

# Global Transcriptional and Proteomic Analysis of the Sig1 Heat Shock Regulon of *Deinococcus radiodurans*†

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The *sig1* gene, predicted to encode an extracytoplasmic function-type heat shock sigma factor of *Deinococcus radiodurans*, has been shown to play a central role in the positive regulation of the heat shock operons *groESL* and *dnaKJ*. To determine if Sig1 is required for the regulation of additional heat shock genes, we monitored the global transcriptional and proteomic profiles of a *D. radiodurans* R1 *sig1* mutant and wild-type cells in response to elevated temperature stress. Thirty-one gene products were identified that showed heat shock induction in the wild type but not in the *sig1* mutant. Quantitative real-time PCR experiments verified the transcriptional requirement of Sig1 for the heat shock induction of the mRNA of five of these genes—*dnaK*, *groES*, DR1314, *pspA*, and *hsp20*. *hsp20* appears to encode a new member of the small heat shock protein superfamily, DR1314 is predicted to encode a hypothetical protein with no recognizable orthologs, and *pspA* is predicted to encode a protein involved in maintenance of membrane integrity. Deletion mutation analysis demonstrated the importance in heat shock protection of *hsp20* and DR1314. The promoters of *dnaKJE*, *groESL*, DR1314, *pspA*, and *hsp20* were mapped and, combined with computer-based pattern searches of the upstream regions of the 26 other Sig1 regulon members, these results suggested that Sig1 might recognize both  $\sigma^{70}$ -type and  $\sigma^W$ -type promoter consensus sequences. These results expand the *D. radiodurans* Sig1 heat shock regulon to include 31 potential new members, including not only factors with cytoplasmic functions, such as *groES* and *dnaK*, but also those with extracytoplasmic functions, like *pspA*.

*Deinococcus radiodurans* is a radioresistant, nonpathogenic bacterium whose 16S rRNA sequence is extremely divergent from that of other known bacteria; *Thermus* and *Meiothermus* are the only closely related genera (4). The organism is able to survive an acute dose of up to 5 Mrad of  $\gamma$ -irradiation and up to 1,000 J/m<sup>2</sup> of UV irradiation without mutation (4, 38). The sequenced and annotated genome of *D. radiodurans*, containing four high-G+C genetic elements (45), has allowed intensive study of the radioresistance mechanisms of *D. radiodurans* in recent years.

Despite this interest, little is known about how the organism responds to other environmental stressors. Previous studies of stress response systems in *D. radiodurans* demonstrated that the organism mounts a regulated protective response against DNA damage induced by UV light (8),  $\gamma$ -irradiation (4, 38, 39), and oxidative stress (15, 41). In addition, recent work showed that *D. radiodurans* also protects itself in a regulated manner against heat and cold shock (2, 30).

The process of mounting a regulated, protective response to elevated temperature is conserved among all tested bacteria; however, the mechanisms of regulation vary widely. In some organisms, the positive regulation of heat shock genes is gov-

erned by an alternative sigma factor. For example, the transient heat shock induction of over 30 genes encoding proteins with cytoplasmic heat shock protective functions is controlled by  $\sigma^{32}$  in *Escherichia coli* (47), and more than 20 extracytoplasmic function genes are controlled by  $\sigma^{24}$  (5). Similarly, in *Bacillus subtilis*,  $\sigma^B$  governs the heat shock induction of approximately 100 general stress-protective genes (24, 26). However, the system of negative regulation is more widespread among bacteria, especially the CIRCE (controlling inverted repeat of chaperone expression) DNA element, which binds its cognate repressor, HrcA, to control the heat induction of *groESL* and/or *dnaKJ-grpE* operons (20). In the high-G+C gram-positive organisms, such as *Streptomyces* and *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, however, HspR negatively regulates the *dnaK* operon by binding to HAIR (HspR associated inverted repeat) sequences associated with the promoter (34, 37). Recently, it has been suggested that HspR also controls a much larger regulon in these organisms (34, 36, 37). An additional level of control can be added by other more specialized repressor systems, such as CtsR repression of the *clp* genes in *B. subtilis* and other low-G+C gram-positive bacteria (6) and RheA repression of *hsp18* in *Streptomyces albus* G (33).

Our previous work in *D. radiodurans* indicates that *sig1*, one of only three sigma factor genes predicted to be present in the genome sequence of *D. radiodurans*, appears to encode the major heat shock regulator that positively regulates the heat shock induction of *groESL* and *dnaKJ* operons (30). In addi-

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TABLE 1. Bacterial strains and plasmids used in this study

Strain or plasmid	Relevant genotype and description	Source or reference
<i>E. coli</i> strains		
JM109	e14 <sup>-</sup> (McrA <sup>-</sup> ) <i>recA1 endA1 gyrA96 thi-1 hsdR17</i> (r <sub>K</sub> <sup>-</sup> m <sub>K</sub> <sup>+</sup> ) <i>supE44 relA1 Δ(lac-proAB)</i> [F' <i>traΔ36 proAB</i> ] <i>lacIqZΔM15</i>	Promega
TOP10	F <sup>-</sup> <i>mcrAD</i> ( <i>mrr-hsdRMS-mcrBC</i> ) $\phi$ 80 <i>lacZΔM15 ΔlacX74 recA1 deoR araD139 Δ(ara-leu)7679 galU galK rpsL</i> (Str <sup>r</sup> ) <i>endA1 nupG</i>	Invitrogen
<i>D. radiodurans</i> strains		
R1	Wild-type strain	J. R. Battista 30
AKS10	R1 <i>sig1::aph</i> (Km <sup>r</sup> ) [Sig1 <sup>-</sup> ]; result of recombination of pAKS10 into chromosome of R1	This study
ΔDR1314	R1 ΔDR1314 (Km <sup>r</sup> ); result of recombination of pDR1314M into chromosome of R1	This study
Δ <i>hsp20</i>	R1 Δ <i>hsp20</i> (Km <sup>r</sup> ); result of recombination of pHSP20M into chromosome of R1	This study
Plasmids		
pCR2.1-TOPO	Cloning vector for PCR-generated products; Ap <sup>r</sup> Km <sup>r</sup> ; 3.9 kb; uses covalently linked topoisomerase instead of DNA ligase	Invitrogen
pHMR186	Improved <i>D. radiodurans</i> - <i>E. coli</i> shuttle vector for the deletion of genes in <i>D. radiodurans</i> . Carries <i>loxP</i> sites for the purpose of unmarking mutants by recombinational loss of Km <sup>r</sup> marker; Km <sup>r</sup> Cm <sup>r</sup> Amp <sup>r</sup>	This study
pDR1314M	pHMR186 carrying ~1 kb of sequence flanking the 5' and 3' ends of DR1314; for the purpose of deleting the chromosomal copy of DR1314	This study
pHSP20M	Similar to pDR1314M, for the purpose of deleting the chromosomal copy of <i>hsp20</i>	This study
pGRO5'	pCR2.1-TOPO carrying the ~500-bp promoter fragment upstream of <i>groESL</i> of <i>D. radiodurans</i> ; used as template for sequencing ladder in transcription start site mapping experiments	16
pPdnaK	Like pGRO5', but carrying the <i>dnaKJ</i> promoter fragment	30
pPDR1314	Like pGRO5', but carrying the DR1314 promoter fragment	This study
pPSPA	Like pGRO5', but carrying the <i>pspA</i> promoter fragment	This study
pPhsp20	Like pGRO5', but carrying the <i>hsp20</i> promoter fragment	This study

tion, although it appears to control these cytoplasmic function genes, the Sig1 protein sequence clustered most closely with extracytoplasmic function (ECF) sigma factors. Furthermore, orthologs encoding the heat shock negative regulators *hrcA*, *ctsR*, and *hspR* are conspicuously missing from the annotated genome sequence. In order to further investigate the regulation of the heat shock response in *D. radiodurans*, we sought to determine if Sig1 controls the heat shock induction of genes in addition to *dnaKJ* and *groESL*, thereby expanding the understanding of the Sig1 regulon. Therefore, we conducted a combined global transcriptional and proteomic comparison of the wild type and *sig1* mutants following temperature upshift, with subsequent determination of a putative promoter consensus sequence for Sig1-dependent genes.

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Bacterial strains, plasmids, media, and growth conditions.** The bacterial strains and plasmids used in this study are listed in Table 1. *E. coli* cultures were grown in Luria-Bertani (LB) broth or on Luria-Bertani agar at 37°C; *D. radiodurans* cultures were grown in tryptone-glucose-yeast extract (TGY) broth or on TGY agar at 30°C. For all heat shock experiments, wild-type and mutant cultures were grown to mid-exponential phase (optical density at 600 nm, ~0.3 to 0.5) and split into two aliquots, one of which was shifted to 48°C, the other held at 30°C as a control. The length of the heat induction varied from 5 to 60 min depending on the experiment as indicated below in Results. Ampicillin (100 μg/ml), kanamycin (*E. coli* at 50 μg/ml; *D. radiodurans* at 15 μg/ml for the selection of transformants, 20 μg/ml for screening of mutants and routine growth on plates, and 8 μg/ml for growth in liquid), or chloramphenicol (3 μg/ml for *D. radiodurans*) was added to culture media as appropriate. Transformations of *E. coli* were performed using commercially available cells (TOP10 [Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA] and JM109 [Promega, Madison, WI]). Transformations of *D. radiodurans* cells were performed by electroporation as previously described (30).

