Phospholemman, a Single-Span Membrane Protein, Is an Accessory Protein of Na,K-ATPase in Cerebellum and Choroid Plexus

Marina S. Feschenko,¹ Claudia Donnet,¹ Randall K. Wetzel,¹ Natalya K. Asinovski,¹ Larry R. Jones,² and Kathleen J. Sweadner¹

¹Laboratory of Membrane Biology, Neuroscience Center, Massachusetts General Hospital, Charlestown, Massachusetts 02129, and ²Krannert Institute of Cardiology, Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

Phospholemman (FXYD1) is a homolog of the Na,K-ATPase γ subunit (FXYD2), a small accessory protein that modulates ATPase activity. Here we show that phospholemman is highly expressed in selected structures in the CNS. It is most abundant in cerebellum, where it was detected in the molecular layer, in Purkinje neurons, and in axons traversing the granule cell layer. Phospholemman was particularly enriched in choroid plexus, the organ that secretes CSF in the ventricles, where it colocalized with Na,K-ATPase in the apical membrane. It was also enriched, with Na,K-ATPase, in certain tanycytes or ependymal cells of the ventricle wall. Two different experimental approaches demonstrated that phospholemman physically associated with the Na,K-ATPase in cerebellum and choroid plexus: the proteins copurified after detergent treatment and co-immunoprecipitated from solubilized crude membranes using either anti-phospholemman or anti-Na,K-ATPase antibodies. Phospholemman antibodies precipitated all three Na,K-ATPase α subunit isoforms (α 1- α 3) from cerebellum, indicating that the interaction is not specific to a particular α isoform and consistent with the presence of phospholemman in both neurons and glia. Antibodies against the C-terminal domain of phospholemman reduced Na,K-ATPase activity in vitro without effect on Na ⁺ affinity. At least two other FXYD family members have been detected in the CNS, suggesting that additional complexity of sodium pump regulation will be found.

Key words: Na,K-ATPase; phospholemman; FXYD; cerebellum; choroid plexus; Purkinje cell; Bergmann glia

Introduction

Phospholemman was first discovered as a readily phosphorylated protein in sarcolemma preparations from cardiac and skeletal muscle (Walaas et al., 1977; Jones et al., 1979). It is a 72-amino acid membrane-spanning protein with a 20-amino acid cleavable signal sequence (Palmer et al., 1991). It is phosphorylated by protein kinases A and C in the heart in response to β - and α -adrenergic stimulation and in response to insulin in skeletal muscle (Presti et al., 1985a,b; Walaas et al., 1988, 1994). It is also a target of myotonic dystrophy and NIMA (Never in mitosis, gene A) kinases (Lu et al., 1994; Mounsey et al., 1999, 2000). This suggests that phospholemman has a role in signal transduction to integrate converging regulatory pathways. The link between phospholemman phosphorylation and its physiological role is not yet understood, however. Phospholemman induces ion and taurine permeability in oocytes and lipid bilayers (Moorman et al., 1992; Mounsey et al., 2000), but evidence is presented here that it is an accessory protein of Na,K-ATPase.

Phospholemman and the γ subunit of the Na,K-ATPase are members of the FXYD gene family, which has seven members in mammals (Sweadner and Rael, 2000). Several FXYD proteins, the

γ subunit (FXYD2), PLMS (a dogfish shark FXYD family member), CHIF (FXYD4), and FXYD7, have been shown to associate with Na,K-ATPase (Mahmmoud et al., 2000; Therien and Blostein, 2000; Beguin et al., 2001, 2002), and while this manuscript was being revised, Crambert et al. (2002) independently showed that phospholemman interacts with Na,K-ATPase when expressed in Xenopus oocytes and in cardiac and skeletal muscle sarcolemma. The greatest sequence homology in the gene family is in a stretch of 35 amino acids that includes the transmembrane span, a portion of the intracellular domain, and a portion of the extracellular domain with the FXYD motif (PFxYD or Pro-Phex-Tyr-Asp) that identifies the family. Mutations in the PFxYD motif of γ and CHIF were shown to disrupt interaction with the Na,K-ATPase (Beguin et al., 2001). When the FXYD family transmembrane span amino acid sequences are displayed on a helical wheel, they have invariant and nearly invariant residues all clustered on one face, with small and bulky residues aligned separately to form a ridge-and-groove structure (Sweadner and Rael, 2000). This is consistent with right-handed helix packing and suggests similar specificity in protein-protein interaction in the membrane, such as by interacting with the same site on Na,K-ATPase.

Phospholemman mRNA expression has been detected in the CNS (Chen et al., 1997; Bres et al., 2000; Bogaev et al., 2001), and phospholemman protein has been detected in cerebellar astrocytes cultured from 8-d-old rats (Moran et al., 2001). We set out to determine the distribution of phospholemman in the CNS and to test the hypothesis that it forms a complex with Na,K-ATPase.

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Correspondence should be addressed to Kathleen J. Sweadner, 149-6118, Massachusetts General Hospital, 149 13th Street, Charlestown, MA 02129. E-mail: sweadner@helix.mgh.harvard.edu.

