Differential Association of Phosphodiesterase 4D Isoforms with β2-Adrenoceptor in Cardiac Myocytes

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Vania De Arcangelis, Ruijie Liu, Dagoberto Soto, and Yang Xiang

From the Department of Molecular and Integrative Physiology and Neuroscience Program, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Illinois 61801

CAMP and protein kinase A (PKA) activation represents a key signaling mechanism upon β-adrenergic stimulation under stress. Both β1- and β2-adrenoceptor (ARs) subtypes induce CAMP accumulation, yet play distinct roles in cardiac contraction and myocyte apoptosis. Differences in controlling CAMP/PKA activities through the assembly of complexes between the receptors and CAMP-specific phosphodiesterases contribute to the distinct biological outcomes. Here, we demonstrate that β2ARs form signaling complexes with a set of PDE4D isoforms expressed in cardiac myocytes. PDE4D9 and PDE4D8 bind to the β2AR at resting conditions; however, agonist stimulation induces dissociation of PDE4D9 from the receptor but recruitment of PDE4D8 to the receptor. Agonist stimulation also induces recruitment of PDE4D5 to the β2AR. Moreover, the receptor-associated PDE4D isoforms play distinct roles in controlling CAMP activities and regulating the PKA phosphorylation of the receptor and myocyte contraction rate responses. Knockdown of PDE4D9 with short hairpin RNA enhances the β2AR-induced CAMP signaling, whereas knockdown of PDE4D8 only slightly prolongs the receptor-induced CAMP signaling in myocytes. Inhibition of PDE4D9 and PDE4D5 enhances the base-line levels of contraction rates, whereas inhibition of PDE4D9 and PDE4D8 enhances the maximal contraction rate increases upon activation of β2AR. Our data underscore the complex regulation of intracellular CAMP by β2AR-associated phosphodiesterase enzymes to enforce the specificity of the receptor signaling for physiological responses.

CAMP/PKA activation represents a key signaling mechanism upon stimulation of G protein-coupled receptors for cardiac contraction and energy metabolism under stress conditions. Activation of βARs, a group of prototypical G protein-coupled receptors, is one of the major neurohumoral mechanisms controlling CAMP/PKA activities for physiological responses in animal hearts. β1AR and β2AR are highly homologous receptors expressed in animal heart for enhancing cardiac performance. β1AR plays a dominant role in stimulating heart rate and strength of myocyte contraction, whereas β2AR produces only modest chronotropic effects. One of the emerging mechanisms that safeguard the specificity of G protein-coupled receptor/CAMP signaling is the control of CAMP transients via degradation by cyclic nucleotide PDEs.

PDEs include 11 families based on their amino acid sequence homology, substrate specificities, and pharmacological properties. Each of the 11 PDE families has one to four distinct genes. In addition, most PDE genes encode for multiple splicing variants through the usage of multiple promoters and alternative splicing. In animal hearts, PDE4 and PDE3 are two major families expressed, which account for more than 90% of PDE activities. These PDEs play a critical role for the subcellular specificity in CAMP signaling by preventing diffusion of CAMP from one microdomain to another.

