PARPs and ADP-ribosylation: recent advances linking molecular functions to biological outcomes

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The discovery of poly(ADP-ribose) >50 years ago opened a new field, leading the way for the discovery of the poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP) family of enzymes and the ADP-ribosylation reactions that they catalyze. Although the field was initially focused primarily on the biochemistry and molecular biology of PARP-1 in DNA damage detection and repair, the mechanistic and functional understanding of the role of PARPs in different biological processes has grown considerably of late. This has been accompanied by a shift of focus from enzymology to a search for substrates as well as the first attempts to determine the functional consequences of site-specific ADP-ribosylation on those substrates. Supporting these advances is a host of methodological approaches from chemical biology, proteomics, genomics, cell biology, and genetics that have propelled new discoveries in the field. New findings on the diverse roles of PARPs in chromatin regulation, transcription, RNA biology, and DNA repair have been complemented by recent advances that link ADP-ribosylation to stress responses, metabolism, viral infections, and cancer. These studies have begun to reveal the promising ways in which PARPs may be targeted therapeutically for the treatment of disease. In this review, we discuss these topics and relate them to the future directions of the field.

ADP-ribosylation is a reversible post-translational modification [PTM] of proteins resulting in the covalent attachment of a single ADP-ribose unit [i.e., mono(ADP-ribose) (MAR)] or polymers of ADP-ribose units [i.e., poly(ADP-ribose) (PAR)] on a variety of amino acid residues on target proteins [Gibson and Kraus 2012; Daniels et al. 2015a]. This modification is mediated by a diverse group of ADP-ribosyl transferase [ADPRT] enzymes that use ADP-ribose units derived from β-NAD⁺ to catalyze the ADP-ribosylation reaction. These enzymes include bacterial ADPRTs [e.g., cholera toxin and diphtheria toxin] as well as members of three different protein families in yeast and animals: (1) arginine-specific ecto-enzymes [ARTCs], (2) sirtuins, and (3) PAR polymerases [PARPs] [Hottiger et al. 2010]. Surprisingly, a recent study showed that the bacterial toxin DarTG can ADP-ribosylate DNA [Jankевичius et al. 2016]. How this fits into the broader picture of cellular ADP-ribosylation has yet to be determined.

In this review, we focus on the mono[ADP-ribosyl]ation [MARylation] and poly[ADP-ribosyl]ation [PARylation] of glutamate, aspartate, and lysine residues by PARP family members. While many reviews have been written on PARPs in the past decade, we highlight the current trends and ideas in the field, in particular those discoveries that have been published in the past 2–3 years.

PARPs and friends: writers, readers, erasers, and feeders

PARPs interact physically and functionally with a set of accessory proteins that play key roles in determining the overall outcomes in PARP-dependent pathways. By borrowing from and adding to descriptions used by the histone modification field [Hottiger 2015], PARPs can be thought of as “writers” of ADP-ribose, and the accessory proteins can be thought of as “readers” [ADP-ribose-binding domains [ARBDs]], “erasers” [ADP-ribose and PAR hydrolases], “feeders” [NAD⁺ synthases], and “consumers” [NAD⁺ hydrolases] [Fig. 1]. These are elaborated on in more detail below.

The PARP family: ADP-ribose writers

The PARP family consists of 17 members that have distinct structural domains, activities, subcellular
localizations, and functions [Gibson and Kraus 2012; Vyas et al. 2013, 2014]. PARPs can be thought of as ADP-ribose “writers,” that covalently attach (“write”) ADP-ribose units on substrate proteins [Fig. 1].

Based on their structural domains and functions, the different PARPs can be broadly classified as DNA-dependent PARPs [PARP-1, PARP-2, and PARP-3], Tankyrases [PARP-5a and PARP-5b], Cys-Cys-Cys-His zinc finger (CCCH)-containing and WWE PAR-binding domain-containing PARPs [PARP-7, PARP-12, PARP-13.1, and PARP-13.2], and PAR-binding macromdomain-containing “macro” PARPs [PARP-9, PARP-14, and PARP-15] [Ame et al. 2004; Vyas et al. 2013]. The PARP family members can also be categorized according to their catalytic activities: “mono,” “poly,” or inactive. The PARP “monoenzymes” [i.e., mono(ADP-ribosyl) transferases [MARTs]; i.e., PARP-3, PARP-4, PARP-6, PARP-10, PARP-14, PARP-15, and PARP-16] catalyze the addition of a single ADP-ribose unit on target proteins through a process called MARylation [Vyas et al. 2014]. The PARP “polyenzymes” [i.e., PARP-1, PARP-2, PARP-5a, and PARP-5b] catalyze the polymerization of ADP-ribose units through α(1 → 2) O-glycosidic bonds in linear or branched chains [Gibson and Kraus 2012]. In contrast, no enzymatic activity has been described for PARP-9 and PARP-13 [Vyas et al. 2014].

The catalytic domain of many PARPs contains an “H-Y-E” [His–Tyr–Glu] motif. The histidine and tyrosine residues are required for the proper orientation of NAD+, while the glutamate residue is required for catalytic activity. Nonetheless, the H-Y-E motif is not the sole indicator of PARP activity [Vyas et al. 2014]. In the mono-PARP ([except for PARP-3 and PARP-4], the glutamate residue is replaced with isoleucine, leucine, or tyrosine, which is associated with the absence of polymerase activity. Although PARP-3 and PARP-4 have the H-Y-E motif, their structurally distinct donor (“D”) loop may explain the lack of polymerase activity by these family members. Strikingly, PARP-9 and PARP-13 do not have the conserved histidine residue in their NAD+-binding pockets, which is likely to account for the lack of catalytic activity [Vyas et al. 2014].

What’s in a name? PARPs or ARTDs (ADPRTs, diphtheria toxin-like)?

The PARP family of proteins is defined by the presence of the conserved PARP catalytic domain. Historically, all members of the family were named based on the polymerase activity of the founding member, PARP-1, even though many family members have MART activity. Recent discussions in the PARP field have centered around the need to reform the PARP nomenclature. Hottiger et al. (2010) have proposed using the term ARTD, which represents the basic catalytic activity of the proteins. While some aspects of the new nomenclature are an improvement, the vast majority of the published literature has used the older PARP nomenclature. In addition, the development of PARP inhibitors [PARPis] and their frequent discussion in the popular press may make the “PARP” nomenclature difficult to replace. Furthermore, the use of two different names for each PARP protein may cause confusion. The most important distinction for the field now seems to be between the MARTs and the poly[ADP-ribosyl] transferases. Recently, the terms “monoPARP” and “polyPARP” have gained some traction as jargon in the field, but we prefer the terms “monoenzyme” and “polyenzyme” due to the obvious oxymoron and redundancy, respectively, of the former terms. These terms work equally well with the PARP and ARTD nomenclature [e.g., PARP monoenzyme and ARTD polypolynzyme]. Clearly, the field needs to adopt a more sensible, consistent, and universal nomenclature. Borrowing from the words of Marshall McLuhan, we must not let the naming of PARPs become a numbing blow from which the field never recovers.

**ARBDs: ADP-ribose readers**

Studies over the past decade have led to the discovery of motifs, domains, or modules in proteins that can bind to various forms of ADP-ribose on PARP substrate proteins and function as “readers” [Fig. 1]. These ARBDs include PAR-binding motifs [PBMs], macromdomains, PAR-binding zinc finger [PBZ] modules, and WWE domains (Table 1; Kalisch et al. 2012; Barkauskaite et al. 2013; Karlberg et al. 2013; Krietsch et al. 2013). Other less well characterized ARBDs include (1) the phosphopeptide-binding Forkhead-associated (FHA) and BRCA1 C-terminal [BRCT] domains, (2) RNA recognition modules [RRMs], and (3) arginine [R]- and glycine [G]-rich motifs [RGGs; also called glycine-arginine-rich [GAR] domains] (Li et al. 2013; Teloni and Altmeyer 2016).
PBMs are short sequences (∼20 amino acids) with a loosely defined consensus ([HKR]1-X2-X3-[AIQVY]4-[KR]5-[KR]6-[AILV]7-[FILPV]8,) (Pleschke et al. 2000; Gagne et al. 2008). Despite being the first PAR reader domains to be defined, the exact nature of their interaction with PAR remains to be elucidated. Macrodomains are larger (∼130- to 190-amino acid) globular domains that can bind to (“read”) an ADP-ribose monomer or the terminal ADP-ribose moiety in a PAR chain (Table 1, Fig. 2A,B; Karas et al. 2005; Feijs et al. 2013; Rack et al. 2016). The PBZs are short modules (∼30 amino acids) with the consensus sequence [K/R]-X-X-C-X-[F/Y]-G-X-X-C-X-[K/R]-X-X-X-H-X-X-X-[F/Y]-X-H that bind the ADP-ribose–ADP-ribose junctions of PAR chains as well as ADP-ribose monomers (Table 1, Fig. 2A,B; Ahel et al. 2008). WWE domains, which contain conserved tryptophan (W) and glutamate (E) residues, bind to the iso-ADP-ribose moiety in PAR chains (Table 1, Fig. 2A,B; Wang et al. 2012). Thus, WWE domains bind exclusively to ADP-ribose oligomers or polymers.

Various proteins are “functionalized” with these ARBDs, allowing them to provide a functional bridge between ADP-ribosylation and other cellular events. For example, the DNA damage repair protein APLF (aprataxin polynucleotide-kinase-like factor) is recruited to sites of DNA damage through interactions with ADP-ribose via its PBZ motif (Li et al. 2010). Similarly, the RNF146 E3 ubiquitin ligase interacts with its ADP-ribosylated substrates through its WWE domain, allowing it to subsequently ubiquitylate them (Zhang et al. 2011). As discussed below, the discovery of these diverse ARBDs has provided new tools for exploring ADP-ribose-directed or PAR-directed events in cells and biochemical assays.

The color-coding for the macrodomains, WWE domains, and PBZ motifs matches the color-coding in Figure 2. This list contains only a sample of the many different types of ARBDs and the proteins that contain them. Other ARBDs include (1) the phosphopeptide-binding FHA and BRCT domains, (2) RRM s, and (3) RGGs (also called GAR domains) (Li et al. 2013; Teloni and Altmeyer 2016).

Table 1. Examples of proteins containing ARBDs

| Protein | Domain | Color |
|--------|--------|-------|
| Human PARG | Regulatory Domain | Blue |
| Human PARG | Accessory Domain | Green |
| Human PARG | Macrodomain | Red |

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Figure 2. Structures of ARBDs. (A) The ARBDs shown include a macrodomain from Archaeoglobus fulgidus Af1521 [Protein Data Bank [PDB] 2BFQ], a WWE domain from human RNF146 [PDB 3V3L], and a PBZ motif from human CHFR [PDB 2XOY]. The ARBDs are shown in blue, and the ADP-ribose ligands are highlighted in red.

