

Pleiotropic Alterations in Lipid Metabolism in Yeast *sac1* Mutants: Relationship to “Bypass Sec14p” and Inositol Auxotrophy

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Sac1p dysfunction results in bypass of the requirement for phosphatidylinositol transfer protein (Sec14p) function in yeast Golgi processes. This effect is accompanied by alterations in inositol phospholipid metabolism and inositol auxotrophy. Elucidation of how *sac1* mutants effect “bypass Sec14p” will provide insights into Sec14p function in vivo. We now report that, in addition to a dramatic accumulation of phosphatidylinositol-4-phosphate, *sac1* mutants also exhibit a specific acceleration of phosphatidylcholine biosynthesis via the CDP-choline pathway. This phosphatidylcholine metabolic phenotype is sensitive to the two physiological challenges that abolish bypass Sec14p in *sac1* strains; i.e. phospholipase D inactivation and expression of bacterial diacylglycerol (DAG) kinase. Moreover, we demonstrate that accumulation of phosphatidylinositol-4-phosphate in *sac1* mutants is insufficient to effect bypass Sec14p. These data support a model in which phospholipase D activity contributes to generation of DAG that, in turn, effects bypass Sec14p. A significant fate for this DAG is consumption by the CDP-choline pathway. Finally, we determine that CDP-choline pathway activity contributes to the inositol auxotrophy of *sac1* strains in a novel manner that does not involve obvious defects in transcriptional expression of the *INO1* gene.

INTRODUCTION

The yeast Sec14p is essential for glycoprotein transport from the Golgi complex and for cell viability (Novick *et al.*, 1980; Bankaitis *et al.*, 1989, 1990; Franzusoff and Schekman, 1989). In the absence of Sec14p function, vesicles fail to bud from the Golgi, and secretory proteins accumulate within this organelle. The role of Sec14p in stimulating Golgi secretory function appears to be a direct one, because a pool of Sec14p

exists in a specific association with yeast Golgi membranes in vivo (Cleves *et al.*, 1991b).

Mutations in any one of at least seven genes effect an efficient bypass of the essential Sec14p requirement for Golgi function and cell viability (Cleves *et al.*, 1991a; Alb *et al.*, 1996; Fang *et al.*, 1996; Kearns *et al.*, 1998). Three of these “bypass Sec14p” loci define structural enzymes of the CDP-choline pathway for phosphatidylcholine (PtdCho) biosynthesis (Cleves *et al.*, 1991b; McGee *et al.*, 1994), one of the two pathways for PtdCho biosynthesis in yeast (Figure 1). Both genetic and biochemical evidence suggests that the PtdCho-bound form of Sec14p downregulates the CDP-choline pathway by effecting an inhibition of CCTase, the rate-

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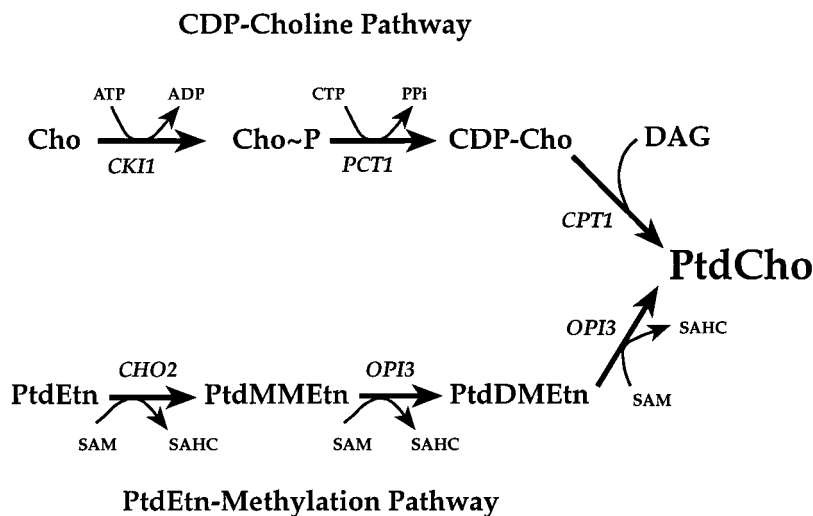


Figure 1. CDP-choline and PtdEtn methylation pathways for PtdCho biosynthesis. Cho, choline; Cho-P, choline phosphate; CDP-Cho, CDP-choline; PtdMME, phosphatidylmonomethylethanolamine; PtdDME, phosphatidyl dimethylethanolamine; SAM, S-adenosylmethionine; SAHC, S-adenosylhomocysteine.

determining enzyme of the CDP-choline pathway (McGee *et al.*, 1994; Skinner *et al.*, 1995). These data exemplify how a fundamentally antagonistic relationship can exist between household phospholipid biosynthesis and essential cellular processes.

Yeast *sac1* strains also exhibit bypass Sec14p phenotypes, and these strains are characterized by unselected inositol auxotrophies (Cleves *et al.*, 1989; Whitters *et al.*, 1993; Kearns *et al.*, 1997). Although the molecular basis of the inositol auxotrophy of *sac1* strains has not been characterized, considerable data have been obtained regarding the role of Sac1p in regulating inositol phospholipid metabolism and Golgi secretory function. Sac1p is an integral membrane protein of the Golgi and endoplasmic reticulum, and Sac1p defects result in a bypass Sec14p phenotype, an inositol auxotrophy, a cold sensitivity for growth, allele-specific suppression of yeast actin mutations, and dramatic alterations in inositol phospholipid metabolism (Cleves *et al.*, 1989; Novick *et al.*, 1989; Whitters *et al.*, 1993; Kearns *et al.*, 1997). We proposed that Sac1p dysfunction effects its bypass Sec14p phenotypes by resulting in an expansion of a Golgi diacylglycerol (DAG) pool that is required for secretory vesicle formation (Kearns *et al.*, 1997). Because the CDP-choline pathway is a potent DAG consumer (Figure 1), we further proposed that the toxic effect of CDP-choline pathway activity on Golgi membrane secretory function is related to depletion of this Golgi DAG pool when Sec14p is absent (McGee *et al.*, 1994; Kearns *et al.*, 1997).

In this report, we describe the pleiotropic changes in lipid metabolism that occur in *sac1* strains. Three conclusions are derived. First, *sac1* yeast strains exhibit a dramatic elevation in metabolic flux through the CDP-choline pathway for PtdCho biosynthesis. Genetic and biochemical data suggest that these increased rates of

PtdCho biosynthesis are driven by elevated amounts of DAG produced in *sac1* strains, and that this DAG production is phospholipase D (PLD) dependent. The hyperactivity of the CDP-choline pathway (an index of increased DAG availability) correlates with all conditions under which *sac1* mutations are known to support bypass Sec14p. By contrast, the massive accumulation of inositol phospholipid that is a signature of *sac1* strains is by itself insufficient to effect bypass Sec14p. Second, we find that CDP-choline pathway activity in *sac1* strains contributes to the Ino⁻ phenotype of these mutants. Finally, we demonstrate that the Ino⁻ phenotype of *sac1* strains is not the result of inability to induce *INO1* expression under conditions of inositol depletion. These results provide the first example of which we are aware regarding an inositol auxotrophy in yeast that occurs via mechanisms independent of *INO1* transcriptional defects.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Yeast Strains

The yeast strains used in this study included: CTY182 (*MATa ura3-52, lys2-801, Δhis3-200*), CTY1-1A (CTY182 *sec14-1^{ts}*), CTY100 (CTY1-1A *sac1-26*), CTY243 (CTY1-1A *sac1Δ-356::HIS3*), CTY165 (*MATa ura3-52, ade2-101, Δhis3-200, sac1-22*), CTY244 (CTY182, *sac1Δ-356::HIS3*), CTY1079 (CTY1-1A *spo14Δ::HIS3*), CTY1127 (CTY100 *spo14Δ::URA3*), CTY1129 (CTY124 *spo14Δ::HIS3*), CTY1098 (CTY159 *spo14Δ::URA3*), and CTY1099 (CTY160 *spo14Δ::URA3*).

Media and Genetic Techniques

YPD and defined yeast minimal medium either containing (I⁺) or lacking (I⁻) inositol have been described (Sherman *et al.*, 1983). Plasmids used in this study have also been described (Kagiwada *et al.*, 1996; Kearns *et al.*, 1997). [¹⁴C]Choline chloride, [methyl-¹⁴C]methionine, and [³²P]orthophosphate were purchased from Amersham (Arlington Heights, IL). *myo*-Inositol and other media ingredients were purchased from Sigma (St. Louis, MO). Standard yeast genetic

methods and procedures for transformation have been described (Ito *et al.*, 1983; Rothstein, 1983).

[¹⁴C]Choline and [¹⁴C]Methyl-Methionine Labeling of Yeast Lipids

Yeast strains were grown to midlogarithmic growth phase (3 ml; OD₆₀₀ = 0.8–1.0) in defined minimal medium containing 0.1 mM inositol and 1 mM choline and presented with [¹⁴C]choline chloride (1 μCi/ml) for 20 min at 25°C with shaking (McGee *et al.*, 1994). For [¹⁴C]methyl-methionine labelings, strains were grown and labeled as previously described (McGee *et al.*, 1994). Incorporation of label was terminated by the addition of trichloroacetic acid (TCA) to 5%; the cells were subsequently incubated in 5% TCA for 20 min on ice and washed once in 5% TCA, and lipids were extracted by the method of Atkinson (1984). Briefly, after washing, yeast cells were pelleted by low-speed centrifugation in a clinical centrifuge, and the pellets were resuspended in 1 ml of polar extraction solvent (McGee *et al.*, 1994) for 20 min at 65°C. Lipids were recovered by the addition of 5 ml of CHCl₃:CH₃OH:butylated hydroxytoluene (2:1:0.0005%) and 0.5 ml of H₂O, followed by vigorous vortexing for 0.5 min. The mixed organic solutions were centrifuged in a clinical centrifuge for 5 min to separate the organic and aqueous phases. The organic phase was removed and dried under a gentle stream of N₂ gas, followed by resuspension of the dried lipids in 60 ml of CHCl₃:CH₃OH:butylated hydroxytoluene for resolution by one-dimensional paper chromatography using Whatman (Maidstone, United Kingdom) SG81 paper treated as described by Steiner and Lester (1972) and the solvent system CHCl₃:CH₃OH:NH₄OH (22:5:7:1). Radiolabeled PtdCho was visualized and quantitated using the PhosphorImager 425 instrument (Molecular Dynamics, Sunnyvale, CA).