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Materials and Methods

Immunofluorescence microscopy. Adult outbred rats were used for immunofluorescence microscopy. The methods for fixation, tissue sectioning, and double-label immunofluorescence have been described in detail elsewhere (Wetzel and Sweadner, 2001). The antibody used to detect phospholemman was an affinity-purified polyclonal rabbit antibody against the C terminus (now called PLM-C1; Moorman et al., 1992). This antibody also appropriately stains the sarcolemma of cardiac and skeletal muscle (results not shown). To detect Na,K-ATPase isoforms, we used monoclonal antibodies specific for rat Na,K-ATPase α 1 subunit (McK1; Arystarkhova and Sweadner, 1996) and for α 2 (McB2; Pacholczyk and Sweadner, 1997). A monoclonal antibody specific for α 3 (XVI-F9G10; MA-319; Affinity BioReagents) was also used to stain cerebellum in experiments not shown. Confocal microscopy was performed with a Nikon (Melville, NY) TE300 fluorescence microscope equipped with a Bio-Rad (Hercules, CA) MRC 1024 scanning laser confocal system.

Membrane preparation and Na,K-ATPase purification. Similar procedures for membrane preparation were used for both cerebellum and choroid plexus. First, a crude microsome preparation was made by differential centrifugation. Tissue (bovine in most experiments) was homogenized in 0.315 M sucrose, 20 mM TrisCl, and 1 mM EDTA, pH 7.4 (SET), for cerebellum or (in mM): 250 sucrose, 30 imidazole, and 1 EDTA, pH 7.3, for choroid plexus. Centrifugation was for 15 min at $5800 \times g$; pellets were collected, rehomogenized, and pelleted again; and the supernatants were combined and centrifuged for 1 hr at $140,000 \times g$. The final pellets were collected and resuspended in SET. These fractions were used for immunoprecipitation experiments.

For partial purification of the Na,K-ATPase, the SDS-extraction procedure was used (Jørgensen, 1988). Bovine choroid plexus microsomes were suspended at 1.4 mg/ml in buffer containing (in mm): 2 ATP, 30 histidine, and 2 EDTA, pH 7.4, and SDS was added slowly with stirring from a stock solution to a final concentration of 0.56 mg/ml. The mixture was allowed to stir for 30 min at room temperature and then loaded onto 36 ml 7–30% sucrose gradients in (in mm): 20 Tris-Cl and 1 EDTA, pH 7.4. The gradients were centrifuged for 6 hr at 27,000 rpm in a Sorvall 627 swinging bucket rotor. Fractions were collected from a puncture at the bottom of the tube, diluted, and concentrated by centrifugation at $140,000 \times g$ for 30 min. Canine or rat brain and choroid plexus tissue was used in some experiments with equivalent results.

Canine cardiac sarcolemma, used as a Western blot-positive control, was isolated as previously described (Jones, 1988). Rat kidney (renal medulla) Na,K-ATPase used as a control in activity measurements was purified by the Jørgensen SDS-extraction procedure above.

Immunoblot. SDS-gel electrophoresis was on Tricine gels made with 12.5% polyacrylamide (Schagger and von Jagow, 1987). To detect Na,K-ATPase α subunits in blots of bovine tissue, anti-KETYY (a gift from Dr. J. Kyte, University of California, San Diego, CA) was used as a panspecific probe that detects the $\alpha 1-\alpha 3$ isoforms equally well. To detect each isoform individually, monoclonal antibody 6F was used for α 1 (Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank); McB2 was used for α 2; and XVI-F9G10 was used for α 3 (described above). In Figure 5, the α subunit was stained with K1, a rabbit antiserum against rat α 1 cut from a gel (Sweadner and Gilkeson, 1985), and in Figure 6, α 5, a monoclonal antibody that reacts with all three isoforms, was also used for either immunoprecipitation or staining of blots (Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank). Affinity-purified antibodies against the C terminus of phospholemman, PLM-C1 (described above), or the extracellular portion, monoclonal antibody PLM-B8 (Moorman et al., 1995), were used to detect phospholemman.

Immunoprecipitation. To immunoprecipitate the Na,K-ATPase α subunit, we used either monoclonal antibody 6H (a gift from Dr. M. J. Caplan, Yale University Medical School, New Haven, CT) or monoclonal antibody α 5 (described above). To immunoprecipitate phospholemman, the antibodies against either the N terminus (mouse monoclonal PLM-B8) or the C terminus (PLM-C1) were used (described above). Membranes from either choroid plexus or cerebellum (bovine) at 2 mg of

protein/ml were solubilized with 6 mg/ml *n*-dodecyl octaethylene glycol monoether detergent (C₁₂E₈; Calbiochem, La Jolla, CA) for 10 min at room temperature in a buffer containing (in mm): 140 NaCl, 25 imidazole, and 1 EDTA, pH 7.3. The extract was diluted with an equal volume of detergent-free buffer, and insoluble material was sedimented by centrifugation for 30 min at 20,000 \times g at 4°C. The pellet was checked for residual Na,K-ATPase, which was very low. The supernatant was incubated with primary antibodies or control IgG (1–2 μ g/ml) overnight at 4°C with rocking. The immune complexes were collected after 2 hr of incubation with 40 µl of secondary goat anti-rabbit or goat anti-mouse IgG antibodies covalently bound to agarose beads (Sigma, St. Louis, MO). Immunoprecipitates were collected by centrifugation at 9300 \times g for 10 min at 4°C and washed four times with solubilization buffer containing 0.05% C₁₂E₈. After the final wash, the pellet was resuspended in $40 \,\mu l$ of $1 \times$ electrophoresis sample buffer. Samples were incubated for 20 min at room temperature and centrifuged at 9300 \times g for 10 min. Supernatants were saved. Pellets were washed with an additional 20 µl of electrophoresis sample buffer and centrifuged again. The supernatants were combined and heated for 10 min at 65°C to dissociate IgG before loading on the gel. The excess IgG heavy and light chains, a trace of undissociated IgG dimer, and some other contaminants originating in the antibody can be detected in the blots in Figures 6 *A* and 7.

