Reprogramming of cardiac phosphoproteome, proteome and transcriptome confers resilience to chronic adenylyl cyclase-driven stress

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Abstract

Our prior study discovered that numerous adaptive mechanisms emerge in response to cardiac-

specific overexpression of adenylyl cyclase type 8 (TGAC8) which included overexpression of a

large number of proteins. Here we conducted an unbiased phosphoproteomics analysis in order

to determine the role of altered protein phosphorylation in the adaptive heart performance and

protection profile of adult TGAC8 left ventricle (LV) at 3-4 months of age, and integrated the

phosphoproteome with transcriptome and proteome. Based on differentially regulated

phosphoproteins by genotype, numerous stress-response pathways within reprogrammed TGAC8

LV, including PKA, PI3K and AMPK signaling pathways, predicted upstream regulators (e.g.,

PDPK1, PAK1 and PTK2B, and downstream functions (e.g., cell viability, protein quality

control), and metabolism were enriched. In addition to PKA, numerous other kinases and

phosphatases were hyper-phosphorylated in TGAC8 vs. WT. Hyper-phosphorylated

transcriptional factors in TGAC8 were associated with increased mRNA transcription, immune

responses and metabolic pathways. Combination of the phosphoproteome with its proteome and

with the previously published TGAC8 transcriptome enabled the elucidation of cardiac

performance and adaptive protection profiles coordinately regulated at post-translational

modification (PTM) (phosphorylation), translational and transcriptional levels. Many stress-

response signaling pathways, i.e., PI3K/AKT, ERK/MAPK and ubiquitin labeling, were

consistently enriched and activated in the TGAC8 LV at transcriptional, translational and PTM

levels. Thus, reprogramming of the cardiac phosphoproteome, proteome and transcriptome

confers resilience to chronic adenylyl cyclase-driven stress.

Keywords

left ventricle, adenylyl cyclase 8, AC-cAMP-PKA-Ca^{2+} signaling, phosphoproteome, proteome,

transcriptome, PI3K/AKT signaling pathway

Introduction

Cardiac-specific overexpression of AC8 (TGAC8) markedly increases the heart rate and ejection

fraction, similar to acute exercise but chronic and in the absence of corporal exertion, which

persists on a 24 hours per day and 7 days per week basis[1-4]. Despite this constant high-level of

heart performance driven by markedly elevated level of AC8-cAMP-PKA-Ca^{2+} signaling, which

typically proceeds to near-term cardiac dysfunction, the TGAC8 survives for an extended period

of time, up to about one year of age without excessive mortality[5]. Adaptive mechanisms that

emerge in the TGAC8 heart confer resilience to this marked chronic stress of increased AC8-

cAMP-PKA-Ca^{2+} signaling and include the enrichment and activation of a large number of

proteins involved in multiple signaling pathways related to nutrient sensing, energy production,

growth factor signaling, and cell proliferation[5].

As the body is a complex system, multiple levels of coordinated regulatory mechanisms are

requisite to defend against stimuli and maintain health[6-9]. Phosphorylation is one of the most

important and has been the most extensively studied post-translational modification (PTM) of

proteins. Various kinases and phosphatases within cells phosphorylate and dephosphorylate,

respectively, a myriad of proteins to regulate their activities and affect multiple signaling

pathways. Because the PKA signaling pathway was highly enriched in TGAC8 vs. WT[5], we

reasoned that protein phosphorylation differed between TGAC8 and WT, and protein

phosphorylation modification plays a crucial role in the remarkable adaptative capacity of the

TGAC8 heart in response to markedly increased AC8-cAMP-PKA-Ca^{2+} signaling.

By the utilization of TMT-labeling mass spectrometry (MS), we identified 12963

phosphopeptides and 3646 phosphoproteins, and observed a general upregulation of

phosphorylation. By comparing genotypic differences in the proteome and phosphoproteome of

the present study with genotypic differences in the transcriptome published previously[5], we

sought to determine whether some adaptive mechanisms that emerge in the TGAC8 left ventricle

(LV) are regulated at transcriptional, translational and PTM (phosphorylation) levels. We

observed enrichments of phosphorylation, upregulation of kinase expression, and predicted

activation of upstream kinases to expand our understanding of the regulatory mechanisms the

TGAC8 utilizes to adapt to the chronic stress of activated AC8-cAMP-PKA-Ca^{2+} signaling. We

integrated genotypic difference between the TGAC8 and WT of the phosphoproteome with the

transcriptome and proteome, which broadened our understanding how changes in the

transcription, translation and PTM of proteins in the TGAC8 LV may singly or coordinately

enable the TGAC8 to endure the chronic AC8-induced stress.

Materials and Methods

1. Animals.

The cardiac-specific overexpression of AC8 (TGAC8) mouse, generated by inserting a cDNA

coding for human AC8 after the murine α-myosin heavy chain promoter, was a gift from Nicole

Defer/Jacques Hanoune, Unite de Recherches, INSERM U-99, Hôpital Henri Mondor, F-94010

Créteil, France. The three-month old male TGAC mice were used as study cases, and age

matched WT littermates, in the C57/BL6 background, were used as controls. All studies were

performed in accordance with the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals published

by the National Institutes of Health (NIH Publication no. 85-23, revised 1996). The experimental

protocols were approved by the Animal Care and Use Committee of the National Institutes of

Health (protocol #441-LCS-2016).

2. Isolate and store mouse heart.

Three-month old male C57 mice (TGAC8 and WT) were euthanized, and the heart was isolated.

The left ventricle (LV) tissues were extracted and stored in tubes at -80°C.

3. Mass spectrometry for phosphoproteome and data process.

TGAC8 and WT LVs were sent to National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institutes

of Health, Bethesda to conduct mass spectrometry (MS) using the standard tandem mass tag

(TMT) labeling method to obtain the phosphoproteome and total proteome concurrently in the

same platform. Mass spectrometry manipulation referred to our recently published paper[5].

Proteins from each group of samples are being quantified using the Bradford Assay Kit. Two-

hundred micrograms of protein from each group will be labeled with Amine-Reactive Tandem

Mass Tag Reagents (TMT Label Reagents; Thermo Scientific) according to the protocol supplied

by the manufacturer. Briefly, protein will be denatured followed by reduction (TCEP) and

alkylation (iodoacetamide) and then the alkylated proteins (200ug) for each sample were

precipitated in 6 volumes of ice-cold acetone at -20 °C overnight and later reconstituted in

Triethylammonium bicarbonate. Each sample was digested overnight using Trypsin enzyme

(enzyme to substrate ratio of 1:12.5) to get the peptide solution. Trypsin will cleave proteins at

lysine and arginine amino acid residues yielding tryptic peptides.

The 10-plex tandem mass tag (TMT) labeling was carried out according to Thermo Fisher

Scientific's TMT Mass Tagging kits protocol. Each of the TMT 10-plex label reagents were

reconstituted in Acetonitrile (ACN) and digested peptides from each sample were incubated with

specific tags (126, 127N, 127C, 128N, 128C, 129N, 129C, 130N,130C and 131 respectively) for

about 1 hour at room temperature. The TMT labeled samples are then combined and fractionated

using Off-Line high pH Basic Reverse Phase Fractionation to decrease the complexity of the

sample and to increase the number of peptides being identified into a total of 24 fractions which

will be later analyzed using LC-MS/MS. About 5% of the labeled tryptic peptides from each of

24-fractions were used for global proteomics analysis by nanoLC-MS/MS analysis while the

remaining 95% of samples in the 24-fractions were subjected to subsequent TiO2-enrichment for

quantitative phosphoproteomics analysis.

TiO2 enrichment was conducted using a Titansphere Phos-kit (GL biosciences Inc.). The TMT

10-plex tagged tryptic peptides were reconstituted in Buffer B (25% lactic acid in 1% TFA, 80%

Acetonitrile). The TiO2 SpinTip (1mg resin/10ul tip) was incubated with the sample, washed

using the wash buffer following manufacturers protocol and the phosphopeptides were eluted in

elution buffer sequentially using 5% ammonium hydroxide solution and 5% pyrrolidine solution.

The eluted fraction was dried and reconstituted in 0.1% FA for subsequent clean-up using the

ZipTip C18-tips (Millipore). The sample from elution fraction of C18-tips were dried and

reconstituted in 0.1%FA for LC-MS/MS analysis.

The flow-through fraction and the wash fraction from the TiO2 spinTip was collected, pooled

into a total of 6 fractions and speedvac dried which will be later used for Fe-IMAC

phosphoenrichment protocol. The peptide sample from 6-pooled flow-through fractions from

TiO2 enrichment underwent second round of phosphoenrichment using High-Select Fe-NTA

Phosphopeptide Enrichment Kit (Thermo Scientific). The eluted fraction was dried and

reconstituted in 0.1% FA for subsequent LC-MS/MS analysis.