**DNA manipulations.** DNA was isolated from *E. coli* cells by using the alkaline lysis method of Sambrook and Russell (29). *D. radiodurans* chromosomal DNA for PCR amplification was prepared using a detergent lysis method described previously (30). Restriction enzymes were obtained from New England Biolabs

(Beverly, MA), Roche Corp. (Indianapolis, IN), or Promega and were used as the supplier described. T4 DNA ligase was purchased from New England Biolabs. Standard PCRs were performed using *Taq* polymerase (Promega) and custom primers were obtained from Invitrogen.

**Protein preparation for two-dimensional gel electrophoresis.** Heat-shocked and control *D. radiodurans* R1 wild-type and *sig1* mutant cultures were harvested at 4,500 × *g* for 8 min at 4°C and were then resuspended in 1 ml osmotic lysis buffer (0.3% sodium dodecyl sulfate [SDS], 10 mM Tris [pH 7.4] supplemented with 10 μl protease inhibitor cocktail [20 mM aminoethyl benzenesulfonyl fluoride, 1 mg/ml leupeptin, 0.36 mg/ml E-64 EDTA, and 5.6 mg/ml benzamide]). Lysis was achieved by passing bacterial suspensions twice through a French press at 37 kPa, after which lysates were incubated on ice with 100 μl of nuclease solution for 10 min to reduce lysate viscosity (nuclease stock contains 50 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 100 mM Tris [pH 7.0], 500 μg/ml RNase A, and 1,000 μg/ml DNase I). Total protein concentration was determined using the bicinchoninic acid method (Pierce, Rockford, IL).

**2D-PAGE.** Two-dimensional polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (2D-PAGE) was performed according to the method of O'Farrell (21) by Kendrick Labs, Inc. (Madison, WI). Isoelectric focusing (IEF) was carried out in 2.0-mm inner diameter glass tubes using 2% (wt/vol) pH 4 to 8 ampholines (Gallard-Schlesinger Industries, Inc., Garden City, NY) for 9,600 V-h. One microgram of tropomyosin (MW 33,000 and pI 5.2), an IEF internal standard, was added to each sample prior to loading. After reaching equilibrium in SDS sample buffer (10% [wt/vol] glycerol, 50 mM dithiothreitol, 2.3% [wt/vol] SDS, and 0.0625 M Tris; pH 6.8), each tube gel was sealed to the top of a stacking gel that overlay a 10% (wt/vol) acrylamide slab gel (0.75 mm thick). SDS slab gel electrophoresis was carried out for 4 h at 12.5 mA/gel. The following proteins (Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, MO) were added as molecular mass standards to the agarose that sealed the tube gel to the slab gel: myosin (220 kDa), phosphorylase *a* (94 kDa), catalase (60 kDa), actin (43 kDa), carbonic anhydrase (29 kDa), and lysozyme (14 kDa). These standards appeared as horizontal lines on the Coomassie blue-stained 10% acrylamide slab gels. Gels were dried between sheets of cellophane paper with the acid edge to the left.

**Computerized comparison of induced spots from 2D-PAGE analysis.** Gel analysis was carried out by Kendrick Labs, Inc. Duplicate gels were obtained as described above, and one gel from each pair was scanned with a laser densitometer (model PDSI; Molecular Dynamics Inc., Sunnyvale, CA). The scanner was checked for linearity prior to scanning with a calibrated neutral-density filter set (Melles Griot, Irvine, CA). The images were analyzed using Nonlinear Technol-

ogy Progenesis software (version 1.0) such that all major spots and all changing spots were outlined, quantified, and matched on all the gels. In cases where protein spots were missing from some gels and present in others, a small area of background was outlined appropriately to facilitate matching. The general method of computerized analysis for these pairs included automatic spot finding and quantification, automatic background subtraction (mode of non-spot), and automatic spot matching, in conjunction with detailed manual checking of the spot finding and matching functions.

**Identification of protein spots by mass spectrometry.** Protein spots that showed significant induction (induction ratio  $\geq 2$ ) at 48°C compared to 30°C in *D. radiodurans* R1 wild-type but not in *sig1* mutant cells were excised from the *D. radiodurans* R1 wild-type 48°C Coomassie-stained 2D gel using a scalpel and were placed in a siliconized Eppendorf tube (Island Sci, Bainbridge Island, WA). Trypsin digestions were performed either using the ProteoProfile trypsin in-gel digest kit (Sigma) according to the manufacturer's instructions or by the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center Core Proteomics Facility (Seattle, WA) as described in reference 35. Tryptic peptides were then analyzed by either the Core Proteomics Facility or the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (Richland, WA) as follows. Liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) was performed using a ThermoFinnigan LCQ as described previously (10), acquiring data in the data-dependent mode in which an MS scan was followed by MS/MS scans of the three most abundant ions from the preceding scan. The MS/MS data were then analyzed using SEQUEST software (ThermoFinnigan, San Jose, CA); the MS/MS data were searched against either the *D. radiodurans* protein database from The Institute for Genomic Research (TIGR; www.tigr.org) (45) or the NCBI nonredundant protein database (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov). The resultant data set was filtered according to mudPIT rules (42).

**RNA preparation.** Total RNA was harvested as follows. A 0.1 culture volume of STOP solution (5% [wt/vol] saturated phenol, 95% [vol/vol] ethanol) was added to  $\sim 1 \times 10^8$  heat-shocked and control *D. radiodurans* R1 wild-type and *sig1* mutant cells. Cultures were subsequently harvested by centrifugation at 4,500  $\times$  g for 6 min at 4°C. Total RNA was extracted from *D. radiodurans* pellets using the RNeasy Mini kit (QIAGEN, Valencia, CA) according to the manufacturer's Yeast III protocol. Lysis was achieved by 3 min of bead-beating in the Mini-Beadbeater 8 (BioSpec Products, Inc., Bartlesville, OK) with 500  $\mu$ l of 0.1-mm zirconium-silica beads (BioSpec Products, Inc.). Contaminating DNA was subsequently removed from RNA samples by using 6 to 10 U of DNase I (Ambion, Austin, TX, or Epicentre, Madison, WI), followed by cleanup over an additional RNeasy column (QIAGEN).

**QRT-PCR.** cDNA was synthesized in random hexamer-primed reactions from 500 ng to 1  $\mu$ g of each DNase I-treated RNA sample using the ThermoScript reverse transcription-PCR (RT-PCR) system (Invitrogen) according to the manufacturer's directions. Reactions lacking reverse transcriptase were included for each sample as a control for DNA contamination. One microliter of cDNA was used as template for each quantitative real-time RT-PCR (QRT-PCR) mixture in which 100- to 200-bp sequences within the open reading frames of DR1314, *hsp20* (DR1114), *dnaK* (DR0129), *hpi* (DR2508), and *groES* (DR0606) were amplified. QRT-PCR mixtures totaling 20  $\mu$ l contained 0.2  $\mu$ M standard *Q<sub>1</sub>* and *Q<sub>rev</sub>* primers (see Table 5, below) and SYBR green PCR core reagents (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA) in final concentrations of 2 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub> and 1 mM deoxynucleoside triphosphate and 0.025 U of AmpliTaq Gold polymerase. Quantitative analysis was performed in a RotorGene 3000 (Corbett Research, Sydney, Australia) for 45 cycles with the following parameters: 95°C for 15 min to activate *Taq* polymerase, melting for 20 s at 95°C, annealing for 20 s at 55°C, and extension and data acquisition for 20 s at 72°C. A melting curve analysis was performed after each run to ensure the specificity of products.

To establish *hpi* as an appropriate housekeeping reference gene for *D. radiodurans*, QRT-PCR analyses were conducted using a standard curve ranging in concentration from 8 to 1,000 ng of RNA prepared from wild-type untreated RNA. The absolute concentration of *hpi* expressed from 200 ng of wild-type or *sig1* mutant RNA at 30°C compared to that at 48°C RNA was then calculated. No change greater than 1.6-fold at 30°C relative to 48°C was observed for the *sig1* mutant and wild-type strains in duplicate experiments. Using *hpi* as a reference gene, data for *dnaK*, *groES*, DR1314, and *hsp20* were analyzed using the relative quantification method from the website www.gene-quantification.info. Relative expression levels greater than 1 represent gene induction at 48°C relative to 30°C. Figures represent the averages plus or minus standard deviations of triplicate runs using RNA prepped on three different days, with triplicates of every sample included in each run.

**Mutagenesis and diagnostic PCR.** The vector pHMR186 (28) was modified as follows to generate pHSP20M and pDR1314M for the purpose of deleting *hsp20* and DR1314, respectively (Table 1). Approximately 1 kbp of sequence flanking the 5' and 3' ends of the gene of interest was PCR amplified from *D. radiodurans*

wild-type chromosomal DNA using *Pfu* Ultra polymerase (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA) with the following primers: *hsp20*\_5' fwd and *hsp20*\_5' rev for the sequences upstream of *hsp20*, *hsp20*\_3' fwd and *hsp20*\_3' rev for the sequences downstream of *hsp20*, and primers with similar names for mutating DR1314 (see Table 5). PCR products were then cloned into pCR2.1-TOPO (Invitrogen), sequenced, and compared to the *D. radiodurans* genome database (www.tigr.org) to confirm the absence of mutations. Sequences upstream (5') of the gene of interest were cloned into pHMR186 as BglII-KpnI fragments, followed by cloning of the downstream (3') sequences as SacI-SnaBI fragments to generate pHSP20M and pDR1314M. Deletion plasmids pHSP20M and pDR1314M were then transformed into *D. radiodurans* R1 to disrupt the chromosomal copies of *hsp20* and DR1314, respectively.

