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▶ To cite this version:

Lou Fourriere, Ana Joaquina Jimenez, Franck Perez, Gaelle Boncompain. The role of microtubules in secretory protein transport. Journal of Cell Science, 2020, 133 (2), pp.jcs237016. 10.1242/jcs.237016 . hal-02986327

HAL Id: hal-02986327 https://hal.science/hal-02986327v1

Submitted on 10 Nov 2020

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1	The role of microtubules in secretory protein transport
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14	Abstract
15	Microtubules are part of the dynamic cytoskeleton network and composed of tubulin
16	dimers. They are the main tracks used in cells to organize organelle positioning and
17	trafficking of cargos. In this review, we compile recent findings on the involvement of
18	microtubules in anterograde protein transport. First, we highlight the importance of
19	microtubules in organelle positioning. Then, we discuss the involvement of
20	microtubules in different trafficking steps, in particular between the endoplasmic
21	reticulum (ER) and the Golgi apparatus, traffic through the Golgi apparatus itself and
22	in post-Golgi processes. A large number of studies have assessed the involvement of
23	microtubules in the transport of cargos from the Golgi apparatus to the cell surface.
24	We focus here on the role of kinesin motor proteins and protein interactions in post-
25	Golgi transport as well as the impact of tubulin post-translational modifications. In the
26	last part, in light of recent findings, we emphasize the role of microtubules in
27	exocytosis, which is the final step of secretory protein transport, occurring close to
28	focal adhesions.

35

36 Introduction

The microtubule cytoskeleton plays essential functions in eukaryotes, in particular to ensure cell division and equal partitioning of chromosomes (Vukusic et al., 2019). In mammalian cells, microtubules also play major roles in interphase to regulate intracellular organization (de Forges et al., 2012) and organelle positioning (Bonifacino and Neefjes, 2017).

42 Microtubules endow cells with intracellular polarity, being organized as one or 43 multiple arrays of polarized tracks differently organized depending on cell types (Fig. 1). Microtubules are composed of heterodimers of alpha and beta-tubulin - alpha-44 tubulin being exposed at the microtubule minus-end and beta-tubulin at the plus-end. 45 46 Minus ends slowly grow and are anchored to microtubule-organizing centres 47 (Hendershott and Vale, 2014), whereas microtubule plus-ends ensure their elongation (Mitchison and Kirschner, 1984). Microtubules are highly dynamic 48 49 polymers, alternating phases of growth and shrinkage. The dynamic nature of 50 microtubules enables them to ensure exploration of the cytoplasm and fulfil multiple 51 functions. A large number of microtubule-associated proteins (MAPs) exist 52 (Bodakuntla et al., 2019), which structurally regulate the microtubule network itself, 53 but also its dynamics and functions in cellular processes. Microtubule diversity is also 54 generated owing to the existence of several post-translational modifications (PTMs) 55 of tubulin, including acetylation, phosphorylation, poly-amylation, tyrosination-56 detyrosination, poly-glutamylation and poly-glycylation (Janke, 2014). They recently 57 became of great interest in diverse cellular processes including intracellular transport 58 (see below). Tubulin PTMs regulate the microtubule network by modifying the 59 mechanical properties of microtubules, their stability and by influencing their 60 interactions with microtubule-associated proteins (Magiera et al., 2018b; Xu et al., 61 2017).

Molecular motors interact with microtubules and allow the movement of cargos along the microtubule tracks. Motors can either directly bind to cargo or, often, be associated with adaptor or scaffold proteins to ensure the link between the motor and the cargo. Motors use the energy generated by hydrolysis of ATP to move on microtubules with varying directionality and speed. Dynein is a minus-end molecular motor whereas the large family of kinesin motors can be either plus-end or minusend directed (Hirokawa et al., 2009; Kardon and Vale, 2009). Whereas the majority of kinesins are plus-end directed motors, kinesin-14 family members are, on the
 contrary, minus-end directed motors (Hirokawa et al., 2009; Kardon and Vale, 2009).

71 Here, we will focus on the role of microtubules in the organization and regulation of 72 the secretory pathway in mammalian cells. The secretory pathway ensures the 73 transport of proteins from the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) via the Golgi complex to 74 their destination compartment such as the cell surface, the endosomes or the 75 lysosomes (Boncompain and Weigel, 2018). Microtubules, together with molecular 76 motors, are known to accelerate long-range vesicular trafficking. However, whether 77 they are essential to ensure secretion is still debated (see below). An intimate 78 relationship between microtubules and focal adhesions do exist, playing a role in the 79 last step of the secretory pathway, the exocytosis. In this review, we will discuss the 80 contribution of microtubules to protein secretion from ER to Golgi and from Golgi to 81 the plasma membrane. We will focus on kinesin-dependent processes and on the 82 role of tubulin modifications in post-Golgi transport. We will also discuss the 83 importance of microtubule for cargo exocytosis occurring in proximity to focal 84 adhesions. Furthermore, we will put emphasis on microtubule-driven secretion in 85 non-polarized cells, but mention their importance in polarized cells such as neurons.

