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MCPIP1 negatively regulate cellular antiviral innate immune responses through DUB and disruption of TRAF3-TBK1-IKK ϵ complex

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ABSTRACT

IFN β innate immune plays an essential role in antiviral immune. Previous reports suggested that many important regulatory proteins in innate immune pathway may be modified by ubiquitin and that many de-ubiquitination (DUB) proteins may affect immunity. Monocyte chemotactic protein-inducing protein 1 (MCPIP1), one of the CCCH Zn finger-containing proteins, was reported to have DUB function, but its effect on IFN β innate immune was not fully understood. In this study, we uncovered a novel mechanism that may explain how MCPIP1 efficiently inhibits IFN β innate immune. It was found that MCPIP1 negatively regulates the IFN β expression activated by RIG-I, STING, TBK1, IRF3. Furthermore, MCPIP1 inhibits the nuclear translocation of IRF3 upon stimulation with virus, which plays a key role in type I IFN expression. Additionally, MCPIP1 interacts with important modulators of IFN β expression pathway including IPS1, TRAF3, TBK1 and IKK ϵ . Meanwhile, the interaction between the components in TRAF3-TBK1-IKK ϵ complex was disrupted by MCPIP1. These results collectively suggest MCPIP1 as an innate immune regulator encoded by the host and point to a new mechanism through which MCPIP1 negatively regulates IRF3 activation and type I IFN β expression.

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1. Introduction

The innate immune system stands the first line of the defense that protects the host from viral intrusion, depending on pattern recognition receptors (PRRs) and the corresponding pathways [1–4]. The pathogen-associated molecular patterns (PAMPs) of the invading viruses may be recognized by PRRs. Then, the adaptor proteins (TRIF for TLR3, MyD88 for TLR7/8/9, MAVS/IPS-1 for RIG-I) would be recruited, and the infecting signals would be transmitted to the downstream kinase complexes, followed by the activation of transcription factors, such as interferon regulatory factor-3 (IRF-3), nuclear factor κ B (NF- κ B) and ATF-2/c-jun [2,5–7]. Upon activated, the transcription factors may regulate the expression of type I Interferons which induce the expression of IFN-stimulated genes (ISGs) and ultimately establish the antiviral function of the host [4,8–10].

Many important regulatory proteins in innate immune pathways may be modified by ubiquitin [11–13]. On the other hand, Many de-ubiquitination (DUB) proteins may affect immunity. We have found that the papain-like proteases (PLPs) encoded by coronavirus (CoV) reduce the ubiquitinated modification of essential regulatory molecules of IFN innate immune pathway, such as RIG-1, MAVS, STING, TRAF3, TBK1 and IRF3. Additionally, CoV PLPs negatively regulate IFN expression of the host, acting as both deubiquitinases and IFN antagonists [14–16].

The C-terminal phosphorylation and activation of IRF3 requires noncanonical I κ B kinases, TBK1 or IKK, which form signaling complexes with TRAF family members that transmit upstream signals to downstream effectors resulting in the expression of type I IFN. Previous studies suggest that TRAF family members are involved in the regulation of antiviral immune responses [17–20]. We have reported that SARS-CoV PLP blocks the ubiquitination of STING-TRAF3-TBK1 complex and disrupts STING-TRAF3-TBK1 complex [21].

MCPIP1 (monocyte chemotactic protein-induced protein 1), a negative regulator of macrophage activation, was also found to negatively regulate JNK and NF- κ B activity by removing ubiquitin moieties from proteins including TRAFs [22]. In this study, we observed that MCPIP1 inhibits the IFN β expression activated by

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RIG-I, STING, TBK1, IRF3. Additionally, MCP1P1 inhibits the nuclear migration of IRF3. Furthermore, MCP1P1 interacts with TRAF3 and disrupts TRAF3-TBK1-IKK ϵ complex which is essential for the activation of IFN β production pathway. This report suggests that MCP1P1 may act as an IFN antagonist antiviral protein encoded by the host and uncovers the mechanism undergoes by MCP1P1 to inhibit IFN β innate immune pathway.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Cell and plasmids

HEK293T and HeLa cells were cultured in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium containing 10% (v/v) FCS supplemented with penicillin (100 U/ml) and streptomycin (100 mg/ml).

The plasmid expressing V5-MCPIP1 was cloned according to NCBI Reference Sequence NM_025079.2. The reporter plasmids IFN β -Luc, PRD (III-I)4-Luc, NF- κ B-Luc, and plasmids NL63-PLP2-TM, Myc-IRF3, Flag-IRF3, Flag-IRF7, Flag-IPS-1, Flag-STING, Flag-TBK1, Flag-IKK ϵ , Flag-RIG-IN, A20, HA-TRAF3 were described previously [14,21,23,24].

2.2. SiRNA preparation

MCPIP1-target siRNA sequence (5'-CCAGCGUGUAUA-CUAAGCUTT-3') were designed and chemically synthesized by Genescript Co. A siRNA with the sequence of 5'-

UUCUCCGAACGUGUCACGU-3' was selected as the negative control siRNA (NC-siRNA) as described previously [25,26].

