Calpain 2 and PTP1B function in a novel pathway with Src to regulate invadopodia dynamics and breast cancer cell invasion

Christa L. Cortesio,1,2,3 Keefe T. Chan,2,3 Benjamin J. Perrin,2,3 Nicholas O. Burton,2,3 Sheng Zhang,4 Zhong-Yin Zhang,4 and Anna Huttenlocher2,3

1Department of Biomolecular Chemistry, 2Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology, and 3Department of Pediatrics, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706
4Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, IN 46202

Invasive cancer cells form dynamic adhesive structures associated with matrix degradation called invadopodia. Calpain 2 is a calcium-dependent intracellular protease that regulates adhesion turnover and disassembly through the targeting of specific substrates such as talin. Here, we describe a novel function for calpain 2 in the formation of invadopodia and in the invasive abilities of breast cancer cells through the modulation of endogenous c-Src activity. Calpain-deficient breast cancer cells show impaired invadopodia formation that is rescued by expression of a truncated fragment of protein tyrosine phosphatase 1B (PTP1B) corresponding to the calpain proteolytic fragment, which indicates that calpain modulates invadopodia through PTP1B. Moreover, PTP1B activity is required for efficient invadopodia formation and breast cancer invasion, which suggests that PTP1B may modulate breast cancer progression through its effects on invadopodia. Collectively, our experiments implicate a novel signaling pathway involving calpain 2, PTP1B, and Src in the regulation of invadopodia and breast cancer invasion.

Introduction

Integrin-mediated interactions between the extracellular matrix and the actin cytoskeleton play a central role in regulating cell migration in both normal and pathological processes, such as tumor metastasis. Many adherent cell types, such as fibroblasts, form integrin-mediated adhesions, known as focal adhesions, that undergo cycles of assembly and disassembly during cell migration. Focal adhesions are generally found in less motile cells and function to tether actin-containing stress fibers. In contrast, motile and invasive cells, including myeloid cells and invasive cancer cells, frequently form specialized integrin-mediated adhesive structures known as podosomes or matrix-degrading invadopodia (Buccione et al., 2004; Linder, 2007). Dynamic regulation of invadopodia in carcinoma cells is likely critical for the invasive capacity of metastatic cancer cells. However, an understanding of the mechanisms that regulate invadopodia dynamics in cancer cells remains limited.

First identified in fibroblasts transformed with the Rous sarcoma virus v-Src oncogene (Tarone et al., 1985), podosomes and invadopodia contain many of the cytoskeletal and signaling proteins found in focal adhesions, including talin, vinculin, and paxillin (Linder and Aepfelbacher, 2003). In contrast to focal adhesions, podosomes and invadopodia are not associated with stress fibers but instead contain several actin regulatory proteins, including cortactin, gelsolin, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome protein, and the actin-nucleating Arp 2/3 complex (Buccione et al., 2004). Furthermore, a hallmark of the invasive podosomes or invadopodia formed in metastatic cancer cells is the capacity for matrix degradation through the localized secretion of ECM-degrading matrix metalloproteases (Linder and Aepfelbacher, 2003).

There has been substantial recent progress in defining the molecular mechanisms that regulate podosome dynamics (Calle et al., 2004; Yamaguchi and Condeelis, 2007). For example, Src tyrosine kinases and the actin-binding protein cortactin are critical regulators of podosome formation and turnover (Luxenburg et al., 2006). The intracellular, calcium-dependent, thiol proteases calpains have also recently been implicated in regulating podosome disassembly in dendritic
Calpain 2 is necessary for invadopodia formation

Previous studies have demonstrated that the highly metastatic rat mammary adenocarcinoma (MTLn3) cells form invadopodia when plated on fibronectin (FN)- or gelatin-coated dishes and that the formation of these structures correlates with their metastatic potential (Yamaguchi et al., 2005). Calpains have been implicated in cancer cell migration and invasion (Mamoune et al., 2003; Libertini et al., 2005; Carragher et al., 2006). To determine if invadopodia formation is affected by calpain 2 expression, calpain 2-deficient MTLn3 cell lines were generated using RNA interference (Franco et al., 2004a). Using two different targeting vectors, calpain 2 expression levels were reduced to $\leq 30\%$ of control MTLn3 cells, and invadopodia formation was assayed in control and calpain 2-deficient MTLn3 cells plated on FN-coated and gelatin/FN-coated coverslips (Fig. 1 A). Interestingly, we observed a significant reduction in the number of invadopodia formed in calpain 2-deficient MTLn3 cells on both FN and FN-coated gelatin dishes and that the formation of these structures correlates with their metastatic potential (Yamaguchi et al., 2005). Calpains have been implicated in cancer cell migration and invasion (Mamoune et al., 2003; Libertini et al., 2005; Carragher et al., 2006). To determine if invadopodia formation is affected by calpain 2 expression, calpain 2-deficient MTLn3 cell lines were generated using RNA interference (Franco et al., 2004a). Using two different targeting vectors, calpain 2 expression levels were reduced to $\sim 30\%$ of control MTLn3 cells, and invadopodia formation was assayed in control and calpain 2-deficient MTLn3 cells plated on FN or FN-coated gelatin substrates (Fig. 1 A). Interestingly, we observed a significant reduction in the number of invadopodia formed in calpain 2-deficient MTLn3 cells on both FN and FN-coated gelatin (Fig. 1 A). To confirm that the actin and cortactin-containing structures represent membrane projections on the ventral cell surface, confocal imaging was performed. Accordingly, the formation of invadopodia on the ventral cell surface was impaired in the calpain 2-deficient cell lines as compared with control cells by confocal imaging (Fig. 1 B). Calpain inhibition with cell-permeable calpain inhibitors also...
Time-lapse analysis of invadopodia dynamics in calpain 2–deficient MTLn3 cells

