

**Supporting information**

**Topologically knotted deubiquitinases exhibit  
unprecedented mechanostability to withstand the  
proteolysis by an AAA+ protease**

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Table S1. Thermodynamics parameters of GdnHCl-induced equilibrium unfolding of ssrA-UCHs.

Protein		$m$ (kcal mol <sup>-1</sup> M <sup>-1</sup> )	$\Delta G$ (kcal mol <sup>-1</sup> )	$[D]_{50\%}$ (M)
UCHL1	N-I	4.09±0.40	2.79±0.35	0.68±0.02
	I-D	2.54±0.26	4.24±0.29	1.70±0.03
UCHL1 <sub>I93M</sub>	N-I	6.61±0.66	3.82±0.37	0.58±0.01
	I-D	2.14±0.16	3.76±0.19	1.62±0.03
UCHL1 <sub>Δ11</sub>		1.71±0.09	1.77±0.10	1.04±0.02
UCHL3		2.32±0.34	5.47±0.79	2.36±0.04
UCHL5		2.45±0.25	3.51±0.37	1.43±0.03
BAP1		1.78±0.12	3.63±0.24	2.04±0.02
GFP		2.76±0.27	8.31±0.81	3.01±0.02

Table S2. Melting temperatures and corresponding enthalpies of ssrA-UCHs determined by differential scanning calorimetry (DSC).

Protein	$T_{m,1}$ (°C)	$T_{m,2}$ (°C)	$\Delta H_1$ (kcal M <sup>-1</sup> )	$\Delta H_2$ (kcal M <sup>-1</sup> )
UCHL1	55.2±0.01	-	114.0±0.2	-
UCHL1 <sub>193M</sub>	51.4±0.01	-	136.0±0.3	-
UCHL1 <sub>Δ11</sub>	45.7±0.04	-	28.4±0.3	-
UCHL3	58.5±0.02	-	86.7±0.4	-
UCHL5	54.2±0.24	57.9±0.04	31.9±2.7	54.0±2.6
BAP1	46.9±0.21	50.1±0.04	51.1±3.7	42.2±3.6
GFP	80.1±0.42	82.9±0.07	114.2±19.3	115.9±18.7

Table S3. Folding kinetics parameters of UCHs derived from chevron plot analysis

Protein	$k_f^{H_2O}$ (s <sup>-1</sup> )	$m_f$ (kcal mol <sup>-1</sup> M <sup>-1</sup> )	$k_u^{H_2O}$ (s <sup>-1</sup> )	$m_u$ (kcal mol <sup>-1</sup> M <sup>-1</sup> )
UCHL1	0.20±0.05	-1.21±0.07	(7.0±0.6)*10 <sup>-6</sup>	0.97±0.01
UCHL1 <sub>I93M</sub>	0.10±0.10	-1.28±0.37	(2.2±0.5)*10 <sup>-5</sup>	1.11±0.03
UCHL1 <sub>Δ11</sub>	N.D.	N.D.	(2.1±0.4)*10 <sup>-4</sup>	0.21±0.02
UCHL3	49±20	-1.28±0.10	(2.6±0.9)*10 <sup>-4</sup>	0.82±0.03
UCHL5	0.14±0.03	-1.09±0.07	(8.1±7.6)*10 <sup>-9</sup>	1.88±0.12
BAP1	N.D	N.D	(1.2±0.9)*10 <sup>-4</sup>	0.35±0.08

Table S4. Physico-chemical properties of ClpXP substrates compiled from the literature.

