum data point  
471 whiskers with a coefficient value of 1.5. Significance was tested by a two-tailed unpaired t-test. AU,  
472 fluorescence arbitrary units.

473

474 **Figure 6. Model of flat clathrin lattices biogenesis during growth factor response.** The critical steps of  
475 the model are: 1) small flat clathrin lattices are in close proximity to Src and are highly enriched with  $\beta$ 5-  
476 integrin; 2) EGF triggers the dimerization, clustering and cross-phosphorylation of EGFR at growing FCLs;  
477 3) this in parallel allows the binding of the downstream scaffold Grb2 and locally activates Src; 4) which in  
478 turn phosphorylates  $\beta$ 5-integrin cytoplasmic domain; 5) the maintenance of the EGFR/Src/ $\beta$ 5-integrin  
479 axis promotes flat clathrin lattice growth. A key implication of this model is that two different receptor  
480 systems are spatially organized at the nanoscale within flat clathrin lattices.

481

482 **SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURE LEGENDS**

483

484 **Supplementary Figure 1. EGF increases the density of clathrin at the plasma membrane. a,**

485 Representative PREM images of the flat (green), dome (blue), and sphere (magenta) clathrin-coated

486 structures (CCSs) segmented in Fig. 1. Scale bars are 100 nm. **b,** Morphometric analysis of the

487 percentage of plasma membrane area occupation for all clathrin-coated structures (CCSs) in PREM

488 images of control (Ctrl) HSC3-EGFR-GFP cells or treated with 50 ng/mL EGF for 2, 5, 15, 30 and 60 min

489 from Figure 1. I-shaped box plots show median extended from 25th to 75th percentiles, and minimum

490 and maximum data point whiskers with a coefficient value of 1.5. 0 min: N<sub>cells</sub>=4; 2 min: N<sub>cells</sub>=3; 5 min:

491 N<sub>cells</sub>=4; 15 min: N<sub>cells</sub>=4; 30 min: N<sub>cells</sub>=3; 60 min: N<sub>cells</sub>=5. **c,** Fluorescence intensity measurements of the

492 signal from clathrin heavy chain. Control (Ctrl) unroofed HSC3-EGFR-GFP cells or treated with 50 ng/mL

493 EGF were immunolabeled with anti-clathrin heavy chain coupled to Alexa 647. Ctrl: N<sub>cells</sub>=5; EGF: N<sub>cells</sub>=8.

494

495 **Supplementary Figure 2. Original PREM images of cells from which the cropped images in Figure 1**

496 **were derived.** PREM images of control (Ctrl) HSC3-EGFR-GFP cells, stimulated with 50 ng/mL EGF for 0,

497 2, 5, 15, 30 and 60 min. Scale bars are 200 nm.

498

499 **Supplementary Figure 3. Morphometric analysis of PREM images of cells treated with different drugs.**

500 **a-c,** Morphometric analysis of the percentage of plasma membrane area occupation for **(a)** all CCSs, **(b)**

501 dome, and **(c)** sphere structures in control (Ctrl) HSC3-EGFR-GFP cells or treated with 50 ng/mL EGF for

502 15 min in the absence (EGF) or presence 10  $\mu$ M gefitinib (Gefi+EGF), 10  $\mu$ M PP2 (PP2+EGF) and 10  $\mu$ M

503 cilengitide acid (CTA+EGF). I-shaped box plots show median extended from 25th to 75th percentiles, and

504 minimum and maximum data point whiskers with a coefficient value of 1.5. **d-e,** Morphometric analysis

505 of the size of **(d)** dome and **(e)** sphere clathrin structures in cells treated as in **(a-c)**. Dot plots show every  
506 structure segmented, the bar indicate the median. **f-h**, Morphometric analysis of the percentage of  
507 plasma membrane (PM) area occupation for **(f)** flat, **(g)** dome, and **(h)** sphere structures in control (Ctrl)  
508 cells or treated only with the drugs in **(a-c)**. **i-k**, Morphometric analysis of the size of **(i)** flat, **(j)** dome and  
509 **(k)** sphere clathrin structures in cells treated as in **(f-h)**. Ctrl:  $N_{\text{flat}}=141$ ,  $N_{\text{dome}}=46$ ,  $N_{\text{sphere}}=68$ ;  $N_{\text{cells}}=4$ ; EGF:  
510  $N_{\text{flat}}=559$ ,  $N_{\text{dome}}=67$ ,  $N_{\text{sphere}}=207$ ,  $N_{\text{cells}}=4$ ; Gefi:  $N_{\text{flat}}=153$ ,  $N_{\text{dome}}=65$ ,  $N_{\text{sphere}}=72$ ,  $N_{\text{cells}}=4$ ; Gefi+EGF:  $N_{\text{flat}}=160$ ,  
511  $N_{\text{dome}}=69$ ,  $N_{\text{sphere}}=103$ ,  $N_{\text{cells}}=4$ ; PP2:  $N_{\text{flat}}=109$ ,  $N_{\text{dome}}=36$ ,  $N_{\text{sphere}}=53$ ,  $N_{\text{cells}}=3$ ; PP2+EGF:  $N_{\text{flat}}=267$ ,  $N_{\text{dome}}=88$ ,  
512  $N_{\text{sphere}}=61$ ,  $N_{\text{cells}}=4$ ; CTA:  $N_{\text{flat}}=171$ ,  $N_{\text{dome}}=137$ ,  $N_{\text{sphere}}=229$ ,  $N_{\text{cells}}=4$ ; CTA+EGF:  $N_{\text{flat}}=244$ ,  $N_{\text{dome}}=68$ ,  
513  $N_{\text{sphere}}=167$ ,  $N_{\text{cells}}=4$ . **i**, Representative masks of segmented cells treated as in **(f-h)**. **l**, Representative  
514 masks of segmented cells treated as in **(a,f)**. Scale bar is Ctrl and EGF data are from Figure 1 and shown  
515 for reference.

516

517 **Supplementary Figure 4. Original PREM images of cells treated with different drugs.** Original PREM  
518 images of cells from which the cropped images in Figure 2 and masks in Supplementary Figure 2 were  
519 derived. Shown are control (Ctrl) HSC3-EGFR-GFP cells or treated with 50 ng/mL EGF for 15 min in the  
520 absence (EGF) or presence 10  $\mu\text{M}$  gefitinib (Gefi+EGF), 10  $\mu\text{M}$  PP2 (PP2+EGF), 10  $\mu\text{M}$  cilengitide acid  
521 (CTA+EGF) and the drugs alone (Gefi, PP2, CTA). Scale bars are 200 nm.

522

523 **Supplementary Figure 5. EGFR-GFP correlates with clathrin after EGF stimulation.** **a**, Representative  
524 TIRF images of HSC3 WT cells co-transfected with mScarlet-CLCa and EGFR-GFP before (Ctrl) or after 50  
525 ng/mL EGF stimulation for 15 min. **b**, Automated correlation analysis of **(a)**. Significance was tested by a  
526 two-tailed unpaired t-test,  $*P_{\text{EGFR}}=4.2 \times 10^{-7}$ .  $N_{\text{EGFR-Ctrl}}=22$  cells – 1148 spots,  $N_{\text{EGFR-EGF}}=24$  cells – 1305  
527 spots. Dot box plots show median extended from 25th to 75th percentiles, mean (square) and minimum

528 and maximum data point whiskers with a coefficient value of 1.5. Scale bar is 10  $\mu\text{m}$ ; insets are 7.3x7.3  
529  $\mu\text{m}$ .

530

531 **Supplementary Figure 6. Differential location of EGFR and Src in  $\beta$ 5-integrin enriched structures. a,**

532 Representative TIRF images of HSC3 WT cells co-transfected with  $\beta$ 5-integrin-GFP and either EGFR-

533 mScarlet or mCherry-Src before (Ctrl) or after 50 ng/mL EGF stimulation for 15 min. **b,** Automated

534 correlation analysis of (a). Significance was tested by a two-tailed unpaired t-test  $*P_{EGFR}=8.4\times 10^{-4}$ ,  $*P_{Src}=\$

535  $1.2\times 10^{-6}$ .  $N_{EGFR-Ctrl}=17$  cells – 1516 spots,  $N_{EGFR-EGF}=16$  cells – 1416 spots,  $N_{Src-Ctrl}=24$  cells – 1936 spots,

536  $N_{Src-EGF}=23$  cells – 1872 spots. Dot box plots show median extended from 25th to 75th percentiles, mean

537 (square) and minimum and maximum data point whiskers with a coefficient value of 1.5. Scale bar is 10

538  $\mu\text{m}$ ; insets are 7.3x7.3  $\mu\text{m}$ .

539

540 **Supplementary Figure 7. Clathrin coated structures are mainly enriched with  $\beta$ 5-integrin.** Automated

541 correlation analysis of HSC3 WT cells co-transfected with mScarlet-CLCa and the indicated integrin

542 tagged with GFP before (Ctrl) or after 50 ng/mL EGF stimulation for 15 min. Cell were imaged using

543 TIRFM. Dot box plots show median extended from 25th to 75th percentiles, mean (square) and

544 minimum and maximum data point whiskers with a coefficient value of 1.5. Dots represent the mean

545 correlation value of independent experiments.

546

547 **Supplementary Figure 8. *In silico* analysis of  $\beta$ 5-integrin. a,** Sequence alignment of cytoplasmic domain

548 of different  $\beta$ 5-integrin orthologues. Tyrosine residues are marked in green. Symbols: i) \*, single fully

549 conserved residue; ii) :, conservative; iii) ., noneconservative. **b,** Sequence alignment of cytoplasmic

550 domain of different  $\beta$ -integrin subfamily members. Symbols as in (a). **c,** Bioinformatic prediction of the

551 possible protein kinases involved in the posttranslational modification of the  $\beta$ 5-integrin cytoplasmic



552 domain. The phosphopeptides identified by Netphos 3 and GPS 5 are indicated with the putative  
553 modified residues in magenta; the residue position is indicated, as well as the protein kinases most likely  
554 involved in the catalysis of the ATP phospho-transfer reaction. **d**,  $\beta$ 5-integrin phosphorylation sites  
555 prediction. Tyrosine residues present in the  $\beta$ 5-integrin cytoplasmic domain are listed with their  
556 sequence position indicated. Residues colored with magenta were predicted to be phosphorylated by  
557 the indicated bioinformatic tool.

