

# OLA1 is responsible for normal spindle assembly and SAC activation in mouse oocytes

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**Background.** OLA1 is a member of the GTPase protein family, unlike other members, it possess both GTPase and ATPase activities, and can bind and hydrolyze ATP more efficiently than GTP. OLA1 participates in cell proliferation, oxidative response, protein synthesis and tumorigenesis. However, whether OLA1 is also required for oocyte meiosis is still unknown.

**Methods.** In this study, the localization, expression, and functions of OLA1 in the mouse oocyte meiosis were examined. Immunofluorescent and confocal microscopy were used to explore the location pattern of OLA1 in the mouse oocyte. Moreover, nocodazole treatment was used to confirm the spindle-like location of OLA1 during mouse meiosis. Western blot was used to explore the expression pattern of OLA1 in the mouse oocyte. Microinjection of siRNA was used to explore the OLA1 functions in the mouse oocyte meiosis. In addition, chromosome spreading was used to investigate the spindle assembly checkpoint (SAC) activity.

**Results.** Immunofluorescent staining showed that OLA1 evenly distributed in the cytoplasm at germinal vesicle (GV) stage. After meiosis resumption (GVBD), OLA1 co-localized with spindles, which was further identified by nocodazole treatment experiments. Knockdown of OLA1 impaired the germinal vesicle breakdown progression and finally resulted in a lower polar body extrusion rate. Immunofluorescence analysis indicated that knockdown of OLA1 led to abnormal spindle assembly, which was evidenced by multipolar spindles in OLA1-RNAi-oocytes. After 6 h post-GVBD in culture, an increased proportion of oocyte which has precociously entered into anaphase/telephase I (A/TI) was observed in OLA1-knockdown oocytes, suggesting that loss of OLA1 resulted in the premature segregation of homologous chromosomes. In addition, the chromosome spread analysis suggested that OLA1 knockdown induced premature anaphase onset was due to the precocious inactivation of SAC. Taken together, we concluded that OLA1 plays important role in GVBD, spindle assembly and SAC activation maintenance in oocyte meiosis.

1           **OLA1 is responsible for normal spindle assembly**  
2           **and SAC activation in mouse oocytes**

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32

33 **ABSTRACT**

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35 both GTPase and ATPase activities, and can bind and hydrolyze ATP more efficiently than GTP.  
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48 OLA1 impaired the germinal vesicle breakdown progression and finally resulted in a lower polar  
49 body extrusion rate. Immunofluorescence analysis indicated that knockdown of OLA1 led to  
50 abnormal spindle assembly, which was evidenced by multipolar spindles in OLA1-RNAi  
51 oocytes. After 6 h post-GVBD in culture, an increased proportion of oocyte which has  
52 precociously entered into anaphase/telephase I (A/TI) was observed in OLA1-knockdown  
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54 chromosomes. In addition, the chromosome spread analysis suggested that OLA1 knockdown

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56 together, we concluded that OLA1 plays important role in GVBD, spindle assembly and SAC  
57 activation maintenance in oocyte meiosis.

## 58 INTRODUCTION

59 Mammalian gametes are yielded through an event named meiosis where two consecutive divisions  
60 are conducted to halve the chromosomes without an intervening replicative process (*Verlhac et*  
61 *al., 2016*). Spindle assembly and chromosome segregation are both vital courses to keep genomic  
62 stability during oocyte meiosis. Errors in these two processes can lead to the failure of meiosis or  
63 the generation of aneuploidy (*Ma et al., 2014; Jiao et al., 2017; Han et al., 2015*). Moreover, human  
64 pregnancy loss has strong correlation with fetal aneuploidy which can be induced by defective  
65 spindle structure and abnormal chromosome segregation (*Webster et al., 2017*). To guarantee the  
66 normal progression of oocyte meiosis, spindle assembly and chromosome segregation must be  
67 correctly commanded.

68 After germinal vesicle breakdown (GVBD), as absent of centrosome at the mitosis, the  
69 meiotic spindle is emanated and nucleated from microtubule organizing centers (MTOCs) (*Schuh*  
70 *et al., 2007; Clift et al., 2015; Bennabi et al., 2016*). At this time, chromosomes and spindle  
71 microtubules has begun to interact with each other. Chromosomes continuously move to the  
72 equatorial plate as the cell cycle progresses, and the alignment of all chromosomes in this  
73 process does not coincide at the same time. Spindle assembly checkpoint (SAC) signaling  
74 controls this unevenly process to arrest oocyte at pre-metaphase I stage to avoid the premature  
75 chromosome segregation (*Vogt et al., 2008; Touati et al., 2016; Sanders et al., 2018*). Once the  
76 incorrect connection of chromosome with microtubule is established, all chromosomes are  
77 correctly aligned at the metaphase I plate (MI stage) then SAC proteins will dissociate from

78 kinetochore to trigger the segregation of chromosomes (anaphase onset), which finally bring out  
79 the polar body extrusion and oocyte will arrest at metaphase II (MII).

80 OLA1 is a member of the GTPase protein family, unlike other members, it can bind and  
81 hydrolyze both ATP and GTP (*Koller-Eichhorn et al., 2007*). OLA1 can act as a negative regulator  
82 of the antioxidative response via nontranscriptional mechanisms (*Zhang et al., 2009*). Moreover,  
83 OLA1 involves in eukaryotic initiation factor 2 (eIF2)-mediated protein synthesis (*Chen et al.,*  
84 *2015; Ding et al., 2016*). During mitosis, OLA1 localizes to centrosomes in interphase and then to  
85 the spindle pole after nuclear envelop breakdown. OLA1 can directly interact with BRCA1 and  
86  $\gamma$ -tubulin by bounding to the amino-terminal of these two proteins, and this interaction is very  
87 important for the centrosomal regulation (*Matsuzawa et al., 2014*). And knockdown of OLA1  
88 results in the centrosome amplification of centrosome and the disorders in microtubule aster  
89 formation (*Matsuzawa et al., 2014; Yoshino et al., 2018*). It is noteworthy that, BRCA1 has been  
90 shown to exert functions in oocyte meiosis, and knockdown of BRCA1 in mouse oocyte causes  
91 abnormal spindle assembly and the dysfunction of SAC (*Xiong et al., 2008*). As an interacting  
92 factor, whether OLA1 also participates in meiotic progression remains elusive. Thus, we attempt  
93 to explore the possible roles of OLA1 in oocyte meiosis.

