

# Type IV P-type ATPases Distinguish Mono- versus Diacyl Phosphatidylserine Using a Cytofacial Exit Gate in the Membrane Domain<sup>\*[5]</sup>

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**Background:** Type IV P-type ATPases (P4-ATPases) Drs2 and Dnf1 are known to recognize different phospholipid headgroups.

**Results:** Dnf1 preferentially recognizes lysophospholipid, but mutations in transmembrane (TM) segments 1, 2, and 3 allow recognition of diacyl phosphatidylserine.

**Conclusion:** Residues within TM1–3 cooperate with the proline + 4 residue in TM4 to define P4-ATPase specificity.

**Significance:** We provide insight into how a P-type ATPase subgroup evolved a new substrate.

Type IV P-type ATPases (P4-ATPases) use the energy from ATP to “flip” phospholipid across a lipid bilayer, facilitating membrane trafficking events and maintaining the characteristic plasma membrane phospholipid asymmetry. Preferred translocation substrates for the budding yeast P4-ATPases Dnf1 and Dnf2 include lysophosphatidylcholine, lysophosphatidylethanolamine, derivatives of phosphatidylcholine and phosphatidylethanolamine containing a 7-nitro-2-1,3-benzoxadiazol-4-yl (NBD) group on the *sn*-2 C6 position, and were presumed to include phosphatidylcholine and phosphatidylethanolamine species with two intact acyl chains. We previously identified several mutations in Dnf1 transmembrane (TM) segments 1 through 4 that greatly enhance recognition and transport of NBD phosphatidylserine (NBD-PS). Here we show that most of these Dnf1 mutants cannot flip diacylated PS to the cytosolic leaflet to establish PS asymmetry. However, mutation of a highly conserved asparagine (Asn-550) in TM3 allowed Dnf1 to restore plasma membrane PS asymmetry in a strain deficient for the P4-ATPase Drs2, the primary PS flippase. Moreover, Dnf1 N550 mutants could replace the Drs2 requirement for growth at low temperature. A screen for additional Dnf1 mutants capable of replacing Drs2 function identified substitutions of TM1 and 2 residues, within a region called the exit gate, that permit recognition of dually acylated PS. These TM1, 2, and 3 residues coordinate with the “proline + 4” residue within TM4 to determine substrate preference at the exit gate. Moreover, residues from Atp8a1, a mammalian ortholog of Drs2, in these positions allow PS recognition by Dnf1. These studies indicate that Dnf1 poorly recognizes diacylated phospholipid and define key substitutions enabling recognition of endogenous PS.

Active transport of substrates across lipid bilayers is an essential process for cell survival. Both prokaryotes and eukaryotes spend considerable energy to actively transport ions, nutrients, waste products, and lipids across the cellular membranes. P-type ATPases include a large family of ion transporters involved in establishing gradients across membranes at the expense of ATP. These ion gradients are required for establishing the resting membrane potential in neurons, signaling at the neural synapse, muscle contraction, and acidification of the stomach lumen.

P-type ATPases cycle through conformational states described by the Post-Albers cycle and characteristically form a phosphorylated intermediate when the  $\gamma$ -phosphate from ATP is transferred temporarily to a conserved aspartate residue on the protein. As the cycle proceeds forward, the phosphate is hydrolyzed from the protein, ensuring a single direction in the reaction cycle. P-type ATPases are grouped into five subclasses on the basis of substrate specificity (1). Type I, II, and III transport heavy metals, cations, and protons, respectively. Interestingly, the type IV (or P4) ATPases are only present in eukaryotic cells and flip phospholipid molecules across the membrane bilayer (flippases). Type V has unknown substrate specificity and is also only present in eukaryotes.

The P4-ATPase<sup>3</sup> family has biological functions in establishing and maintaining phospholipid asymmetry and facilitating vesicle-mediated protein trafficking (2). In mammals, P4-ATPases have been implicated in spermatogenesis (3), B cell development (4, 5), neuronal growth (6), hippocampal-dependent learning (7), and cell migration (8). They also play roles in pathological conditions such as progressive hearing loss (9), neurodegenerative diseases (10), intellectual disability disorder (11), obesity and type II diabetes (12), intrahepatic cholestasis (13), and male infertility (14). Mammals have 14 (sometimes 15)

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[5] This article contains supplemental Tables S1 and S2.

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<sup>3</sup> The abbreviations used are: P4-ATPase, type IV P-type ATPase; PL, phospholipid; PS, phosphatidylserine; PC, phosphatidylcholine; PE, phosphatidylethanolamine; P + 4, proline + 4; TM, transmembrane; SD, synthetic minimal medium; NBD, 7-nitro-2-1,3-benzoxadiazol-4-yl; DLPS, dilaurylphosphatidylserine; PapB, papuamide B.

P4-ATPases, whereas *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* has five (Drs2, Dnf1, Dnf2, Dnf3, and Neo1) (1, 3, 15).

A central conundrum involving P-type ATPases is how they have evolved the ability to transport such a wide range of substrates, from ions to phospholipids. Ion transporters use a highly conserved ion binding site within the center of the transmembrane domain highlighted by the crystal structures of the Ca<sup>2+</sup> ATPase (16). We have recently described a series of residues involved in defining the substrate specificity of P4-ATPases that implicated a novel transport mechanism for a P-type ATPase using two gates to select phospholipid on opposing membrane faces (17, 18). Substrate-selecting residues near the extracellular or luminal leaflet surface are proposed to form an “entry gate” where phospholipid is initially selected for transport, and substrate-selecting residues near the cytosolic leaflet surface are proposed to form the “exit gate.”

Drs2 and its mammalian homologs Atp8a1/Atp8a2 are flippases that catalyze “flip” of phosphatidylserine (PS) and phosphatidylethanolamine (PE) within the Golgi-endosomal system (although PS seems to be the preferred substrate) (19–23). Even though Drs2 is closely related to Dnf1, they differ in their substrate specificity and localization. Dnf1 and Dnf2 recognize and transport lyso-PC (24), lysophosphatidylethanolamine (25), and C6-NBD derivatives of these lipids (26), but it is unknown whether these pumps recognize intact, dually acylated PC and PE. Our first description of residues involved in phospholipid selection highlighted a residue of particular interest: the “proline + 4” (P + 4) position in TM4. This residue is four amino acids away from a proline that is completely conserved in all P-type ATPases. The presence of a tyrosine at the P + 4 position restricted PS flip, whereas a phenylalanine allowed PS flip. Surprisingly, Atp8a1 and Atp8a2 have a leucine at this position. When we introduced a leucine into either Dnf1 or Drs2, the overall activity of these proteins was reduced, but we did not observe a change in the specificity.

Here we describe new Dnf1 variants that are capable of flipping endogenous, unlabeled PS. Surprisingly, we observed a striking difference among Dnf1 variants capable of flipping NBD-labeled PS in their ability to restore the endogenous PS asymmetry to a *drs2*Δ mutant. Identification of new Dnf1 alleles capable of supporting endogenous PS flip revealed substitutions corresponding to the analogous residues in the mammalian PS flippases Atp8a1/Atp8a2. Coordination between the TM4 P + 4 and residues on TMs 1, 2, and 3 define a portion of a phospholipid substrate binding site at the exit gate used by P4-ATPases.

## EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

**Reagents**—All lipids were purchased from Avanti Polar Lipids, Inc. 5-fluoroorotic acid was purchased from Zymo Research. Duramycin was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. Papuamide B was a gift from Raymond Andersen (University of British Columbia).

