

1 **Title: Manipulation of IRE1-dependent MAPK signaling by a *Vibrio* agonist-antagonist**
2 **effector pair**

3
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24 **Running Title**

25 Agonist-antagonist effectors manipulate host signaling

26

27 **Abstract:**

28 Diverse bacterial pathogens employ effector delivery systems to disrupt vital cellular processes
29 in the host (1). The type III secretion system 1 of the marine pathogen, *Vibrio*
30 *parahaemolyticus*, utilizes the sequential action of four effectors to induce a rapid, pro-
31 inflammatory cell death uniquely characterized by a pro-survival host transcriptional response (2,
32 3). Herein, we show that this pro-survival response is caused by the action of the channel-
33 forming effector VopQ that targets the host V-ATPase resulting in lysosomal deacidification and
34 inhibition of lysosome-autophagosome fusion. Recent structural studies have shown how VopQ
35 interacts with the V-ATPase and, while in the ER, a V-ATPase assembly intermediate can
36 interact with VopQ causing a disruption in membrane integrity. Additionally, we observe that
37 VopQ-mediated disruption of the V-ATPase activates the IRE1 branch of the unfolded protein
38 response (UPR) resulting in an IRE1-dependent activation of ERK1/2 MAPK signaling. We also
39 find that this early VopQ-dependent induction of ERK1/2 phosphorylation is terminated by the
40 VopS-mediated inhibitory AMPylation of Rho GTPase signaling. Since VopS dampens VopQ-
41 induced IRE1-dependent ERK1/2 activation, we propose that IRE1 activates ERK1/2
42 phosphorylation at or above the level of Rho GTPases. This study illustrates how temporally
43 induced effectors can work as in tandem as agonist/antagonist to manipulate host signaling and
44 reveal new connections between V-ATPase function, UPR and MAPK signaling.

45

46

47 **Importance:**

48 *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* (*V. para*) is a seafood-borne pathogen that encodes two Type 3
49 Secretion Systems (T3SS). The first system T3SS1 is thought to be maintained in all strains of *V.*
50 *para* to to maintain survival in the environment, whereas the second sytem T3SS2 is linked to
51 clinical isolates and disease in humans. Herein, we find that first system targets evolutionarily
52 conserved signaling systems to manipulate host cells, eventually causing a rapid, orchestrated
53 cells death within three hours. We have found that the T3SS1 injects virulence factors that
54 temporally manipulate host signaling. Within the first hour of infection, the effector VopQ acts
55 first by activating host surval signals while diminishing the host cell apoptotic machinery. Less
56 than an hour later, another effector VopS reverses activation and inhibition of these signaling
57 systems ultimately leading to death of the host cell. This work provides example of how
58 pathogens have evolved to manipulate the interplay between T3SS effectors to regulate host
59 signaling pathways.

60

61 **Introduction**

62 The seafood-borne pathogen, *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* (*V. para*), uses two needle-like type III
63 secretion systems (T3SS1 and T3SS2) to inject effectors into host cells to manipulate signaling
64 and cellular processes during infection (2). The *V. para* T3SS2 is found in clinical isolates, is
65 linked to disease in humans and has been shown to mediate invasion into mammalian host cells
66 (4, 5). By contrast, the T3SS1 is present in all *V. para* isolates and is thus believed to be essential
67 for survival in its environmental niche. This niche has been rapidly expanding due to the
68 warming of coastal waters contributing to the resurgence of *V. para* as a significant cause of
69 gastroenteritis world-wide (6, 7). Together, the *V. para* T3SS1 effectors orchestrate a temporally

70 regulated non-apoptotic cell death in cultured cells (2). The specific cell type that T3SS1 has
71 evolved to target in the environment remains undefined; however, its effectors target processes
72 that are conserved from yeast to humans (2, 8-10).

73 Cell death mediated by T3SS1 occurs in distinct and highly reproducible stages through the
74 temporal action of four known effectors: VopQ (VP1680), VPA0450, VopS (VP1686) and VopR
75 (VP1683) (Fig. 1A) (2, 11). Within 30 minutes of a synchronized infection, VopQ forms an
76 outward-rectifying channel in V-ATPase-containing membranes resulting in neutralization of the
77 compartment (e.g. vacuole or lysosome) and inhibition of membrane fusion (Fig. 1A) (9, 12).
78 These two activities inhibit autophagic flux, resulting in massive autophagosome accumulation
79 and contribute to a pro-inflammatory cell death within three hours(13). VPA0450 is a
80 phosphatidyl 5-phosphatase that hydrolyses PI(4,5)P₂ at about one hour after infection, resulting
81 in blebbing of the plasma membrane (Fig. 1A) (14). Soon after, VPA0450-mediated blebbing is
82 observed, VopS, a Fic (filamentation induced by cAMP) domain-containing protein, covalently
83 attaches an adenosine monophosphate (AMP) to a threonine residue in the switch 1 region of
84 Rho guanosine triphosphatases (GTPases) Rho, Rac and Cdc42. This modification, termed
85 AMPylation, inactivates the Rho GTPases thereby precipitating cytoskeletal collapse and cell
86 rounding, as well as inactivation of nuclear factor-kappaB (NF-κB) and mitogen activated
87 protein kinase (MAPK) signaling pathways (Fig. 1A) (10, 15). The fourth effector, VopR, causes
88 cell rounding around 90 minutes post infection, but its activity has remained elusive (11).

89 Despite the rapid, non-apoptotic cell death orchestrated by the T3SS1, our previous studies have
90 uncovered evidence that the T3SS1 rewires host gene expression to subvert cell death and
91 activate cell survival pathways, including MAPK signaling pathways. We performed a systems
92 level analysis of the temporal changes in host cell gene expression during *V. para* infection to

93 understand how the T3SS1 effectors work in concert to orchestrate cell death and subvert host
94 immune responses (3). The host transcriptional response to T3SS1 resulted in the activation of
95 host cell survival networks and repression of cell death networks (3).

96 Previously, it was found that VopQ was both necessary and sufficient for the accumulation of
97 LC3-positive autophagosomes as well as the deacidification of endolysosomal compartments.
98 These effects are caused by direct interaction between VopQ and the V_o subcomplex of the V-
99 ATPase. Recently, cryo-EM studies performed in our lab revealed extensive interactions
100 between VopQ and the c subunit of V_o V-ATPase that stabilize the insertion of VopQ in the
101 membrane alongside the V-ATPase (16). The interactions of VopQ with the c-ring of V_o is
102 predicted to form an unconventional membrane pore through the juxtaposition of charged residues
103 of VopQ against the hydrophobic lipid environment (16). This disruption is predicted to lead to
104 the deacidification of the lysosomal membrane. Remarkably, a fully functioning or assembled V-
105 ATPase at the vacuole is not necessary to induce VopQ toxicity in yeast. We found that VopQ
106 can interact with an assembly intermediate of the V-ATPase (V_o c-ring) in the ER resulting in
107 cell death (16). As VopQ forms a pore in target membranes, the ER membrane is compromised,
108 and this could lead to the induction of host cell signaling events including the unfolded protein
109 response (UPR).

