

# Differential Recognition of Tyrosine-based Basolateral Signals by AP-1B Subunit $\mu$ 1B in Polarized Epithelial Cells

Hisashi Sugimoto,<sup>\*†</sup> Masayuki Sugahara,<sup>\*</sup> Heike Fölsch,<sup>‡</sup> Yasuhiro Koide,<sup>\*§</sup> Fubito Nakatsu,<sup>\*§</sup> Naotaka Tanaka,<sup>\*</sup> Toshiro Nishimura,<sup>†</sup> Mitsuru Furukawa,<sup>†</sup> Chris Mullins,<sup>||</sup> Nobuhiro Nakamura,<sup>\*</sup> Ira Mellman,<sup>‡</sup> and Hiroshi Ohno<sup>\*§¶</sup>

<sup>\*</sup>Division of Molecular Membrane Biology, Cancer Research Institute, and <sup>†</sup>Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery, Kanazawa University Graduate School of Medical Science, Kanazawa, Ishikawa 920-0934, Japan; <sup>‡</sup>Department of Cell Biology and Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, Connecticut 06520-8002; <sup>§</sup>RIKEN Research Center for Allergy and Immunology, Yokohama, Kanagawa 230-0045, Japan; and <sup>||</sup>Cell Biology and Metabolism Branch, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland 20892-5430

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To investigate the importance of tyrosine recognition by the AP-1B clathrin adaptor subunit  $\mu$ 1B for basolateral sorting of integral membrane proteins in polarized epithelial cells, we have produced and characterized a mutant form of  $\mu$ 1B. The mutant (M- $\mu$ 1B) contains alanine substitutions of each of the four conserved residues, which in the AP-2 adaptor subunit  $\mu$ 2 are critical for interacting with tyrosine-based endocytosis signals. We show M- $\mu$ 1B is defective for tyrosine binding *in vitro*, but is nevertheless incorporated into AP-1 complexes in transfected cells. Using LLC-PK1 cells expressing either wild type or M- $\mu$ 1B, we find that there is inefficient basolateral expression of membrane proteins whose basolateral targeting signals share critical tyrosines with signals for endocytosis. In contrast, membrane proteins whose basolateral targeting signals are distinct from their endocytosis signals (transferrin and low-density lipoprotein receptors) accumulate at the basolateral domain normally, although in a manner that is strictly dependent on  $\mu$ 1B or M- $\mu$ 1B expression. Our results suggest that  $\mu$ 1B interacts with different classes of basolateral targeting signals in distinct ways.

## INTRODUCTION

The plasma membrane of epithelial cells is physically separated by the tight junction into two distinct domains: the apical and the basolateral membranes. These two membrane domains have distinct lipid and protein compositions, which is thought to be important for the polarity and function of epithelial cells (Mellman, 1996; Aroeti *et al.*, 1998; Mostov *et al.*, 2000). To maintain the “polar” distribution of newly synthesized membrane proteins, as well as those endocytosed from the cell surface, proteins must be transported to the proper plasma membrane domain from the

*trans*-Golgi network (TGN) or from the endosomal compartments, respectively.

Polarized targeting of basolateral plasma membrane proteins is largely dependent on distinct sorting signals present in their cytoplasmic domains (Mellman, 1996; Aroeti *et al.*, 1998; Mostov *et al.*, 2000). Some of these basolateral sorting signals show a sequence similarity with tyrosine-based or dileucine-based endocytosis signals, which are well known as clathrin-coated pit targeting signals (Matter and Mellman, 1994). Because these coated pit targeting signals directly interact with adaptor protein (AP) complexes of clathrin coats (Ohno *et al.*, 1995; Boll *et al.*, 1996; Dell’Angelica *et al.*, 1997; Rapoport *et al.*, 1998; Rodionov and Bakke, 1998; Hofmann *et al.*, 1999), it had been hypothesized early on that an AP or AP-like complex may play a similar role in basolateral sorting in epithelial cells (Hunziker *et al.*, 1991).

AP complexes comprise a family of heterotetrameric protein complexes (AP-1 through AP-4) consisting of two large ( $\alpha$ ,  $\gamma$ ,  $\delta$  or  $\epsilon$ , and  $\beta$ ), one medium ( $\mu$ ), and one small ( $\sigma$ )

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<sup>¶</sup> Corresponding author. E-mail address: [hohno@kenroku.kanazawa-u.ac.jp](mailto:hohno@kenroku.kanazawa-u.ac.jp).

subunit (Hirst and Robinson, 1998; Bonifacino and Dell'Angelica, 1999). Recently, we cloned a novel medium subunit,  $\mu$ 1B, which is expressed only in epithelial cells (Ohno *et al.*, 1999).  $\mu$ 1B can assemble in combinatorial manner with three subunits of AP-1A ( $\gamma$ ,  $\beta$ 1, and  $\sigma$ 1) to generate an AP-1B complex (Folsch *et al.*, 1999). Importantly, AP-1B plays an essential role in basolateral targeting of a variety of membrane proteins such as the transferrin receptor (TfR) and the low-density lipoprotein receptor (LDLR) (Folsch *et al.*, 1999, 2001). AP-1A cannot substitute for AP-1B in basolateral sorting, consistent with the fact that only AP-1B, and not AP-1A, complexes interact physically with basolateral targeting signals (Folsch *et al.*, 2001). Because the only apparent difference between these complexes is identity of their  $\mu$  subunits, it is reasonable to suspect that the  $\mu$ 1B subunit itself is responsible for recognizing basolateral targeting signals.

Indeed, it is well known that all  $\mu$  subunits at least in vitro interact directly with sorting signals that contain critical tyrosine residues, where those signals conform to the consensus sequence YXX $\emptyset$  (where Y is tyrosine; X is any amino acid; and  $\emptyset$  is a bulky, hydrophobic residue) (Ohno *et al.*, 1995, 1999; Boll *et al.*, 1996; Dell'Angelica *et al.*, 1997; Aguilar *et al.*, 2001). However,  $\mu$  subunits interact with distinct subsets of tyrosine-based signals with different affinities, a feature that is likely to reflect their ability to select different cargo proteins during transport (Ohno *et al.*, 1996, 1998). An interesting feature of basolateral targeting signals is that they tend to be highly heterogeneous, with many not conforming to the YXX $\emptyset$  motif. Even in these instances, however, transport to the basolateral surface is completely dependent on AP-1B (Folsch *et al.*, 1999). Conceivably, these different classes of signals interact with  $\mu$ 1B in distinct ways.