Transformants were screened for double-crossover mutants exhibiting kanamycin resistance and chloramphenicol sensitivity, and positive clones were verified by diagnostic PCR from chromosomal DNA to (i) be devoid of the wild-type gene copy, (ii) contain the kanamycin resistance gene, (iii) lack the chloramphenicol resistance gene, and (iv) contain the upstream and downstream flanking sequences in the correct chromosomal position (see Table 5, below, for primers). Heat shock growth and survival assays were performed with *D. radiodurans* R1 wild type,  $\Delta$ *hsp20*, and  $\Delta$ DR1314 as described previously (30). Mutant strains were found to be unstable. Therefore, for all phenotypic experiments, mutants were obtained by freshly transforming the wild type with the pHSP20M and pDR1314M deletion vectors prior to every survival experiment. Resultant mutant clones were screened by diagnostic PCR to ensure the correct genotype.

**Microarray design and construction.** Microarrays were generated by The Institute for Genome Research as reported previously (39). PCR primers were designed to amplify each open reading frame from the fully sequenced *D. radiodurans* R1 genome (45). PCR products represent internal portions of annotated sequences with a size range of 100 to 800 bp. Primer pairs were designed for 3,180 open reading frames. PCR products were generated by combining 20 ng of genomic DNA from strain R1 with oligonucleotide primers (0.2  $\mu$ mol each; average  $T_m = 55^\circ\text{C}$ ) and 0.1 U of *Taq* DNA polymerase (Perkin-Elmer, Wellesley, MA) in a total volume of 100  $\mu$ l. The other reaction components were as specified by the manufacturer, except that 0.3 M betaine was included in the reaction mixture to aid in denaturing *D. radiodurans* genomic DNA. PCR amplification successes were scored (single band, correct size,  $>50$  ng/ $\mu$ l). Failed PCRs were repeated with an additional 2% success, for an overall efficiency of 93%. PCR products were spotted in triplicate onto UltraGAPS-coated slides (Corning Life Sciences, Corning, NY) using a Lucidea array spotter (Amersham Pharmacia, Piscataway, NJ) at a redundancy of 3.0. PCR products were immobilized to the slide surface using a Stratalink UV cross-linker (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA). All slides were stored in a desiccator at room temperature before use.

**Microarray probe preparation.** cDNA probes for microarray hybridization were prepared from five biological replicate total RNA samples each of wild-type and *sig1* mutant cultures at 30°C and 48°C as follows. Two micrograms of *D. radiodurans* RNA was annealed to 300 pmol of random hexamer primers (Invitrogen) in a total volume of 18.5  $\mu$ l by incubating for 10 min at 70°C and subsequent snap-freezing in a dry ice-ethanol bath. cDNA was synthesized at 42°C in 30.7- $\mu$ l reaction mixtures containing 6  $\mu$ l of 5 $\times$  first-strand buffer, 1  $\mu$ M dithiothreitol, 0.5 mM deoxynucleoside triphosphate mix containing amino allyl-dUTP (Amersham Biosciences, Piscataway, NJ), and 400 U of SuperScript II reverse transcriptase (Invitrogen). RNA was hydrolyzed by adding EDTA to 100 mM and NaOH to 200 mM, incubating at 65°C for 15 min, and then neutralizing with 25  $\mu$ l of 1 M Tris (pH 7.0). Unincorporated free amino allyl-dUTPs were removed by washing over Microcon 30 columns (Millipore, Bedford, MA), and resultant cDNA samples were coupled to 1 pmol of Cy3 and Cy5 dyes (Amersham) in 0.1 M sodium carbonate buffer for 2 h at room temperature in the dark. Unincorporated dyes were removed by passage over QIAquick MinElute PCR purification columns (QIAGEN). Hybridization of probes to prehybridized microarray slides (1 h incubation at 42°C in 5 $\times$  SSC [1 $\times$  SSC is 0.15 M NaCl plus 0.015 M sodium citrate], 0.1% SDS, 1% bovine serum albumin) was conducted as previously described (25).

**Microarray data acquisition and analysis.** Hybridized slides were scanned on a GenePix 4000B imager (Axon, Union City, CA) at both 532-nm and 635-nm visible light. Data were processed using the TIGR TM4 software analysis package (www.tigr.org/software/tm4). Using the TIGR\_Spotfinder program, hybridization signals were quantified by the following formula: spot median  $>$  background median + background standard deviation (roughly two times background), and any signals below this threshold were eliminated from subsequent analysis. Hybridization signals were then normalized to total slide intensity with the TIGR\_MIDAS program. Using the TIGR\_MeV program, resultant raw intensity data were analyzed as Cy5/Cy3 ratios averaged from 15 total hybridization



signals for each gene: five biological replicate RNA samples, each of which hybridized to triplicate spots on the array.

A perl script was used to analyze the expression ratio data. Genes exhibiting average expression ratios of  $\geq 2$  in four of five wild-type replicate data sets were considered induced. The Sig1 data sets were then mined for Sig1-dependent genes by Pavlidis template matching clustering using the template genes *dnaK*, *hsp20*, *groES*, and DR1314, which were determined to be members of the Sig1 regulon by previous proteomics and QRT-PCR experiments. Only genes that were represented in the results from both the perl script and Pavlidis template matching analyses were considered Sig1 dependent.

**Transcription start site mapping by primer extension.** Primer extension reactions were performed on 5  $\mu$ g of total RNA with 20 pmol of 18- to 30-mer end-labeled oligonucleotide primers (see Table 5) and ThermoScript reverse transcriptase (Invitrogen) as described by the manufacturer. Primers were labeled using T4 polynucleotide kinase (Roche) with 50  $\mu$ Ci of [ $\gamma$ - $^{32}$ P]ATP (Perkin-Elmer Life Sciences, Inc., Wellesley, MA). Sequencing ladders were generated using Sequenase 7.0 (U.S. Biochemicals Corp., Cleveland, OH) according to the manufacturer's protocol from cloned promoter fragments with the same primer that was used to generate the primer extension products. Promoter fragments were PCR amplified from *D. radiodurans* wild-type chromosomal DNA using Expand polymerase (Roche), sequenced to confirm the absence of mutations, and cloned into pCR2.1-TOPO (Table 1). Transcription start sites were mapped by running primer extension reactions alongside the corresponding sequencing ladder on gradient polyacrylamide sequencing gels (National Diagnostics, Atlanta, GA). Each promoter map was confirmed with duplicate RNA samples prepared on different days and two primers annealing in different locations to the transcript of interest. Primer extension images were quantified by average intensity measurement of the whole band using Kodak 1D 3.6 image quantitation software. Intensities for each band were normalized to the untreated wild-type band for each gene image. Representative experiments are shown below in Fig. 4.

## RESULTS

**Proteomic analysis of the heat shock response in wild-type and *sig1* mutant *D. radiodurans* strains.** Our previous work indicated that Sig1 not only protects against the stress of elevated temperature, but also appears to be required for the heat shock induction of *groESL* and *dnaKJE* operons (30). To further investigate the Sig1 heat shock regulon, 2D gel electrophoresis was performed on whole-cell protein extracts prepared from *D. radiodurans* wild-type and *sig1* mutant cultures that had been shifted to heat shock at 48°C for 1 hour, conditions which had previously been shown to be sufficient to induce the expression of heat shock genes in *D. radiodurans* (16, 30). In addition, we have shown that cultivation at 48°C for 1 hour inhibits growth but is not lethal to *D. radiodurans* cells (30). Protein extracted from half of each culture incubated at 30°C served as a control.

Over 300 protein spots were resolved on all gels (Fig. 1; see also Fig. S1 in the supplemental material). In wild-type cells, the expression of 28 of these protein spots was increased under heat shock at 48°C compared to nonstressed cells incubated at 30°C, and an additional 37 protein spots were only visible at 48°C (Fig. 1). In contrast, the *sig1* mutant was either partially or completely impaired for induction of 15 of the 65 total spots induced in wild-type cells. These 15 spots were extracted from the gel and analyzed by LC-MS as described in Materials and Methods. Of the 15 spots tested, 10 were successfully identified with strong hits to the *D. radiodurans* genome database (Table 2). Of the five unsuccessful identifications, one spot was detected only on the *sig1* mutant gels (Fig. 1). The complex mixture of protein fragments detected for this spot suggests that it is composed of either aggregated or degraded protein.

Of the 10 successful identifications, two polypeptides were identified for each of DnaK and GroEL. The molecular mass

of each of the DnaK polypeptides was lower than the predicted 70 kDa (Table 2). The combined molecular mass of both spots was 69.7 kDa, an observation consistent with the hypothesis that these spots represent nonspecific degradation products of DnaK. This notion is also supported by the fact that full-length GroEL (observed mass, 62.8 kDa) was isolated from the gels in addition to a smaller spot with an observed mass of 38.7 kDa. Therefore, a total of eight gene products were identified by this analysis (Table 2).

After comparison of the eight identified polypeptides with the annotated genome, two predicted functional categories were obtained. (i) Heat shock-protective functions were obtained (five polypeptides), which included DnaK and GroEL, as expected from our previous studies (30), but also included DnaJ1, trigger factor (Tig) (a protein that works together with DnaK to fold nascent polypeptides emerging from the ribosome [7]), and Hsp20, a putative small heat shock protein (Table 2). GroES was not identified in this analysis, since it has a predicted pI of 9 and our gels were run in the pI range of 4 to 8. Both Tig and Hsp20 show low identities with known homologs, 31% to Tig from *B. subtilis* and 31% to Hsp18 from *S. albus* (32). (ii) Hypothetical proteins of unknown function (three polypeptides) were found, including DR1314, DR1306, and DR1768, none of which are orthologous to known bacterial genes in the sequence database.