Protein identification by LC-MS/MS analysis of peptides was performed using an Orbitrap

Fusion Lumos Tribid mass spectrometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, San Jose, CA) interfaced

with an Ultimate 3000 Nano-HPLC apparatus (Thermo Fisher Scientific, San Jose, CA).

Peptides were fractionated by EASY-Spray PepMAP RPLC C18 column (2μm, 100A, 75 μm x

50cm) using a 120-min linear gradient of 5-35% ACN in 0.1% FA at a flow rate of 300 nl/min.

The instrument was operated in data-dependent acquisition mode (DDA) using FT mass analyzer

for one survey MS scan on selecting precursor ions followed by top 3 second data-dependent

HCD-MS/MS scans for precursor peptides with 2-7 charged ions above a threshold ion count of

10,000 with normalized collision energy of 37%. Survey scans of peptide precursors from 300 to

2000 m/z were performed at 120k resolution and MS/MS scans were acquired at 50,000

resolution with a mass range m/z 100-2000.

All MS and MS/MS raw spectra of TMT experiments from each set were processed and searched

using Sequest HT algorithm within the Proteome Discoverer 2.2 (PD2.2 software, Thermo Fisher

Scientific).The settings for precursor mass tolerance was set at 12 ppm, fragment ion mass

tolerance to 0.05 Da, trypsin enzyme with 2 mis cleavages with carbamidomethylation of

cysteine, TMT6-plex (lysine), TMT6-plex (peptide N-term) as fixed modification and

deamidation of glutamine and asparagine, oxidation of methionine as variable modifications.

The mouse sequence database from Swiss sprot was used for database search. Identified peptides

were filtered for maximum 1% FDR using the Percolator algorithm in PD 2.2 along with

additional peptide confidence set to high. Only peptide spectra containing all reporter ions were

designated as "quantifiable spectra" and used for peptide/protein quantitation. The final lists of

protein identification/quantitation were grouped and further filtered by PD 2.2 with at least 2

unique peptides per protein identified with high confidence. The quantitative protein ratios were

weighted and normalized by the median ratio for all quantifiable spectra of the peptides

pertaining to total protein identified.

For quantitative phosphopeptides analysis, an additional phosphorylation on Ser, Thr, Tyr

residues were specified as variable modifications. To confidently localize phosphorylation sites,

the phosphoRS 3.0 node integrated in PD 2.2 workflow was used. The algorithm of phosphoRS

3.0 software enables automated and confident localization of phosphosites by determining

individual probability values for each putatively phosphorylated site within the validated peptide

sequences. For each relative ratio group of phosphopeptides/sites, no normalization was applied.

To remove low quality signal, we remained peptides tagged with the medium and high

confidence. We divided the expressions of phosphoproteins to those of total proteins to obtain

the normalized phosphoproteome. As the expressions appeared to be near normal distribution,

we calculated the fold change by dividing the average value of TGAC8 samples by the average

value of WT samples, and calculated p-value using two-sided unpaired Student's t-test. Data

were deposited in MassIVE (ID: MSV000089850).

4. Analyses of the TGAC8 LV transcriptome.

The processed transcriptomic data were obtained from our recently published work (GEO:

GSE205234)[5]. The significantly changed mRNAs (TGAC8 vs. WT, q-value < 0.05) were

uploaded into DAVID[2] (version: 6.8; https://david.ncifcrf.gov/home.jsp) for Gene Ontology (GO)

term enrichments, and were also imported into Ingenuity Pathway Analysis[3] (IPA (QIAGEN,

March 2020)) for upstream kinases and phosphatases prediction. Kinases and phosphatases were

selected from the transcriptome and their changes at mRNA level were displayed to observe their

regulation by the overexpression of AC8.

5. Analyses of phosphoproteome and proteome.

Both unnormalized and normalized phosphoproteome were analyzed and visualized in PCA,

heatmap, and volcano plots. With the cutoff -log(p-value) > 1.3 and absolute(log2(fold change))

≥ 0.4, we obtained the significantly changed unnormalized and normalized phosphoproteins

(TGAC8 vs. WT) and imported them into IPA for functional analyses respectively, and

compared the canonical pathway enrichments from these two datasets. In IPA, the upstream

kinases were predicted based upon the unnormalized phosphoproteom, and the regulatory

pathways from the predicted upstream kinases to downstream effective signaling pathways were

generated. Molecular and cellular functions were also enriched in IPA. The similar analyses to

those conducted in the TGAC8 LV transcriptome were also done in the TGAC8 LV total

proteome to observe the GO term enrichment, predicted activities of upstream kinases and

phosphatases, and expression of kinases and phosphatases at protein level.

6. Analyses of phosphopeptides.

The upregulated phosphopeptides (TGAC8 vs. WT, p-value < 0.05 and log2(fold change) > 0)

were processed in R. After split of peptides with multiple phosphosites into individual peptides

and filtering of ambiguously identified sites, 2264 phosphopeptides were selected. Protein

peptide sequences of full length were downloaded from Uniprot database[10] and matched to the

protein accessions corresponding to processed and selected phosphopeptides. Peptides centered

on the phosphosites and flanked by 6 amino acids on the N and C termini respectively were

extracted from the matched protein peptide sequences, and uploaded into WebLogo[11]

(http://weblogo.threeplusone.com/) and iceLogo[12] (https://iomics.ugent.be/icelogoserver/) for

sequence motif analysis. In WebLogo online analysis, different amino acids were labeled in

different colors representing different chemical properties (refer to figure legend). In iceLogo

online analysis, a public amphiphilicity index of polar amino acids reported by Mitaku and

colleagues[13] was used as an aid to characterize the amino acid preference at membrane-water

interfaces. In addition, the phosphopeptides of PI3K/AKT substates were summarized and

displayed in stacked bar plot.

7. Integrative analyses of transcriptome, proteome and phosphoproteome.

The changes of significantly regulated molecules (TGAC8 vs. WT, q-value or p-value < 0.05) in

transcriptome, total proteome, and unnormalized phosphoproteome were displayed in circos plot.

In addition, the changes at different level were compared and visualized in correlation scatter

plots. The discordant proteins whose change directions in total proteome and phosphoproteome

were opposite were used to analyze the specific regulation at the phosphorylation level by the

use of Reactome and GO (Cellular Component and Biological Process) databases.

As to the coordinated regulation, the above mentioned significantly regulated molecules

(TGAC8 vs. WT) in each dataset were imported into IPA for canonical pathway enrichment.

PI3K/AKT, ERK/MAPK and protein ubiquitination signaling pathways were coordinated across

all omics. The phosphopeptides of protein substrates of PI3K were extracted from the

phosphopeptide dataset and the numbers of changed phosphopeptides (TGAC8 vs. WT) were

summarized and visualized in stacked bar plot. The PI3K/AKT signaling pathway were

visualized in IPA, and nodes in the pathways were marked in different colors in terms of their

changes at different levels.

As kinases and phosphatases are pivotal in phosphorylation, and transcription factors (TFs) are

important in transcription regulation, they were extracted from transcriptome, proteome, and

phosphoproteome to observe their changes (TGAC8 vs. WT) and deduce their role in the

reprogram of phosphoproteome. The upstream transcription regulators including but not only

TFs were predicted on the basis of transcriptome and proteome by the utilization of knowledge

base in IPA, and their expressions were searched in multiple datasets. Furtherly, TFs that were

significantly regulated at phosphorylation level (TGAC8 vs. WT, p-value < 0.05) were defined

as significantly changed phosphorylated TFs in this research, and they were uploaded into

STRING database[4] (version: 11.0; http://string-db.org/) to generate protein-protein interaction

network and enrich KEGG pathways. They were also imported into IPA for canonical pathway,

molecular and cellular functions enrichments.

8. Western blot.

Snap-frozen left ventricle (LV) tissue from three-month-old male mice was homogenized and

lysed in ice cold RIPA buffer (Thermo Fisher Scientific: 25 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.6), 150 mM

NaCl, 1% NP-40, 1% sodium deoxycholate, 0.1% SDS) supplemented with a Halt protease

inhibitor cocktail (Thermo Fisher Scientific), Halt phosphatase inhibitor cocktail (Thermo Fisher

Scientific) and 1 mM phenylmethyl sulfonyl fluoride, using a Precellys homogenizer (Bertin

Instruments) with tissue homogenization kit CKMix (Bertin Instruments) at 4 °C. Extracts were

then centrifuged at 10,000×g for 10 min at 4 °C and the protein concentration of the soluble

fraction determined using the Bicinchoninic Acid (BCA) Assay (Thermo Fisher Scientific).

Samples were denatured in Laemmli sample buffer (BioRad Laboratories) containing 355 mM 2-

mercaptoethanol at 95 °C for 5 min, and proteins (10–50 μg/lane) resolved on 4–20% Criterion

TGX Stain Free gels (Bio-Rad Laboratories) by SDS/PAGE. Gels then exposed to UV

transillumination for 2.5 min to induce crosslinking of Stain Free gel trihalo compound with

protein tryptophan residues. Proteins were then transferred to low fluorescence polyvinylidene

difluoride (LF-PVDF) membranes (BioRad Laboratories) using an electrophoretic transfer cell

(Mini Trans-Blot, Bio-Rad). Membrane total protein was visualized using an Amersham Imager

600 (AI600) (GE Healthcare Life Sciences) with UV transillumination to induce and a capture

fluorescence signal.

