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A dynamic actin cytoskeleton is required to prevent constitutive VDAC-dependent MAPK-signalling and aberrant lipid homeostasis.

Jack Davis, Thorsten Meyer, Martin Smolnig, Daniel G.J. Smethurst, Lisa Neuhaus, Jonas Heyden, Filomena Broeskamp, Elizabeth S.M. Edrich, Oskar Knittelfelder, Dagmar Kolb, Tobias von der Haar, Campbell W. Gourlay, Patrick Rockenfeller

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1 A dynamic actin cytoskeleton is required to prevent constitutive

2 VDAC-dependent MAPK-signalling and aberrant lipid homeostasis.

3 Authors

- Jack Davis^{1§}, Thorsten Meyer^{2§}, Martin Smolnig², Daniel G. J. Smethurst¹, Lisa Neuhaus², Jonas
 Heyden², Filomena Broeskamp², Elizabeth S. M. Edrich¹, Oskar Knittelfelder³, Dagmar Kolb^{4, 5},
- 6 Tobias von der Haar¹, Campbell W. Gourlay¹*, Patrick Rockenfeller²*

7 Affiliations

- ¹Kent Fungal Group, School of Biosciences, University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent, UK. 8 9 ²Chair of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine, Center for Biomedical Education and 10 Research (ZBAF), University of Witten/Herdecke (UW/H), Stockumer Str. 10, 58453, 11 Germany 12 ³Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics, Dresden 01307, Germany, Present address: Innovation Campus Berlin, Nuvisan ICB, Berlin 13353, Germany 13 14 ⁴Medical University of Graz, Core Facility Ultrastructure Analysis, Neue Stiftingtalstraße 6/II, 8010 Graz, Austria 15 16 ⁵Gottfried Schatz Research Center for Cell Signaling, Metabolism and Aging, Division 17 of Cell Biology, Histology and Embryology, Medical University of Graz, Neue 18 Stiftingtalstraße 6/II, 8010 Graz, Austria 19 § These authors contributed equally; * senior authors, these authors contributed equally 20 **Contact Information**
- 21 Patrick Rockenfeller (Lead contact): Email: Patrick.rockenfeller@uni-wh.de, Phone: +49
 22 2302 926 144

23 Campbell Gourlay: Email: Campbell.W.Gourlay@kent.ac.uk; Phone: +44 1227 823535

24 Summary

25 The dynamic nature of the actin cytoskeleton is required to coordinate many cellular processes and a loss of its plasticity has been linked to accelerated cell ageing and attenuation of adaptive 26 27 response mechanisms. Cofilin is an actin-binding protein that controls actin dynamics and has been linked to mitochondrial signalling pathways that control drug resistance and cell death. 28 Here we show that cofilin-driven chronic depolarisation of the actin cytoskeleton activates cell 29 30 wall integrity MAPK-signalling and disrupts lipid homeostasis in a VDAC-dependent manner. 31 Expression of the *cof1-5* mutation, which reduces the dynamic nature of actin, triggers loss of cell wall integrity, vacuole fragmentation, disruption of lipid homeostasis, lipid droplet (LD) 32 accumulation and the promotion of cell death. The integrity of the actin cytoskeleton is 33 34 therefore essential to maintain the fidelity of MAPK signalling, lipid homeostasis and cell health in S. cerevisiae. 35

36

38 Introduction

39 The actin cytoskeleton participates in many cellular processes including cell and organelle 40 architecture, endocytosis, vesicular trafficking, organelle inheritance and communication¹. As 41 a result, the regulation of actin dynamics is essential and is facilitated by accessory proteins that 42 promote rapid assembly and disassembly of filaments. Perturbations in the control of actin 43 dynamics, instigated either through mutations in actin itself, or as a result of the aberrant activity 44 of actin regulatory proteins, have been shown to trigger cell death in a variety of cell types². In many, if not all, of these cases cell death appears to be underpinned by links between the control 45 of actin dynamics and its effects on mitochondrial function. A good example of this lies with 46 47 the highly conserved actin regulatory protein cofilin. Cofilin is a member of the ADF/cofilin 48 family of small actin binding proteins found in all eukaryotic cells, which are essential for dynamic polymerisation and depolymerisation of actin³. Recent findings suggest that cofilin 49 50 plays a role in the regulation and maintenance of homeostasis as cells adapt to environmental 51 challenge. For example cofilin has been shown to facilitate the control of permeabilisation of 52 the outer mitochondrial membrane, and so the initiation of apoptosis, in neutrophils at sites of 53 infection in mammalian systems⁴. Cofilin is likely, therefore, to play a major role in innate 54 immune and inflammatory responses. Additionally, aberrant cofilin /actin aggregates, termed 55 ADF/cofilin rods (ACR), which accumulate in normal ageing brains and even more excessively 56 in the hippocampus of Alzheimer's sufferers, are reported to interact with and damage mitochondria under conditions of stress⁵. Cofilin can therefore function within normal cellular 57 58 responses or, if aberrant, promote disease via its interactions with mitochondria. Subtle changes 59 to the charged surfaces of cofilin have a profound effect on the activity and quality of 60 mitochondrial function. In yeast the regions of cofilin that are involved in controlling 61 mitochondrial function are distinct from the actin binding and regulatory surface⁶. However, 3

despite the mounting evidence that cofilin can control homeostasis and cell fate viamitochondrial regulation, our understanding as to how this is achieved is lacking.

64 Cell death can occur in many different regulated or accidental ways which are characterised by 65 their phenotypic features⁷. Importantly, regulated cell death pathways are not limited to 66 multicellular organisms but also occur in single-cell-organisms such as *S. cerevisiae*^{8,9}. The 67 different modes and subroutines of cell death in yeast, which include accidental, regulated, and 68 programmed forms of cell death, have been classified based on morphological and biochemical 69 criteria¹⁰. Importantly yeast has been successfully used to study lipotoxicity/ lipotoxic cell 69 death^{11–14}.

71 In this project we wished to gain mechanistic insight into the regulation of cofilin/ actin 72 dependent stress signalling and mitochondrial function using the model yeast S. cerevisiae. In 73 order to investigate this we made use of the well-characterised *cof1-5* mutant. In this strain two 74 negatively charged amino acid residues are exchanged for alanine (D10A E11A). These amino 75 acid exchanges do not interfere with actin binding per se but reduce cofilin's actin 76 depolymerisation efficiency, thus stabilising the actin cytoskeleton¹⁵. We report that cofilin 77 dependent reduction in actin dynamics leads to a number of chronic defects, such as aberrant 78 cell wall construction, vacuole fragmentation and altered lipid metabolism that sensitizes the 79 cells to a necrotic cell fate when they are exposed to additional stress. This "pro-death" cell 80 state is driven by the localisation and constitutive activation of PKC controlled MAPK 81 signalling at the mitochondria.

PKC activation of MAPK signalling is essential for yeast cell survival under a range of stress
conditions. In addition to its canonical role in PKC/MAPK cell wall integrity the terminal
MAPK Slt2 has been shown to phosphorylate several targets involved in responses to
environmental challenge. Slt2 therefore has roles in cell wall, oxidative, heat and calcium stress,

and functions within cellular processes including cell cycle control, membrane trafficking, actin 86 cvtoskeleton organisation¹⁶. Such perturbations to PKC/MAPK signalling are often linked to 87 elevated cell death, highlighting its importance in cell adaption and survival^{17,18}. Given the 88 89 importance of the PKC/MAPK pathway to survive environmental challenge, cells have developed mechanisms to ensure that its activation is tightly controlled¹⁹. Here we show that a 90 91 loss of actin regulation can override such controls and leads to the assembly of VDAC/Porin1 92 dependent MAPK signalling at the mitochondrial compartment. Many of the phenotypes 93 associated with *cof1-5* expression could be rescued by the deletion of *POR1*, suggesting a key 94 and previously uncharacterised role for VDAC in MAPK signalling in yeast. In addition, the 95 deletion of genes LRO1 or DGA1, that control the accumulation of triglyceride in lipid droplets (LDs) was also sufficient to prevent constitutive MAPK signalling and restore cell health in 96 97 cof1-5 mutants.

Our data suggests that the integrity of the actin cytoskeleton and the fidelity of PKC/MAPK signalling are inter-connected and that their concerted action is important for cell survival. Actin stabilisation promotes a MAPK signalling module that renders cells vulnerable to environmental challenge. We suggest that this adds to the growing evidence that simple eukaryotes embrace cellular states that ensure cells that cannot respond to environmental cues, such as those with corrupted actin cytoskeleton, are removed from their population.

105 **Results**

106 1. *cof1-5-*induced actin defects and vacuole fragmentation but not mitochondrial 107 fragmentation are VDAC-dependent.

In mammalian cells cofilin and its binding partner actin have been shown to interact with the mitochondrial outer membrane pore VDAC^{4,20}. A primary goal of our study was to determine whether phenotypes associated with changes in actin dynamics that are linked to cofilin function are mediated via VDAC in yeast. In order to investigate this we made use of the wellcharacterised *cof1-5* mutant.

During cell division cortical actin patches can be observed to polarise to the growing bud^{21-24} , 113 however in cof1-5 cells actin patches are observed throughout the mother and daughter²⁵. We 114 examined whether the actin depolarisation phenotype observed in cof1-5 cells was 115 116 VDAC/Porin1 (Por1) dependent by staining the F-actin cytoskeleton with phalloidin-117 tetramethylrhodamine B-isothiocyanate (phalloidin-TRITC). Surprisingly, the deletion of 118 *POR1* in *cof1-5* cells resulted in a full rescue of the actin-depolarisation phenotype (Fig. 1A, 119 B) and also reverted the cell size increase as observed in *cof1-5* (Fig. 1A, C). These results 120 suggest that the actin defect observed in dividing cof1-5 cells is not caused by the action of 121 cofilin on actin, but rather by either a loss of regulation that controls actin patch assembly, or 122 the induction of a cellular stress programme capable of triggering actin depolarisation. The 123 rescue of actin depolarisation upon deletion of POR1 suggests an interaction between cofilin 124 and/or actin with the mitochondrial compartment.

