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1 **TMX2 is a crucial regulator of cellular redox state and its dysfunction causes severe brain**
2 **developmental abnormalities.**

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111 **ABSTRACT**

112 The redox state of the neural progenitors regulates physiological processes such as neuronal
113 differentiation, dendritic and axonal growth. The relevance of ER-associated oxidoreductases in
114 these processes is largely unexplored. We describe a severe neurological disorder caused by biallelic
115 loss of function variants in Thioredoxin (TRX)-Related Transmembrane-2 (*TMX2*), detected by exome
116 sequencing in fourteen affected individuals from ten unrelated families presenting with congenital
117 microcephaly, cortical polymicrogyria and other migration disorders. *TMX2* encodes one of the five
118 TMX proteins of the Protein Disulfide Isomerase family, hitherto not linked to human developmental
119 brain disease. Our mechanistic studies on protein function show that *TMX2* localizes to the ER
120 Mitochondria-Associated-Membranes (MAMs), is involved in posttranslational modification and
121 protein folding, and undergoes physical interaction with the MAM associated and ER folding
122 chaperone calnexin and ER calcium pump SERCA2. These interactions are functionally relevant
123 because *TMX2*-deficient fibroblasts show decreased mitochondrial respiratory reserve capacity and
124 compensatory increased glycolytic activity. Intriguingly, under basal conditions *TMX2* occurs in both
125 reduced and oxidized monomeric form, while it forms a stable dimer under treatment with hydrogen
126 peroxide, recently recognized as signaling molecule in neural morphogenesis and axonal pathfinding.
127 Exogenous expression of the pathogenic *TMX2* variants or of variants with *in vitro* mutagenized TRX
128 domain induces a constitutive *TMX2* polymerization, mimicking increased oxidative state. Altogether
129 these data uncover *TMX2* as a sensor in the MAM-regulated redox signaling pathway and identify it
130 as a key adaptive regulator of neuronal proliferation, migration and organization in the developing
131 brain.

132

133

134

135 **INTRODUCTION**

136 The endoplasmic reticulum (ER) is responsible for the folding of one third of the human proteome.
137 Protein folding is coordinated by ER chaperones, together with ER oxidoreductases of the Protein
138 Disulfide Isomerase (PDI) family¹. This family consists of 23 oxidoreductase proteins² and is part of
139 the thioredoxin (TRX) superfamily³. PDIs are characterized by the presence of at least one TRX-like
140 domain (potentially catalytically active with sequence including two cysteines, C-X-X-C) and an ER
141 retention domain (typically Lys-Asp-Glu-Leu/ KDEL)^{3; 4}. In the oxidizing environment of the ER, PDIs
142 with active site cysteines can oxidize thiol groups of newly synthesized polypeptides mediating
143 protein folding^{2; 5}, but can also catalyze reduction and isomerization of disulfides in misfolded
144 proteins, facilitating ER-associated degradation (ERAD) during the unfolded protein response (UPR)⁶.

145 PDI mediated protein folding is ATP dependent and relies on precise regulation of calcium influx to
146 the mitochondria, necessary for mitochondrial oxidative phosphorylation^{1 7}. Since the ER is the
147 major storage site for calcium, specialized ion channels are located at the mitochondria-associated
148 membranes (MAMs) of the ER to assure proper calcium transport to and from the ER, e.g.
149 sarcoplasmic-endoplasmic reticulum Ca²⁺-ATPase ATP2A2/SERCA2, inositol 1,4,5 trisphosphate
150 receptor type 1 (IP3R1) and voltage-dependent anion-selective channel 1 (VDAC1)¹. Besides
151 regulating protein folding, some PDI oxidoreductases additionally function in calcium trafficking
152 through interaction with these ER calcium channels^{1; 8; 9}. Accordingly, some PDIs show enriched ER
153 localization at the MAM¹⁰. Through upregulation of calcium transport into the mitochondria, PDIs
154 are also able to regulate ATP production, necessary to increase folding mechanisms when misfolded
155 proteins aggregate (ER-stress)^{1; 7; 11}. Hence, PDIs and protein folding are important determinants for
156 normal mitochondrial bioenergetics and cell survival.

157 In humans, altered expression of PDIs has been correlated with neurodegenerative disorders like
158 Alzheimer, Parkinson disease and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis¹². However, notwithstanding their
159 proven biological relevance, little is known about the consequence of inherited pathogenic variants
160 in PDIs. At the moment of writing, only one heterozygous recurrent variant in *P4HB* (OMIM 176790)
161 (Prolyl 4-hydroxylase, β -subunit) encoding PDIA1 has been associated with Cole-Carpenter syndrome
162 1 (OMIM 112240), characterized by skeletal malformations (OMIM 176790)¹²⁻¹⁵. Pathogenic variants
163 in non-PDI oxidoreductases from other protein families, e.g. *WWOX* (OMIM 605131)¹⁶, *DHCR24*
164 (OMIM 606418)¹⁷, *NDUFS1* (OMIM 157655)¹⁸, and variants in MAM-associated genes, e.g. *SERAC1*
165 (OMIM 614725)¹⁹, *MFN2* (OMIM 608507)²⁰, have been linked to neurodevelopmental and
166 mitochondrial disorders.

167 Thioredoxin (TRX)-Related Transmembrane proteins (TMX) are five type 1 transmembrane proteins
168 belonging to the PDI family^{2; 3; 21}. The best studied of the group, TMX1 (PDIA11) is localized at the
169 MAM and regulates calcium trafficking through interaction with the ER calcium pump SERCA2^{1 7}. No
170 pathogenic variants have been reported in TMX members in relation to human disease until now,
171 although two missense variants of unknown significance in *TMX3* were proposed to lead to
172 microphthalmia²². TMX2 (PDIA12), one of the least studied of the group, is encoded by *TMX2* on
173 chromosome 11q12.1 (OMIM 616715), is ubiquitously expressed and presents in two isoforms, the
174 longest with 296 amino acids being the most biologically relevant as ER resident protein²¹. The N-
175 terminal signal sequence (amino acid1-48) is followed by the cytosolic domain (amino acid49-102),
176 the single transmembrane domain (amino acid 103-125), the atypical TRX domain (amino acid 167-
177 170, Ser-Asn-Asp-Cys, SNDC), the ER intraluminal C-terminal domain (amino acid 126-296) and a Di-

178 lysine ER retention motif (amino acid 293-296, Lys-Lys-Asp-Lys, KKDK)^{3; 4}. It has been suggested that
179 TMX2 is enriched at the MAM location¹⁰. Because TMX2 does not contain a typical thioredoxin-like
180 active domain (SNDC instead of CXXC), its oxidoreductase activity and role in protein folding have
181 been questioned. However, the importance of *TMX2* is underlined by the non-viability of
182 homozygous *Tmx2*^{-/-} knockout mice (C57BL/6NJ strain, Mouse Genome Informatics MGI:1914208).
183 Here we report microcephaly, polymicrogyria (PMG), complex migration disorders and epilepsy in
184 individuals bearing bi-allelic autosomal recessive variants in *TMX2*. We study the function of normal
185 TMX2 and the effect of the variants in human cells providing a mechanistic understanding of TMX2
186 function in health and disease, linking PDIs to neurodevelopment.

187 **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

188 *Ethics statement and biopsy*

189 The cohort of *TMX2* affected individuals (here coded as P1 to P14) includes 10 families of which four
190 were gathered through the European Network on Brain Malformations, Neuro-MIG (COST Action
191 CA16118), five families through GeneMatcher²³ and one family was earlier described in
192 supplemental data from a cohort of undiagnosed individuals with malformations of cortical
193 development²⁴. All study participants or their legal caretakers gave written informed consent to
194 participate in this study and for publication of images, according to Erasmus MC institutional review
195 board requirements (protocol METC-2012387). Skin biopsies were sampled before the study for
196 routine diagnostic purposes and used to isolate dermal fibroblasts using standard procedures.
197 Fibroblasts were tested negative for mycoplasma infection.

198

199 *Neuropathology*

200 An autopsy including brain was performed after demise of individual P1 at 14 days of age and
201 individual P10 at two days of age. The material was fixed in 4% formalin. Samples from frontal,
202 parietal, temporal, and occipital lobes, deep nuclei, cerebellum, brain stem and spinal cord were
203 submitted for histological evaluation. Paraffin-embedded samples were cut to a thickness of 5 µm
204 and hematoxylin and eosin-staining (H&E) or Lugol-PAS staining were performed according to the
205 manufacturer's guidelines (Hoffmann-LaRoche, Basel, Switzerland). For the age- and gender
206 matched control brain, the sample collection was approved by the Institutional Ethical Review Board
207 (EP02/21AG) of the Clinical Hospital Centre and School of Medicine, the University of Zagreb, in
208 accordance with the Helsinki declaration 2000, and became a part of the Zagreb Neuroembryological
209 Collection²⁵.

210

211 *Genomic and Transcriptomic analysis*

212 *Whole exome sequencing (WES)*

213 DNA was isolated from blood of the probands and family members and used for exome and Sanger
214 sequencing, in nine different laboratories. WES data are deposited internally at the Erasmus MC and
215 in each medical institute referring the individuals with *TMX2* variants, in respect to the privacy of the
216 families. Details of sequencing and analysis pipelines are described in the **Supplemental data**.

217

218 *RNA sequencing*

219 Skin fibroblasts from affected individuals P1, P2 and four different healthy age and sex (male)
220 matched controls were cultured to 80% confluence in T175 flasks, before RNA isolation with TRIzol™
221 Reagent (Invitrogen®, 15596026) and RNA cleanup with RNeasy mini kit (Qiagen®, 74106). The

222 NEBNext Ultra Directional RNA Library Prep Kit for Illumina was used to process the samples. Strand-
223 specific mRNAseq libraries for the Illumina platform were generated with a poly-A selection and
224 sequenced at GenomeScan (GenomeScan, Leiden, The Netherlands). Fastq files from forward and
225 reverse reads were aligned to reference genome hg38 with the STAR aligner tool (v.2.4.2a)²⁶. Counts
226 per gene were calculated from bam files using the featureCount program with version 27 of the
227 genecode hg38 annotation²⁷. For differential gene expression P1 and P2's samples were compared
228 to four male control samples in R (v.3.4.3) (R Core Team (2017). R: A language and environment for
229 statistical computing. R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria) using the edgeR
230 package (v.3.20.9)²⁸. Functional annotation clustering of the top 1000 differentially expressed genes
231 ($p < 0.05$) was performed with gene ontology Database for Annotation, Visualization and Integrated
232 Discovery (DAVID, v6.8)^{29; 30}. Downstream affected biological functions were determined with
233 Ingenuity Pathway analysis (IPA, Qiagen®, vs.2018) on all differentially expressed genes with a p-
234 value below 0.05.