For normalization of [¹⁴C]choline incorporation into PtdCho, identical cultures were labeled with [³²P]orthophosphate (10 μCi/ml) for the same time as [¹⁴C]choline chloride-labeled cultures. After TCA precipitation and washing, 1/10 of the culture volume was removed, immobilized on 0.5-mm glass fiber filters, and washed with 50 vol of 50 mM phosphate buffer, pH 7.0. The immobilized cells and filters were dried and placed in scintillation vials for counting. [³²P]Orthophosphate incorporation values were used to normalize loading of lipid samples from [¹⁴C]choline-labeled cells. This was done to compensate for the fact that strains that efficiently incorporate [¹⁴C]choline into PtdCho invariably incorporate more total [¹⁴C]choline label into cells.

Determination of Bulk Phospholipid Content by Radiolabeling with [³²P]Orthophosphate

Yeast strains were grown to midlogarithmic growth phase (3 ml; OD₆₀₀ = 0.8–1.0) in defined minimal medium containing 0.1 mM inositol and 1 mM choline and presented with [³²P]orthophosphate (10 μCi/ml) for 20 min at 25°C with shaking. One-tenth of the culture was removed after TCA precipitation to assess incorporation of label. Lipids were extracted as for [¹⁴C]choline chloride-labeled cultures, and equal amounts of incorporated counts were resolved by two-dimensional paper chromatography using Whatman SG81 paper. The first-dimension solvent was CHCl₃:CH₃OH:NH₄OH:H₂O (22:9:1:0.26), and the second-dimension solvent was CHCl₃:CH₃OH:CH₃COOH:H₂O (8:1:1.25:0.25). Radiolabeled phospholipid species were visualized and quantified by phosphorimaging.

Phosphatidylinositol-4-Phosphate (PtdIns-4-P) Measurements

Cells grown in medium containing 0.1 mM inositol and 1 mM choline were pulse radiolabeled with [³H]inositol (8 μCi/ml) for 45 min at 25°C and shaking. Otherwise, these experiments were carried out exactly as the phospholipid labelings with the following mod-

ifications: after TCA addition the cells were washed with 4 ml of 50 mM phosphate buffer, pH 7.0, followed by the addition of 1 ml CHCl₃:CH₃OH:1N HCl (1:2:0.8) and glass beads to one-half volume. Cultures were vortexed for 20 s every 5 min for 1 h with incubation on ice between rounds of vortexing. Two milliliters of CHCl₃, 2 ml of CH₃OH, 2 ml of 0.1N HCl, and 0.1 ml of 1 M NaCl were added, followed by brief vortexing and incubation at 4°C for 60 min. The organic layer (bottom) was extracted, dried under nitrogen gas, and resuspended in 40 μl of CHCl₃:CH₃OH (2:1). For two-dimensional paper chromatography the first solvent system was CHCl₃:CH₃OH:NH₄OH:H₂O (12: 5:0.36:1), and the second-dimension solvent was CHCl₃:CH₃OH:CH₃COOH:H₂O (15:3.3:2:1). Lipids were visualized by autoradiography.

Assignment of the accumulated inositol phospholipid in *sac1* mutants as PtdIns-4-P was as follows. CTY182 (wild-type) and CTY244 (*Δsac1*) cells were radiolabeled to steady state with [³H]myo-inositol in medium supplemented with inositol (50 μM), and bulk cellular lipids were extracted and deacylated by base hydrolysis as described by Stolz *et al.* (1998). In parallel experiments, *sac1-22* mutants were pulse radiolabeled with [³H]myo-inositol (8 μCi/ml) for 45 min at 25°C in inositol (100 μM)-supplemented medium. An internal [³²P]PtdIns-4-P standard was generated by preparing [³²P]PtdIns-4-P from radiolabeled COS cells (York and Majerus, 1994) and including this material in the deacylation mixture with lipids recovered from the *Δsac1* mutant. The deacylated products were equilibrated to 10 mM ammonium phosphate, pH 3.5, applied to a 4.6 × 125-mm Partisphere SAX-10 column (Whatman), and eluted with a linear gradient of 10–340 mM ammonium phosphate over 15 min, 340–1.02 M ammonium phosphate over 7.5 min, and isocratic 1.02 M ammonium phosphate for 5 min. Deglyceration of glycerophosphoinositols and glycerophosphoinositol phosphates was performed as described (Lips *et al.*, 1989). Enzymatic digests of deglycerated samples were performed using recombinant inositol polyphosphate 1-phosphatase (York *et al.*, 1994). Some 3.6 × 10⁵ cpm of deglycerated sample from *sac1* mutants was incubated with mock control or with 0.4 μg of 1-phosphatase in 170 mM HEPES, pH 7.5, 1 mM EGTA, 100 mM KCl, and 3 mM MgCl₂ at 37°C for 30 min in a total volume of 50 μl. Products were analyzed by HPLC as above.

Northern Analyses

Total RNA was extracted from cells, resolved by electrophoresis in formaldehyde-agarose gels, and transferred to a Biotodyne A membrane (Pall, East Hills, NY) as described (Hosaka *et al.*, 1992). Specific probes for *INO1*, *OPI3*, and *PSS1* were generated from appropriate gene fragments labeled with [^{α-32}P]dCTP using the Megaprime DNA random-priming system marketed by Amersham.

Assessment of the Effects of Inositol Starvation on Cell Growth and Viability

Yeast strains were grown to midlogarithmic growth phase in minimal defined medium containing 1 mM inositol. At time "zero" the cells were washed twice with double distilled H₂O, washed once with minimal defined medium lacking inositol (I⁻), and resuspended in 3 ml of the same I⁻ medium at a cell density of 1 × 10⁶ cells/ml. At appropriate times after shift, 50 μl of culture volume were removed and serially diluted for plating onto solid complex medium (YPD plates; Sherman *et al.*, 1983). After 3 d of growth at 25°C, colony-forming units were counted to assess viable cell numbers.

RESULTS

***sac1* Yeast Strains Accumulate PtdIns-4-P**

Physiological abnormalities associated with *Sac1p* defects in yeast include 1) bypass *Sec14p*, 2) cold sensi-

tivity for growth, 3) accumulation of an inositol phospholipid, and 4) inositol auxotrophy (Cleves *et al.*, 1989; Kearns *et al.*, 1997). With regard to alterations in inositol phospholipid metabolism, this accumulated inositol phospholipid is detected in lipid extracts prepared from *sac1* mutants labeled with either [³²P]orthophosphate (Figure 2A) or [³H]inositol (see below). This spot 1 phospholipid was originally identified by us to be the inositol sphingolipid M(IP)₂C on the basis of its R_f, our ability to label this species either with [³H]inositol or [³²P]orthophosphate, and by staining with orcinol (Kearns *et al.*, 1997). That our assignment of the spot 1 phospholipid was incorrect became clear when 1) we confirmed the finding of Stock *et al.* (1999) that disruption of *IPT1* [the gene for M(IP)₂C synthase] failed to influence the bypass Sec14p phenotype of *sac1* mutants, and 2) we observed that the spot 1 phospholipid accumulated in *ipt1* derivatives of *sac1* strains (our unpublished results). These data indicated that spot 1 phospholipid was a phosphoinositide. Several lines of evidence now indicate this spot 1 lipid species to represent PtdIns-4-P (Figure 2B).

The assignment of the spot 1 lipid as PtdIns-4-P rests on several criteria. First, we found that a *vps34* null allele, which blocks formation of PtdIns-3-P and PtdIns-3,5-P₂ in yeast (Gary *et al.*, 1998), did not reduce the amount of spot 1 phospholipid accumulated in *sac1* mutants (our unpublished results). More direct evidence was obtained from experiments in which bulk [³H]inositol phospholipids were extracted from wild-type and *sac1* strains and deacylated, and the deacylated products were resolved by HPLC (see MATERIALS AND METHODS). As shown in Figure 2B, *sac1* mutants exhibited a modest (2- to 2.5-fold) steady-state increase in PtdIns-3-P levels relative to *SAC1* strains (Figure 2B). PtdIns-4,5-P₂ levels were not increased (our unpublished results). By far the most dramatic alteration in the glyceroinositolphosphate profiles between *SAC1* and Δ *sac1* strains was observed in a ³H-labeled species that comigrated with the glycerophosphoinositol-4-P standard. This species reproducibly accumulated in Δ *sac1* strains to levels that were some six- to eightfold increased over the levels of glycerophosphoinositol-4-P recovered in deacylated lipid fractions prepared from wild-type yeast. Similar results were obtained from analysis of deacylated phospholipid fractions prepared from *sac1-22* mutants radiolabeled with [³H]inositol (our unpublished results). These cumulative data provided suggestive, but not conclusive, evidence that *sac1* strains accumulate PtdIns-4-P.

To solidify the assignment of PtdIns-4-P for the spot 1 lipid, [³H]inositol-labeled lipids were extracted from *sac1* strains radiolabeled to steady state and deacylated. The deacylated fraction was deglycerated, and the released inositide head groups were analyzed by

HPLC. As shown in Figure 2C (upper panel), the expected head group species were recovered as judged by their coelution with appropriate inositol phosphate standards. Consistent with the analyses of deacylated inositol glycerolipids from *sac1* strains, the accumulated species that coeluted with the inositol-1,4-bisphosphate (Ins-1,4-P₂) standard was present at levels approximately sixfold in excess of the head group derived from PtdIns-3-P. To probe the orientation of the phosphates on the deglycerated head groups, we assessed susceptibility of the soluble head group species to the action of inositol polyphosphate-1-phosphatase, an enzyme that exhibits substrate selectivity for Ins-1,4-P₂ (York *et al.*, 1994). A product exhibiting the properties of Ins-4-P was generated in this enzymatic reaction (Figure 2C, lower panel), and this species was formed at the expense of the material that coeluted with the Ins-1,4-P₂ standard (Figure 2C, compare upper and lower panels). These data demonstrate that the spot 1 phospholipid that accumulates in *sac1* mutants represents PtdIns-4-P.

Which PtdIns 4-kinase is responsible for generating the accumulated PtdIns-4-P? [³H]Inositol pulse-labeling experiments indicated that prechallenge of *sac1* strains with high concentrations of wormannin (1 mM; i.e., >1000 times the minimal growth-inhibitory concentration for *sac1* mutants) had little effect on PtdIns-4-P accumulation in these strains (our unpublished results). Because wormannin targets the Stt4p PtdIns 4-kinase, but not the Pik1p PtdIns 4-kinase, in yeast (Cutler *et al.*, 1997), we think it likely that the PtdIns-4-P that accumulates in *sac1* strains is primarily generated via Pik1p.

sac1 Yeast Strains Experience Elevated Flux through the CDP-Choline Pathway for PtdCho Biosynthesis

Examination of the data presented in Figure 2A revealed several additional abnormalities in *sac1* strains in addition to accumulation of PtdIns-4-P. First, incorporation of ³²P radiolabel into PtdCho appeared to be greatly enhanced in *sac1-22* strains relative to its *SAC1* partner. Second, *sac1-22* strains exhibited reduced levels of phosphatidylserine (PtdSer). The *sac1-22* allele is unique in that it is the only *sac1* mutation that does not evoke inositol auxotrophy. Nevertheless, the bypass Sec14p phenotype associated with this allele, and the other manifest alterations in inositol phospholipid metabolism associated with it are inositol dependent (Kearns *et al.*, 1997).

