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The p97-UBXD8 complex maintains peroxisome abundance by suppressing pexophagy

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25 **Abstract**

26 Peroxisomes are vital organelles involved in key metabolic functions in eukaryotic cells. Their
27 significance is highlighted by peroxisome biogenesis disorders; severe childhood diseases
28 marked by disrupted lipid metabolism. One mechanism regulating peroxisome abundance is
29 through selective ubiquitylation of peroxisomal membrane proteins that triggers peroxisome
30 degradation via selective autophagy (pexophagy). However, the mechanisms regulating
31 pexophagy remain poorly understood in mammalian cells. Here we show that the evolutionarily
32 conserved AAA-ATPase p97 and its membrane embedded adaptor UBXD8 are essential for
33 maintaining peroxisome abundance. From quantitative proteomic studies we reveal that loss of
34 UBXD8 affects many peroxisomal proteins. We find depletion of UBXD8 results in a loss of
35 peroxisomes in a manner that is independent of the known role of UBXD8 in ER associated
36 degradation (ERAD). Loss of UBXD8 or inhibition of p97 increases peroxisomal turnover through
37 autophagy and can be rescued by depleting key autophagy proteins or overexpressing the
38 deubiquitylating enzyme USP30. Furthermore, we find increased ubiquitylation of the peroxisomal
39 membrane protein PMP70 in cells lacking UBXD8 or p97. Collectively, our findings identify a new
40 role for the p97-UBXD8 complex in regulating peroxisome abundance by suppressing pexophagy.

41 Introduction

42 Peroxisomes are ubiquitous, dynamic organelles with central roles in lipid metabolism
43 (Mast, Rachubinski, & Aitchison, 2020; Schrader, Kamoshita, & Islinger, 2020). These functions
44 include purine catabolism, bile acid and ether phospholipid synthesis, as well as β - and α -
45 oxidation of very long chain fatty acids (VLCFAs) and branched chain fatty acids (BCFA) (Mast et
46 al., 2020; Schrader et al., 2020; Terlecky & Fransen, 2000). Peroxisomes are also essential for
47 detoxification of reactive oxygen species (ROS) and reactive nitrogen species (RNS) (Chen,
48 Chang, Lin, & Yang, 2020; Mast et al., 2020; Wanders, Ferdinandusse, Brites, & Kemp, 2010).
49 Peroxisome homeostasis is maintained by a group of peroxins (PEX) proteins that coordinate
50 peroxisome biogenesis, import and fission. Given their central importance, loss of peroxisomes
51 or defects in peroxins (PEX) can result in dramatic alterations to the cellular lipidome and can
52 lead to a host of human diseases broadly termed peroxisome biogenesis disorders (PBD)
53 (Aubourg & Wanders, 2013; Mast et al., 2020; Schrader et al., 2020). These include neonatal
54 adrenoleukodystrophy, Zellweger spectrum disorders, and Refsum disease among others, which
55 affect multiple organs with a prominent neurological phenotype (Buchberger, Howard, Proctor, &
56 Bycroft, 2001; Mast et al., 2020; Schrader et al., 2020).

57 Peroxisome abundance is maintained through de novo biogenesis, fission of mature
58 peroxisomes and degradation through a selective form of autophagy known as pexophagy
59 (Terlecky & Fransen, 2000). Pexophagy can be triggered by environmental stressors, including
60 nutrient deprivation, hypoxia, and high ROS levels (Wei et al., 2021). Several findings suggest
61 that peroxins involved in peroxisome biogenesis as well as the import of matrix proteins contribute
62 to pexophagy (Eun et al., 2018; Wei et al., 2021). For example, overexpression of the peroxisome
63 biogenesis protein PEX3 induces ubiquitylation of peroxisome membrane proteins, leading to
64 pexophagy (Wei et al., 2021; Yamashita, Abe, Tatemichi, & Fujiki, 2014). The peroxisome
65 resident E3 ligase PEX2 can ubiquitylate the import receptor PEX5 as well as the peroxisomal
66 membrane protein PMP70 / ABCD3 during amino acid starvation (Eun et al., 2018; Sargent et al.,

67 2016). Ubiquitylated PEX5 recruits the autophagy adaptor proteins, sequestosome-1
68 (SQSTM1/p62) and neighbor of BRCA1 gene 1 (NBR1), which target peroxisomes for pexophagy
69 (Léon, Goodman, & Subramani, 2006; Riccio et al., 2019; Sargent et al., 2016; J. Zhang et al.,
70 2015). Despite the importance of maintaining peroxisome homeostasis, the molecular
71 mechanisms regulating pexophagy in mammalian cells are not comprehensively understood
72 (Zalckvar & Schuldiner, 2022).

73 p97 is an evolutionarily conserved, ATP driven, homohexameric chaperone important for
74 ubiquitin-dependent protein quality control (Neuber, Jarosch, Volkwein, Walter, & Sommer, 2005;
75 Stach & Freemont, 2017). Consecutive ATP hydrolysis by p97 monomers in the hexamer causes
76 unfolding of bound ubiquitylated substrates as they pass through the central pore of the homo-
77 hexamer. While p97 has well established roles in the degradation of ubiquitylated proteins by the
78 26S proteasome, recent studies indicate that it also participates in early and late steps in
79 autophagy (Ahlstedt, Ganji, & Raman, 2022; Papadopoulos et al., 2017; Tanaka et al., 2010;
80 Zheng, Cao, et al., 2022). p97 associates with over 30 adaptors that interact with its N- or C-
81 termini enabling recruitment of p97 to various organelles and ubiquitylated substrates (Stach &
82 Freemont, 2017). One such adaptor UBXD8 is localized to the ER via a hydrophobic hairpin motif
83 that inserts into the outer leaflet of the ER membrane. At the ER the p97-UBXD8 complex has
84 important functions in ER-associated degradation (ERAD), wherein misfolded proteins in the ER
85 lumen or membrane are ubiquitylated, retro-translocated to the cytosol and degraded by cytosolic
86 proteasomes (Ruggiano, Foresti, & Carvalho, 2014). UBXD8 recognizes ubiquitylated substrates
87 and p97 through its ubiquitin associated (UBA) and ubiquitin X (UBX) domains respectively
88 (Buchberger et al., 2001; Budhidarmo & Day, 2014; H. Kim et al., 2013; Neuber et al., 2005;
89 Schuberth & Buchberger, 2008). Recent studies suggest that endogenous UBXD8 also localizes
90 to and regulates the functions of lipid droplets and mitochondria (Olzmann, Richter, & Kopito,
91 2013; Song, Herrmann, & Becker, 2021; Zheng, Cao, Yang, & Jiang, 2022).

92 In previous published work from our lab, we used quantitative tandem mass tag (TMT)
93 proteomics to determine how the cellular proteome is remodeled in UBXD8 knockout (KO) cells
94 generated by CRISPR editing (Ganji et al., 2023). Further analysis of the proteomic dataset led
95 to the surprising finding that numerous peroxisomal proteins were depleted in UBXD8 KO cell
96 lines in comparison to wildtype cells. We explored this unexpected finding further and found that
97 loss of UBXD8 leads to significant reduction in peroxisomes in multiple cell lines. We further show
98 that loss of peroxisomes in UBXD8 KO cells causes an increase in VLCFAs and decreased
99 catalase activity. Moreover, we find endogenous UBXD8 localizes to peroxisomes and loss of
100 p97-UBXD8 increases the degradation of peroxisomes in a manner that is dependent on
101 autophagy and ubiquitylation of peroxisomal membrane proteins. Taken together, we show that
102 the p97-UBXD8 complex controls peroxisome abundance and function by suppressing their
103 degradation through autophagy.

104

105 **Results**

106 **Quantitative proteomics identifies altered levels of peroxisomal proteins in UBXD8** 107 **knockout cells.**

108 In previous published work from our group, we evaluated how the cellular proteome was
109 impacted by loss of UBXD8 (Ganji et al., 2023). We generated UBXD8 KO HeLa and HEK 293T
110 cell lines and performed multiplexed, quantitative proteomics using tandem mass tags (TMT) on
111 triplicate wildtype and UBXD8 KO cells. Details on the analysis can be found in the original
112 manuscript (Ganji et al., 2023). This study enabled the elucidation of a novel role for the p97-
113 UBXD8 complex in regulating ER-mitochondria contact sites by modulating lipid desaturation and
114 membrane fluidity.

115 Intriguingly, further analysis of this dataset found that numerous peroxisomal proteins
116 were reproducibly depleted in both HeLa and HEK 293T UBXD8 KO cells (61 in HeLa and 65 in
117 HEK 293T) (Figure 1A, Supplementary Figure 1A, B). Ten of these proteins displayed a

118 statistically significant depletion in UBXD8 KO HeLa cells relative to wildtype (\log_2 fold change
119 (wildtype:KO) > 0.65 and $-\log_{10}$ p value >1.5) (Figure 1A). Depleted proteins were involved in a
120 variety of peroxisomal processes ranging from import to metabolic functions suggesting global
121 alterations in peroxisomes (Supplementary Figure 1C) (Bagattin, Hugendubler, & Mueller, 2010).
122 We found proteins crucial for biogenesis (PEX3, PEX16 and PEX26) as well as enzymes involved
123 in distinct lipid metabolic reactions such as ATP binding cassette subfamily D member 1 (ABCD1),
124 ATP binding cassette subfamily D member 3 (ABCD3), acyl-CoA dehydrogenase family member
125 11 (ACAD11) and acyl-CoA oxidase 3 (ACOX3) to be impacted (Figure 1B). We validated our
126 results by immunoblotting for a subset of these peroxisomal proteins in both HeLa and HEK293T
127 cells and found significant depletion in both cell lines (Figure 1C-D). Loss of peroxisomal proteins
128 was not due to deficits in transcription as transcript levels of most peroxisomal mRNAs were
129 generally not altered between wildtype and UBXD8 KO cells (Supplementary Figure 1D). Taken
130 together, our quantitative proteomic studies suggest UBXD8 maintains the abundance of many
131 peroxisomal proteins.

132

133 **Deletion of UBXD8 decreases peroxisome abundance.**

134 We next asked whether loss of peroxisomal proteins in UBXD8 KO cells impacted
135 peroxisome abundance. Wildtype and UBXD8 KO cells were stained with an antibody to catalase,
136 (a peroxisomal matrix marker) and peroxisome membrane protein 70 (PMP70 / ACBD3).
137 Peroxisome number per cell and size was measured using Aggrecount an automated image
138 analysis script developed in the lab (Klickstein, Mukkavalli, & Raman, 2020). We found that the
139 number of peroxisomes was decreased, and the size of peroxisomes was increased in the
140 absence of UBXD8 in HeLa cells (Figure 2A-B, Supplementary Figure 2A-B). Reduction in the
141 number of peroxisomes was further validated in HEK293T UBXD8 KO cells (Supplementary
142 Figure 2D-G), as well as by acute depletion with two distinct siRNAs (Supplementary Figure 2H-
143 J). Notably, ~10% of UBXD8 KO cells were completely devoid of peroxisomes (Figure 2C,

144 Supplementary Figure 2C). We note that UBXD8 deletion or depletion in other cell lines
145 consistently reduced peroxisome abundance but the increase in peroxisome size was unique to
146 HeLa cells. We used both knockout cells and siRNA depletion in key following studies.

