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Precision targeting by phosphoinositides: how PIs direct endomembrane trafficking in plants

Sort title: PIPs and vesicular trafficking in plants

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Abstract:

Each phosphoinositide (PI, also known as phosphatidylinositol phosphate, polyphosphoinositide, PtdInsP or PIP) species is partitioned in the endomembrane system and thereby contributes to the identity of membrane compartments. However, membranes are in constant flux within this system, which raises the questions of how the spatio-temporal pattern of phosphoinositides is established and maintained within the cell. Here we review the general mechanisms by which phosphoinositides and membrane trafficking feedback on each other to regulate cellular patterning. We then use the specific examples of polarized trafficking, endosomal sorting and vacuolar biogenesis to illustrate these general concepts.

Graphical abstract:

Highlights:

- PIPs are biochemical and biophysical landmarks that specify membrane identity
- PIPs and small GTPases couple membrane identity switches with trafficking
- Two distinct PIP cascades exist in plants, centered around early and late endosomes
- PI(3)P and PI(3,5)P2 regulate vacuolar biogenesis, endosomal sorting and autophagy
- PIP patterning defines membrane domains for polarized exocytosis and endocytosis

Keywords:
PtdIns, phosphoinositide, cell polarity, endocytosis, exocytosis, exocyst, actin, vacuole, autophagy, auxin, tip growth, root hair, pollen tube, PIP, phosphatidylinositol 3-phosphate, phosphatidylinositol 4-phosphate, phosphatidylinositol 4-5 bis-phosphate, phosphatidylinositol 3-5 bis-phosphate, PI(3)P, PI(4)P, PtdIns(4)P, PI(4,5)P2, PtdIns(4,5)P2
Introduction:
Membrane identities are acquired by the combined presence of specific lipids and proteins on each membrane. For example, small GTPases (Rab, Rho and Arf) are important contributors of organelle identity [1]. On the lipid side, major determinants of membrane identities are phosphoinositides, which are anionic phospholipids with an inositol head group that can be phosphorylated at various positions on their polar head (Figure 1a) [2]. Both groups of molecules also coordinate trafficking between different membranes and specific mechanisms are in place to ensure their correct spatiotemporal distribution. Here, we review the mechanisms by which phosphoinositides contribute to both membrane trafficking and organelle identity. Since the general mechanisms linking anionic phospholipids and trafficking are shared between all eukaryotes, we first describe these generic concepts, including plant examples when available. We then describe the subcellular localization of phosphoinositides in plants. Finally, to illustrate the aforementioned concepts, we use the examples of vacuolar sorting and polarized trafficking, notably in the context of tip growth.

General concepts linking phosphoinositides and membrane trafficking in eukaryotes

- **Importance of phosphoinositide cyclical and cascade regulation**
  Phosphatidylethanolamine and phosphatidylethanolamine constitute more than 60% of total phospholipids, followed in abundance by phosphatidylinositol, phosphatidylglycerol, phosphatidylserine, and phosphatidic acid. Phosphatidylinositol is mainly found in the luminal side of the Endoplasmic Reticulum but a minor amount is exposed on organelle cytosolic leaflets, where it is phosphorylated into various phosphatidylinositol phosphate species (so-called phosphoinositides or PIs). In all eukaryotes, phosphoinositides are quantitatively minor lipids, accounting for less than one percent of total phospholipids. Yet, they are set apart from other lipids because they are rapidly interconverted into one another by the action of lipid kinases and phosphatases, allowing their spatiotemporal control by cyclical regulation (Figure 1b) [1]. The combined action of kinases and phosphatases produces up to five phosphoinositides in plants, four of which have been involved in membrane trafficking (PI(3)P, PI(4)P, PI(4,5)P2 and PI(3,5)P2) (Figure 1c) [2,3]. In plants, PI(4)P constitutes about 80% of phosphoinositides, followed in abundance by PI(4,5)P2, PI(3)P and PI(3,5)P2. Phosphoinositides are not only cycling between two states, but can cascade from one species to another and then another. In animals, a classical example of phosphoinositide cascade happens along the endocytic pathways [4]. This PI cascade starts from PI(4,5)P2 at the plasma membrane (PM), utilizes transient accumulation of PI(4)P and PI(3,4)P2 during endocytosis, and leads to accumulation of PI(3)P in early endosomes and then PI(3,5)P2 in late endosomes [4]. By contrast, two shorter, largely independent phosphoinositide cascades exist in plants that are centered on early (trans-Golgi Network/Early Endosomes; TGN/EE) and late (Late Endosomes/Multivesicular Bodies; LE/MVB) endosomes (Figure 1c). Such cascades are a central theme in membrane trafficking as they allow membrane identity to evolve dynamically during the course of trafficking [1].

- **Phosphoinositides act as biochemical landmarks to recruit trafficking regulators**
  By analogy to the histone code, phosphoinositides generate a “lipid code” that specifies membrane identity. The three corner stones of the histone code hypothesis are the presence of proteins that can create, remove and read marks on histones (so-called writer, eraser and reader modules). Lipid kinases and phosphatases represent writer and eraser molecules in such lipid code hypothesis. Phosphoinositide-specific phospholipases C (PI-PLCs) constitute another eraser module that terminates the PI cycle by metabolizing PI(4)P and PI(4,5)P2 into Diacylglycerol (DAG) and soluble inositol (Figure 1b, note that the function of soluble
Phosphoinositides are master regulators of membrane trafficking and as such are themselves integral to numerous trafficking regulators. They are recruited to specific membranes via lipid binding domains, which couple membrane recruitment and trafficking regulation. For instance, the three trafficking regulators AtSORTING-NEXINS (AtSNXs), PLEKSTRIN-HOMOLOGY1 (AtPH1) and FYVEDOMAIN-PROTEIN1/FYVE-DOMAIN-PROTEIN-REQUIRED-FOR-ENDOSOMAL-SORTING1 (FYVE1/FREE1) are targeted to PI(3)P-containing endosomes via a PHOX (PX), PLEKRTSIN-HOMOLY (PH) or Fab1-YOTB-Vac1-EEA1 (FYVE) domain, respectively [6-10].