To more closely examine the relationship between Sac1p function and phospholipid metabolism, we quantitated the rates of phospholipid biosynthesis in *sac1-22*, *sac1-26*, and Δ *sac1* strains and a *SAC1* partner strain. Yeast were pulse radiolabeled in inositol-containing medium for 20 min with [³²P]orthophosphate at 25°C, phospholipids were extracted by

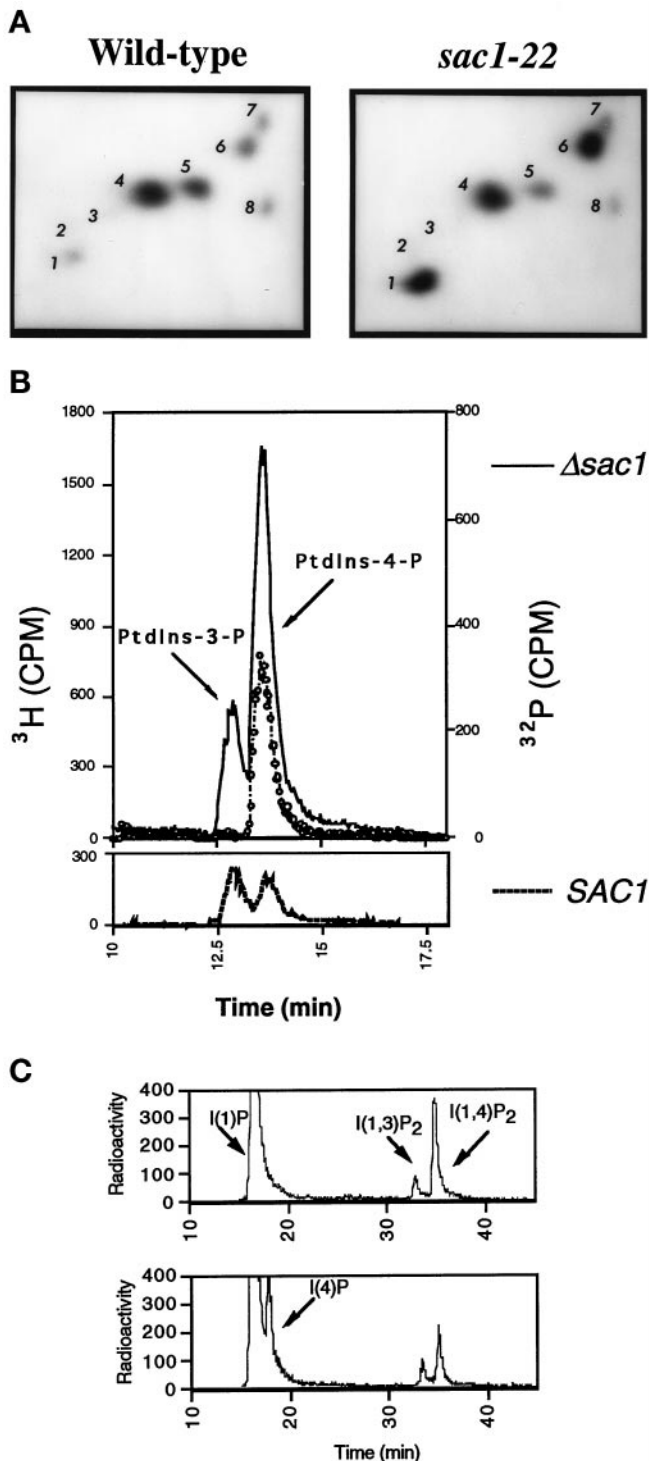


Figure 2. Phospholipid profiles of wild-type and *sac1* mutant yeast strains. (A) Yeast strains were pulse radiolabeled for 20 min with [^{32}P]orthophosphate at 26°C in inositol- and choline-supplemented medium. Radiolabeled phospholipids were extracted using an acidic extraction solvent suitable for recovery of phosphoinositides (see MATERIALS AND METHODS) and resolved by two-dimensional paper chromatography. Phospholipid species are numbered.

methods optimal for recovery of the major yeast phospholipids, and individual phospholipid species were resolved by paper chromatography and quantitated (see MATERIALS AND METHODS). The results are shown in Figure 3A. The data demonstrate that *sac1* mutants indeed exhibited dramatically increased rates of PtdCho biosynthesis. Quantitation of the phospholipid profiles revealed that the *sac1-22*, *sac1-26* and $\Delta sac1$ mutants all incorporated nearly 70% more [^{32}P]orthophosphate into PtdCho during the 20-min pulse than did the *SAC1* strain (Figure 3A). This difference could not be attributed to generally altered rates of phospholipid synthesis in *sac1* strains, because *sac1* and wild-type strains exhibited very similar rates of incorporation of ^{32}P into phospholipid (see legend to Figure 3A). Because *SAC1* and *sac1* strains incorporated very similar amounts of [^{32}P] into phospholipid per OD₆₀₀ cells during the labeling period, these data indicate that *sac1* mutants produced some 70% more PtdCho on a per cell basis than did wild-type strains during the labeling period (Figure 3A). Elevated PtdCho production was discerned only in pulse-radiolabeling experiments, however. No significant difference in the steady-state PtdCho content of *SAC1* and mutant *sac1* strains was recorded (our unpublished results). Decreased amounts of radiolabel in the PtdIns fraction were also recovered from these *sac1* mutant strains. Finally, these pleiotropic *sac1*-associated effects on phospholipid metabolism were recorded irre-

Figure 2 (cont.) Relevant phospholipids are identified as follows: 1, PtdIns-4-P; 4, PtdIns; 5, PtdSer; 6, PtdCho; 7, PtdEtn; 8, PtdOH. The spot 1 lipid also labels with [^3H]inositol, and its assignment as PtdIns-4-P is justified below. The *sac1-22* strain exhibited a dramatic elevation in both PtdIns-4-P and PtdCho and a significant reduction in PtdSer, relative to wild-type yeast. These aberrant levels of PtdCho, PtdIns-4-P, and PtdSer were typical of $\Delta sac1$ strains as well. Phospholipids extracted from the equivalent number of wild-type and *sac1-22* cells were chromatographically resolved in this experiment. (B) Deacylation of [^3H]inositol-labeled lipids from *sac1* strains reveals a dramatic increase in a soluble species that coelutes with the glycerophosphoinositol 4-P standard (i.e. the deacylated product of PtdIns-4-P). Total cellular lipids prepared from equal cell equivalents of [^3H]inositol-labeled wild-type (CTY182) or isogenic $\Delta sac1$ strain (CTY244) were deacylated, and resulting glycerophosphoinositols were analyzed by HPLC. The radioactive profile from the region corresponding to glycerophosphoinositol monophosphates is shown for CTY182 (dotted line, lower panel) and CTY244 (solid line, upper panel). The elution position of glycerophosphoinositol-4-P was identified by an internal ^{32}P standard included in HPLC analysis of deacylated fractions prepared from CTY244 (open circles, upper panel). In other experiments, radiolabeled glycerophosphoinositol, glycerophosphoinositol 4-P, and glycerophosphoinositol 4,5-P₂ were used as standards to further verify assignments. (C) Inositol polyphosphate 1-phosphatase digestion of soluble head groups derived by deglyceration of deacylated inositol lipids prepared from the $\Delta sac1$ strain CTY244. Reactants of control (upper panel) or inositol polyphosphate-1-phosphatase-treated (lower panel) deglycerated samples were separated by anion-exchange HPLC. Peaks corresponding to Ins-1-P, Ins-4-P, Ins-1,3-P₂, and Ins-1,4-P₂ eluted at 17, 18, 33, and 35 min, respectively.

