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## Protein lipidation: Occurrence, mechanisms, biological functions, and enabling technologies

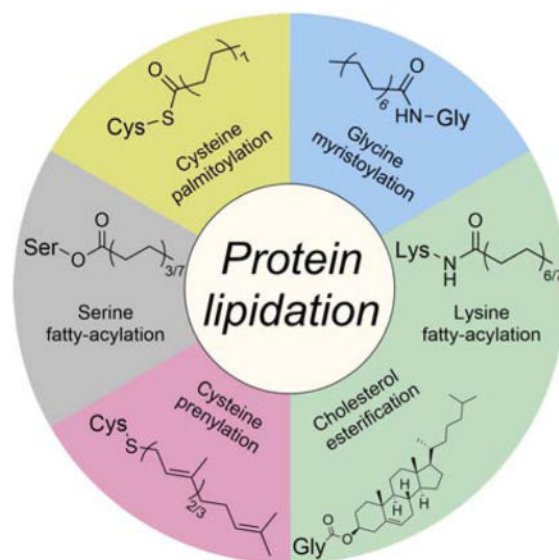
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### Abstract

Protein lipidation, including cysteine prenylation, N-terminal glycine myristoylation, cysteine palmitoylation, and serine and lysine fatty acylation, occurs in many proteins in eukaryotic cells and regulates numerous biological pathways, such as membrane trafficking, protein secretion, signal transduction, and apoptosis. We provide a comprehensive review of protein lipidation, including descriptions of proteins known to be modified and the functions of the modifications, the enzymes that control them, and the tools and technologies developed to study them. We also highlight key questions about protein lipidation that remain to be answered, the challenges associated with answering such questions, and possible solutions to overcome these challenges.

### Graphical Abstract



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## 1. Introduction

Lipids are essential molecules that compose cellular membranes, which provide the barriers and boundaries needed for cells to survive and proliferate. This confinement of cellular materials by cellular membrane structures necessitates cellular communication (i.e., cell signaling and membrane trafficking) with the extracellular environment and among cellular membrane organelles. Cell signaling and membrane trafficking rely on proteins that are secreted into the environment, embedded in cellular membranes, and reversibly associated with membranes. Not surprisingly, nature also uses lipids to control and regulate membrane–protein interactions. These functions are achieved through two strategies. Certain proteins have evolved to bind specifically to certain lipid molecules. For example, some pleckstrin homology domains recognize specific phosphoinositides,<sup>1</sup> and blood clotting factors recognize phosphatidylserine, which is found only in the inner leaflet of the plasma membrane.<sup>2</sup> Another widely observed interaction strategy is the covalent modification of proteins by lipid molecules. These modifications are the focus of this review.

Lipidation occurs on numerous proteins and regulates many aspects of physiology. The effects of protein lipidation on cellular function are achieved by regulating protein–membrane interactions, and perhaps somewhat surprising, protein–protein interactions, protein stability, and enzymatic activities. The lipid moieties added to proteins can be either fatty acyl or polyisoprenyl groups, and the modifications typically occur on the nucleophilic side chains of proteins (e.g., cysteine, serine, and lysine) and the NH<sub>2</sub> group at the N-termini of proteins (Figure 1). Two lipid modifications occur at the C-termini of certain extracellular-membrane-associated proteins: cholesterol esterification and glycosylphosphatidylinositol anchoring (see Figure 1). This review focuses on the direct modification of protein nucleophilic residues by lipid molecules.

Glycosylphosphatidylinositol anchors, which are attached to proteins with a carbohydrate moiety via multiple enzymatic steps, are not discussed herein, but excellent books and reviews are available.<sup>3–5</sup>

The review is organized by the type of lipid modification that occurs on various nucleophilic groups. For each modification, we discuss the enzymes that control the modification, the modified proteins, the functions of the modification, and the tools or technologies that have been developed to study the modifications. Each section is independent; however, certain modifications, such as cysteine palmitoylation, depend on other modifications (cysteine prenylation or N-terminal glycine myristoylation). Therefore, the sections are ordered so that that the occurrence and functions of various modifications are easy to understand.

## 2. Protein Prenylation

Prenylation is the addition of multiple isoprene units to cysteine residues near the C-termini of proteins. Up to 2% of the total cellular proteins in mammalian cells are prenylated.<sup>6</sup> There are two types of prenylation—farnesylation and geranylgeranylation—which involve three and four isoprene units, respectively (Figure 2). The processes through which these modifications take place are also referred to in the literature as isoprenylation or polyisoprenylation. Technically, the most appropriate description is polyisoprenylation, but

the simpler term prenylation is more popular and is therefore adopted here. The majority of prenylated proteins are geranylgeranylated proteins.<sup>6</sup> The linkage between farnesyl or geranylgeranyl groups and cysteine residues is a thioether bond, which is more stable than ester and thioester bonds. The general belief is that this modification is irreversible, and no enzyme that reverses this modification in intact proteins has been identified. However, a prenylcysteine lyase is thought to be present in lysosomes<sup>7,8</sup> and cleave the thioether bond of prenylcysteines in the degradation of prenylated proteins.

In 1989, several studies reported that Ras proteins and lamin B are farnesylated at cysteine residues.<sup>9,10</sup> These studies showed that farnesylation occurs on a C-terminal CaaX sequence motif (C: cysteine, a: an aliphatic amino acid, X: any amino acid), which provided the initial paradigm with which to predict whether a protein will be prenylated. Soon thereafter, protein geranylgeranylation was discovered in HeLa cells and Chinese hamster ovary cells.<sup>11,12</sup> Later, the C-terminal aaX was reported to be further cleaved by an endoplasmic reticulum (ER) protease, Ras-converting enzyme 1, or a-factor converting enzyme 1 after prenylation in the cytoplasm.<sup>13</sup> The prenylated cysteine residue is then carboxymethylated by another ER enzyme, isoprenylcysteine carboxymethyltransferase (ICMT; see Figure 2).<sup>14</sup>

## 2.1. Protein Prenyltransferases

Three members of the protein prenyltransferase family are present in eukaryotes. Farnesyl transferase (FT) transfers the 15-carbon farnesyl group from farnesyl diphosphate (FPP) to substrate proteins. Geranylgeranyl transferase (GGT-1) catalyzes a similar reaction comprising the transfer of a 20-carbon geranylgeranyl group from geranylgeranyl diphosphate (GGPP). The substrate proteins of both FT and GGT-1 have typical C-terminal CaaX motifs for prenylation. Another protein prenyltransferase, Rab geranylgeranyl transferase (RGGT or GGT-2; see Figure 2), usually transfers two geranylgeranyl groups from GGPP to the C-terminal double-cysteine motif (CC or CXC) of Rab proteins.

**2.1.1. FT and GGT-1**—The first protein FT was isolated from rat brain in 1990.<sup>15</sup> FPP, generated from mevalonate as an intermediate in the cholesterol biosynthetic pathway, was later shown to be the co-substrate of FT for p21Ras modification *in vitro*. Protein GGT-1 was also first identified from rat brain tissue as a modifier of Ras proteins.<sup>16</sup> This study showed that GGT-1 has distinct selectivity for substrate proteins with C-terminal CaaL motifs rather than those with CaaM or CaaS motifs, which are preferred by FT. The authors also revealed that both FT and GGT-1 are heterodimers sharing a common  $\alpha$  subunit with different  $\beta$  subunits. Further studies with recombinant rat FT and GGT-1 confirmed that the enzymes have the same  $\alpha$  subunit of 48 kD and homologous  $\beta$  subunits of 46 kD and 43 kD, respectively.<sup>17–19</sup>

Crystal structures of rat FT and GGT-1 were solved in 1997 and 2003, respectively (Figure 3A)<sup>20,21</sup> and showed that the major secondary structures of the  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  subunits are  $\alpha$ -helices. In the  $\alpha$  subunit, 14 of 15  $\alpha$ -helices are folded into seven successive helical hairpins and arranged in a double-layer super helix as a crescent-shaped domain that wraps around a portion of the  $\beta$  subunits. The  $\beta$  subunits of FT and GGT-1 share 25% sequence identity and have similar overall structures (Figure 3B) consisting of 14 and 13  $\alpha$ -helices, respectively.

Twelve  $\alpha$ -helices of the  $\beta$  subunits are folded into an unusual  $\alpha$ - $\alpha$  barrel. Six parallel helices form the core of the barrel, and the other six form the outside of barrel, which is antiparallel to the inner core helices. One end of the barrel is blocked by the C-terminal loop of the  $\beta$  subunits, and the other end is open to the solvent and forms a deep hydrophobic pocket in the center of the barrel. This pocket has conserved aromatic residues that bind hydrophobic isoprene units of FPP and GGPP (Figure 3G).

The structures also reveal the location of the  $Zn^{2+}$  required for the enzymatic activities of FT and GGT-1.<sup>22,23</sup> One zinc ion binds to the  $\beta$  subunit near the subunit interface (Figure 3E) and is coordinated by three conserved residues of the  $\beta$  subunit, Asp297 $\beta$ /Cys299 $\beta$ /His362 $\beta$  in FT and Asp269 $\beta$ /Cys271 $\beta$ /His321 $\beta$  in GGT-1 (Figure 3F).<sup>20,21</sup> Ternary complex structures of FT or GGT-1 with peptide substrates and FPP or GGPP analogues show that the zinc ion is also coordinated with the cysteine thiol group in the C-terminal CaaX motif of the peptide substrates (Figure 3F),<sup>21,24</sup> which is essential for the binding of CaaX peptides.

How do FT and GGT-1 achieve selectivity for FPP or GGPP? Binary complexes of FT with FPP and GGT-1 with GGPP provide clues about the mechanism for lipid length differentiation (Figure 3G).<sup>21,25</sup> The diphosphate portion binds to a positively charged region at the top of the hydrophobic pocket near the subunit interface. The farnesyl portion of FPP binds in an extended conformation along one side of the hydrophobic pocket of the  $\alpha$ - $\alpha$  barrel in the FT  $\beta$  subunit. The first three isoprene units of GGPP bind in a similar conformation within the GGT-1  $\beta$  subunit, but the fourth isoprene unit is turned  $\sim 90^\circ$  relative to the rest of the molecule. This positioning of the fourth isoprene unit indicates that Thr49 $\beta$  in GGT-1 is critical for lipid length discrimination because the corresponding position in FT is a bulky residue, Trp102 $\beta$  (Figure 3H). Phe324 $\beta$  in GGT-1 is also positioned near the fourth isoprene unit, whereas the corresponding residue in FT is Tyr361 $\beta$ . The hydroxyl group from Tyr361 $\beta$  might also help discriminate against GGPP in FT. Thus, steric hindrance in FT determines its preferential binding to FPP. A single mutation in FT, Trp102Thr, switches the co-substrate preference.<sup>21</sup>

The structures of GGT-1 in complex with the prenylated product reveal that GGPP rotates around the second isoprene unit to approach the thiol group of the cysteine in the CaaX peptide to generate the geranylgeranylated product while the other portion of isoprenoid retains its substrate binding position (Figure 3C). Product release from the GGT-1 active site requires the binding of fresh GGPP to displace the geranylgeranyl-peptide product (Figure 3D).<sup>21</sup> The binding affinity of FPP for GGT-1 is much weaker and thus, FPP cannot efficiently displace the complex of GGT-1 and the geranylgeranylated product. This feature contributes to the isoprenoid substrate selectivity of GGT-1 for GGPP over FPP. However, RhoB is reportedly farnesylated and geranylgeranylated efficiently by GGT-1,<sup>26</sup> which indicates that GGT-1 has the capability to transfer both farnesyl and geranylgeranyl groups, and the choice of prenylation may depend on the nature of the substrate proteins and relative concentrations of FPP and GGPP. The FPP and GGPP concentrations measured are similar in several human cancer cell lines (about 0.1 pmol/ $10^6$  cells in K562 cells and 2.0 pmol/ $10^6$  cells in MCF-7 cells).<sup>27</sup> Notably, treating the cancer cells with a small molecule, zoledronic acid, dramatically increases the FPP concentration with minimal effects on GGPP

concentration.<sup>27</sup> The levels of FPP (0.9–3.7 ng/mg protein) and GGPP (3.7–27.8 ng/mg protein) in human brain tissue have also been determined and showed a significantly higher concentration of GGPP.<sup>28,29</sup> Thus, certain conditions or biological environments may affect the ratio of farnesylation to geranylgeranylation.

Based on kinetic studies<sup>15,30–34</sup> and structures of FT in complex with substrates (FPP or its analogue and K-Ras4B C-terminal peptide) or products,<sup>20,24,25,35</sup> an ordered sequential kinetic mechanism of farnesylation has been proposed (Figure 4). At the start of the reaction, a binary enzyme–substrate complex forms when FPP binds to the FT  $\beta$  subunit. Then, a ternary complex forms with the binding of the CaaX substrate. At the completion of the reaction, the farnesylated product remains in the active site until a new FPP displaces it; this step is the rate-limiting step.<sup>32,36,37</sup> The resulting binary FT-FPP complex then enters the next round of the reaction. Geranylgeranylation catalyzed by GGT-1 is thought to follow the same reaction pathway, but detailed rate constants have not been reported.<sup>38</sup> The results of a number of mechanistic studies that include stereochemical data and kinetic isotope effects data suggest that the transition states of FT- and GGT-catalyzed reactions have associative characteristics involving both the thiolate nucleophile and the diphosphate leaving group.<sup>39–42</sup>

**2.1.2. RGGT**—RGGT (also called GGT-2) transfers two geranylgeranyl groups from GGPP to the C-terminal CC or CXC motifs in Rab proteins. RGGT has two subunits, a 60 kD  $\alpha$  subunit and a 38 kD  $\beta$  subunit.<sup>43</sup> Studies have shown that RGGT requires Rab escort proteins (REPs) to recruit substrate proteins for the geranylgeranylation reaction.<sup>43–45</sup> Unlike FT and GGT-1, RGGT cannot catalyze reactions with short peptides containing a Rab C-terminal prenylation motif or recognize Rab proteins alone. Mammals have two REP proteins, REP-1 and REP-2. REP-1 is encoded on the X chromosome, and REP-1 mutations cause X-linked retinal degeneration (choroideremia). The substrate specificities of the REP proteins are essentially unknown, but Rab27a, a protein that accumulates in an unmodified form in choroideremia, cannot be efficiently modified with REP-2.<sup>46,47</sup> Except in the retina, the presence of functional REP-2 largely compensates for the loss of REP-1 in choroideremia patients, which suggests that REP-1 and REP-2 have significantly overlapping functions. The first crystal structure of RGGT demonstrated that there are three domains in its  $\alpha$  subunit (Figure 3A): a helical domain, an immunoglobulin (Ig)-like domain, and a leucine-rich repeat domain.<sup>48</sup> RGGT $\alpha$  and FT $\alpha$  or GGT-1 $\alpha$  have only 22% sequence identity according to structure-based alignment. The helical domain of RGGT $\alpha$  is structurally similar to the  $\alpha$  subunit of FT and GGT-1 and forms a crescent-shaped super helix with 15  $\alpha$ -helices. The other domains, leucine-rich repeat domain and Ig-like domain, are unique in RGGT $\alpha$ , and their functions remain unknown.

Twelve  $\alpha$ -helices in the  $\beta$  subunit of RGGT create an  $\alpha$ - $\alpha$  barrel, which resembles the  $\alpha$ - $\alpha$  barrels in FT $\beta$  and GGT-1 $\beta$  (Figure 3B). In the central pocket of the RGGT  $\alpha$ - $\alpha$  barrel, Ser48 $\beta$  has the same functional role as Thr49 $\beta$  has in GGT-1 to accommodate GGPP, whereas Trp102 $\beta$  at the same position in FT prevents GGPP binding (Figure 3G and 3H).<sup>49</sup>

As shown by the structure of the RGGT–REP-1 complex (Figure 3I),<sup>50</sup> REP-1 has two domains: a large domain consisting of four  $\beta$ -sheets and six  $\alpha$ -helices, and a small domain

with five  $\alpha$ -helices. The interface between RGGT and REP-1 comprises two  $\alpha$ -helices from the REP small domain and three  $\alpha$ -helices from RGGT $\alpha$ . The interaction between RGGT and REP-1 is regulated by GGPP. Kinetics studies have demonstrated that REP-1 binds to RGGT with a  $K_d$  of 10 nM in the presence of GGPP,<sup>51</sup> which is 100 times tighter than without GGPP.

The structure of monogeranylgeranylated Rab7 in complex with REP reveals that Rab7 binds to the Rab-binding platform (RBP) on the side of REP large domain, and the REP C-terminal binding region (CBR) associates with the Rab7 CBR-interacting motif (CIM) to form the binary complex (Figure 3J).<sup>47</sup> Additional modeling experiments have shown that the prenylated C-terminus of Rab7 is harbored in the hydrophobic tunnel in the REP small domain to solubilize prenylated Rab7.<sup>47</sup>

Figure 5 shows the reaction pathway of Rab digeranylgeranylation by RGGT based on structural, computational, and biochemical studies.<sup>47,49–55</sup> Rab and REP first form the binary complex, after which a high-affinity ternary complex of Rab-REP-RGGT is assembled via the interaction between the REP small domain and the RGGT  $\alpha$  subunit. In this way, REP brings the Rab C-terminus to the active site of RGGT. Because RGGT does not bind its substrate peptide directly at the active site, the reaction is driven by concentration, and any cysteine presented by REP at the active site can be prenylated. This mechanism allows RGGT to modify more than 60 Rab proteins with unrelated C-terminal sequences. After the transfer of the first prenyl group from GGPP, a new GGPP molecule binds to the active site and displaces the substrate-conjugated isoprenoid. The mono-prenylated substrate is then conjugated with the second isoprenoid, and the resulting double-prenylated product is displaced by another new GGPP binding at the active site. The double-prenylated Rab C-terminus associates with the REP lipid-binding pocket and induces the conformational change in the REP small domain. Then REP dissociates from RGGT and translocates into the cell membrane.

## 2.2. Protein Substrates of Prenyltransferases

Prenylation has been found only in eukaryotic cells, and most of the identified prenylated proteins are eukaryotic proteins. However, certain proteins from pathogenic bacteria can be prenylated by their hosts. Farnesylated proteins (substrates of FT) include Ras, Hdj2, nuclear lamins, and Rheb proteins.<sup>56</sup> GGT-1 catalyzes the geranylgeranylation of Rac, RhoA, Cdc42, and the  $\gamma$  subunit of heterotrimeric G proteins.<sup>57</sup> Most Rab proteins, with the exception of Rab8 and Rab13, are doubly geranylgeranylated by RGGT.<sup>58,59</sup> Some proteins, such as K-Ras, N-Ras, and RhoB, are substrates of both FT and GGT-1.<sup>60,61</sup> Prenylation Prediction Suite (<http://mendel.imp.ac.at/PrePS/>) is a Web-based tool that predicts whether a protein will be prenylated.

The originally discovered farnesylated and geranylgeranylated proteins provided the paradigm with which to identify protein substrates of prenylation. This paradigm is the C-terminal CaaX motif. Later studies with short peptides and FT or GGT-1 showed that a protein substrate is farnesylated by FT if the terminal “X” is serine, methionine, or glutamine, whereas the substrate is geranylgeranylated by GGT-1 if X is leucine.<sup>62,63</sup> Later



studies showed that this motif cannot fully describe the prenylated proteins or predict the prenylated substrates of FT or GGT-1.<sup>56,64</sup>

The screening of a CaaL peptide library for FT substrates revealed that FT can farnesylate a number of CaaL peptides,<sup>64</sup> which is contrary to the CaaX paradigm describing CaaL as the canonical GGT-1 substrate sequence. Further screening with a large peptide library based on the human proteome identified two classes of FT substrates,<sup>56</sup> one of which is farnesylated under multiple-turnover conditions and the other under single-turnover conditions. After the single-turnover substrate is modified by FT, the resulting product dissociates extremely slowly from the enzyme. Multiple-turnover substrates typically have CaaX sequences with phenylalanine, methionine, and glutamine at the X position, whereas the sequences of single-turnover substrates are more diverse. Computational techniques have also been applied to predict potential FT substrates<sup>65,66</sup> and identified a novel substrate class with members that contain an acidic C-terminal residue (CaaD and CaaE).<sup>66</sup> CVXX and CCXX peptide libraries were used to further probe the substrate specificity of rat FT and found several new sequences (e.g., CVIA, CVCS, CCIM, and CCVS) to be prenylation substrates.<sup>67</sup> These studies demonstrate that FT can farnesylate a wide range of peptide substrates. Elucidating the physiological relevance of these findings will require additional research efforts to validate the protein substrates corresponding to these peptide substrates in vivo. Using a yeast-based screening system for FT, randomization of aaX residues in the CaaX sequence motif showed that the second “a” strongly prefers small hydrophobic residues, whereas the first a and X have relatively more relaxed specificities.<sup>68</sup> This study further expanded the list of prenylated substrates.

Bacterial effector proteins with C-terminal CaaX motifs were also found to be prenylated by their host prenyltransferases. *Salmonella*-induced filament A from *Salmonella typhimurium* is geranylgeranylated at the C-terminal CCFL by mammalian host GGT-1.<sup>69</sup> The farnesylation of *Legionella pneumophila* ankyrin B (ANKB) at the C-terminal of CVLC by the host FT anchors ANKB to the *Legionella*-containing vacuole for the intravacuolar proliferation of the bacterium.<sup>70</sup> Additional effector proteins with CaaX motifs in *L. pneumophila* were later shown to be prenylated by the host to facilitate their targeting to host organelle membranes in the process of intracellular infection.<sup>71,72</sup>

Viral proteins containing the C-terminal CaaX motif can also be prenylated by host prenyltransferases. One example of clinical relevance is the large antigen of the hepatitis delta virus. The prenylation of the large antigen is key for virus assembly.<sup>73,74</sup> Most important, prenylation inhibitors have been shown to depress viral particle formation,<sup>75</sup> and a phase 2A clinical trial showed that the prenylation inhibitor lonafarnib significantly reduces hepatitis delta virus levels in humans.<sup>76</sup>

### 2.3. Chemical Probes for Protein Prenylation

Since the discovery of prenylated proteins, various analogues of isoprenoid diphosphates have been synthesized and used to study the structures and reaction mechanisms of prenyltransferases and to visualize and identify prenylated proteins and prenyltransferases (Figure 6). Isotopic probes of FPP and GGPP including [1-<sup>3</sup>H]FPP and [1-<sup>3</sup>H]GGPP were originally used to validate the enzymatic activities of FT, GGT-1, and RGGT and elucidate

their selectivity for peptide substrates. The photo-affinity probes [ $^3\text{H}$ ]-DATFP-FPP, [ $^3\text{H}$ ]-DATFP-GPP, [ $^{32}\text{P}$ ]-DATFP-GPP, and benzophenone-GPP have also been applied to label FT enzymes.<sup>77–79</sup> Methods using isotopic isoprenoid probes are usually not very sensitive and require long exposure time (days) for detection. Furthermore, these probes lack affinity tags for the isolation and identification of target proteins, which limits their applications. However, the isotopic native molecules [ $1\text{-}^3\text{H}$ ]FPP and [ $1\text{-}^3\text{H}$ ]GGPP have proved useful for validating whether the prenylated proteins identified in proteomics studies using other affinity probes are true substrates of FT, GGT-1, or RGGT. This confirmation is particularly critical because some studies have suggested that various farnesyl diphosphate analogues may differ in terms of protein substrate specificity and reaction rates with FT.<sup>80</sup>

Fluorine,<sup>81</sup> vinyl,<sup>82</sup> cyclopropyl, and *tert*-butyl groups<sup>83</sup> have been incorporated into isoprenoid diphosphate analogues to study the farnesylation mechanism. As an immunogenic probe, an aniline-tagged isoprenoid diphosphate was shown to label several FT protein substrates in mammalian cells, which could be detected by the specific antibody raised against the aniline moiety.<sup>84</sup> The corresponding aniline-tagged isoprenol, which is converted into the diphosphate in cells,<sup>85</sup> was used to label cellular proteins metabolically before antibody-based detection.<sup>86</sup>

Fluorescent derivatives of isoprenoid diphosphate, such as didehydrogeranylgeranyl (GG) diphosphate,<sup>87</sup> 7-nitro-benzo[1,2,5]oxadiazol-4-ylamino (NBD) FPP,<sup>88</sup> and *N*-methylantraniloyl isoprenoid diphosphate,<sup>89</sup> have been designed as efficient isoprenoid donors for prenyltransferases and used in high-throughput fluorometric assays to screen potential inhibitors of *in vivo* protein trafficking. To facilitate the labeling and enrichment of prenylated proteins from biological samples, biotin-functionalized geranyl pyrophosphate has been applied to identify and analyze prenylated mammalian proteins with engineered prenyltransferases.<sup>90</sup> Such probes can help elucidate the mechanisms through which protein prenylation is regulated and the therapeutic effects of various agents. Although fluorescent and biotin probes are convenient for *in-gel* detection, high-throughput assays, or affinity purification, their relative large and bulky conjugated functional groups may interfere with recognition by prenyltransferases and perturb signaling pathways.

With click chemistry now being widely applied in biological systems, bioorthogonal reporters of protein prenylation have been developed via the incorporation of small alkyne or azide groups into isoprenoid diphosphates (Figure 6).<sup>91–95</sup> These probes can be efficiently incorporated into prenylated proteins *in vitro* and are easily conjugated to various functional tags for fluorescence detection or affinity purification. Furthermore, alkyne- or azide-labeled isoprenols are cell-permeable and can be used to label prenylated proteins metabolically in live cells (Figure 6).<sup>91,95–100</sup> Studies using these probes indicated that the substrate specificity of prenyltransferases may depend on the bioorthogonal probes used, and alkynyl-isoprenoid probes are generally more sensitive than azido-isoprenoid probes.<sup>97</sup> Studies of protein prenylation have historically focused on the Ras superfamily of G proteins. Proteomics studies using clickable probes have led to the identification of other proteins modified by prenylation, such as lamin B1, chaperonin DNAJA2, and zinc finger antiviral protein (ZAP).<sup>91,98,99</sup> Recently, both alkyne-tagged isoprenols and isoprenoid diphosphates



have been used to identify prenylated proteins in the malaria parasite *Plasmodium falciparum*.<sup>101,102</sup>

Notably, cross-reactivity is observed when prenyl probes are used to identify prenylomes in cells. For example, known geranylgeranylated protein Cdc42 was identified by using an FPP probe,<sup>91</sup> and alkynyl-farnesol is utilized by all three cellular prenyltransferases.<sup>97</sup> However, such cross-reactivity may also be physiologically relevant, as RhoB is reportedly farnesylated and geranylgeranylated efficiently by GGT-1.<sup>26</sup>

## 2.4. Functions of Prenylation

**2.4.1. Membrane Association**—The prenyl group is hydrophobic and thus recruits soluble proteins to cellular membranes. In this mechanism, it is important to distinguish the plasma membrane from endomembranes (membranes of intracellular organelles such as the ER, Golgi, endosomes, lysosomes, and nucleus). Ras proteins were found to associate with the plasma membrane in a prenylation-dependent manner.<sup>9</sup> Mutation of the prenylated cysteine residues or the blocking of isoprenoid biosynthesis abolished the prenylation of Ras proteins and their plasma membrane association. However, later studies suggested that prenylation is mainly responsible for targeting proteins to endomembranes.<sup>103</sup> Specifically, the CaaX prenylation targets proteins to the ER and Golgi.<sup>103</sup>

The endomembrane targeting of prenylation explains why many prenylated proteins with CaaX motifs require additional membrane targeting motifs for plasma membrane localization, including cysteine palmitoylation (which provides greater hydrophobic affinity to the membranes) and a polybasic domain (which interacts electrostatically with negatively charged phospholipid head groups on the inner leaflet of plasma membranes; Figure 7). These additional membrane-targeting motifs aid the translocation of these proteins from endomembranes to the plasma membrane. For example, H-Ras and N-Ras undergo both cysteine prenylation and cysteine palmitoylation at the C-terminus. Although 90% of wild-type (WT) H-Ras is associated with the plasma membrane, only 8% of a non-palmitoylated H-Ras mutant was found to do so,<sup>104</sup> which indicates that both modifications are required for plasma membrane targeting. N-Ras has only one palmitoylated cysteine, but H-Ras contains two. Compared with the single cysteine palmitoylation on N-Ras, the double-cysteine palmitoylation on H-Ras reportedly promotes trans-Golgi localization.<sup>105</sup>

A similar model applies in the targeting of farnesylated proteins to other membrane organelles: farnesylation targets proteins to endomembranes, and other signals help target proteins to specific membrane organelles. For example, prelamin A requires both a C-terminal CSIM farnesylation motif and a nuclear localization signal to accumulate in the nuclear envelope for later endoproteolysis to generate mature lamin A.<sup>106</sup> Another lamin protein, lamin B, also requires farnesylation to assemble into lamina and associate with the nuclear membrane during mitosis.<sup>107</sup> Unlike lamin A, lamin B does not undergo endoproteolysis, and thus, mature lamin B retains the farnesylation. Lamin B1 farnesylation, but not lamin B2 farnesylation, is key for brain development and the formation of stable nuclear lamina in mice; a nonfarnesylated lamin B1 mutation led to death soon after birth.<sup>108</sup> The farnesylation of the ZAP long isoform has been demonstrated to regulate the

localization of the isoform to the lysosomes and late endosomes.<sup>98</sup> Presumably, another signal is needed to target ZAP specifically to these organelles.

The process of protein prenylation with a CaaX motif typically requires three steps: prenylation, proteolysis, and carboxymethylation. In vitro studies of K-Ras showed that only 20% of K-Ras is associated with membranes when K-Ras undergoes farnesylation without proteolysis and carboxymethylation, whereas up to 80% of K-Ras is associated with membranes after the methylation step is completed.<sup>109</sup> This result suggests that carboxymethylation greatly enhances the membrane association of the farnesylated protein owing to the increase in hydrophobicity and the removal of the negative charge on the carboxylate group. Further studies demonstrated that carboxymethylation has a much smaller effect on geranylgeranylated proteins.<sup>110,111</sup> Notably, the membrane localization of Ras proteins is complicated and incompletely understood. For example, the small molecule fendiline reportedly promotes the intracellular membrane localization of K-Ras, but the mechanism remains unknown.<sup>112</sup>

Some Ras proteins have C-terminal CaaX motifs, including a brain-specific splice variant of Cdc42 (CCIF), RalA (CCIL), and RalB (CCLL). A recent study demonstrated that these proteins undergo prenylation on the first cysteine and palmitoylation on the second cysteine for stable anchoring in the plasma membrane (Figure 7). This reaction differs from and likely competes with the classical CaaX processing in which a sole prenylation is followed by proteolysis and carboxymethylation.<sup>113</sup>

One of the potential advantages of having multiple membrane targeting motifs for membrane anchoring is the capacity for easy regulation of membrane associations. For example, K-Ras4B has a polybasic region containing six lysine residues upstream of the prenylation site (Figure 7). Alterations to this polybasic region significantly decrease the plasma membrane association of K-Ras4B.<sup>104,114</sup> Phosphorylation on Ser181 within the region changes the electrostatic status of the protein by partially neutralizing the positive charge and thus destabilizes the electrostatic interaction between K-Ras4B and the plasma membrane. This change promotes the dissociation of K-Ras4B from the plasma membrane.<sup>115</sup> In vitro studies using K-Ras4B and nanodiscs confirmed the effect of Ser181 phosphorylation and further demonstrated that farnesylated K-Ras4B prefers disordered lipid microdomains.<sup>116</sup>

Most Rab proteins have C-terminal CC or CXC motifs for digeranylgeranylation (Figure 7), which is more hydrophobic. In terms of membrane targeting, digeranylgeranylation seems only to target proteins to endomembranes, as most Rab proteins are targeted to specific intracellular membrane organelles, not the plasma membrane. However, the effects of digeranylgeranylation can differ from those of single geranylgeranylation. When the CC or CXC motif is replaced with a mono cysteine motif, Rab5a and Rab27a are mistargeted to the ER instead of to endosomes and melanosomes, respectively.<sup>117</sup> Rab proteins with a CXC motif undergo terminal carboxymethylation on prenylcysteine, whereas those with a CC motif do not.<sup>118</sup> Although this methylation has no effect on the subcellular localization of Rab proteins,<sup>119</sup> it might indicate that Rab proteins with CXC motifs need to pass through the ER for methylation by ICMT, whereas Rab proteins with CC motifs can be directly

transferred to the target membrane without interacting with the ER. The localization of digeranylgeranylated Rab proteins to specific membrane organelles also requires an additional targeting signal in their protein sequences.<sup>106,120</sup> Initially, the hypervariable C-terminal domains (HVDs) of Rab proteins<sup>120</sup> were thought to help determine the appropriate subcellular localization of the proteins, but later experiments suggested that the situation is more complicated. Studies using semisynthetic Rab proteins (Rab1, Rab5, Rab7, Rab35) in which the HVDs were replaced with a polyethylene glycol linker have demonstrated that the HVDs of Rab1 and Rab5 are not required for Golgi and early endosome localization, respectively.<sup>121</sup> By contrast, the HVD of Rab7 is key for late endosome and lysosome localization because this domain interacts with Rab-interacting lysosomal protein, which is a Rab7 effector. The HVD of Rab35 is also central to its plasma membrane localization owing to the presence of a polybasic sequence.<sup>121</sup> Another study showed that interactions between Rab1A/Rab5A/Rab8A and their corresponding guanine nucleotide exchange factors (GEFs) play important roles in targeting the proteins to the correct intracellular membranes. Therefore, the correct targeting of Rab proteins is determined by prenylation; interactions with GEFs, effectors, and possibly other proteins; and negative charges on the plasma membrane.

**2.4.2. Protein-Protein Interactions**—Many studies of the Ras superfamily have demonstrated that prenylation is critical for protein-protein interactions. The farnesylation of yeast Ras2 increases the binding affinity to adenylyl cyclase 100-fold; however, the subsequent palmitoylation of Ras2 has little effect despite its importance for Ras2 membrane targeting.<sup>122</sup> A recent study also showed that human Spindly, a mitotic checkpoint protein, requires farnesylation to target kinetochores via protein-protein interactions.<sup>123</sup>

Guanine nucleotides bound to Ras proteins are controlled by GEFs. One GEF, human SOS (hSOS1), forms a complex with farnesylated K-Ras4B, but not with unmodified K-Ras4B, to regulate the binding of guanine nucleotides and response to growth factor stimulation.<sup>124</sup> The polybasic domain of K-Ras4B is not required for the interaction with hSOS1. Other studies have emphasized that the prenylation of N-Ras is critical for the binding of N-Ras to both the active and allosteric sites of hSOS1.<sup>125</sup> Interestingly, oncogenic K-Ras reportedly binds to the allosteric site of hSOS1, which promotes the activation of WT H-Ras and N-Ras.<sup>126</sup> The farnesylation of Cdc42 is also central to the activation of Cdc42 by its GEF, Dock7.<sup>127</sup>

In vitro studies have shown that the geranylgeranylation of RhoA is important for interactions with the RhoA guanosine diphosphate (GDP) dissociation inhibitor (GDI) and GDP dissociation stimulator (GDS) but not GTPase activating proteins (GAPs).<sup>128</sup> Geranylgeranylation is also required for the interaction between RhoA and IQ-motif-containing GTPase activating protein IQGAP1 to regulate RhoA functions in breast cancer cell proliferation and migration.<sup>129</sup> IQGAP1 is likely an effector protein of RhoA because it functions downstream of RhoA.<sup>129</sup>

A short splice variant of small guanosine triphosphate (GTP)-binding protein guanine nucleotide dissociation stimulator, SmgGDS-558, selectively binds prenylated Rap1A to facilitate the trafficking of Rap1A to the plasma membrane,<sup>130</sup> whereas the long splice

variant SmgGDS-607 associates with non-prenylated Rap1A to regulate Rap1A entry into the prenylation pathway. This provides a regulatory mechanism for the prenylation of small GTPases.

