De Novo Disruption of the Proteasome Regulatory Subunit PSMD12 Causes a Syndromic Neurodevelopmental Disorder

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De Novo Disruption of the Proteasome Regulatory Subunit
PSMD12 Causes a Syndromic Neurodevelopmental Disorder

Sébastien Küry,1 Thomas Besnard,1 Frédéric Ebstein,2 Tahir N. Khan,2 Tomasz Gambin,3,4,6 Jessica Douglas,7 Carlos A. Bacino,4,8 Stephan J. Sanders,9 Andrea Lehmann,2 Xénia Latypova,1 Kamal Khan,3 Mathilde Pacault,1 Stephanie Sacharov,7 Kimberly Glaser,10 Eric Bieth,11 Laurence Perrin-Sabourin,12 Marie-Line Jacquemont,13 Megan T. Cho,14 Elizabeth Roeder,4,15 Anne-Sophie Denommé-Pichon,16 Kristin G. Monaghan,14 Bo Yuan,6,8 Fan Xia,6,8 Sylvain Simon,17,18,19 Dominique Bonneau,16,20 Philippe Parent,21 Brigitte Gilbert-Dussardier,22,23 Sylvie Odent,4,24,25 Annick Toutain,26,27 Laurent Pasquier,24,25 Deborah Barbouth,10 Chad A. Shaw,4,8 Ankita Patel,4,8 Janice L. Smith,4,8 Weimin Bi,4,8 Sébastien Schmitt,1 Wallid Deb,1 Mathilde Nizon,1 Sandra Mercier,1 Marie Vincent,1 Caroline Rooryck,28 Valérie Malan,29 Ignacio Briceno,30 Alberto Gómez,30 Kimberly M. Nugent,35 James B. Gibson,31 Benjamin Cogné,1 James R. Lupski,4,32,33

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De Novo Disruption of the Proteasome Regulatory Subunit PSMD12 Causes a Syndromic Neurodevelopmental Disorder

Degradation of proteins by the ubiquitin-proteasome system (UPS) is an essential biological process in the development of eukaryotic organisms. Dysregulation of this mechanism leads to numerous human neurodegenerative or neurodevelopmental disorders. Through a multi-center collaboration, we identified six de novo genomic deletions and four de novo point mutations involving PSMD12, encoding the non-ATPase subunit PSMD12 (aka RPN5) of the 19S regulator of 26S proteasome complex, in unrelated individuals with intellectual disability, congenital malformations, ophthalmologic anomalies, feeding difficulties, deafness, and subtle dysmorphic facial features. We observed reduced PSMD12 levels and an accumulation of ubiquitinated proteins without any impairment of proteasome catalytic activity. Our PSMD12 loss-of-function zebrafish CRISPR/Cas9 model exhibited microcephaly, decreased convolution of the renal tubules, and abnormal craniofacial morphology. Our data support the biological importance of PSMD12 as a scaffolding subunit in proteasome function during development and neurogenesis in particular; they enable the definition of a neurodevelopmental disorder due to PSMD12 variants, expanding the phenotypic spectrum of UPS-dependent disorders.

Proteolysis by the ubiquitin-proteasome system (UPS) is a tightly regulated biological process in eukaryotic cells and is crucial for their homeostasis, signaling, and fate determination.1-3 Proteins subjected to degradation are typically marked by polyubiquitin chains to be hydrolyzed in a precise, rapid, timely, and ATP-dependent manner by the 19S regulatory subunit of the 26S proteasome.3-6 UPS-dependent degradation essentially contributes to proteostasis and plays a key role in neuronal development and function7,8 by regulating synaptic plasticity.9,10

