

1 **Title: A multiparametric anti-aging CRISPR screen uncovers a role for BAF in protein**
2 **synthesis regulation**

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32 ABSTRACT

33 Progeria syndromes are very rare, incurable premature aging conditions recapitulating most
34 aging features. Here, we report a whole genome, multiparametric CRISPR screen, identifying
35 43 genes that can rescue multiple cellular phenotypes associated with progeria. We implement
36 the screen in fibroblasts from Néstor-Guillermo Progeria Syndrome male patients, carrying a
37 homozygous A12T mutation in BAF. The hits are enriched for genes involved in protein
38 synthesis, protein and RNA transport and osteoclast formation and are validated in a whole-
39 organism *Caenorhabditis elegans* model. We further confirm that BAF A12T can disrupt
40 protein synthesis rate and fidelity, which could contribute to premature aging in patients. This
41 work highlights the power of multiparametric genome-wide suppressor screens to identify
42 genes enhancing cellular resilience in premature aging and provide insights into the biology
43 underlying progeria-associated cellular dysfunction.

44

45 INTRODUCTION

46 Premature aging syndromes (progerias) are very rare conditions that recapitulate many aspects
47 of physiological aging, causing symptoms such as alopecia, lipodystrophy, cardiovascular
48 dysfunction, and bone dysfunction well before the expected age of onset. Many progeria
49 syndromes are caused by mutations in nuclear envelope (NE) associated proteins. For example,
50 the classic Hutchinson-Gilford progeria syndrome (HGPS) is caused by mutations in *LMNA*
51 encoding for the nuclear lamina proteins lamin A and C (1, 2). A more recently described
52 progeria, Néstor-Guillermo progeria syndrome (NGPS), is caused by a recessive alanine to
53 threonine amino acid substitution at position 12 (p.Ala12Thr) in the *BANFI* gene, encoding
54 the 10 KDa protein barrier-to-autointegration factor (BAF) (3, 4). BAF forms dimers that bind
55 to DNA (5, 6), lamin proteins as well as LEM-domain containing proteins of the inner nuclear
56 membrane including emerin (7, 8). Through these interactions, BAF exerts critical functions

57 including reformation of the NE after mitosis (9, 10) and NE rupture repair (11). NGPS patients
58 suffer from multiple aging-associated pathologies, such as alopecia and lipodystrophy, as well
59 as osteoarthritis and joint stiffness. However, the most severe phenotype affecting their quality
60 of life is bone dysfunction, with osteoporosis and dramatic skeletal deformation (3, 4). NGPS
61 patients have an increased life expectancy compared to HGPS, probably due to the absence of
62 cardiovascular dysfunction, the main cause of death in HGPS (12, 13).

63 NGPS remains poorly characterized compared to HGPS, and insights into the molecular
64 mechanisms behind the disease have only recently started to emerge (14-16). Therefore, with
65 the aim of identifying genes and pathways relevant to NGPS, as well as potential targets for
66 therapeutic avenues in the disease, we carried out a whole genome CRISPR/Cas9 arrayed
67 microscopy screen in patient-derived NGPS cells. We assessed the impact of deleting each of
68 the ~20,000 human genes on four specific cellular NGPS phenotypes simultaneously, to
69 identify “rescue” genes acting across several phenotypes. Through this approach, we identified
70 43 genes enriched in pathways including protein synthesis and bone cell development, that
71 improve NGPS cellular phenotypes.

72

73 **RESULTS**

74 **NGPS fibroblasts show distinct phenotypes compared to HGPS**

75 Fibroblasts from HGPS patients have been extensively studied and characterized. The best-
76 established phenotypes in these cells include NE blebs and invaginations, loss of
77 heterochromatin, downregulation of lamin B1, nucleocytoplasmic transport defects and
78 accumulation of DNA damage foci (17-22). To establish whether NGPS cells might share
79 similar phenotypes, we obtained immortalized fibroblasts from two of the three so far identified
80 NGPS patients (NGPS1 and NGPS2 – both males) and age-matched immortalized fibroblasts
81 (wild-type – WT) (gift from Dr. Carlos Lopez-Otin). These are the only NGPS cells available

82 to the scientific community, as non-immortalized primary cells could not be maintained in
83 culture (personal communication from Dr. Carlos Lopez-Otin). We observed severe NE
84 abnormalities by electron microscopy, including deep folds and NE blebbing but no apparent
85 loss of heterochromatin at the nuclear periphery (Fig. 1A). The immortalized NGPS cells
86 proliferated at a rate comparable to WT cells. As previously reported (4, 23), we confirmed the
87 accumulation of the NE protein emerin into the cytoplasm of both NGPS1 and 2 (Fig. 1B), and
88 the absence of lamin B1 downregulation (Fig. 1B) and of DNA double strand breaks
89 accumulation (53BP1 foci Fig. 1C, D), both of which being common hallmarks of HGPS cells.
90 In addition, and unlike HGPS cells, NGPS fibroblasts did not display loss of nuclear Ran –
91 used as a reporter for nucleocytoplasmic transport (Fig. 1C, E) or of the heterochromatin
92 markers HP1 γ (Fig. 1F-I), H3K9me3 (Fig. 1J and Supplementary Fig. 1A-C) or H3K79me2
93 (Fig. 1K). We did however observe an increase in the expression of the cyclin-dependent kinase
94 inhibitor p21 – involved in cell cycle progression, apoptosis and DNA damage response – in
95 both NGPS cell lines but to different extents (Fig. 1L and Supplementary Fig. 1D, E).

96

97 **A combination of four specific NGPS phenotypes amenable to high-throughput screening**

98 Phenotypes associated with NE dysfunction in progeria cells can only be assessed by
99 microscopy, precluding a whole genome pooled CRISPR screening approach. We therefore
100 designed a multiparametric, microscopy based CRISPR screen, aimed at interrogating the
101 whole genome to identify genes that when deleted, could rescue multiple NGPS cellular
102 phenotypes. This approach is based on the principle of synthetic rescue, relying on a genetic
103 interaction whereby a protein not involved in the aetiology of the disease is targeted, thereby
104 rebalancing the pathophysiological state towards a “healthy” one. Our previous work, based on
105 small scale screening, has established the proof-of-concept of this approach in HGPS, where
106 we identified N-acetyltransferase 10 (NAT10) as a target to reverse HGPS aging phenotypes

107 (24-26). The design of the screen is depicted in Fig. 2A and involves multiple steps. The first
108 major step relied on the identification of a combination of phenotypes, specific to the BAF
109 A12T mutation, significantly different in NGPS cells compared to WT cells, and amenable to
110 high throughput screening. To this aim, we took advantage of our recently established NGPS2
111 isogenic cell lines, in which we reversed the homozygous BAF A12T mutation using
112 CRISPR/Cas9 (NGPS2 corrected) (14). For this reason, we carried out further validation using
113 the NGPS2 cell line. The screen set-up also required the design of specific pipelines to reliably
114 identify and quantify these phenotypes. The first of these phenotypes is the delocalization of
115 emerin from the nucleus into the cytoplasm (Fig. 2B-C and Supplementary Fig. 2A), as
116 characterized by previous studies (4, 23). The second phenotype is the increased nuclear
117 deformation, commonly observed in progeria cells (17, 27) and in cells from normal aged
118 individuals. This was measured using a perimeter to area ratio (P2A) (Fig. 2D and
119 Supplementary Fig. 2B). Additionally, we identified an increased number of NE ruptures
120 during interphase in NGPS cells (Fig. 2E and Supplementary Fig. 2C), further characterized in
121 our recently published study (14). In that study, we showed that the BAF A12T mutation in
122 NGPS cells affects the binding affinity between BAF and Lamin A/C, preventing the
123 recruitment of Lamin A/C to the sites of NE ruptures, leading to frequent NE re-rupturing in
124 interphase cells. Based on these findings, here we identified NE ruptures on fixed cells by the
125 presence of nuclear blebs (observed using LAP2 staining), the first step in the NE rupturing
126 process (28-30) (Fig. 2E, F, H). Finally, we observed an increased frequency of micronuclei
127 formation in NGPS cells (Fig. 2G, I and Supplementary Fig. 2D), a known marker of genomic
128 instability. The combination of these four phenotypes was subsequently chosen for the whole
129 genome screen.

130 Next, we engineered stable Cas9 expression in WT and NGPS fibroblasts for use in the
131 CRISPR screening. After testing the efficiency of protein transduction using various promoters

132 (Supplementary Fig. 3A, B) we infected WT and NGPS cells with hCMV-Cas9. Despite a good
133 Cas9 expression level in all three cell lines (Supplementary Fig. 3C), the knock-out efficiency
134 in individual cells was too heterogenous for screening purposes (Supplementary Fig. 3D).
135 Therefore, we established individual WT and NGPS Cas9 expressing clones grown from single
136 cells and selected the best clones based on Cas9 efficiency assessed by resistance to 6-
137 Thioguanine after *HPRT* knock-out (31) (Supplementary Fig. 3E-G). We also assessed Cas9
138 expression level by western blotting (Supplementary Fig. 3E) and picked clones combining a
139 high cutting efficiency, and no increase in the level of the DNA double strand break marker
140 γ H2AX (Supplementary Fig. 3E, F). Finally, to avoid obtaining results that could result from
141 a clonal effect, we pooled 3 of the selected clones to generate the WT-Cas9, NGPS1-Cas9 or
142 NGPS2-Cas9 cell populations. The NGPS2-Cas9 was the one used for the screen and was
143 generated by pooling clones D, F and I (Supplementary Fig. 3E-G). These Cas9 cells showed
144 a good level of protein knock-down upon transient transfection with various crRNAs (Fig. 2J
145 – acetyl-tubulin level serves as an additional readout for *HDAC6* knockout efficiency).
146 Finally, as the project started at a time when the first whole genome CRISPR arrayed libraries
147 were being synthesized, we tested the efficiency of the two non-viral systems available at the
148 time, one relying on a CRISPR/tracrRNA (cr/tracrRNA), the other one on a single guide RNA
149 (sgRNA). After comparing the knock-down efficiency of several genes by western blotting
150 (Supplementary Fig. 3H) and by immunofluorescence (Fig. 2K and Supplementary Fig. 3I-L),
151 we set up a mini screen relying on cellular proliferation arrest upon knock-down of five
152 different mitotic genes, compared to 5 non-mitotic genes (Fig. 2L). In both cases, we observed
153 a strong proliferation arrest 3 days after transfection of either the sgRNA (Fig. 2L left panel)
154 or the cr/tracrRNA (Fig. 2L right panel) against the mitotic genes (blue/purple genes), without
155 transfection-associated toxicity (grey/red/yellow genes). Based on cost efficiency, we therefore
156 selected the cr/tracrRNA system for the whole genome screen.

157

158 The multiparametric NGPS screen identifies 43 hits that reverse NGPS phenotypes

159 We then carried out the primary genome wide screen using the pool of 3 NGPS2-Cas9
160 expressing clones (NGPS2-Cas9). An overview of the screening approach is depicted in Fig.
161 3A, and the plate layouts are shown in Supplementary Fig. 4A-B. The four screening
162 phenotypes - nuclear shape, micronuclei, NE ruptures (blebs) frequency and emerin nuclear
163 intensity - were reduced to two dimensions for each single knock-out and mapped as a Uniform
164 Manifold Approximation and Projection (UMAP). The cluster analysis (Fig. 3B) was used to
165 visualise NGPS2 cells (grey dots) alongside the same parameters measured in control cells
166 (blue dots). The two populations were clearly separated, reflecting the phenotypic difference
167 between the control and the NGPS2 cells. The red dots highlight 112 genes that upon being
168 depleted were identified as “normalising” the combination of NGPS phenotypes. To these, we
169 added 18 genes not yet on the list that appeared in the top 15 of three individual phenotypes
170 (see details in the Methods section). The top 20 genes improving or worsening each individual
171 phenotype in NGPS cells (nuclear shape, nuclear Emerin, micronuclei and nuclear bleb
172 frequency) is presented in Fig. 3C-F.

