

A ROLE FOR DIACYLGLYCEROL KINASE γ IN TRAFFICKING OUT OF THE *trans*
GOLGI NETWORK

A Thesis

Presented to the Faculty of the Graduate School
of Cornell University

in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Science

By

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December 2017

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ABSTRACT

The formation of cargo carriers in the secretory pathway occurs primarily through the action of coat proteins (i.e. COPI, COPII and clathrin coats). However, a subset of cargo carriers, primarily membrane tubules, form independently of coat proteins in a process that remains poorly understood. In an siRNA screen of the human kinome, our lab identified diacylglycerol kinase γ (DGK γ) as important in the generation of coat-independent tubular cargo carriers at the Golgi complex and *trans* Golgi Network (TGN). DGKs converts diacylglycerol (DAG) into phosphatidic acid (PA). Both DAG and PA are signaling lipids known to regulate different steps in trafficking at the Golgi, and a role for DGKs has been anticipated but remains unclear. Here we show that drug- or siRNA-mediated inhibition of DGK γ reduced delivery of a subset of cargoes to the plasma membrane. Inhibition of DGK γ also caused fragmentation of the Golgi complex, a characteristic phenotype of inhibitors of intra Golgi trafficking, as Golgi structure homeostasis depends on continuous membrane tubule formation between cisternae. Furthermore, we found a novel interaction of DGK γ with the regulatory and catalytic subunits of PPP6, as well as the Rab GEF, DENND4C, both of which contribute to trafficking out of the Golgi and may thus suggest a mechanism for DGK γ in this process. Our findings implicate DGK γ as a regulator of trafficking at the Golgi and TGN via a novel role in tubule formation, with several compelling mechanistic possibilities to unravel.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Kevin Thorsen was born in Glasgow, Montana, on February 12, 1988, the youngest of four sons of Carmen and Michael Thorsen. He attended Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School from kindergarten through 8th grade and Charles M. Russell Public High School, both in Great Falls, Montana. In 2006, he entered the University of Montana and was awarded Bachelor of Arts degrees in French Linguistics, Psychology, and Human Biology in 2011. He then worked as a research technician in the Department of Biological Sciences, University of Montana, in Dr. Jesse Hay's lab. In 2014 he entered the Graduate School of Cornell University as a student in Biochemistry, Molecular and Cell Biology.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am most grateful to my mentor, Professor William J. Brown. This project was started by Kevin Ha, and the focus on DGK γ was chosen based on important preliminary work by Catalina Pereira and Carolyn Kelly. I would also like to acknowledge and thank undergraduates Lisa Velez-Velez, Zachary Kassir, Helen He, and Raymond Gui, who worked with me on this project and others. I would also like to thank Jaclyn Beckinghausen, Alex Henkel, and Jennifer Roscoe for helping to keep the lab running and for troubleshooting protocols; much of this work depended on it. This work was supported by NIH grant GM101027 to WJB and by an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship to KDT.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Arf	ADP-ribosylation factor
Brefeldin A	BFA
COP	coatomer protein
CtBP1	C-terminal-binding protein 1
DAG	diacylglycerol
DENND4C	DENN domain containing 4C
DGK	diacylglycerol kinase
ER	endoplasmic reticulum
FBS	fetal bovine serum
GPI	glycosylphosphatidylinositol
GP135	glycoprotein 135
GPP130	Golgi phosphoprotein of 130kDa
LPAT	lysophosphatidyl acyltransferase
MEM	minimum essential media
MS	mass spectroscopy
PA	phosphatidic acid
PAP	phosphatidic acid phosphatase
PBS	phosphate-buffered saline
PI(4,5)P ₂	Phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate
PI4K	Phosphatidylinositol 4-phosphate kinase
PKC	protein kinase C
PLA ₂	phospholipase A ₂
PLC	phosphoinositide phospholipase C
PM	plasma membrane
PPP2	serine/threonine protein phosphatase 2
PPP6	serine/threonine protein phosphatase 6
RUSH	<u>R</u> etention <u>U</u> sing <u>S</u> elective <u>H</u> ooks
SBP	streptavidin-binding peptide

SDS-PAGE	sodium dodecyl sulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis
SILAC	<u>S</u> table <u>I</u> sotope <u>L</u> abeling with <u>A</u> mino acids in <u>C</u> ell culture
ssHRP	secreted soluble horse radish peroxidase
TEM	transmission electron microscopy
TGN	<i>trans</i> Golgi network
TRP	transient receptor potential
VSV-G	vesicular stomatitis virus protein-G

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

The trafficking of cellular components within and out of the cell is fundamental to eukaryotic cell biology. It is critical for maintaining necessary compartmentalization of cellular functions and for the exchange of materials between the cell and its environment⁽¹⁾. Canonically, membrane trafficking occurs via vesicles, coated or uncoated⁽²⁾. However, the formation of cargo carriers for transport from the trans-Golgi Network (TGN) to the plasma membrane (PM) remains unclear and appears to involve several kinds of cargo carriers. Some cargoes are trafficked from the TGN in clathrin-coated vesicles, and these can either travel directly to the PM or first go to endosomes and from there use endosomal recycling pathways to get to the PM^(3, 4). However, another subset of cargo uses tubular cargo carriers that form independently of coat proteins⁽⁵⁾. How these membrane tubules form without coat proteins remains unclear.

We performed a screen for genes involved in membrane tubule formation using the fungal metabolite Brefeldin A (BFA), which inhibits the fission of tubules from the Golgi and thus is thought to exaggerate normally-occurring tubule formation⁽⁶⁾. The screen identified several members of the diacylglycerol kinase (DGK) family as positive regulators of membrane tubule formation. DGKs convert diacylglycerol (DAG) into phosphatidic acid (PA), one step in a network of lipid metabolism (Figure 1). Compellingly, DAG and PA are known to be involved in several steps in secretion⁽⁷⁻¹³⁾. Both PA and DAG act as lipid messengers in numerous signaling pathways, both have been shown to regulate trafficking machinery at the Golgi, and because of their conical shape, they are both thought to facilitate the membrane bending and fusion that occur during the life cycles of vesicles and tubules⁽⁹⁾. At the TGN, the roles of DAG and PA remain unclear. One study has shown that depleting DAG via enhanced DGK activity inhibits

recruitment of trafficking machinery to the TGN and reduces TGN-to-PM transport, suggesting a negative role for DGK at this step^(8, 10-12). However, a separate study showed that elevating PA via DGK *increases* transport from the TGN *in vitro*⁽¹³⁾.

DGKs are present in bacteria, yeast, plants, and animals⁽¹⁴⁻¹⁶⁾. Yeast have a single DGK, which uses CTP rather than ATP and appears to be involved in vacuolar fission⁽¹⁷⁾. Mammals have 10 DGK isoforms with conserved kinase and DAG-binding (C1) domains, and these are classified into 5 types based on additional shared structural domains (Figure 2)⁽¹⁸⁾. These DGK isoforms have varying levels of expression in different tissues, varying localizations, and varying functions⁽¹⁸⁾ (Table 1). Indeed, even among structurally-similar isoforms, there are instances where two isoforms have opposite effects on the same process, such as in the positive and negative regulation of macrophage differentiation of leukemia cells by DGK α and DGK γ , respectively⁽¹⁹⁾. Increasing evidence suggests that DGKs are involved in several membrane trafficking events, including clathrin-mediated and clathrin-independent endocytosis⁽²⁰⁾, recycling endosome function⁽²¹⁾, synaptic transmission⁽²²⁻²⁴⁾, insulin secretion⁽²⁵⁾, and trafficking out of the ER⁽²⁶⁾ (Table 1). Among the DGKs identified in our screen, knockdown of DGK γ showed the strongest inhibition of membrane tubule formation induced by BFA (unpublished data). Here we show that knockdown or drug (R59949) inhibition of DGK γ significantly inhibits the formation of physiological cargo-carrying tubules and inhibits the delivery of a subset of cargoes to the plasma membrane. Specifically, DGK γ knockdown or inhibition slowed the delivery of a soluble secreted horse radish peroxidase (ssHRP), vesicular stomatitis virus protein-G (VSV-G), and GP135 to the plasma membrane, but did not slow delivery of a glycosylphosphatidylinositol (GPI)-anchored protein. This inhibition appears to occur at a post-ER step in trafficking, as ER-to-Golgi trafficking was unaffected. DGK γ knockdown also caused

fragmentation of the Golgi complex, a characteristic phenotype of inhibitors of Golgi trafficking⁽²⁷⁾. Finally, using a SILAC-MS approach to identify protein interactors of DGK γ , we found that it interacts with established trafficking proteins Dnm1 and PPP6, suggesting a possible mechanism of action for DGK γ in trafficking to the PM. In summary, we provide evidence for a role for DGK γ in constitutive trafficking from the Golgi to the PM, with a discussion of possible mechanisms given below.

CHAPTER TWO

RESULTS

DGK γ contributes to the formation of tubular cargo carriers at the TGN

Using the Retention Using Selective Hooks system⁽²⁸⁾, which locks a fluorescently-labeled cargo in the ER until the addition of biotin (Figure 3), we investigated the role of DGK γ in the formation of anterograde-cargo-carrying tubules. We found that following the addition of biotin, GP135 was released from the ER and appeared in the Golgi complex after 30 min. GP135 was then seen to exit the TGN primarily in membrane tubules, which travelled to and fused with the PM (Figure 3). First we quantified tubule formation in cells knocked down for DGK γ . Commercial antibodies for endogenous DGK γ failed to detect the protein in a Western blot, so as a measure of the effectiveness of our DGK γ -directed siRNA, we co-transfected EGFP- DGK γ and measured its knockdown using an antibody against GFP .We were able to achieve a >95% knockdown of exogenously-expressed EGFP-DGK γ 48 hours after transfection (Figure 4B). In the RUSH system, we found that membrane tubule formation at the Golgi peaked at 45 min. In siDGK γ cells, tubule formation was inhibited by ~60% (Figure 4A). Similarly, inhibiting DGK γ with R59949, a Type I DGK inhibitor, also reduced tubule formation, in a dosage- and time-dependent manner (Figure 4C-D).

