# LidA, a Translocated Substrate of the *Legionella pneumophila* Type IV Secretion System, Interferes with the Early Secretory Pathway

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Received 14 December 2004/Returned for modification 17 January 2005/Accepted 18 February 2005

*Legionella pneumophila* **uses a type IV secretion system to deliver effector molecules into the host cell and establish its replication vacuole. In this study, we investigated the role of LidA, a translocated substrate associated with the surface of the** *L. pneumophila***-containing vacuole. LidA is secreted into the host cell throughout the replication cycle of the bacteria and associates with compartments of the early secretory pathway. When overexpressed in mammalian cells or yeast, LidA interferes with the early secretory pathway, probably via a domain predicted to be rich in coiled-coil structure. Finally, during intracellular replication, the replication vacuoles are in close contact with the endoplasmic reticulum-Golgi intermediate compartment and the Golgi apparatus, suggesting a positive correlation between intracellular growth and association of the vacuole with compartments of the early secretory pathway. We propose that LidA is involved in the recruitment of early secretory vesicles to the** *L. pneumophila***-containing vacuole and that the vacuole associates with the secretory pathway to facilitate this process.**

*Legionella pneumophila*, the causative agent of Legionnaires' disease, is an intracellular gram-negative pathogen (10). In environmental reservoirs, the bacterium is found associated with freshwater amoebae, while human disease is caused by inhalation of contaminated aerosols, followed by multiplication of the bacteria within alveolar macrophages (26, 44).

Upon uptake into macrophages, the bacterium is internalized into a compartment that escapes the endocytic pathway and establishes a replication vacuole (16, 17). Fifteen minutes after internalization, the vacuolar membrane lacks plasma membrane or endocytic markers and is surrounded by mitochondria and small vesicles (15). Based on the thickness of their membranes (40) and on the presence of calnexin around the nascent *L. pneumophila* vacuole (8), these vesicles are thought to be derived from the endoplasmic reticulum (ER). In addition, the *L. pneumophila* vacuole intercepts vesicular traffic from ER exit sites and vesicle budding from the ER (18), as well as proteins of the early secretory pathway (8, 19), which appear to be required for establishment of the replication vacuole. Six hours after internalization, the bacterium starts to multiply in an ER-like compartment (38, 40). As replication proceeds, -50% of the *L. pneumophila* vacuoles acquire markers of endocytic organelles (37). At the end of the replication cycle, the vacuoles contain dozens of bacteria, leading to host cell lysis and infection of the neighboring cells.

A type IV secretion system, known as the Dot/Icm complex, is essential for intracellular growth and for translocation of bacterial effector molecules into the host cell (5, 34, 43). These effectors proteins are thought to promote uptake and to allow the establishment of the replication vacuole. Several of them

have been identified in the last 2 years, but their exact functions remain mostly unknown. Chen et al. have recently reported that translocation of LepB and LepC, two proteins with weak homology to SNARE proteins, are important for the specific dissemination of *L. pneumophila* from amoebae, perhaps by routing the vacuole containing bacteria into the protozoan exocytic pathway (4). Luo et al. have identified nine families of Sid (for substrate of Icm/Dot) proteins that are transferred between bacterial cells by the Dot/Icm system (23). Some of the Sid proteins are translocated to the surface of the *L. pneumophila* vacuole in infected cells, and some families of Sid proteins contain up to five paralogs. The functional redundancy among the Dot/Icm substrates may explain why many of the *sid* mutants remain competent for intracellular replication.

Two other Dot/Icm substrates with no paralogs in the *L. pneumophila* genome have been identified. RalF, a guanidine nucleotide exchange factor, activates Arf family members on the *L. pneumophila* vacuole (24), and LidA, a protein of unknown function, is required for high-efficiency formation of replication vacuoles within mouse macrophages (6). After infection of macrophages with a *lidA* mutant that expresses limiting amounts of DotA protein, a fraction of the vacuoles fail to escape fusion with late endocytic compartments. Bacteria in vacuoles that avoid the endocytic pathway, however, grow with wild-type (WT) kinetics, producing, overall, a marginal defect in intracellular growth. The LidA protein has no apparent transmembrane domain, but it contains a central region that is rich in predicted coiled-coil structures. Within 20 min after internalization of the bacteria, LidA is found on the surfaces of the *L. pneumophila*-containing vacuoles in a Dot/Icm-dependent fashion, with approximately 50% of the vacuoles displaying polar localization of the protein (6). At later times of infection, LidA is exposed uniformly on the membranes of vacuoles in which the bacteria were replicating, as well as dispersed throughout the infected cells.

Although it is well accepted that there must be a connection

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between *L. pneumophila* Dot/Icm substrates and the early secretory pathway, very little information is available. In this study, we have investigated the role of LidA, focusing on the localization of the protein within the host cell and its effect on cellular morphology and physiology. We report that LidA is secreted into the host cell throughout the replication cycle of the bacteria, where it associates with membrane compartments. In addition, LidA interacts with and interferes with compartments of the early secretory pathway and therefore appears to be involved in the recruitment of ER-derived vesicles to the vacuole containing bacteria. Moreover, our results suggest that the mature replication vacuole is integrated into the early secretory pathway to facilitate this process.

### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

**Bacterial strains, mammalian cells, yeast, and media.** *L. pneumophila* Lp02 (*thyA hsdR rpsL*) and Lp03 (Lp02 *dotA*) strains are derivatives of Philadelphia-1 strain Lp01 (*hsdR rspL*) (2). *L. pneumophila* Lp02-GFP and Lp03-GFP have been described previously (36). The *lidA* mutant that expresses limiting amounts of DotA protein has been described previously (6). *L. pneumophila* strains were maintained on charcoal yeast extract solid medium and ACES yeast extract broth culture media (9, 11, 38). U937 cells and COS-1 (African green monkey kidney cells transformed by an origin-defective mutant of simian virus 40) cells were grown as described previously (1, 2). *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* cells (W303 [*ade2 can1 leu2 his3 trp1 ura3 ho*::*LYS2*]) were maintained on YPD or SC medium (35). DNA transformation into yeast was performed as described previously (29).

**Detergent fractionation of** *L. pneumophila***.** Sixty microliters of postexponential *L. pneumophila* expressing green fluorescent protein (GFP) was washed once and resuspended in 5 ml of phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) containing either 1% Triton X-100 (Bio-Rad), 1% CHAPS {3-[(3-cholamidopropyl)-dimethylammonio]-1-propanesulfonate; Sigma}, 1% octylglucoside (Calbiochem), or 1% purified digitonin (Calbiochem) and incubated for 20 min at room temperature with intermittent vortexing. The cell lysates were centrifuged for 15 min at 10,000 rpm, and the top 3 ml of the supernatant was collected. The extracted proteins present in the supernatant were precipitated with methanol-chloroform (46). The detergent-soluble and -insoluble materials were suspended in polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (PAGE) sample buffer containing 5.5 M urea and analyzed by sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS)-PAGE and immunoblotting.

**Antibodies.** The following antibodies (dilution and origin) were used in this study. Anti-LidA (1:10,000 [6]), anti-GFP (1:2,000; Molecular Probes), anticalnexin (1:10,000; BD Bioscience), anti-RhoGDI (1:500; Santa Cruz Biotechnology), anti-ERGIC53 (1:1,000; gift of H. P. Hauri, Biozentrum, Basel, Switzerland), anti-GM130 (1:100; BD Transduction Laboratories), anti-p115 (1:100; gift of G. Watters, Merck, Inc.), anti-TGN46 (1:100; Serotec), goat anti-rabbit horseradish peroxidase conjugate (1:10,000; Zymed), and donkey anti-rabbit or -mouse Texas Red or fluorescein isothiocyanate conjugate (1:500; Jackson Immunoresearch).

**Digitonin and mechanical fractionation of U937 cells infected with** *L. pneu*mophila. Differentiated U937 cells (10<sup>7</sup>) were incubated with postexponential *L*. *pneumophila* (multiplicity of infection, 5) for 1, 6, or 12 h in 10-cm<sup>2</sup> dishes. The digitonin fractionation assay was performed as previously described (22). Briefly, adherent infected cells were resuspended in 5 ml of PBS containing 1% purified digitonin and fractionated by incubation for 20 min at room temperature with intermittent vortexing. The cell lysates were processed as described above for the fractionation of *L. pneumophila* except that the digitonin-insoluble material was further solubilized in 1% SDS. For mechanical fractionation, the infected cells were resuspended in PBS and homogenized using a Dounce homogenizer until 90% of the cells were broken as assessed visually. After centrifugation (1 h; 35,000 rpm; 4°C), the cytosolic fraction was collected, and the membrane fraction was subjected to digitonin solubilization. The samples were then processed as described above.

**Plasmid construction.** Vectors allowing expression of GFP-LidA fusion derivatives in mammalian cells were constructed by insertion of an EcoRI/BamHI PCR product corresponding to the  $lidA$  gene (full open reading frame or truncated versions) into the EcoRI and BamHI restriction sites of pEGFP-C1 (Clontech).

The vector used to integrate the *lidA* gene under the control of a galactoseinducible promoter at the *URA3* locus of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* was constructed by insertion of an EcoRI/BamHI PCR product corresponding to the *lidA* open reading frame into the EcoRI and BamHI restriction sites of pDK20 (a gift from A. Murray, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA). The plasmid was digested with StuI prior to transformation and integrated at the *URA3* locus. The transformants were selected on SC medium containing 2% glucose and lacking uracil.

**Transfection and immunofluorescence.** COS1 cells  $(3 \times 10^4)$  were seeded onto glass coverslips in 24-well dishes and were transfected the next day with  $1 \mu$ g of plasmid DNA using the calcium phosphate transfection method (Invitrogen). The cells were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde, permeabilized in 0.1% Triton X-100 for 5 min, and stained with the appropriate antibody. The coverslips were mounted using Fluoguard Antifade reagent (Bio-Rad).

**Quantification of the expression level of GFP-LidA.** Based on visual inspection, pictures of cells expressing the GFP-LidA fusion protein at a low or high level were captured using a Hammatsu Orca 100 cooled charge-coupled device camera. The saved images were analyzed with IPLab Spectrum on a Macintosh computer, and the total pixel intensity in the region of interest corresponding to the perinuclear area in which LidA accumulated was measured. A low or a high level of expression was represented by the mean of the values of the total pixel intensity obtained from 10 different transfected cells.

