



Published in final edited form as:

*Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol.* 2008 August ; 28(8): 1527–1533. doi:10.1161/ATVBAHA.108.166975.

## Counter Regulatory Effects of PKC $_{\beta II}$ and PKC $_{\delta}$ on Coronary Endothelial Permeability

Nathalie Gaudreault, Rachel M. Perrin, Mingzang Guo, Chase P. Clanton, Mack H. Wu, and Sarah Y. Yuan

From the Division of Research, Department of Surgery, University of California Davis School of Medicine, Sacramento

### Abstract

**Objective**—The aim of this study was to examine the endothelial distribution and activity of selected PKC isoforms in coronary vessels with respect to their functional impact on endothelial permeability under the experimental conditions relevant to diabetes.

**Methods and Results**—En face immunohistochemistry demonstrated a significant increase of PKC $_{\beta II}$  and decrease of PKC $_{\delta}$  expression in coronary arterial endothelium of Zucker diabetic rats. To test whether changes in PKC expression alter endothelial barrier properties, we measured the transcellular electric resistance in human coronary microvascular endothelial monolayers and found that either PKC $_{\beta II}$  overexpression or PKC $_{\delta}$  inhibition disrupted the cell–cell adhesive barrier. Three-dimensional fluorescence microscopy revealed that hyperpermeability was caused by altered PKC activity in association with distinct translocation of PKC $_{\beta II}$  to the cell–cell junction and PKC $_{\delta}$  localization to the cytosol. Further analyses in fractionated endothelial lysates confirmed the differential redistribution of these isozymes. Additionally, FRET analysis of PKC subcellular dynamics demonstrated a high PKC $_{\beta II}$  activity at the cell surface and junction, whereas PKC $_{\delta}$  activity is concentrated in intracellular membrane organelles.

**Conclusion**—Taken together, these data suggest that PKC $_{\beta II}$  and PKC $_{\delta}$  counter-regulate coronary endothelial barrier properties by targeting distinctive subcellular sites. Imbalanced PKC $_{\beta II}$ /PKC $_{\delta}$  expression and activity may contribute to endothelial hyperpermeability and coronary dysfunction in diabetes.

### Keywords

diabetes; inflammation; permeability; protein kinase; FRET

---

Protein kinase C (PKC) is a family of serine/threonine kinases consisting of at least 10 isoforms, including the classical PKCs ( $\alpha$ ,  $\beta I$ ,  $\beta II$ , and  $\gamma$ ), which bind to and are activated by diacylglycerol and  $Ca^{2+}$ , the novel isoforms ( $\delta$ ,  $\epsilon$ ,  $\eta$ , and  $\theta$ ) capable of binding to diacylglycerol but independent of  $Ca^{2+}$ , and the atypical class ( $\zeta$  and  $\iota$ ) insensitive to either diacylglycerol or  $Ca^{2+}$ . Most of these isozymes are regulated at 3 levels. First, autophosphorylation is required for them to become catalytically competent. Second, binding to cofactors, such as diacylglycerol or its mimetic phorbol esters, induces translocation from the cytosol to plasma membrane, where the enzymes undergo conformational changes enabling catalytic activation. Finally, direct interaction with substrate proteins determines site-specific kinase activities.<sup>1</sup>

---

Correspondence to Sarah Yuan, MD, PhD, Professor and Director of Research, Department of Surgery, University of California Davis School of Medicine, 4625 2nd Avenue, Room 3006, Sacramento, CA 95817. E-mail sarhayuan@ucdavis.edu.

### Disclosures

None.

As endogenous stress sensors, PKCs mediate diverse cellular responses to physical forces, chemical agents, and molecular signals that are elaborated under different physiological or pathological conditions. Altered expression or enzymatic activity of PKCs have been linked to circulatory disturbance in coronary artery disease, atherosclerosis, hypertension, myocardial ischemia reperfusion, and circulatory shock. Recently, evidence is emerging that PKCs contribute to the pathogenesis of diabetic vascular inflammation characterized by endothelial barrier dysfunction and increased filtration of plasma proteins or inflammatory cells into the vascular wall and surrounding tissues.<sup>2-4</sup> We and others have shown elevated PKC activity<sup>5,6</sup> and expression<sup>7</sup> in the heart of diabetic rats and pigs, concomitant with coronary venular hyperpermeability.<sup>6</sup> Consistently, PKC inhibitors delay the progression of microvascular leakage in the retina and kidney in diabetic patients.<sup>8-10</sup> Although the overall importance of PKCs in inflammation is well recognized, the specific contribution of individual isozymes to vascular permeability and the underlying mechanisms remain poorly understood. Tremendous controversy exists regarding PKC isoform-specific effects on endothelial barrier function.<sup>11,12</sup>

The aim of this study was to test the hypothesis that PKC $\beta$ II and PKC $\delta$  play a counter-regulatory role in the control of endothelial barrier properties and altered expression or activity of these isozymes shifts this equilibrium leading to hyperpermeability. The expression of PKC $\beta$ II and PKC $\delta$  was quantitatively assessed in the native endothelium of intact coronary microvessels from the Zucker fatty rat, a model of type II diabetes with cardiovascular pathology comparable to humans.<sup>13</sup> To test whether altered isozyme expression or activity affects endothelial permeability, we overexpressed PKC $\beta$ II in human coronary microvascular endothelial cells (HCMECs) and measured the transcellular electric resistance (TER) as an indicator of barrier function reflecting the tightness of cell-cell and cell-matrix adhesions. The mechanism by which PKC isozymes confer opposing barrier effects was examined using 3D microscopy in conjunction with immunoblotting. Furthermore, a modified fluorescent resonance energy transfer (FRET) assay was performed to measure isoform-selective substrate phosphorylation at specific subcellular locations of living endothelial cells in real-time.

