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# TIA1 Mutations in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis and Frontotemporal Dementia Promote Phase Separation and Alter Stress Granule Dynamics.

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## TIA1 mutations in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and frontotemporal dementia promote phase separation and alter stress granule dynamics

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## SUMMARY

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and frontotemporal dementia (FTD) are age-related neurodegenerative disorders with shared genetic etiologies and overlapping clinical and pathological features. Here we studied a novel ALS/FTD family and identified the P362L mutation in the low complexity domain (LCD) of T-cell-restricted intracellular antigen-1 (TIA1). Subsequent genetic association analyses showed an increased burden of *TIA1* LCD mutations in ALS patients compared to controls ( $P = 8.7 \times 10^{-6}$ ). Postmortem neuropathology of five *TIA1* mutations carriers showed a consistent pathological signature with numerous round, hyaline, TAR DNA-binding protein 43 (TDP-43)-positive inclusions. *TIA1* mutations significantly increased the propensity of TIA1 protein to undergo phase transition. In live cells, *TIA1* mutations delayed

stress granule (SG) disassembly and promoted the accumulation of non-dynamic SGs that harbored TDP-43. Moreover, TDP-43 in SGs became less mobile and insoluble. The identification of *TIA1* mutations in ALS/FTD reinforces the importance of RNA metabolism and SG dynamics in ALS/FTD pathogenesis.

### Keywords

amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; frontotemporal dementia; T-cell-restricted intracellular antigen-1; stress granules; TDP-43

## INTRODUCTION

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) is the most common motor neuron disease, characterized by progressive degeneration of upper and lower motor neurons that ultimately leads to death by respiratory failure (Taylor et al., 2016a). While most patients present with ALS alone, a subset of individuals present with concomitant frontotemporal dementia (ALS/FTD) (Hardy and Rogava, 2014). Recent gene discoveries and clinicopathological studies have highlighted that ALS and FTD are part of a disease continuum with a shared genetic etiology (Ji et al., 2017; Neumann et al., 2006). Repeat expansions in the chromosome 9 open reading frame 72 gene (*C9orf72*) and mutations in *TBK1* (encoding TANK-binding kinase 1), and *TARDBP* (encoding transactive response DNA-binding protein 43, TDP-43) are among the most common genetic causes of the combined ALS/FTD phenotype and, notably, each of these mutations results in pathology characterized by TDP-43-positive neuronal cytoplasmic inclusions (Cirulli et al., 2015; DeJesus-Hernandez et al., 2011; Freischmidt et al., 2015; Kabashi et al., 2008; Renton et al., 2011; Sreedharan et al., 2008). However, the cause of a significant number of ALS and ALS/FTD cases remains unknown.

Many ALS-causing mutations impact proteins involved in RNA metabolism, including RNA-binding proteins such as TDP-43, fused in sarcoma (FUS), and heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein A1 (hnRNPA1) (Taylor et al., 2016). These and related RNA-binding proteins are components of membrane-less organelles found in the nucleus (e.g., nuclear speckles and nucleoli) and cytoplasm (e.g., processing bodies and stress granules, SGs) of neurons and other cell types (Brangwynne et al., 2011; Collier et al., 1988; Huang and Spector, 1992; Sheth and Parker, 2003; Taylor et al., 2016b). It has recently emerged that biophysical properties encoded in prion-like, low complexity sequence domains (LCDs) of RNA-binding proteins promote the assembly of membrane-less organelles through the process of liquid-liquid phase separation (LLPS) (Kato et al., 2012; Lin et al., 2015; Molliex et al., 2015; Patel et al., 2015).

Here we report the identification of rare mutations impacting the LCD of the RNA-binding protein T-cell-restricted intracellular antigen-1 (TIA1) in ALS and ALS/FTD patients. TIA1 is a prominent SG component and the LCD of TIA1 plays a central role in promoting SG assembly (Gilks et al., 2004; Kedersha et al., 2000; Panas et al., 2016). We found that disease-associated mutations alter biophysical properties of TIA1 by significantly increasing the propensity towards phase separation, delaying SG disassembly, and promoting the accumulation of non-dynamic SGs that harbor TDP-43. Moreover, TDP-43 recruited into

SGs becomes less mobile and insoluble. These findings reinforce the importance of disturbed RNA metabolism in ALS/FTD and place altered membrane-less organelle dynamics at the center of ALS/FTD pathogenesis.

## RESULTS

### Identification of *TIA1* Mutations in Patients with ALS and ALS/FTD

We performed whole-exome sequencing in a pair of second-degree relatives with clinical features of both ALS and FTD, and with autopsy confirmed TDP-43 pathology. These individuals were from a multigenerational ALS/FTD family of European ancestry (UBCU2), negative for mutations in known ALS- and FTD-causing genes (Figure 1A). To identify candidate causal mutations, we filtered the genetic variants to those that were observed in the heterozygous state in both affected family members, altered the amino acid sequence, were absent from the Exome Variant Server population, and were present two or fewer times in the Exome Aggregation Consortium (ExAC) (Kobayashi et al., 2017). Among the 17 genes with such variants (all confirmed by Sanger sequencing), 15 were expressed in brain and five had variants with a combined annotation dependent depletion (CADD) score > 20, indicating that they are among the 1% most deleterious variants in the genome (Table S1). Interestingly, one of these was a missense variant (P362L) in *TIA1*. Similar to the ALS-related disease proteins TDP-43, hnRNPA1 and FUS, *TIA1* is an RNA-binding protein containing a prion-like LCD and assembles into membrane-less organelles, including SGs (Taylor et al., 2016a). A different heterozygous founder mutation that affects the *TIA1* LCD (E384K) was previously reported in Swedish/Finnish patients as the cause of Welander distal myopathy (WDM) (Brand et al., 2016; Hackman et al., 2013; Klar et al., 2013), a rimmed vacuolar myopathy characterized by aggregates of TDP-43 and p62. WDM is clinically similar to and shares histopathological features with myopathies caused by mutations in valosin containing protein (*VCP*), *p62/SQSTM1*, *HNRNPA1*, *HNRNPA2B1* and *MATR3*, disease genes that have also been associated with ALS/FTD (Fecto et al., 2011; Johnson et al., 2010; Johnson et al., 2014; Kim et al., 2013). Moreover, the P362L mutation in *TIA1* affects a highly conserved residue in the LCD (Figure 1B) and was predicted to be possibly damaging or deleterious by several *in silico* prediction algorithms (SIFT, PolyPhen, Mutation Taster). Together, these observations led us to prioritize *TIA1* as an ALS/FTD candidate gene. To this end, we analyzed the *TIA1* LCD (encoded by exons 11–13) in a cohort of 1039 ALS or ALS/FTD patients and 3036 controls free of neurodegenerative diseases, and identified an increased burden of rare heterozygous *TIA1* mutations in patients compared to controls ( $P = 8.7 \times 10^{-6}$ , SKAT-O adjusted for age and sex). Specifically, in the association cohort we identified five additional *TIA1* mutations in a total of six unrelated patients, whereas no mutations were detected in controls (Figure 1B; Table S2). All *TIA1* mutations identified in patients had CADD scores > 20 (Table S2).