125 A further phenotype associated with cof1-5-expressing cells is fragmentation of the 126 mitochondrial network⁶. As the fragmentation of mitochondria has been shown to involve F-127 actin and cofilin in mammalian cells we considered the possibility that *POR1* deletion in *cof1*-

128 5 cells may also restore mitochondrial morphology. Deletion of POR1 lead to the accumulation 129 of mitochondria within a single entity (or maximally two) reminiscent of mutations in the ER-130 mitochondria encountering structure (ERMES), such as $mdm10\Delta$, $mdm12\Delta$, $mdm34\Delta$ and $mmnl\Delta$ (Fig. 1D)²⁶. Mitochondria of *cofl-5 porl* Δ cells also appeared as large spherical 131 structures and identical to those of $porl\Delta$ (Fig. 1D). As actin has also been linked to vacuole 132 133 regulation we made use of the fluorescent dye FM4-64 to examine its morphology. 134 Interestingly, *cof1-5* cells showed an aberrant fragmented, or multi-lobed vacuole morphology 135 (Fig. 1E). In *cof1-5* cells 65 % of the cells had multi-lobular vacuoles as compared to only 19 % in wildtype (Fig. 1F). Notably, knock out of POR1 led to a full rescue of this vacuolar 136 137 phenotype. Additional electron microscopy confirmed the fragmented vacuole phenotype in cof1-5 cells (Fig. S1). Altogether, these data suggest that the actin depolarisation and vacuole 138 139 fragmentation phenotypes observed in *cof1-5* cells are Por1-dependent, whereas mitochondrial 140 fragmentation does not share the Por1-dependency.

141

142 2. The *cof1-5* mutation constitutively activates the cell wall integrity pathway (CWI) in a 143 VDAC specific manner.

In addition to changes in growth (Figure 2A) we observed that *cof1-5* mutant cells were prone 144 145 to flocculation and sedimented rapidly in culture (Figure 2B). Flocculation is a natural 146 phenomenon where cells aggregate in multicellular so-called flocs which increases the chance 147 of survival upon stress²⁷. Flocculation involves remodelling of the cell wall and has recently been connected to cell wall integrity (CWI) signalling²⁸. The fungal cell wall is composed of 148 glucans, chitin, chitosan, mannans, galactomannans and glycoproteins²⁹. Under unstressed 149 conditions chitin is represented at only 2 % of cell wall mass, which can increase up to 20 % 150 upon cell wall stress³⁰. This explains the increased reactivity of yeast cells with the chitin-151 7

specific dye Calcofluor White (CFW)³¹ upon cell wall stress. Using CFW staining we could 152 153 indeed confirm that chitin is enriched at the mutant cell wall as compared to the wildtype (Fig. 154 2C). Examination of the cell wall ultrastructure by electron microscopy revealed that the inner 155 cell wall of the *cof1-5* mutant appeared thicker than in wildtype samples, whereas the electron-156 dense structures of the outer cell wall were slightly shorter (Fig. 2D). We measured wildtype 157 and mutant cell wall widths and calculated the means for inner- and outer cell walls. Strikingly, 158 we confirmed a substantial increase of inner cell wall width for cof1-5 (Fig. 2E), whereas the 159 outer cell wall width was slightly reduced (Fig. 2F). Moreover, we observed that these cell wall 160 phenotypes were reversed by additional knock out of POR1. These data suggest that VDAC is 161 required for the maintenance of normal cell wall architecture.

162

3. Actin stabilisation changes expression of genes associated with the plasma membrane compartment, MAPK signalling and regulation of the cell wall.

165 The *cof1-5* mutation has been shown to lead to a reduction in the dynamic nature of actin filaments¹⁵. However, as the deletion of *POR1* led to a rescue of the actin patch depolarisation 166 167 phenotype, we wished to determine whether reduced actin dynamics alone would lead to 168 changes in the cell wall regulation. To achieve this, we made use of a well characterised actin 169 allele, *act1-159*, which reduces actin dynamics by slowing the release of inorganic phosphate 170 following ATP hydrolysis within F-actin filaments³². The expression of act1-159 led to a 171 significant increase or decrease in the expression of 648 and 141 genes respectively during 172 exponential growth phase (Fig. 3A; Table S1). Genes that were upregulated in response to actin 173 stabilisation could be clustered within several cellular processes by Gene Ontology (Fig. 3B; 174 Table S1). The processes controlling transposition, response to pheromone and cell wall 175 biosynthesis, which are controlled by MAPK pathways, were enriched within the upregulated 8

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176 gene data set (Fig. 3B; Table S1). The changes in gene expression related to MAPK signalling 177 in dividing act1-159 cells were further exemplified by elevated levels of the membrane 178 pheromone receptor STE2 and the MAPK FUS3, which are normally activated by the presence 179 of extracellular pheromone from cells of the opposite mating type. A MAPK involved in 180 signalling in response to cell wall stresses, SLT2 (also called MPK1) and the upstream MAPKK 181 (MKK1) were also upregulated. This was accompanied by the increase in expression of several 182 genes involved in another MAPK controlled process, cell wall biogenesis (Table S1). Within 183 the genes upregulated for cell wall regulation process were those involved in glucan, chitin and 184 mannan regulation as well as genes encoding several GPI anchored proteins (Table S1). To 185 highlight the effects on cell wall we observed that *act1-159* cells exhibited a strong sensitivity 186 to the cell wall stressor Congo Red (Fig. 3C). Overall these data support the finding that actin 187 stabilisation leads to an increase in intracellular stress, a loss of MAPK regulation, which 188 includes CWI activation, and changes in lipid biosynthesis in a manner akin to that observed in 189 cof1-5 expressing cells.

190

191 **4.** *cof1-5* mutation triggers activation of the cell wall integrity (CWI) MAPK pathway.

192 Our data suggest that cell wall changes observed in *cof1-5* cells are dependent on the presence 193 of VDAC/Por1. As cell wall integrity is managed via MAPK signalling, we sought to determine 194 activation of this pathway in *cof1-5* and *cof1-5* por1 Δ cells by immunoblotting for 195 phosphorylation of the terminal MAPK Slt2 at its amino acid residues T190 and Y192³³. This 196 approach confirmed that Slt2 is constitutively active in cof1-5 mutant cells and that Slt2 197 phosphorylation is lost upon deletion of POR1 in both fermentable (glucose) and non-198 fermentable (glycerol) carbon source containing media (Fig. 4A, B). Constitutive Slt2 199 phosphorylation in cof1-5 cells was largely reduced by addition of the Pkc1 inhibitor 9

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200 cercosporamide, confirming activation of canonical CWI signalling (Fig. 4C). Expression of 201 *POR1* from a plasmid led to an increase of Slt2 phosphorylation under all tested conditions and 202 was sufficient to compensate for chromosomal loss of POR1 (Fig. 4D). Unexpectedly, the 203 additional expression of POR1 from the plasmid on top of basic chromosomal expression in 204 wildtype cells was sufficient to trigger CWI signalling (Fig. 4D). We further used calcofluor 205 white (CFW) stress to trigger CWI signalling. We confirmed Slt2-phosphorylation in response 206 to CFW stress in a concentration dependent manner (Fig. S2 A-C). Basic levels of Slt2-207 phosphorylation were reduced in *porl* Δ however the strain remained responsive to CFW-208 induced Slt2-phosphorylation (Fig. S2 D). Since cell wall integrity signalling is a response to 209 stress we wondered whether its activation in *cof1-5* cells was essential to mediate survival upon 210 cell wall stress. We could confirm that while the *cof1-5* mutation led to an increase in the cell population with loss of plasmamembrane integrity, this rose significantly when applying 211 212 treatment with the Pkc1-inhibitor cercosporamide (Fig. 4E). Combined treatment with CSA and 213 CFW, but not CFW alone, led to a further increase in cells exhibiting plasma membrane 214 permeability in an additive manner, suggesting that Pkc1-activity may promote survival when 215 cofilin/actin-induced stress is experienced. We further tested for cell death sensitivity in a 216 genetic model using gene knock out strains for POR1 and SLT2. In fact, as expected POR1 217 deletion provided a rescue from cof1-5 and CFW-induced cell death, while SLT2 deletion had 218 the opposite effect (Fig. 4F). In wildtype cells CSA treatment or SLT2-deletion increases the 219 PI-positive cell population to 20 %, indicating that under basal conditions the CWI pathway is 220 pro-survival. The cof1-5 mutant shows increased CWI-signalling and the cell population with 221 loss of plasmamembrane integrity increases concomitantly. It appears that both a loss and gain 222 of Slt2 phosphorylation could result in increased cell death suggesting a non-linear signalling 223 model for Slt2.

We further conducted chronological ageing experiments with PI staining and survival plating as two independent readouts for cell death (Fig. 4G, H). Importantly, both readouts suggested that *cof1-5* mediated shortening of the chronological lifespan depends on *POR1*. Welch-ANOVA analysis of survival and PI at day 8 of ageing confirmed a significant reduction in survival and PI-negativity in *cof1-5* cells, which was rescued by *POR1*-deletion (Fig. 4I, J).

