

Functional modeling of NMIHBA-causing *PRUNE1* variants reveals a requirement for its exopolyphosphatase activity.

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Abstract:

Neurodevelopmental disorder with microcephaly, hypotonia, and variable brain anomalies (NMIHBA) is an autosomal recessive neurodevelopmental and neurodegenerative disorder characterized by global developmental delay and severe intellectual disability. Microcephaly, progressive cortical atrophy, cerebellar hypoplasia and delayed myelination are neurological hallmarks in affected individuals. NMIHBA is caused by biallelic variants in *PRUNE1* encoding prune exopolyphosphatase 1. We provide in-depth clinical description of two affected siblings harboring compound heterozygous variant alleles, c.383G>A (p.Arg128Gln), c.520G>T (p.Gly174*) in *PRUNE1*. To gain insights into disease biology, we biochemically characterized missense variants within the conserved N-terminal aspartic acid-histidine-histidine (DHH) motif and provide evidence that they result in the destabilization of protein structure and/or loss of exopolyphosphatase activity. Genetic ablation of *Prune1* results in midgestational lethality in mice, associated with perturbations to embryonic growth and vascular development. Our findings suggest that NMIHBA results from hypomorphic variant alleles in humans and underscore the potential key role of *PRUNE1* exopolyphosphatase activity in neurodevelopment.

Introduction:

Prune exopolyphosphatase 1 (PRUNE1) belongs to the DHH (Asp-His-His) superfamily of proteins, which includes phosphoesterases, exopolyphosphatases and pyrophosphatases (1-3). Members of this superfamily are characterized by the DHH motif within the N-terminal domain that contains highly conserved charged residues required for binding metal cofactors and enzymatic function (4). PRUNE1 is ubiquitously expressed across multiple tissues with widespread central nervous system expression during fetal development in humans (5). Previous studies have implicated PRUNE1 in a complex network of interactions regulating cell cycle and motility, with elevated *PRUNE1* expression associated with cancer metastasis (6-8).

Karaca et al., reported five individuals from four unrelated families segregating biallelic predicted pathogenic variants in *PRUNE1* with a novel neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by microcephaly, hypotonia, and variable brain anomalies (NMIHBA, MIM #617481)(9). The authors reported two different homozygous missense variants (p.D30N and p.D106N) in three consanguineous families and compound heterozygous (p.R128Q; p.G174X) variants in a non-consanguineous European ancestry family. Several groups have since identified other disease associated recessive alleles (p.P54T; p.R297W; c.521-2A>G: IVS4-2A>G) clustering throughout the conserved N-terminal domain. The observed incidence of NMIHBA in geographically distant families establishes this disorder as a pan-ethnic neurodevelopmental disorder (8, 10, 11). In addition to its nondescript developmental delay (DD)/intellectual disability (ID) nervous system hallmarks, NMIHBA patients may manifest more variable clinical features including craniofacial anomalies (sloped forehead, large prominent ears, prominent eyes and narrow palate), scoliosis, joint contractures, muscle atrophy, hyperreflexia, profound global developmental delay, fronto-temporal atrophy, cortical and cerebellar atrophy, seizures, and spastic quadriplegia.

Although the neurodevelopmental and neurobiological etiology of NMIHBA remains unclear, the severe clinical and developmental aspects of this disorder suggest an important role for PRUNE1 in fundamental cellular functions. Indeed, prior studies have implicated PRUNE1 in cell proliferation and migration, processes mediated in part

through interactions with nucleoside diphosphate kinase 1 (NME1), glycogen synthase kinase-3 β (GSK-3 β) and β -tubulin respectively (4, 8, 12). Although *in silico* predictions of likely damaging effects of missense alleles classify them as likely pathogenic, the direction of effect (i.e. loss-of-function versus gain-of-function) and functional consequences of these variants have not been established. The observation of biallelic variants for a recessive disease trait, and the identification of putative loss of function splicing and nonsense variants support the notion of a reduced or loss of PRUNE1 function in NMIHBA pathophysiology. In agreement, patients harboring compound heterozygous mutations p.R128Q and p.G174X (described herein) manifest typical NMIHBA similar to those patients with homozygous missense variants spanning the conserved DHH (p.D30N, p.P54T, p.D106N, p.R128Q) and DHHA2 domains (p.R297W) (8-10). Heterozygous carriers of reported pathogenic missense and truncating variants in *PRUNE1* do not appear to have any phenotypic manifestations in the spectrum of NMIHBA, indicating that *PRUNE1* haploinsufficiency in heterozygous carrier parents is permissive for neurotypical development. To gain further neurodevelopmental and neurobiological insights into NMIHBA, we investigated the functional effects of *PRUNE1* variant alleles and generated a knock-out mouse model of *Prune1*.

We undertook comprehensive clinical phenotyping of two siblings from one of the initially reported families (SZ51) with NMIHBA and summarize the phenotypic spectrum across all NMIHBA patients reported to date. Additionally, we provide experimental evidence that disease associated missense variant alleles that map within the conserved N-terminal domain can result in destabilization of the protein structure and consequent loss of exopolyphosphatase activity. Furthermore, we demonstrate that homozygous null alleles in *Prune1*^{-/-} mice results in multiple vascular anomalies including abnormal vascular network within the yolk sac and disrupted cephalic vascular plexus culminating in midgestational lethality (E9.5). Although, Embryonic lethality of *Prune1* homozygous null mice precluded molecular exploration of the neurodevelopmental phenotypes, our study provides a potential biochemical basis to NMIHBA pathophysiology and implicitly an avenue for therapeutic exploration.

Material and Methods:

Cell culture:

HEK293 and human fibroblast culture medium consisted of DMEM (Gibco; 11995-065) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (Gibco 16000-036), 1% non-essential amino acids (Gibco; 11140-050), and 1% Penicillin-Streptomycin (Gibco 15140-122). Cells were dissociated using 0.05% Trypsin-EDTA (Gibco 25300-054). HEK293 cells were seeded in 96 well plates at a density of 20,000 cells/well and in other formats (12 and 24-well) at a density of 50,000 cells/cm². Fibroblasts were seeded at a density of 3000 cells/cm², in all cases. Genotypes of patient-derived fibroblasts and control dermal fibroblasts (ATCC; PCS-201-010) were Sanger di-deoxy sequence verified using primers listed in supplementary Table 1.

Immunoblotting and protein stability analyses:

N-terminal HA-tagged PRUNE1 overexpression constructs were transfected into PRUNE1 non-expressing HEK293 cells using X-tremeGENE HP DNA (Roche; 06366236001) transfection reagent. As a transfection control CMV-driven eGFP expression construct was co-transfected at a 1:19 ratio. Two days later, whole cell lysate was collected, and total protein concentration was quantified using bicinchoninic acid assay. PRUNE1 levels in overexpressing HEK293 and in human fibroblasts were analyzed by immunoblotting using anti-PRUNE1 (Origene; TA344725) and/or anti-HA (Abcam; 18181) antibodies at 1:1000 dilution, using GAPDH (CST; 3683S) as a loading control.

Stability of the various PRUNE1 muteins was evaluated by overexpressing N-terminal HA-tagged PRUNE1 constructs in HEK293 cells. After 48 hours, medium containing either cycloheximide (100ug/mL; Sigma 1810) and/or MG132 (15uM; Sigma M8699) was added. Whole cell lysates were collected 0, 6 and 24 hours of cycloheximide treatment. Whole cell lysate from cells treated with both cycloheximide and MG132 were collected after 24 hours of treatment. Total protein concentration was quantified and immunoblotted using Li-COR Odyssey CLx imaging system. In complementary immunoblotting experiments, endogenous PRUNE1 levels in Sanger verified (Fig S2B) patient-derived fibroblasts BAB3500 (*PRUNE1*^{D106N/D106N}) and UDP760

(*PRUNE1*^{R128Q/G174X}) was compared to control neonatal dermal fibroblasts (ATCC, PCS-201-010).

GloSensor cAMP and cGMP Assays:

HEK293 cells were plated in poly-D-lysine coated 96 well plates (Corning 354651). The following day cells were co-transfected with 12.5ng pGloSensor-22F or pGloSensor-42F and 10ng of *PRUNE1* overexpression constructs (D30N, D106N, R128Q, 4DD) or control PS100013, PDE4A or PDE5A vectors per well. Total DNA was maintained at 100ng per well using pUC19. Two days later, cells were changed into GloSensor equilibration medium (10% fetal bovine serum and 2% GloSensor assay reagent (Promega E1290) in CO₂-independent medium (Gibco 18045-088). Upon equilibration at room temperature for 2 hours, basal luminescence was acquired using a PerkinElmer 2104 multimode plate reader. Forskolin (Sigma F3917) or sodium nitroprusside dihydrate (Millipore 567538) was added to the medium to a final concentration of 10μM or 50μM. cAMP or cGMP phosphodiesterase activity was evaluated by measuring luminescence recorded at 1-minute intervals up to 45 minutes or 60 minutes respectively.

Exopolyphosphatase Assay:

Exopolyphosphatase activity of *PRUNE1* against short chain polyphosphate (PolyP) substrates, sodium tripolyphosphate (P₃, Sigma 72061) and sodium tetraphosphate (P₄, BOC Sciences 7727-67-5) was determined by a fixed time assay using BIOMOL GREEN phosphate detection kit (BML-AK111, Enzo Lifesciences). Reaction was performed 15-120s in 50μL of 100mM Tris/HCl, 50μM EGTA, 2mM MgCl₂, pH 7.2 at substrate concentrations ranging from 0.5μM to 100μM and 1μM to 50μM for P₃ and P₄ respectively. Reactions were terminated by addition of 100uL of BIOMOL GREEN reagent, absorbance at 620nm was measured following a 30min incubation at 25°C. Kinetic parameters were assessed by plotting Lineweaver-Burk plots using GraphPad PRISM 7 software.

Exopolyphosphatase activity of wild-type *PRUNE1* on medium and long chain PolyP substrates (consisting of 45, 65 and 700 orthophosphate monomers, Sigma S4379, Sigma S6253, Kerfast EUI002) was assessed by comparing to *S. cerevesia* PPX1

(Biorbyt; ORB419100). 50nM of PRUNE1 or 100nM PPX1 were incubated with polyphosphates at a final concentration of 2mM (in terms of phosphate residues) in 100mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.2, 50 μ M EGTA, 2mM MgCl₂ or 50mM HEPES/KOH, pH 8.0, 1mM MgCl₂, 125 mM KCl respectively. Reactions were allowed to proceed at 37°C for 150 min. Reactions were terminated at 15, 30, 60 and 150min. Negative control reactions, containing no enzyme in both buffer systems, were also prepared as above.

Polyphosphate hydrolysis was tracked by running fractions of the reactions on TBE gels and staining polyphosphates present using toluidine blue O, as previously described (13). Briefly, reactions were diluted with Novex Hi-Density TBE Sample Buffer (Thermo Fisher LC6678), and run on precast TBE gels, either 20% (EC63155, Novex) for P45 and P65 reactions, or 6% (EC62655, Novex), for P700 reactions. Following electrophoresis, the gels were stained in 0.05% toluidine blue O in fixative solution (an aqueous solution of 25% methanol and 5% glycerol) for 15 minutes, with agitation, followed by 3 hours of washing in fixative solution and imaging. In concurrent analyses, released phosphate was quantified using BIOMOL GREEN phosphate detection kit as described above. All experiments were repeated at least three times with a minimum of four technical replicates per sample. Data was analyzed using GraphPad PRISM 7 software.

Circular dichroism and *in silico* modeling of PRUNE1 mutations:

PRUNE1 wild-type, D106N and R128Q mutants were analyzed by circular dichroism (CD) spectroscopy by collecting far-UV (<250nm) and near-UV (260 – 320nm) CD spectra. Prior to CD measurements, all samples were dialyzed twice in a base buffer, 20mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.8 to eliminate DTT that could potentially interfere with far-UV CD measurements. Following overnight dialysis, concentrations were determined by A280 measurements, using a theoretical extinction coefficient based on amino acid sequence of each protein. Near-UV CD measurements were obtained at 0.75mg/ml, 0.7mg/ml and 0.45mg/ml for wild-type, D106N and R128Q samples respectively. All samples were further diluted (two-fold) using 0.02 μ M filtered dialysate for far-UV CD measurements. Far-UV CD spectra were evaluated at 0.38mg/ml, 0.35mg/ml and 0.21mg/ml for wild-type, D106N and R128Q samples respectively. CD measurements were performed on a Jasco 1500 spectropolarimeter at 25°C using a 1cm cell (Jasco, Type J3) for near UV-CD and

0.1cm cell (Jasco, Type J10559) for far-UV CD. The raw data were baseline subtracted and converted to units of molar ellipticity to correct for protein concentration differences. Degree of spectral difference between wild-type and D106N or R128Q muteins was assessed using a spectral classification technique (TQ Analyst®). The reported TQ Analyst® similarity match score indicates how closely the spectrum of each mutant matches that of the wild-type protein. Highly comparable far-UV CD spectra result in scores >92.6, whereas highly comparable near-UV CD give TQ similarity match scores >98.

The RCSB Protein Data Bank was searched for a structure with high sequence homology to human PRUNE1. *S. cerevesiae* cytosolic exopolyphosphatase (PPX1) (PDB ID: 2QB7), with a Blast e-value of 2.3E-19 and 25% sequence identity (45% similarity) was the best hit. Since the active site residues were conserved, we did not attempt to generate a PRUNE1 homology model. PPX1 structure (shown in Fig. 2A) was rendered by exchanging orthologous active site residues: Asp41 to Asn, Asp127 to Asn, H149 to Gln. Three bound phosphate moieties P_T, P_{E1} and P_{E3} shown in ball-and-stick, and the two catalytic metal ions as M1 and M2 as pink spheres.

