¹**DLG1 functions upstream of SDCCAG3 and IFT20 to control ciliary targeting of** ²**polycystin-2**

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²⁹**Summary**

30 Polarized vesicular trafficking directs specific receptors and ion channels to cilia, but the 31 underlying mechanisms are poorly understood. Here we describe a role for DLG1, a core 32 component of the Scribble polarity complex, in regulating ciliary protein trafficking in kidney 33 epithelial cells. Conditional knockout of *Dlg1* in mouse kidney caused ciliary elongation and 34 cystogenesis, and cell-based proximity labelling proteomics and fluorescence microscopy 35 showed alterations in the ciliary proteome upon loss of DLG1. Specifically, the retromer-36 associated protein SDCCAG3, IFT20 and polycystin-2 (PC2) were reduced in cilia of DLG1 ³⁷deficient cells compared to control cells. This phenotype was recapitulated *in vivo* and 38 rescuable by re-expression of wildtype DLG1, but not a Congenital Anomalies of the Kidney 39 and Urinary Tract (CAKUT)-associated DLG1 variant, p.T489R. Finally, biochemical 40 approaches and Alpha Fold modelling suggested that SDCCAG3 and IFT20 form a complex 41 that associates, at least indirectly, with DLG1. Our work identifies a key role for DLG1 in 42 regulating ciliary protein composition and suggests that ciliary dysfunction of the p.T489R 43 DLG1 variant may contribute to CAKUT.

⁴⁵**Introduction**

⁴⁶Primary cilia are microtubule-based sensory organelles that protrude from the surface of ⁴⁷many different vertebrate cell types, including kidney epithelial cells, and play essential roles 48 in regulating various signalling pathways during embryonic development and adult 49 homeostasis. Mutations in ciliary genes lead to deregulated signalling, in turn causing 50 diseases known as ciliopathies. While dysfunctional cilia affect most organs in the body, 51 renal involvement is a key feature of many ciliopathies [1]. For example, autosomal dominant 52 polycystic kidney disease (ADPKD), one of the most common human monogenic diseases ⁵³affecting ca. 1:1000 live births, can be caused by mutations in *PKD1* or *PKD2* encoding the 54 cilium-localized transmembrane proteins polycystin-1 (PC1) and polycystin-2 (PC2), ⁵⁵respectively, which form a heterodimeric calcium-permeable nonselective cation channel 56 complex essential for tubular differentiation, polarity and diameter in the kidney [2-5].

⁵⁷Cilia are compartmentalized organelles that are thought to be devoid of protein ⁵⁸synthesis machinery, and appropriate trafficking of PC1 and PC2, as well as other ciliary ⁵⁹signalling receptors, ion channels and transporters, from their site of synthesis in the ⁶⁰ER/Golgi to the ciliary compartment is essential for ciliary biogenesis and function. For 61 example, a mutation that specifically impairs ciliary localization of PC2, one of the best 62 studied ciliary ion channels, causes PKD in mice [6]. Additional studies have addressed the 63 molecular mechanisms by which PC2 and other ciliary transmembrane proteins, such as G-64 protein coupled receptors (GPCRs), are sorted and transported from their site of synthesis in 65 the ER/Golgi to the cilium. These studies have revealed a remarkable complexity and 66 diversity in the mechanisms by which different transmembrane proteins are targeted and 67 transported to the primary cilium $[7-9]$. In the case of PC2, studies of its glycosylation pattern ⁶⁸indicated that PC2-containing vesicles destined to the cilium are initially released from the ⁶⁹cis-Golgi compartment instead of the trans-Golgi network (TGN) [10, 11] although this was

⁷⁰questioned by others [12]. Regardless, it is believed that shortly after synthesis, PC2 interacts ⁷¹with the ciliary intraflagellar transport (IFT)-B complex subunit IFT20, which is anchored to 72 the cis-Golgi compartment by golgin protein GMAP210/TRIP11, and facilitates the transport 73 of PC2 to the base of the primary cilium [13, 14]. Following sorting at the cis-Golgi or TGN, ⁷⁴PC2-containing vesicles are thought to be directed towards the plasma membrane or 75 recycling endosomes before PC2 is delivered at the ciliary base where it docks at the 76 transition fibers prior to being imported into the cilium [6, 7, 9]. Consistent with recycling ⁷⁷endosomes playing a critical role in conferring PC2 targeting to the primary cilium, ⁷⁸disruption of recycling endosome-associated proteins, such as retromer-associated proteins 79 and the biogenesis of lysosome-related organelles complex 1 (BLOC-1) complex, or the Rab 80 family small GTPases RAB8 and RAB11, reduces ciliary PC2 levels [7, 11, 15, 16]. Whether 81 and how components located at the plasma membrane contribute to ciliary PC2 trafficking is 82 largely unknown.

83 Discs large MAGUK scaffold protein 1 (DLG1) is a scaffold protein that belongs to 84 the membrane-associated guanylate kinase homolog (MAGUK) family and is composed of a ⁸⁵LIN-2,-7 (L27) domain, three postsynaptic density-95/discs large/zona occludens-1 (PDZ) 86 domains, a SRC homology 3 (SH3) domain and a catalytically inactive guanylate kinase ⁸⁷(GUK) domain. First described in *Drosophila*, this evolutionarily conserved scaffold protein 88 is well known for its role in apical-basal polarity establishment and maintenance in epithelial 89 cells, where it forms a complex with SCRIB and LGL at the basolateral membrane below the 90 adherens junctions [17]. Consistent with its domain structure, the DLG1 interaction network 91 is vast, and its function extends beyond epithelial cell polarity establishment. For instance, in 92 neurons DLG1 localizes to both the presynaptic and postsynaptic membranes and controls ⁹³localization and clustering of glutamate receptors and potassium channels by mediating 94 interaction between receptors and intracellular proteins [18-22]. Several studies also

⁹⁵suggested that DLG1 localizes to the cilium-centrosome axis. Specifically, in HT1299 cells ⁹⁶DLG1 was reported to localize to mitotic centrosomes in a PTEN-NEK6-Eg5 dependent 97 manner [23], whereas three independent studies found DLG1 in the ciliary proteome of 98 cultured mouse kidney inner medullary collecting duct 3 (IMCD3) cells [24, 25] and 99 photoreceptor outer segments [26], which are modified primary cilia. DLG1 also binds 100 directly to kinesin-3 motor KIF13B [27], which was shown previously to localize 101 dynamically to the primary cilium where it regulated ciliary composition and signalling [28, ¹⁰²29]. However, cilium-associated functions for DLG1 have so far not been reported.

103 The physiological importance of DLG1 in vertebrates is highlighted by the fact that ¹⁰⁴*Dlg1* gene-trap mutant mice display neonatal lethality, growth retardation, craniofacial 105 abnormalities, and small kidneys characterized by impaired ureteric bud branching and 106 reduced nephron formation [30, 31]. Similarly, complete knock out of *Dlg1* in the mouse was ¹⁰⁷shown to cause neonatal lethality due to severe defects in e.g. cardiovascular and craniofacial 108 development as well as defective formation of urogenital organs [32, 33]. With respect to the 109 latter, *Dlg1* knockout animals appeared to lack the stromal cells that normally lie between the 110 urothelial and smooth muscle layers, and the circular smooth muscle cells in the ureteric 111 smooth muscle were misaligned, giving rise to impaired ureteric peristalsis and 112 hydronephrosis [32]. Conditional ablation of $Dlg1$ in the metanephric mesenchyme, which 113 gives rise to the various segments of the mature nephron, resulted in formation of glomerular ¹¹⁴cysts, dilated proximal tubules, protein casts, and diffuse areas of inflammation. The kidneys 115 appeared grossly cystic in contrast to controls, and the mice showed elevated levels of blood 116 urea nitrogen and serum creatinine, indicative of renal failure [34].

117 In humans, *DLG1* was identified as a susceptibility gene for congenital anomalies of 118 the kidney and urinary tract (CAKUT) [35], and a missense variant in DLG1 (p.T489R) was 119 indeed identified in a patient with CAKUT [36]. Furthermore, *DLG1* is deleted in the 3q29

120 microdeletion syndrome that is characterized by mild-to-moderate mental retardation, a long 121 and narrow face, as well as additional phenotypes such as microcephaly, cleft lip and palate, 122 horseshoe kidney and hypospadia [37]. However, while emerging evidence suggests that 123 mutations in ciliary genes can give rise to CAKUT [38], it is unclear whether some of the 124 kidney phenotypes observed in mice and patients with *DLG1* mutations, are linked to ciliary 125 defects.

