# MICU1 regulates mitochondrial cristae structure and function independent of the

# mitochondrial calcium uniporter channel

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#### 1 Abstract

2 MICU1 is an EF-hand-containing mitochondrial protein that is essential for gating of the mitochondrial Ca<sup>2+</sup> uniporter channel (mtCU) and is reported to interact directly with the pore-3 4 forming subunit, MCU and scaffold EMRE. However, using size-exclusion proteomics, we found 5 that MICU1 exists in mitochondrial complexes lacking MCU. This suggests that MICU1 may have additional cellular functions independent of regulating mitochondrial Ca<sup>2+</sup> uptake. To 6 7 discern mtCU-independent MICU1 functions, we employed a proteomic discovery approach 8 using BioID2-mediated proximity-based (<10nm) biotinylation and subsequent LC-MS detection. The expression of a MICU1-BioID2 fusion protein in *MICU1<sup>-/-</sup>* and *MCU<sup>/-</sup>* cells allowed the 9 10 identification of total vs. mtCU-independent MICU1 interactors. Bioinformatics identified the Mitochondrial Contact Site and Cristae Organizing System (MICOS) components MIC60 11 (encoded by the IMMT gene) and Coiled-coil-helix-coiled-coil helix domain containing 2 12 13 (CHCHD2) as novel MICU1 interactors, independent of the mtCU. We demonstrate that MICU1 is essential for proper proteomic organization of the MICOS complex and that MICU1 ablation 14 15 results in altered cristae organization and mitochondrial ultrastructure. We hypothesize that MICU1 serves as a MICOS calcium sensor, since perturbing MICU1 is sufficient to modulate 16 cvtochrome c release independent of mitochondrial Ca<sup>2+</sup> uptake across the inner mitochondrial 17 18 membrane (IMM). Here, we provide the first experimental evidence suggesting that MICU1 19 regulates cellular functions independent of mitochondrial calcium uptake and may serve as a critical mediator of Ca<sup>2+</sup>-dependent signaling to modulate mitochondrial membrane dynamics 20 21 and cristae organization.

## 22 Introduction

Calcium (Ca<sup>2+</sup>) is well characterized as an essential second messenger that regulates 23 numerous cellular functions by binding distinct Ca<sup>2+</sup> sensing domains or motifs present on 24 numerous proteins (Bagur and Hajnoczky, 2017; Carafoli, 2002, 2003). Most Ca<sup>2+</sup> sensors 25 contain more than one Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding domain, often with varied affinities for Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding, 26 resulting in diverse and graded functions in a variety of cellular processes (Bagur and 27 Hainoczky, 2017: Carafoli, 2002, 2003: Tadross et al., 2008). The Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentration varies 28 greatly between different cellular compartments, and thus Ca<sup>2+</sup> sensors are strategically 29 30 localized for subcellular/organelle specific signaling (Bagur and Hajnoczky, 2017; Rizzuto et al., 2012; Rizzuto and Pozzan, 2006). Mitochondria actively regulate their Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentration and 31 contain Ca<sup>2+</sup> sensors to mediate anterograde and retrograde signaling (Bagur and Hajnoczky, 32 2017; Rizzuto et al., 2012). Examples include Mitochondrial Rho GTPases (MIROs) localized to 33 34 the outer mitochondrial membrane (OMM), and Mitochondrial calcium uptake proteins (MICUs) 35 localized to the inter-membrane space (IMS) side of the IMM (Bagur and Hajnoczky, 2017; Fransson et al., 2003; Perocchi et al., 2010; Plovanich et al., 2013). MIRO Ca<sup>2+</sup> sensing is 36 essential for mitochondrial trafficking and structural homeostasis (Bagur and Hajnoczky, 2017; 37 38 Fransson et al., 2003; Frederick et al., 2004; Nemani et al., 2018; Saotome et al., 2008), while 39 MICUs are known to gate the mitochondrial calcium uniporter channel (mtCU) and regulate its 40 open probability (Csordas et al., 2013; Liu et al., 2016; Mallilankaraman et al., 2012b; Patron et al., 2014; Plovanich et al., 2013). 41 The mtCU is a highly selective Ca<sup>2+</sup> channel necessary for acute Ca<sup>2+</sup> entry to the mitochondrial 42

matrix (Baughman et al., 2011; De Stefani et al., 2011; Kirichok et al., 2004; Rizzuto et al.,
2012). The mtCU consists of multiple subunits, namely the pore-forming component
Mitochondrial Calcium Uniporter (MCU) and its homolog, MCUB; the regulatory scaffolds MCU
Regulator 1 (MCUR1) and Essential MCU Regulator Element (EMRE); and the Ca<sup>2+</sup> sensors

Mitochondrial Calcium Uptake proteins 1, 2, and 3 (MICU1, MICU2 and MICU3) (Baughman et 47 al., 2011; De Stefani et al., 2011; Mallilankaraman et al., 2012a; Perocchi et al., 2010; Plovanich 48 et al., 2013; Raffaello et al., 2013; Sancak et al., 2013; Tomar et al., 2016). MICU1 is essential 49 50 to mtCU regulation, by directly binding MCU and EMRE and its expression correlates with 51 tissue-dependent differences in mitochondrial calcium uptake (Csordas et al., 2013; Mallilankaraman et al., 2012b; Paillard et al., 2018; Patron et al., 2014; Perocchi et al., 2010; 52 53 Phillips et al., 2019; Plovanich et al., 2013; Sancak et al., 2013; Xing et al., 2019). 54 Loss-of-function mutations in *MICU1* induce proximal myopathy, learning difficulties, movement 55 disorder, fatigue, and lethargy in humans (Lewis-Smith et al., 2016; Logan et al., 2014) and 56 deletion of *Micu1* in mouse models causes perinatal lethality (Antony et al., 2016; Liu et al., 2016). Recently, genetic mutants were generated to characterize mtCU regulation in Drosophila 57 (Tufi et al., 2019). Intriguingly, Tufi et al. reported that a *MICU1* loss-of-function mutation 58 59 resulted in Drosophila lethality, which could not be rescued by a concurrent MCU loss-offunction mutation that completely ablated mitochondrial  $Ca^{2+}$  (" $Ca^{2+}$ ) uptake and subsequent 60 mitochondrial permeability transition pore opening (Tufi et al., 2019). This observation suggests 61 that the lethal phenotype of MICU1-null flies was not solely a result of aberrant mtCU-dependent 62 Ca<sup>2+</sup> uptake. This raises the possibility that MICU1 has mtCU-independent functions, which are 63 vital for mitochondrial function and survival. Indeed, MICU1 knockout models show distinct 64 abnormalities in mitochondrial ultrastructure that are not observed in any other mtCU knockout 65 models (Bick et al., 2017; Liu et al., 2016; Luongo et al., 2015; Tomar et al., 2016). Additionally, 66 67 MICU1 protein is reported to have high mobility within the IMM as compared to the MCU (Hoffman et al., 2013), suggesting that MICU1 could be associated with other complexes in the 68 mitochondria. These observations led us to hypothesize that MICU1 regulates other essential 69 70 mitochondrial processes beyond calcium uptake.