147 In addition to its UBA and UBX domains, UBXD8 also contains a central UAS domain that
148 has been reported to interact with long chain unsaturated fatty acids (H. Kim et al., 2013). We
149 next asked if these domains were important in the role of UBXD8 in regulating peroxisome
150 abundance. UBXD8 KO cells were transfected with HA-tagged wildtype UBXD8 or individual UBA
151 or UBX domain point mutants that we have previously verified to lose interaction with ubiquitin
152 and p97 respectively (Ganji et al., 2023). We also transfected cells with a UAS domain deletion
153 mutant. While expression of wildtype UBXD8 rescued peroxisome abundance in UBXD8 KO cells
154 (Figure 2 D-F), point mutants in the UBA or UBX domain or deletion of the UAS domain did not
155 rescue as well as wildtype (Figure 2D-F). In summary, we find that UBXD8 deletion decreases
156 peroxisome abundance in multiple cell lines in a manner dependent on ubiquitin interaction and
157 p97 recruitment.

158

159 **Loss of peroxisomes in UBXD8 KO cells is not due to ER stress or ERAD inhibition.**

160 UBXD8 has important functions in ERAD to help prevent or alleviate ER stress (Schuberth
161 & Buchberger, 2008). Given that the ER can regulate peroxisome biogenesis, it is possible that
162 loss of UBXD8 and subsequent inhibition of ERAD could cause ER stress thus leading to
163 perturbed peroxisome abundance. We therefore systematically tested if loss of peroxisomes in
164 UBXD8 KO cells was a secondary consequence of ER stress. First, we asked if depletion of two
165 major E3 ligases that execute ERAD; HMG CoA reductase degradation 1 (HRD1) and GP78
166 (Schulz et al., 2017; Zhang, Xu, Liu, & Ye, 2015) impacted peroxisome abundance. HRD1
167 depletion with two siRNAs had small but significant changes in peroxisome numbers but there
168 was no concordance in phenotype between the two siRNAs and it did not phenocopy the UBXD8
169 deletion phenotype (Figure 3A and Supplementary Figure 3A-B). Similarly, a CRISPR generated

170 GP78 KO HEK293T cell line (Bersuker et al., 2018) had a small increase in peroxisome
171 abundance (Figure 3B and Supplementary Figure 3C-D). Thus, loss of ERAD E3s did not
172 recapitulate the UBXD8 KO phenotype. Second, we asked if alternate p97 ERAD adaptors such
173 as UBXD2 (Liang et al., 2006) regulated peroxisome abundance. We measured peroxisome
174 number and size in a HeLa UBXD2 KO cell line and found no significant change in peroxisome
175 abundance (Figure 3C-D). Third, we asked if simply increasing ER stress impacted peroxisome
176 numbers. We treated cells with tunicamycin which causes protein misfolding in the ER by
177 preventing N-linked glycosylation but observed no impact on peroxisome number (Supplementary
178 Figure 3E-G). Finally, we asked if there was increased ER stress in UBXD8 KO cells by assessing
179 levels of the ER chaperone binding immunoglobulin protein (BiP), activating transcription factor 4
180 (ATF4) by immunoblot, and transcript levels of *x box binding protein 1 spliced* (*xbp1_s*) by
181 quantitative real time PCR. Wildtype cells were treated with dithiothreitol (DTT), to induce ER
182 stress as a positive control. We found an increase in BiP, ATF4, and *xbp1_s* levels in wildtype cells
183 treated with DTT. However, the levels of these markers were unchanged in UBXD8 KO cells
184 (Figure 3E-F). Thus, we conclude that the decrease in peroxisome abundance in UBXD8 KO
185 cells is not due to altered ER protein homeostasis.

186

187 **UBXD8 KO cells have dysfunctional peroxisomes**

188 Loss of peroxisomes (for example in PBD) causes decreased plasmalogen and
189 cholesterol levels as well as an accumulation of VLCFAs and phytanic acid (Aubourg & Wanders,
190 2013; Faust & Kovacs, 2014). We had previously performed lipidomics in wildtype and UBXD8
191 KO cells and re-analyzed that dataset to evaluate acyl chain lengths in the major classes of lipids.
192 (Ganji et al., 2023). We found a significant accumulation of very long chain fatty acyl chains in
193 cholesterol esters (CE), triacylglycerides (TG) and distinct phospholipid species in UBXD8 KO
194 cells compared to wildtype cells (Figure 4A-B). These lipids were conjugated with acyl chains
195 ranging from 28 to 56 hydrocarbons indicative of an increase in very long chain fatty acids (Figure

196 4A-B). We also investigated peroxisome function by evaluating catalase activity in wildtype and
197 UBXD8 KO cells. We found a decrease in catalase activity in UBXD8 KO cells compared to
198 wildtype cells (Figure 4D). However, catalase levels were comparable between wildtype and
199 UBXD8 KO cells (Figure 4E). This is likely due to the known redistribution of catalase to the
200 cytoplasm in cells lacking peroxisomes. Thus, the loss of peroxisomes in UBXD8 KO cells leads
201 to perturbed lipid metabolism and decreased catalase activity.

202

203 **UBXD8 localizes to peroxisomes.**

204 While UBXD8 is localized to the ER, recent studies have found that endogenous UBXD8
205 can also localize to mitochondria and lipid droplets to regulate organelle function (Zheng, Cao, et
206 al., 2022). Intriguingly, a recent proteomics analysis of purified peroxisomes identified UBXD8 as
207 a putative peroxisome localized protein (Ray et al., 2020). We therefore asked whether UBXD8
208 could localize to peroxisomes. We transiently transfected COS-7 and HeLa cells with UBXD8-
209 GFP and RFP-SKL (a type 1 peroxisome targeting sequence). Cells were also labelled with
210 BODIPY (665/676) to label lipid droplets. As previously reported, GFP-UBXD8 was found on the
211 surface of lipid droplets (Figure 5A). Notably, we observed robust localization of UBXD8 to
212 peroxisomes, with UBXD8 forming a ring around peroxisome labelled with RFP-SKL (Figure 5A).
213 We also found endogenous UBXD8 localized to peroxisomes (Supplementary Figure 4A). To
214 characterize which UBXD8 domains contribute to peroxisome localization, we transfected UBXD8
215 KO cells with wildtype or UBXD8 mutants in the UBA, UAS and UBX domains (both point and
216 deletion mutants). UBXD8 without the UBA domain less efficiently targeted to peroxisomes
217 (Figure 5B-C and Supplementary Figure 4 B-C). These studies suggest that UBXD8 localizes to
218 peroxisomes in a manner dependent on ubiquitin association.

219

220 **p97-UBXD8 suppress pexophagy by targeting ubiquitylated PMP70.**

221 Given the role of p97-UBXD8 in the extraction and degradation of organelle localized
222 membrane proteins and the loss of peroxisomes in UBXD8 KO cells, we asked if this complex
223 participated in pexophagy. We used a peroxisomal flux reporter that consisted of a tandem
224 chimera of mCherry and eGFP fused to the peroxisome membrane targeting sequence of PEX26
225 (J. Zhang et al., 2015; Zheng, Chen, Liu, Zhong, & Zhuang, 2022). Both mCherry and eGFP
226 fluorescence (yellow puncta) is observed for healthy peroxisomes or those residing in
227 autophagosomes. However, peroxisomes in lysosomes only harbor the mCherry signal as the
228 GFP fluorophore is quenched in the acidic lumen of the lysosome (Figure 6A). Wildtype and
229 UBXD8 KO cells were transiently transfected with eGFP–mCherry–PEX26 and cells were treated
230 with Torin1 a pan-mTOR inhibitor (J. Zhang et al., 2015; Zheng, Chen, et al., 2022) to stimulate
231 pexophagy. As expected Torin1 treatment resulted in activation of pexophagy and loss of
232 peroxisomes in wildtype cells and UBXD8 KO cells (Supplementary Figure 5A-B). We quantified
233 the ratio of GFP:mCherry and found a significant loss in eGFP signal in UBXD8 KO cells
234 compared to wildtype cells under basal conditions which was further stimulated in the presence
235 of Torin1 (Figure 6B-C). To assess a role for p97 in this process, we used siRNA to knockdown
236 p97 and found that loss of p97 also enhanced pexophagy in untreated and Torin1 treated cells
237 (Figure 6D-F). Together our results indicate that both p97 and UBXD8 suppress peroxisome
238 degradation.

239 To confirm that increased autophagy was responsible for loss of peroxisomes in UBXD8
240 loss of function cells, we depleted ATG5, an essential autophagy protein responsible for
241 phagophore elongation (Kuma et al., 2004; Mizushima et al., 2001). We found that depletion of
242 ATG5 in UBXD8 loss of function cells was sufficient to rescue peroxisome abundance (Figure 7A-
243 C and Supplementary Figure 6A-C). To further validate this finding, we over-expressed GFP-
244 USP30, deubiquitylating enzyme necessary for suppressing pexophagy during amino acid
245 starvation (Marcassa et al., 2018; Riccio et al., 2019). UBXD8 KO cells expressing GFP-USP30
246 had increased peroxisome numbers compared to untransfected cells (Figure 7D-F). NBR1 is the

247 key autophagy receptor for pexophagy. We immunostained wildtype and UBXD8 KO cells with
248 for NBR1 and catalase and found increased co-localization of peroxisomes with NBR1 in UBXD8
249 KO cells (Figure 7G-H).

250 Ubiquitylation of peroxisomal membrane proteins is the signal for pexophagy. A number
251 of studies have found that the membrane protein PMP70 and the import receptor PEX5 are
252 ubiquitylated under various settings to stimulate pexophagy (Ott et al., 2022; Sargent et al., 2016;
253 J. Zhang et al., 2015; Zheng, Chen, et al., 2022). Indeed, we found that treatment of cells with
254 Torin-1 decreased the half-life of PMP70 whereas the autophagy inhibitor Bafilomycin A
255 prolonged it (Figure 8A-B). Moreover, we found increased ubiquitylation of PMP70 in cells treated
256 with the proteasome inhibitor Bortezomib or Bafilomycin A under conditions that stimulated
257 pexophagy (Figure 8C). We therefore asked whether ubiquitylation of PMP70 was perturbed in
258 cells depleted for p97 or UBXD8. We find that depletion of either p97 or UBXD8 resulted in an
259 increase in ubiquitylated PMP70 (Figure 8D). Collectively, our studies suggest that loss of p97-
260 UBXD8 causes failure to degrade PMP70 leading to the loss of peroxisomes due to increased
261 pexophagy (Figure 8E).

