

Identification and Structural Characterization of a *Legionella* Phosphoinositide Phosphatase^{*[S]}

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Background: Controlling host phosphoinositide metabolism is critical in bacterial infection.

Results: A *Legionella* effector, SidP, has been identified as a phosphoinositide phosphatase, and its crystal structure was determined.

Conclusion: SidP is a PI(3)P phosphatase, which may play a role in controlling bacterial phagosomal lipid composition.

Significance: Identification of a novel PI phosphatase suggests the importance of exploiting host PI lipids in many bacterial infections.

Bacterial pathogen *Legionella pneumophila* is the causative agent of Legionnaires' disease, which is associated with intracellular replication of the bacteria in macrophages of human innate immune system. Recent studies indicate that pathogenic bacteria can subvert host cell phosphoinositide (PI) metabolism by translocated virulence effectors. However, in which manner *Legionella* actively exploits PI lipids to benefit its infection is not well characterized. Here we report that *L. pneumophila* encodes an effector protein, named SidP, that functions as a PI-3-phosphatase specifically hydrolyzing PI(3)P and PI(3,5)P₂ *in vitro*. This activity of SidP rescues the growth phenotype of a yeast strain defective in PI(3)P phosphatase activity. Crystal structure of SidP orthologue from *Legionella longbeachae* reveals that this unique PI-3-phosphatase is composed of three distinct domains: a large catalytic domain, an appendage domain that is inserted into the N-terminal portion of the catalytic domain, and a C-terminal α -helical domain. SidP has a small catalytic pocket that presumably provides substrate specificity by limiting the accessibility of bulky PIs with multiple phosphate groups. Together, our identification of a unique family of *Legionella* PI phosphatases highlights a common scheme of exploiting host PI lipids in many intracellular bacterial pathogen infections.

The facultative intracellular pathogen *Legionella pneumophila* is the causative agent of Legionnaires' disease. This disease often involves acute lung injury caused by the intracellular replication of the bacteria in macrophages of human innate immune system (1, 2). Due to the development of artificial water systems, such as air conditioning cooling towers, Legionnaires' disease has emerged in the second half of last century (3). It has been a human health threat with recent devastating outbreaks in Edinburgh, UK in June 2012 and in Quebec, Canada in

July 2012. Upon transmission to the human lung via contaminated aerosols, the bacterial pathogen is then internalized through phagocytosis by alveoli macrophages. Inside the alveoli macrophage, *L. pneumophila* transports a large array of bacterial proteins into the host through its Dot/Icm type IV secretion system (4, 5). The translocated effectors take control of a variety of host cellular processes to establish a replication-permissive compartment called the *Legionella*-containing vacuole (LCV)² (6, 7).

Among the cellular processes, lipid signaling and metabolism have recently emerged as critical targets for bacterial virulence factors. Cellular lipids, particularly phosphoinositides (PIs), are pivotal cellular regulators and play major roles in a broad spectrum of cellular processes including defining intracellular organelle identity, cell signaling, proliferation, cytoskeleton architecture, and membrane trafficking (8–10). Several bacterial pathogens have been shown to target host cell PI metabolism and signaling for their infection and survival. For example, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* secretes a lipid phosphatase, SapM, that clears PI(3)P on the bacterial phagosome to inhibit phagosomal maturation (11, 12). *Salmonella typhimurium*, which is responsible for most food-borne gastroenteritis (13), delivers the PI phosphatase SigD/SopB into the host. SigD/SopB plays multiple roles in bacterial entry and intracellular survival (14). *S. flexneri*, the causative agent of human dysentery, modifies PI metabolism in host cells to favor its internalization through the phosphoinositide-4-phosphatase activity of the virulent factor IpgD (15). In *Legionella pneumophila*, several effectors have been reported to interact with specific PI species for their proper localization and function. For example, the *L. pneumophila* effector SidC has been shown to anchor on the LCV through binding to PI(4)P and promotes the fusion of endoplasmic reticulum-derived vesicles with LCV (16). SidM, a Rab1 guanine nucleotide exchange factor, has also been shown to bind to PI(4)P on the LCV through its C-terminal P4M (PI(4)P binding of SidM/DrrA) domain with nanomolar range affinity (17, 18). Other PI binding effectors have also been doc-

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[S] This article contains supplemental Fig. S1.

The atomic coordinates and structure factors (code 4JZA) have been deposited in the Protein Data Bank (<http://www.pdb.org/>).

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² The abbreviations used are: LCV, *Legionella*-containing vacuole; PI, phosphoinositide; P₂, diphosphate; P₃, trisphosphate; SAXS, small-angle x-ray scattering; SUMO, small ubiquitin-like modifier; CT, C-terminal.

umented, such as LidA (18), LpnE (19), and SetA (20). Thus, subverting host PI signaling and metabolism appears to be a general scheme used in the intracellular life cycle of bacterial pathogens (21, 22). Despite these observations, our knowledge about the role of host PI signaling and metabolism in the pathogenesis process of these bacterial pathogens is still largely limited (23). We recently conducted bioinformatics analyses and identified *Legionella* effectors that may function as PI-metabolizing enzymes. We reported that the *Legionella* effector SidF is a *bona fide* PI phosphatase that specifically hydrolyzes PI(3,4)P₂ and PI(3,4,5)P₃ at the D3 position (24). This activity may facilitate the enrichment of PI(4)P on the LCV and consequently the anchoring of other *Legionella* effector proteins on the LCV via the binding to PI(4)P.

Here we report a new *L. pneumophila* Dot/Icm substrate Lpg0130, which we named SidP, a PI-3-phosphatase that specifically hydrolyzes PI(3)P and PI(3,5)P₂ *in vitro*. Structural characterization of the SidP orthologue from *Legionella longbeachae* strain NSW150 revealed a multidomain organization of the protein. The crystal structure of SidP further revealed unique features of its catalytic pocket that likely afford substrate selectivity. Our new findings of SidP as a PI phosphatase together with our previously reported results on SidF (24) strongly support that *L. pneumophila* actively exploits host PI metabolism via its own PI phosphatases during infection.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

Cloning and Mutagenesis—SidP (Lpg0130) gene and its *longbeachae* orthologue were PCR amplified from the *L. pneumophila* strain Philadelphia 1 and *L. longbeachae* strain NSW150 genomic DNA, respectively. The PCR products were digested with BamH1 and Xho1 or Sal1 restriction enzymes and inserted into a pET28a-based vector in-frame with an N-terminal His-SUMO tag. The same digested SidP fragments were inserted into pRS416-pGPD-GFP vector (25) for the expression of GFP fused SidP and its catalytically inactive mutant in yeast. Point mutations were generated by site-directed mutagenesis. All constructs were confirmed by DNA sequencing.

