Phospholipase D signaling: orchestration by PIP_2 and small GTPases

**Paschal A. Oude Weernink · Maider López de Jesús ·
Martina Schmidt**

Abstract Hydrolysis of phosphatidylcholine by phospho-
lipase D (PLD) leads to the generation of the versatile lipid
second messenger, phosphatidic acid (PA), which is
involved in fundamental cellular processes, including
membrane trafficking, actin cytoskeleton remodeling, cell
proliferation and cell survival. PLD activity can be
dramatically stimulated by a large number of cell surface
receptors and is elaborately regulated by intracellular
factors, including protein kinase C isoforms, small GTPases
of the ARF, Rho and Ras families and, particularly, by the
phosphoinositide, phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate
(PIP_2). PIP_2 is well known as substrate for the generation
of second messengers by phospholipase C, but is now also
understood to recruit and/or activate a variety of actin
regulatory proteins, ion channels and other signaling
proteins, including PLD, by direct interaction. The synthe-
sis of PIP_2 by phosphoinositide 5-kinase (PIP5K) isoforms
is tightly regulated by small GTPases and, interestingly, by
PA as well, and the concerted formation of PIP_2 and PA has
been shown to mediate receptor-regulated cellular events.
This review highlights the regulation of PLD by membrane
receptors, and describes how the close encounter of PLD
and PIP5K isoforms with small GTPases permits the
execution of specific cellular functions.

This paper is dedicated to Karl H. Jakobs.

P. A. Oude Weernink · M. López de Jesús
Institut für Pharmakologie, Universitätsklinikum Essen,
Essen, Germany

M. Schmidt (✉)
Department of Molecular Pharmacology,
University of Groningen,
A. Deusinglaan 1,
9713 AV Groningen, The Netherlands
e-mail: m.schmidt@rug.nl

Introduction

The activation of membrane receptors by hormones and
growth factors results in the localized generation of
intracellular second messengers. The hydrolysis of mem-
brane phospholipids and the generation of biologically
active products play important roles in the regulation of cell
function and cell fate. Well known is the activation of
phosphoinositide-specific phospholipase C (PLC) isoforms,
which hydrolyze phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate
(PIP_2), a membrane phospholipid found in all eukaryotic
cells (Schmidt et al. 2004). Stimulation of PLC isoforms
plays a major role in many early and late cellular responses
to receptor activation, including smooth muscle contraction,
secretion and neuronal signaling as well as fertilization, cell
growth and differentiation (Berridge 2005; Nishizuka
2003). Phospholipase D (PLD) was first described 60 years
ago as a distinct, phospholipid-specific phosphodiesterase
activity in cabbage leaves (Hanahan and Chaikoff 1948).
This pioneering research indicated that PLD hydrolyzes
phosphatidylcholine to yield phosphatidic acid (PA) and
choline. The recognition that PLD is rapidly and dramat-
ically activated in response to extracellular stimuli in
cultured animal cells, now 20 years ago (Bocckino et al.
1987; Cockcroft 1984), has brought PLD signaling to the
very forefront of current biological and biomedical re-
search. Meanwhile, phosphatidylcholine-hydrolyzing PLD
has been identified in bacteria, protozoa, fungi, plants and
animals, and, due to this widespread distribution, is assumed
to be involved in the regulation of fundamental cellular
functions. Indeed, it has now been established that activation

of PLD and the generation of PA by a vast number of membrane receptors modulate such a wide array of cellular responses as calcium mobilization, secretion, superoxide production, endocytosis, exocytosis, vesicle trafficking, glucose transport, rearrangements of the actin cytoskeleton, mitogenesis and survival (Cockcroft 2001; Exton 2002b; Jenkins and Frohman 2005; Liscovitch et al. 2000).

PIP_2 is a critical cofactor for PLD, and profoundly affects the activity, membrane localization and receptor activation of both PLD isoforms, PLD1 and PLD2 (Brown et al. 1993; Hodgkin et al. 2000; Liscovitch et al. 1994; Pertile et al. 1995; Schmidt et al. 1996d). Thus, reduction of cellular PIP_2 levels, for instance via scavenging of PIP_2 by the actin-binding protein fodrin (Lukowski et al. 1998) or via forced PIP_2 hydrolysis by the phosphatase synaptojanin (Chung et al. 1997), has been shown to inhibit PLD activity. Vice versa, the synthesis of PIP_2 by phosphoinositide 5-kinase (PIP5K) isoforms can be directly stimulated by the PLD product PA (Jenkins et al. 1994; Moritz et al. 1992), and this regulation has also been confirmed to occur at the whole cell level (Divecha et al. 2000; Jones et al. 2000b; Skippen et al. 2002). It is now hypothesized that the reciprocal stimulation of PLD and PIP5K enzymes enables rapid feed-forward stimulation loops for a localized and explosive generation of PA and PIP_2, which may then govern the recruitment and activation of proteins to execute specific cellular tasks, especially membrane trafficking, and changes in the organization of the actin cytoskeleton. The activity and localization of both PLD and PIP5K are under control of GTPases of the Arf and Rho families, which are well-defined regulators of membrane transport and actin-reorganization processes. The reciprocal stimulation of PIP5K and PLD, and the regulation of these enzymes by ARF and Rho GTPases, point to concerted mechanisms in cellular actions, involving acute, localized PIP_2 and PA synthesis (Fig. 1). This review will focus on the regulation of PLD enzymes by membrane receptors and monomeric GTPases, and on how PLD signaling is organized and connected by PIP_2 metabolism.

