

The integrin $\alpha v \beta 8$ mediates epithelial homeostasis through MT1-MMP–dependent activation of TGF- $\beta 1$

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Integrins, matrix metalloproteases (MMPs), and the cytokine TGF- β have each been implicated in homeostatic cell behaviors such as cell growth and matrix remodeling. TGF- β exists mainly in a latent state, and a major point of homeostatic control is the activation of TGF- β . Because the latent domain of TGF- $\beta 1$ possesses an integrin binding motif (RGD), integrins have the potential to sequester latent TGF- β (SLC) to the cell surface where TGF- β activation could be locally controlled. Here, we show that SLC binds

to $\alpha v \beta 8$, an integrin expressed by normal epithelial and neuronal cells in vivo. This binding results in the membrane type 1 (MT1)-MMP–dependent release of active TGF- β , which leads to autocrine and paracrine effects on cell growth and matrix production. These data elucidate a novel mechanism of cellular homeostasis achieved through the coordination of the activities of members of three major gene families involved in cell–matrix interactions.

Introduction

Cellular homeostasis is maintained in the organism through the correct responses to extra-, intra-, and intercellular signals (Potter, 1974). Imbalances in these signals can result in disruption of cellular homeostasis, leading to changes in cell mass and/or tissue organization. The cellular homeostatic machinery consists of secreted, cell surface, and intracellular molecules that together maintain cellular differentiation and the balance between quiescence and entry into the cell cycle (Lord, 1988). Homeostasis is regulated through the control of cell proliferation mediated through cell–extracellular matrix interactions in concert with growth-promoting and inhibitory cytokines (Giancotti, 1997; Schwartz, 1997). A growth inhibitory cytokine of particular importance in tissue homeostasis is the multifunctional cytokine TGF- β (Lord, 1988). The important role of TGF- β in homeostasis is illustrated by the fact that TGF- $\beta 1$ –deficient mice develop

epithelial hyperplasias (in addition to lethal multiorgan inflammation) within weeks after birth (Shull et al., 1992; Crawford et al., 1998).

TGF- $\beta 1$ is normally maintained in a latent or inactive state by the noncovalent association of the bioactive peptide of TGF- $\beta 1$ with its NH₂-terminal propeptide, latency-associated peptide (LAP)*- $\beta 1$ (Munger et al., 1997). Therefore, normal TGF- β function is thought to be largely controlled by its activation from the latent state, a process that is not understood completely (Munger et al., 1999). However, recent evidence suggests that cell surface molecules or secreted extracellular molecules can activate TGF- β . Specifically, the integrin $\alpha v \beta 6$ and the secreted extracellular matrix molecule thrombospondin (TSP)-1 have been implicated in activation of TGF- $\beta 1$ through nonproteolytic mechanisms (Crawford et al., 1998; Munger et al., 1999). In addition, plasmin or the cell surface localization of matrix metalloprotease MMP-9 by CD44 has been proposed to lead to activation of TGF- β through proteolytic degradation of LAP- $\beta 1$ and LAP- $\beta 2$, respectively (Lyons et al., 1990; Yu and Stamenkovic, 2000). Although these mechanisms may be important to activation of TGF- β , particularly in response to injury (Jirtle et al., 1991; Munger et al., 1999; Murphy-Ullrich and Poczatek, 2000) or during neoplastic progression (Yu and Stamenkovic, 2000), they individually do not explain the activation of TGF- $\beta 1$ in normal tissues.

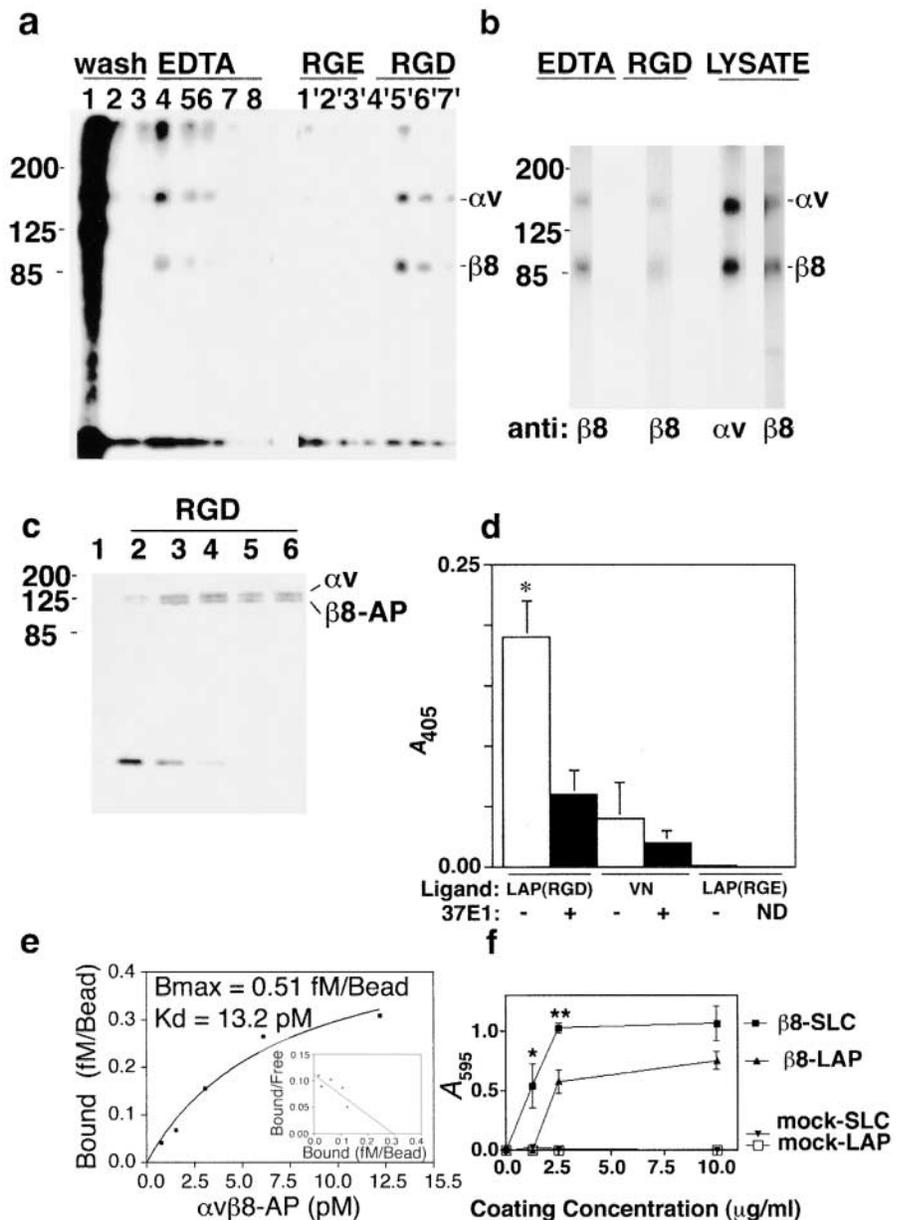
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*Abbreviations used in this paper: ADAM, a disintegrin and a metalloprotease domain; AP, alkaline phosphatase; GFP, green fluorescent protein; LAP, latency-associated peptide; MMP, matrix metalloprotease; MT1-MMP, membrane-type 1 MMP; RT, reverse transcriptase; SLC, latent TGF- β ; TSP, thrombospondin; VN, vitronectin.

Figure 1. $\alpha\text{v}\beta 8$ binds to LAP- $\beta 1$ in an RGD- and cation-dependent fashion.

(a) N -octylglucoside lysates from ^{125}I -cell surface-labeled $\beta 8$ -expressing HT1080 cells (1 ml) were passed over two identical LAP- $\beta 1$ -Sepharose columns (1 ml) and washed with 12 ml of wash buffer (shown in lanes 1, 2, and 3 are the 4th, 11th and 12th wash fractions). One column was eluted with 1-ml fractions containing 10 mM EDTA (fractions 4–8), and the other column was eluted with 1-ml fractions containing 1 mg/ml GRGESNK (lanes 1'–3') or 1 mg/ml GRGDSNK (lanes 4'–7'). Samples were resolved by 7.5% SDS-PAGE under non-reducing conditions and visualized by autoradiography. (b) EDTA and RGD elution fractions were immunoprecipitated with anti- $\beta 8$ (14E5) and compared with anti- αv (L230) and anti- $\beta 8$ (14E5) immunoprecipitations from cell lysates. The migration of the MW markers is shown on the left, and the expected migration of the αv (150 kD) and $\beta 8$ (90 kD) subunits is shown on the right. Samples were resolved by 7.5% SDS-PAGE under non-reducing conditions and visualized by autoradiography. (c) ^{35}S metabolically labeled, (Translabel and ICN Biomedicals) truncated secreted $\alpha\text{v}\beta 8$ -AP fusion protein was applied to a 0.5-ml column of LAP- $\beta 1$ -Sepharose, washed sequentially with six fractions of wash buffer (lane 1, last wash fraction), and then eluted with 1 mg/ml GRGDSPK (lanes 2–6). On the left are the migrations of the MW markers, and on the right are the expected migrations of the truncated αv (140 kD) and the truncated $\beta 8$ -AP (130 kD) subunits. Samples were resolved by 10% SDS-PAGE under non-reducing conditions and visualized by autoradiography. (d) Supernatant containing secreted truncated $\alpha\text{v}\beta 8$ with a COOH-terminal AP tag (AP- $\alpha\text{v}\beta 8$) was applied to wells of a 96-well plate coated with either LAP- $\beta 1$ (10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$) containing the RGD or the RGE binding motif or with VN (100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$) in the presence or absence of an anti- $\beta 8$ -blocking monoclonal antibody, 37E1. Specific binding was determined colorimetrically. An asterisk indicates increased binding of receptor to LAP (RGD) compared with antibody-treated or LAP (RGE) controls ($p < 0.001$). (e) Binding affinity of $\alpha\text{v}\beta 8$ for LAP- $\beta 1$ was determined using concentrated AP- $\alpha\text{v}\beta 8$ and LAP- $\beta 1$ -Sepharose (1 fM LAP- $\beta 1$ /bead). Receptor concentration was determined using purified placental AP (Applied Biosystems) as a standard. Dilutions of AP- $\beta 8$ were incubated under equilibrium-binding conditions (overnight at 4°C) with 10 μl LAP- $\beta 1$ -Sepharose. Bound receptor was determined by luminescence using a CSPD substrate (Tropix; Applied Biosystems). (f) Adhesion of $\beta 8$ -expressing versus mock-transduced HT1080 cells to LAP- $\beta 1$ (LAP) and SLC-coated wells of a 96-well plate. Cells (5×10^4 /well) were applied to each well, and after incubation for 1 h at 37°C unbound cells were removed by centrifugation. Absorbance (A_{595}) after staining with Crystal violet is shown on the right. * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$.



Indeed, mice deficient in TSP-1 (Crawford et al., 1998), plasminogen (Bugge et al., 1995), CD44 (Protin et al., 1999), or $\alpha\text{v}\beta 6$ (Munger et al., 1999) are all born viable and are able to reproduce, in marked contrast to the uniform lethality of TGF- $\beta 1$ -null mice (Shull et al., 1992).

The propeptide of TGF- $\beta 1$, LAP- $\beta 1$, contains an RGD motif that is recognized by a subset of integrins sharing in common the αv integrin subunit (Munger et al., 1998). Thus, three of the five αv integrins, $\alpha\text{v}\beta 1$, $\alpha\text{v}\beta 5$, and $\alpha\text{v}\beta 6$,

have been shown to bind to LAP- $\beta 1$, and of these only $\alpha\text{v}\beta 6$ can mediate TGF- β activation (Munger et al., 1998, 1999). Recently, evidence suggests that $\alpha\text{v}\beta 6$ -mediated activation of TGF- $\beta 1$ plays an important role in response to injury (Munger et al., 1999). Of the two remaining αv integrins, $\alpha\text{v}\beta 3$ does not bind to LAP- $\beta 1$ or mediate activation of TGF- $\beta 1$ (Munger et al., 1998), and $\alpha\text{v}\beta 8$ has not been investigated since, until recently, a system has not been available to study its function (Cambier et al., 2000). The

$\alpha v\beta 8$ integrin is of particular interest, since it has been identified recently as an epithelial growth inhibitory molecule (Cambier et al., 2000). $\alpha v\beta 8$ is expressed in the normal human airway epithelium but is lost in its malignant counterpart, suggesting a role in epithelial homeostasis (Cambier et al., 2000). Furthermore, heterologous expression of $\alpha v\beta 8$ inhibits lung carcinoma cell growth both in vivo and in vitro (Cambier et al., 2000). Since $\alpha v\beta 8$ and TGF- $\beta 1$ are coexpressed in normal tissues, such as the human airway (Crawford et al., 1998; Cambier et al., 2000), we considered the possibility that $\alpha v\beta 8$ may participate in the maintenance of airway homeostasis through activation of TGF- β .

