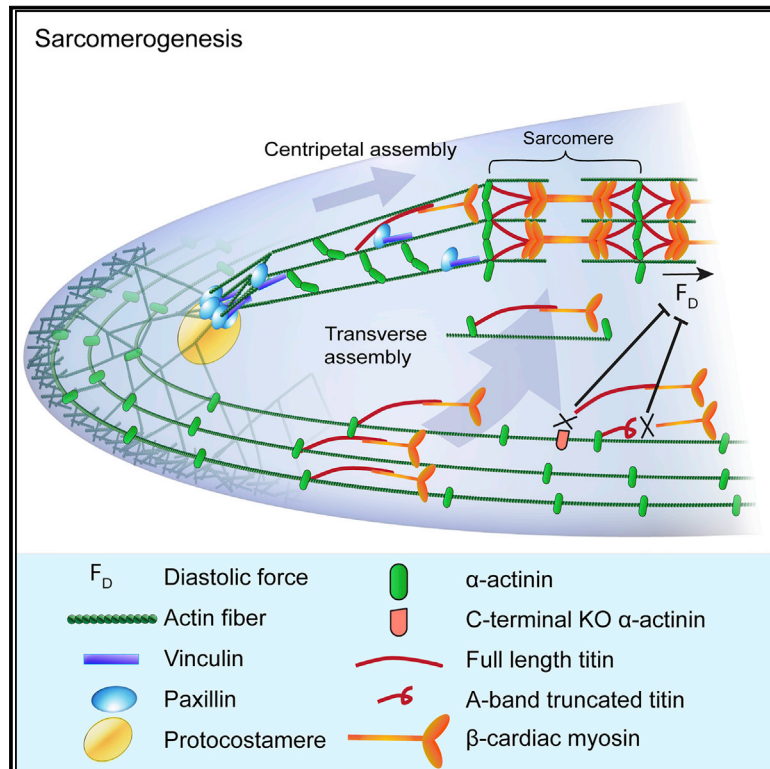


Force Generation via β -Cardiac Myosin, Titin, and α -Actinin Drives Cardiac Sarcomere Assembly from Cell-Matrix Adhesions

Graphical Abstract



Highlights

- Full-length titin is required to initiate sarcomerogenesis in human cardiomyocytes
- β -cardiac myosin (MHC- β)-generated tension drives cardiac sarcomerogenesis
- Protocostameres/cell-matrix adhesions are sites of sarcomere assembly initiation
- Titin couples MHC- β -generated tension to protocostameres to direct sarcomerogenesis

Authors

Anant Chopra, Matthew L. Kutys,
Kehan Zhang, ...,
Jonathan G. Seidman,
Christine E. Seidman,
Christopher S. Chen

Correspondence

travis.hinson@jax.org (J.T.H.),
seidman@genetics.med.harvard.edu
(J.G.S.),
cseidman@genetics.med.harvard.edu
(C.E.S.),
chencs@bu.edu (C.S.C.)

In Brief

Chopra, Kutys, Zhang, et al. identify that dilated cardiomyopathy-causing titin truncation mutations impair early-stage sarcomerogenesis in a model of dynamic human cardiac sarcomere assembly. This work uncovers fundamental mechanisms driving sarcomere assembly and reveals a critical role for titin in connecting β -cardiac myosin-generated tension to protocostameres to initiate sarcomerogenesis.

Force Generation via β -Cardiac Myosin, Titin, and α -Actinin Drives Cardiac Sarcomere Assembly from Cell-Matrix Adhesions

Anant Chopra,^{1,2,8} Matthew L. Kutys,^{1,2,8} Kehan Zhang,^{1,2,8} William J. Polacheck,^{1,2} Calvin C. Sheng,³ Rebecca J. Luu,¹ Jeroen Eyckmans,^{1,2} J. Travis Hinson,^{4,5,*} Jonathan G. Seidman,^{3,6,*} Christine E. Seidman,^{3,6,7,*} and Christopher S. Chen^{1,2,9,*}

¹Department of Biomedical Engineering, Boston University, Boston, MA 02215, USA

²The Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering at Harvard University, Boston, MA 02115, USA

³Department of Genetics, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA 02115, USA

⁴The Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine, Farmington, CT 06032, USA

⁵Cardiology Center, University of Connecticut Health, Farmington, CT 06030, USA

⁶Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA 02115, USA

⁷Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Chevy Chase, MD 20815, USA

⁸These authors contributed equally

⁹Lead Contact

*Correspondence: travis.hinson@jax.org (J.T.H.), seidman@genetics.med.harvard.edu (J.G.S.), cseidman@genetics.med.harvard.edu (C.E.S.), chencs@bu.edu (C.S.C.)

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SUMMARY

Truncating mutations in the sarcomere protein titin cause dilated cardiomyopathy due to sarcomere insufficiency. However, it remains mechanistically unclear how these mutations decrease sarcomere content in cardiomyocytes. Utilizing human induced pluripotent stem cell-derived cardiomyocytes, CRISPR/Cas9, and live microscopy, we characterize the fundamental mechanisms of human cardiac sarcomere formation. We observe that sarcomerogenesis initiates at protocostameres, sites of cell-extracellular matrix adhesion, where nucleation and centripetal assembly of α -actinin-2-containing fibers provide a template for the fusion of Z-disk precursors, Z bodies, and subsequent striation. We identify that β -cardiac myosin-titin-protocostamere form an essential mechanical connection that transmits forces required to direct α -actinin-2 centripetal fiber assembly and sarcomere formation. Titin propagates diastolic traction stresses from β -cardiac myosin, but not α -cardiac myosin or non-muscle myosin II, to protocostameres during sarcomerogenesis. Ablating protocostameres or decoupling titin from protocostameres abolishes sarcomere assembly. Together these results identify the mechanical and molecular components critical for human cardiac sarcomerogenesis.

INTRODUCTION

Mutations in a number of proteins associated with sarcomeres, the fundamental contractile unit of cardiac myocytes, lead to various forms of human cardiomyopathy (Fatkin et al., 2014;

Harvey and Leinwand, 2011). These cardiomyopathies are accompanied by changes in cardiomyocyte morphology and sarcomere content (Harvey and Leinwand, 2011; Kresh and Chopra, 2011). Therefore, it seems that the building of sarcomeres is critical to cardiomyocyte structural adaptation during both development and disease.

Our current understanding of sarcomere assembly is incomplete, based mostly on observations from immunohistochemistry analysis in vertebrate models of either cardiomyocytes or skeletal muscle cells with limited perturbations to critical sarcomeric protein components (Rhee et al., 1994; Sanger et al., 2009; Schulthess et al., 1990; White et al., 2014). Cardiomyocytes are thought to initiate myofibrillar assembly at the cell periphery from pre-myofibrils consisting of non-muscle myosin II (NMM II) and α -actinin-2 fibers, providing a template for subsequent recruitment of titin and α - and/or β -cardiac myosins to form mature myofibrils (Dabiri et al., 1997; Rhee et al., 1994). The observation that cardiac myofibrillar assembly begins at the cell periphery also has led to the hypothesis that protocostameres, sites of cell-extracellular matrix (ECM) adhesion that resemble focal adhesions, may be involved (Sparrow and Schock, 2009). Protocostameres share a similar molecular composition with classical focal adhesions and include proteins such as integrins, paxillin, vinculin, and focal adhesion kinase, and over time mature into specialized cell-ECM junctions, costameres, that overlap with the Z disks at the plasma membrane (Gehrmlich et al., 2007). In addition, the role of myosin-generated force is increasingly being recognized as essential for myofibrillar assembly in both skeletal and cardiac muscles *in vivo* and *in vitro* (Geach et al., 2015; Majkut et al., 2013; Weitkunat et al., 2014). However, it remains controversial what role specific myosins, or other sarcomeric components such as titin, play in initiating the sarcomere assembly process (Dabiri et al., 1997; Myhre et al., 2014; Tullio et al., 1997).

