Unexpected Functional Divergence of Bat Influenza Virus NS1 Proteins

Hannah L. Turkington,† Mindaugas Juozapaitis,‡ Nikos Tsolakos,† Eugenia Corrales-Aguilar,¶ Martin Schwemmle,§,∥ Benjamin G. Hale†

†Institute of Medical Virology, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland
‡Institute of Virology, Medical Center, University of Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany
¶Faculty of Medicine, University of Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany
¶Virology-CIET (Research Center for Tropical Diseases), Microbiology, University of Costa Rica, San José, Costa Rica

ABSTRACT Recently, two influenza A virus (FLUAV) genomes were identified in Central and South American bats. These sequences exhibit notable divergence from classical FLUAV counterparts, and functionally, bat FLUAV glycoproteins lack canonical receptor binding and destroying activity. Nevertheless, other features that distinguish these viruses from classical FLUAVs have yet to be explored. Here, we studied the viral nonstructural protein NS1, a virulence factor that modulates host signaling to promote efficient propagation. Like all FLUAV NS1 proteins, bat FLUAV NS1s bind double-stranded RNA and act as interferon antagonists. Unexpectedly, we found that bat FLUAV NS1s are unique in being unable to bind host p85β, a regulatory subunit of the cellular metabolism-regulating enzyme, phosphoinositide 3-kinase (PI3K). Furthermore, neither bat FLUAV NS1 alone nor infection with a chimeric bat FLUAV efficiently activates Akt, a PI3K effector. Structure-guided mutagenesis revealed that the bat FLUAV NS1-p85β interaction can be reengineered (in a strain-specific manner) by changing two to four NS1 residues (96L, 99M, 100I, and 145T), thereby creating a hydrophobic patch. Notably, ameliorated p85β-binding is insufficient for bat FLUAV NS1 to activate PI3K, and a chimeric bat FLUAV expressing NS1 with engineered hydrophobic patch mutations exhibits cell-type-dependent, but species-independent, propagation phenotypes. We hypothesize that bat FLUAV hijacking of PI3K in the natural bat host has been selected against, perhaps because genes in this metabolic pathway were differentially shaped by evolution to suit the unique energy use strategies of this flying mammal. These data expand our understanding of the enigmatic functional divergence between bat FLUAVs and classical mammalian and avian FLUAVs.

IMPORTANCE The potential for novel influenza A viruses to establish infections in humans from animals is a source of continuous concern due to possible severe outbreaks or pandemics. The recent discovery of influenza A-like viruses in bats has raised questions over whether these entities could be a threat to humans. Understanding unique properties of the newly described bat influenza A-like viruses, such as their mechanisms to infect cells or how they manipulate host functions, is critical to assess their likelihood of causing disease. Here, we characterized the bat influenza A-like virus NS1 protein, a key virulence factor, and found unexpected functional divergence of this protein from counterparts in other influenza A viruses. Our study dissects the molecular changes required by bat influenza A-like virus NS1 to adopt classical influenza A virus properties and suggests consequences of bat influenza A-like virus infection, potential future evolutionary trajectories, and intriguing virus-host biology in bat species.

KEYWORDS AKT signaling, RNA virus, bats, influenza, virulence factors
In 2012 and 2013, two novel influenza A virus (FLUAV) genomes were discovered by reverse transcription-PCR (RT-PCR) analysis of rectal samples from two species of Guatemalan and Peruvian fruit bats (1, 2). Due to high sequence and evolutionary divergence in multiple genomic segments compared to other FLUAVs, these viruses were designated the unique subtypes HL17NL10 and HL18NL11 (1–3). Functional characterization of bat FLUAVs and their encoded proteins using reverse genetic or reductionist techniques have since revealed remarkable properties of these viruses (reviewed in references 3 to 6). For example, bat FLUAV surface glycoproteins lack canonical receptor binding or destroying features (7–10), and these viruses preferentially enter polarized cells at the basolateral membrane (11). Thus, bat FLUAVs appear to have evolved unique mechanisms for entering host cells that are distinct from classical mammalian and avian FLUAVs. Other features that distinguish bat FLUAVs from other FLUAVs have yet to be explored in detail.

The precise host range and zoonotic potential of bat FLUAVs is unknown, although depending upon the experimental system used, these viruses can infect cells from an array of species, including bats, humans, and dogs (11–13). Reassortment of bat FLUAVs with classical FLUAVs has never been observed in experimental studies (14–16), although a cell-line derived from the bat species Pteropus alecto can support replication and reassortment of avian, swine, and human FLUAVs (17). In addition, there is evidence that bat species can be naturally infected with classical FLUAVs: in one study 30% of Ghanaian fruit bats analyzed were seropositive for avian H9 FLUAVs (18), and the respiratory and gastrointestinal tracts of North American little brown bats harbor receptors for both avian and mammalian FLUAVs (19). Thus, these data suggest that bats could represent an additional reservoir for FLUAVs, with the potential to provide either new gene segments or entire viruses that cross the species barrier with unknown consequences. Understanding fundamental properties of the newly described bat FLUAVs, such as their mechanisms to infect cells of certain species and how they modulate functions of the infected host cell environment, will be critical to assess their likelihood for causing disease in particular hosts.

