

Lysine acetylation of F-actin decreases tropomyosin-based inhibition of actomyosin activity

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Recent proteomics studies of vertebrate striated muscle have identified lysine acetylation at several sites on actin. Acetylation is a reversible post-translational modification that neutralizes lysine's positive charge. Positively charged residues on actin, particularly Lys³²⁶ and Lys³²⁸, are predicted to form critical electrostatic interactions with tropomyosin (Tpm) that promote its binding to filamentous (F)-actin and bias Tpm to an azimuthal location where it impedes myosin attachment. The troponin (Tn) complex also influences Tpm's position along F-actin as a function of Ca²⁺ to regulate exposure of myosin-binding sites and, thus, myosin cross-bridge recruitment and force production. Interestingly, Lys³²⁶ and Lys³²⁸ are among the documented acetylated residues. Using an acetic anhydride-based labeling approach, we showed that excessive, nonspecific actin acetylation did not disrupt characteristic F-actin–Tpm binding. However, it significantly reduced Tpm-mediated inhibition of myosin attachment, as reflected by increased F-actin–Tpm motility that persisted in the presence of Tn and submaximal Ca²⁺. Furthermore, decreasing the extent of chemical acetylation, to presumptively target highly reactive Lys³²⁶ and Lys³²⁸, also resulted in less inhibited F-actin–Tpm, implying that modifying only these residues influences Tpm's location and, potentially, thin filament regulation. To unequivocally determine the residue-specific consequences of acetylation on Tn–Tpm–based regulation of actomyosin activity, we assessed the effects of K326Q and K328Q acetyl (Ac)-mimetic actin on Ca²⁺-dependent, *in vitro* motility parameters of reconstituted thin filaments (RTFs). Incorporation of K328Q actin significantly enhanced Ca²⁺ sensitivity of RTF activation relative to control. Together, our findings suggest that actin acetylation, especially Lys³²⁸, modulates muscle contraction via disrupting inhibitory Tpm positioning.

Muscle contraction is driven by cyclical, force-generating interactions between myosin-containing thick and actin-based thin filaments (1, 2). Conversely, relaxation occurs when actomyosin binding is inhibited and/or suppressed by Tn and Tpm on thin filaments, or by the sequestration of myosin heads on thick filaments (1–4). Tn is a trimer composed of inhibitory (TnI), Tpm-binding (TnT), and Ca²⁺-binding (TnC) subunits (1, 2, 5). Each Tn–Tpm holoregulatory complex associates with seven actin protomers of the

thin filament to confer Ca²⁺ sensitivity of contraction (1, 2). Under low Ca²⁺, TnI restricts Tpm to the blocked “B-state” position along F-actin where it sterically inhibits myosin binding (1, 2, 5). This effect is attenuated as free intracellular Ca²⁺ rises and binds to TnC. Ca²⁺-TnC binding relieves TnI-mediated constraints on Tpm and facilitates its azimuthal movement to the closed “C-state,” partial exposure of myosin-binding sites on actin, and weak myosin binding. The transition of myosin heads from a weak to strong F-actin-bound state induces additional Tpm movement to the open “M-state,” triggering cooperative thin filament activation and force generation. Hence, contraction demands both Tn- and myosin-dependent shifts in Tpm position.

Tpm is an α -helical, coiled-coil dimer consisting of seven tandem “quasi-equivalent,” pseudorepeating motifs that bind adjacent actin monomers (6–8). It self-polymerizes head to tail to form a continuous cable that extends the entire length of F-actin (9–13). Tpm dimers individually bind with weak affinity, orchestrated by favorable electrostatic contacts between residues of each actin protomer and Tpm pseudorepeat, yet the polymerized cable binds with exceedingly high affinity (10, 14–19). This contrasting behavior, described as “gestalt-binding,” bestows on Tpm the requisite ability to easily shift its azimuthal position over the F-actin surface to regulate myosin binding to the thin filament without risk of catastrophic detachment (10, 20). Mutations that disrupt the weak, local binding of Tpm to F-actin, as suggested by distorted, computationally derived F-actin–Tpm electrostatic energy landscapes, may minimally impact F-actin–Tpm global binding affinity yet elicit significant changes in Tpm's ability to properly impede actomyosin binding and cross-bridge cycling (21–23). Therefore, perturbed F-actin–Tpm electrostatic interactions could affect Tpm's preferred binding position and/or its regulatory switching between the B-, C-, and M-states along F-actin and, thus, Tpm-mediated regulation of actomyosin activity.

EM reconstructions and *in silico*-generated atomic models of Tpm bound to F-actin have identified Tpm's potential default Apo- or “A-state” binding location, where the regulatory strand is positioned such that it sterically hinders myosin binding in the absence of Tn (12, 15, 20, 24). Lys³²⁶ and Lys³²⁸ of actin are predicted to form highly favorable electrostatic contacts with Tpm and stabilize its native inhibitory configuration (12, 15, 17–19, 25, 26). These associations dominate the computed F-actin–Tpm interaction energy landscape and, together with TnI-actin interactions, are essential for establishing the B-state (5, 12, 15, 22, 27). Modification or mutation of Lys³²⁶ or Lys³²⁸

This article contains supporting information.

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Actin acetylation alters inhibitory tropomyosin positioning

on actin or residues in their vicinity has been shown to alter contractile regulation and induce cardiac and skeletal myopathies (21, 22, 28–30).

Recently, 10 distinct lysines of actin were identified as targets of acetylation in independent proteomics assessments of healthy, vertebrate cardiac and skeletal muscle (31, 32). Of those 10 residues, 5, including Lys³²⁶ and Lys³²⁸, were reported to be acetylated in both studies. Lysine acetylation is a reversible post-translational modification (PTM) where the transfer of an Ac group to the residue's side-chain terminal amine neutralizes its positive charge. Because Lys³²⁶ and Lys³²⁸ on actin are likely critical for establishing favorable electrostatic interactions with Tpm, “masking” the charges could destabilize F-actin–Tpm binding and/or inhibitory positioning, resulting in increased actomyosin cross-bridge formation and enhanced force production. In fact, mimicking acetylation by replacing the charged lysines at positions 326 and 328 with uncharged glutamines in *Drosophila* indirect flight muscle (IFM) altered flight ability and stimulated IFM fiber destruction because of excessive, myosin-dependent force generation (30).

In vivo, actin acetylation levels may be distinctly modulated. For example, fluctuations in intracellular concentrations of Ac-CoA stimulate changes in lysine acetylation levels via mass action (33, 34). Alternatively, enzymatic-mediated changes in acetylation require targeting of actin by particular lysine acetylase(s) (KATs) and/or deacetylase(s) (KDACs). Despite evidence implicating specific enzymes that may perform this role *in vivo* (35–37), to the best of our knowledge no group has provided evidence of successful enzymatic acetylation of purified, sarcomeric actin *in vitro*. On the other hand, *in vitro* chemical acetylation of actin is eminently feasible (38–40). For example, Hitchcock-DeGregori *et al.* discovered, via a competitive labeling method, that Lys³²⁶ and Lys³²⁸ on F-actin displayed a high propensity for acetylation and were preferentially modified relative to all other lysines (38).

Here, we hypothesize that actin Lys³²⁶ and/or Lys³²⁸ acetylation decreases Tpm-based inhibition of myosin binding by direct disruption of F-actin–Tpm electrostatic contacts and resultant Tpm mispositioning, which ultimately manifests as enhanced Ca²⁺ sensitivity in regulated thin filaments. To test our hypothesis, we implemented a two-pronged approach that determined the effects of 1) indiscriminate and probabilistic, but preferential, actin lysine acetylation on global F-actin–Tpm binding and on the inherent inhibitory positioning of Tpm along F-actin in the absence and presence of Tn and 2) residue-specific pseudoacetylation of Lys³²⁶ or Lys³²⁸ on Ca²⁺-mediated regulation of RTFs. Our results suggest that although Lys³²⁶ and Lys³²⁸ acetylation does not affect collective F-actin–Tpm affinity, Lys³²⁸ acetylation does lessen Tpm's intrinsic ability to inhibit myosin cross-bridge binding, which contributes to enhanced thin filament Ca²⁺ sensitivity.

Results

According to the Behrmann *et al.* (41) F-actin–Tpm–myosin rigor structure, Lys³²⁸ of actin forms a salt bridge with Glu²⁸⁶ of myosin (Fig. 1A). Acetylation of Lys³²⁸ and masking of its positive charge would predictably disrupt this interaction, which

could potentially affect myosin binding and/or cross-bridge cycling. We pan-acetylated F-actin with acetic anhydride to increase actin-normalized lysine acetylation levels ~290-fold (Fig. 1, B and C, and Fig. S1) and employed *in vitro* motility assays to assess its gross effect on actomyosin interactions (Fig. 1D). Sliding velocities of control and acetylated F-actin did not significantly differ at any of the myosin concentrations tested, suggesting that, in general, actomyosin cross-bridge cycling is seemingly unaffected by actin acetylation.

