

TRANSLATED lncRNAs

The peculiar case of SPAR and the
regulation of mTORC1

Agostino Campanile, Alessia Pesaresi, Beatrice Alessandrini, Patrik Rossi

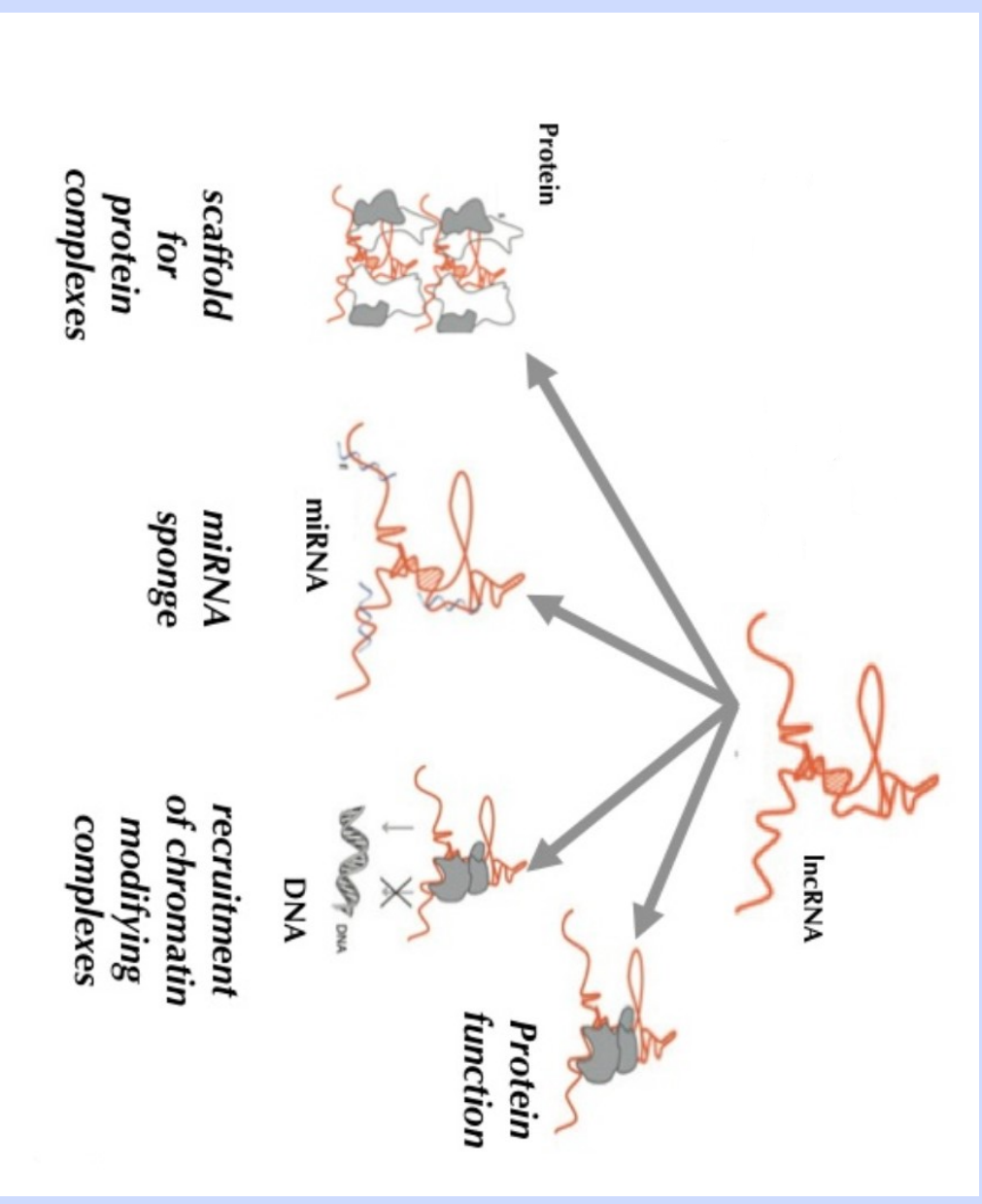
lncRNA

- Transcribed from genomic DNA (cDNA)
- Lots of classes → *Different biological involvements*
- > 200 nucleotides
- Costly poly-adenylated & can contain introns

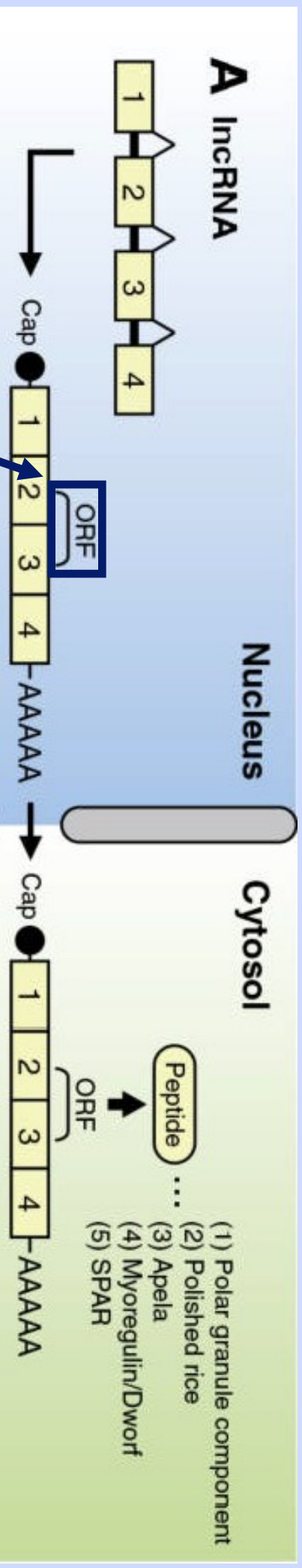
➤ **DON'T ENCODE FOR PROTEINS**



FOR REAL?!



Also long non-coding RNA
 are transcribed by RNA-pol II + spliced
 + capped
 + polyadenylated



Putative ncrRNA contains only
 shorts ORFs (< 300 nt) that could
 encode for functional peptides
 with less than 100 amino-acids

HIDDEN PEPTIDES

HIDDEN PEPTIDES

how to identify them

(A) ORF prediction

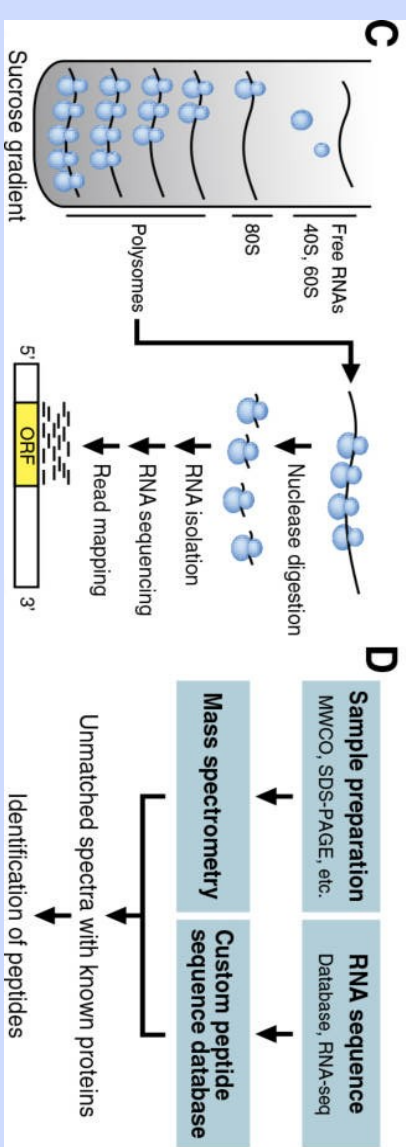
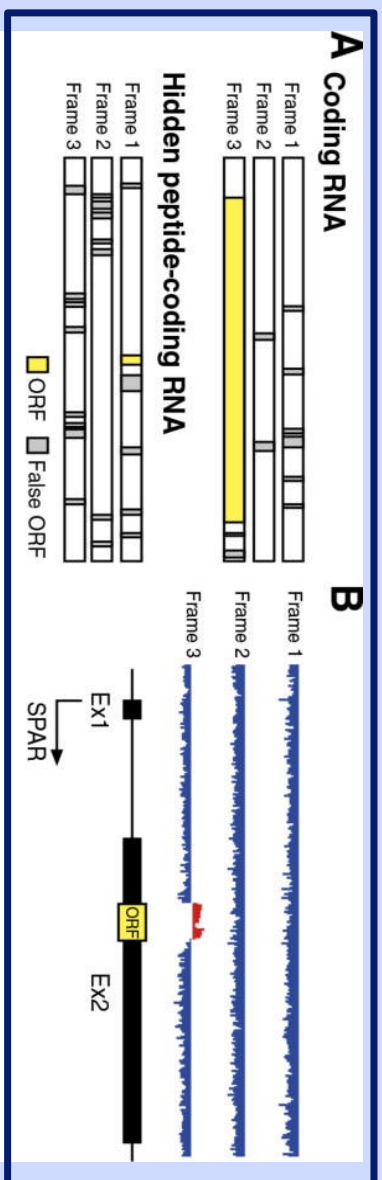
Usually, only long ORFs encode for protein
 Putative lncRNA only contains short ORFs

→ *Difficult to predict which ORF encodes*

(B) Computational Analysis

ORF sequences very well conserved

→ *Prediction by comparison between species*



HIDDEN PEPTIDES

how to identify them

(C) Ribosome profiling

RNAs bound by ribosomes are in active translation, but also protected

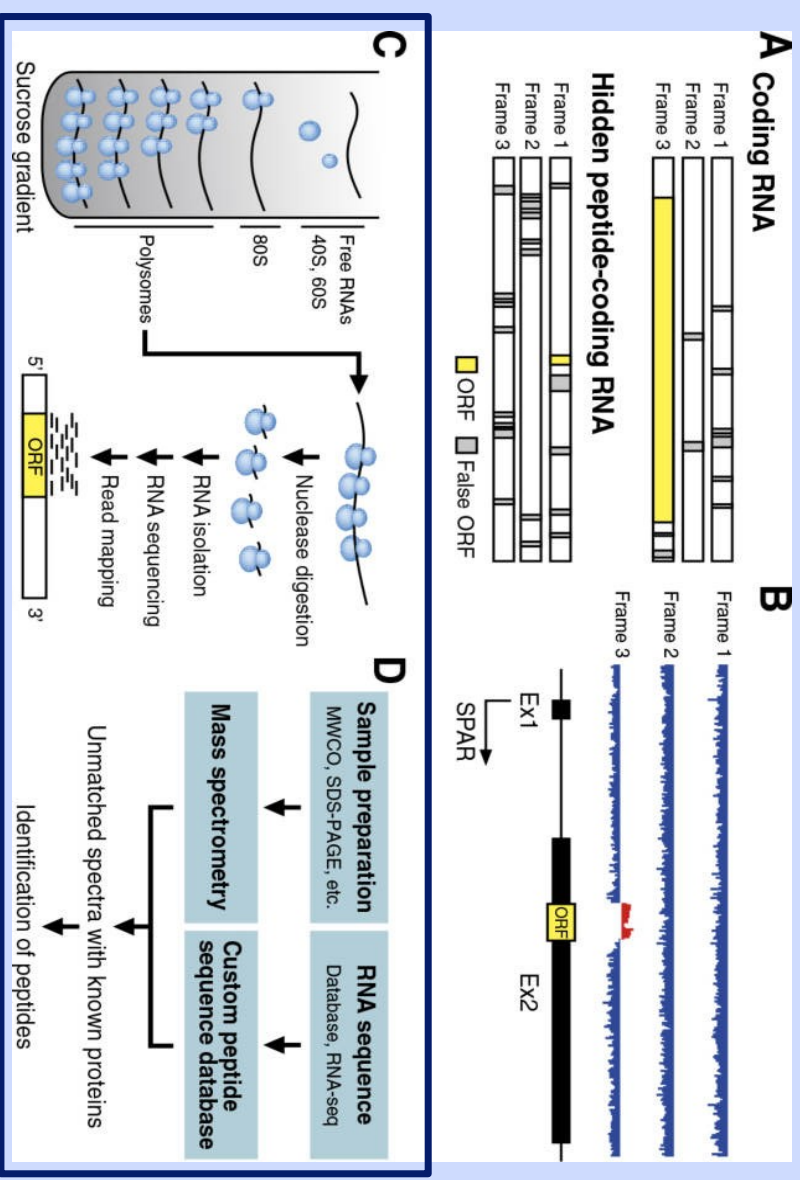
→ Treatment with nuclease to isolate these RNAs, then sequencing and mapping

