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An Isoform specific Myristylation Switch Targets Type II PKA Holoenzymes to Membranes

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SUMMARY

cAMP-dependent protein kinase (PKA) is regulated in part by N-terminal myristylation of its catalytic (C) subunit. Structural information about the role of myristylation in membrane targeting of PKA has been limited. In mammalian cells there are four functionally non-redundant PKA Regulatory subunits (RI α , RI β , RII α , and RII β). PKA is assembled as an inactive R₂C₂ holoenzyme in cells. To explore the role of N-myristylation in membrane targeting of PKA holoenzymes, we solved crystal structures of RI α :myrC and RII β :myrC₂ and showed that the N-terminal myristylation site in the myrC serves as a flexible “switch” that can potentially be mobilized for membrane anchoring of RII, but not RI, holoenzymes. Furthermore, we synthesized nanodiscs and showed by electron microscopy that membrane targeting through the myristic acid is specific for the RII holoenzyme. This membrane anchoring myristylation switch is independent of A Kinase Anchoring Proteins (AKAPs) that target PKA to membranes by other mechanisms.

INTRODUCTION

Over 500 eukaryotic protein kinases are encoded by the human genome (Manning et al., 2002), and the activity and localization of most are highly regulated by post- and co-translational modifications as well as by adjacent domains and motifs. While the role of phosphorylation in kinase activation has been extensively studied, the mechanistic details of acylation and membrane anchoring is less clear. Myristylation, the irreversible enzymatic attachment of myristic acid onto the N-terminal glycine of target proteins (Farazi et al., 2001; Li et al., 2007; Song et al., 1997), enhances the target's association with membranes

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PDB coordinates

Coordinates and structure factors have been deposited in the Protein data bank with accession numbers 4X6Q (RII β :myrC₂) and 4X6R (RI α :myrC).

(Resh, 1994). Myristylation typically occurs co-translationally although it can also occur in conjunction with caspase cleavage (Harada et al., 1999). The PKA catalytic (C) subunit was the first myristylated protein to be identified (Carr et al., 1982), and most non-receptor tyrosine kinases are also N-myristylated. In the free myristylated subunit (myrC) the acyl group is docked into a hydrophobic allosteric pocket that penetrates into the large lobe of the conserved kinase core (Bastidas et al., 2012; Bossemeyer et al., 1993), and myrC does not strongly associate with membranes. In cells, however, PKA exists not as free C-subunit but as an inactive holoenzyme with regulatory (R) subunit dimers that are bound to two C-subunits. Activation of the R₂C₂ holoenzyme is mediated by cAMP binding to the R-dimer causing a conformational change that unleashes the catalytic activity, but does not necessarily cause the C-subunits to dissociate (Smith et al., 2013; Vigil et al., 2004). Early fluorescence studies showed that the N-terminus of myrC can become accessible to membranes when it is part of a holoenzyme complex but did not address if this phenomenon was isoform specific (Gangal et al., 1999).

In mammalian cells there are four functionally non-redundant R-subunits (RI α , RI β , RII α , and RII β), which contribute significantly to PKA signaling specificity (Amieux et al., 2002). In general, RII subunits are targeted at membranes in close proximity to receptors, transporters and channels while RI subunits tend to be more cytosolic and dynamically recruited to membranes (Taylor et al., 2012). RII subunits typically bind with high affinity (low nM) to A Kinase Anchoring Proteins (AKAPs) that also recruit other signaling proteins such as phosphatases and phosphodiesterases to membranes (Taylor et al., 2012). For PKA it is essential that we now think in terms of these “signaolsomes” rather than free R and C-subunits. Here we ask whether myristylation also contributes to membrane anchoring and if so whether this anchoring is isoform-specific. All PKA R-subunits share the same domain organization: an N-terminal Dimerization/Docking (D/D) domain followed by a flexible linker containing an inhibitor site and two conserved cyclic nucleotide binding (CNB) domains (Canaves and Taylor, 2002). The recently solved RI α , RI β , and RII β tetrameric holoenzyme structures show that the quaternary structures of each holoenzyme are distinct (Boettcher et al., 2011; Ilouz et al., 2012; Zhang et al., 2012), and the quaternary constraints imposed by the holoenzyme create somewhat different allosteric mechanisms for activation (Taylor et al., 2012). Given our new appreciation of the importance of the full-length PKA holoenzymes and their ability to nucleate targeted “signalosomes”, we revisited the role of myristylation.

The C-subunit has a conserved core consisting of an N- and C-lobe that is shared by all eukaryotic protein kinases. The conserved core is flanked by N- and C-terminal tails (N-tail and C-tail). While the C-tail is a highly conserved feature of all PKA C-subunits and of every AGC kinase, the N-tail (residues 1–39) is variable even within different mammalian PKA isoforms (Soberg et al., 2013). Residues 1-13 correspond to the first exon and constitute a myristylation motif (Myr motif), which includes the N-terminal Gly as well as basic amino acids that are important for strengthening the membrane anchoring potential. Most C-subunit isoforms are myristylated but some are not and a recent C-subunit in liver cancer was shown to be a fusion protein where the first 14 residues (Exon 1) are replaced with the J domain of DNAJB1 (Honeyman et al., 2014). A dominant feature of the N-Tail (Exons 1 and 2) is a long amphipathic A-helix, which in the active kinase is anchored

through its hydrophobic surface to both lobes of the kinase core (Herberg et al., 1997). This N-Tail is rich in signaling information (Figure 1). The A-Helix binds through its hydrophilic surface to another protein, the A-kinase interacting protein (AKIP) that is important for PKA shuttling between the cytoplasm and the nucleus (Sastri et al., 2005). The N-tail also harbors numerous co- and post-translational modifications that, in addition to myristylation, include deamidation of Asn2 and phosphorylation of Ser10, and these modifications can contribute in a variety of ways to PKA function (Bastidas et al., 2012; Bastidas et al., 2013; Gangal et al., 1999; Pepperkok et al., 2000; Tholey et al., 2001b). Here we focus on myristylation.

