

1 Article

2 The role of Golgi morphology in post-alcohol 3 recovery of hepatocytes: Observations in cellular and 4 animal models

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16 **Abstract:** Background: In hepatocytes and alcohol-metabolizing cultured cells, Golgi undergoes
17 ethanol (EtOH)-induced disorganization. Perinuclear and organized Golgi is important in liver
18 homeostasis, but how the Golgi remains intact is unknown. Work from our laboratories showed
19 that EtOH-altered cellular function could be reversed after alcohol removal; we wanted to
20 determine whether this recovery would apply to Golgi. Methods: We used alcohol-metabolizing
21 HepG2 (VA-13) cells (cultured with or without EtOH for 72 h) and rat hepatocytes (control and
22 EtOH-fed (Lieber-DeCarli diet). For recovery, EtOH was removed and replenished with control
23 medium (48 hours for VA-13 cells) or control diet (10 days for rats). Results: EtOH-induced Golgi
24 disassembly was associated with de-dimerization of the largest Golgi matrix protein giantin, along
25 with impaired transport of selected hepatic proteins. After recovery from EtOH, Golgi regained
26 their compact structure, and alterations in giantin and protein transport were restored. In VA-13
27 cells, when we knocked down giantin, Rab6a GTPase or non-muscle Myosin IIB, minimal changes
28 were observed in control conditions, but post-EtOH recovery was impaired. Conclusions: These
29 data provide a link between Golgi organization and plasma membrane protein expression and
30 identify several proteins whose expression is important to maintain Golgi structure during the
31 recovery phase after EtOH administration.

32 **Keywords:** alcohol-induced Golgi disorganization, Golgi recovery, giantin, hepatic proteins,
33 ethanol withdrawal.

34

35 1. Introduction

36 The Golgi apparatus is the central sorting and transportation hub involved in the
37 posttranslational modification and sorting of cargo molecules, and delivering them to appropriate
38 cellular locations or to the exocytic and endocytic pathways [1]. In mammalian cells, Golgi is a
39 highly organized, perinuclear, ribbon-like structure, composed of stacks of flattened and elongated
40 cisternae. In hepatocytes, Golgi coordinates glycosylation and trafficking of different glycoproteins
41 that play an important role in the secretory and detoxification function of the liver. Proteins which
42 are important to liver function include the following: (a) asialoglycoprotein receptor, ASGP-R, an
43 endocytotic cell surface receptor, which removes potentially hazardous asialoglycoproteins from the
44 circulation [2]; (b) transferrin, the iron-binding glycoprotein [3]; and (c) the polymeric
45 immunoglobulin receptor (PIGR), which is responsible for transcytosis of soluble dimeric IgAs and
46 immune complexes from the basolateral to the apical membranes [4].

47 In response to stress, including exposure of cytotoxic agents, the compact Golgi structure can
48 undergo remodeling characterized by varying degrees of scattering and unstacking [5-10]. Multiple
49 studies have demonstrated that in hepatocytes, ethanol (EtOH) administration and its subsequent
50 metabolism have the ability to alter the structure of the Golgi [11-13]. Importantly, such fragments of
51 Golgi are capable of eliciting antibody production. Interestingly, Golgi antibodies are markedly
52 elevated in the sera of end-stage liver disease induced by heavy alcohol consumption, underscoring
53 the clinical relevance of Golgi fragmentation in alcohol-induced organ dysfunction [14].

54 One protein, giantin, appears to be especially important for Golgi's compact structure. Giantin
55 is the highest molecular weight (376 kDa) Golgi matrix protein. It consists of a short C-terminal
56 domain located in the Golgi lumen [15], where a disulfide bond connects two monomers to form an
57 active homodimer, which is followed by a one-pass trans-membrane domain and then a large (≥ 350
58 kDa) N-terminal region projecting into the cytoplasm. This unique structure suggests that giantin is
59 the core Golgi protein and therefore could be essential for cross-bridging cisternae during Golgi
60 biogenesis [16]. Giantin dimerization appears to be catalyzed by the chaperone, protein disulfide
61 isomerase A3 (PDIA3) [16-18]. This chaperone is carried by COPII vesicles, of which SAR1A GTPase
62 is an essential component. We have recently observed that a key event in EtOH-induced Golgi
63 disorganization is the inactivation of the SAR1A GTPase [19]. Given the significant role played by
64 giantin dimers in maintaining Golgi structure [18,20,21], the inactivation of SAR1A could result in a
65 lack of giantin in Golgi membranes and subsequent Golgi disorganization.

66 Alterations in Golgi morphology appear to be accompanied by the impaired trafficking and
67 secretion of several essential hepatic glycoproteins. For example, transferrin was found to be
68 retained in the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) and Golgi of the hepatocytes after alcohol administration
69 in both human liver alcoholic cirrhotics and in livers of rats fed with EtOH, causing impairment of
70 its iron transport function [22]. Similarly, in cellular and rat models of chronic alcohol exposure, we
71 observed the deposition of ASGP-R in cis-medial-Golgi [19]. In addition to this, the activities of
72 different glycosyltransferases are reduced in both ER and Golgi after EtOH administration [23,24].
73 Some of these Golgi resident enzymes exhibit altered re-localization due to EtOH-induced
74 impairment of COPI vesicles, which normally deliver these enzymes to appropriate sites within the
75 Golgi [25,26]. Also, recently we and others found that giantin represents a Golgi docking site for
76 different Golgi resident proteins [18,27-30], and EtOH-induced alteration of giantin dimerization
77 results in impaired Golgi targeting of mannosyl (α -1,3-)-glycoprotein
78 beta-1,2-N-acetylglucosaminyltransferase (MGAT1), the key enzyme of N-glycosylation [25]. This, in
79 turn, causes abnormal glycosylation of ASGP-R and could be a potential reason for the release of
80 carbohydrate-deficient transferrin, the widely available test for determining recent alcohol
81 consumption [31]. Overall, alcohol-induced Golgi fragmentation has a significant impact on protein
82 homeostasis in hepatocytes and could play a crucial role in the development of alcoholic liver
83 disease (ALD), which remains a major cause of liver-related mortality in the US and worldwide [32].