Proteins	$K_M$ ( $\mu\text{M}$ )	$k_u^{H_2O}$ ( $\text{min}^{-1}$ )	$V_{max}$ ( $\text{min}^{-1} [\text{ClpX}_6]^{-1}$ )	$\Delta G_u^a$ ( $\text{kcal mol}^{-1}$ )	$T_m$ ( $^\circ\text{C}$ )	Ref.
Arc	1.5 $\pm$ 0.1	8.4	1.8 $\pm$ 0.1	1.3	62	1,2
PL8-Arc	1.0 $\pm$ 0.2	0.12	1.3 $\pm$ 0.1	2.2	74	1,2
FA10-Arc	1.2 $\pm$ 0.1	184	2.1 $\pm$ 0.1	-0.4	48	1,3
IV37-Arc	1.1 $\pm$ 0.1	44	2.3 $\pm$ 0.1	0.2	52	1,4
NC11-Arc	1.0 $\pm$ 0.2	4.8 $\times 10^{-6}$	1.3 $\pm$ 0.1	14.6	>100	1
GFP	1.95	6.4 $\times 10^{-8}$	0.9			5
I27 ssrA	1.4	0.026	0.25	6.4	71.3	1,6
V4A I27	1.1	0.17	0.36	4.4		1
Y9P I27	1.6	0.13	1.5	4.5	64.3	1,6
V11P I27	2.9	19	2.9	3.5		1
V13P I27	2.3	32	3.1	2.9		1
V15P I27	1.5	2.3	0.85	4.6		1
H6-RNaseH	0.9		3.7	12.0	82	7
H6-L78D	1.3		3.1	5.1	61	7
H6-L112D	0.9		4.4	3.1	52	7
RNaseH wt	0.9		4.2		82	7
<sup>SF</sup> GFP	0.36	1.6 $\times 10^{-9}$	0.39	6.9		8
CP7- <sup>SF</sup> GFP	0.79	4.2 $\times 10^{-7}$	1.02	4.4		8
Cp6- <sup>SF</sup> GFP	0.33	2.9 $\times 10^{-9}$	1.48	4.9		8
GFP	1.3	5.9 $\times 10^{-7}$	1.19	4.6		8

a. The free energies of unfolding  $\Delta G_u$  were all derived from GdnHCl-induced equilibrium unfolding.

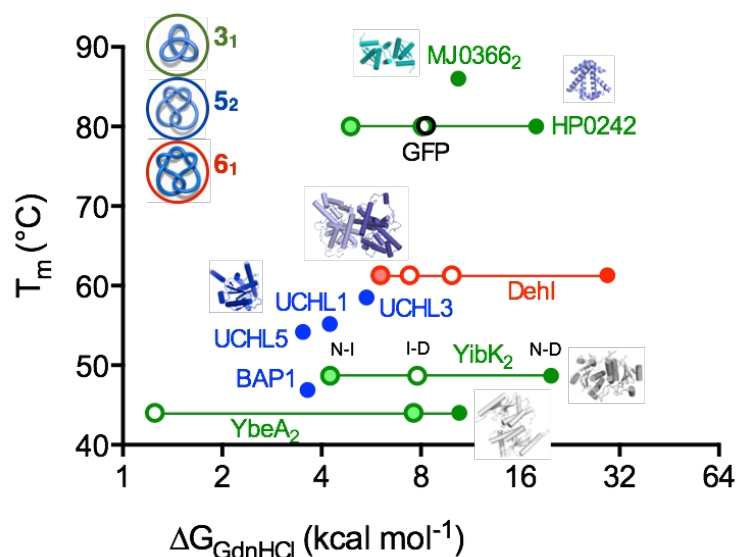


Figure S1. Correlation between chemical stability and thermal stability of knotted proteins that have been investigated so far. The data points corresponding to 3<sub>1</sub>, 5<sub>2</sub> and 6<sub>1</sub> knotted proteins are shown in green, blue and red, respectively. The data point of GFP is shown in open black circle. The chemical denaturation of most knotted proteins exhibit well-defined folding intermediates. Therefore the free energy of unfolding  $\Delta G_{GdnHCl}$  corresponding native-to-intermediate (N-I), intermediate to denatured (I-D), and native to denatured (N-D) states are shown in lightly filled, open and solid circles, respectively. For YibK, YbeA and MJ0366, the contributions of dimerization in chemical denaturation are considered during the calculation of the overall  $\Delta G_{GdnHCl}$  of N-D transitions. To illustrate the relative sizes of the knotted proteins, the cartoon representations of the individual knotted proteins are shown in the same scale next to the data points.

