Class I and class III phosphoinositide 3-kinases are required for actin polymerization that propels phagosomes

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Introduction

Removal of foreign particles by phagocytosis plays a central role in innate immunity (Aderem and Underhill, 1999). Phagocytosis also mediates the clearance of apoptotic bodies that is essential for tissue remodeling and homeostasis (Zhou and Yu, 2008). Mammalian cells express two types of phagocytic receptors: nonopsonic receptors that bind directly to the particle and receptors that recognize opsonins, serum components such as antibodies or complement which coat the target. The most widely studied opsonic receptors are Fcγ receptors (FcγRs), which bind the Fc portion of IgG, and CR3, which bind the C3bi component of complement (Underhill and Ozinsky, 2002).

FcγRs and CR3 differ not only in the nature of their ligands but also in their mode of signaling. Although FcγRs engage Src-family and Syk kinases, these steps are not essential for CR3-mediated phagocytosis (Aderem and Underhill, 1999). Nevertheless, the signal transduction pathways of both receptors ultimately converge, eliciting actin remodeling that leads to particle engulfment. Rho-family GTPases mediate actin polymerization in both instances, although the identity of the specific GTPases involved remains the subject of controversy (Caron and Hall, 1998; Hall et al., 2006). A strict requirement for phosphatidylinositol-(3,4,5)-trisphosphate (PI(3,4,5)P3) is another common feature of the phagocytosis of large particles by FcγR and CR3.

The actin accumulated around nascent phagosomes depolymerizes within minutes of internalization, a step that is believed to be required for unimpeded fusion of endomembranes with the maturing vacuole (Liebl and Griffiths, 2009). In the case of FcγR-induced internalization, F-actin is only detectable at later stages, very transiently, around <8% of phagosomes (Liebl and Griffiths, 2009). However, in the course of analyzing the fate of phagosomes formed via CR3, we noted the regular occurrence of a second wave of actin polymerization around fully internalized phagosomes. We describe the mechanism underlying this event, which involves the conversion of PI(3,4,5)P3 to PI(3,4)P2 and PI(3,4)P2 on the phagosomal membrane by class I phosphoinositide 3-kinases (PI3Ks). Although the phosphatidylinositol phosphatase Inpp5B was recruited to nascent phagosomes, it rapidly detached from the plasma membrane after phagosomes sealed. Detachment of Inpp5B required the formation of PI(3)P. Thus, class III PI3K activity was also required for the accumulation of PI(4,5)P2 and PI(3,4,5)P3 and for actin tail formation. These experiments reveal a new PI(3)P-sensitive pathway leading to PI(3,4)P2 and PI(3,4,5)P3 formation and signaling in endomembranes.

Actin polymerization drives the extension of pseudopods that trap and engulf phagocytic targets. The polymerized actin subsequently dissociates as the phagocytic vacuole seals and detaches from the plasma membrane. We found that phagosomes formed by engagement of integrins that serve as complement receptors (CR3) undergo secondary waves of actin polymerization, leading to the formation of “comet tails” that propel the vacuoles inside the cells. Actin tail formation was accompanied by and required de novo formation of PI(3,4)P2 and PI(3,4,5)P3 on the phagosomal membrane.
phosphatidylinositol-(4,5)-bisphosphate (PI(4,5)P$_2$) to PI(3,4,5)P$_3$ by class I phosphoinositide 3-kinases (PI3Ks), the dislodgement of the 5'-phosphoinositide phosphatase, Inpp5B, by phosphatidylinositol-(3)-phosphate (PI(3)P) to allow accumulation of both PI(4,5)P$_2$ and PI(3,4,5)P$_3$, and the reengagement of Rho-family GTPases to form actin tails that propel phagosomes inside the macrophage.

**Results**

**Actin-tailed phagosomes form after CR3-mediated phagocytosis**

The actin-driven process that results in the engulfment of C3bi-coated particles is unclear; earlier studies suggested that particles sink into the cytosol of the phagocyte (Kaplan, 1977; Aderem and Underhill, 1999), whereas more recent observations postulated entrapment by thin pseudopods that wrap around the particles (Hall et al., 2006). We reanalyzed this question by continuously monitoring actin distribution in RAW264.7 macrophages stably transfected with either mCherry- or GFP-actin that were challenged by C3bi-coated RBCs. Our observations replicated the extension of thin, actin-rich structures that surrounded and entrapped the target particles (Video 1). Such actin accumulation at the plasma membrane dissipated shortly after completion of phagocytosis. More remarkably however, we noted the development of secondary waves of actin polymerization in association with most formed phagosomes (Fig. 1 A and Video 2 A). During this second phase, which started 1–3 min after the sealed phagosomes detached from the plasma membrane, actin transiently surrounded the entire phagosome and then dissociated asymmetrically, resulting in the appearance of an actin “comet tail” that drove short-lived phagosome displacement (Fig. 1 A and Video 2 B). Similar tails were also associated with phagosomes containing a variety of serum-coated targets, including *Yersinia pseudotuberculosis* (Fig. 1 B, top), zymosan (Fig. 1 B, bottom), live *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (Video 3 A), and *Escherichia coli* (Video 3 B), that also activate CR3. Such cycles of actin polymerization and formation of actin tails were virtually absent during FcyR-mediated phagocytosis even when the cells were pretreated with PMA, which is routinely used for activation of CR3 (Fig. 1 C and D), suggesting these events were particular to CR3-mediated uptake.

**Formation of actin tails requires Rac1**

To assess the involvement of GTPases in the second wave of actin polymerization promoted by CR3, we used p21-binding domain (PBD)–PAK1–YFP, a fluorescent reporter of Rac1 and Cdc42 activity consisting of the PBD of PAK1 fused to YFP. A moderate but reproducible accumulation of PBD-PAK1–YFP was noted at sites of internalization, which disappeared shortly after phagosome closure (Fig. 1 E, Fig. S1, and Video 4), supporting a role for Rac and/or Cdc42 in CR3-mediated uptake. More strikingly, we detected the reassociation of the PBD-PAK1 around the phagosome shortly after sealing (Fig. 1 E). Coexpression of PBD-PAK1–YFP with mCherry-actin revealed that Rac and/or Cdc42 reactivation preceded and persisted through the second cycle of actin polymerization. Expression of Rac1–dominant negative (DN)–GFP suppressed the second cycle of actin polymerization, whereas DN Cdc42 had only a modest effect (Fig. 1 F). These observations suggest that, unlike the pathogen-induced comet tails, the actin tails formed by CR3 phagosomes are associated with and require Rho-family GTPase activation.

