ARHGAP17 regulates the spatiotemporal activity of Cdc42 at invadopodia

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Abstract

Cancer cells form actin-rich protrusions called invadopodia that can degrade the extracellular matrix and facilitate tumor invasion and intravasation. Invadopodia formation is regulated by Rho GTPases; however, the molecular mechanisms controlling Rho GTPase signaling at invadopodia are poorly understood. Here, we have identified ARHGAP17, a Cdc42-specific RhoGAP, as a key regulator of invadopodia in breast cancer cells. Using a combination of fixed and live cell imaging, and a Cdc42 sensor optimized for mammalian cells, we have defined a novel ARHGAP17-mediated signaling pathway that controls the spatial and temporal regulation of Cdc42 activity during invadopodia turnover. During assembly, ARHGAP17 localizes to the invadopodia adhesion ring where it restricts the activity of Cdc42 to the invadopodia core. Later, at the start of invadopodia disassembly, ARHGAP17 moves to the core where it inactivates Cdc42 to promote the disassembly of invadopodia in a process that is mediated by its interaction with the Cdc42 effector CIP4. Our results show that ARHGAP17 coordinates when and where Cdc42 is activated during invadopodia assembly and controls the disassembly by terminating the signal.

Introduction

The risks associated with cancer metastasis makes breast cancer one of the leading causes of cancer related mortality among women. One way that metastatic cancer cells invade tissues is through the formation of protrusive, actin-rich structures called invadopodia, which mediate the degradation of the extracellular matrix (ECM) (Murphy and Courtneidge, 2011). The ability of cancer cells to form invadopodia has been correlated with their metastatic potential, and the loss of invadopodia with decreased tumorigenicity and dissemination (Meirson et al., 2018; Stoletov and Lewis, 2015; Yamaguchi, 2012). In addition, studies using intravital microscopy have documented the existence of invadopodia and confirmed their importance for intra/extravasation and dissemination *in vivo* (Gligorijevic et al., 2014).

The structure of invadopodia is typically comprised of an actin-rich core that is surrounded by a ring of adhesion and scaffolding proteins, like that of podosomes which occur in normal cells (Murphy and Courtneidge, 2011). Invadopodia form through a series of steps that is initiated by the disassembly of focal adhesions and stress fibers, and the recycling of many of their components into new invadopodia (Hoshino et al., 2012; Oikawa et al., 2008). Assembly of new invadopodia starts with the formation of actin- and cortactin-rich puncta, closely followed by the recruitment of adhesion proteins such as

vinculin and paxillin (Hoshino et al., 2013). Invadopodia reach maturity upon the recruitment of matrix
metalloproteases which facilitate matrix degradation (Hoshino et al., 2013). There is less known about
the steps of invadopodia disassembly although the Rho GTPase RhoG and tyrosine phosphorylation of
paxillin have been implicated in the process (Badowski et al., 2008; Goicoechea et al., 2017).

The dramatic rearrangement of the actin cytoskeleton during invadopodia formation is regulated by the
Rho family of small GTPases (Murphy and Courtneidge, 2011). Rho GTPases function as molecular
switches that cycle between an active GTP-bound and an inactive-GDP bound state. The activation of
Rho proteins is catalyzed by RhoGEFs (guanine nucleotide exchange factors), whereas RhoGAPs (GTPase-
activating proteins) mediate their inactivation. There are 80 RhoGEFs and 66 RhoGAPs in humans,
allowing cells to tightly regulate the activity of Rho proteins through multiple pathways (Kreider-
Letterman et al., 2022a; Rossman et al., 2005). Since RhoGAPs play a critical role in the termination of
signal transduction, mutations in genes encoding RhoGAPs have drastic consequences and underlie
several human diseases including cancer (Kreider-Letterman et al., 2022a). RhoGAPs are generally
considered tumor suppressors, and the loss of GAP activity results in aberrant GTPase activity which can
promote tumorigenesis (Kreider-Letterman et al., 2022a). However, compared with RhoGEFs, which
have been studied more extensively, there is significantly less known about RhoGAPs, especially
regarding their role in cancer progression and metastasis. The need to better characterize RhoGAPs in
cancer progression includes invadopodia as there is increasing evidence that RhoGAPs play a role in
their regulation (Al Haddad et al., 2020; Bravo-Cordero et al., 2011; Diring et al., 2019; Nakahara et al.,
1998; Noll et al., 2019).

Several Rho proteins are known to be directly involved in invadopodia formation, including Cdc42, Rac1,
RhoA, RhoC and RhoG (Ayala et al., 2009; Bravo-Cordero et al., 2011; Goicoechea et al., 2017; Moshfegh
et al., 2014; Sakurai-Yageta et al., 2008; Yamaguchi et al., 2005). However, the molecular mechanisms of
their spatiotemporal activity at invadopodia, as well as the identity of their upstream regulators and
downstream effectors remain poorly characterized. Here, we conducted a candidate shRNA screen to
find RhoGAPs involved in invadopodia formation and identified ARHGAP17 (RICH1, Nadrin), a Cdc42-
specific GAP and a negative regulator of invadopodia in triple negative breast cancer cells. Using a
combination of fixed and live cell imaging and a Cdc42 sensor optimized for mammalian cells, we were
able to define a novel signaling pathway involving ARHGAP17, Cdc42, and its effector CIP4 (TRIP10), that
controls invadopodia turnover. Our results show that ARHGAP17 is targeted to the ring region of
invadopodia during assembly, which functions to restrict the activity of Cdc42 to the core of
invadopodia. Upon disassembly, ARHGAP17 is recruited to the invadopodia core by the Cdc42 effector
CIP4, where it inactivates Cdc42, and promotes invadopodia disassembly. Altogether, our results identify
ARHGAP17 at the center of the dynamic regulation of invadopodia assembly and disassembly and
provide new insights on the molecular mechanisms controlling these processes.

Results

ARHGAP17 is a negative regulator of invadopodia in breast cancer cells

To characterize the role of RhoGAPs during invadopodia formation, we used the triple negative breast
cancer (TNBC) cell line SUM159 as a model. SUM159 cells produce invadopodia that are highly dynamic
and typically form in clusters under the nucleus or as bands at the leading edge (Figure 1A, Figure 1-
video 1) (Goicoechea et al., 2017). When grown in culture, the cells form invadopodia clusters

spontaneously at low levels (≈1% cells) (Figure 1-figure supplement 2B). However, treatment with the
phorbol ester Phorbol 12,13-dibutyrate (PDBu) stimulates the formation of large numbers of
invadopodia, with about 30% of cells forming invadopodia after 30 minutes (Figure 1-video 1)
(Goicoechea et al., 2009; Goicoechea et al., 2017). To identify RhoGAPs that may regulate invadopodia
formation, we performed an shRNA screen on a panel of candidate RhoGAPs in PDBu treated SUM159
cells (Figure 1B). We tested 19 RhoGAP candidates using 5 targeting sequences per gene. Several
RhoGAPs showed differences in the percentage of cells with invadopodia, typically an increase. Here, we
focus on ARHGAP17, as silencing its expression showed the most prominent increases in the percentage
of cells forming invadopodia, especially with shRNA sequences #3 and #5. We confirmed the efficiency
of the shRNA targeting sequences by western blot analysis, which shows a significant reduction of
ARHGAP17 expression in both sequences #3 and #5 when compared to the non-targeting control (Figure
1C). We also repeated the invadopodia assay with both shRNA sequences and confirmed that depletion
of ARHGAP17 resulted in significant increases in the number of cells that form invadopodia after PDBu
treatment (from 28.7% in CTRL cells to 79.3% and 72.3% in shRNAs #3 and #5 respectively) (Figure 1D).
We also observed similar results using two unique CRISPR KO sequences for ARHGAP17 (Figure 1-figure
supplement 1A and B). In addition, we were able to rescue the effects of silencing ARHGAP17 on
invadopodia by re-expressing an shRNA resistant myc-ARHGAP17 (Figures 1E-G). The increase in cells
forming invadopodia observed in ARHGAP17 KD was independent of PDBu treatment as silencing
ARHGAP17 also induced a significant increase in the number of spontaneous invadopodia in untreated
cells (from 1.3% in CTRL cells to 7.8% in ARHGAP17 KO) (Figure 1-figure supplement 2A and B). These
results validated the specificity of the phenotype and demonstrated that the results are not dependent
on PDBu treatment. Taken together, these results suggest that ARHGAP17 functions as a negative
regulator of invadopodia.

ARHGAP17 regulates invadopodia-based matrix degradation and inhibits invasion

To determine whether the increases in invadopodia in the absence of ARHGAP17 resulted in more
invadopodia activity, we used a matrix degradation assay in which we plated SUM159 cells on a
fluorescent gelatin/collagen IV matrix and treated them with PDBu for 24 hours (Martin et al., 2012).
SUM159 cells degraded the matrix with a punctate pattern typical for invadopodia; characterized by F-
actin puncta overlapping with a loss of matrix fluorescence, provided the cell had not moved before
fixation (Figure 2A) (Artym et al., 2006). We quantified invadopodia activity in CTRL, ARHGAP17 KO, and
Rescue cells by measuring the area of degradation/cell area. We found a significant increase in matrix
degradation In ARHGAP17 KO cells (≈3-fold) which was rescued to CTRL levels by re-expressing
ARHGAP17 (Figure 2B and C). These results demonstrate that invadopodia are still functional in the
absence of ARHGAP17.