235 *qPCR*

236 Skin fibroblasts were cultured in T75 culture flasks, in DMEM with 10% Fetal Calf Serum (FCS), 1%
237 PenStrep, Lonza® (DMEM with serum), to 80% confluence. Total RNA was extracted on RNeasy mini
238 columns (Qiagen®, 74106) according to the manufacturer's protocol. Reverse transcription was
239 performed on 1 µg of RNA in a total volume of 20 µl, with the iScript cDNA Synthesis kit (Bio-Rad
240 Laboratories®) used according to the manufacturer's instructions. Real time quantitative Polymerase
241 Chain Reaction (RT-qPCR) was performed using iTaq™ Universal SYBR® Green Supermix (BioRad®)
242 according to manufacturer's instructions. Primers for RT-qPCR analysis for the experiments shown in
243 Fig. 3 are listed in Table S1.

244

245 *Antibodies*

246 Primary antibodies used: Polyclonal Rabbit anti-human TMX2 (HPA040282, Sigma®, WB 1:250),
247 Monoclonal Rabbit anti-human HSP60 (D6F1, Cell Signaling®, Immunocytochemistry (ICC) dilution
248 1:800), Monoclonal Rabbit anti-human CNX (C5C9, Cell Signaling®, ICC 1:50, IP 1:1000), Mouse
249 monoclonal anti-SERCA2 ATPase (ab2861, Abcam IP:1:1000), Mouse monoclonal anti-Myc (9B11,
250 Cell Signaling Technologies®, WB 1:3000 and ICC 1:500), Mouse monoclonal anti-PDI (1D3, ADI-SPA-
251 891, Enzo Life Sciences, WB: 1:1000)

252 Secondary antibodies used for ICC: Green Goat anti-Rabbit IgG (H+L) Alexa Fluor 488 (1:400, Thermo
253 Fisher Scientific®, A11088), Red Cy™3 AffiniPure Donkey Anti-Mouse IgG (H+L) (1:100, Jackson
254 Laboratories®, 715-165-150). Secondary antibodies used for WB in 1 in 10 000: Red IRDye® 680RD
255 Goat anti-Rabbit IgG (H + L) (LI-COR Biosciences®, 926-68071), Green IRDye® 800CW Goat anti-
256 Mouse IgG (H + L) (LI-COR Biosciences®, 926-32210).

257

258 *Plasmid constructs*

259 Wild-type human *TMX2* (NM_015959) was cloned in a pCMV-Entry-Myc-DDK TrueORF Gold vector
260 (OriGene®, RC200032). 50 µL semi-competent homemade *Escherichia coli* XL10-Gold Bacteria strains
261 were thawed on ice for 20 minutes and subsequently incubated for 15 minutes with 0.1 µg wild-type
262 *TMX2* plasmid. Transformation of the bacterial cells was induced through a heat shock at 42°C for 2
263 minutes. 800 µL Luria-Bertani (LB) broth (EZ™ Mix, Lennox®) was added to the cells and placed under
264 agitation (200 rpm, 40 min, 37°C). Selection of transformed cells was performed overnight on LB-
265 Kanamycin agar plates at 37°C. Vector-positive colonies were grown to 50 mL midprep. Plasmid DNA

266 was isolated with the Qiagen® Plasmid Plus Midi kit. The full length and sequence of *TMX2* cDNA in
267 the plasmid was checked by capillary sequencing before performing the transfections.
268 pcDNA™3.1/Myc-His (-)/LacZ (Thermo Fisher Scientific®) was used as a negative control and kindly
269 provided by Dr. Mark Nellist.

270

271 *Site-directed Mutagenesis (SDM)*

272 Variant *TMX2* constructs (TRX domain SNDC to SNDG p.Cys170Gly and affected individuals' variants
273 p.Arg53Cys and p.Arg231Trp) were generated according to manufacturers' procedures using the
274 QuikChange II XL Site-Directed Mutagenesis Kit (Agilent®), wild-type purified *TMX2* construct dilution
275 (10 ng/μL) and 100 ng/μL primers specified in Table S2. PCR products were transformed in
276 ultracompetent *Escherichia coli* XL10-Gold bacteria supplemented with β-mercaptoethanol in SOC
277 medium through a heat shock at 42°C for 30 seconds. Selection, midi isolation and Sanger
278 sequencing were performed in analogy with the wild-type construct.

279

280 *Sanger sequencing of plasmid DNA*

281 Sanger sequencing of wild-type and variant plasmid DNA was performed as earlier described³¹.
282 Briefly, amplification reactions were performed in a total volume of 20 μL, containing 1× PCR buffer
283 with Mg (Roche), 200 μM of each dNTP, 1 μM forward and reverse primer (specified in Table S3), 0.1
284 units Fast Start Taq DNA polymerase (Roche), and 25 ng genomic DNA. PCR conditions were as
285 follows: 5' 96°C, 10 cycles of 30" 96°C, 30" 68°C (-1°C/cycle), 60" 72°C, followed by 25 cycles of 30"
286 96°C, 30" 58°C, 60" 72°C, and a final extension for 5' 72°C.

287 PCR reactions were purified with ExoSAP-IT (USB). Direct sequencing of both strands was performed
288 with Big Dye Terminator chemistry (version 3.1; Applied Biosystems). DNA fragment analysis was
289 performed with capillary electrophoresis on an ABI 3130 Genetic Analyzer (Applied Biosystems) with
290 the software package Seqscape (Applied Biosystems, version 2.1).

291

292 *Transfection*

293 Human Embryonic Kidney HEK293T cells were plated at 5x10⁴ cells/cm² with or without 24 mm cover
294 slips (Thermo Fisher Scientific®) cultured in 2mL DMEM with serum in a 6 well plate or 10 cm petri
295 dishes for immunoprecipitation. The next day culture media was replaced with 2 mL DMEM without
296 serum (Lonza®). Per 10 cm², 1 μg plasmid DNA was added to 125 μL DMEM without serum at room
297 temperature and 3 μL/10cm² Lipofectamine™ 2000 Transfection Reagent (Thermo Fisher Scientific®)
298 was added to 125 μL DMEM without serum. These tubes mixed and incubated 5 minutes at room
299 temperature, prior to transfection. The appropriate volume was added to each dish in a dropwise
300 manner. After 3 hours, 10% FCS and 1% PenStrep was supplemented to the dishes. After 24h
301 transfection, cells were fixated with methanol for 10 minutes at -20°C or lysed for western blot and
302 immunoprecipitation. Transfection was also stable after 48 and 72h (Fig.S3).

303

304 *Immunoprecipitation (IP) and Mass spectrometry (MS)*

305 Exogenous *TMX2* was immunoprecipitated after transfection in HEK293T cells. Initially, 15 μL EZview
306 Red Anti-c-Myc Affinity Gel beads (E6654, Sigma Aldrich®) were washed with non-denaturing TNE-
307 1% lysis buffer (50mM Tris pH 7.6 + 100mM NaCl + 50mM NaF + 1% NP-40 + 1mM EDTA + Protease
308 inhibitor tab Roche®). *TMX2*-transfected and control Lac-Myc-transfected HEK293T cells in 10 cm
309 Petri's dishes were transferred on ice, washed with 1×dPBS, and lysed with 800 μL TNE-1% lysis
310 buffer. To test transfection efficiency and localization, each dish contained a 24 mm coverslip, which

311 was subsequently fixated and immunostained, before adding the lysis buffer. Lysates were
312 incubated on ice for 10 minutes and centrifuged at 10000 x g for 10 minutes at 4°C. The supernatant
313 was added to the washed beads and incubated overnight under agitation at 4°C. After washing 3
314 times with TNE-1% lysis buffer and centrifugation at 1000 x g, 15 sec, 4°C, bead pellets were
315 subjected to a Mass spectrometry preparation as described³². Protein Mascot scores and numbers of
316 unique peptides were taken directly from the Mascot output and reported. Only hits with a Mascot
317 score higher than 40 were taken into account for analysis.

318 *Mitochondrial respiration and glycolysis determination*

319 Bioenergetics profiles of human primary skin fibroblasts were generated in real time with a Seahorse
320 XF24 Extracellular Flux Analyzer (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, Ca, USA) as previously
321 described³³. Fibroblasts were seeded on a Seahorse XF-24 plate at a density of 6×10⁴ cells per well
322 and grown overnight in DMEM with serum at 37 °C, 5% CO₂. This density ensures a proportional
323 response to the uncoupler FCCP (Carbonyl cyanide 4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenylhydrazone) with cell
324 number and resulted in confluent cultures, in which cell replication was further prevented by
325 contact inhibition. On the experimental day, medium was changed to unbuffered DMEM (XF Assay
326 Medium – Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, Ca, USA) supplemented with 5 mM glucose and 1 mM
327 sodium pyruvate, and incubated 1 hour at 37 °C in the absence of CO₂. Medium and reagent acidity
328 was adjusted to pH 7.4 on the day of the assay, according to manufacturer's procedure.
329 Mitochondrial respiration was measured as the oxygen consumption rate (OCR), and glycolysis was
330 measured as the extracellular acidification rate (ECAR). After three baseline measurements for the
331 oxygen consumption ratio (OCR), cells were sequentially challenged with injections of mitochondrial
332 toxins: 0.5 μM oligomycin (ATP synthase inhibitor), 1 μM FCCP (mitochondrial respiration
333 uncoupler), 0.5 μM rotenone (complex I inhibitor), and 0.5 μM antimycin (complex III inhibitor).
334 For galactose experiments, cells were cultured in galactose 10 mM, 10% FCS, 2 mM glutamine, 5 mM
335 Hepes and 1% penicillin-streptomycin medium for three days before the bioenergetics assay³³.
336 A minimum of two Seahorse replicates were performed for each fibroblast line. In each replicate, we
337 used six wells for each line. In each run, six wells were always used for a reference primary fibroblast
338 line with highly characterized bioenergetics behavior. Three reference lines that were available at
339 the Erasmus MC institute have been used³³.
340 Basal respiration was defined as the average OCR values at baseline. Respiration dedicated to ATP
341 production was calculated as difference between basal respiration and the respiration measured
342 after oligomycin injection. Reserve capacity was calculated as the difference between the maximal
343 respiration (the average OCR of the three measurements following the FCCP injection) and basal
344 respiration. The rotenone dependent respiration parameter was calculated as the difference
345 between the maximal respiration value and the average OCR values obtained after the rotenone
346 injection and was used to evaluate the activity of mitochondrial complex I. Basal glycolysis was
347 defined as the average of the 3 baseline ECAR measurements, and the increase in glycolysis after
348 blocking ATP synthase was indicated as oligomycin stimulated glycolysis.