Thus far, the only  $\mu$  chain whose structure has been at least partially solved is the  $\mu$ 2 subunit of the AP-2 adaptor complex (Owen and Evans, 1998). By analyzing the position of a peptide containing YXX $\emptyset$ -type signal bound to  $\mu$ 2, several residues in  $\mu$ 2 were identified that seemed to be responsible for signal binding. Because these residues are also conserved in the sequence of  $\mu$ 1B, we asked whether they were also important for the binding of basolateral signals. Indeed, they were but only in the case of signals that depended on critical tyrosine residues that were also required for endocytosis.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Antibodies

A rabbit polyclonal antibody specific for a  $\mu$ 1B C-terminal peptide was described previously (Folsch *et al.*, 1999). A rabbit antiserum recognizing  $\beta$ 4 was raised against a glutathione S-transferase- $\beta$ 4 fragment (corresponding amino acid residues 452–806 of human  $\beta$ 4). An anti-human asialoglycoprotein receptor (AGPR) subunit H1 antiserum was a gift from Dr. Martin Spiess (University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland). The following antibodies were obtained from the American Type Culture Collection (Manassas, VA): 7G7.B6, a monoclonal antibody (mAb) recognizing Tac, the interleukin-2 receptor  $\alpha$  subunit; L5.1, a mAb specific for the human TfR; and a mAb specific for the human LDLR, C7. A mouse anti- $\gamma$ -adapting mAb, 100/3, was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO). The following were purchased from Molecular Probes (Eugene, OR): Alexa Fluor 488-conjugated anti-mouse and anti-rabbit IgG antibodies; Alexa Fluor 546-conjugated anti-mouse and anti-rabbit

IgG antibodies; and an Alexa Fluor 488 phalloidin. Anti-mouse and anti-rabbit IgG,  $^{125}$ I-labeled whole antibody, were purchased from Amersham Biosciences (Piscataway, NJ).

### Plasmids

GAL4ad- $\mu$ 1B, GAL4bd-EITYWFL, and GAL4bd-RSLYRRL were described previously (Ohno *et al.*, 1999). A mutant human  $\mu$ 1B cDNA (M- $\mu$ 1B), in which four amino acids (Phe<sup>172</sup>, Asp<sup>174</sup>, Trp<sup>408</sup>, and Arg<sup>410</sup>) were replaced with alanine, was produced by polymerase chain reaction-based site-directed mutagenesis, and subcloned into pcDNA3 (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) for transfection, or into pACT2 (CLONTECH, Palo Alto, CA) for two-hybrid analyses. The expression vector for the human AGPR subunit H1 and its tyrosine-to-alanine mutant, AGPR-H1(5A), were a gift from Dr. Martin Spiess. Tac-lysosomal-associated membrane protein-1 (Lamp-1) was made by polymerase chain reaction-based recombination and subcloned into pcDNA3 as described previously (Humphrey *et al.*, 1993) and has the sequence of the luminal and transmembrane domains of Tac and the cytoplasmic domain of Lamp-1. In Tac-Lamp1.YA, tyrosine in the cytoplasmic domain of Lamp-1 was substituted with alanine. cDNA encoding the human TfR (a gift from Dr. Juan S. Bonifacino, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD) was subcloned into pcDNA3. Expression constructs for LDLR were described previously (Matter *et al.*, 1992).

### Yeast Two-Hybrid Analysis

The yeast strain HF7c (CLONTECH) was maintained on YEPD (rich) medium. Transformation and two-hybrid analyses were performed as described in the instructions for the MATCHMAKER two-hybrid system (CLONTECH). In brief, GAL4-binding domain (bd) and GAL4-activation domain (ad) constructs were cotransformed into HF7c. Half of the transformants were cultured on dropout media lacking leucine and tryptophan (indicated as +His) as a control of transformation, and half were plated on media lacking leucine, tryptophan, and histidine (denoted as –His). Transformants growing on the –His plate were judged positive for protein-protein interactions.

### Cell Culture and Transfection

LLC-PK1 porcine kidney cells were cultured in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (Sigma-Aldrich) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum, 100 U/ml penicillin, and 100  $\mu$ g/ml streptomycin (Sigma-Aldrich) (regular medium). LLC-PK1 cells stably transfected with human  $\mu$ 1B (LLC-PK1:: $\mu$ 1B) (Folsch *et al.*, 1999) were grown in regular medium supplemented with 1.8 mg/ml geneticin (Invitrogen). To obtain LLC-PK1 cells stably expressing M- $\mu$ 1B, cells were transfected using the calcium phosphate precipitation, and the positive clones were selected and maintained in regular medium supplemented with 1.8 mg/ml geneticin.

### Immunoprecipitation, Gel Filtration, and Immunoblotting

LLC-PK1 transfectants were split in six-well plates 1 d before the experiment. The cells (on ice) were washed twice with ice-cold phosphate-buffered saline (PBS), and then buffer A (1% Triton X-100 [wt/vol], 0.3 M NaCl, 50 mM Tris-HCl [pH 7.4], 0.1% bovine serum albumin [wt/vol], and protease inhibitors [240  $\mu$ g/ml pBASF, 2  $\mu$ g/ml aprotinin, 157  $\mu$ g/ml benzamide, 10  $\mu$ g/ml leupeptin, 10  $\mu$ g/ml chymostatin, and 10  $\mu$ g/ml pepstatin A]) was added. The cells were recovered using a cell scraper and passed four times through a 21-gauge needle. Lysis was judged complete after a 30-min incubation on ice. The lysates were clarified by centrifugation for 15 min at 13,000 rpm in an Eppendorf centrifuge at 4°C. The resulting supernatants were used for immunoprecipitation with the 100/3 anti- $\gamma$ -adapting antibody prebound to protein G-Sepharose

(Amersham Biosciences) at 4°C. As a negative control, the 7G7 anti-Tac mAb was used in parallel. Immunoprecipitates were washed twice with buffer A, once with buffer A without Triton X-100, and eluted in SDS-PAGE sample buffer. The samples were subjected to SDS-PAGE, transferred onto Hybond-ECL membranes (Amersham Biosciences), immunoblotted with the anti- $\mu$ 1B antibody or the anti- $\gamma$ -adaptin antibody, and detected using the enhanced chemiluminescence system (Amersham Biosciences).

For gel filtration analysis, 400  $\mu$ l/well of buffer A without bovine serum albumin was used for lysis, and 200  $\mu$ l of lysis supernatant was subsequently applied to a Superose 6 gel filtration column equilibrated with buffer B (0.5 mM EDTA, 1% Triton X-100, 0.3 M NaCl, 50 mM Tris-HCl [pH 7.4]). Fractions (0.5 ml) were collected and precipitated by adding trichloroacetic acid to a final concentration of 10% (wt/vol). Samples were resolved on SDS-PAGE and subjected to Western blot analysis by using anti- $\mu$ 1B, anti- $\gamma$ -adaptin, anti- $\alpha$ -adaptin, anti- $\sigma$ 3, and anti- $\beta$ 4 antibodies.

