# Inositol 1,4,5-Trisphosphate 3-Kinase A Is a Novel Microtubule-associated Protein

**PKA-DEPENDENT PHOSPHOREGULATION OF MICROTUBULE BINDING AFFINITY\*** 

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**Background:**  $IP_3K$ -A mediates synaptic plasticity and memory formation. However, its molecular mechanism is not clear. **Results:** Tubulin is identified as an  $IP_3K$ -A-binding protein, and PKA reduces the microtubule binding affinity of  $IP_3K$ -A. **Conclusion:**  $IP_3K$ -A is a novel microtubule-associated protein. PKA-dependent phosphorylation negatively regulates interactions between  $IP_3K$ -A and microtubule.

Significance: Phosphoregulation of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A may serve as its novel regulatory mechanism.

Inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate 3-kinase A (IP<sub>3</sub>K-A) is a brain specific and F-actin-binding protein. We recently demonstrated that IP<sub>3</sub>K-A modulates a structural reorganization of dendritic spines through F-actin remodeling, which is required for synaptic plasticity and memory formation in brain. However, detailed functions of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A and its regulatory mechanisms involved in the neuronal cytoskeletal dynamics still remain unknown. In the present study, we identified tubulin as a candidate of IP<sub>3</sub>K-Abinding protein through proteomic screening. By various in vitro and in vivo approaches, we demonstrated that IP<sub>3</sub>K-A was a novel microtubule-associated protein (MAP), and the N terminus of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A was a critical region for direct binding to tubulin in dendritic shaft of hippocampal neurons. Moreover, PKA phosphorylated Ser-119 within IP<sub>3</sub>K-A, leading to a significant reduction of microtubule binding affinity. These results suggest that PKA-dependent phosphorylation and microtubule binding of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A are involved in its regulatory mechanism for activitydependent neuronal events such as local calcium signaling and its synaptic targeting.

Inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate 3-kinase A  $(IP_3K-A)^2$  was first purified and identified from rat brain, and found to be expressed exclusively in neuronal cells (1, 2). It is distributed in soma, dendrite, and its small protrusion, dendritic spine (3–5).  $IP_3K$ -A converts inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate (IP<sub>3</sub>) to inositol 1,3,4,5-tetrakisphosphate (IP<sub>4</sub>) to block release of intracellular calcium from endoplasmic reticulum (ER) where  $IP_3$ -sensitive calcium channels are located (2, 6). The kinase activity of  $IP_3K$ -A is up- or down-regulated by various protein kinases (7,

<sup>2</sup> The abbreviations used are: IP<sub>3</sub>K-A, inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate 3-kinase A; MAP, microtubule-associated protein; LTP, long-term potentiation.



8). The in vitro kinase assay showed that Ser-119 phosphorylation of  $IP_3K$ -A by PKA enhances its kinase activity (9, 10), and Ser-185 phosphorylation by PKC reduces its kinase activity (10). In addition, Thr-311 of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A is phosphorylated by calmodulin-dependent protein kinase II (CaMKII), enhancing its kinase activity (11), suggesting that diverse signaling pathways are able to regulate enzymatic activity of IP<sub>2</sub>K-A. Because of its property as a calcium signaling modulator, classical studies of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A have mainly focused on its kinase function. However, recent studies have revealed that IP<sub>3</sub>K-A has a novel role for cytoskeletal regulation independent of its kinase function (12, 13). In our recent study, electrophysiology and behavioral tests of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A knock-out (KO) mice revealed that IP<sub>3</sub>K-A plays an important role in synaptic plasticity and memory formation in brain (13). These findings have encouraged us to consider novel cytoskeleton-related mechanisms of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A in synaptic plasticity and memory formation.

IP<sub>3</sub>K-A can bind and bundle F-actin via its N-terminal F-actin binding domain (amino acids 1-66) (4), and its bundling effect has been thought to be responsible for structural remodeling of dendritic spine (14, 15). Our recent study also demonstrated that IP<sub>3</sub>K-A recruits active Rac1, small GTPase protein, a regulator of actin dynamics (16), into dendritic spine following induction of long-term potentiation (LTP), leading to actin cytoskeleton remodeling in the spine (13). In contrast, glutamate treatment results in its exit from dendritic spines to shafts (14). Synaptic targeting of  $IP_3K$ -A is likely to be regulated by the F-actin binding domain only because IP<sub>3</sub>K-A L34P mutant protein, lacking F-actin binding, was located mainly in the dendritic shaft rather than dendritic spines (9), suggesting F-actinmediated synaptic localization of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A (14). However, the trigger mechanism for synaptic translocation of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A is not yet understood. Here, we report that IP<sub>3</sub>K-A is a novel MAP, and PKA-dependent phosphorylation of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A negatively regulates interactions between IP<sub>3</sub>K-A and microtubule, leading to a dissociation of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A from microtubules. These findings may provide the essential mechanism that serves as a spatiotemporal regulation for IP<sub>3</sub>K-A.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>S</sup> This article contains supplemental Table S1.

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#### **EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES**

Preparations of Constructs and Protein Purification-GST-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A-WT was subcloned from previously cloned pEGFP-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A-WT (13). The insert of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A-WT was amplified by general PCR methods, using primers containing BamHI and EcoRI restriction sites. Deletion mutant and point mutation were carried out by site-directed mutagenesis as previously described (17). Primers used are described in supplemental Table S1. Newly cloned constructs were confirmed by DNA sequence analysis (Macrogen, Republic of Korea). For fusionprotein expression, GST constructs were transformed into Escherichia coli BL21 strain (CodonPlus, Stratagene). When optical density (O.D.) reached 0.6~0.8, 0.5 mM IPTG (final concentration) was added to culture media, and they were additionally incubated for 3 h at 25~30 °C. Grown E. coli were then collected by centrifugation and suspended in NETT buffer (50 тим Tris-HCl pH 7.4, 100 mм NaCl, 5 mм EDTA, 0.5% Triton X-100, 1 mM DTT) including protease inhibitor mixture (Roche), and sonicated. Then, centrifuged lysates were mixed with washed glutathione-Sepharose beads. After incubation and intensive washes, GST-IP3K-A proteins were eluted with GST elution buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 20 mM reduced glutathione, 0.1% Triton X-100, 1 mM DTT). Finally, GST and GST-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A proteins were concentrated with centrifugal filter unit (Millipore).