558

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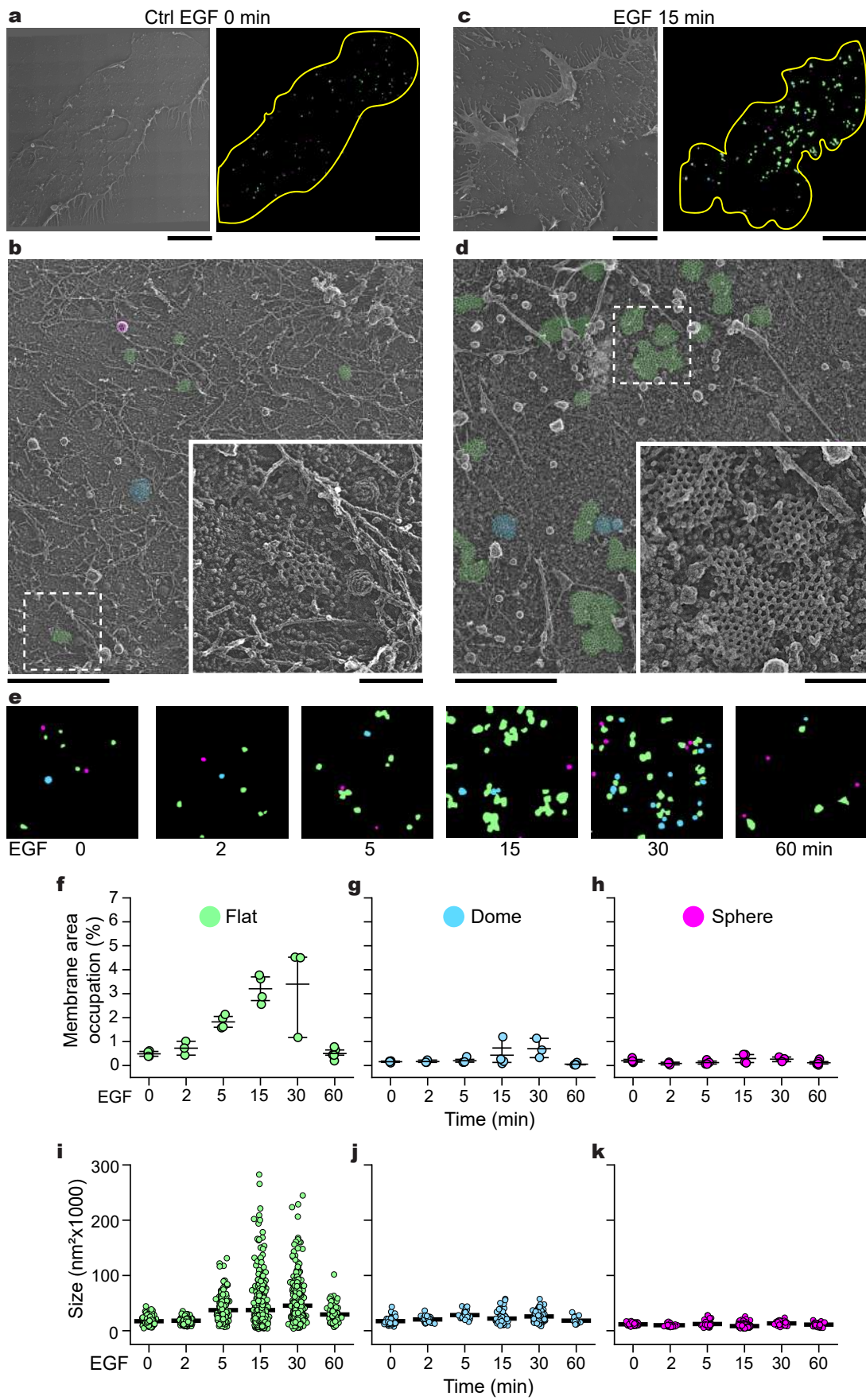
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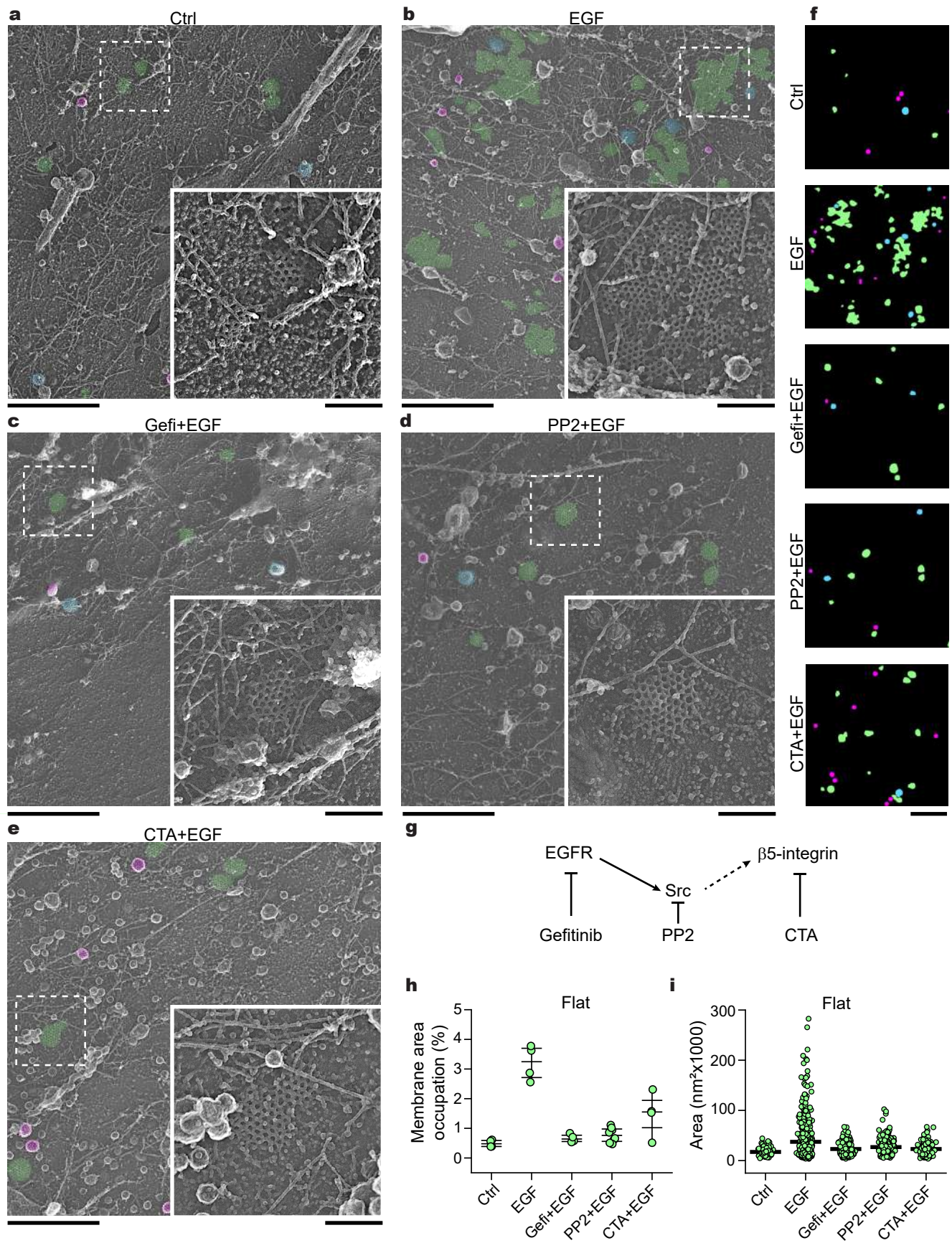
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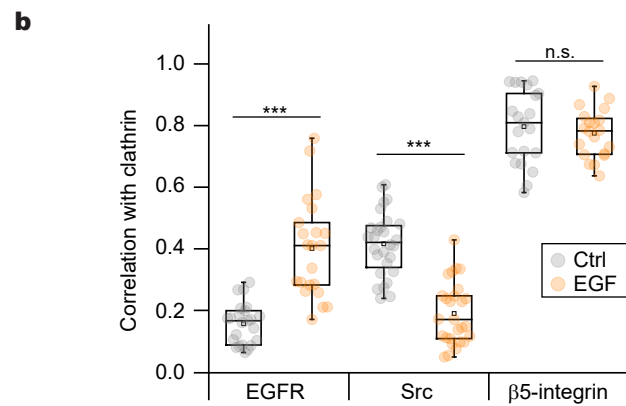
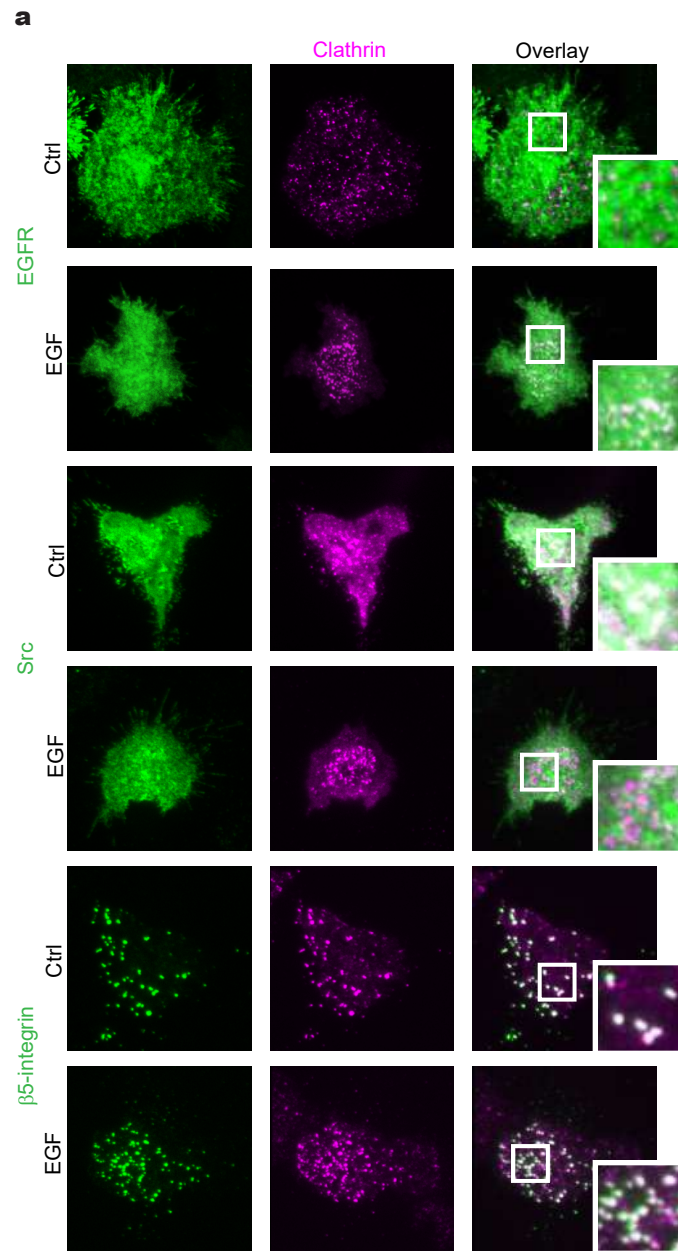
**Fig. 1**