*L. pneumophila* **infection and infectious-center assay.** Postexponential-phase *L. pneumophila* strains were introduced onto monolayers of  $10^5$  COS1 cells in 24-well dishes (multiplicity of infection, 5) by centrifugation for 5 min at 1,000 rpm. After incubation for 2 h at 37°C in the presence of 5%  $CO<sub>2</sub>$ , the monolayers were washed to synchronize the infection and further incubated for 12 h at 37°C,  $5\%$  CO<sub>2</sub> prior to fixation. The samples were stained for extracellular and total bacteria, and the number of intracellular bacteria in each vacuole was recorded by visual inspection.

**Yeast labeling and immunoprecipitation of CPY.** *S. cerevisiae* was grown with aeration at 30°C in SC medium containing 2% galactose and lacking methionine and cysteine from an  $A_{600}$  of 0.3 to an  $A_{600}$  of 1 (4 to 5 h), followed by transfer to SC medium containing 2% glucose and lacking methionine and cysteine for the duration of the procedure. The cells were pulse-labeled with  $[^{35}S]Met/Cys$ (50  $\mu$ Ci/*A*<sub>600</sub> unit) (Pro-Mix; Amersham) for 5 min, and a chase was initiated by the addition of unlabeled methionine and cysteine (2 mM final concentration). At the indicated time points,  $3 A_{600}$  units were collected, and the reaction was stopped by the addition of an equal volume of ice-cold  $H_2O$  containing 20 mM sodium azide and 10  $\mu$ g/ml of cycloheximide. Cell lysis and carboxypeptidase Y (CPY) immunoprecipitation were performed as previously described (32). The anti-CPY antibody was obtained from U.S. Biological and used at 1:1,000. Immunoprecipitates were visualized using a phosphorimager. The intensities of the bands corresponding to CPY precursors and mature forms were determined for each time point by using IQMac software, and the percentage of CPY precursors was calculated for each time point.

**Electron microscopy.** *S. cerevisiae* was grown at 30°C in SC medium containing  $2\%$  galactose and lacking methionine and cysteine to an  $A_{600}$  of 1 as described for the CPY assay and processed for electron microscopy as described previously (12). Samples were sectioned and analyzed using a Philips CM-10 transmission electron microscope.

#### **RESULTS**

**LidA is membrane associated after its translocation into the host cell.** In a previous study (6), we observed continued association of LidA with the phagosomal membrane during *L. pneumophila* intracellular growth. This result indicated that LidA was translocated early after infection and that its presence in the cell was maintained throughout the growth cycle of the bacteria. This is in contrast to a previous proposal that substrates of the Dot/Icm system are involved only in the earliest steps of intracellular growth (30). To investigate translocation further, we used a biochemical assay to determine if LidA accumulates during intracellular growth and to distinguish whether it is present in a cytosolic or membrane-associated compartment. An assay was used based on the selective detergent extraction of proteins from the cytoplasm and the membranes of infected cells without releasing proteins associated with the bacteria (22). To identify the proper detergent, the resistance of *L. pneumophila* to a variety of agents was tested.



FIG. 1. Membrane association of LidA after translocation into host cells. (A) *L. pneumophila* (WT) and an isogenic *dotA* mutant (*dotA*), both expressing GFP, were grown to postexponential phase and resuspended in PBS containing either 1% Triton X-100, 1% CHAPS, 1% OG, or 1% digitonin (see Materials and Methods). The detergent-soluble and -insoluble fractions were analyzed by immunoblotting using antibodies directed against LidA or GFP. (B) U937 cells were incubated for 1, 6, or 12 h with either *L. pneumophila* (WT) or the isogenic *dotA* mutant (*dotA*), both expressing GFP, prior to incubation for 20 min in PBS containing 1% digitonin. The detergent-soluble and -insoluble fractions were analyzed by immunoblotting using antibodies directed against LidA or GFP. *Lp*, wild-type *L. pneumophila* grown in bacteriological medium and directly resuspended in sample buffer; Uninf., uninfected. (C) U937 cells were incubated for 6 h with either *L. pneumophila* (WT) or the isogenic *dotA* mutant (*dotA*), both expressing GFP, prior to mechanical fractionation (see Materials and Methods). The cytosolic fraction was separated from the membrane fraction by ultracentrifugation, and the membrane fraction was subjected to digitonin extraction (see Materials and Methods). The cytosolic fraction (Cytoplasm) and the digitonin-soluble fraction (Membrane Dig. Sol.) were analyzed by immunoblotting using antibodies directed against LidA, calnexin, or RhoGDI.