262

263 **Discussion**

264 In this study we find a novel role for p97 and its adaptor UBXD8 in maintenance of
265 peroxisome numbers by suppressing pexophagy. Our previous study examining how the
266 proteome was altered by deletion of UBXD8 identified widespread loss of peroxisomal proteins in
267 UBXD8 KO cells (Figure 1). We show that the loss of peroxisomal proteins is due to the significant
268 depletion of peroxisomes (Figure 2). UBXD8 has been extensively characterized as a p97 adaptor
269 in ER-associated degradation (ERAD). The ER is essential for peroxisome homeostasis; and acts
270 as the site for biogenesis of pre-peroxisomal vesicles (P. K. Kim, Mullen, Schumann, & Lippincott-
271 Schwartz, 2006; van der Zand, Gent, Braakman, & Tabak, 2012) and a donor of membrane lipids
272 via ER-peroxisome contact sites (Joshi, 2021; Kors et al., 2022). Thus, it is possible that

273 peroxisome loss in UBXD8 deleted cells was a secondary consequence of perturbed ER function.
274 However, using a suite of complementary studies we conclude that the loss of peroxisomes in
275 UBXD8 deficient cells is independent of its role in ERAD (Figure 3). Contact sites between the
276 ER and peroxisomes are reported to provide lipids for growth of their peroxisomal membranes (
277 Shai, Schuldiner, & Zalckvar, 2016, Joshi, 2021; Kors et al., 2022). The peroxisomal membrane
278 protein acyl-CoA binding domain containing 5 (ACBD5) tethers peroxisomes to the ER through
279 interaction with vesicle-associated membrane protein-associated proteins B (VAPB) (Kors et al.,
280 2022). This tethering complex may help facilitate lipid transport from the ER to peroxisomes.
281 Notably, we have shown that p97-UBXD8 regulates ER-mitochondria contact sites and UBXD8
282 is enriched at these contacts (Ganji et al., 2023). It remains to be determined whether UBXD8
283 also localizes to and regulates ER-peroxisome contacts and warrants future investigation.

284 UBXD8 is localized on mitochondria and lipid droplets where it has been demonstrated to
285 recruit p97 for the extraction and degradation of membrane proteins (Olzmann et al., 2013; Zheng,
286 Cao, et al., 2022). This feature is reminiscent of its role in ERAD. In this study we also identified
287 UBXD8 localized to peroxisomes in a manner dependent on ubiquitin association (Figure 5). How
288 UBXD8 localizes to peroxisomes is currently unknown. It may be by directly inserted into the
289 peroxisomal membrane after translation or by migration from the ER. Intriguingly, a previous study
290 by the Kopito group found that Pex19 was essential for inserting UBXD8 into the ER (Schrul &
291 Kopito, 2016). That study also found that sites of insertion were in close apposition to peroxisomes
292 using a semi-permeabilized system and in vitro translated UBXD8. While we observe localization
293 of UBXD8 to peroxisomes, given the resolution limitation of our imaging studies it is possible that
294 these peroxisomes may be in contact ER-localized UBXD8.

295 Several lines of evidence support the finding that the loss of peroxisomes in UBXD8 null
296 cells is due to increased pexophagy (Figures 6-8). Using a peroxisomal flux reporter we show that
297 loss of p97 or UBXD8 increases flux of peroxisomes through autophagy in untreated cells and
298 increases under conditions that stimulate pexophagy. We further show that peroxisome numbers

299 in UBXD8 null cells can be restored to wildtype levels by depleting the autophagy initiating protein
300 ATG5 or by over-expressing the deubiquitylate USP30. p97 has multiple unique roles in
301 autophagy. p97 associates with the deubiquitylase ataxin-3 to stabilize Bcl-2 interacting protein
302 (BECLIN1), a key constituent of phosphatidylinositol-3-kinase (PI3K) complex I (Ricchio et al.,
303 2019). p97 has also been shown to regulate the fusion of autophagosomes with lysosomes,
304 however the mechanism remains poorly understood (Ju et al., 2009). p97 regulates other
305 selective autophagy processes such as mitophagy and lysophagy (Ahlstedt, Ganji, & Raman,
306 2022; Papadopoulos et al., 2017; Tanaka et al., 2010; Zheng, Cao, et al., 2022), so perhaps it is
307 not surprising that it also regulates the selective degradation of peroxisomes. However, we would
308 like to draw a key distinction for the role of p97 in pexophagy versus other forms of selective
309 autophagy. While loss of p97 activity inhibits mitophagy and lysophagy, we find that p97 depletion
310 *enhances* pexophagy. In mitophagy and lysophagy, p97 mediates the selective extraction of K48-
311 linked ubiquitylated substrates for proteasomal degradation. This degradation may help expose
312 K63-linked ubiquitylated substrates for efficient recruitment of autophagy receptors
313 (Papadopoulos et al., 2017). Notably, a recent study found that another AAA-ATPase ATAD1 may
314 be involved in the degradation of PEX5 when it cannot recycle efficiently (Ott et al., 2022). Thus,
315 multiple mechanisms likely exist to maintain peroxisome abundance and functionality.

316 Ubiquitylation of peroxisomal proteins serves as a signal for autophagic degradation. Early
317 studies demonstrated that ubiquitin fused to PEX3 or PMP34 on the peroxisomal membrane was
318 sufficient for recognition of peroxisomes by the autophagy receptor p62 and NBR1 (P. K. Kim,
319 Hailey, Mullen, & Lippincott-Schwartz, 2008, Deosaran et al., 2013). Indeed, we find greater co-
320 localization of NBR1 with peroxisomes in UBXD8 null cells (Figure 7). Several E3 ligases have
321 been identified to ubiquitylate peroxisomal proteins. PEX2, a component of the peroxisomal E3
322 ubiquitin ligase complex ubiquitylates the import receptor PEX5 and the membrane protein
323 PMP70 (Sargent et al., 2016). MARCH5 has also been shown to ubiquitylate PMP70 (Zheng,
324 Chen, et al., 2022). We find that loss of p97 and UBXD8 causes the accumulation of ubiquitin

325 modified PMP70 (Figure 8). PMP70 and PEX5 are the most well characterized peroxisomal
326 proteins whose ubiquitylation triggers pexophagy. Given the promiscuity of other autophagy E3
327 ubiquitin ligases, PEX2 and other E3 ligases likely ubiquitylate additional peroxisomal membrane
328 proteins that remain to be identified. While a number of studies have systematically identified
329 ubiquitylated proteins on the surface of mitochondria and peroxisomes (Deosaran et al., 2013;
330 Ordureau et al., 2014; Sargent et al., 2016) this has not been done in the case of peroxisomes.
331 It is likely that more peroxisomal membrane proteins are ubiquitylated than currently appreciated.
332 An inventory of these proteins is needed to fully understand the mechanisms regulating
333 pexophagy.

334 Our findings demonstrate the p97-UBXD8 complex as a novel regulator of peroxisome
335 quality control, highlighting the intricate balance of degradation and recycling necessary to
336 maintain peroxisome homeostasis.

337

338 **Figure Legends (Main and supplemental)**

339 **Figure 1: Quantitative proteomics identifies a role for UBXD8 in regulating peroxisome**
340 **protein abundance.**

341 **A.** Volcano plot of the ($-\log_{10}$ -transformed P value *versus* the \log_2 -transformed ratio of wildtype/
342 UBXD8 KO) proteins identified from HeLa cells. $n = 3$ biologically independent samples for each
343 genotype. P values were determined by empirical Bayesian statistical methods (two-tailed t test
344 adjusted for multiple comparisons using Benjamini-Hochberg's correction method) using the
345 *LIMMA* R package; for parameters, individual P values and q values, see Supplementary
346 Dataset. Peroxisomal proteins important for biogenesis (dark blue) and metabolism (red) are
347 highlighted. This dataset has been previously published in (Ganji et al., 2023) and is reanalyzed
348 here. **B.** Schematic of tandem mass tag (TMT) proteomic hits in distinct peroxisomal pathways.
349 **C.** Peroxisomal proteins identifies in (A) show reduced expression in UBXD8 KO compared to
350 wildtype HeLa and Hek293T cells. **D.** Quantification of (C). **** : $P < 0.0001$, $N=3$, Unpaired T-test.

351

352 **Figure 2: Deletion of UBXD8 perturbs peroxisome abundance. A.** HeLa wildtype and UBXD8
353 KO cells stained for peroxisomes using peroxisomal matrix marker catalase **B.** Quantification of
354 average peroxisome per cell and average peroxisome size from (A). At least 100 cells were
355 analyzed in N=3 independent experiments. Violin plot shows median and 95% confidence
356 intervals **** : P<0.0001, N=3, Unpaired T-test. **C.** Peroxisome abundance in wildtype and UBXD8
357 KO cells that have either no peroxisomes or less than 10 peroxisomes per cell. **D.** Rescue of
358 peroxisome number in UBXD8 KO cells transfected with either UBXD8-HA, UBXD8-UBA*-HA,
359 UBXD8-ΔUAS-HA or UBXD8-UBX*-HA. Cells were stained for peroxisomes using peroxisomal
360 matrix marker catalase. **E.** Quantification of average peroxisome per cell from HeLa wildtype and
361 UBXD8 KO cells as well as UBXD8 KO cells transfected with either UBXD8-HA, UBXD8-UBA*-
362 HA, UBXD8-ΔUAS-HA or UBXD8-UBX*-HA (D). Peroxisome numbers were quantified in cells
363 expressing HA-tagged UBXD8 constructs only. At least 100 cells were analyzed in N=3
364 independent experiments. Violin plot shows median and 95% confidence intervals **, **** :
365 P<0.05, 0.0001. Two-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test. **F.** Immunoblots of
366 constructs transfected. Scale bar is 10μM.

367

368 **Figure 3: ER stress does not contribute to loss of peroxisomes in UBXD8 null cells. A.** HeLa
369 cells were transfected with siRNAs to HRD1, and cells were stained for catalase (see also
370 Supplementary Figure 3). Quantification of number of peroxisomes per cell, at least 100 cells
371 were analyzed in N=3 independent experiments. Violin plot shows median and 95% confidence
372 intervals. ns: not significant, **** : P<0.0001. One-way ANOVA with Dunnett's multiple
373 comparisons test. **B.** Quantification of peroxisome per cell in HEK293T wildtype and GP78 KO
374 cells. At least 100 cells were analyzed in N=3 independent experiments. Violin plot shows median
375 and 95% confidence intervals. **** : P<0.0001. Unpaired T-test. **C.** HeLa wildtype and UBXD2

376 KO cells stained for peroxisomes using catalase. **D.** Quantification of peroxisome per cell from
377 (C). At least 100 cells were analyzed in N=3 independent experiments. Violin plot shows median
378 and 95% confidence intervals. NS: not significant. Unpaired T-test. **E.** Immunoblots of HeLa
379 wildtype (untreated or treated with DTT) and UBXD8 KO for ER stress markers BiP and ATF4.
380 N=3, **F.** rt-qPCR of *xbp1* total and *xbp1* spliced (*xbp1s*) mRNA transcripts in wildtype and UBXD8
381 KO cells treated with 1.5 mM DTT for 4 hours. N=3. NS: Not significant, *, **** : P < 0.01, 0.0001.
382 Two-way ANOVA with Dunnett's post-hoc analysis. Scale bar is 10 μ M.