Animal studies:

Prune1^{-/-} mice were generated by replacing exon 2 (ENSMUSE00001210512) of the *Prune1* gene with a β-galactosidase (lacZ) reporter cassette using VelociGene technology (14). Mice carrying the deletion were genotyped by a loss of allele assay as described previously (15). Targeted, cassette-deleted heterozygous mice were bred to obtain desired genotypes. Homozygous and heterozygous knockout mice cohorts derived from F1 breeding were used for phenotypic evaluation. All mice used in this study were in a 75% C57Bl/6NTac, 25% 129S6/SvEvTac genetic background, and housed in a pathogen free environment. Autoclaved water and sterile mouse chow were provided *ad libitum*. All experimental protocols, anesthesia, imaging procedures and tissue sampling procedures performed in this study were approved by the Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc. Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

Anti-PECAM1 staining and imaging:

Embryo processing, immunostaining and imaging were performed as described previously (16). Briefly, embryos were collected at embryonic day (E) 9.5 and fixed for 3 hours in 4% paraformaldehyde at 4°C. Prior to staining, endogenous peroxidase activity was quenched with 3% H₂O₂. Non-specific antibody binding was blocked by preincubating embryos in 10% normal goat serum (S-1000, Vector Labs) and 0.5% Bovine Serum Albumin (BP1600, Fisher Scientific). Embryos were stained overnight at 4°C with rat anti-PECAM1 antibody at 1:300 dilution (553370, Pharmingen). After primary antibody incubation, embryos were incubated overnight with donkey anti-rat HRP secondary antibody at 1:1000 dilution (Jackson ImmunoResearch, 712-036-153) followed by incubation with 488-tyramide reagent at 1:25 dilution made using Dylight 488 NHS ester (Thermo Scientific, 46402,). Images were acquired through optical sectioning with an ApoTome.2 on a ZEISS Axio Zoom. Extended Depth of Focus images were generated by Zen software. Imaging was performed using Leica MZFLIII stereozoom microscope quipped with a 0.5x objective and 1.0x camera lens, with a zoom between 4.0-6.3x. Alternatively, stained embryos were imaged using optical projection tomography (OPT) as described previously (16). For OPT, samples were embedded in low melting agarose and subsequently cleared using a mixture of benzyl alcohol and benzyl benzoate (1:2 ratio). Sample was rotated stepwise (with a 0.9° step size) for one revolution and a GFP1 filtered autofluorescence view and a Cy3 fluorescence view (captured using a Cy3 filter) were acquired using Retiga Exi CCD camera. Reconstruction of all image slices yielded a 3D volumetric rendering of the specimen as described previously (17).

Results:

Clinical description of NMIHBA patients:

Family SZ51 is composed of two affected siblings (Patient 1 and Patient 2), an unaffected female sibling, and non-consanguineous parents of European ancestry. Familial genomic analyses of these two affected patients and available family members through whole exome sequencing identified, as previously reported, shared compound heterozygous variants in *PRUNE1* (9). Both affected siblings inherited a missense c.383G>A; p.Arg128Gln variant from their unaffected father and a nonsense c.520G>T;

p.Gly174* variant from their unaffected mother (Fig. S1). The unaffected sister is a heterozygous carrier for the paternal missense variant only.

Detailed clinical evaluation of both affected siblings was performed through the NIH Undiagnosed Diseases Program (UDP) at ages 4 years and 20 months, respectively. Both patients presented with profound developmental delay, intellectual disability, brain atrophy, seizures, and absent language. Additional features not documented in the initial report include optic atrophy, esotropia, scoliosis, gastrointestinal reflux (GERD), hypotonia and spasticity. Onset of seizures in both siblings occurred at 6 months of age; it was observed initially as infantile spasms that developed into gelastic complex partial myoclonic seizures in Patient 1. EEG showed slow waking background and slow spike waves with progression to multifocal epileptiform discharges. Additional detailed clinical information for these patients can be found in supplementary information (including Table S2 and S3).

Additionally, we performed detailed literature and clinical review of all 35 NMIHBA patients reported to date in order to better understand the phenotypic spectrum of NMIHBA (Table 1, Figure 1) (8-11, 18-20). Consistent features across the majority of patients include severe global developmental delay (94.59%), profound intellectual disability (91.89%) with absent language (83.78%) and brain abnormalities (86.48%) characterized primarily by cerebral and cerebellar atrophy, thin corpus callosum, and white matter changes. Hypotonia and spasticity are features observed in the majority of patients (97.29%), whereas microcephaly and seizures (64.86%) appear to be more variable than initially reported, as more cases are documented. Visual (43.24%) and gastrointestinal (37.83%) problems are additional clinical features in a sizable number of patients. Interestingly, Alhaddad et al, reported about half of their cohort having absent deep tendon reflexes (DTRs) and/or reduced nerve conduction velocities (NCVs) suggesting peripheral neuropathy as part of the clinical spectrum of NMIHBA(18). Other patients also showed neurogenic findings on electromyography (EMG) studies and spinal motor neuron involvement. However, the majority of patients were not assessed for these clinical phenotypes and the true prevalence of peripheral nervous system involvement in this disorder may be still underappreciated. A few patients, including probands described in this report developed scoliosis as well as foot anomalies such as talipes equinovarus

or clubfoot, whether these features are secondary to the peripheral neuropathy and spinal muscular atrophy like phenotype or independent skeletal findings remains to be determined.

Affected subjects have been reported to originate from countries around the globe (Figure S2). As expected, when homozygous alleles were identified there was often a history of consanguinity. Of note, all homozygous subjects have missense variant alleles – the only likely complete LoF null allele, c.G820T; p.G174X, is reported as a compound heterozygote with a missense variant suggesting some partial function is retained. The neurotypical phenotype of a heterozygous p.G174X carrier parents with presumed haploinsufficiency at the *PRUNE1* locus, the absence of either homozygous or compound heterozygous null alleles suggest like other neurodevelopmental/neurodegenerative traits NMIHBA results from hypomorphic alleles or that null alleles may present with a different phenotype.

Comparative modeling of PRUNE1 mutations:

Similar to other members of the DHH superfamily, PRUNE1 contains a common N-terminal DHH domain resulting from four highly conserved motifs, with five invariant aspartates and two conserved histidine residues, one of which is replaced by Arginine (R128). One of the conserved aspartates is thought to act as nucleophile forming a charge-relay system with the conserved histidine, whereas the other aspartates bind divalent cations required for the catalytic activity (4). Interestingly, most of the pathogenic variants map to the highly conserved N-terminal DHH domain. In order to understand how NMIHBA-causing PRUNE1 variants drive the disease phenotype, we chose to characterize four variants (p.D30N, p.D106N, p.R128Q, p.G174X) within the conserved N-terminal domain for which we had patient-derived fibroblasts and/or comprehensive clinical information.

The importance of D30, D106, and R128 residues to PRUNE1 function is revealed by considering the crystal structure of a homologous enzyme, *S. cerevisiae* cytosolic exopolyphosphatase (PPX1) (PDB ID: 2QB7) (21). PPX1 is 25% identical and 45% similar to human PRUNE1 and has an equivalent enzymatic function (Fig. S3A)(4, 22). In this structure, a series of divalent metal ions (M1 and M2) and bound phosphate ions (P_T,

P_{E1} and P_{E2}) delineate the active site and define residues necessary for binding the polyphosphate substrate as well as the catalytic metal ions. Strikingly, all three of the missense mutations under investigation map to the same region of the PPX1 active site: PPX1 residues D41 and D127 (equivalent to PRUNE1 D30 and D106) coordinate a divalent metal ion, while PPX1 residue H149 (equivalent to PRUNE1 residue R128) forms a charge-charge interaction with the adjacent bound phosphate (Fig 2A).

Substitution of Asn for Asp (as in D30N and D106N) will eliminate that amino acid's ability to coordinate the divalent metal ion, thereby abolishing catalytic activity and destabilizing the local protein structure that was ordered by interactions with that metal ion. Similarly, substitution of Arg 128 by Gln eliminates the positive charge on that residue, likely preventing the mutated residue from interacting with the negatively charged phosphate group of a bound substrate.

To further verify these structural predictions, we performed circular dichroism (CD) on mammalian cell (Expi293) derived recombinant muteins harboring the D106N and R128Q variants. Whereas D106N and R128Q recombinant proteins expressed and migrated similarly to wild-type, rapid turnover of the D30N mutant precluded protein purification and further analyses (Figure 3A; Fig. S3B and C). Far and near-UV CD spectra were collected for wild-type PRUNE1 and the two mutants (D106N and R128Q). Qualitative differences in the far and near-UV CD spectra were observed for each mutant compared to wild-type PRUNE1 (Fig 2B and C). Spectral deconvolution of the far-UV CD revealed differences in alpha-helical content in the D106N and R128Q muteins (45% and 48.8% respectively) as compared to wild-type (37.3%). Near-UV CD analyses revealed differences in tertiary structure between D106N and R128Q muteins as compared to wild-type. Furthermore, increased magnitude of CD signal particularly in the region contributed by Phe and Tyr residues indicated change in overall tertiary structure. The increase in CD signal possibly resulted from a more rigid conformation of the aromatic side chains induced by the D106N and R128Q mutations. Lastly, quantitative assessment of spectral similarity (assessed by TQ similarity match scores) of the far and near-UV CD between the wild-type and muteins demonstrated a low similarity between the spectra of the mutants compared to that of wild-type (Fig 2D and E). Therefore, our preliminary *in silico* and protein biochemistry analyses predicted that these three missense mutations could

result in loss of protein function directly, by abolishing substrate binding and catalytic activity, and furthermore, by destabilizing the structure of the active site.

Missense mutations result in loss of exopolyphosphatase activity:

In order to evaluate protein stability, mammalian expression constructs encoding epitope (HA)-tagged wild type or missense PRUNE1 mutants (D30N, D106N, R128Q, G174X) were transfected into HEK293 cells (Fig S4A and B). HEK293 cells have no detectable endogenous PRUNE1 expression. At steady state, immunoblotting analyses of whole cell lysates demonstrated a significant reduction of PRUNE1 levels in cells expressing D30N or D106N variants in comparison to wild type tagged protein. Whereas lysates from cells expressing G174X showed no discernable protein product, the R128Q variant-expressing cells showed similar expression compared to cells expressing the wild type protein (Fig. 3A). Furthermore, cycloheximide chase assay demonstrated rapid and significant loss of D30N and D106N mutant proteins, that was rescued by the cell-permeable proteasome inhibitor, MG132 (Fig 3B). In contrast, the R128Q variant and wild type PRUNE1 levels were stable after synthesis, as they were observed at >60% of baseline (0hr) levels after 24hr of cycloheximide treatment (data not shown). In subsequent experiments we evaluated PRUNE1 protein levels in patient-derived skin fibroblasts harboring the compound heterozygous R128Q/G174X variants or homozygous D106N variants (Fig. S4B). PRUNE1 levels were comparable between fibroblasts harboring compound heterozygous variants and the wild type allele. However, cells homozygous for the D106N variant showed dramatic reduction in PRUNE1 levels at steady state. Proteasome inhibition by MG132 rescued the loss of the mutant protein in these cells (Fig. 3C). Taken together, these studies suggested that the D30N and D106N variants lead to reduced protein stability and degradation by the proteasome pathway, whereas the R128Q variant results in a stable mutant protein.

PRUNE1 has been ascribed exopolyphosphatase and phosphodiesterase activity based on sequence homology to yeast exopolyphosphatase PPX1 and bacterial nuclease RecJ respectively (4). In subsequent experiments we assessed how missense variants in PRUNE1 influence its enzymatic function.

GloSensor assays established no detectable cAMP or cGMP phosphodiesterase activity of wild type or missense PRUNE1 variants as compared to PDE4A and PDE5A (Fig S5A). However, consistent with the findings of Tammenkoski et al.(22), wild type PRUNE1 catalyzed polyphosphate hydrolysis of short-chain polyphosphates P₃ ($k_{cat} = 6.24\text{s}^{-1}$; $K_m = 8.4\mu\text{M}$; $V_{max} = 0.06 \mu\text{M/s}$) and P₄ ($k_{cat} = 4.2\text{s}^{-1}$; $K_m = 16.13\mu\text{M}$; $V_{max} = 0.04 \mu\text{M/s}$) using Mg²⁺ as the metal cofactor (Fig 4A and B), and demonstrated no exopolyphosphatase against long chain polyphosphates P₄₅, P₆₅ and P₇₀₀ (Fig S5C). D106N and R128Q variants completely abolished short-chain exopolyphosphatase compared to wild type as assessed by BIOMOL[®] Green phosphate reagent using P₃ (1-50 μM) and P₄ (5-100 μM) as polyphosphate substrates (Fig 4C). Similarly, *E.coli* expressed D106N and R128Q variants had no detectable short-chain exopolyphosphatase activity as compared to wild-type (Fig S5B).

Taken together, these results indicated that missense variants D30N, D106N and R128Q result in loss of PRUNE1 function either due to impaired protein stability or due to the loss of enzymatic function. These findings are consistent with the observed phenotypic concordance between patients harboring homozygous missense D30N, D106N variants and the compound heterozygous probands (p.Arg128Gln; p.Gly174*) described herein (patient 1 and patient 2). Importantly, these studies support loss of PRUNE1 function as the molecular etiology of NMIHBA.

Loss of Prune1 results in embryonic lethality in mouse:c

In an effort to model NMIHBA *in vivo*, we next studied the consequences of *Prune1* loss-of-function by generating *Prune1*^{-/-} mice as shown in Fig S5A and B. Here homologous recombination was employed to replace exon 2 with a *lacZ* reporter cassette. A stable transcript derived from this allele predicts a non-functional Prune1 protein missing amino acids 15-454. Importantly, this mutant allele provides for a *lacZ* reporter, enabling spatio-temporal localization of *Prune1* gene reporter activity. *Prune1*^{+/-} animals (both sexes) are viable and appeared normal as compared to wild-type littermates, with no differences in body weight, body composition, serum chemistry and hematology (data not shown). *LacZ* expression profiling at E12.5 demonstrated widespread expression across multiple tissues including the brain (Fig S6B and D). In adult *Prune1*^{+/-} mice

(postnatal day 56) strong CNS expression was observed in the hippocampus, cerebellum, amygdala, hypothalamus and the cortex (Fig S6D).

No homozygous mutants were found among 55 pups at postnatal day 10 from *Prune1*^{+/-} intercrosses (Fig S6C). In light of this presumed embryonic lethality, embryos were collected at various developmental time points. Mendelian ratios were maintained at E9.5 (Fig S6C), however no *Prune1*^{-/-} embryos were found beyond E12.5 (data not shown) suggesting lethality between E9.5 and E12.5. Whole mount examination of embryos and yolk sacs at E9.5 (~25 somites) employing endothelial-specific Pecam 1 immunohistochemistry revealed significant defects in vessel morphology in *Prune1* mutants. First, *Prune1*^{-/-} yolk sacs exhibit a profound decrease in capillary plexus formation and absence of differentiated vessels, indicative of perturbed vascular remodeling (Fig S7B). Second, mutant embryos also show severe defects in formation and remodeling of the cephalic vascular plexus, most strikingly revealed in 3D in Optical Projection Tomography (OPT). In addition, anomalies to the limb bud vasculature, dorsal vascular plexus (along the spinal cord), as well as marked cardiac hypoplasia were also noted in all *Prune1*^{-/-} embryos (Fig S7A, Fig 5A and B).

Discussion:

Since our initial report of *PRUNE1* as a novel candidate gene for abnormal neurodevelopment and brain malformation, 37 NMIHBA patients have been reported to date by us and others (8-11, 18-20, 23, 24). Detailed clinical and literature review of these reported NMIHBA cases allows for a more comprehensive view of this novel neurodevelopmental disorder (Table 1, Figure 1). The main features defining the disorder, namely profound developmental delay, intellectual disability and brain malformations, remain consistent; however additional clinical features such as optic nerve atrophy, gastrointestinal problems and peripheral nervous system involvement have emerged with additional reports of patients with NMIHBA. Subsequent reporting of patients with novel genetic disorders after the initial report, enables better understanding of their phenotypic spectrum and may help inform on disease progression and natural history when new patients are diagnosed with these conditions.

