

# Ig $\beta$ ubiquitination activates PI3K signals required for endosomal sorting

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**A wealth of *in vitro* data has demonstrated a central role for receptor ubiquitination in endocytic sorting. However, how receptor ubiquitination functions *in vivo* is poorly understood. Herein, we report that ablation of B cell antigen receptor ubiquitination *in vivo* uncouples the receptor from CD19 phosphorylation and phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase (PI3K) signals. These signals are necessary and sufficient for accumulating phosphatidylinositol (3,4,5)-trisphosphate (PIP<sub>3</sub>) on B cell receptor-containing early endosomes and proper sorting into the MHC class II antigen-presenting compartment (MIIC). Surprisingly, MIIC targeting is dispensable for T cell-dependent immunity. Rather, it is critical for activating endosomal toll-like receptors and antiviral humoral immunity. These findings demonstrate a novel mechanism of receptor endosomal signaling required for specific peripheral immune responses.**

## INTRODUCTION

Recognition of polyvalent antigens by the B cell receptor (BCR) initiates two simultaneous processes critical for B cell activation. One is the induction of signaling cascades that modulate transcriptional programs determining cell fate (Kurosaki et al., 2010; Clark et al., 2014). The other is the capture and delivery of antigenic complexes along the endocytic pathway to the MHC class II antigen-presenting compartment (MIIC; Qiu et al., 1994; Ferrari et al., 1997; Clark et al., 2011; Blum et al., 2013). Endocytic trafficking is also necessary for activating, by BCR-captured ligands, TLRs 7 and 9, which take residence in the MIIC after BCR ligation (Chaturvedi et al., 2008; O'Neill et al., 2009; Lee and Barton, 2014). Therefore, BCR endocytic trafficking links signals elicited at the cell surface (signal 1) to costimulatory processes that originate in late endosomes (signal 2; Bretscher and Cohn, 1970).

Signals are initiated through the BCR when Ig $\alpha$  and Ig $\beta$  immunoreceptor tyrosine-based activation motifs are phosphorylated to form a recruitment site for the spleen tyrosine kinase (Syk). Downstream phosphorylation of the B cell linker protein (BLNK or SLP-65; Kabak et al., 2002) forms a platform for assembly of downstream effectors, including Btk, PLC $\gamma$ 2, Nck, Vav, and Grb2 (Herzog et al., 2008; Kurosaki et al., 2010). A particularly important signaling effector

is phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase (PI3K), which is required for B cell development (Fruman et al., 1999; Clayton et al., 2002; Ramadani et al., 2010; Clark et al., 2014), regulation of receptor editing (Tze et al., 2005), peripheral B cell maintenance (Srinivasan et al., 2009), and germinal center (GC) responses (Wang et al., 2002; Castello et al., 2013; Sander et al., 2015). There are multiple ways in which PI3K can be activated (Engel et al., 1995; Rickert et al., 1995; Wang et al., 2002; Aiba et al., 2008; Castello et al., 2013; Clark et al., 2014). However, how activation occurs in each functional context is incompletely understood.

Ig $\beta$  is also inducibly ubiquitinated, and *in vitro*, this is necessary for sorting internalized BCRs into the MIIC (Zhang et al., 2007). Based on a wealth of *in vitro* data, ubiquitinated receptors are recognized by components of the endosomal complex required for transport (Raiborg and Stenmark, 2009), which are first recruited to endosomes by inositols phosphorylated at the 3 position, especially phosphatidylinositol (3,4,5)-trisphosphate (PIP<sub>3</sub>; Schmidt and Teis, 2012). Surprisingly, the *in vivo* significance of antigen receptor ubiquitination and PIP<sub>3</sub> in receptor trafficking is largely unexplored.

Within the MIIC, many of the same mechanisms that process antigens into peptides are necessary for activating TLRs 7 and 9 (Lee and Barton, 2014). Linked recognition between BCR and TLR7 or TLR9 is required for anti-

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Abbreviations used: BCR, B cell receptor; BM, bone marrow; CGG, chicken gamma globulin; GC, germinal center; H+L, heavy chain and light chain; MIIC, MHC class II antigen-presenting compartment; PI3K, phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase; PIP<sub>3</sub>, phosphatidylinositol (3,4,5)-trisphosphate; SRBC, sheep RBC; Syk, spleen tyrosine kinase; T-bet, T-box expressed in T cells.

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RNP and anti-DNA humoral autoimmunity, respectively (Leadbetter et al., 2002; Viglianti et al., 2003; Christensen et al., 2006). TLR7 is also required for humoral immunity to RNA viruses (Koyama et al., 2007), including influenza, whereas TLR9 mediates responses to DNA-containing viruses (Hou et al., 2011).

Targeting the MIIC is dependent on BCR-initiated signals that accelerate receptor internalization (Niuro et al., 2004; Gazumyan et al., 2006; Hou et al., 2006) and enable BCR trafficking to late endosomes (Chaturvedi et al., 2008; Clark et al., 2011). Disruption of proximal signaling pathways, such as what occurs in anergy, blocks both BCR and TLR endocytic transit (Chaturvedi et al., 2008; O'Neill et al., 2009). There is only a partial understanding of the signaling pathways mediating BCR endocytic transit (Chaturvedi et al., 2008; Clark et al., 2011). Furthermore, it is not known whether the signaling mechanisms regulating BCR trafficking are similar or different than those regulating other BCR-dependent development and maturation transitions.

Herein, we use mice expressing an Ig $\beta$  cytosolic tail mutant (Ig $\beta^{K\Delta R}$ ) to demonstrate that Ig $\beta$  ubiquitination enables BCRs to enter the MIIC by activating PI3K and generating PIP<sub>3</sub> on early endocytic vesicles containing internalized BCR complexes (Murphy et al., 2009; Chaturvedi et al., 2011). Other PI3K-dependent B cell functions were normal in Ig $\beta^{K\Delta R}$  mice, indicating that Ig $\beta$  ubiquitination mediates a highly specific mechanism of PI3K activation required for one BCR-dependent function: endocytic sorting.

## RESULTS

### B cell development in Ig $\beta^{K\Delta R}$ mice

Gene targeting was used to derive C57BL/6 homozygous mice in which the codons encoding the three Ig $\beta$  cytosolic lysines were mutated to encode arginines (Ig $\beta^{K\Delta R}$ ; Fig. S1 A). These mice were then crossed to mice expressing FLP1 recombinase to delete the neomycin gene (Neo). Proper gene targeting and Neo deletion were confirmed by PCR of genomic DNA (Fig. S1 B). mRNA was isolated from WT and homozygous Ig $\beta^{K\Delta R}$  (hereafter Ig $\beta^{K\Delta R}$ ) splenic B cells, amplified by PCR, and sequenced to confirm targeted mutations (Fig. S1, C and D). Immunoprecipitating the Ig $\alpha$ /Ig $\beta$  heterodimer from WT and Ig $\beta^{K\Delta R}$  splenic B cells, followed by immunoblotting sequentially with ubiquitin- and Ig $\beta$ -specific antibodies demonstrated that WT Ig $\beta$  was ubiquitinated in the resting BCR and that this increased the resulting BCR clustering. In contrast, neither the resting nor clustered Ig $\beta^{K\Delta R}$  BCR was detectably ubiquitinated (Fig. S1 E).

To explore the in vivo consequences of Ig $\beta$  ubiquitination, bone marrow (BM) was harvested from WT and Ig $\beta^{K\Delta R}$  mice, stained with antibodies specific for B220, CD43, and IgM, and then examined by flow cytometry (Fig. 1, A–C). Early B cell development appeared normal with no significant differences in the pro–B cell (B220<sup>+</sup>CD43<sup>+</sup>IgM<sup>−</sup>) and pre–B cell (B220<sup>+</sup>CD43<sup>−</sup>IgM<sup>−</sup>) compartments of WT and Ig $\beta^{K\Delta R}$  mice. However, the numbers of immature (B220<sup>int</sup>)

CD43<sup>−</sup>IgM<sup>+</sup>) and mature (B220<sup>high</sup>CD43<sup>−</sup>IgM<sup>+</sup>) B cells in Ig $\beta^{K\Delta R}$  mice were reduced approximately twofold. IgM surface densities on immature and mature B cells were also reduced, with only a few cells expressing high levels of IgM. Mean fluorescence intensity of surface IgM staining on WT and Ig $\beta^{K\Delta R}$  immature B cells was 2,497 ± 255 and 1,305 ± 62, respectively (P = 0.0001). As expected, thymic T cell development was normal in Ig $\beta^{K\Delta R}$  mice (Fig. 1 D).