## Materials and Methods

### Animals

Age-matched (15 to 17 weeks) male Zucker lean and fatty rats were used according to the protocol approved by the IACUC in compliance with the NIH guidelines. Animals were anesthetized with Urethane (1.75g/kg) and their hearts excised and coronary arteries dissected as previously described.<sup>14</sup>

### Cell Culture and Experiments

HCMECs obtained from Cambrex (East Rutherford, NJ) were transfected with pcDNA as described in the supplement.

### Transendothelial Resistance

The endothelial barrier property was determined by measuring TER as described previously<sup>15,16</sup> (see supplemental materials, available online at <http://atvb.ahajournals.org>, for details).

### Fluorescence Microscopy

En face coronary arteries were prepared as previously described.<sup>14,17</sup> Samples were viewed with a Zeiss Axiovert 200 M microscope equipped with an Apotome system allowing optical sectioning (see supplemental Figures I & II).

## FRET

Cells overexpressing PKC $\beta_{II}$  and transfected with mpCKAR were incubated in an on-stage incubator at 37°C, pH7.4 and imaged with a Zeiss Axiovert 200 M mounted with a dual-view module (Photometric) controlled by MetaFluor 7.0 (Molecular Device) for simultaneous acquisition of CFP and FRET emissions. CFP/FRET images and values were computed and created with MetaFluor Analyst and displayed as pseudocolor images (see supplemental materials for details).

## Statistical Analysis

For mean fluorescence intensity (FI) per cells, data were analyzed with unpaired *t* test with Welch corrections. For all other data sets, statistical analysis was performed using ANOVA followed by Bonferroni's multiple comparisons.

## Results

### Increased PKC $\beta_{II}$ and Decreased PKC $\delta$ Expression in Diabetic Endothelium

At the time of experiment, the diabetic fatty rats had significantly higher body weight and blood glucose than their lean controls (705±5g versus 410±5g,  $P<0.001$ , and 6.4±0.2 mmol/L versus 4.3±0.1 mmol/L,  $P<0.001$ , respectively). The diabetic status of the fatty rats was further supported by glucose intolerance as their blood sugar levels remained elevated (10.55±0.2 mmol/L) 2 hours after an oral glucose challenge. The controls showed a rapid recovery with blood glucose returning to the normal level within 2 hours (4.73±0.9 mmol/L).

En face immunohistochemistry demonstrated significant expression of PKC $\beta_{II}$  and PKC $\delta$  in the endothelium of coronary arteries. 3D reconstructions of the optical sections revealed a more intensive labeling of PKC $\beta_{II}$  on the endothelium of diabetic coronary vessels than that of controls (Figure 1A, top panels). In contrast, less PKC $\delta$  was observed in the diabetic endothelium compared to controls (Figure 1A, bottom panels). Further quantitative analyses show that diabetes caused a 1.5-fold increase in PKC $\beta_{II}$  ( $P<0.05$ ) and 1.6-fold decrease in PKC $\delta$  ( $P<0.05$ ) expression (Figure 1B).

### PKC $\beta_{II}$ Overexpression and PKC $\delta$ Inhibition Increase Endothelial Permeability

The transendothelial electric resistance was measured in coronary microvascular endothelial monolayers overexpressing PKC $\beta_{II}$  and treated with PKC activators or inhibitors. PDBu (Phorbol-12,13-dibutyrate) caused a rapid increase in TER peaking at ≈10 minutes gradually recovering over 20 minutes (Figure 2A). In PKC $\beta_{II}$ -expressing cells, PDBu produced a significant reduction in TER, which was prevented by pretreatment with the PKC $\beta$ -selective inhibitor LY333531, indicating a barrier-weakening effect of the  $\beta$  isozyme. The TER response of PKC $\beta_{II}$ -expressing cells occurred in an average course of 1.3 minutes (Figure 2A and 2B). This delayed onset corresponded to the time required for PKC $\beta_{II}$  to completely translocate from the cytosol to cell surface membrane, as indicated by the dynamic changes of RFP-PKC $\beta_{II}$  intensity in these locations (Figure 2B and 2C). In different groups, treatment with the PKC $\delta$  inhibitor Rottlerin induced a decrease in TER on PDBu stimulation, indicating a barrier-tightening effect of this isozyme (Figure 2D). Together, the data suggest an opposing role for PKC $\beta_{II}$  and PKC $\delta$  in regulating coronary endothelial permeability.

### PKC $\beta_{II}$ Translocates to Cell–Cell Junctions but PKC $\delta$ Is Confined to the Perinuclear Region

To test whether the opposing barrier modulatory effects were attributed to different targeting sites, we examined the subcellular compartmentalization of PKC $\beta_{II}$  (Figure 3) and PKC $\delta$  (Figure 4) in HCMECs. Representative 3D images of cells that were transfected with RFP-PKC $\beta_{II}$  (Figure 3A) or immunolabeled for PKC $\delta$  (Figure 4A) and colabeled with VE-cadherin

and Hoechst are presented. On activation, PKC $\beta_{II}$  translocated to the cell membrane with preferential distribution at cell–cell junctions (determined by VE-cadherin), whereas PKC $\delta$  was localized in the perinuclear area and remained confined to the cytosol after activation. Further analyses revealed a 2.3-fold increase of PKC $\beta_{II}$  density at junctions on activation ( $P<0.05$ ; Figure 3B). In contrast, PKC $\delta$  density was significantly higher in the cytosol (intracellular area distal from VE-cadherin) than at the junction ( $P<0.05$ ), and its labeling pattern remained unchanged after activation (Figure 4B). Additionally, colocalization between PKC $\beta_{II}$  and VE-cadherin was relatively higher in junctions compared to across the whole cell (55% in junction versus 25% in cell), and both the junction and whole cell showed an increased colocalization after PDBu (from 55% to 82% in junction,  $P<0.05$ , from 25% to 65% in cell,  $P<0.05$ ; Figure 3C). In contrast, the overall colocalization between PKC $\delta$  and VE-cadherin decreased on PDBu (from 70% to 48%,  $P<0.05$ ), and no significant change was observed at junctions (Figure 4C). The distinctive subcellular redistribution of the two isozymes was confirmed in a Western blot analysis of fractionated HCMEC lysates (see supplemental Figure III).