71 To discover mtCU-independent functions of the MICU1, we utilized a proximity-based biotinylation approach by generating a MICU1-BioID2 fusion protein. BioID2 is a recently 72 developed, highly-efficient promiscuous biotin ligase which enables the detection of protein-73 74 protein interactions in living cells (Kim et al., 2016). We reconstituted MICU1<sup>-/-</sup> cells with MICU1-75 BioID2-HA to avoid aberrant localization associated with overexpression to characterize the entire MICU1 interactome. We also expressed MICU1-BioID2-HA in MCU<sup>/-</sup> cells to define 76 77 mtCU-independent interactions. Through a comparative analysis of mass-spectrometry, we identified proteins whose interaction with MICU1 was unaffected by the loss of MCU. Here, we 78 79 report that MICU1 directly interacts with the Mitochondrial Contact Site and Cristae Organizing System (MICOS) components MIC60, and CHCHD2 in an MCU-independent manner. Our 80 results suggest that MICU1 confers calcium sensing to the MICOS for cell signaling-dependent 81 82 changes in cristae structure and function.

#### 83 Results and Discussion

# 84 Observation of MICU1 localization independent of the mtCU

85 To define the mtCU-independent molecular functions of the MICU1, we first utilized size exclusion chromatography to characterize the native organization of MICU1-containing protein 86 complexes. Total cell lysates prepared from HEK293T MCU<sup>+/+</sup> and MCU<sup>/-</sup> cells were fractioned 87 88 in non-reducing conditions by Fast Protein Liquid Chromatography (FPLC). FPLC fractions ranging from ~10kDa to ~900kDa were collected, concentrated and examined for the MICU1 89 90 protein complexes using reducing SDS-PAGE and Western blotting (Figure 1A, 1B). MICU1 forms distinct high-molecular weight (MW) protein complexes ranging from ~200 kDa to ~700 91 92 kDa (Figure 1A, 1B). Intriguingly, the loss of MCU does not have a substantial effect on the 93 overall distribution of MICU1-containing high-molecular weight (MW) protein complexes (Figure 1A, 1B). Next, we examined mitochondrial sub-localization of MCU and MICU1 by 94 95 immunofluorescent detection of native MCU and FLAG-tagged MICU1 in *Micu1<sup>-/-</sup>* mouse

96 embryonic fibroblasts (MEFs) to enable accurate detection of MICU1 and avoid aberrant
97 localization associated with overexpression (Figure 1C). The deletion of MICU1 in MEFs was
98 confirmed by Western blotting (Figure S1A). Line-scan analysis of the mitochondrial network
99 clearly shows that MICU1 co-localizes with MCU, but also distributes to sub-mitochondrial
100 regions lacking MCU (Figure 1C, 1D). These results suggest that MICU1 is present in
101 mitochondrial protein complexes where the mtCU is absent.

102 Next, we characterized the mtCU-independent interactome of MICU1. We generated a MICU1-

BioID2-HA fusion protein to enable the biotinylation of interactors (<10nm) in MCU<sup>+/+</sup> and MCU<sup>-/-</sup>

104 cells to distinguish the mtCU-dependent vs. -independent MICU1 interactomes (Figure 1E).

105 Expression, biotin ligase activity, sub-mitochondrial localization and reconstitution of mCa<sup>2+</sup>

106 uptake regulation of MICU1-BioID2-HA fusion protein was confirmed in *MICU1<sup>-/-</sup>* cells

107 expressing the MICU1-BioID2-HA fusion protein (Figure 1F, 1G, S1B). These data show that

108 our fusion construct was properly localized and that mtCU-dependent calcium uptake was not

altered in our discovery system. Next, we expressed the MICU1-BioID2 or BioID2 control in

HEK293T *MICU1<sup>-/-</sup>* cells (hereafter  $MCU^{+/+}$ ) and HEK293T  $MCU^{/-}$  cells (hereafter  $MCU^{/-}$ )

111 (Figure 1H). Biotinylation of proteins proximal to MICU1-BioID2 was induced by culturing cells in

presence of biotin (50µM) for 16h (Figure 1H). MICU1-BioID2-HA protein expression and biotin

113 ligase activity were confirmed via Western blotting (Figure 1H). Next, biotinylated proteins were

114 purified from cell lysates using streptavidin-conjugated magnetic beads. Peptides were

generated from the purified biotinylated proteins by tryptic digestion, and LC-MS was performed

116 (Kim et al., 2016). Comparative analysis of MICU1 proximal proteins identified in *MCU*<sup>+/+</sup> vs.

117 *MCU<sup>/-</sup>* cells was performed (Figure 1I). The MICOS components MIC60, CHCHD3, CHCHD2,

APOO, and APOOL emerged as 'hits' from a single multiprotein complex present at the inner

119 mitochondrial membrane (IMM), and proximity to MICU1 was unaltered in *MCU<sup>/-</sup>* cells (Figure

120 1I, Table S1).

#### 121 MICU1 directly interacts with MIC60 and CHCHD2 in the MICOS complex

122 The three core MICOS components along with OPA1, which is also involved in cristae 123 organization, emerged as MICU1 proximal proteins in our proteomic screen (Figure 1I, Table 124 S1). However, the loss of MCU results in loss of the MICU1:OPA1 interaction, while the MICU1 125 interaction with the core MICOS components is preserved (Figure 1I, Table S1). This 126 observation suggests that MICU1 could be an integral component of the MICOS complex and 127 involved in mitochondrial cristae organization, independent of the mtCU and mitochondrial 128 calcium uptake. To assess if MICU1 directly binds MIC60, CHCHD2, and CHCHD3 we co-129 expressed MIC60-FLAG, CHCHD2-FLAG, or CHCHD3-FLAG with MICU1-HA and 48h posttransfection, we performed immunoprecipitation (IP) with FLAG-conjugated magnetic beads. 130 IP'd products were analyzed by SDS-PAGE and Western blotting for HA immunoreactivity, to 131 132 detect MICU1, and FLAG expression, to detect MICOS components (Figure 2A). To control for 133 level of expression we blotted for FLAG-tagged MIC60 (~90kDa), CHCHD2 (~16kDa), and CHCHD3 (~26kDa) and HA-tagged MICU1 (~55kDa) (Figure 2A). All were expressed to similar 134 135 degrees, but only MIC60 and CHCHD2 pulled-down with MICU1 (Figure 2A). We validated this result by reverse IPs and confirmed the interaction of MICU1-FLAG with endogenous MIC60 136 137 and CHCHD2, but not with CHCHD3 (Figure S2A). This suggests that MICU1 may directly interact with MIC60 and CHCHD2, but not with CHCHD3 and that its biotinylation in our 138 139 discovery assay was likely due to its general proximity to MICU1. To substantiate the MICU1 140 interaction with MIC60 and CHCHD2 we performed co-immunofluorescence labeling and 141 imaged to examine sub-mitochondrial localization (Figure 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E). The line-scan profile shows distinct pixels with spectral overlap of MICU1 with MIC60, and MICU1 with CHCHD2 142 143 (Figure 2C, 2E). Together, these data suggest that MICU1 directly interacts with the core 144 MICOS components.