110 Herein, we find that VopQ activates the IRE1 branch of the UPR in yeast and cultured cells. We
111 demonstrate that the activation of IRE1 by VopQ results in an activation of extracellular signal-
112 regulated protein kinase 1/2 (ERK1/2) signaling that is dependent on IRE1 kinase but not
113 nuclease activity. We also find that another T3SS1 effector VopS dampens VopQ-mediated
114 activation of ERK1/2 signaling by AMPylation-dependent inactivation of Rho GTPases, thereby
115 limiting the activation of ERK1/2 signaling to early infection time points. Taken together, our

116 work provides another example of the powerful interplay between T3SS effectors and how they
117 can temporally regulate host signaling pathways.

118

119 **Results**

120 *VopQ and VopS have antagonistic effect on T3SS1-specific pathway and network induction*

121 Previously, we discovered that the T3SS1 activates host cell survival networks and represses of
122 cell death networks. Since, autophagy is linked to pro-survival network signaling, our findings
123 led us to ask if VopQ could be responsible for pro-survival signals observed during infection. To
124 understand the contribution of individual effectors to the T3SS1-specific transcriptional
125 response, we characterized infection of primary human dermal fibroblasts (PHDFs) with *V. para*
126 strains carrying single-effector deletions for either *vopQ* or *vopS*. We chose this cell line so that
127 our data would be comparable with the data obtained in our previous transcriptomic analysis (3).
128 We included VopS because it targets Rho GTPases that regulate MAPK signaling (15, 17). We
129 used *V. para* strain, POR3, a derivative of the clinical strain RIMD2210633 that does not
130 produce functional hemolysins or a functional T3SS2 ($\Delta tdhAS\Delta vcrD2$), but maintains an active
131 T3SS1 (6). This strain and its $\Delta vopQ$ and $\Delta vopS$ derivatives will be referred to herein as T3SS1⁺,
132 T3SS1⁺ $\Delta vopQ$ and T3SS1⁺ $\Delta vopS$, respectively (Table S1). As observed with previously
133 characterized cell types, cytotoxicity of PHDFs occurring within the first four hours of infection
134 was completely dependent on VopQ (Fig. S1A,B) (2). We then performed RNA-sequencing on
135 the PHDFs after 90 minutes of infection with *V. para* T3SS1⁺, T3SS1⁺ $\Delta vopQ$ and T3SS1⁺ $\Delta vopS$
136 strains. The sequencing data passed statistical quality control tests, and principal component
137 analysis indicated tight clustering of replicates (Fig. S2A). Complete differential expression data

138 is reported in Table S2, but for this study we focused on the 398 host genes previously found to
139 be differentially expressed specifically in response to the T3SS1 (3).

140 The hierarchically clustered expression heatmap in Fig. 1B illustrates how the T3SS1 causes
141 changes in expression of these 398 genes in the absence of either VopQ or VopS. Of these
142 T3SS1-specific genes, 146 were similarly differentially expressed in the uninfected (UN) vs.
143 T3SS1⁺ and UN vs. T3SS1⁺ Δ vopQ-infected cells, and 197 were similarly differentially expressed
144 in the UN vs. T3SS1⁺ and UN vs. T3SS1⁺ Δ vopS-infected cells (Fig. S2B, Table S3). 252 and 201
145 T3SS1-specific genes were either not differentially expressed or changed direction during
146 T3SS1⁺ Δ vopQ and T3SS1⁺ Δ vopS infection, respectively. Expression of many genes, especially
147 those within clusters 1 and 4, was oppositely affected during infection with T3SS1⁺ Δ vopQ
148 compared to during infection with T3SS1⁺ Δ vopS (Fig. 1B, Table S3). Notably, expression of the
149 *EGR1* and *FOS* transcription factors, which are known to be regulated by MAPK signaling
150 pathways, was reduced in T3SS1⁺ Δ vopQ-infected cells compared to T3SS1⁺-infected cells, and
151 highly elevated by T3SS1⁺ Δ vopS infection (Table S3)(18). We validated these findings by
152 quantitative RT-PCR and using *V. para* strains deleted for multiple effectors (T3SS1⁺
153 Δ vopQR Δ vpa0450 and T3SS1⁺ Δ vopRS Δ vpa0450) and showed that VopQ is necessary and
154 sufficient for the elevated expression of both *FOS* and *EGR1* (Fig. S2C,D).

155 We next used Ingenuity Pathway Analysis (IPA) to understand how the activities of VopQ and
156 VopS contribute to the changes in host signaling events induced by the T3SS1 (Table S4). The
157 T3SS1-specific induction or repression of many pathways was dependent on VopQ and
158 enhanced in the absence of VopS (Fig. 1C). For example, induction of NF- κ B signaling, actin
159 cytoskeleton signaling and Rho GTPase signaling by T3SS1 was greatly reduced in the absence

160 of VopQ and enhanced in the absence of VopS. These observations are consistent with the
161 opposing effects on differential expression patterns observed in Fig. 1B.

162

163 *VopQ induces pro-survival signaling networks*

164 To understand the relative contributions of VopQ and VopS to the host response to T3SS1 on the
165 network level, we used IPA to perform biological function network analysis. Previously, we had
166 shown that the T3SS1 activates cell survival networks and represses cell death networks(3).
167 Strikingly, this effect was completely lost during T3SS1⁺ Δ vopQ infection and amplified during
168 T3SS1⁺ Δ vopS infection (Fig. 1D, Table S5). Specifically, we observed a loss in cell survival and
169 viability signaling network activation and death and mortality signaling network repression in
170 PHDFs infected with *V. para* T3SS1⁺ Δ vopQ compared to *V. para* T3SS1⁺ while infection with
171 T3SS1⁺ Δ vopS instead amplified these signaling changes (Fig. 1D). Interestingly, the apoptosis
172 signalling network, which is normally repressed during T3SS1⁺ infection, was activated during
173 infection with T3SS1⁺ Δ vopQ (Fig. 1D). These data strongly a model in which the activity of
174 VopQ elicits significant transcriptional changes in the host cell that result in the activation of cell
175 survival and repression of cell death networks and that VopS functions to dampen this response.

176

177 *VopQ induces a pulse of ERK1/2 signaling that is dampened by VopS*

178 To further dissect VopQ's effect on host signaling pathways in mammalian cells, we continued
179 with a more genetically tractable model, mouse embryonic fibroblasts (MEFs). We characterized
180 the cytotoxicity of the *V. para* T3SS1⁺ strain and its derivatives in MEFs. The cell death induced
181 by the T3SS1 occurred over a similar timescale in MEFs as in PHDFs and was similarly
182 dependent on VopQ (Fig. S3A). This result was expected because the mechanism of T3SS1-

183 mediated cell death is conserved across diverse cell types (2, 3, 9, 15). We chose to examine the
184 ERK1/2 signaling pathway because the RNA-sequencing data suggested that VopQ activates
185 Rho GTPase signaling (Fig. 1C) and in previous work we demonstrated that T3SS1-induced
186 *EGR1* and *FOS* expression requires active MEK1/2, the kinase upstream of ERK1/2 (3).
187 Furthermore, as we did not observe agonist and antagonist effects of VopQ and VopS,
188 respectively, on the expression of c-Jun N-terminal kinase (JNK) signaling target genes, we
189 focused our analysis on the ERK1/2 pathway (Table S6).

