Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus (KSHV) utilizes the NDP52/CALCOCO2 selective autophagy receptor to disassemble processing bodies

Short title: Selective targeting of processing bodies for autophagy by KSHV

inflammatory cytokine transcripts / Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus / NDP52 / processing bodies / selective autophagy

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<u>Abstract</u>

Processing bodies (PBs) are cytoplasmic ribonucleoprotein granules that control inflammation by

silencing or degrading labile messenger RNAs (mRNAs) that encode inflammatory molecules.

PBs often disassemble in response to virus infection, which correlates with increased synthesis of

inflammatory proteins. We previously showed that the Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus

(KSHV) KapB protein causes PB disassembly. Here, we reveal that PB disassembly mediated by

KSHV or the viral protein KapB depends on the canonical autophagy genes *Atg5* and *Atg14* or

the selective autophagy receptor *NDP52/CALCOCO2*. Moreover, KapB expression increased

inflammatory transcripts levels and this effect was also dependent on canonical autophagy and

NDP52. Stimulating autophagy with the mTOR inhibitor Torin-1 also increased cytokine mRNA

and required ATG5 and NDP52 to mediate PB disassembly. These studies reveal a new role for

NDP52 in regulating inflammatory responses by promoting PB turnover and the concomitant

synthesis of inflammatory molecules.

Introduction

Macroautophagy, hereafter referred to as autophagy, is an evolutionarily conserved degradative

process that ensures the continuous recycling of material to maintain cellular homeostasis (1–3).

Autophagy begins with the formation of a phagophore that elongates and encloses a portion of

the cytoplasm to form a double-membrane specialized organelle, the autophagosome, which

fuses with lysosomes to form autolysosomes, where its contents are degraded (4). Under basal

conditions, autophagic activity ensures the clearance of damaged macromolecular complexes and

organelles, acting as an intracellular quality control system (2). Various changes to the cellular

microenvironment, including nutrient scarcity, hypoxia, and endoplasmic reticulum (ER) stress

can upregulate autophagy, reprioritizing resources and promoting cell survival during adverse

and stressful conditions (2).

Although previously considered a non-selective, bulk, degradative pathway of cytoplasmic

recycling, recent work shows differential cargo targeting by autophagy through a process known

as selective autophagy (5,6). Autophagy can selectively target specific cellular components,

including organelles (e.g mitochondria, peroxisomes, ER) and protein complexes (e.g.

ribosomes, focal adhesion complexes, protein aggregates) for degradation (5,7). In selective

autophagy, target cargo is selected either directly, by binding to lipidated microtubule associated

protein 1 light chain 3 (LC3) protein (LC3-II)/Atg8, or more commonly, via a receptor that

mediates cargo recognition. These molecular bridges are termed selective autophagy receptors

(SARs), and their role is to link the selected cargo to lipidated LC3-II molecules which are

anchored to the expanding phagophore (8). Some of the best characterized SARs include

p62/SQSTM1, valosin containing protein (VCP), optineurin (OPTN), neighbor of BRCA1 gene

1 (NBR1), nuclear dot protein 52 (NDP52/calcium binding and coiled-coil domain protein,

CALCOCO2) and its paralogue TAX1BP1/CALCOCO3 (5,9,10). Of these, OPTN, p62, NDP52,

and NBR1 are members of the sequestosome-like family and contain several conserved motifs

including a LC3-interacting region (LIR) and a ubiquitin-binding domain (UBD) to mediate

cargo selection via binding the ubiquitin chains present on the cargo surface (6,11–13). Roughly

half of the selective autophagy mechanisms described thus far rely on ubiquitination for cargo

selection, including the processes of mitophagy, xenophagy, and aggrephagy (5,11). In other

examples, such as ER-phagy, the involvement of ubiquitin modification in autophagosomal

targeting remains unclear (14).

While SARs play important homeostatic roles maintaining, and at times magnifying, the turnover

of organelles and aggregates via cargo selection, an emerging function of these receptors is to

localize the initiation of autophagy. SARs p62 and NDP52 both promote autophagosome

formation at the cargo site through a direct interaction with autophagic initiating complexes (15–

17). SARs also play important roles in fine-tuning innate immune responses by targeting key

signaling platforms for degradation (18–23). For example, NDP52 is required for the autophagic

degradation of interferon regulatory factor 3 (IRF3) and mitochondrial antiviral signaling protein

(MAVS), which supports the resolution phase of type I interferon signaling (24) (20,25). Both

pro- and antiviral roles have been attributed to SARs (26,27) and viruses can both enhance or

limit SAR function accordingly, promoting their replication (28).

Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus (KSHV) is the infectious cause of two B-cell

malignancies and the endothelial cell cancer, Kaposi's sarcoma (KS), which is typified by

aberrant angiogenesis, tortuous leaky blood vessels, and inflammation (29–31). Infection with

KSHV has two forms, a latent and a lytic phase and it is the latent phase that predominates in KS

tumours (32–34). Like many viruses, KSHV manipulates the autophagic machinery. During

latency, the viral FLICE inhibitory protein (v-FLIP) binds Atg3 to suppress the LC3 lipidation

process during autophagosome biogenesis (35). KSHV also expresses a viral cyclin D homolog

(v-cyclin), that triggers DNA damage that leads to autophagy and cellular senescence (36),

facilitating the production and non-conventional secretion of pro-inflammatory cytokines such as

IL-1β, IL-6 and IL-8 (37). Together, KSHV manipulation of autophagic flux prevents

xenophagy, limits interferon responses, and enhances inflammatory cytokine production.

Precisely how KSHV fine tunes autophagy during latency to balance pro- and antiviral activities

and promote chronic viral infection is not clear.

Processing bodies (PBs) are ubiquitous, cytoplasmic, ribonucleoprotein (RNP) granules that

regulate expression of many cytokine RNA transcripts, making them important sites of

inflammatory control. PBs contain enzymes involved in mRNA turnover, including those that

mediate decapping (Dcp2; co-factors Dcp1a and Edc4/Hedls), 5'-3' exonucleolytic degradation

(5'-3' exonuclease Xrn1 and RNA helicase Rck/DDX6) and some components of the RNA-

induced silencing complex (28,38–43). mRNAs are routed to PBs for decay and/or repression by

RNA-binding proteins (RBPs) through recognition of common sequence elements (39). AU-rich

elements (AREs) are destablilizing RNA regulatory elements found in the 3' untranslated regions

of ~8% of cellular transcripts that are responsible for targeting RNAs to PBs (44–46). When

bound by destabilizing RBPs, ARE-containing RNAs are directed to PBs and suppressed (47–

49). Our group and others showed that microscopically visible PBs correlate with the constitutive

turnover or translational suppression of ARE-mRNAs; when PBs are dispersed, this suppression

is reversed (50–54). Because ARE-mRNAs code for potent regulatory molecules such as

inflammatory cytokines, PBs are important post-transcriptional sites of regulation that fine tune

the production of inflammatory cytokines whose transcripts contain AREs, including IL-6, IL-8,

IL-1β, and TNF (45,55–61).

PBs are dynamic structures that are continuously assembled and disassembled, yet relatively

little is known about how their activity is regulated. Stimuli that activate the p38/MK2 MAP

kinase pathway as well as many virus infections elicit PB disassembly and a concomitant

reduction in ARE-mRNA suppression to promote inflammatory molecule production

(50,51,54,62–64). We have previously shown that KSHV causes PB disassembly during latent

infection, and that the viral protein Kaposin B (KapB) induces PB disassembly while enhancing

the production of an ARE-containing reporter (51,62,65). These data support the notion that PB

disassembly is likely an important contributor to inflammation associated with KS (51,66).

Although we know that KapB binds and activates the kinase MK2, and that MK2 is an important

component of the mechanism of KapB-mediated PB disassembly and ARE-mRNA stabilization,

we do not precisely understand how PB loss is elicited by KapB (51,67). The observation that

MK2 can phosphorylate Beclin-1 to increase autophagic flux in response to nutrient scarcity (68)

suggested to us that KapB may drive autophagic flux through MK2. We now show that the

KSHV KapB protein enhances autophagic flux, revealing an additional layer of complexity in

viral regulation of autophagy during KSHV latency. We also show that KapB requires the

autophagy proteins Atg5 and Atg14 to induce PB disassembly and ARE-mRNA stabilization and

that KapB selects PB components for autophagic turnover using the selective autophagy

receptor, NDP52. Both Atg5 and NDP52 are also required for KSHV-induced PB disassembly

after infection. PB turnover is likewise elicited by the mTOR inhibitor and potent autophagy

inducer, Torin-1, and this process is also dependent on Atg5 and NDP52. By contrast, and

despite previous observations that it elicits PB disassembly and ARE-mRNA stabilization (51), a

constitutively active form of MK2 does not rely on selective autophagy machinery for PB loss.

