

Protein kinase Gin4 negatively regulates flippase function and controls plasma membrane asymmetry

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Plasma membrane function requires distinct leaflet lipid compositions. Two of the P-type ATPases (flippases) in yeast, Dnf1 and Dnf2, translocate aminoglycerophospholipids from the outer to the inner leaflet, stimulated via phosphorylation by cortically localized protein kinase Fpk1. By monitoring Fpk1 activity in vivo, we found that Fpk1 was hyperactive in cells lacking Gin4, a protein kinase previously implicated in septin collar assembly. Gin4 colocalized with Fpk1 at the cortical site of future bud emergence and phosphorylated Fpk1 at multiple sites, which we mapped. As judged by biochemical

and phenotypic criteria, a mutant (Fpk1^{11A}), in which 11 sites were mutated to Ala, was hyperactive, causing increased inward transport of phosphatidylethanolamine. Thus, Gin4 is a negative regulator of Fpk1 and therefore an indirect negative regulator of flippase function. Moreover, we found that decreasing flippase function rescued the growth deficiency of four different cytokinesis mutants, which suggests that the primary function of Gin4 is highly localized control of membrane lipid asymmetry and is necessary for optimal cytokinesis.

Introduction

A eukaryotic plasma membrane (PM) is a complex structure in which a multitude of lipid species are arranged in a spatially defined manner. PM lipids are organized laterally in the plane of the membrane into microdomains (Lingwood and Simons, 2010) and also transversely across the membrane, such that each leaflet of the bilayer has a distinct lipid composition (Fadeel and Xue, 2009). The marked difference in leaflet lipid content (referred to as bilayer asymmetry) was first noted in the erythrocyte PM (Gordesky and Marinetti, 1973), but is characteristic of the PM in all cell types (Devaux, 1991; van Meer, 2011). The exocellular leaflet is enriched in phosphatidylcholine, sphingolipids, and glycolipids, whereas the inner leaflet is enriched in phosphatidylethanolamine (PtdEth), phosphatidylserine (PtdSer),

phosphatidylinositol (PtdIns), and derived phosphoinositides (e.g., PtdIns4,5P₂; Devaux, 1991; Fadeel and Xue, 2009).

Bilayer asymmetry does not arise de novo during PM biogenesis, but is generated, in part, by active translocation of PtdEth and PtdSer inwards (“flipping”) along with similar translocation outwards of exoleaflet lipids (“flopping”; Daleke, 2003; van Meer, 2011). Maintenance of bilayer asymmetry is necessary in the face of the PM remodeling that results from continual exocytic vesicle insertion and endocytic vesicle removal, which would otherwise scramble leaflet lipid content. In eukaryotes, inward translocation of PtdEth and PtdSer is catalyzed by a subfamily (class 4) of P-type ATPases, dubbed flippases (Daleke, 2007; Lenoir et al., 2007; Tanaka et al., 2011; Sebastian et al., 2012). In budding yeast, there are five flippases: Dnf1, Dnf2, Dnf3, Drs2, and Neo1 (Catty et al., 1997). Dnf1 and Dnf2 localize primarily in the PM, whereas Dnf3, Drs2, and Neo1 are mainly confined to intracellular membranes (Daleke, 2007). Exit of Dnf1 (1,571 residues) and Dnf2 (1,612 residues) from the ER and their insertion and function in the PM requires their association with a smaller

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Abbreviations used in this paper: 5-FOA, 5-fluoro-orotic acid; AMR, actomyosin ring; CIP, calf intestinal phosphatase; GAP, GTPase-activating protein; MIPC, mannosyl-inositol-phosphorylceramide; Myr, myriocin; PHS, phytosphingosine; PM, plasma membrane; PS, primary septum; PtdEth, phosphatidylethanolamine; PtdIns, phosphatidylinositol; PtdSer, phosphatidylserine.

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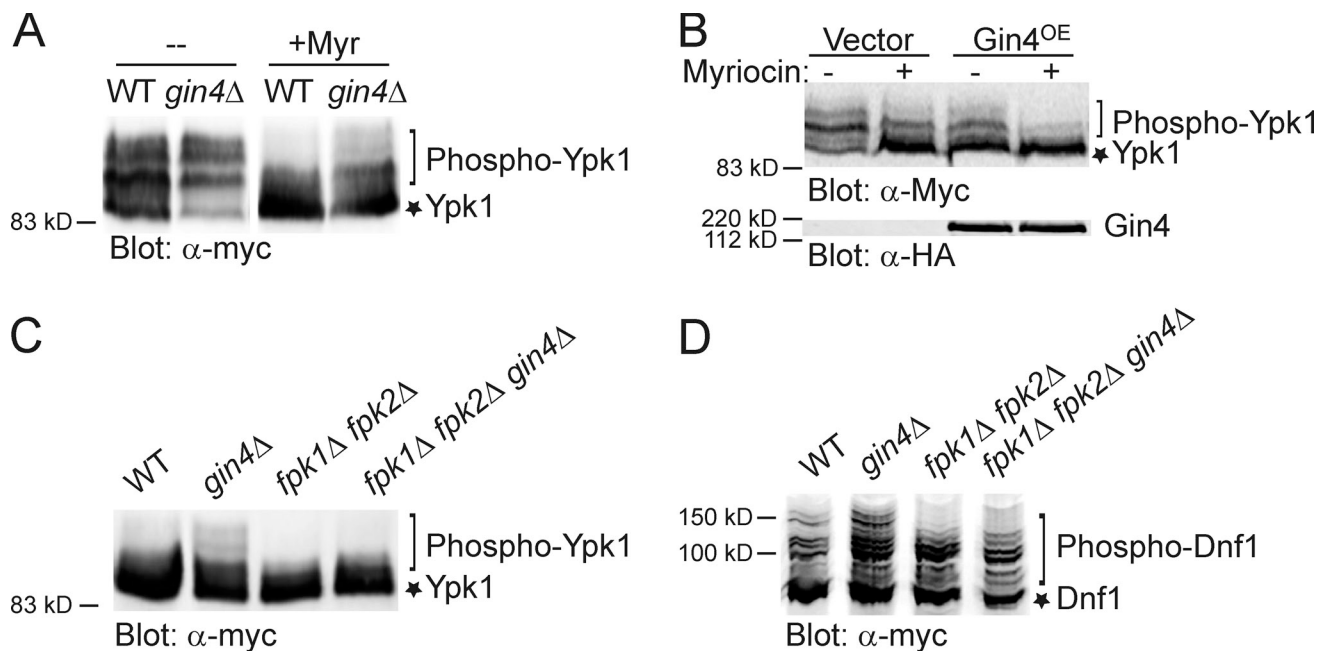


Figure 1. *Gin4* negatively regulates *Fpk1*-dependent phosphorylation of *Ypk1* and *Dnf1*. (A) Wild-type (WT) strain (BY4741) or an isogenic *gin4Δ* mutant (YAT100) expressing *Ypk1*-myc from the *GAL1* promoter (pAM76) were grown to mid-exponential phase, then either mock-treated or treated with Myr (1.25 μM) as indicated, collected, and lysed. The resulting extracts were resolved by SDS-PAGE and analyzed by immunoblotting with anti-c-myc mAb 9E10. (B) As in A, except that wild-type cells (Y258) carried both a plasmid expressing *Ypk1*-myc from the *GAL1* promoter (pAM54) and either an empty vector (BG1805) or the same vector expressing *Gin4* (pGin4-zz) from the *GAL1* promoter. *Gin4*-zz was detected via its zz tag using an anti-HA mAb as a source of IgG. (C) As in A, except that a wild-type strain (BY4741) or isogenic *gin4Δ* mutant (YAT100), *fpk1Δ fpk2Δ* double mutant (YFR205), or *fpk1Δ fpk2Δ gin4Δ* triple mutant (YFR278) were used and only the Myr-treated cells are shown. (D) Same as in C, except that the cells expressed *Dnf1*(1403–1571)-myc from plasmid pES10 and the extract was analyzed using a Phos-tag gel.

escort protein, Lem3/Ros3 (414 residues; Kato et al., 2002; Noji et al., 2006). Genetic analysis in yeast has implicated *Dnf1* and *Dnf2*, and the other flippases—and thus membrane asymmetry—in endocytosis, protein trafficking, and vesicle formation (Chen et al., 1999; Gall et al., 2002; Hua et al., 2002; Pomorski et al., 2003; Liu et al., 2007; Natarajan et al., 2009; Hachiro et al., 2013) and in establishment of cell polarity (Iwamoto et al., 2004; Saito et al., 2007; Fairn et al., 2011; Das et al., 2012). Mutations in the human homologue of *Dnf1* and *Dnf2*, ATP8B1, result in progressive familial intrahepatic cholestasis (Byler disease), as well as benign recurrent intrahepatic cholestasis and intrahepatic cholestasis in pregnancy (van der Mark et al., 2013).

The role of flippases in polarized growth is particularly intriguing. PtdEth is enriched in the exocellular leaflet at sites of polarized growth (Iwamoto et al., 2004; Saito et al., 2004), which suggests that flippase function must be temporally down-regulated during early bud formation when highly directional growth is required, but then reactivated when isotropic growth needs to resume. Until recently, there was little understanding about whether and how flippase function is regulated. For *Drs2*, specifically, it has been reported that PtdIns4P binds to its C-terminal tail and is required for its activity (Natarajan et al., 2009). The first clue about how *Dnf1* and *Dnf2* might be regulated came when it was found that loss-of-function mutations in *FPK1*, encoding a Ser/Thr protein kinase, were synthetically lethal with a deletion of *CDC50*, which encodes a Lem3 paralogue that associates with and is required uniquely for the

function of flippase *Drs2* (Nakano et al., 2008), which suggests that *Fpk1* action was needed for optimal activity of the remaining flippases. Indeed, yeast cells lacking *Fpk1* and its paralogue *Fpk2*/Kin82 did not have any change in flippase abundance or localization, yet showed a reduced ability to internalize fluorescently labeled PtdEth and PtdSer derivatives and exhibited an elongated bud phenotype with prolonged exocellular PtdEth exposure (Nakano et al., 2008). Moreover, purified *Fpk1* was capable of direct phosphorylation of all yeast flippases (except *Neo1*), but with a marked preference for *Dnf1* and *Dnf2* (Nakano et al., 2008). Together, these results implicate *Fpk1*-mediated phosphorylation as a primary stimulus of *Dnf1* and *Dnf2* activity, providing the first mechanistic insight about cellular control of membrane asymmetry.