Previous studies have implicated calpain 2 in the turnover of focal adhesions in fibroblast-like cells (Bhatt and Huttenlocher, 2003; Franco et al., 2004b) and podosomes in osteoclasts (Marzia et al., 2006) and dendritic cells (Calle et al., 2006). To determine the effect of calpain 2 on invadopodia dynamics in MTLn3 cells, time-lapse microscopy was performed using control and calpain 2–deficient MTLn3 cells that express the invadopodia markers GFP-cortactin or GFP-actin. Calpain 2–deficient cells formed less GFP-cortactin or GFP-actin-containing invadopodia than control cells despite similar efficiency of transgene expression (Figs. 3 and S1, available at http://www.jcb.org/cgi/content/full/jcb.200708048/DC1). Although the number of invadopodia was reduced, there were sufficient numbers of invadopodia in calpain 2–deficient cells to assay their dynamics. Live fluorescence imaging of GFP-actin or GFP-cortactin in these cells revealed the persistence of actin and cortactin in invadopodia for extended durations in calpain 2–deficient cells as compared with control cells with cells plated on FN (Fig. 3, A and B; and Videos 1–4) or FN-coated gelatin (not depicted). Plots of GFP-actin or impaired invadopodia formation (unpublished data), which suggests that calpain protease activity is necessary for invadopodia formation.

To determine if calpain is required for matrix degradation, calpain-deficient cells were plated on Oregon green 488–labeled gelatin-coated coverslips. The cortactin-containing structures generally associated with sites of matrix degradation in control cells, which suggests that the majority of cortactin-containing dotlike structures in MTLn3 cells represent invadopodia (Fig. 2 A). The formation of invadopodia was significantly impaired in the calpain 2–deficient cells, although the few structures that formed in calpain-deficient cells retained their matrix degrading function (Fig. 2 A and not depicted). To further assess the invasive potential of calpain 2–deficient breast cancer cells, both calpain 2–deficient cell lines were plated on Matrigel-coated membranes and assayed for their ability to invade through the membrane. Both calpain 2–deficient cell lines demonstrated a significant reduction (approximately twofold) in invasiveness as compared with control cells (Fig. 2 B). Together, these findings suggest that calpain 2 is important for both the formation of invadopodia and invasive capacity of breast cancer cells.
mutant form of cortactin, GFP–cortactin D28, which is resistant to calpain-mediated proteolysis (Perrin et al., 2006). Cortactin-deficient MTLn3 cells were generated using RNA interference with two different targeting vectors that reduced cortactin expression to \( \frac{1}{5} \) of control cells (Fig. 4). In accordance with previous studies (Clark et al., 2007; Webb et al., 2007), invadopodia formation was impaired in cortactin-deficient MTLn3 cells that express cortactin-specific siRNA targets as compared with control siRNA (Fig. 4 A). Both wild-type and calpain-resistant GFP–cortactin D28 rescued invadopodia formation in cortactin-deficient MTLn3 cells, indicating that calpain-mediated proteolysis of cortactin is not necessary for the formation of invadopodia (Fig. 4 B). This rescue was confirmed by staining for both actin and Arp 2/3 invadopodia markers (Figs. 4 B and S2, available at http://www.jcb.org/cgi/content/full/jcb.200708048/DC1). These findings suggest that calpain 2 regulates invadopodia formation independent of its effects on cortactin proteolysis.

To determine if cortactin proteolysis regulates its dynamics at invadopodia, live fluorescence imaging was performed using cortactin-deficient MTLn3 cells that express either GFP–cortactin or GFP–cortactin D28. Live imaging revealed that calpain-resistant cortactin, GFP–cortactin D28, persisted at

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**Figure 3.** Invadopodia assembly and disassembly rates are reduced in calpain 2–deficient MTLn3 cells. (A) GFP-actin or (B) GFP-cortactin were transiently transfected into MTLn3 control and calpain 2 siRNA lines. Cells were plated on FN-coated glass-bottomed dishes and analyzed by time-lapse fluorescence microscopy. The time-lapse montage of calpain-deficient cells expressing GFP-actin (A) or GFP-cortactin (B) demonstrates that GFP-actin or GFP-cortactin persist at invadopodia for longer durations in calpain-deficient MTLn3 cells. Arrows indicate representative invadopodia. Duration measurements and assembly and disassembly rates are shown. Data show means ± SEM from four independent experiments. Asterisks indicate statistical significance compared with control based on a t test (*, \( P < 0.03; **, P < 0.05 \)). See Videos 1–4 (available at http://www.jcb.org/cgi/content/full/jcb.200708048/DC1). Bars, 10 μm.
Figure 4. Calpain 2–mediated proteolysis of cortactin is not necessary for invadopodia formation but mediates disassembly of cortactin from invadopodia. (A) Cell lysates from MTLn3 cells stably expressing control or cortactin siRNA were analyzed by Western blotting and probed for cortactin and ERK as a loading control. MTLn3 cells expressing control or cortactin siRNA were cultured on gelatin/FN-coated coverslips and stained with anti-p34-Arc antibody and rhodamine phalloidin. Quantification of invadopodia is expressed as the mean number of invadopodia per cell. *, P < 0.05 compared with control cells. (B) Wild-type (WT) or calpain-resistant (D28) GFP-cortactin was transiently transfected into MTLn3 control and cortactin siRNA lines, cultured on gelatin/FN-coated coverslips, and stained with rhodamine phalloidin. Quantification of invadopodia is expressed as the mean number of invadopodia per cell. *, P < 0.05 compared with control cells. (C) GFP-cortactin WT or GFP-cortactin D28 expressing cells were plated on FN-coated glass-bottomed dishes and analyzed by time-lapse microscopy. Time-lapse montage of cortactin-deficient MTLn3 cells expressing GFP-cortactin WT or GFP-cortactin D28 demonstrates that GFP-cortactin D28 persists at invadopodia for longer durations than GFP-cortactin WT. Duration measurements and assembly and disassembly rates are shown. Arrows indicate representative invadopodia. Asterisk indicates statistical significance based on t test (P < 0.01). See Videos 5 and 6 (available at http://www.jcb.org/cgi/content/full/jcb.200708048/DC1). Data are means ± SEM from three independent experiments. Bars, 10 μm.
control MTLn3 cells transformed with v-Src (Fig. 5 A). Surprisingly, there was no significant difference in invadopodia numbers in v-Src transformed calpain 2–deficient MTLn3 cells compared with v-Src transformed control cells, indicating that calpain 2 is not required for invadopodia formation downstream of v-Src (Fig. 5 A). Expression of a constitutively active c-Src Y527F but not wild-type c-Src also rescued invadopodia formation (Fig. S4). Together, these findings suggest that calpain 2 functions upstream of c-Src kinase to regulate invadopodia formation in MTLn3 breast cancer cells but is not necessary for invadopodia formation in the context of v-Src transformed cells.

