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Supplemental information

Interactions between fungal hyaluronic acid

and host CD44 promote internalization by recruiting

host autophagy proteins to forming phagosomes

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Experimental model details

Bone marrow-derived macrophage harvest and cultivation

Bone marrow cells were collected from the femurs of littermate control and CD44 KO mice, and cultivated in L929-cell conditioned media [DMEM medium containing 20% L929 cell supernatant, supplemented with 10% (v/v) FCS, penicillin (100 U/ml), and streptomycin (100 U/ml)]. After 3 days of culture, non-adherent precursors were washed away and the retained cells were propagated in fresh L929-cell conditioned media for another 4 days. For experimentation, BMDMs were split in 24-well plates at a density of 2.5×10^5 cells per well in L929-cell conditioned media and cultured at 37 \degree C with 5% CO₂ overnight before use.

Method Details

Cryptococcus **Strains and Infection, cell Culture and colony formation unit (CFU) assay**

Yeast forms of Cn cells were cultured on YPD (Difco^{TM}) agar plates and maintained on the plates for 4 to 5 days prior to experimentation. Mammalian cell lines were routinely incubated in DMEM supplemented with 10% FBS in a 5% $CO₂$ atmosphere at 37°C. Preparation of cryptococcal and host cells for infection as well as CFU assays that measured internalized Cn cells were performed as previously described (Qin et al., 2011; Pandey et al., 2017). For CFU assay, host cells were infected with antibody-opsonized Cn cells at a multiplicity of infection (MOI) of 1 or 10 for 3 hrs; for immunofluorescence microscopy analysis, host cells were infected with antibody-opsonized or non-opsonized Cn cells with an MOI of 5 (unless otherwise indicated) for 1 to 3 h. At the indicated h.p.i., the infected cells were harvested for CFU assays or fixed and performed immunofluorescence microscopy assays (see below). To heat-kill Cn for use in immunofluorescence microscopy assays, Cn cells were heat inactivated as previously described (Wang et al., 2019). Briefly, the suspension of Cn cells $(2.5 \times 10^8$ Cn cells/ml) was aliquoted into 2.0 ml Eppendorf tubes and heated on a hot plate at 75°C for 90 min. The death of the Cn cells was confirmed by plating the heat-treated cell suspension on YPD agar plates.

Immunofluorescence microscopy assays for Cn phagocytosis

Mammalian host cells were first cultivated on 12 mm glass coverslips (Fisherbrand) on the bottom of 24-well plates (Falcon) for 12-16 h before infection. Next, the host cells were infected with the tested Cn cells and incubated at 37° C in a 5% CO₂ atmosphere. At the indicated time points post-infection, culture media was removed and the infected host cells were washed 6 to 8 times with PBS (pH 7.4) before being fixed with 3.7% formaldehyde. The fixed cells (at room temperature for 1 to 2 hrs) were then processed Cn phagocytosis assays using antibody (18B7) directed against Cn as previous described (Qin et al., 2011; Pandey et al., 2017) without adding Triton X-100 to the staining buffer. The numbers of internalized (unstained) and extracellular (stained) Cn cells were then quantified and plotted. Images represent a representative image from triplicate replicates, with 100 fields imaged per replicate.

Drug/compound treatments

Murine macrophage J774.A1 or RAW264.7 cells were overnight cultured in 48 well plates and then coincubated with assorted pharmacological compounds, including KN62 (5 μ M), STO-609 (5 μ M) or BAPTA-AM (7.5 μ M) for 2 h. Cells treated with the solvent dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) for these compounds served as controls. The media containing the compounds was then removed. For CFU assays, the drug-treated cells were extensively washed with fresh medium and then infected with Cn cells. At 3 h.p.i., the infected cells were lysed and performed CFU assay as previously described (Qin et al., 2011; Pandey et al., 2017). For western blots, the compound-treated cells were washed 3 times with cold $1 \times PBS$, pH7.4, lysed and performed immunoblotting assay as previously describe (Pandey et al., 2017).