Our previous studies have identified that PDE4 is the major family that controls CAMP accumulation induced by both β1- and β2AR in cardiac myocytes. Specifically, PDE4D splicing variants have been implicated in association with βAR subtypes for receptor signaling and function. β1AR forms a signaling complex with PDE4D8, which dissociates from the receptor upon agonist stimulation. Conversely, activation of β2AR initiates recruitment of a complex consisting of β-arrestin and PDE4D5. However, the functional implication of this and other PDE4D isoforms in binding to β2AR remains unclear. Here, we show that β2AR binds to a set of PDE4D isoforms in distinct ways. β2AR binds to both PDE4D9 and PDE4D8 at resting state, with PDE4D9 dissociation from the receptor and PDE4D8 recruitment to the receptor upon agonist stimulation. In addition, PDE4D5 is recruited to the activated β2AR similar to that reported previously. The differential association of PDE4D isoforms with β2AR plays distinct roles in confining the receptor-induced CAMP activities for physiological contraction responses. Our data underscore the complexity of PDE regulation of cellular CAMP to enforce the specificity of βAR subtype signaling.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Neonatal Cardiac Myocytes Isolation and Contraction Rate Assay—Spontaneously beating neonatal cardiac myocytes were isolated from 1- to 2-day-old wild type or β2AR-knock-out (KO) neonatal mice as described previously. Cells were cultured in Dulbecco’s modified Eagle’s medium (high glucose, 4.5 g/liter) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum, 1 mM glutathione, 1% penicillin-streptomycin, and 1% L-glutamine.
Adenovirus Preparation and Myocyte Infection—The N-terminal sequences containing splicing regions from rat PDE4D1 to PDE4D9 were subcloned into pEGFP vector using the same strategy as described previously (3). The sequences from the N-end to the linker region (EQEDV254 between UCR2 regions and catalytic domains in PDE4D3) were amplified by PCR and subcloned into pEGFP-N2 vector by HindIII/EcoRI sites. The aspartic acids in catalytic domains were replaced by alanine in PDE4D5, -4D8, and -4D9 isoforms to generate dominant negative PDE4Ds before fusing the mutant enzymes with mCherry at the C-terminal ends. Both GFP- and mCherry-fused PDE4D isoforms were cloned into the shuttle vector of the AdEasyTM system for virus production according to the manufacturer’s instruction (MP Biomedical, Cleveland, OH). Recombinant adenovirus expressing FLAG-tagged β2AR has been described previously (9). Neonatal myocytes, HEK293 fibroblasts, or mouse embryonic fibroblasts were infected with recombinant adenovirus expressing FLAG-tagged mouse β2AR and/or individual PDE4D isoforms as indicated in the text. In controls, cells were infected with adenovirus encoding either GFP or mCherry.

PDE4D shRNA Knockdown—Forward and reverse oligonucleotides were synthesized (IDT DNA, Skokie, IL) for the following targets: PDE4D8 (forward, 5′-GATCCCAGGCAC-TCTCCAGAAGACACATCCTAACTGAGTATGTAAGAGTTGGAGAACGTGTGCTTTT-3′; reverse, 5′-AGCTTTAAAAAGGACCACTCTCAAGCTCTTTGGAGATGGTGCCGGG-3′); PDE4D9 (forward, 5′-GATCCCCGCCCAACATCCTCACTTCAATCGAGTTAGTGTACGCAAGATCTGGCTCATT-3′; reverse, 5′-AGCTTTAAAAAGGACCACTCTCAAGCTCTTTGGAGATGGTGCCGGG-3′); and PDE4D9 control (forward, 5′-GATCCCTCGAGGCAACACGGAGGCAGTATCGAGTTAGTGTACGCAAGATCTGGCTCATT-3′; reverse, 5′-AGCCTTTAAAAAGGACCACTCTCAAGCTCTTTGGAGATGGTGCCGGG-3′). Oligonucleotides were annealed at room temperature and ligated into pSuper vector with BglII and HindIII. The N-terminal sequences of mouse PDE4D8 or PDE4D9 were amplified from the cDNA library and fused with GFP on pEGFP-N1 vector. Myocytes were co-transfected with shRNAs and PDE4D8-GFP or PDE4D9-GFP at a DNA ratio of 10:1 (shRNA:PDE). After 24 h of expression, silencing efficiency was determined by fluorescence images of GFP expression and Western blot using GFP antibody. The PDE4D8, PDE4D9, or control shRNA was co-transfected with the ICUE3 probe into β2AR-KO myocytes for FRET study.

