

# Role of p97 and Syntaxin 5 in the Assembly of Transitional Endoplasmic Reticulum

Line Roy,\* John J.M. Bergeron,<sup>†</sup> Christine Lavoie,\* Rob Hendriks,<sup>‡</sup>  
Jennifer Gushue,<sup>†</sup> Ali Fazel,<sup>†</sup> Amélie Pelletier,\* D. James Morr ,<sup>§</sup>  
V. Nathan Subramaniam,<sup>||</sup> Wanjin Hong,<sup>¶</sup> and Jacques Paiement<sup>\*#</sup>

\*D partement de Pathologie et Biologie Cellulaire, Facult  de M decine, Universit  de Montr al, Montr al, Qu bec, Canada, H3C 3J7; <sup>†</sup>Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H3A 2B2; <sup>‡</sup>Zentrum fur Molekulare Biologie der Universitat Heidelberg, 69052 Heidelberg, Germany; <sup>§</sup>Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, 47907-1333; <sup>||</sup>Clinical Sciences Unit, The Queensland Institute of Medical Research, PO Royal Brisbane Hospital, Brisbane, Queensland 4029, Australia; and <sup>¶</sup>Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology, Singapore 117609, Singapore

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Transitional endoplasmic reticulum (tER) consists of confluent rough and smooth endoplasmic reticulum (ER) domains. In a cell-free incubation system, low-density microsomes (1.17 g cc<sup>-1</sup>) isolated from rat liver homogenates reconstitute tER by Mg<sup>2+</sup>GTP- and Mg<sup>2+</sup>ATP-hydrolysis-dependent membrane fusion. The ATPases associated with different cellular activities protein p97 has been identified as the relevant ATPase. The ATP depletion by hexokinase or treatment with either N-ethylmaleimide or anti-p97 prevented assembly of the smooth ER domain of tER. High-salt washing of low-density microsomes inhibited assembly of the smooth ER domain of tER, whereas the readdition of purified p97 with associated p47 promoted reconstitution. The t-SNARE syntaxin 5 was observed within the smooth ER domain of tER, and antisyntaxin 5 abrogated formation of this same membrane compartment. Thus, p97 and syntaxin 5 regulate assembly of the smooth ER domain of tER and hence one of the earliest membrane differentiated components of the secretory pathway.

## INTRODUCTION

Elucidation of the molecular mechanisms controlling membrane biogenesis and transport in the early secretory pathway has been a consequence, in part, of advances in yeast genetic screens and various cell-free assays (Novick *et al.*, 1980; Rothman, 1994). Genetic screens initially led to the demonstration of a role for the N-ethylmaleimide sensitive factor (NSF [Sec18p]) in secretion (Eakle *et al.*, 1988; Wilson *et al.*, 1989) and subsequently in multiple vesicle-transport steps (Graham and Emr, 1991; Rothman, 1994). NSF/s18p is one of the best characterized members of the ATPases Associated with different cellular Activities (AAA) ATPase family (Patel and Latterich, 1998) and along with its cofactor  $\alpha$ SNAP/s17p and SNARE (SNARE REceptor) membrane proteins regulates the docking/fusion step of multiple cellular fusion events, including those within the secretion pathway and those within neuronal synapses (Rothman, 1994; Nichols and Pelham, 1998). SNARE membrane proteins along

with NSF promote the physical linkage of juxtaposed membranes to atomic distances necessary for the subsequent coalescence of their respective phospholipid bilayers (Hanson *et al.*, 1997; Woodman, 1997; Nichols and Pelham, 1998; Sutton *et al.*, 1998; Skehel and Wiley, 1998).

The sequence similarity of NSF/s18p to a previously described cell division cycle gene, Cdc48p, prompted analysis of the role of the latter in the fusion of membranes in yeast. This led to the discovery that Cdc48p, but not NSF/s18p, regulated the fusion of endoplasmic reticulum (ER) membranes in yeast (Latterich *et al.*, 1995). Vertebrate homologues with approximate 70% sequence identity to Cdc48p have been described in frog (p97 in *Xenopus laevis*, Peters *et al.*, 1990), in porcine (Valosin-containing protein, Koller and Brownstein, 1987), in rat liver (Zhang *et al.*, 1994; Rabouille *et al.*, 1995), and recently in mice (M ller *et al.*, 1999). As for NSF, p97 is now known to be implicated in a variety of membrane fusion events comprising the early secretion pathway of cells (Zhang *et al.*, 1994; Rabouille *et al.*, 1995; Acharya *et al.*, 1995). The two AAA ATPases have been suggested to have two distinct roles, that of p97 being to

# Corresponding author. E-mail address: paiemej@patho.umontreal.ca.

control the fusion of homotypic membranes and that of NSF being to control fusion of heterotypic membranes (Rabouille *et al.*, 1995; Acharya *et al.*, 1995; Denesvre and Malhotra, 1996; Patel *et al.*, 1998; Warren and Malhotra, 1998). Heterotypic fusion is thought to require NSF and the soluble NSF attachment proteins ( $\alpha$ -SNAP [Sec17p]) (Rothman, 1994; Denesvre and Malhotra, 1996; Nichols and Pelham, 1998; Warren and Malhotra, 1998), whereas homotypic fusion of ER or Golgi membranes requires p97 (Cdc48p) and p47 (Latterich *et al.*, 1995; Rabouille *et al.*, 1995; Acharya *et al.*, 1995; Kondo *et al.*, 1997; Patel *et al.*, 1998). p47 is a cofactor for p97-mediated membrane fusion (Kondo *et al.*, 1997), and just as  $\alpha$ -SNAP mediates the binding of NSF to SNARE proteins, p47 promotes p97 binding to cognate SNAREs (Rabouille *et al.*, 1998).

Recently a cell-free assay has been shown to reconstitute the morphological transformations characteristic of the early secretion pathway (Lavoie *et al.*, 1996; Lavoie *et al.*, 1999). Using as starting material low-density microsomes (LDM) from rat liver, the formation of a smooth membrane tubular network emanating from rough ER cisternae has been reconstituted and shown to depend on distinct GTP-hydrolyzing and ATP-hydrolyzing steps. The GTP-hydrolyzing step was shown to reconstitute the rough ER cisternae, and the ATP-hydrolyzing step was shown to reconstitute the smooth tubular membrane domain of the reconstituted ER networks (Lavoie *et al.*, 1996). The reconstituted ER networks were shown to correspond to transitional ER (tER) based on the following criteria: 1) morphological, they are composed of two continuous membrane domains, parallel rough cisternae, and interconnecting smooth tubules; 2) the smooth tubular membranes are enriched in the secretory cargo transferin and albumin as compared with the rough ER cisternae; and 3) the smooth tubular membranes are enriched in the recycling membrane proteins ERGIC 53/p58 and the p24 family member  $\alpha_2$ p24, as compared with the rough ER cisternae (Lavoie *et al.*, 1999). Furthermore, upon the subsequent addition of cytosol, the smooth tubular domain of the tER transformed into pleomorphic vesiculotubular clusters (VTCs) (Lavoie *et al.*, 1999).  $\alpha_2$ p24 was necessary for early events in the formation of the tER, and COPI coatomer was necessary for the latter cytosolic-dependent transformation of the tER into VTCs (Lavoie *et al.*, 1999). In the present study, we demonstrate that p97 is the ATPase necessary for the early formation of the smooth tubular membrane domain of tER *in vitro* and show a requirement for the t-SNARE syntaxin 5 in the associated membrane fusion events of this transformation.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Preparation of Microsomes from Rat Liver

Total microsomes were obtained by differential centrifugation of rat liver homogenates (Paient *et al.*, 1980). Subfractions enriched in rough and smooth vesicles were obtained from a step-gradient of sucrose employed to separate both rough microsomes and Golgi derivatives from total microsomes (Lavoie *et al.*, 1996). For analytical density gradient centrifugations, fractions were loaded onto a 0.5–2.5 M sucrose gradient and centrifuged at  $80,000 \times g$  for 18 h. Fractions were collected and analyzed for their content of galactosyl transferase, mannosidase II, calnexin,  $\alpha_2$ p24 as previously described (Dominguez *et al.*, 1998). Immunoblot studies of p97 and syntaxin 5

content of the gradient fractions were also carried out using antibodies described below.

