CK2 signaling from TOLLIP-dependent perinuclear endosomes is an essential feature of *KRAS* and *NRAS* mutant cancers

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Abstract

Oncogenic RAS induces perinuclear translocation of the effector kinases ERK and CK2 and their scaffold, KSR1, forming endosomal signaling hubs termed perinuclear signaling centers (PSCs). PSCs are present in all cancer cell lines and tissues examined, suggesting that subcellular compartmentalization of oncogenic kinases drives tumorigenesis. However, the mechanism of perinuclear targeting, whether this location affects kinase substrate specificity, and the importance of PSCs in cancer are unclear. Here we show that the endosomal adaptor, TOLLIP, specifically tethers $RAB11A^+$ signaling endosomes containing CK2 and KSR1 to the perinuclear ER. A predicted β-hairpin fold in TOLLIP mediates binding to the KSR1 CA5 pseudo-kinase domain, recruiting CK2/KSR1 complexes to perinuclear endosomes. TOLLIP is essential for proliferation/survival of tumor cells carrying *KRAS* and *NRAS* mutations but not *HRAS*, *BRAF*, *ERBB* or *PTEN* lesions, or non-transformed cells. $KRas^{G12D}$-induced lung lesions in $Tollip^{-/-}$ mice displayed reduced numbers of carcinomatous lesions, implicating TOLLIP in malignant progression. TOLLIP-dependent perinuclear CK2 was shown to phosphorylate discrete substrates, including proteins involved in translation and ribosome biogenesis such as RIOK1. Thus, TOLLIP is a key RAS pathway signaling adaptor in *K/NRAS* tumors whose inhibition is a specific vulnerability of these cancers.

RAS proto-oncogenes are among the most frequently mutated in cancer, with ~19% of patients

harboring *RAS* alterations[1]. *RAS* cancers are particularly aggressive and treatment-refractory[2,3].

KRAS is the most prevalent mutant RAS isoform, representing 75% of all *RAS* cancers. *KRAS*

mutations are observed in 88%, 50% and 32% of pancreatic, colon and lung cancer patients,

respectively, while *NRAS* alterations are predominant in melanoma and *HRAS* in thyroid and

endometrial cancers[1,4]. Oncogenic RAS typically triggers elevated, constitutive signaling through

the RAF-MEK-ERK kinase cascade. Studies using integrative pharmacogenomics and

phosphoproteomics have also demonstrated an essential role for CK2 kinase in KRAS-driven lung

and pancreatic adenocarcinomas (ADCs)[5,6,7]. Despite the importance of RAS effector kinases in

tumorigenesis, drugs targeting these kinases have not produced durable therapeutic responses[8,9].

Therefore, it is important to explore additional features of oncogenic RAS signaling that may

uncover novel drug targets.

A comprehensive molecular characterization of human lung ADCs showed that p-ERK levels

are moderate or low in a substantial proportion of tumor samples, including many that harbor

KRAS mutations[10]. Similar findings were described for certain lung, colorectal, and pancreatic

cancer cell lines[11,12,13,14] and endometrial tumor samples[15], suggesting that characteristics besides

high MAPK pathway output can contribute to RAS tumorigenesis. Receptors, kinases, scaffolds

and RAS proteins can be internalized and signal from endo-membranes[16]. However, the functional

consequences of this subcellular compartmentalization, such as whether it influences the substrate

selectivity of effector kinases, are unclear. There is also scant information on whether

compartmentalized signaling differs in transformed and normal cells. In this regard, we previously

reported that RAS-induced transformation coincides with perinuclear re-localization of p-ERK1/2,

CK2 and the MAPK scaffold KSR1, which binds to both kinases[17]. These proteins form signaling

hubs on nuclear-proximal endosomes termed perinuclear signaling centers (PSCs) that require

KSR1 and endosomal trafficking. CK2 and KSR1, but not p-ERK, colocalize with the recycling

endosome (RE) marker, RAB11A[17]. In serum-stimulated normal cells, CK2 and p-ERK undergo

delayed, transient perinuclear localization, albeit with different kinetics (4 and 6 h post-

stimulation, respectively). These findings demonstrate that ERK1/2 and CK2 are associated with

distinct types of endosomes.

PSCs are present in all cancer cell lines tested and *KRas^{G12D}*-driven mouse lung tumors but

not in non-transformed cells or normal lung tissue[17]. These observations suggest that PSC kinases

are involved in transducing signals from active RAS, functioning as critical signaling platforms in

tumor cells. Therefore, we sought to elucidate the mechanisms that control perinuclear segregation

of PSCs, test their functional importance in tumor cells and determine whether PSC-associated

kinases selectively phosphorylate specific substrates. We report that the endosomal adaptor and

ubiquitin binding protein, TOLLIP, tethers endosomes containing CK2 but not ERK to the

perinuclear ER, and that *KRAS* and *NRAS* mutant tumor cells are specifically dependent on

TOLLIP for proliferation/survival. We also identify a phosphoproteome requiring perinuclear

CK2, demonstrating the importance of subcellular localization in oncogenic signaling.

Results

TOLLIP co-localizes with RAB11A$^+$ CK2 signaling endosomes in tumor cells

Endocytosis regulates the intracellular sorting, distribution, degradation and recycling of cargo

proteins, and modification of endosome trafficking in cancer cells is known to promote

tumorigenesis[18,19]. It has been shown that endosomes exist in two spatially distinct but dynamic

pools: fast moving peripheral endosomes (PPE) and slow moving perinuclear endosomes (PNE)[20].

PNEs are tethered to the ER through association with the endosomal adaptor proteins EPS15,

TOLLIP or TAX1BP1, which bind to mono-ubiquitinated SQSTM1 (p62) on ER membranes.

Therefore, we hypothesized that one or more of these adaptors could be involved in perinuclear

targeting of signaling endosomes in tumor cells (Supplementary Fig. 1a).

Since KSR1 interacts with multiple RAS effector proteins[21,22,23] and is required for PSC

formation[17], we asked whether KSR1 binds to endosomal adaptors. Immunoprecipitation

experiments in transfected HEK293T cells showed that Pyo-tagged KSR1 associated with

endogenous TOLLIP and *vice versa* (Fig. 1a and Supplementary Fig. 1b). This interaction was not

stimulated by oncogenic KRAS. Data mining from several published RNAi screens in tumor cell

lines revealed TOLLIP as a dependency gene in three studies, two of which involved *KRAS* mutant

cells[24,25,26]. These observations prompted us to further investigate the role of TOLLIP in oncogenic

signaling.

Live imaging of EGFP-TOLLIP in A549 cells (human $KRAS^{G12S}$ lung ADC) showed that

TOLLIP localized exclusively to perinuclear puncta, whereas it displayed diffuse, granular pan-

cytoplasmic distribution and a perinuclear component in non-transformed HBEC human bronchial

epithelial cells (Fig. 1b; Supplementary Videos 1, 2). Nuclear proximity was quantified using an

algorithm that measures the distance of cytoplasmic signals from the nuclear envelope, normalized

to a uniformly generated distribution for each cell (relative nuclear proximity index, or RNPI). The

mean $RNPI^{TOLLIP}$ in A549 cells was 0.4222 and 0.6831 in HBEC cells, indicating a more

perinuclear pattern in tumor cells ($p<0.0001$; Student's t test). These distinct spatial patterns were

also seen for fluorescently-tagged KSR1 and CK2α in the two cell lines (Supplementary Fig. 1c;

Supplementary Videos 3, 4), and for endogenous TOLLIP, KSR1 and CK2α (Supplementary Fig.

1d). p-ERK was also perinuclear in A549 cells but its levels were low in HBEC cells, as expected.

Furthermore, CK2α, p-ERK and TOLLIP formed juxtanuclear puncta in the pancreatic ductal

adenocarcinoma (PDAC) cell line, PANC1 ($KRAS^{G12D}$) (Supplementary Fig. 1e).

TOLLIP partially overlapped with KSR1 in A549 cells and displayed prominent co-

occurrence with CK2α (Fig. 1c), which was especially evident in live cell imaging (Fig. 1d).

However, TOLLIP had minimal overlap with p-ERK. CK2α resides on RAB11A$^+$ slow recycling

endosomes in tumor cells[17]. Accordingly, IF (Fig. 1c) and live imaging (Fig. 1d) revealed abundant

co-localization of TOLLIP with RAB11A, and RAB11A with CK2α and KSR1 (Supplementary

Fig. 1f). These conclusions were supported by quantification of signal colocalization using

Pearson's correlation and Manders overlap coefficients. Proximity ligation assays further

confirmed the overlap of TOLLIP with CK2α, KSR1 and RAB11A but not p-ERK (Fig. 1e). Taken

together, these data show that CK2, TOLLIP, and a fraction of KSR1 localize to perinuclear

RAB11A+ endosomes in tumor cells, while ERK resides on a distinct endosomal population.

To test our prediction that PSCs occur on ER-tethered endosomes, we analyzed A549 cells

co-expressing TOLLIP-mCherry and the ER marker, EGFP-Sec61β. TOLLIP-positive endosomes

were wholly embedded within the perinuclear ER network (Fig. 1f; Supplementary Video 5).

Endosomes expressing fluorescently-tagged CK2α, KSR1 and RAB11A were also restricted to

this domain. Thus, perinuclear compartmentalization of signaling endosomes involves their

intimate association with the ER, which demarcates the PSC region.

We previously observed juxtanuclear localization of KSR1, CK2 and p-ERK in $KRas^{G12D}$-

driven mouse lung adenomas and ADCs but not in adjacent normal tissue[17]. Similarly, Tollip

displayed intense perinuclear staining in lung ADCs but was pan-cytoplasmic in normal lung

epithelium (Supplementary Fig. 1g). Tollip was also perinuclear in PDACs arising in *LSL-*

Kras^{G12D}/+;p53^{R172H}/+;Pdx-Cre tg/+ (*KPC*) mice (Supplementary Fig. 1h) and in orthotopic

xenografts from a *KPC* PDAC-derived cell line but was diffusely cytoplasmic in normal pancreas

(Supplementary Fig. 1i). Thus, the differential subcellular partitioning of TOLLIP seen in tumor

vs. non-transformed cell lines extends to *in vivo* tumor tissue.

TOLLIP is essential for perinuclear targeting of CK2 and tumor cell proliferation

We next asked whether TOLLIP is required for PSC formation in tumor cells. TOLLIP silencing

by two different shRNAs in A549 cells disrupted perinuclear localization of KSR1, CK2α and

RAB11A, leading to pan-cytoplasmic distribution of each protein (Fig. 2a). However, p-ERK was

not significantly affected (Supplementary Fig. 2a). Similar results were seen in PANC1 cells

(Supplementary Fig. 2b). TOLLIP silencing also severely reduced the rate of increase in A549 and

PANC1 cell populations (Fig. 2b) and another *KRAS* mutant PDAC cell line, MIA PaCa-2

(Supplementary Fig. 2c). The growth defect in A549 cells was associated with increased

senescence and apoptosis (Fig. 2c). By contrast, TOLLIP deficiency had little effect on non-

transformed HBEC cells (Fig. 2d) or MEFs, as *Tollip*$^{-/-}$ cells grew similarly to *WT* controls

(Supplementary Fig. 2d).

As TOLLIP, KSR1 and CK2α are associated with RAB11A$^+$ endosomes, we investigated

whether RAB11A is required for their perinuclear localization. All three proteins became pan-

cytoplasmic upon RAB11A silencing (Fig. 2e,f). RAB11A depletion also impaired A549 cell

proliferation (Supplementary Fig. 2e). Conversely, TOLLIP was unaffected by KSR1 depletion,

although CK2 became dispersed (Supplementary Fig. 2f)[17]. These data suggest that TOLLIP

dependency in tumor cells involves its ability, at least in part, to localize CK2 signaling endosomes

to the ER. The results support a model in which KSR1 links CK2 to perinuclear RAB11A$^+$

endosomes by binding to TOLLIP, which also tethers these vesicles to the ER independently of

KSR1.

A highly conserved sequence in TOLLIP interacts with the KSR1 CA5 domain

Since KSR1-TOLLIP association appears to recruit signaling complexes to perinuclear

endosomes, we sought to further characterize this interaction. We generated a nested set of Pyo-

tagged KSR1 C-terminal deletion mutants with endpoints at the N-terminal boundaries of five

conserved areas (CA1-5) corresponding to known functional domains (Supplementary Fig. 3a)[27].