Phosphatidic acid and PLD isoforms

Most cellular responses following PLD activation are probably mediated by the immediate reaction product PA. PA is a multifunctional lipid that can be further metabolized to the bioactive lipids, lysophosphatidic acid (LPA) and diacylglycerol (DAG), can by itself alter membrane curvature, and can serve as a protein attachment site and affect both cellular localization and activity of various proteins, including Raf-1 kinase, protein phosphatase 1, sphingosine kinase 1, and mTOR (mammalian target of rapamycin), a key regulator of cell growth and proliferation (Jenkins and Frohman 2005). PLD enzymes can catalyze a transphosphatidylation reaction in which the phosphatidyl moiety of phosphatidylcholine is accepted by primary

Fig. 1 Regulation and cellular roles of PLD and PIP5K. Regulation of PLD and PIP5K by ARF and Rho family GTPases is essentially involved in the regulation of intracellular vesicle trafficking and actin cytoskeleton reorganization. Both PLD and PIP5K are stimulated by cell surface receptors and by conventional PKC isoforms, and the latter can become activated after receptor-induced hydrolysis of PIP_2 by PLC. Positive feed-forward regulation is achieved by stimulation of PLD by PIP5K-derived PIP_2, and of PIP5K by PLD-derived PA. Activation of ARF-GAPs by PIP_2 accelerates the inactivation of ARF proteins, and may terminate a round of PA and PIP_2 synthesis
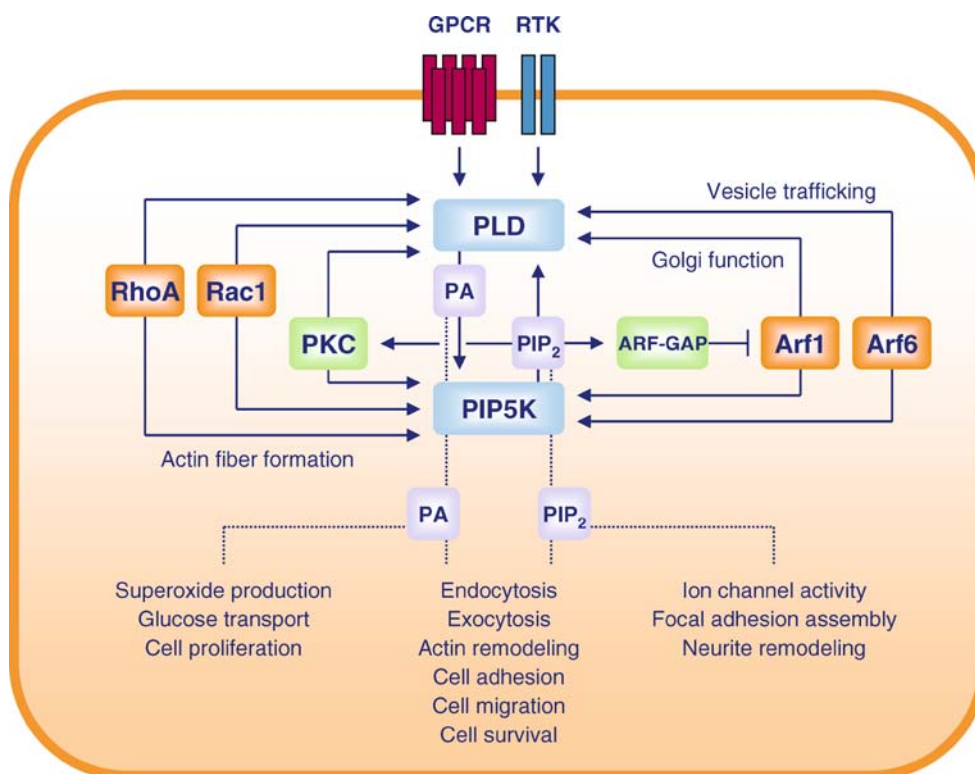
alcohols, thereby producing stable phosphatidylalcohol instead of PA. This transphosphatidylation reaction is widely applied to measure PLD activity in biological samples, and quenching of PA synthesis by primary alcohols has proven extremely helpful to identify the involvement of PLD enzymes in cell physiology. In this way, a role for PLD has been demonstrated in a variety of signaling processes, such as activation of phosphoinositide (PI3K, PIP5K) and protein (Akt, ERK1/2) kinases, calcium mobilization, cytoskeleton remodeling, endocytosis, exocytosis, membrane trafficking, superoxide production, glucose transport, cell migration, cell proliferation, and survival signaling (Exton 2002a; Foster and Xu 2003).

