

**The Cellular Roles of Phosphatidylinositol 4,5-Bisphosphate Generating Enzymes
in Association with IQ Motif Containing GTPase Activating Proteins**

by

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Phosphoinositide lipid messenger regulates a wide variety of cellular processes, including cell migration and intracellular signaling. Phosphoinositide synthesis at specific cellular compartments is regulated by the specific targeting of phosphoinositide modifying enzymes. Phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate (PI4,5P₂) is primarily synthesized by the type I phosphatidylinositol 4-phosphate 5-kinase (PIPKI) family of enzymes. There are several PIPKI genes and there exist several splice variants for each. The functions of PIPKI isoforms are regulated by interaction with signaling molecules. IQ motif containing GTPase activating protein 1 (IQGAP1) was identified as a novel interactor of PIPKI isoforms in this study. Therefore, my research focused on how IQGAP1 regulates the function of PIPKI isoforms. IQGAP1 interaction with γ isoform of PIPKI (PIPKI γ) controls cell migration. Mechanistically, PIPKI γ recruits IQGAP1 to the leading edge membrane of migrating cells. At the leading edges, IQGAP1 binds to PI4,5P₂ produced by PIPKI γ and the PI4,5P₂-binding relieves an intramolecular autoinhibitory interaction, facilitating actin polymerization to promote cell migration. IQGAP1 interaction with α isoform of PIPKI (PIPKI α) controls class I phosphoinositide 3-kinase (PI3K) activation. IQGAP1 mediates a physical association of PIPKI α with class I PI3K. In the IQGAP1-tethered complex,

PI4,5P₂ produced by PIPKI α is utilized as a substrate for class I PI3K for PI3,4,5P₃ generation. Furthermore, abrogation of IQGAP1 interaction with PIPKI α and class I PI3K by cell permeable peptides derived from the PIPKI α and class I PI3K binding sites on IQGAP1 inhibits Akt activation and cell survival. These studies provide evidence for a novel role for PI4,5P₂-generating enzymes in cellular regulation. The signaling pathways revealed in the current studies may be relevant to normal cellular function and potentially, defects in the pathways may alter cell migration and the class I PI3K signaling, resulting in pathological consequences.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

Targeted Generation of PI4,5P₂ by PIP Kinases Determines PI4,5P₂ Effector Function:

Though it only comprises a small percentage of membrane phospholipids, phosphatidylinositol is an important regulator of multiple signaling pathways. Phosphatidylinositol consists of two acyl chains oriented inside the lipid bilayer, and a polar 6 carbon head group that has hydroxyls at the 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 positions that can be phosphorylated at the 3, 4 or 5 positions to generate 7 possible phosphoinositide species: phosphatidylinositol 3-phosphate (PI3P), phosphatidylinositol 4-phosphate (PI4P), phosphatidylinositol 5-phosphate (PI5P), phosphatidylinositol 3,4-bisphosphate (PI3,4P₂), phosphatidylinositol 3,5-bisphosphate (PI3,5P₂), phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate (PI4,5P₂) and phosphatidylinositol 3,4,5-trisphosphate (PI3,4,5P₃).

PI4,5P₂ is the most abundant species among the 7 known phosphoinositides [1, 2]. Due to its abundance, early studies focused on PI4,5P₂ as a substrate for phospholipases and phosphatidylinositol 3-kinases (PI3Ks) to generate other lipid messengers. In 1985, Anderson and Marchesi discovered that in erythrocytes PI4,5P₂ regulates the interaction of a cytoskeletal protein, band 4.1, with an integral membrane protein, glycophorin [3]. This work suggests that PI4,5P₂ has its own role in cellular regulation rather than being passively utilized as a substrate. After this initial discovery, hundreds of PI4,5P₂ effectors, whose function is directly regulated by binding to PI4,5P₂, have been identified. These include ion channels [4], receptors [5], Ras family small GTPases [6], actin regulatory proteins [7, 8], regulators of vesicular trafficking [9], scaffolds [10] and nuclear proteins [11]. Furthermore, recent advances in proteomics have identified unexpected proteins that associate with PI4,5P₂ [12-14].

An important feature of signaling molecules is that their availability at a specific time and location is tightly regulated to signal only when necessary [15]. In this view, PI4,5P₂ is a poor signal as early studies indicate that PI4,5P₂ is present in high concentrations and its level remains largely unchanged by extracellular stimuli. For example, in resting neutrophils

and erythrocytes, total cellular PI4,5P₂ concentrations are approximately 50 μM, while concentrations on the inner leaflet of the plasma membrane are estimated to be 5 mM, where the majority of PI4,5P₂ is found in the cell. Stimulation with fMLP, which activates phospholipase C (PLC), causes only a small drop in PI4,5P₂ concentration [2, 16]. Further, studies with PI4,5P₂-specific pleckstrin homology (PH) domains fused to GFP to probe the localized changes in PI4,5P₂ concentration reveal that PI4,5P₂ is uniformly distributed around the plasma membrane, both before and after stimulation [17]. However, the early studies are challenged by the discovery of a family of natively unstructured proteins that sequester PI4,5P₂ at the plasma membrane. Proteins such as myristoylated alanine-rich C-kinase substrate (MARCKS), growth-associated protein 43 (GAP43) and cytoskeleton-associated protein 23 (CAP23) contain basic clusters that mediate an electrostatic interaction with PI4,5P₂ [5, 18]. These proteins are present in concentrations of 1-10 μM, comparable to those of PI4,5P₂, and bind tightly to PI4,5P₂ (the dissociation constant is approximately 10 nM for MARCKS). Thus, a substantial fraction of PI4,5P₂ is masked by a family of natively unstructured PI4,5P₂ sequestering proteins and unavailable for binding to PI4,5P₂ effectors.

The discovery of PI4,5P₂ sequestering proteins raises a question of how PI4,5P₂ availability is regulated at a specific time and location. One direct way of increasing local PI4,5P₂ concentration could be achieved by resolving the sequestration. In line with this possibility, membrane association of PI4,5P₂ sequestering proteins is controlled by extracellular stimuli. For example, MARCKS translocates from the plasma membrane to the cytoplasm when cells are treated with phorbol myristate acetate or insulin, and there is concomitant accumulation of GFP fused PI4,5P₂-specific PH domains in the plasma membrane [5, 19, 20]. This strongly suggests that translocation of MARCKS frees PI4,5P₂. Another way of producing free PI4,5P₂ is direct synthesis from other phosphoinositides. PI4,5P₂ is synthesized in three different ways: phosphorylation at the 5 hydroxyl of the myo-inositol ring of PI4P by type I phosphatidylinositol phosphate kinases (PIPKIs),

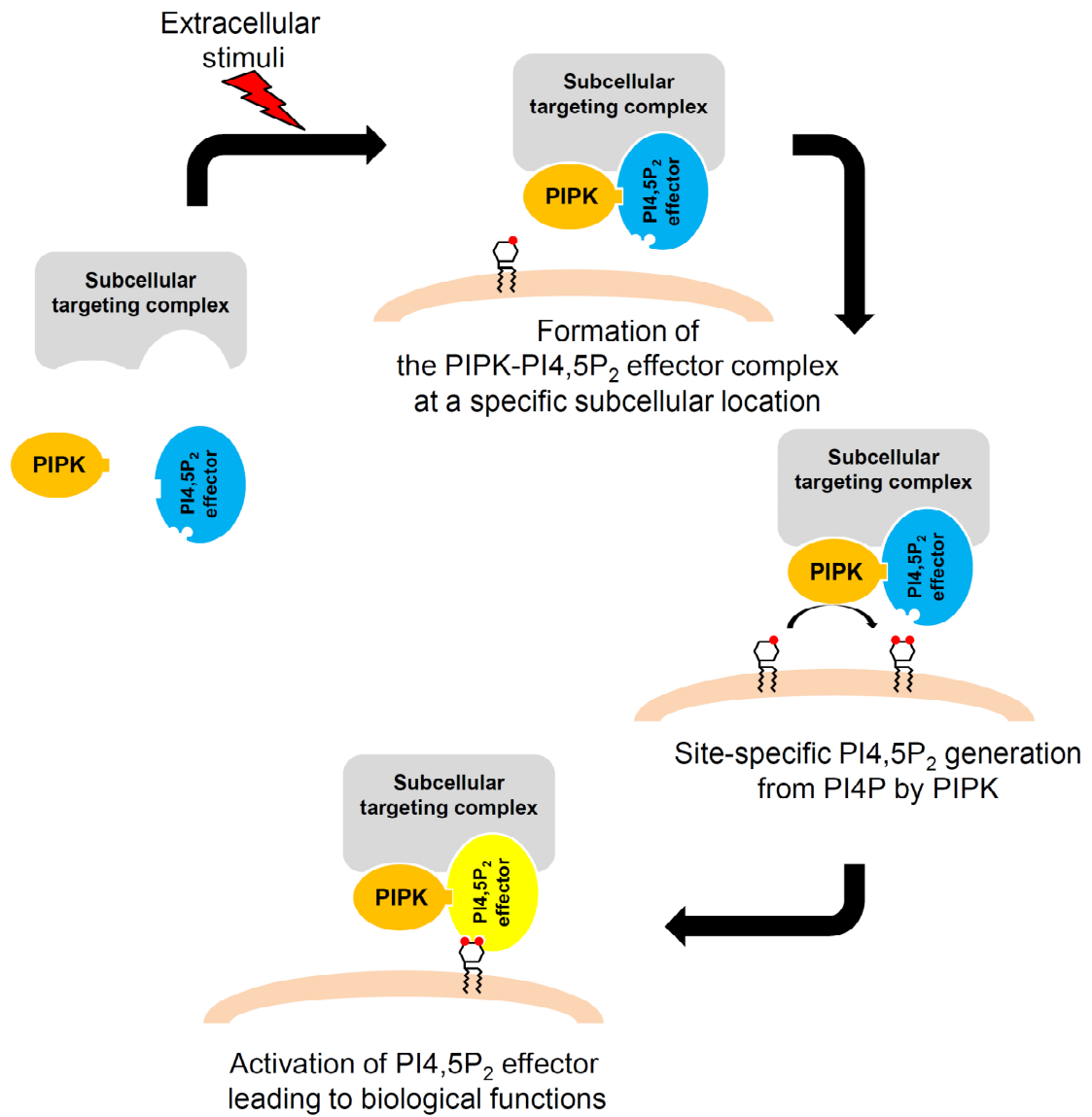
phosphorylation at the 4 hydroxyl of the myo-inositol ring of PI5P by type II PIP kinases (PIP2Ks), and dephosphorylation at the 3 hydroxyl of the myo-inositol ring of PI3,4,5P₃ by phosphatase and tensin homolog (PTEN). As cellular PI4P concentration is at least 20-fold higher than those of PI5P and PI3,4,5P₃ [1, 2], it is generally accepted that the majority of PI4,5P₂ is produced by PIP2Ks [21].

In human, three distinct genes encode PIP2Ks (*PIP5K1A* encodes PIP2K α , *PIP5K1B* encodes PIP2K β , and *PIP5K1C* encodes PIP2K γ , nomenclatures for human and murine genes are not consistent, this manuscript only uses the human nomenclature). Moreover, each PIP2K gene undergoes alternative splicing, generating multiple splice variants [22]. All PIP2K isoforms contain a highly conserved kinase core domain with invariant catalytic residues in the middle suggesting that they catalyze the same reaction [21, 23, 24]. Despite their similarity in the kinase domain, each PIP2K isoform shows unique tissue and subcellular distribution. For example, by Northern analysis, PIP2K α , PIP2K β and PIP2K γ splice variants have wide tissue distributions, but varying expression levels [25, 26]. The different isoforms also have distinct subcellular distribution. When overexpressed in cells, a large fraction of PIP2K α is found in membrane ruffles and the nucleus, whereas, PIP2K β localizes at the perinuclear region likely at the intracellular organelles, such as the Golgi and endosomes [21]. PIP2K γ isoforms show diverse distributions, including the plasma membrane, focal adhesions, endosomes, cell-cell contacts, and the nucleus [7, 26, 27]. As the N- and C-terminal domains of PIP2Ks are highly variable, it is suggested that distinct protein-protein interactions mediated by the N- and C-terminal domains target each PIP2K isoform to a specific subcellular location [23]. Interestingly, in many instances, proteins that target PIP2Ks to specific locations are PI4,5P₂ effectors implying that PI4,5P₂ production is tightly linked to its usage. This concept fits well with basic principle of cell signaling, with a signal only being produced when and where it is needed.

As illustrated in Figure 1.01, compartmentalized PI4,5P₂ signal has great importance in cellular regulation. A wide variety of kinases and phosphatases exist to regulate the formation of PI4,5P₂ signal at specific compartments. Subsequently, these PI4,5P₂ signal can then regulate specific functions within the cell.

Figure 1.01. Central hypothesis: PI4,5P₂ synthesis and usage are linked by the association of PIPKs with PI4,5P₂ effectors. Extracellular stimuli promote the association of PIPKs with PI4,5P₂ effectors. By further association with the subcellular targeting complex, the PIPK/PI4,5P₂ effector complex is recruited to a specific location. PI4,5P₂ generated from PI4P by PIPKs then binds and activates PI4,5P₂ effectors. This assures that PI4,5P₂ signal is produced only where and when it is needed.

Figure 1.01



A. Subcellular Distribution of PIP Kinases and PI4,5P₂ Generation:

Studies using PI4,5P₂-specific PH domains, such as the PH domain of phospholipase C δ 1 (PLC δ 1-PH), fused to GFP revealed that PI4,5P₂ is exclusively found in the plasma membrane, where it displays uniform distribution [28], and this distribution is unchanged by extracellular stimuli. For example, in migrating neutrophils and *Dictyostelium*, PI4,5P₂ distribution remains unchanged before and after chemotactic stimulation [17]. As these early studies were performed at low resolution without titrating expression of the probes, they hardly represent PI4,5P₂ distribution in living cells. We have observed that when GFP-PLC δ 1-PH is expressed at low concentrations, it localizes to intracellular compartments with an accumulation at the leading edges in migrating carcinoma cells (data not shown). Examination at high resolution with electron microscopy followed by labeling cellular PI4,5P₂ with purified PLC δ 1-PH fused to glutathione S-transferase demonstrated that PI4,5P₂ is present not only in the plasma membrane, but also in membranes of Golgi, endosomes, endoplasmic reticulum (ER) and the nucleus [29]. In line with this study, immunocytochemical analysis with a PI4,5P₂-specific antibody identifies multiple, distinct pools of PI4,5P₂ in the plasma membrane, Golgi and intracellular vesicles [30]. Additionally, this immunostaining approach reveals that in response to extracellular stimuli PI4,5P₂ in the plasma membrane actively redistributes. For example, PI4,5P₂ accumulates at the leading edges of fMLP-stimulated chemotacting neutrophils, that is likely mediated by a redistribution of PI4,5P₂-generating enzymes [31].

Detection of PI4,5P₂ at multiple subcellular locations is further supported by concomitant detection of PI4,5P₂-generating enzymes [21, 26, 32-34] and their substrate PI4P [30, 35] at the same locations. The majority of cellular PI4,5P₂ is generated by α , β and γ isoforms of PIPKs and splice variants of each isoform are reported. In human, three α , four β and six γ splice variants have been described [22, 26, 32, 36, 37]. Amongst, PIPK γ splice variants, PIPK γ 1 to PIPK γ 6, show strikingly diverse subcellular distribution. PIPK γ 1,

i3 and i6 are largely found in the plasma membrane [10, 37, 38], whereas PIPKI γ 2 targets to the focal adhesions when overexpressed [32, 39]. PIPKI γ 2 is also found at cell-cell contacts and endosomes [40, 41]. PIPKI γ 4 is present in the nucleus and colocalizes with a nuclear speckle marker SC-35 [26]. PIPKI γ 5 is found largely at the cell-cell contacts in confluent epithelial cells and colocalizes with E-cadherin [26, 42]. In E-cadherin negative mesenchymal-like cells, PIPKI γ 5 localizes in intracellular compartments including early/late endosomes and lysosomes [26, 34].

Additionally, subcellular distribution of PIPKs is altered by extracellular stimuli. When analyzed by fractionation, a substantial portion of PIPKI α and PIPKI γ is cytosolic [10, 43, 44]. In response to platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF) stimulation, PIPKI α translocates to membrane ruffles of the plasma membrane [43, 44] and in the nucleus [43]. In non-stimulated breast cancer cells, only ~30% of PIPKI γ 1 is bound to membranes. Upon epidermal growth factor (EGF) or integrin receptor activation, membrane bound PIPKI γ 1 increases ~2.5-fold and PIPKI γ 1 accumulates at the leading edges of migrating cells [10]. Consistently, in phagocytic bone marrow-derived macrophages, PIPKI γ 1 is recruited to the phagocytic cup where actin is actively polymerized [45]. PIPKI γ 2 also accumulates at the leading edges of migrating breast cancer cells [33]. However, in chemotacting neutrophils and T lymphocytes, PIPKI γ 2 targets to uropods at the rear of cells [46, 47]. PIPKI β also targets to uropods of chemotacting neutrophils [48]. Taken together, the stimuli-induced targeting of PIPKs to specific subcellular locations assures generation of PI4,5P₂ signal in the right place and at the right time.

B. PIP Kinases Regulate PI4,5P₂ Effectors in Cell Migration:

Cell migration is an essential process controlling many aspects of human physiology including morphogenesis during development, maintenance of tissue integrity and immune response. Consequently, aberrant cell migration is linked to pathological conditions such as cancer, mental retardation, atherosclerosis, and arthritis [7, 49-55]. Cell migration is initiated by extracellular signals such as cytokines, growth factors and extracellular matrix (ECM). These signals modulate many intracellular signaling pathways to eventually induce changes in the actin cytoskeleton and microtubules [54-56]. Early studies demonstrated that sequestration of PI4,5P₂ inhibits actin polymerization, whereas artificially increasing PI4,5P₂ levels enhance actin polymerization [17, 57-59]. Also, PI4,5P₂ is required for microtubule capture at the leading edge membrane [54, 60], but the exact mechanism remains unknown. PI4,5P₂ is now well established as a critical component in cell migration by controlling the targeting and activity of cytoskeleton regulators [7, 8, 27, 61]. Below, PI4,5P₂-regulated cytoskeleton regulators, whose functions are controlled by an association with PIPKIs will be discussed in detail.

Talin: In multicellular organisms, focal adhesion complexes are critical structural and functional units that enable cells to integrate signaling inputs from extracellular environments to regulate cell migration [7]. Integrin transmembrane proteins and the talin cytoskeletal protein play critical roles in cell migration [7]. PI4,5P₂ and PI4,5P₂ synthesizing enzymes control integrin activation by talin in the process termed as “inside-out” integrin signaling [62, 63]. Adhesion, spreading and migration, are all directly influenced by the activation state of integrins and talin in focal adhesion complexes [62, 63]. PI4,5P₂ generation by a focal adhesion-targeting variant of PIPKI γ , PIPKI γ i2, is believed to provide a discrete pool of PI4,5P₂ required for talin activation during assembly of focal adhesion complex [32, 64].

Talin consists of a head domain (approximately 50 kDa) and a large rod domain (220 kDa) [65, 66]. The head domain contains a region that is responsible for β 1-integrin tail binding. Next to this region, the N-terminal part of the head domain contains an atypical FERM domain, which is composed of four sub-domains, F0, F1, F2 and F3, arranged in a cloverleaf pattern [65, 66]. The rod domain contains multiple binding sites for vinculin and actin [65]. When inactive, the head domain interacts with the rod domain (in the middle segment), limiting the accessibility of the head domain for β 1-integrin tail binding [65-67]. This type of autoinhibition is widespread among other FERM domain-containing proteins, including focal adhesion kinase (FAK) and moesin [67]. The F2 and F3 sub-domains in talin contain PI4,5P₂ binding sites and the availability of PI4,5P₂ is crucial for opening up the intramolecular autoinhibition of talin, promoting the head binding to β 1-integrin tail [63, 65-67]. A NMR study indicates that the talin head domain has extraordinary affinity for PI4,5P₂ [63].

A key step in integrin activation is the binding of the F3 sub-domain to the membrane distal portion of β 1-integrin tail via an interaction between the atypical PTB domain (in the F3 sub-domain) and the NPXY motif (in β 1-integrin tail) [65-68]. Similarly, talin interaction with membrane proximal NPXY motif in β 1-integrin disrupts an interaction with α -integrin, inducing structural rearrangements in the extracellular domain of the integrin that increase ligand binding [65-68]. Besides the F3 sub-domain, other domains in the talin head also contribute to integrin activation via interaction of positively charged patch in the F1 and F2 sub-domains of talin with negatively charged phosphoinositides including PI4,5P₂ in the plasma membrane [65-67].

Among the various isoforms of PIPKs, PIPK γ 2 directly interacts with talin [32, 33, 64]. PIPK γ 2 binding to talin provides the mechanism for local enrichment of PI4,5P₂, which in turn induces the conformational change in talin exposing its integrin binding site [66, 69].

The WVYSPH motif in the C-terminal tail of PIPK γ 2 interacts with the PTB domain in the F3 sub-domain of talin. The PIPK γ 2-talin interaction possibly induces talin activation as discussed above. However, unlike PI4,5P₂, PIPK γ 2 binding to talin does not affect the autoinhibitory conformation of talin as indicated by NMR and biochemical studies, although kinase activity of PIPK γ 2 is increased upon talin binding [70]. In addition, the ability of talin to homodimerize and the presence of additional β 1-integrin binding sites in the talin rod domain may provide the mechanism for integrating talin, PIPK γ 2 and integrin into the same complex. Consistently, the ternary complex of PI4,5P₂, talin and integrin mediating integrin activation and clustering has been demonstrated [71]. Similarly, a biochemical study has shown the assembly of ternary complex of in migrating cells [33]. Src phosphorylation of PIPK γ 2 and β 1-integrin provides an important regulatory mechanism in controlling talin binding with PIPK γ 2 versus β 1-integrin [72]. Src phosphorylation of PIPK γ 2 promotes talin binding whereas Src phosphorylation of β 1-integrin diminishes talin binding with integrins [72], although the functional role of this process remains to be defined in cell migration.

Rho family small GTPases: Rho family small GTPases, such as Rac1, Cdc42 and RhoA, are master regulators of the actin cytoskeleton and microtubules [54-56]. They have polybasic clusters allowing them to target to the plasma membrane for function. Studies with phosphoinositide-specific phosphatases reveal that multiple phosphoinositide species including PI4P, PI4,5P₂ and PI3,4,5P₃ mediate Rho family small GTPase association with the plasma membrane [6, 73] via an electrostatic interaction [5]. As PI4,5P₂, like other phosphoinositide species, is present in a limiting concentration for PI4,5P₂ effectors (see above), their plasma membrane targeting might require *de novo* synthesis of PI4,5P₂. Consistently, their plasma membrane targeting is controlled by an association with PIPKs. Rac1 and RhoA are physically associated with all three PIPKI isoforms *in vitro* [74]. *In vivo*, PIPK α is required for Rac1 localization at the plasma membrane [44], whereas PIPK β is recruited to the plasma membrane by Rac1 [75]. In addition, RhoA signaling is required for

the translocation of PIPKI β to the plasma membrane [24, 76]. An association of Rho family small GTPases with PIPKIs regulates their function in cell migration. PIPKI α controls PDGF- and integrin-induced cell migration by regulating Rac1 translocation and activation at the leading edge membrane [44]. PIPKI α -mediated actin polymerization and membrane ruffle formation are dependent on Rac1 activity, and a PIPKI α -binding defective Rac1 mutant fails to mediate these processes [43, 44, 58] suggesting that PIPKI α and Rac1 mutually regulate their activity in actin polymerization. In neuronal cells, PIPKI α and PIPKI β induce neurite retraction that are dependent on Rac1 or RhoA activity [76-78]. A PIPKI β mutant that is unable to interact with Rac1 fails to translocate to the plasma membrane resulting in defective retraction [75]. Rac1-mediated PIPKI β translocation to the plasma membrane facilitates neurite retraction as PI4,5P₂ promotes vinculin-dependent adhesion turnover [79, 80]. Although PIPKIs do not directly interact with Cdc42, PIPKIs are implicated in Cdc42-induced *de novo* actin polymerization. Cdc42 and PI4,5P₂ synergistically activate N-WASP to promote Arp2/3 complex-mediated actin polymerization [81]. Consistently, overexpression of PIPKI α or PIPKI β induces N-WASP and Arp2/3 complex-dependent actin polymerization [82]. Furthermore, a physical interaction of PIPKIs with Arp2/3 complex is reported [7]. Taken together, Rho family small GTPases and PIPKIs mutually regulate their plasma membrane targeting and function in cell migration. This functional synergism is further supported by the observations that Rho GTPases stimulate the activity of PIPKIs [7, 74]. Conversely, PIPKIs regulate Rho GTPase activation [44], but the exact mechanism is still unknown.

Other effectors: Gelsolin is a dual function actin binding protein. Gelsolin severs actin filaments in the middle or caps the fast growing barbed ends of actin filaments [83]. The capping function of gelsolin is regulated by PI4,5P₂-binding that induces gelsolin dissociation from actin and allows actin filament assembly at the barbed ends [84]. PI4,5P₂ induces actin polymerization at the N-cadherin-mediated cell-cell contacts by regulating gelsolin [85]. As gelsolin associates with PIPKI γ [86], PI4,5P₂ produced by PIPKI γ directly controls gelsolin

dissociation from actin filaments and subsequent incorporation of actin monomers at the cell-cell contact sites [85].

The non-receptor tyrosine kinase Src regulates a plethora of cell functions. Src targets to the focal adhesions by interacting with many focal adhesion components, such as integrin, talin and FAK [87]. Src interacts with PIPKI γ 2 and this interaction also regulates Src focal adhesion targeting and activation [88]. Kinase activity of Src remains suppressed by an intramolecular interaction of the SH2 domain with phosphorylated Tyr527 residue at the C-terminus [89, 90]. Interestingly, the PIPKI γ 2 binding site on Src is within the C-terminal region including Tyr527 residue [88], suggesting that the interaction with PIPKI γ 2 might activate Src by relieving the autoinhibitory intramolecular interaction. Polybasic residues at the N-terminus of Src mediate membrane binding through interaction with phosphoinositide species [91]. Mutating these residues to neutral amino acids inhibits Src activation by PIPKI γ 2 [88]. Collectively, these studies suggest that PIPKI γ 2 and PI4,5P₂ generation regulate Src recruitment to and activation at the focal adhesions.

For efficient cell migration, adhesions at the cell rear must be dissolved, which is largely mediated by RhoA-dependent actomyosin contractility and calpain-dependent proteolysis of adhesion components [50, 55, 56]. PIPKI β and PIPKI γ 2 target to the cell rear and regulate adhesion disassembly. In chemotacting neutrophils, PIPKI β specifically localizes at the retractile tails of cells by an association with 4.1-ezrin-radixin-moesin (ERM)-binding phosphoprotein 50 (EBP50). The EBP50 binding region on PIPKI β is within the 83 C-terminal amino acids, which are not homologous to other PIPKI isoforms [92]. This PIPKI β -specific interaction with EBP50 mediates PIPKI β association with ERM proteins whose activities are regulated by PI4,5P₂-binding [83] and the Rho GDP dissociation inhibitor (RhoGDI) [47]. As ERM proteins inhibit RhoGDI leading to RhoA activation [93], localized PI4,5P₂ production at the cell rear controls cell contractility [47]. Calpain is a

calcium-dependent protease that cleaves several adhesion components at the trailing edges, such as vinculin and talin [94]. PI4,5P₂-binding to calpain enhances calpain activity by decreasing its calcium requirement for activation [95]. Although the calpain interaction with PIPKIs has not been reported, it is likely that calpain activity is regulated by PIPKI γ 2 at the trailing edges of migrating cells [7]. In support of this possibility, PI4,5P₂ accumulates at the uropod of migrating neutrophils and overexpression of a kinase inactive form of PIPKI γ 2 compromises uropod formation in which calpain activity is essential [47].

C. PIP Kinases Regulate PI4,5P₂ Effectors in Membrane Trafficking:

PIP kinases, and other phosphoinositide kinases and phosphatases have unique subcellular targeting and regulate specific processes. This compartmentalization is critical for proper membrane trafficking, as localized synthesis of phosphoinositides allows for regulation of specific effector molecules in trafficking pathways [27, 96, 97]. Within the cell, the numerous phosphoinositide species vary in location and quantity. This is regulated by multiple kinases and phosphatases, which maintain a distinct distribution for each lipid [24]. The precursor to all phosphoinositide signals, phosphatidylinositol (PI), is synthesized and primarily localized to the ER. From there, PI is distributed throughout the cell where it is further modified [98, 99]. The majority of each phosphoinositide is maintained at distinct compartments. These include, PI4P at the Golgi, PI3P and PI3,5P₂ at early and late endosomes [96, 97]. Though PI4,5P₂ is typically thought to be confined to the plasma membrane, recent evidence indicates diverse functions at multiple intracellular locations. Below, PI4,5P₂-modulated trafficking regulators whose functions are controlled by an association with PIPKIs will be discussed.