To date, studies describing the process of sarcomerogenesis have been limited to non-human cardiomyocytes. Cardiomyocytes sourced from such vertebrates, like human



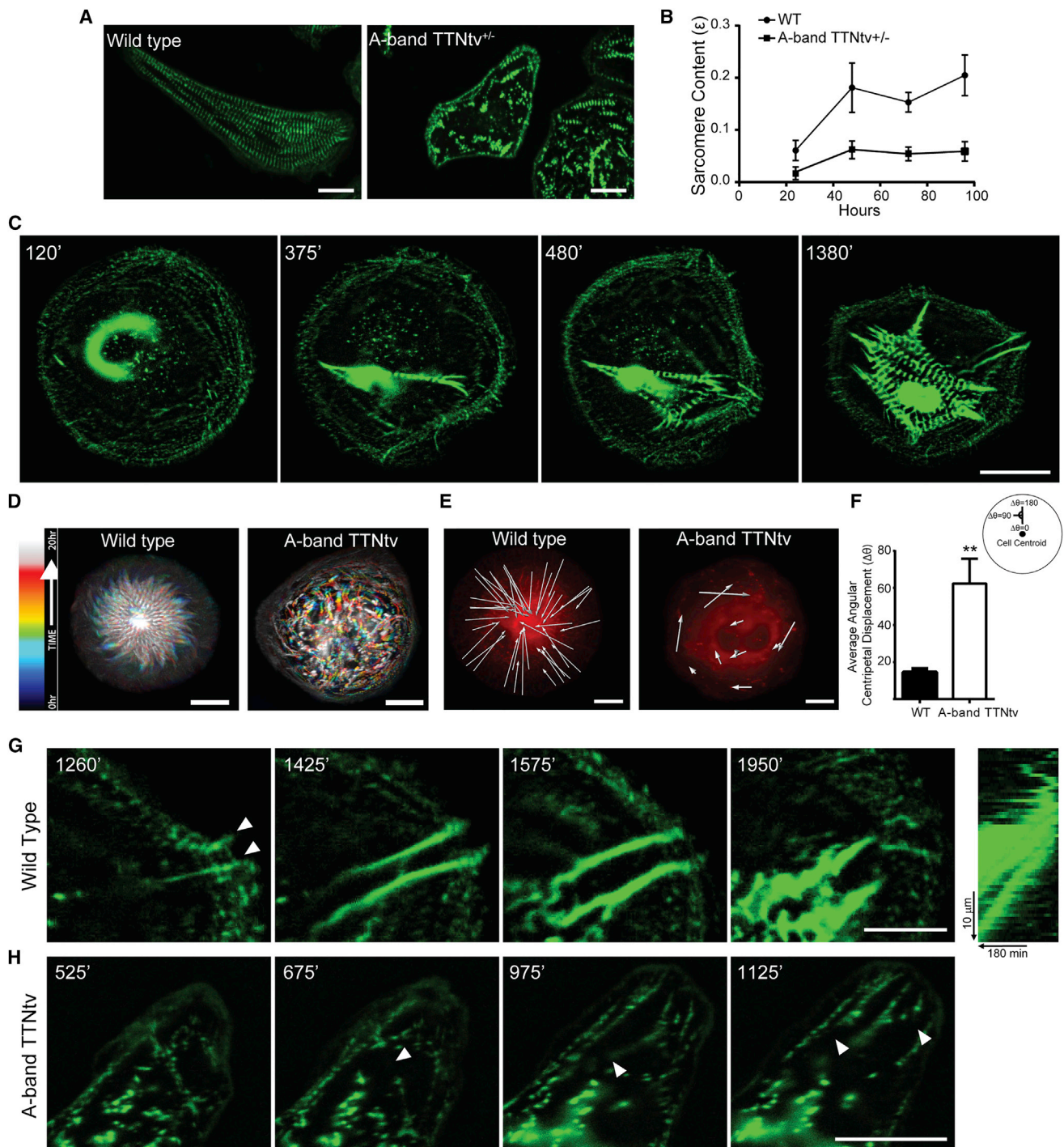


Figure 1. TTNtv leads to sarcomere insufficiency due to impaired sarcomerogenesis

(A) Immunostaining for Z-disk protein α -actinin-2 (green) shows decreased striation in heterozygous A-band TTNtv mutant cells compared with wild-type (WT); representative images of cells fixed and stained for actinin after 96 hr of culture are shown. Scale bars, 20 μ m.

(B) Quantification of average sarcomere content in A-band TTNtv^{+/-} and WT cells over time; $n \geq 8$ WT cells, $n \geq 9$ A-band TTNtv^{+/-} cells for each time point, across three independent experiments; mean \pm SEM.

(C) Time-lapse images of GFP-actinin stably expressed in WT cells shows *de novo* sarcomerogenesis. Left to right, initial appearance of centripetal actinin fibers at the cell periphery leads to formation of sarcomeres and progresses with expansion of striation throughout the cell. Scale bar, 20 μ m.

(D) Temporal color-coded hyperstack of representative sarcomere assembly time-lapse images showing the emergence of patterned myofibrils in WT cells and an absence in A-band TTNtv cells. Scale bars, 20 μ m.

(E) Representative displacement vectors, indicated by white arrows, of actinin puncta over time in WT and A-band TTNtv cells. Scale bars, 10 μ m.

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cardiomyocytes, have limited or no proliferative potential and therefore are not readily amenable to the genetic manipulation and long-term culture needed to interrogate individual molecular contributions to the process of sarcomerogenesis. In addition, in the context of understanding human cardiomyopathies, it is attractive to have a human cell model to study the mechanisms of sarcomerogenesis. Advances in genome engineering technologies and induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC)-derived cardiomyocyte differentiation protocols have provided a new source of human cardiomyocytes that have recently been used to model normal cells and various cardiomyopathies *in vitro* (Birket et al., 2015; Chong et al., 2014; Hinson et al., 2015; Kodo et al., 2016; Lundy et al., 2013; Sun et al., 2012; Wang et al., 2014). These iPSC-derived cardiomyocytes (iPSC-CMs) express a similar RNA profile to that of embryonic day 14.5–18.5 mice, a developmental time when cardiac myofibrillar assembly is most active (DeLaughter et al., 2016; Kuppusamy et al., 2015). Thus, iPSC-CMs offer the potential to model cardiac sarcomere assembly and reveal its underlying mechanisms.

We have recently shown that human iPSC-CMs reprogrammed from dilated cardiomyopathy patients harboring heterozygous truncating mutations in the giant sarcomere protein titin, considered to be the molecular ruler for defining the length of mature sarcomeres (Anderson and Granzier, 2012), exhibit compromised contractile activity due to sarcomere insufficiency, which could be a direct result of the mutant cells' inability to assemble sarcomeres or the instability of the existing sarcomeres (Herman et al., 2012; Hinson et al., 2015; Lundy et al., 2013). Others have similarly reported loss of sarcomeres in vertebrate models harboring titin truncations (Gotthardt et al., 2003) and in titin-depleted muscle cells (Miller et al., 2003; Persson et al., 2000). However, despite such evidence, it remains unclear how titin truncations disrupt sarcomere assembly or stability to cause decreased sarcomere content.

In this work, we combine human iPSC-CMs, CRISPR/Cas9, and live microscopy technologies to develop a model of *de novo* human cardiac sarcomerogenesis and uncover that titin-truncating mutations lead to impairment of sarcomere formation and subsequent myofibrillar assembly in human cardiomyocytes. Furthermore, we delve into the fundamental mechanics of the sarcomere assembly process, elucidating key mechanical and molecular players critical for generating sarcomeres in human cardiac cells. We report that (1) the presence of full-length titin is necessary to generate the basal cardiomyocyte tension that is required to initiate sarcomere assembly from the cell periphery, (2) in contrast to previous findings, β -cardiac myosin, but not NMM II, generates the required basal tension to direct sarcomere assembly, and (3) protocostameres are the sites of initiation for sarcomere assembly, and the coupling of titin to protocostameres is critical to drive assembly.

RESULTS

De Novo Sarcomere Assembly Is Impaired in Cardiomyocytes with Titin Truncations

Sarcomeres are rapidly disassembled when cardiomyocytes are detached from the ECM and held in suspension (Figure S1A). Therefore, to examine the influence of mutations that truncate titin (TTNtv) on sarcomere assembly over time, we suspended and then replated heterozygous A-band TTNtv cardiomyocytes (Figure S1B) to trigger new sarcomere assembly and immunostained at different time points for cardiac α -actinin-2, subsequently referred to as actinin, a primary Z-disk component of sarcomeres. Quantification of sarcomere content revealed not only decreased endpoint sarcomere content (Figure 1A) but also consistently reduced sarcomere content over a 96 hr time course of assembly (Figure 1B), suggesting that TTNtv indeed leads to defects in sarcomere assembly or stability.

To address whether TTNtv affected sarcomere stability or assembly, we generated cardiomyocytes that stably express fluorescently labeled actinin to monitor assembly dynamics in real time. Because cell geometry can affect the organization of sarcomeres (Bray et al., 2008), we plated cells onto isotropic circular ECM patterns to consistently quantify sarcomere assembly without confounding cell shape effects. Time-lapse imaging of sarcomerogenesis visualized via actinin in wild-type cardiomyocytes revealed the dynamics of how sarcomeres form (Figure 1C; Movie S1). We observed that sarcomerogenesis was driven by two distinct flow patterns of actinin, which emanated from the cell periphery and processed toward the cell interior where sarcomere compaction occurred. Centripetal actinin fibers nucleated at sites resembling protocostameres and registered the initial template fibers for Z-body fusion (Figures 1C and 1G, arrowheads; Movie S1). Transverse actinin flow, resembling classical actin retrograde flow (Gardel et al., 2008; Tee et al., 2015), led to expansion and fusion of actinin into Z bodies and their incorporation into existing centripetal actinin fibers (Figure S1C; Movie S1). Over time, sarcomere units formed myofibril bundles, which compacted and stabilized in the cell interior, permitting further Z-body formation and fusion at the periphery (Figures 1C and 1D, Movie S1). Although more difficult to quantify, the observed coordination of actinin fiber formation and transverse flow leading to sarcomere assembly proceeded similarly on anisotropic rectangular substrates (Movies S2 and S3) and on substrates of physiologically relevant stiffness (4 kPa) (Movie S3) as well as in 3D cardiac tissues (Movie S4, Figure S1E), on unpatterned substrates, and on other geometrical shapes (Figure S1D).

