Activation of Nedd4L Ubiquitin Ligase by FCHO2-generated Membrane Curvature

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SUMMARY

The C2-WW-HECT domain ubiquitin ligase Nedd4L regulates sorting in endocytosis by

mediating ubiquitination of cargo molecules, such as the epithelial sodium channel

(ENaC). Defects in ENaC ubiquitination cause Liddle syndrome, a hereditary

hypertension. Nedd4L is catalytically autoinhibited by an intramolecular interaction

between the C2 and HECT domains, but the activation mechanism is poorly understood.

Here, we show that Nedd4L is activated by membranes sculpted by FCHO2, a Bin-

Amphiphysin-Rsv (BAR) domain protein that regulates endocytosis. We found that

FCHO2 was required for Nedd4L-mediated ubiquitination and endocytosis of ENaC.

Nedd4L co-localized with FCHO2 at clathrin-coated pits where it likely became activated.

Nedd4L was specifically recruited to and activated by the FCHO2 BAR domain

exogenously expressed in cells. Furthermore, we reconstituted *in vitro* FCHO2-induced

recruitment and activation of Nedd4L. Both the recruitment and activation were mediated

by membrane curvature rather than protein–protein interactions. The Nedd4L C2 domain

recognized a specific degree of membrane curvature that was generated by the FCHO2

BAR domain. Consequently, this curvature activated Nedd4L by relieving autoinhibition.

Thus, we show for the first time a specific functionality (i.e., recruitment and activation

of an enzyme regulating cargo sorting) of membrane curvature by a BAR domain protein.

INTRODUCTION

Posttranslational modification of proteins by covalent attachment of ubiquitin (Ub) is catalyzed by three enzymes: a Ub-activating enzyme (E1), a Ub-conjugating enzyme (E2), and a Ub-protein ligase (E3) that determines substrate specificity (Hershko & Ciechanover, 1998). E3 Ub ligases are classified into two categories based on their Ub transfer mechanisms: RING finger/U-box E3 and HECT-type E3. The Nedd4 family belongs to HECT-type E3 Ub ligases and consists of nine members, including Nedd4/Nedd4-1, Nedd4L/Nedd4-2, Itch, Smurf1, Smurf2, WWP1, WWP2, NEDL1, and NEDL2 (Ingham *et al*, 2004; Rotin & Kumar, 2009). They are characterized by a common modular organization, with an N-terminal C2 domain, two to four WW domains, and a C-terminal catalytic HECT domain. While the C2 domain was originally identified in protein kinase C (PKC) as a Ca^{2+}-dependent phosphatidylserine (PS)-binding domain (Nishizuka, 1992), it shows significant diversity in the binding partners, including intracellular proteins and other phospholipids, such as phosphatidylinositol (4,5)-bisphosphate [$PI(4,5)P_2$] (Lemmon, 2008). The WW domains recognize proline-rich motifs, such as PPxY (PY motif, where x is any residue), of substrates or adaptor proteins. The HECT domain catalyzes the isopeptide bond formation between the Ub C terminus and the substrate lysine residues. At least some of the Nedd4 family members, including Nedd4L, are catalytically autoinhibited by an intramolecular interaction between the C2 and HECT domains (Wang *et al*, 2010; Wiesner *et al*, 2007; Zhu *et al*, 2017). However, the activation mechanism of the Nedd4 family is poorly understood.

   The Nedd4 family is implicated in a wide variety of cellular processes by

regulating membrane trafficking and degradation of components of various signaling

pathways (Ingham *et al*, 2004; Rotin & Kumar, 2009). Among a diversity of substrates,

the best-characterized is the epithelial sodium channel (ENaC). This channel is composed

of three subunits, α-, β-, and γENaC, each of which possesses two transmembrane

segments and intracellular N- and C-termini with a large extracellular loop (Butterworth,

2010; Rotin & Staub, 2011; Rossier, 2014). Each subunit has a PY motif at the cytosolic

C-terminus. Nedd4L Ub ligase specifically binds to the PY motif and mediates the

ubiquitination of lysine residues on the N-terminus of at least α- and γENaC at the plasma

membrane. Ub serves as an internalization signal for recognition by adaptor proteins, such

as epsin and Eps15, for clathrin-mediated endocytosis (CME) (Traub, 2009).

Consequently, ENaC is constitutively internalized through CME. Heterozygous

mutations of the PY motif of β- or γENaC lead to impaired ubiquitination and endocytosis,

resulting in persistence of the channels at the cell surface and increased Na^+ absorption in

Liddle syndrome, an autosomal dominant form of severe hypertension.

The process of CME begins at the cytoplasmic surface of the plasma membrane

with the assembly of clathrin with adaptor proteins and transmembrane cargo molecules

(Doherty & McMahon, 2009; Traub, 2009). In parallel with this assembly, membrane

curvature is generated to form hemispherical clathrin-coated pits (CCPs). This process

leads to deep membrane invaginations. Subsequently, the neck of invaginated pits is

constricted and severed to separate the newly formed clathrin-coated vesicles (CCVs)

from the plasma membrane. These membrane curvatures are considered to be generated,

sensed, and/or maintained by Bin-Amphiphysin-Rsv (BAR) domain superfamily proteins.

BAR domains form a crescent-shaped dimer characterized by a specific degree of

intrinsic curvature. They bind to negatively-charged phospholipids, such as PS, and force membranes to bend according to their intrinsic curvatures, thereby inducing the formation of membrane tubules with specific diameters (curvatures). For example, the diameters of membrane tubules generated by the amphiphysin BAR domain, FCHO2 BAR domain, and FBP17 BAR domain are 20–50 nm (sharper curvature) (Peter *et al*, 2004; Takei *et al*, 1999; Yin *et al*, 2009), 50–80 nm (intermediate curvature) (Henne *et al*, 2007), and ~150 nm (Takano *et al*, 2008) (shallower curvature), respectively.

The FCHO2 BAR domain has been proposed to trigger the initial invagination for CCP formation (Henne *et al*, 2010). FCHO2 binds to the flat surface of the plasma membrane at sites where CCPs will form. FCHO2 then generates the initial membrane curvature and recruits the clathrin machinery for CCP formation. Here, we report the role of FCHO2 in Nedd4L-mediated ENaC endocytosis and show that FCHO2 BAR domain-generated membrane curvature induces the recruitment and activation of Nedd4L.

RESULTS

FCHO2 is required for Nedd4L-mediated ubiquitination and endocytosis of ENaC

To study the role of FCHO2 in ENaC endocytosis, we established a HeLa cell line stably expressing all three subunits, α-, β-, and γENaC (αβγENaC-HeLa cells) (Fig. S1, A-C). A FLAG tag was introduced into the extracellular region of αENaC in a position previously shown not to affect channel activity (Firsov *et al*, 1996). Upon FCHO2 knockdown by small interfering RNA (siRNA) methods, ENaC internalization was reduced, as was upon Nedd4L knockdown (Zhou *et al*, 2007) (Fig. 1, A and B). This phenotype was rescued by

an siRNA-resistant (sr) form of FCHO2 (Fig. 1C). Furthermore, FCHO2 or Nedd4L

knockdown reduced αENaC ubiquitination at the cell surface (Fig. 1D). These results

suggest that FCHO2 is required for Nedd4L-mediated ubiquitination and endocytosis of

ENaC.

Recruitment and activation of Nedd4L by FCHO2 in cells

Immunofluorescence microscopy revealed that in αβγENaC-HeLa cells, cell-surface

αENaC co-localized with FCHO2 at CCPs (Fig. 2A). However, its co-localization with

Nedd4L was not detected (Fig. 2B), because exogenous expression of Nedd4L stimulated

ENaC internalization, resulting in the disappearance of αENaC from the cell surface. In

wild-type HeLa cells, Nedd4L accumulated at CCPs where FCHO2 localized (Fig. 2C).

The co-localization of FCHO2 and Nedd4L at CCPs prompted us to investigate whether

they interact with each other.

14   Expression of Nedd4L exhibited diffuse distribution throughout the cytoplasm

in COS7 cells (Fig. 3A). However, co-expression of the FCHO2 BAR domain [amino

acid (aa) 1-302] recruited Nedd4L to membrane tubules. The Nedd4L C2 domain (Myc-

Nedd4L C2, aa 1-160) was also concentrated to membrane tubules, whereas C2 domain-

deleted Nedd4L (Myc-Nedd4L ΔC2) was not. In contrast to FCHO2, the FBP17 BAR

domain did not recruit Nedd4L to membrane tubules. Additionally, the BAR domain

protein amphiphysin1 did not recruit Nedd4L to membrane tubules. Thus, Nedd4L is

selectively recruited through the C2 domain to membrane tubules generated by the

FCHO2 BAR domain. Similar results were obtained in HEK293 cells (Fig. 3B).