To further characterize the functional relevance of MICU1 interaction with MICOS components, 145 we performed FPLC to fractionate the high-MW MICOS complex in WT, MCU<sup>/-,</sup> and MICU1<sup>-/-</sup> 146 cells. Immunoblots of 19 fractions ranging from ~10kDa to ~900kDa were probed for MIC60, 147 148 CHCHD2 and CHCHD3 expression; all showed robust immunoreactivity in native protein 149 complexes ranging from ~400-700 kD (Figure 2F- 2I, S2B, S2C). Interestingly, genetic deletion 150 of MCU had no effect on the overall size or fraction distribution of the multi-subunit MICOS 151 complex (Figure 2F- 2I, S2B, S2C). However, the loss of MICU1 expression resulted in a 152 rightward shift, decrease in overall MW, of MIC60, CHCHD2, and CHCHD3 containing complexes (Figure 2F- 2I, S2B, S2C) suggesting that MICU1 may play an integral role in 153 154 MICOS complex assembly or stability.

# MICU1 is essential for the maintenance of mitochondrial ultrastructure and cristae organization

157 The MICOS is essential for maintenance of mitochondrial membrane topology and bottleneck formation (Friedman et al., 2015; Harner et al., 2011; Tarasenko et al., 2017; van der Laan et 158 159 al., 2016). The MICOS is localized at the intersection of the IMM and OMM, which results in the 160 formation of membrane contact sites at cristae junctions (Friedman et al., 2015; Harner et al., 2011; Tarasenko et al., 2017; van der Laan et al., 2016). Ca<sup>2+</sup> is reported to modulate the 161 cristae structure (Gottschalk et al., 2018; Greenawalt et al., 1964), however, no Ca<sup>2+</sup>-sensing 162 163 protein has yet been identified as an essential component of the MICOS. To discern if MICU1 164 serves as a conduit for calcium-dependent regulation of the MICOS, we examined if genetic 165 loss of *MICU1* had any effect on mitochondrial ultrastructure and cristae junctions. In agreement 166 with previous reports, transmission electron microscopy (TEM) revealed gross changes in mitochondrial ultrastructure of cells lacking MICU1 (Figure 3A- 3D). Careful quantitative analysis 167 168 of TEM images showed that mitochondrial perimeter, mitochondrial Feret diameter (the distance between the two parallel planes restricting the object perpendicular to that direction), and aspect 169

ratio are significantly reduced in  $MICU1^{-/-}$  cells (Figure 3B- 3D). This suggests that mitochondria are less filamentous in  $MICU1^{-/-}$  cells. Next, we analyzed the inter-cristae junction (distance between cristae) and the cristae junction width (distance between IMM of the same cristae) in WT and  $MICU1^{-/-}$  cells. The inter-cristae junction distance is reported to be directly proportional to cristae density.  $MICU1^{-/-}$  cells displayed a significant increase in both the inter-cristae junction distance and cristae junction width, as compared to WT cells (Figure 3E, 3F).

176 The bottleneck structure of cristae is essential to the maintenance of the mitochondrial 177 respiratory chain complexes (Friedman et al., 2015; van der Laan et al., 2016). Disorganization 178 and cristae remodeling is associated with the release of cytochrome c from bottlenecks, which 179 subsequently induces cell death signaling pathways (Scorrano et al., 2002). To further define 180 the role of MICU1 in cristae regulation, we monitored tBid-induced cytochrome c release in primary *Micu1<sup>-/-</sup>* mouse embryonic fibroblasts (MEFs). The loss of MICU1 resulted in increased 181 182 basal cytochrome c release and this was potentiated after tBID treatment (Figure 3G, 3H). To rule out possible indirect effects of MICU1 regulation of mtCU-Ca<sup>2+</sup> uptake on cristae structure. 183 we examined  ${}_{m}Ca^{2+}$  uptake in *Chchd*2<sup>-/-</sup> MEFs. CHCHD2 was previously identified as a core 184 MICOS component and its genetic deletion results in abnormal cristae organization (Meng et al., 185 2017). WT and Chchd2<sup>-/-</sup> MEFs were permeabilized with digitonin in the presence of 186 thapsigargin to monitor  ${}_{m}Ca^{2+}$  uptake independent of plasma membrane and ER Ca<sup>2+</sup> transport 187 using ratiometric  $Ca^{2+}$  sensor. *Chchd* $2^{-/-}$  cells showed no change in <sub>m</sub>Ca<sup>2+</sup> uptake suggesting 188 that altered cristae structure alone is insufficient to impact mtCU-dependent mCa<sup>2+</sup> uptake 189 190 (Figure S3A, S3B). Further, we found that loss of CHCHD2 had no effect on mitochondrial calcium efflux (rate of Ca<sup>2+</sup> exiting the matrix after Ru360 blockade of MCU; Figure S3A, S3C). 191 We also examined the high-MW/functional mtCU complex in Chchd2<sup>-/-</sup> MEFs by FPLC-based 192 protein fractionation and observed no change in MCU distribution (Figure S3D, S3E). These 193

observations suggest that altered cristae structure alone does not have a significant impact on mtCU assembly or  $_{m}Ca^{2+}$  dynamics.

196 In summary, we characterized the MICU1 interactome and identified a distinct involvement in 197 cristae organization independent of the mtCU and mitochondrial calcium uptake. Our study 198 reveals a direct interaction between MICU1 and core MICOS components and shows that this 199 interaction is essential to form the functional MICOS complex. This mechanism could explain 200 the lethal phenotype observed in MICU1 knockout models (Antony et al., 2016; Liu et al., 2016; 201 Tufi et al., 2019), as our results suggest that loss of MICU1 could induce both necrotic, as well as apoptotic, death signaling events independent of matrix Ca<sup>2+</sup> overload. Our results also 202 203 highlight the need to reappraise the MICU1/mtCU literature as some of the reported phenotypes 204 may be influenced by alterations in the function/structure of the MICOS, rather than dependent 205 on changes in mitochondrial calcium uptake. Further research is needed to define the precise 206 interaction of MICU1 with MICOS components to hopefully identify tools to enable the dissection 207 of mtCU-dependent vs. independent functions in mitochondrial biology. In summary, the current 208 study identified a novel role for MICU1 in regulating the cristae junction, independent of the 209 mtCU, which is essential for mitochondrial physiology.

