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# **A compendium of proteins that interact with HIF-1**α

#### **Gregg L. Semenza**

Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, 733 N. Broadway, Baltimore, MD 21205 USA

# **Abstract**

Hypoxia-inducible factor 1 (HIF-1) is the founding member of a family of transcription factors that function as master regulators of oxygen homeostasis. HIF-1 is composed of an  $O_2$ -regulated HIF-1α subunit and a constitutively expressed HIF-1β subunit. This review provides a compendium of proteins that interact with the HIF-1α subunit, many of which regulate HIF-1 activity in either an O<sub>2</sub>-dependent or O<sub>2</sub>-independent manner.

#### **Keywords**

Oxygen biology; Transcriptional regulation

Cells of metazoan species require a constant supply of  $O_2$  as a substrate for metabolic reactions, principally mitochondrial oxidative phosphorylation. Hypoxia-inducible factors (HIFs) regulate the transcription of hundreds of genes in order to maintain a balance between  $O_2$  supply and demand in every cell. The founding member of the HIF family, HIF-1, is composed of HIF-1α and HIF-1β subunits, each of which contains basic helixloop-helix (bHLH) and Per-ARNT-Sim homology (PAS) domains that together mediate dimerization and DNA binding [1,2]. HIF-1β, which is also known as the aryl hydrocarbon nuclear translocator (ARNT) protein, heterodimerizes with several different bHLH-PAS proteins, whereas HIF-1 $\alpha$  is the HIF-1-specific and O<sub>2</sub>-regulated subunit. HIF-1 activity is regulated by the interaction of HIF-1α with many other proteins [3–156], which are listed in Table 1. This list, which continues to grow rapidly, is intended to be illustrative rather than comprehensive. For many of these proteins, the site of interaction has been localized to specific amino acid residues or to a particular domain within HIF-1α, such as the bHLH-PAS domain (amino acid residues 1–390 approximately), PAS-B subdomain (residues 200– 330 approximately),  $O_2$ -dependent degradation domain (residues 390–575 approximately), or C-terminal transactivation domain (residues 786–826).

The majority of HIF-1α-interacting proteins that have been identified thus far regulate the stability of HIF-1 $\alpha$  in either an O<sub>2</sub>-dependent or O<sub>2</sub>-independent manner. O<sub>2</sub>-dependent degradation is triggered by the prolyl hydroxylase domain proteins PHD1-3 [88,102]. Hydroxylation of HIF-1α at proline residue 402 or 564 facilitates binding of the von Hippel-Lindau protein (VHL), which recruits an E3 ubiquitin-protein ligase complex that catalyzes the covalent linkage of ubiquitin to lysine residues in HIF-1α, which serves as a signal for proteasomal degradation (151).

HIF-1 $\alpha$ -interacting proteins that facilitate O<sub>2</sub>-dependent degradation may do so by stabilizing interactions between components of the hydroxylation complex or by stimulating

ubiquitination of hydroxylated HIF-1α (Table 2). Many HIF-1α-interacting proteins that inhibit  $O_2$ -dependent degradation do so by blocking the action of the VHL-E3 ligase complex or by catalyzing deubiquitination (Table 3). Other HIF-1α-interacting proteins facilitate  $O_2$ -independent degradation (Table 4) by stimulating ubiquitination, SUMOylation,

proteasomal degradation, or chaperone-mediated autophagy (lysosomal degradation). HIF-1 $\alpha$ -interacting proteins that inhibit O<sub>2</sub>-independent degradation do so by altering ubiquitination or by catalyzing deSUMOylation (Table 5). Another large group of HIF-1αinteracting proteins serve as co-activators or co-repressors to regulate transactivation mediated by HIF-1α (Table 6).

Many of the proteins that interact with HIF-1α regulate HIF-1 activity by either promoting or inhibiting the interaction of HIF-1α with other proteins, as described above. In contrast, other HIF-1α-interacting proteins have a catalytic activity, such as acetylation, deacetylation, demethylation, phosphorylation, or ubiquitination, leading to posttranslational modification of HIF-1α that alters its stability, subcellular localization, or transactivation function (Table 7).

In the era of Big Data Science, it is often frustrating that large projects to characterize gene expression, transcription factor binding, or protein-protein interactions often do not include HIF-1 because the experiments were performed using tissue culture cells cultured at 20% O2. The data presented here represent a compilation of studies using many different cell types and the observed protein interactions will of course only be observed in those cell types in which both proteins are expressed. In addition, the interaction of HIF-1α with its interacting proteins may be regulated by post-translational modification of one or both proteins, which may occur in a cell-type or stimulus-specific manner. Finally, it should be noted that many HIF-1α-interacting proteins are the products of HIF-1 target genes and participate in feed-forward or feedback loops that serve to amplify or extinguish cellular responses to hypoxia [163].

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Proteins that interact with hypoxia-inducible factor 1α (HIF-1α).













 ${}^{a}$ ND, not determined.

 $b$ <br>In some papers, interacting proteins were shown to bind to truncated recombinant proteins containing only a certain domain or subdomain within HIF-1α (e.g. bHLH-PAS, ODD, or PAS-B) but the specific amino acid residues were not stated.

 ${}^{c}$ HIF-2α was tested and did not bind to the HIF-1α-interacting protein.

Interacting proteins that stimulate  $O_2$ - and PHD/VHL-dependent degradation of HIF-1 $\alpha$ .



Interacting proteins that inhibit O<sub>2</sub>-dependent degradation of HIF-1 $\alpha$ .

Protein	Mechanism of action	<b>Reference</b>
ATP6V0C	Competes with VHL for binding	[10]
NOO1	Competes with PHDs for binding	[87]
OTUD7B	Mediates deubiquitination of HIF-1a	[89]
<b>RSUME</b>	Inhibits VHL-E3 ligase complex	[122]
RUNX2	Competes with VHL for binding	[124]
SENP1	Mediates deSUMOylation of HIF-1a	[126]
UCHL1	Mediates deubiquitination of HIF-1a	[147]
USP8	Mediates deubiquitination of HIF-1a	[149]
<b>USP20</b>	Mediates deubiquitination of HIF-1a.	[151]

Interacting proteins that mediate  $O_2$ -independent degradation of HIF-1 $\alpha$ .



Interacting proteins that inhibit  $O_2$ -independent degradation of HIF-1 $\alpha$ .



Interacting proteins that regulate transactivation by HIF-1α.



<sup>a</sup>TAD, transactivation domain.

b H3K9me3, histone 3, trimethylated on lysine 9.

 $c$ HREs, hypoxia response elements.

Post-translational modification (PTM) of HIF-1α.



\* (AA#), the amino acid number of the HIF-1α residue that is subject to PTM is shown, based on GenBank accession number U22431.1.

\* K48-linked polyubiquitination.

 ${}^{a}$ K63-linked polyubiquitination.