23   We also investigated whether FCHO2 not only recruits but also activates Nedd4L

in cells. For this purpose, we performed an *in vivo* ubiquitination assay using HEK293

cells, which formed membrane tubules upon FCHO2 expression more efficiently than did

COS7 cells: 91 ± 5% of HEK293 cells *vs.* 32 ± 4% of COS7 cells. As the catalytic activity

of E3 Ub ligases is typically reflected in their autoubiquitination (Wiesner *et al*, 2007),

we determined activity by measuring the ubiquitination level of Nedd4L itself. Expression

of the FCHO2 BAR domain in cells remarkably enhanced Nedd4L autoubiquitination,

whereas FBP17 or amphiphysin1 did not (Fig. 4A). Tubulation-deficient FCHO2 mutants

(K146E+R152E and L136E) (Henne *et al*, 2010) did not enhance Nedd4L activity (Figs.

3C, 4A, 4B, and S2). A catalytically inactive Nedd4L mutant, C922A, which was

recruited to FCHO2-generated membrane tubules, showed little enhancement of

ubiquitination upon FCHO2 expression (Figs. 3D and 4C), indicating that Nedd4L

ubiquitination is self-induced. Using αENaC as a substrate, we further confirmed that

Nedd4L is activated upon FCHO2 expression in cells (Fig. 4D). Thus, Nedd4L is

specifically recruited to and activated by membrane tubules generated by FCHO2 in cells.

Preference of Nedd4L for FCHO2-generated membrane curvature

The aforementioned results prompted us to investigate whether FCHO2 and Nedd4L

interact through membrane tubules rather than through stereotyped protein–protein

interactions. Membrane tubules generated by BAR domains in cells have specific

diameters (curvatures) (Henne *et al*, 2007; Peter *et al*, 2004; Takano *et al*, 2008; Takei *et*

al, 1999; Yin *et al*, 2009). Nedd4L may preferentially bind to the specific degree of

membrane curvature generated by FCHO2. To investigate this possibility, we first

examined the biochemical properties of Nedd4L. Using a co-sedimentation assay with

liposomes containing various percentages of PS, we found that the C2 domain of Nedd4L

is a Ca^{2+}-dependent PS-binding domain (Fig.5, A and B). Submicromolar Ca^{2+}

concentrations, which are comparable to intracellular levels in unstimulated cells, were

sufficient for the Nedd4L C2 domain to bind to PS-containing liposomes. The C2 domain

alone and full-length Nedd4L showed different Ca^{2+} requirements. The higher Ca^{2+}

requirement of full-length Nedd4L may be due to the intramolecular interaction between

the C2 and HECT domains. Increasing PS percentages in synthetic liposomes enhanced

the liposome binding of the Nedd4L C2 domain, and PS requirements varied depending

on Ca^{2+} concentration.

We next examined whether Nedd4L preferentially binds to a specific degree of

membrane curvature. For this purpose, liposomes of different sizes (curvatures) were

prepared by stepwise extrusion through filter membranes with different pore sizes (0.8,

0.4, 0.2, 0.1, 0.05, and 0.03 μm) and sonication. Sonication or extrusion through a 0.03

μm pore-size filter was used to prepare the smallest liposomes. Transmission electron

microscopy revealed that the actual liposome size was similar to the pore size for 0.2, 0.1,

0.05, and 0.03 μm pore-size liposomes, whereas it was significantly smaller for 0.8 and

0.4 μm pore-size liposomes (Fig. 6A). Nedd4L showed the strongest binding to 0.05 μm

pore-size liposomes (Fig. 6B).

Synaptotagmin I (SytI) tandem C2 domains can both generate and sense

membrane curvature *in vitro* by penetrating their hydrophobic residues into the lipid

bilayer (Martens *et al*, 2007). As a sensor, the binding affinity is considered to be highest

for membranes that have a degree of curvature consistent with that generated by SytI

itself. We investigated whether, in addition to sensing membrane curvature, the Nedd4L

C2 domain can also generate membrane curvature *in vitro* and, if so, what diameter of membrane tubules is generated. As expected, transmission electron microscopy revealed that the C2 domain deformed liposomes into extensive tubulation (Fig 6C). It should be noted that Nedd4L does not generate membrane tubules in cells (see Fig. 3, A and B). The tubule diameter generated by Nedd4L *in vitro* was mainly 40–80 nm, which is consistent not only with the diameter of 0.05 µm pore-size liposomes, to which Nedd4L preferentially binds, but also with the diameter of membrane tubules generated by FCHO2 (Fig. 6D). These results suggest that Nedd4L shows the highest binding affinity for the degree of membrane curvature generated by FCHO2. It is therefore likely that FCHO2-induced recruitment and activation of Nedd4L are mediated by the degree of membrane curvature.

Roles of conserved hydrophobic residues in the Nedd4L C2 domain

We compared the C2 domain sequence of Nedd4L to those of other Nedd4 family members, SytI, and PKCγ (Fig. 7A). SytI C2 domains possess hydrophobic residues (M173, F234, V304, and I367) for penetration into the lipid bilayer to generate and sense membrane curvature (Martens *et al*, 2007). The Nedd4L C2 domain also has three hydrophobic residues (I37, F38, and L99), which are conserved among Nedd4 family members except for WWP2. We mutated these residues to alanine to produce six mutants, I37A, F38A, L99A, I37A+F38A, I37A+L99A, and I37A+F38A+L99A (triple-A). Any single mutation did not inhibit Nedd4L recruitment to FCHO2-generated membrane tubules (Fig. 7B). However, double and triple mutations severely impaired this recruitment. Furthermore, the I37A+F38A and triple-A mutants showed little liposome

binding and lost curvature generation (Fig. 7, C and D). Thus, these hydrophobic residues

(I37, F38, and L99) are critical for both membrane binding and curvature sensing and

generation. These residues are likely inserted into the lipid bilayer, thereby strengthening

the C2 domain interaction with membranes and enabling the sensing and generation of

membrane curvature.

In the C2 domain of Smurf2, another Nedd4 family member, conserved

hydrophobic residues (F29 and F30) are responsible for interactions with the HECT

domain (Fig. 7A) (Wiesner *et al*, 2007). Mutation at these residues impairs the interaction

between the C2 and HECT domains, resulting in enhanced Smurf2 autoubiquitination by

relieving autoinhibition. Consistent with these previous findings, we found that the

Nedd4L I37A+F38A mutant, which was not recruited to FCHO2-generated membrane

tubules, enhanced autoubiquitination, irrespective of FCHO2 expression (Figs. 3E and

4C). These results suggest that I37 and F38 are critical for interactions with the HECT

domain as well as for membrane binding and curvature sensing.

***In vitro* activation of Nedd4L by FCHO2-generated membrane curvature**

To examine the properties of Nedd4L catalytic activity, we carried out an *in vitro*

ubiquitination assay using an αENaC peptide as a substrate. The αENaC peptide possesses

a conserved PY motif for interaction with the Nedd4L WW domain, and it is fused with

monomeric streptavidin (mSA) (Lim *et al*, 2013) to bind to liposomes containing

biotinylated phospholipids (biotinylated liposomes) (Sakamoto *et al*, 2017) (Fig. 8, A and

B). We found that Ca^{2+} and PS were required for Nedd4L catalytic activity (Fig 8, C and

D), and that 0.05 μm pore-size liposomes were most effective in stimulating Ca^{2+}- and

PS-dependent Nedd4L activity (Fig. 8E). Thus, the properties of Nedd4L catalytic activity are similar to those of its liposome binding.

We next examined whether membrane localization of mSA-αENaC affects the membrane binding and catalytic activity of Nedd4L. Nedd4L bound only slightly to mSA-αENaC on PS-free (0% PS) liposomes, but the liposome binding was synergistically increased by elevating the PS percentage in liposomes (Fig. 8F). By contrast, when free biotin competitively inhibited the binding of mSA-αENaC to biotinylated liposomes, the PS-dependent liposome binding of Nedd4L was significantly reduced, resulting in remarkable inhibition of mSA-αENaC ubiquitination (Fig. 8, D and F). Thus, membrane localization of the PY motif is critical for membrane binding and activation of Nedd4L. It is, therefore, likely that the PY motifs on membranes, such as ENaC, play a role in enhancing Nedd4L catalytic activity by potentiating membrane binding through interactions with the WW domain.