84 It is known that abstinence is the most important therapeutic intervention for patients with
85 ALD [33-35]. Also, it is been observed that periodic drinking is associated with lower risk of ALD
86 than daily drinking [36], implying the ability of organelles to recover during alcohol-free days.
87 Indeed, in the liver from rats fed a 6-month high-alcohol regimen plus a nutritionally adequate diet
88 which did not induce fatty liver, severe morphologic and biochemical alterations have been detected
89 in mitochondria, which are almost recovered after only 2 days of control diet administration [37]. In
90 agreement with this, another study of alcohol withdrawal showed that the serum activity of
91 mitochondrial glutamate dehydrogenase dropped back after only 24 hours of abstinence [38].
92 Additionally, previous work from our laboratory showed that alcohol-induced impairments of
93 receptor-mediated endocytosis of asialoglycoproteins were reversed after removal of alcohol from
94 the liquid diet (7 days of refeeding control diet) [39]. Since Golgi has a remarkable self-organizing
95 mechanism [40], and in most cases, Golgi returns to its classical structure and positioning as soon as
96 cells return to a drug- or stress-free condition [41-44], we hypothesized that these organelles would
97 also show signs of recovery after EtOH withdrawal, and the aim of our study was to analyze the
98 mechanism of Golgi recovery during alcohol abstinence. Using both a rat model and the

99 recombinant HepG2 (VA-13) cells that efficiently express hepatic alcohol dehydrogenase (ADH)
100 [45], we found that recovery of Golgi after EtOH withdrawal is associated with re-dimerization of
101 giantin. Further, giantin is required for post-alcohol recovery of Golgi and the consequent trafficking
102 of hepatic proteins. Additionally, restoration of Golgi morphology requires active Rab6a GTPase
103 and action of the non-muscle Myosin IIB motor protein.

104 2. Materials and Methods

105 **Antibodies and reagents.** The primary antibodies used were: a) rabbit polyclonal – giantin
106 (Novus Biologicals, NBP2-22321), giantin (Abcam, ab24586 and ab93281), ASGP-R1 (Abcam,
107 ab88042), NMIIA (Abcam, ab75590), PIGR (Abcam, ab96196), transferrin (Dako, A0061); b) rabbit
108 monoclonal – GM130 (Abcam, ab52649), GRASP65 (Abcam, ab174834); c) mouse monoclonal –
109 NMIIIB (Abcam, ab684), GRASP65 (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, sc365434), β -actin (Sigma, A2228),
110 giantin (Abcam, ab37266) ; d) mouse polyclonal – GM130 (Abcam, ab169276). The secondary
111 antibodies (Jackson ImmunoResearch) were: a) HRP-conjugated donkey anti-rabbit (711-035-152)
112 and donkey anti-mouse (715-035-151) for W-B; b) donkey anti-mouse Alexa Fluor 488 (715-545-150)
113 and anti-rabbit Alexa Fluor 594 (711-585-152) for immunofluorescence.

114 **Cell culture, EtOH administration, and isolation of rat hepatocytes.** HepG2 cells transfected
115 with mouse ADH1 (VA-13 cells) were obtained from Dr. Dahn Clemens at the Department of
116 Veterans Affairs, Nebraska Western Iowa HCS [45]. VA-13 cells were grown in Dulbecco's modified
117 Eagle medium (DMEM) with 4.5g/ml glucose, 10% FBS, non-essential amino acids and 100U/ml of
118 Penicilin+Streptomycin. Twenty-four hours after seeding cells (at ~75% confluence), culture media
119 were changed for one containing 35 mM EtOH for another 72 h. The medium was replaced every 12
120 h to maintain a constant EtOH concentration. Control cells were seeded at the same time as treated
121 cells and maintained in the same medium; EtOH was replaced by the appropriate volume of
122 medium to maintain similar caloric content. For post-alcohol recovery, after EtOH treatment cells
123 were maintained in regular medium for another 48 h. In another series of experiments, cells were
124 treated with 35 mM EtOH for 72 h, then these cells were transfected with 150 nM giantin siRNA
125 followed by incubation in regular medium for 48 h.

126 Primary rat hepatocytes from control and EtOH-fed animals were prepared from male Wistar
127 rats. Rats weighing 140-160 g were purchased from Charles River Laboratories. Initially, animals
128 were fed Purina chow diet and allowed to acclimate to their surroundings for a period of 3 days.
129 Then rats were paired according to weight and fed either control or EtOH containing (35% fat, 18%
130 protein, 11% carbohydrates, 36% EtOH) Lieber-DeCarli diet for 5 weeks (Dyets, Inc). The control diet
131 was identical to the EtOH diet except for the isocaloric substitution of EtOH with carbohydrates
132 (Lieber and DeCarli, 1982). This protocol was approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use
133 Committee of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Nebraska Western Iowa HCS, and the University
134 of Nebraska Medical Center. For recovery, rats have administered the control diet for 10 days.
135 Hepatocytes were obtained from livers of control and EtOH-fed rats by a modified collagenase
136 perfusion technique as described and used previously by the Casey laboratory [46,76]. The primary
137 hepatocytes isolated from control and EtOH-treated animals were cultured as previously described
138 [77]. Briefly, freshly isolated hepatocytes were seeded in William's media on collagen-coated
139 six-well plates with coverslips. After 2 hours in culture, cells were washed with PBS, followed by
140 incubation with 5% FBS-Williams media. Cells were maintained at 37°C in 5% CO₂ for the indicated
141 time. Additional cell aliquots were washed in cold phosphate-buffered saline, and the pellets were
142 stored at -70°C for future analysis.

143 **Human liver tissues.** De-identified normal and alcoholic cirrhotic frozen liver tissues were
144 obtained from the Liver Tissue Cell Distribution System (LTCDS), Minneapolis, MN, funded by NIH
145 Contract # HSN276201200017C. Liver tissues were stored at -70 °C until analysis. A portion of liver
146 tissue was homogenized in 0.05M Tris-HCl, 0.25 M Sucrose (pH 7.4) supplemented with protease
147 and phosphatase inhibitors, and centrifuged at 2,200 rpm to obtain postnuclear supernatant (PNS) as
148 previously described [78]. Proteins from freshly made PNS were subjected to Western blotting for
149 detection of giantin dimerization as described in figure legends.