86

87 Microtubules in the homeostasis of secretory pathway organelles

88 The distribution of intracellular compartments that are necessary for protein secretion 89 is dependent on microtubules (Burkhardt et al., 1997; Vale, 1987), which vary in their 90 cellular organization depending on cell architecture (Fig. 1). The organization of the 91 organelles of the secretory pathway described below corresponds mainly to the one 92 of non-polarized cells. The ER is the organelle that constitutes the starting point of 93 the secretory pathway where proteins are translocated through the ER, either post-94 or co-translationally (Mandon et al., 2013). The ER extends through the entire 95 cytoplasm and its distribution relies on an intact microtubule network, especially to 96 elongate ER tubules (Lee and Chen, 1988). ER tubules interact with microtubule plus 97 ends and use the force generated by microtubule polymerization to extend towards 98 the cell periphery (Grigoriev et al., 2008). Removal of microtubules increases the 99 proportion and the frequency of motion of ER sheets, which was also described as a 100 dense matrix of ER tubules (Nixon-Abell et al., 2016; Terasaki et al., 1986). The ER 101 membrane is connected to microtubules through ER-resident proteins, such as 102 cytoskeleton-associated protein 4 (CKAP4, also known as CLIMP-63) and stromal

103 interaction molecule 1 (STIM1) (Grigoriev et al., 2008; Vedrenne et al., 2005) (Fig. 2). 104 CLIMP-63 bears a microtubule-binding domain in its cytosolic part. When overexpressed, CLIMP-63 leads to the re-arrangement of the microtubule network 105 106 (Klopfenstein et al., 1998). However, the precise function of CLIMP-63-microtubule 107 interactions remains unclear but it has been suggested to lie in anchoring the rough 108 ER to the cytoskeleton (Sandoz and van der Goot, 2015). The interaction between 109 STIM1 and growing microtubules, through the plus-end tracker end-binding protein 1 (EB1), has been shown to prevent Ca^{2+} overload (Chang et al., 2018). 110

111 The Golgi apparatus is the next compartment in the secretory pathway, receiving 112 cargos from the ER. Functionally, it lies at the centre of the secretory pathway and 113 physically, in many cell types, at the centre of the cell (Boncompain and Perez, 2013). 114 The Golgi complex co-localizes with microtubule minus ends (Martin and Akhmanova, 115 2018). Microtubules and MAPs, such as calmodulin-regulated spectrin-associated 116 protein 2 (CAMSAP2), myomegalin, EB1, EB3 and dynein, are responsible for the 117 attachment of the Golgi apparatus to the minus ends and for its central localization 118 (Corthesy-Theulaz et al., 1992; Sandoval et al., 1984; Wang et al., 2014; Wu et al., 119 2016; Yang et al., 2017). Dynein inhibition or microtubule depolymerization induces 120 the reversible fragmentation and the dispersion of the Golgi complex to the extent 121 that we employ Golgi morphology as a read-out for dynein activity or the efficiency of 122 dynein-inhibiting drugs like ciliobrevin (Firestone et al., 2012). Such perturbation of 123 dynein or microtubule organization induces the formation of Golgi mini-stacks that 124 display a proper *cis*-to-*trans* organization (Cole et al., 1996; Trucco et al., 2004), 125 indicating that microtubules are not required for the organization of the Golgi stacks 126 themselves. Nocodazole-induced Golgi mini-stacks were even shown to facilitate the 127 analysis of the intra-Golgi distribution of Golgi resident proteins or cargos by light 128 microscopy (Dejgaard et al., 2007).