*GST Pull-down Assay*—IPTG induced *E. coli* lysates were mixed with glutathione-Sepharose beads. The mixture was incubated overnight in rotator at 4 °C. After washing three times, the Sepharose beads were mixed with rat whole brain lysates. The mixtures were once again incubated for 4 h in a rotator at 4 °C. After intensive washing three times,  $2 \times$  SDS sample buffer was added, and it was boiled in a heat block for 5 min to separate bound proteins.

*MALDI-TOF Analysis*—Proper bands in silver-stained gels were selected and carefully excised with no contamination. For MALDI-TOF analysis, selected bands were analyzed commercially by Genomine (Republic of Korea).

Immunoblotting Analysis—After gel electrophoresis, proteins were transferred onto a nitrocellulose membrane (Whatman), and blocked with 5% skim milk in TBST (50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.4, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1% Tween20) for 30 min. Then, the membrane was incubated with primary antibodies for 1 h at room temperature or overnight at 4 °C. After washing three times, the membrane was incubated with horseradish peroxidase (HRP)-conjugated secondary antibody for 30 min and developed using the ECL system (Thermo Scientific Pierce).

*Microtubule Co-sedimentation Assay*—We used microtubule-binding protein co-sedimentation assay kit (Cytoskeleton, BK029) as the manufacturer's manual described. In brief, we suspended the purified protein in general tubulin buffer (80 mM PIPES pH 7.0, 2 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.5 mM EGTA), 1 mM GTP and 20 mM taxol were added, and the reactions incubated at room temperature for 30 min. 100  $\mu$ l of the cushion buffer were placed into each tube, and each reaction mixture was carefully layered on top of the cushion buffer. We centrifuged each tube at 100,000 × g at room temperature for 40 min. For further anal-

ysis, some supernatant was kept. We resuspended the pellet in SDS sample buffer for immunoblotting analysis.

Immunoprecipitation-We sacrificed 12-week-old male rats by cervical translocation, then quickly removed the skull and dissected the whole brain without any damage. We prepared whole brain lysate in NETN buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.4, 100 mм NaCl, 5 mм EDTA, 0.5% Nonidet P-40, 1 mм DTT, protease inhibitor mixture), by 10 strokes of Teflon-glass homogenization and sonication. After centrifugation at 10,000  $\times$  *g* for 20 min to remove cell debris, the supernatant was transferred to protein G beads for the pre-clearing procedure. Mixtures of lysate and protein G beads were incubated at 4 °C for 30 min to reduce nonspecific binding. After centrifugation at 10,000  $\times$  *g* for 20 min, the supernatant was transferred to fresh tubes, and 10  $\mu$ g of either normal mouse IgG or anti-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A (VI5G) was then added to the pre-cleared lysates. The mixtures of lysate and antibody were incubated for 4 h at 4 °C. Then, this mixture and washed protein G beads were additionally incubated in a rotator at 4 °C for 4 h. After intensive washing three times,  $2 \times$ SDS sample buffer was added, and the mixtures were boiled in a heat block for 5 min to separate bound proteins.

Tissue-based Microtubule Co-sedimentation Assay—We carried out tissue-based microtubule co-sedimentation assay as previously described (18), with some modification. Briefly, we rapidly dissected rat or mouse whole brain and prepared lysates using Teflon-glass homogenizer in general tubulin buffer. After sonication and centrifugation at 10,000  $\times$  *g* for 10 min at 4 °C, the lysates were incubated for 1 h on ice. We performed the first ultracentrifugation at 100,000  $\times$  g at 4 °C for 1 h, and kept cleared supernatant for the next step. The supernatant was mixed with 1 mM GTP and 20 µM taxol for microtubule polymerization, and the mixture was then incubated for 30 min at 37 °C. Finally, we performed the second ultracentrifugation at 100,000  $\times$  g for 1 h at 25 °C. For immunoblotting analysis, supernatant was transferred into fresh tubes, then pellets were resuspended with SDS sample buffer. For immunofluorescence analysis, pellets were collected into poly-D-lysine (PDL)-coated plastic coverslips (SPL, 20009) during ultracentrifugation. Plastic coverslips were placed on homemade silicon spacers to prevent their deformation. The general experimental protocol steps are described schematically in Fig. 3A.

*Immunocytochemistry*—Hippocampal culture neurons were fixed with pre-warmed 4% paraformaldehyde in phosphatebuffered saline (PBS; Biosesang, pH 7.4). Neurons were permeabilized with 0.1% Triton X-100 in TBS, incubated with 5% bovine serum albumin in TBST for 1 h, and then incubated with primary antibodies in TBST for 1 h at room temperature or overnight at 4 °C, followed by incubation with fluorophoreconjugated secondary antibodies in TBST for 30 min. After washing three times, coverslips were mounted with a mounting solution (Biømeda).

*Immunogold Labeling*—Sprague-Dawley adult male rat (8 weeks of age) was anesthetized deeply with sodium pentobarbital (100 mg/kg) and transcardially perfused with a fixative contacting 2% paraformaldehyde and 2.5% glutaraldehyde in 0.1 M phosphate buffer (PB; pH 7.4). The hippocampus region was dissected from the brain and stored in the same fixative for 24 h at 4 °C. The samples were post-fixed in 1% osmium tetrox-



ide, dehydrated through an ascending ethanol series, and embedded with an Epon mixture. Thin sections (90 nm) were obtained using a Reichert-Jung Ultracut E ultramicrotome (Leica, Germany), and mounted on 200 mesh nickel grids. Postembedding immunogold labeling was performed according to the procedure described (19, 20) with some modifications. Briefly, the grids were dipped for 10 min in 1% periodic acid and for 15 min in 9% sodium periodate. They were washed with distilled water gently several times and transferred to Trisbuffered saline containing 0.1% Triton X-100 (TBST, pH 7.4) for 10 min. The samples were incubated with 2% human serum albumin (HAS) for 10 min, and transferred to anti IP<sub>3</sub>K-A (II4E, 1:200) in TBST containing 2% HAS for 3 h at room temperature. After extensive rinsing in TBST, the grids were incubated for 1 h with goat anti-mouse IgG-conjugated 15 nm gold particles (1:25 in TBST containing 0.05% polyethylene glycol; EMS). After washing with distilled water, the grids were stained with uranyl acetate and lead citrate, and observed under Hitachi H-7500 electron microscope (Hitachi, Japan).