- **Phosphoinositides cooperate with small GTPases to drive membrane traffic**
  Phosphoinositides are intimately linked with small GTPases (e.g. Rab, Arf and Rho), which are themselves master regulators of membrane trafficking [1]. Many phosphoinositide writer/eraser modules are effectors of activated GTPases, notably Rab proteins (Figure 1d). GTPase activities are also regulated by phosphoinositides and numerous GTPase-activating-proteins (GAPs) and GTPase-exchange-factors (GEFs) contain a lipid binding domain that drives their membrane association (Figure 1e). In addition, there are many examples of proteins that are recruited to a specific membrane via the coincidence binding of a phosphoinositide and a small GTPase (Figure 1f). For instance, RabA4b recruits PI4Kβs to control PI(4)P production in secretory vesicles emerging from the TGN/EE [11]. In turn, coincident detection of PI(4)P and RabA4b in the TGN/EE targets the PLANT-U-BOX13, which regulates the trafficking of the pattern-recognition receptor FLAGELIN-INSENSITIVE2 [12].

- **Phosphoinositides influence membrane deformation and surface charges**
  Phosphoinositides have a large head group that favor membrane with a positive curvature, for example in the bud of growing vesicles (Figure 2a) [13]. Anionic phospholipids also control membrane electrostatics by modulating surface charges in the cytosolic leaflet of membranes (Figure 2a, b) [14]. The plant PM has a specific electrostatic signature that is driven by PI(4)P and recruits proteins with polybasic sequence(s) (Figure 2b, c) [14,15]. Interestingly, certain trafficking regulators are recruited to membrane through the coincident detection of curvature and electrostatics (Figure 2d) [5,16]. In turn, some of these proteins with a Bin-Amphiphysin-Rvs (BAR) domain, further induce membrane deformation; linking electrostatic and curvature regulation during trafficking [5,17]. Phosphoinositides also recruit coat proteins, such as the Adaptor Protein (AP) complexes involved in Clathrin-coated vesicle formation (Figure 2e) [4], or the retromer, involved in endosome tubulation (Figure 2f) [17,18]. In addition, phosphoinositides recruit and activate the actin polymerization machinery, which generates a motile force required for membrane deformation and vesicle motion (Figure 2e and f) [18,19].

The localization of phosphoinositides in plants

Studying lipid localization is complex. Endogenous lipids are not easily tagged by fluorescent moieties, lipid fixations are difficult to achieve, and phosphoinositides may diffuse or traffic away from their site of synthesis [2]. Yet, the localization of phosphoinositides in plants is getting clearer (Figure 3a), thanks to the combinatorial use of: i) genetically encoded biosensors (i.e. fluorescent protein fused with stereospecific LBD), ii) mutants impaired in phosphoinositide homeostasis, and iii) localization studies of plant writer/eraser/reader proteins (see Figure 3b for a summary of writer/eraser known localization) [2,3]. Some notable differences can be noted between plants and animals. A prime example is the massive accumulation of PI(4)P at the plant PM (Figure 3a); whereas in animals, PI(4)P prominently resides in the Golgi/TGN compartments and to a lesser extent at the PM [15]. In addition,
PI(3)P labels late endosomes in plants and early endosomes in animals [20,21]. By contrast, PI(4,5)P2 localization at the PM and PI(3,5)P2 in LE/MVB are conserved in eukaryotes [21-23].

Phosphoinositides in endosomal sorting and vacuole biogenesis

The central vacuole is a plant specific organelle that can act both as a lytic and/or storage organelle [24]. Phosphoinositides, in particular the PI→PI(3)P→PI(3,5)P2 cascade (Figure 1c), are involved in endosomal sorting events leading to membrane protein degradation or retrieval, vacuolar morphogenesis and autophagy.

- **PI(3)P and PI(3,5)P2 sort PM proteins toward degradation or recycling**

After endocytosis, membrane proteins can recycle back to the PM or be targeted to the vacuole for degradation. LE/MVBs mature from TGN/EE, which gradually loses PI(4)P on its membrane and acquires PI(3)P together with the RabF protein ARA7/RabF2b (Figure 3c) [25,26]. PI(3)P is synthetized by the phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase (P3K) VACUOLAR PROTEIN SORTING34 (VPS34), while the concomitant PI(4)P hydrolysis might be regulated by ROOT-HAIR-DEFECTIVE4 (RHD4)/ AtSUPPRESSOR-OF-ACTIN7, a PI(4)P phosphatase that localizes in the TGN/EE (Figure 3b) [27].