**QRT-PCR verification of proteomics data.** Sig1-dependent heat shock induction of polypeptides implies a transcriptionally based regulatory mechanism. This hypothesis was tested for a subset of the genes, DR1314, *groESL*, *dnaK*, and *hsp20*, using real-time QRT-PCR. Since our previous results have indicated that *groESL* and *dnaKJ* operons appear to be regulated by Sig1 (30), these genes were included as internal controls for the validity of the QPCR assay. RNA was harvested from heat-shocked and nonstressed control cultures of *sig1* and wild-type *D. radiodurans* cells, cDNA was synthesized, and real-time PCR was conducted using primers corresponding to 100- to 200-bp sequences internal to the gene of interest. Data were quantified employing a relative technique that uses *hpi* as a housekeeping reference gene. *hpi* is thought to encode the major surface layer protein in *D. radiodurans* (22). In our hands, *hpi* exhibited no change in expression greater than 1.6-fold at 48°C relative to that at 30°C in replicate experiments (data not shown) (see Materials and Methods) and was therefore chosen as an appropriate reference gene for relative quantitation. In this scheme, values greater than 1 indicate gene induction at 48°C relative to 30°C expression levels, values equal to 1 represent no change, and values less than 1 indicate repression.

In the *D. radiodurans* wild-type background, *dnaK* and *hsp20* were induced up to 40 units and 55 units of relative gene expression, respectively, at 1 h after induction to heat shock. In contrast, *sig1* mutant cells failed to induce either of these genes to the same extent, exhibiting an impairment of approximately one-third to one-half the wild-type induction level (Fig. 2A). The heat shock induction of *groES* and DR1314 was also tested. Since preliminary QRT-PCR experiments indicated that these genes were not induced at 60 min after a shift to 48°C (not shown), we harvested RNA over a time course and found that the expression of both *groES* and DR1314 peaked at 5 min after induction to heat shock (data not shown). Data

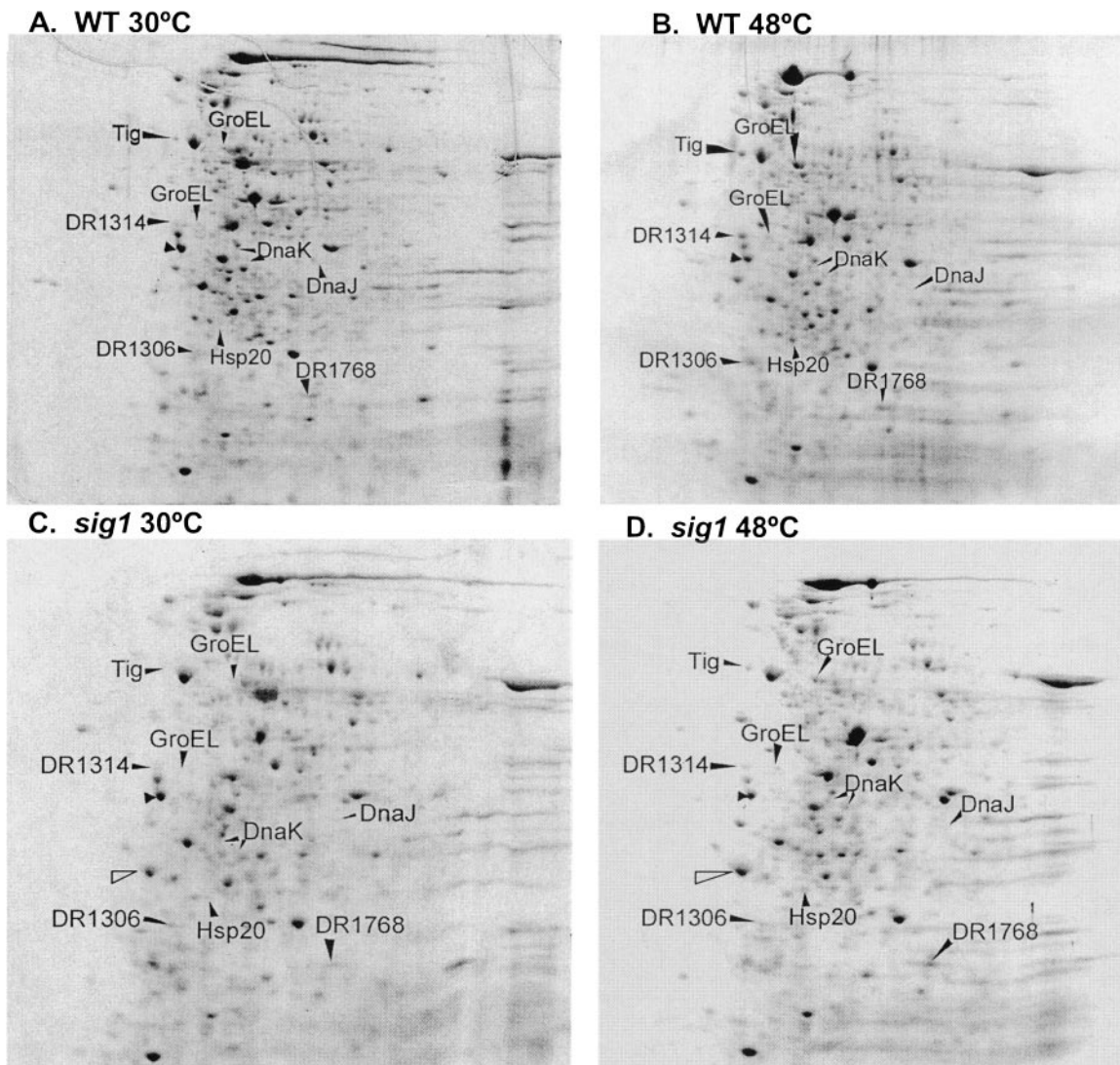


FIG. 1. Comparison of two-dimensional electrophoresis of total protein from heat-shocked and nonstressed *D. radiodurans* R1 wild-type and *sig1* mutant cells. (A) Wild type at 30°C; (B) wild type at 48°C; (C) *sig1* mutant at 30°C; (D) *sig1* mutant at 48°C. Two-dimensional electrophoresis was performed in the pI range of 4 to 8 on whole-cell protein extracts isolated from wild-type and *sig1* mutant cultures shifted to heat shock for 1 h at 48°C; control cultures were maintained at 30°C. Computerized and manual comparisons between panels A and B indicated spots that were induced under heat shock in wild-type cultures. Comparison between panels C and D indicated heat shock-induced spots in the *sig1* mutant, and comparison between panels B and D indicated spots that were induced in the wild type but not the *sig1* mutant. Labeled arrows point to spots that are induced in wild-type cultures but not in *sig1* mutants, and labels correspond to the LC-MS identifications shown in Table 2. The filled unlabeled arrow indicates the IEF internal standard. The open unlabeled arrow indicates a spot observed only in the *sig1* mutant that had no hits to the *D. radiodurans* genome database. GroEL and DnaK fragments are indicated in parentheses.

from this 5-min time point are shown in Fig. 2B. In the wild-type background, *groES* and DR1314 were induced to a moderate level (2 to 4 units of gene expression) upon heat shock. In contrast, *sig1* mutant cells failed to induce DR1314 to the same level, showing only up to 2 units of relative expression (Fig. 2B). In addition, the *sig1* mutant cells failed to induce *groES* transcription above the levels observed at 30°C.

**Role of Hsp20 and DR1314 in protection of *D. radiodurans* against heat shock.** Since the proteomics and RT-PCR data suggested that *hsp20* and DR1314 were both induced under heat shock conditions, mutants were generated in these genes

to determine if their gene products were involved in protection against the stress of increased temperature. To disrupt the chromosomal copies of DR1314 and *hsp20*, deletion plasmids pDR1314M and pHSP20M (Table 1) were transformed into *D. radiodurans* cells and screened for kanamycin resistance and chloramphenicol sensitivity. Resultant mutant clones, designated  $\Delta$ DR1314 and  $\Delta$ *hsp20*, were verified by diagnostic PCR from chromosomal DNA as described in Materials and Methods.

Following diagnostic PCR, *D. radiodurans* R1 wild-type,  $\Delta$ DR1314, and  $\Delta$ *hsp20* strains were tested for growth and sur-

TABLE 2. LC-MS identification of spots isolated from 2D gels

Gene name	ORF no. <sup>a</sup>	Mass (kDa)		Putative function	Induction ratio at 48 vs 30°C	
		Predicted	Observed		R1 <sup>b</sup>	<i>sig1</i>
<i>tig</i>	DR1948	51.8	65.1	Trigger factor	3.55	1.27
<i>groEL</i>	DR0607	57.8	62.8	Chaperone hsp60	9.75	+
	DR1314	36.5	38.8	Hypothetical protein	7.84	1.94
<i>groEL</i>	DR0607	57.8	38.7	Chaperone hsp60	3.17	+
<i>dnaK</i>	DR0129	67.7	35.3	Chaperone hsp70	+++	-19.42
<i>dnaK</i>	DR0129	67.7	34.2	Chaperone hsp70	+++	4.34
<i>dnaI1</i>	DR0126	33.0	33.1	Protein folding	+++	-3.1
	DR1306	24.9	23.8	Hypothetical protein	3.50	1.04
<i>hsp20</i>	DR1114	20.2	26.4	Small heat shock protein	8.10	4.18
	DR1768	15.2	20.0	Hypothetical protein	3.05	1.99

<sup>a</sup> Annotated open reading frame (ORF) numbers come from the *D. radiodurans* complete genome sequence (45).