Cryofixation, Cryosubstitution, and Low Temperature Embedding—Coronal vibratome sections (300 µm) were cryoprotected by immersing them in increasing concentrations of glycerol (10, 20, and 30% in 0.01 M PBS, pH 7.4) for 30 min at each concentration at room temperature in 30% glycerol overnight at 4 °C. Sections were placed on the specimen pin and plunged into liquid propane at -170 °C by cooled liquid nitrogen (Leica EM CPC, Bannockburn, IL). For cryosubstitution and low-temperature embedding, sections were transferred to Leica EM AFS and treated as follows: 24 h in 0.5% uranyl acetate in absolute methanol (-90 °C) and stepwise-raised temperature with  $4 \degree C$  increments per hour from  $-90 \degree C$  to  $-45 \degree C$ ; wash the sections three times with absolute methanol (this and the following at -45 °C); 2 h each in 50, 75, and 100% Lowicryl HM20, and two times for 12 h each in 100% Lowicryl. Sections were then polymerized with UV light (48 h at -45 °C, 48 h at 0 °C, and 48 h at +20 °C). The CA1 area of the hippocampus was excised and glued to EM blocks. Ultrathin sections were obtained (90 nm) and collected on 200 mesh nickel grids.

*Transfection into HEK293 Cells*—GFP-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A constructs were transfected into HEK293 cells with Lipofectamine 2000 (Invitrogen) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Production of  $IP_3K$ -A Ser-119 Phosphoantibody—Phosphopeptide of sequence QPRRL(pS)TSSLSS was used as an antigen for  $IP_3K$ -A Ser119 phosphoantibody. This antibody was produced commercially by AbFrotier (Republic of Korea).

Kinase Reaction with PKA Catalytic Subunit—Eluted GST-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A proteins were phosphorylated with PKA catalytic subunit (New England Biolabs; P6000S) for 2 h at 30 °C. The reaction conditions were: 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 10 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 200  $\mu$ M ATP, and 20,000 units of PKA catalytic subunit.

Antibodies and Reagents—The following primary and secondary antibodies were used in immunoblotting analysis: mouse anti-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A antibody (homemade II4E; 1:2000), rat anti-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A Ser-119 phosphoantibody (homemade; 1:1000), mouse anti-tubulin  $\beta$ III (Sigma-Aldrich; T8660; 1:2500), mouse anti-tubulin  $\alpha$  (Santa Cruz Biotechnology; SC-8035; 1:2500), mouse anti- $\beta$ -actin (Sigma-Aldrich, A5441; 1:5000), mouse anti-GFP (Santa Cruz Biotechnology; SC-9996; 1:2500), mouse anti-GAPDH (Santa Cruz Biotechnology; SC-32233; 1:2500), rabbit anti-pS845 GluRI (Millipore; 04-1073; 1:1000), mouse anti-GST (homemade; 1:2500), mouse anti-IgG HRP (Jackson Lab; 1:10,000), mouse anti-IgG light chain specific HRP (Jackson Lab; 1:10,000), rat anti-IgG HRP (Jackson Lab, 1:10,000), and rabbit anti-IgG HRP (Jackson Lab, 1:10,000). The following reagents were used in this study: taxol (Cytoskeleton; TXD01), GTP (Cytoskeleton; BST06), protease inhibitor (Roche; cOmplete Mini EDTA-free), protein phosphatase inhibitor mixture tablet (Roche; PhosSTOP), lambda protein phosphatase (New England Biolabs; P0753S), forskolin (Sigma-Aldrich; F6886), H-89 (Sigma-Aldrich; B1427), and purified bovine tubulin (Cytoskeleton; TL238).

Cell Culture—HEK293 cells were grown in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM), containing 10% fetal bovine serum and 1% penicillin-streptomycin (Invitrogen), according to general mammalian cell culture methods. The cell incubator was set and maintained at 37 °C and 40~70% humidity. Primary hippocampal neuron culture was performed as previously described (13). Briefly, rat hippocampus (embryonic, 18~19 day) was rapidly dissected and digested with 0.25% trypsin-EDTA (Invitrogen). Digested cells were plated on 50  $\mu$ g/ml PDL (Sigma-Aldrich) pre-coated coverslips. Media consisted of neurobasal medium (Invitrogen) and following reagents; 0.5 mm L-glutamine (Invitrogen), 25 mm glutamic acid (Sigma-Aldrich), 1:50(v/v) B27 supplement (Invitrogen), and antibiotics.

*Immunoblotting Densitometric Analysis and Image Processing*—Immunoblotting images were measured by ImageJ (NIH) software, and all images and data were processed by Photoshop CS5 (Adobe) and Illustrator CS5 (Adobe) software.

*Statistical Analysis*—For quantitative analysis, we used Student's *t* test and one-way ANOVA by SPSS 12.0K (IBM SPSS) software. Dunnett's test was used for *post hoc* test.

#### RESULTS

Tubulin Is Identified as a Novel Binding Partner of  $IP_{3}K-A$ —To further understand the role of  $IP_{3}K-A$  in neurons, we tried to find novel binding partners that could be related to hitherto-unknown functions or mechanisms of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A. For this, we used glutathione S-transferase (GST)-fused IP<sub>3</sub>K-A proteins. Silver-stained SDS-PAGE gels from the pull-down assay displayed several clear bands that were detected only in the GST-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A-WT lane, which were supposed to be the binding candidates (Fig. 1, A and B). The selected bands were excised, and analyzed by MALDI-TOF (matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization-time of flight mass spectrometry) method. Identified results included previously reported IP<sub>3</sub>K-A binding proteins such as actin (A1) and CaMKII $\alpha$  (A2 and B4) (Fig. 1*C*) (4, 11), suggesting that our screening system worked properly. In the list of MALDI-TOF analysis, tubulin (A2, A3, B2, and B4), the subunit of microtubule, was the most noticeable candidate. Because some F-actin-binding proteins also associate with microtubules or vice versa (21-27) and recent studies suggest that IP<sub>3</sub>K-A strongly related neuronal cytoskeleton, we selected tubulin as the first candidate for our study.