Subsequently, we enlarged this regulatory circuitry by showing that *Fpk1* (the closest mammalian homologue is p70^{S6K}; Hunter and Plowman, 1997) is, in turn, phosphorylated and inactivated by *Ypk1* (Roelants et al., 2010), a protein kinase whose function is up-regulated in response to membrane stress (Roelants et al., 2011) and which we previously showed is the sequence homologue and functional orthologue of mammalian serum- and glucocorticoid-inducible kinase (SGK1; Casamayor et al., 1999). Additionally, we showed that a complex sphingolipid species, mannosyl-inositol-phosphorylceramide (MIPC), is required for *Fpk1* activity (Roelants et al., 2010). Although these observations uncovered novel inputs into *Fpk1* regulation, they did not explain how *Fpk1*-dependent regulation of flippases is controlled spatially and temporally during passage

through the cell division cycle to control the budding process. By the means described here, we found that a septin-associated protein kinase, Gin4, phosphorylates and negatively regulates Fpk1, allowing us to demonstrate that Gin4 is responsible for the negative regulation of aminophospholipid flipping at the incipient bud site. Moreover, Gin4-mediated inhibition of Fpk1 action appears to be necessary for efficient cytokinesis.

Results

Screening for novel Fpk1 regulators

Flippase function requires activating phosphorylation by Fpk1 (Nakano et al., 2008), a protein kinase located at the bud cortex and under negative control by protein kinase Ypk1 (Roelants et al., 2010). To identify additional potential regulators of aminophospholipid flipping, we asked whether any other protein kinase might affect Fpk1 activity. Fpk1 not only phosphorylates flippases (large proteins hard to extract from the PM), but also feedback phosphorylates Ypk1 at S51 and/or S71 (or both), leading to multiple, slower mobility Ypk1 phospho-isoforms resolvable by SDS-PAGE (Roelants et al., 2010). We have demonstrated previously that a Ypk1 mobility shift provides a convenient and reliable assay for Fpk1 activity in vivo (Roelants et al., 2010). Hence, to identify other protein kinases that may influence Fpk1 function, we expressed Ypk1-myc in a collection of strains each deleted for a nonessential protein kinase gene. Strikingly, Ypk1 phospho-isoforms were substantially increased in *gin4Δ* cells (Fig. 1 A), which suggests that Gin4 may negatively regulate Fpk1. Complex sphingolipid MIPC promotes Fpk1 activity in vivo (Roelants et al., 2010). Accordingly, treatment of cells with myriocin (Myr), a drug that potently inhibits all sphingolipid biosynthesis by blocking the first enzyme (L-serine:palmitoyl-CoA C-palmitoyltransferase; SPT) in the pathway, greatly reduced the Ypk1 mobility shift. However, in cells lacking Gin4, the effect of reducing MIPC-dependent stimulation of Fpk1 was partially alleviated (Fig. 1 A), which indicates that the down-regulation of Fpk1 activity by Gin4 is not mediated through any effect on the MIPC level.

Conversely, and in agreement with an independent role for Gin4 action in down-regulating Fpk1 activity, Gin4 overexpression markedly decreased the Ypk1 mobility shift and was additive with the effect of Myr (Fig. 1 B). Moreover, this effect was specific to Gin4 because elevated expression of neither its closest paralogue (Kcc4) nor its next closest relative (Hsl1), both septin-associated protein kinases (Barral et al., 1999; Shulewitz et al., 1999), like Gin4 (Longtine et al., 1998), had no effect on Ypk1 phospho-isoforms (Fig. S1). Furthermore, the increase in slower mobility Ypk1 isoforms seen in the absence of Gin4 was totally dependent on the presence of active Fpk1 and Fpk2 (Fig. 1 C), confirming that a primary role of Gin4 is to inhibit Fpk1. Although the pattern of phosphorylation of the PM flippases is much more complicated, we verified that loss of Gin4 also increased Fpk1-mediated phosphorylation of Dnf1, especially the appearance of the slowest mobility phospho-isoforms (Fig. 1 D), which further corroborates negative regulation of Fpk1 by Gin4.

Gin4 phosphorylates Fpk1

Gin4-dependent modification of Fpk1 could be direct or indirect, and could impede Fpk1 function by affecting its localization, level, or catalytic activity. We showed previously that Fpk1 localizes to the cell cortex in young buds and to the bud neck in large budded cells (Roelants et al., 2010). Compared with *GIN4* cells, the pattern of Fpk1 localization was not detectably different in cells lacking Gin4 or overexpressing Gin4 (Fig. S2 A). Likewise, compared with *GIN4* cells, the steady-state level of Fpk1 was not detectably different in cells lacking or overexpressing Gin4 (Fig. S2 B). Together, these results suggested that the primary effect of Gin4 might be to control the activity of Fpk1.

To assess whether phosphorylation of Fpk1 is Gin4 dependent in vivo, we first analyzed the migration pattern of Fpk1 fused to GFP using phosphate affinity (Phos-tag) gels (Kinoshita et al., 2009) and found a readily detectable level of a slower mobility Fpk1-GFP species whose appearance required Gin4 (Fig. 2 A, middle). This isoform was indeed due to phosphorylation because it was eliminated by treatment of the samples with calf intestinal phosphatase (CIP; Fig. 2 A, left), but persisted in the presence of CIP and the phosphatase inhibitor Na_3VO_4 (Fig. 2 A, right). To determine whether the Gin4-dependent phosphorylation of Fpk1-GFP observed in vivo may be direct, we tested whether Fpk1 serves as a substrate of Gin4 in vitro. To avoid any possibility of self-phosphorylation, catalytically inactive GST-Fpk1(D621A) (Roelants et al., 2010) purified from *Escherichia coli* was incubated with purified recombinant GST-Gin4 or an equivalent amount of a catalytically inactive mutant, GST-Gin4(K48A). We found that Fpk1 was readily phosphorylated by Gin4 (Fig. 2 B). Furthermore, when fused to GST, the N-terminal noncatalytic domain of Fpk1 was a much more robust substrate for Gin4 than its C-terminal (kinase) domain (Fig. 2 C). After exhaustive in vitro phosphorylation of Fpk1(1–472) by Gin4 in vitro, the sites of phosphorylation were mapped by mass spectrometry. This analysis revealed that 17 Ser or Thr residues were detectably modified, the majority of which fit the consensus (-R/KxxS-; Fig. S2 C), in accord with the phosphoacceptor site motif preference of Gin4 determined using synthetic peptide arrays (Mok et al., 2010). 11 of the most efficiently phosphorylated sites in Fpk1(1–472) were mutated to Ala, which decreased phosphorylation to a near-background level (Fig. 2 D), confirming that these sites were Gin4 targets.

Gin4-mediated phosphorylation down-regulates Fpk1 activity

To determine whether a lack of Gin4-mediated phosphorylation enhances Fpk1 activity, we first examined by SDS-PAGE the mobility of Ypk1 isolated from wild-type cells or an isogenic strain in which the endogenous *FPK1* locus was replaced by an allele (Fpk1^{11A}) in which the 11 Gin4 sites in full-length Fpk1 were mutated to Ala. We found that Fpk1^{11A} greatly enhanced formation of the slower mobility phospho-isoforms compared with the control cells, even when the levels of MIPC were reduced by Myr treatment (Fig. 3 A), and this increase was comparable to that observed in *gin4Δ* cells (Fig. 1 A). Likewise, compared with control cells, the appearance of the