**PI(3,4,5)P$_3$ accumulates on the phagosome during the second cycle of actin polymerization**

In a variety of systems, PI(3,4,5)P$_3$ promotes and is often required for the activation of Rac/Cdc42 (Aoki et al., 2005). This phosphoinositide activates Rho-family guanine nucleotide exchange factors including Vav2, Vav3, and PI(3,4,5)P$_3$-dependent Rac exchange (Welch et al., 2002; Aoki et al., 2005). We therefore investigated whether PI(3,4,5)P$_3$ mediates the activation of actin polymerization in sealed phagosomes. A fluorescent chimera containing the pleckstrin homology (PH) domain of the kinase Akt was used to monitor the distribution of 3'-polyphosphoinositides in cells engulfing C3bi-coated RBCs. Time-lapse microscopy indicated that, as reported earlier for FcyR-induced phagosomes (Marshall et al., 2001), PH-Akt–GFP accumulated on nascent CR3 phagosomes and dissociated shortly after sealing (Fig. 2 A and Video 5). Unlike FcyR phagosomes, however, CR3-induced phagosomes underwent one or more secondary waves of PH-Akt–GFP recruitment that coincided with the secondary cycles of actin polymerization (Fig. 2 A and Video 5). The probe associated uniformly around the phagosomal membrane even though actin became gradually polarized (Video 5). To ensure that these secondary waves were not caused by fluctuations in the focal plane, we labeled C3bi-coated RBCs with a fluorescent F(ab)'$_2$ to track the location of the phagosomes (Fig. 2 B, insets). The intensities of PH-Akt–GFP and mCherry-actin clearly oscillated even when the constancy of the optical plane was verified, validating the occurrence of fluctuations in 3'-polyphosphoinositide content and ruling out optical artifacts (Fig. 2 C).

To examine the functional relationship between the formation of 3'-phosphoinositides and the polymerization of actin, we treated cells with wortmannin, an inhibitor of PI3K. Because formation of 3'-polyphosphoinositides by class I PI3K is required for the ingestion of large particles such as RBCs (Araki et al., 1996), the inhibitor was added immediately after phagocytosis was completed. Strikingly, wortmannin prevented PH-Akt association with formed phagosomes and completely abolished the formation of actin tails (Fig. 2 D and E). These observations imply that PI3K activity is required for the secondary wave of actin polymerization.

The PH domain of Akt recognizes not only PI(3,4,5)P$_3$ but also phosphatidylinositol-(3,4)-bisphosphate (PI(3,4)P$_2$). Because the probe associates with both inositides with similar affinity (Franke et al., 1997; Rong et al., 2001), we are unable to discern whether PI(3,4)P$_2$ or PI(3,4,5)P$_3$ is formed by the phagosomes. To better assess the presence of PI(3,4,5)P$_3$, we used a more selective probe. Macrophages were transfected with a fluorescent chimera encoding the PH domain of Gab2 (Gu et al., 2003), which preferentially binds PI(3,4,5)P$_3$. GFP–Gab2-PH
PI(4,5)P₂ is normally present on the membrane of unstimulated cells but, in the case of FcγR-induced phagocytosis, disappears during the course of particle engulfment as a result of degradation by phospholipase C and possibly also by phosphatases and is not detectable thereafter (Botelho et al., 2000). Because of the reformation of PI(3,4,5)P₃ and the reassembly of actin on the membrane of CR3 phagosomes, however, we anticipated the occurrence of a second wave of PI(4,5)P₂ in this system. This was tested in cells transfected with a GFP-tagged chimera of the PH domain of PLCδ. Contrary to our prediction, PH-PLCδ–GFP was not detectable in sealed CR3 phagosomes (Fig. 3 A, insets; and Video 6 A). It seemed conceivable that the PH-PLCδ–GFP probe lacked the sensitivity to detect a low yet significant concentration of PI(4,5)P₂. To enhance the sensitivity of our

**PI(4,5)P₂ during the second cycle of actin polymerization**

PI(4,5)P₂ has been implicated in several aspects of actin polymerization and remodeling, guiding the nucleation, elongation, and bundling of filaments (Hilpelä et al., 2004). Additionally, phosphorylation of PI(4,5)P₂ by class I PI3K is the main source of PI(3,4,5)P₃ (Hinchcliffe, 2001), which we found to accumulate at the phagosome during the second wave of actin assembly. PI(4,5)P₂ is normally present on the membrane of unstimulated cells but, in the case of FcγR-induced phagocytosis, disappears during the course of particle engulfment as a result of degradation by phospholipase C and possibly also by phosphatases and is not detectable thereafter (Botelho et al., 2000). Because of the reformation of PI(3,4,5)P₃ and the reassembly of actin on the membrane of CR3 phagosomes, however, we anticipated the occurrence of a second wave of PI(4,5)P₂ in this system. This was tested in cells transfected with a GFP-tagged chimera of the PH domain of PLCδ. Contrary to our prediction, PH-PLCδ–GFP was not detectable in sealed CR3 phagosomes (Fig. 3 A, insets; and Video 6 A). It seemed conceivable that the PH-PLCδ–GFP probe lacked the sensitivity to detect a low yet significant concentration of PI(4,5)P₂. To enhance the sensitivity of our