229

230 5. *cof1-5* expression prevents Slt2 localisation to the nucleus and promotes MAPK 231 signalling from the mitochondrial compartment.

Using a wildtype strain expressing Slt2-GFP from its endogenous promoter at its original chromosomal locus we confirmed that, in line with earlier analyses of Slt2-GFP localisation³⁴, the majority of cellular Slt2 is found in the nucleus (Fig. 5A, B) However, in a small proportion (5 %) of cells Slt2-GFP could be seen to localise to cytoplasmic foci (Fig. 5A, C). In contrast only 1% of *cof1-5* cells showed Slt2 localisation to the nucleus (Fig 5B), while a significant proportion (30 %) of *cof1-5* cells were observed as having foci (Fig. 5A, C), and the remaining cells showed diffuse green fluorescence throughout the cytosol.

239 Given the porin dependence of the CWI activation in *cof1-5* cells we tested for colocalisation 240 with mitochondria using rhodamine B hexylester. Indeed, the Slt2-GFP foci observed in cof1-241 5 largely colocalised with rhodamine B hexylester signal after staining (Fig. 5D, E), whereas 242 no colocalisation of Slt2-GFP foci with LDs was detected (Fig. S3A). We next wanted to assess 243 whether mitochondrial Slt2-GFP foci formation was dependent on Por1. For this purpose, we 244 used an Slt2-GFP expression plasmid. The expression from the plasmid showed a similar result 245 as compared to chromosomal expression, but the percentages of cells with Slt2-GFP-foci and 246 nuclear localisation in *cof1-5* were roughly doubled (Fig. 5F-H). We reasoned that this was an 247 effect of Slt2-GFP overexpression from the plasmid used. Importantly, additional deletion of 11

POR1 reduced the fraction of foci-containing cells in cof1-5 to wildtype levels while at the 248 249 same time increasing the percentage of cells with nuclear-Slt2-GFP signal to wildtype levels 250 (Fig. 5F-H). The analysis of Slt2-GFP colocalisation with mitochondria further supports the 251 latter finding in that the Pearson coefficient is reduced to wildtype levels in $cofl-5 porl\Delta$ (Fig. 252 5I). Additional analysis of Pkc1-GFP showed a similar pattern of foci-formation and 253 colocalization with mitochondria in *cof1-5* as observed when expressing Slt2-GFP (Fig. 5 J-L). 254 The percentage of foci-containing cells was increased by roughly 20 % in cof1-5 as compared 255 to wild type cells (Fig. 5K) and analysis of the Pearson coefficient of Pkc1 colocalisation with mitochondria was significantly increased from 0.26 to 0.59 (Fig. 5L). 256

Altogether this suggests that activation of MAPK-signalling in *cof1-5* involves Slt2 and Pkc1
translocation to mitochondria. This further raises the possibility that Slt2-mediated signalling
actively occurs at mitochondria.

260

6. Reduced actin dynamics lead to a Porin-dependent increase in lipid droplet number that are required for CWI activation.

263 Porin has recently been implicated in mitochondrial lipid import³⁵. We therefore determined whether lipid droplet number and their control were altered in *cof1-5* cells. This idea seemed 264 265 reasonable, since actin and cofilin have been described as regulators of lipid droplet 266 homeostasis in mammalian cells³⁶⁻³⁸. We stained cellular lipid droplets of wt and *cof1-5* 267 mutants having additional gene-knock-out-deletions encoding for the acyltransferases Lro1 and 268 Dga1 using the specific BODIPY 493/503 dye. Lipid droplets of cof1-5 cells were more 269 abundant than in wildtype cells (Fig. 6A, B). Interestingly, this increase in lipid droplet number 270 was reverted when LRO1 or DGA1, or both in combination, were knocked out in cof1-5 cells 271 (Fig. 6A and Fig 6B). Basic levels of Slt2-phosphorylation were significantly decreased in 12

 $lrol\Delta$ and $lrol\Delta$ dgal\Delta DKO phenocopying porl Δ (Fig. S4A, B). In addition to that a non-272 273 significant trend in reduced susceptibility to CFW treatment was noted (Fig. S4A, B). We 274 further found that the increase in lipid droplet number in cof1-5 cells was reversed upon deletion 275 of POR1 or SLT2 (Fig. 6C, D, S4C). Electron microscopy further supported the hypothesis that 276 LD number is increased in *cof1-5* (Fig. 6E) and as a response to CFW treatment (Fig. S4D). 277 Some LDs as observed in CFW treated cells appear to be surrounded by a membrane (Fig. S4D). Usually the membranes surrounding LDs identify as ER membranes³⁹, which may 278 279 suggest an increase of LD-ER-membrane contacts.

280

7. The acyltransferases Lro1 and Dga1 are required for MAPK-related changes in *cof1*5.

283 Given these findings we also investigated whether lipid droplet regulation at the stage of fatty 284 acid esterification, via Lro1 and Dga1, would affect CWI signalling or other downstream effects 285 in cof1-5. Actin depolarisation as observed in cof1-5 could neither be rescued by LRO1- or 286 DGA1-single-KOs, nor by the double knock out, both of which genes encode for 287 acyltransferases (Fig. 7A). However, the growth defect (Fig. 7B) and the flocculation phenotypes (Fig. 7C) of cof1-5 were compensated by knock-out of either LRO1 or DGA1. As 288 289 expected by the rescue of flocculation, the constitutive phosphorylation of Slt2 observed in 290 cof1-5 cells was turned off upon deletion of LRO1 or DGA1 (Fig. 7D). We next tested whether 291 diverse stresses such as hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂), heat, CuSO₄ or calcofluor white (CFW) 292 affected LD abundance. Interestingly, all the stresses triggered an increase in LD abundance 293 with the cell wall stress applied through CFW treatment being strongest (Fig. 7E). In summary, 294 this suggests an active role of CWI-signalling in the control of lipid metabolism and LD 295 homeostasis downstream or independent of cofilin-mediated actin regulation.

296

297 8. Cofilin and Porin are important regulators of lipid homeostasis

298 With the Porin-dependent changes in lipid droplet quantity as observed in cof1-5 cells we 299 sought to characterise its effects on global lipid homeostasis. We detected significant changes 300 in cof1-5 cells for PC, PS, TG (Fig. 8A), PA, PG, lyso-PI (LPI), ceramide (Fig. 8B), sterol 301 esters (SE) and ergosterol (Erg) (Fig. 8C), and the complex sphingolipids MIP2C and MIPC 302 (Fig. 8D) when we compared shotgun lipidomic profiles to wild type (additional data on lipid 303 species are available in Fig. S5 A-E). In all cases, with the exception of LPI, all lipid class levels 304 were restored to wild type levels upon deletion of *POR1*, highlighting the significance of this 305 mitochondrial protein for lipid regulation. The most prominent decrease in cof1-5 cells was 306 observed for TG. However, additional high performance thin layer chromatography (HPTLC) 307 measurements could only confirm a trend in decrease due to strong variation upon the 308 individual samples (Fig. 8E). The strongest increases were observed for PA, LPI, sterolesters 309 and ergosterol as well as the complex sphingolipids MIP2C and MIPC. The increases in SE and 310 Erg in *cof1-5* as well as the reduction by the additional gene KOs were confirmed by additional 311 HPTLC quantification and can thus be considered as robust (Fig. 8F, G). Since the neutral lipids 312 (SE and TG) are stored in LDs we reasoned that the ratio of SE to TG might correlate with the 313 LD phenotype as observed before. We thus calculated the SE/TG index (isE/TG) and confirmed 314 significant change of the index in cof1-5 (Fig. 8H) which correlates with the increased amount 315 of LDs as quantified in Fig. 6A-D. Interestingly, gene KOs of POR1, DGA1, LRO1 and SLT2 316 revert isE/TG back to wildtype levels. Further to this, we noted significant lipidomic changes in 317 the POR1 deletion strain itself (e.g. PC, TG, PA, Cer, CL, Fig. 8A, B) which confirms that Por1 318 indeed has crucial impact on total lipid homeostasis.

- 319 In summary, these results give evidence that lipidomic changes in *cof1-5* depend on Por1 and
- 320 further suggest that lipidomic changes in *cof1-5* could be causally linked to CWI signalling.

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322 **Discussion**

323 In a healthy dividing yeast cell the experience of a stressor that perturbs the cell wall results in 324 the depolymerisation of the F-actin cytoskeleton, this is required to assist in both cell cycle arrest (G2/M) and the activation of the cell wall integrity pathway³⁰. We have shown that cells 325 326 expressing the *cof1-5* mutation, which leads to the chronic depolarisation of F-actin patches. 327 exhibit hallmarks of constitutive Pkc1/Slt2 activation, such as flocculation and vacuole fragmentation. Our data also show that this aberrant PKC/Slt2 signalling depends on the 328 329 mitochondrial outer membrane protein Por1, which is the yeast orthologue of mammalian 330 voltage dependent anion channel (VDAC). Por1 is known to form a pore in the outer mitochondrial membrane thereby facilitating metabolic flux from mitochondria to the cytosol 331 and vice versa^{35,40}. Por1 further has been implicated in the control of cell death in response to 332 stress in previous studies^{41,42}. However VDAC has also been shown to participate in other 333 cellular processes including the regulation of lipid traffic³⁵ and in AMPK/Snf1 signalling⁴³⁻⁴⁵. 334 Here we show that the actin cytoskeleton and mitochondria coordinate MAPK signalling 335 336 through VDAC and that this plays a role in cell fate. One possibility is the existence of a physical interaction, as was shown in the case of AMPK/Snf1 signalling⁴⁴, whereby Slt2 337 338 relocates from the nucleus to the mitochondria and docks with VDAC to elicit an alternate 339 signalling response that promotes cell death. In line with this we did observe that the deletion 340 of POR1 prevented constitutive activation of Slt2 in cof1-5 cells restored its localisation to the 341 nucleus and reduced the necrotic cell population. Despite a clear correlation between the 342 prevention of Slt2 activation in cof1-5 cells by deletion of POR1, which led to apparent improvement in cell health, we observed the opposite effect when cells were treated with the 343 PKC inhibitor CSA. This result, while unexpected, may be explained by additional off target 344

345 effects of CSA, or indeed as a result of functions of PKC that lie outside of the canonical 346 PKC/Slt2 cell wall integrity signalling system. Additional evidence to support a direct link from 347 VDAC to Slt2 activation comes from our finding that the overexpression of *POR1* was also 348 sufficient to activate Slt2. Connections between mitochondria and MAPK signalling are 349 emerging, for example a recent study demonstrated mitochondrial participation in MAPK 350 signalling regulating proteasome granule formation upon carbon starvation⁴⁶.