We then reconstituted *in vitro* FCHO2-induced recruitment and activation of Nedd4L. When liposomes (20% PS) were used, the FCHO2 BAR domain enhanced the liposome binding of Nedd4L (Fig. 9A) and mSA-αENaC ubiquitination (Fig. 9B). This enhancement was lost when the strength of interaction of Nedd4L with liposomes was increased by elevating the PS percentage in liposomes (~50% PS) (Fig. 9C). In contrast to FCHO2, neither amphiphysin1 nor FBP17 enhanced Nedd4L activity (Figs. 9D and S3A). Similarly, tubulation-deficient FCHO2 mutant (L136E) did not enhance Nedd4L activity (Figs. 9E and S3A). These results are in good agreement with those obtained from *in vivo* experiments on FCHO2-induced recruitment and activation of Nedd4L. Electron microscopic analysis revealed that mSA-αENaC-associated liposomes were deformed by

membrane-sculpting proteins into tubules with diameters similar to those of mSA-

αENaC-free liposomes (Fig. S3B and see also Fig. 6D). The diameter of membrane

tubules generated by FCHO2 is consistent with that of 0.05 μm pore-size liposomes which

are most effective in stimulating Nedd4L activity.

To confirm whether FCHO2-induced recruitment and activation of Nedd4L are

mediated by liposomes (i.e., membrane curvature) rather than by protein–protein

interactions, we performed two sets of experiments. First, we utilized synthetic liposomes

in which 20% PS was replaced with 5% PI(4,5)P$_2$. The FCHO2 BAR domain bound to

PI(4,5)P$_2$ as well as PS with high affinity, whereas the Nedd4L C2 domain did not (Fig.

10, A and B). When liposomes [5% PI(4,5)P$_2$] were used, the BAR domain did not

stimulate the liposome binding of Nedd4L or mSA-αENaC ubiquitination (Fig. 10, C and

D). Thus, it is unlikely that Nedd4L interacts with the FCHO2 BAR domain on liposomes

through protein–protein interactions. Second, we utilized 0.05 μm pore-size liposomes

that are most effective in stimulating Nedd4L activity. The FCHO2 BAR domain showed

similar binding activity toward 0.8 and 0.05 μm pore-size liposomes (Fig. 11A). When

0.8 μm pore-size liposomes were used, the FCHO2 BAR domain enhanced Nedd4L

activity (Fig. 11B). However, when 0.05 μm pore-size liposomes were used, curvature-

stimulated Nedd4L activity was not potentiated by the addition of the FCHO2 BAR

domain. These results strongly suggest that FCHO2-induced activation of Nedd4L is

mediated by membrane curvature but not by protein–protein interactions.

DISCUSSION

Nedd4L represents the ancestral Ub ligase with strong similarity to yeast Rsp5 which

plays a key role in the trafficking, sorting, and degradation of a large number of proteins

(Yang & Kumar, 2010). Consistently, Nedd4L regulates a growing number of substrates,

including membrane receptors, transporters, and ion channels. Although Nedd4L exists

in a catalytically autoinhibited state due to an intramolecular interaction between the N-

terminal C2 and C-terminal HECT domains, little is known about its activation

mechanism. In this study, we clearly demonstrated that Nedd4L is activated by FCHO2

F-BAR domain-induced membrane curvature. Thus, our findings provide a new concept

of signal transduction in which a specific degree of membrane curvature serves as a signal

for activation of an enzyme that regulates a number of substrates.

12   Unique Properties of the Nedd4L C2 Domain

Although both sytI and Nedd4L C2 domains are Ca^{2+}-dependent PS-binding domains that

can generate and sense membrane curvature, their properties show a number of significant

differences. An interesting difference exists in the degrees of membrane curvatures

generated by sytI and Nedd4L: the diameters of their membrane tubules are about 15–20

nm and 40–80 nm, respectively (Hui *et al*, 2009; Martens *et al*, 2007). This difference is

not simply due to that between tandem and single C2 domains, because it has been shown

that the sytI C2B domain alone generates membrane tubules with a similar diameter (Hui

et al, 2009). SytI and Nedd4L C2 domains must therefore have respective unique

structures that determine the specific degrees of membrane curvatures that they sense and

generate.

Another important difference between sytI and Nedd4L C2 domains exists in

their Ca^{2+} requirements. SytI C2 domains require Ca^{2+} concentrations in the submillimolar range to generate membrane curvature (Hui *et al*, 2009). In contrast, submicromolar Ca^{2+} concentrations, which are comparable to intracellular levels in unstimulated cells, are sufficient for the Nedd4L C2 domain to sense membrane curvature. This is consistent with the observation that Nedd4L is recruited and activated in serum-starved cells. The different Ca^{2+} requirements between sytI and Nedd4L C2 domains are reflected in their functions. SytI C2 domains induce membrane curvature in response to an increase in intracellular Ca^{2+} concentration, which is essential for Ca^{2+}-triggered membrane fusion (Hui *et al*, 2009; Martens *et al*, 2007). Thus, sytI C2 domains serve as a Ca^{2+} sensor and a curvature generator. In contrast, the Nedd4L C2 domain recognizes a specific degree of curvature without an increase in intracellular Ca^{2+} concentration. Therefore, the Nedd4L C2 domain serves as a curvature sensor to regulate the localization and activity of the E3 Ub ligase.

A striking feature that distinguishes the Nedd4L C2 domain from other C2 domain proteins (except for at least a subset of Nedd4 family members) is that the Nedd4L C2 domain interacts not only with membranes but also with the intramolecular catalytic domain for its autoinhibition. Mutational experiments have revealed that I37 and F38 residues in the C2 domain are critical for interactions with both membranes and the HECT domain, suggesting that these two interactions are competitive. This idea is supported by the observation that the Ca^{2+} EC_{50} value of full-length Nedd4L is much higher than that of the C2 domain. The HECT domain in full-length Nedd4L may competitively inhibit the interaction of the C2 domain with membranes. It is likely that membranes displace the HECT domain from the C2 domain when the strength of the C2 domain interaction

with membranes is increased by the preferred membrane curvature. This displacement

relieves the autoinhibition, resulting in Nedd4L activation. Thus, the membrane binding

of Nedd4L is coupled with its activation.

Binding of Nedd4L to FCHO2-Coated Membrane Tubules

Based on a model in which a subset of BAR domain proteins, such as FCHO2 and FBP17,

drive liposome tubulation *in vitro* (Frost *et al*, 2008; Shimada *et al*, 2007), the FCHO2

BAR domain is considered to polymerize on the liposome surface into spiral dense coats

by lateral and tip-to-tip interactions. Consequently, FCHO2-coated tubules are presumed

to have little free surface space available for Nedd4L binding. However, we have shown

that mSA-αENaC-associated liposomes are deformed by the FCHO2 BAR domain into

tubules which stimulate Nedd4L binding. Our findings indicate that FCHO2-coated

liposomes have a surface space for Nedd4L binding and are not densely packed by the

FCHO2 BAR domain. mSA-αENaC may make the space by preventing spatially the

FCHO2 BAR domain from forming dense coats on the liposome surface.

Model for ENaC Endocytosis

Based on the present study, we propose a model for ENaC endocytosis through

ubiquitination (Fig. 12). First, FCHO2 binds to the plasma membrane and generates a

specific degree of membrane curvature. FCHO2 interacts with clathrin adaptor proteins,

such as Eps15, and recruits the clathrin machinery for CCP formation (Uezu *et al*, 2011;

Henne *et al*, 2010). Eps15 has Ub-interacting motifs (Di Fiore *et al*, 2003). Nedd4L is

subsequently recruited to and activated by FCHO2-generated curved membrane at the

rim of nascent CCPs that ENaC enters. ENaC is then ubiquitinated and captured by Eps15

which FCHO2 interacts with. Thus, ubiquitinated ENaC is spatially restricted to CCPs

and separated from unmodified ENaC. Overall, our findings suggest that in the early stage

of CME, a membrane deformation induced by FCHO2 can program, through both the

recruitment and activation of Nedd4L, the gathering of a subclass of cargo molecules in

CCPs.