126 Here we investigated a potential role for DLG1 in ciliary biogenesis and function by 127 using a previously described kidney specific conditional *Dlg1* mouse knockout model [39], as ¹²⁸well as cultured kidney epithelial cells. Loss of *Dlg1* in mouse kidney led to ciliary 129 elongation and cortical cyst formation whereas cell-based proximity labelling proteomics and 130 fluorescence microscopy implicated DLG1 in regulating the ciliary protein composition. 131 Specifically, cilia from cells lacking DLG1 contained less SDCCAG3, IFT20 and PC2 than 132 control cells, and re-expression of wildtype DLG1, but not a CAKUT-associated DLG1 ¹³³missense variant, could rescue this phenotype. Despite its role in regulating ciliary length and 134 composition in kidney epithelial cells, DLG1 was primarily localized to the lateral plasma 135 membrane in these cells. Finally, in agreement with its role in promoting ciliary localization 136 of SDCCAG3 and IFT20, immunoprecipitation assays indicated that DLG1, SDCCAG3 and ¹³⁷IFT20 interact with each other, and Alpha Fold modelling furthermore suggested that ¹³⁸SDCCAG3 and IFT20 may bind directly to each other. Our work thus identifies a key role for ¹³⁹DLG1, located at the lateral plasma membrane of kidney epithelial cells, in mediating ciliary 140 targeting of PC2 and other proteins and supports emerging evidence linking ciliary 141 dysfunction to CAKUT.

¹⁴⁴**Results**

¹⁴⁵**Kidney-specific ablation of** *Dlg1* **in mouse causes ciliary elongation.** To investigate 146 possible ciliary functions for DLG1, we analyzed kidneys from $Pax3Cre-Dlg1^{F/F}$ mice in 147 which *Dlg1* is conditionally knocked out in the majority of kidney cells. Of note, *Pax3Cre* is ¹⁴⁸expressed in the metanephric mesenchyme that differentiates to form the various segments of 149 the mature nephron (glomerulus, proximal tubule, loop of Henle, and distal tubule). 150 Therefore, $Pax3Cre-Dlg1^{F/F}$ mice result in loss of $Dlg1$ expression in all nephron (but not ¹⁵¹ureteric bud) epithelial cell derivatives. These mice display a congenital hydronephrosis 152 phenotype (Figure 1A) similar to that observed in the global $Dlg1^{-/-}$ mutant mice [32], as well 153 as tubular dilations that appeared to be pre-cystic (Figure 1A) [39]. The cystic dilations are 154 consistent with prior experiments, where ablation of $Dlg1$ in the metanephric mesenchyme ¹⁵⁵(using Six2-Cre) also resulted in the formation of tubular cysts in the kidney cortex [34]. The ¹⁵⁶*Pax3Cre* transgene is also active in urogenital mesenchyme, and it was concluded that the 157 lack of DLG1 in these cells results in the observed structural and functional defects in the 158 ureter that cause hydronephrosis [39]. Loss of DLG1 resulted in a significant increase in cilia ¹⁵⁹length and acetylated tubulin staining intensity in pre-cystic nephron tubules (Figure 1B-D), 160 indicating that DLG1 plays an essential role in regulating ciliary biogenesis and/or 161 maintenance during kidney development *in vivo*. Supportively, knock out of *Dlg1* in mouse 162 kidney cortical collecting duct (mCCD) cells [40] did not affect ciliation frequency but led to 163 significant ciliary lengthening when cells were grown on transwell filters, which ensures full 164 cell polarization, a phenotype that was rescued by stable re-expression of mCherry-DLG1 165 (Figure 1E-H). In contrast, under standard culture conditions the $Dlg1^{-/-}$ mCCD cells ¹⁶⁶displayed cilia of normal length (Figure S1A), indicating that the ciliary length phenotype 167 manifests itself only when cells are fully polarized. Quantitative RT-PCR analysis showed ¹⁶⁸that in addition to *Dlg1*, mCCD cells also express *Dlg4* and a small amount of *Dlg3*, but the

relative expression levels of these mRNAs and of $Dlg2$ were not altered in the $Dlg1^{-/-}$ cells 170 relative to wild type (WT) cells (Figure S1B, C). Thus, the ciliary length phenotype observed in the *Dlg1^{-/-}* cells is not caused by altered expression of *Dlg2*, 3 or 4.

¹⁷²**DLG1 localizes to the lateral plasma membrane in polarized kidney epithelial cells.** To

173 address how DLG1 might regulate ciliary length we investigated its subcellular localization 174 in transwell filter-grown mCCD cells by immunofluorescence microscopy (IFM) analysis. 175 Under these conditions endogenous DLG1 localized to the lateral membrane as expected and 176 was not detected at the cilium-centrosome axis (Figure S1D). We similarly investigated the 177 subcellular localization of endogenous and tagged versions of DLG1 in IMCD3 cells, but 178 despite intense efforts we only observed DLG1 localization at the plasma membrane and not 179 the primary cilium of these cells (data not shown). Since previous proteomics analyses 180 detected DLG1 in cilia of IMCD3 cells and mouse photoreceptor outer segments following 181 actin depolymerization or loss of Bardet-Biedl syndrome proteins [24-26], we surmise that ¹⁸²DLG1 may localize to cilia under certain conditions and/or is undetectable in cilia by IFM of ¹⁸³mCCD and IMCD3 cells for technical reasons. Supportively, eGFP-DLG1 transiently 184 overexpressed in retinal pigment epithelial (RPE1) cells was highly concentrated at the base 185 of and within the cilium (Figure S1E), indicating that DLG localizes to the cilium-centrosome 186 axis under some conditions. Nevertheless, taken together our results suggest that DLG1 ¹⁸⁷regulates ciliary length in polarized kidney epithelial cells indirectly, i.e. at the level of the 188 lateral plasma membrane.

¹⁸⁹**Loss of DLG1 causes altered ciliary protein content in IMCD3 cells.** Ciliary length 190 control is complex and regulated by a variety of factors and signalling pathways that 191 modulate the polymerization/depolymerization of the ciliary axoneme or affect ciliary 192 membrane dynamics; changes in ciliary protein composition that affect signalling output can 193 therefore also affect ciliary length [41, 42]. As an example, kidney epithelial cell cilia from

194 patients with ADPKD or from *Pkd1* and *Pkd2* knockout mice were shown to be elongated, 195 possibly due to altered signalling $[43, 44]$. To investigate how DLG1 might affect ciliary 196 protein composition, we used an unbiased cilium-targeted proximity labelling approach [24] ¹⁹⁷by taking advantage of previously described IMCD3 cell lines stably expressing a ciliary ¹⁹⁸NPHP3[residues 1-203]-BioID2 fusion protein (hereafter called cilia-BioID2) or BioID2 199 alone (hereafter called BioID2) [45]. We then knocked out $Dlg1$ in these lines with the aim of 200 determining how loss of DLG1 affects the ciliary proteome. Western blot analysis confirmed 201 the loss of DLG1 in both the cilia-BioID2 and BioID2 $Dlg1^{-/-}$ lines (Figure S2A). Meanwhile, ²⁰²IFM analysis of serum-starved cells incubated with biotin and stained with an antibody ²⁰³against acetylated α-tubulin (ciliary axoneme marker), and green-fluorescent streptavidin ²⁰⁴showed prominent ciliary enrichment of biotinylated proteins in both cilia-BioID2 lines, ²⁰⁵whereas biotinylated proteins were confined to the cell body of the BioID2 lines, as expected ²⁰⁶(Figure S2B). Under these conditions we did not observe any differences between WT and 207 *Dlg1^{-/-}* lines with respect to ciliary length (Figure S2C) and ciliation frequency (Figure S2D), 208 as observed in standard cultures of mCCD cells (Figure S1A). Finally, by quantitative RT-209 PCR we found that IMCD3 cells express similar amounts of *Dlg1* and *Dlg4* (Figure S2E, F) 210 and knockout of *Dlg1* did not cause altered expression of *Dlg2, 3 or 4* in these cells (Figure 211 S2G, H).