In all the cases described above, it is unclear whether prenylation is involved in the protein-protein interaction directly or via indirect mechanisms, such as those affecting subcellular localization. By contrast, prenylation is directly involved in the protein-protein interactions described below for GDI proteins. RabGDIs specifically bind geranylgeranylated Rab proteins in their GDP-bound forms (but not their GTP-bound forms) to retrieve them from the target membranes after vesicular transport.<sup>131</sup> This activity is central to the cellular recycling of Rab proteins for normal functioning. Similarly, RhoGDIs bind to and stabilize Rho proteins to regulate their cellular homeostasis.<sup>132</sup>

The structure of the Cdc42-RhoGDI complex demonstrates that a hydrophobic pocket exists between the two opposing  $\beta$ -sheets of the Ig-like domain of RhoGDI. This pocket binds the geranylgeranyl moiety of Cdc42 (Figure 8A),<sup>133</sup> which changes the conformation of an  $\alpha$ -helix (Rho insert) in Cdc42.<sup>134</sup> The binding by RhoGDI also facilitates the extraction of Cdc42 from the cellular membrane. Additional structures of GDI complexed with Ras proteins further support the functional role of prenylation in the interaction between GDI and Ras proteins (Figure 8B and 8C).<sup>135–138</sup> A GDI-like solubilizing factor, PDE6 $\delta$ , can bind prenylated retinal PDE6 catalytic subunits,<sup>139</sup> rhodopsin kinases,<sup>140</sup> prostacyclin receptor,<sup>141</sup> and Ras proteins.<sup>142</sup> The C-terminal farnesyl moiety of Ras binds to a hydrophobic pocket in the Ig-like domain of PDE6 $\delta$ , as demonstrated by crystal structures of the PDE6 $\delta$ -Rheb complex (Figure 8D)<sup>143</sup> and KRas4b-PDE6 $\delta$  complex.<sup>144</sup> Notably, PDE6 $\delta$  lacks the regulatory arm required to interact with the switch regions of Rheb or Ras, which differs from the association of RhoGDI with Rho (compare Figure 8D to Figure 8A–8C). By binding to and solubilizing prenylated Ras proteins, PDE6 $\delta$  may enhance the diffusion of these proteins into the cytoplasm and facilitate more effective trapping of both depalmitoylated Ras proteins at the Golgi and polycationic Ras proteins at the plasma membrane.<sup>144</sup> Similarly, by binding to farnesylated or geranylgeranylated INPP5E, PDE6 $\delta$  mediates the sorting of INPP5E into cilium.<sup>145</sup>

By contrast, the RabGDIs have a completely different fold from that of the RhoGDIs. RabGDIs have more than 440 amino acids and are larger than RhoGDIs, which have approximately 200 amino acids. No significant sequence homology exists between RabGDIs and RhoGDIs. In the structures of the prenylated YPT1-RabGDI complex and the doubly prenylated YPT1-RabGDI complex (Figure 8E and 8F), the Rab-binding platform and the C-terminal binding region in domain I of RabGDI interact with the Switch I/II regions and C-terminus of YPT1. Geranylgeranyl moieties are buried in the hydrophobic pocket formed by the  $\alpha$ -helices of RabGDI domain II.

Quantitative analysis of the interaction between prenylated RhoA and RhoGDI has revealed that the extraction of Rho GTPase from membranes by RhoGDI is a thermodynamically favored passive process modulated by a series of progressively tighter complexes (Figure 9).<sup>135</sup> RhoGDI initially binds RhoA to form a low-affinity complex. Then, the positively charged C-terminus of RhoA binds to the negatively charged residues at the C-terminus of

RhoGDI, increasing the complex affinity. This complexation positions the C-terminus of RhoGDI near the membrane-buried geranylgeranyl moiety of RhoA and opens the lipid-binding pocket at the C-terminus of RhoGDI. Next, the geranylgeranyl moiety is transferred from the membrane to the lipid-binding pocket of RhoGDI, which forms a high-affinity complex that spontaneously dissociates from the membrane. RabGDI uses a similar mechanism to extract Rab proteins from membranes.<sup>146</sup>

## 2.5. Prenyltransferase Inhibitors

Because the oncogenic form of Ras requires farnesylation for activity, the inhibition of the farnesylation process may be a strategy to treat cancer. Thus, FT inhibitors have attracted attention,<sup>147</sup> and many FT inhibitors have been reported (Figure 10). There are four types of FT inhibitors: FPP analogues, CaaX peptides analogues, bisubstrate analogues, and non-peptide inhibitors.<sup>148–152</sup> Certain natural products have also been identified as FT inhibitors.

Although FT inhibitors generally have low toxicity, they lack efficacy in clinical trials,<sup>153</sup> perhaps because GGT-1 compensates for the inhibited FT and carries out the geranylgeranylation of Ras proteins, thereby allowing the proliferation of cancer cells.<sup>154</sup> Geranylgeranylated RalA transforms cells in several cancers,<sup>155</sup> and geranylgeranylated RhoC is essential for cancer metastasis.<sup>156,157</sup> These findings suggest that GGT-1 is a promising target for cancer treatment. Many specific GGT-1 inhibitors have been identified and show therapeutic effects (Figure 11).<sup>158–166</sup> Dual inhibitors for FT and GGT-1<sup>167–169</sup> and combination treatments using FT inhibitors with GGT-1 inhibitors or other agents<sup>153,170–174</sup> have also been reported.

RGGT is overexpressed in several tumors and has an anti-apoptotic effect in some cancer cell lines.<sup>175</sup> Studies have also demonstrated that RGGT is involved in tumor survival. Rab25, a substrate of RGGT, determines the aggressiveness of epithelial cancers.<sup>176</sup> Other Rab proteins have elevated expression in various human cancers.<sup>177</sup> However, only a few specific RGGT inhibitors (Figure 11) are available and they typically have low affinities.<sup>160,178–185</sup>

Another application of FT inhibitors is the treatment of parasitic diseases, including malaria (caused by *Plasmodium falciparum*),<sup>186–190</sup> African sleeping sickness (caused by *Trypanosoma brucei*),<sup>191,192</sup> Chagas disease (caused by *Trypanosoma cruzi*),<sup>193–196</sup> and leishmaniasis (caused by *Leishmania mexicana*).<sup>197</sup> The parasitic vectors of these diseases are hypothesized to lack GGT-1; therefore, FT inhibitors are sufficient to inhibit their growth. Antifungal<sup>198–202</sup> and antiviral<sup>75,203–207</sup> activities of FT inhibitors and GGT-1 inhibitors have also been explored.

Among the most promising clinical applications of FT inhibitors are the treatment of Hutchinson-Gilford progeria syndrome (HGPS) and hepatitis D. HGPS is a rare premature aging disease caused by mutations in the LMNA gene that encodes prelamin A and prelamin C.<sup>208</sup> As described in section 2.4a, prelamin A is farnesylated and targeted to the nucleus, where it is proteolyzed to remove the C-terminal farnesylated peptide. The mutations that cause HGPS abolish the proteolysis step, which leads to premature aging. In one study,

lonafarnib treatment increased body weight and lessened arterial stiffness in 25 children with HGPS.<sup>209</sup> In another study, lonafarnib treatment increased mean survival by 1.6 years.<sup>210</sup> Combining lonafarnib with pravastatin and zoledronic acid increased bone mineral density in patients with HGPS but offered no benefits beyond those of lonafarnib treatment alone.<sup>211</sup>

Hepatitis D is caused by the hepatitis delta virus, and no satisfactory treatment currently exists. As mentioned in section 2.2, the prenylation of the hepatitis delta virus large antigen is key for virus assembly,<sup>73,74</sup> and prenylation inhibitors have been shown to inhibit virus particle formation.<sup>75</sup> A proof of concept, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled phase 2A trial showed that lonafarnib significantly reduces hepatitis D viral load.<sup>76</sup> Another trial to test lonafarnib in combination with ritonavir or PEGylated interferon  $\alpha$  (PEG = polyethylene glycol) is ongoing (NCT02430194).

### 3. N-Terminal Glycine Myristoylation

N-glycine myristoylation refers to the co- or post-translational attachment of a saturated 14-carbon fatty acyl group, myristoyl, to the N-terminal glycine of proteins via an amide bond (Figure 12). The consensus sequence required for the co-translational modification after removal of the first methionine residue by methionine aminopeptidase is Gly-XXX-Ser/Thr/Cys.<sup>212</sup> N-Glycine myristoylation has also been reported as a post-translational modification for certain pro-apoptotic proteins.<sup>213</sup> The cleavage of these proteins by caspases exposes an internal glycine for myristoylation (Figure 12). N-Glycine myristoylation plays essential roles in the targeting of proteins to desired subcellular localizations by mediating protein-protein and protein-membrane interactions. Owing to the diversity of substrate proteins modified, N-glycine myristoylation is critical for signal transduction, apoptosis, and virus-, protozoa-, and fungi-induced pathological processes.<sup>212,214</sup> Therefore, this modification is a promising target for the development of anti-parasitic and antifungal drugs.<sup>215</sup>

#### 3.1. N-Myristoyltransferase

N-Glycine myristoylation is catalyzed by myristoyl-CoA: protein N-myristoyltransferase (NMT), which belongs to the GCN5-related N-acetyltransferase superfamily.<sup>216</sup> NMT has been characterized extensively in many organisms, including mammals, insects, plants, parasites, yeast, and fungi. *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and *Candida albicans* contain a single NMT, whereas *Homo sapiens* has two NMTs (NMT1 and NMT2).<sup>217</sup> The X-ray crystal structures of *S. cerevisiae* NMT show that NMT is folded into a saddle-shaped  $\beta$ -sheet flanked by several  $\alpha$ -helices (Figure 13A). Within this pseudo-two-fold symmetry, the N- and C-terminal halves of NMT contribute to the myristoyl-CoA and protein substrate binding sites, respectively.<sup>218,219</sup>

Kinetic and structural evidence suggests that NMT catalysis follows a sequential ordered Bi-Bi mechanism.<sup>220</sup> The myristoyl-CoA initially binds the apo-NMT and induces a conformational change for peptide binding. After the formation of a ternary NMT - myristoyl-CoA - peptide complex, acyl transfer occurs via the attack of the N-terminal glycine at the thioester bond of myristoyl-CoA. Free CoA is then released, followed by the myristoylated peptide product.<sup>220</sup> Several structures of the ternary complex have been reported<sup>221</sup> and highlight several notable features. First, an oxyanion hole is formed by the



main-chain amide bonds of Phe170 and Leu171 (Figure 13B). Second, the bent conformation around the C5 and C6 of myristoyl-CoA positions the end of the acyl chain in a deep pocket of the enzyme (Figure 13C). These features may provide the measurements of acyl chain length that result in the specificity toward myristoyl-CoA.<sup>218</sup> The highly abundant palmitoyl-CoA is also capable of binding NMT; however, the catalytic efficiency is much lower than that of myristoyl-CoA.<sup>222</sup> Finally, the structures provide an explanation for the peptide sequence selectivity of NMTs (Figure 13D). The amino group of the N-terminal glycine must rotate to the left to attack the carbonyl of myristoyl-CoA. A larger side chain group (if substituting glycine with other amino acids) may impede the rotation and thus the myristoylation.<sup>221</sup> The serine side chain at position 5 interacts with a small hydrophilic pocket, which explains the preference for serine/threonine/cysteine at this position. By contrast, positions 2–4 are either solvent-exposed or accommodated by large pockets, which explains the lack of preference at these positions.

Several studies have shown that NMT is essential for the survival of mammals,<sup>223</sup> fungi,<sup>224,225</sup> flies,<sup>226</sup> and parasites.<sup>227</sup> In humans, NMT1 and NMT2 share approximately 76% sequence identity and have partially overlapping biological functions and substrate selectivity.<sup>217,223</sup> *S. cerevisiae* and human NMTs are predominantly localized in the cytosol.<sup>228,229</sup> The N-terminal region of human NMTs, which consists of polybasic amino acid sequences (K-box), is reported to be crucial for targeting to the ribosomes, where co-translational N-myristoylation modification occurs.<sup>230,231</sup>

NMT1, but not NMT2, is also critical for cell proliferation, whereas cell survival is likely regulated by both NMT1 and NMT2.<sup>223</sup> NMT1 is essential for embryonic development and proper monocytic differentiation in mice,<sup>232,233</sup> in which thymus-specific knockouts of NMT1 and NMT2 have been generated. NMT1 knockout significantly decreases T-cell numbers and T-cell receptor signaling, whereas NMT2 knockout has only minor effects.<sup>234</sup> T-cell apoptosis increases most dramatically when both NMT1 and NMT2 are knocked out, but compared with NMT1 knockout, the knockout of NMT2 seems to have a stronger effect on apoptosis.<sup>234</sup> An increase in the activity of both NMT1 and NMT2 has been observed in colonic and brain tumors.<sup>235</sup>

NMTs have been demonstrated to be substrates for caspases during apoptosis.<sup>236</sup> The caspase cleavage of NMTs potentially regulates the localization of NMTs. The removal of a lysine cluster from NMT1 by caspase-3 or caspase-8 promotes the translocation of NMT1 from the ribosomal and membrane fractions to the cytosol. However, the caspase-3 cleavage of NMT2 leads to the relocalization NMT2 from the cytosol to the membrane fraction.<sup>236</sup> The reasons for NMT-specific localization change during apoptosis require further investigation.

### 3.2. Proteins Modified by N-Glycine Myristoylation

Experimentally identified N-glycine myristoylated proteins can be classified into various functional classes such as signaling proteins (GTP-binding proteins, Ca<sup>2+</sup>-binding EF-hand proteins, and protein kinases), apoptotic proteins, and structural viral proteins. The modified mammalian proteins are summarized in Table 1.<sup>237</sup>

### 3.3. Functions of Glycine Myristoylation

**3.3.1. Cellular Localization and Membrane Attachment**—N-Glycine myristoylation mediates the targeting of modified proteins to various membranous locations (e.g., the plasma membrane, ER, Golgi complex, mitochondrial membranes, and nuclear envelope). However, glycine myristoylation alone is insufficient for membrane targeting, and another signal is typically required. This signal includes other proximate lipid modifications (e.g., cysteine palmitoylation or cysteine prenylation) and the presence of positively charged amino acid clusters.<sup>237</sup> This requirement allows myristoylation to act as a “myristoyl switch” (Figure 14), in which the membrane association of myristoylated proteins is regulated by phosphorylation or ligands such as GTP and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ .<sup>297</sup> For example, the phosphorylation of myristoylated alanine-rich C kinase substrate (MARCKS) and Src stimulates membrane dissociation presumably by decreasing electrostatic interactions between the protein and the phospholipid membrane.<sup>298</sup> On the contrary, GTP and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  have been shown to promote the membrane binding of myristoylated ADP ribosylation factors and recoverin, respectively.<sup>299–301</sup> The binding of these ligands can induce conformational changes within proteins and results in the exposure of the N-myristoyl moiety for membrane association.<sup>297,300</sup>

Proteolysis can also trigger a myristoyl switch.<sup>302</sup> Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)-1 Gag is initially synthesized in a 55 kDa precursor form (Pr55Gag), and the exposed myristoyl group promotes membrane binding. Upon cleavage by HIV-1 protease, the myristoyl moiety is sequestered and Gag is released from the membrane. The Gag myristoyl switch may not be induced by conformational changes as observed in other myristoyl switches, however.<sup>303</sup> Instead, the synergistic interaction between Gag subdomains promotes the exposure of the myristoyl group and regulates membrane binding while protease cleavage of Gag decreases the cooperative effect and leads to the dissociation of Gag.

N-Glycine myristoylation also markedly increases the stability of hisactophilin, a membrane-binding protein in *Dictyostelium discoideum*.<sup>304</sup> The modification also raises the protein dynamic (the rate of global protein folding and unfolding), which might facilitate conformational changes or myristoyl switching in hisactophilin.<sup>304</sup>

N-Glycine myristoylation functions not simply in membrane anchoring but also in the specific localization of certain transmembrane proteins. For example, NADH-cytochrome b5 reductase (b5R), an integral membrane protein, is dually targeted to the outer mitochondrial membrane and ER. The myristoylation of b5R is indispensable for targeting to the outer mitochondrial membrane, whereas a non-myristoylated mutant is localized to the ER.<sup>290</sup> Notably, further study demonstrated that the myristoylation of b5R interferes with the recognition of the nascent peptide by the signal recognition particle, thereby preventing ER targeting.<sup>305</sup>

Another integral membrane protein that requires glycine myristoylation for localization is dihydroceramide Delta4-desaturase 1, an enzyme in the last step of de novo ceramide biosynthesis. In COS-7 cells, only the myristoyled form of this enzyme localizes to the mitochondria, which results in an increase in ceramide production. The non-myristoylatable mutant localizes primarily to the ER.<sup>288</sup>

The role of N-glycine myristoylation in controlling the cellular distribution of proteins has also been observed in yeast.<sup>295</sup> Kimura and colleagues demonstrated that the N-glycine myristoylation of the Rpt2 subunit regulates the nuclear localization of the 26S proteasome, and the non-myristoylatable mutant of Rpt2 shifted the 26S proteasome into the cytoplasm without affecting its molecular assembly and peptidase activity.

### 3.3.2. Regulation of the Membrane Localization of Caspase Substrates in Apoptosis

—The N-glycine myristoylation of some proteins occurs post-translationally. BID, a pro-apoptotic protein, was the first protein reported to undergo post-translational myristoylation.<sup>213</sup> BID is cleaved by caspase-8 into a 7 kDa N-terminal fragment and a 15 kDa C-terminal fragment that remain associated as a complex. The exposed N-glycine of the BID C-terminal fragment is myristoylated to promote mitochondrial outer membrane targeting, thereby activating cytochrome C release and apoptosis, respectively.

Another caspase-cleaved protein, p21-activated kinase 2 (PAK2), is also post-translationally myristoylated.<sup>276</sup> The myristoylation and the polybasic region are sufficient to relocalize the C-terminal of PAK2 (ctPAK2) from the cytosol to the plasma membrane and membrane ruffles. The overexpression of ctPAK2 has been shown to induce cell death.<sup>306</sup> To investigate the role of myristoylation in apoptosis, the percentage of cell death was compared between myristoylatable and non-myristoylatable ctPAK2, the latter of which impaired the apoptotic effect. The non-myristoylatable mutant less efficiently activated Jun N-terminal kinase phosphorylation and signaling, a pathway known to be involved in apoptosis. To date, several caspase-cleaved proteins that undergo N-glycine myristoylation have been identified,<sup>238,287,307</sup> and these findings emphasize the biological function of N-glycine myristoylation in the regulation of cell death.

### 3.3.3. Regulation of Protein-Protein Interaction

—In addition to mediating protein localization and membrane targeting, N-glycine myristoylation plays a role in protein-protein interaction. Some of the examples described below are accompanied by structural evidence of this role. In examples that lack structural support, the effects on protein-protein interaction may be indirect.

CAP-23/NAP-22 is a brain-specific protein kinase C substrate involved in synaptic plasticity. The phosphorylation of CAP-23/NAP-22 by protein kinase C is regulated by calmodulin binding in a Ca<sup>2+</sup>-dependent manner. The myristoyl group and at least nine basic amino acids at the N-terminus are necessary for efficient interaction with calmodulin.<sup>292</sup> A crystal structure of calmodulin in complex with the myristoylated CAP-23/NAP-22 N-terminal peptide shows that the myristoyl group is directly involved in calmodulin binding.<sup>308</sup> The interaction between myristoylated alanine-rich C kinase substrate and calmodulin is also dependent on N-terminal myristoylation.<sup>309</sup> However, the interaction between calmodulin and the HIV-1 Gag protein seems to occur independent of N-terminal myristoylation.<sup>310</sup> Furthermore, the binding of calmodulin is thought to expose the N-terminal myristoyl group on Gag for membrane interaction.<sup>310</sup> Notably, calmodulin also binds to farnesylated K-Ras4b in a nucleotide-independent manner. This interaction can occur even in the presence of negatively charged membranes, which suggests that calmodulin is able to extract K-Ras4b from membranes.<sup>311</sup> By contrast, the PDE6δ-K-Ras4b interaction is less stable in the

presence of negatively charged membranes, and thus it is unlikely that PDE6 $\delta$  extracts K-Ras4b from membranes.<sup>312</sup>

Compared with the myristoylated form of the G $_{\text{O}\alpha}$  protein, the non-myristoylated form shows decreased affinity for  $\beta\gamma$  subunits.<sup>313</sup> The  $\gamma$  subunit of this protein is prenylated, and thus the increased binding affinity between  $\alpha$  and  $\beta\gamma$  may be due to the targeting of both  $\alpha$  and  $\beta\gamma$  to the membrane.

A role for N-glycine myristoylation in transcription has also been reported.<sup>293</sup> The interaction of myristoylated CAP-23/NAP-22 (also called brain acid soluble protein 1 or BASP1) with PIP-2 is essential for the transcriptional corepression activity of Wilms' tumor 1 (WT1), a transcriptional regulator involved in cell development. BASP1 binds to WT1 and mediates its transcriptional repression function. Notably, compared with WT BASP1, non-myristoylatable BASP1 shows significantly decreased transcriptional repression. The exact function of BASP1 myristoylation is unknown. However, non-myristoylatable BASP1 fails to recruit histone deacetylase (HDAC) 1 to the promoters of WT1 target genes and exhibits increased histone H3K9 acetylation,<sup>293</sup> which suggests that myristoylation may regulate protein-protein interaction.

N-glycine myristoylation also regulates the Golgi membrane tethering process mediated by Golgi reassembly stacking protein (GRASP), which is required for the ribbon-like network of Golgi. GRASP undergoes myristoylation, and this modification is key to maintaining the structure of the Golgi network. The myristoylation of GRASP is thought to affect GRASP orientation and thus promote the trans interaction between GRASP proteins (a GRASP protein in one Golgi membrane interacting with a GRASP protein in a neighboring Golgi membrane) and prevent the cis interaction in the same membrane (Figure 15).<sup>314,315</sup> A similar situation may explain the function of the myristoylation of Lunapark, a double-spanning integral membrane protein involved in ER network formation. The myristoylation of Lunapark is not required for specific membrane localization. Instead, the modification changes ER morphology by inducing polygonal tubular ER formation when the protein is overexpressed. This change is not observed for a non-myristoylated Lunapark mutant.<sup>239</sup>

N-Glycine myristoylation has also been shown to mediate protein sorting into cilium. This process is mediated by two proteins, Uncoordinated 119a (Unc119a) and Unc119b.<sup>316</sup> These proteins are homologous to PDE6 $\delta$ , which binds to prenylated proteins (see section 2.4b). Notably, Unc119a and Unc119b recognize only myristoylated proteins, whereas PDE6 $\delta$  recognizes only prenylated proteins.<sup>317</sup> The structures of Unc119a and Unc119b in complex with the acylated peptides revealed that the recognition of myristoylated peptides by these proteins resembles that of prenylated peptides by PDE6 $\delta$ .<sup>318,319</sup> Notably, ADP ribosylation factor-like 2 and 3 release the bound prenylated and myristoylated proteins from PDE6 $\delta$  and Unc119a and Unc119b, respectively, in a GTP-dependent manner.<sup>316,319</sup>

**3.3.4. Regulation of Protein Stability**—N-Glycine myristoylated calcineurin B homologous protein isoform 3 (CHP3) is a Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding protein that plays a role in intracellular pH homeostasis by interacting with Na<sup>+</sup>/H<sup>+</sup> exchanger (NHE1). CHP3 enhances the expression and stability of NHE1 at the cell surface through an unknown

mechanism. N-myristoylation and the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  binding domain of CHP3 are not essential for interaction with NHE1.<sup>295</sup> However, Gly2Ala and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  binding site CHP3 mutants decreased NHE1 half-life and exchange activity, which suggests that they are required for the stabilization of NHE1 at the plasma membrane and enhancement of  $\text{Na}^+/\text{H}^+$  exchanger activity. Nevertheless, the underlying mechanism of this stabilizing effect by N-glycine myristoylation remains unknown and requires further investigation.<sup>295</sup>

**3.3.5. Regulation of Enzymatic Activity**—The best understood example of the regulation of enzymatic activity by myristoylation is the myristoyl switch that negatively regulates c-Abl tyrosine kinase activity. c-Abl is a member of the Src family of protein tyrosine kinases, which typically exist in an inactive state under resting conditions until activated through signaling.<sup>320</sup> In addition to having a kinase domain, c-Src also has an SH2 and an SH3 domain. The SH2 domain binds to a phosphorylated tyrosine residue (pTyr527) and maintains c-Src in an inactive conformation. The SH3 domain binds a proline-rich sequence of c-Src and further locks c-Src in the inactive conformation. The activation of c-Src requires the binding of the SH2 domain to other phosphotyrosine residues, which unlocks the inactive conformation.<sup>320</sup>

The c-Abl protein also has an SH2 and an SH3 domain N-terminal to the kinase domain. However, there is no pTyr corresponding to pTyr527 in c-Src. Thus, the mechanism through which c-Abl is maintained in an inactivate state is interesting: myristoylation of the N-terminal glycine plays a central role in maintaining this inactive form. Compared with the myristoylated form, unmyristoylated c-Abl is much more active.<sup>321</sup> An X-ray crystal structure of a truncated c-Abl (containing the SH2, SH3, and kinase domains) with and without bound myristoyl peptide provides key insights on the regulation of c-Abl activity by myristoylation (Figure 16).<sup>322</sup> The myristoyl group binds to a hydrophobic pocket in the C-lobe of the kinase domain, which triggers a conformational change in the C-terminal of the kinase domain. In the structure of c-Abl without bound myristoyl, an extended  $\alpha$ -helix ( $\alpha$ I, colored grey in Figure 16) prevents the binding of the SH2 domain to the kinase domain. In the myristoyl-bound state, the  $\alpha$ I is separated into two short  $\alpha$ -helices,  $\alpha$ I (magenta in Figure 16) and  $\alpha$ I' (blue in Figure 16). The  $\alpha$ I' helix makes an abrupt turn to bind to the myristoyl group. These conformational changes lead to the docking of the SH2 domain onto the kinase domain and subsequent autoinhibition.<sup>322</sup>

The Tyr kinase c-Src itself is also myristoylated. However, different from the regulation of c-Abl, myristoylation positively regulates c-Src kinase activity.<sup>214</sup> The enhanced kinase activity of N-glycine-myristoylated c-Src is presumably due to a membrane attachment that orients c-Src favorably for kinase activity. The myristoylation of c-Src can also affect protein stability by regulating membrane association and facilitating ubiquitination and degradation mediated by the E3 ligase Cbl.<sup>214</sup>

### 3.4. Tools for the Study of Glycine Myristoylation

**3.4.1. N-Myristoylation Predictive Tools**—N-Glycine myristoylation predictive tools are bioinformatics methods that can predict potentially N-glycine myristoylated proteins. Three such tools are now available. The MYR Predictor (<http://mendel.imp.univie.ac.at/>

myristate/) was first developed by Maurer-Stroh and co-workers.<sup>323</sup> Based on known substrate sequences, crystal structures, and biochemical data of NMT, the motif for N-terminal myristoylation is 17 amino acids identified in three regions that (1) fit into the binding pocket, (2) interact with the NMT surface, and (3) form a hydrophilic linker. The second predictive tool, the Myristoylator (<http://web.expasy.org/myristoylator/>), predicts the N-terminal myristoylation of targets with neural network models trained to distinguish myristoylated and non-myristoylated proteins.<sup>324</sup> The Myristoylator and MYR Predictor have similar error rates. Another software program, Terminator3 (<http://www.isv.cnrs-gif.fr/terminator3/index.html>), makes predictions based on pattern scanning.<sup>325</sup> These predictive software tools require improvement in terms of sensitivity and accuracy.<sup>326</sup>

**3.4.2. Chemical Tools for Detecting N-Myristoylation**—Several approaches have been developed to detect N-glycine myristoylation in vivo and in vitro. The classic method uses radioactive-labeled fatty acids such as [<sup>3</sup>H]-myristic acid and [<sup>125</sup>I]-myristic acid, which are incorporated into cellular proteins, followed by the immunoprecipitation of target proteins and film exposure. This technique is typically time-consuming and insensitive. An alternative non-radioactive method has gained considerable attention since its development. This method uses ω-azido or ω-alkynyl myristate analogues as bioorthogonal probes to identify myristoylated proteins.<sup>327–329</sup> These probes can be incorporated into proteins after addition into cultured cells, and the probe-modified proteins are then conjugated to fluorophores or biotin via the Staudinger ligation (for ω-azido probes) and the Huisgen cycloaddition reaction (for ω-alkynyl probes). The fluorophore- or biotin-conjugated myristoylated proteins can be detected via in-gel fluorescence after separation with sodium dodecyl sulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis or western blot analysis.<sup>330</sup>

Several proteomics studies using bioorthogonal probes have been carried out to identify N-myristoylated proteins in various species, including *T. brucei*,<sup>331</sup> *Leishmania donovani*,<sup>332</sup> immortalized retinal pigment epithelial cells with and without herpes simplex virus (HSV) infection,<sup>333</sup> CEMx174 cells with and without HIV infection,<sup>334</sup> and HeLa cells with and without apoptosis.<sup>335</sup> The study in HeLa cells is particularly notable because it uses NMT inhibitors in proteomics experiments to ensure that the identified proteins are indeed substrates of NMT. Furthermore, it compares the proteomics results with results predicted with the bioinformatics tools. This comparison shows that although the predication tools give largely correct predictions, some of the results are inconsistent with the proteomics results.<sup>335</sup> The largest data set of experimentally validated human proteins myristoylated by NMT in living cells was obtained using a multifunctional enrichment reagent and NMT inhibitors.<sup>336</sup>

### 3.5. N-Glycine Myristoylation and Disease

**3.5.1. NMT as a Target for Treating Fungal Infections and Parasitic Diseases**—Several studies have shown that NMT is a potential target for antifungal<sup>225</sup> and anti-parasite<sup>227,337,338</sup> drugs because it is indispensable for the growth and viability of fungal and parasitic organisms. Moreover, compared with the myristoyl-CoA binding site, the peptide binding pocket of NMT is less well-conserved across species.<sup>339</sup> The pocket can therefore be targeted for the development of selective NMT inhibitors. Several series of



inhibitors (Figure 17) from high-throughput screening have been reported for NMTs in humans,<sup>340</sup> parasites (*P. falciparum*, *Leishmania sp.*, *T. brucei*),<sup>338,341–344</sup> and fungi.<sup>345–347</sup>

Several peptidomimetic inhibitors were designed and synthesized to target *Candida albicans* NMT.<sup>348–350</sup> These efforts lead to the development of an imidazole-substituted dipeptide that inhibits *C. albicans* NMT potently and selectively.<sup>348</sup> RO-09-4879 and FTR1335, which are benzofuran<sup>346</sup> and benzothiazole<sup>351,352</sup> NMT inhibitors, respectively, were subsequently developed with high selectivity and promising properties as antifungal agents (Figure 17).

*T. brucei* NMT inhibitors have also been screened and developed.<sup>343</sup> These pyrazole sulfonamide derived compounds strongly inhibit *T. brucei* NMT with selectivity over human NMT. Binding to the peptide substrate pocket of the enzyme, the inhibitor (DDD85646, Figure 17) kills *T. brucei* and cures trypanosomiasis in a mouse model of acute illness. These highly potent inhibitors thus pave the way for the development of therapeutic drugs for African sleeping sickness. These NMT inhibitors have also been used in proteomics studies to identify NMT substrate proteins in *T. brucei*<sup>331</sup> and *L. donovani*.<sup>332</sup>

*P. falciparum*, a malaria parasite, contains a single NMT, and the inhibition of N-glycine myristoylation leads to the disruption of subcellular structure and cell death.<sup>338</sup> Using bioorthogonal chemical probes and proteomics profiling of N-glycine myristoylated proteins, several *P. falciparum* NMT candidate substrates were identified with diverse biological functions, many of which are essential for parasite survival. Notably, enzyme inhibition using DDD85646, a compound originally developed for the *T. brucei* NMT, and a benzothiophene-containing compound (see Figure 17) results in the loss of inner membrane complex proteins required for parasite development and red blood cell invasion.<sup>338</sup> NMT is therefore a promising target for the development of anti-malaria drugs.

**3.5.2. NMT Inhibitors as Potential Cancer Treatments**—NMT inhibitors have also been developed for cancer treatment. Myristoylated proteins are involved in cell signaling pathways and the apoptotic process (see the section 3.3 on the function of glycine myristoylation). Abnormalities in these proteins can lead to tumorigenesis. For example, N-glycine-myristoylated c-Src tyrosine kinase is activated in colon carcinoma.<sup>353</sup> As mentioned in section 3.3e, N-glycine myristoylation can positively regulate c-Src kinase activity.<sup>214</sup> Moreover, NMT expression and activity are increased in early stage rat and human colonic carcinogenesis.<sup>354</sup> These results suggest that NMT might be a potential biomarker or target for colon cancer.<sup>355</sup> Similarly, several studies have demonstrated that NMT expression is elevated in oral squamous cell carcinoma,<sup>356</sup> gallbladder carcinoma,<sup>357</sup> and brain tumors.<sup>235</sup> Moreover, a cyclohexyl-octahydropyrrolo[1,2-a]pyrazine based NMT1 inhibitor, COPP-24 (Figure 17), has been shown to inhibit the proliferation of some tumor cancer cell lines.<sup>340</sup> Another study showed that NMT inhibitors induce stress and an unfolded protein response in the ER, which led to apoptosis in several cancer cell lines.<sup>358</sup>

**3.5.3. Viral and Microbial Utilization of Host Protein N-Glycine Myristoylation**—Many viruses and bacteria exploit host N-glycine myristoylation systems for successful colonization. Several studies have shown that the N-myristoylation of certain viral proteins by host cell NMTs is critical for viral particle formation.<sup>359–361</sup> The myristoylation of Gag,

an HIV-1 structural protein, is crucial for viral replication and assembly.<sup>361</sup> Also, the myristoylation of Nef (a virulence factor of lentiviruses) by NMT-1 facilitates viral replication.<sup>362</sup> NMT1 and NMT2 have different specificities for the N-myristoylation of Gag and Nef.<sup>363</sup> Therefore, NMTs have also been considered targets for antiviral drug development.