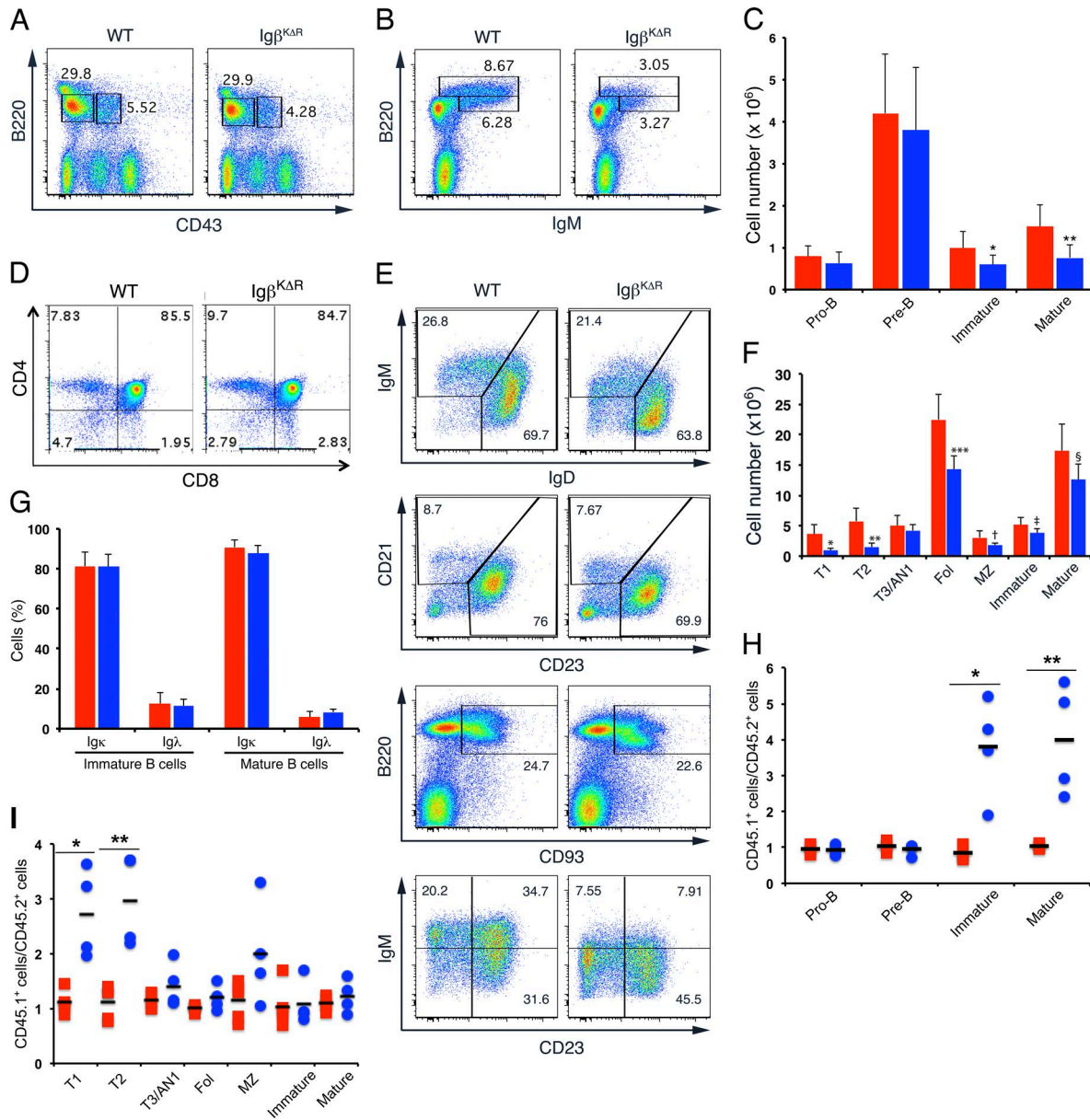
In the periphery, transitional B cell populations (T1, CD93<sup>+</sup>IgM<sup>+</sup>CD23<sup>−</sup>; and T2, CD93<sup>+</sup>IgM<sup>+</sup>CD23<sup>+</sup>; Merrell et al., 2006) were significantly diminished. However, later developmental stages, including T3/AN1 (CD93<sup>+</sup>IgM<sup>low</sup>CD23<sup>+</sup>), splenic immature (B220<sup>+</sup>IgM<sup>+</sup>IgD<sup>−</sup>), and mature (B220<sup>+</sup>IgM<sup>+</sup>IgD<sup>+</sup>) B cell populations, were only mildly decreased (Fig. 1, E and F). There was a proportional decrease in the number of follicular (B220<sup>+</sup>CD21<sup>lo</sup>CD23<sup>hi</sup>) and marginal zone B cells (B220<sup>+</sup>CD21<sup>hi</sup>CD23<sup>lo</sup>). IgM surface densities on splenic immature Ig $\beta^{K\Delta R}$  B cells were only slightly diminished compared with WT (1.3-fold), whereas IgD surface densities were normal. Therefore, Ig $\beta^{K\Delta R}$  mice do not have a substantial defect in BCR expression in the periphery.

In immature BM B cells, changes in receptor editing are usually associated with changes in the fraction of cells expressing Ig $\lambda$  (Gay et al., 1993; Tiegs et al., 1993). However, as demonstrated in Fig. 1 G, the frequencies of Ig $\lambda$ <sup>+</sup> cells in Ig $\beta^{K\Delta R}$ , WT immature, and mature B cell populations were similar. This suggests that receptor editing was normal in Ig $\beta^{K\Delta R}$  mice.

To determine whether the observed phenotypes were cell intrinsic and/or influenced by lymphopenia, we performed competitive BM chimera reconstitutions. Sublethally irradiated Rag2<sup>−/−</sup>Il2rg<sup>−/−</sup> mice were reconstituted with WT (CD45.1) BM mixed 50:50 with either Ig $\beta^{K\Delta R}$  (CD45.2) or WT (CD45.2) BM. 8–9 wk after reconstitution, BM and spleens were harvested and analyzed by flow cytometry. As shown in Fig. 1 H, Ig $\beta^{K\Delta R}$  and WT BM were equally efficient at reconstituting the pro– and pre–B cell populations. In contrast, Ig $\beta^{K\Delta R}$  BM was about a fourfold less efficient than WT BM in reconstituting the immature and mature B cell pools. In the periphery, Ig $\beta^{K\Delta R}$  BM was less fit to reconstitute the transitional (T1 and T2) and marginal zone B cell compartments. In contrast, both WT and Ig $\beta^{K\Delta R}$  BM equally reconstituted An1/T3, follicular, immature, and mature B cell compartments (Fig. 1 I). These data indicate that Ig $\beta^{K\Delta R}$  mice have a defect in late B lymphopoiesis that recovers to normal levels in the periphery.

### BCR capping and entry into the MIIC require Ig $\beta$ ubiquitination

Cell line studies suggested that Ig $\beta$  ubiquitination was required for targeting the MIIC (Zhang et al., 2007). Therefore, WT and Ig $\beta^{K\Delta R}$  B splenocytes were stimulated in culture through the BCR with FITC-conjugated anti-IgG and -IgM (heavy chain and light chain [H+L]) F(ab)<sub>2</sub> antibodies for up to 30 min. Cell aliquots were then fixed,



**Figure 1. Selective defect in late B cell development in *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* mice.** (A–C) BM cells from WT and *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* mice were isolated, stained with antibodies specific for B220, CD43, and IgM, and analyzed by flow cytometry (A and B). Total numbers of each population (C) are provided for WT (red) and *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* (blue) mice; error bars indicate mean  $\pm$  SD. \*,  $P = 0.0167$ ; \*\*,  $P = 0.0022$  ( $n = 3$ ). (D) Thymic CD3<sup>+</sup> lymphocytes were analyzed by flow cytometry for CD4 and CD8 expression ( $n = 3$  mice). (E and F) Splenic B cells from the indicated mice were stained with antibodies specific for B220, IgM, IgD, CD21, CD23, and CD93 and then analyzed by flow cytometry. Representative flow cytometric plots are shown in E, and total numbers of each population from WT (red) and *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* (blue) are shown in F. \*,  $P = 0.0046$ ; \*\*,  $P = 0.0021$ ; \*\*\*,  $P = 0.0044$ ; †,  $P = 0.0009$ ; ‡,  $P = 0.0012$ ; §,  $P = 0.0033$  ( $n = 4$  mice per condition). (G) Flow cytometry of WT (red) and *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* (blue) BM immature and mature B cells stained for Igκ and Igλ ( $n = 3$ ). (H and I) BM from WT CD45.1 mice was mixed 50:50 with WT CD45.2 (red) or *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* CD45.2 (blue) BM and then transferred into irradiated WT CD45.1 mice. After 8–9 wk, BM (\*,  $P = 0.006$ ; \*\*,  $P = 0.009$ ; H) and spleen (\*,  $P = 0.003$ ; \*\*,  $P = 0.002$ ; I) were analyzed by flow cytometry. Each point represents one mouse. Horizontal lines represent means. MZ, marginal zone. Fol, follicular B cells.

stained with Lamp-1– and H2-M–specific antibodies, and visualized by confocal microscopy. As demonstrated (Fig. 2, A and B), *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* BCRs were excluded from H2-M<sup>+</sup>Lamp-1<sup>+</sup> MIIC late endosomes.

Examination of an earlier time point after 2-min stimulation demonstrated that *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* BCRs did not cap normally (Fig. 2, C and D). Though ~80% of WT cells formed a single cap after BCR clustering, this was observed in only 20% of