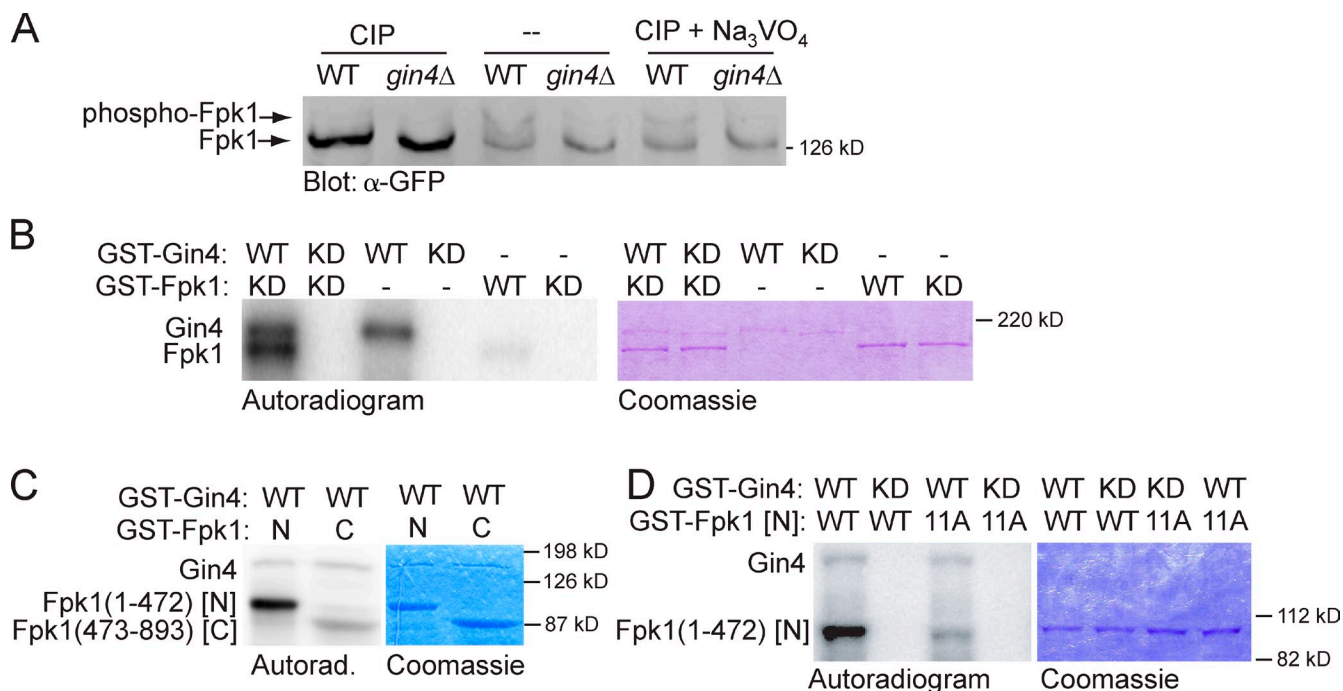


Figure 2. **Gin4 phosphorylates Fpk1 in vivo and in vitro.** (A) Wild-type strain (YFR221, WT) or an isogenic *gin4Δ* (YFR224) expressing Fpk1-GFP were grown to mid-exponential phase and lysed. The resulting extracts were either not treated or treated with CIP or CIP + Na₃VO₄, resolved on a Phos-tag gel, and analyzed by immunoblotting with anti-GFP antibody. (B) GST-Gin4 (pAB1, WT) or catalytically inactive ("kinase-dead," KD) mutant, GST-Gin4(K48A) (pAT103), were purified from *E. coli*, incubated with γ -[³²P]ATP and either GST-Fpk1 (pFR143, WT) or catalytically inactive (KD) mutant GST-Fpk1(D621A) (pFR144), also purified from *E. coli*. Resulting products were resolved by SDS-PAGE and analyzed by autoradiography (left) and staining with Coomassie dye (right). (C) GST-Gin4 (pAB1, WT) was purified from *E. coli*, incubated with γ -[³²P]ATP and either GST-Fpk1(1-472) (pBS1, N) or catalytically inactive GST-Fpk1(473-893; D621A) (pBS2, C), which were also purified from *E. coli*, and the products were analyzed as in B. (D) As in C, except that either GST-Gin4 (pAB1, WT) or catalytically inactive (KD) GST-Gin4(K48A) (pAT103) were incubated with either GST-Fpk1(1-472) (pBS1, WT) or GST-Fpk1(1-472; 11A) in which 11 Gin4 phosphorylation sites were mutated to Ala (pJW2).

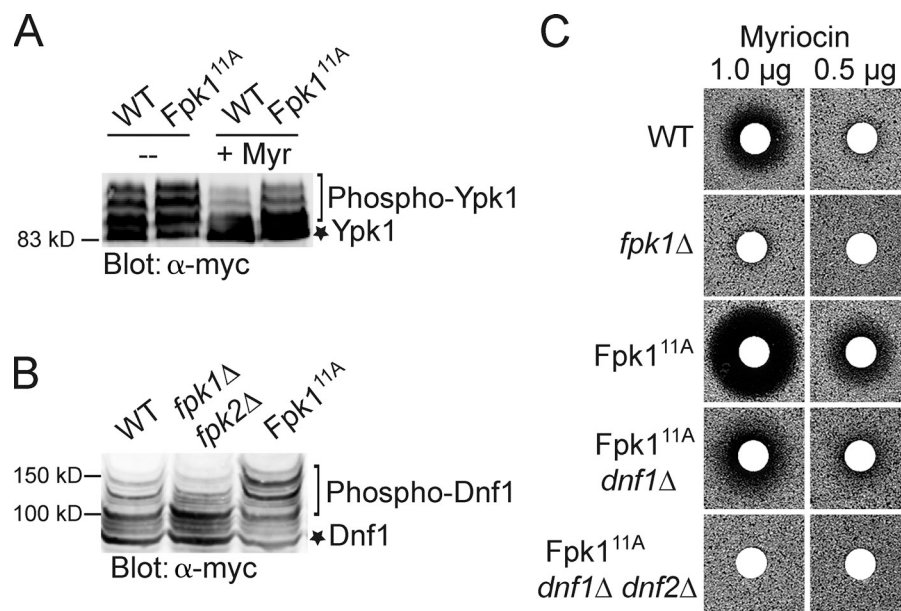


Figure 3. **Phosphorylation by Gin4 down-regulates Fpk1 activity.** (A) Cells expressing either wild-type Fpk1 (BY4741, WT) or Fpk1^{11A} (YJW2) and also expressing Ypk1-myc from the *GAL1* promoter (pAM76) were grown to mid-exponential phase, untreated or treated with Myr (1.25 μM), and lysed. The resulting extracts were resolved by SDS-PAGE and analyzed by immunoblotting with anti-c-myc mAb 9E10. (B) Cells expressing wild-type Fpk1 (BY4741, WT), an isogenic strain lacking both Fpk1 and Fpk2 (YFR205, *fpk1Δ fpk2Δ*) or expressing Fpk1^{11A} (YJW2) and also expressing Dnf1(1403-1571)-myc from the *GAL1* promoter (pES10) were grown to mid-exponential phase and lysed. The resulting extracts were resolved on a Phos-tag gel and analyzed by immunoblotting with anti-c-myc mAb 9E10. (C) Wild-type (BY4742, WT), *fpk1Δ* (JTY6581), Fpk1^{11A} (YFR307), Fpk1^{11A} *dnf1Δ* (YFR308), or Fpk1^{11A} *dnf1Δ dnf2Δ* (YFR312) strains, as indicated, were plated as a lawn on YPD plates and then overlaid immediately at the center with a sterile filter paper disk onto which a solution containing the indicated amounts of Myr had been spotted. After incubation at 30°C for 2 d, plates were photographed.

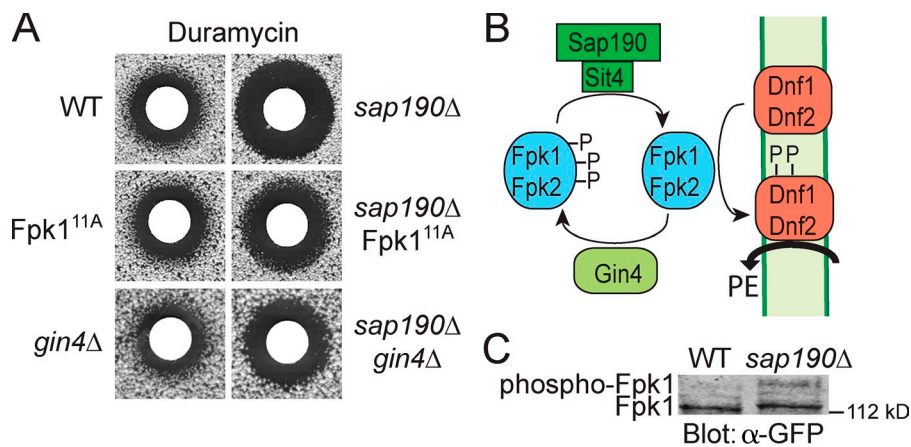


Figure 4. Gin4 phosphorylation of Fpk1 results in down-regulation of flippase activity. (A) Wild-type (BY4741, WT), *Fpk1*^{11A} (YJW2), or *gin4*Δ (YAT100) cells, or isogenic derivatives of the same strains carrying a *sap190*Δ mutation [*sap190*Δ (YFR320), *sap190*Δ *Fpk1*^{11A} (YFR323)], and *sap190*Δ *gin4*Δ (YFR326)], were plated as a lawn on YPD plates and then overlaid immediately at the center with a sterile filter paper disk onto which 10 μl of a stock solution of duramycin (8 mM) had been spotted. After incubation at 30°C for 3 d, plates were photographed. (B) Model for control of Fpk1 (and Fpk2)-dependent activation of flippases Dnf1 and Dnf2 by Gin4-mediated phosphorylation and Sit4-Sap190 dephosphorylation of Fpk1. Trapping of Fpk1 (and Fpk2) in their Gin4-phosphorylated state prevents optimal flippase function, increasing the level of PtdEth

in the outer leaflet of the PM, thereby conferring greater sensitivity to duramycin. (C) Either wild-type cells (YFR221, WT) or an isogenic *sap190*Δ mutant (YFR328) expressing Fpk1-GFP were grown to mid-exponential phase and lysed. The resulting extracts were resolved on a Phos-tag gel and analyzed by immunoblotting with anti-GFP antibody.

slowest mobility Fpk1-dependent isoforms of the flippase Dnf1 were also markedly increased in the cells expressing *Fpk1*^{11A} (Fig. 3 B). Thus, absence of Gin4 phosphorylation increased the specific activity of Fpk1 in vivo on both substrates. As a third criterion to assess its level of activity, we examined the Myr sensitivity conferred by *Fpk1*^{11A} compared with wild-type Fpk1 because we have shown previously that cells lacking Fpk1 are quite resistant to Myr (Roelants et al., 2010). Consistent with the conclusion that *Fpk1*^{11A} is hyperactive, the cells expressing *Fpk1*^{11A} cells were markedly more sensitive to Myr than cells expressing wild-type Fpk1 (Fig. 3 C). Moreover, in agreement that this phenotype was exerted through Fpk1-mediated stimulation of the flippases, the elevated drug sensitivity caused by *Fpk1*^{11A} was almost eliminated in cells lacking Dnf1 and totally abrogated in cells lacking both Dnf1 and Dnf2 (Fig. 3 C). Indeed, in agreement with the observation that flippases regulate the permeability of the yeast PM to xenobiotics (Yamane-Sando et al., 2014), we found that 400 ng/ml of Myr drastically reduced formation of complex sphingolipids in wild-type cells, whereas even 600 ng/ml had no effect in *dnf1*Δ *dnf2*Δ cells (Fig. S3 A).