A study identified the novel demyristoylation activity of invasion plasmid antigen J (IpaJ) from the bacterial pathogen *Shigella flexneri*, which causes Golgi disruption in host cells.<sup>364</sup> IpaJ is a cysteine protease that specifically recognizes and cleaves the amide bond after the N-myristoylated glycine residue. Several N-myristoylated proteins central in cell signaling and growth may be substrates for this enzyme. This discovery also suggests a new bacterial pathogenic mechanism that targets the N-glycine myristoylation of host cells.<sup>364</sup>

## 4. Cysteine Palmitoylation

Cysteine palmitoylation is the addition of a 16-carbon palmitoyl group via thioester bonds on protein cysteine residues (also known as S-palmitoylation; Figure 18). This reaction is highly reversible depending on the presence of enzymatic or non-enzymatic hydrolysis. Unlike other protein lipidations such as glycine N-myristoylation and cysteine prenylation, S-palmitoylation lacks a specific sequence motif. Thus, it is difficult to predict with precision which proteins will undergo the reaction. However, S-palmitoylation typically occurs on cysteines near or within a transmembrane domain or near a membrane-targeting PTM, such as prenylated cysteine or N-terminal myristoylated glycine.

### 4.1. Palmitoyltransferases

**4.1.1. Identification of the Cysteine Protein Acyltransferases**—The covalent attachment of fatty acids to proteins was first observed in the early 1970s on a major structural protein found in bovine brain myelin.<sup>365,366</sup> A later discovery that viral glycoproteins from the Sindbis virus contained a covalently linked palmitic acid on the side chain of an amino acid suggested that protein fatty acylation is prevalent.<sup>367</sup> Additional protein substrates modified with palmitoyl groups were identified just a few years later, including G-protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs)<sup>368</sup> and Ras proteins.<sup>369</sup> The mechanism through which palmitoyl is attached to these protein substrates was not elucidated until 30 years after the first observation of the PTM. It is now known that the majority of protein palmitoylations are enzymatic events catalyzed by an evolutionarily conserved family of protein acyltransferases (PATs). These enzymes, which catalyze the attachment of a palmitoyl group to cysteine residues, were discovered in the early 2000s. Erf2–Erf4 were identified as an essential enzyme complex for the palmitoylation of Ras2 in *S. cerevisiae*.<sup>370</sup> Erf2 or Erf4 alone cannot palmitoylate Ras2. The catalytic activity resides solely on Erf2, whereas Erf4 is required for the stable expression of Erf2. At the same time, Akr1 was identified as a PAT with activity against the yeast casein kinase Yck2.<sup>371</sup> Erf2 and Akr1 share homology in a single domain, an aspartic acid-histidine-histidine-cysteine (DHHC) cysteine-rich domain (CRD), which is characteristic of palmitoyltransferases.

In 2004, the first mammalian protein with cysteine palmitoyltransferase activity was reported.<sup>372</sup> The Golgi-apparatus-specific protein with the DHHC zinc finger domain

(GODZ, also known as DHHC3) has PAT activity toward the  $\gamma$ -aminobutyric acid A receptor  $\gamma$ 2 subunit and increases palmitoylation upon co-expression. DHHC3 palmitoylates the cytoplasmic loop domain of the  $\gamma$ 2 subunit, which suggests that PAT activity functions in a cytosolic environment. Through a database search of the mouse and human genomes, 23 proteins were identified that have homology with the DHHC domain of DHHC3 (Table 2). Various members of this family have PAT activity.<sup>373</sup> When transfected into COS7 cells, several DHHC enzymes increase the incorporation of <sup>3</sup>H-palmitate into PSD-95, which suggests that the DHHC proteins are, in general, palmitoyltransferases.

**4.1.2. Topology of Palmitoyltransferases**—DHHC proteins are predicted to have a common topology comprising several trans-membrane domains (TMDs) and a conserved DHHC CRD active site on the cytosolic face (Figure 19). The number of TMDs ranges between four (DHHC1, DHHC2) and six (DHHC13, DHHC17). This conserved DHHC CRD is generally located in the middle of the enzyme on the cytoplasmic loop between TMD2 and TMD3. At the C- and N-terminal cytosolic domains, there is less homology among the family members. The variable domains include a predicted SH3 domain in DHHC6 and ankyrin repeats in DHHC13 and DHHC17. These variable domains and sequences at the N- and C-termini mediate protein–protein interactions, a key mechanism for the interaction of substrates and PATs. For example, DHHC17 and huntingtin interact through the ankyrin repeats on DHHC17.<sup>393</sup> DHHC5 and DHHC8 interact with glutamate receptor-interacting protein 1b (GRIP1b) through the PDZ domains at the C-terminal end of DHHC5 and DHHC8.<sup>381,393,400</sup> DHHC5 also interacts with cardiac phosphoprotein phospholemman via the C-terminal domain.<sup>401</sup>

Additionally, the DHHC family has long been annotated as zinc finger proteins and newer experimental evidence has demonstrated that DHHCs bind zinc ions. Zinc binds to the CRD of DHHCs and is crucial for enzyme stability. Generally, the DHHC CRD can be considered a stable core that is conserved among the family members, whereas the N- and C-termini are more disordered to allow for variable protein–protein interactions.<sup>401</sup> These features are discussed in section 4.1c below. The lack of crystal structures of the catalytic domain currently limits our understanding of these enzymes.

**4.1.3. Substrate Specificity of DHHCs**—Many factors, such as potential protein interacting domains, the amino acid composition of the modification site, and cellular localization, determine the substrate specificity of PATs. These factors are discussed here.

In general, DHHCs have substrate specificity with some redundancies. When certain PATs are inactivated, a loss of modification occurs on specific proteins in yeast.<sup>447</sup> Yeast Erf2p can palmitoylate substrates other than yeast Ras. However, the level of palmitoylation is weak (~5% of Ras palmitoylation). These results suggest that PATs can show strong preferences for specific substrates. In mammalian cells, co-expression studies confirm that specific DHHCs modify specific substrates: the palmitoylation of Lck, a tyrosine kinase, is increased upon overexpression of DHHC17 and DHHC18, that of SNAP-25b and  $G\alpha_s$  by the overexpression of DHHC3 and DHHC7, Ras by DHHC18 and DHHC9, PSD-95 and GAP-43 by DHHC2 and DHHC15, and paralemmin by DHHC8.<sup>373,393,412</sup> DHHC17 can also palmitoylate huntingtin, SNAP-25, PSD-95, GAD-46, and synaptotagmin I,<sup>429</sup> and

DHHC3 can palmitoylate endothelial nitric oxide synthase (NOS), GluR receptors, and GAP-43.<sup>382,448</sup> GRIP1b palmitoylation is incompletely abolished when DHHC5 or DHHC8 is individually knocked down with short hairpin RNA, but double knockdown completely abolishes palmitoylation.<sup>400</sup> In general, a palmitoylated substrate may be modified by more than one DHHC. Notably, although some DHHCs may appear to have highly specific substrate targets, such as DHHC19 and its only substrate R-Ras,<sup>449</sup> the vast majority of palmitoylation events have yet to be assigned to the enzymatic activity of a specific DHHC. The closely related DHHC3 and DHHC7 have broad substrate specificities that allow for redundancies to be built into the regulation of protein palmitoylation. These redundancies may serve to ensure proper palmitoylation in the event that one DHHC is compromised.

The co-localization of a DHHC with its substrate ensures that the correct palmitoylation event occurs. DHHCs have distinct cellular localizations including the plasma membrane, ER, Golgi, and endosomal membranes. The exact mechanism through which DHHCs are properly sorted is unknown. However, several studies have advanced understanding of DHHC sorting and localization. The C-terminal portion of DHHC2 and DHHC15 regulate the localization of these two distinctly localized PATs.<sup>450</sup> Swapping the C-terminal region of DHHC2 to DHHC15 altered the localization of the chimeric DHHC15 to regions similar to those of WT DHHC2. DHHC4 and DHHC6 were later found to sort to the ER through a canonical dilysine motif that interacts with coat protein complex 1. The five C-terminal amino acids containing the dilysine motif of DHHC4 or DHHC6 are also sufficient to relocalize the Golgi-specific DHHC3 to the ER.<sup>451</sup>

External stimuli may alter the localization of DHHC enzymes.<sup>380</sup> In dendritic cells, palmitoylated PSD-95 localizes to the dendritic spine and, upon depalmitoylation, translocates to the shaft where it can be repalmitoylated by DHHC2-containing vesicles for shuttling back to the spine. When synaptic activity is blocked, DHHC2 relocalizes to the spine to increase PSD-95 palmitoylation levels to upregulate 2-amino-3-(hydroxy-5-methyl-4-isoxazole) propionic acid type glutamate receptor activity to maintain homeostasis. However, localization alone is insufficient to confer substrate specificity. For example, in human embryonic kidney 293T cells, up to 11 DHHCs are associated with the Golgi complex upon expression.<sup>416</sup>

The method through which DHHC substrate pairs have been identified has usually relied on what is known as the Fukata screen, in which individual DHHCs are ectopically overexpressed with a potential substrate. This process generates a panel of DHHCs capable of increasing the palmitoylation levels of the substrate. Next, the DHHCs are knocked down, and decreased palmitoylation after knockdown verifies the substrate–enzyme pair. However, the knockdown of a DHHC that can increase palmitoylation levels does not always result in complete or decreased palmitoylation. This phenomenon is likely attributable to the redundancies of the DHHCs. On the contrary, the overexpression of a DHHC could disrupt the fine localization of the enzyme.<sup>452</sup> It was reported that decreased PSD-95 palmitoylation levels were not observed in DHHC3 knockout mice, whereas the ectopic expression of DHHC3 with PSD-95 increased palmitoylation levels in cells. Endogenous DHHC3 predominately localizes to the cis Golgi membranes, and the overexpression of DHHC3 disrupts the localization of endogenous DHHC3.<sup>452</sup> Mislocalized enzymes that retain their

activity could easily acylate substrates other than their natural substrates (false positives). This study highlighted that downside to the use of the Fukata screen for the identification of enzyme–substrate pairs, which is further complicated by the fact that single knockdown/knockout experiments do not always completely abolish substrate palmitoylation. Although there are robust examples of DHHC–substrate pairs, other substrates may be palmitoylated by several DHHCs. One example is N-Ras, in which palmitoylation decreases but persists at low levels in vivo when DHHC9 is knocked out.<sup>453</sup> This divergence from a single enzyme - single substrate system highlights the complexity of protein palmitoylation and the challenges in elucidating the mechanism of palmitoylation regulation.

The variable N- and C- terminal domains of DHHCs play key roles in substrate specificity, whereas the conserved catalytic core contributes little.<sup>381</sup> A chimeric DHHC15 construct containing the DHHC CRD of DHHC3 (DHHC15/3) failed to palmitoylate SNAP23, a substrate modified by WT DHHC3 but not WT DHHC15. This outcome suggests that the DHHC CRD of DHHC3 is insufficient to confer substrate specificity to SNAP23. DHHC17, also known as huntingtin-interacting protein 14 (HIP14), contains an ankyrin repeat domain that interacts with an N-terminal fragment of huntingtin.<sup>426</sup> Although DHHC3 cannot interact with huntingtin, when the ankyrin repeat domain of DHHC17 is fused to DHHC3, the chimeric protein interacts with huntingtin and redistributes it to the perinuclear region through palmitoylation-dependent vesicular trafficking.<sup>393</sup> This result and the DHHC15/3 chimera data suggest that substrate specificity is determined by the N- and C-termini of the enzyme. Additionally, DHHC23, also called neuronal NOS-interacting DHHC domain-containing protein, interacts with the PDZ domain on neuronal NOS through its PDZ-interacting EDIV motif.<sup>414</sup> Several DHHCs contain PDZ-interacting domains that allow for enzyme–substrate interactions, which indicates that these DHHCs use such interactions to mediate substrate specificity.<sup>396,400</sup> The interactions between a PAT and its substrate can be weak and transient, but increasing evidence suggests that stronger interactions exist, such as those between the ankyrin repeat of DHHC17 and huntingtin, DHHC3 and the  $\gamma$ -aminobutyric acid A receptor  $\gamma$ 2 subunit,<sup>454</sup> and DHHC8 and paralectin.<sup>393</sup>

Crystal structures of DHHC–substrate complexes would shed invaluable insight on these interactions. Challenges inherent to the crystallization of membrane-bound proteins impede progress; however, several non-catalytic domains of DHHCs have been crystalized. The interaction of DHHC5 with its substrate, phosphoprotein phospholemman, has been studied and the binding site has been mapped to the disordered C-terminal tail of DHHC5.<sup>401</sup> Another study<sup>455</sup> identified a unique  $\Psi\beta\text{XXQP}$  motif in the substrates of DHHC17. This motif centers on glutamine and proline (QP) residues, whereas the other four residues are more variable. The motif is found in multiple DHHC17 and DHHC13 substrates and interacts with the ankyrin repeat domains found in these DHHCs. Crystal structures<sup>456</sup> of the ankyrin repeat domain of DHHC17 and a truncated form of Snap25b have elucidated the nature of the interaction, attributing it primarily to hydrogen bondings and hydrophobic interactions involving the QP motif of Snap25b. This QP dipeptide motif is present in all of the DHHC17 substrates, including Htt, and the loss of the QP motif in Htt disrupts DHHC17 binding.

The amino acid sequence in the vicinity of the palmitoylation site on the substrate is also important for PAT substrate recognition. The palmitoylation of PSD-95 has been shown to depend on the first 13 amino acids, MDCLCIVTTKKYR. The two modified cysteines are surrounded by hydrophobic residues (Leu4, Ile6, and Val7), and mutations of these amino acids to a hydrophilic serine residue result in mislocalization and much weaker palmitoylation, whereas mutations of the hydrophilic residues Asp2, Thr8, or Thr9 to alanine do not alter localization.<sup>457</sup> SNAP23, which is not a substrate for DHHC15, can be acylated by DHHC15 when Cys79 (a residue close to the cysteine residue to be palmitoylated) is mutated to phenylalanine, because the resulting Cys79Phe mutant is highly similar to SNAP25b (a substrate for DHHC15) in terms of the number and configuration of cysteines in its CRD.<sup>381</sup> Additional work further highlighted the importance of the secondary structure near the palmitoylation site.<sup>458</sup> A 21 amino acid sequence enriched in aromatic amino acids, predicted to be an amphiphatic  $\alpha$ -helix, near the Cys739 palmitoylation site of the sodium–calcium exchanger (NCX) is essential for NCX acylation. The most surprising discovery was the capability of this sequence to convert non-palmitoylated cysteines to bona fide modification sites when introduced adjacently, which demonstrates that fine structural elements exist to ensure that the correct cysteine is modified by the relatively promiscuous enzymatic activity of DHHCs. Thus, not only the amino acid sequences surrounding the palmitoylation site but also high-order structural elements on the substrate are critical.

There is limited evidence supporting the hypothesis that various DHHCs prefer particular types of substrates. For example the *S. cerevisiae* PAT Swf1 targets transmembrane proteins with juxtamembrane cysteine residues, whereas the substrates for Akr1 are mainly soluble proteins.<sup>447</sup> The differential bias may be due simply to the small number of substrates identified for Akr1 and Swf1, however, and there is insufficient evidence for a definitive conclusion. Mammalian DHHCs may also be biased toward certain substrate types. Not surprisingly, substrates of the promiscuous DHHC3 and DHHC2 include both cytoplasmic and integral membrane proteins with various numbers of transmembrane domains (Table 2). In contrast to the involvement of DHHC2 and DHHC3 in many pathways, both DHHC15 and DHHC21 are less promiscuous and prefer cytosolic proteins in developmental signaling pathways as substrates. Tables 3–9 summarize known S-palmitoylated proteins according to whether they are cytoplasmic or transmembrane. Many substrate proteins are either integral membrane proteins or undergo prenylation or myristoylation that targets them to membranes in which DHHCs are localized. Notably, the reported palmitoylation sites of the majority (>95%) of palmitoylated single-pass integral membrane proteins are located either directly adjacent to or inside the annotated transmembrane domain. Furthermore, S-palmitoylation normally occurs close to the N-glycine myristoylation or C-terminal prenylation site for cytoplasmic proteins. The fact that S-palmitoylation occurs next to a transmembrane domain or another lipid modification is likely determined by the proximity of these sites to the DHHC active site. On the contrary, many S-palmitoylated proteins lack transmembrane domains or other lipid modifications that could recruit them to membrane-localized DHHCs (Table 8). These proteins may be recruited to membranes via interaction with membrane-localized proteins. For example, PSD-95 is recruited to synapses by the transmembrane protein ephrin-B3.<sup>459</sup>



PATs not only have broad specificity for protein substrates but also display broad specificity for the acyl-CoA co-substrate. Although palmitoyl-CoA (C16) is the preferred substrate, other long-chain acyl-CoAs such as myristoyl-CoA (C14) and stearoyl-CoA (C18) are also efficiently transferred by PATs. DHHC2 transfers acyl-CoAs with various chain lengths and degrees of saturation. DHHC15 also has a promiscuous fatty acyl-CoA substrate profile.<sup>373</sup> The broad specificity indicates that cells can utilize various fatty acyl-CoA to modify the activity of PAT substrates depending on the metabolic state of the cell. DHHC3, however, exhibits a more stringent acyl-CoA substrate profile and efficiently transfers only C14 and C16 acyl groups.<sup>460</sup> This specificity is independent of the protein substrate, which indicates a level of control to prevent the incorrect modification of DHHC substrates by other lipids. A more in-depth study of acyl-CoA substrate specificity<sup>461</sup> expanded previous studies by analyzing a larger number of acyl groups and DHHCs. The results supported the finding that each DHHC has individual acyl-CoA preferences. Surprisingly, DHHC3 and DHHC7, which have highly similar protein sequence, have different acyl-CoA substrate preferences: DHHC7 prefers the longer C18 groups whereas DHHC3 prefers shorter C14 and C16 groups. The determining factor was isolated through mutagenesis studies to be a single isoleucine in the third transmembrane domain of DHHC3. When the isoleucine on DHHC3 is mutated to serine, as found on DHHC7, the mutant utilizes C18 groups.

Notably, this review and the studies cited generally assume that palmitate is the acyl group being attached by the DHHC PATs. Although this attachment is the most likely event, a general lack of mass spectrometry (MS) data confirming the identity of the modification catalyzed by individual DHHCs leaves open the possibility that other acyl groups are being attached by this family of PATs. This possibility is supported by the observation that other fatty acids, such as arachidonate, eicosapentaenoate, palmitoleic acid, and stearic acid, reportedly attach to protein substrates through thioester bonds.<sup>462–465</sup> Cysteines modified with 14:0, 18:0, 18:1, and 18:2 fatty acids were detected in bovine heart and liver tissue.<sup>466</sup> S-acylation with stearate and arachidonate also occurs on the G $\alpha$  subunit, myelin, the G2 protein of the Rift Valley fever virus, and the asialoglycoprotein receptor.<sup>464,465,467–469</sup>

Although many proteins are known to be palmitoylated, associating the modifications to the actions of specific DHHCs is difficult for several reasons, including PAT redundancy, the lack of clearly defined recognition sequences, difficulty associated with obtaining purified DHHCs, and the deconvolution of enzymatic versus non-enzymatic protein palmitoylation. However, it would not be surprising to find that most, if not all, cysteine S-palmitoylation events are mediated by DHHCs.

**4.1.4. Mechanism of Palmitoylation**—Cysteine palmitoylation forms a thioester bond that is similar in energy to the thioester bond in the palmitoyl donor, palmitoyl-CoA. Thus, the overall the reaction is energy-neutral, and no energy source (i.e., ATP) is needed. Indeed, purified PATs can directly modify their substrate using palmitoyl-CoA in the absence of an energy source.<sup>373</sup>

DHHCs themselves are autoacylated *in vivo* and *in vitro*.<sup>370,371,373</sup> Incubating <sup>3</sup>H-palmitoyl-CoA with partially purified yeast Erf2/Erf4 in the absence of Ras2 substrate results in the formation of <sup>3</sup>H-labeled Erf2.<sup>370</sup> Heat inactivation before the addition of <sup>3</sup>H-palmitoyl-CoA

abolishes the acyl-Erf2 intermediate. These results suggest that native Erf2 autoacylates. The formation of the intermediate depends on an intact DHHC domain. When the cysteine is mutated to serine, the resulting Erf2 C203S mutant cannot be acylated, which suggests that the cysteine is the site of palmitoylation.<sup>370</sup> The acyl intermediate may be the active enzyme intermediate that transfers the acyl group to substrate proteins. Thus, the enzymatic mechanism likely has a two-step ping-pong mechanism (Figure 20). The first step is fast autoacylation, and in the slower second step, the palmitoyl is transferred to the substrate protein. Evidence to support the chemical and kinetic competence of this intermediate has been reported.<sup>460</sup> In this study, purified DHHC2 and DHHC3 were labeled with <sup>3</sup>H-palmitoyl-CoA in vitro and then re-purified to remove excess radioactive palmitoyl-CoA. The PAT was then incubated with a protein substrate. Over time, the signal was transferred from the PAT to the substrate protein, thereby directly demonstrating the transfer of the palmitoyl group from enzyme to substrate.

Notably, the identity of the autoacylated cysteine remains unknown. Mutagenesis only shows that the cysteine in the DHHC domain is necessary for autoacylation because it is required for catalytic activity. A radioactive signal on the PAT was observed despite long incubation times with substrate proteins, which suggests that either <sup>3</sup>H-palmitoyl is also located on a cysteine residue not involved in the catalytic transfer or the PAT is inactive.<sup>460,470</sup> Additional results, such as X-ray crystal structures of the catalytic domain in complex with substrates, will greatly help to elucidate the catalytic mechanism of DHHCs.

When the His201 in Erf2, the first conserved histidine residue in the DHHC motif, is mutated to alanine, the resulting Erf2 H201A–Erf4 complex loses its PAT activity despite the formation of the acyl intermediate.<sup>370</sup> This outcome suggests that His201 is involved in the transfer of the acyl group to the substrate but is not important for the formation of the acyl enzyme intermediate, which is not the case for all DHHCs. For example, Swf1 with a DQHC motif instead of the DHHC motif has partial activity.<sup>471</sup> This motif also exists in the human DHHC13 protein that acylates the huntingtin protein. Surprisingly, in the yeast system, the overexpression of Swf1 mutants in which the catalytic cysteine of the DHHC motif is altered to arginine (DHHR) still results in increased palmitoylation of the Swf1 substrates Tlg1, Syn8, and Snc1. Most likely, the acyl-DHHC intermediate would not form with the Swf1 DHHR mutant.

The conserved CRDs of DHHCs contain many palmitoylated cysteine residues that are distinct from the catalytic cysteine. These cysteines are located downstream of the DHHC domain and form a unique motif, CCX(7–13)C(S/T).<sup>402</sup> This motif is found in DHHC5, DHHC6, and DHHC8. The function of this modification on the DHHCs and its formation mechanism require further study. It could be a consequence of the auto-catalytic activity or the activity of another DHHC on DHHC5, DHHC6, and DHHC8. Indeed, DHHC6 is a downstream substrate for DHHC16 and the depalmitoylase APT2.<sup>472</sup> When palmitoylated, but not when de-palmitoylated, DHHC6 has detectable activity. Notably, DHHC6 exists in multiple differentially palmitoylated states with variable activity and stability. This complex regulatory mechanism is reminiscent of that of protein phosphorylation and further highlights the importance of protein acylation.

One study demonstrated that DHHC2 and DHHC3 form homodimers that inhibit enzyme activity,<sup>473</sup> which suggests that oligomerization may be a means to regulate DHHC PAT activity. Another potential regulatory mechanism is phosphorylation to turn DHHCs on or off. DHHC3 is regulated by the Src and fibroblast growth factor receptor tyrosine kinases. Compared with the WT, DHHC3 with the phosphorylated tyrosine sites mutated had a stronger interaction with neural cell adhesion molecule and further increased its palmitoylation levels.<sup>474</sup>

The interaction of DHHC with other non-substrate proteins also regulates the function and activity of DHHCs. DHHC9 requires Golgi complex-associated protein of 16 kDa (GCP16) for proper functioning. DHHC6, through its SH3 domain, reportedly associates with Selenoprotein K,<sup>404</sup> which serves as a cofactor in a manner similar to that of GCP16. The DHHC-cofactor complex increases the palmitoylation of its substrates. The mechanism through which SelK interacts with DHHC6 to promote palmitoylation requires further study. The cofactor could stabilize the DHHC enzyme, as in the case of DHHC9 and GPCP16,<sup>412</sup> or recruit the substrate to the complex.

The DHHC proteins bind zinc with specific cysteine residues in the CRD.<sup>475</sup> Interestingly, these conserved cysteine residues can also be palmitoylated, which destabilizes the enzyme.<sup>476</sup> The relationship between the zinc binding and palmitoylation of these cysteines is unknown but could be a potential regulatory mechanism.

**4.1.5. Biological Function and Disease Relevance of DHHCs**—Significant progress has been made in elucidating the functional role of palmitoylation, but the role of DHHC enzymes remains incompletely understood. Through knockdown and deletion studies, various biological functions have been attributed to specific DHHCs (Table 2). In general, most mutations are correlated with neurodegenerative diseases such as Huntington's, Alzheimer's, and schizophrenia. Other diseases such as cancer and developmental defects have also been attributed to various DHHCs. The biological functions of DHHCs are ultimately determined by the substrate proteins they modify and regulate. Because these substrates have not been completely identified in most cases, understanding of the biological functions of the DHHC enzymes remains limited. Redundancies among DHHCs, poor antibodies against endogenous DHHCs, and weak *in vitro* DHHC activity are a few of the obstacles that must be overcome to further elucidate DHHC function.

The most thoroughly studied case is the role of DHHC17 and HIP14L (DHHC13) in Huntington's disease. These PATs were initially shown to interact and palmitoylate huntingtin through their ankyrin repeat domains. Disease mutations of huntingtin diminish interaction with PATs, which reduces palmitoylation and ultimately causes cell death.<sup>426</sup> Notably, when WT huntingtin levels are low, the degree to which DHHC17 itself is palmitoylated is significantly reduced. This decrease leads to defective enzymatic activity against known substrates SNAP25 and GluR1 in mice lacking one of the alleles coding for huntingtin, and the effect is even greater in cells treated with antisense oligos to degrade the huntingtin gene.<sup>443</sup> Huntingtin likely acts as a protein scaffold to bring together DHHC17 and its substrates. Because most substrates of DHHC17 are involved in neurological processes, it is easy to see how the loss of normal huntingtin or DHHC17 function could

result in neurological defects. Furthermore, mice deficient in DHHC17 exhibit a neurological and behavioral phenotype similar to that of patients with Huntington's disease.<sup>477</sup>

These studies have generally shown that the palmitoylation of huntingtin is protective and that the inhibition of PAT–huntingtin interaction is necessary for the progression of Huntington's disease. Although the exact mechanism through which DHHC17 contributes to Huntington's disease remains to be established, a recent study showed that caspase-6, a cysteine protease involved in neurological disorders, is a substrate of DHHC17. Caspase-6 activity is inhibited by palmitoylation, and in DHHC17  $-/-$  mice, decreased caspase-6 palmitoylation results in increased caspase-6 activity, which is reportedly required for the progression of Huntington's disease.<sup>433</sup> Additional mouse studies have demonstrated embryonic lethality in DHHC17 and DHHC13 knockout mice.<sup>478</sup> These embryos have characteristics similar to those of huntingtin ( $-/-$ ) embryos, such as a disorganized chorion. Although its mechanism remains to be elucidated, the lethality further emphasizes the importance of palmitoylation at various stages of development.

DHHC mutations are also associated with X-linked mental retardation,<sup>479</sup> including X chromosome mutations in zDHHC9 and zDHHC15 (X-linked mental retardation type 91).<sup>421</sup> It is not clear how deficiency in DHHC9 and DHHC15 leads to mental retardation, but it is not unexpected, because DHHC15 and DHHC9 substrates are involved in neural development (see Table 2).

Two studies have suggested that DHHC2 functions as a tumor suppressor. Reduced expression of the corresponding gene (zDHHC2) predicts a poor prognosis in gastric adenocarcinoma patients and is associated with lymph node metastasis.<sup>480</sup> When zDHHC2 is knocked down, cytoskeleton-associated protein 4 (CKAP4) palmitoylation is significantly reduced, which decreases the capacity of antiproliferative factor to suppress proliferation and tumorigenesis. The interaction between CKAP4 and antiproliferative factor is mediated by the palmitoylation of CKAP4 by DHHC2, which explains its function as a tumor suppressor.<sup>481</sup>

The overexpression of DHHC14 is linked to gastric cancer. Gastric cancer tissue samples with higher levels of DHHC14 messenger RNA (mRNA) are associated with more aggressive tumor invasion in vivo. In vitro, DHHC14 activates gastric cancer cell migration and invasion, whereas cells with DHHC14 knockdown are relatively less invasive.<sup>482</sup>

Mice deficient in the zDHHC5 gene show a remarkable defective phenotype. Litter sizes are reduced by half, and the survivors are deficient in contextual fear conditioning. DHHC5 is also highly expressed in neural tissue and interacts with PSD-95 through the PDZ3 domain on PSD-95.<sup>396</sup> These observations suggest that DHHC5 may be linked to post-synaptic function, learning, and memory. The effect of DHHC5 on learning and memory might be explained by the ability of DHHC5 to interact with and palmitoylate SSTR5, a GPCR expressed mainly in neural tissue but not in tissues such as the kidneys or liver.<sup>399</sup> The exact function of palmitoylation on GPCRs is not well understood. Studies on rhodopsin have suggested that palmitoylation near the carboxyl-terminal tail at Cys322 and Cys323, which

extends into the cytoplasm, induces the formation of a pseudo loop.<sup>483</sup> The C-terminus of GPCRs is important for interaction with downstream signaling molecules such as receptor kinases, and the palmitoylation-dependent formation of the pseudo-loop could be a mechanism that regulates GPCR signaling<sup>484,485</sup> through DHHCs. A study has also linked DHHC5 to non-small cell lung cancer.<sup>486</sup> When zDHHC5 was knocked down, the cancer cells exhibited reduced cell proliferation, colony formation, and cell invasion, and could be rescued by overexpression of the WT DHHC5 but not the catalytically dead DHHC5. The phenotype was replicated in a mice tumor xenograft model in which DHHC5 knockdown inhibited tumor formation.<sup>486</sup>

A study in mice showed that a deletion of three base pairs resulting in the loss of a highly conserved phenylalanine in DHHC21 was sufficient for hair loss in mice.<sup>439</sup> This single mutation resulted in the mislocalization and loss of catalytic activity of DHHC21. Re-introducing WT DHHC21 into the mice rescued the shiny and smooth coat phenotypes. The authors then showed that Fyn, a Src-family kinase involved in keratinocyte differentiation, is a substrate for DHHC21. The observed effects of Fyn mislocalization and reduced levels of Lef1, nuclear  $\beta$ -catenin, and Foxn1 in the DHHC21 mutant keratinocytes may explain the hair loss and differentiation phenotypes.<sup>439</sup> DHHC21 is also linked to endothelial inflammation.<sup>487</sup> This enzyme is required for the barrier response, and DHHC21-deficient mice are more resistant to injury. These effects are likely mediated by the palmitoylation of PLC $\beta$ 1.<sup>487</sup> Another study linked DHHC21 to vascular function in mice through the palmitoylation of the  $\alpha$ 1D adrenoceptor, the palmitoylation of which is required for receptor function.<sup>395</sup>

In mice, a nonsense mutation in the zDHHC13 gene results in the degradation of mRNA and phenotypes of amyloidosis, alopecia, and osteoporosis.<sup>441</sup> The protein responsible for the osteoporosis phenotype is membrane type-1 matrix metalloproteinase (MT1-MMP), a factor that controls skeletal development. The palmitoylation of MT1-MMP by DHHC22 (encoded by zDHHC13) is required for its proper distribution and function in facilitating vascular endothelial growth factor expression. Osteocalcin expression is also associated with DHHC22-dependent MT1-MMP palmitoylation, which links DHHC22 to skeletal development through its palmitoylation activity on MT1-MMP.<sup>442</sup> Other studies have linked DHHC22 to mitochondrial function and metabolism in mouse liver cells. A proteomics study identified 254 potential DHHC22 substrates. Among them, malonyl-CoA-acyl carrier protein transacylase and catenin delta are verified substrates.<sup>488</sup> These findings were further confirmed in the hepatocytes of zDHHC13 knockout mice, which showed diminished mitochondrial function.<sup>488</sup> DHHC22 also reportedly plays roles in hair anchoring and skin barrier integrity through its substrate cornifelin.<sup>444</sup> The loss of zDHHC13 makes mice more susceptible to bacteria, which results in skin inflammation.<sup>487</sup> Similarly, a spontaneous mouse mutation in zDHHC13 reportedly led to increased susceptibility to skin carcinogenesis.<sup>455</sup>

Mice deficient in zDHHC16 (Aph2) exhibit cardiomyopathy and cardiac defects such as bradycardia.<sup>424</sup> The phenotype functions primarily through the DHHC16 substrate phospholamban (PLN). When PLN is palmitoylated, its interactions with protein kinase A and protein phosphatase 1 control the pentamer formation of PLN. In zDHHC16-deficient

mice, PLN phosphorylation decreases, which inhibits PLN function. Surprisingly, the deleterious phenotype is alleviated to a degree in PLN<sup>-/-</sup> zDHHC16<sup>-/-</sup> mice. DHHC16 is also reportedly involved in the DNA damage response pathway; however, the mechanism has not been elucidated, and the effects are observed only when zDHHC16 is knocked out in mouse embryonic fibroblast cells.<sup>489</sup>

Genomic mapping studies in schizophrenia patients have identified multiple gene deletions that may be involved. zDHHC8 is a commonly observed deletion located in the chromosome 22q11 region<sup>490</sup> that has been linked with schizophrenia. One potential substrate that may mediate the effects of zDHHC8 deletion is the ankyrin-G protein (ANK3). DHHC5 and DHHC8 are reportedly required for the palmitoylation and localization of ANK3,<sup>491</sup> and other studies have linked ANK3 to schizophrenia.<sup>492</sup> Another potential substrate is bCDC42, the overexpression of which restores dendritic spine cell density in adult 22q11 deletion mice.<sup>493</sup> However, the association of zDHHC8 mutation with schizophrenia is controversial.<sup>490,494,495</sup>

Surprisingly, unlike the deletion of zDHHC17 or zDHHC5, the deletion of the broad-specificity DHHC3 or DHHC7 in mice does not result in obvious deleterious phenotypes.<sup>452</sup> However, simultaneous knockout of DHHC3 and DHHC7 results in a drastic phenotype of reduced body and brain mass and perinatal lethality. This observation confirms to some degree the existence of functional redundancies for DHHC3 and DHHC7 and likely other DHHCs. DHHC7 knockout mice show increased glucose tolerance and hyperglycemia linked to the palmitoylation of Glut4.<sup>406</sup> Additional evidence has linked DHHC7 to cell polarity and tumorigenesis through the palmitoylation of Scribble<sup>409</sup> and to cell migration via junction adhesion molecule C.<sup>408</sup>

The palmitoylation of viral proteins is required for proper protein function as previously noted,<sup>496</sup> but the transferases for these proteins have yet to be identified. The likelihood that viral proteins hijack the DHHCs of their target cells is high because viral proteins are known to hijack cellular machinery to ensure the survival of the virus. A recent example is the HSV-1 envelope protein UL20, which interacts with and serves as a substrate for DHHC3.<sup>497</sup> Cells overexpressing catalytically dead DHHC3 have lower viral titers and altered UL20 localization. This hijacking is not limited to viruses. Bacterial pathogens have also been demonstrated to hijack host cells. The GobX protein from *L. pneumophila* and SspH2 from *Salmonella* are two examples of bacterial proteins that are palmitoylated inside host cells and require palmitoylation for proper localization.<sup>498</sup>

DHHC-mediated palmitoylation is also critical for calcium flux. IP3R, the receptor for inositol 1,4,5-triphosphate, is palmitoylated by the SelK–DHHC6 complex. Knockdown of DHHC6 disrupts IP3R-mediated Ca<sup>2+</sup> flux, and mutagenesis of the IP3R palmitoylation sites decreases the function of the receptor. The electrogenic NCX1 is also regulated by palmitoylation.<sup>499</sup>

Generally, the deletion of a zDHHC gene and subsequent loss of the fine control of associated substrate palmitoylation is likely to be deleterious to cell homeostasis in healthy normal cells. The disruption of DHHC levels in malignant cells has not been well studied.



