Reciprocal interaction with G-actin and tropomyosin is essential for aquaporin-2 trafficking

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Trafﬁcking of water channel aquaporin-2 (AQP2) to the apical membrane and its vasopressin and protein kinase A (PKA)–dependent regulation in renal collecting ducts is critical for body water homeostasis. We previously identiﬁed an AQP2 binding protein complex including actin and tropomyosin-5b (TM5b). We show that dynamic interactions between AQP2 and the actin cytoskeleton are critical for initiating AQP2 apical targeting. Speciﬁc binding of AQP2 to G-actin in reconstituted liposomes is negatively regulated by PKA phosphorylation. Dual color ﬂuorescence cross-correlation spectroscopy reveals local AQP2 interaction with G-actin in live epithelial cells at single-molecule resolution. Cyclic adenosine monophosphate signaling and AQP2 phosphorylation release AQP2 from G-actin. In turn, AQP2 phosphorylation increases its afﬁnity to TM5b, resulting in reduction of TM5b bound to F-actin, subsequently inducing F-actin destabilization. RNA interference–mediated knockdown and overexpression of TM5b conﬁrm its inhibitory role in apical trafﬁcking of AQP2. These ﬁndings indicate a novel mechanism of channel protein trafﬁcking, in which the channel protein itself critically regulates local actin reorganization to initiate its movement.

Introduction

Body water homeostasis is essential for the survival of mammals and is regulated by the renal collecting duct. Key components in the regulation of collecting duct water permeability are the vasopressin receptor and water channel aquaporin-2 (AQP2; Fushimi et al., 1993; Nielsen et al., 2002; Brown, 2003; Valenti et al., 2005; Noda and Sasaki, 2006). The binding of the antidiuretic hormone vasopressin to vasopressin V2 receptors on renal principal cells stimulates cAMP synthesis via activation of adenylate cyclase. The subsequent activation of PKA leads to phosphorylation of AQP2 at serine 256, and this phosphorylation event is required to increase the water permeability and water reabsorption of renal principal cells. In this process, subapical storage vesicles in principal cells containing AQP2 translate to and fuse with the apical plasma membrane, rendering the cell water permeable. Upon removal of vasopressin, AQP2 is internalized by endocytosis into storage vesicles, and this restores the water-impermeable state of the cell. AQP2 mutations cause congenital NDI (nephrogenic diabetes insipidus), a disease characterized by a massive loss of water through the kidney (Nielsen et al., 2002; Valenti et al., 2005; Noda and Sasaki, 2006). Although many advances have been made in identifying the signal transduction pathway involved in AQP2 trafﬁcking, the precise biophysical mechanisms that AQP2 phosphorylation provides the force driving AQP2 movement remain unclear. Recently, we have discovered an AQP2 binding protein complex, which includes actin and tropomyosin-5b (TM5b; Noda et al., 2004a, 2005; Noda and Sasaki, 2006). TM5b is expressed in high levels in the kidney and localized in the apical and basolateral cell cortices in epithelial cells (Temm-Grove et al., 1996, 1998; Perry, 2001). TM5b is encoded by the gene /H9252 CD, methyl-/H9252 cyclodextrin; RT-qPCR, real time quantitative PCR; SPR, surface plasmon resonance; TM5b, tropomyosin-5b; Trx, thioredoxin; WT, wild type.

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the only isoform that binds to AQP2 and has the most effective actin-stabilizing ability among the TM family (Kostyukova and Hitchcock-DeGregori, 2004; Noda et al., 2005). Because these findings raise the possibility of critical involvement of TM5b in AQP2 trafficking, there may be changes in the interactions among AQP2, actin, and TM5b that alter actin organization in a restricted area around AQP2 for initiating its trafficking. Therefore, we directly measured the real-time interaction dynamics at the single molecule level using dual color fluorescence cross-correlation spectroscopy (FCCS) in live cells. In this paper, we show that AQP2 itself critically regulates local actin reorganization to initiate its movement by phosphorylation-dependent reciprocal interaction between G-actin and TM5b.

Results

AQP2 reconstituted in liposomes specifically binds to G-actin and PKA phosphorylation decreases the binding affinity

We examined whether AQP2 phosphorylation itself altered its binding properties to actin by surface plasmon resonance (SPR) experiments (Fig. 1). For this purpose, we performed large-scale expression of full-length recombinant human AQP2 fused to thioredoxin (Trx), purification, and reconstitution in proteoliposomes and subjected it to in vitro PKA phosphorylation (Fig. 1, A and B). AQP2 reconstituted in liposomes was used as an injected analyte in SPR experiments to maintain native conformation. Proteins that were not reconstituted in liposomes were removed by fractionating on a density step gradient (Fig. 1 A), and the unilamellar proteoliposomes were obtained by extruding through filters with 100-nm pores. The binding of AQP2 liposomes to G-actin increased in a concentration-dependent manner and was significantly greater than that of the control substances, which were Trx liposomes (Trx-incorporated liposomes) and liposomes without protein incorporation (Fig. 1, C and D). These findings indicate that G-actin binds specifically to AQP2 liposomes. PKA phosphorylation of AQP2 significantly decreased the binding of AQP2 liposomes to G-actin (Fig. 1, E and F). In contrast, when F-actin was linked to a sensor chip, there were no significant differences between control liposomes and AQP2 liposomes with or without phosphorylation, indicating that the interaction of F-actin with AQP2 liposomes was not specific (Fig. S1, available at http://www.jcb.org/cgi/content/full/jcb.200709177/DC1).