DGK γ contributes to the delivery of a subset of cargoes from the ER to the PM

To assess whether inhibition of membrane tubule formation had a functional impact on delivery of GP135 to the PM, or whether GP135 might as readily travel in vesicles, we next measured the delivery of GP135 to the PM. Again using the RUSH system, we stained cells using an anti-Streptavidin Binding Peptide (SBP, part of the RUSH construct and

luminally/externally exposed) antibody in the absence of permeabilizing agents so that only the GP135 that had reached the PM would be stained (Figure 3A, bottom panels)⁽²⁸⁾. We found that in control cells, delivery to the PM peaked at 80 min after releasing the cargo from the ER, and that both siRNA- and drug-mediated inhibition of DGK γ significantly reduced delivery of GP135 to the PM (Figure 5A-B). This effect was again dosage-dependent (Figure 5B). We previously showed that knockdown of DGK γ likewise inhibited the secretion of ssHRP and VSV-G-GFP (unpublished data, Kevin Ha). In contrast, using a GPI-anchored RUSH construct, I found that DGK γ inhibition had no effect on the delivery of GPI-anchored proteins to the PM (Figure 6). Thus, DGK γ positively regulates the trafficking of a subset of cargoes to the PM. This supports previous findings that cargoes leaving the TGN are sorted into distinct classes of carriers requiring their own machinery for formation⁽⁵⁾. It is noteworthy that, using the RUSH system, VSV-G was shown to exit the TGN in tubules, along with transferrin receptor and LAMP1, and that these tubules formed independently of clathrin and its adaptor proteins⁽²⁹⁾. Therefore DGK γ 's may contribute specifically to the formation and function of coat-independent tubular cargo carriers.

DGK γ does not regulate transport from the ER to the Golgi

The trafficking of GP135 from the ER to the PM requires at least 2 steps: ER-to-Golgi transport and Golgi-to-PM transport. To investigate where DGK γ may function, we again used the RUSH system and measured the delivery of GP135 from the ER to the Golgi. While R59949 had a significant effect on TGN-to-PM transport, it had no effect on ER-to-Golgi transport at 15 min or 30 min (Figure 7). Thus, consistent with a role in the formation of Golgi-derived cargo carriers, DGK γ appears to act at the Golgi-to-PM step in the trafficking of GP135.

DGK γ is required for structural homeostasis of the Golgi complex

To further investigate the role of DGK γ at the Golgi complex, we examined Golgi complex ultrastructure in control and R59949-treated cells immuno-stained with anti-GPP130 antibody (*cis* and *medial* Golgi). R59949 treatment caused a slight but significant increase in Golgi fragmentation (Figure 8A). Because immunofluorescence-based microscopy cannot resolve finer Golgi structure, we next examined the Golgi complex using transmission electron microscopy (TEM). Using TEM, we found a dramatic change in Golgi structure in DGK γ -knockdown cells (Figure 8B): Golgi cisternae were rounder, more fragmented, and less stacked together. There are several possible explanations for this. First, Golgi structure homeostasis depends on intra-Golgi transport mediated by membrane tubules, and DGK γ may be involved in this process. Second, by inhibiting anterograde trafficking out of the Golgi, DGK γ knockdown may cause an imbalance in membrane/cargo flow, leading to swelling of the cisternae and disruption of normal function. A third possibility is that DGK γ knockdown triggers apoptosis, which is known to cause Golgi fragmentation^(30, 31). Indeed, a 2-day knockdown, as used in the experiments described here, significantly reduced cell numbers, although it is unclear whether this is due to apoptosis or stalling of the cell cycle, which DGK γ has been implicated in⁽³²⁾. More experiments will be needed to examine these possibilities.

DGK γ localization

To understand how DGK γ may be functioning at the Golgi, we next examined its localization. DGK γ has been shown to localize to the PM^(19, 33-38), partially to the nucleus⁽³²⁾, the cytoplasm^(19, 32-40), and, less commonly, to the Golgi complex^(39, 40). We overexpressed EGFP-DGK γ in HeLa cells and found it to be in the cytoplasm and at the PM (Figure 9A, left panel). It

also appeared to decorate a tubular-reticular structure resembling TGN-derived tubules, but it failed to significantly co-localize with any Golgi or TGN markers, or with GP135-containing tubules in a RUSH experiment (data not shown). Rather, it seems that these structures were lamellipodia or membrane ruffles. This localization has been observed previously, where DGK γ was shown to be a negative regulator of lamellipodia formation when overexpressed⁽³⁴⁾. A constitutively-active mutant (Δ 1-259) of DGK γ ⁽¹⁸⁾ (here called EGFP-DGK γ CA) appeared to localize slightly more strongly to the PM, but we were unable to quantify this. Intriguingly, in a very small number of cells (<1% of transfected cells), EGFP-DGK γ localized strongly to the Golgi (Figure 9A, right panel). To see where endogenous DGK γ may localize in HeLa cells, we used a commercial anti-DGK γ antibody and visualized DGK γ staining using immunofluorescence. In over 99% of cells, staining appeared as widely distributed puncta (Figure 9B, left panel), which did not colocalize with markers of lysosomes, endosomes or the TGN (data not shown). However, again, in very rare cases, staining looked like classic ER and Golgi staining (Figure 9B, right panel). Thus DGK γ appears to have a dynamic localization. While DGK γ has been shown to translocate to the PM in response to a wide variety of stimuli^(19, 33-38), localization to the Golgi has not been linked to any stimuli. We attempted to induce DGK γ to localize to the Golgi using a RUSH experiment (perhaps forcing it onto the Golgi by loading a large bolus of cargo into the Golgi), BFA treatment (which exaggerates membrane tubule formation at the Golgi and thus may recruit tubule forming machinery), propranolol treatment (a phosphatidic acid phosphatase (PAP) inhibitor, which increases PA levels at the Golgi, and therefore may recruit DGK γ through DGK γ 's PA-binding ability), and R59949 treatment followed by washout (which may elevate levels of its substrate, DAG, and induce translocation). However, none of these seemed to trigger translocation to the Golgi (data not shown). Therefore,

while DGK γ appears to predominantly localize to the cytoplasm and PM, it may localize at low, normally-undetectable levels at the Golgi, and may, rarely, translocate to the Golgi in response to unknown stimuli. Further experiments are needed to understand its localization and what it may mean for its mechanism of action in trafficking out of the Golgi.

DGK γ interacting proteins

DGK γ has been shown to interact with β -chimaerin (a Rac-GAP)⁽⁴¹⁾ and protein kinase C- γ (PKC γ)⁽⁴²⁾. PKC γ has been shown to regulate ER-to-Golgi transport and Golgi-to-PM transport⁽⁴³⁾, supporting a role for DGK γ in membrane trafficking as well as suggesting a possible mechanism. To uncover more protein interactors for DGK γ , we performed a Stable Isotope Labeling with Amino acids in Cell culture (SILAC)-based mass spectrometry experiment using EGFP- DGK γ and EGFP- DGK γ CA as bait, along with EGFP as a control. We used the CA construct of DGK γ to identify interacting proteins relevant to DGK γ in its active state. However, the wild type and CA mutant had remarkably similar sets of protein interactors, with no novel or clearly increased interactions for the CA mutant. With that said, there were several interacting proteins that are known players in membrane trafficking, including several subunits of serine/threonine protein phosphatase 6 (PPP6)⁽⁴⁴⁾ and DENN domain containing protein 4C (DENND4C), a GEF for Rab10⁽⁴⁵⁾. These were among the strongest interacting proteins for both wild type and DGK γ -CA, supporting its role in membrane trafficking. Potential mechanisms of action involving these two proteins are discussed below.

CHAPTER THREE

DISCUSSION

How cargo carriers form independently of coat proteins is still largely unclear. Protein kinase D (PKD)⁽⁸⁾, phospholipase A₂ (PLA₂)⁽⁴⁶⁻⁴⁸⁾, lysophosphatidic acid transferases (LPATs)⁽⁴⁹⁾, CtBP/Bars⁽⁵⁰⁾, and 14-3-3 γ ⁽⁵⁰⁾, among other proteins, seem to be important factors in membrane reshaping leading to initial tubule formation and eventual fission from the Golgi membrane. Potential mechanisms for shaping the membrane into a tubule include the oligomerization of curved proteins around the membrane, extrusion of membranes along cytoskeletal elements, protein insertion into bilayer leaflets, and changes in lipid shape to favor curvature⁽⁵¹⁾. Among these possible mechanisms, there is evidence to support 3 potentially overlapping mechanisms of action of the DGKs: 1) DAG or PA act as lipid signals to activate or recruit trafficking machinery; 2) DAG and PA promote membrane shaping due to their conical shape and fusogenic properties; and 3) DGKs themselves act as scaffolds to recruit trafficking machinery to specific sites.

DAG and PA as lipid signals for tubule-forming machinery

Many growth factors, neurotransmitters, and other extracellular signals cause a transient rise in DAG levels through the action of phospholipase C (PLC), which hydrolyzes PI(4,5)P₂ to create the signaling molecules DAG and IP₃. DAG may also be produced through other metabolic pathways (Figure 2), including sphingomyelin synthase and phosphatidic acid phosphatases. DAG participates in various cellular responses, including cell proliferation, differentiation, and cytoskeletal organization through activation of target proteins^(35, 52, 53). DAG has been shown to recruit/activate membrane trafficking machinery at various points in the

secretory pathway, including Arf GAPs (required in early stages of tubule formation)⁽⁵⁴⁾, PKD⁽⁸⁾ and PKCh (both required for fission)^(55, 56), the synaptic vesicle priming protein UNC-13^(57, 58), and Rab3 (required for fusion of secretory vesicles with the PM)⁽⁵⁹⁾. It may also activate Trp channels at the PM, activating Ca²⁺ signaling that may be relevant to trafficking events⁽⁶⁰⁾, and it may regulate the activity of several Rho and Ras proteins, which are involved in cytoskeletal reorganization⁽⁶¹⁾ and thus may contribute to membrane shaping involved in membrane tubule formation. DAG has also been shown to induce the antigen-activated exocytosis involved in degranulation of mast cells by activating and inhibiting, respectively, Ras guanyl nucleotide-releasing proteins (RasGRP)⁽⁶²⁾ and the Orai1 calcium channel⁽⁶³⁾. Indeed DGK γ has been implicated in this pathway, as knockdown or DGK antagonists inhibited mast cell degranulation in response to antigen stimulation⁽³⁹⁾. Finally, DAG also regulates the secretion of insulin in response to glucose by modulating Munc13, a protein involved in vesicle maturation and exocytosis⁽²⁵⁾. In this case, too, DGK γ knockdown inhibited evoked exocytosis.