<sup>b</sup> +++, the spot was detected only at 48°C; +, detection only at 48°C, but the 48°C spot density was very low in the mutant compared to wild type.

vival at 30°C, 40°C, 42°C, and 48°C. The *sig1* mutant was also tested as a reference for severe heat shock phenotypes. No significant growth or survival differences were observed among wild-type,  $\Delta$ DR1314, and  $\Delta$ *hsp20* mutant strains at 30°C, 40°C, or 42°C (data not shown). However, at 48°C  $\Delta$ *hsp20* exhibited an impairment of up to 3 orders of magnitude in survival compared to the wild type (Fig. 3). In addition, the  $\Delta$ DR1314 mutant was up to 10-fold more susceptible to heat shock than the wild type (Fig. 3). The *sig1* mutant cultures also displayed the

expected survival impairment of 2 orders of magnitude compared to the wild type (data not shown) (30), indicating that the stress conditions were accurately reproduced in this experiment.

**Global transcriptional analysis of the Sig1 regulon.** To perform a more exhaustive and global search for Sig1-dependent genes, we conducted whole-genome microarray analysis using arrays spotted in triplicate with PCR products corresponding to each of 3,180 unique *D. radiodurans* open reading frames (40). Five biological replicate array hybridizations were conducted comparing cDNA from samples heat shocked for 5 minutes to untreated controls for each of the *D. radiodurans* R1 wild-type and *sig1* mutant strains. As a control for hybridization quality and reproducibility, competitive hybridizations were performed comparing replicate cDNA samples from the same strain at 30°C. We observed good reproducibility in Cy5/Cy3 ratios, ranging from 0.4 to 2 in three replicate samples (not shown).

Under heat shock, a total of 136 genes were induced greater than twofold in the wild type, the 25 most highly induced of which are listed in Table 3. Employing a clustering algorithm (Pavlidis template matching [www.tigr.org/software/tm4]) in which *hsp20*, DR1314, *dnaK*, and *groES* were used as template genes, the *sig1* mutant was found to be partially or completely impaired for induction of 31 of the 136 genes during heat shock (Table 4). These genes were grouped into four categories according to their predicted functions from the annotated genome sequence (Table 4): (i) housekeeping genes, which included a phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase homolog (DR0977); (ii) hypothetical factors and putative transposases of unknown function, including DR1314 and DR1768, which were identified as Sig1-dependent polypeptides in the proteomic analysis (Table 2). All of the genes in this category except DR0194 have no orthologs in the bacterial sequence database. Interestingly, DR0194 bears 45% amino acid identity to *B. subtilis* YugP, a putative zinc-dependent metalloprotease. The other two categories were (iii) ABC transporters and membrane proteins and (iv) heat shock and stress response-related functions, including *hsp20*, *dnaK*, and *groES*, corroborating the proteomic (Fig. 1) and QRT-PCR (Fig. 2) data. All other members of the *dnaKJE* and *groESL* operons were expressed at similar levels to the first gene of the transcriptional unit. In addition, four new Sig1-dependent genes with pre-

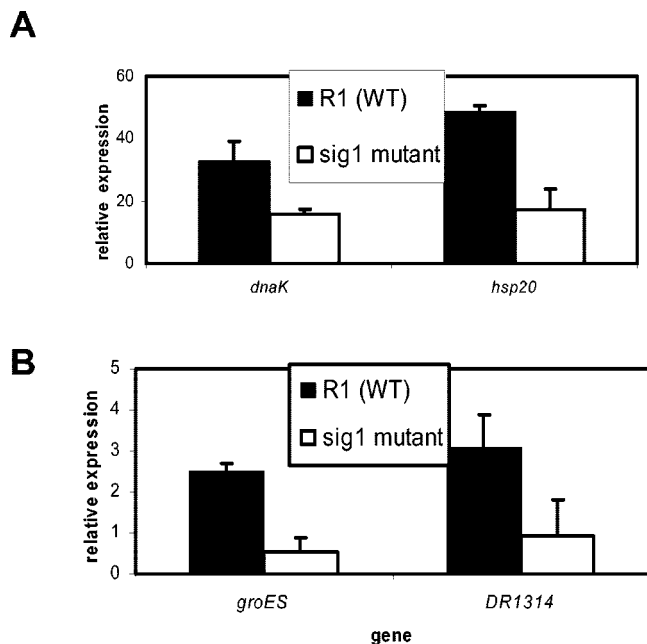


FIG. 2. Quantitative RT-PCR assessment of transcriptional heat shock induction in *D. radiodurans* R1 wild-type (WT) compared to *sig1* mutant cells. (A) *hsp20* and *dnaK* 1 h after induction to heat shock at 48°C. (B) *DR1314* and *groES* expression 5 min after heat shock. RNA was harvested from wild-type and *sig1* cells following shift to heat shock at 48°C for 5 min (B) or 1 h (A); 30°C cultures served as a control. Following cDNA synthesis, QPCR was performed using primers that anneal to 100- to 200-bp sequences internal to the gene of interest. Data were quantified using a relative scheme in which relative expression values greater than 1 indicate heat shock induction. Data shown represent the averages  $\pm$  standard deviations of at least three biological replicate experiments.



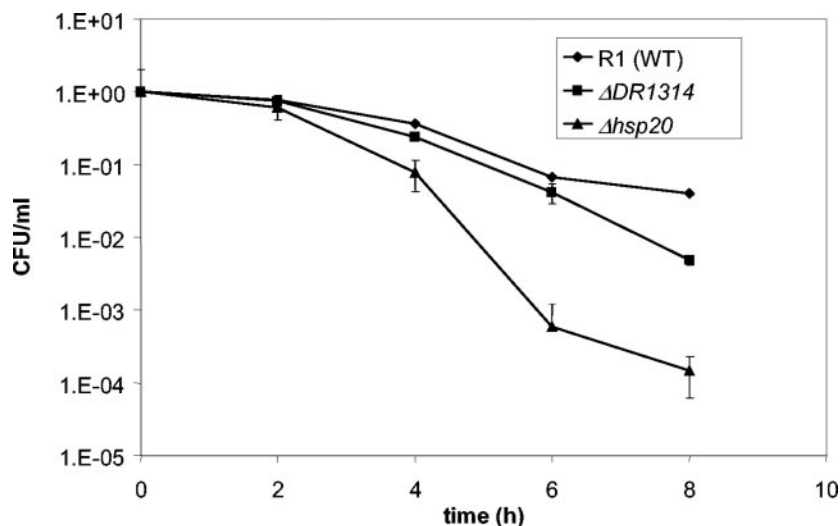


FIG. 3. Survival of wild-type (WT) *D. radiodurans* R1 compared to  $\Delta$ DR1314 and  $\Delta$ hsp20 mutant strains under heat shock. Wild-type,  $\Delta$ DR1314, and  $\Delta$ hsp20 cells were grown in TGY broth to mid-exponential phase (optical density at 600 nm = 0.3 to 0.4) and shifted to heat shock at 48°C (time zero). Half of each culture was continued at 30°C as a control (not shown). Samples were removed from each culture every 2 h, and duplicate serial dilutions were spotted in 5- $\mu$ l drops onto TGY in triplicate to assess survival. Results are normalized to initial CFU/ml. Error bars represent standard deviations from the averages of four biological replicate experiments.

dicted stress response functions were discovered, including two putative response regulators bearing amino acid identity to those of *T. thermophilus* (DR0743, 71%) and *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* (DR0408, 55%); *dps*, which bears low amino acid

homology to *E. coli dps*, whose gene product is known to bind and protect DNA during general stress (3); and *pspA*, whose product exhibits 28% identity at the amino acid level to *E. coli* PspA, 27% to the *B. subtilis* PspA homolog, YdjF, and 38% homology to cyanobacterial VIPP1. *E. coli* PspA functions in maintenance of membrane integrity under a variety of stress conditions (13, 43) but has also been implicated as a negative regulator of the *psp* phage shock operon (9). Cyanobacterial VIPP1 is essential for photosynthesis and biogenesis of thylakoid membranes (14, 44). Surprisingly, of all genes identified by microarray analysis as Sig1 dependent, *pspA* was the most severely affected by the *sig1* mutation, exhibiting a sevenfold impairment in heat shock expression compared to the wild type (Table 4), and was therefore chosen for inclusion in subsequent analyses.

TABLE 3. The 25 most highly induced genes in the wild-type strain as determined by microarray analysis, sorted by induction ratio

Locus	Gene name	Induction ratio R1 <sup>a</sup>	Predicted function <sup>b</sup>
DR1114	<i>hsp20</i>	11.99	Small heat shock protein
DR0127		11.06	Hypothetical
DR0128	<i>grpE</i>	10.77	Chaperone
DR1046	<i>clpB</i>	8.02	ATP-dependent Clp protease
DRA0199		7.95	Nodulation protein N-related protein
DR0126	<i>dnaJ</i>	7.90	Chaperone
DR0129	<i>dnaK</i>	7.49	Chaperone
DR2381		7.35	Aldehyde dehydrogenase
DR0561		6.07	Maltose ABC transporter, periplasmic maltose-binding protein
DR0178		5.91	Transposase, putative
DR0349	<i>lon</i>	5.80	ATP-dependent protease
DR0997		5.41	Transcriptional regulator, FNR/CRP family
DR1082	<i>hspA</i>	5.30	Light-repressed protein A, putative
DR1019		4.99	Glycerol-3-phosphate dehydrogenase
DR0220		4.83	Amidophosphoribosyltransferase
DR2307		4.76	Multidrug efflux transporter, putative
DR2386	<i>paaA</i>	4.70	Phenylacetic acid degradation protein
DRA0200		4.62	Oxidoreductase, short-chain dehydrogenase/reductase family
DR1473	<i>pspA</i>	4.50	Phage shock related protein
DRC0007		4.38	Hypothetical protein
DRB0012		4.35	Cobyrinic acid synthase
DR1314		4.35	Conserved hypothetical protein
DR0392		4.34	Hypothetical protein
DRB0083		4.32	Potassium-transporting ATPase, B subunit
DR0194		4.27	Conserved hypothetical protein

<sup>a</sup> Numbers represent average ratios of 48°C and 30°C intensity values from five replicate data sets.

