HIV-induced membraneless organelles orchestrate post-nuclear entry steps.

Viviana Scoca[1], Renaud Morin[2], Maxence Collard[1], Jean-Yves Tinevez[3], Francesca Di Nunzio[1*]

[1]*Advanced Molecular Virology Unit, Department of Virology, Institut Pasteur, Université Paris Cité, 75015 Paris, France*
[2] *Imactiv-3D, 1 Place Pierre Potier, 31106 Toulouse,*
[3] *Image Analysis Hub / C2RT, Institut Pasteur, Université Paris Cité, 75015 Paris, France*
corresponding author: dinunzio@pasteur.fr

Abstract

HIV integration occurs in chromatin sites that favor the release of high levels of viral progeny, alternatively the virus is also able to discreetly coexist with the host. The viral infection perturbs the cellular environment inducing the remodeling of the nuclear landscape. Indeed, HIV-1 triggers the nuclear clustering of the host factor CPSF6, but the underlying mechanism is poorly understood. Our data indicate that HIV usurps a recently discovered biological phenomenon, called liquid-liquid phase separation (LLPS), to hijack the host cell. We observed CPSF6 clusters as part of HIV-induced membraneless organelles (HIV-1 MLOs) in macrophages, which are one of the main HIV target cells. We describe that HIV-1 MLOs follow phase separation rules and represent functional biomolecular condensates. We highlight HIV-1 MLOs as hubs of nuclear reverse transcription, while the double stranded viral DNA, once formed, rapidly migrates outside these structures. Transcription-competent proviruses localize outside, but near HIV-1 MLOs, in LEDGF-abundant regions, known to be active chromatin sites. Therefore, HIV-1 MLOs orchestrate viral events prior to the integration step and create a favorable environment for the viral replication. This study uncovers single functional host-viral complexes in their nuclear landscape, which is markedly restructured by HIV-1.

Introduction

Immediately after fusion at the plasma membrane, HIV-1 cores are released into the cytoplasm and move towards the nucleus, while the viral RNA (vRNA) genome begins the process of reverse transcription (RT) into double-stranded viral DNA (ds vDNA) (Blanco-Rodriguez and Di Nunzio 2021; Campbell and Hope 2015; Di Nunzio 2013; V. Scoca and Di Nunzio 2021a). Once imported in the nucleus, the interplay between the HIV-1 DNA genome and the host chromatin compartment is crucial for the fate of the virus-host coexistence. Recent discoveries in early steps of HIV life cycle (Blanco-Rodriguez et al. 2020; Burdick et al. 2020; Dharan et al. 2020; Guedan et al. 2021; C. Li et al. 2021; Rensen et al. 2021; Selyutina et al. 2020; Zila et al. 2021) revise the commonly accepted models of uncoating (loss of the viral capsid) and reverse transcription as exclusively cytoplasmic processes (Farnet and Haseltine 1991; Suzuki and Craigie 2007). It has been found that HIV prompts clusters of the Cleavage and Polyadenylation Specificity Factor Subunit 6 (CPSF6) proteins outside the paraspeckles, but in co-localization with some nuclear speckle factors (Francis et al. 2020; Rensen et al. 2021). However, the nature, the behavior, and the underlying mechanism behind the establishment of these organelles are still unknown.

Here, we distinguish the topological duplicity of the post-nuclear viral entry phases: the early and the late. Early post-nuclear entry steps involve the formation of the HIV–induced membraneless organelles (HIV-1 MLOs), composed of CPSF6 clusters enlarged with viral factors. Late post-nuclear entry steps are characterized by the completion of the double-stranded vDNA synthesis and integration. The final products of the reverse transcription process are recruited into the pre-integration complex (PIC) eventually for viral integration and transcription. The vDNA nuclear dynamics and its surrounding chromatin landscape dictate the evolution of HIV infection (Maldarelli 2016; M. E. Sharkey et al. 2000; M. Sharkey et al. 2011). However, the mechanisms behind the fate of the proviral DNA in the nucleus remain unclear (Liu et al. 2020; Olson et al. 2019). These are challenging to study, also due to the limits imposed by available technologies. Real-time imaging approaches can provide new insight into unprecedented spatial information in single cells by tracking individual viruses.

Here, we perform single cell studies. We describe early post-nuclear entry steps in which the viral infection enhances the phase separation of CPSF6, building HIV-1

MLOs. Our results emphasize post nuclear entry steps as finely regulated by the
interplay between viral and host components. Of note, CPSF6 contains intrinsically
disordered mixed-charge domains which are responsible for the formation of liquid
condensates *in vitro* (Greig et al. 2020) and they may account for the formation of HIV-
1 MLOs in infected cells. Membraneless organelles are established through a recently
discovered biological phenomenon called liquid-liquid phase separation (LLPS) in
which molecules transition from a liquid state to a more solid state, similarly to oil and
water demixing (Alberti et al. 2019; Banani et al. 2016; Brangwynne et al. 2009). Our
data reveal that HIV-1 MLOs undergo biomolecular condensates' rules, concentrating
viral and host factors in the same niche and hosting nuclear reverse transcription.

For the study of the late post-nuclear entry steps, we labelled the newly synthesized
double-stranded (ds) vDNA through the HIV-1 ANCHOR system (Blanco-Rodriguez et
al. 2020). The ds vDNA is the only form included in the mature PIC able to give rise to
a functional infection. Through the tracking of the vDNA and transcriptional vRNA we
found that transcriptional viral foci are excluded but remain in the vicinity of HIV-1
MLOs. Our finds suggest HIV-1 MLOs' role in creating a surrounding microenvironment
favorable for viral replication. We provide new insights into how HIV reprograms and
markedly restructures the nuclear environment to orchestrate viral replication steps.

Results

HIV-1 MLOs are hubs of viral reverse transcription

Upon nuclear entry, the virus reprograms the nuclear localization of the host Cleavage
and Polyadenylation Specificity Factor Subunit 6 (CPSF6) from being randomly
dispersed in the nucleoplasm to discrete clusters (Figure 1A) (Bejarano et al. 2019;
Francis et al. 2020; Rensen et al. 2021). It has been suggested that the nuclear entry
of the viral capsid that interacts with CPSF6 (Buffone et al. 2018; Price et al. 2014)
could drive the formation of CPSF6 clusters (Francis et al. 2020). Indeed, viruses
carrying the capsid mutation N74D, unable to bind CPSF6, do not prompt CPSF6
clustering formation (Supplementary Figure S1A) (Selyutina et al. 2020). On the other
hand, this phenomenon could also be prompted by the overexpression of CPSF6
(Chaudhuri et al. 2020) due to the viral infection.

Here, we characterize the HIV-1 post-nuclear step and its interplay with the host
nuclear landscape in human macrophages. First, we evaluated the nuclear location of
the viral endogenous integrase (IN) protein by the immuno-labelling of the
hemagglutinin (HA) tag fused to the C-terminal domain of the IN (Blanco-Rodriguez et
al. 2020; Petit et al. 2000). We confirmed that the majority of the viral IN proteins
accumulate in foci occupied by CPSF6 clusters (Figure 1A and Supplementary Figure
S2A) (Francis et al. 2020; Muller et al. 2021; Rensen et al. 2021). To better define the
relevance of these viral-host clusters, we performed an immuno-RNA smiFISH (single
molecule inexpensive FISH), specific for HIV-1, and we uncovered the presence of
incoming viral RNA (vRNA) inside CPSF6 clusters (Figure 1B). Upon the block of
reverse transcription through Nevirapine (NEV) treatment, we observed incoming
vRNA genomes 100% located inside CPSF6 clusters. Likewise, in physiological
infection conditions at 48 hours (h) post-infection, without the drug treatment, vRNA
foci can be detected inside CPSF6 clusters (Figure 1B) in most of the cells. Only few
cells showed a mixed population of vRNA foci inside and outside, suggesting that the
detected vRNAs can have a different nature (Figure 1B). Thus, we asked the functional
role of the co-existence between the incoming vRNA and IN proteins sequestered
inside CPSF6 clusters. We performed in infected and uninfected macrophage-like cells
(THP-1), chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP) of the endogenous CPSF6 protein
followed by real-time PCR (Figure 1C and Supplementary Figure S1B). Early,
intermediate, and late reverse transcription (RT) products were amplified using
appropriate primers. Thus, different-stage RT products are associated with CPSF6,
suggesting an RT activity inside CPSF6 clusters, (Figure 1C). Our results corroborate
previous data showing EdU-labeled viral DNAs (vDNAs) clustering in nuclear niches
in macrophages (Francis et al. 2020; Rensen et al. 2021), where nuclear RT activity
has been detected once an inhibitor of the reverse transcriptase, the Nevirapine, was
removed (Rensen et al. 2021). Taken together, our new data combined with previous
results, indicate that CPSF6 clusters serve as hubs of nuclear reverse transcription.
We called these hubs hosting viral and host factors: HIV-1 membraneless organelles
(HIV-1 MLOs).