383

384 **Figure 4: Depletion of UBXD8 results in increase of VLCFAs and a loss in catalase activity.**

385 **A.** Volcano plot of the total cholesterol esters and triacylglycerol species identified using lipidomics
386 of whole cell extracts of HEK-293T cells (-log₁₀-transformed P value versus the log₂-transformed
387 ratio of UBXD8 KO: wildtype). VLCFA species indicated for CE (orange) and TG (dark blue). This
388 dataset has been previously published in (Ganji et al., 2023) and is reanalyzed here. **B.** VLCFA
389 species indicated for phosphatidylserine (PS) (green), phosphatidylethanolamine (PE) (red) and
390 phosphatidylcholine (PC) (violet). Lipids were measured by LC-MS/MS following normalization by
391 total protein amount. (n \geq 3 biologically independent experiments were performed, each with
392 duplicate samples). This dataset has been previously published in (Ganji et al., 2023) and is
393 reanalyzed here. **C.** Immunoblots of catalase levels in whole cell lysates of HeLa wildtype and
394 UBXD8 KO cells. **D.** Quantification of catalase levels in (C). N=3 independent experiments. NS:
395 not significant. Unpaired T-test. **E.** Catalase activity was quantified using a commercial kit. N=3
396 independent experiments. ** : P<0.0001, Unpaired T-Test.

397

398 **Figure 5: UBXD8 localizes to peroxisomes. A.** GFP-UBXD8 and RFP-SKL were transiently

399 transfected into COS-7 or HeLa cells and stained with BODIPY (665/676) to label lipid droplets.

400 **B.** HeLa cells were transfected with FLAG-tagged wildtype UBXD8 or UBXD8 domain deletions
401 (UBA, UAS and UBX) (in green) and RFP-SKL (in red). **C.** Quantification of (B) showing number

402 of peroxisomes with UBXD8 localization. 15-20 cells were analyzed in N=3 independent
403 experiments. Scatter plot shows mean and std.dev. ns: not significant, ** : P<0.001. One-way
404 ANOVA with Dunnett's multiple comparisons test. Scale bar is 5 μ M.

405

406 **Figure 6: p97-UBXD8 suppress pexophagy.** **A.** Schematic for pexophagy flux reporter. **B.**
407 Representative images of wildtype and UBXD8 KO cells transfected with GFP-Cherry-PEX26. **C.**
408 Wildtype and UBXD8 KO cells were transfected with the flux reporter and treated with 150 nM
409 Torin1 for 18 hours. Quantification showing the ratio of GFP: (GFP+mCherry+) in HeLa wildtype
410 and UBXD8 KO cells. 50-100 cells were analyzed in N=3 independent experiments. Violin plot
411 shows median and 95% confidence intervals. **, ***, **** : P<0.01, 0.001, 0.0001. Two-way
412 ANOVA with Šidáks multiple comparisons test. **D.** Representative images of HeLa control or p97
413 siRNAs and GFP-Cherry-PEX26. **E.** Quantification showing the ratio of GFP: (GFP+mCherry+) in
414 HeLa control, or p97 depleted cells. 50-100 cells were analyzed in N=3 independent experiments.
415 Violin plot shows median and 95% confidence intervals. *, **, **** : P<0.05, 0.001, 0.0001. Two-
416 way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test. **F.** Immunoblot showing p97. Scale bar is 10
417 μ M.

418

419 **Figure 7: Depletion of ATG5 and over-expression of USP30 rescues pexophagy in UBXD8**
420 **deleted cells**

421 **A.** Representative images of HeLa cells transfected with control and UBXD8 or ATG5 siRNAs
422 and stained for catalase. **B.** Quantification of peroxisomes per cell from (A). 50-100 cells were
423 analyzed in N=3 independent experiments. Violin plot shows median and 95% confidence
424 intervals. **** = P<0.0001. Two-way ANOVA with Dunnett's multiple comparisons test. **C.**
425 Immunoblot of UBXD8 and ATG5. **D.** Representative images of HeLa cells (wildtype and UBXD8
426 KO) transfected with GFP-USP30. Cells were stained for catalase. **E.** Quantification of

427 peroxisomes per cell in GFP-USP30 transfected cells. 50-100 cells were analyzed in N=3
428 independent experiments. Violin plot shows median and 95% confidence intervals. ***, **** = P<
429 0.001, 0.0001. Two-way ANOVA with Dunnett's multiple comparisons test N=3, 2-way ANOVA.
430 **F.** Immunoblot of GFP-USP30 expression. **G.** Wildtype and UBXD8 KO HeLa cells were stained
431 with NBR1 and catalase. **H.** Mander's colocalization of images in (G). 100-120 cells were
432 analyzed in N=3 independent experiments. Violin plot shows median and 95% confidence
433 intervals. **** :P< 0.0001. Students unpaired T-test. **F.** Immunoblot of GFP-USP30 expression.
434 Scale bar is 10 μ M (A and D) and 5 μ M (G).

435
436 **Figure 8: Persistent PMP70 ubiquitylation in cells depleted of p97-UBXD8.** **A.** HEK293T cells
437 were treated with 150 nM Torin or 50 nM bafilomycin A (BafA) for 24 hours and then with 100 μ g/
438 ml cycloheximide for the indicated time points to stop translation. Immunoblots showing PMP70
439 half-life. **B.** Quantification of PMP70 levels normalized to GAPDH from (A). N=3 independent
440 experiments. **, *** : P< 0.01, 0.001. Two-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test.
441 **C.** HEK293T cells were transfected with HA-ubiquitin and treated with 150 nM Torin-1 in the
442 presence or absence of 5 μ M Bortezomib (Btz) or 50 nM BafA for 24 hours. Cells were lysed in
443 SDS, and denaturing HA immunoprecipitations were performed. Immunoblots of indicated
444 proteins showing increased ubiquitylation of PMP70 in cells treated with Btz or BafA. N=3
445 independent experiments. **D.** HEK293T cells were transfected with HA-ubiquitin and siRNAs to
446 control, UBXD8 or p97. Cells were treated with 150 nM Torin-1 for 24 hours. Cells were lysed in
447 SDS, and denaturing HA immunoprecipitations were performed. Immunoblots of indicated
448 proteins showing increased ubiquitylation of PMP70 in cells depleted of UBXD8 and p97. N=3
449 independent experiments. **E.** Model showing p97-UBXD8 suppression of pexophagy.

450

451 **Supplementary Figure 1: Quantitative proteomics of wildtype and UBXD8 KO cells**
452 **identified loss of peroxisomal proteins. A.** Volcano plot of the ($-\log_{10}$ -transformed P value
453 *versus* the \log_2 -transformed ratio of wildtype/ UBXD8 KO) proteins identified from HEK293T cells.
454 $n = 3$ biologically independent samples for each genotype. P values were determined by empirical
455 Bayesian statistical methods (two-tailed t test adjusted for multiple comparisons using Benjamini-
456 Hochberg's correction method) using the *LIMMA* R package; for parameters, individual P values
457 and q values, see (Ganji et al., 2023) for dataset. Peroxisomal proteins are shown in green filled
458 circles. Outlines indicate proteins involved in biogenesis (dark blue) and metabolism (red). **B.**
459 Correlation of two HEK293T UBXD8 KO clones used for TMT analysis. **C.** Bubble plot
460 representing significantly enriched GO clusters identified from TMT proteomics of CRISPR
461 UBXD8 KO (black) and wildtype (blue) cells. Size of the circle indicates the number of genes
462 identified in each cluster. **D.** RT-qPCR assessment of different peroxisomal transcripts in wildtype
463 and UBXD8 KO cells. $N=3$ independent experiments. Graph shows mean and std.dev. NS: Not
464 significant. *, **, ***: $P < 0.05, 0.01, 0.001$ Students unpaired T-test

465
466 **Supplementary Figure 2: UBXD8 deletion leads to loss of peroxisomes in multiple cell**
467 **lines. A.** HeLa wildtype and UBXD8 KO cells stained for peroxisomes using peroxisomal
468 membrane protein PMP-70. **B.** Quantification of peroxisomes per cell and peroxisome size in (A).
469 50-100 cells were analyzed in $N=3$ independent experiments. Violin plot shows median and 95%
470 confidence intervals. **** = $P < 0.0001$ unpaired T test. **C.** Peroxisome numbers in wildtype and
471 UBXD8 KO cells that have either no peroxisomes or less than 10 peroxisomes per cell. NS: Not
472 significant, * = $P < 0.05$ unpaired T test. **D.** HEK293T wildtype and UBXD8 KO cells stained for
473 peroxisomes using peroxisomal matrix protein catalase. **E.** Quantification of peroxisomes per cell
474 and peroxisome size from (D). 50-100 cells were analyzed in $N=3$ independent experiments.
475 Violin plot shows median and 95% confidence intervals. ****: $P < 0.0001, N=3, \text{Unpaired T-test}$. **F**
476 **and G.** Same as D and E but stained for PMP70. **H.** HeLa cells were transfected with control r

477 two different UBXD8 siRNAs and stained for catalase. **J.** Quantification of peroxisomes per cell
478 and peroxisome size from (H). 50-100 cells were analyzed in N=3 independent experiments.
479 Violin plot shows median and 95% confidence intervals. NS: Not significant, ***, **** : P <0.001,
480 0.0001. Unpaired T-test. **J.** Immunoblot showing UBXD8 depletion. Scale bar is 10 μ M (A, D, F)
481 and 5 μ M (H).

482

483 **Supplementary Figure 3: ER stress does not contribute to loss of peroxisomes in UBXD8**
484 **KO cells.** **A.** HeLa cells were transfected with control or two different HRD1 siRNAs and stained
485 for catalase. **B.** Immunoblot showing depletion of Hrd1. **C.** HEK293T wildtype cells and GP78
486 KO cells stained for catalase. **D.** Immunoblot of GP78 KO. **E.** HFT wildtype cells treated with
487 tunicamycin (2.5 μ M for 4hrs) and stained for catalase. **F.** Quantification of peroxisomes per cell
488 from (E). 50-100 cells were analyzed in N=4 independent experiments. Violin plot shows median
489 and 95% confidence intervals. NS: Not significant. Unpaired T-test. **G.** Immunoblot of BiP
490 induction in tunicamycin (Tu) treated cells. Scale bar is 10 μ M.

491

492 **Supplementary Figure 4: Endogenous UBXD8 localizes to peroxisomes in a ubiquitin**
493 **dependent manner.** **A.** HeLa cells were transiently transfected with SKL-GFP to label
494 peroxisomes and immunostained with an antibody to UBXD8 (red). **B.** HeLa cells were transiently
495 transfected with FLAG-tagged wildtype UBXD8 or UBXD8 domain mutants (UBA and UBX) (in
496 green) and RFP-SKL (in red). **C.** Quantification of (B) showing number of peroxisomes with
497 UBXD8 localization. 15-20 cells were analyzed in N=3 independent experiments. Scatter plot
498 shows mean and std.dev. ns: not significant, NS: Not significant. ****: P < 0.0001. One-way
499 ANOVA with Dunnett's multiple comparisons test. Scale bar is 5 μ M.

500

501 **Supplementary Figure 5: Torin1 treatment induces loss of peroxisomes. A.** HeLa wildtype
502 and UBXD8 KO cells were treated with Torin1 (1 μ M for 16hrs) stained for peroxisomes using
503 catalase. **(B)** Quantification of peroxisomes per cell. 100-150 cells were analyzed in N=3
504 independent experiments. Violin plot shows median and 95% confidence intervals. **, **** : P <
505 0.01, 0.0001. Two-way ANOVA with Dunnett's multiple comparisons test. Scale bar is 5 μ M.