**Figure 1. Actin tails propel phagosomes after CR3-mediated phagocytosis.** [A–C and E] RAW264.7 macrophages stably expressing GFP-actin [A and C] or mCherry-actin [B and E] were examined by confocal microscopy after exposure to complement-coated RBCs [A and E], serum-coated *Y. pseudotuberculosis* or serum-coated zymosan (B) to trigger CR3-mediated phagocytosis, or IgG-coated RBCs (C) to trigger FcγR-mediated phagocytosis. [D] Quantitation of the percentage of phagosomes that displayed actin tails during the first 15 min after uptake. Data are means ± SEM of at least six individual experiments; a minimum of 70 phagosomes were counted per experiment. [E] PBD-PAK1–YFP was transfected transiently, and its dynamics were monitored in parallel with that of mCherry-actin. [F] Quantitation of the percentage of phagosomes that displayed actin tails during the first 15 min after uptake of complement-coated RBCs in cells transfected with DN forms of Rac1 or Cdc42. Data are means ± SEM of at least 4 individual experiments; a minimum of 60 phagosomes were counted per experiment. Images in A–C and E are representative of at least 10 individual experiments of each kind. Numbers indicate time in seconds after phagosome formation, and arrows point to the nascent or recently formed phagosomes. Insets illustrate corresponding differential interference contrast images. Bars, 5 µm.
Figure 2. PI(3,4)P_2/PI(3,4,5)P_3 accumulation in sealed phagosomes: role in actin tail formation. (A, B, and D) RAW macrophages stably expressing mCherry-actin were transfected with PH-Akt–GFP and monitored after CR3-mediated uptake of complement-coated RBCs. In B, the complement-coated RBCs were marked with a fluorescent F(ab')_2 (insets) to verify the constancy of the focal plane. (C) Plots of the background-subtracted intensities of PH-Akt–GFP and mCherry-actin as ratios of the F(ab')_2 intensity ± SEM of 29 individual phagosomes. To control for the heterogeneous timing of PI(3,4,5)P_3 formation and actin tail formation after internalization, the plots were centered at time 0, which represents the moment of maximal PH-Akt–GFP recruitment to an internalized phagosome. (D) The cells were treated with 100 nM wortmannin immediately after phagocytosis was completed. Numbers indicate time in seconds after formation of phagosomes indicated by arrows. Insets illustrate corresponding differential contrast images. Images in A, B, and D are representative of at least six individual experiments of each kind. Bars, 5 µm. (E) Quantitation of PH-Akt– (left) or actin-positive phagosomes (right) at the indicated times after sealing. The cells were treated with 100 nM wortmannin shortly after phagocytosis was completed. Neither PH-Akt–GFP nor actin were detectable in wortmannin-treated samples after 10 min. Data, expressed as percentages, are means ± SEM of at least five individual experiments of each type; ≥80 phagosomes were counted per experiment.
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overexpression of the kinases reduced phagocytic efficiency of CR3-coated RBCs, an effect that was most pronounced for PIP5KIβ; we therefore studied primarily the fate of PIP5KIβ and PIP5KIγ.

Both kinases were abundant at the plasma membrane and accumulated at the phagocytic cup during both FcγR- and CR3-mediated phagocytosis (see Fig. 4 for an illustration of PIP5KIβ).

As shown previously (Botelho et al., 2000; Coppolino et al., 2002), in the case of FcγR-mediated uptake, the accumulation of PIP5KI was transient; the enzyme detached from the phagosomes upon sealing and was not seen to reassociate thereafter (Fig. 4 B). In sharp contrast, both PIP5KIβ and PIP5KIγ remained associated with CR3-induced phagosomes for ≥10–15 min after the phagosomes sealed (Fig. 4, A and C). Indeed, the kinases persisted on the phagosomal membrane at the time when PI(3,4,5)P3 formed and actin accumulated around the phagosome (Fig. 4 D).

Recruiting PIP5KI to FcγR phagosomes induces a second wave of PI(4,5)P2 and PI(3,4,5)P3 accumulation and actin polymerization

The persistence of PIP5KI at the phagosome after CR3- but not FcγR-mediated uptake, as well as its coincidence with the second cycle of actin polymerization, suggests that PIP5KI is the enzyme responsible for the synthesis of PI(4,5)P2 from PI(4)P. Because PIP5KI activity is strictly necessary during the initial stages of phagocytosis, it was impossible to test the role of this

Type I PI(4)P 5-kinase (PIP5K) is present at the phagosomal membrane during actin tail formation

Although phagosomes induced by either FcγR or CR3 accumulate PI4KI, only the latter proceed to generate PI(4,5)P2 and PI(3,4,5)P3 and form actin tails. This suggests that CR3 phagosomes possess a unique process for the conversion of PI(4)P to the more highly phosphorylated phosphoinositides. The mechanism used by CR3 phagosomes to generate PI(4,5)P2 was investigated next. We analyzed the role of PIP5Ks, the enzymes responsible for the synthesis of PI(4,5)P2 from PI(4)P (Loijens et al., 1996). Macrophages were transfected with GFP-tagged versions of the main PIP5KI isoforms. As reported for FcγR phagocytosis (Fairn et al., 2009), we found that overexpression of the kinases reduced phagocytic efficiency of CR3-coated RBCs, an effect that was most pronounced for PIP5KIα; we therefore studied primarily the fate of PIP5KIβ and PIP5KIγ. Both kinases were abundant at the plasma membrane and accumulated at the phagocytic cup during both FcγR- and CR3-mediated phagocytosis (see Fig. 4 for an illustration of PIP5KIγ).

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Figure 3. Distribution of PI(4,5)P2 and PI4KII during actin tail formation. (A and C) Macrophages expressing the indicated constructs were analyzed by confocal microscopy after uptake of complement- or IgG-coated RBCs. Bars, 5 µm. (A) Cells stably expressing mCherry-actin (right) were transiently transfected with tandem 2PH-PLC5–GFP (left). The insets show cells stably expressing mCherry-actin (right) transiently transfected with the single PH-PLC5–GFP (left). (B) Quantitation of 2PH-PLC5–GFP- and actin-positive phagosomes at the indicated times after sealing for both CR3- and FcγR-mediated phagocytosis. (C) Cells were transiently transfected with GFP-PI4KIIA (left) or GFP-PI4KIIB (right) and monitored after CR3- (top) or FcγR-mediated phagocytosis (bottom). (D) Quantitation of PI4KIIA- and PI4KIIB-positive phagosomes during the first 15 min after uptake of complement- and IgG-coated RBCs. Numbers indicate time in seconds after phagosome formation, and arrows point to the nascent or recently formed phagosome. Data, expressed as percentages, are means ± SEM of at least three individual experiments of each type; ≥50 phagosomes were counted per experiment.

assay, we transfected cells with a probe consisting of two tandem PH domains of PLC5 (2PH-PLC5–GFP). This more sensitive probe (Mason et al., 2007) was detected on actin-positive CR3 phagosomes, albeit at a much lower level than at the plasma membrane (Fig. 3 A and Video 6 B). Of note, CR3 phagosomes were much more likely to retain 2PH-PLC5–GFP than FcγR phagosomes (Fig. 2 B).