**Cold Resistance Screen**—To generate random mutations, we used procedures reported previously (27). Briefly, we cotransformed a *dnf1,2,3Δdrs2Δ* strain (ZHY704) with mutagenized PCR products and pRS313-DNF1 gapped with restriction enzymes AflIII and MluI to allow for gap repair through homol-

ogous recombination. The transformants were plated onto synthetic dropout plates with 5-fluoroorotic acid, grown for 4 days at 20 °C, and then colonies were picked into 96-well plates. We compared growth of the strains expressing *dnf1* mutants strains to those expressing WT *DNF1* or WT *DRS2* and sequenced *dnf1* alleles from the strains that grew strongly at 20 °C.

**Strains and Culture**—*Escherichia coli* strain DH5α was used for molecular cloning. All strains and plasmids used in this study are listed in supplemental Tables S1 and S2. Yeast strains were cultured with glucose in standard rich medium (yeast extract, peptone, dextrose (YPD)) or synthetic minimal medium (SD) at the indicated temperatures. Yeast transformation used the lithium acetate method (28).

**Growth Assay**—To test for drug sensitivity, mid-log phase yeast was distributed into 96-well plates at 0.1 *A*<sub>600</sub>/ml. Plates were incubated at 30 °C for 20 h, and the *A*<sub>600</sub>/ml was measured using a multimode plate reader Synergy HT (Bio-Tek, Winooski, VT). Relative growth was determined by dividing *A*<sub>600</sub> values from drug-treated cells by mock-treated cells in the assay.

**Serial Dilutions**—50,000 cells were spotted with 10-fold serial dilutions onto YPD plates, YPD + 100 μg/ml calcofluor white, SD, or SD + 5-fluoroorotic acid. Plates were grown at 20 °C or 30 °C for 3–5 days before imaging.

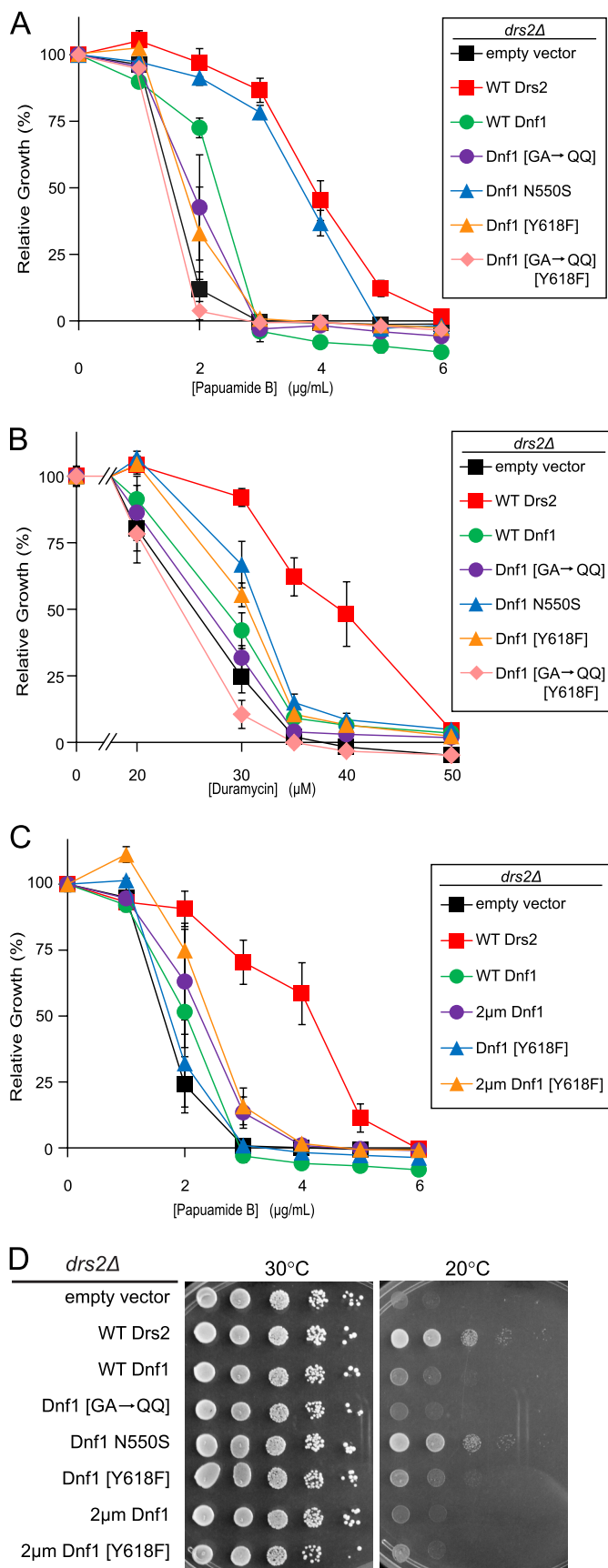
**Lipid Uptake**—Lipid uptake was performed essentially as described previously (29). Briefly, overnight cultures were subcultured to 0.15 *A*<sub>600</sub>/ml and allowed to grow to early mid-log phase. 500 μl of cells was harvested, resuspended in ice-cold SD medium containing 2 μg/ml NBD lipid (~2.5 μM), and incubated on ice for 30 min. Cells were washed twice with SA medium (SD medium, 2% sorbitol (w/v), 20 mM Na<sub>3</sub>N and 4% BSA (w/v)), washed once with SA medium, and then resuspended in SA medium prior to analysis by flow cytometry.

To assay lyso-PS (similar to Ref. 30) and dilauryl-PS uptake, overnight cultures of *cho1Δ* yeast were subcultured to 0.15 *A*<sub>600</sub>/ml and allowed to grow to mid-log phase (0.5–0.8 *A*<sub>600</sub>/ml). 1500 μl of cells were pelleted, resuspended in SD medium containing the indicated final concentration of lyso-PS (1-oleoyl-2-hydroxy-*sn*-glycero-3-phospho-L-serine) or DLPS (1,2-dilauroyl-*sn*-glycero-3-phospho-L-serine) (added from a 10 mg/ml stock in 0.1% Nonidet P-40), and incubated at 30 °C with shaking (or on ice) for 1 h. To end the phospholipid uptake, we added SA medium + 4% BSA (w/v) at a 1:1 ratio with the reaction. The cells were pelleted and resuspended once in SA medium + 4% BSA (w/v), followed by SA medium (no BSA), and, finally, pelleted and resuspended in imaging buffer.

**Flow Cytometry**—We used a BD LSRII-3 laser (BD Biosciences) using BD FACSDiva v6.1.3. NBD lipid uptake was measured with the FITC filter set (530/30 bandpass with a 525 long-pass). Immediately prior to analysis, propidium iodide was added at a final concentration of 5 μM. At least 10,000 events were analyzed using forward/side scatter to identify single cells and propidium iodide fluorescence to exclude dead cells.

**Fluorescence Microscopy**—Images were collected with an Axioplan microscope (Carl Zeiss, Thornwood, NY) using a Hamamatsu charge coupled device camera and MetaMorph software. To observe GFP-tagged proteins, cells were grown to mid-log phase, pelleted, and resuspended in imaging buffer (10

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**FIGURE 1. Dnf1 variants differ in their suppression of *drs2Δ* PS asymmetry defects and cold-sensitive growth.** A–C, a *drs2Δ* strain harboring either an empty vector or a vector expressing the indicated Drs2 or Dnf1 variant,

mm Tris-HCl (pH 7.4), 2% glucose (w/v)). An aliquot of cells was spread onto slides and visualized using a GFP filter set.

