Role of phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase and Rab5 effectors in phagosomal biogenesis and mycobacterial phagosome maturation arrest

Rutilio A. Fratti,1 Jonathan M. Backer,2 Jean Gruenberg,3 Silvia Corvera,4 and Vojo Deretic1,5

1Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, MI 48109
2Department of Molecular Pharmacology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY 10461
3Department of Biochemistry, University of Geneva, CH-1211 Geneva, Switzerland
4Department of Molecular Medicine and Cell Biology, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA 01655
5Program in Cellular and Molecular Biology, University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, MI 48109

P
hagosomal biogenesis is a fundamental biological process of particular significance for the function of phagocytic and antigen-presenting cells. The precise mechanisms governing maturation of phagosomes into phagolysosomes are not completely understood. Here, we applied the property of pathogenic mycobacteria to cause phagosome maturation arrest in infected macrophages as a tool to dissect critical steps in phagosomal biogenesis. We report the requirement for 3-phosphoinositides and acquisition of Rab5 effector early endosome autoantigen (EEA1) as essential molecular events necessary for phagosomal maturation. Unlike the model phagosomes containing latex beads, which transiently recruited EEA1, mycobacterial phagosomes excluded this regulator of vesicular trafficking that controls membrane tethering and fusion processes within the endosomal pathway and is recruited to endosomal membranes via binding to phosphatidylinositol 3-phosphate (PtdIns[3]P). Inhibitors of phosphatidylinositol 3′(OH)−kinase (PI-3K) activity diminished EEA1 recruitment to newly formed latex bead phagosomes and blocked phagosomal acquisition of late endocytic properties, indicating that generation of PtdIns(3)P plays a role in phagosomal maturation. Microinjection into macrophages of antibodies against EEA1 and the PI-3K hVPS34 reduced acquisition of late endocytic markers by latex bead phagosomes, demonstrating an essential role of these Rab5 effectors in phagosomal biogenesis. The mechanism of EEA1 exclusion from mycobacterial phagosomes was investigated using mycobacterial products. Coating of latex beads with the major mycobacterial cell envelope glycosylated phosphatidylinositol lipoarabinomannan isolated from the virulent Mycobacterium tuberculosis H37Rv, inhibited recruitment of EEA1 to latex bead phagosomes, and diminished their maturation. These findings define the generation of phosphatidylinositol 3-phosphate and EEA1 recruitment as: (a) important regulatory events in phagosomal maturation and (b) critical molecular targets affected by M. tuberculosis. This study also identifies mycobacterial phosphoinositides as products with specialized toxic properties, interfering with discrete trafficking stages in phagosomal maturation.

Introduction

Phagosomal maturation is a fundamental biological process governed by vesicular and intracellular membrane and protein trafficking. The details and specific factors involved in phagosome maturation are only beginning to be understood (Alvarez-Dominguez et al., 1996, 1997; Jahraus et al., 1998; Alvarez-Dominguez and Stahl, 1999; Downey et al., 1999; Bajno et al., 2000; Botelho et al., 2000; Defacque et al., 2000). Since phagosomal characteristics are of significance for the control or survival of intracellular pathogens in mammalian cells (Meresse et al., 1999b), a significant portion of the current knowledge regarding phagosomal maturation comes from the studies of vacuoles containing intracellular pathogens (Russell et al., 1992; Chakraborty et al., 1994; Scidmore et al., 1996; Via et al., 1997; Meresse et al., 1999a). In extreme cases, microbes can parasitize phagocytic cells, such as macrophages, where their intracellular survival depends on escape from the phagosome or more frequently on alterations of the default maturation pathway of phagosomes into the phagolysosome (Meresse et al., 1999b). Mycobacterium tuberculosis is one of the few bacterial pathogens that survive in immune phagocytic cells. The establishment
of its productive infectious cycle depends on mycobacterial entry into macrophages (Schoeberl et al., 1997; Ernst, 1998; Fratuzzi et al., 2000) and their subsequent intraphagosomal survival (Armstrong and Hart, 1971; Clemens and Horwitz, 1995). *M. tuberculosis* phagosomes do not mature into phagolysosomes (Deretic and Fratti, 1999), a phenomenon that has been recognized as a central paradigm of *M. tuberculosis* pathogenesis, referred to in classical texts as the inhibition of phagosome–lysosome fusion (Armstrong and Hart, 1971). It has been established that *M. tuberculosis*, the vaccine strain *M. tuberculosis* variant *bovis* BCG (Bacillus Calmette-Guérin) (BCG*), and *Mycobacterium avium* reside in privileged phagosomal compartments sequestered from the terminal endocytic organelles (Xu et al., 1994; de Chastellier et al., 1995; Clemens and Horwitz, 1995; Deretic and Fratti, 1999). Additional interactions with exogenously added markers (Clemens and Horwitz, 1996; Sturgill-Koszycyki et al., 1996) and the biosynthetic secretory pathway (Ullrich et al., 1999) have been implicated in the remodeling of mycobacterial phagosomes. Mycobacterial phagosomes display diminished acidification due to the paucity of H^+ATPase (Sturgill-Koszycyki et al., 1994), show limited acquisition of late endosomal markers, presence of an immature intermediate form of Cathespin D (Sturgill-Koszycyki et al., 1996), absence of mannose 6-phosphate receptors (Xu et al., 1994), and reduced clearance of plasma membrane markers (Clemens and Horwitz, 1995) and early phagosomal proteins such as coronin (Ferrari et al., 1999; Fratti et al., 2000). However, the exact molecular mechanisms of the inhibition of mycobacterial phagosomal maturation are not known.

