

Interplay between BCL10, MALT1 and I κ B α during T-cell-receptor-mediated NF κ B activation

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Accepted 23 April 2010

Journal of Cell Science 123, 2375–2380

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doi:10.1242/jcs.069476

Summary

T-cell-receptor (TCR) signalling to NF κ B requires the assembly of a large multiprotein complex containing the serine/threonine kinase CK1 α , the scaffold protein CARMA1, the heterodimer BCL10-MALT1 (the CBM complex) and the I κ B kinase complex (IKK). Although the mechanisms regulating recruitment and activation of IKK within the CBM microenvironment have been extensively studied, there is little understanding of how IKK subsequently binds and phosphorylates I κ B α , the inhibitor of NF κ B, to promote I κ B α ubiquitylation and proteasomal degradation. Here, we show that BCL10, MALT1 and IKK inducibly associate with I κ B α in a complex that is physically distinct from the early CK1 α -CBM signalosome. This I κ B α -containing complex probably matures from the CBM, because siRNA-based knockdown of CARMA1, CK1 α and BCL10 hampered its assembly, leading to a reduction in NF κ B activation. By contrast, CK1 α normally recruited both BCL10 and ubiquitylated species of MALT1 when I κ B α levels were reduced. However, knockdown of I κ B α led to an altered ubiquitylation profile of BCL10-MALT1 combined with a defect in MALT1 reorganisation within large cytoplasmic structures, suggesting that, following stimulation, I κ B α might also participate in MALT1 recycling. Altogether, our data suggest a two-step mechanism to connect active IKK to I κ B α , and further unveil a potential role for I κ B α in resetting TCR-mediated signalling.

Key words: NF κ B, Lymphocyte, Signalling, Ubiquitylation

Introduction

The transcription factor NF κ B has a vital role in cellular development, homeostasis and survival in the immune system, as well as in the propagation of certain lymphoma cells (Ghosh and Hayden, 2008). The NF κ B heterodimer of Rel-family proteins, typically p50 and RelA (p65), is tethered to its main cognate inhibitors, I κ B proteins, in the cytosol of the cells. In T cells, T-cell-receptor (TCR) engagement nucleates a multiprotein complex within the lipid-raft microdomains to recruit and activate the inhibitor of NF κ B kinase (IKK) (Rawlings et al., 2006). IKK then phosphorylates and marks I κ B α for proteasomal degradation, thereby unleashing NF κ B, which translocates to the nucleus and initiates transcription of specific target genes (Wan and Lenardo, 2010).

Although this IKK-activating signalosome contains several proteins that are yet to be identified, the scaffold protein CARMA1, together with the heterodimer BCL10-MALT1 (CBM complex) and the serine threonine kinase CK1 α are essential to convey NF κ B signalling (Bidere et al., 2009; Egawa et al., 2003; Gaide et al., 2002; Ruland et al., 2001; Ruland et al., 2003; Wang et al., 2002). Non-degradative ubiquitylation of BCL10-MALT1 oligomers was proposed to authorise IKK recruitment and activation within the CBM (Oeckinghaus et al., 2007; Sun et al., 2004; Wu and Ashwell, 2008). To restrain signalling to a single pass, MALT1-associated ubiquitin chains are further targeted by deubiquitylating enzymes (DUBs), whereas BCL10 phosphorylation and ubiquitylation promote its turnover (Duwel et al., 2009; Lobry et al., 2007; Wegener et al., 2006; Zeng et al., 2007).

How the CBM links IKK to I κ B α is an open conundrum. Although a fraction of BCL10, MALT1 and IKK is quickly redistributed in raft microdomains upon stimulation (Bidere et al., 2006; Che et al., 2004; Wang et al., 2004), NF κ B, I κ B α and phosphorylated I κ B α remain cytosolic (Sebald et al., 2005). Here, we show that BCL10, MALT1 and IKK first assemble the early IKK-activating CK1 α -CBM signalosome, and subsequently associate with I κ B α in a physically distinct complex. This atypical BCL10-MALT1-I κ B α complex matures from the CK1 α -CBM and probably serves as an essential scaffold to bridge IKK to I κ B α and therefore expel NF κ B heterodimers. Furthermore, we provide evidence that I κ B α participates in the optimal ubiquitylation of BCL10 and in deubiquitylation and redistribution of MALT1 into large cytoplasmic structures.

