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**Permalink** https://escholarship.org/uc/item/7xk069n9

**Journal** Current Biology, 30(5)

**ISSN** 0960-9822

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Publication Date 2020-03-01

### DOI

10.1016/j.cub.2019.12.061

Peer reviewed



# **HHS Public Access**

Author manuscript *Curr Biol.* Author manuscript; available in PMC 2021 March 09.

Published in final edited form as:

*Curr Biol.* 2020 March 09; 30(5): 865–876.e7. doi:10.1016/j.cub.2019.12.061.

# The mRNA decay factor CAR-1/LSM14 regulates axon regeneration via mitochondrial calcium dynamics

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#### Summary

mRNA decay factors regulate mRNA turnover by recruiting non-translating mRNAs and targeting them for translational repression and mRNA degradation. How mRNA decay pathways regulate cellular function *in vivo* with specificity is poorly understood. Here we show that *C. elegans* mRNA decay factors, including the translational repressors CAR-1/LSM14 and CGH-1/DDX6, and the decapping enzymes DCAP-1/DCP1, function in neurons to differentially regulate axon development and maintenance, and axon regrowth following injury. In neuronal cell bodies, CAR-1 fully colocalizes with CGH-1, and partially colocalizes with DCAP-1, suggesting mRNA decay components form at least two types of cytoplasmic granules. Following axon injury in adult neurons, loss of CAR-1 or CGH-1 results in increased axon regrowth and growth cone formation, whereas loss of DCAP-1/2 results in reduced regrowth. To determine how CAR-1 inhibits regrowth we analyzed mRNAs bound to pan-neuronally expressed GFP::CAR-1 using a crosslinking and immunoprecipitation based approach. Among the putative mRNA targets of CAR-1, we characterized the roles of *micu-1*, a regulator of the mitochondrial calcium uniporter MCU-1, in axon injury. We show that loss of car-1 results increased MICU-1 protein levels, and that enhanced axon regrowth in car-1 mutants is dependent on micu-1 and mcu-1. Moreover, axon injury induces transient calcium influx into axonal mitochondria, dependent on MCU-1. In car-1

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Author contributions

N.H.T., Y.J., and A.D.C. conceived the project. N.H.T. performed all experiments unless otherwise specified. K.W.K. performed smFISH experiments in Figure 1A and S1. S.X. generated *micu-1(0)* mutants. S.B., B.A.Y. and G.W.Y. contributed to seCLIP analyses. N.H.T., Y.J. and A.D.C. analyzed data and wrote the manuscript, with input from all authors.

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Declaration of Interests

G.W.Y. is a co-founder and a member of the Board of Directors, on the SAB, equity holder, and paid consultant for Locana and Eclipse BioInnovations. G.W.Y. is a visiting professor at the National University of Singapore, with the terms of this arrangement reviewed and approved by the University of California, San Diego in accordance with its conflict of interest policies. The other authors declare no competing financial interests.

loss of function mutants and in *micu-1* overexpressing animals, the axonal mitochondrial calcium influx is more sustained, which likely underlies enhanced axon regrowth. Our data uncover a novel pathway that controls axon regrowth through axonal mitochondrial calcium uptake.

#### **Graphical Abstract**



#### eTOC Blurb

Tang *et al.* dissect the roles of mRNA decay factors in *C. elegans* axon regeneration. Loss of function in the Lsm14 ortholog CAR-1 results in increased axon regeneration due to elevated expression of MICU-1, a mitochondrial calcium uniporter regulator that is a key target of CAR-1 repression in neurons.

#### Keywords

RNA binding protein; LSM14; CGH-1; DDX6; P body; MCU; MICU

#### Introduction

Mature mRNAs are either actively translated or exist in a translational repressed state that can be targeted for degradation by mRNA decay factors. Extensive biochemical studies show that the recognition of mRNAs by the mRNA decay factor LSM14 and DEAD-box RNA helicase DDX6 leads to translational repression, followed by irreversible removal of the 5' cap by decapping enzymes DCP1 and DCP2, and mRNA degradation by the exonuclease XRN1 (reviewed in [1]). In multiple cell types depletion of mRNA decay factors usually leads to accumulation of stabilized mRNAs. However, increasing evidence suggests that mRNA decay factors exhibit a high degree of selectivity in mRNA stability

regulation [2]. Therefore, it is crucial to identify the mRNA targets of mRNA decay factors to provide a better understanding of their cellular functions.

Neurons are polarized cells that are primed for a high degree of selective and dynamic regulation of gene expression. mRNA decay factors are widely expressed in neurons of *C. elegans*, Drosophila, and mammals [3–6]. For example, Drosophila Me31B/DDX6 is enriched in post-synaptic dendrites [5], and its overexpression in sensory neurons reduces higher-order dendrite arborization [3], although it remains unknown whether particular mRNA targets are involved.

*C. elegans* expresses many conserved mRNA decay factors, whose function have been mostly characterized in germline and early embryos [7–10]. For example, the CAR-1 protein family includes yeast Scd6, Drosophila Tral (Trailer hitch), Xenopus RAP55 and mammalian LSM14 [11]. The interaction between CAR-1/LSM14 and CGH-1/DDX6 regulates the formation of endoplasmic reticulum and anaphase spindle network; loss of function in *car-1* or *cgh-1* leads to sterility and embryonic lethality due to defects in germline apoptosis and embryonic cytokinesis [7, 8, 10]. Loss of function in *cgh-1* has recently been shown to affect dendrite development in PVD neurons [6]. However, the neuronal mRNA targets of CAR-1 or CGH-1 have not yet been identified.

Here we show that loss of the translational repressors CAR-1 or CGH-1 results in axon breakage and branching, and increased axon regrowth after injury, whereas loss of mRNA decapping factors results in aberrant axon development and decreased axon regrowth after injury. We further identified numerous genes including the mitochondrial calcium ( $[Ca^{2+}]_{mt}$ ) regulator *micu-1* whose mRNAs are bound by CAR-1 in neurons. We present multiple lines of evidence that CAR-1 represses the expression and translation of *micu-1* in neurons. Additionally, we describe a  $[Ca^{2+}]_{mt}$  influx induced by axon injury, and show that the dynamics of this  $[Ca^{2+}]_{mt}$  is regulated by CAR-1 and MICU-1 with dose-dependency. Our study reveals a novel mechanism whereby mRNA decay pathways regulate axonal mitochondrial calcium  $[Ca^{2+}]_{mt}$  dynamics.

#### Results

# *C. elegans* mRNA decay factors are expressed in neurons and localize to distinct subcellular granules

We first asked whether key mRNA decay components were expressed in *C. elegans* neurons. We performed smFISH (single-molecule fluorescence in situ hybridization) for endogenous *car-1* mRNAs and observed widespread expression in somatic cells including TRNs and other neurons besides the germ line (Figure 1A and Figure S1). We examined functional transgenes of full-length DCAP-1 or CGH-1 expressed under their respective promoters [12, 13] and observed expression in many neurons including touch receptor neurons (TRNs) and motor neurons, localizing to cytoplasmic puncta in neuronal cell bodies (Figure 1B and Figure S2A). To determine protein localization in single neurons, we generated transgenes expressing various mRNA decay factors using the TRN-specific *mec-4* promoter. We found that in TRN cell bodies, CGH-1::GFP fully co-localized with mKate2::CAR-1 puncta (Figure 1C), whereas DCAP-1::dsRed partially co-localized with GFP::CAR-1 (Figure 1D).

These results suggest mRNA decay components form at least two types of cytoplasmic granules in *C. elegans* neurons. The partial colocalization of CAR-1 and DCAP-1 further implies that only some CAR-1-bound mRNAs undergo mRNA decapping and decay (Figure 1E).

Assembly of mRNA decay complexes in other systems involves direct interactions such as binding of DDX6 to LSM14, and of DCP1 to the decapping activator PATL [14, 15]. To address whether punctate localization by *C. elegans* mRNA decay factors depended on similar interactions we examined genetic null (*0*) mutants. Loss of function in *patr-1*/PATL resulted in fewer DCAP-1 puncta in neurons, whereas loss of function in *cgh-1* resulted in dimmer CAR-1 puncta (Figure S2B–S2C), indicating PATR-1 and CGH-1 promote recruitment of DCAP-1 and CAR-1, respectively. In contrast, loss of function in decapping enzymes *dcap-1* or *dcap-2* increased the size of CAR-1 puncta (Figure S1C). In *dcap-2(0)* mutants, these enlarged CAR-1 puncta showed nearly complete colocalization with DCAP-1 (Figure S1D), suggesting the lack of decapping activity may cause accumulation of granules containing CAR-1 and its bound mRNAs.

# mRNA decay components have differential roles in axon morphology and regrowth after injury

To study the roles of mRNA decay components in neuronal development and maintenance, we focused on the posterior TRN, PLM. In wild type animals PLM neurons normally extend a long anterior axon and a short posterior dendrite (Figure 2A, S3A). In *car-1(0)* and *cgh-1(0)* mutant larvae PLM neurons displayed normal axon morphology (Figure S3B), but in day 1 mutant adults PLM axons displayed ectopic branching, breakage, and blebbing (Figure 2A–2B, S3A–S3B), suggesting that *car-1* and *cgh-1* are not essential for PLM axon development, but are necessary for maintaining their healthy morphology in adults. In contrast, *dcap-1(0), dcap-2(0)*, or *dcap-1(0) dcap-2(0)* mutants at all larval and adult stages displayed low penetrance hook-shaped axon extensions, in addition to ectopic axon branching and blebbing (Figure 2A–2B, S3B), suggesting decapping enzyme activity is important for PLM development.

Adult PLM axons display robust regrowth following femtosecond laser surgery [16]. We next examined how the mRNA decay factors affected axon regrowth. We severed morphologically normal PLM axons in larval (L4) animals lacking specific mRNA decay components and imaged axon regrowth 24 hours post-axotomy (hpa). *car-1(0)* and *cgh-1(0)* mutants showed increased regrowth after injury, whereas injured PLM axons in single null mutants for *dcap-1*, *dcap-2*, or *patr-1* and in *dcap-1(0) dcap-2(0)* double mutants all showed decreased axon regrowth (Figure 2C). This analysis implies that although these mRNA decay factors can form protein complex and partly colocalize within the same cell, they exert differential functions in axon development, maintenance and regrowth. Below we focus on CAR-1, which is not required for PLM development but is a strong inhibitor of PLM axon regrowth.

#### CAR-1 is a cell-intrinsic inhibitor of axon regrowth

Three independent *car-1(0)* mutants all exhibited enhanced PLM axon regrowth after injury in the L4 stage, as well as adult-onset axon morphology defects (Figure 3A–3C and Figure S3C). The enhanced regrowth in *car-1(0)* mutants was restored to wild type levels by single-copy transgenes expressing *car-1* using endogenous or TRN-specific promoters but not using a muscle-specific promoter (Figure 3B), indicating that CAR-1 regulates axon regrowth cell-autonomously. Axon regrowth involves initial growth cone formation followed by axon extension [17–19]. We observed higher rate of growth cone formation in *car-1(0)* mutants at multiple time points after axonal injury (Figure 3D–3E), suggesting CAR-1 inhibits growth cone formation throughout the process of regrowth. Moreover, overexpression of CAR-1 in TRNs resulted in severe axonal defects in adult animals and strongly impaired axon regrowth and growth cone formation after injury (Figure 3B–3C and Figure S3C), indicating that axon maintenance and regrowth are sensitive to CAR-1 levels.