The de novo synthesis of PI(4,5)P2 requires a supply of its precursor, phosphatidylinositol-(4)-phosphate (PI(4)P), generated by phosphatidylinositol 4-kinases (PI4Ks). As reported for phagosomes formed by Listeria monocytogenes in epithelial cells (Pizarro-Cerdá et al., 2007), we detected both PI4KIIA and PI4KIIB in phagosomes induced by CR3 and FcγR (Fig. 3, C and D).

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kinase by expression of DN constructs, which prevent phagocytosis (Coppolino et al., 2002). Gene silencing using siRNA would be subject to the same limitations and complicated by the existence of multiple, potentially redundant PIP5KI isoforms. Instead, we used a gain-of-function approach, inducing the retention of PIP5KI on FcγR-generated phagosomes, which normally fail to retain the kinase and do not display secondary waves of actin association. This was accomplished using an inducible, rapamycin-mediated heterodimerization system (Inoue et al., 2005). The system consists of two components: a rapamycin-binding domain coupled to the short splice variant of PIP5KI fused to a fluorescent marker (YFP–FKBP-binding protein [FKBP]–PIP5K) and a second rapamycin-binding moiety fused to the membrane-targeting N-terminal sequence of Lyn (Lyn11–directed rapamycin-binding domain [LDR]; Fig. 5). In the absence of rapamycin, YFP–FKBP–PIP5K is largely soluble, and no association with sealed phagosomes is detectable (Fig. 5 B). Under these conditions, as in untransfected cells, no PH-PLCγ–RFP—indicative of PI(4,5)P₂—associates with fully formed FcγR phagosomes. Upon addition of rapamycin, however, YFP–FKBP–PIP5K is recruited to the plasma membrane and also to recently formed phagosomes, where LDR resides (Fig. 5 B and Video 7). In nearly all phagosomes, recruitment of PIP5KI was associated with accumulation of PH-PLCγ–RFP (Fig. 5 B). The level of PH-PLCγ–RFP at the plasmalemma remained unchanged.

As in untransfected cells, the FcγR phagosomes were mostly devoid of mCherry-actin in cells coexpressing YFP–FKBP–PIP5K and LDR. Adding rapamycin induced the polymerization of actin and the formation of robust comet tails (Fig. 5, D and G; Fig. S3 D; and Video 8). The addition of rapamycin to untransfected cells or to cells expressing LDR plus a chimera of FKBP and YFP lacking PIP5K had no effect on actin polymerization (Fig. 5 G, Fig. S3 E, and Video 9). Addition of rapamycin to cells expressing LDR plus a chimera of FKBP and CFP containing a kinase-dead version of PIP5K produced a small yet significant degree of actin polymerization (Fig. 5 G). The mechanism underlying this modest activation of actin remains unclear, but heterodimerization of endogenous wild-type enzyme with the kinase-dead mutant is a distinct possibility.

Two lines of evidence indicate that formation of PI(3,4,5)P₃ was responsible for the polymerization of actin promoted by recruitment of PIP5KI. First, the addition of rapamycin to cells coexpressing YFP–FKBP–PIP5K and LDR (Fig. 5 C, inset) induced the recruitment of PH-Akt–RFP, indicative of PI(3,4)P₂/PI(3,4,5)P₃, to the phagosomal membrane (Fig. 5, C and G; and
Class I PI3K accumulates on phagosomes

Although the recruitment of PIP5KI is sufficient to produce PI(4,5)P₂ on maturing phagosomes, a 3'-kinase is required for the conversion of PI(4,5)P₂ into PI(3,4,5)P₃. The observed inhibitory effects of LY294002 and wortmannin on the accumulation of PH-Akt support this notion. Class I PI3Ks normally underlie the formation of PI(3,4,5)P₃ from PI(4,5)P₂ at the plasma membrane but have not been reported to act in endomembranes. To assess their involvement, we first studied their distribution during phagocytosis. To visualize class I PI3K, we used the regulatory subunit of class PI3K, p85, fused to YFP. In unstimulated cells, this chimera was largely soluble and absent from the plasmalemma (Fig. 6 B), consistent with the failure of PH-Akt to accumulate at the plasmalemma after PIP5K recruitment (Fig. 5 C). During CR3-mediated phagosome formation, PI(3,4)P₂/PI(3,4,5)P₃ was responsible for the polymerization of actin observed upon recruitment of PIP5KI to FcγR phagosomes. The PI3K inhibitor eliminated the association of actin with the formation of comet tails induced by rapamycin (Fig. 5, E and G; and Fig. S3 F). By recapitulating in FcγR phagosomes the PIP5KI-induced formation of PI(4,5)P₂ and PI(3,4)P₂/PI(3,4,5)P₃, and the second wave of actin polymerization, these experiments provide indirect evidence for the role of PIP5KI during CR3-mediated phagocytosis.
phagosomes for significant periods of time, overlapping with the actin polymerization stage (Fig. 6, B and C). A punctate pattern of p85 was also seen around phagosomes induced by FcγR (Fig. 6 B) despite the fact they failed to accumulate PI(3,4,5)P3 or actin. These observations suggest that class I PI3K may be responsible for PI(3,4,5)P3 generation in CR3 phagosomes, which retain PIP5KI and can therefore generate PI(4,5)P3, and that failure of FcγR phagosomes to make PI(3,4,5)P3 is attributable to the absence of PIP5KI and not class I PI3K.

LY294002 and wortmannin inhibit not only class I PI3K but also the class III Vps34 that is active in phagosomes. The latter could in principle also contribute to PI(3,4,5)P3 formation because its product, PI(3)P, functions in vitro as a substrate for the formation of PI(3,4)P2/PI(3,4,5)P3 by PIP5KI (Zhang et al., 1997). To discern the contributions of the two types of kinases, we used PI-103, an inhibitor that when used in the nanomolar range inhibits class I PI3K but not class III (Fan et al., 2006). At 100 nM, PI-103 inhibited phagocytosis—a class I–dependent process—by >80% (not depicted) and did not affect PI(3)P formation (Video 10). To assess its effects on PI(3,4,5)P3 and actin accumulation on sealed phagosomes, we added the drug 2 min after particle ingestion was completed. Strikingly, PI-103 prevented PH-Akt association with formed phagosomes and completely abolished the formation of actin tails (Fig. 6 A). These observations imply that class I PI3K activity is required for PI(3,4,5)P3 formation and for the secondary wave of actin polymerization.