Since silencing the expression of ARHGAP17 results in increased matrix degradation via invadopodia, we
would predict the cells to be more invasive when grown in 3D. To determine if ARHGAP17 KD cells are
more invasive, we performed a 3D spheroid invasion assay (Vinci et al., 2015). In this assay, SUM159
cells were grown in ultra-low attachment plates that resulted in the formation of a spheroid reminiscent
of a small tumor (Figure 2D). When the spheroids are embedded in Matrigel, invasive cells migrate away
from the spheroid and into the matrix. Spheroid growth and invasion can then be quantified by
measuring the area of the spheroid over time. We found that even though ARHGAP17 KD spheroids
grew at a slower rate (Figure 2E), they were significantly more invasive when invasion was normalized
by average proliferation (Figure 2F). To validate the spheroid invasion results without the effect of

growth impacting the results we also performed an inverse invasion assay. In this assay, we plated
SUM159 cells stably expressing mScarlet-CAAX (membrane marker) at the bottom of a plate, overlaid
them with a layer of Matrigel and stimulated them to invade upwards by adding serum-containing
media on top of the Matrigel (Figure 2G, Figure 2-video 1). Quantification showed that ARHGAP17 KO
cells invaded significantly more than the CTRL and that this effect was rescued by re-expressing WT
ARHGAP17 (Figure 2H).

ARHGAP17 regulates invadopodia dynamics

The dramatic increase in invadopodia observed in ARHGAP17 KD cells suggested that ARHGAP17 could
be modulating invadopodia turnover. Interestingly, in the absence of ARHGAP17, not only were more
cells able to form invadopodia compared to CTRL cells, but also the invadopodia clusters were larger
(Figure 3A). This may reflect a change in invadopodia dynamics, possibly due to an increase in
invadopodia lifetime or defects in disassembly signaling. To further explore this possibility, we
performed a time-course experiment in which we treated SUM159 cells (CTRL, ARHGAP17 KD, and
Rescue) with PDBu and quantified the percentage of cells forming invadopodia at successive time points
after treatment (Figure 3B). As we have previously described (Goicoechea et al., 2017), CTRL cells
showed a rapid spike in invadopodia forming cells at the 10-minute mark that then decreased rapidly
until reaching equilibrium at 30 minutes, with approximately 30% of cells being positive for invadopodia
at any given time afterwards. Interestingly, the initial increase in invadopodia was larger in ARHGAP17
KD cells (>80% positive cells at 10 min), and the decrease not as pronounced, with invadopodia
percentages reaching an equilibrium at a much higher percentage (>60% after 30 min). Re-expressing
ARHGAP17 restored the normal time-course dynamics (Figure 3B). When we calculated the difference in
percentage of cells with invadopodia between the 10- and 30-min time points, i.e., the drop-off from
peak to equilibrium, the difference was significantly smaller in ARHGAP17 KD cells when compared to
CTRL or Rescue (50% reduction in CTRL vs. 20% reduction in ARHGAP17 KD) (Figure 3-figure supplement
1A). These results suggest that in the absence of ARHGAP17, the invadopodia may be more stable and
thus longer lived.

We next wanted to characterize the role of ARHGAP17 on invadopodia dynamics. The dynamics of single
invadopodia can be divided into three defined stages: assembly, stability, and disassembly. This is
illustrated in Figure 3C, in which the intensity of the invadopodia marker TKS5-mTagBFP2 was measured
over the lifetime of a single invadopodia. Using live Total Internal Reflection Fluorescence (TIRF)
microscopy and a custom algorithm inspired by a similar method previously used to quantify focal
adhesions (Berginski et al., 2011), we were able to accurately measure the dynamics of invadopodia
formation after PDBu treatment with high enough resolution to resolve the individual invadopodia from
the clusters (Figure 3D). Using this method, we found that individual invadopodia have increased overall
lifetime in ARHGAP17 KO cells (Figure 3D and E), and that this increase in lifetime was a result of an
increase in the duration of the stability phase (Figure 3H) and not due to significant changes in the
duration of the assembly or disassembly phases (Figures 3F and G). In agreement, we found no
significant changes in the assembly or disassembly rates (Figure 3-figure supplement 2A and B). We also
summarized the results using a Principal Component Analysis (PCA) which shows that ARHGAP17 KO
invadopodia form a distinct population on the bases of lifetime and stability with only minimal impact
from the other variables (Figure 3-figure supplement 2C). These results demonstrate that ARHGAP17
regulates the dynamics of invadopodia and that, in the absence of ARHGAP17, invadopodia are more
stable which is associated with increased accumulation of invadopodia within clusters.

ARHGAP17 is targeted to invadopodia through multiple domains

To visualize the localization of endogenous ARHGAP17 in cells we generated a polyclonal antibody against a small peptide from the C-terminus of ARHGAP17. The antibody recognized a single band by western blot, which disappeared upon KD or KO of ARHGAP17 (Figure 1C, Figure 1-figure supplement 1A). In PDBu-treated SUM159 cells, the ARHGAP17 antibody showed a clear signal at the invadopodia clusters. This signal was lost in ARHGAP17 KO cells confirming the specificity of the antibody (Figure 4A). A similar result was observed when expressing an ARHGAP17-GFP construct in ARHGAP17 KO SUM159 cells, with ARHGAP17-GFP targeting efficiently to invadopodia as marked by TKS5-mTagBFP2 (Figure 4B). Live imaging analysis showed that ARHGAP17-GFP is recruited early during invadopodia formation, almost simultaneously with Tks5-mTagBFP2, and remains associated until the invadopodia disappears (Figure 4B and Figure 4-video 1). Interestingly, we observed that ARHGAP17 did not perfectly colocalize with TKS5 and had a more diffuse appearance with the signal localized in some cases adjacent to, or in the periphery of TKS5 puncta (Figure 4B, zoom panel).

Invadopodia are typically organized with a core region comprised of actin, actin nucleators, and scaffolding proteins, and a surrounding ring comprised of adhesion and adapter proteins such as paxillin or vinculin (Branch et al., 2012). Our initial results suggested that ARHGAP17 may be localized preferentially to the ring region of invadopodia. To better define the localization of ARHGAP17 at invadopodia, we utilized STORM (Stochastic Optical Reconstruction Microscopy) reconstructions of invadopodia using F-actin (phalloidin staining) and cortactin as markers for the invadopodia core, and paxillin as a marker for the ring. We then compared the intensity distribution of these proteins to that of myc-ARHGAP17. We used ARHGAP17 KO SUM159 cells stably expressing myc-ARHGAP17 to facilitate the use of anti-myc antibodies, which provided better results with STORM than staining for the endogenous protein. From these results, ARHGAP17 appears to share its localization pattern more with paxillin than actin or cortactin (Figure 4C, Figure 4-figure supplement 1A and B).

To compare the localization of different invadopodia proteins we developed a semi-automatic macro script in ImageJ that measures the intensity of invadopodia proteins in relation to the center of the invadopodia (hereafter referred to as radial intensity analysis). In this script, a line is drawn across the center of each invadopodia. The line is then sequentially rotated 120 times at 3° intervals and the intensity profile is measured at each of the intervals for all fluorescent channels. The mean of all measurements is then used to display the average intensity related to the distance from the center of the invadopodia (Figure 4D). When this method is applied to the STORM reconstructions, we found that ARHGAP17 localization extends further away from the center of the invadopodia when compared to the core proteins cortactin and F-actin, and aligns closely with the ring protein paxillin, suggesting it is a ring protein (Figure 4D). However, unlike paxillin, a fraction of ARHGAP17 is also localized to the core. Figure 4D shows that the intensity of myc-ARHGAP17 remains high at the core when compared to that of paxillin, which decreases sharply at the invadopodia center (Figure 4C, Figure 4-figure supplement 1A and B).

To determine how ARHGAP17 is targeted to invadopodia, we generated and expressed a series of domain deletion mutants in ARHGAP17 KO SUM159 cells (Figure 5A). Using TIRF microscopy for its high signal-to-noise ratio, we found that both the N-BAR domain and the C-terminus Proline-rich region are important for targeting ARHGAP17 to invadopodia (Figure 5B-E). We then used the radial intensity analysis to precisely define the localization for each of the mutants (Figure 5C). Our results show that

upon deletion of the C-terminus (ΔC), ARHGAP17 localization decreases at the core, but remains
associated with the ring, which suggests that the Proline-rich region is important for targeting
ARHGAP17 to the center of invadopodia (Figure 5B and C). In this mutant, the ring diameter is also wider
(Figure 5D). In contrast, when the N-BAR domain is deleted (ΔBAR), there is an increase in the
localization of ARHGAP17 to the core, which is accompanied by a slight reduction in the ring and a more
diffuse localization pattern (Figure 5B-D). Interestingly, the N-BAR domain alone is sufficient to target to
the core of invadopodia, where it is distributed in a punctate pattern (Figure 5B-E). Deletion of either
the C-terminus or the N-BAR domain reduced the total amount of ARHGAP17 recruited to invadopodia
compared to the WT protein, which suggests that targeting to invadopodia is partially compromised in
both mutants (Figure 5E).

We also tested these deletion mutants for their ability to rescue the ARHGAP17 KO phenotype. Our
results show that the ΔC mutant rescues the levels of invadopodia efficiently to a level that is close but
still significantly different than that of the WT Rescue. The ΔBAR mutant also showed a reproducible
level of rescue although it was less efficient than the ΔC mutant. In contrast, the N-BAR domain alone
showed no evidence of rescue, which confirms that the rest of the protein is not only important for
targeting but also for ARHGAP17's function. (Figure 5F). From these results, we conclude that
ARHGAP17 regulates invadopodia by its ability to associate to both the ring and core structures through
the N-BAR domain and C-terminus, respectively.

ARHGAP17 regulation of invadopodia requires its RhoGAP activity for Cdc42

In vitro assays have initially shown ARHGAP17 to have RhoGAP specificity for all three of the ubiquitous
Rho GTPases: Cdc42, Rac1, and RhoA (Harada et al., 2000). However, later studies suggest it is specific
for Cdc42 and Rac1 *in vitro* with preference for Cdc42 in cells (Richnau and Aspenstrom, 2001; Richnau
et al., 2004; Wells et al., 2006). To assess the specificity of endogenous ARHGAP17 in SUM159 cells, we
performed a GAP pulldown assay using glutathione S-transferase (GST)-tagged, constitutively active
mutants of RhoA, Rac1, and Cdc42 (Figure 6A) (García-Mata et al., 2006). We found that ARHGAP17
precipitated with active Cdc42 but not with RhoA or Rac1. Furthermore, when the expression of
ARHGAP17 was silenced in SUM159 cells, there was a significant increase in total Cdc42 activity in the
cells as determined by an affinity pulldown assay (Figure 6B). From these results, we determined that
ARHGAP17 is specific for Cdc42 in SUM159 cells.