Our data reveal that cells possess both autophagy-dependent and -independent mechanisms to

regulate PB turnover and inflammatory molecule production. These data also forge a new

connection between the selective autophagy receptor, NDP52, and cytoplasmic PBs, both of

which control innate immune responses and inflammation that is hijacked by the viral protein

KapB during KSHV latency.

Results

KapB induces autophagic flux

KapB expression activates the stress-responsive kinase MAPKAPK2 (MK2) (51,67). Since MK2 phosphorylates the essential autophagy inducer Beclin 1 in response to amino acid starvation (68–70), we questioned whether KapB expression could promote autophagic flux. Essential for autophagosome expansion is the lipidation of LC3 to form LC3-II, permitting its incorporation into autophagosome membranes (71). To measure autophagic flux, we examined levels of LC3-II and the SAR, p62, with and without treatment with the lysosomal inhibitor, Bafilomycin A1 (BafA1), as both LC3-II and p62 are also substrates for autophagy (72). To this end, human umbilical vein endothelial cells (HUVECs) were transduced with lentiviral vectors that express KapB or an empty vector control and treated for increasing times with BafA1; LC3-II and p62 accumulation in the presence or absence of BafA1 treatment was determined by immunoblotting. When KapB-expressing cells were treated for 4 h with BafA1, the amount of LC3-II and p62 increased two- and four-fold, respectively, compared to untreated cells. Both proteins showed higher accumulation after BafA1 treatment of KapB-expressing cells than equivalently treated vector controls (Fig 1A), indicating that autophagic flux was specifically enhanced in KapB-expressing cells. We also measured endogenous LC3 puncta using immunofluorescence as an indicator of autophagic flux (73,74). Untreated KapB-expressing HUVECs displayed LC3 puncta area similar to that of control cells; however, LC3 puncta area increased after BafA1 treatment, further suggesting that KapB expression enhanced autophagic flux (Fig 1B). Taken together, these data show that KapB expression induced autophagic flux in HUVECs.

KapB-mediated PB disassembly requires Atg5 and Atg14

Our group previously described that MK2 activation was an important component of KapB-

mediated PB loss (51); however, these experiments did not reveal the precise mechanism of PB

loss nor did they clarify if KapB was causing PB disassembly or blocking PB assembly. Since

PBs are dynamic RNP granules, we wanted to determine whether KapB-mediated PB loss was a

result of enhanced disassembly of PBs or prevention of their *de novo* assembly. To do so, we

utilized HeLa cells that express a Dox-inducible GFP-tagged version of the PB-resident protein,

Dcp1a (41). When fixed, GFP-positive puncta co-stain with endogenous PB proteins such as the

RNA helicase DDX6/Rck and the decapping co-factor Hedls/Edc4, indicating that they represent

PBs (Fig S1). KapB was transfected into these cells either before or after inducing GFP-Dcp1a

granule formation. When KapB was expressed prior to granule induction, Dcp1a puncta formed,

although appearance for GFP-positive puncta was delayed compared to vector control cells (Fig

S1A). In the presence of KapB, *de novo* PB assembly was not blocked; however, when KapB

was expressed after granule induction, GFP-positive puncta were lost (Fig S1B), indicating that

KapB expression induced PB disassembly. As further evidence that KapB does not prevent PB

formation, we treated KapB-expressing HUVECs with sodium arsenite, a known inducer of PB

assembly. We observed that sodium arsenite induced endogenous PB formation in KapB-

expressing HUVECs that was indistinguishable from equivalently treated control cells (Fig S1C).

Taken together, these results show that KapB expression caused PB disappearance by inducing

PB disassembly but did not block PB assembly. We speculated that KapB may be utilizing a

normal cellular pathway that mediates the turnover of RNPs or their components, such as

autophagy.

To determine if autophagy was required for KapB-mediated PB disassembly, we first inhibited

autophagic flux by independently silencing two autophagy genes, Atg5 and Atg14 (Fig S2A, B).

When either Atg5 or Atg14 were silenced in KapB-expressing HUVECs, PBs were restored,

whereas their silencing did not have an effect in control cells (Fig 1C and D). We then examined

the ability of KapB to mediate PB disassembly in Atg5 -/- MEFs, which are defective for

autophagy (75), as indicated by the lack of LC3-II (Fig S2C). KapB failed to disassemble PBs in

Atg5 -/- MEFs but did disassemble PBs in matched wild-type controls (Fig S2D). Moreover,

KapB expression resulted in a significant increase in Atg5 protein levels (Fig S2A), consistent

with our other data that show that KapB is promoting autophagy. Blocking autophagic

degradation with BafA1 also restored PBs in KapB-expressing cells (Fig 1E). These data suggest

that KapB is accelerating PB disassembly by enhancing autophagy.

Autophagy, although always occurring at a basal level, can be upregulated by many different cell

stimuli including starvation or inhibition of mTOR using Torin-1, hereafter referred to as Torin

(76). It was previously reported that rapamycin, an inhibitor of mTORC1, caused a loss of PBs in

mammary epithelial cells (77). We reasoned that if we inhibited both mTOR complexes

mTORC1 and mTORC2 using Torin (78) to induce autophagy, PBs would disassemble. We

observed that the number of Hedls/Edc4 puncta were significantly reduced after Torin treatment,

indicating that chemical induction of autophagy also resulted in the disappearance of PBs (Fig

2A). To ensure that Torin treatment was inducing disassembly of PBs and not preventing

assembly, HUVECs were treated with sodium arsenite to induce PB formation; like KapB, Torin

treatment did not prevent the assembly of PBs under these conditions (Fig 2B).

Given these similarities, we wondered if, like Torin, KapB induced autophagy was via inhibition

of mTOR complexes mTORC1 and mTORC2. To test this, we performed immunoblotting for

the phosphorylation of the ribosomal protein S6 (Serines 235/236), a known downstream target

of mTOR activation (79). Unlike Torin, KapB expression did not decrease phosphorylation of

S6 (Fig 2C). We also tested the ability of a constitutively active form of MK2 (two threonine

residues substituted with glutamic acid residues [T205E/T317E]; called MK2EE) (80–82). We

previously demonstrated that MK2EE caused PB disassembly (51) and others showed it

increased autophagic flux after starvation (68). Like KapB, MK2EE expression also did not

decrease phosphorylation of S6 (Fig 2C). These data indicate KapB does not inhibit mTOR

activity to induce autophagy. Since KapB can bind and activate MK2, we next wondered if

KapB expression would mediate phosphorylation of Beclin-1 at Serine 90, as shown for

MK2EE. Like MK2EE, KapB induced phosphorylation of Beclin-1 at Serine 90 (Fig 2D),

indicating that induction of autophagy via KapB expression is mediated by Beclin-1. Taken

together, these data show that although both KapB expression and Torin treatment caused PB

disassembly in an autophagy-dependent manner, the mechanism used to upregulate autophagic

flux differed in each case.

Canonical autophagy is required for KapB-mediated increases in ARE-containing cytokine

transcripts

PBs are nodes of mRNA regulation and microscopically visible PBs are associated with ARE-

mRNA decay or suppression (43,50,51,53,54,83,84). We treated HUVECs with conditioned

media from latent KSHV-infected cells to stimulate the transcription of inflammatory RNAs in a

biologically relevant manner and examined levels of some endogenous ARE-containing RNA

transcripts in KapB-expressing cells (Fig 3A). We observed significant increases of cytokine

mRNA for IL-6 and IL-1β in KapB-expressing cells compared to equivalently treated controls,

suggesting these increases resulted from reduced transcript decay in PBs (Fig 3A). In addition,

treatment with Torin promoted the enhanced steady-state levels of IL-1β and COX-2 (Fig 3B),

suggesting that inducing autophagy reduced the decay of some ARE-mRNA transcripts. To

support these findings and to simplify further studies, we utilized a luciferase reporter assay that

we developed, described in (65). Using this assay, we previously showed that KapB-mediated

PB loss correlated with enhanced luminescence of an ARE-containing firefly luciferase (Fluc)

reporter because its rapid turnover was reversed and FLuc translation was enhanced (51,65).

Briefly, HeLa cells were co-transfected with a FLuc construct containing the AU-rich element

from CSF2 in its 3'UTR and a Renilla luciferase (RLuc) construct with no ARE; transcription of

both reporter constructs was then stopped by the addition of doxycycline. In control (vector

transfected) cells, the FLuc-ARE mRNA decayed rapidly and FLuc luminescence relative to the

RLuc transfection control was low. Torin treatment caused a significant increase in FLuc/RLuc

relative luminescence compared to DMSO-treated control cells, supporting our RT-qPCR

findings (Fig 3C) and suggesting that enhanced autophagy reverses the constitutive

turnover/suppression of the ARE-mRNA reporter. Furthermore, KapB expression also caused a

significant increase in FLuc/RLuc relative luminescence compared to empty vector control cells

(Fig 3D) as previously shown in (51). When canonical autophagy was perturbed by either Atg5

or Atg14 silencing (Fig S3A, B) KapB-expressing cells had significantly decreased luminescence

compared to KapB-expressing controls (Fig 3D, E). Likewise, when KapB-expressing cells were

treated with BafA1, relative luminescence was significantly decreased compared to KapB-

expressing untreated control cells (Fig 3F). Together, these data showed that canonical

autophagy is required for KapB-mediated increases in cytokine mRNA levels and the enhanced

expression of an ARE-mRNA reporter.