Protein Expression and Purification—All recombinant proteins were expressed in the *Escherichia coli* Rosetta strain, which were grown in LB medium supplemented with 50 μg/ml kanamycin. Protein expression was induced at A₆₀₀ = 0.8 overnight at 18 °C with 0.1 mM isopropyl-β-D-thiogalactopyranoside. The selenomethionine-substituted proteins were expressed in M9 minimum media supplied with synthetic drop-out mix minus methionine (USBiological). Selenomethionine powder (Affymetrix) was added with a final concentration of 120 mg/liter 15 min before isopropyl-β-D-thiogalactopyranoside induction. Harvested cells were resuspended in a buffer containing 50 mM Tris-HCl at pH 8.0, 500 mM NaCl, and protease inhibitor mixture (Roche Applied Science) and lysed by sonication. Soluble fractions were collected by centrifugation at 40,000 × g for 40 min at 4 °C and incubated with cobalt resins (Clontech) for 2 h at 4 °C. Protein-bound resins were extensively washed with lysis buffer. The His-SUMO tag was removed by incubating the protein-bound resin with the SUMO-specific protease Ulp1 at 4 °C for overnight. Eluted protein samples were further purified by FPLC size exclusion chromatography. The peak corresponding

to SidP and the homologue were pooled and concentrated to 7–8 mg/ml in a buffer containing 50 mM HEPES at pH 7.4 and 150 mM NaCl.

Crystallization and Preliminary X-ray Crystallographic Analysis—Initial crystallization trials were set up with a PHOENIX liquid handling system (Art Robbins Instruments). SidP crystals were improved by hanging drop vapor diffusion at 4 °C by mixing 1 μl of protein (7.5 mg/ml) with an equal volume of reservoir solution containing 0.1 M succinic acid, 0.1 M HEPES at pH 7.0, 6.5% (w/v) PEG3350, 5 mM DTT. Plate shape crystals were formed within 7–10 days. Selenomethionine-substituted SidP crystals were grown under similar conditions. For data collection, SidP crystals were step-wise-transferred into the reservoir solution supplemented with 5–20% glycerol before flash-cooling to 100 K in liquid nitrogen. The crystal diffracted up to 2.58 Å at the Cornell synchrotron light source MacCHESS beam line A1. All data sets were indexed, integrated, and scaled with HKL-2000 (26). The crystals belong to space group P2₁ with unit cell parameters of $a = 89.28$ Å, $b = 119.65$ Å, $c = 133.53$ Å, $\alpha = 90^\circ$, $\beta = 101.33^\circ$, $\gamma = 90^\circ$ (Table 1). The calculated Matthews coefficient $V_m = 3.9$, with 68.4% of solvent in the crystal and two protein molecules in an asymmetric unit (27).

Structure Determination and Refinement—Twenty selenium sites were identified in the asymmetric unit by single anomalous scattering method using the program HKL2MAP (28). The initial phase was calculated by the single anomalous scattering method and was improved by solvent flattening in HKL2MAP. The *ab initio* protein model was then built with COOT (29). Iterative cycles of model building and refinement were carried out with the re mac5 program (30) in the CCP4 suite (31) to complete the final model. The final SidP structure consists of 1–825 amino acids with excellent stereochemistry and good crystallographic statistics (Table 1).

Small-angle X-ray Scattering (SAXS) Analysis of SidP—SAXS experiments were done at the Cornell High Energy Synchrotron Source (CHESS, beamline F2) at x-ray of 9.881 keV at 25 °C. Scattering data were collected at 4 different protein concentrations (0.6, 1.25, 2.5, and 5 mg/ml) in a buffer containing 20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, 150 mM NaCl, 5 mM DTT. BioXTAS RAW program was used for data reduction, averaging, and scaling to provide one-dimensional intensity profiles as function of q ($4\pi\sin\theta/\lambda$, where 2θ is the scattering angle). CRY SOL (32) was used to calculate the theoretical scattering for the two possible models in the SidP crystal and was fitted to the experimental scattering data. The final averaged scattering profile, covering a q -range from 0.01 to 0.25 Å⁻¹ was further analyzed using the programs GNOM (33) to calculate distance distribution function $P(r)$. Low resolution shapes were calculated and averaged from solution-scattering data using the programs DAMMIF (34) and DAMAVER (35). The crystal structure of SidP was docked in the low resolution solution structure using SUPCOMB (36).

Enzymatic Assays—All diC8-phosphoinositides were purchased from Cell Signals, Inc. All reactions were performed in a polystyrene 96-well plate for 20 min at 37 °C with a total volume of 50 μl that contained reaction buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, and 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM DTT), 1 nmol concentrations of lipids, and 0.1 μg of purified enzymes. Phosphate release was mea-

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sured at A_{620} absorbance with the addition of malachite green reagent as described by Maehama *et al.* (37).

Yeast *in Vivo* Experiments and PI Analysis—All yeast strains used in this study are in the SEY6210.1 background. Strain YTS1 (*ymr1* Δ *sjl2* Δ *sjl3* Δ [CEN *ymr1*^{ts}]; a temperature-sensitive allele of the *YMR1* gene) (38) and strain YCS215 (*sac1* Δ *sjl2* Δ *sjl3* Δ [CEN *sac1*^{ts}]; a temperature-sensitive allele of the *SAC1* gene) (39) were transformed with pRS416-pGPD-GFP plasmids expressing corresponding SidP WT and mutant proteins. For growth assay, yeast transformants were grown to midlog ($A_{600} = 0.5$) at permissive temperature (26 °C), adjusted to 1 A/ml, serially diluted 1:10 five times, and spotted onto –Leu–Ura selection plates. The viability of these transformed cells was analyzed by incubating the plates in permissive and restrictive temperatures for 3–4 days. PI levels were analyzed as previously described (40). Briefly, cells ($5 A_{600}$) were harvested, washed in media lacking inositol, and labeled with 50 μ Ci of *myo*-[2-³H]inositol (PerkinElmer Life Sciences) in synthetic media lacking inositol for 1 h. Lipids were deacylated. [³H]Glycerophosphoinositides were extracted, and 5×10^6 cpm of samples were separated by HPLC.