The second wave of actin polymerization depends on PI(3)P

The inhibition of actin tail formation by PI-103 establishes the role of class I PI3K but does not preclude the possibility that class III PI3K may also be involved in the process. After FcγR-mediated phagocytosis, PI(3)P appears on the phagosomal membrane shortly after closure (Vieira et al., 2001), directing fusion with late endosomes and lysosomes. That PI(3)P is also generated in the course of CR3–induced phagocytosis was verified using a construct consisting of two tandem FYVE domains of EEA1 tagged with GFP. As illustrated in Fig. 7 A, PI(3)P was routinely found to appear on CR3 phagosomes shortly after sealing, where it persisted for ~10 min, recapitulating the observations in FcγR phagosomes (Vieira et al., 2001). As anticipated, 2FYVE-GFP recruitment was obliterated by wortmannin (Fig. 7 B).

Because PI(3)P formation coincided and often preceded the association of actin with the sealed phagosome (Fig. 7 A), we considered the possibility that it may regulate the de novo formation of PI(4,5)P2 and PI(3,4,5)P3. To further analyze the PI(3)P dependence of actin tail formation, and because selective

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**Figure 6. Role of PI3KI during actin tail formation.** (A) Macrophages stably expressing mCherry-actin were transiently transfected with PH-Akt–GFP, and phagocytosis of complement-coated RBCs was initiated. Shortly after ingestion, the indicated cells were treated with 100 nM PI-103. The percentage of phagosomes that were actin or PH-Akt positive was quantified at the indicated times after sealing. (B) Macrophages stably expressing mCherry-actin were transiently transfected with p85-YFP. Cells were left unstimulated [top right] or made to ingest complement- [left] and IgG-coated RBCs (bottom right). Main panels show p85-YFP, and, where present, insets show mCherry-actin. Asterisks indicate forming phagosomes. Bars, 3 µm. (C) Quantitation of the percentage of p85-YFP–positive phagosomes at the indicated times after sealing for both CR3- and FcγR-mediated phagocytosis. Data, expressed as percentages, are means ± SEM of at least three individual experiments of each type; ≥40 phagosomes were counted per experiment.
inhibitors of class III PI3K are not available, we instead attempted to sequester the phosphoinositide by overexpressing a construct consisting of five tandem FYVE domains. Because of the high avidity conferred by multiple conjoined FYVE domains, this GFP-tagged chimera is predicted to effectively scavenge PI(3)P, precluding access by proteins that depend on its signaling. As shown in Fig. 7 (C and E), formation of PI(3,4,5)P3 and recruitment of actin around CR3 phagosomes were absent in cells that expressed high levels of 5FYVE-GFP but not in cells with low expression levels.

We also inhibited the class III PI3K selectively by loading the macrophages with neutralizing anti-Vps34 antibodies. Cells were transiently permeabilized using glass beads in the presence of concentrated antibody and rhodamine-labeled dextran, which was used to identify the loaded cells. Antibody-loaded cells showed a marked inhibition of actin tail formation compared to control cells.

Figure 7. PI(3)P is required for actin tail formation. Macrophages expressing the indicated constructs were analyzed by confocal microscopy after CR3-mediated uptake of complement-coated RBCs. Insets show corresponding differential interference contrast images. Numbers indicate time after phagosome formation. Bars, 5 µm. (A) Cells stably expressing mCherry-actin (bottom) were transiently transfected with 2FYVE-GFP (top). (B) Quantification of 2FYVE-positive phagosomes at the indicated times after sealing. The cells were treated with 100 nM wortmannin shortly after ingestion of the RBCs. Data, expressed as percentages, are means ± SEM of at least six individual experiments of each type; ≥70 phagosomes were counted per experiment. (C) Macrophages stably expressing mCherry-actin (right) were transiently transfected with a construct consisting of five tandem FYVE domains coupled to GFP (left). The dotted lines delineate the cell outlines on the left. (D) Macrophages stably expressing GFP-actin (right) were loaded with anti-Vps34 antibody in the presence of rhodamine-conjugated dextran (left), which was used to identify the cells that were transiently permeabilized by the bead-loading procedure. The dotted lines delineate the outlines of unloaded cells displaying actin-labeled phagosomes. Arrows point to the nascent or recently formed phagosomes. Images in A, C, and D are representative of at least four individual experiments. (E) Quantification of actin- or PH-Akt-RFP-positive phagosomes in cells transiently transfected with 5FYVE-GFP. (F) Quantification of actin-positive phagosomes in cells loaded with an anti-Vps34 antibody (+) or subjected to the permeabilization protocol and either unloaded or loaded with an irrelevant antibody. Data in E and F are means ± SEM of at least four individual experiments; ≥25 phagosomes were counted per experiment.
proceeded to analyze the possible role of phosphatases. Inpp5B is an inositol 5-phosphatase that preferentially dephosphorylates the 5’ position of PI(4,5)P2 and PI(3,4,5)P3 (Erdmann et al., 2007). Interestingly, Inpp5B binds to APPL1, a protein that accumulates in endosomes and macropinosomes when PI(3)P is depleted (Zoncu et al., 2009). We therefore considered the possibility that class III PI3K controls the level of PI(3,4,5)P3 in phagosomes by dictating the association/dissociation of Inpp5. As illustrated in Fig. 8 (A and C), Inpp5B-GFP was recruited to forming phagosomes but dissociated shortly after sealing, failing to reassociate thereafter, mirroring the dynamics of its binding partner, APPL1 (Fig. S4).

Remarkably, treatment of the cells with LY294002 immediately after phagocytosis caused a striking reaccumulation of Inpp5B that lasted up to 30 min (Fig. 8, A–C). The reaccumulation induced by LY294002 was, in all likelihood, caused by inhibition of class III PI3K and not class I because the effect was not replicated by PI-103 (Fig. 8, A and B). Jointly, these results suggest that formation of PI(3)P, the product of class III PI3K, is required for the dissociation of Inpp5, which enables the accumulation of PI(4,5)P2, PI(3,4,5)P3, and actin on sealed phagosomes.