We have focused on the nonstructural protein NS1 of bat FLUAVs, which shares only ~50% sequence identity with other FLUAV NS1 proteins. NS1 is a multifunctional virulence factor that can contribute to virus host range and virulence (20, 21). A major role of NS1 during FLUAV infection is to antagonize the host innate interferon (IFN) system through multiple mechanisms, some of which appear to be strain dependent (22–31). We and others have recently demonstrated that bat FLUAV NS1 proteins, like classical FLUAVs, harbor a structurally and functionally conserved N-terminal double-stranded RNA-binding domain that is critical for potent IFN antagonism in human cells (15, 32, 33). The C-terminal effector domain (ED) of bat FLUAV NS1 may play a minor role in supporting IFN antagonism in vitro (15), possibly by promoting NS1 oligomerization (34–37). However, a striking finding is that deletion of the bat FLUAV NS1 ED has minimal impact on viral pathogenesis in a mouse model compared to deletion of this NS1 domain in a human H1N1 FLUAV (15). This suggests unappreciated functional differences between the EDs of bat and classical FLUAVs that remain to be explored. Here, we investigated one such activity of the NS1 ED: modulation of the host intracellular metabolic environment by binding the p85β regulatory subunit of phosphoinositide 3-kinase (PI3K) (38). The NS1 EDs of all classical human and avian FLUAV strains tested to date bind the inter-SH2 (iSH2) domain of host p85β to activate PI3K signaling (38–42). This activation generally benefits classical FLUAV replication, since viruses engineered to express NS1 proteins unable to bind p85β are attenuated for replication in vitro and for virulence in vivo (38, 43, 44). In this study, we found that bat FLUAV NS1 proteins uniquely lack the ability to bind host p85β and activate PI3K signaling. We map the bat FLUAV NS1 ED residues responsible for this atypical binding phenotype and characterize the impact that artificial introduction of this property into a model bat FLUAV has on virus propagation in vitro. Our data reveal an unexpected functional divergence of bat FLUAV NS1 proteins from classical FLUAV NS1 proteins and
may suggest that specific metabolic conditions in the bat host in vivo negate any requirement for NS1 to evolve to engage with host PI3K signaling in these species.

RESULTS

Bat FLUAV NS1 proteins are unable to bind p85β. As part of a larger project to understand the interplay between FLUAV NS1 proteins and host PI3K, we screened a panel of different NS1s from various virus strains for their ability to interact with human p85β or the related isoform, p85α. To this end, 293T cells were cotransfected with plasmids expressing FLAG-tagged human p85α or p85β, together with plasmids expressing V5-tagged glutathione S-transferase (GST) or NS1 proteins from representative human, swine, avian, and bat strains. Soluble fractions were prepared from cell lysates at 48 h posttransfection and were subjected to immunoprecipitation with an antibody raised against the V5 tag. Western blot analysis of the resulting precipitates revealed that NS1 proteins from human (PR8, Cal/09, and Cal/09, pdmH1N1), swine (Sw/Tx/98, H3N2), and avian (Nig/07, Sh/13) FLUAV NS1 proteins were all capable of interacting specifically with human p85β, but not p85α (Fig. 1A). Surprisingly, NS1 proteins from bat FLUAVs (Guat/09, HL17NL10; and Peru/10, HL18NL11) were unable to precipitate either p85α or p85β (Fig. 1B). This phenotype has not previously been observed for a naturally occurring FLUAV NS1 protein but is akin to the more distantly related influenza B virus (FLUBV) NS1, which is also unable to bind PI3K subunits (45, 46).

Bat FLUAV NS1 proteins do not show a species-specific interaction with p85β. To examine whether the interaction between bat FLUAV NS1 proteins and host p85β is species specific, we generated an expression vector for bat (Myotis lucifugus) p85β and assessed its coimmunoprecipitation with various NS1 proteins. Although PR8/NS1 interacted with this bat p85β to an extent similar to human p85β, neither the Guat/09 nor the Peru/10 bat FLUAV NS1 proteins were able to precipitate bat p85β (Fig. 2A). To exclude the possibility that this lack of p85β-binding was due to M. lucifugus not being the primary bat host species for bat FLUAVs, we sought to generate expression vectors mimicking p85β from the bat species Sturnia lilium (in which the HL17NL10 virus
The genome was first discovered [1]) and Carollia perspicillata (in which individual animals seropositive for HL18NL11 have been identified [2]). To this end, we cloned and sequenced the region encoding the p85\(\beta\)/H9252 iSH2 domain from tissue originally derived from S. lilium and C. perspicillata. As shown in Fig. 2B, the human and bat p85\(\beta\) iSH2 domains are almost identical, with only five residue positions that differ. Three of these differences are conserved in the bat species sequenced (E544, T547, and L550; bat numbering), whereas two residue positions (605 and 611) differ between the M. lucifugus p85\(\beta\) iSH2 domain and the two other bat species (Fig. 2B). We therefore substituted these two residue positions in the M. lucifugus p85\(\beta\) for the respective
residues from *C. perspicillata* (A605S) or *S. lilium* (A605S/D611E) and assessed their abilities to coprecipitate with NS1. However, neither bat p85/H9252 variant interacted with the bat FLUAV NS1 proteins, while their interaction with PR8/NS1 was unaffected (Fig. 2C). These data suggest that the bat FLUAV NS1 proteins have not specifically evolved to bind bat p85/H9252.

Bat FLUAV is an inefficient activator of PI3K signaling during infection. In contrast to PR8/NS1, and consistent with their inability to bind p85β, isolated expression of the V5-tagged NS1 proteins from Guat/09 or Peru/10 failed to stimulate phosphorylation of the downstream effector of PI3K, Akt (Fig. 3A). To assess further the impact of bat FLUAV infection on host PI3K signaling, we generated recombinant, chimeric bat FLUAVs possessing the six complete internal gene segments of Guat/09 (variant C3; chHL17) and modified HA and NA glycoprotein gene segments from PR8, where the untranslated regions were replaced by the genome ends and packaging sequences of the corresponding segments of Guat/09. Within these viruses, we also reengineered the NS segment to allow expression of different V5-tagged NS1 proteins (from PR8, Guat/09 or Peru/10) separated from Guat/09 nuclear export protein (NEP) by a 2A sequence (Fig. 3B). Immunoprecipitations from infected cell lysates revealed that endogenous p85β could be coprecipitated with V5-PR8/NS1 but not with the V5-tagged NS1 proteins derived from Guat/09 or Peru/10 (Fig. 3C). In addition, we observed that only the chimeric bat FLUAV expressing V5-tagged PR8/NS1 efficiently led to increased phosphorylation of Akt during infection (Fig. 3D). These infection data indicate that additional bat FLUAV internal gene segment products are unable to compensate bat FLUAV NS1 for either binding host p85β or activating PI3K.