# 210 Materials and Methods

# 211 Key resources table

Reagent	Designation	Source or reference	Identifiers	Additional
type or				information
resource				
Cell lines	HEK293T WT	(Sancak et al., 2013)		
	HEK293T MCU <sup>-</sup>	(Sancak et al., 2013)		
	HEK293T MICU1	(Sancak et al., 2013)		
	MEF Micu1 <sup>+/+</sup>	This study		
	MEF <i>Micu1</i> <sup>-/-</sup>	This study		
	MEF Chchd2 <sup>+/+</sup>	(Meng et al., 2017)		
	MEF Chchd2 <sup>-/-</sup>	(Meng et al., 2017)		
Plasmids	MCS-BioID2-HA	Addgene (Kim et al., 2016)	Cat# 74224	
	Start-BioID2-HA	This study		
	MICU1-BioID2-HA	This study		
	hMICU1-Myc-DDK	OriGene Technologies	Cat# RC200921	
	MICU1-FLAG	OriGene Technologies	Cat# MR207652	
	pCMV6-AC-HA	OriGene Technologies	Cat# PS100004	
	MICU1-HA	This study		
	MIC60-FLAG	OriGene Technologies	Cat# MR216091	
	CHCHD3-FLAG	OriGene Technologies	Cat# MR202692	
	CHCHD2-FLAG	OriGene Technologies	Cat# MR223513	
Antibodies	Anti-MIC60	Proteintech	Cat# 10179-1-	WB 1:1000
	IMMT Rabbit		AP	IF 1:200
	Polyclonal Antibody			PLA 1:200
	(10179-1-AP)			

Anti-CHCHD3	Proteintech	Cat# 25625-1-	WB 1:1000
Rabbit Polyclonal		AP	
Antibody			
Anti-CHCHD2 Rabbit	Proteintech	Cat# 19424-1-	WB 1:1000
Polyclonal Antibody		AP	IF 1:200
			PLA 1:200
Anti-MCU	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#	WB 1:1000
Rabbit Polyclonal		HPA016480-	IF 1:200
Antibody		100UL	PLA 1:200
Monoclonal ANTI-	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat# F1804-	WB 1:2000
FLAG® M2 antibody		1MG	IF 1:200
			PLA 1:200
Anti-HA High Affinity,	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#	WB 1:3000
from rat IgG1		11867423001	
Anti-MICU1	In-house (Tomar et al.,		WB 1:500
Rabbit Polyclonal	2016)		
Antibody			
Anti-BioID2 Chicken	BioFront Technologies	Cat# BID2-CP-	WB 1:500
Polyclonal Antibody		100	
Cytochrome c	Santa Cruz Biotechnology	Cat# sc-13156	WB 1:5000
Antibody (A-8) Alexa		AF680	
Fluor® 680			
IRDye 800CW	LI-COR Biosciences	Cat# 925-32230	WB 1:10000
Streptavidin			
IRDye® 680RD Goat	LI-COR Biosciences	Cat# 925-68070	WB 1:10000
anti-Mouse IgG (H +			
L)			

	Dynabeads			
	DYNAL MyOne	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# 65-001	
Beads	MAGNETIC BEADS		1ML	
Magnetic	ANTI-FLAG(R) M2	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat# M8823-	
	Plus 647			
	Antibody, Alexa Fluor			
	Adsorbed Secondary			
	(H+L) Highly Cross-			
	Goat anti-Rabbit IgG	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# A32733	IF 1:500
	Alexa Fluor 488			
	Secondary Antibody,			
	Cross-Adsorbed			
	IgG (H+L) Highly			
	Donkey anti-Mouse	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# A-21202	IF 1:500
	L)			
	anti-Mouse IgG (H +			
	IRDye® 800CW Goat	LI-COR Biosciences	Cat# 926-32210	WB 1:10000
	Rabbit 800CW			
	IR Dye Goat anti	LI-COR Biosciences	Cat# 926-32211	WB 1:10000
	Fluor® 680)			
	lgY H&L (Alexa			
	Goat Anti-Chicken	Abcam	Cat# ab175779	WB 1:10000
	L)			
	anti-Rabbit IgG (H +			
	IRDye® 680RD Goat	LI-COR Biosciences	Cat# 926-68071	WB 1:10000
	anti-Rat IgG (H + L)			
	IRDye® 680RD Goat	LI-COR Biosciences	Cat# 925-68076	WB 1:10000

	Streptavidin C1			
Commercial	Duolink® In Situ Red	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#	PLA
assay or kit	Starter Kit		DUO92101-1KT	
	Mouse/Rabbit			
	Recombinant Human	R&D Systems	Cat# 882-B8-	Cytochrome c
	BID (Caspase-8-		050	release assay
	cleaved) Protein, CF			
Staining	Fura-FF	AAT Bioquest	Cat# 21028	Ca <sup>2+</sup> detection
reagents				
	Hoechst 33342	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# 62249	Nucleus
				Staining
Software,	GraphPad	https://www.graphpad.com/		
algorithm	Prism			
	Image J Fiji	https://imagej.net/Fiji		
	Zeiss Zen	https://www.zeiss.com		

# 212 Plasmids Construction

213	To generate Start-BioID2-HA plasmid, BioID2 was PCR-amplified from the MCS-BioID2-HA
214	plasmid using primers designed to introduce an ATG start codon immediately downstream of
215	the BamHI restriction site of the MCS. The PCR product was cloned via BamHI and HindIII into
216	the MCS-BioID2-HA plasmid (Addgene #74224). To generate the MICU1-BioID2-HA, MICU1
217	was PCR amplified from the hMICU1-Myc-DDK plasmid using primers to introduce a 5' Agel
218	and a 3' BamHI restriction site. The PCR product was cloned via Agel and BamHI into the MCS-
219	BioID2-HA plasmid (Addgene #74224). MICU1-HA plasmid was generated by cleaving the
220	MICU1 fragment from the MICU1-FLAG plasmid using the SgfI-MluI restriction sites and
221	inserted at the same sites in pCMV6-AC-HA vector. All plasmids were confirmed using the
222	restriction digestion and DNA sequencing.

