Integrins direct Src family kinases to regulate distinct phases of oligodendrocyte development

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Specific integrins expressed on oligodendrocytes, the myelin-forming cells of the central nervous system, promote either differentiation and survival or proliferation by amplification of growth factor signaling. Here, we report that the Src family kinases (SFKs) Fyn and Lyn regulate each of these distinct integrin-driven behaviors. Fyn associates with α6β1 and is required to amplify platelet-derived growth factor survival signaling, to promote myelin membrane formation, and to switch neuregulin signaling from a phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase to a mitogen-activated protein kinase pathway (thereby changing the response from proliferation to differentiation).

Introduction

The development of complex tissues requires that cell migration, proliferation, differentiation, and survival be precisely regulated so that each occurs only at appropriate stages within each cell lineage. This regulation is achieved by the integration of multiple extracellular cues that act in concert with intrinsic developmental gene expression programs to control cell behavior, but the mechanisms of integration remain poorly understood. We have recently described a novel integrative mechanism for growth factor and ECM signaling in oligodendrocytes, the myelinating cells of the central nervous system. At physiological concentrations of PDGF, two orders of magnitude less than typically used for culture studies, the PDGFrα receptor (PDGFαR) expressed on oligodendroglial cells does not stimulate proliferation directly, but rather activates associated αVβ3: this high affinity integrin subsequently triggers downstream signaling pathways after ECM binding (Baron et al., 2002). A similar mechanism contributes to the survival of newly formed oligodendrocytes: α6β1 integrin is required for the amplification of growth factor survival signaling that is necessary for the oligodendrocytes’ survival at physiological PDGF concentrations (Colognato et al., 2002). Thus, growth factor signaling is spatially controlled by the location of ECM ligands such as α2 chain–containing laminins found within axon tracts, thereby providing a mechanism for target-dependent survival of oligodendrocytes during development (Colognato et al., 2002). Similarly, the switch observed in the integrin associated with PDGFαR, from αVβ3 to α6β1, may contribute to the temporal regulation of growth factor signaling by changing the cell’s response from proliferation to survival (Baron et al., 2002, 2003).

However, earlier in the lineage Lyn, not Fyn, is required to drive αVβ3-dependent progenitor differentiation. The two SFKs respond to integrin ligation by different mechanisms: Lyn, by increased autophosphorylation of a catalytic tyrosine; and Fyn, by reduced Csk phosphorylation of the inhibitory COOH-terminal tyrosine. These findings illustrate how different SFKs can act as effectors for specific cell responses during development within a single cell lineage, and, furthermore, provide a molecular mechanism to explain similar region-specific hypomyelination in laminin- and Fyn-deficient mice.
activity are hypomyelinated (Umemori et al., 1994; Sperber et al., 2001) and cultured oligodendrocytes from Fyn −/− mice or those expressing dominant-negative Fyn show defects in the numbers of newly formed oligodendrocytes, as well as in the formation of complex branches of myelin membrane (Osterhout et al., 1999; Sperber and McMorris, 2001). Furthermore, mice deficient in the laminin α2 chain have a similar region-specific hypomyelination, suggesting that Fyn and laminins may operate in the same signaling pathway, and that integrin receptors may contribute to this pathway (Chun et al., 2003). Another SFK, Lyn, is also expressed in oligodendrocytes, but no function has been described. However, in the hematopoietic lineage, β1 integrin has been found in a complex with Lyn after fibronectin (FN)-mediated adhesion (Miller et al., 1999), and it was recently shown that β1 and Src can be directly associated, indicating that different cell types may regulate unique combinations of SFK-integrin associations based on the cell functions required (Arias-Salgado et al., 2003).

Distinct roles for Fyn and Lyn could provide a mechanism that enables each integrin to have distinct functions in oligodendrocyte development. Here, we tested this hypothesis by determining the associations among integrins, growth factor receptors, and the two SFKs, using siRNAs to knock down each SFK and examine the effect in developing oligodendrocyte cultures freshly isolated from the brain, and by examining the activation of each SFK by integrin signaling. We found that Lyn and Fyn were associated with αVβ3 and α6β1, respectively, and that Lyn, but not Fyn, was required for PDGF-stimulated proliferation of oligodendrocyte progenitors. However, at later stages of differentiation Fyn, but not Lyn, was associated with α6β1 and was required for laminin-mediated amplification of growth factor–mediated survival and for differentiation with enhancement of myelin membrane formation. These results suggest a model in which integrins determine the consequences of growth factor signaling in oligodendrocytes via an associated SFK, and demonstrate how different SFKs can act within a single cell lineage as effectors that are specific for individual aspects of cell behavior and are able to integrate multiple upstream signaling cues.

Results

Generating SFK-deficient oligodendrocytes using small interfering RNA

Oligodendrocytes have been shown previously to express three different SFKs: Fyn, Lyn, and Src (Umemori et al., 1992; Sperber et al., 2001). We confirmed that primary rat oligodendrocytes expressed these kinases, and that their expression was regulated in differentiating cells (Fig. 1 A). Progenitor cells were withdrawn at day 0 from growth factors that promote their division and prevent differentiation, and lysates were prepared from cells grown in conditions that promote oligodendrocyte differentiation, at days 1, 2, 4, or 6. Fyn and Lyn showed the highest levels of expression at days 2 and 4 of differentiation, correlating with the transition from oligodendrocyte progenitors to newly formed oligodendrocytes. Src expression was relatively difficult to detect, except at earlier stages (days 1 and 2), and was undetectable by day 6.