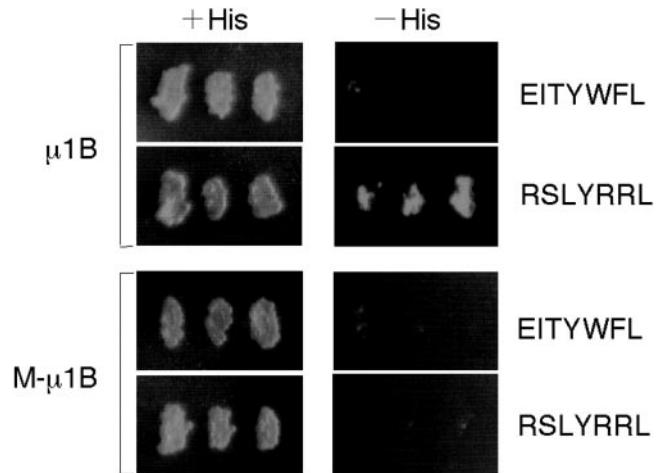
### Immunofluorescence

LLC-PK1 cells stably expressing  $\mu$ 1B or M- $\mu$ 1B were plated on polycarbonate membrane filters at a density of  $5.6 \times 10^4$  cells/6.5-mm filter (Transwell units, 0.4- $\mu$ m pore size; Corning-Costar, Corning, NY) and cultured for 4 d with daily changes of medium. Cells were transfected with the indicated expression plasmids by using GenePORTER2 (Gene Therapy Systems, San Diego, CA). After 2 d of incubation, the cells were washed twice with PBS, and the indicated antibodies were added to both the apical and the basolateral sides. After an incubation of 30 min at 4°C, cultures were washed twice with PBS and fixed in 3% paraformaldehyde/PBS for 15 min at room temperature. Subsequently, the filters were washed twice with PBS and incubated with the secondary antibodies Alexa Fluor 488 anti-mouse IgG for the apical side and Alexa Fluor 546 anti-mouse IgG for the basolateral side, respectively, for 1 h. When parental LLC-PK1 cells were stained, cells were plated at a density of  $1.7 \times 10^5$  cells/12-mm filter (0.4- $\mu$ m pore size), washed twice in PBS, incubated with the primary antibodies for 30 min at 4°C, washed twice in PBS, fixed in 3% paraformaldehyde/PBS, and incubated with Alexa Fluor 546 anti-mouse IgG for 1 h. This is because the parental cells usually fail to make a continuous monolayer. The filters were then cut off and washed four times with PBS over a period of 30 min.

For staining with Alexa Fluor 488 phalloidin, cells were cultured for 6 d with daily changes of medium, fixed in 3% paraformaldehyde, permeabilized with 0.1% Triton X-100, washed two times with PBS, and incubated for 30 min. Samples were analyzed using an LSM 510 laser scanning confocal microscope (Carl Zeiss, Thornwood, NY).

### Binding of Radioiodinated Antibodies

Parental LLC-PK1 cells or cells stably expressing  $\mu$ 1B or M- $\mu$ 1B were plated (at a density of  $1.7 \times 10^5$  cells/12-mm filter) and transfected as described for immunofluorescence experiments. After 2 d of incubation, the cells were washed twice with ice-cold PBS, and the indicated antibodies were added from either the apical or basolateral side. After an incubation of 30 min at 4°C, cultures were washed twice with PBS and fixed in 3% paraformaldehyde/PBS for 15 min at room temperature. Subsequently, the filters were washed twice with PBS and incubated with secondary antibodies (anti-mouse or anti-rabbit IgG,  $^{125}$ I-labeled whole antibody), added to both sides of the filter membrane, for 1 h at room temperature. Finally, the filters were washed twice with PBS, cut off, and cell-associated radioactivity was measured with a gamma counter. Non-specific binding was determined by measuring binding to cultures incubated with the secondary antibodies alone, which were subtracted from the cell-associated radioactivity determined as described above. All given values represent the mean of three independent experiments performed in duplicate. Mean values of the



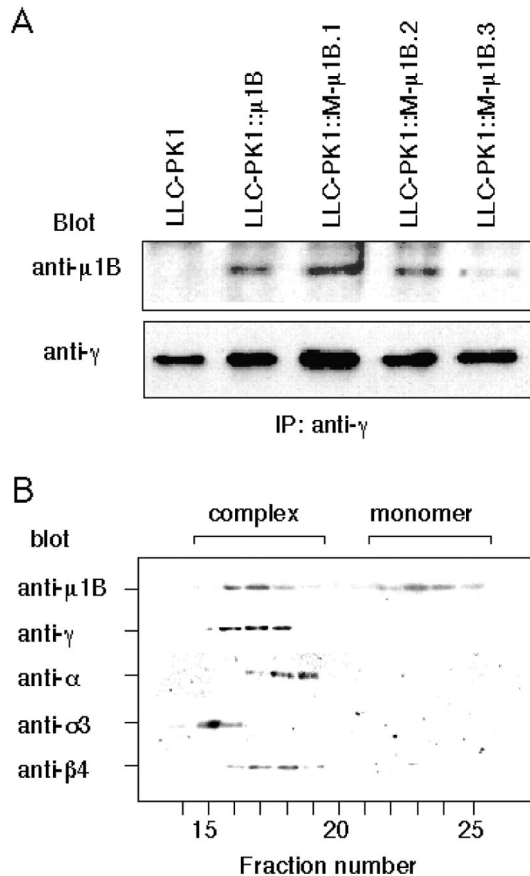
**Figure 1.** M- $\mu$ 1B does not interact with tyrosine-based sorting signals. HF7c yeast cells were cotransformed with a plasmid encoding GAL4ad fused to human  $\mu$ 1B or a mutant  $\mu$ 1B (M- $\mu$ 1B) and a plasmid encoding GAL4bd fused to EITYWFL or RSLYRRL. Cotransformants were tested for their ability to grow in the presence (+His) or absence (-His) of histidine. Growth on the -His plate indicates that the products of GAL4bd and GAL4ad constructs can interact.

three experiments for the sum of the apically and basolaterally associated radioactivity in parental,  $\mu$ 1B-, and M- $\mu$ 1B-expressing LLC-PK1 cells were 481, 443, and 524 cpm for AGPR-H1 transfection; 296, 264, and 222 cpm for Tac-Lamp1 transfection; 133, 147, and 125 cpm for LDLR; and 143, 118, and 113 cpm for TfR transfection, respectively.