351 A number of lipid classes were found to show significant change in the *cof1-5* mutant. These 352 included PC, PS, and TG, PA, PG, LPI, ceramide, sterol esters (SE), ergosterol (Erg) and the 353 complex sphingolipids MIP2C and MIPC (Fig. 8A-D). These changes were largely reversed 354 when POR1 was knocked out suggesting a clear role for VDAC in the control of lipid 355 homeostasis, possibly via the activation of Slt2. The overall increase in PA might also account 356 for the changes in mitochondrial morphology as this phospholipid has been shown to regulate 357 mitochondrial fusion via control of Ugo1 biogenesis⁴⁷. Mitochondrial phospholipids such as PG and CL have been connected to Pkc1/CWI signalling ^{48,49}. Loss of CL has also been shown 358 359 to impair CWI signalling which led to defective mitophagy⁵⁰. We also detected changes in the 360 lipid profile of *POR1*-deleted cells as such, which is in line with recently published findings ^{35,51,52}. This raises the possibility that actin triggers changes in lipid homeostasis with Porin 361 362 acting as a central point of lipid flux control, or indeed as a component of the signalling system 363 that regulates lipid homeostasis itself. Interestingly the ER-mitochondria encountering structure 364 (ERMES), which can facilitate lipid exchange between these compartments, has been implicated in cell death^{53,54}. 365

366 Our lipidomic results further support the notion that $por1\Delta$ phenocopies $pgs1\Delta$. Pgs1 catalyses 367 the first step of mitochondrial CL synthesis, which is the phosphorylation of 368 phosphatidylglycerol. $pgs1\Delta$ has reduced levels of beta-1,3-glucans in its cell wall which is thus 17

defective⁵⁵. Por1 and Por2 have recently been suggested to mediate mitochondrial phospholipid
import succumbing to PG and CL synthesis³⁵. Our data are in line with these findings and
further support the idea of Por1 as a regulator of mitochondrial phospholipid import.

372

Intriguingly, we found that two acyltransferases Dga1 and Lro1 were also essential for activation of Slt2 and all the downstream phenotypes with the exception of actin depolymerisation. Given the changes of LD abundance that we observed upon cell wall stress and found in *cof1-5* expressing cells this suggests that CWI signalling involves lipidomic rearrangements and dynamic changes of cellular lipid droplets. Interestingly, the inhibition of actin dynamics through *COF1* depletion has also been shown to disrupt adipogenesis and lipid storage in 3T3-L1 cells³⁸.

380

381 Our findings that actin and mitochondrial functions are linked to lipid homeostasis in yeast may 382 have relevance for antifungal resistance. Mitochondrial function has been linked to changes in 383 cell wall function and to changes in azole sensitivity, a class of drugs that target ergosterol 384 synthesis⁵⁶. Ergosterol-levels are controlled under normal conditions, but conditions of stress (e.g. osmotic or cell wall stress) can require rapid change in ergosterol content. A significant 385 386 increase in ergosterolesters was observed in *cof1-5* cells (Fig. 8C, F), suggesting that these cells 387 are dealing with an ergosterol overflow, thus detoxifying through esterification and storage in 388 LDs. LDs accumulate upon cell wall stress in cof1-5 cells and in wildtype cells upon CFW 389 stress, where LDs appear to have strong contacts with ER-membranes (Fig. 6, S4). One 390 possibility is that actin and cofilin are needed to facilitate non-vesicular sterol transport by Osh and Lam proteins^{57–59}. Another possibility is that, through activation of the CWI pathway, Pkc1 391 can phosphorylate Pah1^{60,61} (which dephosphorylates PA to yield diacylglycerol) leading to its 392 18

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degradation by the proteasome⁶². This in turn would increase PA levels and decrease TG at the 393 394 same time which is what we observe in *cof1-5* expressing cells. Of note, deletion of *pah1* has 395 been described to shorten chronological lifespan⁶³, which suggests a pro-death trigger upon loss 396 of Pah1 function. Since Pah1 activity has been described to be essential for homotypic vacuole fusion⁶⁴, this also offers an explanation for the fragmented vacuole phenotype as we observed 397 398 in cof1-5 cells. Indeed, the fragmented vacuoles of cof1-5 look very similar to vacuoles as 399 observed in *pah1* Δ or propranolol-treated cells, which represents a pharmacological treatment 400 to inhibit Pah1-activity⁶⁴. The increase in ergosterol as well as the increase in complex 401 sphingolipids observed in cof1-5 expressing cells may represent an adaptation to overcome 402 mechanical stress at the plasma membrane. Generally the integration of complex sphingolipids 403 together with sterols results in increased packaging and thus higher density which renders the plasma membrane more resistant to mechanical stress⁶⁵. Thus, the activation of Slt2 in actin 404 405 stabilised cells may contribute to the cell's response to stress and so survival in the short term. 406 However, as such cells are clearly sensitive to additional stress, we favour an interpretation that 407 chronic actin depolymerisation in dividing cells promotes necrotic cell death.

Permeabilisation of the vacuole is a feature of regulated cell death in yeast, which through vacuolar release of Pep4, an orthologue of human cathepsin D, into the cytosol succumbs to cell death⁶⁶⁻⁶⁸. More recently a molecular pathway of how vacuole membrane permeabilisation is established in yeast was proposed⁶⁹. The vacuolar phenotype as observed in *cof1-5* cells in our study might have similarity to the previously described cell death routines but additionally involves mitochondrial Por1 activity and lipid metabolism. Further investigation will be required to test this possibility.

415 In summary, our study provides further evidence that the regulation of actin dynamics is crucial

416 for cell fate determination. We show that a reduced ability to regulate actin in dividing yeast 19

417 cells leads to a pro-death mode of MAPK signalling under conditions of stress. We would argue 418 that this represents a mechanism by which cells that are unable to regulate actin may be lost 419 within a population of cells, such as a colony or biofilm, and postulate that this may represent 420 a novel cell death mechanism in yeast that helps ensure clonal integrity.

421 Limitations of the Study

422 The authors recognise that this study opens a number of questions that arise as a consequence of unrecognised interplay between lipid homeostasis, membrane organisation and cell 423 424 signalling systems in yeast. Further investigations that we suggest within the discussion section 425 highlight a current need to improve our understanding of lipid regulation within eukaryotic cells. A further limitation lies within our current understanding of yeast cell death as a regulated 426 427 process. Although there is strong evidence to suggest that different modes of death exist, the 428 experimental tools available to differentiate between programmed and passive cell death in 429 yeast are, in the authors view, limited at time of writing. This led to a conservative interpretation 430 of the data presented as a loss of cellular integrity as opposed to a mechanism of regulated cell 431 death.

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440 Author contributions

- 441 Conceptualisation, C.W.G., and P.R.; Methodology, J.D., T.M., M.S., D.S., L.N., J.H., F.B.,
- 442 E.S.M.E., O.K., D.G.,, T.vd.H, C.W.G. and P.R.; Validation, J.D., T.M., M.S., O.K., C.W.G.
- 443 and P.R.; Formal Analysis, J.D., T.M., M.S., O.K., and P.R.; Investigation, J.D., T.M., M.S.,
- 444 D.S., L.N., J.H., F.B., E.S.M.E., O.K., and P.R.; Data Curation, P.R.; Writing-Original Draft
- 445 Preparation, C.W.G., and P.R.; Writing-Review and Editing, J.D., T.M., M.S., O.K.; Figure
- 446 Visualisation, C.W.G. and P.R.; Supervision, Project Administration, and Funding Acquisition,
- 447 C.W.G. and P.R. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.
- 448

449 **Declaration of Interests**

- 450 The authors declare no competing interests
- 451
- 452 Inclusion and Diversity
- 453 We support inclusive, diverse, and equitable conduct of research.