### Clinical and Pathological Presentation of *TIA1* Mutation Carriers

The nine affected *TIA1* mutation carriers (three members of UBCU2 and six additional unrelated patients) had an average disease onset age of  $58.9 \pm 13.7$  years, with most patients presenting in mid-to-late adult life, with the exception of patient UBCU2-14 who had an unusually early onset of FTD and ALS symptoms at 28 years. Patients typically presented

with either focal weakness or aphasia and all eventually developed ALS-type motor dysfunction, with accompanying features of FTD in five patients (Table S2). A positive family history of a similar neurodegenerative disease was documented in three of seven probands, resulting in a frequency of potential pathogenic *TIA1* mutations in 2.2% of familial patients (3/136) and 0.4% of sporadic patients (4/903). Although all nine confirmed mutation carriers were female, there were affected males in some of the families. Autopsy material available for UBCU2-1, UBCU2-14 and three other unrelated patients (TOR-1, NWU-1, and ALS752-1) revealed TDP-43-immunoreactive pathology in the extra-motor neocortex (characteristic of FTLTDP type B), motor cortex and spinal cord, which correlated with the clinical diagnoses of FTD and ALS in these patients, and which fell within the broad spectrum of pathology that is typically encountered in other cases of familial and sporadic ALS/FTD (Figure 1C; Table S3; Figure S1). In addition, all five autopsy cases showed large, round, hyaline, Lewy body-like cytoplasmic inclusions in lower motor neurons, visible with hematoxylin and eosin staining (Figure 1Cii, Figure S1) and also with TDP-43 immunohistochemistry (Figure 1Ciii, Figure S1). Although similar hyaline Lewy body-like inclusions are occasionally seen in sporadic ALS patients, their frequency and consistent presence in the five *TIA1* mutation carriers suggests that these could be a pathological signature of *TIA1*-related disease (Figure S1). Immunohistochemistry and double-label immunofluorescence using a panel of commercial antibodies raised against different *TIA1* epitopes did not demonstrate any difference in staining between ALS/FTD patients with and without *TIA1* mutations; specifically, there was no co-localization of *TIA1* with TDP-43 immunoreactive inclusions (Figure S1). Consistent with these immunostaining results, protein extracts from post mortem tissue of *TIA1* mutation carriers did not show an obvious increase in *TIA1* levels in the urea fraction as compared to protein extracts from non-*TIA1* mutation carriers and controls (Figure S1).

### Mutations Alter the Biophysical Properties of *TIA1* to Promote LLPS

*TIA1* is a prototypical hnRNP that contains three RNA recognition motifs (RRMs) and a C-terminal LCD that is predicted to be intrinsically disordered (Figure 2A). LCDs in RNA-binding proteins such as hnRNPA1, TDP-43, and FUS contribute to the assembly of liquid-like membrane-less organelles such as SGs through the biophysical process of LLPS (Lin et al., 2015; Molliex et al., 2015; Murakami et al., 2015; Patel et al., 2015). Consistent with the behavior of these other RNA-binding proteins, the LCD (amino acids 290–386) of *TIA1* has been shown to undergo LLPS in the presence of RNA (Lin et al., 2015). We found that full-length *TIA1* spontaneously phase separated at room temperature, in the absence of any co-solute, at physiological ionic strength of 150 mM, and pH 7.5 (Figure 2B; Figures S2A and S2B). To examine the impact of disease-associated mutations on LLPS of *TIA1*, we expressed and purified two ALS-associated *TIA1* mutants identified in this study (P362L and A381T) as well as the E384K mutant form associated with WDM (Figure 2A; Figure S2A and S2B) (Hackman et al., 2013; Klar et al., 2013). All three mutant proteins underwent spontaneous temperature- and concentration-dependent LLPS to create liquid droplets that at early time points were morphologically indistinguishable from liquid droplets formed by wild-type protein (Figure 2C). To quantify the propensity of each protein to undergo phase separation, we constructed a phase diagram by measuring the co-existence line of protein-depleted light phase and protein-enriched dense phase as a function of

temperature and protein concentration. The P362L, A381T, and E384K mutant proteins caused a significant leftward shift in the co-existence line to a lower protein concentration, indicating an increased propensity of mutant TIA1 to phase separate, due to stronger intermolecular protein-protein interactions (Figure 2C).

Upon phase separation, the RNA-binding proteins hnRNPA1, FUS, and TDP-43 can access a spectrum of assemblies that exhibit progressively increased order and decreased mobility, ranging from liquid droplet to hydrogel to amyloid-like fibril (Schmidt and Gorlich, 2016). Similar to observations in other RNA-binding proteins, we found that when TIA1 droplets were allowed to settle on a coverslip surface and observed over time, droplets of mutant forms of TIA1 converted to thioflavin T (ThT)-positive fibrils within the liquid droplets within 45 minutes, at which time the droplets dissipated (Figure S2C). Although droplets of wild-type TIA1 also converted to ThT-positive fibrillary material followed by droplet dissipation, this process occurred over a much longer time course (i.e., 24 hours). Transmission electron micrographs confirmed the formation of amyloid-like fibrils of wild-type and mutant TIA1 (Figure S2D). Using a quantitative ThT fluorescence assay, we confirmed that disease-associated mutations in *TIA1* significantly accelerated fibrillization of TIA1 (Figure S2E), similar to the consequence of disease-causing mutations in hnRNPA1, hnRNPA2B1, and FUS (Kim et al., 2013; Molliex et al., 2015; Patel et al., 2015). Although the importance of fibril formation in the normal physiological function of RNA-binding proteins and in disease pathogenesis is currently not known, these results provide further evidence that disease-associated mutations alter biophysical properties of TIA1; specifically, strengthening intermolecular interactions of TIA1 assemblies.

We next used fluorescence recovery after photobleaching (FRAP) to measure the mobility of fluorescently tagged TIA1 (Matsuda and Nagai, 2014). We found that disease-associated mutations significantly altered the dynamic exchange of TIA1 between the dense droplet phase and the light mono-disperse phase, with increased half-recovery times and a smaller overall mobile fraction (Figure 2D, 2E, and 2F). These results suggest that the mutations changed the material properties of mutant TIA1 droplets by enhancing transient, nonspecific intermolecular interactions that reduce protein mobility. This observation raises the possibility that material properties of membrane-less organelles composed of TIA1 protein in live cells, such as SGs, could be adversely affected by the disease-associated mutations.

### Mutations in TIA1 Impair Stress Granule Dynamics

TIA1 is a prominent SG component and the LCD of TIA1 plays a central role in promoting SG assembly (Gilks et al., 2004; Kedersha et al., 2000; Panas et al., 2016). To assess the impact of *TIA1* mutations on SG dynamics, we established a live-cell assay that permits real-time monitoring of the kinetics of SG assembly and disassembly in response to a tightly controlled heat pulse. We used this system to monitor SG dynamics in HeLa cells expressing N-terminal GFP-tagged TIA1 wild-type, P362L, A381T, or E384K mutants (Video File). GFP-tagged TIA1 showed the identical subcellular distribution as endogenous or untagged TIA1 proteins, and the frequency and size of SGs containing these proteins were not altered by introduction of exogenous TIA1 at this modest expression level (Figure S3). We observed no significant impact of the P362L, A381T, or E384K *TIA1* mutations on the rates of SG



assembly. By contrast, each of these disease-associated mutations resulted in significantly protracted SG disassembly, as assessed by both blinded manual counting and automated image analysis (Figure 3A and 3B; Figure S4A–D). The consequence of impaired SG disassembly in cells expressing mutant TIA1 was a significant accumulation of non-dynamic, TDP-43-containing SGs that persisted for hours after SGs had disappeared from the cells expressing wild-type TIA1 (Figure 3C and 4A). This finding is consistent with a prior report that the E384K WDM-causing mutation is associated with increased numbers of SGs that show dynamics alterations as assessed by FRAP (Hackman et al., 2013).

### TDP-43 Recruited to Stress Granules Becomes Insoluble

*TIA1* mutation carriers with ALS/FTD exhibit prominent TDP-43 pathology (Figure 1C; Figure S1; Table S3). The impact of mutant TIA1 on SG dynamics and the abnormal accumulation of TDP-43-containing SGs prompted us to examine the relationship between SG dynamics and TDP-43 solubility. Upon stress, TDP-43 is recruited to TIA1-positive SGs (Figure 4A). To examine the consequence of TDP-43 being recruitment into SGs, we transfected cells with TdTomato-tagged TDP-43 and assessed mobility of this protein using FRAP. In resting cells, TdTomato-TDP-43 in the nucleus and cytoplasm exhibited rapid mobility (Figure 4B and 4C). However, upon stress, the TdTomato-TDP-43 that was recruited to SGs became almost completely immobile, whereas the cytoplasmic TdTomato-TDP-43 that was not associated with SGs, in these same cells, remained mobile (Figure 4B and 4C). Biochemical assessment revealed a correlation between reduced mobility of TDP-43 upon recruitment to SGs and reduced TDP-43 solubility. Specifically, in resting cells TDP-43 was largely recovered in a detergent-soluble fraction (Figure 4D and 4E). In contrast, the TDP-43 derived from cells that had been stressed for 30 minutes, showed a significant shift from the detergent-soluble fraction to an insoluble pellet that was recovered by treatment with urea (Figure 4D and 4E). Notably, the solubility change that occurred under these conditions was reversible; three hours after recovery from the 30 minute stress, and coincident with the clearance of SGs, TDP-43 returned to the detergent-soluble fraction (Figure 4D and 4E). However, the reversibility of insoluble TDP-43 accumulation was influenced by the duration of stress. Upon doubling the duration of stress from 30 minutes to one hour, we found that TDP-43 became permanently insoluble and failed to return to the detergent-soluble fraction after 3 hours of recovery. Taken together, these observations suggest that persistent, poorly dynamic SGs could promote the conversion of TDP-43 from a soluble to a stable insoluble form.