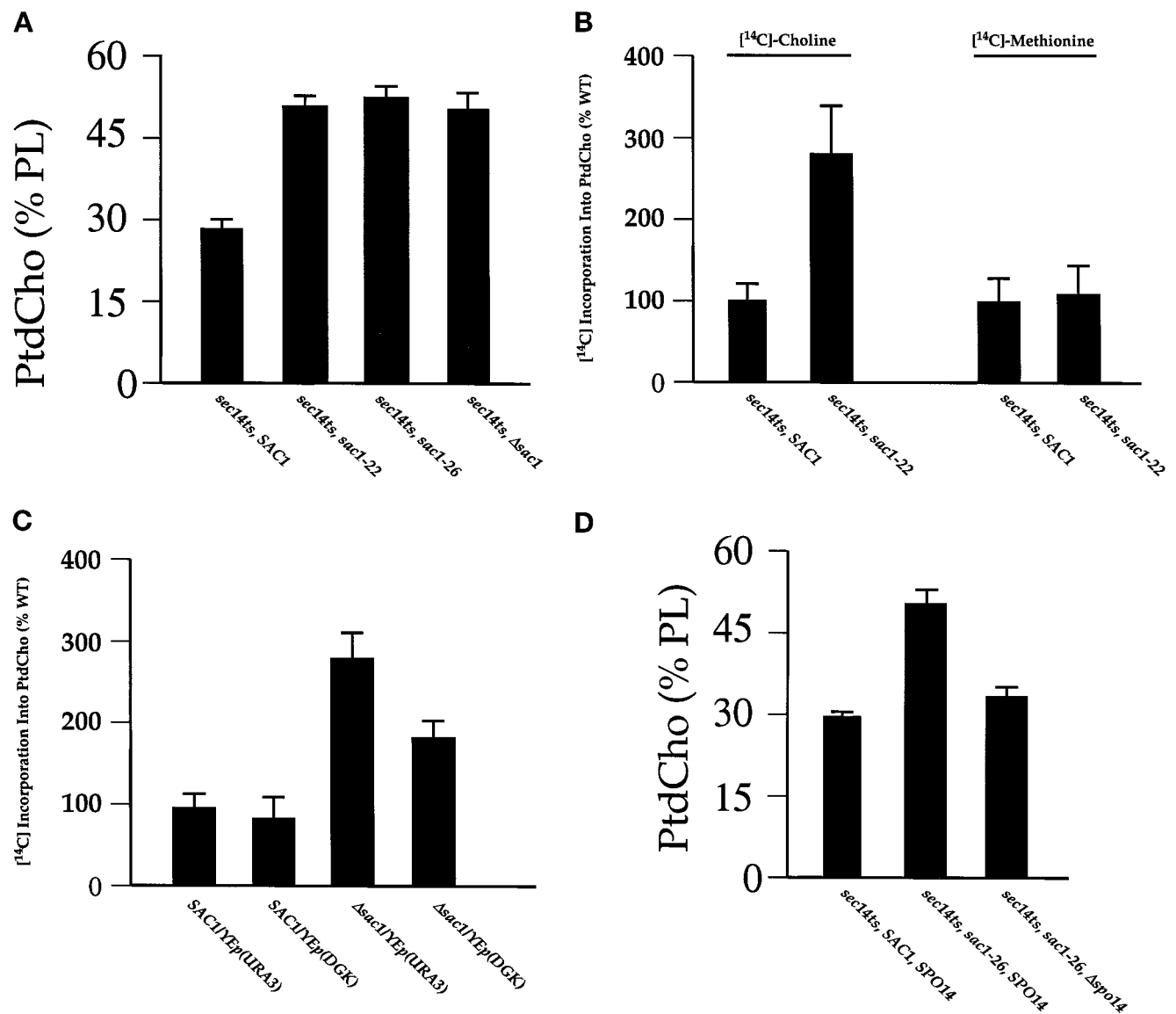


Figure 3. Phosphatidylcholine synthesis in wild-type and *sac1* mutant yeast strains. (A) Strains with the indicated genotypes (at bottom) were grown to midlogarithmic growth phase in medium containing inositol (0.1 mM) and choline (1 mM). Cell cultures were then pulse radiolabeled with [³²P]orthophosphate (10 μCi/ml) for 30 min at 25°C. Phospholipids were extracted by the method of Atkinson (1984) and resolved by two-dimensional chromatography, and radiolabeled species were quantified by phosphorimaging (see MATERIALS AND METHODS). Biosynthetic rates were deduced from the relative proportion of label recovered in each individual phospholipid species (expressed as percentage of total phospholipid). Rates of total phospholipid synthesis in these strains were estimated by measuring incorporation of ³²P into chloroform-soluble counts (11,300–12,600 cpm/OD₆₀₀ for *sac1* and *SAC1*, *Δspo14* mutants to 10,000–11,000 cpm/OD₆₀₀ for wild-type strains). Error bars are indicated. Phospholipid species are presented in the following order: PtdIns (black bars), PtdCho (cross-hatched bars), PtdSer (hatched bars), PtdEtn (stippled bars), and phosphatidic acid (open bars). Strains used were CTY1-1A (*sec14-1^{ts}*, *SAC1*, *SPO14*), CTY165 (*sec14-1^{ts}*, *sac1-22*, *SPO14*), and CTY1261 (*sec14-1^{ts}*, *sac1-22*, *Δspo14*). These data represent an average of three independent experiments, and all strains were analyzed in parallel for each trial. In a typical quantitation, PtdCho accounted for 5.0×10^5 and 2.7×10^5 phosphorimager units in *sac1* and *SAC1* strains, respectively, when 1×10^6 phosphorimager units of total phospholipid were analyzed from each strain. (B) Activities of the CDP-choline pathway and PtdEtn methylation pathway were evaluated in vivo by pulse radiolabeling of *SAC1* and *sac1-22* strain pairs (CTY1-1A and CTY165, respectively). The indicated strains were grown to midlogarithmic growth phase in choline-free medium containing inositol. Cell cultures were split, and one aliquot was pulse radiolabeled with [¹⁴C]choline chloride (1 μCi/ml) or [¹⁴C]methyl-methionine (1 μCi/ml), respectively, for 20 min at 26°C with shaking. A parallel aliquot was labeled with [³²P]orthophosphate for 20 min at 26°C. Phospholipids from equal cell equivalents (determined by ³²P incorporation into phospholipid in the parallel cultures) were subsequently extracted, resolved, and quantified as described in MATERIALS AND METHODS. These data represent an average of three independent experiments. For quantitative comparison of a representative experiment, wild-type and *sac1* strains incorporated 3.8×10^4 and 1.3×10^5 cpm [¹⁴C]choline chloride into PtdCho per OD₆₀₀ cells, respectively. (C) Strains with the indicated

spective of whether these strains harbored *SEC14* or *sec14^{ts}* alleles. At this point, we do not know what contribution reduced PtdSer levels make to the various *sac1* phenotypes.

Yeast produce PtdCho either via the CDP-choline pathway or the phosphatidylethanolamine (PtdEtn) methylation pathway (Figure 1). We determined whether the increased PtdCho biosynthetic rates observed in *sac1* mutants resulted from increased activity of one or both of these pathways. To specifically monitor activity of the CDP-choline pathway, we subjected *sac1-22* and *SAC1* strain pairs to a [¹⁴C]choline pulse-radiolabeling regimen and measured the incorporation of radiolabel into PtdCho (see MATERIALS AND METHODS). The data indicate that *sac1-22* mutants incorporated 2.8 ± 0.6 -fold more [¹⁴C]choline into PtdCho per OD₆₀₀ of cells than did *SAC1* strains, and this effect was typical for *sac1* mutants (Figure 3B). We interpret these data to indicate that the *sac1* mutants sustain a rate of metabolic flux through the CDP-choline pathway that is two- to threefold greater than that exhibited by wild-type yeast.

Two independent lines of evidence further support this finding. First, [³²P]orthophosphate pulse-radiolabeling experiments demonstrated that omission of choline from the medium (i.e., a condition that reduces CDP-choline pathway activity) diminished the rate of ³²P radiolabel incorporation into PtdCho. Under those conditions, *sac1* mutants exhibited only a 1.3-fold greater rate of ³²P incorporation into PtdCho relative to wild type. Second, genetic disruption of the CDP-choline pathway in Δ *sac1* strains reduced flux through the CDP-choline pathway some 30-fold (as measured by [¹⁴C]choline incorporation into PtdCho in a 20-min pulse). The resultant basal level of CDP-choline pathway activity was similar to that measured for an isogenic *SAC1*, *cki1-284::HIS3* strain (our unpublished results). These findings excluded the formal possibility that a normally cryptic choline- and DAG-utilizing pathway for PtdCho synthesis was activated in *sac1* mutants.

To determine whether the PtdEtn methylation pathway for PtdCho biosynthesis was also stimulated in

sac1 mutants, a [methyl-¹⁴C]methionine pulse-radiolabeling strategy was used to measure the activity of this pathway (see Figure 1). No significant differences in [methyl-¹⁴C]methionine incorporation into PtdCho were recorded between *sac1* and *SAC1* strains, because the *sac1* mutant exhibited 1.2 ± 0.4 the wild-type rate of PtdEtn methylation pathway activity (Figure 3B).

DAG Kinase (DGK) Expression Reduces CDP-Choline Pathway Activity in *sac1* Strains

The CDP-choline pathway directly consumes DAG in the process of PtdCho synthesis, whereas the methylation pathway does not (Figure 1). Pulse-radiolabeling analyses described above demonstrated that *sac1* strains produce DAG at rates some two- to threefold greater than those recorded for isogenic *SAC1* strains, suggesting that CDP-choline pathway hyperactivity in *sac1* strains might be supported by increased DAG availability. To investigate the issue in more detail, *Escherichia coli* DGK, an enzyme that converts DAG to phosphatidic acid (PtdOH), was expressed in Δ *sac1* strains. We then assessed the effect of metabolic shunting of DAG to PtdOH on CDP-choline pathway activity in Δ *sac1* strains.

[¹⁴C]Choline radiolabeling experiments demonstrated that DGK expression effected a reproducible 30% decrease in CDP-choline pathway activity in *sac1* strains (Figure 3C). Although the effect was relatively modest, and the rate of CDP-choline pathway activity in DGK-expressing Δ *sac1* strains still exceeded those of wild-type strains, this reduction in CDP-choline pathway was physiologically significant, because it strongly influenced *sac1*-associated inositol auxotrophy (see below).

Elevated CDP-Choline Pathway Activity in Δ *sac1* Strains Is PLD Dependent

Full manifestation of all presently known bypass Sec14p mechanisms, including those associated with *sac1* mutations, requires the contribution of a functional *SPO14* gene, which encodes the sole PIP₂-activated PLD in yeast (Xie *et al.*, 1998). In addition, the bypass Sec14p phenotype of *sac1* strains is abolished by DGK expression (Kearns *et al.*, 1997). We have proposed that PLD may play a role in DAG generation by providing a pool of PtdOH that serves as a substrate for PtdOH phosphohydrolases. A prediction of this model is that PLD is required to sustain the elevated CDP-choline pathway activity of *sac1* strains because it ultimately generates excess DAG in these mutants.

To test this prediction, a [³²P]orthophosphate pulse-radiolabeling regimen (which predominantly monitors PtdCho synthesis via the CDP-choline pathway; McGee *et al.*, 1994) was used. In these experiments, excess choline (1 mM) was included in the growth

Figure 3 (cont). genotypes were grown to midlogarithmic growth phase in choline-free medium containing inositol. Cell cultures were split, and one aliquot was pulse radiolabeled with [¹⁴C]choline chloride (1 μ Ci/ml) or [³²P]orthophosphate (10 μ Ci/ml) for 20 min at 26°C. Phospholipids were extracted, resolved, and quantified (see MATERIALS AND METHODS). Again, samples were normalized for cell equivalents based on incorporation of [³²P]orthophosphate into the parallel cultures as described in B. These data represent an average of three independent experiments. Strains CTY182 (*SAC1*) and CTY244 (Δ *sac1*) were transformed with the test YEp(DGK) plasmid and the vector-only control YEp(URA3) plasmid, respectively. The YEp(DGK) plasmid was represented by the pCTY85 construct that drives constitutive expression of DGK in yeast (Kearns *et al.*, 1997).

medium to ensure that any influence of PLD on CDP-choline pathway activity was independent of PLD-mediated generation of choline itself. Introduction of a $\Delta spo14$ allele into the *sac1-26* strain evoked a significant reduction in CDP-choline pathway activity (Figure 3A). In these experiments, PtdCho represented 29.5 ± 1.9 and $49.0 \pm 1.9\%$ of the radiolabeled phospholipid extracted from *SAC1* and *sac1* strains, respectively. The rate of PtdCho synthesis in the *sac1-26*, $\Delta spo14$ mutant was not significantly different from that of wild type, because PtdCho comprised $34.5 \pm 3.4\%$ of the radiolabeled phospholipid recovered from that double mutant strain (Figure 3A). Because all three strains incorporated very similar amounts of ^{32}P into phospholipid per OD_{600} cells during the labeling period (see Figure 3A legend), the relative percentages of label incorporated into PtdCho directly reflected quantitative differences in rates of PtdCho synthesis. The demonstration that *sac1-26*, $\Delta spo14$ double mutant strains exhibit wild-type rates of flux through the CDP-choline pathway, when coupled with the sensitivity of *sac1*-mediated CDP-choline pathway hyperactivity to DGK expression (Figure 3C), suggests that PLD activity supplies the DAG that drives accelerated metabolic flux through this pathway.