Methods

Construction

Human αENaC, βENaC and γENaC cDNAs were kindly supplied by Dr. H. Kai

(Kumamoto University, Kumamoto, Japan) (Sugahara *et al*, 2009). FLAG-αENaC was

constructed by replacing the sequence [amino acid (aa) 169–174, TLVAGS] in the

extracellular region with the FLAG sequence (DYKDDDK) as described previously

(Firsov *et al*, 1996). This introduction of the epitope tag was carried out by polymerase

chain reaction (PCR). FLAG-αENaC, βENaC, and γENaC were subcloned into pTRE-

Tight-Hygro, pCAGI-Puro (Miyahara *et al*, 2000), and pCAGI-Bst (Umeda *et al*, 2006),

respectively. pTRE-Tight-Hygro was constructed by inserting the hygromycin-resistance

gene into pTRE-Tight (Clontech). FLAG-αENaC was also subcloned into pCAGI-Hygro,

which was constructed by replacing the puromycin-resistance gene of pCAGI-Puro with

the hygromycin-resistance gene. Human Nedd4L (NM_015277, isoform 3) cDNA was

obtained by reverse transcription (RT)-PCR and cloned in pCMV-Myc (Miyahara *et al*,

2000). Nedd4L was also cloned in pCAGI-puro-EGFP and pGEX-6P-hexahistidine

(His6). pGEX-6P-His6 was constructed from pGEX-6P (GE Healthcare) to express an N-terminal GST-tagged, C-terminal His6-tagged protein. pCAGI-puro-EGFP was constructed by subcloning EGFP cDNA into pCAGI-puro to express a C-terminal GFP-tagged protein. The Nedd4L C2 domain (C2, aa 1–160) and C2 domain-deleted mutant (ΔC2, aa 150–955) were subcloned into pCMV-Myc and/or pGEX-6P. Mouse FCHO2 (full length, aa 1–809; BAR domain, aa 1–302) and human FBP17 (BAR domain, aa 1–300) were subcloned into pEGFP-C1 and/or pGEX-6P (Uezu *et al*, 2011; Tsujita *et al*, 2006). FCHO2 (aa 1–327) were subcloned into pGEX-6P. Human amphiphysin1 cDNA was obtained by RT-PCR and cloned in pEGFP-N3. Amphiphysin1 (BAR domain, aa 1–377) was then subcloned into pGEX-6P. mTagRFP-T-Clathrin-15 was a gift from Michael Davidson (Addgene plasmid # 58005 ; http://n2t.net/addgene:58005 ; RRID:Addgene_58005) (Shaner *et al*, 2008). Human hemagglutinin (HA)-tagged Ub cDNA in pCGN was kindly donated by Dr. M. Nakao (Kumamoto University, Kumamoto, Japan). Ub cDNA was subcloned into pET3a. Human UbcH7 cDNA was obtained by RT-PCR and cloned in pGEX-6P. pET21d-Ube1 was a gift from Cynthia Wolberger (Addgene plasmid # 34965 ; http://n2t.net/addgene:34965 ; RRID:Addgene_34965) (Berndsen & Wolberger, 2011). pRSET-mSA was a gift from Sheldon Park (Addgene plasmid # 39860 ; http://n2t.net/addgene:39860 ; RRID:Addgene_39860) (Lim *et al*, 2013). mSA-αENaC was constructed in pRSET-mSA to express a fusion protein of the N-terminal (aa 7–40) and C-terminal (aa 625–659) intracellular regions of αENaC (see Fig. 8A). Mutagenesis was performed by PCR using mutated primers and a site-directed mutagenesis kit (Stratagene).

Protein expression and purification

Expression and purification of GST-tagged proteins were performed using standard

protocols. His6-tagged proteins were purified with Talon metal affinity resin (Clontech)

using the manufacturer's protocol. The GST tag was cleaved off by PreScission protease

(GE Healthcare). The GST tag of BAR domains did not inhibit liposome binding or

tubulation, whereas the GST tag of Nedd4L inhibited these functions. As FCHO2 (BAR

domain, aa 1–302) was easily aggregated by the removal of the GST tag, FCHO2 (aa 1–

327) was used instead as a GST-cleaved form of the FCHO2 BAR domain. Full-length

Nedd4L (N-terminal GST-tagged, C-terminal His6-tagged) was purified by glutathione–

Sepharose (GE Healthcare) column chromatography. The GST tag was cleaved off and

the Nedd4L sample was then subjected to Talon metal affinity column chromatography.

After the eluate was passed through glutathione–Sepharose beads, the sample was

dialyzed against buffer A (20 mM Tris-HCl at pH 7.5, 100 mM KCl, 0.5 mM EDTA, 1

mM DTT, and 20 % sucrose). The Nedd4L sample was stored at −80°C until use. Ub was

expressed in *E. coli* strain BL21 (DE3) pJY2 and purified as previously described (Pickart

& Raasi, 2005). His6-tagged mSA-αENaC was expressed in *E. coli* strain BL21 (DE3)

pLysS and purified as previously described (Lim *et al*, 2013) with slight modifications.

Briefly, the inclusion body was isolated and solubilized in buffer B (50 mM Tris-HCl at

pH 8.0 and 6 M guanidine hydrochloride). The sample was then subjected to Talon metal

affinity column chromatography. The eluate was added drop by drop to ice-cold refolding

buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl at pH 8.0, 150 mM NaCl, 0.15 mg/ml D-biotin, 0.2 mg/ml

oxidized glutathione, and 1 mg/ml reduced glutathione) under rapid stirring. The sample

was then concentrated using a Centriprep centrifugal filter unit (Millipore) and

centrifuged to remove aggregates. The supernatant was dialyzed against buffer C (20 mM

Tris-HCl at pH 8.0). The mSA-αENaC sample was further purified by Mono Q anion

exchange column chromatography as follows. The sample was applied to a Mono Q 5/50

GL column (GE Healthcare) equilibrated with buffer C. Elution was performed with a 50

ml linear gradient of NaCl (0–200 mM) in buffer C. Fractions of 1 ml each were collected.

The active fractions (fraction 18–22) were collected and dialyzed against buffer D (10

mM Tris-HCl at pH 7.5, 100 mM KCl, and 0.5 mM EDTA). The mSA-αENaC sample

was stored at −80°C until use.

Antibodies

Rabbit anti-Nedd4L antibody was raised against GST-Nedd4L C2 (aa 1–160). Rabbit anti-

FCHO2 antibody was obtained as previously described (Uezu *et al*, 2011). The following

antibodies were purchased from commercial sources: mouse anti-Myc (9E10) (American

Type Culture Collection); mouse anti-FLAG (M2) and mouse anti-α-tubulin (clone

DM1A) (Sigma-Aldrich); mouse anti-clathrin heavy chain (BD Biosciences); rabbit anti-

GFP (MBL Co.); rabbit anti-αENaC (Calbiochem); rabbit anti-βENaC (Proteintech);

rabbit anti-γENaC (Abcam); mouse anti-Ub antibody P4D1 (Santa Cruz); and secondary

antibodies conjugated with Alexa Fluor 488, 594, and 647 (Invitrogen).

Cell culture and transfection

HeLa, HEK293, and COS7 cells were cultured in Dulbecco's modified Eagle medium

(DMEM) supplemented with 10% fetal calf serum. HEK293 cells were grown on poly-

L-lysine-coated dishes. Transfection was performed by using Lipofectamine 2000

(Invitrogen) according to the manufacturer's protocol.

Generation of stable HeLa cells expressing all three ENaC subunits

HeLa cells were transfected with the pTet-On Advanced vector (Clontech) to develop

stable Tet-On cell lines for a doxycycline (Dox)-inducible expression system according

to the manufacturer's protocol. Tet-On cells were selected in 0.5 mg/ml G418. Cloned

Tet-On cells were then transfected with pCAGI-Bst-γENaC and selected in 4 µg/ml

blasticidin (in the presence of G418). Blasticidin-resistant cells were transfected with

pCAGI-Puro-βENaC and selected in 1 µg/ml puromycin (in the presence of G418 and

blasticidin). Puromycin-resistant cells were finally transfected with pTRE-Tight-Hygro-

FLAG-αENaC and cultured in 0.2 mg/ml hygromycin (in the presence of G418,

blasticidin, and puromycin). After selection, cells were cloned and maintained in 0.5

mg/ml G418, 0.2 mg/ml hygromycin, 1 µg/ml puromycin, and 2.5 µg/ml blasticidin.

FLAG-tagged αENaC expression was induced by treating cells with 1 µg/ml Dox in the

presence of 40 µM amiloride overnight. Amiloride was added to prevent cellular Na^+

overload.

