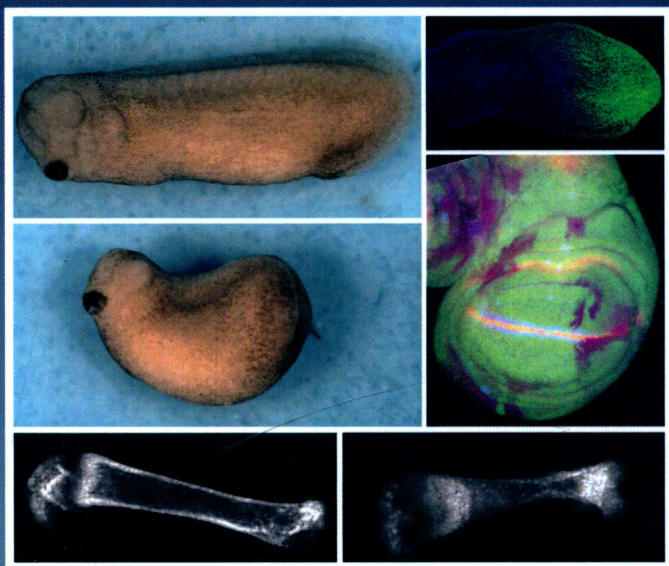


PROTEIN KINASES IN DEVELOPMENT AND DISEASE



Edited by

Andreas Jenny





VOLUME ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY THREE

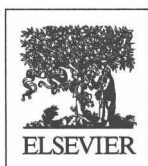
CURRENT TOPICS IN DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY

Protein Kinases in Development and Disease

Edited by

ANDREAS JENNY

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**Protein Kinases in Development
and Disease**

CURRENT TOPICS IN DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY

"A meeting-ground for critical review and discussion of developmental processes"

A.A. Moscona and Alberto Monroy (Volume 1, 1966)

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PREFACE

As the ancient Greek word κινεῖν (kinein; to move) suggests, kinases are true movers (or blockers) in a cell and are broadly grouped into protein, lipid, and carbohydrate kinases (plus a few others such as nucleoside-phosphate kinases). The roughly 518 human protein kinases comprise seven major sub-families and represent roughly 2% of the genome (Manning, Plowman, Hunter, & Sudarsanam, 2002; Manning, Whyte, Martinez, Hunter, & Sudarsanam, 2002; Taylor & Kornev, 2011; Ubersax & Ferrell, 2007).

Posttranslational phosphorylation likely is the most widespread way of regulating protein function. Phosphorylation state affects every basic process in a cell including transcription, translation, cell division, inter- and intracellular communication, differentiation, metabolism, and so on. Not surprisingly, kinases and their counterparts, phosphatases, are crucial for normal development of multicellular organisms and aberrant kinase function or regulation can cause diseases.

The first kinase to be discovered in the 1950s by Fischer and Krebs was Phosphorylase kinase, which converts Phosphorylase B to the more active Phosphorylase A that mediates degradation of glycogen. This discovery paved the way forward for this previously unappreciated mode of regulation (Krebs, 1998; Krebs, Graves, & Fischer, 1959). Over the years, work in many labs has contributed to the identification, and biochemical, structural, and physiological characterization of a variety of kinases (reviewed in Taylor & Kornev, 2011; Ubersax & Ferrell, 2007). All kinases are characterized by the presence of a kinase domain, the activity of which is tightly regulated by intra- and intermolecular interactions. Kinase domains span about 250 amino acids and consist of a smaller N-terminal lobe composed of mostly β -sheets and a larger α -helical C-lobe (Knighton et al., 1991; reviewed in Taylor & Kornev, 2011; Ubersax & Ferrell, 2007). Sandwiched between these lobes is the hydrophobic ATP-binding site with the γ -phosphate oriented toward the substrate that binds in the cleft. Auto- or transactivation of a protein kinase generally occurs via phosphorylation of an activation segment within the C-lobe. Phosphorylation orders and moves the loop structure to allow access of the substrate to the binding cleft (Adams, 2003; Taylor & Kornev, 2011). This off/on switch type of regulatory mechanism thus allows for tight control of kinase activity and offers the opportunity for intricate regulation of cellular signaling networks.

The 13 chapters of this issue of *Current Topics in Developmental Biology* highlight the roles of some familiar and some less well-known kinases in development and disease.