173

174 We then carried these 130 genes into a validation screen, in which 3 out of the 4 individual
175 crRNAs used in the primary screen were deconvoluted into individual wells (Fig. 3A). We
176 carried out the validation screen in triplicate and confirmed 43 hits with high confidence (at
177 least 2 out of 3 crRNA and confirmed in the 3 replicates). A gene ontology analysis revealed
178 specific enrichment in biological processes including translation, protein and RNA transport as
179 well as osteoclast development – of high relevance to the patient phenotypes (Fig. 4A, B). In
180 accordance with the concept of synthetic rescue, only 3 hits were proteins associated with the
181 NE: NUP160, SEC13 and AHCTF1 (ELYS). These genes were able to improve multiple

182 nuclear envelope phenotypes at once, as observed in representative immunofluorescence
183 images from the validation screen (Fig. 4C).

184 To evaluate the potential relevance of our identified candidate genes to normal variation in
185 related health and disease traits, we interrogated phenotypic and genetic data from available
186 large-scale population studies. These analyses aim to assess the impact of naturally occurring
187 alleles, influencing the function of our candidate genes, on related phenotypes. Since NGPS
188 patients display severe skeletal abnormalities and lipoatrophy, we focused on publicly available
189 Genome Wide Association Studies (GWAS) of body mass index (BMI), waist-hip ratio (WHR)
190 adjusted for BMI, circulating triglyceride levels and estimated bone mineral density (eBMD)
191 in sample sizes up to 1,253,275 individuals (Fig. 4D). We found that 30 of our 43 identified
192 genes were within 500kb of a genome-wide significant signal for at least one of these four
193 traits. Specifically, 13 genes were proximal to BMI signals, 11 to WHR, 19 to eBMD and 13
194 to triglyceride signals (Supplementary Data 8 & Fig. 4D). To more directly link these proximal
195 associated genetic variants to the function of our candidate genes, we undertook a number of
196 variants to gene mapping approaches (see methods), including assessment of protein-coding
197 variants and integrating activity-by-contact enhancer maps and expression quantitative trait
198 loci (eQTL) data. These analyses highlighted a number of genes with strong support for a direct
199 involvement in these human phenotypes (Fig. 4D). For example, genetic variants residing
200 within enhancers for *RPL13* and influencing its transcript expression in blood, were associated
201 with eBMD, triglycerides and BMI. Collectively these findings demonstrate that our cellular

202 screens are able to identify genes that influence NPGS-like phenotypes in the normal
203 population.

204

205 **Increased protein synthesis rate associated with BAF A12T is reduced upon depletion of**
206 **the hits**

207 The screen revealed a strong enrichment for genes involved in protein synthesis, whose
208 modulation has previously been associated with longevity in various model organisms. To gain
209 further insights into protein synthesis regulation in NGPS, we first carried out RNA-Seq
210 analysis in wild-type cells compared to NGPS1 and NGPS2. The analysis revealed 213 genes
211 as being differentially expressed in the patient cell lines compared to control. Gene ontology
212 analysis identified a strong enrichment for RNA processing and translation regulation (Fig. 5A-
213 B). To assess how this could impact translation rate, we measured nascent protein synthesis
214 using incorporation of the clickable methionine analogue L-homopropargylglycine (HPG).
215 Upon fluorescent labeling of HPG through a “click” reaction, we observed a significant
216 increase in protein synthesis in NGPS cells compared to both WT cells and NGPS corrected
217 cells (Fig. 5C, Supplementary Fig. 5A) as well as in wild-type fibroblasts overexpressing BAF
218 A12T compared to BAF WT (Fig. 5D, Supplementary Fig. 5B). This suggests that the BAF
219 A12T mutation can drive increased protein synthesis, similarly to what has been reported
220 previously in HGPS cells (33). However, even though we observed a modest but significant
221 increase in the nucleolar area of NGPS2 cells compared to NGPS2 corrected cells (Fig. 5E-F),
222 as well as in fibroblasts expressing BAF A12T compared to BAF WT (Fig. 5G), no significant
223 difference was observed between the WT cells and the NGPS cells (Supplementary Fig. 5C,
224 D). Interestingly, alongside this phenotype, we identified through a dual luciferase
225 mistranslation assay (34) that both NGPS1 and NGPS2 cells displayed an increased rate of

226 errors during protein synthesis, as observed by an increased readthrough (Fig. 5H,
227 Supplementary Fig. 5E).

228 We next asked how depletion of the hits identified in the screen might impact nascent protein
229 synthesis in NGPS cells. To address this question, we used siRNA to deplete 41 of the hit
230 proteins, followed by HPG incorporation and quantification of HPG fluorescent intensity by
231 high-throughput microscopy (Fig. 6A, Supplementary Fig. 5F). This confirmed a higher rate
232 of protein synthesis in NGPS2 cells (Fig. 6A red dotted line) compared to NGPS2 corrected
233 cells (“NGPS WT”). As expected, depletion of the hits directly involved in protein synthesis
234 (*RPL12*, *RPL37A*, *RPL13*, *RPS3A*, *EIF3B*) almost completely abolished HPG incorporation,
235 and served as a good positive control for the assay. Interestingly however, we observed that
236 depletion of many of the other hits, not known to play a direct role in protein synthesis, also
237 led to a reduction of HPG incorporation to various extents in NGPS2 cells, with 21 genes out
238 of the 43 hits (49%) reaching significance (Fig. 6A, blue data points). To assess the potential
239 link between the reduction of protein synthesis we observed in NGPS2 upon depletion of the
240 hits and the phenotypic improvements identified in our whole genome screen, we treated
241 NGPS1 and 2 cells with the protein synthesis inhibitors cycloheximide (CHX) and silvestrol.
242 Both inhibitors led to the enrichment of emerin into the nucleus of NGPS1 and NGPS2 cell
243 lines (Fig. 6B-C).

244

245 **Depletion of RPS3A, PAFAH1B1, VPS16 and SMU1 suppress the lethality of an NGPS**

246 ***C. elegans* model**

247 To establish the potential of our screen hits in translating into improvement of NGPS
248 phenotypes *in vivo*, we used an NGPS *C. elegans* model (hermaphrodites) carrying a *baf-*
249 *1(G12T)* mutation. We have recently reported the phenotype of these NGPS worms (35).
250 Interestingly, the NGPS worms have a shorter lifespan and recapitulate the phenotypes we

251 observed in the patient cells, including loss of emerin from the NE, accumulation of misshapen
252 nuclei, and deregulation of ribosomal genes (35). This model therefore strongly supports the
253 relevance of the phenotypes and the mechanisms we identified in the patient cells in this study.
254 In accordance with the nucleolar size changes we observed in NGPS cells (Fig. 5E-F), control
255 of nucleolar size appeared to be impaired in *C. elegans* too. Indeed, in hypodermal nuclei of
256 live NGPS (G12T) *C. elegans* expressing a GFP tagged nucleolar marker, we observed an
257 increased nucleolar area compared to wild-type (WT) worms (Fig. 7A-B). The *baf-1(G12T)*
258 mutant worms are fully viable, but <10% complete development when combined with an
259 endogenously tagged *gfp::lmn-1/lamin* allele (Fig. 7C, Supplementary Fig. 6A). We took
260 advantage of this sensitized background to test for rescue of developmental arrest upon RNAi-
261 mediated knockdown of 32 genes from our screen (Fig. 7C and Supplementary Fig. 6B), for
262 which there was a *C. elegans* homologue. Interestingly in regards to the protein synthesis data
263 we obtained in human cells, depletion of RPS-1 (the *C. elegans* homologue of human RPS3A),
264 a ribosomal protein of the 40S subunit, suppressed the lethality of the *gfp::lmn-1; baf-1(G12T)*
265 animals (Fig. 7B). Three additional genes: *lis-1* (PAFAH1B1) – involved in various dynein and
266 microtubule processes as well as in osteoclast formation (36), *vps-16* (VPS16) – a protein
267 involved in protein trafficking to lysosomal compartments (37), and *smu-1* (SMU1) – involved
268 in mRNA splicing (38, 39), led to a similar rescue of worm lethality (Fig. 7C). Depletion of
269 the other genes did not rescue the lethality (Supplementary Fig. 6B), potentially due to some
270 of them – including protein synthesis genes – being essential *in vivo*.

271

272 **DISCUSSION**

273 Our data demonstrates the feasibility and the power of a microscopy based, CRISPR/Cas9
274 genome-wide screen for suppressing and bypassing progeric phenotypes in patient-derived
275 fibroblasts. While a targeted (320 genes) multiparametric siRNA screen has been carried out

276 previously in a cellular model of HGPS (40), our screening approach has interrogated the entire
277 human protein coding genome (19,200 genes) and used NGPS patient cells. The only patient-
278 derived cells currently available are immortalized fibroblasts, due to the inability of the primary
279 cells to grow in culture (personal communication from Carlos Lopez-Otin). This prevents the
280 possibility to perform functional assays such as replicative lifespan in culture or migration
281 assays which is one caveat of the current study. On the other hand, immortalized cells are much
282 more amenable to large scale screening assays such as the one we performed here, especially
283 when considering the fact that we had to establish Cas9 expressing clones grown from single
284 cells – which would have been very challenging with primary patient fibroblasts. By using both
285 WT fibroblasts from an unaffected individual, as well as NGPS fibroblasts in which we
286 reversed the BAF A12T homozygous mutation using CRISPR/Cas9 (14), we were able to
287 identify a reliable combination of four cellular phenotypes that were both specific to the BAF
288 A12T mutation, and quantifiable by high throughput microscopy. This approach allowed us to
289 reduce the number of hits to ~0.2% of the whole genome library, and to identify genes showing
290 the best “rescue” across several phenotypes. In accordance with the principle of synthetic
291 rescue, only 3 of the hits were NE proteins, and more specifically nuclear pore complex
292 proteins: NUP160, SEC13 and AHCTF1 (ELYS). Both SEC13 and ELYS have been
293 previously shown to regulate nuclear size and nuclear import (41), a function shared by RAN,
294 another hit from our screen. This suggests that modulating nuclear import might have positive
295 effects on NE organization and function in NGPS cells.

296 In view of the strong skeletal abnormalities of NGPS patients, it is also worth highlighting that
297 our screen identified two genes involved in osteoclast development: *LRRK1* (Leucine-rich
298 repeat serine/threonine-protein kinase 1) and *PAFAH1B1/LIS1* (Platelet-activating factor
299 acetylhydrolase IB subunit alpha), whose depletion improve NGPS cellular phenotypes (Fig. 3
300 and 5) and in the case of LIS1 also increases viability of NGPS worms (Fig. 7C). LRRK1 has

301 been involved in the regulation of osteoclast activity and bone resorption (42-44). Accordingly,
302 LRRK1 dysfunction in mice or human is associated with severe osteopetrosis (45). Similarly,
303 PFAFH1B1 regulates osteoclast formation and bone homeostasis through interacting with the
304 protein Plekhh1, involved in osteoclast secretion. PFAFH1B1 depletion has been shown to
305 strongly reduce osteoclast formation (36). Therefore, we can hypothesize that the severe
306 osteoporosis and osteolysis observed in NGPS cells might be associated with an increased level
307 or activity of LRRK1 and/or PFAFH1B1. This might contribute to the aberrant NGPS cellular
308 phenotypes that become normalized upon depletion of these genes. As a follow up experiment,
309 it would be interesting to study the effect of the BAF A12T mutation in bone-derived cell lines,
310 and establish the benefit of LRRK1 and PFAFH1B1 depletion to the response of these cells to
311 mechanical stress for example. Once a mouse model for NGPS becomes available, it would be
312 of course also very relevant to test how modulating these genes might improve the phenotypes
313 of the mice in vivo.

