Defective protein complex assembly and ER stress as the proximal cause and key to therapeutics for Usher syndrome

- Bernardo Blanco-Sánchez
- Aurélie Clément
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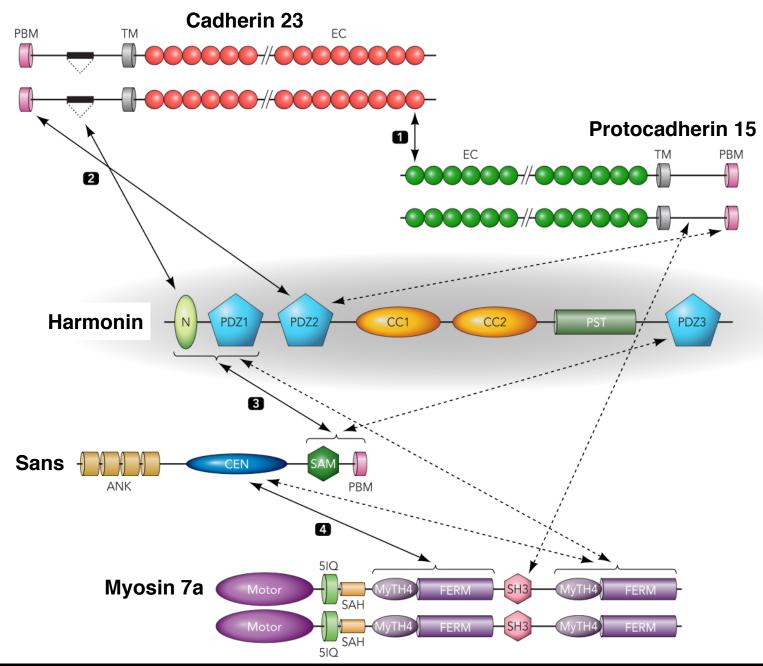
Sponsored by the National Institute of Child Health & Development, the National Institute of Deafness & Other Disorders, the National Eye Institute, and the Vision for a Cure and Megan Foundations



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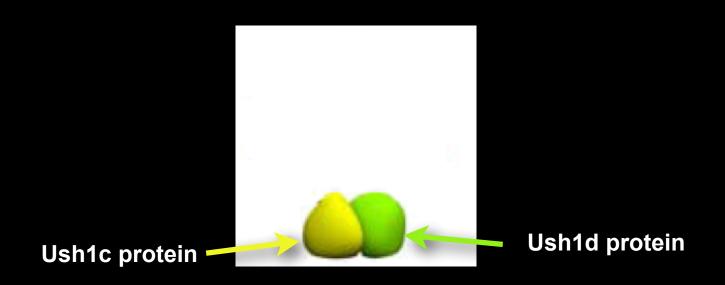
- Usher protein complexes preassemble at the ER
- Usher mutations cause ER stress and cell death
- Treating ER stress to save cells from death

Usher proteins form a multimolecular complex



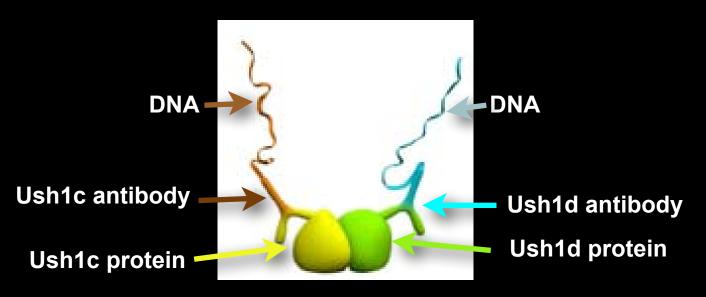
(Pan & Zhang, 2012)

