Species-specific LUBAC-mediated M1 ubiquitination

regulates necroptosis by segregating the

cellular distribution and fate of activated MLKL

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Summary

Plasma membrane accumulation of phosphorylated mixed lineage kinase domain-like (MLKL) is a hallmark of necroptosis, leading to membrane rupture and inflammatory cell death. Pro-death functions of MLKL are tightly controlled by several checkpoints, including phosphorylation. Endocytosis and exocytosis limit MLKL membrane accumulation and counteract necroptosis, but the exact mechanisms remain poorly understood. Here, we identify linear ubiquitin chain assembly complex (LUBAC)-mediated M1 poly-ubiquitination (poly-Ub) as novel checkpoint for necroptosis regulation downstream of activated MLKL in human cells. Loss of LUBAC activity inhibits necroptosis, without affecting necroptotic signaling, but by preventing membrane accumulation of activated MLKL. Flotillin-1/2 act as putative necroptotic M1 poly-Ub targets that inhibit necroptosis suppression induced by LUBAC inhibition. Finally, we confirm LUBAC-dependent activation of necroptosis in primary human pancreatic organoids. Our findings identify LUBAC as species-specific regulator of necroptosis which promotes MLKL membrane accumulation and pioneer primary human organoids to model necroptosis in near-physiological settings.

Keywords: LUBAC, MLKL, necroptosis, flotillin, linear ubiquitination, programmed cell death, organoids

Introduction

Caspase-independent necroptosis, characterized by plasma membrane rupture, release of cytokines, chemokines and damage-associated molecular patterns (DAMPs), elicit potent immunogenic responses [1,2]. Accordingly, necroptotic cell death underlies a wide variety of inflammatory and infectious diseases and tumor progression [3,4]. Induction of necroptosis upon tumor necrosis factor (TNF) receptor 1 (TNFR1) activation relies on recruitment of the pro-survival TNFR1 complex I consisting of receptor-interacting protein kinase 1 (RIPK1), TNFR1-associated death domain protein (TRADD), TNFR-associated factor 2 (TRAF2), cellular inhibitor of apoptosis 1/2 (cIAP1/2) and the linear ubiquitin chain assembly complex (LUBAC) [3]. cIAP1/2- and LUBAC-mediated K63 and M1 poly-Ub of complex I components, including RIPK1, initiate transforming growth factor β (TGFβ)-activated kinase 1 (TAK1) complex- and inhibitor of κB kinase (IKK) complex-dependent activation of pro-inflammatory mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK) and nuclear factor-κB (NF-κB) signaling [5-9]. Following complex I destabilization through cIAP1/2 depletion and upon caspase-8 inhibition or depletion, the formation of a cytosolic necrosome complex is triggered [3]. The necrosome is an amyloid-like structure composed of RIPK1 and RIPK3, interacting via their RIP homotypic interaction motif (RHIM) domains, leading to their activation by cross- and auto-phosphorylation [10-13]. Eventually, phosphorylated RIPK3 recruits and phosphorylates MLKL at T357 and S358, resulting in the exposure of the MLKL 4-helical bundle (4HB) domain, which induces MLKL oligomerization and subsequent translocation to the plasma membrane [14-20]. Activated MLKL accumulates in hotspots to control plasma membrane disruption and ion channel fluxes, ultimately leading to necroptotic cell death [17,18,21-23].

Necroptosis is controlled by checkpoints that include compartimentalization and

species-specific post-translational modifications of RIPK1, RIPK3 and MLKL, like

phosphorylation and ubiquitination [24-26]. Ubiquitination regulates protein function,

stability and localization by covalent modification of substrates with poly-Ub chains,

linked via K6, K11, K27, K29, K33, K48, K63, or M1-linked (linear) Ub [27-29]. M1 poly-

Ub is mediated by the LUBAC E3 ligase, consisting of the catalytic subunit HOIP

(RNF31), HOIL-1 (RBCK1) and Sharpin [30-33]. HOIP belongs to the really interesting

new gene (RING)/in-between RING (IBR)/RING (RBR)-type family of E3 ligases and

specifically generates M1 poly-Ub chains through a RING-HECT hybrid reaction by

transferring the activated Ub to its active site C885 and subsequently conjugating it to

the acceptor Ub located in the HOIP linear ubiquitin chain determining domain (LDD)

[34-36]. The catalytic activity of HOIP can be blocked by HOIPIN-8, a small-molecule

inhibitor that covalently binds to the HOIP catalytic C885 and interferes with several

residues in the LDD of HOIP, thereby inhibiting the RING-HECT hybrid reaction [37,38].

LUBAC generates pro-inflammatory and -survival signaling checkpoints upon

activation of immune receptors, such as TNFR1, CD40, IL-1R, nucleotide

oligomerization domain (NOD)-like receptors (NLRs) and toll-like receptors (TLRs)

via M1 poly-Ub of receptors, receptor-associated proteins or existing K63 poly-Ub

chains [5,6,39]. M1 poly-Ub chains act as a scaffold to recruit signaling complexes, such

as the TAK1 complex and the IKK complex to activate downstream MAPK and NF-κB

signaling [6,8,9,39,40]. Accordingly, LUBAC deficiency in mice, or in patients with genetic

mutations in *HOIP*, *HOIL-1* or *Sharpin* results in inflammatory disorders linked to

deregulated NF-κB activity leading to decreased gene-activatory signaling [30-32,41-45].

Similarly, genetic mouse models lacking functional LUBAC are sensitized towards

TNFR1- and RIPK1-dependent cell death [30,31,46-50] and HOIPINs mimic LUBAC loss-

of-function mutations by inhibiting cytokine-induced canonical NF-κB signaling and by

regulating TNFα-induced cell viability [37,51,52].

Apart from anti-necroptotic ubiquitination, also the removal of oligomerized MLKL

from the plasma membrane via endosomal sorting complex required for transport

(ESCRT)-mediated plasma membrane shedding and exocytic release of MLKL or via

endocytosis can counteract necroptotic cell death [22,53]. The homologous Flotillin-1

and -2 (FLOT1/2) proteins reside in lipid rafts, highly ordered membrane structures

which are enriched in sphingolipids, cholesterol and gangliosides in the plasma

membrane, the endoplasmic reticulum (ER), the Golgi apparatus and endocytic

compartments [54-57]. FLOT1/2 associate with cholesterol-rich membrane domains in

the inner leaflet of cell membranes via the N-terminal stomatin, prohibitin, flotillin,

HflK/C (SPFH) domain and oligomerize to heterotetramers through the C-terminal

flotillin domain to create FLOT platforms [58,59]. FLOTs mediate the regulation of

cytoskeleton-membrane interactions and cell-cell contacts, clathrin-independent

endocytosis and the establishment of protein complexes at the plasma membrane [60-

68]. Interestingly, FLOTs have recently been implicated in the protection from

necroptotic cell death through endocytic removal of activated MLKL from the plasma

membrane [53].

Despite recently acquired insights into the checkpoints that control the pro-

necroptotic functions of activated MLKL, it is still vastly unexplored how necroptosis is

regulated downstream of MLKL activation and oligomerization. In this study, we

identify LUBAC-mediated M1 poly-Ub as novel major and species-specific checkpoint

in necroptotic cell death in human cells. Suppression of LUBAC and M1 poly-Ub

blocks TNFα-induced necroptosis without affecting necroptotic phosphorylation of

RIPK1, RIPK3 or MLKL, necrosome formation and MLKL oligomerization. Loss of M1

poly-Ub suppresses MLKL membrane hotspot accumulation, as well as MLKL-

dependent release of pro-inflammatory signaling molecules, as determined by global

Massive Analyses of cDNA Ends sequencing (MACE-seq)-based transcriptome

analysis upon induction of necroptosis. We further identify FLOT1/2 as putative M1

poly-Ub targets during necroptosis and demonstrate that loss of FLOT1/2 additionally

decreases necroptotic cell death associated with LUBAC inhibition. Finally, we

confirm that loss of LUBAC activity prevents necroptosis in primary human pancreatic

organoids (hPOs). Taken together, we identify a novel, species-specific role for

LUBAC and M1 poly-Ub in regulating membrane accumulation of activated MLKL

and promoting necroptosis. In addition, by modelling necroptotic cell death and

LUBAC function in primary human organoids, we provide a novel experimental

platform to study programmed cell death in intact human multicellular systems.

Results

LUBAC-mediated M1 poly-Ub is required for TNFα-induced necroptosis in human cells

Necroptotic cell death is tightly regulated and controlled by several molecular checkpoints, including receptor stimulation, phosphorylation of RIPK1, RIPK3 and MLKL as well as compartimentalization of phosphorylated MLKL [22,24,53]. To investigate how LUBAC and M1 poly-Ub regulate these necroptotic checkpoints, cell death was induced by TNFα (T), the Smac mimetic BV6 (B) and the pan-caspase inhibitor zVAD.fmk (Z). As anticipated, prominent necroptosis could be triggered by TBZ in human colon carcinoma HT-29 cells, as determined by high-content imaging-based quantification of propidium iodide (PI)-positive cells **(Figure 1A)**. HT-29 cells are highly sensitive towards TNFα-induced programmed cell death and are commonly used model cell lines to study necroptosis. Surprisingly, chemical inhibition of HOIP, the catalytic subunit of LUBAC, with the small molecular weight inhibitor HOIPIN-8 [38], rescued TBZ-induced necroptosis in a time-dependent manner **(Figure 1A)**. Since LUBAC subunit levels are differentially regulated in myeloid cells as compared to other cell types [69,70], the effect of HOIP inhibition was investigated in the human monocytic cell line THP-1. TBZ-induced necroptotic cell death in THP-1 cells could also be potently reversed by HOIPIN-8 **(Figure 1B)**, confirming a broader relevance of HOIPIN-8-mediated inhibition in necroptosis. In agreement with HOIPIN-8-mediated necroptosis inhibition, chemical inhibition of LUBAC activity with the mycotoxin gliotoxin [71] also effectively blocked necroptotic cell death, without inducing additional cytotoxicity **(Figures S1A and S1B)**. Importantly, the effects of HOIPIN-8- and gliotoxin-based HOIP inhibition on necroptosis could be confirmed by siRNA-mediated knock-down of HOIP expression that rescued necroptosis to a similar extent as HOIPIN-8- and gliotoxin-mediated LUBAC inhibition **(Figures 1C and**

S1C), making off-target effects unlikely. Importantly, total cellular levels of M1 poly-

Ub increased upon induction of necroptosis, which could be efficiently reduced by

HOIPIN-8 and siRNA-mediated knock-down of HOIP in HT-29 cells **(Figures 1D and**

1E) and THP-1 cells **(Figure S1D)**. Together, these observations reveal that LUBAC-

mediated M1 poly-Ub serves as a novel central checkpoint and conserved mediator

of TNFα-induced necroptotic cell death.