PAR polymers turn over rapidly in the cell (Tulin and Spradling 2003). Thus, not surprisingly, a number of enzymes have evolved to remove covalently linked ADP-ribose and PAR from proteins (Fig. 1). These “erasers” include ADP-ribosyl hydrolase 3 (ARH3) (Oka et al. 2010) and PAR hydrolase 1 (PARG) (Krisch et al. 2010).
PARP-1, where it directly and golgi), and NMNAT-3 (mitochondria) (Berger et al. 2012). NMNATs: PARP feeders

Nicotinamide mononucleotide adenylyl transferases (NMNATs): PARP feeders

PARPs are NAD⁺-dependent enzymes and thus require a source of NAD⁺ in all of the cellular compartments in which they function (Fig. 1). NMNAT-1, NMNAT-2, and NMNAT-3 comprise a small family of NAD⁺ synthases that produce NAD⁺ from nicotinamide mononucleotide and ATP (Emanuelli et al. 2001; Raffaelli et al. 2002, Zhang et al. 2003). Like the PARPs that they “feed,” the NMNATs exhibit distinct subcellular localizations: NMNAT-1 (nucleus), NMNAT-2 (cytoplasm and golgi), and NMNAT-3 (mitochondria) (Berger et al. 2005). NMNAT-1 can be recruited to chromatin by PARP-1, where it directly “feeds” NAD⁺ to PARP-1, thereby modulating PARP-1 catalytic activity (Zhang et al. 2012). Indeed, expression of a catalytically inactive mutant of NMNAT-1 results in a reduction of PAR accumulation at PARP-1-bound gene promoters and a concomitant attenuation of gene expression (Zhang et al. 2012).

Interestingly, ectopic expression of NMNAT-1 in MCF-7 cells increases nuclear NAD⁺/PH levels (used as an indirect measurement or surrogate for NAD⁺ without affecting the cytosolic NAD⁺/PH levels (Zhang et al. 2012). This suggests that cellular NAD⁺ could be present in distinct pools in different subcellular organelles such that the levels of NAD⁺ are locally regulated by the availability and activity of the respective NMNATs. Certain PARPs, such as PARP-2, PARP-3, and PARP-7, exhibit differential localization in the nucleus and the cytoplasm during different phases of the cell cycle (Vyas et al. 2013). Moreover, as mentioned in the previous section, the ADP-ribose hydrolases also exhibit distinct subcellular localizations (Niere et al. 2012; Jankevicius et al. 2013; Sharifi et al. 2013). Taken together, these observations suggest that the compartmentalization of the “feeders,” “writers,” and “erasers” could be essential for rapid and coordinated changes in ADP-ribosylation in different subcellular milieus.

NAD⁺ consumers

Given the dependence of PARP enzymes on NAD⁺, proteins that limit the cellular NAD⁺ supply have the potential to affect PARP catalytic activity. Thus, NAD⁺ consumption (distinguished here from NAD⁺ conversion to reduced NADH) should also be considered a potential regulator of PARP activity (Fig. 1). Although PARP enzymes, especially PARP-1 under cellular stress conditions, are likely to be the greatest NAD⁺ consumers, other enzymes also contribute to cellular NAD⁺ consumption. These include NADases [NAD⁺ glycohydrolases], CD38, and sirtuins (Lin 2007; Ying 2008). NADases are enzymes that catalyze the hydrolysis of NAD⁺ to ADP-ribose and nicotinamide. They have been identified in bacteria, fungi, and mammals and may be membrane-anchored (Kim et al. 1988, 1993; Cho et al. 1998; Ghosh et al. 2010). The ADP-ribose cyclase CD38, which catalyzes the cyclization of NAD⁺ to cyclic ADP-ribose, also exhibits significant NADase activity (Zocchi et al. 1993; Aksoy et al. 2006b). In this regard, CD38 knockout mice exhibit significantly higher tissue NAD⁺ levels than wild-type mice (Aksoy et al. 2006b). CD38 can regulate the NAD⁺-dependent protein deacetylase activity of the sirtuin Sirt1 by limiting NAD⁺ (Aksoy et al. 2006a). More broadly, a number of studies have shown that modulation of cellular NAD⁺ levels can regulate the catalytic activities of sirtuins (Anderson et al. 2002, 2003; Araki et al. 2004; Revollo et al. 2004), presumably, similar mechanisms can regulate the catalytic activities of PARPs as well.

Like the PARP proteins, Sirt1 consumes NAD⁺ as a consequence of its catalytic activity, which promotes the deacetylation of lysine residues in proteins, generating O-acetyl-ADP-ribose [the acceptor of the acetyl group] and nicotinamide (Haigis and Sinclair 2010; Tong and Denu 2010). Reduction of NAD⁺ levels by Sirt1 catalytic activity may act to reduce PARP catalytic activity and
vice versa. In this regard, PARP-1 and Sirt1 have been shown to function antagonistically, possibly through competition for NAD⁺ or NMNAT-1 [Rongvaux et al. 2003; Kim et al. 2005; Kolthur-Seetharam et al. 2006; Zhang et al. 2009]. Chemical activation of Sirt1 leads to reduced PARP-1 activity, and knockout of Sirt1 increases PARP-1 activity [Kolthur-Seetharam et al. 2006]. Furthermore, nicotinamide, a product of the reactions catalyzed by both PARP-1 and Sirt1, can inhibit both of their enzymatic activities [Rongvaux et al. 2003; Kim et al. 2005]. However, the functional interplay between PARP-1 and Sirt1 goes beyond competition for NAD⁺, possibly involving direct interactions between PARP-1 and Sirt1 or coregulation of shared cellular processes [Tulin et al. 2006; El Ramy et al. 2009; Rajamohan et al. 2009, Krishnakumar and Kraus 2010a]. It may even involve a role for the Sirt1 catalytic product O-acetyl-ADP-ribose, which binds macroH2A1.1 [Hoff and Wolberger 2005; Kustatscher et al. 2005], a macrodomain-containing histone variant that interacts functionally with PARP-1 [Ouararhni et al. 2006; Nusinow et al. 2007; Timinszky et al. 2009; Hussey et al. 2014]. Nonetheless, the studies described here suggest that modulation of NAD⁺ levels by NAD⁺ consumers can play a role in regulating the catalytic activity of PARPs.

Recurring themes in PARP biology: DNA repair, transcription, signaling, and beyond, with a focus on PARP-1

PARP family members are expressed in a wide variety of tissues and cell types, some ubiquitously and others in a more restricted manner. Our emerging understanding of the broader PARP family and the biological potential that it represents has led to a growing interest in the contribution of PARPs to molecular, cellular, and physiological outcomes. The field has evolved from its historical focus on the role of PARPs, especially PARP-1 and PARP-2, in DNA damage repair to a much more diverse biology [Fig. 3]. In this section, we review the recent advances in PARP biology that highlight the striking functional versatility of PARPs.

PARPs in DNA damage repair, cell survival, and cell death

Historically, PARPs, in particular PARP-1, have been studied for their roles in DNA damage repair, including base excision repair [BER] and double-strand break [DSB] repair [De Vos et al. 2012; Beck et al. 2014b]. In the case of severe genotoxic stress, PARP-dependent pathways may direct the cell-initiated programmed cell death. Here we describe roles for some of the nuclear PARPs involved in these processes.

PARP-1 and DNA repair

PARP-1 is recruited to nicks and DSBs in genomic DNA in response to DNA damage and is a critical mediator of DNA damage repair [Audebert et al. 2004; Langelier et al. 2012]. Indeed, Parp1 knockout mice exhibit heightened sensitivity to DNA-damaging agents [de Murcia et al. 1997]. The mechanisms of action by which PARP-1 can promote the repair of damaged DNA have been widely explored, yet some aspects remain unexplained. Activation of PARP-1 at sites of DNA damage results in the production of long PAR chains on PARP-1 itself as well as other proteins associated with the damaged DNA, which in turn recruit PAR-binding proteins. These include (1) XRCC1 (X-ray repair cross-complementing protein 1), a scaffolding protein involved in assembly and activation of the DNA BER machinery [Masson et al. 1998; Okano et al. 2003]; (2) CHD4 (chromdomain nucleosome remodeling and histone deacetylase), a part of the repressive nucleosome remodeling and deacetylase [NuRD] complex, which acts to repress transcription and facilitate DNA repair at the break sites [Chou et al. 2010]; (3) APLF and CHFR, which have PAR-binding domains that allow APLF recruitment to DNA damage sites and CHFR to regulate anaphase checkpoints, respectively [Ahel et al. 2008; Li et al. 2010]; and (4) macrodomain-containing proteins, such as ALC1, which is activated in a PAR-dependent manner to enable nucleosome remodeling [Ahel et al. 2009]. Moreover, the rapid PAR-dependent recruitment to DNA damage sites of mitotic recombination 11 [MRE11] [Haince et al. 2008] and ataxia telangiectasia-mutated [ATM] [Aguilar-Quesada et al. 2007; Haince et al. 2007], components of the homologous recombination machinery, implicates PARP-1 in homologous recombination as well.

Recent work from a number of laboratories has led to new insights into the role of PARP-1 in DNA damage repair. For example, a recent study by Luisterburg et al. [2016] explored the contribution of PARP-1 to the nonhomologous end-joining [NHEJ] pathway of DNA repair. In their model, PARP-1 facilitates recruitment of the chromatin remodeler CHD2 to DSBs in a PAR-dependent manner. CHD2 in turn recruits the core components of the NHEJ machinery. Moreover, the presence of CHD2 at the DSB sites leads to chromatin decondensation and the deposition of the histone variant H3.3. Together, CHD2 and H3.3 change the local chromatin structure to...
a more permissive one for DNA repair by NHEJ, thus facilitating DSB repair [Luijsterburg et al. 2016].

As suggested by the aforementioned observations, a major contribution of PARPs to DSB repair is through the ADP-ribosylation of histones, which potentiates the expansion of compacted chromatin and enables the repair machinery to function competently. Recently, a novel protein, HPF1 [histone PARylation factor 1] or C4orf27, was shown to be a coregulator of PARP-1-dependent histone ADP-ribosylation [Gibbs-Seymour et al. 2016]. Loss of HPF1 results in PARP-1 hyper-automodification and a consequent decrease in histone ADP-ribosylation, suggesting that HPF1 restricts PARP-1 automodification and promotes histone ADP-ribosylation. HPF1 is also required for efficient cellular responses to DNA-damaging agents, thus making HPF1 an integral component of genome maintenance by PARP-1 [Gibbs-Seymour et al. 2016].

