KIF16B mediates anterograde transport and modulates lysosomal degradation of the HIV-1 envelope glycoprotein

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ABSTRACT

The human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) envelope glycoprotein (Env) is

incorporated into virions at the site of particle assembly on the plasma membrane (PM).

The route taken by Env to reach the site of assembly and particle incorporation remains

incompletely understood. Following initial delivery to the PM through the secretory

pathway, Env is rapidly endocytosed, suggesting that recycling is required for particle

incorporation. Endosomes marked by the small GTPase Rab14 have been previously

shown to play a role in Env trafficking. Here we examined the role of KIF16B, the

molecular motor protein that directs outward movement of Rab14-dependent cargo, in

Env trafficking. Env colocalized extensively with KIF16B+ endosomes at the cellular

periphery, while expression of a motor-deficient mutant of KIF16B redistributed Env to a

perinuclear location. The half-life of Env labeled at the cell surface was markedly reduced

in the absence of KIF16B, while a normal half-life was restored through inhibition of

lysosomal degradation. In the absence of KIF16B, Env expression on the surface of cells

was reduced, leading to a reduction in Env incorporation into particles and a

corresponding reduction in particle infectivity. HIV-1 replication in KIF16B knockout cells

was substantially reduced as compared to wildtype cells. These results indicate that

KIF16B regulates an outward sorting step involved in Env trafficking, thereby limiting

lysosomal degradation and enhancing particle incorporation.

IMPORTANCE The HIV-1 envelope glycoprotein is an essential component of HIV-1

particles. The cellular pathways that contribute to incorporation of envelope into particles

are not fully understood. Here we identify KIF16B, a motor protein that directs movement

from internal compartments toward the plasma membrane, as a host factor that prevents

envelope degradation and enhances particle incorporation. This is the first host motor

protein identified that contributes to HIV-1 envelope incorporation and replication.

INTRODUCTION

The HIV-1 Env protein plays critical roles in the viral lifecycle, mediating receptor and coreceptor binding, fusion, and entry into target cells. Env is the principal neutralizing determinant on the surface of virions, and has been a primary focus of vaccine design efforts since the onset of the HIV pandemic. While many aspects of Env structure and function are now understood, the determinants of particle incorporation of Env are not fully defined. HIV-1 Env is synthesized on endoplasmic reticulum (ER)-bound ribosomes as a precursor gp160 protein. Trimerization and initial glycosylation of Env take place in the ER, followed by additional glycan modifications and cleavage of gp160 into gp120 (SU) and gp41 (TM) subunits in the Golgi apparatus. After delivery to the PM, the heterotrimeric Env complex is rapidly endocytosed into early endosomes (1-3). The trafficking events that occur following Env endocytosis are poorly defined, and are the subject of this report.

Clues to Env trafficking and particle incorporation have come from studies of the Env cytoplasmic tail (CT). Long CTs are a characteristic feature of most lentiviral Env proteins. HIV-1, HIV-2, and simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV) have Env CTs of approximately 150 amino acids. The CT of HIV-1 Env contains multiple functional motifs that have been implicated in intracellular trafficking events [reviewed in (4, 5)], suggesting that the CT interacts with host trafficking molecules to direct intracellular trafficking and particle incorporation of Env. In support of the critical role of the CT, Murakami and Freed showed that there are remarkable cell type-specific differences in incorporation of Env with a large deletion in the CT (6). While some cell lines such as MT-4 and 293T cells readily incorporate Env bearing a truncated CT, incorporation into virions in most T cell lines, in

primary T lymphocytes, and in monocyte-derived macrophages (MDMs) requires an intact

CT (6-9). HeLa cells demonstrate an intermediate phenotype, with a reduction but not

complete loss of Env incorporation with a CT truncation (6). The cell type-dependent

incorporation of Env with a truncated CT, together with evidence supporting trafficking

motifs within the CT, suggests that specific host factors are required for incorporation of

Env into particles.

We previously demonstrated that a Rab-related adaptor protein Rab11-FIP1C

(FIP1C) plays a role in Env incorporation, and outlined a key role for recycling pathways

in this process (10-12). The specific Rab GTPase involved in FIP1C-mediated recycling

of Env was shown to be Rab14 (10). Additional evidence supporting a role for Rab14

comes from Hoffman and colleagues, who demonstrated that Env traffics to Rab14+ late

endosomes and lysosomes (13). Recycling of Env to the PM was demonstrated in this

study, and a potential role for Rab14 in regulating lysosomal degradation vs. delivery to

the PM was suggested. Given the accumulating evidence for Rab14 in the intracellular

trafficking of Env, we sought to evaluate the role of the molecular motor protein that

associates with Rab14, KIF16B.

KIF16B is a member of the kinesin-3 family of molecular motor proteins. KIF16B is a

plus end-directed molecular motor that regulates the steady-state distribution of Rab5+

early endosomes and plays a role in recycling of endocytosed cargo to the cell surface

(14). A seminal study describing KIF16B function demonstrated that disruption of KIF16B

led to redistribution of epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) and enhanced its

degradation in the lysosome (14). KIF16B has also been implicated in anterograde

transport of transferrin receptor and fibroblast growth factor receptor (FGFR), in

contributing to MHC class I cross-presentation, and in directing apical transcytosis of

cargo in epithelial cells (14-17). KIF16B binds directly to Rab14, and a Rab14-KIF16B

complex has been shown to be essential for transport of FGFR and in mediating antigen

cross-presentation by dendritic cells (15, 16). Given the role of Rab14 in HIV-1 Env

trafficking, we hypothesized that KIF16B-mediated transport plays a role in anterograde

trafficking of Env. We found that KIF16B directs Env to early endosomes located at the

periphery of cells, while expression of a motor-deficient KIF16B molecule retained Env in

perinuclear endosomal compartments. Measurement of the half-life of Env in KIF16B

knockout (KO) cells revealed an enhanced rate of Env degradation that could be reversed

using an inhibitor of lysosomal acidification. Knockout of KIF16B expression in a T cell

line diminished cell surface levels of Env incorporation, Env incorporation into particles,

particle infectivity, and viral replication in a spreading infection. These studies implicate

KIF16B in anterograde movement of Env away from degradation in the lysosome,

allowing more efficient incorporation into HIV-1 particles.