To investigate the roles of individual SFKs, we used pSU-PER to drive expression of small interfering RNA (siRNA). We performed Western blots on lysates of G418-resistant cells to evaluate protein levels (Fig. 1, B and C). Blots using Fyn-specific antibodies showed that cells transfected with a Fyn-targeting construct, Fyn(−), had a decrease in Fyn protein (59 kD), whereas cells transfected with the Lyn-targeting construct, Lyn(−), had no change in Lyn expression. Conversely, blots using Lyn-specific antibodies showed a decrease in Lyn protein (53 and 56 kD) in Lyn(−)-transfected cells but not in Fyn(−) cells. Transfection with control vectors had no effect on Fyn or Lyn protein expression. Western blots using Src-specific antibodies showed that Src(−) cells had reduced levels of Src protein, whereas Src protein levels in Fyn(−) cells remained unchanged.

Loss of protein expression was also confirmed using immunohistochemistry. Because isolated progenitors expanded in PDGF and FGF respond to growth factors and ECM differently from the way progenitors that are freshly isolated from cortical...
cultures respond, we avoided expansion in experiments examining cell behavior; instead, we evaluated a mixed population in which the subset of transfected cells was identified by YFP expression. Shown in Fig. 1 D are two cell populations that have been transfected with different vectors: one expressed YFP alone (control, left and right), and one expressed YFP and Fyn siRNA (Fyn(−), middle). In controls (Fig. 1 D, left), many cells expressed both Fyn and YFP (arrowheads), whereas in Fyn(−) cells, the transfected cell population (YFP) and the Fyn-expressing population were mutually exclusive. Control-transfected cells (Fig. 1 D, right) had normal morphology and differentiated identically to nontransfected oligodendrocytes, as illustrated by cells labeled with myelin basic protein (MBP) and GFP antibodies (arrows).

**Lyn regulates integrin-specific proliferation, but not migration**

To determine whether SFKs play a role in the responses of oligodendrocyte progenitors, we evaluated two essential functions of progenitors: proliferation and migration, using cells in which individual SFKs were depleted. PDGF is a mitogen for oligodendrocyte progenitors, and the proliferative response seen at physiological PDGF concentrations (0.1–1.0 ng/ml) can be enhanced by αVβ3 integrin engagement (Baron et al., 2002). We evaluated proliferation of SFK-depleted progenitors in the presence of increasing amounts of PDGF and in the presence or absence of the αVβ3 ligand FN (Fig. 2). With increasing PDGF concentrations, proliferation increased equally well in control and Fyn-, Lyn-, and Src-depleted progenitors grown on non-integrin substrate poly-D-lysine (PDL; Fig. 2, left). However, proliferation of Lyn-depleted cells on the αVβ3 ligand FN was reduced in response to physiological levels of PDGF (Fig. 2, right; *, P < 0.05). In contrast, depletion of Fyn or Src did not reduce PDGF-mediated proliferation on either substrate. Proliferation of progenitors grown on the α6β1 ligand laminin-2 (Lm2) also increased with increasing PDGF; however, SFK depletion had no effect (not depicted).

Next, we tested whether progenitor migration in response to PDGF also involves a role for Lyn. The migration of SFK-depleted progenitor cells on ECM ligands was measured in the presence of varying amounts of PDGF. Progenitors were concentrated in a drop of low melting temperature agarose to establish a defined starting point, and the distance between the agarose boundary and each YFP+ cell was measured (Fig. 3). A drop that contains Lyn-depleted cells migrating on FN in the presence of 1 ng/ml PDGF is shown in Fig. 3 A. Unlike proliferation, no difference in PDGF-mediated migration was observed after the removal of Fyn, Lyn, or Src. The mean distances (micrometers) of migration on FN in response to 1 ng/ml PDGF were 71.2 ± 3.2 (control), 78.2 ± 13.2 (Fyn(−)), 72.6 ± 3.9 (Lyn(−)), and 73.0 ± 14.3 (Src(−)) (Fig. 3 B). Cells migrated further in response to 10 ng/ml PDGF; however, no significant difference among different SFK-depleted cells was observed: the mean migration distances (micrometers) were 117.9 ± 5.6 (control), 126.2 ± 16.8 (Fyn(−)), 130.3 ± 2.2 (Lyn(−)), and 120.2 ± 14.2 (Src(−)). Progenitors on PDL or Lm2 migrated less than cells on FN, but also exhibited no difference in their ability to migrate after SFK depletion (not depicted). Thus, oligodendrocyte progenitors have different requirements for Lyn during migration and proliferation in response to the same growth factor (PDGF) and ECM stimulus (FN).

**Newly formed oligodendrocytes require Fyn for laminin amplification of survival**

As oligodendrocyte progenitors exit the cell cycle and differentiate, they have an increased dependency on survival factors such as PDGF and neuregulin (NRG) (Barres et al., 1993; Canoll et al., 1996; Calver et al., 1998; Fernandez et al., 2000). Laminins that are found in myelinating axon tracts can potentiate the effects of these soluble survival factors (Frost et al., 1999; Colognato et al., 2002). We evaluated the ability of newly formed oligodendrocytes (defined by expression of the lineage marker galactocerebroside [GalC]) to respond to survival factors in the presence of Lm2 after depletion of individual SFKs.
Cells were differentiated for 4 d with increasing doses of PDGF or NRG, and were evaluated for survival by TUNEL assays on double-labeled GFP/GalC-positive cells (Fig. 4).

