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### ► To cite this version:

András Spaan, Anna-Lena Neehus, Emmanuel Laplantine, Frederik Staels, Masato Ogishi, et al.. Human OTULIN haploinsufficiency impairs cell-intrinsic immunity to staphylococcal  $\alpha$ -toxin. Science, 2022, 376 (6599), 10.1126/science.abm6380 . hal-03810222

**HAL Id: hal-03810222**

**<https://hal.sorbonne-universite.fr/hal-03810222v1>**

Submitted on 11 Oct 2022

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Cite as: A. N. Spaan *et al.*, *Science*  
10.1126/science.abm6380 (2022).

# Human OTULIN haploinsufficiency impairs cell-intrinsic immunity to staphylococcal $\alpha$ -toxin

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The molecular basis of interindividual clinical variability upon infection with *Staphylococcus aureus* is unclear. We describe patients with haploinsufficiency for the linear deubiquitinase OTULIN, encoded by a gene on chromosome 5p. Patients present episodes of life-threatening necrosis, typically triggered by *S. aureus* infection. The disorder is phenocopied in patients with the 5p- (Cri-du-Chat) chromosomal deletion syndrome. OTULIN haploinsufficiency causes an accumulation of linear ubiquitin in dermal fibroblasts, but TNF-receptor NF- $\kappa$ B-signaling remains intact. Blood leukocyte subsets are unaffected. The OTULIN-dependent accumulation of caveolin-1 in dermal fibroblasts—but not leukocytes—facilitates the cytotoxic damage inflicted by the staphylococcal virulence factor  $\alpha$ -toxin. Naturally elicited antibodies against  $\alpha$ -toxin contribute to incomplete clinical penetrance. Human OTULIN haploinsufficiency underlies life-threatening staphylococcal disease by disrupting cell-intrinsic immunity to  $\alpha$ -toxin in non-leukocytic cells.

*Staphylococcus aureus* is a major bacterial pathogen with a global impact on human health (1). Individuals with staphylococcal disease may present a range of superficial (folliculitis, cellulitis, abscesses) to severe (e.g., necrotizing skin and soft tissue infections and necrotizing pneumonia, with or without septicemia) manifestations (1). Most individuals carry *S. aureus* asymptomatically on their skin and in their nostrils for long periods of their lives, but only a minority develop life-threatening staphylococcal disease. Severe disease has a poor prognosis, owing to its rapid invasive course (2–5). Acquired risk factors for staphylococcal disease include surgery and intravascular devices (1). Life-threatening staphylococcal disease can also result from single-gene inborn errors of immunity (IEIs) (6). Disorders affecting phagocyte development or function, such as severe congenital neutropenia, chronic granulomatous disease, and leukocyte adhesion deficiency, confer a predisposition to staphylococcal disease (6, 7). Disorders of the Toll-like receptor (TLR) and interleukin (IL)-1R nuclear factor-kappa B (NFR-NF- $\kappa$ B) pathway (8–12) and of IL-6- and STAT3-dependent immunity (13–17) have also been identified in patients suffering from severe staphylococcal disease. All these defects preferentially affect innate, myeloid immunity, but, collectively, they account for only a small proportion of cases (18). Most cases of severe staphylococcal disease remain unexplained, because they strike otherwise healthy individuals with no detectable phagocyte defect (2, 19). Here, we aimed to elucidate human genetic and immunological etiologies of life-threatening staphylococcal disease.

## Results

### Genome-wide enrichment in rare OTULIN variants

Given the severity of their disease, we hypothesized that there would be at least some genetic homogeneity in our cohort of patients with unexplained life-threatening staphylococcal disease. We sequenced the exomes of the  $N = 105$  index cases. Given the rarity of severe staphylococcal disease in otherwise healthy individuals, and assuming a dominant mode of inheritance, we hypothesized that the disease-causing variants

would be very rare [minor allele frequency (MAF)  $< 1 \times 10^{-5}$ ] (20). We also prioritized variants predicted to be deleterious [combined annotation-dependent depletion score (CADD)  $>$  mutation significance cutoff (MSC)] (21–23). We performed the same analysis on  $N = 1,274$  control exomes from patients with mycobacterial diseases (including individuals with Mendelian susceptibility to mycobacterial disease or with tuberculosis), which rarely overlap with staphylococcal disease (24). After adjusting for ethnicity by principal component analysis (PCA), we used the results of these two analyses to test the null hypothesis that variants of a given gene were not specific to staphylococcal disease. OTULIN was the only gene satisfying the threshold for statistical significance on a genome-wide level with a  $P$ -value of  $5.74 \times 10^{-7}$  (Fig. 1A and tables S1 and S2). We repeated our analysis for OTULIN, adding 2,504 individuals from the 1,000 Genomes Project (25) to our control dataset (26); none of these individuals had developed life-threatening infections with *S. aureus*. The enrichment in OTULIN variants was even stronger ( $P = 3.85 \times 10^{-8}$ ) in this analysis, indicating that very rare variants of this gene were found specifically in patients with severe staphylococcal disease.

### The patients carry heterozygous OTULIN variants

The linear deubiquitinase OTULIN is a negative regulator of inflammation (27, 28). In humans, biallelic OTULIN mutations cause a potentially fatal early-onset autoinflammatory condition called OTULIN-related autoinflammatory syndrome (ORAS) (29–33). Closer inspection revealed that the signal for genetic homogeneity in the cohort of patients with severe staphylococcal disease was driven by three probands carrying heterozygous variants of OTULIN (Fig. 1B): one missense (p.D246V), one nonsense (p.E95X), and one frameshift (p.D268TfsX5) variant. In each of these probands, the clinical hallmark of disease following infection with *S. aureus* was life-threatening necrosis of the skin and/or lungs [fig. S1A; supplementary materials (SM)]. Based on the extreme inflammatory responses to infection with *S. aureus* in these patients, we investigated the possibility of other triggers

generating similar disease. We identified three additional kindreds with very rare heterozygous missense variants of *OTULIN* (p.N341D, p.P254S, and p.R263Q) (Fig. 1C). The probands of these kindreds presented severe diseases triggered by infectious and unknown etiologies (fig. S1B; SM). The clinical course of disease in patients with no documented infection suggests that low-grade infections, or non-infectious triggers, might induce an inflammatory phenotype similar to that of patients with documented *S. aureus* infection (fig. S1, A and B; SM). In total, we identified six very rare variants in seven patients from six kindreds (fig. S1C). These seven patients did not carry variants fitting the known modes of inheritance for any of the 430 genes already implicated in IELs (7, 34). In most patients, the first episode of disease occurred during adolescence (SM). Clinical data indicated a degree of phenotypic heterogeneity in the index cases, but with the skin and/or lungs consistently affected in all cases (Fig. 1, B and C, and fig. S1, A and B; SM). One third of the heterozygous relatives (three of the nine for whom data were available) expressed a related but milder phenotype, the other six carriers being apparently healthy (Fig. 1, B and C; SM). We then hypothesized that the parents of the patients with biallelic *OTULIN* deficiency reported in previous studies (29–32), who themselves carried deleterious *OTULIN* alleles in the heterozygous state, might present phenocopies of the disorder observed in the patients of our cohort. One third of the parents (three of the 10) did, indeed, express the phenotype (Fig. 1D; SM). Thus, very rare heterozygous mutations of *OTULIN* confer predisposition to severe necrosis of the skin and lungs, typically, but not exclusively, after infection with *S. aureus*, with variable expressivity and incomplete penetrance.

### ***OTULIN* is subject to negative selection**

The severity of disease in the probands carrying very rare heterozygous *OTULIN* variants suggests that this gene is subject to evolutionary forces acting at the population level. Indeed, the *f* parameter score for *OTULIN* is 0.36, indicating that this gene is under negative selection (fig. S1D) (35). Moreover, the consensus score for negative selection (CoNeS) for *OTULIN* is –0.78, within the reported range for genes underlying IELs with both autosomal dominant (AD) and autosomal recessive (AR) inheritance (fig. S1E) (36). *OTULIN* has a LoFtool score of 0.115, suggesting that it does not tolerate haploinsufficiency (37). Predicted loss-of-function (pLOF) *OTULIN* variants are very rare in the general population, with a cumulative MAF of  $1 \times 10^{-4}$  (fig. S1F) (20). Consistent with the negative selection pressure acting on *OTULIN*, the alleles of the patients were found to be either ultra-rare or private (fig. S1F) (20). These population genetics parameters indicate that heterozygous pLOF variants of *OTULIN* are disadvantageous for the individual. This finding is consistent with the hypothesis that the very rare variants for which enrichment was

detected in the patients studied are causal for the life-threatening necrosis of the skin and/or lungs triggered by *S. aureus* infection.

### ***The OTULIN alleles of the patients are severely hypomorphic or amorphic***

We overexpressed the cDNAs corresponding to the *OTULIN* alleles of the patients in HEK293T cells. The truncated cDNAs of the patients were loss-of-expression, whereas the missense cDNAs of the patients and cDNAs corresponding to two *OTULIN* alleles commonly found in the general population (20) were expressed at normal levels (fig. S1G). No in-frame re-initiation was observed for truncated alleles from the patients (fig. S1H). We then assessed the deubiquitinase activity of the products of the alleles from the patients, and their capacity to inhibit NF- $\kappa$ B-signaling. Consistent with published findings in overexpression systems, some, but not all the protein products of the alleles concerned were defective for the linear deubiquitination of NEMO in the presence of LUBAC (fig. S1I) (32, 33). We assessed the capacity of the gene products to regulate receptor signaling, by investigating the functional consequences of the *OTULIN* alleles of the patients for NF- $\kappa$ B inhibition following stimulation with TNF in a cellular signaling system. All the alleles from patients were severely hypomorphic or amorphic (fig. S1J). By contrast to the alleles of the patients, the two alleles common in the general population (20) were found to be isomorphic (fig. S1J). The apparent differences between the two overexpression systems may reflect different impacts of the various *OTULIN* alleles on ubiquitin binding capacity (27, 32, 33). We then performed functional tests for all the other *OTULIN* coding sequence variants reported in public databases ( $N = 120$ ) (20). The cumulative MAF of amorphic and hypomorphic *OTULIN* alleles (with <25% wild-type levels of NF- $\kappa$ B-signaling inhibitory activity) in the general population was  $6 \times 10^{-5}$  (Fig. 1E). The greater rarity of amorphic and hypomorphic *OTULIN* alleles than of pLOF variants highlights the importance of experimental validation for pLOF variants. Thus, the rare *OTULIN* variants found in the patients are deleterious and AD *OTULIN* deficiency predisposes the patients to disease.