Local interaction dynamics of AQP2 with G-actin

We then examined actin localization during AQP2 trafficking using MDCK cells expressing AQP2 (MDCK/AQP2; Fig. S2, A and B, available at http://www.jcb.org/cgi/content/full/jcb.200709177/DC1; Asai et al., 2003; Noda et al., 2004b; Tajika et al., 2005). Under control conditions, AQP2 was predominantly localized in the subapical region, whereas treatment with forskolin, an activator of adenylyl cyclase mimicking vasopressin action, induced the translocation of AQP2 to the apical membrane as observed in the kidney (Noda and Sasaki, 2006). Within the resolution limit of the fluorescence microscope, forskolin did not induce significant changes in either the distribution of G-actin or F-actin, although there was a tendency for a decrease in F-actin in the subapical region and near the base of the cells. In the process of AQP2 translocation, the actin dynamics may change in a restricted narrow area around the AQP2 molecule (Noda and Sasaki, 2006). To examine the spatial and temporal interactions of AQP2 with G-actin at the single molecule level in live cells, fluorescence correlation spectroscopy (FCS) and FCCS were performed in MDCK cells expressing DsRed-AQP2 and GFP-actin. In these cells, forskolin stimulation induced DsRed-AQP2 translocation from intracellular vesicles to the plasma membrane (Fig. S2 C). FCCS is an extended technique of FCS and enables the tracing of two spectrally distinct fluorophores, providing the kinetics of molecular interactions at a specific position in a live cell (Saito et al., 2004; Baudendistel et al., 2005; Bacia et al., 2006; Kitamura et al., 2006; Kogure et al., 2006). Because FCCS probes fluorescently labeled molecules at low concentrations, FCCS provides an advantage for studying molecular interactions with minimal disturbance of the natural state in living cells. Furthermore, FCS and FCCS are able to assess G-actin alone because these measurements are well suited for fast processes occurring in microseconds to milliseconds of transition in the observation area, and the much slower diffusion of large molecule and immobile molecule such as F-actin are not assessed by these methods. Therefore, to examine AQP2 interaction with G-actin, FCS and FCCS measurements were performed at successive time points and at different positions in the same live cell through the AQP2 trafficking pathway.

We positioned the FCCS focus either in the subapical region or on the apical membrane in a cell because AQP2 trafficking occurs from the subapical storage vesicles to the apical membrane. FCCS focus positioning was determined by laser scanning microscopy imaging (Pack et al., 2006). The diffusion coefficient of AQP2 on the apical membrane was significantly decreased compared with that in the subapical region (Fig. S3 E, available at http://www.jcb.org/cgi/content/full/jcb.200709177/DC1), indicating that this protocol was able to discriminate the focus position on the apical membrane from that in the subapical region. FCCS and FCCS were performed at the position in the subapical region indicated by Fig. 2 A and at the position on the apical membrane indicated by Fig. 2 D in the same cell. As shown in Fig. 2 (B and E), the fluorescence fluctuations of DsRed-AQP2 and GFP-actin gave rise to cross-correlation signal at both positions. Relative cross-correlation amplitude ([Gc(0)-1]/[Gr(0)-1]) was 0.4 ± 0.04 in the subapical region and 0.33 ± 0.02 on the apical membrane. This finding indicates that AQP2 interacts with actin both in the subapical region and on the apical membrane in the live cell. The cell was then treated with forskolin and the FCCS measurement was continued at the same positions. Forskolin stimulation for 10 min significantly decreased the cross-correlation signal both in the subapical region and on the apical membrane (Fig. 2, C, F, and G; and Fig. S3, C and D), indicating dissociation of AQP2 from actin. In addition, forskolin treatment slowed AQP2 mobility both in the subapical region and on the apical membrane; however, only the effect in the subapical region...
induced by forskolin (Valenti et al., 2000). To determine whether phosphorylation at serine 256 of AQP2 is required for the dissociation of actin from AQP2, the mutant S256A-AQP2, which mimics nonphosphorylated AQP2 (Kamsteeg et al., 2000), was generated, fused with DsRed, and expressed in MDCK cells. Forskolin did not increase S256A-AQP2 on the cell surface (Fig. S4, available at http://www.jcb.org/cgi/content/full/jcb.200709177/DC1). The amount of S256A-AQP2 on the apical membrane with or without forskolin was similar to wild-type (WT) AQP2 under baseline conditions. Consistent with the previous reports (Lu et al., 2004), this finding indicates that the constitutive recycling pathway under baseline conditions is not dependent on phosphorylation at the serine 256 residue in AQP2. S256A-AQP2 mobility was similar to that of WT-AQP2 (Fig. S3 E). The cross-correlation signal of S256A-AQP2 and actin was significant (Fig. S3 E). In actin mobility, no significant changes were observed with forskolin treatment (Fig. S3 F). The reason may be that FCS assesses the mobility of G-actin alone and is not able to assess changes in the F-actin/G-actin ratio or actin polymerization.

A PKA inhibitor H89 abolishes AQP2 translocation to the apical membrane (Noda et al., 2004b; Noda and Sasaki, 2006). The cross-correlation signal of cells pretreated with H89 was similar to that without H89 (Fig. 2 G). Forskolin stimulation did not significantly decrease the cross correlation signal in the H89-pretreated cells. This finding indicates that the dissociation of actin from AQP2 is mediated by cAMP-dependent signaling.

Phosphorylation of AQP2 at serine 256 is known to be essential for AQP2 trafficking to the apical membrane. In addition, H89 is reported to abolish the increase of AQP2 phosphorylation induced by forskolin (Valenti et al., 2000). To determine whether phosphorylation at serine 256 of AQP2 is required for the dissociation of actin from AQP2, the mutant S256A-AQP2, which mimics nonphosphorylated AQP2 (Kamsteeg et al., 2000), was generated, fused with DsRed, and expressed in MDCK cells. Forskolin did not increase S256A-AQP2 on the cell surface (Fig. S4, available at http://www.jcb.org/cgi/content/full/jcb.200709177/DC1). The amount of S256A-AQP2 on the apical membrane with or without forskolin was similar to wild-type (WT) AQP2 under baseline conditions. Consistent with the previous reports (Lu et al., 2004), this finding indicates that the constitutive recycling pathway under baseline conditions is not dependent on phosphorylation at the serine 256 residue in AQP2. S256A-AQP2 mobility was similar to that of WT-AQP2 (Fig. S3 E). The cross-correlation signal of S256A-AQP2 and actin was similar.
formed fluorescence-based pyrene-actin assays using AQP2 reconstituted in liposomes added with the vesicle-free fraction of rat kidney papillae extracts (Fig. 3, A and B). There were no significant differences among nonphosphorylated AQP2 liposomes, Trx liposomes, and liposomes in the effects on actin disassembly. In contrast, phosphorylated AQP2 liposomes significantly increased depolymerization of F-actin compared with nonphosphorylated AQP2 liposomes and the controls. This finding indicates that PKA phosphorylation of AQP2 promotes actin depolymerization.