Newly formed oligodendrocytes grown on Lm2 amplified the survival-promoting effects of PDGF (Fig. 4 A, control). In contrast, Fyn-depleted cells grown on Lm2 did not shift the dose–response to PDGF, such that survival in response to 0.1 or 1.0 ng/ml PDGF (physiological levels) was significantly lower than in control cells grown on Lm2 (Fig. 4 A, *, P < 0.05 and **, P < 0.01). As described in Materials and methods, these assays were performed at a density of 20,000 cells/well, but the same trend in response to Fyn depletion was observed at lower plating densities of 2,500 and 10,000 cells/well (unpublished data). Lyn depletion had a smaller effect on Lm2 amplification of PDGF survival, with a reduction in survival only observed at 1.0 ng/ml PDGF (Fig. 4 A, *, P < 0.05). No reduction in survival was observed at high, nonphysiological levels of PDGF (10 ng/ml) that are not amplified by Lm2. Src depletion did not affect survival on either substrate.

A laminin-mediated switch in NRG survival signaling requires Fyn

NRG-mediated survival is minimal when freshly isolated cells are grown on PDL or FN; however, Lm2 amplifies NRG’s ability to mediate survival (Colognato et al., 2002). We observed a robust amplification of NRG-mediated survival when control-transfected newly formed oligodendrocytes were grown on Lm2 (Fig. 4 B, control). In contrast, Fyn-depleted cells on Lm2 did not amplify NRG-mediated survival, and a significant reduction in survival (Fig. 4 B, **, P < 0.01 for low, medium, and high concentrations of NRG), whereas no significant reduction in survival occurred in Lyn-depleted cells.

Laminin switches the preferred signaling pathways activated during NRG-mediated survival (Colognato et al., 2002). Thus, on nonlaminin substrates, survival is sensitive to PI3K inhibition but insensitive to MAPK inhibition. This pattern is reversed by Lm2, such that survival is insensitive to PI3K inhibition but sensitive to MAPK inhibition (Fig. 5 A). Here, we observed that the laminin-driven switch in NRG signaling did not occur in Fyn-deficient cells, whereas Lyn-deficient cells re-
remained able to switch. Wortmannin treatment of Fyn(−) cells
grown with NRG on Lm2 significantly reduced survival (**,
P < 0.01) compared with control and Lyn-depleted cells grown
on Lm2 (Fig. 5 A). Furthermore, Fyn depletion caused the cells
to become less sensitive to the MEK inhibitor PD098059 (Fig. 5
A). In addition, cells grown on Lm2 and treated with NRG show
enhanced phosphorylation of extracellular signal–related kinase
(ERK), yet do not amplify phosphorylation of Akt. Using a
modified electroporation technique to obtain a high percentage
of siRNA-positive cells (50%), Western blots of oligodendro-
cyte lysates revealed that Fyn-depleted cells treated with NRG
were unable to amplify ERK phosphorylation (Fig. 5 B).

We showed previously that activation of αVβ3 integrin
using manganese is sufficient to amplify PDGF-driven prolif-
eration in progenitors, and we have recently shown that mangan-
ese can also induce an amplification of PDGF-mediated sur-
vival similar to that seen using the α6β1 ligand Lm2 (Baron et
al., 2002; Decker and ffrench-Constant, 2004). Activation is a
process in which the integrin subunits undergo conformational
changes that lead to an increase in affinity for ECM ligands
and/or to alterations in receptor clustering, both of which can
enhance associations with effector molecules and promote inte-
grin signaling (Travis et al., 2003). We determined whether in-
tegrin activation altered the requirement for SFKs during sur-
vival signaling; first, by evaluating whether activation altered
the survival of newly formed oligodendrocytes in the presence
of limiting concentrations of NRG, and second, by evaluating
whether depletion of SFKs could affect survival in the presence
of manganese (Fig. 5 C). With manganese, NRG-mediated sur-
vival increased in control (grown on PDL or Lm2) and Lyn-
depleted oligodendrocytes. However, Fyn-depleted oligoden-
drocytes treated with manganese did not increase survival in
response to NRG. This observation strengthens our conclusion
that Fyn, but not Lyn or Src, is required for integrin-mediated
amplification of survival signaling, and suggests that Fyn either
acts downstream of or helps to maintain integrin activation dur-
ing oligodendrocyte survival.

Differentiation on laminin requires Fyn

The same factors that are critical for newly formed oligoden-
drocytes to survive also regulate entry into the myelin-forming
stage of differentiation. To investigate whether SFKs regulate

Figure 6. Differentiation in response to laminin re-
quires Fyn. (A) Decreased MBP expression in cells
grown on laminin in the absence of Fyn. The per-
centage of SFK-depleted cells expressing the late
stage differentiation marker MBP was expressed relative
to the percentage of MBP+ in control cells. SFK-depleted cells grown on PDL (black bars) and on
Lm2 (gray bars) were compared at days 2 and 4 af-
ter growth factor withdrawal. Error bars represent SD.
(B) Myelin membrane classification scheme. Examples of MBP-expressing cells are shown. Stages 1, 2,
and 3 show increasing levels of process outgrowth and
branching, without myelin membrane, whereas stages
4, 5, and 6 show increasing levels of complexity and
myelin membrane. (C) Fyn-depleted cells have less
myelin membrane acquisition and complexity on Lm2
substrates. The percentage of cells within each cate-
gory is shown for SFK-depleted YFP/MBP double-pos-
tive cells. Oligodendrocytes differentiated on PDL or
Lm2 (control), black squares; Fyn(−), light gray
squares; Lyn(−), gray triangles; and Src(−), dark
gray circles (*, P < 0.050). Error bars represent SD.
(D) Typical MBP-expressing (control) and Fyn-depleted
oligodendrocytes grown on Lm2.
the ability of the ECM to alter oligodendrocyte differentiation, we evaluated MBP expression in the presence of integrin ligands in SFK-depleted cells. The percentage of MBP-expressing cells was determined, and the relative change between SFK-deficient cells and control cells is shown in Fig. 6 A. In cells differentiating on PDL, depletion of Fyn, Lyn, or Src had no effect on the percentage of cells that acquired MBP expression by days 2 or 4 (Fig. 6 A, black bars). In contrast, Fyn-depleted cells differentiated on Lm2 showed a large reduction in the percentage of cells expressing MBP, at both days 2 and 4 (Fig. 6 A, gray bars). However, Lyn- or Src-depleted cells showed no change in differentiation on either substrate.

