Increasing cAMP in Monocytes Augments Notch Signaling Mechanisms by Elevating RBP-J and Transducin-like Enhancer of Split (TLE)*

Received for publication, February 26, 2013, and in revised form, May 24, 2013. Published, JBC Papers in Press, June 17, 2013, DOI 10.1074/jbc.M113.465120

Jason L. Larabee, Salika M. Shakir, Soumitra Barua, and Jimmy D. Ballard

From the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73104

Background: Many bacterial pathogens, such as *Bacillus anthracis*, increase cAMP in monocytes, leading to disruption of immune responses.

Results: In human monocytes, cAMP up-regulates transducin-like enhancer of split (TLE) and activates Notch signaling.

Conclusion: Our findings demonstrate novel signaling mechanisms used by cAMP to enhance Notch signaling.

Significance: This work delineates how cAMP modifies a signaling pathway critical to innate immune responses during infection.

In cells of the innate immune system, pathological increases in intracellular cAMP attenuate immune responses and contribute to infections by bacteria such as *Bacillus anthracis*. In this work, cAMP from *B. anthracis* edema toxin (ET) is found to activate the Notch signaling pathway in both mouse macrophages and human monocytes. ET as well as a cell-permeable activator of PKA induce Notch target genes (HES1, HEY1, IL2RA, and IL7R) and are able to significantly enhance the induction of these Notch target genes by a Toll-like receptor ligand. Elevated cAMP also resulted in increased levels of Groucho/transducin-like enhancer of Split (TLE) and led to increased amounts of a transcriptional repressor complex consisting of TLE and the Notch target Hes1. To address the mechanism used by ET to activate Notch signaling, components of Notch signaling were examined, and results revealed that ET increased levels of recombinant recognition sequence binding protein at the Jκ site (RBP-J), a DNA binding protein and principal transcriptional regulator of Notch signaling. Overexpression studies indicated that RBP-J was sufficient to activate Notch signaling and potentiate LPS-induced Notch signaling. Further examination of the mechanism used by ET to activate Notch signaling revealed that C/EBP β, a transcription factor activated by cAMP, helped activate Notch signaling and up-regulated RBP-J. These studies demonstrate that cAMP activates Notch signaling and increases the expression of TLE, which could be an important mechanism utilized by cAMP to suppress immune responses.

Many pathogenic bacteria (e.g. *Bacillus anthracis*, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, *Bordetella pertussis*) have evolved strategies that increase cAMP levels in host cells (1). When cAMP is increased in cells of the innate immune system, such as macrophages, the ability of these cells to respond to bacteria is dampened, and this creates conditions that are advantageous to the bacterial pathogen. An important example of a pathogen that utilizes such a system is *B. anthracis*, which increases cAMP within host cells through the activities of edema toxin (ET) (2). ET is a secreted binary toxin composed of edema factor (EF) and protective antigen (PA). PA mediates the entry of EF into the cytoplasm of host cells, where EF functions as a potent adenylate cyclase (2, 3). A recent study demonstrated that toxin-mediated inactivation of myeloid cells (neutrophils and macrophages) is essential for the onset of anthrax disease (4). Therefore, studying how ET alterations signaling pathways in these types of cells is critical for understanding the early stages of this disease.

Although much is known about how *B. anthracis* as well as other pathogens elevate cAMP within host cells, much less is known about how cAMP modifies signaling programs within macrophages and, ultimately, attenuates immune responses. Many of the signaling activities of cAMP are initiated by the activation of PKA and the basic region leucine zipper transcription factors CREB and C/EBP β (5–7). These cAMP effectors are used ubiquitously by cells, but how these proteins feed into other signaling pathways and eventually affect macrophages phenotypes is not completely understood. In an effort to identify and understand signaling pathways impacted by cAMP in macrophages, we evaluated a panel of gene reporters in macrophages and found that the Notch signaling pathway was modified by ET. We were particularly interested in this change in Notch signaling in macrophages because ET was found recently to disrupt Notch signaling in *Drosophila melanogaster* and human endothelial cells through a mechanism involving inhi-

---

* This work was supported, in whole or in part, by National Institutes of Health Grant U19 AI062629 (to J. D. B.).