#### CAR-1 Sm and FDF domains are required for inhibition of axon regrowth

CAR-1 contains three conserved domains (Figure 4A): an N-terminal Sm domain, an FDF (phenylalanine-aspartate-phenylalanine) motif, and a C-terminal RGG (arginine-glycine-glycine) motif [7, 8]. The Sm domain in yeast Scd6 is essential for mRNA translational repression and stimulation of mRNA decay [20], and the FDF motif of *C. elegans* CAR-1 can interact with human DDX6 [14]. We next asked which domain is relevant for CAR-1 cytoplasmic puncta formation and for its function in axon regrowth.

We expressed truncated GFP::CAR-1 in TRNs as single-copy insertion transgenes to ensure consistency in expression level (Figure 4A). We found that the FDF and RGG motifs, but not the Sm domain, contribute to the formation of CAR-1 puncta in PLM cell bodies (Figure 4A), consistent with observations in *C. elegans* embryos [7]. To address the function of CAR-1 mutant proteins, we performed axon injury in *car-1(0)* animals expressing each transgene. Expression of CAR-1(FL) or CAR-1(Sm+FDF), but not CAR-1(Sm), CAR-1( Sm), CAR-1(RGG), nor CAR-1( FDF+RGG), in *car-1(0)* mutants restored axon regrowth and growth cone formation to wild type levels (Figure 4B–4C). These data indicate that the Sm domain and FDF motif of CAR-1, hence its role in RNA translational repression, are critical for CAR-1 function in neurons.

#### CAR-1 regulates its mRNA expression in PLM neurons

To identify neuronal targets of CAR-1 we constructed transgenic strains overexpressing GFP::CAR-1(FL) (*juIs526*) or GFP::CAR-1(Sm) (*juIs549*) in all neurons using the panneuronal *rgef-1* promoter. In axon injury assay, we found that overexpression of GFP::CAR-1(FL), but not GFP::CAR-1(Sm), inhibited PLM axon regrowth (Figure 5A), confirming the importance of the Sm domain in CAR-1 function. We then performed single-end enhanced crosslinking and immunoprecipitation (seCLIP) to isolate mRNA targets of CAR-1 using these transgenic animals (see Methods for details) [21, 22]. We reasoned that mRNAs repressed by CAR-1 should be more stably bound to non-functional GFP::CAR-1(Sm) than to GFP::CAR-1(FL). We analyzed seCLIP data to identify peaks specifically enriched in GFP::CAR-1(Sm) samples (Methods) and selected about 30 or so potential targets (Table S1). Among them, we found that *car-1* itself was specifically

enriched in GFP::CAR-1( Sm) co-immunoprecipitates (Figure 5B), suggesting CAR-1 might repress its own expression. To test this, we performed smFISH for *car-1* in animals expressing Pmec-4::GFP::CAR-1 and found that *car-1* mRNA puncta partly colocalized with GFP::CAR-1 cytoplasmic puncta in wild type and *dcap-2(0)* animals (Figure 5C). Since *cgh-1(0)* mutants display dimmer GFP::CAR-1 puncta (Figure S1C), we visualized *car-1* mRNAs in *cgh-1(0)* mutants and observed that *cgh-1(0)* mutants displayed more *car-1* mRNAs (Figure 5D–5E), suggesting *car-1* mRNA levels are normally limited by CAR-1/CGH-1 activity.

#### CAR-1 binds micu-1 transcripts and represses MICU-1::GFP protein levels in PLM neurons

We identified 29 genes whose mRNAs showed enriched peaks in GFP::CAR-1( Sm) seCLIP analysis, including several calcium-related genes: *clp-1, kcnl-1, micu-1* and *unc-13* (Table S1). Several genes were previously analyzed for their roles in PLM axon regrowth [18, 23]. Given recent evidence for the function of mitochondria in axon regrowth [24–26], here we chose to focus on *micu-1*, which encodes a mitochondrial calcium uptake regulator of the MICU1 family (Figure S4A). Careful inspection of the seCLIP peak profiles revealed that GFP::CAR-1( Sm) samples were specifically enriched on *micu-1* (Figure 5B). To further verify this finding, we performed smFISH of *micu-1* mRNA. In wild type PLM neurons, *micu-1* mRNA puncta partly colocalized with GFP::CAR-1 (Figure 6A), similar to *car-1* mRNA. In *car-1(0)* mutants, we observed increased numbers of *micu-1* mRNA puncta in PLM cell bodies (Figure 6B–6C). The increased *micu-1* mRNA puncta observed in *car-1(0)* mutant TRNs was suppressed by expressing CAR-1(FL) or CAR-1(Sm+FDF), but not CAR-1( Sm) (Figure 6C), suggesting CAR-1(Sm) domain mediates translational repression. *micu-1* mRNA puncta did not colocalize with GFP::DCAP-1 (Figure S5A), suggesting DCAP-1 does not regulate expression of *micu-1* mRNA directly.

Next, we characterized endogenous MICU-1 expression by inserting GFP into the carboxyterminus of the endogenous *micu-1* gene (see Methods). MICU-1::GFP was detected at low levels in germ cells, epidermis, and some muscles (Figure S4B). MICU-1::GFP was detected at low levels in PLM neuron soma, colocalizing with a mitochondrial marker, but was below the limit of detection in axons (Figure 6D). As *micu-1* transcript levels were increased in *car-1(0)* mutants, we examined if MICU-1::GFP signals were different in *car-1(0)* mutant compared to wild type. We observed a consistent 1.2-fold increase of MICU-1::GFP intensity in PLM cell bodies in *car-1(0)* mutant compared to wild type (Figure 6E–6F). Collectively, these observations indicate that CAR-1 binds *micu-1* mRNA and represses its translation in PLM neurons.

#### CAR-1-mediated inhibition of axon regrowth is dependent on the mitochondrial calcium import factors MCU-1 and MICU-1

MICU1 is an EF hand protein that forms a complex with the MCU1 uniporter to regulate  $[Ca^{2+}]_{mt}$  uptake [27-31]. We therefore hypothesize that axonal mitochondrial calcium uptake might influence regrowth dynamics. To test this, we first asked whether *micu-1*, or the uniporter *mcu-1*, affected PLM axon regrowth. We analyzed axon regrowth in double mutants between *car-1(0)* and *mcu-1(0)* or *micu-1(0)*. Loss of *mcu-1* or *micu-1* fully suppressed increased axon regrowth observed in *car-1(0)* mutants (Figure 7A). However,

loss of *mcu-1* or *micu-1* did not suppress the increased growth cone formation observed in *car-1(0)* mutants, indicating that CAR-1 acts via other targets to regulate axon extension and growth cone formation. *micu-1(0)* also suppressed the adult-onset axon maintenance defects of *car-1(0)* mutants (Figure S5B), suggesting MICU-1 is acting downstream of CAR-1 in axon maintenance. Loss of *mcu-1* or *micu-1* did not rescue axon regrowth and axon morphology defects of *dcap-1(0)* mutants (Figure S5C–S5D), implying that *micu-1* is a specific target of CAR-1 but not DCAP-1.

# Axon injury triggers mitochondrial calcium uptake dependent on MCU-1 and regulated by MICU-1

We next addressed whether axon injury might affect  $[Ca^{2+}]_{mt}$  flux. We targeted the Ca<sup>2+</sup> sensor GCaMP5 to the mitochondrial matrix (mtGCaMP) in TRNs. *micu-1(0)*, *mcu-1(0)*, and *car-1(0)* mutants displayed normal axonal mitochondrial distribution and baseline mtGCaMP levels (Figure S6A–S6B). We confirmed that injury causes cytosolic Ca<sup>2+</sup>  $[Ca^{2+}]_c$  transient (Figure 7B) [32], with no significant difference between wild type, *car-1(0)*, *mcu-1(0)* and *micu-1(0)* mutants (data not shown).

In wild type PLM axons, injury triggered a rapid increase in mtGCaMP fluorescence, consistent with axonal  $[Ca^{2+}]_{mt}$  uptake (Figure 7B–7C). We measured the relative change in mtGCaMP fluorescence ( F/F0) and found that the increased mtGCaMP fluorescence peaked within seconds of injury followed by decay to baseline levels after 5 minutes (Figure 7B–7D). Loss of function in *mcu-1* abolished the axotomy-triggered mtGCaMP transient (Figure 7B). In contrast, *micu-1(0)* PLM axons showed a higher peak mtGCaMP fluorescence immediately after injury but decayed faster, and by 5 minutes after injury had mtGCaMP levels similar to wild type animals (Figure 7B). The increase in mtGCaMP fluorescence observed in wild type and *micu-1(0)* axons after injury was dependent on MCU-1, because *mcu-1(0) micu-1(0)* double mutants did not display any transient mtGCaMP increase following axonal injury, resembling *mcu-1* single mutants (Figure 7B). Our results show that MCU-1 is essential for the transient  $[Ca^{2+}]_{mt}$  uptake after axon injury, whereas MICU-1 appears to inhibit initial Ca<sup>2+</sup> overload, consistent with the gatekeeping function of mammalian MICUs [30, 33, 34].

#### car-1(0) mutants display more sustained axonal [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>mt</sub> uptake

We further addressed whether the axotomy-triggered  $[Ca^{2+}]_{mt}$  influx was regulated by CAR-1 by examining  $[Ca^{2+}]_{mt}$  uptake in *car-1(0)* animals. The mtGCaMP transients triggered immediately (2.4 s after axotomy) by injury in *car-1(0)* were similar to those in wild type axons (Figure 7B–7C). However, *car-1(0)* mutants displayed a more sustained elevation in  $[Ca^{2+}]_{mt}$  level compared to wild type; this elevation was completely dependent on MCU-1 (Figure 7B–7D). As expression of MICU-1 was elevated in *car-1(0)* mutants (Figure 6), we next tested whether loss of *micu-1* was able to restore wild type  $[Ca^{2+}]_{mt}$  level in *car-1(0)* mutants. We observed wild type  $[Ca^{2+}]_{mt}$  level in *car-1(0)*; *micu-1(0)* double mutants (Figure 7B). Further, slight elevation of *micu-1* level in the TRNs resulted in increased axon regrowth and sustained axonal  $[Ca^{2+}]_{mt}$  uptake after injury (Figure S7A–S7C). Axon regrowth is sensitive to the level of MICU-1. Overall, our results

suggest that mild elevation of MICU-1 expression is responsible for the more sustained  $[Ca^{2+}]_{mt}$  uptake and increased axon regrowth of *car-1(0)* mutants upon axon injury.

#### Discussion

In this study, we find that CAR-1 and other mRNA decay factors play multiple roles in *C. elegans* axon development, axon maintenance, and axon regrowth. We further dissected the mechanism by which CAR-1 inhibits axon regrowth after injury. We presented multiple lines of evidence that the mitochondrial calcium regulator MICU-1 is a major CAR-1 target in axon regrowth. We also show that the regulation of MICU-1 by CAR-1 is important for fine-tuning injury-inded  $[Ca^{2+}]_{mt}$  transients. Our data reveal a previously unknown molecular pathway linking mRNA decay and axonal  $[Ca^{2+}]_{mt}$  dynamics.

Our analyses on *C. elegans* mRNA decay factors are consistent with an emerging notion that these factors have distinct *in vivo* functions. Focusing on the PLM neurons, we show that mRNA decay factors localize to at least two main subcellular granules, as the decapping enzymes are present in a subset of granules containing translational repressors. These observations are consistent with reports that in Drosophila neurons decapping enzymes partly colocalize with the translational repressor Me31B/DDX6 [5]. Our data further show that mRNA decapping factors DCAP-1 and DCAP-2 are required for PLM developmental axon guidance and regrowth, whereas translational repressors CAR-1 and CGH-1 are not essential for PLM axon development, but inhibit PLM axon regrowth and maintain adult axon integrity. We have found that MICU-1, a member of a highly conserved family of [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>mt</sub> regulators, is a major functionally relevant target of neuronal CAR-1. *micu-1* transcripts are present in CAR-1 positive, DCAP-1 negative granules, suggesting different mRNA decay factors regulate expression of distinct mRNA targets. Our observation that in the absence of DCAP-1 or DCAP-2 the mRNA targets of CAR-1 accumulate in larger CAR-1 granules suggests that increased binding of CAR-1 to its mRNA targets likely leads to translational repression, potentially accounting for the axonal developmental defects and decreased axon regrowth in decapping enzyme mutants.