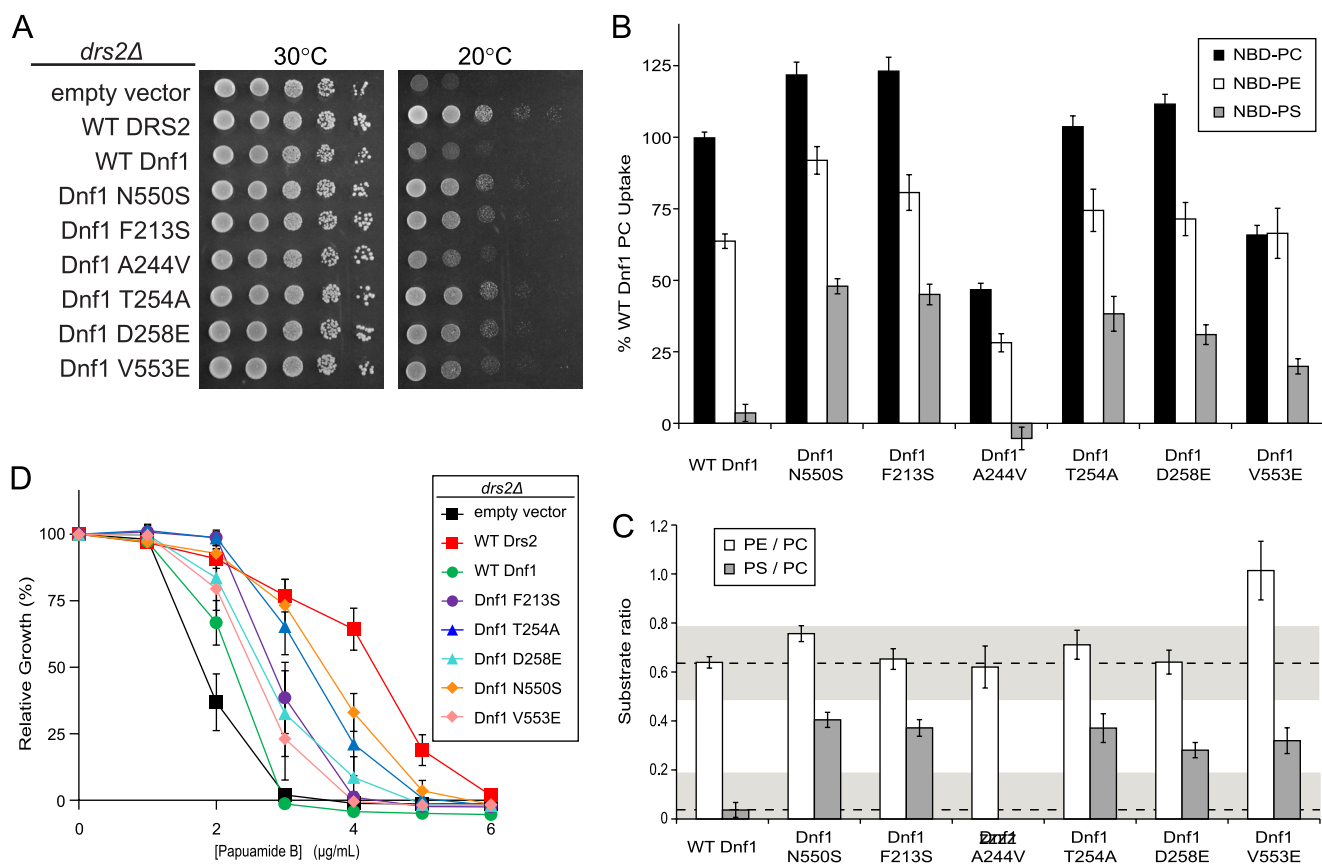
**Data Analysis**—Within each NBD-phospholipid (NBD-PL) uptake experiment, at least three independently isolated transformants containing the same construct were assayed. The data from at least three separate experiments were reported as mean  $\pm$  S.E. Uptake of NBD-PL for a *dnf1,2Δ* strain with an empty vector was subtracted, and NBD-PC uptake by WT Dnf1 in the same strain was used to normalize the data. Each value is reported relative to NBD-PC uptake by WT Dnf1 at 30 min. Substrate preference ratios were determined by the dividing NBD-PE or NBD-PS uptake values by the NBD-PC uptake value for each independent replicate ( $n \geq 9$ ). For drug sensitivity assays, at least two independently isolated transformants were assayed in at least two separate experiments, and data are reported as mean  $\pm$  S.E.

## RESULTS

**Dnf1 N550S Flips Endogenous PS**—Deletion of *DRS2* disrupts plasma membrane asymmetry for PS and PE. Phospholipid asymmetry can be monitored by sensitivity to pore-forming toxins that specifically interact with either PE (duramycin) or PS (papuamide B, PapB) exposed on the outer leaflet of the plasma membrane. We reported previously that WT Dnf1 and Dnf1[Y618F] (a P + 4 mutation; the brackets are used to indicate the replacement of a Dnf1 residue with a Drs2 residue) were unable to restore the phospholipid asymmetry of a *drs2Δ* strain even though Dnf1[Y618F] was capable of NBD-PS transport (17). Importantly, the reciprocal change in Drs2 specifically reduced the ability of this pump to flip endogenous PS, supporting a role for the P + 4 residue in recognizing the phospholipid headgroup (17). We then tested other Dnf1 mutants reported to transport NBD-PS (18), and like Dnf1[Y618F], neither Dnf1[GA→QQ] (a TM1 entry gate mutation) nor Dnf1[GA→QQ, Y618F] were able to restore PapB resistance and, therefore, PS asymmetry, to a *drs2Δ* strain (Fig. 1A). Incredibly, Dnf1 N550S (a TM3 exit gate mutation) was unique among the Dnf1 mutants that recognize NBD-PS in its ability to fully restore the PS asymmetry of a *drs2Δ* strain to near WT levels (Fig. 1A).

The N550S influence on membrane asymmetry was rather specific to PS because Dnf1 N550S conferred only a slight increase in duramycin resistance relative to the other Dnf1 mutants (Fig. 1B). Thus, PE asymmetry was not fully restored in *drs2Δ* cells expressing Dnf1 N550S. Even when overexpressed from a 2- $\mu\text{m}$  plasmid, neither WT Dnf1 nor Dnf1[Y618F] were able to correct the PS asymmetry defect of *drs2Δ* as well as Dnf1 N550S (compare Fig. 1A to C). This suggested that Dnf1[Y618F] was unable to transport endogenous PS, although it was capable of NBD-PS transport.

were grown for 20 h at 30 °C with increasing concentrations of papuamide B (A and C) or duramycin (B). Among Dnf1 variants competent for NBD-PS transport, Dnf1 N550S is uniquely capable of restoring plasma membrane asymmetry in *drs2Δ* better than WT Dnf1 for PS asymmetry (A) but not PE asymmetry (B). C, overexpressing WT Dnf1 or Dnf1[Y618F] provides minor suppression of the PS asymmetry defect. D, growth of *drs2Δ* harboring the indicated Drs2 or Dnf1 variants at 30 °C or 20 °C. Dnf1 N550S suppresses *drs2Δ* cold-sensitive growth better than WT Dnf1 or other Dnf1 NBD-PS-transporting alleles.