Furthermore, the elevated Myr sensitivity displayed by *Fpk1*^{11A} cells was not attributable to enhanced Fpk1-mediated feedback inhibition of Ypk1. Ypk1 phosphorylates and inactivates Orm1 and Orm2 (Roelants et al., 2011), two major negative regulators of SPT (Breslow et al., 2010); hence, elevated Fpk1-mediated feedback inhibition of Ypk1 would be expected to impede all sphingolipid biosynthesis. However, total sphingolipid levels were not significantly altered in cells expressing *Fpk1*^{11A} compared with wild-type or *fpk1*Δ *fpk2*Δ cells (Fig. S3 B).

Gin4 phosphorylation of Fpk1 down-regulates flippase function

Collectively, our results indicate that modification by Gin4 inhibits Fpk1 function and that a major physiological consequence of this regulation is inhibition of flippase function. As further confirmation of this conclusion, we took advantage

of the fact that the efficiency of flippase action can be monitored by assessing the sensitivity of cells to duramycin, a drug that binds to PtdEth in the outer leaflet of the PM and kills cells (Zhao, 2011). Because Fpk1 is a flippase activator, Gin4-mediated inhibition of Fpk1 should decrease flippase function, leaving more PtdEth on the cell surface and making cells more susceptible to duramycin, whereas cells expressing *Fpk1*^{11A}, which is largely “immune” to Gin4 phosphorylation, or cells lacking Gin4 altogether, should have enhanced flippase function, less PtdEth in the outer leaflet, and greater resistance to duramycin. However, any differences in duramycin sensitivity between wild-type, *Fpk1*^{11A}, and *gin4*Δ cells were too subtle to reliably detect (Fig. 4 A, left). We reasoned that we might be able to “trap” more wild-type Fpk1 in its Gin4-phosphorylated state (Fig. 4 B), but not *Fpk1*^{11A} or Fpk1 in *gin4*Δ cells, and thus enhance differences in duramycin sensitivity, if we removed the phosphatase responsible for reversing Gin4-mediated phosphorylation of Fpk1. To pinpoint any phosphatase that contributes to dephosphorylation of Fpk1, the duramycin sensitivity of a collection of deletion strains lacking each of the nonessential protein phosphatase genes or their associated factors was assessed. We found that cells lacking the phosphoprotein phosphatase 2A-related phosphatase Sit4 (Sutton et al., 1991; unpublished data) or one member of the family of Sit4-associated proteins, Sap190 (Luke et al., 1996; Fig. 4 A, right), exhibited a marked increase in sensitivity to duramycin, which suggests that the Sit4–Sap190 complex specifically dephosphorylates Fpk1. Indeed, in *sap190*Δ cells, there was a significant increase in the level of phosphorylated Fpk1 (Fig. 4 C).

Using this sensitized *sap190*Δ background, it was clear that either *Fpk1*^{11A} or the absence of Gin4 enhanced flippase function to a greater extent than wild-type Fpk1 because the cells became reproducibly less sensitive to duramycin (Fig. 4 A, right). Thus, *Fpk1*^{11A} (or absence of Gin4) allows Fpk1 to be more active, stimulating flippase activity, reducing PtdEth in the outside leaflet, and conferring greater duramycin resistance (Fig. 4 B).

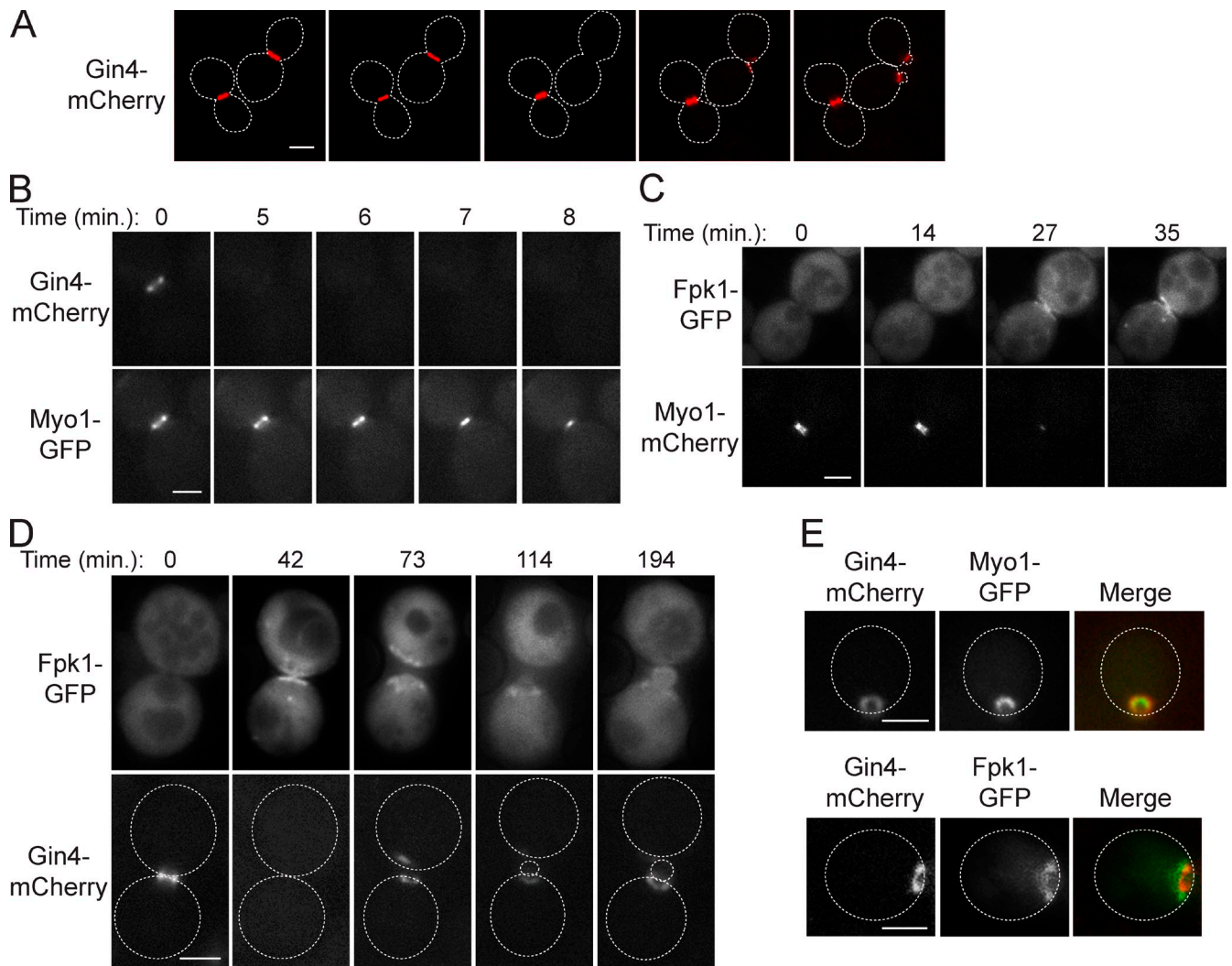


Figure 5. Gin4 and Fpk1 colocalize prominently at the site of bud emergence. (A) Cells expressing Gin4-mCherry (YFR355) were viewed by time-lapse fluorescence microscopy at \sim 30-min intervals. (B) As in A, for cells coexpressing Gin4-mCherry and Myo1-GFP (YFR388) at the indicated times. (C) As in B, for cells coexpressing Myo1-mCherry (YFR385) and Fpk1-GFP from the *TP11* promoter on a *CEN* plasmid (pFR150). (D) As in B, for cells coexpressing Fpk1-GFP (pFR150) and Gin4-mCherry (YFR355). (E, top) Same cells as in B. (E, bottom) Same cells as in D. Broken lines represent the perimeter of the indicated cells. Bars, 2 μ m.

Gin4 and Fpk1 localization indicate potential roles in cytokinesis and bud emergence

To gain insight into the biological processes regulated by Gin4-mediated inhibition of Fpk1, we first investigated the dynamics of both Gin4 and Fpk1 localization during the cell cycle. Gin4 localizes at the bud site just at bud emergence and remains at the bud neck through M-phase, then disappears before cytokinesis (Okuzaki et al., 1997; Longtine et al., 1998; Fig. 5 A). Detailed observation revealed, first, that Gin4 disappears from the bud neck before the onset of actomyosin ring (AMR) contraction, as judged by the timing of ingression of the type II myosin heavy chain (Myo1; Fig. 5 B). By the same criterion, Fpk1 accumulates at the bud neck only at the end of AMR contraction (Fig. 5 C). This reciprocal behavior suggests that increased Dnf1- and Dnf2-mediated inward translocation of PtdEth may be important at the completion of cytokinesis. These observations further suggest that a function of Gin4 is to ensure complete

suppression of any Fpk1-dependent flippase activation before AMR contraction and, therefore, that preventing inward PtdEth translocation is important for establishing the conditions for cytokinesis.