There are two mammalian PLD genes, PLD1 and PLD2. PLD1 has a low basal activity and is extensively regulated by conventional protein kinase C (PKCα, -β, -γ) isozymes and small GTPases of the ARF (ARF1 - ARF6) and Rho (RhoA, Rac1, Cdc42) families (Henage et al. 2006). PLD2 has a higher basal activity than PLD1, but has been shown to respond to ARF and PKC as well (Chen and Exton 2004). PIP_2 is recognized to be the most important cofactor for PLD, and both PLD isoforms are absolutely dependent on PIP_2 for activity. Experiments utilizing inactive PLD mutants and RNA interference have discriminated isoform-specific PLD functions, and showed that PLD1 is involved in agonist-induced secretion, actin organization, and cell adhesion and migration (Exton 2002a; Iyer et al. 2006; Kim et al. 2006; Vitale et al. 2001), and PLD2 in endocytosis and recycling of membrane receptors (Du et al. 2004; Koch et al. 2006; Padrón et al. 2006).

The PLD isoforms, both with two splice variants, share an ~50% amino-acid sequence identity (Colley et al. 1997; Hammond et al. 1995, 1997; Steed et al. 1998). The catalytic core of both PLD enzymes are composed of four conserved domains (domain I-IV), and the HKD motifs in the domains II and IV probably associate together to form a catalytic centre (Xie et al. 2000). PLD1 is characterized by a 116-amino acid loop region following domain II, which has been proposed to function as a negative regulatory element (Sung et al. 1999). PLD1 and PLD2 further possess N-terminal PH (pleckstrin homology) and PX (phox homology) domains. PIP_2 binds to the PH domain (Hodgkin et al. 2000), but also to a polybasic PIP_2 binding motif within the catalytic core (Sciorra et al. 1999), and interaction of PIP_2 with both domains has been suggested to be involved in membrane targeting of PLD as well as stimulation of PLD catalytic activity (Du et al. 2003; Hodgkin et al. 2000; Sciorra et al. 2002). The PX domain of PLD1 has been reported to preferentially bind to phosphatidylinositol-3,4,5-trisphosphate (PIP_3) (Lee et al. 2005; Stahelin et al. 2004), but interaction with PI5P has been observed as well (Du et al. 2003). Recently, it was shown that the PX domain of PLD has GTPase-activating

protein (GAP) activity towards dynamin, and that PLD supports EGF receptor endocytosis (Lee et al. 2006). The PH and PX domains probably contribute to the proper localization of the PLD enzymes within cells. In line with a role for PLD enzymes in different cellular tasks, PLD1 and PLD2 show a diverse subcellular distribution. PLD1 is found throughout the cell, but primarily localizes to perinuclear endosomes and the Golgi apparatus (Brown et al. 1998; Freyberg et al. 2001; Hughes and Parker 2001). PLD2 is almost exclusively present at the plasma membrane in lipid raft fractions (Czarny et al. 1999). The localization of PLD1 does not seem to be static, and regulated translocation and recycling of the enzyme between cellular compartments may be crucial to its proper functioning. In an elegant study, coordinated subcellular targeting of the lipid binding motifs has been demonstrated to drive this subcellular cycling of PLD1 (Du et al. 2003). Upon stimulation, PLD1 was found to translocate from the intracellular compartments to the plasma membrane, and this process was probably dependent on the polybasic PIP_2 binding site. The PH domain then facilitated entry of PLD1 into lipid rafts, a step critical for internalization of the enzyme, whereafter interaction of the PX domain with PI5P may control the efficient return of PLD1 to the endosomes.

PIP_2 and PIP5K isoforms

PIP_2 is an essential and versatile factor in cellular signaling. Hydrolysis of PIP_2 by PLC into the second messengers, inositol-1,4,5-trisphosphate (IP_3) and DAG, is a general and well-defined answer of cells in response to stimulation of many membrane receptors (Schmidt et al. 2004). Phosphorylation of PIP_2 by PI3K results in the rapid accumulation of PIP_3, which recruits and activates mediators involved in actin remodeling, mitogenesis and survival (Vanhaesebroeck et al. 2001). But it is now recognized that PIP_2, as well as other phosphoinositides, are signaling molecules by themselves and can, by binding to unique phosphoinositide-binding sequences, such as the PH and PX domains, affect the activity and subcellular localization of many proteins, including many actin regulatory proteins, a wide range of ion channels, and PLD (Niggli 2005; Suh and Hille 2005; Yin and Janmey 2003). In this way, PIP_2 can modulate a remarkable variety of cellular processes, including cortical actin organization, membrane ruffling, vesicle trafficking, gene expression, cell migration and cell survival (Ling et al. 2006; Oude Weernink et al. 2004b; Toker 2002). Subsequent dephosphorylation of PIP_2 by inositol polyphosphate 5-phosphatases, such as synaptojanin, is believed to terminate local PIP_2 signaling, for instance in the process of vesicle trafficking (Majerus et al. 1999).

To execute this variety of functions, PIP_2 may be organized in discrete functional pools within cells, but the existence of PIP_2 clusters in the plasma membrane is currently under debate. Using green fluorescent protein-tagged PH domains or antibodies to visualize PIP_2, the lipid was found to concentrate in highly dynamic, actin-rich regions (Tall et al. 2000) and lipid rafts (Laux et al. 2000; Parmryd et al. 2003) in the plasma membrane, feeding the idea that spatially organized PIP_2 synthesis regulates actin polymerization and other cellular processes. The localization of PIP_2 in rafts is supported by biochemical data (Pike and Casey 1996); however, specific PIP_2 clustering has been disputed (van Rheenen et al. 2005).