One study reported that epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) signaling is increased in DHHC20-deficient cancer cells.<sup>436</sup> Palmitoylation-deficient EGFR exhibited increased activation and downstream signaling, and the increased EGFR signaling sensitized the cells to EGFR inhibition and increased inhibitor-induced cell death.

In conclusion, DHHCs play vital roles in normal cellular functions and are involved in the development of neurological disease and cancer. Similar to protein kinases, most DHHCs are involved in signaling pathways, but the modifications DHHCs catalyze do not turn on their substrates but instead direct them to the correct cellular compartment. This mechanism is supported by the deleterious phenotypes observed when DHHCs are deleted or their catalytic activity is lost. How DHHCs themselves are regulated to control their catalytic activity is poorly understood and remains an exciting area of study.

#### 4.2. Proteins That Catalyze Cysteine Depalmitoylation

Two known cytosolic acyl protein thioesterases, APT1 and APT2 (also called LYPLA1 and LYPLA2), are thought to be responsible for depalmitoylating many S-acylated proteins. APT1 was first reported to deacylate the  $\alpha$  subunit of trimeric G proteins and the small GTPase H-Ras in vitro and when overexpressed in cells.<sup>500,501</sup> Knockdown of APT1 also increases the acylation of overexpressed N-Ras.<sup>502</sup> However, as described later in this section, APT1 and APT2 knockdown do not affect the acylation of endogenous Ras, which suggests that endogenous Ras is not a physiological substrate of APT1 and APT2.<sup>503</sup> Notably, APT1 and APT2 themselves are also palmitoylated.<sup>504</sup> APT1 can depalmitoylate both itself and APT2. Palmitoylation is proposed to target APT1 and APT2 to the plasma membrane, where they can deacylate other substrate proteins.<sup>504</sup> However, another report suggested that the soluble unpalmitoylated APT deacylates substrate proteins on all membranes.<sup>505</sup>

The development and use of APT1 and APT2 inhibitors have provided further support for the roles of these acyl protein thioesterases. The first reported APT1/APT2 inhibitor was palmostatin B,<sup>502</sup> and a more potent analogue, palmostatin M, has also been developed.<sup>506</sup> However, later studies showed that palmostatin B and M are not specific for APT1 and APT2. They also inhibit other serine hydrolases according to the results of activity-based protein profiling.<sup>507</sup> Thus, previous conclusions about the effects of palmostatins on APT1 and APT2 must be viewed with caution.

ML348 and ML349, which are more specific inhibitors for APT1 and APT2, respectively, have been developed (Figure 21) through high-throughput screening facilitated by activity-based protein profiling.<sup>508–510</sup> Notably, ML348 is highly specific for APT1, and ML349 is highly specific for APT2.<sup>511,512</sup> Thus, these inhibitors will be highly useful for dissecting the roles of APT1 and APT2. One study with ML348 and ML349 showed that APT1 and APT2 do not affect signaling downstream of N-Ras, thereby correcting a previous report obtained with nonspecific inhibitors.<sup>503</sup> These APT1- and APT2-selective inhibitors have been used to demonstrate that APT2 depalmitoylates Scribble and affects its membrane localization.<sup>513</sup>

The  $\alpha/\beta$ -hydrolase domain 17 (ABHD17) family of proteins has been identified as a group of depalmitoylases. The knockdown of APT1 and APT2 affects the S-palmitoylation of huntingtin but not that of PSD-95 and N-Ras. They used the nonspecific inhibitor palmostatin B to profile novel serine hydrolase targets and discovered a family of uncharacterized ABHD17 proteins that catalyze the depalmitoylation of PSD-95 and N-Ras.<sup>498</sup> Another group screened 38 mouse serine hydrolases and also found that ABHD17 members (ABHD17A, ABHD17B, and ABHD17C) are depalmitoylases of PSD-95.<sup>514</sup> These studies broadened the family of depalmitoylase enzymes and suggest that even more proteins than previously thought can catalyze cysteine depalmitoylation.

### 4.3. Palmitoylation Inhibitors

Protein palmitoylation plays key roles in protein trafficking and is related to several diseases. Palmitoylation inhibitors can therefore be useful tools with which to study the function of palmitoylation or treat related diseases, and interest in their development is increasing. Currently available palmitoylation inhibitors can be categorized into two general types: lipid-based and non-lipid-based (Figure 22). The most commonly used lipid-based inhibitor is the non-selective 2-bromopalmitate (2BP). 2BP inhibits the palmitoylation of Src family kinases Fyn and Lck, Rho family kinases, and H-Ras.<sup>515–517</sup> Cerulenin, initially discovered as a fatty acid synthase inhibitor, is also reportedly an S-palmitoylation inhibitor for CD36.<sup>518</sup> Tunicamycin, an N-linked glycosylation inhibitor, also inhibits protein palmitoylation on substrates such as estrogen receptor  $\alpha$  variant and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  channels.<sup>519,520</sup>

A high-throughput screening was used to identify several non-lipid-based palmitoylation inhibitors, which were reported to inhibit the Raf/Mek signaling pathway and suppress cancer cell proliferation.<sup>521</sup> However, later studies using purified DHHCs showed that only one of the five compounds has inhibition activity and is less potent than 2BP.<sup>522</sup>

More efficient and selective inhibitors for cysteine palmitoylation are urgently needed. All current inhibitors are limited either by low inhibition potency or lack of selectivity. Although 2BP has historically been the most commonly used “palmitoylation inhibitor”, its noted off-target activity and toxicity are such that it could equally be considered the worst available inhibitor.<sup>523,524</sup> In cells, 2BP is converted to its CoA form, which is a substrate for DHHCs and can lead to the labeling of substrate proteins.<sup>523</sup> Thus, inhibitors that specifically target DHHCs are in great demand. Inhibitors that can distinguish different DHHCs would be even more useful. More efficient and selective inhibitors will greatly aid elucidation of the function of cysteine palmitoylation and its therapeutic potential.

### 4.4. Functions of Protein S-Palmitoylation

**4.4.1. Proteins Known to Be S-Palmitoylated**—We summarize proteins that are experimentally validated to be S-palmitoylated in Tables 3–9. The proteins are classified into these tables according to whether they contain other membrane-targeting signals, such as transmembrane domains, N-terminal glycine myristoylation or C-terminal prenylation. The tables clearly show that palmitoylation occurs on an extraordinarily diverse set of proteins, and unlike glycine myristoylation or cysteine prenylation, no consensus sequence exist for predicting which proteins undergo cysteine palmitoylation. The reported functions of S-

palmitoylation are listed along with their references in the tables. A brief summary of the reported functions of cysteine palmitoylation is provided here.

**4.4.2. Regulation of Protein Trafficking**—Owing to the hydrophobicity of the acyl group, palmitoylated proteins normally associate with the membranes of various organelles and facilitate trafficking between these organelles. This section reviews two well-studied proteins, Ras and Cdc42, to illustrate the regulation of protein trafficking through palmitoylation.

Ras membrane trafficking is discussed in section 2.4a, but this section provides a more detailed picture. H-Ras, N-Ras, and K-Ras are the most well-known Ras genes in humans.<sup>670</sup> Ras is a small GTPase that exists in a GTP-bound active state and a GDP-bound inactive state. GEFs activate Ras by catalyzing the exchange of GTP for GDP in Ras,<sup>671</sup> whereas GAPs inactivate Ras by promoting the hydrolysis of GTP to GDP.<sup>672</sup> Among the different PTMs that regulate Ras activity,<sup>673</sup> lipidation acts mainly by controlling Ras trafficking. Ras proteins are prenylated at the C-terminal CaaX motif and subsequently cleaved and carboxylmethylated at the cysteine.<sup>13,14,674</sup> Biochemical studies suggest that farnesylation cannot provide adequate binding affinity for the plasma membrane.<sup>110,111</sup> Therefore, a second event is needed. This second event differs for the various members in Ras family. For H-Ras, N-Ras, and K-Ras4A, palmitoylation is this second event, and it occurs on cysteines near the CaaX motif after farnesylation (Figure 23). N-Ras and K-Ras4A each have only one cysteine (Cys181 and Cys180, respectively) near the CaaX motif (Figure 23), which is the palmitoylation site. H-Ras has two cysteines (Cys181 and Cys184) near the CaaX motif (Figure 23) and is dually palmitoylated.<sup>142</sup>

After farnesylation and palmitoylation (known as dual lipidation), Ras is sorted into the vesicle and travel to the plasma membrane.<sup>675</sup> In the case of H-Ras, the mono-palmitoylation of Cys181 is sufficient for plasma membrane localization, whereas the mono-palmitoylation of Cys184 leads to Golgi localization,<sup>676</sup> which indicates that the Cys181 of H-Ras is more involved in targeting to the plasma membrane. Another member of the Ras family, K-Ras4B, has no cysteines for palmitoylation near the CaaX motif. However, K-Ras4B has eight lysines near the C-terminus that may interact electrostatically with the negatively charged plasma membrane for localization.<sup>104</sup> After palmitoylation and localization, H-Ras, N-Ras, and K-Ras4A are depalmitoylated by acyl-protein thioesterases and return to their mono-lipidation states.<sup>502</sup> Weak plasma membrane binding affinity results in the localization of Ras to the Golgi (facilitated by PDE $\delta$ <sup>142</sup>), in which it is re-acylated and sorted to the plasma membrane. This dynamic acylation–deacylation cycle therefore helps maintain the plasma membrane localization of Ras (Figure 23).<sup>677</sup>

Cdc42 belongs to the Rho GTPase family and regulates cell polarity, migration, and progression.<sup>678,679</sup> Cdc42 has two isoforms. The ubiquitously expressed isoform 1 (aCdc42) contains a CaaX motif and is either farnesylated or geranylgeranylated. There is no additional cysteine near the CaaX motif, and thus, aCdc42 is not palmitoylated. Isoform 2 (bCdc42) is expressed specifically in the brain.<sup>680</sup> It contains a unique CCaX motif in which the first cysteine is farnesylated. After farnesylation, two processing pathways become available. One pathway is the classical CaaX processing pathway. The protein is first

farnesylated in the ER, followed by RCE1 and ICMT-mediated cleavage of aaX and carboxymethylation of the terminal prenylcysteine. Then bCdc42 binds to RhoGDI $\alpha$  and travels to the plasma membrane.<sup>132</sup> The other processing pathway bypasses the proteolysis step, and palmitoylation occurs on the second cysteine of the CCaX motif.<sup>113,681</sup> Then, bCdc42 is localized to the Golgi and travels to the plasma membrane via vesicular transport. After plasma membrane localization, bCdc42 can be depalmitoylated and travel back to the Golgi via binding to RhoGDI $\alpha$ . In this second pathway, bCdc42 is dually lipidated followed by vesicle localization, a process similar to the one that Ras undergoes. However, it is unknown what mechanism determines the processing of Cdc42. Only some proteins with the CCaX motif undergo dual lipidation,<sup>113</sup> which indicates that the CCaX motif is not a general feature of dual lipidation.

**4.4.3. Regulation of Protein Stability**—S-palmitoylation also regulates protein stability. The best-studied example is Tlg1 in yeast, which plays key roles in the regulation of protein recycling between endosomes and the Golgi.<sup>682,683</sup> Tlg1 is palmitoylated by the yeast PAT Swf1.<sup>684</sup> Palmitoylation retains Tlg1 on the trans Golgi network and endosome membranes and inhibits Tlg1 degradation. By contrast, the mutation of palmitoylation sites or inactivation of Swf1 results in Tlg1 ubiquitination and degradation, which are mediated by the Tlg1 E3 ligase Tul1.<sup>685</sup> In this case, the function of palmitoylation is to prevent protein ubiquitylation and thus increase Tlg1 half-life and stability. Furthermore, the cellular localization of cysteine-mutated Tlg1 is similar to that of WT Tlg1,<sup>684</sup> which indicates that palmitoylation does not influence the membrane association of Tlg1 but simply blocks Tlg1 ubiquitylation. However, the mechanism through which palmitoylation inhibits ubiquitylation is unknown. One hypothesis is that two contiguous aspartates are located in the transmembrane domain, which triggers quality control to ubiquitylate and degrade the protein because the negatively charged aspartate is incompatible with the membrane. When palmitoylation occurs on two adjacent cysteines, the long-chain fatty acyl group covers two aspartates and thus rescues the incompatibility. In addition to the regulation of Tlg1, the stability of several other proteins is regulated by S-palmitoylation. The palmitoylation of HIV receptor C-C chemokine receptor type 5 stabilizes the membrane expression of the receptor.<sup>572</sup> The lack of palmitoylation of estrogen receptor- $\alpha$  results in more E2-dependent degradation.<sup>649</sup> Palmitoylation prolongs the half-life of regulator of G protein signaling 4 (RGS4) more than 8-fold.<sup>390</sup>

**4.4.4. Prevention of Unfolded Protein Response in the ER and Promotion of ER Exit**—Low-density lipoprotein receptor-related protein 6 (LRP6) is a single-pass type I membrane protein. It is a co-receptor of Wnt and is required for the initiation of the Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin signaling pathway.<sup>686,687</sup> The palmitoylation of LRP6 occurs on Cys1394 and Cys1399 and is required for LRP6 exit from the ER.<sup>537</sup> It has been proposed that palmitoylation allows LRP6 to avoid triggering ER quality control. Because LRP6 contains a 23 amino acid transmembrane domain, which is longer than the usual membrane thickness, the hydrophobicity of the extra residues is mismatched with the hydrophilic environment and thus can trigger the unfolded protein response. The palmitoylation of two juxtamembranous cysteines tilts the extra residues towards the membrane and thus avoids the mismatch.<sup>537</sup> Yeast chitin synthase Chs3 must also be palmitoylated for ER export,<sup>688</sup>

and a study of amyloid precursor protein (APP) showed that the blocking of its palmitoylation causes nearly complete ER retention, which suggests that this reaction is required for the ER export of APP.<sup>689</sup>

**4.4.5. Prevention of Protein Aggregation**—Knowledge of the function of palmitoylation in protein aggregation comes from studies of Huntington's disease, which is caused by the mutation of the huntingtin protein. In healthy individuals, the N-terminal region of the huntingtin protein contains 6–35 repeated glutamine residues (known as the polyQ region), whereas in patients with Huntington's disease, the polyQ region expands to more than 40 repeated glutamines.<sup>690</sup> These excess glutamines cause huntingtin aggregation, which is the primary marker of the disease.<sup>430</sup> Huntingtin is palmitoylated on Cys214 by DHHC17,<sup>691</sup> and compared with WT huntingtin, mutated huntingtin is reportedly palmitoylated at a much lower level.<sup>430</sup> The overexpression of DHHC17 reduces huntingtin aggregation efficiently, whereas the knockdown of DHHC17 increases huntingtin aggregation and induces neuronal cell death. The involvement of palmitoylation by DHHC17 may provide new targets for the treatment of Huntington's disease.

#### 4.5. Techniques for Detecting Protein Palmitoylation

The study of protein cysteine palmitoylation has benefited significantly from technologies that can detect this process. To date, several methods have been developed to detect protein S-palmitoylation, thereby enabling the identification of palmitoylated proteins and the functional study of palmitoylation.

**4.5.1. Radioactive-Isotope-Labeled Palmitic Acid**—Using radioactive-isotope-labeled palmitic acid to label proteins metabolically was the earliest reported method for the detection of protein S-palmitoylation.<sup>692</sup> After treatment with radiolabeled palmitic acid, radiolabeled palmitoyl-CoA forms in cells and used by PATs to modify target proteins. Immunoprecipitation followed by radioactivity monitoring allows the detection of palmitoylated proteins. Three radiolabeled palmitic acids are commonly used: <sup>3</sup>H-, <sup>14</sup>C- and <sup>125</sup>I-palmitic acids.<sup>412,693,694</sup> <sup>3</sup>H- and <sup>14</sup>C-palmitic acids are structurally the same as endogenous palmitic acids and mimic palmitoylation accurately. However, the use of these radiolabeled palmitic acids requires long exposure times owing to the weak radioactive signals of <sup>3</sup>H and <sup>14</sup>C. <sup>125</sup>I-palmitic acid has higher sensitivity, but the introduction of the iodo label significantly changes the structure of palmitic acid, and thus this probe may not be ideal.

**4.5.2. Bioorthogonal Palmitic Acid Probes**—To solve the problem of low sensitivity of <sup>3</sup>H- and <sup>14</sup>C-palmitic acids, bioorthogonal palmitic acid probes which contain a terminal azido or alkynyl group have been developed (Figure 24).<sup>695</sup> Compared with radiolabeled palmitic acid probes, these bioorthogonal probes have high sensitivity and are more convenient to handle. Furthermore, combined with click chemistry, affinity probes such as biotin can be installed on proteins to allow the affinity purification and identification of modified proteins with MS. Currently, this method is broadly used with two types of probes: azido palmitic acid probes and alkynyl palmitic acid probes (Figure 24). Azido fatty acids with 15 carbons (Az-C15, Figure 24) primarily label S-palmitoylated proteins,<sup>327,696</sup>

whereas azido fatty acids with shorter carbon chains (e.g., Az-C12 and Az-C11) label only N-myristoylated proteins.<sup>696,697</sup>

Compared with radiolabeled probes, the azido fatty acid probes have significantly increased detection sensitivity. However, compared with alkyne probes, azido probes reportedly give higher background.<sup>698,352</sup> Therefore, alkynyl fatty acid probes, which are structurally more similar to endogenous palmitic acid, have been developed to minimize background labeling. Alkynyl fatty acids with various carbon chain lengths can mimic a range of protein fatty acylations. For example, alkynyl fatty acids with 16 or 18 carbons (Alk-C16 or Alk14, Alk-C18 or Alk16) can label S-palmitoylated proteins,<sup>327–329</sup> whereas alkynyl fatty acids with 12 carbons (Alk-C14 or Alk12) can label N-myristoylated proteins.<sup>329,697</sup> However, there is overlap among proteins labeled by different probes: Alk12 can also label palmitoylated proteins, and Alk14 can also label myristoylated proteins.<sup>333,699</sup> Therefore, analytical methods that can identify the modification site are helpful in determining which type of modification the probe is labeling and which enzymes may be responsible for that modification. A cleavable azido molecule was introduced to alkynyl fatty acid labeled proteins to facilitate the identification of modification sites.<sup>336</sup> This molecule contains fluorescence and biotin tags for the visualization and enrichment of fatty-acylated proteins. It also bears a protease cleavage site and therefore can leave a hydrophilic and charged tag on fatty-acylated peptides after *in vitro* protease digestion. This method increases the hydrophilicity and ionization of fatty-acylated peptides and enables the direct identification of sites modified by fatty acid probes.

**4.5.3. Acyl-Biotin Exchange**—Acyl-biotin exchange (ABE) is an indirect method for detecting protein S-palmitoylation.<sup>700,701</sup> The three-step ABE procedure is shown in Figure 25. The first step is to use *N*-ethylmaleimide to block all the free cysteines in proteins. Then, hydroxylamine is used to cleave the palmitoyl group from the modified cysteines. The third step is the use of biotin-*N*-[6-(biotinamido)hexyl]-3'-(2'-pyridylidithio)propionamide (biotin-HPDP) to label the relieved cysteines, followed by streptavidin pull-down and MS identification. Compared with palmitic acid probes, ABE has several advantages. Both the radiolabeled and bioorthogonal palmitic acid probes operate via metabolic labeling, which interferes with global metabolism status and may disrupt normal cell processes. ABE is not metabolic labeling, so it can detect protein S-palmitoylation under any conditions, including various stress conditions. In 2006, this method was used to profile global S-palmitoylated proteins in yeast, which was the first proteomics study of palmitoylation.<sup>447</sup> Thirty-five new palmitoylated proteins were identified in this study. Furthermore, ABE is the most ideal method developed to date for the study of protein S-palmitoylation in animal tissues because it lacks a pre-treatment step and can monitor the dynamics of S-palmitoylation.<sup>681</sup> By comparison, metabolic labeling with alkyne-tagged fatty acids and pulse-chase method can also be used to examine the dynamic of S-palmitoylation in cell culture,<sup>702</sup> but it cannot be easily applied to study palmitoylation in animals.

ABE also has limitations, however. Its most obvious drawback is the hydroxylamine treatment step, which removes the lipidation from cysteines and therefore obscures which form of lipidation (myristoylation, palmitoylation, or other acyl groups) is occurring on the cysteine residues. Certain *S*-palmitoylations may also be relatively resistant to



hydroxylamine treatment; junction adhesion molecule C is one reported example.<sup>408</sup> A variation of the ABE method called acyl-PEG exchange has been reported. In this method, a 5 kD or 10 kD PEG is added to S-acylated proteins instead of biotin. This mass tag allows the visualization of S-acylation level with western blots because the modified protein migrates more slowly than the unmodified protein.<sup>703</sup> Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) is necessary for effective hydroxylamine treatment, likely because it chelates metals that could oxidize the liberated cysteine residues.<sup>703</sup>

**4.5.4. Imaging Palmitoylated Proteins in Cells**—The three methods described above use biochemical approaches to detect protein palmitoylation after the lysing of cells or tissues. A fluorescence imaging method for tracking specific palmitoylated proteins in mammalian cells has also been developed.<sup>704</sup> As shown in Figure 26, the method uses Alk14 (Alk-C16) metabolic labeling and click chemistry to install a tag on a target protein. Two primary antibodies are then used to recognize the target protein and tag, and two distinct secondary antibodies conjugated to oligonucleotides are used to bind specifically to the two primary antibodies. After this step, the two secondary antibodies form a closed circle because they bind to the same protein (distance between two secondary antibodies is <40 nm). A rolling-circle amplification reaction is performed, and then fluorescent oligonucleotide probes are added for hybridization and the signals that depend on the distance between the two secondary antibodies can be observed. Non-target proteins or non-palmitoylated proteins cannot be recognized by the primary antibodies, so the final hybridization cannot occur. Using this approach, the authors visualized the O-palmitoylation of Wnt3a in cells and successfully tracked the secretion pathway of the protein. However, because this method uses antibodies and click chemistry, which requires Cu(I), the cells must be fixed.

**4.5.5. Other Methods for the Detection of Protein Palmitoylation**—Additional methods have been developed for the detection of protein palmitoylation. Difference gel electrophoresis based proteomics<sup>705</sup> detects slight differences in pI values and the relative mobility of palmitoylated and depalmitoylated proteins. Micellar electrokinetic chromatography was used to identify GAP-43 palmitoylation in vitro.<sup>706</sup> The separation of palmitoylated and unmodified GAP-43 peptides can be performed in less than 7 min. Gas chromatography-MS and liquid chromatography-MS methods have also been developed to directly identify and quantify palmitoylation and other lipidations by comparing the retention time and mass spectrum with standard samples.<sup>707,708</sup> However, these methods require a large amount of protein, which limits their capacity to detect protein palmitoylation in cell lysates or tissues.

**4.5.6. Software for the Prediction of Protein Palmitoylation**—Several software programs have been developed for the prediction of protein palmitoylation. CSS-Palm 1.0 (CSS: clustering and scoring strategy) was the first model built for palmitoylation site prediction.<sup>709</sup> NBA-Palm (NBA: naïve Bayes algorithm) is another program available for palmitoylation site prediction.<sup>710</sup> CSS-Palm 1.0 has been updated to CSS-Palm 2.0 and used to predict the palmitoylation sites of 16 known palmitoylated proteins in budding yeast; these sites were subsequently validated experimentally.<sup>711</sup> CSS-Palm 2.0 was used in global

in silico screening and identified neurochondrin/norbin as a novel palmitoylated protein.<sup>374</sup> Yet another program for palmitoylation site prediction, CKSAAP-Palm (CKSAAP: composition of *k*-spaced amino acid pairs),<sup>712</sup> has a sensitivity higher than that of CSS-Palm 2.0 for predicting palmitoylated proteins in budding yeast.

## 5. Lipidation on Other Residues

In addition to cysteine prenylation, N-terminal glycine myristoylation, and cysteine palmitoylation, several other lipid modifications of proteins have been reported, including serine O-acylation, N-terminal cysteine N-palmitoylation, lysine N-acylation, and C-terminal cholesterol esterification (Figure 27). Only a few proteins have been determined to undergo these modifications. Thus, the preferred sequence motifs and likelihood of these modifications occurring in other proteins are unknown. However, these lipid modifications clearly play important roles in the biological functions of the known proteins.

### 5.1. Serine Fatty Acylation of Wnt Proteins

Wnt proteins require acylation for secretion and activity. The Wnt family of secreted signaling proteins impacts virtually all aspects of developmental biology and is also essential during adulthood.<sup>713</sup> In the canonical Wnt signaling pathway, Wnt binds to the Frizzled (Fz)–LRP complex, thus transducing a signal to Dishevelled and Axin. This signal leads to the inhibition of  $\beta$ -catenin degradation, and accumulated  $\beta$ -catenin then enters the nucleus and interacts with T-cell factor to regulate the transcription of certain genes.<sup>714</sup>

The first pure and active secretory Wnt protein (murine Wnt3a) was successfully isolated from cell culture medium in 2003.<sup>715</sup> Triton-X-114 phase separation assays showed that most of the purified Wnt3a partitioned into the Triton-X-114 phase, which suggested that similar to integral membrane proteins, Wnt3a is highly hydrophobic. <sup>3</sup>H-palmitate metabolic labeling further confirmed that Wnt3a is palmitoylated. MS analysis showed that Cys77 of Wnt3a is modified with a palmitate group. This cysteine residue is conserved among the Wnt family members. In 2006, it was reported that <sup>3</sup>H-palmitate metabolic labeling of both the WT and a cysteine mutant (C77A) of Wnt3a were resistant to neutral hydroxylamine (pH 7.0), which was used to specifically cleave thioester linkages but leave oxyester and amide bonds intact.<sup>716</sup> These observations suggest that Wnt3a undergoes another type of acylation. Truncation together with site-directed mutagenesis demonstrated that the conserved Ser209 residue of Wnt3a is required for acylation. Unexpectedly, a monounsaturated palmitoleoyl (C16:1) moiety was found to be attached to Ser209 via an oxyester linkage. Mutation of Ser209 yielded nonfunctional and poorly secreted Wnt3a protein. However, one of the Wnt proteins, Wnt8/WntD, lacks the corresponding serine but is secreted normally.<sup>716</sup>

Subsequently, an imaging method using click chemistry with bioorthogonal fatty acids and in situ proximity ligation was developed, which allowed the first visualization of acylated Wnt proteins in the cellular context.<sup>704</sup> Their results demonstrated that Wnt3a is acylated only on Ser209 and not on the originally reported Cys77, consistent with the crystal structure of Wnt protein reported in 2012.<sup>717</sup>

**5.1.1. Wnt Serine Acyltransferase and Its Inhibitors**—Porcupine (PORCN), a member of the membrane-bound O-acyl-transferase (MBOAT) family,<sup>718</sup> is thought to catalyze the transfer of acyl groups to the serine residue of Wnt proteins. Mutations in *PORCN* abrogate both the activity and the secretion of Wnt and result in early embryonic lethality in mice.<sup>719</sup> Mutations in human *PORCN* lead to focal dermal hypoplasia, an X-linked developmental disorder.<sup>720</sup> The catalytic mechanism of PORCN has not been established conclusively partly owing to its hydrophobic nature. However, the highly conserved histidine and asparagine residues among all 11 human MBOAT family members are considered putative catalytic sites.<sup>718</sup> Mutations of the conserved His341 residue ablate the activity of PORCN, whereas the conserved Asn306 is not required for PORCN acyltransferase activity.<sup>721</sup> Truncation of either the N- or C-terminal domain of PORCN causes destabilization and inactivity.<sup>722</sup> PORCN is palmitoylated mainly at Cys187, which is likely catalyzed by DHHCs. A PORCN C187A mutant showed modestly increased fatty acylation and signaling activity of Wnt3a.<sup>704</sup>

Considering the broad biological roles of Wnt signaling, substantial effort has been made to develop potent agonists and antagonists of the Wnt signaling pathway. The most widely used small-molecule agonist inhibits glycogen synthase kinase 3,<sup>723</sup> a component of the  $\beta$ -catenin destruction complex, thus leading to the stabilization of  $\beta$ -catenin and activation of its downstream gene transcription. To inhibit the Wnt signaling pathway, a synthetic chemical library was screened, which led to the identification of two classes of highly selective and powerful inhibitors: inhibitor of Wnt production 1 (IWP-1; Figure 28) and inhibitor of Wnt response.<sup>724</sup> The former interacts with and inhibits PORCN specifically, and the latter abolishes the destruction of Axin proteins, which suppress Wnt signaling.<sup>724,725</sup> Because PORCN is hypothesized to fatty-acylate Wnt proteins exclusively, the development of inhibitors similar to IWP-1 will allow the specific targeting of Wnt-involved biological processes without affecting others.

Additional PORCN inhibitors have been developed, including IWP-L6,<sup>726</sup> LGK974,<sup>727</sup> and IWP-O1<sup>728</sup> (Figure 28). IWP-L6 potently inhibited Wnt-mediated branching morphogenesis in cultured embryonic kidneys.<sup>726</sup> LGK974 potently inhibited tumor growth in a murine mouse mammary tumor virus–Wnt1 breast cancer model and a human HN30 head and neck squamous cell carcinoma model, but it had no effect on cells from several other human cancer cell lines, such as brain cancer and colon cancer.<sup>727</sup> GNF-6231 (Figure 28), a compound similar to LGK974, has also been reported.<sup>729</sup>

**5.1.2. Extracellular Wnt Serine Deacylase**—Unlike cysteine palmitoylation which usually undergoes multiple cycles of acylation and deacylation, the O-palmitoleate modification of Wnt was long thought to be irreversible given the presence of the more stable ester bond compared with a more labile thioester bond. In 2015, Notum, a secreted Wnt antagonist, was identified as the enzyme that deacylates the O-palmitoleic group of secreted Wnt protein.<sup>730</sup> The crystal structure of catalytically inactive human Notum S232A in complex with a palmitoleoylated peptide derived from human Wnt7a shows that a large hydrophobic pocket accommodates the palmitoleoyl group. A “kink” in the monounsaturated hydrocarbon chain is positioned at the base of the cavity surrounded by Notum Ile291, Phe319, and Phe320. Notably, the lipid-binding cavity of Notum seems

unable to accommodate saturated fatty acids (C14:0/C16:0). Kinetic and MS analyses further proved that Notum is an esterase using both Wnt peptide and protein substrates. Notum has a canonical  $\alpha/\beta$ -hydrolase fold bearing the hallmark serine–histidine–aspartic acid catalytic triad, and it inactivates Wnt signaling by deacylating Wnt protein extracellularly and causing Wnt3a and Wnt5a to form oxidized oligomers.<sup>731</sup> During development, Notum is required for neural and head induction via the inactivation of Wnt signaling pathway.

**5.1.3. Functions of Wnt Serine Acylation**—Wnt serine acylation is crucial for the binding of Wnt to its receptor. The structure of *Xenopus* Wnt8 in complex with its co-receptor Fz8 CRD in mice suggested that serine acylation is required for high-affinity interaction between Wnt and Fz8 (Figure 29).<sup>717</sup> Their study revealed two extending domains, an N-terminal domain and a C-terminal domain (see Figure 29) of Wnt. Ser187 is located at the tip of the N-terminal domain and is modified by a palmitoleoyl group, consistent with the results of a previous MS study. The palmitoleoyl group inserts deeply into a hydrophobic tunnel of the Fz8 CRD (see Figure 29). The conserved C-terminal domain of Wnt also interacts with a hydrophobic core of the Fz8 CRD. Notably, this structure revealed that instead of being palmitoylated, the conserved Cys77 residue forms a disulfide linkage, which supports the hypothesis that instead of being dually lipidated, Wnt proteins are lipidated only on the conserved serine residue.

Wnt serine acylation is critical for intracellular trafficking. Wnt is translated in the rough ER and then translocates into the ER lumen, in which glycosylation and fatty acylation are catalyzed by an oligosaccharyl transferase complex and PORCN, respectively. The acquisition of membrane-association allows modified Wnt to exit the ER for anterograde transport. In the Golgi complex, two cargo receptors, Wntless<sup>732–734</sup> and p24,<sup>735,736</sup> bind Wnt and escort it to the cell surface. Serine acylation is required for the interaction between Wntless and Wnt proteins.<sup>737,738</sup> Wntless is recycled from the plasma membrane to the Golgi complex via endosome trafficking mediated by a retromer complex for the next round of Wnt secretion.<sup>739</sup>

Wnt serine acylation may also be important for extracellular transport. Lipoprotein particles are hypothesized to be long-range transporters of Wnt morphogen.<sup>740</sup> In mammalian cells, Wnt3a co-fractionates with ApoB100 and associates with high- and low-density lipoproteins.<sup>741</sup> The lipid modification on Wnt may contribute to the interaction with lipoproteins and further assembly into secretory particles.

