

Viral and Cell Cycle–Regulated Kinases in Cytomegalovirus-Induced Pseudomitosis and Replication

Laura Hertel¹, Sunwen Chou², Edward S. Mocarski^{3*}

1 Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada, **2** VA Medical Center, Portland, Oregon, United States of America, **3** Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia, United States of America

A process of pseudomitosis occurs during human cytomegalovirus infection that appears similar to cellular mitosis but involves the formation of multiple spindle poles, abnormal condensation, and mislocalization of chromosomal DNA. The relationship of this process to viral replication and cell cycle regulation during infection has been poorly understood. Pseudomitosis consistently peaks at late times of infection in all viral strains examined but at overall highest frequencies (30% to 35% of cells) using one common laboratory strain variant (AD169varATCC). Cyclin-dependent kinase 1 (Cdk1) plays a crucial role in pseudomitosis, mirroring its role in conventional mitosis. Dominant negative Cdk1 inhibits and wild-type Cdk1 stimulates this process; however, viral yields remain the same regardless of pseudomitosis levels. Broad inhibition of cell cycle–regulated kinases (Cdk1/Cdk2/Cdk5/Cdk9) with indirubin-3'-monoxime substantially decreases viral yields and synergizes with the viral UL97 kinase inhibitor, maribavir. Thus, Cdk1 is necessary and sufficient to drive pseudomitosis, whereas a combination of viral and cell cycle–regulated kinases is important during viral replication.

Citation: Hertel L, Chou S, Mocarski ES (2007) Viral and cell cycle–regulated kinases in cytomegalovirus-induced pseudomitosis and replication. *PLoS Pathog* 3(1): e6. doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.0030006

Introduction

DNA viruses have yielded many insights into cell cycle control as well as regulation of cellular processes associated with oncogenesis because they encode regulatory proteins that modulate cell cycle progression and cell death. Members of the papillomavirus, polyomavirus, hepadnavirus, and herpesvirus families all cause persistent/latent infections, and, regardless of any contribution to malignancy, all of these viruses encode functions that dysregulate cellular growth, inhibit immune activation, and modulate inflammation [1]. Lifelong infection with human herpesviruses, including herpes simplex virus (HSV)-1, HSV-2, varicella zoster virus, Epstein-Barr virus, cytomegalovirus (CMV), human herpesvirus 6A, 6B, or 7, and Kaposi sarcoma–associated herpesvirus, is associated with dysregulation of the cell cycle as well as with medically important opportunistic disease [2,3]. The mechanisms of cell cycle dysregulation in herpesvirus replication and proliferative disease remain poorly understood even though these processes underlie pathogenesis.

Human CMV has a dramatic stimulatory impact on permissive cells in culture, as typically demonstrated by infecting human fibroblasts (HFs). Stimulation follows a bimodal pattern, with an initial peak due to the impact virus binding and penetration, and a later peak coinciding with viral DNA synthesis, assembly and release [4–7]. This late phase of infection is also associated with dysregulation of host cell cyclin levels and with disruption of cell cycle progression [8–11] and suggests that these processes are linked. Viral DNA replication and cell cycle dysregulation both depend upon expression of viral immediate-early (IE, or α) and delayed-early (DE, or β) gene products, which precede expression of

late genes and release of progeny virus [6]. This pattern also implicates early viral gene products in cell cycle stimulation and dysregulation [5,12] in a manner reminiscent of oncogene-encoding, DNA tumor viruses [13]. Although infected cells exhibit a pattern of protein expression consistent with continued cell cycle progression, normal cellular prereplication complexes fail to form [14], cellular DNA synthesis (S phase) fails to proceed [8–11], and chromosome segregation and cytokinesis are blocked [8–11]. These investigations showed that infected HFs become arrested in a pseudo-G1 state associated with dramatic modulation of p53, pRb, cyclins, and cyclin-dependent kinases (Cdks) in ways that may be critical for viral replication efficiency.

The importance of cell cycle–regulated kinases in CMV replication is consistent with a strong antiviral impact of selective Cdk inhibitors such as roscovitine [15]. Roscovitine, as well as other Cdk inhibitors such as olomucine and flavopiridol, inhibits herpesviruses, as well as other DNA viruses and retroviruses, in a pattern that reveals the underlying importance of host cell protein kinases in viral

Editor: Grant McFadden, University of Florida, United States of America

Received August 17, 2006; **Accepted** November 13, 2006; **Published** January 5, 2007

Copyright: © 2007 Hertel et al. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

Abbreviations: Cdk, cyclin-dependent kinase; CMV, cytomegalovirus; DE, delayed-early; GFP, green fluorescent protein; HF, human fibroblast; HSV, herpes simplex virus; IE, immediate-early; IMO, indirubin-3'-monoxime; MBV, maribavir; MOI, multiplicity of infection; VPK, viral protein kinase

* To whom correspondence should be addressed. E-mail: mocarski@emory.edu

Author Summary

The human herpesvirus cytomegalovirus, which infects most people worldwide, orchestrates a stimulatory effect on cell growth and division, creating an environment that appears similar to many cancer-causing viruses that may be important in viral disease. In previous work, we discovered that viral infection stimulates cells to proceed to an abnormal state mimicking cell division or mitosis but blocks the formation of daughter cells. Here the abnormal state (pseudomitosis) is shown to depend on viral events that drive high levels of the cellular enzyme cyclin-dependent kinase 1 (Cdk1), normally associated with progression through cell division. Although Cdk1 by itself exerts no detectable influence on viral replication levels, host cell cyclin-dependent kinases play an overlapping role with the virus-encoded protein kinase (UL97) in viral replication. Specific inhibitors of these host and viral kinases are used to demonstrate that Cdk1 is necessary and sufficient to drive pseudomitosis; however, viral as well as cell cycle-regulated kinases are important for efficient viral replication.

replication [16]. Cdk2 normally complexes with cyclin E or cyclin A in mammalian cells to control G1/S transition. Although cyclin A expression is suppressed [9–11], cyclin E is induced and Cdk2/cyclin E activity is increased [9,17,18] in CMV-infected cells. Most dramatically, the G2/M-associated Cdk1/cyclin B1 complex is induced [8–11] and accumulates at late times of CMV infection [14]. The activity of a wide range of other cell cycle regulators, specific kinases, and cytoskeletal proteins is also altered, and some of these proteins are suspected to function [19–21] during infection [14]. A systematic analysis of cellular gene transcription patterns during infection with a commonly used laboratory strain of CMV (AD169*var*ATCC), provided evidence of extensive cell cycle dysregulation during the late phase of infection, with a peculiar transcriptional enhancement of multiple M-phase regulatory genes [7]. Direct evaluation of infected cultures unveiled the formation of cells with multipolar mitotic spindles and abnormally condensed and misaligned chromosomes, starting by 2 d postinfection. This abnormal process was morphologically distinguishable from conventional mitosis and appeared to represent uncontrolled duplication of centrosomes and aberrant condensation of nonduplicated cellular DNA into mitotic structures [7]. The Cdk1/cyclin B1 complex is a central regulator of entry into M-phase, which ensures the correct segregation of chromosomes into daughter cells at cytokinesis. Regulation of this complex is achieved through the timed synthesis and degradation of cyclin B1 and the tight control of Cdk1 phosphorylation state [22,23]. The elevated Cdk1 and cyclin B1 levels [9,17,18] observed in CMV-infected cells may thus be directly responsible for the induction of pseudomitosis.