We find that at least two domains of LSM14 family proteins are important for translational repression. The Sm domain is essential for binding to 4E-T, and the FDF domain binds to DDX6/CGH-1 and serves as a platform for other mRNA decay factors [14, 35]. We find that truncated CAR-1(Sm+FDF) protein can suppress the increased *micu-1* transcript level of *car-1(0)* mutants, despite not forming distinct puncta in neurons. Our findings are consistent with prior studies showing the RGG motif is dispensable for translational repression [36, 37]. Moreover, translational repression has been observed in the absence of visible cytoplasmic puncta formation [38, 39]. Taken together, our results suggest CAR-1 may bind to and repress translation of mRNA targets even in the absence of visible puncta.

Through characterizing *in vivo* mRNA targets of CAR-1 in neurons, we have uncovered a previously unknown pathway involving mitochondria calcium regulation in axon injury. The functions of mitochondrial calcium uniporter MCU complex critically depend on its regulatory subunits MICU proteins and cytoplasmic calcium (reviewed in [40, 41]), and are important for human health. Mutations in human MICU genes have been linked to

neurological disorders [42–44], and MCU itself is implicated in excitotoxic neuronal cell death [45].  $[Ca^{2+}]_{mt}$  dynamics affects multiple aspects of cellular metabolism, including oxidative phosphorylation,  $Ca^{2+}$  buffering, and reactive oxygen species production, and so abnormal  $[Ca^{2+}]_{mt}$  dynamics could affect neuronal development and function in several ways [46]. Emerging evidence links elevated  $[Ca^{2+}]_{mt}$  uptake to axonal degeneration in vertebrates [47, 48] and in *C. elegans* [49]. Moreover increased  $Ca^{2+}$  levels in traumatic brain injury can be ameliorated by the inhibition of MCU1 [50], suggesting potential therapeutic benefits of mitochondrial  $Ca^{2+}$  regulation in brain injury. Loss of function in Drosophila MCU or MICU causes aberrant axon morphology and impairs memory formation [51]. Interestingly, expression levels of MCU and MICU are dependent on neuronal cell type and  $Ca^{2+}$  signaling [52]. Our results reveal that neuronal MICU-1 levels are fine-tuned by the mRNA decay machinery, adding another level of regulation to neuronal  $[Ca^{2+}]_{mt}$  dynamics.

Axon injury triggers a transient elevation in  $[Ca^{2+}]_c$  [17, 32, 53]. In *C. elegans* neurons, increased  $[Ca^{2+}]_c$  could contribute to the activation of the conserved kinase DLK-1, thereby promoting axon regrowth [54, 55]. Here, we reveal that axon injury also triggers axonal  $[Ca^{2+}]_{mt}$  uptake in *C. elegans*, reminiscent of observations in vertebrate neurons [56]. We find that this  $[Ca^{2+}]_{mt}$  uptake is completely dependent on MCU-1 and is regulated in complex ways by MICU-1. In cultured mammalian cells, MICU1 localizes to mitochondria [31, 57–59], and inhibits MCU function at low  $[Ca^{2+}]_c$  level (known as 'gatekeeping'); but, at higher  $[Ca^{2+}]_c$  levels,  $Ca^{2+}$  binding to MICU1 to stimulate MCU1 opening [33, 34, 59]. MICU1 therefore can inhibit or promote MCU function depending on the  $[Ca^{2+}]_c$  level. Supporting this model, our data show that loss of function in *micu-1* and *mcu-1* have opposing effects on the amplitude of the initial  $[Ca^{2+}]_m$  transient after axotomy. However, the enhanced axon regrowth of *car-1(0)* mutants is suppressed to a similar degree by loss of function in *mcu-1* or *micu-1*. Our data suggest that the MCU-1-stimulating role of MICU-1 at lower  $[Ca^{2+}]_c$  is most relevant to the long-term outcome in axon regrowth.

MCU function is sensitive to the stoichiometry of MICU and other regulatory subunits. For example, liver mitochondria have a higher MICU1:MCU1 ratio than heart or muscle mitochondria and display increased cooperativity of  $[Ca^{2+}]_{mt}$  uptake [60]. We propose that in PLM neurons CAR-1 tightly regulates MICU-1 expression via mRNA decay machinery. *car-1(0)* mutants have a higher MICU-1:MCU-1 ratio, causing increased  $[Ca^{2+}]_{mt}$  uptake after axon injury and enhanced axon regrowth (Figure 7E). Axonal transport of mitochondria has been shown to boost regrowth in *C. elegans* and mammalian neurons [24–26]. Our observations suggest that more sustained  $[Ca^{2+}]_{mt}$  uptake also promotes axon regrowth, for example potentially through increasing ATP production required for axon repair [61]. We speculate that the mild enhancement of  $[Ca^{2+}]_{mt}$  uptake resulting from elevated MICU expression is insufficient to trigger deleterious consequences such as opening of the mitochondrial permeability transition pore that would lead to axonal degeneration. Precise modulation of  $[Ca^{2+}]_{mt}$  uptake in injured neurons may provide new therapeutic routes towards effective axon repair.

#### STAR Methods

#### KEY RESOURCES TABLE

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Antibodies		
GFP Trap	ChromoTek	Cat#gtm-20
Bacterial and Virus Strains	4	Į.
E. coli: OP50–1	Caenorhabditis Genetics Center	RRID:WB- STRAIN:OP50–1
Chemicals, Peptides, and Recombinant Proteins	·	·
Protein: Cas9-NLS purified protein	QB3 MacroLab, UC Berkley	N/A
Stellaris RNA FISH Hybridization buffer	LGC BioSearch Technologies	Cat#SMF-HB1–10
Stellaris RNA FISH Wash Buffer A	LGC BioSearch Technologies	Cat#SMF-WA1-60
Stellaris RNA FISH Wash Buffer B	LGC BioSearch Technologies	Cat#SMF-WB1-20
ProLong Antifade Mountant with DAPI	Invitrogen	Cat#P36935
TRIzol Reagent	Invitrogen	Cat#15596026
DreamTaq DNA polymerases	Thermo Scientific	Cat#EP0705
Phusion High-Fidelity DNA polymerases	Thermo Scientific	Cat#F530L
Protease Inhibitor Cocktail Tablet	Roche	Cat#05892970001
Critical Commercial Assays	•	
SuperScript III First-Strand Synthesis System	Invitrogen	Cat#18080051
Gateway LR Clonase II Enzyme Mix	Thermo Scientific	Cat#11791-100
Gibson Assembly Master Mix	New England BioLabs	Cat#E2611S
Deposited Data		
Raw and Analyzed Data	This paper	GEO: GSE124714
Experimental Models: Organisms/Strains		
C. elegans: Strain wild type N2	Caenorhabditis Genetics Center	RRID:WB- STRAIN:N2_(ancestral)
C. elegans: Strain Pmec-7-GFP(muIs32) II	[18]	CZ10969
C. elegans: Strain Pmec-4-GFP(zdIs.5) I	[18]	CZ10175
C. elegans: Strain Pmec-17-GFP(uIs31) III	[62]	CZ25265
<i>C. elegans</i> : Strain <i>zdIs5 I; [Pdcap-1-</i> DCAP-1::dsRed + <i>rol-6(su1006)](bpIs37)</i>	This paper	CZ26592
C. elegans: Strain Pmec-7-mRFP(jsIs973) III; Pcgh-1- CGH-1::GFP(dhIs1000)	This paper	CZ26244
C. elegans: Strain Pcgh-1-CGH-1::GFP(dhIs1000); Pmec-4- mKate2::CAR-1(juEx7739)	This paper	CZ25819
<i>C. elegans</i> : Strain <i>Pmec-4</i> -GFP::CAR-1( <i>juSi338</i> ) <i>IV</i> ; [ <i>Pdcap-1</i> -DCAP-1::dsRed+ <i>rol-6(su1006)</i> ]( <i>bpIs37</i> )	This paper	CZ25293
C. elegans: Strain car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-? (q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; muIs32 II	This paper	CZ11541
C. elegans: Strain zdIs5 I; dcap-2(tm2470) IV	This paper	CZ25658

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
C. elegans: Strain zdIs5 I; cgh-1(ok492) III/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-?(q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]	This paper	CZ11540
C. elegans: Strain zdIs5 I; dcap-1(ok2139) IV	This paper	CZ11537
C. elegans: Strain zdIs5 I; dcap-1(ok2139) dcap-2(tm2470) IV	This paper	CZ27317
<i>C. elegans</i> : Strain <i>zdIs5 I</i> ; <i>patr-1(tm2402) II/mIn1 [mIs14 dpy-10(e128) II]</i>	This paper	CZ11759
C. elegans: Strain car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-? (q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; uIs31 III	This paper	CZ25319
C. elegans: Strain muls32 II; Pmec-4-GFP::CAR-1(juEx7280)	This paper	CZ23991
C. elegans: Strain car-1(ju1505) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-?(q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; muIs32 II	This paper	CZ25262
C. elegans. Strain car-1(ju1506) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-?(q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; muIs32 II	This paper	CZ25264
C. elegans: Strain car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-? (q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; muIs32 II; loxP-Pcar-1-GFP::car-1g +3'UTR-loxP (juSi343) IV	This paper	CZ25401
C. elegans: Strain car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-? (q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; muIs32 II; Pmec-4- GFP::CAR-1(juSi338) IV	This paper	CZ25112
C. elegans: Strain car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-? (q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; Pmyo-3-car-1(juEx7913)	This paper	CZ26723
C. elegans: Strain Pmec-4-GFP::CAR-1 (juSi338) IV	This paper	CZ24932
C. elegans: Strain Pmec-4-GFP::CAR-1(Sm) (juSi346) IV	This paper	CZ25350
C. elegans: Strain Pmec-4-GFP::CAR-1( Sm) (juSi345) IV	This paper	CZ25325
C. elegans: Strain Pmec-4-GFP::CAR-1(Sm+FDF) (juSi349) IV	This paper	CZ25432
C. elegans: Strain Pmec-4-GFP::CAR-1(RGG) (juSi350) IV	This paper	CZ25433
C. elegans: Strain Pmec-4-GFP::CAR-1( FDF+RGG) (juSi361) IV	This paper	CZ25884
C. elegans. Strain car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-? (q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; muIs32 II; Pmec-4-GFP::car-1( Sm) [juSi345] IV	This paper	CZ25443
C. elegans. Strain car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-? (q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; muIs32 II; Pmec-4-GFP::car-1(Sm) [juSi346] IV	This paper	CZ25444
C. elegans: Strain car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-? (q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; muIs32 II; Pmec-4-GFP::car-1(Sm +FDF) [juSi349] IV	This paper	CZ25566
C. elegans: Strain car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-? (q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; muIs32 II; Pmec-4-GFP::car-1(RGG) [juSi350] IV	This paper	CZ25567
C. elegans: Strain car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-? (q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; muIs32 II; Pmec-4-GFP::car-1( FGF +RGG) [juSi361] IV	This paper	CZ25938
C. elegans: Strain zdIs5 I; Prgef-1-GFP::car-1(juIs526)	This paper	CZ25296
C. elegans: Strain zdIs5 I; Prgef-1-GFP::car-1( Sm) (juIs549)	This paper	CZ26634
C. elegans: Strain dcap-2(tm2470) IV; Pmec-4- GFP::CAR-1(juSi338) IV	This paper	CZ26429
C. elegans: Strain Pmec-7-tagRFP::mito(jsIs1073)	This paper	NM3573
C. elegans: Strain car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-? (q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; Pmec-7-tagRFP::mito(jsIs1073)	This paper	CZ27549