190 To test if VopQ induces *EGR1* and *FOS* expression by activating the ERK1/2 MAPK pathway
191 early during infection, we starved MEFs to remove basal ERK1/2 phosphorylation, infected them
192 with *V. para* T3SS1⁺ or *V. para* T3SS1⁻ for 45, 60, 75 and 90 minutes, and probed for phospho-
193 ERK1/2 as well as for the presence of downstream Egr1 by Western blot. We found that the
194 T3SS1 induced a pulse of ERK1/2 phosphorylation that peaked around 45 minutes and had
195 completely disappeared by 90 minutes post infection (Fig. 2A). Total Egr1 protein levels began
196 to rise 60 minutes post infection and reached their maximum at 90 minutes post infection, which
197 is an expected pattern of expression when taking into account the time for transcription and
198 translation of the induced *Egr1* gene (Fig. 2B). Using the MEK1/2 inhibitor U0126, we found
199 that T3SS1-induced *Egr1* expression was similarly dependent on MEK1/2 activity in MEFs as
200 previously reported in PHDFs (Fig. S3B) (3).

201 We repeated the infection time course with the *V. para* T3SS1⁺ Δ *vopQ* strain and found that the
202 T3SS1-induced pulse of ERK1/2 phosphorylation was indeed dependent on VopQ as was the
203 increase in total Egr1 protein levels (Fig. 2C,D). When MEFs were infected with T3SS1⁺ Δ *vopS*,
204 we observed not only an amplified induction of ERK1/2 phosphorylation and Egr1 production,
205 but also an extended duration of ERK1/2 phosphorylation (Fig. 2C,D). This observation is

206 consistent with previous work that found that VopS's AMPylation of Rho GTPases inhibits host
207 ERK1/2 and c-Jun N-terminal kinase (JNK) MAPK pathways (15). This early pulse of VopQ-
208 dependent ERK1/2 MAPK signaling in MEFs is distinct from the previously reported VopQ-
209 dependent ERK1/2 phosphorylation in Caco-2 cells during late infection time points, 3-4 hours
210 post infection, as those assays were performed with *V. para* strains that encoded functional
211 T3SS1, T3SS2 and TdhAS hemolysins (19). Taken together, these data support the model that
212 the combined action of VopQ and VopS create a pulse of ERK1/2 MAPK signaling that is
213 restricted to early infection timepoints resulting in the controlled expression of downstream
214 transcription factors EGR1 and FOS.

215 If VopQ and VopS work together to fine-tune the host response, their co-occurrence in *Vibrio*
216 genomes containing the T3SS1 gene cluster would be predicted to be high. To test this, we used
217 the SyntTax server to identify all *Vibrio* strains that retained synteny in the T3SS1 gene
218 neighborhood (Table S7). We identified 58 *Vibrio* strains representing 8 species containing the
219 T3SS1 gene cluster and found that 91.4% of genomes containing *vopQ* also contained *vopS*
220 (53/58) (Table S7). We found that these genes co-occur in diverse *Vibrio* species including *V.*
221 *parahaemolyticus*, *V. diabolicus*, *V. antiquarius*, *V. campbelli* and *V. alginolyticus* (Fig. S4).
222 Interestingly, the 5 genomes containing *vopQ* but lacking *vopS* belonged to two *Vibrio* species,
223 *V. harveyi* and *V. tubiashii*.

224

225 *VopQ-induced pro-survival signaling is independent of endosomal deacidification*

226 Next, we wanted to understand how VopQ could activate ERK1/2 MAPK signaling in the host.
227 The VopQ channel de-acidifies vacuolar and lysosomal compartments, but also inhibits
228 homotypic fusion of yeast vacuoles, a model for Rab GTPase- and SNARE-dependent fusion

229 between the lysosome and autophagosome (9, 20). Mutation of serine 200 to a proline creates a
230 mutant, VopQ^{S200P}, that is still able to neutralize the vacuole or lysosome, but can no longer
231 block fusion (9). This observation is likely due to reduced binding of VopQ^{S200P} to the V-
232 ATPase (16). To test if VopQ's activation of ERK1/2 MAPK signaling was caused by one or
233 both of these functions, we exchanged the chromosomal copy of the *vopQ* gene in the *V. para*
234 T3SS1⁺ strain with a version encoding VopQ^{S200P} creating the *V. para* T3SS1⁺*vopQ*^{S200P} strain.
235 We tested the cytotoxicity of this strain during MEF infection and found that the VopQ^{S200P}
236 mutant was no less lethal than wild-type VopQ (Fig. S3A). However, unlike its parent strain, *V.*
237 *para* T3SS1⁺*vopQ*^{S200P} was unable to induce ERK1/2 phosphorylation and downstream
238 production of Egr1 in MEFs (Fig. 2E,F). Notably, treatment of MEFs with chloroquine, a drug
239 that prevents lysosomal acidification, is not able to induce phosphorylation of ERK1/2 (Fig. 2E).
240 These data suggest ERK1/2 MAPK signaling is not activated by lysosomal deacidification alone
241 and is instead dependent on VopQ's strong physical interaction with the V-ATPase. We
242 therefore propose two models by which VopQ could induce ERK1/2 MAPK signaling. In the
243 first, VopQ's inhibition of lysosome-autophagosome fusion directly activates ERK1/2 MAPK
244 signaling. In the second, VopQ manipulates another pathway upstream of both lysosome-
245 autophagosome fusion and ERK1/2, thereby altering these two pathways in parallel.

246

247 *VopQ-induced pro-survival ERK1/2 signaling is dependent on IRE1*

248 To test these models, we aimed to identify a signaling pathway that could be upstream of both
249 autophagosome-lysosome fusion and ERK1/2 MAPK signaling. The unfolded protein response
250 has previously been linked to both of these processes through IRE1's connections to the UPR
251 and the ERAD pathway (21-24). Moreover, induction of ER stress with a proline analogue was

252 previously shown to partially stimulate IRE1-dependent ERK1/2 activation to promote cell
253 survival by an undefined mechanism (25). To examine if the UPR played a role, we tested if
254 VopQ's activation of ERK1/2 and downstream EGR1 production was dependent on any of the
255 three branches of UPR: IRE1, ATF6, or PERK(26). We infected *IRE1*^{-/-} MEFs, *Atf6*^{-/-} MEFs,
256 *PERK*^{-/-} MEFs and wild-type MEFs with *V. para* T3SS1⁺ and *V. para* T3SS1⁻ and monitored
257 phosphorylation of ERK1/2 and accumulation of Egr1 by Western blot. While infection of *Atf6*^{-/-}
258 MEFs, *PERK*^{-/-} MEFs, and wild-type MEFs with *V. para* T3SS1⁺ resulted in robust ERK1/2
259 phosphorylation 45 and 60 minutes post-infection, phosphorylated ERK1/2 was not detected in
260 *IRE1*^{-/-} MEFs infected with *V. para* T3SS1⁺ (Fig. 3A,B). Consistent with this observation,
261 accumulation of Egr1 was also not observed in *IRE1*^{-/-} MEFs infected with *V. para* T3SS1⁺ (Fig.
262 3A). VopQ was still cytotoxic to *IRE1*^{-/-} MEFs (Fig. S5A), consistent with the maintained
263 cytotoxicity of VopQ^{S200P} in wild-type MEFs despite its inability to activate ERK1/2 (Fig. S3A).
264 These data suggest that VopQ induces ERK1/2 phosphorylation by an IRE1-dependent
265 mechanism.

