Lipid transfer proteins and a PI 4-kinase initiate nuclear phosphoinositide signaling

Noah D. Carrillo[1,2,4], Mo Chen[1,3,4], Tianmu Wen[1], Poorwa Awasthi[1], Trevor J. Wolfe[1], Colin Sterling[1,2], Vincent L. Cryns[1,2,5,*] and Richard A. Anderson[1,5,*]

[1]University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison, School of Medicine and Public Health; 1111 Highland Avenue, Madison, WI 53705, USA
[2]Department of Medicine, University of Wisconsin-Madison, School of Medicine and Public Health; 1111 Highland Avenue, Madison, WI 53705, USA
[3]Current Address: Department of Pharmacology, Joint Laboratory of Guangdong-Hong Kong Universities for Vascular Homeostasis and Diseases, School of Medicine, Southern University of Science and Technology, Shenzhen 518055, China
[4]Co-first authors
[5]These authors contributed equally to this work
*Correspondence: vlcryns@medicine.wisc.edu; raanders@wisc.edu

Summary 150 max

Phosphoinositide (PIP_n) messengers are present in non-membranous regions of nuclei,
where they are assembled into a phosphatidylinositol (PI) 3-kinase (PI3K)/Akt pathway
that is distinct from the cytosolic membrane-localized pathway. In the nuclear pathway,
PI kinases/phosphatases bind the p53 tumor suppressor protein (wild-type and mutant)
to generate p53-PIP_n complexes that regulate Akt activation. However, this pathway is
dependent on poorly characterized nuclear PIP_n pools. Here we report that PI transfer
proteins (PITPs), which transport PI between membranes to enable membrane-localized
PIP_n synthesis, accumulate in the nucleoplasm in response to stress and supply nuclear
PIP_n pools. PITPα/β and the PI 4-kinase PI4KIIα bind p53 and are required to generate
p53-PI4P, which is further phosphorylated to synthesize p53-PIP_n complexes that
regulate nuclear Akt activation and stress-resistance. Remarkably, PITPα/β and PI4KIIα
initiate PIP_n-linkage to multiple proteins that are detectable by immunoblotting and
[^{3}H]*myo*-inositol metabolic labeling and are resistant to denaturation, suggesting a
posttranslational modification.
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Key words

Phosphoinositide; phosphatidylinositol transfer protein; PIP_n-linked proteins, p53;
PI4,5P_2; PI3,4,5P_3; nucleus; cell stress; Akt

In brief

Phosphatidylinositol transfer proteins initiate the nuclear PIP_n-linked protein network in
membrane-free regions.

Main text

Phosphoinositide (PIP_n) lipids are synthesized from phosphatidylinositol (PI) in membranes by PIP kinases to produce a second messenger network comprised of seven distinct isomers that play key roles in many cellular pathways[1]. Cytosolic class I PI 3-kinases (PI3Ks) catalyze the synthesis of $PI3,4,5P_3$, which leads to the recruitment and activation of the serine/threonine kinases phosphoinositide-dependent kinase 1 (PDK1), mTOR Complex 2 (mTORC2), and Akt at membranes[2-8]. Akt in turn phosphorylates many substrates, such as forkhead box O (FOXO) proteins, tuberous sclerosis complex 2 (TSC2), and BCL2-associated agonist of cell death (BAD), to promote cell growth and inhibit apoptosis[4]. This membrane-localized PI3K/Akt pathway is often hyperactivated in cancer and class I PI3K inhibitors are currently in the clinic[9, 10].

Akt is also activated in the nucleus[11-16]. Recent studies have identified a non-membranous nuclear PI3K/Akt pathway that is dependent on p53[17, 18], a tumor suppressor that is frequently mutated in cancer, resulting in gain-of-function oncogenic acitivities[19, 20]. In this nuclear pathway, wild-type and mutant p53 are sequentially modified by PIP_ns and their associated PIP kinases/phosphatases. The type I PI4P 5-kinase α (PIPKIα) directly interacts with p53 and generates the $p53-PI4,5P_2$ complex ($p53-PIP_n$ signalosome) in response to stress[18]. PI5P4Kβ has also been functionally linked to p53 as deletion of both genes is lethal in mice, but the mechanism is poorly defined[21]. The nuclear PI 3-kinase IPMK acts on $p53-PI4,5P_2$ to synthesize $p53-PI3,4,5P_3$ complexes, which then recruit and activate Akt in the non-membranous nucleoplasm[17, 18]. The nuclear

Akt pathway is insensitive to PI3K inhibitors currently in the clinic[17], highlighting its

therapeutic importance.

Although multiple PIP$_n$s and PIP kinases/phosphatases are present in the nucleoplasm[16,

22-24], the mechanism by which the pool of nuclear PIP$_n$s is established and its molecular

characteristics are unknown. Unlike the most abundant nuclear phospholipid,

phosphatidylcholine (PC), which is synthesized *in situ* in the nucleus[25-27], PI represents a

minor fraction of free nuclear phospholipids and is synthesized in the endoplasmic

reticulum (ER)[28] which is contiguous with the nuclear envelope[29], suggesting that PI is

transported into the nucleoplasm. In the cytosol, PI is transported from the ER to

membranes and between membranes by a family of lipid transfer proteins, the

phosphatidylinositol transfer proteins (PITPs). To date, research has focused on cytosolic

PITP function[30-32]. Intriguingly, PITPβ interacts with p53[33], prompting us to investigate the

functional role for PITPs in regulating the synthesis of p53-PIP$_n$ complexes and nuclear

PIP$_n$ signaling. Here we demonstrate that the class I PITPs are specifically required to

generate the non-membranous nuclear PIP$_n$ pools in the nucleus. In addition, the class I

PITPs and a PI 4-kinase, PI4KIIα, function together to generate the nuclear PIP$_n$ pools.

Both class I PITPs and PI4KIIα bind to p53 and to each other and are necessary to

synthesize the nuclear p53-PIP$_n$ complexes that regulate nuclear Akt activation.

Strikingly, the PIP$_n$s on p53 and in these nuclear pools are coupled to proteins.