Lentivirus-mediated depletion of host proteins

The pSuperRetro retrovirial vector system (OligoEngine, Inc.) was used to knockdown target gene expression in murine cells according to the manufacturer's instructions. The oligonucleotides used for shRNA construction to knockdown the expression of mouse genes and the accompanying references are listed in **Table S1**. Transfection was performed in 6-well plates containing 1.5×10^5 RAW264.7 or B6J2 cells. Clones with the insert stably integrated were selected with puromycin. Western blot was performed to validate the depletion of the targeted proteins. All Westerns were performed in triplicate and representative findings are shown.

Generation of GFP-tagged Gal8 RAW264.7 cells

The GFP-galectin-8 expression construct was made by first cloning the cDNA sequence of Lgals8 (from RAW 264.7 cells) into the pENTR4-eGFP-C1 entry vector (Campeau et al., 2009), resulting in a fusion of eGFP on the N-terminus of galectin-8. This construct was fully Sanger sequenced (Eton Biosceinces, San Diego, CA) to verify the fusion protein was in-frame and error-free. GFP-Gal8 was then Gateway cloned with LR Clonase (Invitrogen) into the pLenti-PGK-Neo destination vector (Campeau et al., 2009). Lenti-X 293T cells (Takara Bio) were cotransfected with pLenti-GFP-Gal8 and the packaging plasmids psPAX2 and pMD2G/VSV-G (Addgene Plasmids #12259-60) to produce lentiviral particles. RAW 264.7 cells were transduced with GFP-Gal8 lentivirus for two consecutive days plus 1:1000 Lipofectamine 2000 (Invitrogen) and selected for 5 days with 750 µg/ml G418 (Invivogen). Expression of GFP-Gal8 was confirmed by Western blot analysis and fluorescence microscopy.

Confocal microscopy assays

Host cells were infected with live or heat killed, opsonized or unopsonized capsular or acapsular strains of Cn. At the indicated times post-infection, host cells were fixed for confocal immunofluorescence microscopy analysis using antibodies directed against the indicated host

proteins. Immunofluorescence microscopy staining and imaging methods (Qin et al., 2008; Qin et al., 2011; Pandey et al., 2017; Pandey et al., 2018) were used to determine the subcellular localization of host AIC components in infected host cells. Samples were observed on a laser scanning confocal microscope or on a confocal fluorescence microscope (ECLIPSE Ti, Nikon). Confocal images $(1,024 \times 1,024$ pixels) were acquired and processed with NIS elements AR 3.0 software (Nikon) and assembled with Adobe Photoshop CC 2019 (Adobe Systems, CA, USA). Digital image analysis and quantification was performed as previously described (Qin et al., 2011). Findings from our subcellular localization analyses were not an artifact of secondary antibody cross reactivity with host or pathogen components because negligible fluorescence signal was observed when infected cells were stained with secondary antibodies alone, or the pathogen alone was stained with the antibodies used in the experiments (**Figure S5G**).

Protein pull-down assays

For protein pull-down assay with HA-coated or naked beads, spherical amino polysterene beads (size: 1.0-1.4 μm, Spherotech Inc, IL, USA) were covalently coupled using EDC [*N*-Ethyl-*N*′-(3 dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide hydrochloride] to hyaluronic acid (HA) (Santa Cruz Biotec.) as per the manufacturer's (Spherotech) instruction. Briefly, 200 μl of 0.05 M sodium acetate buffer (pH 5.0), 2 mg of HA, 2 ml of 5% w/v Amino particles and 20 mg of EDC were mixed in a glass centrifuge tube. The contents were vortexed and incubated for 2 hrs at ambient temperature on a rotary mixer. Following incubation, the tube was centrifuged at $3000 \times g$ for 15 minutes and supernatant was carefully discarded. The pellet was washed twice in $1 \times PBS$ and resuspended in 2 ml of $1 \times PBS$ to obtain 5% w/v suspension of HA coated beads. RAW 264.7 cells (3×10^5) were washed with $1 \times PBS$. Next, a bead incubation solution containing 5 µl of HA-coated or naked beads in 200 μl of PBS was added to the washed cells. The cells were centrifuged for 10 min at 1500 RPM and then incubated in a humidified incubator containing 5% $CO₂$ for 2 hrs. The treated cells were washed 2-4 times with ice-cold 1 \times PBS and lysed in 80 µl RIPA buffer supplemented with a cocktail of protease and phosphatase inhibitors. Beads were separated from the lysate by high-speed centrifugation at 4° C. The separated beads were washed 3 times with RIPA buffer and finally resuspended in 80 μl RIPA buffer and 20 μl of $5 \times$ sample buffer (Thermo Scientific) and boiled for 5 mins. Samples were finally resolved by SDS-PAGE and subjected to western blot analysis.