We previously reported that AQP2 bound to TM5b (Noda et al., 2005), which is known to regulate actin stability (Kostyukova and Hitchcock-DeGregori, 2004). We have speculated that AQP2 directly regulates actin organization to initiate AQP2 trafficking because many actin binding proteins exhibit the ability to regulate actin dynamics. To test whether AQP2 has actin-regulating functions, we performed fluorescence-based pyrene-actin assays using AQP2 reconstituted in liposomes added with the vesicle-free fraction of rat kidney papillae extracts (Fig. 3, A and B). There were no significant differences among nonphosphorylated AQP2 liposomes, Trx liposomes, and liposomes in the effects on actin disassembly. In contrast, phosphorylated AQP2 liposomes significantly increased depolymerization of F-actin compared with nonphosphorylated AQP2 liposomes and the controls. This finding indicates that PKA phosphorylation of AQP2 promotes actin depolymerization. We previously reported that AQP2 bound to TM5b (Noda et al., 2005), which is known to regulate actin stability (Kostyukova and Hitchcock-DeGregori, 2004).
sedimentation assays with TM5b, F-actin, and AQP2 reconstituted in liposomes were performed (Fig. 4). TM5b alone was located in low-density fractions 1–4 (Fig. 4A). AQP2 liposomes were located in fractions 12–13 (Fig. 4G). The profile of F-actin was relatively wide (Fig. 4F), which is consistent with the previous study (Hopkins et al., 2004). When TM5b was incubated with F-actin and liposomes without protein incorporation, TM5b was observed in fractions 1–6 and 11–13 where F-actin was present, indicating the association of TM5b with F-actin (Fig. 4B). Trx liposomes did not change the TM5b profiles compared with liposomes without protein incorporation (Fig. 4C). When TM5b was incubated with F-actin and nonphosphorylated AQP2 liposomes, there was a tendency for an increase in TM5b in fractions 12–13, where AQP2 liposomes were present, although the changes were not significant (Fig. 4D). When TM5b was incubated with F-actin and phosphorylated AQP2 liposomes, TM5b in fractions 12–13 was significantly increased, whereas it was significantly decreased in fractions 1–6 (Fig. 4E and H). These findings indicate that AQP2 phosphorylation increases AQP2 association with TM5b and dissociates TM5b from F-actin.

To further confirm the reciprocal interaction with G-actin and TM5b, we performed coimmunoprecipitation assays (Fig. 5, A–C). In MDCK cells transfected with WT-AQP2, forskolin stimulation increased total phosphorylated AQP2 and TM5b. Because TM5b inhibits depolymerization at the pointed end of actin filaments (Kostyukova and Hitchcock-DeGregori, 2004), we performed pyrene-actin assays using barbed-end blocked actin filaments, recombinant TM5b, and AQP2 reconstituted in liposomes (Fig. 3, C and D). In the absence of TM5b, AQP2 liposomes did not have effects on actin assembly. TM5b without liposomes inhibited the rate of pointed end depolymerization. TM5b with Trx liposomes and liposomes without protein incorporation also inhibited the depolymerization. When nonphosphorylated AQP2 liposomes were incubated, there was a tendency for a decrease in the inhibitory effect of TM5b on depolymerization, although the changes were not significant. When phosphorylated AQP2 liposomes were incubated, the inhibitory effect of TM5b on depolymerization was significantly decreased. The actin-depolymerizing effect of phosphorylated AQP2 liposomes was significantly greater than that of nonphosphorylated AQP2 liposomes. These findings indicate that AQP2 phosphorylation inhibits the actin-stabilizing effect of TM5b, resulting in actin depolymerization.

**AQP2 phosphorylation sequesters TM5b from F-actin**

Because AQP2 binds to TM5b, AQP2 phosphorylation may regulate the interaction of TM5b with F-actin. Therefore, co-

speculated that AQP2 phosphorylation may regulate the effect of TM5b on actin organization. Because TM5b inhibits depolymerization at the pointed end of actin filaments (Kostyukova and Hitchcock-DeGregori, 2004), we performed pyrene-actin assays using barbed-end blocked actin filaments, recombinant TM5b, and AQP2 reconstituted in liposomes (Fig. 3, C and D). In the absence of TM5b, AQP2 liposomes did not have effects on actin assembly. TM5b without liposomes inhibited the rate of pointed end depolymerization. TM5b with Trx liposomes and liposomes without protein incorporation also inhibited the depolymerization. When nonphosphorylated AQP2 liposomes were incubated, there was a tendency for a decrease in the inhibitory effect of TM5b on depolymerization, although the changes were not significant. When phosphorylated AQP2 liposomes were incubated, the inhibitory effect of TM5b on depolymerization was significantly decreased. The actin-depolymerizing effect of phosphorylated AQP2 liposomes was significantly greater than that of nonphosphorylated AQP2 liposomes. These findings indicate that AQP2 phosphorylation inhibits the actin-stabilizing effect of TM5b, resulting in actin depolymerization.

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compared with WT-AQP2 and S256A-AQP2. These findings precipitated with S256D-AQP2 was significantly increased compared with WT-AQP2 and S256A-AQP2. TM5b coimmunoprecipitated with S256D-AQP2 was significantly decreased compared with WT-AQP2 and S256A-AQP2. These findings indicate that phosphorylation at the serine 256 residue of AQP2.