The Cdk inhibitor indirubin, the active component of the traditional Chinese anti-inflammatory, antibacterial, and antiviral preparation Danggui Longhui Wan, has also been used to block cell cycle progression [24–26] but has not been evaluated during CMV replication. Indirubin and derivatives such as indirubin-3'-monoxime (IMO), which exhibits improved solubility and cell adsorption qualities, have been used to treat patients suffering from chronic myelocytic or chronic granulocytic leukemias [27]. The antiproliferative properties of this compound depend on high affinity competition for the ATP binding site of Cdk1, Cdk2, and

Cdk5 [28], as well as Cdk9 [29]. IMO induces cell cycle arrest at both the G1/S and G2/M borders, consistent with blocking Cdk2/cyclin E and Cdk1/cyclin B1 activities in cultured cells [28] and animal models [30].

Specific inhibition of Cdk1 and Cdk2 activity provided compelling evidence for the function of these kinases at specific stages of the cell cycle. Dominant negative, kinase-inactive Cdk1 arrests cycling cells at the G2/M border, while dominant negative Cdk2 inhibits G1/S progression [31]. The reported inhibition of CMV infection by dominant negative Cdk2 [15] is consistent with a role for this S phase kinase in viral replication.

In addition to relying on cellular Cdks, CMV encodes the herpesvirus-conserved viral protein kinase (VPK) ppUL97, a serine/threonine kinase that plays an important role during CMV replication [32–35]. Mutation of VPK slows viral DNA replication and maturation events in a manner that depends upon cell state and culture conditions. VPK autophosphorylates and potentially acts on viral substrates, such as the CMV DNA polymerase processivity subunit ppUL44, as well as cellular substrates, including the largest subunit of RNA polymerase II and histone H2B [36,37]. VPK phosphorylates in ways that may overlap with cellular Cdks, is required for activation of the antiviral drug ganciclovir [38–40], and is the target of the selective antiviral drug maribavir (MBV, also called 1263W94) [41,42]. Cells infected with wild-type virus in the presence of MBV or with UL97 mutant exhibit defects in viral replication starting at DNA synthesis and extending through late maturation events [32–35].

Whether pseudomitosis is controlled by viral or cellular functions and how this process contributes to viral replication remain unexplored, although observations on infected cells are consistent with some role for elevated Cdk1/cyclin B1 complex activity. Here we show that induction of pseudomitosis is a common property of CMV strains but is not a requisite for replication. Pseudomitosis is specifically dependent on Cdk1 activity, while viral replication requires a broader set of Cdks acting in concert with VPK.

Results

Pseudomitosis Is a Common Feature of CMV-Infected Cultures

To determine whether pseudomitosis observed during infection with a previously evaluated CMV strain variant (AD169*var*ATCC) [7] was a universal feature of commonly used CMV strains, we recorded the percentage of pseudomitotic cells induced in HF cells infected at a multiplicity of infection (MOI) of 10 with AD169*var*ATCC, AD169*var*DE, Toledo, Towne*var*ATCC, Towne*var*RIT, or TB40/E for 50, 72 and 96 h (Figure 1). Pseudomitotic cells were identified by staining infected cultures for the viral nuclear antigens IE1/IE2 and for the mitotic spindle pole-localizing protein γ -tubulin 1, as described [7]. All strains showed the ability to drive infected cells into pseudomitosis, albeit with different efficiencies and following different temporal patterns. As expected, AD169*var*ATCC induced abnormal numbers of mitotic spindles and misalignment of condensed chromosomal DNA in approximately 35% of infected cells, peaking at 72 h postinfection [7], while all other CMV strains induced pseudomitosis at lower overall levels. Surprisingly, another AD169 strain variant (AD169*var*DE) induced much lower

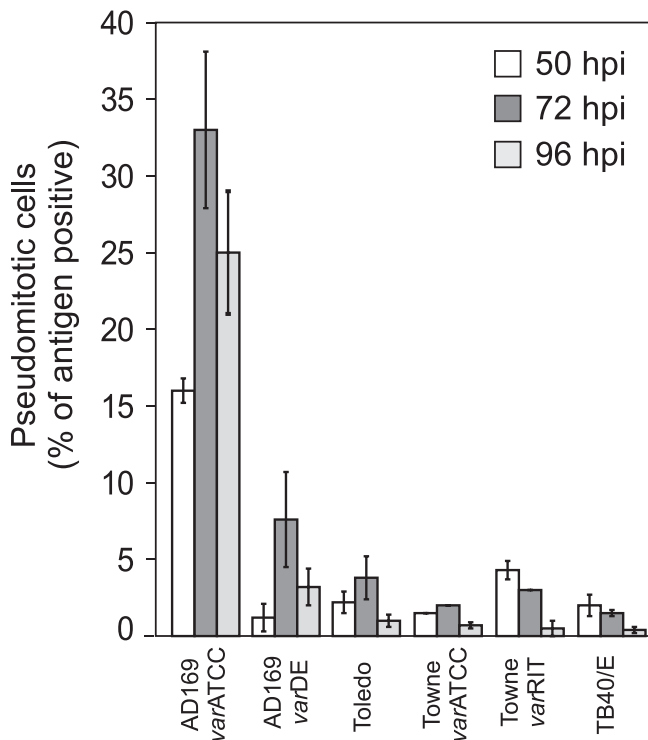


Figure 1. Pseudomitosis Levels Induced by Commonly Used CMV Strains
Confluent HFs infected with the indicated CMV strains for 50, 72, and 96 h were immunostained with monoclonal antibodies (mAb) against γ -tubulin 1 and against IE1/IE2. The percentage of IE1/IE2⁺ pseudomitotic cells was determined after counting at least 500 cells for each strain at each time point [7]. Mean percentages and standard deviation from a representative experiment are shown.
doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.0030006.g001

peak levels (7% at 72 h postinfection) compared to AD169varATCC. The only known difference between these strain variants is in the UL36 gene product, which has a point mutation that renders the viral inhibitor of caspase 8 activation nonfunctional [43], suggesting that viral genetic determinants such as this anti-apoptotic function may impact this process. All other strains displayed top levels below 5%, and varied in the timing of maximal pseudomitosis levels, with Toledo and TownevarATCC peaking at 72 h postinfection but TownevarRIT and TB40/E showing highest levels at 50 h postinfection. Thus, although induction of pseudomitosis is a common property of CMV strains in culture, AD169varATCC exhibits substantially higher levels than the other strains we examined.