To further evaluate the cells that acquired MBP expression, we used a classification scheme to describe the morphology and degree of myelin membrane formation in MBP+ cells (Fig. 6 B). Categories 1, 2, and 3 were used to describe MBP+ cells with increasing degrees of complex branched processes in the absence of myelin membrane (low, medium, and high, respectively), whereas categories 4, 5, and 6 were used to describe cells with increasing levels of myelin membrane (low, medium, and high, respectively). Cells double-labeled with MBP and GFP antibodies were assessed at days 2 and 4 and assigned to a myelin category (Fig. 6 C). A reduction in branching complexity and myelin membrane acquisition was seen in Fyn-depleted cells (Fig. 6 C, light gray squares; *, P < 0.05) differentiating on Lm2 for 4 d. A typical Fyn-depleted, MBP+ cell is shown in Fig. 6 D. In contrast, Lyn- and Src-depleted cells formed complex myelin membranes as normal. None of the SFK-depleted cells showed significant differences in myelin membrane formation when grown on the non-integrin substrate PDL (Fig. 6 C) or on FN (not depicted).

Fyn associates with α6β1, whereas Lyn associates with PDGFαR and αVβ3 integrin

Having shown that Lyn and Fyn regulate proliferation and survival/differentiation, respectively, we asked whether each SFK was associated with the integrin–growth factor receptor complexes responsible for these different stages of oligodendroglial development. Using immunofluorescence microscopy, we detected α6β1 and Fyn in newly formed oligodendrocytes in an overlapping distribution (Fig. 7 A). Next, detergent lysates of newly formed oligodendrocytes grown on PDL, Lm2, and FN in the presence or absence of growth factors were evaluated by immunoprecipitation for the formation of protein complexes (Fig. 7, B–E). Antibodies specific for the α6 integrin subunit isolated complexes containing Fyn, but not Lyn, and the α6β1–Fyn association was independent of substrate or growth factor stimuli (Fig. 7 B). Immunoprecipitations using Fyn antibodies also revealed a potential association between Fyn and the ErbB4 NRG receptor subunit (Fig. 7 C). This association was difficult to detect but, interestingly, was only observed in cells treated with NRG on non-integrin substrates. PDGFαR immunoprecipitations revealed an association between PDGFαR and Lyn that, in the absence of PDGF, was most robust on FN but, in the presence of PDGF, was also observed in cells grown on PDL or Lm2 (Fig. 7 D). No association between Fyn and PDGF-αR was observed (unpublished data). Lyn immunoprecipitations revealed an association between Lyn, but not Fyn, and the αVβ3 integrin that was also enhanced by FN but, in contrast to the Lyn–PDGFαR association, was not detected after PDGF treatment (Fig. 7 E).

Distinct mechanisms of Fyn and Lyn activation by α6β1 and αVβ3 ligands

We asked whether ligand binding by each integrin specifically altered associated SFK activity. We tested this using antibodies specific for two phosphorylated tyrosines within Src that also recognize the following conserved tyrosine (Y) sites in Fyn and Lyn: (1) Y418 (Y420 and Y397 in rat Fyn and Lyn, respectively), which is an autophosphorylation site; and (2) Y527 (Y531 and Y508 in rat Fyn and Lyn, respectively), which is phosphorylated by COOH-terminal Src kinase (Csk) to inactivate the SFK. First, we used the antibody against Src phosphoY418 to examine the phosphorylation of Fyn or Lyn by oligodendrocyte precursors grown on PDL, Lm2, or FN.

Figure 7. SFK associations with integrins and growth factors. (A) Newly formed oligodendrocytes immunostained with antibodies against Fyn (red) and α6β1 integrin (green). Merged panel is shown on the right. (B) Oligodendrocyte lysates from cells differentiated on ECM substrates in the presence or absence of PDGF or NRG. Western blot on α6 integrin antibody immunoprecipitation complexes to detect Fyn. (C) Western blot on Lyn antibody immunoprecipitation complexes to detect ErbB4 NRG receptor subunit. (D) Western blot on PDGFαR antibody immunoprecipitation complexes to detect Lyn. (E) Western blots on Lyn antibody immunoprecipitation complexes to detect the β3 integrin subunit.
contribute to the regulation of Lyn. The inhibitory Y508 remains unphosphorylated and does not noreactivity using the antibody against Src phosphoY527 after and Csk are highly expressed. Second, we did not detect immu-
tivity was detected entirely in the soluble fraction, where Fyn in the insoluble fraction, whereas phosphoY527 immunoreac-
tions in cells grown on Lm2, we detected no change in cells grown on FN (Fig. 8 D). In contrast with our observa-
tions in cells grown on Lm2 had no effect on this phosphorylation (Fig. 8 C). However, Lm2 substrates did reduce the phosphorylation detected by anti-
bodies against phosphorylated negative regulatory Src Y527 in the insoluble fraction of oligodendrocytes.