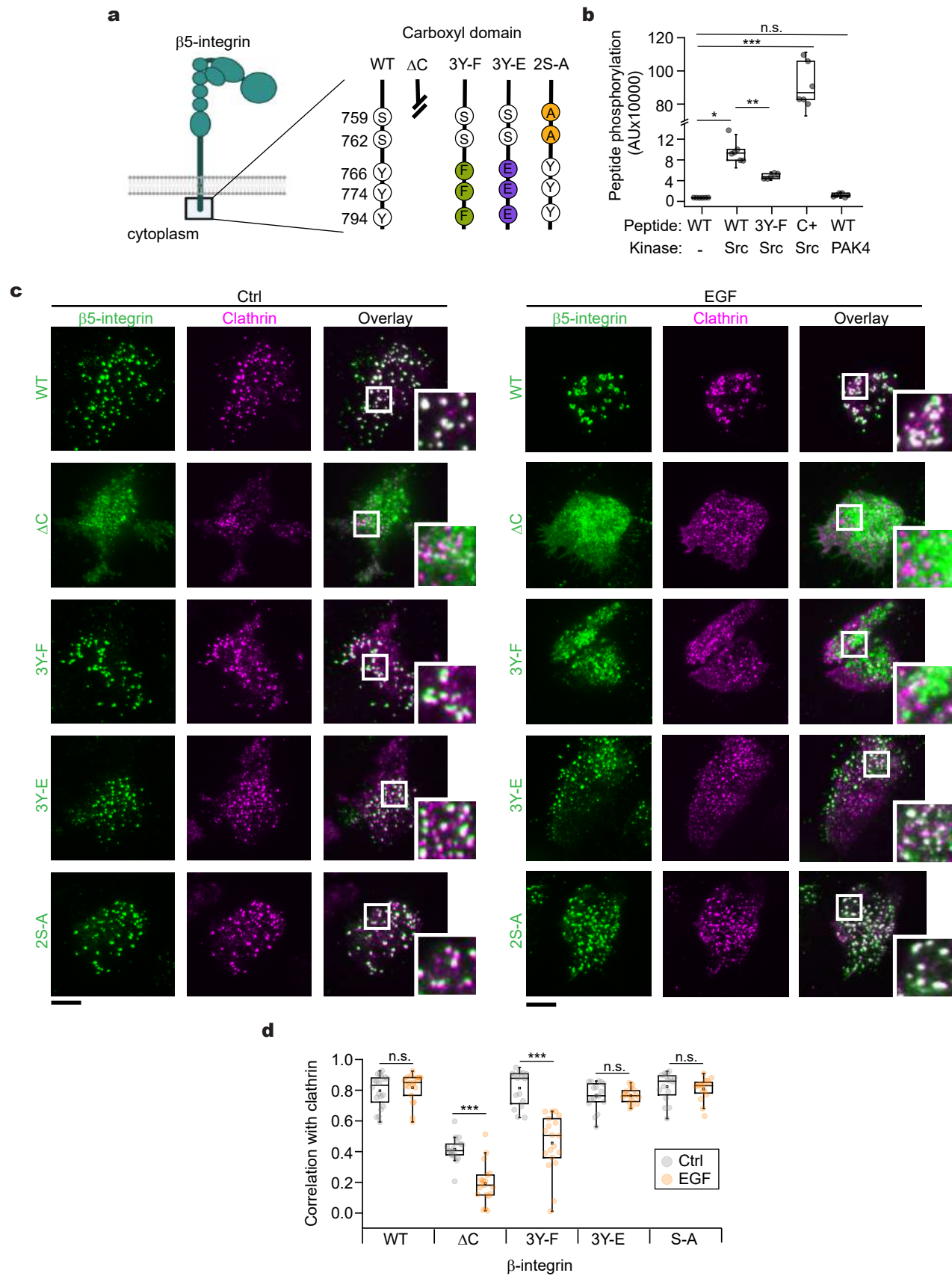
**Fig. 2**



**Fig. 3**

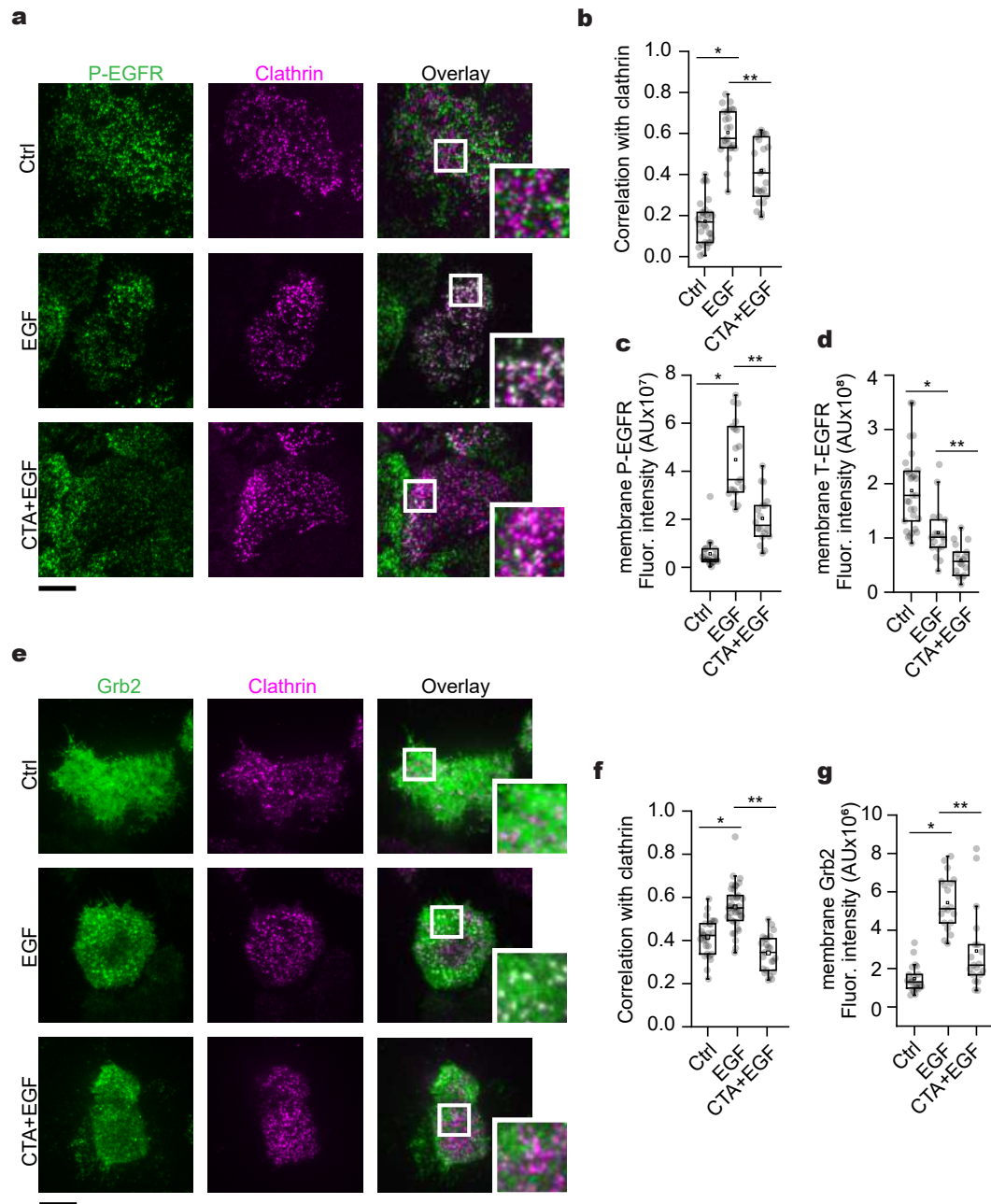


**Fig. 4**

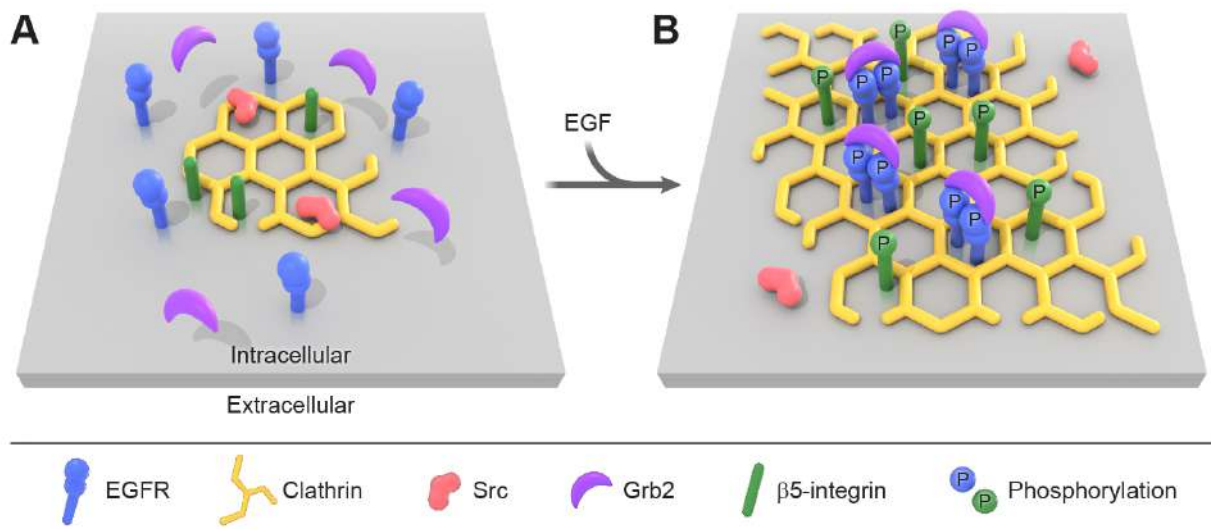




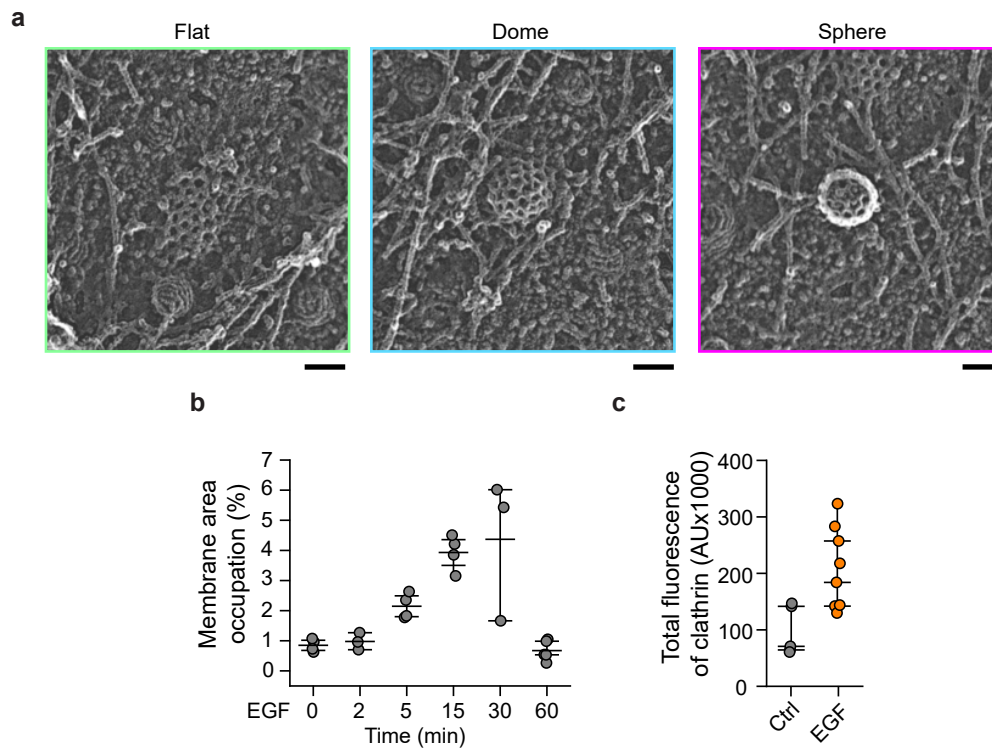
**Fig. 5**



**Fig. 6**



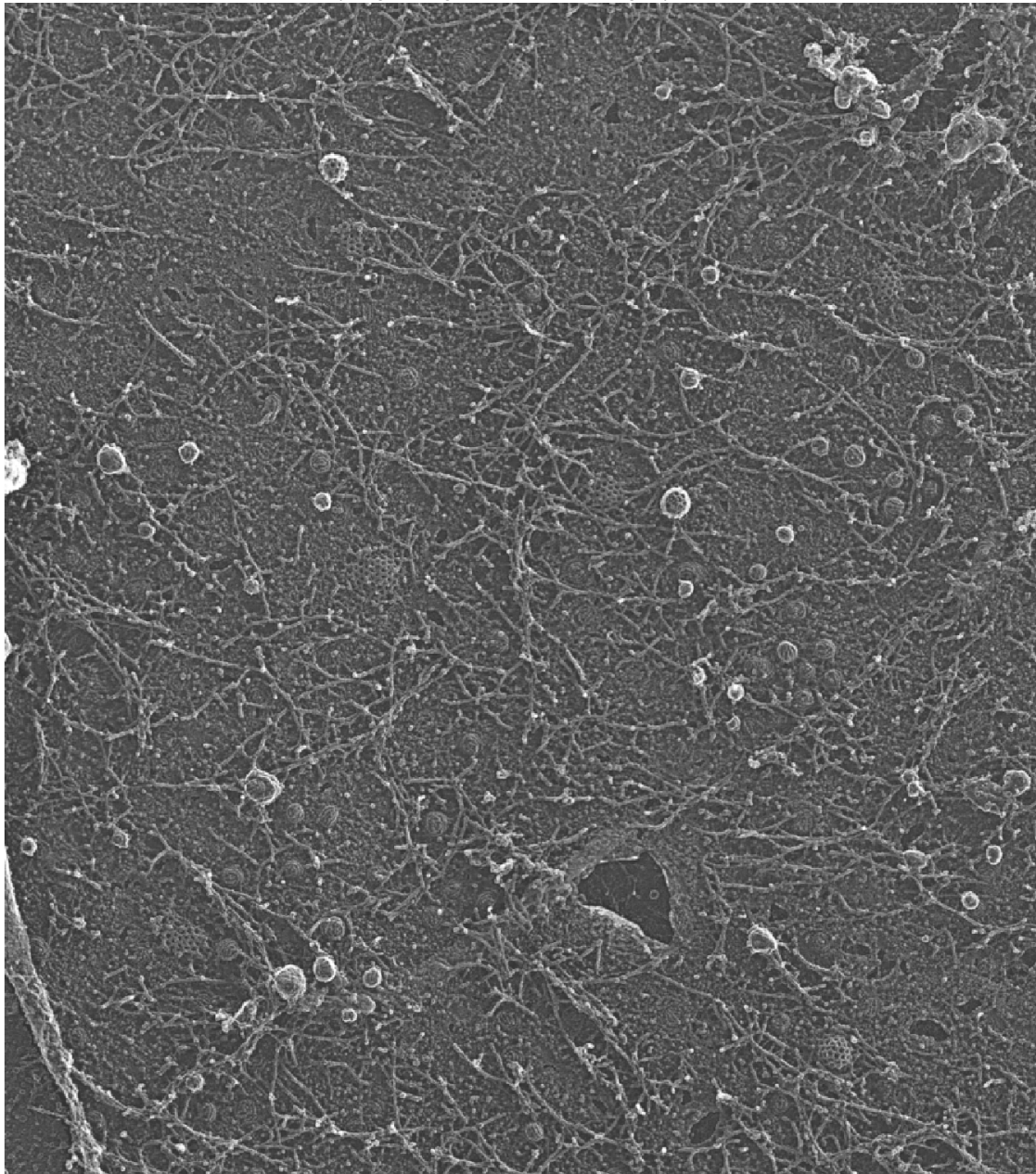