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Table 1. Clinical Features of the Subjects with De Novo Point Mutations and CNV Deletions Involving *PSMD12*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Center of enrollment</th>
<th><em>PSMD12</em> variant</th>
<th>Size of deletion (Mb)</th>
<th>Deletion proximal breakpoints</th>
<th>Deletion distal breakpoints</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Age at assessment</th>
<th>Weight (kg) at assessment</th>
<th>Length (cm) at assessment</th>
<th>OFC (cm) at assessment</th>
<th>Neurological Abnormalities</th>
<th>Congenital Malformations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subject 1</td>
<td>HUGODIMS</td>
<td>c.367C&gt;T (p.Arg123*)</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>male</td>
<td>8 y, 4 m</td>
<td>2,500 (–2)</td>
<td>120 (–1)</td>
<td>52.5 (–0.5)</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject 2</td>
<td>BCH</td>
<td>c.1274 T&gt;G (p.Leu425*)</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>male</td>
<td>10 y, 7 m</td>
<td>2,499 (–2)</td>
<td>129.8 (–1)</td>
<td>52 (–1)</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject 3</td>
<td>SSC</td>
<td>c.601C&gt;T (p.Arg201*)</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>male</td>
<td>14 y, 8 m</td>
<td>3,033 (–0.84)</td>
<td>173 (+0.84)</td>
<td>57 (+1.48)</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject 4</td>
<td>BG</td>
<td>c.909−2A&gt;G (p.?</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>female</td>
<td>14 y, 10 m</td>
<td>3,200 (–0.5)</td>
<td>163 (mean)</td>
<td>47.6 (–1.6)</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject 5</td>
<td>BG</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>21 m</td>
<td>13 y, 2 m</td>
<td>3 y, 6 m</td>
<td>female</td>
<td>47 (–1.5)</td>
<td>50 (mean)</td>
<td>47.6 (–1.6)</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject 6</td>
<td>CHU de Toulouse</td>
<td>deletion</td>
<td>4.06</td>
<td>1.46</td>
<td>4.06</td>
<td>1.46</td>
<td>female</td>
<td>47 (–1.5)</td>
<td>50 (mean)</td>
<td>47.6 (–1.6)</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject 7</td>
<td>CHU de la Réunion</td>
<td>deletion</td>
<td>1.24</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>1.24</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>female</td>
<td>47 (–1.5)</td>
<td>50 (mean)</td>
<td>47.6 (–1.6)</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject 8</td>
<td>BG</td>
<td>deletion</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>0.62 (complex)</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>0.62 (complex)</td>
<td>female</td>
<td>47 (–1.5)</td>
<td>50 (mean)</td>
<td>47.6 (–1.6)</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject 9</td>
<td>BG</td>
<td>deletion</td>
<td>1.900 (–2.9)</td>
<td>2.100 (–2.5)</td>
<td>1.900 (–2.9)</td>
<td>2.100 (–2.5)</td>
<td>female</td>
<td>47 (–1.5)</td>
<td>50 (mean)</td>
<td>47.6 (–1.6)</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject 10</td>
<td>BG</td>
<td>deletion</td>
<td>65,319,589</td>
<td>65,090,765</td>
<td>65,319,589</td>
<td>65,090,765</td>
<td>female</td>
<td>47 (–1.5)</td>
<td>50 (mean)</td>
<td>47.6 (–1.6)</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Neurological Abnormalities*

- Intellectual disability: +
- Motor delay: +
- Speech delay: +
- Abnormal behavior: +
- Seizures: –
- Hypotonia: –
- Deafness: –
- Feeding difficulties: –
- Brain MRI: normal

*Congenital Malformations*

- Cardiac: +
- Renal: +
Neurotransmitter release via intracellular trafficking, and morphogenesis of axons, dendrites, and dendritic spines. Neurons are therefore highly vulnerable to UPS dysfunction, as evidenced by a wide spectrum of neurodegenerative proteinopathies, including polyglutamine disorders (e.g., spinal bulbar muscular atrophy [MIM: 313200] and Huntington disease [MIM: 143100]), Alzheimer disease (MIM: 104300), Parkinson disease (MIM: 168600), and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (MIM:105400). Impairment of UPS activity can also result in neurodevelopmental delay, as exemplified by alterations of ubiquitin ligase genes UBE3A (MIM: 601623; associated with Angelman syndrome [MIM: 105830]), UBE3B (MIM: 608047; associated with Kaufman oculocerebrofacial syndrome [MIM: 244450]), and HUWE1 (MIM: 300697; associated with X-linked Turner-type syndromic mental retardation [MIM: 300706]) and deubiquitinating enzyme genes USP7 (MIM: 602519; associated with chromosome 16p13.2 deletion syndrome [MIM: 616863]) and USP9X (MIM: 300072; associated with mental retardation, X-linked, 99 [MIM: 300919] and mental retardation, X-linked, 99, syndromic, female-restricted [MIM: 300968]).