266 VopQ-mediated cytotoxicity was also conserved in the *Atf6*^{-/-} and *PERK*^{-/-} MEFs (Fig. S5B,C).
267 Both the *Atf6*^{-/-} and *PERK*^{-/-} cell lines exhibited the same pattern of ERK1/2 phosphorylation and
268 Egr1 accumulation upon T3SS1⁺ infection as wild-type MEFs (Fig. 3B), indicating that VopQ's
269 activation of ERK1/2 was specifically IRE1-dependent. Finally, we stimulated wild-type, *IRE1*^{-/-},
270 *Atf6*^{-/-} and *PERK*^{-/-} MEFs with fetal bovine serum (FBS) to assess whether the well described
271 growth factor-stimulated ERK1/2 MAPK signaling was functional in these cell lines (27). FBS-
272 stimulated ERK1/2 phosphorylation and downstream Egr1 expression was observed in all cell
273 lines (Fig. 3C). These data strongly support our model that VopQ's IRE1-dependent activation of

274 ERK1/2 occurs through pathway that is separate from the established growth factor-stimulated
275 pathway mediated by Ras and Raf (27).

276

277 *VopQ expression results in IRE1 activation in yeast*

278 Next we asked if VopQ activates IRE1. VopQ toxicity is dependent on the assembly c subunit of
279 the V_o V-ATPase in yeast independent of the vacuolar localization of the complex. This led us
280 led us to hypothesize that interaction of VopQ and the c subunit ring could also take place in the
281 endoplasmic reticulum (ER) where the V_o complex initially forms (16). In addition, the ER is the
282 source of membranes for autophagosomes, thus a block in autophagic flux may also perturb the
283 protein to lipid ratio of the ER (28). We predicted that if either of these scenarios occurred, the
284 membrane perturbations caused by VopQ may activate the UPR, which is mediated by IRE1 in
285 yeast, either through the disruption of the ER lumen environment or through the activation of
286 lipid bilayer stress (29-32). IRE1 is a type I ER-resident transmembrane protein that contains a
287 protein kinase and an endoribonuclease domain in its cytoplasmic region (33). IRE1 also
288 contains an amphipathic helix which can sense perturbations in the lipid bilayer, leading to
289 activation and initiation of the UPR (30).

290 To test this hypothesis, we assessed the clustering of IRE1 in yeast by visualizing endogenously
291 expressed IRE1p-GFP (20). Plasmids carrying galactose-inducible genes encoding wild type
292 VopQ, a V-ATPase binding mutant VopQ^{S200P}, and VopA were transformed into the BY4741
293 IRE1-GFP yeast strain. VopA is a *V. para* T3SS2 effector that kills yeast by a mechanism that is
294 distinct from VopQ and was included as a control (34). Upon galactose induction serial growth
295 assays showed that VopQ and VopA both inhibited growth in the BY4741 IRE1-GFP strain
296 while VopQ^{S200P} and vector alone control did not (Fig. S6). We then monitored IRE1p-GFP

297 clustering, or foci formation, at 30 and 45 minutes post galactose induction by confocal
298 microscopy. Treatment with dithiothreitol (DTT) for the same period was used as a positive
299 control for UPR stress. Yeast expressing VopQ, but not VopQ^{S200P} or VopA induced IRE1p-GFP
300 foci formation (Fig. 3D). IRE1p-GFP foci formation was observed, on average, in about 70% of
301 DTT treated cells compared to about 15% in cells expressing VopQ (Fig. 3E). This difference
302 was expected because DTT treatment is homogeneous, whereas expression of VopQ is stochastic
303 (35). Our data indicate that expression of VopQ in yeast results in IRE1 activation.

304

305 *VopQ causes induction of the IRE1 branch of the UPR of mammalian cells during infection*

306 We next asked if VopQ also activates IRE1 in mammalian cells during infection. IRE1 is
307 normally sequestered by BiP, but is released upon UPR activation when it then oligomerizes,
308 *trans*-autophosphorylates and activates its endoribonuclease activity, resulting in the non-
309 conventional splicing of XBP1 mRNA in mammalian cells (36-38). To determine if the IRE1
310 branch of the UPR was activated by VopQ in early infection time points, we measured levels of
311 phospho-IRE1 α in MEFs by Western blot at 45 and 60 minutes post infection. Our results
312 indicate that *V. para* T3SS1⁺ induces IRE1 α phosphorylation in a VopQ-dependent manner (Fig.
313 3F) and that T3SS1⁺vopQ^{S200P} is not able to induce IRE1 α phosphorylation. Taken together,
314 these data indicate that the V-ATPase binding activity of VopQ activates the IRE1 branch of the
315 UPR in both MEFs and yeast.

316

317 *VopQ-induced pro-survival ERK signaling is dependent on IRE1 kinase activity*

318 Next, we wanted to further determine if the catalytic activities of IRE1 are required for VopQ-
319 induced ERK1/2 signaling. IRE1 contains both protein kinase and an endoribonuclease domain

320 in its cytoplasmic region (33). To test if the kinase or endonuclease activity of IRE1 is required
321 for ERK signaling, MEFs were treated before *V. para* infection with KIRA6 or 4 μ 8c, an IRE1
322 specific kinase inhibitor and a potent inhibitor of IRE1 RNase activity, respectively (Fig. 4A).
323 Strikingly, ERK1/2 phosphorylation and Egr1 protein expression were not observed in infected
324 MEFs treated with the kinase inhibitor KIRA6. However, 4 μ 8c treatment appeared to have no
325 effect on VopQ-induced ERK1/2 phosphorylation and Egr1 protein expression. Taken together,
326 this data indicates that the pro-survival ERK signaling induced by VopQ during *V. para* infection
327 is dependent on IRE1 kinase activity.

328

329 **Discussion**

330 By studying the function of two effectors of the T3SS1 of the seafood-borne pathogen *V. para*,
331 we have shown that T3SS effectors act together to systematically manipulate the host response.
332 We observe that the effector VopQ is responsible for the T3SS1-mediated activation of cell
333 survival and repression of cell death networks and another effector VopS is responsible for
334 dampening this response. Of note, VopS has been established to AMPylate and thereby
335 inactivate Rac, a known activator of MEK1/2 mediated ERK signaling(17). Furthermore, in
336 *Vibrio alginolyticus*, a *Vibrio* species closely related to *V. para*, VopS was found to be required
337 for the rapid induction of apoptosis in infected cells (39). The association of VopQ with the V-
338 ATPase elicits early activation of ERK1/2 phosphorylation that is turned off by the delayed
339 temporal action of VopS (Fig. 4B).