Protein sorting during the maturation of TGN/EE into LE/MVB is orchestrated by the antagonistic activities of the ENDOSOMAL-SORTING-COMPLEX-REQUIRED-FOR-TRANSPORT (ESCRT) and the retromer complexes. ESCRT complexes mediate the internalization of ubiquitinated proteins into intraluminal vesicles of MVB/LE prior to their fusion with the lytic vacuole, where proteins are degraded. The retromer complex is involved in the retrieval of membrane proteins prior to their internalization in intraluminal vesicles, thereby allowing their subsequent recycling. In both cases, the function of these antagonistic complexes is intimately linked with PI(3)P (Figure 3c). Indeed, the plant specific ESCRT component FYVE1/FREE1 localizes in LE/MVB by binding concomitantly to PI(3)P, ubiquitinated cargos and ESCRT-I proteins [8,9,28,29]. The seedling lethal fyve1/free1 mutant shows MVB and vacuole defects and fails to target ubiquitinated proteins to the vacuole for degradation, which instead mislocalize to the tonoplast [9,29]. In addition, the retromer components AtSNXs are also targeted to LE/MVB by PI(3)P [6,7]. In snxl and retromer mutants, the PIN auxin efflux carriers are not recycled back to the PM efficiently and are instead targeted to the vacuole for degradation [30-32]. The AtSNX1-interacting protein CYTOPLASMIC-LINKER-ASSOCIATED-PROTEIN (CLASP) links AtSNX1-containing endosomes with cortical microtubules to regulate PIN2 trafficking [33]. AtSNX1 also interacts with phosphatidylinositol 3-phosphate 5-kinases (PI(3)P5Ks) from the PHOSPHOINOSITIDE-KINASE-FYVE-FINGER-CONTAINING (PIKfyve)/FAB1 family (Figure 1c, g), which regulates AtSNX1, CLASP and PIN2 localization [34].

- **Phosphoinositides and the regulation of vacuole morphology**

Phosphoinositides control the biogenesis and morphology of the central vacuole. The SOLUBLE-NSF-ATTACHMENT-RECEPTOR (SNARE) protein VTI11 is involved in the fusion of LE/MVB with the vacuole [24]. vtil1 mutants harbors small unfused vacuoles, a phenotype that is rescued by inhibition of PI3K activity [35]. fyve1/free1 and retromer mutants also accumulates small fragmented vacuoles, supporting a role for PI(3)P in this process [9,29,31,32,36]. It is likely that PI(3)P-dependent endosomal sorting via the ESCRT and retromer complexes is important for the correct trafficking and localization of SNARE proteins involved in vacuole fusion.
PI(4)P also connects SNARE trafficking and vacuole morphology [37,38], although the mechanisms are still unclear and could be indirect. However, actin is important to shape vacuole morphology [35,38]. Transient PI(4)P production has recently been described as an important regulator of actin synthesis on endosomal membranes in animal cells [18]. It is therefore possible that a similar transient pool of PI(4)P might locally regulates vacuolar dynamics and/or sorting function at the LE/MVB, possibly by controlling actin dynamics. The notion that phosphoinositides might regulate actin dynamics in the late secretory pathway is supported by the vacuolar morphology defects displayed by loss- and gain-of-function mutants in AIsUPPRESSOR-OF-ACTIN genes (AtSAC2 to AtSAC5) [39]. SAC proteins are phosphoinositide phosphatases (Figure 1c and 3b). AtSAC2-5 are homologous to the Golgi-localized AtSAC1 protein, which has a 5-phosphatase activity toward PI(3,5)P2 (Figure 3b) [40]. AtSAC2-5 localize on the tonoplast and might control vacuolar morphology by promoting PI(3,5)P2 hydrolysis and PI(3)P production in this compartment (Figure 3a and b). However, it remains to be determined whether AtSAC2-5 function actually links actin dynamics with phosphoinositide homeostasis to regulate vacuole morphogenesis.

- **PI(3)P orchestrates autophagy**

Autophagy is a cellular degradation pathway that is initiated by the encapsulation of cytoplasmic cargos in a double membrane organelle called autophagosome and which culminates in the fusion of this compartment with the lytic vacuole. PI(3)P synthesis by the PI3K VPS34, which localizes to autophagosome in plant cells [41], is a key regulator of autophagosome formation across eukaryotes (Figure 3a and b). Furthermore, both ESCRT and retromer mutants are defective in the autophagy process [29,36,42-44]. SNAREs are involved in the fusion of autophagosomes with the vacuole; it is therefore likely that some of the autophagy-related phenotypes in ESCRT and retromer mutants arise from mis-sorting of SNARE complexes [43]. In addition, FYVE1/FREE1 interacts with the PI(3)P-binding SRC-HOMOLOGY3-CONTAINING-PROTEINS SH3P2 and SH3P3, which localize in preautophagosomal structures in a VPS34-dependent manner [29,36]. SH3P2 binds AUTOPHAGY-RELATED-PROTEIN8 (ATG8) and the PI3K complex and is actively involved in the deformation of this membrane [41]. SH3P2/SH3P3 contain a BAR domain, which could facilitate membrane bending during autophagosome formation.

To conclude, PI(3)P and PI(3,5)P2 control protein sorting, including SNAREs, toward the vacuole or the TGN/EE, and may connect cortical microtubules with endosomal recycling and actin cytoskeleton with vacuole morphology.

**Phosphoinositides and polarized trafficking**

Phosphoinositides, in particular through the PI→PI(4)P→PI(4,5)P2 cascade (Figure 1c), regulate polarized exo- and endocytosis. In the following section, we will focus on their role in tip growing cells, which are highly polarized, but we will also use additional examples in other cell types when opportune.

- **PI(4,5)P2 targets endocytosis in pollen tube**

In tip growing cells (root hairs and pollen tubes) growth occurs via a massive polarized exocytosis of cell wall components at the growing tip and is counterbalanced by endocytosis occurring in subapical regions of the tube, forming a reversed-fountain flow of membranes (Figure 4a) [45]. Loss-of function mutants of phosphatidylinositol 4-phosphate 5-kinases (PIP5Ks) show low pollen germination rate, slow tube elongation, endocytic defects and reduced transmission through the male gametophyte [46,47]. In growing pollen tube,
PI(4,5)P₂ localizes at the flank of apex, in a region with both endocytic and exocytic activities (Figure 4a and b). This localization is maintained by a combination of local production of PI(4,5)P₂ by PIP5Ks, which localizes at the flank of apex [46-49] and degradation into DAG by PI-PLC, which localizes in the shank/subapical region (Figure 4b and c) [50,51].