314 Here, we decided to exploit *C. elegans* to perform functional assays, due to the absence of
315 primary NGPS cells (as described above), and because it is a highly appreciated model to study
316 mechanisms of aging. Numerous studies have concluded that interventions that either extend
317 or shorten lifespan in worms have similar effects in other animals, including mammals (46-48).
318 Secondly, the strong conservation of *BAF* across the animal kingdom both in terms of primary
319 amino acid sequence and predicted secondary structure argues in favour of functional
320 conservation. For instance, it has been shown that phosphorylation of BAF by the kinase VRK1
321 regulates BAF dynamics similarly in worms, flies, and human cells. In addition and supporting
322 this idea, our recent work (35) shows that the NGPS *C. elegans* model recapitulates phenotypes
323 of the NGPS patient fibroblasts. These include deterioration of nuclear morphology with age,
324 decreased emerin incorporation at the NE, enlarged nucleoli and deregulation of ribosomal

325 genes. These phenotypes are associated with a decreased lifespan and altered resistance to
326 stress.

327 One of the top functional enrichments in the screen was protein synthesis, with 7 out of the 43
328 hits being associated with this process. Loss of protein homeostasis is one of the hallmarks of
329 aging (19) and inhibition of translation has been associated with enhanced longevity in several
330 animal models (49-51). Identifying that inhibition of this pathway was beneficial to NGPS cells
331 and NGPS worms, therefore reinforce the current hypothesis that loss of cellular homeostasis
332 observed in both premature and physiological aging might occur through similar mechanisms.
333 More specifically, we observed that the NGPS associated BAF A12T mutation was associated
334 with a higher rate of nascent protein synthesis, together with differential expression of genes
335 involved in translation regulation (Fig.5A-D). Our recently published paper (35) also shows
336 that the A12T mutation directly affects the DNA binding profile of BAF, leading to differential
337 expression of genes involved in ribosomal structure and translation. Interestingly, almost all
338 ribosomal genes that were found to be differentially expressed in the NGPS worms, associated
339 less frequently with BAF-1(G12T) than with BAF-1 wild-type. This suggests that the BAF
340 A12T mutation may indirectly impact translation by modulating its DNA binding profile,
341 therefore modifying the expression of translation-associated genes. Translation deregulation –
342 potentially occurring through different mechanisms - could therefore be a common process
343 contributing to premature aging, as increased protein synthesis was also observed in primary
344 HGPS cells and was similarly accompanied by increased nucleolar size (33). In the case of
345 NGPS, we saw that this was associated with a higher rate of errors, as seen by an increased
346 stop codon readthrough. It therefore appears that fibroblasts derived from both HGPS and
347 NGPS patients go through a phase of enhanced protein synthesis while they are still in a
348 replicative state (low passage number in the case of primary HGPS cells or immortalization in
349 the case of NGPS). As translation is one of the most energy consuming process in the cell, this

350 could accelerate cell exhaustion, contributing to premature entry of the cells into senescence.
351 Once the cells enter into senescence, they then display reduced global protein synthesis. As the
352 NGPS cells are immortalized, we cannot assess the effect of protein synthesis reduction on the
353 replicative lifespan of the cells in culture, and therefore we cannot connect the phenotypic
354 rescue to cellular senescence.

355 There is currently no mouse model for NGPS but a recent study reported the effect of error-
356 prone protein synthesis in mice (52). Through engineering a specific ribosomal mutation, the
357 authors induced genome-wide translational errors in mice. This resulted in reduced lifespan
358 and premature aging features resembling the phenotypes observed in NGPS patients including
359 chest and spine deformation as well as loss of fat. This suggests that deregulation of protein
360 synthesis and accumulation of errors might directly contribute to the premature aging
361 phenotypes of NGPS patients. Therefore, identifying non-toxic pharmacological interventions
362 to slow down protein synthesis, thereby potentially limiting error-prone translation might yield
363 phenotypic improvement at the level of the individuals. According to our data, this could be
364 achieved through targeting proteins directly involved in protein synthesis (such as RPL
365 proteins) as well as proteins involved in various other cellular functions (Fig. 5G). Indeed, in
366 the cellular context of NGPS, we observed a reduction of nascent protein synthesis upon
367 depletion of genes that don't have any known protein synthesis function. The mechanisms
368 behind this and the link between protein translation and NE integrity remain unknown and will
369 be the basis of future studies, but it does suggest a common mechanism by which depletion of
370 the hits from the screen improve NGPS phenotypes.

371 Altogether, our screen has shed light on pathways involved in cellular dysfunction caused by
372 the BAF A12T mutation in NGPS patient cells. This work has also identified potential
373 therapeutic targets for this incurable premature aging syndrome, supported by the data we

374 obtained *in vivo*, showing rescue of lethality in NGPS worms upon knocking down some of the
375 hits from the screen.

376

377 **METHODS**378 **Ethics**

379 Our research complies with all relevant ethical regulations. The NGPS-derived patient cells
380 were obtained from Prof. Lopez-Otin with informed consent from the patients and ethical
381 oversight.

382

383 Cell culture

384 Wild type (WT, derived from an age-matched healthy individual (AG10803, Coriell
385 repositories), NGPS5796 (NGPS 1) and NGPS5787 (NGPS 2) - both males - immortalized
386 fibroblasts were a kind gift of Prof. Carlos López-Otín (University of Oviedo, Spain). All three
387 cell lines were immortalized with SV40LT and TERT. Cells were grown at 37°C in a 5% CO₂
388 incubator in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium containing 4.5 g/L glucose (Sigma)
389 supplemented with 2 mM L-glutamine (Sigma), 10% foetal bovine serum, 100 units/mL
390 penicillin and 0.1 g/L streptomycin (complete medium). WT cells expressing Flag-BAF or
391 Flag-A12T BAF were described before (14) and maintained in complete medium containing
392 100 µg/mL hygromycin B (Toku-E, #H007, made up to 100 mg/mL in PBS). Cells were
393 passaged twice a week and used within 12 passages. Cells were free of mycoplasma as assessed
394 using strips (InvivoGen #rep-mys-20). For the phenotypic comparison with HGPS (Figs. 1 and
395 S1), WT cells were GM05565 fibroblasts and HGPS cells were AG11513 cells, both obtained
396 from Coriell Institute for Medical Research (Camden, New Jersey, U.S.A.).

397

398 Antibodies and Reagents

399 Supplementary Table 1 lists antibodies and reagents used in Western blotting (WB) and
400 immunofluorescence (IF) applications.

401

402 Immunofluorescence

403 Cells were seeded on thickness 1 ½ round coverslips (Thermo Fisher Scientific) in 12-well
404 plates for full-field imaging, thickness 1 ½ square (18 mm x 18 mm) coverslips (Zeiss) in 6-
405 well plates for super-resolution imaging or in a 96-well view-plate (PerkinElmer #6005182)
406 for high-content imaging and grown to a confluency level consistent across the cell lines to be
407 compared. All subsequent steps were carried out at room temperature. Cells were fixed with
408 4% paraformaldehyde in PBS (Boster, AR1068) for 20 minutes, followed by permeabilization
409 in 0.2% Triton X-100 in PBS for 12 minutes. Unspecific antibody binding was blocked by
410 incubating in 5% BSA (Sigma #A7906), 0.1% Tween-20 in PBS (IF blocking buffer) for 30
411 minutes. Primary antibodies were diluted in IF blocking buffer (see Supplementary Table 1)
412 and incubated for 1-2 hours. After 3 washes with PBS cells were incubated with secondary
413 antibodies and DAPI diluted (see Supplementary Table 1) in IF blocking buffer. After 3 washes
414 with PBS coverslips were mounted using Prolong Gold (P10144) and left to set at room
415 temperature overnight; cells stained in 96-well plates were overlaid with 100 µL/well fresh
416 PBS and stored at 4°C until imaging. Wide-field immunofluorescence imaging was on an
417 upright Axioimager Z2 (Zeiss) using a Hamamatsu Flash 4 sCMOS camera and Zeiss plan-
418 apox lens, 63x 1.4 N.A. oil immersion objective and ZenBlue 2012 image acquisition software.
419 Super-resolution imaging was on an Elyra PS1 structured illumination microscope (Zeiss)
420 using a ZenBlack SR edition image acquisition software (Zeiss), PCO edge 4.2 sCMOS camera
421 and 63x 1.4 N.A. oil immersion objective. High-content imaging was on a CellInsight CX7
422 microscope (Thermo Fisher Scientific) using a 20x 0.35 N.A. objective. HCS Studio software
423 2021 (Thermo Fisher Scientific) was used for quantitative image analysis. For quantitation of
424 H3K9me3 or HP1 γ nuclear intensities the DAPI images were used to define the nuclear
425 contour, and a fixed intensity threshold was set to define the stained heterochromatin domains.

426

427 Western blotting

428 Confluent monolayers of cells in 6-well plates were washed with PBS and scraped in 70
429 μL /well SDS lysis buffer (4% SDS, 20% glycerol, and 120 mM Tris-HCl (pH 6.8)). Lysates
430 were incubated for 5 min at 95°C. The DNA was sheared by syringing 10 times through a 25-
431 gauge needle. Absorbance at 280 nm was measured (NanoDrop, Thermo Fisher Scientific) to
432 determine protein concentration. Samples were prepared in NuPAGE sample buffer (Thermo
433 Fisher Scientific #NP0007) and DTT (100 mM) and heated at 95°C for 10 min. Proteins were
434 loaded on NuPAGE 4-12% Bis-Tris gels (Thermo Fisher Scientific), separated in NuPAGE
435 MES SDS running buffer (Thermo Fisher Scientific #NP0002) and transferred to 0.2 μm pore
436 size nitrocellulose membranes (Amersham, #10600004) for immunoblotting. Blotted proteins
437 were reversibly stained with Ponceau S solution (Thermo Fisher Scientific, # A40000279) to
438 allow cutting strips for individual antibody incubations. Membrane strips were first blocked
439 for 30 min in 5% milk in TBST buffer (20 mM Tris, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1% Tween-20) before
440 incubation with primary antibodies diluted in TBST buffer (see Supplementary Table 1) for 1h
441 at room temperature. After 3 washes with TBST buffer membrane strips were incubated for 1
442 h with IRDye-conjugated secondary antibodies (LI-COR, see Supplementary Table 1). After 3
443 more washes with TBST buffer membrane fluorescence was scanned on an Odyssey CLx
444 imaging system (LI-COR).