The nuclear localization of PITPs is regulated by cellular stress

The PITP family is composed of five members that are subdivided into two classes that

exchange PI for PC (Class I, the single domain PITPα and PITPβ isoforms) or PI for

phosphatidic acid (PA) (Class II, the single domain PITP cytoplasmic 1 (PITPNC1) and

multi-domain PITP membrane associated 1 (PITPNM1), and PITP membrane associated

2 (PITPNM2) isoforms with C-terminal extensions)[34] (Fig. 1a). The most homologous

members within the PITP family, PITPα/β/NC1, were expressed in the nucleus under

basal conditions, and the nuclear levels of each isoform and PI4,5P$_2$ were increased by

cisplatin as determined by immunofluorescence (IF) (Fig. 1b,c and Extended Data Fig.

1a-c). The PITPα and PITPβ antibodies are specific for IF staining as KD of the PITPs

eliminated staining (Extended Data Fig. 1d-e). The PITPα antibody had partial cross

reactivity for PITPβ by Western blot (Extended Data Fig. 1f) but was specific for these

PITPs. Nuclear fractionation (Extended Data Fig. 1g) and confocal 3D sectioning

(Extended Data Fig. 2a-d) confirmed the enhanced nuclear levels of PITPα/β in response

to genotoxic stress, which were observed in all cell lines tested regardless of tissue of

origin or p53 mutational status (Extended Data Fig. 3a,b). Multiple cellular stressors

(genotoxic, oxidative and ferroptotic) increased the nuclear levels of PITPα/β, indicating

a fundamental nuclear role for the PITPs in the cellular stress-response (Extended Data

Fig. 4a,b). Moreover, cell stress induced the targeting of PITPs to the non-membranous

nucleoplasm in all cell lines examined (Fig. 1d and Extended Data Fig. 4c-e).

PITPs regulate the nuclear PIP$_n$ pool

All PIP$_n$ isomers except PI3,5P$_2$ have been detected in the nucleus by multiple methods[16-

18, 22, 23, 27, 35]. Among these, PI4,5P$_2$ forms distinctive nuclear foci that colocalize with

nuclear speckle markers in regions devoid of membranes[16-18, 23, 36]. PI is the precursor of

all PIP$_n$s[37] and together with our observation that cellular stress induces the nuclear

localization of PITPs, we investigated the role of PITPs in regulating the nuclear PIP_n pool.

Silencing PITPα or PITPβ reduced basal and stress-induced nuclear $PI4,5P_2$ levels, while

combined knockdown (KD) of both PITPα and PITPβ further decreased nuclear $PI4,5P_2$

levels compared to the individual KD (Fig. 1e,f and Extended Data Fig. 5a). In contrast,

PITPNC1 KD had no effect on basal nuclear $PI4,5P_2$ levels and minimal effect on stress-

induced $PI4,5P_2$ levels (Fig. 1e,f). Combined KD of PITPα and PITPβ also suppressed

stress-induced nuclear levels of PI4P and $PI3,4,5P_3$ (Fig. 1g and Extended Data Fig. 5b).

Combined KD of PITPα and PITPβ robustly inhibited stress-induced nuclear $PI4,5P_2$

generation in transformed and untransformed cells independent of p53 mutational status

(Fig. 1h,i and Extended Data Fig. 5c,d). These results demonstrate that PITPs are

necessary to generate the nuclear PIP_n pools that are detected by specific PIP_n antibodies

(Fig. 1j).

PITPα/β bind p53 and their interaction is regulated by cellular stress

Together with the reported interaction of PITPβ and p53[33], the role of PITPs in regulating

nuclear PIP_n levels suggests PITPs may play a functional role in generating nuclear p53-

PIP_n complexes. To explore this, we investigated the interaction of p53 with all five PITPs

using multiple approaches. Proximity ligation assay (PLA) is an established approach to

detect posttranslational modifications (PTMs) on proteins and molecules in close

proximity *in situ*, although the technical limitations of this approach do not certify a direct

interaction alone[35, 38]. PLA demonstrated class I PITPs (PITPα and PITPβ), but not class

II PITPs (PITPNCI, PITPNM1 and PITPNM2), associated with mutant p53 (p53[mt]) and

wild-type p53 (p53[wt]) in the nucleus as indicated by PLA foci, and that their association

was enhanced by cisplatin (Fig. 2a,b and Extended Data Fig. 6a-c). Notably, the

association of PITPα/β with p53^{wt} was minimal under basal conditions and dramatically

increased by stress, while PITPα/β associated constitutively with p53^{mt} with a modest

increase in response to stress. Like the nuclear localization of PITPs (Fig. 1d, Extended

Data Fig. 2a-d and Extended Data Fig. 4d,e), the PITPα/β-p53 PLA complexes were

present in the nucleoplasm in regions distinct from the nuclear envelope (Fig. 2c,

Extended Data Fig. 6d-f, and Supplementary Video 1-2).

The PITPα/β-p53 complex was next examined by immunoprecipitation (IP). Consistent

with the PLA data, class I, but not class II PITPs, bound p53^{wt} and p53^{mt}, and these

interactions were increased by stress in all cell lines examined (Fig. 2d-f, h-i and Extended

Data Fig. 7a,b,e-n). Although nuclear levels of PITPα/β and PITPNC1 increased in

response to stress (Fig.1b,c and Extended Data Fig. 1a), the interaction with p53 was

specific for the class I PITPs, indicating specificity within the family. Moreover, the small

heat shock proteins (sHSPs) Hsp27 and αB-crystallin, which stabilize the p53-PIP$_n$

complex[18], were also detected as stress-regulated components of the PITPα/β-p53

complex (Fig. 2d,g,h,j,k and Extended Data Fig. 7a,c,d). Additionally, *in vitro* binding

studies with recombinant PITPα/β proteins and p53 demonstrated a high-affinity,

saturable binding of class I PITPs to p53 (Fig. 2l-o). Consistent with these results, PITPα

and PITPβ, but not PITPNC1, bound p53 with high affinity as determined by microscale

thermophoresis (MST) and these interactions were regulated by PI (Table 1). Collectively,

these data show that PITPα/β form a nuclear complex with p53 in response to stress and

that PI loading of PITPs regulates these interactions (Fig. 2p).

