



G-proteins, which are released upon stimulation of GPCRs [2,3,21]. This dual mode of regulation makes P-Rex family GEFs ideal coincidence detectors for the concomitant activation of PI3K and GPCRs. Synergy of PI3K and G subunits is also required for P-Rex1 translocation to the plasma membrane [22], and

with His Δ P-Rex2-(983 Δ 1187), equimolar amounts of GST and GST Δ PP1 were preincubated for 1 h at 10°C with glutathione agarose prior to the addition of His Δ P-Rex2-(983 Δ 1187) for 1 h and analysis of precipitates by SDS/PAGE and Western blotting. For binding assays with native P-Rex1, 50 pmol of GST or GST Δ PP1 were incubated with 8 pmol of native pig-neutrophil-derived purified P-Rex1 for 1.5 h at 4°C, before pull down with glutathione Δ Sepharose, washing (in PBS, Triton X-100, 5 mM EGTA, 1 mM EDTA, 25 mM NaF and 20 mM 2-glycerophosphate) and analysis by SDS/PAGE (gel) and Western blotting.

Co-immunoprecipitation assays

Figure 1 P-Rex1 and P-Rex2 are PP1-binding proteins

(A) Dose-dependent inhibition of the phosphatase activity of purified rabbit PP1 by purified Sf9-cell-derived full-length human EE-P-Rex1 and P-Rex2. Recombinant P-Rex1 and P-Rex2 (n= 3). (B) Schematic representation of the RVxF motif in P-Rex1 and P-Rex2 and its mutation in P-Rex1. (C) Binding of native P-Rex1 to GST-PP1. Purified P-Rex1 and GST-PP1 were incubated with purified native pig P-Rex1 prior to pull down with glutathione-Sepharose, SDS/PAGE and Western blotting (WB) with anti-P-Rex1 and -GST antibodies. Molecular mass markers are given in kDa on the right-hand side. (D) In vivo pull-down: immunoprecipitated eGFP-P-Rex1 (full-length) was subjected to SDS/PAGE and Western transfer. The membrane was incubated separately with GST, the presence or absence of excess RVxF peptide, or with GST, as indicated, and then together with anti-GST antibody. The strip was incubated with anti-GFP antibody. (E) P-Rex1 forms a complex with PP1 disrupted by mutation of the RVxF motif. Lysates of COS-7 cells expressing EE-P-Rex1, EE-P-Rex1 VAFA and/or eGFP were subjected to immunoprecipitation with an anti-GFP antibody. Western blot analysis of precipitates and total lysates was performed with anti-PP1 antibodies. Blots shown are from one experiment and representative of three. Molecular mass markers are given in kDa on the right-hand side. (F) P-Rex1 is a complex with endogenous PP1 in vivo. HEK-293 cell lysates were subjected to immunoprecipitation with anti-P-Rex1 antibody. Western blots of precipitates and total lysates (TL) were performed with anti-P-Rex1 and -PP1 antibodies. Blots shown are from one experiment and representative of four. IP, immunoprecipitation.

at <http://www.BiochemJ.org/bj/443/bj4430173add.htm>). It binds directly and independently of additional PP1 activity to a similar degree as did eIF2(1D144), a known PP1 interactor, unlike eIF2(1D144) with a mutated RVxF motif of eGFP (enhanced GFP)-P-Rex1 (mut) which did not (Supplementary Figure S1B). As most PP1-interacting proteins inhibit the constitutive catalytic activity of the phosphatase [32], we tested whether this was also the case for P-Rex1. Indeed, the P-Rex2 fragment inhibited PP1 activity in vitro to a similar degree as eIF2(1D114) (IC_{50} 500 nM); full-length P-Rex2 was even more effective than the fragment (IC₅₀ 200 nM), whereas eIF2(1D114) (mut) again had no effect (Figure 1A and Supplementary Figure S1C).