Furthermore, previous studies of DSB repair have shown that the spatial organization of the repair machinery is important for efficient repair responses [Bekker-Jensen et al. 2006; Misteli and Soutoglou 2009]. PAR polymers have been shown recently to potentiate liquid demixing (i.e., separation into distinct phases by forming liquid droplets) [Hyman and Simons 2012] at the sites of DNA damage, which promotes the assembly of intrinsically disordered RNA-binding proteins, such as EWS, FUS, and TAF15 [Altmeyer et al. 2015]. This phase separation, which dynamically reorganizes the soluble nuclear space, orchestrates the earliest cellular responses to DNA damage [Altmeyer et al. 2015]. These studies highlight some of the recent advances in our understanding of the mechanisms by which PARP-1 contributes to the repair of damaged DNA.

**PARP-1: a cellular rheostat!** Importantly, excessive [hyper] PARylation by PARP-1 can direct the cell away from DNA repair pathways toward the activation of cell death pathways. These cell death pathways include parthanatos, a unique form of programmed cell death that occurs independently of caspase and is distinct from necrosis and apoptosis [David et al. 2009]. Exposure to N-methyl-N-nitro-N-nitrosoguanidine (MNNG), a DNA-alkylating agent, leads to extensive activation of PARP-1, which triggers the release of apoptosis-inducing factor (AIF) from mitochondria [Yu et al. 2002]. AIF then translocates into the nucleus, where it recruits the nuclease MIF (macrophage migration inhibitory factor), which cleaves genomic DNA into large fragments, resulting in chromatinolysis [Wang et al. 2016]. Thus, the level of PARP-1 activation can serve as a rheostat: As the strength of the stress stimulus increases, the levels of PARP-1 activity and PAR synthesis increase, leading to different cellular outcomes [i.e., inflammatory responses, DNA repair and cell survival, senescence, or cell death [e.g., apoptosis, necrosis, and parthanatos]] [Luo and Kraus 2012].

**PARP-3 and DNA repair** Recent studies have also highlighted an emerging role for another PARP, the PARP monoenzyme PARP-3, in DNA damage repair. PARP-3 is critical for DSB repair, and the loss of PARP-3 results in a delayed response to DSBs as well as increased sensitivity to anti-tumor drugs that cause DSBs [Boehler et al. 2011; Rulten et al. 2011; Beck et al. 2014a]. PARP-3 also potentiates NHEJ by enabling the accumulation of APLF at DSBs, which results in the retention of the XRCC4/Lig4 DNA ligation complex required for rapid repair of the DNA breaks [Rulten et al. 2011]. Furthermore, PARP-3 is required for phosphorylation of APLF at Ser116, an event that facilitates efficient DSB repair [Fenton et al. 2013]. PARP-3 also associates with other DNA repair factors, such as DNA-PKcs, PARP-1, DNA ligase III, DNA ligase IV, Ku70, and Ku80 [Rouleau et al. 2007]. Interestingly, the ADP-ribosylation of Ku80 by PARP-3 plays an important role in directing DNA repair toward NHEJ rather than homologous recombination [Beck et al. 2014a]. ADP-ribosylation of histone H2B by PARP-3 is also observed near the sites of DNA damage upon the binding of PARP-3 to the nicked DNA [Grundy et al. 2016; Kistemaker et al. 2016]. PARP-3 may also function synergistically with PARP-1 to potentiate DNA damage repair, as Parp1 and Parp3 double-knockout mice exhibit decreased survival in response to X-ray irradiation as compared with the individual gene knockouts [Boehler et al. 2011]. This suggests that different PARPs might act in concert to ensure efficient DNA damage repair.

**Structural analyses of PARPs in DNA repair** Mapping the structural domains and interactions of PARPs with DNA has helped to elucidate the mechanisms by which PARPs can recognize damaged DNA and initiate repair. For PARP-1, the first two zinc finger domains [Zn1 and Zn2] make contacts with the DNA [Langelier et al. 2011], whereas an adjacent third zinc finger domain [Zn3] is required for DNA-dependent PARP-1 catalytic activity as well as chromatin compaction [Langelier et al. 2010]. The Zn1, Zn3, and WGR domains are essential for activation of PARP-1 at sites of DNA damage [Langelier et al. 2012]. Upon association of PARP-1 with a break site, these protein domains are refolded to promote extensive interdomain contacts that facilitate PARP-1 catalytic activity [Langelier et al. 2012]. Moreover, DNA binding induces unfolding of an autoinhibitory helical domain [HD], which then allows for NAD+ binding and activation of PARP-1 [Dawicki-McKenna et al. 2015; Steffen et al. 2016]. The recognition of single-stranded breaks by Zn1 and Zn2 promotes the folding of other PARP-1 domains and subsequent allosteric activation [Eustermann et al. 2015].

PARP-2, which lacks the zinc finger domains, has a short N-terminal region that, together with the WGR and catalytic domains, is required for binding to damaged DNA and subsequent activation [Ricchio et al. 2016]. Moreover, while PARP-2 and PARP-3 share the allosteric activation mechanism with PARP-1, they require 5′ phosphorylation at the DNA breaks for activation, unlike PARP-1 [Langelier et al. 2014]. These studies revealed some of the distinguishing features that contribute to the differential activities of different PARPs.
PARPs in gene regulation: a focus on PARP-1

A number of nuclear PARPs have been implicated in gene regulatory outcomes; much of the focus has been on PARP-1. Current models postulate that PARP-1 regulates gene expression through two general mechanisms: [1] by modulating chromatin structure (both local and higher order) and [2] by acting as a transcriptional coregulator (with the transcriptional machinery as well as sequence-specific DNA-binding transcription factors) [Kim et al. 2004, Krishnakumar et al. 2008, Krishnakumar and Kraus 2010b, Ryu et al. 2015].

Regulation of chromatin structure

The regulation of chromatin structure by PARP-1 may involve [1] alterations in nucleosome structure through direct binding or [2] PARylation of histones as well as nonhistone, chromatin-associated proteins. In Drosophila, activation of PARP-1 promotes decondensation of chromatin in response to heat shock or other cellular signaling pathways (Tulin and Spradling 2003; Petesch and Lis 2008). This decondensation could be due to the ADP-ribosylation of histone H1 by PARP-1 or competitive displacement of histone H1 from nucleosomes by PARP-1 [Kim et al. 2004, Krishnakumar et al. 2008]. Prolinflammatory signaling also induces PARP-1 enzymatic activity and histone ADP-ribosylation at transcriptionally active and accessible chromatin regions [Martinez-Zamudio and Ha 2012]. While the actions of PARP-1 on chromatin may occur across broad domains, PARP-1 can also have specific effects at the level of the nucleosome. PARP-1 binds to nucleosomes by recognizing specific structural features [Kim et al. 2004] and can alter nucleosome structure while binding cooperatively with transcription factors, such as the pioneer transcription factor Sox2 [Liu and Kraus 2017]. Finally, PARP-1 can also function as a histone chaperone by directly binding or recruiting other factors to facilitate nucleosome assembly [Muthurajan et al. 2014].

Interestingly, a recent study proposed that PARP-1-generated PAR serves as a dynamic source of ATP, which is required for the activity of ATP-dependent chromatin remodeling enzymes during cellular signaling [Wright et al. 2016]. In this model, the pyrophosphatase NUDIX5 catalyzes the conversion of ADP-ribose to ATP in the presence of pyrophosphate. This reaction, which was shown to be triggered in response to hormone-dependent signaling, enables the ATP generated to be used by chromatin remodeling enzymes to regulate hormone-dependent gene transcription [Fig. 4A; Wright et al. 2016].

PARP-1 can also indirectly alter chromatin architecture by modulating the activity of histone-modifying enzymes and chromatin remodelers. PARylation of KDM5B, a histone lysine demethylase that acts on histone H3 Lys4 trimethyl [H3K4me3], by PARP-1 inhibits the binding of KDM5B to chromatin and its demethylase activity at specific sites across the genome [Krishnakumar and Kraus 2010b]. This leads to an increase in the levels of H3K4me3 at the promoters of PARP-1-regulated genes and enhanced expression [Krishnakumar and Kraus 2010b]. ADP-ribosylation of Drosophila ISWI, an ATP-dependent nucleosome remodeler, by dPARP inhibits nucleosome binding, ATPase, and chromatin condensation activities of ISWI at heat-shock loci [Saia et al. 2008]. ALC1, another ATP-dependent nucleosome remodeler, can bind to PARP-1 in a PAR-dependent manner through its ADP-ribose-binding macrodomain [Ahel et al. 2009]. This interaction enhances the nucleosome remodeling activity of ALC1 as well as its recruitment to specific genomic loci [Gottschalk et al. 2009]. These examples represent a few of the ways in which PARP-1 can directly or indirectly alter chromatin structure.

Modulation of insulator function

Arrangement of genomic DNA in the three-dimensional space of the nucleus
may play an important role in regulating gene transcription [Wu 1997]. Among the genomic regulatory elements that direct higher-order chromatin interactions are insulators, which segregate transcriptionally active and inactive chromatin domains in order to maintain stable gene expression patterns [Gaszner and Felsenfeld 2006]. The chromatin insulator-binding protein CCCTC-binding factor (CTCF) has been shown to be PARylated by PARP-1. Although PARylation of CTCF does not affect the DNA-binding affinity of CTCF, it is required for optimal function in transcriptional activation and insulation [Yu et al. 2004; Farrar et al. 2010]. In this regard, Ong et al. (2013) have shown that ADP-ribosylation of CP190, a CTCF-interacting protein, promotes its interaction with insulator proteins, association with the nuclear lamina, and insulator activity in vivo. Loss of dPARP results in the disruption of the nuclear clustering of CP190 complexes and reduces insulator activity [Ong et al. 2013]. Additional studies have shown that PARP-1 can interact with CTCF in a signal-dependent manner. For example, Zhao et al. [2015] demonstrated that PARP-1–CTCF interactions are regulated in response to circadian rhythms, which trigger oscillations in the recruitment of circadian loci to the lamina, causing the silencing of these loci through the acquisition of repressive H3K9me2 histone modifications. Importantly, inhibition of PARP-1 activity by the PARPi olaparib abrogates the recruitment of circadian loci to the nuclear envelope [Zhao et al. 2015]. Together, these data suggest that ADP-ribosylation by PARP-1 is integral to the function of insulators in organizing the three-dimensional architecture of the genome.