PITPα/β control the PIP$_n$ linkage to p53 and other proteins

As PITPα/β regulate nuclear PIP$_n$ levels and bind to p53 in the nucleus, we examined the potential role of PITPα/β in regulating the PIP$_n$ interactions with p53, which stabilize p53[18]. The p53-PIP$_n$ complexes[17, 18] were first analyzed by PLA. Single or combined KD of PITPα/β, but not PITPNC1, reduced or largely eliminated, respectively, p53^{mt}-PI4,5P$_2$ and p53^{mt}-PI3,4,5P$_3$ complexes detected by PLA; combined KD of PITPα/β disrupted p53^{mt}-PIP$_n$ complexes to a similar degree as p53 KD (Fig. 3a-c and Extended Data Fig. 8a,b). Similar results were observed in p53^{wt} cells: individual or combined PITPα/β KD inhibited p53^{wt}-PI4,5P$_2$ and p53^{wt}-PI3,4,5P$_3$ complexes (Fig. 3d-f and Extended Data Fig. 8c). We next quantified the cisplatin-induced PIP$_n$ isoforms linked to p53 by p53-IP followed by simultaneous Western blotting (WB) with antibodies (Abs) against specific PIP$_n$ isoforms detected with fluorescently labeled secondary Abs (IP fluorescent-WB) (Fig. 3g and Extended Data Fig. 8d). KD of PITPα or PITPβ markedly reduced the PI4P, PI4,5P$_2$ and PI3,4,5P$_3$ that co-IPed with p53^{mt} in response to genotoxic stress, while the combined KD largely eliminated all PIP$_n$s associated with p53^{mt} (Fig. 3h-k). To further define the p53-PIP$_n$ linkage, cells with p53^{mt} were metabolically labeled with [^{3}H]*myo*-inositol, a standard approach to specifically label phosphoinositides and their downstream metabolites in cells[39-41]. p53 was IPed in labeled cells, and lysates were analyzed by WB after SDS-PAGE, which revealed [^{3}H]*myo*-inositol incorporated into p53 that corresponded to the cisplatin-induced PI4,5P$_2$ detected by WB (Fig. 3l,m). Similar observations were made in cells with p53^{wt}: single or combined PITPα/β KD also inhibited cisplatin-stimulated p53^{wt}-PI4,5P$_2$ complex formation (Fig. 3n,o). These findings indicate that class I PITPα and

PITPβ play a key role in the stress-responsive coupling of PIP_ns to $p53^{wt}$ and $p53^{mt}$

proteins, which are resistant to denaturation and SDS-PAGE analysis.

Consistent with the reported role of PIP_ns in stabilizing p53[18], KD of PITPα or PITPβ, but

not PITPNC1, modestly reduced $p53^{mt}$ levels in cells treated with cisplatin, while the

combined KD of PITPα and PITPβ robustly suppressed $p53^{mt}$ levels under basal and

stress conditions (Fig. 4a). The reduction in $p53^{mt}$ levels induced by combined KD of

PITPα and PITPβ was not rescued by the MDM2 inhibitor Nutlin3 (Extended Data Fig.

8e), indicating a MDM2-independent mechanism. The induction of $p53^{wt}$ by cisplatin was

dramatic and was markedly inhibited by individual PITPα/β KD and abrogated by

combined PITPα/β KD (Fig. 4b). Remarkably, WBs of whole cell lysates with antibodies

specific for PI4P, $PI4,5P_2$ or $PI3,4,5P_3$ detected multiple protein bands, including some

that were enhanced by genotoxic stress after 24 hours (Fig. 4b-f and Extended Data Fig.

8f), indicating that PIP_ns are linked to additional proteins. Individual and combined KD of

PITPα/β robustly reduced the protein-coupled $PI4,5P_2$ levels and $PI4,5P_2$ bound to $p53^{mt}$

in response to stress (Fig. 4c,d). This phenotype was recapitulated using a lenti-CRISPR

knock out (KO) system. MDA-MB-231 Cas9 expressing cells ($MDA-MB-231^{Cas9}$) were

transfected with PITPβ gRNA or non-targeting gRNA to generate PITPβ KO and control

KO cells, respectively. Furthermore, single targeting of PITPα/β (KD or KO), but not

PITPNC1, reduced levels of multiple protein-bound PIP_ns (PI4P, $PI4,5P_2$, $PI3,4,5P_3$) and

many protein bands detected by PIP_n-specific antibodies in whole cell lysates, while

combined PITPα/β targeting had a more dramatic effect (Fig. 4b-f and Extended Data Fig.

8g). Combined KD of PITPα/β also reduced [^3H]*myo*-inositol labelling of total cellular

proteins isolated by two complementary approaches, chloroform/methanol extraction

followed by acetone precipitation and extraction of proteins from SDS-PAGE gels (Fig.

4g and Extended Data Fig. 9a,b). Overall, our findings point to a much broader signaling

pathway whereby PITPα/β regulate PIP_n linkage to multiple cellular proteins. Moreover,

the detection of PIP_n-p53 complexes by WB in which the linked PIP_n, is modified by PIP

kinases and phosphatases and by metabolic labeling with [^{3}H]*myo*-inositol after

denaturing/solvent extraction indicate a highly stable interaction where the inositol

headgroup is available for enzymatic modification and recognition by antibodies.

To further define these interactions, we utilized a p53 C-terminal domain (CTD) polybasic

domain mutant (p53^{6Q}), which disrupts PI4,5P$_2$ binding[17, 18]. Strikingly, the p53^{6Q} mutant

in both p53^{wt} and p53^{mt} backgrounds formed more abundant p53^{6Q}-PI4P complexes

compared to the corresponding wild-type CTD domain p53 proteins (Extended Data Fig.

9c-f), highlighting the important distinction between PIP_n binding and linkage. However,

the p53^{6Q}-PI4P complexes were not phosphorylated further to p53^{6Q}-PI3,4,5P$_3$

complexes, likely by disrupting binding of PIPKIα and/or IPMK, which interact with the

p53 C-terminus[17, 18].

PI4KIIα interacts with p53 and cooperates with PITPα/β to synthesize p53-PI4P

As PITPα/β have been reported to cooperate with PI 4-kinases (PI4Ks) to synthesize

PI4P[34, 42, 43], we postulated that one or more PI4Ks acted in concert with PITPα/β to

generate p53-PI4P. To investigate this possibility, each of the four human PI4Ks[44] was

individually knocked down, and the effects on p53-PI4P complexes were determined by

PLA. Only individual KD of PI4KIIα suppressed basal and cisplatin-stimulated p53-PI4P

levels, while combined KD of PI4KIIα and PI4KIIIα reduced p53-PI4P levels to a

comparable degree as PI4KIIα KD alone (Fig. 5a,b and Extended Data Fig. 10a). p53-

PI4P synthesis requires the catalytic activity of PI4KIIα as the PI4KIIα inhibitors (PI-273

and NC03)[45, 46] prevented p53-PI4P and p53-PI4,5P$_2$ generation (Extended Data Fig.