Usher protein interactions

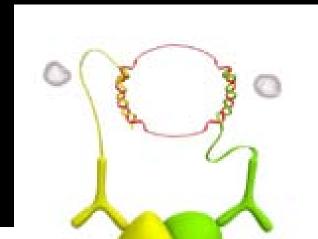


Part of Usher protein complex

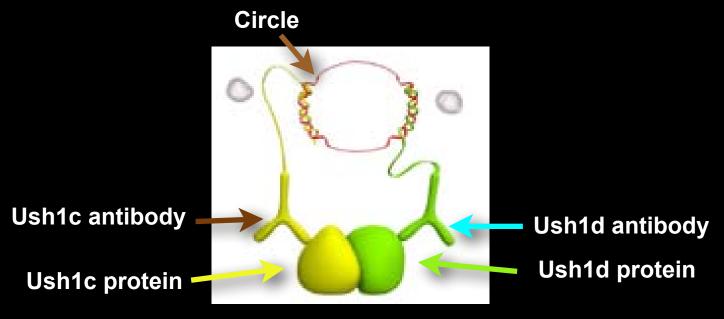
in situ hybridization probes



probes generated by conjugating DNA to antibodies





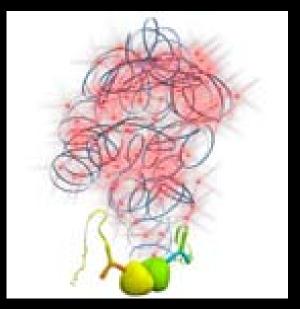


hybridizes circle if close enough (~40 nm)



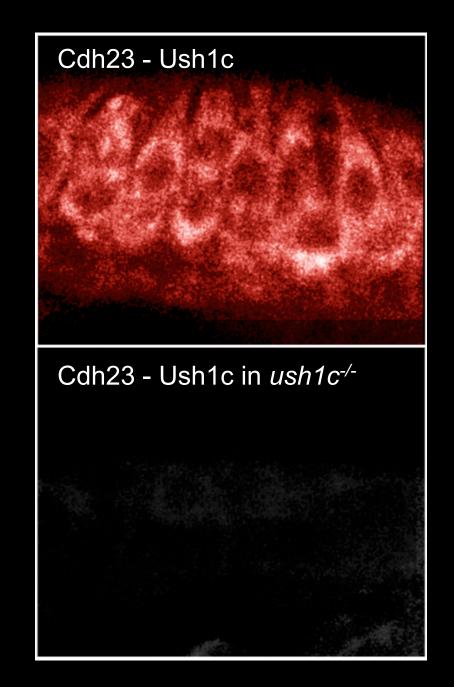


Detection of protein complexes in vivo



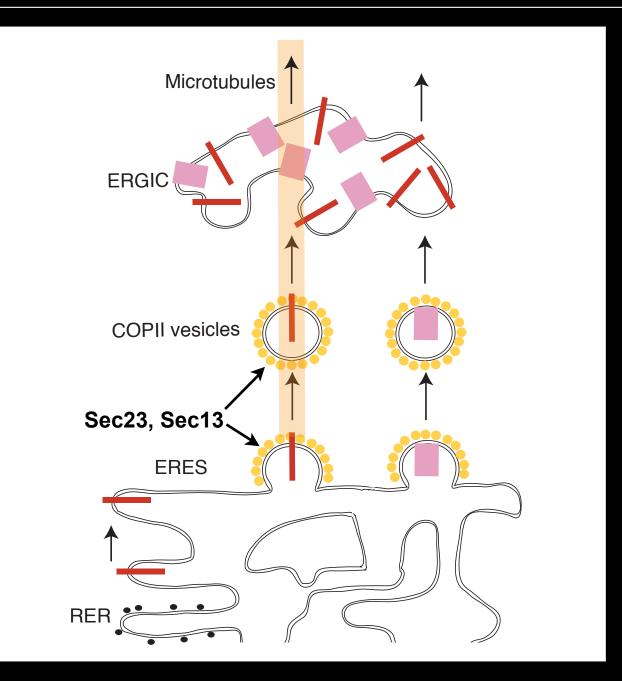
Rolling circle amplifies fluorescent oligonucleotide

Usher proteins form complexes *in vivo*



(Bernardo Blanco)

