

Phosphoinositide Signaling Pathways in Nuclei Are Associated with Nuclear Speckles Containing Pre-mRNA Processing Factors

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Phosphoinositide signal transduction pathways in nuclei use enzymes that are indistinguishable from their cytosolic analogues. We demonstrate that distinct phosphatidylinositol phosphate kinases (PIPks), the type I and type II isoforms, are concentrated in nuclei of mammalian cells. The cytosolic and nuclear PIPks display comparable activities toward the substrates phosphatidylinositol 4-phosphate and phosphatidylinositol 3-phosphate. Indirect immunofluorescence revealed that these kinases were associated with distinct subnuclear domains, identified as “nuclear speckles,” which also contained pre-mRNA processing factors. A pool of nuclear phosphatidylinositol bisphosphate (PIP₂), the product of these kinases, was also detected at these same sites by monoclonal antibody staining. The localization of PIPks and PIP₂ to speckles is dynamic in that both PIPks and PIP₂ reorganize along with other speckle components upon inhibition of mRNA transcription. Because PIPks have roles in the production of most phosphatidylinositol second messengers, these findings demonstrate that phosphatidylinositol signaling pathways are localized at nuclear speckles. Surprisingly, the PIPks and PIP₂ are not associated with invaginations of the nuclear envelope or any nuclear membrane structure. The putative absence of membranes at these sites suggests novel mechanisms for the generation of phosphoinositides within these structures.

INTRODUCTION

Phosphoinositide signaling pathways are present in nuclei (Divecha *et al.*, 1993; Maraldi *et al.*, 1994). The first evidence for a nuclear pathway was the identification of diacylglycerol, phosphatidylinositol (PI),¹

and phosphatidylinositol phosphate kinase (PIPk) activities in nuclear envelopes (Smith and Wells, 1983). These same activities were later shown to be retained in Friend cell nuclei that had been carefully stripped of their nuclear envelopes with detergent (Cocco *et al.*, 1987; Divecha *et al.*, 1991). Since then, various enzymes necessary for PI signaling such as phosphoinositide-specific phospholipase C (PLC), protein kinase C (PKC) and inositol-phosphate phosphatases have been identified in the nuclear interior (Kuriki *et al.*, 1992; Martelli *et al.*, 1992; Asano *et al.*, 1994; York *et al.*, 1994; Balboa *et al.*, 1995; Liu *et al.*, 1996; Sun *et al.*, 1997).

The functional significance of the nuclear PI cycle remains poorly understood. The intranuclear PIs constitute a fraction of the total cellular PIs, and their levels are reported to change independently of the

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¹ Abbreviations used: Con A, concanavalin A; DRB, 5,6-dichlorobenzimidazole riboside; ER, endoplasmic reticulum; PI, phosphatidylinositol; PI4P, phosphatidylinositol 4-phosphate; PI3P, phosphatidylinositol 3-phosphate; PI4,5P₂, phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate; PI3,4P₂, phosphatidylinositol 3,4-bisphosphate; PIP, phosphatidylinositol phosphate; PIP₂, phosphatidylinositol bisphosphate; PIPk, phosphatidylinositol phosphate kinase; PIPKI, type I phosphatidylinositol phosphate kinase; PIPKII, type II phosphatidylinositol phosphate kinase; PKC, protein kinase C; PLC, phosphoinositide-specific phospholipase C.

plasma membrane phospholipids (Divecha *et al.*, 1993). For instance, nuclear phosphatidylinositol bisphosphate (PIP₂), but not total cellular PIP₂, decreases as cells progress through S-phase of the cell cycle (York and Majerus, 1994). An increase in nuclear PLC activity and diacylglycerol levels was also reported at the G₂-M transition (Sun *et al.*, 1997). Furthermore, PLC β translocates into nuclei and is activated upon insulin-like growth factor 1 stimulation of Swiss 3T3 cells (Divecha *et al.*, 1991; Martelli *et al.*, 1992). PKC α or PKC β then enters the nuclei, suggesting that these kinases are effectors of nuclear PLC activity (Divecha *et al.*, 1991). Cellular differentiation and the actions of cytokines such as interleukin 1 α or interferon α have also been demonstrated to influence nuclear PI metabolism (Zini *et al.*, 1996b; Divecha *et al.*, 1997).

The spatial organization of the phosphoinositide signaling within the nucleus is not known. However, nuclei stripped of their envelope with detergent still retain phosphoinositides and enzymes that metabolize the phosphoinositides. This suggests that the phosphoinositides must remain associated with nonmembrane nuclear structures; potentially these phosphoinositides are in form of proteolipid complexes (Cocco *et al.*, 1987; Divecha *et al.*, 1991; Martelli *et al.*, 1992). In NIH 3T3 cells and rat liver cells, diacylglycerol, PI, and PIP kinase activities are reported to be associated with the nuclear matrix using biochemical approaches (Payrastra *et al.*, 1992). PLC β and PKC appear to colocalize on the nuclear matrix by immunoelectron microscopy (Zini *et al.*, 1993; Maraldi *et al.*, 1994). These data again imply that the nuclear PI signaling functions as a component of the nuclear matrix, potentially in the absence of a lipid bilayer.

PIPKs synthesize phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate (PI4,5P₂) by phosphorylating phosphatidylinositol 4-phosphate (PI4P) (Loijens *et al.*, 1996). Several human isoforms have been cloned, and the type I and type II subfamilies (PIPKIs and PIPKIIs) are each represented by multiple members (Boronenkov and Anderson, 1995; Divecha *et al.*, 1995; Loijens and Anderson, 1996; Castellino *et al.*, 1997; Ishihara *et al.*, 1998; Itoh *et al.*, 1998). In addition to PI4,5P₂, PIPKIIs can generate phosphatidylinositol 3,4-bisphosphate (PI3,4P₂) and phosphatidylinositol 3,4,5-trisphosphate from phosphatidylinositol 3-phosphate (PI3P) (Zhang *et al.*, 1997). Murine PIPKI α has also been reported to produce phosphatidylinositol 3,5-bisphosphate under certain conditions (Tolias *et al.*, 1998), and the generation of putative phosphatidylinositol 3,5-bisphosphate has been correlated with osmotic stress in both yeast and mammalian cells (Dove *et al.*, 1997). Recent studies indicate that PIPKIIs are preferentially PIP 4-kinases as they phosphorylate PI3P and phosphatidylinositol 5-phosphate to synthesize PI3,4P₂ and PI4,5P₂ by a novel pathway (Rameh *et al.*, 1997). Thus,

various PIPK isoforms produce partially overlapping subsets of PI second messengers, which have diverse effectors and cellular functions.

PIPK activity had previously been reported in nuclei (Payrastra *et al.*, 1992). Here, we present evidence that multiple PIPK isoforms are present in the nucleoplasm and are concentrated at nuclear speckles containing mRNA-processing components. PIP₂ was also detected at speckles, consistent with its production by PIPKs localized to those sites.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Antibodies

Recombinant human PIPKII α (Boronenkov and Anderson, 1995) was expressed in *Escherichia coli*, purified, and coupled to CNBr-activated Sepharose. Using this matrix, rabbit polyclonal antibodies raised against human erythroid 53-kDa PIPKII (Bazenet *et al.*, 1990) were affinity purified. Recombinant, His-tagged human PIPKII β (Castellino *et al.*, 1997) was used to immunize rabbits, and the sera was affinity purified using PIPKII β coupled to Sepharose as above. Goat polyclonal anti-PIPKII α antibodies (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Santa Cruz, CA) recognize peptides at the N terminus (N-19) or in the "insert" region (C-18) (Boronenkov and Anderson, 1995). The N-19 antibody specifically recognizes PIPKII α and not PIPKII β by Western blotting (Boronenkov, Parker, and Anderson, unpublished observations). Production of anti-PIPKI α rabbit polyclonal antibodies that were affinity-purified using the full-length PIPKI α has been described (Zhang *et al.*, 1997). An additional antibody pool against the unique C-terminal region of PIPKI α was isolated from the antisera, using the affinity column prepared from a hexahistidine-tagged fusion protein of PIPKI α residues 432–549.