RESULTS

Env localizes to KIF16B-positive compartments and is redistributed by

dominant-negative KIF16B overexpression. To determine if HIV-1 Env is found in

KIF16B-positive endosomal compartments, we co-expressed the HIV-1 NL4-3 Env with

KIF16B tagged with yellow fluorescent protein (YFP) in HeLa cells. KIF16B+

compartments were readily observed at the periphery of cells and demonstrated a striking

colocalization with Env (Fig. 1A). Expression of KIF16B bearing a mutation in the

nucleotide binding motif that disrupts its motor function, KIF16B-S109A-YFP, has been

shown to act in a dominant-negative fashion to impair EGFR trafficking (14). Similar to

what was seen with EGFR, HIV-1 Env was redistributed by expression of KIF16B-S109A-

YFP to a perinuclear location (Fig. 1B). Expression of Env from intact NL4-3 proviral DNA

together with wildtype KIF16B led to a peripheral distribution of Env, similar to that seen

upon expression of Env alone (Fig. 1C). Expression of intact provirus with KIF16B-S109A-

YFP also revealed relocalization of Env to a perinuclear location (Fig. 1D). To quantify

the observed difference in subcellular localization, we used a mask 30% the distance from

the outer edge at the periphery of the cell to the stained nucleus, and measured Env

signal within this mask as compared to total Env signal in the cell. 40 cells were examined

for this analysis. The significant differences in peripheral localization shown in the

representative images were confirmed quantitatively, as shown in Fig. 1E. Expression of

either WT or S109A KIF16B resulted in a high degree of colocalization with Env, as

measured by Pearson's coefficient (Fig. 1F). We noted a somewhat higher degree of

colocalization with KIF16B-S109A-YFP expression, which was statistically significant

when Env alone was expressed (Fig. 1F). These results largely mirror results reported for

KIF16B relocalization of EGFR (14), and support the hypothesis that KIF16B promotes

anterograde transport of Env in early endosomal compartments.

KIF16B fails to redistribute heterologous viral glycoproteins. We considered the

possibility that overexpression of KIF16B could divert early endosomes to the periphery

of cells in a non-specific manner that would be seen with other viral envelope

glycoproteins. To address this possibility, we examined the effect of expression of WT vs.

S109A KIF16B on the distribution of three unrelated viral glycoproteins: influenza

glycoprotein hemagglutinin (HA), Ebola virus glycoprotein (EBOV GP), and severe acute

respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 spike (SARS-CoV-2 S) protein. As noted previously,

WT KIF16B was consistently found at the periphery of cells, while KIF16B-S109A

localized near the cell nucleus. No redistribution of HA, EBOV GP, or SARS-CoV-2 S was

seen for KIF16B vs. KIF16B-S109A expression (Fig. 2A-F). Furthermore, in contrast to

HIV-1 Env, these heterologous viral glycoproteins failed to colocalize significantly with

KIF16B as indicated by visual inspection and by determination of a slightly negative

Pearson's Coefficient (supplemental Fig. S1C). These results demonstrate that HIV-1 Env

colocalization with and redistribution by KIF16B is not widely generalizable to viral

glycoproteins, at least as indicated by examination of a paramyxovirus, filovirus, and

coronavirus envelope glycoprotein. Next, we examined the effects of expression of

KIF1B, a closely related kinesin mediating plus end-directed trafficking, or its dominant

negative (motor-deficient) form KIF1B-Q98L (18), on HIV-1 Env distribution. KIF1B was

found at the cellular periphery, while and KIF1B-Q98L localized to perinuclear locations

in a manner similar to that of KIF16B and KIF16B-S109A (supplemental Fig. S1A, 1B).

However, distribution of HIV-1 Env did not appear to shift to the periphery or perinuclear

region upon expression of KIF1B and KIF1B-Q98L, respectively (Fig. S1A, 1B). In

contrast to results with KIF16B, Env was not significantly colocalized with either KIF1B

protein (Fig. S1C). Together, these results suggest that KIF16B plays a specific role in

anterograde trafficking of HIV-1 Env.

HIV-1 Env on the PM is endocytosed into KIF16B positive endosomes. The

studies described above examined the total pool of Env in the cell, and did not study the

endocytosed pool of Env in isolation. In order to determine if Env is delivered into KIF16B

positive endosomes directly from the PM, we utilized a novel approach using flourogen

activating protein (FAP) tagging (19). The FAP tag was placed within the V2 loop of the

ectodomain of JR-FL Env as illustrated in Fig. 3A, creating the FAP-Env construct. To

validate this system for use in assessing Env incorporation, we examined particle

incorporation of FAP-Env. FAP-Env was co-expressed with Env-deficient provirus, and

was efficiently incorporated into virions as indicated by Western blot analysis

(supplemental Fig. S2). Combining expression of this construct (FAP-Env) with a

flourogen impermeant to the PM (MG-11p, αRED-np1 from Spectragenetics) allowed

visualization of the fate of pulse-labeled Env present on the surface of cells. We first co-

expressed FAP-Env with KIF16B WT in HeLa cells and fixed the cells after pulse labeling

them on ice to visualize the surface staining in the absence of endocytosis. Fig. 3B

demonstrates that the cell membrane-impermeable reagent fluoresced upon binding to

Env on the cell surface and did not penetrate the PM. We next allowed internalization of

FAP-Env for 15 minutes at 37°C after pulse-labeling, and found that surface-labelled FAP-

Env on the surface had accumulated into KIF16B-positive compartments (Fig. 3B). We

also performed the same experiment with KIF16B S109A and found similar results (Fig.

3C). In order to follow the movement of this FAP-Env population expressed on the cell

surface in real-time, we pulse-labeled FAP-Env and recorded live-cell video of Env

movement into HeLa cells expressing KIF16B or KIF16B-S109A. Pulse-labeled Env was

endocytosed within a few minutes and demonstrated increasing colocalization with

KIF16B+ endosomes at the periphery of cells, or with KIF16B-S109A+ endosomes in the

perinuclear region of the cell (Fig. 3D and 3E, and supplemental video 1 and 2). These

results demonstrate that HIV-1 Env on the surface of the cell is rapidly endocytosed and

thereafter accumulates in KIF16B+ endosomes.