## 5.2. N-terminal Cysteine N-Palmitoylation of Hedgehog

Hedgehog (Hh) signaling plays major roles in embryonic development and malignant tumorigenesis in pancreatic, gastric, and lung cancers. Mammals have three Hh family members, Sonic Hedgehog (Shh), Indian Hedgehog, and desert Hedgehog, among which Shh is the best studied. The Hh ligand binds to its transmembrane receptor, Patched, which then activates Smoothened, leading to the nuclear translocation of Gli transcription factors and activation of downstream gene expression. Hh proteins are initially synthesized as 45 kDa precursor proteins. Upon cleavage of an N-terminal signal peptide, Hh protein

undergoes both C-terminal autoprocessing to incorporate a cholesterol modification and N-terminal cysteine palmitoylation via an amide linkage, thus generating a 19 kDa mature form of the Hh signaling molecule.<sup>742</sup>

Unlike the extensively studied cysteine palmitoylation via a labile thioester bond, Hh proteins are modified with a palmitoyl group at the N-terminal cysteine through a stable amide linkage. Two possible mechanisms have been proposed for this unique reaction (Figure 30). The first posits that palmitoylation initially occurs on the sulfhydryl group of the cysteine side chain. The thioester intermediate then rearranges to an amide linkage via an intramolecular S-to-N shift.<sup>743</sup> The second mechanism proposes that N-terminal palmitoylation occurs directly via an enzymatic reaction similar to that of N-terminal myristoylation. The second model is supported by evidence that N-terminal-blocked Shh proteins cannot be palmitoylated and, more importantly, no thioester-linked palmitoylated intermediate has been detected.<sup>744</sup> The first six amino acids of Hh are reportedly sufficient for palmitoylation by Hedgehog acyltransferase (Hhat).<sup>745</sup> When the N-terminal cysteine is mutated to alanine, no acylation occurs, but the cysteine-to-serine mutant is acylated at reduced levels.<sup>745</sup>

**5.2.1. Hh Acyltransferase and Its Inhibitors**—In 2001, three research groups discovered that in *Drosophila melanogaster*, the palmitoylation of Hh protein is catalyzed by a member of the MBOAT family called Skinny Hedgehog, Sightless Hedgehog, Central missing, or Rasp.<sup>746–748</sup> The mammalian homolog of the corresponding Hh palmitoyltransferase is called Hhat. In Hhat-deficient mice, Hh proteins are not palmitoylated, and the mice exhibit impaired signaling activity evidenced by defects in neural tube formation and limb development.<sup>749</sup> Moreover, the depletion of Hhat has been shown to reduce tumor growth in a mouse xenograft model of pancreatic cancer.<sup>750</sup> Hhat is a ~50 kDa multiple-span transmembrane protein of the MBOAT family, and its enzymatic activity has been demonstrated with in vitro biochemical assays.<sup>744</sup> A biochemical study also showed that the N- and C-terminal variable regions are central to Hhat stability and activity.<sup>751</sup> Later studies showed that Hhat has 10 transmembrane domains and two re-entry loops. The catalytic histidine residue is in the loop on the luminal side, whereas the conserved aspartate residue is on a cytosolic loop.<sup>752,753</sup>

Several inhibitors have been developed to suppress the Hh signaling pathway, mostly by targeting downstream components including the Smoothened or Gli proteins.<sup>754</sup> A high-throughput screen identified small-molecule inhibitors for Hhat, such as RU-SKI 43 (see Figure 28),<sup>755</sup> which inhibits Hhat palmitoyl transferase activity specifically on Shh proteins both in vitro and in cells. However, later studies showed that RU-SKI 43 has off-target effects and that its cellular toxicity is unrelated to its effect on Hhat. By contrast, a new analogue, RU-SKI 201, is a specific inhibitor of Hhat with no off-target effects reported.<sup>756</sup>

**5.2.2. Functions of Hh Palmitoylation**—Hh palmitoylation is key for the proper secretion and signaling activity of Hh. Although mutation of the Shh N-terminal cysteine to serine (C25S) does not affect Shh localization in the lipid raft, the C25S mutant cannot form a soluble multimeric protein complex thought to be the major active component for Hh signaling.<sup>749</sup> Notably, apart from lipidation, a conserved lysine/arginine residue in a

predicted interaction interface has also been demonstrated to be crucial for Hh multimeric complex formation by contributing to electrostatic interactions.<sup>757</sup> Furthermore, Hh oligomers co-localize with heparan sulfate proteoglycans on the surface of Hh-producing cells and assemble with lipoprotein particles, which mediate long-range Hh signaling activity and contribute to the formation of a morphogen concentration gradient during embryonic development.<sup>740,757</sup>

### 5.3. Cholesterol Modification of Hh

Apart from unusual N-terminal cysteine palmitoylation, Hedgehog proteins also undergo a unique auto-cleavage process that incorporates a cholesterol modification and releases the C-terminal domain.<sup>758,759</sup> The two-step mechanism for Hh autoprocessing is similar to that of intein self-splicing proteins (Figure 31). First, the sulfhydryl group of a cysteine residue attacks the carbonyl of the preceding glycine residue to form a thioester linkage. Then, the labile thioester intermediate is attacked by the 3 $\beta$ -hydroxyl group of a cholesterol molecule to generate an oxyester bond and liberate the C-terminal autoprocessing domain.

Both azido- and alkyne-modified cholesterol analogues have been synthesized and used to label modified Hh proteins.<sup>760,761</sup> Compared with the azido analogue, the alkyne analogue is more efficient for labeling Hh.<sup>761</sup> These analogues allow the installation of fluorescence or affinity probes for in-gel visualization and affinity purification.

C-terminal cholesterol modification is mainly responsible for the release of dually lipidated Hh proteins from the cell surface with the aid of Dispatched, a 12-pass transmembrane protein, and a secreted protein, Scube.<sup>762,763</sup> Notably, Dispatched and Scube recognize different parts of the cholesterol molecule, which suggests a hand-off mechanism reminiscent of the transfer of free cholesterol between Niemann-Pick disease proteins NPC1 and NPC2 during the exit of cholesterol from late endosomes.<sup>762</sup> However, cholesterol is not absolutely required for Hh signaling activity even though the absence of the modification reduces signaling potency.<sup>763</sup> Moreover, several lines of evidence have shown that the cholesterol moiety is required for the short- and long-range distribution of Hh morphogen. Cholesterol incorporation restricts Hh diffusion by enhancing hydrophobic interactions with the plasma membranes of adjacent cells and thus increases short-range distribution.<sup>758</sup> On the contrary, for long-range transport mediated by lipoprotein particle carriers,<sup>740</sup> cholesterol modification contributes to the partitioning of Hh into particles and the formation of the soluble multimeric complex.<sup>764</sup>

### 5.4. Serine Octanoylation on Ghrelin

In 1999, the search for the ligand of growth hormone secretagogue receptor (GHSR) led to the discovery of a polypeptide ghrelin known as the “hunger hormone.”<sup>765</sup> By binding to GHSR, ghrelin stimulates growth hormone release from the anterior pituitary and helps regulate energy homeostasis. The ghrelin gene is first transcribed into the 117-residue proghrelin, which is then cleaved into the 94-residue proghrelin via the loss of the N-terminal signal peptide. Further processing of proghrelin yields a 28-residue ghrelin peptide that is released into the circulation.<sup>766</sup>



Ghrelin is the only mammalian peptide hormone known to be modified with an octanoyl group on the third serine residue,<sup>765</sup> which is conserved from rats to humans. The initial report of ghrelin peptide indicated that only acylated ghrelin is functional and able to activate GHSR. Des-acyl ghrelin has long been considered a degradation product of acylated ghrelin. However, studies have shown that des-acyl ghrelin can antagonize acylated ghrelin and act as an independent hormone, likely via binding to its own receptor.<sup>766</sup>

In 2008, two research groups independently discovered the acyl transferase, ghrelin octanoyltransferase (GOAT), that adds the octanoyl group onto ghrelin. Similar to PORCN and Hhat, this enzyme belongs to the MBOAT family that resides in the ER.<sup>718</sup> One group overexpressed all 16 mouse MBOAT family members and found that only the overexpression of GOAT dramatically increased the hydrophobicity of ghrelin.<sup>767</sup> Another group discovered GOAT by knocking down potential MBOAT family proteins and monitoring the reduction in ghrelin octanoylation with matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization time-of-flight MS.<sup>768</sup>

Mutation of the conserved histidine or asparagine residue of GOAT completely abolishes its enzymatic activity. GOAT exhibits promiscuity toward various fatty acyl groups varying from C2 to C14.<sup>768</sup> GOAT contains 11 transmembrane domains and one reentrant loop. Similar to Hhat, GOAT has a catalytic histidine in the ER lumen, whereas the asparagine residue is on a cytoplasmic loop.<sup>769</sup> Purified GOAT can accept a minimal five-residue ghrelin peptide as a substrate, and the N-terminal glycine is required for recognition by GOAT.<sup>770</sup>

The identification of GOAT allowed the mechanism-based development of antagonists that could potentially prevent obesity. A pentapeptide inhibitor derived from the first five N-terminal amino acids of proghrelin was developed and further improved by replacing the oxyester linkage with a more stable amide linkage on the third serine residue.<sup>771</sup> Later, developed a bi-substrate mimic peptide-based inhibitor, Go-CoA-Tat, was developed, which integrated the binding affinity of both substrates, octanoyl-CoA and ghrelin peptide, by linking them with a non-cleavable bridge.<sup>772</sup> Go-CoA-Tat inhibited GOAT efficiently and selectively in mice, and the intraperitoneal administration of GO-CoA-Tat improved glucose intolerance and reduced weight gain in WT mice but not in ghrelin-deficient mice. Several non-peptide small-molecule inhibitors for GOAT have also been reported, including some triterpenoid compounds that act as covalent reversible inhibitors.<sup>773,774</sup> However, the in vivo effects of these compounds have not been reported.

## 5.5. MBOATs

Members of the MBOAT enzyme family transfer fatty acyl groups to the hydroxyl moiety of either protein side chains or small hydrophobic lipid molecules. In 2000, Hofmann discovered the MBOAT family through bioinformatics analysis,<sup>718</sup> thus leading to the subsequent identification of several other family members at the biochemical level. MBOAT family members contain multiple transmembrane domains and share two common putative catalytic residues: histidine and asparagine (Table 10). The active histidine residue is surrounded by a stretch of hydrophobic amino acids, whereas the asparagine site is embedded within a hydrophilic region. Both residues are highly conserved among MBOAT

family members and required for enzymatic activities, with the exception of PORCN, in which the conserved asparagine is not required for activity.<sup>721</sup> Human MBOAT family members can be characterized into three subclasses. Class I enzymes, including acyl-CoA cholesterol acyltransferase 1 and 2 (ACAT1/2)<sup>775,776</sup> and diacylglycerol acyltransferase 1 (DGAT1), are mainly involved in neutral lipid biosynthesis.<sup>777</sup> ACAT1/2 catalyze cholesterol esterification using oleoyl-coA and are potential drug targets for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. DGAT1 catalyzes the biosynthesis of retinyl esters, wax esters, and triacylglycerol.<sup>778</sup> Class II MBOAT enzymes acylate protein substrates and consist of PORCN, Hhat, Hhat-like,<sup>779</sup> and GOAT (see sections 5.1 and 5.2). The third subgroup belongs to the lysophospholipid acyltransferases (LPAT) family, which is involved in the phospholipid remodeling process. The fatty acid motif at the C2 position of a glycerolphospholipid can be cleaved by phospholipase A2 to produce lysophospholipid, which is reacylated by LPATs to diversify fatty acids at the C2 position. Lysophosphatidylethanolamine acyltransferase 1 (LPEAT1), lysophosphatidylcholine acyltransferase (LPCAT) 3, LPCAT4, and lysophosphatidylinositol acyltransferase 1 (LPIAT1) constitute the third class of MBOATs.<sup>780</sup>

### 5.6. Histone Serine Palmitoylation

Histone H4 is reportedly palmitoylated on Ser47. Histone H4 serine palmitoylation occurs in a Ca<sup>2+</sup>-dependent manner, and LPCAT1 is the acyltransferase of histone serine palmitoylation.<sup>694</sup> LPCAT1 acylates lysophosphatidylcholine to generate the pulmonary surfactant dipalmitoylphosphatidylcholine. Even though its name is similar to some of the MBOAT proteins mentioned above, LPCAT1 belongs to a different group of enzymes that contain only one transmembrane domain. Under normal conditions, LPCAT1 is found mainly in the cytosol. When the intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentration increases, LPCAT1 translocates to the nucleus and promotes H4 palmitoylation, which is proposed to increase mRNA synthesis through an unknown mechanism.<sup>694</sup>

### 5.7. Lysine Acylation

Protein lysine residues are modified by many acyl groups from various acyl-CoA molecules produced during cellular metabolism, such as acetyl-CoA, propionyl-CoA, butyryl-CoA, succinyl-CoA, crotonyl-CoA, and long-chain fatty acyl-CoA.<sup>781</sup> These modifications regulate various aspects of cell biology, most prominently epigenetics and metabolism. This section discusses the long-chain fatty acylation of protein lysine residues.

*Escherichia coli* hemolysin, a pore-forming toxin, undergoes lysine myristoylation,<sup>782</sup> and this reaction is necessary for toxin activity. The myristoylation of hemolysin requires a specific acyl transferase that uses a myristoyl group tethered to the acyl carrier protein as the myristoyl donor.

In mammalian cells, the first protein reported to contain myristoyl lysine was tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF $\alpha$ ).<sup>783</sup> This discovery was made during the study of proteins that are myristoylated but lack an N-terminal glycine, which is the site for the well-known N-terminal glycine myristoylation. TNF $\alpha$  is a type II membrane protein with a single transmembrane domain. Lysine myristoylation occurs on Lys19 and Lys20 in the

intracellular N-terminal domain. Similarly, interleukin-1 alpha is myristoylated on Lys82 and Lys83 in the propeptide, catalyzed by an unidentified enzyme in monocyte lysate.<sup>784</sup> Lens integral membrane protein aquaporin-0 reportedly undergoes lysine palmitoylation and oleoylation. At present, the lysine acyltransferases remain unidentified.

The function of lysine fatty acylation in mammalian cells has been increasingly recognized owing to studies of a class of enzymes called sirtuins, which have begun to shed light on the function of this acylation. Sirtuins regulate many important biological processes, including transcription, metabolism, genome stability, and aging.<sup>785–787</sup> They were thought to be NAD<sup>+</sup>-dependent protein lysine deacetylases.<sup>788</sup> However, several of the seven mammalian sirtuins lack efficient deacetylase activity. Among them, SIRT5 is found to be an efficient desuccinylase and demalonylase,<sup>789</sup> whereas SIRT6 can remove long-chain fatty acyl groups efficiently.<sup>790</sup> One of the physiological substrates for the defatty-acylase activity of SIRT6 is TNF $\alpha$ .<sup>790</sup> Defatty-acylation of TNF $\alpha$  on Lys19 and Lys20 by SIRT6 promotes the secretion of TNF $\alpha$ , which provides the first clue about the physiological function of lysine fatty acylation. One study has shown that the lysine fatty acylation of TNF $\alpha$  targets TNF $\alpha$  primarily to the lysosomes for degradation.<sup>791</sup> However, the exact mechanism through which fatty acylation promotes this targeting remains unknown. Notably, although the original report suggested that TNF $\alpha$  is myristoylated, later studies of SIRT6-TNF $\alpha$  have suggested that palmitoylation might be more abundant because Alk14 produces stronger labeling than Alk12.

A more notable development is the finding that Ras-related protein R-Ras2 is fatty-acylated on lysine residues near the C-terminal, where the prenylated and palmitoylated cysteines reside.<sup>792</sup> Similar to cysteine palmitoylation, lysine acylation promotes the plasma membrane targeting of R-Ras2. At the plasma membrane, R-Ras2 is more active and turns on the phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase (PI3K)/AKT signaling pathway, which leads to increased cell proliferation. Furthermore, R-Ras2 lysine fatty acylation can be reversed by SIRT6, a known tumor suppressor.<sup>792,793</sup> The regulation of R-Ras2 and thus PI3K/AKT signaling may underlie this tumor suppressor role.<sup>792</sup> The R-Ras2 lysine acylation study<sup>650</sup> suggests that similar to cysteine acylation, lysine fatty acylation may have key biological functions.

Studies of sirtuins have also suggested that lysine fatty acylation may be more abundant than previously thought. Data from our laboratory and others have shown that several mammalian sirtuins, such as SIRT1, SIRT2, and SIRT3, can remove long-chain fatty acyl groups with reasonable catalytic efficiency.<sup>794</sup> A zinc-dependent histone deacetylase, HDAC8, also shows defatty-acylation activity in vitro.<sup>795</sup> These sirtuins and HDAC may remove fatty acyl groups from various protein lysine residues in vivo, although the exact substrate proteins remain to be identified. A sirtuin from the malaria parasite was also demonstrated to prefer fatty acyl lysine over acetyl lysine, which suggests that protein lysine fatty acylation also occurs in this parasite.<sup>796</sup>

## 6. Concluding Remarks and Perspectives

This section highlights unaddressed fundamental questions in protein lipidation, the difficulties associated with addressing these questions, and potential solutions to overcoming these difficulties. Protein lipidation is clearly abundant and plays critical roles in biology. However, the detailed mechanistic understanding of the functions of lipidation is incomplete. Remarkable phenotypic observations have been made in many cases, but the fundamental mechanisms underlying these observations is lacking. When a lipid modification affects the activity of the protein being modified, the underlying mechanism is unknown in most cases. Does membrane association increase the chances of the protein interacting with its binding partners or substrates that are also membrane-associated? Or does the modification change the conformation of the protein, thereby affecting the binding of its partners or catalysis? Or is the modification directly involved in the binding interaction? Answering these questions requires structural information that may be difficult to obtain because many of the targets are membrane proteins or membrane-associated proteins. Although acquiring the structures of membrane proteins is becoming more tractable, it still requires tremendous effort. Therefore techniques such as hydrogen exchange MS<sup>797</sup> may be more applicable. Technology that facilitates the preparation of membrane proteins, such as nanodiscs,<sup>798</sup> will also be helpful for these studies.

Even for membrane targeting, specific questions must still be answered. For example, how can the same modification target different proteins to different organelles (e.g., N-terminal glycine myristoylation targets certain proteins to the mitochondria and others to the plasma membrane)? Do lipid modification and its local environment have intrinsic affinity for different membranes, or are different trafficking machineries engaged by the modified proteins? We do not think significant technical challenges are associated with addressing these questions. By contrast, the difficulty might be the complexity of the situation (e.g., the existence of different trafficking machineries).

The dynamic regulation of lipid modification is another area that has not been thoroughly investigated. For example, can the metabolic or nutritional status of a cell affect protein lipidation? Can certain signaling pathways affect lipid modifications? This area is a key research direction because it may provide another level of understanding of the physiological processes involving protein lipidation. As a reference point, the importance of protein phosphorylation would not have been appreciated without knowing the dynamics of protein phosphorylation. Our investigation of TNF $\alpha$  lysine fatty acylation indicates that the level of fatty acids in the cell medium can affect the secretion of TNF $\alpha$ , which suggests that the metabolic or nutritional status of cells can affect protein lipidation and therefore protein function.<sup>790</sup> Currently, the most widely adapted technology to detect protein lipidation is metabolic labeling with chemical probes. However, this approach is difficult to apply to studies of the dynamic regulation of protein lipidation by metabolic or nutritional status. The use of chemical probes unavoidably changes the metabolic status of the cells, and these probes are challenging to use in whole animals. From this perspective, the most urgently needed tools are antibodies or their equivalents that can be used to detect protein lipidation. Currently, no antibodies are available for any of the lipid modifications discussed in this review, perhaps because the antigens used to immunize animals might nonspecifically

associate with cell membranes and therefore cannot be effectively seen by the immune system. If this is true, then certain *in vitro* systems for antibody development (aptamers SELEX or phage display) may be useful alternatives to the development of such antibodies.

In addition to questions that are general to all lipid modifications, questions specific to certain lipidations also remain. Cysteine palmitoylation, by far the most complex of all protein lipid modifications, still requires elucidation. For example, the substrates and functions of each DHHC are largely unknown. No efficient inhibitors have been developed to determine whether any DHHCs can be pharmacologically targeted to treat human diseases (the most commonly used inhibitor to date is 2-BP, which has multiple drawbacks<sup>515,522,799,800</sup>). The reversibility of cysteine palmitoylation is also of great interest. Even though depalmitoylases have been reported, the extent to which cysteine palmitoylation is regulated by enzymatic depalmitoylation is unknown. For the MBOAT family of protein *O*-acyltransferases, a particularly compelling question is whether, similar to other lipidation enzymes, they have multiple substrate proteins. For lysine fatty acylation, pressing questions include how it occurs, how abundant it is, what biological functions it has, and how it achieves these functions.

Since the late 1990s, tremendous progress has been made in elucidating protein lipidation. Given the enormous body of knowledge accumulated and the availability of numerous tools and technologies in this field, progress in the coming decades will be even more impressive, and many of the questions raised in this review will be satisfactorily addressed.

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## Biographies

Hong Jiang is a currently Principle Investigator at Interdisciplinary Research Center on Biology and Chemistry (IRCBC), Chinese Academy of Sciences in Shanghai, China. He obtained his B.S. degree in chemistry from University of Science and Technology of China in 1998, and completed his Ph.D. in organic chemistry at University of Science and Technology of China with Professor You-Cheng Liu in 2003. After postdoctoral training with Professor T. J. Kappock at Washington University in St. Louis, he joined the group of Professor Hening Lin at Cornell University in 2006 focusing on chemical biology studies. In 2015, he received “Thousand Youth Talents Plan” from China and joined the faculty at IRCBC in Shanghai.

Xiaoyu Zhang obtained his B.S. degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences in 2008 and M.S. degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences in 2011 with Dr. Zhongjun Ma from Zhejiang University. He obtained his Ph.D. degree in 2017 from Cornell University under the guidance of Dr. Hening Lin. He is currently a postdoctoral research associate in the group of Dr. Benjamin Cravatt at the Scripps Research Institute.

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Zhen Tong was born in China and earned her B.S. degree in Chemical Biology in 2010 from Tsinghua University, Beijing, China. She obtained her Ph.D. degree in 2016 from Cornell University under the supervision of Dr. Hening Lin. Her doctoral research interests include the exploration of novel enzymatic activities and activation mechanism of SIRT7. She joined Bristol-Myers Squibb in 2016 working on biologics process development and commercial manufacturing support.

Hening Lin was born in China and obtained his B.S. in Chemistry in 1998 from Tsinghua University, Beijing, China. He obtained his PhD degree in 2003 from Columbia University under the guidance of Dr. Virginia Cornish. From 2003–2006, he was a Jane Coffin Childs postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Christopher Walsh’s lab at Harvard Medical School. He joined the faculty of Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at Cornell University as an assistant professor in 2006. He was promoted to associate professor in 2012 and professor in 2013. His lab works at the interface of chemistry, biology, and medicine. The research in his group focuses on NAD<sup>+</sup>-consuming enzymes that have important biological functions and human disease relevance, including poly(ADP-ribose) polymerases and sirtuins. His lab also works on the biosynthesis of diphthamide, the target of diphtheria toxin. His work is

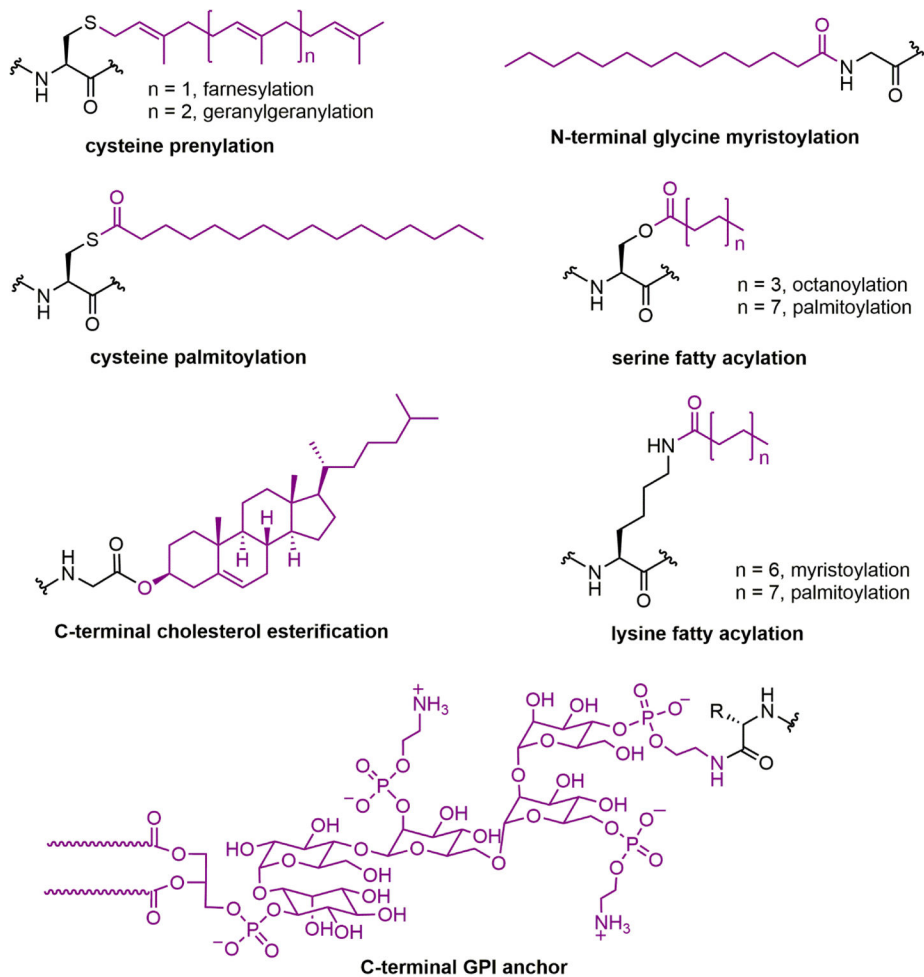
recognized by a Dreyfus New Faculty Award in 2006, the CAPA Distinguished Junior Faculty Award in 2011, the 2014 ACS Pfizer Award in Enzyme Chemistry, and the 2016 O'Keanos-CAPA Senior Investigator Award. He has been a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator since 2015.

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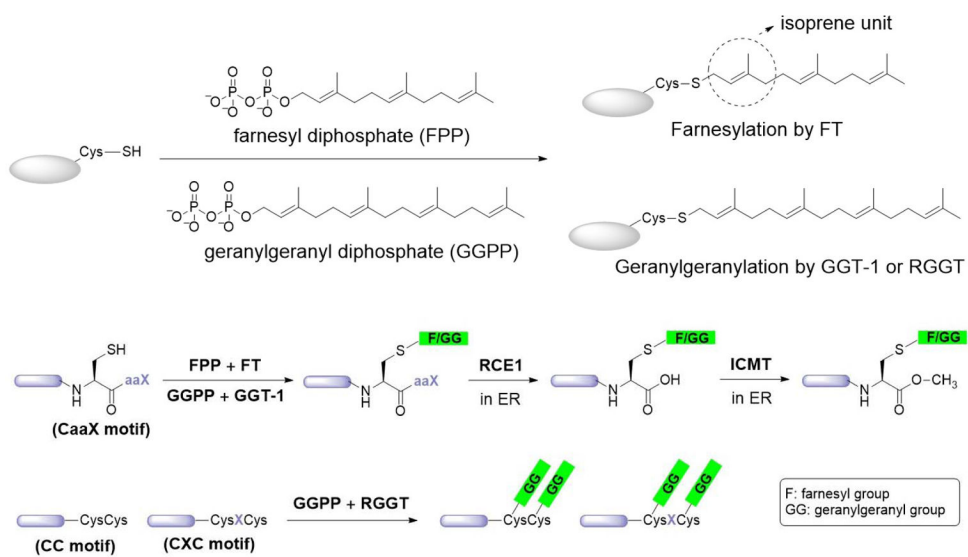
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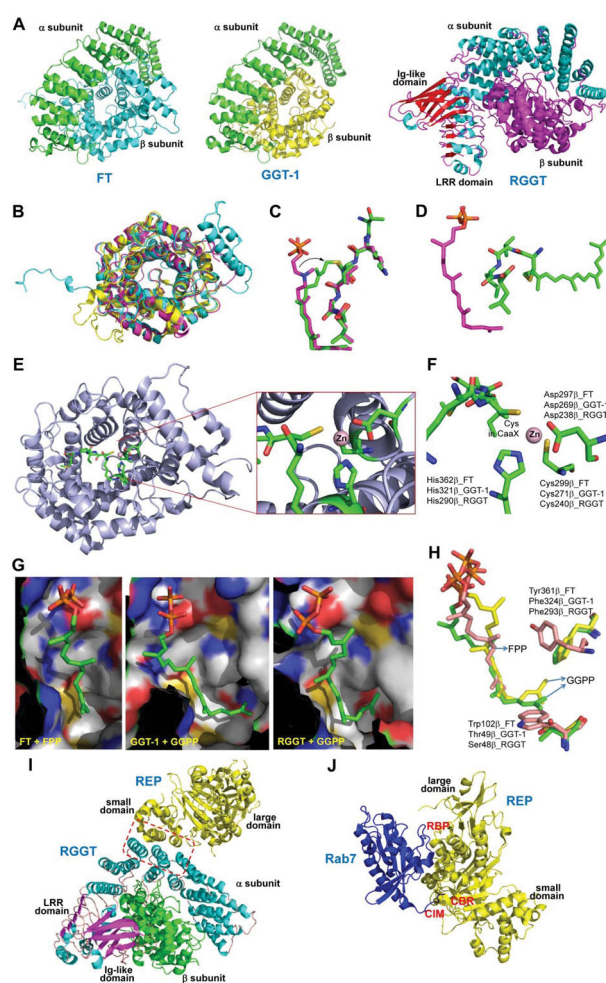


**Figure 1.** Lipid modifications of proteins. GPI, glycosylphosphatidylinositol.



**Figure 2.**  
Protein prenylation.

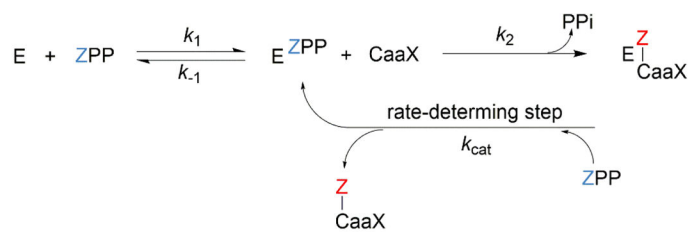




**Figure 3.**

(A) Protein structures of FT (PDB ID 1FT1), GGT-1 (PDB ID 1N4P), and RGGT (PDB ID 1DCE). The  $\alpha$  subunits (green) of FT and GGT-1 are identical. There are extra leucine-rich repeats (LRRs) and immunoglobulin (Ig)-like domains in the  $\alpha$  subunit of RGGT ( $\alpha$ -helices in cyan and  $\beta$ -sheets in red). (B) Superimposition of the  $\beta$  subunits of FT (cyan), GGT-1 (yellow), and RGGT (magenta) to show the structural homology. (C) The binding of substrates versus product in GGT-1. Geranylgeranyl diphosphate (GGPP; indicated by a GGPP analogue in magenta) rotates toward the cysteine in the CaaX peptide (PDB ID 1N4Q) to form the prenylated product (green; PDB ID 1N4R). (D) Simultaneous binding of GGPP (magenta) and the translocated prenylated product (green) at the active site of GGT-1 (PDB ID 1N4S). (E) The zinc binding site in the  $\beta$  subunit of FT (PDB ID 1D8D). (F) In FT, GGT-1, and RGGT, conserved residues in the  $\beta$  subunits of prenyltransferases bind to zinc, including an aspartate residue (Asp297 $\beta$ , Asp269 $\beta$ , and Asp238 $\beta$ , respectively), a cysteine residue (Cys299 $\beta$ , Cys271 $\beta$ , and Cys240 $\beta$ , respectively), and a histidine residue (His362 $\beta$ , His321 $\beta$ , and His290 $\beta$ , respectively). The zinc also coordinates with the cysteine residue of CaaX peptides. (G) Binding position of isoprenoid diphosphate in prenyltransferases, including FPP in FT (PDB ID 1FT2) and GGPP in GGT-1 (PDB ID 1N4P) and RGGT (PDB ID 3DST). (H) Comparison of isoprenoid diphosphate binding in FT (PDB ID 1FT2), GGT-1

(PDB ID 1N4P), and RGGT (PDB ID 3DST). FPP (pink) with Trp102 $\beta$  and Tyr361 $\beta$  (pink) in FT, GGPP (green) with Thr49 $\beta$  and Phe324 $\beta$  (green) in GGT-1, and GGPP (yellow) with Ser48 $\beta$  and Phe293 $\beta$  (yellow) in RGGT. In FT, the bulky Trp102 $\beta$  residue occupies the space in which the fourth isoprene unit of GGPP binds in GGT-1 and RGGT. This residue determines the isoprenoid specificity. (I) Protein structure of the RGGT-REP-1 complex (PDB ID 1LTX). REP-1 is yellow. (J) Protein structure of the prenylated Rab7-REP-1 complex (PDB ID 1VG0). REP-1 is yellow and Rab7 is blue. All protein structures were made using PyMol with the PDB files.



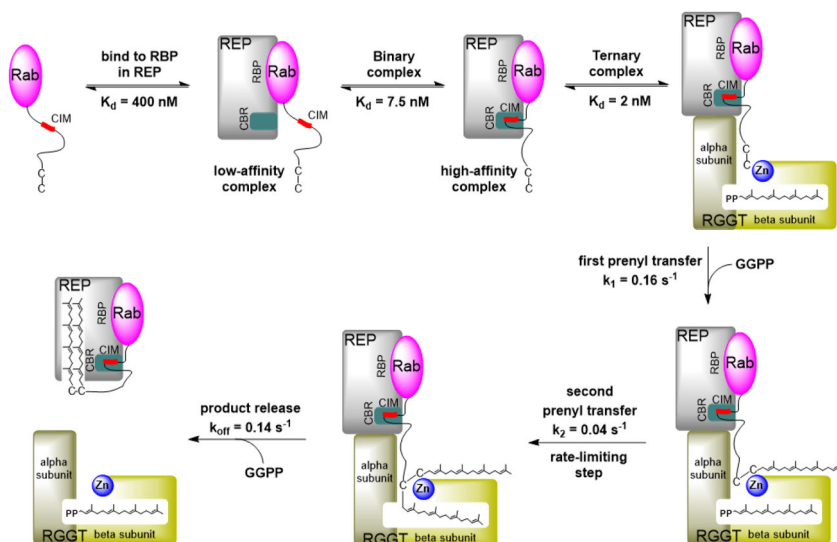
E = FTase and ZPP = FPP:

$K_M = 3.8$  nM for FPP,  $K_M = 330$  nM for peptide,  $k_{cat} = 0.061$  s<sup>-1</sup>,  $K_D = 2.8$  nM for complex of FTase and FPP,  $k_1 = 4 \times 10^6$  M<sup>-1</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>,  $k_{-1} = 0.0125$  s<sup>-1</sup>,  $k_2 = 2.2 \times 10^5$  M<sup>-1</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>.

