Loss of the Arp2/3 complex component ARPC1B causes platelet abnormalities and predisposes to inflammatory disease

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Human actin-related protein 2/3 complex (Arp2/3), required for actin filament branching, has two ARPC1 component isoforms, with ARPC1B prominently expressed in blood cells. Here we show in a child with microthrombocytopenia, eosinophilia and inflammatory disease, a homozygous frameshift mutation in ARPC1B (p.Val91Trpfs*30). Platelet lysates reveal no ARPC1B protein and greatly reduced Arp2/3 complex. Missense ARPC1B mutations are identified in an unrelated patient with similar symptoms and ARPC1B deficiency. ARPC1B-deficient platelets are microthrombocytes similar to those seen in Wiskott–Aldrich syndrome that show aberrant spreading consistent with loss of Arp2/3 function. Knockout of ARPC1B in megakaryocytic cells results in decreased proplatelet formation, and as observed in platelets from patients, increased ARPC1A expression. Thus loss of ARPC1B produces a unique set of platelet abnormalities, and is associated with haematopoietic/immune symptoms affecting cell lineages where this isoform predominates. In agreement with recent experimental studies, our findings suggest that ARPC1 isoforms are not functionally interchangeable.
In eukaryotic cells, the monomeric ATP-binding protein globular actin (G-actin) is assembled into dynamic filamentous actin (F-actin) in cytoskeletal structures. This process involves a variety of actin-binding proteins that sequester/ deliver actin monomers and facilitate the nucleation, elongation, capping, severing, depolymerization and crosslinking of F-actin. Disruption of these processes can result in dysregulation of the actin cytoskeleton, which is associated with metastatic cancer, autoimmune disorders and congenital defects. In Wiskott–Aldrich syndrome (WAS) and X-linked thrombocytopenia (XLT), mutations in WAS (encoding WASP) cause microthrombocytopenia (that is, reduced numbers and size of blood platelets), immunodeficiency, eczema, increased malignancies and autoimmune symptoms including vasculitis and inflammatory bowel disease. WASP is one of several nucleation (mother) proteins, immunodeficiency, eczema, increased malignancies and inflammatory bowel disease. WASP is one of several nucleationpromoting factors that can promote branching of F-actin via the actin-related protein 2/3 complex (Arp2/3), which plays a central role in cell migration, endocytosis, vesicular trafficking and cytokinesis. Cytoplasmic WASP has an auto-inhibited conformation that is activated due to phosphorylation of tyrosine 291 (refs 10,11) by the Rho family GTPases CDC42 (cell division cycle 42) and NCK1 (non-catalytic region of tyrosine kinase 1). Activated WASP binds Arp2/3 with 2:1 stoichiometry by interacting with the ARPC2, ARPC3 and ARPC1 subunits, inducing conformational changes that facilitate binding of actin monomers and daughter filament growth.

The mammalian Arp2/3 complex contains five unique components: ARPC1A, ARPC2, ARPC3, ARPC4, together with one molecule each of the isoforms pair ARPC1A and ARPC1B, and ARPC5A and ARPC5B. ARPC1A and ARPC1B are located in tandem on human Ch.7 (ref. 14). The isoforms they encode have 68% amino acid sequence identity and both have six WD40 domain repeats predicted to form a β-propeller fold. ARPC1A has been implicated as a regulator of cell migration and invasion in pancreatic cancer, while increased ARPC1B has been linked to oral squamous cell carcinoma. Independent of its function in Arp2/3, ARPC1B has also been identified as a centrosomal protein involved in mitosis. Total loss of Arp2/3 function is embryonic lethal, while its inhibition within cells blocks lamellipodia formation and migration. To our knowledge no inherited human deficiency of ARPC1B or other Arp2/3 components has been previously reported.

Here we describe three individuals from two families with homozygous mutations in ARPC1B. Patient 1 with p.Val91Trpfs*30 ARPC1B mutation that results in complete loss of ARPC1B protein and decreased Arp2/3 complex in platelets, leading to microthrombocytopenia, decreased platelet dense granules, defective platelet spreading with prominent filopodia but limited lamellipodia. The patient also has had repeated invasive infections, inflammatory bowel disease, leukocytoclastic vasculitis and eosinophilia. Patients 2 and 3 with a p.Ala105Val ARPC1B mutation that results in minimal ARPC1B protein in their platelets that are microthrombocytes with dense granule deficiencies and similar spreading abnormalities. Patient 2 has leukocytoclastic vasculitis and Patient 3 had intermittent eczematous-like rashes and both have eosinophilia. Thus ARPC1B deficiency in humans results in defective Arp2/3 actin filament branching that is associated with multisystem disease including platelet abnormalities, cutaneous vasculitis, eosinophilia and predisposition to inflammatory diseases. 