### Basal PKC Activity Measured With FRET

FRET was performed in HCMECs expressing PKC $\beta_{II}$  and a genetically encoded C kinase activity reporter (CKAR), a fluorescent probe that has recently been characterized as a sensitive indicator of PKC-substrate phosphorylation in nonendothelial cells.<sup>18</sup> The probe has been modified (mpCKAR) for enhanced plasma membrane-targeting capability (for more details see supplemental Figure IV). We compared the level of PKC-substrate phosphorylation in the cell–cell junction (JCT), surface plasma membrane (SPM), and intracellular plasma membrane (IPM). PDBu caused a small but consistent and reproducible increase in phosphorylation, measured as the average CFP/FRET increase over time. The overall CFP/FRET under basal conditions was significantly higher at JCT ( $P<0.05$ ) and IPM ( $P<0.01$ ) than at SPM, suggesting compartmentalization of basal PKC activity (see supplemental Figure V).

### Isoform-Specific PKC Activity at Different Subcellular Sites

FRET was measured in HCMECs expressing PKC $\beta_{II}$  in the presence of isozyme-selective inhibitors (Figure 5A and 5D show representative CFP signals). We focused on the JCT and IPM as these subcellular areas had the highest basal PKC activity. LY333531 caused a rapid decrease of CFP/FRET in both regions, with the largest drop occurring at the junction (Figure 5B, representative of 4 to 10 cells from  $\geq 3$  experiments). In comparison, Rottlerin induced a slower CFP/FRET decrease but of higher amplitude, especially at IPM (Figure 5E, representative of 4 to 10 cells from  $\geq 3$  experiments). Corresponding pseudocolor images of CFP/FRET are shown in Figure 5C and 5F. The inhibitory effect of Rottlerin was greater than that of LY333531 in IPM ( $P<0.01$ ), but there was no significant difference between the 2 inhibitors in JCT and SPM. The largest reduction in CFP/FRET occurred at IPM on adding Rottlerin, indicating that this area is most sensitive to the  $\delta$  inhibitor. A significant difference between Rottlerin and LY333531 was observed at IPM and SPM during PKC inhibition ( $P<0.05$ ). In cells stimulated with PDBu, pretreatment with LY333531 blunted the PDBu response mostly in SPM and JCT but pretreatment with Rottlerin blunted the PDBu response mostly in IPM (based on observations made in 3 to 10 cells from  $\geq 3$  experiments, data not shown).

## Discussion

We examined the expression and activity of selected PKC isoforms in the coronary vascular endothelium with respect to their roles in regulating permeability under stimulatory conditions relevant to type II diabetes. The results yield several lines of evidence supporting PKC isoform-dependent endothelial responses. First, we observed increased PKC $\beta_{II}$  and decreased PKC $\delta$

expression on the endothelium of diabetic coronary vessels. Second, overexpressing PKC $\beta$ II produced a barrier disruptive effect during endothelial stimulation, an effect comparable to pharmacological inhibition of PKC $\delta$ , indicating a counteracting role of PKC $\beta$ II versus PKC $\delta$  in modulating endothelial barrier resistance. Third, the opposing functions of these isozymes correlated with their distinctive subcellular localizations, as PKC $\beta$ II translocated to the junction leading to cell–cell adhesive barrier dysfunction, whereas PKC $\delta$  was confined to the cytosol conferring barrier protection. Further, we developed an endothelial-based FRET assay for real-time quantification of PKC signaling. In line with 3D microscopy and immunoblotting, the FRET data demonstrated a high basal phosphorylation activity of PKC $\beta$ II in cell junctions, whereas PKC $\delta$  was most prominent in intracellular compartments. Taking the current data together with our previous findings from isolated coronary vessels,<sup>6,7</sup> we suggest that PKC $\beta$ II and PKC $\delta$  may serve as counter-regulators of endothelial permeability by phosphorylating junctional and cytosolic proteins. In disease states such as diabetes, altered expression or activity of individual isozymes compromise the barrier homeostasis, leading to vascular hyperpermeability. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first report of isoform-selective, subcellular site-specific PKC regulation of coronary endothelial barrier function.

### PKC Signaling and Endothelial Permeability

The endothelium forms an effective barrier that controls the passage of blood fluid, proteins, and cells from the circulation into the vessel wall and surrounding tissues. A variety of pathophysiological factors can alter the barrier integrity causing abnormal transendothelial flux and intimal accumulation of blood components.<sup>4,19,20</sup> Phosphorylation of inter-cellular junctional structures is a key molecular event underlying vascular leakage in inflammation. For certain molecules known to participate in cell contraction or adhesion and thus affect permeability (eg, myosin light chain, catenins, nitric oxide synthase, and MAP kinases<sup>16,21–23</sup>), serine or threonine phosphorylation are required for their activation and downstream targeting. As potent serine/threonine kinases, PKCs are capable of signal transduction in the endothelium that ultimately affects the barrier property.<sup>24</sup> In particular, some isoforms (PKC $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ ) have been linked to microvascular leakage during inflammatory stimulations,<sup>6,12,25–27</sup> whereas others (PKC $\delta$ ) have been shown to protect barrier function.<sup>28,29</sup> While these observations support the basis of our hypothesis that classical and novel PKCs exert opposing effects on the endothelial barrier, the current study provides a direct comparative analysis for isozyme-dependent permeability regulation in the coronary vascular endothelium.

