

HIV-1 Vpr hijacks EDD-DYRK2-DDB1^{DCAF1} to disrupt centrosome homeostasis

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Delowar Hossain^{+§}, Jérémy A. Ferreira Barbosa⁺, Éric A. Cohen^{+§¶}, and [®] William Y. Tsang^{+§||1}

From the [‡]Institut de recherches cliniques de Montréal, Montreal, Quebec H2W 1R7, Canada, the [§]Division of Experimental Medicine, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec H4A 3J1, Canada, the [¶]Department of Microbiology, Infectiology, and Immunology, Université de Montréal, Montreal, Quebec H3C 3J7, Canada, and the [¶]Department of Pathology and Cell Biology, Université de Montréal, Montreal, Quebec H3C 3J7, Canada, and the [¶]Department of Pathology and Cell Biology, Université de Montréal, Montreal, Quebec H3C 3J7, Canada, and the [¶]Department of Pathology and Cell Biology, Université de Montréal, Montreal, Quebec H3C 3J7, Canada

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Viruses exploit the host cell machinery for their own profit. To evade innate immune sensing and promote viral replication, HIV type 1 (HIV-1) subverts DNA repair regulatory proteins and induces G₂/M arrest. The preintegration complex of HIV-1 is known to traffic along microtubules and accumulate near the microtubule-organizing center. The centrosome is the major microtubule-organizing center in most eukaryotic cells, but precisely how HIV-1 impinges on centrosome biology remains poorly understood. We report here that the HIV-1 accessory protein viral protein R (Vpr) localized to the centrosome through binding to DCAF1, forming a complex with the ubiquitin ligase EDD-DYRK2-DDB1^{DCAF1} and Cep78, a resident centrosomal protein previously shown to inhibit EDD-DYRK2-DDB1^{DCAF1}. Vpr did not affect ubiquitination of Cep78. Rather, it enhanced ubiquitination of an EDD-DYRK2-DDB1 $^{\rm DCAF1}$ substrate, CP110, leading to its degradation, an effect that could be overcome by Cep78 expression. The down-regulation of CP110 and elongation of centrioles provoked by Vpr were independent of G₂/M arrest. Infection of T lymphocytes with HIV-1, but not with HIV-1 lacking Vpr, promoted CP110 degradation and centriole elongation. Elongated centrioles recruited more y-tubulin to the centrosome, resulting in increased microtubule nucleation. Our results suggest that Vpr is targeted to the centrosome where it hijacks a ubiquitin ligase, disrupting organelle homeostasis, which may contribute to HIV-1 pathogenesis.

Viruses are pathogens that infect all life forms and reproduce inside living cells. To do so, they must be able to counteract and evade immune defenses, as well as utilize cellular machinery from the host for their own replication. HIV type 1 (HIV-1), which belongs to the lentivirus subgroup of retroviruses, is the causal agent of AIDS (1, 2). The HIV-1 genome encodes five proteins essential for viral replication and four accessory proteins, namely viral infectivity factor (Vif), viral protein U (Vpu),

negative regulatory factor (Nef), and viral protein R (Vpr) 2 (3, 4). These accessory proteins are not absolutely essential for viral replication in vitro but nevertheless play critical roles in viral infection, survival, and propagation *in vivo* (5-12). Vpr is among the least characterized in terms of function and mechanism of action. As a predominantly nuclear protein, Vpr has multiple effects on host cells by interacting with a cohort of cellular proteins (13-24). Among these, viral protein R-binding protein (VprBP/DCAF1) is the first protein identified as binding Vpr (15, 25). Current evidence suggests that DCAF1 functions as a protein kinase (26), a transcriptional repressor (27), and a substrate recognition subunit of two distinct multi-subunit ubiquitin ligases, EDD-DYRK2-DDB1^{DCAF1} and CRL4^{DCAF1} (28). EDD-DYRK2-DDB1^{DCAF1} is composed of the DYRK2, EDD, DDB1, and DCAF1 subunits (29), whereas CRL4^{DCAF1} consists of Roc1, Cullin4, DDB1, and DCAF1 (30-32). Upon binding to a ubiquitin ligase, Vpr directs the ubiquitination of novel substrates and accelerates the ubiquitination of native substrates, leading to their premature degradation (16, 18, 20, 33-35).

In contrast to CRL4^{DCAF1}, which is present in the nucleus, EDD-DYRK2-DDB1^{DCAF1} exists in two distinct subcellular compartments, the nucleus and the centrosome; the latter comprises a pair of centrioles surrounded by pericentriolar material from which microtubules emanate and elongate (36, 37). In the nucleus, EDD-DYRK2-DDB1^{DCAF1} functions to suppress telomerase activity by targeting telomerase reverse transcriptase (TERT) for ubiquitination and degradation (36). The down-regulation of TERT is further enhanced by Vpr binding to EDD-DYRK2-DDB1^{DCAF1} (19). On the other hand, EDD-DYRK2-DDB1^{DCAF1}, at the centrosome, is known to ubiquitinate and induce the degradation of CP110, a protein that controls centriole length (37-41). The ability of EDD-DYRK2-DDB1^{DCAF1} to ubiquitinate CP110 is subjected to regulation by Cep78, a resident centrosomal protein that directly associates with and inhibits EDD-DYRK2-DDB1^{DCAF1} in a cell cycle-dependent manner (37). It is currently unknown whether Vpr has the capacity to hijack EDD-DYRK2-DDB1^{DCAF1} at the centrosome.