Phagosomes are dynamic structures interacting with endosomal (Desjardins et al., 1994) and possibly other compartments (Fratti et al., 2000) in a process of acquisition and removal of membrane and luminal components as phagosomes mature into phagolysosomes. The trafficking events within the endosomal network are controlled by a subset of small GTPases from the Ras superfamily: (a) Rab5 (Gorvel et al., 1991; Christoforidis et al., 1999a) and Rab7 (Vitelli et al., 1997; Press et al., 1998; Meresse et al., 1999a) control sequential interactions with early and late endosomes; (b) Rab4 (Mohrmann and van der Sluijs, 1999), Rab11 (Ren et al., 1998), and ARF6 (D’Souza-Schorey et al., 1998) control membrane and protein recycling from endosomal compartments to the plasma membrane; and (c) Rab9 regulates trafficking between the late endosome and trans-Golgi network (TGN) (Riederer et al., 1994). The small GTPases Rab5 and Rab7 have also been implicated in the maturation processes of phagosomes containing intracellular pathogens (Mordue and Sibley, 1997; Alvarez-Dominguez and Stahl, 1999; Scianimanico et al., 1999), most of the Rab5 effectors have not been studied in the context of phagosomal maturation. In this work, we extended our studies to the effectors of Rab5 and report a critical role of PI-3K and EEAI in phagosomal maturation. We also present molecular details of *M. tuberculosis* phagosome maturation arrest associated with trafficking toxicity activity of a highly glycosylated phosphatidylinositol of *M. tuberculosis*, lipoarabinomannan, causing a block in EEAI recruitment.

### Results

**Rab5-interacting components on model phagosomes**

To address the mechanism of the arrest of MPC maturation (Armstrong and Hart, 1971; Clemens and Horwitz, 1995; Sturgill-Koszycyki et al., 1996) between the Rab5- and Rab7-controlled endosomal stages (Via et al., 1997), we investigated the possibility that the arrest of MPCs at a Rab5-controlled stage is linked to alterations in recruitment or function of Rab5-interacting components. We first tested latex bead phagosomal compartments (LBGs) for the presence of Rabaptin-5, EEAI, and tuberin. LBGs were purified from J774 macrophages as described previously (Desjardins et al., 1994; Via et al., 1997) at various times after uptake. When LBGs were probed for Rabaptin-5, this Rab5-GTP–stabilizing protein was not detected on LBGs at the time points tested, despite the presence of Rab5 (Fig. 1 A). Tuberin was also not observed on LBGs. Nevertheless, Rabaptin-5 and tuberin were readily detectable in postnuclear supernatants (PNSs) (Fig. 1 A, lane P) and on endoso-
PtdIns(3)P and EEA1 in phagosomal biogenesis

Fratti et al.

...mal membranes (Fig. 1 A, lane E). These observations suggest that Rabaptin-5 and tuberin are absent or below detection levels on model phagosomes. The apparent absence of Rabaptin-5 from phagosomal membranes can be interpreted in various ways. First, an exclusion of this effector may serve as a means of maintaining the transient nature of interactions between phagosomes and early endosomal organelles. Second, it is possible that Rabaptin-5 is present only on early endosomes during interactions with LBCs. Alternatively, other factors (Gournier et al., 1998) or putative phagosome-specific Rab5 effectors may substitute for Rabaptin-5 function. In contrast to the absence of Rabaptin-5, LBCs isolated at early time points acquired EEA1 with peak association occurring between 10 and 20 min after infection (Fig. 1 A). The presence of EEA1 on LBCs was transient, since it was not detected at very early or late time points. Nevertheless, the dynamic association of EEA1 with LBCs suggested a role for this Rab5 effector in phagosome maturation.

MPCs do not acquire EEA1

Experiments with synchronized infection and phagosome maturation during early chase periods were also carried out with BCG. After phagocytosis, MPCs were purified as described previously (Via et al., 1997) and membranes probed for Rab5, Rabaptin-5, tuberin, and EEA1. However, unlike LBCs MPCs did not recruit detectable levels of EEA1 (Fig. 1 B), indicating that MPCs excluded this Rab5 effector. Examination of additional time points did not result in detection of EEA1 on MPCs. As in the case of LBCs, Rabaptin-5, tuberin, and EEA1 were detectable in PNS from macrophages infected with mycobacteria (Fig. 1 B, lane P). Quantitation of Western blots further illustrates the
marked difference in EEA1 recruitment between LBCs and MPCs (P = 0.012; ANOVA) (Fig. 1 C). To examine whether the exclusion of EEA1 from MPCs was related to the longer centrifugation required for MPC isolation, other fractions from the same gradients were probed for EEA1. We found that EEA1 was present on pelleted membranes from fractions other than those containing MPCs (Fig. 1 C, inset). This indicates that EEA1 exclusion from MPCs was not due to longer centrifugation periods.