445

446 Transmission electron microscopy

447 Cell monolayers were fixed by the addition 2.5% glutaraldehyde / 2% paraformaldehyde in
448 0.1M Na cacodylate buffer, pH 7.2 at 37°C. The monolayer was then scraped from the tissue
449 culture plastic, pelleted in a benchtop microfuge and allowed to cool to room temperature.
450 The cell pellet was washed with 0.1M Na cacodylate buffer, pH 7.2; post-fixed in 1% osmium
451 tetroxide in 0.1M Na cacodylate buffer, pH 7.2, for 1 hour, and washed with 0.05M Na maleate

452 buffer, pH 5.2. Next, the cells were stained en bloc with 0.5% uranyl acetate in 0.05M Na
453 maleate buffer, pH 5.2, for 1h at 4°C; washed with 0.05M Na maleate buffer, pH 5.2;
454 dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol and exchanged into 1,2-epoxy propane. The cell pellet
455 was then infiltrated with 50:50 epoxy propane: Agar 100 resin overnight before exchange into
456 Agar 100 resin. Finally the cell pellets were embedded in Agar 100 resin in BEEM capsules
457 (Agar Scientific, Stansted, UK) overnight at 60°C. Ultrathin sections (60nm) were cut using a
458 diamond knife mounted on a Leica Ultracut UC7 ultramicrotome (Leica, Milton Keynes, UK),
459 collected on formvar-coated copper EM grids and stained with uranyl acetate and Reynolds
460 lead citrate. The sections were observed in an FEI Tecnai G2 Spirit BioTWIN transmission
461 electron microscope (Eindhoven, The Netherlands) at an operating voltage of 80 kV. Images
462 were captured using a Gatan US1000 CCD camera.

463

464 Generation of Cas9-expressing cells

465 Stable Cas9 expression was engineered in the WT and in both NGPS cell lines as follows. We
466 first assessed protein expression efficiency from seven constitutive promoters (hCMV, mCMV,
467 hEF1a, mEF1a, CAG, PGK and UBC) using a SMARTchoice promoter selection plate
468 (Horizon Discovery, #SP-001000-01). The hCMV promoter showed the highest expression
469 and was chosen to drive Cas9 expression. WT and NGPS cells were transduced with purified
470 lentiviral particles, containing a vector encoding the *S. pyogenes* Cas9 nuclease under the
471 control of a hCMV promoter according to the manufacturer's protocol (Horizon Discovery,
472 #VCAS10124). Cells stably expressing Cas9 were selected using 5 µg/mL blasticidin
473 (Merck/Sigma Aldrich), and several clones were isolated from the polyclonal population by
474 single cell sorting. Individual clones were assessed for Cas9 expression, cellular morphology,
475 effect on cell health markers such as DNA damage (γH2AX level) and proliferation, as well as
476 Cas9 cutting efficiency. The latter was assessed based on resistance to 6-thioguanine upon

477 HPRT knock out as described before (31) as well as by knock down efficiency using
478 immunofluorescent staining or Western blotting (see CRISPR mini-libraries and
479 Supplementary Table 2). Based on these, to avoid any clonal effect that might arise from a
480 single clone, three Cas9-expressing clones were selected for each cell line and pooled for
481 further CRISPR experiments (WT-Cas9 or NGPS-Cas9) including the mini-libraries and
482 genome-wide screens.

483

484 CRISPR mini-libraries

485 Two CRISPR mini libraries were obtained; one contained pools of 3 sgRNAs targeting 10
486 genes (Synthego, Redwood City, CA, USA) (Supplementary Table 3), the other contained
487 pools of 4 crRNAs targeting 20 genes (Horizon Discovery, Waterbeach, UK) (Supplementary
488 Data 1). For immunofluorescence or cell proliferation assays, WT-Cas9 or NGPS-Cas9 cells
489 were reverse transfected with the CRISPR reagents in a 96-well view-plate (Perkin Elmer
490 #6005182). Per well 20 μL transfection mix was first prepared in a V-bottom 96-well plate
491 (Greiner #651161) as follows. For crRNA:tracrRNA transfection, 2.5 μL 1 μM crRNA and 2.5
492 μL 1 μM tracrRNA were added to 5 μL Optimem; for sgRNA transfection 2.5 μL 1 μM sgRNA
493 was added to 7.5 μL Optimem. To each well containing 10 μL diluted crRNA:tracrRNA or
494 sgRNA was then added 10 μL of a Dharmafect-1 dilution (0.05 μL Dharmafect-1 in 9.95 μL
495 Optimem). The solutions were mixed by pipetting up-and-down and incubated for 20 minutes
496 at room temperature before arraying in a 96-well view-plate (Perkin Elmer #6005182).
497 Meanwhile, cell suspensions were counted using a Countess cell counter (Thermo Fisher
498 Scientific) and dilutions prepared such that to each well were added 3300 cells for WT-Cas9
499 and NGPS2-Cas9 or 5000 cells for NGPS1 cells in a 80 μL volume in antibiotic-free growth
500 medium. Plates were shaken by hand and placed in a 37°C incubator for 65-72 hrs. For cell
501 survival analysis plates were put in an Incucyte live-cell imaging incubator 24 hrs post-

502 transfection (see Cell proliferation). For Western blotting analysis of sgRNA-transfected cells,
503 reverse transfections were carried out in 12-well format. Per well 3 μ L 10 μ M sgRNA was
504 diluted in 50 μ L Optimem, incubated for 5 minutes before adding diluted Dharmafect-1 (0.6
505 μ L Dharmafect-1 in 50 μ L Optimem). Transfection mixes were overlaid with 900 μ L
506 antibiotic-free growth medium containing 120,000 NGPS1-Cas9 cells. Plates were shaken and
507 put at 37°C for 72 hrs before cell lysis.

508

509 Cell proliferation (Incucyte)

510 WT or NGPS cells were seeded onto 24-well plates (Falcon, # 353047), placed in a live-cell
511 imaging incubator (Incucyte S3, Essen, Germany) and imaged with a 10x phase objective every
512 4 hours for 96 hours. Incucyte S3 analysis software was used to measure and quantify cell
513 density over time. For assaying the mitotic gene knock-outs in the CRISPR mini-libraries WT-
514 Cas9 or NGPS-Cas9 cells were reverse transfected in 96-well view-plates (Perkin Elmer
515 #6005182) and placed in the Incucyte imaging incubator 24 hours post-transfection.

516

517 CRISPR library

518 A genome-wide CRISPR library was obtained from Horizon Discovery (GP-004650-E2-01,
519 GP-004675-O2-01 and GP-006500-O2-01). The library was arrayed in 61 384-well plates and
520 contained 4 unique crRNAs per gene per well, targeting a total of 19,127 human genes
521 (Supplementary Data 2). Some crRNA pools were present in duplicate or triplicate, providing
522 internal controls for the screen. The 0.1 nmole crRNA pools were resuspended in 20 μ L 10
523 mM Tris buffer (Horizon Discovery #B-006000-100) to yield a 5 μ M master plate. This master
524 plate was further aliquoted into mother plates. To one mother plate containing 2.4 μ L/well
525 crRNA was added 21.6 μ L 0.56 μ M tracrRNA (Horizon); the resulting 24 μ L of 0.5 μ M
526 crRNA:tracrRNA solution was then divided over transfection-ready daughter plates, each

527 containing 6 μL of 0.5 μM crRNA:tracrRNA per well. All liquid-handling steps were carried
528 out using a CyBio Felix liquid handling robot (Analytik Jena, Jena, Germany). Plates were
529 spun for 2 minutes at 300 x g, sealed using clear polypropylene seals (Starlabs E2796-0793)
530 and stored at -30°C .

531

532 Genome-wide CRISPR screen

533 The genome-wide CRISPR screen was carried out with the NGPS2-Cas9 pool of 3 clones.
534 Library plates containing transfection-ready crRNA:tracrRNA complexes were thawed and
535 spun at 300 x g for 3 minutes. Emerin and non-targeting crRNA:tracrRNA complexes were
536 added to columns 23 and 24 (see plate layout, Fig. S3A) as positive controls for the transfection
537 efficiency and negative controls respectively. For reverse transfection, Dharmafect-1 (Horizon
538 Discovery) was diluted in Optimem (Thermo Fisher) (120 μL in 23.88 mL Optimem) and
539 incubated for 5 minutes at room temperature before distributing in a 384-well plate. A liquid
540 handling robot (CyBio Felix, Analytik Jena, Germany) was used to add the Dharmafect 1
541 solution to the crRNA:tracrRNA complexes and to mix the 2 solutions. After 20 minutes of
542 incubation at room temperature, the transfection mixes were distributed in 384-well imaging
543 plates (Greiner #781182) and overlaid with 1200 NGPS2-Cas9 cells/well in 30 μL of complete
544 DMEM medium. WT cells and NGPS2 WT cells (from the 2 clones in which the BAF A12T
545 mutation was reversed using CRISPR Cas9 (14) – see Fig. S3A) were added in columns 1 and
546 2 of each plate (that do not contain transfection complexes). Plates were then kept in a 37°C
547 incubator with 5% CO_2 for 72 hours. All subsequent steps were carried out at room
548 temperature. Cells were fixed using a Wellmate robot (Thermo Fisher) by adding 30 μL /well
549 of 4% PFA for 30 minutes. Fixative was removed through plate inversion, cells were washed
550 once with 40 μL /well PBS and permeabilized with 40 μL /well of 0.2% Triton X-100 in PBS
551 for 12 minutes. Unspecific antibody binding was blocked by incubation for 30 minutes with IF

552 blocking buffer (see Immunofluorescence). Next, cells were incubated for 1 hour with a
553 mixture of primary antibodies (20 μ L/well) diluted 1:1000 in IF blocking buffer: rabbit anti-
554 emerin, mouse IgG_{2b} anti-lamin A/C and mouse IgG₁ anti-LAP2 (details in Supplementary
555 Table 1). Following a wash with PBS (40 μ L/well), cells were incubated for 1 hour with a
556 mixture of secondary antibodies (Alexa Fluor 488 anti-mouse IgG_{2b}, Alexa Fluor 568 anti-
557 mouse IgG₁ and Alexa Fluor 647 anti-rabbit – details in Supplementary Table 1), as well as
558 DAPI (Supplementary Table 1), in IF blocking buffer (20 μ L/well). After a final wash with 40
559 μ L/well PBS the cells were overlaid with 40 μ L/well fresh PBS, plates were sealed with a black
560 seal (Perkin Elmer) and loaded onto a OrbitorRS plate handling robot (Thermo Fisher) for
561 loading into and imaging using a CellInsight CX7 high-content microscope (Thermo Fisher).
562 4-channel images were acquired with fixed exposure times using a 20x 0.35 N.A. air objective
563 for 9 fields/well or until 500 nuclei (“objects”) were detected in the DAPI acquisition channel.
564 The HCS studio colocalisation bio-application was used to calculate a nuclear shape parameter
565 for the DAPI-defined objects and the emerin intensity in both the nucleus, defined by the DAPI
566 mask, and in a cytoplasmic ring defined by expansion of the DAPI mask. For micronuclei
567 analysis, the LAP2 images were run through the HCS studio micronuclei bio-application. This
568 analysis module was further modified to detect nuclear blebs, again using the LAP2 images
569 (53). All primary screen results are collated in Supplementary Data 3.