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
C. elegans: Strain Pmec-7-mRFP(jsIs973) III; micu-1::GFP(ju1783) IV	This paper	CZ27519
C. elegans: Strain car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-? (q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; Pmec-7-mRFP(jsIs973) III; micu-1::GFP(ju1783) IV	This paper	CZ27538
C. elegans: Strain muIs32 II; mcu-1(ju1154) IV	This paper	CZ20877
C. elegans: Strain muIs32 II; micu-1(ju1155) IV/nT1 [qIs51 IV;V]	This paper	CZ26661
C. elegans: Strain muIs32 II; car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-?(q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; mcu-1(ju1154) IV	This paper	CZ25925
C. elegans: Strain muIs32; car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-?(q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; micu-1(ju1155) IV/tmC9 [In(glb-19 lgc-52 In(mec-3 unc-31)) IV]	This paper	CZ27010
<i>C. elegans</i> : Strain <i>Pmec-7</i> -mRFP( <i>jsIs973</i> ) <i>III; Pmec-4</i> -mito::GCaMP5( <i>juIs550</i> )	This paper	CZ26629
C. elegans: Strain car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-? (q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; Pmec-7-mRFP(jsIs973) III; Pmec-4- mito::GCaMP5(juIs550)	This paper	CZ26687
C. elegans: Strain Pmec-7-mRFP(jsIs973) III; micu-1(ju1155) IV/nT1 [qIs51 IV;V]; Pmec-4-mito::GCaMP5(juIs550)	This paper	CZ26737
C. elegans: Strain Pmec-7-mRFP(jsIs973) III; mcu-1(ju1154) IV; Pmec-4-mito::GCaMP5(juIs550)	This paper	CZ26857
C. elegans: Strain Pmec-7-mRFP(jsIs973) III; mcu-1(ju1154) micu-1(ju1156) IV/nT1 [qIs51 IV;V]; Pmec-4- mito::GCaMP5(juIs550)	This paper	CZ26858
C. elegans: Strain car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-? (q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; Pmec-7-mRFP (jsIs973) III; ; mcu-1(ju1154) IV; Pmec-4-mito::GCaMP5 (juIs550)	This paper	CZ27060
C. elegans: Strain car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-? (q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]: Pmec-7-mRFP(jsIs973) III; micu-1(ju1155) IV/tmC9 [In(glb-19 lgc-52 In(mec-3 unc-31)) IV]; Pmec-4-mito::GCaMP5 (juIs550)	This paper	CZ27061
<i>C. elegans</i> : Strain <i>Punc-17::</i> GFP( <i>vsIs48</i> ); [ <i>Pdcap-1-</i> DCAP-1::dsRed <i>+rol-6(su1006</i> )]( <i>bpIs37</i> )	This paper	CZ26594
<i>C. elegans</i> : Strain <i>Punc-17::</i> mCherry( <i>nuIs321</i> ); <i>Pcgh-1</i> -CGH-1::GFP( <i>dhIs1000</i> )	This paper	CZ26802
<i>C. elegans</i> : Strain <i>muIs32 II; [Pdcap-1-</i> DCAP-1::dsRed +rol-6(su1006)](bpIs37)	This paper	CZ26384
C. elegans. Strain car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-? (q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; muIs32 II; [Pdcap-1-DCAP-1::dsRed +rol-6(su1006)](bpIs37)	This paper	CZ26541
<i>C. elegans</i> : Strain <i>zdIs5 I; dcap-2(tm2470) IV; [Pdcap-1-</i> DCAP-1:: <i>dsRed+rol-6(su1006)](bpIs37)</i>	This paper	CZ26419
<i>C. elegans:</i> Strain <i>zdIs5 I; patr-1(tm2402) II/mIn1 [mIs14 dpy-10(e128) II]; [Pdcap-1-</i> DCAP-1::dsRed <i>+rol-6(su1006)] (bpIs37)</i>	This paper	CZ26425
C. elegans: Strain zdIs5 I; cgh-1(ok492) III/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-?(q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; [Pdcap-1-DCAP-1::dsRed +rol-6(su1006)](bpIs37)	This paper	CZ26511
C. elegans: Strain cgh-1(ok492) III/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-? (q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; Pmec-4-GFP::CAR-1(juSi338) IV	This paper	CZ25879
C. elegans: Strain patr-1(tm2402) II/mIn1 [mIs14 dpy-10(e128) II]; Pmec-4-GFP::CAR-1(juSi338) IV	This paper	CZ26426

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
C. elegans: Strain dcap-2(tm2470) IV; Pmec-4- GFP::CAR-1(juSi338) IV	This paper	CZ26429
C. elegans: Strain dcap-1(ok2139) IV; Pmec-4- GFP::CAR-1(juSi338) IV	This paper	CZ26532
C. elegans: Strain dcap-2(tm2470) IV; Pmec-4- GFP::CAR-1(juSi338) IV; [Pdcap-1-DCAP-1::dsRed +rol-6(su1006)](bpIs37)	This paper	CZ26632
C. elegans: Strain micu-1::gfp(ju1783) IV	This paper	CZ27508
C. elegans: Strain Pmec-4-GFP::DCAP-1(juEx8024)	This paper	CZ27378
C. elegans: Strain zdIs5 I; mcu-1(ju1154) IV	This paper	CZ21242
C. elegans: Strain zdIs5 I; micu-1(ju1155) IV/nT1 [qIs51 IV;V]	This paper	CZ27382
C. elegans: Strain zdIs5 I; dcap-1(ok2139) mcu-1(ju1154) IV	This paper	CZ27368
C. elegans: Strain zdIs5 I; dcap-1(ok2139)/nT1 dcap-1(ok2139) micu-1(ju1155) IV	This paper	CZ27381
C. elegans: Strain muIs32 II; Pmec-7-tagRFP::mito(jsIs1073)	This paper	CZ25635
C. elegans: Strain car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-? (q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; muIs32 II; Pmec-7- tagRFP::mito(jsIs1073)	This paper	CZ25651
<i>C. elegans</i> : Strain <i>muIs32 II; mcu-1(ju1154) IV; Pmec-7-</i> tagRFP::mito <i>(jsIs1073)</i>	This paper	CZ26537
C. elegans: Strain muls32 II; micu-1(ju1155) IV//tmC9 [In(glb-19 lgc-52 In(mec-3 unc-31)) Pmyo-2-Venus(tmIs1221)] IV; Pmec-7-tagRFP::mito(jsIs1073)	This paper	CZ27030
C. elegans: Strain zdIs5 I; Pmec-4-micu-1-gfp(juEx8048)	This paper	CZ27739
C. elegans: Strain zdIs5 I; Pmec-4-micu-1-gfp(juEx8050)	This paper	CZ27756
<i>C. elegans</i> : Strain <i>Pmec-7-</i> mRFP <i>(jsIs973) III; Pmec-4-</i> mito::GCaMP5 <i>(juIs550); Pmec-4-micu-1-gfp(juEx8048)</i>	This paper	CZ27764
<i>C. elegans</i> : Transgenic allele: N2 injected with 10 ng/µl of pCZGY2860 [ <i>Pmec-4-GFP::car-1(genomic)::let-858_3'UTR</i> ] and 5 ng/µl pCFJ90[ <i>Pmyo-2-mCherry</i> ].	This paper	juEx7280
<i>C. elegans</i> : Transgenic allele: N2 injected with 10 ng/µl pCZGY3372 [ <i>Pmyo-3-car-1(cDNA)::let-858_3'UTR</i> ] and 3 ng/ µl pCFJ90[ <i>Pmyo-2-mCherry</i> ].	This paper	juEx7913
C. elegans: Transgenic allele: N2 injected with 10 ng/µl pCZGY3411 [ <i>Pmec-4-GFP::dcap-1(cDNA)::let-858_3'UTR</i> ] and 3 ng/µl pCFJ90[ <i>Pmyo-2-mCherry</i> ].	This paper	juEx8024
<i>C. elegans</i> : Transgenic allele: N2 injected with 2 ng/µl pCZGY3416 [ <i>Pmec-4-micu-1-gfp</i> ] and 3 ng/µl pCFJ90[ <i>Pmyo-2-mCherry</i> ].	This paper	juEx8048
<i>C. elegans</i> : Transgenic allele: N2 injected with 10 ng/µl pCZGY3416 [ <i>Pmec-4-micu-1-gfp</i> ] and 3 ng/µl pCFJ90[ <i>Pmyo-2-mCherry</i> ].	This paper	juEx8050
<i>C. elegans</i> : Single-copy transgenic allele: N2 injected with 50ng/µL of pCZGY3366 [ <i>Pcar-1(1062bp upstream)-GFP::car-1(genomic+768bp 3'UTR)</i> ].	This paper	juSi343
<i>C. elegans</i> : Single-copy transgenic allele: N2 injected with 50ng/µL of pCZGY3362 [ <i>Pmec-4-GFP::car-1(cDNA)::let-858_3'UTR</i> ].	This paper	juSi338
C. elegans: Single-copy transgenic allele: N2 injected with 50ng/µL of pCZGY3367 [Pmec-4-GFP::car-1(Sm)::let-858_3'UTR].	This paper	juSi346