(D) Peptidomic approach

Peptides concentrated and then analyzed in MS

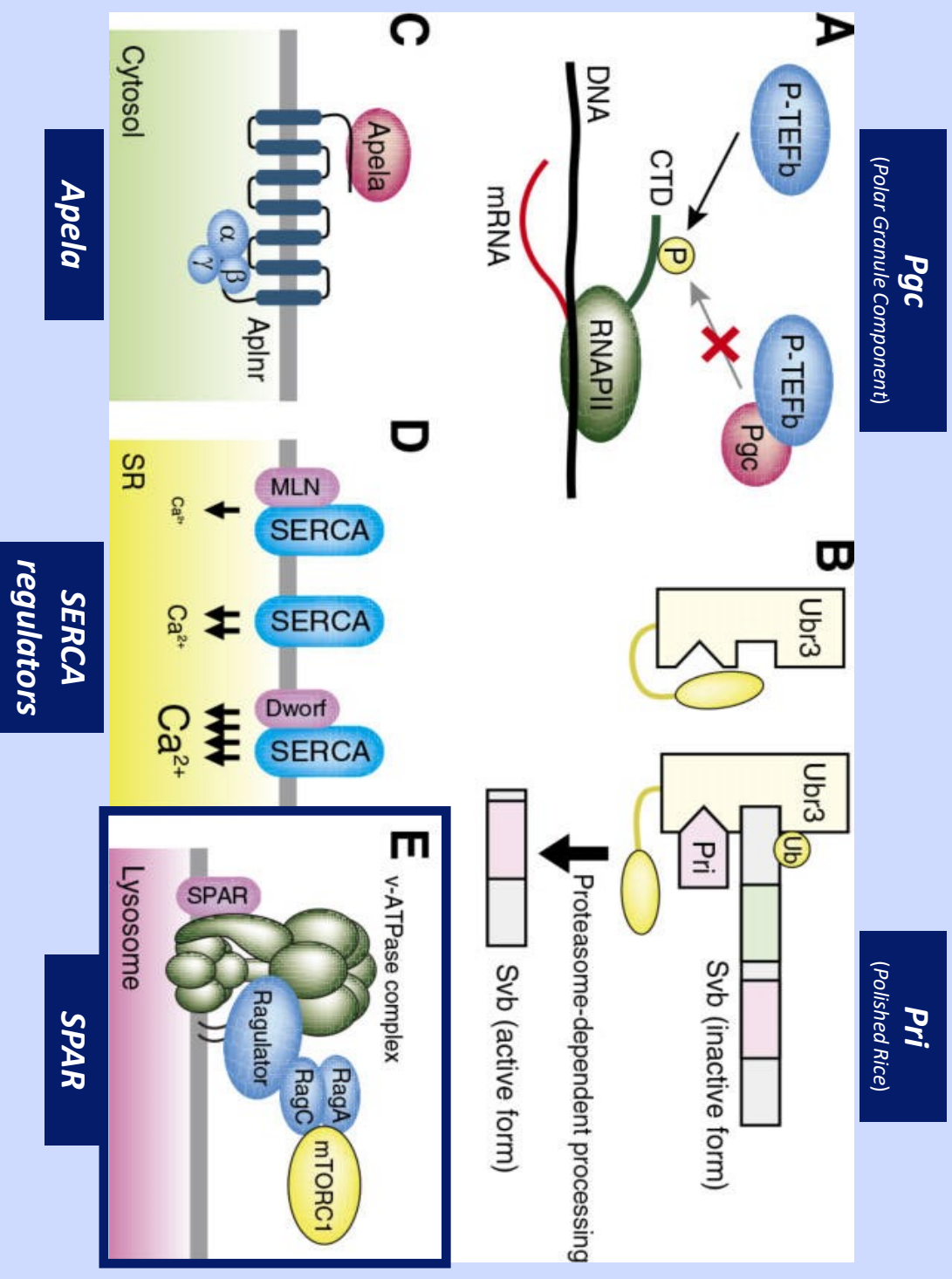
→ Comparison between MS/MS spectra and custom peptide sequence database

→ Unmatched spectra correspond with hidden peptide



HIDDEN PEPTIDES

Examples



Apela

SERCA regulators

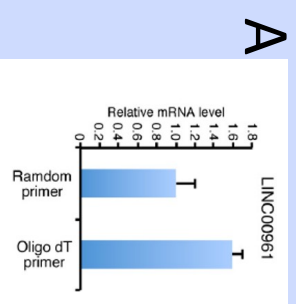
SPAR

Pgc
(Polar Granule Component)

Pri
(Polished Rice)

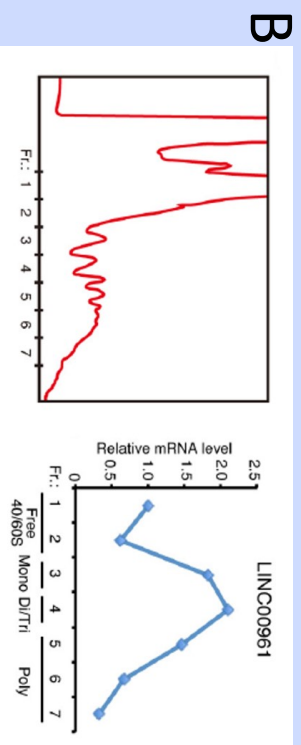
SPAR

90 aa (hidden) peptide encoded by **LINC00961**



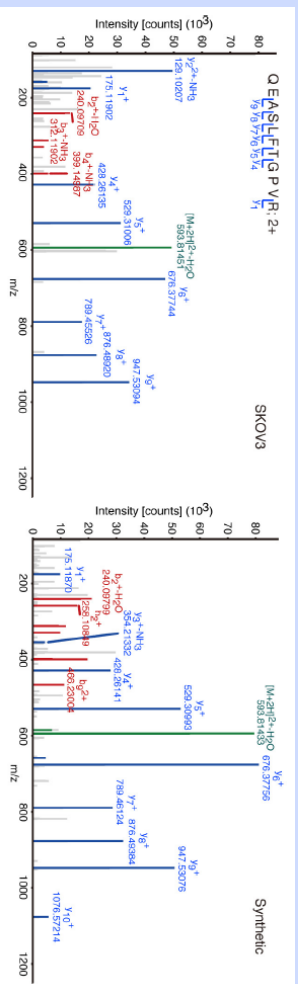
A. qPCR in HeLa cells
(both random & oligo primers)

Poly-adenylation



B. Representative ribosome profile

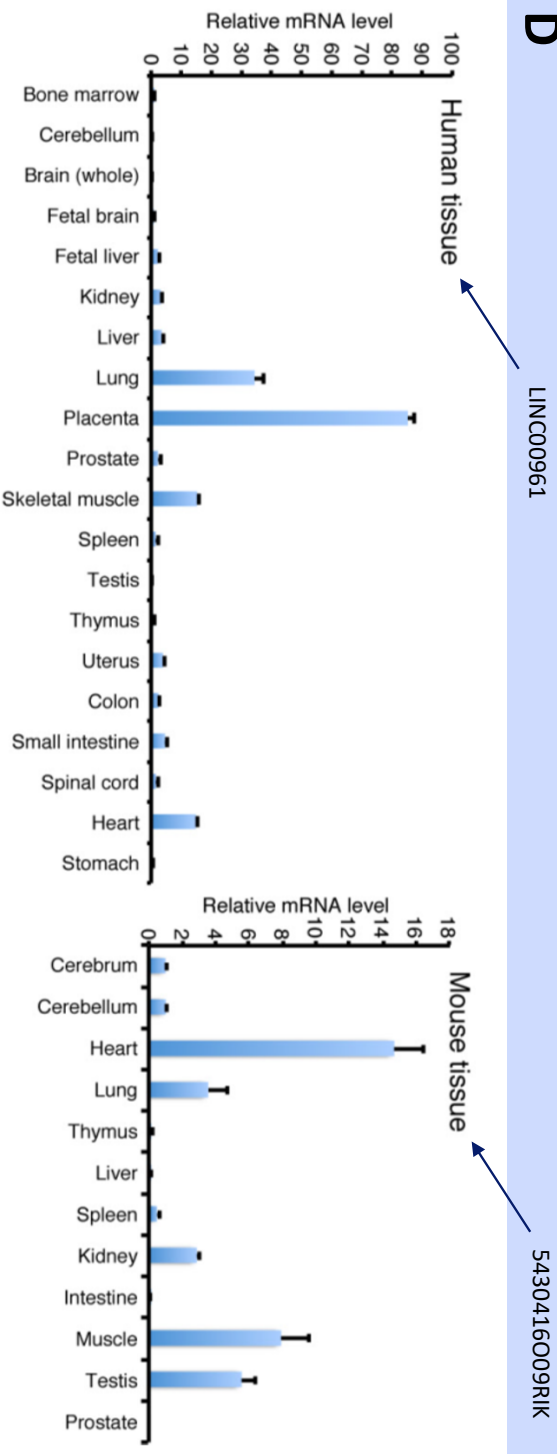
Located to actively translating ribosomes



C. Peptidomic Approach

Confirmation of spectral pattern of endogenous peptide

D



[Data normalized relative to the value of cerebrum]

D. qPCR in Human tissue & Mouse tissue

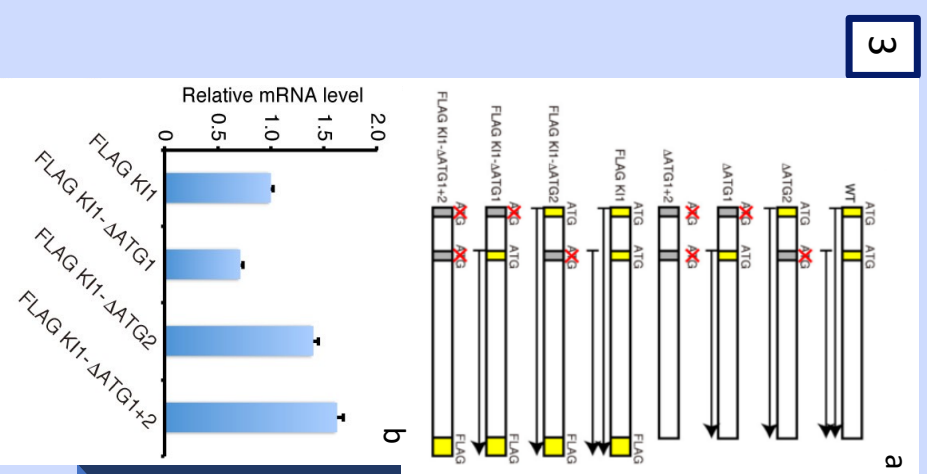
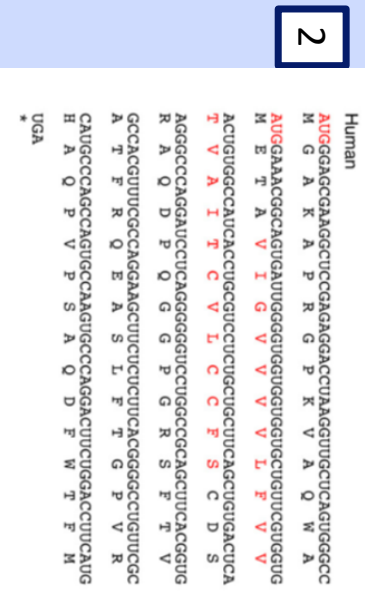
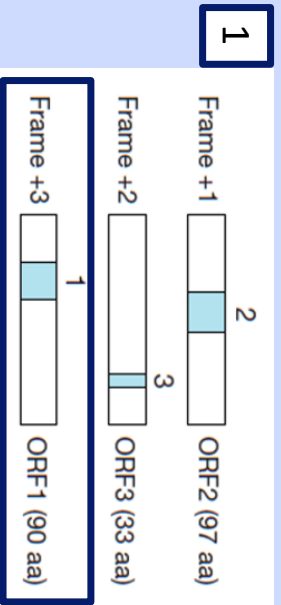


High levels of mRNA expression in lung, heart and skeletal muscle

3 ORFs found in LINCC00961

Flag Knock-In 1-3 at C-terminal to validate translation of each ORF (figure 3a)

IMMUNOBLOTTING: only ORF1 (sequence in figure 2) shows active translation
ORF2 and ORF3 don't!