PKC $\beta$ II overexpression did not alter the basal barrier resistance but significantly reduced resistance on endothelial activation, and the response was blunted in the presence of PKC $\beta$  inhibitors, suggesting that the  $\beta$  isoform does not interfere the development of cell–cell adhesions but plays an active role in mediating the hyperpermeability response to stimulation. In contrast, PKC $\delta$  appears to be a barrier protector, as inhibition of this isoform produced a large decrease in barrier resistance. Additionally, we observed a small TER increase in nontransfected cells after treatment with PDBu, a diacylglycerol-mimetic phorbol ester known to activate both the classical and novel PKCs. This supports a net increase in barrier resistance during overall activation of the kinases, albeit the controversy regarding the permeability effect of phorbol esters.<sup>11,30,31</sup> Taking the data together, we propose that in endothelial cells under normal nonstimulated conditions, PKC $\delta$  activity outweighs PKC $\beta$ II so that activation of the both results in a tightened barrier. This balance may be shifted in pathological (diabetic) conditions where the  $\beta$ II isoform is significantly upregulated, rendering a PKC $\beta$ -dominant response manifested as hyperpermeability.

### PKC Isozyme Subcellular Localization

All PKCs share extensive homology in their catalytic domains with each displaying low substrate selectivity<sup>32</sup>; yet, they exert pleiotropic effects by dispersing to different subcellular

compartments. The availability of an activated isozyme at a particular location is an important determinant of its specific activity, and the subcellular distribution of individual isozymes may dictate their distinct biological functions. Our data showed that PKC isozyme localization correlated with substrate phosphorylation. On endothelial stimulation, PKC $\beta_{II}$  translocated from the cytosol to the cortical membrane colocalizing with VE-cadherin. The FRET analysis confirms compartmentalized kinase activities and increased phosphorylation at cell–cell junctions preferentially driven by PKC $\beta_{II}$ . The redistribution may have a functional implication as it poises the activated isoform to junctions for direct targeting and phosphorylating substrates involved in cell–cell adhesions. In support of this hypothesis, we have previously reported that phosphorylation of junctional molecules contributes to paracellular hyperpermeability.<sup>16,21</sup> Other studies also show PKC-dependent disruption of junctional integrity coupled with altered VE-cadherin structure<sup>33,34</sup> or VE-cadherin/ $\beta$ -catenin association.<sup>35</sup>

In contrast to the  $\beta$  isoform, PKC $\delta$  was concentrated in the cytosol and did not change its location on activation. The distribution of PKC $\delta$  at cell–cell contacts remained low, without significant colocalization with VE-cadherin. While the intracellular localization and nuclear translocation of the novel PKCs have been observed in other cell types,<sup>36,37</sup> this study provides evidence for prominent distribution of PKC $\delta$  in the cytoplasm with minimal junctional association in the coronary vascular endothelium. The primary intracellular location of this isoform may contribute to its barrier protective function in that it enables close interactions with cytoskeletal elements that stabilize the contractile machinery and maintain cell–cell adhesions. Alternatively, PKC $\delta$  can phosphorylate focal adhesion proteins<sup>28,29</sup> leading to strengthened cell–matrix attachment and enhanced barrier properties. In addition, the isozyme may interact with other intracellular signaling molecules or scaffold proteins, which in turn modulate permeability. Indeed, there is report that PKC $\delta$ -dependent enhancement of barrier function correlates with RhoA GTPase activity and focal contact formation.<sup>38</sup>

### FRET and PKC Subcellular Activity

We validated a FRET approach for quantification of PKC-substrate phosphorylation at specified subcellular locations of living endothelial cells in real-time. Similar FRET reporters for different kinases have been used in established or immortalized cell lines.<sup>18,39–41</sup> However, only limited attempts have been made with primary cell cultures inherently resistant to transfection, such as endothelial cells.<sup>42,43</sup> The modified mpCKAR provided an optimal spatial-temporal resolution at cell–cell junctions and perinuclear vesicles where the probe expressed at high levels.

The FRET data showed significant substrate phosphorylation in PKC $\beta_{II}$  overexpressing cells. This high basal activity may explain why further activation by PDBu only caused a small change in CFP/FRET, whereas inhibition by LY333531 or Rottlerin produced more dramatic responses. Because the measurement was based on CFP/FRET ratio normalized to its membrane content, the phosphorylation levels indicate compartmentalized kinase activities. Consistent with their distributions, PKC $\beta_{II}$ -driven phosphorylation was prominent at the junction, whereas PKC $\delta$ -driven phosphorylation primarily occurred in the cytosol. In addition, we observed significant PKC $\delta$  activity in cytosolic membranous vesicles constantly shuffling around the nucleus. Although the nature of such organelles remains to be identified, similar responses have been observed in COS-7 cells.<sup>44</sup> In endothelial cells, these organelles may serve as molecular chaperones for signaling, or they interact with the cytoskeleton that poises the cell to a conformation supporting cell–cell adhesions. Intracellular organelle trafficking may direct PKC $\delta$  to its target for phosphorylation.

## Implication in Diabetes

Endothelial hyperpermeability is a hallmark of functional angiopathy in early stage of diabetes before the onset of pathological lesion, atherosclerosis, hypertension, and coronary artery disease.<sup>45</sup> PKC signaling is recognized as a central pathway leading to circulatory disturbance. Animal studies show that PKC inhibitors normalize endothelial function and delay the progress of diabetic microvascular complications.<sup>8,9</sup> The development of effective therapies, however, has met with limited success, partially because of the incomplete understanding of the diabetic effects on specific PKC isoforms in different vascular beds.<sup>2</sup> In this regard, a unique aspect of this study is that the en face immunohistochemistry provides direct in vivo evidence for PKC isoform changes in diabetic coronary endothelium. The increased PKC $\beta$ <sub>II</sub> expression is consistent with our genomic analysis showing upregulated PKC $\beta$ <sub>II</sub> gene in the diabetic myocardium.<sup>7</sup> In diabetic pigs, PKC $\beta$ <sub>II</sub> activation occurred in heart microvessels concomitantly with coronary venular hyperpermeability, and the injurious effect was reversed by selective inhibition of PKC $\beta$ .<sup>6</sup> Based on the data that PKC $\beta$ <sub>II</sub> and PKC $\delta$  counter-regulate barrier resistance and they show opposite expression patterns in diabetic coronary vessels, we postulate that their imbalanced expression and activity may contribute to endothelial dysfunction under diabetic conditions. Whether such changes are specific to the coronary system remains to be determined. While the current and our previous studies highlight coronary vessels as a prominent target of diabetic injury, others have shown alterations of PKCs and vascular leak in the retina and kidney during diabetes.<sup>8–10</sup> We also observed similar changes in the microvasculature of other tissues such as the mesentery of Zucker diabetic rats (data not shown). However, tremendous heterogeneity exists across the vasculature, where macrovascular and microvascular endothelia display different barrier properties, and gender/sex is an important factor contributing to differential susceptibility of coronary vessels to diabetic injury.<sup>19</sup> Further characterization and comparison of the PKC-dependent permeability response in specific vascular beds represent an interesting area of future investigation.