### Isolation of p97 and p47

p97 preparation: Cytosol from dog pancreas was precipitated with 20% (wt/vol) ammonium sulfate. The precipitate was collected by centrifugation and resuspended in low-salt buffer containing protease inhibitors, 1 mM dithiothreitol, 1 mM  $MgCl_2$ , and 100  $\mu M$  ATP. After dialysis in the same buffer, the protein mixture was separated by size exclusion using a Superdex-column, and fractions containing p97 were collected and separated by two rounds of anion exchange chromatography on a MonoQ-column at pH 7.4 and pH 6.4, respectively. The overall yield of purified p97 in the final fraction was ~35% with a 400-fold enrichment factor. The purified p97 fraction contained associated p47 (as confirmed by immunoblotting). The p47/p97 ratio was ~1/12th of that found in the original cytosol. Recombinant his6p47: Recombinant p47 was expressed as a his6-tagged fusion protein from a pQE30-vector (a kind gift of Drs. G. Warren and H. Kondo, ICRF, GB). After expression, bacteria were collected and lysed, and his6p47 was purified by metal-chelating chromatography using a nickle-agarose support.

### Cell-free Incubation Conditions to Study tER Assembly

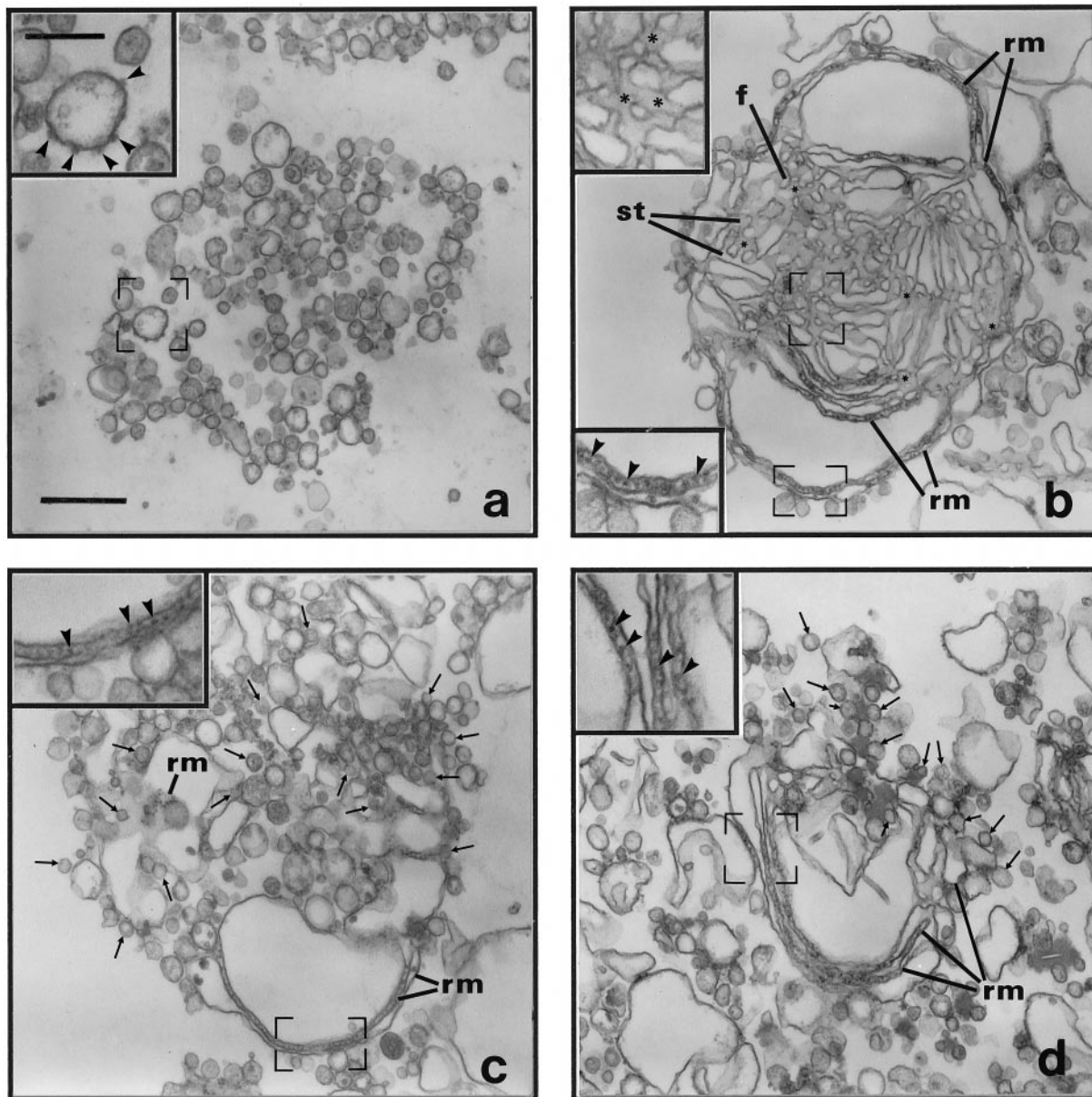
Unless otherwise indicated, the medium consisted of 0.25 ml containing 150  $\mu g$  microsomal protein, 100 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.4, 5 mM  $MgCl_2$ , 1 mM GTP, 2 mM ATP, an energy regenerating system (7.3 IU  $ml^{-1}$  creatine kinase, 2 mM creatine phosphate), 0.1 mM dithiothreitol, 0.02 mM phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride, 0.09  $\mu g ml^{-1}$  leupeptine, and 50 mM sucrose. This mixture was incubated at 37°C for 240 min. When the effect of antibody was studied, 10  $\mu l$  of antiserum was added at different times of incubation. In studies with purified p97 and p47, these proteins were added to the incubation mixture at relative concentrations of 5  $\mu g$  and 2.5  $\mu g$ , respectively.

### Measurement of Membrane-associated p97

LDM were incubated for different periods of time in complete medium, as defined above. After incubation, membranes were sedimented within the incubation medium by high-speed centrifugation ( $100,000 \times g$  for 30 min). The proteins in the membrane pellets were dissolved directly in Laemmli buffer (Laemmli, 1970). The proteins in the supernatant fractions were concentrated by trichloroacetic acid precipitation. The trichloroacetic acid precipitates were neutralized with NaOH and dissolved in Laemmli buffer as done for the pellet proteins. Proteins were separated by SDS gradient PAGE, blotted onto nitrocellulose sheets, and p97 was detected by the immunoblot procedure previously described (Dominguez *et al.*, 1991). p97 immunostaining on blots was scanned. Densitometric tracings were carried out and quantified using NIH Image software (Scion, Frederick, MD).

### Electron Microscopy and Morphometry of ER Membranes

After incubation, membranes were fixed using 2.5% glutaraldehyde and recovered onto Millipore membranes by the random filtration technique of Baudhuin *et al.* (1967) and processed for electron microscopy (Paient *et al.*, 1980). Estimates of the lengths of embedded and sectioned rough and smooth membranes in the membrane networks were obtained from electron micrographs by morphometry using the membrane intersection counting procedure (Stäubli *et al.*, 1969). The electron micrographs were fastened onto a measuring tablet (Graphic Master, Numonics, Montgomeryville, PA) and the Sigma-Scan measurement system (Jandel Scientific, San Rafael, CA) was employed to digitize morphometric data.



**Figure 1.** Nucleotide-dependent assembly of transitional ER (tER). LDM were unincubated (a) or incubated in complete medium containing 5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 2 mM ATP, and 1 mM GTP for 240 min at 37°C (b). (c) Membranes after incubation in the absence of ATP. (d) Membranes after incubation in complete medium plus the ATP hexokinase, D-Hexose-6-phosphotransferase (30 U). Membrane networks containing branching and anastomosing smooth tubules in continuity with peripheral rough ER cisternae were observed only under conditions promoting the hydrolysis of ATP. Microsomes were treated for morphological analysis by electron microscopy as described in MATERIALS AND METHODS. (a–d) Insets represent higher magnification micrographs of membranes within the regions outlined by frames. Arrowheads indicate ribosomes on membranes, and arrows point to smooth vesicles apposed to rough ER cisternae; all images are of the same magnification; all insets are of equivalent magnification. (b) Asterisks indicate tributular junctions, f indicates fenestrations between smooth tubules, and st points to examples of smooth ER tubules. (b–d) rm indicates parallel rough ER membranes. (a) scale bar represents 500 nm. (a inset) scale bar represents 200 nm.

### Preembedding Immunogold Labeling

The immunolocalization protocol was modified from that used by Dominguez *et al.* (1991) and is described in Lavoie *et al.* (1999).

### Postembedding Immunogold Labeling

After incubation of membranes under assembly conditions, membranes were fixed using 4% paraformaldehyde and 0.1% glutaral-

dehydrate in 0.1 M cacodylate buffer (pH 7.4) at 4°C. Cryoprotection, freezing, sectioning, immunolabeling, and contrasting were carried out as previously described by Dahan *et al.* (1994). For quantification of p97 labeling on cryosections, gold particles associated with rough membranes and smooth membranes comprising the ER networks were counted. Gold particles were counted over parallel juxtaposed ER cisternae (representing rough ER cisternae) and over the adjacent continuous mass of interconnecting membranes (corresponding to interconnecting smooth tubules). Surface area measurements of each compartment comprising the reconstituted ER networks were measured as previously described for ER membranes (Paient *et al.*, 1988; Lavoie *et al.*, 1999). Gold particle densities were calculated as number of particles per compartment of ER network, and concentrations observed in each category of membranes were then expressed as average number of gold particles per surface area for each ER network.