349

350 *TMX2 Redox state assay*

351 HEK293T cells were transfected during 24 hours with plasmid DNA producing Myc-tagged β-
352 lactamase control protein (Lac-Myc), wild-type (TMX2) or variant TMX2 (p.Cys170Gly, p.Arg53Cys
353 and p.Arg231Trp) in a 6 well plate. Afterwards cells were treated with different ER-stress inducers or
354 oxidant/reductant at 37°C with 5% CO₂, according to Matsuo et al ³⁴: 6h with 0,5 μg/mL Brefeldin A

355 (BFA; Cayman Chemical® CAS 20350-15-6, 20 mg/mL stock in DMSO), 6h with 5 µM Thapsigargin (TG,
356 Sigma® T9033, 1mM stock in DMSO), 6h with 10 µg/mL Tunicamycin (TM, Sigma® T7765, 1mg/mL
357 stock in DMSO), 10 minutes with 5 mM DL-Dithiothreitol (DTT, Fluka® CAS 3483-12-3, 100 mM stock
358 in MilliQ sterile water), or 10 minutes with 200 µM Hydrogen peroxide H₂O₂ (Merck®, 822287). Free
359 thiol groups were alkylated by washing and 10 min incubating the cells with ice-cold 1× dPBS (Sigma
360 Aldrich®) supplemented with 20 mM N-ethylmaleimide (NEM, Sigma®, E3876-5G) and 4× Laemmli
361 buffer (3:1) before storage at -20°C. Total protein concentrations were determined by a BCA
362 protocol with Varioskan™ LUX multimode microplate reader (Thermo Fisher Scientific®). Equal
363 protein concentrations were loaded onto a 4-15% Criterion™ TGX Stain-Free™ Protein Gel (Bio-Rad
364 Laboratories®). Proteins were separated in a non-reducing SDS-PAGE with a Criterion™ Cell geltank
365 (Bio-Rad Laboratories®) at 100 Volt for 1h40min in Tris-Glycine-SDS running buffer. Proteins were
366 transferred by wet blotting to a Nitrocellulose membrane (Amersham Protran 0.45 NC, GE
367 Healthcare Life Sciences®) at 100 Volt for 1h at 4°C or alternatively on a Trans-Blot Turbo 0.2 µm
368 Nitrocellulose membrane (BioRad®) at 25V, 1.5A for 20 minutes in a Trans-Blot Turbo transfer
369 system (BioRad®). After antibody incubation, bands were detected with a fluorescent based
370 approach on the Odyssey Infrared Imager (LI-COR Biosciences®). Densitometry analysis to determine
371 Dimer/monomer ratios was performed in Odyssey 3.0 Software or Image Studio Lite Version 5.2.

372 *Statistics*

373 Statistical tests were performed with GraphPad 8 and are specified in legends of the experiments.

374

375 **RESULTS**

376 **Clinical overview**

377 The clinical features observed in all fourteen individuals, in whom we detected *TMX2* variants, have
378 been summarized in **Table 1** and full clinical and MRI description is available in the Supplemental
379 Note, **Table S4** and **Figure 1**. Most subjects (11/14) were reported with microcephaly (defined as
380 OFC at or below -2.5 SD, for age and sex; **Table 1**) and, where documented, this was present at birth
381 or at the first clinical examination. However, intra-familial discrepancy is present, because only one
382 of the two siblings of family 5 was microcephalic at adult age (P5), while the other sibling has a
383 borderline normal head circumference (P4) in the third decade of life. Two other affected
384 individuals of family 9 and 10 did not present with microcephaly at the last examination (**Table 1**,
385 P13 and P14). With the exclusion of two individuals (P6 and P14), all have suffered from drug-
386 resistant epilepsy, occurring in most cases in early infancy, characterized by apnea, epileptic spasms,
387 myoclonic seizures, focal seizures with or without secondary generalization, generalized tonic clonic
388 (GTC) seizures and in one case possible diaphragmatic myoclonia. Three affected individuals of the
389 cohort died during infancy, two of them of severe epilepsy in the early post-natal period. The brain
390 imaging of these two is strikingly similar (**Figure 1**, P1 and P10) and resembles a congenital viral
391 (CMV) infection for the presence, besides diffuse bilateral polymicrogyria (PMG), of reduced central
392 white matter volume, abnormal appearance of the periventricular borders with an occipital
393 pseudocyst. In both cases no infection was documented, and brain pathology excluded the presence
394 of inflammatory signs. All subjects, but one (Family 10, P14) surviving beyond infancy present with
395 severe developmental delay (**Table 1**), progressing to profound intellectual disability, cerebral palsy
396 with absent ambulation and lack of speech and/or progressive neurodegenerative course. No
397 additional extra-CNS malformations or health issues were observed, except for expected
398 complications of the underlying brain pathology. Metabolic screening performed in most subjects

399 did not reveal abnormalities of intermediate or energy metabolism. Two individuals have been
400 followed in their third decade (P4 and P5): they both showed signs of regression, with loss of motor
401 skills and severely impaired cognitive skills and no speech development.

402 Structural brain abnormalities were detected in almost all the subjects undergoing MRI scan. In
403 seven of the twelve affected individuals who received an MRI scan (**Figure 1**) a cortical malformation
404 has been documented. Diffuse PMG (small and excessive number of gyri) was observed in five
405 individuals (**Figure 1**, P1, P2, P3, P10 and P12), while the two siblings from family 5 show diffuse
406 pachygyric (= thickened and smooth) cortex (**Figure 1**, P6-P7). The brain imaging of these latter
407 siblings had been reported in supplemental data from a cohort of undiagnosed individuals with
408 malformations of cortical development²⁴. In three other individuals brain imaging shows
409 (progressive) global cerebral atrophy (families 4 and 6). The two remaining affected individuals
410 showed an MRI with no cortical malformation (P14) or a hemihypertrophy with frontal dysgyria
411 (P13). No brain imaging was performed in individual P8 (Family 6) and individual P11 (Family 8).

412 **Brain pathology of affected individuals (P1 and P10)**

413 At autopsy of individual P1 (day 14 postpartum), the head circumference was 34 cm (-2SD) and the
414 brain weight 316 g (normal weight at term: 400-450 g). Macroscopically, the brain surface was
415 polymicrogyric with the temporal regions being least affected (**Figure 2A and 2B**).

416 Evaluation of H&E stained sections of the frontal, parietal, temporal and occipital cortex showed
417 extensive unlayered polymicrogyria throughout the sampled cortical sections (**Figure 2E and 2F**).
418 Undulating bands of neurons extended deeply in the cortex. The insular and parahippocampal region
419 were least affected with undulating neuronal bands extending less deep into the cortex. The
420 hippocampus was spared. The transition from normal cortex to polymicrogyric cortex was abrupt.
421 The molecular layer appeared fused between adjacent gyri causing inclusions of pial vessels in the
422 deep cortical region. Leptomeninges overlying the polymicrogyric cortex were focally thickened.
423 Overmigration of neurons into the arachnoid space was not noted. The grey-white matter junction
424 was blurred under affected cortical areas. The white matter was normal. Heterotopic remnants of
425 the germinal matrix were occasionally observed in the periventricular region which is considered
426 pathologic given that the affected individual was born at term. Telangiectatic vessels were present in
427 the brain stem at the level of the locus coeruleus. Histologically, other brain structures and the eyes,
428 especially the retina appeared normal. There were no signs of mitochondrial disease or an acquired
429 cause for the malformation, e.g. no calcifications or inflammatory cells. The basal ganglia were
430 normal as well as the cerebellum, which consisted of a four-layered cortex including the for the age
431 appropriate external granular layer.

432 Brain examination of individual P10 (**Figure 2C**) macroscopically showed a polymicrogyric cortex of
433 the occipital lobes, but microscopically the whole cerebral cortex was polymicrogyric, with diffuse
434 dyslamination, fusion of molecular layers and blurred grey-white matter junction (**Figure 2G**). In
435 contrast with P1, in the polymicrogyric areas glioneuronal heterotopia were diffusely seen migrating
436 over the meninges in P10's brain. In the frontal area few calcifications were seen at the grey-white
437 matter border, with some calcification of the pericallosal artery, without any other evidence for
438 (focal) infection or inflammation. The occipital ependymal layer showed interruptions and gliotic
439 changes with some reactive macrophages. The presence of neuroglial cells migrating over the glia
440 limitans of the pia into the arachnoid space is typical of the cobblestone malformation. However,

441 there were no additional abnormalities common in the cobblestone malformation, such as
442 brainstem and cerebellar hypoplasia³⁵.