94 Oocyte maturation is a complicated process, which can be affected by many factors including  
95 functional cellular proteins, and whether OLA1 is involve in meiosis is totally unknown. In this  
96 study, we have found that OLA1 participates in oocyte meiotic maturation, especially in the  
97 progress of germinal vesicle breakdown, spindle assembly and SAC activation.

## 98 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### 99 **Animals**

100 Three-four weeks-old female KM mice were used in this experiment. Animal experiments were  
101 approved by Hubei Research Center of Laboratory Animal (Approval ID: SYXK (Hubei) 2014-

102 0082SCXK). Animal care and handling were conformed to regulations of Animal Care and Use  
103 Committee of General hospital of the Central Theater Command.

#### 104 **Antibodies and chemicals**

105 All chemicals and culture media were purchased from Sigma (St Louis, MO) unless those  
106 specifically mentioned. Rabbit polyclonal anti-OLA1 antibody (Cat# A4673) was purchased  
107 from ABclonal (Wuhan, China). Mouse monoclonal anti- $\alpha$ -tubulin-FITC antibody (Cat# F2168)  
108 was obtained from Sigma (St Louis, MO); Sheep polyclonal anti-BubR1 antibody (Cat# 28193)  
109 was obtained from Abcam (Cambridge, UK). FITC-conjugated donkey anti-sheep IgG (H + L)  
110 was purchased from Jackson ImmunoResearch Laboratory.

#### 111 **Oocyte collection and culture**

112 To harvest fully grown GV oocyte, 3-4 weeks-old female KM mice were firstly intraperitoneally  
113 injected with 5 IU pregnant mares serum gonadotropin, after 46-48h, mice were sacrificed by  
114 cervical dislocation and ovaries were isolated. Enclosed cumulus oocytes were removed by  
115 repeatedly pipetting, and then oocytes were cultured in pre-warmed M16 medium under paraffin  
116 oil at 37°C in a 5% CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. At appropriate time points, oocytes were selected for  
117 different experiments. In order to inhibit the spontaneous meiotic resume in vitro culture, M2  
118 medium with 50  $\mu$ M IBMX was used to maintain the GV stage.

#### 119 **Nocodazole treatment and recovery**

120 To destroy the spindle apparatus, wild-type MI and MII stage oocytes were cultured in M16  
121 medium with 20  $\mu$ g/ml of nocodazole for 20 min. To re-assemble spindle microtubule,  
122 nocodazole was washed out and oocytes were cultured in fresh M16 medium for 30 min.

#### 123 **Microinjection of OLA1 siRNA**

124 OLA1 siRNA (sc-145833; Santa Cruz, CA) was used to knockdown OLA1. Control siRNA (sc-  
125 37007; Santa Cruz, CA) was used as negative control. For microinjection, 5 pL of 30  $\mu$ M

126 control siRNA and OLA1 siRNA were injected into fully grown GV oocytes, to completely  
127 degrade the targeted mRNA, oocytes were cultured in M2 medium with 50  $\mu$ M IBMX for 24 h.  
128 After that, oocytes were directly collected for western blotting or culture in fresh M16 medium  
129 for meiotic maturation.

### 130 **Immunofluorescence analysis**

131 Oocytes were fixed and permeabilized in PBS containing 4% paraformaldehyde, 0.5% Triton X-  
132 100 (pH=7.4) for 40-50 min. Then, oocytes were blocked in PBS containing 2% BSA 1 h at  
133 room temperature and incubated overnight at 4°C with anti-OLA1 antibody (ABclonal, 1:100),  
134 anti- $\alpha$ -tubulin-FITC antibody (Sigma, 1:100). After washing 3 times in PBS containing 0.05%  
135 Tween-20, oocytes were incubated with appropriate secondary antibodies for 1 h at 37°C.  
136 Chromosomes were visualized by staining with 1  $\mu$ g/ml of DAPI for 5-10 min at room  
137 temperature. Finally, oocytes were mounted on slides and immunofluorescent images were  
138 observed by a confocal laser scanning microscope (Zeiss LSM 800, Germany). Non-immunized  
139 rabbit or mouse IgG was used as negative control.

### 140 **Western blot**

141 Oocytes were placed in 2X SDS loading buffer and boiled for 5 min at 95°C. The proteins were  
142 separated by SDS-PAGE and then electrophoretically transferred to polyvinylidene fluoride  
143 (PVDF) membranes. After transfer, the PVDF membranes were blocked in TBST containing 5%  
144 non-fat milk for 1 h, followed by incubation with OLA1 antibody (ABclonal, 1:1000) overnight  
145 at 4°C. After three times washes in TBST buffer, the membranes were incubated with HRP  
146 conjugates secondary antibodies at room temperature for 1 h. After three times washes, bands  
147 were visualized using ECL kit. GAPDH antibody was served as a loading control.

### 148 **Chromosome spreading and BubR1 staining**

149 Chromosome spreading was done as described previously (*Chen et al., 2018*). Oocytes were  
150 treated with Tyrode's buffer (pH 2.5) for about 30 s at 37°C to remove zona pellucidae. Then  
151 oocytes were fixed in drops of spreading solution (1% PFA, 0.15% Triton X-100, 3mM DTT in  
152 ddH<sub>2</sub>O, pH=9.2) on a glass slide. After undisturbed air drying, slides were washed and blocked  
153 with PBS containing 1% BSA. Finally, samples were labeled with BubR1 antibody (Abcame,  
154 1:200) and FITC-conjugated donkey anti-sheep secondary antibody (1:200). Chromosomes were  
155 stained with DAPI.