CA1 binds BRAF and contributes to KSR1 membrane association, CA3 has similarity to atypical

C1 lipid binding domains[28] and binds CK2[23], CA4 binds ERK[29], and CA5 is a pseudokinase

domain homologous to RAF kinases that interacts with MEK[21,22,30] and RAF[31]. Co-IP experiments

using Pyo-KSR1 deletion mutants expressed with rat HA-Tollip in HEK293T cells showed that

removal of CA5 (denoted CA1-4) abolished the KSR1-Tollip interaction (Supplementary Fig. 3a).

Interestingly, further deletion of CA4 (CA1-3) partially restored Tollip binding, while loss of CA3

(CA1-2) eliminated the interaction altogether. The CA5 domain alone also bound Tollip

efficiently. Thus, KSR1 CA5 appears to be the major site of Tollip interaction. CA3 is also capable

of binding Tollip but this association is inhibited by CA4.

To map the corresponding interaction site on Tollip, we performed co-IP assays using Pyo-

KSR1 and HA-tagged WT Tollip or various deletion mutants[32] (Fig. 3a and Supplementary Fig.

3b). TOLLIP contains three known functional domains: TBD (Tom1 binding), C2

(phosphatidylinositol binding) and CUE (ubiquitin binding)[32,33,34,35] (Fig. 3a). WT Tollip and

Δ229-274 (lacking CUE) bound KSR1 efficiently. However, Δ180-274 did not, indicating that the

"linker" region between C2 and CUE (residues 179-229) is required for this association. The 179-

229 sequence displays marked evolutionary preservation among vertebrates, particularly an 18 aa

core (185-202) that is nearly perfectly conserved (Supplementary Fig. 3c). Δ203-274, which adds

residues 179-202 to Δ180-274, restored the Tollip:KSR1 interaction while a mutant lacking only

residues 180-202 (Δ180-202) lost nearly all KSR1 binding (Fig. 3a). Thus, the invariant sequence

between C2 and CUE is essential for KSR1 association. A human TOLLIP structure predicted by

AlphaFold2.0[36] shows a β-hairpin fold corresponding to the conserved 185-202 segment (Fig. 3b).

This structure is absent in the model for *C. elegans* Tollip, which lacks this sequence. The precise

alignment of the β-hairpin with the 185-202 motif implies that it has a key role in KSR1 binding.

A set of Tollip mutants fused to GFP was analyzed for subcellular localization in A549 cells.

WT Tollip was consistently perinuclear, while each mutant (Δ229-274, Δ180-274, Δ1-54, Δ180-

202, and Δ55-179) was more broadly distributed in the cytoplasm (Fig. 3c). All deletions except

Δ180-202 impinge on functional domains involved in endosome binding (C2), trafficking (TBD)

or ER tethering (CUE) and thus are expected to influence perinuclear localization. Deletion of the

KSR1 binding region (Δ180-202) was not anticipated to affect perinuclear targeting. It is possible

that resection of the linker region alters folding or accessibility of the flanking C2 and/or CUE

domains, thus contributing to the observed localization defect.

***TOLLIP* is a dependency gene specific to KRAS-driven cancers**

As TOLLIP depletion is toxic to *KRAS* mutant tumor cells (Fig. 2), we asked if TOLLIP

dependency is specific to *KRAS* cancers or is generally required by transformed cells. Using NIH

3T3 cells transformed by *KRAS^(G12V)* or *HRAS^(G12V)*, we monitored CK2α and KSR1 localization

before and after Tollip knockdown. Both *RAS* oncogenes induced perinuclear translocation of

CK2α, KSR1 and Tollip in shCtrl cells (Fig. 4a and Supplementary Fig. 4a). Tollip depletion led

to pan-cytoplasmic redistribution of CK2α and KSR1 in NIH 3T3^{KRAS} cells but had little effect in

HRAS^{G12V}-transformed cells (Fig. 4a). The impact on PSCs correlated with cell proliferation, as

Tollip loss decreased the growth rate of NIH 3T3^{KRAS} cells (Supplementary Fig. 4b) but not NIH

3T3^{HRAS} cells (Supplementary Fig. 4c). Proliferation of non-transformed NIH 3T3 cells was

unaffected by Tollip silencing (Supplementary Fig. 4b,c). Similar results were seen for *Tollip*$^{-/-}$

MEFs, which carried an immortalizing *p19^{Arf}* mutation to permit transformation by oncogenic

RAS (Supplementary Fig. 4d,e). Growth of *KRAS^{G12V}*-expressing *Tollip*$^{-/-}$ MEFs was reduced to

that of non-transformed cells, whereas *HRAS^{G12V}*-tranformed cells were resistant to Tollip

deficiency. Consistent with these results, human T24 bladder carcinoma cells (*HRAS^{G12V}*)

proliferated normally in the absence of TOLLIP and CK2α and KSR1 remained fully perinuclear

(Fig. 4b,c). Thus, *KRAS*-driven PSC formation and increased proliferation require TOLLIP, while

HRAS-transformed cells are TOLLIP independent.

We next compared the effect of TOLLIP depletion across a panel of human tumor cell lines

harboring various *RAS* pathway oncogenes. Four *KRAS* and two *NRAS* mutant cell lines showed

severely reduced clonogenic growth upon TOLLIP silencing (Fig. 4d). However, RL95-2

endometrial carcinoma (*HRAS^{Q61H}*), T24 (*HRAS^{G12V}*), A375 melanoma and HT29 colon carcinoma

(*BRAF^{V600E}*), OVCAR-8 ovarian carcinoma (*HER2^{G776V}*) and PC3 prostate cancer (*PTEN/TP53*

null) cells were unaffected by TOLLIP knockdown (Supplementary Fig. 5a). These different

responses did not correlate with TOLLIP protein levels, which were comparable in the various cell

lines (Supplementary Fig. 5b). Thus, tumor cells with *KRAS* or *NRAS* mutations are selectively

dependent on TOLLIP. Since CK2 PSCs are induced by oncogenic *HRAS* in NIH 3T3 cells and

are also present in human tumor cells carrying oncogenes other than *K/NRAS*, another endosomal

adaptor(s) likely provides a redundant ER tethering function in these cells.

Characterization of a TOLLIP-dependent transcriptome in tumor cells

To further define TOLLIP-regulated cellular processes, we used RNA-seq to compare the transcriptomes of control and TOLLIP-depleted A549 cells (Supplementary Fig. 5c; Supplementary Table 1). Genes that decreased upon TOLLIP knockdown were highly correlated with gene ontology (GO) processes for cell cycle, DNA replication and chromosome segregation (Supplementary Fig. 5d; Supplementary Table 2). Related categories were also identified through gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA; suppressed processes) (Supplementary Fig. 5e; Supplementary Table 3) and include several genes encoding subunits of the MCM helicase complex regulating initiation of DNA replication. This effect may be related to the identification of MCM2 as a potential TOLLIP-dependent CK2 substrate as well as decreased phosphorylation of cyclin-dependent kinase (CDK) targets in TOLLIP-depleted cells (see below). Specifically, reduced MCM2 phosphorylation/activity[37,38] and diminished CDK signaling could impair the onset of DNA replication and subsequent expression of S-phase MCM genes. Predominant upregulated processes were inflammatory response and immune response (Supplementary Fig. 5f and Supplementary Table 3), possibly reflecting cellular stress and senescence elicited by TOLLIP depletion and consistent with TOLLIP's role in regulating pro-inflammatory signaling[39].

Tollip facilitates progression to adenocarcinoma in a *Kras^{G12D}*-driven model of lung cancer

To investigate whether Tollip deficiency impairs *Kras*-induced tumor development *in vivo*, we produced *Tollip^{−/−}* mice[41] carrying a Cre-activated *LSL-Kras^{G12D}* oncogene[42]. Ad.Cre virus was administered to the lungs of *WT* or *Tollip* null *LSL-Kras^{G12D}* mice and animals were maintained until disease endpoint. All mice eventually succumbed to respiratory distress due to accumulated

pulmonary lesions, and no survival difference was observed between genotypes (P=0.40; Log-rank

test) (Fig. 5a). Lung lesions in this model are primarily benign alveolar hyperplasia and adenomas,

a few of which advance to malignant ADC (Fig. 5b). Hyperplastic areas (Fig. 5c) and adenoma

counts (Fig. 5d) were similar between genotypes, with high adenoma burdens accounting for the

similar mortality rates between the two strains. However, carcinomatous lesions were significantly

reduced in $Tollip^{-/-}$ mice (Fig. 5d). ADCs were the highest tumor grade observed in 83.33% of

$Tollip^{+/+}$ mice, whereas only 42.1% of $Tollip^{-/-}$ animals presented with carcinomas (P=0.017;

Fisher's exact test) (Fig. 5e). These findings reveal a significant block to $Kras$-driven ADC

development in mutant animals, indicating an important role for Tollip in malignant progression.

A previous study reported that Tollip deficiency caused a reduction in colitis-associated colon

cancers, which are primarily adenomas[40]. This was attributed to diminished inflammation and

reduced infiltration of CD4+/Foxp3+ regulatory T cells and other immune cells. Using CD45 as a

pan-immune marker, we did not observe differences in overall immune cell infiltration between

WT and $Tollip^{-/-}$ lung adenomas or ADCs (Fig. 5f), suggesting that the cancer phenotype involves

tumor-cell-intrinsic Tollip deficiency. To further address the tumor-cell-autonomous role of

Tollip, we delivered TOLLIP-depleted A549 cells intravenously into immunodeficient mice.

Whereas cells expressing a control shRNA formed an average of 80 lung lesions per animal, two

different shTOLLIP constructs almost completely prevented tumor formation and most animals

presented no detectable lesions (Fig. 5g). Thus, human lung ADCs are highly dependent on

TOLLIP for tumor engraftment.

Phosphoproteomic analysis identifies targets of perinuclear CK2 and other kinases

The presence of oncogenic kinases such as CK2 on perinuclear endosomes suggests they access a

specific set of substrates at this location to generate a pro-oncogenic phosphoproteome. Thus, we

sought to identify phospho-sites (p-sites) that require TOLLIP or otherwise correlate with PSC

formation. We first characterized TOLLIP-dependent modifications by comparing the

phosphoproteomes in control and TOLLIP-depleted A549 cells. Phosphopeptides (p-peptides)

were isolated by TiO_2 enrichment and analyzed by LC-MS/MS. Intensities of individual p-sites

were determined by summing the values for all p-peptides that contain a particular p-site and

normalizing to total levels of each protein (Fig. 6a). Altogether, 1513 normalized p-sites were

detected (Supplementary Table 4).

Ratios of p-site intensities in TOLLIP-depleted vs. control cells were used to generate Z-

scores for each p-site. We applied a Z<-1.5 cutoff, as has been used previously[41], to define a set of

109 TOLLIP-dependent p-sites (Supplementary Table 4). IPA analysis of these sites revealed one

network containing a CK2 node and another with a CDK node (Supplementary Fig. 6a;

Supplementary Table 5). GO analysis (Biological Process) showed that the 109 corresponding

proteins clustered functionally around chromatin organization and transcription (Fig. 6b;

Supplementary Table 6). The Z<-1.5 p-sites were also analyzed for similarity to CK2

phosphorylation motifs and were considered matches if they passed at least one of two rules

specifying acidic residues in the surrounding sequence[41,42] (see Methods). Eight sites scored as

putative CK2 motifs (Fig. 6c; Supplementary Table 4). These proteins were functionally enriched

for apoptosis (SH3KBP1 and PDCD4) (Fig. 6d; Supplementary Table 6), consistent with increased

death of TOLLIP-depleted cells (Fig. 2c).

We also noted a high frequency of CDK motifs in TOLLIP-dependent p-sites. Of the 1513 p-

sites in the total A549 data set, 158 (10.44%) were predicted to be CDK sites, while 30 of the 109

Z<-1.5 p-sites (27.52%) scored as potential CDK motifs (Supplementary Fig. 6b,c; Supplementary

Table 4). The TOLLIP-dependent Z<-1.5 p-sites were enriched for putative CDK targets when

compared to all p-sites (P=5.18E-07). The corresponding proteins are functionally associated with

chromatin structure and transcription (GO BP) (Supplementary Fig. 6d; Supplementary Table 6).