Immunofluorescence microscopy

Cells were fixed with 3.7% formaldehyde in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) at room

temperature for 15 min, and then permeabilized with 0.2% Triton X-100 in PBS for 10

min. After blocking with 1% bovine serum albumin (BSA) in PBS, cells were sequentially

incubated with primary antibodies and fluorescence-conjugated secondary antibodies at

room temperature for 1 h, respectively. Cells were then analyzed with either a fluorescence microscope (BX51; Olympus) or a confocal microscopy system (BX50 and Fluoview FV300; Olympus). A 60 × oil immersion objective (NA = 1.40, Olympus) was used. All comparable images were acquired under identical parameters. To visualize cell-surface FLAG-αENaC in αβγENaC-HeLa cells, cells were incubated with 5 μg/ml anti-FLAG M2 antibody at 4°C for 1 h to prevent internalization. Cells were then fixed, permeabilized, and stained with a secondary antibody. Cells were also sequentially incubated with primary (anti-FCHO2) and secondary antibodies.

RNA interference

Stealth™ double-stranded RNAs were purchased from Invitrogen. siRNA sequences of human FCHO2 and Nedd4L were 5′-CCA CAG AUC UUA GAG UGG AUU AUA A-3′ (corresponding to nucleotides 2048–2072 relative to the start codon) and 5′-GAA GAG UUG CUG GUC UGG CCG UAU U-3′ (corresponding to nucleotides 1778–1802 relative to the start codon), respectively. A double-stranded RNA targeting luciferase (GL-2, 5′-CGU ACG CGG AAU ACU UCG AAA UGU C-3′) was used as a control. HeLa cells were transfected with 20 nM siRNA using Lipofectamine 2000 according to the manufacturer's protocol. After 24 h, a second transfection was performed, and cells were cultured for 3 days and subjected to various experiments. For rescue experiments, cells were transfected with the intended plasmid at 36 h after the second transfection. After 18 h, cells were fixed and analyzed.

Endocytosis assay

αβγENaC-HeLa cells at approximately 90% confluence in a 10-cm dish were starved with serum-free medium (DMEM containing 1% BSA, 1 μg/ml Dox, and 40 μM amiloride) at 37°C for 4 h. They were then incubated with 5 μg/ml anti-FLAG M2 antibody in 2 ml of DMEM containing 1% BSA at 4°C for 1 h to prevent internalization. After three washes with ice-cold PBS containing 1 mM $MgCl_2$ and 0.1 mM $CaCl_2$ (PBS-CM), endocytosis was allowed by incubating cells in prewarmed DMEM containing 1% BSA at 37°C for the indicated periods of time. Endocytosis was stopped by placing cells on ice and washing them with ice-cold PBS-CM. Antibody bound to the cell surface but not internalized was removed by acid stripping with 0.2 M acetic acid and 0.5 M NaCl solution (pH 2.5). After washing with ice-cold PBS-CM, internalized ENaC was detected by immunoblotting (IB) or immunofluorescence microscopy. For IB, cells were scraped in 1 ml of lysis buffer A (50 mM Tris-HCl at pH 8.0, 150 mM NaCl, 5 mM EDTA, 1% Triton X-100, 1 mM PMSF, 20 μg/ml leupeptin, and 1 μg/ml pepstatin A). Cells were solubilized at 4°C for 1 h on a rotating wheel, and centrifuged at 20,000 × g at 4°C for 15 min. Protein G-Sepharose beads (GE Healthcare) were added to the supernatant and incubated at 4°C for 3 h. The beads were then thoroughly washed with lysis buffer A and boiled in sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS) sample buffer. The sample was subjected to SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (PAGE), followed by IB with anti-ENaC subunit antibodies. Internalization was expressed as a percentage of the initial amount of cell-surface ENaC subunit determined by incubating cells with anti-FLAG antibody at 4°C for 1 h and lysing them without incubation at 37°C or acid stripping. Data represent the mean ± standard error of the mean (SEM) of three independent experiments. For immunofluorescence microscopy, cells were incubated at 37°C for 10 min to allow ENaC

endocytosis. After acid stripping, cells were fixed with 3.7% formaldehyde and

permeabilized with 0.2% Triton X-100. The antibody-labeled, internalized αENaC was

visualized with a fluorescence-conjugated secondary antibody.

Cell surface biotinylation and determination of ENaC ubiquitination

αβγENaC-HeLa cells at approximately 90% confluence in a 10-cm dish were starved with

serum-free medium (DMEM containing 1% BSA, 1 µg/ml Dox, and 40 µM amiloride) at

37°C for 4 h, washed three times with ice-cold PBS, and incubated at 4°C for 45 min with

2 ml of 1 mg/ml EZ-link Sulfo-NHS-SS-Biotin (Pierce) in PBS with gentle shaking. Cells.

Subsequently, cells were extensively washed with ice-cold Tris-buffered saline, and then

scraped into 1 ml of lysis buffer B (50 mM Tris-HCl at pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 5 mM

EDTA, 1% Triton X-100, 10 mM N-ethylmaleimide, 1 mM PMSF, 10 µg/ml leupeptin,

and 1 µg/ml pepstatin A) containing 40 µM MG132. Cells were solubilized at 4°C for 1

h on a rotating wheel, and centrifuged at $20,000 \times g$ at 4°C for 15 min. The supernatant

(4 mg of protein) was incubated at 4°C for 3 h with 10 µg of anti-FLAG M2 antibody.

Protein G-Sepharose beads (50 µl of 50% slurry) were then added to the sample, which

was incubated at 4°C for 3 h. After beads were thoroughly washed with lysis buffer B

containing 40 µM MG132, FLAG-tagged proteins were eluted from the beads with 200

µg/ml FLAG peptide (Sigma-Aldrich) in 0.5 ml of lysis buffer B. After centrifugation,

the supernatant was incubated with 25 µl of NeutrAvidin beads (Thermo Scientific) at

4°C overnight. After the beads were thoroughly washed with lysis buffer B, bound

proteins were eluted by incubating the beads at 4°C for 1 h with 150 µl of lysis buffer B

containing 200 mM DTT. After centrifugation, $5 \times$ SDS sample buffer was added to the

supernatant, which was then analyzed by IB.

Liposome preparation

Phospholipids were purchased from commercial sources: phosphatidylcholine (PC, 1,2-

dioleoyl-*sn*-glycero-3-phosphocholine), phosphatidylethanolamine (PE, 1,2-dioleoyl-*sn*-

glycero-3-phosphoethanolamine), PS (1,2-dioleoyl-*sn*-glycero-3-phospho-L-serine),

rhodamine-PE [18:1 L-α-PE-N-(lissamine rhodamine B sulfonyl)], PEG2000-biotin-PE

(1,2-distearoyl-*sn*-glycero-3-phosphoethanolamine-N-[biotinyl (polyethyleneglycol)-

2000]), porcine brain PS, brain PI(4,5)P$_2$, and porcine brain total lipid extract were

obtained from Avanti Polar Lipids; cholesterol and Folch lipids [bovine brain lipids

(Folch Fraction 1)] were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich; X-biotin-PE [N-((6-

(biotinoyl)amino)hexanoyl)-1,2-dihexadecanoylsn-glycero-3-phosphoethanolamine]

was obtained from Thermo Fisher Scientific; and fluorescein-PE [N-(fluorescein-5-

thiocarbamoyl)-1,2-dihexadecanoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphoethanolamine] was obtained

from AAT Bioquest Inc.

Liposomes were prepared using brain lipids (Folch lipids, ~50% PS of total

lipids), brain lipids (20% PS of total lipids, a mixture of 89.5% porcine brain total lipid

extract and 10.5% porcine brain PS), or a synthetic lipid mixture [70% PC, 20% PE, 10%

cholesterol (w/w), and varying percentages of PS or PI(4,5)P$_2$ (with a corresponding

reduction in PC)]. Lipid concentrations were monitored by including 1% rhodamine-PE

(w/w). To prepare mSA-αENaC–associated liposomes, 2% PEG2000-biotin-PE (w/w)

was included. Lipids were dried under nitrogen gas, desiccated for 2 h, and resuspended

at 1 mg/ml in lipid buffer (50 mM HEPES-NaOH at pH 7.2, 100 mM KCl, 2 mM MgCl$_2$,

and 5 mM EGTA), followed by hydration at 37°C for 1 h. To make liposomes of different

sizes, they were subjected to five freeze–thaw cycles and centrifuged at $100,000 \times g$ for

15 min. Precipitated liposomes were then resuspended in the same buffer to make a final

concentration of 1 mg/ml. They were subjected to extrusion through polycarbonate filter

membranes (Avanti Polar Lipids): liposomes were sequentially passed 9 times through a

0.8-μm filter, 21 times through a 0.4-μm filter, 21 times through a 0.2-μm filter, 21 times

through a 0.1-μm filter, 21 times through a 0.05-μm filter, and 21 times through a 0.03-

μm filter. Instead of extrusion through a 0.03-μm filter, liposomes with the smallest size

were also prepared by sonication three times for 5 s with a Branson Sonifier 25 at power

level 1. Liposome diameters were examined by transmission electron microscopy.