In this article, we demonstrate a novel mechanism of cell growth regulation mediated by activation of TGF- $\beta 1$ via the integrin $\alpha v\beta 8$. We show that $\alpha v\beta 8$ can bind LAP- $\beta 1$ and that the consequence of this interaction is activation of TGF- $\beta 1$. This mechanism of activation of TGF- $\beta 1$ differs from other reported mechanisms because it is regulated through the coordinated interactions of integrins, TGF- β , and MMPs on the cell surface. Furthermore, we show that when lung cancer cells are reconstituted with $\alpha v\beta 8$, which is normally present on the epithelial cells from which they are derived, growth is now inhibited by TGF- $\beta 1$. These data provide novel insights into the mechanisms underlying cellular homeostasis.

Results

The integrin $\alpha v\beta 8$ binds with high affinity to the RGD site of recombinant LAP- $\beta 1$

To determine if $\alpha v\beta 8$ can bind to the RGD-containing LAP- $\beta 1$, we performed affinity chromatography using surface radiolabeled $\alpha v\beta 8$ and immobilized LAP- $\beta 1$ (Fig. 1 a). Two bands of the appropriate kD for the αv and $\beta 8$ subunits (150 and 90 kD, respectively) bound to immobilized LAP- $\beta 1$ in a divalent cation-dependent fashion as shown by elution with EDTA (Fig. 1 a, lanes 4–8). This binding was also dependent on the RGD sequence of LAP- $\beta 1$ as demonstrated by the inability of RGE (Fig. 1 a, lanes 1'–3') and the ability of RGD to elute $\alpha v\beta 8$ (Fig. 1 a, lanes 4'–7'). The identity of the αv and $\beta 8$ subunits in the elution fractions was confirmed by immunoprecipitation (Fig. 1 b). Anti- $\beta 8$ antibodies immunoprecipitated 150- and 90-kD bands from

the RGD and EDTA elution fractions, which comigrated exactly with the two bands immunoprecipitated with anti- αv and anti- $\beta 8$ antibodies from cell lysates (Fig. 1 b, RGD, EDTA, and LYSATE). Immunoprecipitations of the elution fractions using antibodies to the other RGD binding integrins present on HT1080 cells, namely $\alpha v\beta 5$ and $\alpha 5\beta 1$, failed to detect any proteins (unpublished data). To measure the relative ability of truncated $\alpha v\beta 8$ to bind to LAP- $\beta 1$ and vitronectin (VN), the only other known ligand for $\alpha v\beta 8$ (Nishimura et al., 1994), we developed solid phase binding assays for $\alpha v\beta 8$ -ligand interactions using alkaline phosphatase (AP)-tagged $\alpha v\beta 8$ (AP- $\alpha v\beta 8$). The ability of AP- $\alpha v\beta 8$ to bind to immobilized LAP- $\beta 1$ was confirmed by metabolic labeling and affinity chromatography (Fig. 1 c). Two bands of the appropriate molecular weight for the truncated αv (140 kD) and $\beta 8$ -AP (130 kD) subunits were eluted by RGD peptide (Fig. 1 c). No other metabolically labeled proteins from the cell supernatants were shown to bind to LAP- $\beta 1$ by this method (Fig. 1 c). In solid phase assays, considerably more AP- $\alpha v\beta 8$ bound to wells coated with LAP- $\beta 1$ (10 μ g/ml) than to wells coated with VN (100 μ g/ml) (Fig. 1 d). AP- $\alpha v\beta 8$ did not bind to a mutant form of LAP (LAP [RGE]) with a single amino acid substitution in the integrin recognition sequence (Fig. 1 d) and was completely eluted by either RGD (1 mg/ml) or EDTA (10 mM) (unpublished data). Furthermore, $\alpha v\beta 8$ binding was almost completely inhibited by the monoclonal antibody 37E1, specific to $\beta 8$ (Fig. 1 d). The affinity of AP- $\alpha v\beta 8$ for LAP- $\beta 1$ -Sepharose was determined by saturation binding experiments. AP- $\alpha v\beta 8$ bound to LAP- $\beta 1$ with high affinity (Kd 13 pM) with binding saturation reached at $\sim 50\%$ ligand occupancy (Fig. 1 e, Bmax: 0.5 fM/1.0 fM LAP- $\beta 1$). Scatchard analysis revealed a single high affinity state of AP- $\alpha v\beta 8$, consistent with other reports that secreted αv integrins are expressed in a constitutively active affinity state (Nishimura et al., 1994; Weinacker et al., 1994). In contrast to the high affinity of AP- $\alpha v\beta 8$ for LAP- $\beta 1$, the affinity of AP- $\alpha v\beta 8$ for VN, the only other known ligand for $\alpha v\beta 8$ (Nishimura et al., 1994), was too low to be determined using this assay (unpublished data). Thus, $\alpha v\beta 8$ binds preferentially to LAP- $\beta 1$ with high affinity, and this binding is both RGD and divalent cation dependent.

To determine if $\alpha v\beta 8$ expressed on the cell surface could bind latent TGF- β (SLC) under physiologic conditions, we

Table I. Expression of integrin subunits in cell lines used in Fig. 2

Cell line	Vector	Mean fluorescence intensity (\pm SE) staining							PBS
		$\beta 8$	$\beta 1$	$\beta 3$	$\beta 5$	$\beta 6$	αv	$\alpha 5$	
HT1080	$\beta 8$	124 \pm 5***	1776 \pm 121	23 \pm 1	175 \pm 4**	8 \pm 1	523 \pm 49	40 \pm 4	4 \pm 0
	Mock	10 \pm 4	1372 \pm 424	18 \pm 3	251 \pm 13	8 \pm 1	427 \pm 21	68 \pm 32	5 \pm 1
SW480	$\beta 8$	91 \pm 13***	504 \pm 139	7 \pm 1	119 \pm 17*	7 \pm 2	473 \pm 45	53 \pm 27	6 \pm 1
	Mock	6 \pm 1	386 \pm 109	25 \pm 3	236 \pm 205	12 \pm 5	757 \pm 70	25 \pm 1	5 \pm 1
H647	$\beta 8$	100 \pm 5***	580 \pm 52	11 \pm 3	56 \pm 22	60 \pm 14	561 \pm 35	ND	9 \pm 4
	Mock	6 \pm 1	671 \pm 106	9 \pm 1	46 \pm 35	62 \pm 29	283 \pm 144	ND	9 \pm 3
TMLC	$\beta 8$	30 ^a	ND ^b	4 ^a					
	Mock	5 ^a	ND ^b	4 ^a					

^aRepresentative experiment.

^bND due to lack of cross reacting antibodies.

ND, not done. *** $p < 0.001$; ** $p < 0.01$; * $p < 0.05$.

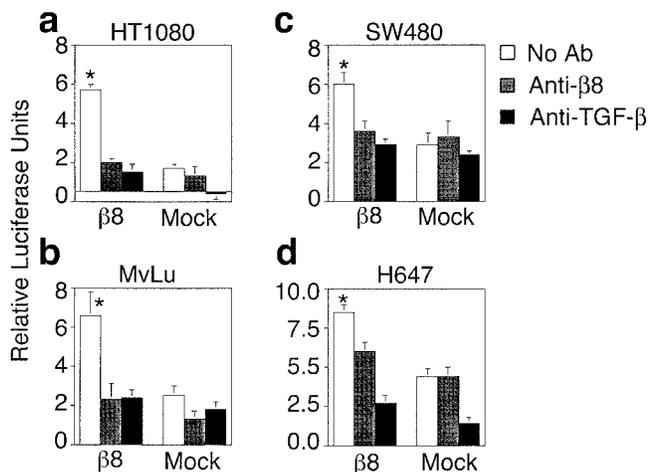


Figure 2. Cell surface expression of $\alpha v \beta 8$ mediates activation of TGF- β . HT1080 (a), MvLu (b), SW480 (c), and H647 (d) cells either $\beta 8$ -transduced or mock-transduced were cocultured with TMLC reporter cells in the presence or absence of a neutralizing anti- $\beta 8$ antibody (37E1) or pan-TGF- β neutralizing antibody (1D11). Relative luciferase units represent arbitrary units minus the TMLC background. Asterisks indicate increased luciferase activity of untreated $\beta 8$ -expressing cells compared with antibody-treated or mock controls. $p < 0.001$.

performed cell adhesion assays using both SLC and LAP- $\beta 1$ as immobilized ligands. $\beta 8$ -expressing HT1080 cells bound significantly better to SLC than to LAP- $\beta 1$ at the 1.0 and 2.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ coating concentrations, whereas mock-transduced HT1080 cells did not bind at all (Fig. 1 f). The reason for the increase in the $\alpha v \beta 8$ -dependent cell adhesion to SLC compared with LAP- $\beta 1$ is unclear. However, it is likely that the presence of the mature TGF- $\beta 1$ peptide in SLC results in conformational differences between SLC and LAP- $\beta 1$, which could affect either receptor binding, stability, or coating efficiency. Thus, we show that SLC is the first and only known ligand capable of supporting stable $\alpha v \beta 8$ -mediated adhesion, since VN, the only other known $\alpha v \beta 8$ ligand, does not support stable $\alpha v \beta 8$ -mediated adhesion (Nishimura et al., 1994).

The integrin $\alpha v \beta 8$ mediates activation of SLC

To determine the functional consequence of LAP- $\alpha v \beta 8$ interactions, we assessed the ability of $\alpha v \beta 8$ to activate the endogenous SLC present in coculture systems. These systems consisted of $\beta 8$ -expressing or mock-transduced cells cocultured with reporter cell lines (TMLC [Abe et al., 1994] or HepG2-[SBE] $_4$ -Lux [Jonk et al., 1998]) responsive to active TGF- β . We found that the TMLC reporter cell system was a more specific bioassay system for TGF- β activity than the HepG2-(SBE) $_4$ -Lux system and was therefore used for most of these studies. The TMLC system consists of mink lung epithelial cells stably transfected with a TGF- β responsive fragment of the plasminogen activator inhibitor-1 promoter driving the luciferase gene (Abe et al., 1994). TMLC cells are highly responsive to TGF- β and produce a very low background of TGF- β activation. TMLC cells can thus be used in coculture with other cell lines or cell-free fractions to test for the presence of active TGF- β using luminescence as a readout.

In the HT1080, SW480, and H647 cell lines, heterologous expression of $\beta 8$ had either no effect or a slight effect on the cell surface expression of the other integrin β subunits known to interact with the RGD motif (Table I). The only significant differences were a reduction of surface expression of the $\beta 5$ subunit in $\beta 8$ -transduced compared with mock-transduced HT1080 and SW480 cells. It is possible that these slight reductions in surface expression of $\alpha v \beta 5$ -on $\beta 8$ -expressing HT1080 and SW480 cells could potentially reduce the magnitude of the $\beta 8$ effect on adhesion to LAP- $\beta 1$ or influence the activation of TGF- β . However, this is unlikely, since the $\alpha v \beta 5$ integrin binds very weakly and does not mediate adhesion to SLC (Fig. 1 f, mock).