506

507 **Supplementary Figure 6: Depletion of ATG5 rescues peroxisome abundance. A.** HeLa
508 wildtype and UBXD8 KO cells were depleted of ATG5 using siRNA. Cells were stained for
509 peroxisomes using catalase. **B.** Quantification of peroxisome abundance from (A). 100-150 cells
510 were analyzed in N=3 independent experiments. Violin plot shows median and 95% confidence
511 intervals. *, **** : P < 0.05, 0.0001. Two-way ANOVA with Dunnett's multiple comparisons test.
512 Scale bar is 10 μ M. **C.** Immunoblot showing ATG5 depletion.

513

514 **Material and Methods**

515 **Cell Culture and Treatments**

516 HeLa-Flp-IN-TREX (HFTs (ThermoFisher Cat# R71407) with introduced Flp-In site (Flp-In™ T-
517 REX™ Core Kit, Cat# K650001; ThermoFisher Scientific is a gift from Brian Raught, University of
518 Toronto), COS7 and HEK-293T (ATCC) cells were cultured in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's
519 medium, supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS) and 100 units/ml penicillin and
520 streptomycin. Cells were maintained in a humidified, 5% CO₂ atmosphere at 37 °C. For siRNA
521 transfections, cells were either forward or reverse transfected with 20 nM siRNA using
522 Lipofectamine RNAiMax (Invitrogen) in a 12- or 6-well plates according to the manufacturer's
523 protocol. After 24 or 48 hours depending on the study, cells were split into 12-well plates for further
524 analysis. 48 or 72 hours post transfection, cells were harvested for immunoblot or fixation for
525 immunofluorescence. For DNA transfections, 0.5 μ g HA- and FLAG-tagged wildtype UBXD8 and

526 domain deletions, 0.5 µg HA-/FLAG-tagged UBXD8 UBX domain mutant (FPR to AAA), 0.5 µg
527 HA-/FLAG-tagged UBXD8 UAS domain deletion, 0.5 µg HA-/FLAG-tagged UBXD8 UBA domain
528 mutant (LLQF to AAAA), 0.25 µg GFP-USP30, 0.25 µg RFP-SKL, 0.5 µg GFP-Cherry-PEX26_{TM}
529 constructs were forward transfected into cells seeded in either a 6-well or 12-well plate using
530 Lipofectamine 2000 (Invitrogen). The cells were then harvested 48 or 72 hours post transfection.
531 Cells were lysed in mammalian cell lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-Cl, pH 6.8, 150 mM NaCl, 0.5%
532 Nonidet P-40, HALT Protease inhibitors (Pierce) and 1 mM DTT). Cells were incubated at 4 °C for
533 10 min and then centrifuged at 19,000 × g for 15 min at 4 °C. The supernatant was collected, and
534 protein concentration was estimated using the DC protein assay kit (Biorad).

535

536 **Antibodies and Chemicals**

537 The p97 (10736-1-AP; WB: 1:2000), UBXD8 (16251-1-AP; WB: 1:2000), UBXD2 (21052-1-AP;
538 WB: 1:2000), HRD1 (13473-1-AP; WB: 1:2000), AMFR/GP78 (16675-1-AP; WB: 1:2000), VAPB
539 (14477-1-AP; WB: 1:2000), PEX5 (Eun et al., 2018) (12545-1-AP; WB 1:500), PEX19 (14713-1-
540 AP; WB 1:1000), MLYCD (15265-1-AP; WB 1:2000), PECR (14901-1-AP; WB 1:1000), DECR
541 (25855-1-AP; WB 1:1000), PMP70/ABCD3 (66697-1-Ig; WB 1:1000; IF 1:400), PEX3 (10946-1-
542 AP; WB 1:1000), ACBD5 (21080-1-AP; WB 1:1000), GFP(66002-1-AP; WB: 1:2000) and ATG5
543 (10181-2-AP; WB 1:1000) antibodies were from Proteintech Inc. The pan-ubiquitin (P4D1;
544 sc8017; WB: 1:2000), c-Myc (9E10; sc40; WB: 1:2000), β-Actin (AC-15; sc69879; WB: 1:2000),
545 and GAPDH (O411; sc47724; WB: 1:2000) antibodies were obtained from Santa Cruz
546 Biotechnologies. LC3B (D11; 3868S; WB: 1:1000), Catalase (12980; WB 1:1000; IF 1:800), and
547 BiP (C50B12; 3177T; WB: 1:2000) were from Cell Signaling Technologies. p97 (A300-589A; WB:
548 1:2000) was from Bethyl Laboratories. The following antibodies anti-HA (16B12; MMS-101P,
549 Covance; WB: 1:2500), anti-FLAG (M2; F3165 Sigma Aldrich; WB: 1:5000), were used for
550 immunoblotting. HRP conjugated anti-rabbit (W401B; WB: 1:10,000) and anti-mouse (W402B;
551 WB: 1:10,000) secondary antibodies were from Promega. Goat anti-Mouse IgG (H + L) Cross-

552 Adsorbed Secondary Antibody, Alexa Fluor™ 568 (Catalog # A-11004; IF: 1:10,000), and Goat
553 anti-Mouse IgG (H + L) Cross-Adsorbed Secondary Antibody, Alexa Fluor™ 488 (Catalog # A-
554 11001; IF: 1:10,000) were purchased from Thermofisher Scientific. CB-5083 was from
555 Selleckchem. siRNAs were purchased from Ambion (Thermo Fisher Scientific): UBXD8-0
556 (s23260), UBXD8-9 (s23259). HRD1-3 (D-007090-03), and HRD1-4 (D-007090-04) were
557 purchased from GE Dharmacon. siControl (SIC001) was from Millipore Sigma. p97 siRNAs (2-
558 HSS111263 and 3-HSS111264), UBXD8-C-HA/FLAG construct was previously published
559 (Raman, Havens, Walter, & Harper, 2011). The UBXD8 rescue constructs, including UBA*
560 (¹⁷LLQF²⁰ mutated to ¹⁷AAAA²⁰), ΔUAS (deleted amino acids between 122-277), and UBX*
561 (⁴⁰⁷FPR⁴⁰⁹ mutated to ⁴⁰⁷AAA⁴⁰⁹), were cloned using overlap PCR followed by Gibson assembly
562 (NEB) cloning into pHAGE-C-HA/FLAG. Torin1 (502050475) and Clofibrate (08-241-G) are from
563 Fisher Scientific. Cycloheximide (97064-724) is from VWR International.

564

565 **Immunofluorescence and Microscopy**

566 HFT and HEK293T cells were plated on # 1.5 glass coverslips in a 12-well plate. Following
567 indicated treatments, cells were fixed in 4 % paraformaldehyde (PFA) (15710-S Electron
568 Microscopy Sciences) diluted in PBS for 15 minutes at room temperature. Next, cells were
569 washed in PBS and permeabilized in ice-cold 100% methanol at – 20 °C for 10 min. Cells
570 were then washed three times in PBS and incubated in blocking buffer (1 % BSA, 0.3 %
571 Triton-X100 for 1 hour at room temperature. Primary antibodies were diluted to the
572 indicated concentrations in blocking buffer and coverslips were incubated overnight at 4
573 °C in a humidified chamber. Coverslips were then washed three times in PBS and
574 incubated in secondary antibodies diluted to the indicated concentrations in blocking
575 buffer for 1.5 hour at room temperature. The secondary antibody solution was replaced
576 with Hoechst diluted in blocking buffer and incubated for 5 minutes at room temperature.

577 Coverslips were washed three times with PBS and mounted to slides with ProLong Gold
578 antifade mounting media (P36930 Invitrogen). All images were collected using Zeiss
579 LSM800 confocal microscope equipped with Airyscan. Images were taken at 63 X (with
580 oil) magnification. The indicated fluorophores were excited with a 405, 488, or 594 nm
581 laser line.

582

583 **Image analysis**

584 Images were analyzed using FIJI (<https://imagej.net/fiji>). Peroxisome number per cell and
585 size was measured using an automated image analysis script Aggrecount which allowed for
586 segmentation and single cell resolution (Klickstein et al., 2020). ImageJ JACOP plugin
587 was used for colocalization analysis. Total number of peroxisomes in each cell were
588 counted using ImageJ “analyze particle” tool. Peroxisomes (red) colocalization with
589 UBDX8 (green) were determined from merging images from red and green channels. The
590 color threshold tool was used to select yellow puncta (Hue value 25-60) that indicates
591 colocalization and quantified using ImageJ “analyze particle” tool.

592 For pexophagy flux reporter assays, the background was subtracted, and ROIs were
593 generated based on the mCherry signal. ROIs were transferred to the GFP channel and
594 the GFP intensity was measured. Images in each replicate were carefully examined and
595 GFP threshold intensity was empirically determined for all images in a given replicate.
596 The number of puncta with GFP above the pre-determine intensity was calculated for the
597 ratio.

598

599 **TMT Proteomics and Lipidomics**

600 The proteomic and lipidomic data were previously published in (Ganji et al., 2023). Please refer
601 to the Supplementary information in that manuscript for the individual datasets. Raw data is
602 available via the ProteomeXchange Consortium via the PRIDE (Perez-Riverol et al., 2022)
603 partner repository with the dataset identifier PXD-39061. The mass spectrometry lipidomics data
604 is available at the NIH Common Fund's National Metabolomics Data Repository (NMDR) website,
605 the Metabolomics Workbench, (<https://www.metabolomicsworkbench.org>), where it has been
606 assigned Project ID PR001559 [10.21228/M85X3W] with StudyIDs ST002421.

607

608 **Gene ontology (GO) functional enrichment analyses of proteomics data**

609 The differentially expressed proteins were further annotated and GO functional enrichment
610 analysis was performed using Metascape online tool (<http://metascape.org>) (Zhou et al., 2019).
611 The GO cluster network and protei- protein interaction network generated by Metascape. Other
612 proteomic data visualizations were performed using the RStudio software (v1.4.1103).