AP complex: Adaptor protein (AP) complexes are key components of clathrin coats in the post-Golgi and endocytic membrane trafficking pathways [100]. The formation of a clathrin coat is not through a direct interaction of clathrin with the membrane, and instead adaptor proteins are involved in recruiting clathrin. Each AP complex contains subunits that are responsible for phosphoinositide or cargo binding. The phosphoinositide and cargo binding is highly selective allowing for the formation of clathrin coats at specific membrane compartments. At the Golgi, clathrin coats are important in the formation of vesicles and fission events needed for cargo exit. Clathrin adaptors, including the AP1 complex, EpsinR and Golgi-localized γ -ear containing, Arf binding proteins (GGAs), bind to and are activated by PI4P, to recruit clathrin to the Golgi [101-104]. Loss of function studies for the PI4Ks, which generate PI4P, demonstrate the role of PI4P in recruiting clathrin coats. Knockdown of

the trans-Golgi network (TGN) associated PI4KII α affects the trafficking of proteins from the Golgi and also the recruitment of the AP1 complex, which can be overcome by administering PI4P or PI4,5P₂ to knockdown cells [101]. The ability of PI4,5P₂ to rescue these phenotypes suggests that PIPKIs may also participate in Golgi functions [105].

Outside of the Golgi, PI4,5P₂ regulates several steps in trafficking to and from the plasma membrane. For example, in epithelial cells, there is a specific clathrin AP complex associated with basolateral sorting, called the AP1B complex. PIPKI γ 2 regulates the trafficking of cargo to the basolateral surface [106]. This is mediated through a Yxx \emptyset sorting motif (where x is any amino acid and \emptyset is an amino acid with a bulky hydrophobic side chain) found in the PIPKI γ 2 C-terminus that allows for specific association with the AP1B complex. Additionally, the formation of PI4,5P₂ is enhanced by association with AP1B. The PI4,5P₂ produced by PIPKI γ 2 activates the AP1B complex, recruiting clathrin coats at the plasma membrane [106].

PI4,5P₂ has been well characterized in the regulation of endocytosis. Clathrin adaptors, such as the AP2 complex and Epsin1, regulate recruitment of clathrin to the plasma membrane at sites of endocytosis, and PI4,5P₂ is able to regulate the recruitment and activation of these proteins [40, 107-109]. The PIPKIs that generate PI4,5P₂ are important in this process. Knockdown of PIPKI β was found to inhibit transferrin receptor endocytosis [110]. Additionally, there is a direct interaction between PIPKI γ 2 and the AP2 complex. Increased expression of PIPKI γ 2 enhances the endocytosis of transferrin, while a PIPKI γ 2 kinase inactive mutant or siRNA knockdown of PIPKI γ inhibits endocytosis [40]. Besides their roles in clathrin recruitment, Epsin, and similar proteins, also regulate membrane deformation, and are able to elongate the membrane into tubules to assist in formation of vesicles [109]. Membrane deformation is also mediated by the actin cytoskeleton to generate force. PI4,5P₂ is known to regulate many actin regulating proteins,

including N-WASP and Arp2/3 complex. PI4,5P₂ can recruit these proteins to sites of endocytosis and stimulate actin branching and polymerization important for endocytosis [111]. At the final stages of endocytosis, PI4,5P₂ also recruits and activates the GTPase, dynamin, to complete fission and release of the endocytic vesicle from the plasma membrane [112].

Exocyst complex: The exocyst complex is a multiprotein complex essential for polarized delivery and tethering of secretory vesicles to specific domains of the plasma membrane for cell surface expansion and protein secretion [113]. It is thought to function before SNARE-mediated vesicle fusion with the plasma membrane [113]. Exocyst is composed of eight subunits (Sec3, Sec5, Sec6, Sec8, Sec10, Sec15, Exo70 and Exo84) that interact with each other and are thought to organize into distinct sub-complexes. The subunits that define the targeting patch on the plasma membrane form one sub-complex and other subunits on a cargo-laden vesicle form the other sub-complex, and both sub-complexes function together at the final step of vesicle delivery/tethering on the plasma membrane [114]. Furthermore, the exocyst complex interacts with key regulators of vesicle trafficking such as Rab11, Arf, RalB and Rho GTPases [114].

In epithelial cells, PIPKI γ and the exocyst complex play crucial role in maintaining adherens junctions and apical-basal polarity by regulating endocytic trafficking of E-cadherin [115]. PIPKI γ directly associates with Exo70 and Sec6 subunits of the exocyst complex [33, 115]. Sec3 and Exo70 have clusters of basic residues (at the N-terminus of Sec3 and the C-terminus of Exo70) that mediate the interaction of the exocyst complex with PI4,5P₂ in the plasma membrane [116, 117]. This provides a mechanism for polarized delivery of E-cadherin to adherens junctions in the plasma membrane. However, in many carcinoma cells, E-cadherin expression is lost. In these cells, the exocyst complex redistributes from the adherens junctions to the leading edges and may regulate trafficking of other cargos [118]. In migrating cells, PIPKI γ and the exocyst complex colocalize at the leading edges [33]. The

loss of PIPK1 γ profoundly affects the recruitment and localization of the exocyst complex, indicating that the interaction with PIPK1 γ facilitates recruitment of the exocyst complex to the leading edges. In addition, the association of PIPK1 γ with the exocyst complex is highly induced at the onset of cell migration [33]. This would ensure the efficient polarized recruitment and delivery of transmembrane proteins and signaling molecules that are required for nascent adhesion formation in migrating cells (Figure 2.03). Consistently, knockdown of PIPK1 γ and the exocyst complex profoundly affect leading edge formation, polarized recruitment of integrins and cell migration [33, 113, 118, 119]. Furthermore, it is possible that these complexes may also mediate the polarized recruitment of growth factor receptors in migrating cells.

Sorting nexins: The sorting nexins are an evolutionarily conserved family of proteins that are found in eukaryotes that regulate a wide range of trafficking pathways, including lysosomal sorting, recycling pathways and endocytosis [120-124]. All sorting nexin family members contain a Phox homology (PX) domain, which mediates binding to phosphoinositides, especially PI3P [121, 125-128]. Therefore, the interplay of phosphoinositides, sorting nexins and the enzymes that generate phosphoinositide signals is essential for proper regulation of trafficking.

Sorting nexin 5 (SNX5) was identified as an interactor of PIPK1 γ i5 in a yeast two-hybrid screen [34], and the closely related SNX6 was also found to interact with PIPK1 γ i5 [42]. PIPK1 γ i5, SNX5 and SNX6 are found at early and late endosomes where PI3P and PI3,5P₂ are the most abundant phosphoinositide species. While most PX domains have specificity for PI3P, solution of the SNX5 PX domain crystal structure revealed binding specificity for PI4,5P₂, but not PI3P [129]. Additionally, a subset of sorting nexins, including SNX5 and SNX6, contain a phosphoinositide binding Bin/Amphiphysin/Rvs (BAR) domain [125, 127, 130]. At endosomes, production of PI4,5P₂ by PIPK1 γ i5 promotes an association

of SNX5 with Hrs, a subunit of endosomal sorting complex required for transport (ESCRT) complex that binds and regulates EGF receptor sorting to the intraluminal vesicles of the multivesicular body [34, 131]. The mechanism of how PI4,5P₂ regulates the SNX5-Hrs interaction is unclear. One possibility is that PI4,5P₂ binding on the PX and BAR domain of SNX5 induces conformational change that enhance Hrs binding. Additionally, PI4,5P₂ generation on endosomes may recruit SNX5 to specific regions of endosomes where SNX5 and Hrs can function to sort specific cargos [132-134].

SNX5 and SNX6 function with PIPKI γ 5 to control endosome-to-lysosome trafficking of E-cadherin [42]. Treatment of polarized epithelial cells with hepatocyte growth factor initiates the disassembly of adherens junctions and eventual degradation of E-cadherin at lysosomes. PIPKI γ 5 directly binds E-cadherin and promotes its lysosomal degradation, and PI4,5P₂ generation by PIPKI γ 5 is required for this process [42]. However, SNX5 and SNX6 inhibit E-cadherin lysosomal targeting in this pathway [42]. The role for SNX5, SNX6 and PIPKI γ 5 interaction in regulating receptor degradation to identify which cargos are affected and the specific mechanism for each pathway.

Additionally, other sorting nexins may be regulated by PIPKIs. For example, SNX9 binds to PI4,5P₂ and regulates endocytosis. PIPKI α , PIPKI β and PIPKI γ were all shown to bind to SNX9. Thus, SNX9 represents another regulator of endocytosis that binds and is regulated by PIPKIs and PI4,5P₂ [135].

D. PIP Kinases Regulate Other Phosphoinositide Kinases:

Since phosphatidylinositol 4-kinases (PI4Ks) generate PI4P, a substrate for PIPKIs, the physical interaction of PIPKIs with PI4Ks might bestow functional synergism for PI4,5P₂ production. An association of type II PI4Ks (PI4KII_s) with PIPKIs is reported [136]. Following this discovery, ADP-ribosylation factor (ARF) small GTPase was shown to mediate the targeting of PI4KII_β and an unidentified PIPKI to the Golgi [105]. The PIPKI that is responsible for PI4,5P₂ generation at the Golgi is likely PIPKI_β as it directly interacts with ARF1 and this interaction targets PIPKI_β to the Golgi [137]. Additionally, ARF1 enhances kinase activity of PI4KII_β at the Golgi membranes [137] and likely that of PIPKI_β [7]. Taken together, the organization of PI4Ks and PIPKIs into multiprotein complexes specifically targeted to the Golgi membrane by ARF is an efficient way to spatiotemporally and efficiently coordinate the synthesis of PI4,5P₂. Furthermore, this organization might not be confined to the Golgi membrane as PI4Ks and their targeting factors are also found in other membrane compartments including the plasma membrane [138, 139].

PI3Ks generate PI3,4,5P₃ using PI4,5P₂ as a substrate. Thus, PI3Ks are potential effectors of PI4,5P₂ and the compartmentalized organization of PIPKIs and PI3Ks might be an efficient means for generating PI3,4,5P₃. However, the role of PIPKIs in PI3,4,5P₃ generation is underestimated as it had been believed that cellular PI4,5P₂ is present beyond the limiting concentration for PI3,4,5P₃ synthesis by PI3Ks [17]. As discussed above, the enzymatically available concentration of PI4,5P₂ at a specific time and location is much lower than estimated, thus *de novo* synthesis of PI4,5P₂ by PIPKIs might be required for efficient PI3,4,5P₃ generation by PI3Ks. In line with this possibility, in *Dictyostelium*, depletion of a PIPKI, that is responsible for approximately 90% of cellular PI4,5P₂ generation, results in attenuation of Akt activity, a readout of PI3K activity in the cell [140]. In human keratinocytes, knockdown of PIPKI_α also attenuates extracellular calcium-induced Akt activation [141]. In this particular study, knockdown of PIPKI_α reduces approximately 40% of global PI4,5P₂

levels in keratinocytes, but the reduction of PI3,4,5P₃ levels and Akt activation is much greater (up to approximately 90% reduction) suggesting that PI4,5P₂ and PI3,4,5P₃ synthesis might be locally organized and that only a specific pool of PI4,5P₂ (but not all) is available and responsible for PI3,4,5P₃ generation. In support of this possibility, we have observed that knockdown of single PIPKI isoform has no significant impact on global PI4,5P₂ levels in carcinoma cells (see chapter 3) and this is consistent with previous studies tested in other cells [41, 45]. The local organization of PI4,5P₂ and PI3,4,5P₃ synthesis is further supported by immunostaining analyses in migrating leukocytes [31]. PI3Ks are shown to localize at the leading edge membranes, whereas PTEN is present at the sides and rears of migrating cells [142-144]. This leads to an assumption that PI3,4,5P₃ concentration is higher at the leading edges, while PI4,5P₂ concentration is higher at the sides and rears. In contrast to this assumption, PI4,5P₂ concentration is also higher at the leading edges of migrating leukocytes when analyzed with a PI4,5P₂-specific antibody [31]. This is not resulted from membrane folds at the leading edges. Importantly, PIPKI α and PIPKI γ are colocalized with PI3,4,5P₃ at the leading edges suggesting that PI4,5P₂ synthesis by PIPKIs is coupled to PI3,4,5P₃ localization at the leading edges of migrating cell. However, the physical association of PIPKIs with PI3Ks still remains untested.

PI4Ks, PIPKIs and PI3Ks mediate sequential phosphorylation at the 4, 5 and 3 hydroxyl of the myo-inositol ring of PI, respectively, to generate PI3,4,5P₃. Organization of all three enzymes in the same multiprotein complex would more efficiently mediate the generation of PI3,4,5P₃. Knockdown of PI4KII α or PI4KIII β in fibroblast cells reduces global PI4P and PI4,5P₂ levels, but only PI4KII α knockdown reduces EGF-stimulated Akt activation [145] indicating that PI4KII α -mediated local PI4P and PI4,5P₂ generation is required for PI3K dependent Akt activation. Also, sequestration of PI4P attenuates downstream signaling of Akt, without affecting other PI4P-mediated signaling, further suggesting that PI4P is

important for PI3,4,5P₃ generation by PI3Ks [146]. However, the physical association of the three sequential phosphoinositide kinases in a complex needs to be tested.

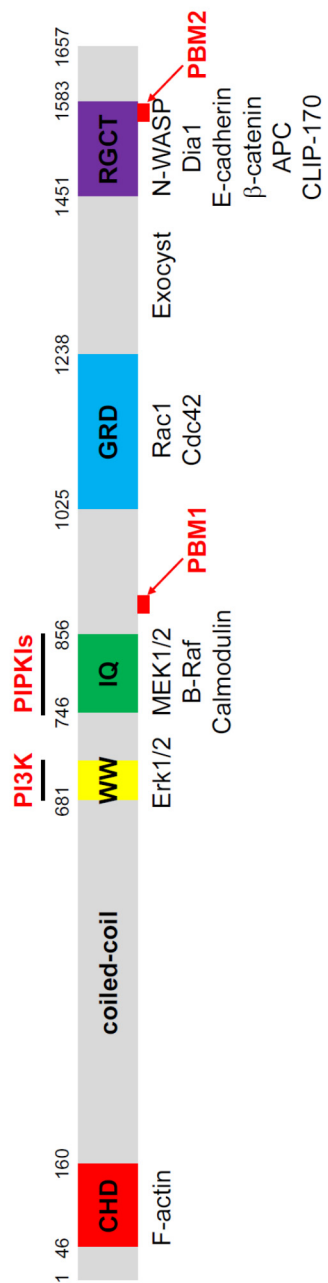
The Roles of IQGAP1 in Cellular Regulation:

IQGAP1 is one of three IQ motif containing GTPase activating protein family members expressed in mammals and it has wide tissue expression [147]. Since its discovery two decades ago [148], over 100 IQGAP1 interacting proteins have been identified. By interacting with various signaling molecules, IQGAP1 regulates many distinct signaling pathways (Figure 1.02). How IQGAP1 has such versatile cellular roles has remained an enigma. An unbiased quantitative study reveals that the messenger RNA and protein copy number of IQGAP1 is at least two orders of magnitude higher than those of its interacting proteins [149], which suggests that there may be multiple functional IQGAP1 containing complexes in a single cell. IQGAP1 contains five different domains that mediate protein-protein interactions: calponin homology (CHD), WW, IQ, GAP-related (GRD) and RasGAP C-terminal (RGCT) domains [147, 150-152], which all contribute toward complex formation. Below, the signaling pathways that are regulated by IQGAP1 will be summarized.

Figure 1.02. IQGAP1 domain structure and selected IQGAP1 interacting proteins.

IQGAP1 interacts with many signaling proteins through its five domains. Proteins highlighted in red are newly defined in this study and discussed in detail in the following chapters. Also, two polybasic motifs (PBMs) are identified as regions mediating IQGAP1 interaction with phosphoinositides.

Figure 1.02



Small GTPase signaling: The IQGAP1 GAP-related domain (GRD) has sequence similarity to GAP proteins, and preferentially binds to but it GTP bound forms of Rac1 and Cdc42 [153, 154] and stabilize them in the active state [155]. However, IQGAP1 lacks GAP activity [155]. As Rac1 and Cdc42 activity is indispensable for actin polymerization, IQGAP1 promotes actin polymerization at various cellular locations, including the leading edges of migrating cells [153, 154, 156], phagocytic cup [157] and cell-cell contacts [158].

Calcium signaling: IQGAP1 interacts with calmodulin in the both the absence and presence of calcium via the IQ domain. The binding of calmodulin regulates IQGAP1 interaction with other proteins such as small GTPases [159, 160]. As IQGAP1 is kept in an inactive conformation in unstimulated conditions [161, 162], extracellular signals might elevate calcium levels in cells that in turn induces calcium-calmodulin binding to IQGAP1 facilitating transition to an active conformation [163].

Mitogen activated protein kinase (MAPK) signaling: The role for IQGAP1 as a scaffold is best characterized in the MAPK pathway. IQGAP1 interacts with MAPK components Raf, MEK and Erk, and this interaction mediates sequential phosphorylation of downstream kinases by upstream kinases [164-166]. Activation of receptor tyrosine kinase stimulates the MAPK pathway through Ras. Consistently, IQGAP1 is shown to activate Erk downstream of K-Ras [167]. Furthermore, IQGAP1 interacts with an adaptor protein ShcA [168] linking receptor tyrosine kinase to the MAPK pathway via Ras. By organizing various components of the MAPK pathway, IQGAP1 mediates receptor tyrosine kinase signaling in various cell types [169-171].

Phosphoinositide signaling: In many cell types, IQGAP1 localizes to the leading edge membrane of migrating cells [10, 60, 152, 156, 161, 172], and this localization is controlled by an association of leading edge-targeted proteins such as Rac1, Cdc42, Dia1 and the exocyst complex [153, 154, 157, 173]. In addition to these factors, PIPKI γ binding also

regulates IQGAP1 leading edge targeting [10]. *In vitro*, the conserved region found in all six PIPKI γ interacts with IQGAP1 on the IQ domain. *In vivo*, PIPKI γ -binding is sufficient to recruit IQGAP1 to the leading edges as a PIPKI γ -binding defective IQGAP1 mutant is unable to target to the leading edge [10].

At the leading edge, IQGAP1 facilitates actin polymerization and recruits microtubules that are essential for membrane protrusion and polarity establishment of migrating cells, respectively [54, 55, 150, 161]. IQGAP1 interacts with N-WASP and the interaction relieves an autoinhibitory conformation exposing the VCA domain of N-WASP. The exposed VCA domain, then, activates Arp2/3 complex-mediated *de novo* actin polymerization [161]. IQGAP1 interacts with the microtubule plus end regulators, CLIP-170 and adenomatous polyposis coli (APC). By these interactions IQGAP1 brings microtubules to the leading edge [153, 154]. Interestingly, the N-WASP, CLIP-170 and APC interaction region on IQGAP1 is within the RGCT domain that is otherwise masked by an autoinhibitory interaction with the GRD domain [161, 162]. Rac1 and Cdc42 binding to the GRD domain *in vivo* or phosphorylation at Ser1441 and Ser1443, between the GRD and RGCT domains, *in vitro* relieves the autoinhibitory interaction [153, 154]. In addition to these factors, phosphoinositide binding also regulates IQGAP1 function by relieving the autoinhibitory interaction [10]. *In vitro*, IQGAP1 interacts with multiple phosphoinositide species with varying affinity [12, 13, 174] and the phosphoinositide binding site is a polybasic region located in the RGCT domain [10]. PI4,5P₂-binding on the RGCT domain relieves the autoinhibitory interaction and regulates N-WASP-Arp2/3 complex-dependent actin polymerization [10, 161]. Interestingly, when expressed in carcinoma cells, an IQGAP1 mutant that is defective in PI4,5P₂-binding induces multiple leading edges [10] suggesting that PI4,5P₂-binding is important for IQGAP1 to regulate cell polarity. Consistently, a Rac1/Cdc42 binding defective IQGAP1 mutant expressed in Vero epithelial cells also

induces multiple leading edges as its interaction with CLIP-170 is enhanced irrespective of the Rac1/Cdc42-binding status [154].

IQGAP1 activation requires Rac1/Cdc42-binding on the GRD domain, PIPKI γ -binding on the IQ domain, PI4,5P₂-binding on the RGCT domain, and phosphorylation at Ser1441 and Ser1443 in a stepwise manner. Phosphorylation at the serine residues, likely by PKCs, is required for Rac1/Cdc42-binding [162]. PIPKI γ -binding on the IQ domain is followed by phosphorylation at the serine residues [10], and finally both PI4,5P₂- and Rac1/Cdc42-binding are required for full activation of IQGAP1 [10, 163]. Based on these, we propose a mechanism of IQGAP1 activation in actin polymerization and microtubule recruitment at the leading edge.

Akt signaling: IQGAP1 interacts with Akt and is required for Akt activation [171, 175]. Also, IQGAP1 interacts with mTOR complex 1 and this interaction inhibits S6 kinase phosphorylation at Thr389 promoting Akt signaling [176]. However, the association of IQGAP1 with upstream regulators of Akt signaling pathways such as PI3K and PTEN remains to be defined.

Hypothesis and Thesis Plan:

Site-specific generation of PI4,5P₂ by PIPKs provides an efficient means to regulate PI4,5P₂ signal at a subcellular compartment. Most studies on PI4,5P₂ have focused on its vast roles in the regulation of cellular processes such as cell migration, trafficking and signaling, while the implication of PI4,5P₂-metabolizing enzymes in these processes is not fully understood. Therefore, my research has focused on how PI4,5P₂-generating enzymes PIPKs may regulate cellular functions via their association with other proteins. A proteomic analysis was used to identify potential interactors for PIPKs, and one protein of interest was the signaling scaffold, IQGAP1. IQGAP1 interaction with PIPKs was found to have affect icell migration and the class I PI3K signaling. Therefore, studies were performed to assess the mechanism for the phenotypes observed for PIPKs and IQGAP1.

Chapter 2 describes the characterization of the interaction of PIPK γ with IQGAP1. These proteins were found to mutually regulate cell migration. The mechanism of the functional mutuality of the two proteins in cell migration was intensively investigated. Surprisingly, IQGAP1 is a PI4,5P₂ effector and its function in cell migration is tightly regulated by the association with PIPK γ .

Chapter 3 describes the characterization of the interaction of PIPK α with IQGAP1. IQGAP1 was found to associate with PIPK α and class I PI3K and the three proteins were found to regulate Akt signaling. The molecular mechanism of the IQGAP1-PIPK α -class I PI3K in regulation of Akt signaling was investigated. Interestingly, our data suggest that IQGAP1 may function as a scaffold for the phosphoinositide kinase signaling pathway.

Finally, chapter 4 summarizes findings in the previous chapters to provide an overview for how PIPKs and IQGAP1 regulate cellular processes. Also included is a description of future studies that will better characterize this pathway.

Chapter 2

The Roles of Gamma Isoform of Type I PIP Kinase and IQGAP1 in Cell Migration

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Chapter Summary:

Phosphatidylinositol 4,5 bisphosphate (PI4,5P₂) is a key lipid messenger for regulation of cell migration. PI4,5P₂ modulates many effectors, but the specificity of PI4,5P₂ signaling can be defined by interactions of PI4,5P₂-generating enzymes with PI4,5P₂ effectors. Here, we show that type I_γ phosphatidylinositol 4-phosphate 5-kinase (PIPKI_γ) interacts with the cytoskeleton regulator, IQGAP1, and modulates IQGAP1 function in migration. Through intensive biochemical and cell biological studies, we reveal that PIPKI_γ is required for IQGAP1 recruitment to the leading edge membrane in response to integrin or growth factor receptor activation. Moreover, IQGAP1 is a PI4,5P₂ effector that directly binds PI4,5P₂ through a polybasic motif and PI4,5P₂ binding activates IQGAP1, facilitating actin polymerization. IQGAP1 mutants that lack PIPKI_γ or PI4,5P₂ binding lose the ability to control directional cell migration. Collectively, these data reveal a synergy between PIPKI_γ and IQGAP1 in control of cell migration.

Introduction:

Cell migration is a highly orchestrated, multistep process requiring the establishment of polarity, the regulation of cytoskeleton dynamics and spatiotemporal signaling [50, 55]. Cell migration is initiated in response to extracellular stimuli, such as cytokines and signals from the extracellular matrix (ECM). These extracellular signals activate intracellular signaling cascades that promote changes in the cytoskeleton. A diverse array of proteins are implicated in these processes, but scaffold proteins that integrate signals from multiple structural and signaling molecules play pivotal roles in transmitting cellular information [15, 56]. Previous work has focused on how scaffold proteins coordinate different signals. However, the exact mechanism for how scaffold proteins themselves are targeted and activated remains largely unknown.

IQ motif containing GTPase activating protein 1 (IQGAP1) is a multidomain protein that regulates cytoskeletal dynamics, proliferation, adherens junction integrity and vesicular trafficking, by serving as a scaffold for key signals [147, 151, 163]. IQGAP1 targets to the leading edge, where it promotes actin polymerization through Rac1 and Cdc42 and their effectors, such as N-WASP and Dia1 [147, 157, 160, 161, 177]. IQGAP1 also controls microtubule (MT) behavior. IQGAP1 interacts with MT plus end regulators, CLIP-170 and adenomatous polyposis coli (APC), and recruits MTs to the leading edge membrane [153, 154]. By targeting MTs to the leading edge, IQGAP1 is believed to facilitate the polarized trafficking of protein to the migrating front [54, 151]. Yet, how IQGAP1 interacts with the leading edge membrane is largely undefined. A recent study has shown that PI4,5P₂ dependent microdomains are required for the recruitment of MTs to the plasma membrane (PM), and Cdc42, N-WASP and IQGAP1 are also required in this process [60]. However, the exact role for PI4,5P₂ in IQGAP1 regulation of the cytoskeleton at the plasma membrane (PM) is unknown.

At a molecular level, IQGAP1 is kept inactive through an autoinhibitory interaction between the GRD domain and RGCT domain [163]. This autoinhibition can be relieved by RhoGTPase binding to the GRD domain or phosphorylation on Ser1443 to activate IQGAP1 [162, 178]. In agreement with this model of activation, a mutant IQGAP1, defective in RhoGTPase binding on the GRD domain, induces multiple leading edges [154] and a phosphomimetic variant of IQGAP1 on Ser1443 stimulates neurite outgrowth [178].

PI4,5P₂ comprises approximately 1% of membrane phospholipids and is the most abundant phosphoinositide species at the plasma membrane (PM). Besides serving as a precursor for other lipid messengers, PI4,5P₂ exerts direct signaling roles by interacting with protein targets [21, 23]. Though PI4,5P₂-binding is often achieved by defined modules on proteins, including C2, pleckstrin homology (PH), and band 4.1/ezrin/radixin/moesin (FERM) domains, many PI4,5P₂-interacting proteins lack canonical modules and instead contain clusters of basic amino acids, known as polybasic motifs (PBMs) that bind PI4,5P₂ [179]. The interaction of PBMs with phosphoinositides is largely mediated by the positively charged residues in the PBM that interact with the phosphate head group. Therefore, these interactions in some cases can be promiscuous for phosphoinositides [5]. Recent advances in proteomic analyses have identified hundreds of putative PI4,5P₂ binding proteins, but most of them do not contain canonical modules [12, 13], thus many PBMs or atypical phosphoinositide binding motifs remain to be characterized.

PI4,5P₂ modulates the activity and targeting of cytoskeleton regulatory proteins, controlling cytoskeletal dynamics and, ultimately, migration [8, 180]. Although the roles for PI4,5P₂ in cytoskeleton regulation are extensively studied, the roles for PI4,5P₂-generating enzymes in this process are still emerging [7, 180]. In mammalian cells, PI4,5P₂ is primarily generated by type I PIP kinases (PIP1Ks) and three isoforms, α , β and γ , are expressed in human with multiple isoforms [22]. For example, four different isoforms of PIP1K γ are expressed in human and each isoform shows a unique cellular distribution. PIP1K γ 1 is the

most abundant isoform in most cell types and largely locates to the PM [181]. PIPKI γ 2 is found at focal adhesions and cell-cell contacts [32, 41]. PIPKI γ 4 is found largely in the nucleus, while PIPKI γ 5 localizes to cell-cell contacts and intracellular compartments [26]. Often, protein-protein interactions recruit PIPKI isoforms to specific cellular regions, and many of these targeting proteins are themselves PI4,5P₂ effectors [21, 23]. For example, talin recruits PIPKI γ 2 to focal adhesions, while the site-specific generation of PI4,5P₂ by PIPKI γ 2 strengthens talin binding to β 1-integrin [7].

PIPKI γ and IQGAP1 are implicated in cancer progression and metastasis [172, 182]. Overexpression of PIPKI γ in breast cancer was found to correlate with poor prognosis [182]. Loss of the PIPKI γ 2 isoform from metastatic breast cancer cell lines reduces cell motility [33], but the role for other PIPKI γ isoforms and molecular mechanisms remain elusive. Similarly, loss of IQGAP1 in malignant breast epithelial cells reduces cell motility [183] and cell growth [184]. IQGAP1 overexpression is reported in cancers originating from many different tissues. IQGAP1 is shown to regulate the function of many oncoproteins. Notably, IQGAP1 is found at the invasive front of aggressive cancers [172] without knowing the underlined mechanism.

Here, we report IQGAP1 as a novel PI4,5P₂ effector that is tightly regulated by PI4,5P₂-generating enzyme PIPKI γ . PIPKI γ and IQGAP1 interact and function together in regulation of directional migration. Mechanistically, IQGAP1 requires PIPKI γ for targeting to the leading edge membrane of migrating cells. Also, IQGAP1 is activated specifically by PI4,5P₂, disrupting IQGAP1 autoinhibition to induce actin polymerization. Directional cell migration is dramatically attenuated in cells expressing IQGAP1 mutants that lack PIPKI γ or PI4,5P₂ interaction. Given that expression of both proteins is deregulated in cancers, this study will validate the PIPKI γ /IQGAP1 signaling nexus as a putative therapeutic target for early steps in cancer progression.