340 Manipulation of the V-ATPase to affect signaling in the cell has been previously observed with
341 oncogenic Ras, which induces a Rac-dependent plasma membrane ruffling and micropinocytosis.
342 However, in the case of oncogenic Ras, activation of Rac is dependent on the activity of the V-

343 ATPase along with its relocation to the plasma membrane (40). Importantly, the activation
344 ERK1/2 MAPK signaling by VopQ does not occur through the growth factor inducible Ras-
345 mediated pathway, but instead is dependent on the kinase activity of the ER stress sensor and
346 cell-fate executor, IRE1 (Fig. 4B). Activation of ERK1/2 MAPK signaling specifically through
347 the IRE1-branch of the UPR by a bacterial effector has not previously been reported.
348 The evolutionary conservation of *vopQ* and *vopS* in *Vibrio* species retaining synteny in the
349 T3SS1 neighborhood suggests that their concerted function is important for proper modulation of
350 the host response. Effector pairs with opposing effects yet synergistic effects during infection are
351 not unknown. YopJ and YopM of *Yersinia pestis* were previously described as having opposing
352 effects on Interleukin signaling and caspase-1 processing which synergistically suppressed pro-
353 inflammatory cytokines during infection (41). In *Salmonella*, the effectors SptP and SopE act as
354 respective GTP activating proteins (GAPs) and Guanine nucleotide exchange factors (GEFs) for
355 Cdc42 and Rac. Rapid degradation of SopE allows for the temporal regulation of Cdc42 and Rac
356 activity during *Salmonella* infection (42). Furthermore, *Legionella pneumophila* utilizes several
357 such pairs of effectors such as SidM/DrrA and LepB, SidH and LubX, and AnkX and Lem3 (43-
358 49). Together these effector pairs coordinate the establishment, maintenance and properly timed
359 escape from the LCV environmental niche *Legionella* requires to replicate (50, 51).
360 The targeting of autophagy, UPR and MAPK signaling together is not unprecedented for
361 pathogens. For example, the mycotoxin Patulin was found to manipulate these pathways through
362 the inhibition of cathepsin B and cathepsin D, which leads to an accumulation of p62. Increased
363 p62-mediated autophagy activates the PERK and IRE1 branches of the UPR through increased
364 reactive oxygen species production. UPR activation then results in activation of ERK1/2 and
365 phosphorylation of BAD, resulting in increased survival of host cells (52). Several viruses rely

366 on the interplay of UPR and MAPK signaling for virulence as well. Dengue virus (DENV) relies
367 on UPR activation of JNK signaling to induce autophagy and increase viral load of infected cells.
368 Treatment with a JNK inhibitor decreased viral titers and reduced symptoms of DENV2 in mice
369 (53). Recently the coronavirus infectious bronchitis virus (IBV) was found to rely on the
370 activation of IRE1 and ERK1/2, but not XBP1 or JNK, for the induction of autophagic flux and
371 pro-survival signaling during IBV infection (54).

372 We and others have observed that the ERK1/2 MAPK signaling can be regulated either directly
373 or indirectly through the IRE1 branch of the UPR. However, it remains unclear if VopQ's
374 induction of IRE1 signaling is caused by the manipulation of autophagy or via localized
375 perturbations in the ER membrane caused by VopQ's interaction with assembly intermediates of
376 the V-ATPase V_o subcomplex in the ER. Deciphering the epistatic relationship between VopQ's
377 association with the V-ATPase and activation of IRE1 will be the subject of future studies that
378 will be important in understanding the role of the V-ATPase-UPR-MAPK feedback network in
379 both cellular homeostasis and bacterial infection. Similarly, the interaction of VopQ with the V-
380 ATPase at the ER should be further studied to determine if this interaction is sufficient to
381 activate IRE1's lipid bilayer stress response and ERK1/2 MAPK signaling independently of
382 autophagy (31, 55). Other groups have hypothesized that Ire1's interaction with the adapter
383 protein Nck plays an important role in activation of ERK1/2 signaling upon ER stress; however,
384 whether IRE1's kinase or endonuclease activity are needed was unknown (25). Our studies
385 indicate that the kinase activity of IRE1 is required, but the mechanism by which IRE1 kinase
386 activity leads to ERK1/2 MAPK signaling is still poorly understood. Future experiments to
387 dissect the role of Nck and Rho GTPase activation in this process would be a valuable addition

388 to understanding this molecular mechanism of IRE1 induced, growth factor independent ERK1/2
389 MAPK signaling.

390

391 **Materials and Methods**

392 *Bacterial strains and culture conditions*

393 The *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* POR3 (POR1 Δ vcrD2) and POR4 (POR1 Δ vcrD1/vcrD2) strains
394 were generously provided by Drs. Tetsuya Iida and Takeshi Honda of Osaka University. *Vibrio*
395 strains were cultured at 30°C in MLB (Luria-Bertani broth +3% NaCl). All *V. para* strains except
396 *V. para* T3SS1⁺vopQ^{S200P} were from previous studies (Table S1). The T3SS1⁺vopQ^{S200P} strain
397 was created by cloning the vopQ^{S200P} allele (9) flanked by the nucleotide sequences 1 kb
398 upstream and 1 kb downstream of vopQ (vp1680) into pDM4, a Cm^ROriR6K suicide plasmid. *E.*
399 *coli* S17 (λ pir) was used to conjugate the resulting plasmid into the POR3 strain and
400 transconjugants were selected on media containing 25mg/ml chloramphenicol. Bacteria were
401 then counter-selected on 15% sucrose and insertion of the vopQ^{S200P} allele was confirmed by
402 PCR.

403

404 *Mammalian Cell Culture*

405 Primary Adult Dermal Fibroblasts ATCC[®] PCS-201-01 (PHDFs) were purchased from ATCC
406 and revived and maintained at 5% CO₂ and 37°C in Low Serum Primary Fibroblast Media
407 (ATCC) according to ATCC instructions. Wild-type Mouse Embryonic Fibroblasts (MEFs) were
408 gift of Dr. Jenna Jewell and IRE1^{-/-}, PERK^{-/-} and Atf6^{-/-} MEFs were kindly provided by Dr.
409 Fumiko Urano. MEFs were maintained at 5% CO₂ and 37°C in high-glucose Dulbecco's

410 modified Eagle's medium (DMEM, Gibco) supplemented with 10% (v/v) fetal bovine serum
411 (Sigma-Aldrich), 1% (v/v) penicillin-streptomycin-glutamine, and 1% (v/v) sodium pyruvate.

412

413 *Yeast strains and plasmids*

414 All yeast genetic techniques were performed by standard procedures described previously (56).

415 All strains were cultured in either rich (YPD: 1% yeast extract, 2% peptone, and 2% dextrose) or

416 complete synthetic minimal (CSM) media (Sigma) lacking appropriate amino acids with 2%

417 dextrose, 2% raffinose, or 2% galactose. Yeast were serially diluted and spotted onto agar plates

418 to assay fitness and temperature sensitivity per standard technique. Yeast strains used in this

419 study were BY4741 (MATa *his3Δ0 leu2Δ0 met15Δ0 ura3Δ0*) and BY4741 IRE1-GFP (MATa

420 *his3Δ0 leu2Δ0 met15Δ0 ura3Δ0 IRE1-GFP*) (Thermo Fisher) as indicated.

421 Plasmids pRS416-Gal1-FLAG-VopQ and pRS416-Gal1-FLAG-VopQ^{S200P} were generated by

422 sub-cloning pRS413-Gal1-VopQ and pRS413-Gal1-VopQ^{S200P} (previously published (9)) into

423 the *BamHI* and *EcoRV* sites of pRS416-Gal1. Plasmid pRS416-Gal1-VopA-FLAG was

424 generated by sub-cloning pRS413-Gal1-VopA-FLAG (previously published (34)) into the *EcoRI*

425 and *XhoI* sites of pRS416-Gal1.