To rule out the possibility that the lack of an effect on F-actin sliding velocities was because Lys³²⁸ remained unmodified, we employed MS to confirm which lysines were acetylated following chemical treatment (Table 1). Specifically, MS detected 22 unique spectral matches to 19 unique tryptic peptide sequences. These corresponded to 12 distinct acetylation sites, most of which are common to multiple actin gene products, including cardiac, skeletal, and cytoplasmic isoforms. Lys³²⁸ acetylation was confirmed. Therefore, the absence of an acetylation-induced effect on actomyosin cycling, and specifically F-actin propulsion speeds, could not be attributed to a failure of Lys³²⁸ to be chemically modified *in vitro*.

Lys³²⁶ and Lys³²⁸ of seven consecutive actin protomers are predicted to interact with negatively charged residues of every pseudorepeat along Tpm's entire length (12, 15, 20, 25, 26) (Fig. 2A). Previously, site-directed mutagenesis of Asp²⁵, Glu³³⁴, Lys³²⁶, and Lys³²⁸ of human smooth muscle actin was shown to result in a complete loss of bacterially expressed Tpm binding, which suggests that the lysines may contribute to global F-actin–Tpm binding (19). Therefore, we determined the effect of F-actin acetylation on the binding of tissue-purified cardiac Tpm via co-sedimentation (Fig. S2). We postulated that modifying the preponderance of actin lysines, especially Lys³²⁶ and Lys³²⁸, would potentially decrease maximum F-actin–Tpm binding (B_{\max}) and/or affinity (K_d). However, B_{\max} and K_d of Tpm for control ($B_{\max} = 0.15 \pm 0.01$; $K_d = 0.21 \pm 0.03 \mu\text{M}$) and acetylated ($B_{\max} = 0.14 \pm 0.01$; $K_d = 0.15 \pm 0.04 \mu\text{M}$) F-actin did not significantly differ (Fig. 2B). Thus, extensive chemical modification of actin lysines did not appear to alter either the number of available Tpm-binding sites or the affinity of the polymerized Tpm cable for F-actin.

It is well-established that F-actin–Tpm association is highly influenced by buffer ionic strength because of the considerable contribution of electrostatic interactions to binding (42–44). Therefore, actin acetylation may alter the buffer salt sensitivity of Tpm binding because of marked reduction in positively charged lysines, specifically Lys³²⁶ and/or Lys³²⁸. We performed F-actin–Tpm co-sedimentation assays at varying KCl concentrations to determine whether actin acetylation modifies the effect of buffer salt on F-actin–Tpm binding (Fig. 2C). At 40 and 200 mM KCl, control (112 ± 6.3 and $85.4 \pm 6.9\%$, respectively) and acetylated (113 ± 2.2 and $70.4 \pm 4.7\%$, respectively) F-actin bound roughly equivalent amounts of Tpm, although increasing KCl concentration to 500 mM and above resulted in a nearly complete lack of Tpm binding to both F-actin types. This supports the idea that despite extensive lysine charge neutralization of acetylated F-actin, including Lys³²⁶ and Lys³²⁸, collective Tpm binding to F-actin remains largely intact.

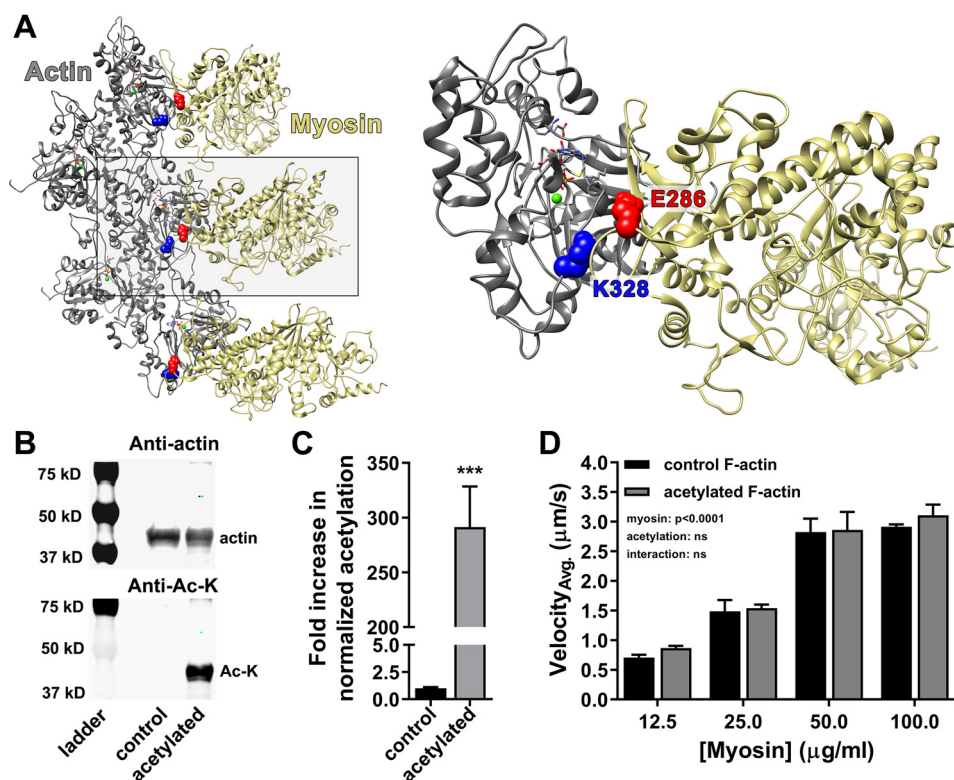


Figure 1. Actin acetylation does not significantly alter myosin-driven F-actin sliding velocity. *A*, proposed Lys³²⁸–Glu²⁸⁶ (blue–red, respectively) actin–myosin (gray–tan, respectively) salt bridge established during strong binding (Protein Data Bank code 4A7f) (41). *B*, Western blots of actin treated with supra-stoichiometric acetic anhydride diluted in acetonitrile (acetylated) revealed increased lysine acetylation relative to actin resuspended in acetonitrile only (control). The blots were probed with anti-actin (top panel) and anti-Ac-lysine (bottom panel; Anti-Ac-K) antibodies. *C*, anti-Ac-lysine intensities in *B* were normalized to corresponding anti-actin signals. Actin-normalized lysine acetylation increased ~290-fold (291 ± 37) relative to control. *D*, *in vitro* motility of Alexa 568 Ph-labeled control (black) and acetylated (gray) F-actin at varying myosin concentrations. Average velocities (Velocity_{AVG}) were not significantly different, suggesting no change in actomyosin cross-bridge cycling caused by actin acetylation (two-way ANOVA; $n = 4$).

Next, we assessed whether Tpm was located along acetylated F-actin at or near its typical inhibitory A-state position and could, therefore, alter actomyosin cycling and/or the extent of myosin recruitment, which influences muscle contraction (45, 46). We first determined *in vitro* motility velocities of control and acetylated F-actin and F-actin–Tpm at varying myosin concentrations (Fig. 3, *A* and *B*). To facilitate interpretation regarding the degree to which Tpm reduces filament gliding speeds, we normalized control and acetylated F-actin–Tpm velocities at each myosin concentration to their respective F-actin velocities, subtracted normalized values from one, and multiplied by 100 to quantify the percentage of Tpm-based inhibition (Fig. 3*C*). As observed previously (47–50), Tpm significantly decreased ($p < 0.0001$) both control (Fig. 3*A*) and acetylated (Fig. 3*B*) F-actin velocities; however, actin acetylation had no significant effect on Tpm-mediated reduction of velocity (Fig. 3*C*). To further assess the effect of Tpm on actomyosin binding, we quantified the percentage of moving control and acetylated actin and actin–Tpm filaments (Fig. 3, *D* and *E*). Consistent with an inhibitory effect on velocity (Fig. 3, *A–C*), Tpm significantly decreased ($p < 0.0001$) the percentage of motile control (Fig. 3*D*) and acetylated (Fig. 3*E*) F-actin. However, in contrast, acetylated F-actin–Tpm movement was significantly elevated (*i.e.* less inhibited ($p < 0.0001$)) relative to control (Fig. 3*F*), whereas the PTM, again (Fig. 1*D*), had no impact on F-actin movement (Fig. 3, *D* and *E*). Therefore,

Tpm’s intrinsic ability to inhibit myosin recruitment to acetylated F-actin, as opposed to cross-bridge turnover rate, was significantly attenuated compared with control F-actin (Fig. 3, *C* and *F*). In addition, the greatest difference (*i.e.* a 63% relative increase) in acetylated *versus* control F-actin–Tpm movement occurred at the lowest myosin concentration tested (12.5 μg/ml). Under these conditions, myosin-dependent, propagated movement of Tpm and exposure of proximal binding sites is normally relatively minimal. Thus, Tpm likely remains predominantly in the A-state along control F-actin, and the extent of myosin binding is determined by Tpm’s inherent ability to block myosin attachment, which appears compromised following modification of F-actin lysines. Taken together, the data suggest that actin acetylation increases cross-bridge accessibility by impairing Tpm’s capacity to adequately impede actomyosin binding when Tpm alone is bound to F-actin. This effect could potentially translate into less inhibited thin filaments in the presence of Tn and Ca²⁺.