Herein, we report ten unrelated individuals exhibiting a syndromic form of intellectual disability (ID) due to copy-number variant (CNV) deletions or single-nucleotide variants (SNVs) involving PSMD12 (MIM: 604450), encoding the 456-amino-acid non-ATPase subunit PSMD12 (or RPN5) of the 26S proteasome. The compilation of this case series resulted from an international collaborative effort among Western France consortium HUGODIMS (Hôpitaux Universitaires du Grand Ouest pour l’Exploration par Approche Exome des Causes Moléculaires de Déficience Intellectuelle Isolée ou Syndromique Moderée à Sévère), Baylor Genetics Laboratories (BG), Boston Children’s Hospital and GeneDX, the Simons Simplex Collection, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire (CHU) de La Réunion and Hôpital Robert Debré, and CHU de Toulouse. It was also partly facilitated by the web-based tools GeneMatcher20 and DECIPHER.21

This study was approved by both the CHU de Nantes ethics committee (comité consultatif sur le traitement de l’information en matière de recherche no. 14.556) and the Baylor College of Medicine institutional review board. All participants were clinically assessed by at least one expert clinical geneticist from one of the participating centers. Written informed consent was obtained from all study participants. The main clinical features of our cohort are summarized in Table 1. More detailed clinical information for all subjects is provided in the Supplemental Note and Table S1, and corresponding Human Phenotype Ontology terms are reported in Tables S2 and S3.

Three de novo nonsense SNVs in PSMD12 (GenBank: NM_002816.3)—c.367C>T (p.Arg123*) in subject 1, c.1274T>G (p.Leu425*) in subject 2, and c.601C>T (p.Arg201*) in subject 3—were found by subject-parent trio-based whole-exome sequencing. The protocols used
by each participating center have been detailed elsewhere.22–24 These three variants were confirmed by Sanger sequencing. They were unique events observed in our in-house database of about 350 exomes (including 75 trios from families with simplex ID) for subject 1 (HUGODIMS and CHU de Nantes); in over 40,000 exomes, including 2,300 trios with various developmental disorders, for subject 2 (Boston Children’s Hospital and GeneDX); and in 2,500 trios with autism spectrum disorders for subject 3 (Simons Simplex Collection) (Figure S2). These three variants are also absent in public variant databases (dbSNP138, 1000 Genomes, NHLBI GO Exome Sequencing Project, and the Exome Aggregation Consortium [ExAC] Browser).

In addition, a query of over 7,000 clinical exomes in the BG database, according to the previously defined clinical diagnostics protocol,25,26 revealed de novo splicing variant c.909–2A>G (p.? in subject 4 (Figure S2). Differently sized de novo CNV deletions on 17q24.2 were found in four unrelated individuals (subjects 5, 6, 9, and 10) among 59,092 subjects referred for chromosomal microarray analysis (CMA) at BG between January 4, 2004, and May 6, 2016; they were tested with customized exon-targeted oligonucleotide arrays (OLIGO V8, V9, and V10) designed at BG,27,28 which cover more than 4,800 known or candidate disease genes with exon-level resolution. The two remaining individuals, subjects 7 and 8, were recruited via DECIPHER (accession numbers 286468 and 300694). The largest CNV deletion in the series is about 4 Mb in size and includes PSMD12 and 27 other genes, whereas the smallest deletion, 0.62 Mb, encompasses PSMD12, PITPN1 (MIM: 605134), and a portion of HELZ (MIM: 606699) (Figure 1 and Table S4). Minimal and maximal coordinates of the CNV deletions are indicated in Tables 1 and S1. In the BG in-house database, apparently similarly sized ~270 kb 17q24.2 duplication CNVs (chr17: 65,081,882–65,388,883 and 65,120,043–65,458,702; UCSC Genome Browser hg19), involving the entire PSMD12, were observed in three unrelated families. In two of these families, the duplication was inherited from the reportedly asymptomatic parents. Moreover, in one of these families, a pathogenic de novo CNV deletion in chromosomal region 2p14p15, explaining the subject’s phenotype, was detected. Thus, this duplication most likely represents a rare nonpathogenic CNV. No constitutive de novo small duplication was recorded in DECIPHER21 or in the Database of Genomic Variants.29