Figure 8. PI(3)P controls the association of Inpp5B with phagosomes. (A) Cells were transiently transfected with Inpp5B-GFP, and phagocytosis of complement-coated RBCs was initiated. Shortly after ingestion of the RBCs, the cells were treated with 100 µM LY294002 (middle) or 100 nM PI-103 (bottom). Numbers indicate time in seconds after phagosome formation, and arrows point to the nascent or recently formed phagosomes. Bars, 5 µm. (B) Quantitation of the percentage of phagosomes that was Inpp5B-GFP positive at 10 min after phagosome sealing. Data are means ± SEM of at least three individual experiments; ≥30 phagosomes were counted. The numbers indicate the fraction of Inpp5B-positive phagosomes. (C) Plots of the background-subtracted intensity of Inpp5B-GFP for phagosomes under control conditions and when 100 µM LY294002 (arrowhead) was added shortly after phagosome closure (squares). Data are means ± SEM of at least three individual experiments; ≥10 phagosomes were counted per experiment. a.u., arbitrary units.

**PI(3)P displaces Inpp5B, an inositol 5-phosphatase**

How does PI(3)P contribute to PI(3,4,5)P3 accumulation and actin polymerization? Several mechanisms can be envisaged: PI(3)P may be required to retain or activate class I PI3K, to preclude the action of polyphosphoinositide phosphatases, or to recruit additional effectors.

We found that, despite treatment with LY294002, class I PI3K (assessed monitoring p85) was recruited and retained by sealed CR3 phagosomes (unpublished data). We therefore proceeded to analyze the possible role of phosphatases. Inpp5B is an inositol 5-phosphatase that preferentially dephosphorylates the 5’ position of PI(4,5)P2 and PI(3,4,5)P3 (Erdmann et al., 2007). Interestingly, Inpp5B binds to APPL1, a protein that accumulates in endosomes and macropinosomes when PI(3)P is depleted (Zoncu et al., 2009). We therefore considered the possibility that class III PI3K controls the level of PI(3,4,5)P3 in phagosomes by dictating the association/dissociation of Inpp5. As illustrated in Fig. 8 (A and C), Inpp5B-GFP was recruited to forming phagosomes but dissociated shortly after sealing, failing to reassociate thereafter, mirroring the dynamics of its binding partner, APPL1 (Fig. S4).

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Actin tails accelerate CR3 phagosome maturation

The functional significance of actin tail formation was explored next. Sealed phagosomes undergo a series of fusion and fission events collectively called maturation that convert them into phagolysosomes, hybrid organelles with enhanced microbicidal capacity. We considered whether formation of actin tails affects the rate of maturation, perhaps by bringing phagosomes in close proximity to endocytic subcompartments. Macrophages were challenged with C3bi-coated RBCs for 5 min and then incubated with a fluorescent F(ab')2 to label uninternalized RBCs, allowing assessment of maturation in adequately synchronized phagosomes. Phagosomal maturation was analyzed at different times in cells treated with or without latrunculin B, an actin polymerization inhibitor, identifying mature phagosomes with LysoTracker. Treatment with latrunculin B reduced the rate and extent of phagolysosome formation (Fig. 9), suggesting that actin tail formation expedites phagosome maturation. However, other indirect effects of actin depolymerization cannot be discounted.

Discussion

The salient finding of these studies is that actin is recruited to sealed CR3 phagosomes by a process that requires the activity of class I PI3K as well as Vps34, the class III PI3K. However, the presence of class I and class III kinases on the phagosomal membrane is insufficient to induce actin polymerization; phagosomes induced by activation of FcγR display a consistent, robust accumulation of PI(3)P (Vieira et al., 2001) yet rarely recruit actin (Fig. 1; Choi et al., 2008). Our data indicate that actin assembly correlates instead with the formation of PI(4,5)P2 and PI(3,4,5)P3, which are detectable only in phagosomes generated by CR3 and not in those induced by FcγR. Actin does assemble onto FcγR phagosomes when PI(4,5)P2/PI(3,4,5)P3 formation is imposed by inducible recruitment of heterologously expressed kinases (Fig. 5).

In mammalian cells, PI(3,4,5)P3 is thought to be generated primarily via phosphorylation of PI(4,5)P2 by class I PI3K (Hinchcliffe, 2001). PI(3,4)P2 is formed by dephosphorylation of PI(3,4,5)P3 catalyzed by 5′-phosphatases such as Src homology 2 domain–containing inositol 5-phosphatase. These reactions are likely to account for the appearance of PI(3,4)P2 and PI(3,4,5)P3 in CR3 phagosomes inasmuch as (a) PI(4,5)P2 is detectable in their membranes, (b) p85 is present when they appear, and (c) PI-103 suppresses their formation. The class I kinase was also found on the membrane of FcγR phagosomes, yet these failed to generate PI(3,4,5)P3. We attribute this difference to the absence of PI(3,4)P2, the substrate of class I PI3K. Our data indicate that PIP5KI, the enzyme that generates PI(4,5)P2, is in fact retained by CR3-induced phagosomes but not by those formed by FcγR, mirroring the appearance of PI(3,4)P2 and PI(3,4,5)P3, and the recruitment of actin. Validation of a causal relationship between these events by knockdown or pharmacological inhibition of PIP5KI is not feasible because phagocytosis depends on the activity of these enzymes. However, the ability of phagosomal PIP5KI to convert PI(4)P to PI(4,5)P2 was demonstrated by inducing its recruitment with rapamycin to FcγR phagosomes, which are otherwise devoid of the kinase. Therefore, we conclude that CR3 phagosomes have the unique ability to synthesize PI(3,4,5)P3, by retaining PIP5KI.