### 156 **Statistical analysis**

157 Data are presented as mean  $\pm$  SEM from at least three independent replicates. Statistical analyses  
158 were made with GraphPad. For statistical comparison, Student's t test was used. A value of  $P <$   
159 0.05 was considered significant.

## 160 **RESULTS**

### 161 **Cellular localization and expression pattern of OLA1 during mouse oocyte meiosis**

162 Firstly, we investigated the dynamic distribution of OLA1 during mouse oocyte meiosis by  
163 immunofluorescent labeling and confocal microscopy. As shown in Figure 1A, OLA1 was  
164 concentrated on the whole cytoplasm at GV stage, after meiotic resume, OLA1 distributed  
165 around the chromosomes and co-localized with  $\alpha$ -tubulin. At MI and MII stages, OLA1  
166 displayed a spindle-like localization, suggesting that OLA1 may have some connections with  
167 spindle assembly. To validate the OLA1 connection with spindle, MI and MII oocytes were  
168 treated with nocodazole. After treatment, the spindles were depolymerized and microtubules  
169 were evenly dispersed into the cytoplasm in oocytes. Meanwhile, OLA1 signal also dispersed  
170 into the cytoplasm instead of around the chromosomes. Furthermore, as the oocytes were  
171 thoroughly washed out of nocodazole and cultured in pre-warmed M16 medium, coupled with

172 spindle re-assembly, OLA1 renewed its spindle-like localization, hinting that OLA1 did co-  
173 localized with spindle in mouse oocyte (Figure 1C). Western blot results showed that OLA1  
174 were expressed at all stages during meiotic progression (Figure 1B).

175 **Knockdown of OLA1 impairs the germinal vesicle breakdown (GVBD) leading to a**  
176 **decrease in polar body extrusion (PBE).**

177 To further explore the function of OLA1 in oocyte meiosis, OLA1 specific siRNA were injected  
178 into GV oocytes. As shown in Figure 2A and B, western blot analysis revealed that expression of  
179 OLA1 was significantly decreased when compared with control ( $p < 0.05$ ), suggesting that  
180 OLA1-RNAi achieved good knockdown efficiency for the further study of its function in  
181 oocytes. GVBD and PBE are two hallmark events in the meiotic progression. We then checked  
182 the GVBD and PBE rate after OLA1 knockdown, as shown in Figure 2C, knockdown of OLA1  
183 significantly inhibited the GVBD progression and the average rate was  $86.70 \pm 6.12\%$  in control  
184 groups but decreased to  $62.83 \pm 1.49\%$  in OLA1-RNAi groups ( $p < 0.05$ ). After 12 h in culture,  
185 most of the control oocytes extruded the first polar bodies ( $60.38 \pm 6.52\%$ ), while only  $40.58 \pm$   
186  $2.05\%$  of oocytes extruded the polar body in OLA1-RNAi groups (Figure 2D,  $p < 0.05$ ). To  
187 further confirm whether the decline of PBE was due to the block of GVBD in OLA1-RNAi  
188 oocytes, we then analyzed the PBE rate in meiosis-resumed oocytes. As shown in Figure 2E,  
189 once the oocytes underwent GVBD, knockdown of OLA1 had no effect on PBE in  
190 meiosisresumed-oocytes ( $69.54 \pm 3.45\%$ , control vs  $64.58 \pm 2.34\%$ ,  $P > 0.05$ ).

191 **Knockdown of OLA1 induces abnormal spindle assembly and chromosome alignment in**  
192 **mouse oocyte**

193 BRCA1 knockdown causes abnormal spindle assembly in mouse oocytes, as a direct interacting  
194 protein, OLA1 may modulate the spindle assembly. To verify this speculation, we then checked

195 spindle morphology at metaphase stage by immunofluorescence after OLA1 knockdown. As  
196 shown in Figure 3A, confocal microscopy and quantitative analysis revealed that most control  
197 oocytes presented a normal barrel-shape spindle at metaphase stage, while OLA1-RNAi led to  
198 abnormal multipolar and small spindles. The proportion of abnormal spindles in OLA1-RNAi  
199 group was significantly higher than the control group ( $30.06 \pm 0.68\%$  vs.  $11.34 \pm 1.46\%$ ,  $p <$   
200  $0.05$ ; Figure 3B). Meanwhile, chromosome alignment was also disturbed in OLA1-RNAi oocyte.  
201 As shown in Figure 3A, chromosomes were well-aligned at the metaphase I plate in control  
202 oocytes, while OLA1-RNAi oocytes displayed irregularly scattered chromosomes (red arrow).  
203 The proportion of misaligned chromosomes in OLA1-RNAi group was also significantly higher  
204 than the control group ( $13.19 \pm 1.59\%$  vs.  $7.92 \pm 1.57\%$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ; Figure 3C).

#### 205 **OLA1 knockdown accelerates the anaphase onset in mouse oocytes**

206 After 6 h post-GVBD in vitro culture, most of meiosis resumed-oocytes in control group have  
207 reached at MI, while we found some oocytes were extruding the polar bodies in OLA1-  
208 knockdown oocytes (Figure 4A). We speculate that OLA1 knockdown could result in premature  
209 anaphase onset. To verify this hypothesis, we then did the cycle analysis by  $\alpha$ -tubulin staining  
210 and confocal microscope. As shown in Figure 4B, almost all of the control oocytes reached at  
211 MI, but we observed a quite number of oocytes have reached at anaphase I or telephase I in  
212 OLA1-knockdown oocytes. We also recorded the proportion of oocytes that have reached at MI  
213 or A/TI. Results showed that, compared with control, a lower rate of oocytes reached at MI stage  
214 in OLA1-RNAi oocytes ( $88.00 \pm 3.09\%$  vs.  $74.73 \pm 1.27\%$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ; Figure 4C), while a  
215 significant higher proportion of oocytes has reached A/TI stage ( $16.73 \pm 2.19\%$  vs.  $2.62 \pm$   
216  $2.28\%$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ; Figure 4C), suggesting that knockdown of OLA1 led to premature of  
217 chromosome segregation and accelerated anaphase onset in mouse oocytes.