Heterologous expression of $\alpha v \beta 8$ mediated activation of TGF- β in HT1080, SW480, and MvLu cells as determined by coculture with either TMLC (Fig. 2, a–d) or HepG2-(SBE) $_4$ -Lux reporter cells (unpublished data). TGF- β activation was specifically mediated by $\alpha v \beta 8$, since it was substantially inhibited by the anti- $\beta 8$ antibody, 37E1 (Fig. 2, a–c). The other RGD binding integrin heterodimers normally present in SW480, HT1080, and MvLu cells (Table I) did not mediate significant activation of TGF- β because mock-transduced cells did not activate TGF- β (Fig. 2, a–c). However, H647 cells, which normally express $\alpha v \beta 6$ (Table I), activated TGF- β (note the higher activation in mock H647 cells than in other cell lines in Fig. 2 d). This activation in mock-transduced H647 cells could be completely inhibited by antibodies to $\beta 6$; activation in $\beta 8$ -expressing H647 cells could be completely inhibited by a combination of $\beta 8$ and $\beta 6$ antibodies (unpublished data). These data demonstrate that when $\beta 8$ and $\beta 6$ are coexpressed the resulting TGF- β activation is additive. The TGF- β isoform that was primarily responsible for TGF- β activation in our system was TGF- $\beta 1$, since TGF- $\beta 1$ isoform-specific antibodies inhibited 80–90% of the activation in SW480, HT1080, MvLu, and H647 cells, whereas TGF- $\beta 2$ and TGF- $\beta 3$ isoform-specific antibodies had minimal effect (unpublished data).

Evidence that the $\beta 8$ -cytoplasmic domain is not required for $\alpha v \beta 8$ -mediated activation of TGF- β

The mechanism of integrin $\alpha v \beta 6$ -mediated activation of TGF- β is likely to depend on the transduction of mechanical forces to induce conformational changes of SLC (Munger et al., 1999). Thus, $\alpha v \beta 6$ -mediated activation of TGF- β is critically dependent on specific sequences within the $\beta 6$ cytoplasmic domain (Munger et al., 1999). However, the $\beta 8$ cytoplasmic domain has no similarity with the cytoplasmic domain of $\beta 6$ or any other integrin β subunit (Moyle et al., 1991). We have shown previously that the $\beta 8$ cytoplasmic domain is incapable of linking to the cytoskeleton to stabilize cell adhesion (Nishimura et al., 1994; Cambier et al., 2000). Therefore, we sought to determine whether the $\beta 8$ cytoplasmic domain would influence interactions with LAP- $\beta 1$. We expressed and tested a series of $\beta 8$ cytoplasmic deletion mutants (Fig. 3, a–c) for their ability to mediate adhesion to LAP- $\beta 1$ (Fig. 3 d) and to activate TGF- β (Fig. 3, e and f). The complete (TM) cytoplasmic deletion mutant was expressed at sixfold lower surface levels than the partial (759) cytoplasmic deletion mutant or the wild-type (FL)

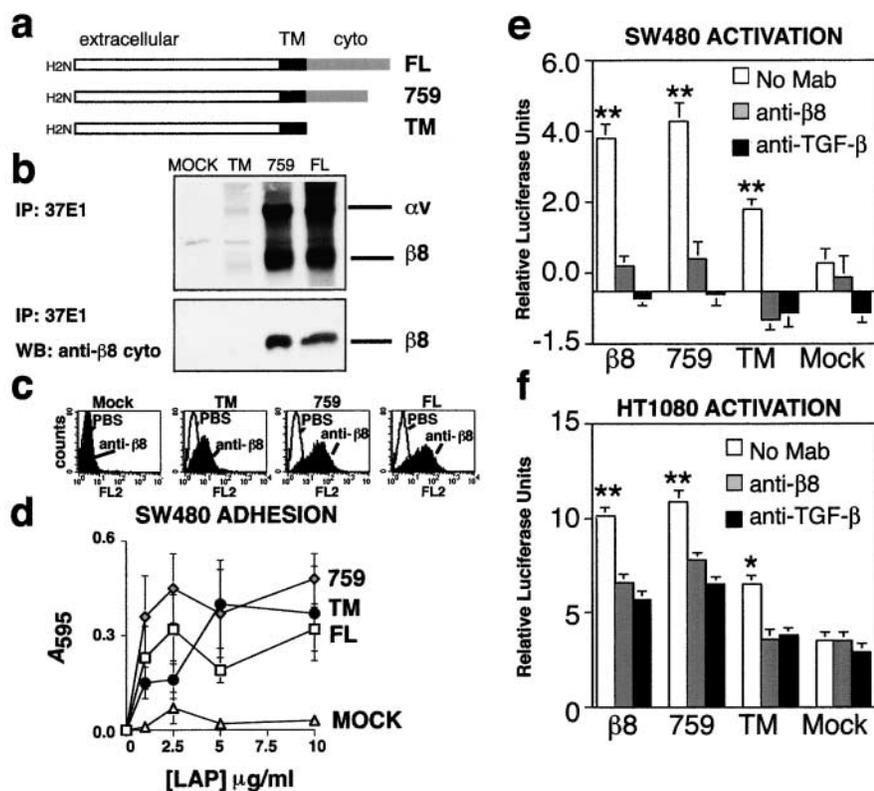


Figure 3. The cytoplasmic domain of $\beta 8$ is not required for cell adhesion to LAP- $\beta 1$ or activation of TGF- β . (a) Construction of $\beta 8$ subunit cytoplasmic truncation mutants. The full-length $\beta 8$ (FL) subunit, a partial truncation mutant missing the COOH-terminal 11 amino acids (759), and a complete truncation mutant missing the complete $\beta 8$ cytoplasmic domain (TM) were assembled by PCR mutagenesis and subcloned into retroviral vectors. (b) Immunoprecipitation analysis of surface-labeled SW480 cells, expressing FL, 759, TM, or retroviral backbone (mock) using an anti- $\beta 8$ monoclonal antibody (37E1). The results demonstrate the presence and dimerization with the αv subunit on the cell surface and absence of the cytoplasmic domain in the TM construct. Biotinylated proteins were detected by Western blotting. Note that 37E1 is specific to $\alpha v\beta 8$ because the two immunoprecipitated bands, corresponding to the αv subunit or the $\beta 8$ subunit, were not seen in mock-transduced cells. Also, note that the TM construct was expressed at lower levels on the cell surface compared with 759 and FL. To determine the absence of the intracellular epitope in TM-expressing cells, cell lysates were immunoprecipitated with 37E1 and analyzed by Western blotting using a

polyclonal anti- $\beta 8$ antibody directed against the entire $\beta 8$ cytoplasmic domain. In b (bottom), note that no signal for $\beta 8$ is seen in the $\beta 8$ immunoprecipitates of the truncation mutant (TM), indicating absence of the $\beta 8$ cytoplasmic domain. (c) FACS[®] of cytoplasmic deletion mutants (TM and 759) versus the wild type (FL) $\beta 8$ subunit expressed in SW480 cells. Note the TM mutant is expressed at sixfold lower levels than the 759 or FL constructs. Histograms using arbitrary fluorescence units are shown. (d) Adhesion assays of SW480 cells expressing $\beta 8$ truncation mutants demonstrate that the cytoplasmic domain of $\beta 8$ is not required for adhesion to LAP- $\beta 1$. Note that despite lower levels of surface expression of the TM construct, all constructs bound well to LAP- $\beta 1$, whereas mock-transduced SW480 cells do not adhere to LAP- $\beta 1$. (e-f) Demonstration that the $\beta 8$ cytoplasmic domain is not required for activation of TGF- β . SW480 or HT1080 cells expressing the wild-type or truncation mutants were cocultured with TMLC reporter cells in the presence or absence of anti- $\beta 8$ (37E1) or pan anti-TGF- β (1D11). Relative luciferase units are shown. Single and double asterisks indicate increased luciferase activity of untreated wild-type or mutant $\beta 8$ -expressing cells compared with antibody-treated or mock controls (* $p < 0.01$; ** $p < 0.001$).

subunit (Fig. 3 c). Low levels of surface expression of the TM mutant could be due to a decreased ability to associate with the αv subunit, alterations in intracellular transport, or increased degradation. SW480 cells expressing sixfold lower surface levels of the TM mutant compared with SW480 cells expressing the 759 mutant or the FL subunit adhered only slightly less well to LAP- $\beta 1$ (TM adhesion saturation reached at 5 compared with 2.5 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ coating concentration for 759 and FL) (Fig. 3 d). Unlike $\beta 6$ -transduced SW480 cells (Munger et al., 1999), SW480 cells transduced with full-length or mutant forms of $\beta 8$ failed to spread appreciably on LAP- $\beta 1$ (unpublished data).

SW480 and HT1080 cells expressing the FL subunit and the TM and 759 mutants also mediated significant activation of TGF- β compared with mock-transduced cells (Fig. 3, d and e). Concordant with sixfold lower levels of surface expression, SW480 cells expressing the TM mutant did not activate TGF- $\beta 1$ as well as cells expressing either 759 mutant or the FL subunit (Fig. 3 b). However, cells expressing the TM mutant adhered to LAP- $\beta 1$ and activated TGF- β only twofold less than the 759 or FL constructs (Figs. 3, c–e). This discordance may be due to dependence on the ligand concentration rather than the receptor number in

these assays (e.g., saturation). Alternatively, it is possible that the cytoplasmic domain of $\beta 8$ actually plays a negative regulatory role in $\alpha v\beta 8$ –TGF- β interactions. This latter possibility is consistent with the hypothesis that the divergent cytoplasmic domain of $\beta 8$ plays a general inhibitory role (Cambier et al., 2000).

Together these findings suggest that the cytoplasmic domain of $\beta 8$ is not required for either adhesion to LAP- $\beta 1$ or activation of TGF- β . Thus, it is likely that the mechanism of $\alpha v\beta 8$ -mediated activation of TGF- $\beta 1$ is distinct from the mechanosignal transduction mechanism described for $\alpha v\beta 6$ (Munger et al., 1999).

$\alpha v\beta 8$ -mediated activation of TGF- β requires localization to the cell surface and metalloprotease activity

The fact that the cytoplasmic domain of $\beta 8$ is not required for activation of TGF- $\beta 1$ suggests that $\alpha v\beta 8$ -mediated activation of TGF- β might be regulated extracellularly either in the extracellular space or on the cell surface. To test these possibilities, we first tested the ability of soluble secreted $\alpha v\beta 8$ to activate TGF- β . We found no evidence, using a va-

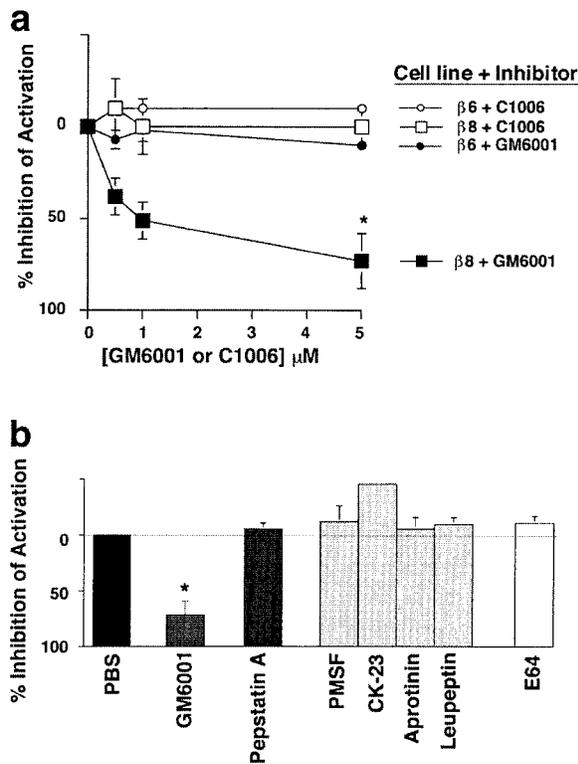


Figure 4. Activation of TGF- β 1 by α v β 8 is dependent on metalloprotease activity. (a) GM6001, a hydroxamated metalloprotease inhibitor, but not C1006, a nonhydroxamated control peptide, inhibits α v β 8-mediated but not α v β 6-mediated activation of TGF- β in SW480 cells. The asterisk indicates significant inhibition by GM6001 of β 8-mediated activation compared with the other three groups ($p < 0.01$). (b) Only metalloprotease inhibitors inhibit α v β 8-mediated TGF- β activation in SW480 cells. β 8- and β 6-mediated activation was determined by neutralization with 37E1 or 10D5 in a or 37E1 in b. The asterisk indicates significant inhibition by GM6001 compared with other inhibitors ($p < 0.01$).

riety of receptor preparations (supernatant containing secreted α v β 8 or lectin- or antibody-purified receptor), that soluble secreted α v β 8 could activate TGF- β (with supernatant containing secreted α v β 8 or media control; relative luciferase units: α v β 8, 7.8 ± 0.1 ; media control, 11.8 ± 1.2 , $p > 0.05$). This suggests that cell surface localization of α v β 8 is required for TGF- β activation.