Blocked membranes (5% milk/tris-buffered saline with Tween-20, TBST) were incubated with

the following primary antibodies: (1) Anti-Phospho-PKA Substrate (RRXS*/T*) antibody, Cell

Signaling Technologies, Cat.#9624, 1:1000 dilution; (2) Anti-Ubiquitin antibody produced in

rabbit, Sigma-Aldrich, SAB1306582, 1:200 dilution; (3) Anti-pan-AKT antibody, Cell Signaling

Technologies, Cat.#4691, 1:1000 dilution; (4) Anti-Phospho-pan-AKT (Thr308) antibody, Cell

Signaling Technologies, Cat.#13038, 1:1000 dilution; (5) Anti-Phospho-pan-AKT (Ser473)

antibody, Cell Signaling Technologies, Cat.#4060, 1:1000 dilution; (6) Anti-AKT2 antibody,

Abcam, Cat.#13038, 1:1000 dilution; (7) Anti-Phospho-AKT2 (Ser473) antibody, Cell Signaling

Technologies, Cat.#ab131168, 1:1000 dilution; (8) Anti-ERK1/2 antibody, Cell Signaling

Technologies, Cat.#4695, 1:1000 dilution; (9) Anti-Phospho-ERK1/2 (Thr202/Tyr204) antibody,

Cell Signaling Technologies, Cat.#4376, 1:1000 dilution; (10) Anti-p21 Ras antibody, Cell

Signaling Technologies, Cat.#3965, 1:1000 dilution; (11) Anti-GAPDH antibody, Santa Cruz

Biotechnology, Cat.# sc-32233, 1:1000 dilution; (12) Anti-c-Raf antibody, ThermoFisher

Scientific, Cat.# PA5-29333, 1:1000 dilution; (13) Anti-Phospho-c-Raf (Ser338) antibody, Cell

Signaling Technology, Cat.# 9427, 1:1000 dilution; (14) Anti-MEK1/2 antibody, Cell Signaling

Technology, Cat.# 9126, 1:1000 dilution; (15) Anti-Phospho-MEK1/2 (Ser221) antibody, Cell

Signaling Technology, Cat.# 2338, 1:1000 dilution.

Primary antibodies were then detected using horseradish peroxidase (HRP) conjugated antibody

(Invitrogen) at 1:10,000. Bands were visualized using Pierce SuperSignal West Pico Plus ECL

substrate kits (Thermo Scientific), the signal captured using an Amersham Imager 600 (AI600)

(GE Healthcare Life Sciences) and quantified using ImageQuant TL software (GE Healthcare

Life Sciences). Band density was normalized to total protein. Two-tailed unpaired Student's t

test with Welch's correction was used for statistics.

9. Protein synthesis detection.

Protein synthesis was assessed by SUnSET-Western Blot as previously described in the above

section. Briefly, the puromycin solution was prepared in PBS, sterilized by filtration, and a

volume of 200 μl was injected in mice intraperitoneally, to achieve a final concentration of 0.04

µmol/g of body mass. After 30 min, mice were sacrificed, the LV was harvested and snap frozen

in liquid nitrogen. Protein extraction was performed using Precellys, quantified with BCA assay

25 µg of total protein were separated by SDS-PAGE; proteins were then transferred onto PVDF

membrane and incubated overnight in the anti-puromycin primary antibody (MABE343, Sigma-

Aldrich, St. Louis, MO). Visualization of puromycin-labeled bands were obtained using

horseradish peroxidase conjugated anti-mouse IgG Fc secondary antibody (Jackson

ImmunoResearch Laboratories Inc, West Grove, PA, USA), using Pierce Super Signal ECL

substrate kit (Pierce/ Thermo Scientific Rockford, IL). Chemiluminescence was captured with

the Imager AI600 and densitometry analysis was performed using ImageQuantTL software (both

by GE, Boston, MA). Total protein was used as control for protein loading. Genotypic

differences of protein synthesis were tested via an as unpaired t-test.

10. Proteasome activity detection.

Flash frozen tissue was homogenized in ice-cold cytosolic extraction buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl

pH 7.5, 250 mM Sucrose, 5 mM MgCl2, 0.5 mM EDTA, and 1 mM DTT). A bicinchoninic acid

(BCA) assay (Pierce) was used to determine the protein concentrations. All samples were equally

concentrated in proteasome assay buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 40 mM KCl, 5 mM MgCl2,

and 1 mM DTT). Proteasome activity was determined in the presence of 28 µM ATP using the

Suc-LLVY-AMC (18 µM, Boston Biochem #S280) fluorogenic substrate with and without

proteasome inhibition (MG 132, 1 mM, Sigma). The plate was read at an excitation wavelength

of 380 nm and an emission wavelength of 469 nm using a Spectramax M5 (Molecular Devices).

Activity was calculated by subtracting the background (proteasome inhibited value) from the

reading (proteasome activated value).

11. Protein soluble and insoluble fractions detection.

Protein aggregates were measured using Proteostat (Enzo, ENZ-51023) following the

manufacturer's instructions. For this assay left ventricle myocardial lysate (Cell Signaling lysis

buffer) was obtained, protein concentration assayed (BCA assay [Pierce]). Ten μg of protein

loaded into a 96-well microplate and protein aggregates were analyzed using the Proteostat assay

kit (Enzo Life Sciences) following the manufacturer's instructions. Background readings were

subtracted from sample recordings and were normalized to wild-type values.

12. Data process and graphics production.

Most raw data were precleared and processed using RStudio (version: 1.1.463) in R language

(version: 3.5.3), in which the tidyr package and dplyr package were applied. In addition,

GraphPad Prism (version: 7), Microsoft Excel (version: 2019) and Adobe Illustrator (version:

CC 2019) were also used for statistics and graphics. Venn diagrams were generated in Venny[5]

(version: 2.1.0; http://bioinfogp.cnb.csic.es/tools/venny/index.html). Circos plot was generated

using Circos software[6] in Perl language.

Results

1. The TGAC8 reprograms the LV phosphoproteome.

The TMT-labeling quantitative mass spectrometry (MS) identified **12963 phospho-peptides**

(File 1: Sheet 1) and **3646 phosphoproteins** (File 1: Sheet 2). The principal component analysis

(PCA) (Figure 1A) of the 3646 phosphoproteins in each mouse showed that the TG and WT

samples were distinguished into two groups completely. The heatmap (Figure 1B) showed the

intra-group consistency of upregulated phosphoproteins in TGAC8 compared to WT. Within the

cutoff at -log10(p-value) > 1.3 and absolute value of log2(fold-change(TG/WT)) ≥ 0.04, 781

phosphoproteins were differentially regulated by genotype. Of the 781 phosphoproteins, the

phosphorylation levels of 741 proteins were increased and only 40 were decreased in TGAC8 vs.

WT LV (Figure 1C).

2. Functional analyses of the phosphoproteome.

We performed the canonical pathway, upstream regulation, and downstream function analyses of

the remodeled LV phosphoproteome of TGAC8 using the Ingenuity Pathway Analysis (IPA)

software.

2.1. Canonical pathway analysis of the remodeled LV phosphoproteome of TGAC8.

To study the mechanisms at phosphorylation level, we first performed canonical pathway

analysis using IPA. Top canonical pathways within the phosphoproteome that were statistically

differentially enriched in TGAC8 vs. WT were displayed in the bar plot (Figure 1D and File 2:

Sheet 1). Of these pathways, cardiac hypertrophy signaling (enhanced) is most highly activated

(z-score as high as 4.867) (Figure 1D). The combination of Figure 1—figure supplement 1 and

File 2: Sheet 2 and our recently published work[5] showed that the phosphorylation status of

numerous molecules, e.g., Ca^{2+} ATPase, RyR2, Ncx, involved in excitation, calcium cycling,

contraction, relaxation and protein synthesis, was elevated in the TGAC8 vs. WT LV. However,

we have demonstrated that at three-month of age, the mouse age in the present study, the LV

mass is not elevated in TGAC8 vs. WT[5]. Of note, transcriptomic, proteomic and WB analyses

indicated that pathologic hypertrophic markers were not increased in TGAC8 vs. WT[5]. In this

regard, the activation of key stress response signaling pathways, e.g., protein kinase A (PKA)

signaling, PI3K signaling, and AMPK signaling, may protect against pathological changes, that

result in an increase in cardiac mass in TGAC8 despite its chronic increase in performance. For

example, activated PKA signaling can restrict the activity of AC8, acting as a feedback to fine-

tune the downstream signaling networks inside the body[14]. Additionally, nitric oxide (NO)

signaling may coordinate cardiac protection in the increase in cardiac mass (Figure 1D).