HIV-1 MLOs are phase separated condensates

Next, we investigated the phenomenon underlying the establishment of HIV-1 MLOs.
Membraneless organelles (MLOs) allow the fine regulation of complex functions in a

spatiotemporal manner (Banani et al. 2016; Fare et al. 2021). MLOs are generated by

a newly characterized liquid-liquid phase separation (LLPS) process, that can be

driven by the spontaneous assembly of intrinsically disordered regions (IDRs) present

in some proteins (P. Li et al. 2012). Of note, CPSF6 contains disordered regions, such

as arginine-enriched mixed-charge domains that have been evoked as responsible for

the phase separation features of this protein (Greig et al. 2020). To investigate whether

LLPS aids the virus to navigate into the nuclear space through CPSF6, we performed

the following experiments. First, we observed an increase in CPSF6 intensity

exclusively in the nucleus of infected cells (Figure 2A), in line with a recent observation

that HIV-1 induces an increase of CPSF6 proteins (Chaudhuri et al. 2020). This

observation suggests that CPSF6 during viral infection undergoes to LLPS, which is a

concentration-dependent phenomenon (Alberti et al. 2019). We also observed a

reduction of CPSF6 clusters in infected cells treated with 1,6 Hexanediol (1,6 HD). This

drug dissolves protein droplets driven by IDRs, commonly used to test LLPS *in vitro*.

However, these findings should be viewed with caution. Indeed, our experiment also

shows toxicity (nuclear morphology is drastically affected) due to this compound

(Supplementary Figure S2H), as previously reported (Wheeler et al. 2016). Second,

we found that CPSF6 clusters increase twice their volume along the time post-infection

(24 h p.i. vs. 72 h p.i.) and that they are spherical (Figure 2B), typical shape of liquid

droplets (Brangwynne et al. 2011; Strom and Brangwynne 2019). The mean intensity

of CPSF6 signal positively correlates with the mean intensity of IN proteins in the

cluster (Pearson's r= 0.8563) (Supplementary Figure S2A). Third, to evaluate their

dynamics, we live-tracked HIV-1 MLOs. We used differentiated THP-1 cells stably

expressing CPSF6 fused to mNeonGreen (Zhong et al. 2021). Of note, in about all

cases the endogenous-only CPSF6 clusters were occupied by the exogenous

fluorescent proteins and CPSF6 mNeonGreen clusters carried viral components, such

as the integrase (IN) (Supplementary Figure S2B). Thus, we performed time-lapse

epifluorescence microscopy at 5-min intervals to capture fusion events (Figure 2C and

Supplementary Video S1). We could appreciate the high dynamism of the HIV-1 MLOs,

which keep restoring their circular shape (Figure 2C and Supplementary Figure S2C).

Along our videos acquired between 24 to 72 h post infection, HIV-1 MLOs constantly

evolved and performed fusion and fission (Figure 2B and C, Supplementary Figure

S2C-E), which characterize LLPS-condensates. Next, to evaluate whether HIV-1

MLOs are characterized by high mobility of the proteins essentially depending on

diffusion, we performed fluorescence recovery after photobleaching (FRAP). CPSF6
free proteins in the nucleoplasm show high diffusion (Supplementary Figure S2F). In
the context of infected cells, we observed that after the laser irradiation (200 µs/px) the
florescence of CPSF6 cluster started to recover at ~ 2 minutes, indicating the exchange
of fluorescent CPSF6 molecules inside and outside the MLO (Figure 2D and
Supplementary Video S2), contrary to the viral IN cluster which does not recover after
bleaching (Supplementary Figure S2G). Nevertheless, this experiment is suggestive
of LLPS behaviour, which is in line with other fluorescent recoveries detected for other
factors that follow LLPS properties in nuclear speckles (Hong et al. 2020; Marzahn et
al. 2016; Taylor et al. 2019) (Supplementary Figure S2I). We have also observed that
CPSF6 clusters fully colocalize with the marker of nuclear speckles (NSs), SC35
(Figure 2E), in line with previous studies (Francis et al. 2020; Rensen et al. 2021).
CPSF6 IDRs are the major players to promote NS residence (Greig et al. 2020). We
remarked that CPSF6 and SC35 signals mainly occupy inter-chromatin space with low-
Hoechst stain (Figure 2E). We also confirmed that SC35 shows rapid recover of the
fluorescence signal after photobleaching (Supplementary Figure S2I) (Marzahn et al.
2016).

Our results inscribe HIV-1 MLOs in the plethora of biomolecular condensates (Alberti
et al. 2019). Our observations suggest that HIV-1 MLOs assemble through a multistep
process initiated by CPSF6-virus complexes then assembling via phase-separation.
The condensates seem to exhibit a central stable structure decorated by highly
dynamic CPSF6 proteins that exchange with the surrounding environment.

The newly synthesized double-stranded viral DNA separates from HIV-1 MLOs
To decipher the nuclear location of the newly synthesized ds vDNA we benefited from
the HIV-1 ANCHOR DNA tagging system (Supplementary Figure S3A) (Blanco-
Rodriguez et al. 2020). Once fully reverse transcribed, the HIV-1 genome carrying the
bacterial sequence ANCH3 is specifically recognized by OR-GFP protein, which is
expressed in the target cells, genetically modified by the lentiviral vector (LV) OR-GFP
(Blanco-Rodriguez et al. 2020) (Supplementary Figure S3A). The accumulation of OR-
GFP, which is a modified version of the bacterial ParB protein (Graham et al. 2014;
Sanchez et al. 2015), on the ANCH3 sequence generates bright nuclear signals
(Figure 3A and B, Supplementary Figure S3 B and C). OR protein binds exclusively
the ds DNA (Saad et al. 2014). We cloned ANCH3 in the nef gene, thus, HIV-1

ANCHOR system exclusively detects the final products of the RT, because the ANCH3 sequence is one of the last sequences to be converted into ds DNA (Supplementary Figure S3A). Thus, the system tracks the vDNA forms that will potentially be engaged in the PIC. Unlike previous studies based on viral protein tracking (Burdick et al. 2017; Burdick et al. 2020; Chin et al. 2015; Francis and Melikyan 2018; Francis et al. 2020; Lelek et al. 2012), we are now able to directly visualize in fixed and live cells individual nuclear vDNA (GFP spots). The high specificity of HIV-1 ANCHOR system to detect the newly synthesized vDNA is shown by the correlation between the nuclear GFP puncta and the MOI (multiplicity of infection) used (Supplementary Figure S3B). In addition, the RT inhibitor, NEV, completely prevents the detection of vDNA (Supplementary Figure S3B). We also assessed that HIV-1 ANCHOR can detect both vDNAs, episomal and integrated forms. Indeed, this labeling system can reveal intranuclear GFP spots in infected cells treated with an inhibitor of integration, Raltegravir (RAL), or by using an integration defective virus (HIV-1 ANCH3 IN_{D116A}) as confirmed by qPCR (Supplementary Figure S3C). Importantly, we also observed that HIV-1 ANCHOR is sufficiently sensitive to allow the detection of a single provirus, as shown by the results of HIV integrations (ALU PCR) and of single cell imaging of a selected clone (Supplementary Figure S3D).

Intriguingly, when we labelled late reverse transcripts with respect to the IN foci hosted in HIV-1 MLOs, we found a complete separation, since their association was extremely rare (Figure 3A). The HIV-1 IN-vDNA nuclear dynamics represent a long-standing and debated topic. There are, indeed, multiple challenges due to the short-time nature of the event or the technical limitations of vDNA and IN visualization. Thus, to confirm our data we performed live-imaging, asking whether we could pinpoint the dynamic evolution of this separation, coupling the HIV-1 ANCHOR system with the Gag-integrase-Ruby (GIR) virus (generous gift from E. Campbell) (Dharan et al. 2016; Hulme et al. 2015) (Figure 3B and Supplementary Video S3). The virus is produced using a viral genome carrying ANCH3 sequence together with the GIR plasmid, incorporating fluorescent IN proteins in the viral particle. Performing multiple videos in THP-1 cells during a non-synchronized infection we found IN foci (marking HIV-1 MLOs) in which several vDNA puncta arose before their separation (Figure 3B and Supplementary Video S3). We analysed the association of the two signals that rapidly decreases (Figure 3B). According to these data, there is formation of final products of

reverse transcription inside HIV-1 MLOs. Of note, in fixed cells we can label the
nascent vDNAs via EdU incorporation, that remain mostly associated with the CPSF6
clusters, as opposed to the late reverse transcription products which are mainly
detected outside the CPSF6 clusters (Supplementary Figure S3E). The vDNA/IN
separation data in fixed and live cells indicated that final products of the RT are
released from HIV-1 MLO sites once synthesized, in line with a recent study (Muller et
al. 2021). At three days p.i., nearly all double-stranded late reverse transcripts were
excluded from HIV-1 MLO cores (Figure 3C), as also suggested from the separation
of the vDNA from the IN puncta (Figure 3A and B). The majority of the viral IN visible
by confocal remain sequestered in CPSF6 clusters (Figure 1A), likely part of the
multiple viruses retained in these organelles. Overall, our results indicate that IN
proteins that are part of individual HIV PIC can be hardly visualized. The limit of
resolution of a conventional light microscope can account for the inability to track a
single HIV-PIC, even if IN proteins form high-order structures in an individual PIC
(Ballandras-Colas et al. 2017; Hare et al. 2009; Passos et al. 2017; Passos et al. 2020).
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Next, we investigated the nuclear space distribution of the final products of the reverse
transcription. We computed the 3D distances of the ds vDNAs from the boundary of
the closest NS or nuclear envelope (NE). We calculated that the vDNAs are located
closer to NS than to the NE, at a distance ~ 0.57 µm in average (Figure 3C). Therefore,
our results show that the vDNAs labelled by HIV-1 ANCHOR are mainly excluded from
HIV-1 MLOs.
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HIV-1 active proviruses locate outside HIV-1 MLOs
Taking in consideration that the ds vDNAs are found outside HIV-1 MLO (Figure 3A-
C), we wondered about the location of viral transcription sites that allow the viral
replication. Thus, we coupled HIV-1 ANCHOR with RNA FISH to co-detect the vDNA
and the vRNA. The vDNA/vRNA association analysis highlights the transcription sites
of the virus in both differentiated THP-1 cells and primary monocyte-derived
macrophages (MDMs) (Figure 4A). Not all vDNAs were associated with a
transcriptional focus, because the episomal forms are less actively transcribed than
integrated vDNAs. However, some vDNAs co-localize with bright vRNA spots (RNA
FISH), suggesting that these are active proviruses.
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Next, we focused on the nuclear location of active proviruses in MDMs infected with
HIV-1 GFP reporter virus to monitor viral expression (Figure 4B and C, Supplementary
Figure S4A). Through the immuno-RNA FISH we were able to co-visualize CPSF6
clusters and HIV-1 vRNA as incoming genomes and viral transcription foci. We
observed that at three days p.i., MDMs treated with NEV contain only incoming vRNAs
sequestered in CPSF6 clusters (Figure 4B), similarly to THP-1 cells (Figure 1B). On
the other hand, untreated cells presented a mixed population of vRNA foci inside and
outside HIV-1 MLOs (Figure 4B). The percentage of excluded vRNA foci correlates
with GFP expression (Pearson's r ~0.63) suggesting that these foci are actively
transcribing proviruses (Figure 4B and C).

