Daple coordinates organ-wide and cell-intrinsic polarity to pattern inner-ear hair bundles

Kimberly Silletti, Basile Tarchini, and A. J. Hudspeth

The establishment of planar polarization by mammalian cells necessitates the integration of diverse signaling pathways. In the inner ear, at least two systems regulate the planar polarity of sensory hair bundles. The core planar cell polarity (PCP) proteins coordinate the orientations of hair cells across the epithelial plane. The cell-intrinsic patterning of hair bundles is implemented independently by the G protein complex classically known for orienting the mitotic spindle. Although the primary cilium also participates in each of these pathways, its role and the integration of the two systems are poorly understood. We show that Dishevelled-associated protein with a high frequency of leucine residues (Daple) interacts with PCP and cell-intrinsic signals. Regulated by the cell-intrinsic pathway, Daple is required to maintain the polarized distribution of the core PCP protein Dishevelled and to position the primary cilium at the abneural edge of the apical surface. Our results suggest that the primary cilium or an associated structure influences the domain of cell-intrinsic signals that shape the hair bundle. Daple is therefore essential to orient and pattern sensory hair bundles.

Significance

Each hair cell of our auditory and vestibular systems transduces stimuli into electrical signals through its mechanosensitive hair bundle. Because the bundle is responsive along only a single axis, its orientation is crucial. Two systems determine hair-bundle polarity: planar cell polarity proteins, which establish axes along which hair cells are oriented, and the proteins Gai and LGN. Investigating how these two systems are coordinated so that each hair bundle is appropriately aligned, we identified Daple. In mutants lacking Daple, hair bundles are misoriented and misshaped, a phenotype suggestive of both organ-wide and cell-intrinsic defects. Our study indicates how Daple interacts with proteins of the two systems and proposes a model for its role in determining hair-bundle polarity.

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1B.T. and A.J.H. contributed equally to this work.
2To whom correspondence may be addressed. Email: hudspaj@rockefeller.edu or basile.tarchini@jax.org.

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1B.T. and A.J.H. contributed equally to this work.
2To whom correspondence may be addressed. Email: hudspaj@rockefeller.edu or basile.tarchini@jax.org.

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movements during hair cell maturation: A shift toward the abneural cortex in immature hair cells is followed by a neural relocalization coincident with early hair bundle development (7). Although the enrichment of Gai at the abneural surface roughly coincides in orientation with the initial shift of the kinocilium, the two are not perfectly correlated (7). Instead, their alignment is refined as the kinocilium relocates neurally.

To elucidate the sequence of events that pattern the hair bundle, we conducted a yeast two-hybrid screen to seek proteins that interact with Gai, a central component of the cell-intrinsic signaling system.

Results

The Loss of Daple Causes Severe Hair-Bundle Defects. Using full-length Gai3 as bait, we screened a cDNA library derived from 600 inner ears of mice aged 2 to 6 d (Table S1). As expected, the screen identified the Gai regulator Gpsm2, also termed Leu-Gly-Asn repeat-enriched protein (LGN). Immunohistochemical localization of several other candidates revealed expression in the nucleus, membrane-bounded organelles, or cellular cortex (Fig. S1). Prominent among the products of the screen was the coiled-coil domain-containing protein 88c (Ccdc88c), also termed Dishevelled-associating protein with a high frequency of leucine residues (Daple). A Dishevelled-binding protein that inhibits canonical Wnt signaling in Xenopus, Daple also directs cell migration through noncanonical Wnt signaling (11, 12). Moreover, Daple is a guanine nucleotide exchange factor that can bind and activate Gai downstream of Wnt (13). The interactions of Daple with both Dishevelled and Gai3 have been demonstrated by communoprecipitation (13–15). Because Daple can regulate both Gai and the core PCP protein Dishevelled, we sought to characterize the protein’s role in hair-bundle development.