**PI(4,5)P₂ localization**

**PI(4,5)P₂**

**mutants have aberrant root hair morph**

**PI(4,5)P₂**

**overexpression**

**induces root hair deformation**

**PI(4,5)P₂**

**activity**

**correlates with a local accumulation of PI(4,5)P₂**

**localization**

**of E**

**cell wall**

**examples of exocyst**

**is involved in cell polarity establishment**

**phospholipids**

depending of the lipid binding complex targets specific **PI(4,5)P₂**

**growing tobacco pollen tubes**, **PI(4,5)P₂**

**region**

**[**PI(4,5)P₂**]**

**membrane fusion** [55]. The exocyst binds the PM through the SEC3 and EXO70 subunits, which both have lipid binding activities. In plants, SEC3 has a PH domain that binds PI(4,5)P₂ *in vitro* and colocalizes with PI(4,5)P₂ *in vivo* [56]. sec3a loss-of-functions show reduced pollen tube growth and fail to be transmitted through the male gametophyte [56]. The localization of SEC3 determines the direction of the growth and the site of pollen germination [56]. Furthermore, another anionic lipid, phosphatidic acid (PA), localizes in subapical PM regions of the pollen tube, which overlap only partially with tip-localized PI(4,5)P₂ [57]. In growing tobacco pollen tubes, two EXO70 isoforms (EXO70A1 and EXO70B1) overlap with PI(4,5)P₂ and PA markers, respectively (Figure 4b) [58]. It is possible that the exocyst complex targets specific PM sites through coincidence binding with several anionic phospholipids depending of the lipid binding properties of the EXO70 isoforms. The exocyst is involved in cell polarity establishment in many cell types, not just pollen tube. Additional examples of exocyst-based polarity include PINs and PEN3 polar localization [59-61], the establishment of an Ortmannian ring in trichomes [62], the patterning of xylem secondary cell wall [63], or the definition of the casparian strip domain [64]. In the later example, the localization of EXO70A1 in the casparian strip domain of the root endodermis nicely correlates with a local accumulation of PI(4,5)P₂, which is itself dependent on EXO70A1 activity [64].

**The exocyst is an anionic phospholipid effector involved in polarized secretion**

The exocyst complex tethers secretory vesicles to the PM, a prerequisite for subsequent membrane fusion [55]. The exocyst binds the PM through the SEC3 and EXO70 subunits, which both have lipid binding activities. In plants, SEC3 has a PH domain that binds PI(4,5)P₂ *in vitro* and colocalizes with PI(4,5)P₂ *in vivo* [56]. sec3a loss-of-functions show reduced pollen tube growth and fail to be transmitted through the male gametophyte [56]. The localization of SEC3 determines the direction of the growth and the site of pollen germination [56]. Furthermore, another anionic lipid, phosphatidic acid (PA), localizes in subapical PM regions of the pollen tube, which overlap only partially with tip-localized PI(4,5)P₂ [57]. In growing tobacco pollen tubes, two EXO70 isoforms (EXO70A1 and EXO70B1) overlap with PI(4,5)P₂ and PA markers, respectively (Figure 4b) [58]. It is possible that the exocyst complex targets specific PM sites through coincidence binding with several anionic phospholipids depending of the lipid binding properties of the EXO70 isoforms. The exocyst is involved in cell polarity establishment in many cell types, not just pollen tube. Additional examples of exocyst-based polarity include PINs and PEN3 polar localization [59-61], the establishment of an Ortmannian ring in trichomes [62], the patterning of xylem secondary cell wall [63], or the definition of the casparian strip domain [64]. In the later example, the localization of EXO70A1 in the casparian strip domain of the root endodermis nicely correlates with a local accumulation of PI(4,5)P₂, which is itself dependent on EXO70A1 activity [64].

**A precise phosphoinositide patterning coordinates membrane trafficking during root hair morphogenesis**

Similar to pollen tubes, PI(4,5)P₂ is critical to coordinate membrane trafficking during root hair growth. PIP5K3 and PI(4,5)P₂ localize at the tip of growing root hairs (Figure 4d) [65,66]. PIP5K3 is required for the polar localization of RHO-OF-PLANT2 (ROP2) and ROP6 during root hair initiation, which themselves coordinate endocytosis, exocytosis and cytoskeleton dynamics [67]. pip5k3 mutants have short root hairs, whereas PIP5K3 overexpression induces root hair deformation [65,66]. The localization of PI(4,5)P₂ at the tip of growing root hair is maintained by the action of AtSFH1/CAN OF WORMS (COW1), a SEC14 domain-containing protein that is localized at the tip region via direct interaction with PI(4,5)P₂ [68,69]. Yeast SEC14 and AtSFH1/COW1 stimulate PI4K activity [70], suggesting that AtSFH1/COW1 might promote local PI(4)P synthesis at the root hair tip, which could be subsequently channeled to PIP5K3 for local PI(4,5)P₂ synthesis (Figure 4d) [69]. *Atsfh1* mutants have aberrant root hair morphology and show disperse secretory vesicles at their tip and disorganized actin and microtubule networks [68], highlighting the importance of precise phosphoinositide patterning for the coordination of membrane trafficking and cell polarity establishment.
PI(4)P localizes in root hair subapical regions [71], as well as some intracellular compartments, which are likely TGN/EE (Figure 4c). PI4Kβ1-β2 and RHD4/AtSAC7, a PI(4)P phosphatase (Figure 3b), localize in RabA4b-positive TGN/EE at the tip of growing root hairs (Figure 4d) [11,27]. pi4kβ1/pi4kβ2 double and rhd4/sac7 single mutants have short bulged root hairs, with swollen TGN/EE, suggesting a critical role for PI(4)P in secretion [11,27,72]. In rhd4/sac7 mutants, PI(4)P accumulates in aberrant intracellular compartments that are likely TGN/EE [27,73]. It is possible that RHD4/AtSAC7 in TGN/EE erases incoming PI(4)P from the PM in order to maintain the PI(4)P gradient between these membranes [15]. However, it is still unclear how PI(4)P kinases and phosphatases cohabitate in the same compartment and/or whether they are localized in complementary subdomains of the TGN/EE (Figure 3b).