**218 OLA1 knockdown causes premature inactivation of SAC**

219 SAC will not abrogate its activity until all the chromosomes are correctly aligned at metaphase I  
220 plate, and its previous inactivation can lead to premature chromosome segregation which could  
221 finally cause aneuploidy in oocytes. We have found that knockdown of OLA1 induced premature  
222 of anaphase onset, we speculated OLA1 knockdown could give rise to the inactivation of SAC,  
223 thus we used chromosome spreading and BubR1 (a vital component of SAC signaling) staining  
224 to check SAC activity at pre-MI stage (6.5 h) after OLA1-RNAi. As shown in Figure 5, BubR1  
225 localized to kinetochores at pre-MI stage in all control oocytes, while we could find BubR1  
226 failed to be loaded onto kinetochores from kinetochores in OLA1-depletion oocytes, indicating  
227 that depletion of OLA1 caused the previous inactivation of SAC at pre-MI stage.

**228 OLA1 knockdown promotes the aneuploid rate**

229 As we have observed misaligned chromosomes, premature anaphase trigger and SAC  
230 inactivation in OLA1-knockdown oocytes, which all can induce aneuploidy in MII oocyte, so  
231 we checked the aneuploid rate at MII oocyte by chromosome spreading, and the result showed  
232 that the aneuploid rate was significantly increased in the OLA1-knockdown oocytes ( $16.69 \pm$   
233  $2.51\%$  vs.  $26.24 \pm 2.51\%$ ,  $p < 0.05$ , Fig. 6B). These results suggest that OLA1 may participate in  
234 the SAC activity, thus to contribute to the anaphase trigger and aneuploidy.

235

**236 DISCUSSION**

237 Spindle assembly and chromosome segregation are two indispensable events during the progress  
238 of meiosis. Defective morphology of spindles and abnormal chromosome alignments could result  
239 in aneuploid gametes or the failure of meiosis (*Ma et al., 2014; Jiao et al., 2017; Han et al., 2015*).

240 There are many factors including cellular protein function to modulate these two processes to be

241 orderly. Currently, the function OLA1 mouse oocyte meiosis is still unknown. In this study, we  
242 have discovered OLA1 is a novel participator in oocyte meiosis: the participation in GVBD,  
243 spindle assembly and SAC activation.

244 GVBD and PBE are characteristic features/hallmarks of meiotic progression. When immature  
245 oocytes begin to mature by exogenous and endogenous factors stimulation both in vivo and in  
246 vitro, GVBD occurs and then oocyte resumes meiosis which could finally bring out the polar  
247 body extrusion (*Sánchez et al., 2012*). Defects in GVBD can result in the block of meiosis and  
248 oocyte will lose their ability for further development. To detect the function of OLA1, we first  
249 examined GVBD and PBE rates after OLA1 knockdown. We found that OLA1 knockdown  
250 significantly inhibited GVBD and a decline in PBE was also found in the loss of OLA1.

251 However, once the oocyte underwent GVBD then it could directly extrude the polar body even in  
252 the loss of OLA1. And the decline of PBE in OLA1 knockdown oocytes was only due to the  
253 block of GVBD. Thus, we conclude that OLA1 is critical for the germinal vesicle breakdown but  
254 not polar body extrusion.

255 Spindle assembly is indispensable for meiotic progression, it supports the segregation of  
256 chromosomes in oocytes. Abnormal spindle assembly could result in PBE failure or production  
257 of aneuploid gametes (*Schuh et al., 2007; Clift et al., 2015; Bennabi et al., 2016*). During the time of  
258 spindle assembly, chromosomes show unstable connections with microtubules until hours post  
259 GVBD when a tight link between kinetochores and microtubules is established. To avoid the  
260 segregation of chromosomes with incorrect connection with microtubules, SAC persist at  
261 kinetochore (SAC activation) to prevent the premature of chromosome segregation (*Vogt et al.,*  
262 *2008; Touati et al., 2016; Sanders et al., 2018*). Once all chromosomes align correctly at the  
263 metaphase I plate, SAC proteins will dissociated from kinetochores (SAC inactivation) then

264 activates the APC/C activity to accelerate SECURIN degradation and anaphase I onset (*Marston*  
265 *et al., 2017*). Defects in SAC function can result in incorrect attachments of chromosome with  
266 microtubules, and leads to missegregation (*Miao et al., 2017; Lu et al., 2017; Li et al., 2009*). Study  
267 has shown that knockdown of BRCA1 causes abnormal spindles in mouse oocytes (*Xiong et al.,*  
268 *2008*). As an interactive protein in mitosis, we speculated OLA1 may also function in spindle  
269 assembly in oocyte. Results showed that multipolar and small spindles occurred in OLA1-  
270 knockdown oocytes, indicating that OLA1 also participate in spindle assembly in meiosis.  
271 What's more, we speculate that OLA1 could bind to BRCA1 in oocyte exerting its regulatory  
272 function in meiotic spindle assembly, but still needs further study to verify that. In addition, a  
273 higher proportion of oocytes have reached A/TI stage after 8 h in culture, indicating the  
274 premature of anaphase onset in OLA1-knockdown oocytes. Further study identified the  
275 inactivation of SAC at pre-MI stage in RNAi oocytes, thus knockdown of OLA1 results in the  
276 dysfunction of SAC leading to the premature chromosome segregation. Importantly, knockdown  
277 of BRCA1 in mouse oocyte also leads to the inactivation of SAC (*Xiong et al., 2008*). Taken all  
278 these together, it seems that OLA1 may function in meiosis in an OLA1-BRCA1 mediated  
279 pathway. In addition, OLA1 knockdown induced spindle defects did not lead to metaphase I  
280 arrest, we speculate this might be the bypass of SAC supervision.