For testing host CD44 physical interactions with AIC components during Cn infection, BMDMs were infected with H99 at an MOI of 10. At the indicated (0, 1, 2, 3) h.p.i., Cn infected cells were lysed. We then performed protein pull-down assays with CD44 as an input. The assays were performed using the Pierce Co-Immunoprecipitation (Co-IP) Kit (Thermo Scientific, USA) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Immunoblotting analysis

Preparation of protein samples and western blot analysis were performed as described previously (Qin et al., 2011; Pandey et al., 2017; Pandey et al., 2018). Blot densitometry was performed using the ImageJ (http://rsbweb.nih.gov/ij/) software package. All Westerns were performed in triplicate and representative findings are shown.

Intracellular Ca2+ measurements

Measurement of intracellular Ca^{2+} levels of host cells infected with Cn cells, HA-treated and control cells were performed as the method previously described (Barhoumi et al., 2007). Briefly, cells were loaded for 1 h with 3.0 μM fluo4-AM at 37 °C in serum- and phenol red-free medium and then washed with the same medium. Fluo4-AM is a visible wavelength probe which exhibits about a 40 fold enhancement of fluorescence intensity upon Ca^{2+} binding (Gee et al., 2000). Fluo4-AM fluorescence was generated in the cells by argon laser excitation at 488 nm and fluorescence emission between 500 and 550 nm was monitored. Images were collected with Zeiss LSM 510 confocal microscope using a $63\times$ objective/1.4 oil. Images presented have dimensions of 50 μ m \times 50 μ m.

Quantification and statistical analysis

The quantitative data presented in this work represent the mean \pm standard error of mean (SEM) from at least three independent experiments. To easily compare results from independent experiments, the data from controls, such as protein expression level, blot densitometry, CFU, intracellular Cn number, etc., were normalized as 1 or 100%. The significance of the data was assessed using the Student's *t*-test to assess statistical significance between two experimental groups or a one-way ANOVA test to evaluate the statistical differences of multiple comparisons of the data sets.

Supplemental Information

Figure S1. **Recruitment of AIC components, but not galectin 8, to nascent phagosomes during** *Cryptococcus neoformans* **(Cn) internalization (Related to Figure 1).**

The indicated host cells were infected with Cn cells at an MOI of 5. At 3 hrs post infection (h.p.i.), the infected host cells were fixed $(3.7\%$ formaldehyde in $1\times$ PBS at room temperature for \sim 2 hrs) and subjected to Forster Resonance Energy Transfer (FRET) imaging microscopy (Irving et al., 2014; Wolf et al., 2013) or confocal immunofluorescence microscopy assays with the indicated antibodies.

 (A, B) Fluorescence intensity of ULK1 and ATG13 (A) or FIP200 and AMPK α (B) during Cn internalization.

 (C, D) Interactions between host ULK1 and ATG13 (C) or FIP200 and AMPK α (D) during recruitment to Cn-containing vacuoles (CnCVs) in RAW264.7 macrophages. The infected host cells were determined using FRET analysis. RFE: relative FRET-efficiency (between the FRETpairs in the parentheses). The FRET-efficiency of Cn infected cells was compared to PBS control (normalized as 1). Data represent the means \pm standard error of mean (SEM) from at least three independent experiments. $*$: significance at $p < 0.05$.