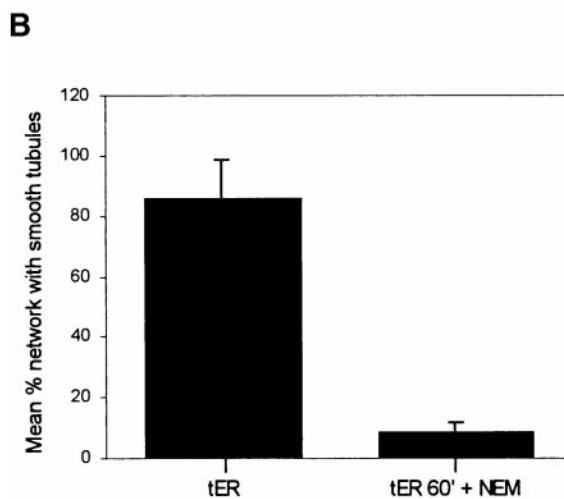
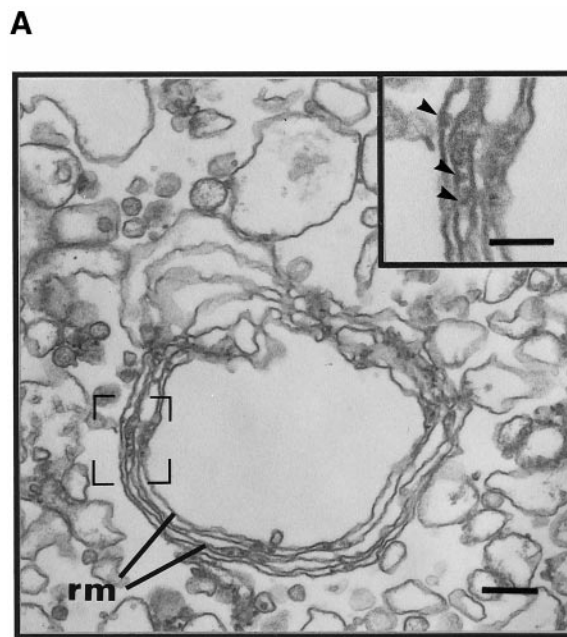
### Antibodies

Rabbit polyclonal antibodies against p97 used in the *in vitro* assays have been previously described (Zhang *et al.*, 1994). Rabbit polyclonal antibodies against heat-denatured p97 from dog pancreatic cytosol, described above, were used in immunoblot studies. Affinity purified rabbit polyclonal antibodies against recombinant C-terminally HisX6-tagged cytoplasmic domain of syntaxin 5 were previously described (Subramaniam *et al.*, 1997). Rabbit polyclonal antibodies against ribophorin II were a gift from G. Kreibich (Department of Cell Biology, New York University, School of Medicine, New York, NY).

## RESULTS

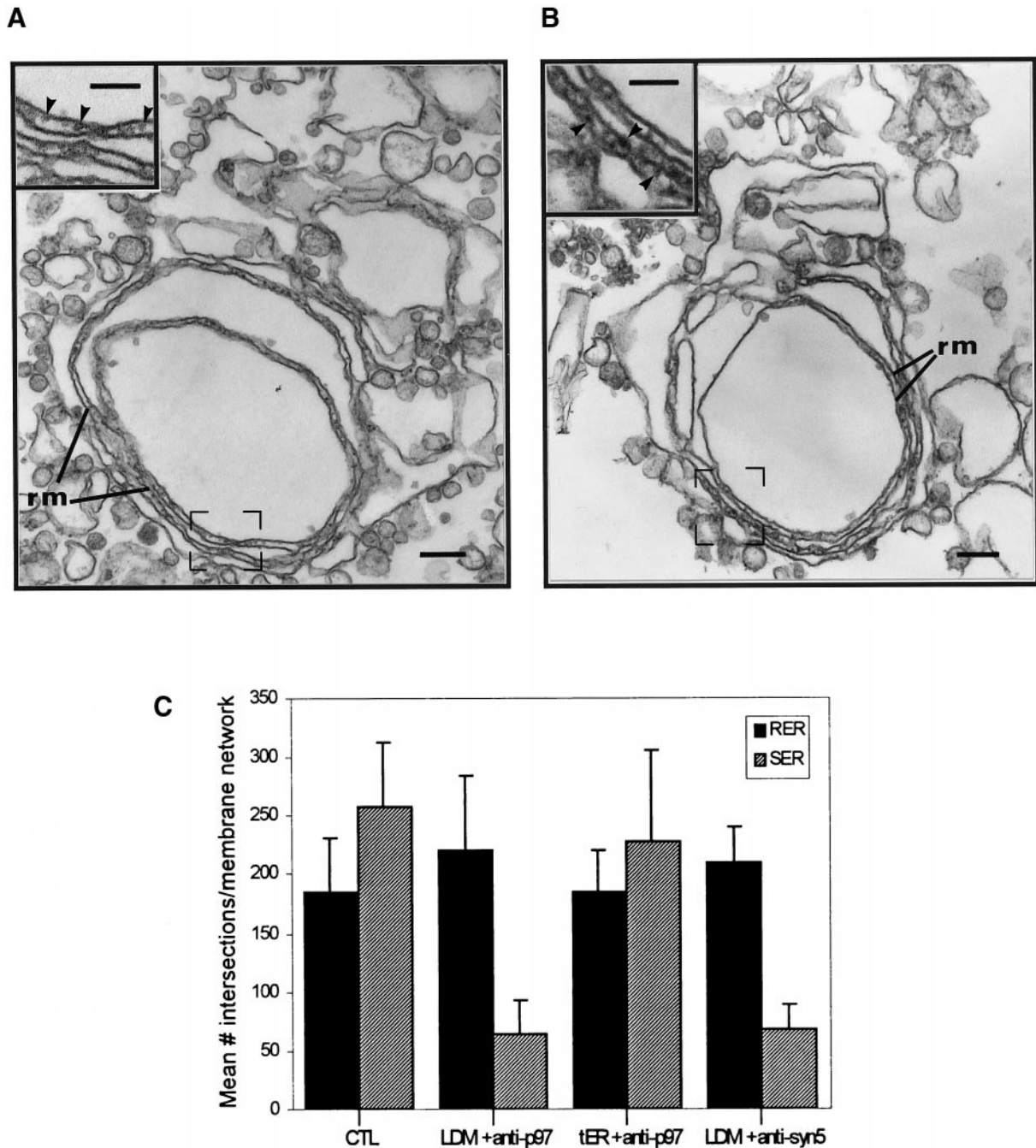
### Selective Effect of ATP Hydrolysis on Fusion of the Smooth but Not the Rough Membranes During Reconstitution of tER

As reported previously (Lavoie *et al.*, 1996; Lavoie *et al.*, 1999), the incubation of LDM from rat liver (Figure 1a) with  $Mg^{2+}$ GTP and  $Mg^{2+}$ ATP leads to the fusion of rough and smooth vesicles and the selective and specific assembly of membrane networks consisting of parallel rough ER cisternae continuous with interconnecting smooth tubules (Figure 1b). This *in vitro* reconstituted membrane network was previously defined as tER based on (1) morphological criteria, *i.e.*, a segregated smooth tubular compartment in direct continuity with rough ER cisternae, (2) the higher content of secretory cargo in the smooth tubular compartment, and (3) the higher content of the recycling membrane proteins ERGIC 53/p58 and the p24 family member  $\alpha_2$ p24 (Lavoie *et al.*, 1999). For consistency, in this paper we use the same morphological criteria to define the *in vitro* reconstituted ER membrane networks as reconstituted tER; they correspond to structures which contain two membrane domains: one domain is characterized by the presence of parallel rough cisternae and the second one with which it is continuous is characterized by the presence of interconnecting smooth tubules. Omission of ATP from the incubation medium or incubation with  $Mg^{2+}$ GTP and  $Mg^{2+}$ ATP and the ATP hexokinase, D-Hexose-6-phosphotransferase, permitted fusion of rough vesicles, leading to formation of reconstituted membrane networks which contained only parallel rough membrane cisternae but inhibited fusion of smooth vesicles, and these were now observed in close apposition to the rough ER cisternae (arrows, Figure 1, c and d). Remarkably, N-ethylmaleimide (NEM) also inhibited smooth tubule