The anti-PIP₂ mAbs AM212 and AM2 were from Dr. Masato Umeda (Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Medical Science, Tokyo, Japan). The KT10 anti-PIP₂ mAb and the KD2 anti-PIP mAb were kindly provided by Dr. Kyoko Fukami (University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan). The kt3g anti-PIP₂ mAb was obtained from Perseptive Biosystems (Framingham, MA). Their specificities have been tested extensively by a variety of methods (Fukami *et al.*, 1988; Fukami and Takenawa, 1989; Matuoka *et al.*, 1988; Miyazawa *et al.*, 1988). Human Sm reference serum was from the Centers for Disease Control (Atlanta, GA) (Hardin *et al.*, 1982). The following antibodies were also used: SC35 mAb (American Type Culture Collection, Rockville, MD), FLAG M2 mAb (Kodak Eastman, New Haven, CT), B1C8 nuclear matrix protein mAb (Matritech, Cambridge, MA), β -actin AC-15 mAb (Sigma Chemical, St. Louis, MO), β -tubulin mAb (Amersham Life Sciences, Arlington Heights, IL), epidermal growth factor receptor (1005) rabbit polyclonal antibody (Santa Cruz Biotechnology), vimentin V9 mAb (Sigma), and glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase mAb (BioDesign, Kennebunk, ME). mAb104 was a gift from Dr. Mark Roth (Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, WA), whereas a rabbit polyclonal antibody against an endoplasmic reticulum (ER)-located epoxide hydrolase was provided by Dr. Charles Kasper (University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI). Fluorescent dye-conjugated secondary antibodies and normal sera were from Jackson ImmunoResearch Laboratories (West Grove, PA), whereas HRP-conjugated secondary antibodies were from Santa Cruz Biotechnology.

Cell Culture

Human transformed 2RA lung fibroblasts, human MG-63 osteosarcoma cells, human HeLa cells, and normal rat kidney NRK-49F fibroblasts were cultured in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium supplemented with 10% fetal calf serum and antibiotics (Life Technologies, Gaithersburg, MD). For inhibition of transcription, 2RA or

NRK-49F cells in culture were treated with 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ α -amanitin or 100 μM 5,6-dichlorobenzimidazole riboside (DRB; Sigma) for 4 h. At these concentrations, these inhibitors specifically cause inhibition of RNA polymerase II and induce reorganization of the nuclear speckles into larger and fewer structures (Spector *et al.*, 1983; Carmo-Fonseca *et al.*, 1992).

Immunofluorescence and Microscopy

For immunofluorescence studies, cells were grown on glass coverslips, which, if necessary, were coated with poly-L-lysine. Coverslips were rinsed in PBS, and then cells were fixed. A number of fixation methods were used. Cells were fixed for 15 min in PBS containing 4% formaldehyde at 24°C and permeabilized with 0.2% Triton X-100 in PBS for 7 min at 24°C. Cells were fixed with methanol at -20°C or dry ice for 10 min and washed with PBS. Cells were fixed with acetone at -20°C for 10 min and washed with PBS. After fixation the coverslips were washed in PBS, and they were blocked overnight at 4°C in BSA solution (PBS, pH 7.5, containing 3% BSA, 0.1% Tween 20, and 0.02% sodium azide). Where indicated, cells were preextracted with 0.2% Triton X-100 in PBS for 3 min on ice. All of the buffers were supplemented with 2 mM MgCl_2 . Incubation with primary antibodies in 3% BSA solution was for 1 h at 37°C. For methanol fixation, between 20 and 1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ primary polyclonal anti-PIPK antibody was used; for formaldehyde fixation between 10 and 1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ primary anti-PIPK antibody was used. Generally the AM212 mAb was used at 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$, and anti-FLAG mAb was used at 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$. Sm antiserum was used at a 1:600 dilution or for the detection of microspeckles as low as 1:6000 depending on which fixation was used. This was followed by labeling for 1 h at 24°C with fluorescent dye-conjugated secondary antibodies in 3% BSA solution supplemented with 10% normal goat serum. Biotin-conjugated concanavalin A (Con A; Vector Laboratories, Burlingame, CA) was used after methanol fixation like a primary antibody and was detected with Texas Red-conjugated streptavidin (Jackson ImmunoResearch). Coverslips were mounted on slides with PBS containing 90% glycerol, 0.1 g/mL 1,4-diazabicyclo(2.2.2)octane (Eastman Kodak, Rochester, NY), and 1,4-phenylenediamine (Aldrich, Milwaukee, WI) and sealed using nail polish.

Digital images were acquired using an MRC-1024 laser scanning confocal microscopy system (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Hercules, CA) at the W.M. Keck Neural Imaging Laboratory (University of Wisconsin Medical School). For single fluorophore staining, a stack of the individual planar images with an 0.8- μm step was coaxially projected to obtain the final image using Confocal Assistant software (Bio-Rad). In the case of multiple fluorophores, sequential series of scans with a 0.2- μm step were acquired, and the corresponding individual thin optical sections were selected using NIH Image 1.59 software (National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD) and processed in Adobe Photoshop 4.0 (Adobe Systems, San Jose, CA).

Subcellular Fractionation and Western Blotting

To obtain total cell lysates, cultured cells were trypsinized, washed twice with cold PBS, and lysed in Triton lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 0.5 M NaCl, 0.5% Triton X-100, 1 mM EDTA, 0.5 mM PMSF, 2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ leupeptin, and 10 trypsin inhibitor units/ml aprotinin). The nuclear isolation protocol was based on the method of Dignam *et al.* (1983) designed for preparation of splicing extracts and transcription factors. Harvested HeLa cells, obtained from the National Cell Culture Center (Minneapolis, MN), were washed and swollen in three packed-cell volumes of hypotonic buffer (10 mM HEPES, pH 7.6, 10 mM KCl, 1.5 mM MgCl_2 , 0.5 mM EGTA, 0.5 mM PMSF, 2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ leupeptin, 10 trypsin inhibitor units/ml aprotinin, 2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ antipain, and 2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ chymostatin). All further buffers used for nuclear isolation contained 17 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ calpain inhibitor I and 7 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ calpain inhibitor II (Alexis, San Diego, CA) in addition to the inhibitors found in the hypotonic buffer. After 20 min on ice, the

swollen cells were disrupted in a Dounce homogenizer with 20 strokes, and the completion of lysis was monitored by trypan blue exclusion staining. Nuclei were pelleted at 700 $\times g$, and the supernatant was kept as the cytosolic fraction. Nuclei were then stripped in hypotonic buffer containing 0.8% Triton X-100 for 10 min on ice, spun at 700 $\times g$, and washed several times in hypotonic buffer containing 25% glycerol and 0.5 mM DTT. This last step caused some leakage of the nuclear material. Stripped nuclei were treated with 350 mM KCl for 20 min at 4°C, disrupted by brief probe sonication (70 W, 2 \times 10 s), and separated by 16,000 $\times g$ centrifugation (30 min) into the nuclear pellet (postextracted nuclei) and nuclear extract. The nuclear extract was dialyzed against hypotonic buffer with 20% glycerol and 0.5 mM DTT, and the resulting precipitate was removed by a 16,000 $\times g$ centrifugation (30 min). For some preparations, the nuclear extract was clarified with a 200,000 $\times g$ centrifugation for 1 h to remove any trace of membrane structures. A similar nuclear distribution of PIPKs was seen when stripped nuclei and nuclear matrix from NRK, HeLa, or 2RA cells were prepared by the method of Payrastra *et al.* (1992). The cellular fractions were transferred to an Immobilon-P polyvinylidene fluoride membrane (Millipore, Bedford, MA) and Western blotted as described previously (Zhang *et al.*, 1997). The chemiluminescence was detected by film, with care being taken not to overexpose the film with the signal for any of the bands; the signals from individual protein bands were quantified by densitometric scans of the film from the Western blots with ImageQuant software (Molecular Dynamics, Sunnyvale, CA). The relative contents of the detected protein in subcellular fractions were then calculated by factoring in the amounts of total protein in every fraction. For the analysis of cross-contamination between the subcellular fractions, these Western blots were stripped with detergent, blocked, and reprobed with the antibodies specific for proteins restricted to specific subcellular fractions (as described in RESULTS). The relative amounts of these proteins in subcellular fractions were determined as outlined above for PIPKs.

Transfection of Epitope-tagged PIPKs

PIP2II α and PIP2II β were N-terminally tagged with the FLAG epitope by subcloning their coding regions into pcDNA3-FLAG vectors provided by Dr. Jon Morrow (Yale University, New Haven, CT). These constructs were transiently transfected into 2RA cells using LipofectAMINE (Life Technologies) as previously described (Zhang *et al.*, 1997).