PIP_2 is generated after phosphorylation of phosphatidyl-inositol-4-phosphate by PIP5K. In mammals, cDNAs encoding three isoforms of PIP5K (designated $I\alpha$, $I\beta$ and $I\gamma$) with alternative splice variants have been cloned and characterized (Ishihara et al. 1996, 1998; Loijens and Anderson 1996). Sequence analysis has shown that PIP5K enzymes are related to PIP4K enzymes, but that they share no identity with most other lipid (PI3K and PI4K) or protein kinases. The sequence similarity between the PIP4Ks and PIP5Ks is clustered in the catalytic core of the kinases (Anderson et al. 1999; Hinchliffe et al. 1998). An activation loop spanning the catalytic domain has been shown to determine both substrate specificity and subcellular targeting of PIP5Ks, which can be swapped by substitution of a single amino acid within this loop (Kunz et al. 2002). In murine PIP5K-$I\beta$, two dimerization domains were identified, which may contribute to the proper subcellular localization and functioning of the enzyme (Galiano et al. 2002).

The identification of three PIP5K isoforms raised the expectation of a differential regulation of the enzymes by cellular signal transduction components, but up to now the regulatory properties of PIP5K-$I\alpha$, $I\beta$ and $I\gamma$ appear to be remarkably similar. All PIP5K isoforms are stimulated by PA, are extensively regulated by ARF and Rho GTPases, and inhibited by protein kinase A (PKA) and PI-stimulated autophosphorylation (Oude Weernink et al. 2004b). Nevertheless, evidence has been provided that PIP5K isoforms may selectively control functional PIP_2 pools, which may support particular processes in different cell types. Thus, actin reorganization down-stream of Rac1 in platelets specifically involves murine PIP5K-$I\alpha$ (Tolias et al. 2000). Human PIP5K-$I\alpha$ was found to localize in Rac1-induced membrane ruffles, and the LIM protein Ajuba has been identified to interact with and stimulate PIP5K-$I\alpha$ in leading-edge membrane ruffles in migrating cells (Kisseleva et al. 2005). Human PIPK-$I\beta$ was detected primarily in cytosolic vesicular structures (Doughman et al. 2003) and may synthesize the PIP_2 pool involved in constitutive endocytosis (Padrón et al. 2003). The long-splice variant of PIP5K-$I\gamma$, PIP5K-$I\gamma$90, is enriched in neurons and is implicated in the regulation of clathrin coat recruitment, actin dynamics (Wenk et al. 2001) and focal adhesion formation (Di Paolo et al. 2002; Ling et al. 2002). In contrast, short PIP5K-$I\gamma$87 seems to be the major producer of the PIP_2 pool that supports receptor-induced IP_3 generation (Wang et al. 2004).

The execution of specific PIP_2-modulated processes is very probably achieved by an orchestration of appropriate signaling partners within discrete subcellular microdomains, and PLD-derived PA as well as the PLD enzymes by themselves can contribute to this organization. Indeed, both PLD1 and PLD2 interact with PIP5K-$I\alpha$, and PLD2 recruits PIP5K-$I\alpha$ to a submembraneous vesicular compartment (Divecha et al. 2000). PLD2-derived PA was shown to stimulate PIP5K-$I\gamma$ splice variants, and the subsequent formation of PIP_2 to drive the initial stages of integrin-mediated cellular adhesion (Powner et al. 2005). In many processes, the temporal activation and correct localization of PLD and PIP5K isoforms by monomeric GTPases appears crucial to achieve the spatially organized production of PIP_2 and PA (Santarius et al. 2006).

ARF GTPases and membrane traffic

Although the direct interaction site on PLD for ARF has not yet been unequivocally defined, it is well established that ARF proteins, particularly ARF1 and ARF6, activate both PLD enzymes, but especially PLD1 (Hammond et al. 1995, 1997). ARF GTPases regulate intracellular vesicle trafficking and actin remodeling. ARF1 is localized to the Golgi complex, and is required for proper Golgi structure and function. The use of primary alcohols has also pointed to a role for PLD in vesicle transport to Golgi (Bi et al. 1997; Ktistakis et al. 1996). PLD activity has been shown to stimulate the release of nascent secretory vesicles from the trans-Golgi network (Chen et al. 1997), and to be required for maintaining the structural integrity and function of the Golgi apparatus, but the precise role for PLD in vesicle formation is still controversial. PIP5K is also a direct effector of ARF1, and an ARF1 mutant that selectively activates PIP5K, but not PLD activity, demonstrated that both PLD-derived PA and direct activation of PIP5K by ARF1 contribute to increased PIP_2 synthesis (Skippen et al. 2002). In permeabilized cells, ARF1 has been shown to restore secretion by promoting PIP_2 synthesis (Fensome et al. 1996), and ARF1-mediated PIP5K activation (Jones et al. 2000a) and recruitment to the Golgi complex (Godi et al. 1999) appears to be critical in Golgi functioning.