Results and Discussion

To better understand how the CBM links IKK to NF κ B, I κ B α was immunoprecipitated from cell lysates of Jurkat T cells stimulated with PMA and ionomycin to mimic TCR activation. As expected, IKK β and phosphorylated species of IKK β did bind to I κ B α shortly after stimulation (Fig. 1A). Surprisingly, we also observed a robust association between I κ B α , BCL10 and MALT1. This complex appeared stable despite I κ B α degradation, and contrasted with the fast and transient binding of the same set of molecules to CK1 α (Fig. 1A). Indeed, CK1 α recruited BCL10, MALT1 and IKK β to reach a maximal interaction between 15–30 minutes after stimulation, before dismantling after 45–60 minutes (Fig. 1A). Of

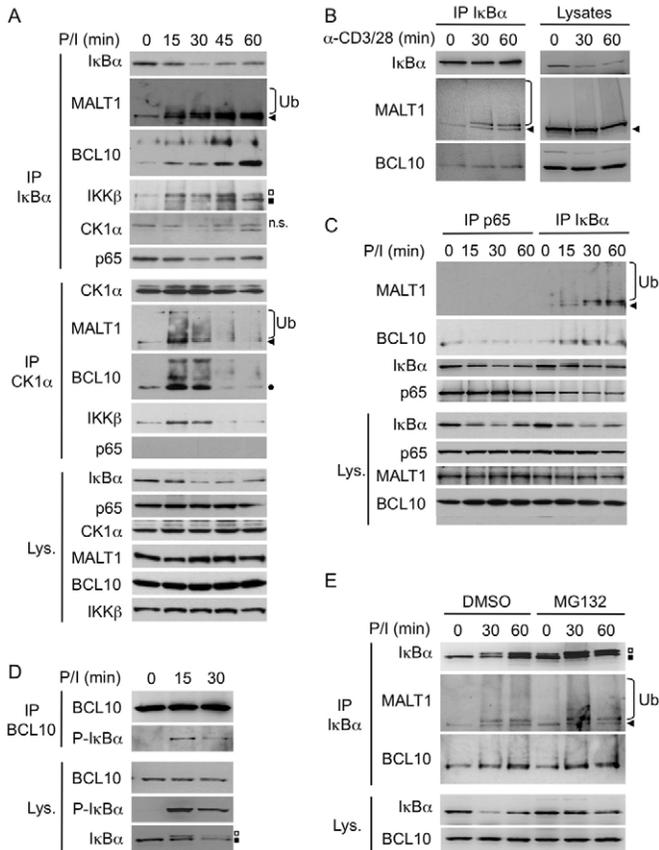


Fig. 1. Association of BCL10 and MALT1 with I κ B α and CK1 α during TCR activation. (A) Jurkat T cells were stimulated with 20 ng/ml PMA and 300 ng/ml ionomycin (P/I). Cell extracts were immunoprecipitated (IP) with antibodies against I κ B α or CK1 α , and immunoblots (IB) were performed as indicated. Closed and open squares indicate IKK β and phosphorylated-IKK β , respectively. Triangle and circle show unmodified MALT1 and BCL10, respectively. Ub, Ubiquitin; Lys, lysates. (B) Jurkat T cells stimulated with 1 μ g/ml anti-CD3 and anti-CD28. (C,D) Lysates from cells stimulated as in A. Closed and open squares indicate I κ B α and phosphorylated I κ B α . (E) Cells pretreated with 25 μ M MG132 or DMSO for 30 minutes were stimulated as in A.

note, a mixture of MALT1 and ubiquitylated species of MALT1 associated with I κ B α , whereas it was essentially ubiquitylated when bound to CK1 α . I κ B α association with BCL10 and MALT1 was also detected in cells stimulated with antibodies against CD3 and CD28 (Fig. 1B). Interestingly, we did not detect significant binding between I κ B α and CK1 α , suggesting that these two proteins might segregate in distinct complexes (Fig. 1A, and supplementary material Fig. S1). Since the association of BCL10 and MALT1 with CK1 α and I κ B α differed in their duration and dynamics, these complexes were termed complex I and complex II, respectively.