Up till now, the relevance of M1 poly-Ub generated by LUBAC in TNFα-mediated cell

fate signaling has been prominently demonstrated in genetic mouse models deficient

in *HOIP*, *HOIL-1* or *Sharpin*. Loss of either HOIP, HOIL-1 or Sharpin in mice

interferes with TNFR1-mediated signaling, leading to impaired NF-κB activation and

increased sensitivity towards TNFR1-mediated programmed cell death [30,46-50,72,73].

Therefore, the consequences of LUBAC inhibition on TNFα-induced necroptosis

were evaluated in mouse embryonic fibroblasts (MEFs) and L-929 mouse lung

fibroblasts. HOIPIN-8 acts by interfering with the active site residue C885 as well as

residues in the HOIP LDD [37], which are conserved in humans and mice **(Figure**

S1E). LUBAC inhibition efficiently abrogated TNFα-induced NF-κB activation and

stabilized phosphorylated IκBα in both HT-29 and MEFs **(Figures S1F and S1G)**,

consistent with the described pro-inflammatory roles of LUBAC and M1 poly-Ub and

in agreement with the abovementioned findings. However, to our surprise, HOIPIN-8-

mediated LUBAC inhibition did not rescue TBZ-induced cell death in MEFs **(Figure**

S1H) and even enhanced TBZ-induced cell death in L-929 cells, without inducing

cytotoxicity, **(Figure S1I)**, which could be effectively blocked by inhibition of RIPK3

with GSK'872 **(Figure S1I)**. This is in accordance with previous findings

demonstrating that RNAi-mediated silencing of HOIP or HOIL-1 sensitizes L-929 cells

to necroptotic cell death [73]. Of note, the cellular levels of M1 poly-Ub remained

relatively stable upon necroptosis induction in MEFs **(Figure S1J)**. These

observations, confirmed by a detailed analysis of cell death regulation in genetic

mouse models of LUBAC deficiency [30,46,47,72], suggest that LUBAC acts as species-

specific switch in the control of necroptosis.

Loss of LUBAC-catalyzed M1 poly-Ub does not affect necroptotic signaling and

necrosome formation

To mechanistically understand how LUBAC controls necroptosis, the role of M1 poly-

Ub on necroptotic checkpoints was analyzed in further detail. Importantly, necroptosis

induction did not affect the expression levels of the LUBAC subunits HOIP, HOIL-1

and Sharpin **(Figures 2A and S2A)**, suggesting that LUBAC activity is responsible

for the increased levels of M1 poly-Ub during necroptosis, instead of alterations in

LUBAC abundance. In addition, HOIPIN-8-mediated inhibition of LUBAC did not have

any influence on the expression patterns of individual LUBAC subunits, excluding the

possibility that selective loss of subunits might cause the observed HOIPIN-8-induced

effects on M1 poly-Ub during necroptosis **(Figures 2A and S2A)**.

Surprisingly, and in contrast to the prominent HOIPIN-8-mediated rescue of

necroptosis, HOIPIN-8 did not attenuate TBZ-induced phosphorylation of RIPK1 at

S166, RIPK3 at S227 and MLKL at S358, major checkpoints in necroptotic cell death

signaling **(Figure 2B and Figures S2B and S2C)**. In contrast, LUBAC inhibition

induced a slight accumulation of phosphorylated RIPK1 S166, RIPK3 S227 and

MLKL S358 **(Figures 2B and Figures S2B and S2C)**, suggesting alternative effects

of LUBAC on the core necroptotic cell death machinery.

A central hallmark of necroptosis consists in the formation of the necrosome, a specialized amyloid-like signaling platform, composed of activated RIPK1 and RIPK3, that eventually phosphorylates MLKL to drive necroptotic cell death [10,11,14,17]. Importantly, inhibition of LUBAC did not interfere with necrosome formation, as determined by co-immunoprecipitation of phosphorylated RIPK1 S166 and MLKL S358 with RIPK3 from untreated and HOIPIN-8-treated necroptotic cells **(Figure 2C)**.

Prior to membrane accumulation, activated MLKL oligomerizes into larger structures that are required for efficient necroptosis progression [17-20]. Upon induction of necroptosis, prominent MLKL oligomerization could be observed that, in contrast to GSK'872-mediated RIPK3 inhibition, could not be blocked by HOIPIN-8 **(Figure 2D)**. Furthermore, inhibiting MLKL with necrosulfonamide (NSA) did neither affect MLKL oligomerization nor phosphorylation **(Figure 2D)**, as NSA only prevents membrane accumulation of activated MLKL [17]. Similarly, siRNA-mediated loss of HOIP also did not have any effect on necroptosis-induced RIPK1 S166, RIPK3 S227 and MLKL S358 phosphorylation and did not attenuate MLKL oligomerization **(Figure 2E)**. In contrast to HOIPIN-8-mediated inactivation of LUBAC, inhibition of RIPK1 with necrostatin-1 (Nec-1s) or RIPK3 with GSK'872 influences necroptosis-induced phosphorylation of RIPK1 S166, RIPK3 S227 and MLKL S358, respectively, while blocking MLKL with NSA did not affect phosphorylation levels **(Figure 2F)**. Of note, in contrast to HOIPIN-8, Nec-1s, GSK'872 or NSA, as well as deletion of RIPK3 or MLKL, did not influence total M1 poly-Ub levels upon induction of necroptosis, suggesting that regulation of M1 poly-Ub occurs in parallel with necroptosis initiation and progression **(Figures 2F and S2C)**.

LUBAC-mediated M1 poly-Ub regulates necroptosis-induced and MLKL-dependent

production of inflammatory signaling molecules

Upon the induction of necroptosis, activated MLKL triggers the transcriptional upregulation and secretion of a variety of inflammatory signaling molecules, including cytokines and chemokines, like CXCL1 and CXCL10 [1,22]. Consistently with these findings, TBZ-triggered necroptosis strongly induced expression of CXCL1 and CXCL10 mRNA **(Figure 3A)** in an MLKL-dependent manner, since inhibition of MLKL with NSA and CRISPR/Cas9-mediated knock-out (KO) of MLKL expression largely prevented necroptosis-induced upregulation of CXCL1 and CXCL10 mRNA (**Figures 3A and S3A)**. Interestingly, LUBAC inhibition in necroptotic cells reduced CXCL1 and CXCL10 mRNA expression **(Figure 3A)** and similar findings were observed upon loss of HOIP expression **(Figure 3B)**. In agreement with the HOIP-dependent alterations in CXCL1 and CXCL10 mRNA expression, secretion of CXCL1 during necroptosis was also diminished in the presence of HOIPIN-8 or upon loss of HOIP expression **(Figures 3C and 3D)**. To further characterize the LUBAC-dependent regulation of the transcriptional changes associated with necroptosis, transcriptome profiling using unbiased MACE-seq was perfomed in necroptotic cells upon inhibition of LUBAC activity. Necroptosis prominently triggered the transcriptional upregulation of a highly pro-inflammatory gene expression profile **(Figure 3E)**, in agreement with previous observations [1]. Importantly, loss of LUBAC activity potently reversed the necroptotic inflammatory profile and strongly attenuated the expression of necroptosis-upregulated cytokines and chemokines, such as TNFα, CSF1, CXCL2 and CCL20, as well as the adhesion molecule ICAM1 **(Figure 3E, Figures S3B and S3C)**. Of note, necroptosis-induced expression of TNFα and ICAM1 could be largely prevented by inhibiton of MLKL with NSA **(Figures S3B and S3C)**, confirming that

MLKL is required for necroptosis-induced upregulation of regulatory and inflammatory

gene expression signatures.

Together, these data suggest that M1 poly-Ub is required for the activated MLKL-

dependent secretion of signaling molecules, cytokines and chemokines, such as

CXCL1 and CXCL10, upon induction of necroptosis.

LUBAC and M1 poly-Ub segregate the subcellular distribution of activated MLKL

During the effector phase of necroptosis, activated MLKL oligomers grow to form

cytoplasmic clusters which translocate to the cell membrane to accumulate into

hotspots, preferentially at intercellular junctions [21]. To investigate whether LUBAC-

mediated M1 poly-Ub might control membrane translocation of activated MLKL, a

non-ionic detergent- and temperature-dependent fractionation of micelle-poor

(aqueous) and micelle-rich (detergent-enriched) fractions was applied to isolate

hydrophobic, membrane-associated proteins from aqueous solutions. In necroptotic

cells, phosphorylated MLKL accumulated in detergent-enriched fractions, which could

be efficiently blocked by NSA **(Figure 4A)**, suggesting extensive membrane

accumulation that is consistent with previous findings [17]. Surprisingly, LUBAC

inhibition prevented accumulation of phosphorylated MLKL in detergent-enriched

fractions, leading instead to an enrichment of phosphorylated MLKL in the aqueous

fraction **(Figure 4A)**. These data suggest that LUBAC-mediated M1 poly-Ub is a

prerequisite for the translocation of activated MLKL from the cytosol to membrane

compartments during necroptosis induction. Of note, necroptosis also triggered the

accumulation of M1 poly-Ub chains in both aqueous and detergent-enriched

fractions, that could be counteracted by LUBAC inhibition **(Figure S4A)**.

To further understand how LUBAC and M1 poly-Ub regulate the membrane

localization of phosphorylated MLKL during necroptosis, MLKL distribution was

assessed by immunofluorescence. Upon necroptosis induction, S358-phosphorylated

MLKL localized to membranes in large hotspots at intercellular junctions **(Figures 4B**

and S4B), corresponding with previous findings [21]. As anticipated, MLKL inhibition

with NSA blocked membrane accumulation of activated MLKL in necroptotic cells

(Figure S4B). In accordance with the altered cellular distribution of MLKL in

fractionation experiments, HOIPIN-8 completely abrogated the formation of

phosphorylated MLKL hotspots at the plasma membrane in necroptotic cells, leading

to the appearance of diffuse cytoplasmic punctate clusters of S358 phosphorylated

MLKL **(Figure 4B)**.