Increased phosphorylation status of HSP90 and Akt in TGAC8 synergistically increase eNOS

activity[15], and increased NO produced by eNOS may modulate the function of the ryanodine

receptor Ca^{2+} release channel (RyR2) on the cardiac sarcoplasmic reticulum[16]. The TMT-

labeling MS identified significant upregulated phosphorylation in the peptides of RyR2

(RISQTSQVSIDAAHGYSPR, E9Q401 [2805-2823]) (File 1: Sheet 1) , consistent with the PKA

induced phosphorylation of RyR2-S2809 mediating the increase in Ca^{2+} spark amplitude[17].

2.2. Upstream regulators of the remodeled LV phosphoproteome of TGAC8.

As known, the overexpression of AC8 activates the AC8-cAMP-PKA phosphorylation axis[4].

There were 2264 phosphosites whose names and locations are unambiguous within the 4990

upregulated phosphopeptides (p-value ≤ 0.05 and log2(fold-change(TG/WT)) ≥ 0) in TGAC8 vs.

WT. The majority of these phosphosites were serines (S) and threonines (T), and a few were

tyrosines (Y) (Figure 2A). By using WebLogo, we profiled the phosphorylation motif sequences

(Figure 2B). A typical PKA and AKT substate motif, R-R-X-pS/T, was the most abundant

substrate motif, consistent with increased PKA dependent phosphorylation (Figure 2B-2D)[18,19].

In addition to S and T, the center phosphosites also included phosphotyrosine (Y). The center

phosphosites were mainly flanked by the P-E-E sequence on the C terminus, endowing a strong

hydrophobic and acidic property to the C terminus of the substrate sequences (Figure 2B),

supported by the amphiphilicity index analysis in iceLogo (Figure 2D). Because phosphorylation

substrate motifs were not restricted to PKA's substrate motif, additional kinases must be also

involved in reprogramming the TGAC8 phosphoproteome. Therefore, we were inspired to

explore additional kinase-substrate pathways mediating the effect of the cardiac-overexpression

of AC8 here.

IPA predicted that 26 kinases were responsible for the above-mentioned phosphorylation motifs

(File 2: Sheet 3), among which, three had previously been identified to differ by genotype in the

LV transcriptome, 18 were shown to differ by genotype in the LV proteome, and 18 were

identified in the present phosphoproteome. Of note, most of the identified kinases were

upregulated in TGAC8 vs. WT at transcription, translation and PTM (phosphorylation) levels.

Within the phosphoproteome, eight kinases were predicted to be differentially activated by

genotype, and the phosphorylation level of four of these (PDPK1, PAK1, PTK2B and GSK3B)

was increased in TGAC8 vs. WT. These four kinases each phosphorylates various proteins to

regulate cellular functions. For example, a previous study observed that in human glioblastoma

cell lines, T98G and U87MG cells, the interference of human PDPK1 mRNA by siRNA

decreased the phosphorylation level of human BAD protein (S112, S136 and S155) and activated

cell death to suppress tumorigenesis[20]. Another study reported that in mouse myoblast cell line,

C2C12 cells, PDPK1 protein phosphorylated the mouse ULK1 protein[21]. Increased

phosphorylation states of BAD (upregulated at S112, S136 and S155) and ULK1 (upregulated at

S450, S521 and S637/638) in TGAC8 may be linked to activated PDPK1.

Different kinases can coordinate to reprogram the complex regulation network in the organism.

Consistent with the IPA canonical pathway analysis, the phosphorylation level of 27 proteins

(including the three kinases (PDPK1, PAK1 and PTK2B) auto-phosphorylating themselves)

were elevated by the three kinases to regulate cardiac stress signaling pathways, including PKA

signaling, ERK/MAPK signaling, cardiac hypertrophy signaling (enhanced), and renin-

angiotensin signaling (Figure 1E and Figure 1—figure supplement 2), to cope with the cardiac

stress in the TGAC8. For example, GSK3B is involved in multiple biological processes. PDPK1

phosphorylated GSK3B at S9[22,23] and PTK2B phosphorylated GSK3B at S9 and Y216[24,25] to

inhibit the kinase activity of GSK3B. In this phosphoproteome, GSK3B was phosphorylated at

multiple sites, including S9, Y216, S219 and S545, and thus GSK3B inhibition was linked to the

cardiac adaptation[26,27].

2.3. Downstream functions of the remodeled LV phosphoproteome of TGAC8.

To study the downstream functions of these phosphoproteins, we performed molecular and

cellular functions analysis in IPA. The enriched functions were mainly in three categories, i.e.,

cell viability, protein quality control, and metabolism (Figure 1F and File 2: Sheet5). The

functions of cellular assembly and organization, cellular function and maintenance, and cell

death and survival were ranked as the top three terms, indicating the important role of the

reprogrammed phosphoproteome in improving cell viability in response to the chronic stress of

the overexpression of AC8 in the mouse heart.

3. Integrative analyses of transcriptome, proteome and phosphoproteome.

We next integrated changes in PTM (phosphorylation) in TGAC8 vs. WT with genotypic

differences in protein translation and in transcription. The circos plot (Figure 3A) illustrates the

genotypic differences (TGAC8 vs. WT) in **molecules** identified across the transcriptome,

proteome, and phosphoproteome. In addition, the correlation scatter plots (Figure 3B)

demonstrated a moderate level of correlation of genotypic differences of molecular changes

within phosphoproteome and transcriptome, and a somewhat stronger correlation between

genotypic differences of molecular changes within phosphoproteome and proteome (Figure 3C).

Concordant and discordant enrichments of canonical pathways differed by genotype among the

three omics are shown in Figure 3D. A comparison of genotypic differences within the three

omics highlights the importance of protein phosphorylation, and the phosphorylation was

coordinated with and supplemental to transcription and translation.

Because kinases and phosphatases are the key regulators of phosphorylation, and

phosphorylation of transcription factors (TFs) are the primary determinant of their activities in

transcription, we compared genotypic differences in kinases, phosphatases and TFs within the

phosphoproteome and proteome with our previously published genotypic differences in the

TGAC8 vs. WT transcriptome[5] (Figure 3E). We identified 196 kinases, 71 phosphatases and 191

TFs in the present phosphoproteome (Figure 3F). The protein phosphorylation status of about

one half of these molecules differed significantly (p-value < 0.05) by genotype (Figure 3G), and

the protein phosphorylation status of majority of these molecules was increased (Figure 3H-3J).

The genotypic differences in the transcription (mRNA expression obtained from RNA-seq) and

translation (protein expression obtained from mass spectrometry) of these molecules, however,

differed from those in the phosphoproteome (Figure 3E). Because there were more molecules

that were unchanged or reduced in the TGAC8 vs. WT transcriptome or proteome than in the

phosphoproteome, it is clear that the changes in protein phosphorylation are of utmost

importance in the coordination of transcription, translation and PTM, that underlie the adaptive

response of the TGAC8 LV to the marked, chronic increase stress of its intrinsically activated

AC-cAMP-PKA-Ca^{2+} signaling. Thus, by utilizing multiple bioinformatic analysis methods, we

not only dissected the reprogrammed phosphoproteome and deduced its functions in the TGAC8

mouse LV, but also profiled the coordination of phosphoproteome, transcriptome and proteome.

3.1. Implications of coordinated changes in protein phosphorylation and transcription in

TGAC8 vs. WT.

The most likely type of coordination between protein phosphorylation and transcription is related

to phosphorylation states of TFs which is determined by kinases and phosphatases activities.

Analysis of the remodeled LV transcriptome of TGAC8 in Gene Ontology (GO) analysis using

DAVID online software discovered that enrichments of numerous phosphorylation and

dephosphorylation related biological processes and molecular functions significantly differed by

genotype (Figure 4A), and that the coordinated expression of numerous kinases and

phosphatases also differed by genotype (Figure 4B-4C and File 8). Because expression levels of

kinases and phosphatases do not denote their activation states, we utilized IPA to predict the

genotypic differences in activation states of upstream kinase and phosphatase (regulators of the

transcriptome). Intriguingly, 60 kinases were predicted to be upstream regulators of the

remodeled LV transcriptome of TGAC8, and the majority of these kinases were predicted to be

activated in TGAC8 vs. WT (Figure 4D and File 9). In contrast, much fewer phosphatases were

predicted between TGAC8 and WT, and most of these were predicted to be inhibited (Figure 4E

and File 9). Thus, the differential genotypic enrichment of phosphorylation status and predicted

activation of kinases and phosphatases identified in our post hoc analysis of our previously

reported TGAC8 vs. WT transcriptome[5] are linked to the differential genotypic reprogramming

of the phosphoproteome discovered in the present study.