**Alterations of the transcriptional machinery** In addition to its role as a modulator of chromatin structure, PARP-1 has also been shown to function as a coregulator that can alter the function of components of the transcriptional machinery. As a coregulator, PARP-1 interacts with the basal transcription machinery as well as sequence-specific DNA-binding transcription factors, such as NF-κB, HES1, Elk1, Sox2, C/EBPβ, and nuclear hormone receptors [Kraus and Lis 2003; Ryu et al. 2015]. These interactions, which may occur as the endpoint of cellular signaling pathways, may lead to recruitment or ADP-ribosylation of various components of the transcriptional machinery. For example, PARP-1 can modulate transcription factor activity by promoting the recruitment of coregulators, such as the lysine acetyltransferase p300 and arginine methyltransferase CARM1, to NF-κB to support its transcriptional activity [Hassa et al. 2003, 2005, 2008]. Moreover, PARP-1 may facilitate the exchange of coregulators at promoters, such as inactive Cdk8-positive Mediator for active Cdk8-negative Mediator during retinoic acid-regulated activation [Pavri et al. 2005] or the estrogen-dependent recruitment of the TopoII-containing activation complex in exchange for coexpresor complexes present at the promoters of estrogen-responsive genes [Ju et al. 2006]. ADP-ribosylation of transcriptional regulators by PARP-1, which alters or modulates their activities, may also play a critical role in gene regulation. For example, PARP-1 ADP-ribosylates NELF-A and NELF-E of negative elongation factor (NELF), a regulatory complex that promotes promoter-proximal pausing of RNA polymerase II [Adelman and Lis 2012]. ADP-ribosylation of NELF by PARP-1 promotes its release from paused RNA polymerase II, allowing productive elongation and RNA production [Fig. 4B; Gibson et al. 2016]. Interestingly, ADP-ribosylation of NELF-E is dependent on prior phosphorylation by P-TEFb [positive-transcription elongation factor b], a kinase complex that promotes transcriptional elongation [Adelman and Lis 2012]. PARP-1 also ADP-ribosylates C/EBPβ, an adipogenic transcription factor, which inhibits its DNA-binding activity [Fig. 4C; Luo et al. 2017]. Adipogenic signals reduce PARP-1-dependent ADP-ribosylation of C/EBPβ, restoring its DNA-binding activity and allowing the adipogenic transcriptional program to proceed, ultimately leading to differentiation into mature adipocytes. These examples illustrate how the actions of PARP-1 are ultimately reflected in modified cellular signaling and alterations in physiological processes, such as stress responses, immune responses, circadian rhythms, and metabolism. While the examples here focus on the inhibitory effects of ADP-ribosylation, positive or stimulatory outcomes are possible as well.

**PARPs in RNA biology** An emerging aspect of PARP biology is the roles that PARPs play in RNA biogenesis, processing, and trafficking. Key studies from Chang and colleagues [Leung et al. 2011] brought this new aspect of PARP biology to the forefront. They showed that, during heat shock and other stress conditions, stalled translation complexes aggregate into form RNA-rich cytoplasmic stress granules, which have been implicated in the regulation of mRNA translation and stability. The cytoplasmic stress granules contain PAR as well as six PARPs {PARP-5a, PARP-12, PARP-13.1, PARP-13.2, PARP-14, and PARP-15}. Protein components of the stress granules, including Argonautes 1–4 (Ago 1–4, proteins that bind various classes of small noncoding RNAs), are ADP-ribosylated in response to cellular stress. The regulation of stress granules by ADP-ribosylation is required for the release of microRNA-mediated translational repression and microRNA-directed mRNA cleavage [Leung et al. 2011]. A recent study in Drosophila has shown that dPARP-16 and its catalytic activity are required for the formation of Sec body stress assemblies and cell survival in response to amino acid starvation [Aguilera-Gomez et al. 2016]. Together, these results implicate cytoplasmic PARPs in the post-transcriptional regulation of gene expression.

PARPs have been implicated in other aspects of RNA biology as well, such as ribosomal RNA synthesis. In this regard, PARP-1 binds to and acts in concert with noncoding pRNAs {promoter-associated RNAs} as well as TIP5 {part of the chromatin remodeling complex NoRC} to suppress expression of ribosomal RNA [rRNA] genes [rDNA] by promoting formation of repressive heterochromatin [Guetg et al. 2012]. This requires ADP-ribosylation of TIP5 as well as components of newly synthesized rDNA chromatin [Guetg et al. 2012]. In Drosophila, nearly half
of nuclear dPARP and PAR are localized in nucleoli, where rRNA transcription and processing occur [Boamah et al. 2012]. dPARP plays an essential role in ribosomal biogenesis by maintaining nucleolar structural integrity through PAR synthesis [Boamah et al. 2012]. Together, these studies demonstrate that PARP proteins bind to RNAs to modulate RNA biology and maintain cellular integrity.

Cross-talk between ADP-ribosylation and ubiquitylation

Another emerging aspect of PARP biology is the functional interplay between ADP-ribosylation and ubiquitylation. An example of this is PAR-dependent ubiquitylation, a process in which PARylation of a protein serves as a signal for its subsequent ubiquitylation, which may then lead to ubiquitin-dependent degradation of the protein by the proteasome (Pellegrino and Altmeyer 2016). In this regard, RNF146, a ubiquitin E3 ligase, has been shown to bind PAR through its WWE domain [Kang et al. 2011; Zhang et al. 2011]. This allows the recruitment of RNF146 to PARylated target proteins, such as those PARylated by Tankyrase (PARP-5), and subsequent ubiquitylation of the target proteins using the RING E3 ligase domain of RNF146 [Zhang et al. 2011]. Similarly, the ubiquitin ligase CHFR can bind autoPARylated PARP-1 through its PBZ domain and promote subsequent ubiquitylation and degradation of PARP-1 [Kashima et al. 2012]. This results in decreased PARP-1 levels under mitotic stress conditions, causing cell cycle arrest [Kashima et al. 2012]. PAR-dependent ubiquitylation is likely to be a general mechanism controlling the stability and degradation of many PARP substrate proteins.

Another interesting aspect of cross-talk between ADP-ribosylation and ubiquitylation comes from the bacterial pathogen Legionella pneumophila. Qiu et al. [2016] recently discovered a mechanism for ubiquitylation independent of E1 and E2 enzymes. Instead of relying on E1 and E2 enzymes, L. pneumophila uses SdeE effectors to ubiquitylate multiple endoplasmic reticulum (ER)-associated Rab GTPases in host cells. These SdeE effectors, such as SdeA, contain a putative MART motif, which is essential for the function of the effectors and the pathogenicity of L. pneumophila. Strikingly, a fragment from SdeA is capable of ADP-ribosylating ubiquitin [Qiu et al. 2016]. Whether the ADP-ribosylated ubiquitin is directly used to modify target proteins is unclear, but this observation indicates a potential alternative mechanism for cross-talk between PARylation and ubiquitylation. Perhaps some currently undiscovered eukaryotic ubiquitin targeting PARP monoenzymes may promote ubiquitylation independent of E1 and E2 enzymes in eukaryotic cells.

The emerging biology of PARP monoenzymes and catalytically inactive PARPs

Although the historical focus of the PARP field has been on PARP polyenzymes, such as PARP-1, PARP-2, and Tankyrase, the focus has shifted to the PARP monoenzymes [i.e., MARTs]. In fact, the PARP family comprises more monoenzymes than polyenzymes. These include PARP-3, PARP-4, PARP-6, PARP-7, PARP-8, PARP-10, PARP-11, PARP-12, PARP-14, PARP-15, and PARP-16. In addition, PARP-9 and PARP-13 are catalytically inactive [Ame et al. 2004; Vyas et al. 2014; Hottiger 2015].

Work by Vyas et al. [2013, 2014] has been instrumental in systematically characterizing the PARP family, especially the MARTs, on the basis of their cellular localization as well as phenotypes associated with loss of function. They found that the majority of PARP family members localizes to the cytoplasm, with some having a more specific localization to distinct organelles. They also observed that a number of PARPs exhibited cell cycle-dependent shuttling between the nucleus and cytoplasm [Vyas et al. 2013]. Of the MARTs, loss of PARP-7 resulted in a mitotic defect, while the loss of macrodomain-containing PARP-9, PARP-14, and PARP-15 caused an actin cytoskeletal defect. Depletion of PARP-14, in particular, caused a striking morphological phenotype, leading to the elucidation of PARP-14 as a component of focal adhesion complexes and a major player in focal adhesion and cell motility [Vyas et al. 2013]. These and other observations have led to increased interest in the biology of PARP monoenzymes as well as the catalytically inactive PARPs.

PARP-16, PARP-14, PARP-10, and PARP-6: counting down the biology of PARP monoenzymes

In this section, we provide a few examples of the emerging biology of PARP monoenzymes.

PARP-16: In a recent study, Jwa and Chang [2012] identified a surprising link between PARP-16 and the unfolded protein response (UPR) [Fig. 5A]. They found that PARP-16 is a tail-anchored ER protein, which is inserted into the ER membrane through a C-terminal transmembrane domain. The N terminus of PARP-16, which contains the catalytic domain, faces toward cytoplasm. Interestingly, both PARP-16 and its catalytic activity are required for ER stress responses by regulating the UPR signaling pathway. PARP-16 interacts with PERK and IRE1α, two key components of the UPR pathway, and ADP-ribosylates both proteins under ER stress conditions [Jwa and Chang 2012]. ADP-ribosylation of PERK and IRE1α by PARP-16 increases their kinase activities as well as the endonuclease activity of IRE1α. Strikingly, the C-terminal luminal tail of PARP-16 plays an essential role in mediating ER stress response. Although this study highlights a clear role for PARP-16 catalytic activity in mediating the UPR signaling pathway, further elucidation is necessary to understand the mechanisms by which PARP-16 senses luminal ER stress and transduces the signal to its catalytic domain.

PARP-14: Recent studies have linked PARP-14 signaling pathways to the normal functions as well as cancers of immune cells. For example, PARP-14 regulates the class distribution, affinity repertoire, and recall capacity of
antibody responses, which require efficient differentiation and interactions among B cells, Th cells, and dendritic cells (Cho et al. 2013). Furthermore, PARP-14 is required for IL-4-dependent enhancement of glycolysis in B cells as well as Myc-induced oncogenesis (Cho et al. 2011). PARP-14 inhibits STAT1 phosphorylation and proinflammatory gene expression in IFN-γ-stimulated macrophages while enhancing STAT6 phosphorylation and anti-inflammatory gene expression in IL-4-stimulated macrophages, in part by antagonizing the actions of PARP-9 and by ADP-ribosylating STAT1 (Iwata et al. 2016). In multiple myeloma, a cancer of plasma cells, Jun N-terminal kinase 2 (JNK2) signals for cell survival through PARP-14, which binds to and inhibits JNK1 to promote the survival of myeloma cells and reduce their sensitization to anti-myeloma agents (Barbarulo et al. 2013).