**FIGURE 2. Dnf1 suppressors of *drs2Δ* cold-sensitive growth transport NBD-PS across the plasma membrane and restore endogenous PS asymmetry.** *A*, growth of *drs2Δ* expressing the indicated Drs2 and Dnf1 variants at 30 °C or 20 °C. *B*, *dnf1Δdnf2Δ* cells expressing the indicated Dnf1 variants were incubated with NBD-phospholipid for 30 min at 4 °C as described under "Experimental Procedures." The amount of lipid transported was normalized to NBD-PC uptake by WT Dnf1. *C*, the data shown in *B* was graphed as the ratio of NBD-PE to NBD-PC uptake (open bars) or NBD-PS to NBD-PC uptake (gray bars) to assess relative changes in substrate preference. The dotted lines are the ratios for WT Dnf1, and the shaded region above and below these lines are confidence intervals. Values extending outside of the confidence intervals represent a significant change in substrate specificity. *D*, the Dnf1 variants indicated were tested for their ability to restore PapB resistance (PS asymmetry) to a *drs2Δ* strain. The Dnf1 suppressors of *drs2Δ* cold-sensitive growth restore PS asymmetry better than WT Dnf1.

Because Drs2 is required for growth at 20 °C, we also tested the ability of the Dnf1 NBD-PS-transporting alleles to suppress the cold-sensitive growth defect. Again, only Dnf1 N550S was capable of suppressing the *drs2Δ* cold sensitivity (Fig. 1D). The localization patterns and expression levels of these Dnf1 mutants were similar and, therefore, unlikely to account for the observed phenotypic differences (18). Therefore, the ability to flip endogenous PS and restore membrane asymmetry *in vivo* correlated with the suppression of *drs2Δ* cold sensitivity.

**Dnf1 Suppressors of Drs2 Function**—We previously used an extensive mutagenesis screen targeted to TM3–4 in Dnf1 and identified several residues within this region involved in NBD-PS selection (18). The observation that Dnf1 N550S was uniquely capable of recognizing endogenous PS and suppressing *drs2Δ* cold-sensitive growth suggested that a screen for *dnf1* alleles that suppress *drs2Δ* cold-sensitive growth would identify additional changes, allowing Dnf1 to flip endogenous PS. Random mutagenesis targeted to TM1–2 produced about 500 *dnf1* mutants (of 5000 transformants) that supported growth of a *dnf1,2,3Δdrs2Δ* strain at 20 °C. We selected 20% of the colonies that were largest, picked these into liquid culture, and grew the strains at 20 °C. We recovered 25 strains that grew similarly to *dnf1,2,3Δdrs2Δ* harboring WT DRS2 at 20 °C. From these strains we sequenced the DNFI constructs, recovering 17

alleles coding for single amino acid substitutions. There were four positions at which we recovered multiple alleles encoding the same amino acid substitution: F213S, A244V, T254A, and D258E. Random mutagenesis was also targeted to TM3–4 in Dnf1. Screening a similar number of *dnf1* mutants yielded only a single new Dnf1 substitution that strongly suppressed *drs2Δ* (Dnf1 V553E). Targeting random mutagenesis to TM5–6 failed to produce *dnf1* mutants capable of strongly suppressing *drs2Δ* cold sensitivity. Except for A244V, these suppressor alleles each arose independently because the codons recovered were different.

We next transformed these DNFI alleles into a *drs2Δ* strain to determine whether the suppression was plasmid-linked or extragenic (Fig. 2A). In fact, DNFI A244V failed to suppress *drs2Δ* cold sensitivity any better than WT DNFI, and so the original mutation was not plasmid-linked. Each of the other alleles did suppress the cold sensitivity of a *drs2Δ* strain, although to varying degrees (Fig. 2A). We then assayed the NBD-PL uptake activity for each of the new *dnf1* alleles in a *dnf1,2Δ* background. With the exception of Dnf1 A244V, we observed an increase in the NBD-PS uptake for each Dnf1 mutant. Most of the Dnf1 mutants were able to translocate NBD-PC and NBD-PE at near WT levels, although Dnf1 A244V had a reduced activity for all substrates and Dnf1 V553E dis-

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played a reduction in NBD-PC uptake activity (Fig. 2B). A measure of substrate preference independent of overall activity can be obtained by plotting the uptake ratios of NBD-PE to NBD-PC and NBD-PS to NBD-PC (Fig. 2C) (18). Ratios outside of the shaded confidence interval are considered significant changes in substrate preference. By these criteria, the N550S, F213S, T254A, D258E, and V553E mutants have a significantly increased ability to recognize NBD-PS relative to WT Dnf1, and V553E also showed an increased preference for NBD-PE, caused by reduced uptake of NBD-PC.

Because Dnf1 N550S was capable of flipping NBD-PS (18), suppressing *drs2Δ* cold sensitivity (Fig. 1D), and flipping endogenous PS (Fig. 1A), whereas Dnf1[Y618F] could only flip NBD-PS, we suspected that the new Dnf1 cold-sensitive suppressor alleles would also flip endogenous PS. In fact, these mutants displayed a range of PapB resistance with the strongest being the original N550S, closely followed by T254A (Fig. 2D). Dnf1 F213S, Dnf1 D258E, and Dnf1 V553E provided greater PapB resistance than WT Dnf1 but not as strong as T254A.

**Recognition of Mono- versus Diacylated Phospholipid**—Each of these *dnf1* mutants were competent for NBD-PS uptake but displayed varying resistance to PapB. We speculated that Dnf1 N550S and Dnf1 T254A were capable of recognizing endogenous, unlabeled PS, whereas Dnf1[Y618F] and Dnf1[GA→QQ] were unable to do so. To test this possibility, we made use of GFP-LactC2, a probe that binds specifically to PS, and a *cho1Δ* strain (30, 31). *CHO1* (*PSS1*) encodes the phosphatidylserine synthase in *S. cerevisiae*, and *cho1Δ* mutants completely lack PS (32, 33). GFP-LactC2 localizes primarily to the inner leaflet of the plasma membrane of wild-type cells but is diffusely localized to the cytosol in *cho1Δ* cells (Fig. 3A) (30). A line scan of fluorescence intensity through the cells clearly shows peaks for the plasma membrane of the wild-type cell that is lacking in the *cho1Δ* cells. When *cho1Δ* cells are supplemented with lyso-PS applied extracellularly at 4 °C, GFP-LactC2 is recruited to the plasma membrane because this substrate is flipped to the cytosolic leaflet (30). The low temperature is sufficient to block endocytosis and reduce the activity of flippases that could pump the lyso-PS back to the outer leaflet (34).

Using a *cho1Δdrs2Δ* strain carrying an extra copy of WT *DNF1*, lyso-PS was rapidly flipped across the plasma membrane at 4 °C allowing GFP-LactC2 recruitment to the cytosolic leaflet of the plasma membrane within 5 min of substrate addition (Fig. 3B). In contrast, DLPS (C12 fatty acyl chains in the *sn-1* and *sn-2* positions) was not appreciably flipped across the membrane, and GFP-LactC2 remained mostly cytosolic up to 150 min of incubation. We then tested whether Dnf1 N550S, Dnf1[Y618F], or Dnf1 T254A were capable of transporting dually acylated DLPS. Consistent with the ability to restore plasma membrane PS asymmetry, DLPS was flipped into the cell by Dnf1 N550S and Dnf1 T254A but not by Dnf1[Y618F]. GFP-LactC2 plasma membrane fluorescence was weak for Dnf1 N550S cells incubated with DLPS, but the Dnf1 T254A cells treated with DLPS displayed a more robust LactC2 plasma membrane fluorescence. Line scans for cells expressing Dnf1 N550S and Dnf1 T254A and incubated 150 min with DLPS showed peaks of enrichment at the plasma membrane that was similar to the same cells treated with lyso-PS. Lyso-PS was

quickly taken up across the plasma membrane of cells expressing each Dnf1 variant (Fig. 3B).