The worldwide distribution of reported patients and disease associated variants conforms with the clan genomics hypothesis where rare alleles of high effect arising in recent ancestors are more likely to contribute to disease burden versus common variants of small effect in the population (25). These rare alleles are more likely to come together in homozygosity in certain populations due to genetic mechanisms such as drift in founder populations or inbreeding in consanguineous populations. For example, the splicing variant allele c.521-2A>G has now been reported multiple times as a founder allele in the Cree population from Canada (19, 26). Similarly, the D30N allele, so far reported in Saudi and Omani individuals (8, 9), appears to be a founder allele in Middle Eastern populations; whereas other pathogenic rare alleles have been reported once so far in single families from different populations around the world. Interestingly, the most common pathogenic allele reported in NMIHBA patients is the D106N variant, observed in individuals from diverse ethnic backgrounds from Turkey, Italy, Lebanon, Sri Lanka, and Japan. While this variant appears to be a founder allele in the Turkish population, the diversity of populations where it has been observed poses the possibility that the D106 residue is a recurrent mutation site and that the allele has arisen multiple times in different population haplotypes.

Furthermore, in this study we investigated the molecular etiology underlying PRUNE1 dysfunction in NMIHBA. Based on our *in vitro* and *in vivo* data, we conclude that the molecular pathomechanism of this rare genetic disorder is reduced or altered function of PRUNE1 due to hypomorphic alleles. The majority of disease associated alleles including the splice site variant within intron 4 (c.521-2A>G: IVS4-2A>G) cluster in the catalytic DHH domain of PRUNE1, underscoring the critical role of this conserved domain in NMIHBA pathogenesis. Using *in silico* and biochemical approaches we explored the functional effects of four reported pathogenic PRUNE1 variants: p.D30N, p.D106N, p.R128Q and p.G174X on PRUNE1 function and examined potential developmental and organismal functional consequences of homozygous *Prune1*^{-/-} ablation.

Protein homology modeling using the *S.cerevisiae* orthologue, PPX1 demonstrated that the D30, D106 and R128 residues fall within a metal-ion and phosphate binding interface representing the active-site for phosphate hydrolysis.

Disruption of these charged residues within the active-site is predicted to impair metal coordination (D30N and D106N) and substrate binding (R128Q). Overexpression of human *PRUNE1* cDNA harboring NMIHBA pathogenic variant alleles in HEK-293 cells demonstrated a complete loss of protein product for the D30N mutant and a dramatic reduction in the D106N product. Both isoforms were rescued upon inhibition of the proteasome degradation pathway, suggesting that the loss of metal-binding residues destabilizes local protein structure resulting in protein degradation. In contrast, the R128Q variant was stably expressed at levels comparable to wild-type protein. Patient derived fibroblasts further confirmed these findings, implicating the metal coordinating D106 residue to be critical for maintaining active-site structure and protein stability. It has been proposed that the R128 (H149 in *S.c.*-PPX1) along with the binuclear metal cluster (M1 and M2 in Fig 2A) coordinate binding of one of the phosphate moieties (P_T ; Fig 2A) of the substrate, rendering the P-O bond more susceptible to nucleophilic attack. This model would suggest impaired polyphosphate processivity by the R128Q mutant. Consistent with such a model, *in vitro* short-chain exopolyphosphatase assays using recombinant proteins derived from mammalian and *E.coli* overexpression systems demonstrated loss of exopolyphosphatase activity in R128Q and D106N mutants as compared to the wild-type. Kinetic parameters for hydrolysis of short-chain polyphosphates P_3 and P_4 (in the presence of 2mM Mg^{2+}) by wild-type *PRUNE1* in our assays were comparable to those reported by Tammenkoski *et al.*(22). Our data related to the R128Q mutant in conjunction with enhanced kinetics of P_3 hydrolysis by R128H mutant (where the positive charge is retained) demonstrated by Tammenkoski *et al.*, further reinforce a model wherein binding of the metal ion at the active site accelerates substrate binding, and the bound substrate in turn enhances the enzyme affinity for the metal ion (22). Therefore, mutations that disrupt metal coordinating residues or substrate binding residues may result in loss of enzymatic function. Furthermore, in line with previous reports we demonstrate that wild-type *PRUNE1* has no detectable cyclic nucleotide (cAMP or cGMP) phosphodiesterase activity or long-chain exopolyphosphatase activity (22). Taken together, these studies suggest loss of short-chain exopolyphosphatase activity as a potential mediator of NMIHBA pathophysiology. In light of our biochemical observations on disease associated mutant proteins, it is intriguing to note that Zollo *et al.*(8), ascribe enhanced short- chain

exopolyphosphate activity (based on P₄ hydrolysis) for two NMIHBA variants they characterized including the D30N mutant which is demonstrably a loss of function variant in our analyses. Furthermore, their reported K_{cat}/K_m ratio for P₄ hydrolysis by wild-type PRUNE1 (0.014μM⁻¹s⁻¹) is an order of magnitude different than those observed in the present study (0.26μM⁻¹s⁻¹) and reported by Tammenkoski et al. (0.18μM⁻¹s⁻¹) (8, 22). These discrepant results may be due to differences in cofactor concentration (10mM Mg²⁺ as opposed to 2mM Mg²⁺ in our assays and Tammenkoski et al.), substrate purity, or other confounding factors specific to their experimental methods used.

At the time of our initial discovery of *PRUNE1* as the disease causing gene, no mouse or other model organism data were available to provide further insights into the biological role of PRUNE1 in neurodevelopment and disease pathophysiology. Conservation at the protein level and similar developmental expression suggested preserved function between the mouse and human orthologues. Based on functional analyses of disease causing human alleles, we engineered a mouse model of NMIHBA by knocking out the murine *Prune1* gene. Since the original publication of *PRUNE1* as a novel disease gene in Karaca et al (9), a *Prune1*-null mouse was developed and phenotyped by the International Mouse Phenotyping Consortium (IMPC). (<http://www.mousephenotype.org/data/genes/MGI:1925152>). Consistent with the IMPC data, we observed fully penetrant embryonic lethality in the null mouse prior to E12.5. Our in depth developmental phenotyping of the *Prune1*-null embryos demonstrated profound vascular defects manifested by poorly branched vessels within the yolk sac, cardiac hypoplasia and a disrupted cephalic vascular plexus resulting in embryonic lethality between E9 – E10. However, our analyses do not address if the observed vascular anomalies result from altered hemodynamics secondary to impaired vasculogenesis within the yolk sac or if these represent cell-autonomous effects driven by loss of Prune1.

LacZ reporter expression in heterozygous mice demonstrates broad diffuse *Prune1* expression across multiple tissues and cell lineages at E12.5 (Fig. S5B). Consistently, *Prune1* expression in adult mice is observed across multiple tissues with strong expression within the CNS (Fig. S5D). Despite this widespread expression profile, the most overt phenotype arising from loss of *Prune 1* are vascular deficits most prominent in the cephalic vascular plexus possibly resulting from a local deficit in

angiogenic cues or due to altered hemodynamics downstream of defective vascular development. Further analyses are required to discriminate the effect of hemodynamic defects versus the signaling perturbations downstream of *Prune1* loss of function, and more importantly as to why the cephalic vessels are most affected.

It is intriguing as to why homozygous deletion results in embryonic lethality in mouse, while probands in this report and others survive past gestation. Whereas two patients have been reported to be homozygous for splice-site and frameshift variants in *PRUNE1* (11, 20), comprehensive analyses of protein-coding variation in *PRUNE1* across several large scale human genetic variation databases including ExAC/gnomAD and our internal (DiscovEHR) database identified no homozygous carriers of predicted loss-of-function variants despite the observation that heterozygous loss-of-function variants are well tolerated (Fig. S7) (27, 28). Residual enzymatic function of the hypomorphic missense alleles beyond the range of detection of our *in vitro* assays, alternative non-enzymatic developmental function (in mouse) or potential compensation by other phosphatases during neurodevelopment (in human) could potentially explain the observed species-specific difference in phenotype. Future analyses using knock-in mouse models may help discern the allelic architecture of NMIBHA and allow for functional interrogation of *PRUNE1* in mammalian development.

Polyphosphate has been implicated in diverse physiological processes in higher eukaryotes, including apoptosis, mTOR activation and neuronal signaling (29-31). This pleiotropy is consistent with the essential role of inorganic diphosphate (PP_i) for cellular metabolism across taxa and the potential role of polyphosphate metabolizing enzymes (including *PRUNE1*) in maintaining phosphate homeostasis. However, mechanistic understanding of how polyphosphate metabolism influences cellular metabolism and in turn organogenesis remains obscure. More recently, Cremers et al. proposed polyphosphate as a conserved modifier of amyloidogenic processes capable of mitigating neurotoxicity induced by amyloid fibers (32). Further studies using mouse models that closely recapitulate the NMIHBA phenotype will help uncover mechanisms by which *PRUNE1* influences neurodevelopmental and neurodegenerative processes. The fact that NMIHBA-causing *PRUNE1* variants lack exopolyphosphatase activity may facilitate

the exploration of therapeutic avenues that would allow for preemptive rather than symptomatic intervention of NMIHBA in the future.

Acknowledgements

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Conflict of Interest Disclosure

HN, CG-J, SMC, SR, SN, DD, MCF, PS, MP, YT, MGD, RAD, CJS, BZ, NWC and ANE are full time employees of the Regeneron Genetics Center or Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc. and receive stock options/restricted stock as part of compensation. JRL is a paid consultant for Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Novartis International AG, has stock ownership in 23andMe, and Lasergen Inc., and is a co-inventor on multiple United States and European patents related to molecular diagnostics for inherited neuropathies, eye diseases, and bacterial genomic fingerprinting. The remaining authors declare no conflict of interest.

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Figures:

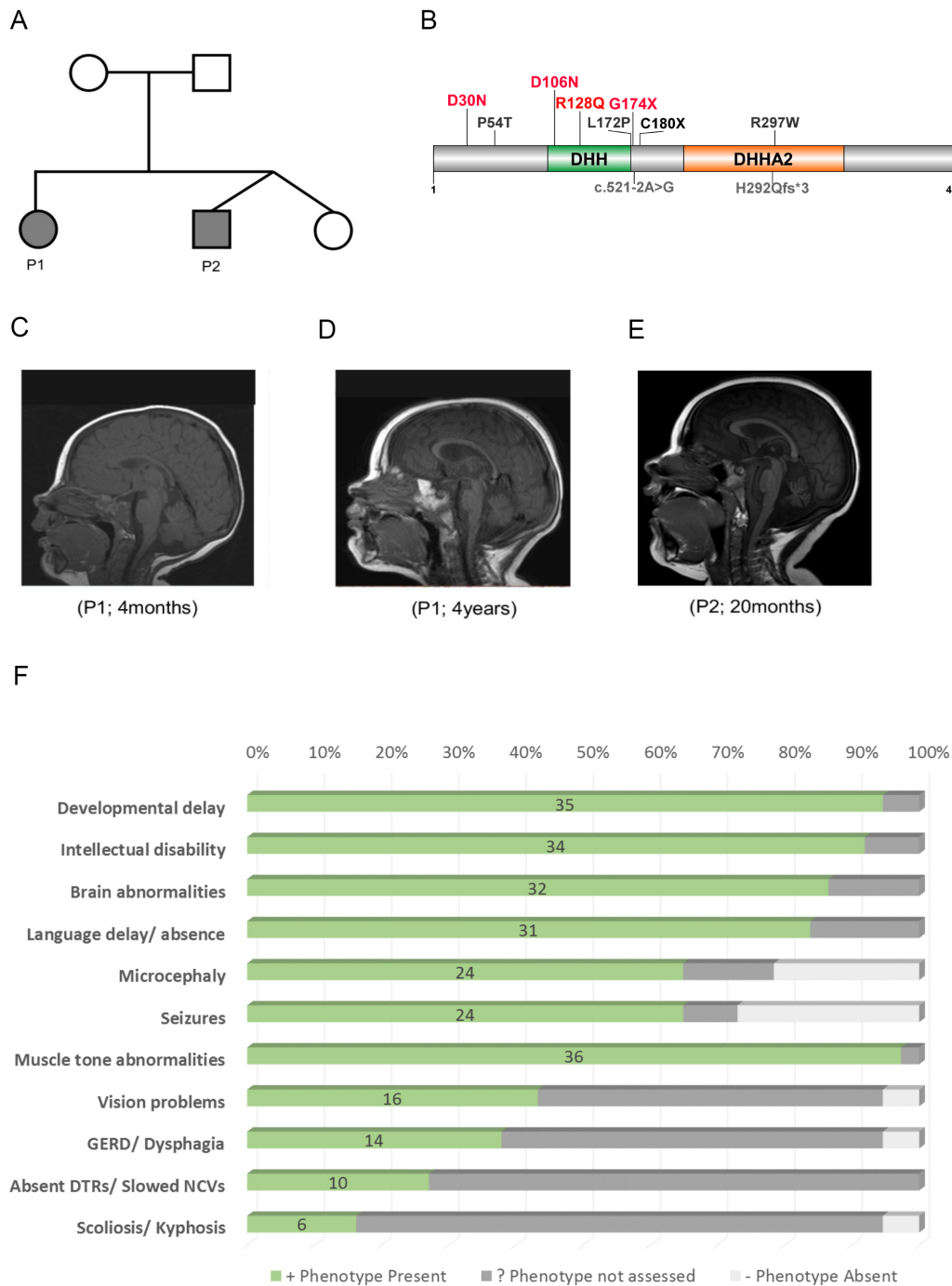


Figure 1. Clinical presentation of NMIHBA patients. (A) Immediate family pedigree of patient 1 (P1) and patient 2 (P2). (B) Pathogenic variants in *PRUNE1* identified in NMIHBA patients reported to date. The majority of pathogenic variants cluster in the DHH and DHHA2 domains. Variants characterized in this study are highlighted in red. (C-E)

Sagittal T1-weighted brain MRI images. (C) Image of patient 1 at 4 months of age showing no significant findings. (D) Image of patient 1 at 4 years of age showing severe cortical and cerebellar atrophy and milder corpus callosum and brainstem atrophy. The craniofacial ratio is decreased. The cerebellar vermis decreased in height from 29.5 to 25.6 mm between the time the two images were obtained. (E) Image obtained for patient 2 at 20 months of age demonstrating cerebellar vermis hypoplasia and mild cortical atrophy. (F) Frequency of clinical manifestations ascertained in reported NMIHBA cases.