Membrane proteins are trafficked from the ER in COPII vesicles

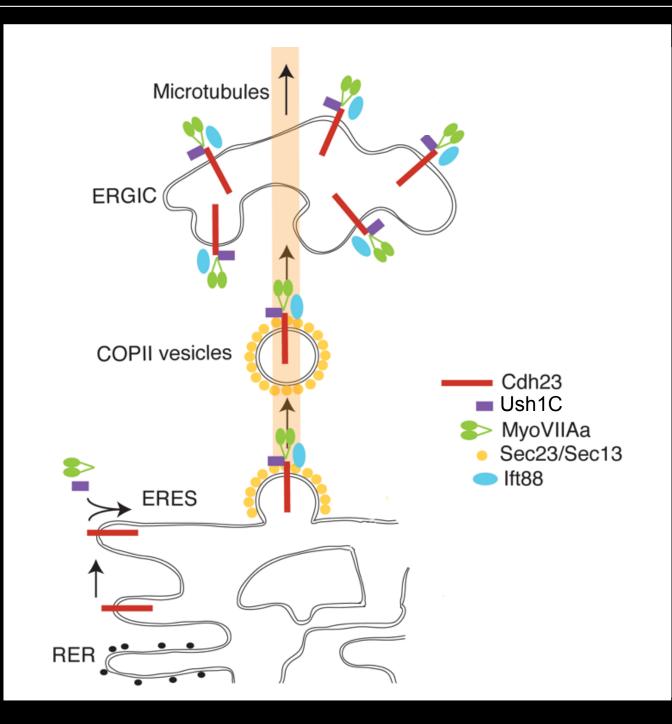


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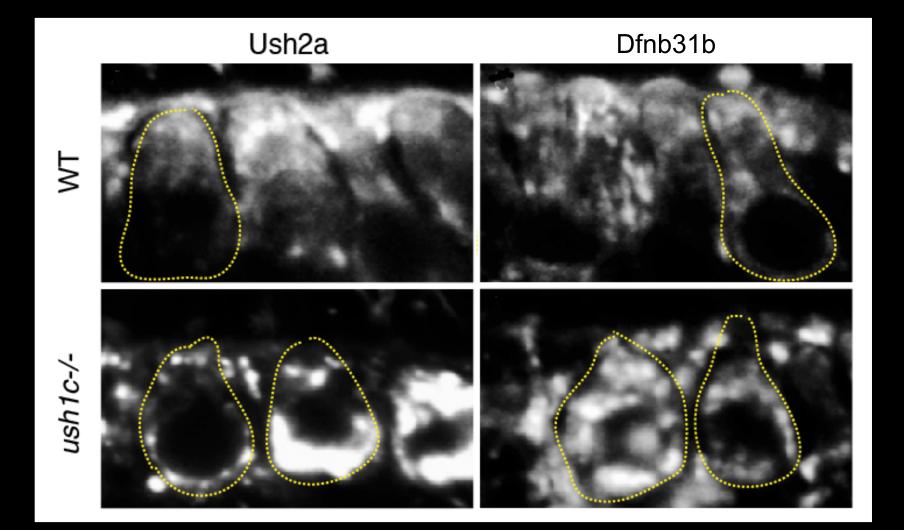
Usher protein complex preassembles in the ER

Cdh23-Sec23	Ush1C-Sec23	Myo7aa-Sec23
cdh23-/-	ush1c-/-	myo7aa-⁄-

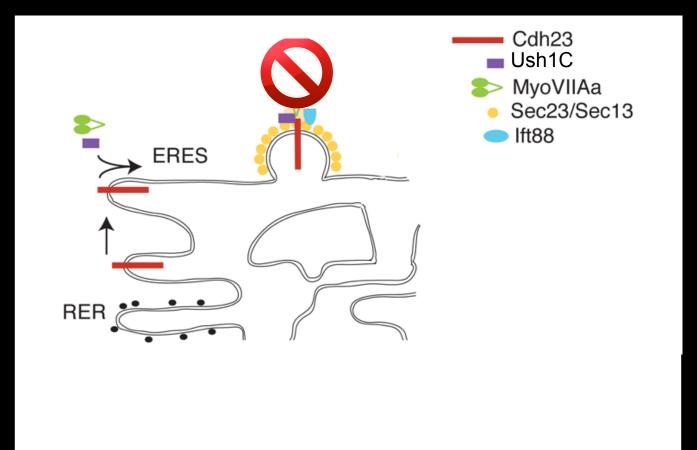
Usher protein complex is trafficked via microtubules



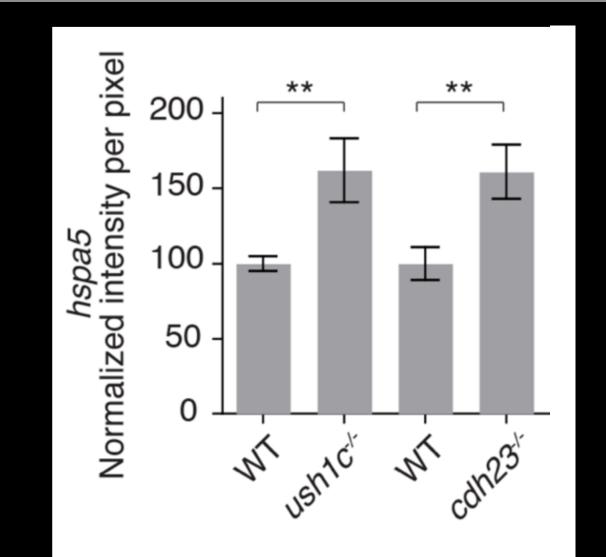
Usher proteins are retained in the ER in mutants