Results:

IQGAP1 and PIPKI γ interact: Interacting proteins often determine the function and intracellular targeting of PIPKIs [21]. To identify interacting proteins for PIPKI γ , i1 and i5 isoforms were inducibly expressed and immunoprecipitated (IP'ed) from MDCK cell lysates. The isolated complexes were separated by SDS-PAGE and the gels visualized by Coomassie staining. Then, protein bands were analyzed by mass spectrometry. IQGAP1 was identified to interact with the PIPKI γ i1 and i5 complexes (Figure 2.01 A).

The interaction between PIPKI γ and IQGAP1 was confirmed in human cell lines. Endogenous proteins were IP'ed and association was examined by immunoblotting. IQGAP1 co-IP'ed with PIPKI γ , and vice versa, from HEK 293 or MDA-MB-231 cell lysates (Figure 2.01 B). The cellular location of the proteins was examined via immunostaining. DsRed-PIPKI γ i1 co-localized with endogenous IQGAP1 at the periphery of MCF7 cells and to a lesser extent at a perinuclear compartment (Figure 2.01 C). To characterize binding, His-PIPKI γ i1 and GST-IQGAP1 were expressed in *E. coli*, purified and in vitro binding was assessed. As shown in Figure 2.01 D, the binding was saturable and Scatchard analysis revealed the dissociation constant (K_d) for the interaction is ~175 nM, demonstrating that in vitro PIPKI γ directly interacts with IQGAP1 with a moderate affinity.

PIPKI γ interacts with the IQ domain: IQGAP1 integrates many signaling pathways by forming interactions through its calponin homology (CHD), WW, IQ, GAP-related (GRD) and RasGAP C-terminal (RGCT) domains [147]. To identify the PIPKI γ binding site on IQGAP1, we co-expressed Myc-IQGAP1 wild type (WT) or deletion mutants of each domain with HA-PIPKI γ i1 in HEK 293 cells and performed an IP. Deletion of the IQ domain (Δ IQ) lost IQGAP1 co-IP with PIPKI γ (Figure 2.01 E) and in vitro the Δ IQ mutant also failed to interact with PIPKI γ (Figure 2.01 F). Further, the IQ domain alone was capable of interacting with

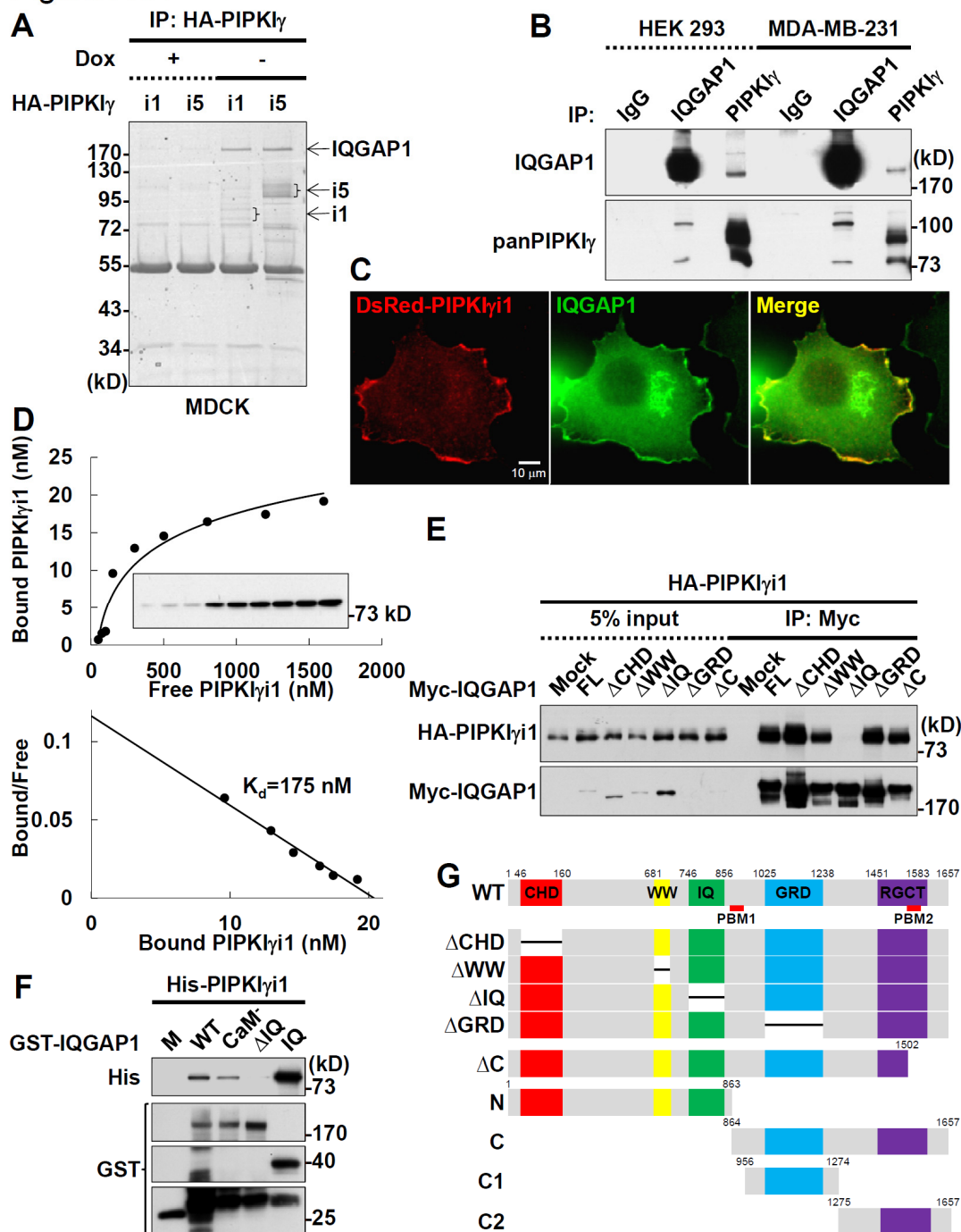
IQGAP1 (Figure 2.01 F). These data indicate that the IQ domain is both necessary and sufficient to interact with PIPKI γ .

The IQ domain is composed of four tandem IQ motifs. The CaM γ mutant which contains point mutations in the IQ motifs and abrogates calmodulin binding [185], bound PIPKI γ to a lesser extent than WT (Figure 2.01 F). Further, deletion or mutation of individual motifs reduced binding to PIPKI γ , compared to WT, and the combined mutation of multiple IQ motifs further reduced binding (Figure 2.01 F and data not shown). These data indicate that the intact IQ domain is required for the interaction with PIPKI γ . Further studies used the Δ IQ mutant to examine the functional importance of the PIPKI γ interaction.

Figure 2.01. PIPKI γ interacts with the IQ motif of IQGAP1.

(A) HA-PIPKI γ i1 and i5 were expressed in tet-off MDCK cells, and an anti-HA antibody used to IP i1 and i5 containing complexes. Samples were resolved by SDS-PAGE and protein bands visualized by Coomassie staining. Dox, doxycycline. (B) PIPKI γ and IQGAP1 were separately IP'ed and association of the other protein examined by immunoblotting. IgG, isotype immunoglobulin control. (C) DsRed-PIPKI γ i1 was transiently expressed in MCF-7 cells and endogenous IQGAP1 was immunostained. Cells were photographed under 600X magnification. (D) 50 pM GST-IQGAP1 was incubated with 5 to 1600 nM His-PIPKI γ i1. Binding was detected by immunoblotting with an anti-His antibody (top). K_d was determined by standard Scatchard analysis (bottom). (E) Myc-IQGAP1 proteins were co-expressed with HA-PIPKI γ i1 in HEK293 cells and proteins were IP'ed with an anti-Myc antibody. Associated PIPKI γ i1 was analyzed by immunoblotting with an anti-HA antibody. (F) Purified GST-IQGAP1 proteins were incubated with His-PIPKI γ i1. The associated protein complex was examined by immunoblotting with the indicated antibodies. Some degraded products of GST-IQGAP1 proteins were detected by immunoblotting with an anti-GST antibody. Data above are representative of at least four independent experiments. (G) Schematic representation of IQGAP1 domains and IQGAP1 constructs used for this study.

Figure 2.01



Migration and lamellipodium formation require PIPKI γ : The role of PIPKI γ i2 in migration is emerging [33, 186]. To further define a role of other PIPKI γ isoforms in regulation of migration, we stably knocked down PIPKI γ in MDA-MB-231 cells using two different shRNAs [33]. ShRNA#1 and #2 reduced total PIPKI γ (panPIPKI γ) expression ~75% and 90%, respectively. PIPKI γ i2 expression was also slightly reduced (~24% and 36%, respectively), whereas i4 and i5 expression were not changed (Figure 2.02 B) as reported [187]. These data indicate that PIPKI γ i1 is the predominant isoform in these cells [181]. By bright field microscopy, PIPKI γ knockdown cells were less spread than control cells with fewer protrusions (Figure 2.02 A). Serum-induced migration using a Transwell assay was significantly attenuated by PIPKI γ knockdown (Figure 2.02 B). These data indicate that PIPKI γ is required for proper spreading and migration.

Knockdown of PIPKI γ i2 has a defined migration defect [33, 186], but PIPKI γ i1 could not be knocked specifically as it is a splice variant with no unique coding sequence compared to the other isoforms. To explore the role of PIPKI γ i1 and i2, we re-expressed these two isoforms to determine if they restore migration. ShRNA-resistant DsRed-PIPKI γ was stably re-expressed in PIPKI γ knockdown cells. Cells were then sorted to isolate cells with expression levels similar to endogenous PIPKI γ in control cells. Re-expression of PIPKI γ i2 rescued migration (Figure 2.02 C), as reported [33]. Interestingly, PIPKI γ i1 WT also rescued the migration whereas i1 kinase dead (KD) did not rescue, indicating that PIPKI γ i1 or i2 are sufficient for serum-induced migration, and PI4,5P₂ synthesis is required for this process.

Migrating cells extend lamellipodia at the leading edge and persistent formation of lamellipodia is critical for directional migration [49]. To test how PIPKI γ regulates lamellipodium formation, a lamellipodial marker ARPC2 [161] was immunostained following initiation of migration by scratch-wounding confluent cells. 3 hours after scratching, ARPC2 localized at the periphery of protrusions in the control cells (Figure 2.02 D). In PIPKI γ

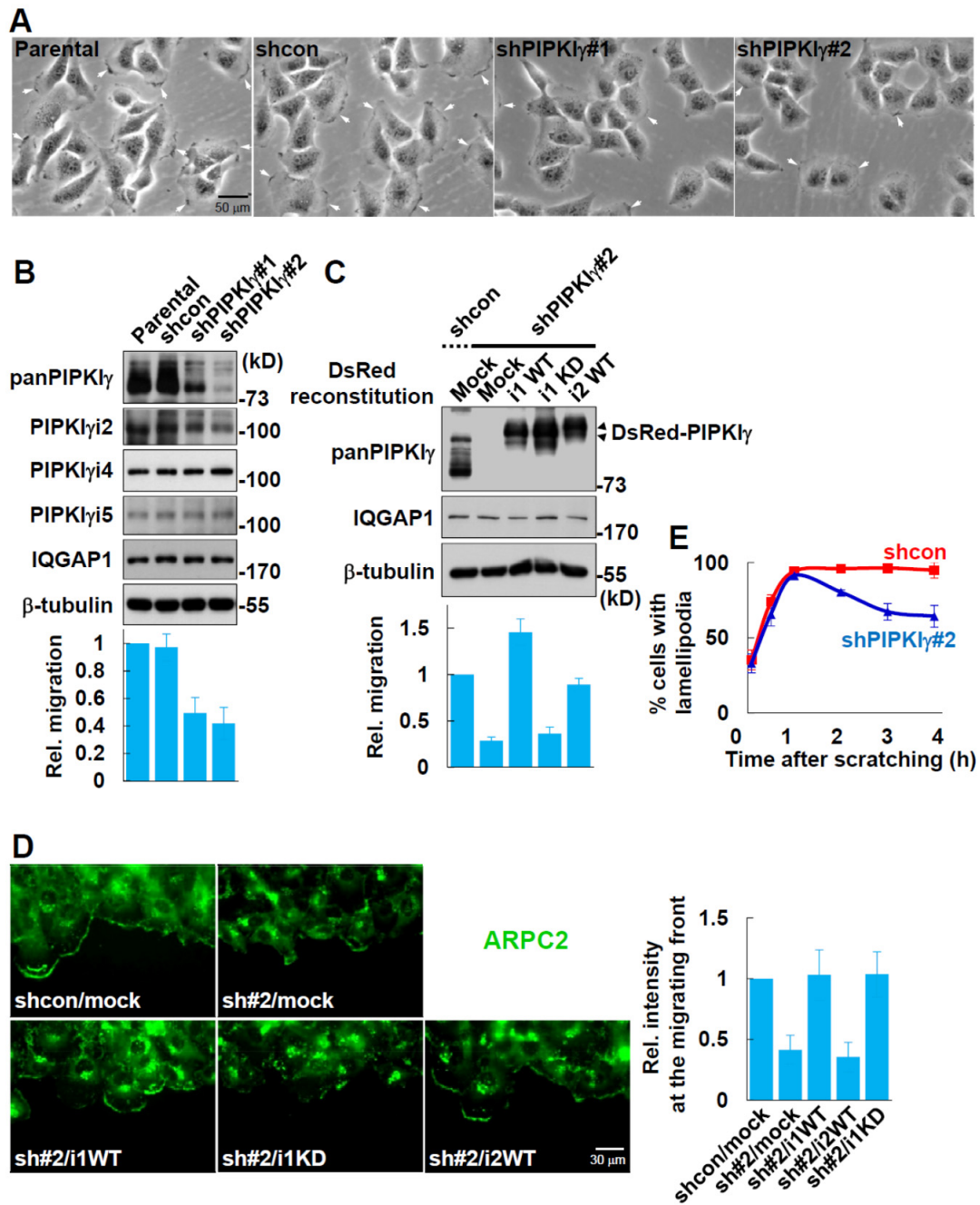
knockdown cells, formation of protrusions was retarded and ARPC2 no longer localized at the membrane extensions. PIPKI γ 1 or i2 re-expression could recover lamellipodium formation, whereas PIPKI γ 1 KD had no effect. Early protrusion formation was indistinguishable in different cells but persistent formation was diminished (Figure 2.02 E). This demonstrates that PIPKI γ by generation of PI4,5P₂ regulates persistent lamellipodium formation that is required for migration.

Figure 2.02. PIPKI γ is required for migration and lamellipodium formation.

(A) MDA-MB-231 breast cancer cells were infected with lentivirus expressing short hairpin (sh) RNAs against either human PIPKI γ or scrambled control. Infected cells were selected by a cell sorter (viral vector contains GFP coding sequence). Either parental or virus infected cells maintained in normal culture conditions were photographed under an inverted microscope at 200X magnification. White arrows indicate ruffle-like structures. (B) Either parental or virus infected cells were placed in the upper chamber of a Transwell and cells were allowed to migrate for 12-16 h towards 10% serum as a chemoattractant in the lower chamber. Cells were fixed and stained with a 0.5% crystal violet (CV) solution. CV-positive cells that had migrated across 3.0 μ m pores were counted from photographs taken from at least five random fields (bottom). Expression levels of the endogenous proteins were analyzed by immunoblotting of cell lysates with isoform specific PIPKI γ antibodies (top). (C) ShRAN-resistant DsRed-tagged PIPKI γ isoforms were stably expressed in shPIPKI γ #2 cells. Cells expressing a similar amount of PIPKI γ compared to the control cells were isolated using a cell sorter. With these reconstituted cells, serum-induced chemotaxis was measured with a Transwell as described above (top). Protein expression was confirmed by immunoblotting against the indicated molecules (bottom). WT, wild type. KD, kinase dead. Data are shown as mean \pm SD of four independent experiments. (D) The reconstituted cells allowed to migrate into a scratch wound were fixed after 3 hours and immunostained with the Arp2/3 complex component ARPC2. Images were taken at 400X magnification and the representative images are shown. (E) Either control or shPIPKI γ #2 cells were grown to confluence. Lawn of cells was scratched and boundaries between cells and cell-free space were photographed at 5, 30, 60, 120, 180 and 240 min after scratching. At least 200 cells were counted for disk-like protrusions. Data are shown as mean \pm SD of four experiments.

The experiments described above were performed independently at least four times.

Figure 2.02



PIPKI γ and IQGAP1 interdependently control cell motility: Upon stimulation, IQGAP1 targets to the leading edge and recruits regulators of the cytoskeleton that control migration [54, 147]. As described above PIPKI γ also regulates migration [33]. *Pip5k1c*, a gene coding PIPKI γ in mice, knockout (KO) mice are embryonic lethal with migration defects of cardiovascular cell precursors [188], and cells from these mice have a defective association between the membrane and the cytoskeleton [189]. To investigate how PIPKI γ and IQGAP1 control cell motility, serum-induced cell motility was measured using a Transwell system. Individual knockdown of PIPKI γ or IQGAP1 significantly reduced both migration and invasion (Figure 2.03 A). Knockdown of both proteins dramatically reduced cell motility indicating a synergistic role. To better define the relationship of the two proteins, we overexpressed IQGAP1 that is reported to enhanced cell motility [183]. Overexpression of IQGAP1 in MDA-MB-231 cells increased cell motility over 3-fold whereas knockdown of PIPKI γ in IQGAP1 overexpressing cells reduced cell motility to the basal level. Consistently overexpression of PIPKI γ 1 increased cell motility and this increase was inhibited by knockdown of IQGAP1 (Figure 2.03 B). Similar results were obtained in HeLa cells. Here, inducible expression of PIPKI γ 1 increased cell motility and depletion of IQGAP1 under these conditions reduced motility to the basal level (Figure 2.03 C). Together these data indicate that PIPKI γ and IQGAP1 interdependently control cell motility.

The PIPKI γ -IQGAP1 interaction is required for migration: To investigate how PIPKI γ and IQGAP1 function together, we tested if their association is altered by stimuli that promote migration. Migration is initiated by a variety of extracellular stimuli, including chemokines or extracellular matrix (ECM) [55]. To define the pathway in which PIPKI γ and IQGAP1 function, cells were stimulated with type I collagen (COL) or serum and changes in the association were examined by IP. In response to either stimulus there was an increase in the panPIPKI γ -IQGAP1 complex, whereas the Rac1 interaction with IQGAP1 remained unchanged (Figure

2.03 D). This demonstrates that the PIPKI γ interaction with IQGAP1 is enhanced by factors that stimulate migration. Furthermore, phosphorylation of Ser1441 and Ser1443 residues [162, 178] is required for the enhancement of interaction (Figure 2.04 C). Interestingly, the PIPKI γ 2 interaction was unaffected, suggesting that migration enhances IQGAP1 interaction with the predominant isoform, PIPKI γ 1 [181]. This is consistent with results indicating that PIPKI γ 2 modulates cell migration by a different mechanism [33, 186].

The IQGAP1 mutant that lacks interaction with PIPKI γ was examined to determine if this interaction is required for migration. For this, *Iqgap1* KO mouse embryonic fibroblasts (MEFs) [164] were reconstituted with WT or Δ IQ IQGAP1 and migration was examined in various conditions [190]. To avoid nonspecific effects from overexpression, we maintained IQGAP1 expression levels similar to the WT MEFs by the cell sorting method as above. *Iqgap1* KO MEFs showed >50% reduction in migration in response to serum, fibronectin or epidermal growth factor (EGF) stimuli. WT IQGAP1 fully rescued migration under all of these conditions, while the Δ IQ mutant showed no recovery of migration induced by fibronectin or EGF (Figure 2.03 E). This indicates that the PIPKI γ -IQGAP1 interaction is necessary for integrin- and EGF receptor-mediated migration. Intriguingly, the Δ IQ mutant still rescued serum-induced migration. Serum contains a collection of factors that induce migration and the contribution of each factor in PIPKI γ -regulated migration varies by cell types [186]. Collectively, the PIPKI γ -IQGAP1 interaction specifically regulates fibronectin- or EGF-induced migration in MEFs (Figure 2.04 D) indicating that the PIPKI γ -IQGAP1 nexus is regulated by these pathways.

Figure 2.03. PIPKI γ and IQGAP1 cooperate to regulate migration.

(A) MDA-MB-231 cells were transfected with the indicated siRNA for 48 h. Knockdown was confirmed by immunoblotting with the indicated antibodies (top). 10% serum-induced migration (middle) and invasion through 2 mg/ml Matrigel (bottom) were measured with a Transwell. (B) Cells were transfected with the indicated DNA and siRNA combinations for 24 h. Expression level was analyzed by immunoblotting with the indicated antibodies (top). Migration and invasion were measured as in (A) (bottom). (C) PIPKI γ 1 was expressed in HeLa tet-off cells by removing doxycycline from media for 24 h. Protein expression and cell motility were measured as above. Data are shown as mean \pm SD for four independent experiments. (D) Cells maintained in suspension were either plated on 10 ng/ml collagen I or kept in suspension for 30 m. Serum-starved cells were treated with or without 10% serum for 15 m. Endogenous IQGAP1 was IP'ed and associated PIPKI γ was analyzed by immunoblotting. Sus, suspension. COL, type I collagen. IQ1, IQGAP1. (E) *Iqgap1* KO MEFs were stably reconstituted with the indicated IQGAP1 proteins, and four different modes of migration were measured with a Transwell (top right). Protein expression was analyzed by immunoblotting (top left). Conditions used for treating Transwells (bottom). Data are shown as mean \pm SD of four independent experiments. Data above are representative of at least four independent experiments.

Figure 2.03

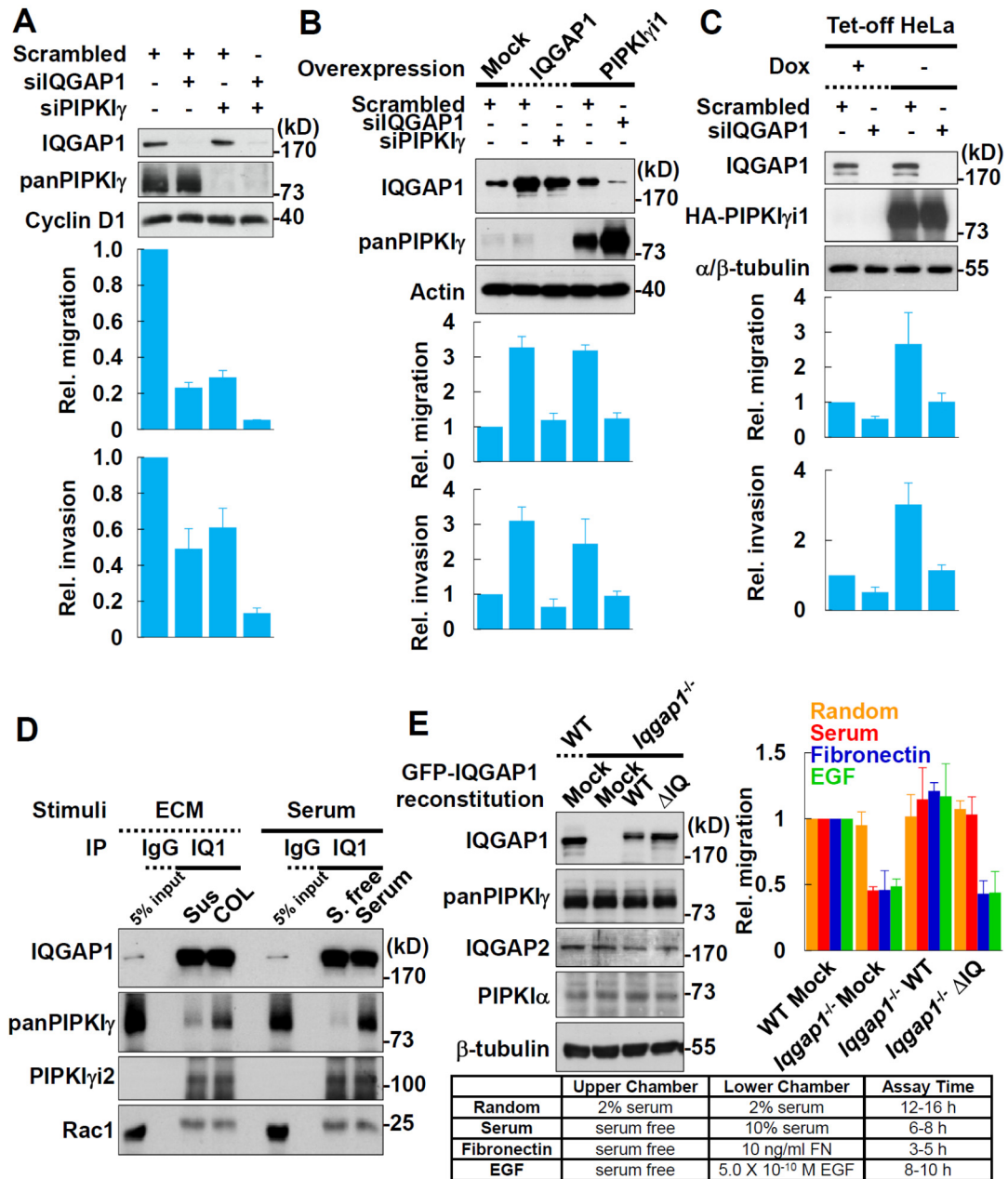
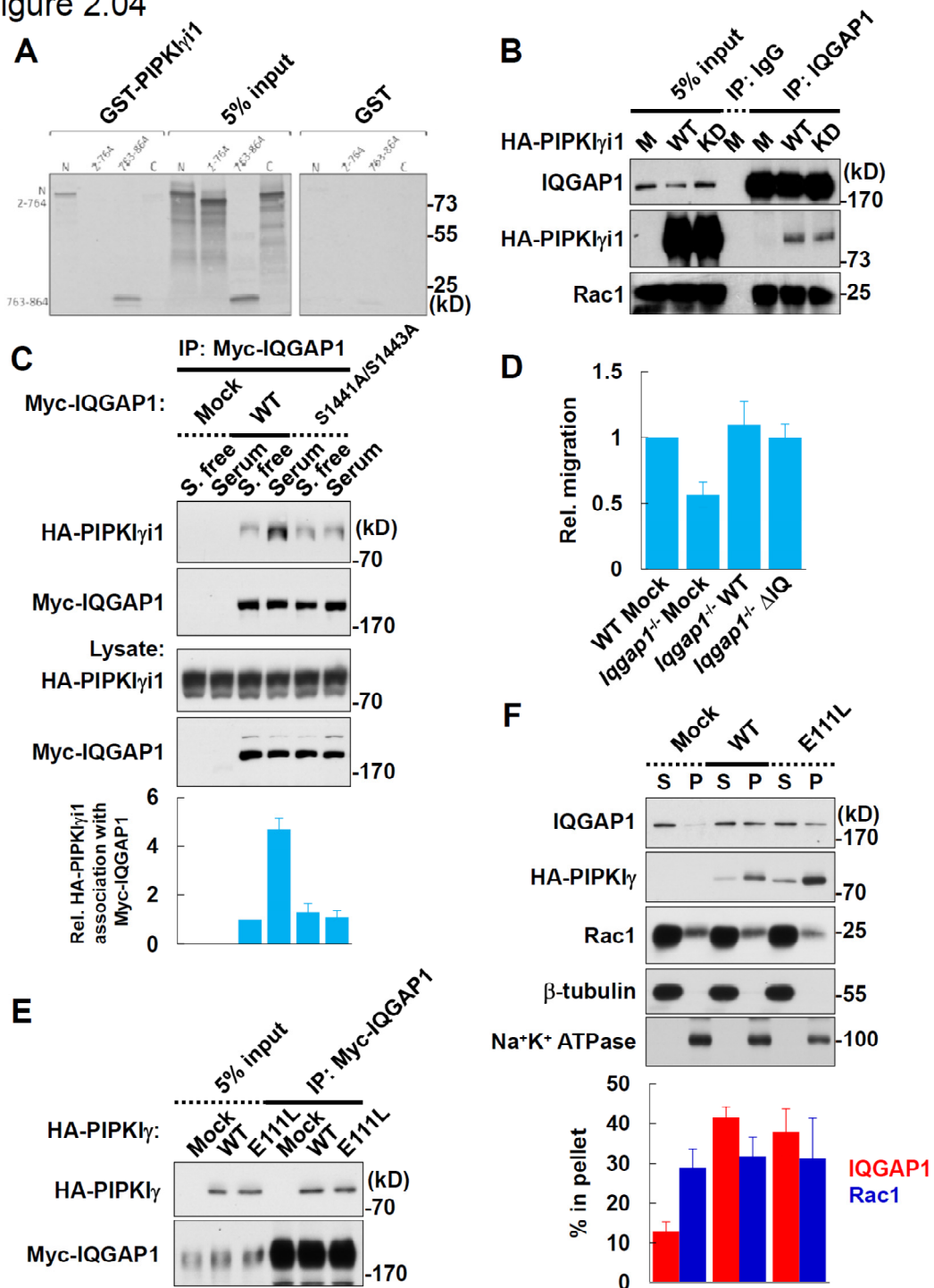


Figure 2.04. PIPKI γ interacts with IQGAP1 regardless of kinase activity.