RESULTS

***Legionella* Effector SidP Is a Phosphoinositide 3-Phosphatase**—Previously, we used a sequence pattern-based method to identify proteins in the genome of *L. pneumophila* strain Philadelphia 1 that contains the CX₅R motif, a signature sequence of the catalytic residues in a number of enzymes, including lipid phosphatases (41), protein-tyrosine phosphatases (42), and arsenate reductases (43). More than 400 hypothetical proteins were found possessing this motif, and 29 of these proteins have been identified as substrates of the Dot/Icm secretion system (24, 44). Recombinant proteins of these 29 candidates were then expressed, purified, and examined for *in vitro* PI phosphatase activities by a malachite green-based assay (37). In addition to our recently published *L. pneumophila* PI phosphatase, SidF (24), we found that the *Legionella* effector Lpg0130, which we named SidP, has PI phosphatase activities. SidP from *L. pneumophila* strain Philadelphia 1 contains 822 amino acids with a peptide sequence CVSGKDR that matches the consensus CX₅R motif (Fig. 1A). Although SidP is conserved in all genome sequenced *Legionella* species as well as some related pathogenic bacterium species (supplemental Fig. S1), it has no significant sequence homology to any known PI phosphatase, including SidF, besides the catalytic motif. Wild type recombinant protein of SidP was shown to specifically hydrolyze PI(3)P and PI(3,5)P₂ *in vitro* (Fig. 1, B and C), whereas this activity was completely abolished for the catalytic cysteine to serine (C554S) mutant. Mutations of the conserved residues within the catalytic P-loop (D559N, R560K) also abrogated their catalytic activity (Fig. 1, B and C). We also analyzed the enzymatic activity of SidP orthologue from *L. longbeachae* strain NSW150 (locus tag LLO_3270), which had a sequence identity of 54% and similarity of 68% to the *L. pneumophila* orthologue. Similar to Lpg0130, LLO_3270 protein showed specific enzymatic activity against PI(3)P but no detectable activity against PI(3,5)P₂ (Fig. 1D). This finding demonstrated that *Legionella* species encodes a novel Dot/Icm effector that functions as a PI-3-phosphatase.

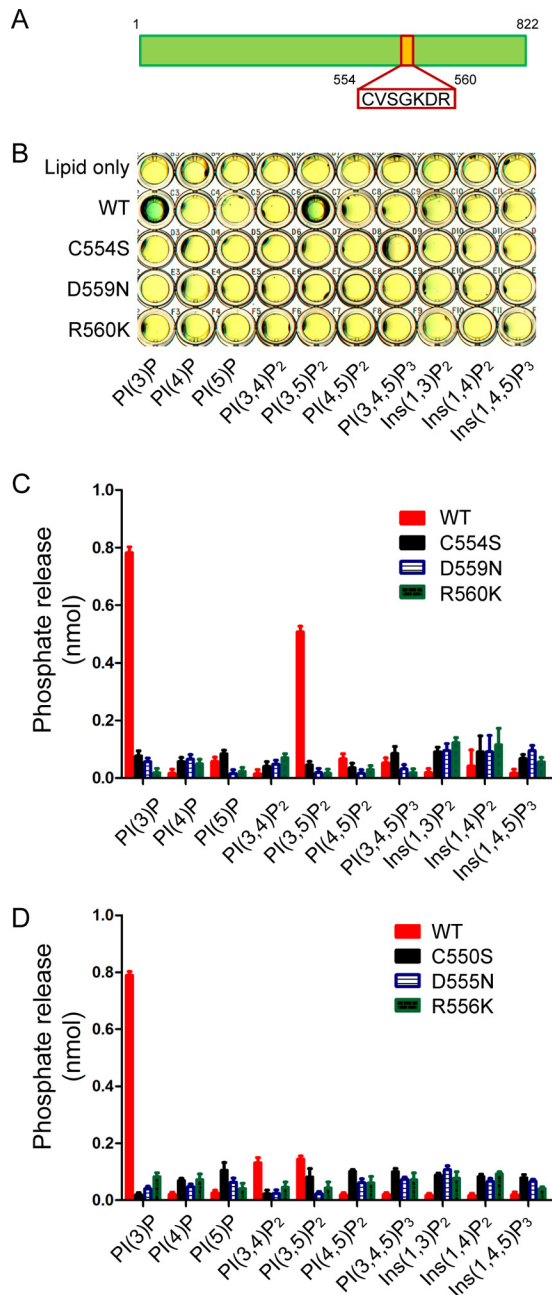


FIGURE 1. *Legionella* effector SidP is a phosphoinositide phosphatase. A, shown is a schematic structure of SidP (Lpg0130). The CX₅R is highlighted. B, shown is phosphoinositide substrate specificity of purified wild type and C554S, D559N, and R560K mutant SidP as determined by the malachite green assay (green indicates the release of free phosphate). PI(3)P and PI(3,5)P₂ are the preferred substrates. C, quantification of the amount of released phosphate is shown. Data are from three replicate experiments (mean \pm S.E.). D, shown is quantification of the amount of released phosphates from the phosphatase assay of SidP *L. longbeachae* orthologue LLO_3270. Data are from three replicate experiments (means \pm S.E.). Ins, inositol.

SidP Rescues the Growth Phenotype of Yeast Defective of PI(3)P Metabolism—To further assay the *in vivo* activity of SidP, we took advantage of yeast mutant strains that have growth defects due to mutations in PI-metabolizing enzymes. The YTS1 strain harboring *ymr1*^{ts}*sjl2* Δ *sjl3* Δ mutations (protein products of these three genes hydrolyze PI(3)P in yeast) can grow at permissive temperature but is lethal at restrictive temperature due to the increased levels of PI(3)P (25). At restrictive