We subsequently assessed the ability of acetylated actin to serve as the backbone of a filament that responds to Ca²⁺. We reconstituted thin filaments by adding Tn–Tpm to control and acetylated F-actin and determined the velocity and percentage of moving filaments at three distinct Ca²⁺ levels. Given the more pronounced relative effect of actin acetylation on F-actin–Tpm movement under low myosin concentrations, we

Table 1
Chemically acetylated lysine residues on actin

Actin was acetylated with an 80:1 molar ratio of acetic anhydride:actin, digested with trypsin and analyzed by MS as described under "Experimental procedures." Acetylated peptides were identified by a mass search of *in silico* trypsinized rabbit skeletal actin (UniProt KB-P68135), allowing for variable modification of lysine residues with a mass shift of 42 kDa (71). Annotated spectra associated with each peptide can be found in the supporting information (Fig. S6)

Entry	Acetylated peptide sequence	Modifications	Protein accessions	Protein name	Acetylation site ^e	Peptide identification probability ^f	Acetyl site localization probability ^g	Best Mascot ion score ^e	Mascot identity score ^e	Observed mass	Actual mass	Charge	Δ
1	(K)DSVYGEAQSKR(G)	Acetyl (+42)	XP_002722940.1, XP_002718044.1, NP_001095153.1	Actin, Sk, Ca, and Cy	Lys ⁶¹	100	100	79.84	27.19	698.8216	1,395.63	2	ppm 1.354
2	(R)VAPEEHPHTLLTEAPLNPKANRE	Acetyl (+42)	XP_002722940.1, XP_002718044.1	Actin, Sk, and Ca	Lys ¹¹³	100	100	78.04	31.45	780.4176	2,338.23	3	1.127
3	(R)DLTDYLMKILTER(X)	Acetyl (+42)	XP_002722940.1, XP_002718044.1, NP_001095153.1	Actin, Sk, Ca, and Cy	Lys ¹⁹¹	100	100	51.8	30.77	551.6243	1,651.85	3	1.044
4	(R)DLTDYLMKILTER(X)	Oxidation (+16), acetyl (+42)	XP_002722940.1, NP_001095153.1	Actin, Sk, Ca and Cy	Lys ¹⁹¹	100	100	62.48	30.76	834.9309	1,667.85	2	1.676
5	(K)EKLCYVALDFENEMATAASSSSLEK(S)	Acetyl (+42), carbamidomethyl (+57)	NP_001095153.1, XP_002722940.1, XP_002718044.1	Actin, Sk, and Ca	Lys ²¹⁵	100	100	109.05	31.86	945.7747	2,834.30	3	1.139
6	(R)cPETLFPQSFHGMESAGIHETTYNSIMK(C)	Carbamidomethyl (+57), deamidated (+1), acetyl (+42)	XP_002722940.1, XP_002718044.1, XP_002722940.1	Actin, Sk, and Ca	Lys ²⁸⁴	100	100	50.58	31.39	1,077.83	3,230.48	3	4.349
7	(R)LDLYANNVMSGGTTmYPGIADR(M)	Acetyl (+42), oxidation (+16)	XP_002722940.1	Actin and Sk	Lys ²⁹¹	100	100	80.92	31.06	811.3799	2,431.12	3	1.209
8	(R)LDLYANNVMSGGTImYPGIADR(M)	Acetyl (+42), oxidation (+16), oxidation (+16)	XP_002722940.1	Actin and Sk	Lys ²⁹¹	100	100	69.9	31.14	816.7142	2,447.12	3	4.377
9	(R)MQEITALAPSTMK(I)	Acetyl (+42)	XP_002722940.1, XP_002718044.1, NP_001095153.1	Actin, Sk, Ca, and Cy	Lys ³¹⁵	100	100	56.72	31.49	795.915	1,589.82	2	-0.3323
10	(K)EITALAPSTMK(I)	Acetyl (+42)	NP_001095153.1, XP_002722940.1, XP_002718044.1	Actin, Sk, Ca, and Cy	Lys ³²⁶	100	100	59.07	29.24	722.9083	1,443.80	2	0.7138
11	(K)EITALAPSTMKIKIAPPK(K)	Acetyl (+42), acetyl (+42)	NP_001095153.1, XP_002722940.1, XP_002718044.1	Actin, Sk, Ca, and Cy	Lys ³²⁶ , Lys ³²⁸	100	100	36.84	26.92	755.0963	2,262.27	3	0.3617
12	(K)IKIAPPK(K)	Acetyl (+42)	NP_001095153.1, XP_002722940.1, XP_002718044.1	Actin, Sk, Ca, and Cy	Lys ³²⁸	100	100	51.91	25.00	539.8353	1,077.66	2	1.067
13	(K)IAPPKYSVWIGGSILASLTFQQmWITK(Q)	Acetyl (+42), oxidation (+16)	XP_002722940.1	Actin and Sk	Lys ³³⁶	100	100	18.07	29.25	895.4843	3,577.91	4	1.979
14	(K)IAPPKYSVWIGGSILASLTFQQMWTIK	Acetyl (+42), deamidated (+1)	XP_002722940.1	Actin and Sk	Lys ³⁵⁹	100	100	103.97	30.22	1,009.93	5,044.60	5	4.512
15	(R)KYSVWIGGSILASLTFQQmWITK(Q)	Deamidated (+1), acetyl (+42)	XP_002722940.1	Actin and Sk	Lys ³⁵⁹	100	100	43.34	32.46	929.8234	2,786.45	3	4.556
16	(R)KYSVWIGGSILASLTFQQmWITKQYDEAG	Acetyl (+42), oxidation (+16)	XP_002722940.1	Actin and Sk	Lys ³³⁶	100	100	56.21	33.57	857.6372	4,283.15	5	3.015
17	(R)KYSVWIGGSILASLTFQQmWITKQYDEAG	Deamidated (+1), acetyl (+42)	XP_002722940.1	Actin and Sk	Lys ³⁵⁹	100	100	35.18	33.39	854.6355	4,268.14	5	3.646
18	(K)YSVWIGGSILASLTFQQMWTIKQYDEAG	Acetyl (+42), deamidated (+1)	XP_002722940.1	Actin and Sk	Lys ³⁵⁹	100	100	56.21	34.16	1,036.02	4,140.05	4	3.985
19	(R)KYSVWIGGSILASLTFQQmWISKQYDEAG	Oxidation (+16), acetyl (+42)	XP_002718044.1	Actin and Ca	Lys ³⁵⁹	100	100	35.64	33.96	1,068.29	4,269.13	4	2.638
20	(R)LDLYAmVLSGGTTmYPGIADR(M)	Acetyl (+42), deamidated (+1), deamidated (+1)	XP_002718044.1	Actin and Ca	Lys ²⁹¹	96	100	16.94	31.74	600.7888	2,399.13	4	-2.33
21	(R)EIVRDIKEKLCYVALDFEEMATAASSSSLEK(S)	Acetyl (+42), carbamidomethyl (+57), deamidated (+1)	NP_001095153.1	Actin and Cy	Lys ²¹³	97	100	20.47	34.17	926.7111	3,702.82	4	3.85
22	(K)EKLCYVALDFEEMATAASSSSLEK(S)	Acetyl (+42), carbamidomethyl (+57), deamidated (+1)	NP_001095153.1	Actin and Cy	Lys ²¹³	100	100	63.54	32.40	950.7781	2,849.31	3	4.832

^aSite numbering according to the sequence, *in vivo*, which excludes the first two amino acids that are cleaved post-translationally.

^bPosition of Ac moiety assessed using the A-score algorithm of Beausoleil *et al.* (71).

^cIon score = -10log (probability that match is random).

^dIdentity score is the score greater than which peptide identity has $p < 0.05$.

