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Supplementary Materials for

Ciliopathy patient variants reveal organelle-specific functions for TUBB4B in axonemal microtubules

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Other Supplementary Materials for this manuscript include the following:

Movies 1 to 6

Fig. S1.

Segregation and location of pathogenic variants in *TUBB4B* **identified in unrelated PCD patients.**

(**A**) P1 (from family 40HG-003) was recruited for WGS based genetic diagnosis of PCD which revealed a heterozygous de novo missense mutation p.P259L (chr9:g.137242994:C>T (hg38)) in *TUBB4B*

(NM_006088.6). Mutation and de novo pattern of segregation of the allele were confirmed by targeted Sanger sequencing.

(B) P2 is proband of a family initially screened for 34 PCD genes including *CCNO* and *MCIDAS* by highthroughput sequencing, followed by screening of a UCL Great Ormond Street ICH targeted gene panel of 40 PCD and 400 motile cilia genes. Whilst biallelic mutations in *DNAH9* were identified comprising a splice acceptor mutation (NM_001372.3:c.7553-3del) and exonic missense mutation (NM_001372.3:c.12640G>T, p.Gly4214Cys), the cellular phenotype of reduced generation of motile cilia was not in keeping with pathogenic variants in this gene (*91)*. Reanalysis of sequencing data confirmed a heterozygous *TUBB4B* de novo missense mutation p.P259L (chr9:137242994:C>T (hg38)) only in the patient, and not present in either parent.

(C) P3 (from trio OP-2767) was recruited for WES-based genetic diagnosis of PCD, followed by targeted analysis of variants in TUBB4B, which identified a heterozygous 'de novo' missense variant [c.776C>T; p.P259L] in exon 4 in the patient that was not present in either parent or a non-related control.

(D) P4 (from family GM02215) was recruited for WES genetic diagnosis of PCD, which identified a heterozygous *de novo* missense mutation p.P259L (g.chr9:137242994:C>T (hg38)) in *TUBB4B*. Mutation confirmation and segregation of the allele were performed by targeted analysis of the *TUBB4B* locus using Sanger sequencing.

(E) P5 is proband 18GM02216 recruited as a singleton for genetic diagnosis of PCD. After a negative targeted capture sequencing of 50 PCD genes, Sanger sequencing of *TUBB4B* identified a heterozygous missense mutation p.P259L (g.chr9:137242994:C>T (hg38)). Parents were not tested.

(F) P6 (from trio UNC-676) was recruited for WES followed by targeted analysis of variants in *TUBB4B* which identified a heterozygous de novo missense variant [c.776C>T; p.P259L] in exon 4. Both the parents were also tested and confirmed to be wild type (WT) at this locus.

(G) Summary of variants identified in all patients (P1-P6) as heterozygous for [c.776C>T; p.P259L] missense variant in exon 4 (below) compared to control sequence (above). Base sequence, amino-acid sequence and codon numbers are shown. Location of base substitution is underlined and amino-acid substitution is depicted in red.

(H) WES followed by targeted analysis of variants in *TUBB4B* (NM_006088.6) identified a heterozygous in-frame 30 bp duplication variant [c.723_752dup; p.(F242_R251dup)] in exon 4 in patient P7, that was verified by Sanger sequencing (individual UNC-1010, lower chromatogram, compared to a healthy individual). DNA from the parents of UNC-1010 was not available for the segregation analysis.

(I) Proband P8 was recruited as a duo where a variant p.P259S (chr9:137242993:C>T (hg38)) was identified in *TUBB4B* only in the patient, and was not present in the mother. DNA from the father was not available for segregation analysis.

(J) P9 (from family WU-123) was recruited for WES to diagnose profound sensorineuronal disease (SND) including early onset vision and hearing loss, as well as respiratory disease consistent with PCD. A variant [c.1072C>T; p.P358S] in exon 4 of the *TUBB4B* gene was identified in only the patient sample in a heterozygous state, confirming de novo inheritance. Results confirmed by Sanger sequencing.

(K) Proband P10, recruited with a history of bilateral sensorineural disease (SND), chronic kidney disease with nephromegaly and hypertension, chronic productive cough and a history of recurrent sinus and ear infections consistent with PCD. The patient also has short stature. A variant [c.1072C>T; p.P358S] in exon 4 of *TUBB4B* was identified in only the patient sample in a heterozygous state, confirming de novo inheritance.