Cdk1 Is Necessary and Sufficient to Promote Pseudomitosis during Infection

The levels of endogenous Cdk1 were induced 30% more in AD169varATCC than in AD169varDE infected cells (Figure 2A), consistent with a role for this cyclin-dependent kinase in driving pseudomitosis levels. To determine the extent to which Cdk1 activity alone contributed to the development of pseudomitosis, retrovirus-transduced HFs expressing enhanced green fluorescent protein (GFP), a GFP-tagged, wild-type Cdk1 (Cdk1wt-GFP) or a GFP-tagged, kinase inactive and dominant negative Cdk1 (Cdk1dn-GFP) [31] were infected with AD169varATCC or AD169varDE (MOI of 10). Immunoblot analysis showed that both endogenous (black arrowhead)

and recombinant Cdk1 (Cdk1wt-GFP or Cdk1dn-GFP; gray arrowhead) were comparably expressed in infected cells at 72 h postinfection (Figure 2A). In all experimental settings, AD169varATCC induced endogenous Cdk1 to higher levels than AD169varDE, and, independent of the retrovirus construct, transduction reduced endogenous Cdk1 levels by 20% to 30%. Cdk1dn-GFP or Cdk1wt-GFP was also expressed in cells infected with AD169varATCC or AD169varDE, with levels appearing to be substantially higher in AD169varDE-infected cells transduced with either construct. Total (endogenous plus transduced) Cdk1 levels were approximately 80% in AD169varATCC- and 160% in AD169varDE-infected cells compared to nontransduced cells. No difference was observed in the expression of Cdk1wt-GFP or Cdk1dn-GFP in cells infected with either virus; however, expression was twice as high in AD169varDE-infected cells, suggesting a level of variation in total Cdk1 levels that was not explored further.

GFP fluorescence was detectable in 90% to 100% of transduced HFs (Figure 2B) and facilitated differentiation between the round, anucleated pseudomitotic cells and the spindle-shaped, nucleated cells that retained an interphase appearance (Figure 2B, insets). Because of the differences in endogenous and transduced Cdk1 expression levels depending on the strain variant, comparisons were made within a variant, although Cdk1 inhibition or overexpression had similar effects on both AD169varATCC- and AD169varDE-infected HFs when IE1/IE2 antigen-positive, GFP-positive, pseudomitotic cells were counted (Figure 2C). High levels of pseudomitotic cells were observed in AD169varATCC-infected HFs following transduction with Cdk1wt-GFP. By contrast, such cells were rare in cultures that had been transduced with Cdk1dn-GFP. When four independent experiments were analyzed together, the peak levels of pseudomitosis in either AD169varATCC- ($28 \pm 2\%$) or AD169varDE- ($7 \pm 1\%$) infected cultures were reduced approximately 4-fold in the presence of Cdk1dn-GFP, indicating that Cdk1 activity was necessary for this process. Conversely, transduction of Cdk1wt-GFP, which increased the total cellular pool of active Cdk1, induced pseudomitosis 1.4-fold with AD169varATCC and 2.5-fold with AD169varDE, consistent with expression levels (Figure 2A). Pseudomitosis levels in GFP controls were similar to levels in nontransduced cells, indicating a neutral impact of GFP expression on this process. Thus, Cdk1 appears necessary and sufficient for induction of pseudomitosis in CMV-infected cells, consistent with its role in regulating mitosis in the conventional cell cycle [31].

Cdk1 and Pseudomitosis Are Dispensable for Viral Replication

To assess the impact of pseudomitosis on viral yields, CMV (AD169varATCC) released into culture supernatants was titered at 50, 72, 96, and 120 h postinfection, comparing nontransduced HFs to HFs transduced with GFP, Cdk1dn-GFP, or Cdk1wt-GFP (Figure 2D). No differences in virus titers were observed at any time in any of these conditions despite the dramatic impact that modulation of Cdk1 levels had on pseudomitosis. In separate experiments, nontransduced HFs or HFs transduced with GFP, Cdk1dn-GFP, or Cdk1wt-GFP and infected with AD169varATCC or AD169varDE were found to produce similar amounts of virus at 72 h

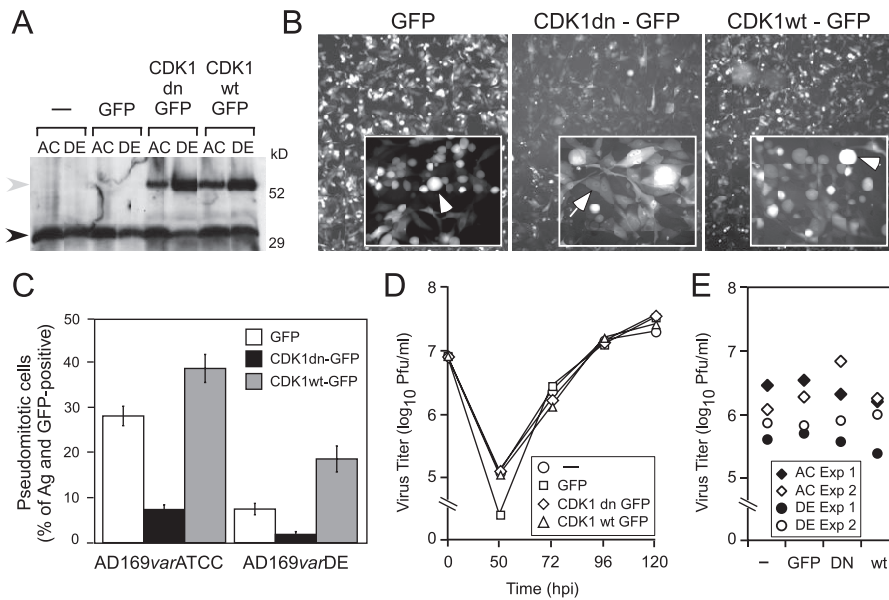


Figure 2. Impact of Cdk1 on Pseudomitosis and Replication

(A) Immunoblot analysis of Cdk1 expression in protein extracts from nontransduced (–) and GFP-, Cdk1wt-GFP-, or Cdk1dn-GFP-transduced HF cells infected with AD169varATCC (AC) or AD169varDE (DE) for 72 h. The blot was incubated with an anti-Cdk1 monoclonal antibody (mAb) as described in Materials and Methods. Expected molecular weights: 34 kDa for Cdk1 and 61 kDa for Cdk1wt or dn-GFP. Black arrowhead, endogenous Cdk1; gray arrowhead, recombinant Cdk1.

(B) GFP fluorescence images of HF cells transduced with retroviruses expressing GFP, Cdk1wt-GFP, or Cdk1dn-GFP and infected with AD169varATCC for 72 h (original magnification $\times 50$). Higher magnification images ($\times 200$) are displayed in the insets. Arrowheads indicate representative pseudomitotic cells; arrows indicate interphase cells.

(C) Percentage of IE1/IE2⁺ and GFP⁺ pseudomitotic cells in GFP-, Cdk1wt-GFP-, or Cdk1dn-GFP-transduced HF cells infected with AD169varATCC or AD169varDE for 72 h. Mean percentages and standard deviation from four independent experiments are shown.

(D) Viral yields from nontransduced (–) and GFP-, Cdk1wt-GFP-, or Cdk1dn-GFP-transduced HF cells infected with AD169varATCC for 50, 72, 96, and 120 h in one representative experiment.

(E) Viral yields from nontransduced (–) and GFP-, Cdk1wt-GFP-, or Cdk1dn-GFP-transduced HF cells infected with AD169varATCC or AD169varDE for 72 h in two independent experiments.

doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.0030006.g002

postinfection (Figure 2E). Thus, the dramatic modulation of pseudomitosis that was observed using these vectors did not contribute to altered virus replication or release. Therefore, pseudomitosis is a reflection of induced Cdk1 activity during infection, but viral replication proceeds with equal efficiency in HF cells regardless of Cdk1 activity.