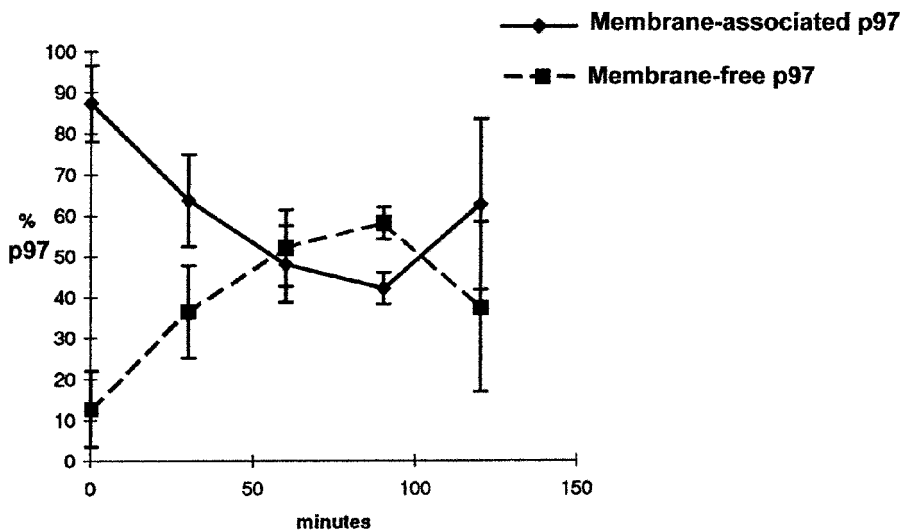


**Figure 2.** Smooth tubule formation in tER is NEM sensitive. LDM were incubated for 60 min (as in Figure 1b) and in the additional presence of 2 mM NEM for 180 min. (a) Membrane networks essentially devoid of interconnecting smooth tubules were observed; scale bar represents 200 nm. Structures labeled rm correspond to parallel rough ER membranes. (a inset) Arrowheads point to ribosomes; scale bar represents 100 nm. (b) Quantitation of the effect of NEM. The amount of membrane networks with rough ER membranes and distinct smooth ER tubules were counted for control incubations minus NEM (tER) as well as for NEM-treated membranes (tER 60' + NEM).

formation (Figure 2). Thus, using rat liver membranes, formation of the smooth tubular membrane domain of tER but not that of the parallel rough membrane domain requires ATP hydrolysis and is NEM sensitive.



**Figure 3.** Antibodies to p97 and syntaxin 5 inhibit assembly of smooth tubules in tER. LDM were incubated as for Figure 1b. (a) Antibodies to p97 were present in the incubation medium. (b) Antibodies to syntaxin 5 were present in the incubation medium. (c) Quantitation of p97 and syntaxin 5 antibody effects by morphometry. The amount of rough ER membranes (RER) and smooth endoplasmic reticulum tubules (SER) in reconstituted membrane networks was calculated as indicated in MATERIALS AND METHODS. Microsomes were incubated under control (CTL) conditions as described for Figure 1b or identically in the presence of antibodies to p97 (LDM + anti-p97) or in the presence of antibody to syntaxin 5 (LDM + anti-syn 5). As an additional control, microsomes were preincubated 180 min to promote transitional ER formation and then incubated an additional 60 min in the presence of anti-p97 antibodies (tER + anti-p97). (a and b) Structures labeled rm correspond to parallel rough ER membranes. Insets show high-magnification electron micrographs of parallel rough ER membranes within regions outlined by frames. Scale bars represent 200 nm. (a and b insets) Scale bars represent 100 nm.



**Figure 4.** Release of membrane-associated p97. LDM were incubated as in Figure 1b for different periods of time. After incubation, membranes were sedimented within the incubation medium by high-speed centrifugation (100,000  $g$  for 30 min). The pellet and supernatant proteins were separated by SDS polyacrylamide gels, p97 was detected by immunoblot, and the amount of p97 was determined by densitometry.

### *Inhibition of Formation of Smooth ER Domain of tER by Antibodies to p97*

Latterich and Schekman (1994) using ER and nuclear membranes from yeast described ATP hydrolysis-dependent steps in both ER-ER and ER-nuclear envelope fusion. They identified the AAA protein Cdc48p but not NSF as responsible for this ATP-hydrolysis-dependent fusion (Latterich *et al.*, 1995; Patel *et al.*, 1998). The mammalian homologue of Cdc48p is p97 (Koller and Brownstein, 1987; Zhang *et al.*, 1994; Rabouille *et al.*, 1995; Acharya *et al.*, 1995; Müller *et al.*, 1999) and has been implicated in tER budding and ER to Golgi transport in rat hepatocytes (Zhang *et al.*, 1994), as well as in the reformation of Golgi-flattened cisternae (Rabouille *et al.*, 1995; Acharya *et al.*, 1995). Hence, p97 was tested as the candidate ATPase responsible for the formation of smooth tubular networks in the assay described here.

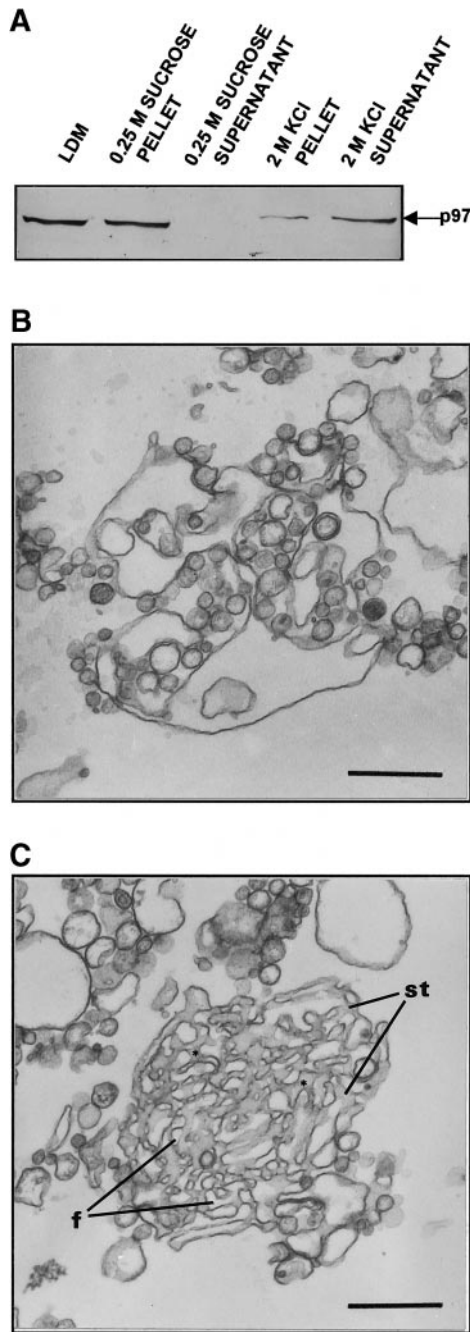
When LDM were incubated with  $Mg^{2+}$ -GTP and  $Mg^{2+}$ -ATP in the presence of antibodies to p97, rough vesicles fused to reconstitute membrane networks made up of only parallel rough ER cisternae (Figure 3, a and c). The absence of interconnecting tubules within these networks was attributed to the inhibition of fusion of smooth vesicles to form the smooth tubule domain of reconstituted tER. The relative proportion of rough and smooth membranes associated with the reconstituted networks is an index of the amount of membrane fusion and was calculated by morphometry using membrane length measurements after incubation in the absence or presence of antibody. Quantitation confirmed the effect of the antibodies on reconstitution of the two ER membrane domains. Whereas anti-p97 inhibited fusion of smooth vesicles and thus assembly of smooth ER tubules, these antibodies had no effect on the fusion of rough vesicles and thus on the assembly of rough ER membranes within reconstituted membrane networks (Figure 3, a and c). As control, addition of anti-p97 antibodies to preassembled tER networks had no effect on the relative amounts of rough and smooth ER membranes within tER networks. Hence, once the tER was assembled, the subsequent addition of antibodies to p97 had no effect on either of the two membrane domains of tER (Figure 3c).