In summary, we report that in coronary microvascular endothelium, the basal activity of PKC $\beta$ <sub>II</sub> is relatively high at the cell–cell junction, and this isoform preferentially translocates to the cell membrane on endothelial stimulation. In contrast, the distribution and activity of PKC $\delta$  are concentrated in intracellular compartments. Functionally, PKC $\beta$ <sub>II</sub> and PKC $\delta$  exert opposite effects on endothelial barrier resistance, corresponding to their distinctive subcellular localization and substrate phosphorylation activity. We suggest that this counter-regulatory balance may be impaired in diabetes, where significant upregulation of PKC $\beta$ <sub>II</sub> occurs concomitantly with downregulation of PKC $\delta$  in coronary vessels, contributing to increased vascular permeability.

## Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

## Acknowledgements

We thank Drs Alexandra Newton and Roger Tsien from the University of California, San Diego for providing the CKAR and RFP-PKC $\beta$ <sub>II</sub>

### Sources of Funding

This study was supported by the NIH HL084542, HL061507, HL070752, and HL073324.

## References

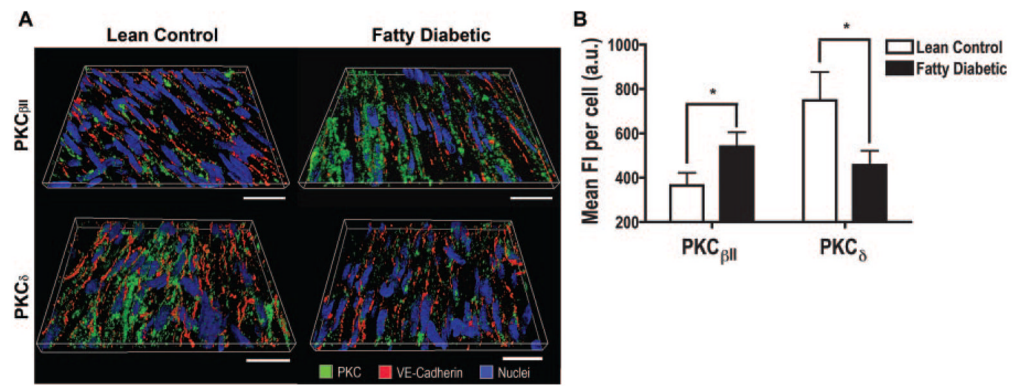
1. Newton AC. Protein kinase C: structural and spatial regulation by phosphorylation, cofactors, and macromolecular interactions. *Chem Rev* 2001;101:2353–2364. [PubMed: 11749377]

2. Das Evcimen N, King GL. The role of protein kinase C activation and the vascular complications of diabetes. *Pharmacol Res* 2007;55:498–510. [PubMed: 17574431]
3. Idris I, Gray S, Donnelly R. Protein kinase C activation: isozyme-specific effects on metabolism and cardiovascular complications in diabetes. *Diabetologia* 2001;44:659 – 673. [PubMed: 11440359]
4. Yuan SY. Protein kinase signaling in the modulation of microvascular permeability. *Vascul Pharmacol* 2003;39:213–223. [PubMed: 12747961]
5. Inoguchi T, Battan R, Handler E, Sportsman JR, Heath W, King GL. Preferential elevation of protein kinase C isoform beta II and diacyl-glycerol levels in the aorta and heart of diabetic rats: differential reversibility to glycemic control by islet cell transplantation. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 1992;89:11059–11063. [PubMed: 1438315]
6. Yuan SY, Ustinova EE, Wu MH, Tinsley JH, Xu W, Korompai FL, Taulman AC. Protein kinase C activation contributes to microvascular barrier dysfunction in the heart at early stages of diabetes. *Circ Res* 2000;87:412–417. [PubMed: 10969040]
7. Guo M, Wu MH, Korompai F, Yuan SY. Upregulation of PKC genes and isozymes in cardiovascular tissues during early stages of experimental diabetes. *Physiol Genomics* 2003;12:139–146. [PubMed: 12441406]
8. Koya D, Haneda M, Nakagawa H, Isshiki K, Sato H, Maeda S, Sugimoto T, Yasuda H, Kashiwagi A, Ways DK, King GL, Kikkawa R. Amelioration of accelerated diabetic mesangial expansion by treatment with a PKC beta inhibitor in diabetic db/db mice, a rodent model for type 2 diabetes. *Faseb J* 2000;14:439–447. [PubMed: 10698958]
9. Aiello LP, Bursell SE, Clermont A, Duh E, Ishii H, Takagi C, Mori F, Ciulla TA, Ways K, Jirousek M, Smith LE, King GL. Vascular endothelial growth factor-induced retinal permeability is mediated by protein kinase C in vivo and suppressed by an orally effective beta-isoform-selective inhibitor. *Diabetes* 1997;46:1473–1480. [PubMed: 9287049]
10. Ishii H, Jirousek MR, Koya D, Takagi C, Xia P, Clermont A, Bursell SE, Kern TS, Ballas LM, Heath WF, Stramm LE, Feener EP, King GL. Amelioration of vascular dysfunctions in diabetic rats by an oral PKC beta inhibitor. *Science* 1996;272:728–731. [PubMed: 8614835]
11. Bogatcheva NV, Verin AD, Wang P, Birukova AA, Birukov KG, Mirzopoyazova T, Adyshev DM, Chiang ET, Crow MT, Garcia JG. Phorbol esters increase MLC phosphorylation and actin remodeling in bovine lung endothelium without increased contraction. *Am J Physiol Lung Cell Mol Physiol* 2003;285:L415–L426. [PubMed: 12740219]
12. Ferro T, Neumann P, Gertzberg N, Clements R, Johnson A. Protein kinase C-alpha mediates endothelial barrier dysfunction induced by TNF-alpha. *Am J Physiol Lung Cell Mol Physiol* 2000;278:L1107–L1117. [PubMed: 10835315]
13. Chen D, Wang MW. Development and application of rodent models for type 2 diabetes. *Diabetes Obes Metab* 2005;7:307–317. [PubMed: 15955116]
14. Gaudreault N, Scriven DR, Moore ED. Characterisation of glucose transporters in the intact coronary artery endothelium in rats: GLUT-2 upregulated by long-term hyperglycaemia. *Diabetologia* 2004;47:2081–2092. [PubMed: 15662550]
15. Breslin JW, Sun H, Xu W, Rodarte C, Moy AB, Wu MH, Yuan SY. Involvement of ROCK-mediated endothelial tension development in neutrophil-stimulated microvascular leakage. *Am J Physiol Heart Circ Physiol* 2006;290:H741–H750. [PubMed: 16172166]
16. Tinsley JH, Breslin JW, Teasdale NR, Yuan SY. PKC-dependent, burn-induced adherens junction reorganization and barrier dysfunction in pulmonary microvascular endothelial cells. *Am J Physiol Lung Cell Mol Physiol* 2005;289:L217–L223. [PubMed: 15821015]
17. Gaudreault N, Scriven DR, Laher I, Moore ED. Subcellular characterization of glucose uptake in coronary endothelial cells. *Microvasc Res*. 2007
18. Violin JD, Zhang J, Tsien RY, Newton AC. A genetically encoded fluorescent reporter reveals oscillatory phosphorylation by protein kinase C. *J Cell Biol* 2003;161:899–909. [PubMed: 12782683]
19. Huxley VH, Wang JJ, Sarelius IH. Adaptation of coronary microvascular exchange in arterioles and venules to exercise training and a role for sex in determining permeability responses. *Am J Physiol Heart Circ Physiol* 2007;293:H1196–H1205. [PubMed: 17434979]