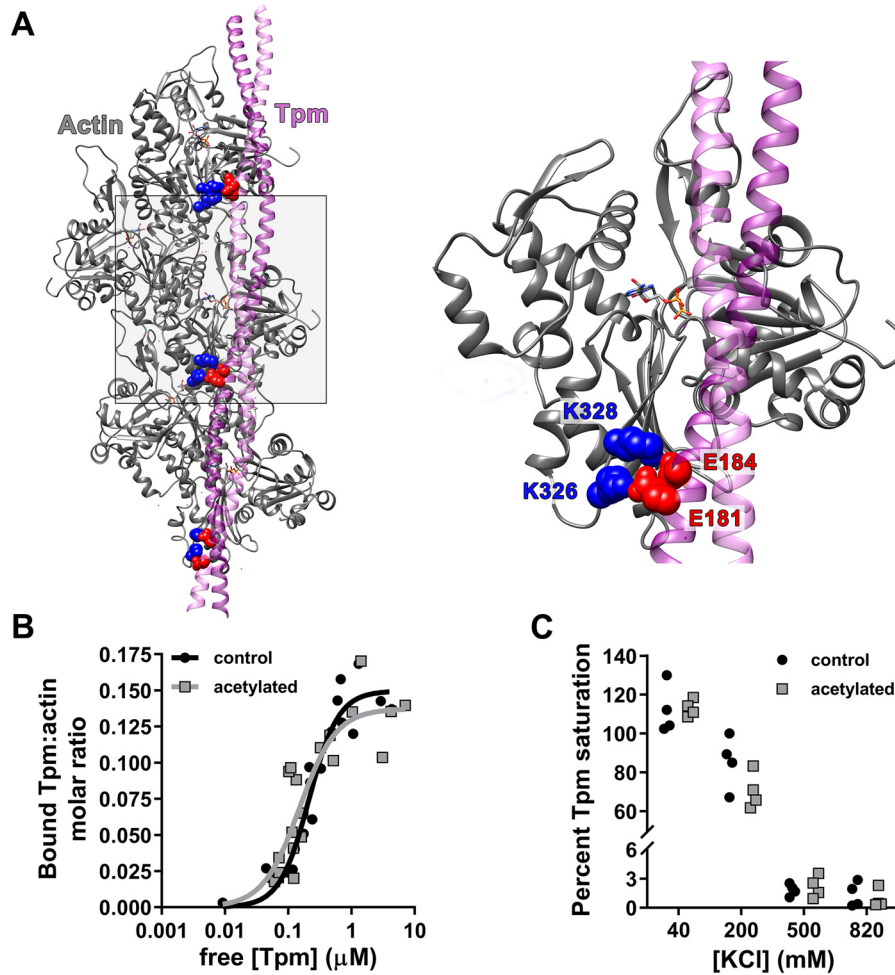


Figure 2. Actin acetylation does not disrupt global F-actin-Tpm binding. *A*, purported contacts between Lys³²⁶/Lys³²⁸ (blue) on actin (gray) and negatively charged Tpm (purple) residues (red) in pseudorepeats 4, 5, and 6 (from bottom to top) (12). *B*, F-actin-Tpm co-sedimentation data were fit to the Hill equation ($y = B_{\max} \times x^n / (K_d^n + x^n)$), and no significant differences were found in B_{\max} or K_d of Tpm for control (black; $B_{\max} = 0.15 \pm 0.009$; $K_d = 0.21 \pm 0.03 \mu\text{M}$, respectively) versus acetylated (gray; $B_{\max} = 0.14 \pm 0.013$; $K_d = 0.15 \pm 0.04 \mu\text{M}$, respectively) F-actin. *C*, saturating amounts of Tpm were mixed with control (black) or acetylated (gray) F-actin at 40, 200, 500, and 820 mM [KCl] and pelleted. At 40 mM, the percentage of Tpm saturation of control ($112 \pm 6.3\%$) versus acetylated ($113 \pm 2.2\%$) F-actin was equivalent. Increasing [KCl] to 200 mM similarly decreased Tpm binding to control ($85.4 \pm 6.85\%$) and acetylated ($70.4 \pm 4.68\%$) F-actin, which was nearly fully ablated by 500 mM.

ected to measure RTF activation at 25 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ myosin. At low Ca^{2+} (pCa 9), movement of control and acetylated actin-containing RTFs was limited and discontinuous and, therefore, unquantifiable under our motion criteria (see supporting information) (Fig. 4A). At high Ca^{2+} (pCa 4), the average velocity and percentage of filaments moving of acetylated actin-containing RTFs ($1.11 \pm 0.17 \mu\text{M/s}$ and $40.5 \pm 3.4\%$, respectively) were comparable with control ($1.19 \pm 0.21 \mu\text{M/s}$ and $40.1 \pm 3.9\%$, respectively) (Fig. 4, A and B). However, when assessed at a submaximal, activating level of steady-state Ca^{2+} (pCa 6.5), akin to an amount transiently present in actively contracting human myocytes (51–53), average acetylated versus control actin-containing RTF velocities ($0.27 \pm 0.01 \mu\text{M/s}$ versus $0.18 \pm 0.02 \mu\text{M/s}$, respectively) along with percentage of filaments moving ($24.75 \pm 1.63\%$ versus $20.11 \pm 1.45\%$, respectively) were significantly elevated ($p < 0.05$) (Fig. 4C). These results are consistent with enhanced F-actin-Tpm movement (Fig. 3, D–F) and indicate that acetylated actin is capable of forming a Ca^{2+} -responsive thin filament that is less inhibited and hypersensitive to Ca^{2+} .

Because Lys⁵⁰, Lys⁶¹, Lys³¹⁵, Lys³²⁶, and Lys³²⁸ are commonly observed actin acetylation sites in vertebrates (31, 32), they may be the most physiologically relevant. As previously noted, Lys³²⁶ and Lys³²⁸ are critical for establishing Tpm's inhibitory state *in vitro* and *in vivo* (12, 15, 20, 22, 30); accordingly, it stands to reason that acetylation of these residues specifically would have the greatest contribution to Tpm mispositioning and increased actomyosin accessibility. Therefore, we attempted to more precisely resolve the effects of modifying Lys³²⁶ and Lys³²⁸ by altering the acetylation reaction to favorably target these residues (Fig. S3). Based on previous measures of relative reactivities of actin lysines (38), we proceeded under the premise that performing the acetylation reaction with substoichiometric amounts of acetic anhydride would preferentially target Lys³²⁶ and Lys³²⁸, and thus, any observed changes in Tpm-dependent inhibition of myosin binding could predominantly be attributed to modifying these residues. F-actin-Tpm *in vitro* motility was performed following treatment of actin with either sub- or supstoichiometric amounts of acetic anhydride (Fig. 5A). Substoichiometric acetic anhydride

Actin acetylation alters inhibitory tropomyosin positioning

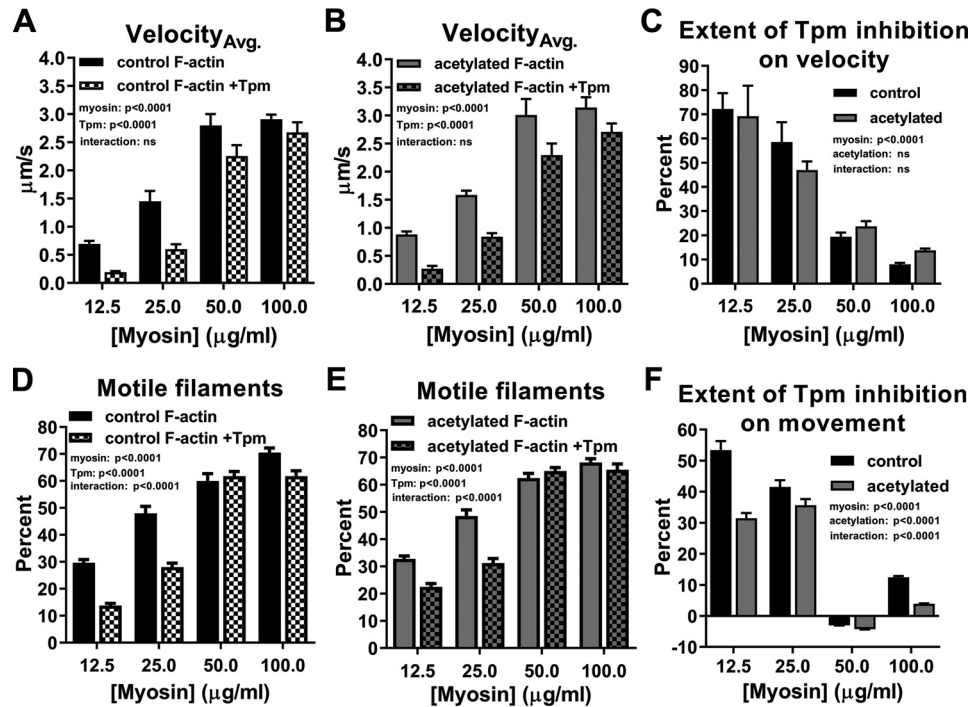


Figure 3. Actin acetylation reduces Tpm-based inhibition of actomyosin binding. *A* and *B*, control (*A*, black) and acetylated (*B*, gray) F-actin (solid) and F-actin–Tpm (checkered) velocities significantly increased as a function of myosin concentration, whereas Tpm addition significantly decreased velocities (two-way ANOVA; $p < 0.0001$; $n = 4$). *C*, percentage of decrease in control (black) and acetylated (gray) F-actin velocities observed as a result of Tpm addition revealed that acetylation had no significant effect on Tpm-mediated reduction of velocity (two-way ANOVA; $n = 4$). *D–F*, the effects of myosin concentration and Tpm on percentage of moving control (*D*, black) and acetylated (*E*, gray) F-actin (solid) and F-actin–Tpm (checkered) mirrored those on velocity, whereas actin acetylation (*F*, gray) significantly decreased Tpm-based inhibition of filament motion relative to control (black) (two-way ANOVA; $p < 0.0001$; $n = 17–22$).