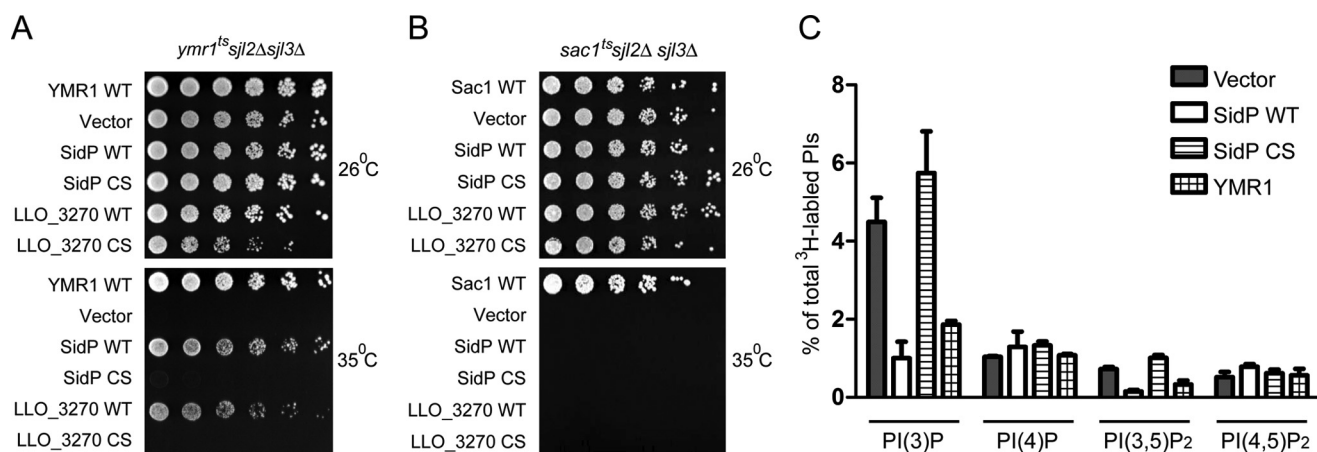


FIGURE 2. **Functional complementation assays of SidP and its *L. longbeachae* orthologue (LLO_3270) in yeast.** *A*, shown is an *in vivo* growth rescue assay of SidPs in *ymr1^Δsjl2Δsjl3Δ* strain. *B*, shown is an *in vivo* growth rescue assay of SidPs in *sac1^Δsjl2Δsjl3Δ* strain. In both *A* and *B*, corresponding yeast cells were transformed with the indicated constructs or vector control. The cells were spotted onto selection plates with four serial of 10× dilutions from left to right and grown at the indicated temperatures for 3 days. *C*, shown is quantitative analysis of *in vivo* PI levels. *ymr1^Δsjl2Δsjl3Δ* cells were transformed with vectors expressing GFP (negative control), wild type SidP, SidP C554S mutant, or YMR1 (positive control) and labeled with *myo*-[2-³H]inositol for 1 h at 37 °C. Total lipids were extracted and analyzed by HPLC.

temperature, cells transformed with vector or SidP carrying the catalytically inactive Cys to Ser mutation were not viable. However, the growth phenotype could be rescued by the expression of Ymr1p or wild type SidP (Fig. 2A), suggesting that SidP is able to hydrolyze PI(3)P *in vivo*. We further tested the substrate specificity of SidP *in vivo* using the YCS215 strain containing *sac1^Δsjl2Δsjl3Δ* mutations (the only three proteins that hydrolyze PI(4)P in yeast). Cells carrying *sac1^Δsjl2Δsjl3Δ* mutations are lethal at restrictive temperatures due to elevated levels of PI(4)P (39). Exogenous expression of SidP in *sac1^Δsjl2Δsjl3Δ* cells did not rescue the growth phenotype (Fig. 2B), suggesting PI(4)P is not the substrate for SidP. The *in vivo* activity of SidP orthologue from *L. longbeachae* (LLO_3270) was also analyzed by yeast complementation assays. Similar to SidP, exogenous expression of GFP-tagged LLO_3270 in *ymr1^Δsjl2Δsjl3Δ* strain rescued the growth phenotype but not the *sac1^Δsjl2Δsjl3Δ* strain at restrictive temperatures (Fig. 2, A and B). In agreement with the growth phenotype, PI analysis experiments showed that the endogenous PI(3)P levels were reduced by nearly 3-fold in the presence of SidP compared with cells transformed with empty vector or the SidP CS mutant in *ymr1^Δsjl2Δsjl3Δ* cells (Fig. 2C). However, the *in vivo* PI(4)P and PI(4,5)P₂ levels were not changed. These results demonstrated that SidP specifically functions as a PI-3-phosphatase *in vivo* (Fig. 2C).

Crystal Structure Determination and Overall Structure of SidP—To further characterize the molecular mechanism of this novel PI-3-phosphatase, we set out to determine the atomic structure of SidP by x-ray crystallography. Although the full-length protein of SidP from *L. pneumophila* strain Philadelphia 1 could be highly expressed and purified to homogeneity, extensive crystallization trials failed to yield any crystal hits. SidP orthologues from other *Legionella* species were then cloned for crystallization screens. Protein crystals of SidP orthologue from *L. longbeachae* (LLO_3270) were successfully obtained using the hanging drop vapor diffusion method with the reservoir solution containing 0.1 M HEPES, pH 7.0, 0.1 M succinic acid, and 6.5% (w/v) PEG3350. The plate-shaped crystals belong to the space group P2₁ with unit cell dimensions of

TABLE 1
X-ray data collection, phasing, and structural refinement statistics

Data collection and phasing	
Space group	P2 ₁
Cell dimensions	$a = 89.28 \text{ \AA}, b = 119.65 \text{ \AA}, c = 133.53 \text{ \AA}$ $\alpha = 90^\circ, \beta = 101.33^\circ, \gamma = 90^\circ$
Se SAD data	
Synchrotron beam lines	MCCHES A1
Wavelength (Å)	0.978
Maximum resolution (Å)	2.58
Observed reflections	536,737
Unique reflections	164,803
Completeness (%) ^a	98.5 (95.5)
$\langle I \rangle / \langle \sigma \rangle$ ^a	10.96 (1.21)
$R_{\text{sym}}^{a,b}$ (%)	9.9
Number of molecules in an ASU	2
Number of selenium sites	20
Refinement statistics	
Resolution (Å) ^a	49.44–2.58 (2.65–2.58)
$R_{\text{cryst}}/R_{\text{free}}$ (%) ^{a,c}	19.8/23.7 (30.8/37.5)
Root mean square bond length (Å)	0.016
Root mean square bond angles (°)	1.729
Ramachandran plot	
Most favored/allowed (%)	97.04/2.96
Outliers (%)	0

^a Values in parenthesis are for the highest resolution shell.

^b $R_{\text{sym}} = \sum_i \sum_j |I_i(h) - \langle I(h) \rangle| / \sum_i \sum_j I_i(h)$.

^c $R_{\text{cryst}} = \sum (|F_{\text{obs}}| - k|F_{\text{calc}}|) / \sum |F_{\text{obs}}|$. R_{free} was calculated for 5% of reflections randomly excluded from the refinement.

$a = 89.28 \text{ \AA}, b = 119.65 \text{ \AA}, c = 133.53 \text{ \AA}, \alpha = 90^\circ, \beta = 101.33^\circ, \gamma = 90^\circ$. There are two molecules in the asymmetric unit. The structure was solved by selenium single wavelength anomalous diffraction method using the program HKL2MAP (28). The final structure was refined against a 2.58 Å resolution data set with $R_{\text{work}} = 19.8$ and $R_{\text{free}} = 23.7$, respectively (Table 1).

