Supplemental material

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Figure S1. **AGO3 controls the expression of Grk and Osk.** (A) Coomassie blue staining of PAGE showed the expression levels of purified recombinant proteins, MBP (asterisk), full-length MBP-AGO3^{WT}, and MBP-AGO3^{DDAA} (arrow), which were used for Slicer activity assay in Fig. 1 B. (B) Western blot using anti-AGO3 antibody showed AGO3 expression in w¹¹¹⁸ and ago3¹⁷⁷⁷/ago3⁵⁰²⁷ ovaries. AGO3 proteins corresponded to ~100-kD bands. (C) w¹¹¹⁸ and ago3¹⁷⁷⁷/ago3⁵⁰²⁷ ovaries. AGO3 proteins corresponded to ~100-kD bands. (C) w¹¹¹⁸ and ago3¹⁷⁷⁷/ago3⁵⁰²⁷ ovaries. AGO3 proteins corresponded to ~100-kD bands. (C) w¹¹¹⁸ and ago3¹⁷⁷⁷/ago3⁵⁰²⁷ ovaries. AGO3 proteins corresponded to ~100-kD bands. (C) w¹¹¹⁸ and ago3¹⁷⁷⁷/ago3⁵⁰²⁷ ovaries were stained with anti-AGO3 antibody (red) and anti-Vasa antibody (green). (D and E) Ovaries were stained with anti-Grk antibody (red) and Hoechst (blue) and showed a range of expression patterns of Grk (D): (1) a normal level of Grk staining was present around the membrane overlying the oocyte nucleus that was normal in wild-type oocytes; (2) a decreased level of Grk protein that was weaker than in wild-type oocytes; and (3) no detectable Grk staining in oocyte. E shows the statistical analysis of Grk expression patterns in ovaries from w¹¹¹⁸, ago3 mutant, uasp-flag-ago3^{WT}; nosP-gal4:vp16, ago3, uasp-flag-ago3^{DDAA}; nosP-gal4:vp16, ago3, uasp-flag-ago3^{DDAA}; nosP-gal4:vp16, ago3, uasp-flag-ago3^{DDAA}; nosP-gal4:vp16, ago3, and uasp-flag-ago3^{VKAA}; nosP-gal4:vp16, ago3. The x axis shows genotypes of tested flies, whereas the y axis shows the percentage of ovarioles containing egg chambers with normal, decreased, and no Grk expression in different geno-types, the sample size (n) for each sample was indicated. Loss of ago3 led to reduced expression pattern of Grk as seen in wild-type ovaries, but expression of either AGO3^{DDAA} or AGO3^{YKAA} was not. (F) Ovaries collected from w¹¹¹⁸, ago3 mutant, uasp-flag-ago3^{WT}; nosP-gal4:vp16, ago3, uasp-flag-ago3^{DDAA};

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Figure S2. Slicer mutant AGO3 was colocalized with Vasa in nuage. (A and A') Ovaries from *uasp-flag-ago3^{DD-AA}; nosP-gal4:vp16* females were stained for Flag (red), Vasa (green), and Hoechst (blue). A' shows the enlarged image boxed in A. Bars, 10 µm.



Figure S3. Armi associates with AGO3^{DD-AA} in nuage. (A–E) Ovaries from *uasp-flag-ago3^{DD-AA}*; *nosP-gal4:vp16*, *ago3* females were stained for Armi and some nuage components. A, AGO3 (green) and Armi (red); B, AGO3 (green) and Mael (red); C, AGO3 (green) and Krimp (red); D, AGO3 (green) and Tudor (red); E, Aub (green) and Armi (red). (F–G') Ovaries expressing GFP-AGO3^{DD-AA} (F and F') or GFP-AGO3^{WT} (G and G') were stained for GFP (green), Armi (red), and Aub (pink). F' and G' shows the enlarged image boxed in F and G, respectively. Bars, 10 µm.



Figure S4. **AGO3 is localized at mitochondria.** (A) The electron microscope image of wild-type nurse cells showed the nuage and mitochondria structures. Some nuages were adjacent to mitochondria (arrow), whereas some were directly associated with mitochondria (arrowhead). Bar, 1 μ m. (B and B') w^{1118} ovary was stained with anti-Tom20 (red) and anti-AGO3 (green). B' shows the enlarged images of the boxed part in B. Bars, 10 μ m. (C) Western blot assays were performed to measure expression levels of AGO3, Armi, Tom20, and α -tubulin in the indicated fractions of w^{1118} ovaries. (D) Western blot assays were performed to measure expression levels of Tudor, Aub, AGO3, Tom20, and α -tubulin in the indicated fractions of w^{1118} ovaries.



Figure S5. Armi and AGO3 association in nuage was regulated by piRNA genes. (A–E) Ovaries expressing GFP-AGO3^{DDAA} in the background of *shu* (A), *rhi* (B), *aub* (C), *spnE* (D), and *krimp* (E) knockdown driven by *nosP-gal4:vp16* were stained for Armi (red) and GFP (green). Bars, 10 µm.