129 In many cell types, the main microtubule-organizing centre is the centrosome. 130 However, conversely, microtubules can also be nucleated from Golgi membranes 131 (Chabin-Brion et al., 2001; Efimov et al., 2007). These non-centrosomal microtubules 132 are important for the perinuclear localization of the Golgi complex (Hoppeler-Lebel et 133 al., 2007), for polarized cell migration (Wu et al., 2016) and for directed post-Golgi 134 transport (Efimov et al., 2007; Miller et al., 2009) (Fig. 2A, D). Whereas a role for the 135 microtubule nucleating factor v-tubulin in Golgi-near microtubule nucleation has been 136 reported (Chabin-Brion et al., 2001), it is Golgi-associated microtubule-binding

137 proteins such as CAMSAP2 and a-kinase anchor protein 450 kDa (AKAP450) who 138 play the dominant role in nucleation of Golgi microtubules (Wu et al., 2016). The 139 Golgi microtubule-associated protein 210 (GMAP-210) was shown to interact with y-140 tubulin (Infante et al., 1999; Rios et al., 2004) and several Golgi proteins physically 141 link Golgi membranes with microtubules such as Golgin-160, which binds to dynein 142 (Yadav et al., 2012). The trans-Golgi network (TGN), GRIP- and coiled-coil domain-143 containing protein 185 (GCC185) was shown to interact with the microtubule-binding 144 proteins CLIP-associating proteins (CLASPs) (Efimov et al., 2007). The cis-Golgi 145 protein GM130 binds to AKAP450 allowing microtubule nucleation (Rivero et al., 146 2009). In addition, the association of both CLASPs and AKAP450 with microtubule 147 cross-linking factor 1 (MTCL1) has been shown to enhance association of 148 microtubule with the Golgi complex (Sato et al., 2014). It was further demonstrated 149 that through GM130, AKAP450 and myomegalin, Golgi membranes are connected to 150 the microtubule-binding proteins CAMSAP2 (Wu et al., 2016) and EB1 an EB3 (Yang 151 et al., 2017). The proteins AKAP450, CDK5RAP2 and myomegalin bind to γ -tubulin 152 ring complexes at the *cis*-face of the Golgi apparatus (Gavilan et al., 2018; Wang et 153 al., 2010). It should be noted that several isoforms of myomegalin exist, two of them, 154 CM-MMG and EB-MMG, having different functions, promoting microtubule nucleation 155 and restricting microtubule growth, respectively (Roubin et al., 2013).

In conclusion, microtubules are important for intracellular distribution and shaping of organelles including those involved in secretory protein transport. Recent work has shed light on the importance of minus-end regulation and growth at the Golgi, affecting microtubule nucleation and organization of the Golgi apparatus. Microtubules are also involved in the distribution of other cellular organelles such as endosomes, lysosomes and mitochondria (see (Bonifacino and Neefjes, 2017; Pu et al., 2016) and (Lin and Sheng, 2015) for recent reviews).

163

164 Microtubules in ER-to-Golgi and intra-Golgi trafficking

After their translocation in the ER, cargos are concentrated in specialized export domains, named ER-exit sites (ERES), from where COPII-coated vesicles are formed (Bannykh et al., 1996). Microtubules are not required to generate force to ensure budding of COPII vesicles since they still form spontaneously in their absence (Presley et al., 1997). COPII vesicles then fuse to create the ER-Golgi intermediate compartment (ERGIC) (Brandizzi and Barlowe, 2013; Xu and Hay, 2004). These pre-

171 Golgi carriers have to be transported to reach the Golgi apparatus owing to the 172 separation of ER and Golgi complex in mammalian cells. Microtubule-based 173 movement of ER-to-Golgi transport carriers and the role of dynein therein were 174 demonstrated using the fluorescently tagged thermosensitive mutant of viral 175 glycoprotein tsO45 VSVG that could be tracked in pre-Golgi structures moving 176 towards the Golgi (Presley et al., 1997; Scales et al., 1997). The interaction between 177 ERES and microtubules is ensured by binding of Sec23, a component of the COPII 178 coat, and the C-terminal domain of p150glued, a component of the dynein activator 179 complex (Watson et al., 2005) (Fig. 2B). Dynein and its accessory subunits mediate 180 minus-end directed transport allowing ER-to-Golgi vesicles to reach the centrally 181 located Golgi apparatus from the dispersed ERES (Burkhardt et al., 1997; Palmer et 182 al., 2009) (Fig. 2A, B). However, kinesins are also present on pre-Golgi vesicles 183 (Lippincott-Schwartz et al., 1990) and as a consequence, the presence of both kinds 184 of motors generates opposing forces, which allow bi-directional movement of vesicles 185 on microtubules (Brown et al., 2014). More specifically, kinesins that are present on 186 pre-Golgi vesicles ensure Golgi-to-ER retrograde motility, which is important for 187 membrane recycling (Hirokawa et al., 2009).

188 Importantly, even if the involvement of microtubules in ER-to-Golgi transport has 189 been clearly demonstrated over the last decades, this transport still occurs in the 190 absence of microtubules (Cole et al., 1996). As indicated above, without microtubules 191 the Golgi apparatus is dispersed and Golgi mini-stacks are formed in apposition of 192 ERES (Cole et al., 1996; Presley et al., 1997). In these conditions, transport of newly 193 synthetized cargos occurs efficiently since COPII vesicles are still formed and ERES 194 and Golgi mini-stacks are in close proximity.