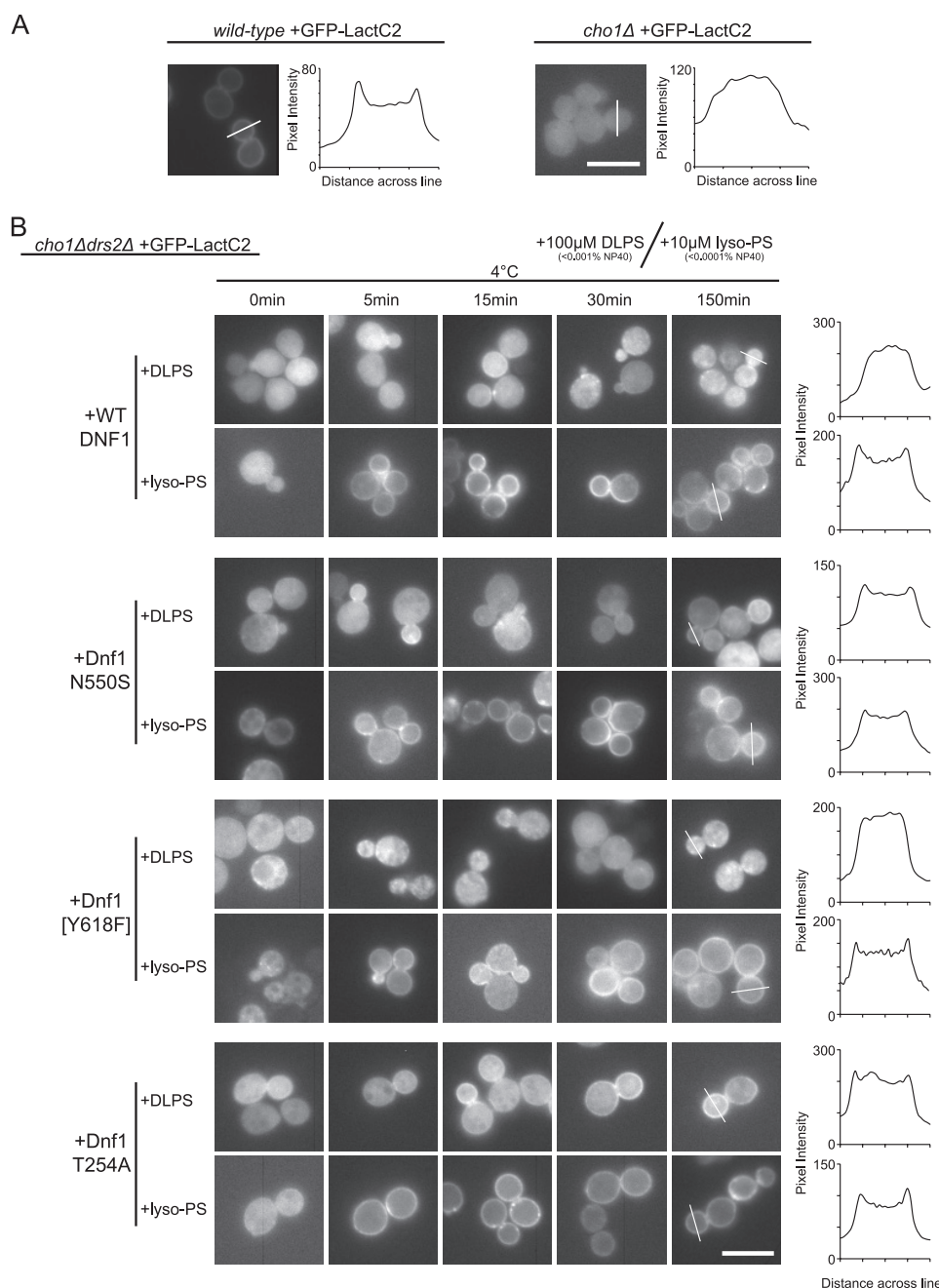
Lyso-PS flip was partially mediated by Dnf1 and Dnf2 even though Dnf1 recognizes NBD-PS poorly. After 30 min of incubation with a *cho1Δ dnf1,2Δ* strain at 4 °C, lyso-PS crossed the membrane sufficiently to recruit the GFP-LactC2, but it was at least 4-fold slower than with Dnf1 and Dnf2 present (Fig. 4A compared with Fig. 3). This is consistent with a previous report suggesting that yeast cells have another undefined transporter at the plasma membrane capable of taking up NBD-PS or lyso-PS that is independent of Dnf1,2,3 and Drs2 (35). For reasons that are unclear, we could not transform the *cho1Δ dnf1,2Δ* strain with plasmids carrying functional alleles of *DNF1*, whereas empty plasmid transformants were readily obtained. Because Dnf1 appears to be toxic to the *cho1Δ dnf1,2Δ* strain, we could not assay the Dnf1 variants for lipid uptake in this background.

We next performed similar experiments at 30 °C, a condition that permits endocytosis, allowing the lyso-PS or DLPS to enter the luminal leaflet of the Golgi-endosomal system. In *cho1Δdnf1,2Δ*, after 1 h at 30 °C, both the lyso-PS- and DLPS-treated cells displayed GFP-LactC2 localized to the plasma membrane (Fig. 4B). We suspected that this may be due to the lipid being flipped when it reached Drs2 in the Golgi or early endosome. To test this possibility, we examined GFP-LactC2 localization in *cho1Δdrs2Δ* cells supplemented with either lyso-PS or DLPS at 30 °C. In the absence of Drs2 or in the presence of Drs2[QQ→GA] (strongly deficient for PS recognition (18)), we observed no recruitment of GFP-LactC2 to the plasma membrane of cells incubated with DLPS (Fig. 4C). GFP-LactC2 was recruited to the plasma membrane of cells incubated with lyso-PS.

In total, these data indicate that Dnf1 and Dnf2 are unable to flip dually acylated PS across the plasma membrane but have a weak capacity to flip lyso-PS or NBD-PS. One class of mutations in Dnf1 (e.g. Y618F) enhances recognition of NBD-PS but does not allow PS recognition. A second class of mutations in Dnf1 (e.g. N550S and T254A) strongly enhances recognition of NBD-PS and endogenous PS. Drs2, in contrast, flips endogenous PS and DLPS efficiently.

**P4-ATPase Phospholipid Recognition with P + 4 Leucine**—An unresolved question regarding the mechanism of phospholipid recognition involves the “P + 4 position” in TM4. The Drs2 homologs Atp8a1 and Atp8a2 also preferentially flip PS, but have a leucine at the P + 4 position rather than a phenylalanine (19, 21). Substitution of leucine for Tyr-618 or Phe-511 (P + 4 residues) in Dnf1 or Drs2, respectively, causes a reduction in overall activity with no apparent influence on PS recognition (17). Several of the *drs2Δ* suppressor mutations we identified in Dnf1 through unbiased, random mutagenesis (Fig. 2) were substitutions for the identical residues in Atp8a1 and/or Atp8a2 (Fig. 5A, red boxes). These mutations allowed recognition of endogenous PS and we wondered whether these substitutions combined with a P + 4 leucine could generate a functional Dnf1 capable of PS flip.