Immunoprecipitations and Lipid Kinase Assays

Immunoprecipitations from HeLa nuclear extracts or cytosol were performed in hypotonic buffer supplemented with 150 mM NaCl and Nonidet P-40 at either 0.2% (PIP2II α) or 0.5% (PIP2I α). Omnisorb cells (Calbiochem-Novabiochem, San Diego, CA) were used as the protein G matrix as previously described (Zhang *et al.*, 1997). The PIP2I α antibody was used at 0.4 $\mu\text{g}/100 \mu\text{g}$ protein for 2 h on ice, whereas the PIP2II α N19 antibody was used at 1.2 $\mu\text{g}/100 \mu\text{g}$ protein overnight at 4°C. Control experiments included mock immunoprecipitation in the absence of antibody and Western blotting a sample of the antibody used in the immunoprecipitation.

PIP kinase assays were performed as previously described (Zhang *et al.*, 1997) using either 50 μM PI4P (Sigma) or PI3P dipalmitoyl ester (a gift from Dr. Glenn Prestwich, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT). The thin-layer chromatography plates were analyzed using a PhosphorImager and ImageQuant software (Molecular Dynamics). Radiolabeled lipids were subsequently scraped from the thin-layer chromatography plates, based on spots observed on the autoradiograph, and analyzed by scintillation counting (Zhang *et al.*, 1997).

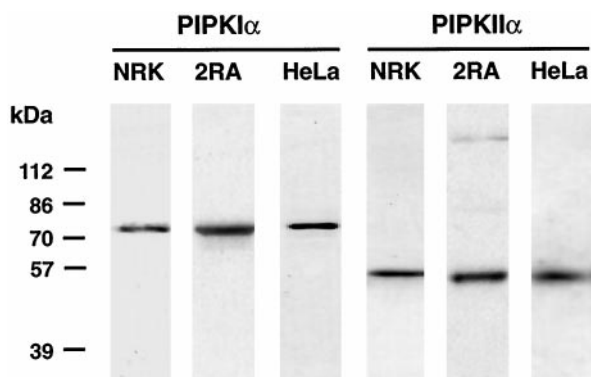


Figure 1. anti-PIPKI α and anti-PIPKII α polyclonal antibodies (10 $\mu\text{g/ml}$) selectively detected 68- and 53-kDa proteins, respectively, by Western blotting total lysates prepared from NRK-49F, 2RA, and HeLa cells.

RESULTS

Type I and II PIPKs Localized to Nuclei in Cultured Cells

To characterize the intracellular distribution of the PIPKs and to provide tools to study the signaling pathways in which they participate, polyclonal antibodies were generated against two distinct PIPKs, the type I and type II isoforms. These antibodies immunoprecipitate their respective kinases from cell lysates and do not cross-react with kinases of the other type (Jenkins *et al.*, 1994; Zhang *et al.*, 1997). As shown in Figure 1, the antibodies specifically detected the 68-kDa PIPKI α and 53-kDa PIPKII α in HeLa, NRK-49F,

and 2RA cell lines. The PIPKI α antibodies did not cross-react with the closely related PIPKI β (our unpublished results; Loijens and Anderson, 1996). The PIPKII α antibodies appear to detect only the PIPKII α (53 kDa by SDS-PAGE) by Western blotting cell lysates, because the PIPKII β migrates with an apparent size of ~ 56 kDa. The PIPKII α antibodies do weakly detect the homologous PIPKII β by Western blotting the *E. coli*-expressed protein.

These affinity-purified, isoform-specific PIPK antibodies were used to determine the intracellular localization of the PIPKs in cultured NRK cells by indirect immunofluorescence. Cells fixed with methanol or acetone and stained with the type I α or type II α PIPK antibodies displayed intense nuclear staining for both isoforms (Figure 2, A and D, respectively). Moreover, the staining in nuclei was concentrated in distinct foci or nuclear speckles. This staining pattern was independent of fixation but was dependent on PIPK antibody concentration. When cells were fixed with 4% formaldehyde and stained with high concentrations of type I and II PIPK antibodies, diffuse nuclear staining with nucleolar exclusion was observed (Figure 2, C and F). Intermediate concentrations of PIPK antibodies (<5 $\mu\text{g/ml}$) emphasized the speckle pattern as in Figure 2, A and D, whereas at even lower antibody concentrations, the speckle structures became smaller and more numerous (Figure 2, C and F, insets), possibly representing the sites with the highest concentration of the PIP kinases within nuclei. These observations were reminiscent of the threshold effect reported previously when different dilutions of vari-

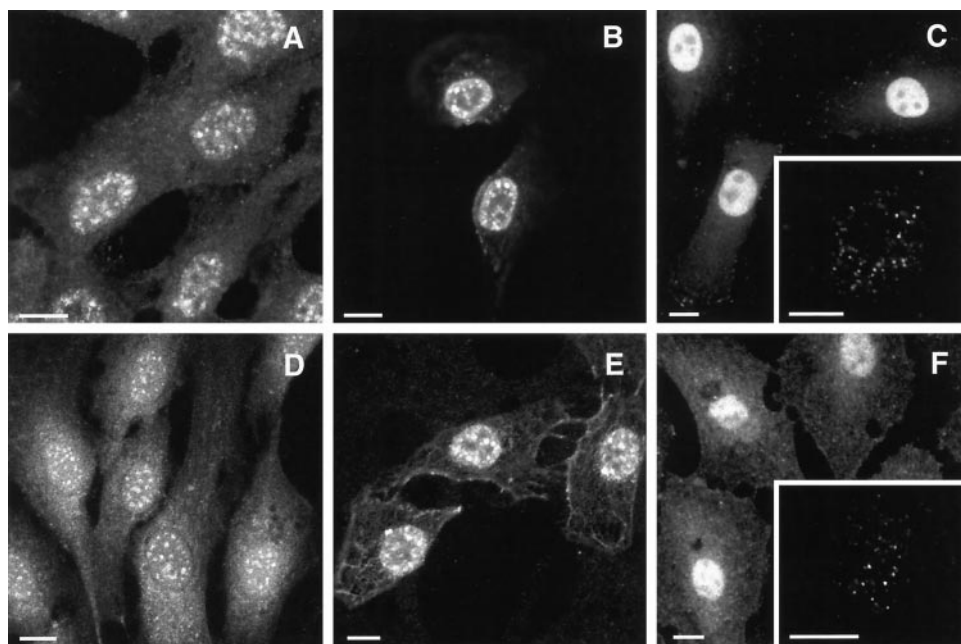


Figure 2. Indirect immunofluorescence of NRK-49F rat fibroblasts indicated nuclear localization of PIPKI α (A–C) and PIPKII α (D–F). The speckled staining in nuclei was observed with methanol fixation (A and D), or with a brief preextraction using 0.2% Triton X-100 and then fixation with formaldehyde (B and E). Strong diffuse nuclear staining upon formaldehyde fixation was obtained when anti-PIPK antibodies were used at 10 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ (C and F). However, this picture at lower concentrations progressed to speckles and then resolved into a pattern of smaller dots when 0.5 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ anti-PIPKI α or 1 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ anti-PIPKII α antibodies were used (C and F, insets). Insets, thin optical sections of magnified view of the nuclei of human MG-63 cells. Fixation and staining protocols are detailed in MATERIALS AND METHODS. Bar, 10 μm .

ous antibodies toward splicing factors were used in immunofluorescence (Neugebauer and Roth, 1997). Similarly, we have observed the appearance of smaller dots in place of speckles when lower dilutions of Sm antiserum and SC35 antibody were used, either after formaldehyde or -20°C acetone fixations. To determine whether the diffuse nuclear staining at high antibody concentration represented a pool of soluble kinases, cells were mildly preextracted with detergent, followed by fixation and antibody staining. As shown in Figure 2, B and E, detergent-preextracted human 2RA fibroblast cells stained with high antibody concentration displayed a speckled pattern of nuclear staining with a reduction in the diffuse background staining. These data suggest that both detergent soluble and insensitive populations of the PIPKs were present within nuclei (also see below). This is consistent with previous biochemical findings demonstrating both detergent-soluble and -insoluble nuclear PIPK activities (Divecha *et al.*, 1991; Payrastra *et al.*, 1992). Furthermore, the PIPKs and PIPKII α associated with nuclear speckles were resistant to detergent extraction, suggesting a stable association of the kinases with these nuclear structures. This nuclear localization of PIPKI α and PIPKII α was observed in a variety of transformed primate and rodent cell lines, transformed and nontransformed human cell lines, and neonatal mouse cardiomyocytes.

As controls, PIPKI α preimmune IgG and IgG from anti-PIPKI α sera depleted of PIPKI α -immunoreactive antibody species gave background signals by immunofluorescence. Furthermore, preincubation of the PIPKII α antibody with an excess of denatured recombinant PIPKII α abolished staining, and the nuclear staining was only weakly blocked when the closely related, denatured rPIPKII β was combined with the PIPKII α antibody. No cross-reactivity between anti-PIPKI antibody and PIPKII α (and vice versa) in immunofluorescence experiments was detected.