Moreover, we found that the mean intensity of the vRNA signal in HIV-1 MLOs (MLOs
have been selected for the sphericity >95% (Supplementary Figure S4B) was higher
in average in NEV treated cells compared to untreated cells (Figure 4D), likely due to
an ongoing RT process (Figure 1C). The MLOs-excluded vRNA foci can be also
tracked down by coupling HIV-1 ANCHOR (vDNA detection) to immune-RNA FISH
(vRNA detection), indicating that the sites of viral transcription locate outside HIV-1
MLOs (Supplementary Figure S4C). These results are supported by the decrease in
number of excluded foci in infected cells treated with RAL (Supplementary Figure S4D)
which do not show HIV-1 GFP reporter signal and consistent with the notion that
episomal forms transcribe much less than proviruses (Dupont et al. 2021).

The immune-RNA FISH highlights both vRNA foci inside and outside the MLO (Figure
5A). On the contrary, when we applied MCP-MS2 system (kind gift from E. Bertrand)
(Tantale et al. 2016), we were able to exclusively visualize vRNAs located outside HIV-
1 MLOs. Upon block of viral integration (RAL), we could rarely detect vRNA foci, due
to the low level of transcription of episomal forms (Dupont et al. 2021), while in absence
of drug we could highlight several vRNA foci, indicating that these bright spots are
active proviruses located outside CPSF6 clusters (Supplementary Figure S5A). Thus,
MCP-MS2 applied in the context of HIV, exclusively detects viral transcription foci
(Figure 5B and Supplementary Figure S5A). Besides, we observed that MCP-GFP is
hindered in binding incoming vRNA and it is filtered out by HIV-1 MLOs. In fact, upon
NEV treatment no viral RNA species were detected inside CPSF6 clusters (Figure 5B).
The specificity of MCP-MS2 in the binding vRNA transcription foci could be due to the

steric hindrance from the capsid that shields the vRNA genome (C. Li et al. 2021;
Muller et al. 2021; Zila et al. 2021) or because MLOs can act as selective filters (Alberti
et al. 2019). However, further investigations are needed to better characterize this
phenomenon. In addition, this approach allows the live tracking of individual proviral
transcription foci by coupling it to HIV-1 ANCHOR technology (Supplementary Figure
S5B). Overall, MCP-MS2 is a valuable tool to study the interplay between active
proviruses and the surrounding nuclear landscape. Thus, we used MCP-MS2 system
to compute the 3D distances of viral transcription foci from the closest NS boundary or
the NE. We observed that viral replication sites locate in the NS-surrounding chromatin
(avg ~ 0.57 μm) (Figure 5C). These results, uploaded on bioRxiv in 2020 (Viviana
Scoca et al. 2020) have been confirmed by a recent study from another group (Burdick
et al. 2022). It has been found by genomic approaches that HIV-1 favours integration
in speckle associated domains (SPADs) (Francis et al. 2020), known to be active
chromatin loci (Kim et al. 2020). Now, our study allows to spatially distinguish and
visualize individual vRNA transcription foci in single cell. We were able to appreciate
the nuclear topology of active proviruses.
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The HIV-1 replication occurs in LEDGF-chromatin sites near HIV-1-MLOs in
macrophage-like cells
We explored the nuclear landscape surrounding HIV-1 MLOs using HIV-1 ANCHOR
and MCP-MS2 labelling systems. Lens Epithelium-Derived Growth Factor (LEDGF)
(Ciuffi et al. 2005), which is a host partner of the viral IN (Cherepanov et al. 2003;
Ciuffi et al. 2005; Emiliani et al. 2005; Ferris et al. 2010; Hare et al. 2009; Lelek et al.
2015; Llano et al. 2006; Shun et al. 2007; Shun et al. 2008; H. Wang et al. 2014),
participates in HIV-1 integration sites distribution. We observed that LEDGF forms
clusters independently of viral infection in macrophage-like cells (THP-1)
(Supplementary Figure S6). LEDGF is located in active chromatin regions because its
PWWP domain has been shown to interact with H3K36me3 (Pradeepa et al. 2012;
Pradeepa et al. 2014), which is a marker of euchromatin. This post-translational
modification is enriched in HIV-1 integration sites (Ciuffi et al. 2005; Lelek et al. 2015;
Vansant et al. 2020; G. P. Wang et al. 2009). In this study we found LEDGF to be
associated with the proviruses forming a complex visible by imaging (Figure 6A),
dissociated from CPSF6 clusters (Figure 6A). In average ~64% of vDNA and ~73% of
vRNA foci per nucleus were found in complex with LEDGF (Figure 6A). LEDGF is also

known to interact with splicing factors (Singh et al. 2015). This agrees with our data showing vDNA and vRNA localized in average at ~ 0.57 μm from the closest NS (Figure 3C and 5C). Our data support HIV-1-targeted active chromatin surrounding HIV-1 MLOs. More in detail, the foci of viral transcription locate at less than 1 μm from the closest HIV-1 MLO (CPSF6+SC35), whereas the total vDNAs (episomal or integrated forms) are more distant, in average ~1.8 μm (Figure 6B).

Overall, our results indicate that HIV-1 MLO-neighboring active chromatin regions, marked by LEDGF and in proximity of NS, favour HIV-1 integration, creating a suitable environment for viral replication.

Discussion

Pathogens, such as HIV-1, able to integrate their genome into the host DNA have evolved to target chromatin both to favor the release of new progeny and to optimize their coexistence with the host (Bushman 2003). Even though HIV-1 infection is characterized by the silent persistence of the virus in the host cell, HIV needs to rapidly generate high levels of virions during the acute phase, intuitively explaining the preference of active genes as integration targets (Ciuffi et al. 2005; Di Nunzio et al. 2013; Lelek et al. 2015; Maldarelli 2016; Schroder et al. 2002).

Thus far, CPSF6 has been described as crucial partner of HIV-1 capsid (Buffone et al. 2018; Lee et al. 2010; Price et al. 2014) and as player in HIV-1 integration site selection (Achuthan et al. 2018; Buffone et al. 2018; Sowd et al. 2016). When CPSF6 was first discovered, a deletion mutant of CPSF6 unable to translocate in the nucleus was found as a potent inhibitor of HIV-1 infection (Lee et al. 2010). Here, we provide new insights on the properties of CPSF6 protein clusters induced by the infection, and we unravel their unexpected role in HIV-1 pre-integration steps in non-dividing cells, known to be an important cellular reservoir (Ganor et al. 2019; Kruize and Kootstra 2019; Real and Bomsel 2019; Veenhuis et al. 2021). CPSF6 proteins have been previously shown to cluster in NSs upon viral infection (Francis et al. 2020; Rensen et al. 2021). We observed that CPSF6 proteins form condensates that occupy the interchromatin space (Figure 2E) and host multiple viral components, at early times post-infection (Figure 1A-B). These host-viral condensates form even in the absence of reverse transcription

(Figure 1B), implying their relevance in early post-nuclear entry stages. Multiple viral EdU-labelled DNA copies strongly colocalize with CPSF6 clusters (Supplementary Figure S3E) (Francis et al. 2020; Rensen et al. 2021). Indeed, the ChIP of the endogenous CPSF6, followed by real time PCR in infected THP-1 cells (48 h p.i.), shows an abundance of early, intermediate, and late reverse transcription products. We also observed that the amount of the vRNA inside CPSF6 clusters decreases if there is an RT in progress compared vRNA sequestered in CPSF6 clusters in presence of NEV (Figure 4D). These data are in line with our previous study that highlighted the existence of a nuclear reverse transcription, observed when the NEV was removed, restoring the reverse transcription inside CPSF6 clusters (Rensen et al. 2021).