To further elucidate how calpain 2 affects invadopodia dynamics in v-Src transformed MTLn3 cells, time-lapse microscopy was performed using control and calpain 2–deficient v-Src transformed MTLn3 cells. Live fluorescent imaging of GFP-cortactin in these cells demonstrated enhanced invadopodia assembly in v-Src transformed cells in agreement with previous studies (Tarone et al., 1985; Tatin et al., 2006). However, the duration of invadopodia was enhanced approximately twofold in calpain 2–deficient cells transformed with v-Src, which suggests that, although calpain 2 is not necessary for invadopodia formation downstream of v-Src (Fig. 5 A). Expression of a constitutively active c-Src Y527F but not wild-type c-Src also rescued invadopodia formation (Fig. S4). Together, these findings suggest that calpain 2 functions upstream of c-Src kinase to regulate invadopodia formation in MTLn3 breast cancer cells but is not necessary for invadopodia formation in the context of v-Src transformed cells.

Calpain 2 functions both upstream and downstream of Src to regulate invadopodia

Previous studies indicate that Src tyrosine kinases function at an early step in the formation of podosomes and invadopodia. Accordingly, we found that Src activity was necessary for invadopodia formation in MTLn3 cells because the Src inhibitor PP2 impaired invadopodia formation (Fig. S3, available at http://www.jcb.org/cgi/content/full/jcb.200708048/DC1). To address whether calpain functions upstream or downstream of Src tyrosine kinases, we determined if calpain 2 was required for invadopodia formation in cells that express constitutively active v-Src. In accordance with previous publications, there was a substantial increase in the number of invadopodia formed in control MTLn3 cells transformed with v-Src (Fig. 5 A). Surprisingly, there was no significant difference in invadopodia numbers in v-Src transformed calpain 2–deficient MTLn3 cells compared with v-Src transformed control cells, indicating that calpain 2 is not required for invadopodia formation downstream of v-Src (Fig. 5 A). Expression of a constitutively active c-Src Y527F but not wild-type c-Src also rescued invadopodia formation (Fig. S4). Together, these findings suggest that calpain 2 functions upstream of c-Src kinase to regulate invadopodia formation in MTLn3 breast cancer cells but is not necessary for invadopodia formation in the context of v-Src transformed cells.

By further elucidating how calpain 2 affects invadopodia dynamics in v-Src transformed MTLn3 cells, time-lapse microscopy was performed using control and calpain 2–deficient v-Src transformed MTLn3 cells. Live fluorescent imaging of GFP-cortactin in these cells demonstrated enhanced invadopodia formation in v-Src transformed cells in agreement with previous studies (Tarone et al., 1985; Tatin et al., 2006). However, the duration of invadopodia was enhanced approximately twofold in calpain 2–deficient cells transformed with v-Src, which suggests that, although calpain 2 is not necessary for invadopodia formation, it modulates invadopodia turnover in v-Src transformed cells. Accordingly, invadopodia assembly rates in v-Src transformed control and calpain 2–deficient cells were found to be approximately equal (Fig. 5 B). However, disassembly rates of invadopodia were reduced approximately twofold in calpain 2–deficient as compared with control v-Src transformed cells. Furthermore, our findings implicate cortactin proteolysis downstream of v-Src
hypothesis that calpain 2 functions upstream of c-Src to regulate invadopodia formation in MTLn3 cells. An attractive candidate to mediate calpain effects on Src activity is PTP1B, a known calpain substrate. Previous studies have reported that PTP1B activates endogenous c-Src in breast cancer cells by the dephosphorylation of its inhibitory tyrosine 529 (Bjorge et al., 2000). Accordingly, it has been reported that the cell-permeable, PTP1B inhibitor compound II (CII) enhances phosphorylation of tyrosine 529 and reduces c-Src activity (Liang et al., 2005). We also found that the PTP1B inhibitor CII increased phosphorylation at tyrosine 529 using a phospho-specific antibody that detects phosphorylation at tyrosine 529. The increase in phosphorylation at tyrosine 529 was only modest with an ~1.4-fold increase compared with vehicle control-treated cells (Fig. 6 B). However, these modest in invadopodia disassembly (Fig. S5 and not depicted). Collectively, these data suggest that calpain 2 functions downstream of Src to regulate invadopodia dynamics and disassembly at least in part through cortactin proteolysis. Furthermore, our findings also implicate a novel role for calpain 2 in invadopodia formation upstream of c-Src.