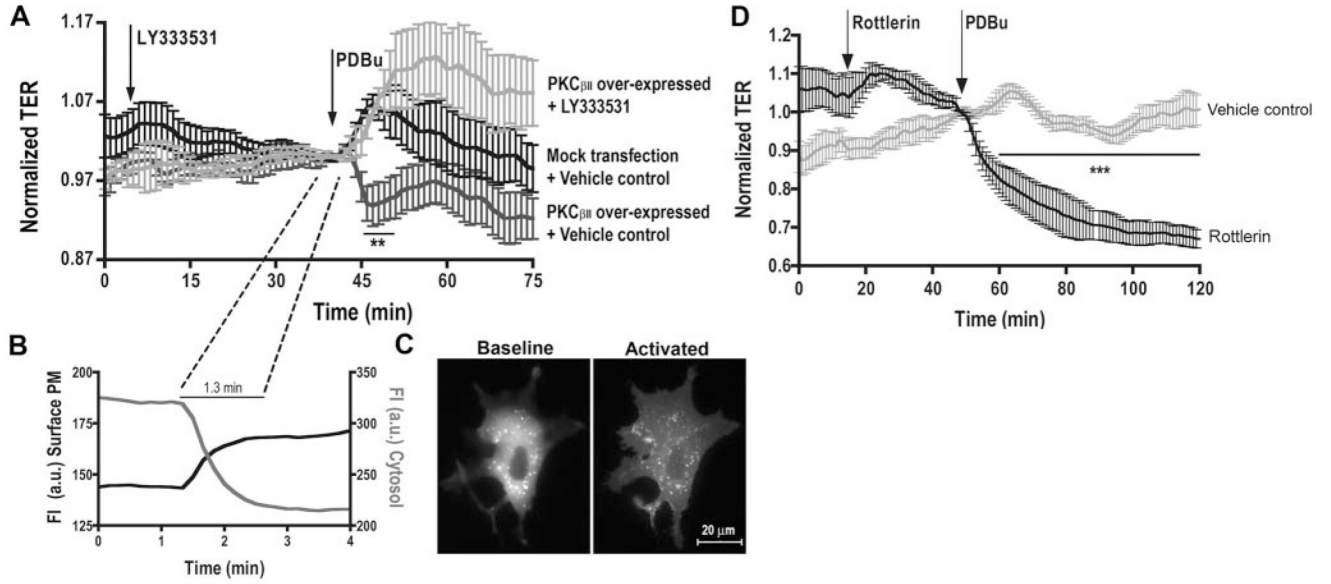
20. Mayhan WG, Sharpe GM. Superoxide dismutase restores impaired histamine-induced increases in venular macromolecular efflux during diabetes mellitus. *Microcirculation* 1998;5:211–218. [PubMed: 9789261]
21. Tinsley JH, Wu MH, Ma W, Taulman AC, Yuan SY. Activated neutrophils induce hyperpermeability and phosphorylation of adherens junction proteins in coronary venular endothelial cells. *J Biol Chem* 1999;274:24930–24934. [PubMed: 10455168]
22. Wu HM, Yuan Y, Zawieja DC, Tinsley J, Granger HJ. Role of phospholipase C, protein kinase C, and calcium in VEGF-induced venular hyperpermeability. *Am J Physiol* 1999;276:H535–H542. [PubMed: 9950855]
23. Wu MH, Yuan SY, Granger HJ. The protein kinase MEK1/2 mediate vascular endothelial growth factor- and histamine-induced hyperpermeability in porcine coronary venules. *J Physiol* 2005;563:95–104. [PubMed: 15539400]
24. Ramirez MM, Kim DD, Duran WN. Protein kinase C modulates microvascular permeability through nitric oxide synthase. *Am J Physiol* 1996;271:H1702–H1705. [PubMed: 8897966]
25. Hempel A, Lindschau C, Maasch C, Mahn M, Bychkov R, Noll T, Luft FC, Haller H. Calcium antagonists ameliorate ischemia-induced endothelial cell permeability by inhibiting protein kinase C. *Circulation* 1999;99:2523–2529. [PubMed: 10330383]
26. Nagpala PG, Malik AB, Vuong PT, Lum H. Protein kinase C beta 1 overexpression augments phorbol ester-induced increase in endothelial permeability. *J Cell Physiol* 1996;166:249–255. [PubMed: 8591984]
27. Vuong PT, Malik AB, Nagpala PG, Lum H. Protein kinase C beta modulates thrombin-induced Ca<sup>2+</sup> + signaling and endothelial permeability increase. *J Cell Physiol* 1998;175:379–387. [PubMed: 9572483]
28. Harrington EO, Brunelle JL, Shannon CJ, Kim ES, Mennella K, Rounds S. Role of protein kinase C isoforms in rat epididymal microvascular endothelial barrier function. *Am J Respir Cell Mol Biol* 2003;28:626–636. [PubMed: 12707019]
29. Klinger JR, Murray JD, Casserly B, Alvarez DF, King JA, An SS, Choudhary G, Owusu-Sarfo AN, Warburton R, Harrington EO. Rottlerin causes pulmonary edema in vivo: a possible role for PKC {delta}. *J Appl Physiol* 2007;103:2084–2094. [PubMed: 17901241]
30. Moy AB, Blackwell K, Wang N, Haxhinasto K, Kasiske MK, Bodmer J, Reyes G, English A. Phorbol ester-mediated pulmonary artery endothelial barrier dysfunction through regulation of actin cytoskeletal mechanics. *Am J Physiol Lung Cell Mol Physiol* 2004;287:L153–L167. [PubMed: 15003926]
31. Tinsley JH, Teasdale NR, Yuan SY. Involvement of PKCdelta and PKD in pulmonary microvascular endothelial cell hyperpermeability. *Am J Physiol Cell Physiol* 2004;286:C105–C111. [PubMed: 13679307]
32. Nishikawa K, Toker A, Johannes FJ, Songyang Z, Cantley LC. Determination of the specific substrate sequence motifs of protein kinase C isozymes. *J Biol Chem* 1997;272:952–960. [PubMed: 8995387]
33. Sandoval R, Malik AB, Minshall RD, Kouklis P, Ellis CA, Tirupathi C. Ca(2+) signalling and PKCalpha activate increased endothelial permeability by disassembly of VE-cadherin junctions. *J Physiol* 2001;533:433–445. [PubMed: 11389203]
34. Waschke J, Golenhofen N, Kurzchalia TV, Drenckhahn D. Protein kinase C-mediated endothelial barrier regulation is caveolin-1-dependent. *Histochem Cell Biol* 2006;126:17–26. [PubMed: 16416023]
35. Wang Y, Pampou S, Fujikawa K, Varticovski L. Opposing effect of angiotensin-1 on VEGF-mediated disruption of endothelial cell-cell interactions requires activation of PKC beta. *J Cell Physiol* 2004;198:53–61. [PubMed: 14584044]
36. Giorgione JR, Lin JH, McCammon JA, Newton AC. Increased membrane affinity of the C1 domain of protein kinase Cdelta compensates for the lack of involvement of its C2 domain in membrane recruitment. *J Biol Chem* 2006;281:1660–1669. [PubMed: 16293612]
37. Heit I, Wieser RJ, Herget T, Faust D, Borchert-Stuhltrager M, Oesch F, Dietrich C. Involvement of protein kinase Cdelta in contact-dependent inhibition of growth in human and murine fibroblasts. *Oncogene* 2001;20:5143–5154. [PubMed: 11526503]