It remains to be determined whether CDK:cyclin complexes are present on TOLLIP-dependent

perinuclear endosomes, or if CDK p-sites are down-regulated through an indirect effect of TOLLIP

knockdown.

As an alternative approach to identifying substrates of perinuclear kinases, we used serum-

stimulated NIH 3T3 cells to exploit the temporal features of growth factor (GF)-induced PSC

formation. In this model, CK2α becomes perinuclear at 4 and 6 h post-stimulation while p-ERK

re-localizes at 6 h[17] (Fig. 6e). Phosphoproteomic analysis was performed on NIH 3T3 lysates

harvested at 0, 0.5, 2, 4, 6 and 8 h after GF stimulation and normalized p-site intensities were

determined (Supplementary Table 7). To identify p-sites that increase at 4 and/or 6 h, the values

at these time points were divided by the combined average of p-site intensities at 0, 0.5 and 2 h.

Applying a Z>1.5 threshold revealed 190 p-sites increasing at 4 h and 146 at 6 h (Supplementary

Table 7; Supplementary Fig. 6e); these p-sites were significantly enriched for predicted CK2 sites

(Fig. 6f). IPA networks based on the 4 h data showed one with a CK2 node and one with a CDK

node (Supplementary Fig. 6f; Supplementary Table 8). Filtering for predicted CK2 p-sites revealed

77 sites upregulated at 4 h and 53 at 6 h, of which 27 were common (Fig. 6g; Supplementary Table

7). Considering all p-sites with Z>1.5, the corresponding proteins at both 4 and 6 h were enriched

for mRNA processing and RNA splicing (Supplementary Fig. 6g,h; Supplementary Table 9). The

4 and 6 h CK2 p-site-containing proteins also showed associations with RNA processing and

rRNA transcription (Supplementary Fig. 6i,j). These results indicate that perinuclear CK2

signaling endosomes appearing during mid-G1 phase in normal cells phosphorylate proteins

involved in RNA metabolism, protein synthesis and chromatin structure/transcription.

TOLLIP-dependent perinuclear CK2 phosphorylates the atypical kinase RIOK1 and

controls its pro-oncogenic activity

One of the proteins identified as a likely substrate for perinuclear CK2 is the non-canonical protein

kinase, RIOK1. RIOK1 was phosphorylated on a predicted CK2 site, SpS^{22}DSE, at 4 h in GF-

stimulated NIH 3T3 cells (Supplementary Table 7). RIOK1 plays a key role in ribosome biogenesis

and is required for processing of the 18S-E pre-rRNA to the mature 18S form[43]. It also controls

assembly/maturation of the 40S ribosomal subunit[44,45,46] and thus is an important regulator of

protein synthesis. *RIOK1* is a synthetic lethal gene in *KRAS* mutant cancers[47] and is essential for

viability of various tumor cell lines[48] and cancers[49]. Moreover, RIOK1 Ser22 has been implicated

as a CK2 site[50] and is conserved among mammalian RIOK1 homologs (Fig. 7a). Thus, we asked

whether pSer22 is a functionally relevant target of perinuclear CK2 in tumor cells.

To monitor RIOK1 phosphorylation we generated an affinity-purified pSer22 antibody. The

antibody recognized over-expressed WT (Ser22) RIOK1 but not S22A, and pSer22 levels

increased approximately two-fold upon co-expression with KRAS^{G12V} (Fig. 7b). Endogenous

pSer22 was detected in A549 cell lysates and antibody recognition was abolished by incubating

lysates with λ-phosphatase (Supplementary Fig. 7a) or treating cells with the CK2 inhibitor, CX-

4945 (Supplementary Fig. 7b). Efficient phosphorylation required TOLLIP, as pSer22 signals in

A549 cells were reduced by at least 60% following TOLLIP depletion (Fig. 7c). Similar results

were observed in PANC1 cells (Supplementary Fig. 7c). Conversely, TOLLIP ablation had no

effect on pSer22 levels in *HRAS* mutant T24 cells (Fig. 7d), consistent with the retention of

perinuclear CK2 upon TOLLIP knockdown in these cells. These results indicate that Ser22 is an

authentic CK2 site whose phosphorylation requires CK2 PSCs.

A549 cells displayed acute dependence on RIOK1 in clonogenic growth assays (Fig. 7e),

providing a system for assessing the biological activity of RIOK1 Ser22 mutants. Expression of

exogenous WT RIOK1 partially restored colony formation, while S22A did not. However, the

phosphomimetic S22D variant rescued RIOK1-depleted cells at least as efficiently as WT RIOK1,

indicating that Ser22 phosphorylation stimulates RIOK1 activity to support cell growth/survival.

RIOK1-dependent 18S-E pre-rRNA processing can be monitored by analyzing levels of the

5' internal transcribed spacer 1 (5'ITS1) in the precursor RNA. When processing is impaired, 18S-

E precursors accumulate in the cytoplasm[44] (Supplementary Fig. 7d). Using RNA FISH, we

confirmed that RIOK1 depletion in A549 cells increased cytoplasmic 5'ITS1 signals (Fig. 7f).

TOLLIP knockdown similarly augmented cytoplasmic 5'ITS1 levels, comparable to the effect of

RIOK1 depletion. These findings support a pathway whereby TOLLIP-dependent, CK2-mediated

phosphorylation on RIOK1 Ser22 is necessary to facilitate 18S rRNA processing and 40S

ribosome biosynthesis, contributing to the fitness of *K/NRAS* mutant tumor cells.

Discussion

This study demonstrates that tumor cells require translocation of signaling endosomes to the

perinuclear ER network. RAB11A[+] endosomes containing CK2 and KSR1, but not ERK1/2, rely

on TOLLIP for partitioning to the ER. In TOLLIP-depleted tumor cells, CK2, KSR1 and RAB11a

revert to a dispersed subcellular distribution resembling that of non-transformed cells, indicating

that perinuclear targeting of CK2 and other kinases is a key feature of cancers. TOLLIP was

originally identified as a negative regulator of pro-inflammatory signaling[33] but has not been linked

to the RAS pathway in tumor cells. Our demonstration that the ER tethering function of TOLLIP[20]

is essential for oncogenic signaling in neoplastic cells uncovers an important new function for this

adapter beyond its currently known roles[39,51,52,53].

TOLLIP recruits KSR1:CK2 complexes to endosomes by binding to KSR1 through a short,

conserved region adjacent to the CUE domain that forms a predicted β-hairpin. While the function

of this "linker" region was previously unknown, it was recently shown to mediate the association

of TOLLIP and STING (stimulator of interferon genes), stabilizing STING and maintaining

cGAS-STING signaling in response to microbial pathogens[54]. It will be of interest to determine if

binding of KSR1 and STING to the TOLLIP "linker" region is mutually exclusive and whether

TOLLIP's role in inflammatory signaling is mechanistically distinct from perinuclear targeting of

CK2/KSR1 complexes in cancer cells.

The endosome:ER tethering function of TOLLIP is critical for CK2 signaling in a subset of

tumor cells, whereas in non-transformed cells PSCs form transiently in response to GF

stimulation[17] and cell proliferation/viability is largely unaffected by TOLLIP depletion. *KRAS*-

and *NRAS*-transformed cells, irrespective of the *K/NRAS* activating mutation, are highly dependent

on TOLLIP for proliferation and survival. In contrast, tumor cells carrying mutant *HRAS*, *BRAF*

and other oncogenes are unaffected by TOLLIP loss. The latter cells nonetheless display

perinuclear partitioning of CK2 and KSR1 that is impervious to TOLLIP depletion. These findings

point to the existence of alternative pathways for PSC formation involving different endosomal

adaptors. Adding further complexity, ERK1/2 kinases are associated with a distinct class of

signaling endosomes that lack TOLLIP, with ERK remaining perinuclear in TOLLIP-depleted

cells. Moreover, a recent study showed that EGF stimulation causes PI3K to migrate intracellularly

along microtubules, leading to AKT activation at perinuclear endosomes rather than at the plasma

membrane[55]. Thus, it is possible that active AKT also resides on ER-anchored endosomes. Future

work will seek to identify other endosomal oncogenic kinases and adaptors that establish the full

spatial signaling landscape in tumor cells, including the adapter that acts redundantly to TOLLIP

in non-*K/NRAS* mutant cancers. We observed a pronounced decrease in CDK p-sites upon TOLLIP

silencing, raising the possibility that certain CDKs may be associated with TOLLIP$^+$ endosomes.

However, this result must be interpreted with caution as it could arise from an upstream cell cycle

block that secondarily prevents CDK activation. Further studies are needed to determine whether

active CDKs are present on perinuclear endosomes.

Our findings implicate PSCs as critical signaling engines in cancers, generating an onco-

phosphoproteome required to meet the demands of increased cell proliferation, altered metabolism

and pro-apoptotic stresses. p-sites whose phosphorylation corresponds to perinuclear CK2 were

found in proteins regulating translation (eIF4B and PDCD4) and ribosome biogenesis (RIOK1 and

nucleolin). Hyperactivation of ribosome biogenesis occurs in cancers and can be driven by

oncogenes[56]. Accordingly, oncogenic Kras stimulates the RNA-binding activity of nucleolin

through phosphorylation by CK2 on four sites[57], two of which coincide with our GF-stimulated

NIH 3T3 data (Supplementary Table 7). These modifications augment the ability of nucleolin to

stabilize pre-rRNA transcripts, enhancing ribosome biogenesis. The final step of pre-18S rRNA

processing is dependent on RIOK1[43,45,46] and also requires TOLLIP, and the RIOK1 CK2 site

(Ser22) was critical for its ability to support proliferation/survival of A549 cells. Taken together,

these observations support a model in which ER-tethered CK2 signaling endosomes specify

phosphorylation of pro-oncogenic targets such as RIOK1 and nucleolin in tumor cells

(Supplementary Fig. 8). To our knowledge, the present study provides the first definitive evidence

that subcellular localization of endosome-associated kinases controls their substrate selectivity.

Tollip facilitates the development of $Kras^{G12D}$-driven lung ADCs but is dispensable for benign

lesions such as neoplasia and adenomas. Progression to carcinoma in *Kras* lung cancer models has

been linked to increased MEK-ERK signaling, with high p-ERK levels often associated with

amplification of the mutant *Kras* locus[58]. Interestingly, *Kras*-induced adenomas display

perinuclear CK2, KSR1[17] and Tollip (Supplementary Fig. 1g) even though these benign lesions

develop efficiently in the absence of Tollip. Evidently there is a transition to Tollip dependence

that accompanies progression to lung ADC, possibly involving enhanced RAS pathway signaling.

Human *KRAS* mutant cell lines are nearly always derived from late-stage malignant carcinomas,

which likely explains their TOLLIP addiction. As TOLLIP is an Achilles heel of *KRAS* and *NRAS*

tumor cells, it could potentially be exploited as a therapeutic target in these cancers.

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Contributions

S.B. and P.F.J. conceived the study and designed experiments. S.B. performed the experiments. B.T.L. and M.G. provided bioinformatic analysis of phosphoproteomic and RNA-seq data, respectively. K.S. and N.M. conducted animal experiments and genotyping. S.K. provided mouse pancreatic tumor samples. B.K. and L.B. performed histopathological analysis of lung tumor samples. S.L. devised the method to calculate RNPI and implemented it in a Fiji macro script. S.D. and T.A. designed and performed mass spectrometry experiments and data analysis. D.E. provided key plasmid constructs. S.B. and P.F.J. wrote the manuscript with input from all authors.