Epitopes recognized by the PLM-C1 and PLM-B8 antibodies were mapped using cellulose-bound PepSpots (Jerini Bio Tools) by methods described previously (Kobayashi and Jones, 1999). The PepSpots sheet contained a series of immobilized 13 mer synthetic peptides, each overlapping by 11 residues, that covered the primary structure of canine phospholemman. PLM-C1, which was raised against a peptide with the sequence GTFRSSIRRLSTRRR, required the sequence FRSSIRRL for binding. PLM-B8, which is a monoclonal antibody raised against recombinant phospholemman expressed in Sf21 insect cells (Chen et al., 1998), required the N-terminal sequence EHDPFTYDY for binding. Although this epitope contains the conserved FXYD motif, the antibody is quite specific. PLM-B8 does not recognize rat phospholemman, which differs only by a P for H substitution in the epitope and two amino acids (HT substituting for QS) immediately after it. We also did not see crossreactivity of PLM-B8 with the homologous sequence in FXYD2 (TEN-PFEYDY; results not shown).

Antibody-induced changes in Na,K-ATPase activity. SDS-purified bovine choroid plexus Na,K-ATPase was used to measure the effects of incubation with anti-phospholemman antibodies. The specific activity of the preparation (ouabain-sensitive ATPase activity) was 85 μ mol of ATP hydrolyzed • hr⁻¹ • mg of protein⁻¹, measured in (in m_M): 130 NaCl, 20 KCl, 1 ATP, 1 EDTA, 5 EGTA, 4 MgCl₂, and 30 Tris-HCl, pH 7.4. To assess the effect of antibodies on activity, the same medium was used but with either 5 or 100 mm NaCl. The hydrolysis of ATP was measured at 37°C by a colorimetric assay, and assays were performed with and without 2 mm ouabain. The antibodies used were PLM-C2, a newer rabbit antiserum that is equivalent to PLM-C1 (a gift from Dr. J. Cheung, Geisinger Medical Center; Song et al., 2002), PLM-B8 (described above), or control rabbit or mouse IgG as appropriate (Sigma). Before use, all antibodies were diluted with 4-5 volumes of (in mm): 50 NaCl and 20 Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, concentrated with a centrifugal filter (Amicon, Beverly, MA; 30 kDa cutoff), and washed three times with three volumes of the same buffer. This procedure controlled NaCl concentration and removed any phosphate buffer that would interfere with the assay, as well as Tris and glycine present in the affinity-purified antibody stock. Antibody protein was added in a 10fold excess over sample protein.

For Na $^+$ affinity measurements with PLM-C2 antibodies or control IgG, the assay buffer contained the same basic constituents as the normal assay medium with 20 mM K $^+$ and different concentrations of Na $^+$ from 2.2 to 80 mM. The ionic strength was kept constant by addition of choline Cl such that [Na $^+$] + [K $^+$] + [choline $^+$] = 168 mM. ATP hydrolysis was measured with [γ - 32 P]ATP. Preincubation with antibodies was for 4 hr at 4°C in (in mM): 44 NaCl and 17 Tris-HCl, pH 7.5. This relatively low NaCl buffer was used because of the need to minimize the amount of NaCl added to the assay mixture during Na $^+$ affinity measurements. The final concentration of Na $^+$ contributed by the addition of enzyme preincubated with antibody or control IgG was 0.23 mM.



Figure 1. Alignment of phospholemman and the γ subunit. The sequences of human phospholemman and γ are compared to display their similarity. One gap was allowed in phospholemman to allow alignment of three identical amino acids in the N-terminal region. The leader sequence of phospholemman and the alternatively spliced N terminus of γ are *underlined* and *italicized*. Following these two structures, the homology begins. As shown previously (Sweadner and Rael, 2000), there is a set of highly conserved amino acids that characterizes the entire FXYD family; these are marked with *circles*. *Lines* mark additional residues that are identical between phospholemman and γ . The known phosphorylation sites in the phospholemman C terminus are indicated; this segment has no counterpart in γ .

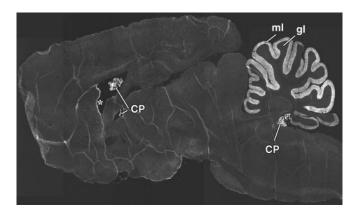


Figure 2. Phospholemman immunoreactivity in adult rat brain. A section of rat brain (without the olfactory bulb) stained with antibody against the C-terminal end of phospholemman, PLM-C1, is shown. The brightest immunoreactivity was in the cerebellar molecular layer (*ml*) and in the choroid plexus (*CP*), whereas the cerebellar granular layer (*gl*) was almost unstained. Stained choroid plexus in (*left* to *right*) lateral, third, and fourth ventricles can be seen, as well as in presumptive tanycytes of the ependyma of the lateral ventricle (*asterisk*). Occasional folds in the section produced irregular *brighter lines*. The image is a montage of many individual confocal images.

Results

Figure 1 shows the aligned sequences of human phospholemman and Na,K-ATPase γ subunit. For the portion extending from the end of the signal sequence of phospholemman to the end of the γ sequence, the identity is 51%, and the similarity is 64%. For mouse, the identity is 48%, and the similarity is 64%, and for rat, the identity is 41%, and the similarity is 61% (data not shown). The *circles* represent residues that are highly conserved in the entire FXYD family, and the *dots* represent additional residues that are identical between phospholemman and γ . This strong similarity led to the hypothesis that phospholemman associates with Na,K-ATPase.