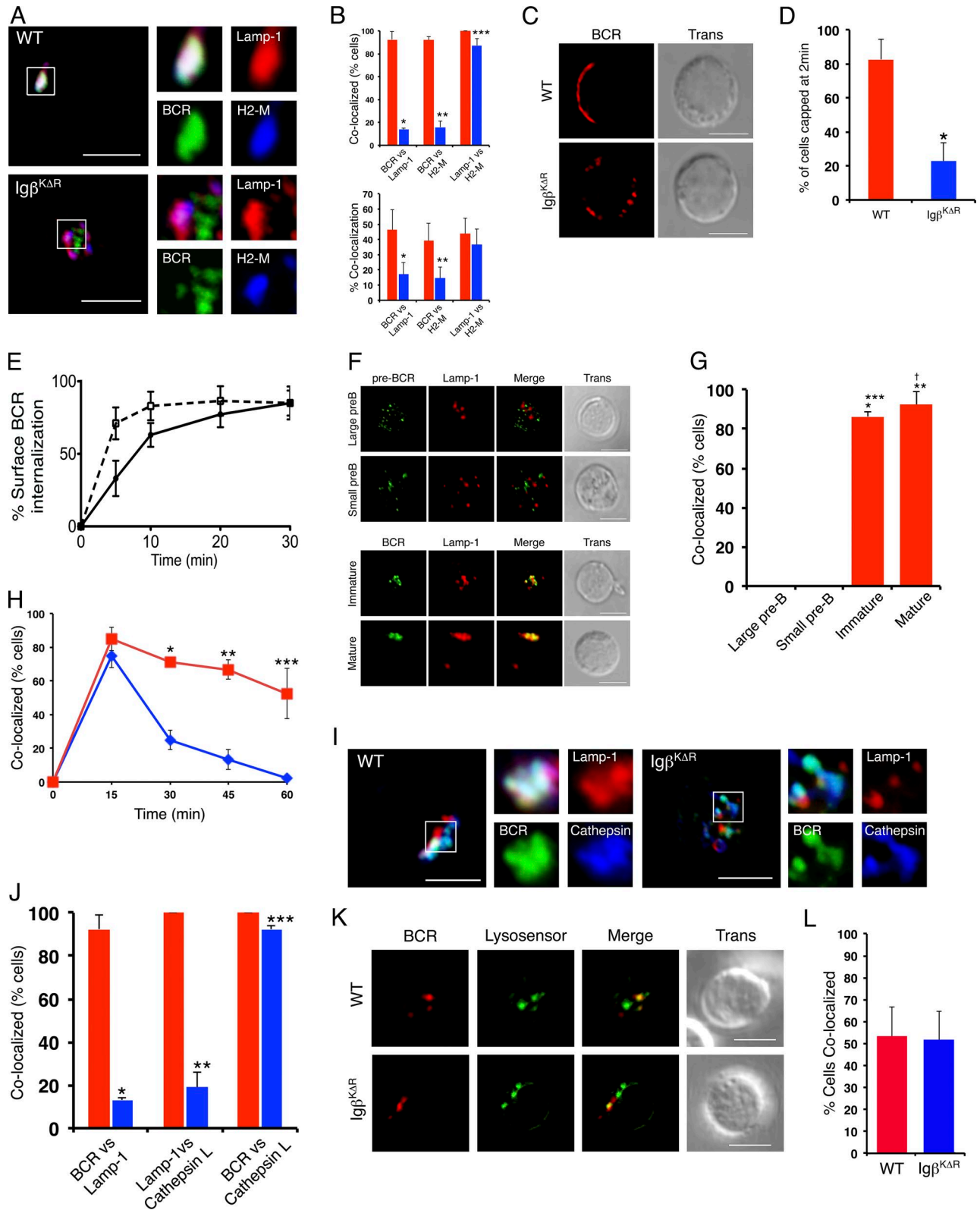


Figure 2. **Defective capping and MIIC targeting of *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* BCRs.** (A and B) WT and *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* splenocytes were stimulated with FITC-conjugated IgG and IgM (H+L) F(ab)<sub>2</sub> antibodies for 30 min in vitro, then fixed, stained with antibodies specific for Lamp-1 and H2-M, and visualized by confocal microscopy. Representative images. Quantitation of WT (red) or *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* (blue) samples (*n* = 3; B) based on percentage of cells with >25% overlap between the indicated

*Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* splenocytes. Rather, multiple patches of *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* BCRs were usually distributed across the cell surface.

In cell lines, *Igβ* ubiquitination is dispensable for BCR internalization (Zhang et al., 2007). Indeed, *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* BCRs were internalized more rapidly than WT BCRs after receptor cross-linking (Fig. 2 E). These data indicate that *Igβ* ubiquitination is required for both BCR capping and sorting into the MIIC. Furthermore, it appeared to modulate early BCR internalization.

In *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* mice, pre-BCR-mediated development was normal, whereas BCR-mediated selection into the immature B cell pool was impaired. We therefore examined whether endocytic trafficking of the pre-BCR and BCR was also different. Large and small pre-B cells, immature B cells, and mature B cells were isolated from WT BM by flow cytometry. The pre-BCR was labeled on ice with the biotinylated antibody SL156, whereas BCRs on immature and mature B cells were labeled with FITC-conjugated anti-IgG and -IgM (H+L) F(ab)<sub>2</sub> antibodies. Samples were then warmed to 37°C for 30 min, fixed, and stained (Fig. 2, F and G). As demonstrated by confocal microscopy, internalized pre-BCRs were completely excluded from Lamp-1<sup>+</sup> late endosomes. In contrast, BCRs on immature and mature cells colocalized with late endosomes to a similar degree as endocytosed BCRs on splenic B cells.

We next examined early BCR endocytic sorting. Internalized *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* BCRs initially targeted EEA1<sup>+</sup> early endosomes similarly to WT BCRs (Fig. 2 H). However, *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* BCRs left this compartment much more rapidly than WT BCRs. In B lymphocytes, terminal lysosomes do not contain Lamp-1 (Li et al., 2002). Indeed, *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* BCRs rapidly targeted a Lamp-1<sup>-</sup>Cathepsin L<sup>+</sup> (Fig. 2, I and J) and acidic (Fig. 2 K) compartment. These data indicate that in the absence of *Igβ* ubiquitination, ligated BCR complexes are rapidly internalized and target terminal lysosomes.

### Efficient MIIC targeting is dispensable for T-dependent humoral immunity

Numerous in vitro studies associate BCR endocytic trafficking to the MIIC with peptide loading of MHC class II and eliciting T cell help (Qiu et al., 1994; Siemasko et al., 1999; Chen and Jensen, 2008; Clark et al., 2011). To examine the in vivo functions of MIIC targeting, WT and *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* mice were immunized with both T-dependent (NP conjugated to either chicken gamma globulin [CGG], Np-CGG; or NP conjugated to sheep RBCs [SRBCs], NP-SRBCs) and T-independent (NP-Ficoll) antigens intraperitoneally at day 0 and again at day 21. Serum was collected at various time points up to 35 d after initial immunization and assayed by ELISA for NP-specific IgM, as well as low- and high-affinity NP-specific IgG.

Remarkably, humoral immune responses to NP were relatively similar in WT and *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* mice (Fig. 3 A). There was a modest decrease in titers of IgM to NP in response to NP-Ficoll at days 7 and 14, NP-CGG at days 28 and 35, and NP-SRBCs at day 7. Low-affinity IgG immune responses were similar at all time points, and high-affinity IgG immunity was similar except for a modest decrease in the NP-SRBC responses at day 14.

To better understand early humoral immunity to T-dependent antigens, *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* mice were crossed to mice expressing a BCR specific for hen egg lysozyme (HEL; MD4). HEL-specific B cells were sorted from WT×MD4 and *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>*×MD4 mice, labeled with CFSE, and transferred into CD45.1 (B6.SJL-*Ptprc<sup>a</sup>Pepc<sup>b</sup>*/BoyJ) mice. Mice were simultaneously challenged with HEL conjugated to SRBCs. After 3 d, spleens were harvested, labeled with CD86, and assayed by flow cytometry. As seen in Fig. 3 B, dilution of CFSE in HEL-binding WT×MD4 and *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>*×MD4 mice was similar. In addition, both populations up-regulated CD86 (Fig. 3 B). After 6 d, intracellular staining of HEL-binding splenic B cells revealed that both populations up-regulated IRF4 and BCL6 (Ochiai et al., 2013) to a similar degree (Fig. 3 C). In aggre-

markers (top) or percent colocalization of total immunofluorescence (Manders' Coefficient; bottom). Top: \*,  $P = 1.3 \times 10^{-12}$ ; \*\*,  $P = 3.6 \times 10^{-15}$ ; \*\*\*,  $P = 0.0061$ . Bottom: \*,  $P = 4.0 \times 10^{-5}$ ; \*\*,  $P = 10^{-6}$ . (C and D) Cells were stimulated as in A for 2 min, fixed, and visualized by confocal microscopy. Representative images ( $n = 3$ ) provided in C with quantitation of percentage of cells displaying capping provided in D; \*,  $P = 1.4 \times 10^{-5}$ . (E) Internalization of BCRs from surface of WT (closed circles) or *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* (open squares) B splenocytes after stimulation with PE-conjugated IgG- and IgM (H+L)-specific F(ab)<sub>2</sub> antibodies;  $P = 0.0291$  (two-way ANOVA;  $n = 3$ ). (F and G) WT BM large pre-B cell, small pre-B cell, immature, and mature B cell populations were isolated by flow cytometry. Pre-BCRs were stimulated with biotin-conjugated anti-SL156, and BCRs were stimulated FITC-conjugated IgG and IgM (H+L) F(ab)<sub>2</sub> antibodies, respectively, for 30 min at 37°C, and then fixed and counterstained with anti-Lamp-1 antibodies. The pre-BCR was stained with rabbit antibiotin, followed by donkey anti-rabbit Alexa Fluor 488, and all cells were visualized by confocal microscopy. Representative images are provided in F, whereas the fraction of each cell population demonstrating >25% colocalization between the receptor and Lamp-1 are provided in G ( $n = 3$ ). \*,  $P = 8.10^{-10}$  versus large pre-B; \*\*,  $P = 9.8 \times 10^{-16}$  versus large pre-B; \*\*\*,  $P = 1.03 \times 10^{-9}$  versus small pre-B; †,  $P = 1.4 \times 10^{-15}$  versus small pre-B. (H) WT (red) or *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* (blue) B splenocytes were stimulated with FITC-conjugated IgG- and IgM (H+L)-specific F(ab)<sub>2</sub> antibodies for the indicated times in vitro, fixed, and stained with EEA1-specific antibodies, and the percentage of cells demonstrating >25% BCR colocalization with EEA1 was plotted as a function of time. \*,  $P = 0.293$ ; \*\*,  $P = 6.22 \times 10^{-6}$ ; \*\*\*,  $P = 0.0004$ . (I and J) WT or *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* B splenocytes were stimulated with FITC-conjugated IgG- and IgM (H+L)-specific F(ab)<sub>2</sub> antibodies for 30 min in vitro, fixed, and stained with antibodies specific for Lamp-1 and Cathepsin L. Representative images. Quantitative assessment of colocalization of the indicated markers for WT (red) or *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* (blue) cells (J;  $n = 3$ ). \*,  $P = 1.16 \times 10^{-16}$ ; \*\*,  $P = 4.92 \times 10^{-12}$ ; \*\*\*,  $P = 0.0010$ . (K and L) Cells were loaded with 1 μM LysoSensor and then stimulated with Texas red-conjugated IgG- and IgM (H+L)-specific F(ab)<sub>2</sub> antibodies for 30 min. (K) Cells were visualized by confocal microscopy. (L) Provided are the percentage of cells demonstrating >25% colocalization. WT (red bar) and *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* (blue bar); error bars represent mean ± SD ( $n = 3$ ). Bars, 5 μm.