Full-length SidP from *L. longbeachae* contains 825 amino acids. The crystal structure of SidP revealed that SidP is composed of three distinct domains (Fig. 3, A and B). The N-terminal portion (residue 1–666) contains the catalytic domain (colored in blue for α -helices and pink for β -strands) and an appendage domain (I-domain shown in brown), which is inserted within the catalytic domain between residue 189 and 306. The C-terminal part (residue 667–825) folds in an all α -helix domain (the C-terminal (CT) domain is colored in green). Because the electron density for the linker peptide

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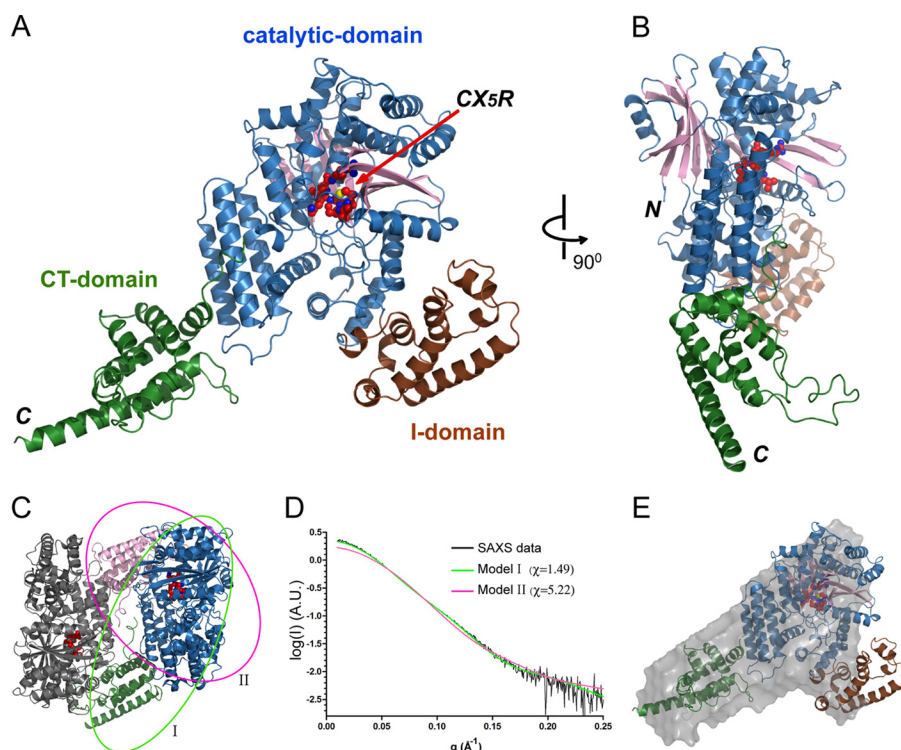


FIGURE 3. Crystal structure of SidP. *A* and *B*, shown are two orthogonal views of the crystal structure of SidP, represented in ribbons. The catalytic CX_5R motif is shown in *spheres* and indicated by an *arrow*. SidP consists of three domains. The N-terminal catalytic domain is colored in *blue*, and the I-domain, which is inserted within the catalytic domain, is shown in *brown*. The CT domain is colored in *green*. *C–E*, shown is BioSAXS analysis of SidP. *C*, shown are the two protein molecules in the asymmetric unit of the SidP crystal. The *green* (*model I*)- and *pink* (*model II*)-colored *ovals* indicate two distinct monomer models of SidP. *D*, shown is CRYSOLE fitting of SidP crystal structure models to the experimental data (*black curve*) on a plot of intensity versus q . The theoretic scattering from the SidP crystallographic model I is shown in *green* and in *pink* for model II. The chi ($\sqrt{\chi^2}$) values are 1.49 and 5.22 for the fitting of model I and II, respectively. The chi values indicate that model I is acceptable and has a significant better fit with the experimental data than model II. *E*, shown is SAXS-based shape reconstruction for SidP. The crystal structure of Model I is docked in the low resolution envelope using the SUPCOMB program.

between the catalytic domain and the C-terminal domain is missing, there are two possible ways to assign the C-terminal domain to either one of the two SidP molecules in the asymmetric unit (Fig. 3C). To circumvent this ambiguity, we used the SAXS method to obtain the solution properties of SidP. Shape reconstruction algorithms using the SidP SAXS data allowed us to distinguish between the two possible atomic models obtained from our crystal structure. The model presented in Fig. 3A (labeled as *model I* in Fig. 3C) had a significantly better fit with the SAXS data than the other model (Fig. 3, D and E); thus, the overall domain configuration of SidP was ascertained.

The Catalytic Domain of SidP—The catalytic domain of SidP consists of an 11-pleated β -sheet as the structural core that is surrounded by 18 α -helices. These secondary structure elements pack in a bird nest-like structure with a deep invaginated pocket at the center of the catalytic domain (Fig. 4, A and B). Similar to other PI phosphatases, this pocket, at the bottom of which the catalytic CX_5R motif (residue 554–560) is aligned, is highly positively charged (Fig. 4B). The positive electrostatic potentials at the catalytic site are contributed partially by several conserved arginine and lysine residues (labeled with a *blue oval* in supplemental Fig. S1) and the electric dipole of the α -helix, where the catalytic P-loop ends. Like other CX_5R -containing phosphatases, this charge distribution is ideal for the recognition of the negatively charged head group of PI lipids. Interestingly, the catalytic pocket of SidP is tightly covered by a long loop enriched with hydrophobic residues between $\beta 8$ and

$\alpha 20$ (colored in *gold* in Fig. 4C and supplemental Fig. S1). This structural architecture suggests that this hydrophobic loop may play a role in controlling the accessibility of substrates.