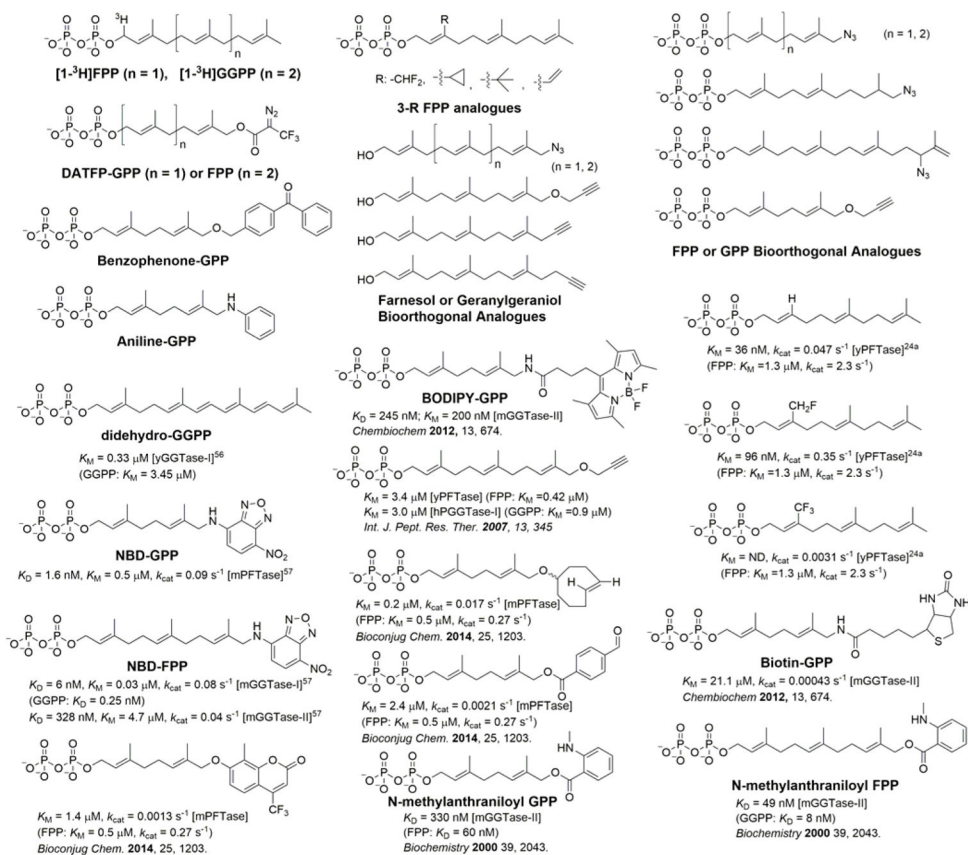
E = GGTase-I and ZPP = GGPP:

$K_M = 0.86$  μM for GGPP,  $K_M = 1.6$  μM for peptide,  $k_{cat} = 0.34$  s<sup>-1</sup>;  $K_D = 120$  nM for complex of GGTase-I and GGPP.

**Figure 4.** General reaction scheme with an ordered sequential kinetic mechanism for prenylation catalyzed by FT and GGT-1. The kinetics data for farnesylation and geranylgeranylation are from reference 22a and 23, respectively.

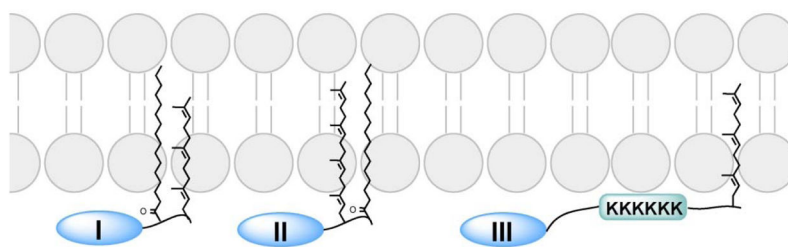


**Figure 5.**  
Reaction pathway of Rab digeranylgeranylation catalyzed by RGGT.

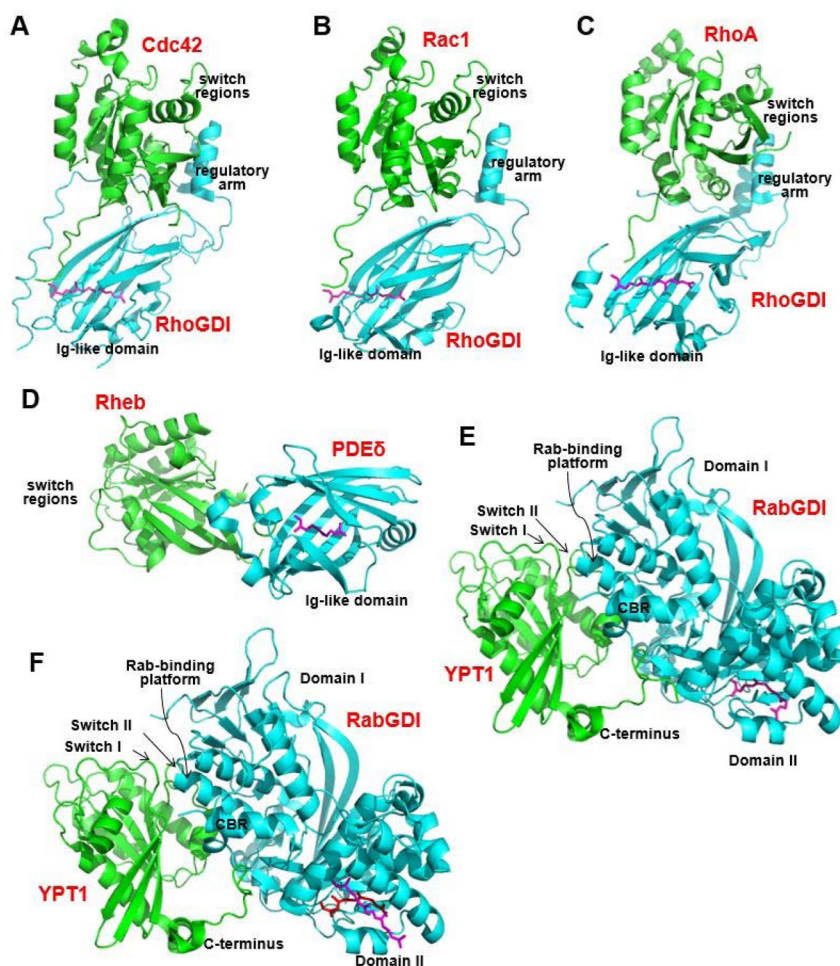


**Figure 6.**  
 Chemical probes used to study protein prenylation.

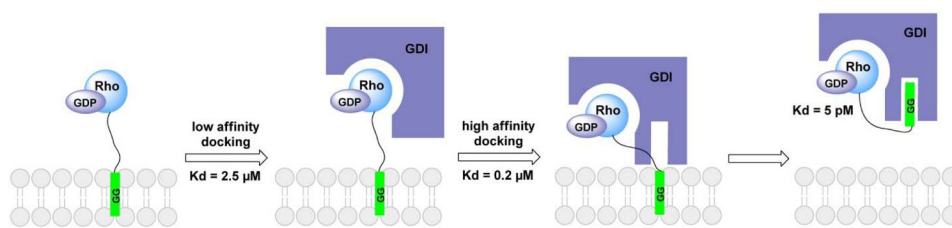




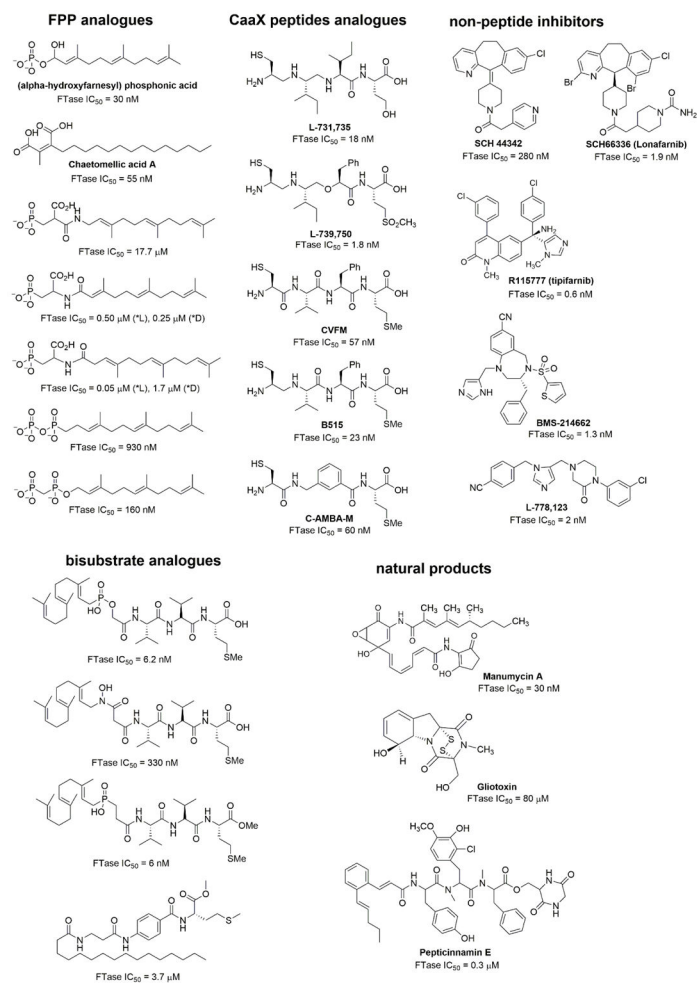
**Figure 7.** Plasma membrane targeting involving prenylation and a second signal, including (I) upstream palmitoylation, (II) downstream palmitoylation, and (III) upstream polybasic domain (typically six lysine residues).



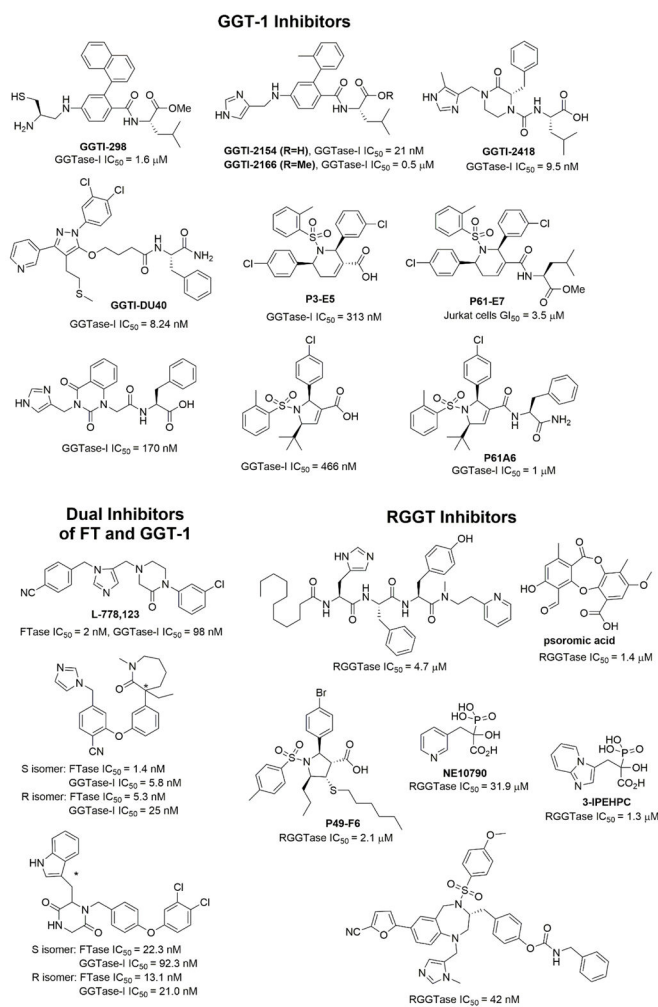
**Figure 8.** Protein structures of guanosine diphosphate dissociation inhibitors (GDIs) in complex with prenylated proteins. (A) Prenylated Cdc42 (green)-RhoGDI (cyan) complex (PDB ID 1DOA), (B) prenylated Rac1 (green)-RhoGDI (cyan) complex (PDB ID 1HH4), (C) prenylated RhoA (green)-RhoGDI (cyan) complex (PDB ID 4F38), (D) prenylated Rheb (green)-PDE $\delta$  (cyan) complex (PDB ID 3T5G), (E) prenylated YPT1 (green)-RabGDI (cyan) complex (PDB ID 1UKV), and (F) doubly prenylated YPT1 (green)-RabGDI (cyan) complex (PDB ID 2BCG). CBR, C-terminal-binding region. The prenyl moiety is shown in purple or red. All protein structures were made using PyMOL with PDB files.



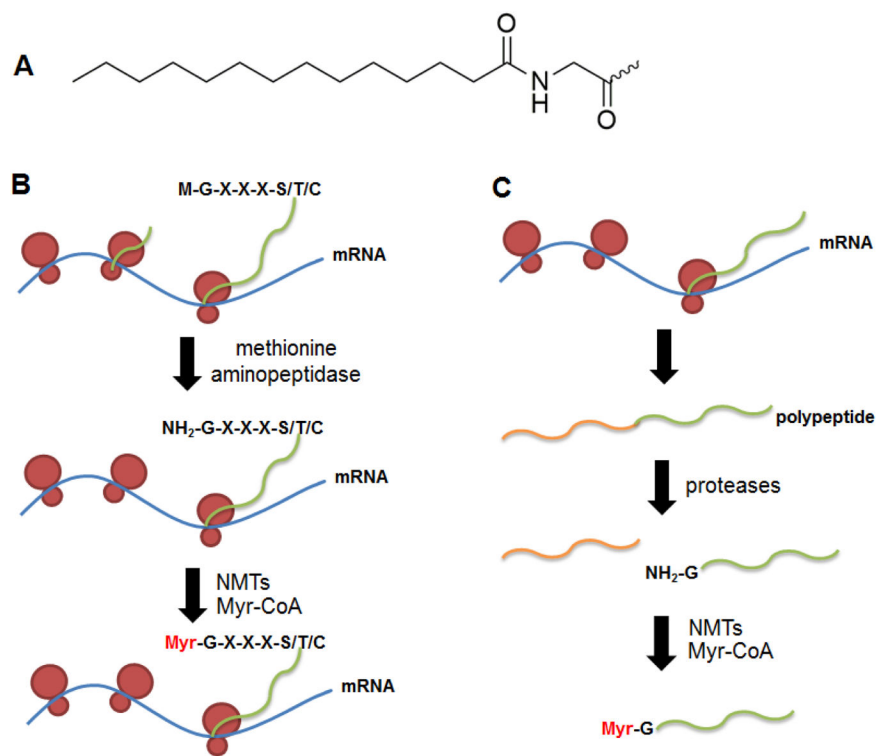
**Figure 9.** Mechanism of RhoA membrane extraction by RhoGDI. GG, geranylgeranyl group.



**Figure 10.**  
Farnesyltransferase inhibitors.

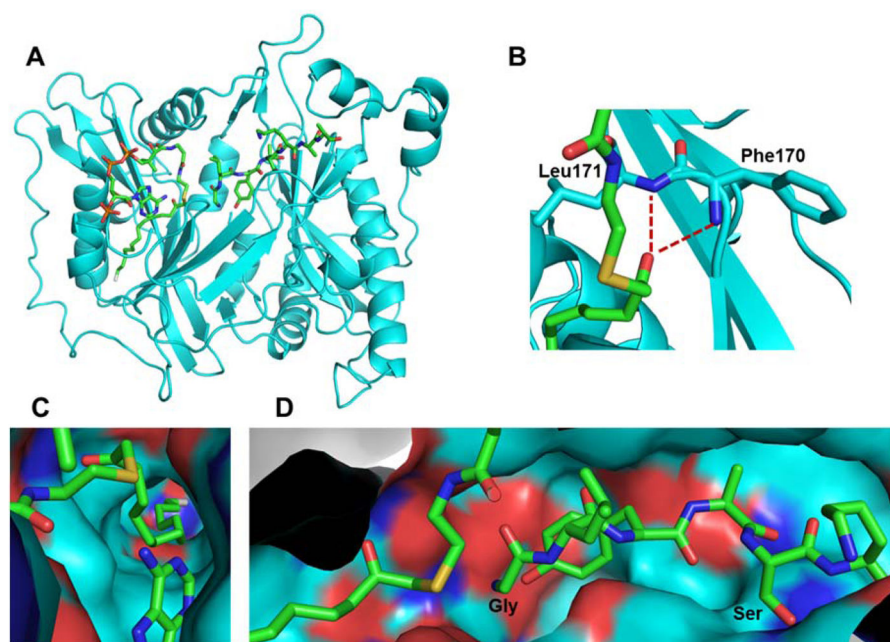


**Figure 11.** Specific inhibitors of GGT-1 and RGGT and dual inhibitors of FT and GGT-1.  $IC_{50}$ , half-maximal inhibitory concentration.

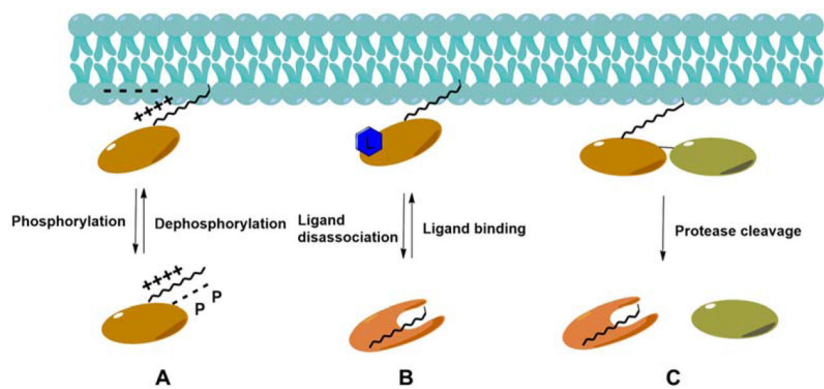


**Figure 12.** (A) Myristoyl modification at an N-terminal glycine residue. (B) Co-translational N-myristoyl modification. (C) Post-translational N-myristoyl modification.



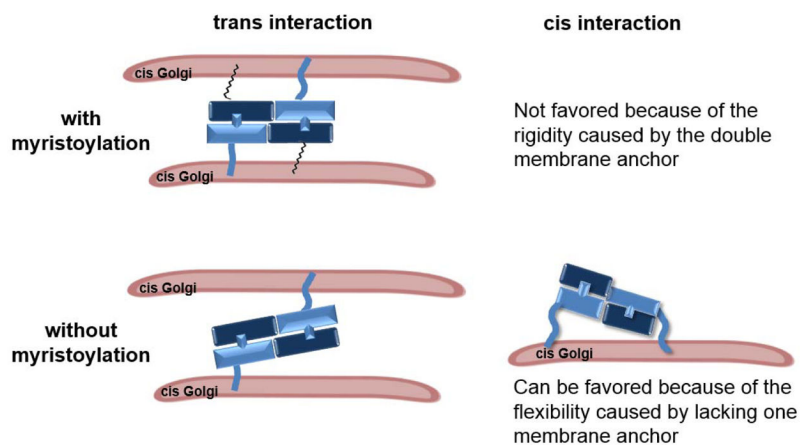


**Figure 13.** (A) Crystal structure of *S. cerevisiae* NMT in complex with a non-hydrolyzable myristoyl-CoA analogue and a peptide substrate (PDB ID 1IID). (B) Phe170 and Leu171 form the oxyanion hole to stabilize the negative charge developed on the carbonyl oxygen of myristoyl-CoA during catalysis. (C) The hydrophobic myristoyl group binds in a deep pocket in NMT. (D) The peptide substrate recognition site of NMT, which explains the peptide sequence specificity of NMT. All protein structures were made using PyMOL with PDB files.

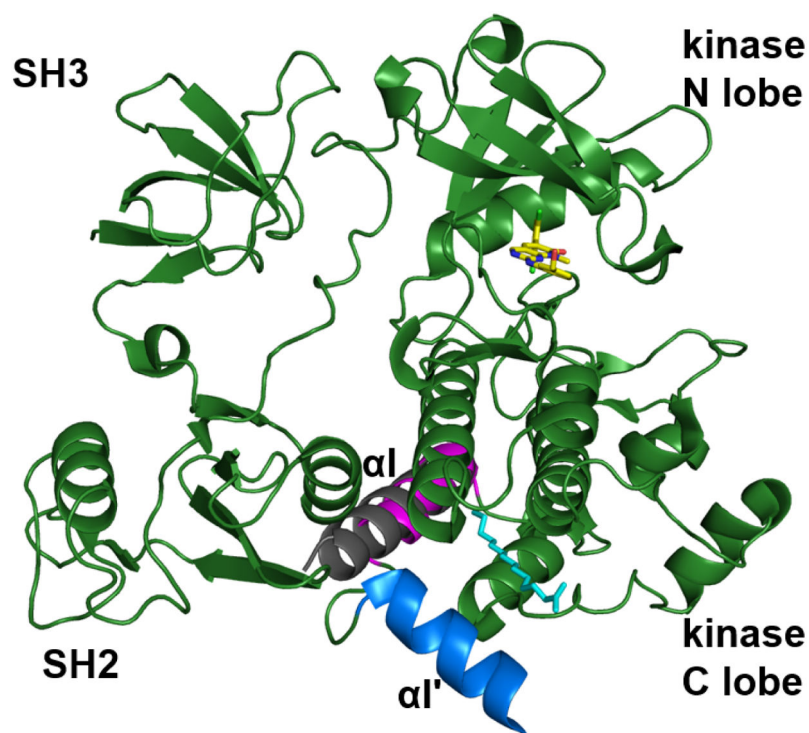


**Figure 14.**

Myristoyl switch mechanisms. (A) The phosphorylation of N-glycine myristoylated protein stimulates membrane dissociation by interrupting the electrostatic interaction between proteins and the phospholipid. (B) Ligand binding enhances the membrane association of N-glycine myristoylated proteins. (C) Proteolysis triggers the release of N-glycine myristoylated protein from the membrane.

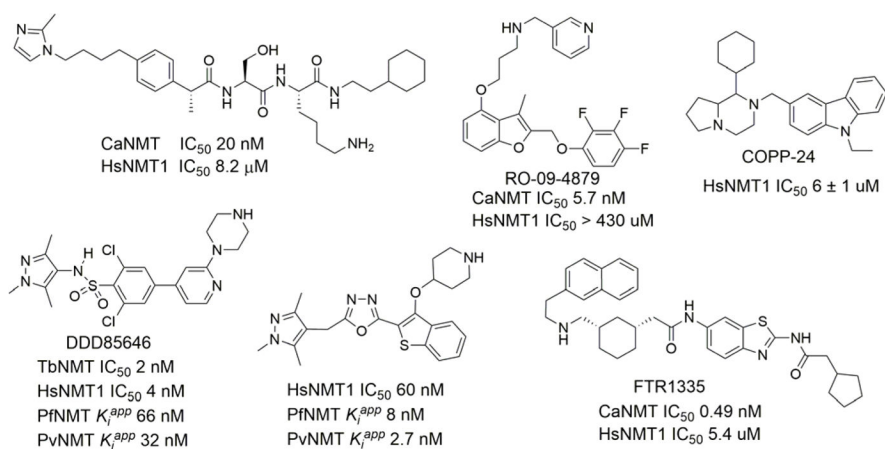


**Figure 15.** N-Glycine myristoylation may facilitate the trans interaction between Golgi reassembly stacking proteins by limiting conformational flexibility.

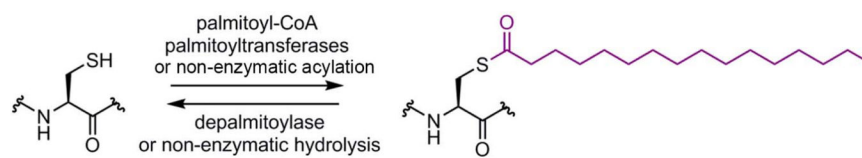


**Figure 16.**

The myristoyl switch that regulates c-Abl activity. The c-Abl structure (PDB ID 1OPL) in complex with myristoyl and a kinase inhibitor is superimposed on the c-Abl structure without bound myristoyl (PDB ID 1M52). In the absence of myristoyl, an extended  $\alpha$ -helix ( $\alpha I$ , grey) prevents the binding of the SH2 domain to the kinase domain. In the myristoyl-bound state, the  $\alpha I$  helix is separated into two shorter helices,  $\alpha I$  (magenta) and  $\alpha I'$  (blue). The  $\alpha I'$  helix makes an abrupt turn to bind to the myristoyl group. This conformational change leads to the docking of the SH2 domain at the kinase domain and subsequent autoinhibition.

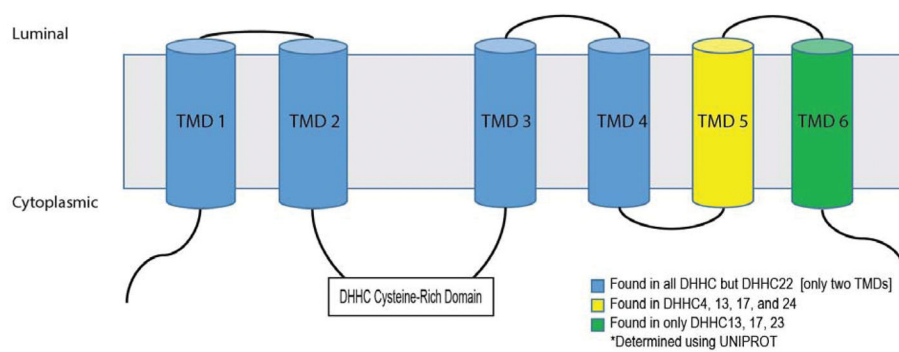
**Figure 17.**

Structures and half-maximal inhibitory concentration (IC<sub>50</sub>) values of representative inhibitors developed for NMTs in various species (CaNMT: *Candida albicans* NMT; HsNMT1/2, *Homo sapiens* NMT1/2; PfNMT, *Plasmodium falciparum* NMT; PvNMT, *Plasmodium vivax* NMT; and TbNMT: *Trypanosoma brucei* NMT).

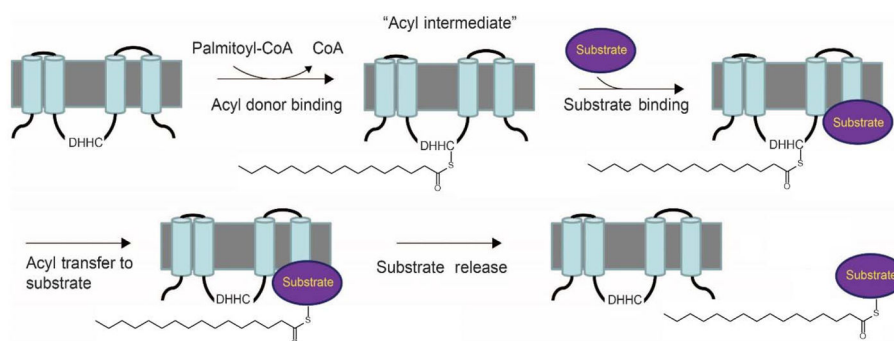


**Figure 18.**  
Reversible cysteine palmitoylation.

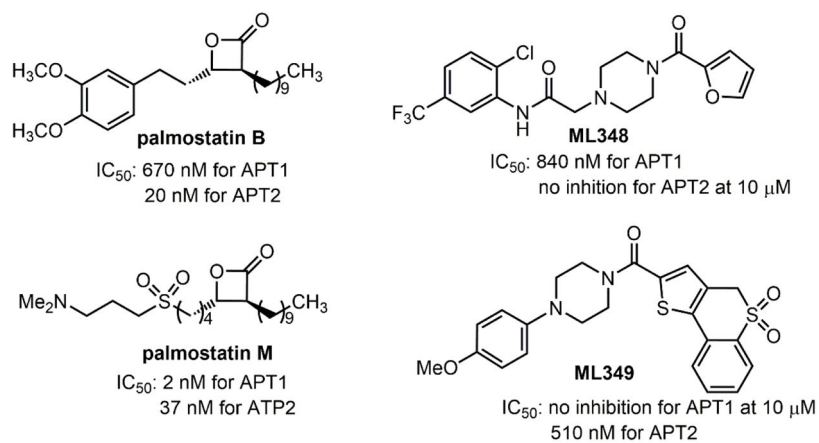




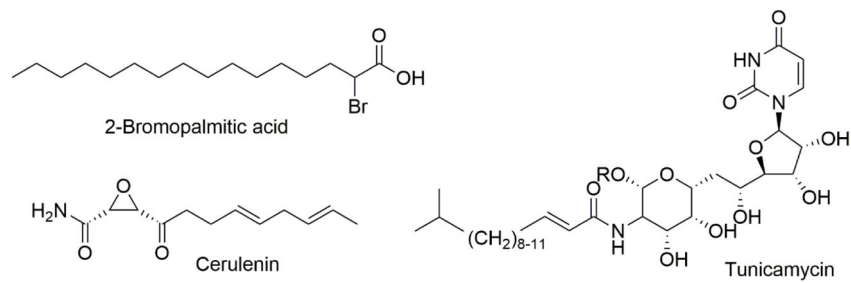
**Figure 19.**  
Predicted topology and domain structure of DHCs. TMD, transmembrane domain.



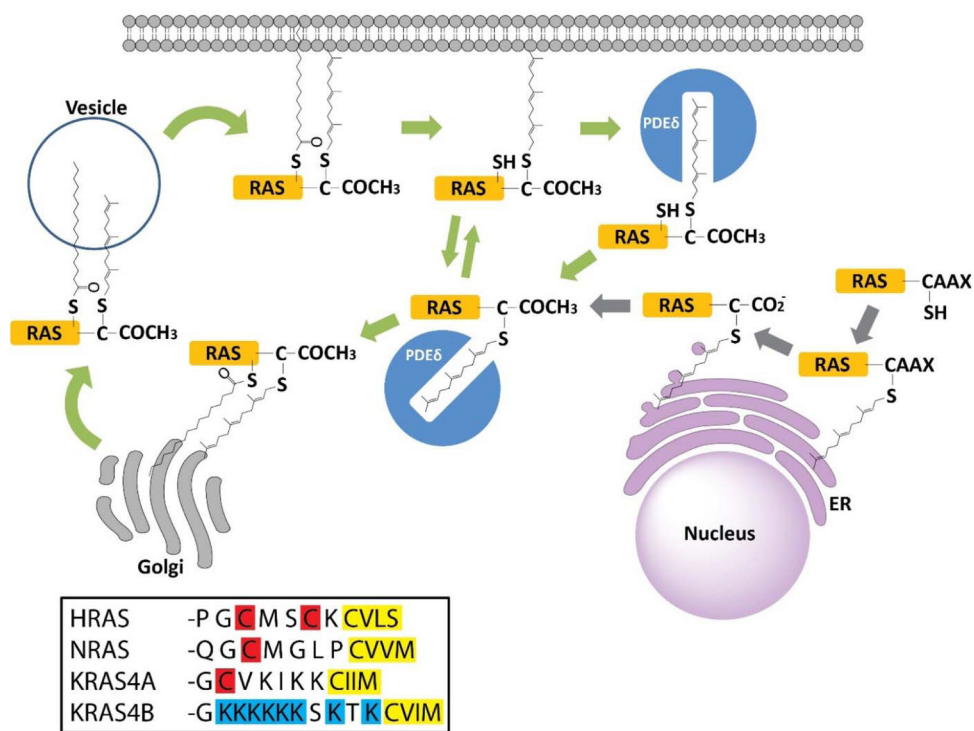
**Figure 20.**  
Mechanism of DHHC-catalyzed cysteine palmitoylation.



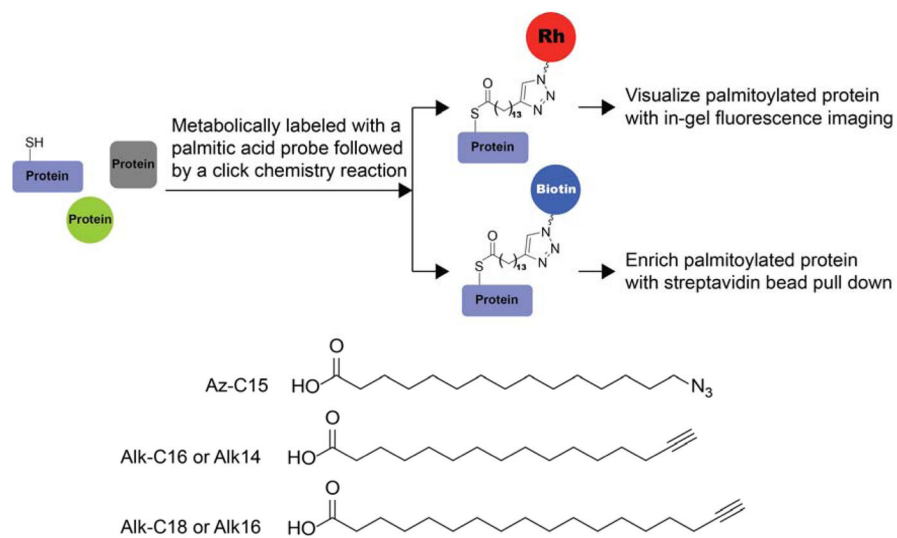
**Figure 21.**  
Inhibitors for cysteine depalmitoylases APT1, APT2, and ABHD17.



**Figure 22.**  
Structures of reported palmitoylation inhibitors.



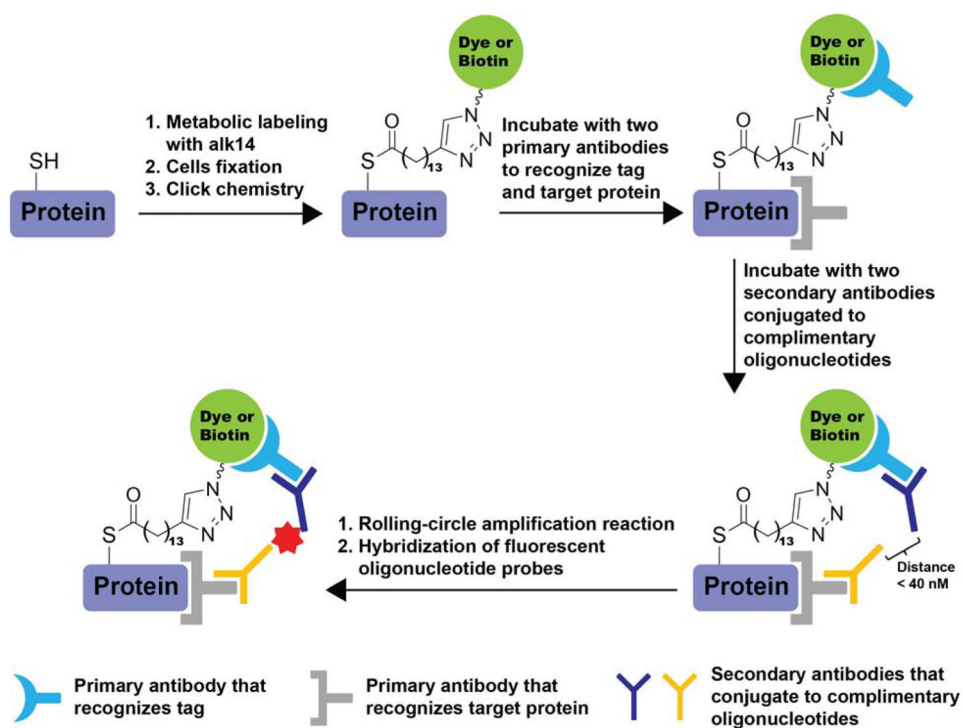
**Figure 23.**  
C-terminal sequences of Ras family members and Ras trafficking.