Figure 6. Calpain 2 and PTP1B regulate Src kinase activity and phosphorylation on tyrosine 529 in MTLn3 breast cancer cells. (A) Lysates from MTLn3 cells expressing control or calpain 2 siRNA were probed for total Src expression. Immunoprecipitations were performed on lysates from MTLn3 cells stably expressing control or calpain 2 siRNA using Src-specific antibodies. Kinase activity assays were performed and the autoradiograph is shown. Quantification of Src activity relative to total Src in either control or calpain 2 siRNA lysates from three separate experiments ± SEM is shown. Asterisks indicate statistical significance compared with control based on t test (P < 0.01). (B) MTLn3 cells stably expressing control or calpain 2 siRNA were analyzed by immunoblotting and probed for total Src and phospho-Y529. As a positive control, wild-type MTLn3 cells were treated with 200 nM CII, a cell-permeable PTP1B inhibitor, or vehicle before lysis. Quantification of phospho-Y529 levels normalized to total Src ± SEM of three independent experiments is shown. Asterisks indicate statistical significance compared with control based on one-way ANOVA (P < 0.05). (C) Cell lysates from MTLn3 cells stably expressing control or PTP1B siRNA were analyzed by Western blotting and probed for calpain 2 and vinculin as a loading control. PTP1Bsi cell lysates were analyzed by immunoblot and probed for total Src and phospho-Y529. Quantification of phospho-Y529 levels normalized to total Src ± SEM of three independent experiments is shown. Asterisks indicate statistical significance compared with control based on one-way ANOVA (P < 0.05). (D) Src expression was analyzed by Western blotting in control and PTP1Bsi cells. Immunoprecipitations were performed as described in A on PTP1Bsi cells. Kinase activity assays were performed and the autoradiograph is shown. Quantification of Src activity relative to total Src in either control or PTP1Bsi lysate from three separate experiments is shown as the means ± SEM. The asterisk indicates statistical significance compared with control based on a t test (P < 0.05). Numbers to the left of gel blots indicate molecular mass standards in kD.

Calpain and PTP1B modulate c-Src activity
To determine if calpain 2 regulates endogenous c-Src kinase activity in MTLn3 cells, c-Src expression and activity were analyzed in calpain 2-deficient cells. There was no difference in expression of endogenous c-Src in control and calpain 2-deficient MTLn3 cells (Fig. 6 A). However, adhesion-induced c-Src activity was decreased by approximately twofold in calpain 2-deficient cell lines compared with control cells (Fig. 6 A). These findings support the hypothesis that calpain 2 functions upstream of c-Src to regulate Src activity and thereby invadopodia formation in MTLn3 cells.

An attractive candidate to mediate calpain effects on Src activity is PTP1B, a known calpain substrate. Previous studies have reported that PTP1B activates endogenous c-Src in breast cancer cells by the dephosphorylation of its inhibitory tyrosine 529 (Bjorge et al., 2000). Accordingly, it has been reported that the cell-permeable, PTP1B inhibitor compound II (CII) enhances phosphorylation of tyrosine 529 and reduces c-Src activity (Liang et al., 2005). We also found that the PTP1B inhibitor CII increased phosphorylation at tyrosine 529 using a phospho-specific antibody that detects phosphorylation at tyrosine 529. The increase in phosphorylation at tyrosine 529 was only modest with an ~1.4-fold increase compared with vehicle control-treated cells (Fig. 6 B). However, these modest
using the widely used phosphatase substrate paranitrophenyl phosphate (pNPP) as described previously (Peters et al., 2003).

In agreement with previously published reports, the His-tagged PTP1B truncations demonstrated enhanced phosphatase activity compared with full-length PTP1B in vitro (Fig. 7A; Frangioni et al., 1993). To further characterize the effects of calpain proteolysis on PTP1B activity in vitro, both the full-length PTP1B and the truncation mutants were treated with purified calpain 2 and assayed for phosphatase activity. Calpain 2 enhanced the activity of full-length PTP1B by \( \frac{1.7}{1} \) -fold but had no effect on the activity of the truncation mutants, which further supports a role for calpain proteolysis in the regulation of PTP1B activity (Fig. 7B).

Truncated PTP1B rescues invadopodia formation in calpain 2–deficient cells

To determine if PTP1B is cleaved by calpain 2 in vivo, we exogenously expressed a tagged form of PTP1B in control or calpain 2–deficient HEK-293 cells. Human embryonic kidney (HEK) cells were used to obtain high levels of exogenously expressed PTP1B to facilitate observation of calpain 2–mediated cleavage. We observed substantial proteolysis of exogenously expressed GFP-PTP1B-HA in control but not calpain 2–deficient HEK cells (Fig. 8A). Cell lysates isolated from control HEK cells treated with ionomycin generated a proteolytic fragment 8 kD smaller than the full-length, tagged PTP1B (Fig. 8A). Similarly, we observed modest proteolysis of exogenously expressed FLAG-PTP1B in control MTLn3 cells and decreased PTP1B proteolysis in both calpain 2–deficient cell lines (Fig. 8B).

Truncated PTP1B rescues invadopodia formation in calpain 2–deficient cells

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Our findings indicate that calpain 2-mediated proteolysis of PTP1B results in an approximate 8-kD C-terminal truncation and enhanced phosphatase activity. To determine if this truncated form of PTP1B can rescue invadopodia formation in calpain 2-deficient MTLn3 cells, GFP control or the GFP-tagged PTP1B 360 truncation mutant were expressed in control or calpain 2-deficient cells and assayed for invadopodia formation (Fig. 8 C). In accordance with our reported findings (Fig. 1), calpain 2-deficient cells that expressed control GFP displayed impaired invadopodia formation as compared with control cells (Fig. 8 C). Together, these findings indicate that a truncated PTP1B, based on the predicted calpain proteolytic fragment, rescues invadopodia formation in calpain 2-deficient MTLn3 cells.

PTP1B regulates invadopodia formation and breast cancer invasion

Recent studies implicate a critical role for PTP1B in breast cancer progression in mouse models (Bentires-Alj and Neel, 2017). PTP1B is cleaved by calpain 2 in vivo, and this proteolytic modification results in the generation of an activated form of PTP1B. This is especially intriguing in light of the role of PTP1B in activating c-Src in breast cancer cells by dephosphorylating the inhibitory tyrosine 529.