Drugs and Peptides—Myocytes were treated with the βAR agonist isoproterenol (10 μM, Sigma) as indicated. In some experiments, ropiliram (10 μM, Sigma) was used to pretreat myocytes for 10 min before isoproterenol stimulation. Membrane-permeable Tat peptide (GRKKRRQRRRP) was linked to the 30 amino acids of N-terminal PDE4D8 or the 22 amino acids of PDE4D9. Myocytes were pretreated with 10 μM of peptides for 20 min before stimulation with isoproterenol.

cAMP Measurement by FRET—Myocytes were transfected with the indicator of cAMP using exchange protein activated by cAMP (ICUE3) plasmid (10) together with PDE4D8 or PDE4D9 shRNA via Lipofectamine 2000 (Invitrogen) according to the manufacturer’s protocol. The plasmid was designed by sandwiching a truncated cAMP-regulated guanine nucleotide exchange factor exchange protein activated by cAMP 2 with cyan fluorescent protein and a mutated yellow fluorescent protein cpVenus194. The truncated exchange protein activated by cAMP 2 lacks the N-terminal region containing amino acids 1–148. The resulting ICUE3 is a cytosolic protein with homogeneous expression in cardiac myocytes (data not shown). After 24 h expression, cells were rinsed and maintained in phosphate-buffered saline with calcium for FRET recording. Images were acquired using a Zeiss Axiovert 200 M microscope with a 40×/1.3NA oil-immersion objective lens and a cooled CCD camera. Dual emission ratio imaging was acquired using Excel 4002 excitation filter, a 450DRLP diachronic mirror, and two emission filters (475DF40 for cyan and 535DF25 for yellow). The acquisition was set with a 200-ms exposure in both channels and 20-s elapses. Images in both channels were subjected to background subtraction, and ratios of yellow-to-cyan color were calculated at different time points. The binding cAMP to ICUE3 led to decreases in the ratio yellow fluorescent protein/cyan fluorescent protein, which were plotted with inverted y-axis.

Co-immunoprecipitation and Western Blot—After stimulation with isoproterenol, cells were rinsed with ice-cold phosphate-buffered saline and lysed in co-immunoprecipitation buffer (20 mM Hepes, pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 2 mM EDTA, 10% glycerol, 0.6% Nonidet P-40, Thermo Halt protease, and phosphatase inhibitor mixture (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc.)). Lysates were rotated at 4 °C for 30 min, followed by centrifugation at 16,000 × g for 30 min. FLAG-β2ARs were immunoprecipitated using anti-FLAG M2 affinity resin (Sigma). The total immunoprecipitated proteins were resolved by SDS-PAGE and blotted with the following antibodies: anti-FLAG M1 (Sigma); anti-β3AR (SCBT); anti-phosphoserine 345 and 346 of β2AR (SCBT); anti-phosphoserine 345 and 346 of β2AR (SCBT); anti-FASP/mCherry (Rockland, PA); anti-PDE4-pan (Abcam); and anti-γ-tubulin (Sigma). 5% of the lysate was loaded in the Western blots for immunoprecipitation experiments.

Statistical Analysis—Two-way ANOVA and Student’s t test were performed using Prism (GraphPad software).

RESULTS

Association of PDE4D9 and PDE4D8 with β2AR in Cardiac Myocytes at Resting State—Our previous study has identified that phosphodiesterase 4D gene functionally associates with β2ARs in cardiac myocytes (5). Among nine PDE4D splicing isoforms, seven are expressed in animal heart (3). Using the FLAG-β2AR, we pulled down the endogenous PDE4D isoforms with the strongest staining corresponding to PDE4D3, -4D8, and -4D9 on Western blots (Fig. IA). The N-terminal regions of PDE4D isoforms contain the specific sequences important for subcellular distribution and/or protein interaction (2). To iden-
tify the specific PDE4D isoforms that associate with $\beta_2$AR in cardiac myocytes, we expressed the N-terminal fragments of the seven cardiac PDE4D isoforms together with FLAG-$\beta_2$AR in wild type myocytes. Both PDE4D8 and PDE4D9 were preferentially pulled down together with $\beta_2$AR, with PDE4D9 displaying more binding than PDE4D8 (Fig. 1B). In comparison, PDE4D3, -4D5, and -4D7 displayed a small amount of association with $\beta_2$AR, whereas PDE4D1 and -4D2 did not bind to the receptor. The interaction appears to be myocyte-specific because a similar experiment in HEK293 fibroblasts showed that FLAG-$\beta_2$AR bound most of the PDE4D isoforms without discrimination (supplemental Fig. S1). Together, these data identified PDE4D9, and to a lesser extent PDE4D8, forms complexes with the $\beta_2$AR at resting condition in cardiac myocytes.