### *Requirement of the SNARE Protein Syntaxin 5 in Formation of the Smooth Tubular Domain of tER*

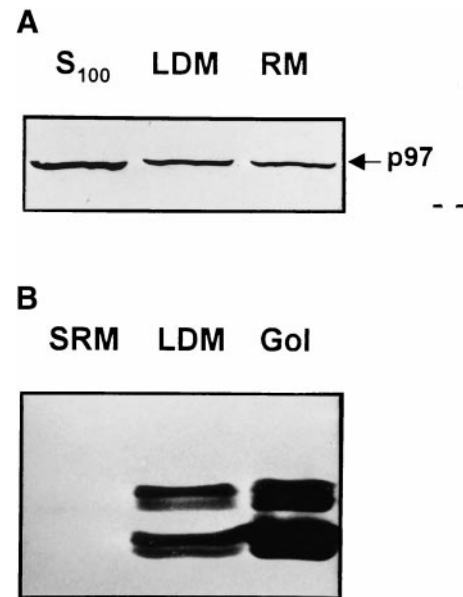
The t-SNARE syntaxin 5 has been demonstrated to be required for the formation of pre-Golgi intermediates in permeabilized cells reconstituting ER-to-Golgi transport (Rowe *et al.*, 1998), as well as in p97-mediated events in the reconstitution of Golgi-flattened cisternae in vitro (Rabouille *et al.*, 1998). To test for a syntaxin 5 requirement, LDM were incubated in the presence of antibodies to the cytoplasmic domain of syntaxin 5. Under these conditions, reconstituted membrane networks consisted only of parallel rough cisternae, and these were devoid of associated smooth tubules (Figure 3, b and c). This is identical to that observed with antibodies to p97. Preincubation of the antibodies to syntaxin 5 with purified glutathione-S-transferase (GST)-syntaxin 5 abolished the effect of the antibodies on reconstitution. Hence, quantitation revealed that 20 of 22 ER networks reconstituted in the presence of antisyntaxin 5 antibodies were devoid of associated smooth tubules. After preincubation of the antibodies with GST-syntaxin 5, only 6 of 22 ER networks were observed without smooth ER tubules, a 3-fold difference. Furthermore, we have previously shown that antibodies to the cytoplasmic tail of the abundant ER membrane protein calnexin have no effect on smooth tubule assembly (Lavoie *et al.*, 1999). Thus, p97 and syntaxin 5 are required for the fusion of smooth vesicles and consequently for the assembly of the smooth ER tubular domain within transitional ER.

### *Dissociation of p97 from Membranes During Fusion*

Release of p97 from ER membranes was studied during incubation conditions that led to tER formation. Sedimentation of incubated membranes during tER formation revealed a time-dependent membrane dissociation of p97 (Figure 4). However, the requirement of p97 for membrane fusion was established by further analysis. High-salt (KCl) washing of LDM released > 90% of membrane-associated p97 (Figure 5a) as well as all ribosomes (not shown). In four separate fractionation experiments, only



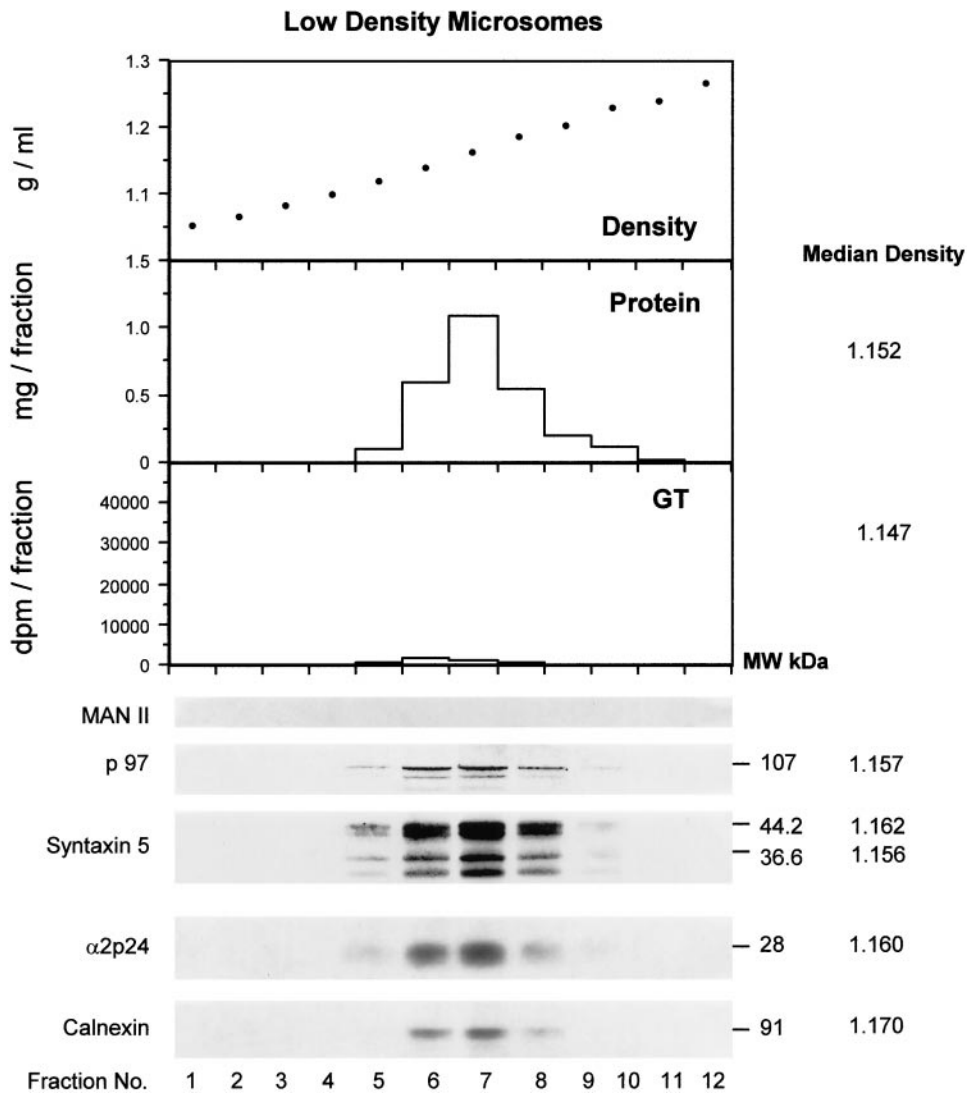
**Figure 5.** Addition of exogenous p97/p47 stimulates smooth tubule assembly within tER. (a) Release of endogenous p97 from LDM by treatment with 2 M KCl. After treatment either with 0.25 M sucrose or 2 M KCl in 0.25 M sucrose, microsomes were sedimented by high-speed centrifugation to form a microsomal pellet and supernatant. p97 content was then compared in the microsomal pellet and the supernatant by immunoblot analysis. (b) Dilated ER cisternae assembled using KCl-treated LDM and incubation as in Figure 1b. (c) tER comprised of interconnecting smooth tubules (st) and fenestrations (f) reconstituted after incubation of KCl-treated LDM in the same medium as in Figure 5b but containing exogenous p97/p47 (5  $\mu$ g p97, 2.5  $\mu$ g p47, 150  $\mu$ g microsomal protein). (b and c) Microsomes were incubated as described for Figure 1b; scale bars represent 500 nm.



**Figure 6.** Content of p97 and syntaxin 5 in ER membranes. (a) Immunoblot analysis of p97 in rat liver cytosol (S<sub>100</sub>), low-density microsomes (LDM), and rough microsomes (RM). (b) Immunoblot analysis of syntaxin 5 in rough microsomes stripped of associated ribosomes (SRM), LDM, and Golgi Apparatus fraction (Gol). Equivalent amounts of fraction protein, purified as described in MATERIALS AND METHODS, were loaded in each lane, and the proteins indicated were detected with appropriate antisera.

6.1  $\pm$  3.4% (mean  $\pm$  SD) of membrane-associated p97 was detectable on LDM after treatment with 2 M KCl. When KCl-treated LDM were incubated in the presence of Mg<sup>2+</sup>GTP and Mg<sup>2+</sup>ATP, the microsomes did fuse but the assembled ER membrane networks were devoid of interconnecting smooth tubules (Figure 5b). When purified p97/p47 was added back to the incubation mixture, KCl-treated microsomes were able to reconstitute membrane networks containing interconnecting smooth tubules (Figure 5c).

Results were confirmed by quantitation. The number of reconstituted membrane networks with recognizable interconnecting smooth tubules was determined after incubation under different conditions. Of the reconstituted ER membrane networks produced by untreated microsomes incubated in the presence of Mg<sup>2+</sup>GTP and Mg<sup>2+</sup>ATP, 85.4  $\pm$  3.6% were comprised of interconnecting smooth tubules. Using the same incubation conditions, only 12.5  $\pm$  10.8% of membrane networks produced using KCl-treated microsomes were comprised of recognizable interconnecting smooth tubules. In contrast, KCl-treated microsomes incubated in the presence of Mg<sup>2+</sup>GTP and Mg<sup>2+</sup>ATP plus purified p97 and p47 protein led to the assembly of ER membrane networks, of which 75.0  $\pm$  6.3% contained interconnecting smooth tubules. Assembly of membrane networks containing smooth tubules in the presence of p97 was selectively abolished by preincubation of purified p97 protein with anti-p97 antibodies (our unpublished results). Thus, p97 promoted specific fusion of membranes of a subcompartment of the ER which is involved in the assembly of smooth ER tubules. p97 is a positive regulator of membrane



**Figure 7.** Analytical fractionation by isopycnic density gradient centrifugation of LDM (a) and the parent microsomes (b) from which they were derived. Shown are the densities of each fraction, the protein distribution, the distribution of the Golgi markers  $\beta$ 1, 4 galactosyl transferase (GT, measured by enzyme assay) and the marker mannosidase II (Man II, measured by immunoblot analysis). The distribution of p97 and syntaxin 5 isoforms are indicated as are the distributions of the primarily *cis* Golgi-located protein  $\alpha_2$ p24 and the primarily ER-located protein calnexin. The median density of the constituents are indicated on the right next to the molecular masses of the respective proteins.

fusion in this system, with dissociation of p97 occurring coincident with membrane fusion.