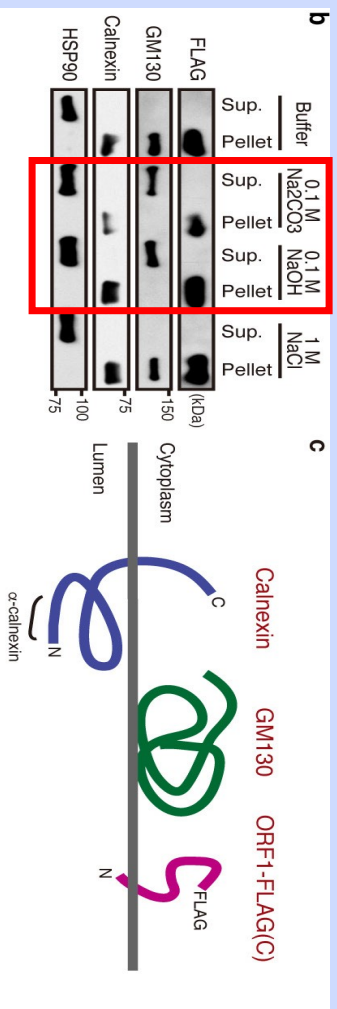
ORF1 has two in-frame ATG (ATG1 & ATG2) which can promote translation with same results in terms of (figure 3b):

- Produced mRNA
- Polypeptide stability

TRANSLATIONAL EFFICIENCY AFFECTS EXPRESSION

LINC00961 → Polypeptide

Associated with the membrane



Homogenates treated with Na_2CO_3 (0.1M)/NaOH (0.1M)

- ⇔ Simple interaction with membrane disrupted (GM130)
- ⇔ Transmembrane interaction maintained (Calnexin)

LINC00961 polypeptide stays after treatment

Transmembrane protein
or
simply associated?

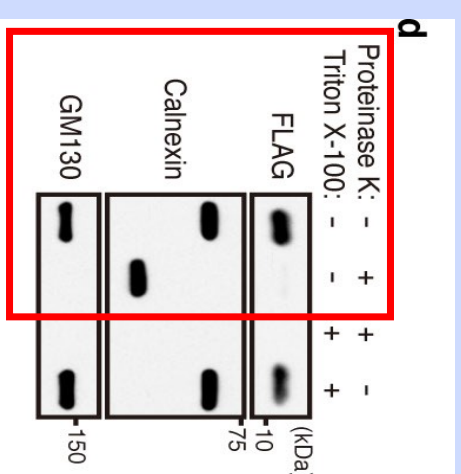
**TRANSMEMBRANE
PROTEIN**

...more information about localization...

! Membrane fractions treated with proteinase K = cytosol proteins degradation

- Calnexin = *NO DIGESTION*
- GM130 & FLAG-tagged protein = *COMPLETE DIGESTION*

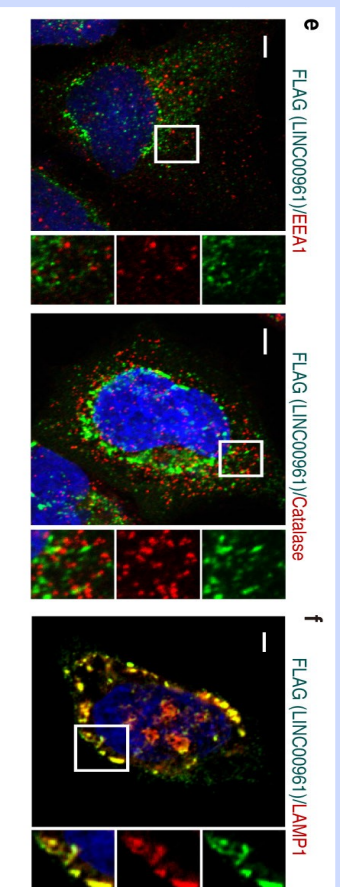
→ C-TER IN THE CYTOSOL = TYPE I PROTEIN



! Immunofluorescence staining for Flag

- Co-localization with **LAMP1** (late endosome & lysosome)
- Not with catalase (peroxisome) OR **EEA1** (early endosome)

No lysosomal sorting signal in the sequence



TYPE I PROTEIN LOCALIZED ON LYSOSOME

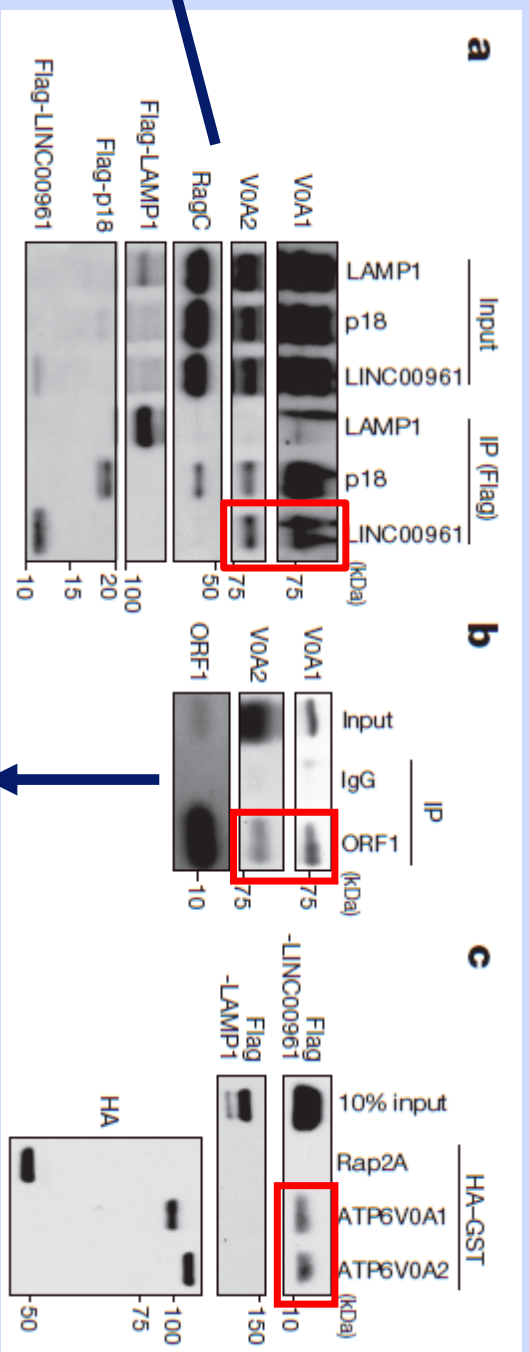
Why is SPAR located to the Lysosome?

MASS SPECTROMETRY TO IDENTIFY INTERACTOME



4 subunits of the **V-ATPase complex**

- **VOA1**
- **VOA2**
- VOD1
- AP2



Both VOA1 & VOA2 bound by SPAR



Ab against ORF1 Interaction with VOA1/VOA2 confirmed



In vitro Binding Assay Direct interaction with ORF1



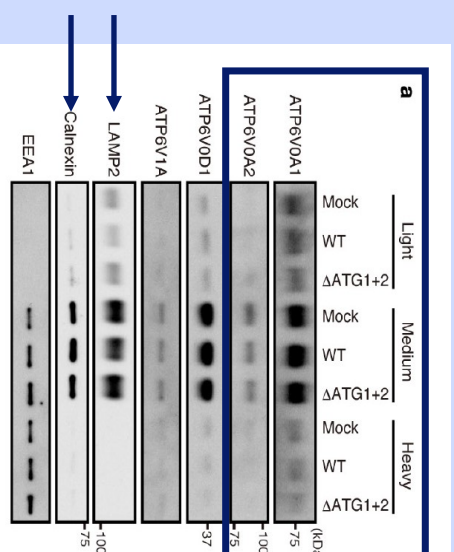
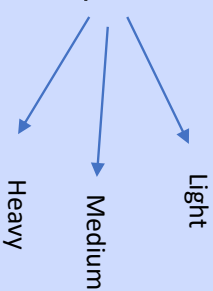
Link between V-ATPase & SPAR???

HEK293T cells, transduced with:

- Empty vector (*Mock*);
- Wild Type LINC00961 (*WT*);
- Mut LINC00961 (Δ ATG1+2)

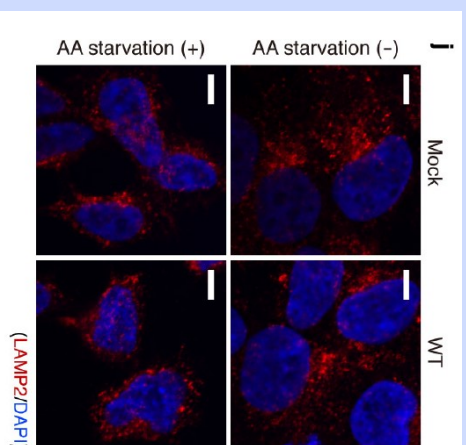
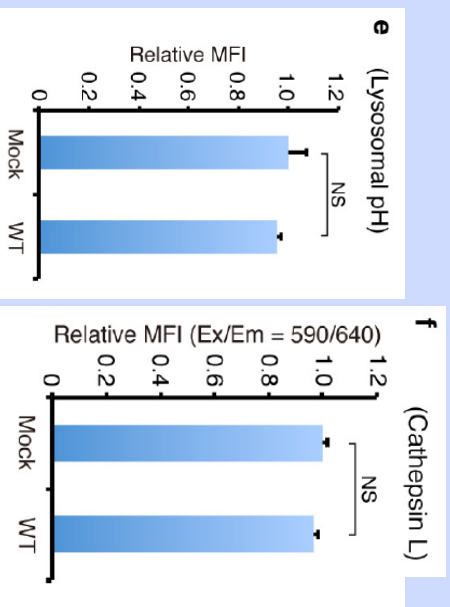


FRACTIONATED
by sucrose gradient



LOCALIZATION

no differences



FUNCTION
no differences

LYSOSOMAL MORPHOLOGY
No differences

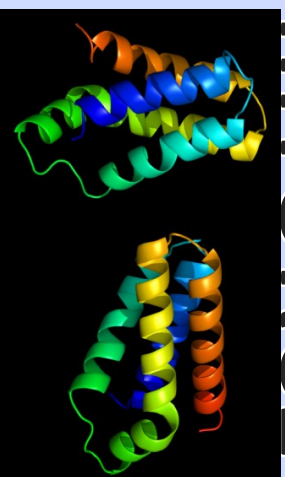
Link between V-ATPase & SPAR???