To test the potential cooperation of residues in TM1–3 with a P + 4 leucine, we generated combinations of Dnf1 Y618L with substitutions corresponding to Atp8a1 (F213S), Atp8a1/2



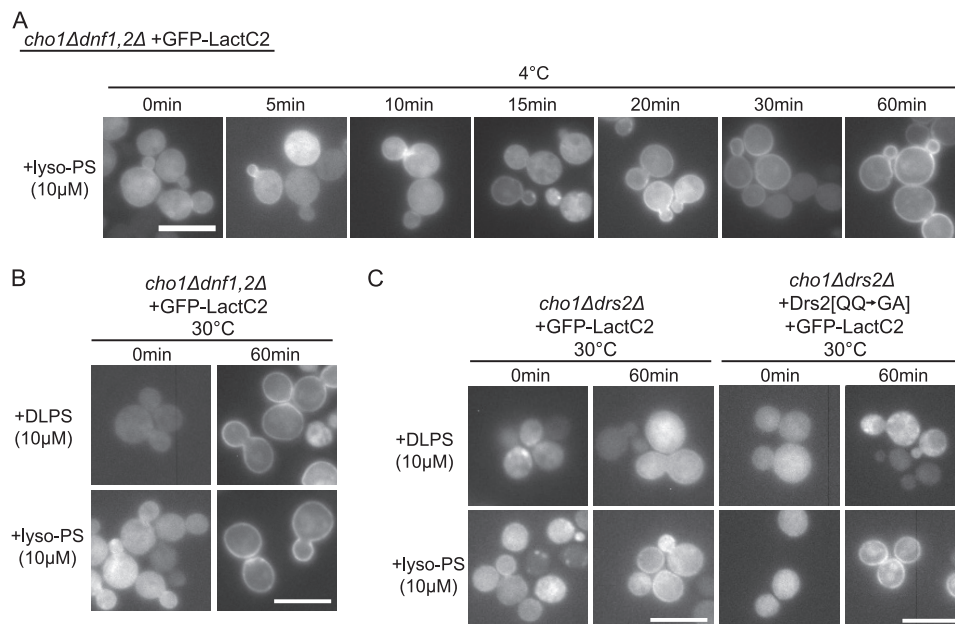
**FIGURE 3. Dnf1 suppressors of *drs2Δ* flip diacyl PS.** A, localization of the PS-specific probe GFP-LactC2 in the WT strain or PS-deficient strain (*cho1Δ*). In WT yeast, PS recruits GFP-LactC2 to the plasma membrane, whereas in the *cho1Δ* strain, GFP-LactC2 is present primarily in the cytosol. The plot of pixel intensity across the lines in the images indicates that GFP-LactC2 is present at the plasma membrane in WT cells but not *cho1Δ*. B, a *cho1Δdrs2Δ* PS-deficient strain expressing GFP-LactC2 and the indicated Dnf1 variants were incubated with 10 μM monoacyl lyso-PS or 100 μM DLPS at 4 °C for the times indicated. The ability of each strain to translocate unlabeled PS substrate across the membrane is indicated by recruitment of GFP-LactC2 from the cytosol to the inner leaflet of the plasma membrane. Dnf1 N550S and Dnf1 T254A can flip dually acylated PS (DLPS) to the cytosolic leaflet, but WT Dnf1 and Dnf1[Y618F] cannot. The right column is a plot of pixel intensity along the lines drawn across cell buds at 150 min. Scale bars = 10 μm.

(T254A, D258E), or the PS transporting variant identified earlier (N550S). As reported previously, Dnf1 Y618L was unable to support growth of a *dnf1,2,3Δdrs2Δ* strain (Fig. 5B and Ref. 17). Remarkably, these substitutions combined with Y618L complemented the growth defect of a *dnf1,2,3Δdrs2Δ* strain, indicating that function had been restored (Fig. 5B). All of the double mutants suppressed the cold sensitivity of *drs2Δ* much more effectively than the Dnf1 Y618L single mutant and at least as well as WT Dnf1. In addition, Dnf1 T254A, Y618L and Dnf1

D258E, Y618L supported growth at 20 °C nearly as well as WT Drs2 (Fig. 5C).

To test whether these combinations of Y618L and TM1–3 substitutions were functional as flippases, we tested for the ability to restore PS asymmetry in *drs2Δ* cells. In each case, the double mutants restored PS asymmetry better than Dnf1 Y618L (Fig. 5D). Thus, the endogenous TM1,2 residues Phe-213, Thr-254, and Asp-258 couple with Tyr-618 in Dnf1 to prevent PS translocation and cannot function with a Leu at position 618

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**FIGURE 4. Requirement for Dnf1, Dnf2, and Drs2 in the translocation of lyso-PS and DLPS.** *A*, a *cho1Δdnf1,2Δ* strain expressing GFP-LactC2 was incubated with 10 μM lyso-PS at 4 °C for the times indicated prior to imaging. Transport of lyso-PS was significantly slower than with the strains used for Fig. 3 that expressed Dnf1 and Dnf2. *B*, at 30 °C, a condition permitting endocytosis, both lyso-PS and DLPS are flipped to the cytosolic leaflet of a *cho1Δdnf1,2Δ* strain. *C*, a *cho1Δdrs2Δ* strain carrying an empty plasmid or expressing Drs2[QQ→GA] failed to transport DLPS to the cytosolic leaflet at 30 °C. Drs2[QQ→GA] is specifically deficient for PS recognition. Scale bars = 10 μm.

(P + 4). However, substituting the mammalian residues of Ser-213, Ala-254, or Glu-258 allow PS flip with either a Tyr or Leu in the P + 4 position.