Methods

Animal experiments

Mice were maintained in accordance with NIH animal guidelines following protocols approved by the NCI-Frederick Animal Care and Use Committee. Mouse embryonic fibroblasts (MEFs) were isolated from *WT*, *Tollip*$^{-/-}$[53], *p19*$^{Arf-/-}$ and *p19*$^{Arf-/-}$*;Tollip*$^{-/-}$ E13.5 mouse embryos (C57Bl/6Ncr strain background), and cells were maintained at low passage. *Kras*^{LA2}/+[59], *LSL-Kras*^{G12D}/+[60] and *Tollip*$^{-/-}$*;LSL-Kras*^{G12D}/+ mice (C57Bl/6Ncr background) were used for tumor studies. To induce lung tumors in *LSL-Kras*^{G12D} strains, Ad.Cre virus (Viral Vector Core Facility, University of Iowa College of Medicine) was administered by intratracheal instillation of 1.5 or 3.0x10^7 pfu/animal. Animals that became moribund (thin, hunched, labored breathing, rough coat, or lethargy) were sacrificed, lungs were removed and fixed in 10% Neutral Buffered Formalin (NBF) and embedded in paraffin blocks. Lungs from normal mice were used as controls. NBF fixed paraffin-embedded pancreatic tumor tissue sections were obtained from KPC mice (*Pdx-1-Cre (B6.Tg(Pdx1-cre)6Tuv/Nci)*; *LSL-Kras*^{G12D} (*B6.Krastm4Tyj/Nci*); *LSL p53*^{R172H} *(129S4-Trp53tm2Tyj/Nci)* on a

C57BL/6 background)[61]. Pancreas samples from *WT* mice were used as controls. Primary tumor

cell line KPC98027 was derived from a KPC pancreatic ductal ADC. 1×10^5 KPC cells were

injected into medial pancreata in syngeneic C57BL/6 recipient animals. Pancreas from un-injected

normal mice were used as controls. Tumors were collected at 5-6 weeks post-injection and fixed

in NBF as described above. For xenograft experiments, athymic nude (*nu/nu*) mice received 1×10^6

A549 cells (control or TOLLIP knockdown) by tail vein injection. All mice were sacrificed when

a single mouse showed clinical signs and became moribund. Lungs were removed and lesions

counted. Lungs were gently inflated in NBF, fixed with NBF for 5 days and embedded in paraffin

blocks or stored in 70% ETOH.

H&E staining, tumor grading and HALO AI-based image analysis of lung tumor slides

Mouse lungs were formalin-fixed, embedded in paraffin and sectioned at 5μm thickness. Routine

hematoxylin and eosin-staining was performed using the Sakura® Tissue-Tek® Prisma™

automated stainer (Sakura Finetek USA, Inc., Torrance, California). The slides were dewaxed

using xylene and then hydrated using a series of graded ethyl alcohols. Commercial hematoxylin,

clarifier, bluing reagent and eosin-Y were used to stain. A regressive staining method was used,

which intentionally overstains tissues and then uses a differentiation step (clarifier/bluing reagents)

to remove excess stain. After staining was completed, the slides were cover slipped using the

Sakura® Tissue-Tek™Glass® automatic cover slipper (Sakura Finetek USA, Inc., Torrance,

California). Whole slide images were obtained at high resolution, 20x magnification using an AT2

scanner (Aperio, Leica Biosystems, Buffalo Grove, IL, USA).

Two veterinary pathologists (B.K. and L.B.) identified and segmented the regions of interest

used to train an AI deep learning tissue-classifying algorithm (Densenet AI V2 plugin in Halo

(v.3.3.2541.423, Indica Labs, Corrales, NM, USA). Annotations were manually drawn around four

tissue classes: normal (including lung parenchyma, airways and vessels), hyperplasia

(hypercellular foci of round to cuboidal hypertrophic pneumocytes arranged in a single layer),

adenoma (expansile mass consisting of proliferative epithelium arranged in papillary to solid

formations with no features of atypia and rare to absent mitotic figures), and adenocarcinoma

(proliferative cells demonstrating some combination of increased cellular atypia, anisocytosis,

anisokaryosis, cytoplasmic basophilia, increased mitotic figures and haphazard or invasive

patterns).

During training, the algorithm performance was iteratively evaluated by visual inspection and

misclassification of tissues was addressed and corrected by additional annotations in the

misclassified regions and further training until satisfactory performance was obtained. The

percentages of lungs comprised of hyperplasia, adenoma and adenocarcinoma were calculated by

dividing the total area of each class by the total tissue area on the slide and multiplying by 100.

Immunohistochemistry

Immunohistochemical staining for CD45 was performed on 5-micron FFPE sections using a

manual benchtop method. Antigen retrieval was performed with citrate buffer for 30 seconds at

121°C using a Decloaking Chamber (BioCare Medical). Nonspecific binding was blocked with an

incubation of 2% normal rabbit serum for 20 min. This was followed by an overnight incubation

at 4°C with the CD45 primary antibody (BD Biosciences #550539) at a 1:100 dilution. Antibody

detection was accomplished by incubation with Biotinylated Rabbit anti-Rat (Vector labs# BA-

4001) secondary antibody and ABC Elite reagent (Vector Labs # PK-6100), followed by

incubation in DAB chromogen (Sigma #D5905). Slides were digitally scanned at 20x using a Leica

AT2 whole slide scanner. Normal mouse spleen was used a positive control.

Regions having adenoma and adenocarcinoma lesions were graded as mentioned above using

Halo AI on the H&E slides, and CD45 staining in the corresponding regions was analyzed.

Hematoxylin nuclear stain was used as a marker to count the total number of cells within the graded

adenoma or adenocarcinoma lesions. The percentage of CD45 stained cells was plotted.

Cells and cell culture

HEK-293T cells (American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), Rockville, MD) and MEFs were

cultured in DMEM+Glutamax (supplemented with 10% Fetal Bovine Serum (FBS). HBEC cells

(ATCC) were cultured in Airway Epithelial Cell Basal Medium (ATCC® PCS-300-030)

supplemented with Bronchial Epithelial Cell Growth Kit (ATCC PCS-300-040). NIH3T3 cells

were grown in DMEM+Glutamax with 10% calf serum (Colorado Serum Company). A549

(ATCC) cells were grown in Ham's F-12K (Kaighn's) medium with 10% FBS. PANC-1, A375,

MDA-MB-231, HepG2 and MIA PaCa-2 cells (ATCC) were grown in DMEM+Glutamax with

10% FBS. PC-3, OVCAR-8 and NCI-H1299 cells (ATCC) were grown in RPMI+Glutamax with

10%FBS. KPC98027 cells were cultured in DMEM/F12+Glutamax with 10% FBS. *HRAS* mutant

cancer cell lines T24 and RL95-2 were kindly provided by Dr. Deborah Morrison (NCI-Frederick)

and were grown in McCoy's 5A and DMEM/F12+Glutamax, respectively. HT-29 cells were

cultured in McCoy's 5A medium with 10% FBS. All media and FBS were obtained from Thermo

Fisher Scientific. To prevent Mycoplasma contamination, cell cultures were additionally

supplemented with Plasmocin (InvivoGen). Cell stocks were generally passaged fewer than 5

times, and freshly thawed cells were maintained in culture for no more than 2 weeks before

conducting experiments.

Antibodies

Rabbit polyclonal antibodies to TOLLIP (11315-1-AP) and RAB11A (20229-1-AP) were obtained

from Proteintech Group. Mouse monoclonal antibody to Tollip (Clone: MAB4678) was obtained

from R&D Systems. Rabbit Anti-CSNK2A1 (CK2α) antibody (ab10466) was from Abcam. Rabbit

antibodies to phospho-ERK1/2 (#9101) and HA-Tag (#3724) were from Cell Signaling

Technologies. Mouse antibodies to β-Actin (sc-47778) and p-ERK1/2 (sc-136521) were obtained

from Santa Cruz Biotechnology. Rabbit antibodies to HRAS (GTX-116041) and KSR1

(GTX56241) were from GeneTex. Affinity purified mouse antibody against Pyo epitope tag (Glu-

Glu) was from BioLegend (#901802). Mouse monoclonal antibody against KRAS (H00003845-

M01) was obtained from Abnova. Anti-mouse (W4028) and anti-rabbit (W4018) HRP conjugated

secondary antibodies were from Promega. Anti-mouse Alexa® Fluor 488 (#A32790) and anti-

rabbit Alexa® Fluor 594 (A-21207) conjugated secondary antibodies were from Thermo Fisher

Scientific. A custom phospho-Ser22 RIOK1 polyclonal antibody (Biosynth) was raised in rabbits

using the immunogenic peptide H-Cys-Asp-Asp-Ala-Asp-Ser-**p**Ser-Asp-Ser-Glu-Asn-NH2.

Peptides were synthesized and purified using high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) to

>90% purity as determined by HPLC and/or LC/MS. The immunogen was conjugated to activated

keyhole limpet hemocyanin (KLH). Two Specific Pathogen Free New Zealand white rabbits (12-

16 weeks old) were immunized subcutaneously with the phospho-peptide conjugate. All animal

protocols were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. To remove any

latent "non-phospho" reactive antibodies, the anti-sera were passed twice through SulfoLink resin

(ThermoFisher scientific # 20402) columns coupled to the non-phosphorylated peptide. The final

flowthrough was passed through SulfoLink resin coupled to the phosphorylated peptide to obtain

affinity-purified phospho-RIOK1 Ser-22 antibodies.

Reagents

557 1 mg/ml stock solution of Doxycycline hyclate (Sigma Aldrich, # D9891-1g) were prepared in

558 distilled water and filter sterilized. The final concentration of Doxycycline (Dox) used was 1µg/ml.

559 CK2 inhibitor, CX-4945 (Silmitaserib) was purchased from Activate Scientific (#AS10115-G1)

560 and λ-phosphatase (λ-PPTase) was obtained from Merck Millipore Sigma (#P9614-20KU).

561 Thapsigargin (T9033, Millipore Sigma) was used at 400nM concentration.

Plasmids and lentiviral vectors

Ksr1 expression plasmids containing an N-terminal Pyo tag (EYMPME) were generated by PCR

amplification using pcDNA3 mouse *Ksr1*[62] as a template and inserting fragments into pcDNA3.1.

C-terminal deletion mutants 1-81 (CA1), 1-286 (CA1-2) were cloned using EcoRI and BamH1

sites, while 1-377 (CA1-3), and 1-479 (CA1-4) were cloned using EcoR1 and Kpn1 restriction

sites. N-terminal deletion mutant 531-873 (CA5) was inserted using EcoR1 and BamH1 sites.

Expression plasmids for HA-tagged WT rat *Tollip* and deletion mutants (Δ229-274, Δ180-274,

Δ1-54 and Δ1-94) in pRK7[32] were a kind gift from Dr. A. Ciarrocchi (Laboratory of Translational

Research, Azienda Unità Sanitaria Locale-IRCCS di Reggio Emilia, Italy). HA-*Tollip* deletion

mutant Δ203-274 was made by PCR amplification and cloning into the pRK7 vector using BamH1

and EcoR1 restriction sites. Δ180-202 was made using three-way ligation of cDNA fragments

encoding *Tollip* residues 1-179 and 203-274, and BamH1/EcoR1 digested pRK7 vector; Nhe1 sites

were used to join the two *Tollip* cDNA fragments. pLenti CMV GFP Hygro (656-4) was a gift

from Eric Campeau and Paul Kaufman (Addgene plasmid #17446; http://n2t.net/addgene:17446;

RRID:Addgene_17446)[63]. Rat WT *Tollip* and deletion mutants Δ229-274, Δ180-274, Δ1-54,

Δ180-202 were cloned into pLenti CMV GFP Hygro using PCR amplification from the pRK7

based Rat *Tollip* plasmids mentioned above, using primers containing BsrG1 and Sal1 sites. Δ55-

179 was made using three-way ligation of cDNA fragments encoding *Tollip* residues 1-54 and

180-274, and BsrG1/Sal1 digested pLenti CMV GFP Hygro vector; Nhe1 sites were used to join

the two *Tollip* cDNA fragments. Human *TOLLIP* was amplified from cDNA isolated from A549

cells using primers containing BsrG1 and Sal1 sites and the product inserted into pLenti CMV

GFP hygro vector. A BsrG1 site within the *TOLLIP* cDNA was eliminated by mutation while

maintaining the amino acid sequence, using the QuikChange Lightning Site-Directed Mutagenesis

Kit (Agilent, #210518) per the manufacturer's instructions. Lentiviral Rat *Tollip* constructs

containing C-terminal fusion to EGFP were generated using three-way Gateway cloning. The

minimal CMV promoter-containing pDONR258 and C-terminal m-EGFP tag-containing

pDONR257 were obtained from the NCI RAS Initiative (Leidos Biomedical Research, Inc.,