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¹ A CIHR New Investigator and a Fonds de recherche Santé Junior 2 Research Scholar. To whom correspondence should be addressed. Tel.: 1-514-987-5719; Fax: 1-514-987-5685; E-mail: william.tsang@ircm.qc.ca.

² The abbreviations used are: Vpr, viral protein R; TERT, telomerase reverse transcriptase; HA, hemagglutinin; Ub, ubiquitin; DDR, DNA damage response; DAPI, 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole; ROI, region of interest.



Figure 1. Vpr interacts with Cep78 and EDD-DYRK2-DDB1^{DCAF1} **through DCAF1.** *A*, HEK293 cells were transfected with nonspecific (NS) or DCAF1 siRNA followed by plasmid expressing HA-Vpr(WT). Lysates were immunoprecipitated (*IP*) with an anti-HA antibody and Western-blotted with the indicated antibodies. *IN*, input. *α*-Tubulin was used as loading control. *B*, HEK293 cells were transfected with plasmid expressing HA.Vpr(WT), or HA-Vpr mutant refractory to DCAF1 binding (Q65R). Lysates were immunoprecipitated with an anti-HA antibody and Western-blotted antibodies. *C*, HEK293 cells were co-transfected with plasmids expressing FLAG-Cep78 and HA or HA-Vpr(WT). Lysates were immunoprecipitated with an anti-FLAG antibody and Western-blotted with the indicated antibody and Western-blott



Figure 2. Vpr but not Vpr(Q65R) localizes to the centrosome. *A*, HeLa cells transfected with plasmid expressing HA, HA-Vpr(WT), or HA-Vpr(Q65R) were processed for immunofluorescence and stained with antibodies against HA (*green*) and Cep78 (*red*). DNA was stained with DAPI (*blue*). *Scale bar*, 2 μ m. *B* and *C*, the percentage of HA-expressing cells showing centrosomal localization of Vpr (*B*) or no centrosomal Cep78 staining (*C*) was determined. For *B* and *C*, at least 100 cells were scored for each condition in each experiment, and the mean (*thick open line*) and standard error (*bar*) of three independent experiments (\bigcirc) are shown in the graph. *, *p* < 0.01; *ns*, nonsignificant.

The centrosome is the major microtubule-organizing centers in most eukaryotic cells and acts as a central hub for coordinating a multitude of cellular events. Various molecules and cargos are known to transit through this organelle (42). The viral core of HIV-1 disassembles upon entry into the host cells, and the resulting preintegration complex traffics along micro-





Figure 3. Vpr enhances ubiquitination and degradation of CP110 but not Cep78. *A*, HEK293 cells were co-transfected with plasmids expressing HA-Ub, FLAG-Cep78, and HA or HA-Vpr(WT). Lysates were immunoprecipitated (*IP*) with an anti-FLAG antibody in 1% SDS and Western-blotted (*WB*) with the indicated antibodies. *IN*, input. *B*, HEK293 cells were transfected with plasmid expressing HA, HA-Vpr(WT), or HA-Vpr(QGSR). Lysates were Western-blotted with the indicated antibodies. *a*-Tubulin was used as loading control. *C*, normalized Cep78 protein level. The mean (*thick open line*) and standard error (*bar*) of three independent experiments (\bigcirc) are shown in the graph. *ns*, nonsignificant. *D*, HEK293 cells were co-transfected with plasmids expressing HA-Ub, FLAG-CP110, GFP or GFP-Cep78, and HA or HA-Vpr(WT). Lysates were immunoprecipitated with an anti-FLAG antibody in 1% SDS and Western-blotted with the indicated antibodies. *E*, HEK293 cells were co-transfected with plasmids expressing HA-Ub, FLAG-CP110, GFP or GFP-Cep78, and HA or HA-Vpr(WT). Lysates were immunoprecipitated with an anti-FLAG antibody in 1% SDS and Western-blotted with the indicated antibodies. *E*, HEK293 cells were co-transfected with plasmids expressing HA and GFP, HA-Vpr(WT) and GFP, or HA-Vpr(WT) and GFP-Cep78. Lysates were Western-blotted with the indicated antibodies. *a*-Tubulin was used as loading control. *F*, normalized CP110 protein level. The mean (*thick open line*) and standard error (*bar*) of three independent experiments (\bigcirc) are shown in the graph. *, *p* < 0.01. *G*, HEK293 cells were transfected with plasmid expressing HA-Vpr(Q6SR). Lysates were Western-blotted with the indicated antibodies. *a*-Tubulin was used as loading control. *H*, normalized CP110 protein level. The mean (*thick open line*) and standard error (*bar*) of three independent experiments (\bigcirc) are shown in the graph. *, *p* < 0.01. *G*, HEK293 cells were transfected with plasmid expressing HA, HA-Vpr(WT), or HA-Vpr(Q6SR). Lysates were Western-blott