The cellular fate of phosphorylated MLKL determines the functional outcome of

necroptotic signaling and the regulation of the availability of necroptosis-prone

phosphorylated MLKL is tightly controlled. At one end, activated MLKL is internalized

through endocytosis and degraded through the lysosomal pathway [53]. At the other

end, the levels of activated MLKL are controlled by exocytosis into extracellular

vesicles [22,53,74,75]. TBZ-induced necroptosis strongly triggered exocytosis leading to

the formation of ALIX-, CD9- and vinculin-positive extracellular exosomes that

contained high levels of MLKL **(Figure 4C)**. HOIPIN-8 strongly reduced the

necroptosis-associated formation of extracellular vesicles and decreased the

accumulation of MLKL in exosomes **(Figure 4C)**. As expected, MLKL inhibition with

NSA completely blocked TBZ-induced exosome formation and release of MLKL

(Figure 4C). In line with these observations, HOIPIN-8-mediated inhibition of LUBAC

prevented lysosomal degradation of phosphorylated MLKL upon necroptosis

induction, as determined by washout of the necroptotic stimulus in the absence or

presence of the lysosomal inhibitor bafilomycin A1 (BafA1) **(Figure 4D)**. Intriguingly,

LUBAC inhibition in necroptotic cells increased levels of phosphorylated MLKL S358

(Figure 4D), corresponding with previous data **(Figure S2B)**. Taken together, these

data demonstrate that LUBAC-mediated M1 poly-Ub regulates necroptosis

downstream of MLKL phosphorylation and oligomerization by controlling the

availability and translocation of activated MLKL to membranes and MLKL hotspot

formation at the plasma membrane.

FLOT1/2 license necroptosis in a M1 poly-Ub-dependent manner

Recent studies revealed that FLOT1/2 colocalize with MLKL during necroptosis and

act as important mediators of MLKL endocytosis [53,75]. To understand the potential

regulatory link between M1 poly-Ub, the cellular distribution of activated MLKL and

FLOT1/2, enrichment of M1 poly-Ub chains, substrates and associated proteins was

performed from necroptotic cells. Interestingly, high levels of FLOT1/2 could be

enriched by capture of M1 poly-Ub via ubiquitin binding in ABIN and NEMO (UBAN)-

based pulldowns from necroptotic cells **(Figures 5A and S5A)**. Of note, HOIPIN-8-

mediated LUBAC inhibition completely prevented M1 poly-Ub-associated enrichment

of FLOT1/2, without affecting total FLOT1/2 cellular expression levels **(Figures 5A**

and S5A). Furthermore, loss of FLOT1 or -2 individually, or combined loss of

FLOT1/2, decreased necroptotic cell death and further potentiated the repressive

effects of LUBAC inhibition on necroptosis **(Figures 5B and S5B)**. Loss of FLOT1/2

did not affect necroptosis-induced increases in M1 poly-Ub or HOIPIN-8-mediated

decreases in necroptosis-triggered M1 poly-Ub **(Figure S5C)**. In addition, combined

loss of FLOT1/2 did not interfere with necrosome formation **(Figure 5C)** and did not

affect necroptosis-induced MLKL oligomerization in the absence or presence of

HOIPIN-8 **(Figure 5D)**. Intruigingly, enrichment of FLOT1 in UBAN-based pulldowns

could be prevented by inhibition of RIPK1 with Nec-1s, RIPK3 with GSK'872 and

MLKL with NSA, indicating that activation and membrane translocation of MLKL is a

prerequisite for association of FLOT1 with M1 poly-Ub **(Figure 5E)**.

LUBAC-mediated M1 poly-Ub regulates necroptotic cell death in primary human

pancreatic organoids

Our data reveal that LUBAC and M1 poly-Ub act as a novel, species-specific

checkpoint that control the membrane hotspot accumulation of activated MLKL and

thereby regulate necroptotic cell death in human, but not in murine cell lines. To

further confirm this concept and to exclude artefacts in necroptotic signaling related

to the use of human cancer cell lines, LUBAC- and M1 poly-Ub-mediated regulation

of necroptosis was studied in primary human organoids. Organoids are stem cell-

derived three-dimensional cellular clusters consisting of organ-specific cell types that

self-organize and exhibit similar functionality and complexity as their tissue of origin

[76,77]. Organoids represent highly physiological models as compared to two-

dimensional monolayer cell culture models [78]. To model necroptosis, adult stem cell-

derived primary human pancreatic organoids (hPOs) recapitulate the phenotype of

the original pancreatic ductal epithelia and retain the pancreatic morphology and the

distribution of ductal, acinar, mesenchymal and endothelial cells in a hollow spherical

polarized cell monolayer enclosing a central lumen [79-82]. hPOs were maintained in

matrix for 3 to 5 days to allow the formation of organoid spheres composed of a

cellular monolayer surrounding a liquid-filled lumen, that expanded over time

(Figures 6A and S6A), in line with previous findings [83], after which necroptosis was

induced. For this, matrix-embedded primary hPOs were incubated with BV6 (B) and

the clinically-applicable pan-caspase inhibitor IDN-6556 (Emricasan; E), followed by

time-lapse imaging and subsequent fluorescein diacetate (FDA)- and PI-based

live/dead imaging. BV6 combined with Emricasan induced a prominent loss of

luminal hPO morphology, characterized by organoid collapse and compaction, with

individual cells migrating away from the collapsed organoids **(Figure 6A, Movie 1)**.

Live/dead staining of BE-incubated organoids revealed high levels of PI-positive cells

and low levels of FDA-positive cells, confirming prominent hPO cell death **(Figure**

6B). Similar organoid collapse and loss of luminal morphology was observed in hPOs

incubated with the Smac mimetic Birinapant (Bi) and Emricasan **(Figure S6A, Movie**

2) and upon incubation with BV6 and zVAD.fmk (BZ) **(Figure S7)**. Importantly,

HOIPIN-8-mediated inhibition of LUBAC delayed BE-induced organoid collapse,

prevented the loss of luminal hPO morphology and extended hPO viability up to 24 h

(Figures 6A and 6B, Movie 1), although hPOs appeared shrunken and smaller in

size **(Figure 6A)**. HOIPIN-8 also blocked organoid collapse and cell death induced by

BiE and BZ **(Figures S6A and S6B, Figure S7, Movie 2)**. Of note, organoid collapse

and compaction, loss of hPO morphology and cell death triggered by BiE could be

blocked by NSA, indicating the appearance of MLKL-dependent necroptotic cell

death **(Figure S6, Movie 2)**.

In conclusion, we identify LUBAC-mediated M1 poly-Ub as novel checkpoint that

regulates necroptosis by controlling the cellular distribution of activated MLKL

between membrane hotspot formation and endo- and exocytosis in cell lines of

human origin and primary human organoids.

Discussion

Necroptosis relies on the highly regulated phosphorylation of RIPK1 and RIPK3 in the context of the death-inducing necrosome complex, leading to phoshorylation of the pseudokinase MLKL, followed by MLKL oligomerization, membrane accumulation and cell death [11-15,17]. By doing so, necroptotic cell death is involved in a wide variety of diseases, including infection [84-87], cancer [88,89] and ischemia-reperfusion injury [90,91]. TNFα-induced necroptosis, but also alternatively-induced forms of necroptosis, are controlled by checkpoints that include compartimentalization, complex formation and post-translational modification, like phosphorylation and ubiquitination, of the key necroptotic proteins RIPK1, RIPK3 and MLKL [24-26]. M1-linked poly-Ub, catalyzed by the LUBAC E3 ligase, serves as important regulator that balances pro-and anti-survival measures by modification of RIPK1. Here, we identify a novel regulatory function of M1 poly-Ub during necroptosis in facilitating the accumulation of activated MLKL in membrane hotspots to promote necroptotic cell death in cells of human origin.

In contrast to genetic models of LUBAC deficiency in mice, in which LUBAC-mediated M1 poly-Ub represses cell death [30,31,46-50,72], we found that pharmacological inhibition of LUBAC with either HOIPIN-8 or gliotoxin, as well as siRNA-mediated loss of LUBAC, prevents TNFα-induced necroptosis in human, but not murine, cell lines. Induction of necroptosis triggered M1 poly-Ub that was not dependent on the activity or the physical presence of RIPK1, RIPK3 and MLKL, suggesting that increases in M1 poly-Ub during necroptosis are not regulated by the core necroptotic machinery. In addition, loss of LUBAC activity reverts the cellular levels of necroptosis-induced M1 poly-Ub in human cell lines, but to a lesser degree in cell lines of murine origin. LUBAC inhibition abrogated TNFα-induced NF-κB signaling to the same extent in cell

lines from both species, suggesting species-, pathway- and context-specific modes of

LUBAC regulation during necroptosis. Importantly, structural studies revealed

important mechanistic and functional differences between human and murine

necroptotic signaling pathways [92-95]. These confirm that the mechanisms by which

MLKL is activated by RIPK3 differ substantially in humans and mice, as a result of

species-specific coevolution and divergence of RIPK3 and MLKL [92,94]. The activation

of MLKL is achieved through RIPK3-dependent phosphorylation of human MLKL at

T357 and S358 and murine MLKL at S345, located in the activation loop of MLKL

[14,15,96,97]. Intruigingly, human and murine MLKL are not able to complement

necroptotic signaling when expressed in cells of the opposing species [92-94]. One of

the most prominent differences in how human and murine MLKL are activated relies

on the transient interaction between murine RIPK3 and MLKL, which is in striking

contrast to the activation of human MLKL that requires recruitment and binding to

RIPK3 [92], indicating additional roles for T357/S358 phosphorylation in human MLKL

[92]. In addition, species-specific, yet unidentified, differences in necroptosis execution

downstream of activated MLKL may also explain the distinct functions of LUBAC and

M1 poly-Ub in the regulation of necroptotic cell death in mice and humans.

Our findings reveal that, apart from the core necroptosis machinery, LUBAC-

dependent signaling events might become activated in parallel that involve M1 poly-

Ub to eventually affect necroptosis. In line with this, loss of LUBAC activity did not

alter necroptotic phosphorylation of RIPK1, RIPK3 and MLKL, necrosome formation

or the oligomerization of MLKL during necroptosis induction. In addition, TNFα-

induced necroptosis has been linked to the cell-autonomous upregulation and

increased secretion of signaling molecules, including cytokines and chemokines [1,22].