**PARP-10** A number of PARP family members play key roles in cellular stress responses controlled by the transcription factor NF-κB. Verheugd et al. [2013] observed a role for PARP-10 as a regulator of NF-κB signaling, a critical cellular pathway activated in response to a variety of pathogens [Fig. 5B]. They found that PARP-10 negatively regulates the induction of NF-κB-dependent genes encoding cytokines. This regulation of NF-κB signaling requires both the catalytic activity and two unique ubiquitin interaction motifs in PARP-10. The ubiquitin interaction motifs recognize K63-linked polyubiquitin and can prevent the ubiquitylation of the upstream NF-κB activator NEMO [a subunit of the IκB kinase complex] (Verheugd et al. 2013). Furthermore, PARP-10 directly ADP-ribosylates NEMO. These events lead to the inhibition of nuclear localization of the p65 subunit of NF-κB and subsequent attenuation of NF-κB-dependent gene expression [Verheugd et al. 2013]. This example with PARP-10 shows again how PARP family members function at the crossroads of NF-κB-dependent cellular stress responses and ubiquitin-dependent cellular processes.

**PARP-6 and PARP-3** Recently, Huang et al. [2016a] described a role for PARP-6 in the development of hippocampal neurons [Fig. 5C]. This work is based on the formation of the neural circuits during neurodevelopment, which is largely dependent on hippocampal dendrite morphogenesis [Dotti et al. 1988] and is characterized by widespread dendritic growth and branching. Huang et al. [2016a] observed increased expression of PARP-6 during dendrite morphogenesis. Moreover, they observed that loss of PARP-6 at this stage leads to a reduction in dendritic complexity in primary rat hippocampal
neurons. Importantly, the requirement for PARP-6 was found to be directly linked to its catalytic activity as well as its N-terminal cysteine-rich domain (CRD). Both catalytically dead and CRD deletion mutants have defective branching and growth of the hippocampal neurons [Huang et al. 2016a]. However, the exact targets of ADP-ribosylation by PARP-6 have not yet been elucidated.

Interestingly, PARP-3 has also been found to play a key role in neural development. PARP-3 is essential for ectodermal specification and neural crest development in zebrafish, possibly through transcriptional regulation [Rouleau et al. 2011]. Together, these studies illustrate how the catalytic activity of a PARP monoenzyme can play key roles during development.

**Role of PARP monoenzymes and catalytically inactive PARPs in immune and antiviral responses**

As noted above, many members of the PARP family play key roles in cellular stress responses, including proinflammatory and pathogen responses. Early studies showed that Parp1-null mice are resistant to septic shock due to decreased serum levels of proinflammatory cytokines, such as TNFα and IL6, likely due to effects on cytokine gene expression [Oliver et al. 1999]. PARP-1 has been implicated in inflammation and innate immune responses by modulating NF-κB activity [Hassa and Hottiger 2002]. However, the broader role of PARP family members in different types of immune stresses requires further exploration. In this section, we describe some of the recent studies that have examined this question, with a focus on the role of PARP monoenzymes and catalytically inactive PARPs in antiviral responses.

**Role of PARPs in antiviral responses**

Antiviral activity for PARP family members was first discovered for PARP-13, also called ZAP [zinc finger antiviral protein], a catalytically inactive PARP family member [Fig. 5D]. PARP-13 can inhibit the production of retroviral RNA [Gao et al. 2002] and inhibit endogenous retrotransposition by long interspersed nuclear elements [LINEs] and Alu elements [Goodier et al. 2015; Moldovan and Moran 2015]. Furthermore, PARP-13 can directly target cellular transcripts for degradation, such as TRAILR4 mRNA, which encodes a decoy receptor for the cytotoxic ligand TRAIL [Todorova et al. 2014]. As such, PARP-13 promotes TRAIL-mediated apoptosis, a well-known antiviral defense strategy [Todorova et al. 2014]. PARP-13 also induces the expression of genes that attenuate the RISC-mediated transcript silencing, which promotes the accumulation of cytotoxic transcripts that promote the innate antiviral defense [Seo et al. 2013].

Recently, another catalytically inactive PARP, PARP-9, was shown to associate with deltex E3 ubiquitin ligase 3L (DTX3L) to mediate immune responses to viral pathogens [Fig. 5E; Zhang et al. 2015]. Interferon stimulation of cells leads to activation of its downstream transcription factor, STAT1, and subsequent binding of STAT1 to genomic loci to induce proinflammatory gene expression. Zhang et al. (2015) showed that the phenotypic outcomes of a STAT1 mutant that is hyperresponsive to interferon signaling depend on the PARP-9–DTX3L complex. Multiple domains of PARP-9 and DTX3L are required for the interaction with STAT1. This interaction induced the E3 ubiquitin ligase activity of the complex toward host histone H2B to promote interferon-stimulated gene expression. Activation of the PARP-9–DTX3L complex’s ubiquitin ligase activity also stimulated the degradation of the viral 3C proteases via the immunoproteasome [Zhang et al. 2015]. Thus, PARP-9–DTX3L acts on both host and viral proteins to mediate efficient immune responses to viral pathogens.

Another PAR family member, PARP-12, a catalytically active monoenzyme, has also been shown to be involved in antiviral responses. In this regard, intracellular PARP-12 expression is up-regulated upon stimulation by type II interferons [Welsby et al. 2014]. Furthermore, ectopic expression of PARP-12 leads to increased NF-κB signaling, implicating PARP-12 in cellular immune responses [Welsby et al. 2014].

In contrast to the antiviral roles of PARPs noted above, ADP-ribosylation has also been linked to proviral responses. Viral protein-mediated degradation of PARG during herpes simplex virus I [HSV-1] replication suggests that increases in PARylation could promote viral infection [Grady et al. 2012]. Furthermore, ADP-ribosylation also promotes replication and genome integration for certain types of viruses [Kuny and Sullivan 2016]. Collectively, these examples point to key roles for PARPs and ADP-ribosylation in viral responses but also illustrate the complex nature of the biology. Moreover, these studies emphasize that the roles of PARPs in host–virus interactions should be assessed in a context-specific manner.

**PARPs and host–virus conflicts**

An important aspect of host defense against viral infection is the ability to combat constantly evolving viruses. The rapid evolution of viral protein sequences to adapt to host defenses and the consequent changes in host-derived proteins to overcome this represent an interesting aspect of evolutionary biology [Adhya and Basu 2010; Daugherty and Malik 2012; Salomon and Orth 2013]. This aspect of evolution can be traced to specific domains in host proteins that mediate competition with viral proteins. Recent work by Daugherty et al. [2014] explored the role of PARPs in the evolution of host–virus defenses [Fig. 5F]. They showed that PARP-9, PARP-13, PARP-14, and PARP-15 in primates have diversified through positive selection. Specifically, the macrodomains from PARP-9, PARP-14, and PARP-15 exhibit characteristics suggestive of multiple rounds of positive selection. These studies predict a connection between the antiviral response and the catalytic activity of PARP monoenzymes. Furthermore, they suggest that PARP-14 and PARP-15 may have gone through multiple cycles of gene birth and loss, supporting the theory that they are evolving rapidly in response to viral conflicts [Daugherty et al. 2014].

Interestingly, macrodomain-containing proteins have also been identified in a variety of virus families, including the Coronaviridae, Togaviridae, and Hepeviridae.
A macrodomain-containing protein from the hepatitis E virus, a member of the *Hepeviridae* family, can catalyze the removal of MAR and PAR from modified proteins. Moreover, this catalytic activity is required for efficient viral replication [Li et al. 2016]. The presence of functional macrodomains in viruses points toward novel mechanisms of pathogenesis and may provide a deeper insight into the evolutionary pressures on the rapidly evolving mammalian macroPARPs.

### From enzymes to modifications: new technologies to detect and study of ADP-ribosylation

The recent development of new methods, reagents, and other tools has greatly facilitated the detection and study of ADP-ribosylation. This has been particularly important as the field has moved beyond the study of PARP proteins to the study of ADP-riboselation. The new methods, reagents, and tools include (1) reagents to detect MAR, oligo-(ADP-ribose), and PAR in cells and biochemical assays; (2) mass spectrometry (MS)-based proteomic approaches to identify ADP-ribosylated proteins and the specific sites of ADP-ribosylation; (3) chemical biology approaches to assign ADP-ribosylation events to specific PARP family members; (4) genomic assays to determine the sites of ADP-ribosylation across the genome; and (5) tools to assay the levels of NAD$^+$ in various cellular compartments [Fig. 6]. These will be introduced and discussed in the sections below.

#### ADP-ribose detection reagents

A large part of the recent progress in the PARP field, especially as it relates to the catalytic activity of the enzymes, can be attributed to the development of novel ADP-ribose-detecting reagents. For decades, the field has relied on the anti-PAR monoclonal antibody 10H, which binds to PAR chains $>10$ ADP-ribose units in length [Kawamitsu et al. 1984]. Although useful, this antibody has left the field blind to MARylation and oligo(ADP-ribosyl)ation events. Other studies have reported the production of anti-ADP-ribose antibodies, but their specificity and utility have not been assessed broadly [Meyer and Hilz 1986].

The discovery of a diverse set of naturally occurring ARBDs, as noted above, has provided new tools for exploring ADP-ribose and PAR in cells through the use of ARBD-GFP fusions, which allow real-time tracking of localized ADP-ribose and PAR synthesis in cells [Timinszky et al. 2009; Murawska et al. 2011; Aguilera-Gomez et al. 2016]. The macrodomain from the archaeabacterial protein Af1521, which recognizes MAR and the terminal ADP-ribose of PAR, has been fused with a GST tag and used to enrich for ADP-ribosylated targets in genomic and proteomic screens [Bartolomei et al. 2016; Martello et al. 2016]. Similarly, the WWE domain from mammalian RNF146 has been fused with a GST tag and used to determine the genomic localization of PAR [Bartolomei et al. 2016]. ARBDs, including the aforementioned macrodomain and WWE domain, have also been fused to the Cc region of rabbit immunoglobulin to create recombinant antibody-like fusion proteins that bind ADP-ribose or PAR and function much like monoclonal antibodies [Gibson et al. 2016; Luo et al. 2017]. These Fc-fused reagents can be used in a broad range of assays, including immunoblotting, immunofluorescence, chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP), and ELISA [Gibson et al. 2016; Luo et al. 2017]. The use of these ARBD-based reagents in detecting dynamic changes in ADP-ribosylation in various biological systems highlights their importance and the potential for future discoveries that they provide [Gibson et al. 2016; Teloni and Altmeyer 2016].

In addition to ARBD-based reagents, approaches from chemical biology have also facilitated the detection of ADP-ribosylated proteins in cells. For example, Westcott et al. [2017] have shown that the alkyne–adenosine analog N$^6$-propargyl adenosine (N$^6$pA) can be metabolically incorporated into ADP-ribose in mammalian cells. In combination with click chemistry approaches using the alkyne moiety, N$^6$pA allows the fluorescence detection and proteomic analysis of ADP-ribosylated proteins.