195 Several models that describe how cargos are transported inside the Golgi apparatus 196 have been proposed over the years; to date, the cisternal maturation model and its 197 variations appears to be prevalent one (Boncompain and Perez, 2013; Boncompain 198 and Weigel, 2018; Glick and Luini, 2011). According to this model, new Golgi 199 cisternae form by coalescence of ER-derived membranes and secretory proteins are 200 conveyed inside the cisternae. The identity of Golgi compartments is ensured by 201 constant retrograde transport of Golgi-resident proteins. To understand the role of 202 microtubules in intra-Golgi transport, it is important to monitor and quantify the 203 movement of cargos or Golgi enzymes inside the Golgi apparatus between stacks of 204 cisternae, which is a difficult endeavour. Although various cargos speeds have been 205 monitored inside the Golgi apparatus ((Beznoussenko et al., 2014) and our 206 unpublished data), it is complicated to determine if microtubules are important for 207 intra-Golgi trafficking. As described earlier, removal of microtubules strongly perturbs 208 the Golgi apparatus structure and induces the dispersion of Golgi mini-stacks 209 throughout the cytoplasm (Cole et al., 1996; Trucco et al., 2004). It is thus essential 210 to establish approaches where microtubules can be fully disassembled while 211 preventing cargo transport and subsequently monitor transport. We developed the 212 retention using selective hooks (RUSH) system to synchronize the trafficking of 213 different cargos (Boncompain et al., 2012) and monitor their transport through the 214 cisternae in absence of microtubules (Fourriere et al., 2016). Our results indicate that 215 microtubules are dispensable for intra-Golgi transport and that the role of microtubule 216 is to ensure functional maturation of the Golgi complex, but not physical movement of 217 the cargos inside and out from the Golgi apparatus (Fourriere et al., 2016).

Therefore, microtubules appear not to be essential for ER-to-Golgi and intra-Golgi protein transport. However, microtubules, when present, are used to facilitate the movement of transport carriers from the ER to the Golgi apparatus. Nonetheless, the challenges to assess intra-Golgi transport, especially in the absence of microtubules, limit our current understanding of the role of microtubules in intra-Golgi transport.

223

Role of microtubules in the trafficking from the Golgi to the plasma membrane

As mentioned above, in the absence of microtubules protein secretion still occurs in rather small cells by vesicle diffusion (Cole et al., 1996; Fourriere et al., 2016; McCaughey et al., 2019).

228 In physiological conditions, cargos leave the TGN inside vesicular, granular or tubular 229 structures that use microtubules to achieve a fast and directed transport (Cole and 230 Lippincott-Schwartz, 1995; Schmoranzer and Simon, 2003; Toomre et al., 1999). 231 Cargos trafficking from the TGN to downstream compartments use various kinesins 232 as molecular motors (Hirokawa et al., 2009). Reported in most mammalian cell types, 233 this kinesin-dependent transport of cargos is particularly important in highly polarized 234 cells, and KIF5B, KIF5C, KIFC3 and KIF16B have been shown to be necessary for 235 apical transport in polarized MDCK cells (Astanina and Jacob, 2010; Jaulin et al., 236 2007; Noda et al., 2001; Perez Bay et al., 2013). Microtubules are also of particular 237 importance in trafficking pathways in neurons (see Box 1, Fig. 1).

238

239 Motors and adaptor proteins in post-Golgi transport

240 Recruitment of kinesins to carriers is reversible and determines the final destination 241 of the cargo (Akhmanova and Hammer, 2010). As diverse kinesins are involved in 242 the transport of chosen carriers, a specific recruitment of the motors must occur. 243 Carriers can bind kinesin directly (e.g. kinesin-1 (Kamal et al., 2000)); however, most 244 of the time, adaptors and intermediates are needed. Such a function was shown for 245 the receptor-recycling retromer complex (Hunt et al., 2013; Wassmer et al., 2009), or 246 adaptor protein 1 (AP-1) (Campagne et al., 2018; Delevoye et al., 2009), which 247 enable the recruitment of kinesins on endosomal membranes. At the level of the 248 Golgi apparatus, the small GTPase RAB6 was shown to recruit KIF20A to Golgi 249 membranes to promote the fission of post-Golgi carriers (Miserey-Lenkei et al., 2017) 250 (Fig. 2D).