We named these nuclear viral/host niches HIV-induced membraneless organelles "HIV-1 MLOs" (Viviana Scoca and Di Nunzio 2021b) and we investigated their liquid-liquid phase separation (LLPS) properties in the cell. CPSF6 contains intrinsically disordered mixed-charge domains which are responsible for the formation of CPSF6 condensates *in vitro* (Greig et al. 2020). On the other hand, it seems that the binding of CPSF6 to the viral capsid is essential to observe CPSF6 clusters (Supplementary Figure S1A). Thus, we propose that CPSF6 interacts with viral complexes via the CA binding domain and the phase separation properties aid the virus to navigate inside the nuclear space to form HIV-1 MLOs. We show that HIV-1 MLOs match LLPS properties in the cells, being dynamic functional condensates and evolving along infection (Figure 2). Furthermore, the recovery of CPSF6 fluorescence after photobleaching indicates the importance of CPSF6 equilibrium maintenance in these structures (Figure 2D). CPSF6 phase-separation with viral reverse transcription complexes may be induced as response to the nucleoplasm perturbation by HIV, to find a new protein(s) balance. Of note, CPSF6 plays key biological functions, such as in the mRNA processing. We observed an increase of the amount of this protein upon viral infection (Figure 2A) and this phenomenon could ensure a bimodal role of CPSF6, one for the biology of the host cell and the other for the viral replication.

Our data hinted that HIV-1 MLOs play a role in pre-integration steps. To characterize the later nuclear stages of the virus, we exploited HIV-1 ANCHOR system, which is the only DNA labelling approach permitting in fixed and live cells to track HIV-1 ds DNA, including proviruses (Supplementary Figure S3D, Figure 4A and Supplementary

Figure S5B). The final reverse transcription products rarely co-localize with IN foci,
leaving HIV-1 MLO (Figure 3A-C). This may be due to the inability of confocal
microscopy to detect the INs that are part of the PIC or because the integration event
occurs at the surface of the HIV-1 MLO to rapidly go further. We can live-track both,
proviral and episomal forms using HIV-1 ANCHOR but we cannot distinguish them,
however we can follow the moment of their release from HIV-1 MLOs. At three days
post infection, in non-dividing cells, the vDNA population is composed of both episomal
and proviral forms. Next, results obtained by the confocal microscope indicate that the
vDNAs labeled by HIV-1 ANCHOR are excluded from the MLOs and the majority
locates around 0.57 µm from the closest SC35-marked nuclear speckle (Figure 3C).
Likely, HIV exploits the induced CPSF6 clusters to generate pre-integration complexes
(PICs), which then will depart from these interchromatin sites (Figure 3B). Notably,
HIV-1 ANCHOR is sensitive enough to enlighten single proviruses (Supplementary
Figure S3D) and through the coupling with virus-specific RNA smiFISH (Tsanov et al.
2016) it is possible to reveal transcriptionally active proviruses (Figure 4A). The RNA
FISH in primary macrophages displays viral transcription foci excluded from CPSF6
clusters, as previously hinted by the vDNA location. The vRNA foci excluded from
MLOs positively correlate with the GFP expression used as viral reporter gene (Figure
4B and C), indicating that the viral replication occurs outside HIV-1 MLOs, while the
vRNA genomes reverse transcribe inside (Figure 1C, 3B and 4D).

We finally focused on the nuclear landscape of viral expression, exploiting MCP-MS2
tagged viruses, which mark viral transcription foci only, contrary to the RNA FISH
(Figure 5B and Supplementary Figure S5A and B). Viral RNA transcription foci locate
outside HIV-1 MLOs, but in proximity of NSs (Figure 5C). LEDGF associates with
highly-spliced transcriptional units through its direct interaction with several splicing
factors (Singh et al. 2015) and determines HIV-1 integration sites distribution in active
chromatin sites (Ciuffi et al. 2005; Ferris et al. 2010; Shun et al. 2007). However, a
complex formed by the vDNA or vRNA and LEDGF was never highlighted by
fluorescence imaging (Figure 6A). We uncovered that most of the cells present a high
percentage of vRNA foci associated with LEDGF (Figure 6A), highlighting the active
nature of HIV-1 targeted domains. Lastly, the vRNA transcription foci are closer to
CPSF6 + SC35 condensates compared to the total ds vDNA nuclear forms, suggesting

that the HIV-1 MLOs-neighbouring regions are preferred hubs of viral replication (Figure 6B).

Taken together our results show that CPSF6 phase-separates to generate speckles-enlarged MLOs prompted by the virus, likely, to usurp functions linked to speckle factors. We propose the following model: HIV-1 MLOs host viral complexes and their nuclear reverse transcription, but once the ds vDNA is synthesized, this is released from them. The nuclear speckle-associated chromatin is a favorable environment for viral replication since active proviruses locate at less than 1 μm from the closest HIV-1 MLOs (Figure 6B). Our study supports how new single-cell level approaches are pivotal in the study of functional nuclear dynamics of viruses, to discriminate the cells susceptible to fuel viremia or that concur to viral persistence.

Materials and Methods

Cell lines, primary cells and generation of HIV-1 ANCH3 single-cell clones.

THP-1 (ATCC) are immortalized monocytic cells that once seeded, were differentiated into macrophage-like cells under Phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate (PMA) treatment (160 nM). HEK 293T cells (ATCC) are human embryonic kidney cells used to produce lentiviral vectors and HIV-1. HeLa P4R5 are β-galactosidase reporter cells expressing CD4, CXCR4, CCR5 (Charneau et al. 1994). HeLa MCP-GFP cells stably express MCP-GFP bacterial fusion protein (Tantale et al. 2016). THP-1 cells were cultivated in RPMI 1640 medium supplemented with 10% Fetal Bovine Serum (FBS) and 1% penicillin-streptomycin solution (100 U/mL). HEK293T and HeLa P4R5 cells were cultivated in DMEM medium supplemented with 10% Fetal Bovine Serum (FBS) and 1% penicillin-streptomycin (100 U/mL). Primary monocyte-derived macrophages (MDMs) were obtained by PBMCs buffy coat isolation from healthy donors' blood via EFS (Etablissement Français du Sang, Paris), through density gradient centrifugation with Ficoll 400. The PBMCs were then incubated at 37°C for 2 hours, next, non-adherent cells were washed away, and complete RPMI 1640 medium was supplemented with M-CSF (10 ng/mL). After 3 days, the medium was changed with RPMI without M-CSF and cells were left to differentiate for another 4 days before proceeding with experiments.

HIV-1 ANCH3 single-cell clone was generated starting from HeLa P4R5 cells which
were infected with HIV-1 ANCH3 (MOI 1). Cells were diluted to 1 cell per well, in 96-
well plates. Cell-clone colonies were tested for β-galactosidase expression to check
viral infectivity (kit Roche #11758241001). Positive clones were transduced with the
lentiviral vector (LV) CMV-OR-GFP for the imaging of HIV-1 ANCH3 provirus.
All cells were kept in incubator at 37°C and 5% CO_2.
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Plasmids, lentiviral vectors, and viral productions.
HIV-1ΔEnvIN$_{HA}$ΔNef plasmid encodes for the ΔEnvHIV-1 LAI (BRU) viral genome
where the integrase (IN) protein is fused to the hemagglutinin (HA) tag (Petit et al.
1999, 2000). HIV-1ΔEnvIN$_{HA}$ΔNef ANCH3 (HIV-1 ANCH3) was obtained through
ANCH3 insertion: ANCH3 sequence was cloned by PCR using the template plasmid
pANCH3 as we previously described in Blanco et al. (Blanco-Rodriguez et al. 2020).
The ANCHOR^{TM} technology and sequences are exclusive property of NeoVirTech
(Germier et al. 2017; Mariame et al. 2018). HIV-1ΔEnv IN$_{HA}$(D116A) ΔNef ANCH3
(HIV-1 ANCH3 IN$_{D116A}$) was obtained by insertional mutagenesis using the
QuikChange II XL Site-Directed Mutagenesis kit (Agilent #200522), for integrase (IN)
mutation at D116. The lentiviral vector plasmid pSICO-CPSF6-mNeonGreen encoding
CPSF6 fluorescent fusion protein was a gift from Zandrea Ambrose (Addgene plasmid
167585 ; http://n2t.net/addgene:167585 ; RRID:Addgene_167585).
The lentiviral vector SC35-mRuby plasmid was kindly provided to us by R. Parker
(University of Colorado). HIV-1ΔEnvIN$_{HA}$ΔNef ANCH3 MS2 plasmid was obtained by
inserting the MS2x64 sequence, from pMK123-MS2x64 plasmid, (kindly provided by
E. Bertand, IGH, Montpellier) (Tantale et al. 2016) in HIV-1ΔEnvIN$_{HA}$ΔNef ANCH3.
HIV-1 ΔEnv Δnef IRES GFP plasmid encodes for the ΔEnvHIV-1 NL4.3 GFP viral
genome (Rensen et al. 2021). The lentiviral vector plasmids CMV OR-GFP and CMV
OR-SANTAKA were obtained by cloning OR-GFP/OR-SANTAKA cassette (plamids
from NeoVirTech) in a pTripCMV (ΔU3) plasmid through PCR using restriction site,
AgeI and SgrDI.
Lentiviral vectors and HIV-1 viruses were produced by transient transfection of
HEK293T cells through calcium chloride coprecipitation. Co-transfection was
performed as follows: for lentiviral vectors 10 μg of transfer vector, 10 μg of packaging
plasmid (gag-pol-tat-rev) and 2.5 μg of pHCMV-VSV-G envelope plasmid; for VSV-G
HIV-1ΔEnv viruses: 10 μg HIV-1ΔEnv plasmid, 2.5 ug of pHCMV-VSV-G plasmid.