1 To whom correspondence should be addressed: The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, BMSB 1062, 940 Stanton L. Young Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73104. Tel.: 405-271-3855. E-mail: jason-larabee@ouhsc.edu.

2 The abbreviations used are: ET, edema toxin; EF, edema factor; PA, protective antigen; RBP-J, recombinant recognition sequence binding protein at the Jκ site; TLE, Groucho/transducin-like enhancer of split; TLR, Toll-like receptor; 6-MB-cAMP, 6-monobutyryladenosine-3’,5’-cyclic monophosphate; BMDM, bone-marrow-derived macrophage; qPCR, quantitative PCR.
bition of endocytic recycling by the Rab11-dependent exocyst system (8).

The Notch signaling pathway is used ubiquitously, with critical roles in processes such as embryogenesis and lymphopoiesis (9, 10). To activate Notch signaling, one of four Notch receptors (Notch 1–4) binds Notch ligands such as Jagged1, Jagged2, Delta-like ligand 1 (DLL1), DLL3, and DLL4. These interactions between receptors and ligands lead to the proteolytic cleavage of the Notch receptor and the release of the Notch intracellular domain. When released, the Notch intracellular domain localizes to the nucleus and binds to the DNA binding protein, the recombinant recognition sequence binding protein at the Jκ site (RBP-J). Binding between the Notch intracellular domain and RBP-J facilitates the formation of a transcriptional activation complex that promotes the expression of Notch target genes (11). Of the Notch target genes, the most important and best characterized are the families of basic helix-loop-helix proteins, hairy and enhancer of split (Hes) and hairy and enhancer of split with YRPW motif (Hey) (12). These DNA binding proteins function as transcriptional repressors and are the primary effectors of Notch signaling.

Recently, Notch signaling has emerged as a critical signaling pathway in macrophages (13–17). In these types of cells, Notch signaling combines with Toll-like receptor (TLR) signaling to induce Notch target genes such as Hes and Hey (13). A striking outcome of Notch signaling in macrophages is that Hes and Hey function as part of a feedback loop that attenuates the production of cytokines (13). In the following studies, cAMP from ET is found to induce Notch signaling and potentiate the induction of Notch target genes by TLR ligands. Further studies reveal mechanisms used by ET to activate Notch signaling and to enhance the formation of the Hes transcription repressor complex.

**EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES**

**Recombinant Proteins and Other Reagents**—PA and EF were purchased from List Biological Laboratories (Campbell, CA). The membrane-permeable activator of PKA, N°-monobutyrlyadenosine-3′,5′-cyclic monophosphate (6-MB-cAMP), was obtained from Biolog (Bremen, Germany). LPS (catalog no. L4391) was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO).

**Maintenance and Use of Cell Lines**—Cell lines used in these studies were purchased from the ATCC. THP-1 cells were grown in RPMI 1640 medium (Invitrogen) with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS) plus penicillin/streptomycin, and peripheral blood mononuclear cells were then isolated using density gradient centrifugation utilizing Histopaque 1077 (Sigma-Aldrich). Monocytes were then isolated from the peripheral blood mononuclear cells with a monocyte isolation kit purchased from Miltenyi Biotec (Auburn, CA). This kit utilizes a negative selection method in which all non-monocytes are labeled magnetically and separated from the monocytes. The isolated monocytes were diluted into complete RPMI 1640 medium at a concentration of 1.0 × 10^6 cells/ml and then subjected to the conditions detailed in the figure legends.

**Reverse Transcriptase qPCR Analysis**—Isolated RNA was converted to cDNA by performing reverse transcription reactions using SuperScript III (Invitrogen). The qPCR analysis was performed by combining the cDNA with a SYBR Green PCR master mix (SABiosciences) and gene-specific primers. An Applied Biosystems 7500 real-time PCR system was used to perform the amplification reactions, and relative changes in levels of the mRNA of the gene of interest were compared with the levels of Actb mRNA using the 2−ΔΔCt method.