All subjects from the case series exhibited developmental delay (DD) or ID (n = 10) and had variable dysmorphic features, among which low-set ears (n = 6), hypertelorism (n = 5), and retrognathia or microretrognathia (n = 4) were the most frequent. All but one individual had additional neurological features, including abnormal behavior (n = 7, mostly autistic features or hyperactivity), hypotonia (n = 6), or epilepsy (n = 3, including seizure disorder, reflex seizures, and tonic convulsion). Additionally, two of six subjects had abnormalities detected on brain imaging (pineal cyst [n = 2], cerebral atrophy, and periventricular hypomyelination [n = 1]). Nine subjects had other congenital anomalies, including an atrio-ventriculoseptal defect, patent ductus arteriosus, a single or dysplastic kidney, hydrourephrosis, or genital anomalies (hypospadias or cryptorchidism). Five subjects had a history of feeding difficulties evident already in the neonatal period and associated with growth failure in four cases. Three subjects required gastrostomy feeding tubes. Seven subjects also had ophthalmologic anomalies, including strabismus, vision loss, and coloboma. Five subjects had skeletal abnormalities, including bilateral syndactyly of the second and third toes (n = 3) and thumb agenesis or hypoplasia (n = 2). Microcephaly was noted in five subjects, whereas macrocephaly was noted in one subject.

The 26S proteasome is a high-molecular-weight multisubunit protease complex of nearly 2.5 MDa whose structure, assembly, and functions are highly conserved across eukaryotes1,5,30 (Figure S3). It is composed of two functionally distinct subcomplexes and responsible for the ATP-dependent degradation of poly-ubiquitinated proteins. The 19S regulatory particle (~900 kDa) binds and unfolds the ubiquitinated substrates, and the 20S proteolytic core (~700 kDa) is responsible for the hydrolysis of the substrate proteins.31,32 The 19S particle, attached at either or both ends of the 20S particle, consists of two subcomplexes, the base and the lid. The base is composed of six ATPases (regulatory particle triple A proteins RPT1–RPT6), two large organizing subunits (RPN1 and RPN2), and two ubiquitin receptors (RPN10 and RPN13).33–35 The lid is formed from the deubiquitylating enzyme RPN11 and eight non-ATPase subunits (RPN3, RPN5–RPN9, RPN12, and RPN15), containing the PCI (proteasome-CSN [COP9 signalosome]-elF3 [eukaryotic translation initiation factor 3]) domains.31–33 Whereas the base acts as a reverse chaperone, unfolding and translocating substrate proteins into the 20S cavity, the lid ensures substrate recognition, deubiquitination, and scaffolding.31,32,35,36

All variants reported in the present case series involve PSMD12, which encodes PSMD12 (aka RPN5), one of the nine subunits of the 19S lid. We therefore speculated that the above functions of the 19S lid, and thereby those of the 26S proteasome, would be substantially altered in the described subjects. Experiments in fission yeast have stressed the importance of PSMD12 dosage in the regulation of proteasome 26S assembly and the maintenance of its structural integrity.36 Moreover, in budding yeast, PSMD12 can stabilize both the proteasome and CSN.33,37,38

The most likely pathogenic dysfunction for the presented disorder is PSMD12 haploinsufficiency. PSMD12 has a very high haploinsufficiency score (HI index = 5.57%; HI index represents the predicted probability that a gene will exhibit haploinsufficiency in comparison to a large set of genes tested by DECIPHER: high-ranked genes [e.g., HI 0%–10%] are more likely to exhibit haploinsufficiency than low-ranked ones [e.g., 90%–100%]).39 PSMD12 is also predicted to be highly intolerant to loss-of-function (LoF)
mutations (probability of LoF intolerance = 1.00 with 1 observed LoF variant versus 21.5 predicted, according to the ExAC Browser). Furthermore, we observed only heterozygous truncating variants or whole-gene deletions in the presented subjects. The only LoF variant reported in the ExAC Browser is predicted to alter the splicing of an in-frame PSMD12 exon outside the functional domains of PSMD12; thus, LoF of this variant remains uncertain.

Given that the mutation c.1274T>G (p.Leu425*) in subject 2 is located in the last exon of PSMD12, it is predicted...
to escape nonsense-mediated mRNA decay (NMD) and disrupt the PCI domain, which is essential for scaffolding involved in protein-protein interactions among the proteasome, CSN, and eIF341 (Figure S4). Notably, PSMD12 is integrated in the CSN and proteasome through its C-terminal portion of the PCI domain. Thus, the truncated PSMD12 might fail to integrate properly with the proteasome lid.

