Expanded Interactome of the Intrinsically Disordered Protein Dss1

Graphical Abstract

Highlights

- Dss1 forms a transient and highly dynamic fold-back structure
- Dss1 is associated with multiple protein complexes
- Dss1 is involved in cytokinesis and metabolism

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In Brief

Schenstrøm et al. demonstrate that the disordered protein Dss1 forms a transient intramolecular interaction between the C-terminal helical region and a central hydrophobic region. Proteomics reveal several Dss1-binding proteins, including all PCI-domain protein complexes. The dynamic fold-back structure regulates Dss1 interactions with the mitotic septins and ATP-citrate lyase.
Expanded Interactome of the Intrinsically Disordered Protein Dss1

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SUMMARY

Dss1 (also known as Sem1) is a conserved, intrinsically disordered protein with a remarkably broad functional diversity. It is a proteasome subunit but also associates with the BRCA2, RPA, Csn12-Thp1, and TREX-2 complexes. Accordingly, Dss1 functions in protein degradation, DNA repair, transcription, and mRNA export. Here in Schizosaccharomyces pombe, we expand its interactome further to include eIF3, the COP9 signalosome, and the mitotic septins. Within its intrinsically disordered ensemble, Dss1 forms a transiently populated C-terminal helix that dynamically interacts with and shields a central binding region. The helix interfered with the interaction to ATP-citrate lyase but was required for septin binding, and in strains lacking Dss1, ATP-citrate lyase solubility was reduced and septin rings were more persistent. Thus, even weak, transient interactions within Dss1 may dynamically rewire its interactome.

INTRODUCTION

Dss1 (Sem1 in budding yeast) is a small and intrinsically disordered eukaryotic protein (IDP) (Dunker et al., 1998; Kragelund et al., 2016; Tompa, 2002; Wright and Dyson, 1999) with a remarkably broad binding specificity. It is a 26S proteasome subunit that also associates with the BRCA2, RPA, Csn12-Thp1, and TREX-2 complexes. Accordingly, Dss1 functions in protein degradation, DNA repair, transcription, and mRNA export. Here in Schizosaccharomyces pombe, we expand its interactome further to include eIF3, the COP9 signalosome, and the mitotic septins. Within its intrinsically disordered ensemble, Dss1 forms a transiently populated C-terminal helix that dynamically interacts with and shields a central binding region. The helix interfered with the interaction to ATP-citrate lyase but was required for septin binding, and in strains lacking Dss1, ATP-citrate lyase solubility was reduced and septin rings were more persistent. Thus, even weak, transient interactions within Dss1 may dynamically rewire its interactome.

RESULTS

Transient Long-Range Intramolecular Interactions in Dss1

The C terminus of Dss1 has a highly populated a helix (>50%) ranging from F55 to K66 (Figure 1A: Paraskevopoulos et al., 2014), which is independent on the purification method (Figure S1G). We therefore first asked whether Dss1 forms dimers via this structure. However, dilution of Dss1 from 500 to 50 μM did not change the nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra. To probe for weak interaction, we mixed 14N-Dss1-N71C-MTS (-S-(1-oxyl-2,2,5,5-tetramethyl-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-y1)methyl methanesulfonothioate), which places a paramagnetic spin label at the C-terminal of Dss1 (Figures S1A and S1B), with Dss1-interacting proteins contain proteasome, COP9 signalosome, and eukaryotic translation initiation factor 3 (eIF3) (PC1) domains, which function as scaffolds for the formation of protein complexes (Pick et al., 2009).

Genetic studies also suggest a broad functionality: yeast lacking Dss1 display pseudohyphal and temperature-sensitive growth (Jantti et al., 1999; Jossé et al., 2006; Marston et al., 1999), impaired mRNA export (Faza et al., 2009), and sensitivity to DNA damage (Krogan et al., 2004; Selvanathan et al., 2010). In fission yeast, the growth defect is suppressed by expression of other proteasome subunits, suggesting that this phenotype is connected to a destabilization of the 26S proteasome (Jossé et al., 2006; Mannen et al., 2008). Accordingly, budding yeast and Aspergillus mutants, lacking the Dss1 ortholog Sem1, are defective in 26S proteasome assembly (Kolog Gulko et al., 2018; Tomko and Hochstrasser, 2014). By a similar chaperone-like function, Dss1 keeps BRCA2 soluble (Yang et al., 2002).