Furthermore, we found that Gin4 reappears at the cortical site of future bud emergence concomitant with Myo1 (Fig. S4 A), raising the possibility that Gin4 down-regulation of Fpk1 plays a role at that stage. Indeed, Fpk1 is also present at the new polarization site (Fig. 5 D), associated mainly with the perimeter of the ring-like structure containing Gin4 and Myo1 (Fig. 5 E). To confirm that Gin4-dependent inhibition of Fpk1 requires Gin4 association with the PM, we overexpressed Gin4(Δ 1026–1125), a mutant lacking its C-terminal kinase associated-1 (KA1) domain, which binds to anionic phospholipids and is required for PM and bud neck localization of Gin4 (Moravcevic et al., 2010). In contrast to overexpressed full-length Gin4 (1,142 residues), an equivalent level of Gin4(Δ 1026–1125) did not inhibit Fpk1-mediated phosphorylation of Ypk1 (Fig. S4 B). Given that Dnf1 and

Dnf2 are found at the incipient bud site (Hua et al., 2002; Pomorski et al., 2003; Saito et al., 2004), our observations suggest that, at bud emergence, Gin4 is in a position to down-regulate Fpk1 and impose a reduction in flippase activity that may be important for proper bud polarization.

Control of leaflet lipid composition is important for cytokinesis

The accumulation of Fpk1 at the bud neck at the end of AMR contraction (Fig. 5 C) prompted us to look at the potential role of Fpk1 in cytokinesis. Interestingly, in mammalian cells, there is evidence that PtdEth plays some critical role in contractile ring disassembly and completion of cytokinesis (Emoto and Umeda, 2001), whereas, in *S. pombe*, PtdEth has been implicated in the execution of cytokinesis (Luo et al., 2009). In budding yeast, it has been reported that a *gin4Δ* mutation (but not a *kcc4Δ* or *hsl1Δ* mutation) is synthetically lethal with the absence of Hof1, an SH3 domain-containing bud neck-localized protein required for cytokinesis (Atkins et al., 2013; Meitinger et al., 2013). Based on the findings we describe here, *gin4Δ* cells should have elevated Fpk1 activity and, hence, elevated flippase function. Consistent with increased flippase function being responsible for the observed lethal phenotype of *gin4Δ hof1Δ* cells, we found that Fpk1^{11A}, which we showed has elevated PtdEth flipping (Fig. 4), exacerbated the temperature-sensitive growth defect of *hof1Δ* cells, and, conversely, elimination of both of the flippase-activating protein kinases Fpk1 and Fpk2 almost completely rescued the growth defect of *hof1Δ* cells at 37°C (Fig. 6 A, top). Completely consistent with the same conclusions, increased expression of Gin4 itself potently suppressed the temperature-sensitive growth defect of *hof1Δ* cells (Fig. 6 A, bottom).

Cyk3 is another SH3 domain-containing protein that interacts at the bud neck with Hof1. Although *hof1Δ cyk3Δ* double mutants are inviable even at 30°C (Korinek et al., 2000), we found that absence of Fpk1 and Fpk2 partially rescued this lethality (Fig. 6 B). Likewise, absence of Inn1, a protein required for primary septum (PS) ingression at the bud neck during cytokinesis, is lethal (Nishihama et al., 2009); yet, removal of both Fpk1 and Fpk2, or removal of both flippases Dnf1 and Dnf2, rescued the inviability of *inn1Δ* cells (Fig. 6 C).

Hof1, Cyk3, and Inn1 are all needed for efficient cell division because they each participate, directly or indirectly, in activation of Chs2, the chitin synthase isoform required for PS formation (Nishihama et al., 2009; Devrekanli et al., 2012). To determine whether the suppression observed was specific to mutants defective in PS formation or would also affect mutants defective in AMR contraction, we tested *myo1Δ* cells, which are viable but grow very slowly (Bi et al., 1998). Remarkably, expression of Fpk1^{11A} greatly exacerbated the growth defect of cells lacking Myo1, and, conversely, elimination of Fpk1 and Fpk2 markedly improved the growth of *myo1Δ* cells (Fig. 6, D and E). These results indicate that a decrease in the rate of PtdEth flipping is beneficial for cells impaired in either AMR contraction or PS formation, which suggests that during execution of normal cytokinesis and cell division, the dynamic movement

of lipids in the PM needs to be properly coordinated with protein-driven events.

One predicted consequence of a decrease in Fpk1-stimulated and Dnf1- and Dnf2-catalyzed PtdEth flipping should be an increase in the activity of Cdc42, a key PM-associated regulator of cell polarization and cytokinesis (Tong et al., 2007; Atkins et al., 2013; Lo et al., 2013; Onishi et al., 2013), because inner leaflet PtdEth is required for activation of the GTPase-activating proteins (GAPs), Rga1 and Rga2, that down-regulate Cdc42-GTP (Saito et al., 2007), and/or for the Rdi-mediated dissociation of Cdc42 from the PM (Das et al., 2012). Consistent with the idea that a contributing factor to the beneficial effect of decreased flippase function in cells impaired for cytokinesis is due to enhanced Cdc42 function, a modest increase in the expression of either Cdc42 or Cdc24 (Cdc42-specific guanine nucleotide exchange factor) rescued the severe growth debility of *myo1Δ* Fpk1^{11A} cells (Fig. 6 F).

High-level overexpression of Cdc42 is reportedly not grossly deleterious to normal cells (Johnson and Pringle, 1990), but kills cytokinesis mutants defective in either AMR assembly or PS formation (Atkins et al., 2013); yet, as we observed for *myo1Δ* Fpk1^{11A} cells, a modest elevation in Cdc42 level markedly suppressed the temperature-sensitive growth defect of *hof1Δ* cells (Fig. S5).

Collectively, our results suggest that the role of the Gin4–Fpk1–flippase pathway is to properly adjust the inner leaflet PtdEth concentration as a means to fine-tune the level of active Cdc42 at the cell cortex. The dramatic departure of Gin4 from the bud neck that occurs just before AMR contraction would allow for Sit4–Sap190-mediated reactivation of the Fpk1 present immediately thereafter, stimulating influx of PtdEth, thereby promoting near-complete Cdc42-GTP inactivation. Consistent with this scenario, several groups have reported that a sharp drop in Cdc42-GTP occurs at the end of cytokinesis (Atkins et al., 2013; Okada et al., 2013; Kang et al., 2014).

Discussion

We have demonstrated previously (Roelants et al., 2010) that the flippase-activating protein kinase Fpk1 (and its paralogue Fpk2) is subject to two physiologically important levels of control: via inhibitory phosphorylation by the membrane-stress activated protein kinase Ypk1 (and its paralogue Ypk2); and via stimulation specifically by the complex sphingolipid MIPC (by a mechanism not yet understood). As we show here, an equally important new component of this regulatory network is inhibitory phosphorylation by the septin-associated and cell cycle-regulated protein kinase Gin4 (Fig. 7). This specific function is a previously unrecognized role for Gin4, which was thought to be involved only in proper septin collar formation via direct phosphorylation of septin Shs1 (Mortensen et al., 2002; Asano et al., 2006). It has been suggested that this modification promotes formation of the septin collar that demarcates the bud neck during bud emergence, thereby generating a stable scaffold that recruits other proteins needed for bud growth and then cytokinesis (McMurray and Thorner, 2009; Oh and