Our structural knowledge about the role of myristylation in membrane targeting of PKA has so far been limited to the free myrC and complexes with nucleotide and/or small peptides (IP20 or SP20) (Bastidas et al., 2012; Bossemeyer et al., 1993). Based on fluorescence anisotropy in solution, Johnson predicted earlier that association with membranes was enhanced in the holoenzyme and that membrane association would be isoform-specific (Gangal et al., 1999). In this study, we further elucidate the role of N-myristylation in membrane targeting of PKA holoenzymes by crystallizing myrC with RI α and RII β . We specifically solved crystal structures of an RI α heterodimer (RI α :myrC) and a full length RII β holoenzyme (RII β ₂:myrC₂). The RI α :myrC heterodimer shows that the Myr motif is sequestered in the acyl pocket similar to myrC. By contrast, the entire Myr motif is expelled from the acyl pocket in the RII β complex and is not visible, presumably due to its flexibility. To confirm that this isoform-specific conformational switch also facilitates binding to membranes, we synthesized nanodiscs, and used them to show by gel filtration and electron microscopy that membrane targeting through the myristic acid is specifically associated with the RII β holoenzyme. In addition, the C-terminus of the RII β holoenzyme, but not the RI α holoenzyme, is flexible. The C-terminus of each R-subunit provides a helical capping motif for the bound cAMP in the activation loop. In the holoenzymes this capping motif is in close proximity to the N-terminal Myr motif in myrC. In RI α the capping motif is stabilized in an inactive conformation whereas in the RII β holoenzyme the C-terminal capping motif is also disordered. Together the results define a bivalent conformational membrane-targeting myristylation switch that is mobilized specifically in PKA type II holoenzymes and is independent of AKAPs. This is similar to the calcium mobilized myristylation switch in recoverin and the IP3 induced myristylation switch in HIV-gag. The nearby disordered capping motif at the C-terminus of the RII β -subunit provides additional opportunities for protein:membrane interactions at this interface and opens the potential for interactions with other acyl groups that target myristylated-, farnisylated-, and palmitylated-proteins to membranes.

RESULTS

RI α :myrC heterodimer structure

To better define the myristylation site in an RI α complex we crystallized an R:C heterodimer of myrC with a deletion mutant of RI α . As explained in the methods two mutations were introduced. In the deletion mutant of RI α , RI α (91-379), Arg333 in the CNB-B domain was replaced with Lys as previously described (Kim et al., 2007). For myrC we used the K7C mutant because it expressed at higher levels. The crystal structure of the

RI α :myrC was solved at 2.4 Å (Figure 2A and Table 1). In the RI α :myrC structure the myristylated N-terminus is well ordered (Figure 2B), while in the same heterodimer structure with the non-myristylated C-subunit the first 12 residues are disordered (Kim et al., 2007) (PDB ID: 2QCS). This is similar to the previous observation that myristylation stabilizes the N-terminal residues of the myrC-subunit no matter whether the myrC-subunit is alone or bound to a small PKA substrate peptide SP20 (Bastidas et al., 2012) or to a high affinity inhibitor peptide (IP20). Specifically the RI α :myrC structure reveals a conformation that includes the entire N-terminus as well as the myristic acid and the hydrophobic side chains that line the acyl pocket; all elements are well resolved in the electron density (Figure 2B). As in the RI α (91-379) complex with the non myristylated C-subunit, both CNB domains are locked into stable inactive conformations where the helical motif that provides a capping residue for the bond cAMP is locked into an inactive conformation.

Although the overall RI α :myrC(K7C) heterodimer closely resembles the previously solved myrC(K7C) in the myrC(K7C):SP20 structure, the conformations of the N-termini, nevertheless, differ somewhat in these two structures (Figure 2C and 2D). The N-terminus of the myrC(K7C):SP20 structure displays a helix-turn-helix motif following the myristate with the A-helix starting at Glu1. The RI α :myrC structure is missing the first helix; instead the A-helix starts at Lys8 and is preceded by a loop. The position of the C-terminal region of the myristic acid, including the ester bond to Gly1, is dislodged from the A-helix while the acyl chain binds within its previously defined hydrophobic pocket. We also compared the flexibility of residues at the N-terminus and near the myristyl binding pocket for effects of N-myristylation when binding to the small peptide SP20 vs the pseudo substrate RI α . Even though ordered, the *B*-factors at the N-terminus are greater for the RI α :myrC structure (105 Å²) than for the myrC(K7C):SP20 structure (30.2 Å²) despite similar overall *B*-values (~50 Å²).

RII β ₂:myrC₂ holoenzyme structure

Previous fluorescence anisotropy studies suggested that binding of the RII β -subunit causes the N-terminal myristylated tail to become more flexible and dynamic in solution, and, in contrast to free C and the RI α tetramer, association with membranes was further enhanced in RII holoenzyme complexes (Gangal et al., 1999). To confirm structurally whether the myristylated N-terminus is ordered or disordered in the RII β holoenzyme structure, we thus crystallized the RII β holoenzyme with the myristylated C-subunit. The crystal structure of the tetrameric RII β (R230K)₂:myrC(K7C)₂ holoenzyme (labeled as RII β ₂:myrC₂) was solved at 2.5 Å (Figure 3A and Table 1). Even though the entire myristylated N-terminus was present in the protein, residues 1-13 of the myrC-subunit (GNAAAAKKGSEQE) as well as the myristic acid are not visible in the RII β ₂:myrC₂ structure (Figure 3B). Thus binding to RII β selectively displaces the entire Myr motif leaving it more flexible and accessible to solvent. This is unique to the RII β ₂:myrC₂ holoenzyme. It is different from the previously reported structures of the myrC-subunit alone, the myrC bound to SP20 or IP20 (Bastidas et al., 2012; Bastidas et al., 2013; Bossemeyer et al., 1993) and myrC bound to RI α which all show a more stable Myr Motif that is anchored into the acyl pocket in the C-Lobe of C-subunit (Bastidas et al., 2013) (Bastidas et al., 2012; Bossemeyer et al., 1993). The overall RII β ₂:myrC₂ structure closely resembles the RII β ₂:C₂ structure (Zhang et al., 2012) with a