## 281 **CONCLUSION**

282 In brief, our study highlights that OLA1 exhibits significant function in meiotic progression,  
283 especially in GVBD regulation. OLA1 also functions in spindle assembly and SAC activation.

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## 355 **Figure Legends**

356 **Figure 1 OLA1 localization and expression during mouse oocyte meiosis.** (A) Subcellular

357 localization pattern of OLA1 in mouse oocyte meiosis was explored by immunofluorescent

358 analysis. Samples were harvested at GV, GVBD, MI, and MII stage and then immunolabeled.

359 OLA1, red;  $\alpha$ -tubulin, green and Chromosome, blue. Scale bar, 10  $\mu$ m. (B) Subcellular expression

360 pattern of OLA1 in mouse oocyte meiosis was investigated by western blot analysis. Samples at

361 indicated stages were collected. (C) Confocal images of OLA1 signal in MI/MII oocytes after

362 treatment with nocodazole and recovery. OLA1, red;  $\alpha$ -tubulin, green and Chromosome, blue.

363 Scale bar, 10  $\mu$ m.

364 **Figure 2 Knockdown of OLA1 impairs GVBD leading to a decrease in PBE.** Fully grown

365 oocytes injected with OLA1 siRNA or control siRNA were arrested in M2 medium with IBMX

366 for 24 hours, then cultured in vitro for the continuous experiments. (A, B) Knockdown efficiency

367 of OLA1 after OLA1 siRNA was verified by western blot; (C, D) Oocytes after microinjection

368 were released into M16 medium for further culture. The GVBD rate in control group and OLA1

369 knockdown group were recorded at 2 h; The PBE rate in control group and OLA1 knockdown

370 group were recorded at 12 h; \* $p < 0.05$ . (E) PBE rate was characterized in meiosis resumed

371 oocytes in control and RNAi groups. 162 control oocytes and 182 OLA1-RNAi oocytes were

372 calculated.

373 **Figure 3 OLA1 knockdown leads to defects of spindle assembly and chromosome**

374 **alignment.** (A) Spindle morphology in control and OLA1-depletion oocytes after 6 h post-

375 GVBD culture.  $\alpha$ -tubulin, green; Chromosome, blue. Scale bar, 10  $\mu$ m; (B) Quantification of

376 aberrant spindles rate in control and OLA1-RNAi oocytes; (C) Quantification of misaligned

377 chromosomes rate in control and OLA1-RNAi oocytes. 88 control oocytes and 90 OLA1-RNAi  
378 oocytes were calculated in abnormal spindles and misaligned chromosomes. \* $p < 0.05$ .

379 **Figure 4 OLA1 knockdown accelerates the anaphase onset in mouse oocytes.** (A) Images  
380 exhibited different status of the first polar extraction in control and OLA1-depletion groups; (B)  
381 The spindle and chromosome morphologies in control and OLA1-knockdown oocytes after 6 h  
382 post-GVBD culture.  $\alpha$ -tubulin, green; Chromosome, blue. Scale bar, 10  $\mu\text{m}$ ; (C) Cell cycle  
383 analysis in control oocytes (n = 97) and OLA1-RNAi oocytes (n = 92) after 6 h post-GVBD  
384 culture. \* $p < 0.05$ .

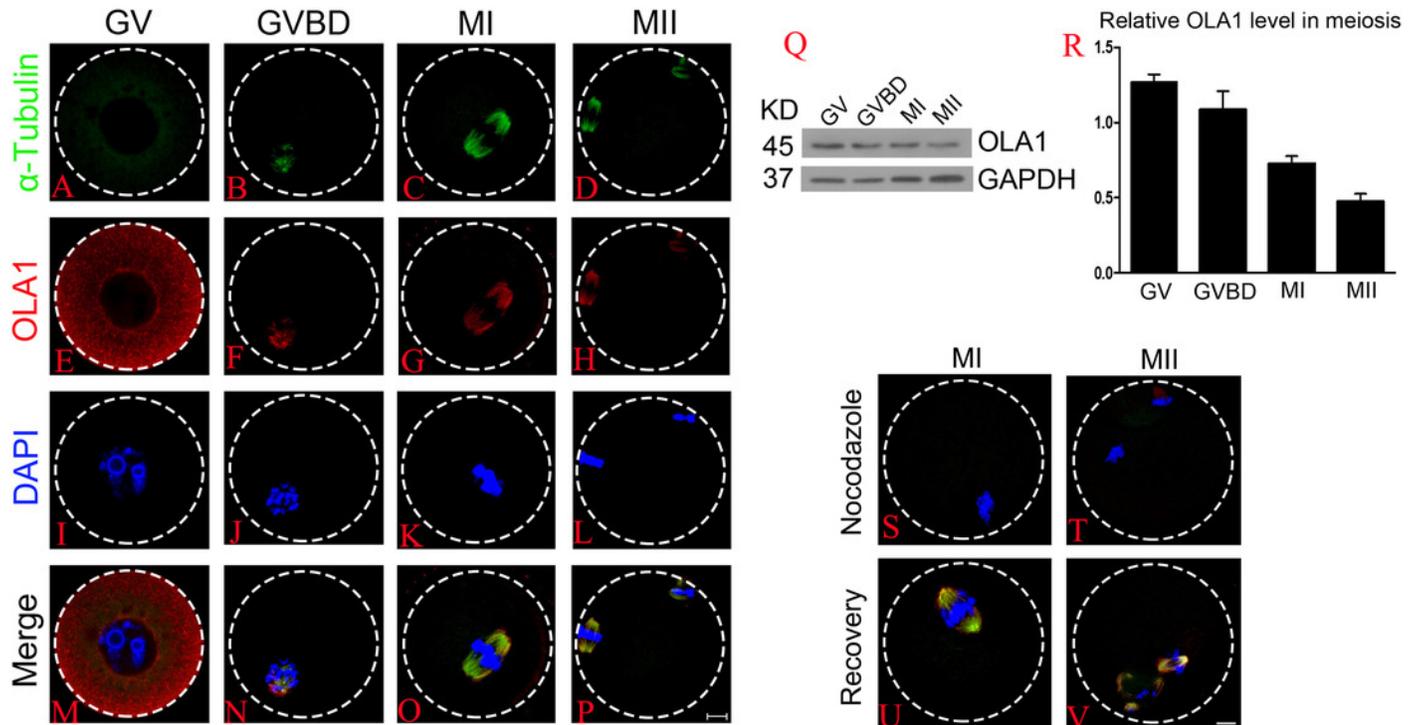
385 **Figure 5 OLA1 knockdown causes precocious inactivation of SAC.** The status of BubR1 at  
386 pre-MI stage from control and OLA1-knockdown oocytes. After knockdown, GV oocytes in  
387 control and OLA1-knockdown groups were released and cultured in pre-warmed M16 medium  
388 for 6.5 h, normally corresponding to Pre-MI stage. Then oocytes were collected for chromosome  
389 spreading and stained with BubR1. BubR1, green; Chromosome, Blue. Scale bar, 20  $\mu\text{m}$ .