*L. pneumophila* or a strain harboring a disrupted Dot/Icm complex (*dotA* mutant) expressing GFP was incubated for 20 min in PBS containing either Triton X-100, CHAPS, octylglucoside (OG), or 1% digitonin (see Materials and Methods). The detergent-soluble and -insoluble fractions were analyzed by immunoblotting using antibodies directed against LidA or GFP (Fig. 1A). Incubation of the bacteria in Triton, CHAPS, or OG led to the extraction of both LidA and GFP (Fig. 1A, compare lanes 1 to 6 from right and left blots). LidA and GFP, however, remained mainly in the detergent-insoluble fractions after incubation of the bacteria in digitonin (Fig. 1A, compare lanes 7 to lanes 8), indicating that *L. pneumophila* is much more resistant to extraction with this detergent than the others tested. Therefore, incubation of infected macrophages with 1% digitonin will selectively solubilize bacterial proteins that have been exported into the mammalian cell. These results also indicate that GFP, a protein present in large amounts in the cytosol of the bacteria and which is not secreted by the type IV secretion system, can be used as a negative control for

translocation. To perform a time course of LidA export into the host cell, U937 macrophage-like cells were incubated for 1, 6, or 12 h with either wild-type *L. pneumophila* or a *dotA* mutant and then subjected to digitonin fractionation with subsequent SDS extraction of the digitonin-insoluble fraction (see Materials and Methods). The digitonin-soluble and -insoluble fractions were analyzed by immunoblotting using antibodies directed against LidA and GFP (see Materials and Methods). As shown in Fig. 1B, LidA, but not GFP, was found in the digitoninsoluble fraction (Fig. 1B, left, WT). Moreover, LidA appeared to accumulate in the host cells, as the amount found in the digitonin-soluble fraction increased over time (Fig. 1B, left, compare WT at 1, 6, and 12 h). In addition, we observed a difference in the apparent molecular weight of LidA that was dependent on incubation of the bacteria with eukaryotic cells and digitonin (Fig. 1B, left, compare *Lp* to digitonin soluble). A similar result was observed with GFP, arguing against LidA processing once it is translocated in the host cell. The presence of LidA in the digitonin-soluble fraction was dependent on an intact Dot/Icm complex (Fig. 1B, left, *dotA*), and a *lidA* mutant showed no immunoreactive band corresponding to LidA (data not shown). The immunoreactive signal was also dependent on the presence of *L. pneumophila* in the cell, since LidA and GFP were not detected in the digitonin-soluble and -insoluble fractions of uninfected U937 cells (Fig. 1B, Uninf.).

To determine whether translocated LidA was free in the cytoplasm or membrane associated, U937 cells were incubated for 6 h with *L. pneumophila* (WT or *dotA* mutant) and mechanically disrupted. The membranes were separated from the cytoplasm by high-speed centrifugation and then subjected to digitonin solubilization (see Materials and Methods). As shown in Fig. 1C, analysis of the cellular localization of LidA showed that the protein was not present in the soluble fraction of cells infected with either wild-type *L. pneumophila* or the *dotA* mutant (Fig. 1C, top). However, LidA was present in the digitonin-solubilized membrane fraction when the cells were infected with wild-type *L. pneumophila* (Fig. 1C, top). Calnexin, an ER membrane protein, was found only in the digitonin-soluble membrane fraction (Fig. 1C, middle), while the cytosolic marker, RhoGDI, was enriched in the soluble supernatant fraction relative to the membrane, in contrast to the fractionation of LidA (Fig. 1C, bottom). Therefore, translocated LidA appears to accumulate in host cell membranes during the replication cycle of *L. pneumophila*.

**LidA localizes to early secretory compartments and causes their disruption when overexpressed.** In order to investigate the function of LidA, we analyzed the cellular localization of a GFP-LidA fusion protein and the effect of its overexpression on transiently transfected COS1 cells. Mechanical fractionation of the transfected cells expressing GFP-LidA indicated that the fusion protein was membrane associated (data not shown). Immunofluorescence analysis indicated that the GFP-

LidA fusion protein was concentrated in a perinuclear area of the host cell (Fig. 2A and B, left). Immunostaining using antibodies directed against proteins of the ERGIC (endoplasmic reticulum-Golgi intermediate compartment) (ERGIC53 [39]) (Fig. 2A, top) or the Golgi (GM130 [25]) (Fig. 2B, top) revealed that this region corresponded to the ERGIC and the Golgi. These cellular compartments were intact in cells that expressed GFP-LidA at a low level  $(\sim$  598 arbitrary units/perinuclear region of interest) (Fig. 2A and B, top). However, in cells expressing large amounts of GFP-LidA ( $\sim$ 2,392 arbitrary units/perinuclear region of interest), the ERGIC was redistributed throughout the cells (Fig. 2A, bottom) and the Golgi was undetectable (Fig. 2B, bottom). Quantification of ERGIC disruption indicated that in the absence of GFP-LidA (Fig. 2C, Untransf.), the ERGIC was intact in 95% of the cells. However, in cells expressing low levels of GFP-LidA, only 75% of the cells showed an intact ERGIC (Fig. 2C, Low GFPLidA; *P*  $\leq$  5  $\times$  10<sup>-5</sup>), while less than 5% of the cells expressing large amounts of GFP-LidA had an intact ERGIC (Fig. 2C, High GFPLidA). A similar result was obtained when the disruption of the Golgi apparatus was analyzed. In the absence of GFP-LidA, the Golgi was intact in 90% of the cells (Fig. 2D, Untransf.). In contrast, only 60% of the cells expressing GFP-LidA at a low level (Fig. 2D, Low GFPLidA;  $P \le 0.0007$ ) and 10% of the cells expressing large amounts of GFP-LidA (Fig. 2D, High GFPLidA) had an intact Golgi apparatus based on staining with anti-GM130. Both the *cis*- and the *trans*-Golgi appeared disrupted, because we observed similar results when the cells were probed with antibody directed against either p115 (*cis*-Golgi marker) (45) or TGN46 (*trans*-Golgi marker) (28) (Fig. 2D).