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**Figure 6.** New technologies to detect and study cellular ADP-ribosylation. The schematic illustrates different technologies that are discussed in detail in the text.
New techniques in PARP proteomics and MS

Compared with other types of PTMs, the identification of sites of ADP-ribosylation on a proteome-wide scale has lagged behind other PTMs until recently. Although previous studies have demonstrated clear effects of ADP-ribosylation of target proteins, the sites of PARylation were not mapped in most cases. For example, PARylation of KDM5B, a histone H3 Lys4 demethylase, by PARP-1 at unspecified sites prevents its binding to chromatin and blocks its enzymatic activity [Krishnakumar and Kraus 2010b]. Additional studies have shown that a number of DNA-binding transcription factors (e.g., Sox and YY1) are PARylated by PARP-1 [Oei and Shi 2001; Gao et al. 2009], but, again, those sites were not mapped. Examples where the sites of ADP-ribosylation on target proteins have been mapped are NFAT (ADP-ribosylation increases DNA binding) [Olabisi et al. 2008], p53 (ADP-ribosylation inhibits nuclear export) [Kanai et al. 2007], CTFC (ADP-ribosylation is required for optimal function in transcriptional activation and insulator function) [Farrar et al. 2010], STAT1 (ADP-ribosylation inhibits signal-regulated phosphorylation) [Iwata et al. 2016], NELF-E (ADP-ribosylation inhibits RNA binding and NELF-dependent promoter-proximal pausing by RNA polymerase II) [Fig. 4B, Gibson et al. 2016], and C/EBPβ (ADP-ribosylation inhibits DNA binding) [Fig. 4C; Luo et al. 2017].

The nature of ADP-ribosylation has made it difficult to study: (1) It is labile, (2) it is heterogeneous (i.e., mono, oligo, and poly), (3) and its polymers are bulky and charged. Moreover, due to the presence of multiple active PARPs in a cell at any given time and their compensatory nature, determining the contribution made by one specific PARP to the ADP-ribosyl proteome has proven to be difficult. Recently, a number of novel MS-based techniques have been developed to identify proteins that are ADP-ribosylated (protein or peptide identification) as well as the specific sites of ADP-ribosylation [Daniels et al. 2015a]. These methods rely on approaches to (1) degrade PAR chains down to a single ADP-ribosyl moiety and (2) cleave the ADP-ribosyl moiety to produce an identifiable mass shift in the mass spectrometer. The different methods discussed below use different approaches, both enzymatic and chemical, to achieve this.

Chemical cleavage

Zhang et al. [2013] recently reported a method to enrich for the universe of ADP-ribosylated peptides using boronate affinity chromatography, in which the ADP-ribose unit forms an ester linkage with boronate beads. Subsequently, the bead-bound peptides can be eluted using hydroxylamine (NH₂OH), which cleaves the ester bond between a protein-proximal ADP-ribose and the side chain carboxyl group of an aspartic acid or glutamic acid residue [Fig. 7A,B]. This results in the generation of aspartic acid or glutamic acid residues modified with hydroxamic acid, adding an additional mass of 15.0109 Da, which is detectable as a mass shift during MS (Table 2). This method yields both protein and site identifications.

Chemical structure of a PAR covalently linked to an amino acid in a target protein. (B–D) Structure of terminal moieties attached to an amino acid in the target protein after ADP-ribose cleavage using hydroxylamine [B], snake venom phosphodiesterase [SVP] or NUDIX [C], or PARG [D]. The chemical structures shown in A–D are for Glu and Asp residues. Note that SVP, NUDIX, and PARG can also hydrolyze ADP-ribose linked to Lys and Arg residues [not shown]. The exact nature of the chemical structures for SVP-, NUDIX-, and PARG-cleaved Lys-ADP-ribose and Arg-ADP-ribose have not been determined experimentally [Daniels et al. 2015a].

An advantage of using hydroxylamine is that the resulting mass shift on the amino acids is the same irrespective of the nature of the ADP-ribose chain [poly, oligo, or mono]. Moreover, given that this is a chemical cleavage, there is no inherent bias attached to this methodology, as there might be in an enzymatic reaction. However, the hydroxylamine chemistry is relevant only in the context of aspartic acid and glutamic acid residues; it cannot be used to screen for ADP-ribosylation of other amino acids, such as lysine or arginine, which are also ADP-ribosylated. Using this approach, Zhang et al. [2013] identified >1000 ADP-ribosylation sites on 340 proteins, thus generating an extensive list of both known and previously unknown PARP targets. A similar approach using hydroxylamine was also reported by Gagne et al. [2015] to determine the sites of automodification on PARP-1, PARP-2, and...
| Source                  | Specificity                | Reagent for PAR digestion | Site of cleavage                                      | Amino acids detected                  | Digestion product              | Size of MS shift | Method of enrichment               | MS technology used |
|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Zhang et al. 2013      | Pan-PARP                   | Hydroxylamine             | Between first ADP-ribose and carboxyl side chain of amino acid | Aspartate, glutamate                  | Hydroxamic acid derivative       | 15.0109 Da      | Boronate affinity beads             | CID               |
| Daniels et al. 2014, 2015b | Pan-PARP                 | Snake venom phosphodiesterase, NUDIX hydrolase | Phosphodiester bond in first ADP-ribose unit | Aspartate, glutamate, lysine, arginine | Phosphoribose                  | 212.01 Da       | Ion metal affinity chromatography (IMAC) | HCD, CID          |
| Martello et al. 2016   | Pan-PARP                   | PARG                      | Ribose–ribose bonds                                  | Aspartate, glutamate, lysine, arginine | MAR                            | 541.06 Da       | Af151 macrodomain                  | HCD, ETD          |
| Gibson et al. 2016     | PARP-1, PARP-2, PARP-3     | Hydroxylamine             | Between first ADP-ribose and carboxyl side chain of amino acid | Aspartate, glutamate                  | Hydroxamic acid derivative       | 15.0109 Da      | Biotin clicked to NAD analog followed by streptavidin enrichment | CID               |

(CID) Collision-induced dissociation, (HCD) higher-energy collisional dissociation, (ETD) electron transfer dissociation.
PARP-3. This versatile method has yielded new insights into the biology of ADP-ribosylation and PARP targets.

**Enzymatic cleavage** Enzymatic cleavage of PAR and ADP-ribose to reduce complexity using enzymes, such as snake venom phosphodiesterase (SVP), ARH3, PARC, or NUDIX hydrolases, is becoming a popular approach as a prelude to MS [Messner et al. 2010; Chapman et al. 2013; Sharifi et al. 2013; Daniels et al. 2014, 2015b; Martello et al. 2016]. A number of groups have used SVP, a pyrophosphatase that cleaves ADP-ribose subunits to phosphoribose (also known as ribose-5'-phosphate), which remains covalently attached to the amino acid in the ADP-ribosylated protein, and 5’-AMP, which is released (Chapman et al. 2013; Daniels et al. 2014). The phosphoribose moiety remaining at the site of modification can be identified by MS as a shift of 212.01 Da (Fig. 7A,C). Phosphoribosylated peptides can be enriched using techniques developed previously for phosphopeptides, such as immobilized metal affinity chromatography (IMAC) [Chapman et al. 2013; Daniels et al. 2014]. This approach is not restricted to acidic residues, unlike hydroxylamine treatment, providing a major advantage for this approach (Table 2). Moreover, the coenrichment of phosphorylated amino acids allows for the study of the dynamics between phosphorylation and ADP-ribosylation (Daniels et al. 2014). This approach has been used to identify sites of ADP-ribosylation on automodified PARP-1, including glutamate, aspartate, and lysine residues (Chapman et al. 2013), as well as endogenous ADP-ribosylation sites from whole cells (Daniels et al. 2014).

One of the caveats of using SVP is that it is difficult to obtain commercially and is typically purified in small batches, which may affect reproducibility. To address this issue, Palazzo et al. [2015] and Daniels et al. (2015b) explored the use of NUDIX hydrolase enzymes instead of SVP. Enzymes in the NUDIX superfamily of hydrolases catalyze the hydrolysis of nucleoside diphosphates linked to other moieties, including ADP-ribose (Fig. 7A,C). The investigators showed that different NUDIX enzymes, including the RNA 5’ pyrophosphohydrolase [RppH] from *Escherichia coli* [EcRppH] and the human NUDIX enzyme HsNudT16, can be used for digestion of PAR chains for MS (Table 2). However, in a direct comparison with SVP, only two of the 14 phosphoribosylated peptides detected from automodified PARP-1 by Daniels et al. (2015b) were found in all three enzyme-treated samples (SVP vs. EcRppH and HsNudT16). Palazzo et al. [2015] detected only two distinct sites of ADP-ribosylation on PARP-1, but these sites overlapped those identified by Daniels et al. (2015b). HsNudT16 has also been used to identify serine residues on histones as novel acceptors of ADP-ribosylation (Leidecker et al. 2016). While the use of NUDIX enzymes has some advantages, these enzymes appear to have an inherent bias for features of the peptide to which the ADP-ribose is attached. The simultaneous use of multiple enzymes could overcome this bias, but such an approach needs to be explored further. Moreover, the use of other types of enzymes should be explored as an alternative to the NUDIX enzymes. For example, the recently characterized phosphodiesterase ENPP1 has been used to identify the sites of automodification in PARP-1 and PARP-10 [Palazzo et al. 2016].

Nielsen and colleagues [Martello et al. 2016] have used PARG to cleave PAR chains to ADP-ribose monomers to reduce the complexity of PAR prior to MS (Fig. 7A, D). In addition, they have combined this approach with an ADP-ribose enrichment step using the Af1521 macrodomain [Martello et al. 2016] based on a prior affinity enrichment approach performed without PARG cleavage [Jungmichel et al. 2013]. This allows for the selection of peptides that carry a single ADP-ribose unit, the site of which can be identified using MS (Table 2). Using this approach, they were able to profile >900 ADP-ribosylation sites in HeLa cells as well as in the mouse liver. Notably, they observed a striking difference in the amino acids that were ADP-ribosylated in HeLa cells versus liver tissue. In HeLa cells, sites of glutamate, lysine, arginine, and aspartate ADP-ribosylation were comparably enriched, while, in liver tissue, sites of arginine ADP-ribosylation were markedly enriched [Martello et al. 2016]. Although this technique allows for the identification of all amino acids that are ADP-ribosylated, bias for the macrodomain against ADP-ribosylated glutamic acid could lead to the loss of a number of targets (Daniels et al. 2014).