Biochemical Fractionation Also Demonstrated That the PIPKs Are Nuclear Enzymes

To provide further evidence for the nuclear localization of PIPKs, HeLa, NRK, and 2RA cells were separated into subcellular fractions by established methods (Dignam *et al.*, 1983; Payrastra *et al.*, 1992; York *et al.*, 1994). As representative of these experiments, a HeLa cell fractionation is shown in Figure 3, which is based on the method of Dignam *et al.* (1983), for isolation of nuclei. Cell fractions with equal protein loads were Western blotted with antibodies against PIPKI α and PIPKII α (Figure 3A), and the relative amounts of the kinases in each fraction were quantified (Figure 3B) by Western blotting (see MATERIALS AND METHODS). Shown are the total cell lysate, crude cytosol, which contains cytosol and membranes, and

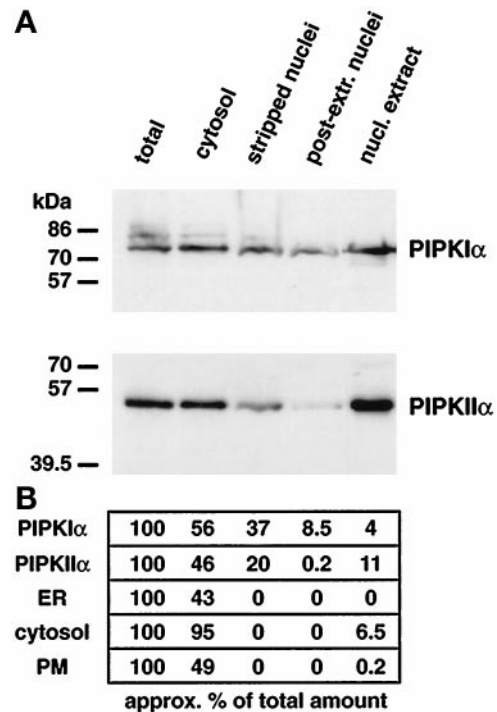


Figure 3. Subcellular fractionation of HeLa cells showed that nuclei contained PIPKI α and PIPKII α . HeLa cells were disrupted and separated into nuclear and crude cytosolic (cytosol) fractions by low-speed sedimentation. The nuclei were membrane stripped with 0.8% Triton X-100, washed, and pelleted (stripped nuclei). Stripped nuclei were then treated with 0.35 M KCl and separated into soluble (nuclear extract) and insoluble (postextracted nuclei) fractions by high-speed centrifugation. Equal amounts of protein from each fraction were used to do Western blots for both PIPKI α and PIPKII α (A). The purity of the cellular fractions was assessed by reprobating the Western blots (B) with antibodies toward proteins from the ER, cytosol, and plasma membrane (PM), as described in MATERIALS AND METHODS.

membrane-stripped nuclei. The nuclei have been extracted with 0.8% Triton X-100, a treatment that completely removes the nuclear envelope and soluble nuclear material (Divecha *et al.*, 1991; Vann *et al.*, 1997). The detergent extraction step resulted in the removal of PIPKs from nuclei, and this likely represents the soluble PIPK described above. However, a large fraction of both PIPKI and PIPKII proved to be resistant to detergent extraction. This observation also suggested the presence of two pools of PIPKs within nuclei and correlated well with the above immunofluorescence results and the biochemical data showing that kinase activities are retained by nuclei (Divecha *et al.*, 1991; Payrastra *et al.*, 1992). Relative to the total lysate, $\sim 37\%$ of the cellular PIPKI α and 20% of PIPKII α was quantified to be tightly retained in nuclei stripped of their envelopes (Figure 3B). When stripped nuclei were then extracted with high ionic strength, the majority of the PIPKs were removed from nuclei and

were present in the nuclear extract. Preparation of stripped nuclei and nuclear matrix of NRK, HeLa, or 2RA cells by the method of Payrastra *et al.* (1992) gave a similar nuclear distribution for the PIPKs (our unpublished data).

The subcellular fractions were also assayed for the presence of proteins that reside in the ER, plasma membrane and cytosolic fractions by quantitative Western blotting (see MATERIALS AND METHODS). The stripped nuclei isolated by our fractionation method did not contain sizable quantities of plasma membrane, ER, or cytosolic contamination, as monitored by epidermal growth factor receptor, epoxide hydrolase, and glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase immunoreactivity, respectively (Figure 3B). The resultant nuclear extract did contain minor amounts of actin and tubulin but was free of intermediate filaments as monitored by vimentin immunoreactivity, consistent with previous reports (Payrastra *et al.*, 1992).

To examine the activity of the nuclear PIPKs, type I α and type II α enzymes were immunoprecipitated from either crude cytosol or nuclear extract (Figure 4). The PIPKI α antibody quantitatively removed all PIPKI α from either the cytosol or nuclear extract (Figure 4A), whereas only a fraction of PIPKII α was immunoprecipitated by the N-19 peptide antibody in each case (Figure 4B). These immunoprecipitated kinases were then tested for activity toward PI4P and PI3P (Figure 4C). The substrate preferences observed for the given PIPK isoform in the cytosolic and nuclear extract fractions were indistinguishable. PIPKI α preferred PI4P over PI3P, whereas PIPKII α had almost equal preference for both substrates, as had been previously reported (Zhang *et al.*, 1997). As a control, mock immunoprecipitations demonstrated that no PIPKs were nonspecifically isolated.

PIP_Ks Associated with Nuclear Speckles Containing mRNA-processing Factors

By immunofluorescent staining, both PIPKI α and PIPKII α displayed a detergent-resistant subnuclear localization suggesting a compartmentalization of the enzymes in the nucleus (Figure 2). This punctate pattern was reminiscent of nuclear speckle staining commonly observed for splicing factors (Lamond and Earnshaw, 1998); cells were double labeled with anti-PIP_K antibodies and human Sm sera, an autoimmune antibody that recognizes an epitope in small nuclear RNA-binding proteins (Hardin *et al.*, 1982). In Figure 5, the PIP_Ks colocalized identically with the Sm-positive nuclear speckles in methanol-fixed NRK cells. This is indicated by the yellow color resulting from overlaying thin optical sections of the FITC signal (green) from the PIP_K antibodies and with the Texas Red signal from the Sm antibody-

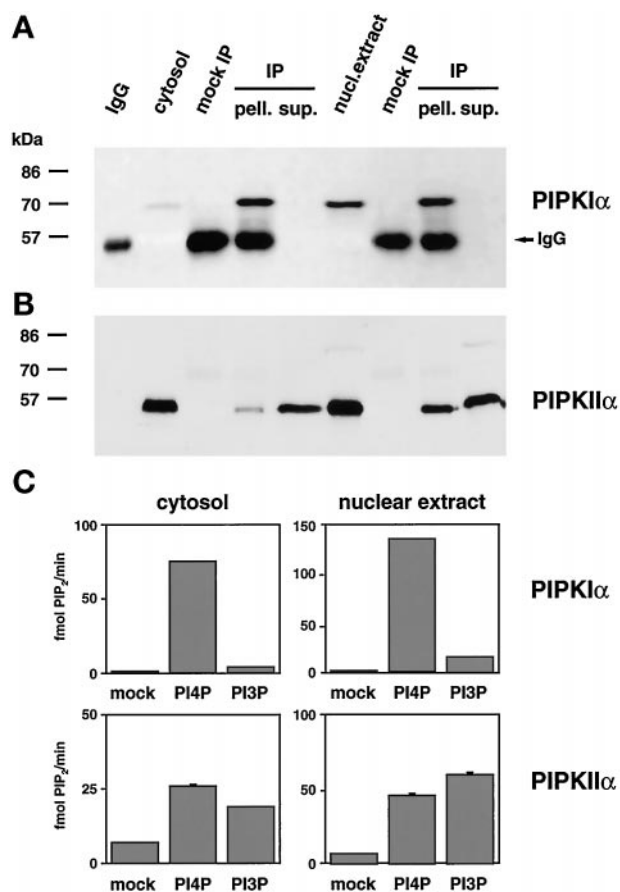


Figure 4. Nuclear and cytosolic PIP_Ks exhibited similar kinase activities toward PI4P and PI3P as substrates. PIP_KI α (A) and PIP_KII α (B) could be selectively immunoprecipitated from HeLa cytosol or nuclear extract. (A) PIP_KI α was immunoprecipitated from either 200 μ g of cytosol or 100 μ g of nuclear extract with the rabbit anti-PIP_KI α polyclonal antibody, followed by Western blotting with the PIP_KI α C-terminal isoform-specific antibody. (B) The goat N19 peptide PIP_KII α isoform-specific antibody was used to immunoprecipitate PIP_KII α from 130 μ g of cytosol or 65 μ g of nuclear extract. PIP_KII α was then detected by blotting with the rabbit anti-PIP_KII α polyclonal antibody. (C) PIP_KI α and PIP_KII α , immunoprecipitated from 400 μ g of cytosol or 200 μ g of nuclear extract, were assayed for lipid kinase activity toward either PI4P or PI3P. The assays shown are representative of two or three immunoprecipitations from two different nuclear preparations. As controls, mock immunoprecipitations (mock IP) were performed in the absence of the antibody, and a sample of the antibody used for the immunoprecipitation was Western blotted (IgG).