570

571 Primary screen hit identification

572 Two multivariate analyses were carried out in R using custom scripts which are described here:
573 Raw genome-wide CRISPR screen data were read into R in a plate-by-plate basis. Control
574 wells were annotated before normalisation of emerin nuclear intensity, emerin ratio and nuclear
575 shape factor P2A values to the median of the corresponding value of the NGPS2 negative
576 control on each plate. Z scores were calculated (calculated by subtracting the mean of each

577 phenotype from each value and dividing by the standard deviation of each phenotype) and
578 selected values plotted in S plots (supplementary figures x – y). For both multivariate analyses,
579 data dimension reduction was achieved using UMAP (54) and clustering using k means, with
580 optimal cluster number determined by manual determination of differential grouping of WT
581 control samples to all other samples. A four-parameter (average nuclear emerin intensity,
582 micronuclei frequency, nuclear shape factor P2A, and nuclear bleb frequency) analysis,
583 including a scaling step prior to dimension reduction (subtraction of the values of each
584 parameter by the mean of that parameter followed by division of the values of each parameter
585 by the standard deviation of each parameter), yielded 51 hits. A three-parameter analysis,
586 excluding emerin nuclear intensity as few gene knockouts rescued the phenotype, yielded 68
587 hits. Of the combined 119 hits we excluded genes whose knockout negatively affected cell
588 survival or proliferation (nuclear count < 200), and we added genes not yet on the list that
589 appeared in the top 15 of three individual phenotypes (nuclear shape factor, micronuclei or
590 nuclear envelope bleb frequency), bringing the total number of hits taken forward for a
591 deconvoluted validation screen to 130 (Supplementary Data 4). The scripts used in this study
592 have been deposited on Zenodo and can be found here:
593 <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.13927778>.

594

595 Validation screen

596 For each of the 130 primary screen hits, 3 crRNA sequences were arrayed randomly in the
597 central wells of two 384-well plates as a custom library (Horizon Discovery) (Supplementary
598 Data 5). Control crRNA:tracrRNA complexes were added to the plates as detailed in Fig. S3B.
599 Transfection, fixing, staining and imaging were all carried out as for the primary screen and
600 repeated 3 times. Aggregate z-scores were calculated for the 3 sequences/genes for each
601 phenotype (Supplementary Data 6). Genes whose z-score was below (for micronuclei

602 frequency, NE bleb frequency and nuclear shape parameter P2A) or above (for emerin
603 nucleus:cytoplasm intensity ratio) the z-score for the NT control in the 3 repeat experiments
604 were considered validated. The 43 validated genes are in the STRING diagram in Fig. S3C.

605

606 Nascent protein synthesis assay

607 Nascent protein synthesis was assayed using incorporation of the methionine analogue L-
608 homopropargylglycine (HPG). Cells were grown in methionine-free medium (Thermo Fisher
609 Gibco #21013-024) for 1 hour before incubation with 1 μ M click-iT HPG (Thermo Fisher
610 #C10428) in methionine-free medium for 1 hour at 37°C. All subsequent steps were carried
611 out at room temperature. Cells were fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde in PBS for 20 minutes,
612 followed by permeabilization with 0.2% Triton X-100 in PBS for 12 minutes. Next, a click
613 reaction was allowed to proceed for 1 hour by incubation with 4 mM CuSO₄, Alexa Fluor 488
614 azide (1:1000 dilution) and 10 mM sodium ascorbate in the dark. Click reagents were washed
615 off and nuclei were stained with 0.2 μ g/mL DAPI before imaging on the high-content
616 microscope.

617

618 siRNA transfection

619 A custom siRNA mini-library containing On TargetPLUS siRNA smartpools (Horizon
620 Discovery) targeting 41 of the 43 validated hits as well as some internal control genes (EMD,
621 LMNA and TMPO (encoding LAP2)) arrayed in a 96-well plate was obtained (Supplementary
622 Data 7, see Fig. S4F for the plate layout). The 0.1 nmole siRNA/well was diluted to 2 μ M with
623 10 mM Tris buffer (Horizon Discovery #B-006000-100). Transfection mixes were prepared by
624 adding diluted Lipofectamine RNAiMAX (Thermo Fisher Scientific) (1 μ L in 33 μ L Optimem)
625 to diluted siRNA (5 μ L 2 μ M siRNA added to 28 μ L Optimem) in a V-bottomed 96-well plate
626 (Greiner #651161), mixing and incubating for 10 minutes at room temperature. 20 μ L of the

627 transfection mix was then transferred to a 96-well viewplate well (Perkin Elmer #6005182) and
628 overlaid with 80 μ L cell suspension (NGPS2 cells, 3000 cells/well). siRNA transfection was
629 allowed to proceed for 72 hrs before cells were assayed for nascent protein synthesis as detailed
630 above.

631

632 Protein translation inhibition studies

633 WT or NGPS cells were seeded in 96-well imaging plates (PerkinElmer #6005182) and treated
634 for 72 hours with 0.125 μ g/mL cycloheximide (CHX, Sigma # C4859) or 2.5 nM silvestrol
635 (Biovision #B2417-100) before staining and imaging as in the screens.

636

637 Protein mistranslation assay

638 WT or NGPS cells were seeded in 12-well plates. The next day cells were transfected with
639 plasmid pRM hRluc-hFluc D357X, where Asp³⁵⁷ (GAC codon) was replaced by a UGA
640 nonsense codon in the firefly luciferase (Fluc) transcript (34), using TransIT-2020 (Mirus
641 #MIR5404) according to the manufacturer's protocol. 30 hours post-transfection cells were
642 lysed in 200 μ L/well passive lysis buffer (Promega #E1941) for 15 minutes at r.t. under gently
643 rocking. Lysates from each 12-well were collected in 3 wells of a black 96-well plate
644 (PerkinElmer #6005182) on ice. The activities of firefly and sea pansy (Renilla) luciferases
645 were measured sequentially using reagents of the dual-luciferase reporter (DLR) system
646 (Promega #E1910) with a ClarioStar plate reader (BMG Labtech Ltd., Aylesbury, U.K.). In
647 brief, firefly luciferase activity was assayed through addition of 60 μ L/well Luciferase Assay
648 Reagent II. Next, firefly luciferase activity was quenched and Renilla activity measured by
649 addition of 60 μ L/well Renilla substrate in Stop&Glo buffer. As a positive control for
650 translation errors cells were treated for 24 hours with 0.5 mg/mL G418 (Gibco # 10131035)
651 prior to assaying.

652

653 RNA sequencing and analysis

654 Total RNA was extracted from wild type, NGPS1 and NGPS2 cells using the RNA extraction
655 kit from Zymo Research. The RNA was analysed by Cambridge Genomics Services with
656 Illumina TruSeq Stranded mRNA library prep kit. Input for libraries was 1µg for each sample.
657 After the libraries were prepared, they were pooled in equal quantities and Quality Control was
658 run including Bioanalyzer (average size 283bp) and qPCR (concentration 43nM). The RNAs
659 were then sequenced using an Illumina NextSeq 500 2x75 cycles MID output kit. 2 pM of
660 pooled libraries were loaded onto the sequencer and 1% Phix was added. FastQC (v0.11.4) was
661 used to assess sequence quality and nucleotide content of paired-end fastq files and enabled
662 trimming of low quality bases from the 3' end, using TrimGalore (v0.5.0). Trimmed reads were
663 then aligned with STAR (v2.7.9) and HISAT2 (v2.1.0), for genome and transcript level
664 analyses respectively, using Ensembl's Homo sapiens GRCh38 (release 109) reference files.
665 Uniquely aligned genomic reads, with a mapping score of 10 or greater, were quantified using
666 HTSeq (v0.6.1), while StringTie (v1.3.4) was used to assemble and estimate transcript
667 expression levels of HISAT2 alignments. Read counts were then read into R statistical software
668 (v 3.6.1) and used as input to the edgeR package (v3.26.5) for pairwise comparisons, to identify
669 differentially expressed genes and transcripts between Wild type cells and NGPS1/NGPS2
670 cells. A '5 CPM (Counts Per Million) in at least half of the samples' filter was applied to the
671 counts, which were then normalised before differential tests were performed. The CQN
672 Bioconductor package (v1.30.0) was also used to correct for any Guanine-Cytosine or gene-
673 length biases, prior to pairwise comparisons. Finally, p-values were adjusted for multiple
674 testing via the False Discovery Rate (FDR; Benjamini-Hochberg) approach. Gene Ontology
675 Analysis was performed on genes with a False Discovery Rate value less than 0.01.

676

677 Statistics

678 Statistical analysis was done using Graphpad Prism v9. The statistical test used is indicated in
679 the figure legends. Asterisks in the figures correspond to p-values as follows: * $0.01 \leq p < 0.05$,
680 ** $0.001 \leq p < 0.01$, *** $0.0001 \leq p < 0.001$, **** $p < 0.0001$. ns indicates a non-significant
681 statistical comparison.

682

683 Genome wide association studies (GWAS)

684 Target genes from the whole genome screen were integrated with common variant genome-
685 wide association studies (GWAS) and associated functional annotations, pertaining to coding
686 variants, expressions quantitative trait loci (eQTL) datasets and proximal enhancers.

687 For the common variant GWAS, we used data on body mass index (BMI, n= 806,834) and
688 waist-hip ratio (WHR) adjusted for BMI (n=694,649) from the GIANT study (55), the GLGC
689 triglycerides study (56) (n=1,253,275) and the GEFOS estimated bone mineral density (eBMD,
690 n=426,824) study (57) and only variants with a minor allele frequency $>0.1\%$. For each of the
691 target genes and each phenotypic trait, genes were annotated based on proximity to genome-
692 wide significant signals ($p < 5 \times 10^{-8}$), in 1Mb windows; 500kb up- or downstream of the genes
693 start or end site. As most GWAS signals are intronic or intergenic, we overlaid these
694 associations with other functional datasets to understand whether the associated variants can
695 be causally linked to changes in the identified genes' regulation or expression. First, we
696 calculated genomic windows of high linkage disequilibrium (LD; $R^2 > 0.8$) for each given
697 signal and mapped these to the locations of known enhancers for the target genes, using the
698 activity-by-contact (ABC) enhancer maps (32), to indicate whether the genomic variants
699 associating with the traits of interest directly changed the sequence of enhancers for the genes
700 in question. We then performed colocalisation analyses between the four GWAS and
701 expression quantitative trait loci (eQTL) data for genomic variants reaching at least a

702 suggestive level of significance in the GWAS ($p < 5 \times 10^{-5}$), using the SMR and HEIDI tests
703 (v1.02, (58)) and blood gene expression level data from the eQTLGen study (59). In doing so
704 we essentially matched the pattern of association observed between the identified genomic
705 variants and the GWAS outcome to the association towards the measured transcript level
706 changes for the identified genes, to approximate the direct effect of the associated variants on
707 the target gene expression. We considered gene expression of a gene to be influenced by the
708 same genomic variation as that seen in the GWAS, if the FDR-corrected p-value for the SMR-
709 test was $p < 0.05$ and the p-value for the HEIDI test was $> 0.1\%$. Both of these sets of results
710 allow us to draw methodological hypotheses about how genetic variants at the identified loci,
711 can cause changes in the observed phenotypic traits, by directly affecting the genes regulation
712 and expression patterns. Finally, we wanted to identify potential coding variants that might also
713 associate with variation in the four phenotypes, indicating more direct protein-level
714 consequences to the identified genes. To do this, we collapsed common coding variants within
715 each of the identified genes and calculated gene-level associations towards each of the four
716 traits, using a gene-level MAGMA analysis (v1.09) and SMR-HEIDI (v0.6886) (60). Genes
717 exhibiting an FDR-corrected MAGMA p-value < 0.05 were considered significant.