443

444 **Genomic and Transcriptomic analysis**

445 Biallelic variants in *TMX2* were identified in fourteen affected individuals from ten unrelated
446 pedigrees by whole exome sequencing (WES), compatible with autosomal recessive inheritance.
447 Detailed information on the genomic alterations (cDNA alteration, protein alteration, gnomAD
448 frequency, SIFT, MutationTaster and CADD scores) are described in **Table S4** and **Supplemental**
449 **Results** and a schematic overview of the gene and the thirteen discovered variants can be found in
450 **Figure 3A**. *TMX2* encodes a transcript of 8 exons (NM_015959.3), which is translated into a protein
451 with 296 amino acids. To test the effect of each variant on *TMX2* mRNA expression transcriptomic
452 analysis was performed. RT-qPCR in skin fibroblasts from the affected newborn **P1** of **Family 1** with
453 a compound heterozygous mutation in *TMX2* (c.164A>C, p.Asp55Ala; c.391dup, p.Leu131Profs*6),
454 showed that *TMX2* mRNA expression was much lower (nearly half fold), compared to healthy
455 controls (**Figure 3 B**). To determine which of the alleles was still expressed, we performed allele
456 specific RT-qPCR (primers specified in **Table S1**). Results showed that the allele carrying the
457 frameshift in exon 4 barely expressed any product (2-3% of total level *TMX2* mRNA in healthy
458 controls), indicating that very likely the transcript is subjected to nonsense mediated decay (NMD)
459 (**Figure 3C**). When amplifying the other allele, total *TMX2* mRNA expression was again reduced to
460 approximately half, confirming our previous result (**Figure 3B**) and showing that the allele with the
461 c.164A>C, p.Asp55Ala variant is normally expressed (**Figure 3C**).

462 In **Family 2**, the proband (**P2**) had a homozygous *TMX2* missense change in the ultimate nucleotide
463 of exon 6 (c.614G>A, p.Arg205Gln), with a predicted effect on splicing. RT-qPCR did not show
464 significant decrease in expression of *TMX2* mRNA in skin fibroblasts from the proband, compared to
465 healthy controls (**Figure 3B**). However, since the variant affected the last nucleotide of an exon, an
466 effect on mRNA splicing was suspected. We used RNAseq in combination with Integrated Genomics
467 Viewer (IGV) to visualize cumulative transcript reads per exon in a Sashimi plot (**Figure 3D**) and the
468 amount of reads per million were calculated (**Figure 3E**). The c.614G>A, p.Arg205Gln variant indeed
469 affected splicing through introduction of a new internal splice site in exon 6, resulting into four
470 different transcripts: regular mRNA, an alternative transcript with a loss of 11 nucleotides within
471 exon 6, an alternative transcript with full in-frame exon 6 skipping (loss of 66 nucleotides) and mRNA
472 with intron 6 retention (**Figure 3E**). This latter transcript is also present at low level in healthy
473 controls. Individual reads of each transcript are shown in **Figure S1**.

474 In **Family 3**, individual P3, similar to the variants in individual P1, a combination was found of a
475 missense change in exon 1 (c.157C>T, p.Arg53Cys, nearby the p.Asp55Ala of P1, together with a
476 nonsense variant leading to a premature stop codon in the last exon of *TMX2* (c.757C>T, p.Arg253*).
477 The effect of the variants on *TMX2* transcription in skin fibroblasts was tested. RT-qPCR showed a
478 mean decreased level of *TMX2* mRNA expression by 23%, potentially indicating that the premature
479 termination codon in the last exon of the transcript partially escapes nonsense mediated decay, as
480 being less than 50 to 55 nucleotides from the stop codon at the 3'-end (for *TMX2* nt836-891) (**Figure**
481 **3B**)³⁶.

482 For families 4 to 10 no materials were available to test the transcriptional effect of each variant.
483 However, considering lethality in *Tmx2* null mice, residual *TMX2* transcript can be anticipated
484 originating from the missense alleles and/ or the allele creating a new splice acceptor site (P10).

485 **Gene ontology (GO) analysis of differentially expressed genes in *TMX2* pathogenic variants**

486 Our data clearly indicates that biallelic *TMX2* variants lead to reduced *TMX2* expression, acting as
487 loss of function variants (LoF) (**Figure 3**). Compared to other TMX family members, only *TMX2* is
488 expressed steadily from week 8 throughout fetal brain development, even increasing during
489 postnatal life (mRNA expression during human brain development retrieved from Allen human brain
490 atlas **Figure S3**). We therefore considered the *TMX2* variants as probably explanatory for the early
491 neurological manifestation and decided to investigate their effect in detail.

492 We performed analysis of RNAseq data from cultured skin fibroblasts of two affected individuals (P1
493 and P2), in parallel with three age and gender matched controls, and studied which pathways were
494 deregulated.

495 *Functional annotation clustering analysis*

496 Functional annotation clustering analysis of the top 1000 significant differentially expressed genes
497 (DEGs) ($p < 0.05$), by the Database for Annotation, Visualization and Integrated Discovery (DAVID,
498 v6.8) ranked the top cluster of genes as those associated with post-translational modifications, i.e.
499 intramolecular or intermolecular disulfide bond formation (Annotation Cluster 1: Disulfide bond $p =$
500 9.9×10^{-24}) and N-linked glycosylation (Annotation Cluster 1: Glycoprotein $p = 2.1 \times 10^{-28}$ and
501 Glycosylation site:N-linked $p = 2.5 \times 10^{-27}$) (**Figure 4A**). From this cluster of genes, 24 disulfide
502 containing genes were subtracted as being the highest deregulated of this cluster in cells from
503 affected individuals, having a False Discovery Rate (FDR) lower than 0.05 (**Figure 4B**). Stringent
504 filtering ($FDR < 0.01$) without clustering, uncovered 37 differentially expressed genes of which five
505 were indirectly controlled by the UPR or regulate expression of UPR markers, i.e. *CXCL5* (OMIM
506 600324)³⁷, *DAPK1* (OMIM 600831)³⁸, *HGF* (OMIM 142409)³⁹, *LTBP1* (OMIM 150390)⁴⁰ and *CES1*
507 (OMIM 114835)⁴¹. Interestingly, the second highest deregulated gene *LTBP1* encodes a known
508 folding substrate for another PDI protein, ERp46, also known as TXNDC5^{42; 43}. Although it has been
509 suggested that most PDIs show substrate specificity², *LTBP1* could also be a substrate of *TMX2* or
510 *TMX2* might affect TXNDC5 mediated folding.

511 The second most significant functional annotation cluster ranks genes having a transmembrane
512 domain (Enrichment score= 9.43) and a third most significant cluster contains genes encoding
513 proteins involved in synaptic function, specifically located at the postsynaptic membrane
514 (Enrichment Score= 4.63). This latter membrane is enriched with receptors and ion channels,
515 essential for the interaction with neurotransmitters. Interestingly, another cluster mentions the
516 deregulation of calcium ion binding (Annotation Cluster 6 Enrichment score 3.16).

517

518 *Ingenuity pathway analysis (IPA)*

519 Ingenuity pathway analysis (IPA) of the same differentially expressed genes in cells from the two
520 probands ($p < 0.05$), taking into account the logarithmic Fold Change (LogFC) of each gene, was used
521 to calculate the most affected biological functions and diseases networks (**Figure 4C**). Only activation
522 Z-scores in the 90 percent confidence interval were considered to be significant ($Z[-\infty, -1.65]$ and
523 $Z[1.65, +\infty]$). Interestingly, this analysis showed two key IPA categories being inhibited in *TMX2*
524 affected individuals, i.e. 'Nervous System Development and Function' and 'Cellular Growth,
525 Proliferation and Survival' (Blue bars in **Figure 4C**). The most significant inhibited function was

526 'quantity of neurons' (Z=-2.864), with a decreased outgrowth of cells (Z= -2.818), specifically neurons
527 (Z=-2.594) and neurites (Z= -2.46), all related to processes affected in microcephaly. Consequently,
528 transcripts related to learning ability (Z= -2.356) and cognition function (Z= -2.257) were also shown
529 to be potentially decreased in cells from affected individuals. Moreover, besides the development of
530 neurons (Z= -1.955), the differentiation of neurons was highly inhibited(Z= -1.812). Lastly, overall cell
531 survival (Z= -1.785) and viability (Z= -2.016) were decreased. When looking at the most activated
532 biological functions or associated diseases, seizures (Z=2.712) and seizure disorder (Z=2.819) are the
533 most significant activated features (Red bars in **Figure 4C**).

534 **Proteomics analysis of exogenous TMX2**

535 In view of the effect of *TMX2* variants on transcriptome, specifically on disulfide bond formation, we
536 wondered whether *TMX2* functions as an oxidoreductase and/or chaperone in protein folding. A
537 transfection protocol was optimized in HEK293T cells with a Myc-tagged vector containing full length
538 *TMX2* sequence (p.CMV6.TMX2-Myc/DKK) and a Myc-tagged β -lactamase vector as negative control
539 (pcDNATM3.1/Myc-His (-)/LacZ). Immunocytochemistry of exogenous *TMX2* localized the protein to
540 the MAM through co-localization with the marker Calnexin (CNX) (**Figure S4 A**) and in the vicinity of
541 the mitochondria, visualized by mitochondrial marker HSP60 (**Figure S4 B**). Next, we aimed at the
542 identification of the *TMX2* interacting proteins, by performing mass spectrometry-based proteomics
543 of co-precipitated proteins. A 24-hour over-expression of Myc-tagged *TMX2*, followed by
544 immunoprecipitation and LC-MS/MS reveals 71 unique peptides as putative interactors. The list of
545 reproducible co-precipitated proteins is shown in **Table S5** and visualized with Cytoscape String App
546 according to pathway involvement in **Figure 5A**. A first interesting observation was that *TMX2*
547 physically interacts with MAM marker CNX, which is a calcium-binding protein folding chaperone.
548 Other PDIs have also been shown to bind with CNX, e.g. *TMX1*², *TMX4*⁶, ERp57². Binding was
549 reciprocally confirmed after IP of CNX and detection of Myc-tagged *TMX2* on western blots (**Figure**
550 **5B**). Besides CNX, multiple other protein folding regulators and ER chaperones were interacting with
551 *TMX2* (**Figure 5, dark blue**), i.e. co-chaperones of the HSP70 family DNAJA2(HSP40) and BCL2
552 associated athanogene 2(BAG2), chaperonin containing TCP1 subunit 5 (CCT5), Translocon-
553 associated protein/TRAP subunit alpha (SSR1), N-glycosylation regulators glucosidase II alpha subunit
554 (GANAB) and Dolichyl-diphospho-oligosaccharide-protein glycosyltransferase complex (OST
555 complex: RPN2, DDOST, STT3B, MLEC)⁴⁴.