(A) Identification of the PIPKI γ binding site on IQGAP1. Equal amounts of [35 S]methionine-labeled IQGAP1-N, IQGAP1-(2-764), IQGAP1-(763-864) or IQGAP1-C were incubated with 4 μ g GST-PIPKI γ 1 or GST alone on glutathione beads. Complexes were washed, resolved by SDS-PAGE and processed by autoradiography. An aliquot of [35 S]methionine-labeled TNT product that was not subjected to chromatography was processed in parallel (Input). (B) Control vector or HA-tagged PIPKI γ 1 wild type (WT) or kinase dead (KD) mutant was expressed with in MDA-MB-231 cells and endogenous IQGAP1 proteins were immunoprecipitated with an anti-IQGAP1 antibody. Immunoprecipitates were resolved by SDS-PAGE and the associated PIPKI γ 1 was analyzed by immunoblotting with an anti-HA antibody. (C) HA-PIPKI γ 1 was co-transfected with Myc-IQGAP1 WT or S1441S/S1443A mutant in MDA-MB-231 cells for 36 h. Then, cells were serum starved for 12 h before treating with 10% FBS for 30 m. Myc-IQGAP1 WT or mutant was immunoprecipitated with an anti-Myc antibody and the associated PIPKI γ 1 was analyzed by immunoblotting with an anti-HA antibody (top). Data are shown as mean \pm SD of three independent experiments (bottom). (D) The reconstituted MEFs were used for 5 μ M lysophosphatidic acid induced cell migration using a Transwell. Data are shown as mean \pm SD of three independent experiments. (E) Myc-IQGAP1 was co-transfected with HA-PIPKI γ 1 WT or E111L mutant in MDA-MB-231 cells for 48 h. Cells were harvested and exogenous IQGAP1 was immunoprecipitated with an anti-Myc antibody and the associated PIPKI γ 1 was analyzed by immunoblotting with an anti-HA antibody. (F) MDA-MB-231 cells were transfected with the indicated IQGAP1 proteins or mock control for 48 h. Cells were harvested with a hypotonic buffer and the membrane fraction was separated from the cytosolic fraction by centrifugation. 10 μ g of each protein was resolved by SDS-PAGE and analyzed by immunoblotting with the indicated antibodies (top). The percentage of protein bound in the pellet relative to total (S+P)

was calculated by quantifying the immunoblots (bottom). The experiments described above were performed independently at least four times.

Figure 2.04



PIPKI γ controls IQGAP1 translocation to the leading edge membrane: At the onset of migration, many cytoskeleton regulatory proteins translocate to the leading edge membrane to mediate directional migration [7, 49, 191]. To further define how PIPKI γ and IQGAP1 regulate migration, we examined their targeting to the membrane by cell fractionation. Cells were plated on COL, then lysed and fractionated into membrane and cytosolic components [44]. In response to integrin activation, both PIPKI γ and IQGAP1 increased in the membrane fraction (Figure 2.05 A). Rac1 also increased in the membrane fraction as reported [191]. However, membrane proteins, such as calnexin, GM-130 and Na⁺K⁺ channel, remained unchanged (Figure 2.05 A).

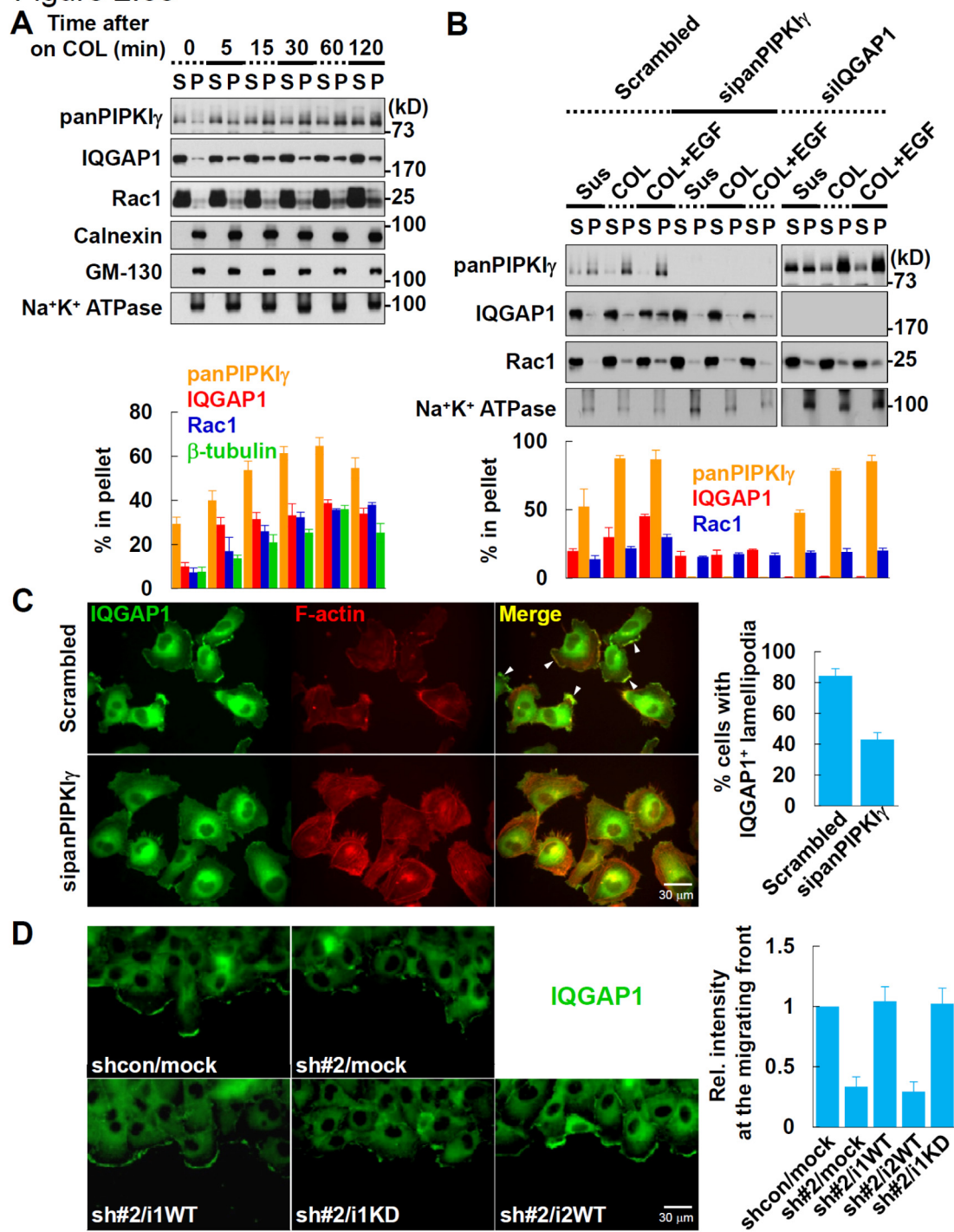
In response to receptor activation, IQGAP1 translocates to the leading edge membrane [150, 163]. Yet, the mechanism for IQGAP1 interaction with the membrane is largely unknown. To examine if PIPKI γ regulates IQGAP1 membrane targeting, PIPKI γ was knocked down using RNAi and cells were fractionated. Knockdown of PIPKI γ significantly reduced IQGAP1 in the membrane fraction upon COL and/or EGF stimulation (Figure 2.05 B). The knockdown of PIPKI γ also reduced the membrane content of Rac1, supporting reports that PIPKI and Rac1 interdependently control PM targeting [44, 75]. To test the sole contribution of PIPKI γ for the IQGAP1 targeting, we utilized a Rac1 binding defective mutant PIPKI γ (E111L) [75]. The mutant co-immunoprecipitated with IQGAP1 similar to wild type PIPKI γ (Figure 2.04 E) indicating that the Rac1 binding of PIPKI γ is not required for the PIPKI γ interaction with IQGAP1. Notably, the E111L mutant enhanced IQGAP1 association with the membrane fraction similar to wild type PIPKI γ (Figure 2.04 F). These data suggest that the IQGAP1 recruitment to the leading edge is largely regulated by PIPKI γ independent of Rac1. Knockdown of IQGAP1 reduced Rac1 in the membrane fraction, but had no effect on PIPKI γ accumulation in the membrane fraction.

To assess targeting *in vivo*, serum-starved cells were treated with EGF to induce lamellipodia formation [192] and IQGAP1 localization was observed by immunostaining. As shown in Figure 2.05 C, the number of PIPKI γ knockdown cells with IQGAP1-positive protrusions was reduced by >50% compared to the control cells. To assess PIPKI γ regulation of IQGAP1 localization in migrating cells, endogenous IQGAP1 was immunostained in cells migrating into the scratch wound. IQGAP1 nicely localized at the leading edge in the control cells, but in PIPKI γ knockdown cells the IQGAP1 staining at the cell periphery was significantly reduced (Figure 2.05 D). Reconstitution with either PIPKI γ i1 or i2 WT, but not i1 KD, rescued IQGAP1 localization at the leading edge. The difference between WT and KD is not due to an improper interaction with IQGAP1 because the amount of PIPKI γ i1 KD that co-IP'ed with IQGAP1 was indistinguishable from that of WT (Figure 2.04). Taken together, these results demonstrate that PIPKI γ and generation of PI4,5P₂ are required for IQGAP1 targeting to the leading edge membrane in response to migratory signals.

Figure 2.05. PIPKI γ regulates IQGAP1 targeting to the leading edge membrane.

(A) MDA-MB-231 cells maintained in suspension were plated on 10 ng/ml COL for the indicated times. Cells were lysed with a hypotonic buffer and the membrane fraction was separated from the cytosolic fraction by centrifugation. 10 μ g of each protein was resolved by SDS-PAGE and analyzed by immunoblotting with the indicated antibodies (top). The percentage of protein bound in the pellet relative to total (S+P) was calculated by quantifying the immunoblots (bottom). S, supernatant. P, pellet. (B) After transient knockdown with the indicated siRNA, cells were treated as (A) in the presence or absence of 50 ng/ml EGF for 30 m. Cells were fractionated and analyzed as above. (C) Serum starved control or PIPKI γ knockdown cells were treated with 20 ng/ml EGF for 1 h. Cells were fixed and stained for IQGAP1 and F-actin. Cells were photographed at 400X magnification. For quantification, at least 300 cells were counted. White arrowheads indicate IQGAP1-positive lamellipodia. Data are shown as mean \pm SD of three independent experiments. (D) Cells grown to confluence were wounded and fixed 3 h later, followed by immunostaining for IQGAP1. Cells were photographed at 400X magnification. Intensity of fluorescent signal at the migrating front was measured from at least 10 different images of each condition and quantified using ImageJ software. All the experiments described above were performed independently at least three times.

Figure 2.05



IQGAP1 interacts with PI4,5P₂ through a polybasic motif: Signaling specificity of PI4,5P₂ can be defined by interaction of PIPKIs with PI4,5P₂ effectors [21, 23]. There is emerging evidence that PIPKI γ controls the cytoskeleton by interacting with cytoskeleton regulatory proteins, which are PI4,5P₂ effectors, such as talin [32] and trafficking components [33, 40]. Because PIPKI γ associated with IQGAP1 physically (Figure 2.01) and functionally (Figure 2.03 and 2.04), we hypothesized that IQGAP1 could be a PI4,5P₂ effector. Consistent with this hypothesis, two independent proteomic analyses suggest that IQGAP1 interacts with PI4,5P₂ [12, 13]. To understand how IQGAP1 interacts with PI4,5P₂, their cellular distributions were examined by immunostaining. PH domain of phospholipase C δ 1 (PLC δ 1) has been extensively used to probe cellular PI4,5P₂ [97, 193, 194] but excessive expression limits PI4,5P₂ binding protein targeting to the plasma membrane [193]. Thus, we titrated the GFP-PLC δ 1-PH expression and analyzed endogenous IQGAP1 localization (Figure 2.06). In the optimal amount of expression, endogenous IQGAP1 partially co-localized with GFP-PLC δ 1-PH (Figure 2.07 B), indicating that both IQGAP1 and PI4,5P₂ are present at regions of the PM containing PI4,5P₂. To define PI4,5P₂ binding, liposomes were synthesized containing membrane lipids (57.5% of phosphatidylcholine, 20% of phosphatidylethanolamine and 20% of phosphatylserine in molar ratio) and 2.5% PI4,5P₂. A co-sedimentation assay was used to define the PI4,5P₂ binding site on IQGAP1. IQGAP1-N or -C (Figure 2.01 G) were examined and only IQGAP1-C co-sedimented with PI4,5P₂-liposomes indicating that PI4,5P₂ binds to the C-terminal half (Figure 2.07 B).

A lysine cluster mediates the IQGAP1 interaction with PI4,5P₂: IQGAP1 does not contain known PI4,5P₂ binding modules, but we found at least two potential PBMs within AA 921-970 and 1491-1560, named PBM1 and PBM2, respectively (Figure 2.01 G). Deletion of PBM2 dramatically reduced IQGAP1 interaction with PI4,5P₂-liposomes whereas deletion of PBM1 had little effect indicating that IQGAP1 interacts with PI4,5P₂ through PBM2 (Figure 2.07 C). To define a putative PI4,5P₂ binding site on PBM2, human IQGAP1, 2 and 3

sequences were aligned with IQGAP sequences from multiple species. As shown in Figure 2.07 D, the sequence alignment identified a lysine residue, marked by an asterisk, which is conserved in PBM2. Around this lysine, there are other conserved basic residues, highlighted in red. We mutated these residues to alanines as illustrated in Figure 2.07 E and tested the impact on PI4,5P₂-liposome binding. Mutating two or four lysine residues had little effect whereas mutating all six residues (termed AA3) eliminated IQGAP1 binding to the PI4,5P₂-liposomes.

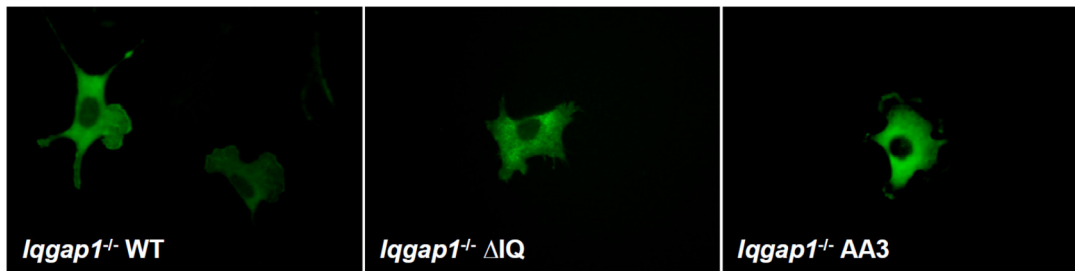
To examine phospholipid binding specificity, a lipid overlay assay was performed. IQGAP1 WT and -C bound to multiple phosphoinositides but not other phospholipids (Figure 2.08 A). To better define IQGAP1 phosphoinositide binding, the IQGAP1-C fragment was used in liposome sedimentation assays, with liposomes containing 5% phosphoinositide [195]. In this assay, PI3,4P₂, PI3,5P₂ and PI3,4,5P₃ bound with a higher affinity than PI3P, PI4P, PI5P and PI4,5P₂ (Figure 2.07 F). Although the apparent affinity for other bis- and tris-phosphate species is up to 7-fold higher than PI4,5P₂, PI4,5P₂ is estimated to be present in the PM at a concentration 20 to 100-fold higher than other phosphoinositide species [195], indicating that PI4,5P₂ is the major in vivo ligand for IQGAP1. The AA3 mutation reduced binding to PI3,4P₂, PI3,5P₂ and PI3,4,5P₃ but not mono-phosphate species. Strikingly, the AA3 mutant lost binding to PI4,5P₂. The combined data indicate that IQGAP1-C has multiple distinct phosphoinositide binding sites [174] and the lysine cluster mutated in AA3 defines a specific PI4,5P₂ binding site.

Figure 2.06. PIPK γ - and PI4,5P $_2$ -binding of IQGAP1 are required for directionally persistent migration.

(A) The reconstituted MEFs were plated on gelatin gel for 3 h before recording using time-lapse microscopy at 400X. To locate cells expressing GFP-positive IQGAP1 proteins, cells were first photographed under a fluorescent channel. Immediately after, cells were imaged every 5 min for 3 h to generate the movies shown in videos 1-3. (B) MDA-MB-231 cells were transfected with mock control or increasing amount of GFP-PLC δ 1-PH DNA for 4h. Cells plated on collagen I for 1h were fixed and immunostained with endogenous IQGAP1. Cells were photographed at 400X magnification. All the experiments described above were performed independently at least three times.

Figure 2.06

A



B

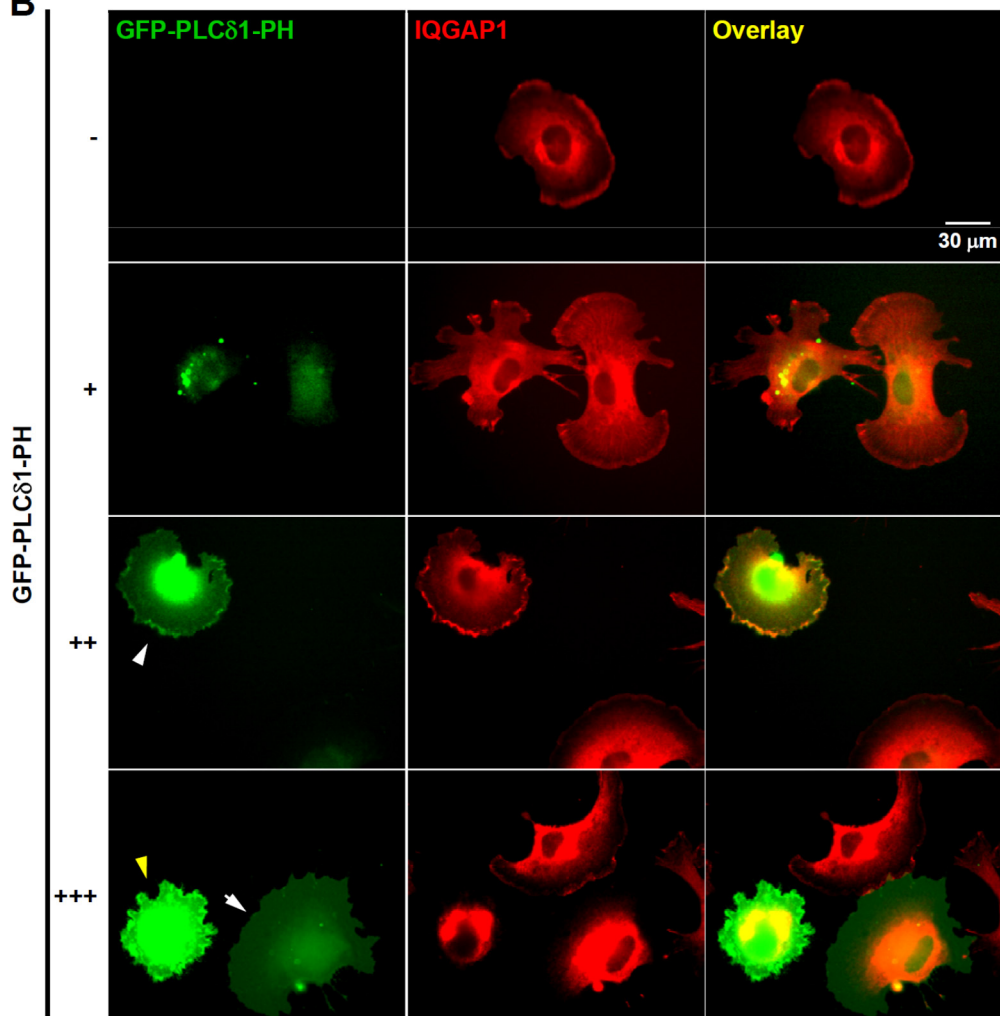


Figure 2.07. IQGAP1 interacts with the phosphoinositides through a polybasic motif.

(A) GFP-PLC δ 1-PH was transiently expressed in MDA-MB-231 cells and endogenous IQGAP1 was immunostained. Cells were photographed at 600X magnification. (B) 2.5% PI4,5P₂-liposomes were incubated with 0.5 μ M GST-IQGAP1-N or -C for 10 m. Liposome-bound IQGAP1 was pelleted by centrifugation. Equal volume of the supernatant and the pellet were resolved by SDS-PAGE and IQGAP1 in each fraction was analyzed by immunoblotting with an anti-GST antibody. (C) GST-tagged WT or deletion mutants were used for a sedimentation assay with 2.5% PI4,5P₂-liposomes. (D) Amino acid sequence alignment of the PBM2 region among IQGAPs from the indicated species. (E) Selected lysine residues were mutated to alanines to generate a series of AA mutants (top). Binding of WT and the AA mutants to 5% PI4,5P₂-liposomes were tested (bottom). (F) Binding of GST-tagged WT and the AA3 mutant to 5 μ M of 5% phosphoinositide-liposomes were tested. Samples were analyzed as above and liposome-bound proteins were detected by immunoblotting with anti-GST antibody. Immunoblots were quantified and the graph is shown as mean \pm SD of three independent experiments. All the experiments described above were performed independently at least four times.

Figure 2.07

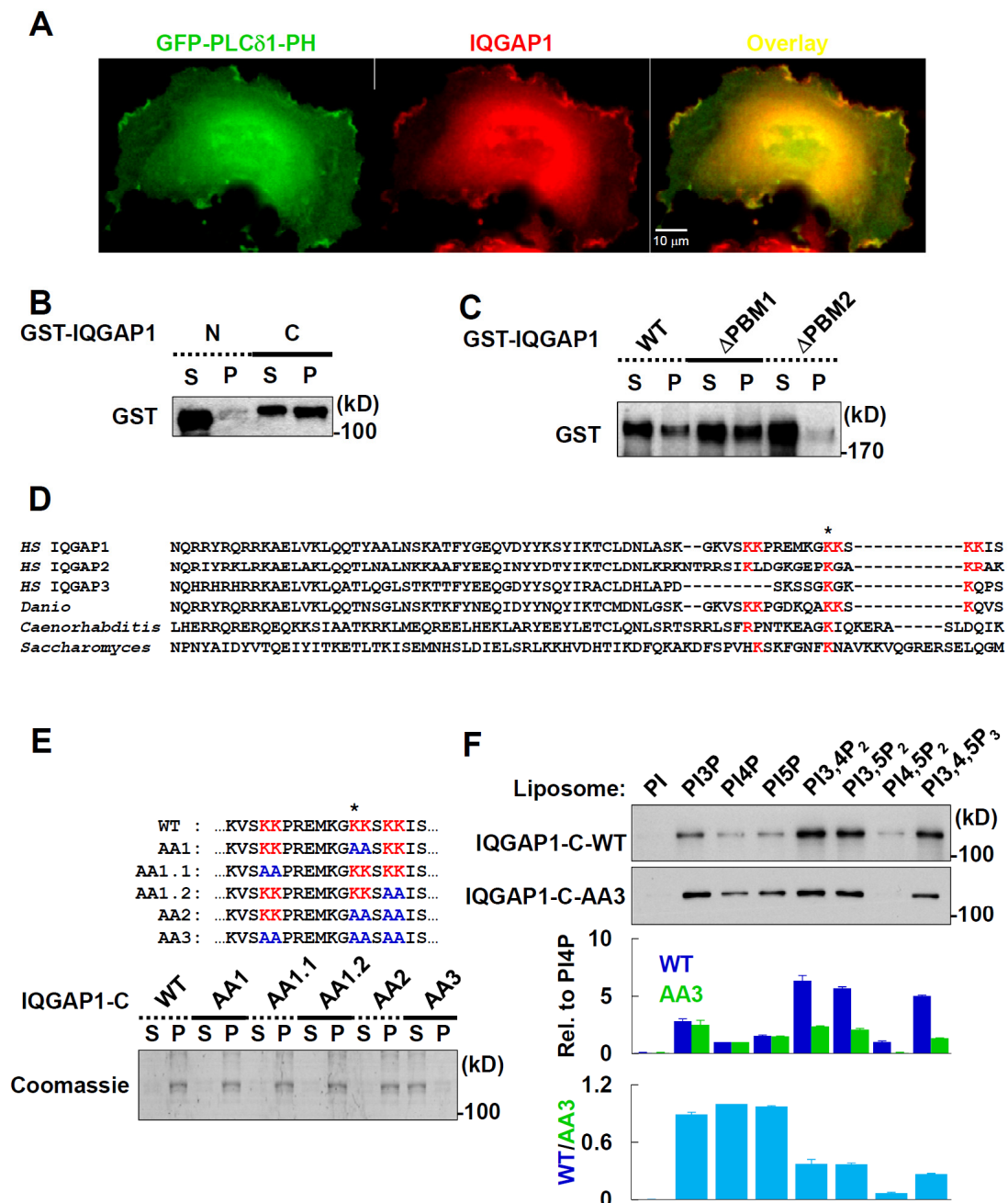
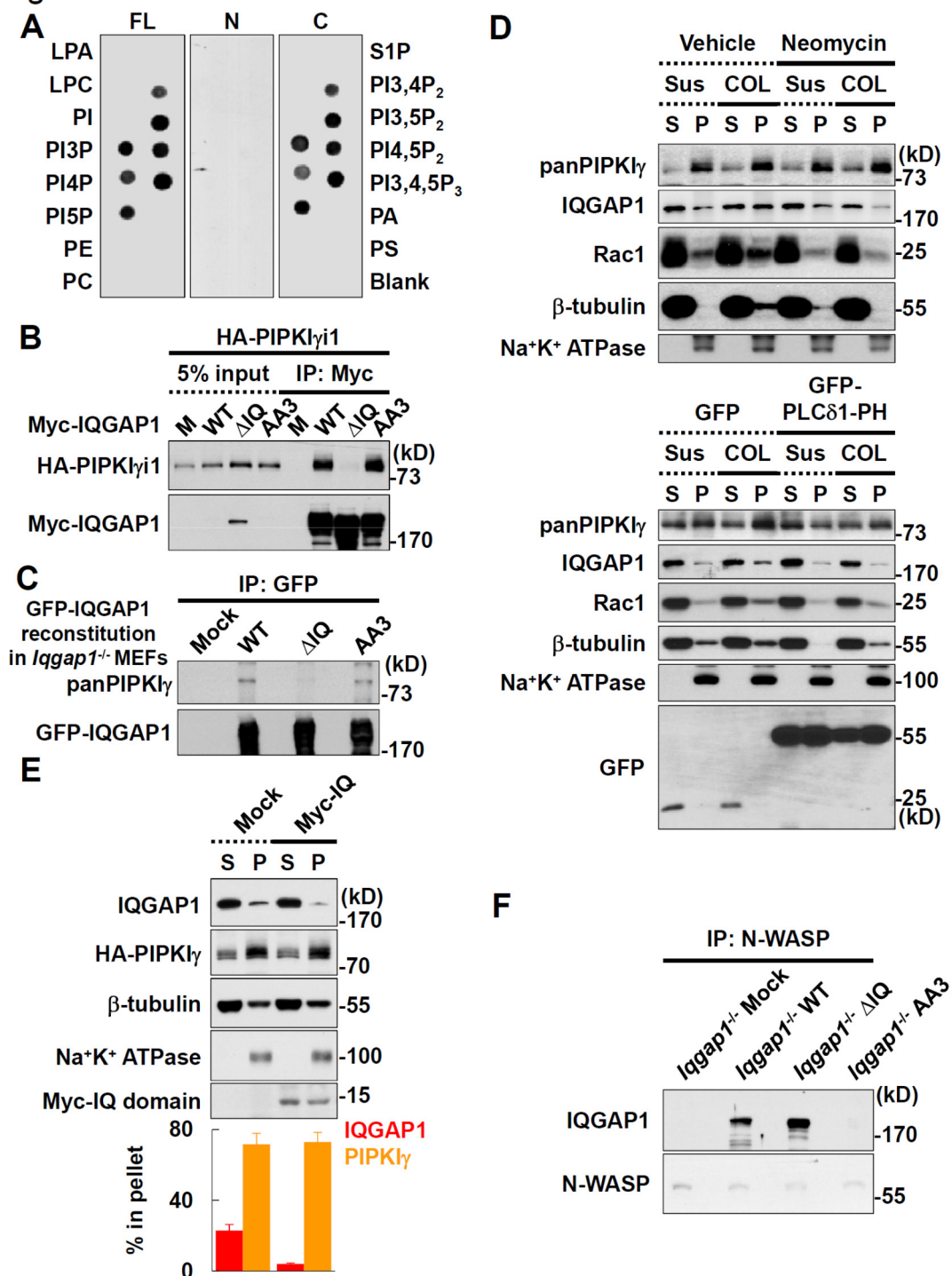


Figure 2.08. IQGAP1 interacts with PI4,5P₂ and sequestration of PI4,5P₂ blocks IQGAP1 targeting to membrane.