Since Cdc42 signaling is known to be essential for the formation of invadopodia (Ayala et al., 2009; Di
Martino et al., 2014; Goicoechea et al., 2014; Sakurai-Yageta et al., 2008; Yamaguchi et al., 2005;
Zagryazhskaya-Masson et al., 2020), we performed a time course assay in which we measured Cdc42
activity in SUM159 cells at 10-minute intervals following PDBu treatment (Figures 6C). Our results
showed a peak in Cdc42 activity in CTRL cells that roughly correlates with the time course of
invadopodia formation (see Figure 3B). ARHGAP17 KD cells also showed an increase in Cdc42 activity at
the same time point (20 min). However, the Cdc42 increase was not as prominent as in CTRL cells, likely
because the basal activity of Cdc42 is already comparatively higher at time zero in the ARGHAP17 KD
cells (Figure 6B and Figure 6-figure supplement 1A, compare the activity between t0 and t20). These
results suggest that ARHGAP17 modulates the activity of Cdc42 during the formation of invadopodia.

To test this prediction, we mutated the critical Arginine finger motif in the RhoGAP domain of
ARHGAP17 (R288A), which renders it catalytically dead (CD) (Harada et al., 2000). We then quantified
both the localization of ARHGAP17 CD to invadopodia and its ability to rescue the ARHGAP17 KO

phenotype. Our results demonstrated that the catalytic activity is not required for targeting ARHGAP17
to invadopodia, as the CD mutant localization and radial intensity analysis were indistinguishable from
that of the WT protein (Figure 6D and E). The distance from the core and the intensity at the
invadopodia were also not significantly different between WT and CD ARHGAP17 (Figure 6F and G).
However, despite targeting correctly, the CD mutant was unable to rescue the KO phenotype, which
suggests the RhoGAP activity is required for ARHGAP17 to regulate invadopodia turnover (Figure 6H).

Spatiotemporal regulation of Cdc42 by ARHGAP17 at invadopodia

Since ARHGAP17 regulation of invadopodia requires its Cdc42-specific RhoGAP activity, we wanted to
characterize the spatiotemporal regulation of Cdc42 activity and ARHGAP17 at invadopodia. To monitor
the dynamics of Cdc42 activity in live cells, we utilized a localization based Cdc42 biosensor (dTomato-
wGBD) consisting of the GTPase-binding domain of the Cdc42 effector WASP (wGBD) linked to the
dTomato fluorescent protein (Figure 7A). The wGBD domain will localize to active Cdc42 in the cell but is
lacking the domains that bind other proteins such as Cdc42 effector proteins (e.g., CIP4) (Tian et al.,
2000). This sensor design has been extensively used in the past, particularly in Xenopus studies, but was
typically not sensitive enough for mammalian cell studies (Benink and Bement, 2005; Kim et al., 2000;
Vaughan et al., 2011). Our new Cdc42 sensor has been designed using the same iterative approach we
recently described for a RhoA sensor (Mahlandt et al., 2021). To verify the specificity of the sensor in
SUM159 cells, we used an assay that measures the translocation of the sensor to the nucleus when co-
expressed with different nuclear localized constitutively active Rho GTPases as we have previously
described (Mahlandt et al., 2021). Our results show that the dTomato-wGBD sensor is highly specific for
Cdc42, with only residual binding to Rac1, and no detectable binding to RhoA (Figure 7-figure
supplement 1A and B). We then tested the localization of the sensor in SUM159 cells stimulated with
PDBu to form invadopodia. Upon treatment of PDBu, the sensor strongly re-localizes to newly forming
invadopodia, indicating an increase in Cdc42 activity specifically at invadopodia (Figure 7B, Figure 7-
video 1). We also followed the activity of Cdc42 in single invadopodia over time and compared it with
the intensity of ARGHAP17-GFP and TKS5-mTagBFP2. We found that the sensor signal follows the
progression of the invadopodia, increasing in intensity during its assembly and decreasing as the
invadopodia disappears (Figure 7C, Figure 7-video 2). Interestingly, we observed that the appearance of
Cdc42 activity is more pronounced at the initial stages of invadopodia formation, while ARHGAP17-GFP
appears in the second half of invadopodia assembly with a slight increase in signal as the invadopodia
disassemble (Figure 7C, Figure 7-video 2). Quantitative analysis of intensity over time in multiple
invadopodia confirmed this observation (Figure 7D). Cross-correlation analysis between TKS5-
mTagBFP2, ARHGAP17-GFP, and dTomato-wGBD showed that there is a positive correlation between
the three proteins (Figure 7E). The strongest correlation observed was between Cc42 activity and TKS5,
with Cdc42 activity occurring slightly earlier in time than TKS5. In contrast, the correlation between
ARHGAP17 and either Cdc42 activity or TKS5 was weaker, likely due to the ring localization of
ARHGAP17, with ARHGAP17 appearing later than both Cdc42 and TKS5. In addition, we found that in the
absence of ARHGAP17 (ARHGAP17 KO) there was a significant increase in the maximum Cdc42 activity at
invadopodia when compared to CTRL or ARHGAP17 Rescue cells (Figure 7F).

To characterize the spatiotemporal dynamics of ARHGAP17 and Cdc42 throughout the lifecycle of
invadopodia, we used the radial intensity analysis method described for single invadopodia in Figure 4
for each frame in time-lapse series of single invadopodia co-expressing Tks5-mTagBFP2, ARHGAP17-GFP,
and the Cdc42 sensor (as in Figure 7C). A representative kymograph of several invadopodia averaged

together is shown, which displays the signal intensity over time (x-axis, normalized to be comparable), as
well as the localization of the signal in relation to the center of the invadopodia (y-axis) (Figure 7G).
These results showed that Cdc42 activity (wGBD) was tightly localized at invadopodia, specifically at the
core throughout the lifetime of invadopodia. During the invadopodia assembly phase, ARHGAP17 is
recruited preferentially to the invadopodia ring as expected from our results from fixed images in Figure
4. Surprisingly, when the invadopodia starts to disassemble, the localization of ARHGAP17 shifts from
the ring to the core, and this shift coincides with a decrease in Cdc42 signal at the core. This change in
localization can also be visualized as line profiles of selected time points from the time series data
(Figure 7H and I). At an early stage during invadopodia assembly (t 0.25), ARHGAP17 was found
predominantly in the ring (Figure 7H), while later during invadopodia disassembly (t 0.75), ARHGAP17
was shifted to the core (Figure 7I). This shift of ARHGAP17 to the core is also associated with a decrease
in peak TKS5 intensity and an even more severe decrease in peak wGBD intensity (Figure 7H) when
compared to assembly (Figure 7I). Taken together, these data suggest that ARHGAP17 at the ring
restricts the activity of Cdc42 to the core during invadopodia assembly and moves to the core later,
where it inactivates Cdc42 to promote invadopodia disassembly.

An ARHGAP17/CIP4/Cdc42 complex regulates invadopodia

We have shown that ARHGAP17 regulates Cdc42 at invadopodia in a RhoGAP-dependent manner.
However, we do not know what Cdc42 effector is downstream of this signaling pathway. A potential
candidate is Cdc42-interacting protein 4 (CIP4), a Cdc42 effector which has been previously shown to
interact with ARHGAP17 (Richnau and Aspenstrom, 2001). Furthermore, CIP4 also targets to
invadopodia and regulates their formation in breast cancer cells (Pichot et al., 2010). To validate these
observations in our model, we generated SUM159 cells stably expressing shRNA for CIP4 (Figure 8A) and
found that, as described previously (Pichot et al., 2010), there was a significant decrease in the
percentage of cells forming invadopodia when the expression of CIP4 was silenced (Figure 8B and C). We
then stained for endogenous CIP4 in PDBu-treated SUM159 cells and confirmed that CIP4 also targets
specifically to invadopodia in these cells (Figure 8D) and localizes predominantly to the invadopodia core
(Figure 8E). We also confirmed that ARHGAP17 binds CIP4 at endogenous levels using co-
immunoprecipitation (Figure 8F) and that the proline-rich region of ARHGAP17 is required for CIP4
binding as was previously shown (Figure 8G) (Richnau and Aspenstrom, 2001). We next wanted to
determine if ARHGAP17 activity is coupled with CIP4 as part of a complex to regulate Cdc42 activity as
has been frequently observed with RhoGEFs and some RhoGAPs (Lawson and Ridley, 2018). Using GST-
Cdc42 Q61L and CD ARHGAP17-GFP (which does not interact with Cdc42), we found that myc-CIP4 can
bind to active Cdc42 and CD ARHGAP17-GFP simultaneously (Figure 8G), suggesting that they may form
a complex in cells.

We then wanted to characterize the roles of the ARHGAP17, CIP4, and Cdc42 activity in invadopodia.
When analyzing individual invadopodia expressing CIP4-GFP, TKS5-mTagBFP2, and dTomato-wGBD, we
found that CIP4 is present at invadopodia throughout their lifetime and corresponds closely with TKS5,
both spatially and temporally (Figure 9A and B). Interestingly, Cdc42 activity, as determined by the
dTomato-wGBD biosensor, was present earlier in invadopodia lifetime than CIP4, while CIP4 was still
present in invadopodia after loss of Cdc42 activity (Figure 9A and B). These temporal shifts between
CIP4 and Cdc42 activity were confirmed using cross-correlation analysis (Figure 9C). To determine the
role of the ARHGAP17-CIP4 interaction in the regulation of invadopodia, we investigated the localization
of ARHGAP17 (ARHGAP17-GFP expressed in ARHGAP17 KO cells) in CTRL cells compared to cells

overexpressing myc-CIP4. Interestingly, in cells overexpressing myc-CIP4, we observed a dramatic shift
from the typical ARHGAP17 localization enriched at the ring, to a predominantly core localization (Figure
9D and E; top and middle panels). This was dependent on the interaction between ARHGAP17 and CIP4
since the ΔC ARHGAP17-GFP mutant, which does not interact with CIP4, failed to relocate to the core
when co-expressed with myc-CIP4 (Figure 9D and E; bottom panels). Cross-correlation analysis of
invadopodia clusters confirmed these results, with a high cross-correlation coefficient between
ARHGAP17-GFP and myc-CIP4, which decreased drastically for the ΔC ARHGAP17-GFP and myc-CIP4 pair
(Figure 9F), even though both proteins still localized to invadopodia (Figure 9D; bottom panels). These
results suggest that the translocation of ARHGAP17 from the ring to the core observed upon initiation of
invadopodia disassembly depends on ARHGAP17's ability to bind to the core localized cdc42 effector
CIP4.