**The coiled-coil-rich region of LidA targets the protein to compartments of the secretory pathway and causes ERGIC and Golgi disruption.** We next investigated which region of LidA was responsible for its localization to compartments of the secretory pathway and its ability to disrupt the ERGIC and the Golgi apparatus. LidA contains a central region predicted to be rich in coiled-coil structures (amino acids [aa] 191 to 600) that includes four subdomains, called here D1 (aa 303 to 358), D2 (aa 344 to 401), D3 (aa 434 to 490), and D4 (aa 491 to 548) (Fig. 3A). D1 and D3 share 47% amino acid identity, while D2 and D4 are 30% identical. Based on domain analysis, a series of truncated GFP-tagged versions of LidA were constructed and expressed in COS1 cells. Immunofluorescence of the transfected cells indicated that the amino- and carboxy-terminal regions of LidA were dispensable for the localization of the protein to the ERGIC (Fig. 3A, constructs 1 to 600 and 191 to 729). In addition, neither of these regions alone localized to the ERGIC (Fig. 3A and B, constructs 1 to 190 and 601 to 729). However, the region predicted to be rich in coiled-coil structure is sufficient to target LidA to the ERGIC of the cell (Fig. 3A and B, construct 191 to 600), although the most carboxy-terminal coiled-coil region was dispensable for this localization (Fig. 3A, construct 191 to 541). Smaller derivatives that further cut this region into subdomains failed to target to the ERGIC (data not shown). We observed a positive correlation between the ability of the truncated versions of LidA to localize to the ERGIC of the host cell and their ability to disrupt the ERGIC and the Golgi apparatus when expressed in large amounts (Fig. 3A). We have previously shown that *L.*



FIG. 2. The GFP-LidA fusion protein localizes to early secretory compartments and causes their disruption when overexpressed. (A and B) Immunofluorescence micrographs of COS1 cells expressing GFP-LidA at low (top row) or high (bottom row) levels and stained with antibodies directed against either the ERGIC marker, ERGIC53 (A), or the Golgi marker, GM130 (B). Left, GFPLidA; middle, ERGIC53/GM130; right, merge. Bars, 10  $\mu$ m. (C and D) Quantification of ERGIC (C) or Golgi (D) disruption in either untransfected COS1 (Untransf.) or transfectants expressing either low levels (Low GFPLidA) or high levels (High GFPLidA) of GFPLidA. The cells were stained with anti-ERGIC53 to assay for ERGIC disruption and with anti-GM130, p115, or TGN46 to assay for disruption of the Golgi, the *cis*-Golgi, and the *trans*-Golgi, respectively. The values represent the mean  $\pm$  standard deviation of three independent experiments.

*pneumophila* replication within COS1 cells was similar to that observed in macrophage-like cell types (8), so we next tested if expression of a truncated version of LidA would affect *L. pneumophila* intracellular growth. For this purpose, transiently transfected COS1 cells expressing the constructs described above were incubated with *L. pneumophila*, and the number of bacteria per vacuole was determined 14 h postinfection. Even though the ERGIC and the Golgi apparatus were clearly disrupted upon expression of large amounts of these constructs, none of them had an effect on the intracellular replication of *L. pneumophila* (Fig. 3A), as in each transfectant, at least 70% of the vacuoles showed more than 10 bacteria at 14 h postinfection. This indicates that in COS1 cells LidA-mediated disruption of compartments of the early secretory pathway did not affect intracellular growth.

**LidA interferes with the secretory pathway of** *Saccharomyces cerevisiae***.** The disruption of the Golgi apparatus observed in mammalian cells may be due to the perturbation of the early secretory pathway. To directly demonstrate that LidA affects secretion, the protein was expressed in the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, which has many elements of its secretory pathway conserved in higher eukaryotes and is an attractive model

to study bacterial pathogenesis (41). When the *lidA* gene, under the control of a galactose-inducible promoter, was integrated at the *URA3* locus, three categories of clones (illustrated by clones A6, A2, and A7) were obtained based on their survival on solid media (Fig. 4A). The growth defects observed were positively correlated with the amount of LidA produced (Fig. 4A and B).

When spotted on solid media using noninducing conditions (glucose), the growth of all three clones was comparable to that of a strain containing a vector control (v) (Fig. 4B, left). Under conditions in which LidA was expressed (galactose), however, only the growth of the clone A6 was comparable to that of a clone containing a vector control. A2 showed an intermediate growth defect, and A7 was completely defective for growth (Fig. 4B, right), suggesting that LidA expression interfered with a critical cellular function.