150 **Immunoprecipitation (IP) and transfection.** For identification of proteins in the complexes
151 pulled down by IP, confluent cells grown in a T75 flask were washed three times with 6 ml PBS each,
152 harvested by trypsinization, and neutralized with soybean trypsin inhibitor at a 2x weight of trypsin.
153 IP steps were performed using Pierce Co-Immunoprecipitation Kit (Thermo Scientific) according to
154 manufacturer instructions. Mouse and rabbit non-specific IgG was used as non-specific controls. All
155 cell lysate samples for IP experiments were normalized by appropriate proteins. To determine
156 whether the target protein was loaded evenly, input samples were preliminarily run on a separate
157 gel with different dilutions of control samples vs. treated, then probed with anti-target protein Abs.
158 The intensity of obtained bands was analyzed by ImageJ software, and samples with identical
159 intensity were subjected to IP. MYH9 (myosin, heavy polypeptide 9, non-muscle, NMIIA), MYH10
160 (myosin, heavy polypeptide 10, non-muscle, NMIIIB), GOLGB1 (giantin), GOLGA2 (GM130),
161 GORASP1 (GRASP65), Rab6a, and scrambled on-targetplus smartpool siRNAs were purchased
162 from Santa Cruz Biotechnology. All products consisted of pools of three target-specific siRNAs.
163 Cells were transfected with 100-150 nM siRNAs using Lipofectamine RNAi MAX reagent (Life
164 science technologies). PCMV-intron myc Rab6 T27N was a gift from Terry Hebert (Addgene plasmid
165 # 46782) [79]. Transient transfection of cells was carried out using Lipofectamine 3000 (Life Science
166 technologies) following manufacturer protocol. PCMV-intron myc Rab6 T27N plasmid was a gift
167 from Terry Hebert (Addgene plasmid # 46782) [79].

168 **Confocal immunofluorescence microscopy.** Staining of cells was performed by methods
169 described previously [70]. Slides were examined under a Zeiss 510 Meta Confocal Laser Scanning
170 Microscope and LSM 800 Zeiss Airyscan microscope performed at the Advanced Microscopy Core
171 Facility of the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Images were analyzed using ZEN 2009
172 software. For some figures, image analysis was performed using Adobe Photoshop and ImageJ.
173 Statistical analysis of colocalization was performed by ImageJ, calculating the Pearson correlation
174 coefficient [80].

175 **Plasma membrane protein isolation and glycan assessment.** Plasma membranes were isolated
176 using Pierce Chemical kit (Thermo Scientific) according to their protocol. To analyze glycosylation
177 of proteins from plasma membrane fraction, samples were run on 10% SDS-PAGE followed by W-B
178 with HRP-conjugated Sambucus nigra lectin (SNA), which binds preferentially to sialic acid
179 attached to terminal galactose in α -2,6 and to a lesser degree, α -2,3 linkage.

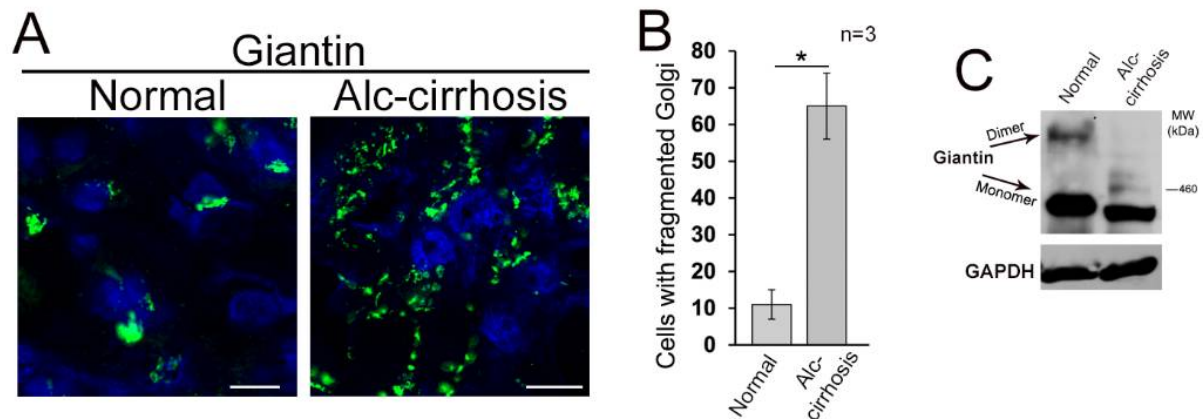
180 **Statistical analysis.** Data are expressed as mean \pm SD. The analysis was performed using a
181 2-sided t-test. A value of $p < 0.05$ was considered statistically significant.

182 **Miscellaneous.** Protein concentrations were determined with the Coomassie Plus Protein Assay
183 (Pierce Chemical Co., Rockford, IL) using BSA as the standard. Densitometric analysis of band
184 intensity was performed using ImageJ.

185 3. Results

186 In this current study, we are examining the link between giantin and EtOH-induced Golgi
187 disorganization. First, we wanted to establish a relevance for these effects in the human condition, so
188 we analyzed Golgi morphology in liver tissue samples obtained from patients with normal liver
189 function and patients with alcoholic liver cirrhosis. Contrary to the normal cells, most of the cells
190 from alcoholic samples exhibit remarkably altered Golgi structure (**Figure 1A and B**). Second, the
191 level of giantin-dimer in the tissue lysate of these patients was significantly lower than in control
192 samples (**Figure 1C**). The detection of giantin-dimer was performed as previously reported [18];
193 briefly, the lysis of cells was performed under high (5%) and low 1% β -mercaptoethanol (β -ME). By
194 lowering β -ME level from 5% to 1%, more giantin dimer was detected in samples, confirming that
195 the dimer is formed by a disulfide bond [16,17].

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201 **Figure 1**

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203 **Figure 1. Alcohol-induced Golgi disorganization in patients with alcoholic liver cirrhosis. (A)**
 204 Confocal immunofluorescence images of giantin in the liver tissue samples obtained from patients
 205 with normal liver function and patients with alcoholic liver cirrhosis; bars, 5 μ m. **(B)** Quantification
 206 of cells with fragmented Golgi; n = 3 samples for each group. Results are expressed as a mean \pm SD; *,
 207 p<0.001. **(C)** Giantin W-B of lysates from samples described in A. Lysates were normalized to
 208 GAPDH.