**Measurement of Notch Activity in RAW 264.7 Cells by Gene Reporter**—To use a gene reporter to monitor Notch activity, RAW 264.7 cells were transduced with lentivirus particles (SABioscience) containing a luciferase gene linked to a minimal promoter plus RBP-J binding elements (RAW-Notch). A gene reporter that contained only the minimal promoter was also generated and used as a control (RAW-Neg). To transduce RAW 264.7 cells, lentiviral particles (multiplicity of infection of ~10) were added to cells with 8 μg/ml Polybrene and then incubated for 24 h at 32 °C. After this incubation, stable cells were isolated by selection with 3.5 μg/ml of puromycin. These stable cells were then subjected to experimental conditions outlined in the figure legends. Luciferase expression was quantified using the luciferase assay system (Promega) followed by measurement of the luminescence signal with a Victor3 (PerkinElmer Life Sciences) plate reader. Luciferase expression in RAW-Neg was used to normalize for changes to the minimal promoter that are not dependent on the Notch signal. This procedure was also utilized to perform the screen presented in the supplemental data.

**Immunoprecipitation of TLE**—To immunoprecipitate TLE, THP-1 cells were lysed by incubating for 5 min in lysis buffer (20 mM HEPES (pH 7.9), 350 mM NaCl, 30 mM MgCl2, 10% glycerol, 0.5% Nonidet P-40, 200 μM DTT, and protease inhibitor mixture), passing the lysates through a 22-gauge needle 10
Increased cAMP in Monocytes Augments Notch Signaling

VOLUME 288 • NUMBER 30 • JULY 26, 2013

Increased cAMP in Macrophages/Monocytes Activates Notch-induced Gene Expression

RESULTS

Increased cAMP in Macrophages/Monocytes Activates Notch-induced Gene Expression—In an effort to identify and understand signaling pathways impacted by cAMP generated by ET, we screened a selection of RAW 264.7 cell lines stably transduced with luciferase-based gene reporters (supplemental Fig. S1). Out of this screen, the Notch pathway was found to be activated by exposures to either ET or 6-MB-cAMP, a membrane-permeable analog of cAMP (Fig. 1A). This cAMP analog is a specific agonist of PKA and demonstrates that activation of this pathway can be mediated through PKA. To support the Notch reporter data, mouse BMDMs were examined to determine whether ET exposures induce Notch target genes such as Hes1, Hey1, Il2ra, and Il7r. As shown by RT-qPCR, with the exception of Hey1, each of these target genes were up-regulated after exposure to ET (Fig. 1, B–E). Collectively, these results demonstrate that cAMP from ET activates Notch signaling in mouse macrophages.

Next, human monocytes were isolated from donor blood, and the ability of cAMP to impact Notch responsive genes was examined in these cells. As shown by RT-qPCR, HES1, HEY1, and IL7r were induced by ET or 6-MB-cAMP in these cells (Fig.
2). Recently, human macrophages were observed to activate the Notch signaling pathway when stimulated by TLR agonists (13). Therefore, we examined human monocytes to determine how cAMP modulates this signaling pathway when monocytes are stimulated with the TLR agonist LPS. As shown in Fig. 2, LPS induces the production of Notch-inducible genes (HES1, HEY1, IL2RA, and IL7R), which is in agreement with previous observations by Hu et al. (13). Interestingly, exposing human monocytes to a combination of LPS and ET led to a significant increase in these Notch-responsive genes above levels observed in human monocytes treated with only LPS. For HEY1, this combination of LPS and ET led to 6-fold more HEY1 transcript than observed in human monocytes exposed to only LPS, which suggests a synergistic effect. We also determined whether 6-MB-cAMP had a similar effect on LPS stimulated monocytes. As shown in Fig. 2, combining LPS and 6-MB-cAMP also triggered an increase in these Notch target genes above levels obtained in human monocytes exposed to only LPS. Together, these results reveal that cAMP can induce Notch target genes in human monocytes and, importantly, that cAMP potentiates the LPS stimulation of the Notch signaling pathway.