Induction of this necroptotic cytokine profile involves two phases, the first of which

depends on TNFα-induced NF-κB-mediated upregulation of inflammatory signaling

molecules. The second phase is a RIPK1-, RIPK3- and MLKL-mediated wave, that

relies on necroptotic activation of RIPK1 and RIPK3, as well as MLKL [1,22]. Our

experiments confirm the hypothesis of parallel signaling cascades activated during

necroptosis and reveal that LUBAC-dependent regulation affects both necroptotic

NF-κB- and MLKL-dependent production of inflammatory cytokines. Apart from

necroptotic signaling, necroptosis-independent functions of MLKL include the control

of ICAM1, VCAM1 and E-selectin expression via RNA-binding motif protein 6 (RBM6)

[98]. Induction of necroptosis leads to a LUBAC- and MLKL-dependent upregulation of

ICAM1 expression, suggesting that LUBAC also controls necroptosis-independent

functions of MLKL. Taken together, these findings confirm parallel and independent

LUBAC-dependent signaling events which most likely involve NF-κB and the core

necroptotic machinery that converge downstream of activated MLKL to allow efficient

membrane localization and necroptosis.

LUBAC inhibition prevents hotspot accumulation of phosphorylated MLKL as well as

exocytosis in extracellular vesicles, suggesting that LUBAC-mediated M1 poly-Ub

serves pro-necroptotic MLKL membrane thethering functions. Intruigingly, the M1

poly-Ub-dependent effects on MLKL mimic MLKL-specific monobodies that target the

4HB of human MLKL to inhibit necroptosis, but without affecting necrosome

formation, MLKL activation and MLKL oligomerization [99]. The functional role of the

MLKL 4HB in M1 poly-Ub-mediated necroptosis inhibition remains to be investigated.

Pharmacological interference of MLKL trafficking with inhibitors of Golgi, microtubule

and actin networks (e.g. with Brefeldin A, Nocodazole and Cytochalasin A,

respectively) also prevented membrane hotspot formation of activated MLKL [21].

Intruigingly, loss of LUBAC triggered a similar phenotype, suggesting that LUBAC-

mediated M1 poly-Ub might be involved in the regulation of MLKL trafficking.

Both endocytic and exocytic events balance MLKL membrane accumulation and

involve the lipid raft-resided proteins FLOT1/2 [53], ESCRT complexes, ALIX, syntenin-

1 and Rab27 [22,53,74,75,100]. Recognition of ubiquitinated cargo by ESCRT complex

subunits, like hepatocyte growth factor-regulated tyrosine kinase substrate (Hrs),

signal-transducing adapter molecule (STAM) 1 and 2 and tumor susceptibility gene

(TSG) 101 via ubiquitin-binding domains (UBDs), such as the Vps27/Hrs/Stam (VHS)

domain, ubiquitin-interacting motif (UIM) domain and ubiquitin-conjugating enzyme

E2 variant (UEV) domain, are important for endo- or exocytosis [101-107]. Although the

binding specificity and affinity of these UBD-containing proteins for M1 poly-Ub

remains unclear, specific recognition of M1 poly-Ub might serve as docking platform

to position activated MLKL in hotspots and to allow necroptosis. Intruigingly, FLOT1

is implicated in the transfer of ubiquitinated cargo between different ESCRT

complexes by modulating the Ub-binding of Hrs upon epidermal growth factor (EGF)

stimulation and release of Ub-mediated autoinhibition of the Hrs UIM domain [108]. In

line with this notion, we detected a strong necroptosis-induced and LUBAC-

dependent enrichment of FLOT1/2 in M1 poly-Ub-based enrichments that was

dependent on the activation of RIPK1, RIPK3 and MLKL. Additionally, loss of

FLOT1/2 potentiated the HOIPIN-8-mediated decrease in necroptotic cell death.

Although the necroptosis-induced increase in cellular M1 poly-Ub levels is not

dependent on MLKL, inhibition of MLKL membrane translocation blocked the

association of FLOT1 with M1 poly-Ub, indicating a direct link for FLOT1/2 in M1

poly-Ub and MLKL membrane localization and further demonstrating independent

LUBAC-dependent signaling events during necroptosis.

Lipid rafts are important regulators of TNFα-mediated cell survival and death. Formation of the TNFR1 complex I in lipid rafts underlies RhoA and NF-κB activation, whereas activation of complex I outside lipid rafts promotes cell death [109,110]. Intruigingly, activated MLKL localizes to lipid rafts as well [18] and ALIX and ESCRT complexes regulate both MLKL endocytosis and TNFR1 internalization [21,111,112]. As LUBAC and M1 poly-Ub are prominent components of the TNFR1-initiated complex I, a potential proximation of complex I, LUBAC, M1 poly-Ub and activated MLKL in lipid rafts upon TNFα-induced necroptosis, as well as shared signaling functions of M1 poly-Ub, cannot be excluded.

MLKL itself has been reported to be modified by mono-Ub upon MLKL oligomerization at membranes that might direct MLKL for proteasomal and lysosomal degradation [113]. Intriguingly, although mutation of the identified mono-Ub sites in the MLKL 4HB did not prevent necroptosis, fusion of the non-specific DUB USP21 to MLKL did sensitize towards necroptosis [113]. In addition, K63 poly-Ub of MLKL at K219 increased sensitivity towards necroptosis [114]. Although the homologue residue in human MLKL, K230, is also ubiquitinated [115], it remains unclear if MLKL can be modified by M1 poly-Ub as well. Our findings further confirm that poly-Ub modification of MLKL or interacting proteins in close vicinity are important regulators of cell death.

We identified LUBAC-mediated M1 poly Ub as novel regulatory checkpoint that controls necroptosis in multicellular, primary human organoids *ex vivo*. The unique and first-time use of human primary organoids to systematically model necroptosis and the influence of LUBAC-mediated M1 poly-Ub in primary human organoids provides novel and relevant experimental models to study necroptosis in intact

multicellular, near-physiological settings. Apart from necroptosis-proficient cell lines,

experimental models to study necroptosis in human cells are extremely limited and

so far no multicellular human models have been described. Since necroptosis

underlies a wide variety of disease states, modeling necroptotic cell death in primary

organoids will significantly contribute to gain new fundamental insights and to

develop novel therapeutic options for emerging human diseases.

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Author Contributions

N.W. and S.J.L.v.W. designed the study. N.W. performed most of the experiments. K.N.W. and F.P. performed experimentation on primary hPOs and analyzed the data. J.R. generated KO cell lines. S.S. and B.J. supported with experiments. L.F. and B.R. performed MACE-seq-based transcriptome analysis. G.A., T.M. and M.B. analyzed and visualized the MACE-seq data. N.W. and S.J.L.v.W. analyzed the data and

556   prepared the manuscript. All authors have read, commented, and agreed on the

557   submitted version of the manuscript.

559   **Declaration of Interests**

560   The authors declare no competing interests.

 Figure titles and legends

Figure 1. LUBAC-mediated M1 poly-Ub is required for TNFα-induced

necroptosis in human cells. A. Quantification of cell death in untreated (UT) and

HOIPIN-8 (30 µM) pre-treated HT-29 cells after treatment with TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα,

1 µM BV6, 20 µM zVAD.fmk) for the indicated time points. Mean and SEM of at least

three independent experiments are shown. ****P<0.0001. **B.** Quantification of cell

death in untreated (UT) and HOIPIN-8 (30 µM)-pre-treated THP-1 cells after

treatment with TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 1 µM BV6, 20 µM zVAD.fmk) for the indicated

time points. Mean and SEM of at least three independent experiments are shown.

****P<0.0001. **C.** Quantification of cell death in control (siCtrl) and HOIP knockdown

(siHOIP) HT-29 cells treated with TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 1 µM BV6, 20 µM zVAD.fmk)

for the indicated time points. Mean and SEM of at least three independent

experiments are shown. ****P<0.0001. **D.** Western blot analysis of total M1 poly-Ub

levels in control or HOIPIN-8 (30 µM)-pre-treated HT-29 cells upon treatment with

TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 1 µM BV6, 20 µM zVAD.fmk) for the indicated time points.

GAPDH was used as loading control. Representative blots of at least two

independent experiments are shown. **E.** Western blot analysis of total M1 poly-Ub

levels in control (siCtrl) and HOIP knockdown (siHOIP) HT-29 treated with TBZ (10

ng/mL TNFα, 1 µM BV6, 20 µM zVAD.fmk) for 4 h. GAPDH was used as loading

control. Representative blots of at least two independent experiments are shown.

See also Figure S1.

Figure 2. Loss of LUBAC-catalyzed M1 poly-Ub does not affect necroptotic

signaling and necrosome formation. A. Western blot analysis of LUBAC subunit

(HOIP, HOIL-1 and Sharpin) expression levels in control *versus* HOIPIN-8 (30 µM)-

pre-treated HT-29 cells upon treatment with TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 1 µM BV6, 20 µM

zVAD.fmk) for 4 h. GAPDH was used as loading control. Representative blots of at least two independent experiments are shown. **B.** Western blot analysis of phosphorylated and total expression levels of RIPK1, RIPK3 and MLKL in control *versus* HOIPIN-8 (30 µM)-pre-treated HT-29 cells upon treatment with TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 1 µM BV6, 20 µM zVAD.fmk) for 4 h. Vinculin was used as loading control. Representative blots of at least two independent experiments are shown. **C.** Immunoprecipitation of Strep-RIPK3 from control and HOIPIN-8 (30 µM)-pre-treated RIPK3 KO HT-29 cells re-expressing PAM-mutated doxycycline (Dox)-inducible Strep-tagged RIPK3 wild-type (WT) was performed in order to analyze necrosome formation after treatment with TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 1 µM BV6, 20 µM zVAD.fmk) for 3 h. Cells were incubated overnight with 1 µg/mL Dox prior to treatment to induce expression of Strep-RIPK3. GAPDH was used as loading control. Representative blots of at least two independent experiments are shown. **D.** Western blot analysis of MLKL oligomerization upon treatment with TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 1 µM BV6, 20 µM zVAD.fmk) for 4 h by non-reducing Western blotting of control, HOIPIN-8 (30 µM), GSK'872 (20 µM) or NSA (10 µM)-pre-treated HT-29 cells. Vinculin or β-actin were used as loading controls. Representative blots of at least two independent experiments are shown. **E.** Western blot analysis of expression levels of phosphorylated and total RIPK1, RIPK3 and MLKL and MLKL oligomerization (by non-reducing Western blotting) upon 4 h TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 1 µM BV6, 20 µM zVAD.fmk) treatment of control (siCtrl) and HOIP knockdown (siHOIP) HT-29 cells. GAPDH was used as loading control. Representative blots of at least two independent experiments are shown. **F.** Western blot analysis of expression levels of phosphorylated and total RIPK1, RIPK3, MLKL and M1 Ub upon 4 h TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 1 µM BV6, 20 µM zVAD.fmk) treatment of HT-29 cells pre-treated with HOIPIN-8 (30 µM) or Nec-1s (30 µM), GSK'872 (20 µM) and NSA (10 µM). GAPDH

was used as loading control. Representative blots of at least two independent

experiments are shown. See also Figure S2.