Usher mutations block complex formation and Usher proteins accumulate in the ER

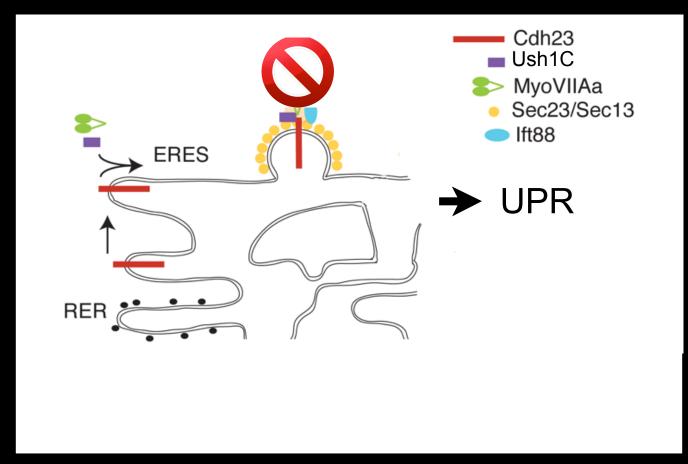


Usher mutations trigger the unfolded protein response

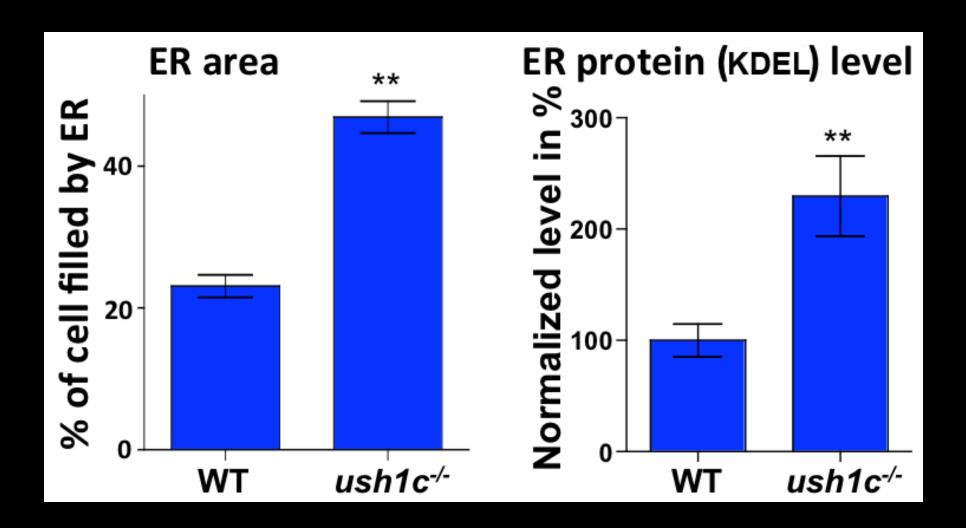


(Aurélie Clément)

Usher mutations block complex formation, proteins accumulate in the ER and trigger the unfolded protein response