Viral Replication Depends on the Activity of Cellular Kinases

Given that Cdk1 activity does not influence CMV replication levels, we evaluated the impact of IMO, a Cdk1/Cdk2/Cdk5/Cdk9 inhibitor [28], on CMV replication (MOI = 10) at 24, 48, 72, 96, 120, and 144 h postinfection. IMO has been used to inhibit wild-type and drug-resistant strains of HIV-1 in culture [29], but its antiviral effects against CMV or other herpesviruses had never been tested. Enzyme inhibition studies suggested IMP is a more potent and specific Cdk1 and Cdk2 inhibitor than roscovitine [28,44]. Appearance of progeny virus in culture supernatants was delayed at 5 μ M IMO and significantly inhibited at 10 μ M IMO regardless of whether AD169varATCC or AD169varDE was used (Figure 3A). DMSO (the IMO solvent) at 1% or 2% had no impact on virus levels. The maximum effect of 5 μ M IMO (200- to 300-fold reduction) was observed at 72 h postinfection, although viral levels continued to rise. Peak viral yields were obtained at 120 h postinfection, with a delay of 24 h and a 5-fold reduction in titer compared to DMSO-treated cultures. IMO

10 μ M inhibition was more dramatic, with a greater than a 10,000-fold reduction at 72 h and greater than 20-fold reduction at 144 h postinfection (Figure 3A). The IMO-specific impact on pseudomitosis could not be assessed because DMSO, the solvent, at either 1% or 2% blocked this process via a mechanism that has not been explored. IMO at 5 or 10 μ M (or DMSO solvent alone up to 2%) in medium replaced daily had no effect on uninfected cell viability or total numbers over a 5-d time course (unpublished data). Numbers of virus-infected HF cells started to decline between 72 and 96 h postinfection, but this has been considered a normal consequence of infection [45] and the intensity and rate of cell loss were not increased by treatment. Staining with Hoechst 44432 showed that nuclei were intact and presented no evidence of pseudomitosis or other changes in nuclear or chromatin morphology.

Finally, we investigated the effects of combining specific Cdk1 inhibition and IMO treatment on viral replication. Neither IMO (10 μ M) nor DMSO (2%) alone altered levels of viral replication in GFP-, Cdk1wt-GFP-, or Cdk1dn-GFP-transduced HF cells above those expected of IMO alone (Figure 3B). Expression of transduced proteins was not altered by IMO or DMSO treatment, although pseudomitosis was completely blocked in all of these conditions (unpublished data). Thus, Cdk1 does not independently contribute to viral replication in any of the conditions we used, while a broader set of cellular kinase activities is important for efficient viral cycle progression.

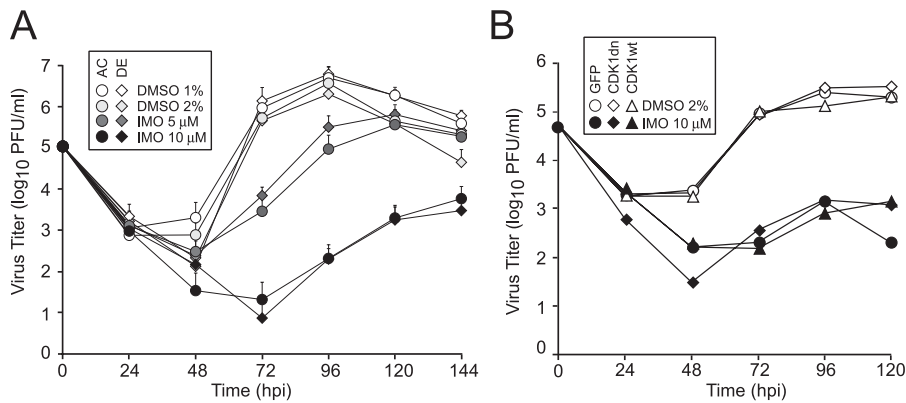


Figure 3. AD169varATCC and AD169varDE Yields Depend on the Activity of Cellular Kinases

(A) Mean viral yields with standard deviations (three independent experiments) from HFs infected with AD169varATCC or AD169varDE in the presence of 1% or 2% DMSO or in the presence of 5 μ M or 10 μ M IMO for 24, 48, 72, 96, 120, and 144 h. (B) Viral yields from GFP-, Cdk1wt-GFP-, or Cdk1dn-GFP-expressing HFs infected with AD169varATCC in the presence of 2% DMSO or 10 μ M IMO for 24, 48, 72, 96, and 120 h from one representative experiment. doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.0030006.g003

Contribution of VPK ppUL97 and Cdks to Viral Yields

Treatment of CMV-infected HFs with 10 μ M IMO reduced but did not completely block replication levels, a pattern similar to that observed with cells infected with UL97 mutants [32,34,35] or treated with MBV, a potent inhibitor of the UL97-encoded VPK [41,46–48]. Thus, we investigated the combined impact of simultaneously inhibiting cellular Cdks and VPK. To evaluate the contribution of VPK, we titered progeny virus levels released in the supernatant of confluent AD169varATCC-infected HFs that were treated with IMO alone, MBV alone, or combinations of these two inhibitors. IMO was used at the two previously evaluated concentrations (5 μ M and 10 μ M) in the absence of MBV or together with MBV at subinhibitory (0.025, 0.1, or 0.4 μ M) concentrations. Drug-containing medium was replaced daily, and virus titers were determined at 24, 48, 72, 96, and 144 h postinfection (Figure 4). As expected from work describing the activity of this antiviral drug on HFs [49], addition of MBV alone at 0.025 or 0.1 μ M did not inhibit viral levels and addition of MBV at 0.4 μ M reduced viral levels only 2- to 3-fold. MBV substantially enhanced the antiviral activity of IMO in a dose- and time-dependent manner. The most dramatic effects on viral replication were achieved in the presence of 5 or 10 μ M IMO plus 0.4 μ M MBV. Specifically, there was a 500-fold enhancement of antiviral activity when 10 μ M IMO was used together with 0.4 μ M MBV at 72, 96, and 144 h postinfection. These results highlight the dramatic dependence of CMV replication on the activity of both cellular and viral protein kinases. Furthermore, these results demonstrate the potential therapeutic benefit of combining cellular Cdk and VPK inhibitors to treat CMV infections.

Discussion

Whereas the aberrant process leading to pseudomitosis is dependent on Cdk1 levels, replication of CMV appears to require overlapping contributions of Cdks and VPKs. The synergism of a specific inhibitor of CMV VPK and a broad inhibitor of Cdks best illustrated this interdependence. The CMV VPK inhibitor MBV inhibits viral replication in culture, showing a pattern that is reminiscent of VPK mutants

[32,34,35]. Herpesvirus-common VPKs are encoded by all mammalian and avian herpesviruses [33]. In HSV-1 and other alphaherpesviruses that are studied in actively growing cell lines, VPKs have been found to be dispensable for replication even though they impact the phosphorylation status of viral proteins and are important for viral replication in the host. In CMV, UL97-encoded VPK provides a critical replication function in quiescent cells, promoting the efficiency of virion maturation at different steps [32–35]. The variable impact on viral replication levels together with the fact that a number of distinct late replication events are sensitive to the absence or inhibition of VPK is consistent with an overlap in VPK and Cdk activities, an overlap that gives the impression that VPK is dispensable in some herpesviruses such as HSV-1 because these viruses are propagated in actively growing cell lines. Similar to the behavior of UL97 mutant virus, the antiviral effect of MBV is influenced by culture conditions and metabolic status of host cells in culture [49]. By exploring the effects of Cdks and VPK inhibition, we have been able to dissect the impact of protein kinases in virus-induced cell cycle dysregulation as well as viral replication. The dependence of CMV-induced pseudomitosis on elevated cellular Cdk1 activity contrasts with the broader, overlapping role of Cdks and VPK in replication. Future work will focus on investigating the behavior of UL97 mutant virus or MBV-treated wild-type virus in the presence of cellular kinase inhibitors to further dissect the role of individual kinases in host cell modulation and viral replication.