Having established the capacity to monitor sarcomere assembly dynamics in living cells, we investigated the effects of the predominant pathogenic TTNtv mutation in the myosin-binding A-band region (Herman et al., 2012; Hinson et al., 2015), except where indicated homozygous TTNtv cells are reported.

(F) Quantification of angular centripetal displacement of actinin puncta toward the cell centroid in WT and TTNtv cells. $n = 2,256$ tracked actinin particles across five WT and $n = 1,683$ actinin particles across five TTNtv cells, across three independent experiments; mean \pm SEM; t test, ** $p < 0.01$.

(G) Representative time-lapse images of actinin puncta in WT cells forming centripetal actinin fibers. Arrowheads indicate the emanation of actinin puncta from cell adhesion sites. Scale bar, 20 μ m.

(H) Representative time-lapse images of actinin puncta in TTNtv cells. Arrowheads indicate the rupturing events of existing actinin fibers at the cell edge. Scale bar, 20 μ m. See also Figure S1.

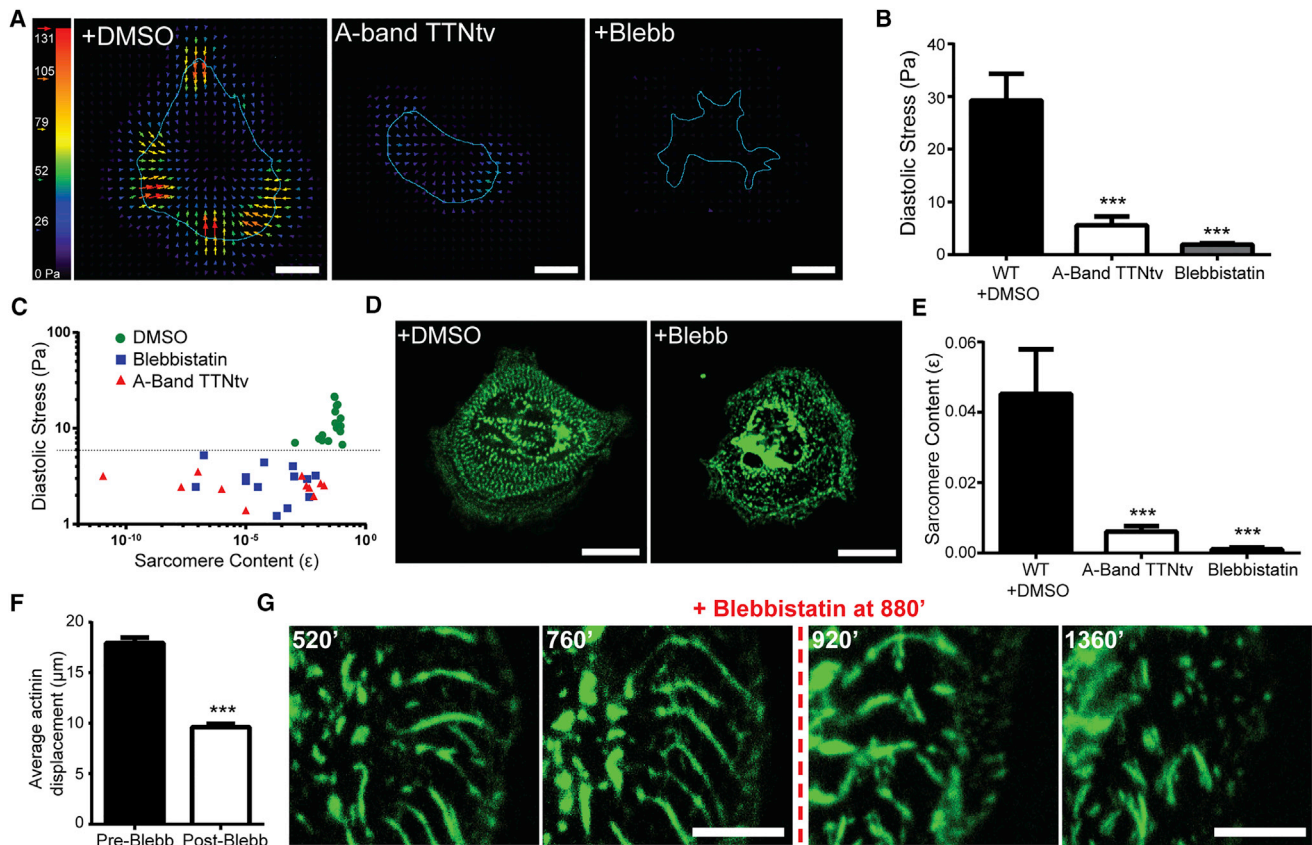


Figure 2. Titin- and Myosin-Dependent Basal Force Generation Is Essential for Sarcomerogenesis

(A) Representative traction force microscopy stress maps of wild-type (WT), A-band TTNtv, and myosin ATPase inhibitor blebbistatin-treated cells. Scale bars, 20 μm .

(B) Average root-mean-square (RMS) diastolic traction stress (Pa) in WT with DMSO, A-band TTNtv, and 50 μM blebbistatin-treated cells. $n = 20$ WT cells, $n = 15$ A-band TTNtv cells, $n = 20$ blebbistatin-treated cells, across three independent experiments; mean \pm SEM; one-way ANOVA with Bonferroni multiple comparison, *** $p < 0.0005$.

(C) Logarithmic plot of RMS diastolic traction stress (Pa) versus sarcomere content for WT, A-band TTNtv, and blebbistatin-treated cells. Each data point represents the sarcomere content and RMS diastolic traction stress exerted by the same cell. $n = 17$ WT cells, $n = 11$ A-band TTNtv cells, and $n = 16$ blebbistatin-treated cells, across three independent experiments.

(D) Representative image of WT cells stably expressing mApple-actinin treated with DMSO or 50 μM blebbistatin. Scale bars, 20 μm .

(E) Quantification of sarcomere content comparing WT with DMSO to A-band TTNtv and blebbistatin-treated cells. $n = 20$ WT cells, $n = 15$ A-band TTNtv cells, and $n = 20$ blebbistatin-treated cells, across three independent experiments; mean \pm SEM; one-way ANOVA with Bonferroni multiple comparison, *** $p < 0.0005$.

(F) Quantitative comparison of average total actinin puncta displacement before and after blebbistatin treatment of the same cells. $n = 1,034$ pre-blebbistatin and $n = 934$ post-blebbistatin actinin particles from five cells, across three independent experiments; mean \pm SEM; t test, *** $p < 0.0005$.

(G) Representative time-lapse images of mApple-actinin-expressing WT cell before and after blebbistatin treatment, indicating the disruption of existing centripetal actinin fibers and inhibition of sarcomerogenesis. Scale bars, 20 μm .

Visualizing actinin in cardiomyocytes containing A-band TTNtv revealed a breakdown of sarcomerogenesis, with a complete loss of coordinated movements of actinin puncta, centripetal fiber nucleation, Z-body fusion, and myofibril compaction (Figures 1D–1H, Movie S5). Similarly sarcomere assembly was significantly impaired, although to a slightly lesser extent, in heterozygous A-band TTNtv cardiomyocytes (Movie S6). Particle tracking of actinin puncta showed coordinated procession toward the cell center in wild-type cardiomyocytes (Figures 1E–1G), whereas in A-band TTNtv cells, actinin movement had decreased centripetal persistence (Figures 1E, 1F, and 1H). Although disoriented formations of centripetal actinin fibers were occasionally observed in A-band TTNtv mutant cardiomyocytes, their existence was transient, with frequent rupturing events (Figure 1H,

arrows; Movie S3). Thus, truncations of the A band result in a loss of directional actinin flow, centripetal fiber nucleation, Z-body fusion, and myofibril compaction, suggesting that titin is critical for the initial stages of sarcomere assembly.