**NO DIRECT LINKAGE
BETWEEN V-ATPase &
SPAR ACTIVITY**

Why SPAR interact with V-ATPase complex?

V-ATPase → Regulator Complex →

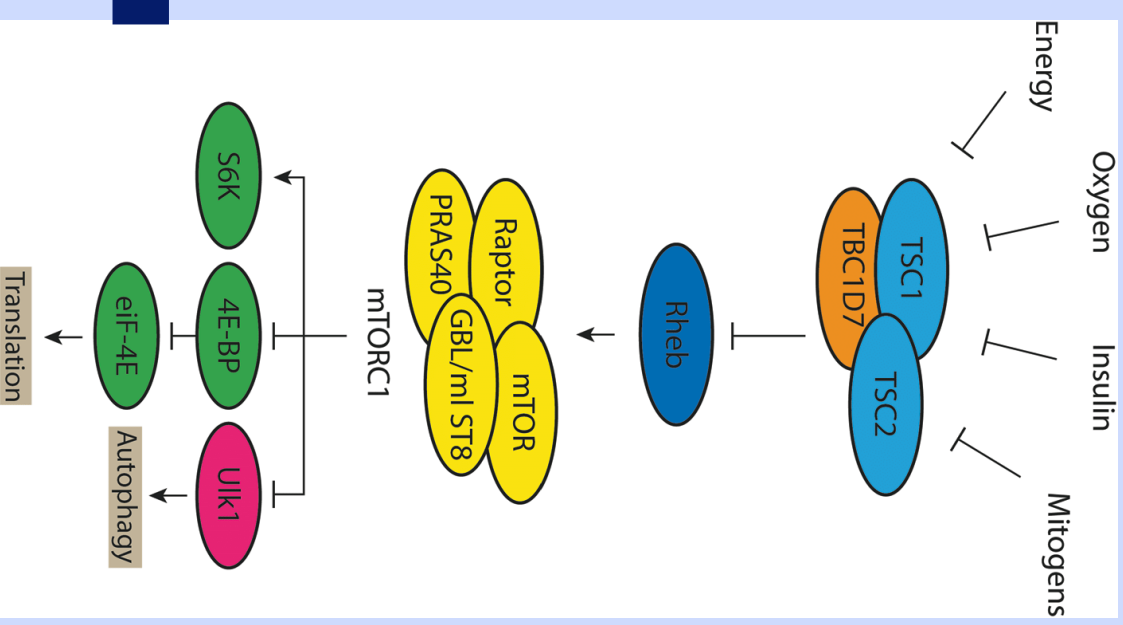
mTORC1



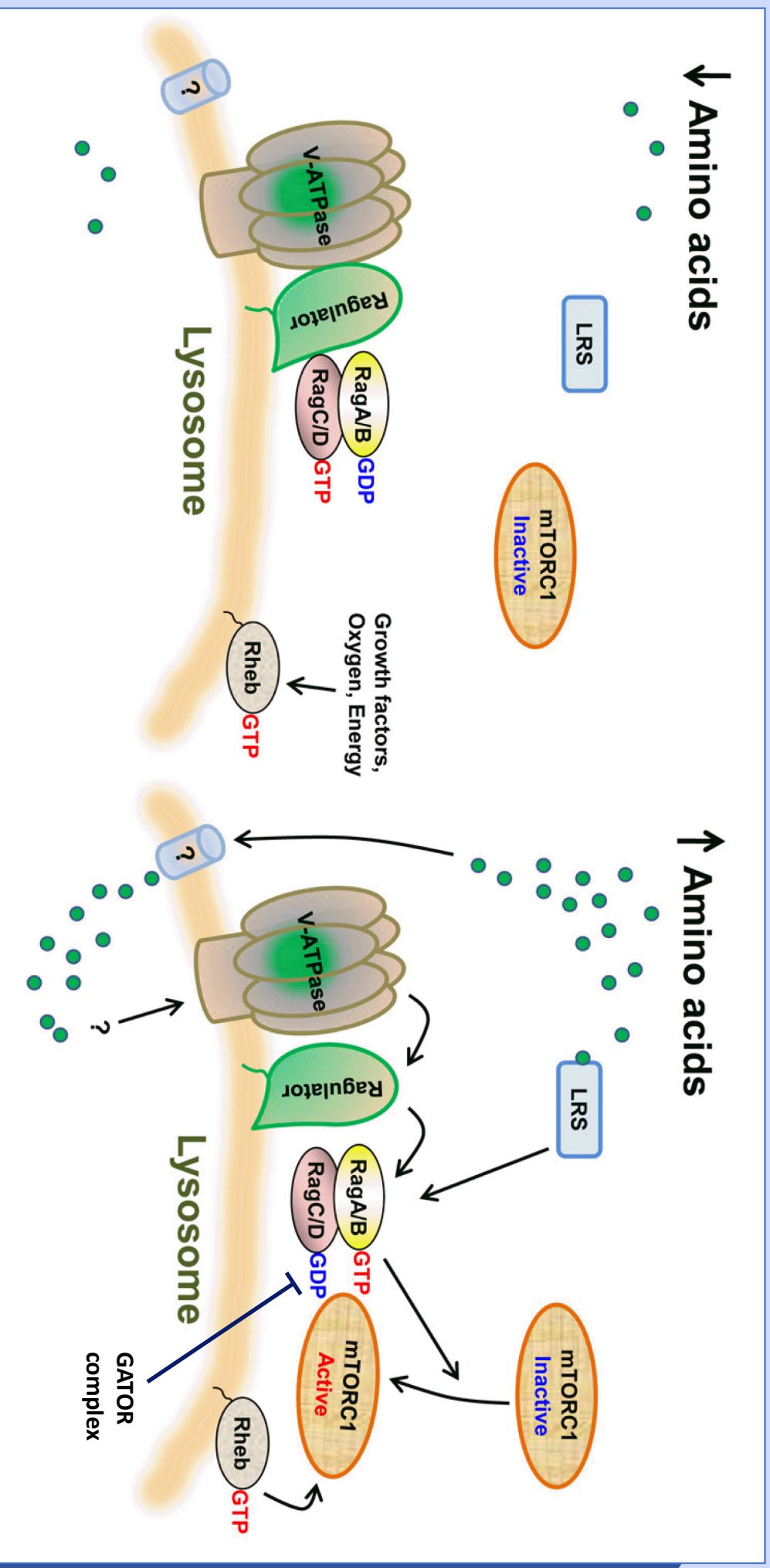
Amino-acid plays an important role in mTORC1 activation



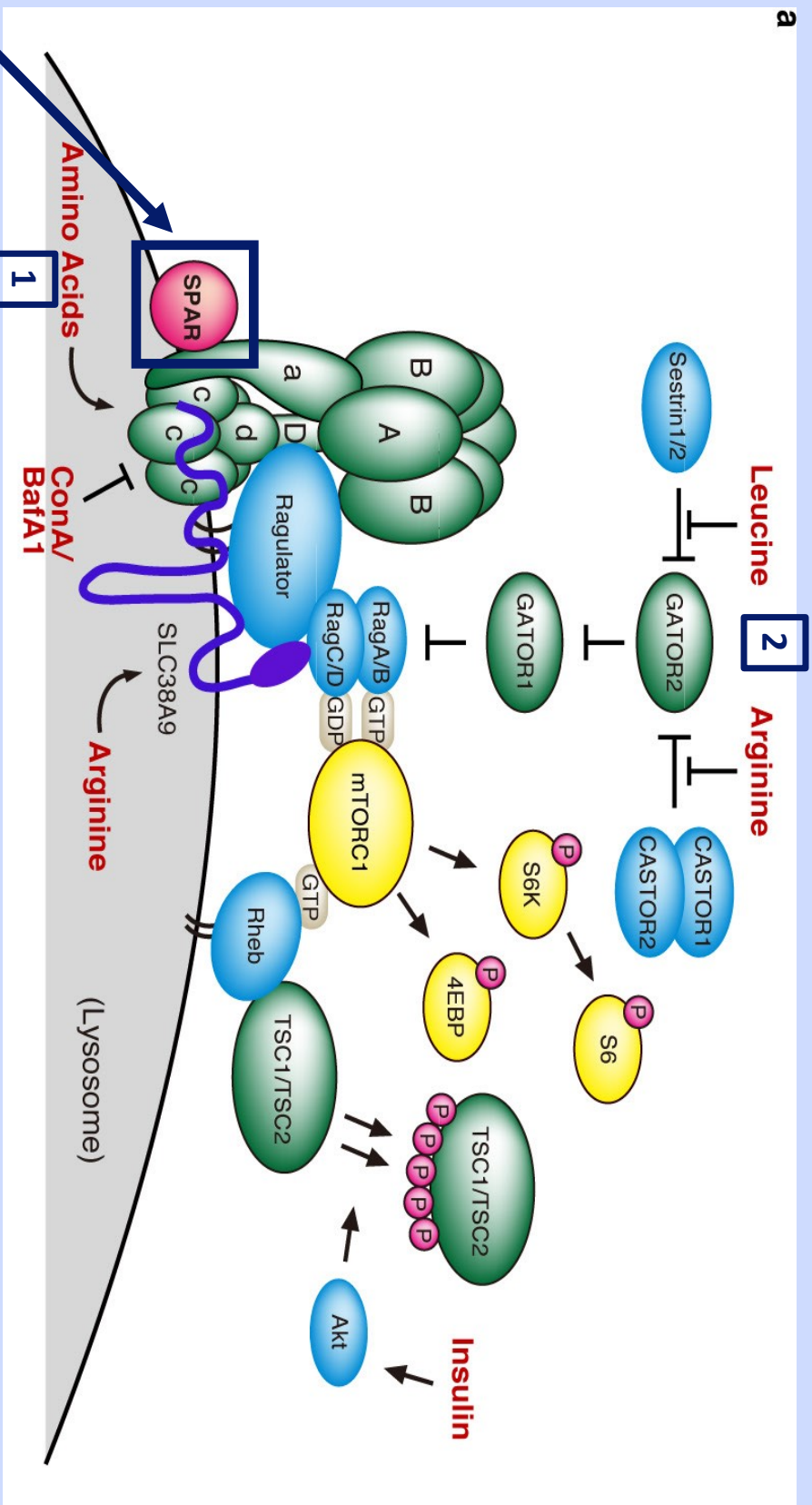
PROMOTE GROWTH IN RESPONSE TO AVAILABILITY OF NUTRIENTS



Amino-acid impact on mTORC1 pathway



a



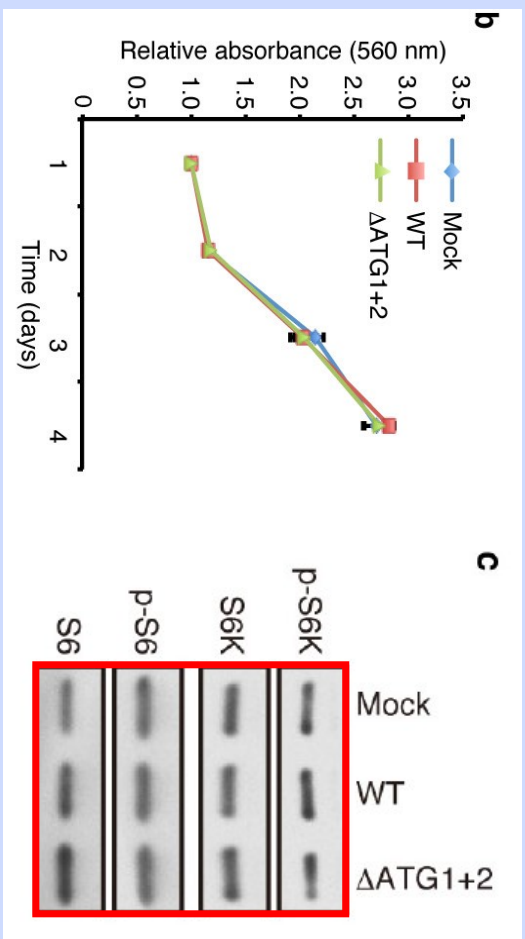
SPAR involvement in the
mTORC1 activating
pathway

HOW IT HAS BEEN
DISCOVERED???