556
557 Furthermore, besides CNX, *TMX2* bound with other key-regulators of calcium homeostasis, i.e. Ca²⁺-
558 binding proteins (RCN2, HAX1, SSR1) and Ca²⁺-ion channels located at the MAM or mitochondrial
559 membrane (ATP2A2/SERCA2, VDAC1) (**Figure 5A, light blue**). *TMX2* also binds to Erlin-2 which
560 directly regulates inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate Ca²⁺ receptor degradation. These calcium receptors
561 and channels are necessary for mitochondrial bioenergetics. SERCA2, like CNX, is a main interactor of
562 some PDI members (*TMX1*⁷, ERdj5¹) and described as a key regulator of protein folding. Binding was
563 confirmed reciprocally after immunoprecipitation of SERCA2 and detection of Myc-tagged *TMX2* on
564 western blot (**Figure 5B**). Proteomics data also indicates physical interaction of *TMX2* with
565 components of mitochondrial outer and inner membrane complexes (**Figure 5A, green**), e.g. the
566 mitochondrial contact site and cristae organizing system (MICOS, MIC60/IMMT subunit), the
567 mitochondrial precursor protein import pathways (TOM22 and TIM23 complex)⁴⁵, and the
568 mitochondrial membrane respiratory chain NADH dehydrogenase (Complex I NDUFA2 and NDUFA12
569 subunits).

570 TMX2 also interacted with proteins regulating the unfolded protein response, i.e. DDRGK1, a direct
571 regulator of IRE1 α -XBP1 and PERK-eIF2 α -CHOP signaling⁴⁶, or the UPR associated endoplasmic
572 reticulum-associated degradation (ERAD), dependent on an ubiquitin-proteasome system (UPS)
573 (**Figure 5, red**), i.e. TMX2 binds with VCP-AMFR ERAD complex, Erlin-2 involved in ERAD of IP3Rs,
574 Ubiquitin-binding protein UBXN1, deubiquitinating enzyme USP25, and proteasome subunits
575 PSMD2, PSMD3 and PSMA5. Because of these interactions, the RNAseq showing dysregulated genes
576 indirectly linked to UPR signaling and the role of TMX2 in protein folding, we tested the hypothesis
577 whether *TMX2* variants activated the UPR, specifically the IRE1 α -XBP1 and PERK-eIF2 α -CHOP
578 signaling. RT-qPCR of UPR downstream mRNA markers *CHOP* and spliced *XBP1* was performed for
579 the three available fibroblasts lines derived from affected individuals and showed that aberrant
580 TMX2 did not affect the amount of expressed *sXPB1*, nor *CHOP* (**data not shown**). Although the
581 RNAseq data of affected individuals showed DEGs indirectly linked to the UPR, no direct factors of
582 any of the three UPR pathways were found to be upregulated when *TMX2* was mutated. Hence,
583 together these data indicate that *TMX2* pathogenic variants do not lead to constitutive UPR
584 activation in fibroblasts from affected individuals.

585

586 **Mitochondrial bioenergetics in *TMX2* variant fibroblasts**

587 PDIs and protein folding are important determinants for normal mitochondrial bioenergetics and cell
588 survival. In view of the putative function of TMX2 at the ER-MAM-mitochondria interface, the results
589 of RNAseq (hinting towards a deregulated disulfide bond formation and calcium binding in cells from
590 affected individuals) and proteomics analysis (showing binding with regulators of protein folding,
591 ERAD, ER-mitochondrial UPR and Calcium homeostasis), we focused on mitochondrial activity and
592 evaluated mitochondrial respiration and glycolytic activity in *TMX2* variant fibroblasts derived from
593 three affected individuals (P1, P2 and P3) using a Seahorse Extracellular Flux Analyzer. Only P3
594 showed reduced basal mitochondrial activity and reduced respiration dedicated to ATP production
595 when compared to healthy control lines. At the same time, all *TMX2* variant fibroblasts featured
596 suppressed mitochondrial respiration upon stimulation with the mitochondrial uncoupler FCCP, with
597 a significantly reduced reserve capacity – which reflects the bioenergetics reservoir available to
598 counteract cellular stress - and overall decreased rotenone dependent respiration. The latter
599 indicates a reduced activity of mitochondrial complex I (**Figure 6A and 6C**). Interestingly, P1 and P2,
600 but not P3 showed a significant increase in the glycolytic activity – that was measured as lactate
601 dehydrogenase mediated acidification of the medium- both in basal condition and upon stimulation
602 with the mitochondrial ATP-synthase inhibitor oligomycin (**Figure 6B and 6D**), indicating that *TMX2*
603 variant fibroblasts compensated the mitochondrial bioenergetics defects by potentiating the
604 glycolytic pathway and glucose catabolism. Quantification of cellular ATP levels showed no
605 differences between *TMX2* affected individuals and controls (**Figure S5**). To identify potential
606 mitochondrial defects silenced in glycolysis permitting conditions, we performed the experiments
607 also in conditions where glycolysis was inhibited by the presence of galactose, forcing cells to rely on
608 mitochondrial respiration for ATP production. As expected, P1 and P2 failed to potentiate basal
609 respiration and showed no significant increase of respiration dedicated to ATP production and of
610 mitochondrial complex I activity when cultured in galactose medium, although retained the ability to
611 potentiate the reserve capacity (**Figure 6E**).

612

613 **Redox state analysis of wild-type and variant *TMX2***

614 *TMX2* oxidizes and reduces in native conditions

615 We tested whether thiol groups in TMX2 can be oxidized and reduced and thus whether TMX2 is
616 able to form disulfides, hence would be able to influence protein folding. HEK293T cells were
617 transiently transfected with *TMX2* (**Figure 7A**) or β -lactamase vector (**Figure 7B**) and the redox state
618 of TMX2 was monitored before and after treatment with the reducing agent DTT, the oxidant
619 hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) or the ER-stress inducers: Brefeldin A (ER-Golgi transport blocker) (**Figure**
620 **7 A-B**), Thapsigargin (SERCA2 inhibitor) or Tunicamycin (N-glycosylation inhibitor) (**Figure 7C**). To be
621 able to distinguish redox state of cysteines, cells were incubated with a cysteine alkylating reagent
622 N-ethylmaleimide (NEM) to covalently bind reduced thiol groups (+0.125kDa /thiol), but not oxidized
623 disulfide groups. **Figure 7A**, lane 1 and 5, shows that TMX2 exists in both a reduced NEM alkylated
624 form (~33 kDa) and an oxidized lower molecular form (~31 kDa) in native conditions. These two
625 bands were consistently found in all of our repeat experiments with the ratios of oxidized and
626 reduced TMX2 alternating, e.g. sometimes more reduced TMX2 (**Figure 7A, lane 1**), sometimes equal
627 amount (**Figure 7C, lane 1**), and sometimes more oxidized TMX2. ER stress induced by BFA,
628 tunicamycin or thapsigargin did not alter TMX2 redox state (**Figure 7A, lane 2, 6 and Figure 7C lane**
629 **2, 5, 6**) nor its' protein level. DTT treatment partially shifted redox state to a more reduced TMX2
630 (**Figure 7A, lane 3**) and TMX2 was completely reduced in the presence of β -mercaptoethanol (**Figure**
631 **5B and S6**), indicating that at least part of TMX2 redox state is thiol mediated.

632

633 *TMX2 dimerizes and oxidative stress elevates dimer/monomer ratio*

634 Surprisingly, H_2O_2 -mediated oxidation of cells overexpressing TMX2 did not result in an increase of
635 the lower oxidized TMX2 band, as we observed for PDI (PDIA1) (**Figure 7A, lane 12**), but generated
636 an intense TMX2-reactive extra band with higher molecular mass on immunoblot (**Figure 7A, lane 4**
637 **and 8**; apparent mass ~65kDa). Since molecular mass was double the amount of a TMX2 monomer,
638 we hypothesize that this band represents a slower migrating homodimer. Dimer/monomer ratios
639 were calculated, showing up to a 200 fold increase of dimerization in oxidative environment (**Figure**
640 **7D**, H_2O_2 $p=0.0005$). The dimer was still present when SDS-PAGE was performed in reducing
641 conditions with β -mercaptoethanol and without NEM, although the ratio dimer/monomer was
642 almost inverted and the monomer represented the major band (**Figure S6**). These results indicated
643 that oxidative conditions mediated by H_2O_2 , induce dimerization of TMX2 and that this dimerization
644 is at least partially mediated by disulfide bond formation. Homodimerization was confirmed through
645 linear correlation between the observed molecular weight on blot (average 57.8kDa, $n=18$) and the
646 calculated expected molecular weight with the method of Lambin for a gradient SDS-PAGE gel (4-
647 15%) (**Figure S7**)⁴⁷.

648 *TMX2 variants highly dimerize and polymerize in native and ER-stress conditions*

649 We tested the effect of variants on the behavior of exogenously expressed TMX2. By in vitro
650 mutagenesis, the single cysteine in the atypical thioredoxin domain was substituted with a glycine,
651 p.Cys170Gly. Interestingly, ablation of the active cysteine in the TRX domain still permitted
652 dimerization, which supports the hypothesis that this dimer is not a mixed disulfide dimer of the TRX
653 domain with another substrate. Moreover, dimerization of TMX2 was appreciated in the TRX domain
654 variant, even under native conditions, i.e. independently of an oxidative stress, suggesting that this
655 domain is involved in the reversibility of the TMX2 state between monomer and dimer (**Figure 7E**).
656 Furthermore, oxidative stress even induced the formation of higher molecular weight polymers in
657 the TRX domain mutant (**Figure 7C, lane 10**). To determine redox state of human *TMX2* pathogenic
658 variants under different stress conditions, we overexpressed either a *TMX2* variant located in the

659 cytosolic domain, p.Arg53Cys , or a variant in the ER lumen domain, p.Arg231Trp (**Figure 7C, lanes**
660 **13-18, 19-24**). Strikingly, the amount of TMX2 dimer was significantly higher compared to wild-type
661 TMX2 for both variants in both native and under all stress conditions, not only H₂O₂, as quantified in
662 **Figure 7 E**. Dimer/ monomer ratios were increased by 10-fold (1:1), while in wild-type TMX2 this is
663 0.1:1, showing that the pathogenic variants block the protein in a dimerized state and that affected
664 individuals may have less monomeric protein available (**Figure 7 E**). Moreover, TMX2 with the
665 natural variants also displayed higher levels of polymerization, as seen in the TRX mutant (apparent
666 mass ~110kDa and 140kDa, observed average mass 97.1kDa and 138.9kDa with method of Lambin in
667 n=11). Based on the linear correlation between observed and expected mass, these bands seem to
668 represent homotrimers and tetramers of TMX2(**Figure S7**). Although the amount of dimer to
669 monomer ratios under oxidative stress was also doubled or tripled in mutant p.Arg231Trp or
670 p.Arg53Cys TMX2 compared to wild-type TMX2, the difference was no longer significant (**Figure 7E,**
671 **H₂O₂, fourth graph**). DTT treatment prevented polymerization of the variants almost completely,
672 confirming that polymerization is (at least partially) mediated by disulfide bridge formation (**Figure**
673 **7E, third graph and Figure S6**). Notably, in vitro mutagenized Myc-tagged TMX2 was still able to bind
674 both CNX and SERCA2 (**Figure S8**).