Results
Identification of ARPC1B-deficient patients. We investigated two independent families where patients presented early in life with failure to thrive, platelet abnormalities, eosinophilia, small vessel vasculitis, eczema and other indicators of inflammatory/immune disease (Fig. 1a–d, Table 1 and Supplementary Note 1, Clinical information). Whole exome sequencing (WES) of Patient 1 and his parents revealed homozygosity for a novel ARPC1B variant c.269_270dupCT (Supplementary Table 1, Supplementary Data, Fig. 1e,f). This 2 base pair duplication produces a frame shift in exon 4, resulting in a premature stop codon predicted to truncate ARPC1B at amino acid 119. This would yield a product lacking five of the six WD40 repeat domains (Fig. 1g) that form a β-propeller required for interaction of ARPC1B with mother actin filaments. WES of Patient 2 and his parents (Supplementary Table 1, Supplementary Data, Fig. 1g) identified homozygosity for two missense ARPC1B variants (c.314C>T and c.712G>A encoding p.Ala105Val and p.Ala238Thr) in this patient and a sibling (Patient 3). Both variants affect WD40 domains; c.314C>T is novel and predicted to be deleterious while c.712G>A is predicted to be neutral (Supplementary Table 1).

Patient 1’s parents are consanguineous; thus we focused our initial genetic analysis on Mendelian autosomal recessive mutations. As shown in Supplementary Data, there were no homozygous mutations in any known genes associated with primary immune deficiency, including WASP and WAS interacting protein (WIP), or platelet disorders that could explain the complex phenotype observed in Patient 1. Furthermore, we identified no overlapping compound heterozygous, X-linked, or de novo mutations shared between Patients 1 and 2 (Supplementary Fig. 1). We then focused on novel genes and examined known biological function, known diseases associated with genes, gene expression profiles and available animal models of the candidates described in the Methods section and Supplementary Fig. 1. The critical role of ARPC1B in Arp2/3 function made ARPC1B a viable candidate for the WAS-like disease phenotype observed in both patients, and ARPC1B was the only mutated gene they had in common (see Methods, Identification of ARPC1B mutations). Immunofluorescence (IF) microscopy of skin and intestinal biopsies (Supplementary Fig. 2) indicated loss/reduction of ARPC1B expression in patients. Expression of ARPC1B and other Arp2/3 components in these patients was further studied in a readily accessible cell source provided by blood platelets.

ARPC1B expression and Arp2/3 complex in platelets. Expression of Arp2/3 components (Fig. 2a) was examined in normal, unaffected family members and patient platelet lysates via immunoblot analysis (Fig. 2b, Supplementary Fig. 3a–c), which showed the absence of ARPC1B in Patient 1, and greatly reduced levels in Patients 2 and 3. Platelet levels of other Arp2/3 components (ARP2, ARP3, ARP2C, ARP3C and ARPC5; Fig. 2b) and WASP (Fig. 2c) were normal in all patients, and also in unaffected family members (Supplementary Fig. 3c). Recent proteomics data indicate that ARPC1A is present at <6% of the level of ARPC1B in normal platelets (Supplementary Table 2), with isoform levels and ratios differing considerably among cell/tissue types (Supplementary Table 3). We observed low expression of ARPC1A relative to ARPC1B in normal platelets, and increased ARPC1A in ARPC1B-deficient cells (Fig. 2b,c). Since platelets lack nuclei, this indicates upregulation of ARPC1A in ARPC1B-deficient platelet precursor megakaryocytes (MKS). This parallels the reported upregulation of ARPC1A in HeLa cells. The same study also reported, as we saw, that there was no effect of loss of ARPC1B on the expression of other Arp2/3 components.
Native gel electrophoresis, which allows multiprotein complexes to be separated under non-denaturing conditions, was used to assess the presence of Arp2/3 in platelet cell lysates. Immuno-blotting (IB) detected a band corresponding to Arp2/3 via probing for ARPC1B (Fig. 2d), ARP3 or ARPC5 (Supplementary Fig. 3d). ARP3, ARP2 and ARPC2 were detected with ARPC1B when the Arp2/3 gel band was removed, resolved via denaturing SDS–PAGE, blotted and sequentially probed (Fig. 2d). In contrast, native gel electrophoresis of ARPC1B-null platelet lysate showed barely detectable Arp2/3 (detected via ARPC5 probing; Fig. 2e, left panel). While ARPC1A was not detectable in Arp2/3 from normal platelets, it was detected in the low levels of Arp2/3 present in ARPC1B-null platelets (Fig. 2e, right panel).

Morphology of ARPC1B-deficient platelets. Abnormally small platelets (microthrombocytes) in humans have previously only been observed in patients with WAS with complete loss of WASP expression, or in patients with XLT where WASP expression is impaired but not abolished7,8. While both conditions are accompanied by thrombocytopenia and bleeding, XLT is associated with minimal or no immunodeficiency5. Features of WAS including thrombocytopenia, recurrent infections and eczema were also observed in a patient with loss of WIP, where platelet volume was normal25. WAS knockout mice have moderate thrombocytopenia and normal-sized platelets26 while microthrombocytes are observed in mice with MK-specific knockout of the actin-binding protein profilin1 (ref. 27).
Thin section transmission electron microscopy (TEM) was used to examine platelets from the ARPC1B-null patient, a WASP-null patient and a normal donor. All had platelets containing typical cellular structures including mitochondria and α-granules (Figs 3a and 4). ARPC1B-null and WASP-null platelets showed a propensity towards small size (Fig. 4), and ARPC1B-null and WASP-null platelets are significantly smaller than normal, and do not differ significantly from each other. ARPC1B-null platelets can thus be classified as microdysmorphic compared to normal. A comparison of circumferential tubulin ring diameters (Fig. 3c) confirmed that both ARPC1B-null and WASP-null platelets are significantly smaller than normal, and do not differ significantly from each other. ARPC1B-null platelets can thus be classified as microtubule-coiling-defective. As has been reported for WASP-null platelets, whole-mount TEM revealed a reduction/absence of calcium-rich platelet dense granules in ARPC1B-null and -deficient platelets (Fig. 5a). A significant proportion (0.16 and 0.19 nmol respectively; normal range 0.29–1.93 nmol). Platelet aggregation investigations with collagen, SFLLRN, arachidonic acid, ristocetin and ADP were normal for both patients.