Because proteolytic cleavage is a common mechanism of regulating cytokine activity, we tested the ability of protease inhibitors to block α v β 8-mediated activation of TGF- β . GM6001, a member of the hydroxamate class of protease inhibitors specific to metalloproteases, but not a control peptide lacking the metal-binding hydroxamate modification (C1006), significantly blocked α v β 8-mediated TGF- β activation in SW480 (Fig. 4 a) and HT1080 cells ($59.0 \pm 10.0\%$ inhibition using $5 \mu\text{M}$ GM6001; $0.0 \pm 0.9\%$ using $5 \mu\text{M}$ C1006, $p < 0.01$). This inhibition was specific to α v β 8 because α v β 6-mediated activation of TGF- β was not inhibited by GM6001 ($5 \mu\text{M}$) in SW480 cells (Fig. 4 a) or

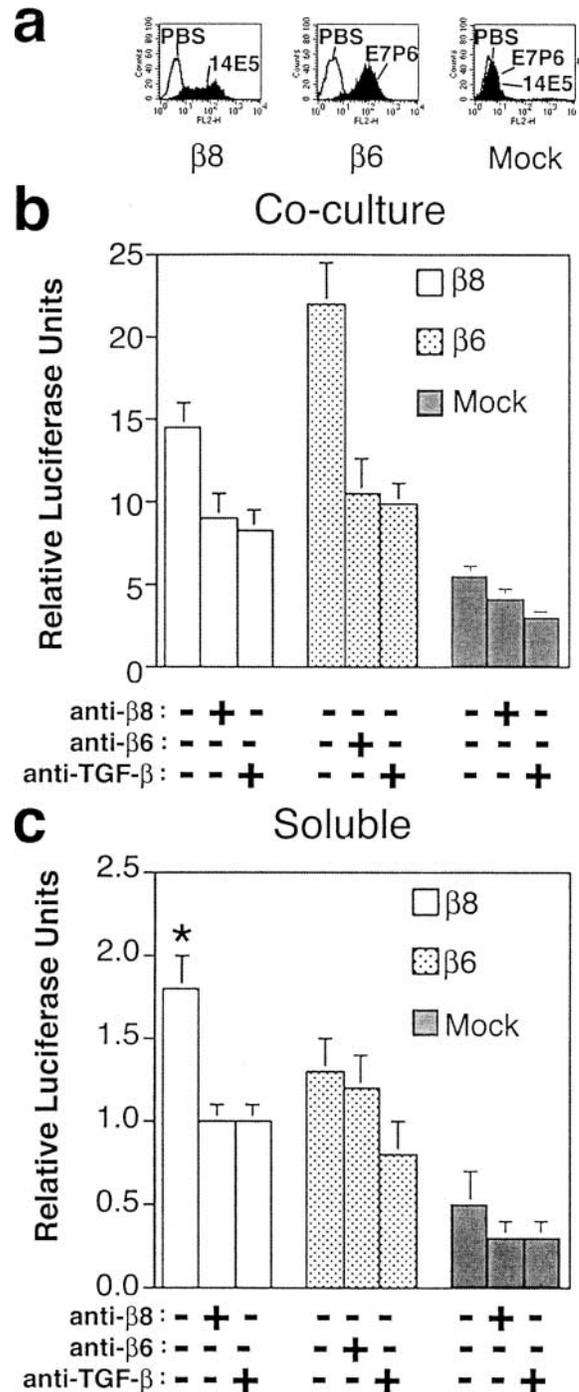


Figure 5. Active TGF- β is liberated into the supernatants of α v β 8-expressing cells. (a) Expression of β 8 and β 6 on the cell surface of β 8-, β 6-, and mock-transduced HT1080 cells using monoclonal antibodies specific for the β 8 (14E5) or β 6 (E7P6) integrin subunits. (b) Comparison of β 8- and β 6-mediated activation of TGF- β in cocultures with TMLC reporter cells. (c) Detection of active TGF- β liberated into the supernatant from β 8-expressing but not β 6- or mock-transduced HT1080 cells. Neutralizing antibodies to TGF- β were 1D11, or to β 8 or β 6 were 37E1 or 10D5, respectively. Relative luciferase activity from supernatants of untreated β 8-expressing cells compared with antibody-treated or mock controls ($p < 0.01$).

HT1080 cells ($1.0 \pm 0.1\%$ inhibition, $p > 0.05$). Finally, other peptide and chemical inhibitors of aspartyl (pepstatin A), serine (PMSF, CK-23, aprotinin, and leupeptin), or cysteine (leupeptin and E64) proteases had no effect on $\alpha\beta 8$ -mediated activation of TGF- $\beta 1$ when used at the maximal nontoxic doses (Fig. 4 b). Together these data suggest a novel mechanism of $\alpha\beta 8$ -mediated activation of TGF- $\beta 1$ requiring both the cell surface and metalloprotease activity.

Cell surface expression of $\alpha\beta 8$ is associated with liberation of active TGF- β

All previously described mechanisms of cell-associated protease-dependent activation of TGF- β involve liberation of active TGF- β from SLC, presumably as a result of degradation of LAP (Lyons et al., 1988, 1990; Abe et al., 1998). Therefore, we hypothesized that if a cell surface proteolytic event was involved in $\alpha\beta 8$ - but not $\alpha\beta 6$ -mediated activation of TGF- β then active TGF- β should be released by $\beta 8$ - but not $\beta 6$ -expressing cells into the cell culture supernatant. To test this hypothesis, we assayed the supernatants of $\beta 8$ -expressing, $\beta 6$ -expressing, or mock-transduced HT1080 cells for active TGF- β . In HT1080 cells, $\beta 8$ was expressed at lower surface levels than $\beta 6$ (Fig. 5 a). Concordant with lower expression levels, $\alpha\beta 8$ -expressing cells activated less TGF- β than $\alpha\beta 6$ -expressing cells in coculture assays (Fig. 5 b). However, when supernatants of $\beta 8$ -expressing, $\beta 6$ -expressing, and mock-transduced HT1080 cells were tested only supernatant from $\beta 8$ -expressing cells contained a significant amount of active TGF- β (Fig. 5 c). The presence of active TGF- β in the cell supernatant of $\beta 8$ -expressing cells was confirmed by inhibition with anti-TGF- β antibodies (Fig. 5 c). Specificity was demonstrated by inhibition with anti- $\beta 8$ antibodies and by the relative lack of active TGF- β in the supernatant of mock-transduced HT1080 cells (Fig. 5 c). Supernatant from $\beta 6$ -expressing HT1080 cells also had a slight but insignificant ($p > 0.05$) increase in active TGF- β compared with mock-transduced cells (Fig. 5 c). However, the presence of active TGF- β in the cell supernatant of $\beta 6$ -expressing cells was not $\beta 6$ specific, since it was not blocked by anti- $\beta 6$ antibodies. The presence of active TGF- β in the supernatant of this $\beta 6$ -expressing cell pool is likely due to random differences in integrin-independent release of active TGF- β by different cell pools, but we cannot exclude that it is due to an indirect effect of $\beta 6$ expression in HT1080 cells. Consistent with the above HT1080 cell data, we also found that a small but significant amount of TGF- $\beta 1$ was present in the cell culture supernatant of $\beta 8$ -expressing SW480 cells (relative luciferase units, 0.92 ± 0.23 ; +37E1, 0.26 ± 0.08 ; $p < 0.05$). In summary, active TGF- β is released into the supernatant of $\beta 8$ -expressing cells through a $\beta 8$ -dependent mechanism, suggesting that $\alpha\beta 8$ binds SLC to the cell surface, which facilitates the metalloprotease-dependent release of active TGF- β into the cell supernatant.

Expression of membrane-type 1-MMP is sufficient to support $\alpha\beta 8$ -mediated activation of TGF- β

In the course of screening cell lines for this study, we identified one squamous lung carcinoma cell line, H1264, that expressed a low level of $\alpha\beta 8$ on the cell surface but did not

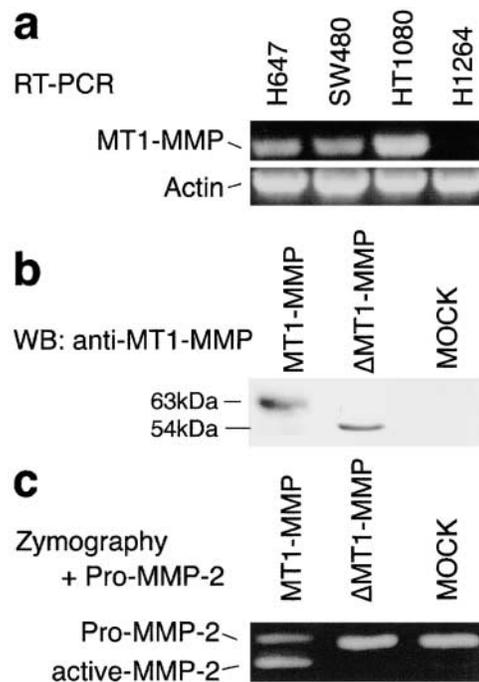


Figure 6. MT1-MMP is deficient and can be reconstituted in the human lung carcinoma cell line H1264. (a) RT-PCR screening of tumor cell lines with MT1-MMP-specific primers demonstrates an absence of MT1-MMP in H1264 cells. A control amplification performed in parallel using β -actin primers is shown. (b) Western blotting confirms the expression of MT1-MMP and Δ MT1-MMP in transduced H1264 cells. Cell lysate from MT1-MMP or mock-transduced H1264 cells (40 μ g protein) or cell supernatant from Δ MT1-MMP-transduced H1264 cells was resolved by 10% SDS page, and proteins were detected by Western blotting using an anti-MT1-MMP monoclonal antibody. The expected migration of the full-length form of MT1-MMP is 63 kD. Note that the secreted form (Δ MT1-MMP) migrates faster (54 kD), and the mock-infected cells express no MT1-MMP. (c) MT1-MMP, Δ MT1-MMP, or mock-transduced $\beta 8$ -overexpressing H1264 cells were plated onto 96-well dishes in serum-free medium containing recombinant pro-MMP-2. After an overnight incubation at 37°C in 5% CO₂, the supernatants were subjected to gelatin zymography (1 mg gelatin/ml, 10% SDS-PAGE). Pro-MMP2 migrates at 66 kD, and the fully activated form migrates at 59 kD. Note that only MT1-MMP-transduced H1264 cells activate MMP-2. MMP activity is shown as lucent bands against a dark Coomassie-stained background.

activate TGF- β . The inability of H1264 cells to activate TGF- β was not due to low expression levels of $\alpha\beta 8$, since overexpression of $\beta 8$ by retroviral transduction did not rescue activation (relative luciferase units; $\beta 8$ -transduced, 3.0 ± 0.3 ; +37E1, 2.2 ± 0.5 ; mock-transduced, 3.0 ± 0.4 ; +37E1, 2.6 ± 0.2). Since our current findings suggested that cell surface expression of a metalloprotease cofactor was likely involved in $\alpha\beta 8$ -mediated activation of TGF- β , we used H1264 cells to facilitate the identification of the specific metalloprotease(s) involved in $\alpha\beta 8$ -mediated activation of TGF- β . Thus, we generated a metalloprotease expression profile of H1264 cells and compared it to profiles of the other tumor cell lines used in this study. We concentrated on metalloproteases known to localize to the cell surface (MMP-2 [Brooks et al., 1996], MMP-7 [Yu and Woessner, 2000], MMP-9 [Yu and Stamenkovic, 1999],