ARF6 regulates vesicular transport, secretion, and cortical actin reorganization. ARF6 activates PLD, and PA has been implicated in the mediation of the effects of ARF6 in vesicular trafficking events. A critical role for PLD1 in exocytosis has been established in different cell types,

including neurons (Humeau et al. 2001), neuroendocrine cells (Vitale et al. 2001) and pancreatic β cells (Hughes et al. 2004). PLD2 has recently emerged as a mediator of ARF-dependent internalization of the μ-opioid receptor (Koch et al. 2003), and both PLD isoforms have been implicated in macrophage phagocytosis (Corrotte et al. 2006; Iyer et al. 2004). In addition, PIP5K colocalizes and interacts with, and is directly activated by ARF6 at the plasma membrane (Honda et al. 1999), and ARF6 and PIP_2 colocalize on the plasma membrane and on endosomal structures (Brown et al. 2001). ARF6-organized PIP_2 turnover at the plasma membrane is apparently involved in regulated secretion (Aikawa and Martin 2003; Brown et al. 2001; Lawrence and Birnbaum 2003). Focal and transient accumulation of PIP_2 by PIP5K is required for phagocytosis as well (Botelho et al. 2000; Coppolino et al. 2002; Wong and Isberg 2003), and PIP_2 hydrolysis probably dictates the remodeling of actin necessary for completion of phagocytosis (Scott et al. 2005). The synthesis of PIP_2 is essential for priming the exocytotic apparatus, and the recruitment and activation of PLD1 by PIP_2 seems the primary mechanism for the functional integration of PLD1 into the exocytotic pathway (Vitale et al. 2001; Waselle et al. 2005). Thus, CD16-induced cytolytic granule secretion mediated by ARF6 was shown to involve PIP5K-Iα membrane targeting and activation of both PIP5K and PLD (Galandrini et al. 2005). PIP_2 also recruits additional proteins—for instance the endocytic proteins AP-2, epsin and AP180—to initiate clathrin-coat formation preceding endocytosis (Ford et al. 2001; Itoh et al. 2001; Padrón et al. 2003), and CAPS (Grishanin et al. 2004) to initiate dense-core vesicle exocytosis. Direct activation of PIP5K-Iγ by ARF6 has been shown to stimulate clathrin-coat recruitment to synaptic membranes to allow synaptic vesicle recycling (Krauss et al. 2003). PLD-derived PA may directly contribute to vesicle fusion in a biophysical manner, as PLD cleaves the non-fusogenic lipid, PC, to form the fusogenic lipid, PA. But PA also takes a function as an essential cofactor for PIP5K, and disruption of Golgi membranes (Sweeney et al. 2002), blockade of clathrin-coat assembly (Arneson et al. 1999) and inhibition of ARF1-reconstituted secretion (Way et al. 2000) after quenching of PA production could be attributed to inhibited PIP_2 synthesis. Thus, both PLD and PIP_2 synthesis seem necessary for membrane trafficking aspects in the endo- and exocytotic machinery. But PLD and PIP5K also mediate other processes down-stream of ARF6. Epidermal growth factor (EGF)-induced membrane ruffling requires ARF6-induced PIP5K-Iα translocation to the ruffles and local PIP_2 production. This leads to the recruitment of PLD2, and PLD-derived PA and ARF6 may then synergistically activate PIP5K (Honda et al. 1999).

The relationship between ARF and PIP_2 is also bidirectional, as phosphoinositides can regulate ARF activity by binding and activating both ARF-specific guanine nucleotide exchange factors (ARF-GEFs) (Klarlund et al. 1998; Paris et al. 1997) and ARF-GTPase-activating proteins (ARF-GAPs) (Kam et al. 2000; Nie et al. 2002) via their PH domains. The fact that ARF-GAPs bind PIP_2 with high affinity and specificity offers an attractive feed-back mechanism for terminating ARF activation after a cycle of ARF-induced PIP_2 synthesis.

Rho GTPases and actin dynamics

PA formation, especially by PLD1, has been reported to induce stress fibre formation in specific cell types (Cross et al. 1996; Ha and Exton 1993; Kam and Exton 2001; Porcelli et al. 2002). Rho proteins, in particular RhoA, Rac1 and Cdc42, which control actin cytoskeleton reorganization, exclusively activate PLD1 by direct interaction with its C-terminus (Exton 2002b; Powner and Wakelam 2002). Thus, PLD stimulation by RhoA may happen by direct interaction, but may involve indirect, Rho-dependent mechanisms as well. Inactivation of Rho GTPases, with *Clostridium difficile* toxin B or *Clostridium botulinum* C3 exoenzyme, reduced cellular PIP_2 levels, resulting in inhibiton of receptor-mediated PIP_2 hydrolysis by PLC (Schmidt et al. 1996a) as well as diminished PLD stimulation (Schmidt et al. 1996d). As the inhibition of PLD signaling after Rho inactivation could be largely rescued by the addition of PIP_2, Rho proteins do seem to affect PLD via PIP5K regulation (Schmidt et al. 1996c,d). PIP_2 is well-known to associate with and regulate the activity of a plethora of actin-binding proteins that organize actin dynamics (Hilpela et al. 2004; Yin and Janmey 2003), and PA and PIP_2 may act in concert to mediate Rho-dependent actin cytoskeleton remodeling. PIP5K isoforms are, like PLD, under direct control of Rho GTPases. PIP5K isoforms are markedly stimulated by RhoA, Rac1, and Cdc42 (Chong et al. 1994; Hartwig et al. 1995; Oude Weernink et al. 2004a), and physically associate with both RhoA (Ren et al. 1996) and Rac1 (Tolias et al. 2000), but not with Cdc42 (Oude Weernink et al. 2004a; van Hennik et al. 2003). PIP5K isoforms are now seen as critical mediators of RhoA- and Rac1-induced actin organization and remodeling (Doughman et al. 2003; Shibasaki et al. 1997; Tolias et al. 2000). The established Rho effector Rho-kinase, a serine/threonine kinase, is apparently involved in Rho-dependent regulation of both PLD (Schmidt et al. 1999) and PIP5K activities (Oude Weernink et al. 2000), and PIP5K was found to play an essential role as down-stream effector of Rho and Rho-kinase in neurite remodeling (van Horck et al. 2002; Yamazaki et al. 2002) and platelet cytoskeleton assembly (Gratacap et al. 2001; Yang et al. 2004). But Rho may also directly signal to PIP5K