 $IP_{3}K$ -A Binds Directly to Microtubules—To test specific interaction between  $IP_{3}K$ -A and tubulin, we performed GST





\* Z score of 1.282 = 90.0%, 1.645 = 95.0%, and 3.090 = 99.0%

FIGURE 1. **MALDI-TOF analysis of GST-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A pull-down assay.** *A* and *B*, silver-stained gel images of GST pull-down samples. We used both 10% (*A*) and 8% (*B*) acrylamide gels to cover a wide range of candidates. Bands of interest, which are shown only in the GST-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A-WT lane, were denoted as A1 $\sim$ A10 and B1 $\sim$ B5. Denoted bands were excised from gels for MALDI-TOF analysis. *Asterisks* indicate each purified GST-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A-WT. *C*, table represents the results of MALDI-TOF analysis. The Z score is a probability value that a candidate in a database is the protein being analyzed. The higher Z score means more correct identification (Z score of 1.282 = 90.0%, 1.645 = 95.0%, and 3.090 = 99.0%).

pull-down assays with increasing levels of  $GST-IP_3K-A$  protein, and found that the intensity of tubulin bands correlated well with loading levels of  $GST-IP_3K-A$  (Fig. 2*A*), suggesting that

 $IP_3K$ -A specifically associates with tubulin. Because the pulldown assay does not necessarily confirm a direct interaction between  $IP_3K$ -A and tubulin, we performed *in vitro* microtu-







FIGURE 2. **GST-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A binds directly to microtubules.** *A*, immunoblot analysis of the GST pull-down assay with increasing GST-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A protein levels. Note that the intensity of tubulin  $\beta$ III blots is increasing as GST-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A is increased, and GST is decreased. *B*, Coomassie-stained gel image of *in vitro* microtubule co-sedimentation assay. Purified GST-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A and GST were mixed with purified tubulin in addition to GTP and taxol, which are necessary in microtubule polymerizations and stabilization. GST-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A cosedimented with tubulin dimer, but GST control was not pelleted, regardless of tubulin. *C*, Coomassie-stained gel image of the *in vitro* microtubule co-sedimentation assay with increasing concentrations of microtubules. A constant concentration of 1.0  $\mu$ M GST-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A was mixed and incubated with increasing concentrations (0 to 16.0  $\mu$ M) of microtubules. As concentrations of tubulin dimer increased, bands of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A shifted from supernatant (*S*) to pellet (*P*) fractions. *D*, IP<sub>3</sub>K-A binding curve to microtubules. This curve was obtained by plotting densitometric analysis of Fig. 2*B*. We assumed the dissociation constant (*K*<sub>d</sub>) to be 3.99  $\mu$ M. *E*, immunoblots of immunoprecipitation assay. Tubulin was precipitated by anti IP<sub>3</sub>K-A monoclonal antibody (VI5G).

bule co-sedimentation assay. Fig. 2*B* shows that purified GST-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A cosedimented with microtubules, but not GST control, indicating that GST-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A binds directly to microtubule. In addition, constant concentrations of GST-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A were shifted from supernatant (S) to pellet (P) portions with increasing concentration of microtubule (Fig. 2*C*), further confirming that IP<sub>3</sub>K-A binds directly to microtubules. The microtubule binding curve was drawn by the densitometric analysis of GST-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A, and dissociation constant of 3.99  $\mu$ M was obtained from the binding curve (Fig. 2*D*). Immunoprecipitation assay revealed that endogenous IP<sub>3</sub>K-A also interacts with microtubules in rat brain (Fig. 2*E*). Conversely, we physically pulled microtubule down by tissue-based co-sedimentation assay, which is illustrated schematically in Fig. 3*A*. We investigated the presence of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A in MAP-enriched pellets using both immunoblotting and immunofluorescence analysis. In immunoblotting analysis, endogenous IP<sub>3</sub>K-A was pelleted better when mixed with taxol, a well-known microtubule stabilizer, than without it (Fig. 3*B*). These taxol-dependent co-sedimentations of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A were also found in immunofluorescence analysis (Fig. 3, *C*–*K*). Co-localizations of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A and microtubules were increasingly evident in the taxol-treated group (Fig. 3, *F*--*H*) than in the control group (Fig. 3, *C*-*E*). However, we did not observe any immunoreactivity of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A antibody in the





FIGURE 3. **Taxol-dependent co-sedimentation of tubulin and IP<sub>3</sub>K-A.** *A*, schematic figure which describes experimental steps of general protocols about tissue-based microtubule co-sedimentation assay. Specific pelleting of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A was confirmed by both immunoblot and immunofluorescence assay. *B*, immunoblot analysis of tissue-based microtubule co-sedimentation assay. Note that endogenous IP<sub>3</sub>K-A were more pelleted in the taxol-treated group than in the control group. *C–K*, representative immunofluorescence images of tissue-based microtubule co-sedimentation assay. Microtubules and MAPs were collected on PDL-coated plastic coverslips during ultracentrifugation, then coverslips were double-labeled by anti-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A antibody (*red*) and anti-tubulin antibody (*green*). *Yellow arrows* indicate prominent co-localization between IP<sub>3</sub>K-A and microtubules. Scale bar: 20 µm.

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group of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A knock-out mouse (Fig. 3*I*), indicating that the IP<sub>3</sub>K-A antibody was reliable. These findings strongly suggest that endogenous IP<sub>3</sub>K-A binds to microtubules.

*IP*<sub>3</sub>*K*-*A* Distributes along Microtubule in Vivo Rat Brain Sections and Primary Culture Neuron-We next examined the fine localization of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A by both immunocytochemistry and immunogold electron microscopy. In cultured hippocampal neurons, IP<sub>3</sub>K-A immunofluorescence signals were detected mainly in soma, dendrite, and dendritic spine (Fig. 4, A and B), consistent with previous reports (3-5). IP<sub>3</sub>K-A distributed mainly along dendritic shafts in immature neurons (div 10; Fig. 4A), while synaptic localization of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A was evident in mature neurons (Fig. 4D). Next, we examined the ultra-structural localization of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A protein in rat brain region by immunogold electron microscopy using rat brain slices (8-week-old). In electron microscopic images, microtubule structures are readily distinguished by prominent structures with typical width, 24 nm. In this study, IP<sub>3</sub>K-A signals distributed on cross-section of microtubules (Fig. 4G), but not in vascular structures and void spaces (data not shown), indicating that IP<sub>3</sub>K-A antibody provides a reliable specificity. These results show that IP<sub>3</sub>K-A is present in dendritic microtubule in hippocampus in vivo.