Dcp1a protein levels are decreased by KapB and Torin treatment

Both KapB and Torin mediated PB disassembly but did not prevent *de novo* PB formation. We

reasoned that KapB and Torin could have this effect because they cause the autophagic

degradation of the entire PB granule. Alternately, since some PB proteins have important

scaffolding roles that hold granules together (EDC4/Hedls, Xrn1, DDX6/Rck, or Dcp1a (85)),

PB disassembly could be induced by KapB/Torin if one or more key PB proteins was missing

due to its accelerated degradation. To differentiate between these two scenarios, we performed

immunoblotting for PB proteins after Torin treatment and in the context of KapB expression (Fig

4). Immunoblotting revealed that steady-state levels of Dcp1a were reduced in Torin-treated (Fig

4A) and KapB-expressing cells (Fig 4B); however, steady-state levels of other PB-resident

proteins were not affected (Fig 4A, C). These data suggest that autophagy induction with Torin

or KapB expression promote the accelerated degradation of the PB-resident protein Dcp1a, but

not all PB proteins. Silencing the canonical autophagy gene, Atg5, resulted in a reversal of

KapB-mediated Dcp1a loss (Fig 4D), suggesting that autophagy is required for the loss of Dcp1a

observed after KapB expression.

KapB-mediated PB disassembly and ARE-mRNA stabilization require the selective

autophagy receptor NDP52

After establishing a link between KapB expression, autophagy, and PB disassembly, we

wondered what specific autophagy mechanisms were at work and if selective autophagy

receptors (SARs) were involved. One previous study observed the SAR, NDP52, partially co-

localized with some PB proteins (86). For this reason, we used RNA silencing to investigate

whether NDP52, p62, VCP, NBR1, or OPTN were required for KapB-mediated PB disassembly.

Despite trying several different shRNA sequences, our attempts to silence NBR1 were

unsuccessful, and shRNAs targeting VCP resulted in significant HUVEC toxicity (Fig S4A, B).

Therefore, the role of these molecules in KapB-mediated PB disassembly could not be

determined. Knockdown of NDP52, p62, and OPTN was validated in control and KapB-

expressing cells (Fig S4C-E). Silencing of p62 or OPTN did not restore PBs in KapB-expressing

cells whereas NDP52 knockdown significantly restored PBs (Fig 5A, Fig S4F). These data

pinpointed an important role for NDP52 and selective autophagy in KapB-mediated PB

disassembly. We then tested whether NDP52 silencing could prevent Torin-mediated PB

disassembly and found that PBs could not be disassembled in cells lacking NDP52 (Fig 5B,

S4G). We also examined whether these SARs were required for KapB-enhanced relative

luminescence in our ARE-mRNA reporter assay. We validated silencing of NDP52, p62, and

OPTN in HeLas (Fig S5A-C). Similarly, we found that p62 or OPTN knockdown had no effect

on KapB-mediated ARE-containing reporter luminescence, but NDP52 silencing decreased the

signal compared to non-targeting, KapB-expressing controls (Fig 5C), further supporting the role

of NDP52 in autophagy-mediated PB disassembly. We then performed an NDP52

complementation experiment. We first silenced endogenous NDP52 in control or KapB-

expressing HUVECs using shRNAs targeting the 3'UTR of NDP52 and verified its knockdown

(Fig S6A). Next, NDP52 expression was restored by overexpressing a fluorescently tagged

NDP52 construct. Complementation of NDP52-silenced HUVECs with wild-type NDP52

restored KapB-mediated PB disassembly compared to vector controls (Fig 5E, F; S6B, C).

Taken together, these data indicate that NDP52 is required for KapB- and Torin-mediated PB

disassembly and KapB-mediated ARE-mRNA stabilization.

Atg5 and NDP52 are not required for MK2-mediated PB disassembly

We previously demonstrated that MK2EE causes PB disassembly (51) and others have shown

that it can also increase autophagic flux (68). We confirmed that autophagy was upregulated in

MK2EE-expressing HUVECs by staining for endogenous LC3 puncta. We observed that BafA1

treatment resulted in a significant increase in LC3-puncta compared to vector controls, consistent

with enhanced autophagic flux (Fig 6A). Furthermore, MK2EE expression resulted in an

increased accumulation of LC3-II and p62 after Baf A1 treatment to block degradation (Fig 6B).

We then tested if MK2EE-induced PB disassembly was reliant on autophagic flux. MK2EE-

expressing HUVECs retained the ability to disassemble PBs after Atg5 silencing (Fig 6C, S7A).

MK2EE expression was previously shown to increase the FLuc/RLuc relative luminescence in

our reporter assay (51) and we reproduced these data herein (Fig 6D). However, Atg5 silencing

did not significantly decrease MK2EE-mediated relative luminescence (Fig 6D, S7B). These

data suggest that although MK2EE induces autophagy and PB disassembly, how MK2EE

induces PB disassembly does not require autophagy pathways involving Atg5.

Given that MK2 induces autophagy, but MK2EE-mediated PB disassembly did not require Atg5,

we speculated that MK2EE-mediated PB disassembly could be facilitated by NDP52. However,

p62, NDP52 and OPTN silencing did not inhibit PB disassembly in MK2EE-expressing cells

(Fig S7C-E; 6E; S7F). Likewise, silencing of p62, OPTN, or NDP52 did not decrease

FLuc/RLuc luminescence in MK2EE-expressing cells as it did in KapB-expressing cells (Fig 6F,

S7G-I). In fact, NDP52 knockdown increased ARE-mRNA stability (Fig 6F), although the

significance of this observation is unclear. These data confirm that MK2-mediated PB

disassembly and enhanced ARE-containing luciferase reporter expression do not require

canonical autophagy or selective autophagy machinery.

Atg5 and NDP52 are required for KSHV-mediated PB disassembly

Autophagy regulation during KSHV latency is complex, as multiple viral gene products

modulate autophagic flux in addition to KapB (35,36). We previously showed that KSHV

infection induced PB disassembly (51) and more recently we confirmed that KapB is not only

sufficient but also necessary for this effect in HUVECs (87). To determine if autophagic

machinery is also required for PB disassembly in the context of infection, HUVECs were

infected with the rKSHV.219 strain either treated or not with BafA1 for 30 minutes 96 hours

post infection, stained for PBs. Consistent with our data on KapB-induced PB disassembly,

blocking autophagic degradation with BafA1 also restored PBs in KSHV-infected cells (Fig 7A).

Moreover, RNA silencing of Atg5 and NDP52 also reversed KSHV-mediated PB disassembly

(Fig 7B). These data confirm an essential role for autophagy and the selective autophagy

receptor NDP52 in viral PB disassembly.

<u>**Discussion**</u>

Here we demonstrate that the KSHV protein, KapB, relies on selective autophagy to cause PB

disassembly and enhance ARE-mRNA stability. Furthermore, we identified NDP52 as the

selective autophagy receptor required for this process. To our knowledge, this is the first report

that NDP52 regulates the turnover of endogenous PBs and the first description of the

contribution of NDP52 to immune regulation by altering inflammatory cytokine RNA

turnover/suppression in PBs. We also show that PB disassembly induced by infection with

KSHV requires Atg5 and NDP52, suggesting an important role for elevated autophagic flux and

PB catabolism in regulating KSHV-associated inflammation. Our major findings are: i) KapB

increases autophagic flux, thereby contributing to the complex regulation of autophagic

processes during KSHV latent infection and tumourigenesis, ii) KapB-mediated PB disassembly

and enhanced translation of an ARE-containing reporter requires canonical autophagy machinery

and the selective autophagy receptor, NDP52, iii) Activation of autophagy by chemical inhibition

of mTORC1 using Torin causes PB disassembly using a mechanism that is dependent on

canonical autophagy and NDP52, suggesting that KapB manipulates an existing cellular pathway

that regulates PB catabolism, and iv) the mechanism of KapB- or Torin-mediated PB

disassembly differs from that induced by the constitutively active kinase, MK2 (MK2EE), which

is autophagy- and NDP52-independent. These results reveal that PB turnover is mediated by

autophagy-dependent and -independent mechanisms and shows that the viral KapB protein

hijacks a host pathway that uses NDP52 to enhance PB catabolism and promote inflammatory

molecule production.