We found that oligodendrocytes express Csk, the kinase that phosphorylates the COOH-terminal SFK negative regula-
tory site, and that levels of Csk within the SFK-containing insoluble fractions were decreased in cells grown on Lm2, but only in oligodendrocytes, not in progenitors (Fig. 8 B). Therefore, we conclude that the α6β1 ligand Lm2 alters Fyn activity by regulating the dephosphorylation of the inhibitory COOH-terminal Y531, at least in part by down-regulation of Csk, with the catalytic tyrosine (Y420) being unaffected by Lm2 engagement. We also evaluated SFK phosphorylation in cells grown on FN (Fig. 8 D). In contrast with our observations in cells grown on Lm2, we detected no change in phosphoY527 immunoreactivity.

Two findings make it unlikely that a significant level of the immunoreactivity detected by the antibody against phosphoY527 can be attributed to phosphorylation of the homolo-
gous inhibitory Y508 in Lyn. First, comparison of the soluble/ insoluble fractions in the precursors shows Lyn to be enriched in the insoluble fraction, whereas phosphoY527 immunoreactiv-
ty was detected entirely in the soluble fraction, where Fyn and Csk are highly expressed. Second, we did not detect immu-
noreactivity using the antibody against Src phosphoY527 after Lyn-specific pulldowns (unpublished data). We conclude that, in contrast with Fyn, Lyn is activated by αVβ3 ligands, resulting in the autophosphorylation of the catalytic Y397, whereas the inhibitory Y508 remains unphosphorylated and does not contribute to the regulation of Lyn.

Discussion

Myelinating oligodendrocytes provide a model system for understanding how ECM and growth factors regulate distinct as-
pects of cell behavior during development. We have shown previously that changing interactions between integrins and growth factor receptors within the membrane provide a mecha-
nism for temporal and spatial specificity of growth factor sig-
naling. Here, we identify the SFKs Fyn and Lyn as key effector molecules within these integrin–growth factor receptor complexes that selectively promote either proliferation or differen-
tiation/survival. As such, they serve both to integrate the extracellular signals provided by ECM and growth factors and to translate these signals into specific cell behaviors during develop-
ment. The illustration in Fig. 9 summarizes how these differ-
ent integrins regulate distinct phases of the oligodendrocyte lineage by using distinct SFK partners and thereby ensuring correct timing and location for oligodendrocyte proliferation, survival, and, ultimately, myelin formation. In this model, the key association necessary for the specificity of each SFK is with the integrin, rather than with the growth factor receptor. In support of this, a role for SFKs in integrin signaling is well es-

![Figure 8. SFK activity is regulated by laminin in differentiating oligoden-
drocytes, not progenitors. (A) Active Lyn is detected in response to the αVβ3 ligand FN. Immunoprecipitation complexes using antibodies against Fyn, Lyn, or control mouse IgG (—) were evaluated by Western blot for the presence of autophosphorylated SFK phosphoY418. (B) Expression and solubility of Fyn, Lyn, and COOH-terminal Src kinase (Csk) change during oligodendrocyte lineage progression and in response to Lm2. Western blots were performed using antibodies specific for SFKs and SFK regula-
tory kinase Csk. S, Triton X-100–soluble protein; I, Triton X-100–insoluble protein. Blots were also probed with actin antibodies as protein loading controls. (C) Phosphorylation of the SFK negative regulatory site is reduced by laminin in oligodendrocytes, not progenitors. The same lysates as in B were used, but Western blots were analyzed using antibodies against two SFK sites: phosphoY418 (catalytic) and phosphoY527 (COOH-terminal negative regulatory). (D) FN does not alter phosphorylation of the SFK negative regulatory site. Lysates of progenitors and oligodendrocytes grown on control substrate PDL or on the αVβ3 ligand FN. Western blots were performed using SFK antibodies specific for phosphoY418 (catalytic) and phosphoY527 (COOH-terminal negative regulatory). Blots were also probed with actin antibodies as protein loading controls. (A–D) In the ab-

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established, whereas a link between SFK signaling and PDGF-R signaling remains less clear. Triple gene knockouts revealed that Src, Yes, and Fyn were dispensable for PDGF-mediated signaling in fibroblasts, but necessary for several ECM-mediated functions (Klinghoffer et al., 1999). And, although PDGF deficiency leads to hypomyelination during development, this defect occurs in regions of the central nervous system that are unaffected in Fyn−/− mice (Fruttiger et al., 1999). Together, these findings are consistent with a model in which growth factor stimulation in the absence of integrin ligation is not sufficient to activate a requirement for SFK.

An important component of the proposed model is the selectivity for particular cell functions of two or more SFKs expressed in a given cell type. Previous work in T cells has shown how two SFKs expressed in these cells, Lck and Fyn, both contribute to development. Lck−/− mice show a failure of early thymocyte differentiation, whereas Fyn−/− mice are normal, with Fyn being able to compensate partially for the loss of Lck. In mature T cells, both Lck and Fyn are associated with the T cell receptor, and phosphorylation induced by T cell receptor signaling is mediated by either SFK, depending on the targets. However, a high (but not complete) degree of compensation in the T cell lineage is observed in SFK knockout mice. In oligodendrocytes, each SFK appears to have a more unique and distinct role than in mature T cells and is associated with different membrane signaling complexes. However, in knockout mice compensatory mechanisms may develop, as is seen in Fyn null mice where Src is up-regulated; therefore, we feel that shorter-term knockdowns using siRNA are valuable for examining the requirement of Fyn in the absence of compensation (Spéder et al., 2001).