However, in both insulin secretion and mast cell degranulation, it can be difficult to determine whether DGK γ is regulating DAG or PA pools, as PA and DAG are both needed for evoked exocytosis^(64, 65). In the case of mast cell degranulation, PA regulates PI(4)P5K and sphingosine kinase, which are important for mast cell degranulation⁽⁶⁶⁾. In other cases in membrane trafficking, PA has been shown to be necessary for the recruitment of tubule-forming proteins MICAL-L1 and Syndapin2 to tubular recycling endosomes⁽⁶⁷⁾, and DGK α enzymatic activity is specifically required for this⁽²¹⁾. PA also binds the tubule forming protein, dynamin⁽⁶⁸⁾ and is a potent stimulator of dynamin's tubule forming activity on liposomes⁽⁶⁹⁾. PA has also been shown to recruit Rab coupling protein (RCP) and thereby promote endosomal recycling of $\alpha 5 \beta 1$ integrin⁽⁷⁰⁾. Finally, PA is an intermediate in PtdIns cycling, a fundamental regulator of

membrane trafficking and Golgi function⁽⁷¹⁾. In support of this, DGK expression appears to reduce TGN levels of PI4P⁽⁷²⁾, which promotes transport out of the TGN and again, contrary to ours and others' findings, suggests that DGK may act as a negative regulator of TGN-to-PM trafficking.

DAG and PA in membrane shaping

The shape of DAG and PA can vary from cylindrical to conical. As conical lipids, DAG or PA can be aggregated together in one leaflet of a bilayer to induce negative curvature. Negative curvature is thought to drive membrane fission, and both DAG and PA are thought to promote fission in different contexts^(73, 74). In the case of DAG, the degree to which it is conical depends on acyl chain length and degree of unsaturation⁽⁷⁵⁾, while for PA it depends on Ca²⁺ levels⁽⁷⁶⁾. There is evidence that under normal cytosolic conditions, PA adopts a cylindrical shape, but at the elevated Ca²⁺ and mildly acidic TGN, it adopts a conical shape⁽⁷⁴⁾. Thus, depending on the shape of DAG, the conversion of DAG to PA in the context of the TGN may act as a molecular switch to promote curvature. This may be the mechanism of fission of tubules at the TGN, where the generation of a high level of phosphatidic acid that leads to fission⁽⁷⁷⁾. On the other hand, the early stages of tubule formation require a combination of positive and negative membrane curvature in the inner and outer leaflet, which varies between different regions of the tubule, i.e. the neck or tip. Because DAG lacks a charged head group, it can flip between leaflets within seconds⁽⁷⁸⁾ and thus can possibly contribute negative curvature as needed in different leaflets. This may be directed by natural segregation into appropriately-shaped gaps during membrane extrusion/shaping by proteins. Thus, DAG may be ideal for early stages in membrane tubule formation, which require dynamic combinations of positive and negative

curvature. PA, on the other hand, represents a more rigid curve-inducing presence in a leaflet, as it flips between leaflets at a much slower rate of minutes to hours⁽⁷⁸⁾. In fact, DAG appears to be necessary for the initial formation of membrane buds, while PA and PA-producing proteins appear to act in late stages of membrane tubule formation, leading to membrane fission by generating strong negative curvature in the cytosolic leaflet at the neck of the tubule⁽⁹⁾. In summary, DAG appears to be required in early stages of membrane tubule formation, after which DGK γ may be recruited to form PA, which in turn promotes fission of the tubule from the Golgi. DGK γ may concurrently recruit machinery needed for tubule/vesicle maturation, as described below.

DGK as scaffold

DGK itself has been shown to recruit trafficking machinery to functional sites. In a synergistic recruitment, DGK α and its product PA bind to MICAL-L1 at tubular recycling endosomes, suggesting a positive feedback loop driving tubule formation⁽²¹⁾. Similarly, SNX7 requires binding to DGK ζ for localization to sorting endosomes in Jurkat T cells, but in this case DGK ζ acts as a negative regulator, as a knockdown accelerates recycling of transferrin from endosomes to PM⁽⁷⁹⁾. In support of a DGK-specific rather than PA/DAG-specific function in trafficking, overexpression of an active *or* kinase dead mutant of DGK δ inhibits formation of COPII vesicles and ER-to-Golgi trafficking of VSV-G⁽²⁶⁾. Here we report that DGK γ binds two established regulators of membrane trafficking: PPP6 and DENND4C. PPP6 has been shown to regulate ER-to-Golgi trafficking by dephosphorylating Sec31⁽⁴⁴⁾. While this offers no direct mechanism for DGK γ 's function in TGN-to-PM trafficking, PPP6 may similarly regulate an unidentified protein involved in TGN-to-PM trafficking. In contrast, DENND4C is known to

localize to Golgi-to-PM cargo carriers and acts a GEF activating Rab10⁽⁴⁵⁾. Rab10 is involved in the maturation of cargo carriers at the Golgi and eventual fusion with the PM^(81, 82). This interaction, in combination with the DAG/PA- mediated mechanisms described above, suggest that DGK γ may localize to Golgi membrane tubules later in their life cycle to convert DAG to PA, leading to fission from the Golgi, while simultaneously recruiting DENND4C for activation of Rab10 to lead the nascent cargo carrier down its life cycle towards eventual fusion with the PM (Figure 10).

In summary, here I report the involvement of DGK γ in the formation of TGN-to-PM cargo carriers, delivery of GP135, VSV-G, and ssHRP to the PM, and Golgi structure homeostasis, with PPP6 and DENND4C as possible functional interactors.

CHAPTER FOUR

FIGURES

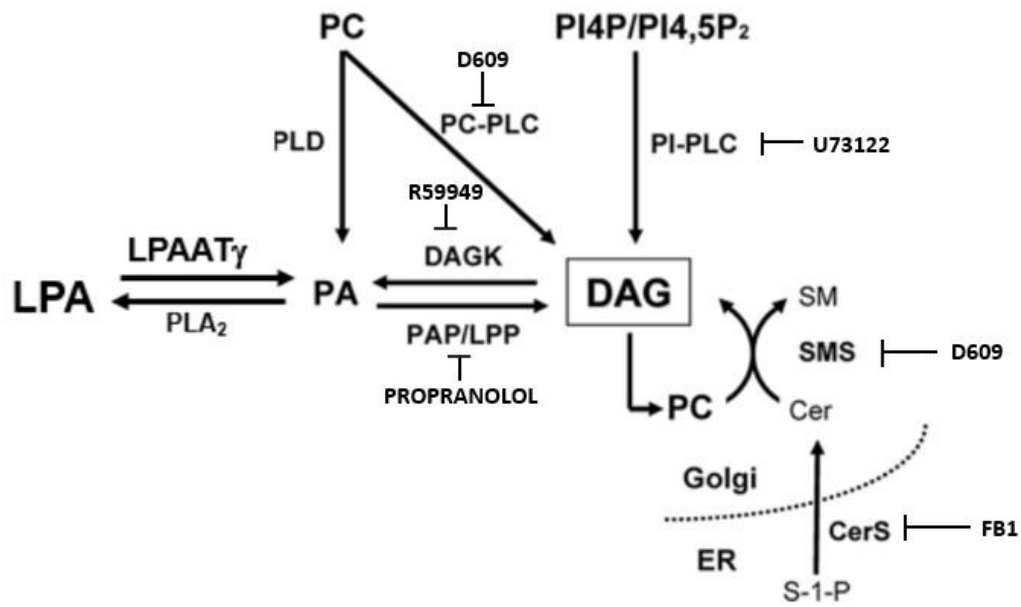


Figure 1. Lipid metabolism pathways associated with DGK. Inhibitors of particular enzymatic reactions are shown.

