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研究方向

Epstein-Barr Virus

Our laboratory conducted a yeast-two hybrid study, which found the proteins that participate in protein sumoylation interacted with Rta. This finding motivated the study of Rta sumoylation, which ultimately determined that sumoylation increases the transactivation activity of Rta and activates the EBV lytic cycle, revealing that the posttranslational modification of Rta is important to EBV lytic development. Another protein that interacted with Rta in the yeast-two hybrid screen is an Sp1-binding protein, MCAF1. Rta is known to autoregulate transcription of its own gene, BRLF1. However, the promoter of the Rta gene lacks an Rta-binding site, and Rta cannot bind to the promoter directly to activate transcription. This autoregulation phenomenon has puzzled researchers for numerous years. Our study found that formation of an Sp1-MCAF1-Rta at Sp1 sites is the basis of the mechanism of autoregulation. Additionally, Rta and Zta commonly cooperate with each other and activate the transcription of EBV lytic genes synergistically. Although many hypotheses regarding this

phenomenon have been proposed, no experimental data have elucidated the mechanism that is responsible for the synergy. Our investigation shows that MCAF1 interacts with not only Rta but also Zta. The Rta-MCAF1-Zta complex binds to the Zta-response elements to activate transcription synergistically.

To study the function of EBV late genes, a mutant library of EBV was created by our work using a bacterial transposon and PCR targeting. Screening of the library revealed that an EBV lytic gene, BBLF1, is critical to lytic development. Our study found that the BBLF1 protein is post-translationally modified by myristoylation and palmitoylation. This protein interacts with, and retrieves, gp350/200 of EBV, a ligand that is necessary for the interaction of B lymphocytes cells, from the cytoplasmic membrane to the early endosome. PACS1 then interacts with the BBLF1 to retrieve gp350/220 to the TGN, where the EBV capsid acquires the Golgi membrane that contains gp350/200, which is then released from the cell.

This laboratory also established that BORF1 and BDLF1 are the two minor capsid proteins of EBV. These two proteins formed a triplex that contain a BDLF1 dimer and a BORF1 monomer. These two proteins in the triplex interact with VCA, the major capsid protein of EBV, generating a building block of the EBV capsid. The investigation also found the interaction regions in these proteins, establishing a foundation for future studies of the mechanism that participates in EBV capsid assembly.

Bacillus subtilis

Bacillus subtilis F29-3 exhibits two types of swarming behavior on soft agar. The bacteria form a colony that has a beautiful branching (dendritic) or a combination of uniform and dendritic patterns. The bacteria also swarm with an amazing velocity of 1 cm per hour, which is faster than that of many swarming bacteria that had been reported. This study develops a modeling explaining how the dendritic swarming is developed, and the purpose of this study is to investigate how this organism achieves this peculiar swarming behavior. The aims of this study include (1) the investigation of the genes that are involved in swarming, (2) the study of the differentiation of the bacteria during swarming, and (3) identifying the substances produced by the bacteria that promote dendritic swarming. This investigation will reveal the mechanism that regulates *B. subtilis* F29-3 swarming. The information will be important to the understanding on how bacteria swarm, a phenomenon that is important to bacterial pathogenesis.

著作

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