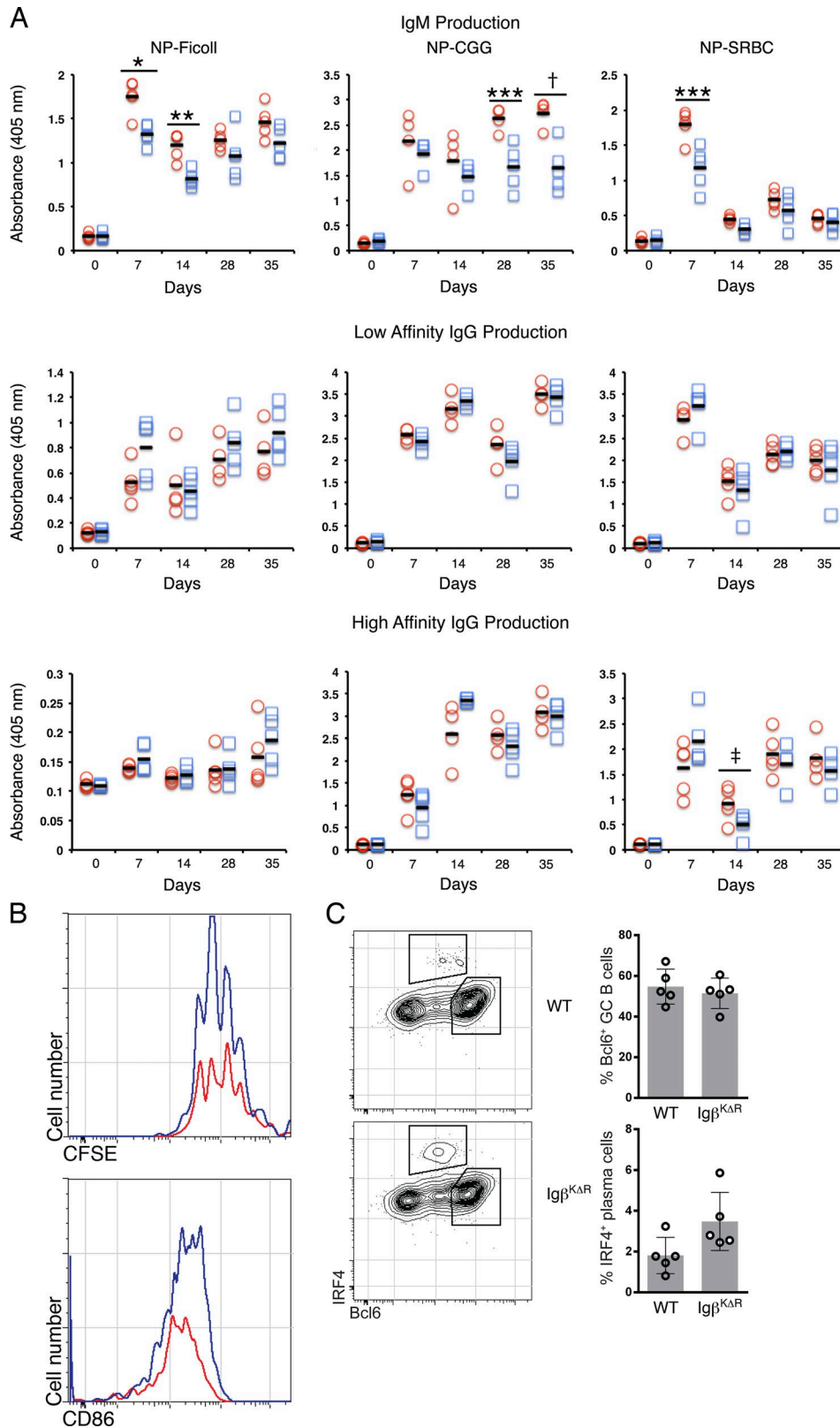


Figure 3. **Normal T-dependent and T-independent humoral immunity in *Igβ<sup>KAR</sup>* mice.** (A) WT (open red circles) or *Igβ<sup>KAR</sup>* (open blue squares) mice were immunized with T-independent (NP-Ficoll) or T-dependent (NP-CGG or NP-SRBC) antigens, and sera were assayed for NP-specific IgM antibodies (top) and either low-affinity (middle) or high-affinity (bottom) IgG antibodies by ELISA on the indicated days (each symbol represents assay from one mouse).

gate, these data indicate MIIC targeting is not required for primary T-dependent and T-independent humoral immunity.

### BCR targeting to MIIC required for endocytic TLR activation

Confocal microscopy of WT splenic B cells demonstrated that ligated BCRs were rapidly delivered to TLR9<sup>+</sup>Lamp-1<sup>+</sup> late endosomes (Fig. 4, A and B). In contrast, in *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* splenic B cells, endocytosed BCRs colocalized with TLR9 but were excluded from Lamp-1<sup>+</sup> late endosomes. These results are similar to those observed in anergic B cells (O'Neill et al., 2009) and suggest that endocytosed BCRs traverse through a TLR9<sup>+</sup> compartment before entering the MIIC.

When a TLR9 ligand (ODN 1826) was targeted to BCRs on WT splenic cells, there was a robust induction of the transcription factor T-bet expressed in T cells (T-bet), a target downstream of TLR9 (Fig. 4 C; O'Neill et al., 2009). In contrast, in *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* splenic B cells BCR-targeted ODN 1826 induced T-bet poorly. Both WT and *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* splenic B splenocytes strongly expressed T-bet in response to IFN $\gamma$  and not to a control oligonucleotide (ODN 2138). These data suggest that *Igβ* ubiquitination is required for coupling BCR antigen recognition to endocytic TLR activation.

To test the importance of *Igβ* ubiquitination for TLR activation in vivo, WT, *Tlr7<sup>-/-</sup>*, and *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* mice were immunized and then boosted 21 d later with inactive influenza virus particles (Koyama et al., 2007). Comparison of serum influenza-specific IgG2a responses revealed that *Tlr7<sup>-/-</sup>* mice had low titers compared with WT mice (Fig. 4 D). Titers in *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* mice were intermediate and significantly lower than WT titers. Differences in the expression of T-bet in splenic B cells were more striking with both *Tlr7<sup>-/-</sup>* and *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* splenocytes having low and comparable levels of T-bet expression compared with WT controls (Fig. 4 E).

We then challenged WT, *Tlr7<sup>-/-</sup>*, and *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* mice with influenza A virus. 27 d after infection, peripheral blood was assayed for neutralizing titers of antihemagglutinin antibodies. As demonstrated, antihemagglutinin antibody titers in *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* and *Tlr7<sup>-/-</sup>* mice were similar, with both being significantly less than that observed in WT mice (Fig. 4 F). These data suggest that targeting the BCR to the MIIC is more important for TLR-dependent than T cell-dependent primary humoral immunity.

### *Igβ* ubiquitination-mediated PI3K activation regulates endocytic sorting

BCR-dependent signals enable the coordinated delivery of both the BCR and TLR9 to the MIIC (Chaturvedi et al., 2008; O'Neill et al., 2009). Therefore, we next determined whether defects observed in *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* mice were associated with

differences in BCR signaling. Stimulation of B splenocytes in vitro followed by immunoblotting of total cell lysates indicated that BCR-induced tyrosine phosphorylation of total cellular proteins was similar in WT and *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* cells (Fig. 5 A). Furthermore, stimulation of both WT and *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* cells led to rapid recruitment of Syk to surface BCR complexes (Fig. 5, B and C; Hou et al., 2006). These data indicate that proximal tyrosine kinase activation through *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* BCRs is intact.

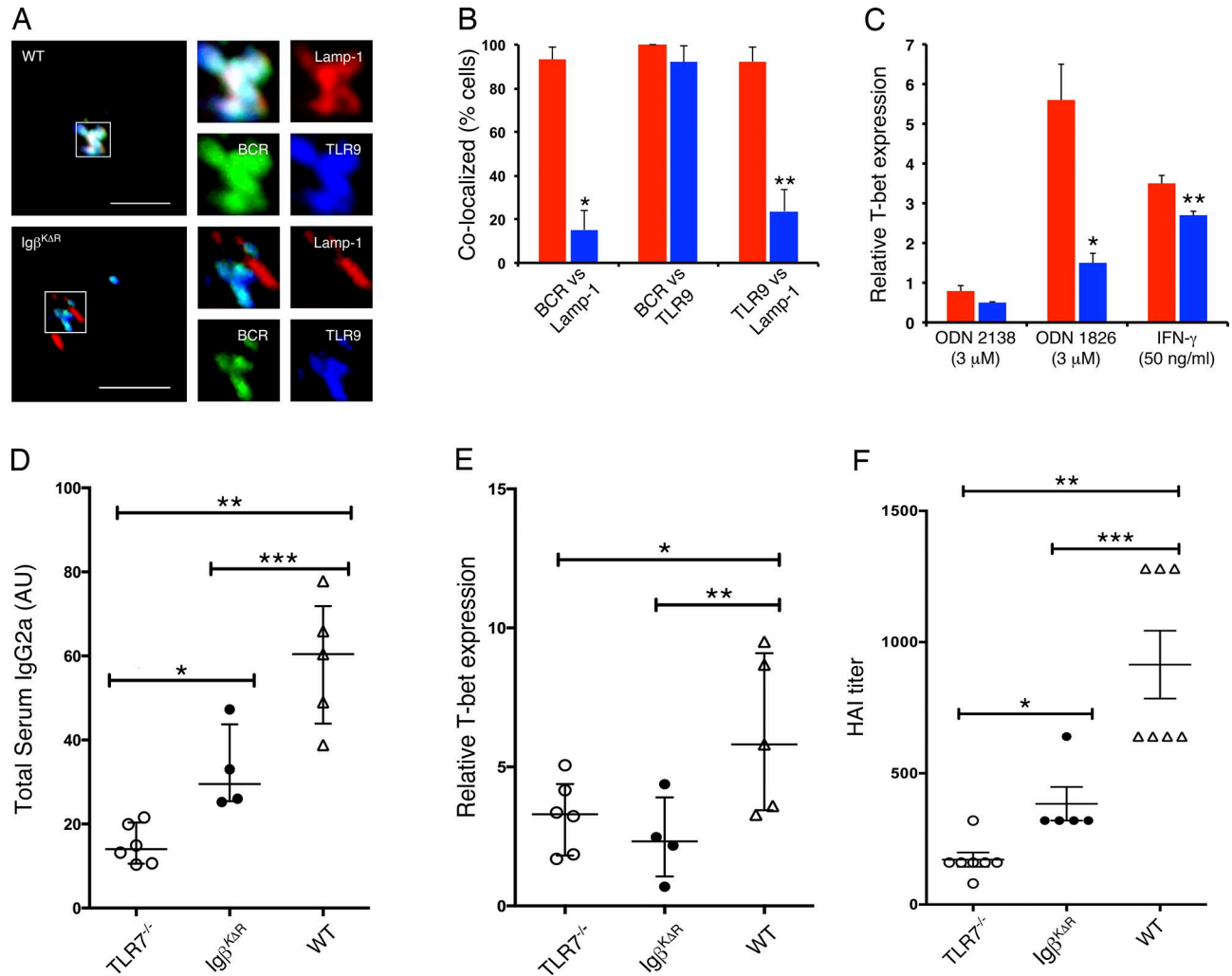
We next examined downstream signaling pathways in *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* splenocytes. BCR-induced phosphorylation of the MAP kinases ERK and p38 was similar in WT and *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* splenocytes (Fig. 5 D). In contrast, inductive phosphorylation of the PI3K subunit p85 $\alpha$  was abolished in *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* splenocytes, and AKT phosphorylation was severely attenuated. This was associated with diminished CD19 phosphorylation after BCR ligation in *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* splenocytes (Carter and Myers, 2008).