*IP<sub>3</sub>K-A Binds to Microtubule via Its N-terminal Region*—To identify essential microtubule binding regions in IP<sub>3</sub>K-A, we first checked using partial GST-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A constructs containing N terminus (aa 1-190) and C terminus (aa 191-459) sequences.<sup>3</sup> In this pull-down assay, we observed that tubulin was pulled by only the N terminus construct, but not by C terminus (data not shown), indicating that microtubule binding regions of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A are located at the N terminus. To further determine the specific regions essential for microtubule binding, we generated various  $GST-IP_3K-A$  constructs (Fig. 5A). In pull-down assays, deletion mutants of  $\Delta 12-42$ ,  $\Delta 64-105$ , and  $\Delta 67-161$  did not form complexes with microtubules, and  $\Delta 132-160$  and  $\Delta 161-193$  showed reduced interactions compared with wild type (Fig. 5C), suggesting that  $IP_3K$ -A has multiple microtubule binding regions along amino acids 12-42, 64-105, 132-160, and 161-193 (Fig. 5D). Even though the tubulin binding region of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A turned out to be complex and it was hard to define the exact regions, the overall GST pulldown data provided valuable information on the domains that are involved in the interaction between IP<sub>3</sub>K-A and tubulin.

Microtubule Binding of  $IP_3K$ -A Is Regulated by Phosphorylation of  $IP_3K$ -A Ser119—In our preliminary microtubule co-sedimentation assay,  $IP_3K$ -A expressed in mammalian cells were less pelleted than bacterially expressed  $IP_3K$ -A (data not shown), implying that this discrepancy might be due to posttranslational modifications such as phosphorylation. Notably, there is numerous experimental evidence to indicate that phosphorylation of MAPs regulates their microtubule binding affinity; for example, tau, microtubule-associated protein 2 (MAP2), and doublecortin (28–31). Previous studies reported that IP<sub>3</sub>K-A can be phosphorylated at Ser-119 by PKA (9), Ser-119 and Ser-185 by PKC (9), and Thr-311 by CaMKII (11). Among them, Ser-119 is flanked by defined microtubule binding regions (Fig. 6A), and this sequence contains the consensus sequence (RRXS) of PKA substrates and is well conserved among mouse, rat, and human (Fig. 6A). Therefore, we examined whether IP<sub>3</sub>K-A binding affinity toward microtubule is regulated by Ser-119 phosphorylation. For this, we overexpressed GFP-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A wild type (WT) and a phosphodeficient form (S119A) in HEK293 cells, and then performed tissuebased microtubule co-sedimentation assay to measure their binding affinity. Additionally, we tested the effect of forskolin, which increases the intracellular cAMP and induces PKA activation (32). We found that GFP-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A-WT (lanes 2 and 4) was less pelleted than GFP-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A-S119A (lanes 6 and 8), and forskolin significantly reduced the pellet portion of wild type (lanes 2 and 4), but not of S119A (lanes 6 and 8) in parallel experiments (Fig. 6, B and D). However, the amounts of pelleted tubulin in all experimental samples were not affected (Fig. 6, C-E). These results suggest that Ser-119 might play a role in microtubule binding via phosphorylation by PKA.

PKA Regulates the Microtubule Binding Affinity of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A— Earlier studies together with our present results suggest that PKA directly phosphorylates IP<sub>3</sub>K-A at Ser-119 (9). How is the microtubule binding of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A regulated by PKA-mediated intracellular phosphorylation at Ser-119? To obtain cellular evidence, we tried to determine the Ser-119 phosphorylation level by PKA activity. For this, we first generated polyclonal antibody ( $\alpha$ pSer119) against phosphopeptide that encompasses the putative phosphorylation residue at Ser-119. This antibody revealed two major bands in the brain ( ${\sim}70$  and  ${\sim}50$ kDa), and the lower band was not detected in the brain lysate of  $IP_{3}K$ -A KO mice (Fig. 7A), suggesting that our phosphoantibody could specifically detect endogenous IP<sub>3</sub>K-A. In hippocampal-cultured neurons, forskolin treatment enhanced the band intensity compared with control, which was not detectable by the treatment of lambda protein phosphatase ( $\lambda$ PP) (Fig. 7B). In addition, exogenous GFP-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A-WT expressed in HEK293 cells was detected by  $\alpha$ pSer119 but not GFP-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A-S119A mutant (Fig. 7, C and D), demonstrating that  $\alpha$ pSer119 detects phosphorylation of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A at Ser-119, which is closely related to the PKA pathway.

To obtain further cellular evidence, we examined Ser-119 phosphorylation levels in HEK293 cells co-transfected with GFP-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A and PKA catalytic  $\beta$ -subunit wild type or an inactive mutant (33) (Fig. 8A, upper blot). When HEK293 cells transfected singly with GFP-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A-WT were immunoblotted with  $\alpha$ pS119 antibodies, a significant amount of phosphorylated IP<sub>3</sub>K-A was detected, suggesting that significant portions of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A were basally phosphorylated in HEK293 cells. IP<sub>3</sub>K-A phosphorylation was slightly increased upon co-expression with PKA catalytic subunit wild type, whereas phosphorylation was reduced by co-expression with an inactive catalytic subunit. In hippocampal culture neuron, H-89, a potent PKA inhibitor, blocked Ser-119 phosphorylation even in the forskolin treatment (Fig. 8B). These results together indicate that PKA directly phosphorylates IP<sub>3</sub>K-A at Ser-119 in vivo as well as in vitro. We next investigated how microtubule binding was reg-



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The amino acid numbering of the present study was done from rat sequences of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A. Note that amino acid sequences of human IP<sub>3</sub>K-A have two additional amino acids (Pro-89 and Ser-112) compared to the rodent.