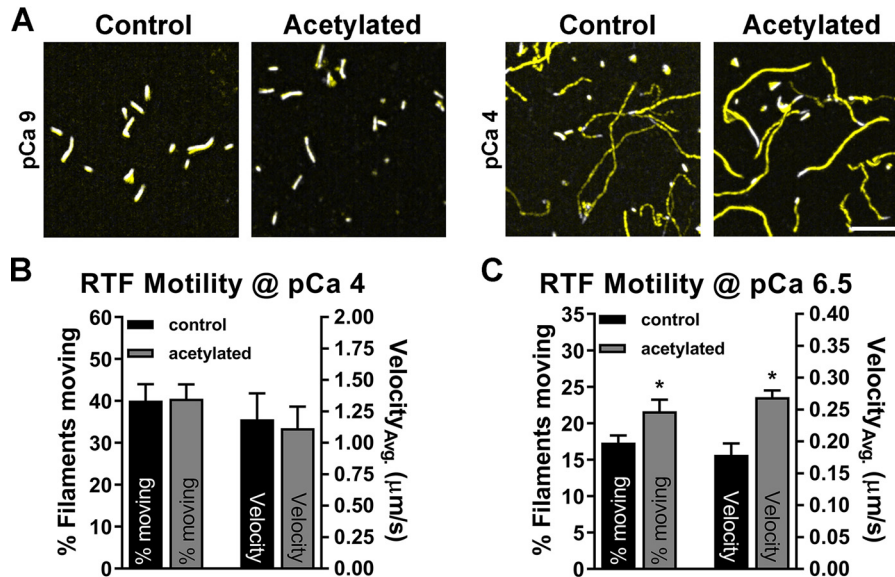


Figure 4. Reduced Tpm-based inhibition persists in acetylated actin-containing RTFs. *A*, representative images illustrating immeasurable (pCa 9) and equivalent (pCa 4) movement of control and acetylated actin-containing RTFs by overlaying the first frame of a 17–20-s movie (white) with a summative image of total motion (yellow). Scale bar, 7 μm . *B*, percentage of filaments moving (left; $n = 9$) and average velocities (right; $n = 2$) of control (black; $40.1 \pm 3.9\%$ and $1.19 \pm 0.21 \mu\text{m/s}$, respectively) and acetylated (gray; $40.5 \pm 3.4\%$ and $1.11 \pm 0.17 \mu\text{m/s}$, respectively) RTFs at pCa 4 were indistinguishable (two-tailed t test). *C*, percentage of filaments moving (left; $n = 7$) and average velocities (right; $n = 2$) of acetylated ($24.75 \pm 1.63\%$ and $0.27 \pm 0.01 \mu\text{m/s}$, respectively) RTFs were significantly greater than control ($20.11 \pm 1.45\%$ and $0.18 \pm 0.02 \mu\text{m/s}$, respectively) at pCa 6.5 (two-tailed t test; *, $p < 0.05$).

treatment resulted in significantly greater ($p < 0.001$) F-actin–Tpm movement relative to control. Furthermore, movement of F-actin–Tpm containing substoichiometric-treated actin was statistically equivalent to F-actin–Tpm movement containing suprastoichiometric-treated actin (Fig.

5A). Therefore, actin acetylation with substoichiometric levels of acetic anhydride that favors Lys³²⁶ and Lys³²⁸ acetylation recapitulates the impact of actin treated with suprastoichiometric levels of acetic anhydride, which is less discriminate. This might indicate that Lys³²⁶ and/or Lys³²⁸

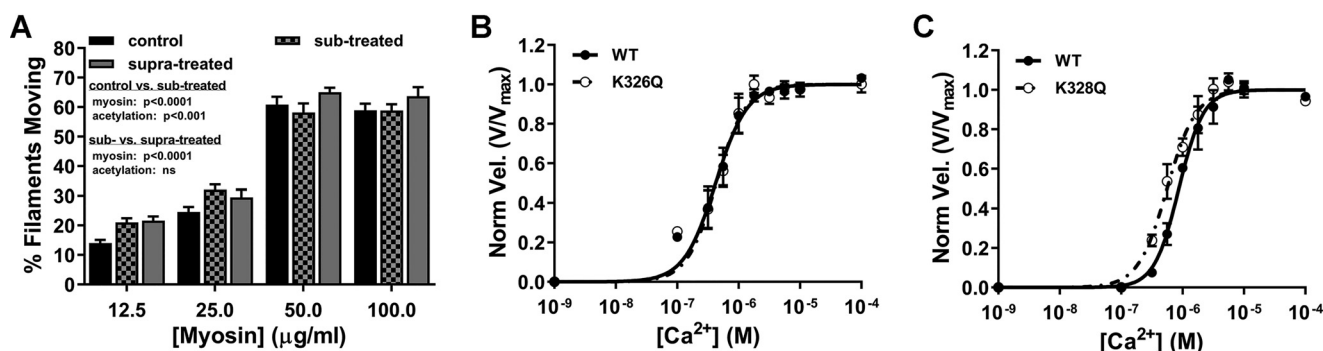


Figure 5. Lys³²⁸ pseudoacetylation enhances RTF Ca²⁺ sensitivity. *A*, treatment of actin with a substoichiometric amount of acetic anhydride (checked gray) significantly increased percentage of actin–Tpm filaments moving relative to control (black) (two-way ANOVA; $p < 0.001$; $n = 9–12$), whereas substoichiometric-treated F-actin–Tpm movement was not significantly different from supra-stoichiometric-treated (gray) (two-way ANOVA, $n = 10–12$). *B* and *C*, velocity-normalized plots of Ca²⁺-dependent activation of K326Q- and K328Q-containing RTFs relative to respective WT controls. K326Q and K328Q maximum velocities ($V_{max} = 4.1 \pm 0.1$ and $3.3 \pm 0.06 \mu\text{M/s}$, respectively) did not significantly differ from respective internal WT controls ($V_{max} = 4.2 \pm 0.09$ and $3.3 \pm 0.06 \mu\text{M/s}$, respectively). *B*, Ca²⁺-dependent activation of K326Q-containing RTFs was equivalent to WT control actin-containing RTFs as revealed by no significant differences in Ca²⁺ sensitivity ($[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{50} = 0.43 \pm 0.029$ versus $0.42 \pm 0.027 \mu\text{M}$, respectively) or cooperativity ($h = 1.8 \pm 0.25$ versus 1.7 ± 0.21 , respectively). *C*, although there was no significant change in cooperativity of K328Q-containing RTFs ($h = 1.8 \pm 0.21$) relative to WT control ($h = 2.2 \pm 0.22$), K328Q-containing RTF Ca²⁺ sensitivity ($[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{50} = 0.56 \pm 0.032 \mu\text{M}$) was significantly increased relative to WT control ($[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{50} = 0.87 \pm 0.044 \mu\text{M}$) ($p < 0.0001$; $n = 4$).

acetylation preferentially contributes to the observed increases in the percentage of F-actin–Tpm movement and RTF movement and velocity, which is in agreement with corroborating structural and *in silico* modeling data of the F-actin–Tpm interface (12, 15, 17–19, 25, 26). Hence, actin Lys³²⁶ and/or Lys³²⁸ modification specifically may modulate regulation of filaments replete with Tn–Tpm complexes.