Phospholemman expression in brain

Figure 2 shows the distribution of phospholemman immunore-activity in the rat CNS. This montage of images from a rat brain sagittal section shows abundant immunoreactivity in the molecular layer of the cerebellum and in the choroid plexus in the lateral, third, and fourth ventricles. In addition, bright immunoreactivity was seen in cells of a portion of the ependymal lining of the lateral ventricle on its rostral surface posterior to the caudate putamen. Other areas showed much less immunoreactivity, although a detailed examination of all brain areas has not been performed.

Higher-magnification images of the cerebellar cortex doublelabeled for the $\alpha 1$ subunit isoform of Na,K-ATPase and phospholemman are shown in Figure 3*A*–*C* and double-labeled for $\alpha 2$ and phospholemman in Figure 3D–F. Immunoreactivity for α 1, α 2, and α 3 (results not shown) and phospholemman in the molecular layer was diffuse or fine-grained and was absent from the cytoplasm of the major Purkinje cell somas and dendrites, as expected for a membrane protein. Purkinje cell somas were completely unstained for $\alpha 1$ but exhibited surface ring staining for phospholemman. Purkinje cell somas were also usually unstained for α 2 but were often in close contact with α 2-stained astrocytes. The basket cell processes under the Purkinje cells were not visible with immunoreactivity for $\alpha 1$ or $\alpha 2$, but we confirmed that they are phospholemman-negative in other experiments using a double label with antibody to $\alpha 3$, which stains the basket cell processes well (results not shown) (for α 3 distribution, see McGrail et al., 1991; Peng et al., 1997). In the granule cell layer, the only prominent immunoreactivity for phospholemman was in axons passing through. The α antibodies visualized other cell types in the granular layer; immunoreactivity for $\alpha 1$ highlighted the glomeruli (brightest), and each granule cell was ring-stained. The antibody to α 2 stained the astrocytes, which send irregular processes between and around the granule cells. Phospholemman immunoreactivity with granule cells and glomeruli was below the level of detection, and the stain for granular layer astrocytes was very light. With this distribution, the most likely cells producing high levels of phospholemman in the cerebellum were the Purkinje neurons, the Bergmann glia (which are the specialized astrocytes of the molecular layer), or both. No other cell type has this distribution of arborization.

The choroid plexus is a simple cuboidal epithelium of polarized cells, and the Na,K-ATPase is located on the apical membrane, where its net outward transport of Na⁺ drives the secretion of CSF (Wright, 1978). Figure 3*G*–*I* shows that phospholemman colocalized with the α1 subunit of the Na,K-ATPase in the apical membrane. Similar colocalization of Na,K-ATPase and phospholemman was seen in bovine choroid plexus (results not shown). Figure 3*G*–*I* also shows strong immunoreactivity for Na,K-ATPase and phospholemman in the apical membrane of some of the cells lining the ventricular wall. The distribution of Na,K-ATPase to the apical membrane predicts that these cells, like choroid plexus itself, may have a secretory function. On the basis of position, morphology, and apical specializations, it seems likely that these cells are tanycytes (Bruni, 1998).

The fact that phospholemman immunoreactivity in the cerebellar molecular layer appears to be brighter than $\alpha 1$ or $\alpha 2$ immunoreactivity is not evidence that there is an excess of phospholemman for several reasons: only one α isoform at a time was stained; the exposure intensity for the α subunits was adjusted to avoid overexposing the structures stained in the granular layer; and comparison of immunoreactivity of two antibodies is in any

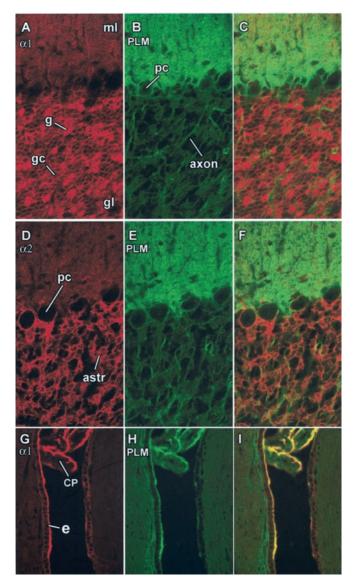


Figure 3. Phospholemman immunoreactivity in cerebellar cortex, choroid plexus, and ventricular wall. A-C, Cerebellar cortex double-labeled for phospholemman (green), the α 1 subunit of Na,K-ATPase (red), and the combined images. ml, Molecular layer; gl, granular layer. Immunoreactivity for α 1 in the glomeruli (g) in the granular layer was particularly bright and the granule cell bodies (gc) were also stained, as was the molecular layer. Antibody to phospholemman stained the molecular layer and ring-stained Purkinje cells (pc) and axons in the granular layer. D-F, Same structures double-labeled for the α 2 isoform (red) and phospholemman (green). Purkinje cells occasionally stained for α 2, as reported previously (Peng et al., 1997); astrocytes in the granular layer (astr) were stained prominently for α 2 but very lightly for phospholemman. G-I, Section of rat brain more lateral than that of Figure 2 double-labeled for Na,K-ATPase α 1 (red) and phospholemman (green). Both proteins were confined to the apical surface of the polarized epithelium of the choroid plexus (CP), which lies here in a narrow ventricular space ventral to the chamber seen in Figure 2. On the rostral surface of the ventricle, a cuboidal epithelium of ependymal cells, presumed tanycytes (e), is seen that was prominently stained for both Na,K-ATPase and phospholemman at its apical surface.