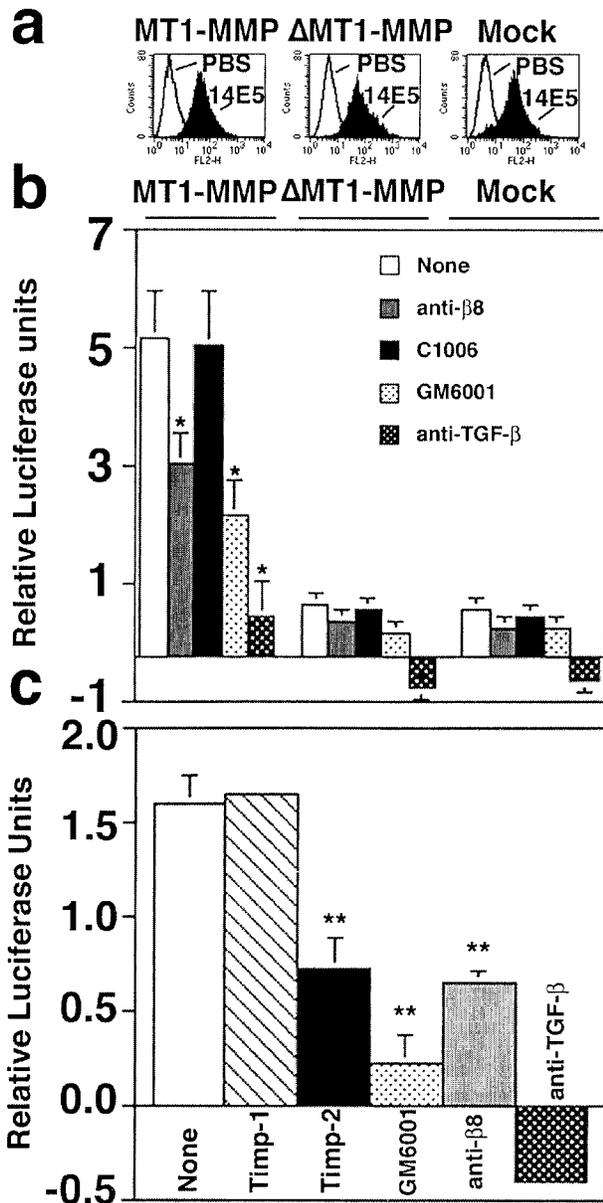


Figure 7. α v β 8 mediates activation of TGF- β in β 8-overexpressing H1264 cells reconstituted with MT1-MMP activity. (a) Flow cytometry of β 8-transduced MT1-MMP, Δ MT1-MMP, or mock-transduced H1264 cells demonstrates equivalent levels of surface expression of β 8 using an anti- β 8 antibody (14E5). Histograms using arbitrary units are shown. (b) β 8-overexpressing H1264 cells transduced with either MT1-MMP, Δ MT1-MMP, or the retroviral vector alone (mock) (1.6×10^4) were cocultured with TMLC (1.6×10^4) reporter cells in the presence or absence of inhibitors: anti- β 8 (37E1), control peptide (C1006), GM6001, or the pan-TGF- β 1 antibody (1D11). Asterisks indicate significantly different than untreated MT1-MMP-expressing cells. (c) The endogenous inhibitor TIMP-2 but not TIMP-1 inhibits α v β 8-mediated activation of TGF- β in H1264s cells. β 8-overexpressing, MT1-MMP-expressing H1264s cells were cocultured with TMLC in the presence or absence of TIMP-1 (1 μ g/ml), TIMP-2 (1 μ g/ml), GM6001 (5 μ M), anti- β 8 (37E1), or pan-TGF- β 1 (1D11). Relative luciferase units are shown (light units of cocultured cells in the presence or absence of inhibitors minus light units of TMLC cells alone) in b and c. Negative luciferase values were occasionally observed due to a small background of TGF- β activation by the TMLC cells. Single and double asterisks indicate treated cells compared with untreated cells (* $p < 0.01$; ** $p < 0.001$).

membrane-type 1 [MT1]-MMP [Sato et al., 1994], and a disintegrin and a metalloprotease domain [ADAM]-9, -10, and -17 [Primakoff and Myles, 2000]). Using reverse transcriptase (RT)-PCR (Fig. 6 a) and gelatin zymography (unpublished data), we found that the only metalloprotease that was deficient in H1264 cells, relative to the other tumor cell lines used in this study, was MT1-MMP. To reconstitute MT1-MMP expression in H1264 cells, we introduced either a full-length (MT1-MMP) or a transmembrane-deleted secreted form of MT1-MMP (Δ MT1-MMP). Expression or lack of expression of MT1-MMP in transduced or mock-transduced H1264 cells was verified by immunoblotting (Fig. 6 b). Immunoblots revealed an appropriate 63-kD band in cell lysates from MT1-MMP-transduced H1264 cells (Fig. 6 b) and a 54-kD band from the supernatant of Δ MT1-MMP-transduced cells (Fig. 6 b). The absence of any bands in mock-transduced cells confirmed the absence of MT1-MMP in the parental H1264 cell line (Fig. 6 b). Reconstituted MT1-MMP was active in H1264 cells as determined by the ability of MT1-MMP-transduced but not Δ MT1-MMP-transduced or mock-transduced H1264 cells to cleave pro-MMP-2 to its fully active (59 kD) form (Fig. 6 c). Secreted Δ MT1-MMP possessed gelatinolytic activity as determined by zymography (unpublished data).

H1264 cells transduced with either MT1-MMP, Δ MT1-MMP, or vector alone (mock) underwent a second transduction to overexpress similar levels of α v β 8 as determined by flow cytometry using the anti- β 8 antibody, 14E5 (Fig. 7 a), or SN1 (unpublished data). For β 8-overexpressing H1264 cells, only those transduced with MT1-MMP and not Δ MT1-MMP or vector alone (mock) were able to support activation of TGF- β (Fig. 7 b). H1264 cells transduced with MT1-MMP alone supported a low level of α v β 8-mediated activation of TGF- β (relative luciferase units; no monoclonal antibody, 2.7 ± 0.2 ; +37E1, 1.3 ± 0.0 ; +1D11, -0.3 ± 0.01), which is consistent with their lower levels of surface expression of α v β 8. A significant portion of the TGF- β activation was specific to β 8 and to metalloproteases because it was inhibited by anti- β 8 antibodies (37E1), TIMP-2, and GM6001. 37E1, TIMP-2, and GM6001 were less efficient than the pan-TGF- β antibody (1D11) in inhibiting TGF- β activity. TIMP-2, a relatively specific inhibitor of MT1-MMP (Brew et al., 2000), inhibited TGF- β activation equally well as 37E1 (Fig. 7 c). The inability to completely block the β 8-, MT1-MMP-dependent activation of TGF- β with anti- β 8 antibodies and MMP inhibitors is likely due to a combination of factors: antibody efficacy, steric hindrance on the cell surface (Atkinson et al., 2001) and/or the high heterologous expression levels of both β 8 and MT1-MMP.

α v β 8 and MT1-MMP colocalize in substrate contacts

Our cell biologic and biochemical data indicated that α v β 8 and MT1-MMP were likely to associate on the cell surface. Thus, we hypothesized that upon ligation with LAP- β 1, α v β 8 and MT1-MMP would cocluster in membrane complexes. To address this hypothesis, we expressed an MT1-MMP fusion construct with a COOH-terminal green fluorescent protein (GFP) tag. The purpose of the GFP tag was to obviate the use of available commercial anti-MT1-MMP antibodies, which we

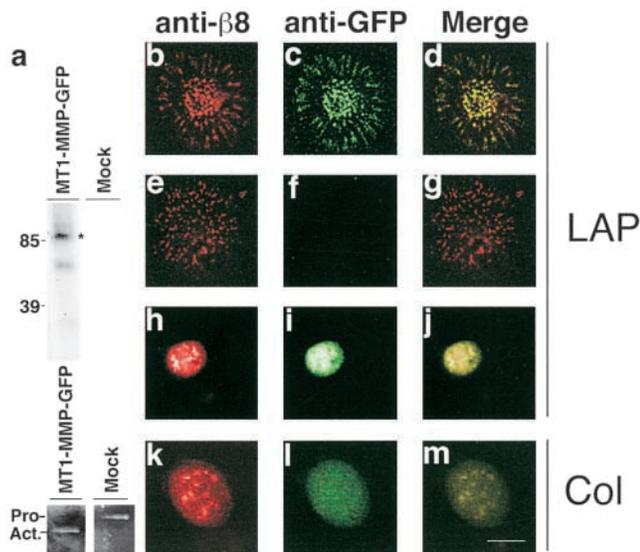


Figure 8. $\alpha\beta 8$ and MT1-MMP colocalize in substrate contacts. (a, top) Immunoprecipitation of MT1-MMP-GFP from ^{125}I cell surface-labeled MT1-MMP-GFP-expressing HT1080 cells. The catalytically active 90-kD MT1-MMP-GFP fusion protein (asterisk) was immunoprecipitated with anti-GFP antibodies from MT1-MMP-GFP-expressing HT1080 $\beta 8$ cells but not mock-transduced HT1080 $\beta 8$ cells. The 70-kD MT1-MMP-GFP band represents a catalytically inactive degradation product. (a, bottom) Gelatin zymography of supernatants from MT1-MMP-GFP-transduced or mock-transduced HT1080 $\beta 8$ cells. The migration of Pro (Pro-) and active (Act-) forms of MMP-2 are shown. (b-m) Confocal images of immunofluorescence microscopy. $\beta 8$ -expressing, MT1-MMP-GFP-expressing HT1080 cells (b-d and k-m); $\beta 8$ -expressing HT1080 cells (e-g); GFP-expressing HT1080 cells (h-j). Cells were allowed to attach 4 h to LAP- $\beta 1$ (10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ coating concentration)-coated slides. After fixation and permeabilization, colocalization of $\beta 8$ and GFP was determined using polyclonal anti- $\beta 8$ and monoclonal anti-GFP antibodies. Pseudocolored confocal images of $\beta 8$ (red) and GFP (green) staining taken in the plane of the substrate are shown. Bar, 7.5 μM .

found unsuitable for immunocytochemistry (unpublished data). MT1-MMP-GFP was expressed on the cell surface of $\beta 8$ -expressing HT1080 cells as determined by surface labeling followed by immunoprecipitation with anti-GFP antibodies. Anti-GFP antibodies immunoprecipitated two bands from MT1-MMP-GFP-expressing cells, the upper band representing the catalytically active form of MT1-MMP-GFP and the lower band the degraded form, lacking the catalytic domain (Overall et al., 2000) (Fig. 8 a, top). Furthermore, MT1-MMP-GFP was found to be functionally active as determined by potentiation of the zymographic conversion of pro-MMP2 to active MMP2 (Fig. 8 a, bottom).

We determined using confocal microscopy that $\beta 8$ and MT1-MMP-GFP exactly colocalized in discrete clusters in the plane of an LAP- $\beta 1$ substrate using anti- $\beta 8$ and GFP antibodies (Fig. 8, b-d). The localization of $\beta 8$ to these substrate contacts was not due to "bleed-over" of the MT1-MMP-GFP signal, since the GFP signal was not intense enough to visualize without staining with an anti-GFP antibody and $\beta 8$ localization was seen in $\beta 8$ -expressing HT1080 cells not transduced with MT1-MMP-GFP (Fig. 8, e-g). As expected, antibodies against the αv subunit colocalized with antibodies against the $\beta 8$ subunit in these contacts when cells were plated on LAP- $\beta 1$