38. Harrington EO, Shannon CJ, Morin N, Rowlett H, Murphy C, Lu Q. PKCdelta regulates endothelial basal barrier function through modulation of RhoA GTPase activity. *Exp Cell Res* 2005;308:407–421. [PubMed: 15935342]
39. Kunkel MT, Toker A, Tsien RY, Newton AC. Calcium-dependent regulation of protein kinase D revealed by a genetically encoded kinase activity reporter. *J Biol Chem* 2007;282:6733–6742. [PubMed: 17189263]
40. Ting AY, Kain KH, Klemke RL, Tsien RY. Genetically encoded fluorescent reporters of protein tyrosine kinase activities in living cells. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 2001;98:15003–15008. [PubMed: 11752449]
41. Zhang J, Ma Y, Taylor SS, Tsien RY. Genetically encoded reporters of protein kinase A activity reveal impact of substrate tethering. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 2001;98:14997–15002. [PubMed: 11752448]
42. Isshiki M, Mutoh A, Fujita T. Subcortical Ca<sup>2+</sup> waves sneaking under the plasma membrane in endothelial cells. *Circ Res* 2004;95:e11–e21. [PubMed: 15242969]
43. Wang Y, Botvinick EL, Zhao Y, Berns MW, Usami S, Tsien RY, Chien S. Visualizing the mechanical activation of Src. *Nature* 2005;434:1040–1045. [PubMed: 15846350]
44. Gallegos LL, Kunkel MT, Newton AC. Targeting protein kinase C activity reporter to discrete intracellular regions reveals spatiotemporal differences in agonist-dependent signaling. *J Biol Chem* 2006;281:30947–30956. [PubMed: 16901905]
45. Yuan SY, Breslin JW, Perrin R, Gaudreault N, Guo M, Kargozaran H, Wu MH. Microvascular permeability in diabetes and insulin resistance. *Microcirculation* 2007;14:363–373. [PubMed: 17613808]