tubules and accumulates near the microtubule-organizing center (43–46). Another study reports that HIV-1 subviral particles accumulate at the centrosome under resting T-cells through an unknown mechanism, and infection resumes upon stimulation (47). Interestingly, Vpr has been observed to disrupt certain protein interactions at the centrosome (48) and induce centrosome amplification and multipolar spindle formation (49, 50), suggesting that this viral protein is capable of exerting an effect on the centrosome either directly or indirectly. Despite these observations, the extent to which Vpr modulates different aspects of centrosome biology and the underlying mechanisms have not been studied in detail.

Results

Vpr binds to Cep78 and EDD-DYRK2-DDB1^{*DCAF1} and localizes to the centrosome*</sup>

We recently demonstrated that Cep78 forms a complex with EDD-DYRK2-DDB1^{DCAF1} through DCAF1 (37). Given that

Vpr is known to associate with DCAF1 (15, 25), we first asked whether Vpr and Cep78 interact. Endogenous Cep78 and DCAF1 co-immunoprecipitated with HA-Vpr in HEK293 cells (Fig. 1, *A* and *B*). When DCAF1 was depleted with siRNA, very little Cep78 was detected in Vpr immunoprecipitates (Fig. 1*A*). Moreover, endogenous DCAF1 and Cep78 bound to WT Vpr, but neither protein interacted with a Vpr mutant refractory to DCAF1 binding (Vpr(Q65R)) (Fig. 1*B*). Thus, Vpr likely associates with Cep78 through DCAF1, results that are consistent with the findings that the Vpr- and Cep78-binding sites of DCAF1 are nonoverlapping. Vpr binds to the WD40 domain of DCAF1 (15, 51), whereas Cep78 binds to the acidic domain of DCAF1 (37).

Next, we explored whether Vpr might bind specifically to the Cep78•EDD-DYRK2-DDB1^{DCAF1} complex, which normally forms at the centrosome. We expressed FLAG-Cep78 and HA-Vpr in HEK293 cells, performed anti-FLAG immunoprecipitations, and demonstrated that Cep78 binds to EDD-





Figure 4. Vpr induces CP110 loss, centriole elongation, and centrosome amplification. *A*, HeLa cells transfected with plasmid expressing HA, HA-Vpr(WT), or HA-Vpr(Q65R) were processed for immunofluorescence and stained with antibodies against HA (*green*) and CP110 or γ -tubulin (*red*). DNA was stained with DAPI (*blue*). *Scale bar*, 2 μ m. *B*, the percentage of HA-expressing cells with no centrosomal CP110 staining was determined. C and D, the percentage of HA-expressing cells with elongated centrioles (γ -tubulin filaments) (*C*) or centrosome amplification (>2 γ -tubulin *dots*) (*D*) was determined. For *B*–*D*, at least 100 cells were scored for each condition in each experiment, and the mean (*thick open line*) and standard error (*bar*) of three independent experiments (\bigcirc) are shown in the graph. *, *p* < 0.01.

DYRK2-DDB1^{DCAF1} but not to CRL4^{DCAF1}, which is expected (37), and to Vpr (Fig. 1*C*). WT Vpr co-localized with endogenous Cep78 in ~20–25% of transfected HeLa cells, indicating that this viral protein is targeted to the centrosome in some contexts (Fig. 2, *A* and *B*). In contrast, Vpr(Q65R) did not exhibit centrosomal localization (Fig. 2, *A* and *B*). Taken together, these data suggest that Vpr engages in a complex with EDD-DYRK2-DDB1^{DCAF1} and Cep78 at the centrosome through binding to DCAF1.

Vpr hijacks EDD-DYRK2-DDB1^{DCAF1} to enhance ubiquitination and degradation of CP110

To explore the relevance of Vpr binding to EDD-DYRK2-DDB1^{DCAF1} and Cep78, we tested whether Vpr might promote ubiquitination of proteins at the centrosome. The ubiquitination levels of Cep78, an inhibitor and nonsubstrate of EDD-DYRK2-DDB1^{DCAF1} (37), remained the same upon Vpr expression (Fig. 3*A*). Likewise, centrosomal localization and steady-state levels of Cep78 were not altered by WT Vpr or Vpr(Q65R) (Figs. 2, *A* and *C*, and 3, *A*–*C*). On the contrary, ubiquitination of CP110, a known centrosomal EDD-DYRK2-DDB1^{DCAF1} substrate (37), became greatly enhanced by Vpr (Fig. 3*D*). This was accompanied by a decrease in CP110 protein levels (Fig. 3, *D*–*H*) and a loss of centrosomal CP110 staining by immunofluorescence (Fig. 4, *A* and *B*). Notably, diminished levels of CP110 were specifically induced by WT Vpr but not Vpr(Q65R) mutant (Figs. 3, *G* and *H*, and 4, *A* and *B*) and could be rescued by the addition of a proteasome inhibitor, MG132 (Fig. 5, *A* and *B*), or depletion of DCAF1 (Fig. 5, *C* and *D*). Furthermore, co-expression of Cep78 drastically reduced ubiquitination of CP110 (Fig. 3*D*) and restored endogenous CP110 to WT levels (Figs. 3, *E* and *F*, and 8, *A* and *B*). These data indicate that Vpr subverts centrosomal EDD-DYRK2-DDB1^{DCAF1} to accelerate ubiquitination and proteasomal degradation of a native substrate, CP110; and these effects can be counteracted by over-expression of Cep78.