Figure 3. LUBAC-mediated M1 poly-Ub regulates necroptosis-induced and

MLKL-dependent production of inflammatory signaling molecules. A. mRNA

expression levels of CXCL1 and CXCL10 of control (UT), HOIPIN-8 (30 µM) or NSA

(10 µM)-pre-treated HT-29 cells upon treatment with TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 1 µM

BV6, 20 µM zVAD.fmk) for 3 h. Gene expression was normalized against 18S and

RPII mRNA expression and is presented as x-fold mRNA expression compared to

the untreated (UT) control. Mean and SEM of at least three independent experiments

are shown. *$P<0.05$; ***$P<0.001$; ****$P<0.0001$. **B.** mRNA expression levels of

CXCL1 and CXCL10 of control (siCtrl) or HOIP knockdown (siHOIP) HT-29 cells

treated with TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 1 µM BV6, 20 µM zVAD.fmk) for 4 h. Gene

expression was normalized against 18S and RPII mRNA expression and is presented

as x-fold mRNA expression compared to the untreated (UT) control cells. Mean and

SEM of at least three independent experiments are shown. ****$P<0.0001$. **C.** ELISA-

based quantification of CXCL1 secretion in supernatants of control (UT) or HOIPIN-8

(30 µM)-pre-treated HT-29 cells after treatment with TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 1 µM

BV6, 20 µM zVAD.fmk) for the indicated time points. Mean and SEM of at least three

independent experiments are shown. **$P<0.01$; ***$P<0.001$. **D.** ELISA-based

quantification of CXCL1 secretion in supernatants of control (siCtrl) or HOIP

knockdown (siHOIP) HT-29 cells treated with TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 1 µM BV6, 20

µM zVAD.fmk) for the indicated time points. Mean and SEM of at least three

independent experiments are shown. **$P<0.01$; ***$P<0.001$. **E.** MACE-seq-

determined heatmap showing the row-wise scaled intensity (left panel) of the top-25

upregulated genes in HT-29 cells treated with TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 1 µM BV6, 20

μM zVAD.fmk) for 3 h in comparison to HOIPIN-8 (30 μM)-pre-treated and TBZ-

treated HT-29 cells. Genes are sorted according to their log2 fold change values

(right panel). *$P<0.05$. See also Figure S3.

Figure 4. LUBAC and M1 poly-Ub segregate the subcellular distribution of

activated MLKL. A. Fractionation of phosphorylated and total MLKL in the micelle-

poor (aqueous) and micelle-rich (detergent) fractions upon phase separation using

Triton X-114 lysis buffer in untreated (UT) and HOIPIN-8 (30 μM) pre-treated HT-29

cells upon treatment with TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 1 μM BV6, 20 μM zVAD.fmk) for 4 h.

GAPDH was used as loading control for soluble proteins and CD9 as loading control

for membrane proteins. Representative blots of at least two independent experiments

are shown. **B.** Representative fluorescence microscopy demonstrating the cellular

distribution of phosphorylated MLKL (green) in untreated (UT) and HOIPIN-8 (30 μM)

pre-treated HT-29 cells and after treatment with TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 1 μM BV6, 20

μM zVAD.fmk) for 3 h. Nuclei were stained with DAPI (blue). Arrows indicate

cytoplasmic clusters of phosphorylated MLKL. Representative images of at least two

independent experiments are shown. Scale bar 50 μm. **C.** Western blot analysis of

TBZ-induced release of MLKL in exosomes, isolated from the supernatants of

control, HOIPIN-8 (30 μM) or NSA (10 μM)-pre-treated HT-29 cells after treatment

with TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 1 μM BV6, 20 μM zVAD.fmk) for 3 h. Exosome isolation

was confirmed with antibodies against ALIX, CD9 and Vinculin. Asterisk marks

unspecific band. Expression of phosphorylated and total MLKL was determined by

Western blotting of cell lysates from the same experiment. Vinculin was used as

loading control. Representative blots of at least two independent experiments are

shown. **D.** Western blot analysis of lysosomal degradation of phosphorylated MLKL

upon TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 0.1 μM BV6, 20 μM zVAD.fmk) treatment of control,

HOIPIN-8 (30 µM) or NSA (10 µM)-pre-treated HT-29 cells. HT-29 cells were treated

with TBZ for 3 h and either harvested or the medium was exchanged with fresh

medium with or without BafA1 (100 nM) after a washing step with PBS. Washed-out

cells were harvested 12 h or 18 h after medium exchange. Vinculin was used as

loading control. Representative blots of at least two independent experiments are

shown. See also Figure S4.

Figure 5. FLOT1/2 license necroptosis in a M1 poly-Ub-dependent manner. A.

UBAN-mediated pulldown of M1 ubiquitinated proteins in control or HOIPIN-8 (30

µM)-pre-treated HT-29 cells treated with TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 1 µM BV6, 20 µM

zVAD.fmk) for the indicated time points. GST and GAPDH were used as loading

controls. Representative blots of at least two independent experiments are shown. **B.**

Quantification of cell death in untreated (UT), HOIPIN-8 (30 µM) or NSA (10 µM)-pre-

treated control (siCtrl), FLOT1 (siFLOT1), FLOT2 (siFLOT2) or combined FLOT1 and

FLOT2 (siFLOT1+siFLOT2) knockdown HT-29 cells after treatment with TBZ (10

ng/mL TNFα, 1 µM BV6, 20 µM zVAD.fmk) for the indicated time points. Mean and

SEM of at least three independent experiments are shown. **$P<0.001$; ***$P<0.001$;

****$P<0.0001$. **C.** Characterization of necrosome formation by immunoprecipitation of

Strep-RIPK3 from control and HOIPIN-8 (30 µM)-pre-treated control (siCtrl) and

combined FLOT1 and FLOT2 knockdown (siFLOT1+2) RIPK3 KO HT-29 cells re-

expressing PAM-mutated Dox-inducible Strep-tagged RIPK3 WT after treatment with

TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 1 µM BV6, 20 µM zVAD.fmk) for 3 h. Cell lines were incubated

overnight with 1 µg/mL Dox prior to treatment to induce expression of Strep-RIPK3.

GAPDH was used as loading control. Representative blots of at least two

independent experiments are shown. **D.** Western blot analysis of MLKL

oligomerization after treatment with TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 1 µM BV6, 20 µM

zVAD.fmk) for 4 h by non-reducing Western blotting of control (siCtrl) and combined

FLOT1 and FLOT2 knockdown (siFLOT1+2) HT-29 cells. GAPDH was used as

loading control. Representative blots of at least two independent experiments are

shown. **E.** UBAN-mediated pulldown of M1 ubiquitinated proteins in control, HOIPIN-

8 (30 μM), Nec-1s (30 μM), GSK'872 (20 μM) or NSA (10 μM)-pre-treated HT-29

cells treated with TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 1 μM BV6, 20 μM zVAD.fmk) for 4 h. GST

and GAPDH were used as loading controls. Representative blots of at least two

independent experiments are shown. See also Figure S5.

Figure 6. LUBAC-mediated M1 poly-Ub regulates necroptotic cell death in

primary hPOs. A. Representative images of time-lapse videos of untreated (UT),

BV6 (1 μM) and Emricasan (10 μM) (BE)-treated and HOIPIN-8 (30 μM)-pre-treated

and BE (BE+HOIPIN-8)-treated primary hPOs for a total period of 23.5 h. Scalebars:

250 μm. **B.** *Idem* as A., but treated primary hPOs were stained with Hoechst33342

(Hoe; blue), FDA (live; green) and PI (dead; red) after 24 h treatment with BE or

BE+HOIPIN-8 prior to imaging. Scalebars: 250 μm. See also Figures S6 and S7 and

Movies 1 and 2.

Materials and Methods

Cell lines, reagents and chemicals

The human HT-29 adenocarcinoma cell line was obtained from DMSZ (Braunschweig, Germany) and the human acute monocytic leukemia cell line THP-1 was kindly provided by Thomas Oellerich (Frankfurt am Main, Germany) and authenticated by DSMZ. MEFs were kindly provided by Joanne Hildebrand (Melbourne, Australia). The L-929 mouse fibroblast cell line was obtained from ATCC (Manassas, VA, USA). HT-29 cells were cultured in McCoy's 5A Medium +GlutaMAX^TM-I (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA) supplemented with 1% penicillin/streptomycin (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS) (Thermo Fisher Scientific). THP-1 cells were maintained in RPMI1640 Medium +GlutaMAX^TM-I (Thermo Fisher Scientific) supplemented with 1% sodium pyruvate (Thermo Fisher Scientific), 1% penicillin/streptomycin and 10% FBS. MEFs were cultured in DMEM +GlutaMAX^TM-I (Thermo Fisher Scientific) supplemented with 1% sodium pyruvate, 1% penicillin/streptomycin and 10% FBS. L-929 cells were cultured in DMEM +GlutaMAX^TM-I (Thermo Fisher Scientific) supplemented with 1% sodium pyruvate, 1% penicillin/streptomycin, 1% MEM Non-Essential Amino Acids (NEAA) Solution (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and 10% FBS. HT-29 MLKL KO, HT-29 RIPK3 KO and HT-29 RIPK3 KO cells re-expressing PAM-mutated Dox-inducible Strep-tagged WT RIPK3 have been described previously [116]. All cell lines were cultured at 37°C with 5% carbon dioxide in a humidified atmosphere and regularly monitored for mycoplasma infection.