## DISCUSSION

Using exome sequencing in a novel FTD/ALS family, we identified the P362L mutation in the LCD of TIA1 as a strong causal candidate for disease. We subsequently identified five additional LCD *TIA1* mutations in a total of six unrelated patients; whereas, none was found in controls free of neurodegenerative disease ( $p=8.7\times 10^{-6}$  in gene burden analysis). While the lack of mutations in our well-characterized control population suggests the *TIA1* mutations are causal ALS-FTD gene mutations (with an age-related disease penetrance), we acknowledge that the same *TIA1* mutations identified in our ALS-FTD patients are reported at very low frequency in the ExAC database (minor allele frequency < 0.0001) classifying

them as strong ALS-FTD risk factors instead. Using the European non-Finnish population from the ExAC database, an allele count of 26 is reported for rare *TIA1* alleles in the LCD, which compared to the frequency in our ALS patients would result in a conservative odds ratio (OR) of 6.9 (confidence interval, CI: 2.5–16.5) for *TIA1* allele carriers to develop ALS ( $p=0.00018$ ). This is likely an underestimate which assumes that only 26,725 individuals in ExAC were sequenced for the entire gene, that all variants reported are real and observed in heterozygous state in independent individuals and that all carriers would be free of ALS. This estimate also includes variants observed in ExAC with  $CADD<20$ , whereas all mutations identified in our ALS patients had  $CADD>20$ . The OR for carriers of a rare *TIA1* variant in the LCD with  $CADD>20$  to develop ALS would be 15.1 (CI: 5.0–41.7;  $p=3.4\times 10^{-6}$ ). While future studies in ALS-FTD patient cohorts and control populations will be critical to evaluate the specific contribution of *TIA1* mutations to ALS-FTD it is important to note that even the E384K mutation, considered pathogenic in WDM, is observed seven times in ExAC. Additionally, it is highly plausible that, as-yet-unknown, genetic and environmental factors affect the disease penetrance of *TIA1* mutations and that these factors may have contributed to the development of ALS/FTD in our patients. While speculative, the fact that all of our affected confirmed mutation carriers are females may suggest that these mutations are more penetrant in females than males; however, this also needs to be studied in additional cohorts. Importantly, detailed neuropathological analysis revealed strikingly uniform pathology with an unusually high frequency of hyaline Lewy body-like cytoplasmic inclusions in lower motor neurons in all five *TIA1* mutation carriers with autopsy confirmation (with four different *TIA1* mutations), further supporting a common pathomechanism in these patients. Overall, our findings suggest that *TIA1* mutations are a rare cause of ALS  $\pm$  FTD, accounting for ~2% of familial ALS and  $<0.5\%$  of sporadic ALS; frequencies that are comparable to those for mutations in other ALS genes such as *VCP* and profilin1 (*PFN1*) (Johnson et al., 2010; Wu et al., 2012).

Mounting evidence indicates that altered dynamics of membrane-less organelles such as SGs contribute to age-related degenerative diseases, including the most common forms of ALS, FTD, myopathy, and possibly Alzheimer's disease and other tauopathies (Aulas and Vande Velde, 2015; Brunello et al., 2016; Taylor et al., 2016a; Vanderweyde et al., 2016; Vanderweyde et al., 2012); although the precise molecular mechanism for this disturbance in some cases has been unclear. The LCDs of RNA-binding proteins promote the assembly of membrane-less organelles through the process of LLPS (Lin et al., 2015; Molliex et al., 2015; Patel et al., 2015). Disease-causing mutations that impact the LCDs of several RNA-binding proteins, including hnRNPA1, FUS, and TDP-43, strengthen intermolecular LCD interactions, as evidenced by an increased propensity of these proteins to assemble into amyloid-like fibrils under experimental conditions (Kim et al., 2013; Molliex et al., 2015; Patel et al., 2015), although an impact on phase separation and the material properties of the liquid phase has not been previously documented and may be more physiologically relevant. Here we show that ALS/FTD-causing mutations in the LCD of the SG protein *TIA1* significantly alter biophysical properties of the protein, strengthening its intermolecular interactions and enhancing its propensity to undergo phase transition. In cells, this perturbation of *TIA1* results in poorly dynamic SGs that fail to appropriately disassemble and persist in the cytoplasm long after the removal of stress. We suggest that the

accumulation of poorly dynamic SGs (and perhaps other membrane-less organelles that are composed of TIA1) create an environment where aggregation-prone molecules that are in high concentration (such as TDP-43) have an increased risk of gradually accumulating in an insoluble form (Neumann et al., 2006). Whereas TDP-43 forms detergent-resistant aggregates, TIA1 fibrils are labile and reversible, thus it is uncertain whether one would expect TIA1 or related SG markers to persist as components of the fully mature TDP-43-positive inclusions that are present at the end-stage of the human disease process. Although we found no evidence for such colocalization in post-mortem material from *TIA1* mutation carriers, prior studies have provided conflicting evidence as to whether or not TIA1 and other SG proteins colocalize with the TDP-43 pathology in cases of ALS and FTD in general (Aulas and Vande Velde, 2015). Importantly, the impact of ALS/FTD-associated TIA1 mutations on SG dynamics mirrors the recent observation that toxic, arginine-containing poly-dipeptides produced by mutant *C9orf72* also disturb phase transitions mediated by LCDs and disturb the dynamics of membrane-less organelles, including SGs (Lee et al., 2016). This discovery adds to the increasing evidence of a common pathogenic mechanism amongst ALS, FTD, and myopathy caused by mutations in RNA-binding proteins related to disturbed dynamics of membrane-less organelles, and adds *TIA1* to the growing list of genes responsible for multisystem proteinopathies; a group of inherited pleiotropic degenerative disorders that can variably affect the nervous system, muscle, and bone (Taylor, 2015).

## STAR Methods

### CONTACT FOR REAGENT AND RESOURCE SHARING

For further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and will be fulfilled by the Lead Contact, Rosa Rademakers (rademakers.rosa@mayo.edu).

### EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS

**Study Populations**—One ALS/FTD family (UBCU2) and an ALS case-control association cohort were included in this study. All individuals agreed to be in the study and biological samples were obtained after informed consent from subjects and/or their proxies. UBCU2 is a multigenerational family of Irish/German and other European ancestry, with a family history of ALS and ALS with dementia. The proband (UBCU2-1) developed progressive limb weakness and hyper-reflexia at age 51, followed by a change in personality and behavior at age 54. She died at age 55 with a clinical diagnosis of ALS with early behavioral variant frontotemporal dementia (bvFTD). A niece of the proband (UBCU2-14) presented with childhood dyslexia and developed changes in personality and expressive aphasia at age 28, followed by bulbar and limb weakness a few months later. She suffered severe deterioration in language and cognition and progressive weakness during the final year and died at age 30 with a clinical diagnosis of FTD with probable ALS. The sister of the proband (UBCU2-2) displayed mild memory problems when assessed at age 56.

For the genetic association studies, we analyzed DNA samples of 1039 unrelated ALS patients (584 male, 455 female) available in our laboratory, including 38 with a diagnosis of FTD in addition to ALS (20 male, 18 female). All patients were of self-reported non-

Hispanic white ancestry. The average age at diagnosis was  $60.0 \pm 11.7$  years (range 19–88). A positive family history of ALS in a first or second degree relative was reported in 136 patients (13.1%). Patients underwent a full neurological evaluation including electromyography, clinical laboratory testing, and imaging as appropriate to establish the clinical diagnosis of ALS and were recruited from eight centers: Mayo Clinic Jacksonville (n = 612), University of British Columbia, Canada (n = 171), University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine (n = 71), Coriell Institute for Medical Research (n = 75), University of Chicago Medicine (n = 57), Drexel University College of Medicine (n = 28), Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine (n = 10), University of Toronto, Canada (n = 11), and the University of Western Ontario, Canada (n = 4). Patients with ALS±FTD were compared to a group of 3036 controls free of neurodegenerative disease (1442 male, 1594 female) for genetic association studies. The mean age at blood draw for controls was  $64.0 \pm 15.3$  years (range 20–99). All controls were of non-Hispanic white ancestry ascertained at Mayo Clinic Jacksonville (n = 1071), Mayo Clinic Rochester (n = 1738; of which 959 from the Mayo Clinic Biobank) and Mayo Clinic Scottsdale (n = 227). All patients signed informed consent and this study was approved by the ethics committee of all respective institutions.

