

# PIP2 Regulation in Cell

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Phosphoinositides play a crucial role in regulating many cellular functions, such as actin dynamics, signaling, intracellular trafficking, membrane dynamics, and cell–matrix adhesion. Central to this process is phosphatidylinositol biphosphate (PIP2). The levels of PIP2 in the membrane are rapidly altered by the activity of phosphoinositide-directed kinases and phosphatases, and it binds to dozens of different intracellular proteins. Despite the vast literature dedicated to understanding the regulation of PIP2 in cells over past 30 years, much remains to be learned about its cellular functions. Here, we focus on past and recent exciting results on different molecular mechanisms that regulate cellular functions by binding of specific proteins to PIP2 or by stabilizing phosphoinositide pools in different cellular compartments. Moreover, this review summarizes recent findings that implicate dysregulation of PIP2 in many diseases.

Phosphoinositides

PIP2

Cellular signaling pathways

intracellular trafficking

Cancer

actin dynamics

membrane dynamics

Focal adhesion

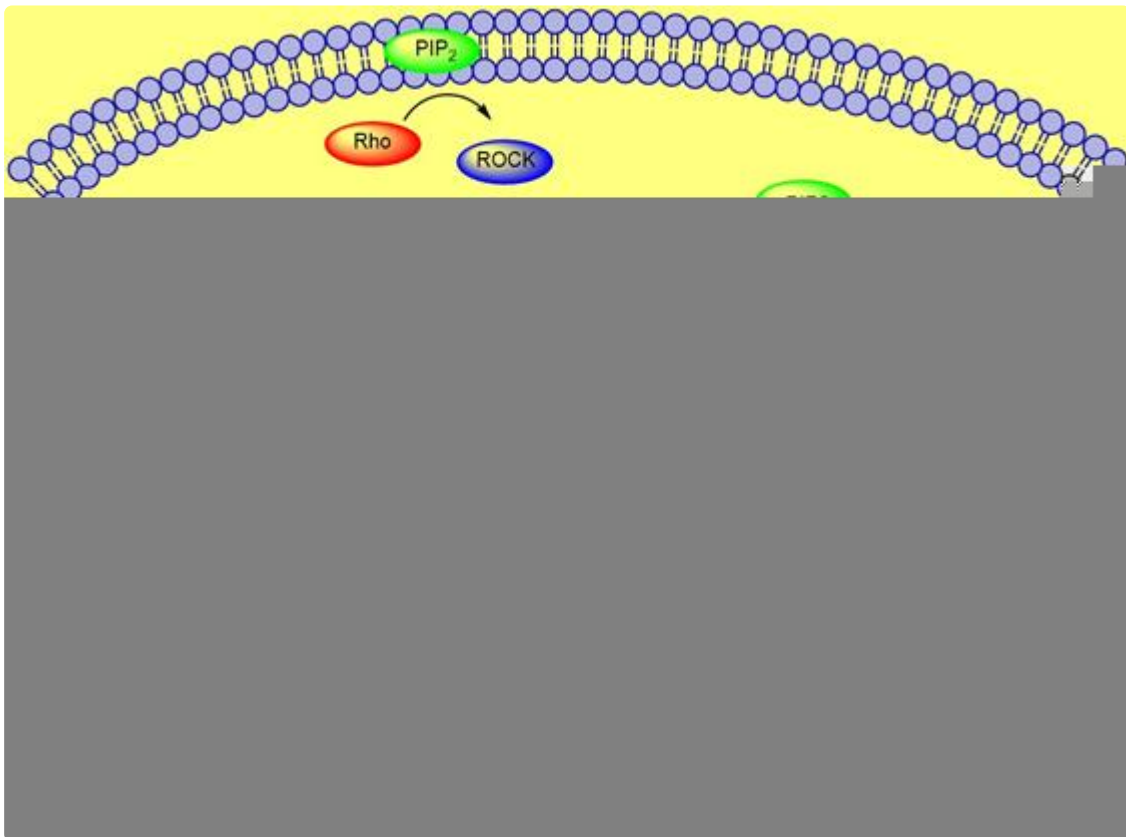
diseases

## 1. Introduction

Phosphoinositides (PPIs), are inositol-containing glycerophospholipids bearing variable numbers of phosphate groups on their headgroups <sup>[1]</sup>. PPIs are multifaceted molecules that have recently become an interesting player in regulating cell function due to their involvement in cellular functions such as actin dynamics, membrane trafficking, regulation of transmembrane proteins and signal transduction <sup>[2][3][4][5][6][7][8]</sup>. Although the total amount of PPIs in eukaryotic cell membranes is low, they play critical roles in cellular dynamics by regulating multiprotein complexes <sup>[9][10]</sup>. The spatiotemporal regulation of PPI-mediated biological processes is achieved by interconversion ([Figure 1](#)) of the phosphorylation states of PPIs by specific kinases and phosphatases, followed by recruitment of PPI-specific effectors. Inter-conversion of the phosphate groups is spatially controlled by phosphoinositide-metabolizing kinases and phosphatases as required for cellular functions <sup>[11][12]</sup>. PPIs generate seven possible isoforms by phosphorylating the inositol ring at positions 3, 4, and 5. Three isoforms of PPIs with two phosphate groups connected to the inositol ring, phosphatidylinositol-(4,5)-bisphosphate (PI(4, 5)P<sub>2</sub>), phosphatidylinositol-(3,5)-bisphosphate (PI(3, 5)P<sub>2</sub>) and phosphatidylinositol-(3,4)-bisphosphate (PI(3, 4)P<sub>2</sub>) are