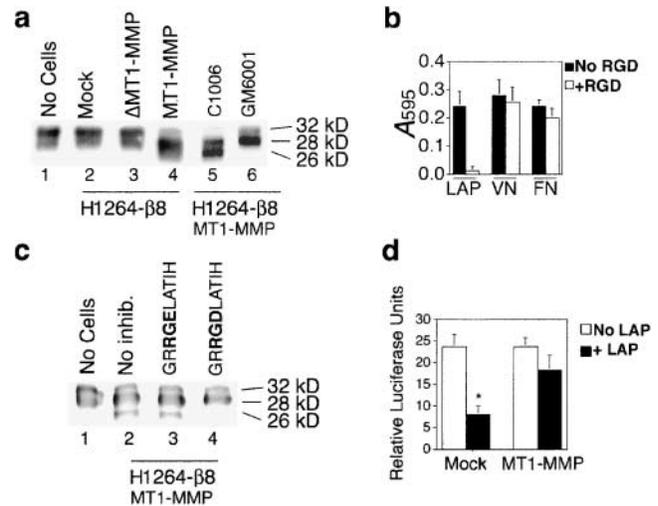


Figure 9. Cell surface-associated MT1-MMP cleaves and inactivates LAP- $\beta 1$. (a) LAP- $\beta 1$ is cleaved by incubation with $\beta 8$ -overexpressing MT1-MMP but not $\Delta\text{MT1-MMP}$ or mock-transduced H1264 cells. LAP- $\beta 1$ (10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$) was incubated overnight with either no cells (lane 1), mock-transduced $\beta 8$ -overexpressing H1264 cells (lane 2), $\Delta\text{MT1-MMP}$ transduced, $\beta 8$ -overexpressing H1264 cells (lane 3), MT1-MMP transduced, $\beta 8$ -overexpressing H1264 cells (lane 4), 500 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ of control peptide (C1006; lane 5), or 500 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ hydroxamate inhibitor GM6001 (lane 6). 20 ng of the input LAP- $\beta 1$ was resolved by 12.5% SDS-PAGE under reducing conditions. After immunoblotting with an anti-LAP antibody, the migration of the cleavage products calibrated to molecular weight standards (GIBCO BRL) is shown. Note that only LAP- $\beta 1$ incubated in the presence of MT1-MMP is cleaved and that this cleavage is blocked by GM6001. (b) The TGF- $\beta 1$ peptide GRRGDLATIH selectively inhibits $\alpha\text{v}\beta 8$ -LAP- $\beta 1$ function. Adhesion assay of $\beta 8$ -overexpressing, MT1-MMP expressing H1264 cells (4×10^4) to LAP- $\beta 1$, VN, or fibronectin (FN) (10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ coating concentrations) in the presence or absence of 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ of GRRGDLATIH. (c) LAP- $\beta 1$ cleavage by MT1-MMP-transduced, $\beta 8$ -overexpressing H1264 cells is inhibited by GRRGDLATIH but not GRRGELATIH peptide (10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$). The degradation assay was performed and analyzed by immunoblotting as in a. No-cell control (lane 1); no-inhibitor control (lane 2); control GRRGELATIH peptide (lane 3); GRRGDLATIH peptide (lane 4). (d) LAP- $\beta 1$ is inactivated by $\beta 8$ -overexpressing, MT1-MMP-expressing H1264 cells. LAP- $\beta 1$ (5 μg) incubated overnight with $\beta 8$ -overexpressing, MT1-MMP-expressing or $\beta 8$ -overexpressing, mock-transduced H1264 cells was added to TMLC reporter cells in the presence of recombinant TGF- $\beta 1$. As a control (white bars) TMLC reporter cells were incubated with only recombinant TGF- β and no LAP- $\beta 1$. Relative luciferase units are shown. The asterisk indicates LAP- $\beta 1$ incubated with mock control cells is not cleaved and decreases TGF- β activity compared with other groups ($p < 0.05$).

(unpublished data). Localization of $\beta 8$ was not dependent on MT1-MMP expression, since $\beta 8$ was found in substrate contacts in MT1-MMP-deficient $\beta 8$ -expressing H1264 cells plated on an LAP- $\beta 1$ substrate (unpublished data). Localization of MT1-MMP-GFP to substrate contacts was not due to non-specific accumulation of GFP or to a staining artifact, since no substrate contacts were found with anti-GFP antibodies in GFP-transduced non- $\beta 8$ -expressing HT1080 cells plated on LAP- $\beta 1$ (Fig. 8, h-j). Localization of MT1-MMP to LAP- $\beta 1$ substrate contacts was dependent on $\beta 8$ expression, since no contacts were found in non- $\beta 8$ -expressing, MT1-MMP-GFP-expressing HT1080 cells (unpublished data). Finally, the colocalization of $\beta 8$ and MT1-MMP to substrate contacts re-

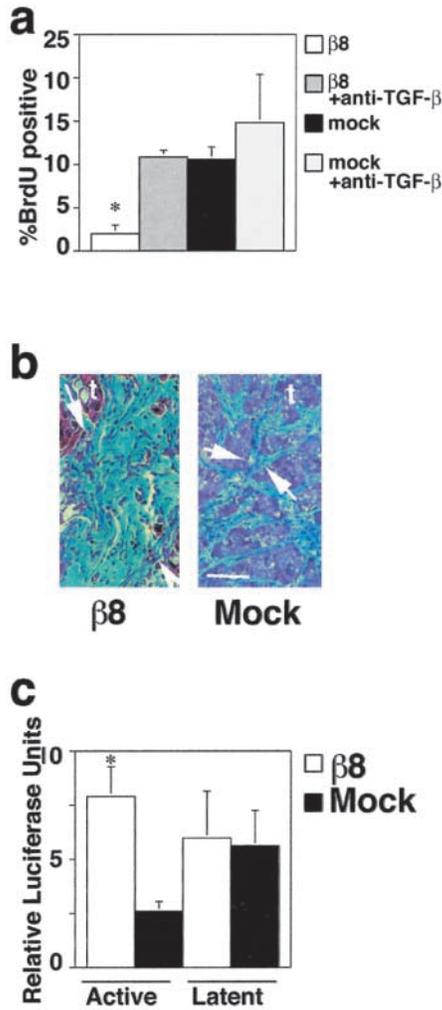


Figure 10. The activation of TGF- β by α v β 8 is associated both with growth inhibition and with fibrogenesis in lung cancer tumor xenografts. (a) DNA synthesis is inhibited in α v β 8-expressing H647 cells, and the inhibition is reversed by TGF- β blocking antibodies (1D11). The asterisk indicates increased BrdU incorporation of antibody-treated β 8-expressing cells compared with untreated β 8-expressing cells ($p < 0.05$). (b) Histologic analysis of tumors grown in nude mice derived from either β 8-expressing or mock-transduced H647 cells. Trichrome-stained sections highlighting dense collagen (green area between arrows) between islands of tumor cells (t) are shown. Bar, 75 μ m. (c) Determination of active and SLC in β 8-expressing and mock-transduced lung tumor xenografts. Relative luciferase units are shown. The asterisk indicates increased active TGF- β from β 8-expressing tumors compared with mock-transduced tumors ($*p < 0.01$).

quired ligand engagement, since no such contacts were found when β 8-, MT1-MMP-GFP expressing HT1080 cells were plated on an irrelevant ligand, collagen I (Fig. 8, k–m). In conclusion, ligation of α v β 8 with LAP- β 1 results in the specific colocalization of α v β 8 and MT1-MMP in substrate contacts, suggesting a biologically relevant and close physical interaction.

Overexpression of MT1-MMP is sufficient to cleave and inactivate LAP- β 1

To determine if proteolysis of LAP- β 1 could be a mechanism of α v β 8-mediated activation of TGF- β , we incubated recombinant LAP- β 1 with β 8-overexpressing H1264 cells

transduced with either MT1-MMP, Δ MT1-MMP, or vector alone. After incubation of LAP- β 1 with mock or Δ MT1-MMP-expressing H1264 cells, LAP- β 1 remained intact (32 kD). In contrast, we found that almost all of the LAP- β 1 incubated with MT1-MMP-expressing H1264 cells was smaller (26–28 kD) than intact LAP- β 1, suggesting proteolytic cleavage (Fig. 9 a, lane 4). LAP- β 1 cleavage was dependent on the metalloprotease activity of MT1-MMP, since the metalloprotease inhibitor GM6001 but not a control peptide C1006 completely blocked cleavage (Fig. 9 a, lanes 5 and 6). To determine if LAP- β 1 cleavage was also dependent on α v β 8, we developed a peptide based on the human LAP- β 1 sequence, which was a relatively specific inhibitor of α v β 8–LAP- β 1 interactions. In the H1264 system, the GRRGDLATIH peptide completely blocked α v β 8–LAP- β 1 interactions while having a minimal effect on the binding of other RGD-dependent integrins to VN or fibronectin (Fig. 9 b). Using these peptide inhibitors, we determined that LAP- β 1 cleavage was also dependent on α v β 8, since GRRGDLATIH but not the RGE mutant peptide inhibited LAP- β 1 cleavage (Fig. 9 c). Thus, in the H1264 cell system, α v β 8 and MT1-MMP together are required for LAP- β 1 cleavage. Finally, α v β 8-, MT1-MMP-dependent cleavage of LAP- β 1 is functionally relevant, since LAP- β 1, after cleavage, loses the ability to inhibit the function of the recombinant mature TGF- β 1 peptide (Fig. 9 d).

TGF- β activated by the integrin α v β 8 in human lung cancer xenografts results in growth inhibition and tumor fibrosis

To test the physiologic relevance of α v β 8-mediated activation of TGF- β 1, we employed the H647 lung carcinoma cell system, which we have described recently (Cambier et al., 2000). We employed this system because β 8 is expressed mainly by the basal cells of the human airway (Cambier et al., 2000), a cell type that is difficult to isolate in sufficient numbers for our studies and difficult to maintain in culture (Hicks et al., 1997). Because we have demonstrated recently that the growth of β 8-expressing H647 cells was inhibited relative to mock-transduced H647 cells (Cambier et al., 2000), we asked if TGF- β might be a mediator of that growth inhibition. To address this question, we determined BrdU incorporation as a measure of DNA synthesis in β 8-expressing and in mock-transduced H647 cells. We determined that the growth of β 8-expressing H647 cells was potentially inhibited relative to mock-transduced control cells as reflected by reduced BrdU incorporation (Fig. 10 a). In addition, since TGF- β characteristically induces a cell cycle arrest late in G1 (Laiho et al., 1990) we studied the cell cycle defect in H647 cells. Nonsynchronized β 8-expressing H647 cells displayed a partial G1 arrest when compared with mock-transduced H647 cells (G1 fraction of β 8-expressing H647 cells, 62% \pm 3%; mock-transduced H647 cells, 47 \pm 3%, $p < 0.05$). Furthermore, we found that this β 8-dependent growth inhibition was also TGF- β -dependent because it could be reversed by TGF- β antibodies (Fig. 10 a) or by recombinant LAP- β 1 (for β 8-expressing H647 cells without LAP- β 1, G1 fraction, 61%; with LAP- β 1, 51%, in a representative experiment). Thus, TGF- β is a mediator of β 8-induced growth inhibition in vitro.

To address if $\alpha\beta 8$ also mediated TGF- β activation in vivo, we used $\beta 8$ -expressing or mock-transduced H647 cells, which are tumorigenic in nude mice (Cambier et al., 2000). Using this system, we have found $\beta 8$ -expressing tumors to be significantly smaller than their mock-transduced counterparts (Cambier et al., 2000). Because fibrosis is one of the histologic hallmarks of increased TGF- β activity (Border and Noble, 1994), we examined $\beta 8$ -expressing tumors histologically for evidence of fibrosis. We found that $\beta 8$ -expressing tumors were not only smaller but were more fibrotic than tumors derived from mock-transduced cells (Fig. 10 b). To determine if the reduction in tumor size and the increase in stromal fibrosis were associated with increased active TGF- β , we used the TMLC reporter cells to determine the active and SLC activities associated with $\beta 8$ -expressing and mock-transduced H647 tumor xenografts. Using this bioassay, there was a significant increase in the amount of active TGF- β present in the aqueous fraction of $\beta 8$ -expressing tumors relative to control tumors (Fig. 10 c). In contrast, the latent component of TGF- β did not differ between tumors derived from $\beta 8$ -expressing or mock-transduced H647 cells (Fig. 10 c). Thus, in vivo $\alpha\beta 8$ can liberate physiologic levels of TGF- β activity. Moreover, these data suggest that in normal tissues $\alpha\beta 8$ -mediated activation of TGF- β must be more tightly regulated than in the tumor xenograft model, since fibrosis is only associated with pathologic states (Blobe et al., 2000).

Discussion

We have found previously that the integrin $\alpha\beta 8$ inhibits epithelial cell growth (Cambier et al., 2000). Furthermore, $\alpha\beta 8$ is expressed in either quiescent cells or cells with a low rate of turnover (Nishimura et al., 1998; Cambier et al., 2000) and is lost in the process of neoplastic transformation (Cambier et al., 2000). These findings led us to hypothesize that $\beta 8$ plays a role in the homeostatic control of normal tissues. In support of this hypothesis, we now demonstrate that the integrin $\alpha\beta 8$ mediates growth inhibition through a novel mechanism of activation of TGF- $\beta 1$, a cytokine with a central role in homeostatic cellular processes (Blobe et al., 2000).