# 223 Cell culture

224	HEK293T WT, HEK293T MCU <sup>/-</sup> and HEK293T MICU1 <sup>-/-</sup> cells were grown in Dulbecco's
225	Modification of Eagle's Medium with 4.5 g/L glucose, L-glut, and Na Pyr medium (Corning
226	Cellgro, Cat#10-013-CV) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (Peak Serum, Cat#PS-
227	FB3), 1% penicillin/streptomycin (Sigma-Aldrich, Cat# P0781-100ML) at 37°C in the presence of
228	5% CO <sub>2</sub> . Mouse embryonic fibroblasts isolated from the <i>Micu1</i> <sup>fl/fl</sup> mouse were immortalized by
229	infecting the cells with SV40 large T antigen-expressing adenovirus. The immortalized <i>Micu1</i> <sup>fl/fl</sup>
230	MEFs serve as <i>Micu1</i> <sup>+/+</sup> control cells. <i>Micu1</i> <sup>-/-</sup> MEFs were generated by transducing the
231	Micu1 <sup>+/+</sup> MEFs with adenovirus encoding Cre-recombinase (Ad-Cre). MEFs were grown in
232	Dulbecco's Modification of Eagle's Medium with 4.5 g/L glucose, L-glut, and Na Pyr medium
233	(Corning Cellgro, Cat#10-013-CV) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (Peak Serum,
234	Cat#PS-FB3), 1% Gibco® MEM Non-Essential Amino Acids (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Cat# 11-
235	140-050), 1% penicillin/streptomycin (Sigma-Aldrich, Cat# P0781-100ML), at 37°C in the
236	presence of 5% CO <sub>2</sub> . The Chchd2 <sup>+/+</sup> and Chchd2 <sup>-/-</sup> MEFs were cultured as described earlier
237	(Meng et al., 2017). To exogenously express MICU1, MIC60, CHCHD3, and CHCHD2,
238	HEK293T cells were transfected with the Fugene HD transfection reagent (Promega,
239	Cat#E2311) as per manufacturer instruction. To generate the MEFs stably expressing MICU1-
240	FLAG, immortalized WT MEFs were transfected with MICU1-FLAG plasmid (OriGene
241	Technologies, Cat#MR207652) using the Fugene HD transfection reagent (Promega,
242	Cat#E2311). 24h post-transfection, culture media was replaced with media supplemented with
243	the 500 $\mu$ g/mL G418 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Cat#10131035). Fresh culture media
244	supplemented with G418 was replaced at two-day interval, until all the dying cells were cleared.
245	After incubation for two weeks, the cells were maintained in DMEM supplemented with 200
246	$\mu$ g/mL G418.The protein expression was validated by western blotting and
247	immunofluorescence.

# 248 Immunoblotting

- 249 Cells were harvested, washed with ice-cold PBS and lysed in 1X RIPA lysis buffer (EMD
- 250 Millipore, Cat#20-188) supplemented with SIGMAFAST™ Protease Inhibitor Cocktail (Sigma-
- Aldrich, Cat#S8830). Protein concentrations were determined by Pierce 660nm Protein Assay
- 252 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Cat#22660) and equal ug of protein were separated by
- 253 electrophoresis on NuPAGE 4-12% Bis-Tris protein gel (Thermo Fisher Scientific,
- 254 Cat#WG1402BOX), in denaturing conditions. Protein was electroblotted on PVDF membrane
- 255 (EMD Millipore, Cat#IPFL00010). Following the transfer, the membrane was incubated in
- Blocking Buffer (Rockland, Cat#MB-070) for 1h at room temperature, followed by overnight
- 257 incubation with specific primary antibody at 4°C. After incubation the membrane was washed
- with TBS-T (TBS containing 0.1% Tween 20) 3 times for 10 min each and then incubated with
- specific secondary antibody for 1h at room temperature. The membrane was similarly washed 3
- times with TBS-T and then imaged on an LI-COR Odyssey system.

# 261 Sub-mitochondrial protein localization assay

262 Mitochondria were isolated as described earlier (Tomar et al., 2015). Briefly, cells were grown in 150 mm<sup>2</sup> culture dishes, washed with PBS, and resuspended in isotonic mitochondria isolation 263 264 buffer (10 mM HEPES, pH 7.5, containing 200 mM mannitol, 70 mM sucrose, and 1 mM EGTA). 265 The cell suspension was homogenized by Dounce homogenizer, centrifuged at 500 g for 10 min at 4°C. Supernatant was collected and centrifuged at 12,000 g for 15 min at 4°C to obtain crude 266 267 mitochondrial pellet. The pellet was resuspended in mitochondria isolation buffer and washed 2 268 times using the centrifuge at 12,000 g for 15 min at 4°C. The mitochondrial pellet was 269 resuspended in intracellular buffer (120 mM KCl, 10 mM NaCl, 1 mM KH2PO4, 20 mM HEPES-270 Tris, pH 7.2) and permeabilized with varying digitonin concentrations and digested with 271 proteinase K (10 µg/mL) for 10min at room temperature. Proteinase K digestion was stopped by 272 adding SIGMAFAST™ Protease Inhibitor Cocktail (Sigma-Aldrich, Cat#S8830) and 2X SDS-

273 loading dye and heating the samples at 95°C for 10min. The immunoblotting was performed

274 using specified antibodies.

#### 275 Biotinylation and mass spectrometry analysis

276 To induce BioID2-mediated protein biotinylation, cells were cultured with media supplemented

- with 50 μM biotin for 16h. Cells were collected, washed with PBS 2 times, and lysed in BioID2
- 278 Iysis buffer (50 mM Tris, pH 7.4, 500 mM NaCl, 2% Triton X-100, 0.4% SDS, 1 mM
- dithiothreitol) supplemented with SIGMAFAST<sup>™</sup> Protease Inhibitor Cocktail (Sigma-Aldrich,
- 280 Cat#S8830). The cell suspension was sonicated for 2 times each for 1 min at an output level of
- 40 (Vibra-Cell, Sonics). An equal volume of 50 mM Tris, pH 7.4, was added and the suspension
- was cleared using centrifugation at 16,500 g for 20 min. The supernatant was used for
- immunoblotting or Streptavidin based pull-down using MyOne Dynabeads Streptavidin C1.
- 284 Mass spectroscopy for identification of the biotinylated proteinss was performed as described

285 earlier (Kim et al., 2016).

#### 286 **FPLC and protein fractionation**

287 Size-exclusion gel filtration was used to separate the high-molecular-weight protein complexes

using the fast protein liquid chromatography (ÄKTA Pure FPLC; GE Healthcare) (Tomar et al.,

- 289 2016). The PBS-equilibrated Superdex 200 10/300 column (GE Healthcare, Cat#17517501)
- was calibrated with a gel filtration calibration standard (Bio-Rad, Cat#1511901). The cleared cell
- 291 lysates were directly loaded onto FPLC and fractioned at a flow rate of 0.5 mL/min. Protein
- fractions were collected in 0.5 mL PBS, concentrated to 50µL volume using an AMICON Ultra-
- 293 0.5 Centrifugal Filter Devices (with a 3,000 kD cutoff) (EMD Millipore, Cat#UFC500396).
- 294 Concentrated fractions were then immunoblotted using specific antibodies.