Drosophila serves as a vehicle for transgenic actin production that can be purified in ample amounts needed for *in vitro* studies (22, 49, 54). The Act88F IFM actin isoform shares 92% identity with human vertebrate skeletal actin, and previous *in vitro* studies have confirmed that the two behave indistinguishably *in vitro* (22, 55). Similarly, the Act57B cardiac actin isoform is 93% identical to human vertebrate cardiac actin. To unambiguously assess the site-specific impact of Lys³²⁶ or Lys³²⁸ modification on Ca²⁺-dependent thin filament regulation, we created transgenic *Drosophila* fly lines that express WT, K326Q, or K328Q Ac-mimetic (charge-neutralizing, yet sterically similar) Act57B actin in the IFM (30). Transgenic actin comprised roughly 15% of total IFM actin (Fig. S4), which was isolated and reconstituted into thin filaments using vertebrate cardiac Tn and Tpm. Ca²⁺ responsiveness of *Drosophila* actin-containing RTFs was determined via regulated *in vitro* motility at 100 μg/ml myosin as described previously (22). Maximum velocities of RTFs containing transgenic pseudoacetylated actin did not deviate more than 3% from respective transgenic WT actin-containing RTFs (Fig. 5, *B* and *C*). Furthermore, K326Q actin-containing RTFs exhibited no change in Ca²⁺ sensitivity ($[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{50} = 0.43 \pm 0.029 \mu\text{M}$) or cooperativity ($h = 1.8 \pm 0.25$) relative to WT ($[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{50} = 0.42 \pm 0.027 \mu\text{M}$ and $h = 1.7 \pm 0.21$) (Fig. 5*B*). However, K328Q actin-containing RTFs were significantly hypersensitive ($p < 0.0001$) to Ca²⁺ ($[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{50} = 0.56 \pm 0.032 \mu\text{M}$) relative to WT ($[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{50} = 0.87 \pm 0.044 \mu\text{M}$), with no change in cooperativity ($h = 1.8 \pm 0.21$ and 2.2 ± 0.22 , respectively) (Fig. 5*C*). Increased Ca²⁺ sensitivity in K328Q actin-containing RTFs is noteworthy for three reasons: 1) it is consistent with our previous data indicating increased myosin binding to acetylated F-actin–Tpm and RTFs at submaximal Ca²⁺ (Figs. 3

and 4); 2) it suggests that Lys³²⁸ acetylation alone is sufficient to cause Tpm mispositioning, and therefore less Ca²⁺ is required for RTF activation; and 3) it reveals the potential for Lys³²⁸ acetylation specifically to modulate and enhance thin filament Ca²⁺ sensitivity *in vivo*.

Discussion

This is the first study to assess the *in vitro* effects of actin acetylation on Tpm- and Tn–Tpm-mediated inhibition of actomyosin binding and cycling activity. Interestingly, *in vitro* chemical acetylation of F-actin appeared to have little effect on Tpm binding as determined by co-sedimentation assays. Because a previous study reported that the simultaneous substitution of actin Asp²⁵, Glu³³⁴, Lys³²⁶, and Lys³²⁸, with alanines abolished F-actin–Tpm binding (19), we anticipated, *at a minimum*, a decrease in global Tpm binding affinity. However, no such reduction was observed under our experimental conditions. This discrepancy might be due to one or more of the following factors. First, negative effects on Tpm binding caused by alanine substitution-induced perturbations in the F-actin–Tpm topological landscape might exceed those elicited by either glutamine substitutions or Ac group transfer and charge neutralization. Second, relatively few positively charged Lys³²⁶ and/or Lys³²⁸ residues may be sufficient for collective Tpm binding. Third, disparities resulting from expression of recombinant rat striated α-Tpm and human smooth muscle actin compared with tissue-purified bovine cardiac Tpm and rabbit skeletal actin, as employed here, could differentially affect Tpm binding to the modified acts (16, 19, 20, 56, 57). Fourth, positively charged arginines on actin potentially minimize the loss in binding caused by lysine charge neutralization. Last, negatively charged Asp²⁵ and/or Glu³³⁴ are also important contributors to global F-actin–Tpm binding affinity. Discriminating among these and additional possible mechanisms will require further investigation.

According to the results obtained using our *in vitro* motility protocol, acetylation had no effect on rabbit skeletal F-actin sliding speeds across all concentrations of rabbit skeletal

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myosin tested. This corroborates the notion that the modification does not overtly impact actomyosin interactions and cross-bridge turnover rate in the absence of Tpm (Fig. 1D). In the presence of the regulatory strand, however, the number of motile actin–Tpm filaments significantly increased relative to control (Fig. 3, D–F), and the increase was significant under conditions that favored pan-acetylation of actin lysines or, potentially, under that which favored modification of only Lys³²⁶ and Lys³²⁸ (38) (Fig. 5A). These findings added credence to the thought that Lys³²⁶ and/or Lys³²⁸ modification might mitigate the ability of Tpm to inherently block myosin binding to actin.

Hyperacetylation of actin did not adversely affect thin filament stability or trigger disassembly because increasing actin acetylation ~290-fold did not hamper *in vitro* reconstitution of or render RTFs unresponsive to Ca²⁺. Acetylated actin-containing RTF motility was completely absent at pCa 9 (Fig. 4A) and comparable with control RTFs at pCa 4 (Fig. 4, A and B). Therefore, at steady state, and in the presence of low or maximal Ca²⁺ (58–60), acetylation did not seemingly impact Tn's ability to bind F-actin–Tpm and establish the thin filament regulatory B- or M-states. However, at submaximal, activating pCa 6.5, both the percentage of motile and average velocity of acetylated actin-containing RTFs were significantly higher than control (Fig. 4C), consistent with reduced inhibition of myosin binding. Thus, despite a loss in positive surface charge, acetylated actin was capable of reconstituting into, and forming the molecular backbone of, a Ca²⁺-responsive thin filament that evidently is hypersensitive to Ca²⁺ as indicated by increased myosin recruitment and propulsion speed at pCa 6.5.

Based on F-actin–Tpm results supporting the idea that Lys³²⁶ and/or Lys³²⁸ actin acetylation was largely responsible for attenuating Tpm-based inhibition (Fig. 5A), we reconstituted thin filaments containing Ac-mimetic K326Q or K328Q actin and tested the residue-specific effects of the modification on Ca²⁺ regulation of motility by measuring maximum sliding speeds, Ca²⁺ sensitivity, and cooperativity of activation (Fig. 5, B and C). We found that RTFs containing ~15% K328Q pseudoacetylated actin (30) were hypersensitive to Ca²⁺ (Fig. 5C). Enhanced Ca²⁺ sensitivity is consistent with increased acetylated F-actin–Tpm movement (Fig.'s 3, 5A) and enhanced activation of acetylated actin-containing RTFs at intermediate Ca²⁺ (Fig. 4C). Mechanistically, each result can be explained by either an actin acetylation- or K328Q-induced loss in Tpm-based inhibition of myosin binding.

Although Lys³²⁶ acetylation is not disqualified as a modifier of thin filament Ca²⁺ sensitivity, our results suggest that relative to Lys³²⁸, Lys³²⁶ acetylation is, *at the very least*, significantly less impactful when present in RTFs at the tested amount. This is supported by our previous *in vivo* results that evaluated the specific effects of K326Q and K328Q Ac-mimetic actin on *Drosophila* flight ability and IFM morphology (30). Flies that ectopically expressed K328Q actin in IFMs, at roughly the same proportion present in RTFs here, were rendered flightless because of muscle destruction caused by severe, myosin-dependent hypercontraction. On the other hand, whereas the flight ability of K326Q-containing flies was significantly reduced, gross morphological structure of the IFMs was pre-

served. Therefore, when present at comparable levels in muscle, K328Q elicited a far more severe phenotype than K326Q actin, which suggests that the relative influence of Lys³²⁸ pseudoacetylation on the regulation of striated muscle contraction exceeds that of Lys³²⁶. Our *in vitro* study corroborates the *in vivo* data and reveals a potential molecular mechanism to explain the exacerbated K328Q muscular phenotype. Relative to WT and K326Q, Lys³²⁸ pseudoacetylation of actin increases myosin binding to thin filaments because of elevated Ca²⁺ sensitivity and a greater loss in Tpm-based inhibition. These effects likely result in dysregulation of force production *in vivo*, which elicits destruction of IFMs; muscles that are particularly sensitive to perturbation.

Previous work has demonstrated a correlation between myofibrillar and myofibrillar protein acetylation levels and muscle function (35, 37); however, individual contributions from the various modified proteins to overall behavior remain, for the most part, unknown. One study reported that enzyme-mediated lysine acetylation of striated muscle myosin *in vitro* increases actomyosin affinity and F-actin sliding velocity, suggesting an acetylation-dependent enhancement in cross-bridge cycling (61). In contrast, our data suggest that actin acetylation does not appreciably affect actomyosin activity except when Tpm is present. Recently, we found that introduction of cardiac TnI Ac-mimetic K132Q decreased Ca²⁺ sensitivity of both RTFs and isolated myofibrils (62). In comparison, K328Q actin increased RTF Ca²⁺ sensitivity. Future work should focus on how acetylation of other known targets in muscle, *e.g.* TnT, TnC, titin, etc., individually and in combination, affect actomyosin activity and muscle performance (32).