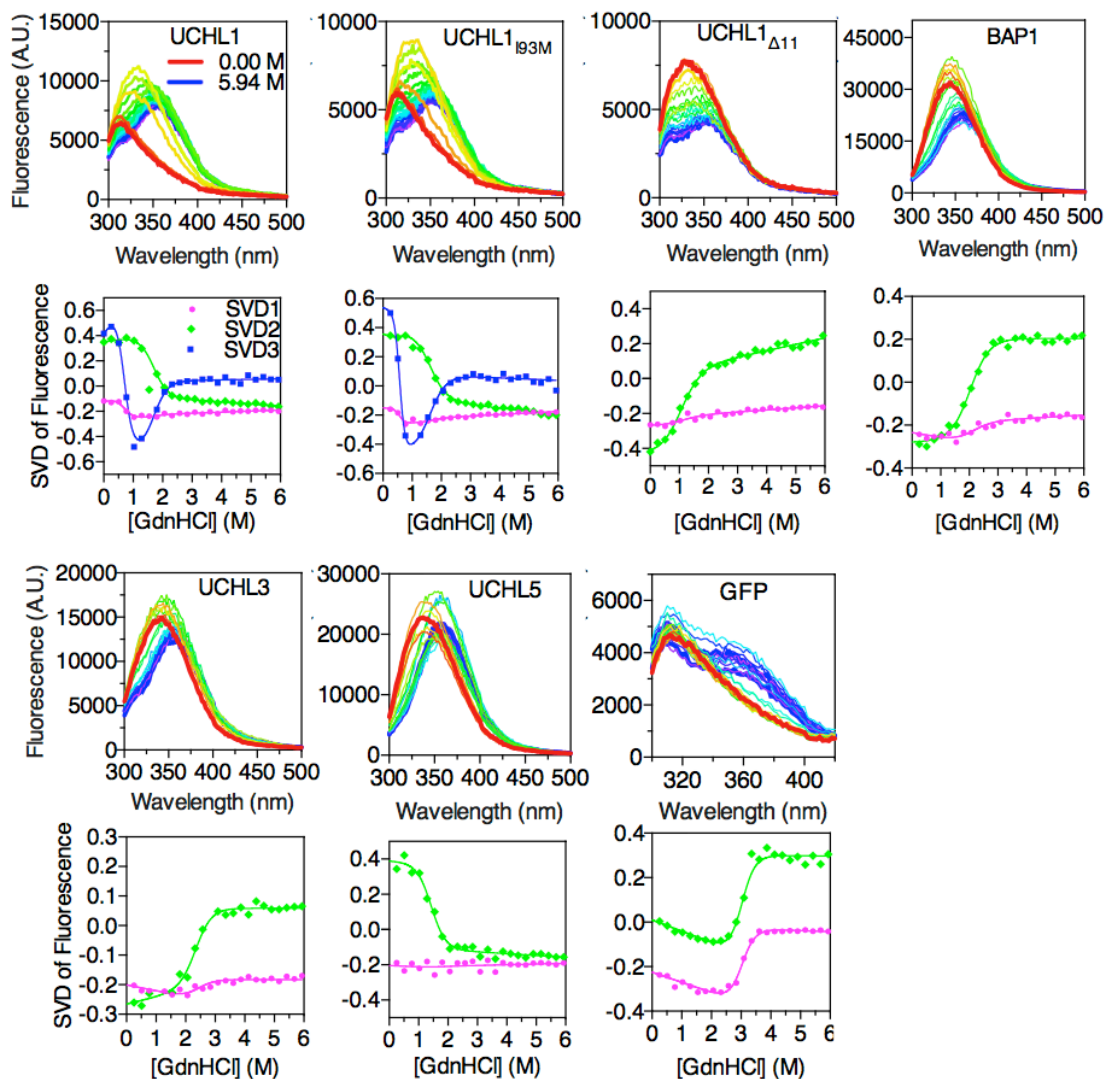


Figure S2. GdnHCl-induced equilibrium unfolding of *ssrA*-UCHs and *ssrA*-GFP monitored by intrinsic tryptophan fluorescence. The intrinsic fluorescence spectra were collected by excitation at 280 nm. The fluorescence spectra are color-ramped from red and blue on linearly incremented GdnHCl concentrations from 0 to 5.94 M with 24 titration points in total. The resulting spectra were subject to SVD analyses as described previously (see Material and Methods), and global-fit to a two- or three-state folding model as shown in solid lines.