Induction of Cdk1 underlies the higher levels of pseudomitosis observed with AD169varATCC and lower levels observed with AD169varDE, and both may be modulated with predictable results by transduction of dominant negative Cdk1 or wt Cdk1. The viral function(s) that influence the levels and activity of Cdk1 during infection is unknown, and as such, levels of pseudomitosis may reflect viral regulation of a gene product that drives or inhibits this process. Virus strain and/or cell culture conditions clearly influence pseudomitosis, and one viral function that may play a role, based on characterized differences between strain variants used here, is the cell death suppressor viral inhibitor of caspase 8 activation [43]. The precise roles played by virus-

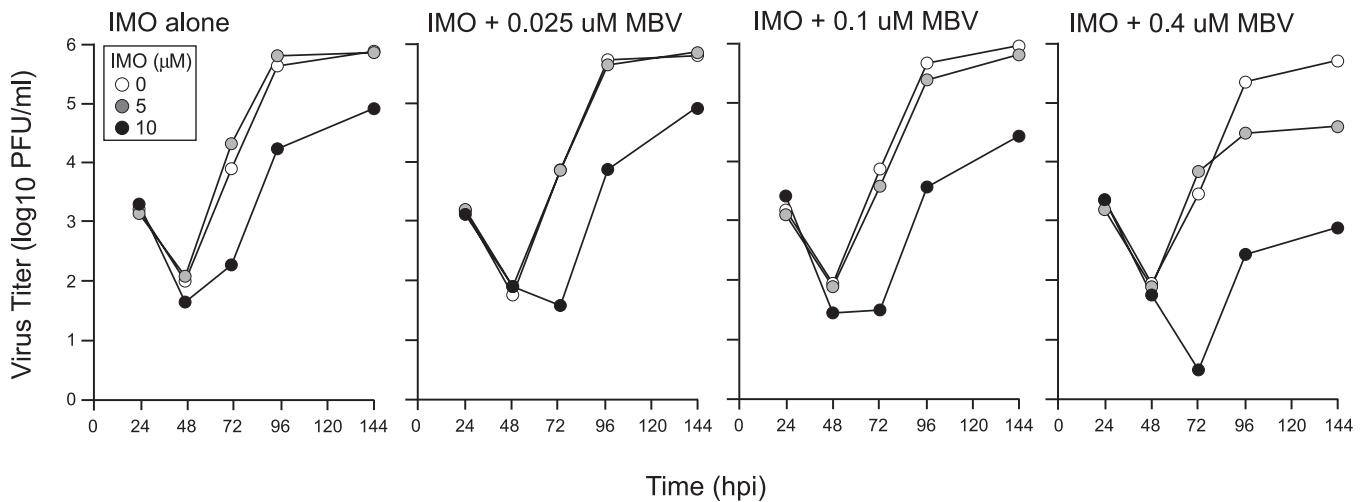


Figure 4. Checkerboard Analysis of Cellular Cdk Inhibitor IMO and VPK Inhibitor MBV on Viral Yields

Mean infectivity (with standard deviation of four replicates indicated by error bars) determined by plaque assay on culture supernatants of HFJs at 24, 48, 72, 96, and 144 h postinfection with AD169varATCC in the presence of 0, 5, or 10 μ M IMO (left) or in combination with different concentrations of MBV (0.025, 0.1, and 0.4 μ M) from one experiment. doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.0030006.g004

encoded cell death suppressors is starting to emerge [45]; however, interplay between the viral inhibitor of caspase 8 activation and cell cycle dysregulation has not been established. Further understanding will come from the use of additional viral mutants, from the continued study of viral strains with high or low pseudomitotic behavior, and from studies that aim at dissecting the Cdk1-dependent events that are critical to the process. Transduction of wild-type Cdk1 induces levels of pseudomitosis as high as 50%, whereas use of dominant negative Cdk1 reduces levels to below 1% without either treatment altering overall virus yields. These data demonstrate that dysregulation of the cell cycle is associated and compatible with CMV replication but that the virus does not rely on this process for any step in replication. It is likely, though, that this virus might require a range of cellular functions that are made available as a result of driving cells into an M-like state. The efficiency of CMV replication in pseudomitotic cells will become better understood by closer examination of maturation events in these nonnucleated cells. It is worth noting that, although current models of envelopment assume the presence of a nuclear membrane, they are compatible with capsid assembly and virion maturation proceeding through the envelopment step in the absence of a nuclear membrane [33,50].

In CMV-infected HFJs, Cdk1/cyclin B induction occurs very early, by 8 h postinfection, and this induction is maintained throughout the time course of infection. There appear to be specific virus-induced mechanisms, including the accumulation of cyclin B1, the inactivation of negative Cdk1 regulators such as Myt1 and Wee1, and the accumulation of Cdk1-activating proteins like Cdc25 [18], that provide specific signals to sustain this complex. Despite this, the Cdk1/cyclin B complex by itself does not support CMV replication. Cdk1/cyclin B activation and phosphorylation of specific substrates have also been reported during infection with other herpesvirus, such as human herpesvirus 7 [51] and Epstein-Barr virus [52]. In HSV-1-infected cells, Cdk1 activity is increased [53] and is required to ensure optimal expression of

specific late viral genes [54] but also does not affect viral yields. Except for the reported role of Cdk2 in CMV replication [15] and some previous evaluation of MBV [49], there has been little reported investigation of Cdks acting alone or together with viral kinases in the replication of other herpesviruses.

All herpesviruses encode protein kinases which appear to specifically phosphorylate the same amino acid target sequences recognized by Cdk1 [55]. Although the physiological significance of this molecular mimicry is still unclear, it has been suggested that the viral protein kinases may facilitate capsid transport across the nuclear membrane by phosphorylating key components of the nuclear lamina that are also Cdk1 substrates. Consistent with this hypothesis, a CMV UL97 mutant virus exhibits a severely impaired ability to traverse the nuclear envelope [32] under culture conditions where critical roles in DNA replication and encapsidation are apparently supported by cellular kinases such as Cdks [32,34,35].

Compensatory, overlapping activities of VPK and major Cdks may be important much earlier in infection than VPK mutants indicate. The induction of Cdks at early times postinfection has been associated with accurate processing and accumulation of IE1, IE2, UL36, and UL37x1 transcripts [14] as well as with the hyperphosphorylation of the RNA polymerase II C-terminus [56], functions that are important well before the late phase of replication and that may also be carried out by VPK, a virion tegument protein that is introduced into cells upon entry. Even though pseudomitosis has brought focus to the late phase of replication, the coordinated function of viral and cellular kinases likely contributes to regulation from the initial stages through the late stages of replication. This has suggested broad potential for antiviral strategies targeting Cdks, whether applied to viruses that require dividing cells, such as adenoviruses and papillomaviruses, or to viruses that replicate in nondividing cells, such as HIV-1 and herpesviruses [57]. Cdk inhibitors that range in specificity (roscovitine, flavopiridol, olomucine,

and IMO) all inhibit CMV replication [14,15] and would be predicted to synergize with MBV in clinically relevant settings.