Next, we examined the role of phosphorylation at the serine 256 residue of AQP2. The mutant S256A-AQP2, which mimics nonphosphorylated AQP2, and S256D-AQP2, which mimics phosphorylated AQP2 (Kamsteeg et al., 2000), were transfected into MDCK cells and AQP2 coimmunoprecipitated with AQP2, but decreased actin coimmunoprecipitation efficiency of the antibody used for the immunoprecipitation. Forskolin increased the bound-to-total ratio of AQP2 and TM5b. The bound-to-total ratio of phosphorylated AQP2 was not significantly changed by forskolin stimulation, which is consistent with the binding of phosphorylated AQP2 to TM5b. Rho is reported to be involved in actin assembly and AQP2 trafficking (Klussmann et al., 2001; Tamma et al., 2003). To examine the involvement of Rho in the regulation of AQP2 interaction with TM5b, coimmunoprecipitation assay was performed using the cells pretreated with Clostridium difficile toxin B, which inhibits all members of the Rho family by glycosylation (Lerm et al., 2000; Klussmann et al., 2001). Forskolin-induced increase in the interaction between AQP2 and TM5b was not changed by toxin B treatment (Fig. 5, D and F), indicating that Rho is not directly involved in the regulation of this interaction.

These coimmunoprecipitation assays were performed using MDCK cells ectopically expressing AQP2. We then examined the expression level of AQP2 and TM5b in the MDCK/AQP2 cells and rat kidney papilla by quantitative Western blotting in comparison to the standard curves of purified recombinant proteins (Fig. 5, G and H) as previously described (Chapman and Jahn, 1994; Takamori et al., 2006). AQP2 comprises 2.3 ± 1% (wt/wt) of total protein in MDCK cells and 0.24 ± 0.044% in kidney papilla. TM5b comprises 0.15 ± 0.022% in MDCK cells and 0.093 ± 0.012% in kidney papilla. As shown in Fig. 5 I, water restriction increases AQP2 expression in kidney papilla, which is consistent with the previous observation (Christensen et al., 1998). However, TM5b expression is not significantly changed by water restriction.

Our results show that PKA phosphorylation of AQP2 releases AQP2 from G-actin and promotes AQP2 binding to TM5b. To examine whether G-actin–bound AQP2 can be phosphorylated by PKA, we performed in vitro immunoprecipitation and PKA phosphorylation assays using AQP2 and G-actin proteins (Fig. 5 J). After the incubation of AQP2 and G-actin, immunoprecipitates by anti-actin antibody were subjected to PKA phosphorylation. Fig. 5 J shows that G-actin–bound AQP2 is still accessible to PKA and can be phosphorylated.

**Inhibitory role of TM5b in AQP2 trafficking**

To examine the inhibitory role of TM5b in AQP2 trafficking, the levels of TM5b in MDCK cells were depleted using an RNAi-mediated TM5b knockdown system. MDCK cells were transfected with a TM5b siRNA or a scrambled control siRNA, and the levels of TM5b were examined by real time quantitative PCR (RT-qPCR). The level of TM5b was significantly decreased (normalized values to GAPDH expression: control siRNA, 0.77 ± 0.11; TM5b-targeted siRNA, 0.23 ± 0.03; P < 0.01), indicating efficient knockdown of the isoform (Fig. S5 A, available at http://www.jcb.org/cgi/content/full/jcb.200709177/DC1). We examined AQP2 trafficking in TM5b-depleted cells by confocal microscopy using live cells and apical cell surface biotinylation assays (Fig. 6 and Fig. S5). In the cells transfected with control siRNA, GFP-AQP2 was mainly present intracellularly and forskolin stimulation increased GFP-AQP2 on the plasma membrane (Fig. 6, A, D, and E). Immunoblot analyses using the lysates of the cells transfected with GFP-AQP2 showed no molecular breakdown and excluded the possibility that GFP was
that TM5b knockdown promotes AQP2 trafficking to the plasma membrane independently of cAMP stimulation. We then examined AQP2 trafficking in TM5b-overexpressing cells, which were transfected with GFP-fused TM5b (Fig. 6, C, F, and G). In the control cells transfected with GFP, forskolin-induced trafficking of DsRed-AQP2 to the cell surface was observed. In TM5b-overexpressing cells, forskolin-induced trafficking of DsRed-AQP2 was significantly inhibited. These findings indicate that TM5b overexpression inhibits AQP2 trafficking to the plasma membrane.

cleaved off from GFP-AQP2 (Fig. S5 E). In TM5b-depleted cells, GFP-AQP2 targeting to the plasma membrane was significantly increased independently of forskolin stimulation (Fig. 6, B, D, and E). To exclude the possibility of up-regulation of the A kinase pathway by TM5b knockdown, we suppressed PKA activity with the PKA inhibitor H89 (Fig. S5, B–D). H89 abolished forskolin-induced GFP-AQP2 translocation to the plasma membrane in the control cells. In contrast, in TM5b-depleted cells GFP-AQP2 trafficking to the plasma membrane was still increased and was not inhibited by H89. These findings indicate that TM5b knockdown promotes AQP2 trafficking to the plasma membrane independently of cAMP signaling. We then examined AQP2 trafficking in TM5b-overexpressing cells, which were transfected with GFP-fused TM5b (Fig. 6, C, F, and G). In the control cells transfected with GFP, forskolin-induced trafficking of DsRed-AQP2 to the cell surface was observed. In TM5b-overexpressing cells, forskolin-induced trafficking of DsRed-AQP2 was significantly inhibited. These findings indicate that TM5b overexpression inhibits AQP2 trafficking to the plasma membrane.
MDCK/AQP2 cells, which were transfected with GFP-fused TM5b (Fig. 7). In control cells transfected with GFP, forskolin-induced trafficking of AQP2 to the apical membrane was observed. In TM5b-overexpressing cells, forskolin-induced trafficking of AQP2 was significantly inhibited. These findings show that TM5b overexpression inhibits AQP2 trafficking to the apical membrane.

We also performed apical cell surface biotinylation assays using the cells expressing WT-AQP2, S256A-AQP2, or S256D-AQP2 (Fig. 5F). S256A mutation abolished forskolin-induced AQP2 accumulation on the apical membrane and S256D mutation increased its apical membrane accumulation independently of forskolin stimulation. TM5b knockdown increased apical membrane accumulation of these mutants independently of forskolin stimulation, as seen in WT-AQP2. It is reported that the cholesterol-depleting agent methyl-β-cyclodextrin (mβCD) inhibits AQP2 endocytosis (Lu et al., 2004). Pretreatment with mβCD also increased apical membrane accumulation of WT-, S256A-, and S256D-AQP2 independently of forskolin stimulation.
In TM5b-depleted cells, apical membrane accumulation of WT-, S256A-, and S256D-AQP2 was not significantly changed by mβCD pretreatment.