Adult animals of the Ccdc88c−/− (KOMP)Mbp strain, subsequently referred to as Daple−/− mutants, resembled their heterozygous littermates. Their cochleae, each containing one row of inner hair cells and three rows of outer hair cells (Fig. 1B), were grossly normal at birth (Fig. S2A). Although the absence of Daple did not affect the organization of these four rows, Daple−/− mice displayed striking defects in their hair bundles. The staircase of stereocilia was both misoriented and grossly misshapen (Fig. 1C). Because the Ccdc88c−/− (KOMP)Mbp strain contained a floxed neomycin-resistance cassette (Fig. S2B), we confirmed that Ccdc88c−/− (KOMP)Mbp with no neomycin-resistance cassette also exhibited hair-bundle defects (Fig. 1D). We verified the genomic deletion by sequencing and RT-PCR (Fig. S2 B and C).

To further investigate whether the genetic deletion eliminated Daple function, we conducted immunohistochemistry with two antibodies that target parts of the protein outside the genetic
Fig. 2. Cell-intrinsic blueprint for planar polarity in postnatal Daple−/− hair cells. (A) Immunohistochemistry demonstrates that Gui (green) and LGN (magenta) colocalize at the apical surfaces of hair cells in postnatal day 1 Daple+/− (Left) and Daple−/− (Right) littermates. (Scale bar: A and B, 10 μm.) (B) Gui (green) and αPKC (magenta) form complementary domains in Daple+/− (Left) and Daple−/− (Right) littermates. (C–G) Immunohistochemistry reveals the kinocilium (acetylated tubulin, green) and the domain of Gui (magenta) in individual hair cells. Phalloidin (gray) labels actin in the hair bundle. (Scale bar: C–G, 2 μm.) (C) In a control hair cell, the kinocilium is centered within the domain of Gui. (D–F) As in C, the hair bundles in Daple+/− hair cells border the edges of the Gui domains. (D) Kinocilium lies at one end of the Gui domain in a hair cell with an S-shaped bundle. (E) Kinocilium occurs near the center of a hair cell with a C-shaped bundle. (F) Kinocilium is centered within the domain of Gui expression in a hair cell that resembles the control. (G) In a Daple−/− hair cell, the bundle is fragmented when the kinocilium opposes the crescent of Gui expression.

deletion. Both antibodies revealed Daple at the abneural intercellular junctions of cochlear cells, an enrichment not visible in Daple−/− mice (Fig. 1E and Fig. S3). Both Dishevelled and Gui localized on the abneural side of cochlear hair cells (16–18), suggesting that Daple is positioned to interact both with core PCP components and with cell-intrinsic signals.

Fig. 3. Hair cell misorientation and kinociliary defects in the absence of Daple. (A) Near the base (Top) and apex (Bottom) of a postnatal day (P) 2 cochlea, immunolabeling of acetylated tubulin reveals the positions of the kinocilia (green) in Daple+/− (Left) and Daple−/− (Right) littermates. Phalloidin (gray) and antibodies against Gui (magenta) label the apical surface of each hair cell. (Scale bar: 10 μm.) (B) For each of 88 Daple+/− and 105 Daple−/− inner hair cells, the position of the kinocilium (green) is plotted with respect to the apical surface. Whereas the kinocilia localize midway between the cell centers and the abneural edges of Daple+/− hair cells (Left), kinocilia are widely distributed and occur even in the neural halves of the cells in the absence of Daple (Right). (C) Position of the kinocilium (green) is plotted with respect to the apical surface for each of 350 wild-type and 495 Daple−/− outer hair cells. Whereas kinocilia localize in the abneural half of a Daple+/− hair cell (Left), they adorn the entire apical surfaces in the absence of Daple (Right). (D) For inner hair cells, the angles of the centers of the Gui3 domains are summarized in a polar histogram. Although Gui is biased toward the abneural edge in both Daple+/− (Left) and Daple−/− (Right) littermates, the latter exhibit orientation defects. Whereas in control cochleae the most abneural 10° bin captures nearly 30% of the hair cells, in Daple−/− cochleae the most abneural bin includes fewer than 14%.
Characterization of orientation defects in Daple$^{-/+}$ hair cells. (A) For each row of outer hair cells (OHC) near the apex of the cochlea, the angles from the cell centers to the middles of the Gai3 domains are summarized in a polar histogram. Daple$^{-/+}$ mutants exhibit the most severe orientation defects in the third row of OHC. A single neural bin captures nearly 10% of hair cells in the third row. (B) Near the apex of a cochlea, maximal-intensity projections reveal the domain of Gai (magenta) in each hair cell. The hair cells of Daple$^{-/-}$ animals exhibit misoriented Gai3 domains, particularly in the two most abneural rows of OHC. (Scale bar: 8 and D, 10 μm.) (C) For each row of OHC near the base of the cochlea, the angles from the cell centers to the middles of the Gai3 domains are summarized in a polar histogram. Daple$^{-/-}$ mutants exhibit the most severe orientation defects in the first two rows of OHC. (D) Near the base of a cochlea, maximal-intensity projections reveal the domain of Gai in each hair cell. The hair cells of Daple$^{-/-}$ animals exhibit misoriented domains of Gai3 expression, particularly in the first two rows of OHC. (E) In a schematic diagram, an angle of 0° denotes the abneural edge in a wild-type hair cell. Gai expression (pink) and the kinocilium (black dot) are depicted. (F) Angle of the kinocilium with respect to each hair cell’s center is plotted against the angle of the middle of the Gai3 domain in the same cell. Although the data from heterozygous littermates cluster about the blue identity line (Left), the data from Daple$^{-/-}$ mice reveal a more complex relationship between the two angles (Right). (G) Daple$^{-/-}$ hair bundles are displayed from different regions of the graph in F, in which each bundle can be identified by its associated color (pink, green, orange, and blue). (Scale bar, 2 μm.)