(A) 0.01 μ M of GST-tagged IQGAP1 full length (FL), N- or C-terminal half was incubated with Pip Strips (Eschelon Bioscience) for 1 h at room temperature and bound proteins were detected by immunoblotting with an anti-GST antibody. LPA, lysophosphatidic acid. LPC, lysophosphocholine. PE, phosphatidylethanolamine. PC, phosphatidylcholine. S1P, sphingosine 1-phosphate. PA, phosphatidic acid. PS, phosphatidylserine. (B) Myc-tagged IQGAP1 wild type or mutants was co-expressed with HA-tagged PIPKI γ 1 in HEK293 cells and exogenous IQGAP1 proteins were immunoprecipitated with an anti-Myc antibody. Immunoprecipitates were resolved by SDS-PAGE and the associated PIPKI γ 1 was analyzed by immunoblotting with an anti-HA antibody. (C) IQGAP1 proteins from the reconstituted MEFs were immunoprecipitated with an anti-GFP antibody. Immunoprecipitates were resolved by SDS-PAGE and the associated PIPKI γ was analyzed by immunoblotting with an anti-PIPKI γ antibody. (D) Before plating, MDA-MB-231 cells were treated with either vehicle or 1 mM neomycin (Calbiochem) for 10 min, or transfected with either vector control or GFP-PLC δ 1-PH for 24 h. Cells were plated on 10 ng/ml collagen I-coated culture dish for 1 h and similar fractionation assay was performed as Fig. 3 A. Equal amount of proteins (10 μ g each) were resolved by SDS-PAGE and analyzed by immunoblotting with the indicated antibodies. (E) MDA-MB-231 cells were transfected with Myc-IQ domain alone or mock control for 48 h. Cells were harvested with a hypotonic buffer and the membrane fraction was separated from the cytosolic fraction by centrifugation. 10 μ g of each protein was resolved by SDS-PAGE and analyzed by immunoblotting with the indicated antibodies (top). The percentage of protein bound in the pellet relative to total (S+P) was calculated by quantifying the immunoblots (bottom). Data are shown as mean \pm SD of three independent experiments. (F) Cell lysates from reconstituted MEFs were used for immunoprecipitating endogenous N-WASP. Immunoprecipitates were resolved by SDS-

PAGE and the associated IQGAP1 was analyzed by immunoblotting with an anti-IQGAP1 antibody. All the experiments described above were performed independently at least three times.

Figure 2.08



The IQGAP1 PI4,5P₂ binding mutant exhibited multiple leading edges and loss of migration: To determine how PI4,5P₂ binding modulates IQGAP1 function, the AA3 mutant was expressed in *Iqgap1* KO MEFs and the cell morphology was examined. When plated on a stiff substratum (glass or plastic) coated with COL, fibronectin or gelatin all types of cells indistinguishably highly spread and formed massive stress fibers (data not shown). Cytoskeleton organization and cell shape are greatly influenced by substrate stiffness [196], therefore cells were plated on pliant gelatin gel and cell morphology was observed by staining F-actin. Three distinct cell morphologies were observed compared to the star-shaped cells (type 1 morphology) that were predominant in WT MEFs. *Iqgap1* KO resulted in an increase in the number of cells with a single leading edge (type 2). Reconstitution of IQGAP1 WT partially recovered shapes of WT MEFs, whereas the Δ IQ mutant had a limited effect. Interestingly, the number of cells with multiple leading edges (type 3) was increased in the AA3 reconstituted cells (Figure 2.09 A). To closely examine localization of the reconstituted proteins, IQGAP1 was immunostained. WT IQGAP1 localized at the leading edge where active actin polymerization occurs. The Δ IQ mutant was largely cytoplasmic and failed to localize at the leading edge (Figure 2.09 B, arrowhead), supporting the results in Figure 2.05 indicating that the interaction with PIPKI γ controls IQGAP1 targeting.

The AA3 reconstituted cells formed multiple leading edges and the AA3 mutant localized at these sites (Figure 2.09 B). Consistent with this morphological phenotype, the AA3 reconstituted cells did not rescue haptotactic migration (Figure 2.09 C). The functional defects of AA3 were not due to a change in interaction with PIPKI γ as co-IP of the AA3 mutant with PIPKI γ was indistinguishable from that of WT IQGAP1 (Figure 2.08 B and C). Rather, the defects result from the loss of directional persistence (Figure 2.09 D and 2.06 A). This indicates that the IQGAP1 interaction with PIPKI γ is required for IQGAP1 targeting to the leading edge, but PI4,5P₂ binding is required for IQGAP1's role in normal membrane protrusions (lamellipodia formation) and migration.

Figure 2.09. PI4,5P₂-binding of IQGAP1 is important for cell morphology and migration.

For both A and B, *Iqgap1* KO MEFs, reconstituted with the indicated proteins, were plated on 0.2% gelatin gel for 3 h. Fixed cells were stained for IQGAP1 and F-actin. Cells were photographed at 600X magnification. (A) At least 300 cells were counted for each condition and categorized based on cell morphology (left). The graph is shown as mean of three independent experiments (right bottom). Expression levels of the proteins were analyzed by immunoblotting with antibodies against the indicated molecules (right top). (B) IQGAP1 and F-actin staining. Arrowhead indicates the lamellipodium that is deficient of the Δ IQ mutant. (C) With the reconstituted MEFs, fibronectin-induced haptotaxis was measured as described in Figure 2.03 E. (D) Reconstituted MEFs were plated on gelatin gel for 3 h before recording using time-lapse microscopy. Images were collected every minute for 6 h at 100X magnification and combined into a time-lapse movie. The migration path of six individual cells was then traced and plotted on a grid, with the origin of each cell placed in the center of the grid. All the experiments described above were performed independently at least three times.

Figure 2.09

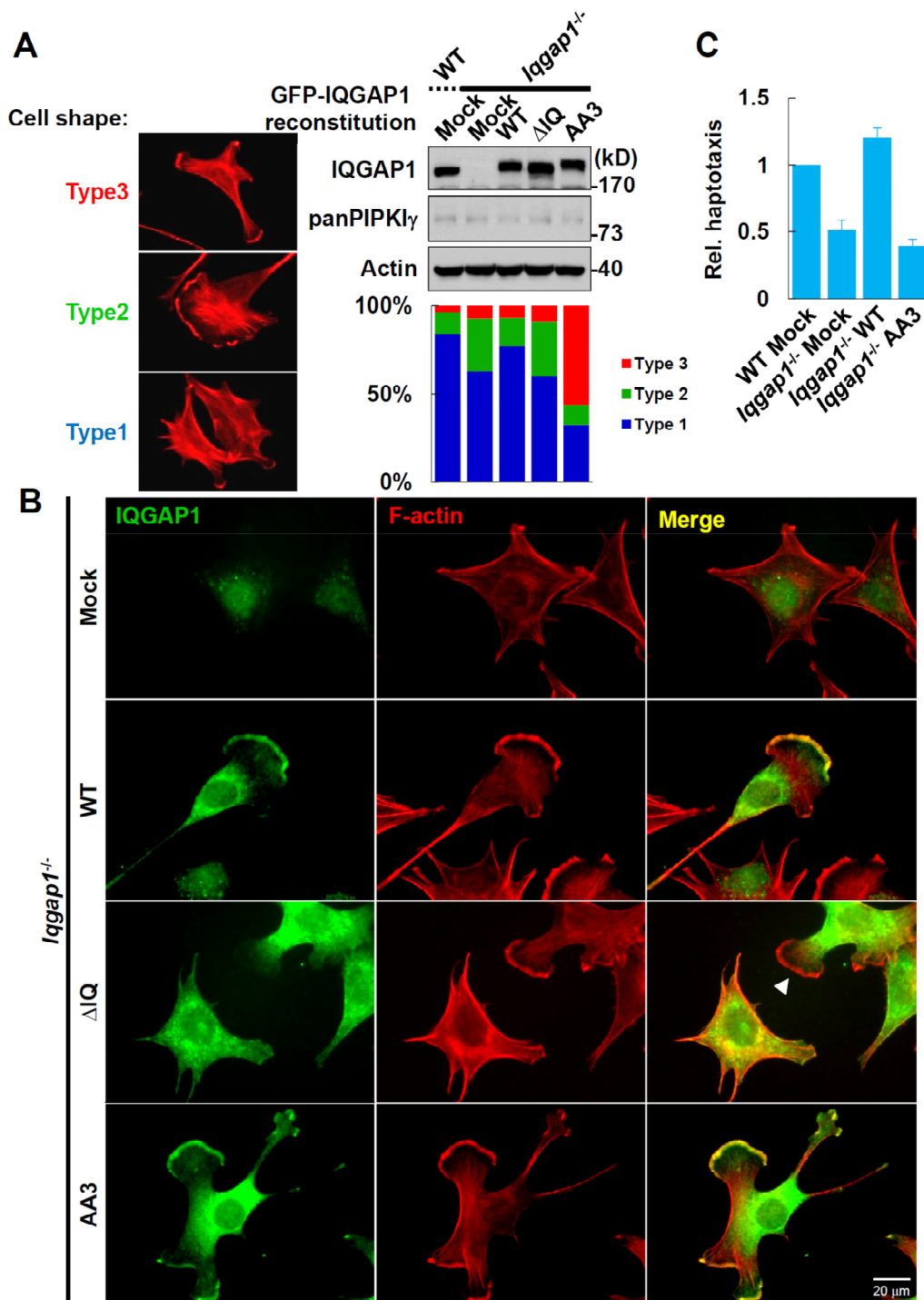
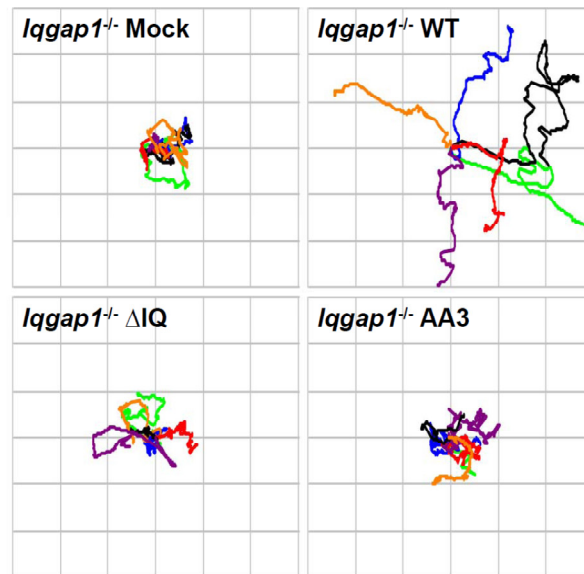


Figure 2.09 (cont.)

D

IQGAP1-PI4,5P₂ interaction regulates actin polymerization: Knockdown of PIPKI γ reduced IQGAP1 targeting to the leading edge membrane. Also, in knockdown cells actin polymerization at the leading edge, indicated by strong F-actin staining, was lost and stress fiber formation was increased (Figure 2.05 C and 2.10 A), signifying that PIPKI γ controls actin polymerization at the leading edge by regulating IQGAP1 targeting. However, the AA3 mutant is capable of interacting with PIPKI γ and localizes at the leading edge membrane, but forms multiple leading edges (Figure 2.09 B). These data suggest that PIPKI γ regulates activity of IQGAP1 required for persistent formation of a single leading edge.

IQGAP1 folds into an inactive conformation through an intramolecular interaction between the GRD and the RGCT domains [163]. RhoGTPase binding to the GRD or phosphorylation of Ser1443 disrupts autoinhibition and activates IQGAP1 [162]. We identified a PI4,5P₂ binding PBM within the RGCT domain close to Ser1443, suggesting that PI4,5P₂-binding to this PBM may open the inactive conformation [157, 161]. To test this hypothesis, we examined how phosphoinositides affect binding between the GRD and the RGCT domains. For this analysis His-C2 was incubated with immobilized GST-C1 (Figure 2.01 G) in the presence or absence of phosphoinositide-liposomes. In the absence of liposomes, C1 bound to C2 as reported [162]. Intriguingly, the binding was dramatically decreased in the presence of PI4,5P₂-liposomes, while other phosphoinositides or phosphatidylinositol had no significant effect. Introduction of the AA3 mutation in the C2 fragment eliminated the effect of PI4,5P₂ on the C1-C2 binding (Figure 2.10 B and Figure 2.11 C). Although the AA3 IQGAP1-C interacts with other phosphoinositide species, it lacks PI4,5P₂ binding (Figure 2.07 F). This indicates that there are multiple phosphoinositide binding sites in IQGAP1-C [174], but only PI4,5P₂ binding to the PBM modulates the activation of IQGAP1 as indicated by a loss of the C1-C2 interaction.

The C-terminal fragment of IQGAP1 (AA 746-1657) enhances actin polymerization by activating N-WASP [161]. Using this system, the influence of phosphoinositides in IQGAP1-

mediated actin polymerization was assessed. Since the actin polymerization activity of N-WASP is also regulated by PI4,5P₂, a N-WASP-ΔB mutant, which lacks the PI4,5P₂-responsive element [81], was used for this assay. Addition of PI4,5P₂-liposomes had no effect while addition of IQGAP1-C enhanced actin polymerization as shown [161]. Introduction of PI4,5P₂-liposomes in combination with WT IQGAP1-C significantly enhanced actin polymerization activity, whereas PI4,5P₂ had a limited effect on actin polymerization by the AA3 mutant (Figure 2.10 C). Strikingly, stimulation of actin polymerization was highly specific for PI4,5P₂ (Figure 2.11 A-D).

Figure 2.10. Phosphoinositide binding regulates IQGAP1 function in actin polymerization.

(A) Control or PIPKI γ knockdown MDA-MB-231 cells were grown on cover glass for 24 h. Cells were fixed and endogenous IQGAP1 and F-actin were stained. Cells were photographed at 600X magnification. (B) 0.05 μ M of His-C2 WT or AA3 mutant were incubated with 1 μ M of GST-C1 immobilized on glutathione beads in the absence or presence of the indicated phosphoinositide-liposomes (2 μ M) for 10 m. Liposome-bound proteins were detected by immunoblotting with an anti-His antibody. Immunoblots were quantified and the graph is shown as mean \pm SD of three independent experiments. (C) Actin polymerization in the presence of the indicated combinations of GST-IQGAP1-C (50 nM) or 5% PI4,5P₂-liposomes (2 μ M). The experiments described above were performed independently at least four times.

Figure 2.10

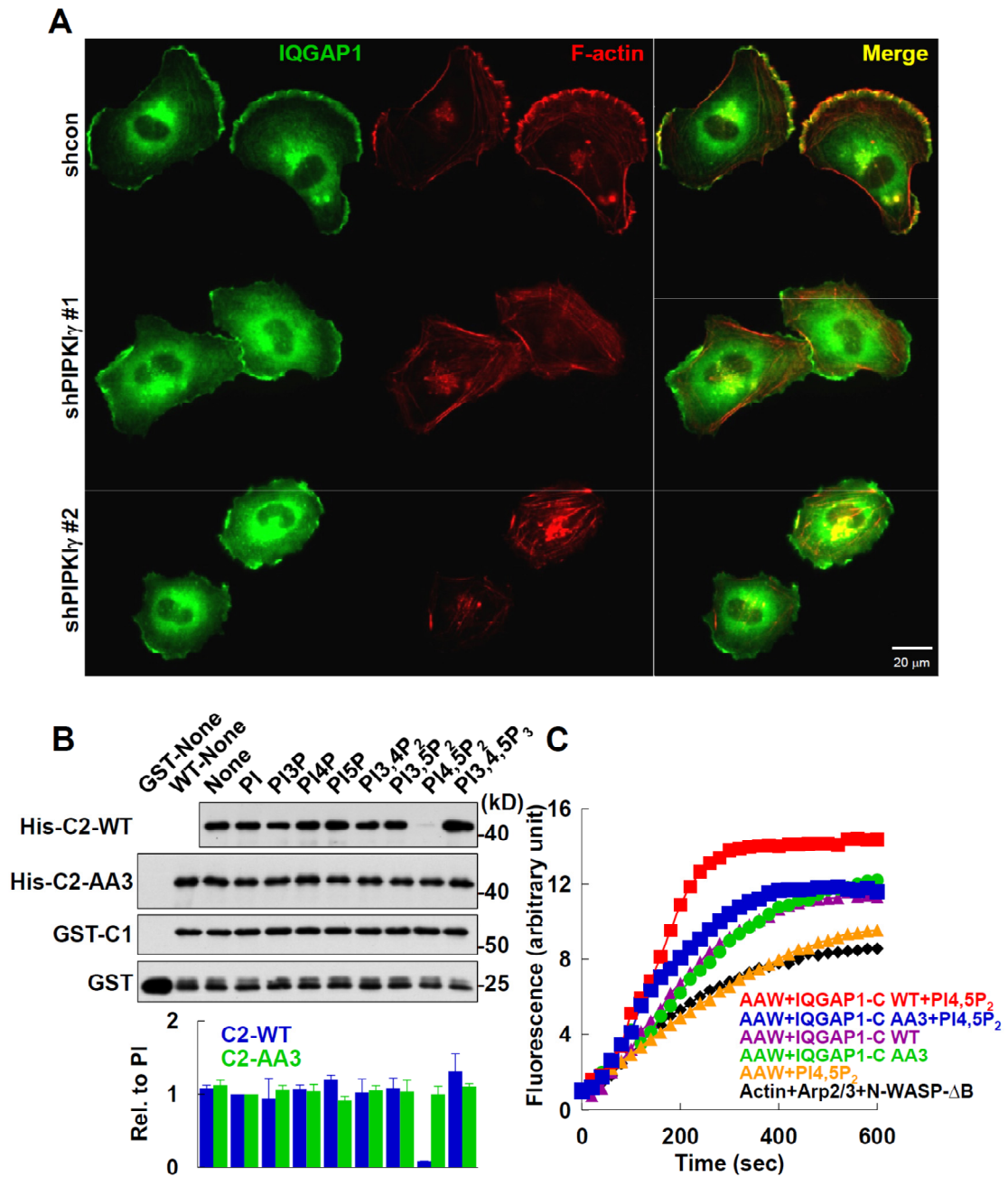
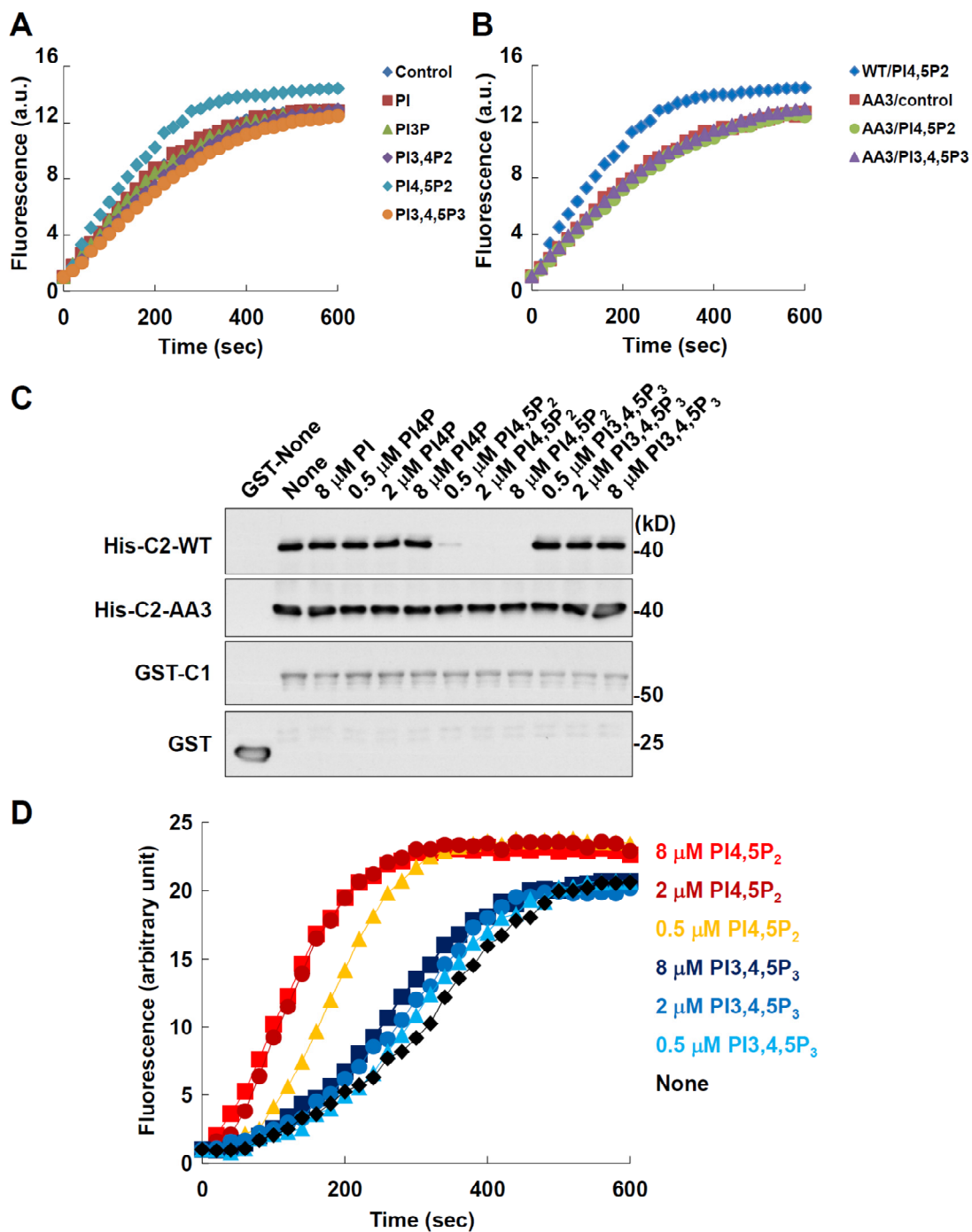


Figure 2.11. Enhancement of actin polymerization is specific to PI4,5P₂.

(A and B) Actin polymerization (1.5 μ M of pyrene-conjugated G-actin, 12.5 nM of Arp2/3 complex and 40 nM of N-WASP- Δ B) in the presence of the indicated combinations of GST-IQGAP1-C (50 nM) or 5% phosphoinositide-liposomes (2 μ M). (C) 0.1 μ M of His-C2 WT or AA3 mutant were incubated with 1 μ M of GST-C1 immobilized on glutathione beads in the absence or presence of the indicated phosphoinositide-liposomes for 10 m. Liposome-bound proteins were detected by immunoblotting with an anti-His antibody. (D) Actin polymerization was performed in the presence of 50 nM GST-IQGAP1-C with the indicated liposomes. All the experiments described above were performed independently at least three times.

Figure 2.11



Discussion:

Here, we define a novel mechanism for how PIPKI γ and IQGAP1 function together as a signaling nexus to regulate migration (Figure 2.12). In polarized epithelial cells, IQGAP1 is largely localized at the cell-cell contacts [53, 153, 158]. In directionally migrating cells, IQGAP1 translocates to the leading edge and facilitates actin polymerization. In detail, in response to receptor signaling, PIPKI γ associates with IQGAP1 and recruits IQGAP1 to the leading edge membrane. There, generation of PI4,5P₂ by PIPKI γ activates IQGAP1, as PI4,5P₂-binding to a PBM relieves autoinhibition between the RGD and RGCT domains. This allows the RGCT domain to recruit N-WASP and the Arp2/3 complex to facilitate actin polymerization (Figure 2.08 E) [163]. Overall, extracellular stimuli control the spatiotemporal activation of the PIPKI γ /IQGAP1 nexus to regulate actin polymerization required for persistent formation of lamellipodia and migration.

All PIPKI γ isoforms have the potential to interact with IQGAP1 (Figure 2.01 A) and this suggests that IQGAP1 may mediate isoform-specific functions at different compartments. For example, IQGAP1 is found in the nucleus and ectopic expression of IQGAP1 enhances transcriptional activity of β -catenin [172]. Similarly, PIPKI γ also modulates β -catenin-mediated transcriptional co-activation [197]. IQGAP1 associates with the exocyst complex and regulates cancer cell invasion a function also regulated by PIPKI γ 2 [173]. Here, we demonstrate that receptor signaling stimulates the recruitment of IQGAP1 to the leading edge through an interaction with PIPKI γ , likely the PIPKI γ 1 isoform (Figure 2.03 D). PIPKI γ 2 isoform plays an analogous role by interaction with talin, linking the trafficking of integrin-containing vesicles to talin rich adhesions [33].

The C-terminal half of IQGAP1 (IQGAP1-C) binds to different phosphoinositide species with a varying binding affinity (Figure 2.07 F). A recent study shows that very C-terminus of IQGAP1 (AA 1559-1657) forms a pseudo C2 domain fold and binds to class I

phosphoinositide 3-kinase products, PI3,4P₂ and PI3,4,5P₃ [174]. According to the solved structure Lys¹⁵⁶² and Lys¹⁶⁰⁴ are important for ligand recognition. Here we define a distinct PI4,5P₂-binding site at Lys¹⁵⁴⁶, Lys¹⁵⁴⁷, Lys¹⁵⁵⁴, Lys¹⁵⁵⁵, Lys¹⁵⁵⁷ and Lys¹⁵⁵⁸ (Figure 2.07). These data indicate that there could be multiple phosphoinositide binding sites on IQGAP1-C. Consistent with this possibility, the IQGAP1-C1 interaction with IQGAP1-C2 is specifically inhibited by PI4,5P₂, while mutating the six lysine residues blocks the inhibition (Figure 2.10 B). Further work is necessary to define other phosphoinositide binding sites on IQGAP1. These works will give us mechanistic insights into how IQGAP1 is found at the intracellular compartments where different phosphoinositide species are predominant [97, 151].

PIPKI γ regulates IQGAP1 targeting to the leading edge and this event requires PI4,5P₂ generation (Figure 2.05). IQGAP1 is widely believed to target to the PM by association with Rac1 and Cdc42 [153, 154, 163]. Rac1 and Cdc42 contain PBMs near the C termini and these PBMs contribute to membrane targeting [6, 191]. This raises the possibility that PI4,5P₂ controls IQGAP1 targeting to the PM by indirectly regulating Rac1 targeting. Consistently, sequestration of cellular PI4,5P₂ either by neomycin treatment [198] or PLC δ 1-PH expression [193] blocks both Rac1 and IQGAP1 translocation to membrane in response to integrin activation (Figure 2.08 D). To examine the sole contribution of the PI4,5P₂-binding for IQGAP1 targeting, we generated and expressed a PI4,5P₂-binding defective mutant in *Iqgap1*^{-/-} MEFs. The PI4,5P₂-binding defective mutant still localizes to the PM, while the PIPKI γ -binding defective (Δ IQ) mutant is largely cytosolic (Figure 2.09 B). These data indicate that the physical interaction between the two proteins is more important than PI4,5P₂-binding for IQGAP1 PM targeting.

Cells expressing the PI4,5P₂ binding mutant (AA3) form multiple leading edges, suggesting that PI4,5P₂ regulation of IQGAP1 is important for maintaining polarity and leading edge integrity (Figure 2.09 B). These cells exhibit perpetual formation and retraction of leading edges but display little movement (Figure 2.09 D). Consistent with this observation,

IQGAP1 is suggested to maintain polarity of migrating cells through local capture of MTs at the leading edge by interaction with MT regulators [54]. The interaction sites for these proteins are within the RGCT domain, which also contains the PI4,5P₂ binding site [147]. We envision that the autoinhibitory interaction between the GRD and RGCT domains may also block MT recruitment, and PI4,5P₂ binding may relieve this (Figure 2.05 A). In this model, the AA3 mutant may remain inactive at the leading edge and fail to recruit MTs, which would result in loss of cell polarity. Alternatively, multiple leading edges could be induced by perturbation of actin dynamics. In support of this possibility, cells display multiple leading edges after manipulation of certain actin regulatory proteins. For example, multiple leading edges also form in Cdc42 KO dendritic cells [199] and in Vero cells after expression of an IQGAP1 mutant that is defective in Rac1/Cdc42 binding [154].

Finally, multiple reports suggest roles for both PIPKI_γ and IQGAP1 in cancer metastasis [152, 172, 182]. The current findings define a molecular mechanism of how these two proteins interact and function together in migration and invasion, and potentially other processes required for cancer progression.

Materials and Methods:

Cell culture and constructs: MDA-MB-231, HEK 293, MCF-7 and MEF cells were maintained in DMEM supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (Gibco). MDCK and HeLa tet-off cells were cultured as previously described [41] and induction of transgene was achieved by removing of doxycycline from media for 24 h. The constructs used for this work are described previously [161, 164, 195, 200].

Stable cell line generation: To generate stable MDA-MB-231 cell lines, cells were transfected with vectors expressing DsRed-PIPKI γ isoforms using Lipofectamine 2000 (Invitrogen) and selected with 1.2 mg/ml Geneticin (Gibco) for 15 days, and further selected for DsRed expression using cell sorter. Cells expressing the transgene at a level similar to the endogenous level of PIPKI γ were used for experiments. For generation of stable in MEFs, cells were infected with retrovirus for 24 h. Then, cells expressing GFP-IQGAP1 were first selected for GFP expression, and then further sorted by expression level.

Antibodies and siRNAs: Monoclonal antibodies against IQGAP1, β -tubulin, Myc-tag, Na⁺K⁺ ATPase, GST-tag, His-tag (Millipore), α/β -tubulin, cyclin D1 (Cell Signaling Technology), Rac1, calnexin, GM-130 (BD Biosciences), HA-tag (Covance Biotechnology), actin (MP Biomedicals) and polyclonal antibody against IQGAP2 (Santa Cruz Biotechnology) were used for this study. Polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies against total and specific isoforms of PIPKI γ were produced as described previously [26]. Pooled siRNAs against PIPKI γ was obtained from Dharmacon and IQGAP1 from Santa Cruz Biotechnology.

IP and immunoblotting: Cells were lysed in a buffer containing 1% Brij58, 150 mM NaCl, 20 mM HEPES, pH 7.4, 2 mM MgCl₂, 2 mM CaCl₂, 1 mM Na₃VO₄, 1 mM Na₂MoO₄ and protease inhibitors. Protein concentration of lysates was measured by the BCA method (Pierce) and equal amounts of protein were used for further analysis. For IP, 0.5 to 1 mg of proteins were incubated with 1 μ g of antibodies at 4°C for 8 h and then incubated with a 50%

slurry of Protein G Sepharose (GE Life Sciences) for another 2 h. After washing 5X with lysis buffer, the protein complex was eluted with SDS sample buffer. For immunoblotting, 10 to 20 μg of proteins loaded. After developing immunoblots, the film was scanned using a transmitted light scanner (resolution = 600 dpi). Protein bands were quantified using ImageJ, and statistical analysis of the data was performed with Microsoft Excel. The statistical analysis was performed using data from at least three independent experiments.