**Mammalian Cell Culture**—HeLa cells (of female origin) were grown and maintained in DMEM High Glucose (Hyclone SH30022.01) medium supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum. Cells were passaged and plated using 1X TrypLE Express (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Cells were authenticated by short tandem repeat (STR) profiling.

**Bacterial Cell Culture**—cDNA clones were transformed into One Shot TOP10 chemically competent *E. coli* (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Single colonies were grown overnight at 37°C in LB media containing selection antibiotic at a concentration of 50 µg/ml. Cells were pelleted by centrifugation and lysed for harvesting DNA. All competent bacterial cells [One Shot TOP10 and BL21(DE3) SOLOS] were stored at –80°C until transformation for cloning and recombinant protein expression.

## METHOD DETAILS

**Whole Exome Sequencing and Variant Calling**—Paired-end indexed libraries were prepared using the Agilent Bravo liquid handler following the manufacturer's protocol (Agilent Technologies). Briefly, 1 µg of genomic DNA (gDNA) was fragmented using the Covaris E210 Sonicator. The settings of duty cycle 10%, intensity 5, cycles 200, time 360 seconds generated double-stranded DNA fragments with blunt or sticky ends with a fragment size mode of 150–200bp. The ends were repaired and phosphorylated using Klenow, T4 polymerase, and T4 polynucleotide kinase, after which an “A” base was added to the 3' ends of double-stranded DNA using Klenow exo- (3' to 5' exo minus). Paired-end Index DNA adaptors (Agilent) with a single “T” base overhang at the 3' end were ligated, and the resulting constructs were purified using AMPure SPRI beads from Agencourt (Beckman Coulter Genomics). The adapter-modified DNA fragments were enriched by 4 cycles of polymerase chain reaction (PCR) using SureSelect forward and SureSelect Pre-Capture indexing reverse (Agilent) primers. The concentration and size distribution of the libraries was determined via Agilent Bioanalyzer DNA 1000 chip.

Whole exome capture of 75Mb was carried out using the Agilent Bravo liquid handler following the protocol for Agilent's SureSelect XT Human Exome + UTR v5. 750 ng of the prepped library was incubated with whole exon biotinylated RNA capture baits supplied in the kit for 24 hours at 65°C. The captured DNA:RNA hybrids were recovered using Dynabeads MyOne Streptavidin T1 (Life Technologies). The DNA was eluted from the beads and purified using Ampure XP (Beckman Coulter Genomics). The purified capture products were then amplified using the SureSelect Post-Capture indexing forward and index PCR reverse primers (Agilent) for 12 cycles. Libraries were validated and quantified on the Agilent Bioanalyzer.

Libraries were pooled at equimolar concentrations in batches of three samples and loaded onto paired end flow cells at concentrations of 11 pM to generate cluster densities of 600,000–800,000/mm<sup>2</sup> following Illumina's standard protocol using the Illumina cBot and HiSeq paired-end cluster kit version 3 (Illumina). The flow cells were sequenced as 101 × 2 paired end reads on an Illumina HiSeq 2000 using TruSeq SBS sequencing kit version 3 and HiSeq data collection version 2.0.12 software. Base-calling was performed using Illumina's RTA version 1.17.21.3. FastQ files were processed into the GENESIS pipeline (Gonzalez et al., 2015).

**Filtering of Variants**—Filtering of variants was performed in the GENESIS web application [Innovative genomic collaboration using the GENESIS (GEM.app) platform] (Gonzalez et al., 2015). Variants affecting protein sequence such as splice-site, missense, non-sense and frameshift variants were selected when present heterozygous in the two affected members of family UBCU2. Furthermore, variants were only retained when both were absent from the Exome Variant Server (EVS; <http://evs.gs.washington.edu/EVS/>) population, present two times or less in Exome Aggregation Consortium (ExAC; <http://exac.broadinstitute.org/>) and the gene harboring the variant is expressed in brain tissue based on the GTEX database (<http://www.gtexportal.org/>). The remaining 15 variants were annotated using ANNOVAR (Wang et al., 2010).

**Variant Confirmation and *TIA1* Screening**—For sequence validation of variants identified by exome sequencing, specific primers were designed surrounding each rare variant shared by UBCU2-1 and UBCU2-14. DNA fragments were amplified using Apex products, purified using the Agencourt Ampure system (Beckman Coulter Genomics), and sequenced using Big Dye Terminator V3.1 (Applied Biosystems). Sequencing products were then purified with CleanSEQ (Beckman Coulter Genomics) and then run on an ABI3730xl Genetic Analyzer (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Sequences were analyzed using Sequencher 4.8 software (Gene Codes Corporation). *TIA1* exons 11, 12 and 13 encoding the prion-like domain of *TIA1* were sequenced from human gDNA in all 1045 patients from our association cohort and in 2077 controls. The remaining 959 controls from the Mayo Clinic Biobank were analyzed for coding *TIA1* mutations using recently generated whole genome sequences generated on the HiSeq × Ten System (HudsonAlpha) and analyzed using our in-house developed GenomeGPS v4.0 pipeline with BWA-MEM alignment to hg38 reference and variant calling using Genome Analysis Toolkit (Broad Institute). CADD scores for *TIA1*

variants identified in the additional ALS/FTD patients were generated using CADD web interface (<https://cadd.gs.washington.edu/>).

**Mutagenesis**—Mutations for *TIA1* were created by using the site-directed mutagenesis kit (Agilent). *TIA1* wild-type and mutants were subsequently cloned into pEGFP-C1 vector at BsrGI and EcoRI site as a fusion gene without affecting the original reading frame of EGFP-C1. All clones were verified by restriction enzyme digestion and sequence analysis.

**Immunofluorescence**—HeLa cells were seeded on 8-well glass slides (Millipore). Cells were transfected 24 h after seeding using FuGene 6 (Promega) with GFP-TIA1-WT, GFP-TIA1-P362L, GFP-TIA1-A381T, or GFP-TIA1-E384K construct. 48 h post transfection, cells were stressed with 500  $\mu$ M sodium arsenite (Sigma-Aldrich) for 30 min. Cells were then fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde (Electron Microscopy Sciences), permeabilized with 0.5% Triton X-100, and blocked in 3% bovine serum albumin (BSA). Primary antibodies used were against C-terminal TDP-43 (12892-1-AP; ProteinTech) and G3BP1 (611127; BD Biosciences). For visualization, the appropriate host-specific Alexa Fluor 555 or 647 (Molecular Probes) secondary antibody was used. Slides were mounted using Prolong Gold Antifade Reagent with DAPI (Life Technologies). Images were captured using a Leica TCS SP8 STED 3X confocal microscope (Leica Biosystems) with a 63x objective.

Double label immunofluorescence was performed on 5- $\mu$ m thick sections of formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded post-mortem human spinal cord tissue from cases with *TIA1* mutations (UBC2-1, UBC2-14, NWU-1 and ALS752-1), ALS/FTD patients without *TIA1* mutations (N = 2) and a neurologically normal control subject. Tissue sections were heated to 60°C for 20 min, then immediately deparaffinized and rehydrated. Antigen retrieval was performed in citrate buffer (10 mM, pH 6.0, 10 min at 95°C in a water bath). The sections were blocked for 1 hr with 5% donkey serum in 0.1% Triton X-100 in TBS. Incubation with various combinations of primary antibodies (rat anti-phosphorylated TDP-43 from M. Neumann (1:1000) (Neumann et al., 2009) combined with one of three anti-TIA1 antibodies: Santa Cruz goat anti-TIA1, 1:300; Santa Cruz rabbit anti-TIA1, 1:300; Proteintech rabbit anti-TIA1, 1:100) was performed in the same blocking solution overnight at 4°C. The sections were then washed, and incubated with appropriate Alexa Fluor- or biotin-conjugated secondary antibodies at 1:1000 dilution for 1 hour at room temperature. Where needed, a third step with Alexa Fluor-conjugated streptavidin (1:1000) was added for 40 min. Background fluorescence was then quenched by staining with 0.1% Sudan Black in 70% ethanol for 15 min. Slides were mounted after 15 minute incubation in DAPI with Prolong-Gold anti-fade reagent (Invitrogen). Microscopy was performed using a Nikon Eclipse i-80 epifluorescent microscope and NIS-Elements software. Images were further processed and merged using Image J.