EEA1 recruitment to phagosomes was also investigated by immunofluorescence microscopy (Fig. 1, D–F). Macrophages were coinoculated with BCG and latex beads using synchronized phagocytosis. The results of these experiments showed that latex beads recruited EEA1, forming distinct ring structures around LBCs detected by conventional epifluorescence microscopy (Fig. 1 E), whereas EEA1 was excluded from MPCs (Fig. 1 E). At any given time point, only a subpopulation of LBCs stained positive for EEA1 with the dynamics consistent with transient recruitment of this Rab5 effector to the model phagosomes. Quantitative comparisons of EEA1-positive MPCs and LBCs (Fig. 1 F) showed statistically significant differences in EEA1 staining (P = 0.003; ANOVA; P = 0.0246 for 10 min, 0.0018 for 15 min, and 0.0795 for 1 h; ANOVA). It should be noted that the 15 min time point corresponds to the purified phagosomes at 20 min, adjusted for differences in technical manipulations. In morphological analysis, MPCs counted as EEA1-positive by immunofluorescence were allowed to be scored on less stringent requirements, since the LBCs considered as positive for EEA1 were required to display a distinct ring of EEA1 staining, whereas MPCs were counted as EEA1 positive even if only a partial overlap was observed. In very few instances (<2%) was the EEA1 staining of BCG phagosomes complete and uniform as seen with LBCs (unpublished data). Although based on biochemical tests we have not detected EEA1 on BCG phagosomes, some EEA1 staining by immunofluorescence in infected cells is expected. For example, a small fraction of MPCs normally proceeds with maturation into the phagolysosome, a phenomenon reflecting heterogeneity in mycobacterial culture that has been repeatedly described (Armstrong and Hart, 1971; Clemens and Horwitz, 1995; Via et al., 1997). These EEA1-positive mycobacterial phagosomes present in small numbers may be the fraction destined for further maturation into phagolysosomes. By biochemical assays, such a subpopulation of EEA1-positive BCG phagosomes would likely acquire different membrane characteristics and purify away from the main peak defined as the MPC during isopycnic centrifugation (Via et al., 1997), or they could be present in amounts too small for detection by Western blots.

NSF, αSNAP, and Syntaxin 13 are present on both MPCs and LBCs

EEA1 participates in the formation of large oligomeric complexes via interactions with the SNARE Syntaxin 13 and SNARE-priming factors NSF and α-SNAP. These interactions are important for tethering-triggered membrane fusion events (McBride et al., 1999). We next tested whether other constituents of EEA1-associated docking and fusion machinery (Rab5, Rabaptin-5, NSF, αSNAP, and Syntaxin 13) were present on phagosomes (Fig. 1 G). The components of the fusion apparatus Syntaxin 13, NSF, and αSNAP were present on both LBCs and MPCs, indicating that the main difference between MPCs and LBCs is the exclusion of EEA1 from the mycobacterial phagosome, a critical organizing component in the membrane-tethering complex. Although EEA1 does not directly take part in the recruitment of other docking and fusion components, EEA1 is required for oligomerization of the complex and subsequent membrane tethering (McBride et al., 1999). Thus, the absence of EEA1 is likely to affect not only the tethering potential of MPCs but may also have repercussions on the dynamic restructuring of the fusion components on MPCs necessary for efficient docking and downstream membrane fusion events (McBride et al., 1999).

Effects of PI-3K inhibitors on phagosome maturation

The absence of EEA1 on MPCs could affect directionality or preclude a subset of interactions between mycobacterial phagosomes on one end and early endosomes or vesicles from the TGN (Simonsen et al., 1999). EEA1 is recruited to the endosomes through interactions with Rab5 (Simonsen et al., 1998) and via binding of the EEA1 FYVE domain to phosphatidylinositol 3-phosphate (PtdIns[3]P) on endosomal membranes (Patki et al., 1997). Although PtdIns(3)P and EEA1 have been implicated in the endocytic pathway (Christoforidis et al., 1999a; McBride et al., 1999; Simonsen et al., 1999), the roles of PtdIns(3)P and EEA1 in phagosome maturation have not been investigated. Since PtdIns(3)P production is necessary for efficient recruitment of EEA1 to the membrane (Patki et al., 1997; Christoforidis et al., 1999b), we first tested the effects on phagosome maturation of wortmannin, a drug which inhibits PI-3K activity. Since PI-3K activity is necessary for the final stage of receptor-mediated phagocytosis (Araki et al., 1996), cells were treated with the PI-3K inhibitor only after phagocytosis was allowed to proceed for 10 min. Compared with the untreated controls (Fig. 2, A, B, and M), latex bead phagosomes in cells treated with wortmannin did not acquire significant amounts of EEA1 from all endomembranes, indicating that the effects observed were not due to massive perturbations of the cell. As a control for the intracellular localization of latex beads in these experiments, phagosomes were also stained for the acquisition of Syntaxin 8, an endosomal SNARE that primarily overlaps with Rab5 (Subramaniam et al., 2000). Syntaxin 8 association with latex beads was equal in wortmannin-treated and control macrophages (Fig. 2, C, F, I, L, and M), demonstrating that the decrease in EEA1 cannot be attributed to an inhibition in latex bead uptake by macrophages but represents a reduction in EEA1 recruitment to latex bead phagosomes in cells treated with the drug. Since wortmannin could potentially affect other lipid kinases (Nakanishi et al., 1995), the role of PI-3K activity in the recruitment of EEA1 to phagosomes was verified by using another PI-3K–specific inhibitor LY294002 (Vlahos et al., 1994). Treatment of cells with 200 μM LY94002 applied 10 min after phagocytosis also inhibited the recruitment of EEA1 to latex bead phagosomes, confirming that EEA1 is recruited to model phagosomes (Fig. 2,
PtdIns(3)P and EEA1 in phagosomal biogenesis

Fratti et al.