independently of Rho-kinase, as RhoA-induced activation of ERM (ezrin, radixin, moesin) proteins, that cross-link actin filaments to plasma membranes, was found to be mediated by PIP5K, but not by Rho-kinase (Matsui et al. 1999). PLD and PIP5K were also demonstrated to collectively mediate Rho-induced changes in the actin cytoskeleton. Thus, myogenic differentiation induced by arginine-vasopressin, which involves actin fiber formation, is mediated by Rho proteins and PLD1, and involves PLD-induced PIP_2 synthesis along the actin fibers (Komati et al. 2005). These findings suggest that PLD and PIP5K enzymes may co-operate down-stream of Rho in processes that depend on actin organization.

Another Rho effector, PKC-related protein kinase N (PKN), also directly interacts with PLD (Oishi et al. 2001) and mediates PLD activation by the α_1-adrenergic receptor (Parmentier et al. 2002). Interestingly, components of the actin regulatory machinery, β-actin and α-actinin, have been found to directly associate with and inhibit the activity of PLD isoforms (Lee et al. 2001; Park et al. 2000). PLD also binds to and is stimulated by filamentous F-actin, and PLD1 in particular may act as a signal transduction component responsive to dynamic changes of the actin cytoskeleton (Kusner et al. 2002). PKN interacts with α-actinin, and PKN may modulate PLD signaling by reversing the inhibitory effect of α-actinin on PLD1, and by direct interaction with PLD1.

Regulation of PLD and PIP5K by membrane receptors

In line with the critical role of PA in cellular processes, the enzymatic activity of PLD is tightly regulated by a variety of hormones, neurotransmitters, and growth factors. Regulation of PLD enzymes by membrane receptors, including G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs) and receptor tyrosine kinases (RTKs), is complex and mediated by several cytosolic factors, including PKC as well as ARF, Rho and Ras GTPases (Exton 2002b; Liscovitch et al. 2000; López De Jesús et al. 2006; Powner and Wakelam 2002). Most receptors that stimulate PLD also increase PLC activity, leading to activation of the PLD regulator PKC, and it was assumed that PLD activation might be secondary to PLC activation. A physical association between PLD with PKC isoforms has been reported, resulting in strong activation of in vitro PLD1 activity, and the major interaction site was identified within the N-terminus of PLD1 (Park et al. 1998). Indeed, inhibition of PKC was shown to reduce receptor-induced PLD responses, and PLD1 mutants unresponsive to PKC did respond poorly to activation of GPCRs (Zhang et al. 1999) or to active $G\alpha_q$ proteins (Xie et al. 2002). However, stimulation of PLD in several receptor systems, including M_3 muscarinic and α_1-adrenergic receptors, was

actually PKC-independent (Balboa and Insel 1998; Muthalif et al. 2000; Rümenapp et al. 1997; Schmidt et al. 1994), suggesting that PLD stimulation must not necessarily be secondary to PLC stimulation.

Brefeldin A, an inhibitor of certain ARF-GEFs, reduced receptor signaling to PLD in several cell types, indicating that ARF proteins participate in receptor-mediated PLD stimulation (Fensome et al. 1998; Mitchell et al. 1998; Rümenapp et al. 1995; Shome et al. 2000). Likewise, sequestration of ARF-GEFs by the ARF-related protein ARP inhibited M_3 muscarinic receptor signaling to PLD (Schürmann et al. 1999). Clostridial toxins and enzymes that specifically inactivate Rho proteins and expression of inactive Rho mutants have been used to identify the role of Rho in signaling to PLD. Thus, Rho proteins were found to be involved in PLD stimulation by GPCRs (M_3 muscarinic, bradykinin, sphingosine-1-phosphate and LPA), RTKs (PDGF, EGF), and immunoglobulin (FcϵRI) receptors (Hess et al. 1997; Ojio et al. 1996; Schmidt et al. 1996c).