**Coupling of Gai and the Kinocilium Shapes the Hair Bundle.** Although postnatal Daple$^{-/-}$ hair bundles were severely misshapen, the apical enrichment of cell-intrinsic signals did not appear diminished. LGN colocalized with Gai3, and aPKC formed a complementary domain (Fig. 2 A and B). Instead, postnatal Daple$^{-/-}$ hair cells exhibited a variety of hair-bundle shapes characterized by the relationship between Gai3 and the kinocilium. In wild-type cells, the kinocilia were always centered within the Gai3 domains (Fig. 2C). In some Daple$^{-/-}$ cells, the kinocilium lay near the corners of the Gai3 domains, correlating with S-shaped bundles (Fig. 2D). In other cells, the kinocilia more closely aligned with the Gai3 domain but were shifted toward the centers of the apical surfaces. Gai3 spread to encompass the kinocilia, and the cells exhibited C-shaped bundles (Fig. 2E). In a third subset of cells, the kinocilia adopted approximately normal positions and the hair bundles resembled those of wild-type animals (Fig. 2F).

In a final subset of hair cells, Gai3 was entirely uncoupled from the kinocilia (Fig. 2G). In each of these cells, the kinocilium localized near the neural edge, whereas Gai3 formed an abneural crescent. Although the stereocilia formed misshapen but cohesive bundles that bordered Gai3 (Fig. 2C–F) in most hair cells, the stereocilia of these cells grew in a disperse pattern, extending from the border of the Gai3 domain toward the kinocilium and encircling it. These hair bundles may correspond to the fragmented bundles visualized by scanning electron microscopy (Fig. 1D). This result provides evidence that coupling of the kinocilium and Gai is crucial to maintain the coherent structure of the hair bundle.