Because I κ B α phosphorylation and degradation coincided with recruitment of BCL10-MALT1, we further investigated whether NF κ B p65 could also be part of complex II. However, no BCL10 or MALT1 associated with p65, although they significantly bound to I κ B α (Fig. 1C). It is thus likely that BCL10-MALT1 accumulates with phosphorylated species of I κ B α as soon as it disengages from NF κ B. Accordingly, phosphorylated species of I κ B α were efficiently found together with BCL10 upon stimulation (Fig. 1D).

Finally, blockade of I κ B α degradation with the proteasome inhibitor MG132 only slightly increased its association with BCL10-MALT1, suggesting that BCL10 and MALT1 further dissociate from I κ B α regardless of its state of degradation (Fig. 1E). Altogether, our results suggest that BCL10 and MALT1 selectively and transiently associate with I κ B α during TCR stimulation.

To determine whether complexes I and II segregate in two distinct structures, I κ B α -containing units were precleared from cell lysates, and the association of CK1 α with MALT1 was investigated in the remaining extracts (Fig. 2A). If I κ B α , CK1 α and MALT1 assemble in a unique complex, then immunodepletion of I κ B α should also remove CK1 α -MALT1 interaction. Although I κ B α and I κ B α -associated proteins were significantly removed after two rounds of immunodepletion, MALT1 still efficiently coprecipitated with CK1 α in the remaining lysates (Fig. 2B-D). This suggests that MALT1 can partition between CK1 α - and I κ B α -associated complexes. Accordingly, removal of the CK1 α -containing complex only slightly affected the I κ B α association with BCL10-MALT1 (Fig. 2E,F). By contrast, immunodepletion of BCL10, which associates with both CK1 α and I κ B α , removed I κ B α binding to MALT1 (Fig. 2F). Collectively, our data suggest that BCL10 and MALT1 nucleate two separate complexes: an upstream CK1 α -containing platform and a downstream I κ B α -containing complex.

To further dissect interconnections between complexes I and II, BCL10-MALT1 recruitment to I κ B α was analysed in the absence of the upstream CK1 α and CARMA1, or BCL10. As expected, Jurkat T cells stably expressing a doxycyclin-dependent shRNA to knock down CK1 α exhibited decreased I κ B α degradation. This was accompanied by a reduced association of BCL10-MALT1 with I κ B α (Fig. 3A). Knockdown of CARMA1 or BCL10 with specific siRNA efficiently reduced TCR-mediated NF κ B and markedly diminished binding of BCL10-MALT1 to I κ B α (Fig. 3B,C,D). Similarly, BCL10, MALT1 and IKK β were recruited to I κ B α at a lower level in the CARMA1-deficient Jurkat-T-cell line JPM50.6 (Wang et al., 2002) (not shown). Altogether, our data suggest that complex I upstream components are required for bridging BCL10-MALT1-IKK to I κ B α , thereby driving its phosphorylation and degradation.

Several core components of the CBM exert contrasting function within the same complex. For example, CK1 α , PKC θ and IKK β positively convey NF κ B signalling, but also secondarily phosphorylate CARMA1 and BCL10 in a negative-feedback loop to inactivate the CBM (Bidere et al., 2009; Matsumoto et al., 2005; Moreno-Garcia et al., 2009; Sommer et al., 2005; Wegener et al., 2006; Zeng et al., 2007). To determine its impact on NF κ B and CBM formation, we used siRNA to knock down I κ B α . This led to a 60% knockdown, as estimated by densitometric analysis (not shown), which probably accounts for the lack of increased NF κ B baseline activity in our system. By contrast, TCR-induced NF κ B was significantly decreased (Fig. 4A), reinforcing the concept that I κ B proteins actively participate to stimulus responsiveness (Chen et al., 2000; Tergaonkar et al., 2005). This was, however, not due to defective binding of ubiquitylated MALT1 or BCL10 to CK1 α , because complex I assembled normally without I κ B α (Fig. 4B).