(L) P11 (from family P0006032) was recruited with a history of CHD (cardiomyopathy), as well as hearing and sight loss (SND), plus PCD features such as severe inner ear infections. WES was performed on the

mother, twin sister and proband initially, which identified the variant [c.1072C>T; p.P358S] in exon 4 of *TUBB4B*. De novo inheritance was confirmed by Sanger sequencing.

(M) P12 is proband 17/1611 recorded as a trio for WES following bilateral sensorineural disease (SND), features of PCD, CHD at birth (perimembranous ventricular septal defect), short stature and renal dysplasia with a mild eGFR reduction. A variant [c.1072C>T; p.P358S] in exon 4 of *TUBB4B* was identified in only the patient sample in a heterozygous state, confirming de novo inheritance.

(N) Summary of variants identified in all patients (P9-P12) as heterozygous for [c.1072C>T; p.P358S] missense variant in exon 4 (below) compared to control sequence (above).

In all pedigrees, males and females are designated by the squares and circles, respectively. Filled symbols represent affected probands. Small, filled circles represent spontaneous abortions. Red arrow above chromatograms highlights the affected residue.

Fig. S2.

TUBB4B **variants affect ciliary number, length and microtubule PTMs***.*

(**A-J'**) TEM of nasal brush epithelial cells from control (**A,B**) and PCD patients with p.P259L variant (P3, **C-I'**) or p.P259S (P8, **J,J'**). In control cells, dense, long cilia on the surface (**A,B**), which in cross-section clearly transition through docked basal body (MTT- microtubule triplets), transition to microtubule doublets (MTD) exiting the cell with characteristic Y-links of transition zone and then to '9+2' MTD

of the axoneme. In PCD patient cells evidence of disrupted centriole assembly and amplification is observed including misoriented and internally docked centrioles without axonemes as well as partial structures (**C-F**). Dashed magenta ROI in (**C**) with increased zoom to highlight features (**C'**). (**G-I'**) P3 TEM shows rare short cilia without clear axonemal microtubules (**G,H**) or dilated cilia tips with disorganized microtubules and granular material (**I,I'**). (**J,J'**) P8 TEM of short cilia with bulbous head shows splayed microtubules within the expanded tip.

(**K**) Nasal brush epithelial cells were cultured and differentiated in ALI from healthy mother (CTL) and syndromic PCD (P9) patient (lower) before sectioning for immunofluorescence confirming reduced centrioles (FOP: magenta) and loss of axonemes, with abnormal acetylated α -tubulin staining (green, arrowheads) mislocalizing within the cytoplasm.

(**L,M**) Immunofluorescence of healthy donor(CTL) or patient(P2) nasal brushingsstained for cilia (acTUBgreen) outer (DNAH5: magenta, **L**) and inner dynein arm motors (DNALI1: magenta, **M**) single channels for Fig. 1U,V.

(**N,O**) Immunofluorescence of healthy donor (CTL) or patient (P1) nasal brushings stained for (**N**) cilia outer and inner dynein arm motors (DNAI2: cyan; DNALI1: yellow) of the IFT-B complex (IFT88: magenta) and (O) microtubule post-translational modifications $(\alpha$ -tubulin: cyan; polyglutamylated tubulin: magenta; detyrosinated tubulin: yellow). Scale bars represent: 10 µm (**K-M**), 5 µm (**N,O**), 1 µm (**C,F**), 500 nm (**J**), 250 nm (**A,B, C'-E, G,-I'**), and 100 nm (**J'**).

Fig. S3.

Generation of *Tubb4b* **knock-out mice.**

(**A,B**) Two independent deletion alleles were generated by Cas9 genome editing in the 4th exon of *Tubb4b* and founder screening. Both alleles cause a frame shift and premature termination codon. (**C**) Both alleles are protein null for TUBB4B unique peptides by mass spectrometry (shown for KO2).

(**D-F**) *Tubb4b-/-* primary cilia on fibroblasts show no difference in percentage ciliation (**D**), cilia length (**E**) or gross structure by immunofluorescence (**F**).

(**G**) In situ wholemount immunofluorescence of *Tubb4b;Centrin2-eGFP* neonatal (P5-P8) tracheas.