A small number of amino acid changes can establish an interaction between bat FLUAV NS1 and p85β. We analyzed the crystal structure of the PR8/NS1 ED in

---

**FIG 3** Bat FLUAV is an inefficient activator of PI3K signaling during infection. (A) Serum-starved 1321N1 cells stably expressing the indicated V5-tagged GST or NS1 proteins were lysed, and the levels of the indicated proteins were analyzed by SDS-PAGE and Western blotting. (B) Schematic representation of mRNAs generated by wild-type (upper) or engineered (lower) NS segments. SD, splice donor; SA, splice acceptor; 2A, 2A sequence from porcine teschovirus. (C) HAP-1 cells were infected for 8 h with chHL17 viruses expressing the indicated V5-tagged NS1 proteins at an MOI of 5 PFU/cell. After cell lysis, clarification, and anti-V5 immunoprecipitation, soluble (input) and pulldown (IP:α-V5) fractions were analyzed by SDS-PAGE and Western blotting. (D) Serum-starved HAP-1 cells were infected with chHL17 viruses expressing the indicated V5-tagged NS1 proteins at an MOI of 5 PFU/cell. Cells were lysed at 3, 6, and 9 h postinfection, and the levels of the indicated proteins were analyzed by SDS-PAGE and Western blotting. For panels A, C, and D, the data are representative of at least two independent experiments.
complex with the p85β ISH2 domain, taking into account recent mutagenesis data (Fig. 4A) (41, 47). Of the NS1 residues present at this interface, six were selected for substitution analysis in the bat FLUAV NS1 proteins based on their divergence from residues in NS1 proteins with the ability to bind p85β (Fig. 4A and B). Single amino acid substitutions at these six ED residues in Guat/09 NS1 (Q96L, T99M, I100S, R145T, N163S, and S166P; Guat/09 NS1 numbering) did not result in the establishment of human p85β binding (Fig. 4C). However, combining the amino acid substitutions Q96L and T99M resulted in partial p85β binding (Fig. 4D). The interaction between Guat/09 NS1 and human p85β could be enhanced further when the additional R145T substitution was introduced (Fig. 4D). Substitutions at other positions (particularly I100S) proved to be disruptive to the interaction (Fig. 4D). From these data, we infer that creation of a hydrophobic patch around positions 96, 99, and 100 in the Guat/09 NS1 ED is essential for determining the interaction with p85β. Largely similar, but distinct, results were obtained for substitution analysis of the Peru/10 NS1 protein: single amino acid substitution of V96L, T99M, or R145T, as well as double substitution of V96L and T99M, did not establish an interaction with human p85β (Fig. 5A and B). In fact, only when N100I was combined with double substitution of V96L and T99M could some weak p85β binding be observed, which was strongly enhanced by R145T (Fig. 5B). Notably, mutant Guat/09 and Peru/10 NS1 constructs generated to possess optimal p85β binding also exhibited the ability to interact with bat p85β (Fig. 5C).

A chimeric bat FLUAV expressing an engineered p85β-binding NS1 protein exhibits cell-type-dependent, but species-independent, propagation phenotypes. Using reverse genetics, we generated chimeric bat FLUAVs as before (chHL17) but possessing authentic Guat/09 NS segments expressing either wild-type NS1 (WT) or NS1-Q96L/T99M (2x), which possesses p85β-binding ability with a minimal number of substitutions. Strikingly, we observed that chHL17-2x exhibited an altered plaque
phenotype and markedly enhanced propagation capability (>100-fold-higher peak titers) in canine MDCK cells (Fig. 6A and B). Enhanced propagation of the chHL17-2x virus was also observed, to a lesser extent, in human HAP-1 cells (Fig. 6C). However, such a phenotype was not found in other cell types: the chHL17-2x virus exhibited slower replication kinetics in human A549 cells and a subtle attenuation in bat EidNi/41 cells (Fig. 6D and E). These data indicate that the Q96L/T99M substitutions in NS1 impact tissue culture replication of the chimeric bat FLUAV in a cell-type-dependent, but species-independent, manner.

Role of p85β and PI3K activation in the phenotype of a chimeric bat FLUAV expressing NS1-Q96L/T99M. We hypothesized that the engineered binding of Guat/09 NS1-Q96L/T99M to p85β, and potential activation of PI3K signaling, was responsible for modulating propagation of the chHL17-2x virus. However, similar to expression of the wild-type V5-tagged NS1 protein from Guat/09, expression of V5-Guat/09 NS1-Q96L/T99M failed to stimulate Akt phosphorylation (Fig. 7A), an observation supporting previous data that other NS1 determinants beyond efficient p85β binding can critically impact PI3K activation (41, 43, 48). In addition, we assessed propagation of the chHL17-2x virus in human A549 cells and a subtle attenuation in bat EidNi/41 cells (Fig. 6D and E). These data indicate that the Q96L/T99M substitutions in NS1 impact tissue culture replication of the chimeric bat FLUAV in a cell-type-dependent, but species-independent, manner.
DISCUSSION

Functional characterization of proteins encoded by the novel bat FLUAV sequences has so far revealed some remarkable properties, most notably that the HA-like protein does not bind canonical FLUAV sialic acid receptors, and the NA-like protein lacks neuraminidase activity (7–10). Here, we describe an additional feature of classical mammalian and avian FLUAVs that is missing in their bat-derived counterparts: the multifunctional bat FLUAV NS1 virulence factor is unable to bind host p85β/H9252 or activate PI3K signaling. This property seems important for the efficient replication of many classical FLUAV strains in tissue culture and in vivo (38, 43, 44, 47). Using a structure-guided approach, we found that p85β binding could be engineered into the bat FLUAV NS1 proteins with a minimum of only two amino acid substitutions (Q96L/T99M) and that a chimeric bat FLUAV expressing NS1 with these substitutions had improved propagation kinetics in some tissue culture systems (canine MDCK and human HAP-1) but a seemingly attenuated phenotype in others (human A549 and bat EidNi/41). Notably, this disparate impact did not correlate with host species, since two different human cell lines were identified in which the outcome of infection was opposite. Therefore, cell type (and thus unknown differential gene/protein expression profiles or polymorphisms) likely determine the phenotypic result. Interestingly, the propagation phenotype in human HAP-1 cells of the chimeric bat FLUAV expressing NS1-Q96L/T99M