613

614 **Quantitative PCR**

615 For all real-time PCR experiments, total RNA was isolated using the Quick-RNA Miniprep Kit
616 (Zymo Research cat. no. R1055). The purified RNA was quantified by NanoDrop and 1 µg of RNA
617 for each sample was used to generate cDNA using the iScript cDNA synthesis kit (Biorad cat.
618 no.1708890). Real-time PCR was performed with PowerUp SYBR Green Master Mix (Applied
619 Biosystems cat. no. A25741) on an Applied Biosystems StepOnePlus real-time PCR system. Data
620 analyses utilized the $2^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$ method and GAPDH was used as a housekeeping gene to normalize
621 transcript expression across samples. The XBP1s primers were previously published (van
622 Schadewijk, van't Wout, Stolk, & Hiemstra, 2012) as well as all peroxisomal primers (Bagattin et
623 al., 2010). Primers are as follows:

624 ACOX1 F(CCATTCAAGCTGTCTTAAGGAGTT), R(CTGAGGCTCTGTCATGATGC).

625 ACOX2: F(CAAATTGTCGGCCTCCTGTA), R(GAGATCTCTGTGGCGTGGAG).

- 626 PBF: F(AAGAAGGACTACAGAAAGCTGTA, R(CCCAGTGTAAGGCCAAATGT)).
- 627 DBP: F(GTGGCTTGTGGAGGTTGGA), R(CCTCAGGAGTCATTGGGTGA).
- 628 PTHIO: F(TACTTCGCGCTTGATGGAGA), R(TCTCCCGTGAAATGCCAAAC).
- 629 Pex3: F(TTCTTTTGC GG GTCCAGTTA), R(ACATCTGGGGGAGCAAGAAT).
- 630 Pex7: F(TCTGGCTCATGGGATCAAAC), R(GGATGTGGGGAGACCAGATT).
- 631 Pex12: F(AAGCTCTGGAGCACAAACCA), R(ACACCCCAACAGCTTTCTT).
- 632 Pex13: F(CCGGGCTGGTGATATGCT), R(GTATAAGTCCTGTTGTTGGCCATC).
- 633 Pex16: F(CGAGCTGTCAGAGCTGGTGTACT), R(ACAGCGACACAGGCAACTTTT).
- 634 Pex19: F(CTCTCAGAGGCTGCAGGGAG), R(GTGGCATT TTTTGGCTAATCCA).
- 635 Fis1: F(AAAGGGAGCAAGGAGGAACAG), R(AACCCGCGGACGTACTTTAAG).
- 636 DLP1: F(TCGTCGTAGTGGGAACGCA), R(TCTCCGGGTGACAATTCCAG).
- 637 XBP1s: F(TGCTGAGTCCGCAGCAGGTG), R(GCTGGCAGGCTCTGGGGAAG).
- 638 Total XBP1: F(AAACAGAGTAGCTCAGACTGC), R(TCCTTCTGGGTAGACCTCTGGGAG).

639

640 **Catalase activity assay**

641 Catalase activity was determined using the Catalase Assay Kit (ab83464, Abcam) as per
642 manufacturer's instructions. Briefly, cells were lysed and protein concentration of the cell lysate
643 was determined. Catalase decomposes H₂O₂ to water and oxygen. The assay uses the
644 unconverted H₂O₂ and reacts with OxiRed probe to produce a product that can be measured at
645 570 nm. The catalase activity present in the sample is inversely proportional to the signal
646 obtained. The kit can detect as little as 1 μU of catalase activity.

647

648 **Statistics and reproducibility**

649 For all experiments, n ≥ 3 or more biological replicates for each condition examined. Fold
650 changes, SEM, SD, and statistical analyses were performed using GraphPad Prism version

651 9.4.1 for Windows (GraphPad Software). Statistical tests and N values are mentioned in the
652 figure legends.

653

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660 GM147189 to A.J and NRSA F31 GM148057-01 to I.D.M.

661

662 **Respective Contributions**

663 I.D.M and M.R conceived the studies. I.D.M performed all studies and data analysis with
664 assistance from M.R. Imaging and analysis of UBXD8 localization to peroxisomes was performed
665 by S.A with assistance from A.J. I.D.M and M.R wrote the manuscript.

666

667 **Competing Interests**

668 The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

669

670 **Request for reagents**

671 Please contact the corresponding author, M.R for reagent requests.

672

673 **Data availability**

674 Raw data is available via the ProteomeXchange Consortium via the PRIDE (Perez-Riverol et al.,
675 2022) partner repository with the dataset identifier PXD-39061. The mass spectrometry lipidomics
676 data is available at the NIH Common Fund's National Metabolomics Data Repository (NMDR)

677 website, the Metabolomics Workbench, (<https://www.metabolomicsworkbench.org>), where it has
678 been assigned Project ID PR001559 [10.21228/M85X3W] with StudyIDs ST002421.

679

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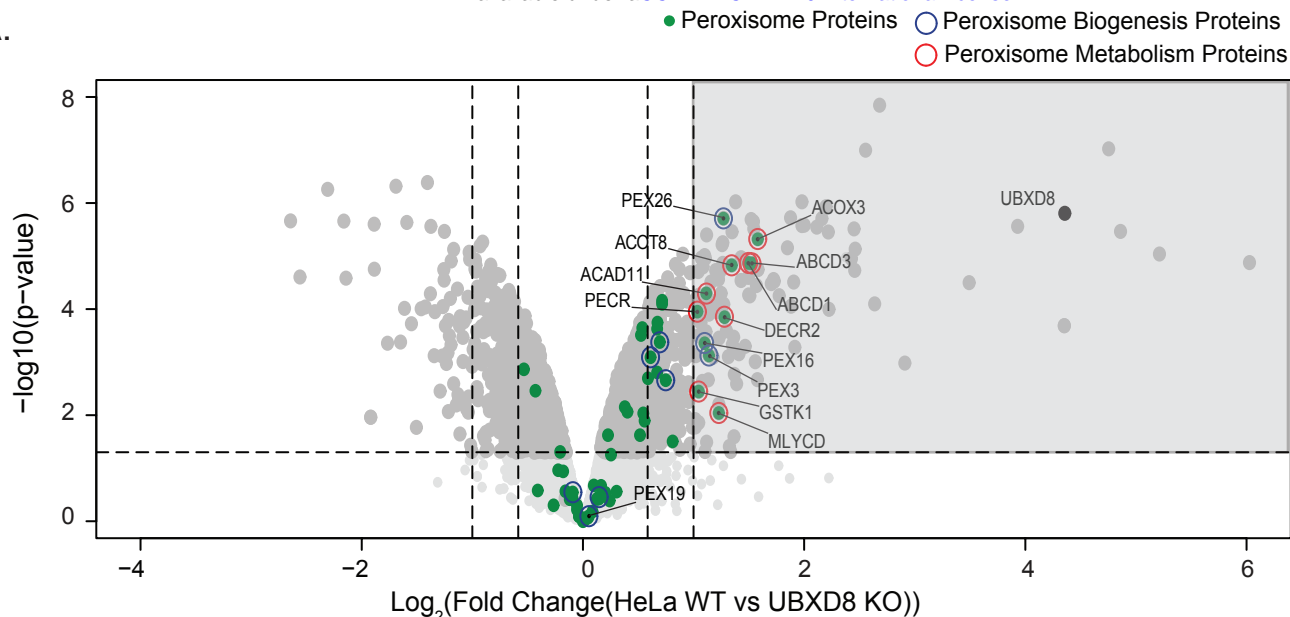
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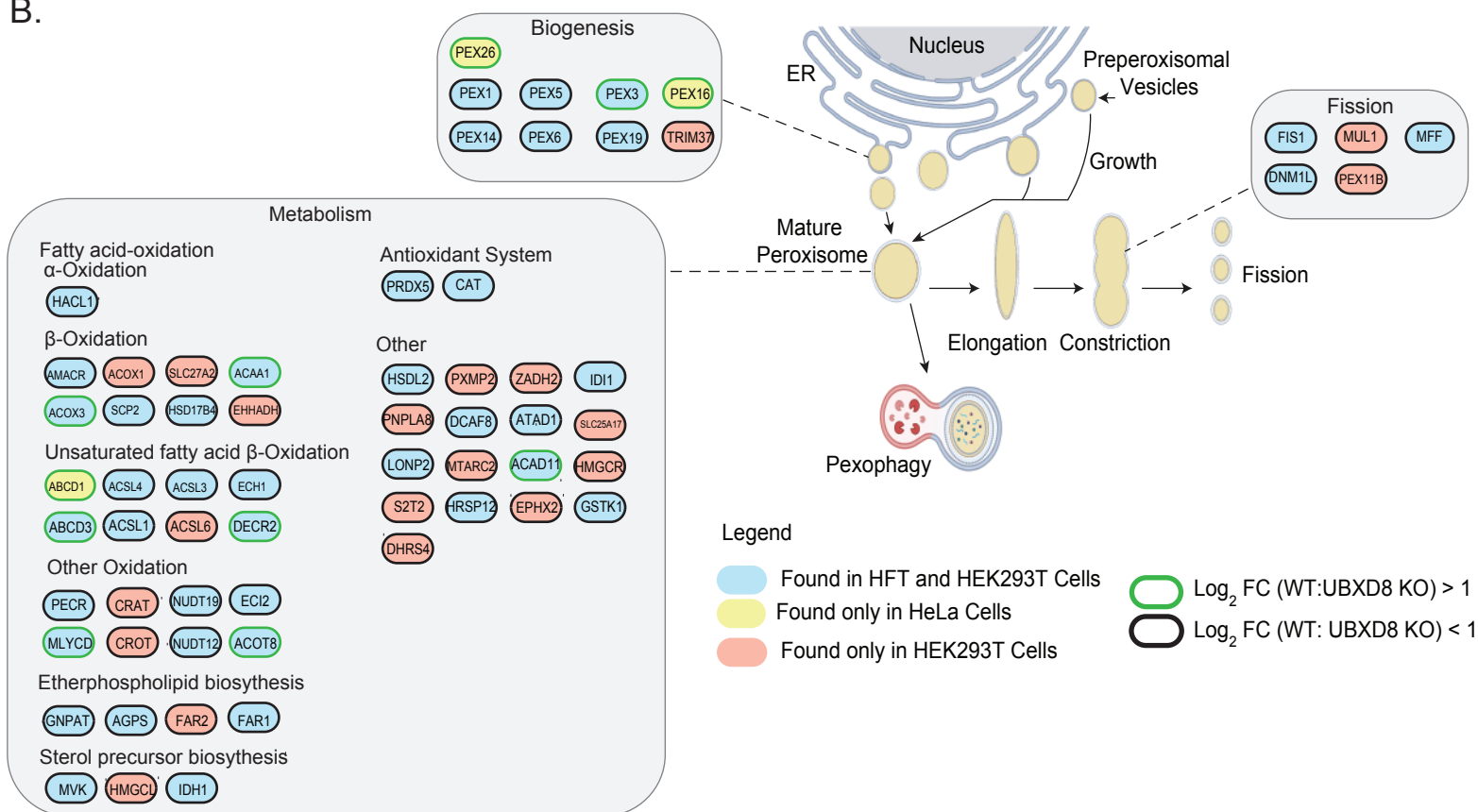
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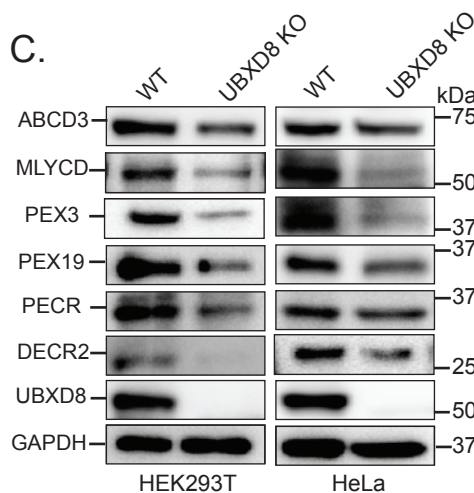
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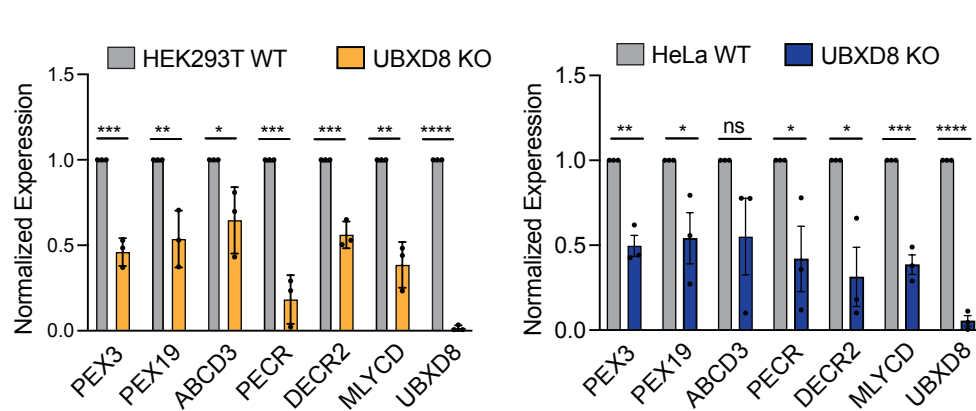
B.