675 **DISCUSSION**

676 We describe a disorder, characterized by developmental delay, microcephaly, impaired speech and
677 ambulation, epilepsy and cortical malformations, with a relatively wide spectrum of severity ranging
678 from early death to intellectual disability with mild motor impairment, resulting from recessive
679 *TMX2* variants.

680 Redox regulatory proteins are enriched at the MAM of the smooth ER^{10; 48}. Some of these proteins
681 interact with ER calcium handling proteins and regulate the calcium flux into the mitochondria,
682 which, in turn, influences mitochondrial membrane potential and mitochondrial respiration¹.
683 Thioredoxins of the PDI family regulate the cellular redox state through oxidoreductase activity-
684 mediated disulfide bond formation and contribute to protein folding. The PDI transmembrane ER
685 thioredoxin-related (TMX) proteins, such as MAM-associated TMX1, seem to have dual function: on
686 the one hand in regulating protein folding, maintaining the redox environment of the ER and hereby
687 preventing ER stress, on the other hand in regulating calcium flux in the mitochondria⁷. Besides
688 regulating protein folding and calcium transport, thioredoxins in general are key molecules in the
689 regulation of oxidative stress through scavenging reactive oxygen species (ROS), such as hydrogen
690 peroxide⁴⁹.

691 *TMX2* lacks the canonical oxidoreductase active C-X-X-C domain. However, its function as folding
692 chaperone is suggested by our data, demonstrating (1) the dysregulation of disulfide bond and N-
693 glycosylation-related genes in *TMX2*-deficient fibroblasts, (2) the interaction of *TMX2* with several
694 proteins regulating protein folding and UPR and (3) the presence of both oxidized and reduced forms
695 in the maleimide alkylation assay. In addition, our mechanistic studies discover the function of *TMX2*
696 as regulator of calcium homeostasis and mitochondrial bioenergetics. *TMX2* localizes at the MAM
697 where it physically binds to calnexin and SERCA2, whereas *TMX2*-variant fibroblasts show decreased
698 mitochondrial reserve capacity and lower ability to cope with oxidative stress, probably related to
699 defective calcium flux, similarly to what was proposed for *TMX1*-deficient cells⁷. Compared to *TMX1*,
700 *TMX2* is highly expressed in fetal and post-natal brain. The specific *TMX2* expression in the cortex
701 during prenatal life, together with the deleterious effect of its loss of function for human cortical
702 development, places *TMX2* as a key molecule in the ER-mitochondrial redox regulation of brain

703 development. Although pathogenic variants in mitochondrial oxidoreductases and MAM-associated
704 proteins have been reported as causes of pediatric neurologic disorders¹⁶⁻²⁰, the TMX2 related
705 disorder is a malformation of cortical development resulting from a defect in a member of the PDI
706 family.

707 TMX2 is thus an important regulator of oxidative stimuli and an intriguing aspect is its
708 responsiveness to H₂O₂. The sensitivity of TMX proteins to H₂O₂ has received little attention,
709 although it has been shown that their redox state dramatically changes after H₂O₂-treatment, as it
710 happens for example for TMX4⁶. The hydrogen peroxide signaling molecule has long been
711 considered as deleterious for cellular function and as a byproduct of oxidoreductase reactions, being
712 rapidly metabolized by catalases, glutathione-peroxidases or peroxi-redoxins⁴⁹. However, more
713 recent findings highlighted the role of H₂O₂ as physiological regulator of redox signaling (oxidative
714 eustress), acting via reversible cysteine and methionine oxidation⁵⁰. Additionally, H₂O₂ functions in
715 higher concentrations as a mediator of pathophysiological signals (oxidative distress) leading to
716 growth arrest and regulated cell death⁵⁰. One of the main intracellular sites of H₂O₂ production is the
717 ER⁵¹. Along with the activation of peroxi-redoxins as possible intermediate sensors, the role of H₂O₂
718 in the development of the nervous system has been well-established⁵¹⁻⁵³. Among targets of H₂O₂
719 redox signaling are transcription factors of the Wnt and the Shh pathways⁵⁴. Moreover, H₂O₂ has
720 been recently discovered as signaling molecule controlling axonal path finding in zebra fish⁵⁴ and
721 neuronal growth cone collapse in vitro⁵⁵. Hence, it is not surprising that a *TMX2* variant-mediated
722 misbalance in oxidative eustress/distress could result in impaired neuronal development.

723 Under our experimental conditions, increased concentrations of H₂O₂ in the culture medium induced
724 wild-type TMX2 dimerization. In the same maleimide alkylation assays, TMX2 redox state does not
725 seem sensitive to ER stressors. These results reflect a physiological sensitivity of TMX2 to H₂O₂,
726 possibly mimicking an adaptive response to oxidative eustress, regulating physiological steps in
727 development^{52; 54}. Wild-type TMX2 dimer was still slightly present under β-mercaptoethanol
728 reducing conditions (Fig. S6), indicating that it is partially formed through inter-disulfide bonds. The
729 occurrence of homo-dimerization of other members of the PDI superfamily has been described
730 earlier (for PDI⁵⁶⁻⁵⁸, PDIp⁵⁹, ERp29⁶⁰) and is suggested as a general mechanism to regulate PDI
731 function^{13; 56}. Dimers can exhibit higher chaperone or unfolding activity as described for ERp29, PDIp,
732 CNX and CRT dimerization⁶⁰. Also, homo-dimerization of other TMX proteins has been postulated,
733 e.g. a putative TMX1 homodimer was observed in immunoprecipitates with anti-CNX after ablation
734 of the TRX domain active cysteines⁶¹.

735 Our data suggest the formation of TMX2 homo-dimer/polymers, based on the evidence that
736 observed TMX2 molecular masses on gradient gels show linearity with the predicted molecular mass
737 by the Lambin method calculation and on the fact that the dimerization is not strictly dependent on
738 disulfide bridge formation. Both under DTT pre-treatment in culture (of the TMX2 mutants) and by
739 running a gel with β-mercaptoethanol, dimers are still present with an identical linear molecular
740 mass. Since dimerization still occurs in the TRX domain mutant independently of an active cysteine
741 and H₂O₂ treatment, the dimer does not represent a heterodimer of TMX2 with a substrate formed
742 through mixed disulfides, similar to what is described for TMX1 homo-dimerization⁶¹. Although
743 polymers were also observed after ablation of the TRX domain cysteine, they were barely present
744 under reducing conditions. Hence, we cannot exclude interactions of TMX2 with other substrates of
745 identical molecular mass, through TRX domain-independent interactions. For example, N-linked
746 glycosylation has been shown to modulate the formation of PDI polymers and in TMX2 it could
747 mediate interaction with heterologous peptides⁵⁶.

748 Similar to wild-type *TMX2* under oxidative stress, we observed constitutive *TMX2* homodi-
749 /polymerization upon expression of the *TMX2* pathogenic variants (p.Arg53Cys and p.Arg231Trp),
750 leading to mitochondrial dysfunction, reduced maximal respiration and increased glycolysis, as seen
751 under ER stress conditions^{7; 50; 62}. However, we did not detect activation of UPR in fibroblasts from
752 affected individuals, both under native and under treatment with H₂O₂ (data not shown). This
753 suggests that UPR is not the primary target of *TMX2* function or that cultured fibroblasts are not the
754 ideal test model.

755 Another fascinating aspect is *TMX2* involvement in the pathogenesis of PMG. This malformation has
756 long been considered as a defect of postmigratory cortical organization⁶³, with wide genetic
757 heterogeneity, but also being a proven consequence of prenatal brain injury or disruptive events⁶⁴.
758 These aspects make genetic counseling of PMG most challenging. At brain imaging it may be difficult
759 to distinguish PMG resulting from environmental factors (e.g. prenatal CMV infection) or from
760 genetic defects. At MRI and pathological examination the main PMG characteristics are many small
761 gyri with pebbled appearance, loss of normal cortical lamination, overfolding and fusion of the gyri,
762 stippling of the white-grey matter border⁶⁵, sometimes giving the appearance of generally thickened
763 cortex. The cobblestone malformation is characterized by pebbled cerebral surface, thick cortex and
764 striation perpendicular to the cortical surface, which reflect tracks of neuroglial cells overmigrating
765 above the glia limitans in the subarachnoid space, overmigration sometimes being massive and
766 leading to thinning of the cortical plate^{35; 66}. Cobblestone malformation is frequently associated with
767 cerebellar and pons dysplasia and variable hydrocephalus, white matter and callosal dysgenesis.
768 PMG and cobblestone malformation have been sporadically reported to coexist in the same genetic
769 disorder^{67; 68}. Pathology of the brain in two *TMX2* variant affected individuals shows a complete
770 disorganization of the cortical layers (unlayered PMG) in both and in one of them (P10) diffusely
771 overmigrating neurons, typical of cobblestone malformation, together with scattered white matter
772 calcifications and pseudocysts, suggestive of a disruptive (CMV-like) event. Unlayered PMG is
773 supposed to be caused by an early disruption of cortical development between 16-24 weeks
774 gestation⁶⁹ and can also be observed in metabolic causes of PMG such as Zellweger disease (a
775 peroxisomal biogenesis disorder, characterized by mislocalization of catalase), or lining non-genetic
776 schizencephalic clefts^{64; 70}. A mixture of disruptive and developmental migratory abnormalities has
777 been reported for the brain disorder caused by the Zika virus (ZIKV) infection, where the effect on
778 neuronal proliferation and migration is more prominent than in other more common congenital
779 infections, i.e. CMV⁷¹. We demonstrate that *TMX2*-related PMG is a disorder of neuronal migration
780 and cortical organization, without evidence of vascular or inflammatory disruption, in some cases
781 with radiological aspect resembling an infectious i.e. non-genetic cause, in other cases
782 microscopically showing the cobblestone malformation. These observations support the view that
783 PMG and cobblestone are cortical malformations that can share a common pathogenesis and
784 represent different severity of the spectrum^{72; 73}.