Age at evaluation	Patient 1 (S21-1)	Patient 2 (S21-2)	Kozlowski et al., 2015	Costin et al., 2017	Karayayci et al., 2017	Iacomino et al., 2018	Alifedeh et al., 2018	Alhammad et al., 2018	Papic, 2019	Fujii, 2019	
Sex	4 y	20 mo	15.5-5 yo	2.2 yo	3 y	9 mo	12 mo-30 mo	0m-2.1M	1.2 yo	12 mo	
Ethnicity	European	European	1 Saudi, 2 Turkish	Ojibwe-Cree	Turkish	European (Italian)	Saudi	Lebanese; Turkish; European; North African	Sri Lankan	Japanese	
Variant Zygosity	Comp Het	Comp Het	Homozygous	Homozygous	Homozygous	Homozygous	Homozygous	Homozygous	Homozygous	Comp Het	
Variant	c.3160A>p.Arg126Gln [c.520G>p.Gly174*]	c.3810A>p.Arg126Gln [c.520G>p.Gly174*]	c.880A>p.Arg106An, c.3160A>p.Arg106An	c.521-2A>G	c.87A_875indA, p.H921Q8>P3	c.3160A>p.Arg106An	c.3830A>p.Arg126Gln	c.3160A>p.Arg106An, c.5151T>C>p.Leu172Pro, c.15098445T>15101666del, delExon 2-8	c.3160A>p.Arg106An	c.3160A>p.Arg106An [c.5407A>p.Cys180*	
Consequence	No	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Developmental delay	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Intellectual disability	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Brain abnormalities	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Microcephaly	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Language delay	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Stoosy hypotonia	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Vision problems	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Muscle tone abnormalities	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
GERD/ Dysphagia	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Seizures	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Seizure type and onset	Onset at 6mo; Gelastic, complex partial myoclonic seizures, infantile spasms	Onset at 6mo; infantile spasms	NA	NA	Onset at 2mo; focal motor seizures and flexor spasms	Onset at 6mo; upper/lower limbs epileptic spasms	-	Onset 1 mo-8 mo; Clonic/myoclonic seizures (4/12)	Onset at 6mo; epileptic spasms	Onset at 8mo; epileptic spasms	
Abnormal EEG findings	Background slowing, infrequent temporal spike waves	Modified hypersarhythmia, multifocal epileptiform discharges	NA	NA	NA	Normal EEG (2/2)	Focal spikes (2/12); Slow multifocal spikes (4/12)	Focal spikes (2/12); Slow multifocal spikes (4/12)	Focal tonic, myoclonic seizures	Hypersarhythmia	
Abnormal MRI findings	Moderately/severe progressive global brain atrophy; cerebellar and cerebellar atrophy	Mildly prominent lateral ventricles and sulci, thinner splenium and corpus callosum	Brain atrophy (3/3); Cortical atrophy, cerebellar and cerebellar atrophy, thin corpus callosum, delayed myelination	Cortical atrophy, small cerebellum, bilateral cerebellar white matter loss with thinning of corpus callosum	Cerebellar and cerebellar atrophy with delayed myelination, inferior vermis hypoplasia	Diffuse cortical atrophy, severe thinning of white matter, signal changes in periventricular white matter and pons, thin corpus callosum	Abnormal corpus callosum and mild cerebral atrophy (2/2); delayed myelination (1/2); prominent CSF space (1/2)	Cerebral atrophy (7/12); Cerebellar atrophy (6/12); Hypertensive brain lesions (4/12)	Immature cortex, cerebellar hemorrhages, discrete signs of hypoxia	Diffuse cerebral and cerebellar atrophy, thin corpus callosum, Midbrain and pons tegmentum atrophy, White matter damage, not on delayed myelination	
NCV/EMG findings	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Measurements at evaluation	OFC: 41.5 cm (5.3 s.d.); Weight: 15.1 kg (24th %ile); Length: 94 cm (5.0 s.d.)	OFC: 41.0 cm (5.3 s.d.); Weight: 12.8 kg (70th %ile); Length: 86 cm (77th %ile)	OFC: 49.5 cm (50th %ile); Weight: 16.5 kg (95th %ile); Length: 90 cm (90th %ile)	OFC: 48 cm (2 s.d.)	OFC: 48 cm (2 s.d.)	OFC: 48 cm (2 s.d.)	OFC: 2.1 and 2.3 s.d.; Weight: 2.0 and 2.5 s.d.; Length: 2.1 and 2.5 s.d.	OFC: 2.96 to 3.4 s.d. Weight: 3.08 to 3.63 s.d.	OFC: 3rd %ile	OFC: 43.5 cm (-0.82 s.d.); Weight: 8.4 kg (-0.31 s.d.); Length: 73.8 cm (-0.26 s.d.)	NA
Dysmorphic features	NA	NA	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Other findings	Exaggerated startle and aversion to various sensory stimuli; Left hip dysplasia	Exaggerated startle; bilateral Babinski signs and sustained ankle clonus	NA	NA	Regression; knee contractures, hip dislocation; respiratory insufficiency (8 mo); Tracheostomy, nasogastric tube dependent	Distal joint arthropathy; respiratory distress; Babinski sign observed; Bilateral talipes equinovarus; bell shaped thorax; Spinal motor neuron involvement	NA	Slow NCV (5/12); Arthropathy/contractures (2/12); Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (2/12); Pectus excavatum (1/12); Clubfoot (1/12); Death (6/12)	Retinopathy	MRI spectroscopy showed decreased concentration of N-acetyl aspartate and choline, and increased concentration of myoinositol	
Previous Testing	Normal mitochondrial respiratory chain activity testing	NA	NA	NA	NA	Normal biochemical, metabolic, urine organic acids, and GMA testing (1/2)	Normal biochemical, metabolic, urine organic acids, and GMA testing (1/2)	Normal metabolic testing (6/12)	Normal GMA testing	NA	

Table 1. Summary of clinical findings of individuals with biallelic *PRUNE1* mutations.

NCV: Nerve conductance velocity; EMG: Electromyography; OFC: Occipital frontal circumference; CMA: Chromosomal microarray testing; MR: Magnetic Resonance.

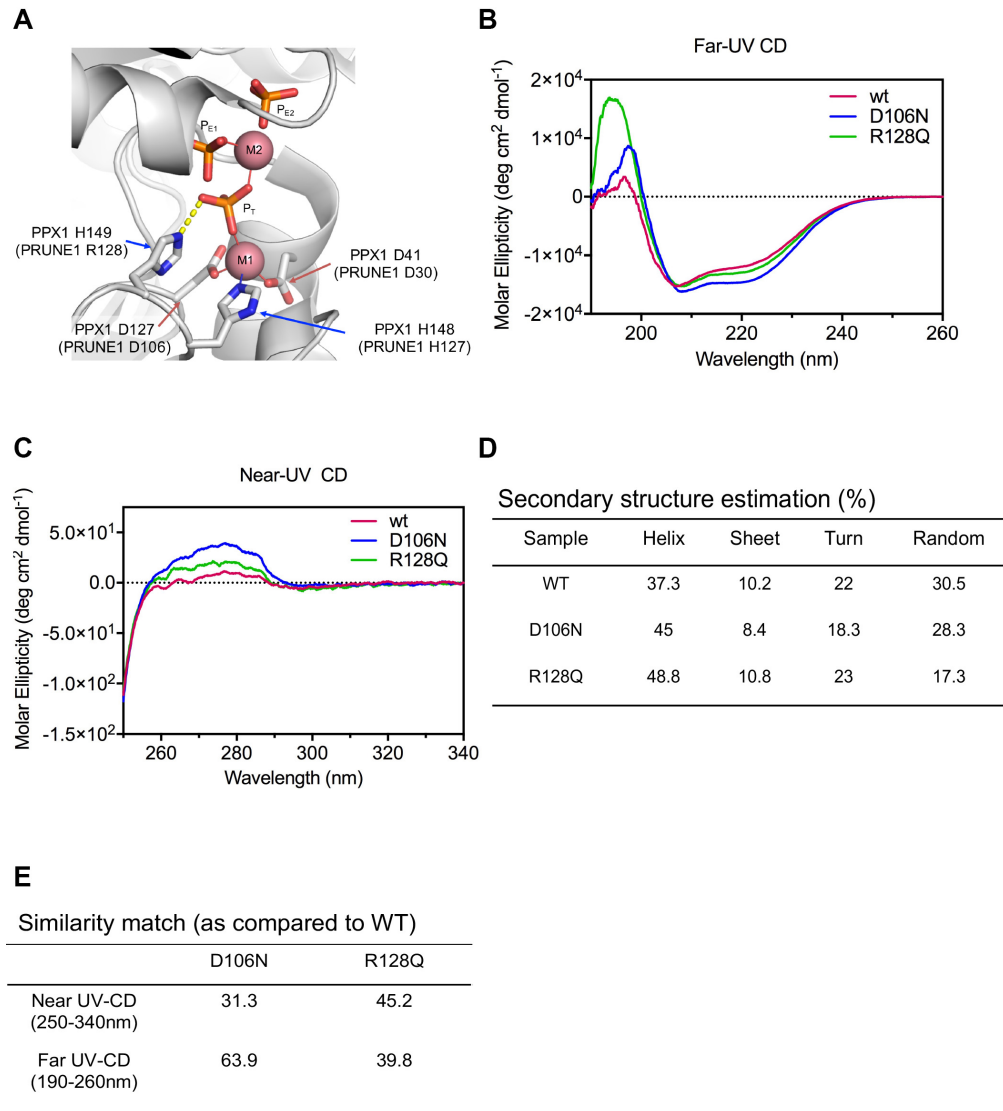


Figure 2. Missense mutations perturb secondary and tertiary structure of PRUNE1.

(A) Homology modeling (based on 1.6 Å resolved *S.c. PPX1* structure, 2QB7) demonstrated D30, D106 and R128 residues fall within a metal-ion and phosphate binding interface representing the active-site for phosphate hydrolysis. Disruption of these charged residues within the active-site impair metal coordination (D30N and D106N) and substrate binding R128Q. Three bound phosphate moieties P_T , P_{E1} and P_{E3} shown in ball-and-stick, and the catalytic metal ions (M1 and M2) as pink spheres. (B) Far-UV CD spectra reveals secondary structure differences between wild type and missense (D106N and R128Q) mutants. (C) Near-UV CD spectra signifies change in tertiary conformation

of missense (D106N and R128Q) mutants as compared to the wild type. **(D)** Spectral deconvolution of far-UV CD spectra revealed differences in alpha-helical content between wild type and D106N or R128Q mutants. **(E)** Similarity match scores (based on quantitative assessment of similarity of far-UV and near-UV spectra) reveals low similarity of the missense mutants as compared to wild type.

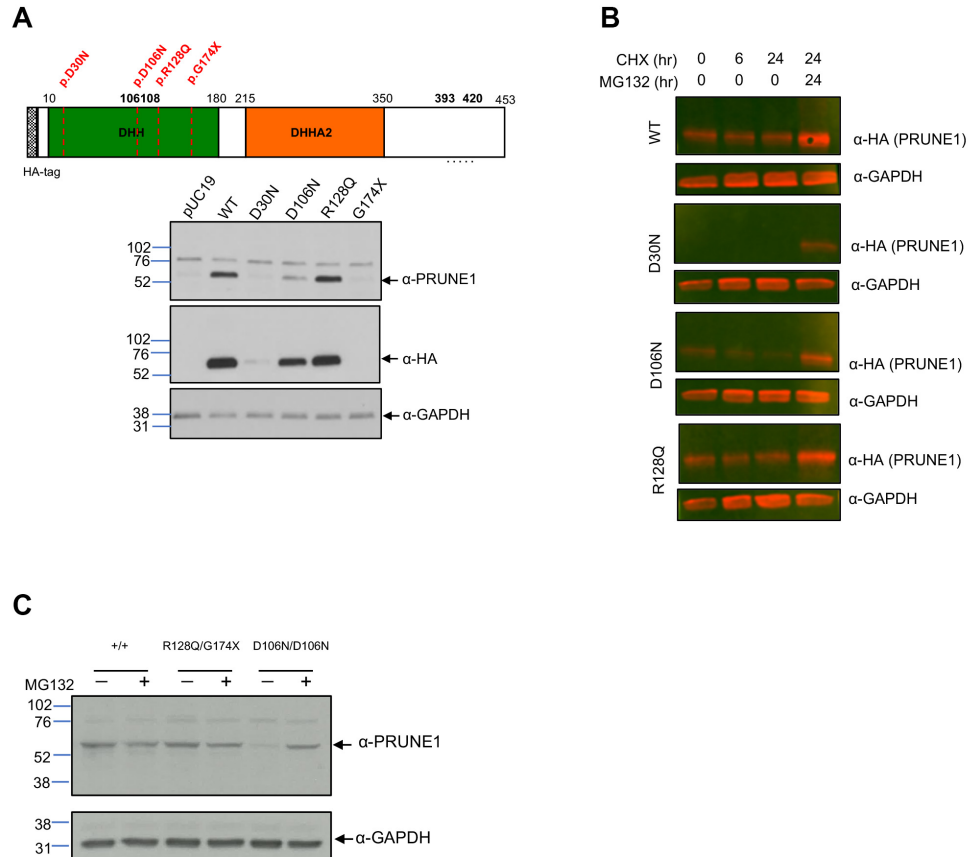


Figure 3. D30N and D106N variants result in reduced protein stability and proteosomal degradation, whereas R128Q variant results in stable mutant protein.

(A) HEK293 cells were transfected with N-terminal HA-tagged wild type or mutant PRUNE1 cDNA. Equal amounts of protein from whole cell lysate were used for immunoblotting using antibodies against N-terminal HA-tag, and C-terminal PRUNE1 epitope (a.a. 393-420, dotted line). GAPDH was used as a loading control. G174X mutant showed no expression, whereas D30N and D106N mutants showed significantly reduced expression as compared to wild type and R128Q levels. (B) Immunoblots of cells overexpressing N-terminal HA-tagged wild type or mutant PRUNE1 treated with cycloheximide (CHX) at 200 μ M for 0, 6 and 24 hours (with or without proteasome inhibitor MG132 at 15 μ M). (C) Immunoblotting of endogenous PRUNE1 in patient derived fibroblasts harboring compound heterozygous R128Q; G174X variants or homozygous D106N missense variant treated with or without MG132(15 μ M).