Deletion of KIF16B leads to enhanced degradation of Env and accumulation

within the lysosome. It has been established that KIF16B-mediated transport can divert

cellular cargo from default pathways that lead to lysosomal degradation, while depletion

of KIF16B enhances their degradation (14, 16) We therefore hypothesized that a loss of

normal anterograde trafficking of Env mediated by KIF16B could result in enhanced Env

degradation. To evaluate this possibility, we utilized CRISPR/Cas9 technology to

knockout KIF16B in both HeLa cells and H9 T cells, followed by characterization of

isolated cell clones. Fig. S3 shows characterization of one HeLa and one H9 clone used

for subsequent studies, and is consistent with the findings from several clones examined

for each cell type. Note the complete absence of KIF16B by Western blotting in

supplemental Fig. S3A. We then utilized the KIF16B KO HeLa cell clones together with

pulse-labeling of Env using the FAP tag technique described above. FAP-Env was

expressed in WT or KIF16B KO cells, and the kinetics of disappearance of total cellular

FAP-Env signal was measured over time. These experiments were controlled for the

effects of photobleaching on FAP-Env signal as outlined in Materials and Methods.

Remarkably, the FAP-Env signal degraded at a considerably faster rate in KIF16B KO

cells than in WT cells (images in Fig. 4A vs. Fig. 4B and supplemental video 3). The half-

life of endocytosed Env measured in WT HeLa cells by this method was 159.5 minutes

(95% C.I. 145.4 – 175.6), while in the absence of KIF16B Env was more rapidly degraded,

with a half-life of 56.9 minutes (95% C.I. 54.1 – 59.8). Furthermore, when we incubated

KIF16B KO cells with lysosomal inhibitor bafilomyacin-A1 (Baf-A1), the degradation rate

in KIF16B KO cells returned to wild-type levels (Fig. 4 A, B, C, E and supplemental video

3). To corroborate the observation that KIF16B knockout leads to enhanced degradation

of Env as measured by degradation of FAP-tagged Env, we performed surface pulse-

labeling with NHS-biotin in WT and KIF16B KO HeLa cells on ice, followed by quenching

of remaining biotin and pulldown of internalized biotinylated proteins with streptavidin

beads at multiple timepoints following incubation at 37°C. Detection of internalized Env

was then performed using quantitative Western blotting. Figure 4D shows Western blot

examples representative of results from five individual experiments for each experimental

arm. As compared with WT cells, pulse-labeled Env in KIF16B KO cells was more rapidly

degraded (Fig. 4D, compare WT to KO blots). The addition of Baf-A1 reduced the

degradation to essentially WT levels (Fig. 4D, 4F). Using repeated experiments, we

generated degradation curves for pulsed Env in WT, KO, and KO + Baf-A1 cells that were

similar, but not identical, to the curves derived from FAP-Env labeling (Fig. 4F, compare

to 4E). Env half-life measured by this method was 154.1 minutes for WT cells, 32.1

minutes for KO cells, and 94.9 minutes for Baf-A1-treated KO cells. While we noted that

the results were not identical between the two methods employed, they are in good

general agreement, and establish that KIF16B KO leads to more rapid Env degradation

that can be rescued by Baf-A1. Together, these results clearly show that KIF16B limits

lysosomal degradation of Env, likely through promoting anterograde trafficking.

Given results above with the lysosomal inhibitor Baf-A1, we sought to determine if the

absence of KIF16B results in a shift in Env distribution into the lysosomal compartment.

Results of immunofluorescence staining were striking. WT HeLa cells revealed punctate

lysosomes with a moderate degree of Env colocalization, while intracellular Env was

clearly distinguished outside of the lysosome (marked by LAMP1 staining) (Fig. 5A). In

KIF16B KO cells, Env colocalization with LAMP1 was dramatically higher (Fig. 5B and

5D). Baf-A1 treatment of KIF16B KO cells did not show significant differences in

colocalization of Env and LAMP1 as compared with untreated KO cells, as both showed

very high levels of colocalization as quantified by Pearson's coefficient (Fig. 5C and 5D).

Taken together, these results from imaging and pulse-chase analysis suggest that

deletion of KIF16B increases the rate of Env degradation due to loss of anterograde

movement normally conferred by KIF16B, resulting in shunting to the lysosome for

degradation.

KIF16B deletion leads to defects in Env incorporation, particle infectivity, and

viral replication. We next examined the effect of KIF16B depletion on Env trafficking and

incorporation into particles. We first assessed surface levels of Env by flow cytometry

after infecting WT or KIF16B KO H9 cells with NL4-3 virus. Surface expression levels of

Env were consistently diminished in KIF16B KO cells compared with WT cells (Fig. 6A

and 6B), consistent with diminished anterograde movement of Env. Total cellular Env

measured by flow cytometry was also diminished, but to a somewhat lesser degree than

cell surface Env (Fig. 6B). This result is consistent with the enhanced lysosomal

degradation of endocytosed Env shown in prior results. Viruses were then purified from

supernatants of infected WT and KIF16B KO H9 cells, in order to examine levels of Env

incorporation into particles. Viral particle Env content was significantly reduced in KIF16B

KO cells compared to WT H9 (>50% reduction from wild-type levels as quantified by LI-

COR Image Studio Software, n = 5) (Fig. 6C). The leftmost blot in Fig. 6C shows particle

Env content normalized by equal p24 content loading of the lanes. When cell lysates were

examined following multiple rounds of replication in WT or KIF16B KO cells and

normalized for total protein, there was a reduction of all viral proteins, reflecting

diminished replication (Fig. 6C, cell lysate). Notably, however, production of gp160 in

KIF16B KO cells was not diminished, as indicated by Western blot of lysates from infected

cells examined after a single round of replication (Fig. 6C, rightmost blot). This suggests

that the reduced levels of Env seen on the PM and on particles derived from KIF16B KO

cells were not due to an Env production defect. To evaluate the significance of the

diminished particle incorporation of Env induced by KIF16B KO, we next examined

particle infectivity and viral replication. Consistent with the observed reduction of Env on

particles, the infectivity of particles released from KIF16B KO cells was consistently

reduced (Fig. 6D). We noted that the reduction in Env incorporation shown in Fig. 6C and

the reduction in particle infectivity in 6D were consistent but are incomplete, suggesting

that although KIF16B alters the level of Env incorporation, it is not absolutely required for

incorporation of Env into particles. To determine the significance of this level of Env

reduction on viral replication, we infected WT H9 and KIF16B KO cells and measured

viral replication in a spreading infection. Infection of KIF16B KO H9 cells resulted in a

significant delay in replication and a reduced peak of released virus as compared with

WT H9 cells (Fig. 6E). We conclude from these results that the anterograde movement

of Env by KIF16B plays a role in Env incorporation and viral replication. Loss of KIF16B

results in lower levels of cell surface Env and a corresponding loss of Env incorporation

into particles.