### Table 1 | Laboratory parameters of patients.

| Parameter | Patient 1 | Patient 2 | Patient 3 |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Haemoglobin (g l⁻¹) | 103 (115–180) | 103 (110–140) | 122 (120–160) |
| White blood cells (× 10⁹ l⁻¹) | 29 (5.0–20.0) | 23.5 (5.0–12.0) | 13.8 (4.0–10.0) |
| Platelets (× 10⁹ l⁻¹) | 18 (150–400) | 345 (150–400) | 335 (150–400) |
| Lymphocytes (× 10⁹ l⁻¹) | 11.9 (2.0–17.0) | 17.4 (4.0–10.5) | 4.18 (1.5–7.0) |
| Eosinophils (× 10⁹ l⁻¹) | 3.5 (0.7–1.0) | 2.82 (0.05–0.70) | 3.14 (0.02–0.05) |
| ESR (mm h⁻¹) | 102 (1–10) | 55 (1–10) | 35 (1–10) |

**Markers**

| CD3 (cells µl⁻¹) | 1,409 (900–4,500) | 5,609 (2,400–6,900) | 1,484 (700–4,200) |
| CD4 (cells µl⁻¹) | 914 (500–2,400) | 4,487 (1,400–5,100) | 992 (300–2,000) |
| CD8 (cells µl⁻¹) | 122 (300–1,600) | 1,596 (600–2,200) | 431 (300–1,800) |
| CD19 (cells µl⁻¹) | 5,910 (200–2,100) | 8,469 (700–2,500) | 1,545 (200–1,600) |
| CD56 (cells µl⁻¹) | 251 (100–1,000) | 932 (100–1,000) | 987 (90–900) |

**Mitogenic responses (stimulation index percent of control)**

| Auto-antibodies | ANA | ANC | TRECS (copy no/3 µl) |
|-----------------|-----|-----|---------------------|
| Patient 1       | 1:160 (Neg) | Pos (Neg) | > 2,000 (>400) |
| Patient 2       | 1:160 (Neg) | Pos (Neg) | 1,239.5 (>400) |
| Patient 3       | Neg (Neg) | Pos (Neg) | 1,636 (>400) |

Normal values per age group are shown in brackets. Results outside of normal range in bold.

Spreading behaviour of ARPC1B-deficient platelets. Actin rearrangements within cells can produce several types of membrane protrusions30. Spindle-like filopodia are driven outwards by parallel actin filaments generated by formin protein family members30,31, while broad lamellipodia involve branching of actin networks and elongation of filaments32. Platelets spreading on a surface typically extend filopodia before producing lamellipodia33,34. This process proceeds normally in WASP-deficient platelets, because the nucleation promoting factor required for activating Arp2/3 (refs 35,36) during lamellipodia formation is WAVE/SCAR37,38 rather than WASP.

We examined the consequences of ARPC1B deficiency for platelet spreading on fibrinogen-treated surfaces using high-resolution fluorescence microscopy and scanning electron microscopy to monitor cell morphology and intracellular localization/distribution of tubulin, F-actin and Arp2/3 components. Comparisons of both washed platelets (Fig. 6) and platelets in plasma (Fig. 7) showed that maximally spread cells from normal donors formed typical near-circular lamellipodia. As expected from experimental observations36, normal platelet lamellipodia had peripheral localization of F-actin and ARPC5 (Fig. 7), and also displayed prominent F-actin stress fibres and podosome-like nodules. In contrast, maximally spread ARPC1B-null and ARPC1B-deficient platelets typically formed spiky structures with tubulin-rich tips (Figs 6 and 7) that contained fewer and often elongated F-actin fibres and showed little evidence of podosome-like nodule formation. The spread
platelet surface area was significantly reduced in ARPC1B-null and -deficient platelets compared to normal (Supplementary Fig. 4). Allowing ARPC1B-null and -deficient platelets more time to spread did not alter their observed behaviour. These observations indicate a profound loss of actin branching required for lamellipodia formation in ARPC1B-deficient platelets, despite their increased ARPC1A content. This is consistent with experimental observations that isoforms of Arp2/3 containing ARPC1B are significantly better than complexes containing ARPC1A at promoting the rapid assembly of stable branched actin networks.