Frederick, MD, USA). Coding sequences for Rat *Tollip* WT and deletion mutants were PCR

amplified from the corresponding pLenti CMV GFP hygro vectors (described above) and cloned

into pDONR255. The CMV promoter, either Rat *Tollip* WT, Δ229–274, Δ180-274, Δ1-54, Δ180-

202 or Δ55-179 coding regions, and m-EGFP were then inserted into the lentiviral pDest659 vector

(carrying Blasticidin resistance and attR4/attR3 recombination sites). The resulting *Tollip* WT or

deletion mutant vectors were used for viral production and transduction. Lentiviral expression

vectors for GFP- or mCherry-tagged human *KSR1*, mCherry-tagged mouse *Ck2α*, and FLAG-

tagged human *RIOK1* were obtained from Genecopoeia (Rockville, MD). Lentiviral *RIOK1*

constructs were generated using four-way Gateway cloning. The minimal CMV promoter-containing pDONR259 vector and the 3X-FLAG tag containing pDONR235 vector were obtained from the NCI RAS Initiative (Leidos Biomedical Research, Inc., Frederick, MD, USA). The human WT *RIOK1* coding region was PCR amplified from cDNA isolated from A549 cells; oligos containing the RIOK1 polyadenylation signal (PAS) were annealed. *RIOK1* coding region and *RIOK1* PAS fragments were then cloned into pDONR255 and pDONR257 vectors, respectively, using BP recombination. The *RIOK1* Ser22 to Ala (A) or Ser22 to Aspartate (D) mutants were generated using QuikChange Lightning Site-Directed Mutagenesis Kit (Agilent, Catalog #210518). Primers were designed using the QuikChange Primer Design website. Using four-way LR recombination, the CMV promoter, 3X-FLAG, either WT*, S22A or S22D *RIOK1* coding regions, and the *RIOK1* PAS fragment were cloned into the lentiviral pDest659 vector. The resulting *RIOK1* WT, S22A or S22D vectors were used for either transfection or viral production and transduction. Lentiviral vectors for human $HRAS^{G12V}$ and $KRAS^{G12V}$ were obtained from the NCI RAS Initiative (Leidos Biomedical Research, Inc., Frederick, MD, USA). Lentiviral packaging/envelope plasmids pMD2.G (#12259), pMDLg/pRRE (#12251), and pRSV/Rev (#12253) were obtained from AddGene. pLV-ER GFP encoding GFP-tagged *SEC61β* was a gift from Pantelis Tsoulfas (Addgene plasmid #80069; http://n2t.net/addgene:80069; RRID:Addgene_80069). mEmerald-RAB11A-7 was a gift from Michael Davidson (Addgene plasmid #54245; http://n2t.net/addgene:54245; RRID:Addgene_54245). pTag-RFP-C-h-Rab11a-c-Myc was a gift from James Johnson (Addgene plasmid #79806; http://n2t.net/addgene:79806; RRID: Addgene_79806)[64]. The lentiviral pUltra-hot vector was a gift from Malcolm Moore (Addgene plasmid #24130; http://n2t.net/addgene:24130; RRID: Addgene_24130). mEmerald tagged human *RAB11A* and RFP tagged human *RAB11A* were transferred into the Ultra-hot vector

using Age1 and BamH1 cloning sites. Similarly, mCherry tagged human *TOLLIP* was cloned into

the Ultra-hot vector. Mission shRNA lentiviral constructs for human *TOLLIP* (TRCN0000314717,

TRCN0000356024 and TRCN0000314642), mouse *Tollip* (TRCN0000066136 and

TRCN0000066137), human *RAB11A* (TRCN0000073022 and TRCN0000291939) and human

KSR1 (TRCN0000338414 TRCN0000338476) were obtained from Millipore Sigma.

SMARTvector Inducible Human RIOK1 hEF1a-TurboGFP shRNAs [#V3SH11252-224914513

(i-shRIOK1.3) and #V3SH11252-229953481(i-shRIOK1.4)], were obtained from Dharmacon

(Horizon Discovery). All oligonucleotide primers used in cloning procedures are shown in

Supplementary Table 10.

Transient transfection

Transfections were carried out using FuGENE 6 transfection reagent (Promega #E2691) per the

manufacturer's instructions. Briefly, HEK293T cells in 100mm dishes were transfected with

varying amounts of Pyo-tagged *Ksr1* or deletion mutants (standardized to obtain equivalent protein

expression), HA-tagged *Tollip* or *Tollip* deletion mutants (standardized to obtain equivalent

protein expression), or 2µg of FLAG-tagged human *RIOK1* or *RIOK1* S22A with or without 0.1µg

pcDNA3-*KRAS^{G12V}*. Empty pcDNA3 was added when necessary to equalize total vector DNA. 2µl

FuGENE 6 transfection reagent per µg of DNA was used for each transfection. Transfection mix

was made in antibiotic free Opti-MEM medium (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Catalog #11058021).

After transfection, cells were cultured in complete media (DMEM with 10% FBS) for 24 h. Media

was changed, and cells were incubated for another 24 h before harvesting. For experiments

involving KRAS^{G12V}, media was changed 24 h after transfection and cells were incubated for 12

h in complete media followed by overnight incubation in low serum conditions (DMEM with 0.1%

FBS) prior to harvesting.

Lentiviral transduction

Lentiviral plasmids were transfected into 293T cells using a standard $CaPO_4$ precipitation method

with 20 μg lentiviral vector, 6 μg pMD2.G, 10 μg pMDLg/pRRE and 5 μg pRSV/Rev. After 24 h,

cells were washed with phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) and supplemented with fresh media. 48-

72 h after transfection, viral supernatants were collected, pooled, filtered through 0.45 mm filters,

supplemented with 8 µg/ml polybrene and used to infect target cells. 24 h later, media was

removed, cells washed with PBS and supplemented with fresh media and the appropriate

antibiotic. Multiple genes were introduced by sequential infection and drug selection.

Growth curves

Cells were seeded at 2.5×10^4 cells/well in 6-well dishes. At the appropriate times, cells were

washed with PBS, fixed in 10% formalin, rinsed with water, stained with 0.1% crystal violet

(Millipore Sigma) for 30 min, rinsed extensively, and dried. Dye was extracted with 10% acetic

acid and absorbance measured at 590 nm. All values were normalized to day 0 (24 h after plating).

Growth curves were plotted using GraphPad Prism 10.2.0.

Clonogenic growth assays

4000 cells (A549, PANC1, MDA-MB-231, MIA PaCa-2, H1299, HepG2, RL95-2, A375, HT29,

OVCAR-8 and PC3) or 1000 cells (T24) or their respective derivatives were plated on 100 mm

culture dishes. After 10-14 days, colonies were fixed with 4% formaldehyde in PBS for 10 min,

stained with 0.4% crystal violet for 30 min, rinsed thoroughly with water, dried and scanned. The number of colonies were counted using FIJI/ImageJ software v1.53f51.

Senescence-associated β-Galactosidase (SA-βGal) assays

A549 cells or their derivatives were plated at 2.5×10^4 cells per well in 6-well plates. After 2-3 days, cells were stained using a senescence detection kit (Millipore Sigma QIA117) per the manufacturer's instructions.

Immunoprecipitation (IP)

1×10^6 HEK293T cells were seeded in 10 cm dishes and transfected with DNA combinations using FuGENE6 (Promega) as described above. 48 h after transfection, cells were washed twice with PBS and processed for cell lysis. For IP of endogenous TOLLIP and exogenously expressed pyo-KSR1, non-denaturing Lysis Buffer (137 mM NaCl, 20 mM Tris pH 8.0, 10% glycerol,1% Triton X-100) was used. Lysis buffer supplemented with freshly prepared protease inhibitors (Protease Inhibitor Cocktail Set I #539131 and Protease Inhibitor Cocktail Set III #539134, Millipore Sigma-Aldrich) and phosphatase inhibitors (Phosphatase Inhibitor Cocktail Set I #524624 and Phosphatase Inhibitor Cocktail Set II #524625; Millipore Sigma-Aldrich) was added directly to the plated cells for 15 min on ice. Lysates were centrifuged at 13,000 rpm for 5 min, supernatants collected, and protein estimated using Bradford reagent (Bio-Rad Laboratories, #50000006). 2 mg supernatant was used for immunoprecipitation, with 10% reserved for input samples. For IP of endogenous TOLLIP, cell lysates were pre-cleared by adding 30 μl of a 50% slurry of Protein G Sepharose (GE Healthcare, #17-0618-01) for 1 h. For pre-clearing for pyo-KSR1 IP, 10μl of Protein G magnetic beads (NEB, S1430S) was used. Precleared supernatant was collected either

by centrifugation at 1000 rpm or using a magnetic rack (NEB). Anti-TOLLIP or anti-Glu Glu

(Pyo) antibody (1:1000) was added to the pre-cleared supernatants and incubated for 1 h at 4°C on

a rotating rack. 30μl of 50% slurry of Protein G Sepharose or 10μl Protein G magnetic beads were

added and incubated at 4°C on a rotating rack for 1 h. Beads were collected and washed 4 times in

NET-N Wash Buffer (100mM NaCl, 20 mM Tris pH 8.0, 1 mM EDTA and 0.5% NP40). 2xSDS

sample buffer (Bio-Rad Laboratories) was added to the beads and samples boiled for 7 min at

100°C. Proteins were analyzed by immunoblotting as described below.

Immunoblotting

Cells were harvested after washing twice with cold PBS and lysed with IP lysis buffer or RIPA

lysis buffer supplemented with protease and phosphatase inhibitors (see above for details). Cells

were lysed on ice for 15 min. Protein samples (30-50 μg) or IP samples were resolved by

electrophoresis on 10% or 12% Mini or Midi-TGX Precast Gels (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Cat. nos:

4561034, 4561044, 5671044 and 5671034) and transferred to PVDF membranes (Bio-Rad

Laboratories, Cat. no. 1704273). The blots were probed with the appropriate primary antibodies

followed by goat anti-rabbit IgG or goat anti-mouse IgG conjugated to horseradish peroxidase and

visualized using enhanced chemiluminescence substrate (SuperSignal™ West Dura Extended

Duration Substrate #34076, Thermo Fisher Scientific).

Live cell imaging

1×10^4 cells were plated in glass-bottomed chambers (Sarstedt Cat. no. 94.6190.402) or μ-Slides

VI0.4 (Ibidi) and cultured for 24 h. Cells were then infected with supernatants of the appropriate

lentiviral vectors. After 18-24 h, media was replaced, and cells were grown in DMEM+10%FBS

for 24h. Media was then replaced with DMEM +0.1% FBS and cells cultured overnight. Cells

were imaged using a Zeiss LSM-780 confocal microscope equipped with an incubation chamber

maintained at 37°C in 5% CO_2.

Immunofluorescence (IF)

$1x10^4$ cells were plated in glass-bottomed chambers (Sarstedt, Cat. no. 94.6190.402) or µ-Slides

VI0.4 (Ibidi) and cultured for 24 h. Cells were serum starved overnight and fixed with ice cold

100% methanol for 20 min. The fixed cells were incubated for 1 h in blocking buffer [5% Normal

Goat Serum (Cell Signaling) in PBS with 0.3% TritonX100 (Sigma)]. Thereafter, the cells were

incubated with the appropriate primary antibodies (1:1000 dilution) overnight at 4°C in blocking

buffer. Following 4 washes with IF wash buffer (PBS containing 1% BSA and 0.1% TritonX100),

Alexa 488 or Alexa 594 conjugated secondary antibodies (1:1000 dilution) in IF wash buffer were

added for 1 h at RT. The cells were then washed 4 times and stained with 0.1 µg/mL DAPI (Thermo

Fisher Scientific) in PBS for 12 min at room temperature followed by 3 washes with PBS.