Titin- and Myosin-Dependent Basal Force Generation Is Required for Sarcomerogenesis

Sarcomere remodeling during heart development and disease is accompanied by changes in cardiomyocyte force generation (Kresh and Chopra, 2011). Cardiomyocytes exert two contractile tensions, active/systolic and resting/diastolic tension. Previously, we demonstrated a deficit in systolic tension in I- or A-band TTNtv (Hinson et al., 2015), but the impact of titin truncation on diastolic tension generation and its role during

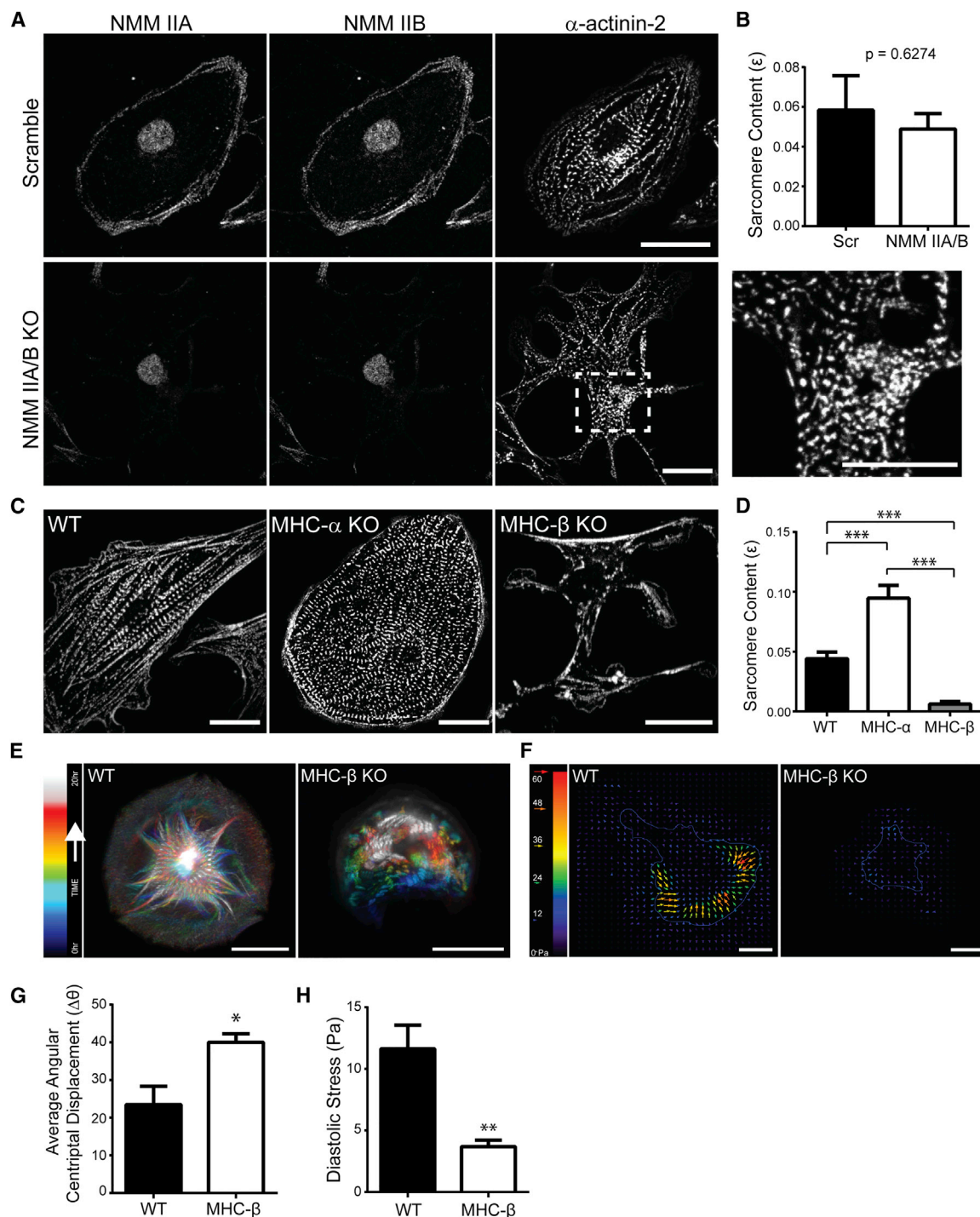


Figure 3. β -Cardiac Myosin-Generated Forces Drive Sarcomere Assembly

(A) Top and bottom (left to right), representative images of scramble (Scr) control cells and non-muscle myosin (NMM) IIA/B knockout cells stained for NMM IIA, NMM IIB, and actinin. (Inset) The presence of striated myofibrils in NMM IIA/B knockout cells. Scale bars, 20 μ m.

(B) Quantification of sarcomere content comparing Scr and NMM IIA/B dual-knockout (KO) cells. $n = 8$ Scr cells, $n = 6$ NMM IIA/B KO cells, across three independent experiments; mean \pm SEM; t test.

(C) Representative images of wild-type (WT) and myosin heavy chain MHC- α and MHC- β KO cells stained for actinin. Scale bars, 20 μ m.

(D) Quantification of sarcomere content comparing WT, MHC- α KO, and MHC- β KO cells. $n = 18$ WT cells, $n = 25$ MHC- β KO cells, and $n = 19$ MHC- α KO cells, across three independent experiments; mean \pm SEM; one-way ANOVA with Bonferroni multiple comparison, *** $p < 0.0005$.

(E) Temporal color-coded hyperstack of representative sarcomere assembly time-lapse images of WT and MHC- β KO cells stably expressing mApple-actinin shows the formation of patterned myofibrils in WT and an absence in MHC- β KO cells. Scale bars, 20 μ m.

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sarcomerogenesis remain unexplored. Surprisingly, computation of diastolic stresses using traction force microscopy (TFM) revealed a dramatic decrease in diastolic traction stresses in A-band TTNtv cardiomyocytes (Figures 2A and 2B). Since titin normally links myosin to actinin, and A-band TTNtv eliminate this coupling, we asked whether this myosin-generated contractility was important for sarcomere assembly. Treatment of wild-type cardiomyocytes with the myosin ATPase inhibitor blebbistatin decreased diastolic traction stresses and decreased endpoint sarcomere content (Figures 2A–2E). Comparing the levels of diastolic force generation with sarcomere content across wild-type, TTNtv, and blebbistatin conditions suggested that a basal level of tension is required to efficiently initiate and assemble sarcomeres (Figure 2C).

Interestingly, quantification of mApple-tagged actinin dynamics revealed that blocking myosin activity resulted in abrogation of directed actinin flow and myofibrillar assembly (Figures 2D–2F; Movie S2). Time-lapse imaging of cardiomyocytes before and after addition of blebbistatin revealed that existing centripetal actinin fibers were acutely disrupted and formation of nascent centripetal fibers was prevented (Figure 2G; Movie S2). Together, these data indicate that transmission of myosin-generated contractility is required to initiate and maintain the process of actinin centripetal flow and sarcomere assembly.

β -Cardiac Myosin-Generated Forces Drive Sarcomere Assembly Independent of Non-muscle Myosin II

While blebbistatin abrogated the earliest stages of sarcomerogenesis, it remained unclear which of the specific myosins are involved. Human cardiomyocytes express NMM IIA and IIB and α - and β -cardiac myosin (MHC) isoforms (Figures S2A–S2C), all of which are inhibited by blebbistatin (Limouze et al., 2004; Straight et al., 2003). Immunofluorescence localization during sarcomere assembly revealed that NMM IIA and IIB were restricted to the cell periphery (Figures 3A, S2B, and S2C), whereas the localization of MHC was distributed, with a concentration in the cell center and extensions to the cell periphery (Figure S2B). Using CRISPR/Cas9-mediated genetic ablation, we individually knocked out NMM IIA or IIB and observed no defects in sarcomere assembly or content (Figures S2A and S2C). To account for any functional redundancy between the two isoforms, we generated cardiomyocytes with a dual knockout of NMM IIA and IIB. Surprisingly, loss of both NMM IIA and IIB also did not significantly impair sarcomere assembly or content (Figures 3A and 3B) compared with control, but did drastically alter cardiomyocyte morphology, consistent with their known role in cortical stability (Vicente-Manzanares et al., 2007). These results indicate that NMM IIA and IIB are not required for cardiomyocyte sarcomerogenesis but do contribute to the maintenance of overall cardiomyocyte morphology, as was previously identified in NMM IIB-null mice (Tullio et al., 1997).

We next investigated the roles of MHC- α and MHC- β , which are regulated during cardiac development and disease (Lyons

et al., 1990), but their contributions to sarcomerogenesis remain unestablished. Using CRISPR/Cas9-mediated genetic ablation, we individually knocked out MHC- α or MHC- β in cardiomyocytes. Deletion of MHC- α did not impair sarcomere assembly or content in comparison with control cardiomyocytes (Figures 3C and 3D). However, ablation of MHC- β significantly inhibited both sarcomere assembly and content (Figures 3C, 3D, and S2D). Quantification of actinin dynamics and sarcomere assembly in MHC- β knockouts revealed decreased persistence of actinin flow and nearly complete loss of centripetal actinin fiber nucleation (Figures 3E and 3G, Movie S7), similar to what was observed for blebbistatin-treated and A-band TTNtv mutant cardiomyocytes. We also noted by TFM analysis that MHC- β was responsible for generating the basal diastolic tension we previously identified as critical for initiating and propagating sarcomere assembly (Figures 3F and 3H). Taken together, these results indicate that MHC- β is the critical myosin motor that generates the tension propagated through titin to drive sarcomerogenesis.