### ***Autosomal dominant OTULIN deficiency acts via haploinsufficiency***

We tested the genetic mechanism of AD *OTULIN* deficiency and found no negative dominance for the alleles expressed by the patients (fig. S1K). This implies that the genetic mechanism underlying AD *OTULIN* deficiency is haploinsufficiency. *OTULIN* is located on the short arm of chromosome 5. Depending on the breakpoint, almost all individuals with 5p- syndrome—the most common chromosomal deletion syndrome in humans, also known as Cri-du-Chat syndrome—are haploinsufficient for *OTULIN* by definition (38–40). The



prevalence of 5p- syndrome is ~1 in 50,000 live births, similar to the cumulative MAF for amorphic and hypomorphic *OTULIN* alleles (Fig. 1E) (41). Respiratory tract infections are one of the principal causes of hospitalization in individuals with 5p- syndrome, and pneumonia is amongst the commonest causes of death in these individuals (40, 42–44). We recruited six 5p- syndrome patients with a breakpoint centromeric to *OTULIN* (Fig. 1F and fig. S1L). Expressivity was variable and penetrance was incomplete, but one third of these *OTULIN* haploinsufficient 5p- syndrome patients (two of six) presented an age-dependent phenocopy of the disorder observed in patients with heterozygous *OTULIN* mutations (Fig. 1F; SM). We also identified two individuals from a multigeneration kindred affected by 5p- syndrome with an extremely rare breakpoint telomeric to *OTULIN* (Fig. 1G and fig. S1L) (38). Both these individuals carried two copies of *OTULIN* and did not display the phenotype studied here (SM). The clinical similarities between patients with heterozygous *OTULIN* mutations and those with 5p- syndrome suggest a common mechanism of predisposition to infection due to haploinsufficiency for *OTULIN*.

### ***Immunological characterization of OTULIN-haploinsufficient PBMCs***

The autoinflammatory features seen in ORAS patients are largely driven by abnormally high levels of NF- $\kappa$ B activation in myeloid cells (29, 30, 33). We thus investigated whether patients with *OTULIN* haploinsufficiency presented any related immunological disturbances. *OTULIN* expression in monocytes differed between patients and healthy controls (fig. S2A). Routine immunological tests performed in diagnostic laboratories [including assessments of leukocyte differentiation and oxidative burst capacity—deficiencies of which are known to confer a predisposition to staphylococcal disease (6, 7)] revealed no explanatory defects in patients with *OTULIN* haploinsufficiency (SM). We thus looked for more subtle immunological features, by testing PBMCs from the patients by mass cytometry (cytometry by time-of-flight, CyTOF) (45) and RNA sequencing. In comparisons with healthy controls, we observed no differences in the abundance of leukocyte subsets or in the expression of lineage markers (Fig. 2A and fig. S2, B to D). The development of myeloid and lymphoid subsets in patients with *OTULIN* haploinsufficiency was, therefore, apparently normal. At baseline, we observed a complex transcriptional signature not associated with NF- $\kappa$ B-driven inflammation in the PBMCs of the patients (Fig. 2B and fig. S2E). This difference between the patients and healthy controls disappeared following stimulation (Fig. 2B). Both at baseline and after stimulation, the PBMCs of the patients had a capacity to secrete various cytokines, including TNF and IL-1 $\beta$ , similar to that of PBMCs from healthy controls (fig. S2F). We detected no

defect of IL-6 production (fig. S2F), deficiencies of which are known to be associated with staphylococcal disease (6). Single-cell RNA sequencing revealed a contribution of CD14<sup>+</sup> monocytes to the transcriptional signature in the PBMCs of the patients relative to healthy controls (fig. S2, G and H). However, consistent with their capacity to produce normal amounts of TNF and IL-1 $\beta$  (fig. S2I), the amounts of phosphorylated P65 in CD14<sup>+</sup> monocytes from the patients were normal both at baseline and following stimulation (fig. S2J). The CD14<sup>+</sup> monocytes of patients with *OTULIN* haploinsufficiency, thus, did not appear to be functionally affected. Finally, induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC)-derived macrophages from patients had normal oxidative burst and phagocytic capacities relative to healthy controls (fig. S2, K and L). These observations suggest an absence of overt immunological disturbance in patients with *OTULIN* haploinsufficiency, contrasting with the autoinflammatory markers described in ORAS patients (29–33).

### ***OTULIN gene dosage-dependent accumulation of linear ubiquitin in fibroblasts***

We next performed a biochemical characterization of the non-hematopoietic compartment in the patients and assessed the levels of *OTULIN* expression in primary dermal fibroblasts (PDFs). *OTULIN* mRNA levels varied (fig. S3, A and B), but the levels of the corresponding protein were low in the patients and depended on the nature of the mutation (Fig. 3, A and B). *OTULIN* haploinsufficiency led to an accumulation of aggregates containing linear ubiquitin (M1-Ub) in immortalized fibroblasts from patients, including 5p- syndrome patients with a breakpoint centromeric to *OTULIN* (Fig. 3, C and D, and fig. S3C). These aggregates were sensitive to treatment with exogenous *OTULIN* (fig. S3D), and their accumulation was rescued by genetic complementation with wild-type *OTULIN* (Fig. 3E and fig. S3E). We used a combination of an M1-Ub-selective tandem Ub-binding entity (TUBE) and absolute quantification (AQUA) tandem mass spectrometry (MS/MS) to assess M1-Ub levels in immortalized fibroblasts from the patients. M1-Ub levels were much higher in the cells of both ORAS and *OTULIN*-haploinsufficient patients than in those of healthy controls and HOIL1-deficient patients (Fig. 3F) (46). Thus, *OTULIN* haploinsufficiency and recessive deficiency result in the cellular accumulation of M1-Ub in a gene dosage-dependent manner.

### ***Normal TNF-receptor signaling in OTULIN-haploinsufficient fibroblasts***

In the PDFs of ORAS patients, expression of the components of the linear ubiquitin assembly complex (LUBAC) decreases to compensate for recessive *OTULIN* deficiency (Fig. 3A) (29, 30, 32). This compensatory mechanism impaired TNF-receptor signaling in immortalized fibroblasts from ORAS

patients (fig. S3F). By contrast, OTULIN haploinsufficiency did not lead to a loss of LUBAC expression in PDFs (Fig. 3A), or to impaired TNF-receptor signaling (fig. S3F) or IL-6 and IL-8 secretion (fig. S3G). Indeed, no differential transcription patterns were evident in the patients' PDFs after stimulation with TNF (fig. S3H). The impairment of early NF- $\kappa$ B activation sensitizes PDFs from ORAS and LUBAC-deficient patients to TNF-induced apoptotic cell death under stress conditions (29, 46). However, consistent with their normal LUBAC expression, PDFs from patients with OTULIN haploinsufficiency were not susceptible to stress-induced apoptosis upon exposure to TNF (fig. S3I). Thus, the functional dysregulation of TNF-receptor signaling via NF- $\kappa$ B is limited to fibroblasts displaying a recessive OTULIN deficiency.

### ***Global dysregulation of transcription in OTULIN-haploinsufficient fibroblasts***

The presence of a biochemical phenotype in the absence of an immunological phenotype following stimulation in OTULIN-haploinsufficient fibroblasts led us to investigate transcriptional homeostasis in resting PDFs from the patients. Consistent with the gene dosage-dependent accumulation of M1-Ub in immortalized fibroblasts, this approach revealed a continuous genotype-dependent transcriptional phenotype in the basal state (Fig. 4A). Despite an absence of functional consequences of OTULIN haploinsufficiency (fig. S3, F to I), specific gene-set enrichment analyses of the resting transcriptome revealed a subtle signal for TNF-receptor signaling via NF- $\kappa$ B (fig. S4A). These analyses also revealed a transcriptional signature affecting various other cellular processes relative to cells from healthy controls (fig. S4A) (47). The affected processes included the MYC and E2F transcription factor systems and the G2M cell cycle checkpoint system, the gene sets for these systems displaying a partial overlap (fig. S4B). These findings indicate a global dysregulation of transcription in resting OTULIN-haploinsufficient fibroblasts.

### ***Accumulation of caveolin-1 in OTULIN-haploinsufficient fibroblasts***

The observed patterns of transcription could not be explained by the known function of OTULIN as a linear deubiquitinase. We thus hypothesized that OTULIN haploinsufficiency affects cellular homeostasis posttranslationally, in an as yet unknown manner. The proteome of the resting PDFs from the patients displayed a continuous cellular phenotype, consistent with the transcriptome (Fig. 4B and fig. S4C). Focusing on this continuous proteomic phenotype, we observed a pattern of differential abundance for a cluster of 11 proteins including caveolin-2 and gelsolin (fig. S4, D to F). A STRING-interaction network analysis of this protein cluster identified a node connecting caveolin-2 and gelsolin: caveolin-1 (Fig.

4C). Conventional techniques revealed the accumulation of SDS-resistant high-molecular weight (MW) caveolin-1-containing complexes (48, 49) in PDFs from the patients in comparison with those from healthy controls (Fig. 4, D and E). We analyzed caveolin-1 immunopurification products (IPs) from PDF whole-cell lysates (WCLs) from one healthy control and one patient with recessive OTULIN deficiency by liquid chromatography and tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS). Validating the STRING-interaction network (Fig. 4C), both sets of caveolin-1 IPs also contained caveolin-2, whereas gelsolin was detected in the OTULIN-deficient sample only (fig. S4G). Caveolin-1 levels vary between cell types and are highest in structural cells, such as fibroblasts (50, 51). By contrast to our observations for PDFs, caveolin-1 was barely detectable in hematopoietic cells and the abundance of caveolin-1 in monocytes did not differ between OTULIN haploinsufficient patients and healthy controls (fig. S4H). We detected no accumulation of caveolin-1-containing complexes in PDFs from the 5p- syndrome patient carrying two copies of the *OTULIN* gene relative to healthy controls (Fig. 4E and fig. S4I). However, as in PDFs from the patients, caveolin-1 accumulated as a high-MW complex in an isogenic *OTULIN*-knockout PDF cell line (Fig. 4F and fig. S4J). Thus, OTULIN haploinsufficiency results in a selective accumulation of high-MW caveolin-1 in PDFs.

### ***Lysine-63-linked polyubiquitination of caveolin-1***

The differences in gelsolin abundance in PDFs were attributed to differences in *GSN* transcription, but no differential transcription was detected for *CAV1* and *CAV2* (fig. S5A). Caveolin-1 is a key component of cell membrane microdomains, in which it acts as a scaffold for other proteins and receptors (47, 52). A signal for plasma membrane disturbance was detected at the proteomic but not transcriptional level in the patients' PDFs (fig. S5B), suggesting a post-translational role for OTULIN in the regulation of caveolin-1 expression in PDFs. Caveolin-1 is decorated with ubiquitin (48, 49, 53). We hypothesized that OTULIN haploinsufficiency and recessive deficiency affect the ubiquitination status of caveolin-1. We found that caveolin-1 IPs from PDF-WCLs from one healthy control and one patient with recessive deficiency of OTULIN contained a high-MW ubiquitin-containing complex (fig. S5C). We then used LC-MS/MS to characterize the ubiquitination profiles of purified caveolin-1 in solution, in the high-MW complex fraction, and in the monomeric fraction. Lysine-48-linked polyubiquitin (K48-Ub) chains were conjugated to the high-MW caveolin-1-containing complex regardless of genotype (fig. S5D). We detected no M1-Ub in any of the caveolin-1 IP fractions (fig. S5, C and D). Instead, the high-MW caveolin-1-containing complex was abundantly decorated with lysine-63-linked polyubiquitin (K63-Ub) chains in the OTULIN-deficient sample, but not in the healthy control

(Fig. 5A and fig. S5C) (49). No other branched polyubiquitin linkages were detected in the caveolin-1 IP fractions. The remaining unmodified ubiquitin was probably conjugated as a monomer to caveolin-1 (fig. S5D) (53). The OTULIN-dependent accumulation of caveolin-1 complexes modified with K63-Ub but not M1-Ub chains indicates crosstalk between OTULIN and other ubiquitin ligases and/or hydrolases.