MK2 activation promotes autophagy by phosphorylating Beclin 1 (68); therefore, we

hypothesized that KapB, an MK2-activating viral protein (67), would utilize autophagy to

promote PB clearance. Our data showed that although both KapB and MK2EE increased

autophagic flux via phosphorylating Beclin-1 at Serine 90 (Fig 1, 2, 6), only KapB-mediated PB

disassembly required the canonical autophagy proteins Atg5 and Atg14, and the selective

autophagy protein NDP52 (Fig 1, Fig 5). MK2EE does not use an autophagy-dependent

mechanism, as KapB does, for PB disassembly and our studies have not yet revealed a

mechanism for PB loss in these cells. These data imply that cells employ more than one pathway

to disassemble PBs, consistent with the dual mechanisms responsible for turnover of other RNP

granules like stress granules (88,89). Our data also suggest that KapB hijacks these two distinct

routes, an MK2-dependent pathway and an NDP52- and autophagy-dependent pathway to

disassemble PBs. This suggests PB loss is of central importance to KSHV latency. Our data are

supported by previous work showing that in yeast, PB recycling requires canonical autophagy

machinery, and in mammalian cells NDP52 colocalizes with a GFP-tagged version of Dcp1a

when overexpressed (86,88). We add significantly to these studies, by performing our work in

primary human endothelial cells and by staining for endogenous PBs using immunofluorescence

for the decapping co-factor Hedls/EDC4. We reveal that when KapB is expressed, endogenous

PBs are disassembled by an Atg5-, Atg14-, and NDP52-dependent autophagy process. We also

complemented NDP52-silenced cells with an shRNA-resistant NDP52 and observed the

restoration of KapB-mediated PB disassembly (Fig 5).

Immunoelectron microscopy showed that PBs range in size from 150 to 350 nm and possess an

external area of peripheral protrusions that contain the helicase Rck/DDX6 anchored to a dense

central core of decay enzymes, including Dcp1a and Xrn1 (38). Many PB-localized enzymes are

required for PB stability including Dcp1a; however, only three PB proteins are required for *de*

novo PB formation, DDX6, the translation suppressor, 4E-T, and LSM14a (85). Our data showed

that KapB expression decreased the steady-state levels of Dcp1a, while the steady-state levels of

other PB proteins were unaffected (Fig 4). Inducing autophagy with the mTORC1/2 inhibitor

Torin recapitulated this effect, decreasing steady-state levels of Dcp1a, but not other PB proteins

(Fig 4). These data support a model where the entire PB granule is not degraded by autophagy,

but PB disassembly is induced by the selective degradation of Dcp1a or another unidentified PB

protein. Consistent with this, we show that PBs can still form during KapB expression if we

overexpress Dcp1a-GFP or block translation using sodium arsenite (Fig S1). Dcp1a is also a

target for other viruses that mediate PB disassembly; for example, infection with poliovirus also

caused PB disassembly and the loss of Dcp1a over a time course of infection (90). We do not yet

understand how KapB expression or Torin treatment alters Dcp1a to promote its degradation and

the resultant PB disassembly, but we speculate that modulation of known post-translational

modifications of Dcp1a, such as phosphorylation or ubiquitination, may be involved (91–97).

In viral cancers like KS, autophagic flux promotes a pro-tumourigenic and pro-inflammatory

environment (98–101). The data shown herein brings new understanding to this complex

relationship during KSHV infection. We show that KapB induces autophagic flux and NDP52

selective autophagy of PBs, thereby supporting the pro-inflammatory environment associated

with latent KSHV infection and KS. We confirm that autophagy machinery and NDP52 are

required for PB disassembly during KSHV infection. The manipulation of NDP52 function and

autophagic flux by KSHV and KapB is yet another example of the ingenuity with which viruses

usurp cellular processes; revealing a regulatory network that links NDP52 to inflammatory

molecule production via PB catabolism.

Materials and Methods

Cell culture

All cells were grown at 37 °C with 5% CO_2 and 20% O_2. HEK293T cells (ATCC), HeLa Tet-Off

cells (Clontech), Atg5 +/+ and -/- MEFs (102), HeLa Flp-In TREx GFP-Dcp1a cells (a generous

gift from Anne-Claude Gingras), and iSLK.219 cells (a generous gift from Don Ganem) (103)

were cultured in DMEM (Thermo Fisher) supplemented with 100 U/mL penicillin, 100 µg/mL

streptomycin, 2 mM L-glutamine (Thermo Fisher) and 10% FBS (Thermo Fisher). iSLK.219

cells were additionally cultured in the presence of puromycin (10 µg/mL). HUVECs (Lonza)

were cultured in endothelial cell growth medium (EGM-2) (Lonza). HUVECs were seeded onto

gelatin (1% w/v in PBS)-coated tissue culture plates or glass coverslips. All drug treatments were

performed for the times indicated in each experiment at the concentrations listed in Table 1.

Cloning

All plasmids used in this study can be found in Table 2. All shRNAs were generated by cloning

shRNA hairpin sequences found in Table 3 into pLKO.1-TRC Puro (pLKO.1-TRC cloning

vector was a gift from David Root (Addgene plasmid # 10878; http://n2t.net/addgene:10878;

RRID:Addgene_10878) or pLKO.1-blast (pLKO.1-blast was a gift from Keith Mostov (Addgene

plasmid #26655; http://n2t.net/addgene:26655; RRID:Addgene_26655).

Lentivirus Production and Transduction

All lentiviruses were generated using a second-generation system. Briefly, HEK293T cells were

transfected with pSPAX2, MD2G, and the plasmid containing a gene of interest or hairpin using

polyethylimine (PEI, Polysciences). psPAX2 was a gift from Didier Trono (Addgene plasmid

#12260; http://n2t.net/addgene:12260; RRID:Addgene_12260) and pMD2.G was a gift from

Didier Trono (Addgene plasmid #12259; http://n2t.net/addgene:12259; RRID:Addgene_12259).

Viral supernatants were harvested 48 h post-transfection, clarified using a 0.45 μ

polyethersulfone filter (VWR), and frozen at -80°C until use. For transduction, lentiviruses were

thawed at 37°C and added to target cells in complete media containing 5 μg/mL polybrene

(Sigma) for 24 h. The media was changed to selection media containing 1 μg/mL puromycin or 5

μg/mL blasticidin (Thermo) and cells were selected for 48 h before proceeding with

experiments.

Viral conditioned media treatments

iSLK.219 cells (latently infected with rKSHV.219 virus) were sub-cultured into a 10 cm cell

culture dish and grown without puromycin for 72 h. At 72 h, conditioned media was reserved

and cleared of cellular debris by centrifugation at 500 G for 5 min. Supernatant was collected

and filtered through a 0.22 μM polyethersulfone (PES) membrane filter (VWR) and stored in

aliquots at -80. Prior to the experiment, conditioned media was thawed at 37°C and combined

1:1 with fresh HUVEC EGM-2 media and used to treat vector or KapB-expressing HUVECs for

0 or 6 h prior to total RNA harvest.

Production of rKSHV.219 virus

iSLK.219 cells were sub-cultured into a 10 cm cell culture dish without puromycin and

reactivated from latency with 1 μg/mL doxycycline (Sigma-Aldrich) and 1 mM sodium butyrate

(Sigma-Aldrich). After 72 h, supernatants were collected, centrifuged to remove cellular debris,

aliquoted, and stored at -80°C until use.

De novo **infection of HUVECs**

Sub-confluent (50-70%) 12-well plates of HUVECs were incubated with rKSHV.219 viral

inoculum diluted in antibiotic and serum free DMEM containing 5 μg/mL polybrene. Plates were

centrifuged at 800 x *g* for 2 hours at room temperature (105), the inoculum was removed and

replaced with either EGM-2.

<u>Immunofluorescence</u>

Cells were seeded onto coverslips for immunofluorescence experiments and fixed for 10 mins at

37 °C in 4% (v/v) paraformaldehyde (Electron Microscopy Sciences). Samples were

permeabilized with 0.1% (v/v) Triton X-100 (Sigma-Aldrich) for 10 min at room temperature

and blocked in 1% human AB serum (Sigma-Aldrich) for 1 h at room temperature. For

autophagosome immunofluorescence cells were fixed for 10 min in ice cold methanol at -20 °C

and blocked in 1% human AB serum for 1 h at room temperature. Primary and secondary

antibodies were diluted in 1% human AB serum and used at the concentrations in Table 4.