785 It is possible that some of the *TMX2* related malformations are caused by lack of physiological
786 response to regulators of neuronal development (hypothetically H₂O₂-mediated axonal pathfinding)
787 and some are the effect of abnormal oxidoreductase-mediated protein folding and calcium
788 homeostasis, with a secondary mitochondrial dysfunction. Although no UPR stimulation was found
789 in *TMX2* deficient cells, *TMX2* also plays a role in regulation of UPR and apoptosis, both mechanisms
790 essential for regulation of neuronal proliferation and cortical organization⁷⁴.

791 Our observation shows how in humans a genetic disorder of cellular redox adaptation mechanisms
792 can be the cause of neuronal proliferation and migration disorders, with characteristics of a
793 disruptive event. These studies also provide a mechanistic explanation for the fact that human brain
794 development is driven by steps strictly regulated in time and space, including individual response to
795 environmental stimuli, e.g. to redox signaling molecules and changes in cellular redox state. Protein
796 disulfide isomerase family members might prove to be major players in this process.

797

798 **SUPPLEMENTAL DATA**

799 Supplemental data include 8 figures and 5 tables.

800

801 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

802 The authors declare no competing interests.

803

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832

833 **WEB RESOURCES**

834 Allen Brain Atlas <http://human.brain-map.org/>

835 BWA <http://bio-bwa.sourceforge.net/>
836 DAVID <https://david.ncifcrf.gov/>
837 dbSNP <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/SNP/>
838 ESP <http://evs.gs.washington.edu/EVS/>
839 ExAc database <http://exac.broadinstitute.org>
840 GeneMatcher <http://www.genematcher.org>
841 Genome Analysis Toolkit <http://www.broadinstitute.org/gatk/>
842 gnomAD database <http://gnomad.broadinstitute.org>
843 Ingenuity <https://www.qiagen.com/us/shop/analytics-software/biological-data-tools/ingenuity-pathway-analysis/#orderinginformation>
844
845 Mouse Genome Informatics <http://www.informatics.jax.org/>
846 OMIM <https://www.omim.org/>
847 R <https://www.R-project.org/>
848

849 **DATA AVAILABILITY AND ACCESSION NUMBERS**

850 WES data are deposited internally at the Erasmus MC and in each medical institute referring the
851 affected individuals, in respect to the privacy of the families. The mass spectrometry proteomics
852 data have been deposited in the ProteomeXchange Consortium⁷⁵ via the PRIDE⁷⁶ partner repository
853 with the dataset identifier PXD014064. The accession number for the RNAseq data reported in this
854 paper is Gene Expression Omnibus GSE133483.

855

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1078 **FIGURE TITLES AND LEGENDS**

1079 **Figure 1. Features and brain MRI of individuals with *TMX2* variants.** P indicates the code of the
1080 probands as used in Table 1 and S4. P1 (**A-E**): affected member of family 1. **A**: The photograph shows
1081 mild microcephaly and no overt dysmorphic features. The MRI scan at birth shows T2 weighted
1082 images, of (**B**) parasagittal plane, (**C**) axial at the level of basal ganglia, (**D**) axial at the level of parietal
1083 areas and ϵ axial at the level of pons and cerebellum. Both the parasagittal and the two axial
1084 cerebral sections show diffuse polymicrogyria of the cortex, normal myelination, hypointensity of
1085 the thalami (left axial) and normal cerebellum. P2 (**F-H**): MRI of the affected individual from family 2
1086 at 19 months of age. (**F**) axial FLAIR -, (**G**) coronal T2 -, (**H**) coronal inversion recovery- weighted
1087 images all showing bilateral diffuse thickened cortex extending through frontal, parietal and occipital
1088 areas, resembling polymicrogyria, with sparing of the cerebellum. The lateral ventricles are enlarged
1089 and asymmetric; the periventricular white matter volume is strongly reduced. P3 (**I**): axial T2
1090 weighted image of the affected child of family 3 at birth, showing diffuse bilateral polymicrogyria of
1091 the cortex, mild dilatation of the posterior horns of the lateral ventricles and delayed myelination.
1092 P4 (**J-L**) and P5 (**M-O**): affected siblings of family 4, at the age of 12 (P4) and 23 years (P5),
1093 respectively (**J and M**) sagittal T1-, (**K and N**) axial T2- weighted images at the level of basal ganglia
1094 and (**L and O**) the cerebellum, showing thin corpus callosum, loss of periventricular white matter and
1095 volume of thalami, deep cerebral sulci and mild cerebellar atrophy. No cortical malformation is
1096 present. P6 (**P-S**) is the index of family 5. (**P**) Axial T2 and (**Q**) parasagittal T1 images showing
1097 abnormally thick cortex, atrophic thalami, in (**Q**) the frontal cortex looks pachygyric. (**R**) Axial T2
1098 FLAIR and (**S**) axial T1 weighted images showing diffusely thickened cortex, most prominent in
1099 parietal areas and moderately enlarged lateral ventricles. P9 (**T-V**): affected proband of family 6, at
1100 the age of 11 months. Axial T2 weighted images (**T-U**) showing brain atrophic changes with bilateral
1101 pallidus (red arrow) and posterior limb of the internal capsule (red arrowhead) T2 high signal
1102 intensity, as well as significant delayed myelination. Globi pallidi are severely atrophic. (**V**): Both
1103 globi pallidi, posterior limb of the internal capsules, optic radiations (black arrowhead) and
1104 brainstem tract (not shown) abnormalities are also noted on DWI and confirmed by ADC map (not
1105 shown) indicating restricted diffusion. P10 (**W-Y**): MRI at birth of the proband from family 7. (**W**)
1106 midsagittal, (**X-Y**) axial T2 weighted images. (**W**) mild hypoplasia of the pons, thin corpus callosum.
1107 (**X**) hypoplastic cerebral peduncles, bilateral abnormal cortex with polymicrogyric appearance. (**Y**)
1108 diffuse bilateral polymicrogyria, enlarged lateral ventricles with pseudocyst in the left occipital horn
1109 (black arrowhead), and white matter loss, the combination including the pseudocyst being typically
1110 seen in CMV infections.

1111 **Figure 2. Brain pathology of individuals with *TMX2* variants.** A-C, E-G: affected individuals; D and H:
1112 age matched controls. Upper panel: macroscopic brain appearance of P1 (**A-B**) and P10 (**C**). Sagittal
1113 view (**A**) and coronal section (**B**) show diffuse bilateral excessive amount of small gyri
1114 (polymicrogyria) of the cerebral cortex (most affected areas indicated by white arrows), compared to
1115 control brain (**D**). (**C**) coronal section through the posterior parts of the brain shows asymmetric

1116 hemispheres and bilateral polymicrogyria, especially in the occipital lobes (white arrow). The image
1117 of the normal neonatal age-matched brain (40GW), shows normal size and number of the gyri and
1118 sulci (lateral view of the right hemisphere) (**D**). Lower panel: Histological sections of individuals P1
1119 (**E-F**), P10 (**G**) and age matched control brain cortex (**H**) show absence of normal cortical layers in
1120 affected individuals, with bands of neurons laying perpendicular to the cortical surface in E, F and G.
1121 Undulating bands of neurons (arrow heads), entrapped pial vessels mimicking fusion of the cortical
1122 layer (arrow), and thickened leptomeninges are compatible with (unlayered) polymicrogyria (**E**: H&E,
1123 10x, **F**: H&E, 5x, **G**: Lugol-PAS stain, 3x). Control histological section of the frontal dorsolateral
1124 telencephalic gyrus of the neonatal age-matched brain (**H**: H&E 5x), showed the regular organization
1125 of the six-layered neonatal neocortex, parallel to the pia surface.

1126
1127 **Figure 3. Genomic and transcriptomic analysis of *TMX2* variants.** **A.** Schematic overview of *TMX2*,
1128 protein domains and the discovered variants in affected individuals (GSDS 2.0) **B.** Levels of expressed
1129 *TMX2* messenger RNA in individuals P1, P2 and P3. Ct values were normalized with two
1130 housekeeping genes *CLK2* and *RNF111*($\Delta\Delta$ CT relative to control (n=2). Data are represented as the
1131 mean \pm SEM. Statistical two-tailed unpaired t-tests were performed with confidence interval 95%. **C.**
1132 Allele specific qPCR of individual P1. Ct values were normalized with two housekeeping genes *CLK2*
1133 and *RNF111* ($\Delta\Delta$ CT relative to control (n=4). **D.** Aberrant splicing of the P2 and control *TMX2* alleles.
1134 Graphic illustration (adapted from IGV Sashimi plot) of the percentage of *TMX2* transcripts in
1135 RNAseq data of total RNA of individual P2 and 1 control individual. Percentages are calculated for
1136 each transcript compared to the total *TMX2* (wild-type and alternative) transcript reads (GRCh38),
1137 and **E.** Aberrant splicing of the P2 and control *TMX2* alleles. Aligned uniquely mapped reads in the
1138 exon 5-7 region of *TMX2* were quantified (reads per million) using IGV 2.3.26. Three distinct
1139 alternative species of *TMX2* transcript were identified, consistent with intron 6 retention, exon 6
1140 skipping and exon 6 internal splice site usages, the latter two only from the P2 allele. Total uniquely
1141 mapped reads for control and individual P2 were 64 745 034 and 54 200 090 respectively.