426

427 *Infection of PHDFs for RNA-sequencing and quantitative RT-PCR*

428 For RNA-sequencing, PHDFs were seeded onto 6-well plates at a density of 1×10^5 cells/mL and

429 grown for 18-20 hours to ~80% confluency. Overnight *V. para* cultures were normalized to an

430 $OD_{600} = 0.2$ and sub-cultured to $OD_{600} = 0.6$. Bacteria were pelleted, resuspended in un-

431 supplemented DMEM and grown at 37°C for 45 minutes to pre-induce T3SS1 expression (14).

432 PHDFs were washed with un-supplemented DMEM and then infected with pre-induced *V. para*

433 strains at a multiplicity of infection (MOI) of 10. Plates were centrifuged at 1000xg for 5 minutes
434 to synchronize infection and incubated at 37°C, 5% CO₂. At 90 minutes post-infection,
435 RNAprotect Cell Reagent (Qiagen) was added to stop the infection and preserve the RNA. Cells
436 were harvested by scraping, pooled and pellets were resuspended in RLT-plus buffer (Qiagen)
437 and stored at -80°C. The same infection protocol was followed for qPCR experiments with
438 PHDFs and MEFs. For MEK1/2 inhibition qPCR experiments MEFs were incubated with 10µM
439 U0126 (Cell Signaling) or 10µM DMSO (vehicle) during and for one hour prior to infection.

440

441 *RNA Isolation and RNA-sequencing*

442 RNA isolation was performed the same for PHDFs and MEFs. Cells were lysed with 27G^{1/2}
443 needles and then homogenized with QiAshredder columns (Qiagen). Total RNA from triplicate
444 experiments were purified with the RNeasy Plus Kit (Qiagen). Quality of purified total RNA
445 samples was determined by Agilent 2100 Bioanalyzer and only samples with RIN score 9 or
446 higher were used. RNA concentration was measured by Qubit fluorimeter prior to library
447 prep. 4µg of total DNase treated RNA was run through the TruSeq Stranded Total RNA LT
448 Sample Prep Kit from Illumina as previously described(3). Samples were quantified by Qubit
449 before being normalized, pooled, and then sequenced on the Illumina Hiseq 2500 with SBS v3
450 reagents. Each sample was sequenced at a depth of at least 25 million 50-nucleotide single-end
451 reads.

452

453 *Infection of MEFs for Immunoblotting*

454 For ERK1/2 and Egr1 immunoblotting experiments, MEFs were starved in un-supplemented
455 DMEM for one hour prior to infection/treatment to remove background growth factor-stimulated

456 MAPK signaling. MEFs were not starved for in phospho-IRE1 α experiments in order to prevent
457 background activation of the UPR by nutritional stress. Cells were then infected at an MOI = 10
458 with *V. para* as described above or with treated DMEM supplemented with 10% (v/v) fetal
459 bovine serum (FBS, Sigma-Aldrich). To inhibit IRE1 nuclease and kinase activity, cells were
460 treated with 100 μ M 4 μ 8c for 24hrs and 100 μ M KIRA6 for 1hr before infection, respectively.

461

462 *Immunoblotting*

463 MEFs were infected as described above and washed with 1X ice-cold PBS and collected by
464 scraping at each timepoint. Collected cells were pelleted (1,000xg) and washed twice in ice-cold
465 1X PBS and lysed in RIPA buffer (50mM Tris, pH 8.0, 150mM NaCl, 5mM EDTA, 1% Nonidet
466 P-40, 0.5% sodium deoxycholate, 0.1% SDS) with protease and phosphatase inhibitors (Roche
467 Applied Science) for 20 minutes on ice. Total protein concentration of lysed supernatants was
468 determined by Bradford assay and all samples were normalized for total protein prior to gel
469 electrophoresis and immunoblotting. Total ERK1/2 and Phospho-ERK1/2 were detected with
470 Cell Signaling Technologies (CST) p44/42 MAPK (137F5) and P-p44/42 MAPK T202/Y204
471 (197G2) primary antibodies, respectively. EGR1 was detected using CST EGR1 (15F7) and β -
472 actin was detected by Sigma-Aldrich A2228 Monoclonal Anti- β -actin. Total IRE1 α and
473 Phospho-IRE1 α were detected by CST IRE1 α (14C10) and Novus IRE1 α (pSer724),
474 respectively. α -tubulin was detected by Santa Cruz α -tubulin (B-7). Secondary HRP-conjugated
475 antibodies used were donkey anti-rabbit (GE Healthcare) and goat anti-mouse (Sigma-Aldrich).

476

477 *IRE1p-GFP Clustering assay*

478 Yeast strains were grown to mid-log phase ($OD_{600} \sim 0.5$) in CSM media lacking uracil with 2%
479 raffinose. Cultures were then treated with 2% galactose, 2% raffinose, or 2% raffinose + 5mM
480 DTT for 30 or 45 minutes. Cultures were collected, resuspended in 1X PBS, and fixed with 4%
481 paraformaldehyde. Confocal images were acquired using a Zeiss LSM800 with Zen software.
482 Images were processed with ImageJ (National Institutes of Health) and Adobe Photoshop CS6.
483 For quantification, the presence of IRE1-GFP foci was scored in 100 cells per experiment over
484 three independent experiments.

485

486 *Statistical Methods*

487 For RNA-sequencing DE analysis statistical cutoffs were as follows: false discovery rate
488 (FDR) ≤ 0.01 , \log_2 counts-per-million (\log_2 CPM) ≥ 0 and the absolute value of fold change (FC)
489 ≥ 1.5 . For IPA pathway and biological network analysis the p values are presented as -
490 $\log(Pvalue)$ and the cutoff for significance was $p < 0.05$. FDRs and p values are reported in
491 Tables S2-6. For quantitative RT-PCR p values were calculated by one-way ANOVA and
492 Dunnett's multiple comparisons test. For the quantification of IRE1-GFP clustering p values
493 were calculated by Student's unpaired t-test (two-tailed).

494

495 Additional Materials and methods are available as supplementary materials

496

497 **Supplementary Materials**

498 Materials and Methods

499 **Fig. S1.** Rapid cytotoxicity of *V. para* T3SS1 is dependent on the effector VopQ.

500 **Fig. S2.** Analysis of RNA sequencing data and RT-qPCR verification.

501 **Fig. S3.** Conservation of T3SS1 VopQ-dependent cytotoxicity and MEK1/2 dependent EGR1
502 expression in MEFs.

503 **Fig. S4.** Co-occurrence of *vopQ* and *vopS* in *Vibrio* strains with T3SS1 synteny.

504 **Fig. S5.** VopQ-mediated cytotoxicity is conserved in UPR mutant cell lines.

505 **Fig. S6.** VopQ but not VopQ^{S200P} inhibits growth of BY471 IRE1-GFP yeast.

506 **Table S1.** Bacterial strains used in this work.

507 **Table S2.** Complete RNA sequencing Differential Expression Data.

508 **Table S3.** Differential Expression of T3SS1-specific genes.

509 **Table S4.** IPA Canonical Pathway Analysis of Differential Expression Data.