10b-e). p53-PI4P is the substrate for PIPKIα to synthesize p53-PI4,5P$_2$, which stabilizes

p53[18]. Consistent with its role in generating p53-PI4P, PI4KIIα KD, but not KD of other

PI4Ks, inhibited cisplatin-stimulated p53 levels (Fig. 5c). Moreover, KD of PI4KIIα

mimicked the effects of PIPKIα KD in suppressing p53 induction by cisplatin, and

combined KD of PI4KIIα and PIPKIα was equivalent to either individual KD with regard to

p53 levels (Fig. 5d). In contrast to PI4KIIα KD which reduced p53-PI4P levels, KD of

PIPKIα enhanced p53-PI4P levels (Fig. 5e,f and Extended Data Fig. 10f). Functionally,

PI4KIIα co-IPed with p53^{mt} and p53^{wt}, and these interactions were enhanced by genotoxic

stress (Fig. 5g). PI4KIIIα also co-IPed with p53^{mt} and p53^{wt}, but PI4KIIIα KD did not affect

p53 or p53-PI4P levels or enhance the effects of PI4KIIα KD (Fig. 5a-c). Recombinant

PI4KIIα bound to p53 and was saturable with 8+/-2 nM affinity (Extended Data Fig. 11a

and Table 1) consistent with a specific and direct interaction. These findings indicate that

PI4KIIα binds to p53 with high affinity and is the PI 4-kinase that specifically synthesizes

p53-PI4P and contributes to p53 stabilization by generating the precursor for p53-PI4,5P$_2$.

PI4KIIα also directly bound to PITPα and PITPβ with high affinity, and these interactions

were enhanced by PI (Extended Data Fig. 11b,c and Table 1). Furthermore, KD of PI4KIIα

phenocopied the effects of combined KD of PITPα/β in inhibiting protein-PIP$_n$ complex

formation detected by WB with PIP$_n$ antibodies (Extended Data Fig. 11d). Similarly, KD

of PITPα or PI4KIIα in MDA-MB-231 cells with PITPβ KO further reduced the protein-PIP$_n$

signals by WB (Fig. 5h and Extended Data Fig. 11e). PI4KIIα KD also reduced nuclear

PI4,5P$_2$ content determined by IF (Fig. 5i and Extended Data Fig. 11f,g), indicating that

PI4KIIα, like PITPα/β, plays a key functional role in generating the nuclear PIP$_n$ pools.

These data indicate that PITPα/β and PI4KIIα act in concert to initiate nuclear PIP$_n$

signaling on p53 and other cellular proteins (Fig. 5j).

PITPα/β regulate p53-PIP$_n$ signalosome formation and nuclear Akt activation to

inhibit stress-induced apoptosis

The p53-PIP$_n$ signalosome is regulated by cellular stress, leading to the formation of p53-

PI3,4,5P$_3$ complexes that recruit and activate Akt in the nucleus and protect cells from

stress-induced apoptosis[17]. The identification of class I PITPs as upstream regulators of

p53-PIP$_n$ complex assembly implicates these lipid transfer proteins in nuclear Akt

activation. Consistent with this concept, individual KD of PITPα or PITPβ, but not

PITPNC1, suppressed stress-induced nuclear Akt activation quantified by nuclear

pAkt^{S473} IF, an established approach[17], and the combined PITPα/β KD resulted in a more

robust loss of pAkt^{S473} (Fig. 6a,b). These results were confirmed by WB (Extended Data

Fig. 11h). Similar results were obtained with multiple human cancer cell lines expressing

p53^{mt} (Fig. 6c-e and Extended Data Fig. 5c). KD of p53^{mt}, PITPα or PITPβ, but not

PITPNC1, moderately reduced cell viability under basal conditions and sensitized MDA-

MB-231 cells to cisplatin treatment as did KO of PITPβ, while KD of PITPα in MDA-MB-

231 cells with PITPβ KO or combined PITPα/β KD in parental cells further decreased cell

viability (Fig. 6f-h, Extended Data Fig. 11i, and Extended Data Fig. 12a-g). The

cytotoxicity of p53^{mt} KD and individual or combined PITPα/β KD was associated with a

corresponding increase in caspase 3 activity (Fig. 6i and Extended Data Fig. 12e-j),

indicating that PITPα/β KD triggers apoptosis and sensitizes cells to genotoxic stress.

These findings underscore the regulation of nuclear Akt activation by PITPα/β, which

confers resistance to genotoxic stress-induced apoptosis.

As PITPα/β exchange PI for PC, we investigated whether the PI transfer activity of these

PITPs was required to regulate nuclear PIP_n pools and nuclear Akt activation. For this,

we utilized the PITPα/β^{T59D} mutant that specifically disrupts PI binding[47-49]. Ectopically

expressed HA-tagged PITPα/β^{wt} interacted with p53^{wt} and mutant p53^{R175H}, while the

corresponding PITPα/β^{T59D} mutants exhibited impaired interaction with p53 (Fig. 7a and

Extended Data Fig. 12k-m). Moreover, the reduction in the stress-induced nuclear

PI4,5P$_2$ pool, p53 stability, and nuclear pAkt^{S473} levels by combined PITPα and PITPβ KD

using distinct siRNAs targeting their 3'-UTR was rescued by expression of PITPα^{wt}, but

not mutant PITPα^{T59D} (Fig. 7b-e). Notably, the nuclear PI4,5P$_2$ and pAkt^{S473} levels

correlated with the content of re-expressed PITPα^{wt}, but not mutant PITPα^{T59D} (Fig. 7f-i),

indicating that these phenotypes are dose-dependent.

The cytotoxicity and sensitization to cisplatin-induced apoptosis by combined PITPα/β KD

using the 3'-UTR targeting siRNAs were partly rescued by re-expressing PITPα^{wt} but not

the PITPα/β^{T59D} mutant (Fig. 7j,k and Extended Data Fig. 12n). These results

demonstrate that the PI transfer activity of class I PITPs regulates their interaction with

p53 and subsequent nuclear Akt activation. Combined PITPα/β KD also inhibited EGF-

stimulated cell invasion and these effects were partly restored by re-expressing PITPα^{wt}

but not the PITPα^{T59D} mutant (Fig. 7l,m) consistent with reports that PITPs contribute to

EGF signaling[50]. The data also suggest a broader role for PITPα/β in regulating PIP_n

linkage to additional proteins beyond p53 that may contribute to cell growth, invasion and

protection against genotoxic stress (Fig. 7n).