ies. This colocalization was also observed in 2RA fibroblasts that had been preextracted and fixed with formaldehyde, and when cells were examined with antibodies specific for other proteins found in speckles such as SC35, mAb104, and B1C8 (our unpublished results). These antibodies are specific for components of the mRNA processing machinery (Fu and Maniatis, 1990, Roth *et al.*, 1990) or nuclear matrix (Wan *et al.*, 1994).

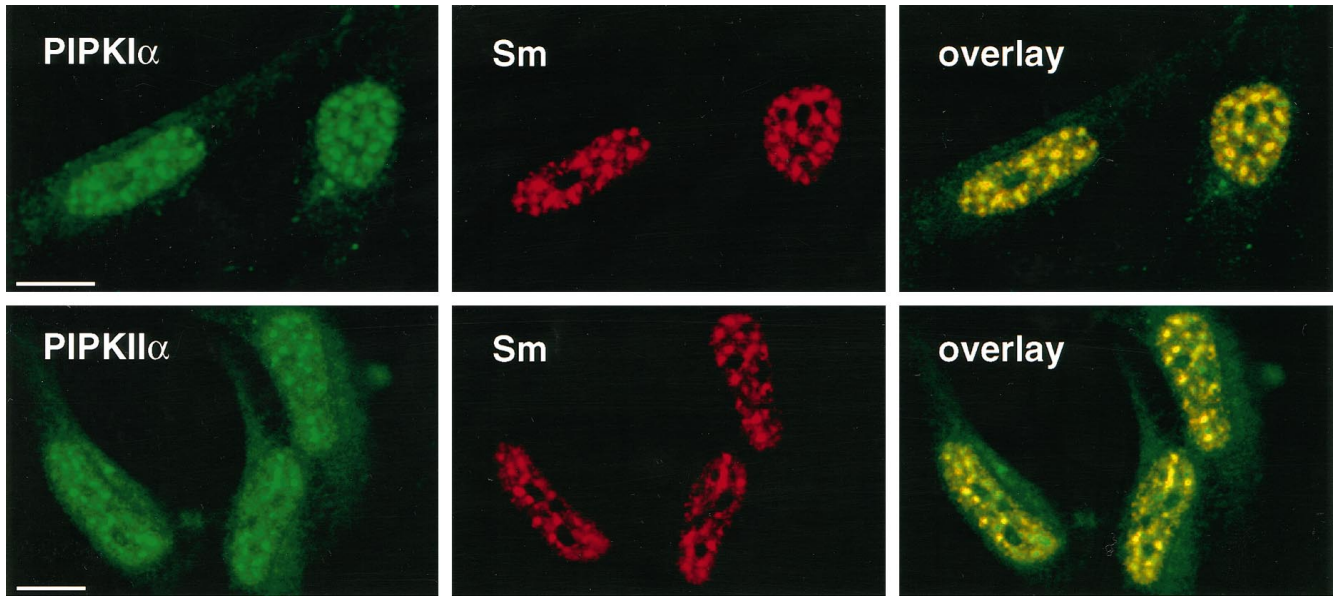


Figure 5. PIPKs colocalized with components of the mRNA-processing machinery in nuclear speckles. Methanol-fixed rat NRK fibroblasts were double-labeled with anti-PIPKI α or anti-PIPKII α polyclonal antibodies and human Sm antiserum (recognizes components of small nuclear RNA-binding proteins). Thin optical sections obtained by confocal scanning laser immunofluorescence microscopy are shown. Colocalization is represented by yellow in the overlays. Bar, 10 μ m.

To provide conclusive evidence that specific PIPK isoforms were nuclear and associated with speckles, PIPKII α and the homologous PIPKII β were epitope-tagged and transiently expressed in cultured cells. The overexpressed, FLAG-tagged PIPKIIs localized to nuclei giving a diffuse staining (Figure 6, top row). Staining with the corresponding PIPKII antibodies indicated that the transfected kinases were expressed at levels substantially higher than the untransfected cells around them, suggesting that overexpression had obscured or saturated the speckle association. Indeed, preextraction of the cells with 0.2% Triton X-100 revealed the kinases to exhibit a nuclear speckle pattern, which colocalized with Sm staining (Figure 6, bottom row). These results, although reflecting an overexpression situation, were consistent with the distribution of endogenous nuclear PIPKs to the detergent-soluble and -insoluble compartments. Importantly, PIPKII α antibodies did not detect overexpressed PIPKII β , but anti-PIPKII β antibodies detected overexpressed PIPKII α and PIPKII β . However, PIPKII β antibodies did not give a strong signal with untransfected cells. This provided evidence that PIPKII α antibodies were isoform specific for immunofluorescence staining, whereas the PIPKII β antibodies detect both PIPKII isoforms, but only when they are overexpressed. The staining with the FLAG antibody clearly indicated that overexpressed PIPKII β localized to the nucleus (Figure 6). These combined data indicate that both PIPKII α and PIPKII β nuclear localize and associate with nuclear speckles.

Polyphosphoinositides Were Also Present at Nuclear Speckles

Because PIPKs were associated with nuclear speckles, it was plausible that polyphosphoinositides could be produced at these same sites. Several monoclonal antibodies have been generated against PI4,5P $_2$ that have been extensively characterized (Fukami *et al.*, 1988; Fukami and Takenawa, 1989; Matuoka *et al.*, 1988; Miyazawa *et al.*, 1988). These antibodies were used to localize PI4,5P $_2$ within nuclei by indirect immunofluorescence. Of the anti-PIP $_2$ antibodies tested, the AM212 mAb (Miyazawa *et al.*, 1988) intensely stained nuclear speckles in all cell lines examined. The pattern of staining with the AM212 antibody is shown for 2RA cells in Figure 7. In the top and bottom panels, PIP $_2$ antibody staining colocalized with PIPKI α and PIPKII α at speckles. When these cells were triple labeled for the kinases, AM212, and Sm, all signals were present at the same nuclear speckles.

To characterize the specificity of the PIP $_2$ antibody staining, the antibody was preincubated with various polyphosphoinositides and phospholipids. An excess of PI4,5P $_2$ abolished the staining, whereas PI4P and PI3,4P $_2$ at the same concentration were only partially inhibitory (Figure 8). Preincubation with PI or other phospholipids had no effect on antibody staining, and this was consistent with the characterized specificity of the AM212 PIP $_2$ antibody (Miyazawa *et al.*, 1988). Moreover, an intense signal was detected after formaldehyde fixation whether the cells were preextracted