Given both the Ac reactivity and functional importance of actin Lys³²⁸ (30, 38), it will be important to determine whether its acetylation status is sensitive to changes in cellular Ac-CoA levels, either physiological (*e.g.* feeding/fasting) or pathological (*e.g.* heart failure (63, 64)). Alternatively, increased/decreased KAT or KDAC enzymatic activity could alter levels of the PTM via a residue-specific mechanism. Although a number of small-molecule compounds have been shown to affect Ac-CoA tissue levels by inhibiting Ac-CoA carboxylase (65–68), discovery of specific KAT and/or KDAC activators/inhibitors that preferentially target sarcomeric actin, and in particular Lys³²⁶ and/or Lys³²⁸, has been absent.

Ultimately, it will be informative to assess the site-specific stoichiometry of acetylation on actin, both *in vitro* and *in vivo*. Preliminary assessments by targeted parallel reaction monitoring MS are qualitatively consistent with Lys³²⁶ and Lys³²⁸ as highly reactive acetylation sites on actin,¹ as reported previously (30, 38). However, rigorous absolute quantitation at all previously reported acetylation sites on actin is technically challenging because of the presence of easily oxidized cysteine and methionine residues flanking many of the acetylation sites (Table 1). Nevertheless, site-specific actin Ac-peptide assays are in development.

In conclusion, notwithstanding the apparent marginal impact of actin acetylation on global F-actin–Tpm binding

¹ Anthony Cammarato and D. Brian Foster, unpublished observations.

affinity and stoichiometry, it reduced Tpm's ability to block actomyosin interactions and sensitized RTFs bathed in a submaximal, activating amount of Ca^{2+} . Site-specific mimicry of acetylation at the reactive residue, Lys³²⁸ on actin, is sufficient to recapitulate the Ca^{2+} sensitization of RTF activation. We submit that the physiological acetylation status of Lys³²⁸ and its susceptibility to change, in the context of disease, warrant further scrutiny because the PTM may serve as a potent modulator of striated muscle contraction.

Experimental procedures

Molecular modeling

Actin–myosin–Tpm and actin–Tpm structures were generated using Chimera version 1.9 (69) derived from Protein Data Bank codes 4A7f (41) and 9PDB file provided in Orzechowski *et al.* (12).

Drosophila stocks and husbandry

All flies were raised at 25 °C on a standard cornmeal–yeast–sucrose–agar medium. The *Act88F-Gal4* line was a gift from Dr. Richard M. Cripps (University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, USA), and flies containing one of the *UAS-Act57B* actin transgenes (*UAS-Act57B^{GFP.WT}*, *UAS-Act57B^{WT}*, *UAS-Act57B^{K326Q}*, or *UAS-Act57B^{K328Q}*) were generated as described previously (30). Virgin *Act88F-Gal4* female flies were crossed with males containing one of the *UAS-Act57B* transgenes to create progeny that overexpressed transgenic Act57B^{WT}, Act57B^{K326Q}, or Act57B^{K328Q} actin specifically in the IFM.

Protein sources, preparation, and quantitation

Lympholized rabbit skeletal actin was obtained from Cytoskeleton (catalog no. AKL95). Psoas muscle myosin was purified (70) from white New Zealand rabbits provided by Dr. David Kass (Johns Hopkins University). Tissue-purified porcine cardiac Tpm was provided by Dr. Jeff Moore (University of Massachusetts–Lowell), and bovine cardiac isoforms of Tpm and Tn were provided by Dr. Larry Tobacman (University of Illinois at Chicago). Pools containing ectopically expressed Act57B^{WT}, Act57B^{K326Q}, or Act57B^{K328Q} actin were purified from *Drosophila* IFMs according to previously published protocols (22, 49, 54).

In vitro actin acetylation and quantitation of lysine acetylation levels

In vitro actin acetylation was performed as described in Hitchcock-DeGregori *et al.* (38). 10 mg/ml globular (G-) actin, rehydrated as per manufacturer's instructions in 5 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 0.2 mM CaCl_2 , 0.2 mM ATP, 5% (w/v) sucrose, and 1% (w/v) dextran, was distributed into 10 μl aliquots, flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen, and stored at -80°C . Thawed G-actin was diluted 10-fold in low-salt buffer (25 mM KCl, 4 mM MgCl_2 , 1 mM EGTA, 25 mM imidazole, pH 7.2, 10 mM DTT, 1 mM ATP) and polymerized for ~ 1 h at room temperature. Stock acetic anhydride (Sigma–Aldrich lot no. SHBJ2093) was diluted 1:70 (4-fold ratio of total moles of acetic anhydride:total actin

lysines) or 1:5600 (0.05 total mol of acetic anhydride:total actin lysines) in 100% acetonitrile and added to 96 μl of 1 mg/ml F-actin via addition of four 0.3 μl aliquots every 3 min with continuous agitation. Actins were stored at 4 °C overnight and dialyzed twice in the cold room against 1 liter of buffer (100 or 200 mM KCl, 5 mM MgCl_2 , 5 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5) for at least 4 h to remove unreacted acetic anhydride.

Dialyzed acetylated actin was prepared in 4 \times lithium dodecyl sulfate sample buffer (Invitrogen lot no. 1920134), and ~ 3 μg was loaded onto a 4–15% gradient SDS-PAGE gel (Bio-Rad catalog no. 456-1086). Proteins were transferred to a nitrocellulose membrane, blocked for 1 h in 1:1 mixture of TBS with 0.1% Tween 20 (Sigma lot no. SLBD6080V) and blocking buffer (LI-COR catalog no. 927-40000), and probed with anti-Ac-lysine (Cytoskeleton catalog no. AAC-03) antibodies, diluted 1:750 in TBS, for 1 h at room temperature or overnight in the cold room. Following four or five washes in TBS with 0.1% Tween 20 (TBST), Ac-lysine-bound primary antibodies were conjugated to 1:10,000 green secondary antibodies (LI-COR Biosciences) via 1 h incubation at room temperature. After numerous TBST washes, the membranes were exposed to a 1:7500 diluted anti-actin primary antibody (Proteintech catalog no. 20536-1-AP) at room temperature for 1 h, washed, and conjugated to 1:10,000 diluted red secondary antibodies (LI-COR Biosciences). Unconjugated antibodies were washed, and membranes were imaged on a LI-COR Odyssey fluorescence imager. Anti-Ac-lysine intensities were normalized to actin, and the average fold increase in actin-normalized lysine acetylation was determined for 9–11 individual measures.

Sample peptide preparation, chromatography, MS, and data analysis

48 μl of 1 mg/ml F-actin (25 mM KCl, 4 mM MgCl_2 , 1 mM EGTA, 25 mM imidazole, pH 7.2, 10 mM DTT, 1 mM ATP) were aliquoted into two separate tubes. Each tube was mixed with either 100% acetonitrile or acetonitrile containing 1:140 (v/v) diluted stock acetic anhydride (Sigma–Aldrich lot no. SHBJ2093) via addition of four 0.3 μl aliquots every 3 min under constant mixing. Total moles of acetic anhydride added to the latter mixture was four times the number of actin lysines. F-actin samples were left at 4 °C overnight, and the following day ~ 5 μg total protein were dried down, redissolved in 50 μl of 20 mM ammonium bicarbonate (pH 8.0), then reduced with 5 μl of 50 mM DTT at 55 °C for 1 h, and alkylated with 5 μl 50 mM iodoacetamide in the dark for 15 min. Enzymatic cleavage was performed with MS-grade trypsin/lys-C (Promega) at 37 °C overnight. The peptides were desalted with stage tips constructed from Empore C18 material (3M Corporation).

Tryptic peptides were subjected to nano-reversed phase HPLC coupled to MS/MS. Chromatography was conducted on a 75 μm \times 250 mm column that was packed in-house into a PicoFrit self-pack (New Objective) with ReproSil-Pur C18-AQ (3 μm particles, 120 Å pores; Dr. Maisch, GmbH) and eluted with a 120 min linear two-solvent gradient (solvent A: 0.1% (v/v) formic acid (Suprapur, EMD Millipore) with in-house deionized, reverse-osmosed water; solvent B: 0.1% formic acid

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in 80% (v/v) acetonitrile (Fisher Scientific) into an Orbitrap Fusion Lumos mass spectrometer equipped with the Easy-IC (internal calibration; Thermo Scientific) option. Data-dependent MS/MS acquisition was employed using a 3 s cycle time between MS scans. The resolution was 120,000 for MS and 30,000 for MS/MS. Signal targets were 2×10^6 ions in 60 s for MS and 5×10^4 ions in 54 s for MS/MS.