The overall consensus is that patterned phosphoinositides are needed to mark specific domains at the PM for localized endocytosis and exocytosis. In addition PI(4)P sorting activity at the TGN/EE is also involved in polarized trafficking toward the PM.

**Conclusions and future perspectives**

While most concepts linking phosphoinositides with membrane trafficking are conserved throughout eukaryotes, there are a number of emerging plant specific innovations. First, phosphoinositide subcellular localizations are different in plants and animals and one of the future challenges will be to decipher the mechanisms enabling phosphoinositide subcellular localization and maintenance in plants. A key point will be to further understand the tight coupling between the writer and eraser modules that generates phosphoinositide spatiotemporal patterns despite their constant dispersal by lateral diffusion and vesicular trafficking. Furthermore, compartment interactions at membrane contact sites are emerging as key regulators of lipid homeostasis and their importance in phosphoinositide synthesis has not yet been studied in plants. Second, it remains to be fully explored whether a *bona fide* lipid code exists for polarized trafficking in plants. One of the keys behind such code might be the presence of multiple EXO70 exocyst subunits that could define several PM domains, at least in part through specific interactions with various anionic lipids or combinations thereof. Finally, a plant specific pathway heavily relying on polarized membrane trafficking and not treated in this review is the establishment of the cell plate during cytokinesis. Several mutants defective in phosphoinositide metabolism harbor aberrant cell division phenotypes [72,74] and PIPs have distinctive localizations during cell division [15,20,22,73]. However, the exact roles of phosphoinositides in coordinating membrane traffic during cytokinesis are still poorly understood.

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References

* of special interest
** of outstanding interest


This study shows for the first time that a PH domain-containing protein is a PI(3)P effector in vivo and regulates the retrieval of the metal transporter NRAMP1 from late endosomes to the PM.


This study reveals that PUB13, a known regulator of the pattern-recognition receptor FLS2 ubiquitination and trafficking, is targeted to the TGN/EE through the concomitant detection of Rab4Ab and PI(4)P. The later interaction is mediated by an ARM domain, which constitutes a novel type of PI(4)P lipid binding domain. In addition, since Rab4Ab also recruits PI4Kβs, this study nicely illustrates the interdependent relationship between Rab4Ab and PI(4)P function at the TGN/EE.


Using membrane surface charges sensors, this study reveals that the plant PM is highly electronegative compared to intracellular compartments. In addition, it shows that the localization of previously used PI(4)P biosensors were biased toward the TGN/EE because of coincident detection of the ARF1 GTPase. The use of novel ARF1-independent PI(4)P biosensors demonstrates that PI(4)P massively accumulates at the plant PM to drive the electrostatic signature of this membrane and the localization of proteins with polybasic stretch, such as the AGC kinase PINOID.


PI(3)P is considered a master regulator of early endosome functions in animals, in part by recruiting the retromer complex, a tubulation regulator. In this study, Dong et al., show that PI(4)P transiently accumulates at contact sites between early endosomes and the endoplasmic reticulum to affect actin dynamics by the WASH complex and drive tubule formation in conjunction with retromer activity.


This study describes the characterization of transgenic Arabidopsis lines expressing a new fluorescent sensor for the rare lipid PI(3,5)P2 and shows that this phosphoinositides localizes in late endosomes that are largely distinct from PI(3)P-containing endosomes.


Using a forward genetic screen, this study identifies FYVE1/FREE1 as an essential regulator of vacuole biogenesis. It shows that FYVE1 localizes on late endosomes, interacts with SH3P2 and SH3P3 and regulates ubiquitin-mediated degradation, vacuolar transport and autophagy.


This study establishes that the PI(3)P5 kinases from the Fab1 family are involved in PIN2 trafficking during gravitropism and interact with the retromer component AtSNX1. Because AtSNX1 is known to interact with CLASP, the authors further established a link between endosome maturation and cortical microtubule function.


In addition to its role in vacuolar biogenesis, this study shows that the plant specific ESCRT component FYVE1/FREE1 interacts with SH3P2, a known regulator of autophagy and that *fyve1/free1* mutants accumulate autophagosomes in the cytosol that are not able to fuse with the tonoplast. Therefore, FYVE1/FREE1 has a dual function in vacuolar biogenesis and autophagy.

This study shows that auxin controls vacuolar morphology to regulate cell size in the root. This auxin-mediated effect is regulated by the SNARE protein VTI11 in a PI4K-dependent manner, suggesting a role for PI(4)P in vacuolar sorting.


Actin cytoskeleton is present in proximity of the tonoplast and is shown to regulate cell size in roots by controlling vacuolar morphology in response to auxin. This auxin effect on actin cytoskeleton is partly abolished upon genetic and pharmacological interference with PI4K activity, suggesting that PI(4)P might regulate actin organization in proximity to the vacuole, through a yet unknown mechanism.