### ***CYLD binds linear ubiquitin***

We characterized the crosstalk between OTULIN and K63-Ub chains, by treating purified caveolin-1 from one ORAS patient with a panel of recombinant deubiquitinases. Consistent with the respective specificities of the various hydrolases, the K63-linked polyubiquitination of high-MW caveolin-1 was reduced by treatment with recombinant CYLD but not OTULIN (Fig. 5B and fig. S5E). Similarly, the overexpression of *CYLD* but not *OTULIN* in PDFs from a patient with ORAS rescued the K63-linked polyubiquitination of high-MW caveolin-1 (Fig. 5C and fig. S5F). Unexpectedly, a stronger rescue was observed when both *CYLD* and *OTULIN* were overexpressed (Fig. 5C and fig. S5F). Caveolin-1 colocalized with K63-Ub and, to some extent, with M1-Ub aggregates in PDFs (fig. S5G). We used a combination of TUBE and high-input AQUA-MS/MS in immortalized fibroblasts to identify proteins bound to M1-Ub. We detected LUBAC components (fig. S5H), which are known to be decorated with M1-Ub (29). We also identified caveolin-1 and CYLD as possibly binding to M1-Ub (fig. S5H), and used cells from a HOIL1-deficient patient to validate specificity (46). The detection of caveolin-1 was not specific (fig. S5I), consistent with the absence of M1-Ub in the caveolin-1 IP (Fig. 5A and fig. S5, C and D). We confirmed the specific binding of CYLD to M1-Ub in an *OTULIN* gene-dosage dependent manner (Fig. 5D and fig. S5I). The M1-Ub-bound CYLD-species had a higher MW than that for the total CYLD-pool (fig. S5I), suggesting posttranslational modification. We identified no Gly-Gly ubiquitination signature sites on CYLD by proteomic approaches, suggesting that the post-translational modification is not ubiquitination itself and that the binding of CYLD to M1-Ub is non-covalent. Unlike an *OTULIN* gene-dosage effect, M1-Ub-bound HOIP was detected in cells from ORAS patients only (Fig. 5D fig. S5, I and J). These data reveal a direct, LUBAC-independent but OTULIN-dependent binding of M1-Ub to CYLD.

### ***Colocalization of caveolin-1 with *S. aureus* $\alpha$ -toxin***

Caveolin-1 clusters in membrane microdomains (52) and has been reported to colocalize with a disintegrin and metalloprotease domain-containing protein 10 (ADAM10) (54). ADAM10 is a cell surface receptor used by the staphylococcal virulence factor  $\alpha$ -toxin (54, 55).  $\alpha$ -Toxin is a pore-forming cytotoxin triggering ADAM10-mediated cell death in a process

facilitated by caveolin-1 (56). We hypothesized that the OTULIN-dependent caveolin-1 accumulation in the PDFs from the patients would contribute to the adverse outcomes of their disease. We thus investigated the cellular kinetics of  $\alpha$ -toxin binding. Following its addition to PDFs,  $\alpha$ -toxin colocalized with both ADAM10 and caveolin-1 (Fig. 6A and fig. S6, A and B). ADAM10 and caveolin-1 were colocalized to some extent in the presence or absence of toxin binding (Fig. 6A and fig. S6, A and B). The patients' PDFs displayed moderately higher levels of  $\alpha$ -toxin binding than cells from healthy controls (Fig. 6B and fig. S6C). This observation could not be explained by differential ADAM10 expression at baseline (fig. S6, D and E). However, after  $\alpha$ -toxin binding, the expression of ADAM10 at the cell surface was greater in PDFs from patients than in those from healthy controls (fig. S6F). These data suggest a role for caveolin-1 in retaining ADAM10 at the surface of the cell when OTULIN-haploinsufficient fibroblasts are exposed to  $\alpha$ -toxin (57, 58).

### ***OTULIN haploinsufficiency impairs intrinsic immunity to $\alpha$ -toxin***

We hypothesized that OTULIN haploinsufficiency confers a predisposition to  $\alpha$ -toxin-induced cell death in the PDFs of the patients. Indeed, these cells displayed an enhanced susceptibility to *S. aureus* culture supernatant-elicited cytotoxicity (Fig. 6C). This cytotoxicity was antagonized by prior treatment of the supernatant with  $\alpha$ -toxin-neutralizing monoclonal antibodies (fig. S6G), indicating a major contribution of  $\alpha$ -toxin to cytotoxicity in these cells. *OTULIN* genotype-dependent susceptibility to  $\alpha$ -toxin was confirmed with recombinant  $\alpha$ -toxin (Fig. 6D and fig. S6H). The absence of a particular phenotype following the treatment of cells from patients with streptolysin O (SLO) and aerolysin—microbial toxins produced by other bacteria and not requiring specific proteinaceous host-cell surface receptors (59)—indicates a specific susceptibility of the OTULIN-haploinsufficient PDFs from patients to  $\alpha$ -toxin (Fig. 6D and fig. S6H). Normal susceptibility to  $\alpha$ -toxin was observed in PDFs from a 5p- syndrome patient carrying two copies of the *OTULIN* gene, confirming the OTULIN-dependence of the phenotype (Fig. 6E and fig. S6I).  $\alpha$ -Toxin elicited higher levels of cell surface metalloprotease activation in PDFs from the patients than in those of healthy controls (Fig. 6F) (55). Again, a 5p- syndrome patient carrying two copies of the *OTULIN* gene behaved like controls (Fig. 6F). Activity levels were correlated with ADAM10 levels following  $\alpha$ -toxin binding (fig. S6J). Prior treatment of the PDFs with an ADAM10-selective inhibitor blocked  $\alpha$ -toxin-induced metalloprotease activation completely in controls, but activation levels in patients were decreased only slightly, to those in untreated controls (Fig. 6F). Moreover, to various extents, ADAM10 inhibition protected the patients' PDFs against  $\alpha$ -toxin cytotoxicity (fig. S6K).



Prior treatment with cyclodextrin, a chemical product disrupting caveolin-1-enriched membrane microdomains (60), protected PDFs from the patients against  $\alpha$ -toxin-induced cytotoxicity (fig. S6K). The susceptibility of an OTULIN-deficient PDF cell line was partially rescued by knocking out *CAV1* but not *CAV2* (Fig. 6G and fig. S6L), further supporting a facilitating role of caveolin-1 in  $\alpha$ -toxin cytotoxicity (54). Consistent with the low levels of caveolin-1 in hematopoietic cells from the patients, these cells displayed no OTULIN-dependent susceptibility to  $\alpha$ -toxin (fig. S6M). Murine PDFs, unlike their human counterparts, were resistant to  $\alpha$ -toxin-elicited cell death regardless of *Otulin* genotype (fig. S6N). Thus, OTULIN haploinsufficiency results in a human-specific cell-intrinsic susceptibility of non-hematopoietic cells to the major *S. aureus* virulence factor,  $\alpha$ -toxin.

### ***$\alpha$ -Toxin-neutralizing antibodies rescue OTULIN haploinsufficiency***

Colonization and infection with *S. aureus* elicit  $\alpha$ -toxin-neutralizing antibodies in an age-dependent manner (61). We hypothesized that  $\alpha$ -toxin-neutralizing antibodies in the plasma of adult symptomatic and asymptomatic heterozygotes might contribute to the incomplete clinical penetrance of OTULIN haploinsufficiency (Fig. 1, B to D and F) (12). Routine measurements of immunoglobulin levels and vaccine responses revealed no defects in the patients (SM). Plasma  $\alpha$ -toxin-neutralizing capacity in asymptomatic carriers was similar to that of healthy controls, whereas this capacity was significantly lower in patients (~one fifth that in healthy controls; Fig. 7A and fig. S7A). The lower neutralizing capacity in the patients was specific for  $\alpha$ -toxin, because the plasma of the patients neutralized SLO and pneumolysin normally (Fig. 7A and fig. S7A). In healthy controls, plasma  $\alpha$ -toxin-neutralizing capacity was largely driven by IgG (fig. S7B). In patients, anti- $\alpha$ -toxin IgG levels were significantly lower than those in healthy controls, whereas IgA and IgM levels were unaffected (Fig. 7B and fig. S7, C and D). The anti- $\alpha$ -toxin IgG levels in asymptomatic carriers were like those of healthy controls (Fig. 7B and fig. S7, C and D) (61). Similar observations were made following correction for sample-specific total IgG levels (fig. S7E). Thus, naturally elicited  $\alpha$ -toxin-neutralizing antibodies can rescue OTULIN haploinsufficiency in vivo, thereby contributing to incomplete penetrance.

### **Discussion**

We tested the hypothesis that some patients from our cohort with severe staphylococcal disease suffered from IEIs. Using an unbiased approach, we detected a genome-wide enrichment in very rare, deleterious heterozygous *OTULIN* variants in the cohort. We identified haploinsufficiency for OTULIN as a genetic etiology of severe staphylococcal disease. AR OTULIN deficiency results in life-threatening

autoinflammation, manifesting early in life as ORAS (29–32). By contrast, patients with AD OTULIN deficiency typically presented with severe disease triggered by *S. aureus* infections. Most of the patients with OTULIN haploinsufficiency experienced their first episode of disease during adolescence. Necrosis was a clinical hallmark of disease in the probands. Some patients were not diagnosed with *S. aureus* infections, suggesting that low-grade infectious or, perhaps, non-infectious triggers might be at work. AD OTULIN deficiency is clinically expressed in a tissue-specific manner because the skin and/or lungs are the affected organs in all patients. The pedigrees reported in our study displayed variable degrees of penetrance and expressivity. Such observations are common in situations of haploinsufficiency (62, 63). We show that naturally elicited  $\alpha$ -toxin-neutralizing antibodies can rescue OTULIN haploinsufficiency and we suspect that declining levels of such antibodies may contribute to recurrent episodes of severe staphylococcal disease in some patients. We estimate the clinical penetrance of AD OTULIN deficiency at about 30%. This estimate of clinical penetrance mirrors our findings for individuals with 5p- syndrome. It is difficult to establish causal relationships between individual genes and specific phenotypes in patients with chromosomal deletion syndromes. Clinical manifestations of a monogenic disorder in a chromosomal deletion syndrome have also been reported for GATA3 haploinsufficiency (64). Our observations suggest that the study of rare IEIs can help to clarify phenotypes seen in individuals with more common chromosomal abnormalities.