### **Live-Cell Time-Lapse Imaging and Fluorescence Recovery After**

**Photobleaching**—HeLa cells (ATCC) were seeded on sterilized 40mm #1.5 thick coverslips (Bioptechs Inc.). Cells were transfected 24 h after seeding using FuGene 6 (Promega) with 0.5  $\mu$ g GFP-TIA1-WT, GFP-TIA1-P362L, GFP-TIA1-A381T, GFP-TIA1-E384K, or wild type TDP-43-TdTOMATO construct. 48 hours post transfection, the coverslip was transferred to a FCS2 chamber, assembled according to the manufacturer's

instructions (Bioptechs Inc.). Media was perfused through the chamber, and then the chamber was placed into a Marianas Spinning Disk Confocal system with a stage-top incubator and 63× objective with an objective heater (Bioptechs Inc.), both preheated to 37°C. The Microaqueduct Slide heater (part of the FCS2 system) was set to 37°C, and the heated objective with 37°C immersion oil (Zeiss) was raised until it immersed the coverslip, and the system was left to equilibrate for 10 minutes after both the Microaqueduct Slide and objective heaters read 37°C.

For time-lapse imaging, using SlideBook software with definite focus engaged, multipoint images were taken every 20 seconds with the 488 nm laser at 30% power. Two minutes into imaging, both the Microaqueduct Slide and Objective temperatures were raised to 43°C to begin heat shock. 30 min later, both were lowered back to 37°C to alleviate the stress and were imaged until granules disappeared or after 3–4 hours passed. 250–500 µL fresh media was perfused through the chamber at every hour of imaging.

For fluorescence recovery after photobleaching, using SlideBook software with continuous definite focus engaged, images were taken every 500 milliseconds with the 561 nm laser at 15% power for 87.5 seconds. 5 frames into imaging cytoplasmic regions were photobleached at 50% 561nm FRAP laserstack power for 1ms. The microaqueduct slide and objective heaters were raised to 43°C to induce stress granules and the stress granules were photobleached under the same conditions as the cytoplasmic regions prior to stress. Recovery curves were normalized to background fluorescence for subtracting noise, and adjacent non-bleached cells for fluorescence intensity fluctuations. Half recovery time and mobile fraction at the end of 87.5 seconds were empirically calculated. Average and standard errors were calculated from fifteen individual traces for cytoplasmic regions before heat shock, and sixteen individual traces after heat shock.

**Recombinant TIA1 Cloning and Purification**—Purification of TIA1 was followed as given in Lee et al. (Lee et al., 2016). Recombinant DNA for TIA1 wild-type, E384K, P362L and A381T constructs were cloned into pETite N-His SUMO Kan vector (Lucigen Corporation). Plasmids were chemically transformed into BL21\_DE3 cells (Lucigen Corporation). A single bacterial colony, from a Luria-Broth (LB) agar plate with 600 µg/ml of kanamycin was grown overnight at 37°C, in 50 mL LB medium with 600 µg/ml of Kanamycin (LB-Kan), shaking at 200 rpm (New Brunswick Innova 44R shaker). Saturated overnight culture was transformed into two 2.5 L baffled flasks, each of 1 L LB medium with Kanamycin. Cell density, measured by OD600, was allowed to reach 0.5 by shaking at 37°C. After inducing with 500 µM isopropyl β-D-1-thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG), expression was done for 20 h at 16°C.

Cells were pelleted at 4000 × g for 20 min at 4°C. Pellets from 1 L of cell culture were resuspended and solubilized in 50 ml of 50 mM HEPES, pH 7.5, 2 mM DTT, 250 mM NaCl buffer with cOmplete, Mini, EDTA-free protease inhibitor cocktail (Sigma-Aldrich). Resuspended cells were lysed by passing through a LM10 microfluidizer (Microfluidics) at 18,000 psi. Cell debris were pelleted at 17,000 × g at 4°C for 1 h and the supernatant was decanted and filtered through a 0.45 micron PVDF membrane. Supernatant was loaded onto a HisTrap FF Ni-column (GE Healthcare), washed with lysis buffer, and eluted with 300

mM imidazole. The proteins were treated with 0.2 mg/ml RNase A (Roche) for 15 min at 37°C. His-SUMO-TIA1, with a calculated isoelectric point of 6.5, was purified by ion exchange chromatography with a HiTrap Q column (GE Healthcare) using a salt gradient from 75 mM to 500 mM NaCl. The fractions were analyzed by SDS-PAGE gel, pooled, and concentrated. They were then subjected to size exclusion chromatography on a Superdex 200 16/60 column (GE Healthcare) equilibrated in 50 mM HEPES, pH 7.5, 400 mM NaCl, and 5 mM dithiothreitol (DTT). The fractions were analyzed by SDS-PAGE gel, pooled, concentrated, and stored at -80°C. Absence of RNA was confirmed by TBE Urea gel electrophoresis and 260/280 absorbance ratio. Proteins were labelled with Oregon Green and Texas Red using Molecular Probes Protein Labeling Kits.

**Phase Separation**—Protocol from Elbaum-Garfinkle et al. (Elbaum-Garfinkle et al., 2015) was modified to obtain the phase diagram (also known as co-existence line of T versus concentration of dilute phase) of TIA1 variants. Purified proteins were diluted to 15  $\mu$ M, 150 mM NaCl with 50 mM HEPES at pH 7.5. Dilution of salt from 400 mM NaCl (storage buffer) to 150 mM NaCl induced phase separation. Samples were filtered through a 0.22 micron PVDF membrane to get rid of aggregates, and incubated at six different temperatures (5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30°C) for 30 min. After equilibration at six different temperatures, samples were centrifuged at their respective temperatures at 21,000  $\times$  g for 7 min. Experiments were performed in six replicates for wild-type and P362L, and thrice for A381T and E384K to obtain the average and standard error of the mean (S.E.M.). Curves were fit to data using a quadratic equation ( $R^2$  wild-type=0.99;  $R^2$  P362L=0.99;  $R^2$  A381T=0.97;  $R^2$  E384K=0.99). Light or protein-depleted phase was decanted, and concentration was measured using a NanoDrop at 280 nm with molar extinction coefficient of His-SUMO-TIA1 calculated as 82195 M<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup> (Wilkins et al., 1999). Standardization of protein concentration with respect to A280 was confirmed by SDS-PAGE. See also Figure S3.

**In Vitro Fibrillization**—Fibrillization was monitored by Thioflavin T (ThT) fluorescence at 480 nm. Filtered, phase separated samples of 20  $\mu$ M of proteins and 5  $\mu$ M ThT at 50 mM HEPES, pH 7.5, 5 mM DTT, 150 mM NaCl, were observed with a 100x oil objective through Leica SP8 confocal microscope. Kinetics of fibrillization was studied on a 96-well plate reader using filtered light phase (2.5  $\mu$ M protein concentration) at room temperature. Samples were agitated on an Eppendorf Thermomixer C heat block at 300 rpm for 24 h. ThT fluorescence at 480 nm was observed at 0 h (defined as sample immediately after filtration), 2, 5, 8 and 24 h. Baseline correction was performed using 2.5  $\mu$ M BSA as a standard solution. Experiments were performed in six replicates for wild-type and P362L, and thrice for A381T and E384K to obtain average and S.E.M.