212 Having validated our WT and $DlgT$ ^{-/-} cilia-BioID2 and BioID2 lines, we next analyzed 213 the ciliary proteome of these cells by subjecting them to biotin labeling followed by 214 streptavidin pull-down and mass spectrometry. Mass spectrometry analysis resulted in the 215 identification of a total of 2100 proteins across 6 experimental replicates per cell line. Our 216 analysis focused solely on proteins that are potentially altered in the primary cilium; 217 therefore, we disregarded the proteins that were significantly altered in the BioID2 control 218 condition. These were further subdivided into three Tiers based on stringency criteria. Tier 1

219 (q-value ≤ 0.05 and Sign. A ≤ 0.05) comprised 118 highly significantly altered proteins, from 220 which 84 proteins were depleted from the cilium, whereas 34 proteins were enriched (Figure 221 2A). The rest of the proteins were divided into Tier 2 (Sign. A ≤ 0.05), Tier 3 (q-value ≤ 0.05), 222 and non-significant (NS) when a less stringent cut-off was applied (Figure 2A, ²²³Supplementary Table S1). Using the Tier 1 proteins identified in our dataset, a 224 comprehensive GO term enrichment analysis was performed to pinpoint the functional roles 225 of the proteins regarding DLG1's impact on cilium composition. This analysis focused on the 226 two GO categories: Biological Process (BP) and Cellular Component (CC) (Figure 2B, C). 227 The BP terms were, in turn, analyzed separately for the depleted and enriched proteins within 228 the cilium (Figure 2B). For the depleted proteins, the significant BP terms were pertaining to 229 intraciliary transport, cilia assembly and organization as well several signalling pathways. 230 Moreover, in the GO-CC term category, 15 terms were significant, out of which seven terms 231 were associated with ciliary components (Figure 2C). On the other hand, for the enriched 232 proteins, BP terms related to the regulation of cell cycle transitions and mitochondrial gene ²³³expression were highly significant (Figure 2B). Altogether, the proximity labeling approach 234 yielded a dataset indicating a role for DLG1 in regulating ciliary composition in IMCD3 235 cells.

²³⁶**DLG1 is required for ciliary targeting of SDCCAG3 and IFT20 in kidney epithelial** ²³⁷**cells.** To validate the results of our proximity labelling proteomics analysis, we initially 238 focused on the Tier 1 candidates SDCCAG3 and IFT20, which both appeared to be significantly depleted from cilia of $Dlg1^{-/-}$ cells compared to WT (Figure 2A; Supplementary 240 Table S1). SDCCAG3 is known to bind to the core retromer subunit VPS35 [46], and was 241 shown to localize to the base of primary cilia in cultured mammalian cells, including IMCD3 242 cells, where it also promoted ciliary targeting of PC2 [15]. Similarly, IFT20 has a well-243 established role in conferring targeting of PC2 from the Golgi to the primary cilium [7, 13,

²⁴⁴14] and is also part of the IFT-B complex involved in IFT within cilia [47]. Analysis of 245 ciliated $Dlg1^{-/-}$ and WT cilia-BioID2 IMCD3 cells by IFM with antibodies specific for SDCCAG3 confirmed that its ciliary localization is significantly reduced in the $Dlg1^{-/-}$ cells 247 compared to WT (Figure 3A, B), whereas total cellular levels were unchanged (Figure 3C). 248 Stable expression of mCherry-DLG1 in the $Dlg1^{-/-}$ cilia-BioID2 IMCD3 cells could restore 249 ciliary levels of SDCCAG3 to normal (Figure 3A, B, D), and similar results were obtained in ²⁵⁰mCCD cells (Figure 3E-G; see also Figure 5E, F). Using similar approaches, we confirmed 251 that loss of DLG1 causes reduced ciliary base levels of IFT20 in mCCD cells; in the cilia-252 BioID2 IMCD3 cells, DLG1 loss had a similar effect although the reduction in IFT20 cilia 253 base staining intensity was not statistically significant compared to WT cells (Figure S3A-D). ²⁵⁴The reason for this cell-type specificity is unclear but may be due to relatively high 255 background staining of IFT20 in the cilia-BioID2 IMCD3 under the specific fixation 256 conditions used. Notably, IFM analysis of kidney sections from WT and *Pax3Cre-Dlg1^{F/F}* ²⁵⁷mice showed that ciliary levels of SDCCAG3 and IFT20 are significantly reduced in the *Dlg1* 258 knockout compared to control (Figure 4), indicating that DLG1 promotes ciliary targeting of ²⁵⁹SDCCAG3 as well as IFT20 *in vivo*. Since DLG1 was previously shown to interact 260 physically and functionally with exocyst complex component SEC8 [48, 49], which in turn 261 mediates ciliary membrane biogenesis and PC2 trafficking [7, 50, 51], we also analyzed 262 whether loss of DLG1 affected ciliary presence of SEC8 in cilia-BioID2 IMCD3 or mCCD 263 cells. However, while this analysis confirmed that SEC8 is concentrated at the ciliary base, 264 we did not observe any significant change in ciliary base levels of SEC8 in $Dlg1^{-/-}$ cells 265 compared to WT cells (Figure S4). We conclude that DLG1 is required for localizing ²⁶⁶SDCCAG3 and IFT20, but not SEC8, to the primary cilium of kidney epithelial cells *in vitro* 267 and *in vivo*.

²⁶⁸**Loss of or acute inhibition or DLG1 impairs ciliary targeting of PC2.** Given the known 269 roles of SDCCAG3 and IFT20 in promoting vesicular trafficking of PC2 to the primary 270 cilium [13-15], we asked if DLG1 regulates ciliary PC2 trafficking. Although PC2 was not 271 detected in our cilia-BioID2 proximity labelling dataset from IMCD3 cells (Figure 2A; ²⁷²Supplementary Table S1), we reasoned this could be due to technical reasons or the cell line 273 used. We therefore used mCCD cells to directly test if inhibition or depletion of DLG1 274 affected ciliary PC2 levels. First, we cultivated our WT, $Dlg1^{-/-}$ and rescue mCCD lines on 275 transwell filters to ensure full polarization of the cells. Confocal 3D imaging showed that the 276 cells were indeed fully polarized under these conditions, and no apparent polarity defects 277 were observed in the $Dlg1^{-1}$ cells compared to the WT and rescue line (Figure 5A, B). 278 Moreover, the transwell filter-grown $Dlg1^{-1}$ cells also displayed significantly reduced ciliary 279 levels of PC2 compared to the WT cells and this phenotype was rescued by stable expression 280 of mCherry-DLG1 (Figure 5C, D). For robust and unbiased quantification of ciliary PC2 281 levels, we employed a MATLAB-based approach (see Material and Methods for details) for 282 automatic and high throughput quantitative analysis of ciliary fluorescent staining intensity in 283 transwell filter-grown mCCD cells. Using this approach, we were also able to confirm our 284 results obtained for SDCCAG3 in mCCD cells grown under standard culture conditions, 285 namely a significantly reduced ciliary presence of SDCCAG3 in $Dlg1^{-/-}$ cells compared to 286 WT and rescue lines (Figure 5E, F).

287 To confirm that DLG1 regulates ciliary PC2 trafficking, we took advantage of two previously ²⁸⁸described peptide inhibitors, AVLX-144 (Tat-N-Dimer) and ReTat-N-dimer [52] to 289 specifically block the first and second PDZ domain of DLG1 in ciliated WT mCCD cells. We 290 subsequently analyzed the cells by IFM and staining for PC2 in the treated cells; the cilium 291 was visualized by staining with acetylated α -tubulin antibody. We found that treatment of ²⁹²mCCD ciliated cells with both AVLX-144 and ReTat-N-Dimer caused a significant depletion 293 of PC2 from the ciliary base and along the cilium. Importantly, incubation with the control 294 peptide $AVLX-144-AA$, which is a structurally similar to $AVLX-144$ and $ReTAT-N-dimer$, 295 but non-binding to PDZ domains [53], did not affect PC2 ciliary levels (Figure S5). This 296 result indicates that DLG1 is indeed required for targeting of PC2 to the primary cilium, and 297 that the impaired ciliary targeting of PC2 to the cilium observed upon DLG1 inhibition is not 298 secondary to cytokinesis [54, 55] or polarity defects [18].

²⁹⁹We conclude that DLG1 is required for targeting PC2 to the primary cilium of kidney epithelial cells, and that the alterations in ciliary composition observed in $Dlg1^{-/-}$ cells are not 301 due to cytokinesis or polarity defects. Furthermore, we conclude that DLG1-mediated ciliary 302 targeting of PC2 requires DLG1's first two PDZ domains.

A CAKUT-associated DLG1^{T507R/T489R} missense variant fails to rescue the ciliary phenotype of *Dlg1***^{-/-} cells.** A previous study identified a DLG1 missense mutation (p.T489R; 305 hereafter referred to as $DLG1^{T489R}$ in a patient with CAKUT (Table S4 in [36]). To 306 investigate a possible ciliary involvement in this disorder, we tested if exogenous expression 307 of the rat equivalent of the human $DLG1^{T489R}$ missense variant, $DLG1^{T507R}$ (Figure 6A), could rescue the ciliary phenotype of $Dlg1^{-/-}$ cells. To this end, we generated a lentiviral construct that we used for stable expression of mCherry-DLG1^{T507R} in the $Dlg1^{-/-}$ mCCD 310 cells (Figure 6B). Interestingly, when cells were grown on transwell filters, the $DLG1^{T507R}$ 311 variant failed to rescue the ciliary elongation phenotype observed in the $Dlg1^{-/-}$ cells (Figure ³¹²6C). Furthermore, while stable expression of mCherry-tagged WT DLG1 fully restored 313 ciliary base levels of IFT20 (Figure S3C, D) and SDCCAG3 (Figure 3E, F) in mCCD cells, this was not the case for the $DLG1^{T507R}$ variant (Figure 6D-G). This suggests that ciliary ³¹⁵defects may contribute to the CAKUT disease aetiology of patients harbouring the $B = D L G1^{T489R}$ mutation although we cannot rule out that this mutation separately affects cilia 317 and causes CAKUT.