**Postnatal Daple$^{-/-}$ Hair Cells Exhibit Planar-Polarity Defects.** We quantified cell-intrinsic defects by immunolabeling the kinocilia
Misalignment of Gαi3 and kinocilia in E17.5 Daple<sup>+/−</sup> hair cells. (A) Schematic diagram depicts the sequence of hair cell maturation. (Left) Kinocilium (black dot) lies at the center of an immature hair cell. (Center) Enrichment of Gαi3 (green) coincides with the initial shift of the kinocilium toward the cell’s abneural edge. (Right) Domain of Gαi3 is then refined as the kinocilium relocates toward the center of the cell. (B) At the cochlear apex, immunolabeling of pericentrin (red) and phalloidin (blue) staining reveals the positions of the kinocilia relative to the intercellular junctions of Daple<sup>+/−</sup> (Left) and Daple<sup>−/−</sup> (Right) littermates. Kinocilia lie near the centers of hair cells of both genotypes. (Scale bar: 10 μm.) (C) In middle cochlear turns, the hair cells of a heterozygous animal exhibit kinocilia primarily at their abneural edges, whereas many Daple<sup>−/−</sup> kinocilia occur at the neural edges (arrowheads). The radial histograms on the right side of each panel emphasize that the proportion of kinocilia in the neural halves of the hair cells increases toward the cochlear base. (D) Basal hair cells of heterozygous animals exhibit kinocilia primarily at their abneural edges, whereas many Daple<sup>−/−</sup> kinocilia occur at the neural edges (arrowheads). The radial histograms on the right side of each panel show that the Gαi3 domains are misoriented in some Daple<sup>−/−</sup> hair cells, the kinocilia occur at the abneural edges of the same cells (arrowheads). On the right side of each panel, the angular positions of the Gαi3 domains with respect to the centers of the cells are summarized in a radial histogram. The absolute values of the angles are shown. (Scale bar: 10 μm.) (E) Immunolabeling of cochlear bases as in F shows that the distribution of Gαi3 is similar in heterozygous (Top) and Daple<sup>−/−</sup> (Bottom) hair cells. One of 100 Daple<sup>−/−</sup> hair cells is inverted (yellow arrowhead). In many Daple<sup>−/−</sup> hair cells, the kinocilia lie near the edges of the Gαi3 domains; in a few cells, the kinocilia are opposite the crescents of Gαi3 (white arrowhead). (Scale bar: 10 μm.) (F) Absolute values of the angles of the kinocilia and Gαi3 domains are plotted as in Fig. 4F for middle cochlear turns. Although the data from heterozygous littermates cluster near or above the blue identity line (Top), the data from Daple<sup>−/−</sup> mice are largely distributed below the identity line (Bottom). (G) For cochlear bases, the angles of the kinocilia and Gαi3 domains are plotted as in G. Although the data from heterozygous littermates cluster about the blue identity line (Top), the data from Daple<sup>−/−</sup> mice are distributed below the identity line (Bottom).
Localization of Daple and Dishevelled in hair cells. (A) Immunohistochemistry demonstrates that Daple (green) and Dishevelled2 (magenta) colocalize in postnatal day 0 hair cells. (Scale bar: 2 μm.) (B) Top) Projection of a Z-stack in the x-y plane demonstrates that Daple (green) and Dishevelled2 (magenta) colocalize in cochlear explants. (B, Bottom) Projection of the same stack in the x-z plane demonstrates that Daple overlaps with Dishevelled and extends apically. (Scale bar: 2 μm.)

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Unlike the kinocilia of heterozygous littermates, which occurred near the abneural edges of hair bundles, the kinocilia of Daple−/− hair cells were distributed across the apical surfaces (Fig. 3A–C). Because disruption of the core PCP pathway affects the angular positions of the kinocilia but not their distances from the cellular boundaries, the randomized distribution of kinocilia in outer hair cells signaled a defect in cell-intrinsic polarity.

To quantify the defects associated with organ-wide polarity, we used the localization of Gαi3 to denote the orientations of hair cells within the cochlear sensory epithelium (Fig. S4). For individual Daple+/− and Daple−/− hair cells, we plotted the angles of the Gαi3 domains with respect to the centers of the apical surfaces. The domain of Gαi3 was misoriented in both inner and outer hair cells (Fig. 3D and E), with more significant defects in the latter (P < 0.01 and P < 0.001, respectively). However, the localization of Gαi3 was still biased toward the abneural edges of Daple−/− hair cells.