FIG 6 Characterization of a chimeric bat FLUAV expressing an engineered p85β-binding NS1 protein. (A and B) Plaque phenotype (A) and multicycle growth analysis (B) of chHL17-WT and chHL17-2x viruses in MDCK cells. (C to E) Multicycle growth analysis of chHL17-WT and chHL17-2x viruses in HAP-1 (C), A549 (D), and EidNi/41 (E) cells. For all growth curves, data represent mean values from three independent experiments ± the standard deviations. Significance was calculated using the Student t test comparing chHL17-WT and chHL17-2x virus titers at each time point (**, P < 0.01; *, P < 0.05).
was not diminished in an isogenic cell line completely lacking p85β expression, suggesting that the amino acid substitutions used to permit p85β binding by NS1 also modify an additional property of this multifunctional viral protein that has yet to be identified. This will certainly be an interesting area to explore in the future and may impact our understanding of other classical influenza A viruses and the biological consequences of certain NS1 polymorphisms that they harbor. Such observations will also have implications when assessing potential virological consequences of the p85β-binding property arising naturally in bat FLUAVs.

Engineering p85β binding into the bat FLUAV NS1 protein did not result in detectable activation of PI3K signaling, indicating that additional regions of NS1 are essential for this function. Indeed, while p85β binding is necessary for NS1-mediated PI3K activation (38), our data suggest that it is not sufficient, an observation consistent with previous work (41, 48). Glutamic acid residues at human FLUAV NS1 positions 96 and 97 (equivalent to bat FLUAV NS1 positions 97 and 98) do not interact directly with p85β, but have been proposed to form part of an “activating interface” with the p110 catalytic subunit of the p85β-containing PI3K heterodimer (41). Although these are the only non-p85β-interface residues so far implicated in NS1-activated PI3K signaling, they are conserved in the bat FLUAV NS1 proteins, meaning that another unidentified region of classical FLUAV NS1 proteins must be responsible for ensuring PI3K activation. Experiments to uncover this specific region are under way, but it is therefore apparent that more than the two to four amino acid substitutions required for p85β binding would be necessary to allow bat FLUAV NS1 proteins to fully acquire PI3K activation.

**FIG 7** Role of p85β and PI3K activation in the phenotype of a chimeric bat FLUAV expressing NS1-Q96L/T99M. (A) Serum-starved 1321N1 cells stably expressing the indicated V5-tagged GST or NS1 proteins were lysed, and the levels of the indicated proteins were analyzed by SDS-PAGE and Western blotting. (B) Western blot analysis of wild-type or PIK3R2 (p85β) knockout HAP-1 cells. For panels A and B, the data are representative of at least two independent experiments. (C) Multicycle growth analysis of chHL17-WT and chHL17-2x viruses in PIK3R2 knockout HAP-1 cells. Data represent mean values from three independent experiments ± the standard deviations. (D) Ratios of chHL17-2x to chHL17-WT propagation titers (represented as under the curve [AUC] values) in wild-type and PIK3R2 (p85β) knockout HAP-1 cells (original data from Fig. 6C and 7C). For panels C and D, the significance was calculated using the Student’s t test comparing chHL17-WT and chHL17-2x virus titers at each time point (*, P < 0.05) or the AUC ratios in each cell line (ns, nonsignificant).

---

**FIG 7** Role of p85β and PI3K activation in the phenotype of a chimeric bat FLUAV expressing NS1-Q96L/T99M. (A) Serum-starved 1321N1 cells stably expressing the indicated V5-tagged GST or NS1 proteins were lysed, and the levels of the indicated proteins were analyzed by SDS-PAGE and Western blotting. (B) Western blot analysis of wild-type or PIK3R2 (p85β) knockout HAP-1 cells. For panels A and B, the data are representative of at least two independent experiments. (C) Multicycle growth analysis of chHL17-WT and chHL17-2x viruses in PIK3R2 knockout HAP-1 cells. Data represent mean values from three independent experiments ± the standard deviations. (D) Ratios of chHL17-2x to chHL17-WT propagation titers (represented as under the curve [AUC] values) in wild-type and PIK3R2 (p85β) knockout HAP-1 cells (original data from Fig. 6C and 7C). For panels C and D, the significance was calculated using the Student’s t test comparing chHL17-WT and chHL17-2x virus titers at each time point (*, P < 0.05) or the AUC ratios in each cell line (ns, nonsignificant).
potential, constituting a relatively high genetic barrier to natural evolution of this property.

Our studies suggest that interactions between NS1 and p85β are not species specific: bat FLUAV NS1 proteins do not bind bat p85β. Thus, an open question is why bat FLUAVs have not retained (or evolved) this property like classical mammalian and avian FLUAVs? One hypothesis for this observation is that the natural host environment encountered in vivo by bat FLUAVs is in a particular metabolic state such that viral augmentation of PI3K signaling would not alter host physiology. Indeed, recent genome sequencing and analysis studies have begun to uncover major differences between bats and other species and have linked specialized adaptations of bats (e.g., flying ability, longevity, hibernation, and echolocation) with specific adaptive evolution of energy metabolism genes. Such genes include those involved in oxidative phosphorylation (49), insulin/growth factor receptor signaling (50), and DNA damage repair and apoptosis (51), pathways otherwise known to be regulated by PI3K in many mammalian systems (52, 53). Possible links between positive selection in bat metabolic genes and decreased sensitivity to PI3K-mediated regulation need to be validated experimentally but could account for bat FLUAV NS1 proteins adopting a different evolutionary path to those from their classical FLUAV counterparts in other species. Such functional divergence of bat FLUAV NS1 proteins underscores the uniqueness of these newly discovered viruses and suggests new and intriguing virus-host interaction biology in bat species that remains to be explored.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Cells. MDCK (canine), 293T (human), A549 (human), 1321N1 (human), EidNi/41 (bat; Eidolon helvum) (54), and CarperAEC.B-3 (bat; Carollia perspicillata) (55) cells were cultured in Dulbecco’s modified Eagle’s medium (DMEM) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS), 100 U/ml penicillin, and 100 μg/ml streptomycin (Gibco Life Technologies). HAP-1 cells (Horizon Discovery, Austria) were cultured in Iscove’s modified Dulbecco’s medium (IMDM) supplemented with the same additives, as well as 200 μM GlutaMAX (Gibco Life Technologies). The HAP-1 cell line engineered by CRISPR/Cas9 to have a 2-bp deletion in the PKR2 gene (encoding p85β) was purchased from Horizon Discovery (catalog no. HZGHC003292c006). All cells were maintained at 37°C with 5% CO2.