Inhibition of PI-3K activity diminishes EEA1 recruitment to latex bead phagosomes. Epifluorescence microscopy of latex bead phagosomes in J774 cells is shown. (A, C, D, G, I, and J) Green fluorescence of latex beads. (B, E, H, and K) Upon phagocytosis, cells were fixed, permeabilized, incubated with anti-EEA1 antibody, washed, and incubated with secondary Alexa 568-conjugated antibody. Arrowheads indicate colocalization of latex beads and EEA1 staining. (F and L) Cells were also fixed, permeabilized, and incubated with anti–Syntaxin 8 antibody as a control for latex bead uptake. Arrowheads indicate colocalization of latex beads and Syntaxin 8 staining. Cells containing nascent phagosomes (10 min of phagocytosis) were treated with medium alone (A, B, C, and F), 100 nM wortmannin (D, E, I, and L), exposed continuously to 200 μM LY294002 (20 min) (G and H), or first treated with LY294002 for 10 min, which was then removed by washing, and incubated for an additional 10 min in medium without the inhibitor (J and K) as described in Materials and methods. (M) Quantitation of EEA1 colocalization with phagosomes (20 min after infection) in wortmannin treated and control cells; (N) quantitation of staining with Syntaxin 8 (n = 1,068; all samples). (N) Quantitation of EEA1 colocalization with phagosomes (30 min after infection) in control cells and LY294002-treated cells (n = 1,816 phagosomes). The data are means ± SE of three separate experiments. **P = 0.0003.

G, H, and N) in a PtdIns(3)P-dependent manner. The effect of LY294002 on EEA1 recruitment was reversible, since washing away the inhibitor and incubation for an additional 10-min period in fresh medium restored normal EEA1 recruitment (Fig. 2, J, K, and N).

To examine the role of PI-3K activity, and by extension EEA1, in phagosome maturation, we analyzed the effect of wortmannin on phagosome acidification as determined by LysoTracker staining, which serves as a marker of maturing phagosomes (Via et al., 1998; Malik et al., 2000). Phagosomes in cells treated with wortmannin did not acidify properly, suggesting that PI-3K activity is required for phagosome maturation (Fig. 3, C–D and I). Thus, inhibition of PI-3K activity and exclusion of EEA1 correlates with phagosomal maturation arrest. These observations define specific events in phagosome biogenesis involving PI-3K.
Appearance of the late endocytic marker lysobisphosphatidic acid on phagosomes is sensitive to PI-3K inhibitors

As another measure of phagosome maturation, we examined the role of PI-3K activity on the acquisition of late endosomal markers. Although LAMP accumulation is a marker used frequently to reveal late endocytic compartments, it may not be an ideal marker for examining PI-3K–dependent events on phagosomes for the following reasons. (a) LAMP delivery to the endocytic network from the TGN is independent of PI-3K activity (Karlsson and Carlsson, 1998), in contrast to several other markers whose sorting to the endocytic pathway is inhibited by wortmannin. (b) LAMP is accumulated by *M. avium* phagosomes (Sturgill-Koszycki et al., 1994), whereas it is excluded from or is variably present on phagosomes containing *M. tuberculosis* (Xu et al., 1994; Clemens and Horwitz, 1995) and BCG (Via et al., 1997). (c) Experiments examining purified LBCs from cells treated with wortmannin showed that LAMP acquisition was not affected (unpublished data). Given a low discrimination value of LAMP for PI-3K–dependent events (Karlsson and Carlsson, 1998), we employed another highly specific late endocytic marker, the lipid lysobisphosphatidic acid (LBPA) (Kobayashi et al., 1998, 1999). Unlike LAMP splice variants, which can be detected throughout the endocytic pathway and plasma membrane (Gough and Fambrough, 1997), LBPA is found exclusively in late endosomes (Kobayashi et al., 1998) where it colocalizes with Rab7.

We first examined the kinetics of LBPA staining and found that phagosomes acquired increasing amounts of LBPA over time (Fig. 4) in a manner consistent with phagosome maturation into late endocytic organelles. The accumulation of LBPA by latex bead phagosomes was considerably slower than what is usually seen with LAMP association with phagosomes (Downey et al., 1999; Botelho et al., 2000), suggesting that LBPA accumulation may occur independent or downstream of LAMP acquisition.

Inhibition of PI-3K activity with LY294002 in cells containing nascent phagosomes (treated after 10 min of uninhibited phagocytosis) reduced the colocalization of latex bead phagosomes with LBPA in treated cells (Fig. 5, C, D, and G) relative to those in untreated cells (Fig. 5, A, B, and G). The effect of LY294002 on LBPA staining was reversible, and when the inhibitor was washed away and cells incu-
For an additional 10 min in fresh medium acquisition of LBPA resumed (Fig. 5, E, F, and G). These experiments demonstrate a role of PI-3K activity in the acquisition of late endosomal markers. LBPA accumulation on latex bead phagosomes was also compared with that on mycobacterial phagosomes. Consistent with the mycobacterial phagosome maturation arrest, only 11% of phagosomes containing BCG colocalized with LBPA compared to 65% LBPA positivity among the model latex bead phagosomes (P < 0.0007; ANOVA) (Fig. 5 H). The exclusion of LBPA from the mycobacterial phagosome is consistent with the maturation block involving generation of PtdIns(3)P or PtdIns(3)P-dependent recruitment of downstream effectors.