718

719 *C. elegans* maintenance

720 BN808 baf-1(bq19[G12T]) III was generated by backcrossing baf-1(G12T) mutants (six times
721 with the N2 wild type strain. The baf-1(bq19[G12T]) allele contains two nucleotide
722 substitutions at position 34-35 relative to the start codon (GG@AC) introduced by
723 CRISPR/Cas9 genome engineering. BN1336 yc32[gfp::lmn-1] I; baf-1(bq19[G12T]) III was
724 generated by crossing BN808 and UD484 (61) and balanced with hT2 [bli-4(e937) let-?(q782)
725 qIs48] (I;III). BN1389 knuSi221[*fib-1p::fib-1::gfp + unc-119(+)*] II; baf-1(bq19[G12T]) III
726 was obtained by crossing BN808 and COP262 (62). These hermaphrodite strains were

727 maintained at 16°C on solid Nematode Growth Medium (NGM) plates seeded with *Escherichia*
728 *coli* OP50 bacteria (63).

729

730 *C. elegans* nucleolar size measurement

731 Nucleolar area was quantified in the COP262 and BN1389 strains using the FIB-1::GFP
732 reporter. Larvae were raised at 16°C and synchronized by picking L4 hermaphrodites and
733 further incubated for 24 hours at 25°C. Young adults were anaesthetized in a drop of 10 mM
734 levamisole on top of soft agar pads as described (64). Stacks of confocal images were acquired
735 using a Nikon Eclipse Ti microscope equipped with Plan Fluor 40×/1.3 and Plan Apo VC
736 60×/1.4 objectives and an A1R scanner using a pinhole of 1.2 airy units. Nucleolar areas were
737 measured in 124 nucleoli for the WT worms and 146 nucleoli for the *baf-1(G12T)*, representing
738 >20 animals per strain over 4 independent experiments, after creating binary masks with Fiji
739 software from the original images (65).

740

741 *C. elegans* RNAi

742 For RNA interference, were fed with *E. coli* that express double-stranded RNA (dsRNA).
743 Bacterial clones were obtained from a genome wide RNAi library (66) except clones
744 corresponding to *mel-28*, *npp-6*, *npp-20*, *rpn-9* and *rpl-13* that were obtained from alternative
745 sources (67-69). RNAi plasmids for *csk-1*, *daf-4*, *gft-2H3*, *src-1*, *ced-9* and *mrpl-36* were
746 constructed as described (70) using the PCR primers listed in Supplementary Table 2. PCR
747 fragments were inserted into plasmid pL4440 *npp-15* (68) after digestion with XhoI (NEB
748 R0146S) and SpeI (NEB R3133S), ligation and subsequent transformation into *E. coli* DH5 α .
749 Plasmids from ampicillin resistant colonies were confirmed by restriction digestion,
750 transformed into *E. coli* HT115 and plated on LB with ampicillin and tetracycline. For RNAi
751 experiments, 12-15 homozygous *yc32[gfp::lmn-1]*; *baf-1(bq19[G12T])* hermaphrodites were

752 transferred at L4 stage to RNAi plates containing dsRNA-producing *E. coli* HT115, 1 mM
753 IPTG and 100 µg/ml ampicillin and incubated at 20°C. After 18 hours, 1-day old adults were
754 transferred to fresh RNAi plates (3 animals per plate; nine worms in total per replica) and
755 incubated for 6 hours at 20°C. The adults were then removed and rescue of lethality was
756 determined by counting the number of unhatched embryos and viable offspring after 24 hours
757 at 20°C.

758

759 Statistical analysis of *C. elegans* data

760 Data were analyzed in R Studio (1.3.1093 (71); running R 4.0.2 (72)) and represented with
761 base plotting. Mann-Whitney and t-tests were performed in R Studio and adjusted for multiple
762 comparison (Benjamini & Hochberg method) when relevant. *C. elegans* has two sexes:
763 hermaphrodites and males. The viability experiments reported in this manuscript can only be
764 performed with hermaphrodites. There is therefore no sex specific analysis performed.

765

766 **Data availability:** The RNA Seq data has been deposited on GEO with the accession number
767 GSE269484 [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?acc=GSE269484>].

768 eQTL data from the eQTLGen study was accessed using the Phase I release of cis-eQTLs and
769 is available for download via <https://eqtlgen.org/phase1.html>. GWAS summary statistics are
770 available via <https://zenodo.org/records/1251813> from the GIANT consortium, via
771 <https://csg.sph.umich.edu/willer/public/glgc-lipids2021/> from the GLGC consortium and via
772 <http://www.gefos.org/> from the GEFOS consortium. All other source data are provided with
773 the paper.

774

775

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950 Writing – original draft: DL, SYB

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952 All authors have approved the final version of this manuscript.

953

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956 International. The other authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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958

959 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

960

961 **Fig. 1. NGPS fibroblasts show distinctive phenotypes to HGPS.** (A) Representative
962 transmission electron micrographs of WT, NGPS1 and NGPS2 fibroblasts (males). (B)
963 Representative high resolution microscopy images showing the expression and localization of
964 lamin B1 and emerin in WT and NGPS fibroblasts. (C) Immunofluorescence images showing
965 DNA damage foci (53BP1) and nucleocytoplasmic transport (Ran) in WT and NGPS
966 fibroblasts. Images were obtained with the CX7 high-content microscope and quantified in (D)
967 and (E) using the HCS StudioTM software. (D): Superplot of the data (3 technical replicates in
968 3 independent experiments), lines indicate average values, statistical analysis using nested one-
969 way ANOVA with Dunnett's multiple comparisons. (E): Data from 3 independent experiments,
970 2-3 technical replicates each, lines indicate average values, statistical comparison using one-
971 way ANOVA with Dunnett's multiple comparisons. (F) High resolution microscopy images
972 of the heterochromatin marker HP1 γ in WT and NGPS cells. (G) Nuclear HP1 γ levels
973 quantified using the high-content microscope in 2 independent experiments, each averaging
974 500 nuclei in 3 wells. Means \pm SD are shown. For the NGPS cells statistical testing used one-
975 way ANOVA with Dunnett's multiple comparisons; HGPS cells were compared to WT using
976 two-tailed unpaired t-test. (H) Representative Western blot and (I) quantitative analysis of 4
977 independent experiments showing HP1 γ in NGPS cells compared to WT. (J-L) Representative
978 western blots and quantitative analysis of 3 independent experiments, showing the
979 heterochromatin marks H3K9me3 (J) and H3K79me2 (K) or the aging and senescence marker
980 p21 (L) in NGPS cells compared to WT. In (I-L) data points are overlaid on columns indicating
981 the mean \pm SD, and statistical analysis used one-way ANOVA with Dunnett's multiple
982 comparisons.

983 **Fig. 2. Whole genome CRISPR screening set-up in NGPS fibroblasts.** (A) Schematic
984 detailing the four main steps involved in the CRISPR screen set-up (Created in BioRender.
985 Larrieu, D. (2024) BioRender.com/e32i842). (B) Example immunofluorescence images of the
986 indicated stainings used in the screen and obtained with the high-content microscope. (C)
987 Quantification of the nucleus to cytoplasmic (N:C) emerin intensity ratio in WT and NGPS2
988 cells. (D) Quantification of the nuclear shape in WT and NGPS2 cells using a perimeter to area
989 (P2A) analysis obtained with HCS Studio. Each data point in (C) and (D) is the average value
990 measured over 500 cells, in 7 independent experiments; lines indicate the average \pm SD and
991 unpaired two-tailed t-tests were used for statistical analysis. (E) Graphical representation and
992 corresponding immunofluorescence images showing the identification of blebs as the origin of
993 NE ruptures using a nuclear localization signal (NLS) reporter tagged with a GFP. (F, G)
994 Representative nuclei imaged with the CX7 microscope, showing the outlines of the nuclei in
995 blue, and the nuclear blebs (F) or micronuclei (G) in yellow as detected by the HCS software
996 and quantified (as in C and D) in (H and I). Each data point in (H) and (I) is the average value
997 measured over 500 cells, in 7 independent experiments; lines indicate the average \pm SD and
998 unpaired two-tailed t-tests were used for statistical analysis (J) Knock down efficiency of
999 individual or pooled crRNAs assessed in the clonal population of Cas9-expressing WT and
1000 NGPS cells. crRNAs targeting SIRT7 (top 2 blots) or HDAC6 (bottom 3 blots) were used,
1001 either as single sequences (#1, #2) or as a pool of the 2 sequences. (K) Representative
1002 immunofluorescence images of emerin intensity in NGPS1-Cas9 cells upon transfection of a
1003 pool of 3 crRNAs or sgRNAs and quantified in 2 independent experiments using the HCS
1004 image studio software (right panel). (L) Comparison of cell growth inhibition upon
1005 transfection of the indicated sgRNA or crRNA in NGPS1-Cas9 cells. The growth rate was
1006 measured using an Incucyte S3 live-cell analysis system in 2 independent experiments. The

1007 data shows the representative cell growth from 4 images/well, (average \pm SD indicated by
1008 lines).

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1011 **Fig. 3. Identification of genes and pathways modulating NGPS phenotypes.** (A) Schematic
1012 showing the experimental outline of the primary and validation screens in NGPS2-Cas9
1013 fibroblasts (Created in BioRender. Larrieu, D. (2024) BioRender.com/e32i842). (B) Uniform
1014 Manifold Approximation and Projection (UMAP) of the cluster analysis from the primary
1015 screen. Nuclear shape, micronuclei and NE blebs frequency quantified in NGPS2-Cas9 cells
1016 (grey dots) for each single knock-out were reduced to two dimensions and mapped alongside
1017 the same parameters measured in matching control cells (blue dots). The hit genes are labeled
1018 in red. (C-F) S plots depicting the top 20 genes with the highest and lowest Z scores for each
1019 individual phenotype quantified from the NGPS genome-wide CRISPR screen alongside the
1020 mean value obtained for the NGPS cells (red bars) and the wild type cells (black bars)
1021 transfected with a non-targeting crRNA.

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1024 **Fig. 4: Validation of hits normalizing multiple nuclear envelope phenotypes in NGPS**
1025 **cells. (A-B)** Biological processes gene set enrichment was carried out using the clusterProfiler
1026 R package. P values were calculated through clusterProfiling using a hypergeometric
1027 distribution which corresponds to a one-sided version of Fisher's exact test. No corrections for
1028 multiple comparisons were applied. The 43 validated genes were tested against a full homo
1029 sapiens ontology database. **(C)** Representative immunofluorescence images obtained in the
1030 validation screen, showing the effects of some of the hits on the nuclear envelope phenotypes.
1031 **(D)** Heatmap showing the overlap between identified target genes and human genetic datasets.
1032 For all four phenotypic traits (BMI (n= 806,834), WHR (n=694,649), triglycerides
1033 (n=1,253,275) and eBMD, (n=426,824)), target genes were annotated on the basis of (i)
1034 proximity to GWAS signals, (ii) coding-variant gene-level associations to the trait (MAGMA),
1035 (iii) colocalization between the GWAS and eQTL data and (iv) the presence of known
1036 enhancers within the association peaks. A count of the observed concordant predictors (out of
1037 a maximum of 16) is displayed in Summary (right panel). Expanded results can be found in
1038 Supplementary Data 8.
1039

1040 **Fig. 5. BAF A12T is associated with enhanced protein synthesis and translation errors.**

1041 **(A-B)** Differential gene expression analysis in wild-type compared to NGPS1 and NGPS2 cell
1042 lines reveals enrichment for biological processes associated with RNA processing and
1043 translation. P-values were adjusted for multiple testing via the False Discovery Rate (FDR;
1044 Benjamini-Hochberg) approach. Gene Ontology Analysis was performed on genes with a False
1045 Discovery Rate value less than 0.01. **(C)** Nascent protein synthesis assay using HPG
1046 incorporation followed by labelling using a “click” reaction with Alexa fluor 488 (AF 488) in
1047 WT, NGPS2 or NGPS2 corrected **(C)** or in WT fibroblasts expressing a BAF WT or BAF
1048 A12T construct **(D)**. AF 488-HPG intensity was quantified using the high-content microscope
1049 in 4 **(C)** or 3 **(D)** independent experiments, each measuring 1000 cells in 3 wells per cell line,
1050 graphed as a Superplot with data from different experiments indicated in different colors and
1051 larger symbols indicating each experiment’s average. AF 488-HPG intensity was normalized
1052 to the WT cell line. Mean values were analyzed using nested one-way ANOVA **(C)** or paired
1053 two-tailed t-test **(D)**, with Tukey’s method used for multiple comparisons in **(C)**. **(E)**
1054 Immunofluorescence images of nucleolin used to identify and outline the nucleoli (yellow) in
1055 the indicated cell lines using the HCS Studio software. **(F-G)** Average nucleolar area quantified
1056 in NGPS2 and NGPS2 corrected cells **(F)** or in WT fibroblasts expressing BAF WT or BAF
1057 A12T **(G)**. **(F)** and **(G)** are superplots as in **(C-D)**, and statistical comparisons were made using
1058 paired two-tailed t-tests. **(H)** Translation error rate measured as an increased read-through using
1059 a dual luciferase assay in 3 independent repeats (Superplot of the data). Mean values were
1060 analyzed using one-way ANOVA with Dunnett’s multiple comparison testing. Results are
1061 derived from the ratio hFluc/hRluc, given in fold induction.