Lentiviral vectors and viruses for transduction/infection of THP-1 and MDM cells were
produced in combination with 3 µg of SIV$_{MAC}$ Vpx (Durand et al. 2013). HIV-1 ANCH3
IN$_{D116A}$ has been also produced in combination with GIR (Gag-IN-Ruby plasmid)
(Dharan et al. 2016; Hulme et al. 2015) for IN/vDNA live microscopy. After the
collection of the supernatant 48h post-transfection, lentiviral particles were
concentrated by ultracentrifugation for 1 h at 22000 rpm at 4°C and stored at −80°C.
Lentiviral vectors and viruses were titred by qPCR in HEK293T cells, 3 days post
transduction.
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Chromatin Immunoprecipitation with qPCR
Four hundred million of THP-1 cells infected or not with HIV-1 (MOI 5) were fixed with
1% formaldehyde for 15 min and quenched with 0.125 M glycine, then sent to Active
Motif Services (Carlsbad, CA) to be processed for ChIP-qPCR. In brief, chromatin was
isolated by the addition of lysis buffer, followed by disruption with a Dounce
homogenizer. Lysates were sonicated and the DNA sheared to an average length of
300-500 bp. Genomic DNA (Input) was prepared by treating aliquots of chromatin with
RNase, proteinase K and heat for de-crosslinking, followed by ethanol precipitation.
Pellets were resuspended and the resulting DNA was quantified on a Nanodrop
spectrophotometer. Extrapolation to the original chromatin volume allowed quantitation
of the total chromatin yield. An aliquot of chromatin (40 µg) was precleared with protein
A agarose beads (Invitrogen). Genomic DNA regions of interest were isolated using 4
µg of antibody against CPSF6 (#NBP1-85676). Complexes were washed, eluted from
the beads with SDS buffer, and subjected to RNase and proteinase K treatment.
Crosslinks were reversed by incubation overnight at 65°C, and ChIP DNA was purified
by phenol-chloroform extraction and ethanol precipitation. Quantitative PCR reactions
were carried out in triplicate on specific genomic regions using SYBR Green SuperMix
(BioRad). The resulting signals were normalized for primer efficiency by carrying out
qPCR for each primer pair using Input DNA. Different RT products were amplified using
the following primers, early RT products: 5′-GCCTCAATAAAGCTTGCCTTGA-3′ and
5′-TGACTAAAAGGGTCTGAGGGATCT-3′; intermediate RT products: 5′ -
CTAGAACGATTCGCAGTTAATCCT-3′ and 5′ -CTAT CCTTTGAT
GCACACAATAGAG-3′; late RT products: 5′-TGTGTGCCCGTCTGTTGTGT-3′ and 5′-
GAGTCCTGCGTCGAGAGAGC-3’. A group of control genes were also amplified to
show the enrichment of HIV-1 specific DNA in the infected condition. De-crosslinked

ChIP products were checked by western blot against CPSF6 (same ChIP antibody
(#NBP1-85676)), loading 37.5 ng of DNA per sample.

RNA FISH and IMMUNO-RNA FISH

THP-1 cells were seeded on coverslips (12mm #1, ThermoFisher) and differentiated
with PMA (160 nM) for 48h. For RNA FISH, the cells were transduced with OR-GFP
LV (MOI 0.5) and then infected with HIV-1 ANCH3 (MOI 20) for 3 days. The medium
was always supplemented with PMA. Primary MDMs were seeded before
differentiation on coverslips and after 7 days, transduced with OR-GFP LV (MOI 10)
and infected with HIV-1 ANCH3 (MOI 40) for 4 days. The day of fixation the cells were
washed with PBS and fixed with 4% PFA for 15 minutes and incubated in 70% ethanol
at -20°C at least for one overnight. Primary smiFISH probes have been designed
against HIV-1 *pol* sequence and containing a shared readout sequence for secondary
probe alignment. Twenty-four smiFISH probes (Supplementary Table S1) against HIV
pol were designed with Oligostan (Tsanov et al. 2016) and purchased from Integrated
DNA Technologies (IDT). Primary probes were pre-hybridized with a secondary FLAP
probe conjugated to Cy5 fluorophore (Eurofins) through pairing with the readout
sequence. Washes and hybridization were performed with Stellaris Buffers (WASH
buffer A, WASH buffer B, Hybridization Buffer; LGC Biosearch Technologies),
following the manufacturer protocol. Hybridization with the probe was carried out at
37°C in a dark humid chamber for 5 hours.

For the immuno-RNA FISH THP-1 cells were seeded on coverslips and differentiated
with PMA (160 nM) for 48h and then infected with HIV-1 (MOI and time points indicated
in figure legends). NEVIRAPINE (NEV) 10 µM or RALTEGRAVIR (RAL) 20 µM were
used to block respectively DNA synthesis or integration. Primary MDMs were seeded
before differentiation on coverslips and after 7 days infected with HIV-1 GFP reporter
virus for 2-3 days.

Fixation was carried on in 4% PFA for 15 minutes and then the coverslips where
incubated with a blocking/permeabilization solution (PBS-BSA 1%, 2mM Vanadyl
ribonucleoside complexes (VRCs) solution (Sigma #94742), TRITON-X 0.3%) for 1 h.
Then, the coverslips were incubated with anti-CPSF6 1:400 (#NBP1-85676) in
blocking/permeabilization solution for 1h, washed and incubated for 45 min with anti-
Rabbit secondary antibody, at room temperature, in the dark, in humid chamber. The

coverslips were fixed again in PFA 4% for 10 min. Subsequent RNA FISH and mounting protocol was carried out as mentioned before, but the hybridization with the probes was carried on overnight.

Finally, all the coverslips were stained with Hoechst 33342 1:5000 (Invitrogen #H3570) for 5 minutes and mounted on glass slides (Star Frost) with Prolong Diamond Antifade Mountant (Life Technologies #P36970). Confocal microscopy was carried out with a Zeiss inverted LSM700 microscope, with a 63X objective (Plan Apochromat, oil immersion, NA=1.4).

Fluorescence microscopy

The cells were plated on coverslips (12mm #1, ThermoFisher). THP-1 cells were differentiated with PMA (160 nM) for 48h and then infected transduced/infected (MOI and time post-infection indicated in figure legends). For late reverse transcripts or RNA visualization the cells were transduced with OR-GFP LV (MOI 0.5) or MCP-GFP LV (MOI 2) and 48 h later infected with HIV-1 ANCH3 or HIV-1 ANCH3 MS2, respectively. The medium was always supplemented with PMA. For HIV-1 ANCH3 imaging in HeLa P4R5, the cells were transduced with OR-GFP LV (MOI 0.2) and then infected 24 hours later with HIV-1 ANCH3 or HIV-1 IN_{D116A} ANCH3 + NEVIRAPINE (NEV) 10 µM or RALTEGRAVIR (RAL) 20 µM drugs were used to block respectively DNA synthesis or integration. The day of fixation the cells were washed with PBS and fixed with 4% PFA for 15 minutes. For protein staining, cells were treated with glycine 0.15% for 10 min, permeabilized with 0.5% Triton X-100 for 30 min and blocked with 1% bovine serum albumin (BSA) for 30 min. All antibody incubations were carried out at room temperature, in the dark, in humid chamber, 1h with primary antibodies and 45 min with secondary antibodies. Washes between antibody incubations and antibodies dilution were done in 1% BSA. Primary antibodies were diluted as follows: anti-HA 1:500 (Roche #11867423001), anti-CPSF6 1:400 (Novus Biologicals #NBP1-85676), anti-SC35 1:200 (Abcam #ab11826), anti-LEDGF 1:200 (BD Bioscience #611715). Secondary antibodies used were the following: Donkey anti-Rabbit Cy3 1:1000 (Jackson Lab #711-165-152), Goat anti-Rabbit Alexa-488 1:300 (Invitrogen #A32731), Goat anti-Mouse Alexa-647 1:300 (Invitrogen #A21235); Donkey anti-Rat Alexa-488 (Invitrogen # A21208) or Goat anti-Rat Alexa-647 (Invitrogen #A21247) 1:100 for IN-HA. For viral DNA detection via EdU incorporation, the cells were infected in presence

of EdU (5 µM) for 3 days (adding new RPMI+EdU medium every day) and after fixation

the click-chemistry was performed before immunostaining as in Rensen et al., 2021

(Rensen et al. 2021). Finally, cells were stained with Hoechst 33342 1:10000

(Invitrogen #H3570) for 5 minutes. Coverslips were mounted on glass slides (Star

Frost) with Prolong Diamond Antifade Mountant (Life Technologies #P36970).

Confocal microscopy was carried out with a Zeiss LSM700 inverted microscope, with

a 63X objective (Plan Apochromat, oil immersion, NA=1.4).

FRAP and time-lapse microscopy

For all time-lapse studies the cells were plated in a polymer-coverslip bottom µ-Dish

35 mm (ibidi #81156). Two million of THP-1 cells were differentiated for 48 h and then

transduced with CPSF6 mNeonGreen LV (MOI 0.01) for 3 days. Next, the cells were

infected with HIV-1 and the live imaging was performed from 24 to 72 h p.i. For CPSF6

clusters fusion studies CPSF6 mNeonGreen positive cells were imaged every 5 min in

2D with a Biostation IM-Q (Nikon).