the focus of this review. PI(3,4)P<sub>2</sub> and PI(3,5)P<sub>2</sub> are produced by the phosphorylation of PI3P, and PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub> is produced by the phosphorylation of PI4P or PI5P. The synthesis of PIP2 by phosphorylation of PI5P is regulated by PIP4K, which is one of the less studied pathways. In addition, PIP4K is able to phosphorylate PI3P, but only able to alter PI5P levels in vivo <sup>[13]</sup> (PI(4, 5)P<sub>2</sub>) can be further phosphorylated to (PI(3,4,5)P<sub>3</sub>) and (PI(3,4,5)P<sub>3</sub>) is converted to (PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub>) by the enzyme phosphate and tensin homolog deleted from chromosome 10 (PTEN) <sup>[14]</sup>. PIP3



Actin polymerization is regulated by a variety of actin binding proteins [28][37]. Actin dynamics depend upon the continuous attachment of G- actin at the barbed (+) end and dissociation at the pointed (-) end, and that defines the filament length [38]. Cofilin is an actin binding protein that binds to both F-actin and G-actin and is a severing protein responsible for actin depolymerization (Figure 2) [38][39][40]. ADF/ cofilin binds to PIP<sub>2</sub> through a multivalent mechanism and the dissociation of ADF/cofilin to actin filament can accurately be regulated by changing PIP<sub>2</sub> density at the cell membrane [41]. One study found that cofilin binds to PIP<sub>2</sub> via a specific pocket which is pH dependent [42]. However, this result contrasts with recent finding showing that cofilin interaction with PIP<sub>2</sub> is not pH dependent, but the interaction of profilin with membrane, actin and multiple PIP<sub>2</sub> headgroup (clustering) is affected somewhat when pH is increased [41]. Cofilin's activity depends on phosphorylation, which is regulated by Rho-GTPase and LIM kinase (LIMK) and by binding PPIs [43]. The rho-family small GTPases, Rho, Rac, and Cdc42, play a central role in regulating actin reorganization through their various downstream effectors [44] LIMK1 and LIMK2 are activated by the GTPase-dependent protein kinases ROCK and PAK1 by phosphorylation of Thr508 and Thr-505, respectively, in the activation loop of the kinase domain [4][45]. LIMK1 and LIMK2 both regulate actin cytoskeletal reorganization by phosphorylating and inactivating cofilin/ADF [4][6]. Hence, cofilin is regulated by the signals from both the Rho and Rac pathways. Epidermal growth factor (EGF) induces sudden loss of PIP<sub>2</sub> in membrane that activates local cofilin pool in membrane in carcinoma [46]. These altogether lead to a dramatic turnover of actin monomers (Figure 2).