We utilized IPA to predict the activation states of upstream transcription regulators on the basis

of the remodeled LV transcriptomes and proteomes, and then determined their expression levels

in transcriptome, proteome and phosphoproteome (Figure 4F). Because TFs are the main

regulators of transcription, and because phosphorylation of TFs usually regulates their

activities[28-30], we focused our subsequent analysis on functions of those TFs that were

differentially phosphorylated in TGAC8 vs. WT. To confirm the hypothesis that the TGAC8

might exert transcriptional control by TFs phosphorylation, we retrieved all TFs identified in our

previous transcriptome and proteome[5] and mapped them to the current phosphoproteome in order

to determine their genotypic differences in phosphorylation status. Of the 191 TFs also identified

in this phosphoproteome, 92 TFs differed significantly by genotype in phosphorylation status (p-

value < 0.05). In agreement with the general upregulated transcription in TGAC8 LV[5], nearly all

of the TFs that differed by genotype had increased phosphorylation level (Figure 4G and File 3).

The only exception was purine rich element binding protein G (Purg), known to be hyper-

phosphorylated in solid tumors[31].

We conducted Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG) pathway analysis to further

probe the predicted facts of TFs that were generally hyper-phosphorylated in TGAC8 vs. WT.

Numerous immunity related pathways, cancer related pathways, and metabolism related

pathways were enriched (Figure 4H and File 4). We then utilized IPA for in-depth analysis.

Numerous metabolic canonical pathways (glucocorticoid receptor signaling and PPAR signaling),

a cancer related canonical pathway (regulation of epithelial-mesenchymal transition pathway),

and immunity related canonical pathways (role of JAK1, JAK2 and TYK2 in interferon signaling,

IL-9 signaling, JAK/Stat signaling, etc.) were enriched (Figure 4I and File 5: Sheet 1).

Intriguingly, the sumoylation pathway was markedly inhibited. Because both sumoylation and

phosphorylation are important PTMs in transcriptional regulation[32,33], it is possible that the

upregulated protein phosphorylation and inhibited protein sumoylation pathway in TFs

coordinately activate transcription and improve immunity in the TGAC8 LV. In addition, cell

viability and metabolism in molecular and cellular functions were enriched in TGAC8 vs. WT

(Figure 4J and File 5: Sheet 2), consistent with enrichments of aforementioned KEGG pathways

and IPA canonical pathways (Figure 4H and 4I).

Taken together, we have discovered the existence of substantial crosstalk between protein

phosphorylation and transcription in the TGAC8 LV: phosphorylation of TFs reprograms

immunity and metabolism related pathways and functions in the TGAC8 LV, likely serving to

maintain cell survival in response to the chronic stress of marked AC8 overexpression.

3.2. Coordinated changes in protein expression and phosphorylation of the remodeled

proteome and phosphoproteome of TGAC8.

Having discovered the coordinated changes in the remodeled TGAC8 transcriptome and

phosphoproteome (Figure 4A-4E), we next sought to discover the extent to which changes in the

remodeled phosphoproteome of the TGAC8 LV were coordinated with changes in its remodeled

proteome. Numerous biological processes and molecular functions that were related to

phosphorylation and dephosphorylation were enriched in the remodeled TGAC8 LV proteome

(Figure 5A), as were numerous kinases and phosphatases (Figure 5B-5C and File 10). Twenty-

nine kinases that differed by genotype were predicted to be upstream regulators of the proteome,

and most of these were predicted to be activated in TGAC8 vs. WT. Fewer phosphatases than

kinases that differed by genotype were identified as upstream regulators of the remodeled

TGAC8 LV proteome (Figure 5D-5E and File 11).

One strategy adopted to probe deeper into the coordinated changes in the proteome and

phosphoproteome of the TGAC8 LV was to normalize the phosphoproteome to the total

proteome (in other words, to divide the phosphorylation expression by protein expression) (File 1:

sheet4). Of the 3927 phosphoproteins identified in our mouse LV samples, 2164 were identified

in both the proteome and phosphoproteome, and these were focused for subsequent analyses.

After normalization, WT and TGAC8 samples manifested clear genotypic differences in PCA

analysis (Figure 5G), and phosphorylation status of numerous proteins normalized to the protein

expression level still differed by genotype without cutoff (Figure 5H) and with cutoff (-log(p-

value) > 1.3 and absolute(log2(TG/WT)) ≥ 0.4) (Figure 5I). Even after normalizing the

phosphorylation level to the protein expression level, the enrichments of canonical pathways in

TGAC8 were quite consistent with those of unnormalized phosphoproteome (Figure 5J and File

6). Cardiac hypertrophy signaling (enhanced) and cardiac hypertrophy signaling took the top two

places, emphasizing the important role of phosphorylation in the regulation of cardiac functions

in response to chronic stress when coordinated with changes in the total proteome.

Many important stress-response signaling pathways were enriched from phosphoproteome, e.g.,

PKA signaling, ERK/MAPK signaling, insulin receptor signaling, and PI3K/AKT signaling

(Figure 6A). Three of these pathways, PI3K/AKT, ERK/MAPK and ubiquitin labeling, were also

markedly enriched in our previous analysis on total proteome in TGAC8 LV[5]. By integrating and

comparing the enrichments from transcriptome, proteome and phosphoproteome, we were able

to identify the three signaling pathways in the TGAC8 LV, PI3K/AKT, ERK/MAPK and

ubiquitin labeling, that were regulated concordantly in transcription, translation, and PTM

(phosphorylation) (Figure 6B). WB validated activation of PI3K/AKT signaling pathway in

TGAC8, reproducing the results of our prior study using different antibodies (Figure 6C-6D and

Figure 6—figure supplement 1A (more significant)). We also demonstrated in that study that

ERK/MAPK signaling was also activated in TGAC8 vs. WT (Figure 6—figure supplement 1B-

C). Activation of PI3K/AKT and ERK/MAPK signaling is crucial for enhanced protein quality

control (the increase in protein synthesis and degradation) in the TGAC8 LV[5] (Figure 6—figure

supplement 1D- G). Although protein ubiquitination, an important process in protein degradation,

was enriched in TGAC8 LV within IPA analysis, its activity could not be predicted on the basis

of present knowledge base of IPA. Its WB analysis, however, indicated that ubiquitination is

indeed increased in TGAC8 vs. WT (Figure 6E).

We next sought to identify which molecules linked to PI3K/AKT signaling (one of the most

important pathways in this mouse model) differed in TGAC8 vs. WT. Among the significantly

changed upstream molecules, the majority were upregulated. AKT, a central molecule in the

pathway, was also increased in proteome and phosphoproteome (Figure 6F). By searching and

mapping the substrates of AKT, we unraveled that the phosphorylation levels of AKT peptide

substrates were mostly elevated in TGAC8 vs. WT (Figure 6G). Therefore, the downstream

effects and functions of AKT signaling were activated in TGAC8 LV: (1) upregulating GSK3 to

improve energy metabolism; (2) activating mTOR pathway to increase protein synthesis and cell

growth; (3) promoting NF-κB mediated transcription; (4) upregulating BAD and eNOS only at

phosphorylation level to enhance cell survival and cardiovascular functions. In summary, to

adapt the heart to stress for improved survival, the TGAC8 reprogram the cardiac LV

phosphoproteome to a large degree.

4. Discordant regulation of the phosphoproteome and proteome in TGAC8 LV.

Among the 443 proteins that differed by genotype in both protein phosphorylation and protein

expression levels, 33 were changed discordantly at the two levels (in opposite directions, i.e.,

upregulated in proteome but downregulated in phosphoproteome, or vice versa) (Figure 7A and

File 7: Sheet 1). We uploaded the 33 discordant proteins into STRING online software for

functional analyses. The GO_CC (Cellular Component) analysis resulted in many

mitochondrial components, indicating the involvement of phosphorylated proteins in

mitochondria (Figure 7B and File 7: Sheet 2). Reactome pathway analysis showed that in

addition to mitochondria, metabolic pathways were enriched significantly in TGAC8 (Figure 7C

and File 7: Sheet 3). Mitochondria are the hub of metabolism and multiple metabolic processes

are executed in mitochondria. Consistently, both metabolism and mitochondria related processes

were ranked the top processes in GO_BP (Biological Process) analysis (Figure 7D and File 7:

Sheet 4). Therefore, the discordant part between total proteome and phosphoproteome indicated

that the phosphorylation plays a critical role in the regulation of mitochondria and metabolism in

the TGAC8, distinct from its role in regulation at the translational level.

**5. Deduced schematic of coordination of phosphoproteome with transcriptome and
proteome in TGAC8 mouse LV.**

A deduced schematic integration of the remodeled phosphoproteome, proteome and

transcriptome of the TGAC8 LV is shown in Figure 8. The TGAC8 mouse initially induces a

PKA dependent phosphorylation via AC8-cAMP-PKA axis. Many cytoplasmic proteins

including TFs are thus phosphorylated and then transported into the nucleus where TFs

recognize and bind to the promoters to activate the transcription of more regulatory factors,

including kinases, phosphatases, and TFs. The activation states of these factors are changed upon

phosphorylated in cytosol, thereby activating additional kinases-controlled phosphorylation

cascades and reprogramming the cardiac phosphoproteome comprehensively.