454

456 Figure Titles and Legends

Graphical abstract. Schematic view of VDAC-dependent MAPK signaling. The actin 457 458 cytoskeleton of wildtype yeast cells is polarised along the mother-bud axis. Upon cell wall 459 stress such as heat or calcofluor white (CFW) administration the cytoskeleton depolarizes and 460 the CWI MAPK signaling pathway is triggered involving Rho1, Pkc1, Bck1, Mkk1/2 and Slt2. 461 This leads to transcriptional adaptation of cell wall genes and G2/M arrest and has pro-survival 462 character. In *cof1-5* cells actin is stabilised and chronically depolarised. Chronic depolarisation 463 of actin constantly triggers the CWI pathway with its main players Pkc1 and Slt2 localising to 464 the mitochondrion in a Por1-dependent fashion. This leads to cell wall defects, vacuole 465 fragmentation, loss of lipid homeostasis, LD accumulation and finally culminates in cell death. 466

467 Figure 1. cof1-5-induced actin depolarisation but not mitochondrial fragmentation are 468 VDAC dependent. (A, B) Actin phalloidin (red) and DAPI (blue) staining at exponential 469 growth phase (6h) reveals depolarised actin cytoskeleton in the cofl-5 mutant, which is rescued 470 by additional POR1 deletion. Representative microscopy pictures are shown in (A) and cells 471 with polarised actin were quantified in (B). (C) cof1-5 cells have an increased mean cell 472 diameter (as determined with a CASY cell counter). (D) Fluorescence microscopy pictures at exponential growth phase of wt and cof1-5 with and without additional POR1 deletion 473 474 expressing mitochondrial GFP from a plasmid (pVT100U-mt GFP). (E, F) cof1-5 mutation 475 leads to Por1-dependent vacuole fragmentation as visualised by FM4-64 staining. 476 Representative microscopy images are shown in (E) and a quantification of cells containing 477 multi-lobular vacuoles is depicted in (F). Statistical significance in (B) (C) and (F) was assessed 478 using ordinary one-way ANOVA. See also Fig. S1.

479

480 Figure 2. cof1-5 mutation triggers growth defect, flocculation, and cell wall alterations, 481 which depend on POR1. (A) Growth performance in liquid culture is reduced in cof1-5 as 482 compared to wildtype (Wt) but is restored by additional *POR1* deletion. (B) Cultures bearing the *cof1-5* mutation sediment quickly when shaking is stopped (flocculation phenotype). 483 484 Additional *POR1* deletion prevents flocculation in *cof1-5*. (C) Calcofluor white staining 485 detecting chitin exposure at the cell wall confirms flocculation phenotype of *cof1-5* cells. (D, 486 E, F) The cell wall was analysed by electron microscopy. *cof1-5* mutation is associated with a thicker inner cell wall and thinner outer cell wall. EM-micrographs are shown in D and 487 488 quantifications of the inner and outer cell wall are plotted in E and F, respectively. ICW, inner cell wall; OCW, outer cell wall; LD, lipid droplet. Statistical significance in (E) was assessed 489 490 using Kruskal-Wallis test and in (F) Welch ANOVA was performed.

491

Figure 3. Transcriptional changes in the actin mutant act1-159 suggest involvement of 492 493 MAPK signalling, flocculation and lipid metabolism. (A) Transcriptional changes of act1-494 159 vs. ACT1 cells grown to log phase in YPD media were investigated by microarray and plotted in a volcano plot. Gene ontology analysis for the GO-term PROCESS was completed 495 496 using the GO SLIM mapper function available on the Saccharomyces cerevisiae genome 497 database⁷⁰ and upregulated genes clustered within enriched cellular processes are depicted in 498 panel (B). (C) Congo red sensitivity of wild type and act1-159 mutant cells was assessed by a spotting assay using a ten-fold serial dilution series from a starting cell number of 2×10^5 . See 499 500 also Table S1.

501 Figure 4. cof1-5 mutation triggers activation of the CWI pathway. (A, B) Immunoblots

502 detecting Slt2 phosphorylation when grown on glucose and glycerol containing media are 23

503 shown in A and B, respectively. (C) Pkc1 inhibition by cercosporamide (CSA) administration 504 prevented Slt2 phosphorylation. (D) Porin deletion and overexpression reveal dependence of 505 Slt2 phosphorylation on Por1. (E) cof1-5 mutation triggers loss of plasmamembrane integrity, 506 as assessed flow cytometrically with PI-positivity at 48 h after inoculation. PI-positivity is 507 exacerbated by additional Pkc1 inhibition using the Pkc1-inhibitor cercosporamide or applying 508 additional cell wall stress with calcofluor white (CFW). Combined treatment with CSA and 509 CFW at the same time shows additive effects. (F) POR1 deletion rescues from cof1-5-510 dependent loss of viability and loss of plasmamembrane integrity, whereas SLT2 deletion 511 sensitises to cell death. (G-J) Chronological ageing analysis reveals shortening of chronological 512 lifespan in cof1-5 cells which depends on POR1. Colony forming unit formation based on clonogenic survival is depicted in G and H, whereas PI positivity is shown in I and J. Statistical 513 514 significance in E, F, H and J was assessed using Brown-Forsythe and Welch-ANOVA test. 515 Asterisks indicate significance based on p-levels of the comparisons to the respective control 516 strains. See also Fig. S2.

517

518 Figure 5. Slt2 localisation to the mitochondrial compartment is enhanced in *cof1-5* cells. 519 (A) Slt2, which is mostly found in the nucleus in wildtype cells at stationary phase, forms 520 punctate foci in *cof1-5*, as documented by fluorescence microscopy using chromosomally 521 tagged SLT2-GFP under control of its endogenous promoter. Deconvolved pictures with 522 Hoechst staining for nuclei are shown. (B, C) Cells showing nuclear localisation of Slt2-GFP 523 (B) and foci-forming cells (C) were quantified, plotted and analysed for significant localisation 524 change as compared to wildtype. (D) Representative fluorescence microscopy pictures of Slt2-525 GFP expressing cells with rhodamine B hexylester staining for colocalization analysis with 526 mitochondria. (E) Colocalisation of Slt2-GFP (green) with the mitochondrial stain rhodamine 24

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B hexylester was increased in cof1-5 as shown by significant increase of the Pearson 527 528 colocalisation coefficient. (F-I) Slt2-GFP expression from a plasmid was used to monitor 529 cellular Slt2 localisation in *cof1-5* cells in dependence of *POR1*. Representative microscopy 530 pictures are shown in (F), Slt-GFP-foci-containing cells are quantified in (G), cells with nuclear 531 Slt2 are quantified in (H) and the Pearson coefficient of Slt2-GFP colocalization with mitochondria is visualised in (I). (J, K) Expression of Pkc1-GFP under control of its 532 533 endogenous promoter reveals increased PKC1-GFP foci formation in cof1-5 (J, K). 534 Representative fluorescence microscopy pictures of individual Pkc1-GFP expressing cells with 535 additional rhodamine-B-hexylester staining for mitochondria and autodot staining for LDs are 536 shown in (J) and cells with Pkc1-GFP foci are quantified in (K). (L) The Pearson coefficient 537 was determined as a measure of colocalisation of Pkc1-GFP with mitochondria (rhodamine-B-538 hexylester). Statistical significance in (B) and (C) was assessed using Welch's t test, (E, K, L) 539 were analysed using unpaired t test and (G, H, I) by ordinary one-way ANOVA. See also Fig. 540 S3.

541

542 Figure 6. Reduced actin dynamics lead to a porin-dependent increase in lipid droplet 543 number that are required for CWI activation. (A, B) Increase of LD number in cof1-5 544 depends on Lro1 and Dga1. Mean LD-numbers per cell are plotted in (A) and representative 545 microscopy pictures are shown in (B). Each dot in (A) represents the mean LD number per cell 546 of a single experiment (n=6) with at least 119 cells being evaluated per experiment. (C, D) Gene 547 deletions of POR1 or SLT2 are sufficient to prevent LD accumulation in cof1-5. Mean LD 548 numbers per cell were assessed by quantifying fluorescence microscopy pictures using Bodipy 549 staining (C). Representative fluorescence microscopy images are shown in (D). (E) 550 Representative EM micrographs supporting the observation of LD-number-increase in cof1-5. 25

V, vacuole; LD, lipid droplet; N, nucleus. Statistical significance in (A) and (C) was assessed
using 2-way-ANOVA with *cof1-5* mutation as first factor and additional KO as second factor.
See also Fig. S4.

554

555 Figure 7. The acyltransferases Lro1 and Dga1 are required for MAPK-related changes in 556 cof1-5. (A) Polarisation of the actin cytoskeleton was assessed using phalloidin (red) and DAPI 557 (blue) staining. The cof1-5 mutant shows loss of actin polarisation, which is not rescued by 558 gene KO of *LRO1*, *DGA1* or a combined double deletion of the ladder. (B, C) The growth defect 559 (B) and flocculation phenotype (C) as observed in *cof1-5* are restored by additional deletion of 560 the acyltransferases LRO1, DGA1, or in the double deletion mutant ($lro1\Delta dga1\Delta$). (D) Slt2 phosphorylation in *cof1-5* depends on Lro1 and Dga1 as the KO of either corresponding gene 561 562 and the double KO prevents Slt2 phosphorylation. (E) Mean LD abundance per cell was 563 quantified in diverse conditions of stress. 150 cells per condition and experiment were quantified with a total of three independent experiments (n=3). Statistical significance in (E) 564 565 was assessed using ordinary one-way ANOVA.