Finally, we wanted to determine how the expression levels of ARHGAP17 and CIP4 influence each other
to regulate the invadopodia phenotype in SUM159 cells. To do this, we either silenced and/or
overexpressed CIP4 and ARHGAP17 in all combinations and quantified the percentage of cells forming
invadopodia after PDBu treatment. In agreement with what has been shown so far, our results showed
that ARHGAP17 and CIP4 have antagonistic roles at invadopodia. CIP4 overexpression increased the
number of cells with invadopodia while ARHGAP17 overexpression had an inhibitory effect. The
opposite is true for silencing their expression, with ARHGAP17 KO increasing and CIP4 KD decreasing the
number of cells with invadopodia (as shown in previous figures). When we tested combinations of
overexpressing and silencing ARHGAP17/CIP4, the function of one protein either synergized or
counteracted the effect of the other depending on the combination. If the two proteins were
simultaneously overexpressed or silenced, the phenotypic effects balanced each other out. For example,
the increase in invadopodia induced by CIP4 overexpression is restored to CTRL levels when ARHGAP17
is co-expressed. In contrast, a combination of silencing one gene and overexpressing the other worked
to exacerbate the phenotype. For example, ARHGAP17 KO with CIP4 overexpression showed higher
levels of invadopodia than either ARHGAP17 KO or CIP4-GFP overexpression alone (Figure 9G). Taken
together, our results suggest that the expression levels of ARHGAP17 and CIP4 help regulate the
equilibrium between invadopodia assembly and disassembly.

Discussion

Here, we have identified a novel role for ARHGAP17 in TNBC invadopodia dynamics by restricting the
activity of Cdc42 in time and space during invadopodia turnover. Our results demonstrate that the
function of ARHGAP17 is important throughout the invadopodia lifecycle. At early stages, during
invadopodia growth, ARHGAP17 localizes to the invadopodia ring, which helps to limit the activity of
Cdc42 to the actin core. Later, when invadopodia begin to disassemble, ARHGAP17 relocates to the
core, where it inactivates Cdc42 and promotes the disassembly of invadopodia (Figure 10). It should be
noted that, even in ARHGAP17 KO cells, invadopodia are still able to disassemble. This could be
indicative of redundancy in the system. ARHGAP17 has two closely related members of the RhoGAP
family, ARHGAP44 (RICH2) and SH3BP1, which may be compensating for the loss of ARHGAP17
(Aspenstrom, 2018). Both SH3BP1 and ARHGAP44 have been associated with migration and invasion in
cancer cells but have not yet been studied in invadopodia (Parrini et al., 2011; Wang et al., 2018; Zhang
et al., 2019). It is likely that one or both proteins regulate invadopodia and would be attractive subjects
for future studies.

Our report is the first to describe ARHGAP17 at invadopodia and a direct mechanism regarding the link
between ARHGAP17 and cancer cell invasion. ARHGAP17 has been previously characterized as a tumor
suppressor and found to be downregulated in a variety of cancers, including colon, breast and cervical,
where it functions to inhibit migration and invasion (Guo et al., 2019; Kiso et al., 2018; Pan et al., 2018;
Pan et al., 2022; Tian et al., 2022). ARHGAP17 is downregulated by VEGF/NRP1 signaling in TNBC which
was associated with increased Cdc42 activity, filopodia formation, and cell migration (Kiso et al., 2018).
ARHGAP17 expression was also found to inhibit invasion and metastasis of colon cancer in association
with decreased Wnt signaling (Pan et al., 2018), and in cervical cancer, ARHGAP17 suppressed cell
proliferation and tumor growth by inhibiting PI3K/AKT signaling (Guo et al., 2019). Our results suggest
that the tumor suppressor role of ARHGAP17 may depend in part in its ability to negatively regulate
invadopodia by inactivating Cdc42, leading to a decreased invasive capacity.

Cdc42 activity has long been recognized to be essential for both invadopodia and podosome formation,
regardless of the cell type or model system used (Ayala et al., 2009; Di Martino et al., 2014; Juin et al.,
2014; Moreau et al., 2003; Yamaguchi et al., 2005). Using our improved localization-based sensor, we
found that Cdc42 activity is present throughout the lifetime of invadopodia at the invadopodia core with
the strongest activity being present at the assembly phase and a decrease in activity being associated
with invadopodia disassembly. Cdc42 promotes the assembly of the actin core of invadopodia through
its effector N-WASP, which induces actin nucleating by activation of the Arp2/3 complex (Desmarais et
al., 2009; Juin et al., 2012; Juin et al., 2014; Lorenz et al., 2004; Monteiro et al., 2013; Yamaguchi et al.,
2005; Yu et al., 2012). N-WASP also binds to the SH3 domain of the invadopodia protein, TKS5 (Oikawa
et al., 2008). The link between Cdc42 and TKS5 is critical as Cdc42 activity and TKS5 are both essential
for invadopodia formation and function (Di Martino et al., 2014). Cdc42 activity also promotes
invadopodia function as marked by matrix degradation. Together with RhoA activity, Cdc42 has been
shown to promote ECM degradation through its interaction with the Cdc42 effector, IQGAP (Sakurai-
Yageta et al., 2008). Interactions between IQGAP and the exocyst protein complex control the delivery
of matrix metalloproteases to the membrane of invadopodia (Sakurai-Yageta et al., 2008). Inactivation
of Cdc42 at invadopodia by ARHGAP17 would then lead to the reduction of invadopodia formation and
activity by shutting down Cdc42-mediated actin nucleation and metalloprotease transport.

The activity of several Rho GTPases has been associated with invadopodia formation and activity, but
very few have been studied at the level of detail shown in this manuscript. An exception is RhoC, which
in contrast to what we observed for Cdc42, is active at the ring and inactive at the core. This is regulated
by the combined action of the ring-localized p190 RhoGEF and the core localized p190 RhoGAP (Bravo-
Cordero et al., 2011). Whether p190RhoGAP shifts from the core-to-the ring to inactivate at RhoC is not
clear from this study. However, like our study, it highlights the tight spatial and temporal regulation of
Rho GTPases, even within invadopodia subdomains.

We have not characterized the RhoGEF responsible for the activation of Cdc42 in our system. A potential
candidate is FGD1, which has been identified in previous reports as the RhoGEF that mediates the
activation of Cdc42 at both podosomes and invadopodia (Ayala et al., 2009; Daubon et al., 2011;
Zagryazhskaya-Masson et al., 2020). FGD1 localizes to invadopodia in metastatic melanoma and breast
cancer cells through its interaction with TKS5 and promotes the assembly of the actin core in a Cdc42-
dependent manner (Ayala et al., 2009; Zagryazhskaya-Masson et al., 2020). Another potential RhoGEF
candidate is Vav1, which has also been found to play a role in invadopodia formation in pancreatic
cancer cells by activating Cdc42 (Razidlo et al., 2014). In future studies, it will be interesting to

characterize the RhoGEF in the ARHGAP17/Cdc42/CIP4 pathway and the interplay between GEF and
GAP activity in regulating invadopodia dynamics.

Our study also shows that the Cdc42 effector CIP4 is important for the spatiotemporal regulation of
ARHGAP17 at invadopodia. We found that CIP4 localizes specifically to the invadopodia core, and that its
interaction with ARHGAP17 is required for the ring-to-core translocation observed for ARHGAP17 at the
initiation of invadopodia disassembly. CIP4 has previously been found to localize at invadopodia and
function as a positive regulator of invadopodia formation through activation of N-WASP (Pichot et al.,
2010). CIP4 seems to function as a scaffolding platform, as it can interact with Cdc42, N-WASP, Src, and
ARHGAP17 (Pichot et al., 2010; Richnau and Aspenstrom, 2001). CIP4 has two closely related family
members which have also been shown to localize to invadopodia and promote their formation: FBP17
(Formin Binding Protein 17) and Toca-1 (transducer of Cdc42-dependent actin activity) (Chander et al.,
2013; Suman et al., 2018; Yamamoto et al., 2011). FBP17 and Toca-1 both interact with Cdc42 and N-
WASP, promote the activation of N-WASP, and stimulate actin nucleation through the Arp2/3 complex.
(Bu et al., 2010; Ho et al., 2004; Hu et al., 2011; Takano et al., 2008; Tsujita et al., 2013; Tsujita et al.,
2006). Considering that silencing CIP4 expression does not completely abolish invadopodia formation,
FBP17 and/or Toca-1 may compensate for CIP4 loss in SUM159 cells.

CIP4, FBP17, and Toca-1 all can activate N-WASP and have been shown to link its activity to membrane
curvature sensing, membrane remodeling, and endocytosis through the F-BAR domains. (Chan Wah Hak
et al., 2018; Hartig et al., 2009; Takano et al., 2008; Tsujita et al., 2006). It is possible that CIP4 regulates
membrane curvature sensing and/or endocytosis at invadopodia, connecting these processes to actin
polymerization through N-WASP activation. Interestingly, ARHGAP17 also encodes a BAR domain at the
N-terminus, which is important for its targeting at invadopodia and may also play a role in curvature
sensing and membrane remodeling/trafficking. What the functional connection between the BAR
domains in CIP4 and ARHGAP17 remains to be determined.