BV6 was kindly provided by Genentech Inc. (San Francisco, CA, USA), recombinant human TNFα was purchased from Biochrom Ltd. (Waterbeach, UK), Birinapant from Selleckchem (Houston, TX, USA), the pan-caspase inhibitors zVAD.fmk and

Emricasan from Bachem AG (Bubendorf, Switzerland) and Selleckchem, Nec-1s,

GSK'872 and NSA from Merck KGaA (Darmstadt, Germany), HOIPIN-8 from Axon

Medchem LLC (Reston, VA, USA), Gliotoxin from Tocris Biosciences (Bristol, UK),

Doxycycline hydrochloride from Merck KGgA (Darmstadt, Germany) and BafA1 from

Selleckchem. All other chemicals were purchased from Carl Roth (Karlsruhe,

Germany) or Merck KGaA, unless stated otherwise.

Maintenance of primary hPOs

Primary hPOs are derived from the pancreatic duct of a male patient (age: 60, BMI:

26.3) and were provided by Lorenza Lazzari (Policlinico di Milano, Milan, Italy). The

use of these hPOs is approved by the Institutional Review Board and the Pancreatic

Islet Processing Unit, a National Transplant Center accredited facility (IT000679,

https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/eucoding/reports/te/index.xhtml). hPOs were kept in an

incubator at 37°C in a humidified atmosphere with 5% CO_2, embedded in Cultrex

Reduced Growth Factor BME, Type 2 (BME-2) droplets (R&D Systems, Minneapolis,

MN, USA) and covered under medium. Medium was fully changed every 2 to 3 days

and hPOs were passaged every 7 to 14 days depending on the proliferation rate and

organoid size.

The organoid culture protocol was adapted from described procedures [80]. Briefly,

hPOs were maintained in basal medium, composed of Advanced DMEM/F-12

(Thermo Fisher Scientific) with 1x GlutaMAX™ Supplement (Thermo Fisher

Scientific), 100 U/mL penicillin/streptomycin (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and 10 mM

HEPES (Thermo Fisher Scientific), supplemented with 1x B-27™ (minus vitamin A,

Thermo Fisher Scientific), 1x N-2 (Thermo Fisher Scientific), 2,5 mM *N*-

acetylcysteine (MilliporeSigma, St. Louis, US), 1 µg/mL recombinant human R-

Spondin1 (PeproTech, Rocky Hill, US), 10 mM nicotinamide (MilliporeSigma),

50 ng/mL recombinant human EGF (PeproTech), 100 ng/mL recombinant human

FGF-10 (PeproTech), 25 ng/mL Noggin (PeproTech), 10 nM [Leu[15]]-Gastrin I

(MilliporeSigma), 5 µM A83-01 (Tocris Bioscience, Minneapolis, US), 10 µM

Forskolin (Tocris Bioscience) and 3 µM Prostaglandin E_2 (Tocris Bioscience) (hPO

medium).

For passaging of the primary hPOs, BME droplets were disrupted by pipetting and

organoids were retrieved by centrifugation in ice-cold hPO medium. Organoids were

sheared into fragments prior to resuspension in ice-cold liquified BME-2 and seeded

as droplets in pre-warmed non-treated CELLSTAR® 48-well suspension culture

plates (Greiner Bio-One GmbH, Kremsmünster, AUT). Organoid-containing BME-2

droplets were polymerized for 15 min at 37°C after which the droplets were overlaid

with hPO medium.

Induction and quantification of necroptotic cell death

The indicated cells were seeded in CELLSTAR® 96-well tissue culture plates

(Greiner Bio-One GmbH) at appropriate densities the day before treatment. For

necroptosis induction, cells were pretreated with 1 µM BV6 and 20 µM zVAD.fmk for

30 min (if not stated otherwise), followed by stimulation with 10 ng/mL recombinant

human TNFα for the indicated time (TBZ). The inhibitors HOIPIN-8 (30 µM), Gliotoxin

(1 µM), Nec-1s (30 µM), GSK'872 (20 µM) and NSA (10 µM) were added 1 h prior to

TBZ treatment. Cell death was determined by PI and Hoechst33342 (Hoe) staining

and fluorescence-based quantification of dead (PI-positive) cells compared to the

total cell number (Hoe-positive cells) using an ImageXpress® Micro XLS Widefield

High-Content Analysis System and MetaXpress® Software (Molecular Devices

Sunnyvale, CA, USA).

Induction and imaging of necroptotic cell death in primary hPOs

hPOs were seeded in 5 µL BME-2 droplets in sterile CELLSTAR® 96-well

suspension culture plates (Greiner Bio-One GmbH) and overlaid with 100 µL hPO

medium. hPOs were cultured for 3-5 days prior to experiments to assure organoid

formation and growth. For pre-treatment with HOIPIN-8, hPO medium was replaced

by hPO medium with the indicated concentrations of HOIPIN-8 and hPOs were

placed back in the incubator. After 30 min, hPO medium was again replaced with

medium supplemented with the indicated treatments and the plates were transferred

to the Zeiss AxioObserver Z1 microscope. Incubation was done at 37°C and 5% CO_2

during which 24 h time lapse imaging in 30 min intervals was performed. Each well

was imaged as tiles of two x two with eleven Z-slices of 60 µm thickness.

For live/dead assays, primary hPOs were stained using 10 µg/mL PI (Millipore

Sigma), 0.5 µg/mL FDA (Millipore Sigma) and 200 µg/mL Hoe (ThermoFisher

Scientific) for 30 min. Dyes were removed and the wells were washed with pre-

warmed PBS prior to imaging in PBS, using the same microscope settings as

described above.

Images were exported using the ZEN 2.6 lite software (Carl Zeiss Microscopy GmbH,

Oberkochen, Germany) and subsequently processed using the FiJi/ImageJ software.

RNAi-mediated silencing

Transient genetic silencing of HOIP and FLOT1/2 was performed by reverse

transfection of HT-29 cells with the following siRNAs: human siHOIP (RNF31)

(Silencer® Select siRNA #1 s30108, #2 s30109, #3 s30110, 40 nM) (Thermo Fisher

Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA), human FLOT1 (ON-TARGETplus Human FLOT1

siRNA SMART POOL, L-010636-00-0010) (Horizon Discovery Ltd., Waterbeach,

UK), human FLOT2 (ON-TARGETplus Human FLOT2 siRNA SMART POOL, L-

003666-01-0010) (Horizon Discovery Ltd.), non-targeting control siRNA (#4390843,

40 nM) (Thermo Fisher Scientific). In brief, the indicated cell lines were prepared in

penicillin/streptomycin-free medium and combined with the siRNA-lipid complexes,

prepared in OptiMEM (Thermo Fisher Scientific) using Lipofectamine™ RNAiMAX

Transfection Reagent (Thermo Fisher Scientific) according to the manufacturer's

protocol and incubated for 5 min at room temperature. The medium was changed to

full medium after 6 h and the cells were reseeded for the experiments 48 h post-

transfection.

Western blotting

For general cell lysis, RIPA lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl pH 8, 150 mM NaCl, 1%

Nonidet P-40 (NP-40), 2 mM $MgCl_2$, 0.5% sodium deoxycholate) supplemented with

protease inhibitor complex (PIC) (Roche, Grenzach, Germany), 0.1% SDS, 1 mM

sodium orthovanadate, 5 mM sodium fluoride, 1 mM β-gylcerophosphate, 1 mM

phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride and Pierce Universal Nuclease (Thermo Fisher

Scientific) was used. Indicated cell lines were incubated with lysis buffer for 30 min

on ice. The lysates were cleared by centrifugation at 18,000 x *g* and 4°C for 20 min

and protein concentration was determined using the BCA Protein Assay Kit from

Pierce™ (Thermo Fisher Scientific) according to the manufacturer's protocol.

Approximately 30-50 µg protein were boiled in 6x SDS loading buffer (350 mM Tris

Base pH 6.8, 38% glycerol, 10% SDS, 93 mg/ml dithiothreitol (DTT), 120 mg/ml

bromophenol blue) followed by Western blot analysis. For Western blot analysis of

MLKL oligomers, indicated cell lines were lysed as described above in 1% NP-40

lysis buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 50 mM NaCl, 5 mM EDTA, 10% glycerol, 1%

NP-40) supplemented with PIC, 1 mM sodium orthovanadate, 5 mM sodium fluoride,

1 mM β-gylcerophosphate and Pierce Universal Nuclease. The cleared lysates were

boiled in 6x SDS loading buffer or non-reducing 6x SDS loading buffer (350 mM Tris

Base pH 6.8, 38% glycerol, 10% SDS, 120 mg/ml bromophenol blue), followed by

Western blot analysis. The following antibodies were used in this study: human anti-

M1 Ub (Genentech, San Francisco, CA, USA), rabbit anti-RNF31/HOIP (ab46322,

Abcam, Cambridge, UK), mouse anti-HOIL-1 (MABC576, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt,

Germany), rabbit anti-Sharpin (12541S, Cell Signaling Technology, Danvers, MA,

USA), mouse anti-phospho-IκBα (S32/S36) (9246L, Cell Signaling Technology),

rabbit anti-IκBα (9242S, Cell Signaling Technology), rabbit anti-phospho-RIPK1

(S166) (65746S, Cell Signaling Technology), rabbit anti-phospho-RIPK1 (S166)

(31122S, Cell Signaling Technology), mouse anti-RIPK1 (551041, BD Biosciences,

San Jose, CA, USA), mouse anti-RIPK1 (610459, BD Biosciences), rabbit anti-

phospho-RIPK3 (S277) (ab209384, Abcam), rabbit anti-RIPK3 (13526S, Cell

Signaling Technology), rabbit anti-phospho-MLKL (S358) (91689S, Cell Signaling

Technology), rabbit anti-phospho-MLKL (S345) (ab196436, Abcam), rabbit anti-MLKL

(14993S, Cell Signaling Technology), rabbit anti-MLKL (orb32399, Biorbyt Ltd.,

Cambridge, UK), mouse anti-ALIX (634502, BioLegend, San Diego, CA, USA),

mouse anti-CD9 (sc-13118, Santa Cruz Biotechnologies, Santa Cruz, CA, USA),

mouse anti-Flotillin-1 (610820, BD Biosciences), mouse anti-Flotillin-2 (610383, BD

Biosciences), mouse anti-GAPDH (5G4cc, HyTest Ltd, Turku, Finland), mouse anti-

Vinculin (V9131, Merck KGaA), mouse anti-β-actin (A5441, Merck KGaA). The

following horseradish peroxidase (HRP)-coupled secondary antibodies were used for

detection using Pierce™ ECL Western Blotting-Substrate (Thermo Fisher Scientific):

HRP-conjugated goat anti-mouse IgG (ab6789, Abcam), HRP-conjugated goat anti-

rabbit IgG (ab6721, Abcam), HRP-conjugated goat anti-human IgG (AP309P, Merck

KGaA). For stripping and re-probing of Western blot membranes, membranes were

incubated with 0.4 M NaOH solution followed by blocking for 1 h. Representative

blots of at least two independent experiments are shown. If the samples of one

experiment are detected on multiple Western blotting membranes only one

representative loading control is shown for clarity.