Vpr induces centriole elongation through CP110 degradation

Previously, it has been shown that depletion of CP110 induces the formation of overly long or elongated centrioles, represented by γ -tubulin filaments, in nonciliated or poorly ciliated cells including HeLa (38–41). This phenotype can also be recapitulated by CP110 loss resulting from ablation of Cep78 or overexpression of EDD-DYRK2-DDB1^{DCAF1} (37). To further substantiate our observations that Vpr enhances degradation of CP110, we found that WT Vpr provokes centriole elongation, whereas Vpr(Q65R) mutant cannot (Fig. 4, *A* and *C*). Of note, WT Vpr also induced centrosome amplification (>2 γ -tubulin foci, Fig. 4, *A* and *D*), consistent with a previous report (50), but this phenotype is unlikely to be a consequence of CP110 loss because excessive



Figure 5. Vpr-induced proteasomal degradation of CP110 occurs in a DCAF1-dependent manner. *A*, HEK293 cells transfected with plasmid expressing HA or HA-Vpr(WT) were treated with or without 10 μ M MG132 for 6 h. Lysates were Western-blotted with the indicated antibodies. α -Tubulin was used as loading control. *B*, normalized CP110 protein level. The mean (*thick open line*) and standard error (*bar*) of three independent experiments (\bigcirc) are shown in the graph. *, *p* < 0.01; *ns*, nonsignificant. *C*, HEK293 cells were transfected with nonspecific (*NS*) or DCAF1 siRNA followed by plasmid expressing HA or HA-Vpr(WT). Lysates were Western-blotted with the indicated antibodies. α -Tubulin was used as loading control. *B*, normalized CP110 protein level. The mean (*thick open line*) and standard error (*bar*) of three independent experiments (\bigcirc) are shown in the graph. *, *p* < 0.01; *n*, normalized CP110 protein level. The mean (*thick open line*) and standard error (*bar*) of three independent experiments (\bigcirc) are shown in the graph. *, *p* < 0.01; *n*, normalized CP110 protein level. The mean (*thick open line*) and standard error (*bar*) of three independent experiments (\bigcirc) are shown in the graph. *, *p* < 0.01.

CP110, rather than loss of CP110, drives centrosome amplification (52).

Vpr-induced CP110 degradation and centriole elongation are independent of G_2/M arrest

A recent study shows that Vpr associates with the SLX4 complex to induce chromosomal instability, triggering DNA damage response (DDR) and cell cycle arrest at the G_2/M phase (20), although this is in debate (53). Coincidentally, CP110 has been documented to undergo ubiquitination by SCF^{cyclin F} and EDD-DYRK2-DDB1^{DCAF1} (37, 52), and subsequently proteasomal degradation, in G₂/M. Thus, we sought to address whether down-regulation of CP110 induced by Vpr is due to prolonged G_2/M arrest. For this purpose, we utilized a well-characterized Vpr mutant, Vpr(R80A), which, in contrast to Vpr(Q65R), can bind to DCAF1 but is unable to provoke G_2/M arrest (Ref. 54, 55 and Fig. 6A). Similar to WT Vpr, Vpr(R80A) was detected at the centrosome in \sim 20–25% of the transfected cells (Fig. 6, *B* and C). Next, we investigated the consequences of expressing Vpr(R80A) on CP110 and its effect on centriole length. WT Vpr and Vpr(R80A) were equally able to enhance CP110 ubiquitination (Fig. 6*D*), causing a diminution of CP110 levels (Fig. 6, *E* and *F*) and immunostaining at the centrosome (Fig. 7, *A* and *B*). Furthermore, WT Vpr and Vpr(R80A) induced γ -tubulin filament formation to similar extent (Fig. 7*A*, *C*). The down-regulation of CP110 provoked by WT Vpr or Vpr(R80A) was rescued by ectopic expression of Cep78 (Fig. 8). Remarkably, unlike WT Vpr, Vpr(R80A) did not induce centrosome amplification (Fig. 7, *A* and *D*). These data suggest that CP110 down-regulation and centriole elongation could be attributed to the subversion of EDD-DYRK2-DDB1^{DCAF1} rather than to G₂/M arrest. On the contrary, the other phenotype caused by Vpr, namely centrosome amplification, depends on cell cycle arrest at the G₂/M phase.