We sought to determine the functional consequences of the p.Arg123* nonsense variant in peripheral-blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) collected from subject 1. We observed that the steady-state level of the full-length PSMD12 was significantly lower in subject 1’s PBMC lysates than in those of a healthy donor (Figure 2A). The observation that the functional loss of one copy of PSMD12 cannot be further compensated indicates that this gene is haploinsufficient, which is in line with the bioinformatic predictions and with the dramatic effect on embryogenesis associated with Psmd12 (Rpn5)-truncating variants in Arabidopsis thaliana. Importantly, western blot analyses in subject 1’s blood samples did not reveal the presence of the 122-amino-acid truncated protein with a predicted molecular mass of 13.796 kDa emerging from the PSMD12 mutated allele. According to the manufacturer, the anti-PSMD12 antibody was raised against the first 300 amino acids of PSMD12, although the precise epitope sequence is not known. Therefore, one possible explanation for our failure to detect the truncated PSMD121–122 could be that the epitope recognized by the antibody is located downstream of the first 122 amino...
acids of PSMD12. Alternatively, it is also conceivable that our inability to detect the predicted PSMD12\textsubscript{1–122} short variant might be due to NMD and/or particular high proteolytic sensitivity and subsequent instability. To answer this question, we engineered tumor cells to produce hemagglutinin-tagged versions of both the wild-type PSMD12 and the truncated PSMD12\textsubscript{1–424} and PSMD12\textsubscript{1–122} variants emerging from the c.367T>C (p.Arg123*) and c.1274T>G (p.Leu425*) nonsense mutations, respectively (Figure 3A).

As illustrated in Figures 3B and 3C, although all three constructs exhibited comparable levels of mRNA transcripts, protein levels were detected only for the wild-type and PSMD12\textsubscript{1–424} variant. This unambiguously indicates that our inability to detect the PSMD12\textsubscript{1–122} short variant was not due to NMD but rather reflects translation inefficiency and/or an increased degradation rate. Our in vitro data also show that the p.Arg123* nonsense mutant was accompanied by an increased accumulation of the high-molecular-weight ubiquitin-modified proteins (Figure 2B). This finding is consistent with the accumulation of polyubiquitinated proteins reported in yeasts with heterozygous loss of Rpn5,\textsuperscript{36} indicating a role for PSMD12 in the maintenance of ubiquitin homeostasis. Importantly, the capacity of 26S complexes to degrade the Suc-LLVY (succinyl-Leu-Leu-Val-Tyr-amido-4-methylcoumarine) model substrate was not statistically different between the affected and control subjects (Figures 2C and 2D), indicating that both of these samples exhibit similar chymotrypsin-like activities. This finding further suggests that the elevated levels of such ubiquitin-protein conjugates in affected subjects did not result from a lower chymotrypsin activity of proteasomes. Rather, the decreased amount of PSMD12 might drive a conformational change of the 19S regulatory particle to render it deficient. In particular, PSMD12 is positioned in close proximity to the PSMD14 (RPN11) subunit,\textsuperscript{47} which is involved in the hydrolysis of ubiquitin chains from targeted substrates before degradation by the 26S proteasome.\textsuperscript{48} As such, the activity of PSMD14 might be affected in subjects with a downregulation of PSMD12, thereby resulting in impaired breakdown of ubiquitin-protein conjugates, which would mechanically increase the levels of polyubiquitinated substrate proteins. Alternatively, the increased accumulation of ubiquitin-modified proteins in subject 1, who carries the p.Arg123* nonsense variant, might also reflect a decreased accessibility of these substrates to the 26S proteasome through decreased amounts of incorporated RPN10 and RPN13.