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210 We have shown previously that chronic EtOH administration impairs liver receptor-mediated
 211 endocytosis, as in, for example, the uptake of asialoorosomucoid (ASOR) by ASGP-R [46]. These
 212 effects were identified after as early as one week of EtOH feeding and were clearly established after
 213 4-6 weeks of feeding. Of importance to our current study is the impaired endocytosis was quickly
 214 restored (by 7 days) upon refeeding by control diet [47]. This phenomenon prompted us to also
 215 examine post-alcohol Golgi recovery in vivo. To do this, we analyzed Golgi morphology in rats fed
 216 with (a) control diet, (b) EtOH containing (36% of calories) Lieber-DeCarli diet for periods of 5
 217 weeks, and (c) EtOH diet followed by 10 days feeding with the control diet. In control rat
 218 hepatocytes, ASGP-R was distributed in Golgi, cytoplasm, and at the periphery of the cell; however,
 219 as we have shown before, in hepatocytes from EtOH-fed rats, the cytoplasm was highly vacuolated,
 220 and ASGP-R was accumulated in the fragmented Golgi (**Figure 2A, B, and D**) [19]. Of note, in
 221 recovered hepatocytes, the number of vacuoles was essentially reduced, Golgi appeared more
 222 compact and juxtannuclear, and multiple ASGP-R positive punctae were detected again at the cell's
 223 periphery (**Figure 2C and D**). Golgi recovery was importantly accompanied by giantin
 224 re-dimerization and partial restoration of ASGP-R trafficking to the cell surface, as indicated by W-B
 225 of both cell lysate and PM fractions isolated from all three categories of rat hepatocytes (**Figure 2E**).

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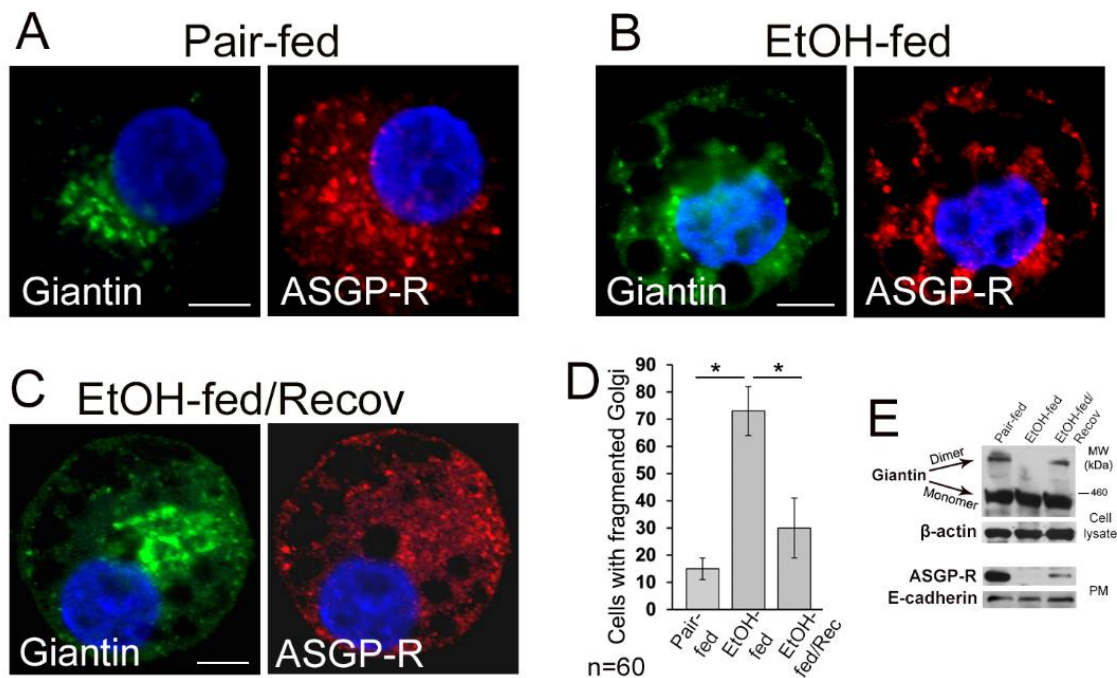
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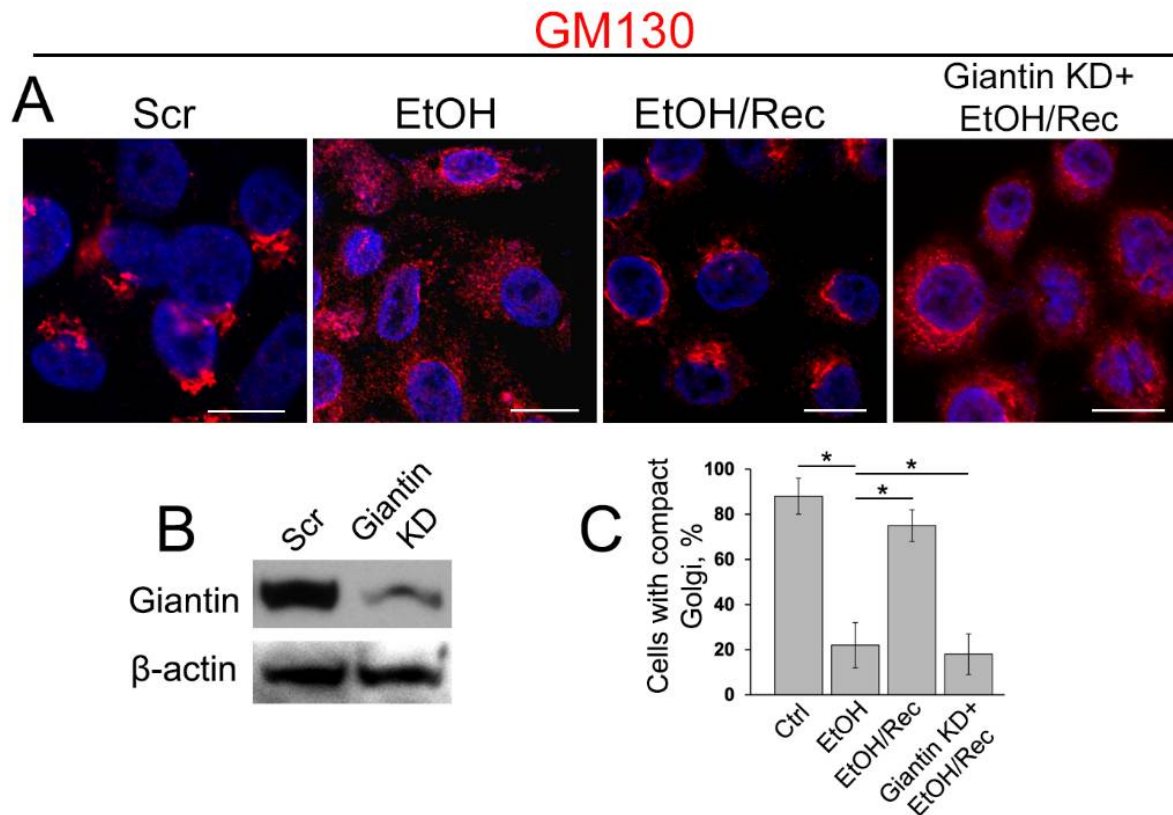
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237 **Figure 2**