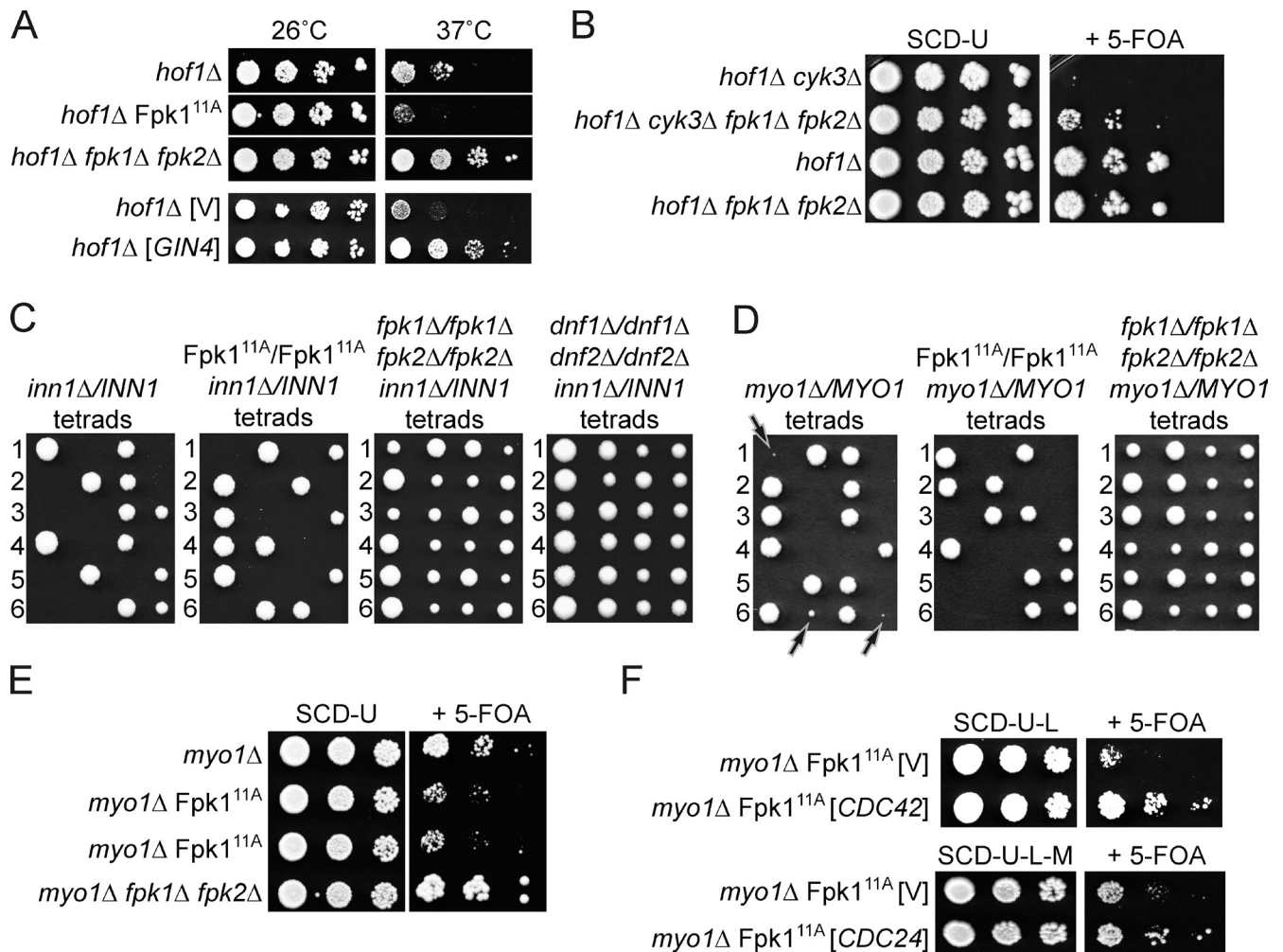


Figure 6. Decreasing flippase function rescues the growth defect of cytokinesis mutants. (A) Cultures of isogenic *hof1Δ* cells (YFR386), *hof1Δ Fpk1^{11A}* cells (YFR396), and *hof1Δ fpk1Δ fpk2Δ* (YFR398) cells, each carrying pRS316-*HOF1*, and *hof1Δ* cells (YFR386) carrying both an empty vector (YCpLG, V) or the same vector expressing *GIN4* (pJT5241) and pRS316-*HOF1*, were streaked onto plates containing 5-fluoro-orotic acid (5-FOA) medium (Boeke et al., 1984) to select against the presence of the *URA3*-marked pRS316-*HOF1* vector. Colonies arising were streaked on a second set of 5-FOA plates, and the resulting colonies were grown to mid-exponential phase in SCD. Serial 10-fold dilutions were then spotted on SCD plates. After incubation at 26°C or 37°C, as indicated, for 3 d, the plates were photographed. (B) Strains *hof1Δ cyk3Δ* (YFR422), *hof1Δ cyk3Δ fpk1Δ fpk2Δ* (YFR425), *hof1Δ* (YFR387), and *hof1Δ fpk1Δ fpk2Δ* (YFR424), all carrying pRS316-*HOF1*, were grown to mid-exponential phase in SCD-U. Serial 10-fold dilutions were spotted on SCD-U plates and plates containing 5-FOA. After incubation at 26°C for 3 d, the plates were photographed. (C) Tetrad analysis of isogenic *inn1Δ/INN1* heterozygous diploids that were homozygous for wild-type *FPK1* (YFR421), *Fpk1^{11A}* (YFR419), for both *fpk1Δ* and *fpk2Δ* (YFR414), or for both *dnf1Δ* and *dnf2Δ* (YFR434). (D) Tetrad analysis of isogenic *myo1Δ/MYO1* heterozygous diploids that were homozygous for wild-type *FPK1* (YFR420) or *Fpk1^{11A}* (YFR412), or for both *fpk1Δ* and *fpk2Δ* (YFR413). Arrows indicate microcolonies formed by *myo1Δ* spores expressing wild-type *Fpk1* (left), which are inviable when *Fpk1^{11A}* is present (middle) and, conversely, grow much more robustly when both *Fpk1* and *Fpk2* are absent (right). (E) The same strains as in D were transformed with pRS316-*MYO1* and dissected on SCD-U. The resulting haploid *myo1Δ* (YFR438), *myo1Δ Fpk1^{11A}* (YFR439; shown in duplicate), and *myo1Δ fpk1Δ fpk2Δ* (YFR440) strains each carrying pRS316-*MYO1* were grown to mid-exponential phase, and serial 10-fold dilutions were spotted on SCD-U plates and plates containing 5-FOA to select against the presence of the pRS316-*MYO1* vector. After incubation at 30°C for 3 d, the plates were photographed. (F) A *myo1Δ/MYO1* heterozygous diploid that was homozygous for *Fpk1^{11A}* (YFR443) carrying an empty vector (YCpLG, V) or the same vector expressing *CDC42* (PB3050), and the same strain carrying an empty vector (pRS315, V) or the same vector expressing *CDC24* from the *MET25* promoter (pJT4350) were transformed with pRS316-*MYO1* and dissected on SCD-U-L (for the *CDC42*-expressing vector) or SCD-U-L-M (for the *CDC24*-expressing vector). The resulting *myo1Δ Fpk1^{11A}* strains (YFR448, YFR449, YFR451, and YFR452) were treated as in E.

Bi, 2011). Consistent with such a function, after mitosis, Shs1 is dephosphorylated by the Rts1-bound isoform of phosphoprotein phosphatase 2A, concomitant with splitting of the septin collar into two discrete rings at cytokinesis (Dobbela et al., 2003). However, aberrant septin structure at the bud neck is displayed by only a very small fraction of the cells in a culture of a *gin4Δ* mutant (Longtine et al., 1998). Moreover, time-lapse microscopy of *gin4Δ* cells expressing a GFP-tagged septin revealed that, in the majority of these rare anomalous cells, the abnormal

septin morphology eventually resolves into a uniform collar and the cell then divides (McMurray and Thorner, 2009). The findings we have presented here demonstrate that *Gin4* control of *Fpk1* governs the level of PtdEth in the inner leaflet of the PM and argue that a fundamentally important function of *Gin4* is its role in regulation of PM bilayer asymmetry.

In this regard, it must be appreciated that reversal of *Gin4*-dependent phosphorylation of *Fpk1* may also be under tight control. Although the responsible phosphatase *Sit4* associates

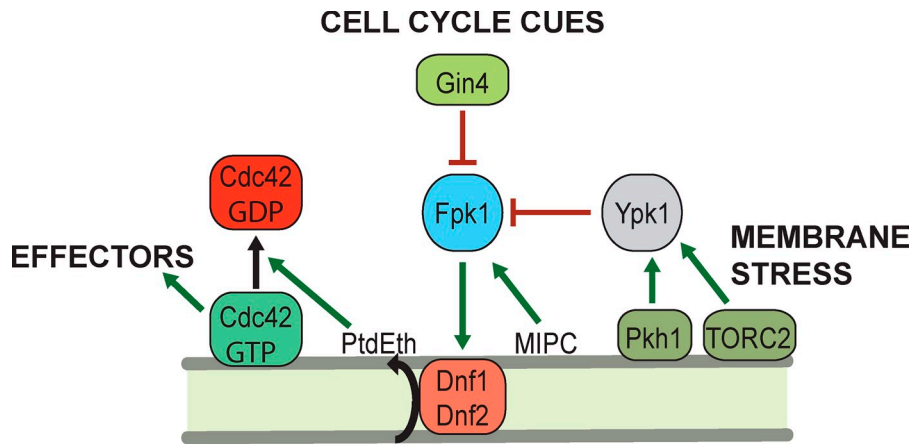


Figure 7. Gin4 controls inner leaflet PtdEth and Cdc42-GTP level. During progression through the cell cycle, Gin4 localizes at the incipient bud site, and phosphorylates and inhibits Fpk1 at the same location, preventing flippase activation and keeping PtdEth level on the inner leaflet low. Because inner leaflet PtdEth promotes Cdc42-GTP inactivation (Saito et al., 2007; Das et al., 2012), Gin4-imposed reduction in PtdEth allows for buildup of Cdc42-GTP to stimulate recruitment and function of effectors, like formin Bni1, that promote bud emergence. Further accumulation of Gin4 at the septin collar will continue to suppress the inner leaflet PtdEth level, allowing for localized protection of Cdc42-GTP, perhaps facilitating recruitment and activation of effectors required for efficient cytokinesis. Despite a normally beneficial role, flippase function also permits entry of toxic xenobiotics. To help prevent an influx

of such noxious agents when the PM barrier is already compromised by heat stress or other membrane-perturbing or -damaging agents, an independent stress response mediated by protein kinase Ypk1 also down-regulates flippase function by inhibiting Fpk1. Full Ypk1 activity requires its stimulation by two PM-associated protein kinases: eisosome-bound Pkh1 and the TORC2 complex.

with Sap4, Sap155, Sap185, and Sap190 (Luke et al., 1996), we found that only *sap190Δ* mutations, and not *sap4Δ*, *sap155Δ*, or *sap185Δ* mutations (unpublished data), exhibited an increase in duramycin sensitivity, which indicates that reactivation of Fpk1 is a function specific to only the Sap190-bound form of Sit4.

We found that, in contrast to their spatiotemporal partitioning during cytokinesis, Gin4 and Fpk1 colocalize at the incipient bud site. Given that inner leaflet PtdEth promotes inactivation of Cdc42-GTP by its GAPs and/or GDI (Cherfils and Zeghouf, 2013), our results connect Gin4 action to modulation of the level of active Cdc42, an essential and pivotal regulator of cell polarity and morphogenesis (Etienne-Manneville, 2004; Bi and Park, 2012). Gin4, by negatively regulating Fpk1, inhibits the flippases under Fpk1 control, lowers inner leaflet PtdEth content, thus reducing PtdEth-stimulated GAP^{Cdc42} (Rga1 and Rga2; Saito et al., 2007) and/or Rho GDI (Rdi1; Das et al., 2012) function, thereby maintaining or increasing the concentration of PM-associated GTP-bound Cdc42 (Fig. 7). An important aspect of the production of Cdc42-GTP above a certain threshold at this cell cycle stage is to trigger actin cable formation for bud emergence, mediated by the formin Bni1 (Chen et al., 2012). As a result of their colocalization, Gin4-mediated phosphorylation and inhibition of Fpk1 and the ensuing reduced level of inner leaflet PtdEth would allow for sufficient Cdc42-GTP at the incipient bud site for activation of this and other effectors.