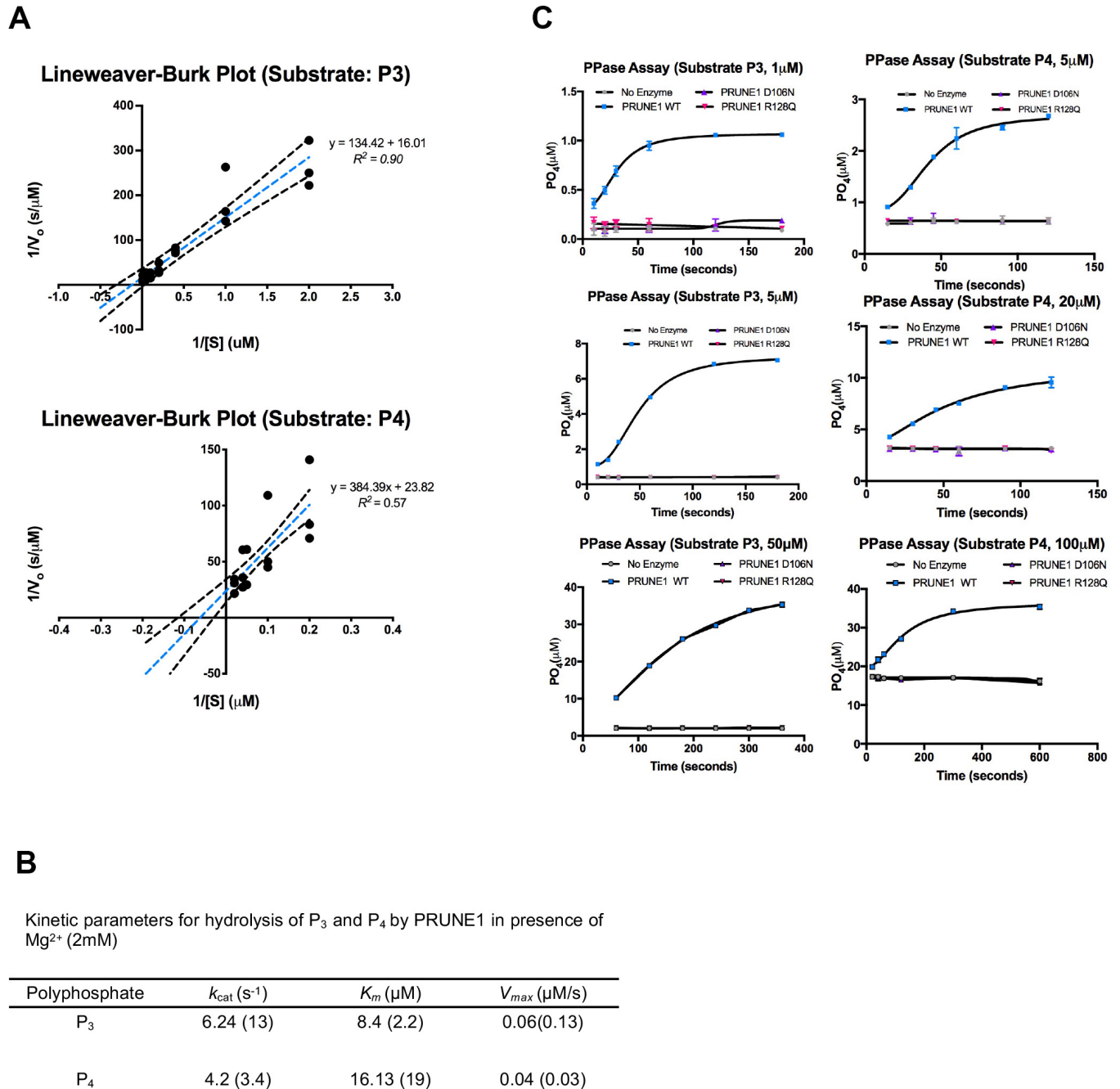


Figure 4. D106N and R128Q variants result in loss of short chain exopolyphosphatase activity. (A) Lineweaver-Burk plots depicting short-chain exopolyphosphatase kinetics of wild type PRUNE1 using sodium tripolyphosphate (P₃) and sodium tetrapolyphosphate (P₄) as substrates. Dotted black lines represent 95% CI. (B) Kinetic parameters for hydrolysis of polyphosphates (P₃ and P₄) by wild type

PRUNE1 in the presence of Mg^{2+} (2mM) as the cofactor. Values reported by Tammenkoski et al. are shown within parenthesis(22). (C) Short-chain exopolyphosphatase activity of wild type, D106N and R128Q mutants on P3 and P4 determined using fixed-time BIOMOL Green phosphate detection assay. Data represents mean \pm SEM over multiple independent experiments.

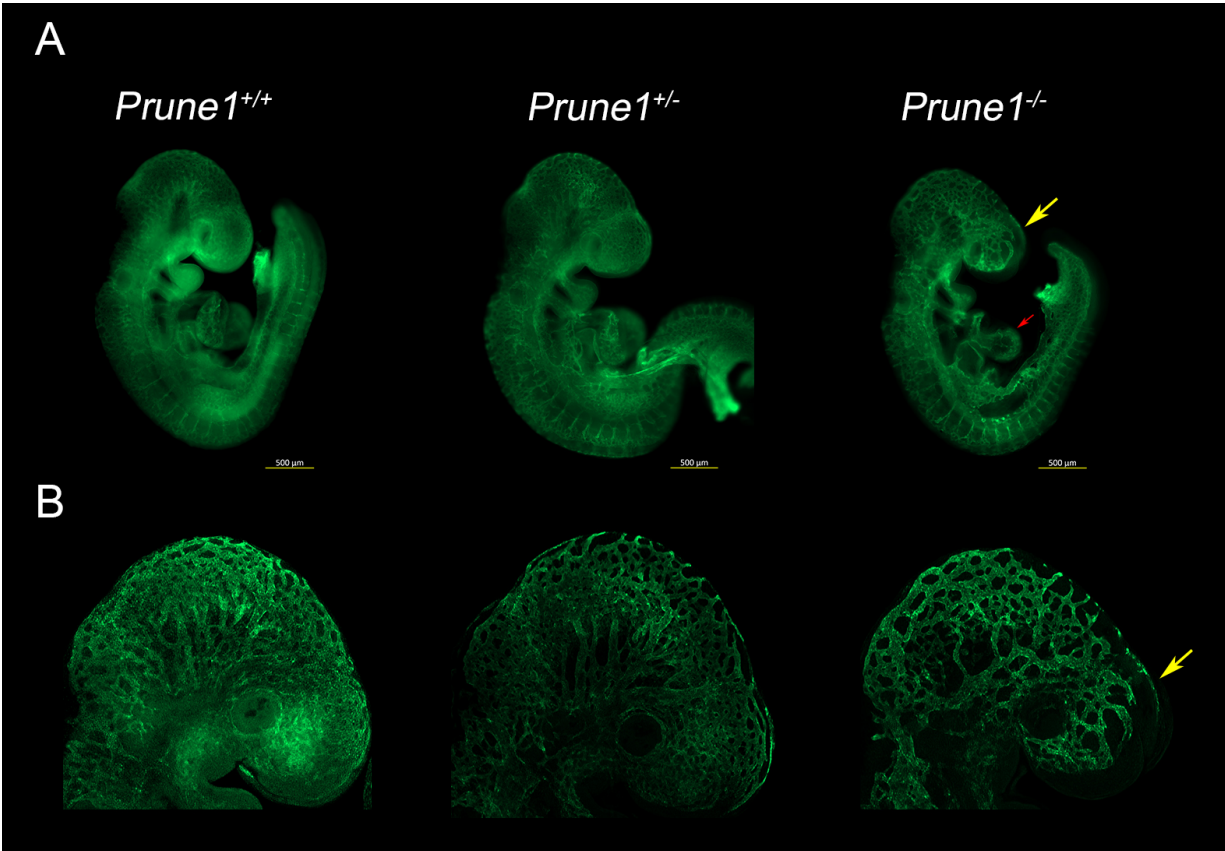


Figure 5. Loss of *Prune1* results in vascular defects with significant disruption of the cephalic vascular plexus. (A) Representative whole mount Pecam1 staining at E9.5 demonstrated reduced plexus branching and perturbed capillary sprouting within the cephalic region (frontonasal prominence and brain, yellow arrow) in the *Prune1*^{-/-} embryos as compared to wild type and heterozygous littermates. Moreover, *Prune1*^{-/-} embryos displayed cardiac defects observed as a less intricate appearance of the endocardium when compared to littermate controls (red arrow) (B) Higher magnification images further highlight disruption of the cephalic vascular plexus.

Supplementary Figures and Methods:

Clinical description of probands in family SZ51:

Patient 1 was born at 37 weeks after an uncomplicated pregnancy. Except for her occipitofrontal head circumference (11th percentile), her height, weight, appearance, pulse, grimace, activity and APGAR scores (9 at 1min and 9 at 5min) were unremarkable at birth (Table. S2). Severe reflux due to a milk protein allergy was noted at 2 months. Developmental delay manifested by poor head control, not reaching for toys, and poor eye contact was observed by 3 months. At 4 months, she had an exaggerated startle, an aversion to various sensory stimuli, and no social smile. Furthermore, she developed upper extremity spasticity and intermittent esotropia, which became constant by 6 months requiring surgical intervention at 9 months. At 5 months, she was diagnosed with left hip dysplasia, which was treated at 10 months. By 6 months, she developed myoclonic seizures. EEG at the time revealed a few spikes, but no seizure activity. At 2.5 years, her myoclonic seizures worsened, and her EEG showed slow waking background and slow spike waves. Although her EEGs became progressively abnormal, the myoclonic seizures were better controlled with taking adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH) and vigabatrin (an inhibitor of gamma-aminobutyric acid aminotransferase). Developmentally, she could not sit independently, crawl, walk, or talk. She received a pureed diet, however due to poor weight gain, she was administered supplemental nutrition through a feeding tube. The patient was evaluated at the National Institutes of Health Undiagnosed Diseases Program (NIHUDP) at age 4 years. She presented with profound developmental delay, seizures, axial hypotonia and distal limb spasticity/hypertonia, severe kyphoscoliosis, exotropia, and severe gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) resulting in J-tube feeding. She had no purposeful movements and communicated with cries and grunts as her only vocalization. Serial MRI scans (at 4 months and 4 years) demonstrated progressive generalized cerebral and cerebellar atrophy (Fig. 1B). EEG showed infrequent right posterior temporal and left temporal spike waves and generalized background slowing. Measurement of mitochondrial respiratory chain enzyme activity revealed normal results once corrected for low citrate synthase activity (Table S3).

Patient 2 is the younger brother of patient 1 and has a dizygous twin sister who is unaffected (Fig. 1A). Conceived through *in vitro* fertilization, he was born at 38 weeks by elective C-section from an uncomplicated pregnancy. He was noted to be jittery at birth and also had marked stiffness of his feet. Like his older sister, he was found to have milk protein allergy and reflux by 2 months (GERD diagnosed at 4 months) as well as congenital intermittent esotropia. At 3 months, he appeared hyper-alert with eye popping when startled and exhibited intermittent down gaze associated with upper eyelid retraction. He was tremulous and had increased limb tone, brisk tendon reflexes (+3), bilateral Babinski signs and sustained ankle clonus. He began having seizures at 6 months of age. EEG showed a pattern of modified hypsarrhythmia with periodic synchronous discharges alternating with intervals bilaterally independent multifocal epileptiform discharges, background slowing, clusters of electro-decremental activity and loss of expected background organization during sleep and wakefulness (Table S2). He was treated with ACTH resulting in modest improvement of the seizures but did not obtain complete seizure control. Developmentally, he had severe delays including poor head control and the inability to sit independently or stand. Evaluation at the NIH at 20 months old evidenced developmental delay, seizures, mild intermittent exotropia, and kyphoscoliosis. He had poor head control, could not sit or stand, had no purposeful movements, communicated with grunts and cries, and was sensitive to unexpected or quick movements. MRI imaging showed cerebellar vermian atrophy at this age (Fig. 1B).

Plasmids:

PRUNE1 overexpression constructs were derived from full length human cDNA clone (Origene RC206865, NM_021222). D30N, D016N, R128Q and G174X mutations were introduced using the Agilent QuikChange II XL site-directed mutagenesis kit, according to the manufacturer's protocol using primers listed in supplementary table 1. Resulting sequence verified constructs were subcloned into a CMV-driven mammalian expression vector (Origene PS100013) and used for overexpression studies. Similarly, PDE4A and PDE5A overexpression constructs were derived by subcloning wild type cDNA (NM_001111307.1 and NM_001083 respectively) into the PS100013 backbone. We generated PRUNE1 4DD construct as described by D'Angelo et al. (D'Angelo A,

2004) by subcloning a g-block harboring D28A, D106A, DHRP126-129AAAA, D178A into the PS100013 vector. Additionally, PS100013 vector without an insert, was used as an empty-vector control where indicated. GloSensor reporter constructs (pGloSensor-22F and pGloSensor-42F, respectively) were purchased from Promega.

Recombinant protein expression:

Wild type, D106N and R128Q muteins were produced by overexpressing C-terminal His10-tagged PRUNE1 constructs in Expi293 cells followed by purification via affinity chromatography. Briefly, constructs encoding PRUNE1 isoforms (1mg) were transfected into Expi293 cells (3×10^9) using ExpiFectamine 293 transfection reagent (Gibco A14524) in a total culture volume of 1L. Cells were cultured for 4 days following transfection in Expi293 expression medium (Gibco A14351), pelleted by centrifugation (500g for 10 minutes) at 4°C. Cell pellet was resuspended in lysis buffer (25mM Tris-HCl, 500mM NaCl, pH 7.4) and lysed by sonication. Protein was purified using a 5mL GE HisTrap column and eluted with a linear gradient of 20-500mM imidazole in 20mM Tris-HCl, 150mM NaCl, 2mM DTT, pH 7.8. Fractions for use were chosen based on purity, as determined by Coomassie Blue staining. Selected fractions were further dialyzed for 16 hours against 20mM Tris/HCl, 50mM NaCl, 2mM DTT, pH 7.8 and quantified using absorption at 280nm. Purity was further confirmed by SDS-PAGE and Native PAGE. For SDS-PAGE, 0.5ug, 1.0ug, and 2.0ug of each fraction was resolved using Novex 4-20% Tris-Glycine precast gel (Invitrogen XP04205BOX) in a denaturing/reducing sample buffer and run to completion using a Tris-Glycine SDS running buffer. The gel was then stained using Bio-Safe Coomassie stain (Bio-Rad 1610786) and imaged. The procedure for Native-PAGE was identical, with the exception of a non-denaturing, non-reducing sample buffer being used, as well as the use of a gel running buffer that did not contain SDS.

D106N and R128Q muteins were successfully purified from overexpression in *E. coli*. Expression of wild type PRUNE1 was cytotoxic. Therefore, short chain exopolyphosphatase activity of the *E. coli* derived D106N and R128Q muteins was compared to the Expi293 derived wild type PRUNE1. Expression constructs encoding N-terminal His-tagged PRUNE1 isoforms under the control of IPTG-inducible T5-promoter

were transformed into Rosetta 2 competent cells (Novagen 71397). Upon selection, cultures were grown until they reached an OD of 0.6. At this time, cells were induced with 1mM IPTG and grown overnight at 25°C and pelleted. To purify the D106N mutant, pelleted cells (1g) were resuspended in lysis buffer (50mM Tris-HCl, 500mM NaCl, pH 7.8) containing Roche Complete Protease Inhibitor Cocktail, benzonase, and PMSF. Cells were sonicated and centrifuged at 14,000 RPM for 30 minutes at 4°C to separate soluble lysate. 10ml of the soluble lysate was added to 0.5mL of equilibrated TALON metal affinity resin (Clontech 635502), rocked at 4° Celsius for 1 hour, loaded in a 10mL column, and washed three times with the lysis buffer. Elutions were then performed using 150mM imidazole in lysis buffer. *E.Coli* expressed D106N and R128Q and Expi293 expressed wild type PRUNE1, were then dialyzed for 20 hours against 20mM Tris/HCl, pH 7.8, 50mM NaCl, 2mM DTT using D-Tube Dialyzer tubes (Millipore 71507). The purified protein fractions were then quantified by BCA. Purity of resulting recombinant proteins were evaluated by Coomassie Blue staining or immunoblotting as described previously.