Not only was the activity of PIP5KI and class I PI3K required for accumulation of PI(3,4,5)P3, but so was the activity of class III PI3K. Indeed, blocking the headgroups of PI(3)P or preventing its formation using inhibitory anti-Vps34 antibodies precluded PI(3,4,5)P3 accumulation and actin rocking. Our data suggest that PI(3)P acts by terminating the activity of Inpp5 (and possibly other phosphatases) on sealed phagosomes. Accordingly, although Inpp5 rapidly dissociated from CR3 phagosomes in untreated cells, it lingered at high concentrations for up to 30 min if PI(3)P formation was blocked. Preliminary data indicate that Inpp5 retention in this case is mediated by APPL1, which in turn binds to Rab5. We had shown earlier that the residence time of Rab5 in phagosomes is greatly extended when PI(3)P formation is impaired (Vieira et al., 2001). Thus, the activity of the class III PI3K is essential to dislodge the phosphatase, thereby allowing the accumulation of PI(4,5)P2 and PI(3,4,5)P3. The complex coordinated series of events that is required for PI(3,4,5)P3 accumulation and actin tail formation and the differences between CR3 and FcγR phagosomes are illustrated diagrammatically in Fig. 10.

The absence of PIP5KI from FcγR phagosomes was recently attributed to changes in the surface charge of the phagosomal membrane, which were in turn associated with depletion of the polyanionic PI(4,5)P3 (Fairn et al., 2009). Because PI(4,5)P2 was found to be present on CR3 phagosomes, it could be the means for the retention of PIP5KI on their membrane. In this regard, the long variant of PIP5KIγ is also known to associate with talin (Ling et al., 2002), an adaptor protein that links integrins with the cytoskeleton. Because the complement receptor CR3 is a member of the integrin family, it is conceivable that PIP5KIγ is recruited to the phagosomes via talin. Of note, talin is detectable around phagosomes containing C3bi-opsonized RBCs and is in fact essential for CR3-mediated uptake (Lim et al., 2007). Therefore, retention of PIP5KIγ on the

Figure 9. Inhibition of actin tails delays maturation. Cells were exposed to complement-coated RBCs. After 5 min, the cells were exposed to 10 μM latrunculin B, and uninternalized RBCs were labeled with a fluorescent F(ab')2. At the indicated times after the addition of RBCs, LysoTracker was added, and cells were visualized by confocal microscopy. Data, expressed as the percentage of LysoTracker-positive phagosomes, are means ± SEM of at least three individual experiments. Each experiment included >10 phagosomes.

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phagosomal membrane via CR3 by P(4,5)P2 and/or talin could explain the conversion of P(4)P to P(4,5)P2. However, other means of attachment and the involvement of other isoforms cannot be discounted. Indeed, our data show that PIP5Kβ is also retained by CR3 phagosomes. We were unable to determine whether PIP5Kα also behaves similarly because heterologous expression of this isoform often inhibited phagocytosis.

The appearance of P(3,4)P2 and P(3,4,5)P3 on phagosomes was accompanied by the recruitment of PBD-PAK1, a sensor of Rac and Cdc42 activation. Stimulation of Rac/Cdc42 during phagosome sealing. Unlike FcγR-mediated phagosomes, CR3-mediated phagosomes (bottom) retain PIP5K after sealing, which allows de novo P(4,5)P2 and P(3,4,5)P3 synthesis and actin polymerization. Accumulation of P(4,5)P2 and P(3,4,5)P3 is possible because P(3)P dislodges Inpp5B.

In summary, our findings revealed an unprecedented mechanism of P(3)P-dependent actin polymerization associated with organellar motion and exposed sharp differences between phagosomes formed by CR3 and FcγR (Fig. 10). It is clear that the fate of phagosomes formed by engagement of different receptors varies and that additional differences will become apparent when other modes of phagocytosis are investigated in detail.

Materials and methods

Cell culture, plasmids, and transfection

Wild-type RAW264.7 macrophages obtained from American Type Culture Collection and RAW264.7 cells stably transfected with either mCherry-actin or GFP-actin (provided by D. Knecht, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT) were grown in Dulbecco’s modified Eagle’s medium with 5% heat-inactivated FBS (Wisent). Cells plated on glass coverslips were transfected with FuGene HD (Roche) according to the manufacturer’s instructions. In brief, each well of a 12-well plate was treated with 2 µg plasmid cDNA and 6 µl FuGene HD. Cells were used 24 h after transfection. The plasmids expressing the rapamycin heterodimerization system (PIP5K-FKBP–YFP, PIP5K(D253A)-FKBP–CFP, FKBP-YFP, and LDR) were provided by T. Meyer (Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA). The pBS-YFP construct was provided by J. Swanson (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI). Transfection efficiency was determined using the fusion of the PBD of PAK1 with YFP (PBD-PAK1–YFP) was a gift from J. Swanson (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI). The plasmid encoding the rapamycin heterodimerization system (PIP5K-FKBP–YFP, PIP5K(D253A)-FKBP–CFP, FKBP-YFP, and LDR) were provided by T. Meyer (Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA). The pBS-YFP construct was provided by J. Swanson (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI). The plasmid encoding the fusion of the PBD of PAK1 with YFP (PBD-PAK1–YFP) was a gift from the late G. Bokoch ( Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, CA). The pG0™-PX domain vector was provided by M. Yaffe (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA). PIP5Kα-GFP, PIP5Kβ-GFP, and PIP5Kγ-GFP plasmids were supplied by P.D. Stahl (Washington University, St. Louis, MO). Rac1-DN-GFP and Cdc42-DN-GFP plasmids were gifts from M. Philips (New York University, New York, NY). GFP-Pak1 and GFP-Pak1 constructs were gifts from H. Yin (University of Texas Southwestern, Dallas, TX). The vector pGEX-4T3-Gab2 was given by H. Gu (University of Colorado, Denver, CO). The mutated Gab2-PH domain was amplified (5′-ATGATCTGGCAG, digested with XhoI and BamHI (NEB), and inserted into the plasmid pEGFP-C1 (Takara Bio Inc.), and inserted into the plasmid pEGFP-C1 (Takara Bio Inc.). The mutated Gab2-PH domain was amplified (5′-ATGATCTGGCAG, digested with XhoI and BamHI (NEB), and inserted into the plasmid pEGFP-C1 (Takara Bio Inc.). The mutated Gab2-PH domain was amplified (5′-ATGATCTGGCAG, digested with XhoI and BamHI (NEB), and inserted into the plasmid pEGFP-C1 (Takara Bio Inc.). The mutated Gab2-PH domain was amplified (5′-ATGATCTGGCAG, digested with XhoI and BamHI (NEB), and inserted into the plasmid pEGFP-C1 (Takara Bio Inc.).