$C\alpha$ RMSD of 0.19 Å and the largest matching $C\alpha$ atoms distance of 1.2 Å. The C-subunit still remains in a closed conformation even though there is no nucleotide bound to the active site and still has low B factors ($\sim 50 \text{ \AA}^2$) which is similar to the overall B-values in both the C and N-lobe. Furthermore, the N-termini of the C-subunits in each of the $RI\alpha$:myrC and $RII\beta_2$:myrC₂ structures have no interactions with neighboring molecules in the crystal packing, thus it is unlikely the N-terminus is ordered or disordered due to crystal contacts.

Since the $RII\beta$ holoenzyme is typically targeted by AKAPs to membranes, the exposed myristyl chains could thus provide additional opportunities for bivalent membrane anchoring. Based on our structure, we hypothesized that myristylation may in fact provide an alternative and/or complementary mechanism for targeting RII holoenzymes directly to membranes in addition to or independent of AKAPs, which are known to target RII holoenzymes in close proximity to membranes.

C-terminal capping motif in the R-subunit is also disordered in the $RII\beta$ holoenzyme but ordered in the $RI\alpha$ holoenzyme

There is another difference between the $RI\alpha$ holoenzyme complexes and the $RII\beta$ holoenzyme. In the R-subunits major conformational changes are associated with the CNB-domains as the protein toggles between its active (cAMP-bound) state and its inactive (holoenzyme) state (Berman et al., 2005; Kornev and Taylor, 2010)). In the active or cAMP bound conformation, cAMP is bound to the Phosphate Binding Cassette (PBC) and the adenine ring is capped by a hydrophobic residue. In every CNB-B domain, this capping residue (TYR397 in $RII\beta$) is located in a C-terminal helix ($\alpha C''$) (Figure 4A). The two CNB domains interact closely in this active conformation whereas the CNB domains undergo a major conformational change in the holoenzyme that causes them to extend away from each other due to an extended αBC helix in CNB-A (Figure 4B and 4C). In the $RI\alpha$ holoenzyme, the reorganized C-terminal helical motif is packed against the PBC and well ordered (Figure 4C). Thus the C-terminal motif of the $RI\alpha$ subunit and N-terminal motif of the myrC, which are in close proximity, are both ordered. In contrast, in the $RII\beta$ holoenzyme, most of the C-terminal helical motif (residue 394-416), including the capping TYR397, is disordered (Figure 4C). These two flexible regions, the N-terminal Myr motif in the myrC subunit and the C-terminal helical motif in $RII\beta$, are thus in relatively close proximity, and open up the opportunity for interacting with other proteins that may also be anchored to membranes.

Effect of C-subunit myristylation and holoenzyme formation on membrane binding

To determine whether the Myr motif in $RII\beta$ selectively serves as a myristylation switch and enables the membrane-anchoring properties of the myristylated C-subunit, we prepared nanodiscs to explore whether the various PKA complexes as well as free myrC-subunit could bind to nanodisc lipid bilayer. Specifically, the nanodiscs (Nath et al., 2007) are discrete $\sim 10\text{nm}$ diameter model membranes that consist of phospholipid bilayers that are encircled by membrane scaffold protein, a modified amphipathic peptide from apolipoprotein A-I (Nath et al., 2007). The PKA myrC, $RI\alpha_2$:myrC₂, and $RII\beta_2$:myrC₂ were then incubated with the nanodisc MSP and lipids. To confirm that membrane association was due specifically to the myristic acid we also incubated the non-myristylated C-subunit and the two holoenzymes formed with non-myristylated C-subunit, $RI\alpha_2$:C₂ and $RII\beta_2$:C₂, with the

nanodiscs. Assembly of the PKA with the nanodisc was assessed initially by gel filtration and confirmed by SDS-PAGE (Figure 5A and Figure S1). Among all these tested proteins, only RII β ₂:myrC₂ associated with the nanodiscs (Figure 5A and Figure S1). Association of RII β ₂:myrC₂ with the nanodisc was further confirmed by imaging negative-stained preparations by electron microscopy (Figure 5B). In negative-stained electron micrographs, we observed a round density with a diameter of ~120Å for the empty nanodiscs, whereas the nanodiscs that assembled with RII β ₂:myrC₂ were more heterogeneous with diverse diameters ranging up to 250 Å confirming the binding of the holoenzyme. The distinct difference between the empty nanodiscs and those bound to RII β holoenzyme suggests that RII β ₂:myrC₂ binding can alter the lipid structure. Since we do not see PKA holoenzyme beside the nanodiscs, we suggest that the binding is perpendicular to the lipid bilayer surface, though it remains to be determined to how exactly binding of RII β ₂:myrC₂ caused the distortion of the nanodiscs.

DISCUSSION

Because myristylation is added co-translationally, the modification is carried throughout the lifetime of a protein in contrast to palmitoylation. Our results described here provide new insights into the role of the myristic acid group and the dynamic properties of the N-terminal tail of the C-subunit. The N-terminal 13 residues including the myristic acid are not visible in the electron density in the RII holoenzyme, indicating that this segment is flexible. By contrast, the N-terminus and myristic acid are ordered and visible in the electron density in the RI holoenzyme and in the myrC-subunit in complex with an inhibitor peptide (IP20/SP20) (Bastidas et al., 2012). Our results therefore suggest that the dynamic properties of the N-terminal Myr motif are isoform specific. While we do not yet know the detailed mechanisms that account for this, we note that the C-terminus of the RII β subunit is also much more dynamic in the holoenzyme than in the RI holoenzyme complex, and these two flexible elements are in close proximity. Thus there are opportunities for additional interactions. Little is known about the specific mechanisms for acyl groups interacting with membranes and membrane proteins, but the availability of many new structures of membrane proteins now allow us to explore this phenomenon in more depth.