In ORAS patients, autoinflammation results from the defective down-regulation of NF- $\kappa$ B-dependent inflammatory signaling in hematopoietic cells, particularly those of the myeloid lineage (29–32). OTULIN deficiency causes a gene dosage-dependent accumulation of M1-Ub, but OTULIN haploinsufficiency is both clinically and biochemically silent for TNF-induced signaling events, instead causing a predisposition to infection. The apparent paradox of autoinflammation and immunodeficiency within the spectrum of clinical phenotypes of OTULIN deficiency is also observed in patients with HOIL1 and HOIP deficiencies, which greatly decrease the levels of M1-Ub (46, 65). The combination of autoinflammation and immunodeficiency in HOIL1 and HOIP deficiencies highlights the complex role of LUBAC in maintaining the cell type-specific balance between inflammation and immunity. Inflammation is regulated by two other deubiquitinases in addition to OTULIN: A20 and CYLD. Phosphorylated A20 preferentially cleaves K63-Ub in cells (66, 67). CYLD hydrolyzes K63-Ub and M1-Ub (68). AD A20 deficiency causes an autoinflammatory condition resembling Behçet's disease (69), whereas AD CYLD deficiency results in cylindromatosis of the skin (70). AR HOIL1, HOIP, and OTULIN deficiencies and AD A20 deficiency are systemic disorders. Conversely,



AD OTULIN and CYLD deficiencies result in tissue-specific disease. OTULIN and CYLD bind HOIP in a mutually exclusive manner (71). The detection of CYLD bound to M1-Ub reveals another, LUBAC-independent, layer of crosstalk between the two deubiquitinases. CYLD activity and specificity were recently shown to be regulated by phosphorylation and ubiquitin-binding CAP-Gly domains (72). We speculate that, with insufficient amounts of OTULIN, phosphorylated CYLD primed for activity toward K63-Ub is quenched by M1-Ub. The accumulation of caveolin-1 in dermal fibroblasts observed in patients with OTULIN deficiency probably results from disruption of the polyubiquitination of this molecule.

Human OTULIN haploinsufficiency is an inborn error of cell-intrinsic immunity to *S. aureus* infection. Staphylococcal disease displays a remarkable organ tropism, affecting the skin and lungs in particular (1). Tissue barrier disruption is a hallmark of severe staphylococcal disease (73).  $\alpha$ -Toxin is a key staphylococcal virulence factor that contributes to severe disease (73–76) and can injure non-hematopoietic cells (54, 73, 77, 78). The mechanism underlying the impairment of staphylococcal immunity in OTULIN haploinsufficiency is reminiscent of that involved in cell-intrinsic immunodeficiencies conferring susceptibility to viral infections (79–81). In the absence of sufficient levels of  $\alpha$ -toxin-neutralizing antibodies, susceptibility to staphylococcal disease in patients with OTULIN haploinsufficiency is driven by a defect of cell-intrinsic immunity to the  $\alpha$ -toxin of the pathogen. In patients with OTULIN haploinsufficiency, caveolin-1 accumulates specifically in non-hematopoietic cells. Caveolin-1 clusters with  $\alpha$ -toxin and the retention of ADAM10 at the surface of the patients' cells predisposes these cells to  $\alpha$ -toxin-induced cell death (82, 83). Caveolin-1 accumulation is observed in the cells of patients with either bi- or monoallelic OTULIN deficiencies. The late-onset infectious phenotype in patients with AD OTULIN deficiency may be overshadowed by the early-onset severe autoinflammatory manifestations in ORAS or compensated for by the presence of  $\alpha$ -toxin-neutralizing antibodies. Consistent with this view, we also identified a pediatric homozygous carrier of a moderately hypomorphic OTULIN variant with an infectious phenotype indistinguishable from that of our haploinsufficient probands, with no autoinflammatory features. This work provides a direct demonstration of a defined host characteristic predisposing humans to adverse events elicited by a specific bacterial virulence factor.

*S. aureus* is a pathogen of paramount significance in human health (1). In the face of a globally emerging epidemic of community-acquired methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* (MRSA) strains (18), innovative strategies for treating and preventing infection are needed (84). In the presence or absence of documented *S. aureus* infections, OTULIN-haploinsufficient patients with severe necrosis may benefit from combined

antibiotic and steroid therapy, together with  $\alpha$ -toxin-neutralizing monoclonal antibodies (85). Despite clear public health needs, no effective *S. aureus* vaccine has yet been approved (86). Humans are the main reservoir of *S. aureus*, and the pathogen is highly adapted to its human host (77, 78). Mice are naturally resistant to *S. aureus* infection (87). The principal mechanistic differences in hematopoietic immunity to staphylococcal infections between humans and mice have been characterized (77, 78). By contrast, the mechanisms of cell-intrinsic immunity in non-hematopoietic cells have been little studied in either humans or mice (80, 88–90). Staphylococcal virulence factors, such as  $\alpha$ -toxin, are considered potential targets for strategies aiming to treat and prevent infection (77, 78). For many of these virulence factors, and cytotoxins in particular, one or more aspects of the interaction with the host are human-specific (78, 91). Murine ADAM10 can interact with  $\alpha$ -toxin (55). However, OTULIN haploinsufficiency reveals a layer of human specificity at the interface between  $\alpha$ -toxin and its human non-hematopoietic target cells. OTULIN haploinsufficiency demonstrates the contribution of *S. aureus* toxins to the pathophysiology of severe disease in humans. The experiment of Nature described here identifies a mechanism of human cell-intrinsic immunity to *S. aureus* infections and highlights the potential for interfering with the staphylococcal  $\alpha$ -toxin for treating and preventing disease (85, 92).

## Materials and methods summary

### Human subjects

Informed consent was obtained from each patient, in accordance with local regulations, and a protocol for research on human subjects was approved by the institutional review boards (IRB) of *Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale* (INSERM, protocol C10-16) and The Rockefeller University (protocols JCA-0698 and JCA-0695).

### Whole-exome sequencing, breakpoint determination, and variant enrichment analyses

Genomic DNA was extracted from whole blood. Whole-exome sequencing and breakpoint determinations are detailed in the SM. A gene-based enrichment analysis was performed on the cohort of 105 patients with severe staphylococcal disease, together with 1,274 individuals with Mendelian susceptibility to mycobacterial disease (MSMD) or suffering from tuberculosis (TB) as controls. Rare variants [MAF <  $1 \times 10^{-5}$  in the gnomAD database (20)] predicted to be damaging [combined annotation-dependent depletion score (CADD) > mutation significance cutoff (MSC) (21)] were retained (table S1) (23). The proportions of individuals with rare damaging variants in the cohort and the controls were compared by logistic regression with likelihood ratio tests (table S2). The first five principal components of the PCA were systematically

included in the logistic regression model to account for the ethnic heterogeneity of the cohorts, as previously described (93). Genes were then tested under a dominant genetic model. Four carriers, three of whom carried heterozygous variants, were identified amongst the cases. No carriers were identified amongst the controls. We then performed the same analysis again, but with the addition of 2,504 individuals from 1,000 Genomes Project phase 3 (25) to our control dataset (26).

### **Cell culture**

Primary dermal fibroblasts (PDFs) were obtained from skin biopsy specimens and cultured in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM) (Gibco) supplemented with 10% heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum (HI-FBS) (Gibco) unless otherwise specified. PBMCs were isolated from whole blood by density gradient centrifugation on Ficoll-Paque PLUS (GE Healthcare Life Sciences) and maintained in Roswell Park Memorial Institute (RPMI) 1640 (Gibco) medium supplemented with 10% HI-FBS unless otherwise specified. Immortalized fibroblasts were generated by transformation with SV40 as previously described (94) and maintained in DMEM supplemented with 10% HI-FBS. HEK293T cells (American Type Culture Collection) were cultured in DMEM supplemented with 10% HI-FBS.

### **Generation of OTULIN constructs, transfection, transduction, and nucleofection**

The human canonical *OTULIN* cDNA open reading frame clone was amplified from pCMV6-Entry FAM105B (OriGene) and inserted into the pCMV6-AN-Myc-DDK-tagged vector (OriGene) or pLentiIII-UBC (Abmgood). Site-directed mutagenesis to generate the *OTULIN* variants present in the patients was performed by a modified overlap-extension PCR-based method (95). All constructs were validated by Sanger sequencing. HEK293T cells were transiently transfected in the presence of Lipofectamine LTX (Thermo Fisher Scientific). For lentiviral transductions, semi-confluent HEK293T cells were cotransfected with *OTULIN*, *GAG*, *POL*, and *ENV* plasmids. The supernatant was collected at 48 hours and 72 hours and concentrated with a Lenti-X concentrator (Clontech). A ten-fold dilution (by volume) of the lentivirus preparation was added to semi-confluent immortalized fibroblasts plated on six-well plates. Transduced cells were selected with puromycin (Invitrogen). PDFs were mixed with gene knock-out kit V2 single guide RNA pools (Synthego) in the presence of TrueCut Cas9 protein V2 (Thermo Fisher Scientific), or with pCMV6 expression vectors, and nucleofected with the basic nucleofector kit for primary mammalian fibroblasts (Lonza) on a Nucleofector 2b device (Lonza).

### **NF- $\kappa$ B inhibition assay and linear deubiquitinase assay**

HEK293T cells in 96-well plates were transiently cotransfected with pCMV6 vectors containing the *OTULIN* cDNA variants, the NF- $\kappa$ B firefly luciferase plasmid pGL4.32, and the *Renilla* luciferase plasmid (pRLTK) as an internal control. The cells were stimulated, 24 hours after transfection, by incubation with 20 ng/ml TNF in minimal medium (1% FBS) for an additional 24 hours. The ratio of firefly-to-*Renilla* luciferase expression was assessed with the Dual-Glo Luciferase assay (Promega) on a bioluminescence plate reader. Data were normalized against the inhibitory activity of cells transfected with a vector encoding the *OTULIN* reference cDNA. For linear deubiquitination assays, HEK293T cells were cotransfected with pCMV6 vectors containing the *OTULIN* cDNA variants, HOIL-1, HOIP, SHARPIN and linear ubiquitin (UbK0) and harvested after 48 hours. Whole-cell lysates (WCLs) were prepared with WCL buffer A (table S4). For immunoprecipitation, anti-M1-Ub antibody was added and the lysates were incubated overnight at room temperature. Dynabeads Protein G (Thermo Fisher Scientific) beads were added to the samples, which were then incubated for one hour at room temperature. The beads were then washed with WCL buffer A (table S4) and resuspended in 2 x NuPAGE LDS sample buffer (Thermo Fisher Scientific) supplemented with DTT. The antibodies used are described in table S3.

### **Reverse transcription and PCR**

Total RNA was extracted from transiently transfected HEK293T cells or from PDFs with the RNeasy Mini Kit (QIAGEN). Reverse transcription was performed with the SuperScript III First-Strand Synthesis System (Invitrogen) and random hexamers. Quantitative PCR was performed with the TaqMan Universal PCR Master Mix (Applied Biosystems) in the 7500 Fast Real-Time PCR System (Applied Biosystems). The following TaqMan Gene Expression assays (Thermo Fisher Scientific) were used: *OTULIN* (Hs01113237\_m1); *GUSB* (Hs00939627\_m1); *GAPDH* (Hs99999905\_m1).