510 **Table S5.** IPA Network (Disease and Biofunction) Analysis of Differential Expression Data.

511 **Table S6.** Expression of alternate MAPK pathway target genes

512 **Table S7.** SyntTax VopQ and VopS cooccurrence in *Vibrio* genomes with T3SS1 Synteny.

513

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669

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681 Quantitative RT-PCR experiments were carried out by N.J.D. MEF infections and Westerns were
682 carried out by N.J.D, A.E.L, A.K.C., and F.S.C. Yeast strains were prepared by A.K.C. and IRE1-
683 GFP clustering assays were performed by A.K.C and N.J.D. Synteny analysis was carried out by
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687

688 **Competing interests:** The authors declare no competing financial interests

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690 **Data and materials availability**

691 The authors declare that the data supporting the findings of this study are available within the
692 paper and the Supplementary Information. Complete RNA-sequencing data has been deposited
693 on the Gene Expression Omnibus server (GSE120273). All data is available from the
694 corresponding author upon request.

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696 **Figure Legends:**

697 **Figure 1. VopQ and VopS have antagonistic effect on T3SS1-specific pathway and network**
698 **induction.**

699 **Figure 2. VopQ but not VopQ^{S200P} induces an early activation of ERK1/2 MAPK signaling.**

700 **Figure 3. Activation of ERK1/2 MAPK signaling by VopQ is dependent on IRE1**
701 **activation.**

702 **Figure 4. Activation of ERK1/2 MAPK signaling by VopQ is dependent on IRE1 kinase**
703 **activity**

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707 **Figures:**

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709 **Figure 1. VopQ and VopS have antagonistic effect on T3SS1-specific pathway and network**

710 **induction. A)** Illustration of temporal effector function during T3SS1-mediated cell death **B)**

711 Heatmap of normalized differential expression of previously identified T3SS1-specific

712 transcripts in uninfected (UN) primary human fibroblasts compared to primary human fibroblasts

713 infected with either *V. para* T3SS1⁺, T3SS1⁺ Δ vopQ, or T3SS1⁺ Δ vopS for 90 minutes. Yellow

714 denotes transcripts with relative increased abundance infected cells compared to UN cells, and

715 blue denotes a decreased abundance. Clusters (color bars on the left) were assigned through

716 hierarchical clustering of the differential expression data. **C)** Heatmap of predicted repression

717 (blue) and activation (yellow) Z-scores calculated from differential expression data for UN vs. *V.*

718 *para* T3SS1⁺, UN vs. *V. para* T3SS1⁺ Δ vopQ, and UN vs. *V. para* T3SS1⁺ Δ vopS using

719 QIAGEN's Ingenuity[®] Pathway Analysis software. The color key correlates the displayed

720 heatmap color and calculated Z-scores and gray denotes unaffected ($p>0.05$) pathways. **D)**

721 Heatmap of Ingenuity[®] Pathway Analysis Z-score prediction of repression (blue) or activation

722 (yellow) of biological networks after 90 minutes of POR3:T3SS1⁺, T3SS1⁺ Δ vopQ, and

723 T3SS1⁺ Δ vopS infection.

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729 **Figure 2. VopQ but not VopQ^{S200P} induces an early activation of ERK1/2 MAPK signaling.**

730 **A)** Immunoblot showing phosphorylated Erk1 and Erk2 (p-Erk1/2) and total Erk1/2 in starved
731 mouse embryonic fibroblasts (MEFs) 45, 60, 75 and 90 minutes post-infection with T3SS1⁺ or
732 T3SS1⁻ *V. para*. A pulse of p-Erk1/2 was observed early during infection with T3SS1⁺ but not
733 T3SS1⁻ *V. para*. **B)** Immunoblot for total Egr1 in starved MEFs 45, 60, 75 and 90 minutes post-
734 infection with POR3:T3SS1⁺ or POR3:T3SS1⁻. A rise in Egr1 protein levels over time is
735 observed only in T3SS1⁺-infected MEFs. **C)** Immunoblot for p-Erk1/2 and total Erk1/2 in
736 starved MEFs 45, 60, 75 and 90 minutes post-infection with T3SS1⁺ Δ vopQ or T3SS1⁺ Δ vopS *V.*
737 *para*. T3SS1⁺ Δ vopQ does not induce Erk1/2 phosphorylation while T3SS1⁺ Δ vopS induces
738 prolonged Erk1/2 phosphorylation. **D)** Immunoblot for total Egr1 in starved MEFs 45, 60, 75 and
739 90 minutes post-infection with *V. para* T3SS1⁺ Δ vopQ or T3SS1⁺ Δ vopS. No rise in Egr1 protein
740 levels is observed in T3SS1⁺ Δ vopQ-infected MEFs while T3SS1⁺ Δ vopS causes an increase in
741 Egr1 protein levels. Target band marked with a red line and background bands with a blue star.
742 **E)** Immunoblot showing p-Erk1/2 and total Erk1/2 in starved MEFs infected with T3SS1⁺,
743 T3SS1⁺vopQ^{S200P}, T3SS1⁺ Δ vopQ, and T3SS1⁺ Δ vopQ+pvopQ *V. para* strains for 45, 60, 75 and
744 90 minutes. No pulse of pERK1/2 is observed in T3SS1⁺vopQ^{S200P}-infected MEFs. **F)**
745 Immunoblot for total Egr1 in starved MEFs infected for 45, 60, 75 and 90 minutes with the same
746 *V. para* strains as in 3E T3SS1⁺vopQ^{S200P} does not trigger an increase Egr1 protein levels in
747 infected MEFs. Target band marked with a red line and background bands with a blue star. Blots
748 are representative of N=3 independent experiments.

749

750 **Figure 3. Activation of ERK1/2 MAPK signaling by VopQ is dependent on IRE1**
751 **activation. A)** Immunoblots for total Egr1, p-Erk1/2, and total Erk1/2 in starved wild-type (WT)
752 and *Irel*^{-/-} MEFS infected for 45 and 60 minutes with *V. para* T3SS1⁺ or *V. para* T3SS1⁻. Erk1/2
753 phosphorylation and increased Egr1 protein levels are not observed in *Irel*^{-/-} MEFS. **B)**
754 Immunoblots for total Egr1, p-Erk1/2, and total Erk1/2 in starved *Atf6*^{-/-} and *Perk*^{-/-} MEFS
755 infected for 45 and 60 minutes with *V. para* T3SS1⁺ or *V. para* T3SS1⁻. **C)** Immunoblots for total
756 Egr1, p-Erk1/2, and total Erk1/2 in starved (-) or FBS-stimulated (+) WT, *Irel*^{-/-}, *Atf6*^{-/-} and *Perk*^{-/-}
757 MEFS. Target band is marked with a red line and background bands with a blue star. Blots are
758 representative of N=3 independent experiments. **D)** Representative micrograph of Ire1p-GFP
759 cluster formation in yeast after 45 minutes of DTT treatment or effector expression. Scale bar is
760 5 microns **E)** Quantification of **D**. Average percent of cells (n=100) with Ire1p-GFP foci from
761 N=3 independent experiments. Error bars represent ±SEM. *p*-values were calculated by unpaired
762 t test (*****p*<0.0001). **F)** Immunoblot for p-Ire1α and total Ire1α in MEFs infected with
763 T3SS1⁺, T3SS1⁺Δ*vopQ*, T3SS1⁺Δ*vopQ*+*pvopQ*, and T3SS1⁺*vopQ*^{S200P} *V. para* strains for 45 and
764 60 minutes. Target band marked with a red line and background bands with a blue star. Blots are
765 representative of N=3 independent experiments.