We hypothesized that the enhanced mobility of the N-terminus in RII subunits could aid in membrane association due to the exposed myristic acid group. Confirming this hypothesis, we showed that the RII subunits can bind to nanodiscs but only in complex with the myristylated C-subunit. Therefore, RII subunits can bind to membranes independent of AKAPs, which was also suggested by previous fluorescence polarization studies (Gangal et al., 1999). The nanodisc binding assays are also consistent with the myrC and RI α :myrC structures where the N-terminus and myristic acid group are ordered and not solvent exposed; neither bind to the nanodiscs. These results demonstrate a clear functional difference between the RI and RII isoforms. Only the RII holoenzyme has a “myristylation switch” (Figure 6) for membrane anchoring. This expulsion of the myristic acid group poises the RII holoenzyme for interaction with membranes. Furthermore, the dynamic C-terminus of the RII β -subunit in the RII β holoenzyme suggests that there may be additional factors that contribute to a membrane:protein interface or a protein:protein interface with an as yet unknown binding partner. In contrast the RI α has a type II PDZ motif at its C-

terminus and in this holoenzyme only the terminal four residues are accessible for docking to another protein.

Like Src kinase, association of myristylated proteins with membranes usually requires a patch of basic amino acids (Resh, 1994). Indeed, the C-subunit also has a group of basic residues lining the A-helix and the surface of the C-subunit near the N-terminus. In the RII β_2 :myrC₂ holoenzyme, the Lys residues in the N-terminus of the A-helix (GNAAAAKKG) also become very dynamic, which could further aid in the insertion of the myristic acid group into membranes. The N-terminus of the C-subunit contains several other potential post-translational modification sites that could act to regulate this membrane binding property of RII subunits. These include phosphorylation of Ser10 and deamidation of Asn2. Phosphorylation of Ser10, in addition to almost certainly destabilizing the observed ordered conformations of the N-terminus (Figures 6), could prevent membrane binding through the added negative charges. Additionally, deamidation of Asn2 may cause a similar destabilizing effect on the N-terminus due to the close proximity of the added negative charge to the myristic acid group. Furthermore, the deamidated form of PKA purified from tissues can autophosphorylate at Ser10 (Toner-Webb et al., 1992), suggesting Ser10 phosphorylation and Asn2 deamidation may act synergistically to prevent membrane binding. Therefore, there may be interplay between N-terminal myristylation and other N-terminal modifications. While Thr197 and Ser338 are constitutively phosphorylated in mammalian cells, phosphorylation of Ser10 tends to be more transient and associated with specific cells (Breitenlechner et al., 2004; Kinzel et al., 2000; Tholey et al., 2001a). Phosphorylation of Ser10 has not been observed from PKA purified from tissues, however, most of the protein is auto-phosphorylated on Ser10 when the non-myristylated C-subunit is expressed in bacteria (Yonemoto et al., 1993). Alignment of the myrC(K7C):SP20 and myrC(WT):SP20 structures (Figure 6A) reveals that they display the same conformation of the N-terminus of the C-subunit. The distance between the Ser10 side chain and backbone carbonyl of residue 7 is around 2.8 Å (Figure 6A). In the RI α :myrC(K7C) structure, between the side chain hydroxyl group of Ser10 and Cys7, Ser10 also forms weak hydrogen-bonding with Cys7 even though the N-terminus conformation is different from the myrC(K7C) and myrC(WT) structures. The H-bonding interaction of Ser10 and residue 7 may help in the ordering of the N-terminus and stabilizing the myristyl acid. Phosphorylation of Ser10 would almost certainly destabilize this conformation by disrupting the interactions between Ser10 and other N-terminal residues. This is consistent with recent NMR studies (Gaffarogullari et al., 2011) on the myristylated C-subunit, which suggested that Ser10 phosphorylation destabilizes the N-terminus of PKA and causes the myristic acid to be dislodged from its hydrophobic pocket. More importantly, Ser10 phosphorylation and myristylation do not occur together in our bacterial co-expression system for recombinant myristylated protein (Bastidas et al., 2012; Yonemoto et al., 1993). This is also consistent with our recent finding that eliminating Ser10 phosphorylation, which is caused by K7C mutation and thus has the PKA recognition sequence abolished, increased the total yield of myristylated C protein (Bastidas et al., 2012). Based on previous studies with Src, phosphorylation at Ser10 would prevent association of the myristylated N-tail with membranes (Resh, 1994). In the RII β_2 :myrC₂ holoenzyme structure (Figures 3 and 6), however, Ser10 density is missing together with myristic acid and Myr motif, due to their

dynamic properties, possibly making the RII β :myrC₂ more accessible to membrane binding. Only the RII holoenzyme has the myristic acid and Myr motif in an “out” conformation.

Localization of the PKA holoenzyme complex to membranes is further mediated by specific AKAPs. The RI α holoenzyme is not capable of contributing to its own localization through myristylation-membrane interaction because the myristic acid group is docked into the hydrophobic pocket. However, RI holoenzymes can be targeted to the plasma membrane via binding to dual specific or RI specific AKAPs, such as smAKAP. smAKAP is small, has N-terminal myristylation and palmitoylation sites, and selectively bind to RI with high affinity (1-2nM) (Figure 7) (Burgers et al., 2012). When the RII β holoenzyme is targeted by AKAPs to membrane proteins, the exposed myristic acid groups will likely be on the same surface as the AKAP. This configuration would provide a mechanism for bivalent membrane anchoring in addition to AKAP targeting (Figure 7).