This volume begins with WNK kinases that are characterized by an atypical placement of a critical lysine residue in the catalytic domain (Rodan and Jenny; Chapter 1) and have recently been shown to have developmental functions in addition to their role in ion transport regulation in the kidney. Activation of PI3 (Phosphoinositide 3)-kinase is central to many physiological and pathological processes including growth control, motility, and differentiation. Although Akt (aka Protein kinase B) has long been thought to be the key mediator of PI3K effects, Di Cristofano in Chapter 2 highlights a more recently discovered PI3K effector, serum, and glucocorticoid-regulated kinase 1 (SGK1), and emphasizes both roles shared with Akt and effects that are mediated exclusively by SGK1.

Blaquiere and Verheyen shed light on the diverse and sometimes conflicting roles of Homeodomain-interacting protein kinases (Hipk; Chapter 3) and discuss involvement of these kinases in the regulation of a variety of signaling pathways. Chapters 4 and 7 by Stricker et al. and Chitu and Stanley, respectively, discuss regulatory roles of the tyrosine kinases Ror (Receptor tyrosine kinase-like orphan receptor) and CSF1-R (Colony-stimulating factor-1 receptor) during embryonic development in vertebrates, the former affecting gastrulation and the latter fulfilling macrophage-dependent and -independent functions.

In Chapter 5, Keira *et al.* summarize current knowledge of Four-jointed, an intriguing kinase originally identified in *Drosophila* that acts in the Golgi lumen where it phosphorylates extracellular receptors involved in growth and epithelial planar polarity. In addition to Four-jointed, the Hippo/Salvador/Warts kinase module also affects cell and tissue growth. Recent advances toward the mechanistic basis of the evolutionarily conserved Hippo signaling pathway and functions of Hippo to prevent aberrant cell growth are illustrated by Pfleger in Chapter 6.

GSK3s (Glycogen synthase kinases) are two largely redundant kinases originally identified as regulators of glycogen metabolism that intersect with most signaling pathways in multicellular organisms. Given that most roads apparently converge upon these kinases, Patel and Woodgett (Chapter 8) discuss the puzzling matter of how two kinases that are—unusually—chiefly regulated by their inhibition can lead to pathway-specific output and functional specificity. They also outline possible utility and risks associated with application of GSK inhibitors for disease treatment. In Chapter 9, Jiang explains that Casein kinases 1 (CK1s) not only serve as priming kinases

for GSK3 during Wnt signaling but are also critical for Hedgehog signaling during development.

Once rooted, plants spend their entire life at the same location and therefore rely on unique mechanisms to adapt to their environment, for example, by adjusting growth rate. In Chapter 10, Haruta and Sussman discuss plant hormones, their receptors, and functions with a particular emphasis on FERONIA tyrosine kinase that may play a role in the transduction of a mechanosensory signal during growth.

Establishment of cell and organismal polarity is highly reliant on the function of Par1 (Partitioning defective 1) in *C. elegans*, *Drosophila*, and vertebrates, as becomes evident from the contribution by Wu and Griffin (Chapter 11). Continuing with polarity, Oliva and Hassan (Chapter 12) review the functions of tyrosine kinases and phosphatases, some of which have lost catalytic activity, in neuronal wiring. The issue closes with a review by Álvarez-Aznar et al. in Chapter 13 of the functions of Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor (VEGF) receptors during the development of the mammalian vascular system.

Collectively, this series of reviews aims to provide an overview of the remarkable recent advances in our understanding of protein kinase (and phosphatase) functions during development. A mission of this collection of articles written by experts in their fields is to demonstrate the persisting utility and merit of traditional model organisms in the “omics” era.

I am indebted and grateful to all of the authors for their hard work and dedication that allowed compilation of this set of very interesting and high-quality reviews. I also would like to thank the reviewers for critically and quickly reading the manuscripts. I would like to take the opportunity to thank my mentors, collaborators, and past and present lab members, all of whom continue to be important for the research in my lab. Last, but not least, I am grateful to Paul Wassarman for giving me the opportunity to assemble this volume for *Current Topics in Developmental Biology* and to Shellie Bryant and the production team for their assistance.