Acquired masses were searched against the RefSeq83 *Oryctolagus cuniculus* database using Mascot version 2.6.2 (Matrix Science), as implemented in Proteome Discoverer 1.4 (Thermo Scientific) with lysine acetylation (+42 Da), deamidation of asparagine and glutamine (+1 Da), and oxidation of methionine (+16 Da) included as variable search parameters. Carbamidomethyl cysteine (+57 Da) was set as a static search parameter. The precursor ion mass tolerance was set to 5 ppm, whereas 0.02 Da was used for MS/MS. Three missed cleavages were permitted. Data from Proteome Discoverer (1% false discovery rate) were imported into Scaffold Q+ v4.1.0 (Proteome Software) for conversion to mzIdentML and subsequent data inspection in Scaffold PTM v3.3.0 (Proteome Software). Lysine acetylation site confidence was assessed using Scaffold PTM's implementation of the A score (71).

F-actin–Tpm co-sedimentation

Dialyzed control and acetylated F-actin were diluted ~5-fold in buffer that yielded a final composition of 200 mM KCl, 2 mM MgCl₂, 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, and 10 mM DTT. Stock Tpm concentration (65 μM) was determined via Bradford colorimetric assay (Bio-Rad), and 25 μl of F-actin (~3.5 μg) was mixed with minute volumes of porcine cardiac Tpm in duplicate at the following Tpm:actin molar ratios: 1:16, 1:15, 1:12, 1:10, 7:1, 1:5, 1:4, 1:3, 1:2, 1:1, 1.5:1, and 2:1. Mixtures were placed at room temperature for 30 min, then on ice for a minimum of 2 h, and spun down in a TLA-100 ultracentrifuge rotor at 100,000 rpm ($436,000 \times g$) for 20 min at 4°C. 12 μl of supernatant were added to 3 μl of 4× lithium dodecyl sulfate sample buffer (Invitrogen lot no. 1920134), whereas 15 μl of 1× sample buffer was added to the pellets. The samples were heated to ~90°C for 3–5 min, centrifuged, loaded on a 4–15% gel (Bio-Rad catalog no. 456-1086), and run at 100 V for 1.5 h. The gels were stained overnight in G-250 Coomassie (Bio-Rad catalog no. 161-0786) and destained in double distilled water. In addition to assessment of F-actin–Tpm binding at “medium” ionic strength (*i.e.* 200 mM KCl), co-sedimentation experiments were equivalently performed under low (40 mM KCl, 4.2 mM MgCl₂, 0.8 mM EGTA, 20 mM imidazole, 1 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, and 10 mM DTT) and high (500 mM KCl, 2 mM MgCl₂, 5 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 10 mM DTT) ionic strengths at 1:3 and 1:4 Tpm:actin molar ratios. KCl concentration was further increased to 820 mM (2 mM MgCl₂, 5 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 10 mM DTT), and F-actin–Tpm binding was determined at 1:2, 1:1, 1.5:1, and 2:1 Tpm:actin ratios.

Determination of F-actin–Tpm affinity

Coomassie-stained gels were scanned using a LI-COR Odyssey fluorescence imager, and band intensities were quantified using ImageStudio software. Known amounts of Tpm (0.5–6

μg) were used to plot a standard intensity curve to determine μg of Tpm in pellet and supernatant fractions and converted to moles (67 kDa). Negligible amounts of Tpm were found in pellet fractions in the absence of F-actin (Fig. S5). To determine moles of actin, relative amounts present in pellet and supernatant fractions were calculated by dividing intensities of each band by their sum. The amount of actin in pellet and supernatant fractions was then calculated by multiplying by total actin and converted to moles (42 kDa). Bound Tpm:actin molar ratios were plotted against free Tpm concentrations, and the data were fit to the Hill equation ($y = B_{\max} \times x^h / (K_d^h + x^h)$) to derive B_{\max} and K_d of Tpm for control and acetylated actin. Significant differences in fit parameters were assessed via extra sum of squares F-tests, with $p < 0.05$ deemed significant. The percentage of saturation of F-actin–Tpm binding was defined as the molar ratio of Tpm to actin in the pellet times 700.

F-actin, F-actin–Tpm, and RTF in vitro motility

A portion of dialyzed F-actin was diluted in low-salt buffer to ~1 μM and fluorescently labeled overnight via equimolar addition of Alexa 568 phalloidin (Ph) (Thermo Fisher catalog no. A12380). *In vitro* motility of control and acetylated Alexa 568 Ph-labeled F-actin was performed at myosin concentrations between 12.5 and 100 μg/ml at 30°C, pH 7.2, and an ionic strength of 37 mM. Briefly, myosin was introduced into a flow cell and allowed 2 min to bind a nitrocellulose-coated coverslip. The surface was blocked with 2 mg/ml BSA, myosin “dead heads” were nonreversibly bound to unlabeled actin filaments, and enzymatically active myosin was bound to <10 nM Alexa 568 Ph-labeled F-actin. Fluorescent actin was excited and imaged using an X-CITE 120 LED lamp and 531/40 filter on an Olympus IX73 microscope. Emitted light was captured at 593/40 and detected on a Hamamatsu Flash 4LT EMCCD camera, operated with HCI imaging software. The videos were converted to multipage TIFs and imported into ImageJ for processing. Duplicate F-actin motility assessments from two separate supra-stoichiometric acetylation reactions and one substoichiometric acetylation reaction were obtained in parallel with control F-actins. Videos from four to eight areas of each flow cell were recorded at 1–10 fps for 20 frames total, and the velocities of moving filaments were measured via automated tracking by ImageJ plugin *wrmtrack* (72). Average velocities and errors from two technical replicate experiments per biological replicate were calculated for filaments classified as movers (see supporting information). Total filaments analyzed per myosin concentration ranged between 250 and 2000.

Alexa 568 Ph-labeled F-actin was also incubated with 300 nM bovine cardiac Tpm on ice for at least 30 min prior to F-actin–Tpm motility. Motility buffer also included 150 nM Tpm to maintain Tpm saturation of F-actin. Average velocities and percent filaments moving of control and acetylated F-actin–Tpm samples were normalized to respective F-actin velocities and percentage of filaments moving at each myosin concentration. F-actin–normalized F-actin–Tpm motility parameters were subtracted from one and multiplied by 100 to determine the percentage of Tpm-based inhibition at each myosin concentration. The effect of acetylation on Tpm-based inhibition was

assessed via two-way ANOVA with $p < 0.05$ considered significant.

RTF motility at 25 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ myosin was identically performed as F-actin–Tpm, except that 300 and 150 nM bovine cardiac Tn was added to F-actin–Tpm and Tpm– Ca^{2+} -containing motility buffers (50 mM KCl), respectively. Significant differences in average velocities and the percentage of moving filaments at pCa 4 and 6.5 between control and acetylated actin-containing RTFs were determined via two-tailed t tests with $p < 0.05$ considered significant. Ca^{2+} -regulated motility of RTFs containing *Drosophila*-derived, transgenic Act57B actin at 100 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ myosin concentration was performed as described previously (22). Briefly, average RTF velocities calculated from two biological and two technical replicate experiments ($n = 4$) at each distinct $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]$ were pooled and weighted based on the number of filaments analyzed for each of four replicate experiments. Pooled, raw velocity data were plotted as a function of $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]$ and fit to the Hill equation to derive the V_{max} value for each RTF type. Average velocities at each $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]$ were then normalized to each corresponding, Hill equation–derived V_{max} , and pooled normalized velocity *versus* $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]$ data were refit to the Hill equation. Significant differences in $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{50}$ and cooperativity were determined via extra sum of squares F-tests between the fits.

Data availability

All data, associated protocols, methods, and sources of materials are available in the main text or in the [supporting information](#). Additionally, the MS proteomics data have been deposited to the ProteomeXchange Consortium via the PRIDE (73) partner repository with the data set identifier PXD020732 and PXD019276.

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Abbreviations—The abbreviations used are: PTM, post-translational modification; Ac, Acetyl; Tpm, tropomyosin; Tn, troponin; F-, filamentous; RTF, reconstituted thin filament; TnI, inhibitory subunit of troponin; TnT, tropomyosin-binding subunit of troponin; TnC, calcium-binding subunit of troponin; B-state, blocking positional state of tropomyosin; C-state, closed positional state of tropomyosin; M-state, myosin-induced positional state of tropomyosin; A-state, “Apo” positional state of tropomyosin; IFM, indirect flight muscle; KAT, lysine acetylase; KDAC, lysine deacetylase; G-, globular; TBS, Tris-buffered saline; TBST, Tris-buffered saline with 0.1% Tween 20; Ph, phalloidin; ANOVA, analysis of variance.

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