Table S1:

Genotyping primers:

Primer	Sequence
R128Q F	5'-GAGTTAGGCAGAGGTAAAAG-3'
R128Q R	5'-TATGGTTAGGCTGGAAGCG-3'
D106N F	5'-TTGGACTCCACAGTGTCTGC-3'
D106N R	5'-TTTTGCCATGTTGCTCAGGC-3'
G174X F	5'-AGCCAAGAACGCACCATTG-3'
G174X R	5'-TCTGTTTCCTGCTTCTTTAGC-3'

RT-PCR primers:

Primer	Sequence
<i>Prune1</i> F	5'-TGTCGTGCTGGGAAATGAAG-3'
<i>Prune1</i> R	5'-GGCTCTGGAATCTTAACCTCCTG-3'
<i>Gapdh</i> F	5'-AGGTCGGTGTGAACGGATTTG-3'
<i>Gapdh</i> R	5'-TGTAGACCATGTAGTTGAGGTCA-3'

Site-directed mutagenesis oligos:

Primer	Sequence
D30N F	5'-AGCAGACACTGTGGAGTTCAAATCACAGGCTTCAT-3'
D30N R	5'-ATGAAGCCTGTGATTTGAACTCCACAGTGTCTGCT-3'
D106N F	5'-TGGATAAGATATGATGGTTGACAAGGATGAGGGTGAG-3'
D106N R	5'-CTCACCCCTCATCCTTGTCAACCATCATATCTTATCCA-3'
R128Q F	5'-TCGGCTCGATGGGTTGATGGTCTAGCACC-3'
R128Q R	5'-GGTGCTAGACCATCAACCCATCGAGCCGA-3'
G174X F	5'-CCAGGATGATGGTTCAATGCAGAAGGGCTGC-3'
G174X R	5'-GCAGCCCTTCTGCATTGAACCATCATCCTGG-3'

G-block used for PRUNE1 4DD construct:

CAGATTACGCTGCGATCGCCATGGAGGACTACCTGCAGGGTTGTCGAGCTGCTCTGCAGGAGTCCC
GACCTCTACATGTTGTGCTGGGAAATGAAGCCTGTGCTTTGGACTCCACAGTGTCTGCTCTTGCCCT
GGCTTTTTACCTAGCAAAGACAACCTGAGGCTGAGGAAGTCTTTGTGCCAGTTTTAAATATAAAACGTT
CTGAACTACCTCTGCGAGGTGACATTGTCTTCTTTCTTCAGAAGTTTCATATTCCAGAGAGTATCTTG
ATTTTTCGGGATGAGATTGACCTCCATGCATTATACCAGGCTGGCCAACTCACCTCATCCTTGTCG
CCCATCATATCTTATCCAAAAGTGACACAGCCCTAGAGGAGGCAGTAGCAGAGGTGCTAGCTGCTG
CTGCTATCGAGCCGAAACACTGCCCTCCCTGCCATGTTTCAGTTGAGCTGGTGGGGTCCTGTGCTA
CCCTGGTGACCGAGAGAATCCTGCAGGGGGCACAGAGATCTTGGACAGGCAAACCTGCAGCCCTTC
TGCATGGAACCATCATCCTGGCCTGTGTCAACATGGACCTTAAAATTGGAAAGGCAACCCCAAAGGA
CAGCAAATATGTGGAGAACTAGAGGCCCTTTTCCAGACCTACCCAAGAGAAATGATATATTTGATT
CCCTACAAAAGGCAAAGTTTGATGTATCAGGACTGACCACTGAGCAGATGCTGAGAAAAGACCAGAA
GACTATCTATAGACAAGGCGTCAAGGTGGCCATTAGTGCAATATATATGGATTTGGAGGCCTTTCTG
CAGAGGTCTAACCTCCTTGAGATCTCCATGCTTTCTGCCAGGCTCACAGCTATGATGTCCTGGTTG
CCATGACTATCTTTTTCAACACTCACAATGAGCCAGTGCGGCAGTTGGCTATTTTCTGTCCCATGTG
GCACTCCAAACAACGATCTGTGAAGTCCTGGAACGCTCCCACTCTCCACCCCTGAAGCTGACCCCT
GCCTCAAGTACCCACCCTAACCTCCATGCCTATCTTCAAGGCAACACCCAGGTCTCTCGAAAGAAAC
TTCTGCCCCTGCTCCAGGAAGCCCTGTGAGCATATTTTACTCCATGAAGATCCCTTCAGGACAGCC
TGAGACAGCAGATGTGTCCAGGGAGCAAGTGGACAAGGAATTGGACAGGGCAAGTAACTCCCTGAT
TTCTGGACTGAGTCAAGATGAGGAGGACCCTCCGCTGCCCCGACGCCCATGAACAGCTTGGTGGGA
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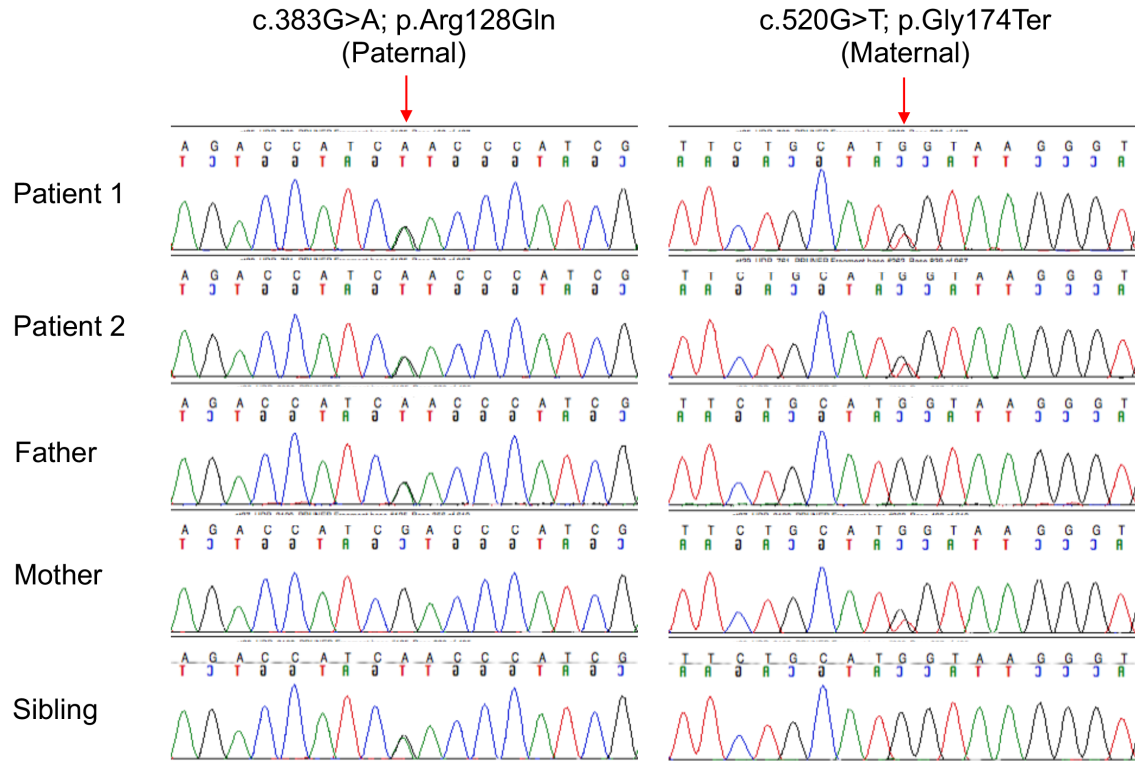


Figure S1. Chromatograms showing the familial segregation of the compound heterozygous variants inherited by patient 1 and patient 2.

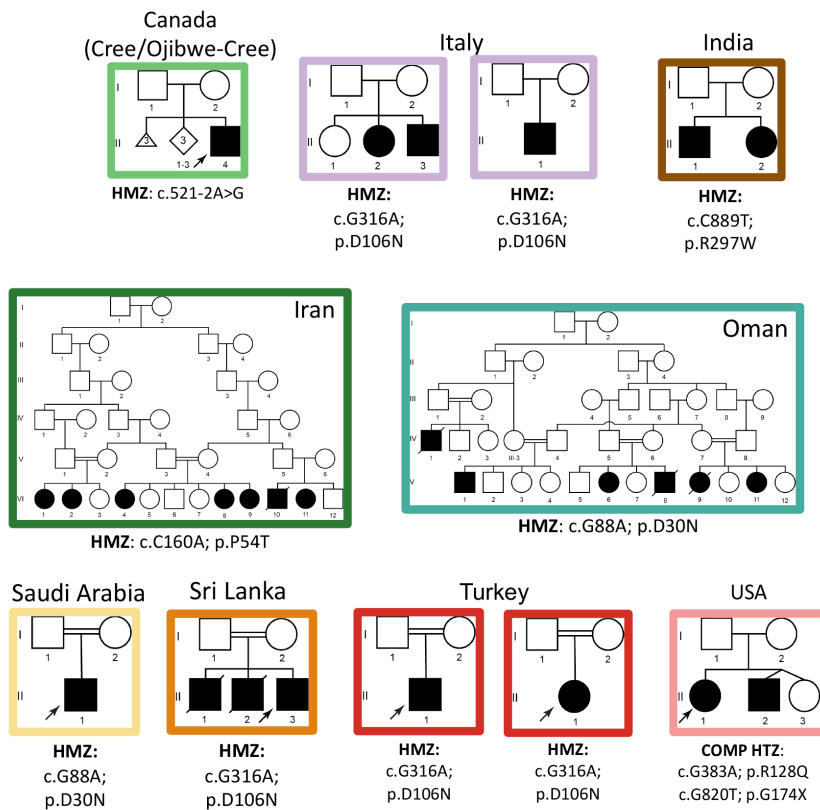
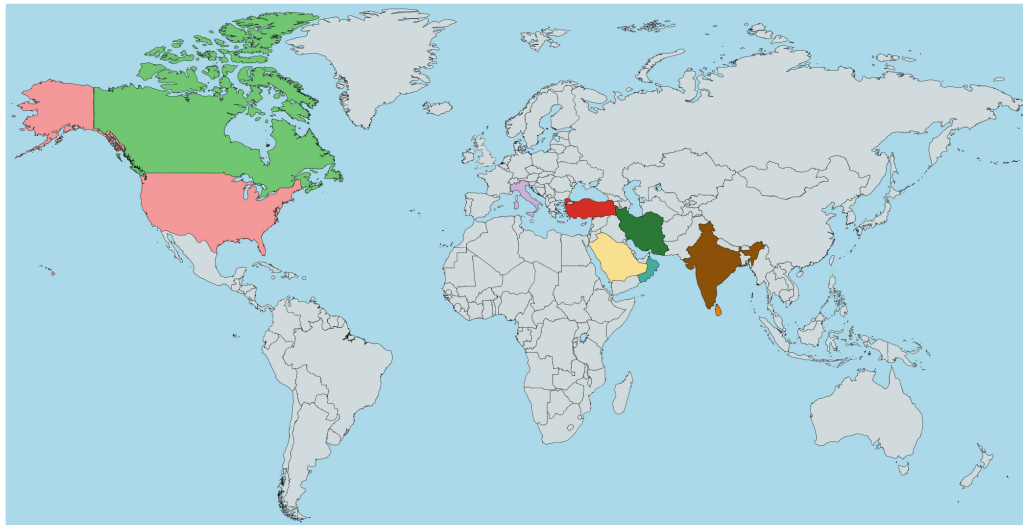


Figure S2. World-wide distribution of identified pathogenic variant *PRUNE1* alleles. HMZ: Homozygous. COMP HTZ: Compound heterozygous.

	Patient 1	Patient 2
Prune mutation Allele 1	c.383G>A (p.Arg128Gln)	c.383G>A (p.Arg128Gln)
Prune mutation Allele 2	c.G520T (p.Gly174*)	c.G520T (p.Gly174*)
Gender	Female	Male
Ethnicity	Caucasian	Caucasian
Consanguinity	No	No
Developmental Delay	Profound	Profound
Scoliosis/Kyphosis	Yes	Yes
Vision	Optic atrophy, esotropia	Mild intermittent esotropia
Muscle tone	Axial hypotonia, distal limb hypertonia	Increased limb tone
GERD	Severe	Yes
Seizures	Gelastic, complex partial, infantile spasms	Infantile spasms
Seizure onset	6 months	6 months
EEG	Background slowing, Infrequent temporal spike waves	Modified-hypsarrhythmia, multifocal epileptiform discharges
MRI	Moderate/severe progressive global atrophy	Mildly prominent lateral ventricles and sulci, thinner splenium and corpus callosum
Measurements at birth	OFC: 33cm (11 th centile) Weight: 3.4kg (48 th centile) Height: 54.61 cm (97 th centile)	Not available
Age at Consultation	4+1/12 years	1+8/12 years
Measurements at consultation	OFC: 41.5 cm (-5.3 s.d.) Weight: 15.1kg (24 th centile) Length: 94 cm (-2.0 s.d.)	OFC: 41 cm (-5.3 s.d.) Weight: 12.8 kg (70 th centile) Length: 86 cm (77 th centile)

Table S2. Clinical findings in patient 1 and patient 2. (OFC: occipitofrontal circumference).

Enzyme tested	Patient's results	Control Range
NADH dehydrogenase	859	830-1222
NADH cyto c reductase		
Total	239.7	216-302
Rotenone sensitive	87.4	92-178
Succinate dehydrogenase	5.36	6-7.96
Succinate cyto c reductase	1.52	2.93-5.43
Cytochrome c oxidase	9.8	13-21.2
Citrate synthase	39	53.7-81.9

Table S3. Mitochondrial respiratory chain enzyme activity levels measured in dermal fibroblasts from patient 1 compared to values from age-matched controls. All values reported in nmoles/min/mg of protein.