The transit of the CPY enzyme (42) from the ER to the vacuole was investigated in these clones to determine whether transport through the secretory pathway was affected by LidA. CPY is synthesized in the ER as a precursor (p1CPY; 67 kDa) and travels through the Golgi, where the protein is highly glycosylated (p2CPY; 69 kDa), prior to targeting the vacuole,



FIG. 3. The predicted coiled-coil domain of LidA targets the protein to early secretory compartments and causes ERGIC/Golgi disruption. (A) Schematic representation of truncated LidA polypeptides that were fused to GFP. The extent of each deletion is shown on the left. The coiled-coil-rich domain is indicated in grey. Dark-grey circles indicate the predicted coiled-coil structures, and dark- and light-grey squares indicate the repeats (D1 to D4), with the square color indicating regions of highest sequence similarity (see the text). The cellular localization of each construct and its ability to disrupt the ERGIC or the Golgi apparatus or to affect *L. pneumophila* intracellular growth is indicated on the right.  $+$ , present;  $-$ , absent; ND, not determined. (B) Immunofluorescence micrographs of COS1 cells expressing truncated versions of LidA: amino acids 1 to 190 (top) or amino acids 191 to 549 (bottom) fused to the GFP and stained with antibodies directed against the Golgi marker, GM130. Left, GFP-LidA; middle, GM130; right, merge. Bars,  $10 \mu m$ .

where it is processed and accumulates as a mature form (mCPY; 61kD). This maturation was followed in a pulse-chase experiment, analyzing labeled CPY by immunoprecipitation (see Materials and Methods). When yeast cells containing a vector control were grown in glucose (noninducing conditions) or galactose (inducing conditions), the precursor form of CPY (p1CPY) was processed into its mature form during a 30-min chase after 5 min of pulse-labeling (Fig. 4C, compare v Glc/ Gal, 0 min, to v Glc/Gal, 30 min). The same result was observed when yeast cells containing an integrated copy of the *lidA* gene (clone A2) expressing intermediate amounts of the protein were grown under noninducing conditions (Fig. 4C, A2, Glc, 30 min). However, when LidA expression was induced, p1CPY accumulated (Fig. 4C, compare A2, Glc, 30 min, to A2, Gal, 30 min). Under conditions in which 100% of CPY precursor was processed in a strain harboring a vector

control, 25 to 50% of CPY remained in precursor form in the LidA-expressing A2 clone (Fig. 4E and F). Moreover, the precursor of CPY was maintained for an extended period of time in the LidA-expressing strain, as 10% of the total CPY was still present even after 2 h of chase (Fig. 4D and F). No defect in CPY secretion was observed in yeast expressing LidA at a lower level (clone A6) (data not shown), while the highest LidA-expressing clone (A7) was not analyzed further because it was completely defective for growth shortly after transfer into galactose-containing medium (data not shown).

The observed secretion defect caused by LidA expression in *S. cerevisiae* was associated with intracellular morphological alterations, as determined by electron microscopy of yeast cells grown under inducing conditions. Cells expressing LidA at a low level (clone A6) showed accumulation of dense material that appeared to be clusters of vesicles approximately 50 nm in diameter (Fig. 5C and D) that was not present in the vectorcontaining control (Fig. 5A and B). In addition, cells expressing LidA at a higher level (clone A2) showed accumulation of multimembranous compartments containing vesicular structures of various sizes and shapes (Fig. 5E, F, G, and H). The changes are reminiscent of morphological abnormalities observed in yeast secretory mutants (7, 20). Therefore, high expression levels of LidA disrupt the growth of *S. cerevisiae*, and this appears to be the consequence of dysfunction of the secretory pathway.

*L. pneumophila* **replication vacuole is in close contact with the ERGIC and the Golgi apparatus.** Artificial expression of large amounts of LidA led to disruption of early secretory compartments in both mammalian cells and yeast, suggesting that the protein interacts with those compartments. LidA-mediated disruption of the ERGIC and the Golgi, however, did not affect *L. pneumophila* intracellular replication (Fig. 3A), raising the possibility that the ERGIC and the Golgi may also be disrupted when LidA is exported into the host cell under infection conditions. Therefore, the integrity of the ERGIC and Golgi was analyzed in mammalian cells 14 h postinfection with wild-type *L. pneumophila.* We observed that in COS1 cells, both the ERGIC and the Golgi apparatus were intact in cells harboring replicating *L. pneumophila*. In addition, replicative vacuoles harboring dozens of bacteria were found localized in a perinuclear region that corresponded to the ERGIC (Fig. 6A), and they were also found in close contact with the Golgi apparatus, based on staining with anti-GM130 (Fig. 6B). For the most part, the Golgi was located between the vacuoles and the nucleus, and it was not unusual to observe hand-like extensions of the replicative vacuole that were surrounding part of the Golgi (data not shown). We performed a quantitative analysis of the association of *L. pneumophila* vacuoles with the Golgi, depending on the size of the replication vacuole. A vacuole was considered to be in association with the Golgi if at least one bacterium was in close contact with it. The results indicated a positive correlation between the size of the vacuole containing bacteria and its association with the Golgi (Fig. 6C). Therefore, it seems likely that the *L. pneumophila*containing vacuole integrates into the secretory pathway in order to facilitate the recruitment of early secretory vesicles necessary for the establishment and maintenance of the replication vacuole.