event not quantitative. The difference in the proportion of immunoreactivity for α and phospholemman between molecular and granular layers, however, does imply that there is much less phospholemman in the granular layer relative to α subunits. Figure 4 shows that this was reflected in the ratio of phospholemman to α assessed with immunoblots. Bovine tissue was used instead of rat here because of the ease and yield of dissection. To detect all Na,K-ATPase α isoforms equally, an antibody against a shared

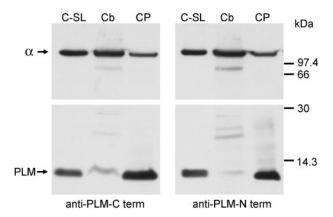


Figure 4. Ratio of phospholemman to Na,K-ATPase. Although the true ratio of phospholemman to the Na,K-ATPase α subunit cannot be determined by comparing the amount of immunoreactivity with two different antibodies, nonetheless, differences in the ratio between samples can be assessed. Here, two identical blots were prepared with samples of canine sarcolemma as a positive control for the antibodies (*C-SL*), cerebellar membranes (*Cb*), and choroid plexus membranes (*CP*). The blots were cut in half. The *top halves* were stained for Na,K-ATPase α subunit with the pan-specific KETYY antibody, and the *bottom halves* were stained with phospholemman antibodies against the C- and N termini, respectively. It can be seen that, relative to the amount of immunoreactivity for α , there was much less phospholemman (*PLM*) in the cerebellum sample than the choroid plexus sample. Molecular weight markers are indicated. We have observed that in some gels, phospholemman runs at 15 kDa, as reported by others, but in these (12% acrylamide Tricine gels), it runs at \sim 8 kDa (compared with Bio-Rad Rainbow molecular weight markers), which is close to its predicted size.

determinant at the C terminus, KETYY, was used. Two different anti-phospholemman antibodies, against the N- and C-terminal ends of the protein, gave the same result. The ratio of phospholemman to α was much higher in membrane fractions isolated from choroid plexus than in membrane from whole cerebellar cortex and was if anything higher than the ratio seen in the cardiac sarcolemma fraction used as a control.

Copurification of phospholemman with Na,K-ATPase

The Na,K-ATPase can be purified from highly active tissue sources by a relatively simple technique that exploits its unusual resistance to denaturation by the strong detergent SDS (Jørgensen, 1988; Sweadner, 1988). In the presence of ATP or ADP to stabilize the enzyme at the active site, SDS (at ratios of up to 0.4 mg/mg of protein) extracts contaminating proteins and leaves the Na,K-ATPase in the lipid bilayer. The membranes are separated from the extracted proteins and from free SDS by sedimentation on sucrose gradients. The γ subunit of the kidney copurifies with Na,K-ATPase α and β subunits by this method; therefore, it was tried with phospholemman-containing membranes from choroid plexus and brain. Figure 5 illustrates the result with bovine choroid plexus. Essentially all of the phospholemman cosedimented with the Na,K-ATPase in the gradient, with a peak at ~18% sucrose, as shown by blots of gradient fractions stained for α and phospholemman. No free phospholemman fraction was detected. The same copurification of phospholemman with the Na,K-ATPase, without a free phospholemman fraction, was obtained with canine choroid plexus and with microsomes from whole rat brain (data not shown).

Coimmunoprecipitation of phospholemman with Na,K-ATPase

To determine whether phospholemman and Na,K-ATPase form a stable complex, immunoprecipitation was performed with $\rm C_{12}E_8$ detergent-solubilized crude membranes obtained from ei-

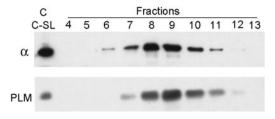


Figure 5. Copurification of phospholemman with Na,K-ATPase. Membranes from bovine choroid plexus were extracted with SDS and sedimented on a 7–30% sucrose gradient. The bottom 8 ml were discarded, and 14 2 ml fractions were collected. Fraction samples were electrophoresed on a Tricine gel, and the blot was cut in half for staining for α (*top*; K1 antiserum) and phospholemman (*bottom*; PLM-C1). Essentially all of the phospholemman (*PLM*) sedimented into the gradient with the Na,K-ATPase. The final specific activity was 200 μ mol·mg of protein $^{-1}$ ·hr $^{-1}$ in this experiment. The control *lane* is a sample of canine sarcolemma (*C-SL*).

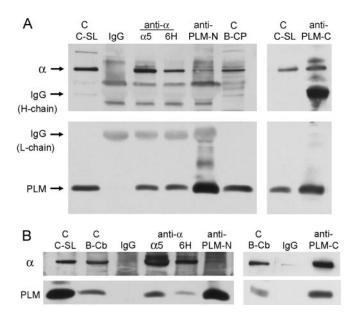


Figure 6. Coimmunoprecipitation of phospholemman with Na,K-ATPase. Canine sarco-lemma samples were positive controls for the antibodies (C-SL). As indicated, samples were precipitated with normal IgG as a negative control, α 5 or 6H antibodies against Na,K-ATPase α subunit, and anti-phospholemman N- and C-terminal antibodies (PLM-N, PLM-C). Immunoprecipitates and their controls were resolved by electrophoresis. Blots were cut in half for staining for Na,K-ATPase α (top; K1, α 5, or anti-KETYY in different panels) and phospholemman (bot-tom; PLM-C1). A, Membranes from bovine choroid plexus. B, Membranes from bovine cerebellum. From both tissue sources, anti- α antibodies coprecipitated phospholemman (PLM), but phospholemman C-terminal antibody coprecipitated α well, and phospholemman N-terminal antibody coprecipitated it poorly.

ther choroid plexus or cerebellum. Figure 6 shows the excellent yield of solubilization under the conditions used and also shows controls in which nonimmune IgG was used for a mock precipitation. This control is important to show for immunoprecipitation, because some proteins sediment with the adsorbent, leading to false-positive signals. Two different Na,K-ATPase α -specific antibodies were used, as well as two different phospholemman antibodies. Although the two α -specific antibodies gave the same result, the two phospholemman antibodies showed differences that may be informative about the structure of the Na,K-ATPase–phospholemman complex.