Fluorescence images were acquired using a Zeiss LSM-780 confocal microscope. For IF of tumor

samples, dissected tumor-bearing lungs or pancreata embedded in paraffin blocks (described

above); were dissected and 5µm sections were prepared and slides processed for

immunofluorescence. Briefly, slides were deparaffinized using xylene, rehydrated by treating with

sequentially decreasing concentrations of ethanol, and antigen retrieval performed using sodium

citrate buffer (10mM sodium citrate, 0.05% Tween 20 and 1M HCl). Thereafter, the slides were

washed with PBST, fixed in ice-cold methanol for 10 min at -20°C, permeabilized with 1%

TritonX100 for 15 min at RT and 1% SDS for 10 min at RT; all steps were interspersed with 3

PBS washes. Slides were blocked using 5% goat serum with 0.3% TritonX-100 in PBS, followed

by overnight incubation with rabbit primary antibodies targeting Tollip, KSR1, CK2a or p-ERK

at 1:500 dilution in blocking buffer, followed by washing with IF wash buffer (0.1% Triton X-

100/1% BSA in PBS) and incubating with Alexa 594 conjugated secondary anti-rabbit antibody

(1:500 dilution in IF wash buffer) for 1 h at RT. DAPI staining was performed as described above

and the slides were mounted on cover slips using Vecta-shield mounting media

(VECTASHIELD® Antifade Mounting Medium, H-1000, VectorLabs). Fluorescence images

were acquired using a Zeiss LSM-780 confocal microscope.

Fluorescence-based image analysis

Relative nuclear proximity index (RNPI), which measures the proximity of cytoplasmic

fluorescence signals to the nuclear envelope, was used to analyze manually selected lateral (XY)

confocal slices using FIJI/ImageJ v1.53f51 image analysis software[65]. Using the Differential

Interference Contrast (DIC) image and the DAPI stained nucleus, the cell border was traced

manually and the nuclear border was drawn around the cell nucleus. Then a Fiji macro (available

with instructions from the authors upon request) performed the proximity analysis. The macro first

required the user to set a threshold intensity to discriminate punctate fluorescence signals from

background intensity. Then the macro automatically made four calculations: (1) The area of the

cytoplasm, (2) The total intensity of the fluorescence signals above the manually set threshold

intensity (the macro did not subtract the background intensity from the fluorescence signals.), (3)

The closest distance to the nuclear border determined for each pixel in the cytoplasm (excluding

the nucleus) using the Euclidean distance transform, and then integration of these distance values

over the cytoplasm, and (4) The product of the fluorescence intensity above background calculated

for each pixel in the cytoplasm [from (2)] and the distance value [from (3)], and then integration

of these products over the cytoplasm. The manually set threshold intensity was kept constant in an

individual experimental set. The four values from these calculations were used to calculate the

average distance of the fluorescence signals from the edge of the nucleus [the value from (4)

divided by the value from (2)], and to calculate the average distance a uniform signal in the

cytoplasm would have from the edge of the nucleus, which is the value from (3) divided by the

value from (1). The ratio of the average distance of the fluorescence signals from the edge of the

nucleus to the average distance a uniform signal in the cytoplasm would have from the edge of the

nucleus was calculated for each cell. If the ratio is significantly above 1 then the fluorescence

signals are further away from the nucleus than a uniformly distributed signal. If the ratio is

significantly below 1 then the fluorescence signals are closer to the nucleus than a uniformly

distributed signal. RNPI values were plotted using Graphpad Prism 10.2.0.

Pearson's correlation coefficient and Manders overlap coefficient (Zen Blue software-based

Image analysis tool) were used to determine colocalization between proteins (Pearson's coefficient

value quantifies the degree to which fluorescence pixels from two channels follow a simple linear

relationship of intensity, while Manders coefficient quantifies the degree of overlap between two

fluorescent pixels). The resultant values were plotted using GraphPad Prism 10.2.0.

Proximity ligation assay (PLA)

1×10^4 A549 cells were grown on glass bottom μ-Slides VI0.4 (Ibidi). PLA was performed using

the Duolink *in situ* PLA kit according to the manufacturer's instructions (Millipore Sigma,

DUO92002 , DUO92004 and DUO92014). In brief, cells were fixed with pre-chilled MeOH for

15 min at -20ºC and permeabilized with 0.05% Saponin in PBS. After blocking, the cells were

incubated overnight at 4°C with the appropriate combinations of antibodies. PLA Plus and Minus

probes for mouse and rabbit antibodies (used at 1:5 dilution in Duolink® Antibody Diluent) were

added and incubated for 1 h at 37°C in a pre-heated humidified chamber. The proximity ligation

reaction and the polymerase-based DNA amplification reaction were performed for 30 min and 1

h 40 min, respectively, at 37ºC. Samples were counterstained with DAPI for 12 min and images

were acquired using a Zeiss LSM-780 confocal microscope. PLA spots were quantified using

FIJI/ImageJ software v1.53f51.

RNA FISH

1×10^4 A549 cells were plated on μ-Slides VI0.4 (Ibidi). 48 h after seeding, cells were washed in

Cytoskeleton buffer (CB; 10 mmol/L MES pH 6.1, 150 mmol/L NaCl, 5 mmol/L $MgCl_2$, 5 mmol/L

EGTA, 5 mmol/L glucose) and permeabilized/fixed in ice-cold pre-fixative mix (4%

paraformaldehyde, 0.01% glutaraldehyde, 0.05% saponin, in CB) for 20 min at 4°C. Cells were

then incubated with ice-cold fixative mix (4% paraformaldehyde, 0.01% glutaraldehyde, in CB)

for 100 min at 4°C. Fixed cells were washed with CB twice and quenched by addition of 50

mmol/L NH_4Cl in CB for 5 min at RT. Protease digestion (1:2000 dilution) was performed for 10

min at RT using Protease-QS solution in PBS followed by 2 washes with 1X PBS. For RNA FISH,

QuantiGene ViewRNA ISH Cell Assay (Thermo Fisher Scientific) was used according to the

manufacturer's protocol. A custom-made probe for human pre-18S rRNA 5'ITS1 (internal

transcribed spacer 1) (5′-CCTCGCCCTCCGGGCTCCGTTAATGATC-3′) was used[44]. Cells were

washed four times with PBS-S (0.05% Saponin, in PBS) for 5 min at 20°C, counterstained with

DAPI for 10 min at RT, and then washed twice with 1X PBS. Images were acquired using a Zeiss

LSM-780 confocal microscope. Image analysis was performed using FIJI/ImageJ software

v1.53f51. Briefly, cell border and nuclear border were drawn and marked as region of interest

(ROI) and the number of particles (mRNA foci) within the ROI were calculated. The number of

cytoplasmic signals was calculated as the number of 5'ITS1 FISH signals within the cell border

subtracted by the number of signals within the nuclear boundary. The total number of 5'ITS1 FISH

signals per cell and the ratio of cytoplasmic to nuclear FISH signals per cell were plotted using

GraphPad Prism 10.2.0.

Cell processing for phospho-proteomic analysis

$2x10^6$ NIH 3T3 cells were seeded in 150mm plates and cultured for 24 h in DMEM media

containing 10% calf serum. The media was replaced by DMEM containing 0.1% calf serum for

24 h, after which the cells were stimulated with 15% calf serum and harvested at 0.5, 2, 4, 6 and 8

h. For harvesting, cells were washed twice with cold PBS, collected by scraping gently using a

Cell Lifter (Corning Incorporated, 3008) and centrifuging at 1200 rpm for 3 min. Cells were

harvested and used for phospho-proteomic analysis. Three independent replicate experiments were

performed. $1x10^6$ A549 cells were seeded in 100mm plates and transduced with lentiviruses

expressing control shRNA or three different TOLLIP shRNAs. Media was replaced the next day.

After 24 h, cells were trypsinized, transferred to a 150mm plate and selected using puromycin

(2.5µg/ml) for 2 days and harvested as described above. Three replicate experiments were

performed for each shRNA construct.

Phospho-proteomic analysis by mass spectrometry

Serum stimulated or unstimulated (0 h) NIH 3T3 cells were harvested (see above) and lysed in

500µl urea lysis buffer (8M Urea; 50mM Hepes pH 8.3), sonicated on ice 3 times at 1 min intervals

followed by centrifugation at 14,000 rpm for 10 min at 4°C. Supernatants were collected and

protein concentrations analyzed using BCA reagent (Bio-Rad). 250 mg protein was taken from

each sample and the total volume was adjusted to 150 ul with 50 mM Hepes pH 8.3. The samples

were then treated with 10mM DDT for 30 min at room temperature. Samples were alkylated using

20mM 2-Iodoacetamide for 30 min in the dark. 900µl cold acetone was added to each sample and

left overnight at -20°C to precipitate proteins. The samples were centrifuged at 14,000 rpm for 10

min at 4°C and the protein precipitates were collected and resuspended in 50mM Hepes (pH 8.3).

Next, the protein samples were treated with 6.5µg trypsin and incubated overnight at 37°C to

generate tryptic peptides. The peptide samples were then dried under vacuum and resuspended in

100µl of 50mM Hepes (pH 8.3). Tandem mass tag (TMT) isobaric labeling (ThermoFisher, CA)

was performed at 1:4 ratio by weight of sample for 1 h, and the reaction was quenched with 5%

hydroxylamine. Different mass tags were used for peptides obtained from the NIH 3T3 cells

harvested at each time point after serum stimulation; technical replicates received the same set of

mass tags. Replicate experiments were analyzed in separate runs. TMT-labeled samples from each

run were mixed, concentrated, dried under vacuum, and resuspended in 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid.

To remove any uncoupled TMT, peptide samples were passed through empty C18 columns

(ThermoFisher, CA). Eluted TMT labeled peptides were enriched for phosphopeptides by TiO_2

affinity purification (High Select TiO_2 kit; Thermo-Scientific, #A32993). The enriched

phosphopeptides bound to TiO_2 beads were eluted by high pH solvent and dried under vacuum.

The flow through peptides and the phosphopeptides obtained from the various wash steps were

collected separately, dried under vacuum, and resuspended in 0.1% TFA and further enriched for

phosphopeptides using Fe-Oxide affinity purification (High Select Fe-NTA; Thermo-Scientific,

#A32992). The phosphopeptides on the Fe-Oxide beads were then eluted by high pH solvents and

combined with the TiO_2 eluate collected earlier to obtain the maximum yield of phosphopeptides.

The enriched phosphopeptides were fractionated by high pH (8.5) reverse phase (RP) on a Waters

Acquity UPLC system coupled to a fluorescence detector (Waters, Milford, MA). The fractions

were consolidated into 12 pools based on the chromatographic intensity. The flow-through and

wash solutions of the Fe-oxide steps were collected, dried under vacuum, fractionated by high pH

(8.5) RP chromatography, and consolidated into 24 pools based on the chromatographic intensity.

The fraction pools were lyophilized and stored at -80°C until analysis by mass spectrometry.

For A549 cells, each TMT run contained four channels: an shCtrl sample and samples from

three different TOLLIP shRNAs. The experiment was performed in triplicate, generating three

replicates with four channels each. The replicate experiments were analyzed separately, resulting

in 12 different phosphopeptide intensity measurements. TMT labeling and phosphopeptide

enrichment were performed as described for NIH 3T3 cells. Different mass tags were used for the

different cell types, while technical replicates received the same mass tags. Phosphopeptides were

enriched using TiO$_2$ affinity purification and Fe-Oxide affinity purification, fractionated and the

resulting fraction pools were lyophilized and stored at -80°C.

Mass spectrometry data acquisition and analysis. Data acquisition of TMT labeled peptides

from NIH 3T3 cells was performed using Fusion Orbitrap (Thermo Scientific) and data for A549

cells were acquired using a Q-Exactive HF mass spectrometer (Thermo Scientific). The dried

samples were reconstituted in 0.1% TFA and separated using a second dimension low pH gradient

using a nanoflow liquid chromatography (Thermo Easy nLC 1000, Thermo Scientific) coupled to

a mass spectrometer at 300 nl/min. The MS/MS analysis of the peptides along with the quantitative

analysis of the TMT tags were performed at high resolution of 50,000 (Fusion)/45,000 (HF) in the

orbitrap analyzer. Acquired MS/MS spectra were searched against mouse (for NIH 3T3) or human

(for A549) Uniprot protein databases along with a contaminant protein database, using a

SEQUEST and percolator validator algorithms in the Proteome Discoverer 2.2 software (Thermo

Scientific, CA). The precursor ion tolerance was set at 10 ppm and the fragment ions tolerance

was set at 0.02 Da along with methionine oxidation included as dynamic modification and TMT6

plex (229.163Da) set as a static modification of lysine and the N-termini of the peptide. For

phospho-enriched peptides, phosphorylation of serine, threonine and tyrosine was set as a dynamic

modification. Trypsin was specified as the proteolytic enzyme, with up to 2 missed cleavage sites

allowed. A reverse decoy database search strategy was used to control for the false discovery rate

and peptide identifications were validated using the percolator algorithm. Phosphopeptides and

flow-through peptides from three independent experiments were analyzed. The affinity purified

peptides were used to determine the abundance of phosphopeptides (denoted p-peptides), while

the flow-through peptides were used to measure the protein abundance.