238 **Figure 2. Post-alcohol Golgi biogenesis *in vivo*.** (A-C) Giantin and ASGP-R immunostaining in
 239 hepatocytes obtained from rats: pair-fed (A), EtOH-fed (B), and EtOH-fed followed by the recovery
 240 (C). (D) Quantification of cells with fragmented Golgi in cells from A-C; n = 60 cells from two
 241 independent experiments, results are expressed as a mean \pm SD; *, p<0.001. (E) Top panel: giantin
 242 W-B of lysates from cells described in A-C; β -actin is a loading control. Low panel: ASGP-R W-B of
 243 plasma membrane fractions from cells described in A-C; samples were normalized to E-cadherin.
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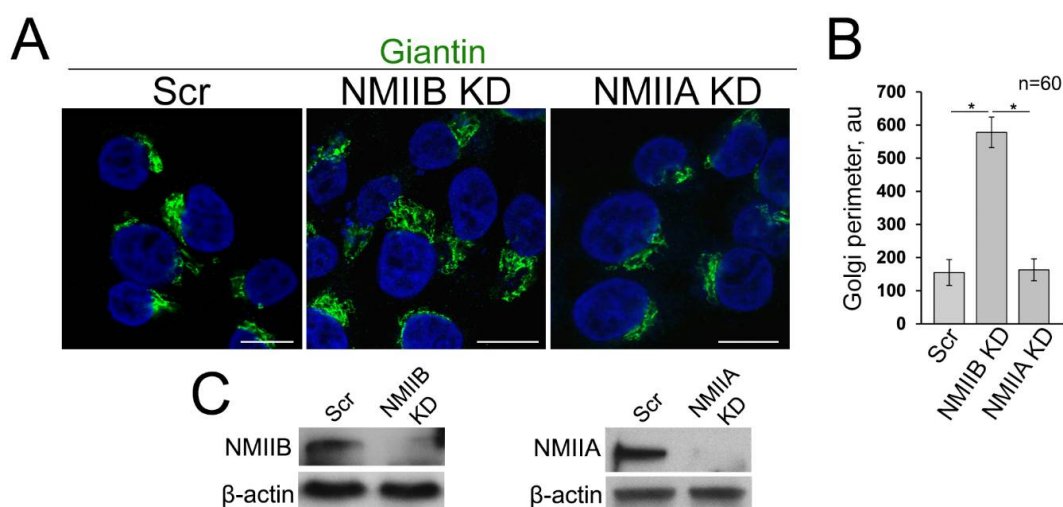
248 To examine the precise role of giantin in post-alcohol recovery, we monitored the Golgi
 249 morphology in VA-13 cells after EtOH withdrawal in presence of giantin siRNAs. As shown in
 250 **Figure 3A** and in agreement with our previous observation of these cells [19], Golgi morphology
 251 (stained by GM130) in EtOH-treated cells (35 mM EtOH for 72 h) looks predominantly disorganized,
 252 which returns to the classical perinuclear position when cells recovered after EtOH under normal
 253 growing conditions for another 48 h. As we showed previously, giantin KD has no significant impact
 254 on Golgi morphology [25]. However, in cells lacking giantin, post-alcohol Golgi failed to recollect
 255 membranes into the organized structure (**Figure 3A and B**). The quantitative analysis indicates that
 256 cells experiencing a deficiency in giantin demonstrate the identical rate of Golgi recovery as
 257 EtOH-treated cells (**Figure 3C**).
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267 **Figure 3**
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269 **Figure 3. Giantin depletion prevents Golgi restoration in cells recovered from EtOH.** (A) Confocal
270 immunofluorescence images of Golgi (GM130) in VA-13 cells: treated with scramble siRNAs, treated
271 with 35 mM EtOH for 72 h, EtOH-treated followed by recovery for 48 h, or recovered in presence of
272 giantin siRNAs; bars, 10 μ m. (B) Giantin W-B of lysates of VA-13 cells treated with corresponding
273 siRNAs; β -actin was a loading control. (C) Quantification of cells with compact Golgi in cells
274 presented in A; n = 90 cells from three independent experiments, results expressed as a mean \pm SD; *,
275 p<0.001.
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278 Recently we found that EtOH-induced Golgi disorganization is governed by motor protein
279 non-muscle Myosin IIA (NMIIA) [48]. Additionally, another non-muscle myosin isoform, NMIIB, is
280 involved in exocytosis and in vesicular trafficking at the trans-Golgi and trans-Golgi network [49,50],
281 and both NMIIA and NMIIB can be bound to F-actin. It is interesting to note that although NMIIA
282 and NMIIB share many biochemical features, they have been found on different membrane domains
283 and ascribed to distinct functions, such as cytokinesis and cell motility [51-53]. In addition, NMIIA
284 and NMIIB remain tightly bound for different lengths of time to F-actin during the ATPase cycle
285 [54,55]. In other words, while the complex of NMIIA and F-actin is the short-term event, the binding
286 of NMIIB to F-actin is prolonged, suggesting NMIIB as a motor protein for generation of sustained
287 tension [56,57]. In light of these facts, we hypothesize that NMIIA and NMIIB may play a diagonally
288 different role in Golgi morphology. To test this, we performed siRNA depletion of both NMIIA and
289 NMIIB in VA-13 cells. We then measured the perimeter of Golgi, using ImageJ, taking into account
290 only membranous-specific giantin staining. As we predicted, NMIIA KD has no significant impact
291 on Golgi [48], because Golgi size was comparable to cells transfected with scramble siRNAs (**Figure**
292 **4A-C**). However, in NMIIB-depleted cells, the perimeter of Golgi was significantly enlarged (**Figure**
293 **4A-C**). The data imply that under normal conditions, NMIIB controls Golgi integrity and could be
294 essential for the recovery of Golgi.