Figure 6*A* shows that both anti- α antibodies were effective at coprecipitating phospholemman from bovine choroid plexus membranes, as was the antibody against the phospholemman C terminus (PLM-C1, the same antibody used for immunofluores-

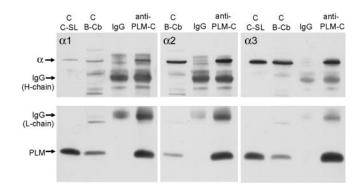


Figure 7. Coimmunoprecipitation of phospholemman with Na,K-ATPase α isoforms. Control *lanes* include both canine sarcolemma (*C-SL*) and samples of the bovine cerebellar membrane-starting material (*B-Cb*). Immunoprecipitation was performed with normal rabbit IgG as a negative control and the antibody against the C terminus of phospholemman (*PLM-C*). Three identical blots were prepared and cut in half. The *bottom halves* were all stained with the phospholemman antibody, but the *top halves* were stained with isoform-specific anti-Na,K-ATPase α subunit antibodies: antibody 6F for α 1, McB2 for α 2, and XVI-F9G10 for α 3.

cence above). The PLM-B8 antibody against the phospholemman N terminus, however, precipitated phospholemman well but α only weakly. A similar result is seen in Figure 6 B, where the membranes were from bovine cerebellum instead. Despite the presence of less phospholemman, the α antibodies and the anti-C-terminal phospholemman antibody coprecipitated α and phospholemman very well, whereas the anti-N-terminal phospholemman antibody again precipitated phospholemman much better than α . The anti-N-terminal antibody is against the conserved FXYD domain, and mutagenesis studies with other FXYD family members have suggested that FXYD is important for interaction with Na,K-ATPase (Beguin et al., 2001). The N terminus of phospholemman in sarcolemma is also very resistant to proteases, indicating its inaccessibility (Chen et al., 1998). We propose either that the anti-N-terminal antibody cannot bind to the extracellular portion of phospholemman when it is tightly associated with Na,K-ATPase, or that the antibody disrupts the phospholemman-Na,K-ATPase interaction in detergent. In contrast, the C terminus of phospholemman is not constrained in the same way. Because the C terminus has the phosphorylation sites, it should be accessible to approach by other proteins, including antibodies.

To determine which Na,K-ATPase α isoforms interact with phospholemman, immunoprecipitation from cerebellar membrane fractions was performed using the PLM-C1 antibody (Fig. 7). Each α isoform was detected with a well characterized isoform-specific monoclonal antibody. The result was that all three Na,K-ATPase α isoforms coprecipitated. The lack of α in controls using normal rabbit IgG demonstrates that the precipitation was not an artifact. The conclusion is that phospholemman interaction with the Na,K-ATPase is not isoform-specific, and the implication is that phospholemman is expressed in both α 3-containing neurons and α 2-containing glia. This conclusion differs somewhat from that of Crambert et al. (2002), who reported that assembly with α 2 was less efficient than with α 1 in oocytes. The discrepancy may be attributable to a lack of β 2 in the oocytes, the most abundant partner of α 2 in the brain.

Functional interaction of phospholemman with Na,K-ATPase To test the hypothesis that phospholemman regulates the activity or properties of the Na,K-ATPase, we incubated purified choroid plexus Na,K-ATPase (the preparation with the highest propor-

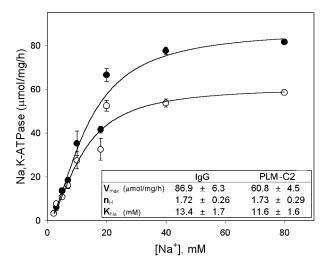


Figure 8. Effect of PLM-C2 antibody on Na,K-ATPase. Ouabain-sensitive Na,K-ATPase activity was determined as a function of Na $^+$ concentration after 4 hr of preincubation at 4°C with either normal rabbit lgG (*filled circles*) or PLM-C2 antibody (*open circles*). *Inset*, The following equation was fitted to the data: $v = V_{\text{max}}$ [Na $^+$] nH /(K_{Na} nH + [Na $^+$] nH), where V_{max} is the specific activity at a nonlimiting Na $^+$ concentration; K_{Na} is the Na $^+$ concentration giving half-maximal activity; and nH is the Hill coefficient. Best-fitting values for these parameters are given as mean \pm SEM, average of two experiments performed in duplicate.