Cilia length and number of ciliated cells in fibroblasts were quantified using ARL13B as a marker, $N = 3$ biological replicates per genotype with (**D**) n>139 cells per biological replicate and (**E**) n>87 cells per biological replicate, mean values are plotted. (**F,G**) Acetylated a-tubulin: magenta, ARL13B: cyan (**F**) or actin: cyan (**G**), Centrin2-eGFP: yellow (**G**).

Scale bars represent: 10 µm (**G**) and 5 µm (**F**). (**C**) Graphic bars represent the mean ± SEM derived from N=4 biological replicates (**C**) or N=3 biological replicates (**D,E**). Statistical analyses were carried out by the PLSD Fisher test according to the significance of the Student's t-test. Student's t-test: ns, not significant; **, p ≤ 0.01.

Cilia phenotypes vary amongst motile ciliated tissues.

(**A-C**) In situ wholemount immunofluorescence (**A**) of *Tubb4b;Centrin2-eGFP* juvenile (P8-P13) oviducts reveals a profound reduction in cilia length (**B**), but no significant reduction in basal body number per cell (**C**).

(**D-F**) Despite the pronounced hydrocephaly phenotypes visible *in vivo*, in situ flatmount immunofluorescence (**D**) of *Tubb4b;Centrin2-eGFP* lateral ventricles neonates (P5-P8) reveals no reduction in cilia length (**E**) or basal body number per cell (**F**).

(**G-I**) Similarly mutant primary ependymal cells differentiated *in vitro* show no gross difference by immunofluorescence (**G**), nor does high-speed video microscopy reveal changes in percentage of cells with coordinated beating (**H**) or ciliary beat frequency (**I**).

(J) Single cell RNASeq heatmaps show the proportions of cells expressing each α - and β -tubulin isotype (RNA count greater than zero) in each cell type identified in the population from published mouse lung (magenta) (*86*), ependymal (blue) (*85*) and choroid plexus (black) (*87*) single cell RNASeq datasets. Rows are clustered on similarity of proportions among cell types (scale 0-1).

Cilia length and number of basal bodies in wholemount oviducts (**A**) and ependymal walls (**D**) were quantified using acTUB as an axoneme marker and eGFP (Centrin2) as a basal body marker. In oviducts, N = 3 biological replicates per genotype with (**B**) n>20 cilia per biological replicate and (**C**) n>62 cells per biological replicate, mean values are plotted. In ependymal flatmounts, N = 4 biological replicates per genotype with (**E**) n>48 cilia per biological replicate and (**F**) n>56 cells per biological replicate, mean values are plotted. (**A, D, G**) Acetylated a-tubulin: magenta, actin: cyan (**A, G**), Centrin2-eGFP: yellow (**A, G**) or Fibroblast Growth Factor Receptor 1 Oncogene Partner (FOP): yellow (**D**).

Scale bars represent: 10 µm (**A, D, G**). (**B, C, E, F, H, I**) Symbols represent the mean ± SEM derived from N=3 biological replicates (**B, C, E, H, I**) or N=4 biological replicates (**F**). Statistical analyses were carried out by the PLSD Fisher test according to the significance of the Student's t-test. Student's t-test: ns, not significant; $**$, $p \le 0.01$.

Fig. S5

Serial sections reveal diverse axonemal microtubule defects originate distally to basal bodies.

(A) Tilt series of 70 nm serial sections of *Tubb4b-/-* tracheal epithelial cells tracking 3 adjacent centrioles. Although centrioles are reduced in number and many misformed, those that do dock and extend an axoneme start with 9 microtubule triplets but develop a range of defects including loss of one singlet from central pair (**Cilia 1**), loss of 1 microtubule doublets and lack of central pair (**Cilia 2**) and loss of multiple microtubule doublets (**Cilia 3**). This happens close to the cell body as shown by surrounding microvilli.

(B) 9+4 organization is rapidly lost in 70 nm serial sections.

Scale bars: 200 nm (left row **A, B**), and 100 nm (**A**, Cilia 1-3 inserts).

Fig. S6.