This study shows that the SEC3a exocyst subunit binds *in vitro* to PI(4,5)P2 via its N-terminal PH domain and colocalize *in vivo* with this lipid in tobacco pollen tube, providing direct experimental evidence for a link between the exocyst activity and PI(4,5)P2 in plants. Furthermore, using timelapse microscopy approaches, the authors elegantly demonstrate that SEC3a localization is different in growing pollen tube that undergo steady or oscillatory growth; suggesting that phosphoinositide localization may be different during these two modes of growth and prompting further evaluation of anionic lipids localization during tip growth.


This paper shows that multiple EXO70 subunits localize to various subcellular localizations in growing tobacco pollen tubes, suggesting that different EXO70 subunits might target exocytosis at various locations within the same cell. In particular, it shows that EXO70A1 and EXO70B1 partially overlap with PA and PI(4,5)P2 biosensors, respectively, raising the possibility that these EXO70 subunits might have different anionic phospholipid binding properties for membrane targeting.


The *exo70a1* mutants shows delocalization of caspian strip (CS) proteins (such as CASP1 or ESB1) out of the central domain (CD) into PM microdomains, suggesting a critical role of the exocyst complex for the polar targeting of these proteins. In differentiating root endodermal cells, EXO70A1 and other exocyst subunits localize to the CD, a localization that correlates with the localization of PI(4,5)P2. This correlation suggests that PI(4,5)P2 might control EXO70A1 targeting to the CD. Interestingly, EXO70A1 activity is itself required for PI(4,5)P2 accumulation into the CD, suggesting a possible interdependent targeting mechanism between the exocyst and phosphoinositides in this cell type.


The site of root hair initiation is highly polarized. This study shows that a specialized membrane domain at the root hair initiation site is enriched in Rho GTPases (ROP2 and ROP6), dynamins (DRP1A and DRP2B), the PI(4,5)P2-producing enzyme PIP5K3 and sterol. These proteins and lipids are required for the positioning of this membrane domain and D6PK localization, suggesting an interdependent relationship between lipid signals and membrane trafficking regulators for the recruitment of signaling kinases.


This paper reveals that AtSFH1 binds specifically to PI(4,5)P2 through a Lysine-rich peptide at the C-terminal end of its nodulin domain. In turn PI(4,5)P2-binding targets AtSFH1 at the tip of growing root hair and is required for PI(4,5)P2 patterning, suggesting that this Sec14-nodulin domain protein might control the lateral organization of PI(4,5)P2 to regulate polarized tip growth.


Figure legends:

**Figure 1. The phosphoinositide code and interdependent relationship with small GTPases.** a) Schematic representation of phosphoinositides. Possible phosphorylation on the third, forth and/or fifth position on the inositol ring are indicated by arrows. Note that PI kinases or phosphatases act on these phosphorylation, while PI-PLC cut PIs below the phosphate group to release DAG and soluble inositol. Phosphorylations are represented by orange circles. b) Representation of the lipid code hypothesis embodied by the presence of writer, eraser and reader modules and the phosphoinositide cycle. c) The two phosphoinositide cascades in plants. Generic enzyme names are written in capital letter, example of Arabidopsis proteins with proven enzymatic activities and roles in membrane trafficking are indicated in italic. d) Schematic representation of Rab-regulated phosphoinositide phosphorylation or dephosphorylation. e) Schematic representation of phosphoinositide-regulated small GTPase activation or deactivation. f) Schematic representation of effector recruitment by coincidence binding of an activated small GTPase and a phosphoinositide. g) Schematic representation of phosphoinositide-regulated phosphoinositide phosphorylation or dephosphorylation. d-g) Plant examples are indicated in italics, and have been described in the following papers: PI4Kb [11], VAN3 [75], PUB13 [12], FAB1A-B/PIKfyve [34]. DAG, diacylglycerol; IP2, inositol-1,4-biphosphate; IP3, inositol-1,4,5-triphosphate; PI-PLC, phosphoinositide-dependent phospholipase C; Ptase, phosphatase; PIP, phosphatidylinositol monophosphate; PIP2, phosphatidylinositol bisphosphate; LBD, lipid binding domain; SAC, SUPPRESSOR OF ACTIN; RHD4, ROOT HAIR DEFECTIVE4; PI(3)P, phosphatidylinositol-(3)-phosphate; PI(4)P, phosphatidylinositol-(4)-phosphate, PI(3,5)P2, phosphatidylinositol-(3,5)-bisphosphate; PI(4,5)P2, phosphatidylinositol-(4,5)-bisphosphate; PI(3)P5K, phosphatidylinositol-(3)-phosphate 5-kinase; PI(4)P5K, phosphatidylinositol-(4)-phosphate 5-kinase; PI4K, phosphatidylinositol 4-kinase; PI, phosphoinositides; TGN, trans-Golgi Network; EE, Early Endosomes; LE, Late endosomes; MVB, multivesicular bodies; GAP, GTPase Activating Protein; GEF, GTPase Exchange Factor; VAN3, VASCULAR NETWORK3; PUB13, PLANT U-BOX13; PIKfyve, PHOSPHOINOSITIDE KINASE FYVE FINGER CONTAINING.