## RESULTS

### Production of a Mutant $\mu$ 1B Deficient at Binding Tyrosine-based Motifs

To investigate the importance of  $\mu$ 1B-recognition of tyrosine-based sorting signals in basolateral sorting, we generated a mutant form of  $\mu$ 1B in which those residues possibly involved in tyrosine recognition were altered. The residues selected for mutagenesis were those identified from the  $\mu$ 2 crystal structure as being involved in binding YXX $\emptyset$  signals, four of which were precisely conserved in the  $\mu$ 1B sequence (Owen and Evans, 1998; Bonifacino and Dell'Angelica, 1999). Phe<sup>172</sup>, Asp<sup>174</sup>, Trp<sup>408</sup>, and Arg<sup>410</sup> were each replaced with alanines to produce the M- $\mu$ 1B mutant. Initially, we examined the ability of this protein to bind tyrosine motifs in a yeast two-hybrid assay. We picked two YXX $\emptyset$  sequences from combinatorial library clones according to the previous study (Ohno *et al.*, 1999); YWFL as a negative control and YRRL as a positive control, respectively, for  $\mu$ 1B binding. As expected, M- $\mu$ 1B failed to interact with a test YXX $\emptyset$  motif, YRRL, which interacted with  $\mu$ 1B (Figure 1). Thus, altering the four conserved residues required for tyrosine interactions in  $\mu$ 2 greatly reduced the ability of  $\mu$ 1B to interact with YXX $\emptyset$  motifs.



**Figure 2.** M- $\mu$ 1B is specifically incorporated into AP-1B complexes. (A) AP-1 complexes were immunoprecipitated with an anti- $\gamma$ -adapting antibody 100/3 from lysates of LLC-PK1 cells stably expressing  $\mu$ 1B (LLC-PK1:: $\mu$ 1B) or a mutant  $\mu$ 1B (LLC-PK1::M- $\mu$ 1B). Immunoprecipitants were subjected to SDS-PAGE, transferred onto Hybond-ECL membranes, immunoblotted with the anti- $\mu$ 1B antibody or the anti- $\gamma$ -adapting antibody, and detected using the enhanced chemiluminescence system as described in MATERIALS AND METHODS. (B) Cytosol from LLC-PK1 cells stably expressing M- $\mu$ 1B (LLC-PK1:: $\mu$ 1B) was fractionated by gel filtration chromatography on a Superose 6 column, and fractions (0.5 ml) were collected and analyzed by SDS-PAGE and Western blotting by using antibodies to various AP subunits as described in MATERIALS AND METHODS.

### Mutant $\mu$ 1B (M- $\mu$ 1B) Is Incorporated into AP-1B Complexes

We next asked whether the mutations introduced into M- $\mu$ 1B affected the incorporation of M- $\mu$ 1B into AP-1B complexes. For this purpose, we established LLC-PK1 cell lines stably expressing M- $\mu$ 1B and determined whether an anti- $\gamma$ -adapting antibody could coprecipitate M- $\mu$ 1B from these cells. As previously shown, wild-type  $\mu$ 1B coprecipitates with  $\gamma$ -adapting, a large-chain adapting of AP-1 (Figure 2A) (Folsch *et al.*, 1999, 2001). In the present study, M- $\mu$ 1B was detected in anti- $\gamma$ -adapting precipitates from lysates of three stable cell lines expressing M- $\mu$ 1B (Figure 2). This suggests that M- $\mu$ 1B is incorporated into AP-1B complexes.

We also verified that M- $\mu$ 1B was specifically assembled into AP-1 but not into the other AP complexes (i.e., AP-2,

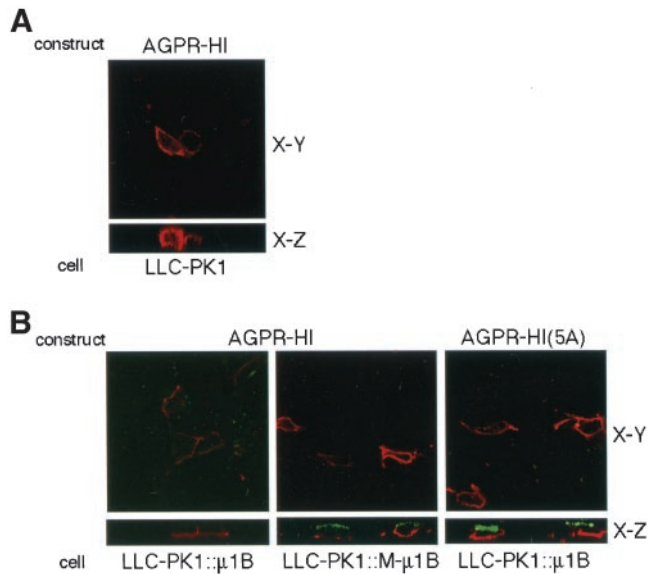
AP-3, or AP-4). Cytosol from LLC-PK1 cells stably expressing M- $\mu$ 1B was fractionated by gel filtration chromatography on a Superose 6 column, and fractions were collected and subjected to Western blot analysis by using anti-AP subunit antibodies. As shown in Figure 2B, and consistent with previous observations for  $\mu$ 1B stably expressed in LLC-PK1 (Folsch *et al.*, 1999), M- $\mu$ 1B was eluted in two peaks. One peak coeluted with AP-1, as indicated by the presence of  $\gamma$ -adapting in the same fractions. The second peak likely represented unassembled monomeric M- $\mu$ 1B, as previously reported for  $\mu$ 1B (Folsch *et al.*, 1999). Figure 2B also showed that the subunits of other AP complexes tested had different elution profiles from M- $\mu$ 1B. Our elution profiles are consistent with studies demonstrating that each AP complex exhibits somewhat different apparent molecular weights (Dell'Angelica *et al.*, 1997, 1999). In combination, these data suggest that M- $\mu$ 1B assembles into an AP-1 complex, with some not incorporating and existing as a monomer, in our LLC-PK1 cells. Also, M- $\mu$ 1B does not seem to incorporate into the other AP complexes, a finding in agreement with previous studies of  $\mu$ 1B. Comparison of the expression levels by immunoblotting of the serial dilution of the lysates showed a similar amount of  $\mu$ 1B expression for LLC-PK1:: $\mu$ 1B and LLC-PK1::M- $\mu$ 1B.1 cells (our unpublished data). The results presented in this study were obtained using LLC-PK1::M- $\mu$ 1B.1, but similar results were observed using LLC-PK1::M- $\mu$ 1B.2 cells (our unpublished data).