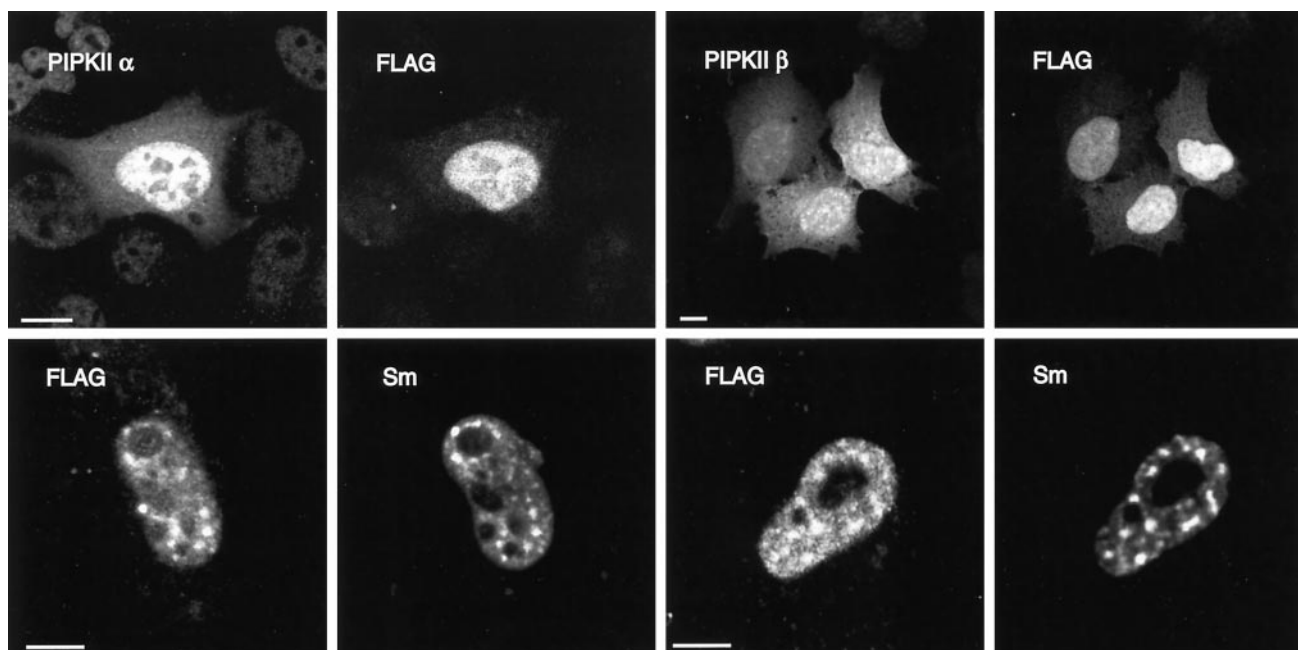


Figure 6. Epitope-tagged PIPKII α and PIPKII β localized to nuclei and nuclear speckles when expressed in cultured fibroblasts. Indirect immunofluorescence was performed on formaldehyde-fixed human 2RA fibroblasts transiently overexpressing FLAG epitope-tagged PIPKII α or PIPKII β . Double labeling with anti-PIPKII α or PIPKII β antibodies and anti-FLAG M2 antibodies showed primarily diffuse nuclear localization of the expressed kinases (top row). Localization of overexpressed kinases to the speckles was revealed by a very brief preextraction of the cells with 0.2% Triton X-100 (bottom row) and staining with anti-FLAG antibody. Speckles were costained with the human Sm serum. Bar, 10 μ m.

with Triton X-100, indicating that the PIP₂ antibody staining was resistant to detergent. Methanol-fixed cells also retained nuclear speckle staining by the AM212 mAb (see below); however, the signal intensity was substantially reduced. This suggested that methanol fixation may have extracted some of the PIP₂, as would be expected for a phospholipid. Thus, immunofluorescence indicated that a pool of polyphosphoinositides was present at nuclear speckles that could be either substrates or products of the PIPKs also associated with speckles.

PIPks and Polyphosphoinositides Were Not Associated with Known Intranuclear Membrane Structures

Invaginations of the nuclear envelope project deep within the nucleus and in some cases traverse it (Fricker *et al.*, 1997). These membrane structures, when visualized by laser confocal microscopy in thin optical sections, would appear similar to nuclear speckles. Figure 9 shows these structures (denoted by arrows) in 2RA fibroblasts stained with the biotin-conjugated lectin Con A. Con A specifically binds mannose residues in the lumen of the ER and the nuclear envelope. Triple labeling with Con A (Figure 9, C and G), the AM212 mAb (Figure 9, B and F), and either PIPKI α

(Figure 9A) or PIPKII α (Figure 9E) antibodies revealed that PIPKs and PIP₂ were not associated with these nuclear membrane structures.

Association of PIPks and PIP₂ with Nuclear Speckles Was Dynamic and Dependent on Transcriptional Activity

Treatment of cells with the transcriptional inhibitor α -amanitin at concentrations that specifically inhibit RNA polymerase II causes reorganization of nuclear speckles containing splicing factors into fewer and larger speckles as detected by the Sm sera or antibodies specific for other splicing factors (Carmo-Fonseca *et al.*, 1992). Likewise, treatment with the transcriptional inhibitor DRB (Spector *et al.*, 1983) causes reorganization of Sm speckles into larger dots or a scattered array of small dots (Davis *et al.*, 1993). As shown in Figure 10, inhibition of RNA polymerase II in 2RA cells with α -amanitin (A) or NRK cells with DRB (B) caused the expected changes in Sm staining (compare with Figure 5). Triple labeling of treated cells indicated that the intranuclear distributions of PIPKI α (A), PIPKII α (B), and PIP₂ followed changes in Sm staining, demonstrating a physical and dynamic association of these signaling molecules with the speckles. The results were similar for both kinases with either

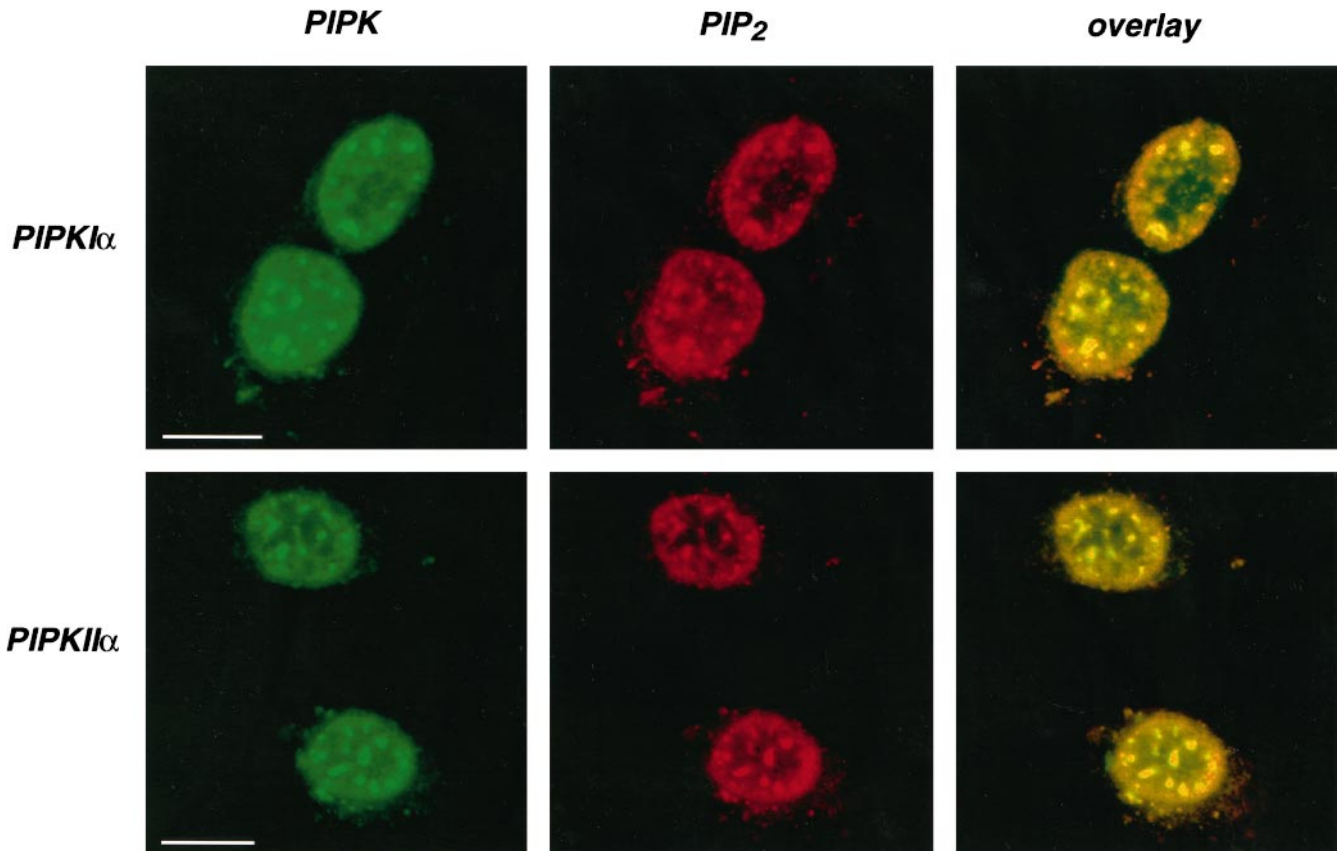


Figure 7. PIPKs colocalized with PIP_2 in nuclear speckles. Prepermeabilized, formaldehyde-fixed human 2RA fibroblasts were double labeled with anti- $PIPKI\alpha$ or anti- $PIPKII\alpha$ polyclonal antibodies and anti- PIP_2 mAb AM212 (Miyazawa *et al.*, 1988). Thin optical sections were obtained by confocal laser scanning microscopy. Colocalization is represented by yellow in the overlays. Bar, 10 μ m.

treatment and independent of the fixation method used. In addition, expressed $PIPKII\alpha$ and $PIPKII\beta$ similarly reorganized when transfected 2RA cells were treated with α -amanitin (our unpublished results).