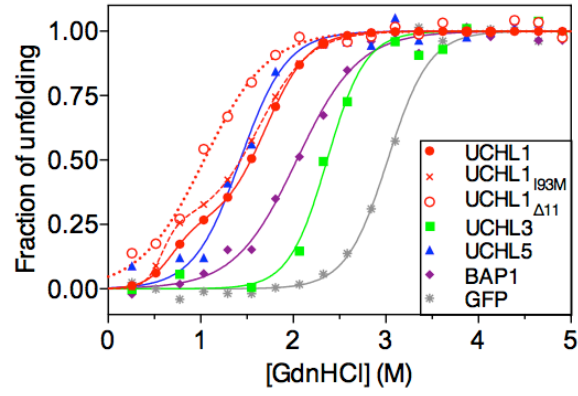


Figure S3. Normalized fraction of unfolding of ssrA-UCHs and ssrA-GFP derived from Figure S1. For UCHL1 and UCHL1<sup>I93M</sup>, a three-state model was used to fit the equilibrium unfolding data. The relative intermediate populations were arbitrarily set to 0.5 to illustrate the three-state unfolding process.



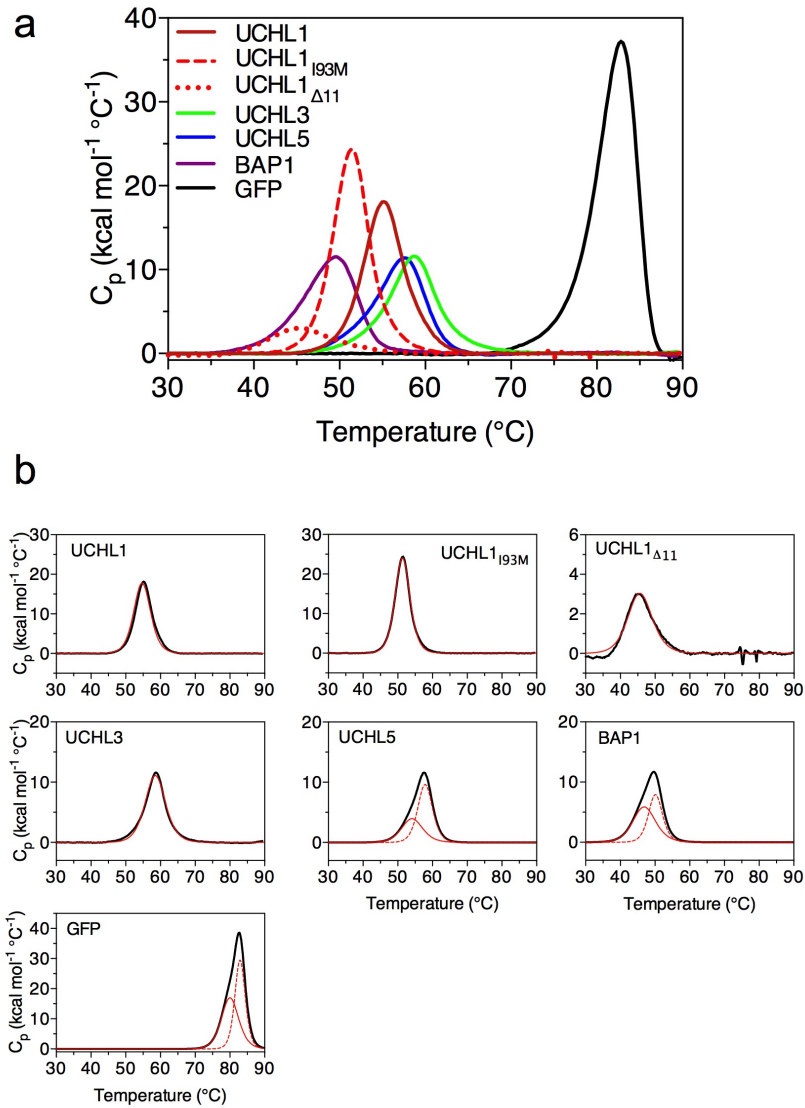


Figure S4. Thermal unfolding of ssrA-UCHs and ssrA-GFP monitored by DSC. **A.** Comparison of the DSC profiles of all ssrA-tagged substrate in the same scale. **B.** Raw data (black lines) and fitting results (solid and dashed red lines for the first and second transitions, respectively) of individual substrates.