Disease-causing TUBB4B variants alter microtubule dynamics. Microtubule network dynamics analysis of RPE1 cells overexpressing TUBB4B variants, showing immunostaining of FLAG-tagged TUBB4B (green) and EB1 (magenta) protein upon cold-induced depolymerization (20 and 30 minutes) and repolymerization at 37 °C (4 and 6 minutes). See **Fig. 3.G, H** for quantification of repolymerization. Scale bars represent: 10 µm.

Fig. S7.

PCD-only *TUBB4B* **variants affect tubulin heterodimerization.**

(A) Immunoblot (denaturing) of *in vitro* translated ALFA-tagged control and *TUBB4B* patient variants. All PCD-only (p.P259L, p.P259S, Dup) and syndromic PCD+SND p.P358S *TUBB4B* variants are stable.

(B) Schematic of tubulin heterodimer assembly pathway. Binding of partially folded tubulin molecules as they emerge from the ribosomes by prefoldin (**1**) and subsequent folding by the cytoplasmic chaperonin CCT (**2**). These quasi-native tubulin intermediates interact with five tubulin-specific chaperones named tubulin cofactors A through E (TBCA–TBCE: **3-5**)). The native assembly-competent tubulin is released from a supercomplex that contains both α- and β-tubulin and cofactors C–E, upon hydrolysis of GTP by βtubulin in the supercomplex.

(C) Native immunoblot of *in vitro* translated reactions for 20 minutes, 80 minutes and 80 minutes + 60 minutes with excess porcine brain tubulin, respectively. The chaperones are numbered according to their position in the folding pathway. While both WT and syndromic p.P358S TUBB4B form heterodimers robustly, the PCD-only variants stall with different heterodimerization cycle chaperones. The P259L/S stall with TBCD, whilst Dup mutant stalls with Prefoldin and CCT complex chaperones, and neither can be forced through with excess tubulin.

(D) Immunoblot of protein lysate input for affinity purifications in **Fig. 3I-K** from IMCD3 cells stably expressing ALFA-tagged *Tubb4b* constructs probed with ALFA-HRP.

Fig. S8.

PCD+SND *TUBB4B* **variant strongly affects tubulin polymerization in a dominant-negative fashion.**

(**A**) Elution profiles from the size exclusion chromatography of the affinity tag-free WT (black) and p.P358S (grey) recombinant TUBA1A-TUBB4B heterodimers.

(**B**) Coomassie-stained SDS-PAGE analysis of protein samples from purification steps asfollows: (1) ladder; (2) whole cell lysates; (3) flowthrough from histidine affinity column; (4) elution from histidine affinity column; (5) flowthrough from engineered streptavidin (Strep-Tactin XT) column; (6) elution from engineered streptavidin (Strep-Tactin XT) column; (7) flowthrough from anion exchange (HiTrap Q FF) column; (8) elution from anion exchange (HiTrap Q FF) column; and (9) gel filtration.

 (C) Immunoblot analyses using anti- α -tubulin, anti- β -tubulin, anti-His₆ and anti-Strep antibodies. The loading order for wild type: (1) ladder; (2) gel filtration and (3) elution from histidine affinity column. Loading for p.P358S follows: (1) ladder; (2) elution from histidine affinity column; and (3) gel filtration.

(D) Representative TIRF-microscopy images of tubulin solutions that were incubated at 37 °C for 90 minutes. 1 mg/ml wild-type TUBA1A-TUBB4B heterodimers readily polymerized in the presence of 1 mM GMPCPP (upper left panel), whilst p.P358S TUBA1A-TUBB4B heterodimersfailed to polymerize at 1 mg/ml (upper centre panel) or 4 mg/ml (upper right panel) under the same condition. In the presence of 10 µM taxol, 3 mg/ml p.P358S TUBB4B/TUBA1A can polymerize into microtubules with 1 mM GMPCPP (bottom left panel), but not with 1 mM GTP (bottom right panel), suggesting the competence of p.P358S variant TUBA1A-TUBB4B heterodimers to form a microtubule lattice but with a much higher critical concentration than wild-type TUBA1A-TUBB4B heterodimers. Scale bars represent 20 µm.

(E) Representative TIRF kymograph generated during one imaging session on one microtubule fiber in vitro highlighting parameters used to measure microtubule dynamics in **Fig. 3L-Q.** This includes polymerization rate (growth length (cyan)/ growth time (blue)), pause fraction (total pause time (magenta)/total growth time), catastrophe frequency (total number of catastrophe events (green stars)/lifetime) and nucleation frequency (total number of nucleation events (red)/ nucleation time (red)).