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D.



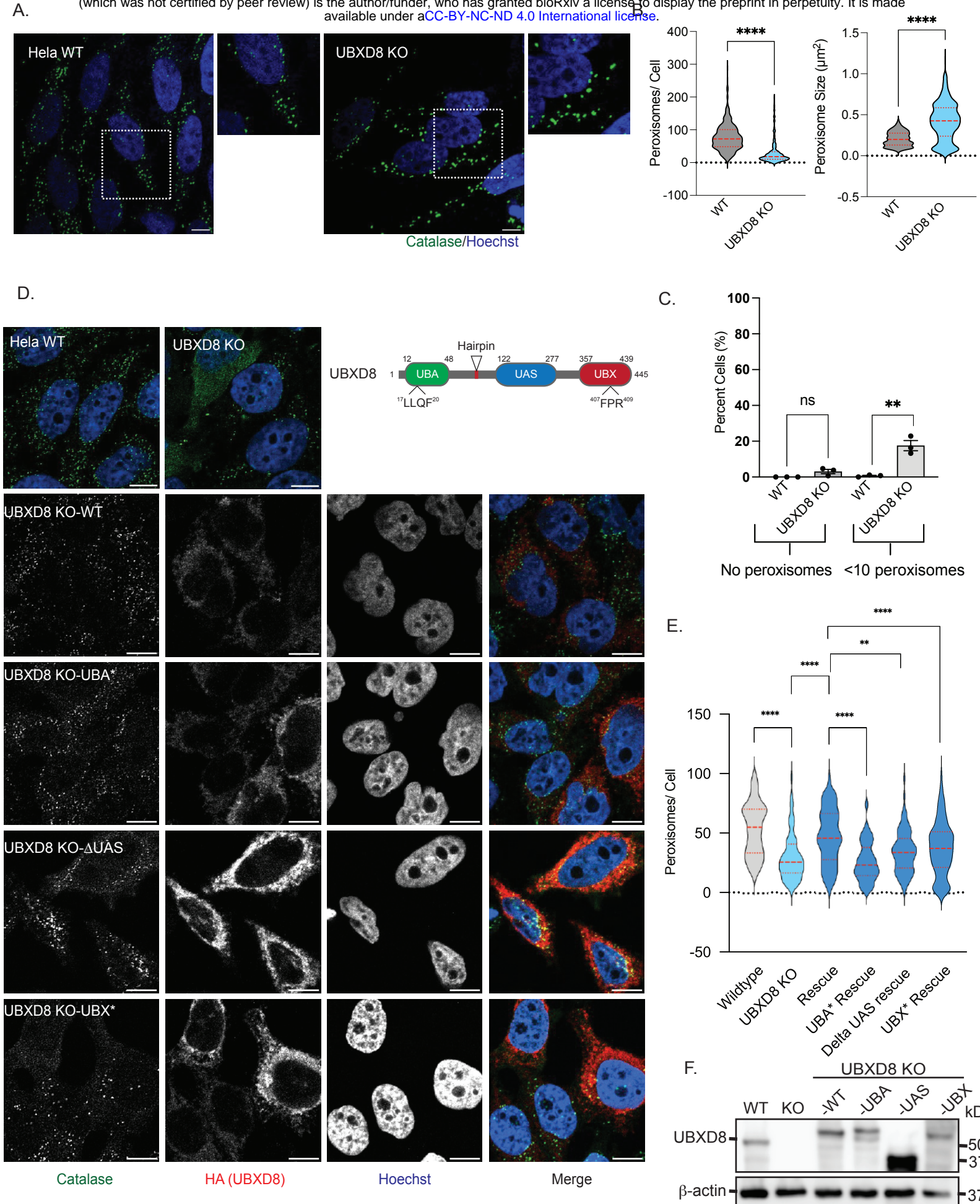
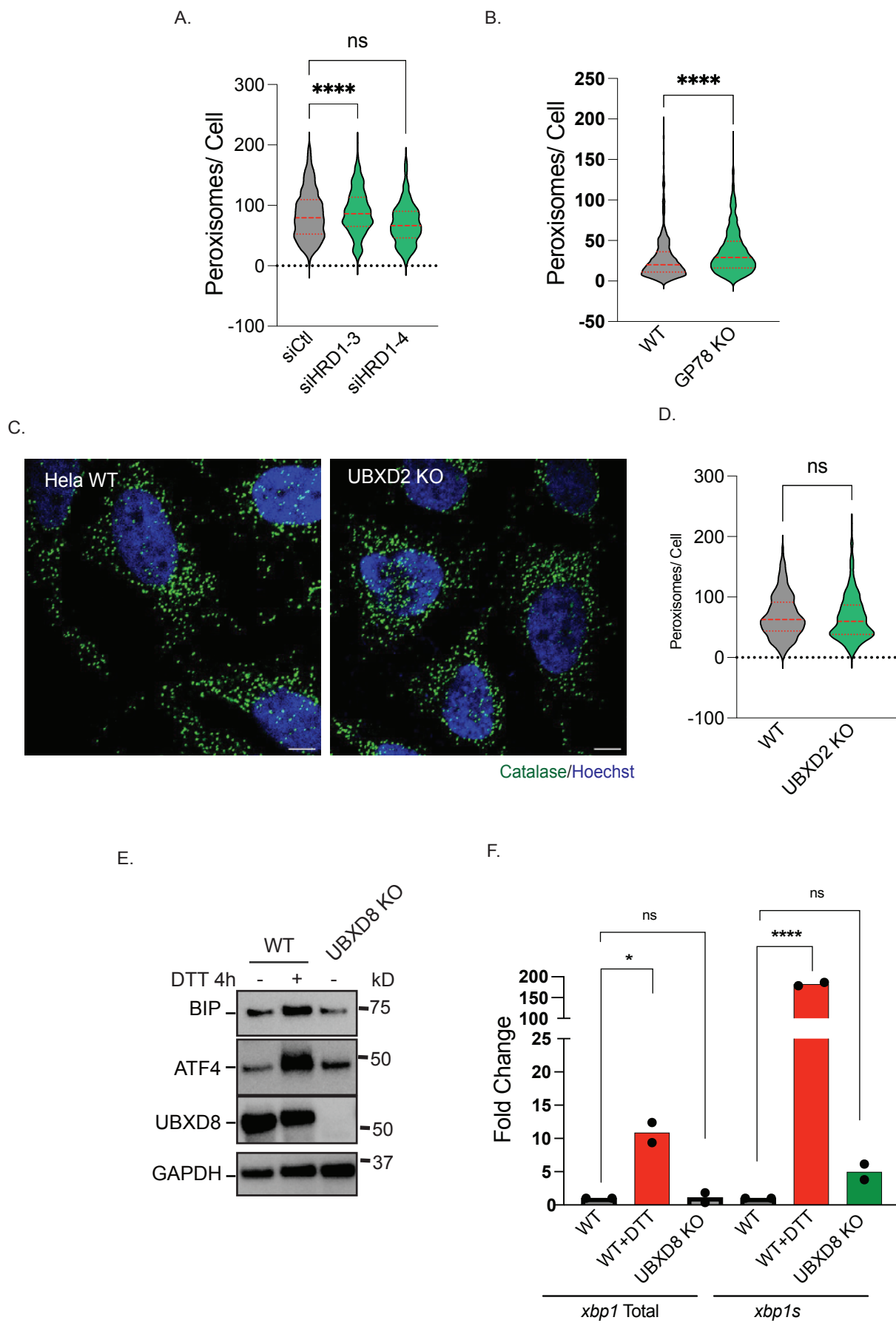