We next determined whether diminished PI3K activation contributed to defects observed in *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* mice. Therefore, *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* mice were crossed sequentially with mice expressing the Cre recombinase in the *Cd19* locus and then with mice containing a floxed allele of *Pten*. Deletion of *Pten* in WT mice did not increase numbers of immature and mature B cells in either WT or *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* mice (Fig. S2 A). Furthermore, deletion of *Pten* did not enhance BCR surface densities on *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* immature B cells (Fig. S2 B). These data suggest that the observed defect in late B cell development is not caused by defective PI3K activation.

To determine the role of PI3K activation in endocytic trafficking in vivo, WT, *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>*, and *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>CD19<sup>cre</sup>Pten<sup>fl/fl</sup>* B splenocytes were stimulated through the BCR for 30 min and then imaged by multicolor confocal microscopy as described in Materials and Methods. As demonstrated in Fig. 5 (E and F), deletion of *Pten* reconstituted endocytic trafficking of *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* BCRs into Lamp-1<sup>+</sup>TLR9<sup>+</sup> late endosomes. Conversely, preincubation of WT splenic B cells with the PI3K inhibitor LY294002 blocked entry of ligated BCRs into Lamp-1<sup>+</sup>TLR9<sup>+</sup> late endosomes (Fig. 5, G and H). These data suggest that *Igβ* ubiquitination enables BCR and TLR endocytic trafficking by activating PI3K (O'Neill et al., 2009). Interestingly, deletion of *Pten* did not reconstitute T-bet induction in *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* B splenocytes (not depicted). Therefore, in addition to PI3K activation, *Igβ* ubiquitination likely mediates other processes required to couple BCR recognition to TLR activation.

Defective activation of PI3K-AKT was associated with diminished CD19 phosphorylation, which is a well-described signaling intermediate of BCR-dependent PI3K activation (Carter and Myers, 2008). Indeed, cross-linking of the BCR and CD19 induced robust AKT phosphorylation in *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>*

\*,  $P = 0.002$ ; \*\*,  $P = 0.001$ ; \*\*\*,  $P = 0.005$ ; †,  $P = 0.004$ ; ‡,  $P = 0.05$ . Horizontal lines represent means. (B and C) WT MD4 or *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>MD4* were labeled with CFSE and transferred along with HEL-SRBC into B6.SJL-*Ptprc<sup>a</sup>Pepc<sup>b</sup>/BoyJ* mice. (B) Spleens were harvested 3 d after transfer and analyzed by flow cytometry ( $n = 5$  each group). (C) Spleens were harvested 6 d after transfer/immunization and analyzed by flow cytometry. Individual mice indicated in bar graph (right). Error bars represent mean  $\pm$  SD.



**Figure 4. Diminished BCR-dependent activation of endosomal TLRs.** (A and B) WT and *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* splenocytes were stimulated with FITC-conjugated IgG- and IgM (H+L)-specific F(ab)<sub>2</sub> antibodies for 30 min in vitro and then fixed, stained with antibodies specific for Lamp-1 and TLR9, and visualized by confocal microscopy. Representative images. Bars, 5 μm (A). Corresponding quantitation of WT (red) or *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* (blue) samples (*n* = 3); \*, *P* = 1.3 × 10<sup>-15</sup>; \*\*, *P* = 4.4 × 10<sup>-8</sup> (B). (C) In vitro assay of T-bet induction in response to ODN 1826 or control ODN (2138) targeted through the BCR (*n* = 3); \*, *P* = 0.004; \*\*, *P* = 0.0003. (D and E) The indicated mouse strains were immunized with heat-inactivated influenza virus, boosted at day 21, and serum and splenic B cells were assayed at day 42. (D) IgG2a influenza-specific titers; \*, *P* = 0.0054; \*\*, *P* < 0.0001; \*\*\*, *P* = 0.0238. (E) Corresponding expression of T-bet mRNA in splenic B cells; \*, *P* = 0.0484; \*\*, *P* = 0.00507. (F) Serum hemagglutinin inhibition assay in response to influenza infection, day 27; \*, *P* = ns; \*\*, *P* < 0.0001; \*\*\*, *P* = 0.0034. For D–F, each symbol represents one mouse. Significance was determined by ANOVA in combination with Bonferroni multiple comparison test. *P*-values as indicated or \*\*, *P* ≤ 0.01; \*\*\*, *P* ≤ 0.001. Error bars represent mean ± SD.

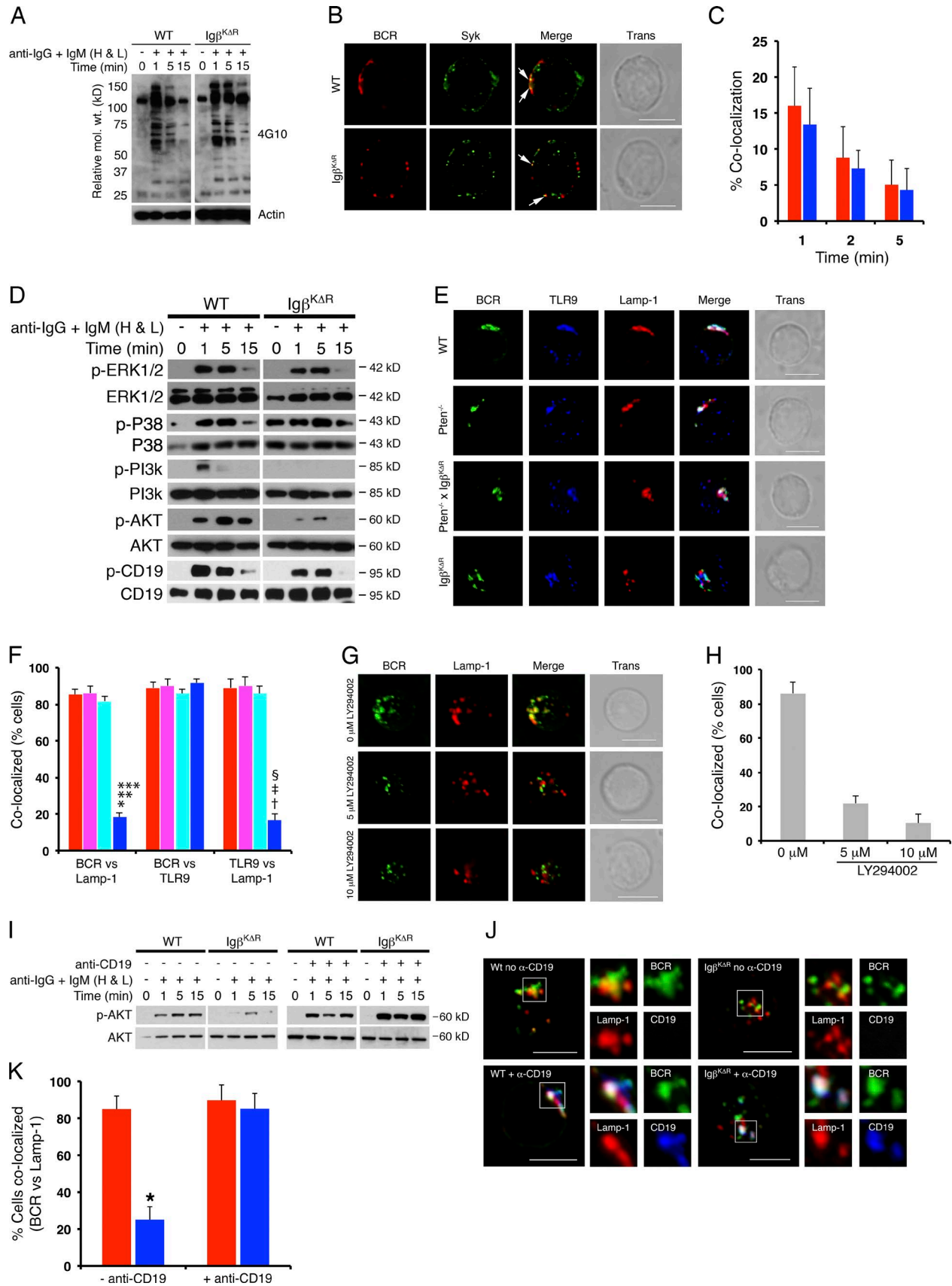
splenocytes (Fig. 5 I). In contrast, CD19 cross-linking did not substantially enhance AKT phosphorylation in WT cells. Furthermore, cross-linking of the BCR and CD19 on *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* splenocytes rescued BCR endocytic trafficking to Lamp-1<sup>+</sup> late endosomes (Fig. 5, J and K). These data suggest that Igβ ubiquitination is required to couple the BCR to efficient CD19-mediated PI3K activation.