Co-sedimentation assay

A co-sedimentation assay was performed as described (Uezu *et al*, 2011) with slight

modifications. Briefly, 5–10 μg of protein was incubated at 25°C for 10 min with 0.5

mg/ml liposomes in 100 μl of lipid buffer containing various concentrations of $CaCl_2$ and

centrifuged at $165,000 \times g$ at 25°C for 15 min. Equal amounts of the supernatants and

pellets were subjected to SDS-PAGE, followed by Coomassie brilliant blue (CBB)

staining. Proteins were quantified by scanning using ImageJ (NIH). The assay with

liposomes of different sizes was performed using NeutrAvidin (Thermo Fisher Scientific

Inc) as described (Sakamoto *et al*, 2017). Briefly, brain-lipid (Folch-lipid) liposomes

(~50% PS) were supplemented with 1% X-biotin-PE and 1% rhodamine-PE, subjected to

extrusion through filter membranes, and then sonicated. Purified Nedd4L protein (10 μg)

was incubated with 0.2 mg/ml liposomes in 100 μl of lipid buffer containing 2mM $CaCl_2$

(0.1 μM Ca^{2+}). The sample was then incubated with 2 μg of NeutrAvidin and

ultracentrifuged. Both total and supernatant fluorescence were measured. The percentage

of precipitated liposomes of each size was estimated to be ~100%.

The assay with mSA-αENaC–associated liposomes was performed as follows.

Liposomes were prepared from a synthetic lipid mixture [various percentages of PS or

5% PI(4,5)P$_2$] or brain lipids supplemented with 2% PEG2000-biotin-PE and 1%

rhodamine-PE. The liposomes (10 μg) were incubated with purified mSA-αENaC protein

(35 pmol) at 4°C for 10 min in 25 μl of lipid buffer. The sample was then incubated at

25°C for 10 min with 0.07 μM (8 μg/ml) Nedd4L and/or 1.4 μM BAR domains in 50 μl

of ubiquitination buffer (50 mM HEPES-NaOH at pH 7.2, 100 mM KCl, 2 mM MgCl$_2$,

5 mM EGTA, and 0.1 mM DTT) containing 4 mM CaCl$_2$ (0.7 μM Ca^{2+}). Subsequently,

the sample was subjected to ultracentrifugation. Equal amounts of the total samples and

pellets were subjected to SDS-PAGE, followed by CBB staining and IB. The

chemiluminescence intensity was quantified by scanning using ImageJ (NIH).

The assay with mSA-αENaC-associated liposomes (0.05 μm pore-size) was

done as follows. Liposomes were prepared from brain lipids (20% PS) supplemented with

2% PEG2000-biotin-PE, 1% rhodamine-PE, and 0.5% fluorescein-PE (w/w) and

extruded through membrane filters. To precipitate liposomes, the sample (50 μl) was first

incubated with 1 μg of anti-fluorescein goat antibody (Novus Biologicals) at room

temperature for 1 h and then incubated with 0.5 μg of protein A/G/L (BioVision) at room

temperature for 1 h. Subsequently, the sample was centrifuged at 165,000 × g at 25°C for

15 min. Equal amounts of the supernatants and pellets were subjected to SDS-PAGE,

followed by CBB staining and IB. The percentage of precipitated liposomes was

estimated to be ~100%.

Calculation of free Ca²⁺ concentrations

At 1.0, 2.0, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, and 4.9 mM CaCl₂ in lipid buffer, free Ca^{2+} concentrations

were calculated to be 0.04, 0.1, 0.3, 0.4, 0.7, 1.6, and 8.1 µM, respectively, as determined

by the Ca-Mg-ATP-EGTA Calculator v1.0 using constants from the NIST database #46

v8. At 1.0, 2.0, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, and 4.9 mM CaCl₂ in ubiquitination buffer, free Ca^{2+}

concentrations were calculated to be 0.04, 0.1, 0.2, 0.4, 0.7, 1.4, and 6.7 µM, respectively.

***In vitro* tubulation assay**

An *in vitro* tubulation assay was performed as described (Uezu *et al*, 2011; Tsujita *et al*,

2006) with slight modifications. Briefly, liposomes were prepared from brain lipids

(Folch lipids) supplemented with 1 % rhodamine-PE. The liposomes (0.2 mg/ml

liposomes) were incubated with the Nedd4L C2 domain (4.5 µM) or BAR domains (1.4

µM) at 25°C for 10 min in lipid buffer containing 3 mM CaCl₂ (0.3 µM Ca^{2+}). The sample

was examined by fluorescence microscopy or electron microscopy. The tubulation assay

with mSA-αENaC-associated liposomes was performed using the sample mixture utilized

in the co-sedimentation assay in which mSA-αENaC-associated liposomes (brain-lipid

liposomes) were used.

Negative-staining electron microscopy

Negative-staining transmission electron microscopy was performed as described

(Shimada *et al*, 2007). Box and whisker plots were used to represent the distribution of

liposome diameters (n = 50).

***In vivo* ubiquitination assay**

HEK293 cells were used, because they formed membrane tubules upon FCHO2

expression more efficiently than did COS7 cells. HEK293 cells at approximately 90%

confluence on a 6-well plate were transfected with 0.8 μg of pCMV-Myc-Nedd4L, 1.6 μg

of pEGFP-BAR domain, and 1.6 μg of pCGN-HA-Ub. In some experiments, cells were

transfected with various doses (0–1.5 μg) of pCMV-Myc-Nedd4L, 1.5 μg of pEGFP-

FCHO2 BAR domain, 1 μg of pCGN-HA-Ub, and 0.5 μg of pCAGI-Hygro-FLAG-

αENaC. Total transfected cDNA amount was held constant using empty pCMV-Myc

vector. Amiloride (40 μM) was added to the medium when αENaC cDNA was transfected.

At 21 h after transfection, cells were washed with PBS and incubated with serum-free

DMEM containing 1% BSA. After 3 h incubation, 10 μM MG132 was added to the

medium. After further 4 h incubation, cells were solubilized in 150 μl of lysis buffer C

(50 mM Tris-HCl at pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 5 mM EDTA, 10 mM N-ethylmaleimide, 1

mM PMSF, 10 μg/ml leupeptin, and 1μg/ml pepstatin A) containing 1% SDS. After

boiling, the sample was sonicated and then centrifuged at 20,000 × *g* for 15 min. The

supernatant was diluted 10-fold with lysis buffer C containing 1% Triton X-100 and then

incubated at 4°C for 3 h with either anti-Myc or anti-FLAG M2 antibody. Protein G-

Sepharose beads were added to the sample, which was then incubated at 4°C for 3 h. After

the beads were thoroughly washed with lysis buffer C containing 1% Triton X-100, bound

proteins were eluted by boiling in SDS sample buffer for 5 min. These proteins were then

subjected to SDS-PAGE, followed by IB.

***In vitro* ubiquitination assay**

mSA-αENaC-associated liposomes were made by incubating liposomes (10 μg) with

mSA-αENaC (35 pmol) in 25 μl of lipid buffer, as described for the co-sedimentation

assay. They were then incubated at 25°C for 10 min with 0.07 μM Nedd4L, 0.04 μM E1

(Ube1), 0.7 μM E2 (UbcH7), 7 μM Ub, and various concentrations of BAR domains in

50 µl of ubiquitination buffer containing 4 mM $CaCl_2$ (0.7 μM Ca^{2+}) and 2 mM ATP.

Where indicated, various concentrations of $CaCl_2$ were used. The ubiquitination reaction

was started by adding ATP and stopped by adding 10 µl of 6 × SDS sample. The sample

was then boiled, subjected to SDS-PAGE, and immunoblotted with anti-Ub and anti-

αENaC antibodies. The chemiluminescence intensity was quantified by scanning using

ImageJ (NIH).

Other procedures

Stripping immunoblots for re-probing was carried out with the WB Stripping Solution

Strong (Nacalai Tesque) according to the manufacturer's protocol. Protein concentrations

were quantified with BSA as a reference protein by the Bradford method (Bio-Rad) or the

BCA method (Thermo Fisher Scientific). SDS-PAGE was performed as described

(Laemmli, 1970).

Statistical analysis

All experiments were performed at least in triplicate and representative results are shown.

Data are shown as the mean ± SEM. Student's tests were used to evaluate statistical

significances between different treatment groups.