**Sup. Fig. 1**



**Sup. Fig. 2**

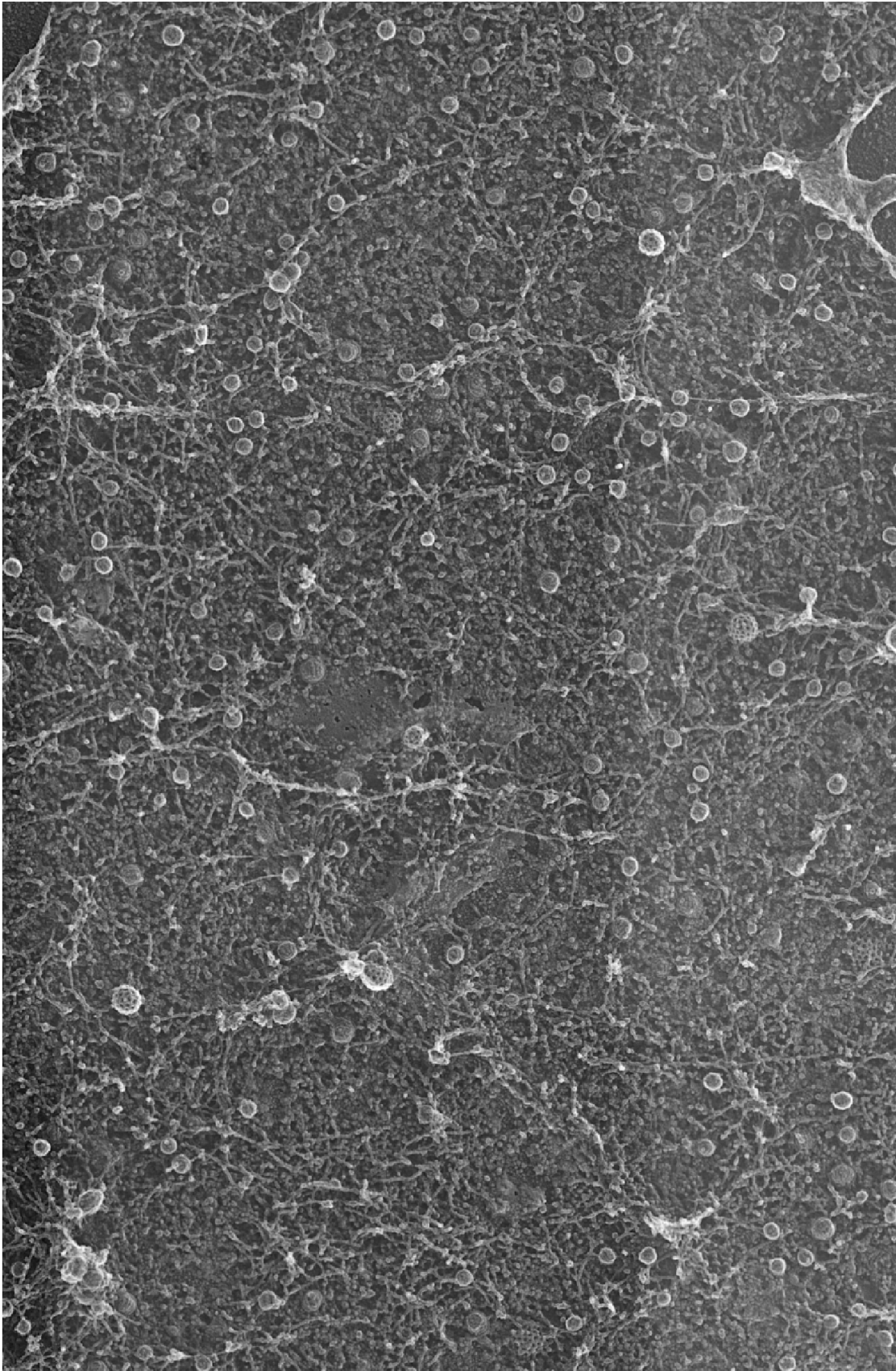
**c**

EGF 0 min (Large image from crops in Fig. 1)

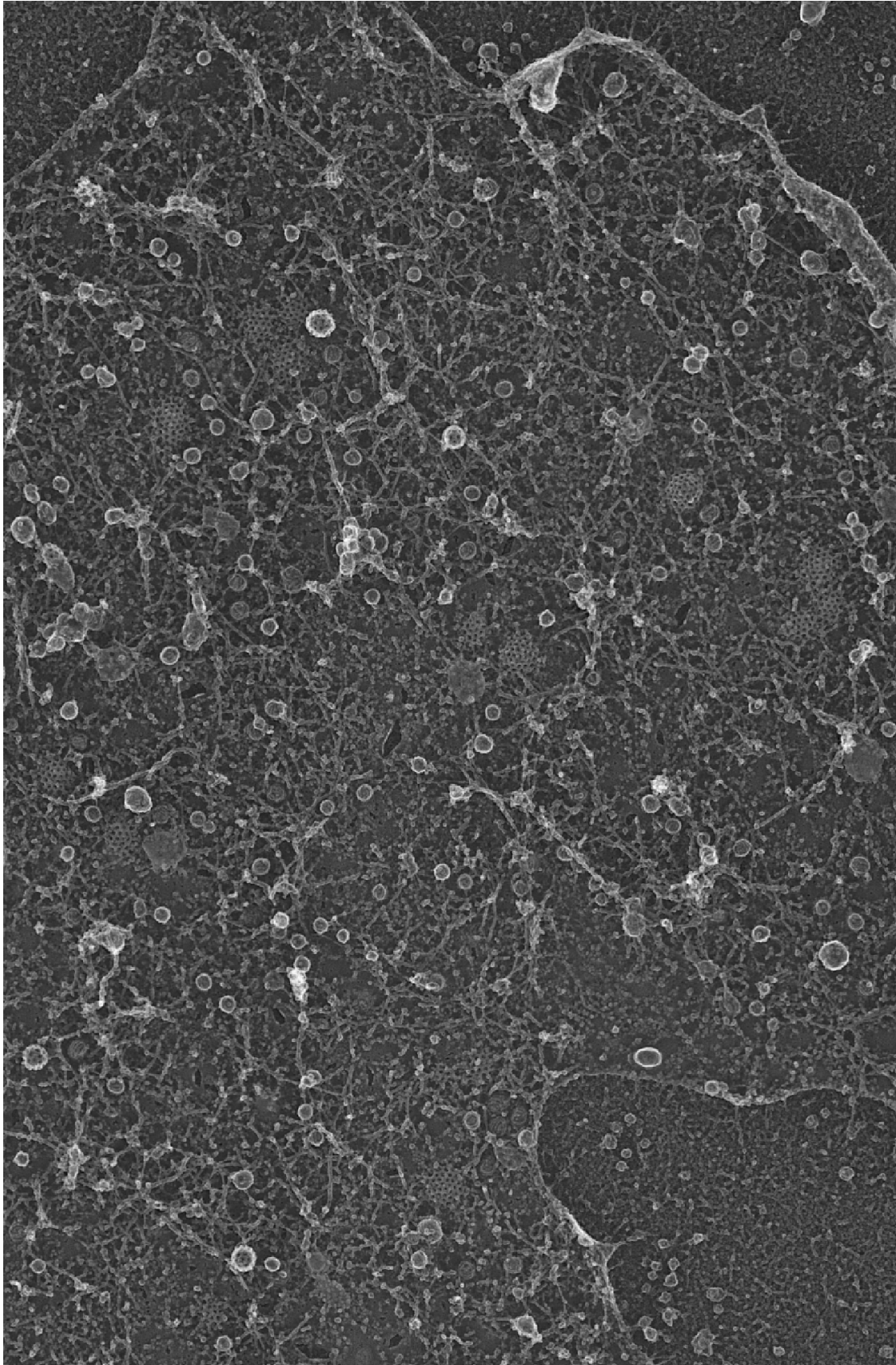


200 nm

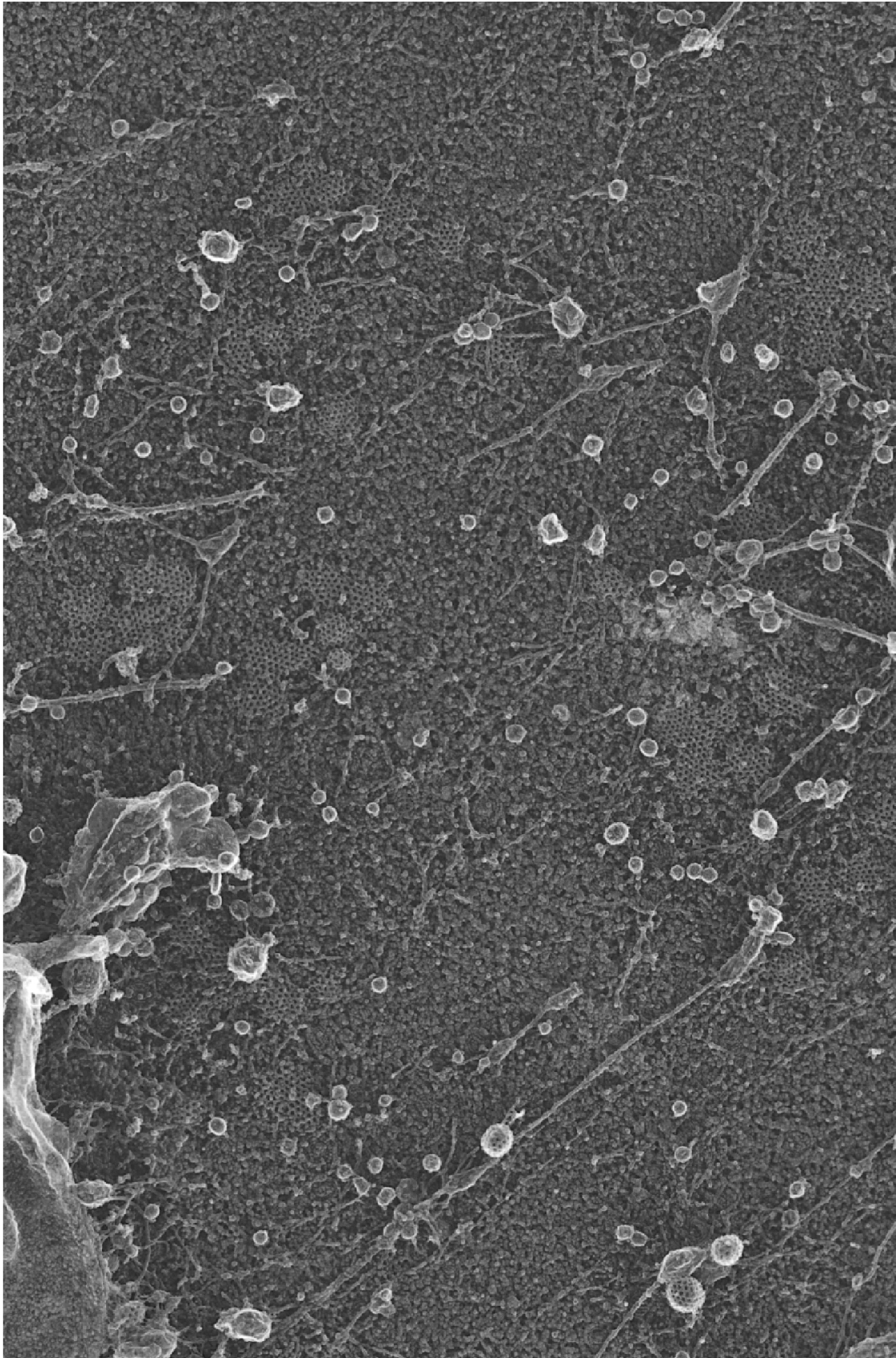
EGF 2 min (Large image from crops in Fig. 1)