Discussion

The major novel findings of the present study were differentially regulated phosphoproteins by

genotype and the enrichment of numerous stress-response pathways within the reprogrammed

TGAC8 LV, including PKA, PI3K and AMPK signaling pathways, their predicted upstream

regulators (e.g., PDPK1, PAK1 and PTK2B), and downstream functions (e.g., cell viability,

protein quality control, and metabolism). In addition to PKA, numerous other kinases and

phosphatases were hyper-phosphorylated in TGAC8 vs. WT. Hyper-phosphorylated

transcriptional factors in TGAC8 were associated with increased mRNA transcription, immune

responses and metabolic pathways. Integration of the phosphoproteome with its proteome and

with the previously published TGAC8 transcriptome enabled the elucidation of cardiac

performance and adaptive protection profiles that were coordinately regulated at PTM

(phosphorylation), translational and transcriptional levels. Many stress-response signaling

pathways, i.e., PI3K/AKT, ERK/MAPK and ubiquitin labeling, were consistently enriched and

activated in the TGAC8 LV at transcriptional, translational and PTM levels.

Most previous studies of PKA-dependent phosphorylation via the AC8-cAMP-PKA axis (typical

substrate motif of PKA dependent phosphorylation) focused on PKA phosphorylated targets as

downstream effects of activated AC8. For example, AC8 induced cAMP activates PKA to

increase the phosphorylation of many key proteins in cardiovascular system, e.g., ryanodine-

receptor-type 2 (RyR2), L-type Ca^{2+} channels (LTCC), phospholamban (PLN or PLB), etc[5]. Our

study identified 29 phosphosites on RyR2, 15 phosphosites on LTCC alpha 1 and beta 2, and 2

phosphosites (S16 and T17) on PLN, and, most interestingly, 7 phosphosites on SERCA2

(Sarcoplasmic/endoplasmic reticulum calcium ATPase 2), with the majority of these increased in

phosphorylation statuses in the TGAC8 LV (File 1: Sheet 1). It is worth noting that PLN is

phosphorylated on S16 by PKA whereas on T17 by Ca^{2+}-calmodulin-dependent protein kinase

(CaMKII)[34].

Following phosphorylation, many cytoplasmic proteins, including TFs, are transported into the

nucleus. TFs recognize and bind to the promoters to activate transcription, and many TFs were

hyper-phosphorylated in TGAC8 vs. WT (Figure 4 F and 4G). The phosphorylation of

STAT1[35,36], STAT3[36], HTT[37] and CREB1[38] is associated with the activation of their

transcriptional activities. Elevated TFs phosphorylation and possibly activated transcription were

consistent with the general increase in transcriptome in TGAC8[5]. The hyper-phosphorylated TFs

might contribute to the improved immunity, metabolism and cell viability in TGAC8 (Figure 4H

and 4I). For example, STAT family proteins are transcription activators, and their

phosphorylation is involved in inflammation and immune response[39,40]. The present study

identified increased phosphorylation levels in S727 on STAT1 and S726/S727 on STAT3 (File 1:

Sheet 1), in line with our previous report which identified hyper-phosphorylation of components

within inflammation and immune response signaling pathways such as JAK/STAT and JNK

pathways[5].

Upon activation of RNA transcription, expression of numerous molecules, including TFs,

kinases, and phosphatases was increased in TGAC8 vs WT, thereby, leading to activation of

other kinase-controlled phosphorylation cascades in addition to PKA. For example, among the

others, IPA predicted activation of PDPK1, PAK1 and PTK2B directed signaling in TGAC8 vs

WT. In the context of the overexpression of AC8, these three kinases could be activated to

phosphorylate multiple proteins to activate the PKA pathway (positive feedback) and the

MAPK/ERK pathway (also known as Ras-Raf-MEK-ERK pathway) to maintain heart health

(Figure 1E and Figure 1—figure supplement 2). Previously, we showed WB results confirming

MAPK/ERK pathway activation due to increased protein expression of p21 Ras and the elevated

phosphorylation levels of c-Raf, MEK1/2 and ERK1/2 as well as their increased ratios of

phosphorylation to protein expression[5]. In the present study, S233 and S621/S641 on Isoform 2

of RAF proto-oncogene serine/threonine-protein kinase were hyper-phosphorylated in TGAC8

(File 1: Sheet 1). Importantly, the multifunctional molecule, GSK3B, was downstream of PDPK1

and PTK2B in the integrated regulation network. GSK3B is involved in metabolism and cardiac

hypertrophy[41,42]. Interestingly, AC8 is required for glucose homeostasis and hypothalamic

adaptation to high-fat diet[43]. The phosphorylation of GSK3B is also a critical mediator in

convergence of cardioprotection signaling[26,27]. We previously detected the increase in the protein

expression of GSK3B[5] and here identified the hyper-phosphorylated S9 on GSK3B (File 1: Sheet

1).

Taken together, the TGAC8 upregulates phosphorylation to reprogram the heart. Based on

results in this study, combined with our recently published work on TGAC8 LV[5], we generated a

comprehensive circuitry (Appendix 1). Navigating this figure "by the numbers": marked, chronic,

cardiac specific overexpression of AC8 (1) chronically increases cAMP (2) and PKA-Ca^{2+}

signaling (3), resulting, not only in an incessantly increased cardiac performance, due to elevated

heart rate and LV contractility (4), but also activation of growth factor signaling pathways (5),

leading to increase in energy demand due to increased transcription and increased amino acid,

nucleotide, protein, lipid and lipoprotein synthesis, increased protein quality control, including

proteosome activity, autophagy, mitophagy, cytokine signaling and inflammation (6). Chronic

high level of AC8 activation elicits numerous stress responses (8) including increased nutrient

sensing with increased AMPK signaling (10A), increased ROS scavenging, protection against

cell death, and also induction of signaling to minimize the impact of AC-PKA signaling (10B).

Shifts in energy production and utilization to deal with the marked energy demands of the

TGAC8 heart (10, 12) include: enhancement of glucose metabolism is pronounced (11, 13),

whilst utilization of fatty acids to produce energy is reduced (11) but an increase in glucose

catabolism (10, 11) is accompanied by an increased anabolism (12), supported by increased

aerobic glycolysis (11,13); increased utilization of the pentose phosphate shunt (5, 13) supports

increased amino acid, nucleotide, protein and lipoprotein synthesis induced by growth factor

signaling (5), resulting in an increase in LV biomass (14). This adaptive profile balances energy

requirements necessary for an incessant marked increase in cardiac performance (4), for

increased RNA transcription, protein translation and quality control required for cardiac growth

(14), and for other biological processes within the LV myocardium (6). This pattern of consilient

adaptations (6-15) sustains an incessant increase in cardiac performance while conferring cardio-

protection to the TGAC8 heart.

Summary and Future Perspectives

The reprogrammed phosphoproteome activated stress response signaling pathways to defend

against cardiac stress in young mice, improve cell viability and suppress cell death. On one hand,

the reprogramed phosphoproteome enhances transcription to improve the immunity and

metabolism; on the other hand, it coordinates with the proteome to improve mitochondrial

functions and metabolism. Finally, although we revealed the coordination of regulation at

different levels, which provides a roadmap to guide the integration of transcription, translation

and PTM, our results set the stage for additional studies in this remarkable TGAC8 model: What

kinases are specifically involved in the PTM identified here? How are these phosphorylated

proteins specifically distributed in subcellular locations? Also, the specific details of how

PDPK1, PAK1 and PTK2B directed signaling is activated by overexpression of AC8 requires

further study. The bioinformatic analysis strategy here revealed a larger kinase-substrate network

important in the remodeling of the TGAC8 heart. We plan to validate these kinase-substrate

reactions in additional follow-up studies and provide the reliable mechanism in cardiovascular

research.

The present study focuses on a comprehensive in silico analysis of functionally coherent and

data-driven transcription, translation, and post-translation patterns that were well translated in the

contribution to AC8-overexpression cardiac outcomes, while further investigation is warranted to

see whether the hub pathway/function predictions via gene sets, phosphopeptides, and

phosphoproteins could be used as biomarkers or impact the diagnostic specificity for transgenic

AC8 cardiac health and pathology.

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None.