Overexpression of the N terminus of PDE4D9 (PDE4D9-GFP) or PDE4D8 (PDE4D8-GFP) significantly enhanced contraction rate increases induced by 10 $\mu$M isoproterenol in $\beta_1$AR-KO myocytes (maximal increase of 14.1 ± 2.2, 23.3 ± 3.5, and 22.5 ± 2.7 beats/min for control, PDE4D8, and PDE4D9, respectively; see Fig. 2, A and B). Overexpressing PDE4D5-GFP had no effect on the maximal contraction rate increase, although it had a small enhancing effect on the response after extended stimulation (Fig. 2C). In contrast, overexpressing GFP alone or any other PDE4D isoforms had minimal effect on enhancing myocyte contraction rate responses induced by isoproterenol. PDE4D2 actually attenuated the contraction rate response (Fig. 2, D–H). Together, these data identified PDE4D9 and PDE4D8 as the critical isoforms for the receptor signaling-induced myocyte contraction rate responses.

To verify the functional roles of PDE4D9 and PDE4D8 in $\beta_2$AR signaling, we delivered membrane-permeable Tat-conjugated peptide containing either the N-terminal 30 PDE4D8-specific amino acids (pep-4D8) or 22 PDE4D9-specific amino acids (pep-4D9) into cardiac myocytes to perturb the subcellular distribution of the critical isoforms for the receptor signaling-induced myocyte contraction rate responses.

**FIGURE 1.** PDE4D9 and PDE4D8 preferentially bind to $\beta_2$AR in cardiac myocytes. A, FLAG-$\beta_2$AR is expressed in wild type neonatal myocytes. The immunoprecipitated (IP) $\beta_2$AR and the bound endogenous PDE4D proteins are examined by Western blotting with indicated antibodies. IB, immunoblot. B, FLAG-$\beta_2$AR and GFP-PDE4Ds (the N-terminal fragments from rat 4D1 to 4D9) are co-expressed in $\beta_2$AR-KO myocytes. The immunoprecipitated $\beta_2$AR and the bound GFP-PDE4D proteins are examined by Western blotting with the indicated antibodies. The Western blots are quantified and normalized against the control (Con) without $\beta_2$AR expression ($n = 3$); *, $p < 0.05$ when compared with the control by Student’s t test. In each gel, the total immunoprecipitates are loaded, and the lysate loading represents 5% of the total.
membrane-permeable peptide pep-4D9 and pep-4D8 significantly enhanced the contraction rate increases induced by 10 μM isoproterenol (maximal increase of 15.2 ± 2.2, 19.7 ± 2.6, and 23.1 ± 3.2 beats/min for the control, pep-4D8, and pep-4D9, respectively; see Fig. 3). Delivery of either peptide had minimal effects on base-line levels of contraction rate (Fig. 3B).
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**PDE4D9 and PDE4D8 Differentially Control cAMP Levels Induced by \( \beta_2 \)-AR Activation in Cardiac Myocytes**—Previous studies have indicated that the cAMP signal induced by \( \beta_2 \)-AR activation is restricted in local environments and is subjected to rapid degradation by the surrounding PDE activities (12, 13). Our functional data suggest that PDE4D8 and -4D9 isoforms are responsible for degradation of the \( \beta_2 \)-AR-induced cAMP. Thus, we applied the FRET-based cAMP indicator ICUE3 to measure cAMP accumulation induced by the endogenous \( \beta_2 \)AR in \( \beta_1 \)-AR-KO cardiac myocytes.