Titin Is a Critical Mechanical Link between Protocostameres and β -Cardiac Myosin-Generated Forces to Drive Sarcomere Assembly

Sarcomere assembly, while dependent on myosin-generated forces, appeared to initiate at centripetal actinin fibers emanating from peripheral sites that resembled sites of cell-matrix adhesion, protocostameres. Given the similarities in structure and function of protocostameres and focal adhesions, and the shared dependency on force for sarcomere assembly observed here and for focal adhesion assembly (Burrage and Guilly, 2016), we investigated whether protocostameres were integral to sarcomerogenesis. Cardiomyocytes expressing tagged actinin were fixed during assembly and stained for paxillin. We observed a distinct co-localization of paxillin-containing protocostameres at distal origins of centripetal actinin fibers (Figure 4A), suggesting that protocostameres are the anchoring points for centripetal fiber nucleation. Indeed, time-lapse imaging of cells expressing tagged forms of both paxillin and actinin revealed dynamic coordination and co-localization of centripetal fiber formation and protocostameres (Movie S8). A similar localization of paxillin-containing protocostameres was observed in cardiomyocytes in 3D extracellular matrices (Figure S3D). We observed co-localization of MHC- β , but not NMM IIA/B, with actinin and paxillin at sites of centripetal fiber formation (Figure S3B). In addition, immunostaining for paxillin in A-band TTNtv and MHC- β knockout cardiomyocytes showed a reduction in total protocostamere area (Figures 4A–4C and S2D), commensurate with the lower diastolic forces observed in these cells (Figures 2A, 2B, 3F, and 3H). Taken together, these results suggest that the formation of protocostameres requires the coupling of MHC- β force generation through titin and that these protocostameres may contribute to sarcomerogenesis.

(F) Representative stress maps of WT and MHC- β KO cells. Scale bars, 20 μ m.

(G) Quantification of angular centripetal displacement of actinin puncta toward the cell centroid in WT and MHC- β KO cells. $n = 1,184$ tracked actinin particles across four WT cells and $n = 962$ particles across five MHC- β KO cells, across three independent experiments; mean \pm SEM; t test, * $p < 0.05$.

(H) Average root-mean-square (RMS) diastolic traction stress (Pa) in WT and MHC- β KO cells. $n = 15$ WT cells and $n = 11$ MHC- β KO cells, across three independent experiments; mean \pm SEM; t test, ** $p < 0.01$. See also Figure S2.

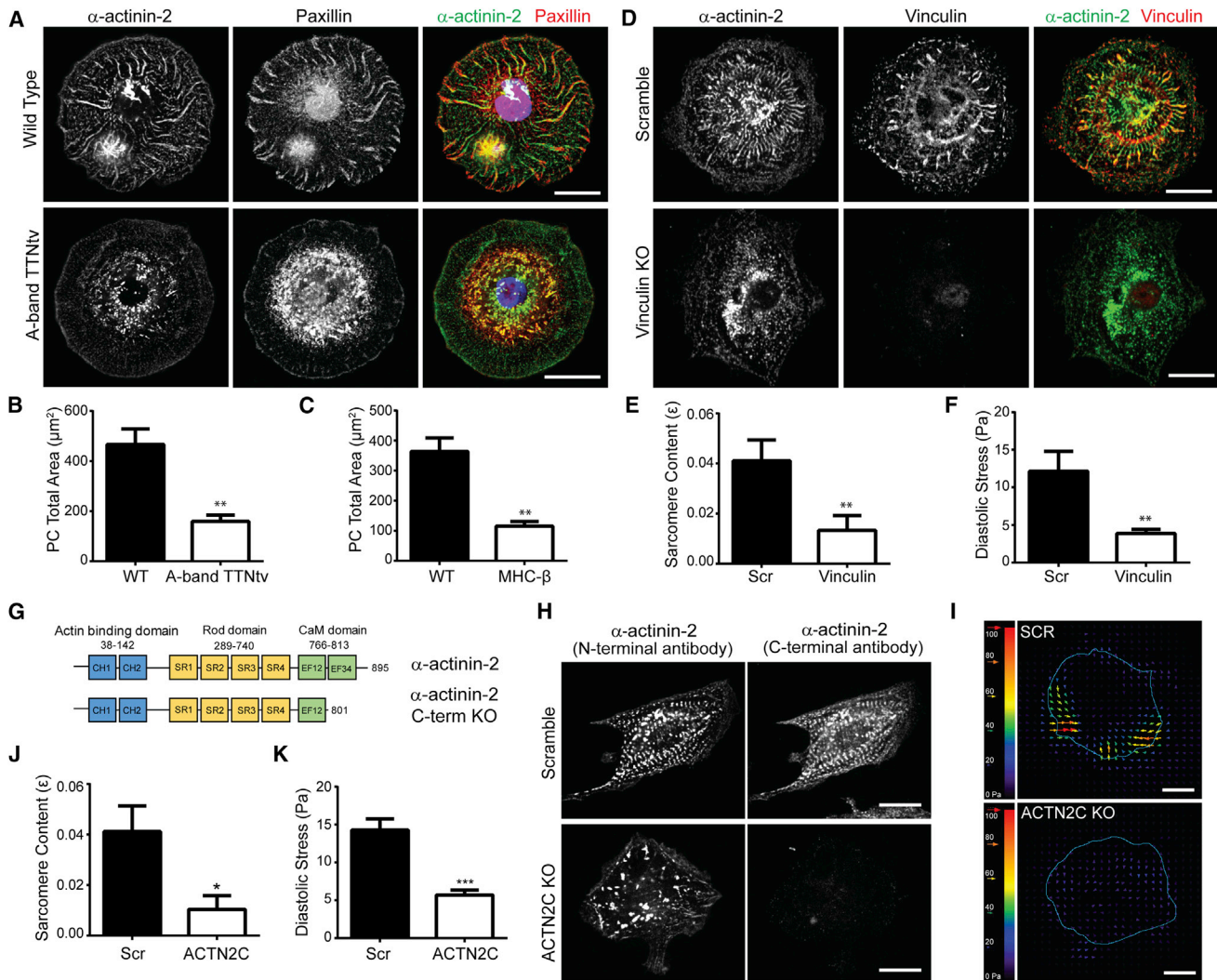


Figure 4. Titin Is a Critical Mechanical Link between Protocostameres and Myosin-Generated Forces to Drive the Sarcomere Assembly

(A) Top and bottom (left to right): representative images of the basal surface of cells during nascent centripetal fiber formation stained for actinin (green) and paxillin (red) in wild-type (WT) and A-band TTNtv cells; merge shows nuclear stain with DAPI in blue. Scale bars, 20 μm .

(B and C) Quantitative bar graph comparisons of average total protocostamere (PC) area present in (B) WT versus A-band TTNtv cells and (C) WT versus MHC- β knockout (KO) cells. $n = 21$ WT cells, $n = 16$ A-band TTNtv cells and $n = 34$ WT cells in (B), $n = 34$ cells MHC- β KO cells in (C), across three independent experiments; mean \pm SEM; t tests, $**p < 0.01$.

(D) Top and bottom (left to right): representative images of cells stained for actinin (green) and vinculin (red) in scramble control and vinculin KO cells. Scale bars, 20 μm .

(E) Quantitative bar graph comparing the sarcomere content in scramble and vinculin KO cells. $n = 11$ scramble cells, $n = 8$ vinculin KO cells, across three independent experiments; mean \pm SEM; t test, $**p < 0.01$.

(F) Average root-mean-square (RMS) diastolic traction stress (Pa) in scramble and vinculin KO cells. $n = 12$ scramble cells, $n = 13$ vinculin KO cells, across three independent experiments; mean \pm SEM; t test, $**p < 0.01$.

(G) Diagram showing the CRISPR-mediated C-terminal actinin truncation of the titin-binding domain. CaM, calmodulin.

(H) Top and bottom (left to right): representative images of cells stained for N-terminal actinin and C-terminal actinin in scramble and actinin C-terminal KO cells. Scale bars, 20 μm .

(I) Representative stress maps of scramble and ACTN2-C KO cells. Scale bars, 20 μm .

(J) Quantification of sarcomere content comparing WT and ACTN2-C KO cells. $n = 10$ scramble cells, $n = 16$ ACTN2-C KO cells, across three independent experiments; mean \pm SEM; t test, $*p < 0.05$.

(K) Average RMS diastolic traction stress (Pa) in scramble (Scr) and ACTN2-C KO cells. $n = 15$ Scr cells and $n = 12$ ACTN2-C KO cells, across three independent experiments; mean \pm SEM; t test, $***p < 0.0005$. See also Figure S3.