295 **Figure 4**296
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298 **Figure 4. (A)** Confocal immunofluorescence images of Golgi (giantin) in VA-13 cells: treated with
 299 scramble, NMIIB or NMIIA siRNAs; bars, 10 μ m. **(B)** Quantification of Golgi perimeter from cells
 300 presented in A; n=60 cells from three independent experiments, results expressed as a mean \pm SD; *,
 301 p<0.001. **(C)** NMIIB (left panel) and NMIIA (right panel) W-B of lysates of VA-13 cells treated with
 302 corresponding siRNAs; β -actin was a loading control.

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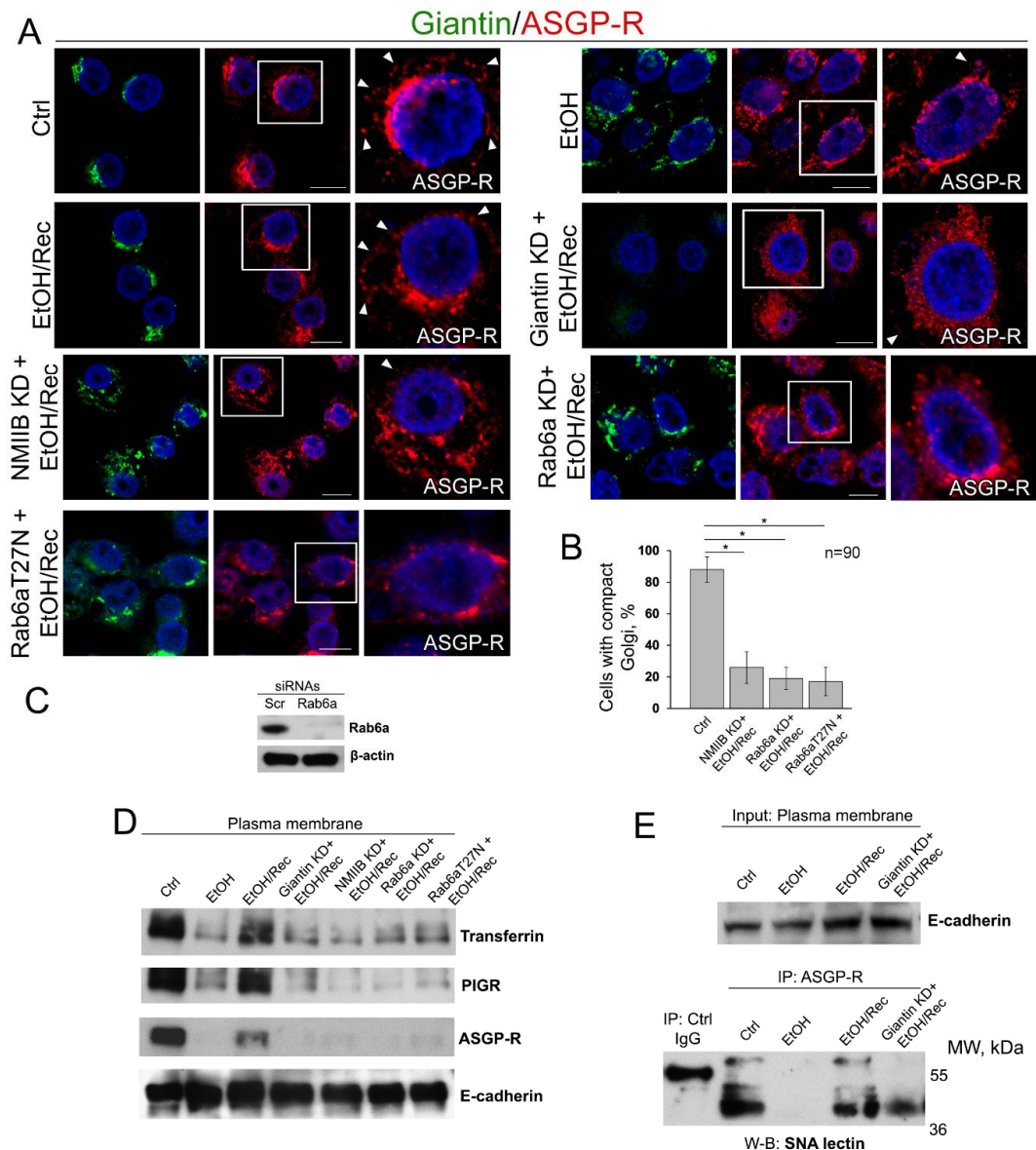
320 These surprising findings raise the question of what additional players are involved in Golgi
321 biogenesis. We have recently shown that giantin and NMIIA can compete for the Rab6a GTPase: in
322 cells treated with EtOH, giantin de-dimerization was accompanied by the loss of its link to Rab6a,
323 which results in a complex between Rab6a and NMIIA; the latter creates a force for EtOH-induced
324 Golgi disassembly [48]. Therefore, it is logical to suspect that Rab6a may assist giantin in its
325 re-dimerization.