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Figure Legends

Figure 1. TGAC8 reprograms the LV phosphorylation state. A. PCA plot of

phosphoproteome in TGAC8 vs. WT LVs. **B**. Heatmap of scaled expressions of phosphorylated

proteins. **C**. Volcano plot of phosphoproteome. Red dots represent upregulated phosphoproteins

with -log10(p-value) > 1.3 and log2(fold change) ≥ 0.4; blue dots represent downregulated

phosphoproteins with -log10(p-value) > 1.3 and log2(fold change) ≤ -0.4; grey dots represent

nonsignificantly regulated phosphoproteins with -log10(p-value) ≤ 1.3 or absolute(log2(fold

change)) < 0.4. **D**. Top 21 canonical pathways enriched from phosphoproteome. Orange and blue

bars represent activated and inhibited pathways respectively. The darker the color is, the greater

the absolute(z-score) is, and the more significantly enriched the pathway is. **E**. Regulatory

pathway from upstream kinases. Three dots in the center represent the predicted upstream

kinases. Surrounding dots represent identified phosphoproteins differentially regulated in

phosphoproteome. Terms on the bottom represent canonical pathways in which the

phosphoproteins are involved. Meanings of colors refer to the box of prediction legend besides

the graph. **F**. Enriched molecular and cellular functions from the phosphoproteome. They are

related to three categories, including cell viability, protein quality control, and metabolism.

Figure 1—figure supplement 1. The enriched pathway, Cardiac Hypertrophy Signaling

(Enhanced), from the phosphoproteome. Cardiac Hypertrophy Signaling (Enhanced) is

visualized using IPA. Dots with purple outline are identified phosphoproteins or protein

complexes. Red and green fill colors indicate upregulation and downregulation respectively.

Figure 1—figure supplement 2. The regulatory pathway under the control of a predicted

upstream kinase, PDPK1. PDPK1 in the center is one representative of predicted upstream

kinases. Surrounding dots represent identified phosphoproteins differentially regulated in

phosphoproteome. Meanings of colors refer to the box of prediction legend besides the graph.

Blue glows represent that the increased phosphorylation levels inhibit the activity of

corresponding proteins.

Figure 2. Characteristics of upregulated phosphopeptides. A. Composition of phosphosites

that reside on the upregulated phosphopeptides. **B**. Sequence logo diagrams of upregulated

phosphopeptides centered on the phosphosites and flanked by 6 amino acids on the N and C

termini respectively using WebLogo online software. Colors of amino acids represent different

chemical properties. **C**. Western blots of phosphorylation of PKA substrates and their statistics

results: RRXS*/T*. Unpaired Student's t test with Welch's correction was used. **D**. Test the

amphiphilicity feature of the upregulated phosphopeptides using iceLogo online software and

referring to a published work by Mitaku and colleagues in 2002[13].

Figure 3. Integrative analysis of transcriptome, proteome and phosphoproteome. A. Circos

plot of gene expression at different levels from transcription, to protein, and to phosphorylation.

Bars in each layer of circle represent changes of significantly regulated molecules (q-value or p-

value < 0.05) in transcriptome, total proteome, and unnormalized phosphoproteome. Bar height,

color and direction represent log2(fold change). Red and upward indicate upregulation, and blue

and downward indicate downregulation. **B-C**. Scatter plots of correlation between

phosphoproteome and transcriptome (**B**) or total proteome (**C**). **D**. Comparison of canonical

pathway enrichments from the transcriptome, total proteome, and phosphoproteome. Enrichment

z-scores were calculated in IPA, and were scaled to generate heatmap in R language. **E**.

Integrative graph of expression of all phosphoproteins and selected types of molecules. Bar plot

on the bottom displays expression of all significantly changed (p-value < 0.05) phosphoproteins

in unnormalized phosphoproteome. Y-axis denotes log2(fold change), and x-axis denotes each

molecule ranked by log2(fold change). Bars were colored by -log10(p-value). Stick plots on the

top display kinases, phosphatases and transcription factors (TFs) selected from the bottom bar

plot and their changes in transcriptome (RNA), total proteome (pro), and normalized

phosphoproteome (norm). From top to bottom: each large block denotes the changes of certain

types of molecules (from kinases to phosphatases, to TFs). In each block, the three rows from top

to bottom indicate the changes in transcriptome, total proteome, and normalized

phosphoproteome. Each stick represents a molecule and color represents the change: red: (p-

value or q-value < 0.05) and log2FC > 0; blue: (p-value or q-value < 0.05) and log2FC < 0; black:

(p-value or q-value ≥ 0.05) or log2FC = 0; grey: unidentified in one of the omics. Their locations

are matched to those in the bottom bar plot. **F-J**. Pie plots of composition of phosphoproteins in

the unnormalized phosphoproteome. Regardless of p-value, numbers of four types of proteins,

including kinases, phosphatases, TFs and others, are displayed in **F**. After filtration with cutoff p-

value < 0.05, numbers of those types of proteins are displayed in **G**. Extracted from G, numbers

of upregulated and downregulated kinases (**H**), phosphatases (**I**) and TFs (**J**) are displayed.

Figure 4. Coordination of phosphoproteome and transcriptome. A. GO term enrichments of

biological processes and molecular functions about phosphorylation and dephosphorylation from

transcriptome. **B**-**C**. Changes of kinases (**B**) and phosphatases (**C**) whose q-values are less than

0.05 in transcriptome. **D-E**. States of upstream kinases (**D**) and phosphatases (**E**) predicted based

on transcriptome. Z-scores were calculated in IPA. Positive and negative z-scores indicate

activated and inhibited states respectively. The larger absolute values of z-score indicate more

activated or inhibited states. **F**. Heatmap of predicted upstream transcription regulators (left) and

their changes in different omics datasets (right). Left: Fill color represent activation z-scores in

transcriptome and total proteome. Red and blue indicate activated and inhibited states

respectively. Molecules are ranked by z-scores in transcriptome. Right: Fill color represent

changes in transcriptome, total proteome, unnormalized phosphoproteome, and normalized

phosphoproteome: orange: (p-value or q-value < 0.05) and log2FC > 0; yellow: (p-value or q-

value ≥ 0.05) and log2FC > 0; green: (p-value or q-value < 0.05) and log2FC < 0; light blue: (p-

value or q-value ≥ 0.05) and log2FC < 0; grey: unidentified in one of the omics. **G**. Changes of

differentially regulated TFs with p-value < 0.05 in the unnormalized phosphoproteome. **H**.

KEGG pathway enrichments of the differentially regulated TFs. They are in four primary

categories: cancer, immunity, metabolism and others. **I**. Top 20 canonical pathways enriched

from the phosphoproteome using IPA. The darker the color is, the greater the absolute(z-score) is,

and the more significantly enriched the pathway is. **J**. Enriched molecular and cellular functions

from the phosphoproteome using IPA. They are in two primary categories: cell viability and

metabolism.

Figure 5. Analysis of normalized phosphoproteome. A. GO term enrichments of biological

processes and molecular functions about phosphorylation and dephosphorylation from the

present proteome. **B**-**C**. Changes of kinases (**B**) and phosphatases (**C**) whose q-values are less

than 0.05 in previous proteome. **D-E**. States of upstream kinases (**D**) and phosphatases (**E**)

predicted based on the present proteome. Z-scores were calculated in IPA. Positive and negative

z-scores indicate activated and inhibited states respectively. The larger absolute values of z-score

indicate more activated or inhibited states. **F**. Venn plot of new total proteome and unnormalized

phosphoproteome that were conducted concurrently in the same platform. **G**. PCA plot of

phosphoproteome normalized to total proteome. **H**. Heatmap of expressions of phosphoproteins

normalized to total proteins. **I**. Volcano plot of normalized phosphoproteome. Red dots represent

upregulated phosphoproteins with -log10(p-value) > 1.3 and log2(fold change) $\geq$ 0.4; blue dots

represent downregulated phosphoproteins with -log10(p-value) > 1.3 and log2(fold change) $\leq$ -

0.4; grey dots represent nonsignificantly regulated phosphoproteins with -log10(p-value) $\leq$ 1.3 or

absolute(log2(fold change)) < 0.4. **J**. Comparison of canonical pathway enrichments between

unnormalized and normalized phosphoproteome. Orange fill colors indicate that all comparable

pathways on the top are activated in both omics datasets. The darker the color is, the greater the

absolute(z-score) is, and the more significantly enriched the pathway is.

Figure 6. Coordinated regulation of transcriptome, proteome and phosphoproteome on

PI3K/AKT and ERK/MAPK signaling pathways and protein synthesis and degradation. A.

Canonical pathway enrichment of phosphoproteome only with cutoff p-value < 0.05. The darker

the color is, the greater the absolute(z-score) is, and the more significantly enriched the pathway

is. **B**. Comparison of PI3K/AKT signaling and protein ubiquitination pathways enriched from

transcriptome (red outline), proteome (blue outline) and phosphoproteome (green outline). **C-D**.

Western blots of two phosphorylation sites on pan-AKT protein for verification of

phosphorylation and activation of PI3K/AKT signaling pathway in TGAC8 vs. WT. **E**. Western

blot of ubiquitination in TGAC8 vs. WT. **F**. Pathway graph of PI3K/AKT signaling marked with

changes in transcriptome (left box), proteome (middle box) and phosphoproteome (right box).