We then examined local actin reorganization in TM5b knockdown cells (Fig. 9, A and C). In control siRNA-transfected cells, there was a tendency for a decrease in F-actin in the apical region upon forskolin stimulation, although the changes were not significant (Fig. 9 A, left). In contrast, in TM5b-depleted cells, F-actin in the apical region was clearly decreased with or without forskolin stimulation (Fig. 9 A, right). However, at the light microscopic level, there is a limitation for evaluating the changes in apical F-actin. Therefore, to quantify the changes in F-actin level at the apical surface, the lysates of the cells biotinylated on the apical surface were incubated with fluorescein-labeled phalloidin, precipitated with streptavidin-agarose beads, and the fluorescence was measured (Fig. 9 C). In control
siRNA-transfected cells, a significant decrease was observed in F-actin levels at the apical surface upon forskolin stimulation. In TM5b-depleted cells, F-actin at the apical surface was significantly decreased independently of forskolin stimulation. The effect of TM5b overexpression in actin reorganization was also examined (Fig. 9, B and D). Quantification of apical F-actin showed that forskolin induced a significant decrease in apical F-actin in the control cells transfected with GFP. In TM5b-overexpressing cells, the forskolin-induced decrease in apical F-actin was significantly reduced. These findings show that apical F-actin is regulated by TM5b. These results, together with the data in Figs. 6–8, indicate that TM5b regulates AQP2 trafficking by inducing local actin reorganization.

**Discussion**

The findings in this study provide direct evidence that the interactions of AQP2 with G-actin are regulated by cAMP signaling and PKA phosphorylation of AQP2. Furthermore, the present findings show that AQP2 itself possesses an actin-regulatory function to initiate its trafficking by reciprocal interaction with G-actin and TM5b. Thus, we propose a novel mechanism of AQP2 trafficking (Fig. 10). Under basal conditions, AQP2 binds to G-actin, and F-actin stabilized by TM forms a barrier inhibiting translocation of AQP2 toward the apical membrane. Vasopressin-triggered cAMP signaling induces PKA phosphorylation of AQP2, which dissociates G-actin from AQP2 and promotes AQP2 association with TM5b. Sequestering of TM5b from F-actin by phosphorylated AQP2 induces destabilization of the F-actin network in the vicinity of AQP2, allowing efficient movement of AQP2.

TM regulates actin reorganization through multiple pathways. TM protects actin filaments against severing and depolymerization by gelsolin (Fattoum et al., 1983; Ishikawa et al., 1989) and coflin (Bernstein and Bamburg, 1982; Ono and Ono, 2002). TM inhibits the Arp2/3 complex–nucleated polymerization and branching (Blanchin et al., 2001). TM also inhibits the rate of depolymerization from the pointed end (Broschat et al., 1989; Broschat, 1990; Kostyukova and Hitchcock-DeGregori, 2004). These observations illustrate critical roles of TM in dynamic regulation of the actin cytoskeleton. TM isoforms differ in their affinity to F-actin and regulatory function and exhibit tissue-specific expression patterns (Perry, 2001). Among TM isoforms, TM5b is expressed in high levels in the kidney and localized in the apical and basolateral cell cortices in epithelial cells (Fig. 6 C; Temm-Grove et al., 1996, 1998; Perry, 2001) and is the only isoform that binds to AQP2 (Noda et al., 2005). Our present study shows that TM5b inhibits depolymerization at the pointed end of actin filaments in reconstituted liposomes and AQP2 phosphorylation inhibits the TM5b function, resulting in actin depolymerization. We furthermore show that RNAi-mediated knockdown of TM5b promotes AQP2 trafficking to the apical membrane independently of cAMP signaling.

In the process of the trafficking of channels, transporters, synaptic vesicles, and secretory vesicles, the cortical actin network is supposed to form a physical barrier that prevents the trafficking. Several reports support the actin barrier model as a molecular mechanism of AQP2 trafficking. Vasopressin...
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Our present study shows that inhibition of TM5b function by knockdown promotes AQ2 trafficking to the apical membrane, whereas Rho inhibition decreases TM5b binding, in which F-actin is stabilized by TM5b, resulting in the mainly intracellular retention of S256A-AQ2 (Fig. 2, Fig. 5, and Fig. S4). In addition to the reciprocal interaction between G-actin and TM5b regulated by AQ2 phosphorylation, there may be a spatiotemporally regulated binding between hsc70 and G-actin for the nonphosphorylated AQ2 C terminus, which may distinguish between exocytosis and endocytosis of AQ2. Therefore, hsc70 may also be involved in the apical localization of AQ2 in our study. Further analyses may be necessary to examine these possibilities.

There are several proteins whose interactions with actin are regulated by their phosphorylation. Caldesmon phosphorylation at serine 759 decreases its affinity with actin by its conformational change (Patchell et al., 2002). ADF/cofilin is dissociated from actin by its phosphorylation at serine 3, which is caused by steric blocking of actin binding by the phosphate moiety and not by a conformational change at the ADF/cofilin-actin interface (dos Remedios et al., 2003). The present study shows that AQ2 interactions with G-actin and TM5b are regulated by phosphorylation at serine 256 in the C terminus of AQ2. Further analyses are required for clarifying the structural basis for the interactions controlled by the AQ2 phosphorylation.