To test whether global disruption of protocostameres impaired sarcomerogenesis, we used CRISPR/Cas9 to deplete vinculin, a mechanosensitive scaffolding protein that is critical for focal

adhesion maturation (Grashoff et al., 2010; Humphries et al., 2007), links actinin to protocostameres in cardiomyocytes (Lu et al., 1992; Zemljic-Harpf et al., 2007), and is a genetic cause

of cardiomyopathy (Harvey and Leinwand, 2011) (Figures 4D and S3A). Indeed, knockout of vinculin resulted in a loss of sarcomere content (Figure 4E). Imaging of actinin dynamics in vinculin knockout cells revealed a loss of centripetal fiber nucleation, similar to A-band TTNv and MHC- β knockout cardiomyocytes (Movie S9). A loss in diastolic traction stress was also observed with vinculin depletion (Figures 4F and S3C). These results suggest that protocostameres are critical nucleation sites for sarcomerogenesis that provide mechanical resistance against MHC- β -generated forces required to drive centripetal actinin fiber formation.

We next tested whether titin is the molecular link that couples MHC- β force generation to protocostamere-anchored actinin polymerization. To decouple titin binding from protocostameres, we used CRISPR/Cas9 genomic editing to truncate actinin at the C-terminal titin-binding EF3/4 domain (Ribeiro Ede et al., 2014; Young and Gautel, 2000) in cardiomyocytes (denoted ACTN2-C) (Figures 4G, 4H, and S3A). While actinin localized to protocostameres, we observed a significant loss in sarcomere content in ACTN2-C cardiomyocytes similar to that observed for A-band TTNv and MHC- β knockout cells (Figures 4H and 4J). Similarly, assembly dynamics were impaired due to the inability to form stable centripetal actinin fibers (Movie S10). Diastolic traction stresses exerted by ACTN2-C cells were significantly lower than controls, comparable with A-band TTNv and MHC- β knockout cells (Figures 4I and 4K). Taken together, these results suggest that titin forms an essential mechanical connection between the force-generating MHC- β and the protocostamere-actinin (Z-body) complex during sarcomerogenesis. This mechanical connection provides the force transmission needed to promote and direct centripetal actinin fiber nucleation and assembly from protocostameres, ultimately leading to Z-body fusion and striation.

DISCUSSION

Earlier studies of cardiac myofibrillar assembly used non-human (Dabiri et al., 1997; Ehler et al., 1999; Ferrari et al., 1998; Gerull et al., 2002; Schultheiss et al., 1990; Tokuyasu and Maher, 1987; Tullio et al., 1997; van der Ven et al., 2000) or non-cardiac cell (Hill et al., 1986; Miller et al., 2003; Sanger et al., 2009; White et al., 2014) models wherein *de novo* sarcomere assembly dynamics have not been easily observed. Here, we use live imaging of genetically modified human stem cell-derived cardiomyocytes to demonstrate that sarcomere assembly is a highly dynamic and coordinated process. While recognizing that iPSC-CMs have limitations and cannot fully recapitulate *in vivo* processes, the immaturity of these cells is particularly suited to studying the embryonic process of sarcomere formation (DeLaughter et al., 2016; Kuppusamy et al., 2015). We identify that nucleation and centripetal assembly of actinin fibers at protocostameres is a primary, critical step in sarcomerogenesis. Interestingly, similar tension-bearing centripetal fiber-like structures containing skeletal muscle myosin have been observed in an *in vivo Drosophila* flight muscle model before the appearance of mature striated myofibrils (Weitkunat et al., 2014). Previous studies, including our publications, have speculated that A-band truncations of titin result in sarcomere insufficiency in part through changes in signal transduction (Gerull et al., 2002; Hinson et al., 2015;

Musa et al., 2006; van der Ven et al., 2000). Here, our findings suggest that A-band TTNts impair sarcomerogenesis specifically by disrupting mechanical force transmission from myosin, through titin and actinin, to protocostameres. This mechanical model of centripetal assembly provides a new starting point to better understand the sarcomere assembly process.

The role of specific myosins during sarcomere assembly has until now remained unclear (Dabiri et al., 1997; Tullio et al., 1997). Previous studies altering substrate stiffness and utilizing blebbistatin have indirectly alluded to NMM II as being the primary motor responsible for early-stage sarcomerogenesis, but this attribution has not been genetically demonstrated (Chopra et al., 2011; Majkut et al., 2013; Ribeiro et al., 2015). In contrast to these studies, using CRISPR-mediated genomic deletion in a model of *de novo* sarcomere assembly, we show for the first time that MHC- β , but not NMM II or MHC- α , is the key myosin that generates force critical for sarcomere assembly. Importantly, this finding sheds mechanistic insight on the fact that nearly all pathogenic myosin mutations are in MHC- β and that these mutations encode missense residues (Fatkin et al., 2014). Based on these studies, we suggest that there is substantial evolutionary constraint against MHC- β truncations, unlike other sarcomere proteins. Interestingly, while we identify that NMM II is dispensable for sarcomerogenesis, we identify a clear function in regulating cardiomyocyte morphology and cortical stability.

By disrupting the connection to MHC- β force generation (TTNv) or to protocostameres (ACTN2-C), we identify that titin provides a critical, bidirectional mechanical link between MHC- β and protocostameres to drive sarcomere assembly. Consistent with our results, knocking out vinculin in mouse embryos was also shown to form a non-beating cardiac region without any apparent sarcomeric structures (Xu et al., 1998). Importantly, the identified mechanism offers new possibilities into how physical changes in the cardiac microenvironment such as hemodynamic load or matrix stiffness are transduced through costameres into changes in cardiac structure and sarcomere organization. We suggest that these mechanisms can enable improved maturation of cardiomyocytes derived from iPSCs. The combination of genome editing, human iPSC technology, and real-time visualization of sarcomere assembly dynamics utilized here is a powerful new approach to assess the mechanistic implications of pathogenic mutations on cardiac sarcomere structure and motivates new therapeutic approaches to their intervention.

STAR★METHODS

Detailed methods are provided in the online version of this paper and include the following:

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Supplemental Information includes 4 figures and 10 movies and can be found with this article online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.devcel.2017.12.012>.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

A.C., M.L.K., and C.S.C. conceived the study and designed experiments. A.C., M.L.K., and K.Z. performed all experiments and data analysis. W.J.P. developed the FFT algorithm for quantification of sarcomere content. C.C.S., J.G.S., C.E.S., R.J.L., J.E., and J.T.H. provided iPSCs, cardiomyocyte differentiation protocols, and WT, TTN^{tv}, MYH6, and MYH7 knockout cardiomyocytes. A.C., M.L.K., C.E.S., and C.S.C. wrote the manuscript with input from all authors.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

J.G.S. and C.E.S. are founders and own shares in Myokardia, Inc., a startup company that is developing therapeutics that target the sarcomere. C.S.C. is a founder and share owner of Innolign Biomedical, a company that is developing engineered organ models for pharmaceutical research and development. T.H. receives grant funding from Myokardia to study dilated cardiomyopathy.

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STAR★METHODS

KEY RESOURCES TABLE

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Antibodies		
Mouse anti-paxillin	BD Biosciences	Cat#610051; RRID:AB_397463
Mouse anti-vinculin	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#V9131; RRID:AB_477629
Rabbit anti-non-muscle myosin IIA	Biolegend	Cat#909801; RRID:AB_2565100
Rabbit anti-non-muscle myosin IIB	Biolegend	Cat#909901; RRID:AB_2565101
Mouse anti-cardiac myosin heavy chain	Developmental Studies hybridoma bank	Cat#MF-20; RRID:AB_2147781
Rabbit anti-cardiac myosin heavy chain α	Proteintech	RRID:AB_22281-1-AP
Rabbit anti-cardiac myosin heavy chain β	Proteintech	RRID:AB_22280-1-AP
Rabbit anti-beta Tubulin	Abcam	Cat#ab6046; RRID:AB_2210370
Rabbit anti-actinin2 (c-terminal)	Fitzgerald	Cat#70R-1068; RRID:AB_10809287
Mouse anti-actinin2	Abcam	Cat#ab9465; RRID:AB_307264
Alexa 488-goat anti Mouse IgG	Thermo Fisher	Cat#R37120; RRID:AB_2556548
Alexa 647-goat anti Rabbit IgG	Thermo Fisher	Cat#A27040; RRID:AB_2536101
HRP-donkey anti Mouse IgG	Fitzgerald	Cat#43-GM30; RRID:AB_1287764
HRP-donkey anti Rabbit IgG	Fitzgerald	Cat#43C-CB1134; RRID:AB_1287213
Bacterial and Virus Strains		
Stbl3 Competent Cells	Thermo Fisher	C737303
Biological Samples		
Cryopreserved T-cells	Hinson et al., 2015, Science	N/A
Chemicals, Peptides, and Recombinant Proteins		
Blebbistatin	Calbiochem	203390, CAS# 856925-71-8
CHIR99021	Tocris	4423, CAS# 252917-06-9
IWP4	Tocris	5214, CAS#686772-17-8
DL-lactate	Sigma	L7900, CAS# 72-17-3
DAPI	Sigma	10236276001, CAS#28718-90-3
Fibronectin	BD Biosciences	356009
40% acrylamide solution	BIO-RAD	1610140
2% Bis Solution	BIO-RAD	1610143
N,N,N',N'-Tetramethylethylenediamine	Sigma-Aldrich	T9281, CAS#110-18-9
Ammonium persulfate	Sigma-Aldrich	A3678, CAS#7727-54-0
NHS (N-hydroxysuccinimide)	Thermo Fisher	24500
EDC (1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide hydrochloride)	Thermo Fisher	22980, CAS#25952-53-8
Fluospheres Carboxylate-Modified Microspheres, 0.2 μ m	Thermo Fisher	F8807
Alexa 488-phalloidin	Thermo Fisher	A12379
Alexa 568-phalloidin	Thermo Fisher	A12380
Alexa 568-NHS Ester	Thermo Fisher	A2003
Pierce ECL Western Blotting Substrate	Thermo Fisher	32106
Pluronic F127	Sigma	P2443, CAS# 9003-11-6
SU8 photoresist	Thermo Fisher	NC0060520
Experimental Models: Cell Lines		
Human Induced pluripotent stem cells (hiPSC)	Hinson et al., 2015, Science	N/A
hiPSC MYH7 ^{-/-}	This paper	N/A