1142
1143 **Figure 4. Gene ontology (GO) analysis of differentially expressed genes in *TMX2* variants.** **A.** DAVID
1144 Functional Annotation Clustering (FAC) analysis of the top 1000 differentially expressed genes (DEGs)
1145 obtained by comparison of two *TMX2* affected individuals vs. three age and gender matched control
1146 RNA samples (p-value <0.05). **B.** upper panel: LogFC of all differentially expressed disulfide bond
1147 associated genes in *TMX2* affected individuals with an FDR<0.05, lower panel: -Log(FDR) of these
1148 genes (-log(FDR)<1.3). **C.** Ingenuity Pathway analysis (IPA) was performed to determine activated
1149 and inhibited biological functions downstream of the differentially expressed genes in *TMX2* affected
1150 individuals. Stringency was determined with 90% confidence interval by only considering activation
1151 Z-scores higher than 1.65 (activation) or lower than -1.65 (inhibition). Individual p-values of each
1152 function are mentioned within the bars and were always lower than 10^{-6} . **Abbreviations:** GO, Gene
1153 ontology; UP, UniProtKB; FDR, False discovery rate; FC, Fold Change; KEGG, Kyoto Encyclopedia of
1154 Genes and Genomes.

1155 **Figure 5. Proteomics analysis of exogenous *TMX2* interacting proteins.** **A.** HEK293T cells were
1156 transfected with Myc-tagged *TMX2* or negative control β -lactamase for 24 hours, followed by IP with
1157 α Myc antibody and LC-MS/MS on bead pellets. Detected proteins interacting with *TMX2*-Myc but
1158 not with Lac-Myc were filtered based on average Mascot score in n=4 experiments (significant if
1159 higher than 40). Cytoscape String App visualized all 71 proteins reproducibly and selectively

1160 interacting with TMX2 according to pathway involvement (dark blue=Protein folding, light blue=
1161 Calcium Homeostasis, Red= ER associated degradation (ERAD) and Unfolded Protein Response
1162 (UPR), Green= Mitochondrial signaling, Pink= Mitosis, Orange= Translation, Yellow= Nucleus
1163 Transport, Black=Golgi transport, Grey=unassigned). Known PDI interactors Calnexin and SERCA2
1164 were found in the top 10 highest interactions, and are circled in red. **B.** HEK293T cells were
1165 transfected with Myc-tagged TMX2 or negative control β -lactamase for 24 hours, followed by
1166 reciprocal immunoprecipitation of SERCA2 (Mouse monoclonal anti-SERCA2 ATPase ab2861) and
1167 Calnexin (Monoclonal Rabbit anti-human CNX C5C9), SDS PAGE and detection of TMX2 with α Myc
1168 antibody. IP input is shown after reducing western blot.

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1170

1171 **Figure 6. Bioenergetics profiles of skin fibroblasts from affected individuals with *TMX2* variants. A,**
1172 **B.** Oxygen consumption rate (OCR) and extracellular acidification rate (ECAR) bioenergetics profiles
1173 of fibroblasts derived from healthy controls (n=4) and affected individuals (P1, P2, P3). Fibroblasts
1174 were challenged with sequential administration of oligomycin to inhibit ATP synthase, FCCP to elicit
1175 maximal respiration, rotenone to inhibit complex I, and antimycin to inhibit complex III and fully
1176 block respiration. The parameters analyzed in the profiles were: basal respiration, respiration
1177 dedicated to ATP production, (measured as difference between basal respiration and the respiration
1178 after oligomycin injection), mitochondrial reserve capacity (as difference between maximum reserve
1179 capacity and basal respiration), and rotenone sensitive respiration (which accounts for the
1180 respiration dependent on complex I), basal glycolysis and oligomycin stimulated glycolysis. **C, D.**
1181 Fibroblasts derived from affected individuals show significant reduction in mitochondrial reserve
1182 capacity and in the complex I activity (**C**) while showing a significant potentiation of glycolysis in
1183 basal condition and upon stimulation with oligomycin (**D**). **E.** The analysis of mitochondrial
1184 respiration in galactose medium (where glycolysis is not permitted) highlights the inability of the
1185 *TMX2* variant fibroblasts to potentiate basal mitochondrial respiration and mitochondrial complex I
1186 activity. (*p < 0.05; **p < 0.01; ****p < 0.0001; one-way ANOVA (C, D) and two-way ANOVA (E)
1187 followed by Dunnett's multiple-comparison post doc test). Graphs represent mean \pm SEM.

1188 **Figure 7. Redox state assays of wild-type and variant *TMX2*. A-B.** Non-reducing western blot of
1189 exogenous wild-type *TMX2* versus endogenous control PDI (PDIA1) in HEK293T cells, showing that
1190 *TMX2* occurs in an oxidized and reduced monomeric form, while during H₂O₂ treatment a dimer is
1191 formed (OX dimer). A) left panel shows the blot after incubation with anti-wild-type *TMX2*
1192 antibodies; middle panel: incubation with anti-Myc antibodies; right panel: anti-PDI control protein
1193 antibodies. B) Control experiment after expression of exogenous control β -lactamase (Lac-Myc);
1194 immunoblotting performed with the same antibodies as in A. Native: untreated cells; BFA: cells
1195 treated with ER stress inducer Brefeldin A; DTT: cells treated with reducing agent DL-Dithiothreitol;
1196 H₂O₂: cells treated with hydrogen peroxide.

1197 **C.** Non-reducing western blot with similar experimental setup as in A and B. but here also after
1198 addition of ER stress inducers Tunicamycin (TM) and Thapsigargin (TG). Redox states of TRX domain
1199 p.Cys170Gly variant (lanes 7-12) and affected individual p.Arg53Cys variant (lanes 13-18) and
1200 p.Arg231Trp variant (lanes 19-24) were determined simultaneously. Detection was performed with
1201 anti-Myc antibody. **D-E.** Semi quantitative densitometry calculations of *TMX2* dimer/monomer ratios
1202 in native, ER stress, oxidative and reductive environment for wild-type *TMX2*, n=4 western blots
1203 from biological replicates (**D**.) and comparing wild-type *TMX2* to p.Cys170Gly, p.Arg53Cys and
1204 p.Arg231Trp variants. Data are represented as the mean \pm SEM. Statistical two-tailed unpaired t-

1205 tests were performed with confidence interval 95% in Graphpad Prism 8 (*p < 0.05; **p < 0.01;
1206 ***p<0.001, ****p < 0.0001).

TABLE TITLES AND LEGENDS

Table 1 Summary of *TMX2* variants and phenotypes.

Affected individuals	Family 1- P1	Family 2- P2	Family 3-P3	Family 4- P4	Family 4- P5	Family 5-P6 ²⁴	Family 5-P7 ²⁴	Family 6- P8	Family 6- P9	Family 7- P10	Family 8- P11	Family 8- P12	Family 9- P13	Family 10- P14
Ancestry	Dutch	Portuguese	White British	Puerto Rican	Puerto Rican	Spanish	Spanish	Arab	Arab	Dutch	Iraqi	Iraqi	Pakistani	Mexican
cDNA alteration	c.164A>C; c.391dup	c.614G>A Homozygote	c.157C>T; c.757C>T	c.166G>C Homozygote	c.166G>C Homozygote	c.326A>G; c.691C>T	c.326A>G; c.691C>T	Not tested	c.532G>A Homozygote	c.164A>C;c.609 _614+15del	c.184G>C Homozygote	c.184G>C Homozygote	c.178G>A Homozygote	c.349A>G; c.691C>T
Protein alteration	p.Asp55Ala;p.Leu131Profs*6	p.Arg205Gln	p.Arg53Cys;p.Arg253*	p.Gly56Arg	p.Gly56Arg	p.Asp109Gly;p.Arg231Trp	p.Asp109Gly;p.Arg231Trp	Not tested	p.Ala178Thr	p.Asp55Ala;p.Ser203_Thr204del	p.Asp62His	p.Asp62His	p.Asp60Asn	p.Ile117Val;p.Arg231Trp
Gender	Male	Male	Female	Male	Female	Female	Male	Female	Female	Male	Male	Male	Female	Female
Head size (OFC)	Primary microcephaly (- 3 SD at birth)	Microcephaly (n.a. at birth; - 4.5 SD current)	Primary microcephaly (- 2.5 SD at birth; - 6.7 SD current)	Borderline microcephaly (n.a. at birth; - 2 SD current)	Microcephaly (n.a. at birth; - 3 SD current)	Microcephaly (- 2 SD at birth; - 4 SD current)	Microcephaly (n.a. at birth; - 3 SD current)	Undefined (0 SD at birth, later n.a.)	Microcephaly (0 SD at birth; - 5.5 SD current)	Primary microcephaly (- 2.5 SD at birth)	Microcephaly (n.a. at birth; - 4.5 SD current)	Primary microcephaly (- 2.5 SD at birth; - 3.5 SD current)	Normal (n.a. at birth; - 0.5 SD current)	Normal (n.a. at birth; - 0.8 SD current)
Neurological impairment	No developmental milestones ^a	CP, no speech or ambulation	CP, no speech or ambulation	CP, no speech or ambulation	CP, no speech or ambulation	CP, no speech or ambulation	CP, no speech or ambulation	CP, no speech or ambulation	CP, no speech or ambulation	No developmental milestones ^a	No ambulation, few words	No speech or ambulation	Able to walk with support, few words	IQ 62; language disorder; hyperactive behavior, able to walk
Survival/ age at last examination	Deceased at week 2	7 yr.	9 yr.	28 yr.	25 yr.	13 yr.	11 yr.	Deceased at 6 yr.	1.5 yr.	Deceased at 1 week	10 yr.	5 yr.	4.8 yr.	11.5 yr.
Epilepsy	Generalized, apnea, status epilepticus	Generalized, absence, spasms	Generalized seizures	Focal seizures	Myoclonic-absence, GTC	No seizures	GTC	GTC	Focal seizures	Apnea, diaphragmatic myoclonia	Generalized tonic, myoclonic seizures	GTC	Myoclonic status epilepticus	No seizures
MRI	Polymicrogyria	Polymicrogyria	Polymicrogyria	Progressive brain atrophy	Progressive brain atrophy	Pachygyria	Pachygyria	Severe brain atrophy	Sever brain atrophy	Polymicrogyria	n.a.	Polymicrogyria	Hemihypertrophy and frontal dysgyria	Normal
Brain autopsy	Unlayered polymicrogyria and complete cortical disorganization	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Diffuse polymicrogyria and cobblestone-like malformation	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

^a These individuals passed away soon after birth. Microcephaly is defined as an OFC \leq -2.5SD. Abbreviations: CP, signs of cerebral palsy; n.a., not assessed or not available; OFC, Occipitofrontal circumference; yr., year; SD, standard deviations; GTC, Generalized tonic clonic seizures