We found that, in addition to having distinct integrin associations, Fyn and Lyn are activated by different molecular mechanisms. We observed that oligodendrocytes express Csk, a kinase that negatively regulates the function of SFKs (Schmedt et al., 1998). Csk expression was highest in progenitors, and its down-regulation in oligodendrocytes grown on Lm2 correlated with reduced phosphorylation of the negative regulatory tyrosine in Fyn. Laminin may influence the activity of Csk directly, such as by reducing Csk levels or Csk accessibility, or indirectly by accelerating the differentiation process during which Csk activity is modulated. Preliminary data suggest that oligodendrocytes express Csk binding protein, a transmembrane molecule that has been shown in T cells to target Csk to the plasma membrane and direct a negative feedback loop for SFK signaling (Kawabuchi et al., 2000). Developmentally regulated changes in Csk binding protein levels could, therefore, alter Csk activity. Another possible mechanism for an integrin-dependent change in SFK activity would be regulation of the availability or activity of phosphatases such as receptor protein tyrosine phosphatase, which has been shown to regulate SFKs in an integrin-dependent manner in fibroblasts (von Wichert et al., 2003).

The loss of phosphorylation of Fyn tyrosine 531 triggered by laminin was associated with a switch from PI3K to MAPK NRG survival signaling. This switch in signaling has significant consequences for the development of the oligodendrocyte lineage, in which NRG signaling alone has been shown to stimulate PI3K signaling and keep oligodendrocytes in a differentiation-arrested state (Canoll et al., 1999). We have shown previously that integrin-mediated contact with axons is an important regulatory mechanism for triggering oligodendrocytes to survive and to complete the differentiation program (Colognato et al., 2002). Csk may play an instructive role in this switch, because Csk null fibroblasts grown on laminin-10 show increased MAPK signaling, whereas PI3K signaling is decreased under these circumstances (Gu et al., 2003). Preliminary data using Csk siRNA indicate that when Csk is decreased, Fyn Y531 phosphorylation is reduced and newly formed oligodendrocytes survive better than they do in control cells. Therefore, a prediction from the current study is that reducing Csk expression or activity may also help trigger myelination in the stalled preoligodendrocytes that have been observed in demyelinated multiple sclerosis lesions (Chang et al., 2002).

In contrast, we did not observe phosphorylation of the negative regulatory tyrosine in Lyn, indicating that Csk may not regulate Lyn activity in oligodendrocytes. Instead, we observed that phosphorylation of a catalytic tyrosine was increased when cells were grown on αVβ3 substrates. The ability of Csk to regulate Fyn but not Lyn may result from the distribution of Csk and from the SFKs within lipid raft membrane microdomains. Both Fyn and Lyn are associated with lipid rafts in oligodendrocytes (Kramer et al., 1999). Lipid microdomains are more ordered regions of the plasma membrane that are highly enriched in cholesterol and glycosphingolipids and, thus, are insoluble in many detergents. These microdomains are thought to act as signaling platforms that can sequester or segregate signaling molecules, including integrin receptors.

![Figure 9: Model for integrin regulation of SFK activity during oligodendrocyte lineage progression.](image-url)
deed, laminin causes a redistribution of integrin α6β1 to rafts in newly formed oligodendrocytes, in which PDGF-mediated survival signaling becomes dependent on the integrity of lipid raft domains (Baron et al., 2003). We confirmed that Fyn and Lyn are detergent insoluble in differentiated oligodendrocytes, but found that Fyn was predominantly detergent soluble in oligodendrocyte progenitors stimulated with PDGF. This indicates that Fyn may be excluded from rafts in proliferating cells. A differential lipid raft association for Fyn and Lyn would provide a mechanism for ensuring that Csk, which is also found in the soluble, nonraft pool, is available to inactivate Fyn, but not Lyn, in proliferating progenitors.

Previous studies have shown that mice lacking Fyn or Fyn kinase activity are hypomyelinated in the brain (Umemori et al., 1994; Sperber et al., 2001). This is believed to be an oligodendrocyte-intrinsic defect because oligodendrocytes with altered or absent Fyn activity differentiate defectively in culture (Osterhout et al., 1999; Umemori et al., 1999; Sperber and McMorris, 2001; Liang et al., 2004). Expression of dominant-negative Fyn resulted in morphological defects such as reduced process outgrowth, whereas Fyn null cells had a reduced propensity to differentiate but exhibited normal morphology. Fyn has been shown to activate p190RhoGAP, and expression of dominant-negative or constitutively active forms of the RhO GTPases Rho, Rac1, and cdc42 perturbs oligodendrocyte process formation, suggesting that these GTPases are one set of downstream targets for Fyn in the oligodendrocyte lineage (Wolf et al., 2001; Liang et al., 2004). Mice deficient in the laminin α2 subunit also have a hypomyelination defect, similar in regional specificity to that in Fyn null mice (Chun et al., 2003). Laminin- and Fyn-deficient mice are both hypomyelinated in the forebrain and optic nerve, but have normal-appearing myelin in the spinal cord. Furthermore, the expression of laminin associated with axon tracts correlates with and peaks with myelination, as does Fyn activity (Umemori et al., 1994; Powell et al., 1998; Farwell and Dubord-Tomasetti, 1999; Osterhout et al., 1999; Colognato et al., 2002). These similarities in phenotype and expression pattern can be explained by our current findings showing that the laminin receptor α6β1 integrin is constitutively associated with Fyn, and that Fyn is required for laminin to amplify differentiation and survival in response to PDGF and NRG.