DISCUSSION

Molecular motor proteins are essential to the normal function of eukaryotic cells. The

cytoplasm of cells is dense, crowded with proteins, vesicles, nucleotides, and organelles.

Free diffusion of large molecules within the cytoplasm is restricted, and cannot be relied

upon to move these cellular materials with the efficiency and accuracy required for proper

cell function. Instead, the cell must use specialized molecular motors. These motors –

kinesins, dyneins, and myosins – use adenosine triphosphate (ATP) to power movement

of cargo along cytoskeletal structures. Kinesins and dyneins utilize microtubule networks

as their pathways for transporting cellular cargo. With some exceptions, kinesins move in

an anterograde direction along microtubules. Dyneins, in contrast, move in a retrograde

direction toward the minus end of microtubules often localized at the microtubule-

organizing center (MTOC). Kinesins and dyneins are most commonly structured with an

N-terminal motor head that is responsible for powering processive, step-like movement

of motor subunits, attached via a middle stalk region to a C-terminal tail composed of light

and heavy chains that bind the cellular cargo (20-23) .

Viruses hijack host cellular pathways in order to perform essential steps in their

lifecycle, including co-opting molecular motor-driven intracellular transport (24-27). HIV-1

has been shown to utilize motor proteins at several steps of replication (27, 28). Following

entry to a cell, the conical core of HIV-1 has been shown to bind to dynein and to use the

KIF5 motor protein to successfully traffic towards the nucleus (29, 30). Depletion of the

KIF5B motor prevents nuclear entry and infection of HIV-1 in a CA-dependent manner

(31). In studies of outward trafficking of Gag, KIF4 has been shown to directly interact

with Gag in both yeast two-hybrid and co-immunoprecipitation assays (32, 33).

Additionally, disruption of KIF4 slowed progression of Gag through trafficking

intermediates, and depletion of KIF4 increased degradation of Gag that was reversed

upon reintroduction of KIF4 (34). However, no motor protein has previously been shown

to interact with the HIV-1 Env protein or participate in its trafficking within host cells.

Because Env that reaches the cell surface through the secretory pathway is rapidly

endocytosed and must subsequently traffic in an anterograde manner to return to the PM

for particle incorporation, we hypothesized in this study that HIV-1 would also likely use

a kinesin or kinesins for outward trafficking of Env. Several pieces of evidence implicate

Rab14 as an important outward trafficking factor for Env. Our group has shown that

Rab14 mediates FIP1C-dependent recycling of Env and plays a role in Env incorporation

(10). Hoffman and colleagues similarly found that Env colocalizes to Rab14+ endosomal

compartments in T cell lines, and unexpectedly found that these compartments shared

some characteristics with late endosomes and lysosomes (13). KIF16B is an effector of

Rab14-mediated trafficking that binds directly to Rab14 (15). In this study, we

demonstrate that KIF16B plays a role in Env trafficking and in the ability of HIV-1 to form

fully infectious particles. Similar to other reported cargo of KIF16B such as EGFR, Env

colocalized strongly with KIF16B at the periphery of cells. Motor mutant dominant

negative KIF16B redistributed Env to a perinuclear position, entirely consistent with what

had been seen for EGFR. Video microscopy of pulse-labeled Env expressed on the

surface of cells in this study indicated that Env on the PM is endocytosed into KIF16B-

positive compartments. In the absence of KIF16B, Env was shifted to the lysosome, and

the half-life of Env that had been endocytosed from the PM was significantly reduced.

Taken together, these studies strongly suggest that KIF16B mediates anterograde

movement of Env and limits the pool of Env that is shunted to the lysosome for

degradation. To our knowledge, this is the first evidence for a motor protein contributing

to Env trafficking and particle incorporation.

Data from this study support the model shown in Fig. 7. According to this model, Env

is transported through the secretory pathway to the PM and subsequently endocytosed

to the early or recycling compartments, following which Env can be directed in an

anterograde fashion by KIF16B or can follow a default pathway leading to fusion with the

lysosome (Fig. 7A). In the absence of KIF16B, a larger pool of endocytosed Env is

shunted to the lysosome, as indicated by the relative size of the arrows in Fig. 7B. The

fraction of the endocytosed pool of Env that is directed to the periphery and is

subsequently available for incorporation into particles is diminished in the absence of

KIF16B, resulting in diminished particle incorporation, particle infectivity, and reduced

replication. Fig. 7 for simplicity does not include other potential trafficking routes of Env,

such as retrograde trafficking to the Golgi and the potential for alternative routes for Env

to recycle to the PM.

Four models for Env incorporation into HIV particles have been proposed by the Freed

laboratory (5). Passive incorporation at the PM is not likely to be the correct model in

nonpermissive cell types including primary T cells and macrophages, as Env with a full-

length CT is excluded in these cell types. This model remains a potential in permissive

cell lines that do not require the CT (4). The identification of host factors such as Rab11-

FIP1C, Rab14, and KIF16B that influence particle incorporation favors the Gag-Env co-

targeting model, whereby Env is directed to specific microdomains on the PM that are

enriched in Gag molecules and serve as sites of particle budding. At present there is no

evidence favoring an indirect interaction model with an adaptor or linker connecting Gag

to Env. The direct Gag-Env interaction model has been supported by two biochemical

studies (35, 36), and by evidence that maturation is required before Env can mediate

membrane fusion, while CT truncation relieves the constraint on fusion posed by the

immature Gag lattice (9, 37, 38). Trimerization of MA has been shown to be required for

Env incorporation, while some mutations in MA that result in Env exclusion from particles

can be rescued by compensatory mutations at the trimer interface (39, 40). Furthermore,

MA trimerization-impaired mutants can be rescued by substitutions that simultaneously

restore Env incorporation (41). This has added substantially to the evidence favoring an

interaction of the CT with MA in the form of MA trimers, and supports a model whereby

the structural integrity of the MA lattice is an important determinant of Env incorporation

(41). Results in the present study showing a role for kinesin-mediated trafficking of Env

do not negate the importance of structural integrity of the MA lattice for particle

incorporation of Env. Trafficking to the site of the developing Gag lattice mediated by host

factor interactions with the CT may be a necessary step preceding a direct Gag-Env

interaction. We expect that a defect in anterograde trafficking and increase in Env

degradation in the lysosome would diminish the delivery of Env to sites of assembly and

reduce the potential interaction of Env with the Gag lattice.