251 Intriguingly, different molecular motors, sometimes with opposite directionality, can 252 be found on the same carrier, leading to a bi-directional movement of the carrier 253 (Hirokawa et al., 2010; Vale, 2003) in a tug of war. Each class of motor can be 254 specifically activated and alternates between having the role of a motor or of a 255 passenger (Derr et al., 2012; Kunwar et al., 2011; Muller et al., 2008; Welte, 2004). 256 Importantly, it has been shown that several motors are activated upon binding to their 257 receptor on the carriers (Derr et al., 2012; Kunwar et al., 2011); cycles of binding and 258 release from the carriers could also be the basis of bi-directional movement. This 259 behaviour may be surprising as it appears costly for the cell and reduces the mean 260 transport speed, but it has been proposed that these cycles avoid road blocks along 261 busy microtubule tracks (Telley et al., 2009) and help in the proofreading of wrongly 262 oriented carriers (Ally et al., 2009; Jolly and Gelfand, 2011). Also, less energy may be needed when loading carriers with multiple motors than assembling and 263 264 disassembling the full complexes each time a carrier should revert its direction (Welte, 265 2004). In the context of post-Golgi transport, loading of multiple motors on carriers 266 might require adaptors, for which little is known except the Rab6-BicaudalD1/2-KIF5B 267 pathway (see below).

The role of kinesins may not be restricted to the movement of carriers, but also be important for their immediate release from the TGN: the kinesin 1 KIF5B has been shown to be necessary for the movement of post-Golgi transport carriers from the Golgi apparatus (Grigoriev et al., 2007; Miserey-Lenkei et al., 2010). Membrane

272 fission at the *trans*-Golgi network indeed occurs through coordinated work by the 273 actin cytoskeleton, the myosin II motor, the GTPase Rab6, Bicaudal D1/2, Dynactin 274 and the kinesin KIF20A (Hoogenraad et al., 2001; Miserey-Lenkei et al., 2017; 275 Miserey-Lenkei et al., 2010) (Fig. 2D). Rab6 has also been shown to directly interact 276 with KIF1C, which inhibits interaction of the motor with microtubules and slows down 277 the motility of post-Golgi carriers (Lee et al., 2015a). However, as noted above, our 278 observation that Golgi-to-plasma membrane traffic can occur efficiently in the 279 absence of microtubules (Fourriere et al., 2016) suggests a supportive, but not 280 essential role for kinesins in post-Golgi cargo movement.

Molecular motors, especially the plus-end directed kinesins, have been demonstrated to accelerate cargo transport along microtubules but might not be essential for post-Golgi transport. The recruitment of motors to membranes might require adaptor proteins, which bring specificity to the motor-cargo interaction.

285

286 Secretory transport, motor proteins and tubulin post-translational modifications

As introduced above, tubulin is subjected to PTMs (Janke, 2014).

288 PTMs lead to the formation of sub-populations of microtubules (Tas et al., 2017) and 289 some kinesins are able to distinguish between these microtubule populations (Cai et 290 al., 2009). For example, KIF5B preferentially moves on the most stable microtubules 291 *in vivo* (Kaul et al., 2014). A higher stability of microtubules is associated with tubulin 292 acetylation, which increases the affinity and speed of kinesin-1 along microtubules 293 (Cai et al., 2009; Hammond et al., 2010; Reed et al., 2006). However, acetylation 294 might not be essential for trafficking and the mobility of kinesin-1 on acetylated or de-295 acetylated microtubules appears to be similar in vitro (Walter et al., 2012). Given the 296 recent discovery of the molecular players involved in tubulin acetylation, its biological 297 consequences are only emerging (Janke and Montagnac, 2017).

Interestingly, PTMs of tubulin have also been associated with defects in transport: abnormally high tubulin poly-glutamylation causes defects in neuronal transport (Magiera et al., 2018a). Furthermore, the drug-induced acetylation of microtubules has been shown to re-establish transport in neurons in neurodegenerative diseases like Charcot-Marie-Tooth and Huntington's (d'Ydewalle et al., 2011; Dompierre et al., 2007), as well as for mutations in leucine-rich repeat serine/threonine-protein kinase 2 (LRRK2) by inhibiting aberrant interactions of mutated LRRK2 with de-acetylated

9

microtubules (Godena et al., 2014). Interestingly, it has been shown that epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) trafficking kinetics is increased by inhibition of histone deacetylase 6 (HDAC6) and microtubule acetylation (Deribe et al., 2009; Lee et al., 2015b). Detyrosinated microtubules are preferentially chosen by KIF5C (Dunn et al., 2008; Hammond et al., 2010) and they seem to be preferential roads for the intracellular traffic in polarized cells, with a reduction of their level leading to strong decrease in apical protein secretion (Zink et al., 2012).