For Fluorescence Recovery After Photobleaching (FRAP) experiments, the selected

region of interest was irradiated for 200µs/pixel with 488 nm/561nm laser and after

bleaching the frames were acquired every 5 to 10 seconds for 5 minutes through a

Ti2E inverted microscope (Nikon), based on a CSU-W1 spinning-disk (Yokogawa),

using a 60X objective (Plan Apochromat, oil immersion, NA=1.4).

Experiments of live tracking of IN-Ruby (GIR) and viral DNA (OR-GFP) were performed

in differentiated THP-1 cells transduced with OR-GFP LV (MOI 5). Two days post-

transduction the cells were infected with HIV-1 ANCH3 GIR virus (MOI 30). Different

cells were imaged starting from 45 h p.i. to 96 h p.i., every 5 minutes in 3D (stacks

spacing 0.3 µm) with a Ti2E inverted microscope (Nikon), based on a CSU-W1

spinning-disk (Yokogawa), using a 60X objective (Plan Apochromat, oil immersion,

NA=1.4).

Imaging Analysis and Statistics

All data were analyzed with GraphPad Prism 9 (GraphPad Software, La Jolla California

USA, www.graphpad.com), statistic tests are indicated in figure legends. All images

and videos were analysed in Fiji (Schindelin et al. 2012) and Icy software 2.2.1.0 (de

Chaumont et al. 2012). In particular, CPSF6 clusters segmentation was performed

though HK-Means block in Icy (Dufour et al. 2008) followed by ROI statistics

exportation (e.g., Mean Intensity, Volume, Area, Sphericity/Circularity defined as the normalised ratio between the contour and interior of the ROI, expressed as a percentage (100% for a circle or sphere). For the vDNA/vRNA distance form SC35 or HIV-1 MLO the 3D confocal images were processed for multi-channel image splitting, vDNA and SC35 segmentation. The automated 3D segmentation of cell nuclei included a preliminary non-local means denoising step to cope with the strong signal heterogeneity and the segmentation of SC35 was readjusted to low contrast conditions. The 3D boundary-to-boundary distance was computed between each vDNA or vRNA spot and its closest Hoechst-marked nuclear envelope border, SC35 speckle border or the closest HIV-1 MLO (SC35+CPSF6) border.

Acknowledgements

We wish to thank Marion Louveaux and Dmitry Ershov for image analysis help, Philippe Souque, Selen Ay, for experimental help. We thank Fabrizio Mammano, Edouard Bertrand, Florian Mueller, Roy Parker and Edward Campbell for sharing reagents. We gratefully acknowledge the UtechS Photonic BioImaging platform (Imagopole), C2RT at Institut Pasteur, supported by the French National Research Agency (France BioImaging; ANR-10–INSB–04; Investments for the Future). We thank the NIH AIDS Reagents program to support us with precious reagents. We thank Addgene for the reagents, Franck Gallardo CEO at the NeoVirTech, ActiveMotif for ChIP help. This work was funded by the ANRS REACTing grant ECTZ88162 with a nominative PhD student fellowship ECTZ88177 for V.S., the Sidaction/FRM grant VIH20170718001, the Pasteur Institute.

Competing financial interests: The authors declare no competing financial interests.

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Figure legends

Figure 1. CPSF6 clusters host HIV-1 viral complexes and are hubs of nuclear reverse transcription. A) Confocal microscopy image of HIV-1 infected THP-1 cells (MOI 10, 30 h p.i.), compared to uninfected cells. The graph shows the percentages of IN associated with CPSF6, per nucleus (40 cells, 132 IN foci) ± SD. Three independent experiments were performed. **B)** Confocal microscopy images of Immuno-RNA FISH in infected THP-1 (MOI 20, 2 days p.i.) treated or not with NEV (10 μM). The graph shows the percentages of vRNA foci associated with CPSF6 per cells, per condition (cells: 56 (-NEV), 34 (+NEV), vRNA: 151 (-NEV), 61 (+NEV)) ± SD. Unpaired t test, **=p ≤ 0.01. Two independent experiments were performed. **C)** Chromatin Immunoprecipitation of endogenous CPSF6 coupled to real-time PCR of THP-1 cells infected with HIV-1 (MOI 5), 2 days p.i. Different reverse transcription (RT) products were amplified normalized on the input ± SD. One-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's

multiple comparison test, *=p ≤ 0.05, **=p ≤ 0.01, ****=p ≤ 0.0001. On the right,

Western blot of CPSF6 of ChIP products in infected cells compared to the input. Scale

bar: 5 μm.

Figure 2. Phase separation properties of HIV-1 MLOs.

A) Confocal microscopy images of THP-1 cells infected with HIV-1 (MOI 5, 24 h p.i.),

compared to uninfected cells. On the right, mean intensity of CPSF6 per nucleus ± SD

(n cells = 49, 55). Unpaired t test, ****=p ≤ 0.0001. Two independent experiments were

performed. **B)** Confocal microscopy images of THP-1 cells infected with HIV-1 (MOI 5)

+ NEV (10 μM) comparing 24 h and 72 h p.i. On the right, box plots of the volume

(median: ~ 0.19 vs ~ 0.37 μm^3) and percentage of CPSF6 clusters that show ≥ or <

95% sphericity value (n = 125, 95). Unpaired t test, ****=p ≤ 0.0001, ns = not-

significant. 3D analysis of two independent experiments. **C)** Frames extracted from a

10 hours-time-lapse microscopy in 2D (Supplementary Video S1) of THP-1 cells

expressing CPSF6 mNeonGreen infected with HIV-1 (MOI 10). The graph shows the

circularity (normalised ratio between the contour and interior expressed as a

percentage) along the memebraneless organelles fusion-fission event. Representative

of 6 independent experiments. **D)** Frames extracted form a Fluorescence Recovery

After Photobleaching (FRAP) time-lapse (Supplementary Video S2) in THP-1 cells

expressing CPSF6 mNeonGreen infected with HIV-1 (MOI 10, 3 days p.i.).

Representative of 3 independent experiments. The graph shows the recovery of the

signal curve. Pre-bleach signal is set to 1 and bleach signal is set to 0. **E)** Confocal

microscopy image of THP-1 cell infected with HIV-1 (MOI 10, 3 days p.i.). The graph

on the left shows the intensity profile of Hoechst, CPSF6, SC35 signal along the

segment crossing the MLO (yellow). On the right, the percentage of CPSF6

colocalizing with SC35 per nucleus ± SD, 3D analysis of two independent experiments.

Scale bar: 5 μm.

Figure 3. Complete reverse transcribed products are released from HIV-1 MLOs.

A) Confocal images of THP-1 cell expressing OR-GFP, infected with HIV-1 ANCH3

(MOI 10, 30 h p.i.) compared to uninfected cell. The graph shows the percentages of

vDNAs associated with IN, per nucleus (13 cells, 100 vDNAs) ± SD, 3D analysis of two

independent experiments. **B)** Cropped frames from a time-lapse microscopy

(Supplementary Video S3) of vDNA (green) and IN (red) dynamics in THP-1 cells (HIV-

1 ANCH3 GIR, 80 h p.i.). Pearson's correlation of the two signals per 2D frame along
the time. Representative of 3 independent experiments. Scale bar: 1 μm. **C)** Confocal
image of THP-1 cells expressing OR-GFP infected with HIV-1 ANCH3 (MOI 10, 3 days
p.i.). On the bottom, the graphs display: the percentage of vDNA associated with
CPSF6 clusters, per nucleus (17 cells, 146 vDNAs) and the distance ± SD of each
vDNA from the closest nuclear envelope (NE) point and SC35-marked nuclear speckle
border (7 cells, 83 vDNAs), 3D analysis of two biological replicates. Unpaired t test,
****=p ≤ 0.0001. Scale bar: 5 μm
908
Figure 4. Active proviruses are excluded from HIV-1 MLOs.
A) Confocal images of THP-1 and primary macrophages (MDMs) cells expressing OR-
GFP, infected with HIV-1 ANCH3 (THP-1: MOI 20, 3 days p.i., MDMs: MOI 40, 4 days
p.i) 3D analysis. **B)** Confocal images of Immuno-RNA FISH in primary MDMs infected
with HIV-1 GFP (MOI 20) ± NEV (10 μM), 2-3 days p.i. The scatter plots show the GFP
intensity ± SD per cell and the percentage of vRNA outside CPSF6 clusters ± SD per
nucleus (cells: 22 (-NEV), 20 (+NEV); vRNAs: 268 (-NEV), 66 (+NEV)); Unpaired t test,
****=p ≤ 0.0001. **C)** Correlation in infected cells (Pearson's r coefficient, **=p ≤ 0.01)
of GFP intensity and % of vRNA foci exclusion from CPSF6 clusters (22 cells). **D)**
vRNA intensity ± SD per CPSF6 clusters in ± NEV conditions; unpaired t test, **=p ≤
0.01. All the analyses were performed in 3D from two independent experiments. Scale
bar: 5 μm.
921
Figure 5. MCP-MS2 RNA labelling detects transcription foci only.
A) Confocal images of Immuno-RNA FISH in THP-1 cells infected with HIV-1 ± NEV
(10 μM), (MOI 20, 3 days p.i.). The graph shows the number of vRNA per nucleus, the
table shows the amount of vRNA inside or outside CPSF6 clusters (n = 70 cells (-NEV),
68 cells (+NEV)). Two independent experiments were performed. **B)** Confocal images
of THP-1 cells expressing MCP-GFP infected with HIV-1 ANCH3 MS2 ± NEV (10μM),
(MOI 2.5, 3 days p.i.). The graph shows the number of vRNA per nucleus, the table
shows the amount of vRNA inside or outside CPSF6 clusters (n = 40 cells (-NEV), 44
cells (+NEV)). Three independent experiments were performed. **C)** Confocal images
of THP-1 cell expressing MCP-GFP infected with HIV-1 ANCH3 MS2 (MOI 2.5, 3 days
p.i.). The graph shows the distance of each RNA focus from the closest nuclear
envelope (NE) point and SC35-marked nuclear speckle border (31 vRNAs, 8 cells) ±

SD, 3D analysis of two independent experiments. Unpaired t test, ****=p ≤ 0.0001.