#### 295 **Co-immunoprecipitation**

296 To study protein-protein interactions, immunoprecipitation experiments were performed as 297 described earlier (Tomar et al., 2016). Briefly, HEK293T cells were co-transfected with the 298 indicated plasmids. After 36h of transfection, cells were harvested, washed with ice-cold PBS 299 and lysed in 1X RIPA lysis buffer (EMD Millipore, Cat#20-188) supplemented with 300 SIGMAFAST<sup>™</sup> Protease Inhibitor Cocktail (Sigma-Aldrich, Cat#S8830). Protein concentrations 301 were determined by Pierce 660nm Protein Assay (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Cat#22660) and 302 equal proteins amounts were used for co-immunoprecipitation. Cleared cell lysate was 303 incubated with Anti-FLAG M2 Magnetic Beads (Sigma-Aldrich) on a roller shaker overnight at 304 4°C. Beads were washed 3 times with RIPA buffer and 2 times with TBS-T, resuspended in 2X SDS-PAGE sample buffers, and then immunoblotting was performed using specific antibodies. 305

#### 306 **Co-immunofluorescence**

307 The mitochondrial localization of mtCU, MICOS, and MICU1 was also analyzed by

immunofluorescence using standard protocol (Tomar et al., 2015). Briefly, the MEFs stably

309 expressing MICU1-FLAG were grown on collagen-coated 35-mm dishes. Cells were washed

with PBS, fixed for 20min with 4% paraformaldehyde, then permeabilized for 15min by 0.15%

311 Triton X-100. Permeabilized cells were blocked using 10% BSA for 45min at room temperature

- and incubated with primary antibodies overnight at 4°C. After incubation, cells were washed 3
- times with blocking reagent and incubated with Alexa Fluor-tagged secondary antibodies for 1h
- at room temperature. Cells were washed 3 times with PBS, and confocal images were obtained
- using an LSM 510 META Laser Scanning Microscope (Carl Zeiss, Inc.) at 488- and 647-nm
- excitations using a 63x oil objective. Images were analyzed and quantitated using ZEN 2010
- 317 software (Carl Zeiss, Inc.), and Image J Fiji.
- 318 **Proximity ligation assay**

Proximity ligation assay (PLA) was used to detect *in situ* MICU1: MICOS interactions. MICU1FLAG expressing MEFs were seeded on collagen-coated 35-mm dishes. Cells were washed
with PBS, fixed for 20min with 4% paraformaldehyde, then permeabilized with 0.15% Triton X100. PLA was performed as per manufacturer's instructions (Sigma-Aldrich, Duolink® In Situ
Red Mouse/Rabbit Assay). Images were acquired using an LSM 510 META Laser Scanning
Microscope (Carl Zeiss, Inc.) using a 63x oil objective.

#### 325 Transmission electron microscopy

326 Transmission electron microscopy (TEM) was utilized to evaluate mitochondrial ultrastructure

and cristae organization. HEK293T cells of the indicated genotypes were grown to 80%

328 confluency on 25 mm diameter Thermanox® Cover Slips (Thermo Fisher Scientific,

329 Cat#174985PK) in 6-well plates. Culture media was removed, and cells were fixed with freshly

prepared TEM fixation buffer (2% glutaraldehyde, 2% paraformaldehyde in 0.1M sodium

331 cacodylate buffer) for 30 min at room temperature. Fixative was replaced with 0.1M sodium

332 cacodylate buffer, and then samples were processed for TEM imaging. Images were obtained

using Zeiss LIBRA120 TEM equipped with Gatan UltraScan, 1000 2k x 2k CCD EFTEM, energy

334 filtering. Images were analyzed and quantitated Image J Fiji.

# 335 Cytochrome c release assay

The cytochrome c release assay was performed as described earlier (Tomar et al., 2015) with
slight modifications. Briefly, MEFs of indicated genotypes were grown in 150mm<sup>2</sup> culture dishes.
Cells were washed with ice-cold PBS, pH 7.4. An equal number of cells were suspended in
intracellular buffer (120 mM KCl, 10 mM NaCl, 1 mM KH2PO4, 20 mM HEPES-Tris, pH 7.2)
supplemented with SIGMAFAST<sup>™</sup> Protease Inhibitor Cocktail (Sigma-Aldrich, Cat#S8830), and
permeabilized with digitonin (80 µg/mL) for 5 min at room temperature. The cytochrome c
release was induced by adding tBid (20nM) and incubating the cell suspension at 30°C for

343 30 min. Cell homogenates were spun at 16,500 g, 4°C for 10 min, and the supernatant

344 (cytosolic fraction) was removed. Pellets were lysed 1XRIPA buffer and centrifuged at 16,500 g,

4°C for 10 min to obtain the total cell lysate. Both total cell lysate and cytosolic fractions were

immunoblotted using the cytochrome c antibody.

# 347 mCa<sup>2+</sup> flux analysis

- <sup>348</sup> mCa<sup>2+</sup> flux was analyzed as described earlier (Luongo et al., 2015; Tomar et al., 2016). Briefly,
- cells were washed in Ca<sup>2+</sup>-free DPBS (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Cat#14190235). An equal
- number of cells (7x10<sup>6</sup> cells) were resuspended and permeabilized with 40  $\mu$ g/ml digitonin in 1.5
- 351 ml of intracellular medium (120 mM KCl, 10 mM NaCl, 1 mM KH2PO4, 20 mM HEPES-Tris, pH
- 352 7.2), containing 2 μM thapsigargin to block the SERCA pump, and supplemented with 5 mM
- succinate. Fura-FF (1µM) was loaded to the cell suspension, and fluorescence was monitored in
- a multiwavelength excitation dual-wavelength emission fluorimeter (Delta RAM, PTI).
- Extramitochondrial Ca<sup>2+</sup> is shown as the excitation ratio (340 nm/380 nm) of Fura-FF
- fluorescence. A Ca<sup>2+</sup> bolus, and then mitochondrial uncoupler, FCCP (2  $\mu$ M), were added at the
- indicated time points (8, 9). All the experiments were performed at 37°C with constant stirring.

#### 358 Statistical analysis

- 359 Results are presented as mean +/- standard error of the mean. Statistical analysis was
- 360 performed using GraphPad PRISM 7.05 (Graph Pad Software). All experiments were repeated
- independently at least three times. Column analyses were performed using an unpaired, 2-tailed
- t-test (for 2 groups) with Welch's correction. For grouped analyses, 2-way ANOVA with Tukey
- post-hoc analysis was performed. *P* values less than 0.05 (95% confidence interval) were

364 considered significant.

#### 365 Data availability.

366 All relevant data are available from the authors.

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# 373 Author Contributions

- Conceptualization, D.T. and J.W.E.; Methodology, D.T., M.T., J.F.G., D.W.K., O.S., P.J., A.C.C.,
- and J.W.E.; Investigation, D.T., M.T., O.S., P.J., and J.W.E; Resources, D.T., J.F.G., D.W.K.,
- and J.W.E.; Writing Original Draft, D.T. and J.W.E; Writing Review & Editing, D.T., M.T.,
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# 378 Competing Interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