- 312 Tubulin PTMs and the resulting microtubule diversity are of recent focus. At the same 313 time, several studies question the effects of tubulin PTMs on the function of motors 314 and on intracellular transport and their link to diseases (Magiera et al., 2018b; Roll-315 Mecak, 2019). Effects of tubulin PTMs are currently questioned not only *in vitro* but in 316 living cells and in mouse models. For instance, floxed mice for genes coding for 317 cytosolic carboxypeptidases (CCP1 and CCP6) allowed questioning the effects of 318 hyper polyglutamylation on axonal transport (Magiera et al., 2018a). 260The 319 identification of the molecular players involved in tubulin PTMs and ways to perturb 320 them will for sure shed light on this additional level of regulation of microtubule-based 321 post-Golgi protein transport.
- 322

323 Confining exocytosis using microtubules and a localized fusion machinery

324 The final step of the secretory pathway is the arrival of cargos at the plasma 325 membrane for subsequent exocytosis. Microtubules deliver vesicles to particular 326 plasma membrane domains that are localized in the leading edge of migrating cells 327 (Schmoranzer et al., 2003). The last step of the secretory pathway occurs close to 328 focal adhesion (FAs) and microtubule-FAs interaction is required. Focal adhesions 329 (FAs) constitute an adhesive platform at the plasma membrane composed of more 330 than 180 proteins, which link actin and integrin networks to the extracellular matrix 331 (Haase et al., 2014). FAs are very dynamic and are able to adjust their shape, 332 position and composition according to the needs of the cell and to the rigidity and 333 composition of the cell substrate (Riveline et al., 2001). Through their permanent 334 contact between the cytoskeleton and the extracellular matrix, FAs play a role in the 335 formation, maintenance and transmission of forces between the cell and the 336 environment (Chen et al., 2015). On a molecular level, focal adhesion kinase (FAK) 337 receives signals from growth factors and integrins and in turn recruits new FA

proteins or adaptors to the adhesive region and activates signalling cascades (mDia, Rho-family complex GTPases with RhoA, Rac and Cdc-42) that will modulate the actin and microtubule networks (Mitra et al., 2005). The balance of activated and inactivated Rac and Rho complexes close to the FAs region is important for the targeting of FAs by microtubules and for cell polarity (Small and Kaverina, 2003).

343 Microtubules are tethered at adhesion sites and influence FAs formation, maturation 344 and dissolution (Stehbens and Wittmann, 2012). Interestingly, microtubules attached 345 to FAs are more stable (Kaverina et al., 1998) and tubulin acetylation of microtubules 346 promotes FAs turnover and cell migration (Bance et al., 2019; Dubois et al., 2017). 347 Microtubules determine cellular polarity by modulating the distribution of FAs, which 348 are continuously formed and disassembled at the migration edge. Indeed, 349 depolymerisation of microtubules induces an increase in the size of FAs by 350 stimulating actomyosin- and RhoA-dependent contractility (Rafig et al., 2019; Ren et 351 al., 1999) and inhibiting detachment of FA proteins (Chang et al., 2008). Two proteins 352 that interact with the microtubule plus end CLASP proteins are ELKS and pleckstrin 353 homology-like domain family B member 2, or LL5 β (Lansbergen et al., 2006). LL5 β is 354 important for cell migration (Astro et al., 2014) and binds phosphatidylinositol-3,4,5-355 triphoshate (PIP3) at the plasma membrane and recruits ELKS in close proximity to 356 the FAs. The complex ELKS-LL5^β acts like a platform to recruit CLASPs who will 357 then attach and stabilize microtubules (Fig. 2C) (Lansbergen et al., 2006). It has 358 been shown that the direct recruitment of CLASPs by LL5ß supports FAs turnover 359 (Stehbens et al., 2014). Moreover, CLASPs depletion induces a decrease of 360 microtubule density and the loss of microtubules associated with the cortex (Mimori-361 Kiyosue et al., 2005).

362 A large number of factors (e.g. microtubule plus-end tracking proteins, scaffolding 363 factors, actin-binding proteins, docking machinery components) coordinate 364 microtubule attachment at the cell membrane and localized exocytosis (Noordstra 365 and Akhmanova, 2017). The mechanisms that are responsible for such a localized 366 exocytosis are being uncovered: in particular, the Rho signalling network (comprising 367 guanine nucleotide exchange factor H1 (GEF-H1), the RhoGAP and the Rho effector 368 phospholipase C (PLC)), which regulates the activation of the protein kinase D (PKD) 369 at trans-Golgi network (TGN), coordinates the formation of TGN-derived Rab6-370 positive transport carriers delivering cargo to FAs-apposed regions (Eisler et al.,