318 We also tested the impact of the $DLG1^{TS07R}$ variant on the ciliary levels of PC2 by IFM 319 analysis of transwell filter-grown mCCD cells. Our findings indicated that the $DLG1^{T507R}$ 320 variant can partially restore the ciliary levels of PC2 to normal in the $Dlg1^{-1}$ background 321 although not to the same extent as WT DLG1 (Figure S6). This suggests that this specific 322 point mutation in DLG1 has a more severe impact on ciliary targeting of SDCCAG3 and ³²³IFT20 than PC2, implying that DLG1 promotes ciliary PC2 trafficking not only via

324 SDCCAG3 and IFT20.

³²⁵**Loss of DLG1 leads to constitutive phosphorylation of TAK1.** Upon analysing the GO-BP 326 terms of our proteomics data (Figure 2B) we noticed that several proteins responsible for 327 regulating MAP kinase activity, such as mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase kinase 7 ³²⁸(MAP3K7, hereafter referred to as Transforming growth factor beta (TGFβ) Activated Kinase 1, TAK1), are diminished in the primary cilium of $Dlg1^{-/-}$ cells. As TAK1 is linked to the 330 pathogenesis of kidney fibrosis stimulated by TGFβ ligands [56, 57] and since TGFβ 331 signalling is orchestrated by the primary cilium [58, 59] we investigated the potential impact 332 of *Dlg1* loss on TGFβ signalling. Upon stimulation with TGFβ-1 ligand, we observed that 333 activation of SMAD2 as evaluated by its phosphorylation on Ser465/467 in the canonical 334 branch of TGFβ signalling was largely unaffected in ciliated $Dlg1^{-/-}$ as compared to WT 335 mCCD cells (Figure 6H, I). In contrast, we observed that phosphorylation of TAK1 on ³³⁶Thr184/187 and S412 marking full activation of this MAP kinase was increased in 337 unstimulated $Dlg1^{-/-}$ cells as compared to WT cells (Figure 6J, K). These results indicate that 338 DLG1 takes part in the regulation of sub-pathways in TGFβ signalling, although further 339 studies are needed to delineate the mechanisms by which DLG1 restricts basal levels of ³⁴⁰TAK1 activation, and whether such mechanisms are controlled at the level of primary cilia.

³⁴¹**DLG1 associates physically with SDCCAG3 and IFT20.** Finally, to address the ³⁴²mechanism by which DLG1 promotes targeting of SDCCAG3 and IFT20 to the primary

343 cilium, we tested if DLG1 interacts with these proteins. Indeed, immunoprecipitation (IP) of ³⁴⁴lysates from HEK293T cells co-expressing GFP-DLG1 and SDCCAG3 or IFT20 fusion 345 proteins indicated that DLG1 interacts with both SDCCAG3 and IFT20 (Figure 7A, B). 346 Similarly, IP analysis in HEK293T cells demonstrated interaction between SDCCAG3 and ³⁴⁷IFT20 (Figure 7A). To determine the molecular basis for these interactions we used Alpha ³⁴⁸Fold modelling [60] and identified a high confidence interaction between SDCCAG3 and 349 IFT20 (Figure 7C; Figure S7) but did not obtain strong evidence indicative of direct binding 350 of these two proteins to DLG1. Moreover, the predicted interaction between IFT20 and 351 SDCCAG3 is mutually exclusive with binding of IFT20 to its known partner within the IFT-352 B complex, IFT54 [61] (Figure 7C). IFT20 was shown previously to interact with the BLOC-³⁵³1 complex [7], and the BLOC-1 complex subunit DTNBP1 (dysbindin) binds directly to 354 DTNA and DTNB (α - and β-dystrobrevin, respectively) of the dystrophin-glycoprotein 355 complex (DGC) [62]. Interestingly, we and others have previously shown that DLG1 as well 356 as its direct interactor, KIF13B, bind to components of the DGC, including UTRN, DTNA 357 and DTNB [63, 64]. Furthermore, a high throughput study indicated that SDCCAG3 also ³⁵⁸binds DTNBP1 [65]. Therefore, we hypothesize that DLG1 may associate with IFT20 and 359 SDCCAG3 through DTNBP1-DTNA/B interactions but more work is needed to clarify this. ³⁶⁰In summary, the IP and Alpha Fold modelling results suggest that SDCCAG3 and IFT20 361 form a hetero-dimeric complex that associates, at least indirectly, with DLG1.

³⁶³**Discussion**

³⁶⁴Here we demonstrated that DLG1 is important for regulating the length and composition of 365 primary cilia in kidney epithelial cells, both in cultured cells and *in vivo*. Using an unbiased 366 cilium-targeted proteomics approach, we show that loss of DLG1 in IMCD3 cells causes 367 altered ciliary protein content with most of the affected proteins being diminished in the 368 cilium of $Dlg1^{-/-}$ cells. Specifically, loss DLG1 led to reduced ciliary levels of SDCCAG3 and ³⁶⁹IFT20, which have both been shown to confer ciliary targeting of PC2 [13-15]. Consistently, 370 we also established a requirement for DLG1 in promoting ciliary targeting of PC2 in mCCD 371 cells, although our results with a CAKUT-associated missense variant indicated that DLG1 372 not only confers ciliary targeting of PC2 via SDCCAG3 and IFT20. Reduced ciliary presence 373 of polycystins may at least be partly responsible for the observed ciliary length phenotype of ³⁷⁴DLG1-deficient cells as loss of PC1 or PC2 was shown to induce ciliary lengthening in 375 kidney epithelial cells [43, 44], but alternative mechanisms cannot be ruled out. From a 376 human disease perspective PC2 is highly relevant as mutations in its corresponding gene ³⁷⁷(*PKD2*) cause ADPKD [66], and appropriate ciliary localization of PC2 is critical for its 378 function [9]. SDCCAG3 and IFT20 seem to promote ciliary trafficking of PC2 primarily at 379 the level of the recycling endosome and cis-Golgi [7, 13-15], and exocyst complex 380 components also impact the ciliary targeting of PC2 [7]. The exocyst complex tethers vesicles 381 at target sites before membrane fusion [67], and DLG1 binds exocyst complex component ³⁸²SEC8 [48, 49]. However, loss of DLG1 did not affect the ciliary base localization of SEC8 in 383 IMCD3 or mCCD cells.

384 Although DLG1 may localize to primary cilia under some conditions [24-26], our 385 results indicated that in polarized kidney epithelial cells DLG1 is largely confined to the ³⁸⁶lateral plasma membrane in agreement with its well-known role as a core component of the 387 Scribble polarity complex. The Scribble complex, which consists of DLG1, Scribble (SCRIB) 388 and lethal giant larvae (LGL), plays a central role in orchestrating epithelial cell polarity [68], 389 and Scribble complex components were also implicated in protein cargo sorting and vesicle 390 transport. For example, a study in mouse hippocampal neurons found that DLG1 regulates 391 clathrin-mediated endocytosis of AMPA receptors by recruiting myosin VI and AP-2 adaptor ³⁹²complex to endocytotic vesicles containing these receptors [69]. Furthermore, in *Drosophila*

³⁹³the Scribble complex is required for proper localization of retromer components to ³⁹⁴endosomes and promotes appropriate sorting of cargo in the retromer pathway [70], 395 consistent with our finding that DLG1 associates with and regulates ciliary localization of 396 retromer-associated protein SDCCAG3. Studies have demonstrated that deficiency of 397 retromer regulator sorting nexin-17 ($SNX17$) and $SDCCAG3$ disrupt ciliogenesis [15, 71]. 398 Moreover, the retromer complex interacts with the N-terminal cytoplasmic domain of PC2, 399 and the disruption of this interaction impairs the ciliary localization of PC1 [16]. Since DLG1 400 localizes predominantly to the lateral plasma membrane in polarized kidney epithelial cells 401 our results are consistent with a model whereby DLG1 regulates internalization of ciliary 402 cargoes (SDCCAG3, IFT20, PC2) that are transiently transported to this site prior to their 403 onward journey via recycling endosomes to the primary cilium (Figure 7D). Notably, the $Na⁺, HCO₃⁻ cotransporter NBCn1 (SLC4A7), which localizes at the lateral membrane and$ 405 primary cilium of polarized kidney epithelial cells, interacts tightly with DLG1 [72], and 406 multiple retromer components were identified as putative NBCn1 binding partners in GST 407 pulldown assays [73]. Furthermore, our proteomics analysis identified the Na^+/H^+ exchanger ⁴⁰⁸NHE1 (SLC9A1) and the cation channel TRPV4 as Tier 1 candidates depleted from cilia in 409 the *Dlg1^{-/-}* cells (Figure 2; Table S1). This suggests that DLG1 and the retromer complex may 410 regulate ciliary trafficking of a range of ion channels and transporters, in addition to PC2. 411 Future research should be aimed at addressing this possibility.

