

Figure 1. Isoforms of phosphoinositides. By the action of PIK and phosphatase, phosphatidylinositol (PtdIns) and the three isoforms of PIP2 are formed, as indicated here. The specific action of PI3K I, II III and of the 3-phosphatases are also illustrated.

Phosphoinositides control intracellular trafficking, membrane dynamics and cytoskeletal organization by interacting with many different proteins [17][18][19]. PIP₂ regulates other membrane phospholipids and their signaling functions [7][17]. The major roles it plays in the cell membrane include cytoskeletal linkage, regulation of ion channels, and intracellular trafficking [20]. PI dynamics and mechanism are precisely controlled by kinase and phosphatase [21][22]. Recent studies showed the direct implication of these enzymes in diseases including liver cancer, glioblastoma or neurodegeneration [11][23]. Thus, many studies target phosphoinositide kinase inhibitors for pathological studies.

2. PIP₂ in Actin Dynamics

Cytoskeletal dynamics play an important role in many cellular functions such as force generation, intracellular transport, or migration [24][25][26][27]. Actin forms the network inside the cell which is the most responsible for cellular architecture providing the cell a mechanical scaffold [24][27][28]. Accumulated evidence suggests that membrane PIP₂ regulates the function of many acting binding proteins including formin, gelsolin, cofilin, profilin, filamin, WASP, ezrin, α -actinin, and others, which control the dynamical organization of the actin network [9][29][30][31][32][33]. PIP₂ mostly inactivates actin binding proteins that inhibit actin polymerization and activates proteins which promote filamentous assembly [30][34]. Proteins bind to PIPs via numerous different structures, including the pleckstrin homology (PH) domain of phospholipase C-delta1, the Gag precursor protein Pr55 of HIV-1, phox homology (PX), C2, SH2, protein tyrosine binding, FYVE, PHD, GRAM, BAR, and espin N-terminal homology (ENTH)/ANTH domains, forming a large family of domains collectively [35][36].

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 PIP₂ through a multivalent mechanism and the dissociation of ADF/cofilin to actin filament can accurately be regulated by changing PIP₂ density at the cell membrane [41]. One study found that cofilin binds to PIP₂ via a specific pocket which is pH dependent [42]. However, this result contrasts with recent finding showing that cofilin interaction with PIP₂ is not pH dependent, but the interaction of profilin with membrane, actin and multiple PIP₂ 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 [41][45]. LIMK1 and LIMK2 both regulate actin cytoskeletal reorganization by phosphorylating and inactivating cofilin/ADF [41][6]. Hence, cofilin is regulated by the signals from both the Rho and Rac pathways. Epidermal growth factor (EGF) induces sudden loss of PIP₂ 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 PIP₂ 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. PIP₂ in Adhesion Dynamics

PIP₂ binds to many focal adhesion proteins, such as vinculin, talin, and the focal adhesion kinase FAK. PIP₂ serves as linkage to focal adhesion and actin binding proteins. There are actin binding proteins such as α -actinin, ezrin or filamin which also bind to focal adhesions. A synthetic peptide of α -actinin inhibits PLC- γ 1 and PLC- δ 1 activity and inhibition is induced by PIP₂ competition [40]. PIP₂ binding to α -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 α -actinin-2 and 3 provides a suitable spatial orientation platform for PIP₂ bonding by performing molecular dynamics (MD) simulations [47]. In smooth muscle in which α -actinin was discovered, PIP₂ is found in large amounts which facilitates gelation of actin [48][49]. The length of smooth muscle depends upon the PIP₂ 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 β integrins. PIP₂ 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. PIP₂ 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. PIP₂ 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 PIP₂ 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 PIP₂ by unblocking the FERM domain and kinase domain. Simulation results show that FAK transiently binds to PIP₂ 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 PIP₂ binding acts in the reverse direction [55][56]. Phosphatidylinositol 4-phosphate 5-kinase type 1 γ (PIP5K1 γ) is required for efficient FAK activation and generates PIP₂ locally in FAs by PIP5K1 γ . Thus, PIP₂ 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 γ which generates PIP₂ from PI4P [59]. Ye et al. delineate a detailed account of PIP₂ in activating talin by using FRET. They showed interaction of talin with lipid bilayers is altered by PIP₂ [60]. The FERM domain of talin-1 binds to the cytosolic domain of β_3 -integrin weakly (Figure 3). However, the interaction affinity increases three-fold when it synergistically binds to acidic PIP₂ [8][61][62]. Membrane bound talin recruits and activates vinculin. Vinculin localizes at the adhesion complex and interacts with PIP₂ to associate with the membrane (Figure 3) [63]. Simulation data shows that PIP₂ 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 PIP₂ is required for FA formation and vinculin phosphorylation and trafficking [64].

Figure 3. Role of PIP₂ in regulating focal adhesion assembly. Depiction of adhesion molecules talin, vinculin, ezrin, filamin and α -actinin. PIP₂ 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. PIP₂ also binds to FERM domain of FAK and binds to vinculin via paxillin. PIP₂ negatively regulates cross-linking activity of filamin and the actin bundle formation mediated by α -actinin.

4. Conclusions and outlook

Past evidence suggests that actin is connected to the membrane via actin binding proteins such as α -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 PIP₂ in the membrane regulates cell signaling. PIP₂ activity depends upon the concentration of cholesterol and divalent ions such as Ca²⁺, Mg²⁺, or Zn²⁺. In addition, PIP₂ 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. PIP₂ plays an important role in actin reorganization and filament dynamics. However, the role of PIP₂ in any other cytoskeletal component has not yet been well studied. Among PIP₂ 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 PIP₂ and Rac in dissociating from actin-myosin complex, although the direct implication of PIP₂ 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 α -actinin inhibits PLC- γ 1 and PLC- δ 1. It is ambiguous whether PIP₂ bound to α -actinin is hydrolyzed by activated PLC- γ 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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