Proplatelet formation in ARPC1B knockout megakaryocytic cells. The formation of proplatelets by MKs is a key stage in platelet development, which can only proceed to completion in the presence of shear flow\(^39,40\). The actin cytoskeleton has been linked to the adhesion of proplatelet-forming MKs to the extracellular matrix\(^41\) and in the bifurcation of proplatelets, which increases the number of tips that give rise to platelets\(^42\). Reduced platelet size and thrombocytopenia are the most common findings in WAS and XLT patients\(^5\). The cellular mechanisms of WAS-associated microthrombocytopenia are not fully understood. Bone marrow MK numbers are normal in most WAS patients\(^5,43\), but proplatelet formation may occur prematurely, hampering platelet release into the bloodstream\(^44,45\). Peripheral destruction of platelets in the spleen may also be involved, since splenectomy can correct platelet count and size\(^46,47\).

We observed adequate MK numbers and normal morphology in a bone marrow biopsy sample from Patient 1 (Fig. 8). This indicates that MK depletion is not a cause of thrombocytopenia, although the possibility of abnormal proplatelet formation cannot be ruled out. Platelet counts were always low in Patient 1, low...
(for example, $79 \times 10^9$ to 1) to normal in Patient 2, and normal in Patient 3 (Table 1). The microthrombocytes we observed in all three patients suggest that decreased ARPC1B in MKs affects the cytoskeletal dynamics of platelet formation\textsuperscript{42,48} sufficiently to influence platelet size. The thrombocytopenia observed in Patient 1 indicates that total loss of ARPC1B leads to depression of platelet production and/or increased clearance.

To explore the potential impacts of loss of ARPC1B expression on platelet production by ARPC1B-null MKs, we used imMKCL cells, a stable immortalized MK progenitor. Unlike most megakaryocytic cells, imMKCL cells can be stimulated by thrombopoietin to generate proplatelet-producing cells in culture\textsuperscript{49}. imMKCL lines lacking functional ARPC1B were made using CRISPR/Cas9 gene deletion. Loss of ARPC1B expression in an ARPC1B knockout line was confirmed via IB (Fig. 9a), which also detected increased ARPC1A expression relative to wild-type cells, paralleling our observations in ARPC1B-null platelets (Fig. 2c).

We examined the abilities of thrombopoietin-induced wild-type and ARPC1B-null imMKCL cells to form proplatelet-like extensions in culture, and observed that ARPC1B knockout cells formed proplatelets much less frequently than wild-type cells (Fig. 9b). In addition, while some wild-type imMKCL cells were observed to form multiple proplatelets containing tubulin and branched actin filaments (Fig. 9c), this was not seen in ARPC1B-null cells.

It is likely that the decreased ability of ARPC1B-null imMKCL cells to form proplatelets in culture reflects a similar phenotype in ARPC1B-null MKs, resulting in the thrombocytopenia seen in Patient 1. Since the generation of normal platelets cannot be studied in culture, as the bloodstream is required for final maturation\textsuperscript{40}, it is not possible to draw definitive conclusions from this experiment regarding the presence of small platelets.
with structural abnormalities observed in our patients (Fig. 3e). It is reasonable to propose that MKs with altered actin dynamics produce small and dysmorphic platelets, and/or that platelets with altered actin dynamics have increased susceptibility to deformation as they circulate. Our results indicate that, as we observed with platelet spreading (Figs 6 and 7), upregulation of ARPC1A in ARPC1B-null imMKCL cells had little or no effect on restoring Arp2/3 functions required for proplatelet formation. This is in keeping with what we would expect to see in proplatelet formation in the absence of ARPC1B.

Discussion

The Arp2/3 complex is ubiquitous in eukaryotic cells and essential for the survival of multicellular organisms. It has been reported that ARPC1B is both an activator and substrate of Aurora A kinase which is critical in the maintenance of mitotic integrity in mammalian cells. Our results indicate that near-complete loss of ARPC1B expression results in platelet abnormalities including microthrombocytes and spreading defects, and also eczema, leukocytoclastic vasculitis, eosinophilia and elevated IgA and IgE. Elevated IgE levels are also seen in hyper IgE immune deficiency syndrome patients, where the pathological effects of elevated IgE are poorly understood but likely involve several immune pathways, including increased Th2 cytokine production. ARPC1B-deficient Patients 2 and 3 have normal platelet numbers, while ARPC1B-null Patient 1 has persistent thrombocytopenia. Our experiments with imMKCL cells indicate that this is likely linked to decreased proplatelet production by ARPC1B-null MKs. It may also be that these patients have increased rates of peripheral platelet clearance as observed in WAS, which may be associated with their elevated IgA levels. If so, this would exacerbate the consequences of low platelet production by ARPC1B-null MKs.

Our results indicate that ARPC1B deficiency is associated with severe multisystem disease including recurrent infections, inflammatory changes in the intestine (crypt distortion with severe eosinophilic infiltration) and elevated autoimmunity markers (anti-nuclear and anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies; Table 1). This multi-system pathology is similar to that produced by complete loss of WASP expression and is consistent with the predominant expression of ARPC1B in haematopoietic/immune cells (Supplementary Table 3). These include B- and T-lymphocytes (including T-regulatory cells and natural killer cells), antigen-presenting dendritic cells, monocytes/macrophages and neutrophils. All of these cells require coordinated actin dynamics for development, migration, recruitment, signalling and activation of innate and adaptive immune responses.