FIG. 4. Delay in CPY maturation in yeast cells expressing LidA. (A) Yeast strains harboring chromosomal copies of *lidA* under the control of the galactose-inducible promoter (A6, A2, and A7) or containing a vector control (v) grown in YPGal were analyzed by immunoblotting using antibody directed against LidA. The strains were adjusted to equivalent numbers of 0.1 *A*<sub>600</sub> units. (B) Tenfold serial dilutions of different yeast strains containing *lidA* under the control of a galactose-inducible promoter (A6, A2, and A7) or containing a vector control (v) were spotted onto YPD (Glucose) or YPGal (Galactose) plates and incubated at 30°C for 3 days. (C) Yeast cells containing a vector control (v) or a chromosomal copy of *lidA* under the control of a galactose-inducible promoter (A2) were grown at 30°C in glucose (Glc) or galactose (Gal) to an  $A_{600}$  of 1. The cells were pulse-labeled with  $[^{35}S]$ Met/Cys for 5 min and chased for 0 min (0 min) or 30 min (30 min) (see Materials and Methods). Immunoprecipitations of CPY were performed, immunoprecipitates were subjected to SDS-PAGE, and relative abundance was determined as described in Materials and Methods. (D) Yeast cells containing a chromosomal copy of *lidA* under the control of a galactose-inducible promoter (A2) were grown at 30°C in galactose to an  $A_{600}$  of 1 and were processed as described for panel C, except that samples were collected 0, 30, and 120 min after the beginning of the chase. (E) Quantification of CPY maturation. The percentages of CPY precursor, corresponding to the experiment shown in panel C, were calculated (see Materials and Methods) for both strains (v and  $\overline{A}2$ ) grown in glucose (+ Glc) or galactose (+ Gal) after 0 min or 30 min of chase. (F) Quantification of CPY maturation corresponding to the experiment shown in panel D.

## **DISCUSSION**

LidA in the host cell. We have previously shown by immunofluorescence analysis that LidA is exposed on the surfaces of *L. pneumophila* vacuoles in a Dot/Icm-dependent manner (6). To further investigate LidA secretion into the host cell, we used a biochemical assay previously reported by Lee et al. to study the secretion of *Yersinia* Yop proteins in HeLa cells (22) and based on the selective solubilization of eukaryotic membranes of infected cells. We showed that LidA was translocated and accumulated within the host cell throughout the intracellular replication cycle of *L. pneumophila*. The apparent molecular weight of LidA in the digitonin-soluble fraction was smaller than that observed in bacterial extracts, but the same phenomenon was observed with GFP, so we suspect that the difference in apparent size was due to effects of digitonin on the electrophoretic mobility of the samples. Substrates of type III or type IV secretion systems, such as the EPEC receptor, Tir (21), or CagA from *Helicobacter pylori* (33), are phosphorylated after translocation into the host cell, so we cannot exclude the possibility that LidA may be processed in the host cell.

After its translocation, LidA was found associated with the membranes of the host cell. We have previously shown by immunofluorescence on infected macrophages that, at late



FIG. 5. Yeast cells expressing LidA accumulate vesicles and multimembranous compartments. Yeast cells containing a vector control (A and B) or a chromosomal copy of *lidA* under the control of a galactose-inducible promoter (C and D, A6; E, F, G, and H, A2) were grown at 30°C in galactose to an  $A_{600}$  of 1 and processed for electron microscopy. The panels on the right represent enlargements of a section of the pictures presented in the panels on the left. Arrowheads and arrows indicate accumulation of vesicles and multimembranous compartments, respectively. N, nucleus; Va, vacuole; m, mitochondria. Bars,  $1 \mu m$  (right panels) and  $0.2 \mu m$  (left panels).



FIG. 6. The *L. pneumophila* replication vacuole is in close contact with early secretory compartments. (A and B) Immunofluorescence of COS1 cells incubated for 14 h with wild-type *L. pneumophila* and stained for the ERGIC (A; anti-ERGIC53) or the Golgi apparatus (B; anti-GM130). (Top rows) *L. pneumophila* is shown in green, and the ERGIC or the Golgi apparatus in red. (Bottom rows) Merged and phase images. N, nucleus. Bar,  $10 \mu m$ . (C) Quantification of the association of the replication vacuoles with the Golgi apparatus. Displayed are the numbers (Nbr) of cells for which the vacuoles are in association with the Golgi apparatus and that have the indicated numbers of bacteria per vacuole. The values represent the means plus standard deviations of three independent experiments.

times of infection, LidA was detected throughout the cell in addition to decorating the phagosomal membrane (6). Therefore, once translocated into the host cell, LidA localization appears to extend beyond the vacuolar membrane into the cell.