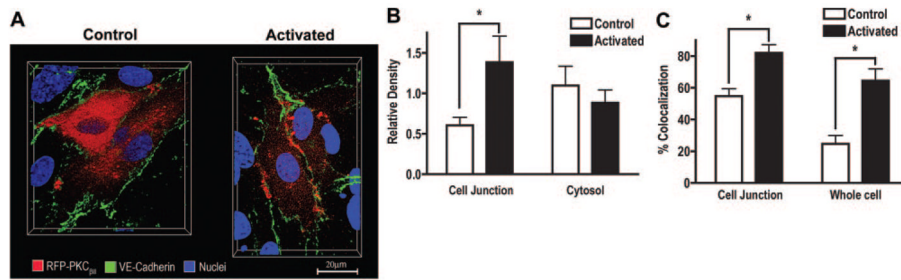


**Figure 1.**

Increased PKC $\beta$ II and decreased PKC $\delta$  expression in diabetic coronary endothelium. A, 3D reconstruction of en face coronary arteries from Zucker fatty diabetic rats (right) and their lean controls (left) (section depth=6.16  $\mu$ m, scale bar= 20  $\mu$ m). B, Mean fluorescence intensity (FI) in individual endothelial cells (n=35 to 56 cells/3 rats/group, \* $P$ <0.05).

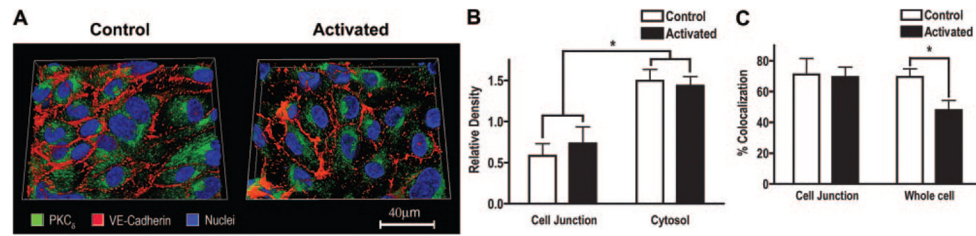
**Figure 2.**

TER across HCMECs. A, LY333531 prevents PDBu-induced changes in barrier function during PKC $\beta$ II overexpression (n=6, \*\* $P$ <0.05 vs vehicle). B, RFP-PKC $\beta$ II translocation indicated by inverse changes in membrane versus cytosol FI. C, RFP-PKC $\beta$ II distribution before and after activation. D, Rottlerin pretreatment enhances PDBu-induced TER decrease (n=4, \*\*\* $P$ <0.001 vs vehicle).

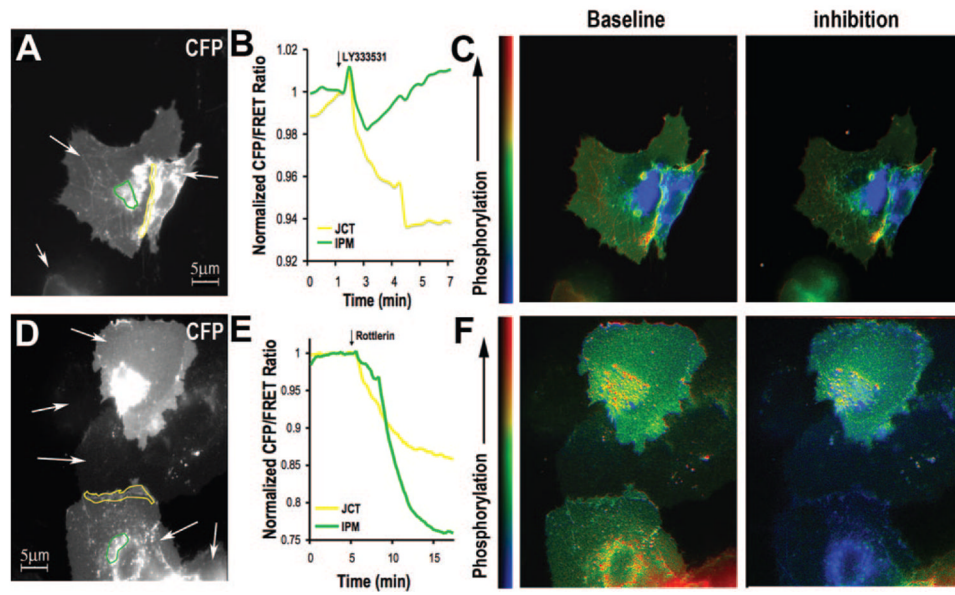


**Figure 3.**

PKC $\beta$ <sub>II</sub> preferentially translocates to cell–cell junctions. A, 3D images showing subcellular distribution of PKC $\beta$ <sub>II</sub> relative to VE-cadherin in nonactivated and PDBu-activated HCMECs (image depth=10.15 $\mu$ m). B, PKC $\beta$ <sub>II</sub> density (labeled pixels) at the junction and cytosol before and after activation. C, Subcellular colocalization between PKC $\beta$ <sub>II</sub> and VE-cadherin (B and C, n=8, \* $P$ <0.05).



**Figure 4.** PKC $\delta$  is localized to perinuclear cytosol. A, 3D images showing subcellular distribution of PKC $\delta$  relative to VE-cadherin in nonactivated and PDBu-activated HCMECs (image depth=8.4 $\mu$  m). B, PKC $\delta$  density (labeled pixels) at the junction and cytosol before and after activation. C, Subcellular colocalization between PKC $\delta$  and VE-cadherin (B and C, n=14 to 16, \* $P$ <0.05).



**Figure 5.** Effects of LY333531 (A–C) and Rottlerin (D–F) on PKC activity at JCT (yellow) and IPM (green) (A&D). White arrows indicate mpCKAR-expressing cells. B and E, Greater FRET response at JCT on LY333531 and at IPM on Rottlerin inhibition. C and F, Pseudo-color images of CFP/FRET before and after PKC $_{\beta II}$  or PKC $_{\delta}$  inhibition.