In this paper, AQ2 trafficking was examined using MDCK cells, which were derived from dog kidney tubules and exhibit properties of cortical collecting duct epithelial cells and proximal tubular epithelial cells (Richardson et al., 1981). MDCK cells are widely used to study AQ2 trafficking. As in collecting ducts, AQ2 expressed in MDCK cells is localized in intracellular vesicles in nonstimulated cells and translocates to the apical membrane after stimulation by vasopressin or the adenylate cyclase activator forskolin (Fig. S2; Brown, 2003). Because AQ2 is primarily expressed in collecting duct principle cells, it would be more physiologically relevant to use cell lines originating from collecting duct cells. However, for FCS and FCCS experiments performed in this study, proteins of interest should be fused with fluorescent protein and its expression level should be kept low in a cell to obtain the appropriate fluctuating signals. Therefore, we used MDCK cells, in which the control of transfection efficiency was relatively easy and AQ2 trafficking to the apical membrane was observed as in renal collecting ducts (Fig. S2).
The present study shows that AQP2 itself possesses an actin-regulatory function to initiate its movement by phosphorylation-dependent reciprocal interaction with G-actin and TM5b. Recently, there were several studies indicating the direct interactions of channel proteins with actin. CIC2 chloride channel directly interacts with F-actin and is activated by disruption of the actin cytoskeleton (Ahmed et al., 2000). Short CIC3 isoform binds to F-actin and inhibition of this binding leads to a reduced hypotonic activation of this channel (McCloskey et al., 2007). V-ATPase subunit C binds to both F- and G-actin and induces cross-linking of actin filaments (Vitavska et al., 2005). Voltage-dependent anion channel directly binds to G-actin (Roman et al., 2006), which modulates voltage-dependent anion channel gating (Xu et al., 2001). Mazzochi et al. (2006a,b) show that the α subunit of ENaC (epithelial sodium channel) directly interacts with F-actin and is colocalized with F-actin at both the apical membrane and the subapical cytoplasm. The authors suggest that the direct interactions with actin regulate not only the channel activity but also the intracellular trafficking of ENaC from a subapical pool to the plasma membrane. Although there are several studies showing the direct binding of channels with actin, the roles of the interactions in the regulation of each channel are not clarified. With regard to TM, a calcium-permeable nonslective cation channel polycystin-2 is shown to bind to TM1 (Li et al., 2003), although the roles of the interaction in polycystin-2 function are not clarified. This paper shows that AQP2 itself critically regulates actin reorganization to initiate its movement by phosphorylation-dependent reciprocal interaction between G-actin and TM5b. Because the trafficking of many channels is altered by their phosphorylation, the interactions of channels with the actin cytoskeleton may be regulated by posttranslational mechanisms, including phosphorylation, and this trafficking mechanism may be extended to other channel proteins.

Materials and methods

Expression and purification of recombinant proteins
Human AQP2 cDNA was subcloned into pET32 (EMD) to generate His-tagged Trx-fused AQP2 (AQP2/Trx). Rat TM5b cDNA was subcloned into pET28. AQP2/Trx and TM5b were expressed in Rosetta-Gami Escherichia coli (EMD) by induction with 1 mM IPTG for 3 h at 25°C and for 4 h at 30°C, respectively. The bacterial pellets were incubated with lysosyme, sonicated, and centrifuged at 10,000 g. For AQP2 purification, the pellets were suspended with 6 M urea in PBS and centrifuged. The supernatants were diluted to a concentration of 2 M urea and applied to a column of Talon resin (Clontech Laboratories, Inc.). The column was washed and eluted by buffer A (50 mM K-Hepes, pH 7.6, 100 mM KC1, and 10 mM MgCl2) containing 2% octylglycoside and 150 mM imidazole. For TM5b purification, the supernatants were applied to Talon column that was washed and eluted by buffer A containing 150 mM imidazole.

Reconstitution of recombinant proteins in liposomes
Lipids (Sigma-Aldrich) were mixed in chloroform/methanol at 2/1 (vol/vol) to yield the following molar ratios: phosphatidylcholine, 10; phosphatidylethanolamine, 5; phosphatidylinositol, 1; and cholesterol, 10. After drying under N2 gas, they were resuspended in buffer A containing 2% dioleoylphosphatidylcholine, 5% phosphatidylethanolamine, 5% phosphatidylcholine, 1, and cholesterol, 10. After drying under N2 gas, they were resuspended in buffer A containing 2% octylglycoside to a total lipid concentration of 7.2 mM, mixed with an equal volume of recombinant AQP2 (0.5 mg/ml), and dialyzed against buffer A. For PKA phosphorylation, the proteoliposomes were added with 1 mM ATP and 200,000 U/ml cAMP-dependent PKA (New England Bio- labs, Inc.) and incubated at 30°C for 1 h. The proteoliposomes were overlaid with step gradients of 30 and 40% OptiPrep (Axis-Shield) and centrifuged using a SW41Ti rotor (Beckman Coulter) at 39,000 rpm for 4 h.

Liposomes were collected at the 0–30% interface (Fig. 1A). The phosphorylation was confirmed by immunoblotting using antiphosphoserine antibodies (Sigma-Aldrich; Fig. 1B).

SPR experiments
Measurements were performed using the BiACore 3000 (GE Healthcare). G-actin and Factin, which were prepared from human platelet actin as recommended by the supplier (Cytoskeleton, Inc.), were immobilized onto a CM3-sensor chip surface at the mean binding density levels of 5.6 ± 0.11 and 5.8 ± 0.12 ng/mm2 (mean ± SE), respectively. Reference flow cells were generated using the same coupling procedure but without actin injections. Each proteoliposome was entrapped through polycarbonate filters with 100-nm pores (Avestin, Inc.). Analyses were performed at 25°C and a flow rate of 5 μl/min. The signal did not return to baseline after injection stop, as was similarly observed in the reports using liposomes (de Hara et al., 2004; Sandhoff et al., 2005).

Immunofluorescence study
MDCK cells stably expressing AQP2 (MDCK/AQP2) were cultured and grown on permeable filter supports (Corning) as described previously (Asai et al., 2003; Node et al., 2004b). AQP2 localization was examined using anti-AQP2 antibody (Yamashita et al., 2000) and anti-rabbit secondary antibody conjugated with Alexa Fluor 568 or Alexa Fluor 488 (Invitrogen). The localization of G-actin was examined using deoxyribonuclease-I conjugated with Alexa Fluor 488. The localization of F-actin was examined using phallolidin conjugated with Alexa Fluor 568 or Alexa Fluor 488.