It is not clear how the ring-to-core translocation is regulated, but phosphorylation is a possibility. Nagy
and colleagues have shown that ARHGAP17 is phosphorylated by PKA/PKG at S702, and that this
phosphorylation inhibits its binding to CIP4 (Nagy et al., 2015). It is possible then, that when targeted to
the ring, ARHGAP17 is phosphorylated, and an unknown stimulus triggers its dephosphorylation at the
initiation of disassembly, allowing it to bind to CIP4 and promoting the translocation to the core and
subsequent inactivation of Cdc42. Interestingly, CIP4 is also phosphorylated by PKA at T225, and this
phosphorylation appears to promote the formation of invadopodia and enhance its interaction with
Cdc42 (Tonucci et al., 2019). Future work will shed light in the exact molecular mechanisms controlling
the dynamics of ARHGAP17, Cdc42 and CIP4 in the formation of invadopodia, the role of the activators
(RhoGEFs), and their effect on actin polymerization and other cellular functions.

Materials and Methods

Cell lines

HEK 293FT cells (Thermo Fisher Scientific) were used for all the pulldown experiments unless indicated
otherwise. The SUM159 cells were a gift from Carol Otey (UNC-Chapel Hill, NC). The HEK 293FT cells
were cultured in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM) (GIBCO) containing 10% fetal bovine
serum (FBS) (Sigma-Aldrich), and antibiotics (penicillin-streptomycin) (Corning). The SUM159 cells were
cultured in Ham's F12 (Cytiva) with 10% FBS, 5 μg/ml insulin (GIBCO), 1 μg/ml hydrocortisone (Sigma-

Aldrich), and antibiotics. All cell lines were grown at 37 °C and 5% CO_2. Mycoplasma was tested regularly
by staining with Hoechst 33342 (AnaSpec Inc.).

Reagents and antibodies

Antibodies against the following proteins were used: ARHGAP17 (Custom antibody, antigen sequence:
EPHRSIFPEMHSDSASKDVPGR, Pacific Immunology); cortactin (sc-11408) (Santa Cruz); myc (13-2500)
(Invitrogen); tubulin (T9028) and vinculin (V9131) (Sigma-Aldrich); CIP4 (612556), paxillin (610051),
Cdc42 (610929), and Rac1 (610650) (BD Biosciences). F-actin was stained with Alexa Fluor-405, -488, -
594, -647, and -750 conjugated to phalloidin (Thermo Fisher Scientific). For immunofluorescence, the
following secondary antibodies were used: Alexa Fluor-488, -568, -594, -647-conjugated anti-mouse-IgG
and anti-rabbit-IgG secondary antibodies (A32723, A32731, A11004, A11011, A11032, A11037, A21236,
A21245; Thermo Fisher Scientific). For western blot analysis the following secondary antibodies were
used: horseradish peroxidase (HRP)conjugated anti-mouse-IgG and anti-rabbit-IgG (715-035-151 and
711-035-152; Jackson Immunoresearch). Phorbol-12,13-dibutyrate (PDBu) (P1269) was from Sigma-
Aldrich.

DNA constructs

Constructs generated for this study: pCMV-myc-ARHGAP17, pLenti-myc-ARHGAP17, pCI-CD-ARHGAP17-
GFP, CMVdel-dTomato-1x-wGBD, pEGFP-ΔBAR-ARHGAP17, pLenti-BAR-ARHGAP17-GFP, pLenti-ΔC-
ARHGAP17-GFP, pDG462-ARHGAP17-KO were generated using the pDG462 backbone (Adikusuma et al.,
2017) (exon 1 targets: CAGCTGGCTAACCAGACCG and GTTGAACTGCTTCTTCATGG; exon 3 targets:
AGCATGGCACCGATGCCGAG and CCAAGCGCTTATGGGAATGG).

Previously published or purchased constructs: H2A-mTq2, H2A-mTq2-RhoA-G14V- ΔCAAX, H2A-mTq2-
Rac1-G12V-ΔCAAX, H2A-mTq2-Cdc42-G12V- ΔCAAX (Mahlandt et al., 2021); pCMV6-myc-Trip10
(OriGene-MR208703); All shRNA were from the RNAi Consortium shRNA Library, purchased through
Sigma-Aldrich (Table 1).

Constructs received as a gift: pCI-C-EGFP-Rich1 and pCI-C-EGFP-CIP4 (Harvey T. McMahon, MRC
Laboratory of Molecular biology); pLV-mNeonGreen-CAAX and pLV-Scarlet-CAAX (Jaap van Buul,
Sanquin); pmTagBFP2-N1-TKS5 and pmScarlet-N1-TKS5 (Lou Hodgson, Albert Einstein College of
Medicine); pDG462 (Paul Thomas, Addgene plasmid # 100903).

Table 1. shRNAs used in this study

#	Protein Name	Gene Symbol	Reference Sequence	OligoID-1	OligoID-2	OligoID-3	OligoID-4	OligoID-5
1	CDGAP	CDGAP	NM_020754	TRCN0000047638	TRCN0000047639	TRCN0000047640	TRCN0000047641	TRCN0000047642
2	Chimerin1	CHN1	NM_00102520 1	TRCN0000047798	TRCN0000047799	TRCN0000047800	TRCN0000047801	TRCN0000047802
3	Chimerin2	CHN2	NM_00103993 6	TRCN0000047738	TRCN0000047739	TRCN0000047740	TRCN0000047741	TRCN0000047742
4	CIP4	TRIP10	NM_00128896 2.2	TRCN0000063184	TRCN0000063185	TRCN0000063186	TRCN0000063187	NA
5	DLC-1	DLC1	NM_00116427 1	TRCN0000047823	TRCN0000047824	TRCN0000047825	TRCN0000047826	TRCN0000047827
6	FilGAP	ARHGAP24	NM_00102561 6	TRCN0000048303	TRCN0000048304	TRCN0000048305	TRCN0000048306	TRCN0000048307

7	GMIP	GMIP	NM_016573	TRCN00000 07093	TRCN000000 7094	TRCN00000 07095	TRCN000000 7096	NA
8	GRAF1	GRAF	NM_0011356 08	TRCN00000 29754	TRCN000002 9755	TRCN00000 29756	TRCN000002 9757	TRCN000002 9758
9	GRAF2	ARHGAP 10	NM_024605	TRCN00000 48473	TRCN000004 8474	TRCN00000 48475	TRCN000004 8476	TRCN000004 8477
10	GRIT	RICS	NM_0011426 85	TRCN00000 48358	TRCN000004 8359	TRCN00000 48360	TRCN000004 8361	TRCN000004 8362
11	Myosin-IXB	MYO9B	NM_0011300 65	TRCN00000 07137	TRCN000000 7138	TRCN00000 07139	TRCN000000 7140	TRCN000000 7141
12	Non-targetin g	Non-targeting	NA	RHS4459	NA	NA	NA	NA
13	p190-A	GRLF1	NM_004491	TRCN00000 22184	TRCN000002 2185	TRCN00000 22186	TRCN000002 2187	TRCN000002 2188
14	p190-B	ARHGAP 5	NM_0010300 55	TRCN00000 06475	TRCN000000 6476	TRCN00000 06477	TRCN000000 6479	TRCN000001 2703
15	RhoGAP 1	ARHGAP 1	NM_004308	TRCN00000 47298	TRCN000004 7299	TRCN00000 47300	TRCN000004 7301	TRCN000004 7302
16	RhoGAP 12	ARHGAP 12	NM_018287	TRCN00000 47263	TRCN000004 7264	TRCN00000 47265	TRCN000004 7266	TRCN000004 7267
17	RICH1	ARHGAP 17	NM_0010066 34	TRCN00000 47448	TRCN000004 7449	TRCN00000 47450	TRCN000004 7451	TRCN000004 7452
18	SRGAP1	SRGAP1	NM_020762	TRCN00000 47553	TRCN000004 7554	TRCN00000 47555	TRCN000004 7556	TRCN000004 7557
19	SRGAP2	SRGAP2	NM_0010427 58	TRCN00000 47958	TRCN000004 7959	TRCN00000 47960	TRCN000004 7962	TRCN000016 6364
20	SRGAP3	SRGAP3	NM_0010331 17	TRCN00000 47563	TRCN000004 7564	TRCN00000 47565	TRCN000004 7566	TRCN000004 7567
21	TCGAP	SNX26	NM_0011726 30	TRCN00001 51287	TRCN000015 2300	TRCN00001 53966	TRCN000015 4588	TRCN000015 6215

Cell lysis and immunoblotting

Cells cultured on 100 mm tissue culture dishes were rinsed with TBS and 1 mM $MgCl_2$ and then scraped
into a lysis buffer containing 50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.4, 10 mM MgCl2, 150 mM NaCl, 1% Triton X-100, and
EZBlock protease inhibitor cocktail (BioVision). The supernatant was collected after centrifugation at
16,800g for 10 min. For immunoblotting, lysates were boiled in 2× Laemmli buffer, and were resolved by
SDS-PAGE. The proteins were transferred onto PVDF and immunoblotted with the indicated antibodies.
Immunocomplexes were visualized using the Immobilon Western Millipore Chemiluminescence HRP
substrate (Millipore).

Rho GTPase activity assay

Active Cdc42 pulldown experiments were performed as described previously (Goicoechea et al., 2014).
Briefly, SUM159 cells were lysed in 50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.4, 10 mM MgCl2, 150 mM NaCl, 1% Triton X-
100, and EZBlock protease inhibitor cocktail. After clearing the lysates by centrifugation at 14,000 g for 5
min, the protein concentrations of the supernatants were determined, and equal amounts of total
protein were incubated with 50 µg of GST–PBD, and rotated for 30 min at 4 °C. Subsequently the beads
were washed three times in lysis buffer. Pull-downs and lysates were then immunoblotted for Cdc42.