We further characterized the contributions of organ-wide and cell-intrinsic signals to the Daple−/− phenotype by comparing orientation defects among the three rows of outer hair cells. In Looptail mutants lacking Vangl2, the third or outermost row of outer hair cells is the most affected, whereas the first row is the least disturbed (4, 19, 20). This trend was apparent near the apices of Daple−/− cochleae, where a greater number of hair cells

Fig. 7. Localization of core PCP signals in the absence of Daple. (A) Immunohistochemistry shows that Vangl2 (green) and Frizzled6 (magenta) occur at the neural junctions between hair cells and supporting cells in both heterozygotes (Top) and Daple−/− postnatal day (P) 2 littermates (Bottom). Phalloidin labeling (gray) emphasizes that both proteins are asymmetrically distributed despite the severe bundle defects apparent in Daple−/− mice (merged, Right column). (Scale bar: 10 μm.) (B) ZO-1 (green), which marks tight junctions, and Dishevelled (magenta) are immunolabeled near the apex of Daple−/− (Top) and Daple−/− (Bottom) P0 cochleae. Dishevelled occurs at the abneural edges of Daple−/− hair cells. (Scale bar: 10 μm.) (C) ZO-1 (green) and Dishevelled (magenta) are immunolabeled near the base in Daple−/− (Top) and Daple−/− (Bottom) P0 littermates. Although Dishevelled localizes asymmetrically in wild-type cochleae, the protein is absent from the abneural edges of Daple−/− hair cells. (Scale bar: 10 μm.)
were reversed in the third row of outer hair cells than in the other two rows (Fig. 4A and B). In contrast, near the bases of Daple<sup>−/−</sup> cochleae, the third row exhibited milder orientation defects than did the other two rows (Fig. 4 C and D). Increased severity of misorientation in the first row of outer hair cells, rather than the third row, occurs after exposure to the G protein inhibitor pertussis toxin (6, 7). The apices of Daple<sup>−/−</sup> cochleae thus resembled those of core PCP mutants, whereas the bases suggested cell-intrinsic defects. The data therefore supported our observation of organ-wide and cell-intrinsic defects in Daple<sup>−/−</sup> hair cells.

Because the kinocilia in Daple<sup>−/−</sup> hair cells were no longer biased in the abneural direction, we wondered to what extent localization of the kinocilia remained correlated with G protein signals. We therefore compared the angle of the G<sub>i3</sub> domain and the corresponding angular position of the kinocilium with respect to each cell’s center. Although the two angles were correlated in both Daple<sup>−/−</sup> mice and heterozygous littermates, the correlation was imperfect in the absence of Daple (Fig. 4 E–G). When the domain of G<sub>i3</sub> expression was oriented toward the abneural edge of the hair cell, the kinocilium could be found in either half of that domain. This relationship changed when the domain of G<sub>i3</sub> shifted away from the abneural edge; when G<sub>i3</sub> was misoriented, the kinocilium then occurred preferentially in the neural half of the G<sub>i3</sub> domain.

**Daple<sup>−/−</sup> Kinociliary Defects Precede G<sub>i3</sub> Mislocalization.** To explain this trend, we investigated the developmental progression of the relationship between G<sub>i3</sub> and the kinocilium (Fig. 5A). Hair cell maturation proceeds in a gradient from the cochlear base toward the apex. Although in both Daple<sup>−/−</sup> and Daple<sup>−/−</sup> cochleae at embryonic day (E) 17.5, nearly all kinocilia were located near the centers of hair cells at the apex, we found very few central kinocilia at the base (Fig. 5 B–D). The initial off-center shift of the kinocilium toward the cellular boundaries therefore occurred in the absence of Daple. Because kinocilia lay near the centers of postnatal Daple<sup>−/−</sup> hair cells (Fig. 3C), the second shift of the kinocilium evidently occurred as well. Both movements exhibited directional errors: In 47 of 141 hair cells in the middle turn of an E17.5 Daple<sup>−/−</sup> cochlea, the kinocilia were displaced in the neural direction, whereas only three of 134 kinocilia of a heterozygous littermate showed such a shift (Fig. 5C). Near the bases of Daple<sup>−/−</sup> cochleae, 66 of 119 kinocilia were displaced in the neural direction, whereas the kinocilia of heterozygous littermates were uniformly abneural (Fig. 5D). Early errors in the initial shift of the kinocilia were therefore augmented by relocation defects as hair cells matured.