**MS methods for the detection of ADP-ribosylation** Some of the approaches discussed above use collision-induced dissociation (CID) or higher-energy collisional dissociation (HCD) to fragment the ions during MS [Zhang et al. 2013; Daniels et al. 2014]. The use of these MS techniques may lead to a loss of the labile ADP-ribose units from amino acid residues, resulting in a reduced number of sites identified. The use of electron transfer dissociation (ETD) has been suggested as an alternative that allows the ADP-ribose chains to remain intact, thus providing wider coverage [Rosenthal et al. 2015]. Although the use of ETD alone yielded fewer peptides carrying an ADP-ribose moiety compared with HCD, the ETD fragmentation did allow for the detection of certain unique peptides not present in the HCD subset [Rosenthal et al. 2015]. Moreover, a combinatorial approach using the two techniques together was more robust in the identification of ADP-ribosylated peptides (Rosenthal et al. 2015). The benefits and drawbacks of each of the approaches mentioned here must be considered when designing experiments to detect ADP-ribosylated proteins.

**PARP chemical biology and NAD+ analog sensitivity** Although our ability to identify ADP-ribosylated proteins in cells has improved dramatically, as noted above, determining which PARP family member is responsible for the ADP-ribosylation has been elusive. Many PARPs that share cellular compartments have overlapping protein substrates, which include other PARPs. Thus, traditional methods to identify the PARP proteins responsible for ADP-ribosylation...
Specific ADP-ribosylation event, such as genetic or RNAi-mediated depletion of a particular family member, may be inadequate or yield confounding results (e.g., depletion of a PARP family member may alter ADP-ribosylation of a target protein indirectly by affecting the catalytic activity of another PARP family member).

Recent studies have described chemical biology approaches for PARPs that allow for identification of PARP-specific ADP-ribosylation events. These methods make use of unnatural NAD⁺ analogs that can be used only by PARPs that have appropriate mutations in their catalytic domain. In general, the mutations create a "hole" in the PARP catalytic domain that can be filled by an extra chemical moiety ("bump") on the NAD⁺ analog, conceptually similar to an approach developed by Specht and Shokat (2002) to identify targets of specific cellular kinases. The addition of a "clickable" moiety (e.g., alkyne) on the NAD⁺ analog has expanded the utility of this approach, enabling the identification of novel target proteins and the sites of ADP-ribosylation catalyzed by different PARP family members.

**Targeting the nicotinamide moiety of NAD⁺ for PARP analog sensitivity** Carter-O’Connell et al. (2014) have developed an NAD⁺ analog-sensitive PARP (asPARP) approach in which an ethyl group is added at the C-5 position of the nicotinamide moiety. They also added an alkyne at the N-6 position of the adenosine moiety, generating 5-Et-6-α-NAD⁺, to allow for copper-catalyzed "click" chemistry. In initial experiments, they used this NAD⁺ analog with a PARP-1 mutant in which Lys903 (K903) was mutated to alanine [K903A]. K903, which is semiconserved in the PARP family, is present in the NAD⁺-binding pocket. The mutation of the lysine to alanine at this site causes a change in the specificity of PARP-1, allowing it to catalyze MARylation, but not PARylation (a limitation of this particular approach), with 5-Et-6-α-NAD⁺ [Fig. 8A,B; Carter-O’Connell et al. 2014]. Using the asPARP-1 mutant with the NAD⁺ analog coupled to click chemistry and MS allowed the isolation and enrichment of PARP-1-modified proteins. A corresponding mutation in PARP-2 also conferred analog sensitivity with the asPARP-1 mutant with the NAD⁺ analog coupled to click chemistry and MS allowed the isolation and enrichment of PARP-1-modified proteins. A corresponding mutation in PARP-2 also conferred analog sensitivity with PARP-1-modified 5-Et-6-α-NAD⁺. [Carter-O’Connell et al. 2014]. Small modifications to the approach conferred analog sensitivity to the PARP monoenzymes PARP-10 and PARP-11 [Carter-O’Connell et al. 2016]. These studies highlight the utility of the asPARP approach for identifying the target substrates of specific PARP family members.

**Targeting the adenosine moiety of NAD⁺ for PARP analog sensitivity** Gibson et al. (2016) have developed an NAD⁺ asPARP approach using a single, bifunctional alkyne-containing R group at the C-8 position of the adenosine moiety, generating 8-But[3-yn]T-NAD⁺, which both confers analog sensitivity and allows for copper-catalyzed "click" chemistry. They used this NAD⁺ analog with a PARP-1 mutant in which Leu877 [L877] was mutated to alanine [L877A], conferring analog sensitivity [Fig. 8A,B]. In addition, using mutation of a homologous residue, the approach was extended to PARP-2 and PARP-3 [with L443A and L394A mutations, respectively] [Gibson et al. 2016]. Importantly, the approach preserves the polymerase catalytic activity of both PARP-1 and PARP-2.

Using this asPARP approach, Gibson et al. (2016) were able to identify the universe of targets (both protein IDs and site IDs) for PARP-1, PARP-2, and PARP-3 in HeLa nuclear extracts. They observed a significant overlap in the targets of PARP-1, PARP-2, and PARP-3, although there was still a distinct population of targets for each individual PARP. Moreover, the three PARPs exhibit a degree of sequence preference at their ADP-ribosylation sites. [Gibson et al. 2016]. The PARP-1, PARP-2, and PARP-3 ADP-ribosylated proteomes identified in this study showed an enrichment for proteins involved in transcription and RNA biology, thus supporting a role for these PARPs beyond DNA damage repair [Gibson et al. 2016]. Given the conservation of the gatekeeper residues identified by Carter-O’Connell et al. (2014) and Gibson et al. (2016), this approach should be broadly applicable across the PARP family.
Cataloging the ADP-ribosylated proteome  The proteomics technologies described in this and the previous section have led to a rapidly expanding database of PARP targets that require further exploration to determine the specific roles of site-specific ADP-ribosylation in biological outcomes. Nevertheless, these proteomics studies have provided a glimpse into the role of different PARPs in various aspects of cell biology. Further development of these approaches can be achieved by methodological improvements as well as by combining one or more of the technologies described above for improved detection and identification of targets in different cellular contexts. Recently, the Leung group [Vivelo et al. 2016] created a database [http://ADPriboDB.leunglab.org] that provides a comprehensive list of ADP-ribosylated proteins derived from >400 publications. Currently, the database contains information regarding ADP-ribosylation of 2389 unique protein targets [Vivelo et al. 2016]. This archive will be a valuable resource for the field, especially if the information that it contains on ADP-ribosylation can be leveraged with new technologies for the synthesis of site-specific ADP-ribosylated peptides (Moyle and Muir 2010; van der Heden van Noort et al. 2010; Kistemaker et al. 2013, 2016), which can be used for binding assays with ARBDs or as antigens for antibody generation.

Genomic analyses of ADP-ribosylation

Genomic approaches have revolutionized our understanding of how PTMs, largely modifications of histone proteins, affect genome function. The role of PARPs in DNA repair and gene regulation has been widely studied, as described above. How ADP-ribosylation of chromatin-associated proteins affects these biological outcomes is a burgeoning area of study. However, until recently, methods to detect ADP-ribosylation of chromatin-associated proteins were elusive. Recent advances in the detection of ADP-ribosylation, as described in the previous section, have allowed the development of technologies for genomic analysis of ADP-ribosylation. Two such approaches are described below.

ADP-ribose chromatin affinity precipitation (ADPr-ChAP) Recently, Bartolomei et al. [2016] described a protocol for the affinity purification of chromatin using two well-characterized ARBDs to enrich for ADP-ribosylated chromatin, which they call ADPr-ChAP. In the ADPr-ChAP-seq protocol, mammalian cells were fixed using 4% formaldehyde followed by lysis and chromatin shearing. Genomic DNA cross-linked to ADP-ribosylated chromatin-associated proteins was enriched by affinity precipitation with PAR-binding Af1521 and WWE domains. The genomic DNA in the precipitated material was then sequenced and mapped to the human genome to identify regions enriched for ADP-ribosylation [Fig. 9A]. The investigators determined genome-wide changes in ADP-ribosylation upon short-term induction of DNA damage with H2O2 [Bartolomei et al. 2016]. They found that, upon H2O2-induced DNA damage, ADP-ribose is enriched in heterochromatin [which is marked with histone H3K9me3] and depleted at active promoters. Moreover, ADP-ribosylation was found to correlate with higher levels of total histone H3. In locus-specific ADPr-ChAP assays, they observed increased ADP-ribosylation at specific genomic loci upon other stimuli, such as the induction of adipogenesis [Bartolomei et al. 2016]. As illustrated in this study, ADPr-ChAP can be used to explore dynamic changes in ADP-ribosylation that occur at a genomic level in response to various cellular perturbations. However, since many PARPs that share cellular compartments have overlapping protein substrates, including other PARPs, the combination of ADPr-ChAP with genetic or RNAi-mediated depletion of a particular PARP family member may yield ambiguous results regarding the specific PARPs responsible for the ADP-ribosylation events identified.

Click-ChIP (click chemistry-based chromatin isolation and precipitation) Gibson et al. [2016] repurposed their asPARP technology, described above, to determine the genomic localization of PARP-specific ADP-ribosylation, with a focus on PARP-1. In the genomic version of the method, which they call “Click-ChIP-seq” (Click-ChIP with deep sequencing), they used the asPARP-1 approach
in nuclei collected from mouse embryonic fibroblasts ectopically expressing an asPARP-1 mutant. The nuclei expressing asPARP-1 were incubated with the clickable NAD⁺ analog 8-Bu(3-yne)T-NAD⁺ and then cross-linked with 1% formaldehyde followed by clicking the analog to biotin. The chromatin was sheared, PARP-1 ADP-ribosylated chromatin was precipitated using streptavidin beads, and the enriched genomic DNA was subjected to deep sequencing [Fig. 9B; Gibson et al. 2016]. Click-ChiP-seq showed that PARP-1-mediated ADP-ribosylation events are enriched at transcriptionally active promoters and correspond with the enrichment of histone H3K4me3 [a marker for active promoters]. Genome-wide correlations were also observed between PARP-1-mediated ADP-ribosylation events, chromatin-bound PARP-1, and NELF-B, a subunit of the NELF. An inverse correlation was observed with RNA polymerase II, supporting the role for ADP-ribosylation of NELF in the release of promoter-proximal paused RNA polymerase II into productive elongation [Fig. 4B; Gibson et al. 2016].

Cellular NAD⁺ sensors
PARPs are dependent on NAD⁺ for their catalytic activity. Although NAD⁺ has historically been thought to pass freely from one cellular compartment to another, the results from recent studies (e.g., Zhang et al. 2012; Cambronne et al. 2016) and the fact that the three NMNATs have discreet and distinct subcellular localizations have challenged this view. Moreover, NAD⁺ and PAR levels fluctuate during key biological processes, exemplified by a precipitous drop in both during the transition from mitotic cell growth to cellular differentiation during adipogenesis studies [Pekala et al. 1981; Janssen and Hilz 1989; Luo et al. 2017]. As such, the dynamic NAD⁺ synthesis and its subcellular localization are important considerations for PARP function.