Here, several Dss1 binding partners were found in Schizosaccharomyces pombe. Dss1 forms a short C-terminal helix, which folds back and likely limits access to a centrally localized region. The helix inhibits interaction to ATP-citrate lyase (ACLY) and is required for binding to the mitotic septins. The present study shows that the binding specificity of Dss1 is even more diverse than currently appreciated and links Dss1 to additional cellular functions, including metabolism and cell division.
15N-Dss1-WT in a 1:1 ratio and recorded NMR paramagnetic relaxation enhancements (PREs), which report on dynamic distances to the label. No transient dimerization was found (Figure 1B). NMR data confirmed that the label did not interfere with the helix population (Figure S1 H). However, comparison of the NMR peak intensities of 15N-Dss1-N71C with and without MTSL indicated transient long-range effects from the C-terminal spin label (N71C) to regions >30 residues away. Thus, the C terminus was observed to be close to binding site I (BS-I) as well as to the linker between BS-I and BS-II (Figures 1C and S1C). Deleting the helix from Dss1 (D54stop and Dss1 helix) did not affect the amide chemical shifts of residues in BS-I (Figure 1D), suggesting interactions to be mediated by side chains. We propose that the C-terminal helix bends back toward the central binding site of Dss1 and forms dynamic long-range hydrophobic interactions. Consistently, helix formation was not dependent on the presence of the disordered part of Dss1 as a synthetic peptide of the region (D54-G67) was also transiently helical (Figure S1D), just as the CD spectrum of Dss1 was not significantly different compared to the spectral average of the Dss1Δhelix and the helix peptide access to the helix itself and to BS-I (Figure 1E). Such equilibrium between open and closed conformations may have consequences for how, and to which extent, the binding sites in Dss1 are available.

**Analyses of the Dss1 Interactome**

Wild-type Dss1 and Dss1Δhelix were tagged with GFP for affinity purifications. N-terminal fusions were chosen because of the structure (Figure 1E) and since C-terminal tagging of budding yeast Sem1 interferes with some functions (Faza et al., 2009). Full-length fusion protein was incorporated into 26S proteasomes (Figure S2A), localized to the nucleus and cytosol (Figure S2B), and complemented the dss1Δ growth defect (Figure S2C). The Dss1Δhelix variant was also efficiently incorporated into 26S proteasomes (Figure S2A) but did not fully complement the dss1Δ temperature-dependent growth defect (Figure S2C). The elongated cell morphology (Figure S2D) and accumulation of ubiquitin-protein conjugates (Figure S2E) were also complemented by the full-length GFP-Dss1 fusion protein. However, the elongated cell morphology was not fully suppressed by GFP-Dss1Δhelix.
Extracts from wild-type strains, expressing the indicated 6His-tagged proteins, were used for co-precipitation with GST-Dss1 and GST. The precipitated data are included in Data S1.

Dss1 binding partners were clustered into known protein complexes. The PCI-domain-containing complexes are framed (transparent). All data are included in Figure 2. Quantitative Mass Spectrometry and Dss1 Binding Partners (Figure S2 D). Collectively, this suggests that the N-terminal GFP-tag does not interfere with Dss1 functions.

For wild-type Dss1, GFP-Dss1 preparations were enriched in 263 proteins (Figure S3B). They encompass all subunits of the 26S proteasome and several cofactors, all subunits of TREX-2, the CSN12 complex, and RPA (Figure 2A), comprising all known Dss1 interaction partners in yeast (Kragelund et al., 2016). The Dss1 preparations also contained 10 subunits of the PCI-domain complex elf3, and we found enrichment of subunits of the Paf1 and elongator complexes and all four mitotic septins (Figure 2A).

We then tested a selection of these proteins for interaction with Dss1. Glutathione S-transferase (GST)-Dss1 interacted with Paf1 and Ssb1 and to a lesser extent with elf3B (Figure 2B). We were unable to detect any interaction to the elongator subunit Elp2.