Samples were mounted with Prolong Gold AntiFade mounting media (Thermo). For CellProfiler

quantification of puncta, samples were incubated with WGA AlexaFluor-647 at a 1:400 dilution

for 10 min prior to permeabilization. Image analysis was performed using CellProfiler

(cellprofiler.org), an open source platform for image analysis (Carpenter et al., 2006);

quantification of puncta was performed as previously described, with the exception that cells

were defined by propagating out a set number of pixels from each nucleus (106).

<u>Immunoblotting</u>

Cells were lysed in 2x Laemmli buffer and stored at -20°C until use. The DC Protein Assay

(Bio-Rad) was used to quantify protein concentration as per the manufacturer's instructions. 10-

15 μg of protein lysate was resolved by SDS-PAGE on TGX Stain-Free acrylamide gels

(BioRad). Total protein images were acquired from the PVDF membranes after transfer on the

ChemiDoc Touch Imaging system (BioRad). Membranes were blocked in 5% bovine serum

albumin (BSA) or skim milk in Tris-buffered saline-Tween20 (TBS-T). Primary and secondary

antibodies were diluted in 2.5% BSA or skim milk, dilutions can be found in Table 4.

Membranes were visualized using Clarity Western ECL substrate and the ChemiDoc Touch

Imaging system (BioRad).

Luciferase Assays

Luciferase assays were performed as previously described (65). HeLa Tet-Off cells were

transduced with recombinant lentivirus expressing different shRNAs and selected. Cells were

transfected according to Corcoran *et al.* (2011) with pTRE2 Firefly Luciferase ARE, pTRE2

Renilla Luciferase, and the expression plasmid of interest using Fugene HD (Promega).

Luciferase and renilla activity were quantified using the Dual Luciferase Assay Kit (Promega)

and read on a GloMax multi-detection system (Promega).

Quantitative PCR

RNA was collected using a RNeasy Plus Mini Kit (Qiagen) according to the manufacturer's

instructions and stored at -80°C until further use. RNA concentration was determined and was

reverse transcribed using Maxima H Minus First Strand cDNA Synthesis Kit (Thermo Fisher)

using a combination of random and oligo (dT) primers according to the manufacturer's

instructions. cDNA was diluted 1:5 for all qPCR experiments and GoTaq qPCR Master Mix

(Promega) was used to amplify cDNA. The ΔΔquantitation cycle (Cq) method was used to

determine the fold change in expression of target transcripts. qPCR primer sequences can be

found in Table 5.

Statistics

Data shown are the mean ± standard error of the mean (SEM). Statistical significance was

determined using a one-way ANOVA, a 2-way ANOVA or Student's t-test when appropriate

with the applicable post-test (indicated in the corresponding figure legends). For ANOVAs,

matched data from each replicate was paired for analysis. All statistics were performed using

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Project Administration, Paper Writing

Conflict of Interest

The authors have no competing interests to declare.

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 Figure Legends

Figure 1: Kaposin B requires canonical autophagy to disassemble PBs. Primary human

umbilical vein endothelial cells (HUVECs) were transduced with recombinant lentiviruses

expressing either Kaposin B (KapB) or an empty vector control and selected with blasticidin (5

μg/mL). A: Cells were treated with bafilomycin A1 (10 nM) or a vehicle control (DMSO) for

the indicated times prior to harvest in 2x Laemmli buffer. Protein lysates were resolved by SDS-

PAGE and immunoblot was performed for p62 and LC3. Samples were quantified using Image

Lab (Biorad) software and then normalized, first to total protein and then to their respective

starting time points (0 h). Results were plotted in GraphPad and a linear regression statistical

test was performed, ±SEM; n=3, *=P<0.05, ***=P<0.001. B: Cells were treated with BafA1 for

30 min prior to fixation in methanol. Immunofluorescence was performed for LC3 (white) and

DAPI (nuclei, blue). Scale bar=20 μm. Total LC3 area per field was quantified by identifying

LC3-positive puncta using CellProfiler and normalizing to the number of nuclei and the vector

DMSO control. Results were plotted in GraphPad, a 2-way ANOVA was performed with a

Šidák's multiple comparison test, ±SEM; n=3, *=P<0.05. C: HUVECs were sequentially

transduced: first with recombinant lentiviruses expressing either shRNAs targeting Atg5 or

Atg14 (shAtg5, shAtg14) or a non-targeting control (NS) and selected with puromycin (1

μg/mL), and second with either KapB or an empty vector control and selected with blasticidin (5

μg/mL). Coverslips were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde, permeabilized in 0.1% Triton X-100,

and immunostained for the PB-resident protein Hedls (white) and nuclei (DAPI). Scale bar=20

μm. Hedls puncta were quantified using CellProfiler and normalized to the number of nuclei,

results were plotted in GraphPad and a 2-way ANOVA was performed with a Šidák's multiple

comparison test, ±SEM; n=3, *=P<0.05. D: HUVECs were transduced as in A and treated with

DMSO or bafilomycin A1 (10 nM) for 30 min before being fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde and

permeabilized in 0.1% Triton X-100. Immunofluorescence was performed for Hedls (PBs,

white) and DAPI (nuclei, blue). Scale bar=20 μm. Hedls puncta were counted using CellProfiler

and normalized to the number of nuclei, results were plotted in GraphPad and a 2-way ANOVA

was performed with a Šidák's multiple comparison test, ±SEM; n=3, *=P<0.05.

Figure 2: Torin treatment disassembles PBs. A: HUVECs were treated with either Torin (250

nM) or a DMSO control for 2 h prior to fixation in 4% paraformaldehyde. Samples were

permeabilized in 0.1% Triton X-100. Immunofluorescence was performed for Hedls (PBs,

white) and DAPI (nuclei, blue). Scale bar=20 μm. Hedls puncta were counted using CellProfiler

and normalized to the number of nuclei, results were plotted in GraphPad and a 2-way ANOVA

was performed with a Šidák's multiple comparison test, ±SEM; n=3, *=P<0.05. B: HUVECs

were treated with either Torin (250 nM) or a DMSO control for 90 min prior to the addition of

sodium arsenite (0.25 mM) for 30 min. Cells were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde and

permeabilized in 0.1% Triton X-100. Immunofluorescence was performed for Hedls (PBs,

white) and DAPI (nuclei, blue). Scale bar=20 μm. C: HUVECs were transduced with

recombinant lentiviruses expressing either KapB, constitutively active MK2 (MK2EE), or an

empty vector control and selected with blasticidin (5 μg/mL). Cells were treated with either

Torin (250 nM) or a DMSO control for 2 h prior to harvest in 2x Laemmli buffer. Protein lysates

were resolved by SDS-PAGE and immunoblot was performed for phospho-S6 (Ser235/236) and

total S6. D: HUVECs were transduced as in C and harvested in 2X Laemmli buffer. Protein

lysates were resolved by SDS-PAGE and immunoblot was performed for phospho-Beclin

(Ser90) and total Beclin.

Figure 3: KapB-mediated ARE-mRNA reporter expression requires canonical autophagy.

A: HUVECs were transduced with recombinant lentiviruses expressing either KapB or an empty vector control and selected with blasticidin (5 µg/mL). Conditioned media harvested from KSHV latently infected cells was used to mimic the KS lesion microenvironment and induce the transcription of cytokines for 6 h prior to lysis for total RNA, normal media was used for the 0 h time point. Transcript levels were quantified by qPCR and normalized to 18S as a reference gene. Data is represented as the fold change in target transcript expression relative to the untreated vector control and was quantified using the ΔΔCq method. Results were plotted in GraphPad, a 2-way ANOVA was performed, ±SEM; n=3, *=$P<0.05$, **=$P<0.01$. B: HUVECs were treated with Torin (250 nM) or a DMSO control for 2 h prior to lysis for total RNA. Transcript levels were quantified by qPCR and normalized to HPRT as a reference gene. Data is represented as the fold change in target transcript expression relative to the untreated vector control and was quantified using the ΔΔCq method. An unpaired t-test was performed, ±SEM; n=3, *=$P<0.05$. C: HeLa Tet-Off cells were co-transfected with expression plasmids for an ARE-containing firefly luciferase plasmid (pTRE-Fluc-ARE) and a stable renilla luciferase plasmid (pTRE-Rluc). 36 h post transfection, doxycycline (Dox) was added to halt reporter gene transcription of both luciferase reporters, at the same time Torin (250 nM) or DMSO were added; 12 h after Dox addition, lysates were harvested in passive lysis buffer (Promega). Luciferase activity for both firefly and renilla was analyzed using the Dual-Luciferase Reporter Assay (Promega) and normalized (firefly/renilla) relative luciferase was calculated in relative light units (RLUs). Results were plotted using GraphPad, an unpaired t-test was performed, ±SEM; n=6, ***=$P<0.001$. D&E: HeLa Tet-Off cells were transduced with recombinant lentiviruses expressing either shRNAs targeting Atg5 or Atg14 (shAtg5, shAtg14) or a non-targeting control

(NS) and selected with puromycin (1 µg/mL). After selection, cells were co-transfected and Dox

treatment was performed as described in C, except that co-transfection also included an

expression plasmid for KapB or an empty vector control. Results were plotted using GraphPad,

an unpaired t-test was performed, ±SEM; n=3, *=P<0.05, **=P<0.01. F: Cells were co-

transfected as in E and bafilomycin (10 nM) was added at the same time as Dox. Results were

plotted in GraphPad and a Student's t-test was performed, ±SEM; n=3, *=P<0.05, **=P<0.01.