Recent work has proposed a model wherein active Cdc42 recruits septins, which, upon assembly, inhibit Cdc42 in a negative feedback loop via the bud neck-localized Cdc42-GAPs (Okada et al., 2013). However, our findings provide deeper insight into the dynamics of this process. Assembled septins also recruit Gin4, which, by phosphorylating and inhibiting Fpk1 in its immediate vicinity, will result in down-regulation of the flippases and lowering of inner leaflet PtdEth, thereby reducing Cdc42-GAP and/or Cdc42 GDI activity, thus locally maintaining Cdc42-GTP within a tightly delimited site at the bud cortex to support bud emergence. Moreover, our visualization of these proteins showed that, at the site of bud emergence, some Fpk1

localizes in a concentric ring around the periphery of where Gin4 localizes (Fig. 5 E); if that more distant pool of Fpk1 escapes Gin4-imposed inhibition, it would be able to activate flippase function, raise inner leaflet PtdEth, stimulate Cdc42-GAP and/or Cdc42-GDI activity, and thereby delineate a rather sharp boundary outside of which Cdc42 cannot be active. Showing that there is an inverse correlation between inner leaflet PtdEth content and the concentration of active Cdc42 is not now technically feasible because the only known PtdEth-specific probe is a fluorescently tagged derivative of a tetracyclic, disulfide-bonded peptidic antibiotic (Ro09-0198/cinnamycin) that is only able to bind this lipid when it is present in the outer leaflet of the PM (Aoki et al., 1994; Iwamoto et al., 2004). Moreover, this agent blocks PtdEth flipping and, hence, can only report the total amount of PtdEth that has been delivered to the PM.

If colocalization of Gin4 with Fpk1 suppresses flippase function during polarity establishment and bud site selection, their dramatic separation just before AMR contraction (Fig. 5) presumably achieves the opposite. Viewed in this way, Gin4 and Fpk1 provide an example of how differential spatial and temporal reorganization of components of the same signaling modality can allow for rewiring of pathway connectivity to accomplish distinct outputs during cell cycle progression. Up to the onset of cytokinesis, Gin4 is maintained at the bud neck, which, based on our data, would ensure that any residual flippase function is totally suppressed, allowing for Cdc42-GTP-stimulated processes at the bud neck, possibly Bnr1-promoted actin filament formation for AMR assembly (Vallen et al., 2000; Buttery et al., 2012). Just before initiation of AMR ingression, Gin4 rapidly disappears from the bud neck, whereas Fpk1 accumulates at the bud neck as AMR contraction is completed, which would allow for reactivation of flippases, buildup of inner leaflet PtdEth, and the down-regulation of active Cdc42 that occurs at the end of cell division (Atkins et al., 2013; Okada et al., 2013; Kang et al., 2014).

Although we do not have direct evidence for this sort of regulation of Cdc42 during normal cytokinesis because roles for Cdc42 at this stage of the cell cycle have only recently

started to emerge, our results indicate that regulation of Cdc42 exerted by the Gin4–Fpk1–flippase pathways plays a crucial role in AMR-independent cytokinesis. In the absence of Myo1, no AMR can form and PS formation is also defective, yet cytokinesis can be completed by abnormal deposition of an irregular, chitinous secondary septum, referred to as the remedial septum (Schmidt et al., 2002), that allows for cell separation and survival (Bi et al., 1998). We clearly show that lack of the flippase activators Fpk1 and Fpk2 ameliorates the growth defect of *myo1Δ* cells and that the hyperactive Fpk1^{LIA} allele worsens the growth defect of *myo1Δ* cells (Fig. 6, D and E). Moreover, elimination of Fpk1 and Fpk2, or of the PM flippases they control, also ameliorated the growth defects of three different mutants (*hof1Δ*, *hof1Δ cyk3Δ*, and *inn1Δ*) that prevent PS formation (Fig. 6, A, B, and C). Consistent with this suppression arising from increased Cdc42 activity due to lower inner leaflet PtdEth, modest elevation of total Cdc42 or of its GEF (Cdc24) also ameliorated the growth defect of both *myo1Δ* cells (Fig. 6 F) and *hof1Δ* cells (Fig. S5). Therefore, in our hands, we find that Cdc42 action somehow promotes formation of this remedial septum. It is also possible that inner leaflet PtdEth influences other Rho GTPases whose overexpression has been shown to suppress the growth defect of cytokinesis mutants (Dong et al., 2003; Yoshida et al., 2009; Onishi et al., 2013).

If, in normal cells, activation of flippases and subsequent inhibition of Cdc42 is important for the completion of cytokinesis, one might wonder why the lack of flippase activity, and thus activation of Cdc42, is beneficial for all the mutants we tested that are defective in cytokinesis? Atkins et al. (2013) proposed that inappropriate Cdc42 activation during mitotic exit impairs cytokinesis via mislocalization of Inn1 and the IQGAP orthologue Iqg1, which are important for PS formation. However, in the absence of AMR or PS formation, activation of Cdc42 cannot have this deleterious effect because the proteins that are mislocalized when Cdc42 is activated are not present in the first place. Thus, the mechanism that cells use to complete cytokinesis under such conditions is different. Hence, although activation of Cdc42 may be detrimental to AMR and PS formation, our results suggest that it is beneficial with regard to remedial septum formation.

Given the central role we have uncovered for Gin4 in controlling the PtdEth content of the PM inner leaflet and, consequently, Cdc42-GTP level, one important mechanistic question to address in the immediate future is what element within Gin4 is responsible for its specific association with septin-containing structures, how it may be controlled, and, conversely, which septins or aspect of septin organization are recognized by Gin4. Another critical question is what inputs are responsible for the dramatic changes in level and localization of Gin4 during progression through the cell cycle. Gin4 has been shown to be activated by the upstream septin-associated protein kinase Elm1 (Asano et al., 2006), most likely by phosphorylation of Thr189 in its activation loop (related kinase Hs11 is phosphorylated by Elm1 at the corresponding site, Thr273; Szkotnicki et al., 2008). Gin4 activity and localization also appear to be modulated by Cdk1/Cdc28 (Okuzaki et al., 1997; Mortensen et al.,

2002; Holt et al., 2009). In *Candida albicans*, Gin4 is also phosphorylated and activated by Cdk1, and it has been shown that forced activation of Cdc42 restores defects in bud neck formation observed in *gin4Δ* mutants (Li et al., 2012), placing Cdc42 downstream of the Gin4–Fpk1–flippase pathway, which is consistent with our findings. Interestingly, there is some evidence that Cdc42 itself is required in vivo for the mitosis-specific activation of Gin4 and the role it plays in polarized bud growth (Tjandra et al., 1998), which may represent an elegant feedback loop for regulation of the Gin4–Fpk1–flippase pathway.

Materials and methods

Strains and growth conditions

Yeast strains used in this study (Table S1) were grown routinely at 30°C. Standard rich (YP) and defined minimal (SC) media (Sherman et al., 1986), containing either 2% glucose (Glc), 2% raffinose, and 0.2% sucrose (Raf-Suc) or 2% galactose (Gal) as the carbon source, as indicated, and supplemented with appropriate nutrients to maintain selection for plasmids, were used for yeast cultivation. In particular, YFR433 and YFR434 (Table S1) were derived from a strain provided by T.R. Graham (Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN). For gene induction from the *GAL1* promoter, cells were pregrown to mid-exponential phase in SC+Raf-Suc medium, Gal was added (2% final concentration), and incubation was continued for 3 h. When cells were treated with Myr (Sigma-Aldrich) or phytosphingosine (PHS; Avanti Polar Lipids, Inc.), the cultures were grown to mid-exponential phase, induced with Gal for 1 h, and the compounds were added at the final concentrations indicated (Myr, 1.25 μM; PHS, 5 or 10 μM) and incubation was continued for an additional 2 h. Standard yeast genetic techniques were performed according to Sherman et al. (1986).

Plasmids and recombinant DNA methods

Plasmids used in this study (Table S2) were constructed using standard procedures (Sambrook et al., 1989) in *E. coli* strain DH5α. In particular, plasmid PB3050 (Table S2) was provided by D. Pellman (Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA). Fidelity of all constructs was verified by nucleotide sequence analysis. All PCR reactions were performed using Phusion DNA polymerase (Finnzymes; Thermo Fisher Scientific). Site-directed mutagenesis using appropriate mismatch oligonucleotide primers was conducted using the QuikChange method and Pfu Turbo DNA polymerase (Agilent Technologies).

Preparation of cell extracts and immunoblotting

The cells in samples (1.5 ml) of an exponentially growing culture ($A_{600nm} = 0.6$) were collected by brief centrifugation, immediately frozen in liquid N₂, and then lysed by resuspension in 150 μl of 1.85 M NaOH, 7.4% β-mercaptoethanol. Protein in the resulting lysate was precipitated by the addition of 150 μl of 50% trichloroacetic acid on ice. After 10 min, the resulting denatured protein was collected by centrifugation, washed twice with acetone, and solubilized by resuspension in 80 μl of 0.1 M Tris, 5% SDS. Then, 20 μl of a 5× stock of SDS-PAGE sample buffer was added. After boiling for 5 min, portions (15 μl) of the samples containing Ypk1-myc were resolved by SDS-PAGE (8% acrylamide, 75:1 monomer-to-cross-linker), and samples containing Dnf1 (1403–1571)-myc were resolved on a Phos-tag gel (8% acrylamide, 29:1 monomer-to-cross-linker, 30 μM Phos-tag reagent; Wako Pure Chemical Industries), transferred to nitrocellulose, incubated with appropriate primary antibodies in Odyssey buffer (LI-COR Biosciences), washed, incubated with appropriate secondary antibodies conjugated to infrared fluorophores, and visualized using an Odyssey infrared imaging system (LI-COR Biosciences). The antibodies used in this work were: tissue culture medium containing mouse anti-c-myc mAb 9E10, raised against a synthetic peptide corresponding to the C-terminal residues (408–432) of human c-myc (AEEQKLISEEDLRLKRREQLKHKLE; epitope underlined) conjugated to keyhole limpet hemocyanin (1:100; Monoclonal Antibody Facility, Cancer Research Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley), mouse anti-HA mAb (1:1,000, Covance), mouse anti-GFP mAb (1:1,000, Roche), and rabbit polyclonal anti-Gin4 antibodies, raised against a purified bacterially expressed (His)₆-tagged C-terminal fragment (residues 870–1,142; 1:1,000, a gift of D. Kellogg, University of California, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA).