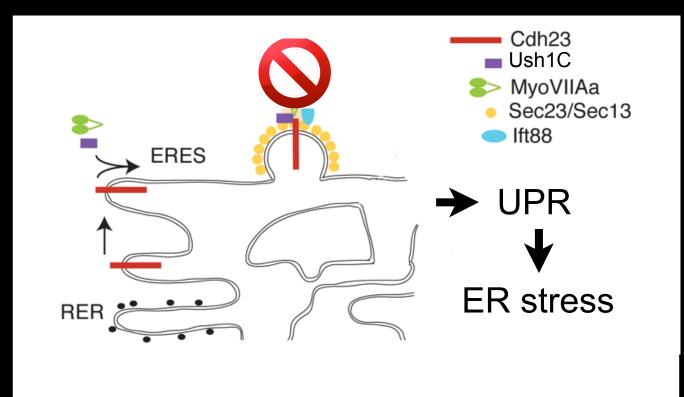


Usher mutations induce ER stress

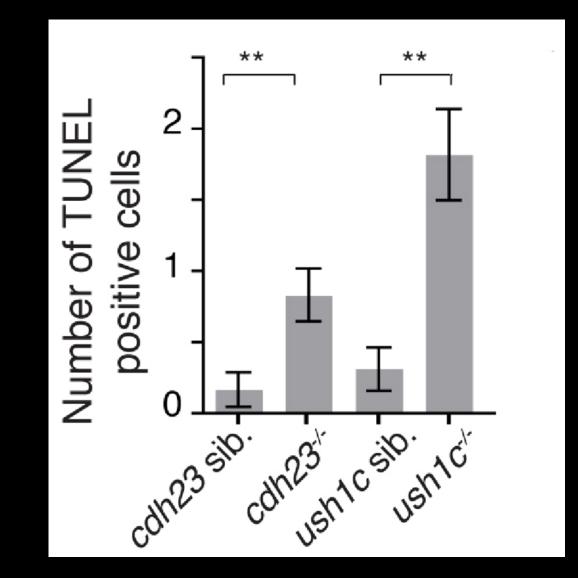


(Aurélie Clément)

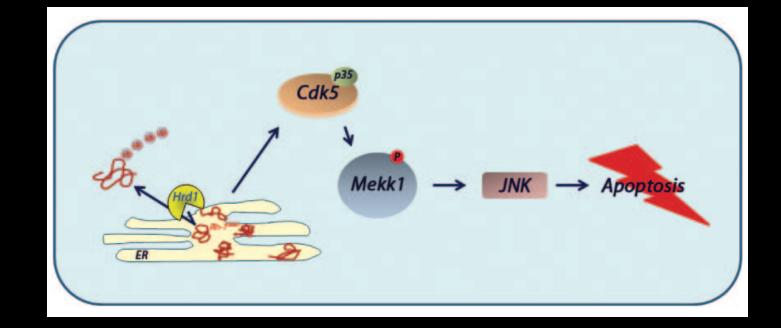
Usher mutations block complex formation, trigger the unfolded protein response, and lead to ER stress



Usher mutations cause cell death

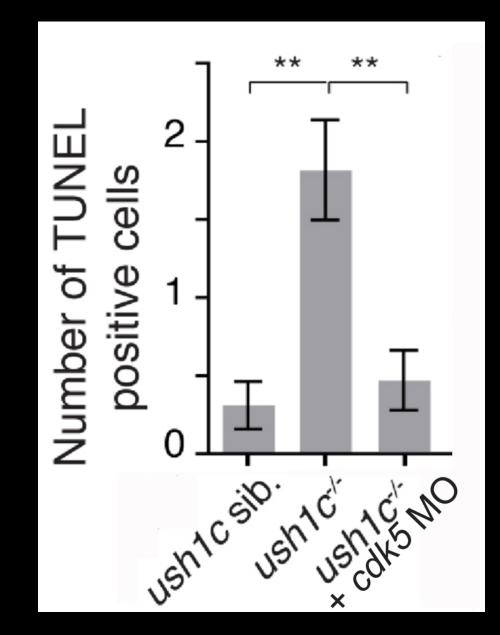


Cdk5 mediates cell death due to ER stress

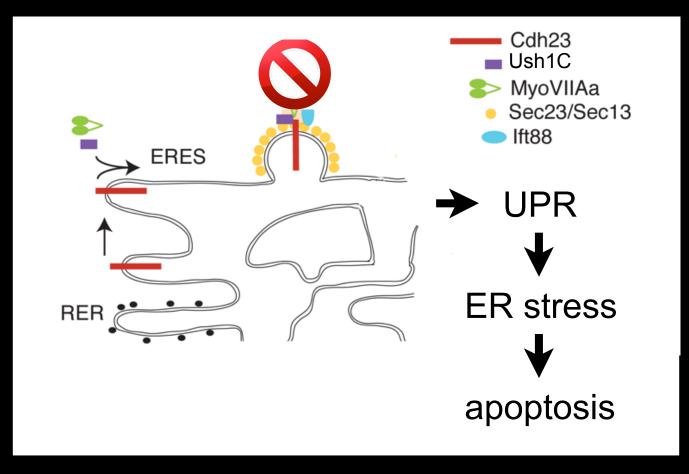


(Kang et al., Nature Cell Biol. 2012)

ER stress causes cell death

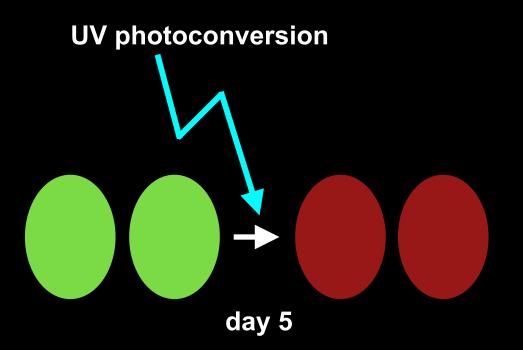


Usher mutations block complex formation, trigger the unfolded protein response, and lead to ER stress and cell death