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
C. elegans: Single-copy transgenic allele: N2 injected with 50ng/µL of pCZGY3368 [Pmec-4- GFP::car-1( Sm)::let-858_3'UTR].	This paper	juSi345
C. elegans: Single-copy transgenic allele: N2 injected with 50ng/µL of pCZGY3369 [Pmec-4-GFP::car-1(Sm +FDF)::let-858_3'UTR].	This paper	juSi349
C. elegans: Single-copy transgenic allele: N2 injected with 50ng/µL of pCZGY3370 [Pmec-4- GFP::car-1(RGG)::let-858_3'UTR].	This paper	juSi350
<i>C. elegans</i> . Single-copy transgenic allele: N2 injected with 50ng/µL of pCZGY3371 [ <i>Pmec-4-GFP::car-1( FDF +RGG)::let-858_3'UTR</i> ].	This paper	juSi361
C. elegans: Multi-copy transgenic allele: CZ20310 [Pmex-5- his-72::miniSOG(juSi164) III unc-119(ed3) III] injected with 10 ng/µl pCZGY3363 [Prgef-1- GFP::car-1(genomic)::let-858_3'UTR] and 3 ng/µl pCFJ90[Pmyo-2-mCherry].	This paper	juls526
<i>C. elegans</i> : Multi-copy transgenic allele: CZ20310 [ <i>Pmex-5-his-72::miniSOG(juSi164) III unc-119(ed3) III</i> ] injected with 10 ng/µl pCZGY3364 [ <i>Prgef-1-GFP::car-1(Sm)::let-858_3'UTR</i> ] 3 ng/µl pCFJ90[ <i>Pmyo-2-mCherry</i> ].	This paper	juIs549
<i>C. elegans</i> : Multi-copy transgenic allele: N2 injected with 40 ng/µL of <i>Pmec-4-mito::GCaMP5</i> and treated with TMP/UV.	This paper	juIs550
<i>C. elegans</i> : GFP knock-in allele: N2 injected with 50 ng/µl of pCZGY3412, 50 ng/µl of pCZGY3413, 10 ng/µl of pCZGY3414, 3 ng/µl Pmyo-2-mCherry and 3 ng/µl of Pmyo-3-mCherry. Strains were treated with heat shock as described in Dickinson et al., 2015.	This paper	ju1783
Oligonucleotides	•	•
Alt-R® CRISPR-Cas9 crRNA for <i>car-1</i> : to make <i>car-1(ju1505)</i> and <i>car-1(ju1506)</i> deletion: /AltR1/rCrA rArGrC rUrCrG rArCrA rUrCrC rGrUrU rArCrG rGrUrU rUrUrA rGrArG rCrUrA rUrGrC rU/AltR2/	This paper	N/A
Alt-R® CRISPR-Cas9 crRNA for <i>car-1</i> : to make <i>car-1(ju1505)</i> and <i>car-1(ju1506)</i> deletion: /AltR1/rCrU rArArU rCrUrU rGrCrU rUrCrC rGrArU rGrUrA rGrUrU rUrUrA rGrArG rCrUrA rUrGrC rU/AltR2/	This paper	N/A
Alt-R® CRISPR-Cas9 crRNA for <i>micu-1</i> : to make <i>micu-1(ju1155) and micu-1(ju1156)</i> deletion: /AltR1/rGrU rGrGrG rCrGrG rUrUrU rCrUrC rGrCrG rArCrG rGrUrU rUrUrA rGrArG rCrUrA rUrGrC rU/AltR2/	This paper	N/A
Alt-R® CRISPR-Cas9 crRNA for <i>micu-1</i> : to make <i>micu-1(ju1155) and micu-1(ju1156)</i> deletion: /AltR1/rArU rCrGrA rUrCrC rUrArA rCrGrA rArGrA rCrArG rGrUrU rUrUrA rGrArG rCrUrA rUrGrC rU/AltR2/	This paper	N/A
Alt-R CRISPR-Cas9 tracrRNA	IDT	Cat#1072532
Recombinant DNA		
Plasmid: Pmec-4-GFP::car-1(genomic)-let-858_3'UTR	This paper	pCZGY2860
Plasmid: FRT-Hygro-FRT-Pmec-4-GFP::car-1(cDNA)- let-858_3'UTR for CRISPR	This paper	pCZGY3362
Plasmid: Prgef-1-GFP::car-1(cDNA)-let-858_3'UTR	This paper	pCZGY3363
Plasmid: Prgef-1-GFP::car-1( Sm)-let-858_3'UTR	This paper	pCZGY3364
Plasmid: FRT-Hygro-FRT-loxP-car-1-loxP for CRISPR	This paper	pCZGY3365
Plasmid: FRT-Hygro-FRT-Pcar-1(1062bp upstream)- GFP::car-1(genomic+768bp 3'UTR) for CRISPR	This paper	pCZGY3366

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Plasmid: FRT-Hygro-FRT-Pmec-4-GFP::car-1(Sm)- let-858_3'UTR for CRISPR	This paper	pCZGY3367
Plasmid: FRT-Hygro-FRT-Pmec-4-GFP::car-1( Sm)- let-858_3'UTR for CRISPR	This paper	pCZGY3368
Plasmid: FRT-Hygro-FRT-Pmec-4-GFP::car-1-( RGG)- let-858_3'UTR for CRISPR	This paper	pCZGY3369
Plasmid: FRT-Hygro-FRT-Pmec-4-GFP::car-1(RGG)- let-858_3'UTR for CRISPR	This paper	pCZGY3370
Plasmid: FRT-Hygro-FRT-Pmec-4-GFP::car-1( FDF+RGG)- let-858_3'UTR for CRISPR	This paper	pCZGY3371
Plasmid: Pmyo-3-car-1(cDNA)-unc-54_3'UTR	This paper	pCZGY3372
Plasmid: Pmec-4-GFP::dcap-1(cDNA)-let-858_3'UTR	This paper	pCZGY3411
Plasmid: Peft-3::Cas9+micu-1_C1_sgRNA	This paper	pCZGY3412
Plasmid: Peft-3::Cas9+micu-1_C2_sgRNA	This paper	pCZGY3413
Plasmid: GFP-SEC-3xFLAG_micu-1_C1_homology_arm	This paper	pCZGY3414
Plasmid: Pmec-4-micu-1-gfp	This paper	pCZGY3416
Software and Algorithms		
ImageJ	NIH image	RRID:SCR_003070
GraphPad Prism 7	GraphPad Software, Inc.	RRID:SCR_002798
ZEN	Zeiss	https://www.zeiss.com/ microscopy/us/downloads/ zen.html

#### Lead Contact and Materials Availability

Further information and requests for reagents should be directed to and will be fulfilled by the Lead Contact, Andrew Chisholm (adchisholm@ucsd.edu). All unique/stable reagents generated in this study are available from the Lead Contact without restriction.

#### **Experimental Model and Subject Details**

The nematode *Caenorhabditis elegans* was used as the experimental model for this study. All experiments were performed with hermaphrodite animals; males were used only for crosses. *C. elegans* strains were maintained at 20°C on nematode growth medium (NGM) agar plates seeded with *E. coli* OP50.

#### **Method Details**

*C. elegans* genetics—*car-1(0), cgh-1(0)* and *patr-1(0)* mutants display maternal effect lethality, and *micu-1(0)* mutants display sterility. There mutants were kept as balanced strains. Homozygous *car-1(0), cgh-1(0), patr-1(0)* and *micu-1(0)* mutants produced from heterozygous mothers were analyzed. *car-1(0)* and *micu-1(0)* mutants do not display overt behavioral or developmental phenotypes. We used the following transgenes: Pmec-7-GFP(*muIs32*), Pmec-4-GFP(*zdIs5*), Pmec-17-GFP(*uIs31*) and Pmec-7-mRFP(*jsIs973*) to visualize touch receptor neurons (TRNs), Punc-17-mCherry(*nuIs321*) and Punc-17-GFP(*vsIs48*) to visualize cholinergic motor neurons, and Pmec-7-mito-tagRFP(*jsIs1073*) to

visualize mitochondria in TRNs. Different transgenes were used when possible to confirm that phenotypes are not transgene dependent. Transgenes were introduced to various mutants by standard genetic crossing.

**Molecular cloning**—To generate *car-1* rescue constructs, we cloned ~3kb of *car-1* genomic DNA into pCR8 vector. A full-length *car-1* cDNA was generated by RT-PCR from wild type N2 total RNA. Expression constructs for tagged or truncated CAR-1 were generated from cDNA by PCR and cloned into destination vectors containing Pmec-4 or Pmyo-3 promoter using the Gateway system (Life Technologies). We expressed the Ca<sup>2+</sup> sensor GCaMP5 [63] to the mitochondrial matrix (mtGCaMP) in TRNs using the *mec-4* TRN-specific promoter. We used Gibson assembly (New England Biolabs) to generate clones for single-copy transgenes.

**Transgenic strain construction**—For standard extrachromosomal transgenes, plasmid DNAs were used at 10 ng/µl, co-injection marker Pttx-3-RFP at 90 ng/µl or Pmyo-2mCherry at 3–5 ng/µl. At least 2 independent transgenic lines were analyzed per construct. Single-copy transgenes were inserted into the transposon site *cxTi10882* on chromosome IV using CRISPR/Cas9. Three plasmids were injected into wild type hermaphrodites: a plasmid encoding Hyg<sup>R</sup>+GFP-*car-1*-cDNA flanked by homology arms, a plasmid encoding Cas9+sgRNA, and a plasmid encoding co-injection marker. Animals were selected for genomic insertion based upon resistance to hygromycin (Hyg<sup>R</sup>), the absence of co-injection markers and transgene was confirmed by PCR genotyping. We used optogenetic mutagenesis to generate chromosomal integration of pan-neuronal GFP-CAR-1 constructs [Prgef-1-GFP::CAR-1(FL)(juIs527) and Prgef-1-GFP::CAR-1(Sm)(juIs549)] [64]. Briefly, plasmids were injected into CZ20310 [Pmex-5-HIS::miniSOG(juSi164); unc-19(ed3)] L4 hermaphrodites, and 6 hours after injection, these animals were exposed to blue light for 30 min at 4 Hz. F1 progeny with co-injection marker were singled onto seeded plates. F2 progeny from F1 plates with > 75% transmission were singled, and those showing 100% transmission of the co-injection maker in the following generation were outcrossed with wild type males to confirm chromosomal integration. We also determined by quantitative PCR the copy number of the expression construct in *juls526* and *juls549* to be 52 and 78 copies respectively. Pmec-4-mito-GCaMP5(juIs550) was integrated using UVtrimethylpsoralen and outcrossed 4 times before use.

**CRISPR-mediated deletion alleles and GFP knock-in**—We generated *car-1* deletions using two CRISPR RNA (crRNAs), 5'-CTAATCTTGCTTCCGATGTA-3' and 5'-CAAGCTCGACATCCGTTACG-3' (Integrated DNA Technologies) targeting the coding sequence in the first exon of *car-1*. The crRNAs were injected into wild type hermaphrodites with purified Cas9 (MacroLabs, University of California, Berkeley), trans-activating crRNA (tracrRNA) and *dpy-10* crRNA, as described [65]. Among 147 Dpy F1 worms, we identified two worms heterozygous for *car-1* deletions *ju1505* and *ju1506*. Like *car-1(tm1753)*, eggs laid by homozygous *car-1(ju1505)* and *car-1(ju1506)* worms failed to hatch, indicating all three alleles are null mutants. *car-1* alleles were balanced over *hT2* I; III [*bli-4(e937) I let-?* (*q782) GFP(qIs48)* I;III].

We generated *micu-1* deletion alleles as described [66]. We designed two subgenomic RNAs (sgRNAs): GTGGGCGGTTTCTCGCGACG and ATCGATCCTAACGAAGACAG. pU6::micu-1 sgRNAs were generated by primer annealing and injected into wild type or *mcu-1(ju1154)* worms as mixtures of 40 ng/µl of each pU6::*micu-1* sgRNA, 100 ng/µl of Peft-3-Cas9-SV40 NLS::tbb-2\_3'UTR, and 20 ng/µl of Pcol-19-GFP as coinjection marker. We obtained worms heterozygous for *micu-1(ju1155)* in N2 background and *micu-1(ju1156)* in *mcu-1(ju1154)* background. *micu-1* alleles were balanced over *nT1 IV; V [qIs51]* or *tmC9* [In(glb-19 lgc-52 In(mcc-3 unc-31)) IV [67].

We inserted GFP at the C-terminus of *micu-1* using the self-excising drug selection cassette [68]. We designed two subgenomic RNAs (sgRNAs): CTAATAAAATGGAAGAGGAC and ATGGCCACTGTAAATACTTG. We injected 50 ng/µl of each *micu-1* sgRNA, 10 ng/µl of homology arm repair template, 3 ng/µl Pmyo-2-mCherry and 3 ng/µl of Pmyo-3-mCherry into wild type worms. New alleles are in Table S2.

**Fluorescence microscopy and laser axotomy**—Fluorescence images were collected using Zeiss LSM510, LSM710, or LSM800 confocal microscopes, unless specified. Laser axotomy was performed as described [16, 18]. Images shown were projected as z-stack. For live imaging of GCaMP fluorescence, we collected images every 240 ms using the spinningdisk confocal. Femtosecond laser power was 140 to180 mW with a shutter time of 1.2–1.5 ms. The mitochondrion closest to the axotomy site in the proximal axon was set as the region of interest (ROI). We outlined the mitochondrion and measured its integrated density using ImageJ and subtracted the integrated density from background using an identical outline within the axon to obtain net fluorescence (F). Baseline fluorescence (F0) was obtained from the ROI one frame before axotomy. The change in fluorescence F was expressed as the ratio of change with respect to the baseline.