Our findings indicate that calpain 2-mediated proteolysis of PTP1B results in an approximate 8-kD C-terminal truncation and enhanced phosphatase activity. To determine if this truncated form of PTP1B can rescue invadopodia formation in calpain 2-deficient MTLn3 cells, GFP control or the GFP-tagged PTP1B 360 truncation mutant were expressed in control or calpain 2-deficient cells and assayed for invadopodia formation (Fig. 8 C). In accordance with our reported findings (Fig. 1), calpain 2-deficient cells that expressed control GFP displayed impaired invadopodia formation as compared with cells that express control siRNA. Shown are the relative amounts of FLAG-PTP1B that were pulled down. The arrow with an asterisk indicates a calpain 2-dependent PTP1B cleavage product. Blots shown are representative of three independent experiments. PTP1B cleavage was quantified for control and calpain 2 siRNA lines as a percentage of total FLAG-PTP1B expression and is shown relative to control cells. (left) Asterisks indicate statistical significance compared with control cells based on one-way ANOVA (P < 0.05). Immunoprecipitations were assayed for phosphatase activity against pNPP as described in Materials and methods. Activity of immunoprecipitated PTP1B constructs in MTLn3 calpain 2 siRNA lines is expressed relative to the control cell line. Activity data are shown as the means ± SEM from three separate experiments. (right) Asterisks indicate statistical significance based on a t test (P < 0.002). (C) MTLn3 cells were transfected with GFP-PTP1B truncated at amino acid 360 or GFP alone. Transfected cells were plated on FN-coated glass coverslips and stained with anti-cortactin antibody. Invadopodia formation was quantified by determining the mean number of invadopodia per cell. Data represent means ± SEM from three independent experiments. *, P < 0.05 compared with GFP-expressing control cells. Bar, 10 μm.
To determine if PTP1B regulates breast cancer invasion, we tested the effects of PTP1B inhibition using a PTP1B inhibitor or PTP1B-deficient cell lines on the formation of invadopodia and invasion across Matrigel-coated membranes. We found that invadopodia formation was impaired in MTLn3 cells treated with the cell-permeable PTP1B inhibitor CII (Fig. 9 A). In accordance with our findings using CII, we found that invadopodia formation was also reduced approximately twofold in the PTP1B-deficient cell lines (Fig. 9 B). To determine if PTP1B is required for invadopodia formation, PTP1B-deficient cell lines were plated on Matrigel-coated membranes and assayed for their ability to migrate through the membrane. Despite only a 50% knockdown, the cell line most deficient in PTP1B exhibited a twofold inhibition of cell invasion compared with control cells (Fig. 9 C). Furthermore, treatment with the PTP1B inhibitor CII also impaired invasion of MTLn3 breast cancer cells by approximately twofold (Fig. 9 C). Together, the findings implicate PTP1B as a novel component of a signaling pathway that regulates invadopodia formation and invasion in breast cancer cells.

Discussion

Invasive cancer cells form dynamic protrusive structures known as invadopodia that are associated with ECM degradation and increased tumor cell invasiveness. Here, we describe a novel function for the intracellular, calcium-dependent protease calpain 2 in the dynamic regulation of invadopodia both upstream and downstream of Src tyrosine kinases in metastatic breast cancer cells. Although calpains have been implicated in podosome disassembly in various cell types, including breast cancer cells (Buchanan et al., 2004), the specific role of calpain 2 in the regulation of invadopodia has not been previously reported. In this study, we show that calpain 2 is involved in the disassembly of invadopodia at least in part through the targeted proteolysis of cortactin.

Substantial evidence has implicated calpain 2 in the regulation of adhesion disassembly downstream of the transforming oncogene v-Src. Studies by Carragher et al. (2002) demonstrated that v-Src transformation induces the calpain-dependent proteolysis of specific substrates. In further studies, calpain 2 was demonstrated to be a critical effector downstream of v-Src in regulating adhesion disassembly, cell morphology, and cell cycle progression (Carragher et al., 2004). In agreement with these findings, invadopodia in v-Src-transformed calpain 2–deficient MTLn3 cells had substantially reduced disassembly rates but not assembly rates compared with control cells. The importance of cortactin proteolysis downstream of transforming v-Src is further supported by the impaired disassembly of calpain-resistant cortactin in v-Src-transformed cells (unpublished data). It will be interesting to determine if cortactin proteolysis is also critical for calpain effects on the disassembly of podosomes in other cell types.

Calpain inhibition resulted in extended durations of invadopodia (mean ~17 min) and impaired both the dynamic assembly and disassembly of these structures. It has been suggested that precursor invadopodia are more motile on the ventral cell membrane and that stabilization of invadopodia or decreased mobility is associated with enhanced matrix degradation (Gimona and Buccione, 2006); however, no significant differences in invadopodia mobility were observed between control and calpain 2–deficient cells (unpublished data). This suggests that although calpain 2–deficient cells were significantly impaired in their ability to degrade matrix and invade through Matrigel, this defect is likely a result of the inability of calpain 2–deficient cells to efficiently form invadopodia and not a defect in stabilization of precursor structures.