We observed considerable heterogeneity in the manifestation of disease among the patients we studied. All three had failure to thrive, platelet abnormalities, eczema and other indicators of inflammatory/immune disease including elevated IgA and IgE, and anti-neutrophil autoantibodies. Only Patient 1 had chronic infections and colitis. Patient 3 had a history of eczema-like rash from birth, although not severe enough to be biopsied, and it is unclear if underlying vasculitis is associated with this rash, as was seen in Patients 1 and 2. In addition to ARPC1B mutations, there are likely to be other genetic and/or environmental factors associated with the different disease phenotypes observed among patients. It is nevertheless tempting to propose that as with thrombocytopenia, the milder immune
as with WAS\textsuperscript{11,52}, many questions remain regarding the mechanisms associated with the abnormalities we have observed in patients with absent/reduced ARPC1B expression. Our observations that the loss of ARPC1B has profound consequences for platelet spreading, and most likely for MK proplatelet production, are consistent with cellular phenotypes that would be expected with the loss of Arp2/3 function in these cells. The effects of ARPC1B loss would presumably be most severe in cells/tissues where it is the predominant isoform present in functional Arp2/3, since as we observed in platelets and MKs, compensatory upregulation of ARPC1A has little effect. This is likely due to cell lineage-specific variations in Arp2/3 assembly and/or function\textsuperscript{54}.

While it is difficult to connect our experimental observations to the entire spectrum of disease observed in ARPC1B-deficient patients, Arp2/3-driven actin polymerization has recently been reported to be essential for several relevant cellular, physiological and developmental processes. These include cell secretion\textsuperscript{53}, phagocytosis\textsuperscript{54,55}, autophagy\textsuperscript{56}, migration\textsuperscript{57,58}, haptotaxis\textsuperscript{59}, focal adhesions\textsuperscript{60} and intracellular tight junctions required for epidermal barrier formation\textsuperscript{61}, vesicle trafficking and transcytosis in the small intestine\textsuperscript{62}. With regards to immunity and inflammation, Arp2/3 function has been reported to be critical for the formation of immune cell synapses\textsuperscript{63,64} and T-regulatory cell function, which is aberrant in WAS patients leading to a high susceptibility to develop Th2-mediated food allergies\textsuperscript{65}. Genetic correction of induced pluripotent stem cells from WAS patients demonstrated the restoration of defective natural killer and T-lymphoid cell development and function, confirming the critical role of WAS\textsuperscript{66}. Given the central role that Arp2/3 plays in so many processes, it is reasonable to expect that ARPC1B deficiency may be associated with a broad range of developmental and immune defects. Our results also point to the possibility that gene variants affecting other Arp2/3 components may be associated with human disease.

**Methods**

**Subjects.** All experiments were carried out with the approval of the Research Ethics Board at the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada. Informed consent to participate in research was obtained from all participants. A copy of the consent is available on the interNational Early Onset Paediatric IBD Cohort Study (NEOPICS) website at http://www.neopics.org/study-documents.html. Patients were consented to the registry and tissue bank of the Canadian Centre for Primary Immunodeficiency. Sequencing of the patient with Wiskott–Aldrich syndrome (WASP null) was done by PreventionGenetics (Marshfield, WI, USA) for clinical diagnosis. A hemizygous missense variant c.256C\textsuperscript{→}T in the WAS gene was predicted to result in the amino acid substitution p.Arg86Cys, previously documented to cause WAS\textsuperscript{87}.

Genomic sequencing data analysis and validation. WES was performed at the Centre for Applied Genomics, Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada. Exome library preparation was performed using the Ion Torrent AmpliSeq RDY Exome Kit following the manufacturer’s recommended protocol. In brief, 100 ng of DNA quantified by Qubit DNA HS or BR assay was used in the target amplification under the following conditions: 99 °C for 2 min, followed by 93 °C for 15 s and 60 °C for 16 min, and final hold at 10 °C. Incorporated primer sequences were partially digested using a proprietary method. Ion Torrent Proton adaptors were ligated to the amplicons at 22 °C for 30 min followed by 72 °C for 10 min, and the library was purified with Agencourt Ampure NT Beads. Libraries were quantified by qPCR, and 7 pM used for sequencing on an Ion Torrent Proton Sequencer using a PI chip V2 following the manufacturer’s protocol. All data were aligned to the hg19/GRCh37 reference genome and quality trimmed via Ion Torrent Suite Version 4.2.