### **Whole-cell lysates, SDS-PAGE, and Western blotting**

Transiently transfected HEK293T cells were harvested and lysed in whole cell lysate (WCL) buffer B (table S4). PDFs were synchronized by incubation in DMEM containing 1% FBS for 24 hours before trypsin treatment and were then lysed in WCL buffer C (table S4) with sonication to clear the supernatants. Immortalized fibroblasts were stimulated with 10 ng/ml TNF and lysed in WCL buffer D (table S4). Monocytes were obtained from freshly thawed PBMCs with the Pan Monocyte Isolation Kit (Miltenyi Biotec) and lysed in WCL buffer C (table S4) with sonication to clear the supernatants. Laemmli buffer (BioRad) supplemented with DTT was added to the clarified lysates. Proteins were separated by SDS-PAGE

transferred onto an Immobilon-P PVDF membrane (Millipore). The membrane was blocked by incubation in PBS supplemented with 0.1% Tween 20 and 5% BSA and incubated overnight with the primary antibody, followed by the appropriate horseradish peroxidase-conjugated secondary antibody. Immunoreactive proteins were visualized by enhanced chemiluminescence. Intensity analyses were performed with ImageStudioLite (LI-COR). The antibodies used are described in table S3.

### ***Cytometry by time-of-flight***

Freshly thawed PBMCs were incubated with Fc block and then with a panel of metal-conjugated antibodies, as described elsewhere (96). The antibodies used are described in table S3. Batch-integrated unsupervised clustering analysis was conducted with the iMUBAC pipeline (45). The analysis included 29 adult controls (nine studied in replicate) and nine pediatric controls (all under the age of 18 years) studied across seven batches of experiments, four patients with heterozygous mutations of *OTULIN* and two 5p- patients studied in two batches of experiments. Clusters were identified manually and renamed based on their marker expression patterns.

### ***Flow cytometry***

Freshly thawed PBMCs were rested for 3 hours and were then stimulated for 90 min with 20 ng/ml TNF (R&D Systems) or 1 ng/ml LPS (InvivoGen). The reaction was stopped by washing the cells with PBS, and the cells were then subjected to live/dead staining. Cells were subsequently stained with surface markers and washed. They were then permeabilized and stained with Phosflow Perm Buffer (BD) or Intracellular Staining Perm Wash Buffer (BioLegend). PDFs were synchronized by incubation in DMEM supplemented with 1% HI-FBS for 24 hours and were then harvested by trypsin treatment. The fibroblasts were stained, fixed and acquired on a LSR-Fortessa cytometer (BD). All flow cytometry results were analyzed with FlowJo (version 10). The antibodies used are described in table S3.

### ***Cytokine detection***

PDFs were synchronized by incubation in DMEM supplemented with 1% HI-FBS for 24 hours before stimulation. At steady state and after 6 hours of stimulation with 20 ng/ml TNF (R&D Systems), supernatants were harvested, and the levels of IL-6 and IL-8 were assessed with the IL-6 and IL-8 Human ELISA kits (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Freshly thawed PBMCs were left unstimulated or stimulated with 20 ng/ml TNF (R&D Systems), 10 ng/ml IL-1 $\beta$  (R&D Systems), HKSA (heat-killed *S. aureus*; MOI: 10; InvivoGen), or 1 ng/ml LPS (InvivoGen) for 6 hours. Supernatants were harvested, and chemokines and cytokines were detected with

LEGENDplex Human Inflammation Panel 1 (BioLegend).

### ***Induced pluripotent stem cells***

The generation and culture of iPSCs, their differentiation into macrophages, and the phagocytosis and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> production assays are described in the SM.

### ***Transcriptional and proteomic analyses***

Transcriptional analyses in PDFs and PBMCs, single-cell RNA-sequencing on PBMCs, and global proteomics analyses of PDFs are described in the SM.

### ***Caveolin-1 immune purification from whole-cell lysates***

PDFs were synchronized by incubation in DMEM containing 1% HI-FBS for 24 hours and were then harvested by trypsin treatment. Cell pellets were lysed in WCL buffer C (table S4) with sonication to clear the supernatants. Cleared WCLs were incubated overnight at 4°C with Protein A Dynabeads (Thermo Fisher Scientific) conjugated to the monoclonal anti-caveolin-1 antibody or an isotype control. The samples were then eluted from the beads with 50 mM glycine, pH 2. The antibodies used are described in table S3. The immunopurification products (IPs) were then split into portions for loading onto a gel or direct in-solution proteomic analyses, as described in the SM.

### ***Deubiquitination of purified caveolin-1***

Caveolin-1 IPs were treated with recombinant deubiquitinases as described elsewhere (97). Briefly, immunopurified caveolin-1 was incubated with deubiquitinases at 37°C for 30 min. Recombinant USP2, AMSH, and OTULIN (UbiCREST Deubiquitinase Enzyme Set, R&D Systems) were used at a final concentration of 1x. Recombinant His-CYLD (R&D Systems) was used at a final concentration of 1  $\mu$ M. Purified polyubiquitin chains were deubiquitinated by incubating tetra-M1-, K48- and K63-Ub chains (R&D Systems) at a concentration of 3  $\mu$ M with deubiquitinases. Following the enzymatic reactions, sample buffer containing DTT was added, and the proteins were separated by SDS-PAGE, as described above.

### ***Linear ubiquitin-selective tandem Ub-binding entity assay***

For M1-Ub pulldown, immortalized fibroblasts were lysed in WCL buffer E (table S4) containing FLAG-tagged M1-Ub-selective tandem Ub-binding entity (TUBE) (LifeSensors). Supernatants were cleared by centrifugation and incubated with Anti-FLAG M2 agarose beads (Sigma Aldrich) for 2 hours at 4°C. The beads were washed with WCL buffer E (table S4), and resuspended in 1 x Laemmli buffer without reducing agent. For M1-Ub quantification, we used an input of ~0.5 mg per sample. For the identification of peptides bound



to M1-Ub, we used an input of ~2 mg per sample. M1-Ub quantification and the identification of peptides bound to M1-Ub by means of absolute quantification (AQUA) tandem mass spectrometry (MS/MS) are described in the SM. For western-blot analyses, beads were resuspended in sample buffer containing DTT and samples were separated by SDS-PAGE, as described above.

### **Immunofluorescence assays**

Immortalized fibroblasts were cultured on glass coverslips for the staining of M1-Ub, K63-Ub, and caveolin-1. The cells were fixed in methanol, blocked by incubation with 1% BSA and incubated overnight with primary antibodies and CellMask deep red plasma membrane stain (Thermo Fisher Scientific), followed by secondary antibodies and DAPI. Specimens were examined either with an Imager Z1 microscope (Carl Zeiss, for M1-Ub aggregate number quantifications) or a LSM800 laser scanning microscope (Carl Zeiss, for caveolin-1 and M1-Ub or K63-Ub colocalization experiments). The numbers of ubiquitin aggregates per cell were quantified using CellProfiler (<http://www.cellprofiler.org/>). Nuclei and cell boundaries were segmented to identify OTULIN-positive cells and to attribute M1-Ub-positive aggregates to parental cells. Immunofluorescence deubiquitination and competition assays are described in the SM. For  $\alpha$ -toxin colocalization and binding experiments, PDFs were synchronized by incubation in DMEM containing 1% HI-FBS for 24 hours before trypsin treatment. PDFs were incubated with 10  $\mu$ g/ml  $\alpha$ -toxin-Cys-AF647, washed, and then fixed with methanol. After incubation with antibodies and DAPI, cells were seeded in a slide chamber. Images were acquired on a Leica SP5 confocal microscope (Leica Microsystems) and NanoImager (ONI). In parallel, the cells were recorded on a FACS Verse flow cytometer (BD). Confocal images were analyzed with Image J Fiji software and the JACoP colocalization analysis plugin (98). The antibodies used are described in table S3.

### **Cell viability assays**

PDFs were plated in a microtiter plate and synchronized in DMEM containing 1% HI-FBS and 25 mM DMEM for 24 hours and were then incubated for 2.5 hours with 5-10% crude bacterial culture supernatant or for 24 hours with recombinant toxins, or with 100 ng/ml TNF (R&D Systems) plus 1  $\mu$ M BV6 (ApexBio) at 37°C, under an atmosphere containing 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. Bacterial supernatants were neutralized by incubation for 15 min in DMEM supplemented with 10% HI-FBS plus 100  $\mu$ g/ml monoclonal antibodies (92, 99). PBMCs and iPSC-derived macrophages were incubated with  $\alpha$ -toxin for 2 hours and 24 hours, respectively, at 37°C, under an atmosphere containing 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. For the inhibition of  $\alpha$ -toxin cytotoxicity, PDFs were treated for 1 hour with 20  $\mu$ M GI-254023X (R&D Systems) or DMSO before adding 1.1  $\mu$ g/ml  $\alpha$ -

toxin, or for 2 hours with 1 mM methyl- $\beta$ -cyclodextrin (Sigma) followed by washing and the addition of 1.1  $\mu$ g/ml  $\alpha$ -toxin. Viability was assessed with the CellTiterGlo Luminescent Cell Viability Assay (Promega) and expressed relative to cells not incubated with the toxin or supernatant. Four-parameter non-linear regression analyses were performed to obtain half-maximum effective concentrations (EC<sub>50</sub>). The expression of recombinant toxins and the generation of bacterial culture supernatant are described in the SM.

### **Metalloprotease activity assays**

PDFs were plated in a microtiter plate and synchronized by incubation in DMEM containing 1% HI-FBS and 25 mM DMEM for 24 hours. They were then treated for 1 hour with 20  $\mu$ M GI-254023X (R&D Systems) or DMSO before the addition of 3.3  $\mu$ g/ml wild-type or H35L-toxoid  $\alpha$ -toxin. After 2 hours of incubation at 37°C, under an atmosphere containing 5% CO<sub>2</sub>, cells were washed with 25 mM Tris (pH 8), and 10  $\mu$ M Mca-PLAQAV-Dpa-RSSSR-NH<sub>2</sub> Fluorogenic Peptide Substrate (R&D Systems) was added. After incubation for 30 min, fluorescence intensity was measured on a monochromator-based microplate reader and expressed relative to cells not incubated with the toxin.

### **Mice**

The generation and use of *Otulin*-haploinsufficient mice is described in the SM.

### **Anti- $\alpha$ -toxin immunoglobulins**

The capacity of the plasma to neutralize microbial toxins was assessed with rabbit erythrocytes, as described in the SM. Pooled plasma was depleted of IgG with HiTrap Protein G HRP columns (GE Healthcare). Anti- $\alpha$ -toxin immunoglobulin levels were measured by ELISA, as described in the SM.