Here, we demonstrate the potential for therapeutic targeting of viral and cellular kinases using IMO after first showing it has prominent antiviral effects against CMV. This is particularly important considering that indirubins are already successfully used to treat leukemia [58]. In addition, the synergistic antiviral effects of IMO and MBV shown here suggest that a combination of both drugs could be useful to simultaneously target CMV infection as well as cell proliferation related to cancer. This may prove particularly attractive in certain patient populations where both CMV disease and leukemia are threats, such as leukemic patients recovering from blood and marrow allografts.

Materials and Methods

Cells and viruses. Primary HF's and the 293T cell line (a gift of Dr. Jerry Crabtree, Stanford University) were cultured in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM; GIBCO/Invitrogen, <http://www.invitrogen.com>) supplemented with 10% Fetal Clone III (HyClone, <http://www.hyclone.com>), penicillin G (100 U/ml), streptomycin sulfate (100 µg/ml), L-arginine (0.58 mg/ml), L-glutamine (1.08 mg/ml), and L-asparagine (180 µg/ml), here referred to as medium, as described previously [7,45]. Human CMV strain AD169varATCC (lot 22) was obtained from American Type Culture Collection (ATCC, <http://www.atcc.com>), AD169varDE from Dr. M. Mach (Institute für Virologie, Erlangen, Germany), TownevarATCC from Dr. G. Kemble (MedImmune, Mountain View, California, United States), TownevarRIT₃ from M. Stinski (University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, United States), Toledo from Dr. S. Plotkin (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States), and TB40/E from Dr. C. Sinzger (Institute für Virologie, Tübingen, Germany). Propagation and purification of all strains were as described [59]. Virus titers were determined by plaque assay on HF monolayers in six- or 12-well tissue culture plates.

HF infection with CMV, IMO, and MBV treatments. HF monolayers were infected at confluency (day 3 postseeding) with purified virions [7] at an MOI of 10. After virus adsorption for 1 h at 37 °C in 5% CO₂, the inoculum was removed, and the cells were washed twice with medium prior to the addition of fresh medium. For IMO treatment, medium containing 5 µM or 10 µM IMO or containing 1% or 2% DMSO as control was added to cells after the second wash and replaced every 24 h. IMO was purchased from Sigma (<http://www.sigmaaldrich.com>) and was dissolved in DMSO (Sigma) at a stock concentration of 1 mM. MBV (GlaxoSmithKline, <http://www.gsk.com>) was used as described [49] alone or in combination with IMO.

Retrovirus production and cell transduction. Cdk1wt and Cdk1dn were amplified by PCR from plasmids pCMV-Cdc2-WT or pCMV-Cdc2-D146N (a gift from Dr. S. Van den Heuvel, MGH Cancer Center, Harvard Medical School, Charlestown, Massachusetts, United States) using primers specific for the 5' and 3' nucleotide sequence of Cdk1 and containing the BamHI restriction endonuclease recognition site. Primer sequences were as follows: 5'-TCggatccATGGAA-GATTATA-3' and 5'-ggatccGACTTCTTAATCTGATTG-3' (BamHI site in lowercase). PCR bands were inserted in the pCR 2.1-TOPO vector of the TOPO TA Cloning kit (Invitrogen, <http://www.invitrogen.com>) following the manufacturer's instructions. pCR 2.1-Cdk1wt and pCR 2.1-Cdk1dn were subsequently digested with BamHI, and DNA fragments corresponding to Cdk1wt and Cdk1dn were ligated to the BamHI-digested plasmid LNCX-GFP [45], generating the constructs LNCX-Cdk1wt-GFP and LNCX-Cdk1dn-GFP with each Cdk1 inserted in frame with the nucleotide sequence coding for the N-terminus of GFP. The correct sequence of both constructs was confirmed by nucleotide sequencing (Stanford Protein and Nucleic Acid Facility). To generate retroviral particles, 293T cells were co-transfected with LNCX-GFP or LNCX-Cdk1wt-GFP or LNCX-Cdk1dn-GFP together with plasmids JK3, LTRVSVG, and CMVtat. Cell supernatants were collected at 48 h posttransfection, and retroviral particles were purified and concentrated by ultracentrifugation at 24,000 rpm for 1 h at 4 °C using a SW28 rotor in a Beckman ultracentrifuge (Beckman Coulter, <http://www.beckmancoulter.com>).

Pelleted viral particles were suspended in medium, aliquoted, and stored at -80 °C. For retrovirus transduction, confluent HF's were split at a 1:2 ratio on day 0 and again at a 1:4 ratio on day 1. At 24 h after the second seeding, cells were exposed to the first inoculum of retroviral particles, in the presence of 5 µg/ml Polybrene (Sigma). Then, 5 h later, cells were washed with fresh medium and a second inoculum was applied for another 5 h. At 24 h after removal of the second inoculum, cells were tested for GFP, Cdk1wt-GFP, or Cdk1dn-GFP expression before infection with CMV as described above.

Immunofluorescence analyses and imaging. γ-Tubulin 1 and IE1/IE2 double staining was carried out as described [7]. Phase-contrast micrographs of GFP⁺ live cells were obtained with a Nikon Eclipse TE300/200 inverted microscope. For the visualization of GFP and IE1/IE2 double-positive pseudomitotic cells, samples were fixed with 1% paraformaldehyde in PBS for 15 min at room temperature, permeabilized, and blocked as described [7] before staining with an unconjugated monoclonal antibody against IE1/IE2 (1:800, MAb810; Chemicon, <http://www.chemicon.com>) followed by a Texas red-conjugated goat anti-mouse antibody (1:100; Vector Laboratories, <http://www.vectorlabs.com>). Cellular DNA was highlighted with Hoechst 33342 (Molecular Probes, <http://www.invitrogen.com>). Coverslips were mounted and analyzed as described [7].

Immunoblot analysis. Cells were suspended in lysis buffer containing 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 6.8), 2% SDS, 10% glycerol, 5% β-mercaptoethanol, 25 mM sodium fluoride, 1 mM sodium orthovanadate, and 1 mM phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride. Samples were boiled for 5 min, separated by SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis through a 7.5% gel, transferred to a polyvinylidene difluoride membrane (Millipore, <http://www.millipore.com>), and incubated with an anti-Cdk1 monoclonal antibody (1:200; Santa Cruz Biotechnologies, <http://www.scbt.com>) for 1 h at room temperature before incubation with a horseradish peroxidase-conjugated goat anti-mouse secondary antibody for another hour. Signal was developed by enhanced chemiluminescence (Pierce Biotechnology, <http://www.piercenet.com>).

Checkerboard titration of MBV-IMO drug combinations. HF's (passage 11) were seeded onto 24-well culture plates and maintained in medium until confluent at a density of 1.9×10^5 cells per well. Wells were inoculated with 2×10^6 PFU (in 0.5 ml) of AD169varATCC (MOI = 10). Virus was adsorbed for 1 h at 37 °C in 5% CO₂, and the inoculum was removed and replaced with 0.5 ml of fresh medium containing combinations of MBV at 0, 0.025, 0.1, and 0.4 µM and IMO at 0, 5, and 10 µM in a checkerboard layout. At 24, 48, 72, 96, and 144 h after inoculation, the culture supernatant was harvested from each well, mixed with 0.5% sterile milk, and frozen at -80 °C until virus titers were determined by plaque assay. Fresh medium containing freshly made drug combinations was replaced in each culture wells until the next collection time point. The checkerboard experiment was performed in triplicate.