In contrast, the angular distributions of G<sub>i3</sub> were comparable in E17.5 Daple<sup>−/−</sup> and Daple<sup>−/−</sup> cochleae near both the middle turn and the base (Fig. 5 E and F; P > 0.5 and P > 0.1, respectively). In immature hair cells near the middle cochlear turns, G<sub>i3</sub> domains were not yet precisely oriented in either Daple<sup>−/−</sup> or Daple<sup>−/−</sup> mice (Fig. 5E). In more mature hair cells near the cochlear bases, G<sub>i3</sub> was distributed abneurally in both genotypes (Fig. 5F). Daple<sup>−/−</sup> G<sub>i3</sub> crescents were not yet misshapen as in postnatal cells.

Near the middle turn of a Daple<sup>−/−</sup> cochlea, most kinocilia were aligned with the G<sub>i3</sub> domains or found closer to the abneural
edges of the hair cells (Fig. 5G). Gai3 and the kinocilia more closely aligned near the base of the cochlea (7) (Fig. 5H). In the absence of Daple, the kinocilia were frequently farther from the abneural edges of the hair cells than were the centers of the Gai3 domains (Fig. 5G). This effect was most severe at the base (Fig. 5H). As in postnatal mice, some kinocilia lay opposite the crescents of Gai3. The data imply that although the kinocilium sometimes preceded the Gai3 domain at the abneural edge of a wild-type hair cell, the abneural distribution of Gai3 did not rely on similar positioning of the kinocilium.

**Daple Interacts with Dishevelled and the Cell-Intrinsic Pathway.** To identify potential partners of Daple in the core PCP or cell-intrinsic pathways, we conducted a second yeast two-hybrid screen. Using the carboxyl-terminal half of Daple protein as bait, we isolated 66 candidates, including Gai3 and Gai2 (Table S2). Among the most frequently detected candidates were the three Dishevelled proteins. Although Daple extended more apically than Dishevelled2, the two proteins colocalized in cochlear hair cells (Fig. 6 and Fig. S5). We therefore investigated whether Daple is necessary for the localization of PCP proteins. The core PCP components Vangl2 and Frizzled6 were distributed similarly in Daple+/− and Daple−/− cochleae (Fig. 7A). With zonula adherens 1 (ZO-1) as a label for cellular boundaries, we found that Dishevelled2 also occurred normally near the cochlear apices of Daple−/− mice (Fig. 7B). Near the bases of Daple−/− cochleae, however, Dishevelled2 was absent from the abneural edges of hair cells (Fig. 7C). These observations suggest that Daple maintained the localization of Dishevelled as hair cells matured.

Using ZO-1 as a marker for tight junctions, we compared Daple and Gai3 in postnatal hair cells. Daple overlapped with and extended below the junction, whereas Gai3 was found above the junction at the apical membrane (Fig. 8 A–C). Daple and Gai3 therefore occupied distinct but adjacent subcellular compartments, but their subcellular domains coincided in orientation during embryonic development. As early as E16.5, Daple and Gai3 were visibly enriched at the apical surfaces of immature hair cells near the apex of the cochlea (Fig. 8D). Moreover, the proteins were enriched in similar regions of each cell; in a subset of cells, both proteins occurred at the neural cellular boundaries. Their localizations were refined in more mature hair cells near the base of the cochlea, adopting an abneural distribution (Fig. 8D). Furthermore, Daple closely colocalized with Pard3 in both apical and basal hair cells, confirming that Daple associates with junctional cell-intrinsic signals (Fig. 8E). Like Gai3, Pard3 and Daple colocalized near the neural boundaries of some immature hair cells. Because our yeast two-hybrid assay with Daple revealed two isoforms of Pard3, the immunohistochemical colocalization of Daple and Pard3 likely reflected an authentic biochemical interaction.