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Fig. 6. Inhibition of protein synthesis restores nuclear envelope abnormalities in NGPS cells. (A) Nascent protein synthesis assay based on fluorescence intensity of HPG AF 488. NGPS2 or NGPS2 corrected cells (NGPS WT) were imaged with the high throughput microscope following siRNA depletion of 41 of the validated screen hits. Depletion of genes highlighted in blue show significant (one-way ANOVA with Dunnett's multiple comparisons test, $p < 0.05$) reduction of HPG incorporation compared to NGPS2 cells transfected with a non-targeting siRNA (red dotted line). Shown are averages \pm SD of 3 independent experiments in 500 cells. (B) Quantification of emerin nuclear intensity in NGPS1 and NGPS2 cell lines compared to WT, upon protein synthesis inhibition using cycloheximide (CHX) or silvestrol. Superplots of the 3 independent experiments are shown, and nested one-way ANOVA was used for statistical comparisons with Dunnett's multiple comparison testing. (C) Representative immunofluorescence images of emerin staining upon protein synthesis inhibition by treatment with CHX or silvestrol.

1079 **Fig. 7. Depletion of PAFAH1B1, RPS3A, SMU1 and VPS16 suppress the larvae lethality**
1080 **of an NGPS hermaphrodite *C. elegans* model.** (A) Confocal images of hypodermal nuclei
1081 of live wild-type (WT; strain COP262) and NGPS (G12T; strain BN1389) 1 day old
1082 adult hermaphrodites *C. elegans* expressing FIB-1::GFP. Shown are overlays of GFP (green)
1083 and DIC images. Scale bar 5 μ m. (B) Nucleolar area was measured in 124 nucleoli for the WT
1084 worms and 146 nucleoli for the *baf-1(G12T)*, representing >20 animals per strain over 4
1085 independent experiments. Black lines show the average nucleolar area \pm SD. The p-value from
1086 Welch two sample t-test is indicated. (C) The indicated genes were knocked down by RNAi
1087 and tested for suppression of lethality in *gfp::lmn-1*, *baf-1(G12T)* hermaphrodites (strain
1088 BN1336). Each point corresponds to the percentage of eggs developing into larvae from a
1089 single plate with 50-100 eggs laid by 1 day old adult hermaphrodites. For PAFAH1B1, 9 plates
1090 were analysed for both the control and PAFAH1B1, over 3 independent experiments. For
1091 RPS3A, 15 control plates and 14 RPS3A plates were analysed over 4 independent experiments.
1092 For SMU1, 14 control and 16 SMU-1 plates were analysed over 5 independent experiments.
1093 For VPS16, 12 controls and 11 VPS16 plates were analysed over 4 independent experiments.
1094 Black lines indicate medians. Mann-Whitney test p-values were calculated for each set of
1095 control and test plates.

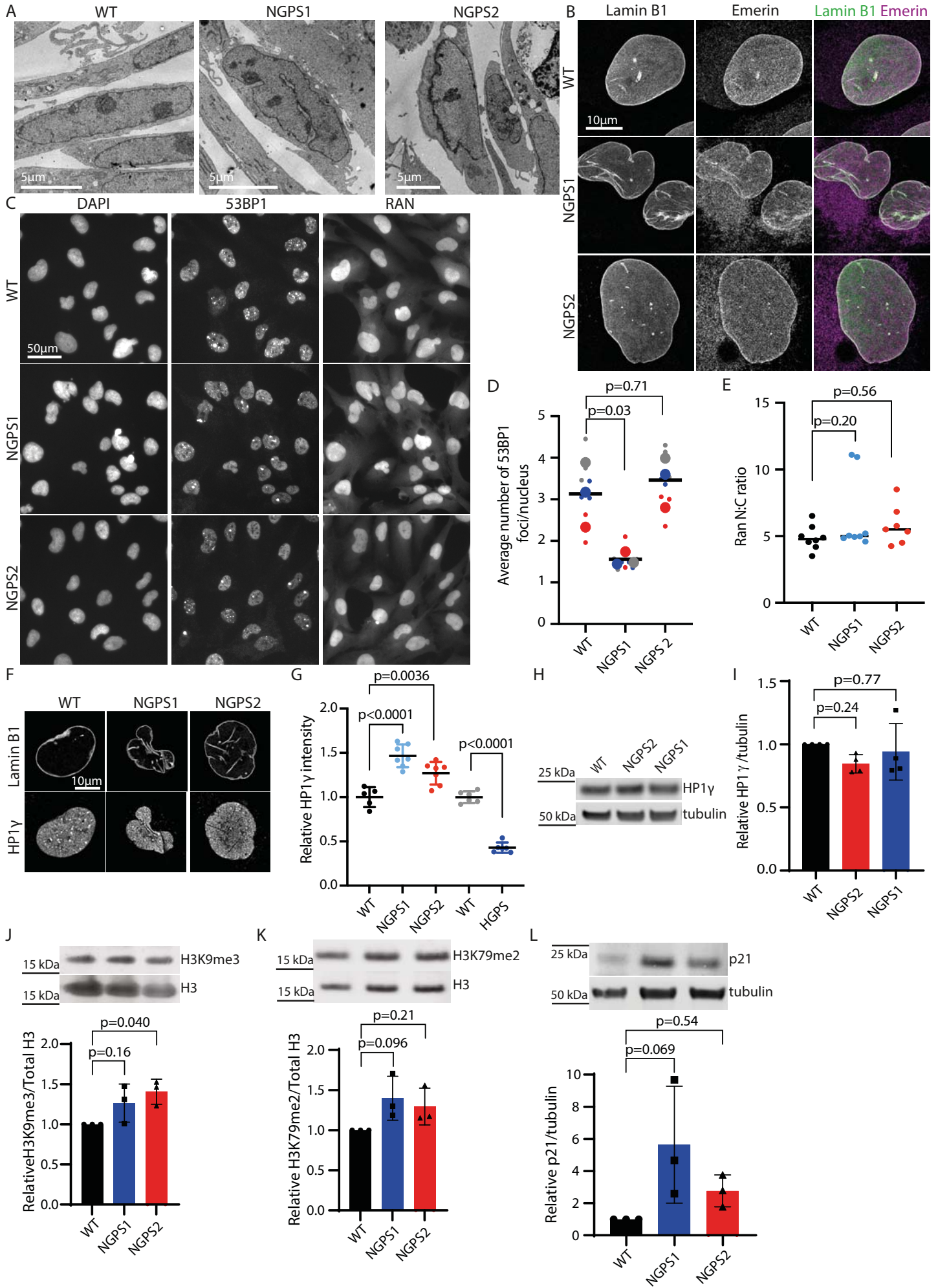
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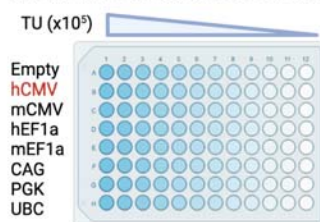
A
Step 1: Characterise the disease phenotypes, validate the antibodies combination, develop high throughput analysis pipelines

NGPS fibroblasts

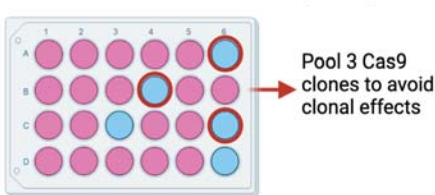


Step 2: Establish stable Cas9 expression in NGPS fibroblasts

SMARTchoice Promoter Selection Plate

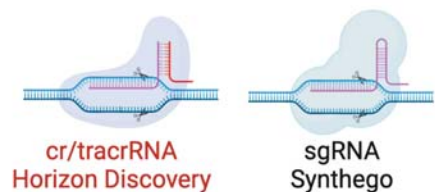


Single cell sorting, phenotypic characterisation and KO efficiency testing



Infect NGPS cells with hCMV-Cas9

Step 3: Test and optimise the KO efficiency with the systems available as arrayed libraries