Increased cAMP in Monocytes Augments Notch Signaling

Increased cAMP Elevates TLE and Increases Interactions between TLE and Hes1—The activation of the Notch pathway results in the up-regulation of the family of DNA binding transcription repressors Hey and Hes. In a previous study, these transcription repressors were found to help control macrophage responses to TLR agonists by attenuating the production of certain cytokines (13). One established mechanism utilized by Hes to repress transcription is to bind and recruit a family of transcriptional corepressor proteins, TLE1–4 (19–21). Because repressor activities of Hes are critical in macrophages, we sought to determine whether ET impacts TLE and possibly alters interactions between TLE and Hes1. To begin to address this, levels of the TLE1 transcript were first examined in human monocytes. As shown by RT-qPCR, both ET and 6MB-cAMP were able to induce TLE1 transcripts (Fig. 3A). A similar effect was also observed for ET and 6MB-cAMP when immunoblotting using pan-TLE antibodies was performed with extracts from the human monocyte cell line THP-1 (Fig. 3, B and C). Next, we determined whether increases in TLE levels and the activation of the Notch pathway ultimately correlate with an increase in the formation of a complex containing Hes1 and TLE. TLE was immunoprecipitated from extracts taken from
THP-1 cells, and then interactions with Hes1 were determined by immunoblot analysis. As shown in Fig. 3D, this coimmunoprecipitation experiment revealed that the addition of ET or 6MB-cAMP to THP-1 cells led to an increase in binding between TLE and Hes1. These results demonstrate that cAMP is able to stimulate the formation of a transcription repressor complex consisting of Hes1 and TLE.

**Elevated cAMP in Monocytes Increases Levels of RBP-J**—To begin to understand the mechanism used by ET to activate the Notch pathway, the expression of components of the Notch signaling pathway were analyzed in human monocytes after cAMP was elevated. When Notch ligands were analyzed, ET and 6MB-cAMP stimulated an increase in transcripts for DLL1 and JAG1, but these transcripts only reached statistical signifi-
Increased cAMP in Monocytes Augments Notch Signaling

Increased cAMP in Monocytes Augments Notch Signaling. As shown in Fig. 5B, the LPS induction of the Notch signaling pathway was significantly higher in macrophages with RBP-J elevated by retrovirus transduction. Hence, elevated RBP-J is able to increase Notch signaling in LPS-stimulated macrophages.

Next, we sought to determine whether the overexpression of RBP-J could lead to increased levels of the Notch target gene, Hes1. As shown by RT-qPCR, RAW 264.7 cells overexpressing RBP-J also possessed increased levels of the Hes1 transcript when compared with levels in control-transduced cells (Fig. 5C). These data suggest that elevated RBP-J is sufficient to activate the Notch signaling pathway and could be an important mechanism for increasing Notch signaling in macrophages.

Because increased levels of Hes1 are predicted to repress genes that contain N- or E-box DNA sequences within their promoters such as cytokines (22, 23), we next determined whether the LPS-mediated induction of cytokines could be suppressed in macrophages overexpressing RBP-J. Therefore, IL-6, IL-12, IL-1β, IL-10, and TNF-α were examined to determine whether cytokine suppression was triggered by overexpression of RBP-J. As shown by RT-qPCR, Il6, Il12b, Il1b, and Il10 transcripts were decreased in LPS-stimulated macrophages overexpressing RBP-J (Fig. 6). The secretion of IL-6 and IL-10 proteins was examined by ELISA, and the results also demonstrated that overexpressing RBP-J suppressed these cytokines (Fig. 6). IL-1β and IL-12 secretion was examined but was not detected by ELISA under these conditions (data not shown). In contrast to these cytokines, TNF-α levels were not altered significantly in LPS-exposed macrophages overexpressing RBP-J when examined by RT-qPCR or ELISA (Fig. 6). These data suggest that activating Notch signaling through RBP-J overexpression can lead to the suppression of cytokines.

Elevated RBP-J Increases Jagged1.—A recent study demonstrated that the Notch ligand Jagged1 is a RBP-J target gene that can be induced by Notch signaling and can thus function as part of an autoamplification loop (14). Therefore, we sought to
determine whether the overexpression of RBP-J can induce Jagged1, which could in part account for the ability of elevated RBP-J to induce Notch signaling. As shown by RT-qPCR and immunoblot analyses, overexpressing RBP-J in macrophages resulted in increased levels of Jagged1 when compared with control transduced cells (Fig. 7). These data demonstrate that macrophages overexpressing RBP-J can induce a Notch target gene that can possibly further amplify Notch signaling.