(Continued on next page)

Continued

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
hiPSC MYH6 ^{-/-}	This paper	N/A
HEK 293T	Clontech	632180
EGFP tagged Paxillin hiPSC	Allen Institute	N/A
Oligonucleotides		
Scramble gRNA (5'-GCACTACCAGAGCTAACTCA-3')	This paper	N/A
MYH9 gRNA (5'-TCAAGGAGCGTTACTACTCA-3')	This paper	N/A
MYH10 gRNA (5'-TGGATTCCATCAGAACGCCA-3')	This paper	N/A
VCL gRNA (5'-GCGCACGATCGAGAGCATCC-3')	This paper	N/A
MYH6 gRNA (5'-CTGCCGGTGTACAATGCCG-3')	This paper	N/A
MYH7 gRNA (5'-ACTCAGCCGACCTGCTCAA-3')	This paper	N/A
ACTN2C gRNA (5'-ATTTGCCCGCATTATGACCC-3')	This paper	N/A
Recombinant DNA		
plentiCRISPR v2	Addgene	52961
pLenti CMV GFP Puro	Addgene	17448
pEGFP-ACTN2	Addgene	52669
pLenti CMV GFP-ACTN2 Puro	This paper	N/A
pLenti CMV mApple-ACTN2 Puro	This paper	N/A
plentiCRISPR v2 MYH9 gRNA	This paper	N/A
plentiCRISPR v2 MYH10 gRNA	This paper	N/A
plentiCRISPR v2 ACTN2C gRNA	This paper	N/A
plentiCRISPR v2 VCL gRNA	This paper	N/A
Software and Algorithms		
Matlab R2015B	MathWorks (https://www.mathworks.com/)	RRID:SCR_001622
Graphpad Prism 6	http://www.graphpad.com	RRID:SCR_002798
Imaris	BITPLANE (http://www.bitplane.com/ imaris/imaris)	RRID:SCR_007370
FIJI (ImageJ)	https://fiji.sc/#	RRID:SCR_002285

CONTACT FOR REAGENT AND RESOURCE SHARING

Further information and request for resources and reagents should be directed to and will be fulfilled by the Lead Contact, Christopher S. Chen (chencs@bu.edu).

EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS

All patient samples were obtained, cryopreserved and reprogrammed after informed written consent using protocols that were approved by the Institutional Review Board of Partners HealthCare. Heterozygous A-band TTNtv t-cells were taken from patient I.D. MEK-111, male 15 years of age. Endogenously tagged GFP-paxillin expressing iPSCs were provided by the Allen Institute for Cell Science Human iPSC Collection, parental iPSC's isolated from fibroblasts, male 30 years of age. Wild type cells I.D. Personal Genome Project (PGP1) were taken from isolated from fibroblasts, male 53 years of age.

METHOD DETAILS**iPSC Production and Cardiomyocyte Differentiation**

Patient-specific iPSCs harboring heterozygous A-band TTNtv mutations as well as the wild types were produced from cryopreserved T-cells using STEMCCA lentivirus as described previously ([Hinson et al., 2015](#)). iPSCs were screened for copy number variants and virtual karyotyping using Illumina HumanOmniExpress-12v1 arrays. iPSCs were maintained in complete mTeSR1 medium (Stem Cell) and differentiated to the CM lineage in RPMI 1640 medium (Gibco) supplemented with B27 minus insulin (ThermoFisher) by sequential targeting of the WNT pathway - activating WNT pathway using 12μM of CHIR99021 (Tocris) in Day1 and inhibiting WNT pathway using 5μM of IWP4 (Tocris) in Day3 and Day4. CMs were isolated after showing spontaneous beating (usually between Day9 to Day14) using metabolic selection by adding 4mM of DL-lactate (Sigma) in glucose free DMEM medium (ThermoFisher) for two

days and CM purity was determined by FACS analysis (>90% Troponin T+). Following selection, CMs were maintained and assayed in RPMI 1640 medium supplemented with B27 (ThermoFisher) and studied on Day30 post initiation of differentiation. Endogenously tagged GFP-paxillin expressing iPSCs were provided by the Allen Institute for Cell Science Human iPSC Collection and cultured as described above.

CRISPR/Cas9 iPSC Gene Editing, Recombinant Cloning

CRISPR/Cas9-mediated genetic modifications were generated using both scarless iPSC clonal selection and lentiviral batch infection approaches. For homozygous A-band TTNtv, MYH6, and MYH7 knockouts, the scarless, iPSC gene-editing protocol was used as described previously (Hinson et al., 2015). iPSCs were sorted by FACS for GFP+, clonally expanded, and Sanger sequenced for genotyping. For scramble control, MYH9, MYH10, VCL, and ACTN2 C-terminal knockouts, stable CRISPR knockout cell lines were generated using the lentiCRISPRv2 system (gift from Feng Zhang, Addgene plasmid #52961). Specific gRNAs were cloned into the BsmBI site of plentiCRISPRv2. Individual gRNA-containing plentiCRISPRv2 plasmids were co-transfected with pVSVG, pRSV-REV, and pMDLg/pRRE packaging plasmids into HEK-293T cells using calcium phosphate transfection. After 48 hours, viral supernatants were collected, concentrated using PEG-IT viral precipitator (SBI), and re-suspended in PBS. Cardiomyocytes were transduced in growth media overnight and media was replaced the following morning. 48 hours post infection; cells were selected with 2.5 μ g/ml puromycin for 3–4 days. All CRISPR modifications were verified by western blot.

The following guide RNAs were used: Scramble: 5'-GCACTACCAGAGCTAACTCA-3', MYH9: 5'-TCAAGGAGCGTTACTACTCA-3', MYH10: 5'-TGGATTCCATCAGAACGCCA-3', VCL: 5'-GCGCAGCATCGAGAGCATCC-3', ACTN2 C KO: 5'-ATTTGCCCCGATTATGACCC-3', MYH6: 5'-CTGCCGGTGTACAATGCCG-3', MYH7: 5'-ACTCAGCCGACCTGCTCAA-3'.

Human actinin-2 (Addgene #52669) was PCR amplified and used to make N-terminal GFP and mApple-tagged constructs in a modified pRRL lentiviral expression vector. For live GFP-paxillin movies, iPSCs with endogenously tagged GFP-paxillin were utilized. All constructs were expressed via lentiviral transduction as described for CRISPR knockouts.

Microcontact Printing

Micropatterned substrates were prepared as described previously (Hinson et al., 2015). Briefly, PDMS stamps were created from patterned silicon masters that were generated using photolithography. Glass substrates were spin coated with PDMS and polymerized in a 60°C oven overnight. PDMS stamps were coated with 50 μ g/ml fibronectin for 1 hr in room temperature and stamped onto PDMS coated glass substrates that were pre-activated in a UV-Ozone cleaner (Jelight) for 7 minutes. Patterned substrates were treated with 0.2% pluronic F127 (Sigma) for 1 hour before cell seeding to prevent non-specific adhesion of cells to the un-patterned areas of the substrate.

Antibodies and Inhibitors

Anti-paxillin (349, 1:100) was from BD Biosciences. Anti-vinculin (hVin1, 1:5000) was from Sigma. Anti-actinin2 (ab9465, 1:500) was from Abcam. Anti-actinin2 c-terminal (70R-1068, 1:200) was from Fitzgerald. Anti-NMM IIA (PRB-440P, 1:1000) and NMM IIB (PRB-445P, 1:1000) were from Biolegend. Anti-NMM IIB was directly conjugated with Alexa Fluor 568 (ThermoFisher), allowing the simultaneous immunofluorescent staining of NMM IIA and NMM IIB (Figure S2B). Anti-MHC (MF-20, 1:1000) was from DSHB. Anti-MHC- α (22281-1-AP, 1:5000) and Anti-MHC- β (22280-1-AP, 1:5000) were from Protein Tech Group (Chicago, IL). Blebbistatin \pm (racemic) was from CalBioChem.