<sup>b</sup> Functional annotations are taken from the *D. radiodurans* completed genome sequence (45; www.tigr.org).

**Transcription start site mapping and determination of a putative Sig1-dependent promoter consensus sequence.** To confirm the dependence of *hsp20*, DR1314, *groES*, *dnaK*, and *pspA* on Sig1 for their heat shock regulation and to identify a potential Sig1 consensus promoter sequence, we performed transcription start site mapping by primer extension. RNAs prepared from heat-shocked and untreated *sig1* mutant and wild-type cultures were used as templates to conduct primer extension reactions using primers listed in Table 5. The resultant transcription start site maps are shown in Fig. 4. We observed that transcription of each of *hsp20* and the *dnaKJ-grpE* and DR1314/1315 operons initiated from a single promoter that was induced under heat shock in wild-type cells (7.7-fold, 2-fold, and 1.7-fold, respectively) (Fig. 4A, B, D, and F). In contrast, the *sig1* mutant was completely impaired for *dnaKJ-grpE* and DR1314/1315 transcriptional induction at 48°C (Fig. 4B, D, and F). Furthermore, transcript signal intensities of *hsp20* were weaker at 48°C in the *sig1* mutant background (4.75-fold induction) (Fig. 4F) compared to those in the wild type, though the signals in both backgrounds were of extremely low intensity at 30°C (Fig. 4A). The shadowy band

TABLE 4. The Sig1 regulon as determined by microarray analysis

Locus	Gene name	R1	<i>sig1</i>	Annotated function
Heat shock, stress response, or regulatory function genes				
DR0126	<i>dnaJ</i>	7.90	4.39	Chaperone
DR0127		11.06	7.07	Hypothetical
DR0128	<i>grpE</i>	10.77	7.67	Chaperone
<b>DR0129<sup>a</sup></b>	<b><i>dnaK</i></b>	<b>7.49</b>	<b>3.95</b>	<b>Chaperone</b>
<b>DR0606</b>	<b><i>groES</i></b>	<b>2.36</b>	<b>1.24</b>	<b>Chaperone</b>
<b>DR0607</b>	<b><i>groEL</i></b>	<b>3.03</b>	<b>1.60</b>	<b>Chaperone</b>
<b>DR1114</b>	<b><i>hsp20</i></b>	<b>11.99</b>	<b>8.77</b>	<b>Small heat shock protein</b>
DR2263	<i>dps</i>	2.76	1.01	DNA binding stress response protein
DR1473	<i>pspA</i>	4.50	0.607	Phage shock protein A
DR0743		2.78	1.74	Response regulator
DR0408		3.18	1.53	Response regulator
Housekeeping gene				
DR0977* <sup>b</sup>		3.25	1.48	Phosphoenolpyruvate carboxykinase
Hypothetical function and transposase genes				
DR0194		4.27	2.34	Conserved hypothetical; 45% identity to <i>B. subtilis</i> <i>yugP</i> , putative Zn-dependent metallopeptidase
DR0227		3.42	1.35	Hypothetical
DR0370		2.77	1.58	Hypothetical
DR0762		2.70	1.48	Hypothetical
DR0972		2.90	1.11	Hypothetical
<b>DR1314</b>		<b>4.35</b>	<b>1.55</b>	<b>Hypothetical</b>
DR1315		4.06	1.85	Hypothetical
<b>DR1768*</b>		<b>2.51</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>Hypothetical</b>
DR1816		2.75	1.19	Hypothetical
DR1815		3.12	1.31	Hypothetical
DR2165*		2.40	1.59	Hypothetical
DR2527		3.91	1.47	Hypothetical
DR2528		2.98	1.57	Hypothetical
DR2572		2.73	1.11	Hypothetical
DRB0059		2.81	1.7	Transposase, putative
DRC0015*		3.01	1.52	Hypothetical
ABC transporter membrane protein genes				
DR1185		3.41	1.3	S-layer-like array-related
DR1655		2.59	1.85	ABC transporter, periplasmic substrate binding
DR1438		3.66	1.65	ABC transporter, periplasmic substrate binding

<sup>a</sup> Items in bold lettering represent genes that have been identified by QRT-PCR and/or 2D-PAGE as Sig1 dependent.

<sup>b</sup> Loci labeled with an asterisk designate genes with no recognizable predicted Sig1-dependent promoter.

observed just upstream of the primer extension product of DR1314/1315 (Fig. 4D) is a primer artifact, since it was not observed in replicate experiments with the P1314\_PE3 primer (data not shown) (Table 5).

In the wild-type strain, a strong, mildly heat shock-inducible (1.5-fold) primer extension signal was detected for the *groESL* operon promoter, and transcription was observed to initiate from a single promoter located 76 bp upstream of the predicted ATG (Fig. 4C and F). The minor start site found in previous mapping experiments of the *groES* promoter was not detected (16). In sharp contrast to the wild-type situation, in the *sig1* mutant, the level of *groES* promoter transcription was much reduced under heat shock (0.6-fold repressed) (Fig. 4C and F).

Transcription of *pspA* was observed to start from two promoters (Fig. 4E): transcription from *pspA* P1 was present at low constitutive levels in both wild-type and *sig1* mutant strains, whereas P2 was strongly inducible (3.8-fold) in the wild type (Fig. 4E and F). However, a P2 signal was completely ab-

sent under both heat shock and nonstress conditions in *sig1*-defective cells, indicating complete dependence of this promoter on Sig1-associated RNA polymerase for its transcription.

Interestingly, the  $-35$  and  $-10$  regions of *pspA* P2 bore strong resemblance to the known  $\sigma^W$  consensus from *B. subtilis* (TGAAAC-N16-CGTA) (12), diverging at only one nucleotide position (Fig. 5B). In contrast, the  $-35$  and  $-10$  positions of *pspAP1* and DR1314/1315 appeared to resemble the divergent  $\sigma^{70}$ -type promoters previously identified in *D. radiodurans* (Fig. 5A) (16). In addition, each of the single promoters of *hsp20*, *dnaKJE*, and *groESL* was well conserved with the *E. coli*  $\sigma^{70}$  consensus, diverging only at the  $-10$  region (Fig. 5A). To determine if either of these putative  $\sigma^W$ - or  $\sigma^{70}$ -type consensus sequences was present upstream of the other Sig1-dependent genes identified by microarray analysis, the promoters mapped by primer extension were used in a sequence pattern finding program ([rsat.ulb.ac.be/rsat/dna\\_pattern\\_form.cgi](http://rsat.ulb.ac.be/rsat/dna_pattern_form.cgi)) to query regions located 500 bp upstream and 150 bp downstream