Bioinformatic analysis of LC-MS data

All analyses using the MTM LC/MS/MS p-peptide and protein intensities were performed using

either R (Version 4.3.1) or in-house programs. The twelve A549 samples (shCtrl, shTOLLIP.1,

shTOLLIP.2 and shTOLLIP.3 groups, each transduced in triplicate) were analyzed using the mass

tags described above. The first step was to consistently scale the intensities in these 12 channels

for the p-peptides and proteins. Due to the varying number of missing intensities across the

channels, a MAS5 scaling was found to produce the most consistent results. A p-peptide was

removed from consideration if it did not have an observed intensity for at least two of the three

technical replicates in each A549 group, if it did not represent a phosphorylated protein, or if the

peptide sequence matched more than one protein. In certain cases, multiple p-peptides contain the

same phosphorylated serine, threonine, or tyrosine residue. So that they were not treated

independently, the Accession number and global position within the protein was used to sum the

intensities at each phosphorylation site (p-site). The ratio of the p-site intensity to its corresponding

protein intensity within the same channel was then determined. A p-site was removed if the p-

site/protein ratio was not present in at least two of the three technical replicates for all cell cultures.

The p-site/protein ratios were averaged across the two or three technical replicates for each

group, followed by averaging the average ratios across the three TOLLIP knockdown groups. This

overall TOLLIP knockdown p-site/protein ratio was divided by the average p-site/protein ratio for

the shCtrl control samples to obtain a fold-change for each p-site. The log2-transform of these fold

changes was converted to a z-scale and the p-sites that were below -1.5 were selected.

The residues surrounding each p-site were examined to determine potential matches to CK2,

AKT or CDK phosphorylation motifs. A putative CK2-mediated p-site was identified if it passed

one of the following two rules[42,66,67], given that the p-site is at position n:

1.   An aspartic or glutamic acid at either positions $n+1$ or $n+3$ or both, at least two

acidic residues between positions $n-1$ and $n+5$, no proline or basic residues at position $n+1$,

and no more than two basic residues between positions $n-1$ and $n+5$.

2.   If there are no aspartic or glutamic acid at either positions $n+1$ or $n+3$, there must

be at least three acidic residues between positions n-1 and n+6, no proline or basic residue

at position $n+1$, and no more than two basic residues between positions $n-1$ and $n+6$.

A p-site was identified as a putative AKT target if an arginine was present at n-5 and n-3, and

if a hydrophobic residue (alanine, phenylalanine, isoleucine, leucine, methionine, threonine,

valine, or tryptophan) was present at n+1. Predicted CDK p-sites contained a proline at n+1 and a

lysine or arginine at n+3.

The NIH 3T3 MTM data was treated similarly. Each of the three technical replicates at each

time point was normalized using a MAS5 scaling. This was performed separately for the total

protein and p-peptide data. Using the Accession number and global position within the protein, the

p-peptide intensities were collapsed into p-site intensities. p-site/protein ratios were determined

for each technical replicate at each time point. A p-site was removed if there were less than two

replicates with valid p-site/protein ratios at any time point. The p-site/protein ratios were averaged

for each time point. The average p-site/protein ratios at 0 min, 30 min and 2 h were then averaged.

The average p-site/protein ratios at 4 or 6 h were then divided by the average of the average p-

site/protein ratios at the 0-2 h time points, to represent the fold-change at 4 or 6 h. The log2-

transformed fold-change across all p-sties was converted to a Z-score, and p-sites with a Z-score

above 1.5 were considered up-regulated. For each set of up-regulated p-sites, the predicted CK2,

AKT, and CDK p-sites were determined using the motif rules described above. Frequency

distribution tables were generated using GraphPad prism 10.2.0. Using a bin width of 0.02, the

number of values in each bin and the mean value per bin were plotted on the Y and X axes,

respectively. Bin range was determined based on the distribution of the log2 fold changes within

the selected phospho-proteomic data.

DAVID analysis[68] was carried out for functional annotation of p-site lists; classifications

based on Biological Processes (GOTERM_BP_DIRECT) were obtained and plotted. Ingenuity

Pathway Analysis (IPA) software[69] was used to perform "Phosphorylation Analysis" to generate

phosphorylation/signaling networks. Proteins corresponding to the p-sites were used as identifiers

and uploaded into the application. Networks generated by the IPA analysis are indicative of

potential signaling cascades.

RNA-sequencing

Library preparation. A total of 9 RNA samples (shCtrl, shTOLLIP.1 and shTOLLIP.2, each transduced in triplicate into A549 cells) were processed for library preparation using the Illumina Stranded Total RNA Prep and Ribo-Zero Plus. Prepared libraries were sequenced on an Illumina NovaSeq Xplus 10B platform. Paired-end reads were generated, with a total of 419 to 886 million reads per sample after filtering.

Data preprocessing and alignment. Raw sequencing data underwent initial quality control using FastQC[70]. Adapters and low-quality reads were removed using Cutadapt[71]. Clean reads were then aligned to the reference genome (hg38) using the STAR aligner[72]. In addition, the gene expression quantification analysis was performed for all samples using STAR/RSEM[73].

Differential expression analysis. Differential expression analysis was performed using the DESeq2 package in R[74]. Raw counts were normalized and a negative binomial model was applied to identify genes with significantly altered expression between experimental conditions (shTOLLIP.1 and shTOLLIP.2 versus shCtrl, independently). Only genes differentially expressed in both conditions (shTOLLIP.1 versus shCtrl and shTOLLIP.2 versus shCtrl) were considered, based on an adjusted p-value cutoff of 0.05 and a mean fold change threshold of 0.5.

Gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA). GSEA was conducted using the ClusterProfiler[75] package in R. Pre-ranked gene lists, generated from the differential expression analysis results, were used as input for GSEA. Enrichment analysis was performed against gene sets obtained from the org.Hs.eg.db package[76]. The statistical significance of enrichment scores was assessed through permutation testing, and adjusted p-values were computed to account for multiple comparisons. The significance threshold for enriched gene sets was set at 0.05. Specific pathways analysis was conducted using the fgsea package[77].

 Statistical analysis

 Statistical analysis was performed using GraphPad Prism 10.2.0. Statistical significance for

 quantitation of immunoprecipitation experiments, RNPI, animal experiments (tumor lesion counts,

 tumor area, immunohistochemistry), colony formation assays, RNA-FISH and SA-βGal assays

 was calculated using two-tailed unpaired Student's t test. P-values less than 0.05 were considered

 significant. The log-rank (Mantel-Cox) test was used for Kaplan–Meier survival analyses. Two-

 way ANOVA was used to analyze growth curves.

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Figure legends

Fig. 1 | TOLLIP interacts with KSR1 and co-localizes with KSR1 and CK2α on RAB11A+ perinuclear endosomes in tumor cells. a Co-immunoprecipitation assay showing association of Pyo-KSR1 with endogenous TOLLIP in 293T cells. Data are mean ± s.d.; $n = 3$ independent experiments. **b** Live cell images demonstrating perinuclear localization of GFP-tagged TOLLIP in A549 lung tumor cells and pan-cytoplasmic distribution in non-transformed bronchial epithelial cells (HBEC). Right: relative nuclear proximity index (RNPI) measures the average distance of fluorescent signals to the nuclear membrane, per cell, normalized to a uniform distribution (see Methods). Data are means for A549 and HBEC; n, number of cells analyzed. **c** Immunofluorescence staining (A549 cells) demonstrating co-localization of TOLLIP with KSR1, CK2α and RAB11A but not p-ERK. Right: co-localization of TOLLIP with the other proteins was quantified using Manders r and Pearson's R; n, number of cells analyzed. **d** TOLLIP-EGFP shows partial co-localization with KSR1-mCherry and nearly complete overlap with CK2α-mCherry and RAB11A-tagRFP in A549 cells. Bottom: co-localization of TOLLIP with KSR1, CK2α and RAB11A was quantified using Manders r and Pearson's R; n, number of cells analyzed. **e** Proximity ligation assays (PLA) confirm the spatial overlap of TOLLIP with KSR1, CK2α, and KSR1 but not p-ERK in A549 cells. Bottom: PLA signal quantification (foci per cell); n, number of cells analyzed. **f** Fluorescently-tagged KSR1, CK2α, TOLLIP and RAB11A are present on endosomal vesicles embedded within the ER network, labeled with Sec61β-GFP, in A549 cells. Statistical significance for co-immunoprecipitation assays and RNPI was calculated using two-tailed unpaired Student's t-test; $*P \leq 0.05$, $****P \leq 0.0001$, ns not significant.

Fig. 2 | TOLLIP is required for perinuclear localization of CK2α and KSR1 and proliferation/survival of tumor cells but is dispensable in normal cells. a TOLLIP depletion in A549 cells causes pan-cytoplasmic dispersal of KSR1, CK2α and RAB11A. Right: RNPI analysis for each protein in control and TOLLIP knockdown cells; *n*, number of cells analyzed. **b** TOLLIP silencing reduces proliferation/survival of A549 and PANC1 tumor cells. Data are mean ± s.d.; *n* = 3 independent experiments. Insets: immunoblots verifying TOLLIP knockdown. **c** TOLLIP-depleted A549 cells display increased senescence (SA-βGal positivity) and apoptosis (cleaved CASPASE-3). SA-βGal data are mean ± s.d.; *n* ≥ 75 cells analyzed per sample. **d** TOLLIP silencing does not affect proliferation of HBEC cells. Data are mean ± s.d.; *n* = 3 independent experiments. Inset shows immunoblots verifying TOLLIP depletion. **e,f** RAB11A depletion causes more uniform cytoplasmic distributions of TOLLIP (**e**), KSR1 and CK2α (**f**). A549 cells expressing RAB11A knockdown or control vectors were analyzed by IF staining for the indicated proteins. Right: RNPI analysis for each protein in control and RAB11A-depleted cells; *n*, number of cells analyzed.

Two-way ANOVA was used to analyze growth curves. Statistical significance for SA-βGal assays and RNPI was determined using two-tailed unpaired Student's *t*-test; *$P \leq 0.05$, **$P \leq 0.01$, ***$P \leq 0.001$, ****$P \leq 0.0001$.

Fig. 3 | TOLLIP and KSR1 interact through conserved domains in each protein. a Mapping the KSR1-interacting region of Tollip. HA-tagged full-length and mutant rat Tollip proteins were co-expressed with Pyo-KSR1 in HEK293T cells. Input lysates and Pyo IP samples were analyzed by immunoblotting for HA (see also Supplementary Fig. 3b) and binding intensity (IP/input) was determined and normalized to WT Tollip. Data are mean ± s.d.; *n* = 3 independent experiments.

TBD, TOM1 binding domain; C2, lipid binding domain; CUE, ubiquitin binding domain. **b** A model of human TOLLIP predicted by AlphaFold2[36] depicts the KSR1 binding region forming a β-hairpin fold. Arrows point to the boundaries of the conserved 18 aa core sequence. *C. elegans* Tollip (bottom), which lacks the conserved KSR1 binding sequence, is not predicted to form the β-hairpin. **c** Subcellular localization of WT Tollip and selected deletion mutants fused to GFP. Proteins were expressed in A549 cells and imaged by fluorescence microscopy. Bottom: RNPI analysis for each protein; *n*, number of cells analyzed.

Two-tailed unpaired Student's *t*-test was performed for IP quantification and RNPI data; *$P \leq$ 0.05, ****$P \leq 0.0001$.