Intriguingly, the only PCI-domain complex that was not convincingly identified in the mass spectrometry dataset was the CSN. Except for Csni7 (Data S1), no other CSN subunits were significantly enriched in the Dss1 precipitations. Possibly, the CSN in fission yeast is expressed at very low levels (Mundt et al., 1999), or another Dss1-like protein associates with the CSN, as recently shown for the human Dss1 paralog, CSNAP (Rozen et al., 2015). To test this, we precipitated GFP-tagged Dss1 in a strain carrying hemagglutinin (HA)-tagged Csn1. Dss1 did interact weakly with Csn1 (Figure 2C). However, as Nedd8 conjugation to Cul1 was unaffected in the dss1Δ strain (Figure S3C), this indicated that Dss1 does not affect the delen-dylining function of the CSN, as in human cells lacking CSNAP (Rozen et al., 2015).

The Dss1 Helical Region Restricts Interaction with ACLY

Comparison of the GFP-Dss1 and GFP-Dss1Δhelix interactomes revealed that most interactions (Figures S3D–S3F) occurred independently of the helix (Figure 2D, green points). This agrees with previous reports that most binding to Dss1 is confined to the disordered region (Kragelund et al., 2016), with the Dss1Δhelix complementing most phenotypes of the dss1Δ mutant, and with the dynamic character of the fold-back structure. All four mitotic septins showed a clear wild-type-specific binding pattern with little or no evidence for binding to the helix-deficient variant (Figures 2D and S3D–S3F). Conversely, a small group of proteins, including the ATP-citrate lyase (ACLY) subunits Acl1 and Acl2, showed binding preference for the Dss1Δhelix variant over wild-type Dss1 (Figure 2D). This implies that the helical region has a negative effect on the association of these proteins.

Confirmatively, two proteins of ~60 kDa co-precipitated with GFP-Dss1Δhelix (Figures 3A and S3A). Mass spectrometry identified them as Acl1 (67.2 kDa; sequence coverage 55%) and Acl2 (53.9 kDa; sequence coverage 54%). Unlike in humans where ACLY is a homotrimer (Chypre et al., 2012), fission yeast ACLY is encoded by acl1 that resembles the C-terminal part of human ACLY and acl2 that resembles the N-terminal part of human ACLY. The ACLY binding site was mapped by precipitation experiments. ACLY was primarily associated with Dss1 when the helix was removed (Figure 3B), and the interaction was lost upon further mutation of the disordered region (Figure 3B). The interaction between Dss1Δhelix and ACLY was also evident in a wild-type background, although to a lesser degree (Figure 3C). In an acl1Δ strain, neither subunit was co-precipitated, and in an acl2Δ strain, only Acl1 was co-precipitated (Figure 3C), indicating that association of ACLY and Dss1 primarily occurs via the Acl1 subunit and this interaction is inhibited by the dynamic fold-back structure.

As Dss1 promotes BRCA2 solubility (Yang et al., 2002), we tested whether this was also the case for ACLY in wild-type, dss1Δhelix, and dss1Δ cells. Dss1 and Dss1Δhelix were both soluble proteins. However, more Acl1 was insoluble in the dss1Δ cells (Figures 3D and 3E) than in dss1Δhelix cells, suggesting that Dss1 binding facilitates ACLY solubility.

Because ACLY converts cytosolic citrate into acetyl-coenzyme A (CoA) (Chypre et al., 2012), which is required for fatty acids synthesis, we analyzed the lipid content in wild-type, acl1Δ, acl2Δ, and dss1Δ strains. As a control, we included a cut6Δ21 strain that is defective in acetyl-CoA carboxylase, which is required for fatty acid biosynthesis (Saitoh et al., 1996). The lipid droplets appeared unaffected in the ACLY mutants (Figure S4A) but strongly reduced in dss1Δ cells and the cut6Δ21 control, suggesting that ACLY does not contribute much acetyl-CoA for fatty acid biosynthesis and that the reduced amount of lipids in the dss1Δ strain is independent of ACLY. Accordingly, the acl1Δ and acl2Δ strains did not display any

Figure 2. Quantitative Mass Spectrometry and Dss1 Binding Partners
(A) Dss1 binding partners were clustered into known protein complexes. The PCI-domain-containing complexes are framed (transparent). All data are included in Data S1.
(B) Extracts from wild-type strains, expressing the indicated 6His-tagged proteins, were used for co-precipitation with GST-Dss1 and GST. The precipitated material was analyzed by blotting for the 6His tag. Equal loading was checked by staining with Coomassie brilliant blue (CBB).
(C) Cells with HA-tagged Csn1 and expressing either GFP or GFP-Dss1 were used for immunoprecipitation (IP) using GFP-trap. The precipitated material was analyzed by blotting for the HA tag or GFP (Dss1).
(D) Plot of the fold change in GFP-Dss1 versus GFP (x axis) versus the fold change in GFP-Dss1Δhelix versus GFP (y axis). Proteins marked in green were unaffected by deletion of the C-terminal region. Proteins marked in blue were more associated with Dss1Δhelix, and proteins marked in yellow were less associated with Dss1Δhelix. See also Figures S2 and S3.
obvious growth defects (Figure S4B). The redundancy of ACLY may be caused by the cytosolic enzyme acetyl-coA synthetase, Acs1.