SNP and Variation Suite Version 8.1 (Golden Helix) and VarSeq Version 1.1 (Golden Helix) were used for data analysis. After importing the variant call files of each member of the family trio (patient and parents), variants were organized by pedigree. Rare (minor allele frequency (MAF) < 1%) variants were filtered using the 1,000 genomes Variant Frequencies (Phase 1), the Exome Aggregation Consortium (ExAC) Variant Frequency database Version 0.3 (Cambridge, MA, USA) and the NHLBI Exome Sequencing Project (ESP) V2 Exome Variant Frequencies. Variants were classified according to whether they were deemed to be coding and non-synonymous and unclassified variants.
Figure 6 | Abnormal spreading of ARPC1B-deficient platelets on fibrinogen. Washed platelets were allowed to spread on fibrinogen-treated coverslips for 45 min prior to fixation and imaging by SEM (right column; bars = 2 μm), or by spinning disc laser fluorescence confocal microscopy (left column; 3D renders of deconvolved z-series, bars = 1 μm) after surface staining with wheat germ agglutinin (WGA; red), staining for F-actin with phalloidin (green) and immunostaining for alpha tubulin (magenta). Maximally spread platelets from a normal donor (top row) typically show fully formed lamellipodia with thin tubulin filaments and multiple F-actin filaments intersecting with podosome-like actin nodules. In contrast, maximally spread platelets from both ARPC1B-null (middle row) and ARPC1B-deficient (bottom row) patients tend to form spiky filopodial-lamellipodial structures lacking podosomes that sometimes show elongated actin filaments (see also Fig. 7).

were then scored using the database for non-synonymous functional predictions (dbNSFP 2.8), filtering out variants found to have no damaging score (Polyphen2, SIFT, MutationTaster, MutationAssessor, FATHMM). As well, dbNSFP scores variants with conservation scores (PhyloP and GERP) were then scored using the database for non-synonymous functional predictions. Sometimes show elongated actin filaments (see also Fig. 7).

Identification of ARPC1B mutations. Patient 1. WES of Patient 1 and parents resulted in the identification of 50,020 variants relative to the reference genome, hg19. In all, 31,997 were considered high quality, passing thresholds for genotype quality and read depth. A total of 2,853 were considered rare variants with a minor allelic frequency of less than 1% (MAF<0.001) using three databases: NHLBI ESP6500SI-V2, 1,000 Genomes and ExAC v0.3. 1,046 variants were predicted to be damaging, as they were classified as missense mutations or predicted to cause loss of function. From this list we identified 14 non-synonymous homozygous variants (Supplementary Data) inherited in an autosomal recessive manner. The ARPC1B variant for which Patient 1 is homozygous is a two base pair duplication (c.269_270dupCT; Fig. 1) causing a frame shift in exon 4 at position 91 and a premature stop codon, with a predicted truncated 119 amino acid protein lacking five of the six WD40 domains (Fig. 1g) required for formation of the functional p40/ARPC1 β-propeller. Both variants were validated using Sanger sequencing.

Patient 1’s parents are consanguineous, and he has a very severe and complex disease. Therefore we focused on further genetic analysis on Mendelian autosomal recessive mutations with a homoyzgous inheritance pattern that could explain his disease. As shown in Supplementary Data no homoyzgous mutations were detected in predicted pathogenic variants for known genes associated with immune deficiency (including WASP and WIP) or platelet disorders. Also, no overlapping compound heterozygote mutations, X-linked mutations, or de novo mutations were shared by Patient 1 and Patient 2. We then focused on novel genes and examined known biological function, known diseases associated with genes, gene expression profiles and available animal models of the candidates outlined in Supplementary Information. The only gene that fit the disease profile observed in Patient 1 was ARPC1B, since the role of ARPC1B as the WASP binding component of the Arp2/3 complex pointed to a WAS-like phenotype. In Patient 2, with a similar spectrum of disease, WES also identified ARPC1B as the only viable candidate, and this was the only gene found to be mutated in both Patients 1 and 2 (see Venn diagram Supplementary Fig. 1).

Antibodies. Anti-human protein antibodies used for platelet and imMKCL cell IB and IF staining were as follows: rabbit polyclonals to ARPC1A (Sigma-Aldrich, HPA004334; dilutions 1/250 or 1/500 for IB, 1/25 for IF), ARPC1B (Sigma-Aldrich, HPA004832; dilutions 1/100 or 1/500 for IB, 1/100 for IF), ARPC2/p34ARC (Millipore, 07-227; dilution 1/1,000 for IB), ARPC3 (Sigma-Aldrich, HPA006530; dilution 1/1,000 for IB), ARPC5/p16ARC (Abcam, ab18459; dilutions 1/1,000 for IB, 1/100 for IF) and $\gamma$-tubulin (Cell Signaling, 11H10; dilutions 1/1,000 for IB, 1/100 for IF); rabbit monoclonals to ARP2 (Abcam, ab28934; dilution 1/1,000 for IB), ARP3 (Abcam, ab151729; dilution 1/1,000 for IB) and WASP (Cell Signaling, D9C8; dilution 1/1,000 for IB); mouse monoclonals to $\gamma$-tubulin (Thermo Scientific, 4D11), $\alpha$-tubulin (Sigma-Aldrich, Clone B-5-1-2; dilutions 1/1,000 for IB, 1/100 for IF), CD61 (Dako, Clone Y2/51; dilution 1/200 for IF), TSP1 (R&D Systems, clone 301221; dilution 1/1,000 for IF) and GAPDH (Millipore, MAB374; dilution 1/5,000 for IB), and a goat polyclonal to P-selectin (Santa Cruz, sc-6941; dilution 1/100 for IF).