For transmission electron microscopy (TEM), reaction mixture (10  $\mu$ l) of TIA1 wild-type or mutants, after 2 h agitation at 300 rpm of 20  $\mu$ M proteins, was directly deposited on a surface of a TEM grid (CF-400-Cu; Electron Microscopy Sciences). The surface of the grid was washed three times with 10  $\mu$ l of distilled water. The grid was subsequently stained for a few seconds with a 10  $\mu$ l drop of 2% uranyl acetate. After the uranyl acetate solution was



blotted, the grid was dried in air. TEM images were obtained with a JEOL 1200EX electron microscope at 120 kV.

**Fluorescence Recovery After Photobleaching in Droplets**—Droplets of 25  $\mu$ M protein samples (spiked with Oregon Green for wild-type, or Texas Red for P362L, A381T and E384K variants at a ratio of 1:1000 labeled to unlabeled protein) were observed on a Linkam PE100 thermal stage (at 20°C) mounted on a Marianas spinning disk confocal imaging system on a Zeiss Axio Observer inverted microscope platform. Droplets were photobleached using 70% FRAP laserstack power for 5 ms. Images were obtained every 300 ms to observe fluorescence recovery up to 225 s. Recovery curves were normalized to background fluorescence for subtracting noise, and adjacent non-bleached droplet for fluorescence intensity fluctuations. Half recovery time and mobile fraction at the end of 225 s were empirically calculated. Average and standard errors were calculated from six individual traces for wild-type and A381T, eight for P362L, and ten for E384K. All imaging were done on hydrophobic coverslips (HybriSlip; Molecular Probes) sandwiching Secure-Seal Imaging Spacers (0.12 mm depth).

**Human Tissue Solubility Assay**—Urea fractions were prepared from human frontal cortex tissue as described previously with few modifications (Neumann et al., 2007; Zhang et al., 2007). Approximately 100 mg of brain tissue was homogenized in 500  $\mu$ l Tris-buffered saline (TBS) and centrifuged at 25,000  $\times$  g for 30 min at 4°C. Pellets were re-homogenized in 500  $\mu$ l TBS and re-centrifuged under the same conditions. Pellets were resuspended in TBS containing 1% Triton X-100 (TX buffer) and centrifuged at 180,000  $\times$  g for 30 min at 4°C. Pellets were again suspended in TX buffer supplemented with 30% sucrose and centrifuged at 180,000  $\times$  g for 30 min at 4°C. Pellets were re-homogenized in a 1% sarkosyl solution, after which samples rotated at room temperature for 1 hr. Samples were then centrifuged at 180,000  $\times$  g for 30 min at room temperature before re-extracting the remaining pellet in 500  $\mu$ l of 7M urea. All buffers, with the exception of urea, were supplemented with protease and phosphatase inhibitors. Urea-extracted samples were stored at -80°C until use.

**Cell Culture Solubility Assay**—Solubility and biochemical analysis was performed as described in Kim HJ et al., Nature 2013 with several modifications. For each sample  $\sim 3 \times 10^6$  cells were washed twice with ice-cold 1x PBS and lysed in ice-cold RIPA buffer (25 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.6, 150mM NaCl, 1% NP-40, 1% sodium deoxycholate, 0.1% SDS; ThermoFisher 89900). Cell lysates were then passed through a 21-gauge needle 10 times before being cleared by centrifugation at 100,000  $\times$  g for 30 min at 4°C to generate RIPA-soluble fraction. The pellets were washed twice with ice cold RIPA buffer and re-centrifuged for 10 min. RIPA-insoluble pellets were then extracted with urea buffer (7 M urea, 2 M thiourea, 4% CHAPS, 30 mM Tris, pH 8.5) by vortexing samples for 15 sec every 10 min for 30 min while at room temperature. The samples were then centrifuged at 100,000  $\times$  g for 30 min at 4°C. Halt Protease and Phosphatase Inhibitor (ThermoFisher # 78443) was added to all buffers before use. Proteins were resolved by NuPAGE Novex 4–12% Bis-Tris Gel (Invitrogen).

**Western Blotting**—For human urea fractions, an equal volume of sample and Tris-glycine Novex buffer (Life Technologies; supplemented with 5%  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol) were prepared for Western blotting and were not further denatured. Samples were loaded into SDS polyacrylamide gels (Life Technologies) and electrophoresis was run at 80V. Protein was transferred onto an Immobilon PVDF membrane (Millipore) at 230 mA for 4 hrs. Membranes were blocked for 1 hr in 5% dehydrated milk (prepared in TBS containing 0.05% Tween-20) before incubation with primary antibody. Horseradish peroxidase-conjugated secondary antibody (Promega) incubation followed by enhanced chemiluminescence was used for the detection of proteins. Primary antibodies used were goat anti-TIA1 (1:2,000; Santa Cruz), phosphorylated TDP-43 (1:1000), and rabbit anti-TDP-43 (1:10,000; ProteinTech).

**Histology**—Human tissues were stained with hematoxylin and eosin (HE), HE combined with Luxol fast blue (HE/LFB) and Bielschowsky silver method.

**Immunohistochemistry (IHC)**—Standard IHC was performed on 5- $\mu$ m thick human tissue sections using the Ventana BenchMark XT automated staining system (Ventana) and developed with aminoethylcarbazole (AEC). The primary antibodies employed were as follows: ubiquitin (DAKO; 1:500 following microwave antigen retrieval), p62 Lck ligand (BD Biosciences; 1:500 following microwave antigen retrieval), TDP-43 (ProteinTech; 1:1,000 following microwave antigen retrieval), hyperphosphorylated tau (clone AT-8; Innogenetics, Ghent, Belgium; 1:2,000 following microwave antigen retrieval),  $\alpha$ -synuclein (Thermo Scientific; 1:10,000 following microwave antigen retrieval), anti-beta amyloid ( $A\beta$ ; DAKO; 1:100 with initial incubation for 3 h at room temperature), and FUS (Sigma-Aldrich; 1:200, initial overnight incubation at room temperature, following microwave antigen retrieval).

IHC was also performed on sections of spinal cord and frontal cortex from *TIA1* mutation carriers, sporadic ALS patients in whom *TIA1* mutations were excluded, and normal control subjects using a number of commercial antibodies raised against various N-terminal and C-terminal epitopes of human TIA1, including: ProteinTech TIA1 (rabbit polyclonal against aa 1–214; 1:50, overnight incubation following microwave antigen retrieval), Santa Cruz TIA-1/TIAR (clone H-120; rabbit polyclonal against aa 21–140; 1:200, overnight incubation following microwave antigen retrieval), Santa Cruz TIA-1/TIAR (clone D-9; mouse monoclonal against aa 21–140; 1:200, overnight incubation following microwave antigen retrieval), Santa Cruz TIA1 (clone C-20; goat polyclonal raised against the TIA1 C-terminus; 1:5000 following steaming antigen retrieval in sodium citrate buffer, pH 6), Abcam TIA1 ab40693 (rabbit polyclonal antibody raised against aa 350-C-terminus; 1:500 following microwave antigen retrieval), Abcam TIA1 ab140595 (rabbit monoclonal antibody against aa 350-C-terminus; 1:100, overnight incubation) and Beckman Coulter TIA1 (IM2550; mouse monoclonal raised against human leukemia cells; 1:400 following heat retrieval).

## QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

**Genetic Statistical Analyses**—Gene-based analyses were performed using the SNP-set (Sequence) Kernel Association Test (SKAT) R package using variants with minor allele frequency  $< 0.0001$  and adjusted for age and gender (Wu et al., 2011). We only tested *TIA1* and only rare variants in the LCD were included in the analysis based on the specific mutation identified by exome sequencing in family UBCU2 and prior functional evidence implicating LCDs of other RNA binding proteins in ALS-FTD. The  $8.7 \times 10^{-6}$  p-value associated with rare *TIA1* LCD mutations is just short of exome-wide significance ( $p=2.5 \times 10^{-6}$ ).

**Live-Cell Analysis**—Live-cell imaging analysis was done manually, determining when granules appeared and disappeared for each cell. Only viable cells which were not rounded and which did not have spontaneous granules (puncta present prior to the 2 minute mark in the video) were considered. For these cells, all of which being considered granule negative at the beginning of the video, were considered granule positive upon the frame at which distinct cytoplasmic puncta were visible. The frame at which no cytoplasmic puncta were visible any longer was when the cells were once again considered granule negative. Images were analyzed using SlideBook software. For  $n=24$ , 8, 19, and 8 videos for wild-type, P362L, A381T, and E384K, respectively, the percent of cells which were considered granule positive was determined and graphed at each time point. Two-way ANOVA with Dunnett's multiple comparisons test was performed using GraphPad Prism v6. A p-value of less than 0.05 was used to determine significance.