Supporting Information

Accession Numbers

The UniProtKB/Swiss-Prot (<http://www.pir.uniprot.org>) accession numbers for the proteins discussed in this paper are Cdk1 (entry name: CDC2_HUMAN, primary accession number: P06493) and AD169 UL97 (entry name: GCVK_HCMVA, primary accession number: P16788).

Acknowledgments

We thank Dr. Sander van den Heuvel for the gift of plasmids pCMV-Cdc2wt and pCMV-Cdc2dn and Dr. Chris Meiering for the gift of plasmids LNCX, JK3, LTRVSVG, and CMVtat. Yin Dong and Dana Formankova provided expert technical assistance.

Author contributions. LH, SC, and ESM conceived and designed the experiments. LH and SC performed the experiments. LH and ESM analyzed the data. ESM and SC contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools. LH and ESM wrote the paper.

Funding. This investigation was supported by US Public Health Service grants R01 AI030363 (ESM) and AI020211 (ESM).

Competing interests. The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

References

- Bertout J, Thomas-Tikhonenko A (2006) Infection & neoplastic growth 101: The required reading for microbial pathogens aspiring to cause cancer. *Cancer Treat Res* 130: 167–197.
- Tanner JE, Alfieri C (2001) The Epstein-Barr virus and post-transplant lymphoproliferative disease: Interplay of immunosuppression, EBV, and the immune system in disease pathogenesis. *Transpl Infect Dis* 3: 60–69.
- Schulz TF (2006) The pleiotropic effects of Kaposi's sarcoma herpesvirus. *J Pathol* 208: 187–198.
- Albrecht T, Fons MP, Boldogh I, AbuBakar S, Deng CZ, et al. (1991) Metabolic and cellular effects of human cytomegalovirus infection. *Transplant Proc* 23: 48–54, discussion 54–45.
- Fortunato EA, McElroy AK, Sanchez I, Spector DH (2000) Exploitation of cellular signaling and regulatory pathways by human cytomegalovirus. *Trends Microbiol* 8: 111–119.
- Mocarski ES, Courcelle CT (2001) Cytomegaloviruses and their replication. In: Howley PM, Knipe DM, editors. *Fields virology*. Philadelphia: Lippincott/The Williams & Wilkins Co. pp. 2629–2673.
- Hertel L, Mocarski ES (2004) Global analysis of host cell gene expression late during cytomegalovirus infection reveals extensive dysregulation of cell cycle gene expression and induction of pseudomitosis independent of US28 function. *J Virol* 78: 11988–12011.
- Dittmer D, Mocarski ES (1997) Human cytomegalovirus infection inhibits G1/S transition. *J Virol* 71: 1629–1634.
- Jault FM, Jault JM, Ruchti F, Fortunato EA, Clark C, et al. (1995) Cytomegalovirus infection induces high levels of cyclins, phosphorylated Rb, and p53, leading to cell cycle arrest. *J Virol* 69: 6697–6704.
- Bresnahan WA, Boldogh I, Thompson EA, Albrecht T (1996) Human cytomegalovirus inhibits cellular DNA synthesis and arrests productively infected cells in late G1. *Virology* 224: 150–160.
- Lu M, Shenk T (1996) Human cytomegalovirus infection inhibits cell cycle progression at multiple points, including the transition from G1 to S. *J Virol* 70: 8850–8857.
- Castillo JP, Kowalik TF (2002) Human cytomegalovirus immediate early proteins and cell growth control. *Gene* 290: 19–34.
- White EA, Spector DH (2006) Betaherpesvirus early viral gene regulation and function. In: Arvin AM, Mocarski ES, Moore P, Whitley R, Yamanishi K, et al., editors. *Human herpesviruses: Biology, therapy and immunoprophylaxis*. Cambridge: Cambridge Press. pp. 264–294.
- Sanchez V, McElroy AK, Yen J, Tamrakar S, Clark CL, et al. (2004) Cyclin-dependent kinase activity is required at early times for accurate processing and accumulation of the human cytomegalovirus UL122–123 and UL37 immediate-early transcripts and at later times for virus production. *J Virol* 78: 11219–11232.
- Bresnahan WA, Boldogh I, Chi P, Thompson EA, Albrecht T (1997) Inhibition of cellular Cdk2 activity blocks human cytomegalovirus replication. *Virology* 231: 239–247.
- Schang LM (2005) Advances on cyclin-dependent kinases (CDKs) as novel targets for antiviral drugs. *Curr Drug Targets Infect Disord* 5: 29–37.
- Salvant BS, Fortunato EA, Spector DH (1998) Cell cycle dysregulation by human cytomegalovirus: Influence of the cell cycle phase at the time of infection and effects on cyclin transcription. *J Virol* 72: 3729–3741.
- Sanchez V, McElroy AK, Spector DH (2003) Mechanisms governing maintenance of Cdk1/cyclin B1 kinase activity in cells infected with human cytomegalovirus. *J Virol* 77: 13214–13224.
- Shenoy S, Choi JK, Bagrodia S, Copeland TD, Maller JL, et al. (1989) Purified maturation promoting factor phosphorylates pp60c-src at the sites phosphorylated during fibroblast mitosis. *Cell* 57: 763–774.
- Hoffmann I, Clarke PR, Marcote MJ, Karsenti E, Draetta G (1993) Phosphorylation and activation of human cdc25-C by cdc2–cyclin B and its involvement in the self-amplification of MPF at mitosis. *EMBO J* 12: 53–63.
- Ookata K, Hisanaga S, Bulinski JC, Murofushi H, Aizawa H, et al. (1995) Cyclin B interaction with microtubule-associated protein 4 (MAP4) targets p34cdc2 kinase to microtubules and is a potential regulator of M-phase microtubule dynamics. *J Cell Biol* 128: 849–862.
- Ferrari S (2006) Protein kinases controlling the onset of mitosis. *Cell Mol Life Sci* 63: 781–795.
- Porter LA, Donoghue DJ (2003) Cyclin B1 and CDK1: Nuclear localization and upstream regulators. *Prog Cell Cycle Res* 5: 335–347.
- Sausville EA (2005) Cell cycle regulatory kinase modulators: Interim progress and issues. *Curr Top Med Chem* 5: 1109–1117.
- Blagden S, de Bono J (2005) Drugging cell cycle kinases in cancer therapy. *Curr Drug Targets* 6: 325–335.
- Hirai H, Kawanishi N, Iwasawa Y (2005) Recent advances in the development of selective small molecule inhibitors for cyclin-dependent kinases. *Curr Top Med Chem* 5: 167–179.
- Gan WJ, Yang T, Wen S, Liu Y, Tan Z, Deng C, Wu J, Liu M (1985) Studies on the mechanism of indirubin action in the treatment of chronic myelocytic leukemia (CML). II. 5-Nucleotidase in the peripheral white blood cells of CML. *Chin Acad Med Sci Beijing* 6: 611–613.
- Hoessel R, Leclerc S, Endicott JA, Nobel ME, Lawrie A, et al. (1999) Indirubin, the active constituent of a Chinese antileukaemia medicine, inhibits cyclin-dependent kinases. *Nat Cell Biol* 1: 60–67.
- Heredia A, Davis C, Bamba D, Le N, Gwarzo MY, et al. (2005) Indirubin-3'-monoxide, a derivative of a Chinese antileukemia medicine, inhibits P-TEF β function and HIV-1 replication. *AIDS* 19: 2087–2095.