**DISCUSSION**

The ability of pathogens such as *B. anthracis* to increase cAMP levels in macrophages is a key step in disease progression. By increasing cAMP in macrophages, pathogens are able to suppress immune responses by disrupting functions such as phagocytosis, intracellular killing, and induction of proinflammatory cytokines (24, 25). A major goal of this research is to understand mechanisms of cell signaling that are impacted by
FIGURE 6. Increased RBP-J reduces cytokine production. RAW 264.7 cells were transduced with retrovirus-containing vector only control or FLAG-tagged RBP-J as detailed under “Experimental Procedures.” Cells expressing high levels of RBP-J were selected and used for these experiments. After transduction and selection, these cells were exposed to 100 ng/ml LPS for 6 h. A–E, RT-qPCR was used to quantify transcript levels of Il6, Tnf, Il10, Il1b, and Il12b. F–H, the levels of IL-6, TNF-α, and IL-10 secreted into the culture medium were measured by ELISA. IL-1β and IL-12 were not detected in the culture medium by ELISA. Bar graphs are representative of a minimum of three independent experiments. Error bars indicate mean ± S.D. *, p < 0.05; **, p < 0.005.

FIGURE 7. Elevated RBP-J increases levels of Jagged1. RAW 264.7 cells were transduced with retrovirus-containing vector only control or FLAG-tagged RBP-J as described under “Experimental Procedures.” A, RT-qPCR was used to measure transcript levels of Jag1. Bar graphs are representative of four independent experiments. B, immunoblot analysis was performed with antibodies against Jagged1 and GAPDH (loading control). C, the bar graph represents the densitometry analysis of four Jagged1 immunoblots. Error bars indicate mean ± S.D. *, p < 0.05.
Increased cAMP in Monocytes Augments Notch Signaling

FIGURE 8. Silencing C/EBPβ inhibits the ability of cAMP to activate Notch signaling and up-regulated RBP-J. RAW 264.7 cells were transfected with siRNA directed against C/EBPβ or negative control siRNA. A, an immunoblot analysis was performed demonstrating that siRNA against C/EBPβ reduces levels of C/EBPβ after exposure to ET (10 nm EF and 10 nm PA for 6 h). B, RAW-Notch and RAW-Neg reporter cells were transfected with siRNA and then exposed to ET (10 nm EF and 10 nm PA for 6 h). A luciferase assay was performed next, and the values from this assay are presented as normalized average relative luciferase units (RLU) from three independent experiments. C, RT-qPCR was used to measure transcript levels of Rbpj in RAW 264.7 cells that were transfected with siRNA. Error bars indicate mean ± S.D.* p < 0.05.

cAMP and can lead to attenuated immune responses. In these studies, cAMP from ET is found to activate Notch signaling and potentiate the induction of Notch target genes by TLR ligands (Figs. 1 and 2). This observation is especially interesting considering that ET was recently found to inhibit Notch signaling in a D. melanogaster model system and in human endothelial cells (8). These contrasting findings highlight the connection between Notch and cAMP signaling and demonstrate that the mechanisms connecting these two pathways differ by cell type. In terms of human disease, these observations support the following model. During the early stages of anthrax, ET activates Notch signaling in macrophages, possibly resulting in the suppression of immune responses and allowing B. anthracis to grow to high levels. Then, in the late stages of anthrax, ET helps trigger vascular dysfunction, possibly by inhibiting Notch signaling in endothelial cells.

In macrophages, the Notch signaling pathway has become recognized as a key signaling pathway that combines with TLR signaling to regulate many macrophage activities (13–16). One important result of the activation of Notch signaling is the up-regulation of Hes and Hey. These DNA binding proteins are transcriptional repressors that target genes that contain N- or E-box DNA sequences within their promoters (12). Recent studies have demonstrated that Hes and Hey are part of a feedback loop that represses the TLIR induction of cytokines such as IL-12 and IL-6 (13). Many other cytokines and other NF-κB-regulated genes also possess N- or E- box DNA binding sites and could be potential targets of Hes and Hey (22, 23). In addition to activating the Notch signaling pathway, cAMP is able to increase levels of TLE, which is a transcriptional corepressor recruited to gene promoters by DNA binding proteins such as Hes (19–21, 26). The transcription repressor complex resulting from TLE and Hes1 is important for mediating many of the Notch signaling effects and was observed recently to play a role in the ability of zymosan to suppress IL-12 production in dendritic cells (27). Results from these studies indicate that cAMP induces the formation of the TLE/Hes1 complex, which likely results from the ability of cAMP to activate the Notch pathway and increase levels of TLE.