Expression plasmids. The NS1 cDNA sequences from A/Swine/Texas/4199-2/98 (Sw/Tx/98, H3N2), A/Nigeria/OG10/2007 (Nig/07, H5N1), A/Shanghai/2/S1078/2013 (Sh/13, H7N9), A/little yellow shouldered bat/Guatemala/153/2009 (Guat/09, H17NL10), and A/flat-faced bat/Peru/033/2010 (Peru/10, H18NL11) were amplified from existing plasmids and ligated in frame with an N-terminal V5-tag into modified pLVX-IRES-ZsGreen1 or pLVX-IRES-Puro plasmids (Clontech, USA). Similar plasmids expressing GST and NS1 sequences from A/Puerto Rico/8/1934 (PR8, H1N1) or A/California/04/09 (Cal09, pdmH1N1) have been described previously (47). All NS1-encoding cDNAs contained silent mutations in the splice acceptor site to prevent the expression of NEP. Human p85α and p85β cDNA sequences from existing plasmids or the bat (Myotis lucifugus) p85β cDNA sequence generated using the GeneArt gene synthesis service (Thermo Fisher) were PCR amplified and ligated in frame into p3xFLAG-CMV-7.1 (Sigma-Aldrich) so as to express with N-terminal FLAG tags. Two-step overlap PCR or QuikChange II XL (Agilent Technologies, Switzerland) was used to introduce site-directed mutations into cDNAs as required. The identity of all constructs was confirmed by sequencing. All plasmid transfections were performed using Fugene HD (Promega) at a 1:3 DNA/transfection reagent ratio. As appropriate, generation of lentiviruses and the production of stable cell lines constitutively expressing proteins of interest were carried out as previously described (38).

Virus reverse genetics. Plasmids for rescuing chimeric, recombinant HL17NL10 virus (variant C3: PA-S550R and M2-N31S/T70A) were described previously (14). pHW2000 rescue plasmids comprising the genome ends and packaging sequences of HL17NL10 and the PB8 HA or NA glycoprotein open reading frames (ORFs) were generated as described previously (15). Briefly, the untranslated regions of PB8 HA and NA genome segments were replaced with the genome ends and packaging sequences of the corresponding segments of HL17NL10 by assembly PCR. Plasmids encoding NS segments where NS1 and NEP ORFs were separated by the 2A self-cleaving peptide of porcine teschovirus (allowing N-terminal corresponding segments of HL18NL11) were PCR amplified from existing plasmids and ligated in frame with an N-terminal V5-tag into modified pLVX-IRES-ZsGreen1 or pLVX-IRES-Puro plasmids (Clontech, USA). Similar plasmids expressing GST and NS1 sequences from A/Puerto Rico/8/1934 (PR8, H1N1) or A/California/04/09 (Cal09, pdmH1N1) have been described previously (47). All NS1-encoding cDNAs contained silent mutations in the splice acceptor site to prevent the expression of NEP. Human p85α and p85β cDNA sequences from existing plasmids or the bat (Myotis lucifugus) p85β cDNA sequence generated using the GeneArt gene synthesis service (Thermo Fisher) were PCR amplified and ligated in frame into p3xFLAG-CMV-7.1 (Sigma-Aldrich) so as to express with N-terminal FLAG tags. Two-step overlap PCR or QuikChange II XL (Agilent Technologies, Switzerland) was used to introduce site-directed mutations into cDNAs as required. The identity of all constructs was confirmed by sequencing. All plasmid transfections were performed using Fugene HD (Promega).
genomic segments of each virus were fully sequenced after segment-specific RT-PCR to ensure absence of undesired mutations.

**Virus infections.** For all infections, viruses were diluted in PBS supplemented with 100 U/ml penicillin, 100 μg/ml streptomycin (Gibco Life Technologies), 0.3% bovine serum albumin (Sigma-Aldrich), and 1 mM Ca²⁺/Mg²⁺. For HAP-1 cells, cells were seeded onto poly-L-lysine (Sigma-Aldrich)-coated plates and infected 24 h later at the indicated multiplicity of infection (MOI) for 1 h at 37°C. After infection, the cells were washed three times and overlaid with FBS-free IMDM. For serum starvation experiments, the cells were washed three times with FBS-free IMDM and incubated overnight prior to infection.

For virus growth analyses, cells in 12-well plates were infected with the indicated virus at the indicated MOI. After infection at 37°C for 1 h, the cells were washed three times with PBS and then overlaid with DMEM supplemented with 100 U/ml penicillin, 100 μg/ml streptomycin (Gibco Life Technologies), and 0.5 μg/ml TPCK-treated trypsin (Sigma-Aldrich). Supernatant samples were harvested at the indicated time points and stored at −80°C prior to titration by standard plaque assay.

**Sequencing of p85β (PIK3R2) iSH2 domains from bat species.** Bats (S. lilium) were captured with mist nets. Specimens were collected and processed after approval of the Institutional Committee of Care and Use of Animals of the University of Costa Rica (CICUA-36-13) according to national guidelines for animal care described in the Costa Rica National Law for Animal Welfare 7451. For sequencing, 2.5 × 10⁵ CarperAECB-3 cells seeded in 12-well plates, or an equivalent amount of cellular material from S. lilium, were lysed and RNA extracted using a ReliaPrep RNA cell miniprep system (Promega). RT-PCR products were generated and directly sequenced using specific primers annealing to conserved regions of PIK3R2 flanking the sequence encoding the p85β(iSH2) domain.