**Figure 2.** Role of PIP<sub>2</sub> in actin dynamics either by promoting polymerization or inhibiting severing. The figure summarizes gelsolin, profilin, cofilin, Arp2/3, and WASP dynamics in coordination with Rho- ROCK and Rac

pathways.

### 3. PIP<sub>2</sub> in Adhesion Dynamics

PIP<sub>2</sub> binds to many focal adhesion proteins, such as vinculin, talin, and the focal adhesion kinase FAK. PIP<sub>2</sub> serves as linkage to focal adhesion and actin binding proteins. There are actin binding proteins such as  $\alpha$ -actinin, ezrin or filamin which also bind to focal adhesions. A synthetic peptide of  $\alpha$ -actinin inhibits PLC- $\gamma$ 1 and PLC- $\delta$ 1 activity and inhibition is induced by PIP<sub>2</sub> competition [40]. PIP<sub>2</sub> binding to  $\alpha$ -actinin is inhibited by the treatment of cells with platelet derived growth factor, resulting in actin depolymerization. A recent study showed that the architecture of  $\alpha$ -actinin-2 and 3 provides a suitable spatial orientation platform for PIP<sub>2</sub> bonding by performing molecular dynamics (MD) simulations [47]. In smooth muscle in which  $\alpha$ -actinin was discovered, PIP<sub>2</sub> is found in large amounts which facilitates gelation of actin [48][49]. The length of smooth muscle depends upon the PIP<sub>2</sub> synthesis, which regulates inositol phospholipid turnover [50]. Filamin A is another crosslinker protein which forms contacts between focal adhesions and F-actin. Filamin is associated to the cell membrane by  $\beta$  integrins. PIP<sub>2</sub> bound to filamin A inhibits the gel formation of actin. Filamin has three isoforms called FLNa, FLNb, and FLNc. FLNa is recruited by CD28 followed by lipid raft accumulation at the immunological synapsis in T lymphocyte activation. PIP<sub>2</sub> is essential for the clustering of lipid raft [51]. Ezrin is one of the ERM (ezrin, radixin, moesin) family proteins, which also forms linkages between the cellular membrane and cytoskeleton. Ezrin exists in both active and inactive states within cells. PIP<sub>2</sub> activates Ezrin by binding with it and becomes available for phosphorylation by Rho-kinase and many PKC isoforms [52]. Neutron scattering experiment showed for the first-time, the conformational changes of ezrin when it simultaneously binds to PIP<sub>2</sub> and F-actin [53].

Focal adhesion kinase (FAK) is a protein tyrosine kinase implicated in many signaling pathways to regulate cellular functions including migration. When a cell binds to the extracellular matrix (ECM), FAK is recruited to focal adhesion (FA) sites and undergoes conformational change, which is activated by phospholipids such as PIP<sub>2</sub> by unblocking the FERM domain and kinase domain. Simulation results show that FAK transiently binds to PIP<sub>2</sub> through electrostatic interactions [54]. Molecular dynamics simulation and fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) experiments both showed that FAK binding to ATP decreases the FRET signal confirming that the PIP<sub>2</sub> binding acts in the reverse direction [55][56]. Phosphatidylinositol 4-phosphate 5-kinase type 1 $\gamma$  (PIP5K1 $\gamma$ ) is required for efficient FAK activation and generates PIP<sub>2</sub> locally in FAs by PIP5K1 $\gamma$ . Thus, PIP<sub>2</sub> is a strong mediator in integrin-FAK signaling pathways [55].