Many signaling proteins are myristylated, and myristylation is essential for membrane binding and proper cellular localization of some proteins (Li et al., 2007; Song et al., 1997). The bivalent membrane targeting of RII holoenzymes opens the door to specific lipid interactions with the farnesylation, palmitic acid moiety and the myristylation site of other membrane proteins (Bohm et al., 1997). These potential interactions at membrane sites may provide an additional platform to assemble PKA. The association of the myristyl groups on the C-subunit in the RII holoenzyme with lipids or other lipid anchored proteins may provide a means for the C-subunits to remain bound to or in close proximity to the RII subunits even in the presence of cAMP.

Experimental Procedures

Purification of the R and C-Subunit Proteins

The non-myristylated C-subunit was expressed and purified as described previously (Herberg et al., 1993). Preparation of the myristylated C-subunit by co-expression with yeast N-myristyl transferase (NMT) (Duronio et al., 1990) and the purification protocol were also described previously (Bastidas et al., 2012). We used a cysteine mutation at the N-terminus of the myrC-subunit (K7C). As previously described (Bastidas et al., 2012), this mutation provides several advantages for studying the effects of N-terminal myristylation. It blocks autophosphorylation of Ser10 by eliminating the PKA recognition sequence at Ser10. Eliminating Ser10 phosphorylation increased the total yield of myristylated protein since myristylation and Ser10 phosphorylation typically do not occur together in our bacterial coexpression system, which was also observed previously with the recombinant myristylated protein. The K7C mutation also appears to have a more stable N-terminus based on time-resolved fluorescence anisotropy, which helped to structurally characterize the effects of N-myristylation in crystals. The structure of the K7C mutant was very similar to the wild type C-subunit (Bastidas et al., 2012). Expression and purification of the RI α and RI α (91-379:R333K) mutant as well as formation and purification of the RC heterodimers were described previously (Kim et al., 2007) with the exception that holoenzyme was formed using ATP and magnesium instead of AMP-PNP/Mn. RII β was over-expressed in *E.coli* and purified as described earlier (Zhang et al., 2012). RII β and wild type C-subunit

were mixed in a 1:1.2 molar ratio and spin dialyzed at 4°C into holoenzyme buffer containing 20 mM MES (pH 5.8), 50 mM NaCl and 1 mM TCEP-HCl. The complex was then gel filtered through Superdex 200 in the same holo buffer to remove excess C-subunit.

Crystallization of RI α (91-379,R333K):myrC(K7C) heterodimer

The same crystallization conditions were utilized for this crystal structure as the previous RI α (91-379,R333K):C heterodimer (Kim et al., 2007). Specifically, the RC heterodimer was concentrated to 14 mg/mL and screened for crystallization using the hanging drop vapor diffusion method against different ammonium sulfate concentrations, which ranged from 0.8-2.5 M in 0.1 M sodium citrate buffer, whilst the pH was varied from 5.0-6.0. The crystal used for structure determination was obtained from a 4 μ L drop containing 1:1 protein to well solution with the well solution containing 1.6 M ammonium sulfate and 0.1 M sodium citrate at pH 5.5.

Crystallization of RI β (R230K) $_2$:myrC(K7C) $_2$ holoenzyme

The same crystallization conditions were utilized for this crystal structure as the previous RI β holoenzyme (Zhang et al., 2012). Specifically, crystals were obtained from RI β holoenzyme that was concentrated to 12 mg/mL. The crystal used for structure determination was obtained from a 3 μ L drop containing 1:1 protein to well solution with the well solution containing 10% PEG8000, 8% ethylene glycol, 20mM MES, at pH5.8.

Data collection and refinement

Data were collected on the synchrotron beam line 8.2.1 of the Advanced Light Source, Lawrence Berkeley National Labs (Berkeley, CA). The crystals were flash frozen in cryoprotectant conditions (well solution containing 20% glycerol for the RI α :C crystals and 30% PEG8000 for the RI β holoenzyme crystals). The collected datasets were processed using HKL2000 program package (Otwinowski and Minor, 1997). For the RI α (91-379,R333K):myrC(K7C) datasets, phasing was performed using molecular replacement with 2QCS (Kim et al., 2007) as a search model. For the RI β (R230K) $_2$:myrC(K7C) $_2$ datasets, phasing was performed using molecular replacement with 3NTP (Zhang et al., 2012) as a search model. Refinement was initially performed using Refmac (Vagin et al., 2004) in the CCP4 program package (Winn et al., 2011). Subsequently, refinement was performed using PHENIX (Adams et al., 2010) to further improve the protein geometry. Model building was done in Coot (Emsley and Cowtan, 2004). The RI α (91-379,R333K): myrC(K7C) structure and RI β (R230K) $_2$:myrC(K7C) $_2$ structure were refined to Rwork/ Rfree values of 18.4%/23.4%, and 19.8%/26.1%, respectively. The data collection and refinement statistics are shown in Table 1.

PKA nanodiscs assembly and purification

PKA nanodiscs were assembled based on a protocol adapted from previous publications (Nath et al., 2007; Ye et al., 2010). In brief, DMPC and DMPG were solubilized in chloroform or a chloroform/methanol mixture, mixed thoroughly, and dried onto a glass tube under steady flow of nitrogen. The homogeneous lipid mixture was then solubilized in 100 mM cholate in 10 mM Tris and 100 mM NaCl, pH 7.4, giving a lipid concentration of

50 mM. 72 μ l of the lipid solution was then mixed with 200 μ l of 200 μ M membrane scaffold protein (MSP) in dH₂O and 200 μ l of 10 μ M purified PKA holoenzyme. The final ratio of lipids/MSP/protein is 90:1:0.05 in a total volume of 472 μ l. The PKA nanodiscs were assembled by removing the detergents with SM-2 Biobeads overnight at room temperature. The assembled PKA nanodiscs were then purified with a hi-load 16/60 Superdex 200 size exclusion column with 20 mM Tris, 150 mM NaCl, 0.5 mM MgCl₂, and 10mM AMPPNP, pH 7.4 for RI and 20 mM MES and 150 mM NaCl, pH 5.8 for RII, as the column buffer. Different buffers were used for RI and RII because of obtaining stable protein. The PKA RII holoenzyme nanodiscs and empty nanodiscs were readily separated and the successful assembly was verified by SDS-PAGE analysis. When necessary, the nanodiscs were further concentrated using Ultracel-30k (Millipore).