This ability of cAMP to both up-regulate TLE and potentiate TLR-induced Notch signaling could shift the balance of the TLR/Notch signaling pathway. This shift could make the Hes-directed feedback loop more effective and could lead to a more substantial suppression of TLR-induced cytokines. This is in contrast to macrophages exposed to IFN-γ, a cytokine that augments TLR responses. In macrophages treated with IFN-γ, Hu et al. (13) demonstrated that the TLR-induced activation of Notch target genes was inhibited and that the Hes and Hey feedback loops were thus disrupted. Therefore, Notch signaling represents a critical target for ET and a key element for controlling the strength of immune responses.

To address the mechanism used by cAMP to activate Notch signaling, levels of components of Notch signaling were examined. Interestingly, RBP-J was found to be up-regulated by cAMP in these studies (Fig. 4). RBP-J is the primary transcriptional regulator of Notch target genes. In the absence of Notch signaling, this DNA-binding protein interacts with a transcriptional repressor complex. However, after Notch signaling is activated and RBP-J binds the Notch intracellular domain, this repressor complex is replaced with an activator complex that promotes gene transcription. Because RBP-J is up-regulated by cAMP, experiments were designed to determine how this cAMP-mediated increase in RBP-J may impact Notch signaling. Therefore, RBP-J was overexpressed by retrovirus transduction, and Notch signaling was examined. The overexpression of RBP-J resulted in the activation of Notch signaling, as shown by using a Notch reporter as well as by examining levels of Hes1 (Fig. 5). These data suggest that RBP-J is a limiting factor in macrophages and that increases in RBP-J are sufficient to increase Notch signaling. This also suggests that a low level of Notch activity is being maintained continually in these macrophages. The impact of overexpressed RBP-J was also examined when TLR signaling was activated in macrophages. Under these conditions, overexpressed RBP-J was able to amplify LPS-induced Notch signaling in a manner similar to how ET impacts TLR-induced Notch signaling. Therefore, increased RBP-J is capable of intensifying TLR-activated Notch signaling and could possibly be a mechanism used by ET to enhance TLR-activated Notch signaling. The RBP-J-mediated activation of Notch also correlated with the suppression of LPS-induced IL-6, IL-12, IL-1β, and IL-10. IL-6 and IL-12 are cytokines that have been shown previously to be repressed by Hes and Hey.
Increased cAMP in Monocytes Augments Notch Signaling

In our studies, TNF-α was not changed, which agrees with prior data that show that TNF-α is not very sensitive to Hes or Hey (13). These studies suggest that increases in RBP-J could be one important mechanism used by cAMP to control cytokine production.

The ability of increased levels of RBP-J to activate Notch signaling could result in part from an auto-amplification loop. Recent studies have demonstrated that Notch ligands such as Jagged1 and DLL4 have RBP-J binding sites within their promoters and can be induced by Notch signaling (14, 28). Therefore, Notch signals can potentially up-regulate Notch ligands and further amplify this signaling pathway. As shown in Fig. 7, this idea is supported by the observation that Jagged1 is up-regulated in macrophages that overexpress RBP-J. Hence, this autoamplification loop could in some measure account for the activation of Notch in macrophages by increased levels of RBP-J.

To further address the mechanism utilized by ET to activate Notch signaling, cAMP effectors were examined to determine how these proteins impact Notch signaling. PKA was found to be an important mediator of cAMP-dependent activation of Notch signaling because a PKA-specific agonist, 6-MB-cAMP, was found to be a potent activator of Notch signaling. Additionally, C/EBP β was examined to determine whether it was necessary for the activation of Notch signaling by ET. C/EBP β is part of the basic region leucine zipper family of transcription factors and is essential for regulating many ET activities (6). In these studies, Notch activation by ET was found to depend on C/EBP β because silencing C/EBP β with siRNA could inhibit the ET-mediated induction of Notch signaling. Furthermore, reducing C/EBP β by siRNA inhibited the ability of ET to induce RBP-J, which further supports the idea that RBP-J levels are important for controlling cAMP-induced Notch signaling.