The ability to measure intracellular NAD⁺ levels was limited by the tools available until recently, with the advent of cellular sensors that can assay rapid and dynamic changes in NAD⁺ in intact cells. The PereaDox sensor, which combines a circularized GFP T-Sapphire component with the NADH-binding Rex protein, is a redox sensor that can be used for ratiometric measurement of NADH/NAD⁺ levels [Hung et al. 2011]. However, PereaDox cannot be used for the direct measurement of NAD⁺. The SoNar sensor has a circularly permuted [cp] YFP linked to a Rex protein variant that can bind to either NADH or NAD⁺ [Zhao et al. 2015]. It also has increased fluorescence in response to the binding of both substrates at distinct excitation wavelengths. This allows for ratiometric determinations as well as independent detection of either NADH or NAD⁺. Moreover, SoNar is able to detect cellular changes in NADH/NAD⁺ over a greater dynamic range than PereaDox [Zhao et al. 2015]. More recently, Cambronne et al. [2016] reported a sensor that solely detects NAD⁺. This sensor has a bipartite NAD⁺-binding domain (which can reversibly bind NAD⁺) and cpVenus as the fluorescence component. Significantly, the addition of nuclear, cytoplasmic, and mitochondrial localization sequences to the sensors has enabled the study of physiological NAD⁺ levels in each cellular compartment separately [Cambronne et al. 2016].

From the bench to the clinic: advances in PARP-related therapeutics
No review on PARPs would be complete without at least a mention of the vast clinical potential represented by this family of proteins. In fact, the associated readers, erasers, and feeders noted above also hold great clinical potential. As highlighted at ClinicalTrials.gov, there are >200 clinical trials aimed at evaluating the therapeutic potential of a new generation of PARPis. While the vast majority is focused on cancer, others are aimed at cardiovascular disease, inflammation, infections, and other common ailments.

The use of PARPis in cancer treatment has received considerable attention. Inhibition of PARP-1 results in accumulation of DNA DSBs in BRCA1/2-defective cancer cells and induces cell death via a phenomenon known as synthetic lethality [Bryant et al. 2005; Farmer et al. 2005]. The discovery that cancers with BRCA1/2 mutations are sensitive to PARPis has sparked great interest in developing these drugs to treat ovarian and breast cancer [Curtin and Szabo 2013]. In fact, in 2014, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the use of AstraZeneca’s Lynparza (olaparib) for the treatment of women with advanced ovarian cancer associated with BRCA1/2 mutations. Undoubtedly, applications for treating cancers without BRCA1/2 mutations will also be found, since PARPis intersect with many different cellular stress and genome integrity pathways. Furthermore, given the important role of nuclear PARPis in gene regulation, PARPis may be useful in targeting transcriptionally addicted cancers [Franco and Kraus 2015; Wang et al. 2015].

Molecular strategies for targeting PARPis
The majority of currently available PARPis has a relatively broad spectrum across the PARP family [Wahlberg et al. 2012]. However, as is becoming increasingly clear, different PARPis have very different functional roles. Thus, inhibiting multiple PARPis may have pleiotropic effects and unintended consequences. Profiling an array of PARPis revealed that most of them target the NAD⁺-binding pocket, which results in relatively nonspecific inhibition across the different family members [Wahlberg et al. 2012]. However, compounds such as olaparib and veliparib showed increased selectivity for PARP-1 through PARP-4, suggesting that these and other structurally similar PARPis may have an appropriate level of specificity for clinical use [Wahlberg et al. 2012].

In a recent screen with different PARPis, the Schuler group [Thorsell et al. 2016] tested the capability of each inhibitor to specifically attenuate the in vitro catalytic activity of a panel of PARPis. Furthermore, they used X-ray crystallography to elucidate the mechanisms of action for the different PARPis. Using this strategy, they assayed
11 members of the PARP family, including PARP-1, PARP-2, and PARP-3, and the Tankyrase enzymes. They were able to determine that inhibitors such as veliparib and niraparib have the highest specificity for PARP-1 and PARP-2, whereas other inhibitors, such as olaparib, have a higher potency but relatively lower selectivity for PARP-1 and PARP-2 (Thorsell et al. 2016). This study not only provides critical information regarding selectivity and potency of different clinically used PARPi but also establishes assays that can be used in the future to test new PARPi.

A recent study explored a new strategy that targets allosteric regulation as a selective way of inhibiting PARP-1 (Steffen et al. 2014). Historically, most PARPi are nicotinamide mimics that target the PARP NAD+-binding pocket (Steffen et al. 2013), making them broadly effective against many PARP isoforms. The genetic disruption of PARP-1 interdomain contacts prevents DNA damage-dependent catalytic activation and shows increased sensitivity to platinum-based anti-cancer agents while having no effect on PARP-1 recruitment to sites of DNA damage or transcriptional regulation (Steffen et al. 2014). These results highlight the potential of synergistic drug combinations using allosteric PARPi with DNA-damaging agents.

Recent progress in the development of drug target engagement assays to evaluate the binding of drugs to their targets in cells [e.g., cellular thermal shift assay (CETSA)] may be helpful in evaluating PARPi before going into the clinic. For example, the CETSA was able to distinguish between olaparib, a well-characterized PARP-1 inhibitor that binds directly to PARP-1, and niraparib, a proposed PARP-1 inhibitor that reached phase III clinical trials but showed no efficacy [Martinez Molina et al. 2013]. Similarly, CETSA was used to assess the inhibitory potential of the Tankyrase inhibitor XAV939 toward PARP-1 (Thorsell et al. 2016). The structural differences revealed for different PARPi—for example, PARP-1 and PARP-3—have also been used to assess the selectivity of different inhibitors (Lehtio et al. 2009). The development of these and other molecular strategies will help in optimizing PARPi with respect to specificity and potency.

PARPi in the clinic

PARPi are making their way into clinical trials and the clinic. As noted above, olaparib is approved for use in BRCA1/2-deficient ovarian cancer. It may also have efficacy in breast cancer and castration-resistant prostate cancer (Fong et al. 2009; Mateo et al. 2015). Olaparib was shown to be highly effective in castration-resistant prostate cancer patients who have mutations in DNA repair genes. Out of 16 olaparib-treated patients with mutations in DNA repair genes, such as BRCA1/2, ATM, CHK2, 14 showed a reduction in tumor biomarkers, such as prostate-specific antigen (PSA), as well as the levels and the number of circulating tumor cells [Mateo et al. 2015].

Much of the effect of PARP inhibition in prostate cancer is thought to come from the dual role of PARP-1, which has been shown to regulate not only DNA damage-related pathways in prostate cancer cells but also the function of the androgen receptor as a transcriptional regulator (Schiewer et al. 2012). These studies suggest that targeting PARP-1 in hormone-dependent cancers may have beneficial effects due to effects beyond DNA damage.

Recently, Drew et al. [2016] examined the efficacy of another PARPi, rucaparib, in advanced breast and ovarian cancers. Rucaparib broadly targets PARP-1 and PARP-2 and has also been shown to have some inhibitory effect on the activity of Tankyrases PARP-5a and PARP-5b (Thomas et al. 2007; Haikarainen et al. 2014). Rucaparib administered in continuous doses was shown to be effective against germline BRCA mutant cancers in stage II clinical trials [Drew and Calvert 2008; Brown et al. 2016; Drew et al. 2016].

PARPi are also being tested against small cell lung cancer (SCLC). SCLC is a highly aggressive cancer with few good treatment options currently available. Interestingly, PARP-1 is overexpressed in SCLC [Byers et al. 2012]. Moreover, targeting PARP-1 with talazoparib reduces the growth of SCLC cell lines and tumor growth in preclinical models (Cardnell et al. 2013). Currently, talazoparib is being tested in clinical trials for SCLC. Although PARPi have limited effect in SCLC tumors with activated mTOR pathways, a recent study by Cardnell et al. [2016] showed that a combined therapy of PARPi with the mTOR inhibitor BKM-120 can have an additive effect on the inhibition of tumor progression. However, the efficiency of this therapeutic regime in patients needs to be determined.

Although PARPi have been shown to have a high efficacy in solid tumors, such as breast cancer and SCLC, these inhibitors also target normal cells, which can have adverse effects. In a recent study, a bioactivatable drug targeting NAD+ quinone oxidoreductase 1 (NQO1), β-lapachone, was used in conjunction with a PARPi to specifically target NQO1-overexpressing tumor cells [Huang et al. 2016b]. The synergistic effect of PARP inhibition in combination with β-lapachone-induced DNA damage specifically promoted tumor cell death and showed efficacy even in cancers with wild-type BRCA1/2 [Huang et al. 2016b].

The results with PARPi described here hint at just a few of the many promising ways in which PARPi may be used to treat cancers and other diseases.

Conclusions and perspectives

The rapidly evolving nature of the PARP field is reflected in the new and exciting studies discussed here. Our understanding of the contribution of PARPs to a diverse array of biological processes has been greatly enhanced by recent studies that have ventured beyond the traditional roles of PARPs. This has led to many new discoveries, especially about the roles of PARP monoenzymes and catalytically inactive PARPs. Moreover, the development of new technologies and tools for the detection of ADP-ribosylation has led to a shift in the focus of the field from PARP proteins to their catalytic products. The anticipated use of these tools and methodologies holds great promise for the future of the PARP field.
At the same time, a number of aspects of the biology of PARPs and related proteins remain to be explored. For example, we still know very little about the broad spectrum of biology dependent on the PARP family of proteins. In addition, our understanding of the different catalytic-dependent and catalytic-independent functions of PARPs is limited. Furthermore, while numerous examples of ADP-ribosylation “reader” domains exist in nature, a comprehensive understanding of the functions of the proteins that contain these domains has been elusive.

With respect to ADP-ribosylation, the factors that drive selectivity and specificity for different substrates by different PARPs have been incompletely elucidated. Additionally, determining the repertoire of targets of distinct PARPs and their sites of ADP-ribosylation in different tissues is in its infancy. Likewise, the broader spectrum of amino acids that function as acceptors of ADP-riboside is still being defined (e.g., serine and cysteine) [Leidecker et al. 2016; Westcott et al. 2017]. Such information would provide new insights into the biological roles of PARP across tissues and in disease states. One of the greatest needs and most significant challenges in the field, however, is moving beyond the identification of sites of ADP-ribosylation toward the determination of the functional relevance of ADP-ribosylation at those sites, which will reveal the definitive biological consequences of ADP-ribosylation. Finally, the field has not fully explored the therapeutic potential of PARPs. In conclusion, even after five decades of research on PARPs and ADP-ribosylation, much work remains to be done.

Competing interest statement

W.L.K. is a founder and consultant for Ribon Therapeutics, Inc.

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