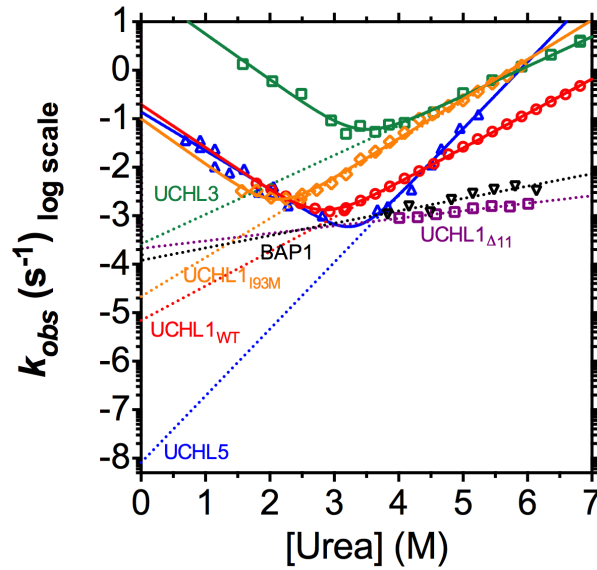


Figure S5. Chevron plot of UCHs. The slowest unfolding arms of all UCHs (without ssrA tag) were extrapolated to 0 M urea concentration to estimate the intrinsic unfolding rates,  $k_u^{H_2O}$ . For BAP1 (inverted black triangles) and UCHL1<sub>Δ11</sub> (open purple squares), only unfolding rates were determined. The chevron plots of UCHL3 (open green squares) and UCHL5 (open blue triangles) were taken from previously reported study <sup>9</sup>, while the chevron plots of UCHL1 (open red circles) and UCHL1<sub>193M</sub> (open orange diamonds) were newly collected in this study.

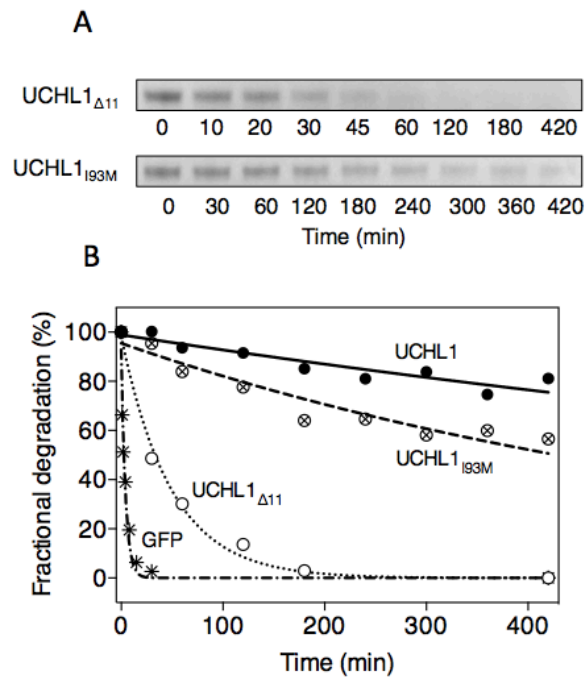


Figure S6. ClpXP-mediated proteolysis of *ssrA*-tagged UCHL1 $_{I93M}$  and UCHL1 $_{\Delta 11}$  monitored by SDS-PAGE. (A) SDS-PAGE images of individual substrates as indicated on the left of each panel. Aliquots were taken at specific time points as indicated below. (B) Quantitative image analyses of the results shown in (A) normalized with respect to the initial time point. The results were fit to a single exponential decay function to deduce the apparent life times of individual substrates.