Scale bar: 5 µm, inset: 1 µm.

Figure 6. HIV-1 active proviruses locate in LEDGF-marked chromatin

neighboring HIV-1 MLOs. A) Confocal image of THP-1 cells expressing OR-GFP

infected with HIV-1 ANCH3 (MOI 10, 3 days p.i.) and expressing MCP-GFP infected

with HIV-1 ANCH3 MS2 (MOI 2.5, 3 days p.i.). The plot shows the percentage of

CPSF6 clusters associated with LEDGF per nucleus (38 cells, 161 CPSF6) ± SD and

the percentage of vDNA or vRNA associated with LEDGF cluster per nucleus ± SD.

Two independent experiments were performed. **B)** Scatter plot with bars indicating the

distance of vDNA or vRNA from the border of the closest (SC35+CPSF6) MLO ± SD

(n = 75 vDNAs, 7 cells; 34 vRNAs, 8 cells). Unpaired t test, **=p ≤ 0.01, 3D analysis of

two biological replicates. Scale bar: 5 µm, inset: 1 µm.

Supplementary Material

Supplementary Figures

A

B

Supplementary Figure S1. A) Confocal microscopy images of THP-1 cells infected with CA WT and CA N74D HIV-1 (MOI 5, 3 days p.i.). On the right, CPSF6 clusters count per cell ± SD (n cells = 108, 120). Unpaired t test, ****=p ≤ 0.0001. **B)** The histogram plot shows the number of copies ± SD of random genes in CPSF6 ChIP normalized for the input, compared to HIV-1 early reverse transcripts (RT) also normalized for the input (Figure 1C). THP-1 cells infected with HIV-1 (MOI 5), 2 days p.i. One-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's multiple comparison test, ****=p ≤ 0.0001.

D

minutes

E

minutes

F

G

H

Supplementary Figure S2. A) Pearson's correlation of the mean intensity of CPSF6 clusters with the colocalizing IN focus (****=p ≤ 0.0001) in THP-1 cells infected with HIV-1 (MOI 5) + NEV (10 µM), 24 h and 72 h p.i. 3D analysis. **B)** Confocal microscopy images of THP-1 cells expressing CPSF6 mNeonGreen infected with HIV-1 (MOI 10, 3 days p.i.), stained with anti-CPSF6 antibody (red, above) or with anti-HA (INTEGRASE) (red, below). The graphs show the percentage ± SD of CPSF6 clusters labelled with the antibody that colocalizes with CPSF6 mNeonGreen clusters (n=45 cells), and the percentage ± SD of CPSF6 mNeonGreen clusters colocalizing with IN-HA foci (n=49 cells). **C)** The graph shows the area along the memebraneless organelles fusion-fission event (Figure 2C and Supplementary Video S1). **D)** Short-timing and **E)** Long-timing fusion/fission events from time-lapse microscopy in 2D of THP-1 cells expressing CPSF6 mNeonGreen infected with HIV-1 (MOI 10). Videos acquired 5 min/frame between 24 to 72 h p.i. **F)** Frames extracted form a FRAP time-lapse in uninfected THP-1 cells expressing CPSF6 mNeonGreen. The graph shows

the recovery of the signal curve ± SEM (8 FRAP). Pre-bleach signal is set to 1 and bleach signal is set to 0. **G)** Frames extracted form a FRAP time-lapse in THP-1 expressing CPSF6 mNeonGreen infected with HIV-1 GIR (MOI 5, 3 days p.i.). Integrase focus (red) and CPSF6 cluster (green) were in turn bleached with the correspondent laser (561nm/488nm) the foci. The graph shows the recovery of the signal curves ± SEM (19 CPSF6 FRAP, 4 INTEGRASE FRAP). Pre-bleach signal is set to 1 and bleach signal is set to 0. **H)** Confocal microscopy images of THP-1 cells infected with HIV-1 (MOI 5). Twenty-four hours p.i. cells were treated with 10% 1,6-Hexanediol (1,6-Hexa) for 10 minutes. On the right, percentage of cells with CPSF6 clusters (n cells = 60, 55). Fisher's exact test, ****=p ≤ 0.0001. **I)** On the top confocal microscopy images of THP-1 cells expressing SC35-mRuby (3 days post transduction) stained with anti-SC35 antibody. On the bottom frames extracted form a FRAP time-lapse in uninfected THP-1 cells expressing SC35-mRuby. The graph shows the recovery of the signal curve ± SEM (14 FRAP). Pre-bleach signal is set to 1 and bleach signal is set to 0. Scale bars: 5 µm, unless indicated.

A

HIV-1 RNA

R U5 PBS psi   ANCH3 PPT U3 R

EARLY reverse transcripts

R U5 PBS psi   ANCH3 PPT U3 R

INTERMEDIATE reverse transcripts

PBS psi   ANCH3 PPT   U3 R

LATE reverse transcripts

U3 R U5   ANCH3   U3 R U5

HIV-1 ANCH3

OR-GFP Target cell

Reverse Transcription

U3 R U5   ANCH3   U3 R U5

B

C

D

Clone HIV-1 ANCH3

E

Supplementary Figure S3. A) Scheme of HIV-1 ANCHOR system created with BioRender.com. ANCH3 sequence has been cloned in the HIV-1 genome in place of Nef gene (HIV-1 ANCH3). The late retrotranscribed DNA of HIV-1 ANCH3 can be visualized in cells stably expressing the OR-GFP protein, thanks to OR accumulation on the double-stranded ANCH3 sequence. Viral DNA detection occurs mostly in the nucleus, where late reverse transcripts are abundant and are more likely to be exposed to the binding of OR-GFP. **B)** Analysis in HeLa P4R5 cells expressing OR-GFP infected with HIV-1 ANCH3, 24 h p.i. The plots show: the vDNA spots count per cell for each MOI used and the comparison between the count in infected cells treated or not with NEV (10µM). Pearson's correlation of the average spots count with the increasing MOI used (n cells = 16, 9, 15) ± SEM. **C)** Confocal images of HeLa P4R5 cells expressing OR-GFP infected with HIV-1 ANCH3, HIV-1 ANCH3 + RAL (20 µM), HIV-1 ANCH3 IND116A and HIV-1 ANCH3 + NEV (10 µM) (MOI 30, 24 h p.i.). The histogram plots of 2-LTR circles and ALU-PCR represent the post-nuclear formation of episomal form and integration rates, respectively. One-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's multiple comparison test, ns=not-significant, ****=$p \leq 0.0001$. **D)** Confocal image of HIV-1 ANCH3 provirus in an infected clone. On the right, histogram plot of ALU-PCR and β-galactosidase expression in the infected clone compared to uninfected cells (NI). Unpaired t test, **=$p \leq 0.01$, ****=$p \leq 0.0001$. **E)** Confocal microscopy images of THP-1 cells infected with HIV-1 in presence of EdU (MOI 20, 3 days p.i.) and quantification of EdU foci associated with CPSF6 clusters per nucleus (n=45 cells). The image below shows a confocal microscopy image of THP-1 infected with HIV-1 ANCH3 in presence of EdU (MOI 20, 3 days p.i.). Scale bars: 5 µm.

A

MDMs
Unstained

CD14+
90.3 %

Relative Cell Number
CD14 Fluorescence Intensity

49 %	15 %
72 %	0 %
0 %	0 %
0 %	0 %

GAG Fluorescence Intensity
GFP Fluorescence Intensity

36 %	0 %
28 %	0 %
100 %	0 %
100 %	0 %

HIV-1 GFP
HIV-1 GFP + NEV
Uninfected
Unstained

B

ns

Sphericity (%)

- NEV
+ NEV

Sphericity	- NEV	+ NEV
≥ 95 %	43	49
< 95 %	6	21

C

Hoechst	vDNA	vRNA	CPSF6	merge

D

CPSF6	vRNA	HIV-1 GFP	merge

- RAL

+ RAL

	- RAL	+ RAL
vRNAs inside CPSF6	91	112
vRNAs outside CPSF6	94	24

Supplementary Figure S4. A) The FACS histogram displays CD14+ expression of the MDMs in this study. The FACS dot plot shows the correlation of GAG signal and GFP expression, with the related percentages per population (MOI 20, 2-3 days p.i.). **B)** Box plot of the sphericity of CPSF6 clusters in infected MDMs. Unpaired t test, ns=not-significant. **C)** Confocal image of Immuno-RNA FISH in THP-1 cell expressing OR-GFP infected with HIV-1 ANCH3 (MOI 20, 3 days p.i.). **D)** Confocal images of Immuno-RNA FISH in THP-1 cells infected with HIV-1 GFP ± RAL (20 µM) (MOI 10, 2 days p.i.). Scale bar: 5 µm, inset: 1 µm.