The GFP-LidA fusion protein was membrane associated and concentrated in the ERGIC/Golgi area when overexpressed in mammalian cells, so it seems likely that LidA is targeted to membranes of early secretory compartments. This hypothesis is supported by the fact that overexpression of large amounts of GFP-LidA in mammalian cells appeared to disrupt the ER-to-Golgi traffic, causing the redistribution of the ERGIC throughout the cell and dissipation of the Golgi. This phenomenon is reminiscent of the consequences of overexpression of a GDP-bound form of Rab1 (Rab1S25N), a small GTPase involved in regulating the ER-to-Golgi traffic, which causes apparent loss of the Golgi apparatus (27). Consistent with our results for LidA overexpression in mammalian cells, yeast expressing LidA exhibits characteristics of secretory mutants, including delays in CPY maturation and accumulation of small vesicles (20). In addition, yeast expressing the greatest amount of LidA also accumulated multimembranous compartments that resembled mammalian autophagic compartments. The degree of defective CPY secretion appeared to correlate with LidA expression levels. A small amount of LidA led to accumulation of vesicles but left the ER-to-Golgi traffic functional, based on CPY processing. Higher expression levels of LidA, however, led to accumulation of more vesicles, exacerbating perturbation of the secretory pathway, leading to engulfment of excess material in multimembranous compartments. Similar structures had been previously observed in yeast cells expressing a GTP-bound form of Ypt1 (Rab1) in a background deficient for its dedicated GTPase-activating protein (GAP) (7). We believe that LidA overexpression in eukaryotic cells or yeast reflects an exaggeration of what is happening under infection conditions that leads to a very drastic effect on the secretory pathway. Since the ERGIC and the Golgi were intact in infected cells, it is more likely that under infection conditions the amount of LidA that is delivered into the host cell is sufficient to interfere with the ER-to-Golgi traffic without disrupting it, as observed in COS1 cells or yeast expressing very little of the protein.

**Association of the replicative vacuole with the Golgi apparatus.** We observed that during *L. pneumophila* intracellular multiplication, the replication vacuole was in close contact with the ERGIC and the Golgi apparatus. Moreover, the association of the vacuole with the Golgi was positively correlated with the size of the replication vacuole. One may argue that as the bacteria multiply, the replication vacuole becomes larger and therefore appears closer to the ERGIC or the Golgi apparatus, due to space limitations. This does not appear to be the case, because even after extensive intracellular replication, the vacuole occupies only a small portion of the cytoplasm. Association of bacterial pathogens with the Golgi apparatus has been observed. In epithelial cells, the vacuole containing *Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhimurium is surrounded by the Golgi membrane (31), and the vacuole containing *Chlamydia trachomatis* also migrates to the peri-Golgi region of the host cell, where it fuses with a subset of Golgi-derived exocytic vesicles (13, 14). It is proposed that *Salmonella* and *Chlamydia* interact with the Golgi apparatus to satisfy nutritional requirements. Despite the close contact with the Golgi apparatus, *L. pneumophila* does not appear to exchange material with this compartment. Indeed, analysis of isolated vacuoles containing bacteria showed that although proteins of the early secretory



FIG. 7. Schematic representation of LidA-mediated ER-derived vesicle recruitment to the *L. pneumophila*-containing vacuole. Upon *L. pneumophila* uptake by the host cell, LidA (stars) is injected into the host cell cytoplasm via the type IV secretion system (double lines). The protein then associates with the phagosomal membrane and with compartments of the secretory pathway, such as the ERGIC. In this model, LidA interacts with a host protein(s) of the secretory pathway to facilitate the recruitment of ER-derived vesicles to the *L. pneumophila* (*Lp*)-containing vacuole. This may be facilitated by the migration of the phagosome in the vicinity of the ERGIC and the Golgi apparatus.

pathway were associated with this compartment, it was devoid of Golgi markers (8). Moreover, unlike those of *Salmonella* and *Chlamydia*, the *L. pneumophila* vacuole is surrounded by the ER and located in the peri-ERGIC region of the host cell. Therefore, it seems likely that the *L. pneumophila* replication vacuole integrates into the secretory pathway, perhaps, as previously proposed (18), to optimize the recruitment of vesicles that traffic between the ER and the Golgi apparatus. The purpose of this localization could be to sequester nutrients for the bacterium or to allow the vacuolar membrane to enlarge around the bacteria.

**The model.** Our results are consistent with the following model (Fig. 7). Upon *L. pneumophila* uptake by the host cell, LidA is translocated and is associated with the vacuolar membrane and with compartments derived from the early secretory apparatus via its region that is rich in coiled-coil structure. Such structures have been found in many tethering factors, as well as SNARE-like proteins involved in vesicle docking and fusion (3). Therefore, it is possible that LidA interacts with a host protein(s) of the secretory pathway in order to mediate the recruitment of early secretory vesicles to the *L. pneumophila*-containing vacuole. This process is probably facilitated by the close association of the replication vacuole with the ER-GIC and the Golgi apparatus. We believe that the vacuole integrates into the early secretory pathway, where it mimics the Golgi apparatus and intercepts material that would normally head to the Golgi. However, since the ERGIC and the Golgi are left intact as *L. pneumophila* replicates, the amount of LidA injected into the host cell is probably highly regulated, in order to intercept ER-to-Golgi traffic without disrupting the secretory pathway and to prevent dissipation of preexisting organelles.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

We thank Susan Van Rheenen, Molly Bergman, Marion Shonn-Dorer, Matthias Machner, and Zhao-Qing Luo for reviewing the manuscript and H. P. Hauri and G. Watters for gifts of reagents.

R.R.I. is an Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI). I.D. is a Human Frontier Science Program Fellow. This work was supported by the HHMI.

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*Editor:* D. L. Burns

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