**Immunoprecipitations.** Transfected (2 μg total DNA, 48 h in 293T) or infected (MOI of 5 PFU/cell, 8 h in HAP-1) cells in 25-cm² flasks or six-well plates were lysed on ice in 1 ml of 20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.8), 5 mM EDTA, 0.5% (vol/vol) NP-40, and 650 mM NaCl, supplemented with a cOmplete mini protease inhibitor tablet (Roche, Switzerland). Lysates were clarified using a 29G (0.33-mm) needle and centrifugation at 13,000 rpm for 40 min at 4°C. Soluble fractions were then incubated with 1 μg of anti-V5 antibody (Bio-Rad) for 2 h at 4°C prior to further incubation overnight at 4°C with 12.5 μl protein G-Sepharose beads (Sigma-Aldrich). After extensive washing, the remaining proteins were dissociated from the beads using urea disruption buffer (6 M urea, 1 M β-mercaptoethanol, 4% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS)) and heating at 95°C for 10 min. Samples were stored at −20°C until analysis by SDS-PAGE and Western blotting.

**Akt phosphorylation assays.** 1321N1 cells stably expressing the indicated V5-tagged protein were seeded into 12-well plates and serum starved the following day for 1 h. Cell lysates were harvested in urea disruption buffer and stored at −20°C until analysis by SDS-PAGE and Western blotting.

**SDS-PAGE and Western blotting.** Samples were sonicated to shear nucleic acids and then boiled for 5 min. Polypeptides were resolved by SDS-PAGE on NuPAGE 4-12% Bis-Tris protein gels (Thermo Fisher), followed by transfer to nitrocellulose membranes (GE Healthcare Life Sciences). Proteins were detected by Western blotting with the following primary antibodies: mouse anti-V5 (Bio-Rad, MCA1360), mouse anti-FLAG (Sigma-Aldrich, F3165), mouse anti-p85α (T15; AbD Serotech, MCA1170G), rabbit anti-actin (Sigma-Aldrich, A2131), rabbit anti-Akt (Cell Signaling Technology, catalog no. 4691), rabbit anti-pAkt (S473; Cell Signaling Technology, catalog no. 4060), rabbit anti-NS1 (1-73) (57) (kindly provided by Adolfo García-Sastre, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY), and rabbit anti-NS1 (kindly provided by Silke Stertz, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland). Secondary antibodies were fluorescent-conjugated: anti-mouse (ThermoFisher Scientific, SAS-10176) and anti-rabbit (Thermo Fisher Scientific, SAS-10036). A LI-COR Odyssey Fc scanner was used for detection.

**Structural analyses.** Structural representations were visualized using the appropriate PDB file and PyMOL (58).

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

We thank Silke Stertz and Antonio M. Lopes (University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland), Adolfo García-Sastre (Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY), and Marcel Müller (University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany) for sharing material and/or reagents.

This study was supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation (grant 31003A_159993 to B.G.H.), by a Forschungskredit of the University of Zurich (grant FK-16-030 to H.L.T.), and by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (SCHW 632/17-1 to M.S.). The funders had no role in study design, data collection, data interpretation, or the decision to submit the work for publication.

**REFERENCES**

1. Tong S, Li Y, Rivailier P, Conardy C, Castillo DA, Chen LM, Recuenco S, Ellison JA, Davis CT, York IA, Tumelle AS, Moran D, Rogers S, Shi M, Tao Y, Weil MR, Tang K, Rowe LA, Sammons S, Xu X, Fraise M, Lindblade KA, Cox NJ, Anderson LJ, Rupprecht CE, Donis RO. 2012. A distinct lineage of influenza A virus from bats. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 109:4269–4274. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1116200109.

2. Tong S, Zhu X, Li Y, Shi M, Zhang J, Bourgeois M, Yang H, Chen X, Recuenco S, Gomez J, Chen LM, Johnson A, Tao Y, Dreyfus C, Yu W, McBride R, Carney PJ, Gilbert AT, Chang J, Guo Z, Davis CT, Paulson JC, Stevens J, Rupprecht CE, Holmes EC, Wilson IA, Donis RO. 2013. New world bats harbor diverse influenza A viruses. PLoS Pathog 9:e1003657. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.ppat.1003657.
3. Ma W, Garcia-Sastre A, Schwemmle M. 2015. Expected and unexpected features of the newly discovered bat influenza A-like viruses. PLoS Pathog 11:e1004819. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.ppat.1004819.

4. Brunotte L, Beer M, Horie M, Schwemmle M. 2016. Chiropteran influenza viruses: flu from bats or a relic from the past?Curr Opin Virol 16:114–119. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.coiv.2016.02.003.

5. Wu Y, Wu Y, Tefsen B, Shi Y, Gao GF. 2014. Bat-derived influenza-like viruses H17N10 and H18N11. Trends Microbiol 22:183–191. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tim.2014.01.010.

6. Cimini K, Thammamuang T, Zimmer G, Schwemmle M. 2017. Novel insights into bat influenza A viruses. J Gen Virol 98:2393–2400. https://doi.org/10.1099/000927.

7. Li Q, Sun X, Li Z, Liu Y, Vavricka CJ, Qi J, Gao GF. 2012. Structural and functional characterization of neuraminidase-like molecule N10 derived from bat influenza A virus. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A 109:18897–18902. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1113013109.

8. Sun X, Shi Y, Lu X, He J, Gao F, Yan J, Qi J, Gao GF. 2013. Bat-derived influenza hemagglutinin H17 does not bind canonical avian or human receptors and most likely uses a unique entry mechanism. Cell Rep 3:697–708. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.celrep.2013.01.025.

9. Zhu X, Yang H, Guo Z, Yu W, Carney PJ, Li Y, Chen LM, Paulson JC, Donis RO, Tong S, Stevens J, Wilson IA. 2012. Crystal structures of two subtype N10 neuraminidase-like proteins from bat influenza A viruses reveal a diverged putative active site. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A 109:18903–18908. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1215790109.

10. Zhu X, Yu W, McBride R, Li Y, Chen LM, Donis RO, Tong S, Paulson JC, Wilson IA. 2013. Hemagglutinin homologue from H17N10 bat influenza virus exhibits divergent receptor-binding and pH-dependent fusion activities. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A 110:1458–1463. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1216091110.

11. Moreira EA, Locher S, Kolesnikova L, Bolte H, Aydillo T, Garcia-Sastre A, Schwemmle M, Zimmer G. 2016. Syntheticically derived bat influenza A cell-type-specific viruses reveal a cell-type- but not species-specific tropism. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A 109:18062–18067. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1606832113.