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank the patients, their families, and the US 5p- Syndrome Society for their trust and collaboration. We thank Martijn van Aartrijk, Selket Delafontaine, Mikko Muona, Emmanuelle Jouanguy, Yelena Nemirovskaya, Mark Woollett, Marjan Wassenberg, Marc Bonten, Suzan Rooijakkers, Kok van Kessel, and Jos van Strijp for their assistance and support. We thank the Flow Cytometry and Genomics Resource Centers at The Rockefeller University. **Funding:** This work was supported by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) (UL1TR001866 to The Rockefeller University), the Sackler Center for Biomedicine and Nutrition at the Center for Clinical and Translational Science at The Rockefeller University and the Shapiro-Silverberg Fund for the Advancement of Translational Research (to A.N.S.), NIH P01AI061093 (to J.-L.C.), the Square Foundation, the French National Research Agency (ANR-10-IAHU-01), the Integrative Biology of Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory of Excellence (ANR-10-LABX-62-IBED), the French Foundation for Medical Research (EQU201903007798), the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the St. Giles Foundation, The Rockefeller University, Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM), the Paris Cité University, the Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center and the National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute (P30CA016087 to the NYU Langone's Rodent Genetic Engineering Laboratory), the Bettencourt Schueller Foundation and the International PhD program of the Imagine Institute (to A.-L.N.), the David Rockefeller Graduate Program (to M.O.), the New York Hideyo Noguchi Memorial Society (to M.O.), the Funai Foundation for Information Technology (to M.O.), the Honjo International Scholarship Foundation (to M.O.), the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Postdoctoral Research Fellowship award (LACEY19FO, to K.A.L.), the William C. and Joyce C. O'Neil Charitable Trust (to T.B.), the Memorial Sloan Kettering Single Cell Sequencing Initiative (to T.B.), the Hospital Research Funds at the Pediatric Research Center at the Helsinki University Hospital (to M.R.J.S.), the Foundation for Pediatric Research of Finland (to M.R.J.S.). C.W. serves as a member of the European Reference Network for Rare Immunodeficiency, Autoinflammatory and Autoimmune Diseases (739543). The work was supported in part by the ERC Start grant IMMUNO (ERC-2010-StG\_20091118, to A.L.), the VIB Grand Challenges (to A.L., S.H.-B., R.S.), the KU Leuven BOFZAP start-up grant (to S.H.-B.), National Fund for Scientific Research senior clinical investigator fellowships (1805518N, to R.S.; and G0B5120N, to I.M.), National Fund for Scientific Research grants (G0E8420N and G0C8517N, to I.M.), a KU Leuven C1 grant (to I.M.), and the ERC Start grant MORE2ADA2 (ERC-2020-StG\_948959, to I.M.). I.M. is a member of ERN-RITA. D.B. is supported by the NIH (R01 AI148963) and a founder of Lab11 Therapeutics, Inc. The *S. aureus* work in the Torres laboratory is funded by the NIH (R01 AI099394, R01 AI105129, R01 AI121244, R01 AI137336 and R01 AI140754, to V.J.T.). V.J.T. is a Burroughs Wellcome Fund Investigator in the pathogenesis of infectious diseases. A.N.S. was supported in part by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Program (Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant No. 789645), the Dutch Research Council Talent Program (NWO Rubicon grant No. 019.171LW.015, partially non-stipendiary), and the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO Long-Term Fellowship grant No. ALTF 84-2017, non-stipendiary). **Author contributions:** A.N.S., L.A., B.B., and J.-L.C. conceptualized the project. A.N.S., D.B., H.M., S.C. L.A., B.B. and J.-L.C. designed the methods. A.N.S., A.-L.N., E.L., F.R., M.O., Y.S., S.C. and B.B. performed formal analyses. A.N.S., A.-L.N., E.L., F.S., K.A.L., E.N., M.C., D.H., M.M., A.I., L.L., T.K., M.R.J.S., D.A.C.H., S.H., T.B., and R.Y. performed investigations. A.L.D., K.D., H.F.W., G.V.B., R.W., G.S., H.G.T., H.L.L., B.W.B., S.L., L.D.N., M.M., M.S., X.B., E.S., R.T., S.O., M.J.M.E., L.B., L.B.G., A.L., A.N., B.B.-M., B.N., I.M., C.W., M.R.J.S., R.S., E.J., A.P., J.B., I.A., and D.K. provided resources. A.N.S., B.B., and J.-L.C. wrote the manuscript. A.N.S., V.J.T., A.L., S.H.-B., L.A.,

B.B., and J-L.C. supervised the project. A.N.S., V.J.T., A.L., S.H-B., L.A., B.B., and J-L.C. acquired funding for the project. **Competing interests:** V.J.T. is an inventor on patents and patent applications filed by New York University, which are currently under commercial license to Janssen Biotech Inc. Janssen Biotech Inc. provides research funding and other payments associated with the licensing agreement. D.B. is a founder of Lab11 Therapeutics Inc. None of the other authors have any conflict of interest to declare. **Data and materials availability:** Plasma, cells, and genomic DNA are available from J-L.C. under a material transfer agreement with The Rockefeller University. The materials and reagents used are almost exclusively commercially available and nonproprietary. Raw RNA sequencing data have been deposited to the NCBI BioProject database and are available under project number PRJNA818002. Proteomic data have been deposited to the ProteomeXchange Consortium via the PRIDE partner repository and are available with dataset identifier PXD032727. All other data are available in the main text or in the SM. **License information:** Copyright © 2022 the authors, some rights reserved; exclusive licensee American Association for the Advancement of Science. No claim to original US government works.  
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## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

[science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abm6380](https://science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abm6380)

Case Reports for the Patients Studied

Materials and Methods

Figs. S1 to S7

Tables S1 to S4

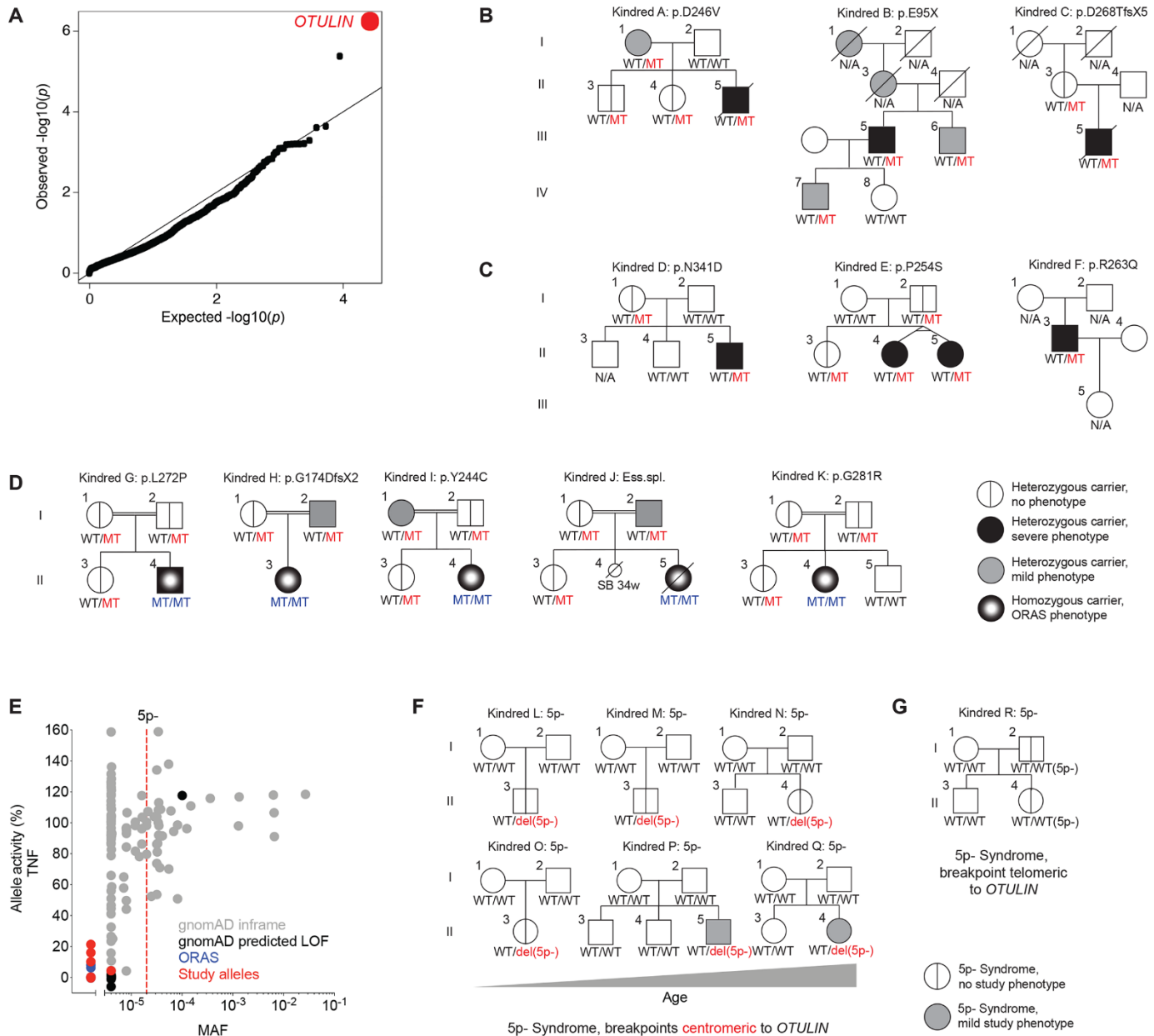
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MDAR Reproducibility Checklist

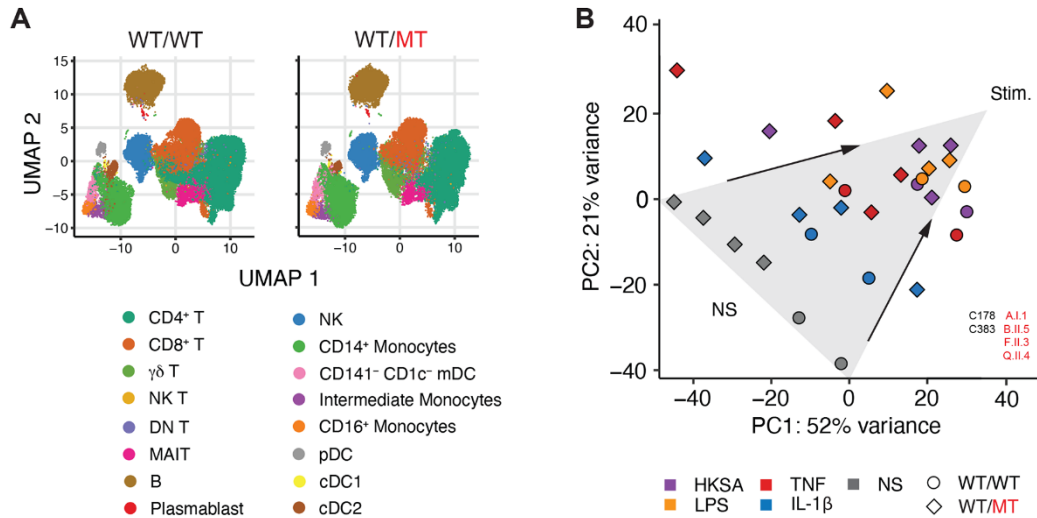
Submitted 30 September 2021; accepted 5 May 2022