RIPK3 immunoprecipitation

For RIPK3 immunoprecipitations, HT-29 RIPK3 KO cells re-expressing PAM-mutated

Dox-inducible Strep-tagged RIPK3 WT [116] were seeded in full medium and RIPK3

expression was induced by adding 1 µg/mL Dox 6 h after seeding. Prior to treatment,

the medium was changed to fresh medium and the cells were lysed in 1% NP-40

lysis buffer after treatment (as described above). For Strep-RIPK3

immunoprecipitations, MagStrep "type3" XT beads (IBA Lifesciences GmbH,

Göttingen, Germany) were pre-washed twice in 1% NP-40 lysis buffer and incubated

with 1,500-1,800 µg protein over night at 4°C on a rotating wheel. On the next day,

the beads were washed five times with TBS-T (20 mM Tris, 150 mM NaCl,

0.1%Tween 20, pH 8.0) using a magnetic separator and then boiled in 2x SDS

loading buffer for 5 min at 96°C followed by Western blotting.

UBAN pulldowns

M1 ubiquitinated proteins were enriched using GST-tagged UBAN-coupled

Glutathione MagBeads (Genscript, Piscataway NJ, SA), as described previously [116].

Briefly, cell lysates were prepared in 1% NP-40 lysis buffer (as described above).

1,800-2,000 µg protein were incubated with pre-washed (NP-40 lysis buffer) GST-

UBAN beads overnight on a rotating wheel at 4°C. On the following day, the beads

were washed five times with TBS-T using a magnetic separator, then boiled in 2x

SDS loading buffer for 5 min at 96°C and analyzed by Western blotting. Equal

loading of the GST-UBAN beads was confirmed using ponceau S (Merck KGaA)

staining.

Isolation of exosomes

For the enrichment of exosomes, the indicated HT-29 cell lines were seeded in full

medium the day before treatment. Prior to the addition of compounds, the medium

was removed, cells were washed with PBS and fresh FBS-free medium was added.

After treatment, the cell culture supernatant was collected for exosome isolation and

cells were lysed in RIPA lysis buffer as described above. The supernatant was

cleared by centrifugation (2,000 x g, 30 min 4°C) in order to remove cell debris.

Exosome isolation was performed using the Total Exosome Isolation Reagent (from

cell culture media) (Thermo Fisher Scientific) according to the manufacturer's

instructions. The cleared lysates were mixed with 0.5 volumes of the Total Exosome

Isolation reagent and incubated over night at 4°C. The next day, the samples were

centrifuged for 1 h at 10,000 x g at 4°C. The supernatants were discarded and the

pelleted exosomes were lysed in RIPA lysis buffer, followed by incubation in an

appropriate amount of 6x SDS loading buffer at 96°C for 5 min. Exosome lysates and

cell lysates were analyzed by Western blotting.

Cell fractionation

Cell fractionation by phase separation using Triton X-114 lysis buffer was performed

as described before [17]. In brief, indicated cell lines were treated and lysed in Triton-

X114 (MilliporeSigma) lysis buffer (150 mM NaCl, 20 mM HEPES pH 7.4, 2% Triton

X-114), supplemented with PIC, 1 mM sodium orthovanadate, 5 mM sodium fluoride

and 1 mM β-gylcerophosphate, for 30 min on ice, followed by 10 min centrifugation at

15,000 x g at 4°C. The supernatant was warmed at 30°C for 4 min and centrifuged at

1,500 x g for 5 min. The aqueous layer of the two-phase solution was collected and

re-centrifuged at 1,500 x g for 5 min to remove contaminations from the detergent-

enriched phase. The detergent-enriched fraction was washed twice with basal buffer

(150 mM NaCl, 20 mM HEPES pH 7.4) by centrifugation 1,500 x g for 5 min and then

diluted in basal buffer. The protein concentrations of both the aqueous and

detergent-enriched fractions were determined and 40-50 µg of protein were

incubated in an appropriate amount of 6x SDS loading buffer at 96°C for 5 min,

followed by Western blotting.

RNA isolation, cDNA synthesis and quantitative real-time PCR

Total RNA was prepared using the peqGOLD total RNA isolation kit (VWR, Radnor,

PA, USA) according to manufacturer's protocol. In brief, cell lysates were prepared

using RNA lysis buffer, transferred to peqGOLD RNA Homogenizer Columns and

centrifuged at 13,000 x g for 1 min. The filtrates were mixed with an equal volume of

70% ethanol and loaded to a peqGOLD RNA Mini Column followed by centrifugation

at 10,000 xg for 1 min. After a washing step with RNA Wash Buffer I and two washing

steps with 80% ethanol (centrifugation at 10,000 x g), the columns were dried by

centrifugation at 12,000 x g for 2 min. The RNA was eluted in nuclease-free water by

centrifugation at 12,000 x g for 2 min. For cDNA synthesis, 1 µg of RNA was

transcribed using the RevertAid H Minus First Strand Kit (ThermoFisher Scientific)

according to the manufacturer's protocol. CXCL1, CXCL10, TNFα and ICAM1 gene

expression levels were determined using SYBR green-based quantitative real-time

PCR (Applied Biosystems, Darmstadt, Germany) using the 7900GR Fast Real-time

PCR system (Applied Biosystems). Data were normalized against 18S-rRNA and

RPII expression and relative gene expression levels were calculated using the ΔΔCt-

method. The primers used in this study are listed below and were obtained from

Eurofins (Hamburg, Germany). CXCL1: forward AACCGAAGTCATAGCCACAC,

reverse GTTGGATTTGTCACTGTTCAGC. CXCL10: forward

CTGAGCCTACAGCAGAGGAAC, reverse GATGCAGGTACAGCGTACAGT. TNFα:

forward ACAACCCTCAGACGCCACAT, reverse TCCTTTCCAGGGGAGAGAGG.

ICAM1: forward CTTCCTCACCGTGTACTGGAC, reverse

GGCAGCGTAGGGTAAGGTTC. 28S-rRNA: forward TTGAAAATCCGGGGGAGAG,

reverse ACATTGTTCCAACATGCCAG, RPII: forward GCACCACGTCCAATGACAT,

reverse GTGCGGCTGCTTCCATAA.

Quantification of CXCL1 cytokine secretion

To determine CXCL1 secretion from necroptotic cells, the indicated cell lines were

seeded in 96-well dishes and treated as described above. After treatment,

supernatants were collected and cleared by centrifugation (300 x *g*, 5 min, 4°C).

CXCL1 levels were measured after 3 h and 6 h using the Human CXCL1/GROα

DuoSet® ELISA kit (R&D Systems, Minneapolis, MN, USA) according to the

manufacturer's instructions. Absorbance at 450 nm was determined using the Infinite

M200 microplate reader (Tecan, Crailsheim, Germany).

Immunofluorescence staining

For immunofluorescence staining of phosphorylated MLKL, indicated cell lines were

seeded in CELLSTAR® 96-well tissue culture plates (Greiner Bio-One GmbH) at an

appropriate density the day before treatment. After treatment, the supernatant was

removed and the cells were fixed by incubation in 4% paraformaldehyde solution for

20 min at room temperature, followed by permeabilization for 15 min with 0.1%

Triton X-100. After three washing steps with PBS, the cells were blocked in antibody

dilution buffer (ADB) (0.9% NaCl, 10 mM Tris/HCl pH 7.5, 5 mM EDTA, 1 mg/mL

BSA) for 45 min, followed by incubation with rabbit anti-phospho-MLKL (S358)

(1:100, ab187091, Abcam) (diluted in ADB) overnight at 4°C. On the next day, the

cells were washed five times with PBS and incubated with Cy3 AffiniPure Donkey

Anti-Rabbit IgG (H+L) (1:800, 711-165-152, Jackson Immuno Research, West Grove,

PA, USA) and 0.1 µg/mL DAPI (diluted in ADB) for 90 min at room temperature. After

five washing steps with PBS the cells were analyzed using the ImageXpress® Micro

XLS Widefield High-Content Analysis System and MetaXpress® Software (Molecular

Devices).

Massive Analysis of cDNA Ends (MACE-seq)

Massive Analyses of cDNA Ends (MACE-Seq) was performed by GenXPro GmbH in

Frankfurt am Main using the MACE-Seq kit according to the manual of the

manufacturers. Briefly, cDNA was generated from fragmented RNA with barcoded

poly-A primers during reverse transcription. After second-strand synthesis and 5'

adapter integration, a PCR with minimum number of cylces was used to produce a

library that was sequenced on an Illumina NextSeq500 machine with 1x 75 bps [117].

MACE-seq analysis

Raw MACE-seq data was preprocessed using Cutadapt [118] to eliminate poly-A-tails

as well as bad-quality base reads. FastQC was used to assess the quality of

sequencing after trimming. Cleaned reads were mapped and quantified with a

reference genome using STAR. ENSEMBL-GTF data were used to provide genomic

locations for quantification as well as additional data for annotation (such as gene

name, gene description, Gene Ontology (GO)-Terms etc). Differential expression

analysis was performed using DESeq2 [119], which is based on negative binomial

generalized linear models. Results were compiled into a final table including

significance parameters (pvalue, FDR) and log2FoldChanges. BigWig track files were

generated by deepTools. Final data visualization of the significantly expressed and

the differentially regulated genes was performed by custom R-Scripts.