Negatively stained EM images of PKA nanodiscs

Purified nanodiscs were diluted to ~10 μ g/ml and 3 μ l of the diluted sample was applied on to a glow-discharged carbon grid. The protein sample was absorbed for 30 seconds and blotted away. The grid was then washed and stained with 2% uranyl acetate. The grids were left air dry and loaded into a Tecnai G2 Sphera microscope (FEI) equipped with a LaB6 electron gun and a Gatan Ultrascan 1000 UHS CCD camera (Gatan, Inc.) for analysis. Images of nanodiscs were taken at a voltage of 200KV and a magnification of 65,000 \times in Digital Micrograph software (Gatan, Inc.).

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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High lights

- Solved X-ray crystal structure of PKA RI α :myrC
- Solved X-ray crystal structure of PKA RIIB β_2 :myrC₂
- Isoform specific PKA-membrane anchoring
- N-terminal myristylation site in the myrC serves as a flexible “switch”

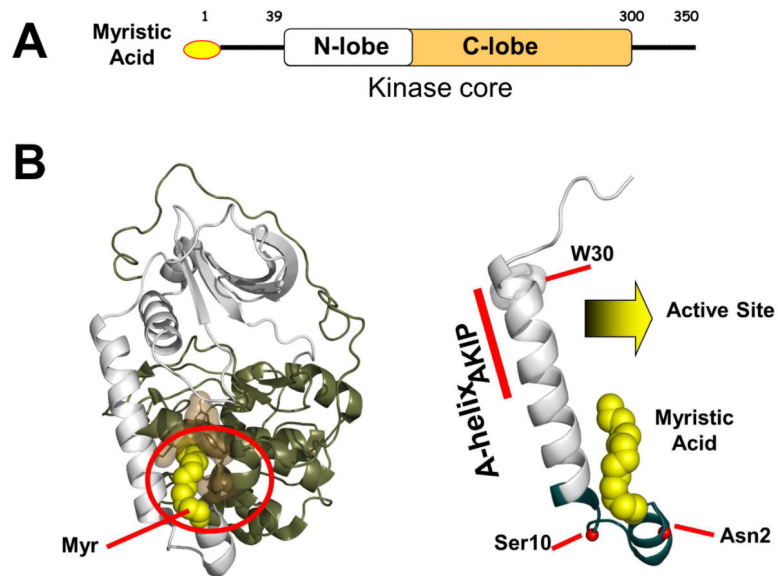


Figure 1. Domain organization and structure of PKA myrC-subunit

(A) Domain organization of myrC-subunit. (B) The myristic acid (myr) is docked into a hydrophobic pocket of the myrC-subunit (left) (PDB ID: 4DG2). The A-Helix at the N-terminus of C-subunit (right) can serve as an AKIP binding site and harbors numerous co- and post-translational modifications. The Myr motif is shown in teal.

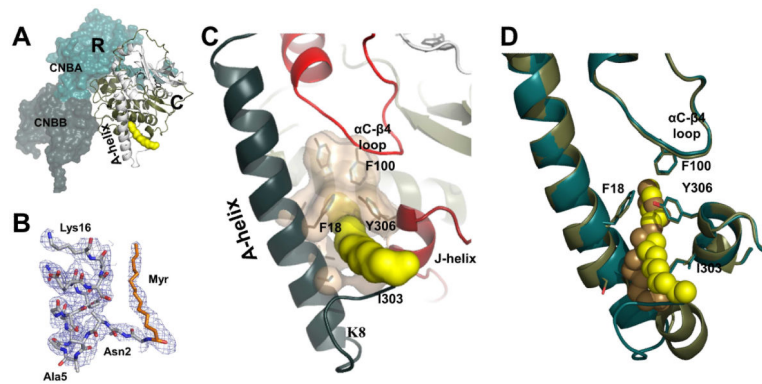


Figure 2. Crystal structure of RI α :myrC (PDB ID: 4X6R) showing docked myristic acid
 (A) Side view of the RI α :myrC structure. The myristyl acid is shown in yellow. The N-lobe of the C-subunit is white; the C-lobe and C-tail are tan. R-subunit is cyan. (B) Electron density 2Fo-Fc map of the myristic acid and N-terminus of C-subunit at 1.0 sigma level. (C) The myristic acid binds within its previously defined hydrophobic pocket. (D) Overlay of the RI α :myrC (teal, myristic acid is shown in yellow) and myrC:SP20 (tan, myristic acid is shown in sand). These two structures display different conformations at the N-terminus of the C-subunit.

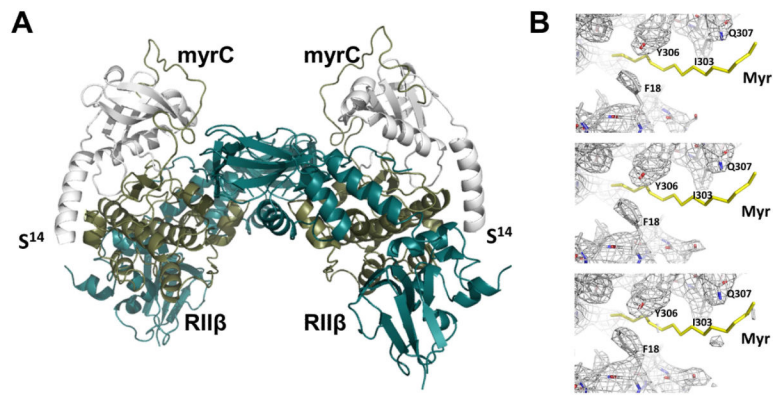


Figure 3. Crystal structure of the RII β ₂:myrC₂ holoenzyme (PDB ID: 4X6Q)

(A) The N-lobe of the C-subunit is shown in white; the C-lobe and C-tail are shown in tan. R-subunit is shown in cyan. (B) 2Fo-Fc Electron density maps of the previously defined hydrophobic pocket where the myristic acid is in, at 1.0(top), 0.75(middle) and 0.5(bottom) sigma level, respectively. The density of Myr motif and the myristyl density (yellow) are missing.