This study provides new information regarding the half-life of Env trimers following

endocytosis from the PM. A prior study employing autoradiographic pulse-labeling of total

cellular Env indicated that cellular gp160 and gp120 are degraded over a period of hours,

and that inhibition of lysosomal acidification prevents gp160 degradation (42).

Degradation of gp160 has been shown to not only occur in the lysosome, but also within

the biosynthetic pathway within the ER or Golgi compartments (43, 44). However, these

studies labeled all Env populations within the cell, whereas the current study utilized two

methods of cell surface pulse-labeling followed by chase periods to measure the half-life

of Env trimers that had reached the plasma membrane. We found that endocytosed Env

has a half-life of 150-160 minutes, and that the absence of KIF16B promotes much more

rapid degradation (57 or 32 minutes, measured by FAP-Env degradation or surface

biotinylation, respectively). An important role for lysosomal degradation of endocytosed

Env is suggested by the reversal of the enhanced rates of degradation in KIF16B KO cells

by Baf-A1. A model in which endocytosed Env is shunted to the lysosome for degradation

in the absence of KIF16B is also supported by the increased appearance of Env in

lysosomal compartments in KIF16B KO cells.

An important caveat for our conclusions is that a complete KIF16B KO resulted in an

incomplete reduction of Env incorporation and particle infectivity. Env incorporation and

particle infectivity were diminished by approximately 50%. This suggests that kinesins

other than KIF16B may also be involved in trafficking Env to the PM, or that there are

multiple pathways whereby Env may be recycled to the surface. Indeed, it is known that

successful movement of cargo within cells is often accomplished by groups of motors

rather than just one (45). Retrograde trafficking of Env from early endosomes to the Golgi

may play a role in Env incorporation into particles, as depletion of components of the

retromer complex modulated Env distribution and particle incorporation (46). However,

the identification of KIF16B as a regulator of Env trafficking and degradation defines

another component of the host machinery regulating Env incorporation. Kinesins have

been proposed as potential therapeutic targets in some areas of medicine such as cancer

and chronic pain (47-49). Although targeting KIF16B function globally would be disruptive

to many cell processes, it is possible that a more directed approach disrupting KIF16B-

mediated Env trafficking can be developed. In conclusion, we identify KIF16B as an

anterograde motor involved in Env trafficking and particle incorporation. Future studies

will be needed to fully elucidate the complex pathways taken by Env to reach the site of

particle assembly and enable particle incorporation.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Cells and Plasmids. HeLa cells were obtained from the American Type Culture

Collection (ATCC; CRM-CCL-2). TZM-bl cells were obtained through the NIH AIDS

Reagent Program, Division of AIDS, NIAID, NIH, from John C. Kappes, Xiaoyun Wu, and

Tranzyme, Inc. The H9 T cell line was obtained from ATCC (HTB-176), and cells were

maintained in RPMI medium 1640 supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS), 2

mM Glutamine, and antibiotics. HeLa and TZM-bl cells were maintained in DMEM

(Dulbecco's modified Eagle medium) containing 10% FBS and 2 mM penicillin-

streptomycin. pNL4-3 proviral plasmid was obtained through the NIH AIDS Reagent

Program, Division of AIDS, NIAID, NIH, from Malcolm Martin. Env expression plasmid

pIIINL4Env was a gift kindly provided by Dr. Eric Freed (HIV DRP, NCI, NIH) (6). The

Influenza A vaccine strain of A/Brisbane/02/2018 (H1N1) HA sequence was used to

construct a human codon-optimized gene which was synthesized and cloned into the

BamHI and EcoRI sites of pcDNA3.1+ by GenScript. The SARS-CoV-2 spike gene

(Wuhan) was synthesized by Genscript for Dr. Biao He (University of Georgia) and gifted

to our lab. The human codon-optimized full length SARS-CoV-2 spike gene was

subcloned into the KpnI and BamHI sites of the plasmid pcDNA5TO/Puro. pcDNA5/TO-

puro was constructed from backbone pCDNA5/TO (ThermoFisher Scientific) as

previously described (50). The EBOV S protein plasmid pcDNA5/TO-puro EBOV GP has

been previously described (51). Plasmid pcDNA5/TO JR-FLoptgp160 expresses a

codon-optimized JR-FL *env* gene in the pcDNA5/TO vector backbone (Thermo Fisher

Scientific, Waltham, MA) as previously described (12). Overlap-extension PCR was used

to create novel Xho1 and Pst1 sites within the exposed portion of the V2 loop of JR-FL.

The fluorogen-activated peptide (FAP) sequence from pMFAP-alpha2 (Spectragenetics,

Pittsburgh, PA) was PCR amplified as an Xho1-Pst1 fragment and ligated into

pcDNA5/TO JR-FLoptgp160, placing the FAP peptide in-frame within the V2 loop. A

complete cloning schema with primers is available upon request. The WT KIF16B-YFP

and dominant KIF16B-S109A-YFP were kindly provided by Sebastian Hoepfner (14).

Expression plasmids for Flag-KIF1Bβ and Flag- KIF1Bβ Q98L were kindly provided

Susanne Schlisio and described in Fell et. al. 2017 (18).

Viral infectivity and multi-round replication assays. H9 T cells were infected with

VSV G-pseudotyped NL4-3 virus at an MOI of 0.2. Cells and supernatants were harvested

4-5 days after infection for analysis by Western blotting, p24 antigen quantitation, and

infectivity assays. Infectivity of cell culture supernatants was measured using TZM-bl

indicator cells following p24 normalization as previously described (52). Replications

assays were performed by taking aliquots of the supernatant after infection every 3 days

for 21 days. Supernatant was then used in a p24 ELISA assay to graph the amount of

virus produced over the course of viral growth and replication. Murine anti-p24 capture

antibody 183-H12-5C (CA183) was obtained from Bruce Chesebro and Kathy Wehrly

through the NIH AIDS Research and Reference Reagent Program, and the p24 ELISA

assay was performed as previously described (53).