TABLE 5. Primers used in this study and their sequences

Purpose and name	Sequence 5' to 3'
<b>Quantitative real-time PCR</b>	
hpiQ_fwd.....	AGACGCGGTAGGTCACGTTGTCTCTG
hpiQ_rev.....	TGTCCTCGAACCCTGGCACTGTGAAG
DR1314Q_fwd.....	CAGGTCAAGGACATGAGCGAGTACC
DR1314Q_rev.....	CTTCGAGCAGCTGGAGGCGATCAGG
dnaKQ_fwd.....	TCGGCGGTGACGTTCTCTCGAACTTGG
dnaKQ_rev.....	AGCATCTCCCTGCCCTTCATCACCT
hsp20Q_fwd.....	GGCCTCGAAGTACCTTGGACATTC
hsp20Q_rev.....	AAAGGTGCCGTAGGCGCGCTCGACA
<b>Cloning and mutagenesis<sup>a</sup></b>	
DR1314M_fwd5'.....	<b>AGATCT</b> -GAGAGGTCAGGCGGTCAGCA
DR1314M_rev5'.....	<b>GGTACC</b> -TATGGAGGTCACGGTCTCTG
DR1314M_fwd3'.....	<b>TACGTA</b> -ACCACCAAGCGCAACATCTG
DR1314M_rev3'.....	<b>GAGCTC</b> -GCTGCTCCATCGTCGCAATC
P1314_up.....	CCAGCTTCACGGCGGCGTTGAAGAC
hsp20M_fwd5'.....	<b>AGATCT</b> -CCGGACCGGCTTCTCCCTTT
hsp20M_rev5'.....	<b>GGTACC</b> -ACCTGCGCTCAAGTAGTCTCT
hsp20M_fwd3'.....	<b>TACGTA</b> -ACCGCCGCCACGGAATAACC
hsp20M_rev3'.....	<b>GAGCTC</b> -TGCCGTTGGCGTGAAGGAGT
Phsp20_up.....	AGATCTGGAACGCGGTGAAGTGGCTG
dnaK_fwd2.....	GGAG <b>AGATCT</b> -CGCACCAATCCCGACCT
dnaK_rev2.....	CGGCGTTGACGATCACT
pspA_up.....	TAGAAACGGCCCGCAAGGT
<b>Diagnostic PCR</b>	
DR1314M_check5' fwd.....	AGGAGGCGGCCAGTTGGAAG
DR1314M_check5' rev.....	ATCGCGGCCCTCGAGCAAGAC
DR1314M_check3' fwd.....	CGGACCGCGGCTTGTGTTGA
DR1314M_check3' rev.....	TGCCGCTTCGCGCTGCTTT
hsp20M_check5' fwd.....	CCACTGCGGGCCGCAAATTC
hsp20M_check5' rev.....	GCCTCGAGCAAGACGTTTCC
hsp20M_check3' fwd.....	CAACTGGTCCACCTACAACA
hsp20M_check3' rev.....	CGCGGCCAAGTCGAGATAC
CmSCO_fwd.....	AGGACAAATCCGCCGAGCTT
CmSCO_rev.....	TGCCGCTCGACGAATTTCT
kan_fwd.....	AAGCCACGTTGTGTCTCA
kan_rev.....	CCGTCAGTCAAGTCAGCGTAAT
0180_304bp_ups.....	TGCTGGTCTCCGCGTAT
0180_171bp_dnsC.....	AACGCGCTGATGTACAG
<b>Primer extension</b>	
PdnaK_PE1.....	AGTTGGTGGTACCCAAATCG
PdnaK_PE2.....	CCATCACAGCGATCACGGATTGGT
P1314_PE3.....	CATGGTATTTCTCCGGGAAATGGG
P1314_PE4.....	GATCTTGTGCGCCGTTACGCCGTAA
Phsp20_PE2.....	GGTCCATACGCTGGGTCAGTTCTCT
Phsp20_PE3.....	GCTTGACGCCGGGAATGTCCAAGGT
PpspA_PE1.....	ATATCCCGCAGGGCTGATCGATAA
PpspA_PE2.....	CTTGGCGAGGTCCTTGTGGTTCTGG
PgroES_PE30.....	CGGCTTCTTCGATAATTTCAACCAGAACGC
PgroES_PE.....	GGAAATCGGGACGTACAG

<sup>a</sup> Bold lettering indicates restriction site extension on primer.

of the predicted ATG for each of the Sig1 regulon genes. Only hits to potential -35 and -10 regions that were located within 200 bp and that contained a predicted Shine-Dalgarno sequence within 12 bp of the predicted ATG were included in the final consensus list, the results of which are aligned in Fig. 5. As a control, an additional search was performed in which the upstream sequences were queried with the *E. coli*  $\sigma^E$  (5) and *B. subtilis*  $\sigma^B$  consensus sequences (23), but no hits were yielded with this search.

As shown in Fig. 5B, 8 of the 31 Sig1 regulon genes contained a predicted  $\sigma^W$ -type promoter, all of which belonged to the hypothetical or heat shock and stress response functional categories (Table 4). As shown in Fig. 5A, 18 of the 31 genes,

organized into 12 operons, possessed a predicted  $\sigma^70$ -type promoter. Both consensus sequences were found upstream of the hypothetical operon DR1816/DR1815. No predicted -35 or -10 promoter regions were found upstream of the remaining four genes, which included phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase (DR0977) and three hypothetical genes (DR1768, DR2165, and DRC0015). All four of these genes were predicted to be monocistronic based on the transcriptional direction of the surrounding genes. A putative promoter was found upstream of all genes with predicted heat shock and stress response functions.

## DISCUSSION

Results from previous studies (30) suggested that Sig1 is the major heat shock sigma factor of *D. radiodurans* that both protects against elevated temperature stress and is involved in the positive regulation of cytoplasmic heat shock operons *dnaKJE* and *groESL*. We therefore undertook the study reported here to further define the role of Sig1 in the heat shock response of *D. radiodurans*. The results of the 2D-PAGE proteomics, quantitative PCR, mutant analysis, and microarray experiments suggest that Sig1 is involved in controlling a larger regulon consisting not only of cytoplasmic heat shock and stress response factors but also of extracytoplasmic factors and previously unidentified genes that do not have orthologs in the known bacterial domain.

Thirty-one genes were identified as being fully or partially impaired for induction in *sig1* mutant cells compared to *D. radiodurans* R1 wild-type cells in a combined global survey using 2D-PAGE proteomics and microarray techniques. Eight of these genes, organized into five predicted transcriptional units, are known heat shock factors in other bacteria: *dnaKJ-grpE*, *groESL*, *dps*, *pspA*, and *hsp20*, of which *dnaKJ-grpE* and *groESL* had previously been shown to be involved in the heat shock response in *D. radiodurans* (30). *hsp20* encodes a 20-kDa protein predicted to be a member of the small heat shock protein (sHSP) superfamily, since its amino acid sequence contains an alpha-crystalline domain (18; www.tigr.org), and is within the predicted small heat shock protein size range of 15 to 30 kDa. In addition, like the *S. albus* sHSP *hsp18* mutant,  $\Delta$ *hsp20* mutant cells exhibited an extreme impairment in survival at a growth-inhibitory temperature (Fig. 3) (32, 33). However, in *S. albus*, *hsp18* is controlled by a specific negative regulator (RheA) (33), while in *D. radiodurans* it appears this sHSP is part of the Sig1 regulon. No ortholog of RheA is present in the *D. radiodurans* genome.

*D. radiodurans pspA*, another member of the Sig1 regulon identified in the microarrays with predicted heat shock functions, bears 28% homology to *E. coli pspA*, which encodes a peripheral membrane protein exhibiting high induction in response to diverse environmental stresses (reviewed in reference 17). Intriguingly, *D. radiodurans pspA* also bears 27% identity to *B. subtilis ydfJ*, which has been shown to be highly induced by alkali stress and phage infection in a  $\sigma^W$ -dependent manner (46). Similarly, our microarray data (Table 4) and primer extension results (Fig. 4) indicate a clear transcriptional dependence of *D. radiodurans pspA* on Sig1, an ECF-type sigma factor (30). In addition, the -35/-10 sequences of the *pspA* P2 promoter were nearly identical to the *B. subtilis*  $\sigma^W$

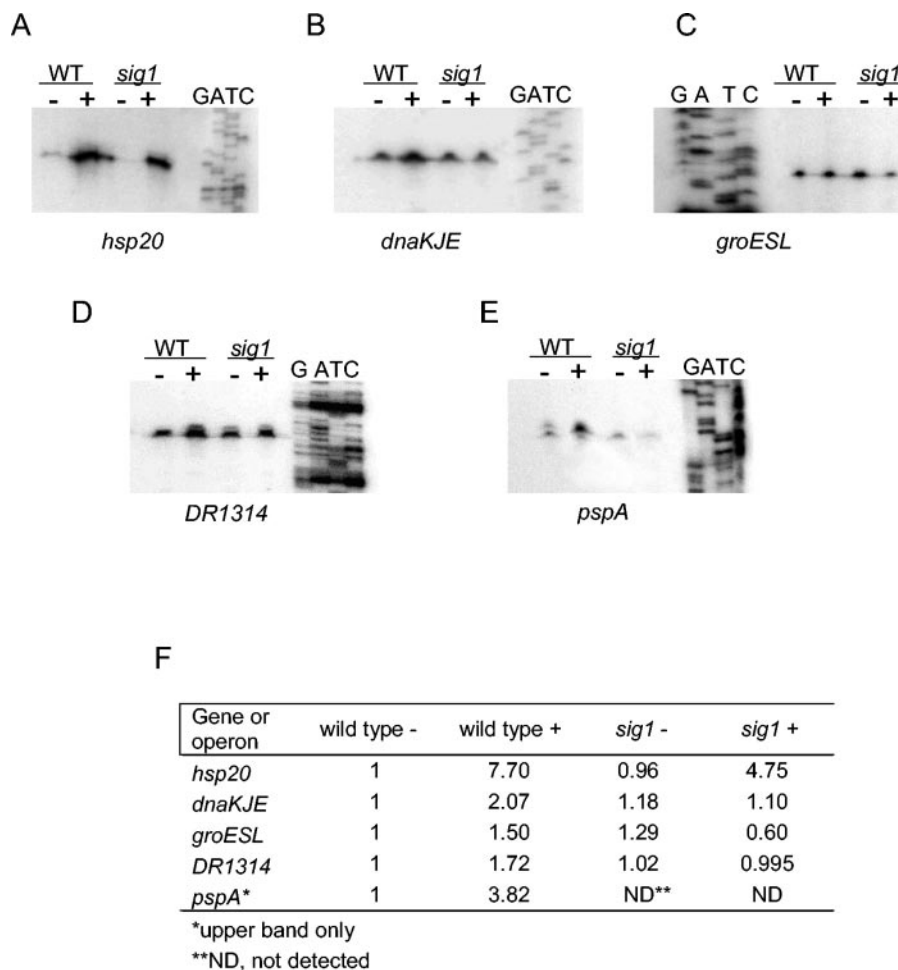


FIG. 4. Mapping the transcription start site of potential Sig1-dependent genes. (A) *hsp20*; (B) *dnaKJE*; (C) *groESL*; (D) DR1314; (E) *pspA*. Primer extension reactions were performed on RNA prepared from heat-shocked (+) and untreated (-) *D. radiodurans* R1 wild-type and *sig1* mutant cultures. Adjacent sequencing reactions (GATC) were conducted using the same primer that was used for the primer extension reactions. (F) Quantification of primer extension images. Induction ratios of relative intensities measured for each band relative to the untreated wild type for each gene are reported.