**Automated Image Analysis**—The same live-cell videos were subjected to automated puncta detection analysis using CellProfiler software (Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT). Individual frames of all movies were exported as tiff images and imported into the CellProfiler where each frame was individually analyzed. An automated analysis pipeline consisted of applying a “speckle” enhancement step prior to thresholding. A speckle is an area of enhanced intensity relative to its immediate neighborhood. The module enhances speckles using a white tophat filter with a feature size of 10 pixels. After the speckle enhancement the granules were detected by applying adaptive “Robust Background” thresholding method. Adaptive strategy partitions the input image into tiles of 30 pixels and calculates thresholds for each tile. For each tile, the calculated threshold is applied only to the pixels within that tile. This approach is well suited for cells with varying intensity in the same movie (field of view). The Robust Background thresholding method applied within the tiles assumes that the background distribution approximates a Gaussian and trims the brightest and dimmest 5% of pixel intensities. It then calculates the mean and standard deviation of the remaining pixels and calculates the threshold as the mean + 3 times the standard deviation. Following the thresholding step all detected puncta were separated based on intensity and shape variation. Finally, the number and area of all segmented puncta objects were calculated and exported for making the graphs of the number and the average of area of SGs versus time using Microsoft Excel and/or Igor Pro (Wavemetrics). All graphs were normalized to maximum values. The purpose of these graphs is to show the behavior of the sample response to heat shock and supports our manual observation and analysis (Figure

2B). The fluorescence signal from each cell type was compared for one selected frame (Figure S2C) when cells had significant number of mature SGs.

**Phase Diagram, Fibrillization, and FRAP Analyses**—Statistical analyses were performed using GraphPad Prism v6 or Microsoft Office Excel. All data are shown as the mean  $\pm$  standard error of the mean (SEM). The statistical significance of each variant compared to wild-type TIA1 was investigated by Pearson correlation coefficient (Pearson's chi-square test), ordinary one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's multiple comparisons test, or two-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's multiple comparisons test. The number of samples analyzed per experiment is provided in the corresponding figure legends. A p-value of less than 0.05 was used to determine significance.

## Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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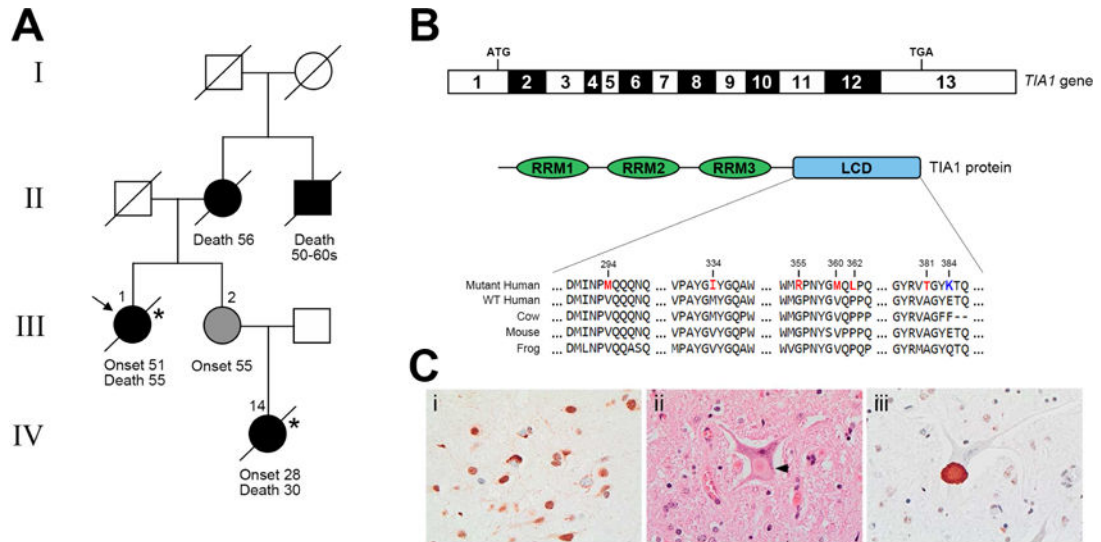
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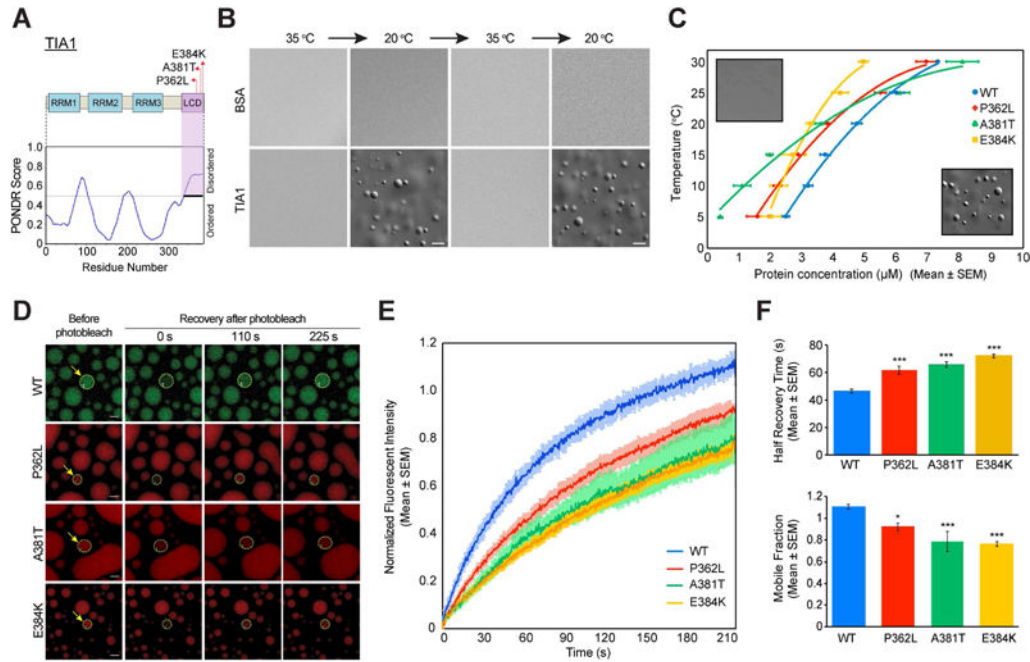
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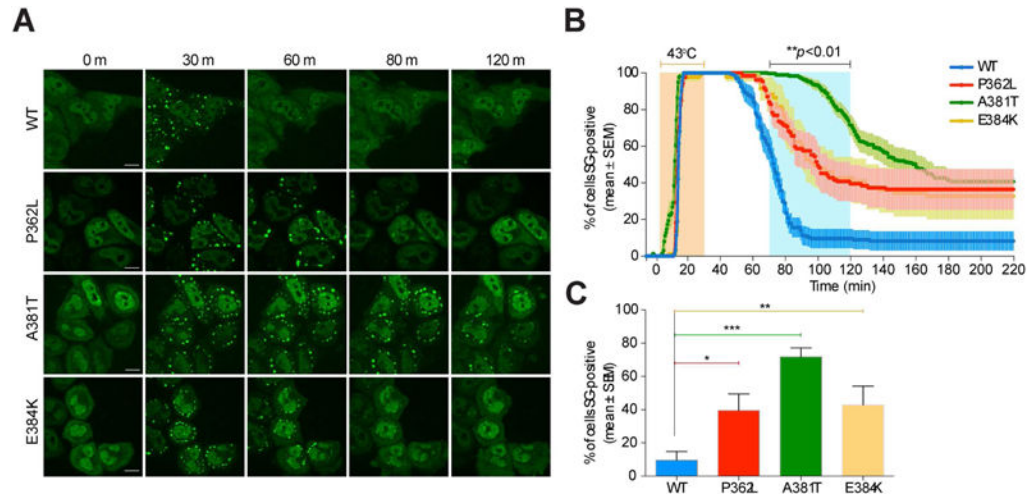


**Figure 1. *TIA1* Mutations Identified in Family UBCU2 and Patients with ALS or ALS/FTD**  
**(A)** Abbreviated pedigree of the UBCU2 family of European ancestry included in this study showing unaffected individuals (white), individuals diagnosed with ALS or ALS/FTD (black) and an individual with early memory problems (gray). The proband is denoted with an arrow. Two family members with pathological diagnosis of ALS and FTLN-TDP were examined by whole-exome sequencing (\*). Sanger sequencing confirmed the *TIA1* P362L mutation in III-1, III-2 and IV-14, the only family members with DNA available. **(B)** *TIA1* gene organization and protein structure with conserved regions of the TIA1 LCD. Mutations identified in this study are numbered and marked in red in relation to the known E384K mutation identified in Welander distal myopathy (blue). **(C)** Images of autopsy pathology from patient UBCU2-1 showing TDP-43-immunoreactive neuronal cytoplasmic inclusions in the frontal cortex (i) and hyaline Lewy body-like cytoplasmic inclusions in lower motor neurons, demonstrated with H&E stain (ii, arrowhead) and TDP-43 immunohistochemistry (iii). See also Figure S1, Table S1, Table S2, and Table S3.