To determine whether PLD activity was solely responsible for the increased DAG production observed in *sac1* mutants (Kearns *et al.*, 1997), we subjected isogenic PLD-proficient (*SPO14*) and deficient ($\Delta spo14$) *sac1-22* strain pairs to a 20-min ^{14}C acetate pulse at 25°C . Lipids were extracted, and DAG was resolved by TLC (Buttke and Pyle, 1982). We took care to expeditiously extract and resolve the DAG to limit the unavoidable isomerization of 1,2-DAG to 1,3-DAG. Isogenic *SAC1*, *SPO14* strains were used as wild-type controls, and both 1,2-DAG and 1,3-DAG species were identified and quantitated to yield total DAG values. In accord with the data of Kearns *et al.* (1997), *sac1*, *SPO14* strains exhibited a 70% increase in DAG production relative to wild-type control (22 ± 2 and $13 \pm 1\%$ of total extractable lipid, respectively; $n = 3$). This effect was observed in media with inositol concentrations of $\geq 300 \mu\text{M}$, as used by Kearns *et al.* (1997), but not in media with inositol concentration of $< 100 \mu\text{M}$. Rates of ^{14}C acetate incorporation into lipid in these experiments were equivalent for *SAC1* strains and *sac1* mutants (420 ± 60 and $418 \pm 18 \text{ cpm} \cdot \text{OD}_{600}^{-1} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$, respectively). Genetic inactivation of PLD had no effect on the elevated DAG production scored for *sac1-22* strains as assayed by this regimen ($21 \pm 1\%$; $n = 3$).

We also used steady-state ^{14}C acetate labeling experiments to assess DAG pools at equilibrium in *SAC1* strains, *sac1-22* mutants, and *sac1-22*, $\Delta spo14$ double mutants. Because *sac1* mutants exhibit elevated activity of at least one DAG consuming pathway (i.e., the CDP-choline pathway), we expected that *sac1* mutants

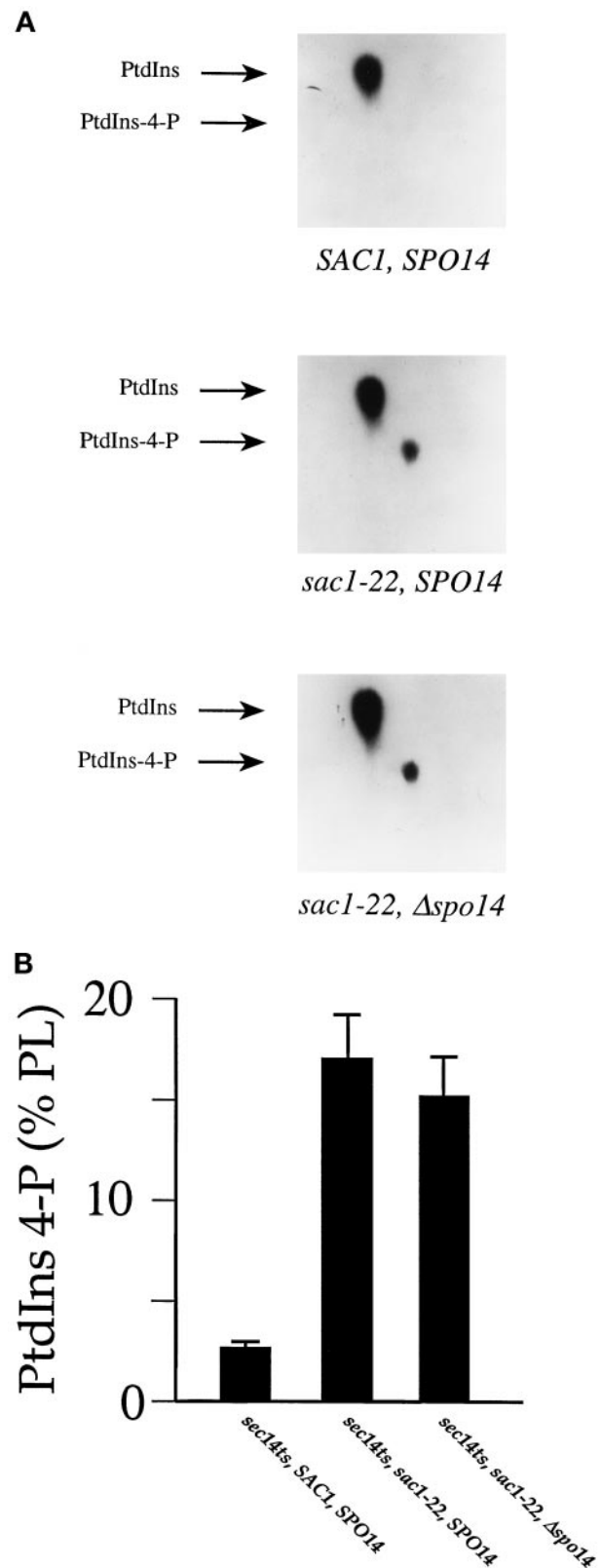
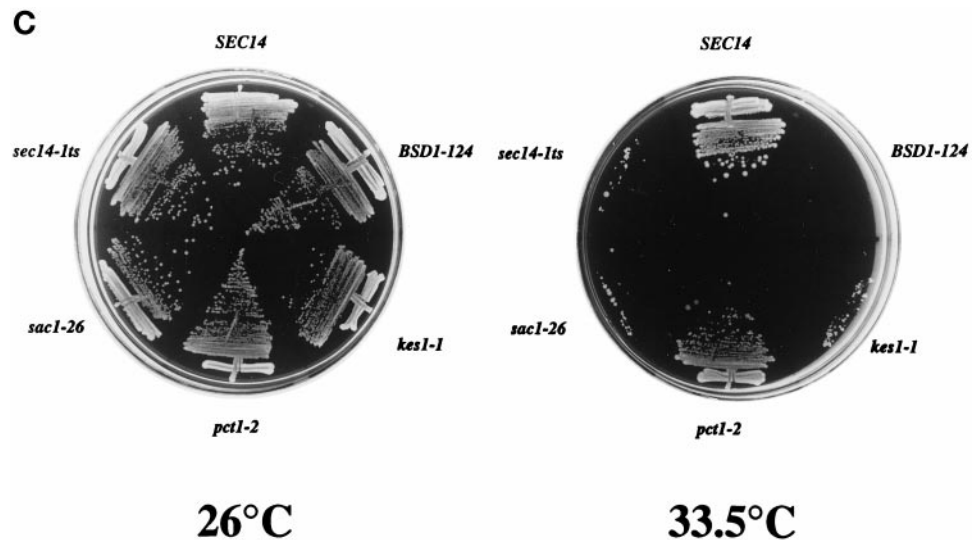


Figure 4.

Figure 4 (facing page). Effects of PLD deficiency on PtdIns-4-P accumulation and bypass Sec14p. (A) Strains CTY1-1A (*SAC1*, *SPO14*), CTY165 (*sac1-22*, *SPO14*), and CTY (*sac1-22*, Δ *spo14*) were grown in medium containing inositol (0.1 mM) and pulse radiolabeled with [³H]inositol (5 μ Ci/ml) for 1 h at 25°C and shaking. Radiolabeled inositol phospholipids were subsequently extracted and resolved by two-dimensional paper chromatography. Radiolabeled species were visualized by autoradiography. The positions of PtdIns and PtdIns-4-P are identified. These data are from a representative experiment. (B) The conditions of the experiment were exactly as in A with the exception that cells were radiolabeled with [³²P]orthophosphate (10 μ Ci/ml). Radiolabeled species were subsequently extracted under acidic conditions optimal for recovery of phosphoinositides, resolved by two-dimensional chromatography, visualized, and quantitated by phosphorimaging. The data represent the average of three independent experiments. The bulk incorporation of label into phospholipid for these strains during the pulse was essentially equivalent (see Figure 3A), and the relative magnitudes of PtdIns-4-P were directly related to quantities of PtdIns-4-P per cell equivalent in these strains. (C) A set of isogenic *sec14-1^{ts}*, Δ *spo14* strains carrying the indicated bypass Sec14p mutations were streaked for single colonies on YPD medium and incubated for 72 h at 33.5°C. The corresponding *sac1-26*, *pct1-2*, *kes1-1*, and *BSD1-124* derivatives were represented by strains CTY1127, CTY1096, CTY1098, and CTY1129, respectively. The *SEC14*, Δ *spo14* derivative (CTY1092) served as a positive growth control, whereas the *sec14-1^{ts}*, Δ *spo14* strain (CTY1079) represented the negative control. In the Δ *spo14* genetic background, neither *sac1*, *kes1* nor *BSD1-124* alleles imparted any detectable phenotypic suppression of *sec14* growth defects. By contrast, inactivation of the CDP-choline pathway via the *pct1-2* mutation (and *cki1*; our unpublished results) retained a clear PLD-independent ability to suppress *sec14^{ts}* growth defects under these conditions.



would not exhibit elevated DAG levels at steady state. As predicted, no steady-state differences in DAG pools were detected in these strains (13 ± 1 , 12 ± 1 , and $12 \pm 2\%$ of total chloroform-soluble counts, respectively; $n = 3$). These data are in accord with our previous determinations in which we measured DAG by radiolabeling cells to steady state with [¹⁴C]acetate and chasing for 2 h. In those experiments, there also were no significant differences in steady-state DAG pools among *SAC1* strains, *sac1* mutants, and *sac1*, Δ *spo14* double mutants (Xie *et al.*, 1998). These cumulative data suggest that *sac1* strains produce elevated DAG by at least two distinct pathways: one that is PLD dependent and results in a DAG pool that is robustly scavenged by CDP-choline pathway activity, and a second pathway that is revealed in [¹⁴C]acetate pulse-radiolabeling experiments, when cells are grown in media containing higher concentrations of inositol.

Accumulation of PtdIns-4-P in PLD-deficient *sac1* Strains

The bypass Sec14p phenotype of *sac1* strains correlates closely with the dramatic accumulation of an inositol phospholipid (Kearns *et al.*, 1997), which is now identified as PtdIns-4-P (Figure 2A). Perhaps elevated PtdIns-4-P defines the biochemical basis for bypass Sec14p in *sac1* strains. Yet, the *sac1* bypass Sec14p

phenotype is sensitive to both DGK expression and genetic inactivation of PLD (Kearns *et al.*, 1997; Xie *et al.*, 1998). We therefore tested whether either of the conditions that abrogate *sac1*-mediated bypass Sec14p also influenced PtdIns-4-P accumulation in *sac1* strains.