Published online 19 May 2022

10.1126/science.abm6380

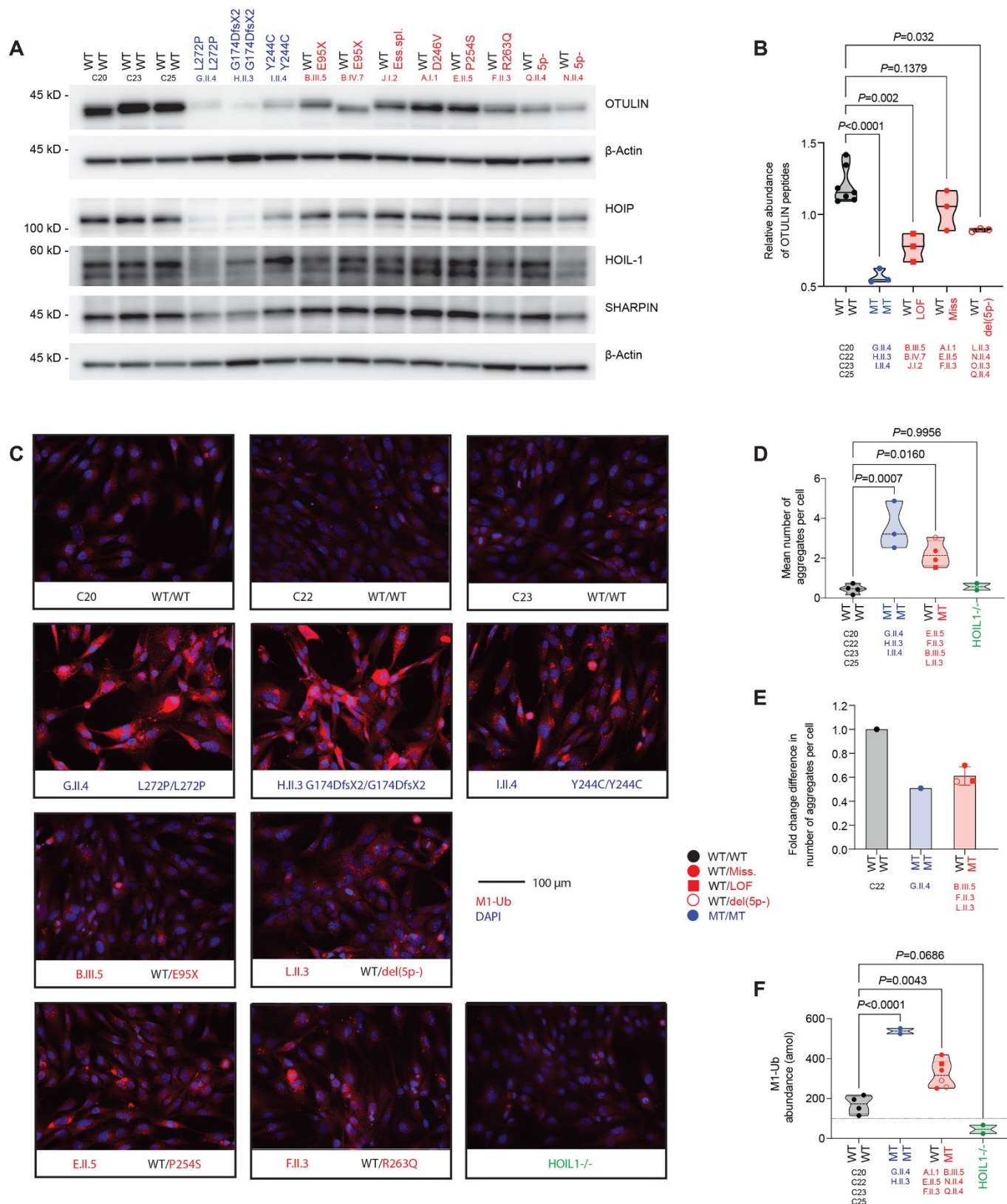


**Fig. 1. OTULIN haploinsufficiency and its molecular characterization.** (A) Genome-wide enrichment in rare, predicted deleterious variants in the cohort of  $N = 105$  patients with severe staphylococcal disease, relative to  $N = 1,274$  patients with mycobacterial disease. (B) Pedigrees of the kindreds presenting severe necrotizing staphylococcal disease and carrying heterozygous mutations of *OTULIN*. (C) Pedigrees of the kindreds carrying heterozygous mutations of *OTULIN* and presenting necrosis triggered by other etiologies. (D) Pedigrees of the kindreds of ORAS probands carrying biallelic mutations of *OTULIN*. (E) Functional population genetics based on minor allele frequencies (MAFs) reported in the gnomAD database and the NF- $\kappa$ B inhibitory capacity of the *OTULIN* variants, as assessed with a luciferase reporter system in transiently transfected HEK293T cells stimulated with TNF (datapoints represent the mean of  $N = 4-5$  per variant). (F) Pedigrees of the kindreds of the 5p- syndrome probands carrying deletions with a breakpoint centromeric to *OTULIN*. The patients are shown in ascending age order (left to right, top to bottom). (G) Pedigree of the 5p- syndrome kindred with probands carrying a deletion with a breakpoint telomeric to *OTULIN*. WT: wild-type allele; MT: mutant allele; LOF: loss of function. See also fig. S1 and tables S1 and S2.

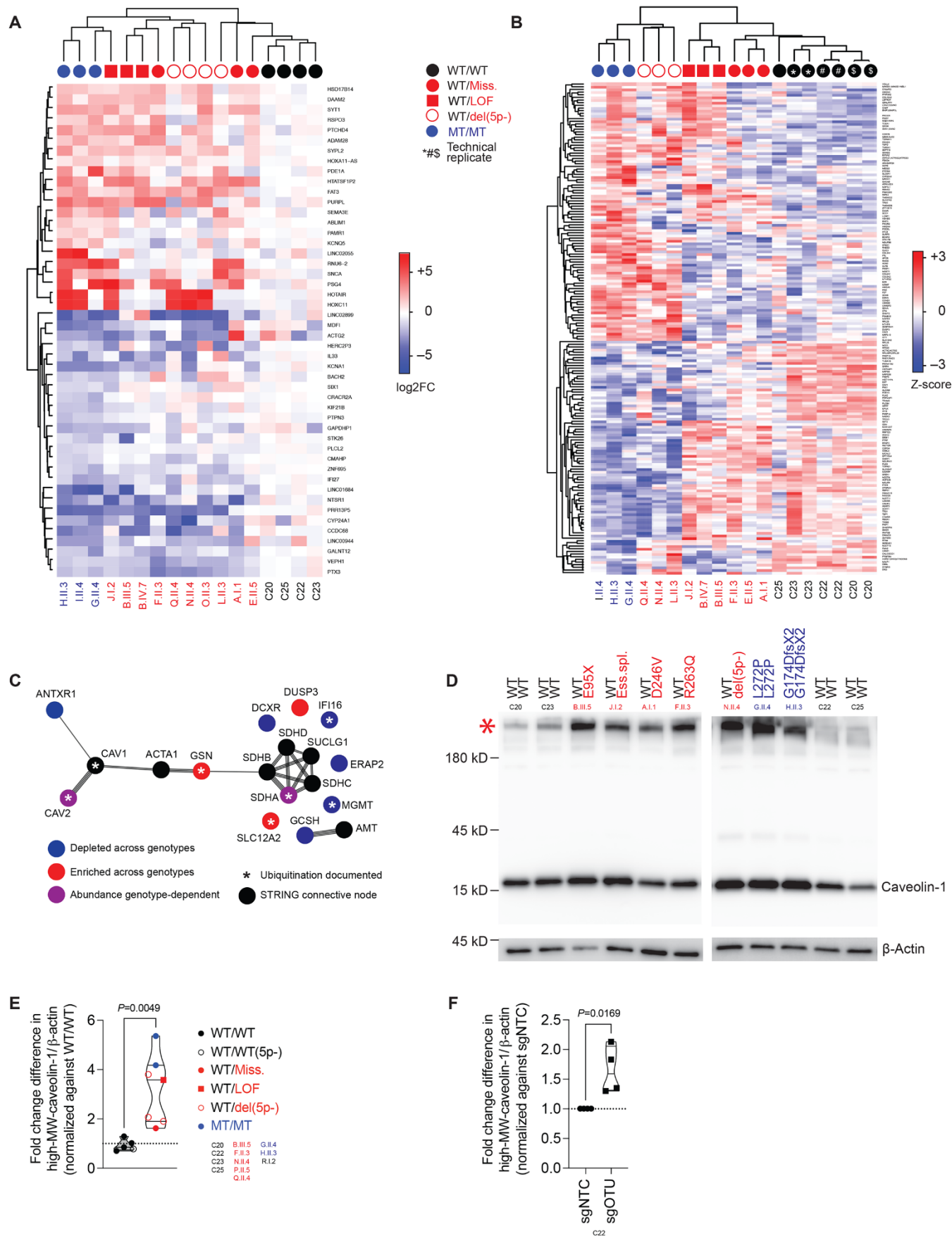


**Fig. 2. OTULIN haploinsufficiency does not impair the hematopoietic immune system.** (A) Aggregate uniform manifold approximation and projection (UMAP) plots of peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) from patients with autosomal dominant OTULIN deficiency and healthy controls, as assessed by cytometry by time-of-flight (CyTOF). (B) Principal component (PC) analysis plot of the transcriptional profile of PBMCs at baseline and after incubation with various stimuli, in comparison with healthy controls. Arrows have been added for visual support of the direction of variance after stimulation. NS: not stimulated; HKSA: heat-killed *S. aureus*. See also fig. S2.