We further investigated whether I κ B α participates in the ubiquitylation of BCL10 and MALT1 that occurs during TCR signalling (Duwel et al., 2009; Scharschmidt et al., 2004). Subcellular-fractionation experiments revealed that BCL10 was essentially ubiquitylated in heavy membrane fractions, which

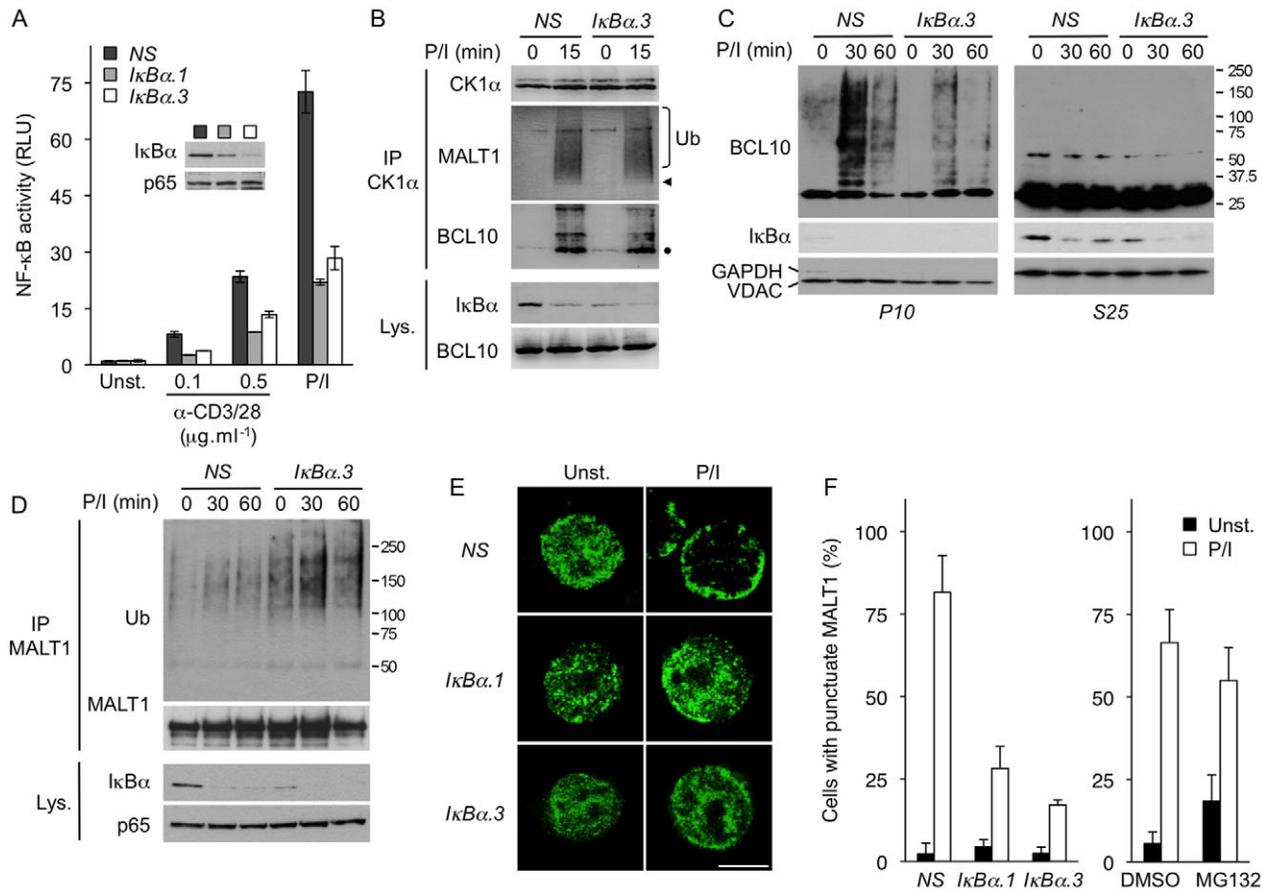


Fig. 4. Impact of knockdown of $I\kappa B\alpha$ on NF κ B activation and ubiquitylation and relocation of MALT1. (A) Jurkat cells were transfected with two individual siRNAs to knock down $I\kappa B\alpha$ ($I\kappa B\alpha.1$ and $I\kappa B\alpha.3$) or with a nonsilencing (NS) control for 3 days. Cells were then transfected with siRNA together with an NF κ B-dependent luciferase reporter gene and a *Renilla* luciferase control for an additional 24 hours, before stimulation with anti-CD3 and anti-CD28, or with 20 ng/ml PMA and 300 ng/ml ionomycin (P/I). Histograms represent the mean \pm s.d. of triplicate experiments. Knockdown efficiency was assessed by immunoblot (IB). (B) Jurkat T cells transfected with siRNA to knock down $I\kappa B\alpha$ were stimulated for 15 minutes as in A. Triangle and circle indicate unmodified MALT1 and BCL10, respectively. Ub, Ubiquitin. (C) Examination of BCL10 in heavy membrane (P10) and cytosolic fractions (S25). GAPDH and VDAC were used as purity control for cytosolic and membrane fractions, respectively. (D) MALT1 ubiquitylation profile. (E) siRNA-transfected Jurkat cells were stimulated with P/I for 60 minutes or left unstimulated (Unst.) and subcellular localisation of MALT1 was analysed by confocal microscopy. Scale bars: 10 μ m. (F) Number of cells exhibiting punctuate MALT1 staining was counted. Similar quantification was performed in cells pretreated with 25 μ M MG132 or with DMSO. $n=200$ in two independent experiments.