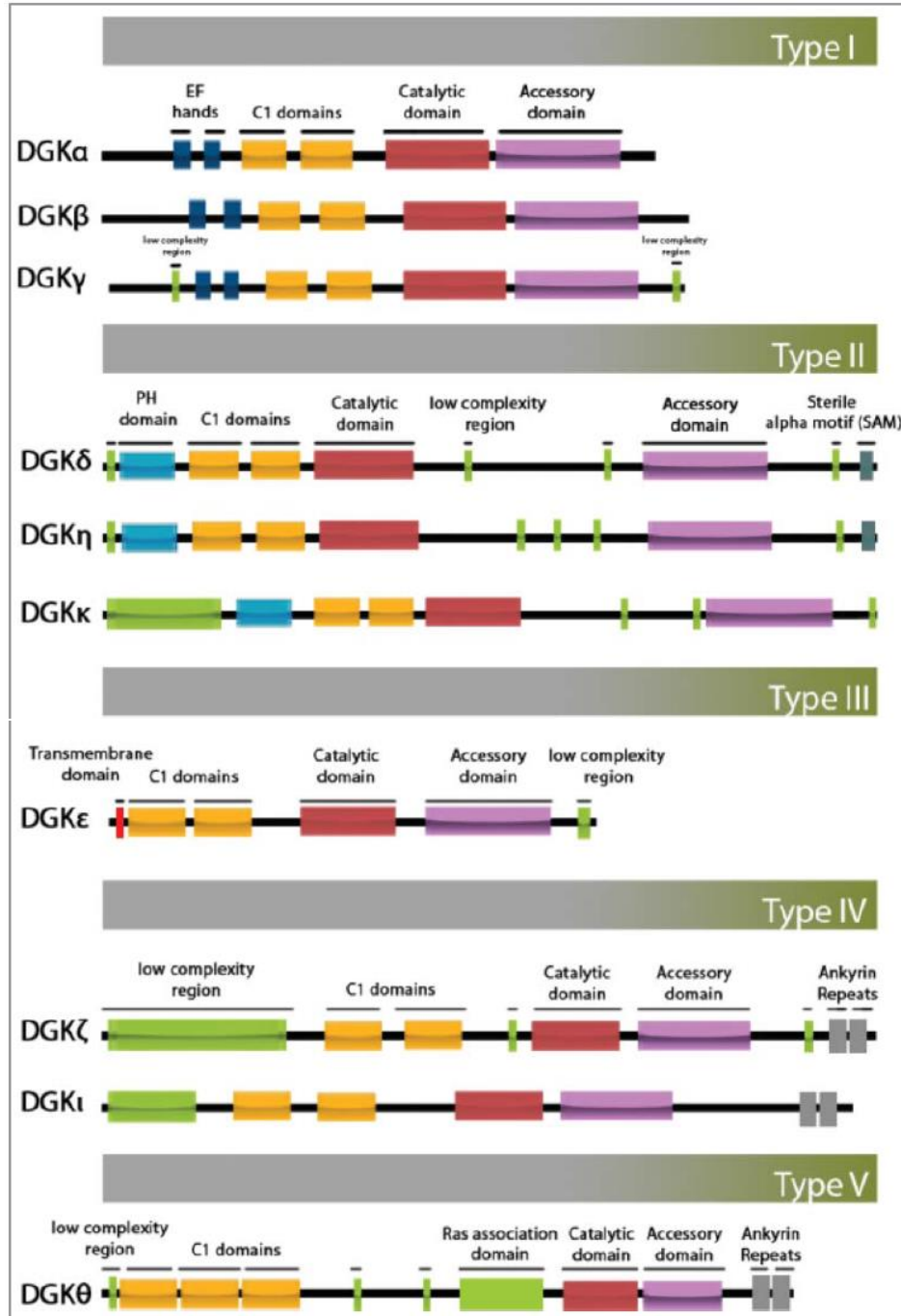
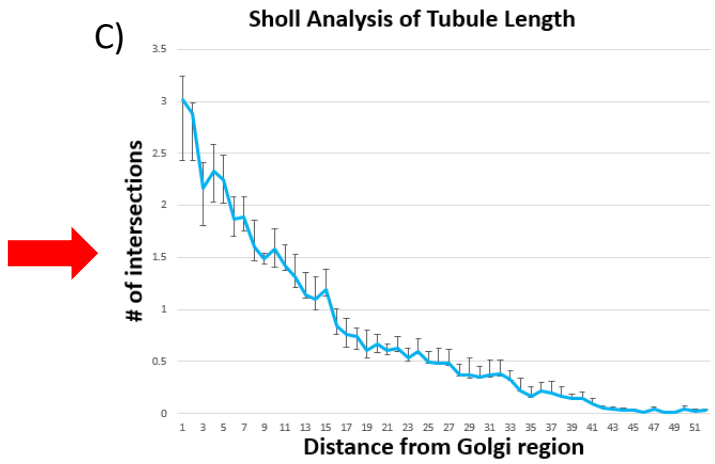
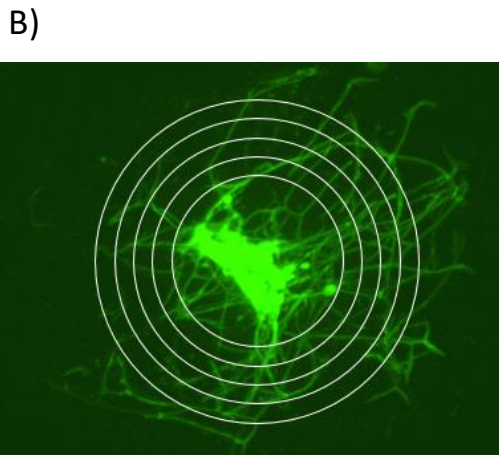
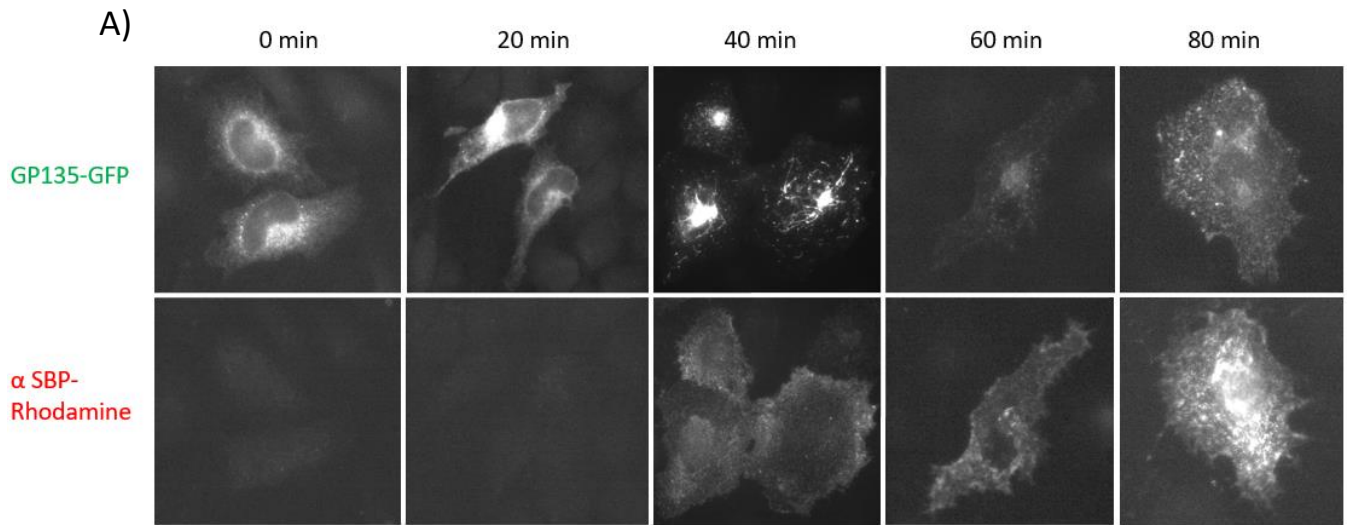


Figure 2. Mammalian diacylglycerol kinases (DGKs). Ten mammalian isozymes are divided into five types based on shared structural domains (from Xie et al. 2015).

Figure 3. RUSH timecourse and Sholl analysis of tubule formation. A) Timecourse of a RUSH experiment. At 0 min, before the addition of biotin, all of the GP135-GFP is in the ER, and there is no surface staining (red channel). By 40 min, cargo has reached the surface and can be detected by surface staining. GP135 exits the TGN via membrane tubules (40min); tubule formation was found to peak at 45 min. Cargo delivery to the surface peaks at 80 min. (B) A cell from a RUSH experiment fixed at 45 min. Sholl analysis⁽⁸⁹⁾ was performed by drawing concentric circles around the Golgi and measuring the number of intersections between the drawn circles and fluorescently-labelled membrane tubules. (C) A plot of the number of intersections with membrane tubules at increasing radii. The area under the curve of this plot was taken as a quantification of total tubule length.



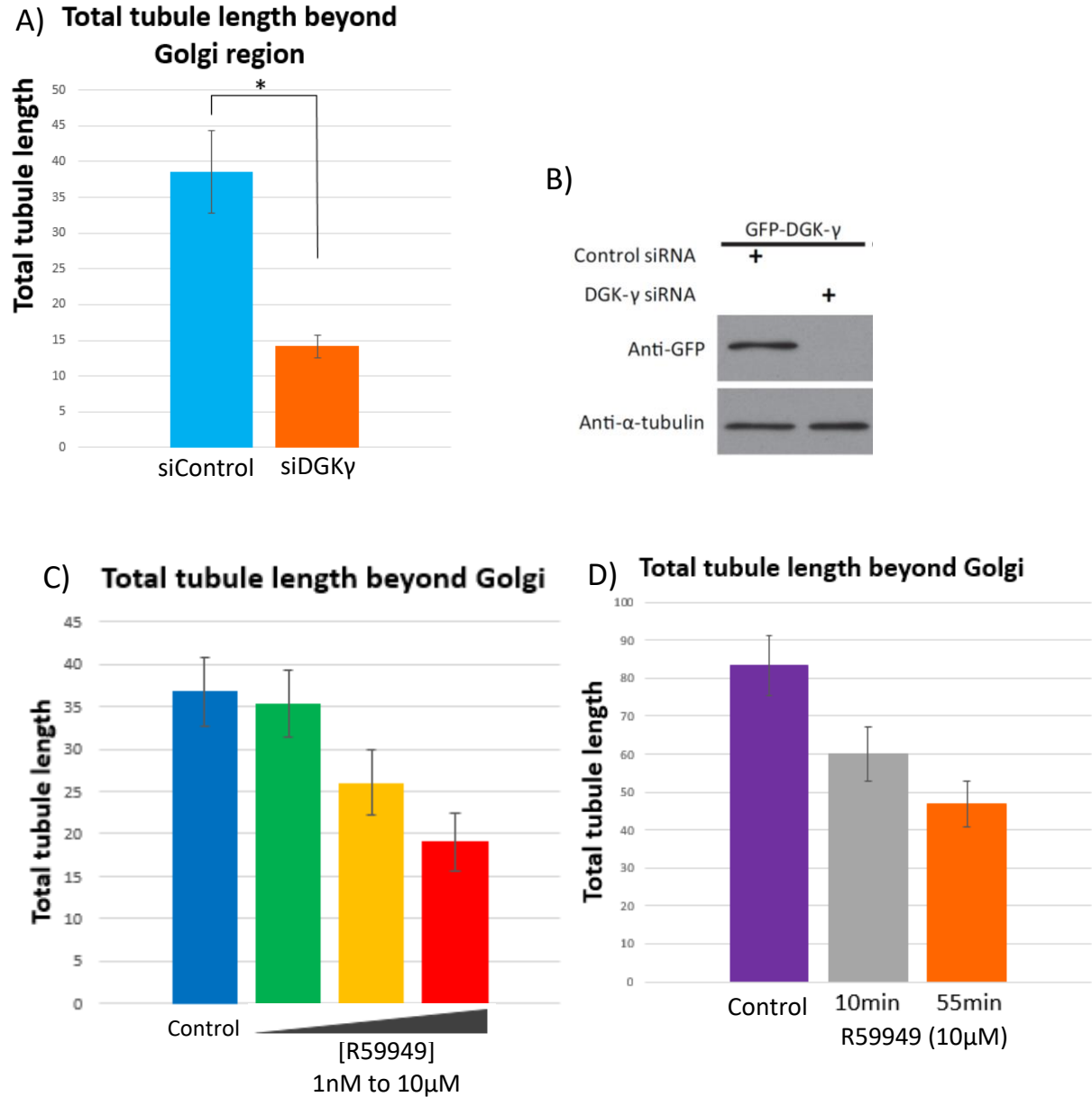


Figure 4. DGK γ involvement in formation of tubular cargo carriers at the Golgi.