Microinjection of anti-hVPS34 antibody inhibits latex bead phagosome maturation

EEA1 binding to early endosomal membranes is contingent upon the modification of lipids by the PI-3K enzyme hVPS34 (Panaretou et al., 1997; Christoforidis et al., 1999b). The PI-3K hVPS34 generates PtdIns(3)P, which binds the FYVE domain of proteins such as EEA1 with high affinity. When purified phagosomes were probed for the presence of hVPS34, we found that both the MPCs and LBCs acquired this kinase, albeit with some differences in the kinetics of the recruitment (Fig. 1 H).

To determine whether hVPS34 recruitment to phagosomal membranes is required for phagosome maturation, hVPS34 was inhibited by microinjecting an isoform-specific inhibitory antibody against this Rab5 effector (Siddhanta et al., 1998). Phagosome maturation was assessed by accumulation of LBPA. When the cells were injected with anti-hVPS34 antibody, latex bead phagosomes manifested a markedly reduced accumulation of LBPA relative to phagosomes in control cells. Although >58% of latex bead phagosomes in the control acquired LBPA at 30 min after phagocytosis (Fig. 6 I and Fig. 7 A), only 15% of phagosomes in cells injected with anti-hVPS34 antibody accumulated LBPA (Fig. 6 J and Fig. 7 A) (P = 0.0001; ANOVA). Microinject-
ing cells with control rabbit IgG did not affect LBPA accumulation \((P = 0.41; \text{ANOVA})\) (Fig. 6 L and Fig. 7 A). These data demonstrate that hVPS34 plays a role in phagosome maturation into vacuoles with late endosomal characteristics. One possible explanation for the maturation-arresting effect of microinjected anti-hVPS34 antibody is that it may prevent or reduce EEA1 recruitment. To examine this possibility, we tested the effect of anti-hVPS34 antibody on EEA1 recruitment to phagosomes. EEA1 localization to latex bead phagosomes was reduced by 63% in cells injected with anti-hVPS34 relative to un.injected cells or cells injected with control rabbit IgG \((P < 0.001; \text{ANOVA})\) (Fig 7 B).

**Figure 5. Inhibition of PI-3K activity with LY294002 reduces LBPA acquisition by latex bead phagosomes.** Epifluorescence microscopy of latex bead phagosomes in J774 cells is shown. \((A, C, \text{and} E)\) Fluorescence of latex beads. \((B, D, \text{and} F)\) After phagocytosis, cells were fixed, permeabilized, incubated with anti-LBPA antibody, washed, and incubated with secondary Alexa 568–conjugated antibody. Arrowheads indicate colocalization of latex beads and LBPA staining. Cells containing nascent phagosomes (10 min of phagocytosis) were treated with medium alone \((A \text{ and} B)\), exposed continuously to 200 \(\mu\text{M LY294002} (20 \text{ min}) \ (C \text{ and} D)\), or first treated with LY294002 for 10 min, which was then removed by washing, and incubated for an additional 10 min in medium without the inhibitor \((E \text{ and} F)\). \((G)\) Quantitation of LBPA colocalization with phagosomes \((30 \text{ min after infection})\) in control cells and LY294002-treated cells \((n = 1,217 \text{ phagosomes})\). The data are means ± SE of separate experiments. *\(P = 0.001. \) \((J)\) Quantitation of LBPA colocalization with latex beads \((\text{LB})\) and BCG phagosomes \((30 \text{ min after infection})\) as described in Materials and methods \((n = 350 \text{ phagosomes})\). The data are means ± SE of three separate experiments. **\(P = 0.0007.

**Microinjection of anti-EEA1 antibody inhibits latex bead phagosome maturation**

Next, we tested the role of EEA1 in phagosomal maturation by microinjection of blocking antibodies against this Rab5 effector. In cells injected with the anti-EEA1 antibody, latex bead phagosomes accumulated significantly lower quantities of LBPA relative to phagosomes in un injected control cells. Although >60% of latex bead phagosomes in control cells acquired LBPA (Fig. 6 I and Fig. 7 A), only 23% of phagosomes in cells microinjected with anti-EEA1 antibody accumulated LBPA (Fig. 6 K and Fig. 7 A). Injection of antibodies against another Rab5 effector,
Figure 6. Microinjection of anti-hVPS34 and anti-EEA1 antibodies reduces accumulation of LBPA on latex bead phagosomes. Epifluorescence microscopy of latex bead phagosomes in J774 cells is shown. Control uninjected cells (A, E, and I) or cells injected with anti-hVPS34 antibody (B, F, and J), anti-EEA1 antibody (C, G, and K), or control rabbit IgG (D, H, and L) were infected with latex beads for 30 min and processed for immunofluorescence. (A–D) Latex bead fluorescence (blue pseudocolor). (E–H) FITC-Dextran (Mr 10,000) with anti-hVPS34 antibody (green pseudocolor). (I–L) Cells were fixed, permeabilized, and incubated with anti-LBPA staining. Arrowheads indicate colocalization of latex beads and LBPA.