371 2018). Cargos exit the TGN at fission hotspots, the post-Golgi carriers being by Rab6 372 (Miserey-Lenkei et al., 2017) (Fig. 2D). Indeed, both Rab6 and Rab8 play a key role 373 in the attachment and fusion of vesicles to the plasma membrane and are required 374 for exocytosis events (Grigoriev et al., 2011) (Fig. 2C). The activation of RhoA in the 375 TGN induces a local PKD activation followed by the fission of Rab6 vesicles that will 376 then traffic towards the FAs (Eisler et al., 2018). Moreover, Rab6- and Rab8-positive 377 vesicles have been shown to be transported by KIF5B along microtubules toward 378 regions at the plasma membrane harbouring the protein ELKS and PIP3 that are located adjacent to FAs (Grigoriev et al., 2011; Lansbergen et al., 2006). In addition, 379 380 α -testis anion transporter 1 (TAT1)-mediated microtubule acetylation promotes the 381 fusion of Rab6 vesicles with the plasma membrane at FAs (Bance et al., 2019). 382 Stehbens et al. described a preferential exocytosis of membrane-type matrix 383 metalloproteinase-1 (MT1-MMP) close to FAs that occurs using microtubules 384 captured by CLASPs (Stehbens et al., 2014). Additionally, we recently reported that 385 diverse cargos follow the Rab6- and microtubule-dependent pathway sustaining 386 exocytosis close to FAs and that the carriers used a sub-population of microtubules 387 toward FAs (Fourriere et al., 2019).

388 Thus, an intimate relationship between microtubules and FAs does exist and post-389 Golgi transport is directed to adhesive zones through a subset of microtubules. Some 390 physiological outcomes have been described such as an influence on cell migration 391 and degradation of the extracellular matrix in 2D (Bance et al., 2019). In the near 392 future, it will be interesting to asses if targeted exocytosis to adhesive sites takes 393 place in 3D and to understand the role of microtubules in this process as this would 394 have pathological outcomes for cancer cells such as an influence on their invasive. 395 metastatic capabilities and interaction with the cellular microenvironment.

396

397 Conclusions and perspectives

398 Microtubules are polarized tracks that stage-manage cell shape, mitosis and 399 intracellular trafficking. They are essential to ensure proper organelle positioning and 400 dynamics. The role of microtubules in the early steps of anterograde protein transport 401 has been established over the past two decades, demonstrating that microtubules 402 are dispensable for ER to Golgi transport of carriers but facilitate this step when 403 present. Our understanding of the role of microtubules in intra-Golgi transport is very 404 limited mainly because of the difficulty to assess this transport step. At the Golgi level, 405 microtubules do have an important role by nucleating from Golgi membranes and 406 organizing the Golgi through their minus-end dynamics. Microtubules might not be 407 essential for post-Golgi transport but clearly accelerate the transport of carriers, 408 especially in polarized cells such as neurons (see Box 1, Fig. 1C), where transport 409 over long distances is required.

- We would like to emphasize here that tubulin PTMs constitute another level of regulation and their importance for protein transport is being uncovered. In our opinion, research on the effects of the tubulin PTMs on protein transport and their role in defining subpopulations of microtubules is an interesting track to follow for the next years.
- 415 Recently, microtubules were assigned a key role in the delivery of exocytic cargos 416 close to adhesion sites in cells grown in two dimensions. Microtubules are connected 417 to FAs through protein interactions and together they sustain efficient targeted 418 delivery of post-Golgi transport carriers. The role of microtubules in this transport 419 step has clear physiological and pathological implications as polarity cues and 420 proteins involved in cell migration or cancer cell invasion are delivered by protein 421 transport. An open question in the field remains the existence of targeted delivery of 422 exocytic cargos in cells grown in three dimensions, such as invading cancer cells, in 423 3D-polarized models, organoids and even in tissues. Deciphering the role of 424 microtubules and identifying molecular regulators of protein secretion in these 3D 425 models will be of particular importance and might highlight novel pathways to be 426 targeted in a pathological context.
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- 428

429 Acknowledgements

Laboratory work is supported by the Institut Curie, the Centre National de la
Recherche Scientifique, the Labex CelTisPhyBio (ANR-10-LABX-62-IBEID and ANR10-IDEX-0001-02 PSL), the Agence Nationale de la Recherche Scientifique (ANR17-CE13-0021-02, ANR-17-CE15-0025-02) and by La Fondation pour la Recherche
Médicale (EQU201903007925).

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- 437 Figure legends
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Fig. 1: Microtubule organization and polarity present variability in different celltypes.