The crystal structure of SidP also revealed a unique conformation of the CX_5R arginine (Arg-556). In SidP, Arg-556 is away from the catalytic cysteine (Cys-550). The hydrophobic part of Arg-556 side chain is sandwiched between two hydrophobic residues, Tyr-625 and Leu-417, whereas the guanidinium group interacts with the main chain carbonyl group of His-466 through hydrogen bonding and with residue Glu-528 through electrostatic attraction (Fig. 4D). In contrast to SidP, the presence of a hydrophobic “wall” formed by four residues (Val-360, Val-418, Phe-624, and Phe-718) in SidF may restrict the CX_5R arginine (Arg-651) in a conformation that holds the releasing phosphate group of the substrate in the position ready for nucleophilic attack by the catalytic Cys-645 (Fig. 4E). The functional role of this unique conformation of Arg-556 in SidP is not clear. However, in SidP, a conformational change of Arg-556 to assume a similar conformation as seen in SidF seems necessary in substrate binding and hydrolysis. Conformational change of the catalytic P-loop has been proposed to regulate the activity of other CX_5R -based phosphatases, such as Sac1 (45). It is possible that this unique conformation of Arg-556 may play a role in regulating SidP activity. It is also worth noting that although most protein-tyrosine phosphatases and some lipid phosphatases have a WPD loop featuring an aspartic residue, which acts as a general acid/base during catalysis (42), this loop

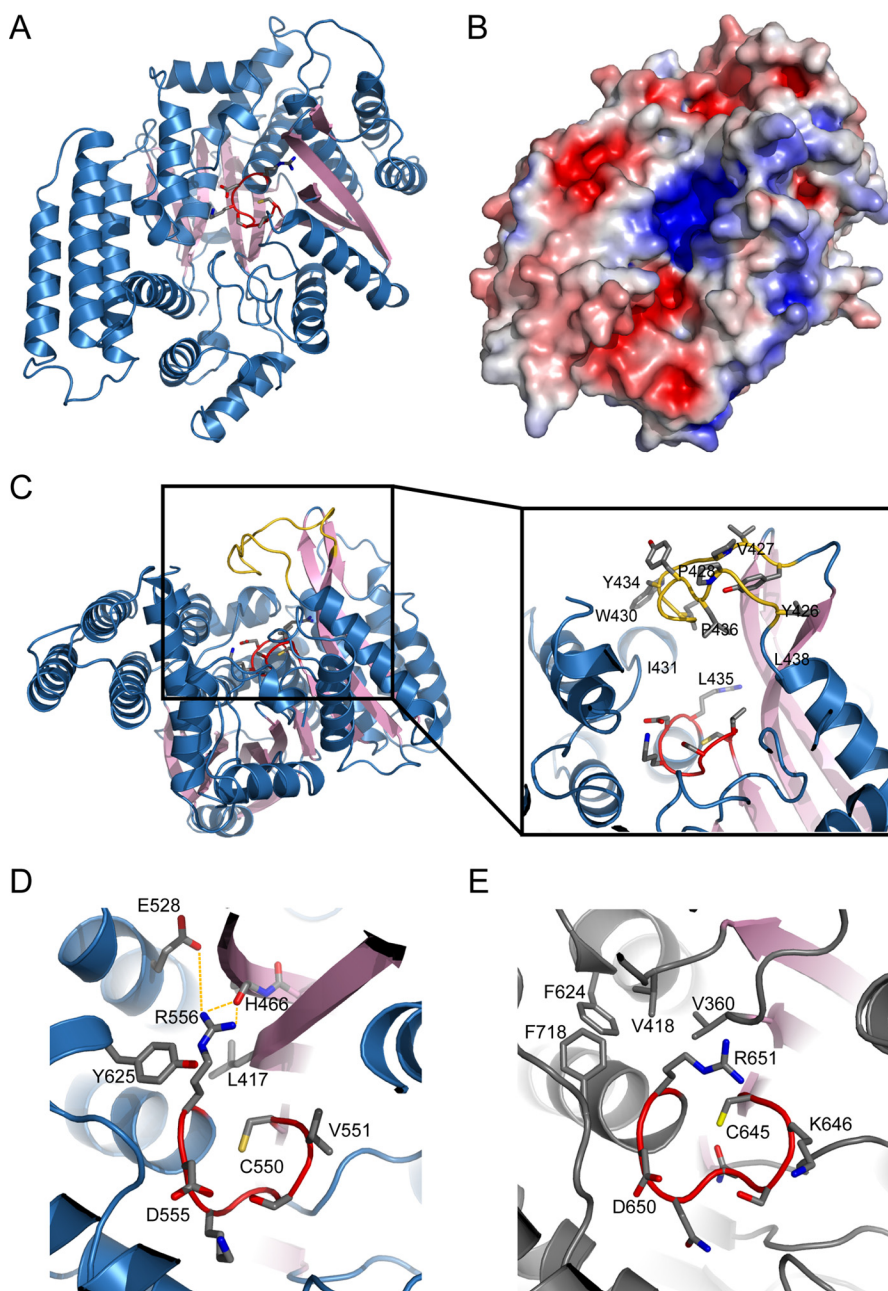


FIGURE 4. The catalytic domain of SidP. *A*, shown is a ribbon diagram of the catalytic domain of SidP. The catalytic motif is shown in *red* in sticks. For clarity, a hydrophobic loop that covers on top of the catalytic pocket is removed. *B*, the catalytic domain at the same orientation as in *A* is represented on the surface. The surface is colored based on electrostatic potential with positively charged regions in *blue* (+4 kcal per electron) and the negatively charged regions in *red* (-4 kcal per electron). Surface potential calculations were determined using APBS plug-in on PyMOL (DeLano Scientific, LLC). *C*, shown is a hydrophobic loop that covers the catalytic pocket. The loop is colored in *gold* and is shown in sticks in the zoomed-in view. *D*, shown is a close view of the catalytic P-loop of SidP. Note that CX₅R arginine is away from the catalytic cysteine (Cys-550). The hydrophobic part of Arg-556 side chain is sandwiched between two hydrophobic residues, Tyr-625 and Leu-417, whereas the guanidinium group interacts with the main chain carbonyl group of His-466 through hydrogen bonding and residue Glu-528 through electrostatic attraction. *E*, the catalytic site of SidF is shown. The presence of a cluster of hydrophobic residues (Val-360, Val-418, Phe-624, Phe-718) retains the CX₅R arginine Arg-651 in a conformation in which its guanidinium group is close to the catalytic cysteine.

is not present in SidP. Instead, the conserved Asp-555 within the P-loop functions as the general acid/base, similar to SidF, MTMR2, and Sac1 (Fig. 4*E*). D559N in SidP or D555N in LLO_3270 mutation resulted in a complete loss of the catalytic activity in both enzymes (Fig. 1).