12. Hoffmann M, Kruger N, Zmora P, Wrensch F, Herrler G, Pohlmann S. 2016. The hemagglutinin of bat-associated influenza viruses is activated by TMRPSS2 for pH-dependent entry into bat but not human cells. PLoS One 11:e0152134. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0152134.

13. Maruyama J, Nao M, Miyamoto H, Maeda K, Ogawa H, Yoshida R, Iwashita M, Morada A. 2017. Characterization of the glycoproteins of bat-derived influenza viruses. Virology 488:43–50. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.virology.2015.11.002.

14. Juozapaitis M, Aguiar Moreira E, Mena I, Giese S, Riegger D, Pohlmann A, Hoper D, Zimmer G, Beer M, Garcia-Sastre A, Schwemmle M. 2014. An infectious bat-derived chimeric influenza virus harbouring the entry machinery of an influenza A virus. Nat Commun 5:4448. https://doi.org/10.1038/ncomms5448.

15. Zhou B, Ma J, Liu Q, Bawa B, Wang W, Shaban RS, Duff M, Lee J, Lang Y, Cao N, Nagy A, Lin X, Stockwell TB, Richt JA, Wentworth DE, Ma W. 2014. Characterization of uncultivable bat influenza virus using a repli- cative synthetic promoter. PLoS Pathog 10:e1004420. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.ppat.1004420.

16. Yang J, Lee J, Ma J, Lang Y, Nietfeld J, Li Y, Duff M, Li Y, Yang Y, Liu H, Zhou B, Wentworth DE, Richt JA, Li Z, Ma W. 2017. Pathogenicity of modified bat influenza virus with different M genes and its reassortment potential with swine influenza A virus. J Gen Virol 98:577–584. https://doi.org/10.1099/000927.

17. Dlugolenski D, Jones L, Tompkins SM, Cramer G, Wang LF, Tripp RA. 2013. Bat cells from Pteropus alecto are susceptible to influenza A virus infection and reassortment. Influenza Other Respir Viruses 7:900–903. https://doi.org/10.1111/irv.12128.

18. Freidi GS, Binger T, Muller MA, de Bruin E, van Beek J, Cormican VM, Rasche A, Drexler JF, Syverken A, Oppong SK, Adu-Sarkodie Y, Tschapka M, Cottontail VM, Drosten C, Koopmans M. 2015. Serological evidence of influenza A viruses in frugivorous bats from Africa. PLoS One 10:e0127035. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0127035.

19. Chotke SK, Bhushan G, Nissly RH, Yeh YT, Brown J, Turner G, Fischer J, Sewall BJ, Reedier DM, Terrones M, Jayarao BM, Kuchipudi SV. 2017. Avian and human influenza virus compatible sialic acid receptors in little brown bats. Sci Rep 7:660. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-017-0076-4.

20. Noronha JM, Liu M, Squires RB, Pickett BE, Hale BG, Air GM, Galloway SE, Takimoto T, Schmolke M, Hunt Y, Klent E, Garcia-Sastre A, McGehee M, Schaefer U, Jeffrey KL, Prinjha RK, Lee K, Garcia-Sastre A, Roeders RR, Tarakhovsky A. 2012. Suppression of the antiviral response by an influenza A virus NS1 protein effector domain. PLoS One 7:e35448. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0035448.

21. Kuo RL, Zhao C, Malur M, Krug RM. 2010. Influenza A virusNS1 protein binds p85α and activates phosphatidylinositol-3-kinase signaling. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A 103:14194–14199. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.0810619103.

22. Hale BG, Batty H, Downes CW, Randall RE. 2008. Binding of influenza A virus NS1 protein to the hsRIR-I sensor RIG-I. Cell Host Microbe 5:439–449. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chom.2009.04.006.

23. Marazzi I, Ho JS, Kim J, Manicasamy B, Dewell S, Albrecht RA, Seibert CR, Schaefer U, Jeffrey KL, Prinjha RK, Lee K, Garcia-Sastre A, Roeders RR, Tarakhovsky A. 2012. Suppression of the antiviral response by an influenza histone mimic. Nature 483:428–433. https://doi.org/10.1038/nature10892.

24. Hale BG, Batty IH, Downes CP, Randall RE, Russell RJ. 2008. Structure of an avian influenza A virus NS1 effector domain dimerization to influenza A virus replication and viru- lence. J Virol 88:12146–12151. https://doi.org/10.1128/JVI.01567-14.

25. Aalam H, Fona B, Kuo RL, Zhao C, Malur M, Cottontail VM, Drosten C, Koopmans M, Inoue J, Jung JU, Garcia-Sastre A. 2009. Influenza A virus NS1 targets the ubiquitin ligase TRIM25 to evade recognition by the host IFN sensor RIG-I. Cell Host Microbe 5:343–449. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chom.2009.04.006.

26. Kuo RL, Zhao C, Malur M, Krug RM. 2010. Influenza A virusNS1 protein targets the human IFN-αR1 to block the activation of IRF3 and interferon-beta transcription. Virolology 408:146–158. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.virol.2009.12.012.

27. Noah DL, Tu YW, Krug RM. 2003. Cellular antiviral responses against influenza A virus are countered at the posttranscriptional level by the influenza A virusNS1 protein via its binding to a cellular protein required for the maturation and export of cellular pre-mRNAs. Virology 307:386–395. https://doi.org/10.1006/viro.2002.5682.

28. Aalam H, Fona B, Kuo RL, Zhao C, Malur M, Cottontail VM, Drosten C, Koopmans M, Inoue J, Jung JU, Garcia-Sastre A. 2009. Influenza A virus NS1 protein binding p85α and activates phosphatidylinositol-3-kinase signaling. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A 103:14194–14199. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.0810619103.
virus NS1 protein to the inter-SH2 domain of p85 suggests a novel mechanism for phosphoinositide 3-kinase activation. J Biol Chem 283: 1372–1380. https://doi.org/10.1074/jbc.M708862200.