DISCUSSION

PIPK activities are present in many subcellular fractions including the plasma membrane, cytosol, endoplasmic reticulum, cytoskeleton and nuclei (Loijens *et al.*, 1996). The discovery of at least six mammalian PIPK isoforms (Boronenkov and Anderson, 1995; Divecha *et al.*, 1995; Loijens and Anderson, 1996; Castellino *et al.*, 1997; Ishihara *et al.*, 1998; Itoh *et al.*, 1998) may partially explain the wide distribution of PIPKs in mammals. Previously, PIPK activity, together with PLC activity, has been reported in isolated nuclei (Cocco *et al.*, 1987; Divecha *et al.*, 1991) and associated with a biochemically defined structure called the inner nuclear matrix (Payraastre *et al.*, 1992). However, the exact nature of PIPK enzymes involved and the properties of the compartment containing the phosphoino-

sitide signaling enzymes were not defined. In this study, the immunofluorescence and fractionation experiments both suggest that the nucleus contains a substantial proportion of the total $PIPKI\alpha$ and $PIPKII\alpha$ found in cells. The localization of PIPKs to a specific subcellular site is an important step toward understanding compartmentalization and function of phosphoinositide signaling pathways. Our results argue for nuclear PIPKs being present in two pools: a soluble pool, extractable by detergent; and a second pool, which was more tightly associated with nuclei. The latter was shown to be localized to structures called nuclear speckles.

Nuclei are highly ordered organelles composed of multiple subdomains with specific functions (Fakan *et al.*, 1984; Nickerson *et al.*, 1995; Fricker *et al.*, 1997; Lamond and Earnshaw, 1998). One of these subdomains, consisting of interchromatin granule clusters, is observed with electron microscopy and hypothesized to be a site of assembly or storage of factors required to synthesize pre-mRNAs (Jackson *et al.*, 1993; Spector, 1996; Misteli *et al.*, 1997; Singer and Green, 1997).

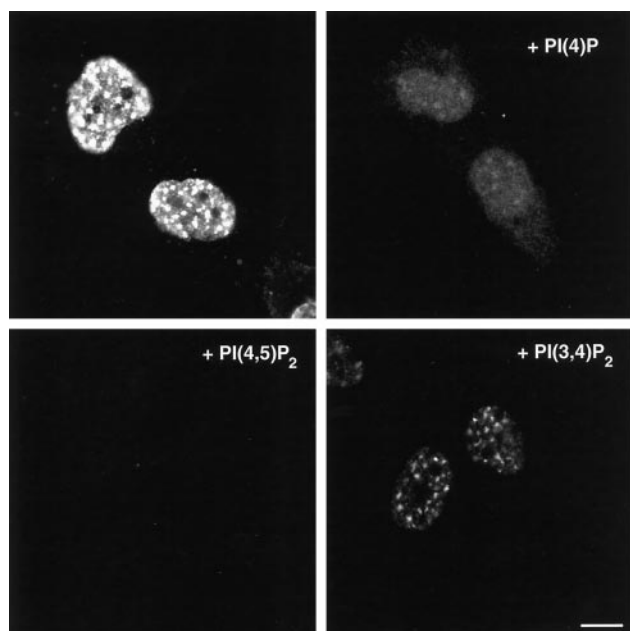


Figure 8. The specificity of the nuclear PIP₂ signal was demonstrated by complete inhibition of staining after preincubation of the AM212 mAb with excess of PI4,5P₂ liposomes but only partial inhibition by PI4P or PI3,4P₂. Bar, 10 μ m.

These structures contain small ribonucleoproteins, mRNA-splicing factors, and a hyperphosphorylated form of RNA polymerase II (Mortillaro *et al.*, 1996). Perichromatin fibrils are at the periphery of the interchromatin granule clusters and have been proposed to be the sites of transcription and splicing (Huang and Spector, 1996; Pombo and Cook, 1996). The assemblies of multiple proximal interchromatin granule clusters are thought to correspond to the 20–40 intensely stained nuclear speckles above a diffuse background signal when immunofluorescence microscopy is performed with probes to a variety of splicing factors (Spector *et al.*, 1991; Neugebauer and Roth, 1997). Resistance of this staining to extraction with nonionic detergents or treatment with DNase I suggests association of speckle components with a nuclear scaffold (Nickerson *et al.*, 1995). The large number of replication, splicing, transcriptional, and other assemblies found in and around the nuclear speckles suggests that these must be sites that generate signals or are impacted upon by signal transduction. Protein kinases and phosphatases are known to reside at nuclear speckles and to regulate speckle morphology (Gui *et al.*, 1994; Colwill *et al.*, 1996; Misteli and Spector, 1996).

Several studies have identified PLC β , PIP₂, and PKC at the periphery of interchromatin granule clusters by immunoelectron microscopy of *in situ* nuclear matrix preparations from different cell types (Zini *et al.*, 1993; Maraldi *et al.*, 1994, 1995). The localization of PIPKs to speckles suggests that speckles may also be centers for

nuclear PI signal transduction. PIP₂ produced by PIPKs could either affect nuclear events directly or upon conversion to second messengers, such as inositol triphosphate and diacylglycerol, that can modulate intranuclear Ca²⁺ levels (Malviya and Rogue, 1998) and PKC activity. In addition to known nuclear substrates of PKC (Matter *et al.*, 1993; Goss *et al.*, 1994; Collas *et al.*, 1997), other attractive targets include transcription factors or SR proteins. As another example, casein kinase I α , known to be regulated by PIP₂ *in vitro* (Brockman and Anderson, 1991), was recently found to localize to the same nuclear speckles, where it phosphorylates a subset of SR proteins (Gross and Anderson, submitted).

The speckle morphology correlates with transcriptional activity, with speckles becoming small and more diffuse when it is increased (Zeng *et al.*, 1997) and fewer and larger when mRNA transcription is inhibited (Carmo-Fonseca *et al.*, 1992; Misteli *et al.*, 1997). The PIPKs and their product, PIP₂, reorganize identically with speckles (Figure 10), both spatially and temporally, suggesting direct interaction of PIPKs with speckle component(s). We are currently examining this possibility. Although factors known to affect nuclear PI turnover, such as insulin-like growth factor 1 in Swiss 3T3 cells, cause translocation of PLC β and PKC to sites in the nuclear interior (Divecha *et al.*, 1993, 1997; Maraldi *et al.*, 1994), this does not appear to be the case for nuclear PIPKs. We did not observe significant changes in PIPK immunofluorescence in the nuclei of Swiss 3T3 cells treated with insulin-like growth factor 1 or other agonists (our unpublished results). PIPK staining, colocalization with Sm, or the amounts of PIPKII α in nuclear fractions by Western blotting also did not change appreciably during the cell cycle after NRK cells were released from serum starvation (our unpublished results).

There is good evidence that splicing and transcription are distributed widely throughout the nucleus, even though they appear to be concentrated within and around speckles (Jackson *et al.*, 1993; Singer and Green, 1997). For instance, Neugebauer and Roth (1997) demonstrated that lowering the concentration of splicing factor antibodies used to stain cells resolved the nuclear speckles into more numerous smaller, defined structures, some of which identically colocalize with sites of transcription. A similar result was observed when low concentrations of PIPK antibodies were used. In nonextracted, formaldehyde-fixed cells, nuclei tend to have more diffuse PIPK staining with high antibody concentration, whereas at lower concentrations, speckles became emphasized and eventually were resolved into multiple smaller dots. These smaller dots would thus represent the sites at which the PIPKs are most concentrated.