566

Figure 8. Lipidomic analysis reveals characteristic Por1-dependent changes in the lipid profile of *cof1-5.* (A, B) Mass spectrometry-assisted lipidomic quantification of highly abundant (A) and less abundant yeast lipids from total cell extracts (B). (C, D) Sterolesters and free ergosterol were quantified separately as shown in (C) and sphingolipids are depicted in (D). (E-H) Lipidomic changes in the neutral lipid classes TG (E), SE (F), Erg (G) and the index_{SE/TG} (H) were further verified by additional HPTLC analysis. Statistical significance in (A-G) was assessed using two-way ANOVA with *cof1-5* mutation as first factor and additional

- 574 KO as second factor, except for CL, LPC and LPE in (B), which were analysed using Kruskal
- 575 Wallis test; (H) was analysed by Brown-Forsythe and Welch ANOVA test. See also Fig. S5.

| 576 | STAR Methods | |
|------------|---|--|
| 577 | | |
| 578 | RESOURCE AVAILABILITY | |
| 579 | | |
| 580 | Lead contact | |
| 581 | Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and will be | |
| 582 | fulfilled by the lead contact Patrick Rockenfeller (Patrick.rockenfeller@uni-wh.de) and | |
| 583 | Campbell Gourlay (C.W.Gourlay@Kent.ac.uk). | |
| 584 | | |
| 585 | Materials availability | |
| 586 | Plasmids and yeast strains generated in this study are available upon request. | |
| 587 588 | Data and code availability | |
| 589 | • Microarray data, original western blot images, lipidomics data and Prism files have been | |
| 590 | deposited at Mendeley and are publicly available as of the date of publication. doi: | |
| 591 | 10.17632/bgkscw9ns9.1. Microscopy data reported in this paper will be shared by the | |
| 592 | lead contacts upon request. | |
| 593 | • This paper does not report original code. | |
| 594 | • Any additional information required to reanalyse the data reported in this paper is | |
| 595 | available from the lead contacts upon request. | |
| 596 | | |
| 597 | EXPERIMENTAL MODEL | |

598 All experiments (except Fig. 3) were carried out using the wildtype (Mata ura3-52 his3 Δ 200 599 *leu2-3*,112 *lys2-801 ade2-101 COF1::LEU2*) and *cof1-5* mutant (Matα *ura3-52 his3*Δ200 *leu2-*3,112 lys2-801 ade2-101 cof1-5::LEU2) S. cerevisiae strains as generated and described by 600 601 Lappalainen et al.¹⁵. Additional gene-knock outs in these two strains for *LRO1* and *DGA1* were generated using the Cre-LoxP system with the KanMX marker for selection⁷¹ using the primers 602 603 as listed in the key resource table. The $lrol\Delta dgal\Delta$ double knock out was generated based on the dga1::kanMX single knock out strain using the pFA6a-Ura3-cassette⁷² for the additional 604 LRO1 knock out. POR1-, and SLT2-gene knock outs were generated according to the protocols 605 and primer design of Janke et al.⁷³ using the pFA6a-KanMX6-cassette⁷⁴. See KRT for primer 606 607 sequences.

For the experiments shown in Fig. 3 the *act1-159* mutant (MATa *act1-159::HIS3 his3*D200 *tub2-101 ura3-52 leu2-3*, 112) which harbours the V159N mutation and has reduced actin
dynamics was used together with its corresponding wildtype control strain (MATa *ACT1::HIS3 his3*D200 *tub2-101 ura3-52 leu2-3*, 112)³².

612

613 Plasmids were propagated in *E. coli* K12 DH5 α (see key resource table for details). *POR1* was 614 cloned into pAG416GPD CEN URA by gateway-cloning⁷⁵ using pDONR221-*POR1* as a 615 donor-plasmid. pYX122-mtGFP was obtained from Benedikt Westermann⁷⁶. The *SLT2*-GFP 616 expression plasmid was obtained from Matthias Peter.

617 Slt2-EGFP as shown in Fig. 5A and Pkc1-EGFP as shown in Fig. 5J was expressed under 618 control of their endogenous promoters at their original loci. These strains were generated by 619 PCR and homologous recombination according to established protocols⁷³ using the plasmid 620 pYM27 and primers as listed in the KRT, except for the experiment shown in Fig. 5F-I, where 621 Slt2-GFP was expressed from a plasmid pRS426-SLT2-GFP³⁴. Transformation of yeast cells 629

with plasmids or linear DNA for homologous recombination was performed using the lithium
 acetate method⁷⁷. At least three different clones were tested to rule out clonogenic variations.

624 All experiments (except for ageing experiments as shown in Fig. 4G-J) were carried out in yeast 625 peptone medium with glucose (YPD). YPD medium contains 1% yeast extract (BD), 2% peptone (BD), and 2% glucose. Synthetic complete medium with glucose without Uracil (SCD-626 627 Ura), was only used when selection was required for strain construction or to maintain selection 628 for plasmids. SC medium contains 0.17% yeast nitrogen base (Difco), 0.5% (NH₄)₂SO₄, and 30 629 mg/L of all amino acids (except 80 mg/L histidine and 200 mg/L leucine), 320 mg/L uracil, 30 630 mg/L adenine, and 2% glucose. All media were prepared with ultrapure water (MilliQ) and 631 subsequently autoclaved (20 min, 121 °C, 110 kPa). Amino acid mixtures and glucose were sterilised separately as 10× stocks and added after autoclaving. All yeast cultures were 632 633 inoculated from a stationary overnight culture to an $OD_{600} = 0.1$ and then grown at 30 °C and 634 145 rpm shaking for indicated time points.

635

636 METHOD DETAILS

637

638 Growth Assays

Strains were inoculated from stationary overnight cultures to an OD₆₀₀ of 0.1 in 24-well plates
(Sarstedt, 1 ml total volume per well) in two or three independent experiments, each containing
at least three biological replicates. The plate was automatically measured for 24–48 h using a
BMG LabTech SPECTROstar^{Nano} plate reader with double orbital shaking at 400 rpm and 30
°C, with OD₆₀₀ measurements every 30 min. Growth curves were plotted in GraphPad Prism.

645 Analysis of cell viability, density and diameter 30

Propidium iodide (PI) staining was used to determine loss of membrane integrity^{78,79}. Cells 646 647 were harvested in 96-well plates at indicated time points and resuspended in 250 µL of 100 648 µg/L PI in PBS, and incubated in the dark for 10 min at room temperature. After incubation, 649 cells were washed once with 250 µL PBS and analysed via flow cytometry (Beckmann Coulter Cytoflex). A total of 30,000 cells per strain and condition were measured and analysed with 650 651 CytExpert software. For calcofluor white (CFW) stress experiment in Fig. 4E, wt and cof1-5 652 cells were grown overnight and inoculated to an OD_{600} of 0.1, then grown at 30^oC. After 22 h 653 of growth, cells were subjected to either 100 µM cercosporamide, 200 µM CFW or both, and 654 allowed to grow for further 26 h. CFW stress at 200 µM as shown in Fig. 4F and Fig. S4A, B 655 was carried out at exponential growth phase (six hours after inoculation to an OD₆₀₀ of 0.1) and 656 PI was detected 18 hours after stress. For chronological ageing analysis cultures were 657 inoculated to an OD₆₀₀ of 0.1 in SCD medium as mentioned above with additional 658 supplementation of 90 mg/ L lysine (+3x), 10 g/ L myo-inositol (55µM), and 97.8 mg/ L 659 adenine. Samples were measured at indicated days of ageing by clonogenic survival plating and PI staining to determine viability. 660

For clonogenic survival plating serial dilutions of the main cultures were used to measure cell densities using a CASY cell counter essentially as described before¹². As an adaptation to former protocols the serial dilutions of all strains were made using ddH₂O containing 10 mM EDTA. The addition of EDTA avoided cell aggregation, which is a characteristic of *cof1-5* cells. Without EDTA treatment reliable estimation of living cells by counting of colony forming units (CFU) was impossible.

667 Mean cell diameters were determined based on measurement with a CASY cell counter, which

668 calculates mean cell size based on electric currency shifts which are due to the cells acting as

669 electric isolators in conducting salt solution. For these measurements the complex cell mixtures31

670 containing cells at all replicative stages were used, which includes single mother cells, bud-671 containing mother cells and single daughter cells.

672

673 Fluorescence microscopy

674 S. cerevisiae strains were inoculated to an $OD_{600} = 0.1$ from overnight cultures in YPD medium 675 and harvested at 6h after inoculuation for analysis at exponential growth phase or 24h for 676 analysis at stationary phase. Cells were immobilised on microscopy slides containing 2% 677 agarose⁸⁰. Fluorescence was detected using a Nikon Eclipse Ni-U fluorescence microscope with a Hamamatsu Orca-Spark C11440-36U monochromatic camera and Nikon Intensilight C-HGFI 678 679 illumination system. Fluorescence images were captured and saved as z-stacks in a range of 5 680 µm with 200 nm steps using NIS-Elements BR 4.13.05 64-bit with N-dimensional acquisition. 681 Deconvolution and colocalisation analysis was performed with Huygens essential 21.10 682 software. Further processing such as maximum intensity z-projection, brightness/contrast adaptation, scale bar inclusion, colour merging was performed in Fiji/ ImageJ⁸¹. 683

Actin was stained using Phalloidin-Tetramethylrhodamine B-Isothiocyanate (Sigma, P1951) essentially as described before⁸². In brief, approximately 10^7 cells were harvested and fixed with 3.7 % formaldehyde. Cells were washed in PEM buffer (100 mM PIPES, 5 mM EGTA, 5 mM MgCl₂, pH 6.9) and stained with 50 µg/ml final concentration of Phalloidin-TRITC in PEM buffer with 25 % methanol. After washing cells were resuspended in PEM buffer containing DAPI at a final concentration of 2.5 µg/ml and mounted on agarose slides for microscopy.

691 Nuclear staining of live cells in Fig. 5A was performed using Hoechst (bisbenzimide H 33342).

692 Cell wall staining for chitin exposure was performed using calcofluor white fluorescent

693 brightener (Sigma, 910090) at a final concentration of $100 \,\mu g/ml^{83}$. 32

The vacuole morphology was visualised by staining with SynaptoRed(TM) C2 (equivalent to
 FM4-64; Biotum BOT-70021) as described before⁸⁴.