2.3. Luciferase reporter gene assay

HEK293T cells were transfected with the indicated stimulator plasmid DNA (Flag-IPS-1, Flag-STING, Flag-TBK1, Flag-IKK ϵ , Flag-RIG-IN), reporter plasmid DNA (pRL-TK, IFN β -Luc, or PRD (III-I)4-Luc) and either V5-MCPIP1 or NL63PLP2-TM/A20 using Lipofectamine 2000 (Invitrogene) according to the manufacturer's protocol and incubated for 24 h. Then, firefly luciferase and renilla luciferase activities were assayed using the Dual Luciferase Reporter Assay Kit (Promega). Data were shown as mean relative luciferase (firefly luciferase activity divided by Renilla luciferase activity) with standard deviation from a representative experiment carried out in triplicate. The luciferase assay was performed as described previously [14,15].

2.4. Immunofluorescence assay

HEK293T or HeLa cells were grown to confluence in a six-well plate. Plasmid DNA expressing V5-MCPIP1 and Flag-IRF3 (1.2 μ g per well) were transfected. Twenty-four hours later, the cells were infected or mock-infected by SeV (100 HAU) and incubated for 18 h. Fluorescence was examined by using a confocal microscope. Immunofluorescence assay was performed as described previously [15].

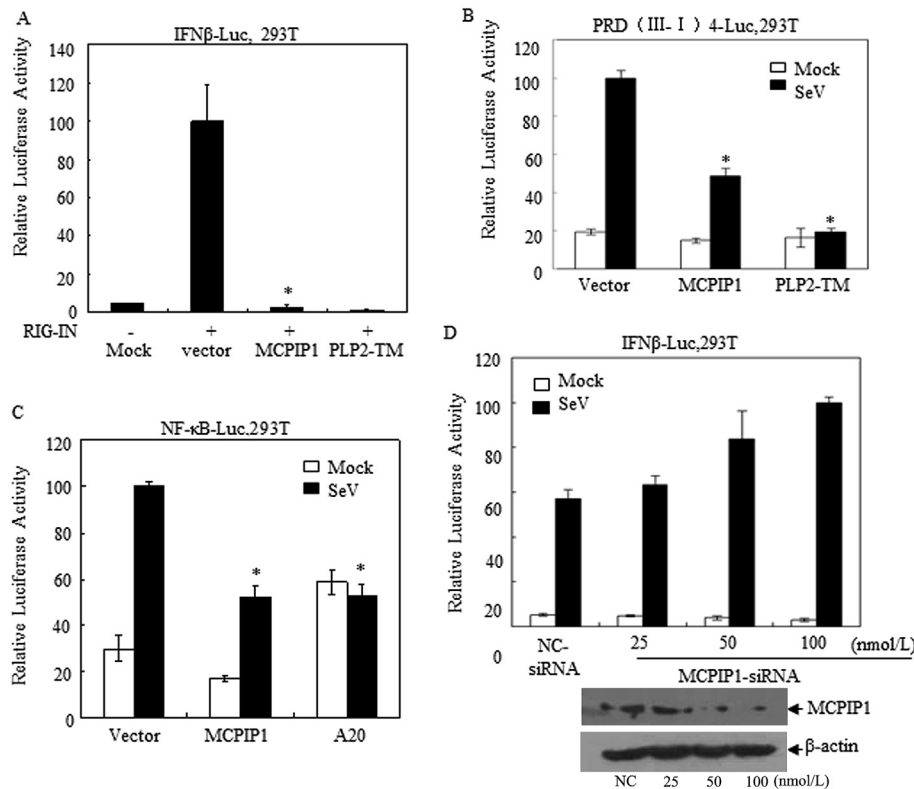


Fig. 1. MCP1P1 inhibits the expression of IFN β in cells. **a** HEK293T cells were co-transfected with the plasmids which expressing IFN β -Luc and either MCP1P1 or NL63 PLP2-TM (positive control). Twenty-four hours later, cells were harvested and subjected to a Dual-luciferase assay. **b** HEK293T cells were transfected with PRD (III-I) 4-Luc and either MCP1P1 or NL63 PLP2-TM expressing plasmids (positive control). Twenty-four hours later, cells were harvested and subjected to a Dual-luciferase assay. **c** HEK293T cells were transfected with the plasmids which expressing NF- κ B-Luc and either MCP1P1 or A20 (positive control). Twenty-four hours later, cells were harvested and subjected to a Dual-luciferase assay. **d** HEK293T cells were respectively co-transfected with the plasmids which expressing IFN β -Luc and MCP1P1-siRNA (25, 50, 100 nmol/L). NC-siRNA (sequence described in the text) was used as control. Twenty-four hours later, cells were harvested and subjected to Dual-luciferase assay. The expression of MCP1P1 was also detected by Western-blotting assay. The results were expressed as mean relative luciferase (firefly luciferase activity divided by Renilla luciferase activity) with standard deviation from a representative experiment carried out in triplicate. Data were presented as mean \pm SEM, $n = 3$. * $p < 0.05$.

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