Table 1. Anti-phospholemman antibody effects on Na,K-ATPase activity

Tissue	Antibody			
	PLM-C2		PLM-B8	
	Na,K-ATPase activity (% of control)	n	Na,K-ATPase activity (% of control)	n
Rat kidney Choroid plexus	109 ± 11 79.2 ± 3.9	4 13	ND 107.7 ± 7.0	8

Na,K-ATPase purified from rat kidney or bovine choroid plexus was preincubated with the antibodies shown or with control IgG, and then ouabain-sensitive ATP hydrolytic activity was measured. n, Number of independent determinations; ND, not determined. The specific activities for different choroid plexus Na,K-ATPase preparations used averaged $15.2 \pm 2.0 \, \mu$ mol \cdot hr $^{-1}$ · mg of protein $^{-1}$ (when measured at $5 \, m$ Na $^{+}$) and $37.5 \, \mu$ mol \cdot hr $^{-1}$ · mg of protein $^{-1}$ (when measured at $100 \, m$ Na $^{+}$). Because no differences between results at $5 \, or$ $100 \, m$ Na $^{+}$ were observed, the data were combined. A paired $10 \, m$ Na $^{+}$ were substance of PLM) compared with choroid plexus. For the antibody PLM-C2, the results were significant at p = 0.021 (p < 0.05).

tion of phospholemman) with anti-phospholemman antibodies. Similar experiments with antibodies to the Na,K-ATPase γ subunit gave some of the first evidence for its functional interaction with the pump (Therien et al., 1997, 1999). PLM-C2 is an antibody directed against the C-terminal portion of phospholemman similar to PLM-C1. Figure 8 shows that PLM-C2, measured at a range of Na + concentrations in vitro, produced a significant decrease in activity without affecting the apparent affinity for Na⁺. Table 1 summarizes additional data. PLM-C2 showed an average 20% reduction of choroid plexus Na,K-ATPase activity measured in multiple experiments with either 5 or 100 mm NaCl, whereas it had no effect on kidney Na,K-ATPase, which has the γ subunit instead of phospholemman. There was no inhibition of the ouabain-insensitive Mg2+-ATPase of either preparation. The PLM-B8 antibody directed to the N-terminal domain of phospholemman did not have any effect on activity, which may be attributable to an inability to bind its target if the N-terminal portion of phospholemman is engaged in interaction with the Na,K-ATPase. We verified that phospholemman was not phosphorylated in the conditions of our experiments (data not shown).

Discussion

FXYD family members as sodium pump regulators

Phospholemman is the fifth FXYD family member to exhibit interaction with Na,K-ATPase. There are precedents for the regulation of other transport ATPases by small membrane-spanning accessory proteins. Phospholamban, a 52-amino acid protein not homologous to FXYD proteins, regulates the sarcoplasmic reticulum Ca²⁺-ATPase (SERCA2a) of the heart. It is phosphorylated by protein kinase A and mediates β -adrenergic stimulation of contractility by reversing the inhibitory effect it has on the affinity of SERCA for Ca²⁺ (Simmerman and Jones, 1998). Its homolog sarcolipin is expressed in skeletal muscle with a different isoform of SERCA (Odermatt et al., 1998). Yeast have small membrane proteins that regulate the plasma membrane ATPase (Navarre et al., 1994). Ion channels also have accessory proteins that modulate functional properties (Suessbrich and Busch, 1999). Thus regulation of ion transport via small membrane proteins is becoming an important theme.

Three lines of evidence presented here support the hypothesis that phospholemman interacts specifically with the Na,K-ATPase: the two proteins copurify after SDS-extraction; they coimmunoprecipitate with antibodies against either component; and an anti-phospholemman antibody reduces Na,K-ATPase activity. Crambert et al. (2002) observed coprecipitation of phospholemman with Na,K-ATPase from cardiac membranes or oocytes, and in oocytes, phospholemman decreased the apparent affinity for Na + (and K +). Because we observed inhibition of activity without effect on Na + affinity, at first glance, these results may seem contradictory. The emerging evidence for functional effects of FXYD proteins on Na,K-ATPase is quite complex, however. Effects on ATP hydrolysis, Na + affinity, and other properties appear to be experimentally separable and sometimes subject to modulation. The bottom line is that FXYD proteins, now including phospholemman, can affect functional properties of the Na,K-ATPase, fine tuning its properties.

The inhibitory effect of antibody suggests that phospholemman might be an enzyme activator. In similar experiments on the γ subunit, antibodies against the C terminus reduced activity (Therien et al., 1997), decreased apparent affinity for ATP (Therien et al., 1999), and increased the IC₅₀ for vanadate inhibition (an experimental test of the distribution between two principal enzyme conformations, E1 and E2; Pu et al., 2001). Apparent affinity for ATP was increased in γ transfectants of human embryonic kidney 293 and HeLa cells. Most recently, truncation of the C terminus was shown to abrogate the effect of γ on apparent affinity for ATP (Pu et al., 2002). Together, these and other data suggested that the anti- γ antibody favored E2, antagonizing a normal tendency of γ to favor E1.

These apparent activating effects were not the only effects of the γ subunit, however. There were decreases in apparent affinity for Na $^+$, K $^+$, or both in enzyme partially purified from transfected mammalian cells (Arystarkhova et al., 1999, 2002; Pu et al., 2001, 2002) and in oocytes (Beguin et al., 1997, 2001). This should reduce activity *in vivo*, because the effects occur in the physiological range. Anti- γ antibodies, however, did not interfere with the effect on Na $^+$ affinity, nor did truncation of the C or N terminus (Pu et al., 2002). For these reasons, the lack of effect of anti-phospholemman antibody on Na $^+$ affinity reported here does not necessarily contradict the reduction in Na $^+$ affinity reported in oocytes (Crambert et al., 2002). Modulation of ion affinity may require the central domain and not the C terminus.

Further complexities in FXYD protein effects are also known.