### Recognition of Tyrosine by $\mu$ 1B Is Required for YXX $\Phi$ -Motif-dependent Basolateral Sorting In Vivo

We have demonstrated that  $\mu$ 1B is required for the basolateral sorting of membrane proteins containing basolateral targeting signals, such as TfR and LDLR (Folsch *et al.*, 1999, 2001). Because M- $\mu$ 1B was incorporated into AP-1B complexes (Figure 2), we asked whether it could support the proper targeting of basolateral membrane proteins, as does  $\mu$ 1B. We first examined the steady-state localization on the plasma membrane of AGPR-H1 transiently expressed in filter-grown LLC-PK1 cells stably expressing  $\mu$ 1B or M- $\mu$ 1B. AGPR-H1 is a basolateral membrane protein that cycles between the plasma membrane and endosomes in hepatocytes and transfected Madin-Darby canine kidney (MDCK) cells. A tyrosine-based sorting motif YQDL is essential for both efficient internalization and polarized expression of AGPR-H1 (Fuhrer *et al.*, 1991; Geffen *et al.*, 1993).

An analysis of the transfected AGPR-H1 localization by using immunofluorescence confocal microscopy is presented in Figure 3. As expected, AGPR-H1 was localized predominantly on the basolateral plasma membrane in LLC-PK1:: $\mu$ 1B cells (Figure 3B). However, it was detected on the apical and basolateral plasma membranes in LLC-PK1::M- $\mu$ 1B cells, much as it was when expressed in the  $\mu$ 1B-negative parental LLC-PK1 cells (Figure 3, A and B). We also determined the distribution of AGPR-H1(5A), in which the tyrosine in the YQDL motif was substituted with alanine (Geffen *et al.*, 1993). Herein, AGPR-H1(5A) distributed on both apical and basolateral plasma membranes even in LLC-PK1:: $\mu$ 1B cells (Figure 3B). These results were confirmed by a quantitative antibody binding assay (see below).

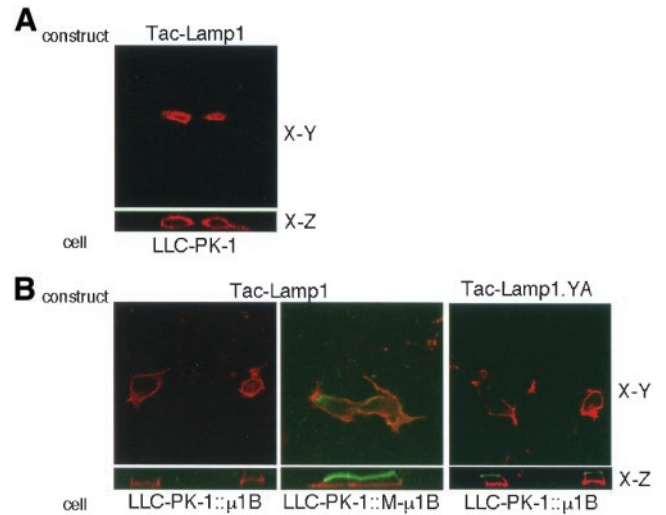
We next tested another tyrosine-based basolateral sorting signal, YQTI, from Lamp-1. Lamp-1 is a lysosomal membrane protein, and the YQTI sequence in its cytoplasmic tail



**Figure 3.** Basolateral sorting of AGPR-H1 depends on the tyrosine-binding ability of  $\mu$ 1B. (A) LLC-PK1 cells grown on the Transwell filters were transiently transfected with the AGPR-H1 expression plasmid and incubated with an anti-H1 antiserum. Subsequently, cells were fixed and stained with the Alexa Fluor 546 anti-rabbit IgG as described in MATERIALS AND METHODS. (B) LLC-PK1 cells stably expressing  $\mu$ 1B (LLC-PK1:: $\mu$ 1B) or a mutant  $\mu$ 1B (LLC-PK1::M- $\mu$ 1B) grown on the Transwell filters were transiently transfected with AGPR-H1 or AGPR-H1(5A) expression plasmids, and incubated with an anti-H1 antiserum. Subsequently, cells were fixed and stained with the secondary antibodies, the Alexa Fluor 488 anti-rabbit IgG from the apical side, and Alexa Fluor 546 anti-rabbit IgG from the basolateral side as described in MATERIALS AND METHODS. Samples were analyzed using an LSM 510 laser scanning confocal microscope (Carl Zeiss, Thornwood, NY), and representative X-Y and X-Z sections are shown.

has been reported to be required for direct lysosomal sorting, endocytosis as well as basolateral targeting (Hunziker *et al.*, 1991; Harter and Mellman, 1992; Honing and Hunziker, 1995). We used a chimeric protein Tac-Lamp1, in which the luminal and transmembrane domains of Tac, the  $\alpha$  subunit of interleukin-2 receptor, is appended with the Lamp-1 cytoplasmic tail containing the YQTI motif. Similar results were obtained as described above for AGPR-H1. As shown in Figure 4B, Tac-Lamp1 was primarily localized on the basolateral plasma membrane when expressed in LLC-PK1:: $\mu$ 1B cells. In contrast, it was expressed both apically and basolaterally in LLC-PK1::M- $\mu$ 1B cells as well as in parental LLC-PK1 cells (Figure 4, A and B). Tac-Lamp1.YA, bearing a tyrosine-to-alanine substitution in YQTI motif, was similarly expressed on both apical and basolateral plasma membranes in LLC-PK1:: $\mu$ 1B cells, as expected (Figure 4B).

Finally, we determined the steady-state distribution of AGPR-H1 and Tac-Lamp1 quantitatively (Figure 7, A and B). As expected from the qualitative immunofluorescence results, both AGPR-H1 and Tac-Lamp1 were predominantly (80–90%) expressed at the basolateral surface of LLC-PK1:: $\mu$ 1B cells but were randomly expressed on both the apical and basolateral plasma membranes in parental LLC-PK1 as well as in LLC-PK1::M- $\mu$ 1B cells.