Platelet immunoblot and native gel electrophoresis analysis. Blood from patients and normal controls was collected by venipuncture with 3.2% sodium citrate anticoagulation and centrifuged (150g, 15 min) before collection of platelet-rich plasma (PRP), from which platelets were pelleted via centrifugation.

Figure 6 | Abnormal spreading of ARPC1B-deficient platelets on fibrinogen. Washed platelets were allowed to spread on fibrinogen-treated coverslips for 45 min prior to fixation and imaging by SEM (right column; bars = 2 μm), or by spinning disk laser fluorescence confocal microscopy (left column; 3D renders of deconvolved z-series, bars = 1 μm) after surface staining with wheat germ agglutinin (WGA; red), staining for F-actin with phalloidin (green) and immunostaining for alpha tubulin (magenta). Maximally spread platelets from a normal donor (top row) typically show fully formed lamellipodia with thin tubulin filaments and multiple F-actin filaments intersecting with podosome-like actin nodules. In contrast, maximally spread platelets from both ARPC1B-null (middle row) and ARPC1B-deficient (bottom row) patients trend to form spiky filopodial-lamellipodial structures lacking podosomes that sometimes show elongated actin filaments (see also Fig. 7).
Prior to obtaining lysates, platelets were washed twice by resuspension in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) buffer adjusted to pH 6.1 with ACD (PBS/ACD) and pelleting. For direct IB, platelets were resuspended at 10^9 per ml in PBS plus 2× protease inhibitor (Roche Complete EDTA-free, Roche Diagnostics) and lysed with Triton-X100 (0.5%). For native gel electrophoresis, washed platelets were resuspended as above with added phosphatase inhibitor (Roche PhosSTOP) and lysed by sonication via two 5 s pulses 1 min apart in a Heat Systems Sonicator Ultrasonic Processor XL2010 (Farmingdale, NY, USA) set at 20 V and amplitude 2. All lysates were cleared by centrifugation at 21,000 g for 2 min after which the supernatants were retained and analysed for protein content by IB or for Arp2/3 complex via blue Native gel electrophoresis, where sonicated platelet lysates were applied to a 4–16% Bis-Tris
proplatelets, containing tubulin and long, thin branched actin fibres (3D renders of images; bars
fluorescence structured illumination microscopy. Only cells expressing ARPC1B were observed to develop multiple structures resembling megakaryocyte
frequency of proplatelet formation compared to WT (*
and CD61-positive cells were scored for the presence of proplatelet-like extensions after 5 days; ARPC1B-null (sg2) cells showed a significantly decreased
(P; tubulin loading control for ARPC1B and ARPC1A indicated). (c) Increased ARPC1A expression in the ARPC1B-null imMKCL megakaryocytic cell line (sg2) relative to wild-type (WT) imMKCL cells and normal platelets

Figure 9 | Decreased proplatelet formation in ARPC1B-null megakaryocytic cells. (a) Cell lysate immunoblot analysis showing absent ARPC1B and increased ARPC1A expression in the ARPC1B-null imMKCL megakaryocytic cell line (sg2) relative to wild-type (WT) imMKCL cells and normal platelets (PLT; tubulin loading control for ARPC1B and ARPC1A indicated). (b) Wild-type and ARPC1B-null imMKCL cells were stimulated to differentiate in culture, and CD61-positive cells were scored for the presence of proplatelet-like extensions after 5 days; ARPC1B-null (sg2) cells showed a significantly decreased frequency of proplatelet formation compared to WT (*p < 0.05, two-tailed t-test; three experiments with 100 cells per group scored; bars show s.d.). (c) Comparisons of mature cultured representative wild-type imMKCL (left) and ARPC1B-null (right) cells; cells were stained and imaged by laser fluorescence structured illumination microscopy. Only cells expressing ARPC1B were observed to develop multiple structures resembling megakaryocyte proplatelets, containing tubulin and long, thin branched actin fibres (3D renders of images; bars = 4 μm left, 3 μm right).

Preparation of resting and fibrinogen spread platelets. For resting platelets, PRP (above) was mixed with an equal volume of PBS plus 8% paraformaldehyde (PFA) and incubated for 10 min at room temperature. Fixed platelets were recovered via centrifugation, washed in PBS and resuspended at approximately 200 cells per nl in PBS plus 1% bovine serum albumin fraction V (BSA, MP Biomedicals), and 50 μl aliquots were spotted onto glass coverslips, incubated for 90 min at 37 °C with 100% humidity and rinsed with PBS. For platelet spreading, glass coverslips were treated with human fibrinogen (Sigma-Aldrich) for 30 min at 37 °C, then rinsed with PBS and allowed to dry. Aliquots of PRP or washed platelets (above) resuspended in Tyrode’s solution (pH 7.2) were gently layered onto fibrinogen-treated surfaces and platelets were allowed to spread for 30–90 min. Adhered cells were then fixed with either 4% PFA (for IF) or with 2% glutaraldehyde (for electron microscopy), rinsed in appropriate buffers and stored at 4 °C with high humidity before preparation for imaging.