Fig. 4 | *TOLLIP* is a dependency gene in *KRAS*- and *NRAS*-transformed cells. a Control or Tollip-depleted NIH 3T3 cells were transduced with lentiviruses carrying *HRAS^G12V^*, *KRAS^G12V^* or no insert (Ctrl) and immunostained for CK2α and KSR1. Immunoblots confirming Tollip knockdown are shown in Supplementary Fig. 4b,c. Bottom: RNPI analysis for CK2α and KSR1 in each cell population; *n*, number of cells analyzed. **b** TOLLIP silencing does not affect proliferation of T24 cells (human urinary bladder carcinoma; *HRAS^G12V^*). Data are mean ± s.d.; *n* = 3 independent experiments. Inset: immunoblot verifying TOLLIP depletion. **c** Perinuclear partitioning of KSR1 and CK2α in T24 cells is independent of TOLLIP. CK2α and KSR1 localization in control and TOLLIP-depleted cells was analyzed by immunostaining. TOLLIP IF staining confirms silencing efficiency. Right: RNPI analysis of CK2α and KSR1; *n*, number of cells analyzed. **d** Clonogenic growth assays for a panel of human tumor cell lines carrying *KRAS* or *NRAS* mutations, comparing control and TOLLIP knockdown conditions. Data are mean ± s.d., *n* = 3 independent experiments. A549 and H1299, non-small cell lung adenocarcinoma; PANC1

and MIA PaCa-2, pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma; MDA-MB-231, breast cancer; HepG2,

hepatocarcinoma. Oncogenic mutations in each cell line are shown. Immunoblots confirm TOLLIP

knockdown efficiency.

Growth curves were analyzed by two-way ANOVA. RNPI and clonogenic growth assays were

evaluated using two-tailed unpaired Student's t-test; $*P \leq 0.05$, $**P \leq 0.01$, $***P \leq 0.001$, $****P$

≤ 0.0001.

1219

Fig. 5 | Tollip is required for progression to adenocarcinoma in a $Kras^{G12D}$-driven model of

lung tumorigenesis. a Kaplan-Meier survival curves for $Tollip^{+/+};LSL\text{-}Kras^{G12D}$ and

$Tollip^{-/-};LSL\text{-}Kras^{G12D}$ mice. Ad.Cre virus was delivered by intratracheal instillation in 10-week-

old mice to initiate lung tumorigenesis. Virus administration corresponds to day 1 of the survival

study. $Tollip^{+/+}$, $n = 18$; $Tollip^{-/-}$, $n = 19$. **b** Representative H&E images for lung hyperplasia and

adenoma (benign) and ADC (malignant) lesions from $Tollip^{+/+}$ animals. **c** Hyperplasia burdens in

the two strains at clinical sacrifice, measured by HALO image analysis and plotted as % lung area.

d Adenoma and ADC lesions/mouse, as determined by histopathological examination. **e** Most

severe tumor grade observed in each genotype. Scoring is based on histopathological examination

of lung lesions. **f** Immune infiltration in lung lesions, as determined by IHC staining for the pan-

immune cell marker CD45 in adenomas and ADCs. Data represent % CD45 positive cells in each

type of lesion, per animal. **g** Lung nodules in athymic nu/nu mice 11 weeks after tail vein injection

of $1\text{x}10^6$ A549 cells. Cells were infected with a control lentivirus (shCtrl) or two different TOLLIP

shRNA vectors prior to injection. TOLLIP knockdown cells produced a maximum of two lung

nodules per animal. Left: immunoblots showing TOLLIP knockdown efficiency.

The Mantel-Cox log-rank test was used to evaluate Kaplan–Meier survival data. Statistical

significance for tumor burdens (**c**, **d**, **f**, **g**) was calculated using two-tailed unpaired Student's *t*-

test. Fisher's exact test was used to compare the most severe lesion data (**e**). *$P \leq 0.05$, ****$P \leq$

0.0001.

1239

Fig. 6 | Changes in phosphoproteomes upon TOLLIP depletion in A549 cells or coinciding

with PSC formation in GF-stimulated cells. a Phosphoproteome analysis pipeline for A549 cells

without and with TOLLIP depletion. **b** Ranked gene ontology categories (GO, biological process)

for proteins corresponding to p-sites down-regulated in TOLLIP-depleted cells ($Z \leq -1.5$). **c**

Sequences of predicted CK2 motifs corresponding to down-regulated p-sites. Right: heat maps

showing Z-scores and $\log_2$ fold changes for each p-site. **d** GO analysis of proteins corresponding

to TOLLIP-dependent CK2 p-sites listed in **c**. **e** Phosphoproteome analysis pipeline for serum-

stimulated NIH 3T3 cells. KSR1 and CK2α form PSCs at 4 and 6 h, while p-ERK becomes

perinuclear at 6 h[17]. **f** Frequency of CK2 motifs in p-sites that increase at 4 and 6 h in NIH 3T3

cells ($Z \geq 1.5$) compared to all p-sites. **g** List of common CK2 p-sites up-regulated at both 4 and 6

h. **h** Ranked GO categories (biological process) for common CK2 p-sites shown in **g**.

Statistical significance of CK2 site enrichment in NIH 3T3 4 h $Z < -1.5$ p-sites relative to all p-sites

(**f**) was assessed using the one-tailed Binomial test.

1253

Fig. 7 | TOLLIP-dependent phosphorylation on RIOK1 Ser22, a CK2 site, stimulates its pro-

oncogenic function in tumor cells. a RIOK1 Ser22 (arrow) and flanking sequences are conserved

in mammals and absent in other species homologs, including other vertebrates. Acidic residues

contributing to the CK2 motif are highlighted. **b** RIOK1 Ser22 phosphorylation is augmented by

co-expression of KRAS^{G12V}. Flagged-tagged RIOK1 WT and S22A constructs were expressed in

HEK293T cells, ± KRAS^{G12V}. Lysates were analyzed by immunoblotting using a pSer22 RIOK1

antibody. pSer22 RIOK1 levels normalized to total RIOK1 are shown on the right. Data are mean

± s.d.; n = 3 independent experiments. **c** TOLLIP depletion decreases RIOK1 Ser22

phosphorylation in A549 cells. RIOK1 pSer22 levels normalized to total RIOK1 are shown on the

right. Data are mean ± s.d.; n = 3 independent experiments. **d** RIOK1 Ser22 phosphorylation in

HRAS mutant T24 cells is unaffected by TOLLIP knockdown. pSer22 RIOK1 levels normalized

to total RIOK1 are shown on the right. Data are mean ± s.d.; n = 3 independent experiments. **e**

Ser22 is required for RIOK1 function in A549 cells. RIOK1 was depleted in A549 cells using two

different inducible shRIOK1 constructs targeting the 3'UTR. *WT* and S22A and S22D mutant

constructs lacking the 3'UTR were expressed in RIOK1-silenced cells to assess their ability to

rescue clonogenic growth. Immunoblot shows depletion of endogenous RIOK1 (E) and levels of

over-expressed FLAG-RIOK1 proteins (OE). Colony data are mean ± s.d.; n = 3 independent

experiments. **f** TOLLIP and RIOK1 are required for efficient 18S rRNA processing. A549 cells

were depleted for RIOK1 or TOLLIP and analyzed by RNA FISH using a 5'ITS probe to detect

the unprocessed 18S precursor. Insets depict enlarged areas encompassing the nucleus. Total

number of FISH signals and the cytoplasmic/nuclear ratio per cell were quantified (lower panel);

n, number of cells analyzed.

Two-tailed unpaired Student's *t*-test was used to analyze pSer22 RIOK1 levels and 5'ITS1 RNA

FISH data; *$P \leq 0.05$, ***$P \leq 0.001$, ****$P \leq 0.0001$.

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

a

HA-Tollip	Pyo-KSR1
WT	−
WT	+
Δ229–274	+
Δ180–274	+
Δ203–274	+
Δ180–202	+
Δ1–54	+
Δ1–94	+

185 **PVVLMPTVYQQGVGYVPI** 202

HA-Tollip Intensity Ratio (IP/Input)

b

H. sapiens TOLLIP

KSR1 Binding Region

CUE

TBD

C2

C.elegans Tollip

TBD

CUE

C2

Model Confidence:
- Very High (pLDDT>90)
- Confident (90>pLDDT>70)
- Low (70>pLDDT>50)
- Very Low (pLDDT<50)

c

WT   Δ229–274   Δ180–274

Δ1–54   Δ180–202   Δ55–179

10 µm

RNPI

****

n = 20 20 14 22 19 13

WT Δ229–274 Δ180–274 Δ1–54 Δ180–202 Δ55–179

Figure 4

Figure 5

Figure 6

a

A549

shCtrl   shTOLLIP.1, .2, .3

Prepare Lysates, Protease Digestion, TMT Labeling

TiO₂ Enrichment

FT   Bound

Total Peptides   p-Peptides

LC-MS/MS

Normalized p-site Intensities

b

A549: Z<−1.5

- Nucleosome Positioning
- Nuclear Pore Localization
- Osteoblast Differentiation
- Protein Localization to Nuclear Envelope
- Chromatin Remodeling
- Positive Regulation of Transcription From Rna Polymerase II Promoter

GO (BP) — $-Log_{10}$ P-Value

c

Name	Annotated Sequence
LSR	GWRARRPRAR**S493**VDALDDLTPP
TRIP12	YGRVREDDED**S1317**DDDGSDEEID
TRIP12	EDDEDSDDDG**S1322**DEEIDESLAA
TPD52L2	GDMRNSATFK**S166**FEDRVGTIKS
PDCD4	NSSRDSGRGD**S76**VSDSGSDALR
KRT18	MRNLKASLEN**S323**LREVEARYAL
SH3KBP1	MFPSNFIKEL**S156**GESDELGISQ
MCM2	GRMRRGLLYD**S139**DEEDEERPAR

Z-Score: −3.0 −2.0 −1.6

Log₂ Fold Change: −1.2 −1.0 −0.8

d

A549: Z<−1.5 (CK2)

- Apoptotic Process

GO (BP) — $-Log_{10}$ P-Value

e

Serum Starvation   + Serum   PSCs

Hours: −16   0 0.5   2   4   6   8

Prepare Lysates, Protease Digestion, TMT Labeling

TiO₂ Enrichment

NIH 3T3

FT   Bound

Total Peptides   p-Peptides

LC-MS/MS

Normalized p-site Intensities

f

NIH 3T3

Set	p-sites	CK2 Sites	% CK2	P-Value (CK2)
All	3758	1279	34.03	
4h/(0-2h): Z>1.5	190	77	40.52	0.036
6h/(0-2h): Z>1.5	146	53	36.30	0.309

g NIH 3T3: 4+6h Intersection (CK2 p-sites)

Name	Annotated Sequence
MYBBP1A	QLQHGEDED**S722**DNEDNK
Pum1	KGGFGPRDAD**S247**DENDKGEKKN
LRRC47	QHRE**S315**GEGEEEVADSAR
Arnt	MCNDKERFAR**S77**DDEQSSADKE
Nr2f6	DDSASPPGAT**S41**DAEPGDEERP
Ppp1r11	YEKPRAFGES**S79**TESDEDEEEG
Polr3c	LIGKGKRRRS**S205**DEDATGEPKA
Pbdc1	KEEAAEKGAD**S184**GGEKEEGANR
PRRC2B	IASETHSEG**S1154**EYEELPK
Anp32b	EAPDSDVEVD**S164**VEEAPDSDGE
Anp32b	EVDSVEEAPD**S171**DGEVDGVDKE
Cdc42ep4	TSKAREADDE**S64**LDEQASASKL
PTPN21	SLSDATMLIH**S710**SEEDEDLEEDSSR
PTPN21	SLSDATMLIHS**S711**EEDEDLEEDSSR
Map1b	LSPMDEPVPD**S1382**ESPVEKVLSP
MCM6	EIESEID**S762**EEELINK
Sipa1l2	SPRRSLYRTL**S1488**DESVCSNRRG
Iws1	DSDGENKRED**S289**EVQNESDGHT
Gys1	SLSRHSSPHQ**S657**EDEEEPRDGP
USP34	RESTGSY**S1520**DLYPDSDDSSEDQVENSK
USP34	RESTGSYSDLYPD**S1526**DDSSEDQVENSK
CTR9	IADEGHPRN**S1037**NSDSDDDDERPNR
CTR9	IADEGHPRNSN**S1039**DSDDDDERPNR
CTR9	IADEGHPRNSNSD**S1041**DDDDERPNR

h

NIH 3T3: 4+6h Intersection Z<−1.5 (CK2 p-sites)

- Cell Differentiation
- Regulation of Transcription, DNA-Templated

GO (BP) — $-Log_{10}$ P-Value

Figure 7