Meanwhile, we developed PDE4D8- and -4D9-specific shRNA to knock down the respective isoforms in neonatal cardiac myocytes (Fig. 4, A and B). Stimulation of the endogenous \( \beta_2 \)AR with isoproterenol induced a robust and transient increase of cAMP FRET response in \( \beta_2 \)-AR-KO myocytes (maximal increase of 0.26 \pm 0.03; see Fig. 4C). However, co-expressing PDE4D9-specific shRNA significantly enhanced the maximal cAMP FRET increase (maximal increase of 0.37 \pm 0.06; see Fig. 4C), whereas co-expressing PDE4D8-specific shRNA did not affect the maximal cAMP FRET increase (maximal increase of 0.27 \pm 0.06), but it slowed the decrease after reaching peak levels \((t_{1/2} \text{ of } 86.1 \pm 1.2 \text{ and } 167 \pm 3.9 \text{ s for the control and PDE4D8 shRNA, respectively; see Fig. 4D). In contrast, overexpression of control shRNA did not affect the cAMP FRET responses (maximal increase of 0.25 \pm 0.05; see Fig. 4E), whereas inhibition of all PDE4 activities with rolipram significantly enhanced the maximal cAMP FRET increase, and prolonged the increase during extended stimulation (Fig. 4F and data not shown). Together, these data indicate differential contribution of individual PDE4 enzymes in controlling intracellular cAMP signaling. Although the \( \beta_2 \)-AR-associated PDE4D9 controls the maximal cAMP increase under \( \beta_2 \)-AR stimulation, other PDE4s can modulate the duration of the cAMP responses induced by \( \beta_2 \)-AR.

Agonist-dependent Association between PDE4D Isoforms and \( \beta_2 \)-AR in Cardiac Myocytes—To further understand the effects on interaction between PDE4D isoforms and \( \beta_2 \)-AR, we examined a time course of association between PDE4D isoforms and \( \beta_2 \)-AR after stimulation with isoproterenol. Similar to those observed in the Fig. 1, PDE4D9 displayed significant binding to the \( \beta_2 \)-AR at resting condition. However, the association was significantly decreased upon stimulation of the receptor with isoproterenol (Fig. 5). In contrast, both PDE4D5 and PDE4D8 had a lower amount of binding to the \( \beta_2 \)-AR at resting state, but the association was significantly increased upon stimulation with isoproterenol. Consistent with the previous report (7, 8), the recruitment of PDE4D5 to the activated \( \beta_2 \)-AR peaked at 5 min of stimulation (Fig. 5). The recruitment of PDE4D8 to the activated \( \beta_2 \)-AR was not enhanced by receptor activation in wild type mouse embryonic fibroblast cells lacking both \( \beta_2 \)-arrestin 1 and -2, neither PDE4D5 nor 4D8 bound to the activated \( \beta_2 \)-ARs at all (supplemental Fig. S4). The recruitment of both PDE4D5 and -4D8 to the activated \( \beta_2 \)-AR were dependent on \( \beta_2 \)-arrestin (supplemental Fig. S5). In mouse embryonic fibroblast cells lacking both \( \beta_2 \)-arrestin 1 and -2, neither PDE4D5 nor 4D8 bound to the activated \( \beta_2 \)-ARs (supplemental Fig. S5). Reintroducing expression of \( \beta_2 \)-arrestin 2 rescued the agonist-dependent binding of PDE4D8 to the \( \beta_2 \)-ARs (supplemental Fig. S5). In contrast, the binding of full-length PDE4D9 to the \( \beta_2 \)-ARs was not enhanced by receptor activation in wild type mouse embryonic fibroblast cells; interestingly, the binding was also reduced by gene deficiency of \( \beta_2 \)-arrestin 1 and -2 (supplemental Fig. S6).