Several molecules have been proposed to regulate Fyn in oligodendrocytes. Antibody-mediated clustering of the cell surface molecule myelin-associated glycoprotein (MAG) was found to increase Fyn kinase activity (Umemori et al., 1994). However, MAG null mice do not have gross myelination defects but instead are characterized by subtle defects in myelin structure and periaxonal organization (Montag et al., 1994; Li et al., 1998). MAG/Fyn double knockout mice are more severely hypomyelinated than Fyn knockout mice, suggesting that the relationship between MAG and Fyn is complex and that the two molecules may operate in different signaling pathways (Biffinger et al., 2000). The GPI-anchored IgG superfamily molecule F3/contactin has also been proposed to regulate Fyn, because antibody-mediated clustering of F3/contactin in an oligodendrocyte cell line, Oli-neu, increased Fyn kinase activity (Kramer et al., 1999). However, like MAG null mice, F3 null mice do not have a hypomyelination phenotype similar to that of the Fyn null mice (Berglund et al., 1999). Therefore, Fyn may be able to activate multiple signaling pathways within the oligodendrocyte. An important question for further studies is to identify the mechanism by which adaptor and other molecules regulate the specific patterns of SFK association with the different receptors.

**Materials and methods**

**siRNA**

siRNAs were expressed using a modified version of the pSUPER plasmid, provided by Jonathan Pines and Claire Aquaviva (University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK), in which YFP expression was driven from a CMV promoter [Brummelkamp et al., 2002]. A neomycin resistance cassette (CLONTECH Laboratories, Inc.) was inserted to allow G418 selection of transfected cells. Several different 19-nucleotide target sequences within rat Fyn, Lyn, and Src cDNA were chosen according to the guidelines of AA(N19)TT or AA(N19)XX as a second choice (Tuschl, 2002). The following target sequences were used: Fyn, 5′-GCAAGGACAGAAGAAGCCTT-3′; Lyn, 5′-GCGTGGACAAATGGTGGTAA-3′; and Src, 5′-TCTAACAGCCT-GCAGACG-3′. Oligonucleotide pairs 5′-GATCCCC(N19)TTCAAG-GACAC(N19)T-3′ and 5′-AGCITTTCCC(AA)A(AA)A-3′ were annealed and phosphorylated, and then they were ligated into pSUPER/YFP digested with BglII and HindIII. Plasmids containing the correct insert were identified using an EcoRI and HindIII restriction digest, and were sequenced. After selection of transfected cells, Western blot analysis on protein levels was used to evaluate constructs, and the most effective construct was subsequently used to deplete each mRNA. Controls used included empty vector, nonfunctional targeting vectors, and scrambled targets.

**Survival assay**

8-well chamber slides (Nunc) were coated for 4 h at 37°C with PDL (Sigma-Aldrich), FN, or Lm2. Each well received 20,000 progenitors suspended in SATO’s medium. 1 h after attachment, the indicated growth factors were added and the cells were differentiated for 4 d. For PDGF assays, 0.1, 1.0, or 10 ng/ml PDGF was included, and for NRG assays, 1, 10, or 100 ng/ml NRG was included. Immunostaining using mouse anti-GFP and rabbit anti-GalC antibodies was used to identify transfected, newly formed oligodendrocytes. TUNEL using indirect immunofluorescence was used to visualize nicked DNA according to the manufacturer’s instructions (Apoptag). In each well, a minimum of 100 GFP/GalC double-positive cells were scored for TUNEL. Cell survival was determined by the percentage of TUNEL-negative cells in the GFP/GalC double-positive population. To compare different experiments, the percent change in cell survival above or below the internal control (survival on PDL with no treatment or growth factors) was calculated. Experiments were performed a minimum of three times and the mean percent changes and SDs were calculated. Statistical significance was determined using the paired *t* test.

**Migration assay**

Transfected progenitors were suspended in 10 μl SATO defined medium plus PDGF and FGF. The volume of the cell suspension was measured and one third of the volume of 1% low melting temperature agarose [prepared in sterile PBS and equilibrated to 37°C] was added. 1.5-μl drops of cell–agarose suspension were added to the center of PDL-coated 8-well chamber slides. The drops were incubated at 4°C for 15 min to solidify agarose, and then flooded with 0.2 ml SATO medium with 0, 1, or 10 ng/ml PDGF and 10 ng/ml FN or Lm2. At day 2, cells were fixed with methanol and immunostained with GFP antibodies to detect transfected cells. The migration distance from the agarose drop boundary was measured on captured images using OpenLab image software. For each experiment, all transfected cells within four drops were measured and averaged for each growth factor/ECM condition. Each experiment was performed at least three times and a representative experiment is shown.

**Proliferation assay**

8-well Permanox chamber slides were coated for 4 h at 37°C with PDL, FN, or Lm2. Slides were blocked in PBS containing 0.5% heat-inactivated BSA for 30 min and washed with PBS. Progenitors (20,000 per well) in DME were allowed to attach for 1 h, and then an equal volume of DME containing BrdU and PDGF was added. Final concentrations were 0, 0.1, 1, and
10 ng/ml for PDGF and 10 μM for BrdU. At 24 h, cells were washed and fixed in methanol, immunofluorescence was performed with antibodies to GFP to visualize YFP-transfected and cells to BrdU to visualize cells that have entered S phase, and cells were stained with Hoechst to visualize nuclei. BrdU incorporation was defined as the percentage of healthy GFP+ cells that were positive for BrdU. Each experiment was repeated at least three times, with individual conditions performed in duplicate.