The expression of γ N-terminal splice variants, as well as posttranslational modifications, changed how the γ subunit altered Na,K-ATPase affinities for Na + and K + in NRK-52E cells (Arystarkhova et al., 2002) but not in HeLa cells (Pu et al., 2001). Thus different domains of γ may be responsible for different effects, and the effects may be modified by factors specific to the cell type. Interestingly, CHIF (FXYD4) increased the affinity of Na,K-ATPase for Na $^+$ (the opposite of the effect of γ and phospholemman; Beguin et al., 2001; Garty et al., 2002), whereas FXYD7 decreased K + affinity at the extracellular site (Beguin et al., 2002). These proteins are homologous to both γ and phospholemman in the central domain, yet each has a subtly different effect on Na,K-ATPase properties. There is wide sequence variation in the extracellular and intracellular domains, providing a further basis for different functional roles. Because of the complexity of Na,K-ATPase kinetics, it is going to take considerable effort to fully understand the properties of these proteins in regulating the sodium pump.

Phospholemman also presents the special problem that it has four potential phosphorylation sites in the cytoplasmic domain, which are expected to be important in regulating its properties. The FXYD protein found in shark, PLMS, reduced Na,K-ATPase activity, and its phosphorylation increased activity (Mahmmoud et al., 2000). Preliminary experiments on phospholemman phosphorylation *in vitro* produced both stimulatory and inhibitory effects, suggesting that it matters which sites are phosphorylated (our unpublished observations).

We have independent evidence that phospholemman may play a role as an activator of Na,K-ATPase. The specific activity of Na,K-ATPase in cardiac membranes of a phospholemman knock-out mouse was significantly lower than in its control (L. G. Jia, C. Donnet, R. C. Bogaev, R. J. Blatt, C. E. McKinney, K. H. Day, S. S. Berr, L. R. Jones, J. R. Moorman, K. J. Sweadner, and A. L. Tucker, unpublished results). This is consistent with the hypothesis that the PLM-C2 antibody acts as an interfering antibody that antagonizes a normal stimulatory effect of phospholemman.

FXYD proteins in the CNS

The association of phospholemman with Na,K-ATPase in choroid plexus is highly suggestive of a role in the regulation of CSF secretion. Secretion and Na,K-ATPase activity are both known to be regulated by hormones and transmitters through protein kinases (Fisone et al., 1995, 1998; Ellis et al., 2000). Given that there is uncertainty about the universality of the Na,K-ATPase protein kinase C site and the accessibility of the protein kinase A site, phospholemman could be the critical kinase target.

Phospholemman has a unique distribution in cerebellum. The stained axons passing through the granular layer were most likely axons of Purkinje cells, because the cell bodies were clearly labeled. Similar immunoreactivity has been seen for the Na,K-ATPase α3 subunit (Peng et al., 1997), which is expressed in Purkinje neurons (Watts et al., 1991). Although climbing fibers cannot be ruled out, mossy fibers can be ruled out, because the glomeruli, which contain their club-like termini in the granular layer, were unstained. The possibility that the stained axons could be granule cell axons seems unlikely. This would require strict subcellular routing to axons and not somas or dendrites, which were unstained in the granular layer. Furthermore, the axons extended into the white matter (data not shown). If Purkinje neurons were the only phos-

pholemman-containing cells, however, coimmunoprecipitation with α 2 would not be expected, because that isoform is expressed mostly in astrocytes and Bergmann glia (Watts et al., 1991; Peng et al., 1997). Astrocytes in the granular layer did not stain for phospholemman, but the diffuse immunoreactivity in the molecular layer could be in the plasma membranes of Bergmann glia as easily as in those of Purkinje neurons, because the two are closely interdigitated. Immunoreactivities for Na,K-ATPase isoforms $\alpha 1-\alpha 3$, $\beta 1$, and $\beta 2$ all have a similar diffuse distribution in the molecular layer (McGrail et al., 1991; Cameron et al., 1994; Peng et al., 1997), which reflects the small size and intimate contact of neuronal and glial processes. Phospholemman has been detected in cultures of cerebellar astrocytes from postnatal rats (Moran et al., 2001), something we have confirmed (data not shown). They presented evidence that reduction of phospholemman expression reduced astrocyte volume-sensitive taurine release. However, Bres et al. (2000) detected phospholemman mRNA in neurons but not in the astrocytes of the ventral glia limitans of the supraoptic nucleus and concluded that phospholemman was not important for volume-sensitive taurine release there. More investigation is needed.

We can speculate that association with FXYD family member accessory proteins is a common theme for Na,K-ATPase modulation. If so, proteins other than phospholemman must play this role in other parts of the brain. mRNA for FXYD6, variously called phosphohippolin (without evidence yet for phosphorylation), phospholemman-like protein, or vascular endothelial cell-specific protein (GenBank accession number AB030908), has been detected by in situ hybridization in cells of the hippocampal pyramidal cell layer and the granular layer of the cerebellum (Saito et al., 2001; Yamaguchi et al., 2001). From Northern blots (Beguin et al., 2002) and the sources of expressed sequence tags (ESTs; Sweadner and Rael, 2000), FXYD7 is expressed almost exclusively in the CNS, and ESTs for FXYD3 (mammary tumor marker 8) and FXYD5 (related to ion channel) have also been obtained from CNS libraries, predicting the presence of as many as five FXYD family members. Combined with the three Na,K-ATPase α isoforms and three β isoforms that are expressed in different brain cell types in different combinations of α and β (McGrail et al., 1991; Watts et al., 1991; Cameron et al., 1994; Peng et al., 1997; Martin-Vasallo et al., 2000), the potential subunit diversity of the sodium pump is considerable. In our opinion, the physiological significance of Na,K-ATPase regulation in the CNS is much neglected.

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