441 **A.** In mesenchymal cells or fibroblasts, the microtubule network is mainly astral and 442 emanates from the centrosome and the Golgi apparatus. The microtubule minus ends are therefore central and the plus ends are mainly peripheral. B. In epithelial 443 444 cells, centrosomal microtubules are rare. In those cells, the filaments elongate 445 towards the basal pole of the cell forming a parallel network. C. In the case of 446 neurons, an astro-central array of microtubules irradiates from the centrosome and 447 Golgi at the soma towards the periphery, the axon and the dendrites. **C-1.** Axonal microtubules form bundles of parallel microtubules with the same polarity (minus end 448 449 at the soma and plus end at the periphery). C-2. On the contrary, in the dendrites, 450 microtubules form anti-parallel beams of microtubules with mixed polarity and 451 different stability, the microtubules oriented from the periphery towards the soma 452 being more stable. **C-3.** It is possible that Golgi outposts contained in dendrites could 453 play a role in the nucleation of microtubules with inverted polarity.

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455 Fig. 2: Molecular machineries linking microtubules to main intracellular 456 trafficking roads.

457 **A.** Overview of microtubule organization and of their interplay with main secretory 458 organelles (ER, Golgi apparatus and plasma membrane). Panels B, C and D 459 represent close ups, zooming in on the main microtubule-organelle interfaces. B. 460 Microtubules can bind to the ER directly through CLIMP63 or indirectly through 461 interactions between plus-tip proteins and ER proteins like STIM1. C. On the other 462 extremity of the trafficking road, microtubule plus-ends complexes interact with focal 463 adhesion complexes and PIP3-domain-interacting proteins such as LL5β. **D.** At the 464 center of these anterograde and retrograde roads, the Golgi apparatus plays a major 465 role as a trafficking hub but also as a microtubule-organizing center owing to its 466 proximity to the centrosome and its intrinsic microtubule nucleating (through γ -TuRC 467 and Golgi protein-containing complexes) and capture capabilities (through the interaction between Golgi proteins and microtubule minus-ends stabilizing proteins
such as γ-TuRC complexes and CAMSAP and CLASP proteins).

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473 **Box 1: The role of microtubules in polarized protein trafficking in neurons**

474 Neurons are polarized cells composed of a cell body, a long axon and numerous 475 branched dendrites (Fig. 1C). Their arborisation allows them to receive, process and 476 transmit information. However, neuronal organisation challenges the secretory 477 protein transport with the need to carry cargos over long distances, up to a meter in 478 motor neurons. Microtubules are key players in the organization of neurons and in 479 polarized transport (Kelliher et al., 2019). Microtubules differ in their polarity and 480 stability between axon and dendrites, with plus ends extending outward in the axon 481 when mixed anti-parallel orientation - polarized bundles with opposite orientation 482 (Tas et al., 2017) - is observed in dendrites in mammalian neurons (Yau et al., 2016), 483 which also harbour microtubule-dependent Golgi outposts (Gardiol et al., 1999; 484 Horton and Ehlers, 2003); (Fig. 1C). Dynein and kinesins are necessary to ensure 485 anterograde and retrograde movements (Bentley and Banker, 2016). In the axon, 486 dynein drives retrograde transport and kinesins drive anterograde transport, whereas 487 dynein drives bidirectional transport in dendrites (Kapitein et al., 2010). Certain 488 motors have been shown to selectively mediate cargo transport in the axon such as 489 kinesin-1, which does not enter dendrites, whereas kinesin-3 mediates transport in 490 both axon and dendrites (Tas et al., 2017). This motor selectivity might depend on 491 tubulin PTMs, such as acetylation and detyrosination for axonal selectivity of kinesin-492 1 (Cai et al., 2009; Konishi and Setou, 2009). Kinesin-3, which is a non-selective 493 motor, has been proposed to bind to tyrosinated microtubules (Guardia et al., 2016; 494 Lipka et al., 2016). However, the preferential binding of these motors to PTMs of 495 tubulin does not fully explain axonal motor selectivity because acetylated and 496 detyrosinated microtubules are abundant in both axon and dendrites (Hammond et 497 al., 2010). In dendrites, acetylated microtubules are oriented with their minus ends 498 out, accounting for the plus end-directed kinesin-1 inefficiency to mediate transport in 499 axons (Tas et al., 2017). In addition, kinesin-3 is negatively regulated by dynamic 500 microtubules for the transport of synaptic vesicles (Guedes-Dias et al., 2019).

- 501 Defects in microtubule-dependent trafficking have pathological implications and
- 502 contribute to neurodevelopmental disorders (Lasser et al., 2018) and 503 neurodegenerative diseases (Brunden et al., 2017).
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