Stimulation of PLD by GPCRs was shown to be mediated by both pertussis toxin (PTX)-insensitive (Gosau et al. 2002; Schmidt et al. 1994) and PTX-sensitive (Cummings et al. 2002; Fensome et al. 1998) heterotrimeric G proteins. G_{12} family proteins can stimulate PLD (Plonk et al. 1998), and RGS (regulators of G protein signaling) proteins, that act as α subunit-specific GAPs, have been used to position G_{12} in PLD activation by the M_3 muscarinic (Rümenapp et al. 2001), the PAR1 (Fahimi-Vahid et al. 2002), and the Ca^{2+}-sensing receptor (Huang et al. 2004), as well as mechanical force (Ziembicki et al. 2005). As forskolin and cAMP were shown to cause activation of PLD via PKA and ERK1/2 (Ginsberg et al. 1997; Yoon et al. 2005) or, alternatively, via the cAMP-activated GEF for Ras-like GTPases, Epac and R-Ras (López De Jesús et al. 2006), G_s proteins also mediate stimulation of PLD. PLD activation is also controlled by $\beta\gamma$-subunits, possibly via Src and/or ARF6 (Le Stunff et al. 2000; Ushio-Fukai et al. 1999), but $G\beta\gamma$ can also directly interact with and inhibit PLD (Preininger et al. 2006).

As the precise mechanism of PLD stimulation in intact cells was only poorly understood, during the last 10 years our laboratory in Essen has focused on the regulation of PLD activity by membrane receptors. In HEK-293 cells, signaling to PLD by a typical GPCR, the M_3 muscarinic receptor, and an RTK, the EGF receptor, was studied and shown to be executed by several distinct pathways (Fig. 2). In addition, by expressing inactive PLD mutants, the M_3 muscarinic and the EGF receptors were found to signal to individual PLD isozymes and to selectively stimulate PLD1 and PLD2 respectively (Han et al. 2001). The M_3 muscarinic receptor stimulates both PLC and PLD via PTX-insensitive mechanisms (Offermanns et al. 1994; Peralta et al. 1988; Schmidt et al. 1994). Interestingly, stimulation of PLD by the agonist carbachol was not affected by PKC inhibitors, suggesting

Fig. 2 Regulation of PLD by the M_3 muscarinic receptor and receptor tyrosine kinases in HEK-293 cells. In human embryonic kidney (HEK-293) cells, signaling to PLD by the M_3 muscarinic receptor and by typical RTKs (EGF, PDGF, insulin) is organized into rather discrete pathways and channeled by particular heterotrimeric G proteins and small GTPases (*orange*), specific GEF proteins (*pink*) and further signaling components (*green*). *AC*, adenylyl cyclase; *ROCK*, Rho-kinase
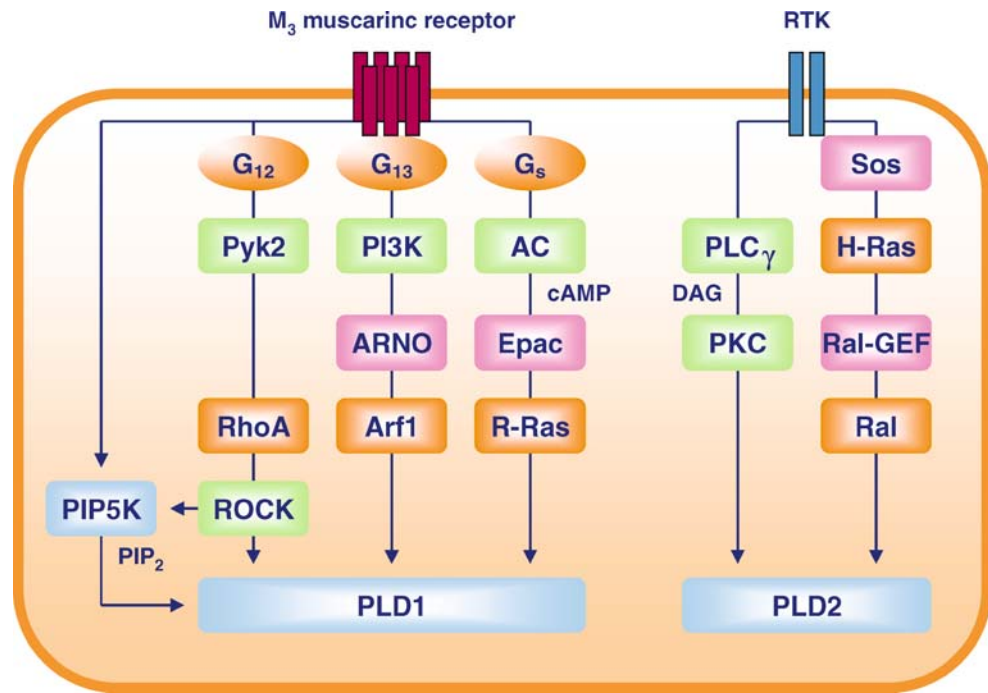
that activation of PLD by the M_3 muscarinic receptor was rather independent of PLC (Rümenapp et al. 1997; Schmidt et al. 1994). Expression of α-subunits of G proteins and of specific RGS proteins was used to identify the G proteins involved in these pathways, and demonstrated that whereas the M_3 receptor signals to PLC via G_q proteins, activation of PLD is mediated by G_{12} family proteins (Rümenapp et al. 2001). PLD activation by the M_3 receptor, but not by the EGF receptor, was further found to be under control of ARF (Rümenapp et al. 1995, 1997) as well as Rho proteins, particularly RhoA (Schmidt et al. 1996c,d). Likewise, regulation of mTOR by LPA, but not PDGF, involved PLD1 activation by Rho GTPases (Kam and Exton 2004). Both ARF1 and RhoA were found to become activated after M_3 receptor activation (Keller et al. 1997; Rümenapp et al. 1995), and a role for Rho-kinase in RhoA-controlled PLD stimulation could be demonstrated (Schmidt et al. 1999). In further studies, it was shown that activation of PLD by RhoA and Rho-kinase is mediated by G_{12} and the tyrosine kinase Pyk2, whereas activation by ARF1 is mediated by G_{13}, PI3K and the Arf-GEF ARNO (Han et al. 2003). In cardiomyocytes, Rho proteins were shown to affect signaling to PLD by both endothelin-1 and thrombin, apparently by controlling PIP_2 synthesis, whereas ARF selectively affects signaling by the PAR1 receptor (Fahimi-Vahid et al. 2002).