Rabaptin-5, did not affect LBPA accumulation by latex bead phagosomes (unpublished data). These data demonstrate that EEA1 plays a critical role in phagosome biogenesis and their maturation into organelles with late endosomal characteristics. Furthermore, these findings show that the exclusion of EEA1 from mycobacterial phagosomes is likely to be the principal cause of the maturation arrest associated with *M. tuberculosis* phagosomes.

*M. tuberculosis* lipoarabinomannan inhibits EEA1 recruitment and phagosome acidification

*M. tuberculosis* produces a variety of lipids that have been implicated in pathogenesis (Brennan and Nikaido, 1995; Cox et al., 1999; Moody et al., 2000). Possibly the most intriguing class of compounds that dominate the lipid-rich mycobacterial cell wall are modified phosphatidyl-<em>myo</em>-inositol mannosides, referred to as phosphatidyl-<em>myo</em>-inositol mannosides.
bacterial phospholipids is not known. Here, we tested the possibility that ManLAM may affect recruitment of EEA1 to the phagosomal membrane based on the following two considerations. (a) PtdIns(3)Ps are essential for the efficient recruitment of EEA1 to endosomal (Patki et al., 1997; Siemonsen et al., 1998; Lawe et al., 2000) and as shown here, to phagosomal membranes, and thus chemically analogous bacterial products could interfere with the generation or downstream function of PtdIns(3)P. (b) Recently, Beatty and colleagues (Beatty et al., 2000) demonstrated that mycobacterial lipids, including ManLAM and its precursor phosphatidylinositol mannoside (PIM), are released from phagocytosed mycobacteria and intercalate into several endomembrane compartments in the host cell. Thus, mycobacterial lipids translocate into relevant membranes where they could interfere with EEA1 recruitment. To examine the possibility that mycobacterial PIMs affect phagosomal biogenesis, we coated latex beads with ManLAM or its precursor PIM and tested maturation of phagosomes containing such beads. Purified ManLAM from the virulent M. tuberculosis H37Rv was used to coat latex beads as described previously (Kang and Schlesinger, 1998). Phagosomes containing ManLAM beads recruited less EEA1 relative to control beads (Fig. 7 C). The presence of ManLAM reduced EEA1 colocalization with latex bead phagosomes by 40% (P = 0.002; ANOVA) (Fig. 7 C). This observation indicates that ManLAM interferes with the recruitment of EEA1 to the phagosome. In contrast to the effect seen with ManLAM beads, coating of beads with PIM did not reduce EEA1 recruitment to the phagosome (Fig. 7 C). The effects of ManLAM on EEA1 recruitment could be reversed by extracting lipid-coated beads with Triton X-100 before phagocytosis (Fig. 7 C). The effect of ManLAM on EEA1 recruitment cannot be attributed to alterations in phagocytosis of beads, since ManLAM-coated beads recruited Syntaxin 8 at levels indistinguishable from uncoated control beads (Fig. 7 C). ManLAM-coated beads were also subjected to phagosome acidification analysis and used in LBPA acquisition assays. A reduction in the proportion of acidified phagosomes, visualized by LysoTracker staining, was observed with ManLAM-coated beads relative to uncoated control beads (Fig. 3, E–H and J). Additionally, only 50% of ManLAM-coated beads acquired LBPA (Fig. 7 D). These findings are consistent with a model in which M. tuberculosis glycosylated phosphatidylinositol ManLAM is a factor causing or contributing to the block in EEA1 recruitment. Thus, ManLAM should be considered as an M. tuberculosis toxin, interfering with membrane trafficking and organelle biogenesis contributing to the mycobacterial phagosome maturation arrest.

**Discussion**

This report demonstrates a critical role in phagosomal maturation for PtdIns(3)P and the Rab5 effectors hVPS34 and EEA1. Our study also identifies these processes and factors as molecular targets for the intracellular pathogen M. tuberculosis in the context of mycobacterial phagosome maturation arrest. The findings presented also show a transient but functionally important recruitment to newly formed phagosomes of the early endosomal membrane-tethering molecule EEA1.
The presence of EEA1 on phagosomes is a requisite for the subsequent acquisition of late endocytic characteristics. Since EEA1 has been implicated in trafficking between the TGN and endosomes (Simonsen et al., 1999) and in homotypic fusion within early endocytic compartments (Simonsen et al., 1998), the exclusion of this Rab5 effector from mycobacterial phagosomes is responsible for the block in membrane fusion events required for an orderly acquisition of late endosomal lipids, membrane proteins, and lumenal content.

The inhibition of M. tuberculosis phagosome maturation has been associated previously with abnormal patterns of endosomal Rabs characterized by the accumulation of Rab5 and exclusion of Rab7 (Via et al., 1997). Recent experiments with overexpressed Rab7 in HeLa cells (Clemens et al., 2000) are consistent with our observations that the maturation block is closer to Rab5. In this work, the maturation block has been further narrowed down to the recruitment of EEA1, a major Rab5 effector associated with vesicle tethering and SNARE docking in the process of membrane fusion (Simonsen et al., 1998; Christoforidis et al., 1999a; McBride et al., 1999). The mycobacterial phagosome is arrested at a phase involving hVPS34 recruitment, its activation, or accessibility of its enzymatic products as manifested by the inefficient acquisition of EEA1. The block may involve interference with the generation or accessibility of PtdIns(3)P for binding of the FYVE domain of EEA1 (Stenmark et al., 1996; McBride et al., 1999; Lawe et al., 2000; Nielsen et al., 2000). As shown here, the modified M. tuberculosis phosphatidylinositol molecule ManLAM is at least partially responsible for this block.