Discussion

Here we reveal an unexpected role for class I PITPα/β in generating nuclear PIP_n pools

that initiate PIP_n signaling. Although the existence of nuclear PIP_ns and their role in the

cell cycle[51], oxidative stress[16, 52-57] and the DNA damage response[17, 58-60] is supported by

growing evidence[16], the molecular origin of nuclear PIP_ns in regions devoid of membranes

has been enigmatic[61]. PITPs have a well-established role in transporting PI from the

endoplasmic reticulum to membranes to enable membrane-localized PIP_n signaling via

PIP kinases, phosphatases, and phospholipase-C[25-28, 34, 62]. The findings presented here

demonstrate that PITPs accumulate in the non-membranous nucleoplasm in response to

diverse cellular stressors to regulate the membrane-free nuclear PIP_n pools. As such,

these data expand the roles of the PITP lipid transport activities that were thought to act

largely in the cytosol and establish their mechanistic roles in generating nuclear PIP_n

pools.

In addition, PITPα/β, but not other PITP family members, bind directly to $p53^{wt}$ and $p53^{mt}$

and these interactions are stimulated by cell stress. This complex also includes the small

heat shock proteins (Hsp27 and αB-crystallin), which stabilize p53[18]. PITPα/β binding to

p53 is necessary for the linkage of PIP_ns with p53 (p53-PIP_n signalosome). Once the p53-

PIP_n linkage is formed it is stable and detected by PIP_n isomer antibodies and acted on

by multiple PIP kinases and phosphatases, indicating that the myo-inositol head group is

accessible and can be utilized as a substrate for these enzymes[17, 18, 35]. The p53-PIP_n

pathway culminates in the formation of p53-PI3,4,5P$_3$ complexes that in turn, recruit and

activate Akt in the nucleus, conferring resistance to stress-induced apoptosis[17]. However,

PITPs also contribute to the canonical PI3K/Akt pathway[63] so the observed differences in

cellular phenotypes by PITPα/β KD likely reflects some contribution of the canonical

pathway as well as the nuclear PI3K/Akt pathway. These PITPα/β activities require PI

binding, underscoring the critical functional role of lipid transport in nuclear PIP$_n$ signaling.

Indeed, the ability of wild-type PITPα, but not the PI binding-defective mutant, to rescue

the phenotype of combined PITPα/β KD suggests a functional redundancy of PITPα and

PITPβ for nuclear phosphoinositide signaling. This is consistent with previous reports that

either PITPα or PITPβ is sufficient to rescue the phenotype of double PITPα/β knockout

in a PI-binding dependent manner[47, 64]. PITPα/β bind the PI 4-kinase PI4KIIα, and both

also interact with p53. Indeed, both PITPα/β and PI4KIIα are required to generate the

p53-PI4P complex, pointing to a functional collaboration between PITPα/β and PI4KIIα in

initiating nuclear PIP$_n$ signaling that is highly reminiscent of their roles in generating PI4P

in the membrane-localized pathway[42, 43].

Remarkably, PITPα/β and PI4KIIα regulate the coupling of PIP$_n$s to a suite of cellular

proteins that are detected by WB with PIP$_n$ isomers antibodies and by metabolic labelling

cells with [^{3}H]*myo*-inositol. These data indicate that the nuclear IF staining of PIP$_n$s is a

composite of PIP$_n$-linked proteins. Furthermore, our observation that the p53-PIP$_n$ and

protein-PIP$_n$ linkages can be detected by metabolic labelling with [^{3}H]*myo*-inositol and are

resistant to denaturation and solvent extraction indicates a tight coupling consistent with

a putative posttranslational modification. Indeed, our data indicate PIP$_n$ second

messengers are linked to p53 and other proteins by the combined activities of PITPα/β

and PI4KIIα. The resulting p53-PI4P is acted on by PIP kinases and phosphatases such

that the PI3,4,5P$_3$ linked to p53 acts as a messenger to recruit PDK1, mTORC2, and Akt,

culminating in nuclear Akt activation and stress-resistance[17]. These findings suggest a

"third messenger" pathway[17] with p53 as the founding member whereby PIP$_n$ second

messengers are linked to cellular proteins in membrane-free regions and modified by PIP

kinases/phosphatases to regulate their function (Fig. 7n). The assembly of distinct PIP$_n$

isomer-protein complexes with unique binding partners has the potential to enable

exquisite spatial and temporal regulation of signaling cascades anchored on cellular

proteins instead of membranes. Although the focus here is on the nuclear pathway, there

is nothing *per se* that limits PIP$_n$-linked proteins to the nucleus and p53-PI4P detected by

PLA is both nuclear and cytosolic. Given the critical role of class I PITPs in initiating

nuclear phosphoinositide signaling, which attenuates cellular stress and apoptosis, these

findings also point to these PITPs and PI4KIIα as potential therapeutic targets in a variety

of diseases including cancer.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

M.C., N.D.C, T.W., V.L.C., and R.A.A. designed the experiments. N.D.C., M.C., T.W.,

P.A., T.J.W., and C.S. performed the experiments. N.D.C., M.C., T.W., V.L.C., and R.A.A.

wrote the manuscript.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Authors declare that they have no competing interests.

METHODS

Cell culture and constructs

A549, BT-549, Cal33, HCT116, HS578T, MDA-MB-231, SUM159, SUM1315, HEK293FT,

and MCF-10A cells were purchased from ATCC. MCF10A cells were cultured in

DMEM/F12 (#11330-032, Invitrogen) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum

(#SH30910.03, Hyclone), 1% penicillin/streptomycin (#15140-122, Gibco), 20 ng/mL EGF

(#CC-4107, Lonza), 0.5 mg/mL Hydrocortisone (#H4001, Sigma), 100 ng/mL Cholera

toxin (#C-8052, Sigma), and 10 μg/mL Insulin (#I-1882, Sigma). The other cells were

maintained in DMEM (#10-013-CV, Corning) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum

(#SH30910.03, Hyclone) and 1% penicillin/streptomycin (#15140-122, Gibco). The cell

lines used in this study were routinely tested for mycoplasma contamination using

MycoAlert Mycoplasma Detection Kit (#LT07-318, Lonza), and mycoplasma-negative

cells were used. None of the cell lines used in this study are listed in the database of

commonly misidentified cell lines maintained by ICLAC. The Flag-tagged p53 constructs

and corresponding PIP_n-binding-defective 6Q mutants in this work have been described

previously[18]. The HA-tagged wild-type PITPα/β constructs and PI-binding deficient

mutants T59D[47] were purchased from Genscript. Plasmids were transfected into

mammalian cells using Lipofectamine™3000, (#L3000015, Thermo Fisher Scientific)

according to the manufacturer's instructions. Typically, 2-5 μg of DNA and 6-10 μl of lipid

were used for transfecting cells in 6-well plates. Cells with at least 80% transfection

efficiency were used for further analysis.