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# 514 Figure Legends

515 Figure 1. Identification of mtCU independent MICU1 interactors. (A) Cleared cell lysates isolated from WT and MCU<sup>/-</sup> HEK293T cells were fractionated by FPLC-based size exclusion 516 517 chromatography. The protein fractions ranging from ~10kDa to ~900kDa were collected, 518 concentrated, and subjected to immunoblotting using the MICU1 antibody. (B) Densitometry 519 was performed to generate chromatographs of the MICU1 distribution in different fractions in 520 Figure 1A. (C-D) MEFs stably expressing MICU1-FLAG were cultured on collagen-coated cover glass, were fixed with 4%PFA, and co-immunofluorescence was performed using FLAG and 521 522 MCU antibodies. Images were acquired using an LSM 510 META Laser Scanning Microscope 523 (Carl Zeiss, Inc.). Scale bar C=  $10\mu m$ , C inset=  $5\mu m$ , D=  $5\mu m$ . (E) Experimental outline for the utilization of MICU1-BioID2-HA fusion protein to identify the mtCU-independent MICU1 524 interactors via biotin-based proximity labeling. (F) HEK293T *MICU1<sup>-/-</sup>* cells were transfected with 525 526 plasmids encoding BioID2-HA, and MICU1-BioID2-HA. Cells were cultured in the presence of 527 biotin (50µM) for 16h to induce the biotinylation. Cells were collected, washed twice with PBS, 528 lysed in BioID2 lysis buffer, western blotting with the indicated antibodies. (G) Mitochondria were isolated from HEK293T *MICU1<sup>-/-</sup>* cells reconstituted with MICU1-BioID2-HA. Mitochondrial 529 530 fractions were subjected to increasing digitonin concentrations to permeabilize the outer 531 mitochondrial membrane (OMM) and inner mitochondrial membrane (IMM). Proteinase K 532 treatment was performed to cleave the exposed proteins, and mitochondrial fractions were probed with indicated antibodies. (H) HEK293T MICU1<sup>-/-</sup> and HEK293T MCU<sup>/-</sup> cells were 533 534 transfected with plasmids encoding BioID2-HA or MICU1-BioID2-HA. Cells were cultured in the 535 presence or absence of biotin (50µM) for 16h. Cells were collected, washed with PBS 2 times, and lysed in BioID2 lysis buffer. An aliquot of the lysates were subjected to western blotting 536 537 using the anti-BioID2 antibody and Streptavidin to validate effective biotinylation of cellular 538 proteins. (I) Protein samples were subjected to Streptavidin based pull-down and digested with

trypsin. LC-MS/MS analysis of 10% of total digests in duplicate runs was performed by on-line
analysis of peptides by a high-resolution, high-accuracy LC-MS/MS system (Thermo Fisher
Scientific). Estimated protein abundance after global sample normalization was used to
compare different groups.

## 543 Figure 2. MICU1 directly interacts with MICOS components and is essential for the 544 formation of high-molecular-weight MICOS. (A) MICU1-HA and FLAG-tagged MICOS components co-expressed in the HEK293T *MICU1<sup>-/-</sup>* cells. Cell lysates of equal protein content 545 were subjected to FLAG-immunoprecipitation (IP), and IP products were probed with FLAG and 546 547 HA antibodies to detect the interaction between MICU1 and MICOS components. (B-E) MICU1-548 FLAG expressing MEFs were cultured on the collagen-coated cover glass and fixed with PFA, 549 then co-immunofluorescence was performed using FLAG and MIC60 (B, C), or CHCHD2 (D, E) 550 antibodies. Images were acquired using an LSM 510 META Laser Scanning Microscope (Carl 551 Zeiss, Inc.). Merged images show the co-localization between the MICU1 and MIC60 or 552 CHCHD2. Line scan shows the presence of MICU1 with both the MICOS components. Scale bar B, D= 10µm; C, E inset= 5µm. (F, H) FPLC was performed using cleared cell lysates from 553 WT, MCU<sup>/-</sup>, and MICU1<sup>-/-</sup> HEK293T cells, and fractions were collected and subjected to western 554 blotting using the MIC60 (F), and CHCHD2 (H) antibodies. The loss of MICU1 alters the size 555 556 distribution of the multimeric MICOS complex. (G, I) Densitometry was performed to generate 557 chromatographs of the MICOS components distribution in different molecular weight fractions in Figure 2F and 2H. 558

# 559 **Figure 3.** *MICU1<sup>-/-</sup>* cells show altered cristae structure and enhanced cytochrome c

release. (A) WT and  $MICU1^{-/-}$  HEK293T cells were grown on Thermanox® Cover Slips and processed for the TEM imaging. Images were acquired by a Zeiss LIBRA120 TEM equipped with Gatan UltraScan, 1000 2k x 2k CCD EFTEM, energy filtering.  $MICU1^{-/-}$  cells show distinct alterations in cristae organization and mitochondrial ultrastructure. Scale bar = 500nm. (B-F)

- 564 TEM images were analyzed and quantitated using the Image J Fiji. Mitochondrial perimeter (B),
- 565 feret diameter (C), aspect ratio (D), inter-cristae junction distance (E), and cristae junction width
- 566 (F) were plotted. Statistical significance was determined using t-test. \* indicates p<0.05. n=200-
- 567 300 mitochondria. **(G)**  $Micu1^{+/+}$  and  $Micu1^{-/-}$  MEFs were grown in 150mm<sup>2</sup> culture dishes, and
- 568 cytochrome c release assay was performed. *Micu1<sup>-/-</sup>* MEFs show enhanced basal and tBid-
- 569 induced cytochrome c release. (H) Densitometry was performed to quantify the cytochrome c
- 570 release in different groups in Figure 3G. Statistical significance was determined using t-test. \*
- 571 indicates p<0.05. n=3.