### Localization of p97 and Syntaxin 5 in ER Subcompartments

The distribution of p97 was compared with that of syntaxin 5 in subcellular fractions and analytical gradients. As expected, by subcellular fractionation, p97 was found in high concentration in rat liver cytosol and in significant but similar proportions in classical rough microsomes and LDM (Figure 6a). Quantitation by densitometry using purified p97 as reference protein revealed as much as 1.5% of total protein associated with LDM was p97 protein (our unpublished results). Surprisingly, when syntaxin 5 content was examined, it was barely detectable in classical rough microsomes, and the amount detected in LDM was high when compared with that detected in a purified Golgi membrane fraction (Figure 6b). Thus, p97 was similarly distributed between

rough and smooth microsomes, and syntaxin 5 was more concentrated in smooth microsomes and Golgi-enriched membranes.

A more detailed comparison of the distribution of p97 and syntaxin 5 was obtained using analytical gradients of LDM as well as of parent microsomes (Figure 7). In LDM (Figure 7a), p97 revealed a distribution coincident with total protein with near identical median density. Syntaxin 5 revealed a major isoform of 44.2 kDa and a minor isoform at 36.6 kDa as reported previously by Hui *et al.*, (1997). These proteins showed a similar distribution to p97. Calnexin and the terminally glycosylated p24 family member  $\alpha_2$ p24 (Dominguez *et al.*, 1998; Lavoie *et al.*, 1999) also revealed a similar distribution. Golgi contamination was negligible as evaluated by two markers. Little uridine diphosphogalactose:ovomucoid galactosyl transferase as assessed by enzyme assay was detected, and no mannosidase II was observed by immunoblot analysis (Figure 7a). By comparison, the parent microsomes used to make



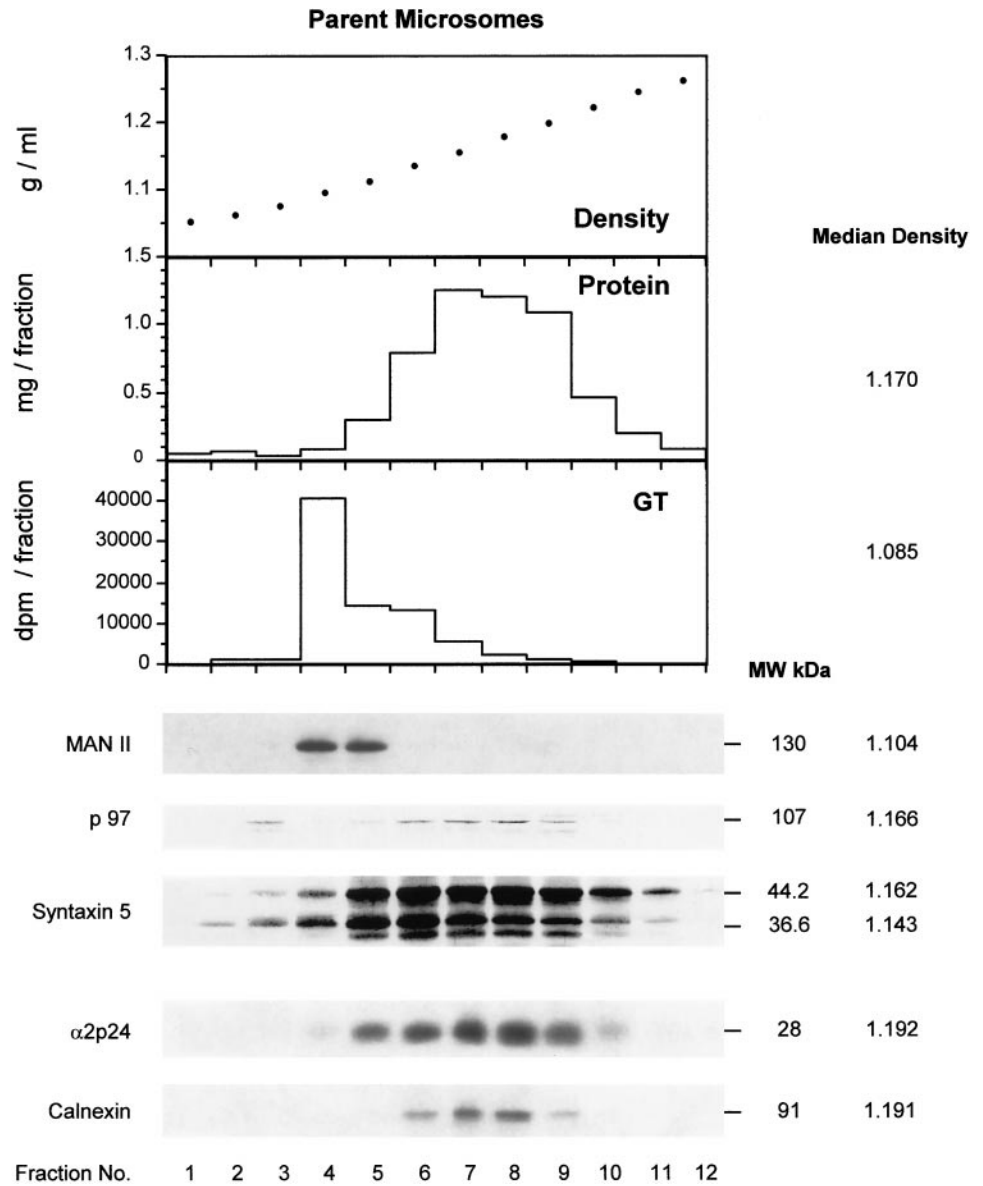
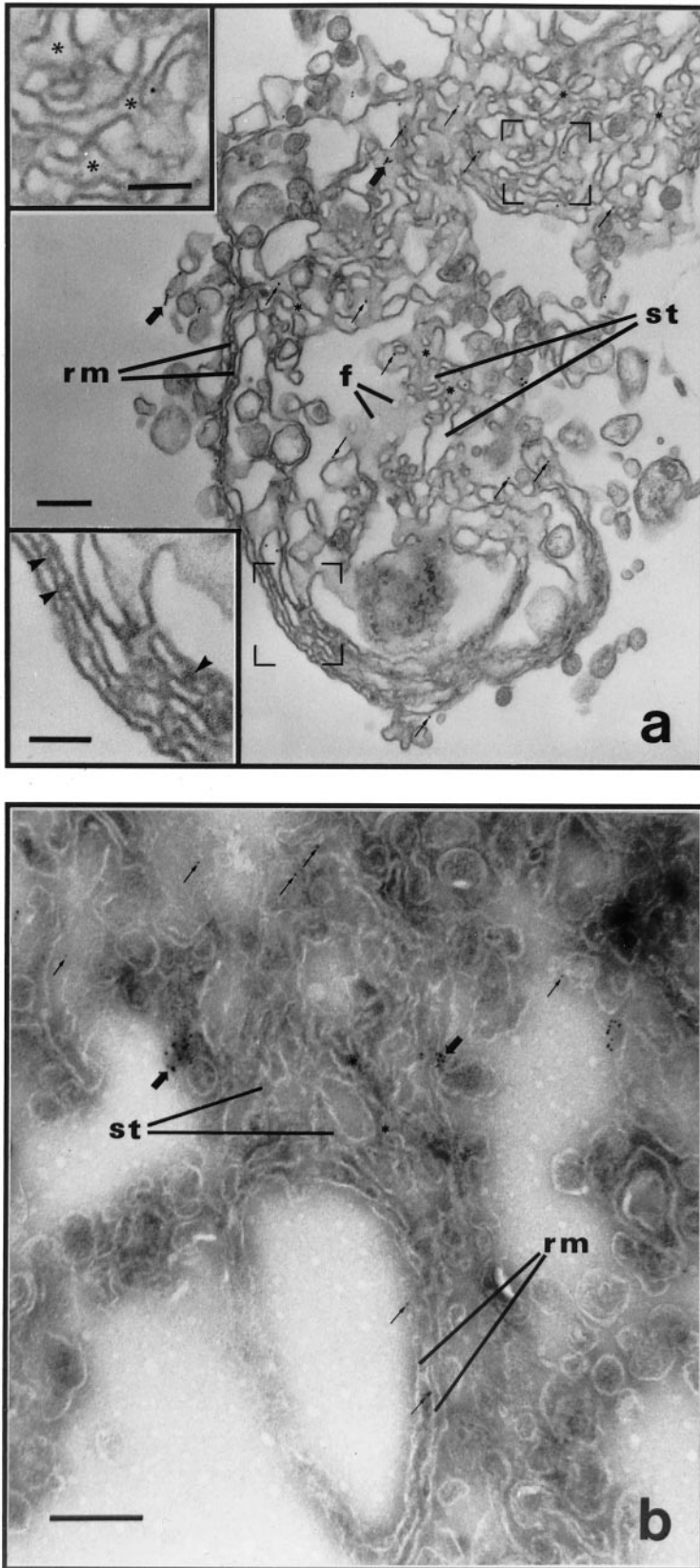