**Figure 2. Influence of phosphoinositides on physicochemical membrane parameters.** a) Membrane physicochemical properties may be conceptualized in three main categories including lipid packing defects, curvature and electrostatics. The latter two are directly influenced by phosphoinositides. b) Schematic representation of the plant electrostatic territory, which includes membranes with varying degree of negative surface charges, the highest being at the PM. The red triangle indicates the concentration gradient of PI(4)P between the PM and TGN/EE and that controls the high PM electrostatic field. c) Specific recruitment of proteins with polybasic/hydrophobic regions to the PM largely through PI(4)P-driven electrostatics. Note that PA and PI(4,5)P2 are also involved in D6PK membrane association [76]. d) Schematic representation of protein recruitment by coincidence detection of both curvature and electrostatics (e.g. proteins containing BAR domains or specialized amphipathic helices from the +ALPS class [5,16,17]). e) Schematic representation of the importance of phosphoinositides in vesicle formation through the coordination of actin polymerization, and recruitment/activation of membrane deformation components, including coat proteins and the scission machinery. Note that the example shown in panel e) relates to clathrin-mediated endocytosis, but similar concepts may be applied for the formation of other clathrin-coated vesicles, for example at the TGN. f) Schematic representation of the importance of phosphoinositides in tubule formation through the coordination of actin...
polymerization, and the membrane tubulation machinery. Note that the examples shown in d) to e) have not been formally demonstrated in plants even tough proteins containing similar domains are found in plant genomes and the general concepts are likely applicable to plant endomembrane trafficking. LBD, Lipid Binding Domain; SNX, SORTING NEXIN; BAR, Bin Amphiphysinn Rvs; +ALPS, +amphipathic lipid-packing sensor; PX, PHOX Homology; LE, Late Endosomes; MVB, MultiVesicular Bodies; PM, plasma membrane; PI, phosphoinositides; N-WASP, NEURAL WISKOTT-ALDRICH SYNDROME PROTEIN; WASH, WASP AND SCAR HOMOLOGUE; AP2, ADAPTOR-COMPlex2; D6PK, D6 PROTEIN KINASE. Negative charges carried by anionic phospholipids are represented by black circles; cationic residues by red circles; aromatic/hydrophobic residues by purple circles; phosphorylation by orange circles. PI(4)P distribution is shown in red, PI(4,5)P2 in green, PI(3)P in orange, actin polymerization factors in purple, membrane coat in blue and scission machinery in pink. All lipid localizations shown are for the cytosolic membrane leaflet only.

**Figure 3: Subcellular map of phosphoinositide localization in Arabidopsis root epidermis.** a) Schematic representation of endomembrane trafficking pathways. CCVs emanating from the TGN, and likely involving the AP3 clathrin adaptor, define a vacuolar trafficking pathway independent on canonical RabF-containing LE/MVB [77]. b) Writer and eraser modules with known localization and likely contributing to phosphoinositide patterning. c) Hypothetical model for ESCRT and retromer-mediated sorting during TGN/EE to LE/MVB maturation. Canonical markers of the TGN/EE (VHA-a1 and RabAs) and LE/MVB (RabFs, e.g. ARA7) are indicated in italics. Note that maturing TGN/EE displays both markers, suggesting the existence of transient hybrid organelles, where protein sorting might occur. The existence of such maturing TGN/EE, that contains RabF/PI(3)P as well as VHA-a1 markers was proposed in [26]. PI(3)P distribution is shown in orange; PI(4)P in red; PI(4,5)P2 in green and PI(3,5)P2 in blue. Arrows represent trafficking pathways between compartments. PM, Plasma Membrane; TGN, trans-Golgi Network; EE, Early Endosomes; LE, Late Endosomes; MVB, MultiVesicular Bodies; CCV, Clathrin Coated Vesicle; SV, Secretory vesicle. Triangles indicate concentration gradient of PI(4)P between the PM and TGN/EE and PI(3)P between LE/MVB and tonoplast. PI(3)P, phosphatidylinositol-(3)-phosphate; PI(4)P, phosphatidylinositol-(4)-phosphate, PI(3,5)P2, phosphatidylinositol-(3,5)-bisphosphate; PI(4,5)P2, phosphatidylinositol-(4,5)-bisphosphate. SAC, SUPPRESSOR OF ACTIN; PI4K, phosphatidylinositol 4-kinase; PIP5K, phosphatidylinositol-(4)-phosphate 5-kinase; PI-PLC, phosphoinositide-dependent phospholipase C; AP3, ADAPTOR PROTEIN 3; VPS34, VACUOLAR PROTEIN SORTING34, ESCRT, ENDOsomal SORTING COMPLEX REQUIRED FOR TRANSPORT. All lipid localizations shown are for the cytosolic membrane leaflet only.