Because Daple and other cell-intrinsic polarity signals exhibited similar subcellular asymmetry in each region of the cochlea, we asked whether Daple exhibits cell-intrinsic polarity in solitary hair cells. Electroporation of Atoh1-IRES-EGFP plasmids into cochlear explants produced hair cells in the greater epithelial ridge of the cochlea, a region normally devoid of hair cells (21). Although these ectopic hair cells were not aligned consistently along any axis, the subcellular localizations of Daple and Gai3 remained closely correlated. In a subset of ectopic hair cells, neither protein was asymmetrically distributed (Fig. 9A): Daple associated with junctions at the circumference of the cells, whereas Gai3 expanded across the entire apical surfaces. In most cells, however, both Daple and Gai3 were asymmetrically distributed with the
Daple is also inverted in those cells, confirming that Daple is regulated primarily by G protein signals rather than by core PCP proteins.

**Discussion**

We propose that the Dishevelled-binding protein Daple shapes the cell-intrinsic blueprint of a developing hair cell by coordinating the position of the kinocilium with the crescent of Gαi expression. Our results imply that during embryonic development, LGN and Gαi promote the enrichment of Daple at the abneural junction of each hair cell. Gαi is enriched independent of Daple in a crescent at the abneural surface of each hair cell; this initial pattern is then modulated by the kinocilium or its appendages as the hair cell matures (Fig. 10A).

To our knowledge, Daple<sup>−/−</sup> animals are the first mutants to be described in which kinocilia are mislocalized across hair cell surfaces despite the presence of apical G proteins. When kinocilia are mispositioned in the absence of Daple, G protein signals are evidently reoriented and expanded toward the kinocilium as a hair cell matures. Hair cells therefore develop organ-wide and cell-intrinsic polarity defects (Fig. 10B). This hypothesis explains the tendency in a postnatal Daple<sup>−/−</sup> hair cell for the kinocilium to occur in the neural half of the Gα3 domain; the postnatal orientation of the Gα3 domain represents a compromise between its embryonic abneural distribution and the angular position of the kinocilium. Also consistent with this hypothesis, some postnatal Daple<sup>−/−</sup> hair cells exhibit an abneural crescent of Gα3 but a neural kinocilium (Fig. 10C). These cells likely result from defects in the initial shift of the kinocilium; mislocation in the neural direction precludes the kinocilium from modulating abneural Gαi localization. It is interesting that our yeast two-hybrid screen identified RGS14, a regulator of G protein signaling previously characterized as a centrosomal protein (25, 26).

Daple is also crucial for patterning the hair bundle. Previous studies have suggested that the cell-intrinsic blueprint proteins determine hair-bundle shape (7). We accordingly observe that the edge of the developing hair bundle abuts the domain of Gα3 in both wild-type cells and most Daple-deficient cells (Fig. 10A and B). In the absence of Daple, the staircase pattern of stereocilia is distorted but preserved when the kinocilium occurs near the Gαi domain. In contrast, when Gαi and the kinocilium occur on opposite sides of a hair cell, the hair bundle becomes highly fragmented (Fig. 10C).

Because Gαi occurs abnormally in embryonic Daple<sup>−/−</sup> hair cells, the loss of Daple does not uniformly affect all manifestations of organ-wide orientation but disrupts the association between the crescent of G protein signals and the kinocilium. However, neither Daple nor the Gα3 crescent appears to be necessary for the initial movement of the kinocilium away from the center of a hair cell. Even those kinocilia opposite the crescent of Gαi reach the cellular boundaries. An additional pathway might regulate the migration of the kinocilium, with Daple aligning this system with the cellular boundaries. An additional pathway might regulate the migration of the kinocilium, with Daple aligning this system with the cellular boundaries. A different pathway might regulate the migration of the kinocilium, with Daple aligning this system with the cellular boundaries. A different pathway might regulate the migration of the kinocilium, with Daple aligning this system with the cellular boundaries. Further experiments using different G protein expression constructs are required to distinguish between these possibilities.