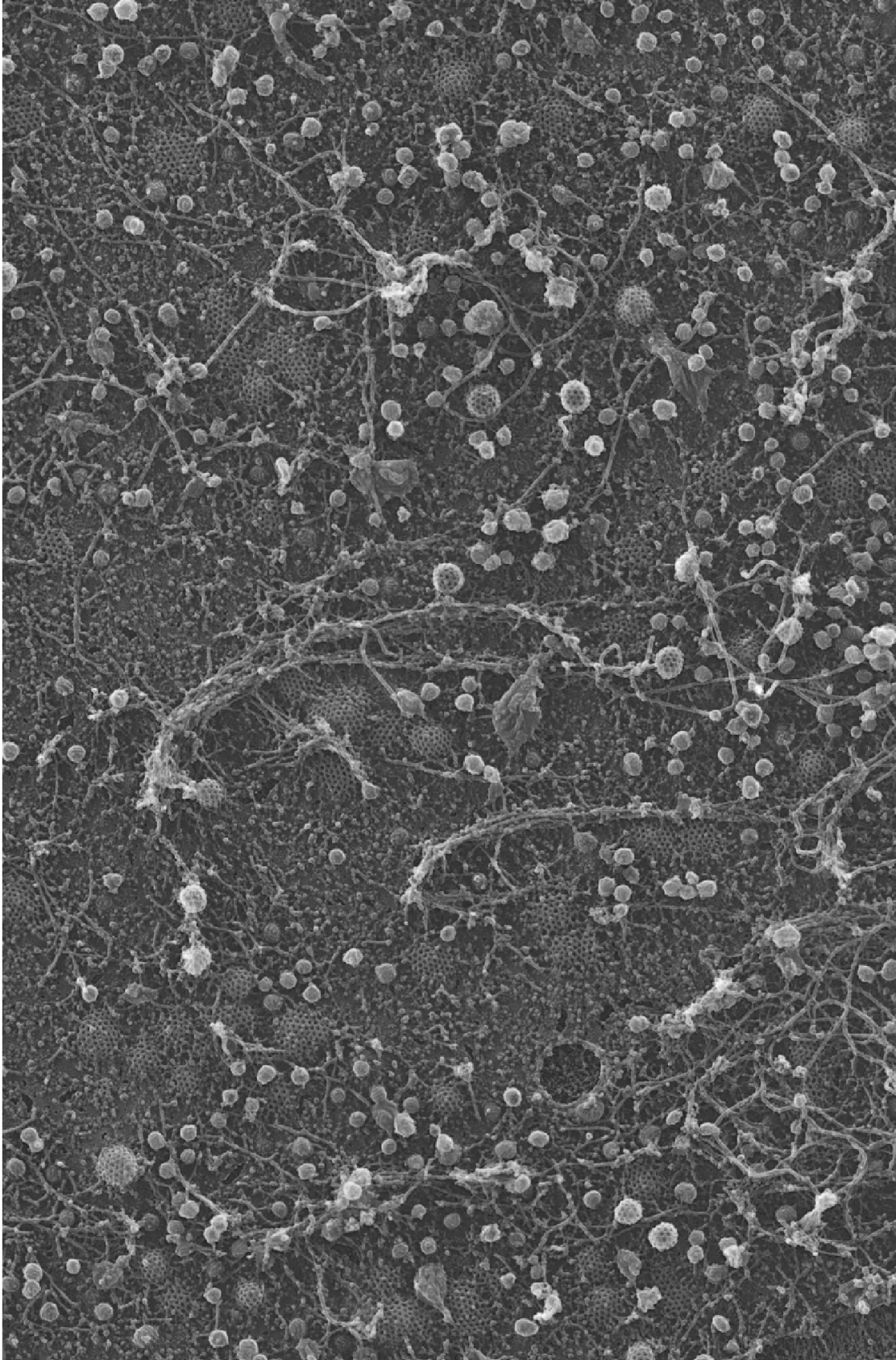
EGF 5 min (Large image from crops in Fig. 1)



EGF 15 min (Large image from crops in Fig. 1)

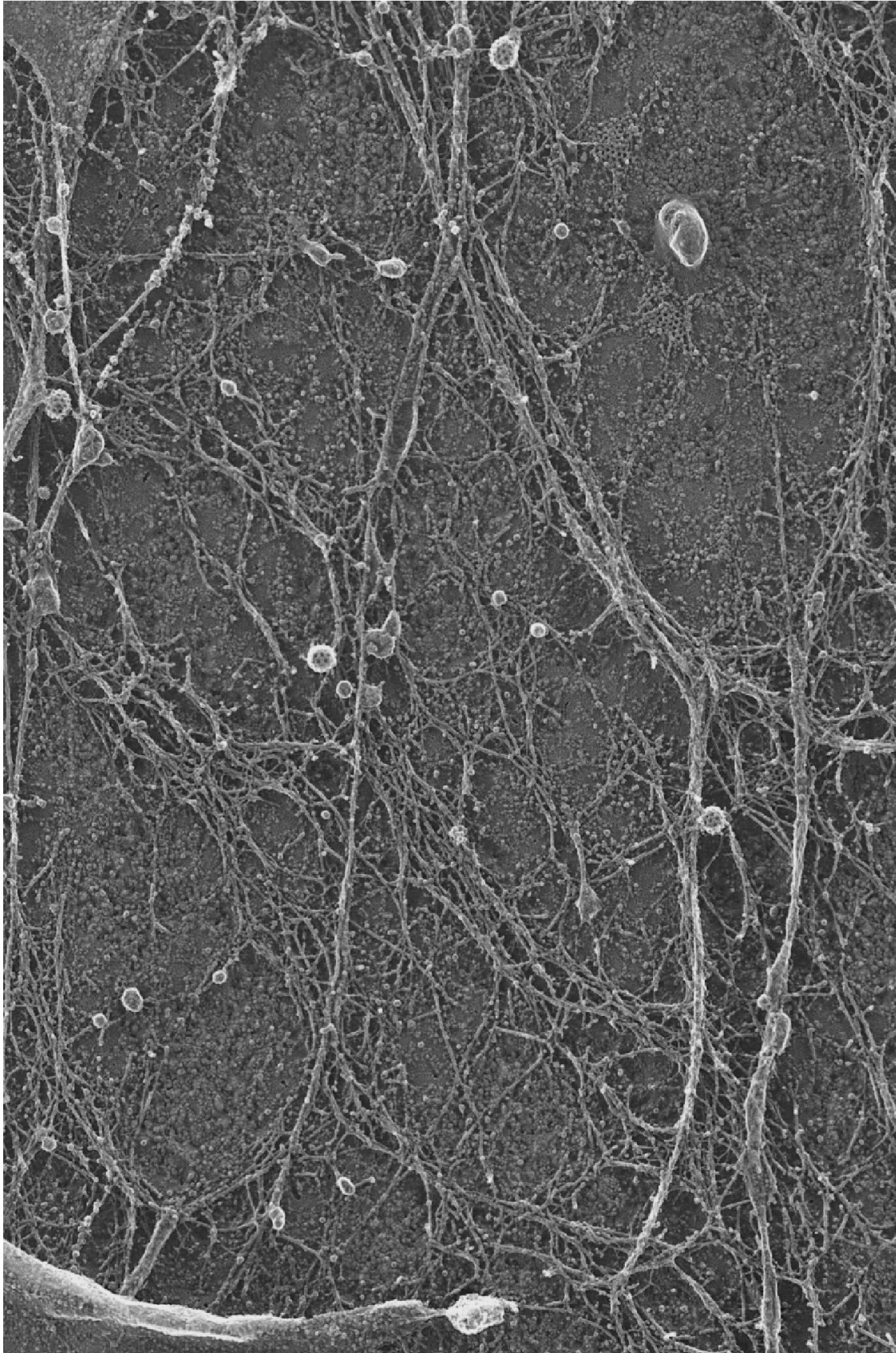


EGF 30 min (Large image from crops in Fig. 1)

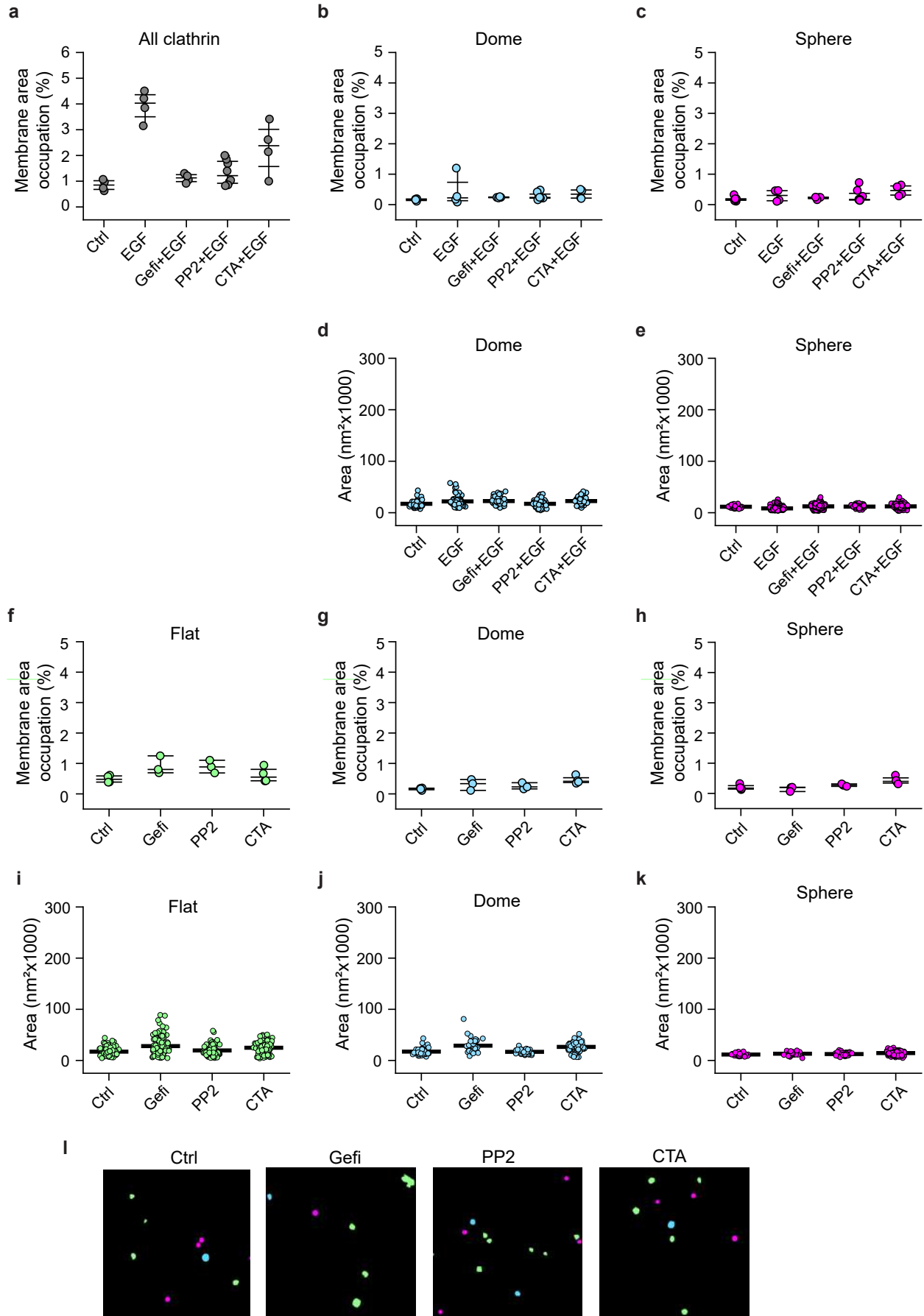




EGF 60 min (Large image from crops in Fig. 1)