Western blotting, antibodies, and immunostaining. For analysis of viral protein

content, viruses were pelleted from cell culture supernatants through a 20% sucrose

cushion at 35,000 × g for 3 h at 4°C; cells were harvested and pelleted at 400 × g. Virus

pellets and cell lysates were dissolved in radioimmunoprecipitation assay (RIPA) buffer

(Thermo Scientific) containing protease inhibitors. Cell lysates for blotting KIF16B were

prepared with a hypotonic lysis buffer consisting of 10mM Hepes, 1.5mM $MgCL_2$, 10 mM

KCl in PBS on ice for 15 minutes, vortexed with 10% IGEPAL CA630 (Sigma) to break

open cells, and then centrifuged to pellet out nuclei. Virus pellets and cell lysates were

separated on 4 to 12% polyacrylamide gels, transferred to nitrocellulose, and subjected

to Western blotting using antibodies outlined below. Goat polyclonal antibody AHP2204,

from Bio-Rad AbD Serotec (Oxford, UK)(D7324), was used for detecting HIV-1 gp120 for

Western blotting. Recombinant human monoclonal antibody 2F5 from Polymun scientific

(Klosterneuburg, Austria) was used to detect HIV-1 gp41 in Western blots. Actin was

detected with Invitrogen Actin antibody ACTN05. KIF16B antibody used was polycolonal

mouse from Abnova (H00055614-B01P). Mouse anti-p24 monoclonal CA-183 (provided

by Bruce Chesebro and Kathy Wehrly through the NIH AIDS Research and Reference

Reagent Program) was used to detect p24 and $Pr55^{Gag}$ in Western blotting and for

enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) to measure HIV-1 Gag in virus-containing

culture supernatant and virus pellets; the capture ELISA was performed as previously

described (54). IRDye goat anti-mouse, IRDye rabbit anti-goat, and IRDye goat anti-rabbit

secondary antibodies from LiCor Biosciences (Lincoln, NE) were used for Western

blotting. All blots were acquired and analyzed using the LiCor Odyssey infrared detection

system. The following antibodies were utilized in immunofluorescence assays: human

anti-gp120 antibody IgG1 2G12 from Polymun scientific (A002), monoclonal ANTI-

FLAG® antibody produced in rabbit from Sigma-Aldrich (F2555), rabbit polyclonal anti-

HA1 antibody from Sino Biological (Beijing, China) (11692-T54), mouse monoclonal

SARS-CoV / SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) spike antibody from Genetex (Irvine, CA) (1A9),

mouse anti- EBOV GP monoclonal antibody 4F3 from IBT Bioservices (Rockville, MD),

anti-LAMP1 mouse monoclonal antibody from BD Biosciences (Franklin Lakes, NJ)

(H4A3).

Env degradation assays. In order to determine degradation rates of Env

microscopically using our FAP-tagged Env, we plated 100k HeLa WT or KIF16B KO HeLa

cells in wells of Ibidi 4 well μ-Slide plate (Ibidi) and then transfected overnight with the

FAP-Env construct. In one of the KO cell wells, 100μM concentration of Bafilomycin A1

(Baf-A1, Invivogen) was employed while the WT and other KO cell wells received an

equal amount of DMSO. Three hours later, live cell imaging was conducted following a

10 min pulse label incubation with FAP reagent αRED-np1 (Spectragenetics) in 5% CO_2

at 37°C chamber on Widefield Nikon Ti2 inverted SpectraX (Cincinnati Children's

Confocal Core). Data from these movies was extracted on Volocity imaging software

(Quorum Technologies) to acquire the signal intensity of each ROI drawn around

individual cells analyzed in the field of view over the time course. The averaged

normalized signal intensity was then calculated using the method outlined in Alber et. al.

to attain the degradation curve and half-life of the FAP-tagged Env protein (55). For

protein analysis of Env degradation by Western blotting, we plated 1.75 million WT or

KIF16B KO HeLa cells in 10cm dishes (5 for WT, 10 for KO). The next morning, 3ug of

pIII-Env and 250 ng of psv72-Tat protein were cotransfected into each plate. Following

24 hours of incubation, 100μM Baf-A1 was added to 5 of the KO dishes, while the other

KO and WT dishes received an equal amount of DMSO. Three hours later a 1 mM solution

of biotin/PBS was applied to the cells and allowed to label surface proteins for 15 min.

This labeling reaction was quenched with 1x TBS solution for 5 min. Cells were then

washed with PBS and returned to normal media. Cell plates were then put on ice and in

a 4°C cold room to stop endocytosis at 0, 30, 60, 90, 120 min after biotin labeling and

were then subsequently scrapped and harvested for cell lysates in RIPA buffer. Cell

lysates were then IP overnight with 60μL of Pierce™ High Capacity NeutrAvidin™

Agarose (Thermo-Fischer). Beads were then collected in Pierce™ Spin Columns

(Thermo-Fischer) and protein was then eluted off the beads at 95°C in 1x Laemli buffer

with reducing agent. After 2000 x g spin for 3 min equal amounts of elution were run for

each time point on a 4-12% SDS-Page gel and then analyzed by immunoblotting for

gp120.

Image acquisition and analysis. HeLa cells were plated in MatTek 35mm poly–d-

lysine-treated dishes (Brooke Knapp MatTek) overnight and then were then transfected

with the indicated constructs using jetPRIME (Polyplus) per manufacturer's instructions.

After a 24 h incubation, cells were rinsed with phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) three

times and fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde for 10 min at room temperature. Cells were

washed with PBS three times with mild agitation after fixation, and then permeabilized for

10 min with 0.2% Triton X-100, followed by washing with PBS. Dako blocking solution

was applied to cells for 30 min under gentle shaking conditions. Cells were then incubated

with the appropriate primary antibody detailed above diluted in Dako (Agilent) antibody

diluent to 1:500. Species appropriate Alexa-flour (Thermo-Fischer) secondary antibody

was diluted in Dako antibody diluent to 1:1,000. Images were acquired on a widefield

DeltaVision Elite High Resolution microscope (GE Healthcare). Percent of total Env signal

at the periphery of cells was calculated using measurements from Volocity 6.5.1 imaging

analysis software. Briefly, regions of interest were drawn around the entire cell, around

30% of the distance from the edge of the cell signal to the nucleus (inner 70% of total cell

area), and around the nucleus. Peripheral signal was calculated by subtracting the middle

two regions from the sum of signal from the total cell region, giving a percentage of

peripheral signal as all signal in the last 30% of the cell body towards the edge.

Quantitation of colocalization was performed using Volocity software features by

derivation of Pearson's correlation coefficient after manual thresholding.