696 Rhodamine B hexylester perchlorate (Molecular Probes, Y-7530) was used at a final 697 concentration of 100 nM to stain functional mitochondria. Pearson colocalisation coefficients 698 for Slt2-GFP colocalization with Rhodamine B hexylester signal were determined in Huyghens 699 essential 21.10 using the colocalization analyzer wizard with Gaussian minimum estimation.

700 Lipid droplets were stained with Bodipy 493/503 or autodot. Bodipy was detected in the FITC

channel whereas autodot was detected in the DAPI channel. Quantification of lipid droplets
was performed after threshold setting with the "analyze particle" tool and total cell numbers

- 703 were counted with the "cell counter" plugin.
- 704

705 RNA isolation and Microarray

706 Total RNA was prepared from wild type and act1-159 log phase cells from biological triplicate 707 cultures using a Qiagen RNAeasy kit including an on-column DNAse digestion step according 708 to the manufacturer's instructions. Following reverse transcription reactions the cDNA 709 template was hybridised to an Affymetrix Yeast 2.0 GeneChip array. Data was quality 710 controlled and normalised using the Bioconductor plugin, affylmgui⁸⁵. To reduce background noise we used the Robust Multi-Array Average (RMA) algorithm⁸⁶. The affylmGUI package 711 712 was run using R (version 3.1.0) to generate volcano plots. A significance threshold value for 713 95% odds of differential expression was chosen, which corresponds to a B statistic of 2.94 714 and above. We then sorted the significant data into groups for processing using Gene Ontology (GO) Slim Mapper and Yeastmine⁸⁷ analysis tools from SGD⁷⁰. 715

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717 Immunoblotting

718 For Western blot analysis, cell equivalents of an OD₆₀₀ of 3 were harvested at 24 h after inoculation, and cell extracts were obtained from chemical lysis as described in⁸⁸. Proteins were 719 720 collected by centrifugation and resuspended in 75 μ L 1× loading buffer (125 mM Tris-HCl, 721 adjusted to pH 6.8; 20% glycerol; 3% SDS; 2% DTT; 0.1% bromophenol blue), and heated to 722 95 °C for 10 min. Samples were centrifuged at 13,000 rpm for 12 s and 10 μ L or 15 μ L of the 723 supernatant was used for standard SDS-PAGE. Immunoblotting followed standard procedures, 724 with transfer of proteins to a 0.45 μ m nitrocellulose membrane and probing with antibodies 725 against phospho-Slt2 (Phospho-p44/42 MAPK, cell signalling, #9101, 1:1000), actin (α-Yeast 726 act1 Goat monoclonal antibody, a kind gift from Prof. John Cooper, Washington University, 727 1:2000), (glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH, Life Technologies, 728 MA515738, 1:5000), or VDAC/porin (Abcam, ab110326, 1:5000). As secondary antibodies, 729 we used IRDye goat anti-mouse (Licor, 926–68070, 1:20,000) or IRDye goat anti-rabbit (Licor, 730 928-40028, 1:20,000) as listed in the key resources table. Signals were recorded with Odyssey 731 Glx, with automatically determined exposure times. Quantitative analysis of western blots was 732 performed using image studio software.

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734 Lipid Extraction and Quantification by Shotgun Mass Spectrometry

Yeast cultures were inoculated from stationary overnight cultures in YPD to fresh YPD medium to an OD₆₀₀ of 0.1. In total, 2 OD₆₀₀ units were harvested after 24 h and homogenised with 0.5 mm zirconia beads in a cooled tissue lyser for 2×10 min at 30 Hz in 300 µL IPA. The whole homogenate was evaporated in a vacuum desiccator to complete dryness. Lipid extraction was performed according to^{89–91}. In brief, 700 µL internal standard mix in 10:3 MTBE/MeOH was added to each sample and vortexed for 1 h at 4 °C. After the addition of 140 µL H₂O, samples were vortexed for another 15 min. Phase separation was induced by centrifugation at 13,400 34

rpm for 15 min. The organic phase was transferred to a glass vial and evaporated. Samples were reconstituted in 300 μ L 1:2 MeOH/CHCl₃. For lipidome, 5 μ L of sample were diluted with 95 μ L 4:2:1 IPA/MeOH/CHCl₃ + 7.5 mM ammonium formate.

745 Mass spectrometric analysis was performed on a Q Exactive instrument (Thermo Fisher 746 Scientific, Bremen, DE) equipped with a robotic nanoflow ion source TriVersa NanoMate 747 (Advion BioSciences, Ithaca, NY, USA) using nanoelectrospray chips with a diameter of 4.1 748 µm. The ion source was controlled by the Chipsoft 8.3.1 software (Advion BioSciences). 749 Ionisation voltage was +0.96 kV in the positive and -0.96 kV in the negative mode; back 750 pressure was set at 1.25 psi in both modes. Samples were analysed by polarity switching⁹¹. The 751 temperature of the ion transfer capillary was 200 °C; S-lens RF level was set to 50%. Each 752 sample was analysed for 18 min. FT-MS spectra were acquired within the range of m/z 400-753 1000 from 0 min to 0.2 min in the positive mode, and within the range of m/z 350-1200 from 754 6.2 min to 6.4 min in the negative mode at a mass resolution of R m/z 200 = 140,000, automated gain control (AGC) of 3×10^6 , and with a maximal injection time of 3000 ms. Ergosterol was 755 756 determined by parallel reaction monitoring (PRM) FT-MS/MS between 0.2 and 1.7 min. For 757 FT-MS/MS, micro-scans were set to 1, isolation window to 0.8 Da, normalised collision energy to 12.5%, AGC to 5×10^4 , and maximum injection time to 3000 ms. t-SIM in positive (1.7 to 758 759 6 min) and negative (6.4 to 18 min) mode was acquired with R @ m/z 200 = 140,000; automated 760 gain control of 5×10^4 ; maximum injection time of 650 ms; isolation window of 20 Th; and 761 scan range of m/z 400 to 1000 in positive and m/z 350 to 1200 in negative mode, respectively. 762 The inclusion list of masses targeted in t-SIM analyses started at m/z 355 in negative and m/z 763 405 in positive ion mode, and other masses were computed by adding 10 Th increment (i.e., 764 m/z 355, 365, 375, ...) up to m/z 1005 in positive mode and up to m/z 1205 in negative mode. 765 All acquired filtered PeakStrainer (https://git.mpispectra were by 35

cbg.de/labShevchenko/PeakStrainer/wikis/home)⁹² and stitched together by an in-house-766 developed script⁹³. Lipids were identified by LipidXplorer software⁹⁴. Molecular fragmentation 767 query language (MFQL) queries were compiled for ergosterol, ergosterol esters, PC, LPC, PE, 768 769 LPE, PI, LPI, PA, LPA, PG, LPG, PS, LPS, TG, DG, IPC, MIP2C, and MIPC lipid classes. 770 The identification relied on accurately determined intact lipid masses (mass accuracy better 771 than 5 ppm) and a signal-to-noise threshold higher than 3. Lipids were quantified by comparing 772 the isotopically corrected abundances of their molecular ions with the abundances of internal 773 standards of the same lipid class. Ergosterol, as well as ergosterol esters, were normalised to 774 the internal cholesterol and internal CE standard, respectively.

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776 Lipid Extraction and Quantification by Thin-Layer Chromatography

777 Yeast cultures were inoculated from stationary overnight cultures in YPD to fresh YPD medium 778 to an OD₆₀₀ of 0.1. In total, 80 OD600 units were harvested at 24 h after inoculation. Total 779 lipids were extracted with chloroform/methanol 2:1 (v/v) according to Folch et al. 780 Cholesterylformate (Sigma, S448532) was added to each sample before extraction as an internal 781 standard. The organic phase was dried under a stream of nitrogen and dissolved in 1 mL of chloroform/methanol (2:1, v/v). For neutral lipid separation a total of 40 μ L of lipid extracts 782 783 was sprayed on HPTLC silica gel 60 plates, 20 x 10 cm (Merck, 1.05641.001) using a CAMAG 784 automatic TLC sampler (ATS4), whereas for phospholipid analysis only 20 µL were applied. 785 Lipid separation was performed using a CAMAG automatic developing chamber (ADC2). 786 Neutral lipids were separated with n-hexane, n-heptane, diethylether, acetic acid (63/18.5/18.5/1 v/v) as mobile phase⁹⁶, whereas phospholipid separation was carried out using 787 CHCl₃/MeOH/water (32.5:12.5:2) mixture as mobile phase⁹⁷⁻⁹⁹. HPTLC plates were 788 789 derivatized with 0.01 % primuline applied in a CAMAG derivatizer followed by mild heating 36

790 to 40°C for 2 minutes on a CAMAG TLC plate heater 3. Developed HPTLC plates were imaged 791 using a CAMAG TLC visualizer 2 with VisionCATS software. Since peak separation of PI and 792 PS was not ideal in all samples we conducted an additional derivatisation step with ninhydrin 793 spray reagent (Sigma Aldrich, N1286), which only stains phospholipids containing free amino 794 groups and thus allows quantification of PS without PI. HPTLC bands were processed into 795 chromatograms and quantified by polynomial regression of standard curves calculated from the 796 applied standards. For phospholipids the standard contained $1-\alpha$ -phosphatidylinositol 797 (840044P), phosphatidylcholine (16:0-18:1; 850457P), phosphatidylethanolamine (16:0-18:1; 798 850757P), phosphatidylserine (18:1-18:1; 840034P), cardiolipin (18:1-18:1; 710335P), 799 phosphatidic acid (16:0-18:1; 840101P) each at 500 ng/µl all purchased individually from 800 Sigma Aldrich. As a neutral lipid standard we either used a 1:10 dilution of the nonpolar lipid 801 mixture B from Matreya (#1130) which is an equal component mix of cholesteryl-oleate, 802 methyloleate, triolein, oleic acid, and cholesterol (each at $5 \mu g/\mu l$) additionally supplemented 803 with diacylglycerol (16:0-18:1; Sigma 800815O) or a custom-made neutral lipid standard 804 consisting of a mix of cholesteryl-oleate (700269P), cholesterylformate (S448532), triolein 805 (8701100), diacylglycerol (16:0-18:1; 8008150), oleic acid (O1008) all purchased individually 806 from Sigma Aldrich, and ergosterol from Thermofisher Scientific (117810050) each at 500 807 $ng/\mu l$. The standards were applied at increasing quantities from 250 ng to 15 μg absolute mass. 808