**Igβ ubiquitination enhances PIP<sub>3</sub> on endosomes**

Phosphorylation of phosphatidylinositols by PI3K on endosomal membranes assembles effectors of endocytic trafficking

required for vesicular sorting (Schmidt and Teis, 2012). Indeed, clustering of WT BCRs induced a rapid accumulation of PIP<sub>3</sub> with the BCR at the plasma membrane after 2 min (Fig. 6, A and B). In contrast, there was little accumulation of PIP<sub>3</sub> with *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* BCRs. At 15 min after stimulation, both the WT and *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* BCRs target early endosomes. However, accumulation of PIP<sub>3</sub> on BCR-targeted EEA1<sup>+</sup> early endosomes was much more robust in WT cells (Fig. 6, C and D). In contrast, there was no difference in colocalization of WT and *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* BCRs with PI (4,5)-diphosphate (PIP<sub>2</sub>). The difference in PIP<sub>3</sub> and BCR colocalization at early endosomes





persisted up to 60 min (Fig. S3 A). The WT BCR colocalized with PIP<sub>3</sub> on Lamp-1<sup>+</sup> late endosomes at 30 min, and this was greatly diminished in *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* B cells (Fig. 6, E and F). However, the degree of colocalization of WT BCR and PIP<sub>3</sub> on late endosomes was less than that observed in early endosomes and was not detectable in this assay by 60 min (Fig. 6 F and Fig. S3 B).

The aforementioned data suggested that PIP<sub>3</sub> accumulated primarily on those endocytic vesicles directly targeted by the BCR. Indeed, analysis of BCR<sup>+</sup> and BCR<sup>-</sup> EEA1<sup>+</sup> early endosomes 15 min after stimulation revealed that PIP<sub>3</sub> was primarily on BCR<sup>+</sup> vesicles (Fig. 6 G). To better examine the spatial relationships between the BCR and PIP<sub>3</sub>, WT cells were stimulated for 15 min, stained as above and imaged using superresolution confocal microscopy, which provided 20-nm x-y axis resolution. As demonstrated (Fig. 6 H and Fig. S3 C), only those EEA1<sup>+</sup> vesicles that contained internalized BCR complexes also had detectable levels of PIP<sub>3</sub>. Furthermore, PIP<sub>3</sub> was demonstrable only on that portion of EEA1<sup>+</sup> vesicles containing BCR complexes (Fig. 6 H, right). These data indicate a direct role for the BCR, and Igβ ubiquitination, in PIP<sub>3</sub> accumulation on early endosomes.

## DISCUSSION

The canonical model of antigen receptor signaling is one in which immunoreceptor tyrosine-based activation motif phosphorylation recruits and activates proximal tyrosine kinases, which assemble signalosomes and drive downstream signaling cascades. We now demonstrate that receptor ubiquitination also contributes to signaling by efficiently coupling the BCR to CD19-dependent PI3K activation and the generation of PIP<sub>3</sub> on endosomal membranes critical for proper receptor sorting. These data both reveal a novel mechanism of receptor signaling and demonstrate how the BCR can deliver signals to endosomal compartments critical for MIIC targeting.

Endosomal signaling is now recognized to be common and necessary to couple receptor complexes to specific signaling pathways and functions (Su et al., 2006; Murphy et al., 2009; Chaturvedi et al., 2011). However, the mechanisms

of endosomal signaling have remained largely unknown. Our data demonstrate endosomal signaling. Remarkably, Igβ ubiquitin-dependent PIP<sub>3</sub> accumulation was very local, being restricted to those membrane surfaces containing BCR complexes. This likely drives the assembly of endosomal complexes required for transport (Raiborg and Stenmark, 2009; Vanhaesebroeck et al., 2010) and the sorting of the BCR, but not other receptors, along the endocytic pathway. This spatially restricted signaling mechanism is in contrast to the BCR-initiated kinase cascades that propagate through the cytosol to activate nuclear transcriptional programs (Kurosaki et al., 2010).

PI3K activation by the resting BCR regulates receptor editing (Tze et al., 2005; Verkoczy et al., 2007) and maintains peripheral B cell populations (Srinivasan et al., 2009). Both of these functions appeared normal in *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* mice. Furthermore, primary T-dependent immune responses, which occur in GCs and require PI3K (Clayton et al., 2002; Jou et al., 2002; Omori and Rickert, 2007; Ramadani et al., 2010), were intact. For B cell development and peripheral responses, several mechanisms of PI3K activation have been described, many with very specific functions (Engel et al., 1995; Rickert et al., 1995; Wang et al., 2002; Aiba et al., 2008; Castello et al., 2013; Clark et al., 2014). Igβ ubiquitination appears to be yet another example in which the mechanism and context of PI3K activation dictate cellular responses.

Likewise, the effects on CD19-dependent functions were very restricted. CD19 is required for initiating GC responses, whereas CD19-dependent PI3K activation is required for propagating the GC reaction (Carter and Myers, 2008). Both were normal in *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* mice. This could be because BCR-dependent CD19 phosphorylation was only partially attenuated in *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* splenocytes. Alternatively, Igβ ubiquitin-independent mechanisms of CD19 activation might dominate in GC responses (Carter and Myers, 2008).

Efficient MIIC targeting was dispensable for T-dependent humoral immunity. Although this was surprising, it may reflect the underlying biology of MHC class II trafficking and peptide loading (Blum et al., 2013; Roche and

**Figure 5. PI3K-mediated entry into MIIC.** (A) WT or *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* B splenocytes were stimulated with IgG- and IgM (H+L)-specific F(ab)<sub>2</sub> antibodies for the indicated times, and total cell lysates were resolved by SDS-PAGE and immunoblotted with antiphosphotyrosine antibodies. Representative of three independent experiments. (B and C) WT or *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* splenocytes were stimulated with Texas red-labeled anti-IgG and -IgM (H+L) F(ab)<sub>2</sub> antibodies for up to 5 min and then fixed, stained with antibodies to Syk, and visualized by confocal microscopy. Representative images provided in B. White arrows denote regions of colocalization. 1-min stimulation with percent colocalization (Manders' coefficient) between WT (red) or *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* (blue) BCR and Syk as a function of time after stimulation (C; n = 3). (D) WT or *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* B splenocytes (10<sup>6</sup> cells per sample) were stimulated with IgG- and IgM (H+L)-specific F(ab)<sub>2</sub> antibodies for the indicated times, and total cell lysates were resolved by SDS-PAGE and immunoblotted with the indicated antibodies. Each panel is representative of three independent experiments. (E and F) Splenocytes from WT (red), *Pten<sup>-/-</sup>* (purple), *Pten<sup>-/-</sup>xIgβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* (light blue), and *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* (dark blue) mice were stimulated with FITC-conjugated IgG- and IgM (H+L)-specific F(ab)<sub>2</sub> antibodies for 30 min in vitro and then fixed, stained with antibodies specific for Lamp-1 and TLR9, and visualized by confocal microscopy. Representative images (E) and quantitation of samples (n = 3). \*, P = 0.0004; †, P = 0.0016 versus WT; \*\*, P = 0.0004; ‡, P = 0.0023 versus *Pten<sup>-/-</sup>*; \*\*\*, P = 0.0002; §, P = 0.0014 versus *Pten<sup>-/-</sup>xIgβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* (F). (G and H) WT splenocytes were treated with LY294002, stimulated, and visualized by confocal microscopy as above. (I) WT or *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* splenic B cells stimulated with IgG- and IgM (H+L)-specific F(ab)<sub>2</sub> antibodies in the presence or absence of CD19 cross-linking for the indicated times. Total cell lysates blotted as indicated (n = 3). (J and K) Confocal microscopy of cells stimulated for 30 min as in I and stained with the indicated antibodies. Represented images (J) and quantitation across three experiments (K; \*, P = 0.0014). Bars, 5 μm. Approximate molecular weight is shown. Error bars represent mean ± SD.