⁴¹²Epithelial cells rely on highly organized trafficking machinery to maintain their 413 polarity and carry out their epithelial functions. Such trafficking involves several factors, 414 including sorting signals, cytoskeletal network, vesicle tethering complexes, and Rab and ⁴¹⁵Rho GTPases, that determine the final destinations of each protein [74]. Importantly, the 416 cellular microtubule cytoskeleton of polarized epithelial cells is organized very differently 417 compared to mesenchymal cells, with microtubules aligning parallel to the apico-basal axis

418 and extending their plus ends towards the basal surface [75] (Figure 7D). Therefore, post-⁴¹⁹Golgi vesicle trafficking in epithelial cells often occurs via indirect transport routes, such as 420 transcytotic or recycling endosomal routes, to ensure delivery of membrane cargo to the ⁴²¹apical surface or ciliary compartment [7, 9, 75]. In addition to the lateral plasma membrane 422 functioning as a docking site for ciliary components, prior to their final transport to the 423 cilium, the apical membrane domain may also function as a transit point for ciliary protein 424 trafficking. For example, nephronophthisis proteins NPHP1, NPHP4, and NPHP8 not only ⁴²⁵localize to the transition zone, but also accumulate at cell junctions, e.g. in polarized kidney 426 epithelial cells [76], where they interact with Crumbs polarity complex components (PATJ, 427 PALS1, PAR6) [77], which are concentrated at the apical-lateral border, just above the tight 428 junctions [78]. Conversely, accumulating evidence suggests that components of the Crumbs 429 complex localize to cilia and regulate ciliary assembly or function [64, 79, 80]. Notably, our 430 proteomics analysis identified PATJ (INADL) as a Tier 1 candidate depleted from cilia in the 431 *Dlg1^{-/-}* cells (Figure 2; Table S1) and PC2 was also shown to bind to the Crumbs complex 432 component PALS1 [81], suggesting that multiple polarity complexes located along the apical-433 basal border of epithelial cells may function together to regulate ciliary protein cargo 434 transport. More studies will be needed to explore this in more detail and define the precise 435 mechanisms involved.

436 Our cilia proteomics analysis identified several proteins that affect energy homeostasis and NFκB and TGFβ signalling, and which were depleted from cilia of *Dlg1*-/- ⁴³⁷ 438 cells. These include TAK1, whose kinase activity is critical for regulating a variety of cell 439 functions relevant for kidney development and function [82]. Interestingly, our cell-based 440 assays showed that disruption of DLG1 leads to over-activation of TAK1 in line with a recent 441 study, showing that $Dlg1$ deficiency in mouse microglial cells impairs microglial activation 442 and prevents production of inflammatory cytokines [83]. Furthermore, multiple lines of

443 evidence have shown that alterations in ciliary length and inactivation of polycystins can 444 cause profound metabolic rewiring in the kidney, which likely contributes to development of ⁴⁴⁵PKD [84-86]. Nevertheless, if and how altered ciliary length and composition, as well as 446 dysregulated metabolic, NFκB and TGFβ signalling, contribute to the kidney defects 447 observed in *Dlg1* deficient mice and human CAKUT patients with *DLG1* mutations awaits ⁴⁴⁸further investigation. However, we note that a more distantly related DLG1 homolog, DLG5, 449 has been implicated in ciliary biogenesis and function as well as in CAKUT [87, 88], 450 supporting the involvement of cilia and DLG proteins in this disease.

451

⁴⁵²**Materials and methods**

⁴⁵³**Mammalian cell culture.** IMCD3 cells stably expressing NPHP3[residues 1-203]-BioID2 ⁴⁵⁴(hereafter called cilia-BioID2) and BioID2 alone (hereafter called BioID2) have been 455 described previously [45]. IMCD3 cells were cultured in DMEM/F-12, GlutaMAX 456 Supplement (Gibco, cat. #31331-093) medium supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum ⁴⁵⁷(FBS; Gibco, cat. #10438-026) and 1% Penicillin-Streptomycin (Sigma-Aldrich, cat. 458 #P0781). The immortalized mCCD parental/WT cell line was generously provided by Dr. ⁴⁵⁹Eric Féraille (University of Lausanne, Switzerland) and has been described previously [40] 460 The mCCD cells were cultured as described in [40], and RPE1 cells stably expressing SMO-461 tRFP [89] were cultured and transfected as described in [29]. Human embryonic kidney ⁴⁶²(HEK) 293T cells were from ATCC (cat. #CRL-3216) and were cultured in high-glucose 463 DMEM (Gibco, cat. #41966-052) supplemented with 10% FBS and 1% Penicillin-464 Streptomycin.

465 All cell lines were grown in a 95% humidified incubator at 37 \degree C with 5% CO₂. To 466 induce ciliogenesis, IMCD3 cells were grown in plain DMEM/F-12, GlutaMAX Supplement

467 for 24 h, while mCCD cells were grown in starvation medium, where the serum and 468 hormone-deprived DMEM/F12, GlutaMAX Supplement medium was supplemented with 5 469 μg/ml holo-transferrin (Sigma-Aldrich, cat. # T0665) and 60 nM sodium selenite (Sigma-470 Aldrich, cat. #S5261) for 24 h.

⁴⁷¹**Transwell culture system.** For setting up fully polarized epithelial cells, mCCD cells were 472 grown in full DMEM/F-12, Glutamax Supplement medium as described above, using 473 Thermo Scientific™ Nunc[™] Polycarbonate Membrane Inserts in Multidishes (Thermo 474 Scientific, cat. #140652), which have a pore size of 0.4 μ m. This was done for a duration of 475 10 days before proceeding with further experiments. The medium was replaced every 3 to 4 476 days. For IFM analysis, the polarized mCCD cells were fixed and membrane inserts were 477 excised and treated as described in the general IFM protocol (see below).

Generation of *Dlg1^{-/-}* **cell lines.** To knock out *Dlg1* in the kidney epithelial cell lines, we 479 employed CRISPR/Cas9 technology and used four sgRNA sequences from the mouse 480 CRISPR "Brie" Knockout Library [90]. The sequences are provided in Table 1. The sgRNA 481 spacers were cloned into pSpCas9(BB)-2A-Puro (PX459) V2.0 plasmid (Addgene, cat. 482 #62988) as described previously [91]. This involved phosphorylating and annealing the two 483 complementary sgRNA oligos, which were then ligated into the BbsI-digested backbone. ⁴⁸⁴Then the selected clones were sequenced to verify the spacer sequence. The parental (WT) 485 cilia-BioID2 and BioID2 IMCD3 lines, and the WT mCCD cells were transfected with the 486 Cas9-gRNA plasmids (pool of all four gRNAs) using reverse transfection with Lipofectamine ⁴⁸⁷3000 Transfection Reagent (Invitrogen, cat. #L3000015) according to the manufacturer's 488 instructions. A day after transfection, cells were treated with $2 \mu g/ml$ puromycin (Invitrogen, 489 cat. #A11138-03) for 72 h and then tested for DLG1 protein depletion by western blot 490 analysis. Subsequently, the cells underwent single cell sorting at the FACS Facility at Biotech 491 Research & Innovation Centre (University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, DK). The selected

492 clones were validated by western blot analysis and Sanger sequencing to confirm the 493 occurrence of the indel event.

⁴⁹⁴**Generation of transgenic cell lines.** A plasmid containing the full-length rat *Dlg1* coding 495 sequence [92] was used as template for cloning the rat *Dlg1* coding sequence into Gateway 496 entry plasmid pENTR220-mCherry-C1 using standard cloning techniques. This entry plasmid 497 was then recombined with pCDH-EF1a-Gateway-IRES-BLAST destination plasmid through ⁴⁹⁸LR reaction using the Gateway LR Clonase II Enzyme mix (Invitrogen, cat. #11791020). The 499 cloning vectors used were generously provided by Dr. Kay Oliver Schink (Oslo University ⁵⁰⁰Hospital, Norway), and were described in [93]. The lentiviral expression plasmids were later 501 subjected to site-directed mutagenesis, performed by GenScript, to create a double-point 502 mutation on the following sites: c.1520C>G and c.1521T>A; p.T507R. Lentiviral particles 503 were generated by co-transfecting the lentiviral expression plasmids with second-generation ⁵⁰⁴lentiviral packaging vectors pMD2.G and pCMVΔ-R8.2 into HEK293T cells (kindly 505 provided by Dr. Carlo Rivolta, Institute of Molecular and Clinical Ophthalmology Basel, ⁵⁰⁶Switzerland) using Lipofectamine 3000 Transfection Reagent (Invitrogen, cat. #L3000015) 507 according to the manufacturer's instructions. The harvested culture medium containing 508 lentiviral particles coding for either WT DLG1 or DLG1^{T507R} fusion proteins were used to 509 transduce the kidney epithelial cells. Cells were selected using $5-15 \mu g/ml$ Blasticidin S ⁵¹⁰(Gibco, cat. #R21001) and expression was confirmed with western blotting and live cell 511 fluorescence microscopy.