Step 4: Set up a mini targeted screen for experimental validation

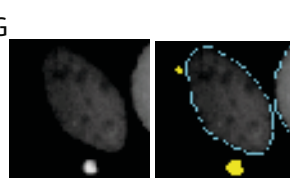
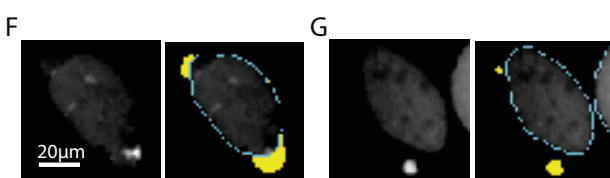
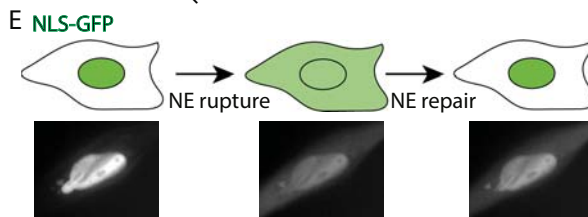
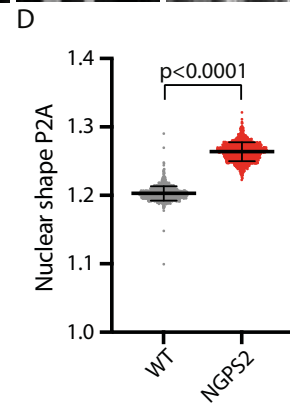
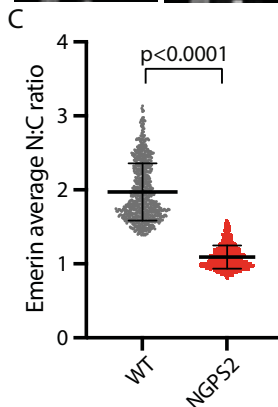
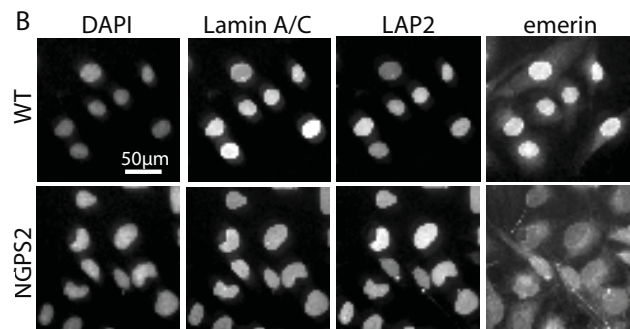
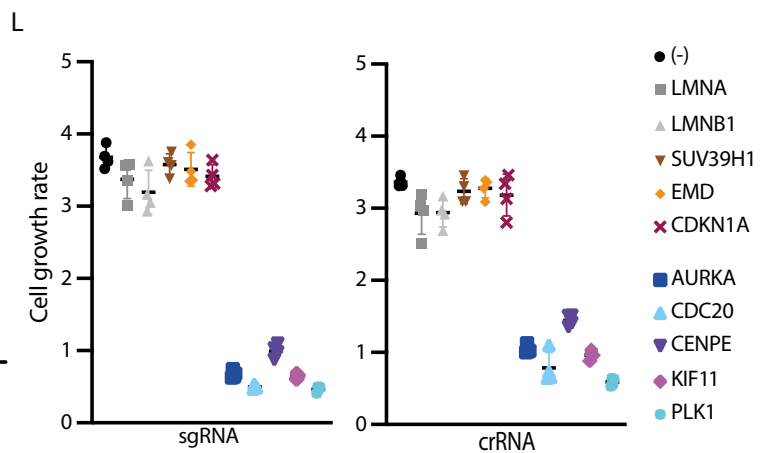
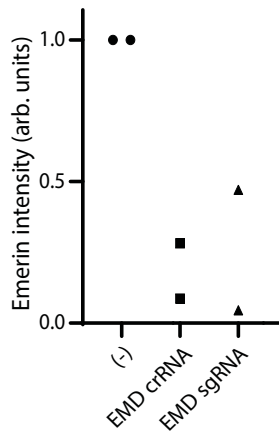
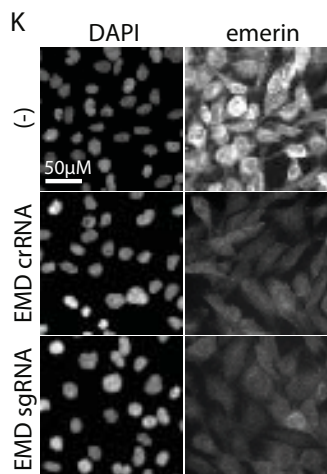
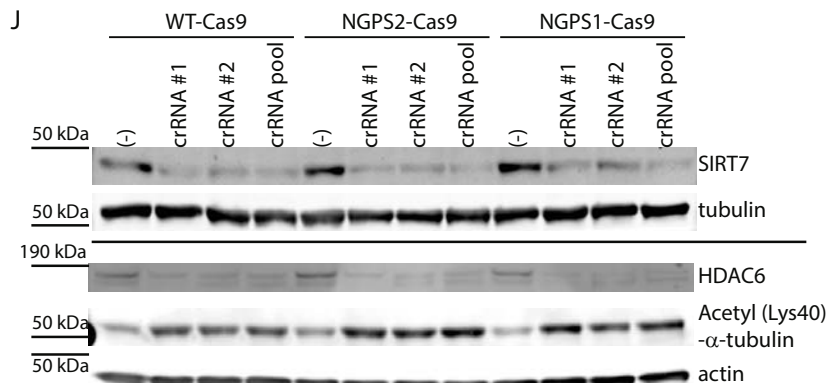
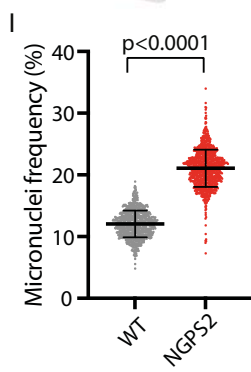
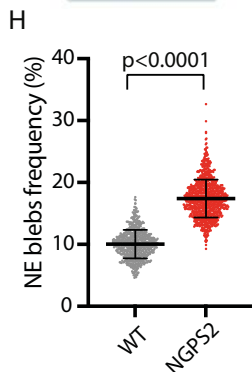
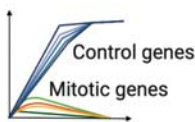
4crRNA / gene / well
 5 mitotic genes
 5 non mitotic control genes



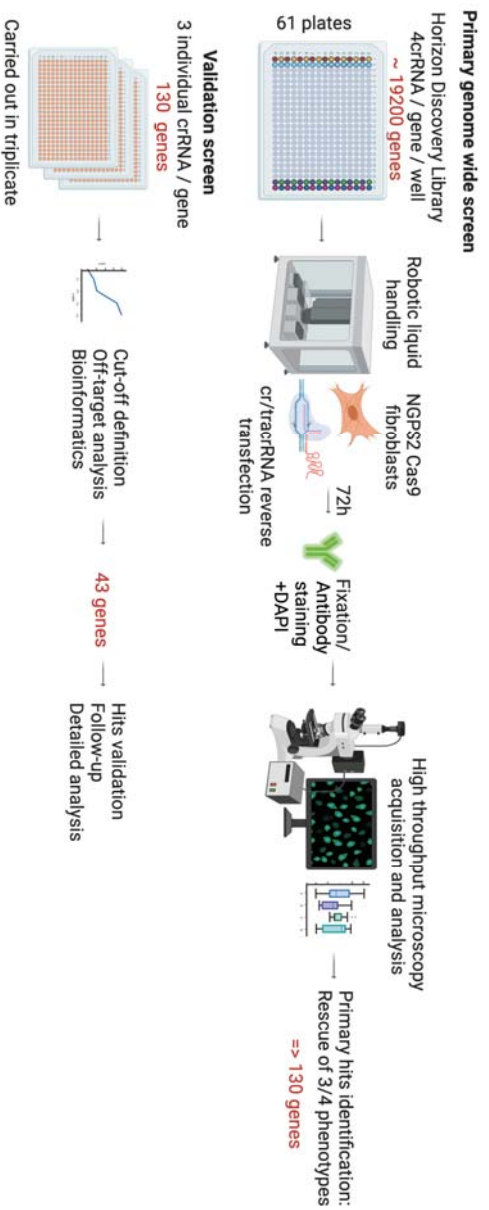
Incucyte S3



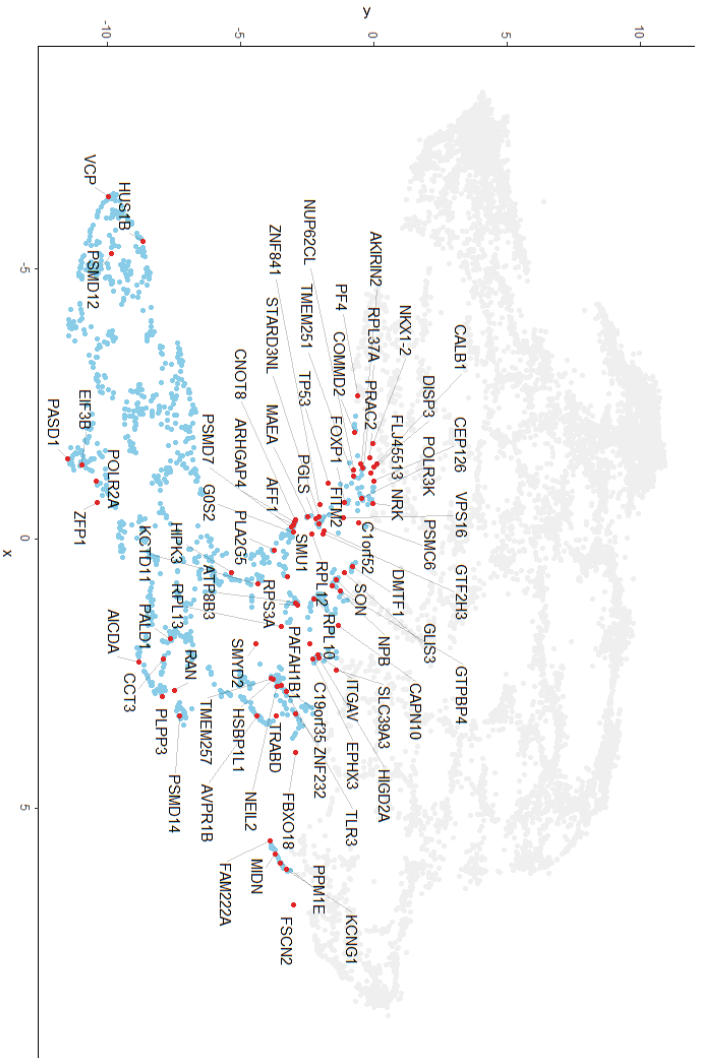
Cell proliferation analysis



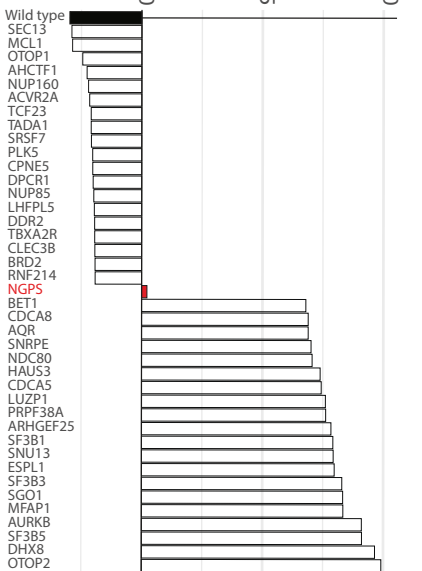
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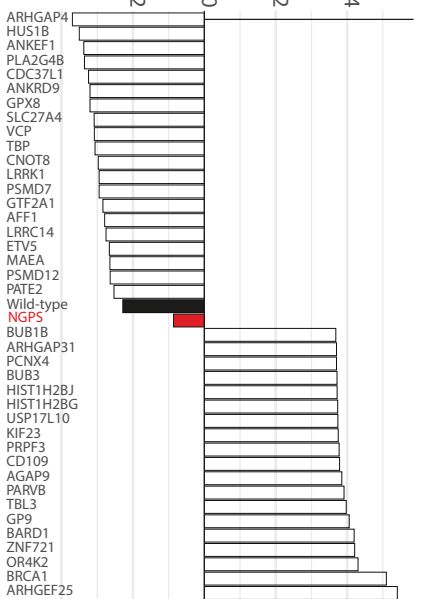
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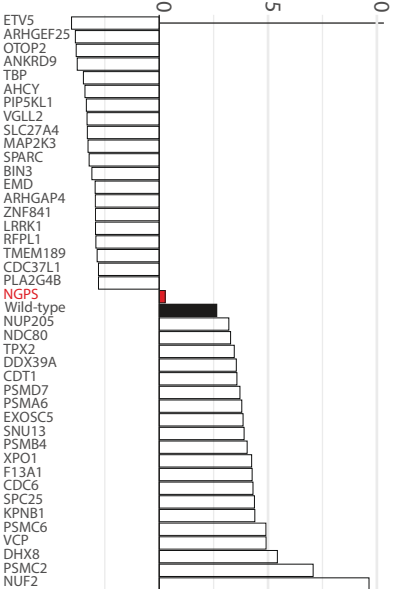
C



E



D



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