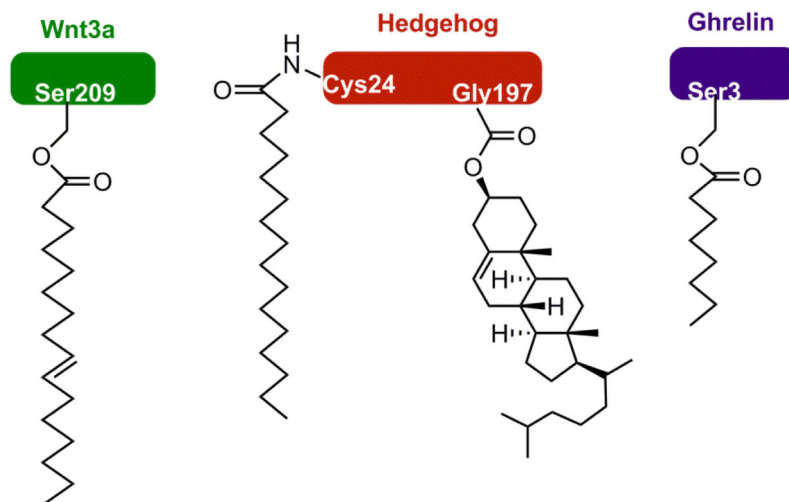
**Figure 24.** Bioorthogonal palmitic acid probes for the detection of protein palmitoylation.



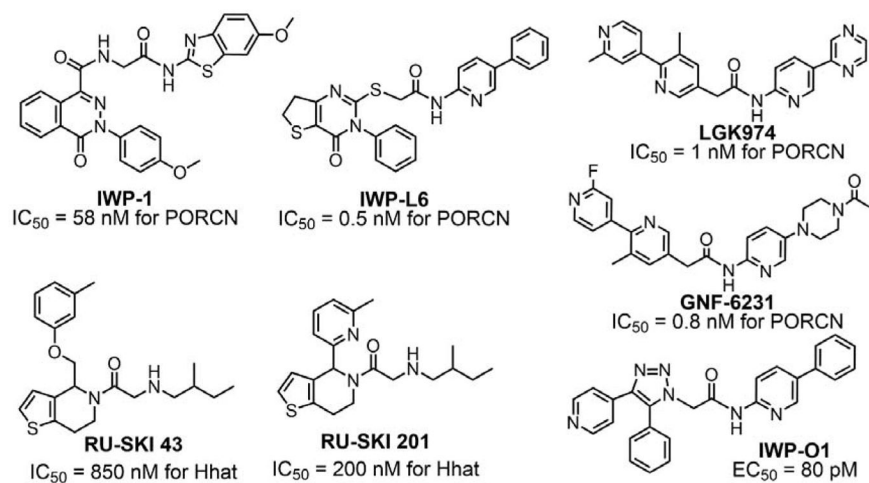




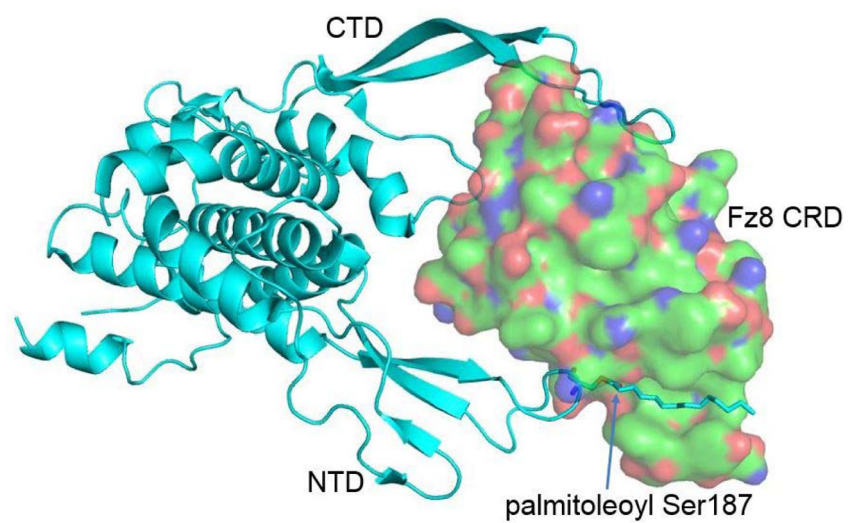
**Figure 26.**  
Method for imaging palmitoylated proteins in cells.



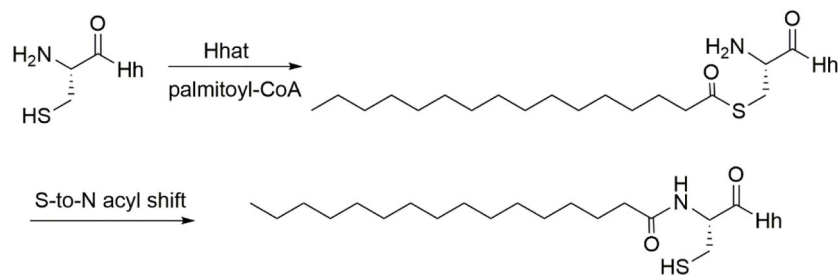
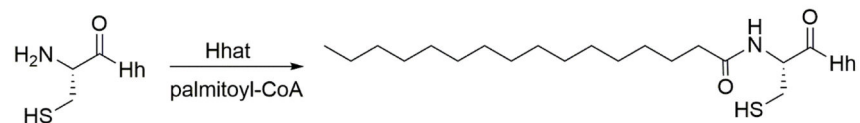
**Figure 27.**  
Protein O- and N-acylation and protein C-terminal cholesterol esterification.



**Figure 28.**  
Inhibitors targeting Porcupine (PORCN) and Hedgehog acyltransferase (Hhat).

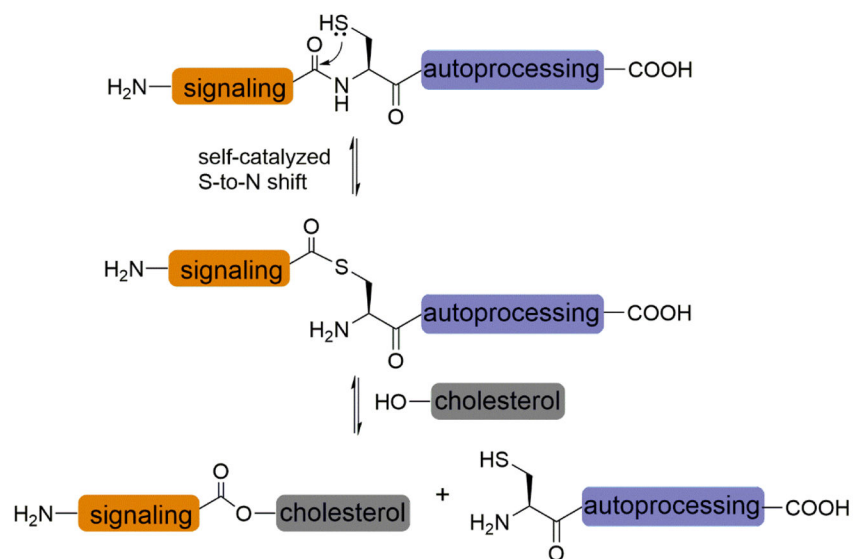


**Figure 29.** Crystal structure of *Xenopus* Wnt8 in complex with the Frizzled-8 (Fz8) cysteine-rich domain (CRD; PDB 4F0A). CTD, C-terminal domain; NTD, N-terminal domain.

**Mechanism I: S-to-N acyl shift****Mechanism I: direct N-acylation**

**Figure 30.**  
Two proposed mechanism for the N-palmitoylation of Hedgehog (Hh) proteins.





**Figure 31.**  
Mechanism of C-terminal autoprocessing of Hh proteins.

Table 1

## Myristoylated mammalian proteins

Myristoylated proteins	Functions	Roles of N-myristoylation	First 20 amino acid sequences	Organisms	References
Gelsolin (ctGelsolin, C-terminal after cleavage)	Actin-modulating protein	Anti-apoptotic activity	GLGLSYLSSH IANVERVFPD	Human	238
Lunapark	Network formation of ER	ER morphology	MGGLFSRWRT KPFSTVEVLES	Human	239
Endothelial nitric oxide synthase (eNOS)	Nitric oxide production	Golgi membrane association	MGNLKSVAQE PGPCCGLGLG	Human	240
Protein-associating with the carboxyl-terminal domain of ezrin (PACE-1)	Ezrin-binding partner	Golgi membrane association	MSENSALKS YTLREPPFTL	Human	241
Phosphoinositide 3-kinase regulatory subunit 4 (PI3K p150 subunit)	PI 3-Kinase adapter protein	Golgi membrane association	MGNQLAGIAP SQILSVESYF	Human	242
43 kDa acetylcholine receptor-associated protein of synapse (RAPSN)	Acetylcholine receptor clustering	Membrane association	MGQDQTKQQI EKGLQLYQSN	Mouse	243
Adenylate kinase 1	Energy homeostasis	Membrane association	MGCCVSSEFPQ EEGGRKTGEK	Mouse	244
ADP-ribosylation factors (ARF) and ARF-like (ARL)	GTP binding protein	Membrane association	MGKVLKIFG NKEMRILMLG MGILFTRIWR LENHQEHKVI	Human	245,246
A-kinase anchoring protein 12 (Gravin, AKAP12)	Protein kinase A binding protein	Membrane association	MGAGSSTEQR SPEQPPPEGSS	Human	247
A-kinase anchoring protein 7 (AKAP 18)	Protein kinase A binding protein	Membrane association	MGQLCCFPFS RDEGKISEKN	Human	248
5'-AMP-activated protein kinase subunit beta-1 (AMPK $\beta$ )	scaffold for AMPK complex	Mitochondria association	MGNTSSERAA LERHGGHKTTP	Human	249
Annexin XIII	Ca <sup>2+</sup> /phospholipid binding proteins	Membrane association	MGNRHAKASS PQGFDVDRDA	Human	250
Calcineurin B phosphatase subunit, (CHP1, p22)	Ca <sup>2+</sup> -binding proteins	Membrane association Microtubule targeting	MGSRASLLR DEELEIKKE	Human	251,252
Calmyrin	Ca <sup>2+</sup> -binding proteins	Membrane association	MGGSGRLSK ELLAEYQDLT	Human	253
Calpastatin (testis-specific isoform, tCAST)	Calpain inhibitor	Membrane association	MGQLSSTFW EGSPAAVWQE	Mouse	254
cAMP-dependent kinases (PKA catalytic subunit)	Serine/threonine kinases	Membrane association	MGNAAAARKKQ SEQESVKEFL	Human	255,256
cGMP-dependent kinase II	Serine/threonine kinases	Membrane association	MGNNGSVKPKH SKHPDGHSGN	Human	257

Myristoylated proteins	Functions	Roles of N-myristoylation	First 20 amino acid sequences	Organisms	References
Charged multivesicular body protein 6 (CHMP6)	ESCRT-III protein	Membrane association	MGNLFGRKKQ SRVTEQDKAI	Human	258
Erythrocyte membrane protein band 4.2	Membrane stability maintenance	Membrane association	MGQALGIKSC DFQAARNNEE	Human	259
Fibroblast growth factor receptor substrate 2 (FRS2)	Adapter protein	Membrane association	MGSCCSPDK DTPVDNHRNK	Human	260
Formin-like 1 (FMN1)	Cell morphology/cytoskeletal organization regulation	Membrane association	MGNAAAGSAEQ PAGPAAPPPK	Human	261
Fragile X mental retardation syndrome-related protein 2 (FXR2)	RNA binding protein	Axonal distribution	MGGLASGGDV EPGLPVEVRG	Human	262
Golgi reassembly stacking protein 1 and 2 (GRASP65, GRASP55)	Golgi stacking	Membrane association/protein-protein interaction	MGLGVSAEQ AGGAEGFHLHMSSQSSVEIP GGGTEGYHVL	Human	263,264
Golgi-associated plant pathogenesis-related protein 1 (GAPR-1)	Caveolin-interacting protein	Membrane association/protein-protein interaction	MGKSASKQFH NEVLKAHNEY	Human	265
G-protein alpha subunits (Gα)	GTP binding protein	Membrane association	MGCTLSAEDK AAVERSK MID	Human	247,266
hexokinase 1 variant in mammalian spermatozoa (HK1S)	Enzyme in glycolysis	Membrane association	MGQICQRESA TAAEKP K LHL	Human	267
Myristoylated alanine-rich carboxy-kinase substrate (MARCKS)	Protein kinase C substrate	Membrane association	MGAQFSK TAA KGEAAAERP G	Human	268,269
NADH ubiquinone dehydrogenase B18	Enzyme in a respiratory electron transport chain	Membrane association	MGAHL-ARRYL GDASVEPDPL	Bovine	270
Neutralized-like 1 (NEURL1)	E3 ubiquitin ligase	Membrane association	MGNNESSYSS LQRGNPSRAS	Mouse	271
<b>Neuronal calcium sensor (NCS) proteins :</b> Neuronal calcium sensor-1, Hippocalcin, Neurocalcin delta, Visinin-like protein-1 (VILIP-1) Recoverin Guanylate cyclase-activating proteins (GCAPs) (GCAP-1, GCAP-2)	Ca <sup>2+</sup> -binding proteins	Membrane association	MGKSNK LKP EVVEELTRKT MGKQNSKLRP EMLQDLRENT MGKQNSKLRP EYMQDLLEST MGKQNSKLRP EVLQDLREHT MGNSKSGALS KEILEELQLN MGNVMEGKSV EELSSTECHQ MGQEFWSWEEA EAAAGEIDVAE	Human Human Human Rat Bovine Human Human	272-275
P21-activated kinase 2 (ctPAK2)	Serine/threonine kinases	Membrane association	GAAKSLDK QKKKTKMTDE EI	Human	276

Myristoylated proteins	Functions	Roles of N-myristoylation	First 20 amino acid sequences	Organisms	References
Protein phosphatase 1A and 1B (PPM1A and PPM1B)	AMPK $\alpha$ dephosphorylation	Membrane association	MGAFLDKPKMEKHNAQQGN MGAFLDKPKTEKHNAHGAGN	Human	277
Protein arginine N-methyltransferase 8 (PRMT8)	Arginine methylation	Membrane association	MGMKHSRCL LLRRKMAENA	Human	278
PSD-Zip70, FEZ1	Synaptic plasticity	Membrane association	MGSVSSLISG HSLHSHKHCRA	Rat	279
Raftlin	Raft-linking protein	Membrane association	MGCGLNKLEK RDEKRPGNIY	Human	280
Serine/threonine-protein kinase HI (PSKH1)	Protein serine kinase	Membrane association	MCGGTSK VLP EPPKDYQLDL	Human	281
<b>Src family of tyrosine kinases</b> Blk, Fyn, Hck, Lck, Lyn, Src, Yes	Tyrosine-protein kinase	Membrane association	MGLLSSKRQV SEKGKGSFPV	Mouse	282
			MGCVFCCKLE PVATAKEDAG	Mouse	
			MGCYQCKDKE AAKLTEERDG	Mouse	
			MGCMKSKFLQ VGGNTFSKTE	Human	
			MGCVCSSNPE DDWMENIDVC	Mouse	
			MGCIKSKRKD NLNDDEVDK	Mouse	
			MGSNKSPPKD ASQRRRSLEP	Mouse	
			MGCIKSKENK SPAIKYTPEN	Mouse	
Src-like-adaptor 2 (SLAP-2)	Adapter protein	Membrane association	MGSLPSTRRKS LPSPSLSSV	Human	283
SSeCKS (A-kinase anchor protein 12, AKAP12)	Protein kinase C substrate	Membrane association	MGAGSSTEQR SPEQPAESDT	Mouse	284
T-lymphoma invasion and metastasis inducing protein 1 (TIAM1)	RHO-like protein activator	Membrane association	MGNAESQNV D HEFYGEKHAS	Mouse	285
TRIF-related adaptor molecule (TRAM)	Protein adaptor in Toll-like receptor 4 signal transduction.	Membrane association	MGIGKSKINS CPLLSWGKR	Human	286
Actin (ct Actin, 15 kDa)	Cytoskeletal protein	Mitochondrial targeting	GQVITIGNER FRCPEALFQP	Human	287
BH3-interacting domain death agonist (p15, ctBID)	Apoptotic protein	Mitochondrial targeting	GNRSSHSLRLG RIEADSESQE	Human	213
Dihydroceramide Delta 4-desaturase 1 (DES1)	Ceramide biosynthesis	Mitochondrial targeting	MGSRVREDF EWVYTDQPHIA	Human	288
NADH cytochrome b-5 reductase (b5R)	Cholesterol biosynthesis	Mitochondrial targeting	MGAQLSTLSR VVLSPVWFVY	Rat	289,290
2'-5'-oligoadenylate synthetase 2	Cellular innate antiviral response	n/a	MGNGESQLSS VPAQKLGWFI	Human	291

Myristoylated proteins	Functions	Roles of N-myristoylation	First 20 amino acid sequences	Organisms	References
Brain-specific protein kinase C substrate (BASP-1, CAP-23/NAP-22)	Protein kinase C substrate	Protein interaction Transcriptional repression	MGSKLSKSKK GYNVNDEKAK	Rat	292,293
Calcineurin B homologous proteins 3 (CHIP3)	Ca <sup>2+</sup> -binding proteins	Protein stability	MGAAHSASEE VRELEGGKTGF	Human	294,295
Tumor suppressor candidate 2 (FUS1)	Tumor suppressor	Tumor suppressor activity	MGASGSKARG LWPFAAAGG	Human	296

Table 2

Mammalian DHHC enzymes

DHHC enzyme [Gene symbol]	Cellular localization	Size (# of a.a.)	Uniprot	Disease association	Known substrates	Tissue specificity, function, and other notes:
DHHC1 [zDHHC1]	ER, extracellular vesicular exosome	485	Q8WTX9		NCDN <sup>374a</sup>	Expressed at high levels in fetal lung, kidney and heart. Expressed at lower levels in adult pancreas and lung.
DHHC2 [zDHHC2]	plasma membrane, recycling endosome membrane <sup>e</sup>	367	Q9UIJ5	Lymph node metastasis and independently predicts an unfavorable prognosis in gastric adenocarcinoma patients; colorectal cancer. <sup>375</sup>	Lck, <sup>376a</sup> R7BP (RGS7), <sup>377a</sup> CKAP4/p63, <sup>378a</sup> CD9 and CD151, <sup>379ad</sup> PSD-95/ <sup>373,380ab</sup> and GAP43, <sup>373b</sup> SNAP23/25, <sup>381b</sup> eNOS, <sup>382bd</sup> gp78, <sup>383b</sup> AKAP79/150 <sup>384a</sup>	Ubiquitously expressed. Reduced expression in colorectal cancers with liver metastasis.
DHHC3 [zDHHC3]	Golgi	327	Q9NYG2		(TARP- $\gamma$ -2, TARP- $\gamma$ -8, CNH2, CaMKII $\alpha$ , Syd-1, zyxin, TRPM8, TRPC1, HCRTR2), <sup>374b</sup> integrin $\alpha$ 6/ $\beta$ 4, <sup>385a</sup> TRAIL receptor-1, <sup>386d</sup> $\gamma$ 2 subunit of GABA <sub>A</sub> , <sup>372bc</sup> NCDN, <sup>374a</sup> SNAP25/23, <sup>381b</sup> $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , <sup>387a</sup> CSP, <sup>388b</sup> p14KII $\alpha$ , <sup>389a</sup> RGS4, <sup>390b</sup> STREX, <sup>391ac</sup> eNOS, <sup>382bd</sup> PICK1, <sup>392acd</sup> GluR1/2, <sup>393b</sup> PSD-95, <sup>373b</sup> CALHM1 <sup>394</sup> , PPT1 <sup>395b</sup>	DHHC3 and DHHC7 regulate GPCR-mediated signal transduction by controlling G $\alpha$ localization to the plasma membrane.
DHHC4 [zDHHC4]	Golgi, ER	344	Q9NPG8		No known substrates	
DHHC5 [zDHHC5]	Plasma membrane, dendrite	715	Q9C0B5	Post-synaptic function affecting learning and memory. <sup>396</sup>	$\delta$ -catenin, <sup>397a</sup> FLOT2, <sup>398a</sup> SSTR5, <sup>399adc</sup> GRIP1b, <sup>400acd</sup> STREX, <sup>391ac</sup> PLM <sup>401</sup>	Notably, context-dependent fear conditioning in mice resulted in increased $\delta$ -catenin palmitoylation. Palmitoylated at non catalytic cysteine. <sup>402</sup> First palmitoyl-transferase for a GPCR. Interaction with PSD-95 its PDZ domain Contains PDZ ligand.
DHHC6 [zDHHC6]	ER	413	Q9H6R6		Calnexin, <sup>403a</sup> gp78, <sup>382b</sup> IP3R <sup>404</sup>	
DHHC7 [zDHHC7]	Golgi	308	Q9NXF8		(TARP- $\gamma$ -8, CaMKII $\alpha$ , Syd-1, NCDN) <sup>374b</sup> SNAP25/23, <sup>381b</sup> PSD-95, <sup>373b</sup> p14KII $\alpha$ , <sup>389a</sup> RGS4, <sup>390b</sup> $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , <sup>387a</sup> CSP, <sup>388b</sup> estrogen, <sup>d</sup> progesterone, and androgen receptors, <sup>405a</sup> STREX, <sup>391ac</sup> eNOS, <sup>382bd</sup> Glu4 <sup>406a</sup> , Fas <sup>407b</sup> JAMC <sup>408a</sup> , Scribble, <sup>409</sup> PPT1, <sup>395b</sup> NMNAT2 <sup>410a</sup>	



DHHC enzyme [Gene symbol]	Cellular localization	Size (# of a.a.)	Uniprot	Disease association	Known substrates	Tissue specificity, function, and other notes:
DHHC8 [zDHHC8]	Golgi, Cytoplasmic vesicle, mitochondrion	765	Q9ULC8	Defects in the encoding gene may be linked to susceptibility to schizophrenia. Synaptic regulation. ZDHHC8 knockdown enhances radio-sensitivity and suppresses tumor growth in a mesothelioma mouse model.	PICK1, <sup>392,acd</sup> GRIP1b, <sup>400,acd</sup> ABCA1, <sup>411,b</sup> palemmin-1, <sup>393</sup> <i>bd</i> eNOS <sup>382,bd</sup>	Phosphorylation regulated by PKMC (brain-specific PKC variant protein kinase M). Contains PDZ ligand.
DHHC9 [zDHHC9]	Golgi, ER, cytoplasm	364	Q9Y397	Mutations in the gene are associated with X-linked mental retardation.	H-Ras, <sup>412</sup> N-Ras, <sup>412</sup> STREX <sup>391</sup> <i>iac</i>	Forms a complex with Golgin subfamily A member 7 (GOLGA7, also known as GCP16). Highly expressed in kidney, skeletal muscle, brain, lung and liver. Absent in thymus, spleen and leukocytes. Highly expressed in microsatellite stable colon tumor.
DHHC10 [zDHHC11]	ER	412	Q9H8X9	Gain of ZDHHC11 gene may be a potential biomarker for bladder cancer and non-small cell lung cancer.	NCDN <sup>374a</sup>	
DHHC11 [zDHHC23]	Plasma membrane	409	Q8IYP9		KCNMA1, <sup>413,a</sup> gp78 <sup>383,b</sup>	Interacts with nNOS. <sup>414</sup> Expressed in the brain (at protein level), with highest levels in olfactory bulb, piriform cortex and hippocampus. Highly expressed during the first week after birth. <sup>414</sup>
DHHC12 [zDHHC12]	ER, Golgi	267	Q96GR4	Alzheimer's disease <sup>415</sup>	No known substrates	
DHHC13 [zDHHC24]	ER <sup>416</sup>	284	Q6UX98		gp78 <sup>383,b</sup>	Contains a leucine rich partition.
DHHC14 [zDHHC14]	ER <sup>9</sup>	488	Q8IZN3	Deletion may be linked to development delay <sup>417</sup> . Activation through chromosomal translocation in patients with acute biphenotypic leukemia. <sup>418</sup>	No known substrates	Potential tumor suppressor. Decreased in testicular germ cell tumors, prostate cancer. <sup>419</sup> Overexpressed in Gastric Cancer. <sup>420</sup>
DHHC15 [zDHHC15]	Golgi	337	Q96MV8	Mutations in the gene cause X-linked mental retardation type 91. <sup>421</sup>	CSP, <sup>388,b</sup> SNAP25b, <sup>381,b</sup> PSD-95, <sup>373,b</sup> JNK3 <sup>422</sup>	Expressed in placenta, liver, lung, kidney, heart and brain. <sup>14</sup>
DHHC16 [zDHHC16]	ER, cytoplasm <sup>423</sup>	377	Q969W1		PLN, <sup>424</sup> DHHC6	May be involved in ER stress-induced apoptosis regulation.

DHHC enzyme [Gene symbol]	Cellular localization	Size (# of a.a.)	Uniprot	Disease association	Known substrates	Tissue specificity, function, and other notes:
DHHC17 [zDHHC17]	Golgi, Golgi-associated vesicle membrane, cytoplasmic vesicle membranes <sup>4,26</sup>	632	Q8IUH5	Memory and synaptic deficits in KO mice. <sup>427</sup>	SNAP25/ <sup>23, 381b</sup> CSP, <sup>388b</sup> STREX, <sup>391ac</sup> ClipR-59, <sup>428</sup> PSD-95, <sup>429b</sup> GAD65, <sup>429b</sup> SYT1, <sup>429b</sup> huntingtin, <sup>430a</sup> MPP1/ <sup>55</sup> , <sup>431a</sup> LCK, <sup>373b</sup> JNK3, <sup>432bd</sup> GLUR1, <sup>393b</sup> GLUR2, <sup>393b</sup> Caspase-6 <sup>433</sup>	Interact with c-ABL. <sup>425</sup> Found in striatum, spring projection neurons and neurons affected by Huntington's disease. Enriched in brain. High expression in the cortex, cerebellum, occipital lobe and caudate. Low expression in the spinal cord. Also detected in the testis, pancreas, heart and kidney, but not in the liver or lungs. <sup>426</sup> ZDHHC17 is the only palmitoyl-transferase in erythrocytes. <sup>431</sup> Contains 5 ankyrin repeat domains. Has transforming activity. Mediates Mg <sup>2+</sup> transport. Low extracellular Mg <sup>2+</sup> induces its level inside the Golgi and post Golgi membrane vesicles. Interacts with JNK <sup>434</sup> .
DHHC18 [zDHHC18]	Golgi	388	Q9NUE0		H-Ras, <sup>373b</sup> Lck, <sup>373b</sup>	Expressed ubiquitously
DHHC19 [zDHHC19]	ER	309	Q8WVZ1		R-Ras <sup>435b</sup>	Is prenylated. <sup>435</sup>
DHHC20 [zDHHC20]	Plasma membrane	365	Q5W0Z9		EGFR, <sup>436</sup> Peptide mimic of N terminal myristoylated proteins, <sup>437</sup> $\delta$ -catenin, <sup>397b</sup> CALHM1 <sup>394</sup>	Overexpression of DHHC20 causes cellular transformation. Expressed mainly in lung <sup>388</sup> . Low expression in ovary, breast, and kidney tissue. High expression in thyroid, liver, colon and prostate tissue.
DHHC21 [zDHHC21]	Golgi, plasma membrane	265	Q8IVQ6	Loss of protein function result in delayed hair shaft differentiation and hyperplasia of interfollicular epidermis and sebaceous glands.	Estrogen <sup>d</sup> , progesterone, and androgen receptors, <sup>405a</sup> PECAM-1, <sup>438a</sup> Fyn, <sup>439bc</sup> eNOS <sup>382ad</sup>	Expressed in epithelial tissue <sup>639</sup> and hair follicles.
DHHC22 [zDHHC13]	Golgi, Golgi-associated vesicle membrane <sup>40</sup> , ER, intracellular membrane bound organelle	622	Q8IUH4	ZDHHC13 deficient mice develop alopecia, amyloidosis and osteoporosis <sup>441</sup> , and have reduced bone mineral density. <sup>442</sup> Huntington's disease	MT1-MMP, <sup>442bc</sup> huntingtin, <sup>443b</sup> CNFN <sup>444a</sup>	Contains 6 Ankyrin repeats. Interacts with huntingtin. Regulates late specification of ectoderm and mesoderm cell lineages by modulating Smad6 activity. <sup>445</sup>
DHHC24 [zDHHC22]	Golgi, ER	263	Q8N966		KCNMA1, <sup>413a</sup> gp78 <sup>383b</sup>	Gene expression microarray analysis shows zDHHC22

DHHC enzyme [Gene symbol]	Cellular localization	Size (# of a.a.)	Uniprot	Disease association	Known substrates	Tissue specificity, function, and other notes:
						upregulated in cattle with MIMT1 deletion. <sup>446</sup>

<sup>a</sup> - knockdown evidence

<sup>b</sup> - overexpression evidence

<sup>c</sup> = murine orthologue

<sup>d</sup> = protein/substrate interaction

<sup>e</sup> - localization may depend on cell type

Table 3

Type I and III single-pass transmembrane proteins that undergo S-palmitoylation<sup>a</sup>

Protein	Uniprot#	Palmitoylation sites	Modification site location	Sequence near the Cys	Function of palmitoylation	DHHC enzyme	Ref.
AATYK1	Q6ZMQ8-1	C52, C54, C57	Cytoplasmic domain	MLA <b>CL</b> CCCKK GGIGFKEFEN	Required for endosomal localization		525
BACE1	P56817	C474, C478, C482, C485	C474, C478: inside TM domain; C482, C485: cytoplasmic domain	LPLCLMV <b>C</b> QW C <b>CL</b> R <b>CL</b> RQQH	Required for lipid rafts localization		526
CD4	P01730	C419, 422	Cytoplasmic end of TM domain	FI <b>GL</b> GI <b>FCV</b> R <b>CR</b> HRRRQAE	Required for lipid rafts localization		527
CHL1	P70232	C1102	Inside TM domain	<b>IC</b> FVKRNRGG KYSVKEKEDL	Required for lipid rafts localization		528
CPD	O75976	C1317, C1321, C1323	Inside TM domain	AL <b>IL</b> TA <b>CI</b> W <b>C</b> IC <b>SI</b> KSNRH	Required for Golgi exit		529
c-Met	P08581	C882, C894	Internal extracellular domain	GNK <b>SC</b> ENIHLHSEA V <b>LC</b> TVP	Regulates trafficking and stability		530
DSG2	Q14126	C635, C637	Cytoplasmic end of TM domain	VPL <b>LL</b> M <b>CH</b> CGKG AKGF	Required for regulating desmosome dynamics		531
DR4	O00220	C261, C262, C263	Extracellular end of TM domain	AV <b>LIV</b> CC <b>CI</b> GSG CGGDPK <b>CM</b>	Required for cell death signaling	DHHC3	532

Protein	Uniprot#	Palmitoylation sites	Modification site location	Sequence near the Cys	Function of palmitoylation	DHHC enzyme	Ref
EGFR	P00533	C1025, C1122	Cytoplasmic C terminus	NSTVACIDR <b>NGL</b> ; NTVQPTCVNSTFD	Required for EGFR signaling	DHHC20	436
FAS	P25445	C199	Cytoplasmic domain	KRKEVQ <b>KTCR</b> KHRKENQGS <b>H</b>	Required for cell death signaling		533
FcγRIIa	P12318	C208	Cytoplasmic end of TM domain	IVAAVV <b>ALII</b> CRKKRIS <b>ANS</b>	Required for lipid rafts localization		534
IFNARI	P17181	C463	Cytoplasmic domain	IYAAK <b>VFLRCI</b> NYVFP <b>PSLKPS</b>	Required for Stat1 and Stat2 activation		535
LAT	O43561	C26, C29	Cytoplasmic end of TM domain	MLMAL <b>CVHC</b> HRLPG <b>SYD</b>	Required for lipid rafts localization		536
LRP6	O75581	C1394, C1399	Cytoplasmic end of TM domain	YF <b>ICQRMLC</b> PRMK <b>G</b> DG	Required for ER exit		537
MICA	Q29983	C306, C307	Extracellular end of TM domain	YV <b>RCCKKKTS</b> AA <b>E</b> G	Required for plasma membrane localization		538
MT1-MMP	P50281	C574	Cytoplasmic domain	FFRRH <b>GTPRR</b> LLY <b>CQRSLLD</b>	Required for promoting cell migration	DHHC22	539
MUC1	P15941	C1184, C1186	Cytoplasmic end of TM domain	VALAIV <b>YLIA</b> LAV <b>CQRRKN</b>	Required for recycling from endosomes to plasma membrane		540

Protein	Uniprot#	Palmitoylation sites	Modification site location	Sequence near the Cys	Function of palmitoylation	DHHC enzyme	Ref.
N-CAM	P13591	C723, C729, C734, C740	Cytoplasmic domain	ITCYFLNK <b>CC</b> GLF <b>MC</b> IAVNL <b>CC</b> GKAGPG	Required for plasma membrane localization		541
Neurofascin	O94856	C1236	Cytoplasmic end of TM domain	ALLVL ILLIV <b>CF</b> IKR SRGGKYPVRE	Required for targeting a specialized membrane microdomain		542
Nicastrin	Q92542	C689	Cytoplasmic domain	SLIVTY <b>CIN</b> AKAD VLFIA	Required for lipid rafts localization, important for protein stability		543
P0 glycoprotein	P06907	C181	Cytoplasmic domain	LLLLL <b>F</b> YLIR Y <b>C</b> WLRRAAL	Unknown		544
p75(NTR)	P08138	C278	Cytoplasmic domain	AFKRWNS <b>CK</b> QN KQGANSRPV	Required for cleavage by gamma-secretase		545
PECAM-1	P16284	C622	Cytoplasmic domain	VIIALL <b>I</b> IA K <b>CC</b> YFLRKAKA	Required for efficient PECAM-1-mediated cytoprotection	DHHC21	546
PLM	O00168	C60, C62	Cytoplasmic domain	VLSRR <b>CC</b> R <b>CK</b> FN <b>QQ</b> QRT	Required for inhibitory effect of PLM on the sodium pump		547
PRCD	Q00LT1	C2	Cytoplasmic domain	M <b>CT</b> TL <b>FL</b> L <b>ST</b>	Enhance protein stability	DHHC3	548
Syt VII	O43581	C35, C38, C41	C35, C38: Inside TM domain; C41: Cytoplasmic domain	LSVTVV <b>L</b> <b>CC</b> GL <b>CH</b> W <b>CC</b> QRK <b>LL</b> GKRY <b>KN</b>	Required for lysosome localization		549
TF	P13726	C277	Cytoplasmic end of TM domain	AISL <b>HK</b> <b>CR</b> KA GVGQ <b>SW</b> K <b>ENS</b>	Negative regulatory mechanism of Ser258 phosphorylation		550



Protein	Uniprot#	Palmitoylation sites	Modification site location	Sequence near the Cys	Function of palmitoylation	DHHC enzyme	Ref.
TGF- $\alpha$	P01135	C153, C154	Cytoplasmic domain	EKPSALLKGR TACCHSETVV	Required for TGF- $\alpha$ complex formation		551
TMX	Q9H3N1	C205, C207	Cytoplasmic domain	CMIFVADCLCPK RRRPQYPYP SKK	Required for targeting mitochondria-associated membrane		552

<sup>a</sup>Both type I and type III membrane proteins contain one transmembrane domain with a cytoplasmic C-terminus. Type I membrane proteins have a signal peptide that is cleaved in the mature form, whereas type III proteins do not.