⁵¹²**BioID2 proximity labeling.** We conducted a proximity labeling experiments, which involved the WT and $Dlg1^{-/-}$ cilia-BioID2 lines described above, with the WT and $Dlg1^{-/-}$ BioID2 lines 514 as negative controls. The cells were plated in 15 cm dishes and cultured in normal medium 515 containing DMEM/F-12, GlutaMAX Supplement (Gibco, cat. #31331-093) supplemented as 516 described above. Once the cells had reached 80% confluency, they were stimulated for

517 ciliogenesis for 24 h with the medium described above. Proximity labeling was induced 518 overnight by supplementing the medium with 10 μM Biotin (Sigma-Aldrich, cat. #B4501). 519 The cells were lysed, and samples were prepared for mass spectroscopy according to a 520 previously published BioID2-based proximity labeling protocol [45].

⁵²¹**Mass spectroscopy and data analysis.** The samples were analyzed and proteins were 522 identified according to the method described in [45]. For proteomics data analysis, we used a 523 custom in-house R script that replicates the analysis using the Perseus software [94]. The 524 LFQ intensity values were compared for cilia-BioID2 WT samples versus those for cilia-525 BioID2 $Dlg1^{-/-}$ samples and for BioID2 WT samples versus BioID2 $Dlg1^{-/-}$ samples. For 526 samples where LFQ intensity values were zero in less than half of the replicates, while having 527 non-zero LFQ intensity values in the other replicates, imputed values were applied drawn 528 from a normal distribution that had a mean that was 1.8 times below the mean of the non-zero 529 values and a standard deviation that was 0.5 times the mean. Subsequently, Student's t-test 530 was used for statistical comparisons between the LFQ intensity values of samples as well as 531 the significance A test to infer samples with outlier log2 ratios (high or low). After removing 532 the proteins that were significantly altered in the BioID2 comparison, we devised a three-tier 533 system to classify significant proteins from the cilia-BioID2 comparison. Tier 1 proteins were 534 ones where the corrected p-values (Benjamini-Hochberg correction) from the t-test were \lt 535 0.05 as well as significance A test p-values were < 0.05. Tier 2 proteins included proteins that 536 only had significance A test p-values < 0.05 and Tier 3 proteins were the ones that only had 537 corrected p-values from the t-test < 0.05 .

⁵³⁸**GO term enrichment analysis.** To conduct the analysis, the topGO package [95] in R was 539 utilized on the Tier 1 proteins, comprising 118 proteins in total. The approach involved using 540 the GO terms (Biological Process – BP and Cellular Component – CC) linked with all the 541 proteins in the proteomics data analysis and carried out an enrichment analysis for each GO

542 category using Fisher's exact test. Next, a maximum of the top 30 terms were sorted by the 543 Odds ratio and with Fisher's test corrected p-value < 0.05 and removed the redundancy in the 544 enriched terms to leave only the terms that were specific and perhaps more informative. This 545 was achieved by removing the other terms that were ancestral in the same GO lineage as the 546 term of interest.

⁵⁴⁷**Immunofluorescence microscopy analysis and live cell imaging.** IMCD3 and mCCD cells 548 were trypsinized (2x concentration, Sigma Aldrich, cat. #T4174), seeded, and grown on 12-549 mm diameter glass coverslips. Upon reaching 80% confluence, cells were starved for 24 h to 550 induce robust ciliogenesis using the aforementioned media. The coverslips were fixed in 4% 551 paraformaldehyde (PFA; Sigma, cat. #47608) in PBS for 12 min either at room temperature 552 or at 4 °C, washed with PBS, and incubated in permeabilization buffer (0.2% Triton X-100, 553 1% BSA in PBS) for 12 min before blocking and antibody incubation. The fixed cells were 554 blocked in 2% (w/v) BSA-based blocking buffer, then incubated with primary antibodies 555 diluted in 2% BSA for 1.5-2 h at room temperature or overnight at 4 \degree C. After extensive 556 washing with PBS, cells were then incubated with secondary antibodies diluted in 2% BSA in 557 PBS for 1 h at room temperature. Last, nuclei were labeled with DAPI (Sigma-Aldrich, cat. ⁵⁵⁸#D9542). Antibodies and dilutions used in this study for IFM are listed in Table 1. For IFT20 559 staining, we followed an IFM protocol method described in [96] where we briefly washed the 560 cells with cytoskeletal buffer, then immediately fixed them with ice-cold MeOH inside a -20 ⁵⁶¹°C freezer. For PC2 and SEC8 staining, we used an IFM protocol method described in [97]. 562 All coverslips were mounted with 6% propyl gallate (Sigma-Aldrich, cat. #P3130) diluted in ⁵⁶³UltraPure Glycerol (Invitrogen, cat. #15514-001) and 10xPBS and combined with Epredia 564 Immu-Mount (Epredia, cat. #9990402) in a 1:12 ratio.

⁵⁶⁵Images of cells seeded on coverslips were obtained with an Olympus BX63 upright 566 microscope equipped with a DP72 color, 12.8 megapixels, 4140x3096 resolution camera, and

567 Olympus UPlanSApo 60x oil microscope objective. Images of the transwell filter-grown 568 polarized epithelial cells were obtained with an Olympus IX83 inverted microscope, 569 equipped with a Yokogawa CSU-W1 confocal scanner unit, ORCA-Flash4.0 V3 Digital ⁵⁷⁰CMOS camera (type number: C13440-20CU), and Olympus UPlanSApo 100x oil 571 microscope objective. To prepare the images for publication, we used cellSens 1.18 software 572 for constrained iterative deconvolution and assembled montages with Fiji and Adobe 573 Photoshop 2023.

574 Live cell imaging of RPE1 cells stably expressing SMO-tRFP and transiently 575 expressing eGFP-DLG1 was done as described in [29].

⁵⁷⁶**Immunofluorescence staining of kidney sections.** The mouse kidney specimens assayed for 577 ciliary length, SDCCAG3 and IFT20 localization were obtained from $Pax3Cre-Dlg1^{F/F}$ mice 578 and control (WT) littermates that were previously described [39]. For immunofluorescence 579 staining of paraffin-embedded sections, antigen unmasking was performed by boiling the 580 slides in antigen-retrieval buffer (10 mM Tris Base, 1 mM EDTA, and 0.05% Tween-20, pH 581 9.0) for 30 min. Samples were permeabilized with 0.05% Triton X-100 in PBS (PBS-T) for 582 10 min at room temperature, incubated in blocking buffer (3.0% BSA and 0.1% Triton X-100 583 in PBS) for 1 h, followed by staining with primary antibodies against SDCCAG3, IFT20 or 584 acetylated tubulin overnight at $4 \degree C$. After 3 washes with PBS-T, samples were incubated 585 with secondary Alexa Fluor dye–conjugated antibodies for 1 h at room temperature. Nuclei 586 were stained with DAPI, and specimens mounted using Mowiol containing n-propyl gallate ⁵⁸⁷(Sigma-Aldrich). Images were captured using a Nikon Eclipse Ti-E inverted confocal ⁵⁸⁸microscope equipped with a 60x Plan Fluor oil immersion (1.4 NA) and 100x Plan Fluor oil 589 immersion (1.45 NA) objectives. A series of digital optical sections (z-stacks) were captured 590 using a Hamamatsu ORCA-Fusion Digital CMOS camera at room temperature, and 3D 591 image reconstructions were produced. Images were processed and analyzed using Elements

⁵⁹²AR 5.21 (Nikon), Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop software. Cilia length measurements were calculated from control (n=437 cilia, 3 mice) and $Pax3Cre-Dlg1^{F/F}$ (n=252 cilia from 4 594 mice). Ciliary levels of acetylated α-tubulin were derived from control (n=102 cilia) and 595 *Pax3Cre-Dlg1^{F/F}* (n=109 cilia). Total ciliary levels of SDCCAG3 and IFT20 were measured 596 per cilium, and the data were calculated from: $SDCAG3$ (n=105 cilia from 3 control mice 597 and n=110 from 4 $Pax3Cre-Dlg1^{F/F}$ mice); IFT20 (n=99 cilia from 3 control mice and n= 104 598 from 4 $Pax3Cre-Dlg1^{F/F}$ mice).