PLD can directly interact with RalA, and a Ras/Ral signaling cascade was shown to regulate PLD responses. In HEK-293 cells, Ras and RalA—but not Rho proteins—were located in RTK signaling to PLD, and this Ras/Ral-dependent signaling cascade was found to be dependent on PKC-α and a Ral-specific GEF (Fig. 2) (Schmidt et al.

1998; Voss et al. 1999). RalA apparently co-operates with ARF (Kim et al. 1998; Xu et al. 2003) and Rho proteins (Frankel et al. 1999; Wilde et al. 2002) to achieve full PLD activation. Likewise, Ras proteins were found to modulate PLD responses by PDGF (Lucas et al. 2000), and RalA to affect EGF receptor signaling to PLD (Lu et al. 2000). It was recently shown that direct activation of Ras-related R-Ras by Epac is involved in PLD stimulation by the M_3 muscarinic receptor, apparently by coupling to G_s proteins (López de Jesús et al. 2006), but a contribution of Ral proteins to GPCR-induced PLD activation has not been found (Meacci et al. 2002). Collectively, these data demonstrate that heterotrimeric G proteins as well as small GTPases co-ordinate PLD activation by specific membrane receptors in particular cell types, and these mechanisms probably contribute to the organization of agonist-induced PA production for the execution of diverse cellular signaling tasks.

In addition, the synthesis of PIP_2 can be directly stimulated by GPCRs (thrombin, LPA, M_3 muscarinic) as well as RTKs (Cochet et al. 1991; Nolan and Lapetina 1990; Pike and Eakes 1987). Receptor activation leads to increased association of PIP5K with the actin cytoskeleton (Grondin et al. 1991; Payrastre et al. 1991), and receptor-induced stimulation and cytoskeletal association of PIP5K may be directly involved in actin cytoskeletal regulation and initialize the assembly of enzymes into signaling complexes. GPCR-induced stimulation of PIP_2 synthesis was found to be mediated by pertussis toxin-sensitive G_i proteins (Schmidt et al. 1996b; Stephens et al. 1993), but also by G_{12} and G_q proteins (Oude Weernink et al. 2003).

Enhanced PIP$_2$ synthesis is also caused by conventional PKC isoforms, which may increase PIP5K activity by stimulating PIP5K dephosphorylation by the okadaic acid-sensitive protein phosphatase 1 (Park et al. 2001).

Concluding remarks

In the last decade, PLD has taken a firm position as all-round player in cellular signaling events. It is now appreciated that PLD and PIP5K act together to execute several important cellular functions, including vesicle transport, cytoskeleton dynamics and cell adhesion. Because of the reciprocal stimulation of their activities it seems inappropriate to generally assign a conventional "upstairs-downstairs" relationship to PLD and PIP5K isozymes. The localized generation of the lipid messengers by PLD and PIP5K, PA and PIP$_2$, is clearly co-ordinated by small GTPases of the ARF, Rho and Ras families. The following picture emerges of how PLD and PIP5K may co-operate to execute their cellular tasks. Particular small GTPases, activated by membrane receptors or cellular factors, bind to PIP5K and recruit the enzyme to specific cellular compartments. Subsequent activation of PIP5K catalytic activity triggers the localized generation of PIP$_2$, which now serves as an anchor for specific proteins, including PLD enzymes. The sequestered PLD is activated by PIP$_2$ and the GTPases, and PLD-derived PA now, among other tasks, contributes to the activation of PIP5K. This feed-forward regulation loop depends on both PIP5K and PLD, and quenching of PA formation (by primary alcohols) or reduction of PIP$_2$ levels (by PLC-mediated hydrolysis or dephosphorylation by phosphatases) can interrupt the snowball from rolling. PIP$_2$ dephosphorylation may be important in the cell as a decisive mechanism to terminate the localized reactions before a cellular avalanche develops. Attractive candidates are further specific GEFs and GAPs for the GTPases, some of which have been shown to be directly regulated by PIP$_2$. PIP$_2$-dependent inactivation of the organizing GTPase may then provide the final turn-off signal.

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