Table 4

Type II and IV single-pass transmembrane proteins that undergo S-palmitoylation<sup>a</sup>

Protein	Uniprot#	Palmitoylation sites	Modification site location	Sequence near the Cys	Function of palmitoylation	DHHC enzyme	Ref.
Calnexin	P27824	C503, C504	Cytoplasmic end of TM domain	LVILF <b>C</b> SGKKQTS GMEYKK	Required for targeting mitochondria-associated membrane	DHHC6	553
CKAP4	Q07065	C100	Cytoplasmic domain	SSSSASAAAAAAA ASSAS <b>C</b> RRRLGR	Required for antiproliferative factor-mediated signaling	DHHC2	481
ECE-1a	Q28010	C46	Cytoplasmic domain	RNGQR <b>C</b> WAAR TPVEKRLVVL	Unknown		554
FasL	P48023	C82	Cytoplasmic end of TM domain	LKKRGNHSTGL <b>C</b> LL	Required for cell death-inducing activity		555
IFITM3	Q01628	C71, C72, C105	Cytoplasmic domain	MNP <b>C</b> CLGFIAFAY; TAKCLNIWA LIL	Required for resistance to influenza virus		556
PLSCR1	O15162	C184–186, C188, C189	Cytoplasmic domain	CSS <b>C</b> CC <b>C</b> CL QEIEIQAPPG	Required for nucleus to plasma membrane trafficking		557
proSP-C	P11686	C5, C6	Cytoplasmic domain	FGIP <b>C</b> CPVHLKR	Required for ER exit		558
Syntaxin 7	O15400	C239	Cytoplasmic end of TM domain	QRKSRK <b>T</b> L <b>C</b> I	Required for cycles between endosomes and plasma membrane		559
Syntaxin 8	Q9UNK0	C214	Cytoplasmic end of TM domain	MVDRKSAS <b>C</b> G	Unknown		559
TNF- $\alpha$	P01375	C30	Cytoplasmic domain	TGGPGQSR <b>R</b> C LFLSL	Required for lipid rafts localization		560

<sup>a</sup>Both type II and type IV membrane proteins contain one transmembrane domain with a cytoplasmic N-terminus. In type II membrane proteins, the transmembrane domain is close to the N-terminus, whereas in Type IV proteins, this domain is close to the C-terminus.

Table 5

Multipass transmembrane proteins that undergo S-palmitoylation

Protein	Uniprot#	Palmitoylation sites	Modification site location	Sequence near the Cys	Function of palmitoylation	DHHC enzyme	Ref.
$\alpha$ 4 nAChR	P43681	C273	Intracellular loop between TM1 and TM2	TVLVFYLPE CGEKITLCIS	Regulate cell surface protein expression		561
$\beta$ (1)AR	P08588	C392, C393, C414	Cytoplasmic C terminus	LCCARRAARR RHATHGDRPR ASGC	Required for efficient internalization		562
$\beta$ (2)AR	P07550	C341	Cytoplasmic C terminus	DFRIAFQELL CLRRSSLKAY	Required for binding to arrestin/PDE4D		563
5-HT <sub>4a</sub> receptor	P97288-2	C328, C329, C386	Cytoplasmic C terminus	RAFLILCCDDERYKRP P-EKLLPHNDPESLES <sup>CF</sup>	Regulate protein phosphorylation		564
5-HT(7) receptor	P34969	C404, C438, C441	Cytoplasmic C terminus	TTYRSLQCQYRNINR K:SEFVLQNC <sup>DH</sup> CGKK GHDT	Required for Gs-mediated activity of 5-HT(7)		565
ABCA1	O95477	C3, C23, C1110, C1111	C3: N-terminal cytoplasmic domain; C23, C1110, C1111: internal domain	MACWPQLRLL LWKNLTFRRR QTCQLLLEVA; IISHGKLC <sup>CCV</sup>	Required for plasma membrane localization	DHHC8	411

Protein	Uniprot#	Palmitoylation sites	Modification site location	Sequence near the Cys	Function of palmitoylation	DHHC enzyme	Ref.
ABCG1	P45844	C26, C150, C311, C390, C402	Cytoplasmic N terminus	TEPKSVCSVDEVV;D LRCFRKVCYIMQ; LRD LGLNCPYHN; MEGCHSFSAS CLTQFCILFK	Required for ABCG1-mediated cholesterol efflux		566
APH-1	Q96B13	C182, C245	C182: internal domain; C245: C-terminal cytoplasmic domain	DACERRR; RSIQRSLLCRRQEDSR VMVYS	Required for lipid rafts localization		543
Barttin	Q8WZ55	C54, C56	Cytoplasmic domain	GIWSMCCYPKI TF	Regulate channel activity		567
Bradykinin B2 receptor	P30411	C351, C356	Cytoplasmic C terminus	KKSWEVYQGV CQKGGCRSEP	Required for the stabilization of the receptor-ligand complex		568
BK channels	Q12791	C53, C54, C56	Intracellular loop between TM1 and TM2	RTLKYLWTVCCHCGG KTKEAQKI	Regulate cell surface protein expression	DHHC1 DHHC24	569
Bovine rhodopsin	P02699	C322, C323	Cytoplasmic C terminus	LCCGKNPLGD DEASTTVSKT	Required for phosphorylation by rhodopsin kinase		570
CB(1) receptor	P21554	C415	Cytoplasmic C terminus	AFRSMFPSCGTAQ	Required for plasma membrane localization		571
CCR5	P51681	C321, C323, C324	Cytoplasmic C terminus	FFQKHIAKRF CKCCSIFQQE APERASSVYT	Control CCR5 expression		572
CD36	P16671	C3, C7, C464, C466	C3, C7: Cytoplasmic N terminus; C464, C466: Cytoplasmic C terminus	MGCDRNCGLIA; SYCACRSKTIK	Required for ER to plasma membrane trafficking		573

Protein	Uniprot#	Palmitoylation sites	Modification site location	Sequence near the Cys	Function of palmitoylation	DHHC enzyme	Ref.
CD39	P49961	C13	Cytoplasmic N terminus	MEDTKESNVK TFC <del>S</del> KNILAI	Required for targeting CD39 to caveolae		574
CD81	P60033	C6, 9, 80, 89, 97, 104, 277, 228	C6, C9: Cytoplasmic N terminus; C80: inside TM2; C89: Intracellular loop between TM2 and TM3; C97, C104: inside TM3; C227, C228: Cytoplasmic C terminus	MVGE <del>C</del> TKCI KYLL; CYGAIQESQCLLGTF TCLVLVFA <del>C</del> EVAAG; ILSMVL <del>C</del> CGI	Required for association with tetraspanin-enriched microdomains		575
CD82	P27701	C5, C74, C83, C251, C253	C5: Cytoplasmic N terminus; C74, C83: Intracellular loop between TM2 and TM3; C251, C253: Cytoplasmic C terminus	MGSACIKVTK; FLGCIGAVNEVR <del>C</del> LLG LYFA; CLCRHVHSE <del>D</del> YSKVP KY	Required for motility- and invasiveness-inhibitory activity		576
CD151	P48509	C11, C15, C242, C243	C11, C15: Cytoplasmic N terminus; C242, C243: Cytoplasmic C terminus	MGEFNEKKT CGTV <del>C</del> LKYLL; T <del>C</del> CLYRSLKL	Required for tetraspanin-protein interactions	DHHC2	577
Claudin-14	O95500	C104, C107	Cytoplasmic C terminus	SGIAC <del>C</del> AVI GMKCTRCAKG	Required for efficient tight-junction localization		578
DATs	P23977	C580	Cytoplasmic C terminus	AYK <del>F</del> CSLPGSFREKLA	Control DATs degradation		579
Dopamine D1 receptor	P21728	C347, C351	Cytoplasmic C terminus	RKA FSTLLG <del>C</del> YRL CPATNNAI <del>E</del> T	Required for dopamine D1 receptor internalization		580
Dopamine D4 receptor	P21917	C467	Cytoplasmic C terminus	VFRKALR <del>A</del> CC	Enhance surface expression and endocytosis		581
Dopamine transporter	Q01959	C580	Cytoplasmic C terminus	AA <del>A</del> YK <del>F</del> CSLPGSFR	Regulate transport capacity		582

Protein	Uniprot#	Palmitoylation sites	Modification site location	Sequence near the Cys	Function of palmitoylation	DHHC enzyme	Ref.
ENaC	Q9WU38	C43, C557	C43: Cytoplasmic N terminus; C557: Cytoplasmic C terminus	HGPKRII <b>C</b> EGPKKKAM WFL;IKLVAS <b>C</b> KGL	Required for plasma membrane localization		583
ETA	P25101	C383, C385, C386, C387, C388	Cytoplasmic C terminus	Q <b>S</b> CL <b>C</b> CC <b>C</b> CYQ SKSLMT <b>S</b> VPM	Required for ETA receptor activity		584
ETB	P21451	C402, C403, C405	Cytoplasmic C terminus	L <b>C</b> CC <b>W</b> C <b>C</b> QT <b>F</b> EE K <b>Q</b> SLEEK <b>Q</b> SC	Required for coupling with Gi		585
GLT-1	P43006	C38	Cytoplasmic N terminus	PKHRHLGLRL <b>C</b> DKLG KNLL <b>L</b> TL	Required for glutamate uptake		586
GluK2a	P42260	C858, C871	Cytoplasmic C terminus	QLEKRS <b>F</b> CSAM <b>V</b> EELR MSL <b>K</b> CC <b>Q</b> RR <b>L</b> KHKP	Required for interaction with 4.1N		587
GluR1	P42261	C603, C829	C603: intramembrane domain; C829: Cytoplasmic C terminus	LGAFMQ <b>Q</b> GC <b>D</b> ISP; ALIE <b>F</b> CYK <b>S</b> R <b>S</b> ESKR	Required for intracellular trafficking	DHHC3 DHHC17	588
GluR2	P42262	C610, C836	C610: intramembrane domain; C836: Cytoplasmic C terminus	GAFMQ <b>Q</b> GC <b>D</b> ISP; MLV <b>A</b> LIE <b>F</b> CY <b>K</b> S <b>R</b> A <b>E</b>	Required for intracellular trafficking	DHHC3 DHHC17	588
GluR6	Q13002	C858, C871	Cytoplasmic C terminus	QLEKRS <b>F</b> CSAM <b>V</b> EELR MSL <b>K</b> CC <b>Q</b> RR <b>L</b> KHKP	Regulate phosphorylation state		589
Gp78	Q9UKV5	RING finger (6 cysteines)	Intracellular loop between TM6 and TM7	<b>C</b> A <b>I</b> C <b>W</b> D <b>S</b> M <b>Q</b> A <b>A</b> R <b>K</b> L <b>P</b> <b>C</b> G <b>H</b> L <b>F</b> H <b>N</b> S <b>C</b> L <b>R</b> S <b>W</b> L <b>E</b> Q <b>D</b> T <b>S</b> C <b>P</b> T <b>C</b> R <b>M</b>	Required for ER exit	DHHC2/6/11/13/24	383



Protein	Uniprot#	Palmitoylation sites	Modification site location	Sequence near the Cys	Function of palmitoylation	DHHC enzyme	Ref
H2R	P17124	C305	Cytoplasmic C terminus	QLFR <b>C</b> RPASH NAQETSLRSN	Required for plasma membrane localization		590
hIP	P43119	C308, C311, C383	Cytoplasmic C terminus	QRLKLWV <b>C</b> CLCLGP; TSSKAEASV <b>C</b> SLC	Required for the interaction with Rab11		591
hPAR(2)	P55085	C361	Cytoplasmic C terminus	HAKNALL <b>C</b> RSVRTVK QM <b>Q</b> VSLTSKKHS	Required for ERK1/2 activation and calcium signaling		592
IFTM1	Q9D103	C49, C50, C83, C103	C49, C50 is on extracellular domain, C83 is inside TM2 and C103 is cytoplasmic between TM1 and TM2	FNTLFM <b>N</b> F <b>C</b> C LGFVAYAYS <b>V</b> K; QAFAS <b>T</b> A <b>K</b> CL <b>N</b> ISSLF <b>F</b> IL <b>T</b> AI <b>V</b> V <b>I</b> V <b>V</b> CA <b>I</b> R	Regulate IFTM1 stability	DHHC5	593
ITPR1	Q14643	C56, C849, C2214	Cytoplasmic domain	FR <b>D</b> CL <b>F</b> KL; LR <b>D</b> V <b>V</b> Q <b>R</b> FP <b>F</b> ; P <b>V</b> PS <b>I</b> CE <b>F</b> LT <b>K</b> E	Regulate calcium flux	DHHC6	404
LH/hCGR	P22888	C643, C644	Cytoplasmic C terminus	FG <b>C</b> CK <b>R</b> RA <b>E</b> L Y <b>R</b> KK <b>D</b> FS <b>A</b> Y <b>T</b>	Required for arrestin-mediated internalization		594
LMP1	P03230	C78	Inside TM domain	IF <b>R</b> RD <b>L</b> L <b>C</b> PL G <b>A</b> L <b>C</b> IL <b>L</b> L <b>M</b> I	Required for lipid rafts localization		595
M2 receptor	P08172	C457	Cytoplasmic C terminus	FK <b>H</b> LL <b>M</b> CH <b>Y</b> K N <b>I</b> G <b>A</b> T <b>R</b>	Enhances the ability to interact with G protein		596
NCX1	P32418	C739	Internal domain	E <b>E</b> KL <b>P</b> S <b>C</b> FD <b>Y</b> VM <b>H</b> FL	Regulate calcium homeostasis		499

Protein	Uniprot#	Palmitoylation sites	Modification site location	Sequence near the Cys	Function of palmitoylation	DHHC enzyme	Ref.
NMDARs	Q12879	C848, C853, C870, C1214, C1217, C1236, C1239	Cytoplasmic C terminus	FYWKLRF <b>C</b> FTGV <b>C</b> SD RPGLLFSISRGH <b>Y</b> S <b>C</b> IHGV <b>;</b> STH <b>C</b> RS <b>C</b> L <b>S</b> N <b>M</b> P T <b>Y</b> SGHFT <b>M</b> RS <b>P</b> FK <b>C</b> DA <b>C</b> LR <b>M</b> GN <b>L</b>	Required for cell surface protein expression		597
NTSR-1	P30989	C381, C383	Cytoplasmic C terminus	<b>C</b> LC <b>P</b> V <b>V</b> RRRR KR <b>P</b> A <b>F</b> S	Required for receptor-mediated mitogenic-signaling		598
Kv1.1 ion channel	Q09470	C243	Internal domain	F <b>A</b> C <b>P</b> SK <b>T</b> D <b>F</b> FK <b>N</b> I <b>M</b> N	Modulate voltage sensing		599
P2X7R	Q99572	C371, 373, 374, 477, 479, 482, 498, 499, 506, 572, 573	Cytoplasmic C terminus	HI <b>Y</b> P <b>W</b> G <b>K</b> <b>C</b> C <b>Q</b> P <b>C</b> V <b>V</b> N <b>;</b> R <b>D</b> S <b>P</b> V <b>W</b> <b>C</b> Q <b>C</b> G <b>S</b> C <b>L</b> P <b>S</b> Q LP; <b>E</b> EL <b>C</b> CR <b>K</b> K <b>P</b> G <b>A</b> C <b>I</b> T T <b>S</b> EL <b>F</b> R <b>K</b> L; <b>D</b> F <b>A</b> IL <b>P</b> S <b>C</b> C R <b>W</b> R <b>I</b> R <b>K</b> E <b>F</b>	Required for lipid rafts localization		600
PAR2	P55085	C361	Cytoplasmic C terminus	FR <b>D</b> H <b>A</b> K <b>N</b> ALL <b>C</b> R <b>S</b> V <b>R</b> TV <b>K</b> Q <b>M</b>	Required for plasma membrane localization		601
PMP22	Q01453	C85	Inside TM2 domain	FL <b>F</b> FC <b>Q</b> L <b>F</b> T <b>L</b> T <b>K</b> G	Regulate epithelial cell morphology and migration		602
Potassium channel Kv1.5	P22460	C593	Cytoplasmic C terminus	RR <b>S</b> LY <b>A</b> L <b>C</b> L <b>D</b> T <b>S</b> R <b>E</b> T	Required for plasma membrane localization		603
Prostacyclin receptor	P43119	C308, C311	Cytoplasmic C terminus	Q <b>R</b> L <b>K</b> L <b>W</b> V <b>C</b> CL <b>C</b> L <b>G</b> P <b>A</b> H <b>G</b> D <b>S</b> Q	Required for coupling to G(s)		604
Rhodopsin	P08100	C322, C323	Cytoplasmic C terminus	K <b>Q</b> F <b>R</b> N <b>C</b> M <b>L</b> T <b>T</b> I <b>C</b> C <b>G</b> K <b>N</b> P <b>L</b> G <b>D</b> E <b>A</b>	Regulate Rhodopsin stability		605

Protein	Uniprot#	Palmitoylation sites	Modification site location	Sequence near the Cys	Function of palmitoylation	DHHC enzyme	Ref.
SIP	P21453	C328	Cytoplasmic C terminus	AFIRIMCCKCPSGDSA GKFK	Required for SIP internalization		606
SCN5A	Q14524	C981	Internal cytoplasmic domain	KRTTWFCCGLLRQR PQ	Increase channel availability and late sodium current activity		607
SMS2	Q8NHU3	C331, C332, C343, C348	Cytoplasmic C terminus	KNVQGSIPCCFWSWPLS WPPGCFKSSCK	Required for plasma membrane localization		608
STING	Q86WV6	C88, C91	Inside TM domain	RTVRACLGCLRRGA	Required for activation of STING		609
STREX	Q08460-4	C645, C646	Cytoplasmic C terminus	SIYKRMRRAC CFDCGRSERD	Required for plasma membrane localization	DHHC3/17/9/7/5	610
SynDIG1	Q9HTV2	C191, C192	Inside TM domain	VFSMLCCFWPLG	Regulate dendritic targeting in neurons		611
TPβ (isoform2)	P21731	C347	Cytoplasmic C terminus	GTISAHCNLR LPGSSDSRAS	Required for internalization		612
TRH-R1	P21761	C335, C337	Cytoplasmic C terminus	FRKLCNCKQK PTEKAANYSV	Constrain TRH-R1 in an inactive conformation		613
TRPP3	Q9P0L9	C38	Cytoplasmic N terminus	PHGTLRVCTI SSTGPLQPQP	Required for the cationic channel function		
V1aR	P37288	C365, C366	Cytoplasmic C terminus	QSFPCQNMK EKFNKEDTDS	Regulated both phosphorylation and sequestration of the receptor		614
V2 vasopressin receptor	P30518	C341, C342	Cytoplasmic C terminus	SVSSELRSL CCARGRTPPS	Enhances beta-arrestin recruitment		615

Protein	Uniprot#	Palmitoylation sites	Modification site location	Sequence near the Cys	Function of palmitoylation	DHHC enzyme	Ref.
Y(1) receptor	P21555	C337	Cytoplasmic C terminus	FLNKNFQRDL QFFNFCDFR	Required for coupling to G proteins		616

Table 6

S-Palmitoylated proteins that undergo N-terminal glycine myristoylation

Protein	Uniprot#	Palmitoylation sites	Modification site location	Sequence near the Cys	Function of palmitoylation	DHHC enzyme	Ref.
eNOS	P29474	C15, C26	N terminus	PGPPCGLGLG LGLGLCGKQG	Enhance punctate Golgi membrane localization		240
Fyn	P06241	C3, C6	N terminus	MGCVCCKDKEATKLT EE	Required for plasma membrane localization	DHHC21	617
Globin X	Q5QSA9	C3	N terminus	MGCALSGSL	Required for plasma membrane localization		618
Lck	P06239	C3, C5	N terminus	MGCSSSHPE DDWMENIDVC	Required for plasma membrane localization	DHHC2	619
Lyn	P25911	C3	N terminus	MGCIKSKGKDSLSD	Required for plasma membrane localization		617
Yes	P07947	C3	N terminus	MGCIKSKENKSPAICY	Required for plasma membrane localization		617
PSKHI		C3	N terminus	MCCGTSKVLPEPPKDVQLDL	Required for Golgi membrane targeting		281
Gα <sub>i1, i2, i3</sub>	P63096 P04899 P08754	C3	N terminus	MGC <del>TLS</del> SAEDK MGCTVSAEDK MGCTLSAEDK	Required for signal transduction		620
Gα <sub>(o)</sub>	P09471	C3	N terminus	MGC <del>TLS</del> AEERAAALERS	Depress susceptibility to GAP-43 activation	DHHC3 DHHC7	621

Table 7

S-Palmitoylated proteins that undergo C-terminal prenylation

Protein	Uniprot#	Palmitoylation sites	Modification site location	Sequence near the Cys	Function of palmitoylation	DHHC enzyme	Ref.
bCde42	P60953	C189	C terminus	ETQPKRKCCIF	Required for plasma membrane localization		113
cPLA(2) $\gamma$	Q9UP65	C539	C terminus	PKDSARSCCCLA	Required for plasma membrane localization		622
H-Ras	P01112	C161, C164	C terminus	LNPPDESGPG CMSCKCVLS	Required for plasma membrane localization	DHHC18	142
K-Ras4A	P01116	C160	C terminus	ISKEEKTGCG VKIKKCIIM	Required for plasma membrane localization		142
N-Ras	P01111	C161	C terminus	LNSSDDGTQG CMGLPCVVM	Required for plasma membrane localization	ZDHHC9-GOLGA7 complex	142
R-Ras	P10301	C213	C terminus	PRKKGGGCPVLL	Required for plasma membrane localization	DHHC19	449
Rac1	P63000	C178	C terminus	RAVLCPPPVKK RKRKCLLL	Required for plasma membrane localization		623
Rap2A/B/C	P10114, P61225, Q9Y3L5	C176, C177	C terminus	DKDDPCCSACNIQ	Required for endosome localization		624
RhoB	P62745	C192	C terminus	SQNGINCCKVL	Required for apoptotic activity		625
Wrch-1	Q7L0Q8	C256	C terminus	WKKYCCFV	Required for plasma membrane localization		626

**Table 8** S-palmitoylated proteins without other membrane-targeting signals (transmembrane domains, N-terminal glycine myristoylation, or C-terminal cysteine prenylation)

Protein	Uniprot#	Palmitoylation sites	Modification site location	Sequence near the Cys	Function of palmitoylation	DHHC enzyme	Ref
APT1, APT2	O75608, O95372	C2	N terminus	MCGNNMSTPL	Required for plasma membrane localization		504
ERBIN	Q96RT1	C14, C16	N terminus	TKRSLFVRLVPCRCCLR GE	Required for plasma membrane localization		627
Flotillin-1	O75955	C34	N terminus	RVFVLPCCIQQIQR	Regulates IGF-1 signaling		628
G14a	O95837	C5, C6	N terminus	MAGCCCLSAE	Required for plasma membrane localization		629
G16a	Q9N2V6	C9, C10	N terminus	MARSLTWRCCPWC	Required for plasma membrane localization		629
GAP43	P17677	C3, C4	N terminus	MLCCMRRTKQVEK	Required for plasma membrane localization	DHHC2	630
Gqα	P50148	C9, C10	N terminus	MTLESIMACCLSEE	Required for plasma membrane localization		631
Gα.11	P29992	C9, C10	N terminus	MTLESIMMACCLS	Required for plasma membrane localization		
Gα.13	Q14344	C14, C18	N terminus	MADFLPSRSV LSVCFPGCLL	Required for plasma membrane localization		632
GRIP1b	Q925T6-2	C11	N terminus	MPGWKKNIPICLQAE	Required for targeting dendritic endosomes	DHHC5 DHHC8	400
LIMK1	P53667	C7, C8	N terminus	MRLTLCCTWREER	Regulates actin dynamics		633
L-type calcium channel	Q08289	C3, C4	N terminus	MQCCGLVHRR RVR	Required for targeting dendritic endosomes		634
Melano-regulin		Not mapped	N terminus	LRTVCCCCGCECLE ERALPEKE	Required for targeting melanosome membrane		635
NOS2	P35228	C3	N terminus	MACPWKFLFK	Required for NOS2 activity		636



Protein	Uniprot#	Palmitoylation sites	Modification site location	Sequence near the Cys	Function of palmitoylation	DHHC enzyme	Ref.
p63RhoGEF	Q86VW2	C23, C25, C26	N terminus	PRVIRKVLAK <b>CGCC</b> FA	Required for plasma membrane localization		637
PDE10A	Q9Y233	C11	N terminus	MEDG <b>PSN</b> ASC <b>FRRL</b>	Required for transport throughout dendritic processes	DHHC7 DHHC19	638
PSD-95	P78352	C3, C5	N terminus	MD <b>CLC</b> IVTTK KYRY	Modulate synaptic plasticity	DHHC2/3/7/15/17	639
RGS16	O15492	C2, C12	N terminus	M <b>CR</b> T <b>L</b> A <b>AF</b> PT <b>TCL</b> ERA K	Required for lipid rafts localization		640
AR8	G4VV16	C558, C560	C terminus	I <b>IR</b> S <b>IN</b> S <b>IC</b> SP <b>RE</b> T E <b>VP</b> VR <b>Q</b> Q <b>K</b>	Required for plasma membrane localization	DHHC7 DHHC21	641
GRK6	P43250	C561, C562, C565	C terminus	Q <b>DC</b> CG <b>N</b> CD <b>SEE</b> EL <b>P</b> TR <b>L</b>	Increase kinase activity		642
JNK3	P53779	C462, C463	C terminus	SS <b>L</b> E <b>A</b> S <b>A</b> GPL <b>G</b> CC <b>R</b>	Required for Golgi complex localization	DHHC15 DHHC17	432
R7BP	Q6MZT1	C252, C253	C terminus	RR <b>FF</b> G <b>L</b> CC <b>L</b> V <b>SS</b>	Required for nucleus to plasma membrane trafficking	DHHC2	643
AKAP79/150	P24588, D3YVF0	C36, C129	Internal domain	K <b>AS</b> M <b>L</b> C <b>F</b> K <b>R</b> K <b>K</b> ; A <b>K</b> S <b>R</b> L <b>K</b> I <b>P</b> C <b>I</b> <b>K</b> F <b>P</b> R	Required for dendritic endosomal targeting		644
AnkG	Q12955	C70	Internal domain	I <b>K</b> N <b>G</b> V <b>D</b> I <b>N</b> I <b>C</b> N <b>Q</b> N <b>G</b> L <b>N</b> A <b>L</b> H <b>L</b>	Required for plasma membrane localization		645
Bet3	O43617	C68	Internal domain	A <b>R</b> S <b>N</b> V <b>G</b> R <b>C</b> H <b>D</b> F <b>R</b> E <b>T</b> A <b>D</b> V <b>I</b> A <b>K</b>	Required for vesicular trafficking		646
Caveolin-1	Q03135	C133, C143, C156	Internal domain	V <b>P</b> C <b>I</b> K <b>S</b> F <b>L</b> E <b>I</b> Q <b>C</b> I <b>S</b> R <b>V</b> Y <b>S</b> I <b>Y</b> V <b>H</b> T <b>V</b> C <b>D</b> P	Unknown		647

Protein	Uniprot#	Palmitoylation sites	Modification site location	Sequence near the Cys	Function of palmitoylation	DHHC enzyme	Ref.
CSP	Q03751	CRD domain (14 cysteines)	Internal domain	AKALFVFCGLLTCCYC CCCLCCCCFNCCCGKCK PKAPE	Required for plasma membrane localization	DHHC3/7/15/17	388
DJ-1	Q99497	C46, C53, C106	Internal domain	KDPVQCSRDDVVICPDPA SLEDAKK; RKGLIAAICAGPT	Required for lipid rafts localization		648
ER $\alpha$	P03372	C447	Internal domain	QGEFEVCLKS	Regulates 17 $\beta$ -estradiol-induced ER $\alpha$ degradation and transcriptional activity	ZDHHHC7 ZDHHHC21	649
Flotillin-1	O75955	C34	Internal domain	PVMVAGGRVF VLPCIQIQR	Required for plasma membrane localization		650
GAD65	Q05329	C30, C45	Internal domain	GTARAWCQVAQKF TGGI GNKLCALLYG	Required for vesicle-associated trafficking	DHHC17	651
HMGCS2	P54868	C166, C305	Internal domain	GIDTTNACYGGTASLF; HTPFCMVKQKSLARL	Enhance interaction with PPARalpha		652
Huntingtin	P42858	C212	Internal domain	KCRPYLVNLL PCLTRTSKRP	Required for Huntingtin activity	DHHC17 DHHC22	430
KChIP2	Q9NS61	C45, C46	Internal domain	KLLPCCGPQA LPSVSETLAA	Required for cell surface protein expression		653
MAP3K12	Q12852	C127	Internal domain	FLEGLFGCLRPVWT	Regulates vesicle targeting		654
Ndel1	Q9GZM8	C273	Internal domain	GALESKLAACRNFAK DQ	Required for cytoplasmic dynein activity		655

Protein	Uniprot#	Palmitoylation sites	Modification site location	Sequence near the Cys	Function of palmitoylation	DHHC enzyme	Ref.
nSMase2	Q9NY59	C53, C54, C59, C397, C398	Internal domain	DPCCLLQLLCTVYGCQG CCSF KCLN	Required for plasma membrane localization		656
SCRIB	Q14160	C4, C10	Internal domain	MLKCIPLWRCNRHVES	Required for tumor-suppressive activities	DHHC7	409
SNAP25	P60880	C85, C88, C90, C92	Internal domain	DLGKFCGLCVC PCNKLKSSDA	Required for plasma membrane and endosomes localization	DHHC2 DHHC3	657
Stomatin	P27105	C30, C87	Internal domain	PSKGLGPCGWILVAF SFKGPGLFFILPCTDS	Required for plasma membrane localization		658
TEAD1	P28347	C359	Internal domain	NRSPMCEYMINF	Regulates transcriptional output		659
Tubulin	P68370	C20, C213, C305, C376	Internal domain	GVQIGNACWEL YCL; NEAIYDICRRNLDIER; QMVKCDPRHGKYM; AKVQRAVCM LSNNTT	Required for targeting microtubules and intracellular membranes		660
PHB	P35232	C69	Internal domain	QKPIIFDCRSRPR	Required for membrane translocation and interaction with EHD2		661
PLD	Q13393	C240, C241	Internal domain	GGHRIPGLNC CGQGRACYRW	Required for targeting caveolin-enriched membrane		662
P14KII $\alpha$	Q9BTU6	C174, C175, C177, C178	Internal domain	QKLCPCPCFG RDCLVL	Required for catalytic activity	DHHC3 DHHC7	663
RGS2	P41220	C106, C116, C199	Internal domain	LKSEFCEENIEFWLA CEDFKESEFYQDLCK	Inhibit the GTPase-activating activity		664

Protein	Uniprot#	Palmitoylation sites	Modification site location	Sequence near the Cys	Function of palmitoylation	DHHC enzyme	Ref.
RGS7	P49802	C133	Internal domain	YLCKRTMQNK ARLELADYEA	Required for plasma membrane localization		665
RGS10 (isoform2)	O43665	C60	Internal domain	EENVLFWLAC EDFKKMQDKT	Required for RGS10 activity		666
RPE65	Q16518	C231, C329, C330	Internal domain	QFP <sup>C</sup> SDRFKPSYV NGFLIVDL <sup>CC</sup> WKG	Required for isomerohydrolase activity of RPE65		667

**Table 9**

Secreted extracellular proteins that undergo S-palmitoylation

Protein	Uniprot#	Palmitoylation sites	Modification site location	Sequence near the Cys	Function of palmitoylation	Ref
ApoB	P04114	C1112	Internal domain	ITEVALMGHL S <b>CD</b> TKEERKI	Required for proper assembly of the hydrophobic core of lipoprotein particle	668
Mucin 2	Q02817	C12, C163, C166	Internal domain	ARLAAV <b>CL</b> ALS <b>L</b> ; KFRNHT <b>CG</b> L <b>CG</b>	Required for protein secretion	669

Table 10

Summary of membrane-bound O-acyl-transferase family members

Protein	Gene	Alternative name	Subgroup	Functions	References
Acyl-CoA cholesterol acyltransferase 1	<i>ACAT1</i>		Neutral lipid biosynthesis	Cholesterol esterification	775
Acyl-CoA cholesterol acyltransferase 2	<i>ACAT2</i>		Neutral lipid biosynthesis	Cholesterol esterification	776
Diacylglycerol acyltransferase 1	<i>DGATI</i>		Neutral lipid biosynthesis	Triglyceride synthesis	778
Porcupine	<i>PORCN</i>		Protein fatty acylation	Fatty acylation of Wnt serine	721
Hedgehog acyltransferase	<i>HHAT</i>		Protein fatty acylation	Fatty acylation of Hedgehog N-terminal cysteine	746-748
Ghrelin octanoyltransferase	<i>GOAT</i>	MBOAT 4	Protein fatty acylation	Fatty acylation of Ghrelin serine	767,768
Hedgehog acyltransferase-like	<i>HHATL</i>	MBOAT 3	Protein fatty acylation	No enzymatic activity detected	779
Lysophosphatidylethanolamine acyltransferase 1	<i>LPEAT1</i>	MBOAT 1	Membrane phospholipid remodeling	Fatty acylation of lysophospholipids	780
Lysophosphatidylcholine acyltransferase 3	LPCAT3	<i>MBOAT 5</i>	Membrane phospholipid remodeling	Fatty acylation of lysophospholipids	780
Lysophosphatidylcholine acyltransferase 4	LPCAT4	<i>MBOAT 2</i>	Membrane phospholipid remodeling	Fatty acylation of lysophospholipids	780
Lysophosphatidylinositol acyltransferase 1	LPIAT1	<i>MBOAT 7</i>	Membrane phospholipid remodeling	Fatty acylation of lysophospholipids	780