Figure 4: Dcp1a protein levels are decreased by KapB expression and Torin treatment. A:

HUVECs were treated with DMSO or Torin (250 nM) for 4 h prior to harvest. Samples were

lysed in 2x Laemmli buffer and resolved by SDS-PAGE before immunoblotting with Xrn1,

EDC4/Hedls, Dcp1a, and DDX6. Samples were quantified by normalizing the PB resident

protein levels to the total protein in each lane and then the DMSO control using ImageLab

(Biorad). Results were plotted in GraphPad and a one-way ANOVA was performed ±SEM; n=3,

**=P<0.01. B: HUVECs were transduced with recombinant lentiviruses expressing either KapB

or an empty vector control and selected with blasticidin (5 µg/mL). Cells were treated with

DMSO or bafilomycin A1 (BafA1, 10 nM) for 4 h prior to harvest in 2x Laemmli buffer.

Samples were resolved by SDS-PAGE and immunoblot was performed for Dcp1a or p62

(autophagy marker). Representative blot is from the same membrane, hashed line indicates

skipped lanes. Samples were quantified by normalizing Dcp1a protein levels to the total protein

in each lane using Image Lab (Biorad) and then to the Vector DMSO control. Results were

plotted in GraphPad and a 2-way ANOVA was performed, ±SEM; n=3, ***=P<0.001. C:

HUVECs were transduced with recombinant lentiviruses expressing either KapB or an empty

vector control and selected with blasticidin (5 µg/mL). Samples were harvested in 2x Laemmli

buffer, resolved by SDS-PAGE and immunoblot was performed for Xrn1, Hedls/EDC4, or

DDX6. Samples were quantified by normalizing Dcp1a protein levels to the total protein in each

lane using Image Lab (Biorad) and then to the Vector DMSO control. Results were plotted in

GraphPad. D: HUVECs were sequentially transduced: first with recombinant lentiviruses

expressing either shRNAs targeting Atg5 (shAtg5) or a non-targeting control (NS) and selected

with puromycin (1 µg/mL), and second with either KapB or an empty vector control and selected

with blasticidin (5 µg/mL). Samples were harvested in 2x Laemmli buffer and resolved by SDS-

PAGE. Immunoblot was performed for Dcp1a, Atg5, and KapB. Samples were quantified by

normalizing Dcp1a protein levels to the total protein in each lange using Image Lab (Biorad) and

then to the Vector NS control. Results were plotted in GraphPad and a 2-way ANOVA was

performed, ±SEM; n=3, *=P<0.05, **P=<0.01.

Figure 5: KapB-mediated PB disassembly and ARE-mRNA reporter expression require the

selective autophagy receptor NDP52. A: HUVECs were sequentially transduced with

recombinant lentivirus expressing KapB or an empty vector control and selected with blasticidin

(5 µg/mL), and second with shRNAs targeting NDP52, OPTN, p62 or a non-targeting control

(NS) and selected with puromycin (1 µg/mL). Coverslips were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde,

permeabilized in 0.1% Triton X-100 and immunostained for Hedls (PBs; white), DAPI (nuclei,

blue). Scale bar=20 µm. Cells were imaged and the mean number of Hedls puncta per cell were

quantified using CellProfiler. Data were plotted in GraphPad as the mean number of Hedls

puncta per cell per condition ± SEM; n=3. A 2-way ANOVA was performed with a Šidák's

multiple comparison test; * = P<0.05 **= P<0.01. B: HUVECs were transduced with

recombinant lentivirus expressing an shRNA targeting NDP52 and selected with puromycin (1

µg/mL). Cells were treated with Torin (250 nM) or a DMSO control for 2 h prior to fixation in

4% paraformaldehyde and permeabilization in 0.1% Triton X-100. Samples were

immunostained for Hedls (PBs; white), DAPI (nuclei, blue). Scale bar=20 µm. Cells were

imaged and the mean number of Hedls puncta per cell were quantified using CellProfiler. Data

were plotted in GraphPad as the mean number of Hedls puncta per cell per condition. Results

were plotted in GraphPad, a 2-way ANOVA was performed with a Šidák's multiple comparison

test, ± SEM; n=3. * = P<0.05. C: HeLa Tet-Off cells were transduced with recombinant

lentivirus expressing shRNAs targeting NDP52, OPTN, p62 or a NS control and selected with

puromycin (1µg/mL) then cells were co-transfected, treated with Dox and luciferase activity was

recorded and analyzed as in Figure 3. Data were plotted in GraphPad as the mean fold change in

the relative luciferase activity of each condition compared to vector NS or KapB NS; n=3. An

unpaired t-test was performed; * = P<0.05 **= P<0.01. D: HUVECs were sequentially

transduced first with recombinant lentivirus expressing shDNP52 targeting the 3'-UTR of

NDP52 or a NS control and selected with blasticidin (5 µg/mL), and second, with KapB and

either mCherry control (mCh) or RFP-NDP52. Coverslips were fixed with 4%

paraformaldehyde, permeabilized with 0.1% Triton X-100, and immunostained with Hedls (PBs,

green). Scale bar=20 µm. E: Samples from D were quantified; Hedls puncta were counted using

CellProfiler and normalized to the number of nuclei, results were plotted in GraphPad, a 2-way

ANOVA was performed with a Šidák's multiple comparison test, ± SEM; n=3. * = P<0.05,

**=P<0.01.

Figure 6: MK2EE-mediated PB disassembly does not require NDP52 or canonical

autophagy. A: HUVECs were transduced with recombinant lentiviruses expressing either

constitutively active MK2 (MK2EE) or an empty vector control and selected with blasticidin (5

µg/mL) for 48 h. Cells were treated with DMSO or bafilomycin A1 (10 nM) for 30 min before

being fixed in methanol. Immunofluorescence was performed for LC3 (autophagosomes, white)

and DAPI (nuclei, blue). Scale bar=20 µm. Total LC3 area per field was quantified by

identifying LC3 puncta using CellProfiler and normalizing to the number of nuclei and the vector

DMSO control. Results were plotted in GraphPad and a 2-way ANOVA was performed with a

Šidák's multiple comparison test, ±SEM n=3; *=P<0.05. B: HUVECs were transduced with

recombinant lentiviruses expressing either MK2EE or an empty vector control and selected with

blasticidin (5 µg/mL). Cells were treated with bafilomycin A1 (10 nM) or a vehicle control

(DMSO) for the indicated times prior to harvest in 2x Laemmli buffer. Protein lysates were

resolved by SDS-PAGE and immunoblot was performed for p62 and LC3. Representative blot

is from the same membrane, hashed line indicates skipped lanes. Samples were quantified using

Image Lab (Biorad) software and then normalized, first to total protein and then to their

respective starting points (time 0 h). Results were plotted in GraphPad and a linear regression

statistical test was performed, ±SEM; n=3, *=P<0.05, **=P<0.01. C: HUVECs were

sequentially transduced: first with recombinant lentiviruses expressing either shRNAs targeting

Atg5 (shAtg5) or a non-targeting control (NS) and selected with puromycin (1 µg/mL), and

second, with either MK2EE or an empty vector control and selected with blasticidin (5 µg/mL).

Coverslips were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde, permeabilized in 0.1% Triton X-100, and

immunostained for the PB-resident protein Hedls (PBs, white) and DAPI (nuclei, blue). Scale

bar=20 µm. Hedls puncta were counted using CellProfiler and normalized to the number of

nuclei, results were plotted in GraphPad and a 2-way ANOVA was performed with a Šidák's

multiple comparison test, ±SEM n=5; *=P<0.05. D: HeLa Tet-Off cells were transduced with

recombinant lentiviruses expressing either shRNAs targeting Atg5 (shAtg5) or a non-targeting

control (NS) and selected with puromycin (1 µg/mL) then co-transfected with expression

plasmids for pTRE-Fluc-ARE, pTRE-Rluc, and MK2EE or an empty vector control, and treated

as in Figure 3. Results were plotted using GraphPad, a Student's t-test was performed, ±SEM,

n=4; *=P<0.05. E: HUVECs were sequentially transduced with recombinant lentivirus

expressing shRNAs targeting NDP52, OPTN, p62 or a non-targeting control (NS) and selected

with puromycin (1 µg/mL) and second with recombinant lentivirus expressing constitutively

active MK2EE or an empty vector control and selected with blasticidin (5 µg/mL). Coverslips

were fixed in 4% v/v paraformaldehyde, permeabilized in 0.1% Triton X-100, and

immunostained for Hedls (PBs, white) and DAPI (nuclei, blue). Scale bar = 20 µm. Hedls puncta

were counted using CellProfiler and normalized to the number of nuclei, results were plotted in

GraphPad, ±SEM; n=3. F: HeLa Tet-Off cells were transduced with recombinant lentivirus

expressing shRNAs targeting NDP52, OPTN, p62 or a NS control and selected with puromycin

(1µg/mL) then cells were co-transfected, treated with Dox and luciferase activity was recorded

and analyzed as in Figure 3. Data were plotted in GraphPad as the mean fold change in the

relative luciferase activity of each condition compared to vector NS or MK2EE NS; n=3. An

unpaired t-test was performed; * = P<0.05 **= P<0.01.