Two molecular mechanisms have been proposed that may lead to the activation of TGF- $\beta 1$: conformational change leading to activation of the SLC complex (Crawford et al., 1998; Munger et al., 1999) or proteolysis of LAP- $\beta 1$ leading to the release of active TGF- $\beta 1$ (Munger et al., 1997; Yu and Stamenkovic, 2000). Our data demonstrate that a mechanism of conformational change leading to activation of TGF- β , as proposed for the $\alpha\beta 6$ integrin (Munger et al., 1999) or TSP-1 (Crawford et al., 1998), is not responsible for $\alpha\beta 8$ -mediated activation of TGF- $\beta 1$. Specifically, $\alpha\beta 8$ -mediated activation of SLC does not require the $\beta 8$ cytoplasmic domain in contrast to the mechanism of $\alpha\beta 6$ -mediated activation of TGF- β , which requires the $\beta 6$ -cytoplasmic domain (Munger et al., 1999). Furthermore, $\alpha\beta 8$ is unlikely to bind directly or indirectly to LAP- $\beta 1$ through a TSP-1-dependent mechanism because $\alpha\beta 8$ lacks the defined TSP-1 binding site for LAP- $\beta 1$ (Crawford et al., 1998) and $\alpha\beta 8$ does not bind to TSP-1 (unpublished

data). Moreover, unlike secreted TSP-1 (Crawford et al., 1998) secreted $\alpha\beta 8$ cannot activate TGF- $\beta 1$. Thus, the mechanism by which $\alpha\beta 8$ activates TGF- $\beta 1$ is not dependent on conformational changes, resulting from "inside-out" signal transduction as mediated by the $\beta 6$ cytoplasmic domain (Munger et al., 1999) or direct physical interaction as mediated by TSP-1 (Crawford et al., 1998).

Our findings support a biologically relevant mechanism whereby SLC binds with high affinity to $\alpha\beta 8$ on the cell surface, which results in the metalloprotease-dependent release of active TGF- β . Evidence to support this mechanism follows: (a) secreted $\alpha\beta 8$ binds to LAP- $\beta 1$ with a high affinity with a dissociation constant similar to other TGF- β receptors (Tucker et al., 1984); (b) both synthetic and endogenous MMP inhibitors block $\alpha\beta 8$ -mediated activation of TGF- $\beta 1$; (c) reconstitution of MT1-MMP into the H1264 MT1-MMP-deficient cell line rescues $\alpha\beta 8$ -mediated TGF- β activation; (d) $\alpha\beta 8$ and MT1-MMP specifically colocalize in LAP- $\beta 1$ substrate contacts; (e) consistent with a proteolytic event, active TGF- β is liberated by an $\alpha\beta 8$ -dependent mechanism into the supernatants of tumor cell lines and into the aqueous phase of lung cancer xenografts; (f) the proteolytic substrate of $\alpha\beta 8$ -, MT1-MMP-dependent activation of TGF- $\beta 1$ is likely to be LAP- $\beta 1$, since $\beta 8$ -overexpressing, MT1-MMP-expressing H1264 cells cleave and inactivate LAP- $\beta 1$, whereas $\beta 8$ -overexpressing, MT1-MMP-deficient H1264 cells do not; (g) cleavage of LAP- $\beta 1$ requires the concomitant activity of both $\beta 8$ and MT1-MMP, since $\beta 8$ -specific RGD inhibitors and metalloprotease inhibitors both block cleavage. Precedent for such a proteolytic mechanism is that plasmin (Lyons et al., 1990) and MMP-9 (Yu and Stamenkovic, 2000) have each been shown to activate TGF- $\beta 1$ and TGF- $\beta 2$, respectively, by cleavage of LAP.

It is also possible that MT1-MMP acts indirectly by proteolytically modifying the activity of $\alpha\beta 8$ as suggested recently for the MT1-MMP-dependent modification of the integrin $\alpha\beta 3$ (Deryugina et al., 2000). However, this is unlikely because of the following: (a) cell lines expressing $\alpha\beta 8$ attach to LAP- $\beta 1$ equally well whether or not they express MT1-MMP (unpublished data), suggesting that coexpression of MT1-MMP does not modify the activity of $\alpha\beta 8$; (b) flow cytometry of H1264 cells overexpressing both $\beta 8$ and MT1-MMP using two different anti- $\beta 8$ monoclonal antibodies shows no alteration in surface expression of $\alpha\beta 8$, indicating that antibody epitopes are preserved along with adhesive capability; (c) immunoprecipitations or Western blots of cells coexpressing $\alpha\beta 8$ and MT1-MMP, using polyclonal antibodies against the cytoplasmic domain of $\beta 8$, show no electrophoretic shift or proteolytic degradation products. Therefore, we have no evidence of modification of $\alpha\beta 8$ by MT1-MMP.

How does MT1-MMP interact with the $\alpha\beta 8$ -TGF- $\beta 1$ complex? Our data suggest that upon ligation of $\alpha\beta 8$ with SLC, $\alpha\beta 8$ and MT1-MMP become closely associated to form a complex on the cell surface. The cell surface appears to be required for productive interactions, since the secreted forms of $\alpha\beta 8$ and MT1-MMP do not mediate activation of TGF- β . Evidence for a physical association on the cell surface is that $\alpha\beta 8$ and MT1-MMP colocalize in substrate

contacts specifically on LAP- β 1. The nature of the MT1-MMP- β 8 interaction awaits elucidation by coimmunoprecipitation and domain interaction studies. Because the localization of MT1-MMP in LAP- β 1 substrate contacts is dependent on the presence of β 8, it is likely that α v β 8-SLC interactions are required to initiate the recruitment of MT1-MMP. The dynamic recruitment of MT1-MMP to α v β 8-TGF- β complexes could provide a basis for the homeostatic regulation of TGF- β activity in cellular microenvironments.

Although reconstitution of wild-type MT1-MMP is sufficient to support α v β 8-mediated activation, other metalloproteases could potentially be involved. For instance, MT1-MMP binds to and is potently inhibited by TIMP-2 (Brew et al., 2000), but MT1-MMP-TIMP-2 complexes also serve as a cell surface receptor for MMP-2, and the function of this complex is activation of MMP-2 (Strongin et al., 1995). As such, it is not inconceivable that MMP-2 could also be involved in α v β 8-mediated activation of TGF- β . However, in H1264s cells MMP-2 is unlikely to be involved, since TIMP-1, a potent inhibitor of MMP-2 and weak inhibitor of MT1-MMP (Brew et al., 2000), has no effect on α v β 8-mediated activation of TGF- β . In contrast, β 8-mediated TGF- β activation is inhibited by TIMP-2, suggesting that MT1-MMP may alone be sufficient to support β 8-mediated activation of TGF- β . Although formally we cannot exclude additional roles for other MMPs or related metalloproteases such as ADAMs or ADAMTS, family members in α v β 8 mediated activation of TGF- β in other systems or cell types.

The β 8 subunit appears to be the only integrin subunit capable of coordinating metalloprotease activity with SLC bound to the cell surface because the other LAP- β 1 binding integrins are either incapable of activating TGF- β (Munger et al., 1998) or, in the case of α v β 6, activating TGF- β via a metalloprotease-independent pathway (Munger et al., 1999). Furthermore, α v β 8-mediated TGF- β activation is solely dependent on metalloproteases and not other proteases because inhibitors of aspartyl, serine, and cysteine proteases do not inhibit activation. Thus, α v β 8-mediated activation of TGF- β 1 is not dependent on other proteases that have been implicated in SLC activation, including plasmin (Lyons et al., 1990), calpain (Abe et al., 1998), and cathepsin (Lyons et al., 1988).

Integrins (Brooks et al., 1996) and other cell surface molecules (Yu and Stamenkovic, 1999) have also been shown to localize MMP activity to the cell surface. For instance, the integrin α v β 3 has been shown to form an SDS stable cell surface complex with MMP-2 (Brooks et al., 1996) and to colocalize with MT1-MMP (Deryugina et al., 2001), whereas CD44 has been shown to mediate localization of MMP-9 (Yu and Stamenkovic, 2000) to the cell surface. However, α v β 3 and CD44 are unlikely to be required for α v β 8-mediated activation of TGF- β because α v β 3 is not expressed in multiple cell lines that support α v β 8-mediated activation of TGF- β (Table I) and because anti-CD44 antibodies do not inhibit α v β 8-mediated activation of TGF- β (unpublished data).

The selective MMP dependence of α v β 8- but not α v β 6-mediated activation of TGF- β 1 clearly demonstrates that the mechanisms of α v β 8- and α v β 6-mediated activation of TGF- β 1 are different. A structural basis for these different

mechanisms may be the striking difference in the predicted secondary structure of the extracellular domains of the β 8 and β 6 subunits (Moyle et al., 1991). Different integrin-mediated mechanisms of TGF- β activation may have evolved to support distinct biologic functions. For instance, in the airway epithelium, a site where β 8 is normally expressed (Cambier et al., 2000), a mechanism to support a low and persistent level of activation of TGF- β 1 is necessary for homeostasis (Crawford et al., 1998). We speculate that α v β 8 could sequester SLC to the cell surface where, in response to an environmental cue, changes in the local balance of MMP/TIMP activity could lead to α v β 8-dependent liberation of active TGF- β 1. Thus, α v β 8-mediated activation of TGF- β 1 might liberate the low levels of active TGF- β 1 sufficient to promote local paracrine effects but insufficient for undesirable local and systemic fibrogenic effects of TGF- β 1 (Border and Noble, 1994). Conversely, if α v β 6 were to liberate TGF- β by an MMP-dependent mechanism undesirable pathologic levels of TGF- β might be released locally and into the systemic circulation because after injury expression of α v β 6 (Breuss et al., 1993; Pilewski et al., 1997) and MMPs (Holgate et al., 1999) are both strongly and rapidly induced.

In summary, abundant evidence implicates the cytokine TGF- β 1, integrins, and MMPs as important mediators of homeostatic cell behaviors. This article provides the first evidence of the coordination of activity of members of these three major multigene families in the maintenance of homeostasis.

Materials and methods

Cell lines and reagents

Cell lines used include SW480, HT1080, H1264, HepG2, 293, SP2/0 (American Type Culture Collection), NCI H647 (Tsai et al., 1993), the amphotropic retroviral packaging line Phoenix (Kinsella and Nolan, 1996), MvLu mink lung epithelial cells stably transfected with a plasminogen activator inhibitor promoter-1-luciferase construct (TMLC cells [Abe et al., 1994]), and High-Five (Invitrogen). Early passage parental H1264 cells deficient in MT1-MMP were subcloned by limiting dilution to achieve a phenotypically stable MT1-MMP-negative subclone (H1264s). LAP- β 1 was produced using recombinant baculovirus-expressing wild-type simian LAP- β 1 and mutant (RGE) LAP- β 1 as described (Munger et al., 1998). LAP- β 1-Sepharose was prepared by cross-linking 2 mg of protein A-tagged LAP- β 1 to 1 ml of IgG Sepharose using 20 mM dimethylpimelimidate; VN-Sepharose was prepared as described (Nishimura et al., 1994). Human recombinant active TGF- β 1, SLC, monoclonal anti-TGF- β (1D11) and affinity purified anti-TGF- β 1, - β 2, and - β 3 were purchased from R&D Systems. The following proteases and protease inhibitors were also purchased: GM6001 (Galaray et al., 1994) and control C1006 (AMS Scientific, Inc.), PMSF, E-64 (Sigma-Aldrich), CK-23 (Enzyme Systems Products), leupeptin, aprotinin, and pepstatin A (Boehringer-Mannheim), and human recombinant TIMP-1, TIMP-2, and Pro-MMP-2 (Chemicon).