Immunofluorescence

For TIRF experiments, cells were grown in 8-well 1.5 glass bottom μ-slides (Ibidi), otherwise, cells were grown on 1.5 glass coverslips (Thermo Fisher Scientific). For immunofluorescence, cells were fixed for 10 min with 4% paraformaldehyde and quenched with 10 mM ammonium chloride. Cells were then permeabilized with 0.1% Triton X-100 in PBS for 7 min. The coverslips were then washed with PBS and blocked with PBS/2.5% goat serum/0.2% Tween 20 for 5 min, followed by 5 min of blocking with PBS/0.4% fish skin gelatin/0.2% Tween 20. Cells then were incubated with the primary antibody for 1 h at room temperature. Coverslips were washed 5 times with PBS/0.2% Tween 20 followed by 5 min of blocking with PBS/0.4% fish skin gelatin/0.2% Tween 20 and 5 min with PBS/2.5% goat serum/0.2% Tween 20. Secondary antibody diluted in the blocking solution was then added for 45 min, washed 5 times with PBS/0.2% Tween, and mounted on glass slides in Mowiol mounting solution (Electron Microscopy Sciences). For TIRF experiments, the cells were washed twice with PBS to remove any detergent and kept in PBS for imaging.

STORM microscopy

For the STORM immunofluorescence, cells were fixed for 10 min with 4% paraformaldehyde and quenched with 10 mM ammonium chloride in 35 mm glass-bottomed dishes (81158, Ibidi). Cells were then permeabilized with 0.1% Triton X-100 in PBS for 7 min. The samples were then washed with PBS and blocked with PBS/2.5% goat serum/0.2% Tween 20 for 10 min, followed by 10 min of blocking with PBS/0.4% fish skin gelatin/0.2% Tween 20. Cells then were incubated with the primary antibody for 1 h at room temperature. Samples were washed 5 times with PBS/0.2% Tween 20 (2 times for 5 min and 3 times for 10 min) followed by 10 min of blocking with PBS/0.4% fish skin gelatin/0.2% Tween 20 and 10 min with PBS/2.5% goat serum/0.2% Tween 20. Secondary antibody (Alexa Fluor 488 and 647) diluted in the blocking solution was then added for 45 min, washed 5 times with PBS/0.2% Tween as before, and then washed twice with PBS to remove any detergent. Samples were imaged in OxEA buffer (Nahidiazar et al., 2016) for 10,000 frames at 100 Hz for each channel starting with the longer wavelength fluorophore first. The minimal light intensity to sufficiently send the fluorophores to the dark state was used to limit bleaching (Diekmann et al., 2020). Reconstruction of STORM data was performed using Nikon NIS-Elements AR software.

Microscopes

For STORM, TIRF, and live imaging experiments, a Nikon Eclipse Ti2 microscope was used equipped with a Tokai Hit STX stage top incubator, Apo TIRF 60x NA 1.49 oil immersion and SR HP Apo TIRF 100x NA 1.49 oil immersion objectives, Hamamatsu ORCA-Flash 4.0 camera, Princeton Instruments ProEM back-illuminated EMCCD camera, Lumencor SPECTRA X solid-state light source, Agilent laser unit (405-, 488-, 561-, and 647-nm), and NIS-Elements AR software.

Confocal data was collected using a Leica Stellaris 5 laser scanning confocal equipped with an HC PL APO 63x/1.40 OIL CS2 objective and LAS X software, or an Andor Dragonfly 200 spinning disk confocal on a Leica DMI8 platform equipped with an HC PL FLUOTAR L 20X air objective, HC PL APO 63x/1.40 oil objective, Zyla4 camera, and Fusion software.

Brightfield images were acquired on an Olympus IX81 inverted microscope equipped with a UPlanFL N 10×/0.30 Ph1 air objective, Hamamatsu ORCA-Flash 4.0 camera, and cellSens software.

Matrix degradation assay

The matrix degradation assay was modified from the Weed lab protocol (Martin et al., 2012). In brief,
glass coverslips were coated with polylysine (50 µg/mL in water) and incubated for 20 minutes at room
temperature and washed 3x with PBS. The coverslips were then fixed with ice-cold 0.5% glutaraldehyde
in PBS and incubated on ice for 15 minutes and washed 3x with ice-cold PBS. The last wash was
completely removed, and the coverslips were coated with a 37 °C solution consisting of 6 parts 1%
(w/w) stock gelatin/sucrose solution in PBS, 1 part of Oregon Green 488-conjugated gelatin (Thermo
Fisher Scientific), and 2 parts collagen IV (500 µg/mL stock). The excess matrix solution was aspirated off
and incubated for 10 min at room temperature in the dark. The coverslips were then washed 3x with
PBS and quenched with NaBH4 (5 mg/ml in PBS) for 15 min. The coverslips were washed 3x with PBS
and sterilized with 70% ethanol for 30 min at room temperature. Finally, the coverslips were washed 3x
with sterile PBS and stored at 4 °C for up to two weeks before use.

For the assay, SUM159 cells were plated on the gelatin coverslips and treated with PDBu for 24 hours.
The coverslips were then fixed, stained with AlexaFluor-594 Phalloidin, and mounted using the
described immunofluorescence protocol. For each condition, 20 random fields-of-view (FOV) were
acquired via spinning disk confocal. Degradation was quantified by dividing the area of degradation for
each image by the total cell area and normalizing the results to the CTRL cells.

Invasion assays

The spheroid invasion assay was performed using the previously described method (Vinci et al., 2015). In
brief, 4,000 cells were transferred into ultra-low attachment (ULA) 96-well round bottom plate in 200 µL
of media and grown for 4 days. Once the spheroids had matured, 100 µL of media was removed and 100
µL of Matrigel (354230, Corning) was added and allowed to polymerase at 37 °C for 1 hr. After
polymerization, 100 µL of media were added on top of the Matrigel. The spheroids were imaged every
24 hr for 72 hr. For measuring spheroid proliferation, the same process was followed except the
Matrigel was omitted.

The inverse invasion assay was modified from previous methods (Goswami et al., 2005; Scott et al.,
2011). SUM159 cells stably expressing mNeon-CAAX were plated in a CELLview glass bottom 10-well
slide (Greiner Bio-One) to achieve 100% confluency overnight. The cells were then washed 3 times with
PBS to remove growth factors and media. 100 µL of 50% Matrigel in serum free media was added to
each of the wells. The cells were then incubated at 37 °C for 30 min to polymerize the matrix. 100 µL
serum containing media was added to each well. The cells were then incubated overnight and at least 3
random regions per well were imaged with spinning disk confocal equipped with a long working distance
20X objective.

Radial intensity analysis

Invadopodia radial intensity measurements were performed in ImageJ using a custom macro and the
calculations were performed with RStudio. Briefly, a 3 µm line ROI was drawn across the center of a
single invadopodia based on the F-actin channel. Then the pixel intensity was measured across the ROI
after which the ROI was rotated 3 degrees. This was repeated until the ROI completed a complete
revolution and was then repeated for each channel of the image. For each invadopodia measured, the
intensity values were averaged together to calculate the average intensity radiating out from the center
of the invadopodia. The intensity measurements can then be plotted directly or used to calculate the
distance of the peak signal from the center of each invadopodia or the relative signal intensity for each

invadopodia by dividing the average signal intensity within 1 μm from the center of the invadopodia by
the signal 1.5 μm from the invadopodia center.

Invadopodia dynamics analysis

The invadopodia dynamics measurements were performed in ImageJ using a custom macro and the
calculations were performed with RStudio. Briefly, the center of a random, single invadopodia that
forms and disassembles within the duration of the video was identified for each frame. Then, for each
frame, a 1 μm diameter circle was drawn around the invadopodia and a 1 μm band was drawn around
the circle. The average intensity within the circle was then divided by the average intensity within the
band to calculate the relative signal intensity at the invadopodia for each frame. The quantification of
the dynamics was performed as previously described for cell ruffle dynamics (Kreider-Letterman et al.,
2022b).

Statistical analysis

Values calculated from at least three independent experiments were compared by an unpaired
student's t-test using GraphPad Prism or RStudio unless otherwise indicated. Otherwise, a one-way
ANOVA analysis followed by a Tukey's test was performed. Technical replicates are defined in this study
as individual cells or invadopodia while biological replicates are defined as the averages of technical
replicates or cell populations from independently prepared samples. Biological replicates were assumed
to have normal distribution (Fay and Gerow, 2013). $P < 0.05$ was considered statistically significant. Error
bars represent the S.E.M. unless otherwise indicated.

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Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

Data availability

All datasets generated from this study will be made publicly available.

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Figure legends

Figure 1. ARHGAP17 negatively regulates invadopodia.

(**A**) Representative micrographs of a SUM159 cell with an invadopodia cluster. Cells were treated with PDBu for 30 minutes and stained for cortactin and F-actin (scale bar for both panels, 5 μm). (**B**) shRNA screen of candidate RhoGAPs in SUM159 cells. Cells stably expressing the indicated shRNAs were treated with PDBu for 30 minutes and stained for cortactin and F-actin as invadopodia markers. Colors represent different RhoGAPs, and individual bars represent unique shRNA targeting sequences. Results are expressed as the percentage of cells with invadopodia from 4 images per condition for a total of 7100 cells. (**C**) Western blot of ARHGAP17 expression in SUM159 cells stably expressing non-targeting and ARHGAP17-specific shRNAs. Tubulin was used as a loading control. (**D**) Percentage of cells with invadopodia in CTRL or ARHGAP17 KD SUM159 cells treated with PDBu for 30 minutes. Results are expressed as mean ± S.E.M. of 3 independent experiments in which at least 200 cells per condition per experiment were counted. ***, $p < 0.001$. (**E**) Western blot of ARHGAP17 KD and Rescue with shRNA-resistant myc-ARHGAP17 in SUM159 cells. (**F**) Percentage of cells with invadopodia in CTRL, ARHGAP17 KD, and Rescue SUM159 cells treated PDBu for 30 minutes. Results are expressed as mean ± S.E.M. of 3 independent experiments in which at least 200 cells per condition per experiment were counted. **, $p < 0.01$; ns, not significant. (**G**) Representative micrographs of CTRL, ARHGAP17 KD, and Rescue with myc-ARHGAP17 in SUM159 cells. F-actin and cortactin staining were used as markers for invadopodia while myc staining was used to visualize myc-ARHGAP17. Cells were treated with PDBu for 30 minutes before fixation and staining. Arrowheads highlight invadopodia clusters (scale bar, 20 μm).