High resolution fluorescence microscopy of platelets. Preparations of resting/ spread platelets were stained by permeabilizing/blocking with hybridization solution (PBS plus 2% donkey serum plus 1% BSA) containing 0.2% Triton-X100 for 60 min, rinsing with PBS and then incubating cells overnight at 4 °C with the appropriate primary antibodies. After washing, adherent antibodies were stained with Alexa Fluor-tagged donkey secondary antibodies (Thermo Fisher Scientific; Alexa Fluor 568 anti-mouse A10037, Alexa Fluor 488 anti-rabbit A10042, Alexa Fluor 647 anti-mouse A31571, Alexa Fluor 546 anti-goat A11056; dilutions 1/1000). Alexa Fluor tagged phalloidin (Thermo Fisher Scientific; dilution 1/300) was used to stain F-actin, Alexa Fluor tagged tubulin (Cell Signalling; dilution 1/300) was used to stain tubulin and Alexa Fluor tagged wheat germ agglutinin (dilution 10 μg ml⁻¹) was used to stain platelet surface membrane, all according to the manufacturer’s protocols. Samples were mounted with ProLong Diamond or Gold antifade mountant (Thermo Fisher Scientific).

Spinning disc laser fluorescence confocal microscopy imaging was done with a Quorum Technologies system consisting of an Olympus IX81 inverted microscope, Hamamatsu C9100-13 back-thinned EM-CCD camera (512 × 512 pixels), Yokogawa CSU X1 spinning disc confocal scan head with Spectral Aurora Borealis upgrade, 4 diode-pumped solid state laser lines (Spectral Applied Research, 405,
491, 561, 642 nm), emission filters specific for Alexa Fluor dyes: 405 (447 ± 20 nm), 488 (525 ± 20 nm), 561, 642 nm and 674 (676 ± 29 nm), and an ASL motorized XY stage controlled with an Upgrade piezo Focus Drive. Images were acquired with 250 nm Z-staging via an Olympus UPLSAPO × 1/1.1 NA oil objective. Laser fluorescence confocal structured illumination microscopy (SIM) was used with a Zeiss LSM 810 PS1 microscop system (Axio Observer Z1 core) and a × 63/1.4 NA oil-immersion objective with × 1.65 optical power. The system is equipped with an Andor iXon3 885 detector, 405, 488, 561 and 640 nm laser lines, Zeiss motorized XY stage and Z-piezo focus. Acquisition control and SIM image processing (including channel alignment) were done with Zeiss Zen 2012 software using optimized settings and current calibration data sets. Rendered volume images were created from laser fluorescence confocal SIM and spinning disc confocal microscopy data using Imaris 8 software. Images were exported to Adobe Photoshop for labelling and presentation.

Colon and skin immunofluorescence microscopy. Paraffin sections of colon and skin were deparaffinized for 5 min each with: xylene twice, 100% ethanol twice, 75% ethanol, ddH2O. Antigen retrieval was performed with a Decloaking Chamber (NxGen) using a buffer containing 1.27 mM EDTA, 95% ethanol twice, 75% ethanol, ddH2O. After rinsing with ddH2O, colon and skin immunofluorescence microscopy were performed with a 5-min fixation with 2.5% glutaraldehyde in PBS pH 7.4. After rinsing with PBS, the slides were stored in 100% ethanol overnight. On the next day the slides were transferred to xylene twice and coverslipped with ProLong Gold Antifade (Life Technologies, 12440053), 15% fetal bovine serum, 10 mM ascorbic acid (Sigma, A4544), 450 μM alpha-monothioglycerol (MTG, Sigma, M6145)

Generation of proplatelets from imMKCL cultures. On day 0 cells were collected into a 15 ml conical tube, centrifuged at 400 × g × 5 min at 22 °C. After discarding the supernatant the cells were resuspended in 10 ml PBS and centrifuged at 400 × g × 5 min at 22 °C. This washing step was repeated one more time. The cells were then resuspended in fresh haematopoietic differentiation medium supplemented with 50 ng ml⁻¹ human TPO, 50 ng ml⁻¹ human SCF and 15 μM ADAM17 inhibitor (TAPI-1, Sigma SM0739). The cells were then cultured in an incubator at 37 °C, 5% CO₂. On day 2, the cells were collected into a 15 ml conical tube, centrifuged at 400 × g × 5 min at 22 °C. After removing the supernatant the cells were resuspended into fresh haematopoietic differentiation medium IMDM supplemented with 50 ng ml⁻¹ human TPO, 50 ng ml⁻¹ human SCF and 15 μM ADAM17 inhibitor. On day 3 the cells were seeded onto matrigel-coated coverslips. On culture day 5 cells were fixed, stained and imaged using protocols described above for spread platelets. CD61-positive cells were scored for the presence or absence of proplatelet extensions (Fig. 9).

Data availability. The whole exome sequencing data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding authors W.H.A.K and A.M.M on request. The data are not publicly available because they contain information that could compromise research participant privacy/consent. All other data generated or analysed during this study are included in this published article (and its Supplementary Information files) and available from the corresponding authors on request.

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