Figure 7: KSHV-mediated PB disassembly requires Atg5 and the selective autophagy

receptor NDP52. A: HUVECs were infected with rKSHV.219 via spinoculation and infection

was allowed to proceed for 96 h prior to treatment with bafilomycin A1 (10 nM) for 30 min.

Coverslips were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde, permeabilized in 0.1% Triton X-100 and

immunostained for Hedls (PBs; white), LANA (KSHV latency, green), and DAPI (nuclei, blue).

Scale bar=20 μm. Cells were imaged and the mean number of Hedls puncta per cell were

quantified using CellProfiler. Data were plotted in GraphPad as the mean number of Hedls

puncta per cell ± SEM; n=3. A 2-way ANOVA was performed with a Šidák's multiple

comparison test; * = P<0.05. B: HUVECs were transduced with recombinant lentivirus

expressing shRNAs targeting Atg5, NDP52, or a non-targeting control (NS) and selected with

puromycin (1 μg/mL). Cells were infected with rKSHV.219 via spinoculation and infection was

allowed to proceed for 96 h. Coverslips were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde, permeabilized in

0.1% Triton X-100 and immunostained for Hedls (PBs; white), LANA (KSHV latency, green),

and DAPI (nuclei, blue). Scale bar=20 μm. Cells were imaged and the mean number of Hedls

puncta per cell were quantified using CellProfiler. Data were plotted in GraphPad as the mean

number of Hedls puncta per cell ± SEM; n=3. A 2-way ANOVA was performed with a Šidák's

multiple comparison test; * = P<0.05. C: HUVECs were transduced with recombinant

lentiviruses and infected with rKSHV.219 as in B. Cells were harvested in 2X Laemmli buffer.

Protein lysates were resolved by SDS-PAGE and immunoblot was performed for Atg5 and

NDP52.

1009

1010   **Tables**

1011   Table 1: Drugs

Drug	Vendor/Catalogue #	Concentration
Torin1	Sigma-Aldrich 475991	250 nM
Bafilomycin A1	Sigma-Aldrich B1793	10 nM
Chloroquine	Sigma-Aldrich C6628	25 μM
MG-132	Selleckchem S2619	5 μM
LPS	Sigma-Aldrich L3129	1 μg/mL
Sodium Arsenite	Sigma-Aldrich 1.06277	0.25 mM
Doxycycline	Sigma-Aldrich D9891	1 μg/mL

1012
1013   Table 2: Plasmids

Plasmid	Use	Source	Mammalian Selection
RFP-NDP52	Overexpression	Dr. Andreas Till (University Hospital of Bonn)	N/A
pcDNA 3.1 (+)	Empty Vector Control	Invitrogen V79020	N/A
pcDNA KapB BCBL1	ARE-mRNA stability	(51)	N/A
pcDNA FLAG-MK2EE	ARE-mRNA stability	(51)	N/A
pLKO.1-TRC	shRNA expression	Addgene #10878 (107)	Puromycin
pLKO.1-blast	shRNA expression	Addgene #26655 (108)	Blasticidin
pLJM1	Empty Vector Control	(104)	Blasticidin/ Puromycin
pLJM1 KapB (pulmonary KS)	Overexpression	Cloned from pBMNIP-KapB (51) into pLJM1-BSD	Blasticidin
pLJM1 mCh	Overexpression Control	Craig McCormick (Dalhousie University)	Blasticidin
pLJM1 FLAG-MK2EE	Overexpression	Cloned into pLJM1 using BamHI and EcoRI from pBMN FLAG-MK2EE (51)	Blasticidin/ Puromycin
pLJM1 RFP-NDP52	Overexpression	Cloned into pLJM1 using NheI and BamHI from RFP-NDP52	Puromycin
pMD2.G	Lentivirus generation	Addgene #12259	N/A
psPAX2	Lentivirus generation	Addgene #12260	N/A
pTRE2 Firefly Luciferase-ARE	ARE-mRNA stability	(65)	N/A
pTRE2-Renilla Luciferase	ARE-mRNA stability	(65)	N/A

1014

1015   Table 3: shRNA target sequences

shRNA target	shRNA sequence 5'→3'	Region
Non-targeting (NS)	AGCACAAGCTGGAGTACAACTA	
Atg5	CTTTGATAATGAACAGTGAGA	CDS
NDP52(1)	GAGCTGCTTCAACTGAAAGAA	CDS
NDP52(2)	GACTTGCCTATGGAAACCCAT	CDS
NDP52(3)	CCCTTTGTGAACTAAGTTCAA	3'-UTR
NDP52(4)	CCTGACTTGATACTAAGTGAT	3'-UTR
Optineurin (1)	GCACGGCATTGTCTAAATATA	CDS
Optineurin (2)	GCCATGAAGCTAAATAATCAA	CDS
p62	CCGAATCTACATTAAAGAGAA	CDS
NBR1 (1)	GCCAGGAACCAAGTTTATCAA	CDS
NBR1 (2)	CCATCCTACAATATCTGTGAA	CDS
VCP (1)	ACCGTCCCAATCGGTTAATTG	CDS
VCP (2)	AGATCCGTCGAGATCACTTTG	CDS

1016

1017   Table 4: Antibodies

Antibody	Species	Vendor/Catalogue #	Application	Dilution
Hedls	Mouse	Santa Cruz sc-8418	Immunofluorescence Immunoblot	1:1000 1:1000
KapB	Rabbit	A generous gift from Don Ganem	Immunofluorescence	1:1000
NDP52	Rabbit	CST 60732	Immunoblot	1:1000
p62	Rabbit	CST 7695	Immunoblot	1:1000
Dcp1a	Mouse	CST 15365	Immunoblot	1:500
DDX6	Rabbit	Bethyl A300-461	Immunoblot	1:1000
MK2	Rabbit	CST 12155	Immunofluorescence	1:1000
LC3B	Rabbit	CST 2775	Immunofluorescence Immunoblot	1:200 1:1000
Atg5	Rabbit	CST 2630	Immunoblot	1:1000
Atg14	Rabbit	CST 96752	Immunoblot	1:1000
OPTN	Rabbit	Abcam ab23666	Immunoblot	1:1000
Xrn1	Rabbit	Abcam ab231197	Immunoblot	1:1000
VCP	Rabbit	CST 2649	Immunoblot	1:1000
NBR1	Rabbit	CST 9891	Immunoblot	1:1000
LANA	Rabbit	A generous gift from Don Ganem	Immunofluorescence	1:1000
Phospho-S6 (Ser235/236)	Rabbit	CST 4858	Immunoblot	1:1000
Total S6	Rabbit	CST 2217	Immunoblot	1:1000
Phospho-Beclin (Ser90)	Rabbit	CST 86455	Immunoblot	1:500
Total Beclin	Mouse	CST 4122	Immunoblot	1:1000

1018
1019   Table 5: qPCR primers

Primer	Primer Sequence
HPRT-1- Forward	5' CTTTCCTTGGTCAGGCAGTATAA 3'
HPRT-2 - Reverse	5' AGTCTGGCTTATATCCAACACTTC 3'
18S - Forward	5' TTCGAACGTCTGCCCTATCAA 3'
18S - Reverse	5' GATGTGGTAGCCGTTTCTCAGG 3'
IL-6 - Forward	5' GAAGCTCTATCTCGCCTCCA 3'
IL-6 - Reverse	5' TTTTCTGCCAGTGCCTCTTT 3'
CXCL8 - Forward	5' AAATCTGGCAACCCTAGTCTG 3'
CXCL8 - Reverse	5' GTGAGGTAAGATGGTGGCTAAT 3'
IL-1β - Forward	5' CTCTCACCTCTCCTACTCACTT 3'
IL-1β - Reverse	5' TCAGAATGTGGGAGCGAATG 3'
COX-2 - Forward	5' CCCTTGGGTGTCAAAGGTAA 3'
COX-2 - Reverse	5' GCCCTCGCTTATGATCTGTC 3'

1020

Supplemental Figure Legends

Figure S1: KapB expression promotes PB disassembly but does not prevent PB assembly.