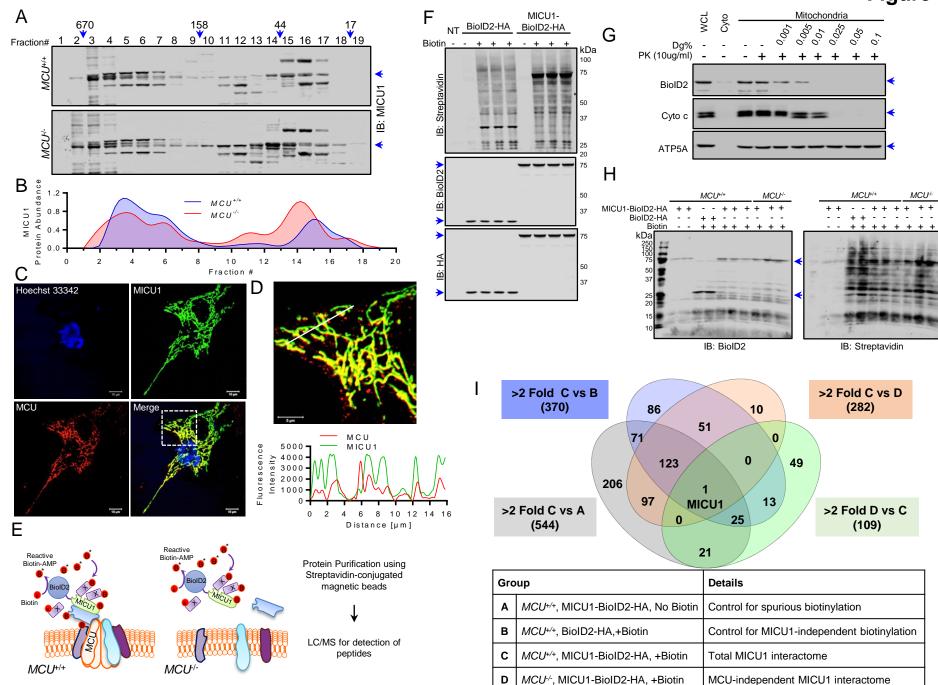
# 572 Supplementary Figure Legends

- 573 **Figure S1: (A)** Western blot confirming the loss of MICU1 in *Micu1<sup>-/-</sup>*MEFs. **(B)** Representative
- trace showing  ${}_{m}Ca^{2+}$  uptake in WT and *MICU1<sup>-/-</sup>* HEK293T cells expressing BioID2-HA, or
- 575 MICU1-BioID2-HA fusion protein.
- 576 **Figure S2: (A)** MICU1-FLAG was reconstituted in *MICU1<sup>-/-</sup>* HEK293T cells, and FLAG-IP was
- 577 performed to detect the interaction with endogenous MICOS components. (B) FPLC was
- 578 performed using cleared cell lysates from WT, *MCU*<sup>/-</sup>, and *MICU1*<sup>-/-</sup> HEK293T cells, and
- immunoblotted for CHCHD3. (C) Densitometry was performed to generate chromatographs of
- the CHCHD3 distribution in different fractions from the cells shown in Figure S2B.
- 581 **Figure S3. (A)** Representative trace for <sub>m</sub>Ca<sup>2+</sup> influx/efflux in *Chchd*2<sup>+/+</sup> and *Chchd*2<sup>-/-</sup> MEFs. (**B**-
- 582 **C)** <sub>m</sub>Ca<sup>2+</sup> uptake and efflux rate. **(D-E)** FPLC analysis for native MCU protein complexes
- distribution in *Chchd2*<sup>+/+</sup> and *Chchd2*<sup>-/-</sup> MEFs. The loss of *Chchd2* does not have any effect on
- the size distribution of the mtCU complex.

585 **Table S1:** MICU1 proximal MICOS components protein abundance in *MCU*<sup>+/+</sup> and *MCU*<sup>/-</sup> cells

# Figure 1

Total Biotinylation



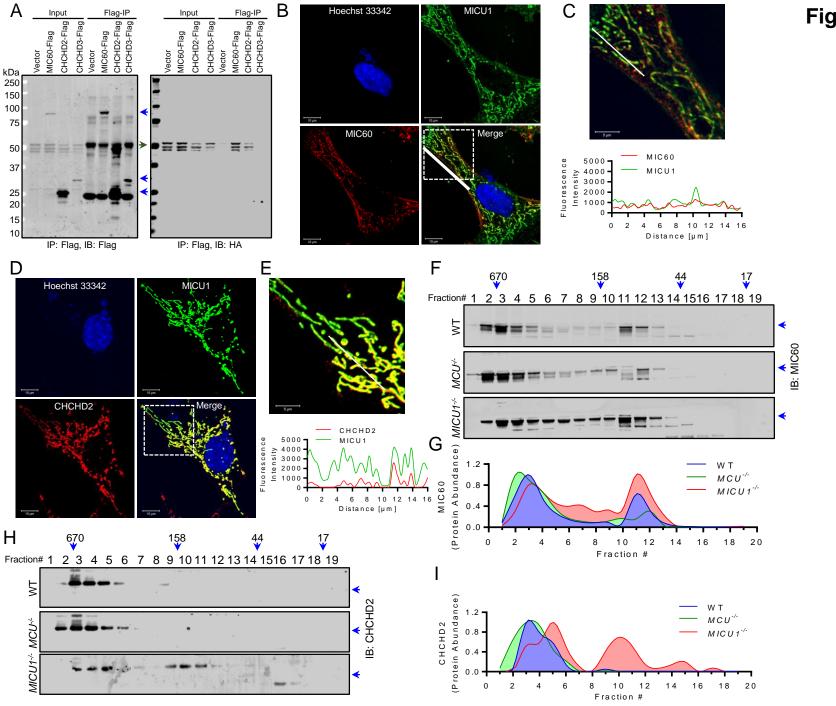


Figure 2

# Figure 3

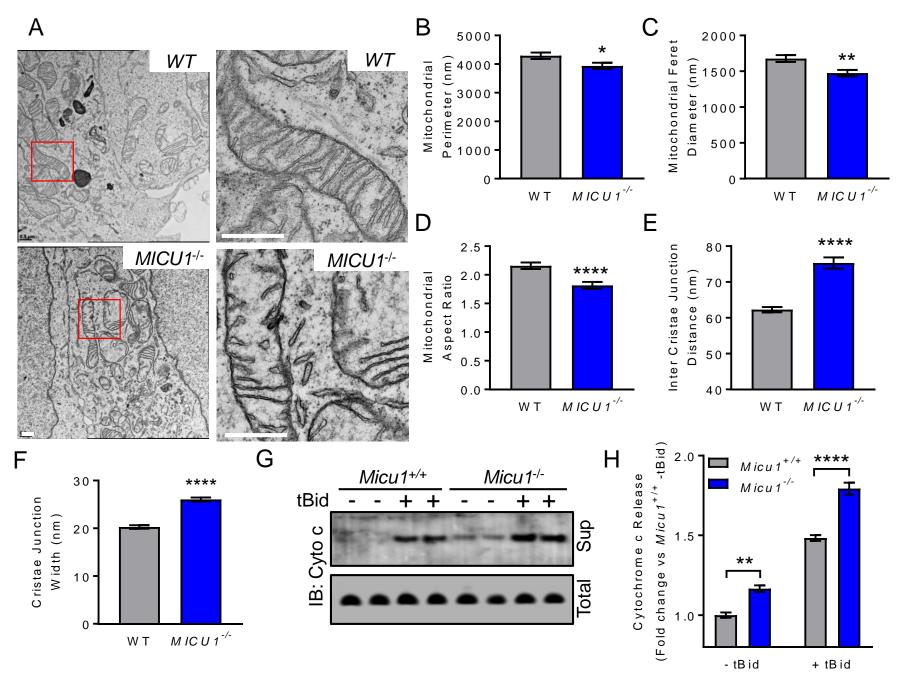
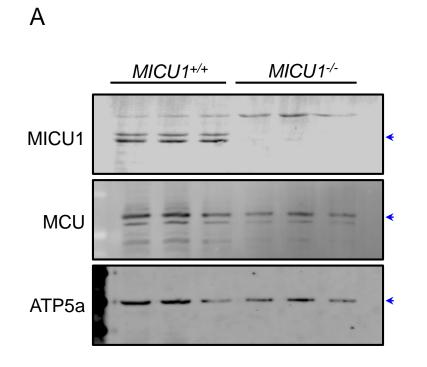


Figure S1



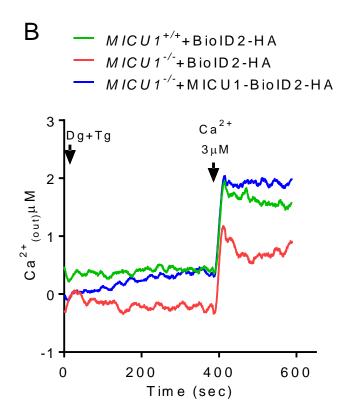


Figure S2