Talin plays a crucial role in activating integrins [57][58]. Within the cytosol talin is in an inactivated form, where its C-terminal rod domain binds to the N-terminal head domain. Many pathways lead to disruption of the interaction between talin's C-terminal and N-terminal including binding with PIP5K1 $\gamma$  which generates PIP<sub>2</sub> from PI4P [59]. Ye et al. delineate a detailed account of PIP<sub>2</sub> in activating talin by using FRET. They showed interaction of talin with lipid bilayers is altered by PIP<sub>2</sub> [60]. The FERM domain of talin-1 binds to the cytosolic domain of  $\beta_3$ -integrin weakly (Figure 3). However, the interaction affinity increases three-fold when it synergistically binds to acidic PIP<sub>2</sub> [8][61][62]. Membrane bound talin recruits and activates vinculin. Vinculin localizes at the adhesion complex and interacts with PIP<sub>2</sub> to associate with the membrane (Figure 3) [63]. Simulation data shows that PIP<sub>2</sub> is not required for vinculin

localization at FAs but is needed for the activation of FA turnover during mechanotransduction processes [63]. Other studies mentioned that PIP<sub>2</sub> is required for FA formation and vinculin phosphorylation and trafficking [64].

**Figure 3.** Role of PIP<sub>2</sub> in regulating focal adhesion assembly. Depiction of adhesion molecules talin, vinculin, ezrin, filamin and  $\alpha$ -actinin. PIP<sub>2</sub> synergistically binds to both talin and integrin and activates both of them. Talin binds directly to actin or activates vinculin and facilitates its binding to actin. PIP<sub>2</sub> also binds to FERM domain of FAK and binds to vinculin via paxillin. PIP<sub>2</sub> negatively regulates cross-linking activity of filamin and the actin bundle formation mediated by  $\alpha$ -actinin.

## **4. Conclusions and outlook**

Past evidence suggests that actin is connected to the membrane via actin binding proteins such as  $\alpha$ -actinin or filamin which are regulated by phosphoinositides. These interactions also affect the binding of actin filaments with focal adhesion proteins such as paxillin, talin, FAK, or vinculin. The distribution of PIP<sub>2</sub> in the membrane regulates cell signaling. PIP<sub>2</sub> activity depends upon the concentration of cholesterol and divalent ions such as Ca<sup>2+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup>, or Zn<sup>2+</sup>. In addition, PIP<sub>2</sub> plays a crucial role in modulating many signaling pathways such as PIP3/Akt, mTORc1, or Rho dependent pathways that have implications in many diseases including cancer, neurodegenerative disease, or down syndrome.

Although PPIs are essential for many cellular functions, there are disparities in many processes which need further studies. PIP<sub>2</sub> plays an important role in actin reorganization and filament dynamics. However, the role of PIP<sub>2</sub> in any other cytoskeletal component has not yet been well studied. Among PIP<sub>2</sub> binding actin proteins, LIMK1 and LIMK2 play an overlapping role in actin reorganization in the Rho-ROCK pathway. Further studies are required to differentiate the functional role of LIMK1 and LIMK2. Moreover, it is unclear if members of ROCK and PAK family proteins function as LIMK- activating kinases. Cortactin shows dependencies on PIP<sub>2</sub> and Rac in dissociating from

actin–myosin complex, although the direct implication of PIP<sub>2</sub> in regulating cortactin still remains controversial [65], and other activators such as the endocytic protein Abp1p remain unclear. It has been shown that a synthetic peptide of  $\alpha$ -actinin inhibits PLC- $\gamma$ 1 and PLC- $\delta$ 1. It is ambiguous whether PIP<sub>2</sub> bound to  $\alpha$ -actinin is hydrolyzed by activated PLC- $\gamma$ 1 or not. The interaction of vinculin and membrane is based upon either full length or tail domain of vinculin in lipid bilayers or in cells. However, a specific lipid binding site has yet to be discovered.

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