Previous studies have established a role for calpain proteases in the turnover of integrin-mediated adhesions in migrating cells (Huttenlocher et al., 1997; Bhatt and Huttenlocher, 2003) with the specific involvement of talin proteolysis in focal adhesion disassembly (Franco et al., 2004b). Recent progress has also implicated calpain protease activity in the regulation of podosome disassembly in dendritic cells (Calle et al., 2006) and osteoclasts (Marzia et al., 2006). However, in these studies, the involvement of specific substrates was not demonstrated, although several calpain substrates, including cortactin, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome protein, and Pyk2, have been shown to localize to podosomes (Calle et al., 2006; Linder, 2007). In this study, we show that calpain 2 is involved in the disassembly of invadopodia at least in part through the targeted proteolysis of cortactin. Although expression of cortactin is required for invadopodia assembly, calpain-resistant cortactin was able to rescue invadopodia formation in cortactin-deficient MTLn3 cells, which suggests that calpain proteolysis of cortactin is not essential for the formation of invadopodia. However, expression of the calpain-resistant cortactin impaired the disassembly of cortactin from invadopodia, indicating that cortactin proteolysis is likely a mechanism by which invadopodia disassemble. Collectively, our findings suggest that calpain 2 functions downstream of Src tyrosine kinases to regulate invadopodia disassembly through the targeted proteolysis of specific effector substrates such as cortactin.
In this work, we show that calpain 2 functions upstream of endogenous c-Src to positively regulate Src activity and invadopodia formation. Previous studies have shown that Src activity is necessary for invadopodia formation (Chen, 1989; Spinardi and Marchisio, 2006) and that its activity is modulated downstream of integrin-mediated adhesion and by the activity of growth factor signaling pathways such as EGF receptor signaling. EGF receptor activation stimulates invadopodia formation and invasiveness. PTP1B is necessary for efficient invadopodia formation and invasion. (A) MTLn3 cells cultured on FN-coated glass coverslips were stained with anti-cortactin antibody and rhodamine phalloidin. Cells were cultured in the presence of vehicle or the cell-permeable PTP1B inhibitor CII. Quantification of invadopodia is expressed as the mean number of invadopodia per cell. Data are mean ± SEM of three independent experiments. *, P < 0.01 compared with control cells. (B) MTLn3 cells expressing control or PTP1Bsi were cultured on FN-coated glass coverslips and stained with anti-cortactin antibody and rhodamine phalloidin. Quantification of invadopodia is expressed as the mean number of invadopodia per cell. Data are mean ± SEM of three independent experiments. *, P < 0.01 compared with control cells. (C, left) MTLn3 cells were cultured in the presence of vehicle or CII and assayed for their ability to invade through the membrane. Invasion is shown relative to control cells. Data are mean ± SEM of three independent experiments. *, P < 0.05. (right) MTLn3 cells expressing control or PTP1B siRNA were plated on Matrigel-coated membranes and assayed for their ability to invade through the membrane. Invasion is shown relative to control cells. Data are mean ± SEM of three independent experiments. *, P < 0.02 compared with control cells. Bars: (A and B) 10 μm; (C) 1 mm.
invasion of MTLn3 cells (Yamaguchi et al., 2005) and has also been reported to activate calpain 2 through an extracellular signal-regulated kinase (ERK)-dependent pathway (Glading et al., 2002). We now provide direct evidence that calpain 2 may be a critical link between integrin and/or EGF receptor signaling and the activation of Src kinase activity in the formation of invadopodia. Calpain 2 depletion by siRNA inhibited the activation of endogenous c-Src activity by integrin-mediated adhesion and impaired invadopodia formation in breast cancer cells. Furthermore, expression of activated v-Src or c-Src rescued invadopodia formation in calpain 2–deficient cells, which suggests that calpain 2 functions upstream of Src to regulate invadopodia formation.

We have identified a potential mechanism for calpain 2 regulation of c-Src activity through the proteolysis of the ubiquitously expressed tyrosine phosphatase PTP1B. PTP1B has been shown to interact with integrin complexes (Arregui et al., 1998) and localizes to early cell matrix adhesion sites (Hernandez et al., 2006). PTP1B can promote c-Src activation by the direct dephosphorylation of the inhibitory phosphate tyrosine 529 (Bjorge et al., 2000; Liang et al., 2005). In contrast to c-Src, for which calpain 2–dependent proteolysis was not detected in vivo, PTP1B was proteolyzed in a calpain 2–dependent manner, resulting in the generation of a stable PTP1B fragment that has enhanced phosphatase activity (Frangioni et al., 1993). Accordingly, we found that calpain 2–deficient cells had increased phosphorylation at the c-Src inhibitory tyrosine 529 that is regulated by PTP1B, and that a PTP1B fragment corresponding to the calpain proteolytic fragment rescued invadopodia formation in calpain 2–deficient cells. It is interesting that we detected substantially enhanced phosphatase activity with the PTP1B truncations, which are similar in size to the calpain 2 cleavage fragment, and that this activity was not further modified by the activity of calpain 2. These findings suggest that calpain 2 functions as a positive regulator of PTP1B activity. This is in contrast to a recent study that indicates that calpain 1 is a negative regulator of PTP1B function in platelets (Kuchay et al., 2007). Our findings also indicate that PTP1B is a positive regulator of c-Src in breast cancer cells. We show that reduction of PTP1B expression in MTLn3 breast cancer cells enhanced phosphorylation at the inhibitory tyrosine 529 and reduced endogenous c-Src activity. Accordingly, PTP1B inhibition impaired invadopodia formation in breast cancer cells, identifying PTP1B as novel component of the signaling machinery involved in regulating invadopodia formation. Collectively, these findings implicate a novel pathway through calpain 2, PTP1B, and c-Src that regulates invadopodia formation in breast cancer cells.

Both PTP1B and calpain 2 are overexpressed in breast tumors, with studies suggesting that >70% of human breast cancers overexpress PTP1B (Wiener et al., 1994). Recent evidence has also implicated PTP1B as a key factor involved in the acceleration of breast cancer progression in mouse models (Bentires-Alj and Neel, 2007; Julien et al., 2007; Tonks and Muthuswamy, 2007). For example, PTP1B depletion or inhibition impairs ErbB2–induced mammary tumorigenesis and the development of lung metastasis in mouse models (Julien et al., 2007). However, the mechanism by which PTP1B facilitates breast cancer progression has not been elucidated. Our findings implicate a role for PTP1B in the modulation of endogenous c-Src activity, providing an attractive mode of action because elevated c-Src activity has been detected in many breast cancer cell lines (Bjorge et al., 2000). Moreover, we provide evidence that PTP1B is a novel component of the signaling machinery involved in regulating invadopodia formation and breast cancer invasion. Together, these findings suggest that modulation of calpain 2/PTP1B function may provide a novel therapeutic target for breast cancer. The availability of cell-permeable calpain 2 and PTP1B inhibitors supports the utility of this approach.