**The Dss1 C-Terminal Helical Region Is Required for Interaction with Mitotic Septins**

The mitotic septins (Spn1–4) only bind to wild-type Dss1 and not to the truncated Dss1Δhelix (Figure 2D). We found that HA-tagged Spn3 and Spn4 precipitate with Dss1 (Figure 3A). In agreement with the proteomics analyses, further co-precipitation experiments revealed that the helical region in Dss1 was required for septin interaction (Figure 3B).

As with ACLY, septin solubility correlated with binding specificity for the Dss1 variants. Septin solubility was greater in wild-type cells than in the dss1Δ strain and appeared to depend on the C-terminal region (Figures 3C and 4D). In dss1Δ, Spn3-GFP correctly localized at the cell equator as a single or double ring. There was no apparent reduction in signal intensity compared to that in wild-type cells (Figure 4E). This suggests that Dss1 functions downstream of septin ring formation. A closer observation of Spn3-GFP by time-lapse microscopy revealed that many septin rings were more persistent in the absence of Dss1 (Figure 4F; average time of septins at cell equator in the wild-type [WT] = 46.1 ± 0.5 min, n = 126; dss1Δ = 55.9 ± 2.1, n = 94; p < 0.0001). We conclude that Dss1 may affect septin maintenance, rather than recruitment, during cytokinesis.

**DISCUSSION**

Previously, Dss1 has been suggested as a component of the eIF3 complex (Pick et al., 2009). Our data support this notion. The S. pombe eIF3 subunits, eIF3a, eIF3c, and eIF3m, contain PCI domains and all associated with Dss1. CSN was the only PCI domain protein complex that was not found in our proteomics analyses. However, Dss1 and Csn1 co-precipitated, so perhaps in fission yeast, which is without CSNAP, Dss1 may fulfill the function of CSNAP in the CSN, which neither in human cells (Rozen et al., 2015) nor in fission yeast involves the deneddylating activity of the CSN.
Free Dss1 is disordered but attains structure upon binding to BRCA2, TREX-2, and the 26S proteasome (Kragelund et al., 2016). The structure of Dss1 in each of these complexes is different, and large parts of Dss1 remain disordered. This may also be the case for the Dss1-binding proteins identified here.
Dss1 interacts with BRCA2 (Yang et al., 2002), keeping BRCA2 soluble and facilitating dissociation of RPA from DNA, allowing access for BRCA2 (Zhao et al., 2015). *S. pombe* has no BRCA2 ortholog, but the Dss1-RPA interaction is conserved. In addition, Dss1 associates with Rad52, which stimulates strand exchange. In agreement, yeast Dss1 localizes to double-strand breaks and promotes DNA repair (Krogan et al., 2004; Selvanathan et al., 2010), suggesting that Dss1 stimulates DNA dissociation of RPA also in yeast.

It is likely that many of the interactions are not direct. It is possible, for instance, that the TREX-2 complex bridges the interaction with elongator and the Pafl complex because budding yeast TREX-2 mutants display synthetic phenotypes with components in the Pafl and elongator complexes (Collins et al., 2007; Wilmes et al., 2008). Accordingly, mutants in the Pafl complex are also epistatic with mutants in elongator (Collins et al., 2007; Laribee et al., 2005). Along the same line, elf3 has previously been found to associate with the 26S proteasome (Sha et al., 2009), and because Dss1 binds ubiquitin, some interactions might even be interceded by ubiquitin.

The Dss1 C-terminal helix can fold back and form a transient interaction with BS-I. Helix formation was independent of intramolecular interaction and inherent to the amino acid sequence. Access to BS-I as well as the helix itself may be controlled by an open-closed equilibrium through a population shift mechanism (Vallée-Bélisle et al., 2009) as seen with other IDPs. Helix-an-open-closed equilibrium through a population shift mechanism (Vallee-Belisle et al., 2009) as seen with other IDPs. Helix formation was independent of intramolecular interactions might even be interceded by ubiquitin.