⁵⁹⁹**Quantitative Real-Time PCR (RT-qPCR).** Isolation of total RNA was performed using the 600 NucleoSpin RNA II kit (Macherey-Nagel, cat. # 740955.50) following the manufacturer's 601 instructions. RNA was reverse-transcribed using Superscript III Reverse Transcriptase ⁶⁰²(Invitrogen, cat. #18080-044) and cDNA amplified by qPCR using SYBR Green (Applied 603 Biosystems, cat. #4309155). The qPCR was conducted in triplicate using the QuantStudio 7 604 Flex Real-Time PCR system with the following steps: 95 °C for 10 min, 40 cycles of [95 °C] 605 for 30 sec, 60 °C for 1 min, 72 °C for 30 sec], 95 °C for 1 min. Primer sequences used in this ⁶⁰⁶study for RT-qPCR are listed in Table 1. mRNA levels were determined using the 607 comparative threshold cycle (Ct) method, normalizing to GAPDH and 18S ribosomal RNA. 608 The mRNA levels were expressed relative to that in WT mCCD cells.

⁶⁰⁹**Inhibition of DLG1.** Acute inhibition of DLG1 was done using the dimeric peptides AVLX-610 144 (YGRKKRRQRRR-*N*PEG4(IETDV)2, Tat-*N*-dimer), ReTat-*N*-dimer (rrrqrrkkr-611 *NPEG₄*(IETDV)₂ containing a retroinverso Tat cell-penetrating sequence and the non-PDZ-612 binding control AVLX-144-AA (YGRKKRRQRRR-*N*PEG₄(IEADA)₂ containing alanine 613 mutations in the dimeric region [52, 53]. Compounds were purchased from WuXi AppTec ⁶¹⁴(Shanghai, China) as hydrochloride salts and purities were checked by mass-spectrometry. 615 Prior to the inhibitor experiment, the WT mCCD cells were seeded on glass coverslips and 616 allowed to reach 80% confluence. To promote ciliogenesis, the cells were subjected to a 24 h

617 starvation period using the starvation medium outlined previously. After 12 h of starvation,

618 the medium was changed to the inhibitor-supplemented starvation medium and incubated for

619 an additional 12 h. Subsequently, the cells were examined using IFM analysis.

⁶²⁰**Immunoprecipitation, SDS-PAGE, and western blot analysis.** Immunoprecipitation in ⁶²¹mCCD and HEK293T cells was carried out as described previously [98], except that the 622 washing buffer contained 0.1% NP-40 instead of 0.5% NP-40. Input and pellet fractions were ⁶²³analyzed by SDS-PAGE and western blotting as described previously [98] by using 624 antibodies and dilutions as listed in Table 1.

TGFβ **stimulation assay.** Following cell seeding and 24 h incubation with starvation medium, the cells were stimulated with 2 ng/mL recombinant human TGF-β1 (R&D Systems, cat. # 240-B) diluted in starvation medium for varying durations of 30, 60, 90, and 120 min or left untreated (0 min). The cells were later lysed for subsequent analysis using the 629 aforementioned SDS-PAGE and western blotting. The antibodies and dilutions used for this 630 analysis are listed in Table 1.

Quantitative image and statistical analysis. Using IFM images and Fiji software [99] we measured cilium length, frequency, and relative mean fluorescence intensity (MFI) of 633 relevant antibody-labeled antigens at the cilium or ciliary base in WT, $Dlg1^{-/-}$ and rescue IMCD3 and mCCD lines. Unless otherwise stated, the results were confirmed in at least three independent biological replicates. Statistical analyses were performed using GraphPad Prism 10.0.1. For manual quantification of ciliary staining intensities of fluorescent images, the background-corrected MFI was normalized to relevant control cells/mice. The data was was 638 cumulated and tested for Gaussian normality using either D'Agostino's K-squared test or Shapiro–Wilk test. If the data followed a normal distribution, the two-tailed, unpaired 640 Student's t-test was used when comparing two groups, or one-way ANOVA followed by

641 Tukey's multiple comparison tests was used for comparing more than two groups. If the data 642 did not follow a normal distribution, the nonparametric Mann-Whitney test was used when ⁶⁴³comparing two groups, or the Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn's multiple pairwise comparison 644 tests was used for comparing more than two groups. All quantitative data are presented as 645 mean \Box \pm \Box standard deviation unless otherwise specified. Differences were considered 646 significant when the p-value was $\langle 0.05$. ns, not significant; *, P $\langle 0.05;$ **, P $\langle 0.01;$ ***, ⁶⁴⁷P<0.001; ****, P<0.0001. Quantitative analysis of western blot data was done as described 648 previously [98].

⁶⁴⁹**Automated image analysis and primary cilia intensity measurements.** PC2 (Figure 5C ⁶⁵⁰and 5D) and SDCCAG3 (Figures 5E and 5F) intensity levels were measured in spinning disk 651 fluorescence microscopy 3D image stacks of transwells-cultured cells acquired from WT, $Dlg1^{-/-}$, and rescue mCCD cell lines in three independent experiments, with a total of 15-25 ⁶⁵³images and 431-739 cells/cilia analyzed per condition. To minimize any bias and ensure 654 experimental reproducibility, all intensity measurements were performed by a fully 655 automated MATLAB script reporting the mean fluorescence intensity of the protein of ⁶⁵⁶interest inside subregions of the identified primary cilia. The functional steps of the script are 657 reported below. First, 1) Nucleus regions were automatically identified (DAPI channel, 658 Gaussian filtering, background subtraction and global thresholding) and 2) primary cilia were 659 accurately segmented (cilia marker channel, Gaussian filtering, and local thresholding) as the ⁶⁶⁰brightest 3D objects overlapping a nucleus region. Next, 3) primary cilium bases were 661 identified as the closest cilium voxel to the center of mass of the corresponding nucleus 662 region (assuming an outward growth of the cilia), and 4) primary cilium base regions were 663 defined as the set of cilium voxels within a maximum (user defined) geodesic distance to the 664 corresponding base. Finally, 5) SDCCAG3 and PC2 channels mean intensities were ⁶⁶⁵individually measured and reported inside each primary cilium, primary cilium base region,

666 and primary cilium body (whole cilium excluding the base region) after background intensity 667 correction (3D median filtered image subtraction). Example images are shown in Figure S8. ⁶⁶⁸The script was developed for this project by Danish Bioimaging Infrastructure Image ⁶⁶⁹Analysis Core Facility (DBI-INFRA IACFF) and is available upon request and will soon be 670 available from https://github.com/DBI-INFRA. ⁶⁷¹**AlphaFold modeling of protein complexes.** Structures of protein complexes shown in 672 Figures 7C and S7B-D were modeled using a local installation of Alphafold v2.1.0 [60, 100]

- 673 using sequences for *Mus musculus* (Mm) or *Homo sapiens* (Hs) DLG1, SDCCAG3, IFT20,
-
- ⁶⁷⁴and IFT54. Predicted interacting areas were inspected for a low Predicted Alignment Error
- ⁶⁷⁵(PAE) score as the main indicator for confidence. All figures of protein structures were
- 676 prepared using PyMOL v. 2.5 (Schrodinger LLC, https://pymol.org).

⁶⁷⁸**Acknowledgments**

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⁶⁹³**Figure legends**

⁶⁹⁴**Figure 1. Loss of** *Dlg1* **in mouse kidney cells leads to elongated cilia. (A)** H&E staining of representative kidney sections from wildtype and $Pax3Cre-Dlg1^{FF}$ mice. Black box denotes 696 regions shown as magnified images on the right. Yellow arrows point to cystic tubules in the 697 cortical region. **(B, C, D)** Immunofluorescence staining for cilia (acetylated α -tubulin, 698 yellow) and quantification of ciliary length (**C**) and ciliary acetylated α -tubulin intensity (**D**) 699 in kidney sections of wildtype (n=3) and $Pax3Cre-Dlg1^{F/F}$ (n=4) mice at 4 months of age. * 700 denotes P<0.05. (**E**) Representative image of transwell filter-grown mCCD cell lines (mCh-701 DLG1: mCherry-DLG1). Cilia were visualized using acetylated tubulin antibody (AcTub, 702 magenta), cell-cell contacts were visualized with E-cadherin antibody (green) and nuclei were ⁷⁰³stained with DAPI (blue). (**F**) Western blot analysis of total cell lysates of the indicated ⁷⁰⁴mCCD cells lines using antibodies against DLG1 and GAPDH (loading control). Molecular 705 mass markers are shown in kDa to the left. (G, H) Quantification of ciliary length (G) and 706 frequency (H) in the indicated transwell filter-grown mCCD lines. Ciliary length and ciliation 707 rate was measured using the fully automated MATLAB script. Graphs represent accumulated 708 data from three individual experiments, and statistical analysis was performed using Mann-709 Whitney U test (unpaired, two-tailed).