Comparison of the Catalytic Domain of SidP with SidF and Other PI Phosphatases—Despite the lack of primary sequence similarity of SidP with other known PI phosphatases, the three-dimensional structure of the catalytic domain of SidP has a

conserved structural core as seen in other phosphatases, which consists of one α -helix and a central β -sheet with four parallel β -strands. Within the structural core, the loop that contains the catalytic CX₅R motif connects the carboxyl end of one of the β -strands with the N terminus of the α -helix (Fig. 4*D* and Fig. 5*A*) (46–49). Furthermore, structural homology search by the Dali Server (50) revealed that the catalytic domain of SidP has a surprisingly high degree of similarity with SidF, the other *L. pneumophila* PI phosphatase that we have reported recently

Structure of a *Legionella* PI-phosphatase, SidP

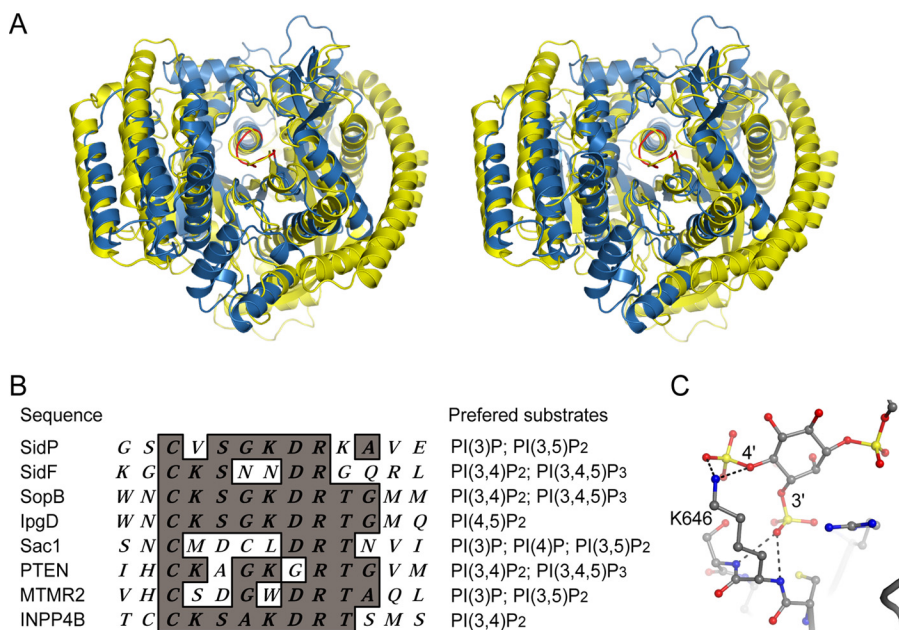


FIGURE 5. Comparison and substrate specificity of CX₅R containing PI phosphatases. A, shown is a stereo view of superposition of the catalytic domain of SidP with SidF. SidP is colored in blue, and SidF (PDB ID 4FYG) is in yellow. The CX₅R motif is shown in red. B, shown is sequence alignment of the CX₅R motif sequence from representative PI phosphatases. The *in vitro* preferred substrates are listed for each phosphatase. Enzymes with a non-lysine residue after the catalytic cysteine seem to hydrolyze mono- or non-consecutively di-phosphorylated PI species. However, enzymes with a lysine residue after the cysteine can hydrolyze lipids with two consecutive phosphate groups. C, shown is a close view of the catalytic site lysine (K646) in SidF. The main chain amide group forms hydrogen bond with the D3 phosphate, whereas the ϵ amide group interacts with the D4 phosphate. A lysine residue at the second position of the CX₅R motif provides the specificity for PI substrates with two consecutive phosphate groups.

to specifically hydrolyze PI(3,4)P₂ and PI(3,4,5)P₃ (24). Three-dimensional structural superposition calculation of these two structures yielded a Z-score of 20.3 and an root mean square deviation of 2.9 Å for 421 aligned residues (Fig. 5A). An intriguing question arose as to why SidP and SidF have such distinct substrate specificity, whereas their overall structures are highly similar. A close comparison of the catalytic site of SidP with SidF and other PI phosphatases, such as the myotubularin phosphatases (41, 51) and the tumor suppressor PTEN (49), revealed differences in both catalytic P-loop primary sequence and the overall shape of the active site pocket. It is interesting that all the phosphatases that hydrolyze substrates with two adjacent phosphate groups have a lysine residue right after the catalytic cysteine (Fig. 5B). This lysine residue, as revealed in the crystal structure of SidF in complex with its substrate PI(3,4)P₂, forms a hydrogen bond interaction with the D3 phosphate group with its main chain amide group. Meanwhile, its ϵ -amide group forms strong electrostatic and hydrogen bond interactions with the D4 phosphate group of the substrate (Fig. 5C). The length of a lysine side chain perfectly matches the distance between two phosphate groups when attached to two neighboring hydroxyl groups of the inositol ring. Thus, this lysine residue seems to function as a “ruler” and plays an important role in recognition and stabilization of substrates with two adjacent phosphate groups. The lack of this lysine residue in SidP as well as in Sac1 and MTMR2 might partially explain why these enzymes do not hydrolyze PI species with two adjacent phosphate groups. The other key substrate specificity determinant is the overall shape of the catalytic pocket. The size of the catalytic pocket in SidP is significant smaller (Fig. 4, A and B) compared with the pocket of SidF (24); thus, it may limit the accessibility of bulky PIs with multiple phosphate groups.

DISCUSSION

Our structural studies not only revealed interesting features of the catalytic domain of SidP but also revealed two additional novel domains in SidP, the I-domain and the CT-domain. Both domains have an all- α structure. Structural homology search by the Dali server does not show any significant homologues. These two domains may function as protein-protein interaction domains for proper targeting of SidP during infection through interactions with host or other *Legionella* effector proteins. Although we have generated polyclonal antibodies against SidP, which works well in detecting SidP expression by Western blot, nonspecific signals from immuno-staining prevented us from probing the *in vivo* localization of SidP during *Legionella* infection. The complete CT-domain structure may also provide a structural model for the understanding of signals that determine the translocation of *Legionella* effector proteins by the Icm/Dot apparatus. It has been proposed that the extreme C terminus contains the determinants for translocation (52). A region of 6–8 residues called “E-blocks,” which is rich in glutamates, has been proposed to be the signal for translocated substrates (53). Interestingly, the C terminus of SidP forms a long α helix that has an overall anionic charge (Fig. 6, A and B). The glutamate residues in the C-terminal α helix are not completely conserved in terms of their exact positions among different species; however, SidP orthologues/homologues from other *Legionella* species are all enriched with glutamate residues at their C termini, suggesting the presence of a conserved E-blocks signature with this C-terminal α helix (supplemental Fig. S1).