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Contrary to the situation with ACLY, we found that the C-terminal helical region of Dss1 was required for interaction with the septins. *S. pombe* has four mitotic septins that assemble into hetero-oligomeric complexes in interphase (An et al., 2004). During mitosis, the septins concentrate at the medial region of the cell to form ring-shaped structures that are binding scaffolds for other proteins. Previous studies have tied Dss1 to the Spt-Ada-Gcn5-acetyltransferase (SAGA) complex (Garcia-Oliver et al., 2013), which regulates septin ring assembly via transcriptional activation of *mid2* (Lei et al., 2014). We did not observe any defects in septin ring formation in the dss1Δ-null mutant, but we cannot rule out that the role of Dss1 in transcription contributes to the dss1Δ septation problems.

The present study shows how the flexibility of an IDP allows it to accommodate binding to a plethora of protein complexes and suggests that intramolecular transient structures and their relatively weak interactions may be sufficient to rewire interaction networks. How this is timed and controlled should be the focus of future work.

**EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES**

**Yeast Strains and Plasmids**

Strains were kindly provided by Dr. Colin Gordon, Dr. Michael Seeger, Dr. Mitsuhiro Yanagida, and Dr. Kathleen L. Gould. All strains (Table S1; all strains used for this study) and procedures used in this work are listed in the Supplemental Information.

**Protein Purification and Proteomic Analyses**

Protocols for protein purification, NMR analyses, and proteomics are provided in the Supplemental Information. For computer-precipitation experiments, GFP-, GFP-Dss1-, and GFP-Dss1Δ-helix-expressing cultures of 2 L were set up in quadruplicates and grown at 29°C to mid-exponential phase. The cells were then harvested by centrifugation (3,000 × g; 10 min) and lysed in Buffer C (25 mM Tris/HCl [pH 7.4], 50 mM NaCl, 2 mM MgCl2, 2 mM ATP, 10% glycerol, 0.1% Triton X-100, 1 mM PMSF, and Complete protease inhibitors; Roche) at 4°C using glass beads and a FastPrep machine (Thermo Scientific). Lysates were cleared (13,000 × g; 30 min) and tumbled with 30 μl GFP-trap (Chromotek) beads for 4 hr at 4°C. Beads were washed in 4 × 1 mL Buffer C by centrifugation (3,000 × g; 30 s) and finally resuspended into 30 μL SDS sample buffer. Identification of Acl1 and Acl2 by MALDI MS/MS was performed by Alphalyme (Denmark). Co-precipitations with GST-tagged proteins were performed as in Paraskevopoulos et al. (2014).

**Microscopy**

We used an inverted Zeiss microscope and Axiovision software, a Plan Apo 100× oil objective, numerical aperture (NA) = 1.4, and a CoolSnap HQ camera. Detailed protocols are in the Supplemental Information.

**Nuclear Magnetic Resonance**

Detailed protocols are in the Supplemental Information.

**Statistics**

For the mass spectrometry, proteins were defined as statistically differing between groups using the Perseus unpaired two-sample Student’s t test truncated by 1% permutation-based FDR using an 50 value of 0.1. Complex enrichment analysis was performed in Perseus using the Fisher’s exact test using the different sub-categories of the data as comparison with the whole set of 1,005 proteins. For western blots, statistical analyses were performed in MS Excel. The results are presented as average and SEM. For time-lapse imaging, statistical analysis was performed with Prism using an unpaired two-tailed t test. The results are presented as average and SEM.

**DATA AND SOFTWARE AVAILABILITY**

The accession number for the chemical shifts reported in this paper is Biological Magnetic Resonance Data Bank: 27618.

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

Supplemental Information includes Supplemental Experimental Procedures, four figures, one table, and one data file and can be found with this article online at [https://doi.org/10.1016/j.celrep.2018.09.080](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.celrep.2018.09.080).

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

S.M.S., C.A.R., M.H.T., R.H.-A., and I.J. conducted the experiments. S.M.S., M.H.T., R.H.-A., R.T.H., I.J., B.B.K., and R.H.-P. designed the experiments and analyzed the data. S.M.S., B.B.K., and R.H.-P. wrote the paper.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The authors declare no competing interests.

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