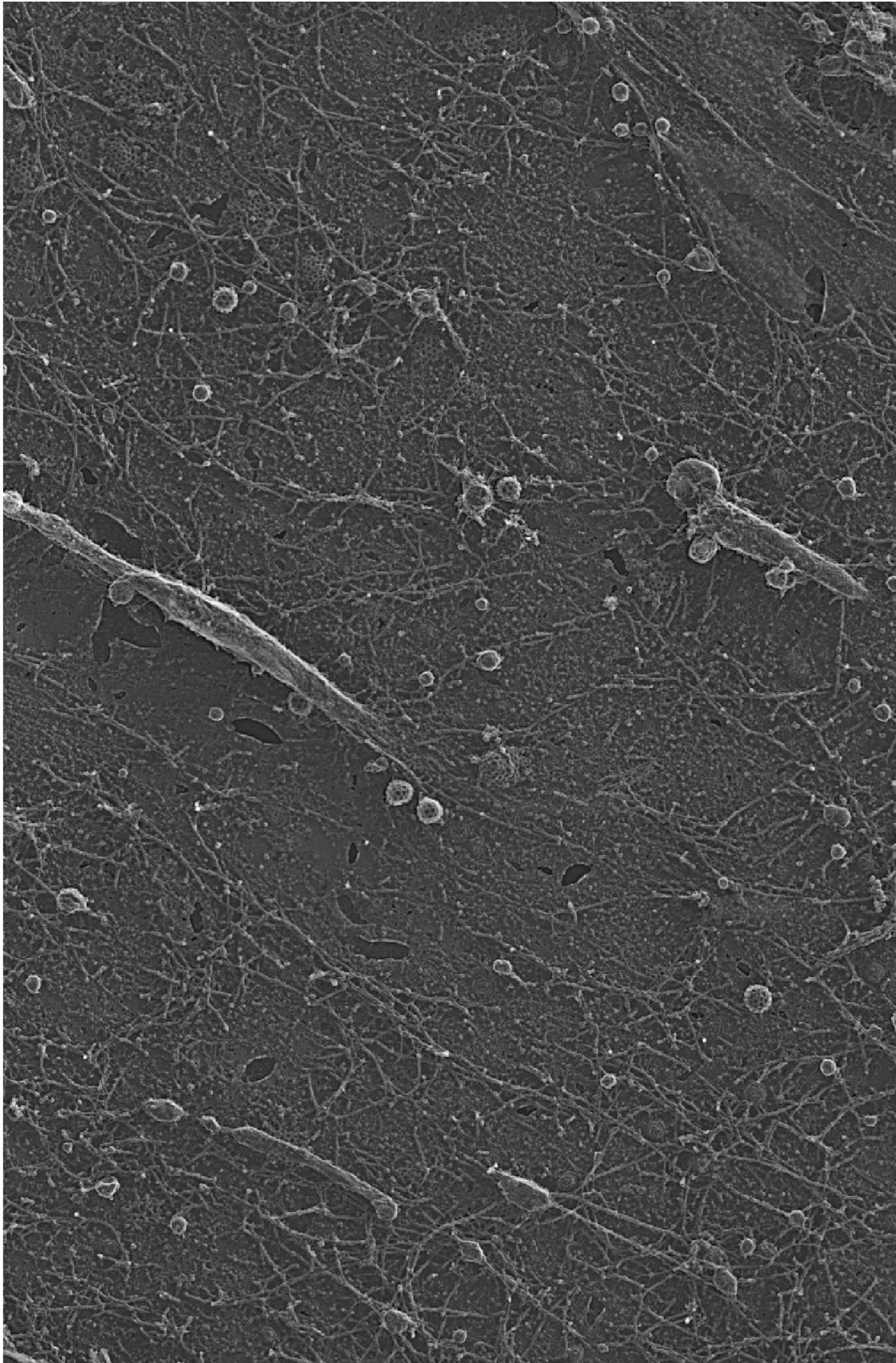


**Sup. Fig. 3**



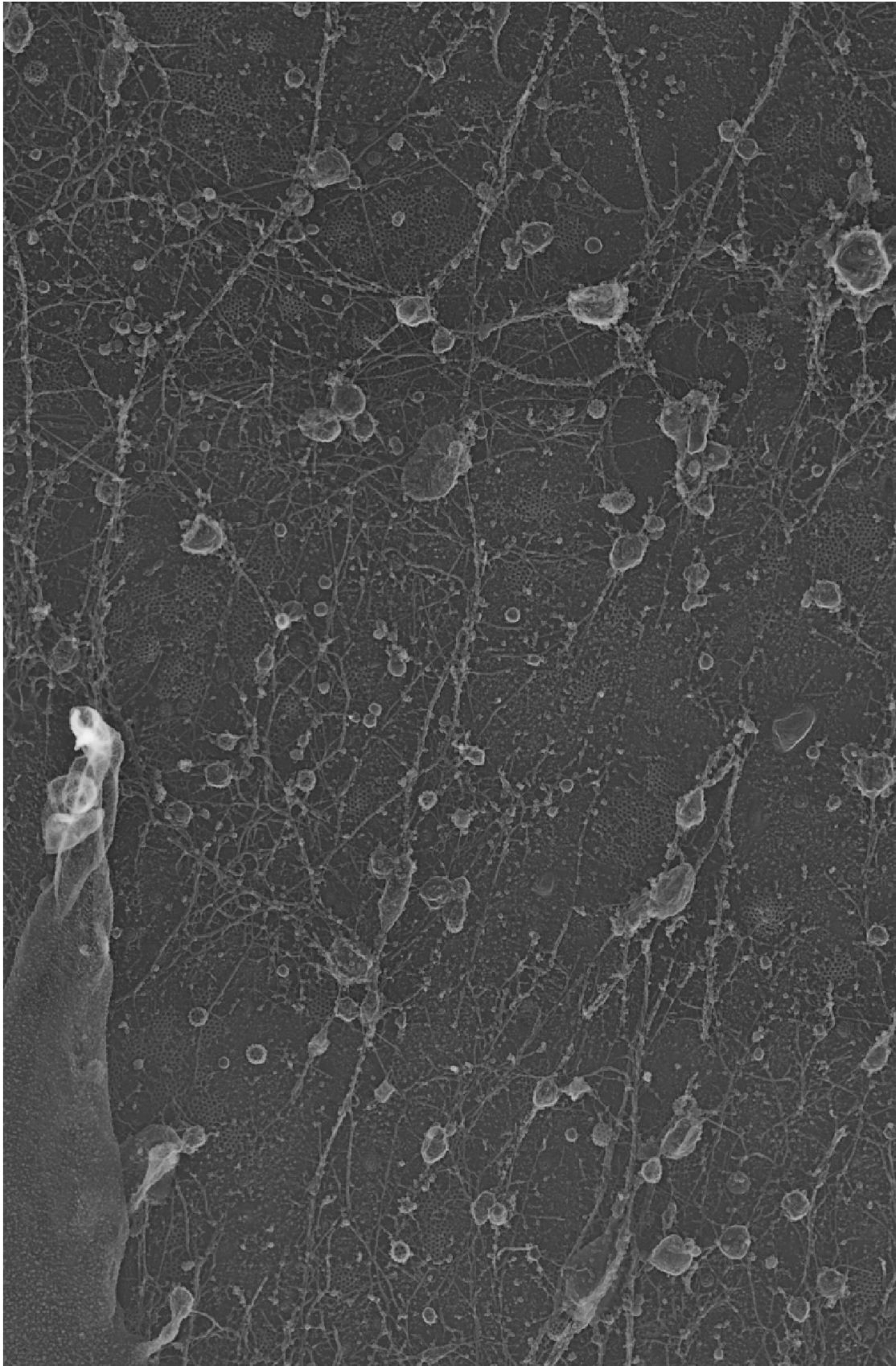
**Sup. Fig. 4**

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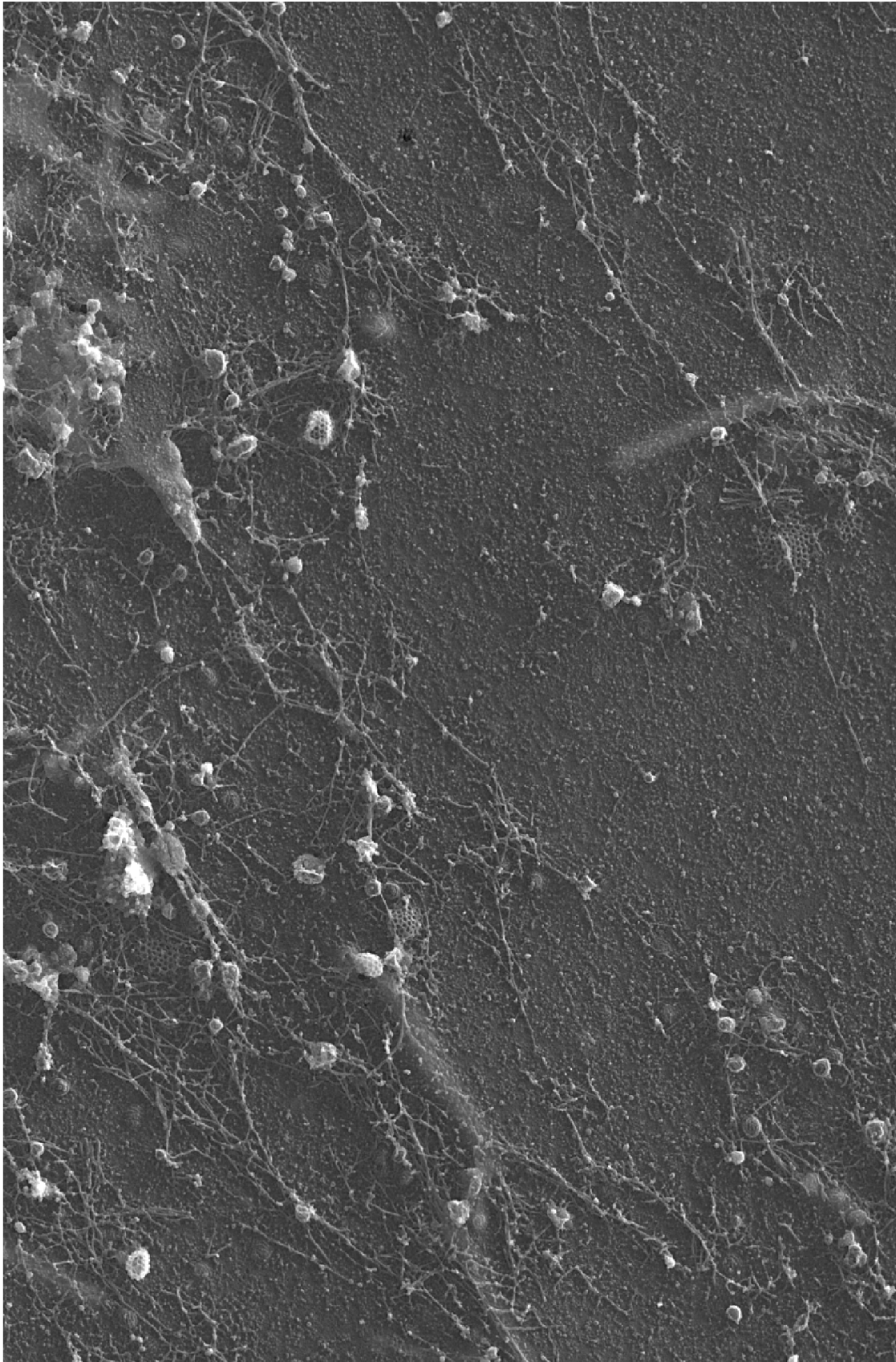