Flow cytometry for HIV-1 Env expression on cell surface. For cell surface staining,

approximately 5 million H9 cells were infected overnight with 1000 ng p24 of VSV-G-

pseudotyped NL4.3. The next day, cells were washed once with PBS and plated in a six

well plate in RPMI for 48 hours. Infected cells were stained for viability with zombie violet

dye (BioLegend) diluted 1:500 in PBS, followed by fixation with 4% paraformaldehyde.

Cells were blocked with Dako protein block then stained for cell surface Env with 2G12

anti-gp120 directly conjugated to APC (Abcam, ab201807) and diluted 1:100 in Dako

antibody diluent (10ug/mL final concentration) for 2 hours. 2G12 was washed out twice

with PBS followed by permeabilization with 0.2% triton-X 100. Lastly, cells were stained

for total infected cells using p24 antibody, KC-57 FITC diluted 1:100 in Dako antibody

diluent. Cells were washed twice with PBS then resuspended in MACS (Miltenyi Biotec)

buffer and analyzed using the BD FACS Canto II.

CRISPR KO strategy. CRISPR-Cas9 technology was used to knockout KIF16B in

both HeLa and H9 cell lines. Using the Crispor.tefor.net open access website and

algorithm designed to find areas of the genome to target with guide RNAs (gRNA), we

targeted Exon 13 of KIF16B using sequence from NCBI (Gene ID 55614, Assebmly

GCF_000001405.40, Chr 20, location NC_000020.11) and found the stretch of DNA with

the highest score to target for deletion being CTCACGGATAAGTTTGACGT. We ordered

sense   (CACCGCTCACGGATAAGTTTGACGT)   and   anti-sense

(AAACACGTCAAACTTATCCGTGAGC) gRNA oligos + PAM sequence from Integrated

DNA Technologies (IDT) to clone into the lentiCRISPR v2 that was a gift from Feng Zhang

(Addgene plasmid # 52961 ; http://n2t.net/addgene:52961 ; RRID:Addgene_52961) using

the   target   guide   sequence   protocol   from   Sanjana   Lab

(http://sanjanalab.org/library/protocol_lentiOligo.pdf) (56) After transformation of MAX

Efficiency™ Stbl2™ Competent Cells (Thermo-Fischer) and DNA harvest, we packaged

the plasmid into a lentivirus using sPAX2 and PMGD2 and transduced our HeLa and H9

cell lines. Puromycin selection and limiting dilution were used to obtain clones knocked

out for KIF16B (Fig. S1).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was supported by 5R01AI150486-24

The funders had no role in study design, data collection and interpretation, or the decision

to submit the work for publication.

Flow cytometry was performed using the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

(CCHMC) Flow Cytometry Core. Live cell imaging of was conducted in the Confocal

Imaging Center at CCHMC. DNA sequencing was performed at the DNA Sequencing

core at CCHMC.

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FIG 1 Env localizes to KIF16B-positive compartments and is redistributed by dominant-

negative KIF16B. (A) Subcellular distribution of NL4-3 Env when coexpressed with

KIF16B-WT-YFP. Cells were fixed and immunolabeled with human neutralizing antibody

2G12 to stain HIV-1 gp120. Green, KIF16B; red, Env; rightmost image, overlay. (B)

Distribution of NL4-3 Env when coexpressed with dominant KIF16B-S109A-YFP. Staining

is as described for panel A. (C and D) Coexpression of proviral NL4-3 with WT and

dominant-negative KIF16B, respectively. Staining for Env as described from A, B. (E)

Percent of Env signal at periphery of cells observed for each combination of coexpression

shown in A-D. Signal at the periphery was the sum all Env signal within 30% of the

distance from edge of cell to the nucleus. Results are shown as means ± SD from a total

of 10 representative images. ns = not significant; ***, $P < 0.0008$; ****, $P < 0.0001$. P values

were calculated using the Student's unpaired t test using GraphPad Prism 9. (F) The

degree of colocalization between KIF16B constructs and Env was measured by

Pearson's correlation coefficient equation using Volocity 6.5.1 software after thresholding.

Bars represent 5 μm.

FIG 2 KIF16B and Env colocalization is not generalized to other viral envelope

glycoproteins. (A, B) Influenza HA glycoprotein was coexpressed with KIF16B-WT-YFP

and KIF16B-S109A-YFP, respectively. Cells were fixed and immunolabeled with 11692-

T54 antibody to stain HA. Green, KIF16B; red, HA; rightmost image, overlay. (C, D)

SARS-Cov2-S protein was coexpressed with WT and dominant negative KIF16B,

respectively. Cells were fixed and immunolabeled with 1A9 to stain spike. Green, KIF16B;

red, SARS-Cov2-S; rightmost image, overlay. (E, F) Coexpression of KIF16B-WT-YFP or

KIF16B-S109A-YFP with Ebola GP. Cells were fixed and immunostained with 4F3

antibody specific to EBOV GP. Green, KIF16B; red, EBOV GP; rightmost image, overlay.

Bars represent 10 μm.

FIG 3 Env on the plasma membrane is endocytosed into KIF16B positive compartments.

(A) FAP-Env construct shown as cartoon diagram. The FAP-tag was placed on the V2

loop of the Env ectodomain. This tag is inherently non-fluorescent on the far left. In the

middle, the addition of a non-permeable dye is shown. On the far right, the FAP-tag

becomes fluorescent, allowing visualization of a pulsed population of surface Env. (B)

FAP-Env coexpressed with KIF16B- WT-YFP in HeLa cells. Left image, FAP-Env is pulse

labeled for 10 min on ice. Cells were then fixed and imaged immediately to show

population of Env on plasma membrane surface. Right image, cells were pulsed as before

and then were returned to 37°C incubator for 15 min to allow internalization, then fixed

and imaged to show FAP-Env endocytosed into KIF16B-positive compartments. (C) FAP-

Env construct co-expressed with KIF16B-S109A-YFP in HeLa cells. Left image is FAP-

Env collecting on surface as before. Right image is cell shown after 15 min of

internalization as before. (D, E) Frames from live cell imaging video of FAP-Env

coexpressed with KIF16B-WT-YFP and KIF16B-S109A-YFP, respectively. Time T= 0 min

shows cell before pulse. Subsequent time points show FAP-Env collecting in KIF16B-

positive compartments. Dotted lines are a visual aid to represent periphery of cell body.