40. Fan S, Macken CA, Li C, Ozawa M, Goto H, Iswahyudi NF, Nidom CA, Chen H, Neumann G, Kawaoka Y. 2013. Synergistic effect of the PDZ and p95β-binding domains of the NS1 protein on virulence of an avian H5N1 influenza A virus. J Virol 87:4861–4871. https://doi.org/10.1128/JVI.02608-12.

41. Hale BG, Kerry PS, Jackson D, Precious BL, Gray A, Killip MJ, Randall RE, Russell RJ. 2010. Structural insights into phosphoinositide 3-kinase activation by the influenza A virus NS1 protein. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A 107:1954–1959. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.0910715107.

42. Pichlmair A, Kandasamy K, Alvisi G, Mullhern O, Sacco R, Habjan M, Binder M, Stefanovic A, Eberle CA, Goncalves A, Burckstummer T, Muller AC, Fauster A, Holze C, Lindsten K, Goodbourn S, Kochs G, Weber F, Barten-schlager R, Bowie AG, Bennett KL, Collinge J, Superti-Furga G. 2012. Viral immune modulators perturb the human molecular network by common and unique strategies. Nature 487:486–490. https://doi.org/10.1038/nature11289.

43. Ayllon J, Hale BG, Garcia-Sastre A. 2012. Strain-specific contribution of NS1-activated phosphoinositide 3-kinase signaling to influenza A virus replication and virulence. J Virol 86:5366–5370. https://doi.org/10.1128/JVI.01216-07.

44. Hrincius ER, Hennecke AK, Gensler L, Nordhoff C, Anhlan D, Vogel P, McCullers JA, Ludwig S, Ehrhardt C. 2012. A single point mutation (Y89F) within the nonstructural protein 1 of influenza A viruses limits epithelial cell tropism and virulence in mice. Am J Pathol 180:2361–2374. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajpath.2012.02.029.

45. Ehrhardt C, Wolff T, Ludwig S. 2007. Activation of phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase signaling by the nonstructural NS1 protein is not conserved among type A and B influenza viruses. J Virol 81:12097–12100. https://doi.org/10.1128/JVI.01216-07.

46. Patzina C, Bottig CH, Garcia-Sastre A, Randall RE, Hale BG. 2017. Human interactome of the influenza B virus NS1 protein. J Gen Virol 98: 2267–2273. https://doi.org/10.1099/jgv.0.009090.

47. Lopes AM, Domingues P, Zell R, Hale BG. 2017. Structure-guided functional annotation of the influenza A NS1 protein reveals dynamic evolution of the p85β-binding site during circulation in humans. J Virol 91:e01081-17. https://doi.org/10.1128/JVI.01081-17.

48. Li W, Wang G, Zhang H, Shen Y, Dai J, Wu L, Zhou J, Jiang Z, Li K. 2012. Inability of NS1 protein from an H5N1 influenza virus to activate PI3K/ Akt signaling pathway correlates to the enhanced virus replication upon PI3K inhibition. Vet Res 43:36. https://doi.org/10.1186/1297-9716-43-36.

49. Shen YY, Liang L, Zhu ZH, Zhou WP, Irwin DM, Zhang YP. 2010. Adaptive evolution of energy metabolism genes and the origin of flight in bats. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A 107:8666–8671. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.0912613107.

50. Seim I, Fang X, Xiong Z, Lobanov AV, Huang Z, Ma S, Feng Y, Turanov AA, Zhy U, Lenz TL, Gerashchenko MW, Fan D, Hee Yim S, Yao X, Jordan D, Xiong Y, Ma Y, Lyapunov AN, Chen G, Kulakova Ol, Sun Y, Lee SG, Bronson RT, Moskalev AA, Sunyaev SR, Zhang K, Krogh A, Wang J, Gladyshev VN. 2013. Genome analysis reveals insights into physiology and longevity of the Brandt’s bat Myotis brandti. Nat Commun 4:2212. https://doi.org/10.1038/ncomms3212.

51. Zhang G, Cowled C, Shi Z, Huang Z, Bishop-Lilly KA, Fang X, Wynne JW, Xiong Z, Baker ML, Zhao W, Tachedjian M, Zhy U, Zhou P, Jiang X, Ng J, Yang L, Wu L, Xiao J, Feng Y, Chen Y, Sun X, Zhang Y, Marsh GA, Crameri G, Broder CC, Frey KG, Wang LF, Wang J. 2013. Comparative analysis of bat genomes provides insights into the evolution of flight and immunity. Science 339:456–460. https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1230835.

52. Campa CC, Ciraolo E, Ghigo A, Gemena G, Hirsch E. 2015. Crossroads of PI3K and Rac pathways. Small GTPases 6:71–80. https://doi.org/10.4161/21541248.2014.989789.

53. Fruman DA, Chiu H, Hopkins BD, Bagrodia S, Cantley LC, Abraham RT. 2017. The PI3K pathway in human disease. Cell 170:605–635. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2017.07.029.

54. Biesold SE, Ritz D, Gloza-Rausch F, Wollny R, Drexler JF, Corman VM, Kalko EK, Oppong S, Drosten C, Muller MA. 2011. Type I interferon reaction to viral infection in interferon-competent, immortalized cell lines from the African fruit bat Eidolon helvum. PLoS One 6:e28131. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0028131.

55. Eckerle I, Ehlen L, Kallies R, Wollny R, Corman VM, Cottontail VM, Tschapka M, Oppong S, Drosten C, Muller MA. 2014. Bat airway epithelial cells: a novel tool for the study of zoonotic viruses. PLoS One 9:e84679. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0084679.

56. Reuther P, Gopfert K, Dudek AH, Heiner M, Herold S, Schwemmlle M. 2005. Mutations in the NS1 protein of swine influenza virus impair anti-interferon activity and confer attenuation in pigs. J Virol 79: 7535–7543. https://doi.org/10.1128/JVI.01081-05.

57. Solorzano A, Webby RJ, Lager KM, Janke BH, Garcia-Sastre A, Richt JA. 2005. Crossroads of PI3K and Rac pathways. Small GTPases 6:71–80. https://doi.org/10.4161/21541248.2014.989789.

58. Schrödinger. The PyMOL molecular graphics system, v18 Schrödinger, LLC, New York, NY.