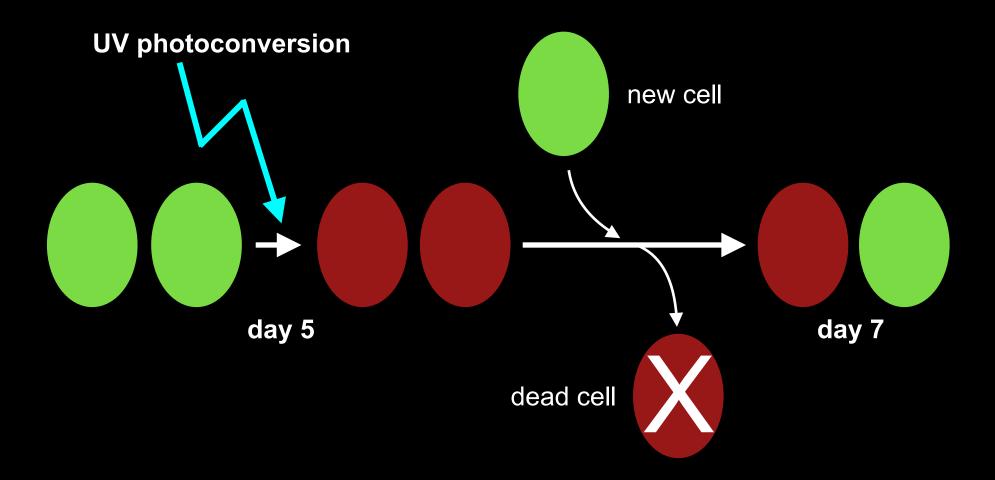


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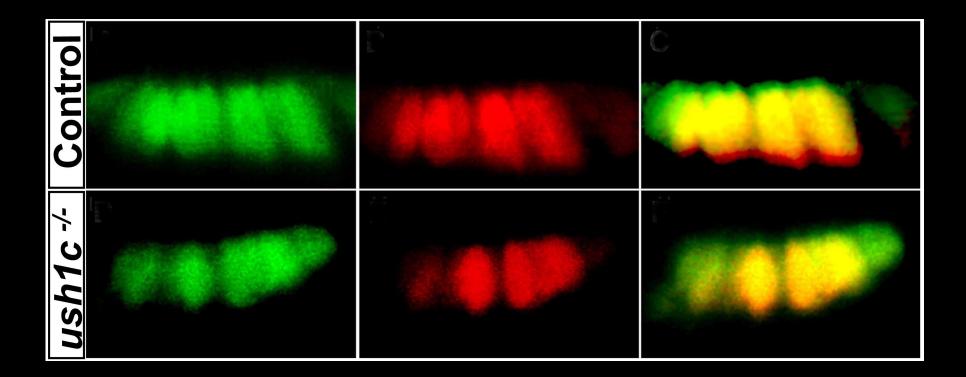
Kaede photoconversion to track cell death



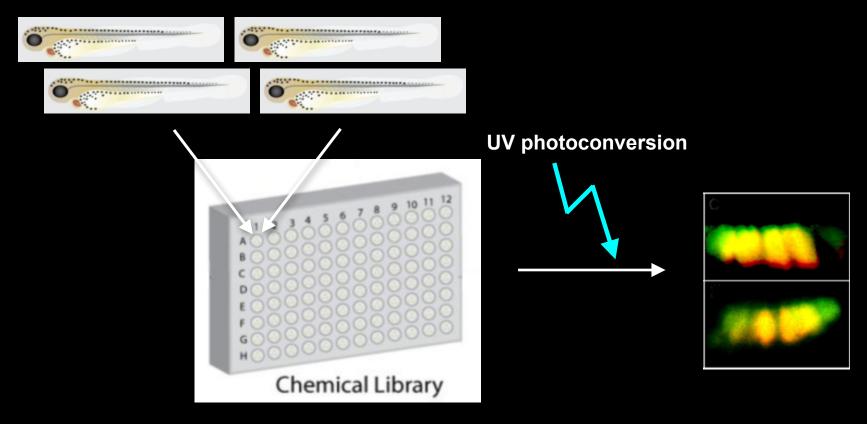
Kaede photoconversion to track cell death



A screen for compounds that reduce cell death



A screen for compounds that reduce cell death



1,000's of compounds

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