(E) Recruitment of host LC3 to nascent CnCVs during Cn (unopsonized) internalization.

(F, G) Host galectin 8 is not recruited to nascent phagosomes containing Cn cells during Cn internalization by host cells expressing GFP-galectin 8 (F) or cells supplemented with UBEI-41, a cell permeable inhibitor of ubiquitin-activating enzyme E1 (G).

(H) Colocalization of the host early endosomal marker EEA1 with AIC component ULK1 surrounding nascent CnCVs.

(I) Recruitment of host $AMPK\alpha$ and LC3 to nascent phagosomes containing Cn cells in infected bone marrow derived macrophages (BMDMs).

(J) Recruitment of host LC3 to nascent phagosomes containing Cn cells in infected or uninfected B6J2 macrophages expressing a dominant negative variant of $AMPK\alpha$ (AMPK-DN) or control.

 (K) Less recruitment of host AMPK α and AIC component ULK1 or ATG9 to nascent CnCVs in B6J2 macrophages expressing an AMPK-DN variant during Cn internalization.

Figure S2. Expression and localization of the indicated host proteins in cells with or lacking Cn cells (Related to Figures 1, 2 and 3).

(A-C) Expression and localization of AMPK α and ULK1 (A), ATG9 and ATG13 (B), CD44 and ATG13 (C) in uninfected host cells.

(D, E) Comparison of the expression and localization of AMPKa and ATG13 (D, related to Figure 1A) or CD44 and ULK1 (E, related to Figure 3D) in Cn infected host cells containing or lacking Cn cells (bounded with yellow and white dash lines, respectively). Bars: 10 μ m. Yellow arrows: Cn cells; white arrows: colocalization of the indicated proteins.

Figure S3. Recruitment of host AIC components and CD44 to forming or nascent CnCVs during Cn internalization (Related to Figures 1, 2 and 3).

(A) Recruitment of AMPKa and AIC components ULK1 to nascent CnCVs. Uo_cap59: Unopsozied cap59.

(B) The fluorescence intensity profile of $AMPK\alpha$ and ULK1 along the two crossed white lines (left panel).

(C) Colocalization of ATG9 with ATG13 in the vicinities of CnCvs.

(D) Colocalization of host $AMPK\alpha$ or ATG9 with cryptococcal glucuronoxylomannan (GXM)specific monoclonal antibody 18B7.

(E) Activation of host $AMPK\alpha$ by heat-killed (HK) Cn cells (cap 59) during phagocytosis. Representative results from one of three independent experiments are shown.

(F) Recruitment of AIC components and AMPKa to nascent phagosomes is minimally detected during phagocytosis of yeast (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) cells by host cells.

(G) Recruitment of CD44 during a time course (3 hr) of Cn internalization. Bars: 5 μ m.

Figure S4. Fungal hyaluronic acid (HA) is required for Cn internalization (Related to Figure 3).

(A) Disruption of Cn *cps1* impairs internalization of the fungal pathogen (related to Figure 3B-C). BMDMs were infected with the indicated Cn cells at an MOI of 10. At 3 h.p.i., the infected cells were fixed and then subjected to non-permeable immunofluorescence staining (Pandey et al., 2017) with Cn GXM-specific monoclonal antibody 18B7. Cn cells with red fluorescence represent incompletely internalized or extracellular Cn cells.

(B) Recruitment of CD44, not galectin 8, to the forming or nascent phagosomes associated with HA-coated beads. Upper panel: localization of galectin 8 (GAL8) and $AMPK\alpha$ in cells incubated with HA-coated beads. Lower panel: colocalization of CD44 and $AMPK\alpha$ to the forming or nascent phagosomes related to HA-coated beads.