The cAMP signals under the control of PDE4D isoforms could affect the PKA activities for protein phosphorylation within the \( \beta_2 \)-AR complexes. We then examined the receptor phosphorylation by PKA in cardiac myocytes. A single amino acid mutation was introduced into catalytic domains to abolish enzymatic activity of PDE4D, which functions as a dominant negative (PDE4-DN) (7). Overexpressing PDE4D9-DN, but not...
PDE4D5-DN and PDE4D8-DN, significantly enhanced the PKA phosphorylation at serine 345/346 of the β2AR expressed in β2AR-KO myocytes (Fig. 6A). After stimulation with isoproterenol, overexpression of PDE4D9-DN significantly enhanced the PKA phosphorylation of the β2ARs at serine 345/346, whereas PDE4D8-DN had a small enhancement on the PKA phosphorylation (Fig. 6B). Moreover, overexpressing PDE4D9-DN and PDE4D5-DN but not PDE4D8-DN significantly enhanced base-line levels of contraction rates (Fig. 6C). Upon agonist stimulation, overexpressing PDE4D9-DN and PDE4D8-DN but not PDE4D5-DN significantly enhanced the maximal contraction rate increases induced by β2AR activation (Fig. 6D). In contrast, overexpressing wild type PDE4D5, -4D8, and -4D9 had minimal effect on both base-line and maximal contraction rate increases induced by isoproterenol in β2AR-KO myocytes (Fig. 7, C and D). Together, these data suggest that PDE4D isoforms have differential association with β2ARs and control the receptor-associated cAMP activities for contraction rate changes at both resting state and under stimulation.

DISCUSSION

PDE4D isoforms play an essential role in regulating local cAMP/PKA activities induced by a variety of neurotransmitters and hormones. In this study, we have characterized novel signaling complexes associated with β2AR in cardiac myocytes. In contrast to the preferential association of PDE4D8 with the β1AR in HEK293 fibroblasts (6), β2AR displays diversified association with multiple PDE4D isoforms in cardiac myocytes (Fig. 8). At resting state, β2AR preferentially associates with PDE4D9.
and to a less extent PDE4D8. However, PDE4D9 is dissociated from the receptor upon stimulation, whereas both PDE4D8 and PDE4D5 are recruited to the receptor in a β-arrestin-dependent manner, likely through binding to β2AR/β-arrestin complexes (supplemental Fig. S5) (8). These divergent complex formations concur with the preferential activation of PDE4D5, -4D8, and -4D9 upon β2AR signaling in cardiac myocytes (6). Thus, under basal conditions, PDE4D9 and to a lesser degree PDE4D8 are poised to control local cAMP concentration and PKA activity in the vicinity of β2AR (Fig. 6), whereas PDE4D5 and PDE4D8 likely affect β2AR signaling after ligand binding and β-arrestin recruitment. The fate and function of the released PDE4D9 are to be determined and may provide a means to regulate a distinct pool of cAMP away from the membrane. The striking and diversified association between PDE4D isoforms and β2AR likely impacts the time course of cAMP signals in the vicinity of the receptors, which supports the divergent signaling pathways emanating from the β2AR (1). Together with a previous report on PDE4D8 binding to β1AR (6), our data indicate that β1- and β2AR differ in terms of the PDE4D splicing variant recruitment to the receptor, the mode of interaction with the PDE4D variants, and the effect of receptor agonist on the complexes.

Under basal conditions, binding of PDE4D to β2ARs can facilitate cAMP hydrolysis in the vicinity of the unoccupied receptors and prevent a local increase of cAMP, which may have different functional implications. First, it can protect β2ARs from PKA-mediated phosphorylation (14). Second, it may control PKA-mediated phosphorylation of other substrates such as the L-type calcium channel (15) in the receptor complexes and/or local signaling microdomains, thus keeping the system at resting condition. Third, it may maintain receptor/G protein coupling fidelity by preventing PKA phosphorylation-

**FIGURE 5.** Activation of β2AR induces dynamic interaction between the receptor and PDE4D isoforms in myocytes. β1-AR-KO expressing FLAG-β2AR and PDE4D-GFP fusion proteins (4D5, 4D8, and 4D9) are treated with 10 μM isoproterenol (Iso) at the indicated time. The immunoprecipitated (IP) FLAG-β2AR and the bound PDE4D proteins are blotted with the indicated antibodies. The Western blots are quantified and plotted against the base-line levels of individual isoforms (n = 3). *, p < 0.05; **, p < 0.005; and ***, p < 0.001 when compared with the respective base-line control by Student’s t test. In each gel, the total immunoprecipitates are loaded, and the lysate loading represents 5% of the total. IB, immunoblot.