HeLa cells expressing a doxycycline-inducible GFP-Dcp1a were used to determine whether

KapB prevented granule assembly or promoted disassembly. A: HeLa cells were transfected

with either KapB or an empty vector control prior to inducing expression of GFP-Dcp1a with

doxycycline (1 µg/mL). Cells were fixed 12 h post-induction and immunostained for Hedls

(PBs, red) and KapB (blue). Scale bar=20 µm. B: GFP-Dcp1a expression was induced with

doxycycline (1 µg/mL) in HeLa cells prior to transfection with either KapB or an empty vector

control. Cells were fixed 12 h post-transfection and immunostained for Hedls (PBs, red) and

KapB (blue). Scale bar=20 µm. C: HUVECs were transduced with recombinant lentiviruses

expressing either Kaposin B (KapB) or an empty vector control and selected with blasticidin (5

µg/mL). Cells were treated with sodium arsenite (0.25 mM) or a vehicle control for 30 min prior

to fixation in 4% paraformaldehyde and permeabilization in 0.1% Triton X-100. Scale bar=20

µm.

Figure S2: Canonical autophagy knockdown prevents KapB-mediated PB disassembly.

A&B: HUVECs were sequentially transduced: first with recombinant lentiviruses expressing

either shRNAs targeting Atg5 or Atg14 (shAtg5, shAtg14) or a non-targeting control (NS) and

selected with puromycin (1 µg/mL), and second with either KapB or an empty vector control and

selected with blasticidin (5 µg/mL). Samples were lysed in 2x Laemmli and resolved by SDS-

PAGE. Samples were immunoblotted for Atg5 (A) or Atg14 (B). For Atg5 (A), representative

blot is from the same membrane, hashed line indicates skipped lanes. For Atg5 (A) samples were

quantified by normalizing Atg5 protein levels to the total protein in each lane using Image Lab

(Biorad) and then to Vector NS. Results were plotted in GraphPad, a 2-way ANOVA was

performed, ±SEM; n=3, ***=P<0.001. C: Atg5 +/+ (WT) and -/- (KO) MEFs were transduced as

in A and harvested in 2x Laemmli buffer before being resolved by SDS-PAGE. Samples were

probed for LC3, a representative blot is shown. D: Atg5 +/+ and -/- MEFs were transduced with

recombinant viruses expressing KapB or an empty vector control and selected with blasticidin (5

µg/mL). Samples were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde and permeabilized in 0.1% Triton X-100.

Immunofluorescence was performed for Hedls (PBs, white) and DAPI (nuclei, blue). Scale

bar=20 µm. Hedls puncta were counted using CellProfiler and normalized to the number of

nuclei, results were plotted in GraphPad and a 2-way ANOVA was performed with a Šidák's

multiple comparison test, ±SEM; n=3, *=P<0.05, **=P<0.01.

Figure S3: Canonical autophagy shRNA silencing in HeLa cells. A&B: HeLas were

transduced with recombinant lentiviruses expressing either shRNAs targeting Atg5 or Atg14

(shAtg5, shAtg14) or a non-targeting control (NS) and selected with puromycin (1 µg/mL) prior

to transfection with KapB or an empty vector for luciferase assays. Samples were lysed in 2x

Laemmli buffer and resolved by SDS-PAGE before immunoblotting with Atg5 (A) or Atg14 (B).

Representative blots are shown.

Figure S4: Selective autophagy receptor knockdown in HUVECs reveals that OPTN and

p62 are not required for KapB-mediated PB disassembly. A&B: HUVECs were transduced

with shRNAs targeting VCP, NBR1, or a non-targeting control (NS) and selected with

puromycin (1 µg/mL), then transduced with an empty vector control or KapB and selected with

blasticidin (5 µg/mL). Samples were lysed in 2x Laemmli buffer, resolved by SDS-PAGE, and

immunoblotted for NBR1 (A) and VCP (B). Representative blots are shown, successful VCP

knockdown was lethal, while NBR1 knockdown was not successful. C: HUVECs were

transduced with shRNAs targeting NDP52 or a non-targeting control (NS) and selected with

puromycin (1 µg/mL), then transduced with an empty vector control or KapB and selected with

blasticidin (5 µg/mL). Samples were lysed in 2x Laemmli buffer, resolved by SDS-PAGE, and

immunoblotted for NDP52. D&E: HUVECs were transduced with shRNAs targeting p62,

OPTN, or a non-targeting control (NS) and selected with puromycin (1 µg/mL), then transduced

with an empty vector control or KapB and selected with blasticidin (5 µg/mL). Samples were

lysed in 2x Laemmli buffer and resolved by SDS-PAGE. Samples were immunoblotted for p62

(D) and OPTN (E), representative blots are shown. F: HUVECs were transduced as in D and E.

Coverslips were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde, permeabilized in 0.1% Triton X-100 and

immunostained for Hedls (PBs; white), DAPI (nuclei, blue). Scale bar=20 µm. G: HUVECs were

transduced with recombinant lentiviruses targeting NDP52 or a non-targeting control (NS) and

selected with puromycin (1 µg/mL). Samples were lysed in 2x Laemmli buffer, resolved by

SDS-PAGE, and immunoblotted for NDP52 to confirm knockdown for paired Torin

immunofluorescence experiments.

Figure S5: shRNA silencing of selective autophagy receptors in HeLa cells. A, B&C: HeLas

were transduced with shRNAs targeting NDP52, OPTN, p62, or a non-targeting control (NS) and

selected with puromycin (1 µg/mL) prior to transfection with KapB or an empty vector for

luciferase assays. Samples were lysed in 2x Laemmli buffer, resolved by SDS-PAGE, and

immunoblotted for NDP52 (A), p62 (B), and OPTN (C). Representative blots are shown.

Figure S6: NDP52 shRNA silencing and rescue in control HUVECs. A: Representative

western blot of HUVECs transduced with an shRNA targeting the 3'UTR of NDP52 or a non-

targeting control (NS) and selected with puromycin (1 µg/mL), then co-transduced with an

empty vector control and mCherry (mCh) or KapB and mCh. Samples were lysed in 2x

Laemmli, resolved by SDS-PAGE, and immunoblotted for NDP52. B: HUVECs were

sequentially transduced first with recombinant lentivirus expressing shDNP52 targeting the 3'-

UTR of NDP52 or a NS control and selected with blasticidin (5 µg/mL), and second, with vector

and either an mCherry control (mCh) or RFP-NDP52. Coverslips were fixed with 4% v/v

paraformaldehyde, permeabilized with 0.1% Triton X-100, and were immunostained with Hedls

(PBs, green). Scale bar=20 µm. C: Hedls puncta were counted using CellProfiler and normalized

to the number of nuclei, results were plotted in GraphPad.

Figure S7: shRNA silencing of canonical and selective autophagy genes in MK2EE-

expressing cells. A: HUVECs were transduced with shRNAs targeting Atg5 or a non-targeting

control (NS) and selected with puromycin (1 µg/mL), then transduced with an empty vector

control or KapB and selected with blasticidin (5 µg/mL). Samples were lysed in 2x Laemmli

buffer, resolved by SDS-PAGE, and immunoblotted for Atg5. A representative blot is shown. B:

HeLas were transduced with recombinant lentiviruses expressing either shRNAs targeting Atg5

or a non-targeting control (NS) and selected with puromycin (1 µg/mL) prior to transfection with

MK2EE or an empty vector for luciferase assays. Samples were lysed in 2x Laemmli buffer and

resolved by SDS-PAGE before immunoblotting for Atg5. A representative blot is shown. C,

D&E: HUVECs were transduced with shRNAs targeting NDP52, p62, OPTN, or a non-targeting

control (NS) and selected with puromycin (1 µg/mL), then transduced with an empty vector

control or MK2EE and selected with blasticidin (5 µg/mL). Samples were lysed in 2x Laemmli

buffer and resolved by SDS-PAGE. Samples were immunoblotted for NDP52 (C), p62 (D), and

OPTN (E), representative blots are shown. F: HUVECs were transduced with shRNAs as in

D&E. Coverslips were fixed, permeabilized, and immunostained for Hedls (PBs; white), DAPI

(nuclei, blue). Scale bar=20 µm. G, H&I: HeLas were transduced with shRNAs targeting

NDP52, OPTN, p62, or a non-targeting control (NS) and selected with puromycin (1 µg/mL),

then transfected with an empty vector control or MK2EE for luciferase assays. Samples were

lysed in 2x Laemmli buffer, resolved by SDS-PAGE, and immunoblotted for NDP52 (G), p62

(H), and OPTN (I). Representative blots are shown.

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