200 nm

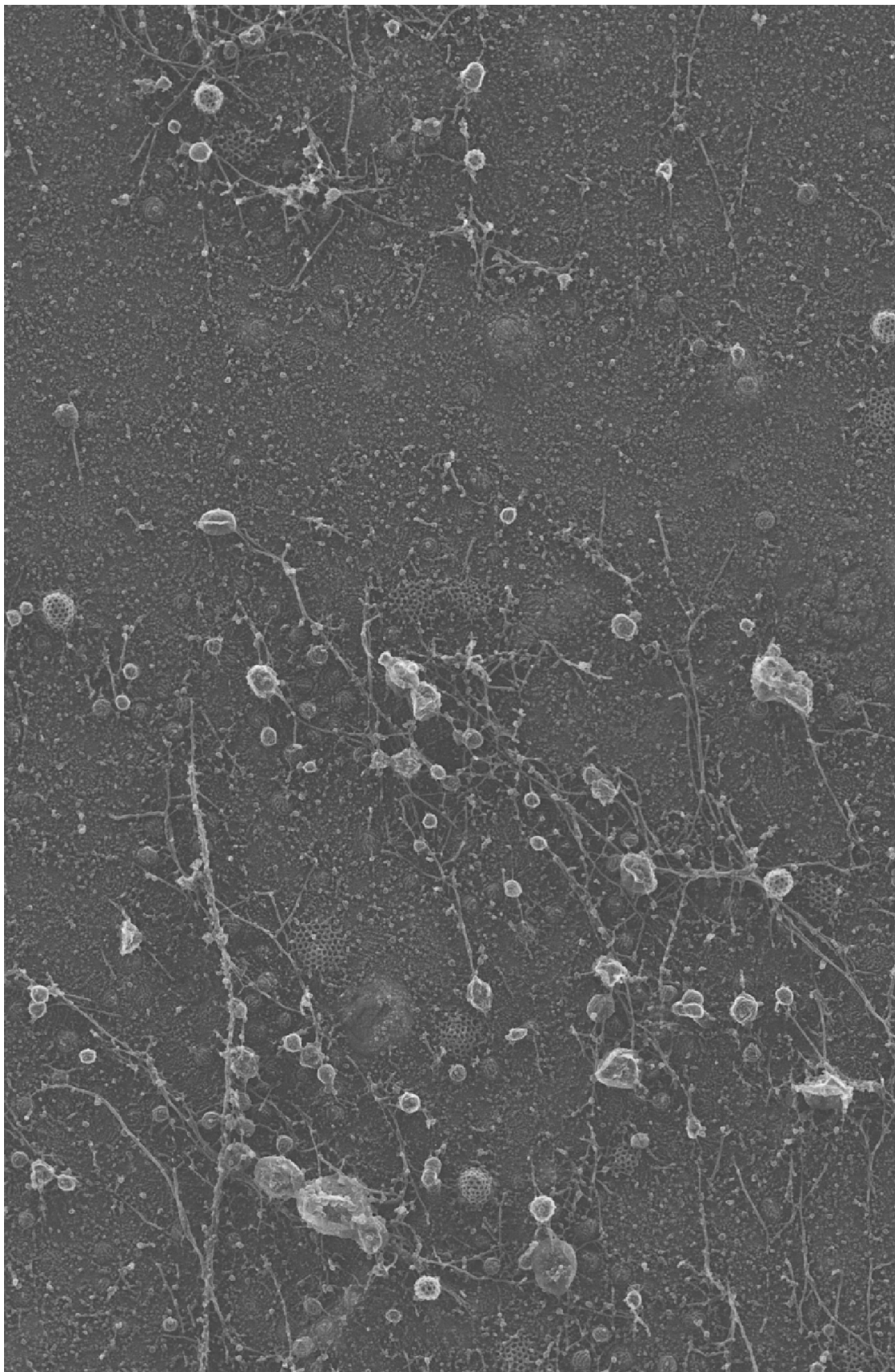
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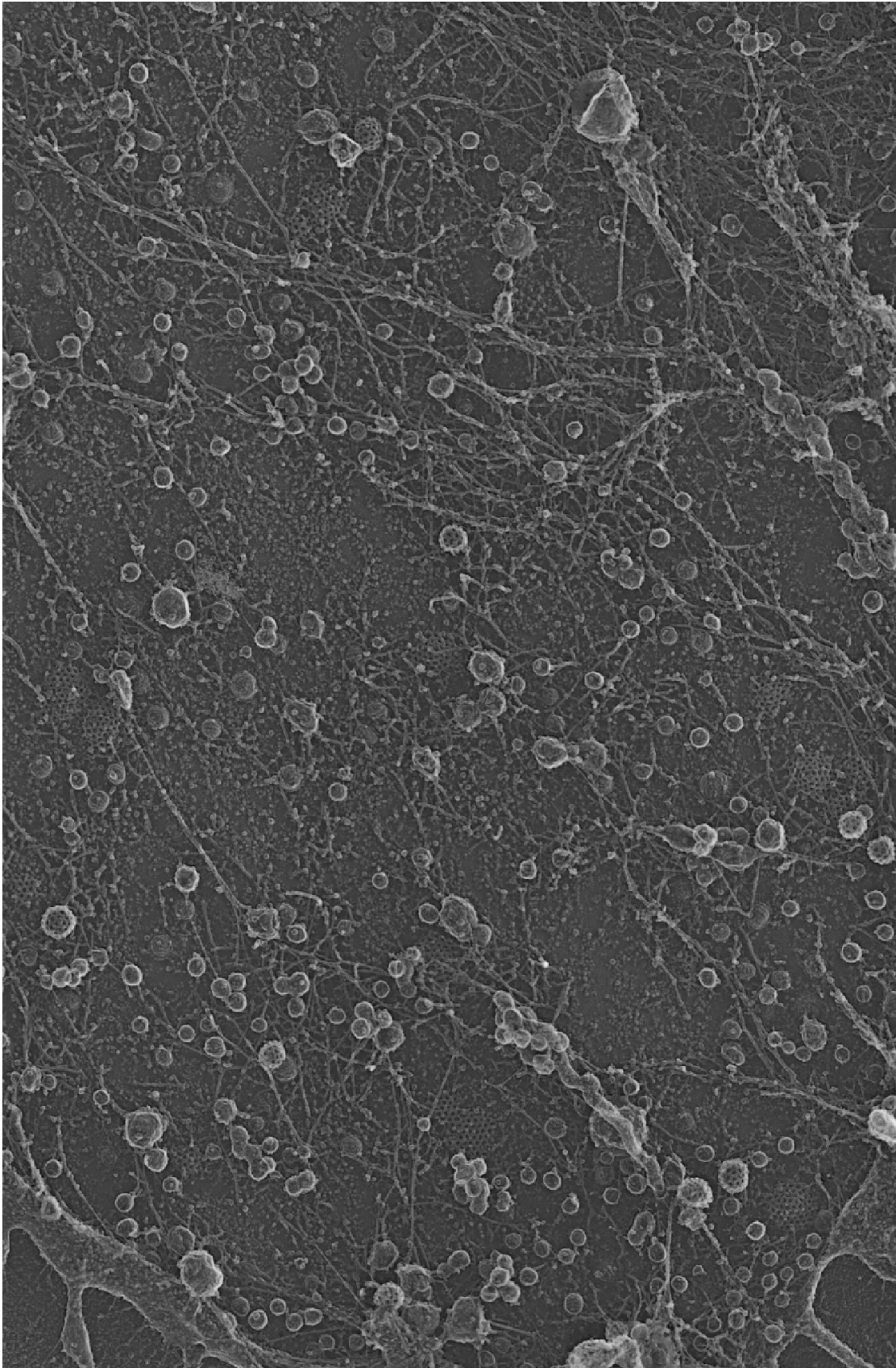
Gefi+EGF (Large image from crops in Fig. 2)



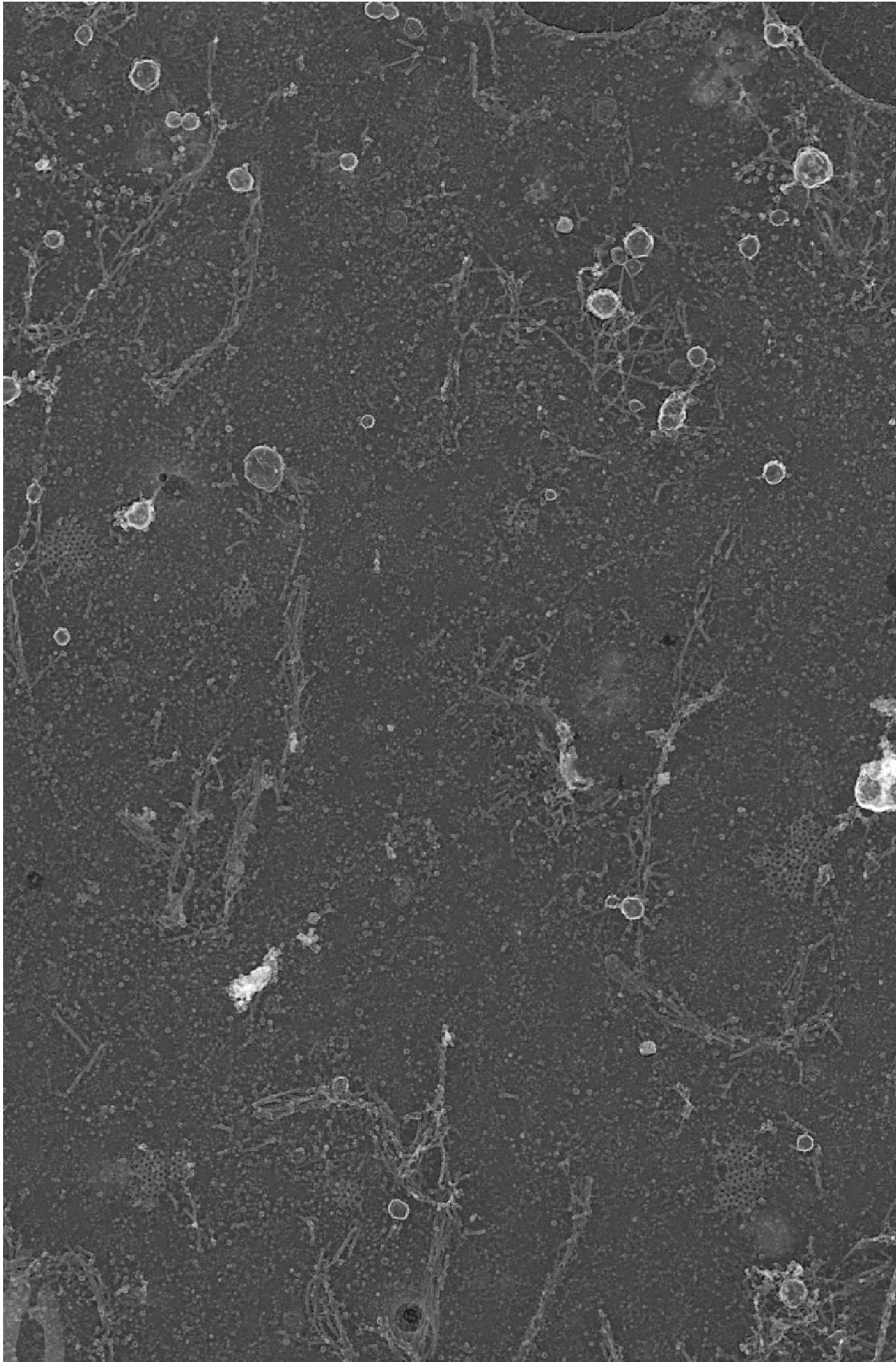
PP2+EGF (Large image from crops in Fig. 2)



CTA+EGF (Large image from crops in Fig. 2)