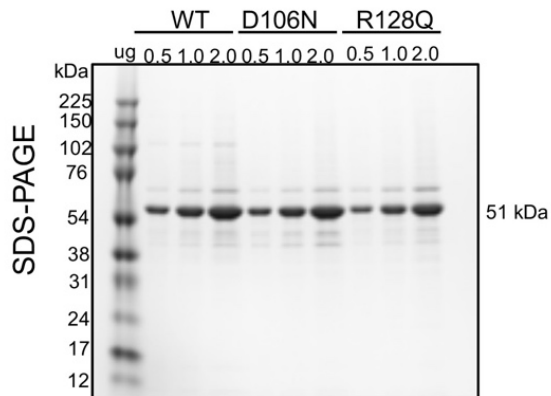
A

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CLUSTAL O(1.2.4) multiple sequence alignment
prunei_human  -----MEDYLGQC---RAALQESRPLHVLGNEACDLDSTVSALALAFYL----- 42
ppx1_yeast    MSPLRKTVPEFLAHLKSLPI SKIASNDVLTICVGNESADMDSIASAI TYSYQYI YNEGT 60
               : :*          : : . . * : ** : * : * : * : * : * : * : * : * : * :
prunei_human  -AKTTEAEVFPVPLNI KRSELP LRGDI VFF LQKVH IPE SI LLI FRDE IDLHA --LYQAGQ 99
ppx1_yeast    YSEKKKGSFIVPI I DI PRE DLS LRRDVMYVLE KLK IKE EELFF IED LK SLK QNV SQGTE 120
               : : . : . : * : * : * : * : * : * : * : * : * : * : * : * : * :
prunei_human  LTLILVDHHLKSKSDTALEEAVA EVDLHRPI EPKHC PPHV SVELVGCATLVTERI --- 156
ppx1_yeast    LNSYLVNDNDTPKRLKN YIDNVVGI IDH HFD LQKHL DAE PRIVK VSGSC SSVLFVNYWYEK 180
               * . *** : . * . . : * . : *** : ** * : * : * : * : * : * : * :
prunei_human  LQGAP EILDRQTAAL LHGTI ILDCVNMDLKI GKATP KDSKY VEKLEAL-----FPD 207
ppx1_yeast    LQGDREVV-MNIAP LMGAIL LID TSNMR RRV EESDKL-- -A IERQAV LSGAVNEVSAQG 236
               *** * : : * * * : * : * * * : : : * : * : * : * : * :
prunei_human  LPKRNDIFDSLQKAKFDVSGLTTEQMLRKDQKT IYRQG--- -VKVAISA IYMDLEAF LQ 262
ppx1_yeast    LEDSSPEFYKEIKSRKND IKGFSVSD ILK KDY QQFNF QGK GHKGL EIGLS SIVKRM SWLFN 296
               * . . : : : : : . * * : * : * : * : * : * : * : * : * : * : * :
prunei_human  RSNLLADLH--- -AF CQ AHS YDVLVAMT IFF NTHNE PVRQLAIF CPHVALQT TICEVLER 318
ppx1_yeast    EHGGEADFVNQCRRF QA ERGLDVLVLLT SWRKA -GD SHREL VILGDSNVVR--- -EL IER 351
               . . * * : * : . * * * : * : : : : * : * : * : * : * : * : * : * :
prunei_human  SHSPLKLT P-ASSTHP NLHAYLQGN TQVSRKLLP LLQ EALSA YFD SMKIP SGQPE TAD 377
ppx1_yeast    VS-DKLQLQ LFGNLDG GVA MFKQLNVEATR KQVVP YLE EA YSNLEE----- 397
               * : * . . . . : : * : * : * : * : * : * : * : * : * :
prunei_human  VSREQVDKELDRASN SL ISGLSQDE EDP PLP PT PMN SLV DE CPLDQGLPKLSAEAVFEK 437
ppx1_yeast    ----- 397

prunei_human  SQISLSQSTTASLSKK 453
ppx1_yeast    ----- 397
    
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B



C

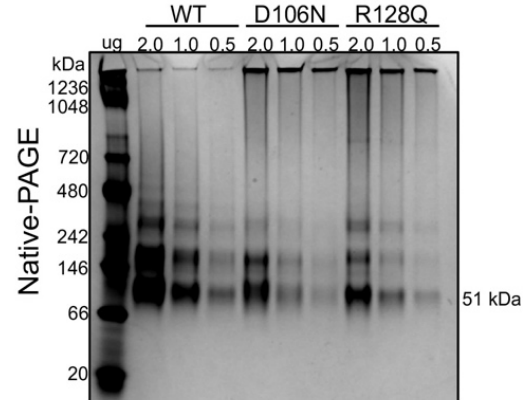


Figure S3. (A) Sequence alignment of *S.c.* PPX1 and PRUNE1. PPX1 is 25% identical and 45% similar to PRUNE1 and has equivalent enzymatic function. Active site residues are conserved between human and yeast enzymes. PPX1 residues D41 and D127 (corresponding to PRUNE1 D30 and D106, red box) coordinate divalent metal ion, while PPX1 residue H149 (equivalent to PRUNE1 R128, blue box) results in charge-charge interaction with adjacent bound phosphate. **(B and C)** SDS-PAGE and Native-PAGE of Expi-293 derived wild type, D106N and R128Q proteins.

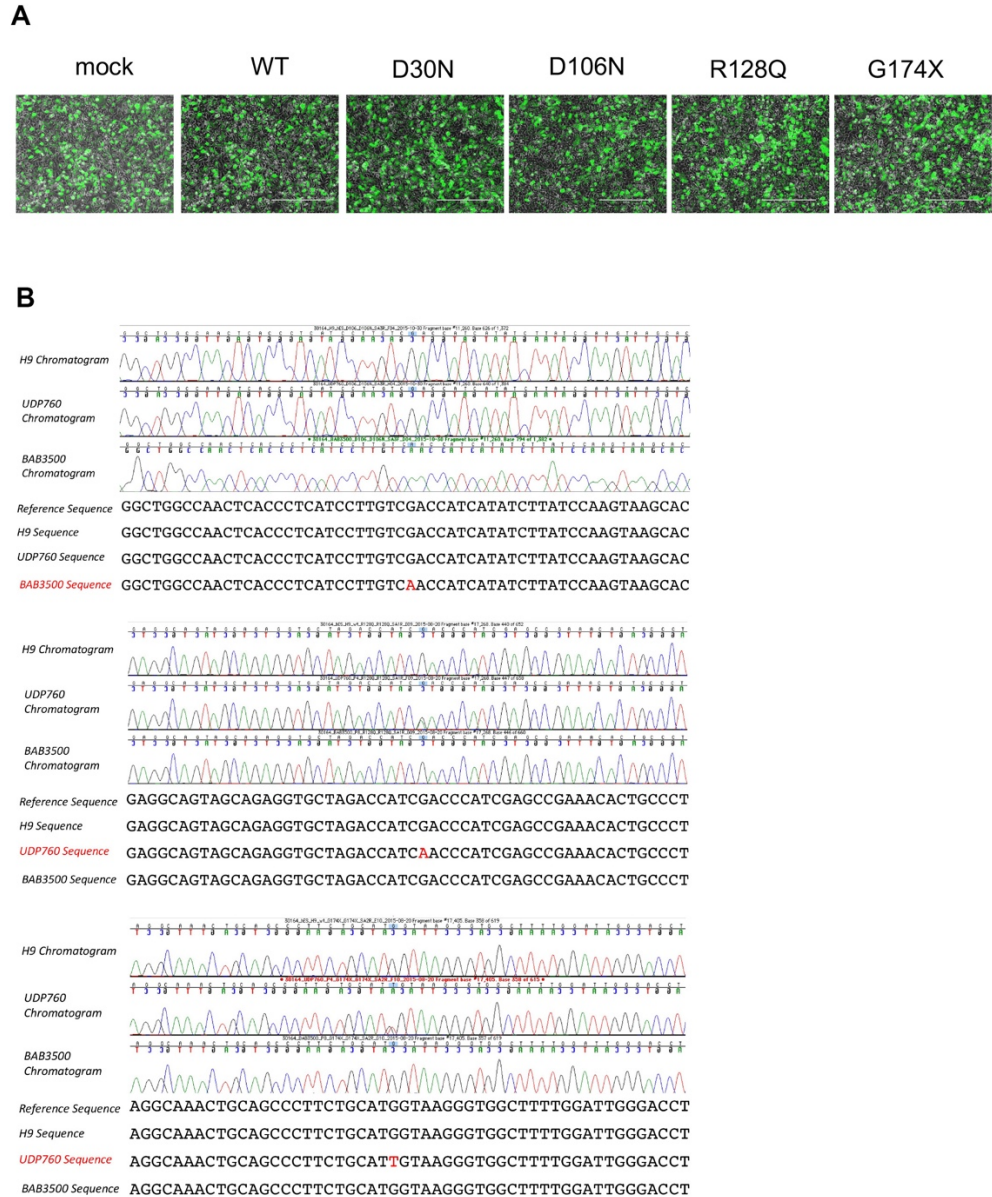
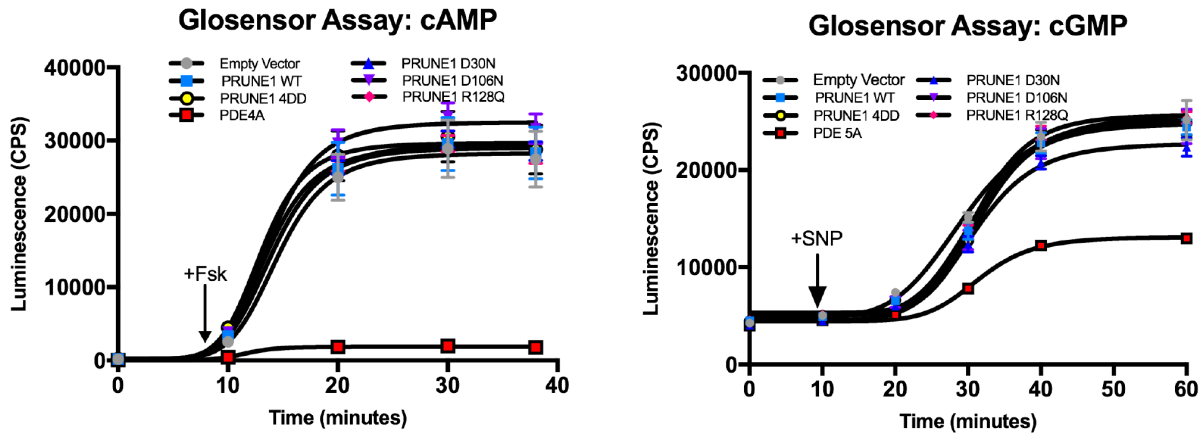
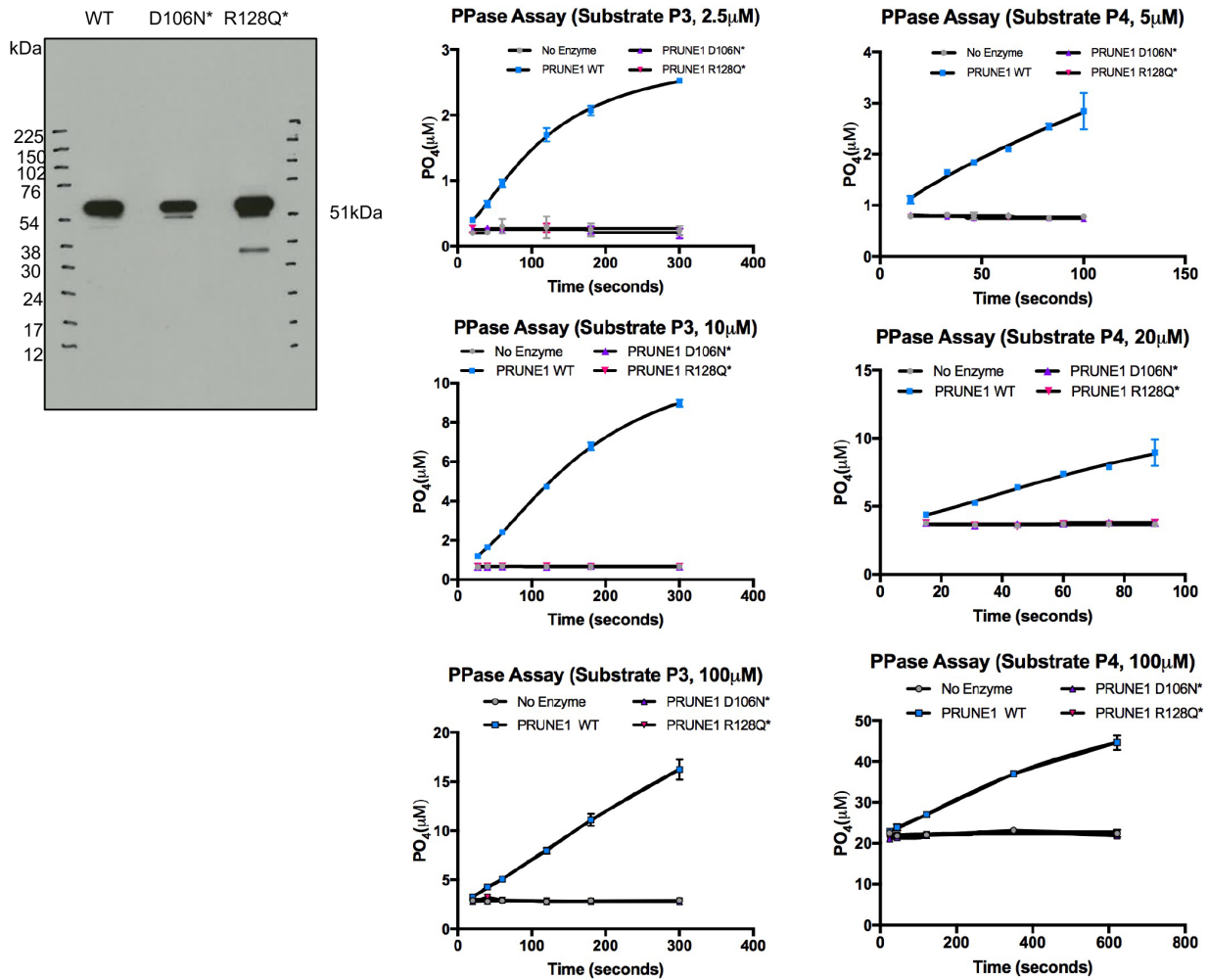


Figure S4. (A) GFP expression (a mammalian expression construct under CMV promoter) upon co-transfection with N-terminal HA-tagged wild type or mutant PRUNE1 cDNA in HEK293 demonstrating equivalent transfection efficiencies (Fig. 3A). Fluorescence microscope images of transfected cells demonstrate similar transfection efficiency across all samples. **(B)** Sanger sequencing of patient-derived fibroblasts. Chromatograms showing c.316G>A (p. D106N) and compound heterozygous variants c. 383G>A (p.Arg128Gln), c.520G>T (p.Gly174X) identified in BAB3500 and UDP760 cells respectively. Genomic DNA from H9 ES cells was used as normal control.