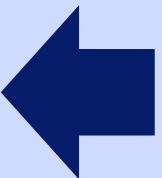
TESTS ON SPAR & mTORC1

1. **Proliferation/Activity**,
2. Localization,
3. Signalling

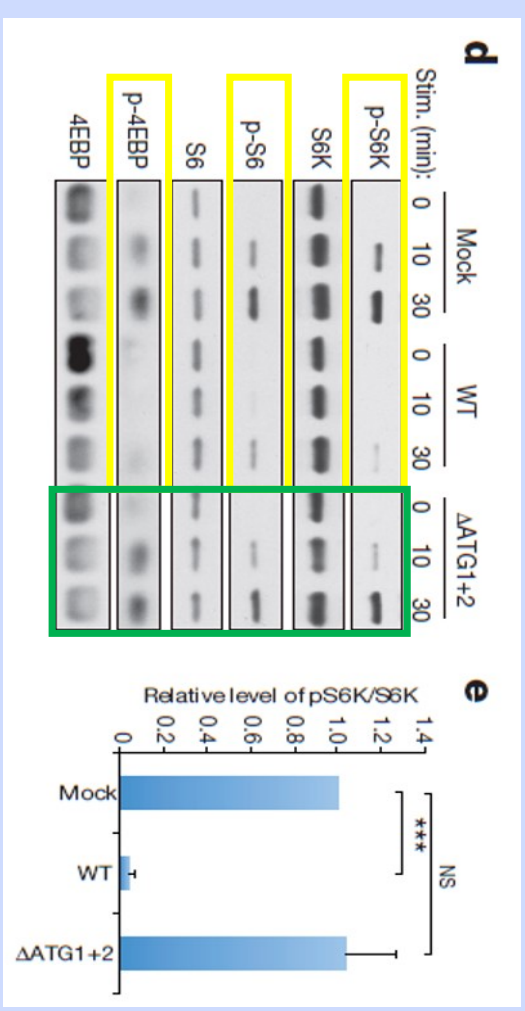
Normal aa levels



NO DIFFERENCES IN
PROLIFERATION & mTORC1
ACTIVITY



aa starvation (1h) & re-stimulation (10/30 min)



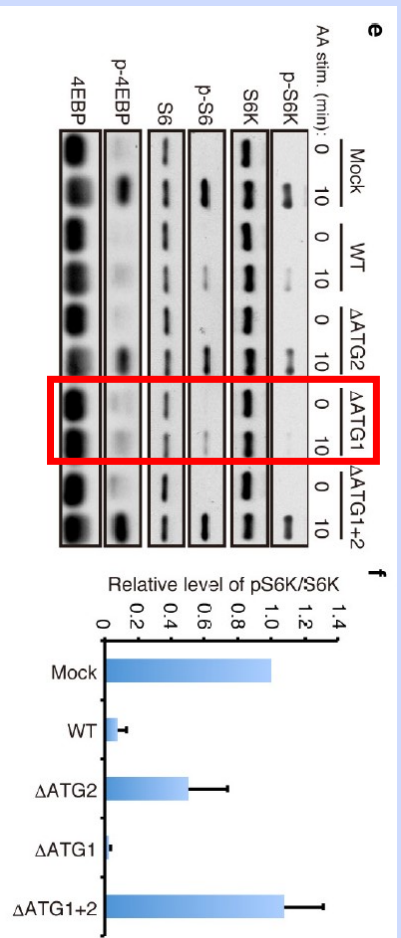
↓↓↓ mTORC1 activity with WT
No differences with ΔATG1+2



TESTS ON SPAR & mTORC1

1. Proliferation/Activity,
2. Localization,
3. Signalling

aa starvation (1h) & re-stimulation (10 min)

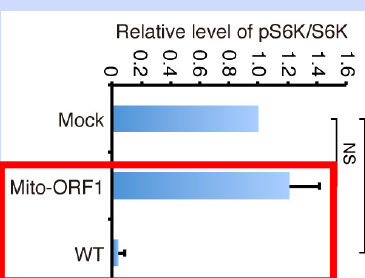
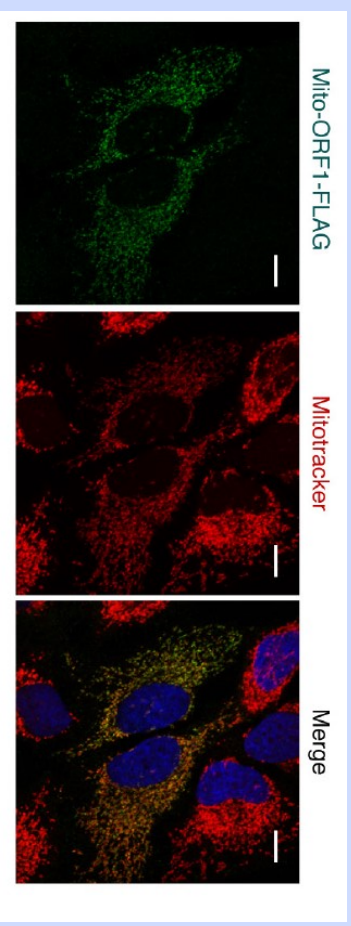


ΔATG1 = shorter (75 aa)
ΔATG2 = longer (90 aa)

ΔATG1 inhibits more
potently mTORC1 activity
than WT or ΔATG2

ΔATG1 IS
SUFFICIENT TO
INHIBIT mTORC1

Localization & Activity



Lysosome
or
nothing!

TESTS ON SPAR & mTORC1

1. Proliferation/Activity,
2. Localization,
3. Signalling

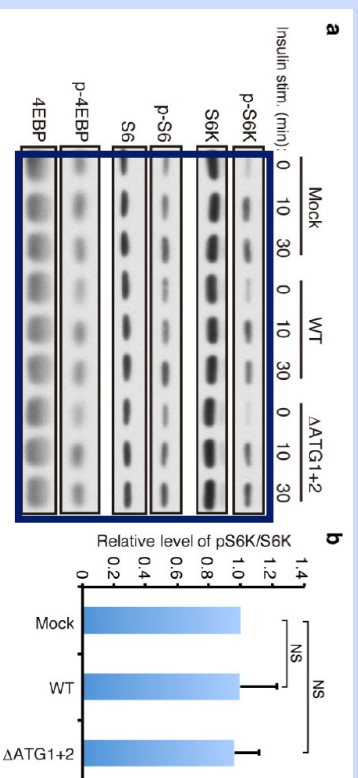
SPAR =

SPAR blocks aa signalling = OK!

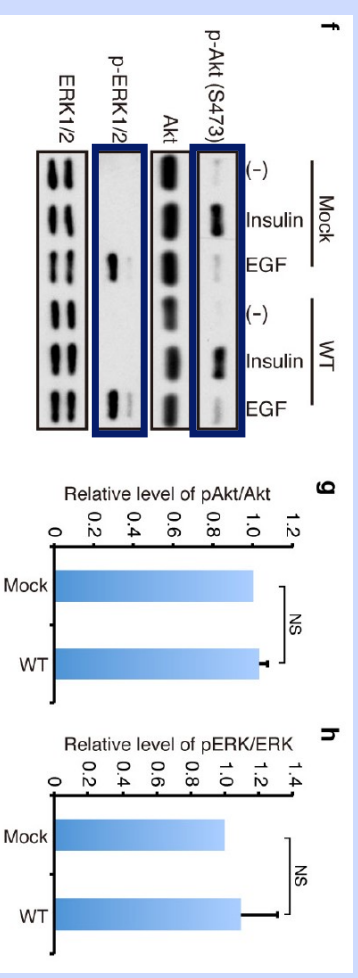
SPAR blocks other signalling pathways = ??

NO!

Small regulatory Polypeptide on Amino-acid Response



No Insulin-mediated activation!

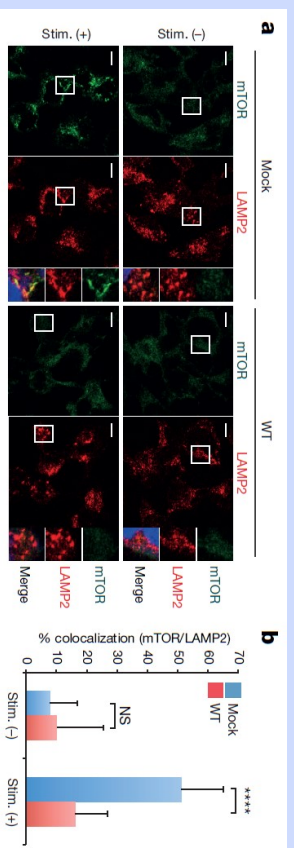


Insulin and EGF stimulation for mTORC2

No SPAR involvement

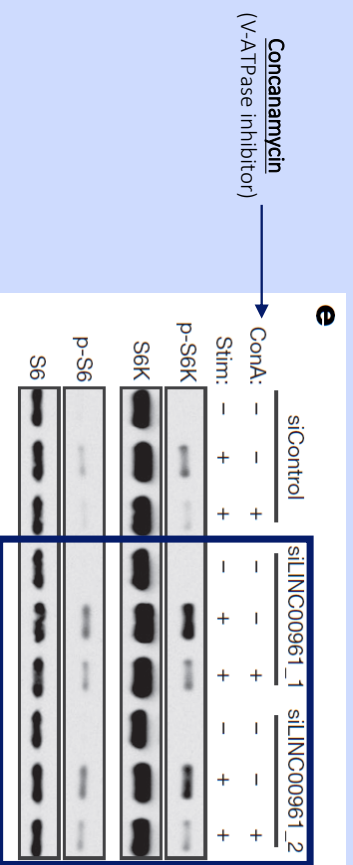
SPAR regulates mTORC1 → WHICH POINT?

LOCALIZATION



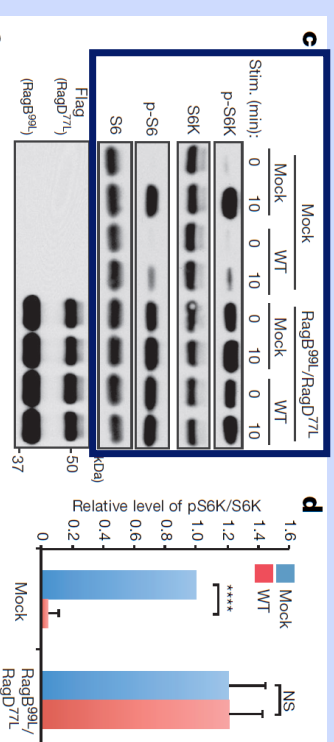
↓ No co-localization when SPAR is expressed

v-ATPase role



↓ SPAR works at v-ATPase level

RAG ROLE



↓ SPAR function upstream RAGS

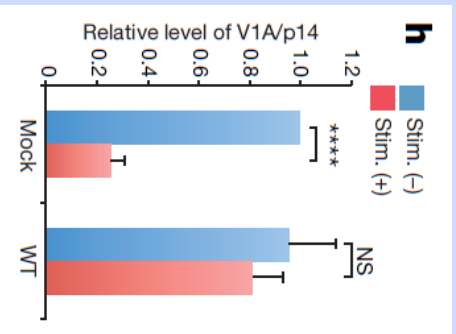
SPAR regulates mTORC1 → WHICH POINT?