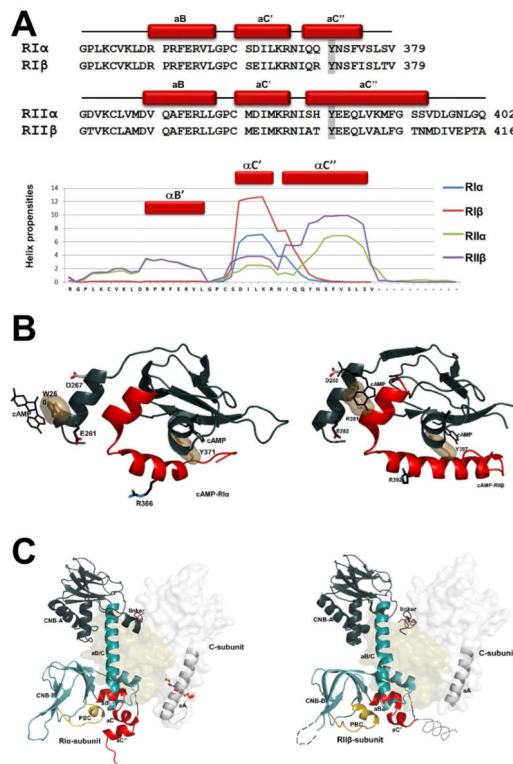


Figure 4. The C-terminus of R-subunits

(A)Up: Sequence alignment of four R-subunits isoforms. Helices observed in crystal structures for RI α (1RGS) and RII β (1CX4) are shown as red cylinders. Capping residues in α C'' are shaded. Down: Helical propensity for R-subunits predicted by AGADIR(Lacroix et al., 1998) Sequence for RI α is shown along the X-axis. (B) Left: In the active or cAMP bound RI α (left) and RII β (right) conformation, cAMP is bound to the PBC and the adenine ring is capped by a hydrophobic residue. In every CNB-B domain, this capping residue (TYP 371 in RI α , TYR 397 in RII β) is located in α C''. (C) In the RI α holoenzyme (left), the reorganized C-terminal helical motif is packed against the PBC and well ordered, whereas in the RII β holoenzyme (right), most of the C-terminal helical motif (residue 394-416), including the capping TYR397, is disordered. The flexible N-terminal Myr motif in the myrC subunit and C-terminal helical motif in RII β are in relatively close proximity.

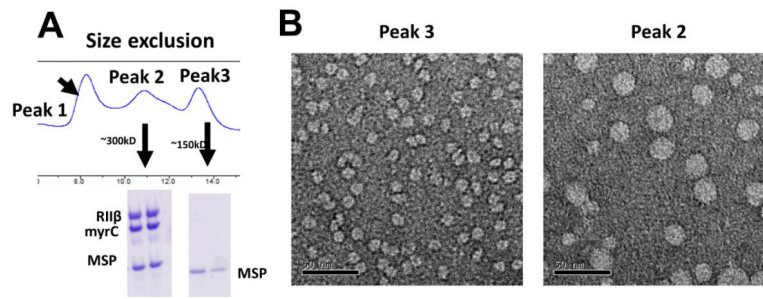


Figure 5. Membrane anchoring of RIIβ₂:myrC₂ holoenzyme

(A) Size exclusion chromatography shows assembly of RIIβ₂:myrC₂ to nanodiscs. Peak1, peak2 and peaks3 contains protein and lipid aggregation, RIIβ₂:myrC₂ holoenzyme and nanodiscs, and empty nanodiscs, respectively. The SDS-PAGE gel of these three peaks are shown in Figure S1. (B) Characterization of RIIβ₂:myrC₂ holoenzyme nanodiscs. On the left, negatively stained electron micrograph of the empty nanodiscs. On the right, negatively stained electron micrograph of the RIIβ₂:myrC₂ holoenzyme nanodiscs which were separated from the empty one by size exclusion. The scale bar is 50nm.