In conclusion, ET-generated cAMP activates Notch signaling and potentiates the induction of Notch target genes by TLR ligands. This activation of Notch signaling depends on the ability of cAMP to up-regulate RBP-J through a mechanism involving PKA and C/EBP β. This ability of cAMP to enhance Notch signaling and up-regulate TLE could possibly strengthen the repressor activities of Hes, leading to attenuated immune responses.

REFERENCES

1. McDonough, K. A., and Rodriguez, A. (2012) The myriad roles of cyclic AMP in microbial pathogens. From signal to sword. Nat. Rev. Microbiol. 10, 27–38
2. Leppla, S. H. (1982) Anthrax toxin edema factor. A bacterial adenylate cyclase that increases cyclic AMP concentrations of eukaryotic cells. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. 79, 3162–3166
3. Young, J. A., and Collier, R. J. (2007) Anthrax toxin. Receptor binding, internalization, pore formation, and translocation. Annu. Rev. Biochem. 76, 243–265
4. Liu, S., Miller-Randolph, S., Crown, D., Moayeri, M., Sastalla, I., Okugawa, S., and Leppla, S. H. (2010) Anthrax toxin targeting of myeloid cells through the CMG2 receptor is essential for establishment of Bacillus anthracis infections in mice. Cell Host Microbe 8, 455–462
5. Kim, C., Wilcox-Adelman, S., Sano, Y., Tang, W.-J., Collier, R. J., and Park, J. M. (2008) Antiinflammatory cAMP signaling and cell migration genes co-opted by the anthrax bacillus. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. 105, 6150–6155
6. Larabee, J. L., Shakir, S. M., Hightower, L., and Ballard, J. D. (2011) A denommatous polyposis coli protein associates with C/EBP beta and increases Bacillus anthracis edema toxin-stimulated gene expression in macrophages. J. Biol. Chem. 286, 19364–19372
7. Larabee, J. L., Maldonado-Arocho, F. I., Pacheco, S., France, B., DeGiusti, K., Shakir, S. M., Bradley, K. A., and Ballard, J. D. (2011) Glycogen synthase kinase 3 activation is important for anthrax edema toxin-induced dendritic cell maturation and anthrax toxin receptor 2 expression in macrophages. Infect. Immun. 79, 3302–3308
8. Guichard, A., McGillivray, S. M., Cruz-Moreno, B., van Sorge, N. M., Nitot, V., and Bier, E. (2010) Anthrax toxins cooperatively inhibit endocytic recycling by the Rab11/Sec15 exocyst. Nature 467, 854–858
9. Maillard, I., Adler, S. H., and Pear, W. S. (2003) Notch and the immune system. Immunity 19, 781–791
10. Lewis, J., Hanisch, A., and Holder, M. (2009) Notch signaling, the segmentation clock, and the patterning of vertebrate somites. J. Biol. 8, 44
11. Bray, S. J. (2006) Notch signaling. A simple pathway becomes complex. Nat. Rev. Mol. Cell Biol. 7, 678–689
12. Fischer, A., and Gessler, M. (2007) Delta, Notch, and then? Protein interactions and proposed modes of repression by Hes and Hey bHLH factors. Nucleic Acids Res. 35, 4583–4596
13. Hu, X., Chung, A. Y., Wu, I., Foldi, J., Chen, J., Ji, I. D., Tateya, T., Kang, Y. J., Han, J., Gessler, M., Kageyama, R., and Ivashkiv, L. B. (2008) Integrated regulation of Toll-like receptor responses by Notch and interferon-γ pathways. Immunity 29, 691–703
14. Foldi, I., Chung, A. Y., Xu, H., Zhu, J., Outtt, H. H., Kitajewski, J., Li, Y., Hu, X., and Ivashkiv, L. B. (2010) Autoamplification of Notch signaling in macrophages by TLR-induced and RBP-J-dependent induction of Jagged1. J. Immunol. 185, 5023–5031