Because Gαi is enriched at the apical surface of an embryonic hair cell, it is possible that Daple might interact with the mitotic spindle to coordinate the position of the kinocilium. In support of this hypothesis, Daple co-localizes with the mitotic spindle in both embryonic and adult hair cells (Fig. 10A). Because Gαi and Daple co-localize at the apical surface of an embryonic hair cell, it is possible that Daple might interact with the mitotic spindle to coordinate the position of the kinocilium. In support of this hypothesis, Daple co-localizes with the mitotic spindle in both embryonic and adult hair cells (Fig. 10A).

**Fig. 10.** Daple's role in hair-bundle orientation and development. (Left) Kinocilium (black) occurs near the center of immature hair cells in both Daple<sup>−/−</sup> and Daple<sup>+/−</sup> mice. (A) As a wild-type hair cell matures, the kinocilium shifts toward the abneural edge. (Left) Dashed line, purple. Localizes at the abneural junction of the hair cell, and Gαi (pink) is enriched at the abneural apical surface. Gαi and LGN also promote the enrichment of Daple at the abneural junction. (Right) In a mature hair cell, the kinocilium shifts toward the center of the cell. The distributions of Daple and Gαi become closely correlated and also extend toward the center of the cell. The hair bundle develops along the edge of the Gα3 domain. (B, Left) In the absence of Daple, Dashed line is enriched independent of the abneural junction of the hair cell; Gαi is enriched at the abneural apical surface. The kinocilium, however, may not complete its abneural shift. (B, Right) As the hair cell matures, the kinocilium may even shift toward the neural edge of the cell, modulating the domain of Gαi. The hair bundle develops along the edge of the Gα3 domain. Dashed line does not persist at the abneural edge of the hair cell. (C) As the hair cell matures, Gαi domain is enriched independent of the abneural junction of each hair cell. Gαi promotes the enrichment of Daple at the abneural junction of each hair cell. Gαi is enriched independent of Daple in a crescent at the abneural surface of each hair cell; this initial pattern is then modulated by the kinocilium or its appendages as the hair cell matures (Fig. 10A).

The expression of pertussis toxin inactivates G protein signaling in hair cells without disrupting core PCP signals (6, 7, 22). To test the role of Gαi directly, we therefore used a Foxg1-cre transgenic mouse (23) to express pertussis toxin (24) throughout the embryonic cochlea. Gαi3 was depleted but detectable at apical hair cell surfaces (Fig. 9E). As in the absence of LGN, Daple occurred asymmetrically but was diminished at intercellular junctions. The expression of pertussis toxin inverted the orientations of the first two rows of outer hair cells so that the tall edges of their hair bundles faced neurally (6, 7) (Fig. 9E). Daple localization was also inverted in those cells, confirming that Daple is regulated primarily by G protein signals rather than by core PCP proteins.
PCP and intrinsic polarization in different cell types. Daple also influences the translational and rotational polarity of the cilia in ependymal cells (29). Although Daple is evidently necessary in that context for the accumulation of Frizzled, we find that Frizzled6 expression is unaffected by the absence of Daple in the cochlea; instead, Daple is necessary to maintain the localization of Dishevelled.

Although Dishevelled mutants display core PCP defects, the localization of a Dvl2-EGFP fusion construct in BAC transgenic mice differs from that of other core PCP proteins (17). Whereas in Vangl-2 Looptail mutants, Frizzled3 fails to localize, Dvl2-E11179 is diminished but still asymmetrically distributed. Furthermore, we found that Dvl2-EGFP localizes with cell-intrinsic signals in ectopic hair cells (Fig. 9C). These results imply that Daple provides a conduit through which cell-intrinsic polarity signals affect the distribution of a core PCP factor. Because Daple interacts both with apical G-proteins and with junctional Dishevelled, it is well positioned to link these two systems.

Materials and Methods

Experiments were conducted in accordance with the policies of the institutional Animal Care and Use Committees of The Rockefeller University and The Jackson Laboratory. Use of the coding sequence for Mus musculus Gsi3 in a yeast two-hybrid screen identified Daple as a potential interaction partner. Immunohistochemistry was used to demonstrate the location of the Daple protein in cochlear specimens from wild-type and Daple−/− (C57BL/6J × 129SvEVB) mice. Additional details are provided in Supporting Information.

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