Quantification of GP135-containing tubular cargo carriers at 45 minutes in a RUSH experiment in cells treated with A-B) siControl and siDGK γ RNA, with or without a rescue construct and C) a drug inhibitor of type I DGKs (R59949) at increasing dosages and D) varying exposure times. Experiments performed in HeLa cells: n=3, with each independent experiment measuring >100 cells for each condition.

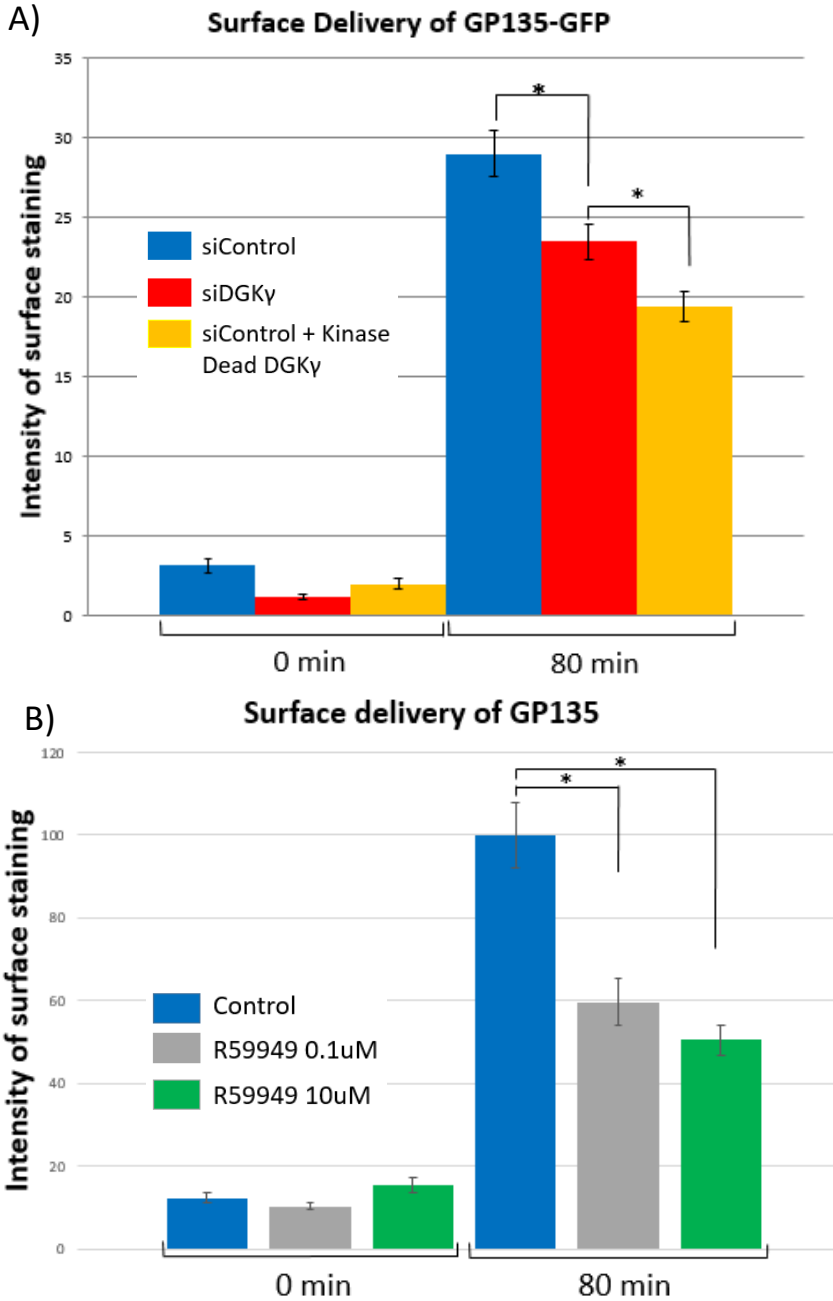


Figure 5. DGK γ involvement in trafficking of cargo to the PM. Delivery of GP135 from the ER to the PM at 0 min and 80min in a RUSH experiment in cells treated with A) siControl and siDGK γ RNA, with rescue constructs as indicated (WT= wild type, KD= kinase dead) and B) a drug inhibitor of type I DGKs (R59949) at increasing dosages. Experiments performed in HeLa cells: n=3, each experiment measuring >100 cells for each condition.

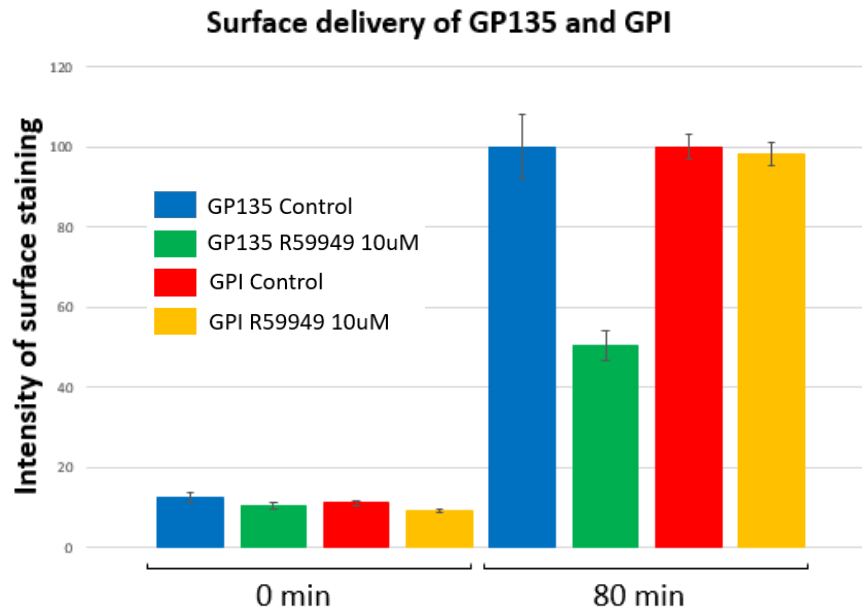


Figure 6. Cargo selectivity of DGK γ involvement in trafficking from the Golgi. Delivery of GP135 from the ER to the PM at 0 min and 80min in a RUSH experiment in cells treated with 10uM R59949 for 10min prior to trafficking assay. Experiments performed in HeLa cells: n=3, each experiment measuring >100 cells for each condition.

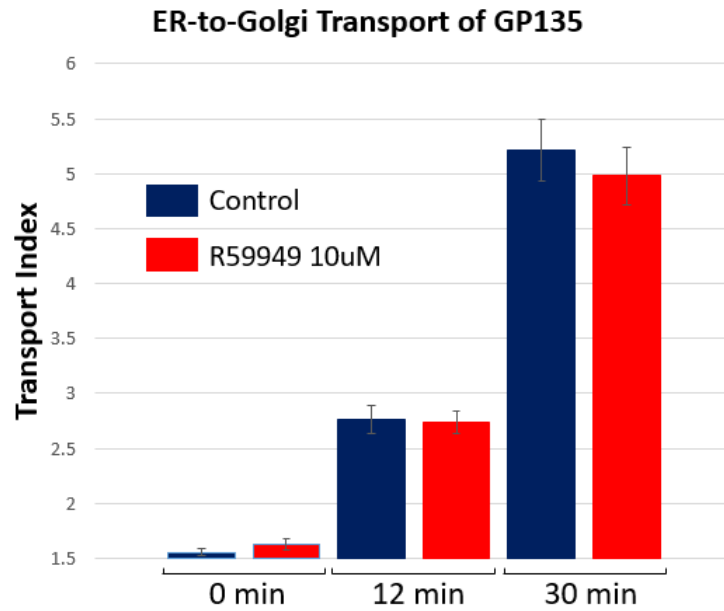
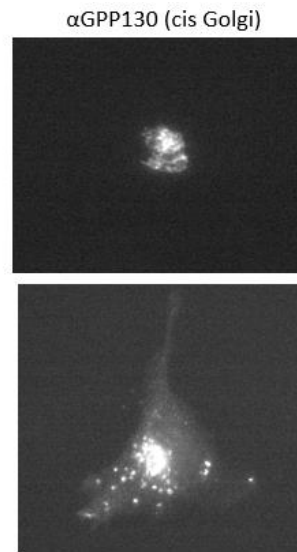
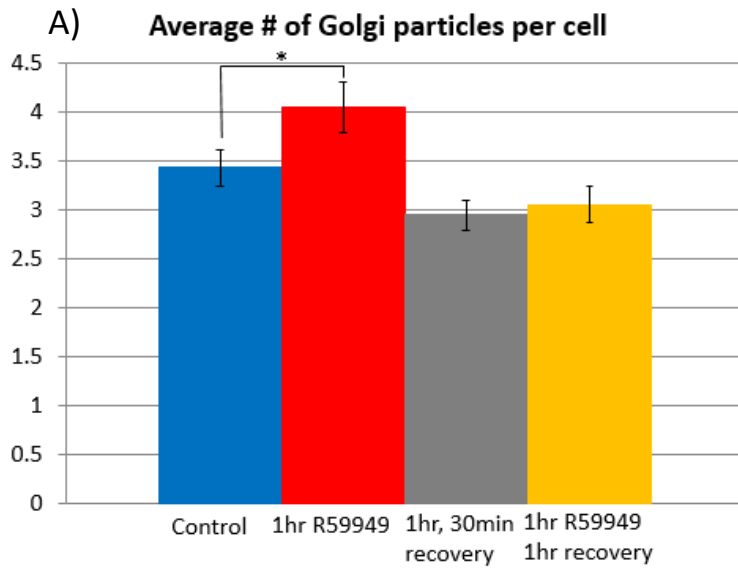
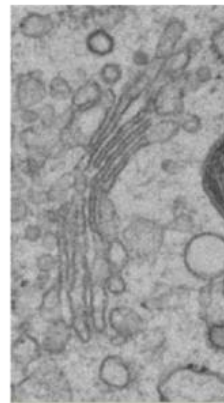
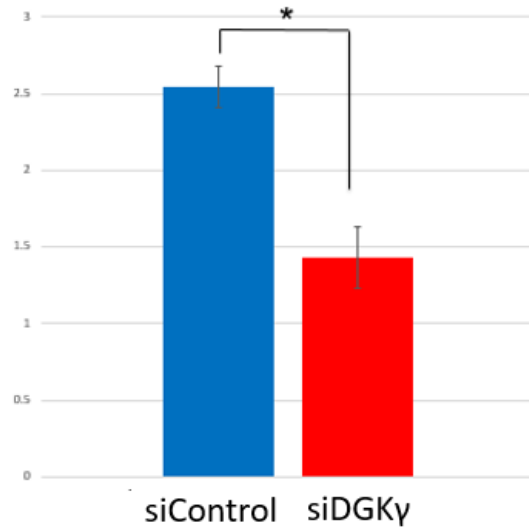


Figure 7. DGK γ involvement in trafficking from the ER. A) Delivery of GP135 from the ER to the Golgi at 0min, 15min, and 30min in a RUSH experiment in cells treated with 10uM R59949 for 10min prior to trafficking assay. Experiments performed in HeLa cells: n=1, experiment measuring >100 cells for each condition.