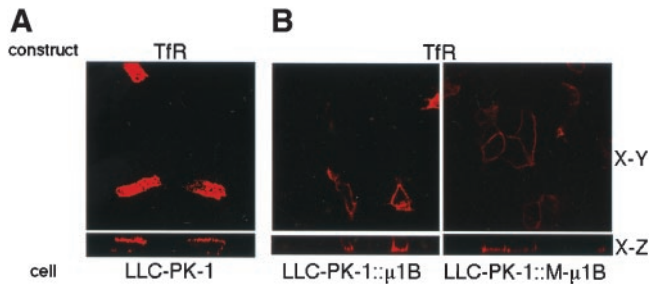
**Figure 4.** Basolateral sorting of Tac-Lamp1 depends on the tyrosine-binding ability of  $\mu$ 1B. (A) LLC-PK1 cells grown on the Transwell filters were transiently transfected with the Tac-Lamp1 or Tac-Lamp1.YA expression plasmid, and incubated with an anti-Tac mAb 7G7.B6. Subsequently, cells were fixed and stained with the Alexa Fluor 546 anti-mouse IgG as described in MATERIALS AND METHODS. (B) LLC-PK1 cells stably expressing  $\mu$ 1B (LLC-PK1:: $\mu$ 1B) or a mutant  $\mu$ 1B (LLC-PK1::M- $\mu$ 1B) grown on the Transwell filters were transiently transfected with the Tac-Lamp1 expression plasmid and incubated with an anti-Tac mAb 7G7.B6. Subsequently, cells were fixed and stained with the secondary antibodies Alexa Fluor 488 anti-mouse IgG from the apical side and Alexa Fluor 546 anti-mouse IgG from the basolateral side as described in MATERIALS AND METHODS. Samples were analyzed using an LSM 510 laser scanning confocal microscope (Carl Zeiss), and representative X-Y and X-Z sections are shown.

Taken together, these results suggest that the tyrosine-based basolateral sorting signals of AGPR-H1 and Lamp-1 require interactions with the presumptive tyrosine-binding pocket of  $\mu$ 1B for proper basolateral targeting *in vivo*.

#### Tyrosine Binding by $\mu$ 1B Is Not Required for Basolateral Targeting of TfR and LDLR

We next studied the steady-state plasma membrane distribution of TfR transiently expressed in parental LLC-PK1 cells and LLC-PK1 cells containing  $\mu$ 1B or M- $\mu$ 1B (Figure 5). As shown previously (Folsch *et al.*, 1999), the localization of TfR at the basolateral surface of LLC-PK1 cells was dependent on  $\mu$ 1B expression. Interestingly, and in contrast to results obtained for AGPR-H1 and Lamp-1, TfR was also found at the basolateral surface of cells expressing M- $\mu$ 1B. Although the basolateral targeting signal of TfR has not been precisely defined, it is clear that the signal is distinct from the tyrosine-containing motif (YTRF) that is required for TfR endocytosis in clathrin-coated pits (Dargemont *et al.*, 1993; Odorizzi and Trowbridge, 1997).

We next determined whether basolateral localization of LDLR was dependent on the tyrosine-recognition ability of  $\mu$ 1B. The LDLR cytoplasmic domain contains two basolateral targeting signals, both of which depend on critical tyrosines but only one of these (tyrosine 18) is also required for



**Figure 5.** Basolateral sorting of TfR does not depend on the tyrosine-binding ability of  $\mu$ 1B. (A) LLC-PK1 cells grown on the Transwell filters were transiently transfected with the TfR expression plasmid and incubated with an anti-TfR mAb L5.1. Subsequently, cells were fixed and stained with the Alexa Fluor 546 anti-mouse IgG as described in MATERIALS AND METHODS. (B) LLC-PK1 cells stably expressing  $\mu$ 1B (LLC-PK1:: $\mu$ 1B) or a mutant  $\mu$ 1B (LLC-PK1::M- $\mu$ 1B) grown in the Transwell filters were transiently transfected with the TfR expression plasmid, and incubated with an anti-TfR mAb L5.1. Subsequently, cells were fixed and stained with the secondary antibodies Alexa Fluor 488 anti-mouse IgG from the apical side and Alexa Fluor 546 anti-mouse IgG from the basolateral side as described in MATERIALS AND METHODS. Samples were analyzed using an LSM 510 laser scanning confocal microscope (Carl Zeiss), and representative X-Y and X-Z sections are shown.

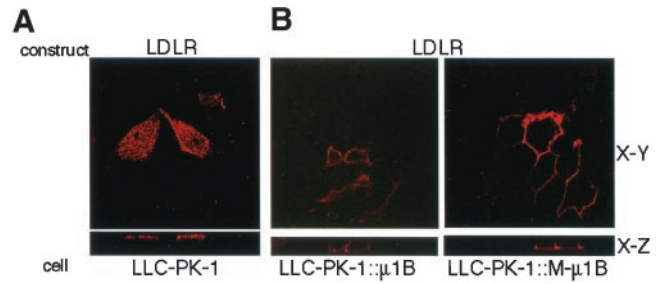
endocytosis. The second signal (involving tyrosine-35) is the dominant of the two and interacts with  $\mu$ 1B (Folsch *et al.*, 2001). As shown in Figure 6, and like TfR, LDLR was targeted to the basolateral plasma membrane of LLC-PK1 cells expressing either  $\mu$ 1B or M- $\mu$ 1B, although it is predominantly expressed on the apical plasma membrane in parental LLC-PK1 cells.

The polarized distribution of both TfR and LDLR was then determined by a quantitative antibody binding assay (Figure 7, C and D). As found previously in parental LLC-PK1 cells (Folsch *et al.*, 1999), TfR was randomly distributed on the apical and basolateral plasma membranes, whereas LDLR was predominantly (75%) expressed at the apical plasma membrane; the latter finding is consistent with the notion that LDLR possesses a recessive apical determinant (Matter *et al.*, 1992; Matter and Mellman, 1994). As expected from the immunofluorescence data (Figures 5 and 6), both TfR (~90%) and LDLR (80%) were predominantly expressed on the basolateral plasma membrane in LLC-PK1::M- $\mu$ 1B cells as well as LLC-PK1:: $\mu$ 1B cells.

Taken together, these results suggest that the basolateral targeting signals of TfR and LDLR do not require the tyrosine-motif binding ability of  $\mu$ 1B for their proper targeting to the basolateral plasma membrane. This feature is consistent with the fact that, unlike AGPR-H1 and Lamp-1, neither depends exclusively on a tyrosine-containing endocytosis-type signal for polarity.