The RVxF-type PP1-docking motif is highly evolutionarily conserved between the full-length members of the P-Rex family (Figure 1B and Supplementary Figure S1D). Hence it seemed plausible that the interaction with PP1 is conserved between P-Rex1 and P-Rex2. Indeed, full-length P-Rex1 also inhibited PP1 activity, to a slightly greater extent than P-Rex2 (IC₅₀ 450 nM) (Figure 1A). The known mechanisms of regulation are very similar between different members of the P-Rex family, but most previous characterization work has been done on P-Rex1, so we focused on the interaction of P-Rex1 with PP1 from this point onwards. We tested binding of native P-Rex1 to purified native P-Rex1 from pig neutrophils bound to purified recombinant bacterial GST-PP1 but not GST, suggesting that the interaction

Figure 2 PP1 stimulates P-Rex1 Rac-GEF activity *in vitro*

(A) Native rabbit PP1 activates P-Rex1. The Rac2-GEF activity of Sf9-cell-derived purified human EE-P-Rex1 was assayed with the indicated concentrations of stearyl- and/or G_{12} after a 30 min pre-incubation of P-Rex1 in the presence or absence of 100 nM native rabbit PP1. Results are means

Figure 3 PP1 stimulates P-Rex1 Rac-GEF activity *in vivo*

(A) PP1 stimulates P-Rex1 WT, but not P-Rex1 VFAFA, Rac1-GEF Pak-CRIB pull-down assay for endogenous Rac1 activity in serum-starved HEK-293 cells expressing Myc-P-Rex1 WT, Myc-P-Rex1 VFAFA and/or eGFP-Rac1. Cells were stimulated with (right-hand panel, dark grey bars) or without (right-hand panel, light grey bars) 50 nM LPA for 1 min. The GTP-loading of Rac1 was assessed by immunoblotting. The left-hand panel shows blots from one experiment representative of four. The right-hand panel shows densitometric analysis of four experiments (two for untransfected cells, two for VFAFA-expressing cells). Results are appropriate. Significance was determined using Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference test. *P < 0.05. (B) Dominant-negative Pak1 does not stimulate P-Rex1 Rac-GEF activity *in vivo*. Cells were transfected with VFAFA and/or dominant-negative Pak1. Cells were stimulated with 50 nM LPA for 1 min. Rac1 activity was assessed by immunoblotting. The left-hand panel shows blots from one experiment representative of four. The right-hand panel shows densitometric analysis of four experiments (two for untransfected cells, two for VFAFA-expressing cells). Results are appropriate. Significance was determined using Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference test. *P < 0.05. (C) PP1 and PP2A can both stimulate P-Rex1 Rac-GEF activity *in vivo*. Cells were transfected with VFAFA and/or PP1 or PP2A. Cells were stimulated with 50 nM LPA for 1 min. Rac1 activity was assessed by immunoblotting. The left-hand panel shows blots from one experiment representative of four. The right-hand panel shows densitometric analysis of four experiments (two for untransfected cells, two for VFAFA-expressing cells). Results are appropriate. Significance was determined using Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference test. *P < 0.05.

higher phosphorylation levels (Figure 5B). A similar pattern was observed in phosphoserine Western blots (Figure 5B). Hence, although the ability of P-Rex1 to bind PP1 does affect gel migration, it has no major impact on global P-Rex1 phosphoserine levels, suggesting that PP1 target sites represent a minority of all P-Rex1 phosphorylation sites.