⁷¹⁰**Figure 2. Analysis of cilia mass spectrometry results.** (**A**) Volcano plot visualizing 711 differential protein expression in the ciliary proteome upon disruption of DLG1. The proteins 712 are colored according to their significance tier (Tier 1, 2, 3, and non-significant (NS)). The 713 total amount of affected candidate ciliary proteins found in Tier 1 upon *Dlg1* depletion are ⁷¹⁴highlighted on the right side of the volcano plot, while the proteins related to this research are 715 marked on the volcano plot. The complete list of identified proteins can be found in 716 Supplementary Table S1. Note that there are multiple points with the same x-axis values on

⁷¹⁷either side of the plot. These proteins were the ones where the median intensity values for 718 either the WT or $D\ell qI^{\prime}$ were 0. As a result, the log 2 ratio was infinite and we introduced a 719 pseudo-value that is two units above or below the maximum and minimum ratio value across ⁷²⁰all genes respectively, to allow plotting of these points. (**B**, **C**) Gene Ontology enrichment 721 analysis for biological process (B) and cellular component (C) using the proteins found in 722 Tier1. The tables show the top 15 terms that are significantly enriched (Fisher's exact test 723 value ≤ 0.05) and are listed in order of their enrichment ratio along with the corresponding 724 GO terms.

⁷²⁵**Figure 3. Loss of DLG1 impairs ciliary localization of SDCCAG3 in IMCD3 and mCCD**

⁷²⁶**cells.** (**A, E**) IFM analysis of ciliated cilia-BioID2 IMCD3 (**A**) and mCCD (**E**) cell lines 727 showing comparative SDCCAG3 staining (green) in WT, $Dlg1^{-/-}$ and mCherry-DLG1 (mCh-728 DLG1) rescue cells. Cilia were stained with antibodies against acetylated α-tubulin (AcTub, 729 magenta), and nuclei visualized with DAPI staining (blue). Insets show enlarged images of 730 cilia, asterisks mark the ciliary base. The merged insets show primary cilia with channels 731 shifted to aid visualization. (**B**, **F**) Quantification of the relative mean fluorescence intensity ⁷³²(MFI) of SDCCAG3 staining along the cilium of cilia-BioID2 IMCD3 cell lines (**B**) or at the ⁷³³ciliary base of mCCD cell lines (**F**). Graphs represent WT normalized and accumulated data ⁷³⁴(n=3). Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn's multiple comparison test was used for the statistical ⁷³⁵analysis. (**C**, **D**, **G**) Western blot analysis of total cell lysates of cilia-BioID2 IMCD3 (**C**, **D**) 736 or mCCD (G) cell lines. Blots were probed with antibodies as indicated, GAPDH was used as 737 loading control. Molecular mass markers are shown in kDa to the left.

⁷³⁸**Figure 4. Conditional loss of DLG1 in mouse kidney leads to impaired ciliary** ⁷³⁹**localization of SDCCAG3 and IFT20.** (**A**, **B**) Immunofluorescence staining of SDCCAG3 740 (A) or IFT20 (B), both in yellow, and acetylated α-tubulin (AcTub, magenta) in kidney sections from wildtype and $Pax3Cre-Dlg1^{F/F}$ mice. (C) Quantification of relative MFI of 5DCCAG3 and IFT20 in cilia of wildtype $(n=3)$ and $Pax3Cre-Dlg1^{F/F}$ $(n=4)$ mice, 743 respectively. The levels from control mice were set to 1, and the ciliary levels from mutant ⁷⁴⁴mice were compared to that (i.e., relative fluorescence intensity). Data shown are the average 745 values from each mouse.

⁷⁴⁶**Figure 5. Loss of DLG1 affects ciliary composition in transwell filter-grown mCCD**

747 **cells.** (**A**, **B**) Representative top (**A**) and side view (**B**) confocal images of transwell filter-748 grown WT, $Dlg1^{-/-}$ and mCherry-DLG1 (mCh-DLG1) rescue lines. The cells were stained for 749 E-cadherin (green) and PALS1 (magenta) to visualize the basolateral membrane and apical-⁷⁵⁰lateral border, respectively. (**C**, **E**) IFM analysis of PC2 (**C**) or SDCCAG3 (**E**) (green) in 751 transwell indicated cell lines. Cilia were visualized with antibody against acetylated tubulin ⁷⁵²(AcTub, magenta), and nuclei stained with DAPI (blue). Insets show enlarged images of cilia, 753 while the merged insets show primary cilia with channels shifted to aid visualization. (D, F) ⁷⁵⁴Quantification of the relative MFI of PC2 (**D**) and SDCCAG3 (**F**) along the cilium (right 755 panels) and at the ciliary base (left panels). The graphs represent normalized and accumulated 756 data $(n=3)$. The number of dots in each condition represents the number of primary cilia ⁷⁵⁷quantified. The MFI of SDCCAG3 or PC2 was measured using the fully automated ⁷⁵⁸MATLAB-based quantification. Statistical analysis utilized one-way ANOVA with Tukey's 759 multiple comparison test.

⁷⁶⁰**Figure 6. A CAKUT-associated DLG1 missense variant fails to rescue ciliary phenotype**

of *Dlg1***-/-** 761 **mCCD cells.** (**A**) DLG1 protein domain structure and schematic representation and 762 localization of the human CAKUT-associated $DLG1^{T489R}$ variant and the rat counterpart 763 (DLG1^{T507R}). The specific human WT DLG1 isoform depicted is DLG1-210 (UniProt ⁷⁶⁴Q12959-5), which is encoded by transcript ENST00000422288 (ensembl.org) [36] the 765 corresponding WT rat DLG1 isoform is UniProt A0A8I6A5M7. (**B**) Western blot validation 766 of stable expression of transgenic mutant mCherry-DLG1 (mCh-DLG1^{T507R}) in mCCD cells

using antibodies as indicated. (**C)** Ciliary length measurements of indicated cell lines, grown 768 on transwell filters $(n=3)$. (D, E) IFM analysis of the indicated ciliated cell lines using antibodies against SDCCAG3 (**D**) or IFT20 (**E**), both shown in green. Acetylated α-tubulin (AcTub, magenta) was used to stain cilia; nuclei were visualized with DAPI (blue). Insets show enlarged images of cilia, asterisks mark the ciliary base. **(F, G**) Quantification of 772 relative MFI of SDCCAG3 (**F**) and IFT20 (**G**) at the ciliary base of indicated mCCD cell lines, based on images as shown in panels (**D**) and (**E**), respectively. Kruskal-Wallis test with 774 Dunn's multiple comparison test was used for statistical analysis (n=3). (**H**, **J**) Western blot analysis of total or phosphorylated (p) SMAD2 (**H**) and TAK1 (**J**) upon stimulation with TGFβ-1 ligand for indicated times in growth-arrested mCCD cells. (**I**, **K**) Quantifications of 777 protein phosphorylation shown in panels (H, J) , respectively (n = 3).

⁷⁷⁸**Figure 7. Analysis of DLG1, IFT20 and SDCCAG3 interactions.** (**A**, **B**) 779 Immunoprecipitation with anti-GFP beads was performed in HEK293T cells transiently ⁷⁸⁰expressing FLAG-Myc-SDCCAG3 (**A**) or FLAG-IFT20 (HTF-IFT20) (**B**) together with the 781 indicated GFP-fusions. Input and pellet fractions were subjected to SDS-PAGE and western 782 blot analysis using antibodies against FLAG or GFP, as indicated, and GFP expressed alone ⁷⁸³was used as negative control. Molecular mass markers are indicated in kDa to the left. (**C**) 784 Structural prediction for the complex between MmSDCCAG3 (yellow) and MmIFT20 (cyan) 785 in cartoon representation (upper panel). The structure is predicted to be an anti-parallel 786 hetero-dimer coiled coil. The lower panel includes IFT54 showing its binding to IFT20 is 787 mutually exclusive with binding of SDCCAG3 to IFT20. (**D**) Proposed model for how DLG1 788 promotes ciliary trafficking of SDCCAG3, IFT20 and PC2. Based on [7, 9] and data 789 presented in the current study. CRE, common recycling endosome.

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⁷⁹²**Table 1. Cell lines and reagents used in this study.** N/A, not applicable; WB, western blot;

793 IHC, immunohistochemistry.

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Top 15 enriched GO Biological Process terms

Depleted proteins in the cilium **Enriched proteins in the cilium** Enriched proteins in the cilium

C

B

Top 15 enriched GO Cellular Component terms

 $\overline{\mathbf{1}}$

µ m

G

Relative levels of PC2 at the ciliary base

Relative levels of PC2 along the cilium

Relative levels of SDCCAG3 at the ciliary base

Relative levels of SDCCAG3 along the cilium

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