In summary, our findings provide novel mechanistic insight into the functional roles of calpain 2/PTP1B/c-Src signaling in the formation of invadopodia in metastatic breast cancer cells. These findings support a critical role for regulated intracellular proteolysis by calpains functioning in concert with targeted phosphorylation/dephosphorylation events in the modulation of intracellular signaling pathways through Src. Our findings indicate that calpains play critical roles both upstream and downstream of Src tyrosine kinases by targeting distinct substrates that modulate the formation and turnover of invadopodia (Fig. 10). It is likely that calpain effects are context dependent because calpain 2 is not necessary for invadopodia formation in breast cancer cells transformed with v-Src. Furthermore, calpains target other substrates at invadopodia, including talin, that may also contribute to calpain effects on invadopodia dynamics. Future studies should shed additional light on the role of this pathway in regulating the temporal and spatial dynamics of invadopodia formation and maturation into matrix-degrading structures that mediate breast cancer cell invasion and metastasis.
A Kozak methionine initiation sequence and a flag tag were added to the N terminus of rat PTP1B, which was amplified by PCR with the following primers: 5'-TCTCGGATCCCGACATTTCTCATGAGGGACAAGGACGACGATGACGAAAGATGCTGGAATGGAGAATGGAAATTCGAG-3' and 5'-CCTAGATCTGAGAAGGCGCCGGCTGATGAAACATCCCGTACGACG3'. The PCR product was digested with BamHI and NotI and subsequently ligated into the corresponding sites of pCDNA3.1(+) (Invitrogen).

**Immunoblot analysis**

Cells were plated in α-MEM on dishes coated with 10 μg/ml FN and incubated at 37°C under 5% CO₂ for 3 h. Cells were lysed in modified RIPA buffer (20 mM Hepes, pH 7.2, 150 mM NaCl, 2 mM EDTA, 0.5% deoxycholate, 1% NP-40, 0.2 mM PMSF, 1 μg/ml pepstatin, 2 μg/ml aprotinin, 1 μg/ml leupeptin, and 1 mM sodium orthovanadate) on ice and clarified by centrifugation. For phospho-Src analysis, cells were lysed in 50 mM Tris, pH 7.5, 1% Triton X-100, 5 mM EGTA, 150 mM NaCl, 10 mM sodium phosphate, 10 mM sodium fluoride, 5 mM iodoacetic acid, 1 mM benzamidine, 10 μg/ml aprotinin, and 10 μg/ml leupeptin on ice for 30 min and clarified by centrifugation; then, 10 mM DTT was added to the lysate after protein concentration determination (Li et al., 2005). Protein concentrations were determined using a bicinchoninic acid protein assay kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific) according to the manufacturer’s instructions. Equal amounts of total protein were denatured in SDS sample buffer, run on 4–20% gradient SDS-polyacrylamide gels, and transferred to nitrocellulose. Western blots were imaged and quantified with an infrared imaging system (Odysey; LiCOR Biosciences). For analysis of cortactin cleavage, v-Src transformed cells were lysed and analyzed as described previously (Perrin et al., 2006).

**Immunofluorescence**

Glass coverslips were acid-washed and coated with 10 μg/ml FN or a 0.2% gelatin/FN (10 μg/ml) mix as described previously (Artyom et al., 2006). Cells were plated on coverslips in α-MEM culture medium and allowed to adhere for 3 h. The cell permeable PTP1B inhibitor CII was added to culture medium at a final concentration of 500 nM. The Src kinase inhibitor PP2 was added to culture medium at a final concentration of 2 μM. Cells were fixed in 3.7% formaldehyde for 10 min, permeabilized with 0.2% Triton X-100 for 3 min, and blocked in 5% goat serum. The cells were incubated with primary antibodies and rhodamine phalloidin for 30 min and then incubated with fluorescein-conjugated secondary antibodies for 30 min. Coverslips were imaged using a 60× 1.40 oil objective on an inverted microscope (IX-70; both from Olympus). Images were acquired with a cooled charge-coupled device (CCD) camera (CoolSNAP fx; Photometrics) and captured into MetaVue imaging software v6.2 (MDS Analytical Technologies). Error bars in all figures represent the SEM of at least three different determinations. 50–100 cells were counted in each determination and each experiment was performed at least three times. For invasion assay, podia formation if dotlike structures contained both cortactin and actin or p34-Arc, and were quantified by counting the number of structures per cell. A Kozak methionine initiation sequence and a flag tag were added to the N terminus of rat PTP1B, which was amplified by PCR with the following primers: 5'-TCTCGGATCCCGACATTTCTCATGAGGGACAAGGACGACGATGACGAAAGATGCTGGAATGGAGAATGGAAATTCGAG-3' and 5'-CCTAGATCTGAGAAGGCGCCGGCTGATGAAACATCCCGTACGACG3'. The PCR product was digested with BamHI and NotI and subsequently ligated into the corresponding sites of pCDNA3.1(+) (Invitrogen).
amounts of protein lysate and assayed in 50 mM Tris, pH 7.5, and 10 mM DTT containing 10 mM pNPP using slow kinetics at an absorbance of 405 nm. PTP1B activity was then normalized to total levels of FLAG-PTP1B as assessed by immunoblot.

Fluorescent gelatin degradation assay
Oregon green 488-conjugated gelatin-coated coverslips were prepared as described previously (Artym et al., 2006). In brief, cells were cultured on coated coverslips for 6–12 h and immunostained with anti-cortactin antibody. Coverslips were imaged as described in the Immunofluorescence section. Error bars in all figures represent the SEM of at least three separate experiments. At least 50 cells were counted in each experiment. Cells were scored as positive for invadopodia formation if at least one cortactin-containing dotlike structure colocalized with black spots of degradation.

Invasion assay
Cell invasion experiments were performed with 8-μm porous chambers coated with Matrigel (BD Biosciences) according to the manufacturer’s instructions. 5% FBS was used as chemoattractants in the lower compartment. Cells were serum starved in culture media containing 1% FBS for 3–4 h before the assay allowed to invade through the Matrigel membrane for 24 h. The invasive cells underneath were fixed and stained. To determine the effect of PTP1B inhibition, cells were cultured in the presence of 500 nM CII for 3 h before and during the invasion assay.

Time-lapse fluorescent microscopy
Fluorescence imaging of live cells was performed using a 60× 1.40 oil objective on an inverted microscope (1X-70; Olympus) housed in a closed system to maintain temperature at 37°C. Glass-bottom dishes (35 mm) were coated with a CoolSNAP fx cooled CCD camera and captured into MetaVue v6.2 every minute for 1 h as described previously (Franco et al., 2004b).