Both [³H]inositol- and [³²P]orthophosphate-labeling regimens were used to compare the magnitude of PtdIns-4-P accumulation in *SAC1* and *sac1-22* strain pairs that were either proficient or deficient in PLD activity. As shown in Figure 4A, [³H]inositol pulse-radiolabeling experiments indicated that *sac1-22* strains exhibited a dramatic (more than sixfold) accumulation of PtdIns-4-P relative to *SAC1* strains when cultured in inositol-containing medium. Inspection of profile obtained for the isogenic Δ *spo14* partner indicated that PLD inactivation had no significant effect on PtdIns-4-P accumulation in these mutants (Figure 4A). The results obtained from parallel [³²P]orthophosphate-labeling experiments provided quantitative results that confirmed the conclusion derived from the [³H]inositol-labeling experiments (Figure 4B). By the lipid extraction method used, $3.3 \pm 0.1\%$ of the ³²P radiolabel incorporated into phospholipid was recovered in the PtdIns-4-P fraction of *SAC1* strains. By contrast, 17.8 ± 3.2 and $14.7 \pm 2.5\%$ of the ³²P incorporated into phospholipid extracted from the *sac1-22*

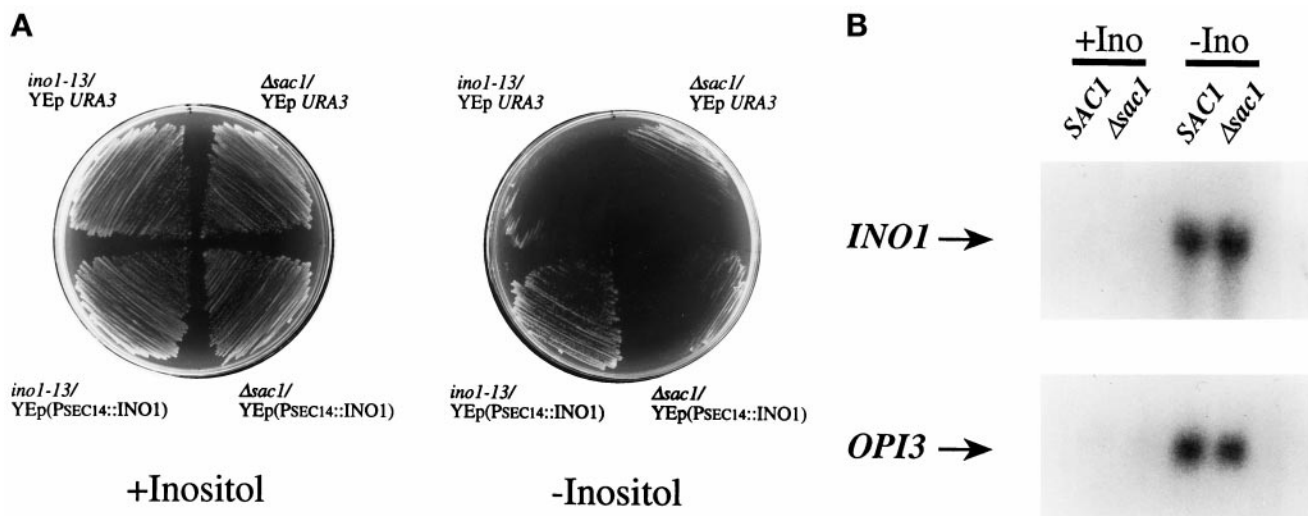


Figure 5. The inositol auxotrophy of $\Delta sac1$ strains is not the consequence of defects in *INO1* expression. (A) The yeast strains with the indicated genotypes were streaked for isolation on uracil-deficient medium in the presence (+Inositol) or absence (–Inositol) of inositol and incubated at 26°C for 72 h. The YEp(*P*_{SEC14}::*INO1*) plasmid, which drives constitutive expression of *INO1* from the *SEC14* promoter, was incapable of rescuing inositol prototrophy in the $\Delta sac1$ strain CTY244. That this plasmid effectively drove *INO1* expression is amply demonstrated by its ability to rescue growth of the *ino1-13* mutant (CTY) on inositol-free medium. (B) Wild-type (CTY182) and $\Delta sac1$ (CTY244) strains were grown in YPD medium to midlogarithmic growth phase, harvested, and washed. The cultures were split and either shifted to minimal medium containing both inositol and choline (+Ino) or to inositol- and choline-free medium (–Ino). After 4 h of incubation at 30°C with shaking, cells were harvested, and total RNA was recovered and subjected to Northern analysis using specific probes for *INO1* and *OPI3* mRNA that were generated by random priming. Each lane was loaded with 10 μ g of RNA. The results clearly demonstrate that both *INO1* and *OPI3* expression was induced in cells shifted to inositol- and choline-free medium. To confirm proper normalization of RNA load, these same RNA samples were also probed for messages (e.g., *PSS1*) that are present under both the Ino[–] and Ino⁺ conditions. As expected, *PSS1* mRNA was detected in all lanes (our unpublished results).

and the *sac1-22*, $\Delta spo14$ double mutant strain was recovered in PtdIns-4-P, respectively (Figure 4B). DGK expression, which is similar to $\Delta spo14$ in that it too abrogates *sac1*-mediated bypass Sec14p (Kearns *et al.*, 1997), also had no effect on PtdIns-4-P accumulation, as measured by [³²P]orthophosphate pulse radiolabeling (our unpublished results). Although *sac1-22* strains were used in these experiments, the same results were obtained with *sac1* null strains as well (our unpublished results). We conclude that PtdIns-4-P accumulation is insufficient to support bypass Sec14p.

sac1 Mutants Are Entirely Dependent on PLD Activity for Growth under Sec14p-deficient Conditions, Whereas *pct1* Mutants Are Not

PLD is an essential component of the mechanism(s) by which all known classes of bypass Sec14p alleles exert their suppressor phenotypes (Sreenivas *et al.*, 1998; Xie *et al.*, 1998). What remains unclear is whether PLD is the ultimate executor of these bypass Sec14p phenotypes or whether it is only one of several contributory factors. To distinguish between these possibilities, PLD-deficient *sec14-1^{ts}* strains carrying individual bypass Sec14p mutations were analyzed for their abilities to grow under various conditions. Although a *SEC14*, $\Delta spo14$ double mutant strain grew well at

33.5°C, the isogenic *sec14-1^{ts}* derivative was unable to grow at this temperature (Figure 4C). Indeed, the *sec14-1^{ts}*, $\Delta spo14$ double mutant was incapable of growth at temperatures above 31.5°C. Individual *sac1*, *kes1*, or *BSD1-124* mutations failed to suppress *sec14-1^{ts}* growth defects at 33.5°C (Figure 4C) or any other restrictive temperature. Thus, the mechanisms for bypass Sec14p in these strains operated through PLD because no PLD-independent component for suppression could be discerned.

Different results were obtained for *sec14-1^{ts}*, $\Delta spo14$ mutants carrying mutations (*pct1*) that inactivate the CDP-choline pathway. These triple mutant strains grew well at 33.5°C, clearly indicating a PLD-independent component to suppression of *sec14* defects by this mechanism (Figure 4C). Analysis of *sec14-1^{ts}*, $\Delta spo14$, *cki1* triple mutants yielded the same results (our unpublished results). We conclude that PLD is a major (but not the sole) contributor to the bypass Sec14p condition elicited by CDP-choline pathway defects. Interestingly, steady-state [³²P]orthophosphate radiolabeling experiments conducted at 26°C, followed by a 2-h chase at 33.5°C, revealed that *sec14-1^{ts}*, $\Delta spo14$, *pct1* strains exhibited similarly reduced bulk PtdOH levels to *sec14-1^{ts}*, $\Delta spo14$, *sac1* strains. These reductions in bulk PtdOH

were 10-fold relative to isogenic *SPO14* strains (2.1 ± 0.4 vs. $0.2 \pm 0.0\%$ of total phospholipid for *SPO14* and $\Delta spo14$ derivatives of the *pct1* strain, respectively; $n = 3$). Yet the *pct1* strains grew well at 33.5°C , whereas the *sac1* partners did not. Thus, reduced PtdOH levels can be uncoupled from the mechanisms by which CDP-choline pathway mutations effect bypass Sec14p.

Constitutive Transcription of *INO1* Fails to Relieve *sac1* Inositol Auxotrophy

Sac1p is a multifunctional protein that regulates ATP import into the lumen of intracellular organelles in a manner that can be uncoupled from its role in regulating inositol phospholipid metabolism (Mayinger *et al.*, 1996; Kearns *et al.*, 1997; Köchendorfer *et al.*, 1999). Because $\Delta sac1$ mutations evoke an unfolded protein response in yeast (Köchendorfer *et al.*, 1999), and this response inhibits transcription of *INO1*, we analyzed whether the Ino^- phenotype of *sac1* strains was related to defects in *INO1* expression. The *INO1* gene product catalyzes the conversion of glucose-6-phosphate to inositol-1-phosphate, the committed step for inositol biosynthesis in yeast (Carman and Henry, 1989). *INO1* transcription is also strongly repressed by inositol and choline, and efficient induction of *INO1* expression upon shift of yeast from inositol-replete to inositol-deficient conditions is required for cellular viability in inositol-free growth media (Culbertson *et al.*, 1976a,b).

To address whether defects in *INO1* expression contributed to the Ino^- phenotype of *sac1* mutants, we used two independent approaches. First, the *INO1* gene was placed under constitutive transcriptional control of the yeast *SEC14* promoter. This $P_{\text{SEC14}}::\text{INO1}$ expression cassette was introduced into *ino1-13* and $\Delta sac1$ strains in the context of a high-copy yeast plasmid $\text{YE}(P_{\text{SEC14}}::\text{INO1})$. Introduction of the $\text{YE}(P_{\text{SEC14}}::\text{INO1})$ plasmid restored inositol prototrophy to *ino1-13* strains, thereby providing a demonstration that $\text{YE}(P_{\text{SEC14}}::\text{INO1})$ sustained sufficient expression of *INO1* to correct the inositol auxotrophy of an *ino1* mutant. Strikingly, $\text{YE}(P_{\text{SEC14}}::\text{INO1})$ failed to complement the Ino^- phenotype of $\Delta sac1$ strains (Figure 5A).

Second, we used Northern analyses to assess the efficiency of induction of *INO1* transcription upon shift of *SAC1* and $\Delta sac1$ yeast strains from inositol-containing medium to inositol-free medium. *INO1* mRNA was essentially undetectable in either wild-type or $\Delta sac1$ cells shifted from YPD medium to minimal medium supplemented with inositol and choline (Figure 5B). Yet, both *SAC1* and $\Delta sac1$ strains induced robust transcription of *INO1* by 4 h after shift from YPD to inositol- and choline-free minimal medium. Similarly, *OPI3* transcription,

which is regulated in the same manner as is that of *INO1* (Carman and Henry, 1989), was also induced to high levels upon shift of $\Delta sac1$ strains from YPD to inositol-free minimal medium (Figure 5B). These data demonstrated that the Ino^- phenotype of *sac1* strains is not a simple consequence of defects in *INO1* expression.