Because the individuals with the PSMD12 nonsense variants presented with central nervous system, renal, and craniofacial pathologies, we next sought to determine the function of PSMD12 during brain, kidney, and craniofacial development by utilizing the zebrafish embryo as an in vivo model. Considering the presence of disrupting mutations, we decided to use CRISPR/Cas9 technology to generate a mutant for the zebrafish ortholog of PSMD12. Using reciprocal BLAST, we identified a single zebrafish PSMD12 ortholog (GenBank: NM_201578 and NP_963872) with 86% similarity and designed short guide RNA (sgRNA) targeting exon 3 of psmd12 (Figure S5).
CRISPR guide RNA was designed with ChopChop software (see guide sequences in Table S6) and synthesized with the GeneArt Precision gRNA Synthesis Kit (Invitrogen) according to the manufacturer’s instructions. In brief, we mixed the forward and reverse target oligonucleotides, the Tracr fragment, and T7 primer mix with 2–3× Phusion High-Fidelity PCR Master Mix (Invitrogen) and then amplified and ran them on a 1% agarose gel to ensure the quality and appropriate size of the resulting CRISPR guide DNA template. We synthesized guide RNA by in vitro transcription with the TranscriptAid Enzyme Mix (Invitrogen) by incubating it at 37°C for 2 hr. After treatment with DNase I, the guide RNA was purified with the GeneArt gRNA Clean-Up Kit (Invitrogen). For CRISPR/Cas9-based genome editing, 100 pg of CRISPR guide RNA and 200 pg of Cas9 (GeneArt Platinum Cas9 Nuclease, Invitrogen) were injected into 1-cell-stage zebrafish embryos. The CRISPR/Cas9 efficiency was assessed as previously described.49 In brief, DNA from each 2 day post fertilization (dpf) F0 embryo was extracted by proteinase K digestion (Life technologies, AM2548). The CRISPR-targeted region was amplified by PCR. We then denatured and slowly reannealed the PCR products to facilitate the formation of heteroduplexes (denaturing at 95°C for 5 min, ramped down to 85°C at −1°C/s and then to 25°C at −0.1°C/s). Heteroduplexes were detected on 15% polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis 23 (n = 6 F0 embryos tested/condition). Then, we cloned and sequenced PCR amplicons to estimate the mosaicism. Ultimately, we observed ≈90% mosaicism.

Given the presence of microcephaly in most of our subjects, we next measured the size of the optic tecta as a readout for head size50 of the F0 psmd12 zebrafish mutants. Standard whole-mount zebrafish immunostaining was performed on CRISPR experiments as previously described.49,50 To visualize the axonal tracts in the brain, including the optic tecta and the cerebellum, we stained 3 dpf mutant and control embryos with an anti-acetylated tubulin primary antibody (T7451, mouse, Sigma-Aldrich; 1:1,000 dilution) and the Alexa Fluor goat anti-mouse IgG (A21207, Invitrogen; 1:500 dilution) as a secondary antibody.50 We observed that the size of the optic tecta was significantly smaller in CRISPR F0 mutants than in the control larvae (p ≤ 0.0001, n = 30–50 larvae/batch, repeated; Figures 4A and 4D).
In addition, we assessed whether psmd12 was also required for renal development by quantifying the area of proximal tubule convolution in 4 dpf F0 psmd12 mutants stained with an anti-Na+/K+-ATPase alpha-1 subunit primary antibody (a6F, DSHB; 1:20 dilution) and Alexa Fluor rabbit anti-mouse IgG secondary antibody (Invitrogen; 1:500 dilution). Compared to controls, which showed properly convoluted tubules, mutant zebrafish embryos displayed qualitative defects of the proximal tubule, including absent, reduced, or v-shaped tubules. Using ImageJ software, we then measured the area of the renal region including absent, reduced, or v-shaped tubules. Using PSMD14 antibodies, we observed a significant delay in rostrocaudal ceratobranchial arch patterning; F0 mutants showed a reduced angle of the ceratohyal in F0 mutants (p < 0.0001, n = 32–44 larvae/batch, repeated) than in controls (Figures 4B and 4E). We did not observe any larvae with a unilateral or bilateral absence of kidneys.

It has been previously shown that zebrafish models of mispatterned craniofacial cartilage reflect craniofacial abnormalities in humans.\textsuperscript{51–53} Finally, to assess the role of psmd12 in craniofacial development, we therefore injected CRISPR sgRNA into the -1.4\_col1a1:egfp transgenic line embryos at the 1-cell stage. -1.4\_col1a1:egfp demonstrates GFP signal in cartilages. This transgenic line contains a 1.4 kb proximal promoter fragment of Col1a1 inserted upstream of Egfp.\textsuperscript{54} For imaging, 3 dpf larvae were positioned and imaged live with the Vertebrate Automated Screening Technology platform (version 1.2.2.8, Union Biometrica) in a manner similar to previously described methods.\textsuperscript{53,55} We assessed craniofacial patterning by either measuring the angle of the ceratohyal cartilage at 3 dpf or by counting the number of ceratobranchial arch pairs at 3 dpf. We were then able to quantify two types of craniofacial abnormalities from GFP-positive cells in -1.4\_col1a1:egfp CRISPR F0 mutants. First, we observed a significantly broadened angle of the ceratohyal in F0 mutants (p ≤ 0.0001, n = 32–44 larvae/batch, repeated; Figures 4C and 4F). Second, we observed a significant delay in rostrocaudal ceratobranchial (cb) arch patterning: F0 mutants showed a reduced number of cb pairs (Figures 4C and 4G).