$I\kappa B\alpha$ levels significantly altered redistribution of MALT1, which remained mostly diffuse with discrete foci (Fig. 4E,F). By contrast, MG132 treatment did not affect relocation of MALT1, suggesting that $I\kappa B\alpha$ degradation is not a prerequisite for MALT1 redistribution upon stimulation (Fig. 4F). Altogether, our data show that $I\kappa B\alpha$ does not directly influence complex I assembly, but rather controls optimal ubiquitylation levels of BCL10-MALT1 and its redistribution upon stimulation.

In summary, we propose a model in which IKK is first activated within the CBM microenvironment until BCL10-MALT1 guide its subsequent release into the cytosol to target $I\kappa B\alpha$ in a distinct complex. Such a phenomenon might allow an 'all-or-nothing' threshold of activation, therefore avoiding any potentially harmful activation. This two-step system is reminiscent of CD40-induced IKK-MEKK1 activation, which triggers the recruitment at the membrane of a large multi-protein complex before its release into the cytosol through TRAF3 proteasomal degradation (Matsuzawa et al., 2008). Because MG132 did not affect the association of $I\kappa B\alpha$ with BCL10-MALT1, another molecular switch probably

exists. In this scenario, IKK β -driven serine phosphorylation of BCL10 is an appealing candidate for triggering expulsion of $I\kappa B\alpha$ -activating structures into the cytosol, because it destabilises the CBM and ultimately favours BCL10 turnover (Wegener et al., 2006; Welteke et al., 2009; Zeng et al., 2007). In addition to NF κ B, CARMA1 also controls TCR-induced JNK2 activation through the BCL10-MALT1 association with JNK2, TAK1 and MKK7 (Blonska et al., 2007). It will therefore be interesting to determine whether this MAPK-activating platform is different from the $I\kappa B\alpha$ -activating structure we describe here.

How $I\kappa B\alpha$ positively participates in activation of NF κ B in addition to its inhibitory function remains unclear. $I\kappa B\alpha$ probably bridges IKK to NF κ B and helps to ensure stimulus responsiveness (Tergaonkar et al., 2005). Although CK1 α efficiently assembled the CBM, ubiquitylation patterns of BCL10 and MALT1 were altered, and MALT1 no longer reorganised into large cytosolic structures without $I\kappa B\alpha$. Such structures might favour removal of MALT1-associated ubiquitin chains by DUBs, which thus resets MALT1. Because A20 removes K63-linked ubiquitin chains from

MALT1 at the CBM level to ensure IKK fine-tuning (Duwel et al., 2009), other DUBs are probably involved downstream of IκBα. In addition to blocking MALT1 enzyme activity (Ferch et al., 2009; Hailfinger et al., 2009; Rebeaud et al., 2008), regulation of its location or post-translational modifications might be a relevant strategy to treat a subset of activated B-cell-like diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (ABC DLBCL) lines, which rely on the CBM for their survival (Bidere et al., 2009; Compagno et al., 2009; Lenz et al., 2008; Ngo et al., 2006).

Collectively, our data provide mechanistic insights on how IKK connects to IκBα during TCR stimulation. Our findings reinforce the idea that TCR-mediated activation of NFκB is a dynamic network of multi-protein complexes, which further mature into separate units.

Materials and Methods

Cell culture and reagents

Jurkat T cells E6.1 were purchased from ATCC, and cells stably expressing a doxycycline-dependent shRNA to knock down CK1α were previously described (Bidere et al., 2009). Cells were activated with a combination of soluble anti-CD3ε and anti-CD28 (BD Biosciences), or with phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate (PMA, Sigma) together with ionomycin (Calbiochem). MG132 was from Merck.