Protein kinase assay

GST-Gin4 or a kinase-dead mutant (K68A) were expressed and purified from *E. coli* and incubated at 30°C in protein kinase assay buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.2, 125 mM potassium acetate, 12 mM MgCl₂, 0.5 mM EDTA, 0.5 mM EGTA, 2 mM DTT, 1% glycerol, 0.02% BSA, 25 mM β -glycerol phosphate, and 1 mM sodium orthovanadate) with 100 μ M γ -[³²P]ATP ($\sim 5 \times 10^5$ cpm/nmol) and 0.5 μ g of GST-fused substrate protein (which also were prepared by expression in and purification from *E. coli*, as described in the following section). After 30 min, reactions were terminated by the addition of SDS-PAGE sample buffer containing 6% SDS followed by boiling for 5 min. Labeled proteins were resolved by SDS-PAGE and analyzed by autoradiography using a PhosphorImager (Molecular Dynamics Division, GE Healthcare).

Purification of GST fusion proteins

Freshly transformed BL21(DE3) cells carrying a plasmid expressing the desired GST fusion protein were grown to $A_{600nm} = 0.6$, and expression was induced by the addition of isopropyl- β -D-thiogalactopyranoside (final concentrations: 0.2 mM for GST-Fpk1 and 0.5 mM for GST-Gin4). After vigorous aeration for 8 h at 26°C (for GST-Fpk1) or 4 h at 30°C (for GST-Gin4), cells were harvested and the GST fusion protein was purified by column chromatography on glutathione-agarose beads using standard procedures.

Analysis of complex sphingolipids

Cells were adjusted to $A_{600nm} = 1.0$. 2-ml cultures were labeled with 100 μ Ci of [³²P] H₂PO₄ and cells were allowed to grow for 3 h. Myr was added to the overnight cultures at the indicated final concentrations from a stock of 0.625 mM (250 μ g/ml) in methanol. An equal volume of methanol was added to the negative culture. Lipids were extracted and resolved as described previously (Momoi et al., 2004) with minor modifications. The cell pellet was washed twice with 2 ml water and treated with 5% trichloroacetic acid for 20 min on ice. Pellets were extracted twice with ethanol/water/diethyl ether/pyridine/NH₄OH (15:15:5:1:0.018) at 60°C for 1 h. The combined extracts were treated with 0.1 N KOH in methanol for 1 h at 50°C to hydrolyze glycerophospholipids. Sphingolipids then were extracted with 3 ml chloroform, 1 ml methanol, and 4.5 ml of 0.5 N NH₄OH, and the chloroform layer was washed three times with alkaline water (0.05 N NH₄OH in water). For some samples, 1 ml of 4 M NaCl was added during chloroform extraction to facilitate separation of the aqueous and organic phases. The organic layer was dried in a Speedvac and resuspended in 50 μ l of chloroform/methanol/water (16:16:5), spotted at the origin of silica gel TLC plates, and resolved by ascending chromatography using chloroform/methanol/4.2 N NH₄OH (9:7:2) as the solvent. Radioactive species on the TLC plate was visualized using a phosphorimaging screen and a Typhoon imaging system.

Determination of total sphingolipids

Overnight cultures were adjusted to $A_{600nm} = 0.2$ and allowed to grow to an $A_{600nm} = 1.0$. The cell pellet from 10 ml of such cultures was used for analysis. Lipids were extracted, as described in the previous section, and total lipid extract was hydrolyzed with 0.5 M HCl in acetonitrile-water for 4 h at 70°C. After hydrolysis, the acid was neutralized by 0.2 ml NH₄OH, 1 ml CHCl₃ and 1 ml of water were added, solutions were mixed, phases were separated by centrifugation, and the organic layer was removed and dried in a Speedvac (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Dried lipids were resuspended in 0.3 ml methanol and derivatized with 0.1 ml o-phthalaldehyde, as described previously (Merrill et al., 2000). After incubation for 30 min, the reaction was centrifuged to remove particulate matter and 20–50 μ l of the supernatant was analyzed by HPLC performed using an Eclipse Plus C18 column (4.6 \times 150 mm, 5 μ m) on an HPLC device (120 Infinity; Agilent) equipped with a UV detector. Samples were resolved using a mobile phase gradient of methanol/5 mM potassium phosphate, pH 7.0, from 50:50 (vol/vol) to 95:5 (vol/vol) over a 7-min elution. PHS, both pure standard (Avanti Polar Lipids, Inc.) and in yeast samples, was reproducibly observed as a sharp peak at 2.9 min with a >1,000-fold signal-to-noise ratio. PHS standard was serially diluted and resolved by the same method to determine the linear range of the analysis.

Subcellular localization by fluorescence microscopy

Yeast proteins fused to either GFP (Tsien, 1998) or mCherry (Shaner et al., 2004) were constructed by in-frame integration at the corresponding chromosomal locus and expressed from the endogenous promoter, except Fpk1-GFP that was expressed from the *TP11* promoter on a *CEN* plasmid, which, as we demonstrated previously, displays a pattern of localization brighter than, but indistinguishable from, that exhibited by integrated

Fpk1-GFP expressed from its endogenous promoter (Roelants et al., 2010). All such fusions were functional, as judged by complementation tests, i.e., the ability of an integrated construct to confer a normal phenotype or a plasmid-borne construct to restore a normal phenotype to the corresponding null mutant. To visualize yeast proteins tagged with GFP or mCherry, cells were grown to mid-exponential phase, spotted on 1% agarose pads on a glass slide at room temperature, and viewed directly under an epifluorescence microscope (model BH-2; Olympus) using a 100 \times objective lens (D plan Apochromat 100, 1.3 numerical aperture) equipped with appropriate band-pass filters (Chroma Technology Corp.) and illuminated with a SOLA SE Light Engine (Lumencor, Inc.) for excitation. Images were collected using a charged-couple device camera (CoolSNAP MYO; Photometrics), and processed with Micro-Manager imaging software (Edelstein et al., 2010) and Photoshop (Adobe Systems).

Analysis of phosphorylation sites by mass spectrometry

GST-Fpk1(1–472) that was expressed and purified from *E. coli* was incubated exhaustively with excess Mg-ATP and GST-Gin4 that was also expressed and purified from *E. coli* in a standard protein kinase assay buffer (see the “Protein kinase assay” section). Portions of the phosphorylated GST-Fpk1 were denatured in 8 M urea, 100 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.5, reduced with 5 mM tris-(2-carboxyethyl)-phosphine, amidomethylated at its sole Cys (C173) by incubation in the dark with 10 mM freshly prepared iodoacetamide, and then concentrated fivefold using a Microcon 50 centrifugal filtration device (EMD Millipore). Portions of the resulting protein were diluted fourfold into 1 mM CaCl₂ and 100 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.5, and digested with at final concentration of 1.5 μ g/ml sequencing grade trypsin (Promega) or endoprotease Glu-C (*Staphylococcus aureus* V8 protease) at 37°C for at least 8 h. Reactions were terminated by the addition of 5% formic acid (final concentration). The resulting peptides were desalted using a C₁₈ spin tip (OMIX; Varian/Agilent Technologies). A nano LC column (consisting of 10 cm of C₁₈ 5- μ m packing material; Polariz, Varian/Agilent Technologies) was packed in a 100- μ m inner diameter glass capillary with an emitter tip, loaded with the sample by use of a pressure bomb, and washed extensively with Buffer A (5% acetonitrile, 0.02% heptafluorobutyric acid). The column was then directly coupled to an electrospray ionization source mounted on an LTQ XL linear ion trap mass spectrometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific). An HPLC (Model 1200; Agilent Technology) equipped with a split line, so as to deliver a flow rate of 300 nl/min, was used for elution using a linear gradient from 100% Buffer A to 60% Buffer B (80% acetonitrile, 0.02% heptafluorobutyric acid). The programs SEQUEST and DTASELECT (Eng et al., 1994; Tabb et al., 2002) were used to identify peptides from the *S. cerevisiae* database, supplemented with a database of common contaminants. Spectra identified by SEQUEST as phosphopeptides were inspected manually to further assess the quality of the match.

Online supplemental material

Fig. S1 shows that Kcc4 and Hsl1 do not affect Fpk1-dependent phosphorylation of Ypk1. Fig. S2 shows that Gin4 does not affect Fpk1 localization or level and the Gin4 phosphorylation sites in Fpk1(1–472). Fig. S3 shows that PM flippase activity is required for susceptibility to Myr, but does not affect sphingolipid levels. Fig. S4 shows that the KA1 domain of Gin4 is required for its negative regulation of Fpk1 activity. Fig. S5 shows that modest elevation of Cdc42 rescues *hof1 Δ* cells, whereas galactose-driven overexpression is toxic. Tables S1 and S2 list the yeast strains and plasmids used in this study. Online supplemental material is available at <http://www.jcb.org/cgi/content/full/jcb.201410076/DC1>.

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