Antibodies and reagents

Monoclonal antibodies against p53 (clone DO-1, #SC-126, Santa Cruz Biotechnology),

p53 (clone 7F5, #2527, Cell Signaling), $pAkt^{S473}$ (clone 193H12, #4058, Cell Signaling),

HA-tag (clone C29F4, #3724, Cell Signaling), Flag-tag (clone D6W5B, #14793, Cell

Signaling), GAPDH (clone 0411, #sc-47724, Santa Cruz Biotechnology), Lamin B2 (clone

D8P3U, #12255, Cell Signaling), EGFR (clone D6B6, #2085, Cell Signaling), HSP27

(clone D6W5V, #95357, Cell Signaling), and polyclonal antibodies against PITPα

(#16613-1-AP, ThermoFisher), PITPβ (#ab127563, abcam), PITPNC1 (IF, #ab222078,

abcam), PITPNC1 (WB, #NBP2-19842, Novus), PITPNM1 (#26983-1-AP, Proteintech),

PITPNM2 (#PA5-48616, Invitrogen), PI4KIIα (#NBP2-44158, Novus), PI4KIIIα (#4902S,

CST), PI4KIIβ (#PA5-82133, Thermo), PI4KIIIβ (#ab134756, abcam), and αB-Crystallin

(#ADI-SPA-223-F, Enzo) were used in this study. For conventional immunostaining and

PLA analysis of phosphoinositides, anti-PI4P (#Z-P004), PI4,5P$_2$ (#Z-P045) and PI3,4,5P$_3$

(#Z-P345) antibodies were purchased from Echelon Biosciences. For immunoblotting

analyses, antibodies were diluted at a 1:1000 ratio except for p53 (clone DO-1, 1:5000)

and GAPDH (clone 0411, 1:5000). For immunoprecipitation, antibody-conjugated

agarose was purchased from Santa Cruz Biotechnology, including agarose-conjugated

antibodies against p53 (#sc-126AC), PITPα/β (#sc-398050AC), HA-tag (#sc-7392AC),

and Flag-tag (#sc-166355AC). For immunostaining analyses and proximity ligation assay

(PLA), antibodies were diluted at a 1:100 ratio. Nuclear envelope marker (Alexa

Fluor®488 Lamin A/C, clone 4C11, #8617, Cell Signaling, 1:200) was used to examine

subnuclear regions. For the knockdown (KD) experiments, the ON-TARGETplus siRNA

SMARTpool with 4 siRNAs in combination against human p53 (#L-003329-00), PITPα

(#L-018010-00), PITPβ (#L-006459-01), and PITPNC1 (#L-012476-02) were purchased

from Dharmacon. Non-targeting siRNA (#D-001810-01, Dharmacon) was used as a

control. For the KD and rescue experiments, pooled-siRNAs targeting the 3'UTR of PITPα

(sense 5'-AGGCAACUUUCGAUUCCUUACUGUA-3' and antisense 5'-

UACAGUAAGGAAUCGAAAGUUGCCU-3'; sense 5'-

CCGUCUCUCUCCAUUGUGUUCCGAU-3' and antisense 5'-

AUCGGAACACAAUGGAGAGAGACGG-3') and pooled-siRNAs targeting the 3'UTR of

PITPβ (sense 5'- GAGUGAACAACAAUCUGACCAGUAU-3' and antisense 5'-

AUACUGGUCAGAUUGUUGUUCACUC-3'; sense 5'- CUACAAAGCUGAUGAAGAC-3'

and antisense 5'-GUCUUCAUCAGCUUUGUAG-3') were purchased from Thermo Fisher

Scientific. The siRNAs were delivered to cells by RNAiMAX reagent (#13778150, Thermo

Fisher Scientific), and KD efficiency was determined by immunoblotting. KD efficiency

greater than 80% was required to observe phenotypic changes in the study. Cisplatin,

(#NC1706394, Fisher Scientific), etoposide (#S1225, Sellekchem), Erastin (#S7242,

Selleckchem), tert-Butylhydroquinone (tBHQ, #SPCM-T1540-06, Spectrum), and

hydroxyurea (HU, #1332000, Millipore Sigma) were used as cellular stressors. Nutlin 3a

(#S8059, Sellekchem), PI-273 (#AOB37765, aobious), and NC03 (#AOB17420, aobious)

were also used.

Immunoprecipitation and immunoblotting

Cells were removed from the medium after the indicated treatment, washed three times

with ice-cold PBS, and lysed in an ice-cold RIPA lysis buffer system (#sc-24948, Santa

Cruz Biotechnology) with 1 mM Na_3VO_4, 5 mM NaF, and 1x protease inhibitor cocktail

(#11836153001, Roche). The cell lysates were then sonicated at 15% amplitude for 15 s.

After sonication, the cell lysates were incubated at 4°C with continuous rotation for 1 h

and subsequently centrifuged at maximum speed for 10 min to collect the supernatant.

The protein concentration in the supernatant was measured by the Bradford protein assay

(#5000201, BIO-RAD) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Equal amounts of

protein were used for further analysis. All antibodies were diluted at a 1:1000 ratio for

immunoblotting unless otherwise indicated. For immunoprecipitation, 0.5-1 mg of protein

was incubated with 20 μl of antibody-conjugated agarose (Santa Cruz Biotechnology) at

4°C for 24 h. After washing three times with PBST (PBS with 0.1% Tween 20), the protein

complex was eluted with SDS sample buffer and boiled at 95°C for 10 min. For

immunoblotting, 5-20 μg of protein were loaded. For immunoblotting of

immunoprecipitated complexes, horseradish peroxidase (HRP)-conjugated antibodies

were used to avoid non-specific detection of immunoglobulin in the immunoprecipitated

samples. HRP-conjugated p53 (#sc-126HRP), PITPα (#sc-13569HRP), PITPβ (#sc-

390500HRP) antibodies were purchased from Santa Cruz Biotechnology. Immunoblots

were developed by Odyssey Imaging System (LI-COR Biosciences) and the intensity of

protein bands was quantified using ImageJ. The unsaturated exposure of immunoblot

images was used for quantification with the appropriate loading controls as standards.