#### Monolayer Formation of LLC-PK1 Cells Is Supported in the Presence of M- $\mu$ 1B as Well as $\mu$ 1B

LLC-PK1 cells, unlike MDCK cells, do not always produce perfect monolayers typical of epithelial cells in culture, but

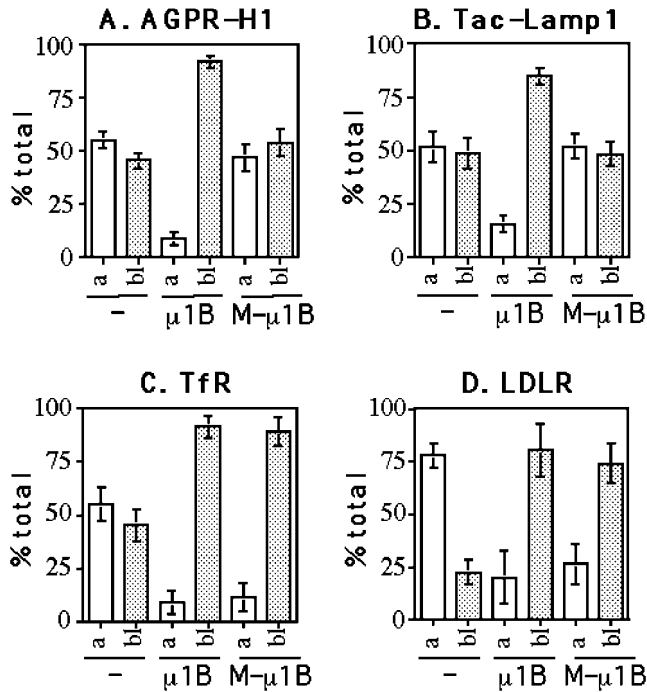


**Figure 6.** Basolateral sorting of LDLR does not depend on the tyrosine-binding ability of  $\mu$ 1B. (A) LLC-PK1 cells grown on the Transwell filters were transiently transfected with the LDLR expression plasmid and incubated with an anti-LDLR mAb C7. Subsequently, cells were fixed and stained with the Alexa Fluor 546 anti-mouse IgG as described in MATERIALS AND METHODS. (B) LLC-PK1 cells stably expressing  $\mu$ 1B (LLC-PK1:: $\mu$ 1B) or a mutant  $\mu$ 1B (LLC-PK1::M- $\mu$ 1B) grown in the Transwell filters were transiently transfected with the LDLR expression plasmid and incubated with an anti-LDLR mAb C7. Subsequently, cells were fixed and stained with the secondary antibodies Alexa Fluor 488 anti-mouse IgG from the apical side and Alexa Fluor 546 anti-mouse IgG from the basolateral side as described in MATERIALS AND METHODS. Samples were analyzed using an LSM 510 laser scanning confocal microscope (Carl Zeiss), and representative X-Y and X-Z sections are shown.

occasionally pile up instead (Folsch *et al.*, 1999). Expression of  $\mu$ 1B in LLC-PK1 cells corrects this phenotype resulting in monolayer-type growth (Folsch *et al.*, 1999). Herein, we took advantage of this morphological difference in LLC-PK1 cells in the presence or absence of  $\mu$ 1B to measure the function of M- $\mu$ 1B in monolayer formation. When LLC-PK1 cells expressing M- $\mu$ 1B were grown on filter membranes, they grew in monolayers similar to cells expressing  $\mu$ 1B (Figure 8). This finding suggests that the molecule(s) required for growth of LLC-PK1 cells in a monolayer depend on the presence of  $\mu$ 1B or M- $\mu$ 1B for function, but do not seem to require the tyrosine-binding ability by  $\mu$ 1B.

## DISCUSSION

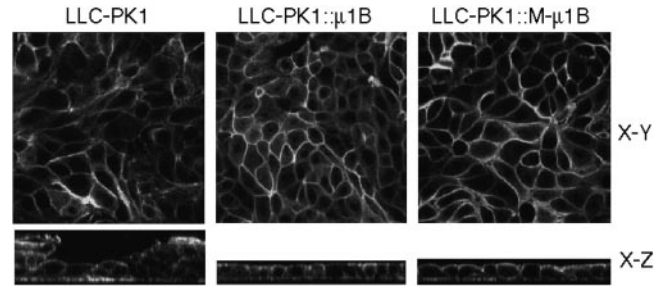
Although it is clear that expression of  $\mu$ 1B plays a critical role in ensuring the polarized targeting of a wide array of basolateral plasma proteins in epithelial cells, little is understood about how this one AP-1B subunit interacts with the diverse set of basolateral sorting signals it seems to decode. Some basolateral signals depend on tyrosine residues that are also critical for AP-2-dependent clathrin-mediated endocytosis (e.g., Lamp-1 and AGPR-H1), some depend on tyrosines that are not required for endocytosis (LDLR), and some do not involve tyrosine residues at all (TfR). We characterized the importance of tyrosine recognition by replacing in four residues conserved among  $\mu$  family members thought to be important for tyrosine binding (Owen and Evans, 1998). A similar strategy has successfully been applied to study the importance of tyrosine recognition by  $\mu$ 2 in endocytosis (Nesterov *et al.*, 1999). Although the mutant  $\mu$ 1B (M- $\mu$ 1B) was incorporated into functional AP-1B complexes, it lost the ability to decode tyrosine-dependent basolateral signals, or at least those that share tyrosines important for endocytosis such as AGPR-H1 and Lamp-1.



**Figure 7.** Quantitative determination of the steady-state distribution on the plasma membrane of AGPR-H1, Tac-Lamp1, TfR, and LDLR. Parental LLC-PK1 cells, LLC-PK1 cells stably expressing  $\mu$ 1B (LLC-PK1:: $\mu$ 1B), or a mutant  $\mu$ 1B (LLC-PK1::M- $\mu$ 1B) grown in the Transwell filters were transiently transfected with AGPR-H1 (A), Tac-Lamp1 (B), TfR (C), or LDLR (D) expression plasmid and incubated with the corresponding primary antibodies. Subsequently, cells were fixed and incubated with  $^{125}$ I-labeled anti-mouse or anti-rabbit IgG, and the cell-associated radioactivity was measured as described in MATERIALS AND METHODS. Values are given as the percentage of total cell surface radioactivity and represent mean  $\pm$  SD of three independent experiments performed in duplicate.

In contrast, basolateral expression of TfR and LDLR was not obviously affected by the removal of residues required for tyrosine binding  $\mu$ 1B. It has been reported that the basolateral sorting of TfR is mainly determined by the GDNS sequence downstream of the YTRF endocytosis/coated pit localization signal (Dargemont *et al.*, 1993; Odorizzi and Trowbridge, 1997). Although the precise features of the TfR basolateral targeting signal have yet to be characterized, it is clear that the tyrosine required for endocytosis is not involved. Thus, it was interesting to learn that four residues in  $\mu$ 1B that are required for the coordination of tyrosine-containing determinants were not required for the basolateral targeting of TfR.