**SPAR INTERACTS
AND REGULATES**

V-ATPase

→ **HOW???**

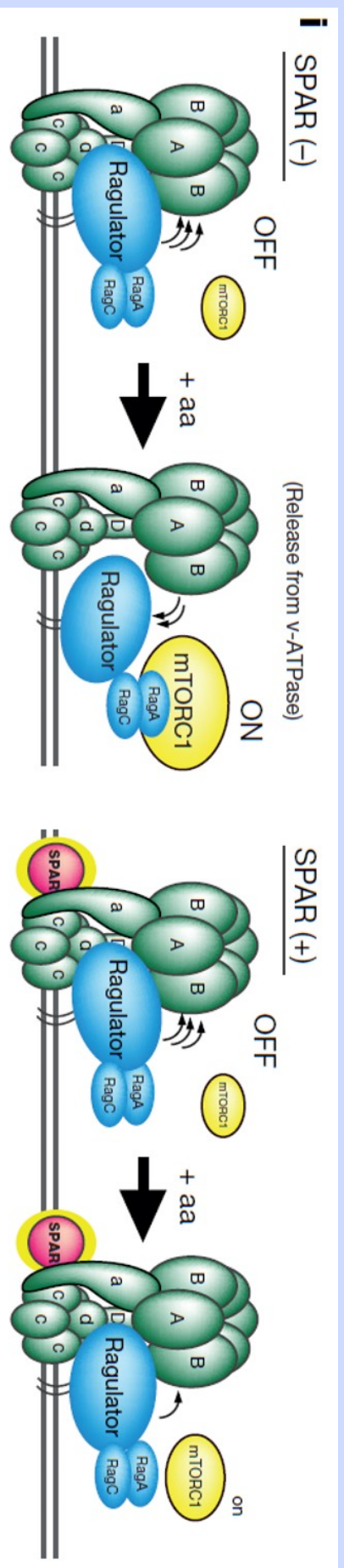
SPAR regulates mTORC1 → WHICH POINT?



- AA Stimulation in Mock = ↓↓↓↓ Interaction v-ATPase/RAG
- AA Stimulation in WT = No changes



SPAR MAINTAIN v-ATPase-
Regulator-Rags SUPPERCOMPLEX



Experiments in mice

IN VITRO

b

Human	M	G	A	K	A	P	R	G	P	K	V	A	Q	W	A
Mouse	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Human	M	E	T	A	V	I	G	V	V	V	L	F	V	V	I
Mouse	M	E	T	A	V	I	G	M	V	A	V	L	F	V	I
Human	T	V	A	I	T	C	V	L	C	C	F	S	C	D	S
Mouse	T	M	A	I	T	C	I	L	C	Y	F	S	Y	D	S
Human	R	A	Q	D	P	Q	G	S	P	R	S	F	T	V	V
Mouse	H	T	Q	D	P	E	R	S	S	R	S	F	T	V	V
Human	A	T	F	R	Q	E	A	S	L	F	T	G	P	A	L
Mouse	A	T	F	H	Q	E	A	S	L	F	T	G	P	A	L
Human	H	A	Q	P	V	P	S	A	Q	D	F	W	T	F	M
Mouse	Q	S	R	P	L	P	R	P	Q	D	F	W	T	F	M

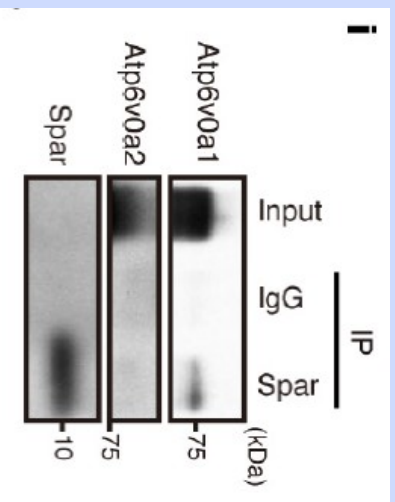
5430416009RIK

65% homology w/ human

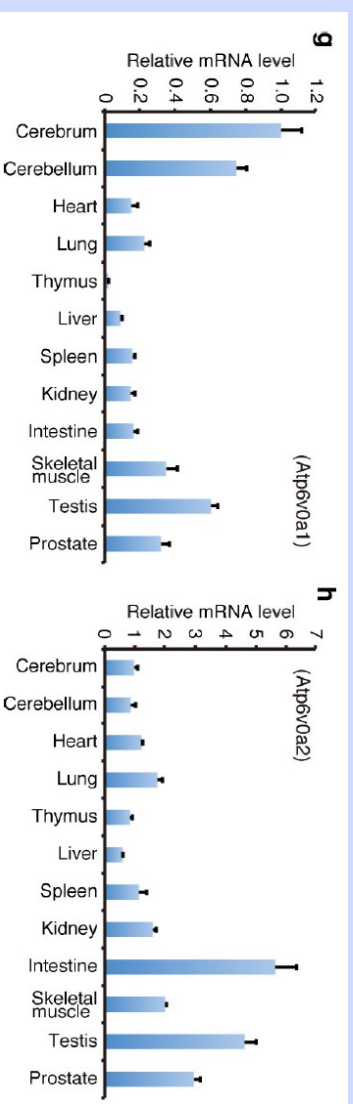
Functional conservation of SPAR

Expression in skeletal muscle

In Vivo???



SPAR co-localized with
V-ATPase complex in
mice

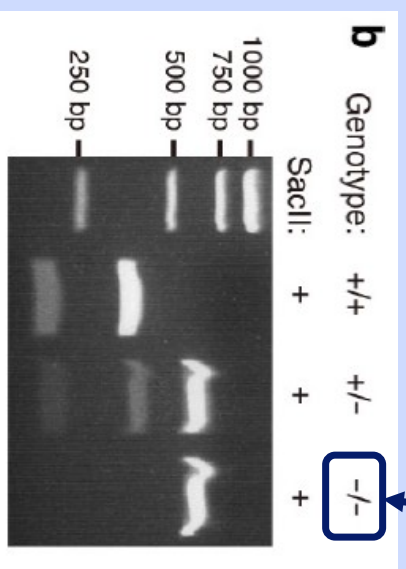


V-ATPase complex expressed in
skeletal muscle

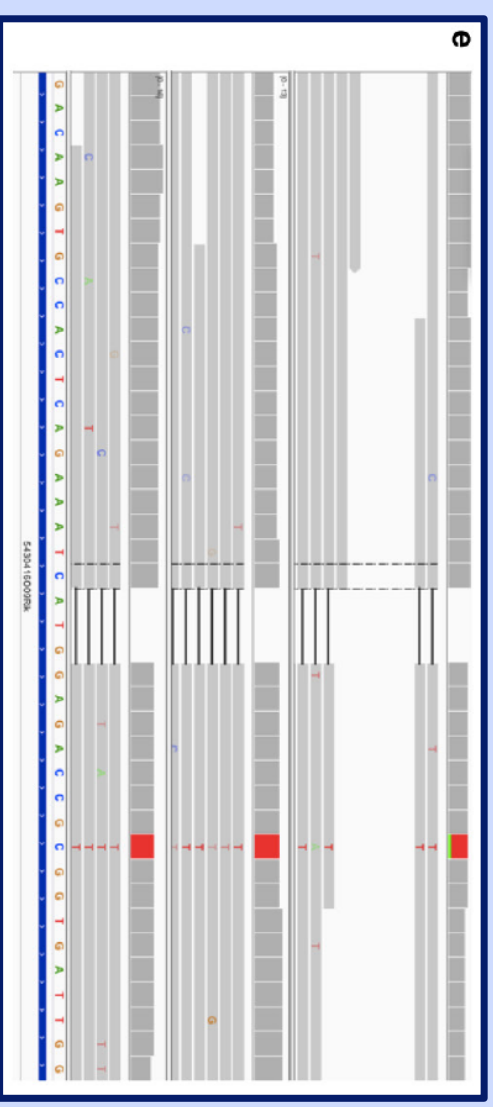
Experiments in mice



CRISPR/CAS9 ⇒ SPAR-deficient mice

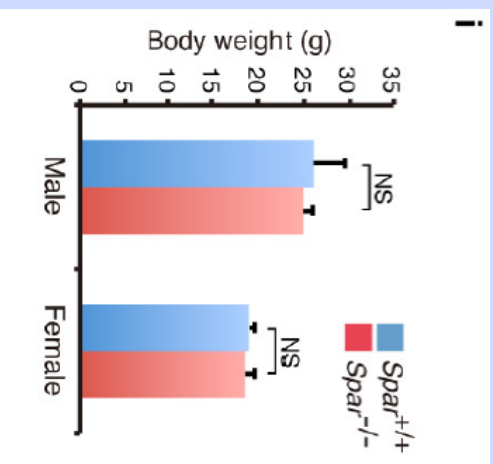


Genomic analysis for 3 genotypes

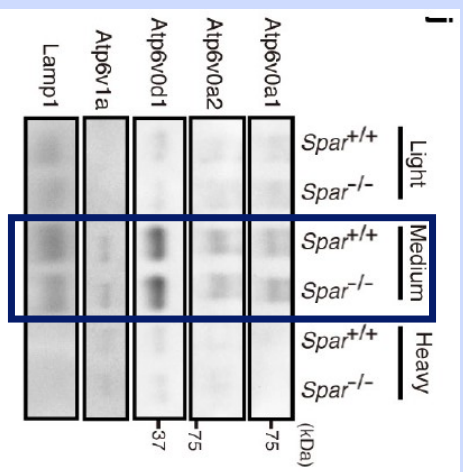


WGS ⇒ no off-targets

Experiments in mice

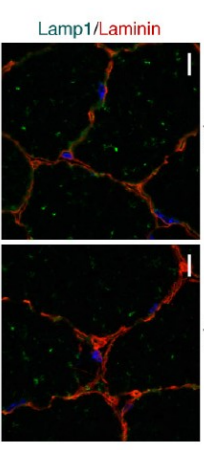
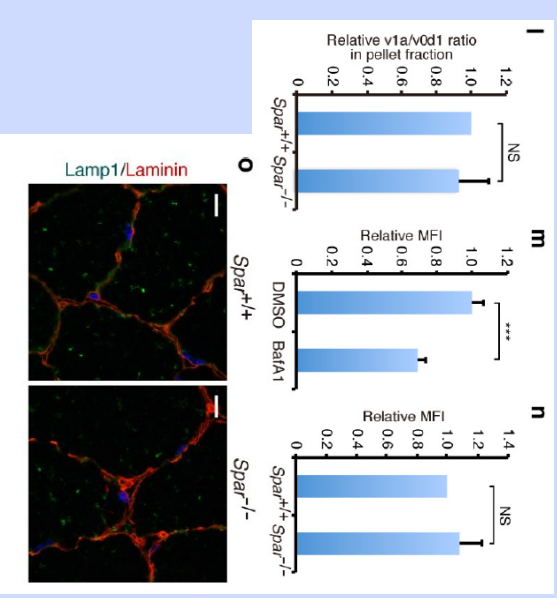


No morphologic differences



No differences in V-ATPase localization (Immunoblot)