A positive clone, GFP-Gab2-PH(R32C), was confirmed with sequencing.

The Inpp5B-GFP and GFP-APPL1 plasmids were gifts from P. De Camilli and wild-type RAW264.7 macrophages obtained from American Type Culture Collection and RAW264.7 cells stably transfected with either mCherry-actin or GFP-actin (provided by D. Knecht, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT) were grown in Dulbecco’s modified Eagle’s medium with 5% heat-inactivated FBS (Wisent). Cells plated on glass coverslips were transfected with FuGene HD (Roche) according to the manufacturer’s instructions. In brief, each well of a 12-well plate was treated with 2 µg plasmid cDNA and 6 µl FuGene HD. Cells were used 24 h after transfection. The plasmids expressing the rapamycin heterodimerization system (PIP5K-FKBP–YFP, PIP5K(D253A)-FKBP–CFP, FKBP-YFP, and LDR) were provided by T. Meyer (Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA). The pBS-YFP construct was provided by J. Swanson (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI). The plasmid encoding the fusion of the PBD of PAK1 with YFP (PBD-PAK1–YFP) was a gift from the late G. Bokoch (Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, CA). The pG0™-PX domain vector was provided by M. Yaffe (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA). PIP5Kα-GFP, PIP5Kβ-GFP, and PIP5Kγ-GFP plasmids were supplied by P.D. Stahl (Washington University, St. Louis, MO). Rac1-DN-GFP and Cdc42-DN-GFP plasmids were gifts from M. Philips (New York University, New York, NY). GFP-Pak1 and GFP-Pak1 constructs were gifts from H. Yin (University of Texas Southwestern, Dallas, TX). The vector pGEX-4T3-Gab2 was given by H. Gu (University of Colorado, Denver, CO). The mutated Gab2-PH domain was amplified (5′-ATGATCTGGCAG, digested with XhoI and BamHI (NEB), and inserted into the plasmid pEGFP-C1 (Takara Bio Inc.). The mutated Gab2-PH domain was amplified (5′-ATGATCTGGCAG, digested with XhoI and BamHI (NEB), and inserted into the plasmid pEGFP-C1 (Takara Bio Inc.). The mutated Gab2-PH domain was amplified (5′-ATGATCTGGCAG, digested with XhoI and BamHI (NEB), and inserted into the plasmid pEGFP-C1 (Takara Bio Inc.). The mutated Gab2-PH domain was amplified (5′-ATGATCTGGCAG, digested with XhoI and BamHI (NEB), and inserted into the plasmid pEGFP-C1 (Takara Bio Inc.). The mutated Gab2-PH domain was amplified (5′-ATGATCTGGCAG, digested with XhoI and BamHI (NEB), and inserted into the plasmid pEGFP-C1 (Takara Bio Inc.). The mutated Gab2-PH domain was amplified (5′-ATGATCTGGCAG, digested with XhoI and BamHI (NEB), and inserted into the plasmid pEGFP-C1 (Takara Bio Inc.). The mutated Gab2-PH domain was amplified (5′-ATGATCTGGCAG, digested with XhoI and BamHI (NEB), and inserted into the plasmid pEGFP-C1 (Takara Bio Inc.).

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PH domain of PLCδ fused to GFP or RFP (PH-PLCδ-GFP and PH-PLCδ-RFP), two tandem PH domains of PLCδ fused to GFP (2PH-PLCδ-GFP), the PH domain of Akt fused to EGFP or GFP (PH-Akt-GFP and PH-Akt-RFP), GFP-Gab2, and the tandem FYVE domains (2FYVE-GFP and 5FYVE-GFP) were described previously (Stauffer et al., 1998; Marshall et al., 2001; Vieira et al., 2001; Gou et al., 2003; Mason et al., 2007).

Plasmid-cured Y. pseudotuberculosis (YP III p-, a gift from R. Isberg, Tufts University, Boston, MA) and E. coli (DH5α transformed with the pPFV25.1 plasmid to express EGFP under the control of the rpsM promoter) were grown overnight in Luria-Bertani medium at 37°C and were subcultured for 3 h before use. S. cerevisiae was grown overnight in richYPD (yeast extract peptone dextrose) medium.

Live-cell imaging

Time-lapse images were acquired using a spinning-disk confocal microscopy system (Quorum with a 63× oil immersion objective on a microscope (Axiovert 200M; Carl Zeiss, Inc.). Images were captured every 4 s for ~15–20 min (unless otherwise specified) at 37°C with a back-thinned electron multiplier camera (C9100-13 ImagEM; Hamamatsu) and Velocity software (version 4.1.1). Images were analyzed with Velocity (version 5.3.2) and autokontast with Photoshop CS3 (Adobe). Cells were bathed in Hepes-buffered medium RPMI 1640 (Wisent) while imaging.

Phagocytosis assays

C3bi opsonization was performed by first incubating sheep RBCs (10% suspension; MP Biomedicals) with subagglutinating (1:10) concentrations of anti–sheep RBC IgM (Cedarlane Laboratories) in PBS with 0.5 mM CaCl2. C3bi opsonization was performed by first incubating sheep RBCs (10% suspension; MP Biomedicals) with subagglutinating (1:10) concentrations of anti–sheep RBC IgG (Cedarlane Laboratories) and incubated for 1 h at 37°C in RPMI 1640 (Wisent) while imaging.

Acid-washed, 100-µm glass beads (Sigma-Aldrich) were alkali washed overnight in 4 M NaOH and then washed with distilled water until the pH of the wash was stable near 7.0. RAW cells cultured on coverslips and RBCs were used immediately for phagocytosis.

For Fcγ-mediated phagocytosis, RBCs were opsonized with 1:50 anti–sheep RBC IgG (Cedarlane Laboratories) and incubated for 1 h at room temperature under constant agitation. Excess IgG was washed off, and RBCs were used immediately for phagocytosis.

Glass-bead loading

Cr3-mediated uptake. Video 1 shows formation of actin-rich pseudopods during CR3-mediated phagocytosis. Video 2 shows that PI(3,4,5)P3 formation without affecting PI(3,5)P2 synthesis. Online supplemental material is available at http://www.jcb.org/cgi/content/full/jcb.201004005/DC1.

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