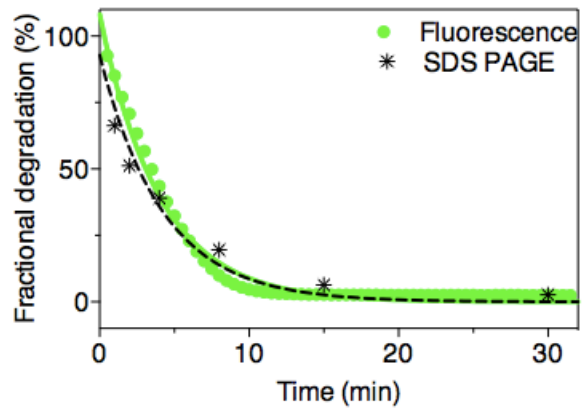


Figure S7. Comparison of ClpXP-mediated proteolysis of ssrA-tagged GFP monitored by SDS-PAGE and GFP fluorescence. The observed changes were fit to a single exponential decay function as indicated by black dashed line and solid green line, respectively.

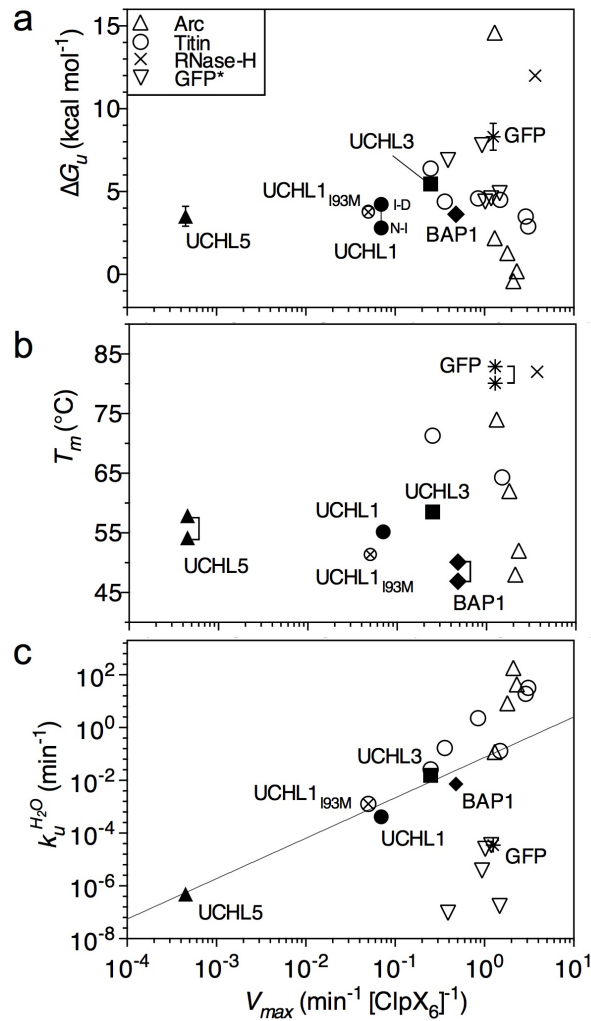


Figure S8. Correlation plots of ClpXP-mediated proteolysis rates,  $V_{max}$ , with respect to (A) free energy of unfolding derived from equilibrium unfolding by GdnHCl,  $\Delta G_u$ , (B) melting temperature,  $T_m$ , and (C) intrinsic unfolding rate  $k_u^{H_2O}$ . The parameters associated with Arc (open triangles), titin I27 (open circles), RNase-H (cross) and GFP (inverted open triangles) were compiled from the literature (*cf.* **Table S4**).<sup>1-8</sup> The non-linear regression of the correlation between  $V_{max}$  and  $k_u^{H_2O}$  for UCHs are shown in solid line in (C). For UCHL1 and UCHL1<sub>193M</sub>, two GdnHCl-induced transitions were observed, corresponding to N-I and I-D transitions, which are indicated for UCHL1, but for UCHL1<sub>193M</sub> the two values are very similar so only one symbol is visible in (A). For UCHL5 and BAP1, two transition temperatures were observed in DSC, which are linked by brackets in (B).