A

	- RAL	+ RAL
vRNAs inside CPSF6	0	0
vRNAs outside CPSF6	98	8

B

HIV-1 ANCH3 MS2 24 h post infection

Supplementary Figure S5. A) Confocal images of THP-1 cells expressing MCP-GFP infected with HIV-1 ANCH3 MS2 ± RAL (20µM), (MOI 2.5, 3 days p.i.). **B)** The cartoon model shows the double labelling system: the HIV-1 genome is tagged both with ANCH3 and MS2 sequences. The differently fluorescent reporters allow the simultaneous detection of vDNA through the binding of OR-GFP to ANCH3 sequence and of vRNA through the binding of MCP to MS2 stem loops. Created with BioRender.com. Frames from a time-lapse microscopy of HeLa MCP-GFP cells transduced with OR-SANTAKA LV (MOI 1) and 48 hours after infected with HIV-1 ANCH3 MS2 (MOI 50), 24 h p.i.. Projection of 6 Z slices, spacing 0.2 µm with Ti2E inverted microscope (Nikon), based on a CSU-W1 spinning-disk (Yokogawa), using a 60X objective (Plan Apochromat, oil immersion, NA=1.4). Scale bar: 5 µm.

Supplementary Figure S6. A) Confocal images of THP-1 cells infected with HIV-1 (MOI10, 3 days p.i.) compared to uninfected cells. The scatter plot shows the count of LEDGF clusters per nucleus (n = 29 cells (HIV-1), 28 cells (NI)); unpaired t test, ns = not-significant, Scale bar: 5 µm.

Supplementary Video Legends

Supplementary Video S1. CPSF6 clusters dynamics in HIV-1 infected cells. Time-lapse microscopy of THP-1 cells expressing CPSF6 mNeonGreen infected with HIV-1 (MOI 10). Time post infection is indicated on the top. It is possible to appreciate different fusion/fission events of CPSF6 clusters (green). Representative of 6 independent experiments. Scale bar: 5 µm.

Supplementary Video S2. FRAP time lapse of CPSF6 clusters in HIV-1 infected cells. FRAP time-lapse in THP-1 cells expressing CPSF6 mNeonGreen infected with HIV-1 (MOI 10, 3 days p.i.). The first 3 frames are pre-bleaching, frame 4 is the bleach and from frame 5 it starts the recovery. Representative of 5 independent experiments. Scale bar: 5 µm.

Supplementary Video S3. Generation and separation of ds vDNA from the IN focus in live. Time-lapse microscopy in THP-1 cells infected with HIV-1 ANCH3 GIR virus (MOI 30, 80 h p.i.). The vDNA (green) signal generates from the integrase (IN) proteins focus (red). The video is a montage of continuous 2D frames (5 min/frame). Scale bar: 5 µm.

Supplementary Methods

Probe Name	Sequence
HIV1-01	GGG GAT TGT AGG GAA TTC CAA ATT CCT GCT TTT ACA CTC GGA CCT CGT CGA CAT GCA TT
HIV1-02	CTT TTA GCT GAC ATT TAT CAC AGC TGG CTA TTA CAC TCG GAC CTC GTC GAC ATG CAT T
HIV1-03	GTG TGC TGG TAC CCA TGC CAG ATA GAC TTA CAC TCG GAC CTC GTC GAC ATG CAT T
HIV1-04	AAT ACT GGA GTA TTG TAT GGA TTT TCA GGC CCT TAC ACT CGG ACC TCG TCG ACA TGC ATT
HIV1-05	TTT TAC TGG TAC AGT CTC AAT AGG GCT AAT GGT TAC ACT CGG ACC TCG TCG ACA TGC ATT
HIV1-06	TAT GTT GAC AGG TGT AGG TCC TAC TAA TAC TGT TAC ACT CGG ACC TCG TCG ACA TGC ATT
HIV1-07	CTA ATC CTC ATC CTG TCT ACT TGC CAT TAC ACT CGG ACC TCG TCG ACA TGC ATT
HIV1-08	CAA TCA TCA CCT GCC ATC TGT TTT CCA TTT ACA CTC GGA CCT CGT CGA CAT GCA TT
HIV1-09	TTT CCA AAG TGG ATT TCT GCT GTC CCT GTA TTA CAC TCG GAC CTC GTC GAC ATG CAT T
HIV1-10	TTG TGG ATG AAT ACT GCC ATT TGT ACT GCT GTT ACA CTC GGA CCT CGT CGA CAT GCA TT
HIV1-11	TTA AGA TGT TCA GCC TGA TCT CTT ACC TGT TTA CAC TCG GAC CTC GTC GAC ATG CAT T
HIV1-12	TAC AGT CTA CTT GTC CAT GCA TGG CTT CTT ACA CTC GGA CCT CGT CGA CAT GCA TT
HIV1-13	TCA TGT TCA TCT TGG GCC TTA TCT ATT CCT TAC ACT CGG ACC TCG TCG ACA TGC ATT
HIV1-14	TGT CAG TTA GGG TGA CAA CTT TTT GTC TTC CTT TAC ACT CGG ACC TCG TCG ACA TGC ATT
HIV1-15	TGC TCC TAC TAT GGG TTC TTT CTC TAA CTT TAC ACT CGG ACC TCG TCG ACA TGC ATT
HIV1-16	TCT GTT AGT GCT TTG GTT CCT CTA AGG AGT TTT ACA CTC GGA CCT CGT CGA CAT GCA TT
HIV1-17	CTG TAT GTC ATT GAC AGT CCA GCT GTC TTT TTT ACA CTC GGA CCT CGT CGA CAT GCA TT
HIV1-18	TGG CAG CAC TAT AGG CTG TAC TGT CCT TAC ACT CGG ACC TCG TCG ACA TGC ATT
HIV1-19	TCT GAT GTT TTT TGT CTG GTG TGG TAA GTC CCT TAC ACT CGG ACC TCG TCG ACA TGC ATT
HIV1-20	CCT CAA CAG ATG TTG TCT CAG CTC CTC TTA CAC TCG GAC CTC GTC GAC ATG CAT T
HIV1-21	ATT GCT GGT GAT CCT TTC CAT CCC TGT TAC ACT CGG ACC TCG TCG ACA TGC ATT
HIV1-22	TTT CTT TTT TAA CCC TGC GGG ATG TGG TAT TCT TAC ACT CGG ACC TCG TCG ACA TGC ATT
HIV1-23	TTT AAC TTT TGG GCC ATC CAT TCC TGG CTT ACA CTC GGA CCT CGT CGA CAT GCA TT
HIV1-24	CCC TAT CTT TAT TGT GAC GAG GGG TCG TTG TTA CAC TCG GAC CTC GTC GAC ATG CAT T

Supplementary Table S1. Probes used for RNA FISH against pol

Quantitative PCR and primers

For HIV-1 ANCH3 DNA forms quantification in HeLa P4R5 cells, a total DNA of 10^6 infected cells (MOI 30) was extracted at 6 hours post infection for Late Reverse Transcripts (LRTs) qPCR and 24 hours post infection for 2LTR-circles and ALU-PCR, through QIAmp DNA micro kit (QIAGEN #56304). Real-Time PCR of LRTs was performed to assess DNA synthesis and used to normalize qPCR data on viral input, the reactions were carried on in 20 μL, in iTaqUniversal SYBR Green Supermix (Bio-Rad #1725124) using primers for U3 sequence: U3 FX: 5'-TTCCGCTGGGGACTTTCCAGGG-3', U3 RX: 5'-AGGCTCAGATCTGGTCTAACC-3'. Real-Time PCR of 2LTR-circles was used to assess nuclear import efficiency. Reactions were performed in 20 μL, in Maxima Probe/ROX qPCR Mastermix (ThermoFisher #K0232) using primers for 2LTR-circle junction: 2LTR FX: 5'-AACTAGGGAACCCACTGCTTAAG-3', 2LTR RX: 5'-TCCACAGATCAAGGATATCTTGTC-3', 2-LTR probe: 5'-(FAM)-ACACTACTTGAAGCACTCAAG-GCAAGCTTT-(TAMRA)-3'. Proviral integration quantification of HeLa P4R5 infected cells and HIV-1 ANCH3 clone was performed through ALU PCR, consisting in a first non-kinetic PCR step in 50 μL using Platinum SuperFi DNA Polymerase kit (ThermoFisher #12351250) for the amplification of ALU-U3 fragments and in a second step of HIV-1 specific qPCR reaction in 20 μL in Maxima Probe/ROX qPCR Mastermix (ThermoFisher #K0232). Primer Alu 166: 5'-TCCCAGCTACTCGGGAGGCTGAGG-3', Alu 2: 5'-GCCTCCCAAAGTGCTGGGATTACAG-3', LambdaU3: 5'-ATGCCACGTAAGCGAAACTTTCCGCTGGGGACTTTCCAGGG-3' for ALU PCR. Lambda: 5'-ATGCCACGTAAGCGAAACT-3', U5: 5'-CTGACTAAAAGGGTCTGAGG-3', Probe: 5'-(FAM)- TTAAGCCTCAATAAAGCTTGCCTTGAGTGC-(TAMRA) for qPCR. In all experiments β-actin detection was used for normalization. β-actin FX: 5'-AACACCCCAGCCATGTACGT-3', β-actin RX: 5-CGGTGAGGATCTTCATGAGGTAGT-3', β-actin probe: (FAM)-CCAGCCAGGTCCAGACGCAGGA-(BHQ1).

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

Figure 5

Figure 6