Single-end enhanced crosslinking and immunoprecipitation (seCLIP)—We

performed single-end enhanced crosslinking and immunoprecipitation (seCLIP) as previously described [21] with a few modifications. Worms expressing pan-neuronal GFP::CAR-1 [Prgef-1-GFP::CAR-1(*juIs527)*] or pan-neuronal GFP::CAR-1( Sm) [Prgef-1-GFP::CAR-1( Sm)(*juIs549)*] were UV-crosslinked at 3 kJ/m<sup>2</sup> then resuspended in lysis buffer [50 mM Tris-HCl pH7.4, 100 mM NaCl, 1% NP-40, 0.1% SDS, 0.5% sodium deoxycholate, supplemented with one tablet of protease inhibitor cocktail tablet (Roche) in 20 ml]. Subsequent steps were performed as described [21]. Immunoprecipitation was performed using GFP-Trap (ChromoTek). Washes were performed using lysis buffer instead of high salt wash buffer. The quality of sequencing reads from fastq files was evaluated by FastQC (http://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc). Bioinformatic analysis of sequencing reads was performed as previously described [22].

43,905,923 and 64,702,729 reads were obtained from GFP::CAR-1(FL) and GFP::CAR-1(Sm) sample respectively, of which 4,022,150 [CAR-1(FL)] and 5,470,606 [CAR-1(Sm)] reads uniquely mapped to *C. elegans* genome, after removing PCR duplicates and repeats. We identified 1190 genes with peaks > 2× enriched in CAR-1(Sm) over CAR-1(FL) (Table S1) using CLIPper peak calling [69]. Fold enrichment was calculated using the number of eCLIP reads overlapping CLIPper-identified peaks, after

normalizing to total usable read counts in each sample. We also analyzed fastq files using HISAT2 [70], followed by transcript assembly using Cufflinks [71] and differential analysis using Cuffdiff (p-value < 0.05) [72]. 29 genes were enriched in CLIPper and in Cufflinks-Cuffdiff analyses (Table S1). We inspected all genes enriched in CAR-1( Sm) and focused on *micu-1*, which showed 2x Peak enrichment in exon 7 at ChrIV:13299691–13299814.

**Single molecule fluorescence** *in situ* hybridization (smFISH)—Forty-eight 20-nt probes for *car-1* or *micu-1* mRNAs were designed and purchased from LGC BioSearch Technologies and conjugated to Cal Fluor 610. We performed smFISH using mixed stage animals according to a modified Stellaris protocol [73]. We used Pmec-7-GFP(*muIs32*) or Pmec-4-GFP(zdIs5) animals expressing GFP in TRNs as a reference for mRNA localization in PLM neurons. For imaging we used Leica DMi8 microscope, Andor spinning disk confocal (CSU-W1) and iXon ultra 888 EMCCD camera. All images shown are z-stack projections.

#### **Quantification and Statistical analysis**

Statistical tests were performed using GraphPad Prism. Two-way comparisons of categorical data were performed using Fisher's exact test. For multiple comparisons, we used one-way ANOVA with Bonferroni's post test. All data compared using unpaired Student's t-test passed the D'Agostino & Pearson omnibus normality test. To compare regrowth between experiments with different control means, we normalized each experimental data point by dividing it by its control means. Sample sizes are indicated in Figures (dot plots) or in Figure legends.

#### Data and Code Availability

The raw and analyzed seCLIP datasets have been deposited at the Gene Expression Omnibus (accession number: GSE124714).

#### Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

#### Acknowledgments

We thank Yao Yao and Xuefeng Meng for assistance in strain construction, Zhiping Wang for CasSCI vectors, and members of the Jin and Chisholm laboratories for discussions. Some mutants were provided by the Japan National Bioresource Project or by the Caenorhabditis Genetics Center (funded by the NIH office of research infrastructure programs P40 OD010440). K.W.K. received Hallym University research funds (HRF-201809-014). This work was supported by NIH grant R01 GM054657 to A.D.C., R01 NS093588 to A.D.C. and Y.J., and R01 HG004659 to G.W.Y.

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#### Highlights

*C. elegans* mRNA decay factors affect axon regeneration and maintenance

The Lsm14 ortholog CAR-1 is a repressor of axon regeneration

CAR-1 represses expression of the mitochondrial calcium regulator MICU-1

Axon injury triggers mitochondrial calcium uptake regulated by MICU-1

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#### Figure 1. mRNA decay components show punctate localization in *C. elegans* neurons.

A) Single molecule fluorescence in situ hybridization (smFISH) of *car-1* mRNA. Top images showing *car-1* mRNAs form cytoplasmic puncta (red arrowheads) in the PLM neurons; Bottom images show control with no mRNA probe. PLM neurons are labeled with P*mec-7*-GFP (*muIs32*). See also Figures S1 and S2.

B) C. elegans DCAP-1 [Pdcap-1-DCAP-1::dsRed(bpIs37)] or CGH-1 [Pcgh-1-

CGH-1::GFP(*dhIs1000*)] form puncta in PLM cell bodies. The touch receptor neuron (PLM) is outlined based on TRN marker in the same image, and cell bodies marked by red \*. Scale bar, 20 µm.

C) Confocal images showing co-localization of mKate2::CAR-1 [Pmec-4-

mKate2::CAR-1(juEx7793)] and CGH-1::GFP (dhIs1000) in the PLM cell body (outlined).

D) Confocal images show partial co-localization of GFP::CAR-1 [Pmec-4-

GFP::CAR-1*(juSi338)*] and DCAP-1::dsRed (*bpIs37*) in the PLM cell body (outlined). Scale bar, 10 μm.

E) Model of the relation between CAR-1/CGH-1 and DCAP-1/DCAP-2 functional complexes. The CAR-1/CGH-1 complex binds to mature mRNAs to repress translation. Translationally repressed mRNAs may be released to allow translation, or decapped and degraded by recruitment of the DCAP-1/DCAP-2 complex.

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## Figure 2. mRNA decay components affects axon development, maintenance and regrowth after injury of PLM neurons.

A) Top image shows the anterior end of PLM neurons in wild type animals. Bottom images show abnormal axon morphology observed in mRNA decay mutants (yellow arrows). Scale bar, 20 μm. See also Figure S3.

B) Quantification of abnormal PLM phenotypes observed in wild type and mRNA decay mutants. Day 1 adults were observed and quantified. Color correlates to images in A.
N 100. Statistics: Fisher's exact test; \*\* p<0.01, \*\*\* p<0.001; ns, not significant (P>0.05).
C) Quantification of PLM regrowth length 24 h post-axotomy, normalized to the same-day control animals. Bars indicate mean ± SEM. Statistics: one-way ANOVA with Bonferroni's post test; \*\*p<0.01; \*\*\*p<0.001. Sample size is indicated in the bar.</li>

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#### Figure 3. CAR-1 is a cell-intrinsic inhibitor of axon regrowth.

A) Map of *car-1* gene showing deletion mutations. See also Table S2.

B) PLM axon regrowth length 24 h post-axotomy in genotype indicated. Bars indicate mean

 $\pm$  SEM. Statistics: one-way ANOVA with Bonferroni's post test; \*p<0.05; \*\*\*p<0.001, ns, not significant (P>0.05). Sample size is indicated in the bar.

C) Representative images of axon regrowth 24 h post-axotomy in wild type, *car-1(0)* mutants and P*mec-4*-GFP::CAR-1(*juEx7280*). Anterior is to the left. Red arrows indicate site of axotomy.

D) Representative images of regrowing axons 6 h post-axotomy in genotype indicated. PLM in *car-1(0)* mutants has a more persistent regenerative growth cone. Scale bar, 20  $\mu$ m. E) Quantitation of % of growth cones at 6, 24 and 48 h post-axotomy. Statistics: Fisher's exact test; \*p<0.05; \*\*p<0.01.

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**Figure 4. The Sm domain and FDF motif are required for CAR-1 function in axon regrowth.** A) Puncta formation by truncated CAR-1 proteins. Left: schematic of truncated CAR-1 fragments fused to GFP in the N-terminus. Right: confocal images showing localization of GFP::CAR-1 constructs.

B) Increased PLM axon regrowth length in *car-1(0)* is restored to wild type levels by P*mec-4*-GFP::CAR-1-FL(*juSi338*) and P*mec-4*-GFP::CAR-1 RGG(*juSi349*). Bars indicate mean ± SEM. Statistics: one-way ANOVA with Bonferroni's post test; \*p<0.05; \*\*\*p<0.001, ns, not significant.

C) Increased growth cone formation in *car-1(0)* is restored to wild type level by *Pmec-4*-GFP::CAR-1-FL(*juSi338*) and *Pmec-4*-GFP::CAR-1 RGG(*juSi349*). Statistics: Fisher's exact test; \*p<0.05; ns, not significant. Sample size is indicated in the bar.

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### **Figure 5.** CAR-1 regulates its mRNA expression in PLM neurons. A) PLM axon regrowth length 24 h post-axotomy in transgenic animals overexpressing CAR-1(FL)(*inJs526*) or CAR-1(\_Sm)(*inJs549*) driven by the pan-neuronal promoter

CAR-1(FL)(*juIs526*) or CAR-1(Sm)(*juIs549*) driven by the pan-neuronal promoter Prgef-1. Bars indicate mean  $\pm$  SEM. Statistics: one-way ANOVA with Bonferroni's post test; \*\*\*p<0.001, ns, not significant.

B) seCLIP read density track on *car-1* and *micu-1* gene for CAR-1(FL) and CAR-1(Sm) samples. Distinct peaks were enriched in the CAR-1(Sm) sample. See also Table S1. C) smFISH shows colocalization of *car-1* mRNA (red arrowheads) with GFP::CAR-1 protein in the PLM cell body. Cytoplasmic puncta of *car-1* mRNAs co-localize with CAR-1 protein in wild type, and enlarged in *dcap-2(0)* backgrounds.

D) smFISH of *car-1* mRNAs (red arrowheads). The number of *car-1* mRNA puncta increases in *cgh-1(0)*, whereas in *dcap-2(0)* mutants *car-1* mRNAs accumulate in a large punctum.
E) Quantification of *car-1* mRNA puncta in PLM cell bodies of wild type and *cgh-1(0)* mutant. Representative images shown in d. N 30 for each strain.

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#### Figure 6. CAR-1 regulates *micu-1* transcript and represses MICU-1::GFP protein levels.

A) smFISH shows colocalization of *micu-1* mRNA with GFP::CAR-1 in the PLM cell body. Cytoplasmic puncta of *micu-1* mRNAs (red arrowheads) co-localize with CAR-1 protein puncta in the PLM cell body in wild type and *dcap-2(0)* mutant. See also Figures S4 and S5. B) smFISH of *micu-1* mRNAs (red arrowheads) shows *micu-1* mRNAs form cytoplasmic puncta in PLM neurons, labeled with P*mec-7*-GFP (*muIs32*). More *micu-1* mRNA puncta in *car-1(0)* mutant and increased accumulation in *dcap-2(0)* mutant were observed. C) Quantification of *micu-1* mRNA puncta in PLM cell bodies of wild type and *car-1(0)*.

C) Quantification of *micu-1* mRNA puncta in PLM cell bodies of wild type and *car-1(0)* mutant. Representative images shown in g. N 24 for each strain.

D) Top shows confocal images of mito::RFP [Pmec-7-tagRFP-mito(*jsIs1073*)] in the absence of MICU-1::GFP(*ju1783*). Bottom shows confocal images showing colocalization of MICU-1::GFP(*ju1783*) with mito::RFP in the PLM cell bodies.

E) Top is an illustration of the region of interest ( $Int_{ROI}$ ) and background ( $Int_B$ ). Bottom images show MICU-1::GFP(*ju1783*) in PLM cell bodies (outlined), with increased expression in *car-1(0)*. Scale bar, 10 µm.

F) MICU-1::GFP intensities in wild type and *car-1(0)* animals, normalized to wild type control. Statistics: unpaired Student's t-test; \*p=0.0194.