The PIPKI and PIPKII isoforms have different substrate specificities and regulation (Jenkins *et al.*, 1994;

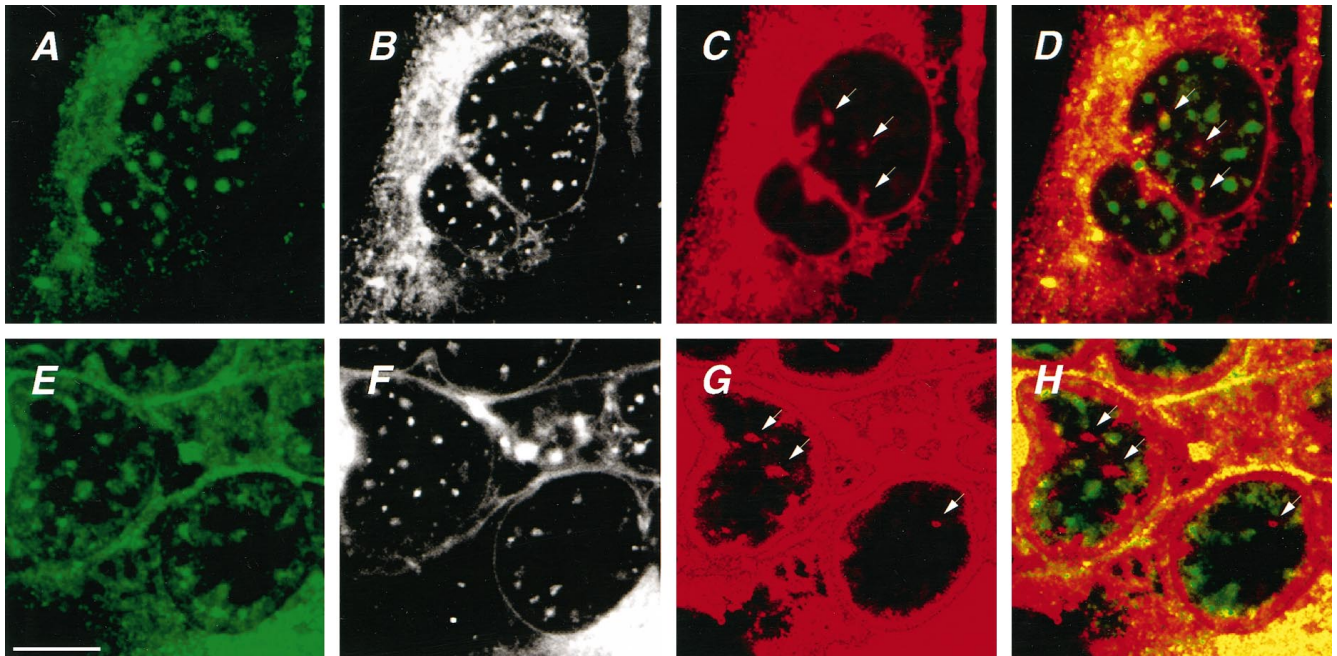


Figure 9. PIPKs and PIP₂ were not associated with invaginations of the nuclear envelope. Invaginations of the nuclear envelope can transverse nuclei (Fricker *et al.*, 1997) and produce a series of dots (arrows) seen here in thin optical sections of methanol-fixed human 2RA fibroblasts labeled with biotin-conjugated Con A (a lectin that binds mannose residues of nuclear envelope glycoproteins). Thin optical sections of the triple-labeling with anti-PIPKI α (A) or anti-PIPKII α (E) polyclonal antibodies, Con A (C and G) and anti-PIP₂ mAb AM212 (B and F) are shown. The overlay of PIPK and Con A staining patterns is shown in yellow (D and H). Bar, 10 μ m.

Loijens *et al.*, 1996; Rameh *et al.*, 1997; Zhang *et al.*, 1997; Tolias *et al.*, 1998). The localization of several isoforms to the same foci in nuclei may reflect the diversity of PI signals generated at these sites. Because there is no evidence for the existence of D3-phos-

phoinositides in nuclei (Divecha *et al.*, 1993), it was important to determine whether the ability of nuclear PIPKs to synthesize these lipids was compromised in favor of other products. As shown in Figure 4, PIPKs from membrane-depleted nuclei still have the poten-

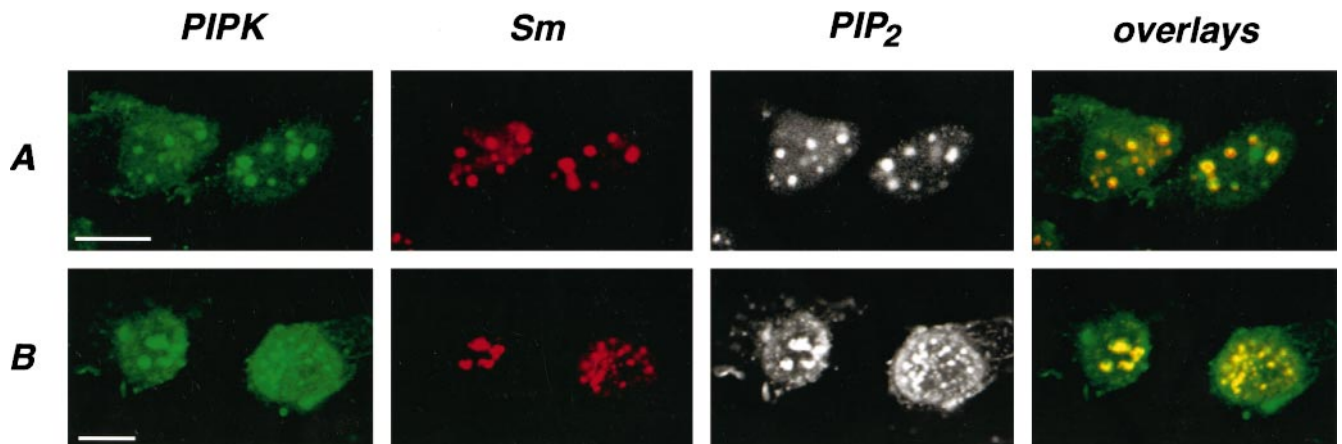


Figure 10. Association of PIPKs and PIP₂ with nuclear speckles is dynamic. Treatment of 2RA cells with a 10 μ g/ml concentration of the transcriptional inhibitor α -amanitin for 4 h caused reorganization of splicing-related nuclear speckles as detected by Sm antiserum into a few large dots (A, compare with Figure 5). Likewise, treatment of NRK cells with a 100 μ M concentration of the transcriptional inhibitor DRB for 4 h caused reorganization of Sm speckles into large dots or a scattered array of small dots (B). Cells were triple labeled to show the changes in PIPKI α (A), PIPKII α (B), and PIP₂ distribution upon treatment with the inhibitors. The cells were fixed with 4% formaldehyde after 0.2% Triton X-100 preextraction. The PIPK and Sm staining patterns were overlaid (yellow) to demonstrate colocalization. Bar, 10 μ m.

tial to generate D3-phosphoinositides *in vitro*. Because phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase has recently been reported to be present in the nuclear matrix of human osteosarcoma cells (Zini *et al.*, 1996a) or in nuclei of rat liver cells (Lu *et al.*, 1998), it may be necessary to reexamine the phosphoinositides generated in the nuclear PI pathways to determine whether the D3-phosphoinositides are synthesized in nuclei. These lipids could be involved in the modulation of activity of PI3,4P₂-dependent protein kinase Akt/PKB that has been recently shown to translocate to nuclei (Meier *et al.*, 1997).

Using Con A and other markers, the nuclear envelope has been recently found to project invaginations that penetrate, and even traverse, the nucleus (Fricker *et al.*, 1997). As seen in Figure 9, speckles containing PIPKs, PIP₂, and splicing factors did not colocalize with these invaginations of the nuclear envelope. This implies either that there are membranes at speckles that have yet to be identified, or that speckles are devoid of membrane structures. Polyphosphoinositides have been shown to be tightly associated with nuclei stripped of membranes by detergent (Figure 7 in this study). The absence of membranes at nuclear speckles would necessitate that the kinases that phosphorylate the phosphoinositides be active toward substrates presented in a nonmembranous form, such as bound to proteins. Currently, this model is most consistent with the data presented here and in other reports (Divecha *et al.*, 1993; Lu *et al.*, 1998). Association of PIs with proteins has been reported (Janmey, 1994). Indeed, there is evidence that PLC is capable of using PI4,5P₂ bound to the PI transfer protein, a protein reportedly found in nuclei (De Vries *et al.*, 1996; Cockcroft, 1998). Thus, it is plausible that phosphoinositides would remain bound to proteins and could be used by enzymes that generate phosphoinositide messengers. Several PIP₂-binding proteins have been shown to be present in nucleus (Iida *et al.*, 1992; Onoda and Yin, 1993; De Vries *et al.*, 1996; Yu *et al.*, 1998), and these could be candidates for assembling proteophosphoinositide complexes. Although PIPKs associate with nuclear speckles that are functionally linked to mRNA metabolism, the role of the phosphoinositides generated at these sites remains to be elucidated.

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