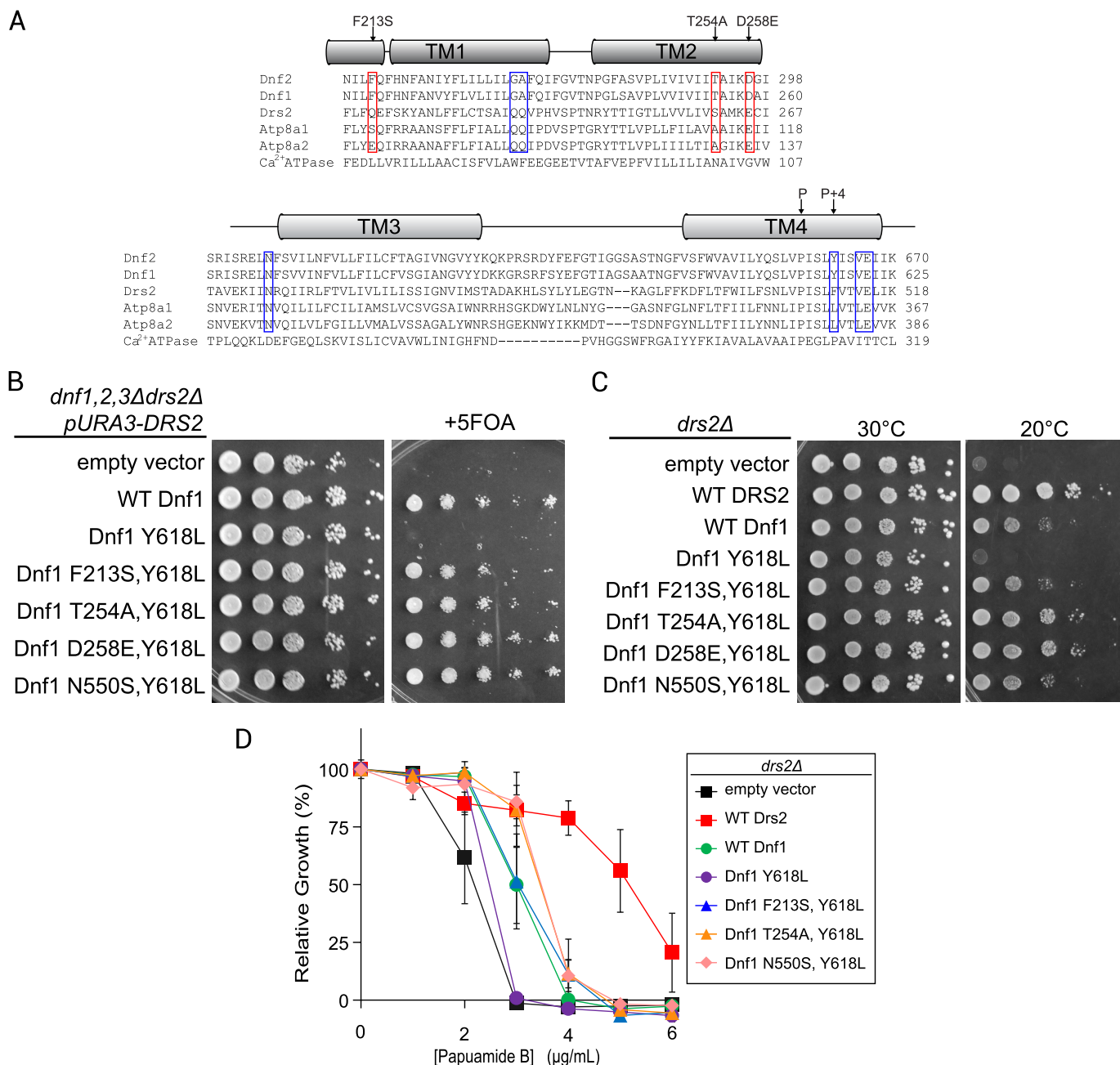
We next tested whether the function of the Drs2 P + 4 leucine variant (Drs2 F511L) could be restored with these Atp8a1/a2 substitutions. In contrast to Drs2 F511L, each of the Drs2 double mutants tested (F511L combined with Q220S, S261A, or N445S) supported growth of a *dnf1,2,3Δdrs2Δ* strain (Fig. 6A). In each case, these double mutants also allowed increased cold-resistant growth of *drs2Δ* relative to Drs2 F511L (Fig. 6B). Each of the Drs2 TM1,2 single mutants tested supported growth of the *dnf1,2,3Δdrs2Δ* or *drs2Δ* strains (Fig. 6, C and D). Thus, the mammalian TM1,2 residues can function well with the endogenous P + 4 Phe in Drs2. When tested for the ability to restore PS membrane asymmetry, the double mutants all conferred greater resistance to PapB than Drs2 F511L (Fig. 6E). Although the double mutants tested did not complement the mutant phenotypes as well as WT Drs2, they were significantly better than Drs2 F511L. These results indicate that the P + 4 leucine is compatible with PS recognition when it is combined with the appropriate residues on TM1–3.

## DISCUSSION

One interesting question preceding this work was why Dnf1 mutants capable of flipping NBD-PS were not able to restore PS asymmetry in *drs2Δ* cells (17). The fact that some Dnf1 mutants are fully capable of NBD-PS flip but seemingly unable to flip endogenous PS suggests that these pumps have either the improper localization, abundance, or substrate specificity to restore PS asymmetry in *drs2Δ* cells. However, the localization and abundance of Dnf1 N550S was indistinguishable from Dnf1 [Y618F] or Dnf1 [GA→QQ] (18). Here we show that Dnf1 N550S can replace Drs2 function in establishing endogenous

PS asymmetry, whereas Dnf1 Y618F or Dnf1 [GA→QQ] cannot, even though all three mutant forms of Dnf1 can flip NBD-PS across the plasma membrane. The use of GFP-LactC2 localization in PS-deficient *cho1Δ* cells to monitor translocation of unmodified lyso-PS and DLPS provided an explanation as to why Dnf1[Y618F] was unable to establish PS asymmetry; it does not recognize dually acylated PS very well. In fact, WT Dnf1 also appears to flip lyso-PS much better than diacyl PS. Although WT Dnf1 does not flip endogenous PS very well, it seems to have a minor activity to NBD-PS, which can be increased in certain cases (17, 26). Dnf1[Y618F] and Dnf1[GA→QQ] certainly identified residues important in headgroup recognition because reciprocal changes in Drs2 abrogated its ability to recognize endogenous PS, not just NBD-PS. NBD-PL may be capable of mimicking a lyso-PL, a natural substrate for Dnf1, as well as the dually acylated PL substrate of Drs2. However, like *drs2Δ*, a *dnf1,2Δ* strain is also sensitive to PapB (36). This could be because of an increased exposure of lyso-PS on the extracellular leaflet of the *dnf1,2Δ* bilayer. Lyso-PS accounts for about 10% of PS in *S. cerevisiae*, which would likely be enough for PapB to permeabilize the cell if exposed on the outer leaflet of the plasma membrane (30).

A second question is why does yeast maintain two P4-ATPases that appear to function only as lyso-phospholipid transporters? Is this an apparent role for scavenging phospholipid from the environment? Could they be functioning to flip phospholipids that have been damaged by phospholipases in the extracellular environment? Yeast produces lyso-PL when using phospholipids as an acyl donor in triglyceride synthesis (37), and this species can be flipped by Pdr5 and Yor1 to the extracellular leaflet (38). Dnf1,2 may be required to retain the lyso-PL species on the cytosolic leaflet, where they are available



**FIGURE 5. Substitutions of specific TM1–3 residues restore function to a Dnf1 P + 4 leucine variant.** A, sequence alignment of TM1–2 and TM3–4 from lyso-PC flippases (Dnf1 and Dnf2), PS flippases (Drs2, Atp8a1, Atp8a2), and Ca<sup>2+</sup> ATPase. The blue boxes include residues reported previously as contributing to PS specificity. The red boxes indicate newly identified residues contributing to PS specificity in Dnf1 mutants that correspond to equivalent Atp8a1 residues. B, double mutants combining a p + 4 leucine (Y618L) with Atp8a1 residues (F213S, T254A, or D258E) allows Dnf1 complementation of a *dnf1,2,3Δdrs2Δ* strain. The 5-fluoroorotic acid kills cells that were unable to lose the *URA3*-marked plasmid carrying *DRS2* in the parental strain. Strains that grow express a Dnf1 variant that can support the viability of *dnf1,2,3Δdrs2Δ* in the absence of Drs2. C, the same set of Dnf1 variants were tested for the ability to support growth of *drs2Δ* at 20 °C. D, similarly, each Y618L double mutant tested partially restored membrane PS asymmetry to *drs2Δ* relative to Y618L alone.