***In vitro* binding assay:** Recombinant proteins were expressed in BL21 E. coli strain. GST-tagged proteins were then purified with GST Sepharose 4B (GE Life Sciences) and His-tagged proteins were purified with His-Bind Resin (Novagen). GST-tagged proteins were incubated with glutathione beads before binding assays. The binding assay was performed in the lysis buffer used for IP by adding 10 nM to 5 μM of His-tagged proteins and 20 μl of GST-tagged protein bound glutathione beads. After incubation for 1h at 25°C, unbound proteins were washed out and the protein complex was analyzed by immunoblotting. For the binding assay with liposomes, analysis was performed for 10 m at 25°C without detergent (150 mM KCl, 50 mM HEPES, pH 7.4, 2 mM MgCl_2 , 2 mM CaCl_2 , and protease inhibitors) to maintain the integrity of liposomes.

Transwell motility assay: Motility assays were performed with a Transwell (Corning) as before [190]. Briefly, an equal number of cells were loaded on the upper chamber and cells migrated toward attractants were fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde followed by staining with 0.5% crystal violet. Cells were counted from photographs taken from at least five random fields with a Nikon Eclipse TE2000U at 200X resolution. Statistical analysis was performed with Microsoft Excel, using data from at least three independent experiments. A Transwell with 3.0 μm pores was used for migration assay and 8.0 μm pores for invasion assay.

Subcellular fractionation assay: Cells were lysed in a hypotonic lysis buffer [191] for 10 m. Then cell lysates were homogenized with 15 strokes of a Dounce homogenizer.

Homogenates were centrifuged at 700 g for 3 m to pellet nuclei and intact cells. The supernatants were spun at 100,000 g for 30 m at 4°C to sediment particulates. The cytosol-containing supernatant was removed and the crude membrane pellet was gently washed with the lysis buffer. Protein concentration was determined in the membrane and cytosolic fractions. Equal amounts of protein were resolved by SDS-PAGE and further analyzed by immunoblotting.

Fluorescence microscopy: Glass coverslips were coated with 10 ng/ml COL, fibronectin, gelatin or 10% serum before seeding cells. For Figure 2.09, coverslips were coated as previously [173]. Cells were grown on coverslips placed inside 6-well plates until experimental manipulation. Coverslips were washed twice in 37°C PBS, and then fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde, followed by permeabilization with 0.5% Triton X-100 in PBS. The cells were then blocked for 1 h at 25°C in 3% BSA. Primary antibody incubation was performed at 4 °C for 12 h, while incubation with fluorophore-conjugated secondary antibodies occurred at 37°C for 45 m. Fluorescence microscopy was performed using a 60x plan-fluor objective on a Nikon Eclipse TE2000U equipped with a Photometrics CoolSNAP ES CCD camera. Images were captured using MetaMorph v6.3 (Molecular Devices). Images were exported to Photoshop CS2 (Adobe) for final processing and assembly.

Liposome sedimentation assay: Liposomes were prepared as previously described [195]. Dried lipids were resuspended with a buffer containing 150 mM KCl, 50 mM HEPES, pH 7.4, 2 mM MgCl₂, 2 mM CaCl₂ and 300 mM sucrose. After bath sonication for 20 m, the rehydrated lipids were subjected to at least 5 cycles of freezing and thawing and extruded through a 0.1 μm filter with a lipid extruder (Avanti). Liposome co-sedimentation assay was performed by mixing 0.5 μM of proteins with 2.5 μM of liposomes in the buffer without sucrose. After 10 m incubation at 25°C, samples were centrifuged at 100,000 g for 30 m at

4°C. Pellets were gently washed and resuspended in SDS sample buffer for a final volume equal to the supernatant. Samples were resolved by SDS-PAGE and proteins were detected by either Coomassie staining or immunoblotting.

Live cell imaging: Delta TPG dish (Fisher Scientific) were coated with a gelatin gel as previously [173]. Cells were seeded at a density of 1.0×10^4 cells/dish in L15 culture medium and placed in a temperature-controlled chamber of a Nikon Eclipse TE2000U. Time-lapse recording started 3 h after cell plating. Images were collected every 30 or 60 s for over 5 h with a Photometrics CoolSNAP ES CCD camera (Roper Scientific) operated by Metamorph image analysis software (Molecular Devices). Analyses of collected images including tracking the migration path of individual cells and generation of movies were performed with Metamorph.

Actin polymerization assay: Actin polymerization assay was performed as before [161]. Pyrene-conjugated G-actin (Cytoskeleton) was prepared according to the manufacturer's instructions. 12.5 nM of Arp2/3 complex and 40 nM of N-WASP- Δ B in the presence of GST-IQGAP1-C (50 nM) and/or 5% phosphoinositide-liposomes (2 μ M) were incubated for 5 m before the addition of 1.5 μ M of pyrene-conjugated G-actin stock. Fluorescence was read immediately after the addition of actin using a PC1 photon counting spectrofluorometer (ISS) set on kinetic mode to read every 20 s for the duration of the assay. PC1 setting was as followed: Excitation, 365 nm; emission 407 nm. Obtained fluorescence density was converted to arbitrary units.

Chapter 3

The Roles of Alpha Isoform of Type I PIP Kinase and IQGAP1 in The PI3K-Akt pathway

Chapter Summary:

Phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate (PI4,5P₂) serves as a substrate for class I phosphoinositide 3-kinases (PI3Ks) for PI3,4,5P₃ synthesis. Although the PI3K signaling pathway has been the subject of intensive study over the past two decades, investigation of the direct role for PI4,5P₂ synthesis in this process has been largely neglected. A prevailing assumption is that activated class I PI3Ks readily utilize the abundant PI4,5P₂ pool in the plasma membrane. However, recent studies suggest that the majority of PI4,5P₂ is sequestered by PI4,5P₂ binding proteins, protecting PI4,5P₂ from enzymatic turnover. Thus, class I PI3Ks might require *de novo* synthesis of PI4,5P₂ for efficient PI3,4,5P₃ production. In this study, we reveal that class I PI3Ks and PIPKI α , a PI4,5P₂ generating enzyme, are spatially organized by IQGAP1, a scaffold protein. In the IQGAP1-PIPKI α -PI3K complex PI4,5P₂ generated by PIPKI α is channeled to PI3K for PI3,4,5P₃ synthesis. Also, the organization is stimulated by integrin and growth factor receptor signaling. Moreover, blockade of the IQGAP1 interaction with the phosphoinositide kinases inhibits PI3,4,5P₃ synthesis and Akt activation. Collectively, our current study demonstrates an active role for PI4,5P₂ synthesis in the PI3K signaling.

Introduction:

Phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate (PI4,5P₂) is a lipid messenger regulating nearly every aspect of cellular function [7, 21, 97, 201]. PI4,5P₂ serves as a substrate for phospholipases and phosphoinositide 3-kinases (PI3Ks) to generate other messengers [202, 203], or PI4,5P₂ directly binds to its effector proteins and regulates their targeting and activities [21, 97]. To mediate these diverse processes, PI4,5P₂ is present at a relatively high concentration, with total cellular concentration of approximately 50 μM and concentration on the inner leaflet of the plasma membrane is estimated to be 5 mM, where the majority of PI4,5P₂ is found in the cell [2, 16]. The majority of the PI4,5P₂ pool is maintained by phosphorylation at the 5 hydroxyl of the myo-inositol ring of PI4P by type I phosphatidylinositol phosphate kinases (PIP1s). In human, there are three PIP1 isoforms (α , β and γ) with multiple splice variants [21, 22]. Despite of its abundance, sustained downstream signaling emanating from PI4,5P₂ requires continuous phosphorylation of PI4P by PIP1s [204-207] suggesting that functionally available PI4,5P₂ is present in a limited concentration in the cell.

Stimulation of receptor tyrosine kinases, G protein-coupled receptors and integrins leads to downstream activation of class I PI3Ks, which utilize PI4,5P₂ as a substrate to generate PI3,4,5P₃ [208]. Although class I PI3Ks catalyze phosphorylation of PI4,5P₂ at the 3 hydroxyl *in vitro* [209] and *in vivo* [2, 16, 210], however the cellular source of PI4,5P₂ used as substrate remains unstudied. An assumption is that PI4,5P₂ is available in excess for class I PI3Ks to synthesize PI3,4,5P₃, with cellular PI4,5P₂ concentration at least two orders of magnitude higher than that of PI3,4,5P₃ [2, 210]. This assumption is challenged by a recent finding that the majority of cellular PI4,5P₂ is sequestered from enzymatic modification and effector binding by a vast array of PI4,5P₂ binding proteins [5], suggesting that *de novo* synthesis of PI4,5P₂ by PIP1s is required for efficient PI3,4,5P₃ generation by class I PI3Ks. In line with this possibility, in *Dictyostelium*, depletion of a PIP1, that is responsible for approximately 90% of cellular PI4,5P₂ generation, attenuates Akt activity, a

readout of class I PI3K activity [140]. In human keratinocytes, knockdown of PIPKI α also reduces extracellular calcium-induced Akt activation [141]. In this particular study, knockdown of PIPKI α reduced approximately 40% of global PI4,5P₂ levels, but the reduction of PI3,4,5P₃ levels and Akt activation is much greater (up to approximately 90% reduction) suggesting that PI4,5P₂ and PI3,4,5P₃ synthesis might be locally organized and that only a specific pool of PI4,5P₂ (but not all) is available and responsible for PI3,4,5P₃ generation. The local organization of PI4,5P₂ and PI3,4,5P₃ synthesis is further supported by immunostaining analyses in migrating leukocytes [31]. PIPKI α and PIPKI γ are colocalized with PI3,4,5P₃ at the leading edges, suggesting that PI4,5P₂ synthesis by PIPKIs is coupled to PI3,4,5P₃ localization at the leading edges of migrating cell. However, the physical association of PIPKIs with class I PI3Ks remains untested.

IQ motif containing GTPase activating protein 1 (IQGAP1) is a multidomain protein that scaffolds multiple signaling pathways to regulate a plethora of cell functions, including migration, survival, proliferation and trafficking [150, 151, 163]. The scaffold role of IQGAP1 in the mitogen activated protein kinase (MAPK) pathway is best characterized. MAPK pathway components, such as Ras, Raf, MEK and Erk, directly interact with IQGAP1, which brings these kinases in close proximity to facilitate their sequential phosphorylation, activation and signaling [164-167]. In this way, IQGAP1 mediates MAPK pathway activation downstream of growth factor receptors in many different cell types [169, 170]. The scaffold role of IQGAP1 is not limited to the MAPK pathway. For example, roles for IQGAP1 in phosphoinositide, Wnt and integrin signaling were recently identified [10, 175, 211]. How IQGAP1 has such versatile roles in cells remains elusive. Notably, an unbiased quantitative study reveals that the messenger RNA and protein copy number of IQGAP1 is at least two orders of magnitude higher than that of its interacting proteins [149]. This suggests that IQGAP1 might be present in many discrete signaling complexes in a cell and even more IQGAP1-regulated signaling pathways are remained to be characterized. Although it is

shown that IQGAP1 is required for Akt activation in several stress conditions [171, 175], the role of IQGAP1 in the PI3K-Akt pathway is largely unknown.

In this study, we reveal that IQGAP1 interacts with PIPKI α and class I PI3K subunits, forming a complex containing two phosphoinositide kinases. Complex formation is enhanced by growth factor receptor and integrin activation, with the integrin-mediated pathway having a more profound effect. The two phosphoinositide kinases are brought in close proximity by IQGAP1, which allows for PI_{4,5}P₂ produced from PIPKI α to be channeled to PI3K for PI_{3,4,5}P₃ synthesis. Furthermore, blockade of IQGAP1 interaction with either PIPKI α or PI3K by cell permeable peptides inhibits PI_{3,4,5}P₃ synthesis and Akt activation in breast cancer cells. Collectively, our data strongly suggest that the majority of PI_{3,4,5}P₃ production requires spatiotemporal organization of PIPKI α and PI3K by IQGAP1 downstream of receptor activation.

Results:

PIPKI α and IQGAP1 are required for Akt activation: Previously we reported that type I γ phosphatidylinositol phosphate kinase (PIPKI γ) regulates directional cell migration by controlling IQGAP1 targeting and activity [10]. IQGAP1 interacts with numerous proteins that participate in diverse signaling pathways [150, 151, 172]. Potentially, IQGAP1 is able to function in multiple signaling pathways due to its abundance. A recent study showed that the IQGAP1 protein copy number is at least 100 times higher than other signaling proteins [149]. In line with this, recent studies have revealed that IQGAP1 is implicated in previously unidentified signaling pathways [167, 211]. To further investigate the roles of IQGAP1 with PIPKs, IQGAP1 was immunoprecipitated from Hs578T breast cancer cell lysates and associated proteins were analyzed by immunoblotting. PIPKI γ [10] and IQGAP2 [212] are coimmunoprecipitated with IQGAP1 as previously shown. Further, PIPKI α also coimmunoprecipitated with IQGAP1, with more PIPKI α associated with IQGAP1 than PIPKI γ (Figure 3.01 A). To directly compare binding affinity, equal amounts of recombinant PIPKs were used for *in vitro* binding assays. As shown in Figure 3.01 B, PIPKI α directly binds to IQGAP1 and PIPKI α has at least 10 fold higher binding affinity for IQGAP1 than PIPKI γ . This is also true *in vivo*, as approximately 8.5 times more PIPKI α is coimmunoprecipitated with IQGAP1 than PIPKI γ (Figure 3.01 C). Interestingly, class I PI3K subunits p110 α , p110 β and p85 are also coimmunoprecipitated with IQGAP1 as well as a class I PI3K downstream molecule Akt (Figure 3.01 A). These data indicate that IQGAP1 might have a role in the PI3K-Akt pathway.

To examine if IQGAPs and PIPKs have roles in PI3K-Akt signaling, proteins were knocked down by transiently transfecting small interfering RNAs (siRNAs) in Hs578 breast cancer cells and Akt activation was measured by immunoblotting phosphorylated Akt as a readout for the PI3K-Akt pathway [202, 213]. Knockdown of IQGAP1, but not IQGAP2, significantly reduced Akt phosphorylation. Amongst the three PIPKI isoforms, only PIPKI α

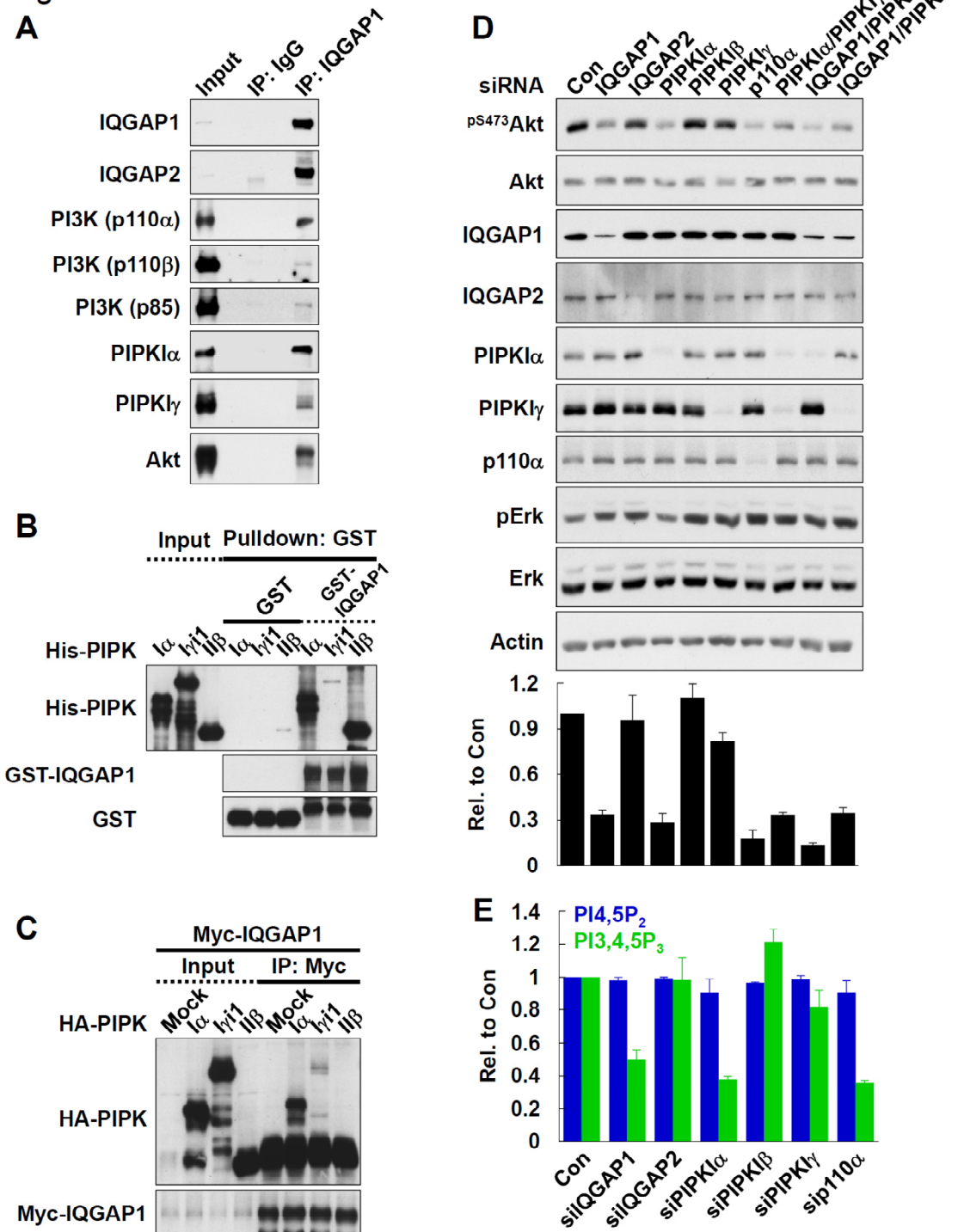
knockdown significantly reduced Akt phosphorylation. Double knockdown of IQGAP1 and PIPKI α further reduced Akt phosphorylation that is comparable to knockdown of PI3K subunit p110 α (Figure 3.01 D).

Knockdown of PIPKI α might reduce cellular PI4,5P₂ levels, diminishing its availability as substrate for class I PI3Ks to produce PI3,4,5P₃ that is required for Akt phosphorylation. In *Dictyostelium*, it was demonstrated that depletion of a PIPKI reduces approximately 90% of cellular PI4,5P₂ levels and results in attenuation of Akt phosphorylation [140]. To directly measure how IQGAPs and PIPKs regulate cellular PI4,5P₂ and PI3,4,5P₃ levels, lipids from the same number of the siRNA transfected cells were extracted and used for a quantitative assay (see Materials and Methods). As shown in Figure 3.01 E, knockdown of IQGAP1 and PIPKI α reduced cellular PI3,4,5P₃ levels approximately 50% and 60%, respectively. These data indicate that the attenuation of Akt phosphorylation by knockdown of IQGAP1 and PIPKI α is likely resulted from defective PI3,4,5P₃ synthesis. However, global PI4,5P₂ levels remain unchanged ruling out the possibility that diminished Akt phosphorylation by knockdown of IQGAP1 and PIPKI α is due to defective global PI4,5P₂ synthesis (Figure 3.01 E). This is consistent with previous studies that in mammalian cells unlike in *Dictyostelium* depletion of individual PIPKI isoforms has no significant impact on global PI4,5P₂ levels [41, 45].

Figure 3.01. PIPKI α and IQGAP1 are required for the PI3K-Akt pathway.

(A) Endogenous IQGAP1 was immunoprecipitated from Hs578T breast cancer cell lysates and the associated protein complex was analyzed by immunoblotting with the indicated antibodies. Isotype immunoglobulin (IgG) was used as a control. (B) 1 μ M His-tagged PIPK isoforms were incubated with 1 μ M GST alone or GST-tagged IQGAP1 immobilized on glutathione beads. PIPK isoforms that are associated with GST-IQGAP1 were analyzed by immunoblotting with an anti-His antibody. (C) Myc-IQGAP1 and HA-PIPK isoforms were co-expressed in HEK293 cells. Myc-IQGAP1 was immunoprecipitated with an anti-Myc antibody and the associated PIPK isoforms were analyzed by immunoblotting with an anti-HA antibody. (D) Small interfering (si) RNAs against IQGAP1, IQGAP2, PIPKI α , PIPKI β , PIPKI γ or PI3K p110 α subunit were transfected singly or in the indicated combinations in Hs578T cells for 48 h. Non-targeting siRNA was used as a control. Cell lysates were analyzed by immunoblotting with the indicated antibodies (top). ^{pS473}Akt immunoblots were quantified and the graph is shown as mean \pm SD of three independent experiments (bottom). (E) Hs578T cells were transfected with siRNAs against the indicated proteins for 48 h. Lipids were extracted from the cells and analyzed for PI4,5P₂ and PI3,4,5P₃ content using kits from Echelon Biosciences. The graph is shown as mean \pm SD of three independent experiments. The experiments described above were performed independently at least four times.

Figure 3.01



IQGAP1 mediates a physical interaction between PIPKI α and PI3K: Next we further investigated how knockdown of IQGAP1 or PIPKI α attenuates Akt activation without compromising global PI4,5P₂ levels. Early studies estimated that cellular PI4,5P₂ levels are three orders of magnitude higher than that of PI3,4,5P₃ [2, 16] and this lead scientists to believe that PI4,5P₂ is passively utilized by class I PI3Ks for PI3,4,5P₃ generation. However, more recent studies suggest that the majority of cellular PI4,5P₂ is sequestered by a set of PI4,5P₂-binding proteins and, consequently, enzymatically inert [5, 21]. Thus, *de novo* synthesis of PI4,5P₂ might be required for PI3Ks to efficiently produce PI3,4,5P₃ at a specific time and location. This raises a possibility that local organization of PIPKI α and PI3K with IQGAP1 might be required for PI3,4,5P₃ generation and Akt activation. To test this possibility, we first examined their association by immunoprecipitation. Endogenous IQGAP1, PIPKI α and p110 α subunit of class I PI3K were immunoprecipitated and the association was examined by immunoblotting. As shown in Figure 3.02 A, all three proteins coimmunoprecipitate with one another, indicating that IQGAP1, PIPKI α and p110 α form a complex *in vivo*. Their subcellular localization was examined by immunostaining. As class I PI3K immunostaining with multiple commercially available antibodies produced diffuse signals throughout cells, PI3,4,5P₃ immunostaining was instead used to probe activated class I PI3K in cells [31]. As shown in Figure 3.02 B, PIPKI α and PI3,4,5P₃ colocalize with IQGAP1 at the plasma membrane (white arrow heads).

Next, how IQGAP1 regulates PIPKI α and PI3K association was tested in Hs578T breast cancer cells. Knockdown of IQGAP1 diminished p110 α coimmunoprecipitation with PIPKI α indicating that IQGAP1 is necessary for the PIPKI α -PI3K interaction (Figure 3.02 C). However, neither knockdown of PIPKI α affects the IQGAP1-PI3K interaction (Figure 3.02 D) nor knockdown of p110 α affects the IQGAP1-PIP KI α interaction (Figure 3.02 E). To test if IQGAP1 is sufficient to regulate the PIPKI α -PI3K interaction, IQGAP1 was overexpressed in HEK293 cells and the interaction was examined by immunoprecipitation. Overexpression of

IQGAP1 significantly increases PIPKI α coimmunoprecipitation with p110 α (Figure 3.02 G) indicating that IQGAP1 is present in a limiting concentration in HEK293 cells for the PIPKI α -PI3K interaction. These data suggest that IQGAP1 mediates an interaction between PIPKI α and PI3K *in vivo*.

Next it was examined how IQGAP1 controls the PIPKI α -PI3K interaction *in vitro* using purified recombinant proteins (Figure 3.02 H). At first, as shown in Figure 3.03 A and B, IQGAP1-N fragment but not IQGAP1-C fragment directly binds to class I PI3K. However, PIPKI α does not directly bind to class I PI3K. To test how IQGAP1 regulates the two phosphoinositide kinases' interaction, class I PI3K was incubated with PIPKI α in the presence of increasing amounts of IQGAP1. Then, PIPKI α was pulled down and the associated IQGAP1 and class I PI3K were examined by immunoblotting. In increasing amount of IQGAP1-N fragment, the amount of IQGAP1-N fragment associated with PIPKI α is increased and then saturated. In these conditions, PI3K subunits associated with PIPKI α are also increased and then saturated. As PIPKI α and PI3K are not directly bind (Figure 3.03 A), these data indicate that IQGAP1 mediates a physical interaction between PIPKI α and PI3K *in vitro*.

Figure 3.02. IQGAP1 mediates a physical interaction between PIPKI α and PI3K *in vitro* and *in vivo*.

(A) Endogenous IQGAP1, PIPKI α and p110 α were immunoprecipitated from Hs578T cell lysates. Isotype immunoglobulin (IgG) was used as a control. Associated proteins were analyzed by immunoblotting with the indicated antibodies. (B) MDA-MB-231 cells grown on a slide glass were fixed and immunostained with endogenous molecules. Cells were photographed under 400X magnification. White arrow heads indicate regions that the three molecules are colocalized in the plasma membrane. (C) Hs578T cells were transfected with non-targeting or IQGAP1 siRNA for 48 h. PIPKI α was immunoprecipitated and associated p110 α was analyzed by immunoblotting. (D) Hs578T cells were transfected with non-targeting or PIPKI α siRNA for 48 h. IQGAP1 was immunoprecipitated and associated p110 α was analyzed by immunoblotting. (E) Hs578T cells were transfected with non-targeting or p110 α siRNA for 48 h. IQGAP1 was immunoprecipitated and associated PIPKI α was analyzed by immunoblotting. (F) HEK293 cells were transfected with empty vector (Mock) or Myc-IQGAP1 for 48 h. P110 α was immunoprecipitated and associated PIPKI α was analyzed by immunoblotting. (G) Immunoblots for (F) were quantified and the graph is shown as mean \pm SD of three independent experiments. (H) 1 μ M PIPKI α was incubated with 3 μ M PI3K in the presence of 0-10 μ M GST-IQGAP1-N. PIPKI α was pulled down with an anti- PIPKI α antibody immobilized on beads and associated proteins were analyzed by immunoblotting with the indicated antibodies. The experiments described above were performed independently at least four times.