326 With this background, we next investigated the distribution of ASGP-R in post-EtOH VA-13
327 cells in absence of either giantin, NMIIIB or Rab6a. As anticipated, in control VA-13 cells, the ASGP-R
328 signal was detected at the cell's periphery (**Figure 5A, Ctrl, white arrowheads**) and Golgi. Treatment
329 with 35 mM EtOH for 72 h induces Golgi fragmentation and reduces the ASGP-R IF peripheral
330 signal (**Figure 5A, EtOH**). By contrast, when cells recovered after EtOH under normal growing
331 conditions for another 48 h, Golgi was restored and ASGP-R signal was consistent with the control
332 sample (**Figure 5A, EtOH/Rec, white arrowheads**). Nevertheless, post-EtOH recovery of ASGP-R
333 peripheral staining was blocked in giantin-depleted cells (**Figure 5A, Giantin KD+ EtOH/Rec**),
334 which, as we shown before, are failed to recover Golgi (**Figure 3**). Similarly, we found no significant
335 restoration of Golgi and ASGP-R in NMIIIB- or Rab6a-depleted cells, nor in cells transfected with
336 dominant negative (GDP-bound) Rab6a(T27N) (**Figure 5A–C**). Notably, we could not detect changes
337 in Golgi morphology in control VA-13 cells treated with either Rab6a siRNAs or Rab6a(T27N),
338 suggesting that disorganization of Golgi can be ascribed to EtOH effect only (data not shown). Thus,
339 these data imply that post-EtOH Golgi recovery requires giantin, and it is mediated by the GTPase
340 activity of Rab6a and action of NMIIIB.

341 As a way to evaluate the trafficking of liver-specific proteins to the cell surface, in addition to
342 ASGP-R, we also measured by W-B the plasma membrane (PM) content of PIGR and transferrin. As
343 shown in **Figure 5D**, the intensity of bands of all three proteins was reduced in EtOH-treated cells,
344 but in EtOH-recovered cells was very close to the value we saw in control cells. Of note, cells
345 recovered from EtOH under giantin, NMIIIB or Rab6a depletion, or transfected with Rab6a(T27N),
346 express ASGP-R, PIGR, and transferrin at the level of EtOH-treated cells (**Figure 5D**). Next, to
347 examine the level of complete glycosylation, we employed the Sambucus nigra agglutinin (SNA
348 lectin) that specifically binds to sialic acid attached to terminal galactose in α -2,6 and to a lesser
349 degree, α -2,3 linkage [58]. Predictably, in control VA-13 cells, the PM-associated ASGP-R bears
350 sialylated N-glycans, indicating that this protein underwent full posttranslational modification [59];
351 however, in EtOH-treated cells, the expression of ASGP-R carrying sialylated N-glycans has been
352 compromised [25,60]. In the meantime, the renaissance of Golgi in EtOH-recovered cells was
353 importantly accompanied by the recovery of glycosylation (**Figure 5E**). Notably, sialylation of
354 ASGP-R was reduced in cells lacking giantin and recovered from EtOH.

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366 Figure 5



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 368 **Figure 5. Giantin, Rab6a, and NMIIB are required for *in vitro* post-EtOH recovery of Golgi.** (A)
 369 Confocal immunofluorescence images of giantin and ASGP-R in VA-13 cells: control, EtOH-treated
 370 cells, EtOH-treated cells and transfected with scramble, giantin, NMIIB, Rab6a siRNAs, and
 371 dominant negative (GDP-bound) Rab6a(T27N) followed by recovery. White boxes are enlarged
 372 pictures of ASGP-R presented at the right side. Arrowheads indicate ASGP-R punctae distributed at
 373 the periphery of cells. All confocal images are acquired with the same imaging parameters; bars, 10
 374 μm . (B) Quantification of cells with compact Golgi for indicated cells (assessment of EtOH,
 375 EtOH/Rec and giantin KD + EtOH/Rec cells was presented in Fig. 3C); n = 90 cells from three
 376 independent experiments, results expressed as a mean \pm SD; *, $p < 0.001$. (C) Rab6a W-B of lysates of
 377 VA-13 cells treated with corresponding siRNAs; β -actin was a loading control. (D) Transferrin,
 378 PIGR, and ASGP-R W-B of plasma membrane fractions isolated from VA-13 cells presented in A;
 379 samples were normalized to E-cadherin. (E) SNA lectin W-B of ASGP-R-IP from the plasma

380 membrane fractions isolated from VA-13 cells: control, EtOH-treated, and recovered from EtOH in
381 absence or presence of giantin siRNAs. The input was normalized to the E-cadherin.
382

383 4. Discussion

384 Our data confirm that Rab6a plays a dual role in the function of Golgi. On the one hand, the
385 complex between Rab6a and NMIIA has been shown to be involved in EtOH-induced Golgi
386 remodeling and the extension of Golgi tubules to the ER [18,48,61,62], on the other hand, as we show
387 here, in cells lacking active Rab6a, Golgi could not revert to the juxtannuclear position during alcohol
388 abstinence. Since both Rab6a and giantin exist in the dimer form, and Golgi restoration coincides
389 with giantin dimerization, it is logical to assume that Golgi de novo formation is associated with
390 simultaneous cross-bridging dimerization of both giantin and Rab6a. This scenario is based on (a)
391 our previous observation that giantin and NMIIA compete for Rab6a [48], (b) KD of Rab6a
392 drastically reduces the amount of giantin [18], and (c) preliminary data from the cells recovered after
393 Brefeldin A treatment (Petrosyan et al., unpublished observation), which fits well with the data
394 presented here.