To identify the site(s) of PP1-dependent dephosphorylation, we analysed PAE-cell-derived P-Rex1 WT and P-Rex1 VAFA by MS, reasoning that PP1 target residues would be more highly phosphorylated in P-Rex1 VAFA. Importantly, we did not overexpress PP1 in these experiments, but relied solely on endogenous PP1 in order to reveal only physiologically

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Figure 5 Ser¹⁶⁵ is a PP1 target dephosphorylation site on P-Rex1 important in the regulation of P-Rex1 activity

(A) Phosphoserine content of purified recombinant Sf9-cell-derived P-Rex1 (25 nM) after incubation with or without recombinant PP1 (500 nM) for 30 min. Shown is a Western blot analysis from one experiment that is representative of the gel migration properties of P-Rex1 WT and P-Rex1 VAFA. Lysates of PAE cells expressing EE-P-Rex1 WT or EE-P-Rex1 VAFA together with eGFP-PP1 were subjected to anti-EE immunoprecipitation and precipitates were analysed by anti-P-Rex1 or phosphoserine Western blots. (B) Site-specific phosphorylation sites in P-Rex1 WT (grey bars) and P-Rex1 VAFA (black bars). EE-P-Rex1 WT and EE-P-Rex1 VAFA were expressed in PAE cells (without exogenous PP1) and immunoprecipitates were subjected to SDS/PAGE. P-Rex1 bands were isolated, digested either with trypsin, chymotrypsin or AspN, and subjected to LC-MS/MS. This achieved 96% coverage of P-Rex1 and revealed ten phosphopeptides on to which ten serine phosphorylation sites were mapped. Their level of phosphorylation (compared with the total peptide) was measured by MS, and was sufficiently high for analysis in the eight indicated sites. (C) P-Rex1 WT, P-Rex1 Ser1165A or P-Rex1 'cluster' mutant were expressed in HEK-293 cells with or without eGFP-PP1 serum-starved and subjected to a Pak-CRIB pull-down assay to measure endogenous Rac1 activity. Results are mean \pm S.E.M. for four independent experiments. Significance was determined using a Student's

HEK-293 and PAE cells showed no obvious changes in the largely cytosolic subcellular localizations of P-Rex1 and PP1 upon their co-expression (results not shown).

We next compared the gel-migration properties of EEDP-Rex1 WT and EEDP-Rex1 VAFA upon co-expression with PP1 in basal PAE cells. Immunoprecipitated P-Rex1 WT migrated as a doublet like Sf9-cell-derived P-Rex1, whereas P-Rex1 VAFA lacked the lower band and gained a higher band, indicative of

in vivo Rac-GEF activity levels is not straightforward and should be addressed *in vitro* in the future by assessing the Rac-GEF activities of purified recombinant P-Rex1 proteins with the relevant phospho-deficient and phospho-mimetic point mutations. Future analysis of Ser⁹⁴ and Ser¹⁰⁰, as well as individual serine residues in the P-Rex1 cluster mutant, is likely to reveal further PP1 -dependent sites. Of the seven other phosphoserine residue sites identified, two more (Ser⁸⁹ and Ser¹²⁰) may be PP1

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SUPPLEMENTARY ONLINE DATA

The guanine-nucleotide-exchange factor P-Rex1 is activated by protein phosphatase 1



Figure S2 Effects of P-Rex1 and PP4 expression levels on endogenous Rac1 activity

(A) Endogenous Rac1 activity is not significantly affected by 5-fold variations in P-Rex1 overexpression levels. Myc-P-Rex1 WT levels were titrated over an approximately 5-fold range by varying the amount of plasmid used for transfection of HEK-293 cells. Cells

Figure S3 MS analysis of P-Rex1

EE-P-Rex1 WT and EE-P-Rex1 VAFA were expressed in PAE cells (with and without PP1) and immunoprecipitates subjected to SDS/PAGE. P-Rex1 bands were isolated, digested with trypsin, chymotrypsin or AspN, and subjected to LC-MS/MS. (A) Phosphopeptides and serine phosphorylation sites (bold red) identified in P-Rex1 WT and P-Rex1 VAFA sulfoxide. (B) A 96% coverage (residues in red) was achieved and revealed ten phosphoserine residues (highlighted in yellow) both in P-Rex1 WT and P-Rex1 VAFA. The R is green. (C) Conservation of the ten identified phosphoserine sites throughout P-Rex1 evolution. The alignment was performed with ClustalX. Red, conserved residues; green, residues conserved by structural similarity; black, divergent residues.

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