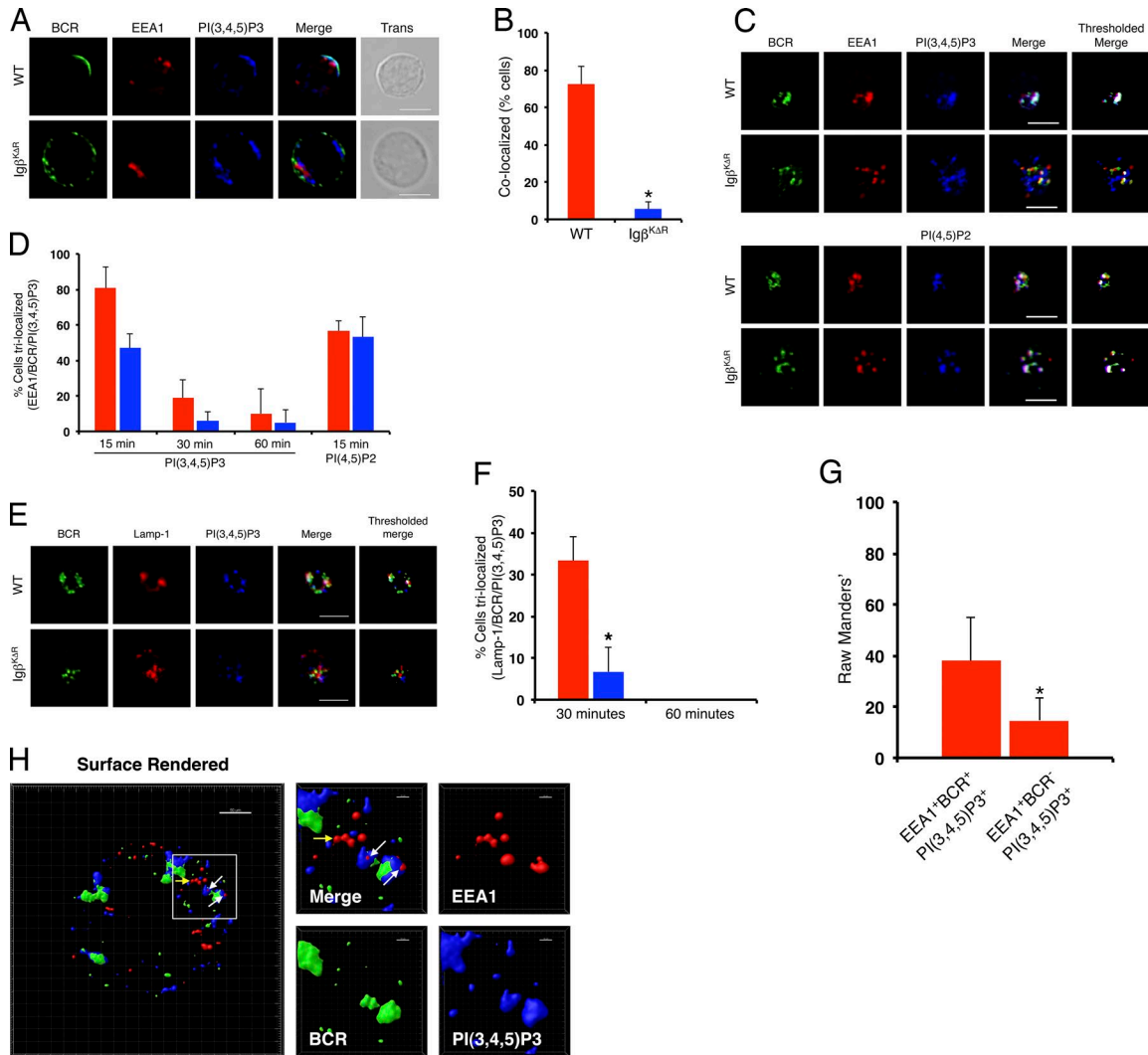


Figure 6. **Igβ ubiquitin-dependent endosomal PIP<sub>3</sub>.** (A–F) Splenocytes from WT or *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* mice were stimulated with FITC-conjugated IgG- and IgM (H+L)-specific F(ab)<sub>2</sub> antibodies for the indicated times, then fixed, stained with antibodies specific for Lamp-1, EEA1, and PIP<sub>3</sub>, and visualized by confocal microscopy. Representative images from 2 min (A), and quantitation of samples ( $n = 3$ ; \*,  $P = 2.6 \times 10^{-5}$ ) (B). Representative images from 15 min of cells with EEA1 (C), and quantitations ( $n = 3$ ; \*,  $P \leq 0.05$ ) (D). Representative images of cells treated as in C stained with Lamp-1 (E) with quantitations in F ( $n = 3$ ; \*,  $P = 0.0048$ ). Quantitation of BCR<sup>+</sup> and BCR<sup>-</sup>EEA1<sup>+</sup> early endosomes containing PIP<sub>3</sub> ( $n = 3$ ). \*,  $P > 0.0001$  (G). (H) Splenocytes from WT mice were stimulated as above with Alexa Fluor 488-conjugated IgG- and IgM (H+L)-specific F(ab)<sub>2</sub> antibodies for 15 min, then fixed and stained with antibodies for EEA1 and PIP<sub>3</sub>, and then visualized by superresolution confocal microscopy. White arrows indicate tricolorization of BCR<sup>+</sup>EEA1<sup>+</sup>PIP<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> vesicles, and the yellow arrow indicates BCR<sup>-</sup>EEA1<sup>+</sup>PIP<sub>3</sub> vesicles. Bars, 5 μm. Error bars represent mean ± SD.

Furuta, 2015). From the trans-Golgi network, MHC class II can either target the endocytic pathway directly or indirectly via the plasma membrane. This ensures that most endocytic compartments contain MHC class II (Blum et al., 2013). In vitro studies have revealed that antigens can be productively processed and loaded onto MHC class II in multiple early and late endosomal compartments (Harding et al., 1990, 1992; Castellino and Germain, 1995; Griffin et al., 1997; Pathak and Blum, 2000). In fact, many T cell epitopes are destroyed in late endosomal compartments by excessive proteolysis (Manoury et al., 2002; Delamarre et al., 2005). Our findings indicate that

alternative sites of antigen processing, distinct from the MIIC, are functional and important.

Normal GC responses and intact BCR proximal signaling in *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* splenocytes indicate that most BCR-dependent functions remain intact in *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* mice. Furthermore, PI3K complementation experiments indicate that many of the defects observed in *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* mice can be ascribed to a very specific signaling mechanism. Therefore, it is highly unlikely that the conservative mutations introduced in the Igβ cytoplasmic tail had global effects on BCR structure or function.

In contrast to T-dependent immune responses, TLR7- and 9-dependent responses required BCR ubiquitination and MIIC targeting. This might reflect the importance of endosomal localization for TLR function as proteolytic processing of TLR7 and 9 is necessary for receptor activation (Ewald et al., 2008, 2011; Park et al., 2008; Sepulveda et al., 2009). This dependence on proteolysis links BCR antigen capture to endosomal TLR activation, and ensures discrimination between self and nonself (O'Neill et al., 2009; Mouchess et al., 2011).

Both in vitro and in vivo, increasing signaling through the PI3K-AKT pathway restored normal BCR endocytic trafficking in *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* splenocytes. These complementation experiments clearly demonstrate a specific signaling pathway critical for BCR endocytic trafficking. However, deletion of *Pten* in vivo did not rescue TLR9 activation by BCR-targeted ligands nor late B cell development. These observations indicate that *Igβ* ubiquitination does more than activate PI3K. Whether these functions reflect additional signaling mechanisms or recruitment of other effector complexes to ubiquitinated *Igβ* is unclear.

In *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* mice, there was a defect in the immature B cell compartment that persisted into the transitional stage and then largely resolved by the follicular stage. Earlier stages of B cell development were normal. It is at the immature B cell stage that WT BCRs first become competent to enter late endosomes. In contrast, internalized pre-BCR complexes were excluded from the MIIC. Therefore, development was impaired at the stage at which the BCR first becomes competent to enter the MIIC. In pre-B cells, differentiation is directed by the pre-BCR with the single purpose of selecting cells that have productively rearranged the immunoglobulin heavy chain for subsequent light chain recombination (Clark et al., 2014). In contrast, in immature B cells, the TLR-signaling molecules IRAK-4 and MyD88 (Isnardi et al., 2008) shape naive repertoire in humans. These observations suggest that immature B cells might resemble peripheral B cells that depend on the integration of BCR and endosome-restricted signals to determine cell fate.

Much of our knowledge of receptor ubiquitination is derived from in vitro systems (Zhang et al., 2007; Raiborg and Stenmark, 2009). Our in vivo experiments demonstrate that such experiments do not reliably predict in vivo function. In vitro experiments are, by necessity, reductionist and usually rely on soluble antigens available for extended periods of time (Allen et al., 2007). Therefore, it is not surprising that such in vitro experiments do not recapitulate the complexities of in vivo immune responses. Therefore, additional in vivo studies of how ubiquitination contributes to the function of other receptors are needed.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Mice

All mice were on a C57BL/6 background and were used at 6–12 wk of age. Mice were housed in the Gordon Center for

Integrated Sciences barrier animal facility, and experiments were performed in accordance with the guidelines of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of the University of Chicago. To derive *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* mice, a targeting vector (Fig. S1 A) was constructed in a C57BL/6 BAC clone in pSP72 (Promega). Mutations were introduced by overlap extension PCR at amino acid codons 157, 185, and 218. A lox-P and FRT flanked neomycin resistance gene was inserted 682 bp downstream of the most 3' mutation in exon 6 by Red/ET recombineering. Targeting vector was confirmed by restriction digestion and sequencing at each modification step. The construct was then electroporated into C57BL/6 embryonic stem cells, and successfully recombined embryonic stem cells were injected into C57BL/6 blastocysts. After transfer into foster mothers, identified F1 pups were bred to homozygosity. Primers used for screening were *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* KI-F, 5'-CATTCCTGCTTCCTGGATA-3'; *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>*-R, 5'-ATGAACAGG GACACCCTCAA-3'; and Neo-R, 5'-CTTCCATCCGAG TACGTGCT-3', yielding a 1.2-kb band for *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* and 640-bp band for WT. Sequencing primers were S1, 5'-TTAGGA TTCAGCACGTTGGAC-3'; and S2, 5'-CATTCCTGG CCTGGATGCTCTCCTAC-3'. Homozygous *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* mice were then crossed to the Flpe deleter strain B6.129S4-Gt (ROSA)26Sor<sup>tm1(FLP1)Dym</sup>/RainJ. WT C57BL/6, CD19Cre, *Pten<sup>flx/flx</sup>*, B6.129S4-Gt(ROSA)26Sor<sup>tm1(FLP1)Dym</sup>/RainJ, MD4, *Tlr7<sup>-/-</sup>*, and B6.SJL-*Ptprc<sup>a</sup>Pepc<sup>b</sup>*/BoyJ (CD45.1) mice were purchased from the Jackson Laboratory. B10;B6-*Rag2<sup>tm1Fwa</sup>* *Il2rg<sup>tm1Wjl</sup>* were purchased from Taconic.

### Flow cytometry

Single cell suspensions ( $10^6$  cells/100  $\mu$ l) were stained on ice for 1 h with antibodies specific for IgM (II/41), B220 (RA3-6B2), CD25 (PC61.5), IgD (11-26c), CD93 (AA4.1), CD45.1 (A20), CD45.2 (104), CD23 (B3B4), CD4 (GK1.5), CD8 $\alpha$  (53-6.7; all from eBioscience), CD3e (145-2C11; BD Biosciences), CD43 (S7; BD Biosciences), or CD21 (7G6; BD Biosciences) directly conjugated to FITC, PE, PE-Cy7, Percp-cy5.5, APC, APC-Cy7, or APC-780. Data were collected and analyzed using FlowJo.