Imaging
Immunofluorescence images were captured using a confocal microscope (LSM 510; Carl Zeiss, Inc.) with a water immersion objective (C-Apochromat, 40×, 1.2 NA; Carl Zeiss, Inc.) at room temperature. Images were cropped using Photoshop 7.0 (Adobe).

Expression of AQP2, actin, and TM5b in MDCK cells
For expression of fluorescent protein–fused proteins, human AQP2 cDNA and S256A-AQP2 cDNA that were generated by PCR were subcloned into pDsRed-Monomer-C1 vector (Clontech Laboratories, Inc.), respectively. Rat TM5b cDNA was subcloned into pAcGFP1-C1 vector. MDCK cells were transfected with these plasmids and pAcGFP1-acl (Clontech Laboratories, Inc.) using Lipofectamine 2000 (Invitrogen). For TM5b overexpression in MDCK/AQP2 cells, pAcGFP1-TM5b was transfected into MDCK/AQP2 cells. For immunoprecipitation assays, WT-AQP2, S256A-AQP2, and S256D-AQP2 cDNA were subcloned into pcdNA3 vector (Invitrogen) and transfected into MDCK cells using Lipofectamine 2000. Cells were stimulated with 40 μM forskolin or preincubated with 30 μM H89 (Seikagaku Corporation) for 30 min before being treated with 40 μM forskolin or 10 min in the presence of 30 μM H89. For Rho inhibition, cells were incubated with 200 ng/ml C. difficile toxin B (Sigma-Aldrich) for 2 h. For inhibition of endocytosis, cells were incubated with 10 mM mCD (Wako Pure Chemical Industries, Ltd.) for 30 min.

FCS and FCCS measurements
LSM 510/Confocal II (Carl Zeiss, Inc.) was used for FCS and FCCS measurements. The excitation line was set at 488 nm for AcGFP1 and 543 nm for DsRed-monomer, respectively. The confocal pinhole diameter was adjusted to 70 μm for 488 nm and 78 μm for 543 nm. The emitted light was detected at 505–530 nm for AcGFP1 and at 600–650 nm for DsRed-monomer and scanned independently in a multitracking mode. The fluorescence autocorrelation functions of the red and green channels, G(t) and Gg(t), were calculated using

\[
G_x(t) = \frac{1}{t} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{I(t) \cdot I(t + t)}{I(t)^2}
\]

where \( \tau \) denotes the time delay, \( I \) is the fluorescence intensity of the red channel \( i = r \) or green channel \( i = g \), and \( G_x(t), G_g(t), \) and \( G_x(t) \) denote the autocorrelation function of red, green, and cross-correlation function, respectively. Acquired \( G_x(t) \) was fitted by a one-, two-, or three-component model as

\[
G_x(t) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left( \frac{1}{\tau_{ii}} \right) \left( \frac{1}{\tau_{ii}} \right)^{-1} \left( \frac{1}{\tau_{ii}} \right)^{-1}
\]
where $F$ and $r$ are the fraction and diffusion time of component $i$, respectively. $N$ is the mean number of fluorescent particles in the excitation-detection volume defined by radius $w_0$ and length $2z_0$, and $s$ is the structure parameter ($s = z_0/w_0$). Acquired $G(x)$ was best fitted by a two-component model, and the diffusion coefficient of the major fraction is shown in Fig. S3. The structure parameter was calibrated using the known diffusion coefficient of Rhodamine-6G ($D_{Rh6G}$, 280 $\mu$m/s). The diffusion coefficients of AQP2, TM, and actin were calculated from $D_{Rh6G}$ and measured diffusion times of Rh6G ($\tau_{Rh6G}$), AQP2, and actin as follows:

$$D_x = \frac{\tau_{Rh6G}}{\tau_s},$$

where $D_x$ and $\tau_s$ denote the diffusion coefficients and the diffusion times of AQP2 ($x = \text{AQP2}$) and actin ($x = \text{actin}$), respectively.

For quantitative evaluation, the amplitude of the cross-correlation function was normalized to the amplitude of the autocorrelation function of DsRed-monomer to calculate the relative cross-correlation ($[Gc(0)-1]/[Gc(0)]$). As positive control, FCCS analysis was performed using the cells expressing DsRed-monomer-AcGFP1 chimera (Fig. S3 A) and positive cross-correlation signal was observed ($[Gc(0)-1]/[Gc(0)]$ of 0.48 ± 0.031). As negative control, FCCS analysis was performed using the cells expressing both DsRed-monomer and AcGFP1 and positive cross-correlation signal was not observed (Fig. S3 B).

Pyrene-actin assay

For pyrene-actin assay using papilla extract, 4 $\mu$m of human platelet actin containing 10% pyrene actin (Cytoskeleton, Inc.) was preincubated in buffer B (100 mM KCl, 0.2 mM CaCl$_2$, 2 mM MgCl$_2$, pH 7.5, 1 mM ATP, and 0.5 mM dithiothreitol) containing antiphoto bleach solution (7.5 mM creatine phosphate, 13.5 mg/ml glucose, 0.1 mg/ml catalase, and 0.5 mg/ml glucose oxidase) and 9 $\mu$l of papilla extract (8 $\mu$g/ $\mu$l). Each sample was then incubated with anti-actin antibody, followed by the addition of streptavidin-agarose beads (Thermo Fisher Scientific). The agarose beads were collected by centrifugation (8,000 g, 3 min), washed with buffer A containing protease inhibitor mixture (Roche), centrifuged at 200,000 $\times$ g for 3 h, and lysed in buffer C containing 20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 100 mM sucrose, 0.1 mM sodium orthovanadate, and an EDTA-free protease inhibitor mixture (Roche). Cell lysates were sonicated and centrifuged at 20,000 $\times$ g. The supernatants were used. The animal experiments were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of Tokyo Medical and Dental University. Kidney papilla lysates from Wistar rats were used. The experiments were performed using the cells expressing both DsRed-monomer and AcGFP1 and positive cross-correlation signal was not observed (Fig. S3 B).