390 **Figure 6 OLA1 knockdown increases the aneuploid rates.** (A) Confocal images of  
391 chromosome spread of MII oocytes. Control oocytes with a normal haploid complement of 20  
392 chromosomes, *OLA1* RNAi oocytes with 16 and 19 chromosomes. Chromosome, Blue. Scale  
393 bar, 5  $\mu\text{m}$ . (B) The aneuploid rates were recorded in control (N=19) and *OLA1* siRNA oocytes  
394 (N=22). \*  $p < 0.05$ .

395

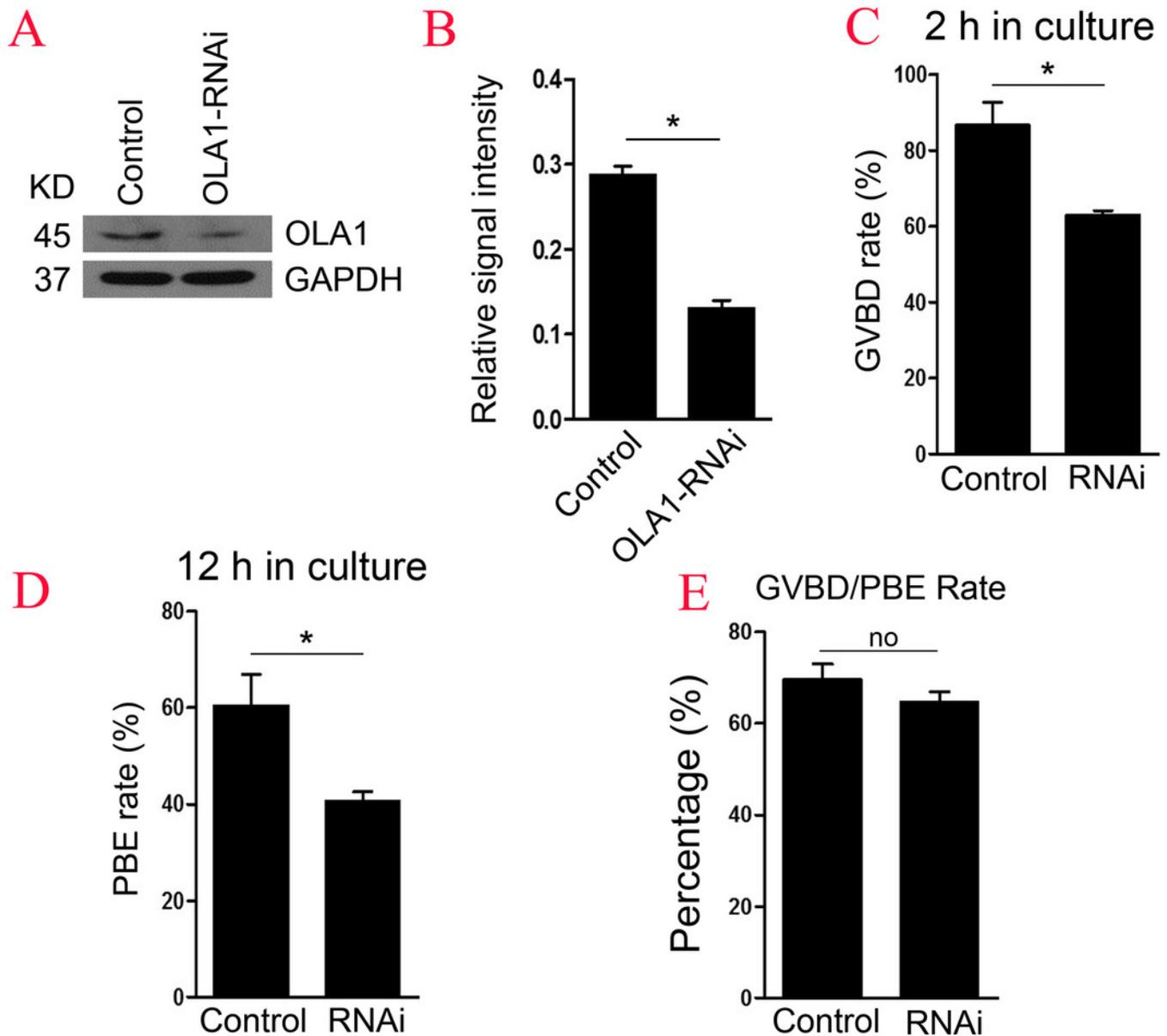
## Figure 1

Cellular localization and expression pattern of OLA1 in mouse oocyte meiosis



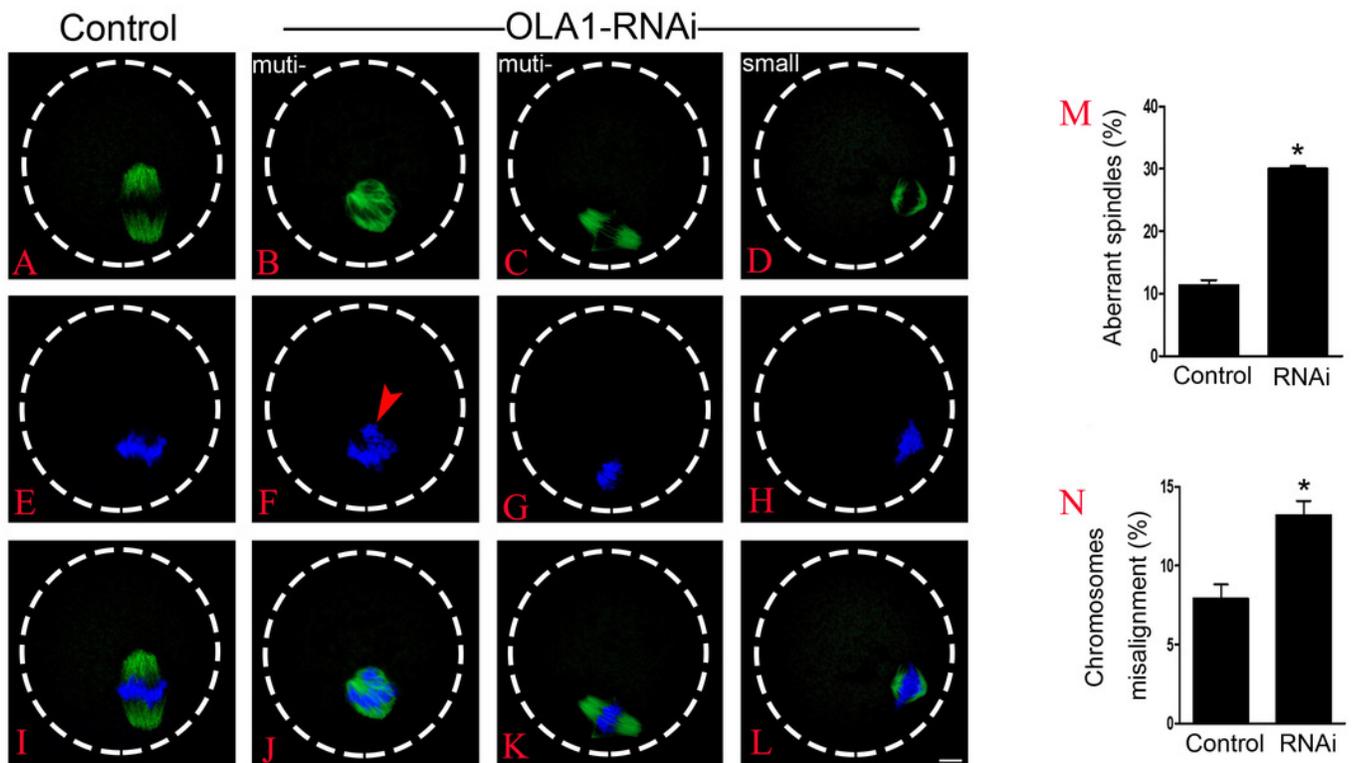
## Figure 2

Knockdown of OLA1 impairs GVBD leading to a decrease in PBE



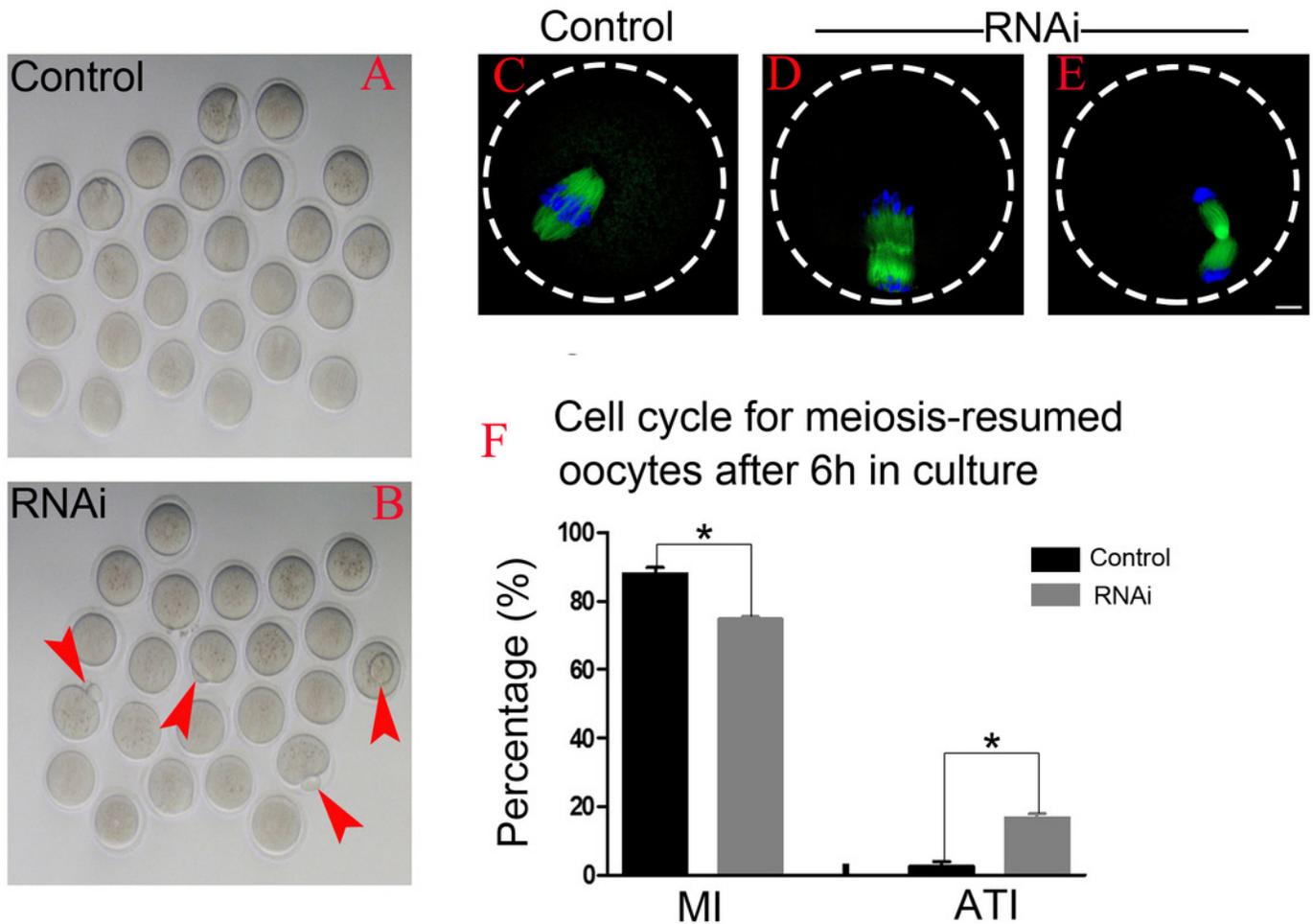