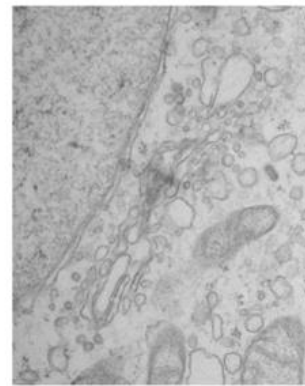
Figure 8. DGK γ involvement in Golgi structure homeostasis. A) Cells treated with 10 μ M R59949 for the indicated times, followed by a wash and the indicated recovery times, were stained with α -GPP130 antibody. The number of GPP130 positive particles was counted for each condition. B) Cells treated with siControl or siDGK γ were fixed and imaged with TEM. Images were blinded, and cells were scored for degree of cisternal stacking of Golgi membranes (0-4). Experiments performed in HeLa cells: A) n=4, each experiment measuring >200 cells; B) n=1, each condition having >30 cells.



B) Cisternal Stacking Index

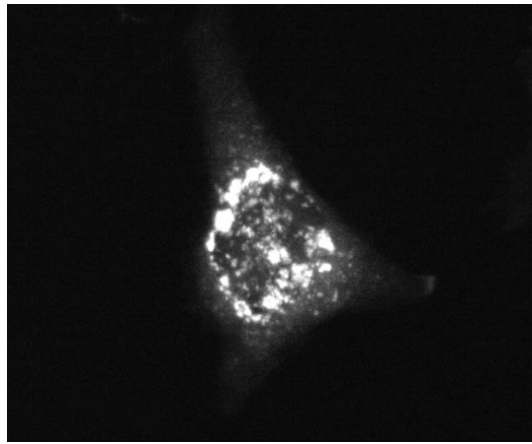
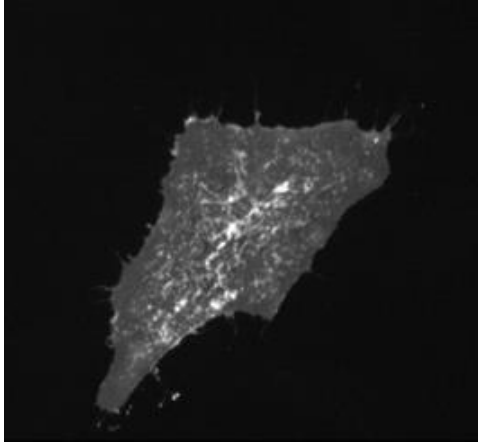


siControl



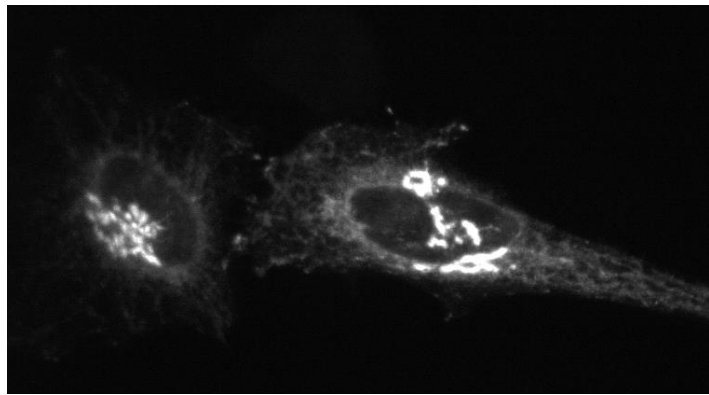
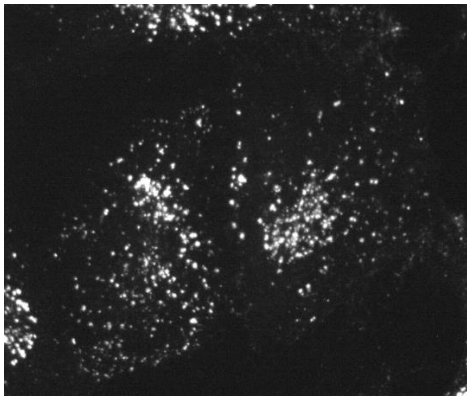
siDGKy

A)



EGFP-DGK γ (predominant localization) EGFP-DGK γ (rare localization)

B)



anti-DGK γ (predominant staining) anti-DGK γ (rare staining)

Figure 9. Localization of DGK γ . A) Localization of an EGFP-DGK γ construct in HeLa cells.

B) Staining pattern of endogenous DGK γ in HeLa cells. Left panels for A) and B) show the predominant (>99%) localization, while right panels show rare but distinct localization.

Figure 10. Possible roles for DAG, PA and DGK γ in trafficking out of the TGN. PA (green lipid) and DAG (blue lipid) and their cellular targets of activation (indicated by green or blue text, respectively). DAG, PA, and DGK γ may operate in trafficking at the TGN through (1) signaling events, (2) tubule/vesicle budding, (3) tubule/vesicle fission, and (4) vesicle/tubule maturation. As DAG, PA and DGK γ may be positive or negative regulators of several events, and much remains unclear, all possibilities are considered here, regardless of how they relate to the data shown in this study. **(1) Signaling:** Numerous extracellular signals lead to phospholipase C (PLC) activation and production of DAG, which acts as a secondary signaling molecule activating numerous downstream pathways, some of which appear to regulate (next page) trafficking out of the TGN. For instance, DAG activates PKC γ , which has been shown to regulate trafficking out of the ER and TGN. DAG may also modulate Trp and Orai1 channels, which have been shown to be involved in certain evoked exocytosis events, such as mast cell degranulation and neurotransmitter release. DGK γ may regulate these signaling pathways at the PM. **(2) Tubule budding:** DAG has been shown to be required for the initial budding of membrane tubules and vesicles at the TGN. It is thought that DAG's conical shape and ability to flip between bilayers may contribute to membrane reshaping. DAG may also play a role through its activation of PKC isoforms at the Golgi, which activate unknown downstream targets. In support of this, DGK γ has been shown to bind PKC γ and thus may deliver it to the TGN. DAG is also thought to recruit Arf-1, an important regulator of tubule formation, to the TGN. Finally, DAG may also activate Rho and Ras GTPases that remodel the actin cytoskeleton and may thus drive the extrusion of a tubule out of the TGN. PA may also play a role in budding, as it is a substrate for PLA₂. PLA₂ is required for membrane tubule formation, likely due to its production of LPA (indicated as a light grey lipid here), an inverse-conical lipid that produces positive

curvature in a membrane. Thus DGK γ here may feed PLA₂ its substrate to drive membrane budding, or it may act during budding (through PKCs) to progress the tubule down its life cycle.

(3) Tubule fission: DAG activates PKC η and PKD, which is required for tubule fission. The downstream generation of PA at bud necks is thought to drive scission of the tubule. PA also activates PI(4)KIII β (required for fission) and dynamin, which may also drive fission at the TGN.

(4) Tubule maturation: Here we show that DGK γ binds PPP6 and DENND4C. PPP6 acts in trafficking from the ER by dephosphorylating Sec31, allowing it to recycle for further rounds of vesicle formation. PPP6 may act in an analogous way at the TGN, through an unknown target. DENND4C acts as a GEF for Rab10, which is required for vesicle maturation and fusion with the PM. Thus DGK γ may act partly as a scaffold to position the machinery for tubule maturation at newly-formed tubules. DAG is important for activation of Rab3 and Munc13, which are involved in vesicle fusion with the PM; DGK γ here may be a negative regulator.