Figure 3



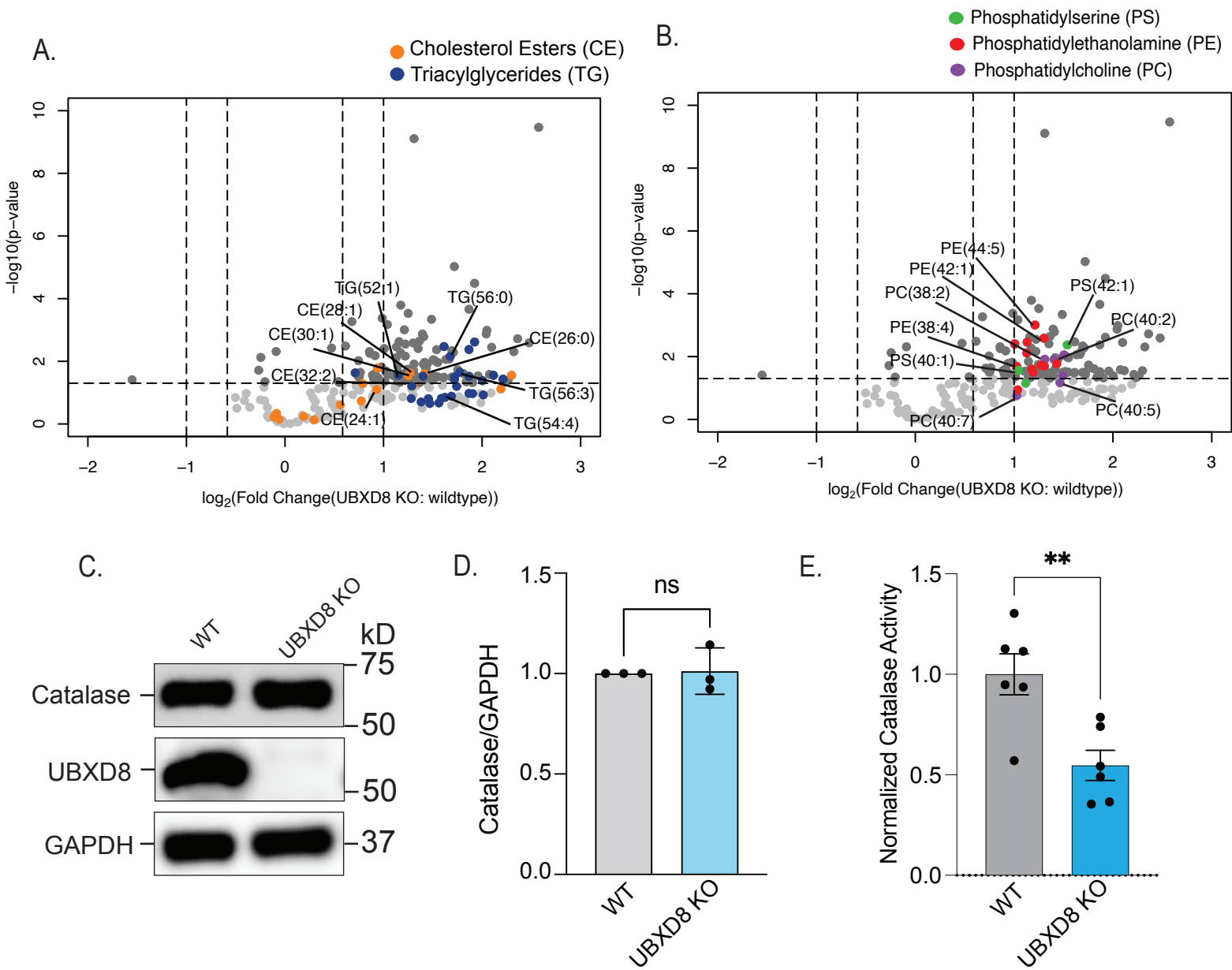
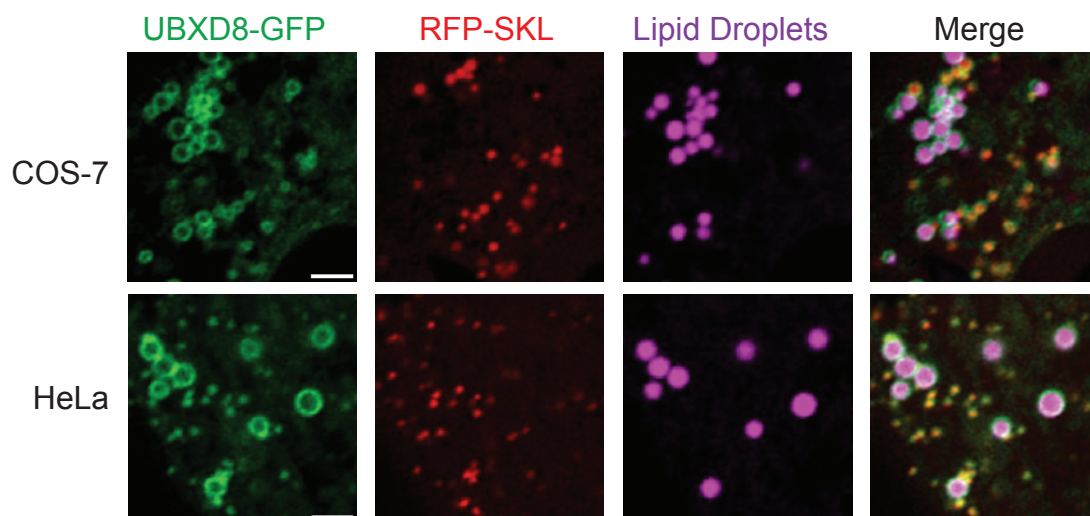
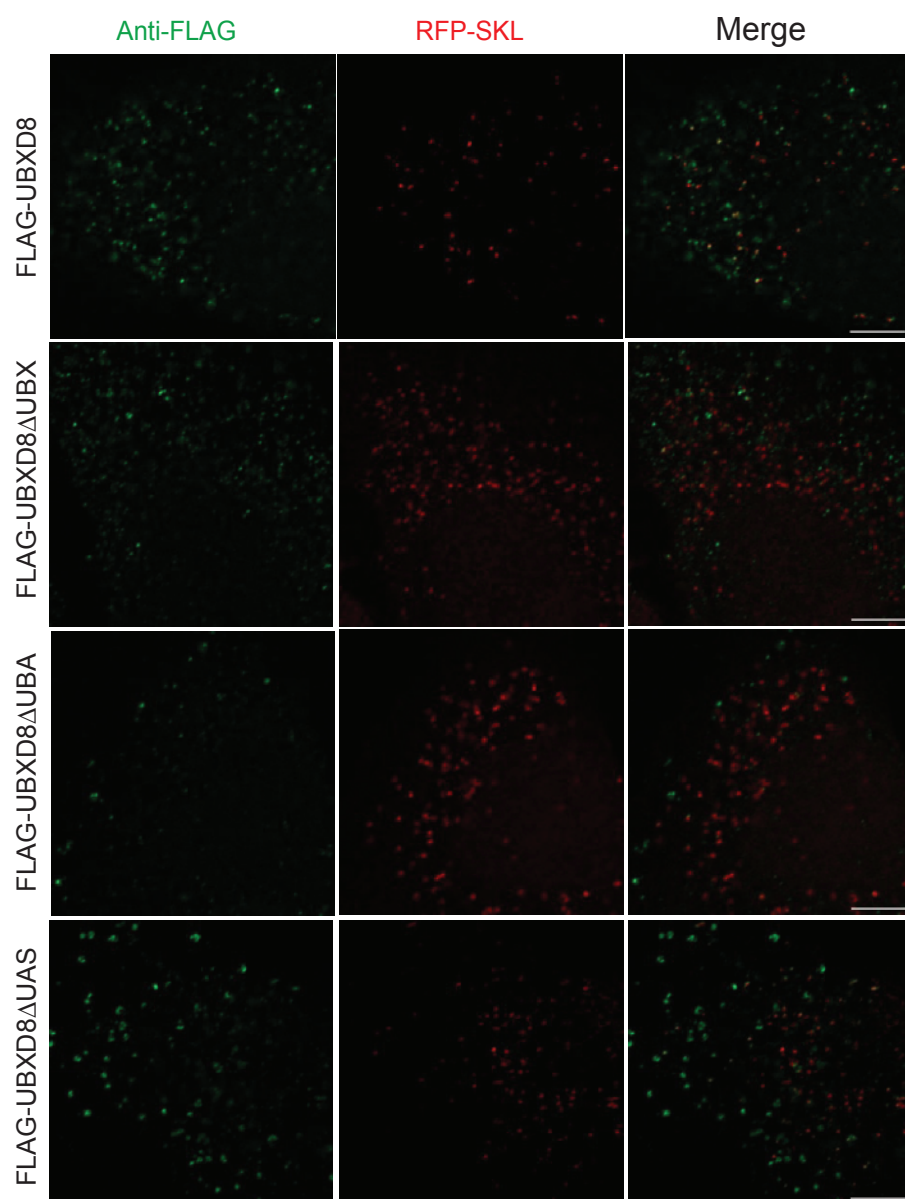


Figure 5

A.



B.



C.

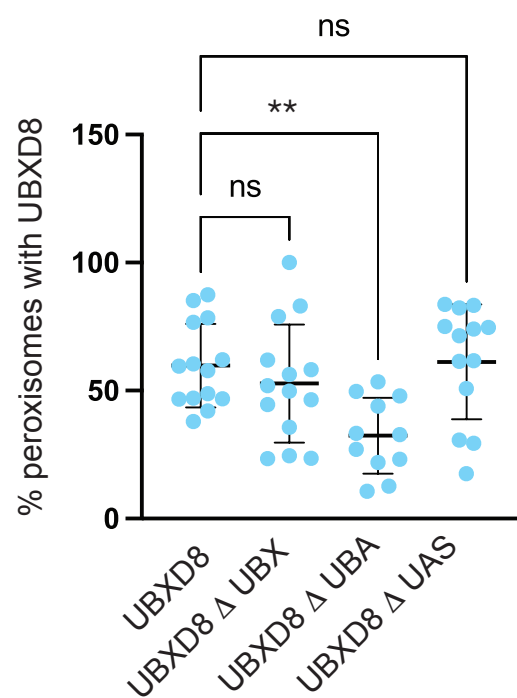


Figure 6

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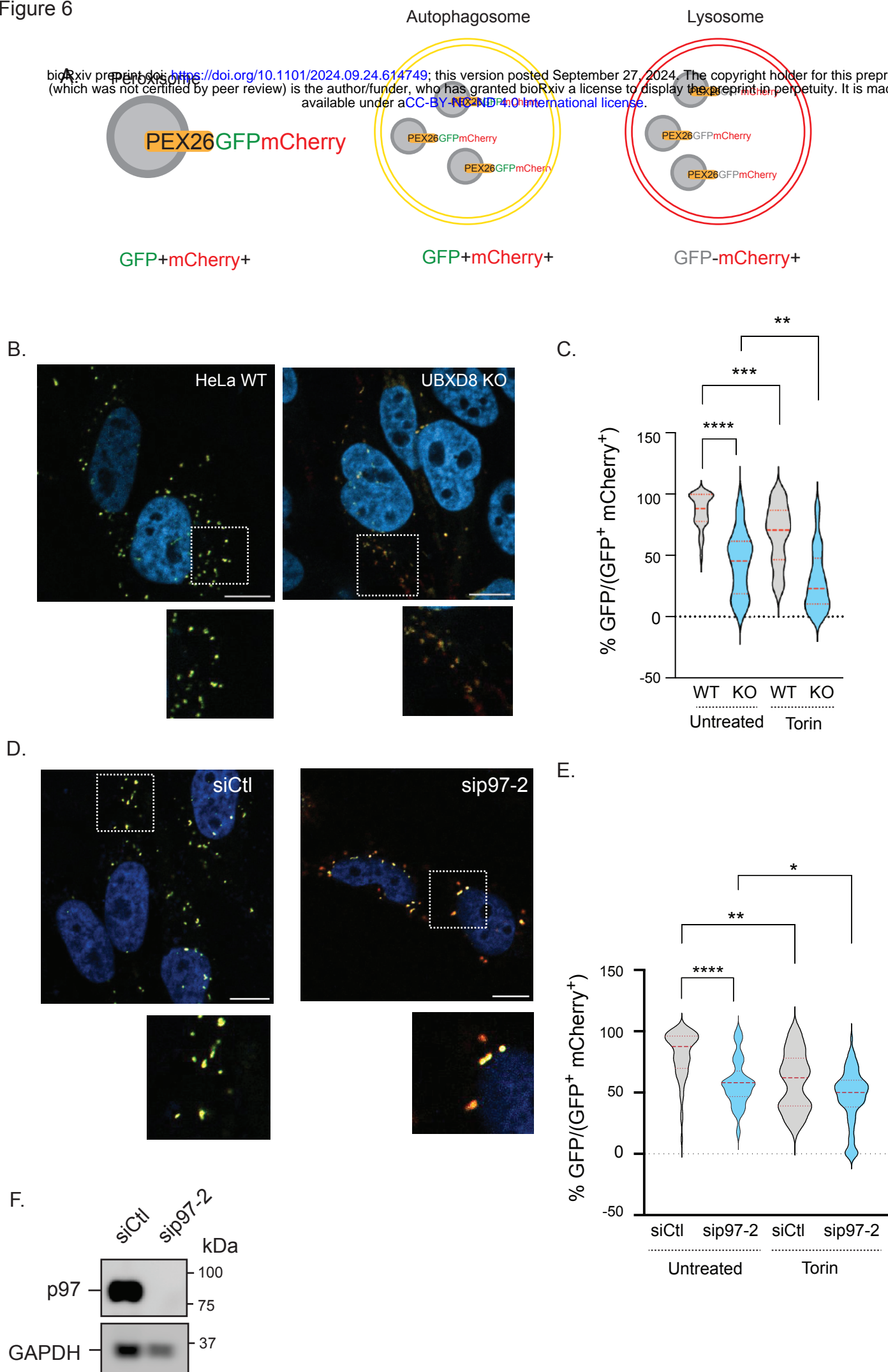


Figure 7