rat hippocampal culture neuron



FIGURE 4. **IP<sub>3</sub>K-A distributes along microtubule structure, shown by immunocytochemistry and immunogold electron microscopy.** Representative images of rat hippocampal neurons (A-C: div 10, D-F: div 14) and double-labeled with anti-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A antibody (*red*) and anti-tubulin antibody (*green*). Scale bar: 20  $\mu$ m (d-f). Magnified images of Fig. 3, D-F. Scale bar: 10  $\mu$ m. G and H, representative immunogold electron microscopic images. IP<sub>3</sub>K-A specific antibody and gold particle-tagged secondary antibody were applied to the sections of 8-week-old rat brain. Sections were prepared by a freeze substitution method. IP<sub>3</sub>K-A-labeled gold particles (*yellow arrow;* G: gold particle diameter 6 nm) distributed on cross-sectional side of microtubules. *Den*, dendrite; Scale bar: G, 200 nm; (G1, G2) Magnified images of Fig. 3G. Scale bar: G1 and G2, 34 and 100 nm.

ulated by PKA-dependent phosphorylation. We mixed purified PKA catalytic subunit with purified GST-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A proteins (wild type and S119A mutant), and performed a co-sedimentation

assay. The PKA catalytic subunit significantly reduced the pellet portion of  $IP_3K$ -A wild type (Fig. 8, *C* and *E*; *lane 4*), but not S119A (Fig. 8, *C* and *E*; *lane 8*), phosphodeficient form, consist-





FIGURE 5. **Determination of microtubule binding regions within IP<sub>3</sub>K-A.** *A*, schematic figure depicts various constructs of GST-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A which were used in microtubule binding regions mapping assay. Protein-coding regions are depicted by *solid bars* and non-coding regions by *bent lines*. Numbers within the construct name denote the amino acid number from the N terminus. Constructs were designed to determine whether deletion regions or fragmented regions were essential components for microtubule binding. Microtubule binding intensity of each construct is presented by a + or – symbol. *B*, immunoblotting image of GST pull-down assay by GST antibody. By blotting with GST specific antibody, we checked the expression level of GST alone and GST-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A constructs (*white arrows* indicate fully expressed constructs). All constructs were detected at the expected size. *C*, immunoblotting image of GST pull-down assay with tubulin  $\alpha$  antibody. Tubulin-specific bands were not detected in 191–459,  $\Delta 67$ –161,  $\Delta 12$ –42, and  $\Delta 64$ –105 lanes. Additionally, 1–80,  $\Delta 132$ –160, and  $\Delta 161$ –193 are shown to have lower band intensities, compared with WT. To rule out the effect of dimerization by endogenous IP<sub>3</sub>K-A, we used IP<sub>3</sub>K-A knock-out mouse brain lysate. *D*, schematic figure indicates defined microtubule binding regions; 12–42, 64–105, 132–160, and 161–193.

ent with the results shown in Fig. 5. The PKA activity was verified by the amount of pSer119 IP<sub>3</sub>K-A level compared with total IP<sub>3</sub>K-A. We found a significant increase of phosphor-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A by PKA in GST-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A WT, but not in the S119A mutant (Fig. 8*D*). For quantification, we developed a new equation for the microtubule-enriched fractionation coefficient (MTeF-coefficient) (Fig. 8*F*). The higher MTeF-coefficient indicates stronger microtubule binding affinity. As seen in Fig. 8*F*, quantitative analysis showed that GST-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A-WT treated with PKA had lower MTeF-coefficient compared with control. In contrast, two groups of GST-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A-S119A had similar MTeF-coefficients regardless of PKA treatment, further confirming that PKA-dependent Ser-119 phosphorylation of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A directly inhibits its interaction with microtubules.

Phosphorylated Endogenous  $IP_3K-A$  Has Lower Binding Affinity toward Microtubules—Forskolin reduced the microtubule binding affinity of GFP-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A-WT in microtubule cosedimentation assay, but not GFP-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A-S119A (Fig. 6), and increased the phosphorylation of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A Ser-119 (Fig. 8*B*), suggesting that PKA-dependent phosphorylation of Ser-119 weakens microtubule binding affinity of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A. Accordingly, we monitored whether Ser-119 phosphorylation status of endogenous IP<sub>3</sub>K-A affected its microtubule binding. We performed tissue-based microtubule co-sedimentation assay for microtubule-enriched fractionation. Because our  $\alpha$ pSer119 detected

some nonspecific bands, we used both IP<sub>3</sub>K-A-WT and KO mouse brain lysates to distinguish the real IP<sub>3</sub>K-A band. Total IP<sub>3</sub>K-A was detected in both supernatant (Fig. 9A, lane 2), which is not associated with microtubule, as well as the pellet portion (Fig. 9A, lane 6), which is bound to microtubule. However, IP<sub>3</sub>K-A pSer119 was detected only in the supernatant portion (Fig. 9B, lane 2), but not in the pellet portion. The integrity of microtubule-enriched fractionation was verified by immunoblotting with tubulin  $\beta$ III and  $\beta$ -actin, indicating that these fractions included only microtubule and its binding proteins but not F-actin (Fig. 9C). We then determined MTeF-coefficients of both total IP<sub>3</sub>K-A-detected bands (34.25  $\pm$  4.08%; mean  $\pm$  S.E.) and phosphorylated IP<sub>3</sub>K-A-detected bands  $(3.59 \pm 0.80\%)$  suggesting that Ser-119-phosphorylated endogenous IP<sub>3</sub>K-A does not bind to microtubules (Fig. 9D). Taken together, our results demonstrate that IP<sub>3</sub>K-A is dissociated from microtubule by PKA-dependent Ser-119 phosphorylation (Fig. 9E).

#### DISCUSSION

 $IP_{3}K$ -A Is a Novel MAP Protein—In the present study, we identified tubulin as a novel binding protein of  $IP_{3}K$ -A through proteomic screening. Then, we confirmed its interaction by various *in vitro* and *in vivo* assays. Purified GST-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A full-length protein was co-sedimented with purified microtubule *in* 





FIGURE 6. **Interaction of microtubule with IP<sub>3</sub>K-A is regulated by phosphorylation of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A Ser119.** *A*, amino acid sequence alignment of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A from 100 to 139 including PKA consensus sequence. Note that amino acid sequences of human have two additional amino acids (Pro-89 and Ser-112), compared with rodent. All constructs in this study were originated from rat sequences. Consensus sequences, serine, and basic amino acids are denoted by *tiny solid bars*. *B*, immunoblotting analysis of tissue-based microtubule co-sedimentation assay of GFP-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A-WT or S119A with microtubule. In pellet portions, GFP-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A-WT (*lanes 2* and 4) was less pelleted than GFP-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A-S119A (*lanes 6* and 8). Moreover, forskolin-treated GFP-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A-WT (*lane 2*). *C*, pelleted tubulin levels were constant in the samples of GFP-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A-WT and S119A. *D*, immunoblots of the supernatant portion in *in vivo* microtubule co-sedimentation. The pellet portion sample was three times more concentrated than the supernatant portion. *E*, supernatant portions of tubulin levels were nearly constant between GFP-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A-WT and S119A.