809 Electron microscopy high pressure freezing with a Leica EM HPM 100 and freeze 810 substitution

811 Yeast strains were inoculated from a stationary overnight culture in YPD to an OD₆₀₀ of 0.1.
812 Cells were grown in YPD media and harvested at stationary phase after 24 h of growth and
813 immediately subjected to high pressure freezing. Cell peletts were loaded and frozen using 2000 37

814 bar under liquid nitrogen conditions within milliseconds. Freezing was followed by freeze 815 substitution in acetone by adding 2 % osmium tetroxide (OsO4) and 0.2 % uranyl acetate (UAc) 816 at temperatures below -70°C. After substitution, the samples were embedded in TAAB (Agar Scientific, Essex,GB) epoxy resin¹⁰⁰. High pressure frozen yeast cells were sectioned (70 nm) 817 818 with a UC7 Ultramicrotome (Leica Microsystems, Vienna, Austria) and stained with lead citrate for 5 min and platinum blue¹⁰¹ for 15 min. Images were taken at 120 kV with a Tecnai 819 820 G2 FEI (Thermo Fisher Scientific) microscope equipped with an Ultrascan 1000 CCD Camera 821 (Gatan). Measurement of cell wall thickness on electron micrographs was performed in ImageJ 822 using the measure tool. For each strain condition at least 117 measurements of the inner and 823 outer cell wall at equally distributed loci around the cells were performed.

824 QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Statistical analyses were calculated in Graphpad Prism 8. Information on tests for significance
is given in each figure. Error bars indicate standard error of the mean (SEM) and asterisks in
the figures indicate significant differences, *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001, ****p<0.0001.

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por1 Δ







f1-5 por1∆ cof1-5 por1∆











Highlights

- 1) *cof1-5* mutation activates CWI-signalling in a VDAC-dependent manner.
- 2) *cof1-5* expression promotes MAPK signalling from the mitochondrial compartment.
- 3) Cofilin and VDAC/ Porin are important regulators of lipid homeostasis.

ournal provide



Key resources table

| · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| REAGENT or RESOURCE | SOURCE | IDENTIFIER |
| Antibodies | | |
| α-Phospho-p44/42 MAPK | cell signalling | #9101 |
| α-Yeast act1 Goat monoclonal antibody | John Cooper | n/a |
| α-GAPDH | Life Technologies | MA515738 |
| α-VDAC/porin | Abcam | ab110326 |
| IRDye goat anti-mouse | Licor | #926-68070 |
| IRDye goat anti-rabbit | Licor | #928-40028 |
| Bacterial and virus strains | 1 | |
| pYX122-mtGFP | B. Westermann ⁷⁶ | pCG44 |
| pRS426-SLT2-GFP | Matthias Peter ³⁴ | PPR A75 |
| pAG418-POR1 | This study | YPR B06 |
| pDONR221-POR1 | DNASU | FLH201444.01X |
| pFA6a-KanMX6 | Addgene.org ⁷⁴ | #39296; PPR C31 |
| pFA6a-Ura3 | Addgene.org ⁷² | #61924; PPR C29 |
| pYM27 | EUROSCARF ⁷³ | YPR B35 |
| Chemicals, peptides, and recombinant proteins | | |
| Cercosporamide (CSA) | Sigma-Aldrich | SMI 0172 |
| Calcofluor white (CEW) | Sigma-Aldrich | 910090 |
| Phalloidin-Tetramethylrhodamine B-Isothiocyanate | Sigma-Aldrich | P1951 |
| SynaptoRed™ C2 (equivalent to FM4-64) | Biotum | BOT-70021 |
| Rhodamine B hexylester perchlorate | Molecular Probes | Y-7530 |
| Bodipy 493/503 | Sigma-Aldrich | #490389 |
| Autodot | Abcenta | # SM1000a |
| Critical commercial assays | / loooptu | " Chillocod |
| RNAeasy kit | Qiagen | #74004 |
| Yeast 2.0 GeneChin array | Affumetrix | #900553 |
| Deposited data | Anymetha | #300333 |
| Demond engly red data | This noner Mandalay | 10 17020/h alco av 0 a |
| Raw and analyzed data | Data | s9.1 |
| Microarray | This paper; Mendeley | 10.17632/bgkscw9n |
| | Data | s9.1 |
| Shotgun lipidomics | This paper; Mendeley Data | 10.17632/bgkscw9n s9.1 |
| HPTLC lipidomics | This paper; Mendeley | 10.17632/bgkscw9n |
| Experimental models: Organisms/strains | Dala | 59.1 |
| S. corovisioo: Strain background: BV4742 Matg.ura2.52 | Pekka Lappalainen ²⁵ | |
| his 31/200 leu2-3 112 lys2-801 ade2-101 COF1. I FU2 | | 111(145 |
| cof1-5 COF1::LEU2 | Pekka Lappalainen ²⁵ | YPR K44 |
| $por1\Lambda$ | This paper | YPR K45 |
| cof1-5 por1∆ | This paper | YPR K46 |
| Iro1Δ | This paper | YPR K62 |
| cof1-5 lro1∆ | This paper | YPR K47 |
| dga1 | This paper | YPR K63 |
| cof1-5 dga1∆ | This paper | YPR K48 |
| $Iro1\Delta dga1\Delta$ | This paper | YPR K64 |
| $cof1-5$ Iro1 Δ dga1 Δ | This paper | YPR K49 |



| slt2∆ | This paper | YPR T29 |
|---|----------------------------|---------|
| $cof1-5 slt2\Delta$ | This paper | YPRT31 |
| Wt SLT2-EGFP | This paper | YPR T12 |
| cof1-5 SLT2-EGFP | This paper | YPR T15 |
| S. cerevisiae: Strain background: BY4741 MATa | David Drubin ³² | YPR K50 |
| ACT1::HIS3 his3D200 tub2-101 ura3-52 leu2-3, 112 | | |
| MATa act1-159::HIS3 his3D200 tub2-101 ura3-52 leu2- | David Drubin ³² | YPR K51 |
| 3, 112 | | |
| Oligonucleotides | | |
| LRO1 fw:CCATTACAAAAGGTTCTCTACCAACGAATT | This paper | n/a |
| CGGCGACAATCGAGTAAAAACAGCTGAAGCTTCGT | | |
| ACGC | | |
| LRO1_rev:TTCGCTCTTTGAAATAATACACGGATGGA | This paper | n/a |
| TAGTGAGTCAATGTCGGTCATGCATAGGCCACTAGT | Č. | |
| GGATCTG | | |
| DGA1_fw:TACATATACATAAGGAAACGCAGAGGCAT | This paper | n/a |
| ACAGTTTGAACAGTCACATAACAGCTGAAGCTTCGT | | |
| ACGC | | |
| | This paper | n/a |
| GTTTTCCAATGAATTCATTAGCATAGGCCACTAGTG | | |
| | This paper | 100 |
| | | AOU |
| | | |
| AC | | |
| POR1-S2: | This paper | A81 |
| AAGAACGAGCACATATATGGTATATAGTGAACATAT | | |
| ATATATTAGATATATACGTATCGATGAATTCGAGCTC | | |
| G | | |
| SLT2-S1: | This paper | B40 |
| CTATCAAAATAGTAGAAATAATTGAAGGGCGTGTAT | | |
| AACAATTCTGGGAGATGCGTACGCTGCAGGTCGAC | | |
| SLT2-S2: | This paper | B41 |
| | | |
| | This paper | D40 |
| | i nis paper | B4Z |
| | | |
| PKC1-S2. | This paper | B45 |
| | | 070 |
| GCATGACCTTTTCTTCAATCGATGAATTCGAGCTCG | | |
| PKC1-S3: | This paper | B46 |
| GCCAGCAAGAAGAGTTTAGAGGATTTTCCTTTATGC | | |
| CAGATGATTTGGATTTACGTACGCTGCAGGTCGAC | | |
| Software and algorithms | | |
| Fiji (ImageJ) | https://imagei.nih.gov/i | n/a |
| · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | i/ ⁸¹ | |
| GraphPad Prism 8.4.3 | www.graphpad.com | n/a |
| R (3.1.0) | www.R-project.org | n/a |
| Slim Mapper | https://www.veastgeno | n/a |
| | me.org/goSlimMapper | |
| Yeastmine | https://yeastmine.yeas | n/a |
| | tgenome.org/yeastmin | |
| | e/begin.do ⁸⁷ | |



| Bioconductor plugin affylmgui | 85 | n/a | |
|--|--|-----|--|
| Robust Multi-Array Average (RMA) algorithm | 86 | n/a | |
| PeakStrainer | https://git.mpi- cbg.de/labShevchenko /PeakStrainer/wikis/ho me ⁹² | n/a | |
| LipidXplorer software | 94 | n/a | |
| in-house-developed script | 93 | n/a | |
| Other | | | |
| Resource website for yeast genetics SGD | https://www.yeastgeno | n/a | |