- Marko D, Schatzle S, Friedel A, Genzlinger A, Zankl H, et al. (2001) Inhibition of cyclin-dependent kinase 1 (CDK1) by indirubin derivatives in human tumour cells. *Br J Cancer* 84: 283–289.
- van den Heuvel S, Harlow E (1993) Distinct roles for cyclin-dependent kinases in cell cycle control. *Science* 262: 2050–2054.
- Krosky PM, Baek MC, Coen DM (2003) The human cytomegalovirus UL97 protein kinase, an antiviral drug target, is required at the stage of nuclear egress. *J Virol* 77: 905–914.
- Mocarski ES (2006) Comparative analysis of betaherpesvirus-common proteins. In: Arvin AM, Mocarski ES, Moore P, Whitley R, Yamanishi K, et al., editors. *Human herpesviruses: Biology, therapy and immunoprophylaxis*. Cambridge: Cambridge Press. pp. 204–230.
- Prichard MN, Gao N, Jairath S, Mulamba G, Krosky P, et al. (1999) A recombinant human cytomegalovirus with a large deletion in UL97 has a severe replication deficiency. *J Virol* 73: 5663–5670.
- Wolf DG, Courcelle CT, Prichard MN, Mocarski ES (2001) Distinct and separate roles for herpesvirus-conserved UL97 kinase in cytomegalovirus DNA synthesis and encapsidation. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 98: 1895–1900.
- Baek MC, Krosky PM, Coen DM (2002) Relationship between autophosphorylation and phosphorylation of exogenous substrates by the human cytomegalovirus UL97 protein kinase. *J Virol* 76: 11943–11952.
- Baek MC, Krosky PM, Pearson A, Coen DM (2004) Phosphorylation of the RNA polymerase II carboxyl-terminal domain in human cytomegalovirus-infected cells and in vitro by the viral UL97 protein kinase. *Virology* 324: 184–193.
- Littler E, Stuart AD, Chee MS (1992) Human cytomegalovirus UL97 open reading frame encodes a protein that phosphorylates the antiviral nucleoside analogue ganciclovir. *Nature* 358: 160–162.
- Sullivan V, Talarico CL, Stanat SC, Davis M, Coen DM, et al. (1992) A protein kinase homologue controls phosphorylation of ganciclovir in human cytomegalovirus-infected cells. *Nature* 358: 162–164.
- Talarico CL, Burnette TC, Miller WH, Smith SL, Davis MG, et al. (1999) Acyclovir is phosphorylated by the human cytomegalovirus UL97 protein. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 43: 1941–1946.
- Biron KK, Harvey RJ, Chamberlain SC, Good SS, Smith AA 3rd, et al. (2002) Potent and selective inhibition of human cytomegalovirus replication by 1263W94, a benzimidazole L-riboside with a unique mode of action. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 46: 2365–2372.
- Lalezari JP, Aberg JA, Wang LH, Wire MB, Miner R, et al. (2002) Phase I dose escalation trial evaluating the pharmacokinetics, anti-human cytomegalovirus (HCMV) activity, and safety of 1263W94 in human immunodeficiency virus-infected men with asymptomatic HCMV shedding. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 46: 2969–2976.
- Skaletskaya A, Bartle LM, Chittenden T, McCormick AL, Mocarski ES, et al. (2001) A cytomegalovirus-encoded inhibitor of apoptosis that suppresses caspase-8 activation. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 98: 7829–7834.
- Meijer L, Borgne A, Mulner O, Chong JP, Blow JJ, et al. (1997) Biochemical and cellular effects of roscovitine, a potent and selective inhibitor of the cyclin-dependent kinases cdc2, cdk2 and cdk5. *Eur J Biochem* 243: 527–536.
- McCormick AL, Meiering CD, Smith GB, Mocarski ES (2005) Mitochondrial cell death suppressors carried by human and murine cytomegalovirus confer resistance to proteasome inhibitor-induced apoptosis. *J Virol* 79: 12205–12217.
- Koszalka GW, Johnson NW, Good SS, Boyd L, Chamberlain SC, et al. (2002) Preclinical and toxicology studies of 1263W94, a potent and selective inhibitor of human cytomegalovirus replication. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 46: 2373–2380.
- Herget T, Freitag M, Morbitzer M, Kupfer R, Stamminger T, et al. (2004) Novel chemical class of pUL97 protein kinase-specific inhibitors with strong anticytomegaloviral activity. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 48: 4154–4162.
- Lu H, Thomas S (2004) Maribavir (ViroPharma). *Curr Opin Investig Drugs* 5: 898–906.
- Chou S, Van Wechel LC, Marousek GI (2006) Effect of cell culture conditions on the anticytomegalovirus activity of maribavir. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 50: 2557–2559.
- Mettenleiter TC, Klupp BG, Granzow H (2006) Herpesvirus assembly: A tale of two membranes. *Curr Opin Microbiol* 9: 423–429.
- Secchiero P, Bertolaso L, Casareto L, Gibellini D, Vitale M, et al. (1998) Human herpesvirus 7 infection induces profound cell cycle perturbations coupled to dysregulation of cdc2 and cyclin B and polyploidization of CD4(+) T cells. *Blood* 92: 1685–1696.
- Kitay MK, Rowe DT (1996) Cell cycle stage-specific phosphorylation of the Epstein-Barr virus immortalization protein EBNA-LP. *J Virol* 70: 7885–7893.
- Advani SJ, Brandimarti R, Weichselbaum RR, Roizman B (2000) The disappearance of cyclins A and B and the increase in activity of the G(2)/M-phase cellular kinase cdc2 in herpes simplex virus 1-infected cells require expression of the alpha22/U(S)1.5 and U(L)13 viral genes. *J Virol* 74: 8–15.
- Advani SJ, Weichselbaum RR, Roizman B (2000) The role of cdc2 in the expression of herpes simplex virus genes. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 97: 10996–11001.

55. Kawaguchi Y, Kato K (2003) Protein kinases conserved in herpesviruses potentially share a function mimicking the cellular protein kinase cdc2. *Rev Med Virol* 13: 331–340.
56. Tamrakar S, Kapasi AJ, Spector DH (2005) Human cytomegalovirus infection induces specific hyperphosphorylation of the carboxyl-terminal domain of the large subunit of RNA polymerase II that is associated with changes in the abundance, activity, and localization of cdk9 and cdk7. *J Virol* 79: 15477–15493.
57. Schang LM (2002) Cyclin-dependent kinases as cellular targets for antiviral drugs. *J Antimicrob Chemother* 50: 779–792.
58. Xiao Z, Hao Y, Liu B, Qian L (2002) Indirubin and meisoindigo in the treatment of chronic myelogenous leukemia in China. *Leuk Lymphoma* 43: 1763–1768.
59. Hertel L, Lacaillle VG, Strobl H, Mellins ED, Mocarski ES (2003) Susceptibility of immature and mature Langerhans cell-type dendritic cells to infection and immunomodulation by human cytomegalovirus. *J Virol* 77: 7563–7574.