1002

1003   ***Statistical analysis***

1004   Statistical significance was determined with the GraphPad Prism 9 Software

1005   (GraphPad Software, La Jolla CA, USA) using 2-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's

1006   multiple comparisons test. P values < 0.05 are considered significant and depicted as

1007   follows: $P \leq 0.05$: *, $P \leq 0.01$: **, $P \leq 0.001$: ***, $P \leq 0.0001$: ****, ns: not significant.

1008

1009   **Data availability**

1010   MACE-seq data have been deposited at GEO and are publicly available as of the

1011   date of publication. All primary data will be shared by the lead contact upon request.

 Supplemental Information

 Figure S1. Related to Figure 1. A. Quantification of cell death in untreated (UT) and

Gliotoxin (1 µM)-pre-treated HT-29 cells after treatment with TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 1

µM BV6, 20 µM zVAD.fmk) for the indicated time points. Mean and SEM of at least

three independent experiments are shown. ****P<0.0001. **B.** Quantification of cell

death in untreated (UT) and Gliotoxin (1 µM)-pre-treated THP-1 cells after treatment

with TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 1 µM BV6, 20 µM zVAD.fmk) for the indicated time points.

Mean and SEM of at least three independent experiments are shown. ***P<0.001;

****P<0.0001. **C.** Western blot analysis of HOIP levels in control (siCtrl) and HOIP

knockdown (siHOIP) HT-29 cells. GAPDH was used as loading control.

Representative blots of at least two independent experiments are shown. Related to

Figure 1C. **D.** Western blot analysis of total M1 Ub levels in control or HOIPIN-8 (30

µM)-pre-treated THP-1 cells treated with TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 1 µM BV6, 20 µM

zVAD.fmk) for 4 h. GAPDH was used as loading control. Representative blots of at

least two independent experiments are shown. **E.** Amino acid sequence alignment

showing conservation of human (aa841-aa960) and murine HOIP (RNF31) (aa835-

aa954). Conserved residues interacting with HOIPIN-8 are highlighted and indicated

by arrowheads. Sequence alignment was performed using the CLUSTAL O (1.2.4)

algorithm. **F.** Western blot analysis of phosphorylated and total IκBα levels in control

or HOIPIN-8 (30 µM)-pre-treated HT-29 cells upon treatment with 10 ng/mL TNFα for

the indicated time points. Vinculin was used as loading control. Representative blots

of at least two independent experiments are shown. **G.** Western blot analysis of

phosphorylated and total IκBα levels in control or HOIPIN-8 (30 µM)-pre-treated

MEFs upon treatment with 10 ng/mL TNFα for the indicated time. Vinculin was used

as loading control. Representative blots of at least two independent experiments are

shown. **H.** Quantification of cell death in untreated (UT) and HOIPIN-8 (30 µM) pre-

treated MEFs after treatment with TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 1 µM BV6, 20 µM

zVAD.fmk) for the indicated time points. Mean and SEM of at least three independent

experiments are shown. ***P<0.001; ****P<0.0001; ns not significant. **I.** Quantification

of cell death in untreated (UT) and HOIPIN-8 (30 µM)-pre-treated, GSK'872 (20 µM)-

pre-treated or HOIPIN-8 and GSK'872-pre-treated L-929 cells after treatment with

TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 1 µM BV6, 20 µM zVAD.fmk) for the indicated time points.

Mean and SEM of at least three independent experiments are shown. ****P<0.0001;

ns not significant. **J.** Western blot analysis of total M1 Ub levels in control or HOIPIN-

8 (30 µM)-pre-treated MEFs treated with TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 1 µM BV6, 20 µM

zVAD.fmk) for 3 h. GAPDH was used as loading control. Representative blots of at

least two independent experiments are shown.

1049

Figure S2. Related to Figure 2. A. Western blot analysis of LUBAC subunits HOIP

and HOIL-1 expression levels in control *versus* HOIPIN-8 (30 µM)-pre-treated MEFs

upon treatment with TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 1 µM BV6, 20 µM zVAD.fmk) for 3 h.

GAPDH was used as loading control. Representative blots of at least two

independent experiments are shown. **B.** Western blot analysis of expression levels of

phosphorylated and total RIPK1 and MLKL upon 4 h TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 1 µM

BV6, 20 µM zVAD.fmk) treatment of THP-1 cells pre-treated with HOIPIN-8 (30 µM).

Vinculin was used as loading control. Representative blots of at least two

independent experiments are shown. **C.** Western blot analysis of expression levels of

phosphorylated and total RIPK1, RIPK3 and MLKL, and of M1 Ub in TBZ-treated (10

ng/mL TNFα, 1 µM BV6, 20 µM zVAD.fmk) control (nht), RIPK3 KO and MLKL KO

HT-29 cells pre-treated with HOIPIN-8 (30 µM). GAPDH was used as loading control.

Representative blots of at least two independent experiments are shown.

1063

Figure S3. Related to Figure 3. A. mRNA expression levels of CXCL1 and CXCL10 of control (nht) or MLKL KO HT-29 cells treated with TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 1 μM BV6, 20 μM zVAD.fmk) for 3 h. Gene expression was normalized against 18S and RPII mRNA expression and is presented as x-fold mRNA expression compared to the untreated (UT) control cells. Mean and SEM of at least three independent experiments are shown. **$P<0.01$; ***$P<0.001$. **B.** mRNA expression levels of TNFα of control (UT), HOIPIN-8 (30 μM) or NSA (10 μM)-pre-treated HT-29 cells upon treatment with TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 1 μM BV6, 20 μM zVAD.fmk) for 3 h. Gene expression was normalized against 18S and RPII mRNA expression and is presented as x-fold mRNA expression compared to the untreated (UT) control. Mean and SEM of at least three independent experiments are shown. ****$P<0.0001$. **C.** mRNA expression levels of ICAM1 of control (UT), HOIPIN-8 (30 μM) or NSA (10 μM)-pre-treated HT-29 cells upon treatment with TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 1 μM BV6, 20 μM zVAD.fmk) for 3 h. Gene expression was normalized against 18S and RPII mRNA expression and is presented as x-fold mRNA expression compared to the untreated (UT) control. Mean and SEM of at least three independent experiments are shown. ****$P<0.0001$.

1081

Figure S4. Related to Figure 4. A. Distribution of M1 poly-Ub in the micelle-poor (aqueous) and micelle-rich (detergent) fraction after phase separation using Triton X-114 lysis buffer in untreated (UT) and HOIPIN-8 (30 μM)-pre-treated HT-29 cells upon treatment with TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 1 μM BV6, 20 μM zVAD.fmk) for 4 h. GAPDH was used as loading control for soluble proteins and CD9 as loading control for membrane proteins. Representative blots of at least two independent experiments

1088 are shown. **B.** Fluorescence microscopy images show localization of phosphorylated

1089 MLKL (green) in untreated (UT) and NSA (10 µM)-pre-treated HT-29 cells and after

1090 treatment with TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 1 µM BV6, 20 µM zVAD.fmk) for 3 h. Nuclei

1091 were stained with DAPI (blue). Representative images of at least two independent

1092 experiments are shown. Scale bar 50 µm.

1093

Figure S5. Related to Figure 5. A. GST-UBAN-mediated pulldown of M1

ubiquitinated proteins in control or HOIPIN-8 (30 µM)-pre-treated THP-1 cells treated

with TBZ (10 ng/mL TNFα, 1 µM BV6, 20 µM zVAD.fmk) for 4 h. GST and GAPDH

were used as loading controls. Representative blots of at least two independent

experiments are shown. **B.** Western blot analysis of FLOT1/2 levels in control (siCtrl)

and FLOT1 (siFLOT1), FLOT2 (siFLOT2) or combined FLOT1/2 (siFLOT1+2)

knockdown HT-29 cells. Vinculin was used as loading control. Representative blots of

at least two independent experiments are shown. Related to Figure 5B. **C.** Western

blot analysis of total M1 Ub levels of control or HOIPIN-8 (30 µM)-pre-treated control

(siCtrl) or FLOT1/2 (siFLOT1+2) knockdown HT-29 cells after treatment with TBZ (10

ng/mL TNFα, 1 µM BV6, 20 µM zVAD.fmk) for 4 h. GAPDH was used as loading

control. Representative blots of at least two independent experiments are shown.

1106

Figure S6. Related to Figure 6. A. Representative images of time-lapse videos of

untreated (UT), Birinapant (20 µM) and Emricasan (10 µM) (BiE)-treated, HOIPIN-8

(30 µM)-pre-treated and BiE-treated (BiE+HOIPIN-8) and NSA (10 µM)-pre-treated

and BiE-treated (BiE+NSA) primary hPOs for a total period of 23.5 h. Scalebars: 250

µm. **B.** *Idem* as A., but treated primary hPOs were stained with Hoechst33342 (Hoe)

(blue), FDA (live; green) and PI (dead; red) after 24 h treatment with BiE,

BiE+HOIPIN-8 or BiE+NSA prior to imaging. Scalebars: 250 µm.

1114

1115 **Figure S7. Related to Figure 6.** Representative images of untreated (UT), BV6 (5

1116 µM) and zVAD.fmk (20 µM) (BZ)-treated and HOIPIN-8 (30 µM)-pre-treated and BZ-

1117 treated (BZ+HOIPIN-8) primary hPOs that were stained with Hoechst33342 (Hoe)

1118 (blue), FDA (live; green) and PI (dead; red) after 24 h treatment prior to imaging.

1119 Scalebars: 250 µm.

1120

1121 **Movie 1. Related to Figure 6A.** Time-lapse videos of untreated (UT), BV6 and

1122 Emricasan (BE)-treated and HOIPIN-8-pre-treated and BE (BE+HOIPIN-8)-treated

1123 primary hPOs for a total period of 23.5 h. Scalebars: 250 µm.

1124

1125 **Movie 2. Related to Figure S6A.** Time-lapse videos of untreated (UT), Birinapant

1126 and Emricasan (BiE)-treated, HOIPIN-8-pre-treated and BiE (BiE+HOIPIN-8)-treated

1127 and NSA-pre-treated and BiE (BiE+NSA)-treated primary hPOs for a total period of

1128 23.5 h. Scalebars: 250 µm.

1129

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Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

Figure 6