Regardless of the absence of Rabaptin-5 (known to stabilize Rab5 in its active conformation) (Stenmark et al., 1995; Rybin et al., 1996) and an apparent lack of its role in phagosome maturation as measured by LBPA acquisition, LBCs are capable of transiently recruiting EEA1. This suggests that Rab5 is functional and active on these membranes for significant periods of time. Additional elements of the oligomeric complexes organized by EEA1 into microdomains (McBride et al., 1999) and acting in membrane tethering and fusion, such as Syntaxin 13, NSF, and αSNAP, are also present on LBCs and MPCs. Based on the central role of EEA1 in oligomerization and tethering-associated priming of SNAREs, it is unlikely that MPCs undergo efficient formation of productive docking complexes containing Syntaxin 13, a SNARE implicated both in the early endosomal homotypic fusion (McBride et al., 1999) and endosomal recycling (Prekeris et al., 1999; Trischler et al., 1999). Other alterations associated with EEA1 exclusion from MPCs are likely to include defective trafficking between the TGN and mycobacterial phagosomes. In addition to interactions with the endosomal SNARE Syntaxin 13, EEA1 also interacts with Syntaxin 6, a TGN SNARE (Simonsen et al., 1999). EEA1 and Syntaxin 6 colocalize, a phenomenon that has been implicated in TGN endosomal trafficking (Simonsen et al., 1999). We have found recently that Syntaxin 6 is present on LBCs but absent from MPCs (unpublished data), an observation that complements the finding that MPCs lack EEA1. In a model that follows from these observations, the inability to interact with the TGN leads to a defect in fusion with H^+ATPase-containing vesicles, thus explaining the exclusion of this pump from mycobacterial phagosomes (Sturgill-Koszycki et al., 1994) resulting in their defective acidification.

The significance of the exclusion of EEA1 in the context of tuberculosis as a potent infectious disease is underscored by the transient but nearly invariable recruitment of EEA1 to phagosomes harboring several other pathogens (Pizarro-Cerda et al., 1998; Meresse et al., 1999a; Scianimanico et al., 1999; Steele-Mortimer et al., 1999). However, exclusion of EEA1 may not be unique to mycobacteria, since the phagosomes containing human granulocytic Ehrlichiosis agent do not stain with EEA1 antibodies (Mott et al., 1999), although this observation has not been kinetically evaluated. Significantly, an inverse relationship between EEA1 recruitment and the ability for subsequent Rab7 exclusion is apparent from the data shown in a recent analysis of Leishmania donovani phagosomes (Scianimanico et al., 1999). A lipophosphoglycan mutant of L. donovani shows enhanced EEA1 recruitment relative to the wild-type pathogen followed by strong Rab7 labeling versus the normally poor Rab7 staining of phagosomes containing fully virulent leishmaniae. A further implication of these observations is that phospholipid products of a pathogen (that is, leishmanial lipophosphoglycan) may affect phagosomal trafficking. Here, we provide the first direct demonstration of such activities, showing that the bacterial phospholipid ManLAM interferes with host organelle biogenesis. Thus, ManLAM should be considered as a bacterial toxin-targeting membrane trafficking processes.

The nature of the inhibitory activity of ManLAM is not known at present. Since hVPS34 is recruited to mycobacterial phagosomes, one possibility is that ManLAM inhibits its activity. In vitro studies using purified recombinant hVPS34 (Siddhanta et al., 1998) and ManLAM showed only mild (32%, P < 0.001) PI-3K inhibitory activity in the test tube assay. We believe that this alone is not sufficient to explain the phenomena observed. Furthermore, although coating of beads with ManLAM had a significant effect on phagosomal maturation this did not fully mirror the block in acidification seen in mycobacterial phagosomes or latex bead phagosomes in wortmannin-treated cells. Thus, it is possible that ManLAM is one of several mycobacterial lipids or additional products that may affect EEA1 recruitment and phagosome maturation. Alternatively, the inhibitory effect of ManLAM observed here with the beads could be augmented in mycobacterial phagosomes containing viable bacilli. With >250 lipid metabolism genes in the M. tuberculosis genome (Cole et al., 1998) directing the synthesis of polyketides, sulfatides, and phosphatidyl-myoinositol derivatives, we predict that several of these factors may interfere with host-trafficking machinery in synergy with ManLAM. These inhibitors of EEA1 recruitment underlie the arrest of M. tuberculosis phagosome maturation, thus ensuring long term survival of the tubercle bacillus in host macrophages.

Materials and methods
Cell and bacterial culture conditions
The murine macrophage-like cell line J774 was maintained in DME supplemented with 4 mM l-glutamine and 5% FBS. BCG harboring psh60-gfp was grown in 7H9 broth and homogenized to generate a single cell suspension (Via et al., 1998).
Phagosome and endosome purification
Synchronization of latex beads and BCG phagocytosis was achieved by cooling at 4°C to inhibit uptake. Latex beads or BCG were added and allowed to settle at 4°C. Samples were warmed and incubated at 37°C for various periods of time, and phagosomes were isolated as described previously (Via et al., 1997). Cells were lysed by passing through 22-gauge needles connected to a two-syringe apparatus. PNSs were generated by centrifugation at 200 g for 6 min, and then sedimented by centrifugation through a sucrose step gradient of 8.5, 15, and 50% sucrose (wt/wt) at 1,000 g for 45 min. The sediment collected at the 15/50% interface was then loaded on a linear 32–53% sucrose gradient (wt/wt) and centrifuged for 15 h at 100,000 g for isopycnic separation of organelles. After separation, the gradient was fractionated and preparations tested for separation from subcellular compartments as described previously (Via et al., 1997). MPCs were pelleted from individual fractions at 250,000 g for 40 min. For latex bead phagosome purification, cells were infected with latex beads diluted in DME and incubated as indicated above. LBCs were isolated from PNS by flotation as described by Desjardins et al. (1994). An early endosomal-enriched fraction of membranes was prepared as described by Gruenberg et al. (1989).