Vpr induces CP110 degradation and centriole elongation in infected T-cells

We have thus far shown that Vpr induces the loss of CP110 in two model cell lines, HEK293 and HeLa. However, it remains unknown whether this accessory protein could trigger the same response in CD4⁺ T lymphocytes that HIV-1 normally infects. To interrogate the relationship between Vpr and CP110 in a





Figure 6. Vpr centrosomal localization and Vpr-induced ubiquitination and degradation of CP110 are independent of G₂/M arrest. A, HEK293T cells were co-transfected with plasmids expressing GFP and HA (*Empty vector*), HA-Vpr(WT), HA-Vpr(Q65R), or HA-Vpr(R80A). Cell cycle profiles were determined by flow cytometry gating on the GFP⁺ population. The G₂/M:G₁ ratio is presented for each condition. *B*, HeLa cells transfected with plasmid expressing GHA, HA-Vpr(WT), or HA-Vpr(R80A). Cell cycle profiles were determined by flow cytometry gating on the GFP⁺ population. The G₂/M:G₁ ratio is presented for each condition. *B*, HeLa cells transfected with plasmid expressing HA, HA-Vpr(WT), or HA-Vpr(R80A) were processed for immunofluorescence and stained with antibodies against HA (*green*) and Cep78 (*red*). DNA was stained with DAPI (*blue*). *Scale bar*, 2 μ m. *C*, the percentage of HA-expressing cells showing centrosomal localization of Vpr was determined. At least 100 cells were scored for each condition in each experiment, and the mean (*thick open line*) and standard error (*bar*) of three independent experiments (\bigcirc) are shown in the graph. *, *p* < 0.01; *ns*, nonsignificant. *D*, HEK293 cells were co-transfected with plasmids expressing HA-Ub, FLAG-CP110, and HA, HA-Vpr(WT), or HA-Vpr(R80A). Lysates were immunoprecipitated (*IP*) with an anti-FLAG antibody in 1% SDS and Western-blotted (*WB*) with the indicated antibodies. *IN*, input. *E*, HEK293 cells were transfected with plasmid expressing HA, HA-Vpr(WT), or HA-Vpr(R80A). Lysates were Western-blotted with the indicated antibodies. *ac*-Tubulin was used as loading control. *F*, normalized CP110 protein level. The mean (*thick open line*) and standard error (*bar*) of three independent experiments (\bigcirc) are shown in the graph. *, *p* < 0.01.

more physiologically relevant cell line, we infected CD4⁺ MT4 T-cells, which are highly susceptible to and permissive for infection with HIV-1. We found that a significant percentage of cells infected with WT HIV-1 (HIV-1 Vpr⁺) exhibit CP110 loss and centriole elongation (Fig. 9, A-C) in addition to centrosome amplification (Fig. 9A, D). In contrast, very few mock-infected cells or cells infected with HIV-1 lacking Vpr (HIV-1 Vpr⁻) possess these phenotypes (Fig. 9). These results indicate that HIV-1 can also induce CP110 degradation and centriole elongation in T-cells in a Vpr-dependent manner.

Elongated centrioles enhance microtubule nucleation

To shed light on the net effects of down-regulating CP110 for Vpr, we studied how elongated centrioles might influence centrosome function. When a centriole becomes abnormally long, the surrounding pericentriolar material becomes distorted into the shape of a filament (38-41). Given that γ -tubulin present

in the pericentriolar material plays a crucial role in microtubule nucleation, we addressed the question of whether elongated centrioles might alter nucleation. We quantified the staining area occupied by γ -tubulin and found that it is substantially bigger in CP110-depleted or Vpr-expressing cells than in control cells (Fig. 10, A-C). γ -Tubulin staining intensity was likewise higher upon depletion of CP110 or expression of Vpr (Fig. 10, A, B, and D). Next, we performed microtubule regrowth assays following microtubule depolymerization with nocodazole. Shortly after the removal of the nocodazole, control cells nucleated an aster of microtubules emanating from the centrosome (Fig. 10, A and B, 1'). With time, the aster enlarged, signifying an increase in the length and number of microtubules (Fig. 10, A and B, 5'). Strikingly, cells depleted of CP110 or expressing Vpr formed a bigger aster and nucleated more microtubules at comparable time points (Fig. 10, A and B, 1' and 5', and E). In contrast, no gross microtubule-anchoring defects were observed (Fig. 10, A and B, 45'). Together, these data strongly sug-



Figure 7. Vpr-induced centrosome amplification, but not CP110 loss or centriole elongation, is dependent of G₂/M arrest. *A*, HeLa cells transfected with plasmid expressing HA, HA-Vpr(WT), or HA-Vpr(R80A) were processed for immunofluorescence and stained with antibodies against HA (*green*) and CP110 or γ -tubulin (*red*). DNA was stained with DAPI (*blue*). *Scale bar*, 2 μ m. *B*, the percentage of HA-expressing cells with no centrosomal CP110 staining was determined. *C* and *D*, the percentage of HA-expressing cells with elongated centrioles (γ -tubulin filaments) (*C*) or centrosome amplification (>2 γ -tubulin *dots*) (*D*) was determined. For *B*-*D*, at least 100 cells were scored for each condition in each experiment, and the mean (*thick open line*) and standard error (*bar*) of three independent experiments (\bigcirc) are shown in the graph. *, *p* < 0.01; *ns*, nonsignificant.

gest that elongated centrioles have the capacity to recruit more γ -tubulin, resulting in enhanced microtubule nucleation.