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Author Contributions

Y.S., A.U., and H.N. conceived and designed the project with contributions from K.K.; Y.S., A.U., and H.N. performed experiments; S.S. contributed to providing the cDNAs of FBP17 and amphiphysin1 and to analyzing tubulation by electron microscopy; Y.S., A.U., K.K., and H.N. analyzed data and interpreted results; Y.S. and H.N. wrote the manuscript with contributions from K.K.

Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

Fig. 1. FCHO2 is required for Nedd4L-mediated ubiquitination and endocytosis of ENaC.

A, Knockdown of FCHO2 or Nedd4L by siRNA. αβγENaC-HeLa cells treated with each

siRNA were analyzed by immunoblotting (IB).

B, ENaC endocytosis. αβγENaC-HeLa cells treated with each siRNA were subjected to

an endocytosis assay using anti-FLAG antibody. A FLAG tag was introduced into the

extracellular region of αENaC. Initial cell-surface and internalized ENaC subunits were

detected by IB (upper panels) and quantified (bottom panels and right panel).

Internalization was expressed as a percentage of the initial amount of cell-surface αENaC.

Data are shown as the mean ± S.E.M of three independent experiments. **, $P < 0.01$; ***,

$P < 0.001$ (the Student's t-test).

C, Restoration of αENaC endocytosis by FCHO2 re-expression in knockdown cells. Cells

were transfected with the indicated siRNA and GFP construct and subjected to an

endocytosis assay, followed by immunofluorescence microscopy. Arrows indicate cells

expressing GFP-tagged proteins. Scale bars, 10 μm.

D, ENaC ubiquitination. Cell-surface αENaC was biotinylated and sequentially

precipitated with anti-FLAG antibody and then avidin beads. Samples were analyzed by

IB. Asterisks indicate the same band of ubiquitinated FLAG-αENaC.

Fig. 2. Localization of cell-surface ENaC, FCHO2, and Nedd4L at clathrin-coated

pits.

A, Co-localization of cell-surface ENaC with FCHO2 at clathrin-coated pits. mTagRFP-

clathrin was expressed in αβγENaC-HeLa cells. Cell-surface αENaC was labeled by

incubating with anti-FLAG antibody at 4°C. Cells were then fixed and stained with anti-

FCHO2 antibody. Insets represent enlarged images of the dashed boxes. Scale bar, 10 μm.

B, Failure to detect the co-localization of cell-surface αENaC with Nedd4L. Nedd4L-GFP

1 was expressed in αβγENaC-HeLa cells. Cell-surface αENaC were labeled by incubating

2 with anti-FLAG antibody at 4°C, followed by immunofluorescence microscopy. Scale

3 bar, 10 μm

4 **C**, Co-localization of Nedd4L with FCHO2 at clathrin-coated pits. Nedd4L-GFP and

5 mTagRFP-clathrin were co-expressed in wild-type HeLa cells. Cells were then fixed and

6 stained with anti-FCHO2 antibody. Insets represent enlarged images of the dashed boxes.

7 Scale bar, 10 μm

9 **Fig. 3. Recruitment of Nedd4L to membrane tubules generated by FCHO2 in cells.**

10 GFP-BAR domains were co-expressed with Myc-Nedd4L proteins in (A) COS7 cells and

11 (B-E) HEK293 cells. Cells were serum-starved and subjected to immunofluorescence

12 microscopy. Insets represent enlarged images of the dashed boxes. Scale bar, 10 μm.

13 **A, B**, Specificity of BAR domains.

14 **C,** Inability of FCHO2 mutants to generate membrane tubules.

15 **D, E,** Effects of Nedd4L mutations on the recruitment to membrane tubules.

17 **Fig. 4. Activation of Nedd4L by membrane tubules generated by FCHO2 in cells.**

18 **A–C**, Nedd4L autoubiquitination. An *in vivo* ubiquitination assay was performed with (A,

19 B) various BAR domains and FCHO2 mutants and (C) Nedd4L mutants. GFP-BAR

20 domains were co-expressed with Myc-Nedd4L proteins and HA-tagged Ub in HEK293

21 cells. Cell lysates were subjected to immunoprecipitation (IP). Samples were analyzed by

22 IB. WT, wild type.

23 **D**, αENaC ubiquitination. An *in vivo* ubiquitination assay was performed with various

concentrations of Myc-Nedd4L using FLAG-αENaC as a substrate in the presence or

absence of GFP-FCHO2 BAR domain. Cell lysates were subjected to IP. Samples were

analyzed by IB.

Fig. 5. The Nedd4L C2 domain is a Ca^{2+}-dependent PS binding domain.

A co-sedimentation assay was performed with (A) the C2 domain or full-length Nedd4L

using brain-lipid liposomes (~50% PS) at various Ca^{2+} concentrations and with (B) the

C2 domain using synthetic liposomes containing various percentages of PS at 0.3 μM or

1.0 mM Ca^{2+}. The supernatant (S) and pellet (P) were subjected to sodium dodecyl sulfate

(SDS)-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (PAGE), followed by Coomassie brilliant blue

(CBB) staining (upper panels). Bottom panels, quantitative analysis. (−) for $[Ca^{2+}]$

indicates EGTA alone.

A, Ca^{2+} dependency.

B, PS dependency.

Fig. 6. Preference of Nedd4L for FCHO2-generated membrane curvature.

A, Distribution of liposome diameters. Brain-lipid liposomes (~50% PS) of different

diameters were prepared by extrusion through the indicated pore sizes and sonication.

Left panel, electron microscopic images. Scale bars, 200 nm. Right panel, quantitative

analysis. So, sonication.

B-D, Sensing and generation of membrane curvature by Nedd4L. Co-sedimentation (B)

and *in vitro* tubulation (C, D) assays were performed using brain-lipid liposomes (~50%

PS) at (B) 0.1 μM and (C, D) 0.3 μM Ca^{2+}. B, Preference of Nedd4L for a specific degree

of membrane curvature. The assay was performed with full-length Nedd4L using

liposomes of different sizes which were prepared by extrusion through the indicated pore

sizes. The supernatant (S) and pellet (P) were subjected to SDS- PAGE, followed by CBB

staining (upper panel). Bottom panel, quantitative analysis. So, sonication. Data are

shown as the mean ± S.E.M of three independent experiments. *, P < 0.05; **, P < 0.01

(the Student's t-test). C, Curvature generation by Nedd4L. The assay was performed with

the Nedd4L C2 domain. Samples were examined by electron microscopy. Scale bar, 100

nm. D, The degree of membrane curvature generated by Nedd4L is consistent with that

generated by FCHO2. The assay was performed with the indicated protein. Left panel,

electron microscopic image. Scale bar, 100 nm. Right panel, distribution of tubule

diameters.

Fig. 7. Conserved hydrophobic residues of Nedd4L are responsible for sensing and generation of membrane curvature.

A, Sequence alignment of C2 domains. Conserved residues are highlighted with the following color code: yellow, aspartates for Ca^{2+} binding; blue, very hydrophobic residues probably for penetration into the lipid bilayer; and brown, others. Dots show the mutation sites. Hs, Homo sapiens; Sc, Saccharomyces cerevisiae; and Rt, Rattus norvegicus.

B. Inability of Nedd4L C2 domain mutants to sense membrane curvature in cells. GFP-FCHO2 BAR domain and Myc-Nedd4L C2 domain mutants were co-expressed in COS7 cells. Insets are enlarged images of dashed boxes. Scale bar, 10 μm.

C, D, Inability of Nedd4L C2 domain mutants to bind to membranes and to generate membrane curvature *in vitro*. Co-sedimentation (C) and *in vitro* tubulation (D) assays

were performed using brain-lipid liposomes (~50% PS) at 0.3 μM Ca^{2+}. C, Membrane

binding. The assay was performed with Nedd4L C2 domain mutants using various

concentrations of liposomes. The supernatant (S) and pellet (P) were subjected to SDS-

PAGE, followed by CBB staining (upper panel). Bottom panel, quantitative analysis. D,

Curvature generation. The assay was performed with Nedd4L C2 domain mutants.

Samples were examined by fluorescence microscopy. Scale bar, 10 μm.

Fig. 8. Properties of the catalytic activity and membrane binding of Nedd4L.