Statistical data analysis was performed with Microsoft Excel, using data from at least

three independent experiments.

Fluorescent IP-WB

Cells were lysed in a RIPA lysis buffer system[17] after the indicated treatment and

quantified for protein concentration as described above. For endogenous p53 or FLAG-

tagged p53 immunoprecipitation, 0.5-1 mg of cell lysates were incubated with 20 µl anti-

p53 (#sc-126 AC, Santa Cruz Biotechnology) or anti-FLAG (#sc-166355AC, Santa Cruz

Biotechnology) mouse monoclonal IgG antibody-conjugated agarose at 4°C for 24 h.

Normal immunoglobulin (IgG)-conjugated agarose was used as a negative control (#sc-

2343, Santa Cruz Biotechnology). After washing three times with PBST, the protein

complex was eluted with SDS sample buffer. The sample was then boiled at 95°C for 10

min. For immunoblotting, 5-20 µg of protein were loaded. The protein complexes

associated with p53 were resolved by SDS-PAGE and transferred onto a PVDF

membrane (#IPVH00010, MilliporeSigma). The membrane was blocked with 1% BSA in

TBS for 1 h at room temperature. For double fluorescent IP-WB detecting p53-

PI4P/PI4,5P$_2$/PI3,4,5P$_3$ complexes, anti-p53 rabbit monoclonal IgG antibody (clone 7F5,

#2527, Cell Signaling) at 1:2000 dilution and anti-PI4P mouse monoclonal IgM antibody

(#Z-P004, Echelon Biosciences), PI4,5P$_2$ mouse monoclonal IgM antibody (#Z-P045,

Echelon Biosciences), or PI3,4,5P$_3$ mouse monoclonal IgM antibody (#Z-P345, Echelon

Biosciences) at 1:1000 dilution were mixed together in blocking buffer with 0.02 % Sodium

Azide and incubated with the membrane at 4°C overnight. The next day, the membrane

was washed three times with TBST for 10 min each time. For the secondary antibody

incubation, goat anti-rabbit IgG antibody conjugated with IRDye 800CW fluorophore

(#926-32211, LI-COR) detectable on the 800 nm wavelength channel of the Odyssey Fc

Imaging System (LI-COR Biosciences) and goat anti-mouse IgM antibody conjugated

with IRDye 680RD fluorophore (#926-68180, LI-COR) detectable on the 700 nm

wavelength channel at 1:10000 dilution were mixed in blocking buffer with 0.01 % SDS

and 0.1% Tween 20 and incubated with the membrane at room temperature for 2 h. The

membrane was then washed three times with TBST for 10 min each time. The images

were subsequently acquired simultaneously using the 700 and 800 nm wavelength

channels on the Odyssey Fc Imaging System (LI-COR Biosciences). The p53-associated

PI4P/PI4,5P$_2$/PI3,4,5P$_3$ complex was visualized by overlapping the 700 and 800 nm

channels. Statistical data analysis was performed with Microsoft Excel, using data from

at least three independent experiments.

***In vitro* binding assay**

The recombinant proteins p53 (#81091, Active Motif), PITPα (#ab101666, Abcam), PITPβ

(#ab101091, Abcam), and PI4KIIα (lab made) were used for *In Vitro* binding assays. The

binding assay was performed in PBS by incubating a constant amount of p53 with an

increasing amount of PITPα/β or PI4KIIα in the presence of 20 µl anti-p53 antibody-

conjugated agarose (#sc-126AC, Santa Cruz). After incubating overnight at 4°C, unbound

proteins were removed by washing three times with PBST, and the protein complex was

analyzed by immunoblotting.

Immunofluorescence (IF) and Confocal Microscopy

For immunofluorescence studies, cells were grown on coverslips coated with 0.2 %

gelatin (#G9391, MilliporeSigma). Cells were fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA) (#sc-

281692, Santa Cruz Biotechnology) for 20 min at room temperature followed by washing

three times with PBS. Next, the cells were permeabilized with 0.3% Triton-X100 for 30

min to thoroughly permeate the nuclear envelope and rewashed three times with PBS.

The cells were then blocked with 1% BSA in PBS for one hour at room temperature. After

blocking, cells were incubated with primary antibodies overnight at 4ºC. The cells were

then washed three times with PBS and incubated with fluorescent-conjugated secondary

antibodies (Molecular Probes) for 1 hour at room temperature. After secondary antibody

incubation, the cells were washed three times. Then the coverslips were taken out from

the dishes, air-dried for 10 min at room temperature and mounted in Prolong™ Glass

Antifade Mountant with NucBlue™ Stain (#P36985, Thermo Fisher Scientific). The

images were taken by Leica SP8 3xSTED Super-Resolution Microscope, which is both a

point scanning confocal and 3xSTED super-resolution microscope. The Leica SP8

3xSTED microscope was controlled by LASX software (Leica Microsystems). All images

were acquired using the 100X objective lens (N.A. 1.4 oil). The z-stack images were taken

with each frame of 0.2 µm thickness. For quantification, the mean fluorescent intensity of

channels in each cell was measured by LASX. GraphPad Prism Version 9.4.1 generated

quantitative graphs. The images were processed using ImageJ. The correlation of double

staining channels was quantified by GraphPad Prism using Pearson's correlation

coefficient (Pearson's r), ranging between 1 and −1. A value of 1 represents perfect

correlation, 0 means no correlation, and -1 means perfect negative correlation[65].

Pearson's r greater than 0.7 suggests a strong correlation[66].