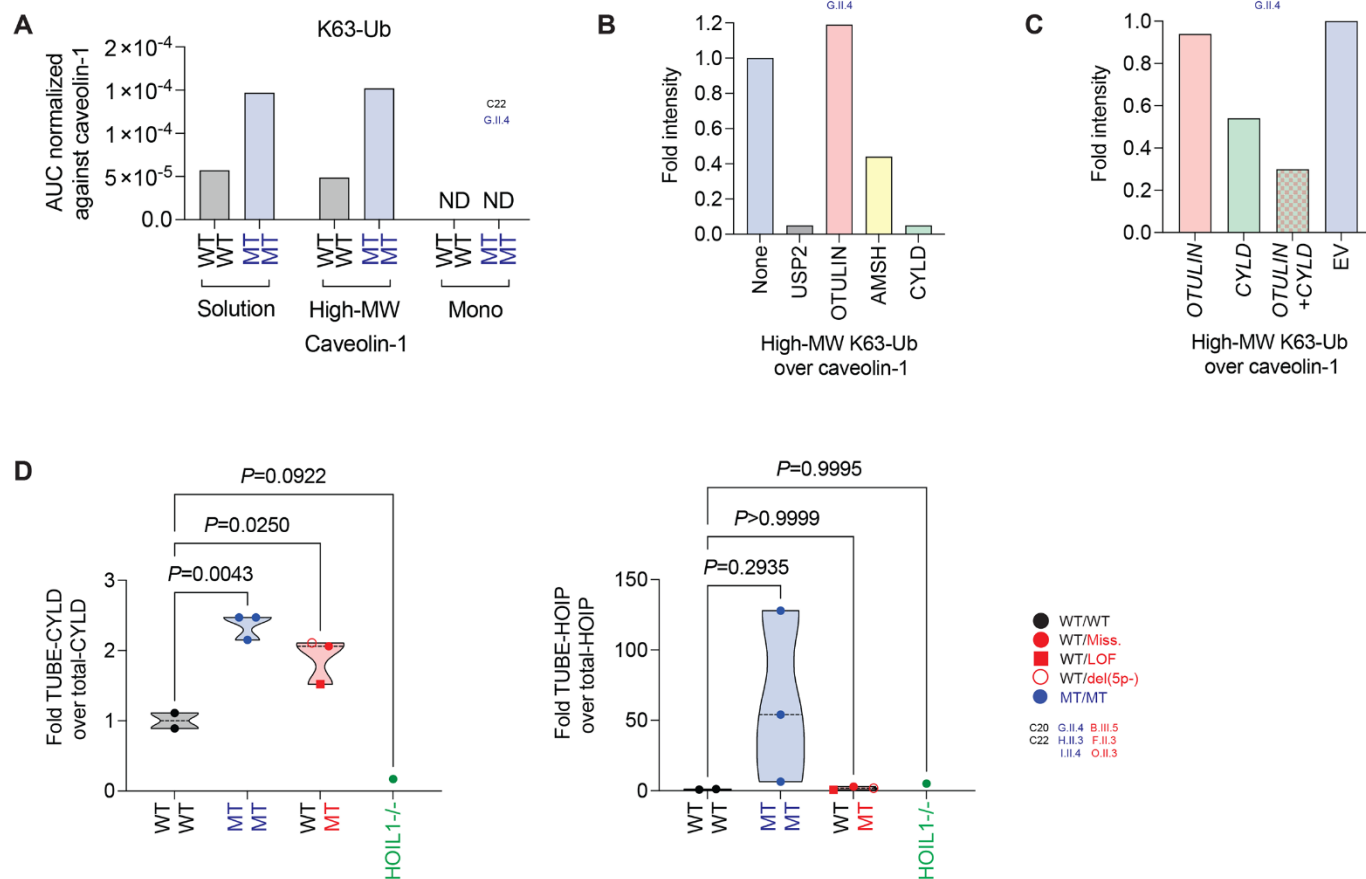


**Fig. 3. *OTULIN* gene dosage-dependent accumulation of M1-Ub in fibroblasts.** (A) Expression of OTULIN, HOIP, HOIL-1, and SHARPIN in primary dermal fibroblasts (PDFs). (B) Relative abundance of OTULIN peptides in PDFs, as determined by mass spectrometry analysis (median). (C) Accumulation of aggregates containing M1-Ub in immortalized fibroblasts, as assessed by immunohistochemistry. Representative images. (D) Quantification of the aggregate accumulations seen in (C) (median). (E) Quantification of aggregates containing M1-Ub in immortalized fibroblasts after rescue with wild-type OTULIN, as compared with cells rescued with an empty virus (mean  $\pm$ SD). (F) Abundance of M1-Ub, as determined by AQUA-MS/MS analysis of immortalized fibroblasts (median). Statistical significance was calculated by ANOVA with Dunnett post hoc correction for multiple comparisons. See also fig. S3.

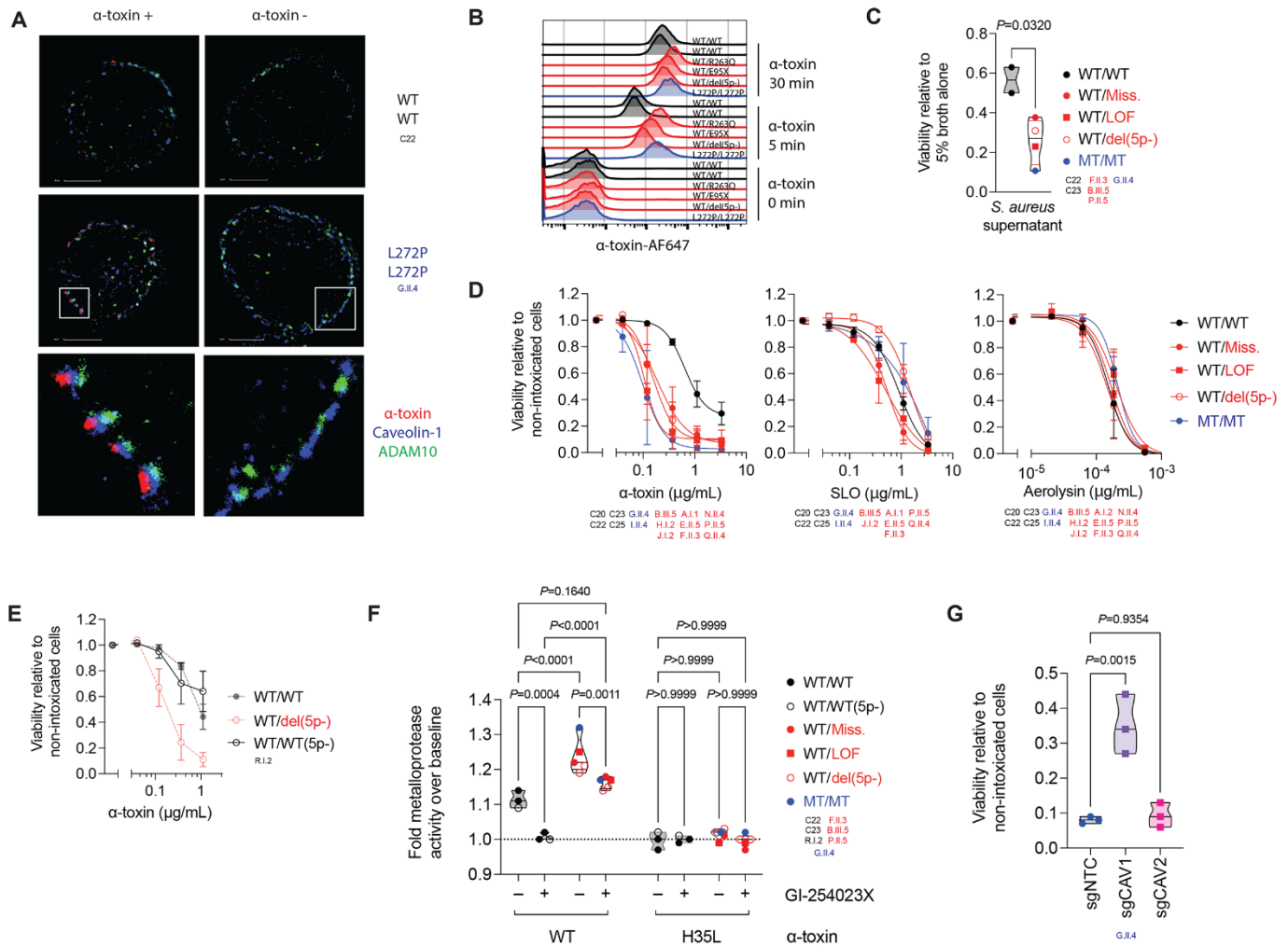


**Fig. 4. *OTULIN*-dependent accumulation of caveolin-1 in fibroblasts.** (A) Transcriptional profile of unstimulated primary dermal fibroblasts (PDFs), as assessed by RNA sequencing, expressed as log<sub>2</sub>-fold changes (FC) relative to the mean value for controls. Genes satisfying the threshold for statistical significance in comparisons of ORAS patients to controls are shown. (B) Proteomic profiles of unstimulated PDFs, as assessed by mass spectrometry on whole-cell lysates, expressed as Z-scores. Genes satisfying the threshold for statistical significance in comparisons of ORAS patients to controls are shown. (C) STRING analysis of the cluster of proteins with differential abundances in various genotypes identified in (B). (D) Accumulation of SDS-resistant high-MW caveolin-1-containing complexes in PDF-whole cell lysates (WCLs). (E) High-MW caveolin-1-containing complex intensities relative to  $\beta$ -actin intensities in PDF-WCLs, normalized against the mean value of healthy controls (datapoints indicate the mean of  $N = 2$  replicates per patient, median per group). (F) High-MW caveolin-1-containing complex intensities relative to  $\beta$ -actin intensities in PDF-WCLs treated with an sgRNA pool targeting *OTULIN* (sgOTU), normalized against the mean value in those treated with a non-targeting control sgRNA (sgNTC) (median,  $N = 4$ ). The statistical significance of differences was assessed in Student's *t*-tests. See also fig. S4.





**Fig. 5. Polyubiquitination of caveolin-1.** (A) Analysis of K63-Ub on caveolin-1 by LC-MS/MS on purified caveolin-1 from primary dermal fibroblast (PDF) whole cell lysates (WCLs). Caveolin-1 was analyzed in solution, in the high-molecular weight (MW) complex fraction, and in the monomeric (Mono) fraction. (B) High-MW K63-Ub complex intensities relative to caveolin-1 intensities in recombinant deubiquitinase-treated purified caveolin-1 from PDFs. (C) High-MW K63-Ub complex intensities relative to caveolin-1 intensities in purified caveolin-1 from PDFs after rescue with *CYLD* and/or *OTULIN*. (D) Intensities of *CYLD* and *HOIP* bound to M1-Ub, as detected in TUBE pull-downs from immortalized fibroblasts, relative to intensities of total *CYLD* and *HOIP*, respectively. Statistical significance was calculated by ANOVA with Dunnett post hoc correction for multiple comparisons. See also fig. S5.



**Fig. 6. OTULIN haploinsufficiency impairs intrinsic immunity to  $\alpha$ -toxin in fibroblasts.** (A) Colocalization of  $\alpha$ -toxin with ADAM10 and caveolin-1 in primary dermal fibroblasts (PDFs), visualized in high-resolution images acquired by stochastic optical reconstruction microscopy, after 30 min of incubation in the presence or absence of  $\alpha$ -toxin. (B) Binding of  $\alpha$ -toxin in PDFs, as detected by flow cytometry. (C) Viability of PDFs following 2.5 hours of incubation with culture supernatant from *S. aureus* (datapoints indicate the mean of  $N = 3$  replicates per patient, median per group). (D) Viability of PDFs following 24 hours of incubation with recombinant microbial toxins ( $N = 2-4$  per group, mean  $\pm$ SD per group). (E) Viability of PDFs from a 5p- syndrome patient with a breakpoint telomeric to *OTULIN* following 24 hours of incubation with recombinant  $\alpha$ -toxin, superimposed on that for healthy controls and 5p- patients with a breakpoint centromeric to *OTULIN* from panel (F) ( $N = 3$ , mean  $\pm$ SD). (F) Cell-surface metalloprotease activity in PDFs induced by wild type  $\alpha$ -toxin (WT) or a toxoid mutant (H35L) following the treatment of cells with an ADAM10 inhibitor or carrier (datapoints indicate the mean of  $N = 3$  replicates per patient, median per group). (G) Viability of OTULIN-deficient PDFs treated with an sgRNA pool targeting CAV1 (sgCAV1), CAV2 (sgCAV2), or a non-targeting control sgRNA (sgNTC) following exposure to  $\alpha$ -toxin (0.12  $\mu$ g/ml;  $N = 3$ , median). The statistical significance of differences was assessed in Student's *t*-tests (C), or by ANOVA with Bonferroni (F) or Dunnett (G) post hoc corrections for multiple comparisons. See also fig. S6.