No differences in Lysosomal morphology



LOCALIZATION, ASSEMBLY & LYSOSOMAL
FUNCTION OF V-ATPase DON'T CHANGE

IncrRNA for SPAR
↑↑↑ expressed in
skeletal muscle

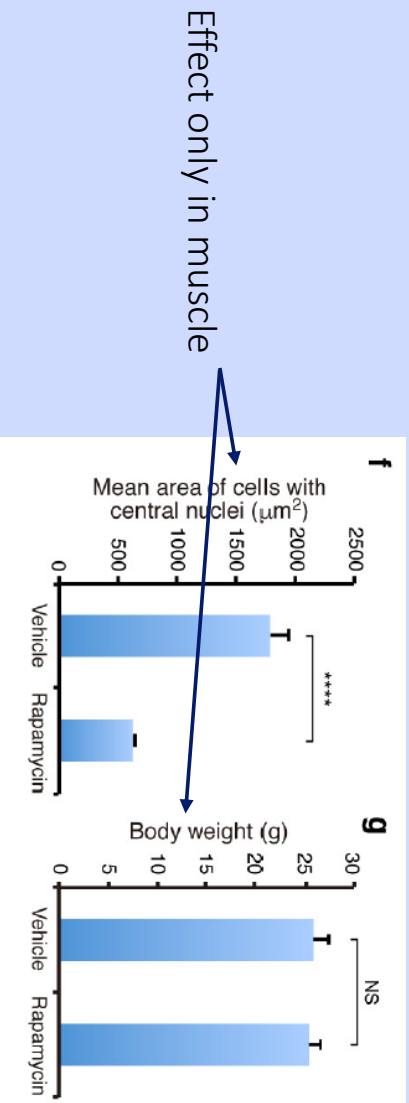
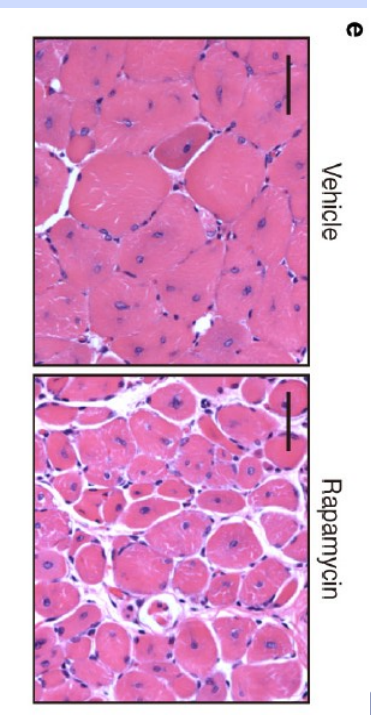
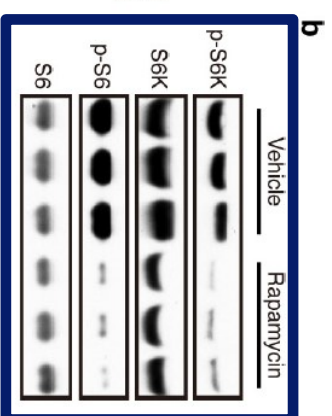
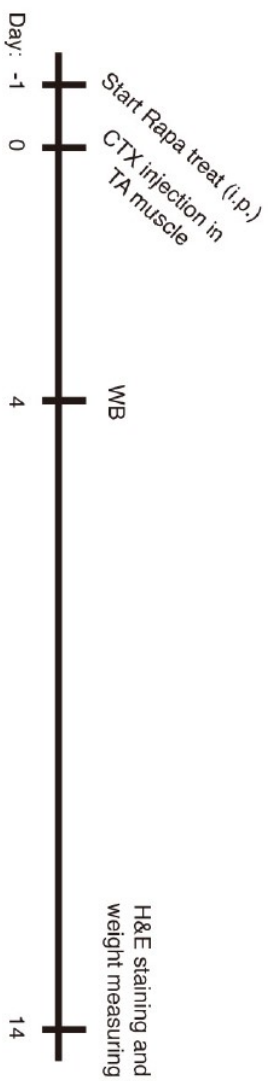
mTORC1 ↑↑↑
activated in skeletal
muscle regeneration

SPAR
ENVOLVEMENT???

* Rapamycin stops muscle regeneration blocking mTORC1

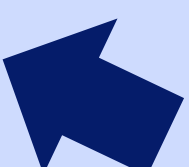
*

a (For Extended data Fig. 8b-11g)



Rapamycin/CTX treatment

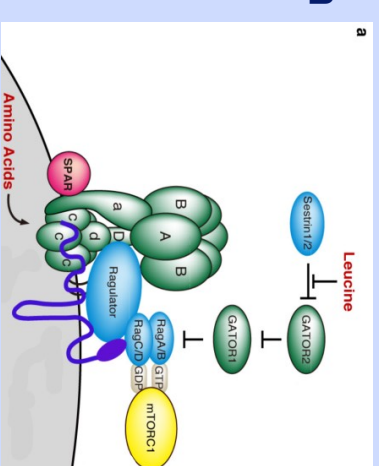
CTX = Cardiotoxin, snake toxin
⇒ muscle injury



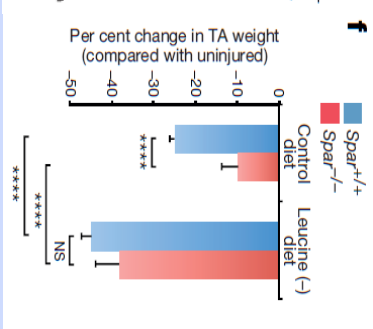
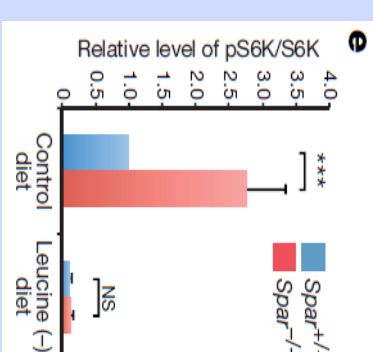
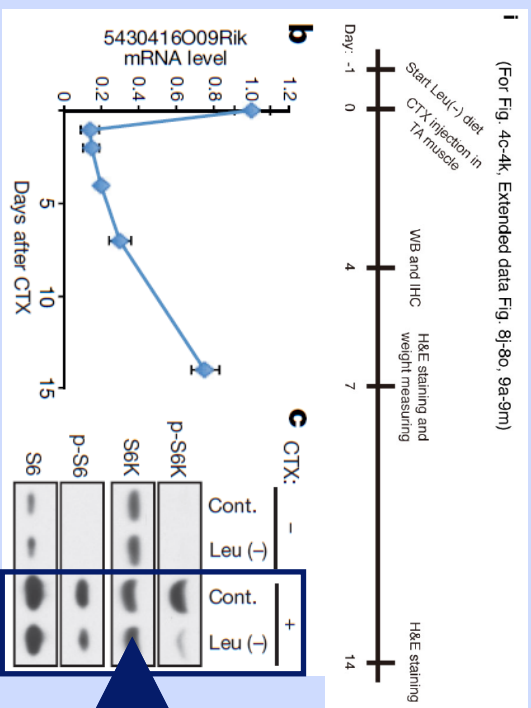
mTORC1 activity reduced by Rapamycin
⇒ **NO MUSCLE REGENERATION**

SPAR ENVOLEMENT IN MUSCLE REGENERATION

Leucine deprivation as control



(For Fig. 4c-4k, Extended data Fig. 8f-8o, 9a-9m)



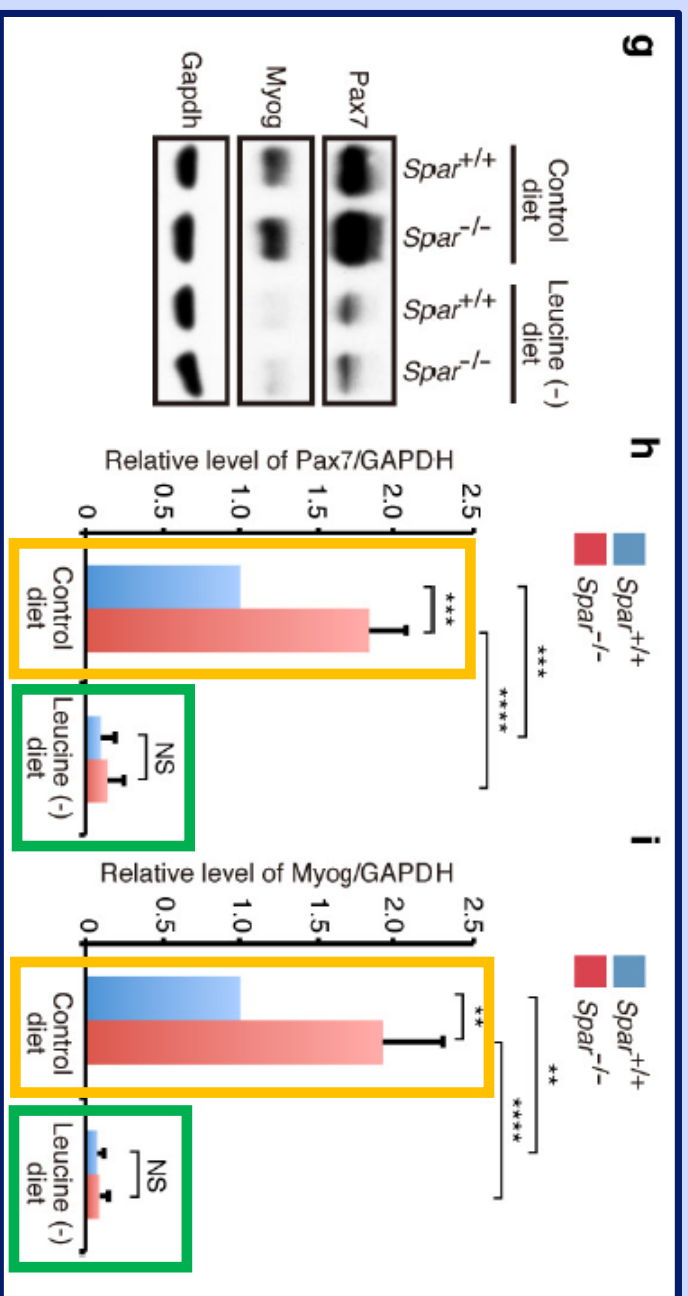
mTORC1 DOESN'T ACT
PHYSIOLOGICALLY, WITH OR WITHOUT
SPAR, IF THERE'S NO LEUCINE



ROLE OF SPAR &
mTORC1 CONFIRMED

SPAR ENVOLEMENTMENT IN MUSCLE REGENERATION

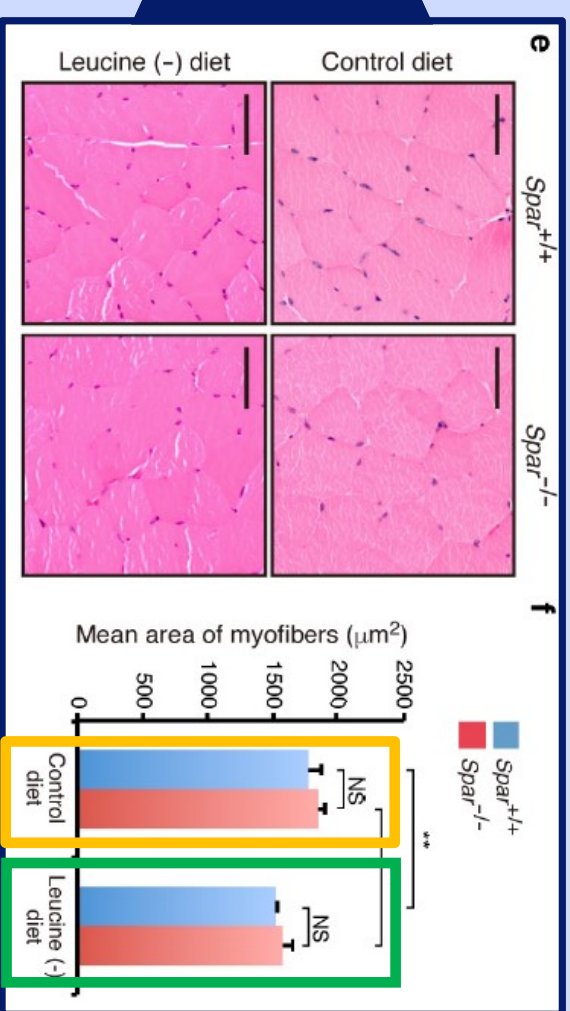
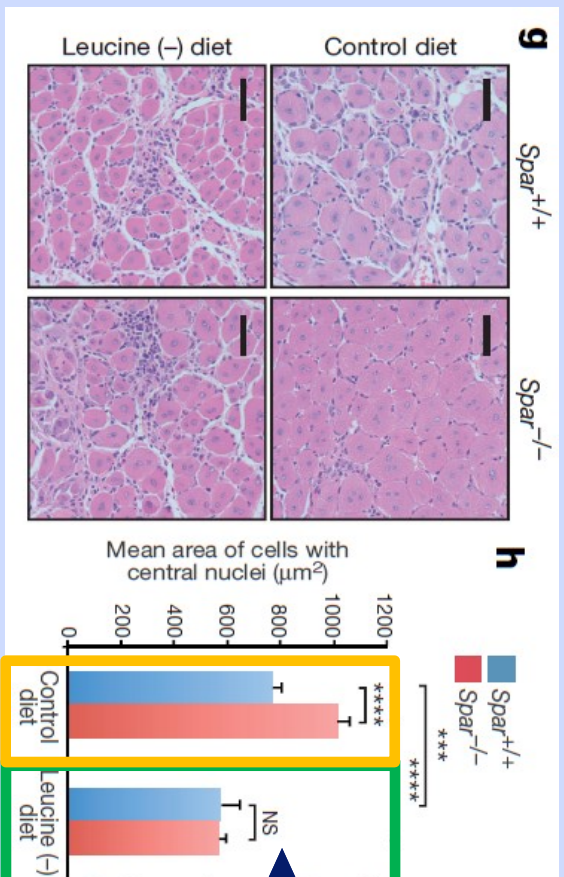
Stem cell proliferation ↓
 Differentiation ↓
 Maturation ↓