**FIGURE 6.** Dominant negative PDE4D9 and PDE4D8 enhance the PKA phosphorylation of the β2AR. Dominant negative (DN) PDE4D isoforms are expressed together with FLAG-β2AR in β1-AR-KO myocytes. Cells are treated with 10 μM isoproterenol. The FLAG-β2AR is immunoprecipitated (IP) and detected with antibody against PKA phosphorylation sites (Ser-345 and Ser-346) or as indicated. The data are quantified and plotted against the red fluorescence protein control (n = 3). *, p < 0.05 and ***, p < 0.001 when compared with the RFP control by Student’s t test. In each gel, the total immunoprecipitates are loaded, and the lysate loading represents 5% of the total. IB, immunoblot.
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A. $\beta_2$AR-KO myocytes expressing DN-PDE4D9 (4D9DN) or wild type PDE4D9 (4D9WT) are stimulated with isoproterenol (10 $\mu$M). The time courses of changes in myocyte contraction rates are plotted with the indicated antibodies. 

B. Expression of both PDE4D9-WT and PDE4D9-DN in A are examined in Western blotting with indicated antibodies. 

C. $\beta_2$AR-KO myocytes expressing DN-PDE4D isoforms or their corresponding wild type PDE4D isoforms are stimulated with isoproterenol (10 $\mu$M). The changes in myocyte contraction rates are measured. The changes in the base line (C) and the changes in the maximal contraction rate (D) are plotted against the mCherry control (Con). 

D. Maximal contraction rate (C) and contraction rate change over base line (D) are examined in Western blotting with indicated antibodies. 

E. Baseline contraction rate (C) and maximal contraction rate (D) are examined in Western blotting with indicated antibodies.

FIGURE 7. Dominant negative PDE4D isoforms affect the $\beta_2$AR signaling for myocyte contraction rate. A, $\beta_2$AR-KO myocytes expressing DN-PDE4D9 (4D9DN) or wild type PDE4D9 (4D9WT) are stimulated with isoproterenol (10 $\mu$M). The time courses of changes in myocyte contraction rates are plotted with the indicated antibodies. B, expression of both PDE4D9-WT and PDE4D9-DN in A are examined in Western blotting with the indicated antibodies. C–E, $\beta_2$AR-KO myocytes expressing DN-PDE4D isoforms or their corresponding wild type PDE4D isoforms are stimulated with isoproterenol (10 $\mu$M). The changes in myocyte contraction rates are measured. The changes in the base line and the changes in the maximal contraction rate induced by $\beta_2$AR, with the indicated antibodies are examined in Western blotting with indicated antibodies. 

Dependent switching of receptor coupling from $G_{\alpha}$ to $G_{\beta}$ (16). Indeed, when PDE4D9 activity is knocked down with shRNA (Fig. 4C), we observe a substantial increase in the $\beta_2$AR-induced cAMP, although the increase is still below that from inhibition of total PDE4 activities with rolipram (Fig. 4F). In contrast, inhibition of PDE4D8 activity with shRNA knockdown leads to minimal alteration of the maximal cAMP signal induced by $\beta_2$AR with slower attenuation (Fig. 4D). Consistent with this view, localized cAMP transients are elevated in the PDE4D knock-out myocytes, whereas global cAMP signaling is not perturbed (17).