Figure 3.02

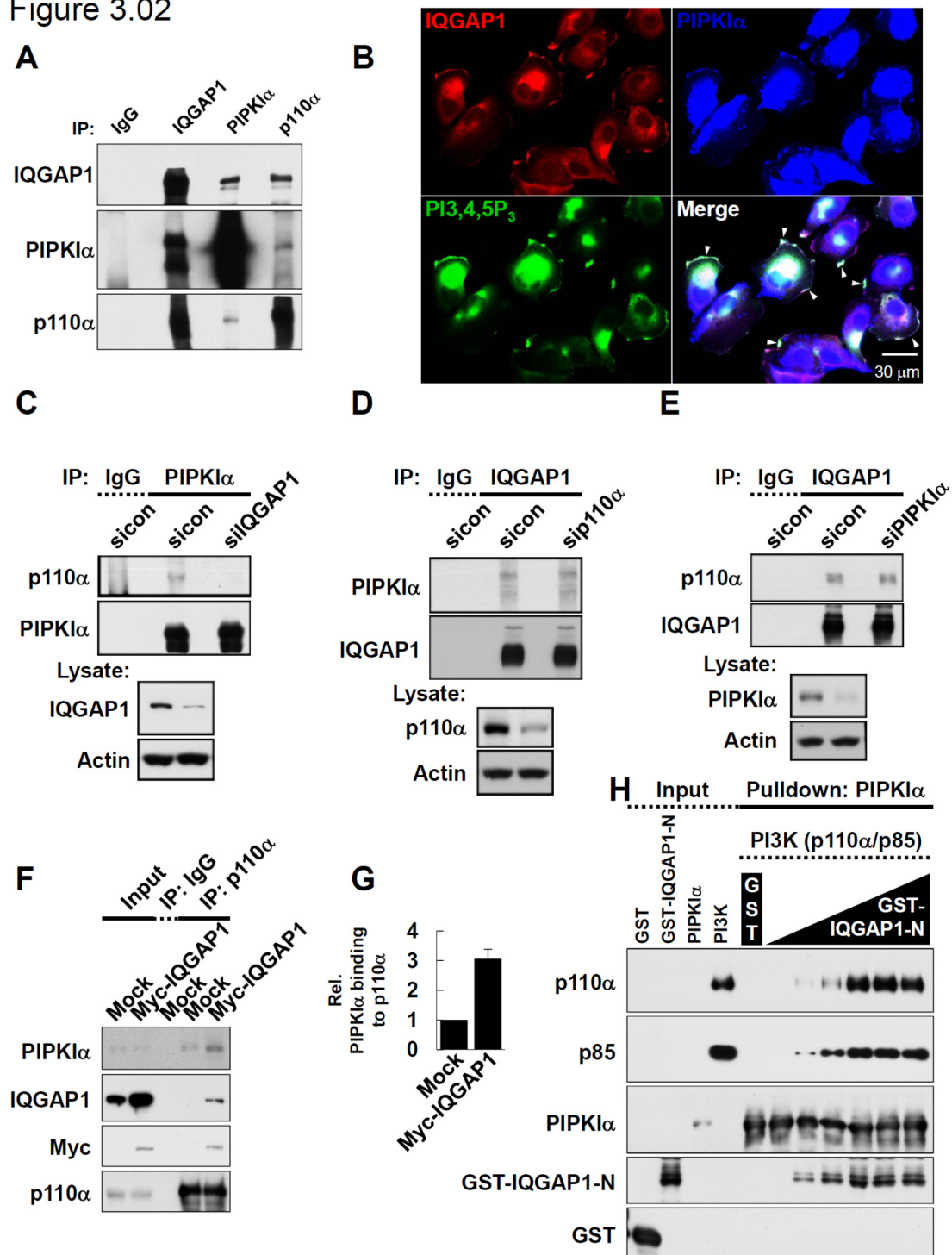
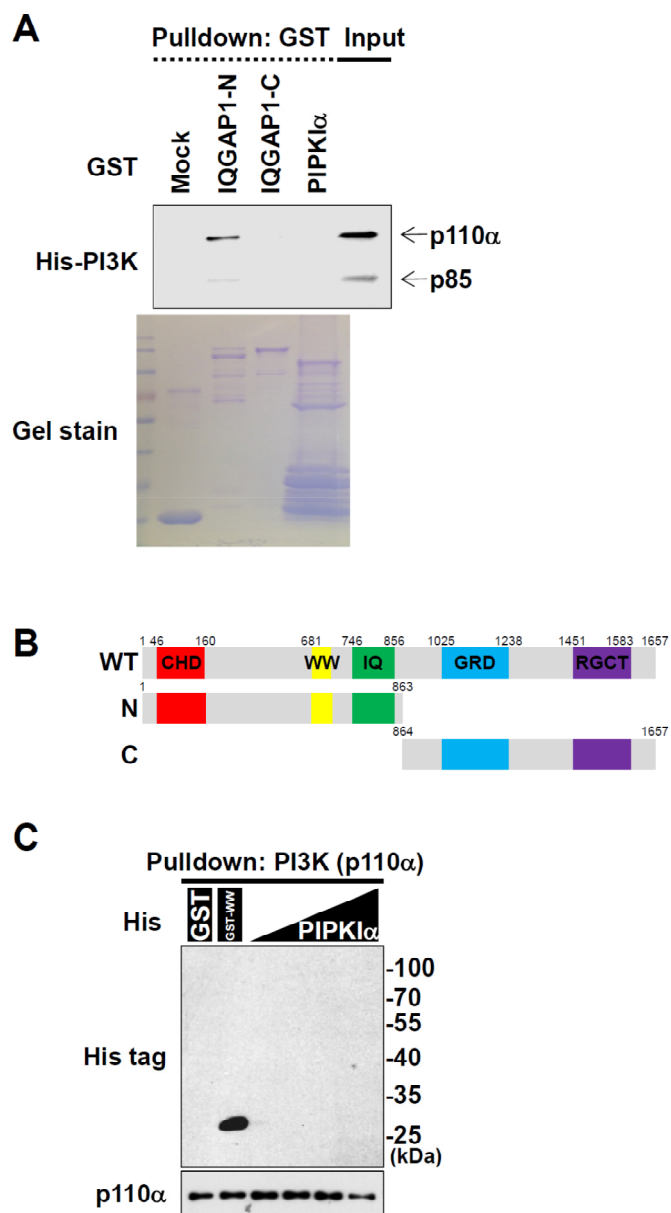


Figure 3.03. PIPKI α and PI3K do not directly interact.

(A) GST-tagged IQGAP1 fragments and PIPKI α immobilized on glutathione beads were incubated with His-PI3K. Associated PI3K was analyzed by immunoblotting with an anti-His antibody. IQGAP1-N fragment directly binds to PI3K, whereas IQGAP1-C fragment or PIPKI α does not. (B) Schematic representation of IQGAP1-N and -C fragments used for *in vitro* binding assays. (C) His-tagged GST alone, GST-WW domain and PIPKI α were incubated with untagged PI3K. PI3K was immunoprecipitated with a p110 α antibody and the associated proteins were analyzed by immunoblotting with an anti-His antibody.

Figure 3.03



PI4,5P₂ produced by PIPK α is channeled to PI3K for PI3,4,5P₃ generation: PIPK α and PI3K are spatially organized in a complex by IQGAP1 and this might coordinate enzymatic activities of the two phosphoinositide kinases. PIPK α generates PI4,5P₂ from PI4P and class I PI3K generates PI3,4,5P₃ using PI4,5P₂ as substrate. To test how IQGAP1 mediates enzymatic reactions of PIPK α and PI3K, *in vitro* kinase assays were performed using PI4P as a substrate and the amounts of PI4,5P₂ and PI3,4,5P₃ generated were measured. As shown in Figure 3.04 A, PIPK α alone or in combination with IQGAP1 fragments produced a negligible amount of PI3,4,5P₃, whereas PIPK α in combination with PI3K produced detectable amount of PI3,4,5P₃, suggesting that the *in vitro* kinase assay system is functioning. In these conditions, addition of IQGAP1-N fragment significantly enhanced PI3,4,5P₃ production (approximately 4.1-fold), whereas IQGAP1-C fragment had no additional effect. These data indicate that IQGAP1-N fragment facilitates PI3,4,5P₃ production from PI4P by physically linking PIPK α and PI3K. Interestingly, PI4,5P₂ production was significantly reduced by addition of IQGAP1-N fragment suggesting that PI4,5P₂ generated by PIPK α is utilized by PI3K for PI3,4,5P₃ generation. As IQGAP1-N fragment does not enhance enzyme activity of PIPK α (compare PI4,5P₂ levels in PIPK α column to PIPK α +IQGAP1-N column in Figure 3.04 A) and PI3K (Figure 3.04 B), these data collectively indicate that *in vitro* PI4,5P₂ produced by PIPK α is channeled to PI3K for PI3,4,5P₃ generation in a complex with IQGAP1.

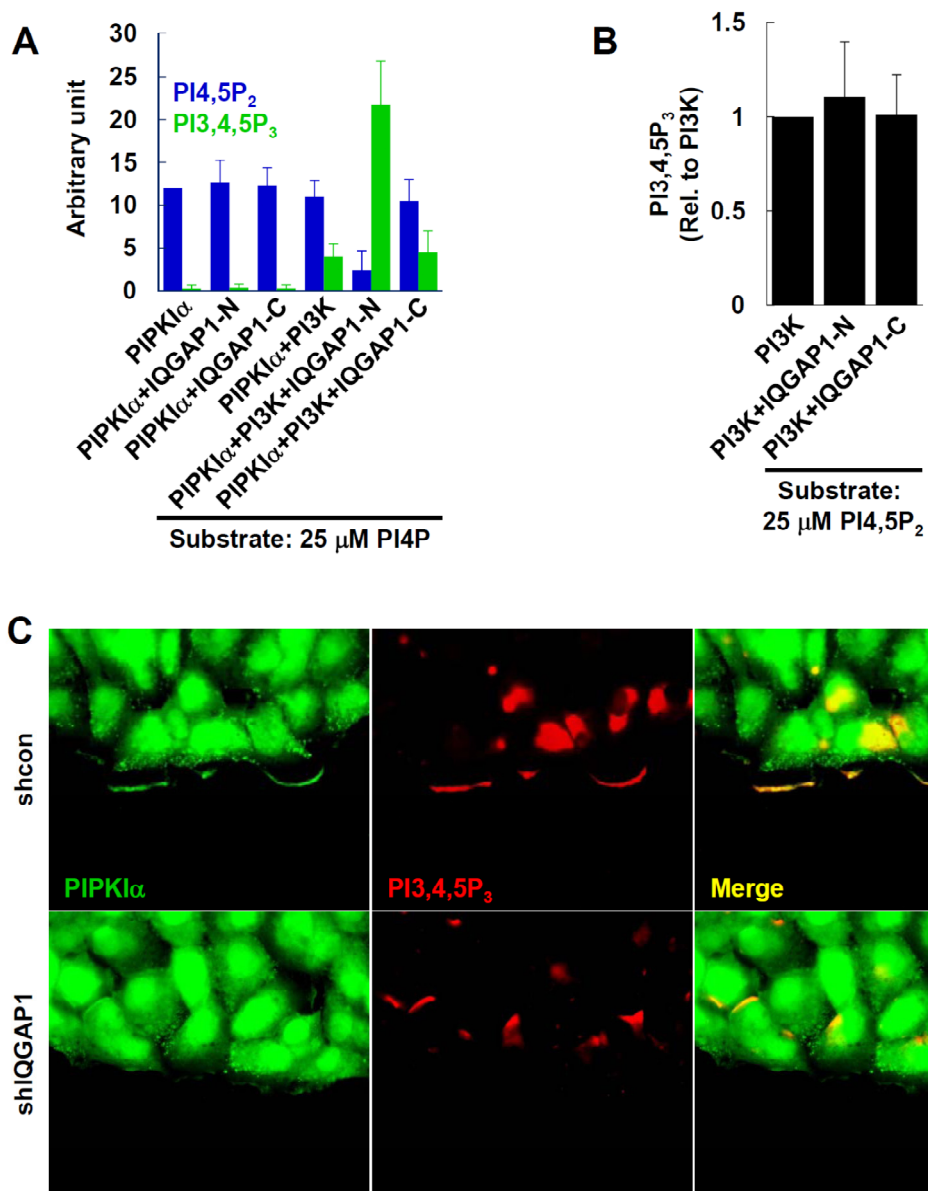
To test whether IQGAP1 mediates PI4,5P₂ generation coupling to PI3,4,5P₃ generation *in vivo*, an immunostaining approach was employed. PI4,5P₂ and PI3,4,5P₃ co-staining would be ideal for this purpose, but we found that co-staining is technically impossible as previously reported [31], whereas co-staining of PIPK α and PI3,4,5P₃ provides discrete signals. As class I PI3K and PI3,4,5P₃ are reportedly confined to the leading edges of migrating cells [214], cells migrating into scratch wounds were fixed for immunostaining PIPK α and PI3,4,5P₃. 3 h after scratching, control cells form larger

protrusions into the wounds, whereas IQGAP1 knockdown cells have much smaller protrusions (Figure 3.04 C). PIPKI α colocalizes with PI3,4,5P₃ at the leading edges in control cells. However, in IQGAP1 depleted cells, there is a dramatic reduction of PIPKI α signals at the leading edges, indicating IQGAP1 regulates PIPKI α localization at the leading edges. Interestingly, PI3,4,5P₃ signals at the leading edges are almost lost by IQGAP1 knockdown, whereas signals elsewhere are intact. As PI3K and PI3,4,5P₃ are indispensable for lamellipodium formation [49, 55, 143, 215], the smaller protrusions in IQGAP1 knockdown cells could be the result of defective PI3K activation at the leading edges. These data indicate that *de novo* PI4,5P₂ synthesis by PIPKI α colocalizes with PI3,4,5P₃ at the leading edges of migrating cells.

Figure 3.04. PI4,5P₂ produced by PIPKI α is channeled to PI3K for PI3,4,5P₃ generation.

(A) 0.02 μ M PIPKI α , PI3K and IQGAP1-N or-C were mixed in the indicated combinations and used for *in vitro* kinase assays with 25 μ M PI4P as a substrate. PI4,5P₂ and PI3,4,5P₃ generated were measured by kits from Echelon Biosciences. The graph is shown as mean \pm SD of four independent experiments. (B) PI3,4,5P₃ generation from 25 μ M PI4,5P₂ by PI3K and IQGAP1 fragments was measured. The graph is shown as mean \pm SD of three independent experiments. (C) Cells expressing empty vector (shcon) or shRNA against IQGAP1 (shIQGAP1) were grown to confluence. Cells were wounded and fixed 3 h later, followed by immunostaining for PIPKI α and PI3,4,5P₃. Cells were photographed at 400X magnification. All the experiments described above were performed independently at least three times.

Figure 3.04



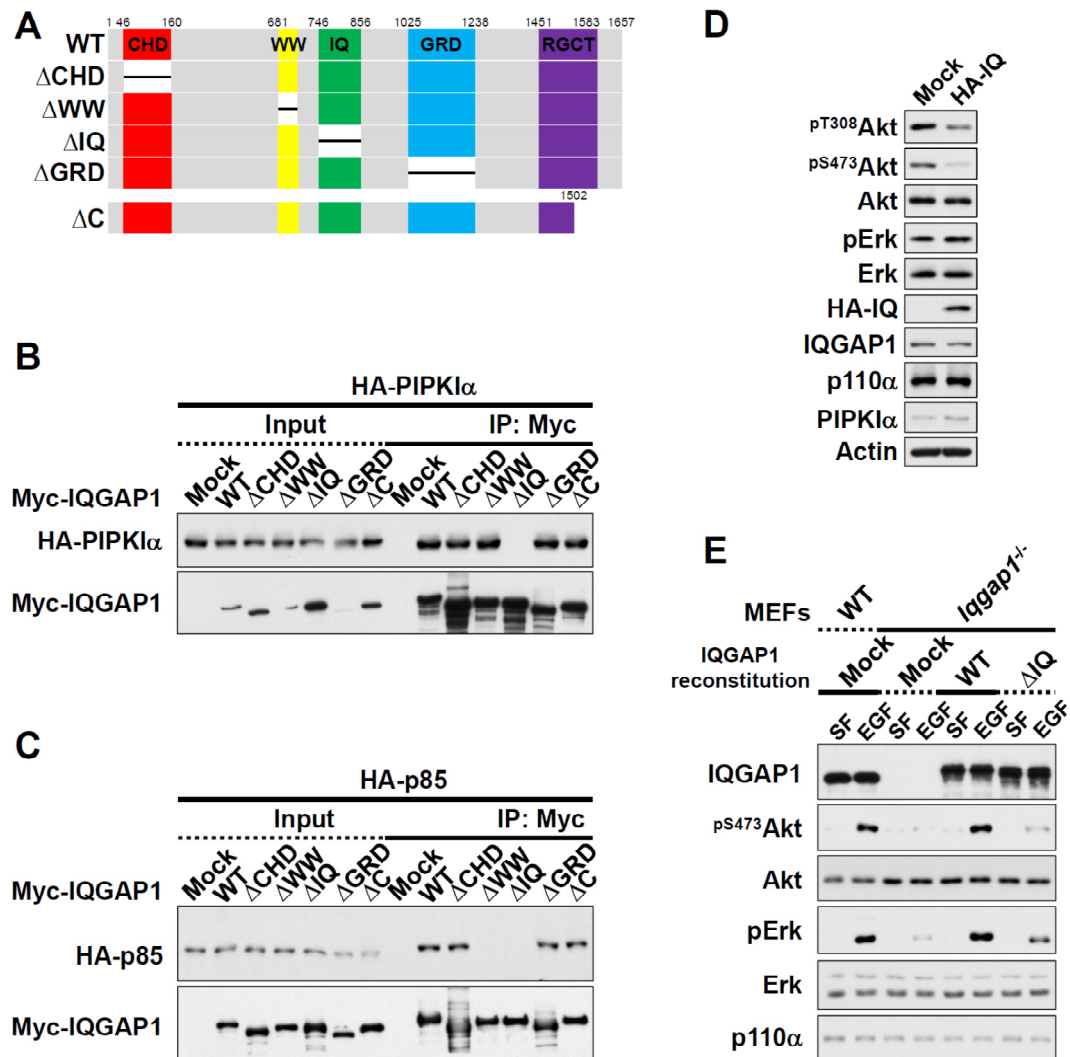
The WW and IQ domains mediate IQGAP1 interactions with PIPKI α and PI3K: We next tested the PIPKI α and class I PI3K binding sites on IQGAP1. IQGAP1 contains five different domains that mediate protein-protein interactions (Figure 3.05 A) [150, 152, 172]. Wild type or truncation mutants of each domain were used to define the binding sites by immunoprecipitation. Deletion of the IQ domain dramatically reduced PIPKI α coimmunoprecipitation with IQGAP1 suggesting the IQ domain is required for the interaction (Figure 3.05 B). Also, the IQ domain alone is sufficient to interact with PIPKI α ([10] and data not shown). For IQGAP1 interaction with class I PI3K, the WW and IQ domain are required (Figure 3.05 C) and the WW domain is sufficient to interact with PI3K (Figure 3.03 B).

As the IQ domain is responsible for IQGAP1 interaction with PIPKI α and class I PI3K, we reasoned that ectopic expression of the IQ domain alone might inhibit the PI3K-Akt pathway by competition with endogenous IQGAP1 for PIPKI α and class I PI3K binding. To test this, the IQ domain was stably expressed in Hs578T breast cancer cells and Akt activation was measured by immunoblotting phosphorylated Akt at Thr308 and Ser473 residues [213]. As shown in Figure 3.05 D, overexpression of the IQ domain reduced Akt phosphorylation suggesting that PIPKI α and PI3K interaction with IQGAP1 is required for Akt activation. Consistently, the IQ domain is required for EGF-stimulated Akt activation (Figure 3.05 E).

Figure 3.05. The WW and IQ domains are required for IQGAP1 interaction with PIPKI α and PI3K.

(A) Schematic representation of IQGAP1 domains and IQGAP1 constructs used. (B) HA-PIPKI α and Myc-IQGAP1 truncation constructs were co-transfected in HEK293 cells for 48 h. Myc-IQGAP1 proteins were immunoprecipitated with an anti-Myc antibody and associated PIPKI α was analyzed by immunoblotting with an anti-HA antibody. (C) HA-p85 subunit of PI3K and Myc-IQGAP1 truncation constructs were co-transfected in HEK293 cells for 48 h. Myc-IQGAP1 proteins were immunoprecipitated with an anti-Myc antibody and associated p85 was analyzed by immunoblotting with an anti-HA antibody. (D) Empty vector (Mock) and HA-IQ domain was stably expressed in Hs578T cells. Cell lysates were analyzed by immunoblotting with the indicated antibodies. (E) *Iqgap1* knockout mouse embryonic fibroblasts (MEFs) were reconstituted with human wild type or the Δ IQ mutant. Confluent cells were treated with 10 ng/ml EGF or vehicle control for 30 m. SF, serum free. Cell lysates were examined by immunoblotting with the indicated antibodies.

Figure 3.05



Cell permeable peptides corresponding to the WW domain and IQ motifs of IQGAP1

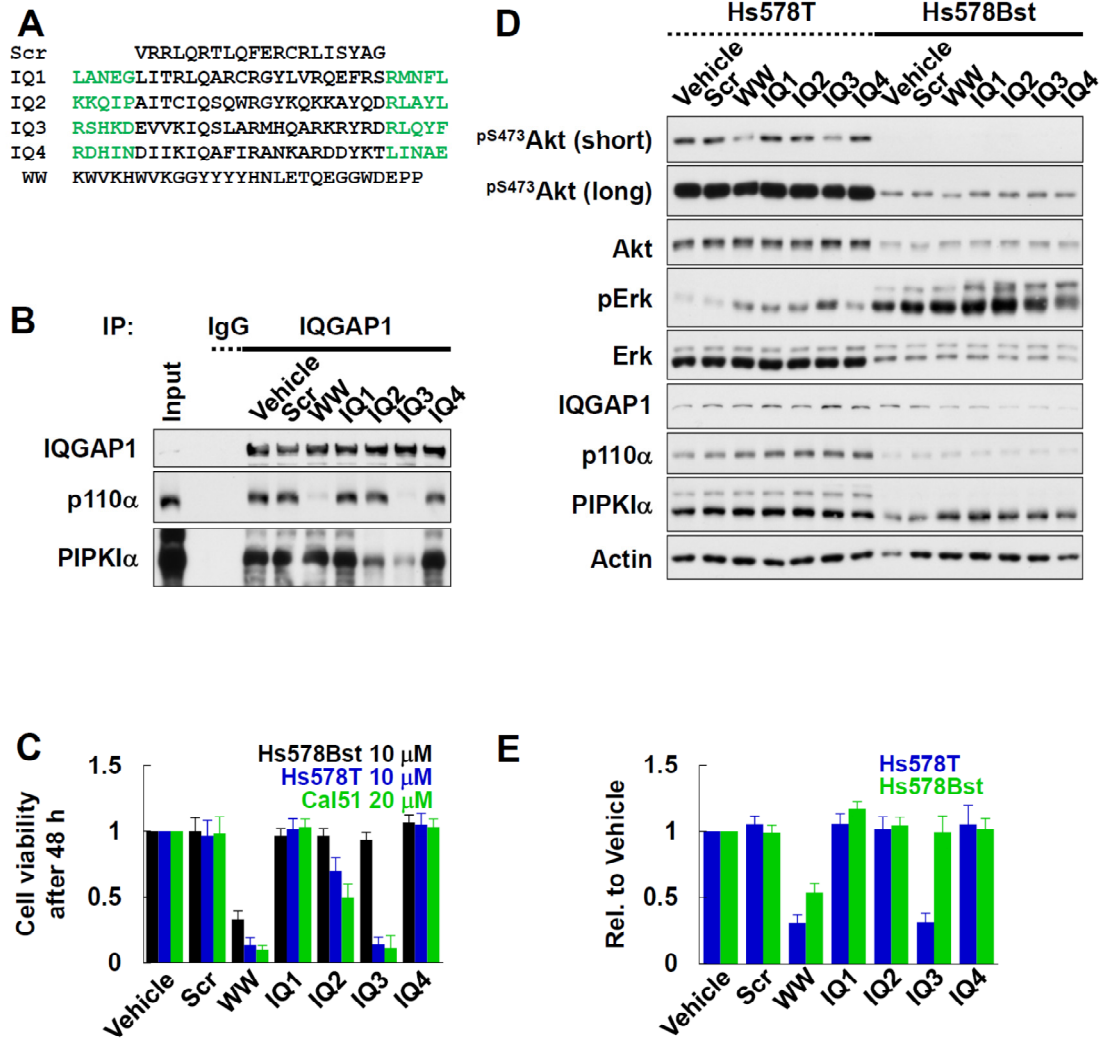
inhibit the PI3K-Akt pathway: The WW and IQ domains of IQGAP1 consist of approximately 32 and 120 amino acids, respectively [150]. The IQ domain of IQGAP1 contains 4 structurally conserved IQ motifs [185]. To narrow down the PIPK1 α and class I PI3K binding sites on the IQ domain, peptides corresponding to each IQ motif (20 amino acids in length) and the WW domain (28 amino acids) were synthesized with the goal of blocking endogenous binding of PIPK1 α and class I PI3K (Figure 3.06 A). The peptides are cell and tissue permeable, by fusing eight arginine residues at the N-termini, and this approach was validated previously [216]. Hs578T cells were treated with these peptides, and PIPK1 α and class I PI3K interaction with IQGAP1 was tested by immunoprecipitation (Figure 3.06 B). The WW peptide reduced p110 α coimmunoprecipitation with IQGAP1 confirming the immunoprecipitation result with the WW domain deletion mutant in Figure 3.05 C. The PIPK1 α coimmunoprecipitation with IQGAP1 was largely reduced by the IQ3 peptide and slightly by the IQ2 peptide (Figure 3.06 B). The PI3K-Akt pathway regulates cell survival in many cell types [202, 208, 217]. The function of the peptides in cell survival and Akt activation were tested. 10 to 20 μ M peptides were treated in three different breast cell lines for 48 h and viable cell number was counted (Figure 3.06 C). Hs578T and Cal51 are triple negative breast cancer cell lines and [218] and Hs578Bst cell line, a counterpart of Hs578T, is derived from normal breast tissue of a breast cancer patient [219]. The WW peptide dramatically suppressed cell viability in the all three cell lines tested, whereas the IQ3 peptide selectively induced cell death in the two triple negative cell lines. The IQ2 peptide also had a minor effect on cell survival (Figure 3.06 C). To test the peptides target the PI3K-Akt pathway, two Hs578 counterpart cells were treated with 10 μ M peptides for 24 h and Akt phosphorylation was examined by immunoblotting (Figure 3.06 D). The WW peptide significantly reduced Akt phosphorylation in both cell lines, whereas the IQ3 peptides only significantly reduced Akt phosphorylation in Hs578T cell line (Figure 3.06 E). MAPK pathway

is also important in regulation of cell survival and proliferation [220, 221] and IQGAP1 is implicated in the pathway [147, 150, 166, 216]. However, treatment of the peptides did not reduce Erk phosphorylation signifying a specific role of the peptides in the PI3K-Akt pathway.

Figure 3.06. Cell permeable peptides corresponding to the WW domain and IQ motifs target the PI3K-Akt pathway.

(A) The WW domain and IQ motif amino acid sequences. 28 amino acids from the WW domain and 20 amino acids (in black) from each IQ motifs were used in the cell permeable peptides. Scrambled (Scr) peptide has scrambled sequence of the IQ1 peptide. (B) Confluent Hs578T cells were incubated with the indicated peptides or vehicle control for 24 h. IQGAP1 was immunoprecipitated and associated PIPKI α and p110 α were analyzed by immunoblotting. (C) Confluent Hs578Bst, Hs578T and Cal51 cells were incubated with the peptides in the indicated concentration for 48 h. Trypan blue negative viable cell numbers were counted using a hemocytometer. The graph is shown as mean \pm SD of three independent experiments. (D) Confluent Hs578Bst and Hs578T cells were incubated with the peptides for 24 h. Cell lysates were analyzed by immunoblotting with the indicated antibodies. (E) ^{pS473}Akt immunoblots were quantified and the graph is shown as mean \pm SD of three independent experiments. The experiments described above were performed independently at least four times.

Figure 3.06



Discussion:

In the present study, we reveal that PI4,5P₂ generation is linked to PI3,4,5P₃ generation by spatially organizing PI4,5P₂ and PI3,4,5P₃ producing enzymes in a complex via the scaffold IQGAP1. In response to receptor activation, such as integrins and growth factor receptors, PIPKI α , class I PI3K and IQGAP1 translocate to the plasma membrane [10, 44, 202, 222]. There, PIPKI α and class I PI3K are tethered in a complex by binding to the WW and IQ domains of IQGAP1. Then PI4,5P₂ generated by PIPKI α is channeled to PI3K for efficient PI3,4,5P₃ production. PI3,4,5P₃ lipid product in turn activates signaling molecules such as PDK1 and Akt and regulates cell survival, proliferation, migration and metabolism (Figure 3.07).

The PI3K-Akt pathway is activated by membrane receptors such as G protein-coupled receptors, integrins and growth factor receptors [202, 208, 213, 223]. As shown in Figure 3.08, PIPKI α and IQGAP1 are required for activation of the PI3K-Akt pathway downstream of both integrins and growth factor receptors. Importantly, knockdown of PIPKI α and IQGAP1 has a more profound effect on integrin-mediated Akt activation compared to growth factor-mediated (Figure 3.08 A-D), suggesting that the PIPKI α -PI3K-IQGAP1 signaling complex preferentially function downstream of integrin signaling. This is supported by the observation that there is more efficient formation of the PIPKI α -PI3K-IQGAP1 signaling complex by integrin signaling compared to growth factor stimulation (Figure 3.08 E-F). Integrins and growth factors can activate distinct signaling pathways to mediate these differential effects. Integrin clustering induces autophosphorylation of focal adhesion kinase (FAK) at Tyr397, which recruits class I PI3K to the activated integrin sites on the plasma membrane [222]. As IQGAP1 interacts with FAK [175], it is possible that IQGAP1 recruits PIPKI α and PI3K to the sites of integrin activation. Consistently, targeting of PIPKI isoforms to focal adhesions is reported [32].

Since its initial discovery, a plethora of upstream regulators and downstream effectors of class I PI3K are identified [202, 208, 217]. Although PIPKIs generate PI4,5P₂, a substrate for PI3K for PI3,4,5P₃ synthesis, the roles of PIPKIs in PI3,4,5P₃ synthesis have received little attention. According to early studies, cellular PI4,5P₂ concentration was estimated to be three orders of magnitude higher than that of PI3,4,5P₃ [2, 16]. This led scientists to believe that, in cells, PI3K readily utilizes abundant PI4,5P₂ pool for PI3,4,5P₃ generation. However, this notion is challenged by discoveries of PI4,5P₂ sequestering proteins. These proteins are present in a comparable concentration of PI4,5P₂ and bind to PI4,5P₂ with relatively strong affinity (the dissociation constants are within 1-100 nM range) [5]. Thus, the majority of cellular PI4,5P₂ is sequestered from enzymatic modification, and *de novo* synthesis of PI4,5P₂ is required for use as substrate. For example, the sustained production of diacylglycerol and inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate from breakdown of PI4,5P₂ by PLC requires continuous phosphorylation of phosphatidylinositol to PI4P by PI4K and PI4P to PI4,5P₂ by PIPKI, as enzymatically labile PI4,5P₂ is present in a limited concentration in cells [205-207]. This link between PI4,5P₂ generation by PIPKI and its enzymatic breakdown by PLC is further supported by the physical association of the two enzymes in a complex [186]. However, the physical and functional association of PIPKI and class I PI3K has not been addressed. In this study, we found that PIPKI α forms a complex with class I PI3K via IQGAP1 (Figure 3.01-3.03). Importantly, the physical association assures that PI4,5P₂ produced by PIPKI α is channeled to class I PI3K for PI3,4,5P₃ synthesis (Figure 3.04).