Cell lysates, immunoprecipitation and immunoblotting

25–50 × 10⁶ cells per condition were sequentially stimulated to collect the samples simultaneously. Reactions were stopped with ice-cold PBS and cell pellets were further lysed with TNT buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, 150 mM NaCl, 1% Triton X-100, 1% NP-40, 2 mM EDTA) supplemented with complete protease inhibitors (Roche), and samples were cleared by a centrifugation at 10,000 g at 4°C. Protein concentration was determined with a micro BCA kit (Pierce). Samples (1–2 mg) were precleared with protein-G-Sepharose beads (Roche) for 1 hour before immunoprecipitation with 5 μg antibodies and additional protein-G-Sepharose beads at 4°C for 2 hours. For immunodepletion experiments, lysates were precleared once with 5 μg antibodies and protein-G-Sepharose beads for 2 hours, and twice with protein-G-Sepharose for 1 hour at 4°C to remove the remaining immunocomplexes. Depleted lysates were then subjected to another round of immunoprecipitation for 2 hours. MALT1 ubiquitylation assays were performed as described (Oeckinghaus et al., 2007). For subcellular fractionation experiments, cells were mechanically permeabilised with 27G^{1/2} syringe in 20 mM HEPES pH 7.9, 1.5 mM MgCl₂, 60 mM KCl, and protease inhibitors. Nuclei and unbroken cells were removed at 2000 g. Supernatants were spun at 10,000 g to obtain heavy membrane pellets, whereas cytosol was further collected after a 25,000 g centrifugation. Antibodies against BCL10 (A-6; 331.3), CK1α (C-19), LAMP2 (H4B4), IκBα (C-21; 6A920), p65 (C-20), MALT1 (H-300; B-12), and ubiquitin (P4D1) were from Santa Cruz. Antibodies against phosphorylated IκBα (5A5) and CARMA1 (Cell Signaling Technologies), IKKβ and calreticulin (BD), VDAC (Calbiochem) and GAPDH (Sigma) were also used. Anti-K48- (Apu2) and anti-K63-ubiquitin (HWA4C4) were from Millipore. Secondary antibodies were HRP-conjugated (Southern Biotechnology). Immobilon (Millipore) chemiluminescent substrates were used for illumination of immunoblots.

Luciferase assays

For luciferase reporter assays, firefly luciferase constructs downstream of promoters for NFκB or driven by NFκB-binding sequences were co-transfected with *Renilla* luciferase pRL-TK (Int⁺) expression plasmids (Promega). Lysates were analysed using the Dual-Luciferase Kit (Promega), with firefly fluorescence units normalised to *Renilla* luciferase fluorescence units.

siRNA and transfections

siRNA (Invitrogen) targeted *BCL10*, 5'-GCCACGAACAACCUCUCCAGAUCAA-3' or 5'-UCAGAUAGAGAUAAUUUCUGAAA-3'; *IκBα1*, 5'-ACGAGAGUACGACGACAGUUGCAA-3'; *IκBα3*, 5'-GACACAGUCAGAGUUCACGGAGU-3'; and *CARMA1*, 5'-UGUCCGUUGGACACAUGCACAAA-3'.

Confocal microscopy

Stimulated cells were resuspended in 1% PBS-FBS to adhere onto poly-L-lysine-coated slides for 10 minutes, fixed in 4% PBS-formaldehyde for 15 minutes and were permeabilised in 0.05% Triton X-100 in PBS for 5 minutes. Rabbit polyclonal or mouse monoclonal anti-MALT1 were used (Santa Cruz). All samples were analysed using a Leica SP2 confocal microscope (Imagery core facility, Institut Cochin, France).

This work was supported by grants from ANR, Fondation de France, Association pour la Recherche contre le Cancer, and Ligue Nationale

contre le Cancer (Equipe Labellisée et comité Val de Marne). J.G. is supported by a Marie Curie International Reintegration Grant within the 7th European Community Framework Program (PIRG04-GA-2008-239126) and by Ligue Nationale contre le Cancer comité Paris. G.C. is supported by a postdoctoral fellowship from la Ligue contre le Cancer, and A.L.G. by a Ph.D. fellowship from University Paris Descartes. We thank D. Arnout for helpful discussions.

Supplementary material available online at

<http://jcs.biologists.org/cgi/content/full/123/14/2375/DC1>

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