The following previously characterized antibodies were used: anti- β 8, SN1 (Nishimura et al., 1994), anti- β 6, 10D5 (Munger et al., 1999), E7P6 (Weinacker et al., 1994), polyclonal affinity purified rabbit anti- β 8 (Nishimura et al., 1994), anti-LAP- β 1 (VB3A9) (Munger et al., 1998), and anti-CD-44 (Picker et al., 1989) (Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank). The following commercial antibodies and conjugates used were: anti- α 5 (P5D10; Chemicon), anti- β 1 (P5D2; Chemicon), pan-anti-TGF- β (1D11; R&D Systems), mouse or rabbit anti-MT1-MMP (Calbiochem and Chemicon), mouse anti-BrdU (Dako), phycoerythrin goat anti-mouse, rhodamine donkey anti-rabbit (Chemicon), phycoerythrin goat anti-mouse, rhodamine goat anti-mouse (Jackson ImmunoResearch Laboratories), HRP-conjugated sheep anti-mouse (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech), HRP anti-rat (Cappel), HRP-protein A (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech). VN was prepared from outdated fresh frozen human plasma (Yatohgo et al., 1988). Collagen type 1 was prepared from rat tails (Montesano et al., 1983). Peptides (GRGDSNK

and GRGESNK) were purchased (BioMol) or were commercially synthesized (GRRGDLATIH and GRRGELATIH) (BioSyn). The following antibiotics were used: puromycin, chloroquine (Sigma-Aldrich), geneticin (G418; GIBCO BRL), hygromycin (Calbiochem), and Fungizone, penicillin, and streptomycin (University of California at San Francisco cell culture facility).

Retroviral vectors, constructs, and RT-PCR

Retroviral vectors used were pLXSN (CLONTECH Laboratories, Inc.), pBabe Puro (a gift from Dr. Hartmund Land, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, London, UK) (Morgenstern and Land, 1990), pBabe β 8Puro, pLXSN β 8Neo (Cambier et al., 2000), and pBabe β 6Puro. The β 6 cDNA was subcloned from β 6-Peak10 (a gift from R. Pytela, University of California at San Francisco) into pBabe Puro. Plasmids were purified using the QIAGEN plasmid purification system. β 8 truncation mutants were constructed using a PCR strategy introducing COOH-terminal truncations (amino acids 712 and 758 of the β 8 ORF [Moyle et al., 1991]), which replace the cytoplasmic domain of full-length β 8 cDNA in pcDNAIneo (Invitrogen). The mutant constructs were subcloned into pLXSN (CLONTECH Laboratories, Inc.). Truncated β 8 with a COOH-terminal AP tag (AP- α v β 8) was produced by in-frame blunt end ligation of the BspE1-Xho1 placental fragment from AP tag (Flanagan and Leder, 1990) into a chimeric pcDNA β 8/3neo construct (Nishimura et al., 1994). Full length MT1-MMP or transmembrane and cytoplasmic domain deleted MT1-MMP (Δ MT1-MMP) (a gift from Stephen Weiss, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI) were subcloned into pBabe Puro or pLXSN. A construct creating a MT1-MMP-GFP fusion protein (MT1-MMP-pLEGFP) was created by destroying the stop codon of MT1-MMP in PCR3.1 by PCR mutagenesis to create a unique HpaI site. The HindIII, HpaI MT1-MMP fragment was then subcloned in-frame into pLEGFP (CLONTECH Laboratories, Inc.) between a HindIII and Klenow-treated BamHI site. Sequencing in both orientations was performed to verify the fidelity of each construct. Transfection of packaging cells and retroviral transduction was performed as described (Kinsella and Nolan, 1996). Pools of β 8-expressing cells were either used within 72 h for short term experiments or were sorted for uniform expression of β 8 and propagated on type I collagen-coated plates for long term experiments (Cambier et al., 2000). The (SBE)₄-Lux reporter, which contains 4 CAGACA repeats of the SMAD binding element of the JunB promoter (Jonk et al., 1998), was a gift of Peter ten Dijke (Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, Uppsala, Sweden). Total cellular RNA was harvested using a commercial kit (QIAGEN), and RT-PCR was performed as described (Nishimura et al., 1994). Primers, based on published sequences (Giambernardi et al., 1998; McCulloch et al., 2000) to MMP-2, -7, and -9, MT1-MMP, ADAMS-9, -10 and -17, and β -actin were purchased (Operon Technologies). Annealing temperatures were based on published reports (Giambernardi et al., 1998; McCulloch et al., 2000).

Affinity chromatography, ligand binding, and adhesion assays

¹²⁵I surface labeling and affinity chromatography was performed as described (Nishimura et al., 1994). Plasmids containing inserts for AP-tagged truncated secreted β 8 and truncated secreted α v in pCDM8 (Nishimura et al., 1994) were stably expressed in 293 cells and characterized by immunoprecipitation (Nishimura et al., 1994). Serum-free supernatant containing AP-tagged α v β 8 (AP β 8-AP) was applied to 96-well plates precoated with LAP- β 1 (wild-type and mutant), VN, or BSA for 1 h at 37°C in the presence and absence of monoclonal antibodies. Bound receptor was detected colorimetrically with pNPP (Sigma-Aldrich) at A405. For affinity measurements, serum-free supernatant containing secreted AP- α v β 8 was concentrated 40-fold (Vivaspin 100; Vivascience) and was applied to 10 μ l of LAP- β 1-Sepharose, VN-Sepharose, or IgG-Sepharose (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech) in the presence or absence of 1 mg/ml RGD peptide and incubated overnight at 4°C. The receptor concentration was determined against a standard curve generated using placental AP (Applied Biosystems). The samples were washed three times in wash buffer (Tris, 50 mM, pH 7.4, NaCl, 150 mM, CaCl₂, 1 mM). Luminescence was determined using disodium 3-(4-methoxyphosphoryl)-1,2-dioxetane-3,2'-(5'-chloro)tricyclo(3,3,1.13.7)decan-4-yl) phenyl phosphate (CSPD) as a substrate (Tropix; Applied Biosystems) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Specific binding was defined as binding that remained after incubation with a 200-fold excess of RGD peptide. Binding curves were generated using nonlinear regression (Prism; GraphPad Software) from three independent experiments. Adhesion assays were performed as described (Nishimura et al., 1994).

Production of monoclonal and polyclonal β 8 antibodies

Balb/C mice were immunized by standard protocols with truncated secreted α v β 8 according to the University of California at San Francisco Committee on Animal Research guidelines. Splenocytes were fused with

SP 2/0 myeloma cells using commercial protocols (Boehringer). Clones were screened by immunoprecipitation and flow cytometry to detect α v β 8 (Nishimura et al., 1994). Antibodies were purified by ionic exchange chromatography using FPLC or used as supernatants for flow cytometry. Polyclonal anti- β 8 antiserum was generated and characterized as described (Nishimura et al., 1998) by immunization of rabbits with a cytoplasmic peptide (TRAVTYRREKPEEIKMDISK) corresponding to amino acids 740–759 of the β 8 ORF (BioSyn).

Fluorescence activated cell analysis, sorting, and immunocytochemistry

For FACS[®], β 8-expressing and mock-transduced cells were detached using 7 mM EDTA in DME, incubated with primary antibodies for 30 min at 4°C, and detected with phycoerythrin-conjugated secondary antibodies (Chemicon). Stained cells were analyzed using a FACSort[®] flow cytometer and CellQuest software (Becton Dickinson). Immunofluorescence microscopy was performed essentially as described with the following modifications (Cambier et al., 2000). HT1080 cells transduced with either pBabe Puro- β 8 or pBabe Puro underwent a second transduction with either MT1-MMP-pLEGFP or pLEGFP and were selected with G418. LAP- β 1 was used to coat glass chamber slides at a concentration of 10 μ g/ml, and cells were allowed to attach to coated slides for 4 h before fixation. Antibodies used were a polyclonal anti- β 8 antiserum and a monoclonal anti-GFP antibody (CLONTECH Laboratories, Inc.). Secondary reagents were Alexa-Fluor 595 goat anti-rabbit (Molecular Probes) and biotinylated sheep anti-mouse (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech) followed by Oregon green Streptavidin (Molecular Probes). Confocal images were obtained using a Bio-Rad Laboratories MRC-1024 laser scanning confocal system and LaserSharp2000 software (Bio-Rad Laboratories). Pseudocolored images and composites were generated in Adobe Photoshop[®] (v. 6.0).

Immunoprecipitation, Western blotting, and zymography

β 8-expressing or mock-transduced cells in confluent 10-cm dishes were either surface labeled with ¹²⁵I, biotin, or were directly lysed in PBS with 1% Triton X-100 with 1 mM PMSF as described (Milner and Ffrench-Constant, 1994; Nishimura et al., 1994). Immunoprecipitations and Western blots were performed as described (Milner and Ffrench-Constant, 1994; Nishimura et al., 1994). For LAP- β 1 degradation experiments, LAP- β 1 (10 μ g/ml) was added to individual wells of a 96-well plate containing β 8-overexpressing, MT1-MMP-, Δ MT1-MMP-, or mock-transduced H1264 cells (4×10^5) in complete medium. For GM6001 and C1006 inhibition experiments, 10^4 cells were added, and for RGD peptide blocking experiments 2×10^4 cells were added. After a 12–16-h incubation, the medium was collected and either added to TMLC reporter cells in the presence or absence of recombinant TGF- β 1 (10 pM) or was subjected to 12.5% SDS-PAGE and Western blotting as above. For zymography, cells were incubated in serum-free media overnight in the presence or absence of pro-MMP-2 (10 ng/well). Supernatants were harvested and loaded without heating or reduction and resolved by 10% SDS-PAGE (1 mg/ml gelatin). After three washes in 2.5% Triton X-100, the gels were incubated in substrate buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, 5 mM CaCl₂, 0.01% Na₂S₂O₈, pH 8.0) and incubated overnight at 37°C. Lucent bands of gelatinolytic activity were revealed by Coomassie staining. Digital images were acquired using Eastman Kodak Co. 1D 3.5.3 Imaging system. Composites were assembled in Adobe Photoshop[®] (v. 6.0).

TGF- β bioassay

To determine TGF- β activation in a coculture assay, TMLC cells were cultured with β 8-expressing or mock-transduced cells in the presence or absence of anti-TGF- β -blocking antibody (10 μ g/ml, 1D11; R&D Systems), anti- β 8 (100 μ g/ml, 37E1) or anti- β 6 (150 μ g/ml, 10D5) as described (Abe et al., 1994; Munger et al., 1999). To measure active TGF- β in tumor tissue, equal weights of tumors were minced and incubated in sterile DME for 30 min at 4°C. The supernatants containing active TGF- β were harvested after centrifugation (20 g) at 4°C. The pellets were then incubated in serum-free DME for 20 min at 80°C to activate SLC after which the supernatants were harvested. The supernatants containing active or heat-activated (latent) TGF- β were then added to preplated TMLC cells with or without 1D11. For protease inhibitor assays, inhibitors were added at the initiation of the coculture. The maximal dose of each inhibitor was defined as the highest concentration that did not inhibit the ability of the TMLC cells to respond to recombinant active TGF- β . To measure soluble TGF- β activity from cultured cells, 10^6 HT1080 or SW480 cells, either β 8-expressing, β 6-expressing, or mock-transduced, were incubated in 100 μ l of complete medium with or without 37E1 or 10D5 for 1 h at 37°C with gentle rotation. Cell-free supernatants were harvested by centrifugation (20 g)

for 5 min at 4°C and then added to preplated TMLC cells in the presence or absence of 1D11. For soluble receptor assays, conditioned medium obtained from overnight cultures of 293 cells expressing truncated $\alpha\text{v}\beta 8$ (Nishimura et al., 1994, 1998) was used. Relative luciferase units were defined as activity minus the background activity of the TMLC reporter cells. In some experiments, the TMLC reporter cells themselves activated a small amount of TGF- β as determined by inhibition with anti-TGF- β -blocking antibodies. In these experiments when the test cells did not activate TGF- β the relative luciferase units (sample minus the TMLC background) were less than zero.

Cell proliferation assays and lung tumor xenographs

Cell cycle analysis was performed as described previously (Cambier et al., 2000) with the exception that some cells were treated overnight with 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ LAP- $\beta 1$. BrdU incorporation assays were performed as described (Cambier et al., 2000). H647 tumor xenographs were established in nude mice as described (Cambier et al., 2000), and experiments were performed in full compliance with institutional guidelines and the University of California at San Francisco Committee on Animal Research.

Statistical analysis

Student's *t* test was used for comparison of two datasets; analysis of variance (ANOVA; for parametric data) or the Kruskal-Wallis test (for nonparametric data) were used for more than two datasets. Tukey's or Dunn's test was used for parametric or nonparametric data, respectively, to determine where the differences lay. Significance was defined as $p < 0.05$. Data are shown as means \pm 1 SEM unless otherwise noted. Statistical software used was InStat v2.03 (GraphPad Software, Inc.).

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