Figure 2. Loss of ARHGAP17 expression promotes invasion

(**A**) Representative micrographs of a SUM159 cell invadopodia cluster degrading a fluorescent-gelatin and collagen IV substrate. F-actin staining was used as a marker for invadopodia (scale bar for left and right panels, 10 μm). (**B**) Representative micrographs of F-actin-stained SUM159 cells degrading fluorescent-gelatin and collagen IV matrix after 24-hour PDBu treatment (scale bar, 20 μm). (**C**) Quantification of matrix degradation by SUM159 cells. Results are expressed as mean ± S.E.M. of 3

independent experiments in which at least 20 random fields-of-view (FOV) per condition per experiment
were measured. **, p<0.01; ns, not significant. (**D**) Micrographs of SUM159 spheroids grown with
Matrigel to promote invasion and without Matrigel to observe spheroid growth (scale bar, 200 μm). (**E**
and **F**) Quantification of spheroid size and quantification of invasion corrected for proliferation. Results
are expressed as mean ± S.E.M. of 4 independent experiments in which at least 5 spheroids per
condition per experiment were measured. *, p<0.05; ***, p<0.001; ns, not significant. (**G**) Z-view of
inverse invasion assay of SUM159 cells expressing Scarlet-CAAX with brightest point projection in the y-
axis (scale bar, 20 μm). (**H**) Quantification of area invaded by cells in inverse invasion assay. Invasion was
measured at 20 microns above the coverslip. Results are expressed as mean ± S.E.M. of 3 independent
experiments in which at least 3 FOV per condition per experiment were measured. *, p<0.05; ***,
p<0.001.

Figure 3. ARHGAP17 knockdown increases invadopodia stability and accumulation.

(**A**) Representative micrographs of SUM159 cells stained for F-actin (scale bar, 10 μm) and quantification
of percent invadopodia coverage after 30 min PDBu treatment. White dashed lines represent the cell
outline and yellow dashed lines represent invadopodia clusters. Results are expressed as mean ± S.E.M.
of 3 independent experiments in which at least 30 cells per condition per experiment were counted. *,
p<0.05; ns, not significant. (**B**) Time course of percentage of SUM159 cells forming invadopodia after
PDBu treatment at different intervals. Results are expressed as mean ± S.E.M. of 3 independent
experiments in which at least 200 cells per condition per experiment were counted. (**C**) Example
invadopodia dynamics showing assembly, stability, and disassembly phases as indicated by measuring
TKS5-mTagBFP2 intensity over time at 30 second intervals after PDBu treatment. Gray line represents a
second-order smoothing polynomial. (**D**) Representative micrographs of single invadopodia dynamics of
SUM159 cells expressing TKS5-mTagBFP2 as a marker for invadopodia after PDBu treatment (scale bar, 1
μm). (**E-H**) Quantification of invadopodia dynamics. Results are expressed as mean ± S.E.M. of 3
independent experiments in which at least 12 invadopodia per condition per experiment were
measured. Large points represent biological replicates, small points represent technical replicates. *,
p<0.05; **, p<0.01; ***, p<0.001; ns, not significant.

Figure 4. ARHGAP17 localizes to invadopodia

(**A**) Representative micrographs of CTRL and ARHGAP17 KO SUM159 cells stained for F-actin and
ARHGAP17. Arrowheads highlight invadopodia clusters (scale bar, 10 μm). (**B**) Representative TIRF
micrographs of a SUM159 cell expressing TKS5-mTagBFP2 as a marker for invadopodia and ARHGAP17-
GFP (expressed in ARHGAP17 KO background) forming an invadopodia cluster after 30 min PDBu
treatment (scale bar for both panels, 5 μm). (**C**) STORM reconstructions of SUM159 cells treated with
PDBu showing myc-ARHGAP17 (expressed in ARHGAP17 KO background) localization to invadopodia as
defined by F-actin staining (scale bar, 1 μm). (**D**) Quantification of STORM reconstructions using the
radial intensity analysis of F-actin, myc-ARHGAP17, cortactin, and paxillin in invadopodia. Lines are
expressed as mean ± S.E.M. of 3 independent experiments in which at least 20 invadopodia per
condition per experiment were measured.

Figure 5. ARHGAP17 targets invadopodia through both the N-BAR and proline-rich domains

(**A**) Domain structure of ARHGAP17 and the ARHGAP17 mutants used in this study. (**B**) Representative
TIRF micrographs of individual invadopodia in SUM159 cells expressing ARHGAP17-GFP domain deletion

mutants in ARHGAP17 KO cells. Cells were treated with PDBu for 30 min and stained for F-actin as a
marker for invadopodia (scale bar, 0.5 µm). (**C**) Radial intensity analysis of F-actin and ARHGAP17-GFP
mutants in invadopodia. Lines are expressed as mean ± S.E.M. of 4 independent experiments in which at
least 26 invadopodia per condition per experiment were measured. (**D** and **E**) Quantification of
ARHGAP17 distance from the center of invadopodia based on peak intensity and quantification of
normalized intensity of ARHGAP17 at invadopodia. Results are expressed as mean ± S.E.M. of 4
independent experiments in which at least 26 invadopodia per condition per experiment were
measured. Large points represent biological replicates, small points represent technical replicates. *,
$p < 0.05$; ***, $p < 0.001$. (**F**) Percentage of cells with invadopodia in CTRL, ARHGAP17 KO, and Rescue with
ARHGAP17 domain deletion mutants after 30 minutes PDBu treatment. Results are expressed as mean ±
S.E.M. of 3 independent experiments in which at least 200 cells per condition per experiment were
counted. Statistical analysis is a 1-way ANOVA with a Tukey's post hoc test. Different letters indicate
significant differences between conditions as defined by $p < 0.05$.

Figure 6. ARHGAP17 Cdc42-specific catalytic activity is required for its function at invadopodia

(**A**) Pulldown of endogenous ARHGAP17 in SUM159 cells using constitutively active RhoA (Q63L), Rac1
(Q61L), and Cdc42 (Q61L) tagged with Glutathione S-transferase (GST) or with GST alone. (**B**) Pulldown
of active Cdc42 using the p21 binding domain (PBD) of p21 activated kinase 1 protein (PAK). Results are
expressed as mean ± S.E.M. of 4 independent experiments. ***, $p < 0.001$; ns, not significant. (**C**) PBD
pulldown of active Cdc42 in SUM159 cells after treatment with PDBu at the indicated time points. Left
panel shows a representative WB; right panel shows the quantification of 3 independent experiments.
Results are expressed as mean ± S.E.M. *, $p < 0.05$; ns, not significant. (**D**) Representative TIRF
micrographs of ARHGAP17 KO SUM159 cells forming single invadopodia after PDBu treatment stained
for F-actin as a marker for invadopodia and expressing either WT or catalytic dead (CD) ARHGAP17-GFP
(expressed in ARHGAP17 KO background) (scale bar, 0.5 µm). (**E**) Radial intensity analysis of F-actin, WT
ARHGAP17-GFP, and CD ARHGAP17-GFP in invadopodia. Lines are expressed as mean ± S.E.M. of 3
independent experiments in which at least 40 invadopodia per condition per experiment were
measured. (**F** and **G**) Quantification of ARHGAP17-GFP distance from the center of invadopodia based on
peak intensity and normalized intensity of ARHGAP17 at invadopodia. Results are expressed as mean ±
S.E.M. of 3 independent experiments in which at least 40 invadopodia per condition per experiment
were measured. Large points represent biological replicates, small points represent technical replicates.
ns, not significant. (**H**) Percentage of cells with invadopodia in CTRL, ARHGAP17 KO, and Rescue with
either WT or CD ARHGAP17-GFP after 30 minutes PDBu treatment. Results are expressed as mean ±
S.E.M. of 3 independent experiments in which at least 200 cells per condition per experiment were
counted. **, $p < 0.01$; ns, not significant.

**Figure 7. ARHGAP17regulates the spatiotemporal dynamics of Cdc42 activity during invadopodia
turnover**

(**A**) Design of the Cdc42 activity biosensor used in this study, composed of the GTPase-binding domain of
WASP (wGBD) tagged with dTomato. (**B**) Representative TIRF micrographs of a SUM159 cell expressing
TKS5-mTagBFP2 as a marker for invadopodia and dTomato-wGBD as a marker for Cdc42 activity and
forming an invadopodia cluster after PDBu treatment (scale bar for both panels, 5 µm). (**C**)
Representative TIRF micrographs of a SUM159 cell forming an individual invadopodia after PDBu
treatment. Cells were expressing TKS5-mTagBFP2 as a marker for invadopodia, ARHGAP17-GFP

(expressed in ARHGAP17 KO background), and dTomato-wGBD as a marker for Cdc42 activity (scale bar,
1 μm). (**D**) Quantification of TKS5-mTagBFP2, ARHGAP17-GFP (expressed in ARHGAP17 KO background),
and dTomato-wGBD intensity at individual invadopodia. Intensity and time have been rescaled between
values of 0 and 1 for each invadopodia to allow for comparison. Lines are loess smoothing and 95%
confidence from 3 independent experiments in which at least 10 invadopodia per condition per
experiment were measured. (**E**) Cross-correlation analysis of TKS5-mTagBFP2, ARHGAP17-GFP
(expressed in ARHGAP17 KO background), and dTomato-wGBD intensity. Higher values denote positive
correlation and lag denotes the time shift effect on correlation between signals. Lines are loess
smoothing and 95% confidence from 3 independent experiments in which at least 10 invadopodia per
condition per experiment were measured. (**F**) Quantification of the peak dTomato-wGBD intensity at
individual invadopodia after PDBu treatment, normalized to the average whole-cell intensity before
treatment. Results are expressed as mean ± S.E.M. of 3 independent experiments. Large points
represent biological replicates, small points represent technical replicates. *, $p<0.05$; ns, not significant.
(**G**) Radial intensity profiles of individual invadopodia from live cells expressing TKS5-mTagBFP2,
ARHGAP17-GFP (expressed in ARHGAP17 KO background), and dTomato-wGBD plotted over time. Time
scales between invadopodia are rescaled between 0 and 1 to allow for alignment of intensity values.
Results are expressed as the mean of 8 representative invadopodia from 4 independent experiments. (**H**
and **I**) Radial profile plots taken from time 0.25 and 0.75 of panel (**G**) showing relative intensity and
localization of the invadopodia markers while the invadopodia are assembling and disassembling,
respectively. Results are expressed as mean ± S.E.M. of 8 invadopodia from 4 independent experiments.