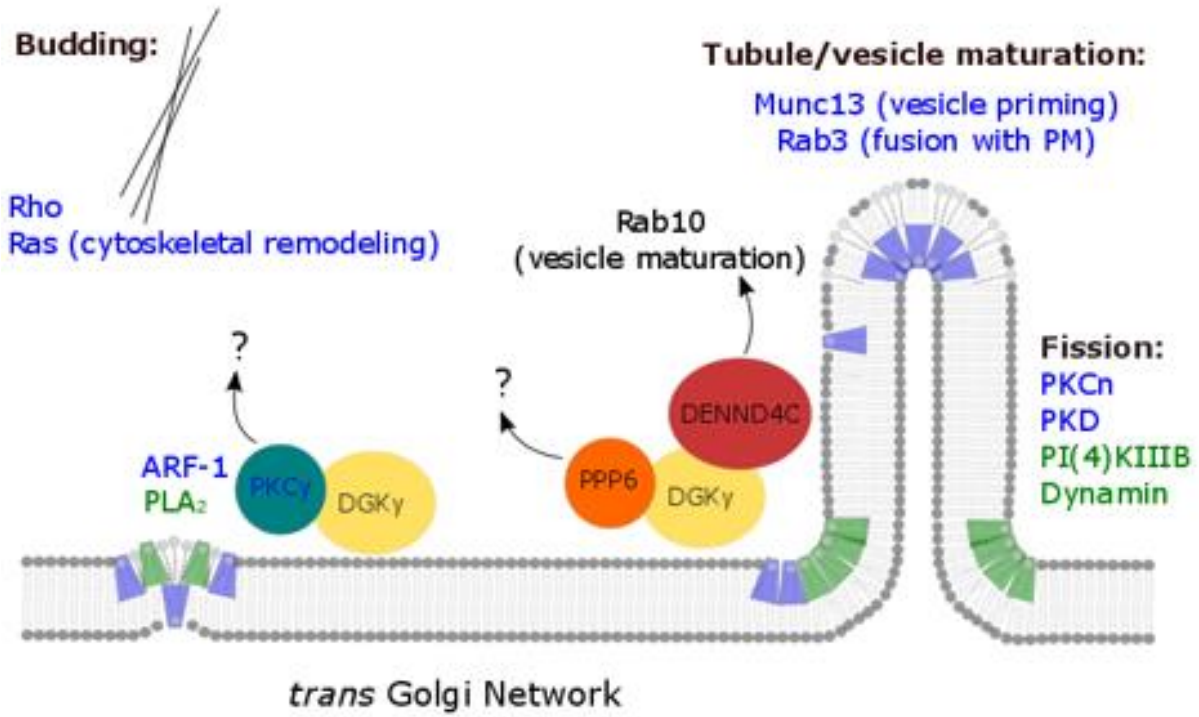
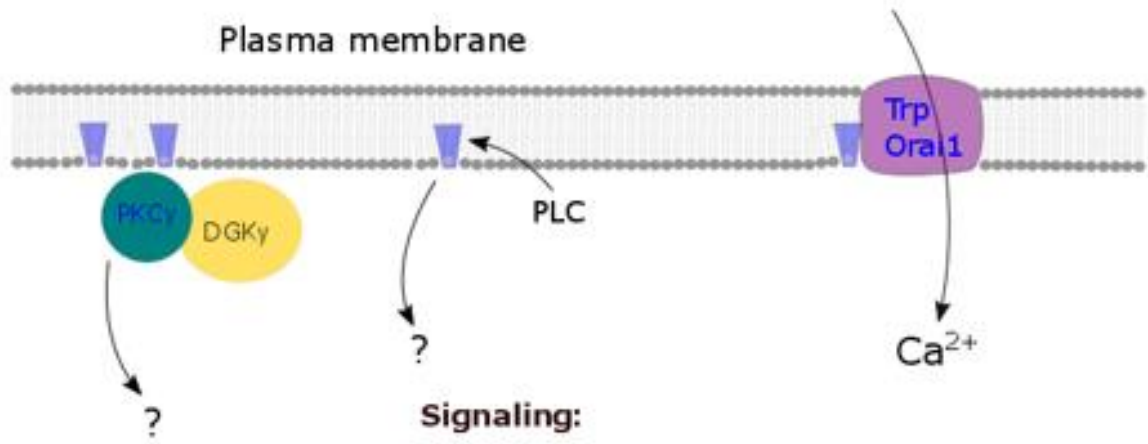


Table 1: Mammalian DGKs	Type-defining domains	Localization	Trafficking function
Type I (α, β, γ)	EF-hand	α : PM ⁽⁸³⁾ , Golgi/TGN ⁽³³⁾ , MVB ⁽⁸⁴⁾ , endosome ⁽²¹⁾ β : PM ⁽³³⁾ γ : PM ^(19, 33-38) , nucleus ⁽³²⁾ , Golgi ^(39, 40)	α : + regulator TRE ⁽²¹⁾ β : - regulator CIE ⁽²⁰⁾ γ : + regulator CIE ⁽²⁰⁾ , insulin secretion ⁽²⁵⁾ and mast cell degranulation ⁽³⁷⁾
Type II (δ, η, κ)	Pleckstrin Homology (PH), Sterile Alpha Motif (SAM)	δ : PM ⁽⁸⁵⁾ , ER ⁽²⁶⁾ η, κ : ER ⁽²⁶⁾	δ : + reg. CIE/ -reg CME ^(17, 20) , - reg COPII function ⁽²⁶⁾ η, κ : none
Type III (ϵ)	Transmembrane domain	PM?	none
Type IV (ζ, ι)	Nuclear localization signal, PKZ domain	ι : Nuclear ⁽⁸⁶⁾ , PM ⁽²²⁾ ζ : Nuclear ⁽⁸⁶⁾ , PM ⁽³³⁾ , endosome ⁽⁷⁹⁾	ι : + regulator glutamate release ⁽²²⁾ ζ : - reg transferrin recycling ⁽⁷⁹⁾ , + reg phagocytosis ^(87, 88)
Type V (θ)	Pleckstrin Homology (PH), Ras- association domain	PM ⁽²³⁾	- regulator acetylcholine release ⁽²³⁾ , synaptic vesicle recycling ⁽²⁴⁾
Abbreviations: TRE: tubular recycling endosome; CME: clathrin-mediated endocytosis; CIE: clathrin-independent endocytosis; reg: regulator			

Table 1. Mammalian diacylglycerol kinases (DGK) in membrane trafficking.

protein	count	count_h	count_l	gmean	log ₂ ($\frac{count_h}{count_l}$)	orf	description
APLP2	5	5	0	0.00288	-8.44136	APLP2	amyloid beta (A4) precursor-like protein 2
DGKA,DGKG	7	7	0	0.00801	-6.96428	DGKA	diacylglycerol kinase, alpha 80kDa
DGKG	1030	947	83	0.01333	-6.22958	DGKG	diacylglycerol kinase, gamma 90kDa
PPP6R3	71	68	3	0.02899	-5.1082	PPP6R3	protein phosphatase 6, regulatory subunit 3
PPP6C	35	30	5	0.04099	-4.6086	PPP6C	protein phosphatase 6, catalytic subunit
RNF219	6	6	0	0.05777	-4.11362	RNF219	ring finger protein 219
RHOT1	6	6	0	0.06267	-3.99597	RHOT1	ras homolog gene family, member T1
FAM115A	8	7	1	0.10081	-3.31024	FAM115A	family with sequence similarity 115, member A
DGKA,DGKB,DGKG	8	8	0	0.10347	-3.27266	DGKA	diacylglycerol kinase, alpha 80kDa
MID1	5	5	0	0.10415	-3.2633	MID1	midline 1 (Opitz/BBB syndrome)
PPP2R2A	16	14	2	0.11598	-3.10807	PPP2R2A	protein phosphatase 2, regulatory subunit B, alpha
TUBB2B,TUBB2A	8	7	1	0.11676	-3.09835	TUBB2B	tubulin, beta 2B class IIb
PDLIM7	9	8	1	0.12334	-3.01931	PDLIM7	PDZ and LIM domain 7 (enigma)
CPS1	9	9	0	0.12629	-2.98517	CPS1	carbamoyl-phosphate synthase 1, mitochondrial
SKIV2L	12	10	2	0.12844	-2.96087	SKIV2L	superkiller viralicidic activity 2-like (<i>S. cerevisiae</i>)
NUBP2	9	9	0	0.13501	-2.88882	NUBP2	nucleotide binding protein 2
MAD2L1	9	7	2	0.137	-2.86771	MAD2L1	MAD2 mitotic arrest deficient-like 1 (yeast)
PPP2CA,PPP2CB,PPP4	5	4	1	0.13833	-2.85386	PPP2CA	protein phosphatase 2, catalytic subunit, alpha
TMX3	7	7	0	0.13958	-2.84081	TMX3	thioredoxin-related transmembrane protein 3
PPP2R2A,PPP2R2D	5	5	0	0.14705	-2.76558	PPP2R2A	protein phosphatase 2, regulatory subunit B, alpha
ACOT8	5	5	0	0.15147	-2.72286	ACOT8	acyl-CoA thioesterase 8
USP15	29	26	3	0.15188	-2.71897	USP15	ubiquitin specific peptidase 15
ANKRD28	20	20	0	0.15884	-2.65434	ANKRD28	ankyrin repeat domain 28
GPX1	7	5	2	0.16408	-2.60749	GPX1	glutathione peroxidase 1
ZNF24	16	15	1	0.16558	-2.59443	ZNF24	zinc finger protein 24
GNB1L	5	3	2	0.17409	-2.52207	GNB1L	guanine nucleotide binding protein (G protein),
VPS4B	5	4	1	0.17669	-2.50071	VPS4B	vacuolar protein sorting 4 homolog B (<i>S. cerevisiae</i>)

Table 2. DGK γ -interacting proteins. SILAC-MS results for EGFP-DGK γ expressed in HeLa cells. Control EGFP was analyzed in parallel to eliminate EGFP-interacting peptides. Peptides of particular interest are highlighted in yellow.