Fig. S9.

Heterozygous loss-of-function alleles for *Tubb4b* **have no phenotype.**

(**A-D**) Heterozygous KO animals (shown for KO2) are phenotypically normal, showing normal trachea cilia lengths (**A**) and numbers (**B**), normal fertility, as shown by normal spermatogenesis (**C**), and postnatal survival/growth (**D**).

Cilia length was quantified by histology, $N = 3$ biological replicates per genotype (**B**) $n > 18$ cells per biological replicate, mean values are plotted. Plot in (**D**) represents N=155 animals. In (**E**), symbols represent individual animals whereas graphic bars represent the mean \pm SEM derived from those biological replicates per genotype where n=5 (*Tubb4b+/+*), n=4 (*Tubb4b+/-*) and n=3 (*Tubb4b-/-*).

Scale bars represent: 250 µm (**C**), and 25 µm (**A**). Statistical analyses were carried out by the PLSD Fisher test according to the significance of the Student's t-test. Student's t-test: ns, not significant.

Fig. S10.

Engineered point mutations in *Tubb4b* **do not recapitulate patient phenotypes in the mouse retina.**

(A) Strategy to generate LCA KI *Tubb4b^{R391H/+}* allele by Cas9 genome editing in the 4th exon of *Tubb4b* and Sanger sequencing to validate.

(B) *Tubb4b^{R391H/+}* animals show no decrease in fitness or survival postnatally.

(**C-E**) *Tubb4bR391H/+* animals show no early onset or age-related degeneration of photoreceptors by histology (**C**) or immunofluorescence (**D**) (rhodopsin: red; M-opsin: green) in 4 month old adult mice. (**E**) *Tubb4bR391H/+* animals show no evidence of physiological changes in neuroretina with age as shown by electroretinogram unlike the p.R391H/+ human patients.

(**F**) Species-specific differences in expression of TUBB4B in the neuroretina are likely to account for these differences. Heatmaps show the proportions of cells expressing each tubulin (RNA count greater than zero) in each cell type identified in the population from published mouse (left) (*89*) and human (right) (*88*) neuroretina single cell RNASeq datasets. Rows are clustered on similarity of proportions among cell types (scale 0-1).

Scale bars represent: 100 µm (**C**) and 10 µm (**D**). (**B**,**E**) Graphic bars represent the mean ± SEM derived from N>3 animals per time point.

Fig. S11. **Cryo-EM data quality.**

(A) Fourier shell correlation (FSC) curves for the deposited map of the human doublet microtubule from respiratory cilia (EMD-26624) and the region after focused refinement (this study). Resolutions are estimated according to the FSC = 0.143 criterion. The inset shows the mask (transparent blue) applied to the ribbon protofilaments between the A and B tubules during focused refinement.

(B) The central tubulin heterodimer from the region masked in (**A**) colored by local resolution.

Fig. S12.

Identification of TUBB4B as the predominant b**-tubulin isotype of human respiratory cilia axonemes**.

(A) Model of β -tubulin highlighting the four regions (I-IV) that allow discrimination of the β -tubulin isotypes in the cryo-EM map.

(B) A hybrid phylogenetic/decision tree showing the outcome when all 10 isotypes of β -tubulin encoded by the human genome were analyzed sequentially for their fit to the cryo-EM density of each region boxed in (**A**). A purple cross indicates that the sequence was incompatible with the density, and the isotype was excluded from the next step. Only TUBB4B is consistent with all 4 regions.

(C) Fit of an atomic model of TUBB4B to the cryo-EM density for regions I-IX. To the left of each panel is a sequence alignment showing which isotypes could be excluded at each step of the evaluation process.

Fig. S13.

Identification of TUB1A1 as the predominant a**-tubulin isotype of human respiratory cilia axonemes.** (**A**) Model of α-tubulin highlighting the four regions (I-IV) that allow discrimination of the α-tubulin isotypes in the cryo-EM map. (**B**) A hybrid phylogenetic/decision tree showing the outcome when all 8 isotypes of α-tubulin encoded by the human genome were analyzed sequentially for their fit to the cryo-EM density of each region boxed in (**A**). A purple cross indicates that the sequence was incompatible with the density, and the isotype was excluded from the next step. Only TUBA1A is consistent with all 4 regions. (**C**) Fit of an atomic model of TUBA1A to the cryo-EM density for regions I-IX. To the left of each panel is a sequence alignment showing which isotypes could be excluded at each step of the evaluation process.