Figure 8. ARHGAP17 interacts with CIP4 to regulate invadopodia

(**A**) Representative western blot of CIP4 expression in SUM159 cells expressing non-targeting (CTRL) or
CIP4-specific shRNAs. (**B**) Representative micrographs of CTRL and CIP4 KD (shRNA #4) SUM159 cells. F-
actin and cortactin staining were used as markers for invadopodia. Cells were treated with PDBu for 30
minutes before fixation and staining. Arrowheads highlight invadopodia clusters (scale bar, 20 μm). (**C**)
Percentage of cells with invadopodia in CTRL and CIP4 KD SUM159 cells treated PDBu for 30 minutes.
Results are expressed as mean ± S.E.M. of 3 independent experiments in which at least 200 cells per
condition per experiment were counted. *, $p<0.05$; **, $p<0.01$. (**D**) Representative micrographs of
SUM159 cells treated with PDBu for 30 min and stained for F-actin and endogenous CIP4 (scale bar, 10
μm). (**E**) Radial intensity analysis of F-actin and CIP4 in invadopodia. Lines are expressed as mean ±
S.E.M. of 3 independent experiments in which at least 10 invadopodia per condition per experiment
were measured. (**F**) Western blot of co-immunoprecipitation of endogenous ARHGAP17 and CIP4 in
SUM159 cells. (**G**) Western blot of co-immunoprecipitation of myc-CIP4 with GFP, ΔC ARHGAP17-GFP, or
WT ARHGAP17-GFP. (**H**) Western blot of affinity precipitation of myc-CIP4 and CD ARHGAP17-GFP using
GST-Cdc42-Q61L bound to Glutathione Sepharose 4B.

Figure 9. Spatiotemporal dynamics of CIP4 and ARHGAP17

(**A**) Representative TIRF micrographs of a SUM159 cell forming a single invadopodia after PDBu
treatment expressing TKS5-mTagBFP2 as a marker for invadopodia, CIP4-GFP (expressed in CIP4 KD
background), and dTomato-wGBD as a marker for Cdc42 activity (scale bar, 0.5 μm). (**B**) Quantification
of TKS5-mTagBFP2, CIP4-GFP (expressed in CIP4 KD background), and dTomato-wGBD intensity at
individual invadopodia. Intensity and time were rescaled between values of 0 and 1 for each
invadopodia to allow for comparison. Lines are loess smoothing and 95% confidence from 3

independent experiments in which at least 10 invadopodia per condition per experiment were
measured. (**C**) Cross-correlation analysis of TKS5-mTagBFP2, CIP4-GFP (expressed in CIP4 KD
background), and dTomato-wGBD intensity. Higher values denote positive correlation and lag denotes
the time shift effect on correlation between signals. Lines are loess smoothing and 95% confidence from
3 independent experiments in which at least 10 invadopodia per condition per experiment were
measured. (**D**) Representative TIRF micrographs of ARHGAP17 KO SUM159 cells transfected with the
indicated constructs and treated with PDBu for 30 min. Cells were fixed and stained for F-actin and myc
to detect myc-CIP4 (scale bar, 10 μm). (**E**) Radial intensity analysis of F-actin, ARHGAP17-GFP, and myc-
CIP4 in invadopodia. Lines are expressed as mean ± S.E.M. of 3 independent experiments in which at
least 10 invadopodia per condition per experiment were measured. (**F**) Van Steensil's cross-correlation
function of ARHGAP17-GFP colocalization with myc-CIP4 or the background signal of the anti-myc
antibody at invadopodia clusters in SUM159 cells treated with PDBu for 30 min. Shift denotes the x-
dimension movement of one channel in relation to the other. Lines are loess smoothing and 95%
confidence from 3 independent experiments in which at least 10 invadopodia clusters per condition per
experiment were measured. (**G**) Invadopodia assay of SUM159 cells after 30 minutes PDBu treatment in
which CIP4 and ARHGAP17 were either silenced and/or overexpressed in all possible combinations as
indicated in the graph. Results are expressed as mean ± S.E.M. of 3 independent experiments in which at
least 200 cells per condition per experiment were counted. Statistical analysis is a 1-way ANOVA with a
Tukey's post hoc test. Different letters indicate significant differences between conditions as defined by
$p < 0.05$.

Figure 10. Model of ARHGAP17 function in invadopodia

During invadopodia assembly/maturation, ARHGAP17 is present at the invadopodia ring, which helps to
restrict Cdc42 activity to the invadopodia core. Cdc42 is activated by a specific GEF at the invadopodia
core, most likely FGD1, where it promotes actin nucleation through binding to N-WASP and CIP4 and
stimulates degradation through its interaction with IQGAP. During disassembly, ARHGAP17 moves to the
invadopodia core by binding to CIP4 where it inactivates Cdc42.

Video figure legends

Figure 1–video 1. SUM159 cell forming invadopodia after PDBu treatment

Live TIRF imaging of a SUM159 cell expressing TKS5-mTagBFP2 and treated with PDBu (scale bar, 10
μm).

Figure 4–video 1. ARHGAP17 localizes to invadopodia

Live TIRF imaging of a SUM159 cell expressing TKS5-mTagBFP2 and ARHGAP17-GFP (expressed in
ARHGAP17 KO background), treated with PDBu (scale bar, 10 μm).

Figure 7–video 1. Cdc42 activity at invadopodia.

Live TIRF of a SUM159 cell expressing TKS5-mTagBFP2 and dTomato-wGBD, treated with PDBu (scale
bar, 10 μm).

Figure 7–video 2. Localization of ARHGAP17 and Cdc42 activity at an individual invadopodia.

Live TIRF of an individual invadopodia from a SUM159 cells expressing TKS5-mTagBFP2, ARHGAP17-GFP
(expressed in ARHGAP17 KO background), and dTomato-wGBD, treated with PDBu (scale bar, 1 μm).

Figure 9–video 1. Localization of CIP4 and Cdc42 activity at an individual invadopodia.

Live TIRF of an individual invadopodia from a SUM159 cells expressing TKS5-mTagBFP2, GFP-CIP4, and
dTomato-wGBD, treated with PDBu (scale bar, 1 μm).

Supplementary figure legends

Figure 1-figure supplement 1. ARHGAP17 KO validation

(**A**) Representative western blot showing loss of ARHGAP17 protein in SUM159 cells using two different
gRNA targets. (**B**) Percentage of cells with invadopodia after treatment with PDBu for 30 minutes.
Results are expressed as mean ± S.E.M. of 3 independent experiments in which at least 200 cells per
condition per experiment were counted. **, p<0.01.

Figure 1-figure supplement 2. ARHGAP17 KD increases the formation of spontaneous invadopodia

(**A**) Representative micrographs of ARHGAP17 knockdown and Rescue with shRNA resistant myc-
ARHGAP17 in SUM159 cells. F-actin and cortactin staining were used as markers for invadopodia while
myc staining was used to visualize myc-ARHGAP17. Arrowheads highlight invadopodia clusters (scale
bar, 20 μm). (**B**) Percentage of cells with invadopodia after treatment with PDBu for 30 minutes. Results
are expressed as mean ± S.E.M. of 3 independent experiments in which at least 200 cells per condition
per experiment were counted. **, p<0.01; ns, not significant.

Figure 3-figure supplement 1. ARHGAP17 KD reduces invadopodia turnover

(**A**) Quantification of change in percentage of cells forming invadopodia between peak invadopodia
formation 10 minutes after PDBu treatment and equilibrium at 30 minutes after PDBu treatment.
Results are expressed as mean ± S.E.M. of 3 independent experiments in which at least 200 cells per
condition per experiment were counted. *, p<0.05; **, p<0.01; ns, not significant.

Figure 3-figure supplement 2. ARHGAP17 regulates invadopodia lifetime and stability

(**A** and **B**) Quantification of invadopodia dynamics. Results are expressed as mean ± S.E.M. of 3
independent experiments. Large points represent biological replicates, small points represent technical
replicates. ns, not significant. (**C**) Principal component analysis of invadopodia dynamics. Circles
represent 95% confidence.

Figure 4-figure supplement 1. Paxillin and cortactin localization to invadopodia

(**A** and **B**) STORM reconstructions of SUM159 cells treated with PDBu showing cortactin and paxillin
localization to invadopodia as defined by F-actin staining (scale bar, 1 μm).

Figure 6-figure supplement 1. Cdc42 activity in ARHGAP17 KD cells

(**A**) PBD pulldown of active Cdc42 in ARHGAP17 KD SUM159 cells after treatment with PDBu at the
indicated time points. Results are expressed as mean ± S.E.M. of 3 independent experiments. *, p<0.05;
ns, not significant.

Figure 7-figure supplement 1. Validation of the Cdc42 biosensor specificity

(**A**) Representative micrographs of SUM159 showing colocalization of the dTomato-wGBD sensor with
different mTurquoise2-H2A-RhoGTPase-ΔCAAX constructs (RhoA-G14V, Rac1-G12V, or Cdc42-G12V)
(scale bar, 10 μm). (**B**) Quantification of the average intensity of dTomato-wGBD signal within the
nucleus ratioed to the average intensity in the cytosol. Results are mean ± S.D. of at least 14 cells per
condition from 3 independent experiments.

A

B

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

Fig. 4

Fig. 5

Fig. 6

A

Fig. 7

Fig. 8