Immunofluorescence and Western Blotting

Cardiomyocytes cultured in growth medium were perm/fixed with 1% paraformaldehyde/0.03% Triton X-100 in PBS containing calcium and magnesium (PBS+) at 37°C for 90 seconds. Cells were immediately post-fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde in PBS+ at 37°C for 15 minutes. Cells were rinsed three times with PBS+ and permeabilized with 0.5% Triton X-100 in PBS+ for 10 minutes. Cells were blocked with 2% BSA in PBS+. Primary and secondary antibodies were applied in 2% BSA in PBS+ and rinsed three times over 30 min with PBS+ between each treatment. For western blot analyses, CMs were lysed 2X NuPAGE[®] LDS Sample Buffer (Life Technologies) containing 100 mM DTT and analyzed by SDS-PAGE and immunoblotting with chemiluminescent HRP detection. Immunofluorescent images and western blots were adjusted for brightness and contrast using ImageJ software (NIH, Bethesda, MD).

Microscopy

For live cell imaging, cardiomyocytes were plated onto fibronectin micropatterned substrates in growth media containing OxyFluor (Oxyrase). 24 to 48 hours post plating, CMs were transferred to a temperature and CO₂ equilibrated environmental microscope chamber and imaged every 20 minutes for 24 hours on either a Nikon Ti Eclipse epifluorescence microscope with a Yokogawa CSU-21/Zeiss Axiovert 200M inverted spinning disk microscope with a Zeiss LD C-Apochromat 40x or 63x, 1.1 N.A. water-immersion objective and an Evolve EMCCD camera (Photometrics) or a Nikon Plan Fluor 40x, 1.3 N.A. and ORCA-100 camera (Hamamatsu).

Polyacrylamide Gel for Traction Force Microscopy

Polyacrylamide gels of desired stiffness were made by adjusting acrylamide and bisacrylamide stock solution (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Hercules, CA) concentrations (Chopra et al., 2011). A solution of 40% acrylamide, 2% bisacrylamide and 1xPBS was polymerized by

adding tetramethylethylenediamine (Fisher BioReagents) and 1% ammonium persulfate. A droplet of the gel solution supplemented with 0.2 μm fluorescent beads solution (Molecular Probe, Fisher Scientific) was deposited on a quartz slide (Fisher Scientific) and covered with a 25-mm glass (Fisher) coverslip pretreated with 3-aminopropyltrimethoxysilane (Sigma-Aldrich) and glutaraldehyde (Sigma-Aldrich). After polymerization, the gel surface attached to the quartz slide was functionalized with fibronectin via EDC-NHS chemistry. Briefly, the gel surface was activated in a UV-Ozone cleaner (Jelight) for 2 minutes, detached from the quartz slide, soaked in a solution with EDC and NHS for 15 minutes and incubated with 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ fibronectin solution at 37°C for 2 hours. The gel was sterilized and stored in 1X PBS before cell seeding.

Micropatterned Polyacrylamide Hydrogels

Micropatterned polyacrylamide hydrogels were prepared by adopting a previously described method (Polio et al., 2012). Briefly, PDMS stamps were coated with Matrigel (VWR) overnight at 4°C and stamped onto plasma activated 25-mm glass (Fisher) substrate. Polyacrylamide gel solution of desired stiffness (4kPa) was made as described in above section. A droplet of the pre-polymer polyacrylamide solution was sandwiched in between the patterned glass substrate and a 25-mm glass (Fisher) coverslip pretreated with 3-aminopropyltrimethoxysilane (Sigma-Aldrich) and glutaraldehyde (Sigma-Aldrich). After polymerization, the gel was soaked in 1xPBS for 1 hour before being detached from the pre-patterned glass substrate. The gel was sterilized and stored in 1X PBS before cell seeding.

Engineered Heart Microtissues ($\mu\text{tissues}$)

Cardiac $\mu\text{tissues}$ were prepared as previously described (Boudou et al., 2012). Briefly, PDMS microfabricated tissue gauges (μTUG) substrates were molded from the SU-8 masters, with embedding fluorescent microbeads (Fluoresbrite 17147; Polysciences, Inc.) onto the cantilevers. μTUG substrates were treated with 0.2% pluronic F127 for 30 minutes to prevent cell-extracellular matrix iPSC-CMs were dissociated after trypsin digestion and mixed with stromal cells (human mesenchymal stem cells, hMSCs) to enable tissue compaction. The amount of stromal cells added was 30% of the total myocyte population. A suspension of $\sim 20,000$ cells within reconstitution mixture, consisting of 2.25mg/mL liquid neutralized collagen I (BD Biosciences) and 0.5mg/mL human fibrinogen (Sigma-Aldrich), was added to the substrate. The device was centrifuged to drive the cells into the micropatterned wells. The cell density was kept low to prevent high tissue displacement due to cardiomyocyte contraction. Within 24 hours hMSCs compacted tissues. Only in compacted tissues did we observe sarcomere assembly in cardiomyocytes. For live imaging cardiomyocytes were imaged as mentioned previously (See microscopy and image analysis section). Image slices at 1 μm were taken with a total thickness of 15 μm .

QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Image Analysis and Quantification

For quantifying protocostamere area, cardiomyocytes were immunostained for paxillin and acquired at 63x. Paxillin images for all conditions were equally intensity thresholded and adhesions areas were quantified using ImageJ.

For tracking of actinin puncti, time lapse recordings of GFP/mApple labelled actinin expressing cardiomyocytes were obtained as described. Centroid coordinates for individual cardiomyocytes were calculated over time using custom MATLAB scripts (Mathworks, Natick, MA). Time lapse image stacks were imported into IMARIS software (Bitplane AG, Zurich, Switzerland). Using IMARIS particle tracking algorithm, actinin puncta were first detected, equally size and intensity thresholded, and the displacement vectors of each puncta within a cardiomyocyte were calculated overtime. Tracking was kept consistent between each tested condition and image sets were unbiasedly batch processed in IMARIS. The Cartesian coordinates for the displacement of tracked actinin puncti over time for each cardiomyocytes were processed using a custom routine in MATLAB. To calculate the angular displacement, the Cartesian coordinates of each puncta were converted to polar coordinates. The centroid computed for each cardiomyocyte was set as the origin of the polar coordinate system in order to compute the angular displacement ($\Delta\theta$) of each particle towards the cell center. Particle angular displacement $\Delta\theta > 180^\circ$ was normalized by subtracting from 360° .

Sarcomere Content Analysis (FFT)

Images of single cardiomyocytes on fibronectin coated micropatterned substrate and polyacrylamide gels expressing tagged α -actinin-2 or stained for α -actinin-2 were processed by a custom routine in ImageJ (NIH, Bethesda, MD) and MATLAB (Mathworks, Natick, MA), as described previously (Hinson et al., 2015). Briefly, the spectra of 2D Fourier transforms of α -actinin-2 images were converted to a 1D representation by summing the intensity as a function of distance from the center of the 2D image. The 1D spectra were then normalized and fit to a function composed with an aperiodic component to account for irregular α -actinin-2 cellular structures and a periodic component that represents the regularly spaced sarcomeres. The normalized area under the first nonzero peak of the periodic component was taken as a measure of the regularity of the sarcomere structure.

Traction Stress Measurements

The traction forces exerted iPS-CMs on the gel substrates were computed by measuring the displacement of fluorescent beads embedded within the gel as described previously (Tseng et al., 2012) (Software available at <https://sites.google.com/site/qingzongtseng/tfm>). Briefly, images of bead motion near the substrate surface, distributed in and around the contact region of a

single cell (before and after cell detachment with 10% sodium dodecyl sulfate, were acquired with Yokogawa CSU-21/Zeiss Axiovert 200M inverted spinning disk microscope with a Zeiss LD C-Apochromat 40 \times , 1.1 N.A water-immersion objective and an Evolve EMCCD camera (Photometrics). The traction stress vector fields were generated using an open source package of Fiji plugins (developed by Tseng, Q. (Tseng et al., 2012)). Root mean squares of the magnitudes of single cell stress vectors were computed using the formula:

$$S_{RMS} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} (|S_1|^2 + |S_2|^2 + \dots + |S_n|^2)}, \text{ in which } S_n \text{ is a single stress vector.}$$

Statistics

Sample sizes and P values are reported in each figure legend and statistical analyses were performed using GraphPad Prism 5.0. In the figures, unless otherwise noted, graphs show mean \pm standard error of the mean (s.e.m.). When experiments involved only a single pair of conditions, statistical differences between the two sets of data were analyzed with a two-tailed, unpaired Student t-test assuming unequal variances. For data sets containing more than two samples, one-way ANOVA with a classical Bonferroni multiple-comparison post-test was used to determine adjusted P values. Sample sizes of sufficient power were chosen on the basis of similar published research and were confirmed statistically by appropriate tests. When representative images are shown, these represent at least three independent samples.