Figure 7. CAR-1 represses axonal mitochondrial calcium uptake after axon injury

A) PLM regrowth length 24 h post-axotomy. Statistics: one-way ANOVA with Bonferroni's posttest; \*p<0.05; \*\*p<0.01. Sample size is indicated in the bar. See also Figure S5, S6, and S7.

B) mtGCaMP fluorescence intensity ( F/F0) over 5 minutes post-axotomy. Statistics: Unpaired t-test against wild type; \*p<0.05; \*\*p<0.01.

C) Top is an illustration of the region of interest ( $Int_{ROI}$ ) and background ( $Int_B$ ). Bottom images show mitochondrial calcium imaging trace in wild type, *car-1(0)* and *micu-1(0)* mutant post-axotomy. Animals expressing the mtGCaMP sensor [Pmec-4-mito-

GCaMP5(*juIs550*)] were severed using femtosecond laser and imaged immediately. Red arrows show the cut site. Yellow arrowheads mark mitochondria in PLM neurons. Some

mtGCaMP signal is in the neuronal cytoplasm likely reflecting incomplete targeting of mtGCaMP due to the high copy number of *juIs550*. Scale bar, 20 μm. D) mtGCaMP fluorescence intensity (F/F0) at 5 minutes post-axotomy in genotypes

indicated. Each dot represents a mtGCaMP in an animal. Statistics: Unpaired t-test; \*\*p<0.01; \*\*\*p<0.001.

E) Model for regulation of axon regrowth by CAR-1 and  $[Ca^{2+}]_{mt}$  uptake. Axon injury induces transient mitochondrial Ca<sup>2+</sup> uptake, dependent on MCU-1. Loss of CAR-1 results in elevated *micu-1* mRNA expression, leading to more sustained mitochondrial Ca<sup>2+</sup> uptake after injury, correlating with increased axon regrowth.

#### KEY RESOURCES TABLE

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Antibodies	Į.	•
GFP Trap	ChromoTek	Cat#gtm-20
Bacterial and Virus Strains		
E. coli: OP50–1	Caenorhabditis Genetics Center	RRID:WB-STRAIN:OP50-1
Chemicals, Peptides, and Recombinant Proteins	-	
Protein: Cas9-NLS purified protein	QB3 MacroLab, UC Berkley	N/A
Stellaris RNA FISH Hybridization buffer	LGC BioSearch Technologies	Cat#SMF-HB1-10
Stellaris RNA FISH Wash Buffer A	LGC BioSearch Technologies	Cat#SMF-WA1-60
Stellaris RNA FISH Wash Buffer B	LGC BioSearch Technologies	Cat#SMF-WB1-20
ProLong Antifade Mountant with DAPI	Invitrogen	Cat#P36935
TRIzol Reagent	Invitrogen	Cat#15596026
DreamTaq DNA polymerases	Thermo Scientific	Cat#EP0705
Phusion High-Fidelity DNA polymerases	Thermo Scientific	Cat#F530L
Protease Inhibitor Cocktail Tablet	Roche	Cat#05892970001
Critical Commercial Assays		
SuperScript III First-Strand Synthesis System	Invitrogen	Cat#18080051
Gateway LR Clonase II Enzyme Mix	Thermo Scientific	Cat#11791-100
Gibson Assembly Master Mix	New England BioLabs	Cat#E2611S
Deposited Data		
Raw and Analyzed Data	This paper	GEO: GSE124714
Experimental Models: Organisms/Strains		-
<i>C. elegans</i> : Strain wild type N2	Caenorhabditis Genetics Center	RRID:WB- STRAIN:N2_(ancestral)
C. elegans: Strain Pmec-7-GFP(muIs32) II	[18]	CZ10969
C. elegans: Strain Pmec-4-GFP(zdIs5) I	[18]	CZ10175
C. elegans: Strain Pmec-17-GFP(uIs31) III	[62]	CZ25265
C. elegans: Strain zdIs5 I; [Pdcap-1-DCAP-1::dsRed+rol-6(su1006)](bpIs37)	This paper	CZ26592
C. elegans: Strain Pmec-7-mRFP(jsIs973) III; Pcgh-1-CGH-1::GFP(dhIs1000)	This paper	CZ26244
<i>C. elegans</i> : Strain <i>Pcgh-1-</i> CGH-1::GFP( <i>dhIs1000</i> ); <i>Pmec-4-</i> mKate2::CAR-1( <i>juEx7739</i> )	This paper	CZ25819
<i>C. elegans</i> : Strain <i>Pmec-4</i> -GFP::CAR-1 ( <i>juSi338</i> ) <i>IV; [Pdcap-1-</i> DCAP-1::dsRed + <i>rol-6(su1006)](bpIs37)</i>	This paper	CZ25293
C. elegans: Strain car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-?(q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; muIs32 II	This paper	CZ11541
C. elegans: Strain zdIs5 1; dcap-2(tm2470) IV	This paper	CZ25658
C. elegans: Strain zdIs5 I; cgh-1(ok492) III/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-?(q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]	This paper	CZ11540

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
C. elegans. Strain zdIs5 1; dcap-1(ok2139) IV	This paper	CZ11537
C. elegans: Strain zdIs5 1; dcap-1(ok2139) dcap-2(tm2470) IV	This paper	CZ27317
C. elegans: Strain zdIs5 I; patr-1(tm2402) II/mIn1 [mIs14 dpy-10(e128) II]	This paper	CZ11759
C. elegans: Strain car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-?(q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; uIs31 III	This paper	CZ25319
C. elegans: Strain muIs32 II; Pmec-4-GFP::CAR-1(juEx7280)	This paper	CZ23991
C. elegans: Strain car-1(ju1505) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-?(q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; muIs32 II	This paper	CZ25262
C. elegans: Strain car-1(ju1506) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-?(q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; muIs32 II	This paper	CZ25264
C. elegans: Strain car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-?(q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; muIs32 II; loxP-Pcar-1-GFP::car-1g+3'UTR-loxP (juSi343) IV	This paper	CZ25401
C. elegans: Strain car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-?(q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; muIs32 II; Pmec-4-GFP::CAR-1(juSi338) IV	This paper	CZ25112
C. elegans: Strain car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-?(q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; Pmyo-3-car-1(juEx7913)	This paper	CZ26723
C. elegans: Strain Pmec-4-GFP::CAR-1 (juSi338) IV	This paper	CZ24932
C. elegans: Strain Pmec-4-GFP::CAR-1(Sm) (juSi346) IV	This paper	CZ25350
C. elegans: Strain Pmec-4-GFP::CAR-1( Sm) (juSi345) IV	This paper	CZ25325
C. elegans: Strain Pmec-4-GFP::CAR-1(Sm+FDF) (juSi349) IV	This paper	CZ25432
C. elegans: Strain Pmec-4-GFP::CAR-1(RGG) (juSi350) IV	This paper	CZ25433
C. elegans: Strain Pmec-4-GFP::CAR-1( FDF+RGG) (juSi361) IV	This paper	CZ25884
C. elegans: Strain car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-?(q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; muIs32 II; Pmec-4-GFP::car-1( Sm) [juSi345] IV	This paper	CZ25443
C. elegans: Strain car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-?(q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; muIs32 II; Pmec-4-GFP::car-1(Sm) [juSi346] IV	This paper	CZ25444
C. elegans: Strain car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-?(q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; muIs32 II; Pmec-4-GFP::car-1(Sm+FDF) [juSi349] IV	This paper	CZ25566
C. elegans: Strain car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-?(q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; muIs32 II; Pmec-4-GFP::car-1(RGG) [juSi350] IV	This paper	CZ25567
C. elegans: Strain car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-?(q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; muIs32 II; Pmec-4-GFP::car-1( FGF+RGG) [juSi361] IV	This paper	CZ25938
C. elegans: Strain zdIs5 1; Prgef-1-GFP::car-1(juIs526)	This paper	CZ25296
C. elegans: Strain zdIs5 I; Prgef-1-GFP::car-1(Sm) (juIs549)	This paper	CZ26634
C. elegans: Strain dcap-2(tm2470) IV; Pmec-4-GFP::CAR-1(juSi338) IV	This paper	CZ26429
C. elegans: Strain Pmec-7-tagRFP::mito(jsIs1073)	This paper	NM3573
C. elegans: Strain car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-?(q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; Pmec-7-tagRFP::mito(jsIs1073)	This paper	CZ27549
C. elegans: Strain Pmec-7-mRFP(jsIs973) III; micu-1::GFP(ju1783) IV	This paper	CZ27519
C. elegans: Strain car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-?(q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; Pmec-7-mRFP(jsIs973) III; micu-1::GFP(ju1783) IV	This paper	CZ27538
C. elegans: Strain muIs32 II; mcu-1(ju1154) IV	This paper	CZ20877
C. elegans: Strain muIs32 II; micu-1(ju1155) IV/nT1 [qIs51 IV;V]	This paper	CZ26661
C. elegans: Strain muIs32 II; car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-?(q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; mcu-1(ju1154) IV	This paper	CZ25925

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
C. elegans: Strain muIs32; car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-?(q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; micu-1(ju1155) IV/tmC9 [In(gIb-19 lgc-52 In(mec-3 unc-31)) IV]	This paper	CZ27010
C. elegans: Strain Pmec-7-mRFP(jsIs973) III; Pmec-4-mito::GCaMP5(juIs550)	This paper	CZ26629
C. elegans: Strain car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-?(q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; Pmec-7-mRFP(jsIs973) III; Pmec-4-mito::GCaMP5(juIs550)	This paper	CZ26687
C. elegans: Strain Pmec-7-mRFP(jsIs973) III; micu-1(ju1155) IV/nT1 [qIs51 IV;V]; Pmec-4-mito::GCaMP5(juIs550)	This paper	CZ26737
C. elegans: Strain Pmec-7-mRFP(jsIs973) III; mcu-1(ju1154) IV; Pmec-4- mito::GCaMP5(juIs550)	This paper	CZ26857
C. elegans: Strain Pmec-7-mRFP(jsIs973) III; mcu-1(ju1154) micu-1(ju1156) IV/nT1 [qIs51 IV;V]; Pmec-4-mito::GCaMP5(juIs550)	This paper	CZ26858
C. elegans: Strain car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-?(q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; Pmec-7-mRFP(jsIs973) III; ; mcu-1(ju1154) IV; Pmec-4- mito::GCaMP5(juIs550)	This paper	CZ27060
C. elegans: Strain car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-?(q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; Pmec-7-mRFP(jsIs973) III; micu-1(ju1155) IV/tmC9 [In(glb-19 lgc-52 In(mec-3 unc-31)) IV]; Pmec-4-mito::GCaMP5(juIs550)	This paper	CZ27061
<i>C. elegans</i> : Strain <i>Punc-17::</i> GFP( <i>vsIs48</i> ); [ <i>Pdcap-1-</i> DCAP-1::dsRed +rol-6(su1006)](bpIs37)	This paper	CZ26594
C. elegans: Strain Punc-17::mCherry(nuIs321); Pcgh-1-CGH-1::GFP(dhIs1000)	This paper	CZ26802
C. elegans: Strain muIs32 II; [Pdcap-1-DCAP-1::dsRed+rol-6(su1006)](bpIs37)	This paper	CZ26384
C. elegans: Strain car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-?(q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; muIs32 II; [Pdcap-1-DCAP-1::dsRed+rol-6(su1006)](bpIs37)	This paper	CZ26541
C. elegans: Strain zdIs5 I; dcap-2(tm2470) IV; [Pdcap-1-DCAP-1::dsRed +rol-6(su1006)](bpIs37)	This paper	CZ26419
<i>C. elegans</i> : Strain zdIs5 I; patr-1(tm2402) II/mIn1 [mIs14 dpy-10(e128) II]; [Pdcap-1-DCAP-1::dsRed+rol-6(su1006)](bpIs37)	This paper	CZ26425
C. elegans: Strain zdIs5 I; cgh-1(ok492) III/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-?(q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; [Pdcap-1-DCAP-1::dsRed+rol-6(su1006)](bpIs37)	This paper	CZ26511
C. elegans: Strain cgh-1(ok492) III/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-?(q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; Pmec-4-GFP::CAR-1(juSi338) IV	This paper	CZ25879
C. elegans: Strain patr-1(tm2402) II/mIn1 [mIs14 dpy-10(e128) II]; Pmec-4- GFP::CAR-1(juSi338) IV	This paper	CZ26426
C. elegans: Strain dcap-2(tm2470) IV; Pmec-4-GFP::CAR-1(juSi338) IV	This paper	CZ26429
C. elegans: Strain dcap-1(ok2139) IV; Pmec-4-GFP::CAR-1(juSi338) IV	This paper	CZ26532
<i>C. elegans</i> : Strain <i>dcap-2(tm2470) IV; Pmec-4-GFP::CAR-1(juSi338) IV;</i> [ <i>Pdcap-1-</i> DCAP-1::dsRed <i>+rol-6(su1006)](bpIs37)</i>	This paper	CZ26632
C. elegans: Strain micu-1::gfp(ju1783) IV	This paper	CZ27508
C. elegans: Strain Pmec-4-GFP::DCAP-1(juEx8024)	This paper	CZ27378
C. elegans: Strain zdIs5 I; mcu-1(ju1154) IV	This paper	CZ21242
C. elegans: Strain zdIs5 I; micu-1(ju1155) IV/nT1 [qIs51 IV;V]	This paper	CZ27382
C. elegans: Strain zdIs5 I; dcap-1(ok2139) mcu-1(ju1154) IV	This paper	CZ27368
C. elegans: Strain zdIs5 I; dcap-1(ok2139)/nT1 dcap-1(ok2139) micu-1(ju1155) IV	This paper	CZ27381
C. elegans: Strain muIs32 II; Pmec-7-tagRFP::mito(jsIs1073)	This paper	CZ25635
C. elegans: Strain car-1(tm1753) I/hT2 [bli-4(e937) I let-?(q782) GFP(qIs48) I;III]; muIs32 II; Pmec-7-tagRFP::mito(jsIs1073)	This paper	CZ25651
C. elegans: Strain muIs32 II; mcu-1(ju1154) IV; Pmec-7-tagRFP::mito(jsIs1073)	This paper	CZ26537