### Immunizations

Age-matched 6–12-wk-old *Igβ<sup>KΔR</sup>* and C57BL/6 male mice were injected intraperitoneally with either 50  $\mu$ g NP49-aminoethylcarboxymethyl-Ficoll (NP-Ficoll), 50  $\mu$ g alum-precipitated NP29-CGG (Biosearch Technologies) in 300  $\mu$ l PBS or  $2 \times 10^8$  SRBC conjugated to NP-OSu. ELISA plates (Immulon 2 HB Flat Bottom MicroTiter; Corning) were coated with 5  $\mu$ g/ml of NP52-BSA or NP4-BSA (Biosearch Technologies), blocked and incubated with serially diluted serum, washed, and then incubated with horseradish peroxidase-conjugated goat anti-mouse IgM or anti-mouse IgG secondary antibodies (Jackson ImmunoResearch Laboratories). Plates were developed using a peroxidase substrate kit (Bio-Rad Laboratories), and absorbance was measured at 405 nm. For each panel, absorbances at the same dilution were graphed.

For influenza immunizations, age matched 6–12-wk-old *Igfb<sup>KΔR</sup>*, C57BL/6, and *Tlr7<sup>-/-</sup>* mice were injected intramuscularly with 5 μg of inactive A/Switzerland/9715293/2013 virus particles in 50 μl PBS. A boost using the same formulation and route was given 21 d later. Mice were euthanized 21 d after boosting, and their serum and spleens were collected. ELISAs were done using Immulon 2 HB Flat Bottom MicroTiter plates coated with 2 μg/ml of purified hemagglutinin from the A/Switzerland/9715293/2013 virus and horseradish peroxidase anti-mouse IgG2a secondary antibody (Invitrogen). Plates were developed using Super AquaBlue ELISA Substrate (Invitrogen), and absorbance was measured at 405 nm. B cells were purified from the spleens and then RNA was isolated, and quantitative real-time PCR for T-bet was performed as previously described (O'Neill et al., 2009).

### Influenza infections and hemagglutination assay

Mice were infected by intranasal instillation with 50 PFU of influenza strain PR8. On day 27, postinfection sera were collected and analyzed for neutralizing antibodies against hemagglutinin (Hirst, 1942) as described previously (Geeraedts et al., 2012).

### BCR internalization

B cells were purified from the spleen by negative selection with biotinylated anti-CD11b (M1/70), anti-CD11c (HL3), anti-NK1.1 (PK136), anti-Ter-119, anti-CD3 (452C), anti-CD4 (RM4-5), anti-CD8α (53-6.7), anti-Ly-6G, and Ly-6C (RB6-8C5; all from BD Bioscience), followed by streptavidin magnetic beads (MACS; Miltenyi Biotec). Purified splenic B cells ( $1 \times 10^5$  per sample) were stained with 10 μg/ml FITC-conjugated goat anti-mouse IgG and IgM (H+L) F(ab)<sub>2</sub> (Jackson ImmunoResearch Laboratories) on ice for 15 min. Cells were incubated at 37°C for the indicated times, and internalization assays were performed as described previously (Hou et al., 2006).

### Western blotting and immunoprecipitation

Splenic B cells were purified by negative selection as described above. Cells were stimulated with 20 μg/ml F(ab)<sub>2</sub> goat anti-mouse IgG and IgM (H+L; Jackson ImmunoResearch Laboratories) at 37°C for the indicated times. For Western blotting, cell aliquots were lysed in modified radioimmunoprecipitation assay buffer containing protease inhibitors and PMSF as described previously (Kabak et al., 2002). For ubiquitin immunoblots, cells were lysed as above with the addition of 20 mM *N*-ethylmaleimide (Sigma-Aldrich), 10 mM 1,10-phenanthroline monohydrate (Sigma-Aldrich), and 50 μM PR-619 (LifeSensors). Cellular lysates were pre-cleared with protein G-Sepharose (Pierce), incubated with primary antibodies specific for Igβ (Hm79b; BD Biosciences), and captured with protein G-Sepharose (Pierce). Lysates or immunoprecipitates were resolved on a 4–15% Mini-Protean TGX gel (Bio-Rad) and transferred onto polyvinylidene fluoride membrane (Immun-Blot; Bio-Rad). Antibodies with

the indicated specificities were used: ERK1/2 (137F5; Cell Signaling), p38 (9212; Cell Signaling), CD19 (3574; Cell Signaling), actin (C4; Millipore), phosphotyrosine (4G10; Millipore), CD79b (Luisiri et al., 1996), antiubiquitin (P4D1; Santa Cruz), and phospho-T202/Y204 ERK1/2 (197G2), pT180/T182 p38 (9244S), pT458 p85 (4228), pS473 Akt (193H12), and Y531 pCD19 (3571; all from Cell Signaling).

### Mixed BM chimeras

B10;B6-*Rag2<sup>tm1Fwa</sup> Il2rg<sup>tm1Wjl</sup>* (CD45.2) mice were irradiated (550 rad) the day before BM reconstitution. BM cells were harvested, and lineage-negative, Sca-1<sup>+</sup>, and cKit<sup>+</sup> cells from CD45.1 B6.SJL-*Ptprc<sup>a</sup>Pepc<sup>b</sup>*/BoyJ, CD45.2 WT, or CD45.2 *Igfb<sup>KΔR</sup>* mice were isolated. Cells were mixed 1:1, and cells were introduced via retroorbital injection. After 8 wk, BM and spleen cells were harvested and analyzed by flow cytometry.

### Noncompetitive transfer

B cells from WT×MD4 and *Igfb<sup>KΔR</sup>*×MD4 mice were labeled with CFSE, which were transferred into B6.SJL-*Ptprc<sup>a</sup>Pepc<sup>b</sup>*/BoyJ mice and challenged i.v. with HEL-conjugated SRBCs (Lampire Biological Products). After 3 d, spleens were harvested, labeled with anti-CD86, and assayed by flow cytometry. After 6 d, splenic B cells were stained with antibodies to IRF4 and Bcl6 and assayed by flow cytometry (Ochiai et al., 2013).

### Confocal microscopy

Confocal microscopy was performed as previously described (O'Neill et al., 2009). Images were collected using a confocal microscope (100× objective; SP5-II-STED-CW; Leica). Antibodies were used to visualize intracellular Syk (C-20; Santa Cruz), H2M (E25A; BD Biosciences), Cathepsin L (CPLH-3G10; Santa Cruz), TLR9 (26C593.2; Abnova), Lamp-1 (1D4B), and Cbl-b (B-5; Santa Cruz). Pre-B cells were incubated with 2.4G2 (LifeSciences) and then biotinylated SL156 (BD PharMingen). After permeabilization, cells were incubated with rabbit anti-biotin antibodies (Bethyl Laboratories) and then Alexa Fluor 488-conjugated donkey anti-rabbit antibodies (Invitrogen). Acidic compartments were visualized by incubating samples with 1 μM LysoSensor green DND-1 dye (Molecular Probes) at 37°C for 1 h. Samples were then chilled on ice and imaged. PI3K was inhibited with 5 or 10 μM LY294002 (Selleckchem) for 30 min at 37°C. The CD19 receptor was cross-linked with biotin anti-CD19 (1D3; BD PharMingen) simultaneously with BCR cross-linking after incubating with 2.4G2 (LifeScience). The cells were then incubated for 30 min at 37°C, fixed, and stained. For each experimental time point, images of 30 cells were scored for colocalization using the JACoP plug-in (Manders' coefficient) of ImageJ (National Institutes of Health). Trilocalization was scored using the BlobProb plug-in (Manders' coefficient) of ImageJ. A threshold of 40 was set for each channel. Superresolution confocal microscopy images were acquired on a ground state depletion/total internal reflection fluorescence superresolution microscope

(63× objective, Leica). WT B cells were stimulated with Alexa Fluor 488–conjugated anti-IgG and –IgM (H+L) F(ab)<sub>2</sub> antibodies, fixed, and then stained with antibodies to PIP<sub>3</sub> (Echelon) and EEA1 (C45B10; Cell Signaling).

### T-bet assay and quantitative real-time PCR

Biotinylated ODN 1826 and biotinylated control ODN 2138 were purchased from Invivogen. Purified splenic B cells from WT and *Igβ<sup>KAR</sup>* mice were incubated with 20 μg/ml of streptavidin–conjugated F(ab)<sub>2</sub> IgG and IgM (H+L), followed by either the biotinylated ODN 1826 or control ODN 2138 (Invivogen). Cells were then incubated for 6 h at 37°C. RNA was isolated and quantitative real-time PCR performed as previously described (O'Neill et al., 2009).

### Statistics

Unless otherwise noted, all statistics were done using Student's *t* test, using Prism 6 software (GraphPad).

### Online supplemental material

Fig. S1 shows the gene-targeting vector used to derive the mutations in the *Igβ<sup>KAR</sup>* mouse, confirmed by both PCR genotyping and sequencing. Fig. S1 also shows by immunoprecipitation that these mutations ablated the ability of the *Igβ* to be ubiquitinated. Fig. S2 shows the cell numbers and surface IgM densities from crossing WT and *Igβ<sup>KAR</sup>* mice to *Pten<sup>-/-</sup>* mice. Fig. S3 shows the colocalization of PIP<sub>3</sub> and BCR in early endosomes at 60 min, along with the absence of colocalization in late endosomes. Fig. S3 also shows the spatial relationship between BCR, PIP<sub>3</sub>, and EEA1 at 15 min using superresolution confocal microscopy.

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Author contributions: M. Veselits performed most experiments. A. Tanaka performed experiments described in Fig. S1 (D and E) and Fig. 2 E. BM chimeras were performed by K. Hamel and M. Mandal. B. Manicassamy and M. Kandasamy provided experiments described in Fig. 4 E. Y. Chen and P. Wilson assisted with the experiments described in Fig. 4 (D and E). Noncompetitive transfer was performed by R. Sciammas. S.K. O'Neill helped derive the *Igβ<sup>KAR</sup>* mice, and M.R. Clark oversaw the project and prepared the manuscript.

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