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CONTENTS

<i>Contributors</i>	<i>xi</i>
<i>Preface</i>	<i>xiii</i>
1. WNK Kinases in Development and Disease	1
Aylin R. Rodan and Andreas Jenny	
1. Introduction	2
2. The WNK-SPAK/OSR1 Kinase Cascade: Roles in Physiology and Disease	2
3. Emerging Functions of the WNK Signaling Axis in Development	20
4. Functions of WNKs in Cancer	33
5. Conclusions	34
Acknowledgments	35
References	35
2. SGK1: The Dark Side of PI3K Signaling	49
Antonio Di Cristofano	
1. Introduction: The Glucocorticoid-Regulated Kinase Family	50
2. SGK1: Expression and Stability Control	50
3. SGK1 Is Activated in a PI3K-Dependent Manner	51
4. AKT and SGK1: Target Overlap and Selectivity	52
5. Roadblocks to Defining Specific SGK1 Functions	56
6. SGK1 in Development and Differentiation	57
7. SGK1 and Cancer	61
8. Concluding Remarks	64
Acknowledgments	64
References	65
3. Homeodomain-Interacting Protein Kinases: Diverse and Complex Roles in Development and Disease	73
Jessica A. Blaquiere and Esther M. Verheyen	
1. Introduction	74
2. Requirements for Hipk Proteins During Development	78
3. Hipk Roles in Regulation of Diverse Signaling Pathways	82
4. Regulation of Hipk Activity	88
5. Hipks in Disease	91
6. Conclusions	93

Acknowledgments	94
References	94
4. ROR-Family Receptor Tyrosine Kinases	105
Sigmar Stricker, Verena Rauschenberger, and Alexandra Schambony	
1. Domain Architecture and Expression Patterns	106
2. ROR Function as a WNT Receptor and Its Role in WNT Signal Transduction	110
3. Human Inheritable Syndromes Caused by <i>ROR2</i> Mutation	114
4. The Role of ROR-Family RTKs in Embryonic Development	119
References	133
5. Regulation of <i>Drosophila</i> Development by the Golgi Kinase Four-Jointed	143
Yoko Keira, Moe Wada, and Hiroyuki O. Ishikawa	
1. Introduction	144
2. Genetic and Molecular Identification of <i>Drosophila</i> Four-Jointed	145
3. The Fat/Dachsous/Four-Jointed Pathway	149
4. Biochemical Characterization of Fj	156
5. Modulation of Fat-Ds Binding by Fj	158
6. Fj Polarizes Fat Activity	164
7. Vertebrate Four-Jointed, Fat, Dachsous, and Other Kinases in the Secretory Pathway	165
8. Conclusion	171
Acknowledgments	171
References	171
6. The Hippo Pathway: A Master Regulatory Network Important in Development and Dysregulated in Disease	181
Cathie M. Pfleger	
1. Introduction	182
2. The Highly Conserved Core Kinase Cassette	183
3. The Hippo Pathway Restricts Mass Accumulation and Proliferation	186
4. The Hippo Pathway Regulates Apoptosis	187
5. The Hippo Pathway Restricts Organ Size and Maintains Organ Homeostasis	187
6. Molecular Mechanisms and Additional Roles of the Hippo Pathway: Posttranslational Targets and Transcriptional Outputs	188

7. Upstream Signals and Regulators and Mechanisms of Pathway Homeostasis	197
8. Dysregulation of the Hippo Pathway in Disease	207
9. Conclusions and Open Questions	210
Acknowledgments	212
References	212
7. Regulation of Embryonic and Postnatal Development by the CSF-1 Receptor	229
Violeta Chitu and E. Richard Stanley	
1. Introduction	230
2. The CSF-1R in Mononuclear Phagocyte Development	233
3. CSF-1-Regulated Macrophages in Tissue Morphogenesis and Organismal Growth	239
4. Regulation of Osteoclasts and Bone Development by CSF-1	246
5. Direct Regulation of Nonhematopoietic Cells by the CSF-1R	256
6. Conclusions	258
Acknowledgments	260
References	260
8. Glycogen Synthase Kinase 3: A Kinase for All Pathways?	277
Prital Patel and James R. Woodgett	
1. The Early Years	278
2. GSK-3 Isoforms, Orthologues, and Expression	278
3. GSK-3 Structure	280
4. Regulation	282
5. Signaling Infidelity	284
6. So How Is Specificity Achieved?	292
7. Lessons From GSK-3 KO Mice	292
8. Therapeutic Perspectives	294
9. Conclusions and Perspectives	297
Acknowledgments	297
References	297
9. CK1 in Developmental Signaling: Hedgehog and Wnt	303
Jin Jiang	
1. Introduction	304
2. CK1 in the Regulation of Hh Pathway	308
3. CK1 in Wnt Signaling	317