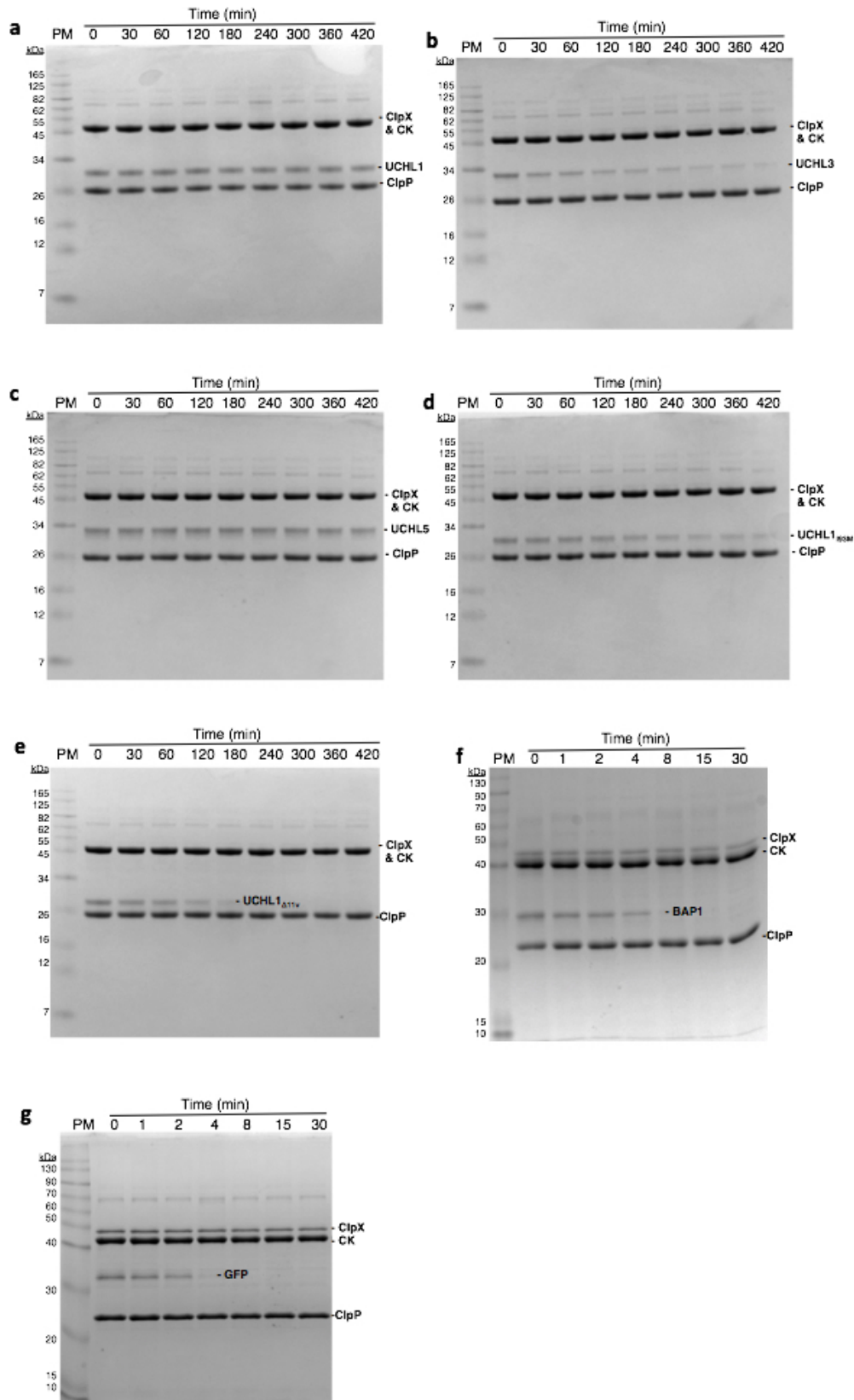


Figure S9. Original SDS-PAGE images of ClpXP-mediated degradation assays of ssrA-tagged UCHL1 (a), UCHL3 (b), UCHL5 (c), UCHL1<sub>I93M</sub> (d), UCHL1<sub>Δ11</sub> (e), BAP1 (f), GFP (g). The protein samples were separated on 12% SDS PAGE Gels

## References

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