Spatial and temporal organization of catalytically sequential enzymes provides efficient means for signal synthesis and transmission [15]. Often, this organization is mediated by scaffold proteins. IQGAP1 was previously characterized as a scaffold for MAPK pathway. IQGAP1 directly binds to MAPK components Ras, Raf, MEK and Erk and regulates growth factor receptor signaling [164-166, 169, 170, 224]. In this study, we revealed that PIPKI α binds to the IQ domain and class I PI3K binds to the WW and IQ domains. This

raises the possibility that PIPK α competes with PI3K for the IQ domain binding. However, our observations demonstrate that knockdown of class I PI3K does not alter PIPK α binding to IQGAP1, nor knockdown of PIPK α alters PI3K binding to IQGAP1 (Figure 3.02). Also, overexpression of PIPK α does not alter class I PI3K binding to IQGAP1 (data not shown). Collectively, these data suggest that PIPK α and class I PI3K are present in a complex with IQGAP1 by binding to the IQ and WW domains, respectively. Another remaining question is whether PIPK α and class I PI3K are close enough to channel PI4,5P₂ in the IQGAP1-mediated complex. Although the WW domain and IQ3 motif of the IQ domain, which is responsible for the PIPK α binding, are around 90 amino acids apart in the primary structure, the distance in the tertiary structure is unknown as the structure of the IQGAP1 WW and IQ domains are unsolved. However, whether it is close enough for the PI4,5P₂ channeling could be inferred from MAPK pathway. It is known that MEK directly binds to the IQ domain and Erk binds to the WW domain of IQGAP1 [165, 166]. As IQGAP1 mediates MEK phosphorylation on Erk [166, 169, 216], the proximity of PIPK α and class I PI3K in complex with IQGAP1 may enable sequential phosphorylation of PI4P to PI3,4,5P₃ (Figure 3.04).

Alteration of the PI3K-Akt pathway is linked to many human diseases including cancer [225, 226]. IQGAP1 is also implicated in many cancers [152, 172] and overexpression of IQGAP1 in breast tumor tissues and breast cancer cell lines is related to enhanced tumorigenesis [173, 184]. The PIPK α gene is amplified in a subset of breast cancer cell lines [227, 228]. To test the physiological relevance of the PIPK α -PI3K-IQGAP1 complex in breast cancer, specific peptide inhibitors were designed to block the formation of this complex. As shown in Figure 3.06, the WW and IQ3 peptides effectively block Akt activation and breast cancer cell proliferation. Notably, unlike the WW peptide, the IQ3 peptide selectively kills breast cancer cells likely by attenuating Akt activation. This selectivity could in part result from the accelerated activation of the PI3K-Akt pathway in the tested breast cancer cells. Often, cancer cells are addicted to a certain oncogenic pathway

for their survival and blockade of the pathway induces cancer cell death [229-231]. Another interesting observation is that the peptides only exert their effect when cells are confluent in the tissue culture dish. Subconfluent cells grow indistinguishably in the absence or presence of the peptides (data not shown). Although the PI3K-Akt pathway has roles in cell proliferation [208, 225], under the conditions tested, its major role might be to maintain cell survival. Signaling pathways that govern cell proliferation such as MAPK pathway might overcome the need for PI3K-Akt when cancer cells are rapidly growing at subconfluent density (note that Erk phosphorylation is not affected by the peptide in Figure 3.06). When cells reach confluence, proliferation might be suppressed, and blockade of the PI3K-Akt pathway might have a profound effect in cancer cell survival.

In summary, in this study we revealed a previously unrecognized mechanism for PI3,4,5P₃ generation by class I PI3K. This is achieved by spatiotemporal regulation via a complex scaffolded by IQGAP1, where class I PI3K efficiently generates PI3,4,5P₃ using PI4,5P₂ channeled from PIPKI α . Also, we provide evidence that blockade of this signaling platform could be used for therapeutics, such as cancers that have altered PI3K-Akt signaling.

Figure 3.07. Model of IQGAP1-mediated phosphoinositide synthesis channeling

IQGAP1 connects PIPK1 α and class I PI3K through interactions with its IQ and WW domains respectively. In this complex, PI4,5P₂ produced by PIPK1 α can be used directly by class I PI3K for PI3,4,5P₃ generation.

Figure 3.07

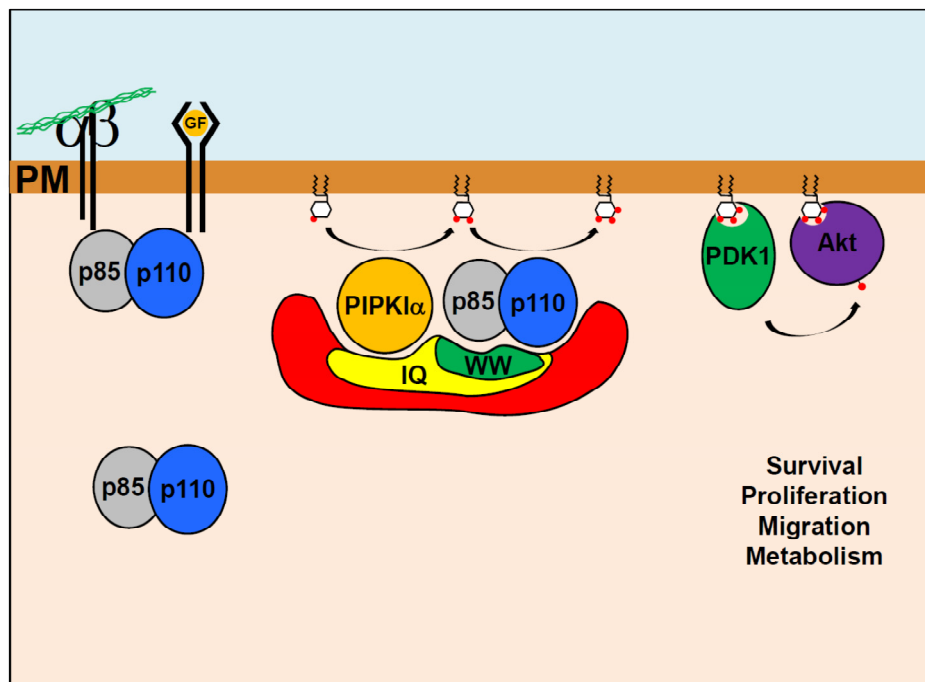
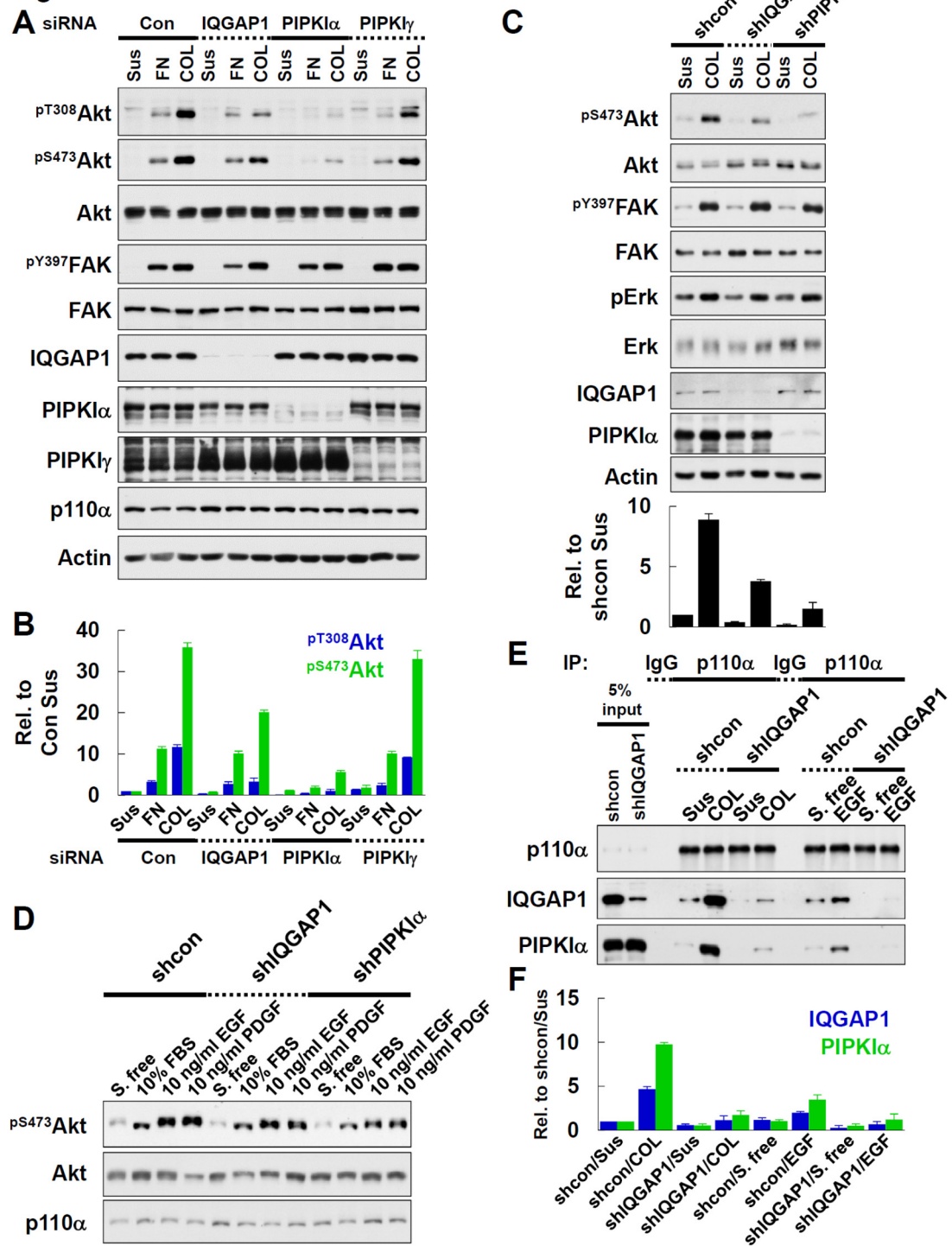


Figure 3.08. IQGAP1 and PIPK α are required for Akt activation downstream of integrin receptor.

(A) MDA-MB-231 cells were transiently transfected with the indicated siRNAs for 48 h. Cells were plated on 10 μ g/ml fibronectin (FN)- or collagen (COL)-coated dishes, or maintained in suspension (Sus) for 45 m. Cell lysates were analyzed by immunoblotting with the indicated antibodies. (B) Immunoblots for (A) were quantified and the graph is shown as mean \pm SD of three independent experiments. (C) IQGAP1 and PIPK α expression were stably knocked down in Hs578T cells. Cells were plated on 10 μ g/ml collagen (COL)-coated dishes or maintained in suspension (Sus) for 1 h. Cell lysates were analyzed by immunoblotting with the indicated antibodies (top). Immunoblots were quantified and the graph is shown as mean \pm SD of four independent experiments (bottom). (D) Serum starved Hs578T stable cell lines were treated with indicated cytokines or remained in serum free media (S. free) for 30 m. Cell lysates were analyzed by immunoblotting with the indicated antibodies. (E) MDA-MB-231 cells stably expressing the indicated shRNAs were as above. PI3K p110 α was immunoprecipitated and associated IQGAP1 and PIPK α were analyzed by immunoblotting. 100 ng/ml EGF was used for these experiments. The experiments described above were performed independently at least four times.

Figure 3.08



Materials and Methods:

Cell culture and constructs: MDA-MB-231, HEK 293, Hs578Bst, Hs578T, Cal51 and MEF cells were maintained in DMEM supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (Gibco). The constructs used for this work are described previously [10, 25].

Stable cell line generation: To generate stable MDA-MB-231 and Hs578T cell lines expressing shRNAs against human IQGAP1, PIPKI α or vector control, pLL3.7 vector-based lentiviral delivery system was used. pLL3.7 lentiviral vector was cloned to express shRNAs against IQGAP1 (either 5'-GGAAAGCUCUGGCAAUUUAAUU-3' or 5'-GAACGUGGCUUAUGAGUACUU-3') [173] and PIPKI α (either 5'-AAGTTGGAGCACTCTTGG-3' or 5'-CACATTATCCCTACCTTA-3'). After infection, cells were passaged at least 5 times before sorting GFP-positive cells in a cell sorter to select cells expressing shRNAs as pLL3.7 vector also express GFP bicistronically [33]. For generation of stable in MEFs, cells were infected with retrovirus for 24 h. Then, cells expressing GFP-IQGAP1 were first selected for GFP expression, and then further sorted by expression level.

Antibodies and siRNAs: Monoclonal antibodies against IQGAP1, IQGAP2, p110 α , p85, FAK, Myc-tag, GST-tag, His-tag (Millipore), Akt, p^{T308}Akt, p^{S473}Akt, p110 α , p110 β , p85, Erk, pErk (Cell Signaling Technology), HA-tag (Covance Biotechnology), p^{Y397}FAK (Invitrogen), actin (MP Biomedicals), PI3,4,5P₃ (Echelon Biosciences) and polyclonal antibody against IQGAP1 and IQGAP2 (Santa Cruz Biotechnology) were used for this study. Polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies against total and PIPKI α and PIPKI γ were produced as described previously [26, 43]. Pooled siRNAs used in the study were obtained from Dharmacon.

IP and immunoblotting: Cells were lysed in a buffer containing 1% Brij58, 150 mM NaCl, 20 mM HEPES, pH 7.4, 2 mM MgCl₂, 2 mM CaCl₂, 1 mM Na₃VO₄, 1 mM Na₂MoO₄ and protease inhibitors. Protein concentration of lysates was measured by the BCA method

(Pierce) and equal amounts of protein were used for further analysis. For IP, 0.5 to 1 mg of proteins were incubated with 1 μ g of antibodies at 4°C for 8 h and then incubated with a 50% slurry of Protein G Sepharose (GE Life Sciences) for another 2 h. After washing 5X with lysis buffer, the protein complex was eluted with SDS sample buffer. For immunoblotting, 5 to 20 μ g of proteins loaded. After developing immunoblots, the film was scanned using a transmitted light scanner (resolution = 600 dpi). Protein bands were quantified using ImageJ, and statistical analysis of the data was performed with Microsoft Excel. The statistical analysis was performed using data from at least three independent experiments.

***In vitro* binding assay:** Recombinant proteins were expressed in BL21 *E. coli* strain. GST-tagged proteins were then purified with GST Sepharose 4B (GE Life Sciences) and His-tagged proteins were purified with His-Bind Resin (Novagen). Recombinant PI3K (p110 α and p85 α) proteins were purchased from Echelon Biosciences. GST-tagged proteins were incubated with glutathione beads before binding assays. The binding assay was performed in the lysis buffer used for IP by adding 10 nM to 5 μ M of His-tagged proteins and 20 μ l of GST-tagged protein bound glutathione beads. After incubation for 1h at 25°C, unbound proteins were washed out and the protein complex was analyzed by immunoblotting. For the triple binding assay with recombinant GST-IQGAP1, His-PIP1 α and PI3K (His-p110 α and untagged p85 α), PIP1 α was pulled down with an anti-PIP1 α antibody pre-bound on Protein G Sepharose beads.

Immunofluorescence microscopy: Glass coverslips were coated with 10 ng/ml collagen, fibronectin or 10% serum before seeding cells. Cells were grown on coverslips placed inside 6-well plates until experimental manipulation. Immunostaining was performed as previously described [30, 31] with modifications. Briefly, cells grown in medium were rapidly fixed by adding equal volume of 8% paraformaldehyde and 0.5% glutaraldehyde to medium for 15 m at room temperature. After 30 m wash with PBS containing 50 mM NH₄Cl, cells were

permeabilized and blocked with a solution of buffer A (20 mM PIPES, pH 6.8, 135 mM NaCl, 5 mM KCl) containing 0.5% saponin and 5 volume % FBS for 45 m at room temperature. Primary antibodies were incubated in a solution of buffer A containing 0.1% saponin and 5 volume % of FBS for 12 h at 4°C. 2-4 µg/ml primary antibodies were used. After 30 m wash with buffer A, fluorophore-conjugated secondary antibodies were incubated in a solution of buffer A containing 0.1% saponin and 5 volume % of FBS for 1 h at room temperature. Then, cells were washed with buffer A for 45 m at room temperature before post-fixation with 2% paraformaldehyde and 0.125% glutaraldehyde % for 10 m at room temperature. Coverslips were washed 5 times with PBS containing 50 mM NH₄Cl and once with distilled water. Fluorescence microscopy was performed using a 40 or 60x plan-fluor objective on a Nikon Eclipse TE2000U equipped with a Photometrics CoolSNAP ES CCD camera. Images were captured using MetaMorph v6.3 (Molecular Devices). Images were exported to Photoshop CS2 (Adobe) for final processing and assembly.

Cellular phosphoinositide measurement: Lipid extraction and cellular phosphoinositide measurement were performed a kit Echelon Biosciences according to manufacturer's instructions. Briefly, cells were lysed in icecold trichloroacetic acid (TCA, 0.5 M). Pellets were washed in 5%TCA/1 mM EDTA and neutral lipids were extracted with MeOH:CHCl₃ (2:1) and discarded. Acidic lipids were extracted with MeOH:CHCl₃:HCl (80:40:1), recovered by phase-split, dried and resuspended. PI_{4,5}P₂ and PI_{3,4,5}P₃ levels were quantified by competitive ELISA (Echelon Biosciences).

***In vitro* phosphoinositide kinase assay:** *In vitro* phosphoinositide kinase assays were performed as described [25, 232] with modification. Briefly, 0.02-0.1 µM of recombinant IQGAP1, PIPKI α and PI3K were incubated with 250 µM phosphoinositide liposomes in a kinase buffer (50 mM Tris HCl, pH 8.0, 10 mM MgCl₂, 0.5 mM EDTA). The liposomes containing 10 molar % of phosphoinositides were generated as described [10]. Kinase

reaction was initiated by adding 20 μ M ATP and incubated for 30 m at 25°C. 50 μ l reaction was terminated by adding 100 μ l 1M HCl and 200 μ l CHCl_3 :MeOH (1:1). Extracted lipids were dried and PI4,5P₂ and PI3,4,5P₃ levels were quantified by competitive ELISA (Echelon Biosciences) as above.

Peptide production and treatment in cells: Octo-arginine conjugated WW and IQ motifs peptides were synthesized by Genscript. Peptides were resuspended in water to a 2.5–5 mM working solution. Peptide was added directly into the medium of tissue culture at the concentrations indicated.

Chapter 4

Conclusions and Future Directions

Conclusions and Significance:

As depicted in the central hypothesis (Figure 1.01), the localization and function of PIPKIs are regulated by their interactors. In an effort to reveal previously unknown interactors of PIPKI γ , PIPKI γ immunoprecipitates were analyzed by a proteomic method, and IQGAP1 was identified as a novel interactor (Figure 2.01). Interestingly IQGAP1 interacts not only with PIPKI γ , but also PIPKI α with a seemingly tighter binding affinity (Figure 3.01). IQGAP1 interaction with PIPKI γ recruits IQGAP1 to leading edges of migrating cells (Figure 2.09). Although IQGAP1 binding to other proteins, including Rac1, Cdc42 and mDia [153, 154, 157], regulate IQGAP1 localization at the leading edges, the data presented in Figure 2.05 and 2.09 clearly show that the PIPKI γ interaction is also required for IQGAP1 targeting to the leading edge. Furthermore, IQGAP1 is a novel PI4,5P₂ effector in regulation of cell migration. IQGAP1 binds to PI4,5P₂ through a newly defined polybasic motif (Figure 2.07) and IQGAP1 binding to PI4,5P₂ relieves the autoinhibitory intramolecular interaction between the GRD and RGCT domains (Figure 2.10 and 2.11). Consequently, IQGAP1 binding to PI4,5P₂ regulates *de novo* actin polymerization at the leading edges by recruiting N-WASP and Arp2/3 complex through the relieved RGCT domain (Figure 2.10).

IQGAP1 binding to PIPKI α has a different cellular role. By fractionation analysis, PIPKI α does not regulate IQGAP1 targeting to membrane compartments (data not shown), signifying a specific role of PIPKI γ in the IQGAP1 membrane targeting. Instead, IQGAP1 interaction with PIPKI α regulates the PI3K-Akt pathway. Knockdown of PIPKI α but not PIPKI β or PIPKI γ reduces PI3,4,5P₃ levels and Akt activation without compromising cellular PI4,5P₂ levels (Figure 3.01). IQGAP1 mediates PIPKI α interaction with class I PI3K *in vitro* and *in vivo* (Figure 3.02 and 3.03). This physical organization of PIPKI α and class I PI3K by IQGAP1 enables that PI4,5P₂ generated by PIPKI α is channeled to class I PI3K for

PI3,4,5P₃ synthesis (Figure 3.04). Furthermore, blockade of IQGAP1 interaction with PIPKI α and class I PI3K reduces Akt activation and cell survival (Figure 3.05 and 3.06).

Although in proteomic analyses hundreds of putative PI4,5P₂ binding proteins are identified [12, 14], only a small portion have been functionally studied. In the current investigation, we reveal how PI4,5P₂ binding of IQGAP1 regulates IQGAP1 function in cell migration. Importantly, IQGAP1 is spatiotemporally organized with a PI4,5P₂ generating enzyme PIPKI γ and this organization assures PI4,5P₂ signal is produced only when and where it is needed for regulating cell migration. PI4,5P₂ is an indispensable regulator of cell migration [8] and aberrant PI4,5P₂ signaling in cell migration is linked to human diseases such as cancer [24, 233]. As IQGAP1 is a master regulator of cell migration [50, 55, 56], this study reveals a fundamental mechanism in cell migration, and blockade of the PIPKI γ -IQGAP1 signaling platform could be used as therapeutics for human diseases.

The interaction of PIPKI α with class I PI3K was an unexpected observation. Although PIPKIs generate PI4,5P₂, a substrate for class I PI3Ks, the roles of PIPKIs in the PI3K-Akt signaling have been underestimated. In this study, we showed that PI4,5P₂ generation is directly linked to PI3,4,5P₃ generation by physical and functional association of the two sequential phosphoinositide kinases in a complex by the scaffold IQGAP1. Importantly, the complex formation is enhanced by extracellular stimuli such as integrin and growth factor receptor activation ensuring PI3,4,5P₃ signal is only produced in the right place at the right time. Alteration in the PI3K-Akt pathway is linked to numerous human diseases such as cancer, diabetes and autoimmune diseases [217, 225, 234]. In this study, we provide evidence that blockade of this signaling platform has potential use in therapeutics for diseases where PI3K-Akt signaling is altered, such as in cancers.

Future Directions:

The discovery of IQGAP1 interaction with PIPKIs may have numerous implications in cellular physiology. This study covers the roles in cell migration and the PI3K-Akt signaling. Additional roles of IQGAP1 that might have with PIPKIs will be discussed below.

Does IQGAP1 regulate cell migration by controlling microtubule recruitment to the leading edges?: Migrating cells are polarized, with an asymmetric distribution of the cytoskeleton and signaling molecules. Microtubules (MTs) maintain polarization in migrating cells by providing tracks for vesicle trafficking of key molecules, such as integrins, to the migrating front [54, 56]. There is evidence that IQGAP1 recruits MTs to the leading edge membrane by association with the MT-binding proteins, CLIP-170 and APC [153, 154]. Also, the IQGAP1/MT contact sites at the plasma membrane are enriched in PI4,5P₂ [60]. Further, we have shown that PIPKI γ 2 is required for cell polarization during cell migration [33]. Thus, it will be important to define the role of PIPKI γ in IQGAP1 modulation of MT organization and integrin trafficking to the leading edge (Figure 4.01).

Consistently, cells expressing the PI4,5P₂ binding defective IQGAP1 AA3 mutant form multiple leading edges, suggesting that the PI4,5P₂ regulation of IQGAP1 is important for maintaining polarity (Figure 2.09). These cells exhibit perpetual formation and retraction of leading edges but display little movement (data not shown). IQGAP1 is suggested to maintain polarity of migrating cells through local capture of MTs at the leading edge by interaction with MT plus tip proteins, CLIP-170 and APC [54, 55]. The interaction sites for these proteins are within the RGCT domain [153, 154]. We envision that the autoinhibitory interaction between the GRD and RGCT domains may also block MT recruitment, and PI4,5P₂ binding to the RGCT domain may relieve this. To test this, PIPKI γ and PI4,5P₂ binding mutants will be used for testing MT and integrin recruitment to the leading edges. Immunostaining IQGAP1 (wild type vs. the mutants), tubulin and β 1-integrin in the cells migrating into scratch wounds will be applicable for this purpose as previously shown [10, 33].

Figure 4.01. A proposed mechanism of IQGAP1 in regulation of cell migration.

Integrin or growth factor receptor activation stimulates regulators of IQGAP1, including PKC, Rho family GTPases and PIPKs. In unstimulated conditions, the N-terminus of IQGAP1 forms an intramolecular interaction with the C-terminus. Phosphorylation at Ser1441 and Ser1443 inhibits this intramolecular interaction exposing the IQ domain for PIPK γ interaction. Phosphorylation also partially relieves the intramolecular interaction between the GRD and RGCT domains. PIPK γ mediates IQGAP1 recruitment to the leading edge membrane, where PIPK γ generates PI4,5P $_2$ from PI4P. PI4,5P $_2$ then binds to the RGCT domain, relieving the autoinhibitory interaction between the GRD and RGCT domains. Binding of active Cdc42 or Rac1 to the GRD domain also induces this process. The relieved RGCT domain recruits microtubules via an interaction with APC or CLIP-170, and facilitates actin polymerization by activating N-WASP.

Does the PIPKI γ -IQGAP1 interaction control cell migration?: The PIPKI γ interaction site on IQGAP1 is in the IQ domain (Figure 2.01). In this study, we used the IQ domain deletion mutant to test whether the PIPKI γ -IQGAP1 interaction is important for regulating cell migration. Besides PIPKI γ , PIPKI α (Figure 3.01), MEK [166], Raf [164] and calmodulin [185] also bind on the IQ domain, and they also might have roles in cell migration. Therefore, the IQ domain deletion mutant may have broad effects due to loss of binding to other IQ domain interacting proteins besides PIPKI γ . It will be necessary to narrow down the PIPKI γ -binding site on the IQ domain. For this, the IQ motif peptides used in Figure 3.06 would have value. Using these cell permeable peptides, inhibition of the PIPKI γ -IQGAP1 interaction, or IQGAP1 interaction with other proteins, will be tested by immunoprecipitation or *in vitro* binding assay with recombinant proteins. Also, collagen- or EGF-induced cell migration will be measured by Transwell in the absence or presence of the peptides.

Mechanism of compaction-dependent effect of the cell permeable peptides: Cell permeable peptides derived from the WW domain and IQ motifs exert their effects in cell proliferation and Akt activation only in cells grown to confluence in tissue culture dish (Figure 3.06 and data not shown). MAPK and Akt pathways regulate cell survival and proliferation in many cell types [213, 220]. Interestingly, recent studies indicate that the two pathways compensate for each other in transformed cells, thus blocking one pathway is insufficient for inhibiting cancer cell survival and proliferation [235]. Upon compaction, cell proliferation and MAPK activity are largely inhibited [236, 237]. Interestingly, the PI3K-Akt pathway remains active in confluent cells (Figure 3.06) suggesting that the PI3K-Akt pathway regulates survival and proliferation of confluent cells. Consistently, inhibition of the PI3K-Akt activity by the peptides drastically induces cell death in compacted cells (Figure 3.06). To support the PI3K-Akt pathway-dependent cell death induced by these peptides, a constitutively active Akt will be transfected and it will be determined if cell death by the peptides is inhibited. Also, the compaction-dependent effect of the peptides will be tested using MAPK inhibitors. In

sub-confluent conditions, MAPK pathway will be blocked by inhibitors and whether the peptides induce cell death will be tested.

An alternative explanation for the compaction-dependent effect of the peptides comes from the study of IQGAP3. IQGAP3 is an IQGAP1 paralogue that also regulates cell proliferation by Ras/Erk pathway [237], suggesting a redundant role of IQGAP1 and IQGAP3 in cell proliferation. Notably, IQGAP3 expression is dramatically suppressed in confluent cells, whereas IQGAP1 expression remains intact [237]. This implies that IQGAP3 attenuates the peptides' effect in sub-confluent conditions by compromising IQGAP1 function. The peptides unlikely target IQGAP3 as IQGAP3 WW and IQ domains have low similarity (less than 50% similarity) with those of IQGAP1. To test this possibility, IQGAP3 expression will be knocked down and the effect of peptides will be examined in sub-confluent conditions.

It will be also interesting to test the effect of peptides in xenograft model to gain *in vivo* relevance for our study. Human carcinoma cells (Hs578T, Cal51 and other carcinoma cells) will be xenografted in immunocompromised mice, and the effect of the peptides on tumor growth and metastasis will be examined.

Knockout animal: Mice with class I PI3K genes deleted are embryonic lethal signifying their essential roles in development [238-241]. *Pip5k1b*^{-/-} (a mouse orthologue of human *PIP5K1a* gene) and *lqgap1*^{-/-} knockout mice, however, are viable and have no profound phenotypic alterations [189, 216, 242, 243]. Cells derived from *lqgap1*^{-/-} knockout mice have defective Akt activity (Figure 3.05 and [171, 175]), but how the PI3K-Akt pathway is affected by PIPKI α gene knockout has not been reported. As simultaneous knockdown of IQGAP1 and PIPKI α further reduces Akt activity compared to single knockdown (Figure 3.01), it will be interesting to test how IQGAP1 and PIPKI α double knockout impacts the PI3K-Akt pathway in mice. The double knockout mice will be generated by crossing single knockout mice

(*Pip5k1b*^{-/-} x *Iqgap1*^{-/-}) and their development will be monitored. If the double knockout mice are embryonic lethal as class I PI3K knockout mice, it will further support our hypothesis. If the double knockout mice are viable, their responses to stress conditions that are related to the PI3K-Akt pathway such as insulin sensitivity and cancer progression will be tested.

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