Fill colors indicate changes: red and green indicate upregulation and downregulation respectively;

grey indicates nonsignificant regulation. **G**. Phosphopeptide number of substrates of PI3K. Y-

axis represents protein substates of PI3K; x-axis represents number of phosphopeptides. Red and

blue bars indicate upregulated (p-value < 0.05 and log2(fold change) > 0) and downregulated (p-

value < 0.05 and log2(fold change) < 0) phosphopeptides respectively. Two-tailed unpaired

Student's t test with Welch's correction was conducted and p-values were shown in plots.

Figure 6—figure supplement 1. Cross verification of activated PI3K/AKT and ERK/MAPK

signaling pathways and enhanced protein synthesis and degradation from our previous

study. A. Western blots of one phosphorylation site on isoform 2 of AKT protein for verification

of phosphorylation and activation of PI3K/AKT signaling pathway in TGAC8 vs. WT. **B-C.**

Western blot verification of phosphorylation and activation of ERK/MAPK signaling pathway in

TGAC8 vs. WT. **D.** Confirmation of enhanced protein synthesis in TGAC8 vs. WT. **E.** The

enhanced proteasome activity in TGAC8 vs. WT. **F-G.** The soluble misfolded proteins were

increased in TGAC8 LV (**F**) whereas the insoluble protein aggregates did not accumulate within

the TGAC8 vs. WT (**G**). Two-tailed unpaired Student's t test with Welch's correction was

performed. P-values: * < 0.05, ** < 0.01, *** < 0.001, **** < 0.0001. These data were adapted

from our recently published study in TGAC8 and WT mice[5].

Figure 7. Analyses of proteins changed discordantly in proteome and phosphoproteome. A.

Venn diagram of significantly regulated proteins in total proteome and significantly regulated

phosphoproteins in unnormalized phosphoproteome that were conducted concurrently in the

same platform. **B-D**. Functional analyses of proteins whose expressions are changed discordantly

at total protein and phosphorylation levels. Mitochondria and others are enriched in cellular

component analysis (**B**). Functions related to metabolism, mitochondria and others are enriched

in Reactome pathway (**C**) and biological process analyses (**D**).

Figure 8. Deduced schematic of coordination of phosphoproteome with transcriptome and

proteome in TGAC8 mouse LV. Based on our results, we deduced a mechanism of

reprogramed phosphoproteome in TGAC8 mouse LV: First, TGAC8 mouse induces a PKA

dependent phosphorylation via AC8-cAMP-PKA axis. Many cytoplasmic proteins including TFs

are thus phosphorylated and then transported into the nuclear where TFs recognize and bind to

the promotors to activate the transcription of more regulatory factors, including kinases,

phosphatases, and TFs. The activation states of these factors are changed upon phosphorylated in

cytosol, thereby activating additional kinases-controlled phosphorylation cascades and

reprogramming the cardiac phosphoproteome comprehensively. Left column: AC8-cAMP-PKA

signaling; middle column: phosphorylation (phosphoproteome); lower right: transcription

(transcriptome); upper right: translation (proteome).

Appendix 1. Reprogrammed concentric performance and protection circuitry in response

to the constitutive challenge of marked cardiac-specific overexpression of adenylyl cyclase

type 8. Based on the present phosphoproteome, we optimized our previously deduced

mechanism graph and labeled findings from the phosphoproteome using red stars. TGAC8

mouse induces a chronic cardiac exercise on heart, manifested as increased heart rate and

contractility accompanied with increased energy demand and cardiac biomass. Multiple

signaling pathways, related to nutrient sensing, energy production, cardiac cellular stress, cardiac

stress response, growth factor signaling, and cell proliferation, are potential downstream

mediating the effect of the activated AC8-cAMP-PKA-Ca^{2+} signaling in mouse LV. The altered

cardiac functions were also observed associated with protein phosphorylation in our previous

study and labeled in blue star here.

Figures

Figure 1. TGAC8 reprograms the LV phosphorylation state.

A

B

C

Top 21 canonical pathways

D

E

F

983   **Supplementary Figure 1. The enriched pathway, Cardiac Hypertrophy Signaling (Enhanced), from**

984   **the phosphoproteome.**

986   **Supplementary Figure 2. The regulatory pathway under the control of a predicted**

987   **upstream kinase, PDPK1.**

Symbol	Entrez Gene Name	UniProt	Log Ratio	p-value	Location	Family
AKT2	AKT serine/threonine kinase 2	Q60823	0.840825	0.007813	Cytoplasm	kinase
BAD	BCL2 associated agonist of cell death	Q61337	0.476462	7.81E-06	Cytoplasm	other
EEF2K	eukaryotic elongation factor 2 kinase	O08796	-0.42591	0.004744	Cytoplasm	kinase
GSK3B	glycogen synthase kinase 3 beta	Q9WV60	0.556065	0.002741	Nucleus	kinase
MTOR	mechanistic target of rapamycin kinase	Q9JLN9	0.640641	0.000144	Nucleus	kinase
PDPK1	3-phosphoinositide dependent protein kinase 1	Q9Z2A0	0.651174	0.02451	Cytoplasm	kinase
PKN1	protein kinase N1	P70268-2	0.600171	0.007485	Cytoplasm	kinase
PRKCB	protein kinase C beta	P68404-2	-0.44609	0.001011	Cytoplasm	kinase
RPS6KA3	ribosomal protein S6 kinase A3	P18654	0.580733	0.005794	Cytoplasm	kinase
ULK1	unc-51 like autophagy activating kinase 1	O70405	0.549454	0.015177	Cytoplasm	kinase

995   **Figure 2. Characteristics of upregulated phosphopeptides.**

Figure 3. Integrative analysis of transcriptome, proteome and phosphoproteome.

 Figure 4. Coordination of phosphoproteome and transcriptome.

1009   **Figure 5. Analysis of normalized phosphoproteome.**

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1013   **Figure 6. Coordinated regulation of transcriptome, proteome and phosphoproteome on**

1014   **PI3K/AKT and ERK/MAPK signaling pathways and protein synthesis and degradation.**

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1016   **Figure 6—figure supplement 1. Cross verification of activated PI3K/AKT and ERK/MAPK**

1017   **signaling pathways and enhanced protein synthesis and degradation from our previous**

1018   **study.**

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1022   **Figure 7. Analyses of proteins changed discordantly in proteome and phosphoproteome.**

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1028 **Figure 8. Deduced schematic of coordination of phosphoproteome with transcriptome and**

1029 **proteome in TGAC8 mouse LV.**

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1038 **Appendix 1. A comprehensive circuitry of TGAC8 mouse heart concluded from this**

1039 **phosphoproteome combine with previous transcriptome and proteome.**

Cardiac Overexpression of AC8 **1**

↑ AC-cAMP **2**

PKA-Ca2+ Signaling ⭐ **3**

Enhanced Cardiac Performance **4**

Chronic Cardiac Exercise 24/7

↑ HR, ↑ LV contractility

Growth Factor Signaling **5**
↑ PI3K signaling ⭐
↑ Amino Acid Synthesis ⭐
↑ Nucleotide Synthesis ⭐
↑ Protein Synthesis ⭐
↑ Lipid synthesis

↑ Transcription ⭐ **6**
↑ Translation ⭐
↑ Protein Quality Control ⭐
↑ Protein Misfolding
↑ Protein Ubiquitination ⭐
↑ Proteosome Activity
↑ Golgi ER Stress ⭐
↑ Autophagy/Mitophagy
↑ Inflammation ⭐
↑ Cytokine Signaling ⭐

↑ Glucose Metabolism ⭐
↑ Glycogen Synthesis
↑ Degradation ⭐
↑ Glycolysis ⭐
↑ Pentose-Phosphate Shunt ⭐
↑ Aerobic Glycolysis ⭐
↓ TCA ⭐
↓ Fatty Acid β-Oxidation ⭐
↓ Respiration
↑ NADH/NADPH Salvage **11**

↑ Energy Demand ⭐ **7**

Chronic Cardiac Stress
↑ ROS production ⭐ **8**

↑ LV Biomass **14**
Cell Growth ⭐
Cell Proliferation ⭐
Matrix Production ⭐
↓ Apoptosis ⭐

↑ Glucose Metabolism ⭐ **13**
↑ Aerobic Glycolysis ⭐
↑ Pentose-Phosphate Shunt ⭐
↑ NADH/NADPH Salvage

Stress Responses
Nutrient Sensing:
A. ↑ AMPK signaling ⭐
↑ Insulin Signaling ⭐
↑ IGF1 Signaling

Shifts in Energy Metabolism **9**

↑**Catabolism** **10**

↑**Anabolism** **12**

Stress Defenses
B. ↑ AKT, MAPK Signaling ⭐
↑ JNK and JAC signaling ⭐
↑ Nrf2 Signaling ⭐
↑ ROS Scavenging
↓ Apoptosis ⭐
Negative Feedback on AC Signaling
Negative Feedback or PKA Signaling

Cardioprotection **15**

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