Coexpression assay with proteoliposome, F-actin, and TMSb

3 $\mu$m TMSb incubated with 1 $\mu$m F-actin for 15 min at 25°C was mixed with 10 $\mu$m proteoliposomes in 50 mM K-Hepes, 100 mM KCl, and 10 mM MgCl$_2$ for 30 min at 25°C. The sample was overlaid on an OptiPrep step gradient at 28,000 rpm. 5% of each fraction was analyzed by Western blot using antibodies for AQP2, actin, and the pyrene fluorescence was monitored.

Cosegregation assay with proteoliposome, F-actin, and TMSb

3 $\mu$m TMSb incubated with 1 $\mu$m F-actin for 15 min at 25°C was mixed with 10 $\mu$m proteoliposomes in 50 mM K-Hepes, 100 mM KCl, and 10 mM MgCl$_2$ for 30 min at 25°C. The sample was overlaid on an OptiPrep step gradient (3 mL of 40%, 2.5 mL of 35%, 2.5 mL of 30%, 1.2 mL of 25%, 1 mL of 15%, 1 mL of 10%, and 0.5 mL of 5%) and centrifuged at a SW41Ti rotor for 3 h at 28,000 rpm. 5% of each fraction was analyzed by Western blot using antibodies for AQP2, actin (Sigma-Aldrich), or TM (Millipore).

Immunoprecipitation

MDCK cells were lysed in 20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 1% Triton X-100, 100 $\mu$m 3-isobutyl-1-methylxanthine, 10 $\mu$m 3-bromopyruvate, 15 $\mu$m 3-isobutyl-1-methylxanthine, 1 mM dithiothreitol, and an EDTA-free protease inhibitor mixture (Roche). Cell lysates were sonicated and centrifuged at 20,000 $\times$ g. The supernatants (1,600 $\mu$g of protein) were incubated with anti-AQP2 antibody or anti-TM antibody, followed by the addition of protein G-Sepharose. Normal rabbit IgG was used as a negative control. Immunoprecipitated samples were analyzed by Western blotting using antibodies for AQP2, phosphorylated AQP2, actin, or TM. Affinity-purified rabbit antibody for phosphorylated AQP2 was raised against a synthetic peptide corresponding to aa 253–262 of AQP2 with addition of a glycine residue at the N terminus and a cysteine residue at the C terminus (GRRRSG-VEHISPC) and chemically phosphorylated at serine 256 as previously described (Christensen et al., 2000).

Immunoprecipitation assay using AQP2 and G-actin protein (Fig. 5 J). 1 $\mu$m of recombinant AQP2 and 3 $\mu$m of G-actin, prepared as described in the previous paragraph, were incubated in 5 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 0.2 mM CaCl$_2$, 200 $\mu$m ATP, and 2% octylglucoside for 1 h at 4°C. The sample was then incubated with anti-actin antibody, followed by the addition of protein G-Sepharose. For PKA phosphorylation, the immunoprecipitated samples were washed and incubated in 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 10 mM MgCl$_2$, 1 mM ATP, and 200,000 U/ml cAMP-dependent PKA at 30°C for 1 h.

Immunoblot analysis of rat kidney papilla

The animal experiments were performed using the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of Tokyo Medical and Dental University. Kidney papilla lysates from Wistar rats were-deprived for 48 h were analyzed by Western blotting using antibodies for AQP2 and TM.

RNAi

siRNA for the region 716–740 of canine TMSb (GCAUCAGAUGUGGAUCGACUUA) was obtained from Invitrogen. Mutated sequence (GCAUGAGUCGCUAGCAUCUUA) was used as a negative control. Transfection was performed using Lipofectamine 2000 (Invitrogen). 48 h after transfection, the cells were analyzed in the study. Double transfection of siRNA and Alexa Fluor 555-labeled dsRNA oligomer (Invitrogen) was performed to indicate transfected cells.

RT-qPCR

Total RNA from MDCK cells was extracted using GenElute Mammalian total RNA Mini prep kit (Sigma-Aldrich). 2 $\mu$m of total RNA was reverse-transcribed using Superscript First-Strand Synthesis System for RT-qPCR (Invitrogen). RT-qPCR was performed using Light Cycler (Roche) with SYBR Green. Primer sequences for TMSb were 5’-ACTACGGAGAGGAAGCTGAGG-3’ (forward) and 5’-CTCTGAGC6CATTAACTGCT-3’ (reverse). For GAPDH the primers were 5’-GTCGAGGATCCAGATGTGGC-3’ (forward) and 5’-CATGTCGGACCTAGGTCACCAAC-3’ (reverse). TMSb mRNA expression level was normalized to GAPDH mRNA.

Apical cell surface biofilm assay

Apical cell surface labeling of AQP2 was performed as previously described (Noda et al., 2004b). For quantification of F-actin associated with the apical membrane, the cells were biotinylated on the apical surface and lysed in buffer C containing 20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 100 mM sucrose, 0.1% octylglucoside, 0.1 mM sodium orthovanadate, and an EDTA-free protease inhibitor mixture (Roche). Cell lysates were sonicated and centrifuged at 20,000 $\times$ g. The supernatants (300 $\mu$m of protein) were incubated with streptavidin conjugated with Alexa Fluor 568 for TMSb overexpression experiments and Alexa Fluor 488 for TMSb knockdown experiments, respectively, followed by the addition of streptavidin-agarose beads (Thermo Fisher Scientific). The agarose beads were washed and suspended in 1 ml of buffer C. Fluorescence was measured using an F2500 fluorescence spectrophotometer with excitation at 578 nm and emission at 600 nm for Alexa Fluor 568 and with excitation at 495 nm and emission at 520 nm for Alexa Fluor 488.

Statistics

Statistical analysis was performed using unpaired Student’s t test. Differences were considered significant at p-values <0.05.

Online supplemental material

Fig. S1 shows SPR analyses of the binding of AQP2 reconstituted in liposomes to F-actin. Fig. S2 shows actin localization in MDCK cells during AQP2 trafficking. Fig. S3 shows FCCS analyses in MDCK cells and the diffusion coefficients of AQP2 and actin. Fig. S4 shows localization of S256A-AQP2 in MDCK cells. Fig. S5 shows that TMSb knockdown promotes AQP2 trafficking. Online supplemental material is available at http://www.jcb.org/cgi/content/full/jcb.200709177/DC1.

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