Confocal microscopy
Confocal imaging was performed using a 60× 1.40 oil objective on a laser-scanning confocal microscope (C1; Nikon). Images were acquired using a digital monochrome CCD camera system (CoolSNAP-ES; Photometrics) controlled by Metamorph software (MDS Analytical Technologies) and the resulting z stacks were deconvolved using AutoDeblur/autovisualize software (MediaCybernetics).

Quantification of invadopodia dynamics
Time-lapse sequences from live fluorescent imaging were first subjected to high-pass filtration based on the “water” algorithm (Zamir et al., 1999) to remove diffuse background fluorescence. Next, the dynamics of fluorescently tagged cortactin or actin constructs were quantified as described previously (Franco et al., 2004b; Webb et al., 2004). Time-lapse microscopy was performed on MTLn3 calpain 2 si (target B) and cortactin si (target A). For each rate constant, measurements were made on a total of 40–60 invadopodia in four to six separate fields from at least three separate experiments. Duration measurements were made for these same invadopodia by counting the amount of time lapsed between the first and last frames in which an individual invadopodium was observed. All measurements shown are the mean ± SEM.

v-Src transformation of MTLn3 control and calpain 2 knockdown cell lines
The FPGV vector containing v-Src kinase was transfected into retroviral packaging cells. Retroviral infection of MTLn3 cells was performed as described previously (Franco et al., 2004a). MTLn3 cells were infected at 32°C for 6 h and allowed to recover in growth medium for 24 h before selection with 100–250 μg/ml G418 (Invitrogen) for 7–10 d. Immunoblot analysis of Src protein levels and total phospho-tyrosine content was used to confirm v-Src transformation.

Immunoprecipitation and Src activity assay
For immunoprecipitations, MTLn3 cells were plated onto 10-cm dishes coated with 10 μg/ml FN. Cells were incubated for 3 h at 37°C in 5% CO2 and washed one time with PBS, and lysed with ice-cold RIPA buffer. lysates were cleared of insoluble material by centrifugation and 400 μg of cleared lysate was used for the immunoprecipitation step. Next, 1 μg of anti-Src (Millipore) and 1 μg of anti-Src (Sigma-Aldrich) antibodies or 2 μg of mouse IgG were added to the cleared lysates and incubated at 4°C with tilting for 2 h. 20 μl of protein G–Sepharose (GE Healthcare) was then added to immunoprecipitations and incubated at 4°C with tilting for 1 h. Samples were then washed three times with RIPA buffer and split into equal volumes for Western blot analysis or a kinase assay. For immunoblot analysis, immunoprecipitated Src was extracted from beads with Laemmli SDS sample buffer and boiled for 10 min. Samples were run on an 8% SDS-polyacrylamide gel and transferred to nitrocellulose. Western blots were imaged and quantified with an Odyssey infrared imaging system. Kinase assays were performed as described previously (Chang et al., 1998) and were terminated with Laemmli SDS sample buffer and boiling for 10 min. Reactions were then run on an 8% SDS-polyacrylamide gel, dried, and exposed to a phosphoimaging screen for 15–20 h.

In vivo calpain 2 proteolysis of PTP1B
HEK or MTLn3 cells were transfected with EGFP-PTP1B-HA and Flag-PTP1B, respectively. HEK cells were lysed 48 h later with 50 mM Tris, pH 7.6, 0.5 M NaCl, 0.1% SDS, 0.5 mM sodium deoxycholate, 1% Triton X-100, and 0.5 mM MgCl2. MTLn3 cells were lysed 48 h later with 50 mM Heps, pH 7.2, 0.25 M sucrose, 5 mM EDTA, and 1% Triton X-100. Calpain activity was stimulated before lysis using 1 μM  μ mol nocodazole (Sigma-Aldrich) and 10 mM CaCl2. Calpain 2-dependent calpain cleavage has been described previously (Franco et al., 2004b) and was used as a positive control.

Statistics
For statistical comparison, the two-tailed, paired t test or one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) test were used, with p-values of < 0.05 considered significant.

Online supplemental material
Fig. S1 corresponds to Fig. 3 B and demonstrates levels of transiently expressed GFP-cortactin in control and calpain 2 siRNA-expressing MTLn3 cells. Fig. S2 corresponds to Fig. 4 B and demonstrates the rescue of invadopodia formation in MTLn3 cells stably expressing cortactin siRNA using p34-Arc as an invadopodia marker. Fig. S3 demonstrates that inhibition of Src kinase activity with PP2 abolishes invadopodia formation in MTLn3 cells. Fig. S4 corresponds to Fig. 5 and demonstrates that the constitutively active c-Src mutant Y527F can rescue invadopodia formation in calpain 2-deficient cells, whereas wild-type c-Src cannot. Fig. S5 corresponds to Fig. 5 and demonstrates decreased cortactin proteolysis in v-Src transformed MTLn3 cells expressing calpain 2 siRNA compared with control cells. Video 1 shows dynamics of GFP-actin containing invadopodia in MTLn3 control cells. Video 2 shows dynamics of GFP-actin containing invadopodia in MTLn3 calpain 2 knockdown cells. Video 3 shows dynamics of GFP-cortactin containing invadopodia in MTLn3 control cells. Video 4 shows dynamics of GFP-cortactin containing invadopodia in MTLn3 calpain 2 knockdown cells. Video 5 shows dynamics of invadopodia in MTLn3 calpain knock-down cells expressing wild-type GFP-actin. Video 6 shows dynamics of invadopodia in MTLn3 calpain knock-down cells expressing calpain-resistant GFP-cortactin D28. Video 7 shows dynamics of GFP-cortactin containing invadopodia in v-Src transformed MTLn3 control cells. Video 8 shows dynamics of GFP-cortactin containing invadopodia in v-Src transformed MTLn3 calpain 2 knockdown cells. Online supplemental material is available at http://www.jcb.org/cgi/content/full/jcb.200708048/DC1.

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