Bars represent 10 µm.

FIG 4 KIF16B KO leads to enhanced degradation of endocytosed Env in the lysosome.

(A, B, C) Frames from live cell movies for Fap-Env expressed in (A) WT HeLa cells with

vehicle DMSO; (B) KIF16B KO cells with DMSO; or (C) KIF16B KO cells with 100µM Baf-

A1. Representative frames are shown for each hour over the time course. (B) Western

blots shown are biotinylated Env from surface-labeled cells, with lysates chased over the

time course, pulled down with streptavidin beads, and blotted for Env. Labels indicate

WT, KIF16B KO, and KIF16B KO + Baf-A1 HeLa cells. (C) Quantification of signal

intensity of each time point over the FAP-Env imaging experiment normalized to first

frame. (D) Quantification of the Western blot signal for each time point for biotin-

streptavidin pulse-chase experiment. Error bars represent SD from 5 independent

experiments. Fit curves for both C and D were generated using the Prism 9 non-linear

regression one-phase decay algorithm. Bars represent 60 µm.

FIG 5 KIF16B KO shunts Env to lysosomal compartments. (A) HIV-1 NL4-3 Env

expressed in WT HeLa cells. Top image 20x magnification, bottom image 60x. (B) NL4.3

expressed in KIF16B KO HeLa cells. Top image 20x magnification, bottom image 60x.

(C) NL4-3 expressed in KIF16B KO HeLa cells with Baf-A1 added for 3 hours prior to

imaging. For all imaging, cells were fixed and immunolabeled for Env with 2G12 antibody

and for endogenous LAMP1 with H4A3 antibody. (D) Pearson's correlation coefficient

showing the degree of colocalization between Env and LAMP1 positive compartments

between WT, KIF16B KO cells, and WT cells with Baf-A1 in A, B, and C, respectively.

Pearson's correlation coefficient equation using Volocity 6.5.1 software after manual

thresholding. Unpaired t-test performed on Prism 9 to get significance values for

difference in colocalization. ****, $P < 0.0001$; *, $P = 0.0155$. Bars represent 11μm.

FIG 6 KIF16B depletion leads to reduction of Env on the cell surface, particle

incorporation, infectivity, and viral replication. (A) Flow plots for cell surface staining (non-

permeabilized) and total Env content (permeabilized) in WT H9 and KIF16B KO H9 cells.

Cells were fixed and stained for Env using anti-gp120 2G12 antibody. (B) Quantification

of flow cytometry mean fluorescent intensity of Env expression on surface and total cell

averaged across 5 independent experiments. Unpaired t-test performed on Prism 9 to get

significance values between surface vs total. **, $P < 0.005$ (C) WT and KIF16B H9 cells

were infected with VSV-G-pseudotyped NL4-3. Shown are Western blots of Env and Gag

content for particles in viral supernatant (left) and cell lysates (middle) collected on day 5

following infection. Note that loading was normalized for p24 content (supernatants) or

for total cellular protein (cell lysates). Rightmost blot, single-round infection of WT and

KIF16B KO H9 cells infected with VSV-G-pseudotyped NL4-3 at an MOI of 0.5 and

harvested for cell lysate analysis after 24 hours. Uninfected WT and KO cell lysates were

run on the same blot as controls. Blotting was performed with 2G12 antibody against HIV-

1 gp160 and ACTN05 (Invitrogen) against actin as a loading control. (D) Infectivity of viral

particles released from WT or KIF16B KO H9 cells from 3 independent experiments

evaluated using TZM-bl indicator cells. (E) WT (black line) and KIF16B KO (green line)

were infected with VSV-G-pseudotyped NL4-3 virus. Viral growth was monitored over

time by detection of p24 in the culture supernatant.

FIG 7 Model of Env Trafficking with (A) and without (B) KIF16B. (A) In a wild-type cell,

Env is produced in the rough endoplasmic reticulum and follows the secretory pathway

to the cell surface. Env is then endocytosed into early endosomes (path #1 in the figure),

which later may sort to the endosomal recycling compartment (ERC) for recycling. This

compartment is depicted as "EE/ERC". A fraction of Env in EEs can progress to fuse with

lysosomes, leading to lysosomal degradation in path #2. In path #3, Env is directed in an

anterograde manner to the PM, where it is available for incorporation into viral particles.

Path #3 is the relevant pathway that is partially dependent upon KIF16B. (B) In a cell with

KIF16B KO, a diminished fraction of Env is delivered to the PM from the EE/ERC via path

#3. This results in an increase in the amount of Env shunted to the lysosome (path #2,

illustrated as broader arrow) and enhanced degradation of Env. The change in the

distribution of endocytosed Env is shown graphically as fewer trimers on the budding and

mature virion, as well as fewer trimers on the PM and more trimers in the lysosome. Figure

created with BioRender.com.

Fig S1 (A, B) Coexpression of KIF1B WT and KIF1B Q98L (dominant-negative) with HIV-

1 Env. Cells were fixed and immunostained with 2G12 antibody specific to the Env

glycoprotein. Green, KIF1B; red, Env; rightmost image, overlay. (C) Degree of

colocalization for all viral glycoproteins included in Fig 2 with KIF16B (left six bars); and

colocalization of Env with KIF1B (rightmost two bars), measured by Pearson's correlation

coefficient equation using Volocity 6.5.1 software after thresholding. Results are shown

as means ± SD from a total of 5 representative images. Bars represent 10 μm.

894   Cell lysate   Supernatant

895   **Fig S2** FAP-tagged Env or WT JR-FL Env were co-expressed with Env-deficient provirus.

896   Western blot shows Env in cell lysates and on pelleted particles from supernatants. Env

897   was blotted with 2G12 and Gag detected with CA183.

A

WT KO WT KO

150kD KIF16B

35kDa actin

HeLa H9

B

Fig S3 (A) Representative blots of WT and KIF16B KO HeLa (left) and H9 (right) cell lines

blotted for KIF16B and actin loading control showing complete protein knock out in both

cell lines. (B) Sequence of genomic DNA from HeLa cells showing CRISPR-Cas9 indel.

Dotted line indicates cut site of CRISPR-Cas9 complex. Edited sample sequence on top

for KIF16B KO cells, the control sample on bottom was the reference sequence from WT

cells that were the same cells used to make the knockout clones. Sequence analyzed by

ICE analysis via the Synthego software application.

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