Consequently, $\beta_2$AR phosphorylation is differentially regulated by PDE4D isoforms at basal and stimulatory conditions. Inhibition of PDE4D9 leads to increases in PKA phosphorylation of the receptor at both basal and stimulatory conditions, whereas inhibition of PDE4D8 only has a small enhancement effect after agonist stimulation (Fig. 6). Interestingly, stimulation of $\beta_2$AR, the primary $\beta$AR subtype for cardiac contraction, causes dissociation of PDE4D8 from the receptor complex (supplemental Fig. S4) (6). It is thus plausible that simultaneous stimulation of both $\beta_1$- and $\beta_2$ARs can lead to switching PDE4D8 from $\beta_1$AR to $\beta_2$AR via arrestin-independent mechanisms, which cooperates to produce a localized increase in cAMP in the proximity of the activated $\beta_2$ARs. This event should decrease local cAMP degradation and therefore promote the $\beta_1$-adrenergic signal for contraction responses. Consistent with this notion, co-activation of $\beta_1$- and $\beta_2$ARs differentially affects the receptor signaling for physiological responses. Perturbation of PDE4D5 and PDE4D9 activity by overexpressing PDE4D-DN (Fig. 7) induces a substantial increase in basal contraction rate. The PDE4D9 effect is most likely due to altered cAMP levels and PKA phosphorylation within $\beta_2$AR complexes. The PDE4D5 effect may in part reflect the non-specific increase in cytosolic cAMP and PKA phosphorylation of proteins away from the receptor complexes, because displacing PDE4D5 activity with dominant negative PDE4D5 does not affect PKA phosphorylation of $\beta_2$AR (Fig. 6). When PDE4D9 activity is displaced by either overexpressing PDE4D9-DN or by membrane-permeable peptide, we observe a substantial increase in the maximal contraction rates under $\beta_2$AR stimulation (Figs. 3 and 7). The perturbation of PDE4D8 activity with dominant negative or membrane-permeable peptide induces a smaller but significant enhancement on the maximal contraction rate increases (Figs. 3 and 7). These data support the essential roles of PDE4D9 and to a lesser degree the PDE4D8 isofrom in controlling the $\beta_2$AR-stimulated cAMP/PKA activity for cardiac contraction. The effects of membrane-permeable peptide also support the critical roles of the splicing sequences of PDE4D9 and PDE4D8 for receptor signaling. Our data may also underscore potential differences in the effects of acute treatment with the peptides versus overexpression of dominant negatives on PDE4D isoforms. With dominant negative proteins, additional sequences from individual PDE4D isoforms containing both UCR1 and UCR2 regulatory regions as well as the inactive catalytic domains may play a role in the observed effects.

In addition, perturbation of PDE4D2 attenuates the $\beta_2$AR-induced myocyte contraction rate response. PDE4D2 is a supershorth isofrom that lacks most of the regulatory domains and localization signature (3), and it may be constitutively active in the cytosol to interfere with diffusion of cAMP/PKA activity to downstream signaling proteins for contraction responses. Although PDE4D5 does not appear to play a role in regulating $\beta_2$AR-stimulated contraction response, this specific
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FIGURE 8. Schematic models of differential association of PDE4D isoforms with βAR subtypes in cardiac myocytes. A, at resting state, both β₁,AR and β₂,AR form signaling complexes with distinct PDE4D isoforms; PDE4D8 associates with β₂,AR (6), whereas PDE4D9 and to a lesser extent PDE4D8 associate with β₁,AR (Fig. 1). The binding of PDE4D isoforms to the receptors control local cAMP/PKA activities in the receptor microdomains. B, upon ligand stimulation, PDE4D8 is dissociated from the β₁,AR, whereas PDE4D9 is dissociated from the β₂,AR. Interestingly, PDE4D8 and another splicing variant, PDE4D5, are recruited to the β₁,AR via arrestin-dependent mechanism, which cooperates to produce a localized increase in cAMP in the proximity of the activated β₁,ARs. This event should synergistically promote the β₁,AR signal for myocyte contraction responses.

isoform may control the activity of the exchange protein activated by cAMP and/or extracellular signal-regulated kinase (ERK) (7, 8). In addition, the recruitment of PDE4D5 and PDE4D8 to the activated receptors can result in a local increase in PDE4 activity and therefore lower cAMP/PKA activities on receptor-containing endosomes to facilitate the receptor dephosphorylation for subsequent recycling.

Together, our findings demonstrate that PDE4D9 and PDE4D8 are preferentially associated with β₂,AR at resting state in cardiac myocytes. Stimulation of β₂,AR has divergent effects on PDE4D recruitment in the membrane subdomains, with PDE4D9 dissociating from the receptor and PDE4D8 and PDE4D5 recruiting to the activated receptor. The dynamic localization of different PDE4D splicing variants, as well as their activation state, likely plays a major role in controlling cAMP accumulation in distinct subcellular domains.

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