15. Xu, H., Zhu, J., Smith, S., Foldi, J., Zhao, B., Chung, A. Y., Outtt, H., Kitajewski, J., Shi, C., Weber, S., Saftig, P., Li, Y., Ozato, K., Blobel, C. P., Ivashkiv, L. B., and Hu, X. (2012) Notch-RBP-J signaling regulates the transcription factor IRIF8 to promote inflammatory macrophage polarization. Nat. Immunol. 13, 642–650
16. Zhang, Q., Wang, C., Liu, Z., Liu, X., Han, C., Cao, X., and Li, N. (2012) Notch signal suppresses Toll-like receptor-triggered inflammatory responses in macrophages by inhibiting extracellular signal-regulated kinase 1/2-mediated nuclear factor κB activation. J. Biol. Chem. 287, 6208–6217
17. Palaga, T., Buranaru, C., Rengpipat, S., Faqu, A. H., Golde, T. E., Kaufmann, S. H., and Osborne, B. A. (2008) Notch signaling is activated by TLR stimulation and regulates macrophage function. Eur. J. Immunol. 38, 174–183
18. Campeau, E., Ruhl, V. E., Rodier, F., Smith, C. L., Rahmberg, B. L., Fuss, J. O., Campisi, J., Yaswen, P., Cooper, P. K., and Kaufman, P. D. (2009) A versatile viral system for expression and depletion of proteins in mammalian cells. PLoS ONE 4, e6529
19. Grbavec, D., and Stifani, S. (1996) Molecular interaction between TLE1 and the carboxyl-terminal domain of HES-1 containing the WRPW motif. Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun. 223, 701–705
20. Chen, G., and Courrey, A. J. (2000) Groucho/TLE family proteins and transcriptional repression. Gene 249, 1–16
21. Grbavec, D., Lo, R., Liu, Y., and Stifani, S. (1998) Transducin-like Enhancer of split 2, a mammalian homologue of Drosophila Groucho, acts as a transcriptional repressor, interacts with Hairy/Enhancer of split proteins, and is expressed during neuronal development. Eur. J. Biochem. 258, 339–349
22. Sharif, M. N., Sosis, D., Rothlin, C. V., Kelly, E., Lemke, G., Olson, E. N., and Ivashkiv, L. B. (2006) Twist mediates suppression of inflammation by type I IFNs and Axl. J. Exp. Med. 203, 1891–1901
23. Śośi, D., Richardson, J. A., Yu, K., Ornitz, D. M., and Olson, E. N. (2003) Twist regulates cytokine gene expression through a negative feedback loop that represses NF-κB activity. Cell 112, 169–180
24. Peters-Golden, M. (2009) Putting on the Brakes. Cyclic AMP as a multi-pronged controller of macrophage function. Sci. Signal. 2, pe37
25. Serezani, C. H., Ballinger, M. N., Aronoff, D. M., and Peters-Golden, M. (2008) Cyclic AMP. Master regulator of innate immune cell function. Am. J. Respir. Cell Mol. Biol. 39, 127–132
26. Tetsuka, T., Uranki, H., Imai, H., Ono, T., Sonta, S., Takahashi, N.,...
Increased cAMP in Monocytes Augments Notch Signaling

Asamitsu, K., and Okamoto, T. (2000) Inhibition of nuclear factor-κB-mediated Transcription by association with the amino-terminal enhancer of Split, a Groucho-related protein lacking WD40 repeats. J. Biol. Chem. 275, 4383–4390

27. Alvarez, Y., Municio, C., Hugo, E., Zhu, J., Alonso, S., Hu, X., Fernández, N., and Sánchez Crespo, M. (2011) Notch- and transducin-like enhancer of split (TLE)-dependent histone deacetylation explain interleukin 12 (IL-12) p70 inhibition by zymosan. J. Biol. Chem. 286, 16583–16595

28. Caolo, V., van den Akker, N. M., Verbruggen, S., Donners, M. M., Swennen, G., Schulten, H., Waltenberger, J., Post, M. J., and Molin, D. G. (2010) Feed-forward signaling by membrane-bound ligand receptor circuit. The case of Notch Delta-like 4 ligand in endothelial cells. J. Biol. Chem. 285, 40681–40689