395 If giantin plays a leading role in the maturation of Golgi membranes, then, what is the role for
396 GM130 and GRASP65, which have been shown to be essential for the lateral cisternal fusion during
397 Golgi assembly and efficient glycosylation [63]? Notably, these data were not totally reproduced by
398 another group, which demonstrates that the function of GM130 is rather necessary for the
399 incorporation of the ER-emanating tubulovesicular carriers into the cis-Golgi stacks [64]. While we
400 do not rule out that under normal circumstances, GM130 and GRASP65 may play a certain role in
401 both events, we could not find any pieces of evidence supporting the critical role of these proteins in
402 Golgi recovery after alcohol treatment. Previously we found that the expression and Golgi
403 localization of GM130 and GRASP65 are not affected in EtOH-treated VA-13 cells [19], and here,
404 neither GRASP65 nor GM130 siRNA-mediated KD prevents post-EtOH Golgi recovery in VA-13
405 cells (data not shown). The complex GM130–GRASP65 may serve as an alternative docking site for
406 some Golgi residential proteins [27], however, given that giantin is exclusively required for Golgi
407 localization of important enzymes [18,27-29], glycosylation in EtOH-treated cells is significantly
408 impaired. Therefore, post-alcohol recovery of giantin is required for proper glycosylation of hepatic
409 proteins and their subsequent delivery to their working sites. In the meantime, it is known that
410 under-glycosylated transferrin can be secreted into the bloodstream [31]. This poses the intriguing
411 question whether compensatory mechanisms exist for abnormal glycoproteins to bypass fragmented
412 Golgi en route to the cell surface. The most likely pathway is the direct ER-PM contact sites that are
413 observed in different cells, including hepatocytes [65,66]. In alcohol-treated cells, this may serve as
414 the alternative way to relieve the ER-stress, in addition to the unfolded protein response [67].

415 Here, for the first time, we observed the differential impact of depletion of NMIIA and NMIIB-
416 on Golgi. It is known that cells pretreated with NMIIA siRNA or its inhibitors demonstrate a
417 significant delay in Brefeldin A-induced Golgi disorganization [68,69]. We have also shown that
418 NMIIA is tethered to Golgi membranes under heat shock, or inhibition of heat shock proteins
419 (HSPs), and depletion of a beta-COP subunit of COPI vesicles [6,48,70]. Finally, cooperation between
420 NMIIA and Rab6a is essential for EtOH-induced Golgi fragmentation [48]. Thus, NMIIA is the
421 master of Golgi remodeling, however, under normal conditions, its depletion has no visual impact
422 on Golgi morphology, while KD of NMIIB leads to Golgi enlargement. It appears that compact
423 structure and perinuclear position of Golgi are determined inter alia by a dynamic equilibrium
424 between NMIIA that operate in its breakdown and NMIIB that responsible for its maintenance.
425 Indeed, here we found that depletion of NMIIB prevents the restoration of Golgi, indicating that the
426 formation of the compact Golgi structure is somehow controlled by this motor protein. At this point,
427 the mechanism of NMIIB interference with Golgi remains enigmatic. Analogously to NMIIA, NMIIB

428 could be recruited to the Golgi by some local GTPase and tethered to the membranes via interaction
429 with Golgi residential proteins [69]. Our preliminary data indicate that the possible candidate is
430 trans-Golgi localized Rab3D [71], but the direct link between Rab3D and NMIIB needs further
431 rigorous investigation.

432 In sum, our results confirm the critical role for giantin, Rab6a, and NMIIB in the post-alcohol
433 recovery of Golgi. We believe that the restoration of Golgi is a much more complicated event and
434 requires the active involvement of other players. However, these three proteins appear to be the key
435 regulators of fusion of the nascent Golgi membranes, which is the critical step in Golgi biogenesis.
436 Our data support observations of chronic alcohol consumption that indicate the ability of
437 hepatocytes to prompt recovery during alcohol abstinence. However, some parameters require more
438 time to return to the original numbers. For instance, rats fed with Lieber-De Carli diet for 3 weeks
439 demonstrate the inability to increase the level of Mg²⁺ in the extracellular compartment, and it takes
440 10 days of EtOH withdrawal to restore Mg²⁺[72]. Intriguingly, recent observation of alcohol
441 withdrawal in patients with ALD indicates that despite the level of aspartate-amino-transferase
442 returns to the normal during alcohol detoxification, the expression of the apoptotic marker,
443 caspase-cleaved keratin-18 fragment, in the serum of these patients still remains high [73]. These
444 data suggest that the evaluation of liver cells reparation requires additional parameters. Here, for the
445 first time, we show that the retrieval of critical hepatic proteins depends on the restoration of
446 compact Golgi morphology and its perinuclear position. Therefore, in the biopsy samples from
447 patients with alcoholic hepatitis, in addition to the ballooning and Mallory-Denk bodies [74], the
448 morphology of Golgi would be another critical histological aspect to monitor. Continuous structural
449 disorganization of Golgi upon heavy alcohol drinking exhausts its recovery mechanism, potentiates
450 ER-stress in hepatocytes and induces apoptosis [75], which, in turn, results in the manifestation of
451 ALD.

452 5. Conclusions

453 The ability of Golgi apparatus to recover after severe attacks is unique and could play a
454 significant role in cellular homeostasis. Here, we describe the role of the largest golgin, giantin, in the
455 maintenance of Golgi stability. Our results clearly indicate that giantin is required for post-alcohol
456 restoration of Golgi, and the latter is a prerequisite for successful targeting of hepatic proteins to the
457 cell surface. Moreover, we found that the reversal of Golgi to the normal morphology also depends
458 on the activity of Rab6a GTPase and the action of NMIIB.

459

460 **Author Contributions:** methodology, C.C.; A.P.; formal analysis, C.C.; A.P. S.M.; investigation, C.C.; A.P. P.T.;
461 resources, C.C.; A.P.; writing—original draft preparation, A.P.; writing—review and editing, C.C.; A.P. S.M.
462 P.T.; supervision, C.C.; A.P.; project administration, A.P.; funding acquisition, C.C.; A.P.

463 **Funding:** Support for the UNMC Advanced Microscopy Core Facility was provided by the Nebraska Research
464 Initiative, the Fred and Pamela Buffett Cancer Center Support Grant (P30CA036727), and an Institutional
465 Development Award (IDeA) from the NIGMS of the NIH (P30GM106397). This research was supported by the
466 K01AA022979-01 award from the National Institute on Alcohol and Alcohol Abuse (to A.P.), the Nebraska
467 Center for Integrated Biomolecular Communication Systems Biology Core (NIGMS P20-GM113126) (to A.P.),
468 the Department of Veterans' Affairs (C.C.).

469 **Acknowledgments:** We thank Dr. Adrian E. Koesters for critical review of the manuscript and Alexander M.
470 Pong for excellent technical assistance.

471 **Conflicts of Interest:** "The authors declare no conflict of interest."

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