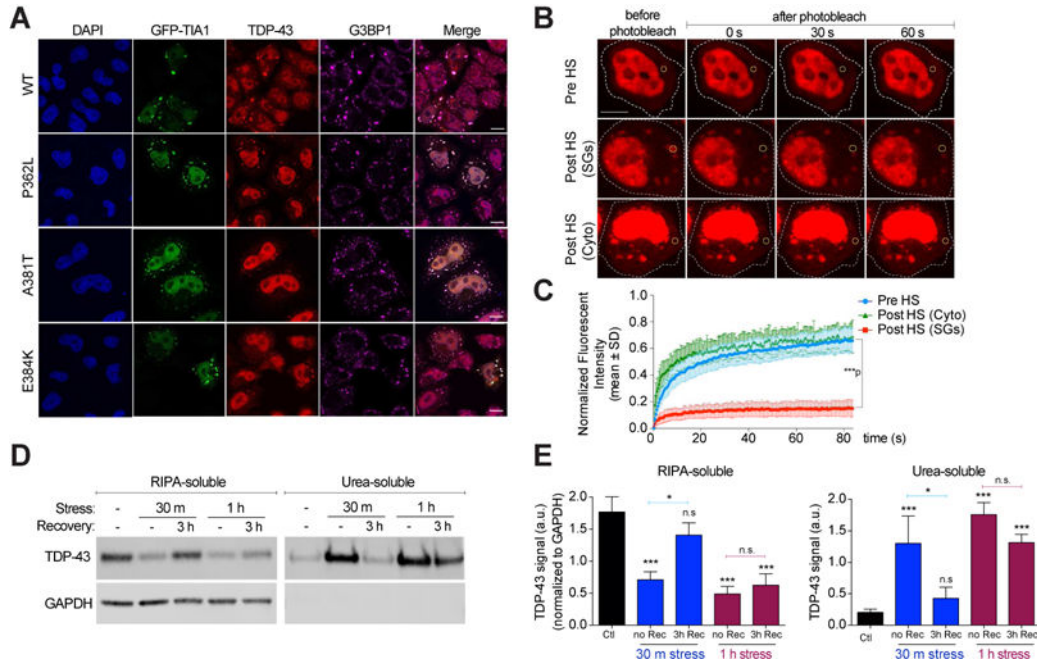


**Figure 2. Phase Separation and Mobility of TIA1 is Altered by Disease-Causing Mutations** (A) Schematic representation showing PONDNR score along the length of wild-type TIA1, the location of the LCD, and the positions of disease-causing missense mutations P362L, A381T, and E384K. (B) Temperature-sensitive, reversible phase separation of wild-type TIA1 was observed by DIC microscopy. BSA protein was used as a negative control. (C) Phase diagrams [temperature (T) versus concentration] showing co-existence lines of wild-type, P362L, A381T, and E384K TIA1 (150 mM NaCl, pH 7.5 in absence of any co-solutes). Insets represent characteristic DIC images of single-phase (upper left) and two-phase (lower right) solutions of wild-type TIA1.  $n = 6$  for wild-type and P362L,  $n = 3$  for A381T and E384K;  $P < 0.001$  for each variant compared to wild-type by Pearson's chi-square test. (D) Disease-causing mutations P362L, A381T, and E384K reduce the mobility of TIA1 in the dense phase. Fluorescence images of wild-type or mutant TIA1 droplets 0–225 seconds after photobleaching within the region outlined in yellow (arrow). (E) TIA1 fluorescence recovery after photobleaching in the dense phase indicates a significant reduction in mobility ( $n = 10$  for E384K;  $n = 8$  for P362L;  $n = 6$  for wild-type and A381T). Recovery curves were normalized to background fluorescence (for subtracting noise) and adjacent non-bleached droplet (for fluorescence intensity fluctuations).  $P < 0.001$  for each variant compared to wild-type by Pearson's chi-square test. (F) Quantification of the half fluorescence recovery time and mobile fraction of wild-type and mutant TIA1. All graphs represent mean  $\pm$  S.E.M. \* $P < 0.05$ , \*\*\* $P < 0.001$  by one-way ANOVA with Dunnett's multiple comparisons test. Scale bars: 20  $\mu\text{m}$  (B) and 10  $\mu\text{m}$  (D). See also Figure S2.



**Figure 3. Live-cell Imaging Illustrates Prolongation of SG Recovery in Association with Disease-Causing *TIA1* Mutations**

(A) Images of HeLa cells transfected with GFP-tagged wild-type or mutant (P362L, A381T, or E384K) TIA1. SGs were induced with a 30-minute heat shock at 43°C (shaded in orange) and images were taken 0–120 min after recovery at 37°C. (B) Line graph representing the percentage of cells with visible TIA1 puncta over time ( $n = 24, 8, 19,$  and  $8$  videos for wild-type, P362L, A381T, and E384K, respectively). (C) Quantification of the percentage of cells with persistent SGs at 120 min.  $*P < 0.05$ ,  $**P < 0.01$ ,  $***P < 0.001$  by two-way ANOVA with Dunnett’s multiple comparisons test. Scale bar: 10  $\mu\text{m}$ . See also Figure S3, Figure S4, and Video File.



**Figure 4. TDP-43 is Recruited to TIA1-positive Stress Granules and TDP-43 Becomes Insoluble in Response to Stress**

(A) Immunofluorescence confocal microscopy shows intracellular colocalization of endogenous TDP-43 (using an antibody targeting the C-terminus) with TIA1-positive stress granules of all four variants. GFP-tagged TIA1 constructs were transiently transfected in HeLa cells and cells were stressed with sodium arsenite for 30 min. Cells were fixed and stained with DAPI (blue), TDP-43 (red), and G3BP (far red), another marker of stress granules. Scale bar: 10  $\mu$ m. (B) FRAP of TDP-43-TdTomato in HeLa cells (outlined in white) shows that cytoplasmic TDP-43 in resting cells (preHS, top row) is highly mobile. However, after heat shock stress, the TDP-43 that is recruited into SGs becomes immobile (middle row), while the TDP-43 that remains in the cytoplasm of the same cells (not in SGs, bottom row) remains highly mobile. Scale bar: 10  $\mu$ m. (C) Quantification of FRAP analysis in (B). Pre-bleach: n = 15 cells; Post-bleach: n = 16 cells (SGs) and 23 cells (cytoplasm). (D) Prolonged sodium arsenite (Ars) stress promotes insolubility of TDP-43. Sequential extractions of U2OS cells under the following conditions: control (Ctl), 30 min Ars, and 30 min Ars + 3 hrs recovery (RE), 1 hr Ars, 1 hr Ars + 3 hrs RE, shows that TDP-43 accumulates in the urea-soluble fraction in response to stress. (E) Quantification of RIPA and urea-soluble blots in (D) shows TDP-43 can recover from the urea-soluble to the RIPA-soluble fraction after a 30-min stress but not after a 1-hr stress. n = 3 biological replicates. All graphs represent mean  $\pm$  S.E.M. \*\*\*P < 0.001 by one-way ANOVA with Dunnett’s multiple comparisons test. n.s., not significant. See also Figure S4.