DGK Expression and CDP-Choline Pathway Defects Suppress Inositol Auxotrophy

We noted that DGK expression strongly influenced the inositol requirement of *sac1* strains. Normally, the Ino^- trait of *sac1* strains is a tight phenotype because these mutants fail to produce colonies when streaked for isolation on inositol-free media (Figure 6A), even when such cultures are seeded with a heavy inoculum and incubated for many days. Expression of bacterial DGK in these strains suppressed the inositol auxotrophy of even $\Delta sac1$ mutants to the extent that individual colonies could readily be observed within 72 h of incubation of cells on inositol-free agar plates (Figure 6A). This effect was specific in the sense that DGK expression influences only one other *sac1* phenotype; i.e., it abolishes *sac1*-mediated bypass Sec14p (Kearns *et al.*, 1997). DGK expression did not diminish the cold sensitivity for growth (*cs*) phenotype characteristic of *sac1* strains (our unpublished results).

The DGK expression data suggested the possibility that the Ino^- phenotype of *sac1* mutants may result from accelerated CDP-choline pathway activity. A prediction of this model was that genetic inactivation of this specific PtdCho biosynthetic pathway will also restore an Ino^+ phenotype to $\Delta sac1$ strains. To test this prediction, mutations that disrupt structural genes encoding CDP-choline pathway enzymes were introduced into $\Delta sac1$ mutants, and the abilities of the resultant double mutants to grow on inositol-free media were assessed. The data show that introduction of the *cki1-284::HIS3* mutation (a disruption of the structural gene encoding choline kinase, the first enzyme of the CDP-choline pathway; see Figure 1), fully restored the ability of $\Delta sac1$ mutants to grow in inositol-free medium (Figure 6B). Phenotypic suppression of the *sac1*-associated inositol auxotrophy by the *cki1-284::HIS3* allele was recapitulated when *pct1::URA3* disruption alleles (which inactivate the structural gene encoding the second enzyme of the CDP-choline pathway; Figure 1) were introduced into $\Delta sac1$ strains (our unpublished results). Significantly, an *opi3::URA3* allele (which inactivates the PtdEtn pathway for PtdCho biosynthesis; Figure 1) failed to suppress the $\Delta sac1$ -associated Ino^- phenotype (Figure 6B). The potency with which CDP-choline pathway defects suppress the $\Delta sac1$ -associated Ino^- phenotype was evident in shift experiments in which $\Delta sac1$, *cki1-284::HIS3* double mutants displayed wild-type growth rates upon shift from inositol-replete

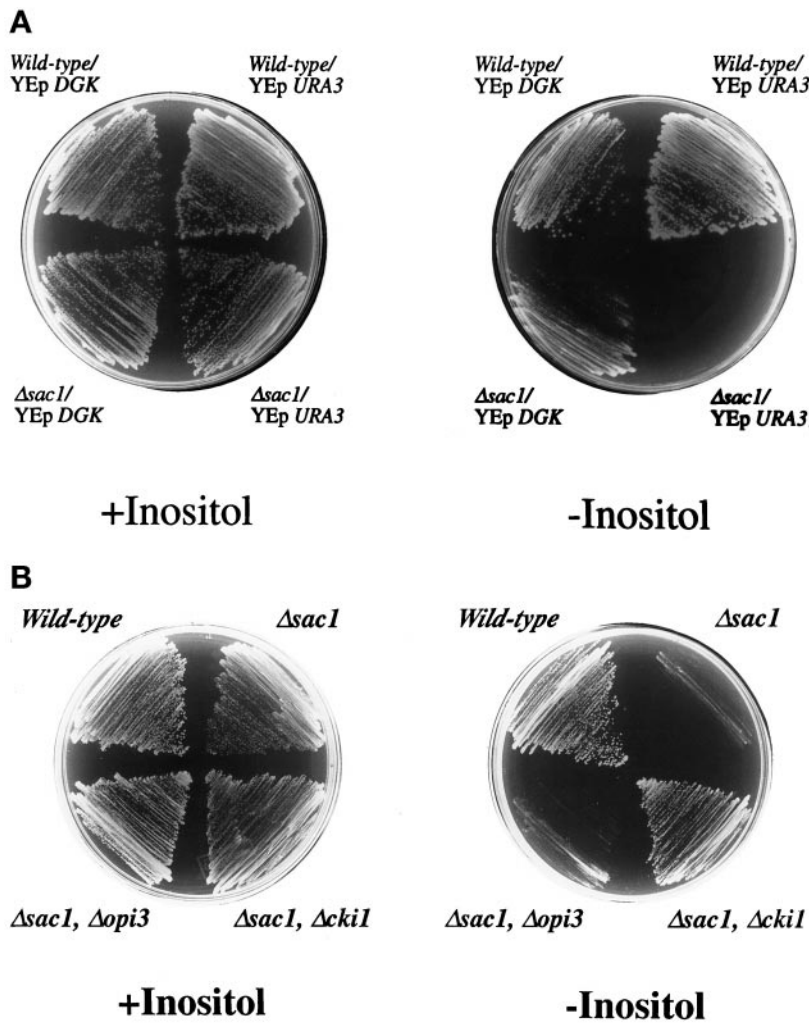


Figure 6. DGK expression suppresses the inositol auxotrophy associated with $\Delta sac1$ strains. (A) The indicated yeast strains were streaked for isolation on solid uracil-deficient minimal medium that either contained inositol (+Inositol) or was inositol free (–Inositol). Plates were incubated at 26°C for 72 h. Wild-type and $\Delta sac1$ strains were CTY182 and CTY244, respectively. Episomal *DGK* expression plasmids and cognate vector-only controls are designated YEp*DGK* and YEp*URA3*, respectively. (B) Mutations that block PtdCho biosynthesis by the CDP-choline pathway suppress the inositol auxotrophy of $\Delta sac1$ strains. Yeast strains with the indicated genotypes were streaked for isolation on solid minimal defined medium that was either supplemented with inositol (+Inositol) or was inositol-free (–Inositol). Plates were incubated at 26°C for 72 h and scored for growth. Wild-type and $\Delta sac1$ strains were CTY182 and CTY244, respectively. The $\Delta cki1$ and $\Delta opi3$ derivatives were generated by transformation of yeast cells with the appropriate disruption constructs and confirmed by genomic Southern analysis. In these experiments, heavy inocula of the $\Delta sac1$ and $\Delta sac1$, $\Delta opi3$ strains were streaked onto the –Inositol plates to illustrate the tightness of the inositol auxotrophy.

to inositol-free liquid media (Figure 7). In the course of these experiments, we observed a distinction between the behavior of *sac1* and *ino1* mutants under conditions of inositol deprivation. Both *ino1-13* and $\Delta sac1$ strains retained viability up to 4 h after shift to inositol-free medium. After that time, however, the *ino1-13* strain experienced a rapid loss of cell viability that resulted in a 1000-fold decrease in viable cell number by 24 h after shift (Figure 7). This is characteristic of yeast mutants unable to synthesize inositol de novo (Culbertson *et al.*, 1976a,b; Carman and Henry, 1989). By comparison, $\Delta sac1$ mutants suffered a more modest 10-fold reduction in viable cell number after 24 h of inositol starvation.

DISCUSSION

A dissection of Sec14p function in yeast has been driven by the analysis of suppressor mutations that endow cells with the ability to execute Golgi function,

and retain viability, in the absence of Sec14p (Cleves *et al.*, 1991a; Kearns *et al.*, 1998). The logic on which suppressor genetics is founded dictates that such bypass Sec14p mutations exert their effects by restoring a biochemical condition that normally falls under the purview of Sec14p function. From these analyses, we have proposed that Sec14p functions to maintain a Golgi DAG pool that is critical for Golgi secretory function (McGee *et al.*, 1994; Kearns *et al.*, 1997, 1998). Specifically, we proposed that PtdCho-bound Sec14p down-regulates DAG consumption via the CDP-choline pathway (Skinner *et al.*, 1995; Alb *et al.*, 1996; Kearns *et al.*, 1998), whereas PtdIns-bound Sec14p promotes DAG generation by regulating inositol phospholipid metabolism (Fang *et al.*, 1998; Kearns *et al.*, 1997, 1998). In this manner, Sec14p serves as a phospholipid sensor whose phospholipid-bound states independently, but convergently, function to maintain Golgi DAG (Figure 8).

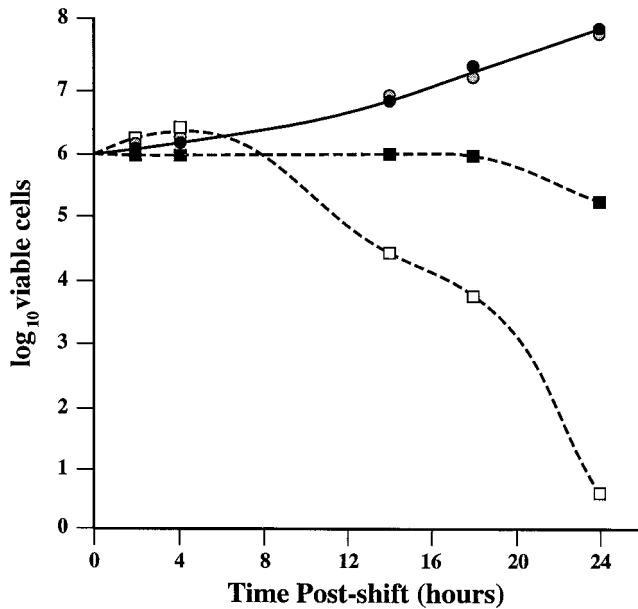


Figure 7. Effects of inositol starvation on cell viability. Wild-type (CTY182; closed circles), $\Delta sac1$ (CTY244; closed squares), $\Delta sac1 \Delta cki1$ (CTY; stippled circles), and *ino1-13* (CTY; open squares) strains were grown in minimal defined medium supplemented with inositol, harvested, washed, and shifted to inositol-free medium at time zero. Samples of each culture were subsequently removed at the indicated times after shift and serially diluted in YPD medium, and the serial dilutions were immediately plated onto YPD agar plates. Individual colonies were scored after 3 d of growth at 26°C to assess viable cell counts. Data are from a representative experiment.

One of several important lines of evidence supporting the DAG model was our observation that the ability of *sac1* strains to effect bypass Sec14p correlated with what we interpreted as overproduction of an inositol phospholipid that we identified as the most highly modified yeast sphingolipid, M(IP)₂C, a lipid whose synthesis produces Golgi DAG (Kearns *et al.*, 1997). In those experiments, the failure of Kearns *et al.* (1997) to use deacylation as an initial means for fractionating the deacylatable glycerophospholipids from sphingolipids contributed significantly to the misidentification. More rigorous analyses now indicate that the major inositol phospholipid that accumulates in *sac1* strains is PtdIns-4-P (Figure 2). A biochemical basis for elevations in PtdIns-4-P is suggested by the demonstration that the Sac1p domains of other inositide phosphatases themselves represent novel phosphoinositide phosphatase modules (Guo *et al.*, 1999). Thus, *sac1* strains likely accumulate PtdIns-4-P because the primary mechanism for its degradation to PtdIns is inactivated.