LDLR was an even more interesting case. This receptor's cytoplasmic tail contains two independent basolateral targeting determinants, both of which are tyrosine-dependent for activity (Matter *et al.*, 1992, 1994). The membrane proximal signal overlaps with, but is distinct from, the NPVY endocytosis signal. The distal signal's critical tyrosine, on the other hand, does not direct endocytosis. Basolateral expression of LDLR was not affected by the  $\mu$ 1B mutations, suggesting that at least one of the LDLR basolateral signals does not bind to the tyrosine-binding pocket of  $\mu$ 1B. This



**Figure 8.** M- $\mu$ 1B supports the growth of LLC-PK1 cells in monolayer. Parental LLC-PK1 cells, LLC-PK1 cells stably expressing  $\mu$ 1B (LLC-PK1:: $\mu$ 1B), or a mutant  $\mu$ 1B (LLC-PK1::M- $\mu$ 1B) were grown on the Transwell filters, fixed, permeabilized, and stained with Alexa Fluor 488 phalloidin as described in MATERIALS AND METHODS. Samples were analyzed using an LSM 510 laser scanning confocal microscope (Carl Zeiss), and representative X-Y and X-Z sections are shown.

may not be surprising, because the sequence surrounding the tyrosine of either signal does not conform to the canonical YXX $\Phi$  sequence that is recognized by  $\mu$  chains, including  $\mu$ 1B (Ohno *et al.*, 1995, 1999; Boll *et al.*, 1996; Dell'Angelica *et al.*, 1997; Aguilar *et al.*, 2001). Moreover, recent work has demonstrated that it is the distal basolateral targeting signal in LDLR that serves primarily to control basolateral targeting of this receptor (Koivisto *et al.*, 2001).

Based on the present study, together with previous reports (Roush *et al.*, 1998; Folsch *et al.*, 1999), basolateral sorting signals so far identified can be divided into at least the following three classes. First, there are signals such as the dileucine-based determinant found in the IgG receptor FcR-II-B2 (Hunziker and Fumey, 1994; Matter *et al.*, 1994), which can mediate basolateral targeting in the absence of  $\mu$ 1B. Second, YXX $\Phi$ -type basolateral signals such as those in AGPR-H1 (Fuhrer *et al.*, 1991; Geffen *et al.*, 1993) and Lamp-1 (Hunziker *et al.*, 1991; Honing and Hunziker, 1995), which require the interaction of a critical tyrosine residue with  $\mu$ 1B for their sorting function. This same tyrosine is also required for rapid endocytosis of these membrane proteins via the AP-2 adaptor complex. Finally, signals such as those in TfR and LDLR, which clearly require the presence of  $\mu$ 1B (and by extension the AP-1B complex), but not the ability of  $\mu$ 1B to bind tyrosine via  $\mu$ 1B residues required for interacting with tyrosines involved in endocytosis.

Although it is clear that basolateral proteins such as LDLR and TfR interact directly and selectively with the AP-1B adaptor complex, the actual interacting subunit has not been identified. A priori,  $\mu$ 1B is the most likely candidate. It is clear that its homolog  $\mu$ 2 directly binds the internalization motifs in endocytic receptors. Moreover, the single substitution of  $\mu$ 1B for  $\mu$ 1A in the AP-1 complex switches the affinity of the complex from those proteins involved in TGN/endosome transport in all cells to proteins that are transported to the basolateral surface of epithelial cells. Only 47 (of  $\sim$ 270) amino acids differ between the carboxyl-terminal domains of  $\mu$ 1A and  $\mu$ 1B. The  $\mu$ 1 carboxyl-terminal domain is thought to protrude from the trunk of the AP-1 complex and to be important for interactions with sorting signals (Owen and Evans, 1998; Bonifacino and Dell'Angelica, 1999). These carboxyl-terminal  $\mu$ 1B residues may, therefore, participate in

providing the binding surface for the signals from TfR and LDLR. Alternatively, these signals may bind to a region of  $\mu$ 1B that overlaps where the YXX $\phi$ -type signal binds, but bind in a different register, or perhaps interacting with different residues in this region. Some flexibility in the mode of interaction of internalization signals with  $\mu$ 2 has recently been observed (Owen *et al.*, 2001).

Another explanation, although we think it less likely, is that the signals could interact with AP-1B subunits other than  $\mu$ 1B. The presence of AP-1A cannot support the basolateral sorting of TfR or LDLR (Roush *et al.*, 1998; Folsch *et al.*, 1999). Because AP-1A and AP-1B are believed to share the subunits other than  $\mu$ 1A and  $\mu$ 1B (Folsch *et al.*, 1999), it is difficult to imagine that these common subunits cause the difference in sorting phenotype. Nevertheless, it might be possible that the difference between  $\mu$ 1A and  $\mu$ 1B could cause the conformational change(s) of the other subunits to generate the binding surface for the basolateral sorting signals from TfR and LDLR. Thirty-six residues differ between  $\mu$ 1A and  $\mu$ 1B in their amino-terminal domains, the region thought to be involved in mediating interactions with other adaptor subunits; conceivably, alterations in such interactions may lead to alterations in substrate specificity. Final understanding of how  $\mu$ 1B can accommodate such seemingly different signals for such a common, fundamental function as polarized targeting in epithelia will require direct structural information on the  $\mu$ 1B and adaptors in general.

Finally, it should be pointed out that the precise site of action of AP-1B in polarized sorting remains to be determined. Other kidney epithelial cells, such as MDCK cells, have been shown to sort apical from basolateral proteins upon their emergence from the Golgi complex, before their first appearance at the plasma membrane. Hepatocytes, which are  $\mu$ 1B negative, sort by an indirect route whereby both apical and basolateral proteins are transported from the Golgi to the basolateral surface from which they are internalized and then sorted from each other in endosomes. Because in MDCK cells the signals that mediate biosynthetic and endocytic basolateral sorting are similar (Matter *et al.*, 1994; Odorizzi and Trowbridge, 1997), it is conceivable that  $\mu$ 1B acts on both pathways. Indeed, there is ample evidence that AP-1 adaptors can be found at the TGN and in endosomes (Futter *et al.*, 1998; Folsch *et al.*, 2001). It is also possible that expression of  $\mu$ 1B confers upon the TGN the ability to mediate apical vs. basolateral sorting. Thus, it is possible that LLC-PK1 cells sort indirectly (like hepatocytes), whereas  $\mu$ 1B-expressing LLC-PK1 cells sort directly (like MDCK cells). The fact that a tyrosine mutant of AGPR-H1 was found apically argues against indirect sorting in  $\mu$ 1B-expressing LLC-PK1 cells. For such a mutant to reach the apical surface by the indirect route, transcytosis from the basolateral domain would be required. Yet, transcytosis might be rendered less efficient because the same tyrosine residue required for basolateral targeting is also required for rapid endocytosis.

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