A



B



C

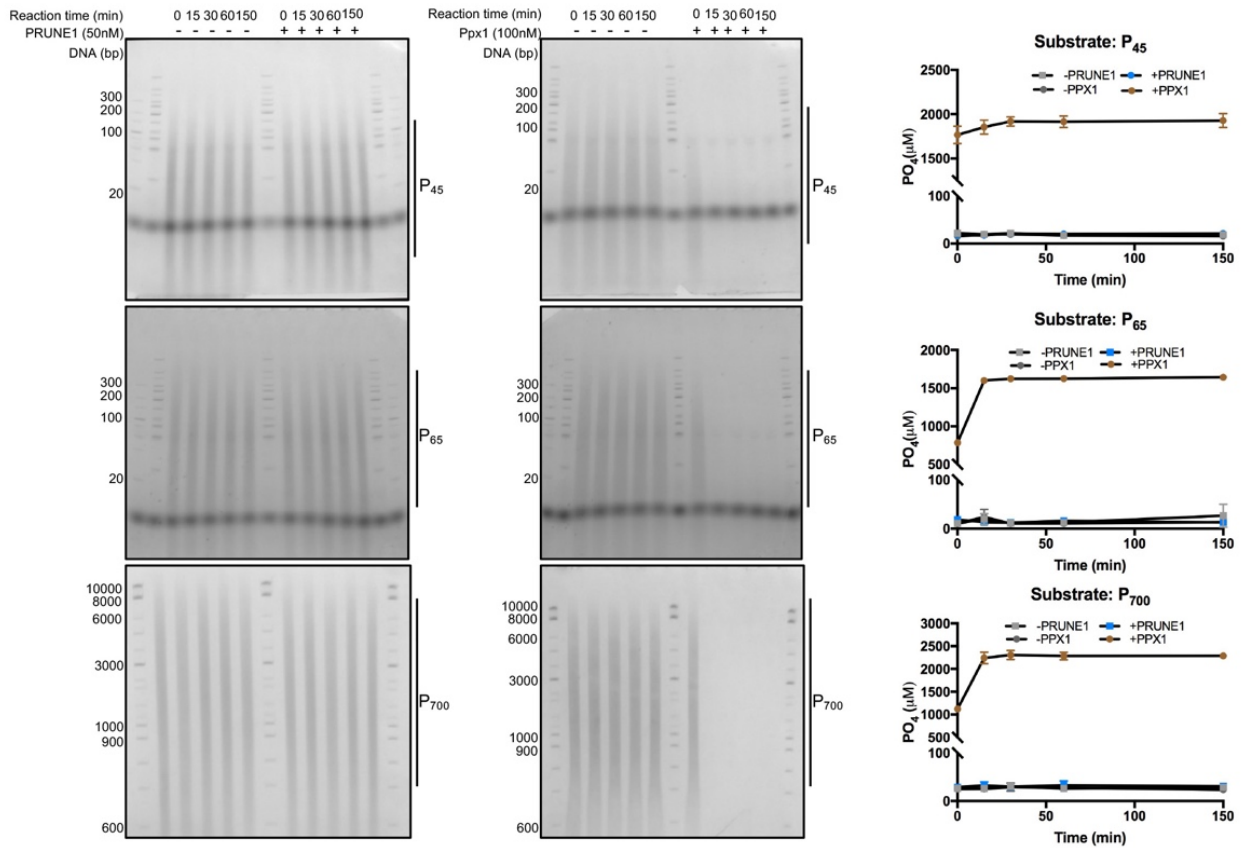
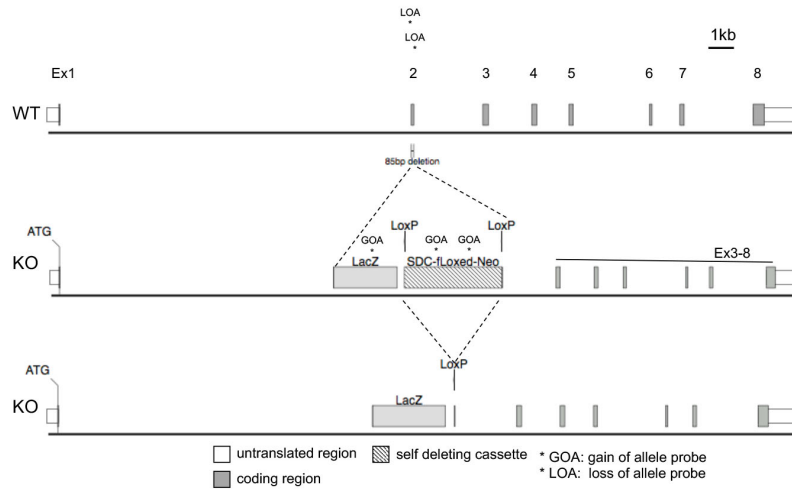


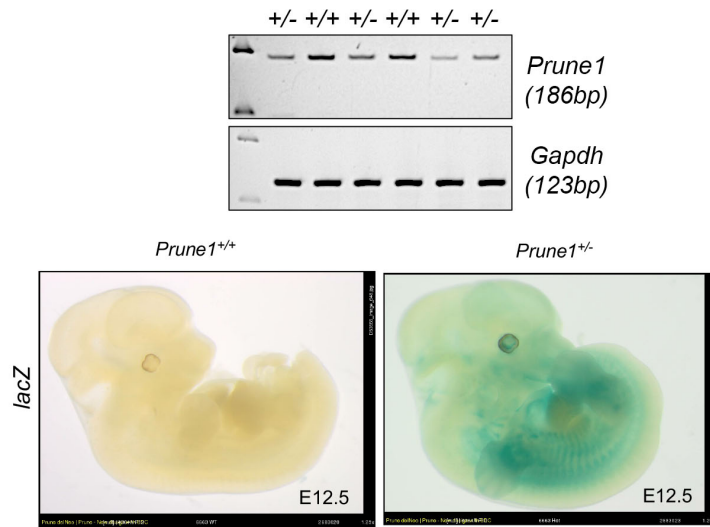
Figure S5. (A) HEK293 cells were transfected with pGlosensor-22F or pGlosensor-42F along with PRUNE1 wild type or mutant (D30N, D106N, R128Q, 4DD) constructs. PDE4A and PDE5A were used as positive controls for cAMP and cGMP assays respectively. Forskolin (Fsk, 10μM) or sodium nitroprusside dehydrate (SNP, 50μM) stimulated luminescence is plotted over time. **(B)** Immunoblotting of Expi-293 derived wild type PRUNE1 and *E.Coli* derived D106N* and R128Q* mutants (left panel). Short-chain exopolyphosphatase activity of wild type, D106N* and R128Q* mutants on P3 and P4 determined using fixed-time BIOMOL Green phosphate detection assay (middle and right panel). **(C)** Long-chain exopolyphosphatase activity detected by PAGE analyses. Synthetic polyphosphates at a final concentration of 2mM (with an average chain length of 45, 65 or 700) were treated with or without PPX1(100nM) or wild type PRUNE1(50nM). Reactions terminated at various time points (15, 30, 60, 150min) were resolved using 20% (for P₄₅ and P₆₅ reactions) or 6% (for P₇₀₀) TBE gels (left panel). End-point reactions

(terminated at 150min) were quantified using BIOMOL Green phosphate detection assay (right panel). Data represents mean \pm SEM over multiple independent experiments.

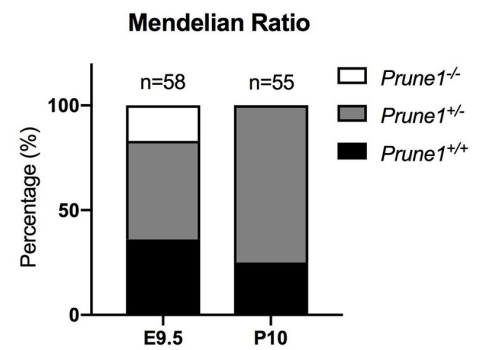
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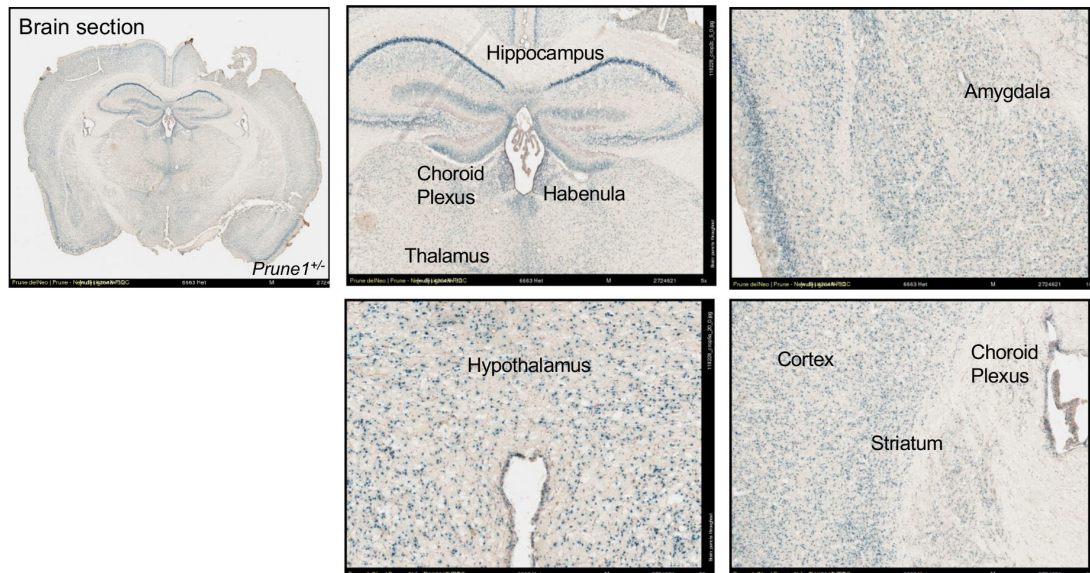


Figure S6. (A) Schematic showing homologous recombination mediated knockout strategy to generate *Prune1* null allele. (B) Developmental *Prune1* expression visualized by whole mount LacZ reporter staining in E12.5 *Prune1*^{+/-} embryos. Images are representative of multiple wild type and heterozygote littermates (n>5). (C) Gel electrophoresis of RT-PCR products using *Prune1* and *Gapdh* primers from cDNA derived from E9.5 embryos. (D) LacZ expression profiling of adult *Prune1*^{+/-} mice demonstrating widespread LacZ⁺ cells in the hippocampus, cerebellum, amygdala, hypothalamus and the cortex.

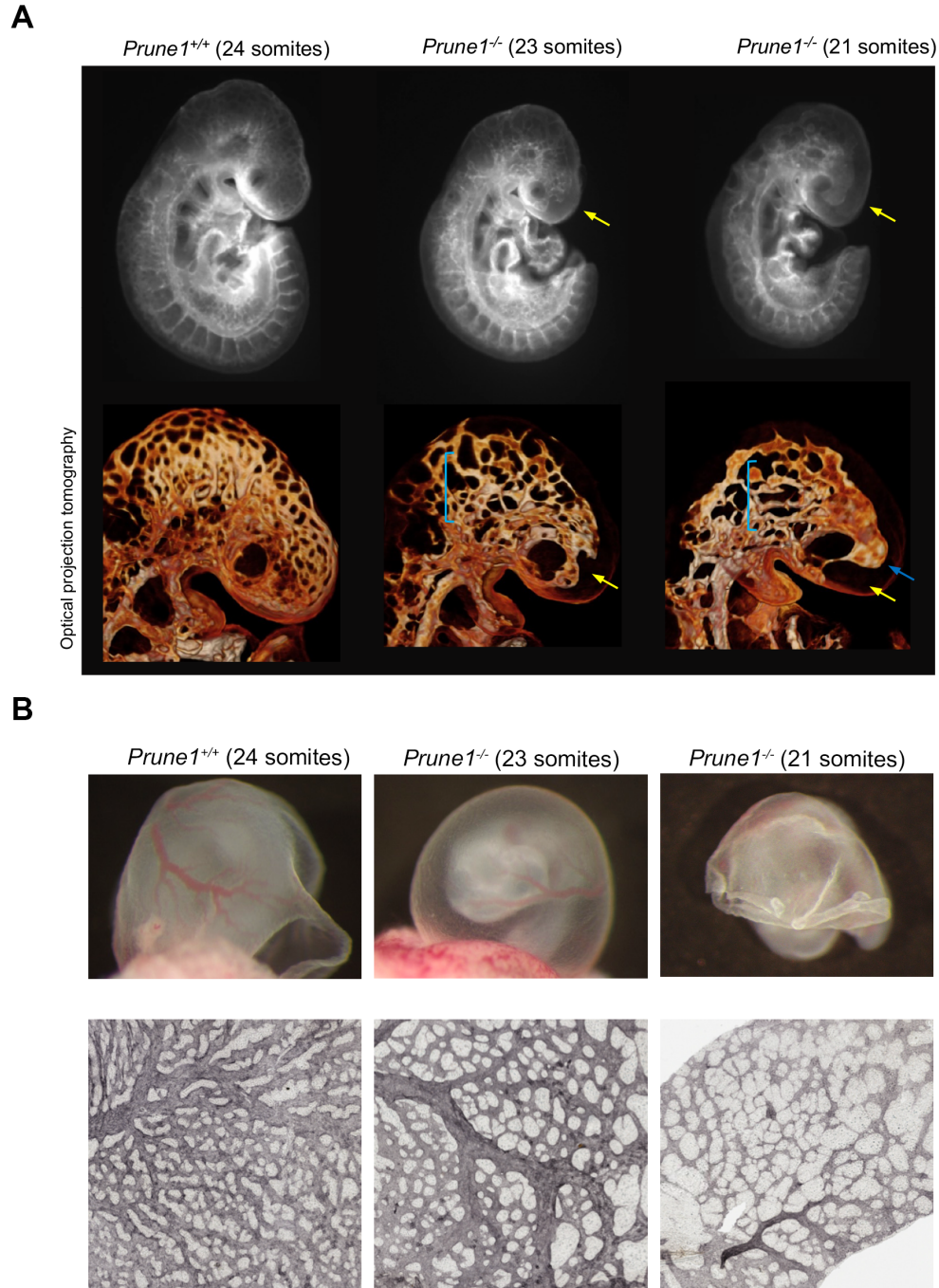


Figure S7. (A) Optical projection tomography revealed significant brain anomalies in *Prune1*^{-/-} embryos between E9-E10. Disrupted cephalic vascular plexus (yellow arrows) with large endothelial sheets (blue bracket) or sacs (blue arrows) observed in the

Prune1^{-/-} embryos. **(B)** Brightfield images of freshly dissected yolk sacs from *Prune1*^{-/-} embryos between E9-E10 (top panel). *Pecam1* staining further highlights defective vascular remodeling in the *Prune1*^{-/-} embryos as compared to wild-type.

A

Variant class	Expected no. of variants	Observed no. of variants	Constraint Metric
Synonymous	60.4	56	$z = 0.35$
Missense	135.8	134	$z = 0.08$
LoF	15.7	6	pLI = 0.01
CNV	5.8	12	$z = -0.72$

B

Variant class	Observed no. of variants	Number of heterozygous carriers	Number of homozygous carriers
Synonymous	414	35814	48441
Missense	93	3802	48
LoF	9	14	0

Figure S8. (A) Variant summary for *PRUNE1* showing expected and observed counts for different variant classes and gene-level constrain metrics for *PRUNE1* as reported by Lek *et al* (28). ExAC constraint metric pLI = 0.01 for *PRUNE1* indicates that it is tolerant of heterozygous loss of function variation. **(B)** Analysis of protein-coding variation within *PRUNE1* as part of DiscovEHR study identified no homozygous carriers of LOF variants.