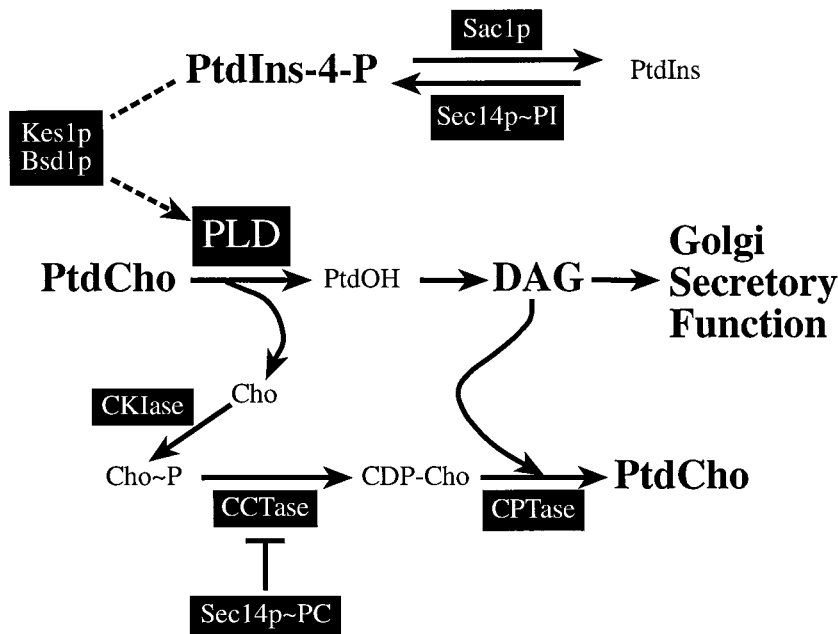
Based on the collective data reported herein, we revise our interpretation of the mechanism for bypass Sec14p in *sac1* strains to take into account the various new data (Figure 8). We maintain that increased DAG

production represents the key physiological event that allows Sec14p-independent growth and secretion in these strains, as previously proposed (Kearns *et al.*, 1997). The evidence now suggests that the pathway for this DAG production in *sac1* mutants involves PLD activity. We also report the unanticipated discovery that the physiological basis for *sac1*-associated inositol auxotrophy is related to aberrant lipid metabolism in these strains and not to defects in transcriptional induction of *INO1*. The evidence that speaks to these various points is as follows.

First, we demonstrate that a biochemical signature of *sac1* mutants is a dramatic acceleration in the rate of metabolic flux through the CDP-choline pathway for PtdCho biosynthesis (Figure 3). This effect is observed for all *sac1* alleles, including $\Delta sac1$, and it is observed in *sac1-22* strains only when these strains are grown in the presence of inositol. The significance of the latter point is that *sac1-22* strains, although exceptional from the standpoint that these are not inositol auxotrophs, are only able to exhibit bypass Sec14p phenotypes when grown in inositol-containing medium (Kearns *et al.*, 1997). The signature alterations in inositol phospholipid metabolism characteristic of *sac1* strains are also recorded in *sac1-22* strains but, again, only when these mutants are provided with inositol in the growth medium (Kearns *et al.*, 1997; see above).

Second, our demonstration that accelerated rates of CDP-choline pathway activity correlate with bypass Sec14p in *sac1* mutants is consistent with the DAG production model shown in Figure 8. Because *sac1* strains exhibited wild-type levels of bulk DAG at steady state, an expected consequence of excess DAG production in *sac1* strains would be a compensatory increase in the activity of a DAG degrading-consuming pathway. We conclude that the CDP-choline pathway represents a major metabolic sink for excess DAG in *sac1* strains. Our finding that CDP-choline pathway hyperactivity in *sac1* strains is sensitive to the metabolic conversion of DAG to PtdOH effected by DGK expression also supports this concept (Figure 3C). That this excess DAG is ultimately produced from PtdOH, a phospholipid that is a direct product of PLD action, is suggested by the demonstration that PLD inactivation (even when exogenous choline is supplied in vast excess) reduces CDP-choline pathway activity in *sac1* strains to essentially wild-type levels (Figure 3A).

The stimulation of the CDP-choline pathway recorded for *sac1* strains presents an intriguing paradox. The essence of the paradox is that, although hyperactivated CDP-choline pathway activity correlates with Sac1p-mediated bypass Sec14p, genetic inactivation of the CDP-choline pathway constitutes a recognized mechanism for bypass Sec14p (Cleves *et al.*, 1991b). The DAG model illustrated in Figure 8 reconciles this contradiction in a simple manner. It posits that, al-



Cho. We propose that the excess DAG generated via this route is consumed by the CDP-choline pathway for PtdCho biosynthesis, thereby resulting in the observed activation of this pathway biosynthetic pathway in *sac1* mutants. Second, we suggest that dysfunction of any one of the enzymes of the CDP-choline pathway results in the observed recessive bypass Sec14p phenotypes (Cleves *et al.*, 1991b), because inactivation of the CDP-choline pathway recapitulates the function of PtdCho-bound Sec14p (Sec14p~PC) (Skinner *et al.*, 1995). Although bypass Sec14p via this route also requires PLD activity, there is nonetheless a measurable PLD-independent component to suppression of Sec14p defects by CDP-choline pathway defects.

though increased DAG production effects bypass Sec14p, the resultant consumption of DAG manifests itself in elevated CDP-choline pathway activity. The stimulation of the CDP-choline pathway in *sac1* mutants raises the possibility that DAG availability helps set the baseline rate of metabolic flux through this pathway in yeast. Such a DAG effect could potentially be mediated by DAG stimulating the activity of CCTase, the rate-determining enzyme of the CDP-choline pathway.

Third, our results lend insight into the role of PtdIns-4-P accumulation in the *sac1*-mediated mechanism for bypass Sec14p. Because PLD-insufficient *sac1* strains still accumulate high levels of this phosphoinositide (Figure 4, A and B), yet are incompetent for bypass Sec14p (Xie *et al.*, 1998), we conclude that increased PtdIns-4-P is at best a contributing factor to bypass Sec14p. Indeed, the finding that PLD deficiency abolishes the bypass Sec14p phenotype of *sac1* strains in the face of PtdIns-4-P accumulation suggests that excess PtdIns-4-P may contribute to bypass Sec14p by effecting a downstream activation of PLD (Figure 8). For example, PtdIns-4-P could modulate PLD activity indirectly by influencing the action of another protein whose function is to regulate PLD. The yeast oxysterol-binding protein homologue Kes1p and the *BSD1* gene product represent candidate PLD regulators (Figure 8), because the bypass Sec14p

Figure 8. Bypass Sec14p mechanisms. The relevant lipid metabolic pathways and proteins that determine the activity of these pathways are shown. The key lipids (i.e., PtdIns-4-P, PtdCho, and DAG) are indicated in bold. Key proteins and their corresponding sites of action are indicated in the black boxes. We propose two principal mechanisms for bypass Sec14p. First, we suggest that Kes1p, *Sac1p*, and Bsd1p are involved in a PLD regulatory pathway that, in yeast mutants carrying the corresponding bypass Sec14p alleles, results in PLD activation and subsequent production of DAG. This particular pathway recapitulates the physiological function for the PtdIns-bound form of Sec14p (Sec14p~PI) that we have proposed effects DAG production via regulation of inositol phospholipid metabolism (Kearns *et al.*, 1997). Loss of *Sac1p* function results in PtdIns-4-P accumulation that, in turn, either activates Bsd1p (identified by dominant bypass Sec14p alleles; Cleves *et al.*, 1991b; Fang *et al.*, 1996) or inactivates Kes1p (identified by recessive bypass Sec14p alleles; Fang *et al.*, 1996). The consequence is activation of PLD, which results in DAG production through the metabolism of the PtdOH generated by PLD-mediated hydrolysis of Ptd-

Ins. We propose that the excess DAG generated via this route is consumed by the CDP-choline pathway for PtdCho biosynthesis, thereby resulting in the observed activation of this pathway biosynthetic pathway in *sac1* mutants. Second, we suggest that dysfunction of any one of the enzymes of the CDP-choline pathway results in the observed recessive bypass Sec14p phenotypes (Cleves *et al.*, 1991b), because inactivation of the CDP-choline pathway recapitulates the function of PtdCho-bound Sec14p (Sec14p~PC) (Skinner *et al.*, 1995). Although bypass Sec14p via this route also requires PLD activity, there is nonetheless a measurable PLD-independent component to suppression of Sec14p defects by CDP-choline pathway defects.

growth phenotypes of *kes1* and *BSD1-124* mutants are also completely abolished by PLD insufficiency (Figure 4C). Kes1p is a particularly attractive candidate because it binds PtdIns-4-P, and Kes1p overproduction phenocopies PLD inactivation (our unpublished data). Interestingly, CDP-choline pathway mutations exhibit a significant PLD-independent component of their ability to suppress *sec14* defects (Figure 4C). We attribute this PLD-independent component to reflect reduced rates of DAG consumption (Figure 8).

Fourth, we report insights into the mechanism that underlies the inositol auxotrophy of *sac1* strains. We demonstrate that CDP-choline pathway activity contributes to this inositol requirement. Interference with the activity of this PtdCho biosynthetic pathway at any one of several points restores the ability of Δ *sac1* strains to grow in the absence of exogenous inositol (Figure 6B) at wild-type rates (Figure 7). Because *sac1*-associated inositol auxotrophy does not result in obvious defects in transcriptional regulation of *INO1* (Figure 5, A and B), nor is it accompanied by the classical "inositol-less death" of *ino1* mutants (Figure 7), we conclude that *Sac1p* deficiency results in an inability of cells to thrive on endogenously produced inositol. In that regard, the accumulation of PtdIns-4-P in *sac1* strains indicates disruption of a substantial metabolic flux from PtdIns-4-P to PtdIns. This block in PtdIns production may contribute to the unusual ino-

sitol auxotrophy of *sac1* strains in a manner that does not solely operate through CDP-choline pathway hyperactivation.

Finally, we emphasize the pleiotropic nature of the phospholipid metabolic alterations that accompany *Sac1p* dysfunction. Some of these are involved in mediating bypass *Sec14p* (i.e., accumulation of *PtdIns-4P* and subsequent increases in *PLD*-mediated *DAG* production). We propose others to represent indirect correlates of the bypass *Sec14p* condition (e.g., accelerated CDP-choline pathway activity and reduced *PtdSer* levels). A continuing challenge in these analyses is the recognition of which alterations in phospholipid metabolism in bypass *Sec14p* mutants most directly mediate *Sec14p*-independent growth and Golgi secretory function in yeast.

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