Cell culture
Disassociated rat neonatal cortices were cultured [at 37°C in 7.5% CO2] in DME with 10% FCS on PDL-coated flasks. By day 10, mixed glial cultures were obtained, consisting of oligodendrocyte precursor cells and microglia growing on an astrocyte monolayer. Purified oligodendrocyte precursor cells were isolated using a modification of the mechanical dissociation and differential adhesion method described by McCarthy and de Vellis [1980].

Transfection
Overnight incubation with lipid carrier FUGENE [Roche] was used to introduce 5 μg plasmid DNA per 75-cm2 flask of mixed glial cultures. Next, oligodendrocyte progenitors were purified by mechanical dissociation, and then they were selected in 400 μg/ml G418 with 10 ng/ml PDGF and FGF to prevent differentiation and maintain proliferation. In functional assays [survival, proliferation, migration, and differentiation], progenitors were not selected and were plated directly in 8-well chamber slides for analysis with no previous growth factor treatment. Transfected cells (typically ~10%) were visualized by YFP fluorescence. Cells prepared for biochemistry were transfected using Nucleofector electroporation system according to the manufacturer’s instructions with efficiencies of ~50% [Amaxa].

Immunocytochemistry and image acquisition
To detect YFP in fixed cells, we incubated the cells for 10 min in PBS containing 5% milk or 5% BSA, and then in primary antibodies in blocking buffer with GFP antibodies (Molecular Probes) in PBS containing 0.4% BSA and 0.1% Triton X-100. For double immunofluorescence, additional primary antibodies were included to detect MBP, GalC, CNPase, or Fyn, followed by FITC- and TRITC-labeled donkey secondary antibodies. To visualize YFP in fixed cells, we incubated the cells for 10 min in PBS containing 0.4% BSA and 0.1% Triton X-100. For double immunofluorescence, additional primary antibodies were included to detect MBP, GalC, CNPase, or Fyn, followed by FITC- and TRITC-labeled donkey secondary antibodies. To visualize YFP in fixed cells, we incubated the cells for 10 min in PBS containing 0.4% BSA and 0.1% Triton X-100. For double immunofluorescence, additional primary antibodies were included to detect MBP, GalC, CNPase, or Fyn, followed by FITC- and TRITC-labeled donkey secondary antibodies.

Other chemicals.
Inhibitors (Calbiochem) were suspended in DMSO and used at 50 μM [wortmannin] and at 25 μM [PD098059]. In control wells, the equivalent volume of DMSO was added. Manganese was used at 50 μM.

We thank Claire Aquaviva and Jonathan Pines for their gift of modified pSU- c16 integrin subunit, we fixed cells with methanol for 5 min at 5°C. Membrane proteins were separated by SDS-PAGE using 7.5% or 10% acrylamide minigels and -soluble material. The Triton-insoluble pellet was solubilized in 10 mM Tris and 1% SDS by trituration through a 21-gauge needle. Before immunoprecipitations, lysates were prepared as above but incubated at 37°C to solubilize lipid raft-associated proteins. Protein concentration was determined by protein assay [Bio-Rad Laboratories] and lysates were boiled for 5 min in Laemmli solubilizing buffer and 3% -mercaptoethanol. Proteins were separated by SDS-PAGE using 7.5% or 10% acrylamide minigels [Bio-Rad Laboratories] and blotted onto 0.45 μm nitrocellulose. Membranes were blocked for 1 h in 1% Tween 20 and TBS [TBS] containing either 5% milk or 5% BSA, and then in primary antibodies in blocking buffer overnight at 4°C. Membranes were washed in TBS-T, incubated for 1 h in HRP-conjugated secondary antibodies (Amersham Biosciences), washed again in TBS-T, and developed using chemiluminescence. For immunoprecipitation of protein complexes, lysates were incubated with antibodies and protein A/G beads [Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Inc.] at 4°C overnight on a rotating wheel. Bead immune complexes were washed four times and prepared for electrophoresis and Western blotting.

Immunocytochemistry and image acquisition
To detect YFP in fixed cells, we incubated the cells for 10 min in PBS containing 3% PFA and 2% sucrose, and then performed immunocytochemis- try with GFP antibodies [Molecular Probes] in PBS containing 0.4% BSA and 0.1% Triton X-100. For double immunofluorescence, additional primary antibodies were included to detect MBP, GalC, CNPase, or Fyn, followed by FITC- and TRITC-labeled donkey secondary antibodies. To visualize YFP in fixed cells, we incubated the cells for 10 min in PBS containing 3% PFA and 2% sucrose, and then performed immunocytochemistry with GFP antibodies [Molecular Probes] in PBS containing 0.4% BSA and 0.1% Triton X-100. For double immunofluorescence, additional primary antibodies were included to detect MBP, GalC, CNPase, or Fyn, followed by FITC- and TRITC-labeled donkey secondary antibodies. To visualize YFP in fixed cells, we incubated the cells for 10 min in PBS containing 3% PFA and 2% sucrose, and then performed immunocytochemistry with GFP antibodies [Molecular Probes] in PBS containing 0.4% BSA and 0.1% Triton X-100. For double immunofluorescence, additional primary antibodies were included to detect MBP, GalC, CNPase, or Fyn, followed by FITC- and TRITC-labeled donkey secondary antibodies.

Analysis of myelin membrane morphology
Oligodendrocytes transfected with siRNA constructs were differentiated for 2 or 4 d in Sato’s medium with 0.5% FCS (differentiation medium). YFP-positive cells were evaluated for the expression of MBP using immunocytochemistry and graded according to morphological characteristics and degree of myelin membrane formation. Results.
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