**Figure 4: Subcellular maps of phosphoinositide localization in tip growing cells.** a) Schematic representation of the organization of tip growing cells. b) and d) are an attempt to draw maps of lipid localization in pollen tubes and root hairs, respectively. It is important to be cautious with such maps, since there is no consensus across different studies for the localization of PIP metabolic enzymes and PIP sensors in these systems. This is likely because anionic lipids localizations are highly dynamic in tip growing cells and vary with the mode of growth (i.e. oscillatory or steady growth, see for example Ref [56]). As such, snapshot images are unlikely to represent a full account of lipid/protein localizations. The localizations presented in figure 4 are personal interpretations, which should be further studied using quantitative time-lapse imaging. c) Conceptual model for the acquisition and maintenance of patterned phosphoinositide membrane domains/organelles. Polarized
phosphoinositide kinases locally produce a given PI species. Phospholipases or phosphatases with complementary localization to the writer modules allow the establishment of sharp phosphoinositide boundaries by removing incoming PIs that escaped the polar domains either by lateral diffusion or vesicular trafficking. PI(3)P distribution is shown in orange (localization in root hair studied in [78]); PI(4)P in red; PI(4,5)P₂ in green, PI(3,5)P₂ in blue, PA in pink and DAG in purple (localization in pollen tube studied in [50] and in root hair in [79]). Chevron-shaped arrows represent trafficking pathways between compartments; triangle-shaped arrows indicate activation. Exo, exocytosis; endo, endocytosis; PM, Plasma Membrane; TGN, trans-Golgi Network; EE, Early Endosomes; LE, Late Endosomes; MVB, MultiVesicular Bodies; CCV, Clathrin Coated Vesicle; SV, Secretory vesicle. Name of enzymes/proteins involved in phosphoinositides metabolism and/or trafficking are in italic next to the compartment in which they reside. PI(3)P, phosphatidylinositol-(3)-phosphate; PI(4)P, phosphatidylinositol-(4)-phosphate, PI(3,5)P₂, phosphatidylinositol-(3-5)-bisphosphate; PI(4,5)P₂, phosphatidylinositol-(4-5)-bisphosphate; RHD4, ROOT HAIR DEFECTIVE4; SAC, SUPPRESSOR OF ACTIN; COW, CAN OF WORMS; ROP, RHO OF PLANT; PI4K, phosphatidylinositol 4-kinase; PIP5K, phosphatidylinositol-(4)-phosphate 5-kinase; PI-PLC, phosphoinositide-dependent phospholipase C; DAG, Diacylglycerol; PA, phosphatidic acid. All lipid localizations shown are for the cytosolic membrane leaflet only.
Inositol ring
phosphate group
Diacylglycerol backbone

(a)

(PI Kinase/Phos) [PI-PLC]

(b)

DAG / IP_2
erased
PI-PLC

phosphoinositide cyclical activity

DAG / IP_3
erased
PI-PLC

reader
LBD

kinase
writer

(c)

phosphoinositide cascades in plants (A. thaliana genes)

erasers
PI(3,5)P_2
5-Ptase
PI(3)P
PI(3)P5K
PI(3)P5K
FAB1A-D/PIKfyve
PI3K
VPS34

writers
PI(4)P
PI(4)P
PI(4)P
PI(4,5)P
PI(4,5)P_2

PI cascade focused on trafficking to or away from late endosomes

PI cascade focused on trafficking to or away from early endosomes

(d)

PI regulation by RAB

writer / eraser

kinase / phosphatase

(de)phosphorylation

Rab GTP
Rab GTP

cytosol
lumen

e.g. RabA4b in TGN/EE recruits PI4Kβs to produce PI(4)P

(e)

GTPase regulation by PI

reader

GEF / GAP

(de)activation

recruitment

cytosol
lumen

e.g. PI(4)P in TGN/EE recruits and activates the ARF-GAP VAN3

(f)

coincidence detection

reader

GTPase

effector recruitment

cytosol
lumen

e.g. PUB13 is recruited to TGN/EE by coincidence binding of RabA4b and PI(4)P

(g)

PI regulation by PI

writer / eraser

& reader

kinase / phosphatase

(de)phosphorylation

recruitment

cytosol
lumen

e.g. FAB1A-B/PIKfyve are PI(3)P5Ks recruited to LE/MVB by their substrate PI(3)P
membrane physicochemical parameters

Directly influenced by phosphoinositides

(b) electrostatic territory in plants

highly electronegative

intracellular compartments

neutral + curved

(c) PM targeting by electrostatics

PM

electrostatic field

cytosol

e.g. PINOID/D6PKs

d) coincidence detection of curvature and electrostatics

BAR domain + ALPS

PM

electrostatic field

cytosol

polybasic/hydrophobic region

e.g. PINOID/D6PKs

(e) PI-mediated vesicule formation (e.g. clathrin-mediated endocytosis)

extracellular cytosol

neck formation/scission e.g. SNX9/dynamins

(f) PI-mediated tubule formation (e.g. retromer-mediated tubulation)

endosome membrane

actin polymerisation factor e.g. WASH

actin

coat recruitment e.g. AP2/clathrin
AtSAC1\(^{5\text{P}lase}\): \(\text{PI}(3,5)\text{P}_2 > \text{PI}(3)\text{P}\)
RHD4/AtSAC7\(^{4\text{P}lase}\): \(\text{PI}(4)\text{P} > \text{PI}\)
PI-PLC: \(\text{PI}(4)\text{P} \& \text{PI}(4,5)\text{P}_2\)

**Autophagosome**

VPS34\(^{\text{P}l3\text{K}}\): \(\text{PI} > \text{PI}(3)\text{P}\)

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**hypothetical model of TGN/EE to LE/MVB maturation via \(\text{PI}(4)\text{P}-\text{to-}\text{PI}(3)\text{P}\) conversion**
(a) tip growth glossary
shank region subapical region flank of apex
apical region
vesicule-rich inverted cone region

(b) pollen tube

growth phase

rest phase

PI-PLC (e.g. NtPLC3) PIP5Ks (4,5,6,10,11)

PI4K? PI(4,5)P

root hair

growth phase

PI(4)P PI(4,5)P

PI4Kβs, RabA4b, RHD4/AtSAC7 in vesicule-rich inverted cone region

(c) diffusion / traffic
derived / PI-PLC
writer

derived / PI-PLC
eraser

e.g. PI-PLC

PI(3)P A→ DAG

PI(4)P

PI(4,5)P

PI5K

PI(4)P

PI(3)P

lumen

cytosol

(d) root hair

PI(4)P

PI(4,5)P

AtSFH1/COW1 ROP2

PI5K3

PI(4)P

PI(4,5)P

PI4Kβs, RabA4b, RHD4/AtSAC7 in vesicule-rich inverted cone region