*vitro* microtubule co-sedimentation assay (Fig. 2*B*), indicating that it directly bound to the microtubule without the need for other proteins. Interestingly, GST-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A increased the level of co-sedimented tubulin compared with GST control (Fig. 2*B*, *lanes 6* and *12*), suggesting that IP<sub>3</sub>K-A may enhance microtubule polymerization or bundling. Although additional experiments are required, this finding raised the possibility that IP<sub>3</sub>K-A could have the ability of microtubule bundling as well as F-actin bundling. Even though the dissociation constant of 3.99  $\mu$ M (Fig. 2*D*) obtained from the binding curve between microtubule and IP<sub>3</sub>K-A, this value was slightly higher than other MAPs, (tau: 0.15–0.57  $\mu$ M (34), MAP2: 1–3  $\mu$ M (35), doublecortin: ~2  $\mu$ M (36)). However, this value is reasonable, considering the limitation of *in vitro* binding assay and the discrepancy of the experimental conditions.

Many MAPs bind to the acidic tail of  $\alpha$ -tubulin through their basic amino acid residues such as lysine, histidine, and arginine (29). Indeed, IP<sub>3</sub>K-A has many basic amino acid residues within its microtubule binding regions. This basic property of micro-

tubule binding region of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A is clearly indicated by calculated isoelectric points (IP<sub>3</sub>K-A N terminus aa 1–190, pI 10.125;  $IP_{3}K$ -A full-length, pI 7.584; tubulin  $\alpha$ , pI 4.796; on-line site for calculation of isoelectric point), suggesting that electrostatic interactions are very important for their binding. Then the question arises how does Ser-119 phosphorylation interfere with the interaction of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A with microtubule? One possible mechanism could be phosphorylation-induced conformational change, which masks microtubule binding regions. Inconsistent with this possibility, the IP<sub>3</sub>K-A 106-131 deletion mutant, lacking Ser-119, still binds to microtubule (Fig. 5C), suggesting that this region does not directly contribute to the binding of microtubule or actually modulate conformational change. In addition, the microtubule binding region of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A is relatively broad, therefore; it would be difficult to modify protein-protein interactions by a change in a single electrostatic interaction. To reveal the detailed mechanism, the full-length molecular structure of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A, including its flexible N terminus, has to be resolved.





FIGURE 7. **The generation and specificity of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A pSer119 specific polyclonal antibody**. *A*, immunoblots of rat brain lysates with IP<sub>3</sub>K-A phosphoantibody ( $\alpha$ pSer119 IP<sub>3</sub>K-A). The polyclonal antibody was generated against phosphopeptide including pSer119. The specificity of  $\alpha$ pSer119 IP<sub>3</sub>K-A was confirmed using IP<sub>3</sub>K-A knock and wild type mouse brain lysate. *B*, immunoblots of rat hippocampal culture lysates with  $\alpha$ pSer119 IP<sub>3</sub>K-A.  $\alpha$ pSer119 IP<sub>3</sub>K-A detected bands in forskolin-treated samples.  $\alpha$ pSer119 IP<sub>3</sub>K-A no longer detected compulsory dephosphorylated samples by lambda protein phosphatase ( $\lambda$ PP). *C*, immunoblotting analysis of HEK293 cell lysates transfected either with GFP-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A-WT or S119A,  $\alpha$ pSer119 IP<sub>3</sub>K-A specific blots were detected only in GFP-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A-WT or specifically. *D*, immunoblotting with  $\alpha$ GFP was used as a loading control.

PKA-dependent Phosphorylation of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A and Interactions between IP<sub>3</sub>K-A and Microtubules-In vitro kinase assay of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A suggested that Ser-119 is phosphorylated by PKA, enhancing its enzyme activity (9, 11). However, there has been no direct evidence to indicate that this phosphorylation really occurs in the neuron. In this study, we demonstrated for the first time in vivo phosphorylation of Ser-119 using newly generated phosphoantibody (Fig. 8B). Considering the fact that PKA is involved in various forms of synaptic plasticity (37), PKA-dependent phosphorylation of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A may play an important role in Ca<sup>2+</sup>-mediated signal transduction in synaptic plasticity by converting IP<sub>3</sub> to IP<sub>4</sub>. IP<sub>3</sub> is known as an important second messenger that mediates Ca<sup>2+</sup> release from the ER to the cytosol (38), while  $IP_4$  is another messenger responsible for  $Ca^{2+}$  entry through the voltage-gated calcium channel (4, 39, 40). Previous electrophysiological studies showed that IP<sub>3</sub>and IP<sub>4</sub>-mediated Ca<sup>2+</sup> signaling is responsible for long-term synaptic plasticity. 2-APB (2-aminoethyldiphenyl borate), IP<sub>3</sub> receptor blocker, showed no LTP (41) and  $\omega$ -conotoxin, N-type voltage-gated Ca<sup>2+</sup> channel blocker, reduced LTP (42) in hippocampal slices, suggesting that local high concentrations of  $Ca^{2+}$  are important for LTP expression and that IP<sub>3</sub>- and IP<sub>4</sub>-

mediated signaling is necessary. Besides, changes in Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentration could regulate microtubule polymerization rates (43, 44). Microtubules polymerize at low concentrations of Ca<sup>2+</sup> whereas microtubules depolymerize at high concentrations of Ca<sup>2+</sup>. Therefore, PKA-dependent Ser-119 phosphorylation of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A may mediate transient local calcium regulations for temporal regulation of synaptic plasticity and microtubule dynamics.