Taken together, our data indicate that PSMD12 plays an important role during brain, kidney, and craniofacial development and that its LoF leads to defects that are reminiscent of the phenotypes observed in our subject cohort.

The high expression of PSMD12 in the frontal cortex (Figures S6–S8) is consistent with the main neurological component in the neurodevelopmental syndrome presented here. In support of this notion, CNV deletions of PSMD12 were reported in two independent investigations on subjects with ID, truncal obesity, and psychiatric symptoms.\textsuperscript{56,57} In the first study, three subjects with a complete deletion of PSMD12 had conductive hearing loss and feeding difficulties during infancy in addition to ID.\textsuperscript{57} In the second study, the subject with a large deletion including PSMD12 exhibited global DD associated with a cardiac defect, feeding difficulties, and pulmonary infection,\textsuperscript{56} clinical findings consistent with those reported in our study.

Thus far, two other genes encoding subunits of the proteasome 26S have been proposed to be associated with syndromic ID. The first gene, PSMD14 (MIM: 607173), encodes the deubiquitinating enzyme PSMD14 (RPN11)\textsuperscript{47,58} and was included in the 2q24.2 deletion harboring two other genes: TBR1 (MIM: 604616), whose LoF mutations are associated with autism,\textsuperscript{59} and TANK (MIM: 604834), identified in an individual with ID and short stature.\textsuperscript{60} In a subject with a balanced complex chromosomal aberration (reciprocal translocation and paracentric inversion), PSMD14 was considered a strong neurodevelopmental candidate gene.\textsuperscript{61} As mentioned above, PSMD12 would need to directly interact with PSMD14 to acquire its active enzymatic conformation.\textsuperscript{47,62} The second gene, PSMA7, encodes an alpha subunit of the 20S core complex. A de novo heterozygous likely pathogenic variant was found in a subject with severe ID, premature baldness, retrognathia, mild kyphosis, hirsutism, and short toes.\textsuperscript{63}

Interestingly, PSMD12 is predicted to have direct interactions with other proteins of the UPS signaling pathway: UBE3A, UBE3B, HUWE1, USP7, and USP9X, whose dysfunction is associated with ID (Figure S9).

In conclusion, we describe a neurodevelopmental disorder caused by de novo heterozygous inactivating point mutations or CNV deletions of PSMD12. Future studies will attempt to unravel the impact of PSMD12 downregulation on the incorporation efficiency of other subunits into the 19S regulatory particle. These investigations would represent initial steps toward determining how proteome remodeling caused by LoF PSMD12 variants can lead to ID, congenital malformations, and other clinical features of this neurodevelopmental syndrome.

### Accession Numbers

PSMD12 sequence variants c.367C>T (p.Arg123*), c.1274T>G (p.Leu425*), c.601C>T (p.Arg201*), and c.909–2A>G (p.?) have been deposited in the Leiden Open Variation Database under accession numbers LOVD: 0000132255, 0000132256, 0000132257, and 0000132258, respectively.

### Supplemental Data

Supplemental Data include a Supplemental Note, ten figures, and six tables and can be found with this article online at http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ajhg.2017.01.003.

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Web Resources

1000 Genomes, http://www.1000genomes.org/
ChopChop software, https://chopchop.rc.fas.harvard.edu/
GeneMatcher, https://genematcher.org/
ExAC Browser, http://exac.broadinstitute.org/
Leiden Open Variation Database, http://www.lovd.nl/
PLINK, http://pngu.mgh.harvard.edu/~purcell/plink/
The Human Protein Atlas, http://www.proteinatlas.org/
UCSC Genome Browser, http://genome.ucsc.edu

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