Treatment with inhibitors
The proton ATPase (H^+ATPase) was inhibited in cells by treating with bafilomycin A (25 nM) for 2 h at 37°C. Bafilomycin treatment preceded infection and remained throughout the experiment. In other experiments, cellular PI-3K activity was inhibited by treating cells with 100 nM wortmannin 10 min after infection and incubated with the inhibitor for 10 min before processing. Cells were also treated with 200 μM LY294002 10 min after infection and incubated with the inhibitor for 20 min before processing or incubated with the inhibitor for 10 min before removing, washing the cells, and incubating with fresh medium for an additional 10 min before processing.

Preparation of mycobacterial lipid-coated latex beads
Lipid-coated beads were prepared as described previously (Kang and Schlesinger, 1998b). In brief, 2 × 10^7 polystyrene latex beads were washed in 50 mM NaHCO_3, pH 9.6, and incubated for 2 h at 37°C in the presence or absence of 50 μg of M. tuberculosis H37Rv ManLAM or its precursor PIM (provided by J. Belisle, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO) in NaHCO_3. Coated beads were washed twice and incubated for 1 h at 37°C in PBS with 5% BSA followed by washes in PBS with 0.5% BSA. Beads were resuspended in PBS with 0.5% BSA and stored at 4°C until used. A portion of control and ManLAM- and PIM-coated beads were extract with Triton X-100 for 1 h on ice.

Microinjection of anti-EEA1 and anti-hVPS34 antibody
J774 cells grown on 25-mm glass coverslips were washed with PBS and transferred to a perfusion chamber (Harvard Apparatus) in Hepes, pH 7.4, set at a constant temperature of 37°C. Microinjections were performed using an Eppendorf transjector and Eppendorf injectman systems. Antibody preparations were mixed with FITC-Dextran M_45-500 at a concentration of 1–4 mg/ml. Microinjections were carried out at a pressure of 40 hPa (0.58 pounds per square inch) for 0.2 s using Eppendorf femtotips II. Cells were allowed to recover for 2 h before infection and immunofluorescence processing.

Epifluorescence and laser scanning confocal microscopy
J774 cells were infected with latex beads or BCG. Synchronization of infection was achieved by centrifugation of particles onto macrophages adherent to coverslips. Macrophages were fixed with 3.7% paraformaldehyde followed by membrane permeabilization using 0.2% saponin. Permeabilized cells were incubated with primary followed by secondary Alexa 568–conjugated antibody (Molecular Probes), Lysotracker DN3-99 staining was carried out as described (Via et al., 1998). Epifluorescence microscopy was performed using an IX70 Olympus microscope. Images were collected and processed using LSR Esprit and Adobe Photoshop® software.

Colocalizations of endocytic markers with phagosomes were determined using methods of unbiased counting. Phagosomes considered to colocalize with any given endocytic marker were required to meet strict morphological characteristics. Latex bead phagosomes in treated and control categories were required to colocalize with a complete ring of antibody staining as established by others (Botelho et al., 2000), whereas BCG were held to less stringent requirements. Partial colocalization of mycobacterial phagosomes were considered positive for colocalization. This ensures that differences reported between latex bead and mycobacterial phagosomes were impartial to morphological differences between phagosome. Final levels of colocalization were determined by evaluating ≥100 phagosomes from at least five random fields from four monolayers for each experimental condition or time point.

Western blot analysis and antibody sources
Equal amounts of MPCs and LBCs (by protein) were separated by 12.5% SDS-PAGE and transferred to Immobilon-P membranes. Bound antibodies were visualized using the ECL Western blotting system (DuPont). When comparing MPCs and LBCs on discontinuous filters, antibody incubations ECL reactions were performed simultaneously. Membranes were exposed to film simultaneously, and identical exposure times were used. Antibodies used for Western blots and immunofluorescence experiments were against EEA1 (Paki et al., 1997), LBPA (Kobayashi et al., 1998), NSF (provided by S. Wunderlich, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY), Rab5 (provided by L. Huber, Research Institute of Molecular Pathology, Vienna, Austria), Rabaptin-5 (Transduction Labs), eSNAP (StressGen Biotechnologies), Syntaxin 8 (provided by W. Hong, Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology, Singapore), Syntaxin 13 (provided by R. Prekeris and S. Scheller, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA), tuberin (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Inc.), and hVPS34 (Siddhanta et al., 1998).

Statistical analysis
All statistical analyses were calculated using Fisher’s protected LSD post hoc test (ANOVA) (SuperANOVA 1.11; Abacus Concepts, Inc.). P values of ≤0.05 were considered significant.

References

Downloaded from on April 13, 2017