Discussion

In this work, we sought to obtain molecular insights into how HIV-1 Vpr exploits host machinery at the centrosome. Although an intimate connection exists among HIV-1, Vpr, and centrosomes (42, 47-50, 56), the extent to which Vpr orchestrates its effects on this organelle remains poorly understood. Our data show that Vpr associates with a resident centrosomal protein, Cep78, through DCAF1 and that it localizes to the centrosome by engaging in a complex with the ubiquitin ligase EDD-DYRK2-DDB1 $^{\rm DCAF1}$ and Cep78. Because Vpr and Vpr(R80A) localize to the centrosome with similar efficiency and EDD-DYRK2-DDB1^{DCAF1} components are known to be present at this organelle throughout the cell cycle (37), it seems likely that centrosomal localization of Vpr is independent of G₂/M arrest. Vpr is able to hijack EDD-DYRK2-DDB1^{DCAF1}, accelerating the ubiquitination and degradation of a native centrosomal substrate, CP110. Down-regulation of CP110 triggers the formation of abnormally long centrioles, which recruit excess γ -tubulin, and as a consequence, the nucleation of cytoplasmic microtubules becomes greatly enhanced. In addition, Vpr provokes other centrosome anomalies such as amplification (Ref. 50 and this study), indicating that proteins involved in the regulation of organelle copy number might also be affected.

It would therefore be interesting to identify novel Vpr-interacting partners and/or EDD-DYRK2-DDB1^{DCAF1} substrates and to test whether any of these might be responsible for the centrosome amplification phenotype.

Although Vpr triggers centriole elongation and centrosome amplification, it is clear that these phenotypes occur through two distinct mechanisms. We show that centriole elongation as a result of Vpr-mediated CP110 loss is independent of G₂/M arrest, whereas centrosome amplification necessitates G2/M arrest. How then does Vpr-induced G2/M arrest result in centrosome amplification? It is reported that Vpr targets DNA repair factors such as HLTF and UNG (33, 35) for degradation and inappropriately activates the SLX4 complex in the nucleus (20), conditions that could contribute to replication stress and the induction of DDR (57). The DDR protein ataxia telangiectasia-mutated (ATM) and Rad3-related protein (ATR), once activated, initiates downstream signaling cascades that involve activation of checkpoint kinase 1 (CHK1) and inhibition of cell division cycle 25C (CDC25C) and cyclin B/cyclin-dependent kinase 1 (CDK1), ultimately leading to G_2/M arrest (58). Curiously, other studies have shown that DNA damage alone is sufficient to induce centrosome amplification (59), and several DDR proteins, such as ATM, ATR, and CHK1, are found in the nucleus and at the centrosome (60). Although the precise functions of DDR proteins at the centrosome await future investi-





Figure 8. Degradation of CP110 induced by Vpr or Vpr(R80A) can be overcome by Cep78 expression. *A*, HEK293 cells were transfected with plasmids expressing HA and FLAG, HA-Vpr(WT) and FLAG, or HA-Vpr(WT) and FLAG-Cep78. Lysates were Western-blotted with the indicated antibodies. α -Tubulin was used as loading control. *B*, normalized CP110 protein level. The mean (*thick open line*) and standard error (*bar*) of three independent experiments (\bigcirc) are shown in the graph. *, p < 0.01. *C*, HEK293 cells were transfected with plasmids expressing HA and FLAG, HA-Vpr(R80A) and FLAG, Cep78. Lysates were Western-blotted vith the indicated antibodies. α -Tubulin was used as loading control. *D*, normalized CP110 protein level. The mean (*thick open line*) and standard error (*bar*) of three independent experiments (\bigcirc) are shown in the graph. *, p < 0.01.

gation, it is plausible that a DDR signal originating from the nucleus impinges on the centrosome through the DDR proteins, causing amplification to occur.

What are the benefits that HIV-1 might receive by hijacking EDD-DYRK2-DDB1^{DCAF1} at the centrosome? The regulation of microtubule dynamics and microtubule-associated proteins such as end-binding proteins and motor proteins is an important facet of the HIV-1 replication cycle. For example, HIV-1 promotes the formation of stable microtubules, an event crucial for early infection and translocation of the viral core in the cytoplasm en route to the nucleus (45). Intact microtubules are needed to facilitate HIV-1 uncoating, and disruption of microtubules by nocodazole impairs this process (46). In macrophages, HIV-1 Vpr perturbs the localization of end-binding protein 1 (EB1) to impair the maturation of phagosomes, leading to defects in innate immunity (61). Moreover, HIV-1 Tat can promote or hinder microtubule stability in a context-dependent fashion (62–64). Thus, it is clear that HIV-1 employs different strategies to remodel the host microtubule network during infection. Further studies will be needed to decipher how CP110 loss, elongated centrioles, and enhanced microtubule nucleation provoked by Vpr might affect various stages of HIV-1 infection.