ECF-type consensus (12), suggesting a possible functional similarity between Sig1 and  $\sigma^W$ .

*E. coli* PspA has also been implicated in maintenance of outer membrane integrity (13). Interestingly, several other Sig1-regulated heat shock genes identified here are also predicted to encode proteins with membrane functions, including two ABC transporters, DR1185 (a putative surface layer gene) and DR1314, which appears to be a novel Sig1-regulated heat shock gene containing predicted membrane-spanning domains and bearing predicted structural homology to membrane proteins (data not shown) ([www.sbg.bio.ic.ac.uk/~3Dpssm](http://www.sbg.bio.ic.ac.uk/~3Dpssm)). These results are consistent with the hypothesis that Sig1 may also function as a regulator of factors with periplasmic or extracytoplasmic functions. Therefore, Sig1 appears to be a truly unique ECF factor, involved in the heat shock regulation of genes whose products perform both cytoplasmic and extracytoplasmic functions, which are usually regulated by two different sigma factors (e.g.,  $\sigma^H$  and  $\sigma^E$  in *E. coli* [47]).

In addition to the  $\sigma^W$ -type promoter upstream of *pspA* and other genes, we also detected an *E. coli*  $\sigma^{70}$ -type consensus upstream of the remaining genes identified by microarray anal-

ysis (Fig. 5). Surprisingly, transcription initiating from the single  $\sigma^{70}$ -type promoters of each of *dnaKJE*, *groESL*, DR1314/1315, and *hsp20* appears to be responsible for expression of all these genes in both wild-type and *sig1*-deficient cells in the absence of stress, as evidenced by the persistence of the primer extension signals in the *sig1* mutant and wild type at 30°C. However, at least part of the increase in expression from these  $\sigma^{70}$ -type promoters upon temperature upshift appears to require the presence of Sig1, suggesting that Sig1 may recognize this promoter only at high temperature and that another sigma factor may be responsible for the transcription of the same promoter in the absence of stress. Mounting evidence suggests that multiple sigma factors do recognize the same promoter sequences, as is the case with *B. subtilis*  $\sigma^X$  and  $\sigma^W$  overlapping regulons (11) and  $\sigma^H$  and  $\sigma^E$  dual recognition of the  $\sigma^B$  promoter in *M. tuberculosis* (27). In addition, ECF sigma factors appear to recognize broader consensus sequences, as is the case with *E. coli*  $\sigma^E$  (5). Alternatively, it remains possible that Sig1 involvement in control of these  $\sigma^{70}$ -type promoters is indirect through another regulator that de-

A. Sig1-dependent genes with  $\sigma^{70}$ -type consensus

	-35	-10
P1DR1314/ 1315	actca <b>AACAAA</b> gttcggggtgccc <b>AACTGC</b> ttctcgT*-N61- <i>ggaggaaatacc</i> ATG	
<i>groESL</i>	gtcag <b>TTGACA</b> tttttcttatcggcgctc <b>TACCAT</b> ccgtgacgG*-N63- <i>aggaggacccac</i> ATG	
<i>dnaKJE</i>	gtcta <b>TTGACT</b> ctgggggattgtagtcg- <b>TATGAT</b> acttgcaG*-N42- <i>aaggagtcaacac</i> ATG	
P1 <i>pspA</i>	cggtg <b>CAACCC</b> tcctcagattcgcgcg- <b>TACTGT</b> gggttgT*-N46- <i>ccgcgcca</i> ATG	
<i>hsp20</i>	aaacc <b>TTGACA</b> tggatgcactcaagttt <b>TAATAT</b> aggactaC*-N37- <i>aggaggacacac</i> ATG	
DR1185	agcat <b>TTGACA</b> aaaagatggcacagctt- <b>TTTGGC</b> cgagcggag-N209- <i>ggaggacgac</i> ATG	
DR0194	gggac <b>TTGAGT</b> gggggacgctaagatt-- <b>TGAACA</b> ggaggaaag-N73 <i>gagcaatactta</i> caaaaaATG	
DR0972	gaatg <b>TTGACT</b> tgcttaccgcttgccg- <b>GACTCG</b> ccacacaag-N89- <i>aggggttagggtg</i> ATG	
DR2527/2528	agcgt <b>TTGACA</b> agagaattatctggcgc- <b>TGTTTG</b> Accctctac-N92- <i>aaggagcggccc</i> TTG	
DR1438	gagaa <b>TTGACA</b> cccccgctgcccggagg-- <b>TGTAGC</b> ctgcccgcac-N67- <i>aaggagaaag</i> ATG	
DR1816 P1	cccc <b>TTGACT</b> gttgacctgtcctcgcg- <b>GGGGAA</b> gcccgaactttt-N132- <i>ggcggggtctt</i> ATG	
DRB0059	tgaaa <b>TTGACA</b> agttctgctcgcacattc <b>TACAAT</b> ggttcgtgca-N27- <i>cgaaaatggggct</i> GTG	

*E. coli*  $\sigma^{70}$  consensus **TTGACA** -N17- **TATAAT**  
 Sig1 consensus **TTGACA/T** -N16/18- **TACNAN**

B. Sig1-dependent genes with  $\sigma^W$ -type consensus

	-35	-10
P2 <i>pspA</i>	cgcg <b>TGCAAC</b> cctcctcagattcgc <b>GCGTA</b> ctgtgggtT*-N46- <i>ccgcgcca</i> ATG	
DR0743	gggca <b>TGGAAC</b> gcaagccgctcgtcc- <b>TCGTCA</b> tcgaagacgaa-N38- <i>cgagggtacgccaccgag</i> GTG	
DR0408	aagct <b>TGCAGC</b> aggttcatggggcca- <b>GGGTA</b> cgccgcgcgcgg-N121- <i>gaggtttttcc</i> ATG	
DR0227	agccc <b>GGCAAC</b> ccccggcaggctggcc <b>GCGTA</b> tcacacagcggaggtgcATG	
DR0370	tcgcg <b>GGCAAC</b> tttctcagaccgctc- <b>GCGTC</b> tgcggtagggccg-N43- <i>ggaggactttg</i> cctggggATG	
DR0762	gcgtg <b>TGCCAC</b> agccgcagcaggctcg- <b>TCGTG</b> gttaccgaggacaacgacGTG	
DR2572	ccgcc <b>GGGAAC</b> tttgacggcggatttg <b>ACGTA</b> aaaggaagggac-N40- <i>ggaacacaccaga</i> ATG	
DR1816 P2	ggaag <b>CGGAAC</b> ttttgctgctcgc <b>GCGTA</b> ctgttgagtg-N104- <i>ggcggggtctt</i> ATG	

*B. subtilis*  $\sigma^W$  consensus **TGAAAC** -N16/17- **CGTA**  
 Sig1 consensus **TGCAAC** -N15/16- **GCGTA**

FIG. 5. Alignment of putative Sig1-dependent promoters and determination of a potential Sig1 consensus sequence. The -10/-35 regions of mapped Sig1-dependent promoters (bracketed on left) were used to search regions 500 bp upstream and 150 bp downstream of the predicted ATG of the 31 Sig1 regulon members identified by microarray analysis. Resultant -35/-10 regions for the genes listed on the left (see Table 4 for annotation) are aligned and in boldface type. Italicized characters represent predicted ribosome binding sites. Predicted cotranscribed genes are listed together, separated by a slash. Nucleotide positions at which transcription starts are capitalized and marked with an asterisk. The Sig1 consensus sequences listed below each alignment were determined by calculating the percentage occurrence of each nucleotide at each position. Nucleotides with the highest occurrence at a given position were chosen for the consensus.

depends on Sig1 for its positive regulation, for example, the putative response regulators DR0743 and DR0408, which were partially abrogated in their heat shock response in cells defective for *sig1* (Table 4).

It was also noteworthy that hypothetical factors DR0326 and DR0972, proteins of unknown function that have been observed to be heat shock inducible by 2D gel analysis in other studies (1), were not detected in the current 2D gel study. Also of note is the fact that, although Airo and colleagues detected the heat shock inducibility of a putative cold shock protein, Csp (DR0907), we observed repression of *csp* gene transcription under heat shock in our microarray analysis (average ratio, 0.318) (data not shown). It should also be noted that the

heat shock protocols used by Airo and colleagues were significantly different from those used in this study. However, given the differences in protocols, the results between the two studies were surprisingly similar.

The other surprising finding, that transcription of *dnaK*, *hsp20*, and DR1314 was still partially induced in *sig1*-defective cells in our microarray and QRT-PCR experiments, suggests that an additional mode of regulation may exist that controls these genes during elevated temperature stress. In fact, we have evidence that these genes are also subject to negative regulation by an HspR-like system in *D. radiodurans* (31). Such a phenomenon is not uncommon. For example, *A. tumefaciens rpoH* mutants are still able to induce *groESL* transcription to



40% of the wild-type level, since release from repression by *hrcA* is also required to fully induce the heat shock expression of this operon (19).

In summary, our results represent the first example of a global study of the heat shock response in *D. radiodurans* and indicate that Sig1 may play a novel role among the ECF sigma factors in the regulation of this response, in at least partial control of both cytoplasmic and extracytoplasmic factors. At least one of the extracytoplasmic factors, *pspA*, is completely and directly dependent on Sig1 for its transcription. Sig1 appears to be in direct or indirect control of 30 other heat shock-inducible and -protective genes, one of which has been confirmed as a novel heat shock-protective gene (DR1314).

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