In addition, we found that PKA-dependent phosphorylation reduces the microtubule binding affinity of  $IP_3K-A$  (Figs. 8 and 9). So far, known functions in phosphorylation of  $IP_3K-A$  are limited to the regulation for its enzyme activity. The present study extends our knowledge and interests by revealing another role of  $IP_3K-A$  phosphorylation. This type of phosphoregulation is very similar to other MAPs; for example, tau, MAP2, and doublecortin (28–31). It is well known that dysregulation of MAP phosphorylation leads to diverse spectra of pathological effects, the most famous example being the hyperphosphorylation of tau induces the formation of neurofibrillary tangles in Alzheimer disease (28, 45). Many kinases are known to be involved in the phosphorylation of MAPs; for example, glycogen-synthase kinase 3 (GSK3), cyclin-dependent kinases





FIGURE 8. **Catalytic subunit of PKA reduces microtubule binding affinity of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A** *in vitro.**A***, immunoblotting analysis of HEK293 cell lysates. GFP-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A was co-transfected with PKA catalytic subunit constructs (WT or kinase activity dead mutant). Immunoblotting with \alphaGFP was used as a loading control.** *B***, immunoblotting image of rat hippocampal culture lysates in the presence of 10 \muM H-89, a potent PKA inhibitor. Pretreatment of H-89 blocked Ser-119 phosphorylation despite forskolin (FSK; 50 \muM). Immunoblotting with total \alphaIP<sub>3</sub>K-A was used as a loading control.** *C***, Coomassie-stained gel image of** *in vitro* **microtubule co-sedimentation assay in the treatment of PKA catalytic subunit. PKA catalytic subunit reduced microtubule binding affinity of GST-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A-WT (***lane 4***), compared with control group (***lane 2***). GST-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A-S119 was evenly pelleted (***lanes 6* **and 8), regardless of PKA catalytic subunit. Treated PKA catalytic subunit is denoted by a** *white arrowhead***.** *D***, effects of PKA catalytic subunits on IP<sub>3</sub>K-A Ser-119 phosphorylation. Immunoblotting with total \alphaIP<sub>3</sub>K-A was used as a loading control.** *E***, immunoblotting of** *in vitro* **microtubule co-sedimentation assay, show that band patterns are similar to the above Coomassie-stained gel image.** *F***, microtubule-enriched fractionation coefficient (MTeF-coefficient) (%) = intensity of pellet portion/(intensity of supernatant portion + intensity of pellet portion) × 100. Higher MTeF-coefficient means stronger microtubule binding affinity. The histogram shows statistically significant reductions of GST-IP<sub>3</sub>K-A pelleting by the treatment of PKA catalytic subunit's test). Data are presented as mean ± S.E.** 

(CDKs), microtubule-affinity-regulating kinases (MARKs), extracellular signal-regulated kinases (ERKs), CAMKII, PKC, and PKA (28–30). Particularly, PKA is involved in the phosphorylation of various MAPs, including tau, MAP2, and doublecortin (28–30). Interestingly, neuronal type II PKA binds indirectly to microtubule by MAP2-mediated interaction in the neuron (46), suggesting that the microtubule may function as a kind of spatial compartment, mediating quick and efficient reactions of phosphorylation between PKA and its substrate, IP<sub>3</sub>K-A.

Neuronal Function of PKA-dependent Phosphorylation of  $IP_3K$ -A and Interactions between  $IP_3K$ -A and Microtubules— How does PKA-dependent phosphorylation of  $IP_3K$ -A and





FIGURE 9. **Phosphorylated endogenous IP<sub>3</sub>K-A does not precipitate in tissue-based microtubule co-sedimentation assay.** *A*, immunoblots of tissue-based microtubule co-sedimentation assay. *A*, immunoblots of tissue-based microtubule co-sedimentation assay with IP<sub>3</sub>K-A total antibody. Immunoblots of total IP<sub>3</sub>K-A is detected in both supernatant (*lane 2*) and pellet (*lane 6*) fractions. We used both IP<sub>3</sub>K-A-WT and KO mouse brain lysates to distinguish the real IP<sub>3</sub>K-A band, because our pSer119 polyclonal antibody detected several nonspecific bands. *B*, immunoblots of pS119 IP<sub>3</sub>K-A antibody were detected in the supernatant fraction (*lane 2*), not in the pellet fraction (*lane 6*). This discrepancy suggested that phosphorylated endogenous IP<sub>3</sub>K-A does not bind to microtubule. *C*, blots with tubulin *β*III and *β*-actin antibodies indicated that samples of microtubule-enriched fractionation were properly prepared. *D*, histogram of microtubule-enriched fractionation coefficient of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A antibodies. In these blots (independent experiments, *n* = 3), mean band intensity of total IP<sub>3</sub>K-A was 34.25 ± 4.08% and to f pS119 IP<sub>3</sub>K-A was 3.59 ± 0.80% MTeF-coefficient (Student's *t* test, \*\*\*, *p* < 0.001). Data are presented as mean ± S.E.*E*, schematic figure represents IP<sub>3</sub>K-A dissociated from microtubule by PKA-dependent Ser-119 phosphorylation.

microtubule interactions contribute to neuronal functions? PKA plays critical roles in the integration and regulation of multiple synaptic events in long-term potentiation (LTP) (37, 47). We recently showed that IP<sub>3</sub>K-A is accumulated in dendritic spines and reorganizes F-actin under chemical long-term potentiation (cLTP), thereby reorganizing F-actin and recruiting active Rac1 into dendritic spines (13). In the present study, we showed that PKA phosphorylated Ser-119 of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A in the presence of forskolin (Fig. 8B). Considering that forskolin induces cLTP in hippocampus (48), Ser-119 phosphorylation and its microtubule dissociation may be involved in the spatial regulation of IP<sub>3</sub>K-A. Similarly, Lfc, Rho-specific GEF (Guanine Nucleotide Exchange Factor), utilizes microtubules as its dendritic anchor for activity-dependent synaptic targeting (49). Additionally, PKA and EB3, microtubule plus end binding protein, also use microtubule as their dendritic anchors by MAP2mediated binding (37, 50).

In conclusion,  $IP_3K$ -A is a novel MAP, and its microtubule binding affinity is negatively regulated by PKA-dependent

cances of microtubule binding of  $IP_3K$ -A and its phosphoregulation remain unclear, our findings may provide novel regulatory mechanisms for activity-dependent neuronal events such as synaptic targeting and local calcium signaling. Further study will focus on understanding the detailed molecular mechanisms responsible for  $IP_3K$ -A phosphorylation and its effect on synaptic plasticity.

phosphorylation. Although physiological and cellular signifi-

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