SPAR DEFICIENT CELLS (Inj) ⇨ Ctrl: ↑↑↑ Pax7/Myog
 ⇨ Leu-: ⊗ Pax7/Myog

SPAR ENVOLVEMENT IN MUSCLE REGENERATION

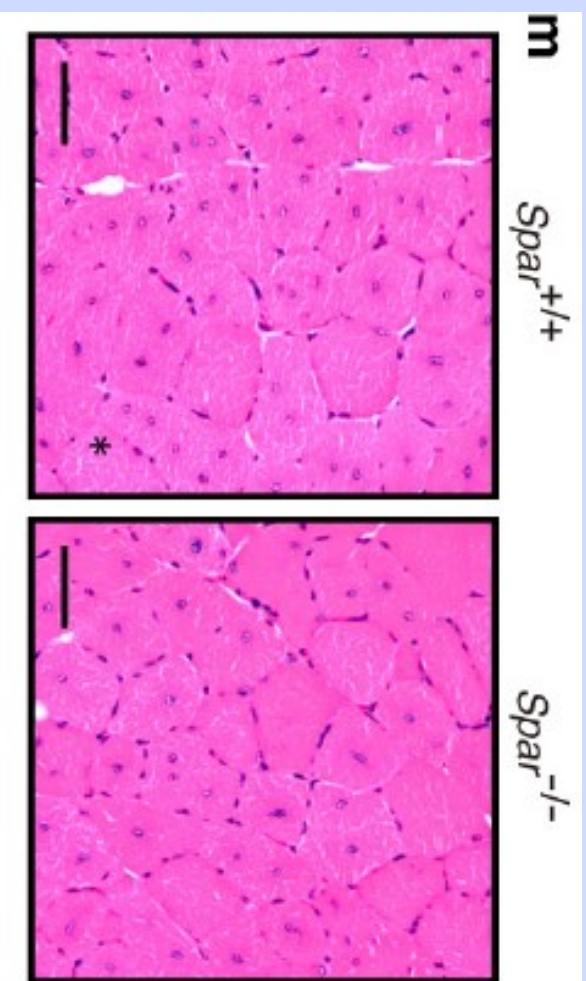
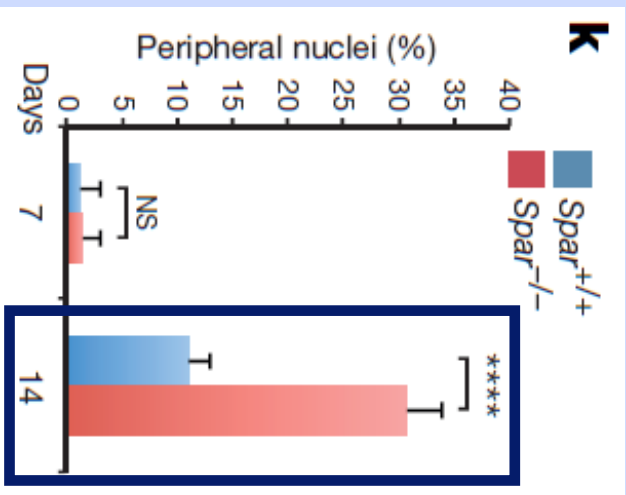
Stem cell proliferation \downarrow
 Differentiation \downarrow
 Maturation \downarrow



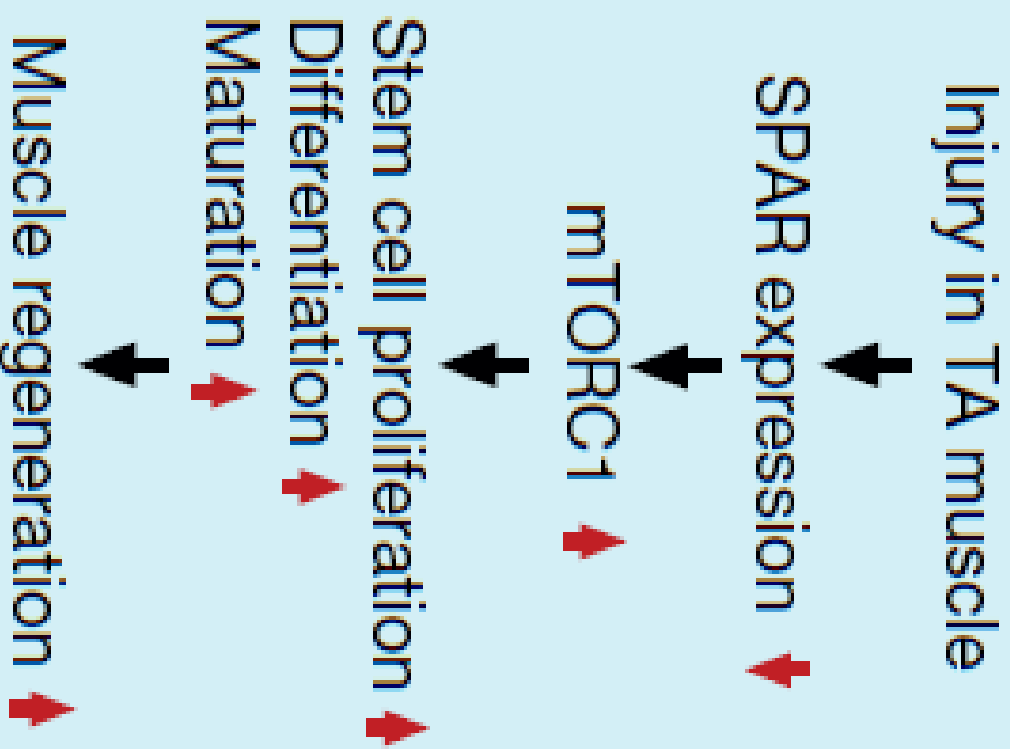
SPAR DEFICIENT MYOFIBRES \Rightarrow Ctrl: $\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow n^\circ$, = size
 \Rightarrow Leu-: = n° , = size

SPAR ENVOLEMENT IN MUSCLE REGENERATION

Stem cell proliferation \uparrow
Differentiation \uparrow
Maturation \downarrow

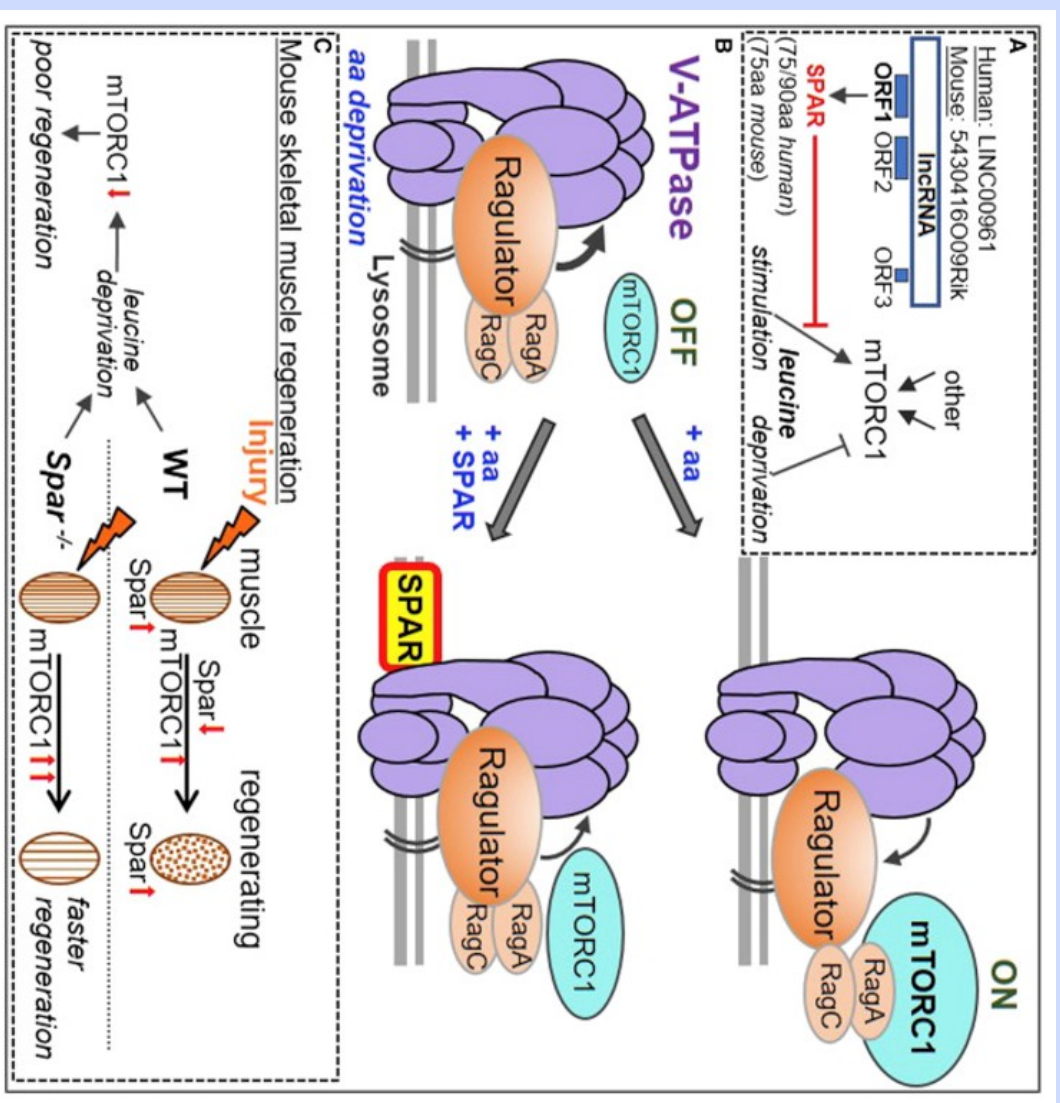


SPAR^{-/-} $\uparrow\uparrow$ MATURE CELLS AFTER 14 DAYS



To summarize...

Final proposed model for mTORC1 and its (down)regulation by SPAR



References

LETTER

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mTORC1 and muscle regeneration are regulated by the LINC00961-encoded SPAR polypeptide

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