Although modulation of host PIs by bacterial virulent factors has been reported in other bacterial pathogens, such as *M. tuberculosis* (11, 12), *S. flexneri* (15), and *S. typhimurium* (14,

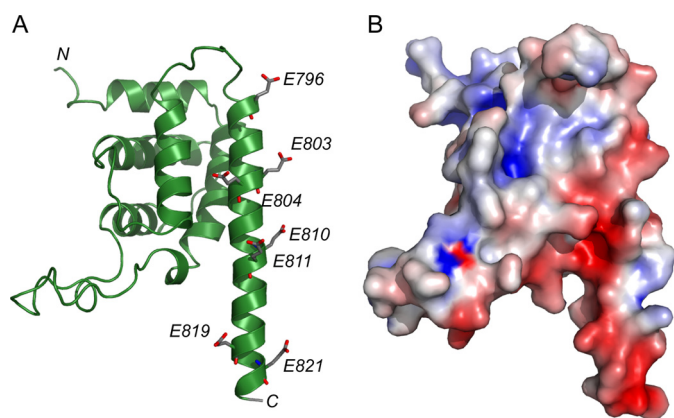


FIGURE 6. **The CT-domain of SidP.** A, shown is a ribbon diagram of the CT-domain of SidP. The very C terminus of SidP assumes a long α -helix structure. This α -helix is enriched with glutamate residues (shown in sticks). B, shown is a surface representative of the CT domain. The same color scheme applied in Fig. 4 is used in this figure. Note that the C-terminal α -helix is negatively charged due to the cluster of glutamate residues.

54), active controlling of host PI system by *Legionella* species has not been well studied. Our discovery of SidP, a new *L. pneumophila* PI phosphatase, re-emphasizes the notion that *L. pneumophila* infection involves active exploiting of host PI metabolism by the pathogen. The presence of SidP homologues in other pathogenic bacteria, such as *Fluoribacter dumoffii* and *Rickettsiella grylli* (supplemental Fig. S1), further highlights that controlling the host PI system is a common strategy used by many intracellular bacterial pathogens. An important and interesting future direction is to address the *in vivo* role of SidP in *L. pneumophila* infection. It has been shown that PI(3)P, generated from the phosphorylation of phosphatidylinositol by Vps34 (55), appears on the early phagosome membrane and plays a key role during phagosomal maturation (11, 56). Our demonstration that SidP is a PI(3)P phosphatase suggests that through the action of SidP, *Legionella* may be capable of eliminating the endosomal-like identity and reprogramming the maturation process of bacterial-containing phagosomes.

Recently, we have reported the Dot/Icm substrate SidF as a *bona fide* PI phosphatase that specifically hydrolyzes PI(3,4)P₂ and PI(3,4,5)P₃ at the D3 position (24). We proposed that the hydrolysis of PI(3,4)P₂ and PI(3,4,5)P₃ by SidF at the D3 position may play a role in preventing the conversion of these two lipids into PI(3)P by host 5p- or 4p-phosphatases, such as SHIP-1 and Inpp4A, respectively, during endocytic processes (57). The new player, SidP, may further eliminate PI(3)P molecules that have escaped from the action of SidF or that are newly generated by host PI-3 kinase Vps34. The presence of two PI phosphatases in *L. pneumophila* that have non-overlapping 3-phosphatase activities strongly suggests that removal of the D3 phosphate group of PIs on the phagosomal membrane is critical for bacterial infection. Our findings with SidP allow us to propose a model for the active regulation of PI metabolism by *Legionella* during infection (Fig. 7). In this model the two *Legionella* PI phosphatases function in a concerted way on the surface of bacterial phagosomes. SidF anchors on the LCV membrane and hydrolyzes PI(3,4,5)P₃ and PI(3,4)P₂ to PI(4,5)P₂ and PI(4)P. SidP dephosphorylates the PI(3)P on the LCV. By preventing the accumulation of PI(3)P on the LCV, SidF and SidP

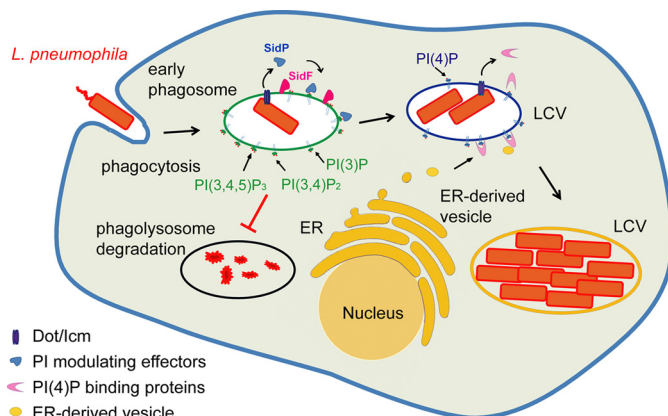


FIGURE 7. **Functional model of modulating host phosphoinositides in *Legionella* infection.** *L. pneumophila* encodes two PI phosphatases, SidF and SidP. Although SidF specifically hydrolyzes PI(3,4)P₂ and PI(3,4,5)P₃, SidP removes PI(3)P on the surface of early bacterial phagosomes. By the synergistic action of these two effectors, the LCV will be diverted from the PI(3)P-mediated phagolysosomal pathway into a PI(4)P-enriched compartment that is hospitable for the intracellular replication of the bacterium. ER, endoplasmic reticulum.

may play a role in restricting the fusion of host endosomes or lysosomes with the bacterial phagosomes, which may facilitate the escape of the bacterium from the default degradative phagolysosomal pathway. The synergistic action of SidF and SidP may also lead to the enrichment of PI(4)P on the LCV. PI(4)P can then recruit several other bacterial effectors, such as SidC and SidM. Thus, active control of the lipid composition may play a role in programming the LCV for *Legionella* replication. However, single deletion of either SidP or SidF did not show obvious bacterial infection or growth defects (data not shown); future studies by deleting both SidP and SidF are required to address the specific role of both enzymes during *Legionella* pathogenesis.

Another cellular process that has been proposed to be manipulated by *L. pneumophila* is autophagy (58). Recent data also showed that host autophagy is inhibited by the *Legionella* effector RavZ by inactivating Atg8 during infection (59). However, Δ *ravZ* mutant strain can still evade a functional autophagy system, suggesting that additional effectors may be capable of disrupting the recognition of the LCV by the host autophagy system (59). PI(3)P has been demonstrated as one of the key signals to initiate the autophagy process (60). The finding of SidP as a PI(3)P phosphatase indicates that SidP may also play a role in *Legionella* avoidance of the host autophagy pathway. *Legionella* strains with double deletion of SidP and *ravZ* will be created in our future studies to address this hypothesis.

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