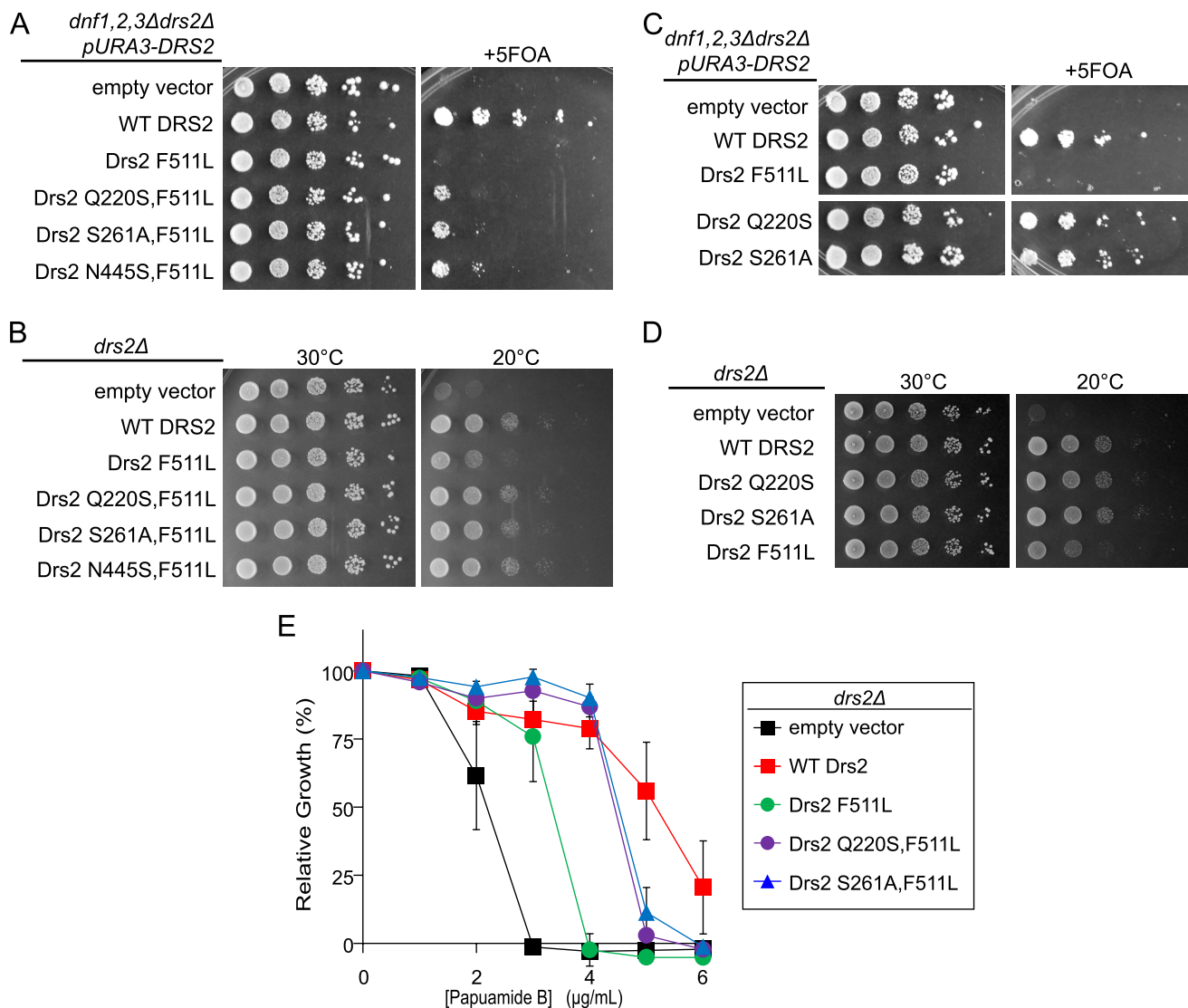
to repair enzymes for acylation by Ale1 (39, 40). The ecological positioning of true wild-type yeast is in and around plants and animals, scavenging nutrients from the environment. The ability to scavenge nearly whole lipids (lyso-PL) would be a strong selective advantage, saving considerable energy from synthesis in the Kennedy pathway (41). Additionally, it is becoming increasingly apparent that lyso-PL species are involved in signaling events. Recent work has implicated the accumulation of long-chain lyso-PS species in a mammalian neurodegenerative condition (42). Lyso-PC is an early metabolic serum marker for

diabetes (43) and also serves as a signaling lipid in plants, enhancing responsiveness for a Na<sup>+</sup> activated H<sup>+</sup> channel (44) and activating the plasma membrane proton pump AHA2 (45).

Drs2 may not flip lyso-PL as well as diacyl PL. The fact that Dnf1 N550S rescued *drs2Δ* growth defects much better than Dnf1 or Dnf1 [Y618F] implies that dually acylated PS is a crucial substrate for Drs2. In addition, Atp8a1 was found to have a much weaker transport activity toward lyso-PS relative to dioleoyl-PS or DLPS (20). Even with the non-preferred lipid PC, Atp8a1 transported the diacyl variants more quickly than



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**FIGURE 6. Drs2 functions are restored with a P + 4 leucine (F511L) when combined with substitutions corresponding to Atp8a1 residues.** *A*, in *Drs2*, substitutions of Atp8a1 residues combined with F511L partially restores the ability to complement a *dnf1,2,3Δdrs2Δ* strain. The same *Drs2* variants restore cold resistance to *drs2Δ* (*B*) and support membrane PS asymmetry (*E*) better than *Drs2* F511L alone. Substituting the individual residues also allows *Drs2* to support growth of *dnf1,2,3Δdrs2Δ* (*C*) and cold-resistant growth of *drs2Δ* (*D*). 5-FOA, 5-fluoroorotic acid.

lyso-PC (20). This may reflect a difference between the yeast and mammalian proteins, but it seems more likely that *Drs2* also prefers intact phospholipid as its substrate. Therefore, we suggest different cellular niches for *Drs2* and *Dnf1/Dnf2*, with *Drs2* pumping PS and PE to the cytosolic leaflet and *Dnf1/Dnf2* pumping lyso-PC, lysophosphatidylethanolamine, and lyso-PS (in this order of preference).

This work highlights additional residues involved in substrate specificity within TM1–4 in yeast P4-ATPases. The observation that *Dnf1* N550S could effectively suppress *drs2Δ* mutant phenotypes suggested that a screen for additional *DNF1* mutations that suppress *drs2Δ* would identify residues important for recognizing dually acylated PS. This prediction was met with the identification of F213S in TM1 and T254A and D258E in TM2 that allowed *Dnf1* to flip PS and replace *Drs2* function. These residues all cluster near the cytosolic side of the membrane, and we propose they form part of the exit gate where phospholipid is selected prior to release to the cytosolic

leaflet. No residues in the entry gate, where phospholipid is initially selected from the exofacial leaflet, were recovered in our screen, implying that distinguishing monoacylated from diacylated substrate is a function of the exit gate.

The newly identified residues provide potential insight to how mammalian Atp8a1/a2, with a P + 4 leucine, recognizes PS. Strikingly, the randomly induced *Dnf1*–2 mutations allowing PS flip were substitutions of *Dnf1* residues for analogous residues in Atp8a1. These changes could support PS translocation in the presence of the naturally occurring P + 4 Y618. But, perhaps more interestingly, these TM1–2 substitutions rescued the activity of *Dnf1* with a P + 4 leucine (Y618L). The same TM1–2 Atp8a1 residues also rescued function of *Drs2* with the F511L P + 4 mutation. These data strongly imply cooperation between the P + 4 position in TM4 and TM1–2 residues for phospholipid selection at the exit gate. For *Dnf1*, a Tyr in TM4 is coupled to an Asn (TM3), Asp and Thr (TM2), and Phe (TM1) to prevent transport of PS (Fig. 7A). To allow PS trans-



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