Figure 7 (cont).

the LDM revealed a high content of the same Golgi markers (Figure 7b). Remarkably, a low content of membrane-associated p97 coincided with the distribution of Golgi markers in parent microsomes (Figure 7b). In contrast to LDM, the two major polypeptides recognized by the antisyntaxin 5 antibody revealed a different subcellular distribution with the lower molecular weight 36.6 kDa isoform at a median density of 1.143, compared with 1.162 for the higher molecular weight isoform of 44.2 kDa in the parent microsomal fraction (Figure 7b). This study conclusively rules out Golgi contamination as a possible explanation for the presence of p97 or syntaxin 5 in the LDM fraction. Indeed, even in parent microsomes, the distribution of p97 and syntaxin 5 was distinct to that of the Golgi markers. In LDM, total protein, p97, syntaxin 5,  $\alpha_2$ p24, and calnexin all showed similar distributions and median

densities, whereas in parent microsomes, calnexin and  $\alpha_2$ p24 revealed higher median densities. Hence, LDM represent a biochemically distinct subset of microsomes with biochemical features expected of fragmented tER.

Gold immunolabeling was also carried out. After in vitro reconstitution of tER, immunolabeling of p97 revealed no detectable immunoreactivity consistent with its dissociation from the membranes during the conditions of the in vitro incubations (see Figure 4). In contrast, labeling of the membrane protein syntaxin 5 was readily visualized (Figure 8, a and b). Using a preembedding immunolabeling protocol (Figure 8a), gold particles were found over interconnecting smooth tubules at a higher density to that over parallel membranes of the rough ER cisternae. By postembedding immunolabeling using cryosections (Figure 8b), gold particles were also abundant over



**Figure 8.** Localization of syntaxin 5 within reconstituted tER. LDM were incubated in the presence of mixed nucleotides to form tER. Antibodies to syntaxin 5 were applied and gold immunolabeling studied using the preembedding (a) and postembedding (b) immunolabeling procedures described in the MATERIALS AND METHODS. (a and b) Gold particle labeling (arrows) is predominantly distributed over interconnecting smooth tubular portions of tER. Structures labeled rm correspond to parallel rough ER membranes, and those labeled st correspond to smooth ER tubules. Large arrows point to clusters of gold particle labeling, whereas small arrows point to single gold particle label. Arrowheads point to ribosomes on parallel rough membranes, and asterisks indicate tritubular junctions in smooth ER tubules. Scale bars represent 200 nm. (a insets) High-magnification micrographs of membranes within the regions framed; scale bars represent 100 nm.

**Table 1.** Amount of syntaxin 5 and ribophorin in reconstituted tER

Protein	Networks (n)	Gold particles (n)	Surface area of SER <sup>a</sup> (%)	Labeling over SER (%)	Concentration in SER <sup>b</sup>
Syntaxin 5	41	401	73.9	79.8	1.38X
Ribophorin II	11	462	75.7	59.5	0.47X

<sup>a</sup> SER corresponds to the smooth ER tubules of the reconstituted tER.

<sup>b</sup> To calculate concentrations, percent antigen labelling densities were determined for the rough and smooth ER compartments, and these values were compared to the relative amounts of surface areas occupied by each compartment as described previously (Lavoie *et al.*, 1999).

smooth interconnecting tubules, although some syntaxin 5 was evident over parallel membranes of rough portions of the tER (Figure 8b). Although the preembedding immunolabeling method permitted better recognition of the rough and smooth ER subcompartments in tER (Figure 8a), quantitation with this method was not pursued due to potential problems of antibody penetration between closely apposed ER membranes. Quantitation of gold particle distribution in tER was preferred using cryosections because this method ensured unhampered access to syntaxin 5 epitopes in tER. A slightly higher density of gold particles was observed over smooth interconnected membrane tubules compared with that over parallel rough ER cisternae. A 1.38-fold concentration was observed for syntaxin 5 in the smooth ER compartment, as compared with the surrounding rough membranes (Table 1), and the distributions were judged significantly different between these two compartments ( $0.01 < p < 0.05$ ,  $n = 41$ ). As control, quantitation revealed labeling of ribophorin II, a rough ER marker, to be much higher in the rough ER cisternae (Table 1). The markers for the ER–Golgi intermediate compartment,  $\alpha$ 2p24 and p58, were previously observed to be enriched in the smooth ER tubular compartment, with values calculated at 2.1-fold and 1.6-fold, respectively, over that in rough ER cisternae (Lavoie *et al.*, 1999). These values of enrichment of protein markers are similar to those recently reported for the KDEL receptor and for the SNARE rBET1 in transitional ER in the intact pancreatic acinar cell (Martinez-Menárquez *et al.*, 1999).

## DISCUSSION

As reported previously (Lavoie *et al.*, 1996; Lavoie *et al.*, 1999) and in this paper, the incubation of LDM from rat liver (Figure 1a) with  $Mg^{2+}$ GTP and  $Mg^{2+}$ ATP leads to the fusion of rough and smooth vesicles and the selective and specific assembly of membrane networks consisting of parallel rough ER cisternae continuous with interconnecting smooth tubules (Figure 1b). This *in vitro* reconstituted membrane network was previously defined as tER based on (1) morphological criteria, i.e., it is made up of continuous rough and smooth membrane domains; (2) the smooth tubular network is enriched in content of the secretory cargo, albumin, and transferrin; (3) the smooth tubular network is enriched in the content of the recycling membrane proteins ERGIC 53/p58 and the p24 family member  $\alpha$ 2p24; and (4) the smooth tubular domain of the reconstituted membrane networks can transform into pleiomorphic VTCs after incu-

bation of preassembled tER in the presence of cytosol with the cytosol requirement attributed, at least in part to COPI coatomer (Lavoie *et al.*, 1999). Thus, reconstituted tER defined by our cell-free incubation system consists of continuous rough and smooth membrane domains; it contains molecular markers of the ER and the Golgi intermediate compartments; and one of the subdomains of the tER, the smooth tubular domain, has the capacity to transform into VTCs. In this paper, data is provided suggesting that p97 and syntaxin 5 are required for assembly of the smooth tubular domain of the tER.

The rough ER membrane domain which is continuous with the smooth tubular membrane domain of the tER defined by our cell-free incubation system is different from classical rough ER membrane which is recovered from tissue homogenates as high-density rough microsomes. Although both types of rough ER membranes can undergo GTP-dependent fusion, the fusion events are different. For example, antibodies to  $\alpha$ 2p24 inhibit fusion of the partially rough ER comprising transitional ER but not that of classical rough ER (Lavoie *et al.*, 1999). Fusion of classical rough ER requires prior removal of associated ribosomes (Paiement *et al.*, 1980; Paiement and Bergeron, 1983), and that of transitional rough ER does not (Lavoie *et al.*, 1996). Classical rough ER does not fuse with transitional rough ER when the two types of rough ER are mixed with nucleotides (unpublished observations). Furthermore, classical rough ER contains barely detectable syntaxin 5, whereas LDM, which have the capacity to reconstitute tER, contain significant amounts of this SNARE protein (see Figure 6 in this paper). Hence, the fusion machinery associated with the rough membrane domain of transitional ER is suggested to be different from that associated with the rest of the ER, and this may be related to the capacity of this subcompartment to permit formation of a smooth tubular ER domain and, eventually, ER exit sites.