One interesting finding from our studies is that Cep78 counteracts the effects of Vpr on CP110, raising the possibility that it might have antiviral properties. It would therefore be interesting to test whether this protein might safeguard the centrosome to inhibit viral infection.

Experimental procedures

Cell culture and plasmids

HeLa, HEK293, and HEK293T cells were grown in DMEM (Wisent Inc., 319-005-CL) supplemented with 5% fetal bovine serum (Wisent Inc, 080150) at 37 °C in a humidified 5% CO₂ atmosphere. MT4 T-cells were grown in RPMI 1640 (Wisent Inc., 350-000-CL) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum at 37 °C in a humidified 5% CO₂ atmosphere. The following proteins were expressed from plasmids in mammalian cells: HA-Ub (65), pCBF-FLAG-Cep78 (37), pEGFP-C1-Cep78 (37), pCBF-FLAG-CP110 (66), pQBI25, SVCMV-HA-Vpr, SVCMV-HA-Vpr(Q65R), and SVCMV-HA-Vpr(R80A) (55).



Figure 9. HIV-1 Vpr induces CP110 loss, centriole elongation, and centrosome amplification in infected T-cells. *A*, MT4 cells, mock-infected or infected with either WT HIV-1 (Vpr⁺) or HIV-1 missing Vpr (Vpr⁻), were processed for immunofluorescence and stained with antibodies against p24 (green) and CP110 or γ -tubulin (*red*). DNA was stained with DAPI (*blue*). *Scale bar*, 2 μ m. *B*, the percentage of p24-positive cells with no centrosomal CP110 staining was determined. *C* and *D*, the percentage of p24-positive cells with elongated centrioles (γ -tubulin filaments) (*C*) or centrosome amplification (>2 γ -tubulin *dots*) (*D*) was determined. For *B*–*D*, at least 100 cells were scored for each condition in each experiment, and the mean (*thick open line*) and standard error (*bar*) of three independent experiments (\bigcirc) are shown in the graph.*, p < 0.01.

Viral production and infection

Infectious GFP-marked HIV-1 NL4.3 or NL4.3 Δ Vpr viruses were generated by calcium phosphate transfection of HEK293T cells. Virus-containing supernatants were recovered 2 days post-transfection, clarified, pelleted by ultracentrifugation, and titrated by analyzing the percentage of GFP-positive MT4 T-cells using flow cytometry. MT4 T-cells were infected with the different GFP-expressing NL4.3 viruses at a multiplicity of infection of 0.75. Three days post-infection, cells were plated on coated coverslips and processed for immunofluorescence.

Antibodies

Antibodies used in this study included anti-CP110 (Bethyl Laboratories, A301-344A), anti-Cep78 (Bethyl Laboratories, A301-799A and IRCM6 (37)), anti-DCAF1 (Proteintech, 11612-1-AP), anti-EDD (Bethyl Laboratories, A300-573A), anti-DDB1 (Bethyl Laboratories, A300-462A), anti-cullin 4A (Bethyl Laboratories, A300-739A), anti-GFP (Roche, 11814460001), anti-HA (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, sc-7392, and Novus Biologicals, NB600-362), anti-FLAG (Sigma-Aldrich, F7425 and F3165), anti- α -tubulin (Sigma-Aldrich, T5168), anti- γ -tubulin (Sigma-Aldrich, T3559 and T6557), and anti-DYRK2 (Abcam, ab37912). The anti-p24 monoclonal antibodies were produced from hybridomas 31-90-25 (HB9725) obtained from the American Type Culture Collection.

RNAi and transient expression of recombinant proteins

For RNAi, synthetic siRNA for nonspecific (NS) control, DCAF1, and CP110 were as described previously (29, 67, 68) and purchased from GE Dharmacon. Transfection of siRNA into HEK293 or HeLa cells was performed using siIMPORTER (Millipore, 64-101) per the manufacturer's instructions, and cells were processed for immunoprecipitation, immunoblotting, or immunofluorescence at 72 h post-transfection. For expression of recombinant proteins, expression vector(s) was/were transfected into HEK293 cells using calcium phosphate or HeLa cells using polyethylenimine, and the cells were processed at 72 h post-transfection. For experiments involving both RNAi and recombinant protein expression, HEK293 cells were transfected with siRNA followed by transfection of expression vector 24 h later. Cells were processed 72 h after siRNA transfection. Optimal knockdown and recombinant protein expression were achieved at 72 and 48-72 h, respectively, post-transfection.