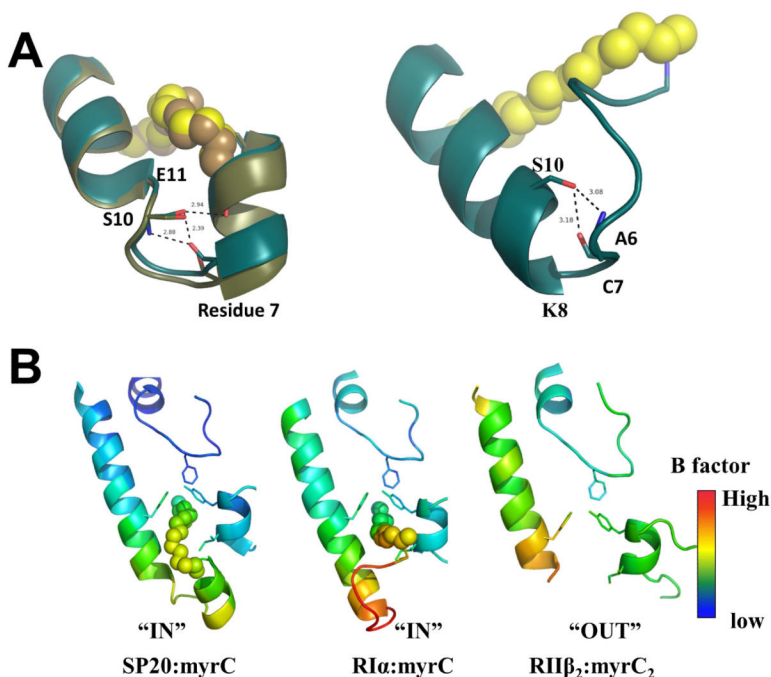


Figure 6. PKA has a dynamic and isoform-specific myristylation switch

(A) Potential role of Ser10 in stabilizing the N-terminus of myrC subunit. Left: The distance between the Ser10 side chain and the backbone carbonyl of residue 7 is displayed, showing that the atoms are in H-bonding distance in the myrC(K7C):SP20 (tan) (PDB ID: 4DFX) and WT myrC:SP20 structures (teal) (PDB ID: 4DG2). These two structures are aligned with the backbone atoms of residue 7 and side chain of Ser10 shown in stick representation. Right: Interactions of Ser10 side chain and Cys7 and Ala6 in the myrC(K7C):RII α (K7C) structure. (B) The three myristylated structures presented here are aligned. The conformation and B-factors analysis of the myristic acid and Myr motif can be in two distinct “IN” and “OUT” modes. The myristic acid and Myr motif in SP20: myrC (PDB ID: 4DFX), RII α : myrC, and RII β ₂:myrC₂ are shown. The right bottom is the scale bar for B-factors.

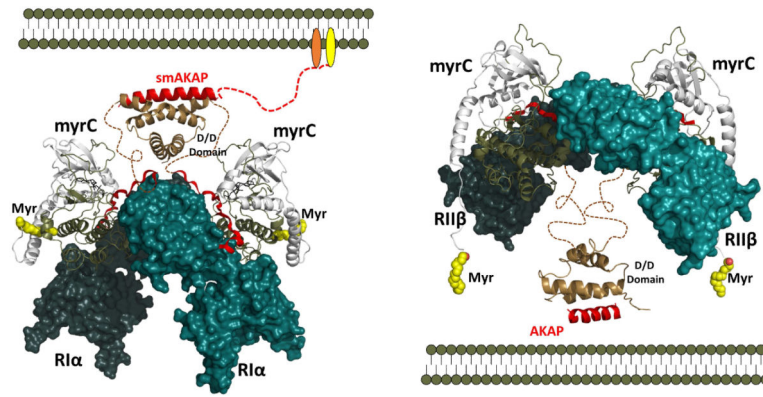


Figure 7. Membrane anchoring models of RI α ₂:myrC₂ and RII β ₂:myrC₂ holoenzymes
 Left: RI α ₂:myrC₂ holoenzyme is not capable of contributing to its own localization through myristylation-membrane interaction as the myristic acid is docked in C-subunit. It can be targeted to plasma membrane via binding to dual specific or RI specific AKAPs such as smAKAP which can be myristylated and palmitoylated at its N-terminus. Right: The exposed myristic acid groups in the RII β ₂:myrC₂ holoenzyme and AKAPs are capable of providing a mechanism for bivalent membrane anchoring. Possible position of the D/D domain and interacting AKAP helix is shown. The myristyl groups (yellow) are on the same side as the AKAP (orange)-binding surface of the D/D domain.

Table 1

Data Collection and Refinement Statistics

| Data Set | RI α :myrC (PDB ID:4X6R) | RII β_2 :myrC ₂ (PDB ID: 4X6Q) |
|--|---------------------------------|---|
| Data collection | ALS beamline 8.2.1 | ALS beamline 8.2.1 |
| Space group | P 32 2 1 | C222 |
| No. of molecules in one asymmetric unit | 2 | 1/2 |
| Cell constants | | |
| <i>a</i> (Å) | 125.76 | 152.71 |
| <i>b</i> (Å) | 125.76 | 214.04 |
| <i>c</i> (Å) | 140.88 | 61.87 |
| α (°) | 90.0 | 90.0 |
| β (°) | 90.0 | 90.0 |
| γ (°) | 120.0 | 90.0 |
| Average Redundancy | 3.6 | 4.0 |
| No. of unique reflections | 48209 | 31571 |
| Resolution (Å) | 2.4 | 2.5 |
| R_{sym}^{\dagger} | 0.068 (0.47) [‡] | 0.095 (0.49) [‡] |
| Completeness (%) | 99.2 (94.6) [‡] | 95.2 (93.1) [‡] |
| <i>I</i> / σ | 15.9 (3.4) [‡] | 19.8 (3.3) [‡] |
| Refinement | | |
| Resolution (Å) | 63.0-2.4 | 40.0-2.5 |
| $R_{\text{work}}^{\parallel}/R_{\text{free}}^{\#}$ (%) | 18.4/23.4 | 19.8/26.1 |
| No. of protein atoms | 5269 | 4918 |
| ligand and ion | MgATP | None |
| No. of water | 529 | 76 |
| R.m.s. deviations | | |
| Bond lengths (Å) | 0.019 | 0.011 |
| Bond angles (°) | 1.15 | 1.35 |
| Average B-factor | 44.6 | 57.0 |
| Ramachandran angles (%) | | |
| most favored (%) | 98.2 | 95.9 |
| disallowed | none | none |

[†] $R_{\text{sym}} = \frac{\sum_h \sum_i |I(h) - I(h)_i|}{\sum_h \sum_i I(h)_i}$, where $I(h)$ is the mean intensity after rejections.

[‡]Numbers in parentheses correspond to the highest resolution shell of data.

^{||} $R_{\text{work}} = \frac{\sum_h ||F_{\text{obs}}(h) - |F_{\text{calc}}(h)||}{\sum_h |F_{\text{obs}}(h)|}$; no I/σ cutoff was used during refinement.

[#]5.0% of the truncated data set was excluded from refinement to calculate R_{free} .