protein	count	count_h	count_l	gmean	log ₂ gr _{h/l}	orf	description
DGKG	471	439	32	0.0342	-4.86982	DGKG	diacylglycerol kinase, gamma
PPP6C	49	45	4	0.04404	-4.50519	PPP6C	protein phosphatase 6, cataly
PPP6R3	79	78	1	0.06014	-4.05546	PPP6R3	protein phosphatase 6, reguli
PPP6R2	11	11	0	0.07888	-3.66418	PPP6R2	protein phosphatase 6, reguli
TUBB4	10	10	0	0.10862	-3.2026	TUBB4	
ANKRD28	38	38	0	0.11675	-3.09849	ANKRD28	ankyrin repeat domain 28
WDR77	47	42	5	0.11984	-3.06084	WDR77	WD repeat domain 77
SETD2	10	10	0	0.12242	-3.03012	SETD2	SET domain containing 2
RCN2	40	35	5	0.13695	-2.86826	RCN2	reticulocalbin 2, EF-hand calc
PRMT5	76	70	6	0.15092	-2.72811	PRMT5	protein arginine methyltransf
TTC37	32	32	0	0.16515	-2.59819	TTC37	tetratricopeptide repeat dom
PPP2R2A	16	15	1	0.1673	-2.57952	PPP2R2A	protein phosphatase 2, reguli
AKAP8L	26	24	2	0.16792	-2.57413	AKAP8L	A kinase (PRKA) anchor protei
BCR	15	15	0	0.16922	-2.563	BCR	breakpoint cluster region
DENND4C	10	10	0	0.16925	-2.56277	DENND4C	DENN/MADD domain containi
PPP2CA,PP	37	29	8	0.16952	-2.56046	PPP2CA	protein phosphatase 2, cataly
SKIV2L	12	12	0	0.17275	-2.53323	SKIV2L	superkiller viralicidic activity
MAGED1	13	13	0	0.17584	-2.50768	MAGED1	melanoma antigen family D,
ZMYM2	16	16	0	0.18384	-2.44346	ZMYM2	zinc finger, MYM-type 2
RNF219	17	17	0	0.19223	-2.37913	RNF219	ring finger protein 219
TUBB6,TU	10	8	2	0.19558	-2.35417	TUBB6	tubulin, beta 6 class V
USP9Y,USI	34	34	0	0.20113	-2.31383	USP9Y	ubiquitin specific peptidase 9, Y-
RANBP9	12	11	1	0.20233	-2.30523	RANBP9	RAN binding protein 9
TUBB6,TU	10	7	3	0.20373	-2.29526	TUBB6	tubulin, beta 6 class V
SEC13	14	13	1	0.2057	-2.28137	SEC13	SEC13 homolog (<i>S. cerevisiae</i>)
USP15	21	20	1	0.20764	-2.26786	USP15	ubiquitin specific peptidase :
TUBB6,TU	22	16	6	0.2115	-2.24127	TUBB6	tubulin, beta 6 class V

Table 3. DGK γ CA-interacting proteins. SILAC-MS results for a constitutively active EGFP-DGK γ (Δ 1-259) construct expressed in HeLa cells. Control EGFP was analyzed in parallel to eliminate EGFP-interacting peptides. Peptides of particular interest are highlighted in yellow.

CHAPTER FIVE

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

Cell culture and transfection

HeLa cells were maintained in modified Eagle's minimal essential medium (MEM, Invitrogen 61100-087) with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS, Life Technologies, CA) at 37°C, 5% CO₂, and 95% humidity. For transfections in 35 mm dishes, 1 µg of DNA and/or siRNA (final concentration on cells = 30 nM) was incubated with 2 µL of Lipofectamine 2000 (Thermofisher 11668-019) for 20 min at room temperature. This was then added dropwise into 1 mL of MEM (no serum) in a dish of cells grown to 80% confluency. Cells were incubated with the transfection complex for 5-6 h, after which the MEM was replaced with complete media. All experiments were performed 24 h or 48 h (as indicated) after the addition of the transfection complex.

RUSH experiments

RUSH experiments were performed as previously described⁽²⁸⁾. Briefly, cells grown in 35 mm dishes were transfected with RUSH plasmids for 24 h, then washed 3x's with MEM (no serum) and allowed to recover in 1.5 mL of MEM (no serum) at 37°C for 10 min. 4 mM biotin was added to a final concentration of 40 nM, beginning the timecourse. At the indicated timepoints, coverslips were removed from the MEM + biotin and fixed in 3.7% Formalin in 1x PBS for 10 min. Coverslips were mounted on 8 µL of ProLong Antifade Mountant (Life Technologies P36970) and allowed to cure overnight.

Plasmids, siRNA and reagents

siRNA targeting human DGK γ was purchased from GenePharma Co., Ltd. (Shanghai, China) using sequence 5' – GGGUGGGAGCCUCAACAAtt – 3'. A plasmid for DGK γ was purchased from Harvard PlasmID (HsCD00026096) and edited to match the sequence for human isoform 1 (NM_001346.2, with the following naturally-occurring mutations: T142S, R316K). This construct was cloned into pEGFP-C3 and mCherry-C2 vectors using XhoI and HindIII restriction sites. siRNA-resistant constructs of the above were generated using QuickChange II (Agilent Technologies) using two silent mutations within the target siRNA sequence. A kinase dead construct was generated by mutating G494D⁽¹⁸⁾, again using QuickChange II. A constitutively active construct was made by amplifying the Δ 1-259 portion of DGK γ and cloning this into pEGFP-C3 using HindIII and XhoI restriction sites. Bi-cistronic RUSH plasmids (Str-KDEL_SBP-GFP-GP135 and Str-KDEL_SBP-GFP-GPI) were kind gifts of Frank Perez. Type II DGK inhibitor R59949 was purchased from Santa Cruz (SCBT-sc-3551).

Electron Microscopy

HeLa cells grown to ~90% confluency were fixed (0.83% glutaraldehyde, 0.67% OsO₄ in 0.1 M Na Cacodylate, pH 7.4) for 1 h on ice, washed 3x's with cold 0.1 M Na Cacodylate, pH 7.4, stained with 0.25% uranyl acetate (in H₂O) for 15-30 min, washed 3x with cold 0.1 M Na Cacodylate, pH 7.4, dehydrated with Pharmco-Aaper 200-proof EtOH (washed 3x each with 50%, 70%, 95%, 100% solutions), etched with 100% propylene oxide, scraped off the dishes, and embedded in Epon resin (48 h polymerization). Embedded cells were then sectioned and stained with 3.5 mg/mL Pb Acetate solution (5 min) and 40 mg/mL Uranyl Acetate solution (20 min) and imaged on a FEI Philips Morgagni 268 transmission electron microscope at about 80 kV using Morigami Software.

SILAC Mass Spectroscopy

HEK293T cells were grown a minimum of five generations in DMEM with 10% dialyzed FBS (Sigma) containing either light (L-Lysine- $^{13}\text{C}_6$, $^{15}\text{N}_2$ hydrochloride, Sigma #608041) or heavy (L-Arginine- $^{13}\text{C}_6$, $^{15}\text{N}_4$ hydrochloride, Sigma #608033) amino acids. Cells grown in heavy media were transfected in two 15 cm dishes with EGFP-DGK γ wild type or constitutively-active constructs, while cells grown in light media were transfected with pEGFP. After 48 h, cells were lysed in RIPA buffer (No SDS, 50 mM NaF, 50 mM Tris-Cl pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 1% NP-40, 5 mM EDTA, 0.25% sodium deoxycholate with protease inhibitors (Roche)). The lysates were incubated with GFP-Trap beads (ChromoTek) overnight at 4°C. Transfection and immunoprecipitation of EGFP and EGFP-DGK γ were confirmed by SDS-PAGE and Western blot analysis probing for GFP. Samples were boiled 5 min, incubated with DTT (final 10 mM) for 15 min to reduce, and alkylated with iodoacetamide (final concentration 28 mM). Heavy and light samples were mixed and proteins were precipitated on ice for 30 min with a 50% acetone, 49.9% ethanol, 0.1% acetic acid solution, washed once in the same buffer, suspended in 8 M urea/50 mM Tris pH 8.0, and diluted with three volumes of 50 mM Tris pH 8.0, 150 mM NaCl. Proteins were digested overnight on a nutator at 37°C with 1 μg Gold trypsin (Promega). Samples were then acidified with 10% trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) and 10% formic acid using a glass syringe and washed on pre-conditioned C18 column (WAT0549-55) with 0.1% HAc. Samples were eluted with 80% acetonitrile (ACN), 0.1% acetic acid into silanized vials (National Scientific) and evaporated using a SpeedVac. Samples were suspended in H₂O with ~1% formic acid and 70% ACN. Peptides were then separated using hydrophilic interaction liquid chromatography (HILIC) on an Ultimate 300 LC (Dionex). Samples were evaporated with a SpeedVac and re-suspended in 0.1% TFA with 0.1 pM angiotensin internal standard. Samples

were injected into a Thermo LTQ Orbitrap XL mass spectrometer and the data were processed with the SORCERER platform.

Fluorescence microscopy

HeLa cells grown on glass coverslips were fixed in 3.7% paraformaldehyde for 15 min, washed 3 times with PBS, and permeabilized with 0.05% saponin in PBS or 0.1% Triton in PBS for 20 min. Coverslips were stained with primary antibodies diluted in 0.05% saponin in PBS for 1 h at 4°C. Coverslips were washed 3 times with 0.05% saponin in PBS, and stained with secondary antibodies diluted in 0.05 % in PBS for 45 min at room temperature. Mouse anti-SBP antibody (Santa Cruz sc-101595) was used at 1:1,000. Rabbit anti-GPP130 (Covance PRB-144C) was used at 1:600. Goat anti-mouse Cy5 (Jackson ImmunoResearch 115-175-146) was used at 1:200. Goat anti-rabbit FITC (Jackson ImmunoResearch 111-485-045) was used at 1:400. Coverslips were washed 3 times with 0.05% saponin in PBS and mounted on 8 uL of ProLong Antifade Mountant (Life Technologies P36970) and allowed to cure overnight. Wide-field epifluorescence imaging was conducted on an Axioscope II (Carl Zeiss, Inc.) with Plan-Apo 40x/NA1.4 air objective with an Orca II camera (Hamamatsu Photonics) using Openlab software (PerkinElmer). Golgi membrane tubules were imaged on a spinning-disk confocal microscope: an Eclipse TE2000-U (Nikon) with Plan-Apo 60x/NA1.4 oil objective with an Ultraview LCI (PerkinElmer), a 1394 ORCA-ER camera (Hamamatsu Photonics) and Ultraview imaging software (PerkinElmer).

Cell lysates, antibodies, and immunoblotting

Cells were washed 3 times with ice-cold PBS and lysed by incubation in sample buffer (125 mM Tris pH 6.8, 4% SDS, 20% glycerol, 10% 2-mercaptoethanol, 50 µg/mL bromophenol blue) for 10 min, followed by scraping. Lysates were analyzed by SDS-PAGE (10% gel, run at 120 V for

80 min), transferred onto nitrocellulose membranes (Whatman Inc., United Kingdom) (transferred at 15 mA for 80 min). Rabbit antibodies against GFP were diluted 1:1000 and were a gift from Dr. A. Bretscher (Cornell University). HRP-conjugated secondary antibodies against rabbit and mouse were diluted 1:20,000 (Jackson ImmunoResearch, PA).

Statistical analysis

All bar graphs represent mean \pm SEM. Student's t tests were performed: values <0.05 were considered statistically significant.

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