*In situ* rough and smooth portions of tER appear continuous. So why would membrane fusion be needed to generate the smooth tubular domain of tER? Perhaps vesicle fragments generated from rough and smooth ER membranes during homogenization express *in vitro* fusion properties that reflect the innate capacity of a subcompartment of the ER to fuse and form tubules. ER tubule formation may be necessary to allow ER differentiation in preparation for formation of ER cargo exit sites. Consistent with this is the observation that the cargo proteins transferrin and albumin are enriched in the smooth tubule compartment of rat ER (Lavoie *et al.*, 1999). The data in this paper implicate both p97 and syntaxin 5 in smooth tubule formation. Alternatively,

the smooth tubular domain of tER could represent a retrograde fusion compartment for vesicles in transit from post-ER VTCs and/or *cis* Golgi compartments. The detection of terminally glycosylated  $\alpha_2\text{p}24$  in LDM (Lavoie *et al.*, 1999) is consistent with this possibility.

The ER–Golgi transitional elements are usually described as pre-Golgi intermediates composed of vesicular tubular clusters physically distinct from the ER (Saraste and Kuismanen, 1992; Hauri and Schweizer, 1992; Balch *et al.*, 1994; Griffiths *et al.*, 1995; Bannykh *et al.*, 1996; Rowe *et al.*, 1998). However, other studies have suggested that the intermediate compartments are smooth tubular networks in continuity with the rough ER. Indeed, the budding compartment of mouse hepatitis virus (Krijnse-Locker *et al.*, 1994), the site of accumulation of the E1 glycoprotein of the rubella virus (Hobman *et al.*, 1992), the site of concentration and assembly of chondroitin sulfate proteoglycan precursors (Vertel *et al.*, 1989), and the site of accumulation of vesicular stomatitis virus glycoproteins in cells injected with anti- $\beta$ -COP (Pepperkok *et al.*, 1993) all showed smooth tubular networks in continuity with rough ER cisternae. These have been classified as intermediate compartments or as hypertrophied transitional ER lying along the main route of exocytic traffic. The reconstituted network of anastomosing smooth tubules we describe as being continuous with rough membrane cisternae (Lavoie *et al.*, 1996, 1999, and this paper) exhibits similar morphological and biochemical characteristics to the intermediate compartments described above. Because the addition of cytosol to our *in vitro* system transforms only the tubular network into free-standing vesicular tubular clusters (Lavoie *et al.*, 1999), the LDM fraction represents a pre-Golgi intermediate compartment.

An ER pool of syntaxin 5 has been described by Rowe *et al.* (1998) to be required for the formation of post-ER pre-Golgi intermediates in an ER-to-Golgi transport assay which monitored the glycosylation of vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) protein G cargo (Rowe *et al.*, 1998). However, antisyntaxin 5 in these studies did not inhibit the Sar1-dependent formation of vesicles budding off the ER. Our work defines an important role for syntaxin 5 in a step before the budding step and not analyzed previously (Rowe *et al.*, 1998), namely in the prior formation of the tER. This membrane fusion event is proposed to be largely homotypic via smooth membranes present in the LDM starting preparation. The involvement of p97 as the activating ATPase necessary for this fusion event was supported by the following criteria: 1) an NEM-sensitive ATP hydrolysis event was required for the formation of the smooth tubular membrane domain of the tER *in vitro*; 2) the membrane fusion event leading to smooth tubule formation was inhibited by antibodies specific to p97; 3) membranes depleted of p97 by high-salt wash were incapable of forming the smooth tubular compartment by membrane fusion; and 4) the addition of purified p97/p47 to the salt-washed membranes reconstituted, by an ATP-hydrolysis-requiring event, the ability to reform smooth membrane tubules.

In one current model of SNARE-mediated membrane fusion events, the ATPase activity of p97 would activate syntaxin 5, (Nichols and Pelham, 1998; Ungermann *et al.*, 1998; Bock and Scheller, 1999; Yu *et al.*, 1999). However, as shown in Figure 4, p97 dissociates from LDM coincident with membrane fusion. This suggests an additional regulatory step

involved in fusion and allows modulation of the number of rounds of fusion ultimately limiting the size of the tER compartment which is known to vary widely within different cell types (Vertel *et al.*, 1989; Hobman *et al.*, 1992; Pepperkok *et al.*, 1993; Krijnse-Locker *et al.*, 1994; Bannykh *et al.*, 1996). Modulation of the number of rounds of fusion could explain why the amount of membrane associated with *in vitro* reconstituted tER using liver microsomes is always the same (Lavoie *et al.*, 1999). The factors regulating membrane association of p97 are likely crucial for this modulation and are currently being studied.

Latterich and colleagues (Patel *et al.*, 1998) clearly showed that the yeast homologue of p97, Cdc48p, fuse yeast microsomes using the ER t-SNARE, Ufe1p. Our results suggest that p97 promotes fusion of smooth microsomes from rat liver using the t-SNARE, syntaxin 5. The difference in the results obtained with the two different systems could be explained by the different capacities of p97 and Cdc48p to interact with different SNAREs. Although p97 and Cdc48p exhibit a high degree of identity, their capacity to interact with different SNAREs has yet to be defined. Alternatively different SNAREs, along with GTPases and tethering cofactors, may control fusion in different subcompartments of the ER. Consistent with this possibility is the fact that we observed barely detectable amounts of syntaxin 5 in classical rough ER microsomes but high amounts of this SNARE protein in microsomes containing rough ER which is capable of assembling tER (see Figure 6 in the present paper). The mammalian homologue for Ufe1p (yet to be identified) might also be involved in p97-dependent ER fusion, but this has not been shown and the ER subcompartment in which this occurs has yet to be defined. Likewise, in the yeast cell, it is not clear whether Ufe1p and the p97 homologue Cdc48p promote ER fusion in all ER subcompartments. Indeed, yeast cells contain two topologically distinguishable ER subcompartments: one, a reticular network of interconnecting cisternae distributed throughout the cytoplasm which is continuous with the nucleus; and two, a peripheral cisterna tightly apposed to the plasma membrane (Rose *et al.*, 1989; Preuss *et al.*, 1991; Rossanese *et al.*, 1999). Whether Ufe1p and Cdc48p regulate fusion of ER derivatives from either or both of these yeast subcompartments is not clear. A third possibility is that syntaxin 5 is in a heteromeric complex with the mammalian Ufe1p homologue. Finally, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* has been demonstrated to be devoid of a localized transitional ER (Rossanese *et al.*, 1999); therefore, the Cdc48p(p97)–Ufe1p pathway in this yeast may not be conserved in mammalian cells.

ER reconstitution exhibits temporal and spatial similarities to Golgi reconstitution. Vesiculated ER membranes containing a mixture of both rough and smooth membrane derivatives reconstitute ER via two separate fusion events, an initial GTP-dependent step permitting reconstitution of the rough ER subcompartment (Lavoie *et al.*, 1996; Lavoie *et al.*, 1999), followed by a second p97-dependent step leading to the reconstitution of the smooth ER subcompartment (this paper). In the case of Golgi reconstitution, vesiculated Golgi membranes reconstitute Golgi stacks via two distinct membrane fusion events: an initial NSF-dependent fusion step, followed by a subsequent p97-dependent step (Acharya *et al.*, 1995). Furthermore, the spatial organization of the smooth and rough ER subcompartments generated *in vitro*

(e.g., a central core of interconnecting smooth tubules continuous with peripherally located rough membrane cisternae) is analogous to that of Golgi stacks (consisting of a central core continuous with peripheral rims) generated from mitotic Golgi fragments *in vitro* (Rabouille *et al.*, 1995). In both cases, p97 promotes the homotypic fusion of a central core of membranes, interconnecting tubules for tER (this paper), and a central core of Golgi stacks (Rabouille *et al.*, 1995).

The results presented here are unexpected, given the role previously ascribed to p97/p47 and syntaxin 5 in Golgi cisternal reassembly of mitotic fragments from mitotic cells (Warren and Malhotra, 1998). Two main views have been proposed to explain the morphological transformations accompanying the Golgi complex during mitosis. In one view, Golgi fragments retain their molecular composition during mitosis and reassemble by homotypic membrane fusion during telophase to form Golgi cisternae (Warren and Malhotra, 1998). In the second view, Golgi cisternae are thought to coalesce into the ER during mitosis by a process analogous to that occurring during treatment with brefeldin A. After mitosis, ER-Golgi differentiation is thought to occur by membrane partitioning in a manner resembling brefeldin A washout (Zaal *et al.*, 1999). The second model is consistent with cisternal maturation-progression (Morré and Keenan, 1997; Nichols and Pelham, 1998; Lippincott-Schwartz *et al.*, 1998) and predicts that molecules regulating the biogenesis of the early secretory pathway would be required for the differentiation of Golgi cisternae from hybrid membranes in early interphase. The results as documented here show that p97/p47 and syntaxin 5 are required for the formation of the earliest differentiated compartments of the early secretory pathway, i.e., that of the smooth tubular domain of the transitional ER.

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