## Figure 3

*OLA1 is required for spindle assembly and chromosome alignment in mouse oocytes*



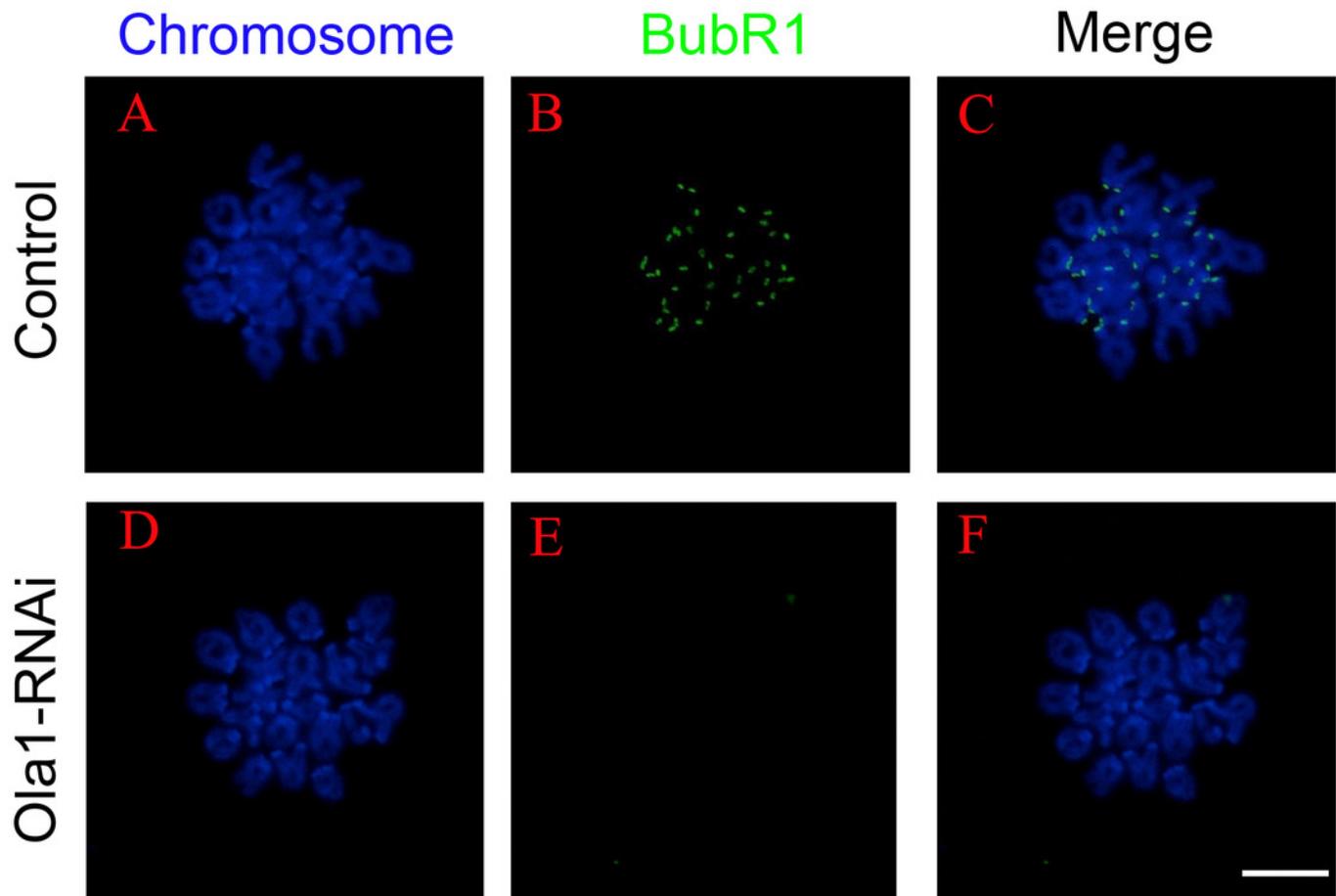
## Figure 4

*OLA1 knockdown accelerates the anaphase onset in mouse oocytes*



## Figure 5

*Ola1 knockdown causes inactivation of spindle assembly checkpoint*



## Figure 6

OLA1 knockdown promotes the aneuploid rate