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
C. elegans: Strain muIs32 II; micu-1(ju1155) IV//tmC9 [In(glb-19 lgc-52 In(mec-3 unc-31)) Pmyo-2-Venus(tmIs1221)] IV; Pmec-7-tagRFP::mito(jsIs1073)	This paper	CZ27030
C. elegans: Strain zdIs5 I; Pmec-4-micu-1-gfp(juEx8048)	This paper	CZ27739
C. elegans: Strain zdIs5 1; Pmec-4-micu-1-gfp(juEx8050)	This paper	CZ27756
C. elegans: Strain Pmec-7-mRFP(jsIs973) III; Pmec-4-mito::GCaMP5(juIs550); Pmec-4-micu-1-gfp(juEx8048)	This paper	CZ27764
<i>C. elegans</i> : Transgenic allele: N2 injected with 10 ng/µl of pCZGY2860 [ <i>Pmec-4-GFP::car-1(genomic)::let-858_3'UTR</i> ] and 5 ng/µl pCFJ90[ <i>Pmyo-2-mCherry</i> ].	This paper	juEx7280
<i>C. elegans</i> : Transgenic allele: N2 injected with 10 ng/µl pCZGY3372 [ <i>Pmyo-3-car-1(cDNA)::let-858_3'UTR</i> ] and 3 ng/µl pCFJ90[ <i>Pmyo-2-mCherry</i> ].	This paper	juEx7913
<i>C. elegans</i> : Transgenic allele: N2 injected with 10 ng/µl pCZGY3411 [ <i>Pmec-4-GFP::dcap-1(cDNA)::let-858_3'UTR</i> ] and 3 ng/µl pCFJ90[ <i>Pmyo-2-mCherry</i> ].	This paper	juEx8024
C. elegans: Transgenic allele: N2 injected with 2 ng/µl pCZGY3416 [Pmec-4- micu-1-gfp] and 3 ng/µl pCFJ90[Pmyo-2-mCherry].	This paper	juEx8048
C. elegans: Transgenic allele: N2 injected with 10 ng/µl pCZGY3416 [Pmec-4-micu-1-gfp] and 3 ng/µl pCFJ90[Pmyo-2-mCherry].	This paper	juEx8050
C. elegans: Single-copy transgenic allele: N2 injected with 50ng/µL of pCZGY3366 [Pcar-1(1062bp upstream)-GFP::car-1(genomic+768bp 3'UTR)].	This paper	juSi343
<i>C. elegans</i> : Single-copy transgenic allele: N2 injected with 50ng/µL of pCZGY3362 [ <i>Pmec-4-GFP::car-1(cDNA)::let-858_3'UTR</i> ].	This paper	juSi338
C. elegans: Single-copy transgenic allele: N2 injected with 50ng/µL of pCZGY3367 [Pmec-4-GFP::car-1(Sm)::let-858_3'UTR].	This paper	juSi346
C. elegans: Single-copy transgenic allele: N2 injected with 50ng/µL of pCZGY3368 [Pmec-4-GFP::car-1(Sm)::let-858_3'UTR].	This paper	juSi345
C. elegans: Single-copy transgenic allele: N2 injected with 50ng/µL of pCZGY3369 [Pmec-4-GFP::car-1(Sm+FDF)::let-858_3'UTR].	This paper	juSi349
C. elegans: Single-copy transgenic allele: N2 injected with 50ng/µL of pCZGY3370 [Pmec-4-GFP::car-1(RGG)::let-858_3'UTR].	This paper	juSi350
C. elegans: Single-copy transgenic allele: N2 injected with 50ng/µL of pCZGY3371 [Pmec-4-GFP::car-1( FDF+RGG)::let-858_3'UTR].	This paper	juSi361
C. elegans: Multi-copy transgenic allele: CZ20310 [Pmex-5- his-72::miniSOG(juSi164) III unc-119(ed3) III] injected with 10 ng/µl pCZGY3363 [Prgef-1-GFP::car-1(genomic)::let-858_3'UTR] and 3 ng/µl pCFJ90[Pmyo-2-mCherry].	This paper	juls526
C. elegans: Multi-copy transgenic allele: CZ20310 [Pmex-5- his-72::miniSOG(juSi164) III unc-119(ed3) III] injected with 10 ng/µl pCZGY3364 [Prgef-1-GFP::car-1(Sm)::let-858_3'UTR] 3 ng/µl pCFJ90[Pmyo-2-mCherry].	This paper	juIs549
<i>C. elegans</i> : Multi-copy transgenic allele: N2 injected with 40 ng/µL of <i>Pmec-4-mito::GCaMP5</i> and treated with TMP/UV.	This paper	juIs550
<i>C. elegans:</i> GFP knock-in allele: N2 injected with 50 ng/µl of pCZGY3412, 50 ng/µl of pCZGY3413, 10 ng/µl of pCZGY3414, 3 ng/µl Pmyo-2-mCherry and 3 ng/µl of Pmyo-3-mCherry. Strains were treated with heat shock as described in Dickinson et al., 2015.	This paper	ju1783
Oligonucleotides	-	
Alt-R <sup>®</sup> CRISPR-Cas9 crRNA for <i>car-1</i> : to make <i>car-1(ju1505) and car-1(ju1506)</i> deletion: /AltR1/rCrA rArGrC rUrCrG rArCrA rUrCrC rGrUrU rArCrG rGrUrU rUrUrA rGrArG rCrUrA rUrGrC rU/AltR2/	This paper	N/A
Alt-R® CRISPR-Cas9 crRNA for <i>car-1</i> : to make <i>car-1(ju1505) and car-1(ju1506)</i> deletion: /AltR1/rCrU rArArU rCrUrU rGrCrU rUrCrC rGrArU rGrUrA rGrUrU rUrUrA rGrArG rCrUrA rUrGrC rU/AltR2/	This paper	N/A

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Alt-R® CRISPR-Cas9 crRNA for <i>micu-1</i> : to make <i>micu-1(ju1155) and</i> <i>micu-1(ju1156)</i> deletion: /AltR1/rGrU rGrGrG rCrGrG rUrUrU rCrUrC rGrCrG rArCrG rGrUrU rUrUrA rGrArG rCrUrA rUrGrC rU/AltR2/	This paper	N/A
Alt-R® CRISPR-Cas9 crRNA for <i>micu-1</i> : to make <i>micu-1(ju1155) and</i> <i>micu-1(ju1156)</i> deletion: /AltR1/rArU rCrGrA rUrCrC rUrArA rCrGrA rArGrA rCrArG rGrUrU rUrUrA rGrArG rCrUrA rUrGrC rU/AltR2/	This paper	N/A
Alt-R CRISPR-Cas9 tracrRNA	IDT	Cat#1072532
Recombinant DNA		
Plasmid: Pmec-4-GFP::car-1(genomic)-let-858_3'UTR	This paper	pCZGY2860
Plasmid: FRT-Hygro-FRT-Pmec-4-GFP::car-1(cDNA)-let-858_3'UTR for CRISPR	This paper	pCZGY3362
Plasmid: Prgef-1-GFP::car-1(cDNA)-let-858_3'UTR	This paper	pCZGY3363
Plasmid: Prgef-1-GFP::car-1( Sm)-let-858_3'UTR	This paper	pCZGY3364
Plasmid: FRT-Hygro-FRT-loxP-car-1-loxP for CRISPR	This paper	pCZGY3365
Plasmid: FRT-Hygro-FRT-Pcar-1(1062bp upstream)-GFP::car-1(genomic+768bp 3'UTR) for CRISPR	This paper	pCZGY3366
Plasmid: FRT-Hygro-FRT-Pmec-4-GFP::car-1(Sm)-let-858_3'UTR for CRISPR	This paper	pCZGY3367
Plasmid: FRT-Hygro-FRT-Pmec-4-GFP::car-1( Sm)-let-858_3'UTR for CRISPR	This paper	pCZGY3368
Plasmid: FRT-Hygro-FRT-Pmec-4-GFP::car-1-( RGG)-let-858_3'UTR for CRISPR	This paper	pCZGY3369
Plasmid: FRT-Hygro-FRT-Pmec-4-GFP::car-1(RGG)-let-858_3'UTR for CRISPR	This paper	pCZGY3370
Plasmid: FRT-Hygro-FRT-Pmec-4-GFP::car-1( FDF+RGG)-let-858_3'UTR for CRISPR	This paper	pCZGY3371
Plasmid: Pmyo-3-car-1(cDNA)-unc-54_3'UTR	This paper	pCZGY3372
Plasmid: Pmec-4-GFP::dcap-1(cDNA)-let-858_3'UTR	This paper	pCZGY3411
Plasmid: Peft-3::Cas9+micu-1_C1_sgRNA	This paper	pCZGY3412
Plasmid: Peft-3::Cas9+micu-1_C2_sgRNA	This paper	pCZGY3413
Plasmid: GFP-SEC-3xFLAG_micu-1_C1_homology_arm	This paper	pCZGY3414
Plasmid: Pmec-4-micu-1-gfp	This paper	pCZGY3416
Software and Algorithms		
ImageJ	NIH image	RRID:SCR_003070
GraphPad Prism 7	GraphPad Software, Inc.	RRID:SCR_002798
ZEN	Zeiss	https://www.zeiss.com/ microscopy/us/downloads/ zen.html