Liposomes supplemented with biotinylated phospholipids were incubated with mSA-

αENaC (A, B). Samples were mixed with Nedd4L. Mixtures were subjected to

ubiquitination (C-E) and co-sedimentation (F) assays. These assays were performed with

(C) brain-lipid liposomes (~50% PS) at various Ca^{2+} concentrations, with (D, F) synthetic

liposomes (various percentages of PS) at 0.7 μM Ca^{2+}, and with (E) brain-lipid liposomes

(20% PS) at 0.7 μM Ca^{2+}. Ubiquitination and liposome binding were quantified by

scanning and expressed as ratios to maximum levels. Asterisks indicate the same band of

mono-ubiquitinated mSA-αENaC.

A, B, Schematic diagrams of mSA-αENaC. A, Structure. B. Binding to biotinylated

liposomes.

C, Ca^{2+}-dependent Nedd4L activity. Ubiquitination was detected by IB (upper panels)

and quantified (bottom panel).

D, F, Membrane localization of mSA-αENaC enhances the PS-dependent catalytic

activity and membrane binding of Nedd4L. Assays were performed in the presence or

absence of 40 μM biotin. Ubiquitination and liposome binding were detected by IB (left

panels) and quantified (right panels). D, Catalytic activity. F, Membrane binding. T, total sample. P, pellet.

E. Nedd4L activity is predominantly stimulated by the specific degree of membrane curvature. The assay was performed using liposomes of different sizes which were prepared by extrusion through the indicated pore sizes. Ubiquitination was detected by IB (left panels) and quantified (right panel). Data are shown as the mean ± S.E.M of three independent experiments. **, $P < 0.01$; ***, $P < 0.001$ (the Student's t-test).

Fig. 9. Recruitment and activation of Nedd4L by FCHO2-generated membrane curvature *in vitro*.

mSA-αENaC-associated brain-lipid liposomes (20% PS) were mixed with Nedd4L in the presence or absence of BAR domains. Mixtures were subjected to co-sedimentation (A) and ubiquitination (B-E) assays. These assays were performed at 0.7 μM Ca^{2+} with (A, B, D, and E) brain-lipid liposomes (20%PS) and with (C) the indicated (20% PS or ~50% PS) brain-lipid liposomes. Ubiquitination and liposome binding were quantified by scanning and expressed as ratios to maximum levels. Asterisks indicate the same band of mono-ubiquitinated mSA-αENaC.

A, FCHO2-induced recruitment of Nedd4L. The assay was performed with the FCHO2 BAR domain (1.4 μM, 50 μg/ml) in the presence or absence of biotin. The total sample (T) and pellets (P) were subjected to SDS-PAGE, followed by CBB staining (FCHO2 BAR) and IB (Nedd4L and mSA-αENaC).

B, C, FCHO2-induced activation of Nedd4L. B, Effects of various doses of the FCHO2 BAR domain. The assay was performed with various concentrations of the FCHO2 BAR

domain. Ubiquitination was detected by IB (right panels) and quantified (left panel). C,

Effects of the PS percentage in liposomes. The assay was performed with the FCHO2

BAR domain (1.4 μM). Samples were analyzed by IB.

D, E, Specificity of BAR domains and effect of an FCHO2 mutant. The assay was

performed with (D) various BAR domains and (F) an FCHO2 mutant (1.4 μM each).

Samples were analyzed by IB.

Fig. 10. Effects of PI(4,5)P$_2$ on FCHO2-induced recruitment and activation of Nedd4L.

A, B, Binding to PI(4,5)P$_2$. A co-sedimentation assay was performed at 0.7 μM Ca^{2+} with

the FCHO2 BAR or Nedd4L C2 domain using mSA-αENaC-associated synthetic

liposomes containing (A) 20% PS, 5% PI(4,5)P$_2$, or (B) various percentages of PI(4,5)P$_2$.

The supernatant (S) and pellet (P) were subjected to SDS-PAGE, followed by CBB

staining. Bottom panel in B, quantitative analysis. Control, synthetic liposomes [0% PS

and 0% PI(4,5)P$_2$].

C, D, Effects on FCHO2-induced recruitment and activation of Nedd4L. Co-

sedimentation (C) and ubiquitination (D) assays were performed at 0.7 μM Ca^{2+} with

mSA-αENaC-associated synthetic liposomes containing 20% PS or 5% PI(4,5)P$_2$ in the

presence or absence of the FCHO2 BAR domain. C, Nedd4L recruitment. The total

sample (T) and pellets (P) were subjected to SDS-PAGE, followed by IB with anti-

Nedd4L antibody (upper panel) and CBB staining (lower panel). D, Nedd4L activation.

Samples were analyzed by IB. Asterisks indicate the same band of mono-ubiquitinated

mSA-αENaC.

Fig. 11. Effects of liposome size on FCHO2-induced activation of Nedd4L. Co-

sedimentation (A) and ubiquitination (B) assays were performed at 0.7 μM Ca^{2+} with the

FCHO2 BAR domain using brain-lipid liposomes (20% PS, 0.8 μm or 0.05 μm pore-size)

that were associated with mSA-αENaC.

A, Binding of the FCHO2 BAR domain to 0.8 μm and 0.05 μm pore-size liposomes. The

co-sedimentation assay with anti-fluorescein antibody was performed using synthetic

(0% PS) or brain-lipid liposomes (20% PS) containing fluorescein-PE. The total sample

(T) and pellets (P) were subjected to SDS-PAGE, followed by CBB staining.

B, Effects of liposome size on FCHO2-induced activation of Nedd4L. Samples were

analyzed by IB. Asterisks indicate the same band of mono-ubiquitinated mSA-αENaC.

Fig. 12. Model of ENaC endocytosis.

FCHO2 binds to the plasma membrane and generates a specific degree of membrane

curvature according to the intrinsic curvature of its BAR domain. Nedd4L exists in a

catalytically autoinhibited state due to an intramolecular interaction between the N-

terminal C2 and C-terminal HECT domains. Nedd4L is recruited to FCHO2-generated

membrane curvature at the rim of nascent CCPs that ENaC enters. Membrane binding of

the C2 domain causes catalytic activation by relieving autoinhibition. ENaC is

ubiquitinated and captured by adaptor proteins with Ub-interacting motifs, such as Eps15.

Fig. S1. Expression of ENaC subunits in αβγENaC-HeLa cells.

A, B, Doxycycline (Dox)-induced expression of αENaC. αβγENaC-HeLa cells were

cultured overnight in the presence or absence of Dox. The lysates of parental HeLa and

αβγENaC-HeLa cells were subjected to IB. (A) 7.5% gel. (B) Gradient gel (5-20%). Anti-

γENaC antibody cross-reacted with two bands of endogenous proteins in parental HeLa

cells, the lower band of which overlapped with γENaC (arrow) in αβγENaC-HeLa cells.

Upon Dox-induced αENaC expression, an additional 70-kDa γENaC band (asterisk) was

detected. It has been shown that co-expression of all three subunits induces ENaC

maturation, including proteolytic cleavage of α- and γENaC (Hughey *et al*, 2003). The

70-kDa γENaC band is likely a cleavage product comprising the C-terminal region. The

20-kDa αENaC band (arrowhead) is likely a cleavage product comprising the N-terminal

region.

C, Association of α-, β-, and γENaC. When αENaC was immunoprecipitated with anti-

FLAG antibody from αβγENaC-HeLa cells treated with Dox, β- and γENaC were co-

precipitated.

Fig.S2. Inability of FCHO2 mutants to generate membrane tubules.

GFP-FCHO2 BAR domain [wild type (WT) or mutant] was expressed in COS7 cells.

Cells were then subjected to immunofluorescence microscopy. Scale bar, 10 μm.

Fig. S3. Membrane binding and curvature generation of BAR domains and an

FCHO2 mutant. Co-sedimentation (A) and *in vitro* tubulation (B) assays were

performed at 0.7 μM Ca^{2+} with the indicated BAR domains using brain-lipid liposomes

(20% PS) that were associated with mSA-αENaC.

A, Membrane binding. The supernatant (S) and pellet (P) were subjected to SDS-PAGE

followed by CBB staining.

B, Curvature generation. Left panel, electron microscopic image. Scale bar, 100 nm.

Right panel, distribution of tubule diameters.

A

B

C

D

A

B

A

Liposomes	0% PS		20% PS			
Pore size (μm)	0.8		0.8		0.05	
GST-FCHO2 BAR	+	+	−	+	−	+
	T	P	P	P	P	P

FCHO2 BAR

kDa
- 30

B

| Pore size (μm) | 0.8 | | 0.05 | |
| FCHO2 BAR | − | + | − | + |

kDa

IB: Ub

- 175
- 80

[Ub]_n-mSA -αENaC

- 58
- 46
- *30

IB: αENaC

- *30

unmodified mSA-αENaC →

A

B