Immunoprecipitation, immunoblotting, and immunofluorescence

Immunoprecipitation, immunoblotting, and immunofluorescence were performed as described (67, 68). Cells were lysed in a lysis buffer (50 mM HEPES, pH 7.4, 250 mM NaCl, 5 mM EDTA/pH 8, 0.1% NP-40, 1 mM DTT, 0.5 mM phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride, 2 μ g/ml leupeptin, 2 μ g of aprotinin, 10 mM NaF, 50 mM β -glycerophosphate, and 10%





Figure 10. Depletion of CP110 or expression of Vpr enhances microtubule nucleation. *A*, HeLa cells transfected with nonspecific (*NS*) or CP110 siRNA were subjected to a microtubule regrowth assay. Cells were processed for immunofluorescence at the indicated time points after release and stained with antibodies against α -tubulin (*green*) and γ -tubulin (*red*). DNA was stained with DAPI (*blue*). *B*, HeLa cells transfected with plasmid expressing HA or HA-Vpr(WT) were subjected to a microtubule regrowth assay. Cells were processed for immunofluorescence at the indicated time points after release and stained with antibodies against α -tubulin (*green*), and γ -tubulin (*tred*). DNA was stained for immunofluorescence at the indicated time points after release and stained with antibodies against HA (*red*), α -tubulin (*green*), and γ -tubulin (*blue*). *C*, the staining area of γ -tubulin at the centrosome was quantitated. *D*, the staining intensity of γ -tubulin at the centrosome was quantitated. *E*, the number of cytoplasmic microtubules emanated from the centrosome was determined at the 1-min time point. For *C*-*E*, at least 20 cells were scored for each condition in each experiment, and the mean (*thick open line*) and standard error (*bar*) of three independent experiments (\bigcirc) are shown in the graph. *, p < 0.01.

glycerol) at 4 °C for 30 min. The extracted proteins were recovered in the supernatant after centrifugation at 16,000 imesg. For immunoblotting, 100 μ g of extract was used as input. For immunoprecipitation, 2 mg of extract was incubated with anti-FLAG-(Sigma-Aldrich, A2220) or anti-HA-agarose (Sigma-Aldrich, A2095) beads at 4 °C for 2 h. The beads were washed three times with a lysis buffer, and bound proteins were analyzed by SDS-PAGE and immunoblotted with primary antibodies and horseradish peroxidase-conjugated secondary antibodies (Rockland Inc, 610-703-002 and 611-7302). For indirect immunofluorescence, cells were fixed with cold methanol and permeabilized with 1% Triton X-100/PBS. Slides were blocked with 3% BSA in 0.1% Triton X-100/PBS prior to incubation with primary antibodies. Secondary antibodies used were Cy3 (Jackson Immunoresearch Laboratories, 711-165-151 and 715-165-152)-, Alexa 647 (Jackson Immunoresearch Laboratories, 711-605-152)-,

DyLight 649 (Jackson Immunoresearch Laboratories, 715-495-151)-, or Alexa 488 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, A11008, A11055, and A11001)– conjugated donkey anti-mouse, anti-goat, or anti-rabbit IgG. Cells might also be stained with DAPI (Molecular Probes, D3571), and slides were mounted, observed, and photographed using a Leitz DMRB (Leica) microscope (×100, NA 1.3) equipped with a Retiga EXi cooled camera.

In vivo ubiquitination assay

In vivo ubiquitination assays were performed as described (37, 69). Briefly, HEK293 cells were transfected with various plasmids including HA-Ub. Cells were lysed at 72 h post-transfection, and the desired protein was immunoprecipitated with 1% SDS (Bio Basic Inc., SB0485) to prevent noncovalently linked binding partners from co-immunoprecipitating with the desired protein. After extensive washing, the bound proteins

were analyzed by SDS-PAGE and immunoblotting with an anti-HA antibody.

Microtubule regrowth assay

Cells were treated with 10 μ M nocodazole (Sigma-Aldrich, M1404) for 1 h at 4 °C. After washing the cells several times with cold medium, they were placed in a prewarmed medium at 37 °C. Cells were fixed at various time points (0, 1, 5, and 45 min) after reaching 37 °C and processed for immunofluorescence.

Cell cycle analysis

HEK293T cells were co-transfected with plasmids expressing GFP (pQBl25) and WT or mutant HA-Vpr. At 48 h posttransfection, cells were fixed, permeabilized, and stained with propidium iodide as described (55). Cell cycle analysis was performed on the GFP⁺ population by flow cytometry (BD FACSCalibur, Becton Dickinson). The ModFit mathematical model (ModFit LT v4.1.7, Verity Software House) was used to enumerate the proportions of cells in G₁ and G₂/M phases.

Quantitation of γ -tubulin staining area and intensity

A region of interest (ROI) was drawn around γ -tubulin, which marks the centrosome, and the area of the ROI was calculated using Volocity 6 (PerkinElmer). The area of the ROI was then used to measure the fluorescence intensity of γ -tubulin, again using Volocity 6. Image conditions were identical in all cases, and none of the images were saturated, as confirmed by the pixel intensity range.

Quantitation of cytoplasmic microtubules

The number of microtubules emanated from the centrosome at 0 min after microtubule regrowth was subtracted from that at 1 min after regrowth and presented as microtubules nucleated/min.

Quantitation of Western blotting

Protein bands from Western blotting films were quantitated with ImageJ. Different film exposure lengths were used to prevent saturation. Quantitation was normalized with respect to the loading control.

Data and statistical analysis

Each experiment was conducted three times. The statistical significance of the difference between two means was calculated using a two-tailed Student's t test. Differences were considered significant at p < 0.01.

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