Figure S5. Components in the CaMKK-AMPK-ULK1 signal axis play important roles in Cn internalization (Related to Figure 4).

(A) Immunoblotting assay to test the depletion of $CaMKK\alpha/B$ protein level by the shRNA approach.

(B, C) Relative protein expression levels of CaMKK α (B) or CaMKK β (C) in RAW macrophages transfected with scrambled or $CaMKK\alpha/\beta$ shRNAs. Data from a representative experiment shown in (A). Ctrl: control.

(D, E) Depletion of host cell CaMKK α/β (D) or AMPK α (E) reduces Cn internalization determined by immunofluorescence microscopy assay. Data represent the means \pm SEM from three independent experiments. $*$: significance at $p < 0.05$.

(F) Depletion of host cell $AMPK\alpha$ and AIC components reduces Cn internalization as determined using an immunofluorescence microscopy assay. Cn cells with green fluorescence represent incompletely internalized or extracellular Cn cells. Images from a representative experiment of three independent experiments.

(G) Cn cells harvested from infected host cells (leaf panel) or during host infection (right panel) do not display cross activities with the primary or secondary antibodies used in this work.

shRNA ID	Sequence (5'-3')	References
shCaMKKα 1	GGAAGTGCCCGTTCATTGATT	This study
shCaMKKα2	TCAATGGCTGAGGTGAGGCAC	This study
shCaMKKβ1	GGTGCTGTCCAAAAAGAAA	This study
shCaMKKβ2	TTGCGTAATAAGTATTGTCAT	This study
shFIP200	GAGAGAACTTGTTGAGAAA	Pandey et al., 2017
	ACATGAAGGCTCAGAGAAA	ditto
shUlk1	GAGCAAGAGCACACGGAA A	ditto
	AGACTCCTGTGACACAGAT	ditto
shAtg13	GAGAAGAATGTCCGAGAAT	ditto
	ACAGGAAGGACTTGGACAA	ditto
shPrkaa1	TGAATTAAACCCACAGAAA	ditto
	GGTCATCAGTACACCATCT	ditto
shPrkab1	TGAACAAGGACACGGGCAT	ditto
	GCACGACCTGGAAGCGAAT	ditto
Scramble 1	ATTGTATGCGATCGCAGAC	ditto
Scramble 2	CACCAGCATCTGATCTAGA	ditto
Ulk1-F1	ACTGCGGCCGCatggattacaaggatgacgatgacaagatggag ccgggccgcggcggc	ditto
Ulk1-r1	GAAGAATTCtcaggcatagacaccactcag	ditto
ULK1-F2	GATCTGGATCCGGAGTCGACGGAGCGGCCGCatggatta caagga	ditto
Ulk1-R2	AGCGCCTCCCCTACCCGGTAGAATTCtcaggcatagaca ccactc	ditto
Atg13-F1	ACTAGATCTATGTACCCATACGATGTTCCAGATTACGCT ATGGAAACTGAACTCAGCTCC	ditto
Atg13-R1	GAACTCGAGTTACTGCAGGGTTTCCACAAA	ditto
Atg13-F2	ACTCCTTCTCTAGGCGCCGGAATTAGATCTATGTACCCA TACGAT	ditto
Atg13-R2	ACCCGGTAGAATTCGTTAACCTCGAGttactgcagggtt tccaca	ditto
Prkaa1-F1	ACTGCGGCCGCATGGTGAGCAAGGGCGAGGAGCTGTTCA	ditto
Prkaa1-R1	GAAGAATTCTTACTGTGCAAGAATTTTAAT	ditto
Prkaa1-F2	GATCTGGATCCGGAGTCGACGGAGCGGCCGCATGGTGAG CAAGGG	ditto
Prkaa1-R2	AGCGCCTCCCCTACCCGGTAGAATTCttactgtgcaaga atttta	ditto

Table S1. shRNAs and PCR primers used in this study (Related to Figure 4, Figure S1, and Figure S4)

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