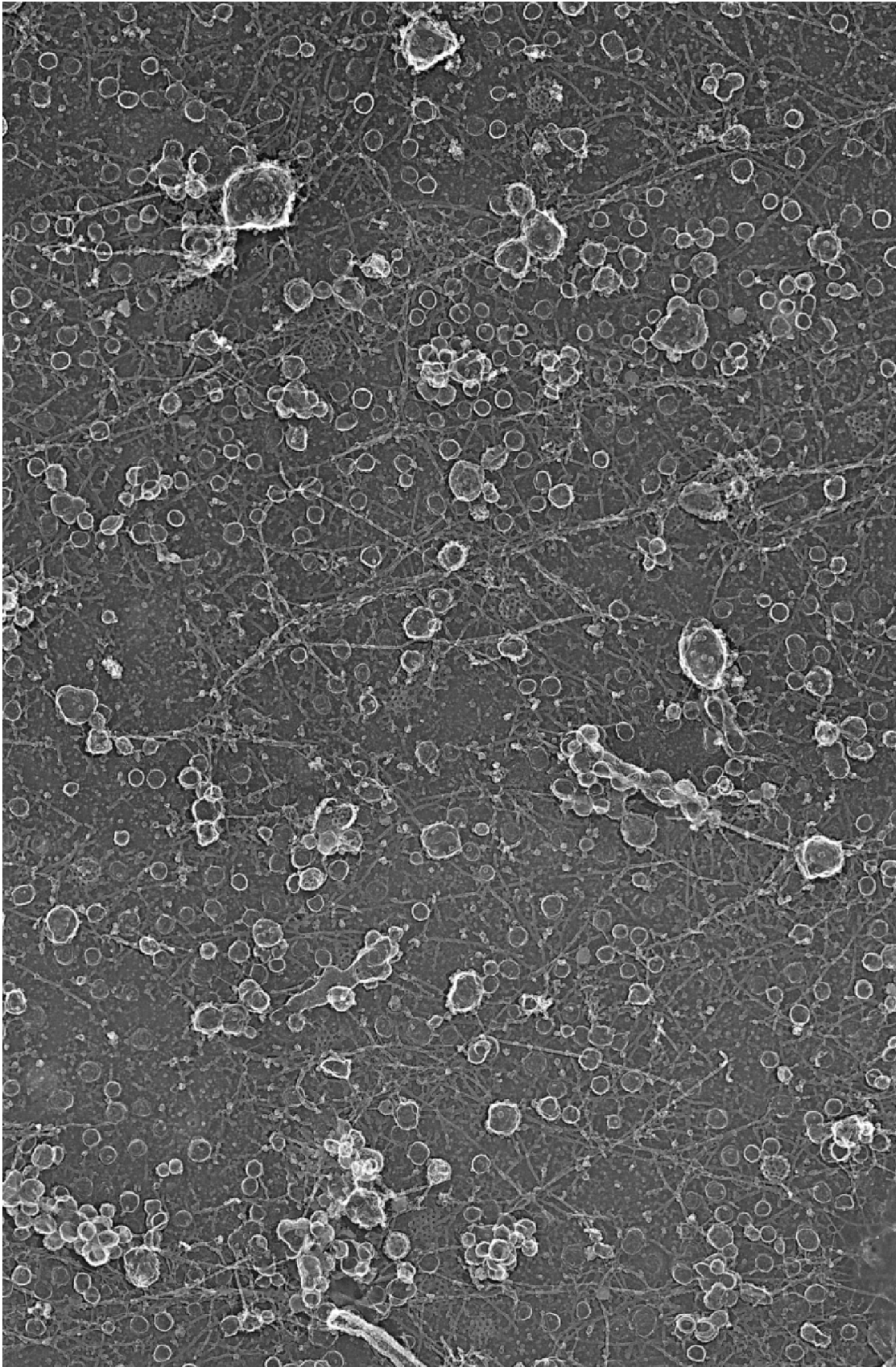


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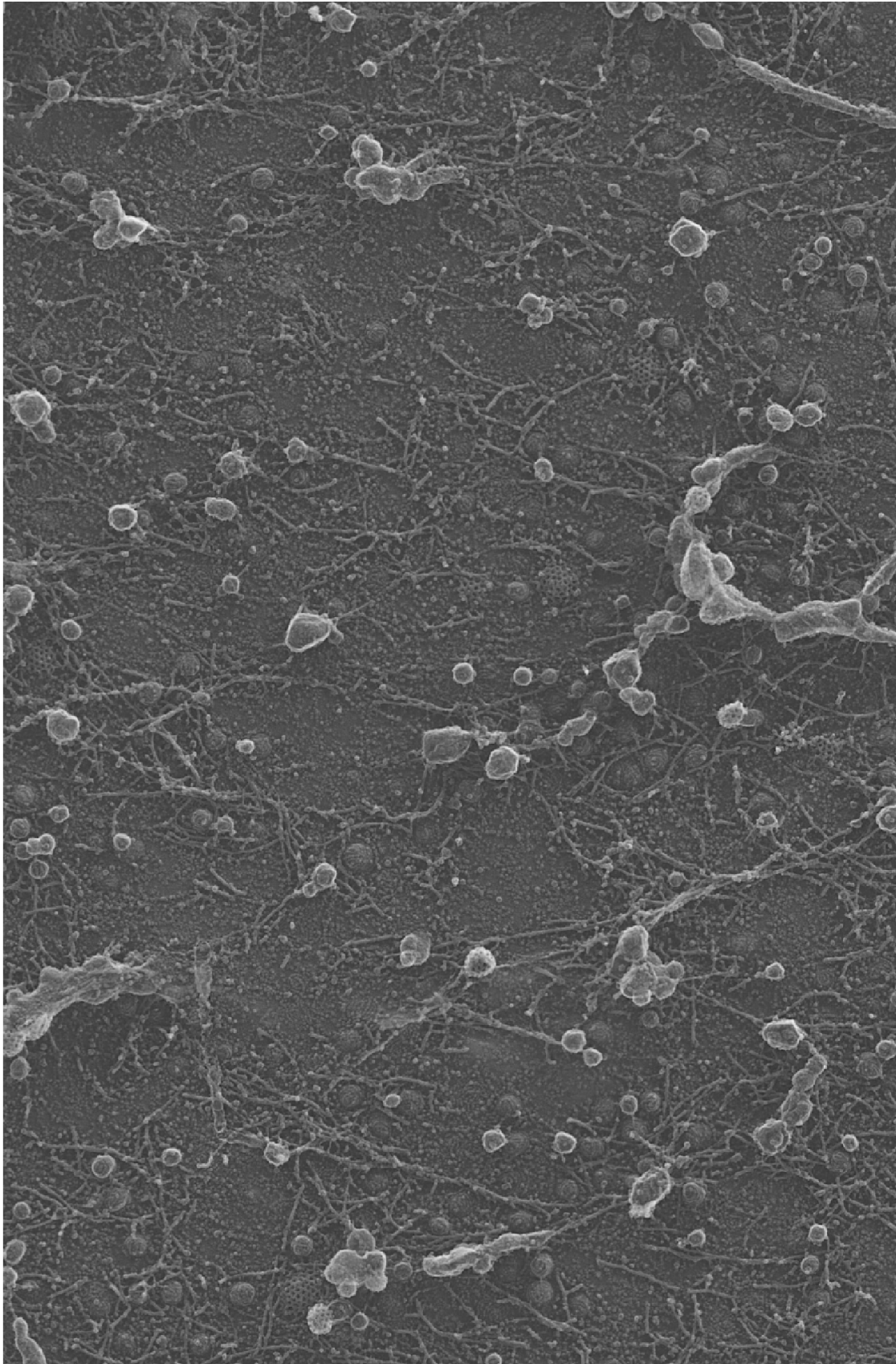




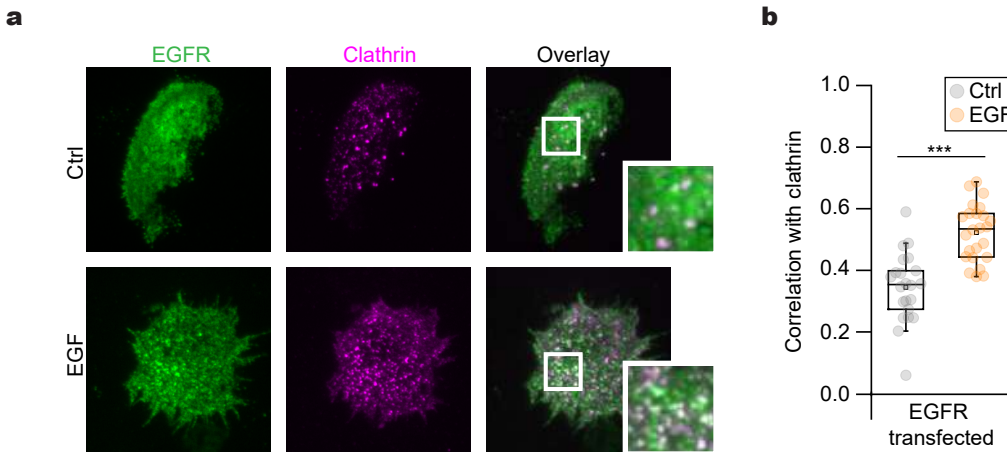
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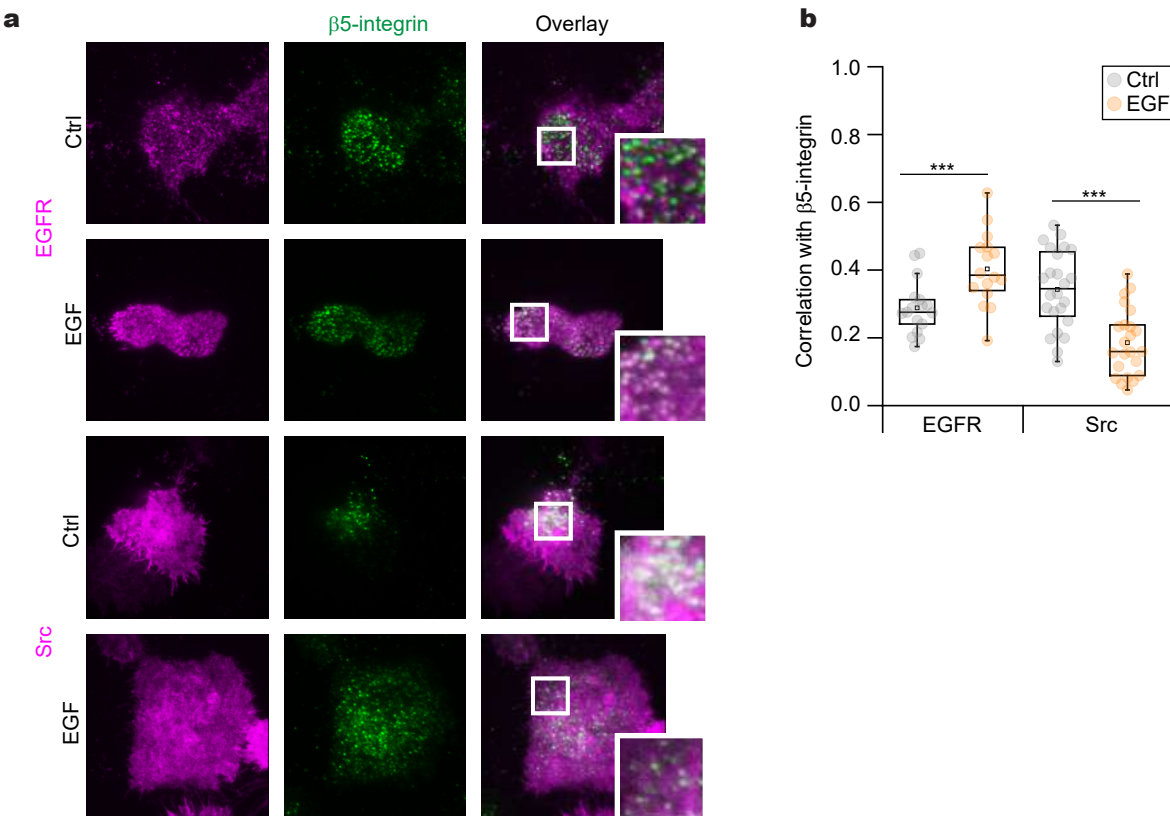
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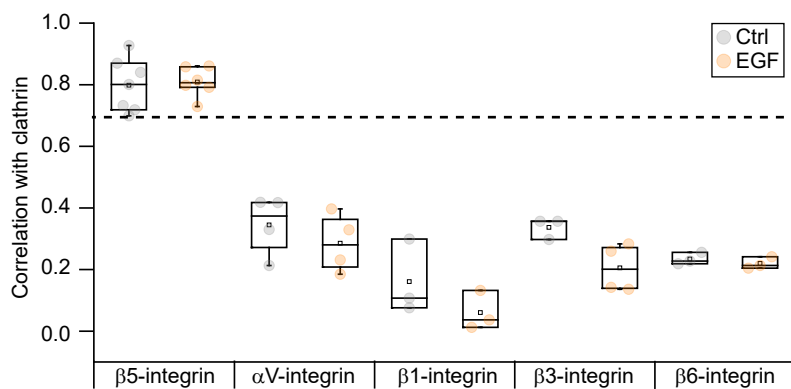
**Sup. Fig. 5**



**Sup. Fig. 6**



**Sup. Fig. 7**



## Sup. Fig. 8

**a**

### β5-integrin cytoplasmic domain

```

H_sapiens      KLLVTIHDRREFAKFQSERSRARYEMASNPLYRKPISTHTVDFTFNKFNKSYNGTVD 799
M_musculus    KLLVTIHDRREFAKFQSERSRARYEMASNPLYRKPISTHTVDFAFNKFNKSYNGSV- 798
B_taurus      KLLVTIHDRREFAKFQSERSRARYEMASNPLYRKPISTHTVDFTFNKFNKSYNGTVD 800
P_cynocephalus KLLVTIHDRREFAKFQSERSRARYEMASNPLYRKPISTHTVDFTFNKFNKSYNGTVD 655
X_laevis      KLLVTIHDRREFSRFQSDRSRARYEMASNPLYRPAVSTHNVD EY NMLS KSYNGTT- 802
D_rerio       KLVITVHDRREFARFQSARSRARYEMASNPNVYKRSVPMET-DFDMHG I K-SLNGGVH 802
**.:*:*****.:**  *****:*.: : .. : : ** ** .
    
```

**b**

### β-integrin cytoplasmic domain

```

ITGB5  KLLVTIHDRREFAKFQSERSRARYEMASNPLYRKPISTHTVDFTFNKFNKSYNGTVD----- 799
ITGB1  KLLMIHDRREFAKFEKEKMNKWDGTGENPIYKSAVTTVV-----NPKYEGK----- 798
ITGB2  KALIHLSDLREYRRFEKEKLSQWNN-DNPLFKSATTVM-----NPKFAES----- 769
ITGB3  KLLITIHDRKEFAKFEERARAKWDTANNPLYKEATSTFT-----NITYRGT----- 788
ITGB6  KLLVSFHDRKEVAKFEAERSKAKWQTGTNPLYRGSTSTFK-----NVTYKHREKQKVDLSTDC 788
ITGB7  RLSVEIYDRREYSRFEKEQQQLNWKQDSNPLYKSAITTTI-----NPRFQEADSP TL----- 798
: : : * : * : * : * : . . . . * * : : : *
    
```

**c**

Position	Residue	Peptide	Predicted Kinases
766	Y	SERSRAR <sup>Y</sup> EMASNPL	Src, InsR, EGFR
774	Y	EMASNPL <sup>Y</sup> RKPISTH	Src, InsR, EGFR, Abl2, Itk, Ptk6
794	Y	FNKFNK <sup>Y</sup> NGTVD	Src, InsR, EGFR, PDGFRa, Fes, Syk, Ptk6

**d**

		Y766	Y774	Y794
Tool	GPS 5.0			
	Netphos 3.0			
	PhosphoSitePlus			