4. Regulation of CK1 in Hh and Wnt Signaling	320
5. Conclusion	322
Acknowledgments	323
References	323
10. Ligand Receptor-Mediated Regulation of Growth in Plants	331
Miyoshi Haruta and Michael R. Sussman	
1. Introduction	332
2. Novel and Unique Plant Signaling Pathways	333
3. Plasma Membrane as the Site of Peptide Ligand Sensing by Receptors	341
4. FERONIA and Its Gene Family in Plant Growth and Development	342
5. Organ Size and Growth Are Determined by Stimulation and Inhibition by Signaling Pathways in Plants and Animals	345
6. RALF Family and Function in Plant Growth and Development	347
7. RALF-Like Peptides Are Not Only Produced by Plants But Also by Pathogenic Microbes	348
8. Other Endogenous Hormone-Like Peptides and Their Receptor Pairs for Plant Growth, Development, and Physiology	349
9. Conclusion and Future Perspectives	353
References	354
11. Regulation of Cell Polarity by PAR-1/MARK Kinase	365
Youjun Wu and Erik E. Griffin	
1. Introduction	366
2. Structure and Regulation of PAR-1/MARK Kinases	367
3. Regulation of Cell Polarity by the PAR Proteins	371
4. Asymmetric Division of the <i>C. elegans</i> Zygote	372
5. Establishment of the Anterior/Posterior Axis During <i>Drosophila</i> Oogenesis	379
6. MARK Kinases and Neurogenesis	385
7. PAR-1 and Disease	386
8. Concluding Remarks	388
References	389
12. Receptor Tyrosine Kinases and Phosphatases in Neuronal Wiring: Insights From <i>Drosophila</i>	399
Carlos Oliva and Bassem A. Hassan	
1. Introduction	400
2. Model Circuits Used to Study the Genetic Control of Neuronal Wiring in <i>Drosophila</i>	401

3. Receptor Tyrosine Kinase	405
4. Receptor Protein Tyrosine Phosphatases	414
5. Future Directions	424
6. Conclusions	425
Acknowledgments	425
References	425

13. VEGF Receptor Tyrosine Kinases: Key Regulators of Vascular Function **433**

Alberto Álvarez-Aznar, Lars Muhl, and Konstantin Gaengel

1. Introduction	434
2. Structure and Function of VEGFRs	437
3. An Evolutionary Perspective on VEGFR Function	450
4. Neuropilins: Coreceptors Modulating VEGFR Signaling	453
5. VEGFR Ligands	455
6. Perspective	463
Acknowledgments	464
References	464



WNK Kinases in Development and Disease

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Contents

1. Introduction	2
2. The WNK-SPAK/OSR1 Kinase Cascade: Roles in Physiology and Disease	2
2.1 Overview of the WNK-SPAK/OSR1 Kinase Cascade	2
2.2 WNK-SPAK/OSR1 Signaling in Invertebrates	7
2.3 WNK-SPAK/OSR1 Signaling in Osmoregulation	14
2.4 The Role of Mouse Protein-25 in WNK-SPAK/OSR1 Signaling	18
3. Emerging Functions of the WNK Signaling Axis in Development	20
3.1 Mammalian WNKs	20
3.2 Zebrafish Wnk1a/b Have Roles in Angiogenesis and Neural Development	23
3.3 Insights from the <i>Drosophila</i> Wnk-Frased Axis	26
4. Functions of WNKs in Cancer	33
5. Conclusions	34
Acknowledgments	35
References	35

Abstract

WNK (With-No-Lysine (K)) kinases are serine–threonine kinases characterized by an atypical placement of a catalytic lysine within the kinase domain. Mutations in human WNK1 or WNK4 cause an autosomal dominant syndrome of hypertension and hyperkalemia, reflecting the fact that WNK kinases are critical regulators of renal ion transport processes. Here, the role of WNKs in the regulation of ion transport processes in vertebrate and invertebrate renal function, cellular and organismal osmoregulation, and cell migration and cerebral edema will be reviewed, along with emerging literature demonstrating roles for WNKs in cardiovascular and neural development, Wnt signaling, and cancer. Conserved roles for these kinases across phyla are emphasized.

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