Fig. S14.

Sequence analysis of human a**-and** b**-tubulin isotypes.**

(A) Multiple sequence alignment of β -tubulin isotypes.

(B) Multiple sequence alignment of α -tubulin isotypes. TUBAL3 was omitted from the analysis as it contains a 7-residue insertion at position 39 that is incompatible with the α -tubulin cryo-EM density. In both panels A and B, colored highlights and numerals I-IV denote residues evaluated for their fit to the cryo-EM density in **Fig. S12** and **Fig. S13**, respectively.

Fig. S15.

Patient *TUBB4B* **variants cause distinct clinical phenotypes depending on how they disrupt tubulin heterodimerization, polymerization and microtubule stability.**

Pathogenic PCD-variants stall during heterodimerization effectively depleting heterodimer pools; these phenocopy null mutations in airway cells where motile axonemes are enriched in TUBB4B and as such these variants will cause only PCD. Whereas in other cilia where alternative axonemal-competent TUBB isotypes can be incorporated, they overcome the competitive dominant negative effect of TUBB4B PCDonly variants on tubulin heterodimerization, as the ratio of mutant protein is less. Importantly, these PCDonly patient variants on the intradimer surface cause effects which are molecularly distinct from heterozygous loss-of-function (i.e frameshift) mouse allele, which we show lacks a phenotype. In contrast,

p.P358S (on the luminal interface) likely has an assembly-mediated dominant-negative effect on poisoning the lattices into which it integrates, thus disrupting integration of new heterodimers and effective concentration-dependent polymerization during multiciliogenesis to cause PCD. It also means in tissues where TUBB4B is expressed but other isotypes make up axonemes (mixed isotype lattice), p.P358S TUBB4B will integrate causing syndromic PCD+SND disease. The SND-only patient variants are found on the interdimer interface, where we observed slowed growth characteristics in overexpression experiments. They are also predicted to impair stabilization between adjacent dimers resulting in subtle changes in airway cilia length (in mouse) but without gross airway disease but other tissues such as retina and inner ear (as seen in human patients) species-specific sensitivity to dysfunction may exist.

Table S1. Clinical features of *TUBB4B* **cohort reported in this study**.

Table S2.

Genetic features of patient variants in *TUBB4B.*

Table S3.

Description of patient variants in *TUBB4B* **and predicted pathogenicity.** Standard predictors struggle to predict pathogenicity of tubulin variants accurately. Using structural modelling of variant effects on both the β -tubulin monomer (subunit) and its interaction with α -tubulin a heterodimer (full) based on the crystal structure, we could demonstrate profound effects on heterodimer formation in PCD-only variants. Here, higher $\Delta\Delta G$ means the variant is predicted to destabilize the protein and importantly its interactions (full). Interactions, like lateral interactions between subunits not in the structure, are not captured for interfaces affected like p.P358S.

Table S4. Statistics for data collection, data processing, model refinement and validation.

Table S5. CRISPR guides and repair templates*.*

Table S6. Site directed mutagenesis and genotyping primers*.*

Table S7.

Primary antibodies and small molecules*.*

Table S8.

Secondary antibodies*.*

Movie S1.

Tomogram from TEM samples of PCD-only patient (P3) showing distended cilium without clear axonemal microtubules adjacent to one where axonemal structure is preserved (12 fps).

Movie S2.

Nasal epithelial cell culture from healthy female control en-face view (30 fps).

Movie S3.

Nasal epithelial cell culture from healthy female control side view showing coordinated metachronal beat (12 fps).

Movie S4.

Nasal epithelial cell culture from PCD-only patient (P8) en-face view showing paucity of short, bulbous cilia and disrupted beat (30 fps).

Movie S5.

Nasal epithelial cell culture from PCD-only patient (P8) side view showing sparse short cilia with slow beat (12 fps).

Movie S6.

Nasal epithelial cell culture from PCD-only patient (P1) side view showing sparse short cilia with slow dyskinetic beat (12 fps).