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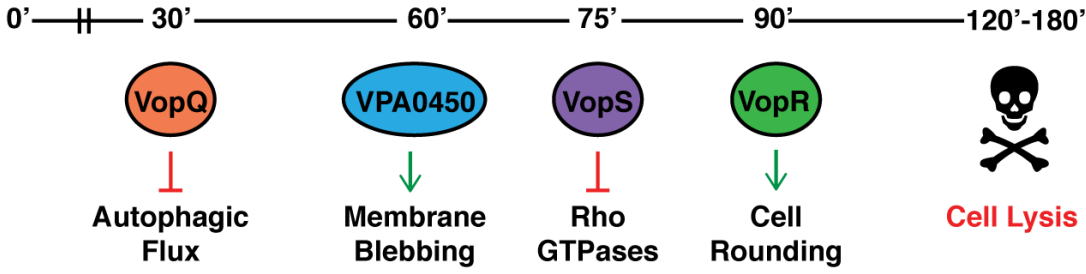
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775 **Figure 4. Activation of ERK1/2 MAPK signaling by VopQ is dependent on IRE1 kinase**
776 **activity. A)** Immunoblots for total Egr1, p-Erk1/2, and total Erk1/2 in starved wild-type (WT)
777 MEFS untreated or treated with 4 μ 8c or KIRA6 inhibitors for 24 hours and 1 hour, respectively
778 and infected for 45 and 60 minutes with *V. para* T3SS1⁺ or *V. para* T3SS1⁻. Erk1/2
779 phosphorylation and increased Egr1 protein levels are not observed in MEFS treated with
780 KIRA6 kinase inhibitor. Blots are representative of N=3 independent experiments. **B)** Model for
781 IRE1-dependent modulation of Erk1/2 MAPK signaling by VopQ and VopS during *V. para*
782 infection. Green arrows indicate activation and red lines depict inhibition. Dashed lines indicate
783 postulated connections in the model requiring future study. Specifically, it is possible that Rho
784 GTPases may be upstream of Ire1 and how VopQ's inhibition of autophagic flux affects Ire1
785 signaling and vice versa is unclear.

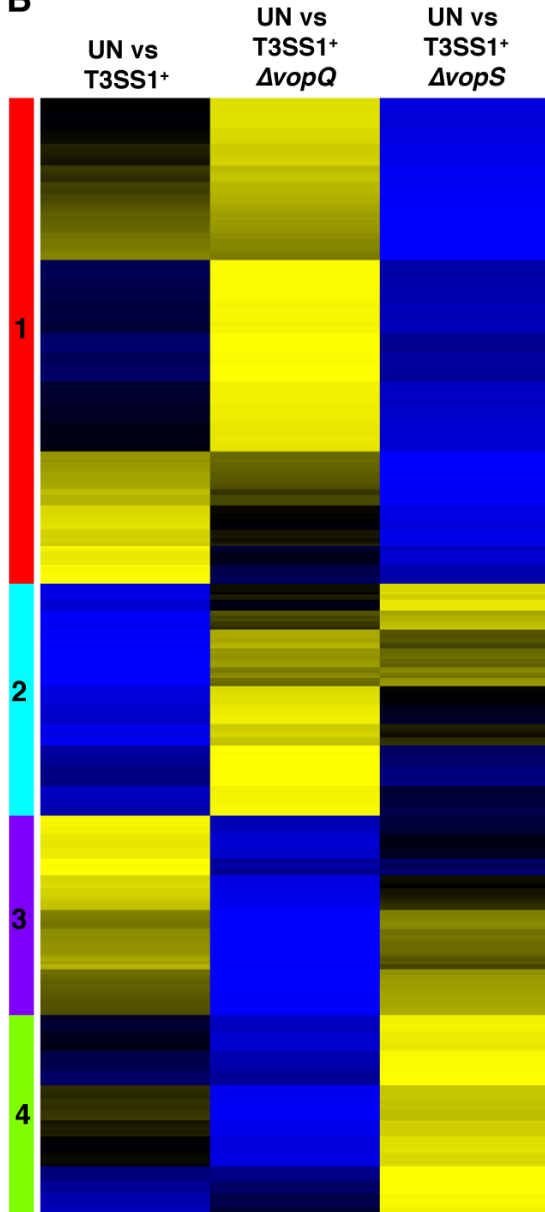
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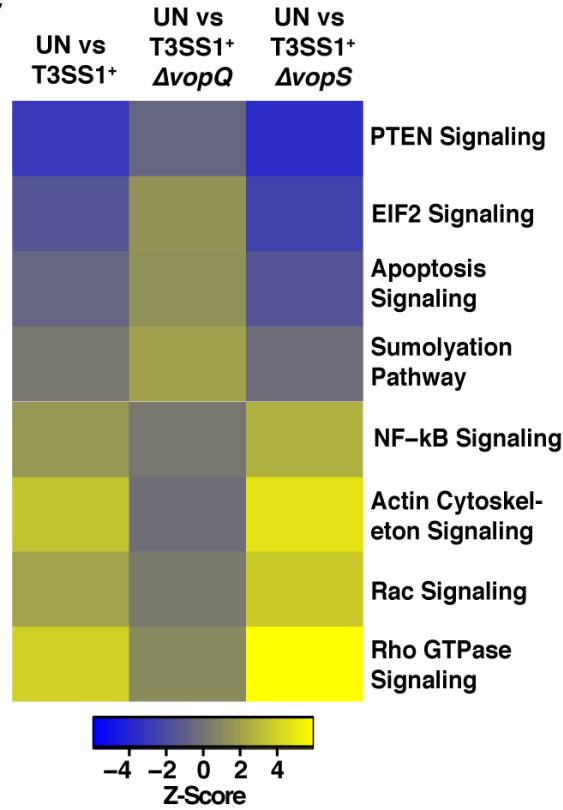
V. para T3SS1⁺ infection timeline



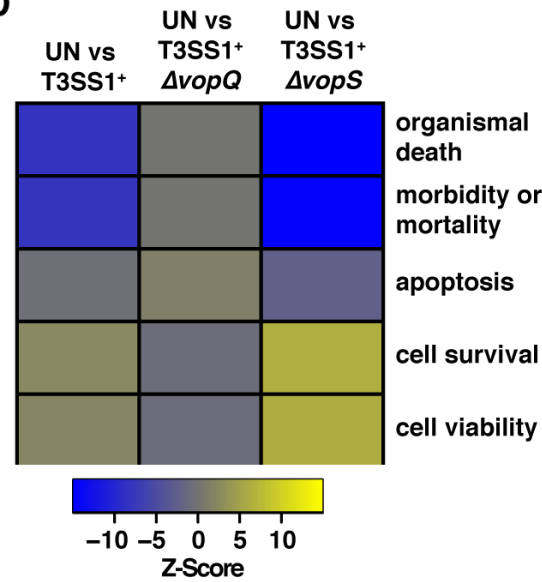
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