Proximity Ligation Assay (PLA)

PLA was utilized to detect *in situ* protein-protein/PIP_n interaction or close proximity as

previously described[17, 18, 35]. After fixation and permeabilization, cells were blocked before

incubation with primary antibodies as in routine IF staining. The cells were then processed

for PLA (#DUO92101, MilliporeSigma) according to the manufacturer's instruction and

previous publications[17, 18, 35]. Post-PLA slides were further processed for

immunofluorescent staining against the nuclear membrane marker (Lamin A/C, #8617,

Cell Signaling). After washing three times with PBST, the slides were mounted with

Prolong[TM] Glass Antifade Mountant with NucBlue[TM] Stain (#P36985, Thermo Fisher

Scientific). The Leica SP8 confocal microscope detected PLA signals as discrete punctate

foci and provided the intracellular localization of the complex. ImageJ was used to

quantify the nuclear PLA foci.

Crystal Violet Cell Viability assay

In 96-well plates, $5×10^4$ cells/well of MDA-MB-231, MDA-MB-231[Cas9], BT549, SUM159,

or SUM1315 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs targeting p53, PITPα,

PITPβ, PITPNC1, or the combination of PITPα and PITPβ as indicated for 48 h. For the

KD rescue experiments, MDA-MB-231 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or

siRNAs targeting 3'UTR of PITPα and PITPβ for 24 h. Next, the cells were transfected

with either HA-tagged wild-type PITPα or its PI-binding deficient T59D mutant PITPα for

another 24 h. The cells were then treated with the control vehicle or 30 µM cisplatin for

24 h, and the cells were subsequently fixed with 4% PFA and stained with 0.2% Crystal

Violet. After washing the cells 3 times with PBS, the plates were air-dried at room

temperature and imaged using EVOS M5000 Imaging System (ThermoFisher Scientific).

After imaging, the dye was extracted from the cells with 10% acetic acid and quantified

by measuring the absorbance at 570 nm using a Synergy HTX Multi-Mode Microplate

reader.

Caspase 3 Activity Assay

In 6-well plates, 1×10^6 cells/well of MDA-MB-231, BT549, SUM159, or SUM1315 were

transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs targeting p53, PITPα, PITPβ, PITPNC1, or the

combination of PITPα and PITPβ as indicated for 48 h. For the KD rescue experiments,

MDA-MB-231 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs targeting 3'UTR of

PITPα and PITPβ for 24 h. Then the cells were transfected with either HA-tagged wild-

type PITPα or its PI-binding deficient T59D mutant PITPα for another 24 h, followed by

treatment with control vehicle or 30 µM cisplatin for 24 h. Next, the cells were lysed and

processed for Caspase 3 activity assay by following the manufacturer's instructions (#E-

13183, Thermo Fisher Scientific). At the end of the assay, the fluorescence was read at

excitation/emission 342/441 nm using a Synergy HTX Multi-Mode Microplate reader.

Transwell Invasion Assay

The bottom polycarbonate filter surface of a 6.5 mm diameter insert with 8 µm pores in a

24-well plate (#3422, Corning) was coated with 10 µg/ml of Laminin (#CC095,

MilliporeSigma) diluted in PBS for 3 h at 37°C. MDA-MB-231 cells were transiently

transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs targeting the 3'UTR of both PITPα and PITPβ

for 24 h. Then the cells were transfected with either HA-tagged wild-type PITPα or its PI-

binding deficient T59D mutant PITPα. After 24 h, cells were serum starved for an

additional 24 h. Next, $5x10^4$ transfected cells were suspended in 200 µl serum-free

medium containing 0.5% BSA and then were plated in the upper insert chamber in 500

µl serum-free medium with 0.5% BSA. 10 ng/ml EGF was added to the lower chamber.

Cells were allowed to invade for 16 h at 37°C. Cells on the bottom of the filter were then

fixed with 4% PFA and stained with 0.2% Crystal Violet. The stained cells were imaged

using EVOS M5000 Imaging System (ThermoFisher Scientific). At the end of the assay,

the dye was extracted by 10% acetic acid from the cells and quantified by measuring the

optical density at 570 nm using a Synergy HTX Multi-Mode Microplate reader.

Microscale Thermophoresis (MST) Assay

The microscale thermophoresis (MST) assay was used to calculate the binding affinities

of purified recombinant proteins (p53 (#81091, Active Motif), PITPα (#ab101666, Abcam),

PITPβ (#LS-C794864, LSBio), PITPNC1 (#LS-G33119-10, LSBio) PI4KIIα (lab made))

and other contributing factors *in vitro* as previously described[67]. The target protein was

fluorescently labeled using a Monolith Protein Labeling kit (RED-NHS 2nd Generation

MO-L011, Nano Temper) following the manufacturer's instruction. Then, sequential

titration of unlabeled ligand proteins or PI (#840042P, Avanti), was made in a Tris-based

MST buffer containing 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 50 mM NaCl, 80 mM KCl and 0.05%

Tween 20 and mixed with an equal volume of fluorescently labelled target protein

prepared at 10 nM concentration in the same MST buffer, making the final target protein

at a constant concentration of 5 nM and the ligand protein or lipid as the gradient. For PI

cofactor analysis, target proteins were mixed with 1 μM PI prior to ligand proteins and PI

concentration remained constant across the gradient of ligand protein. The target–ligand

mixtures were loaded into Monolith NT.115 series capillaries (MO-K022, Nano Temper),

and the MST traces were measured using Monolith NT.115 pico. The binding affinity was

autogenerated using MO Control v.1.6 software.

[^{3}H]*myo*-inositol Metabolic Labeling

Cells were split and cultured in low serum Opti-MEM (#31985070, Thermo) supplemented

with 10% dialyzed FBS with a 10,000 mw cut-off (#F0392, Sigma) and 1% Pen/strep

(#15140-122, Gibco) to minimize inositol in the culture media. In 10 cm dishes, $0.5{\times}10^6$

MDA-MB-231 cells were seeded to achieve ~5% confluency the following day. 24 h after

plating, cells were treated with either 1.322 μM (25 μCi/mL) of [^{3}H]*myo*-inositol

(#NET1156005MC, PerkinElmer) or unlabeled *myo*-inositol (#J60828.22, Thermo) and

allowed to uptake the metabolic label for 48 h. For KD experiments, PITPα/β siRNAs were

added and recovered as normal and fresh [^{3}H]*myo*-inositol supplemented media was

used to replace the transfection media. 24 h after siRNA transfection (72 h after original

plating), cells were treated with control vehicle or 30 μM cisplatin for another 24 h. Labeled

and unlabeled cells were then lysed and p53 was immunoprecipitated as described in

immunoprecipitation and immunoblotting, before performing SDS-PAGE or CHCl$_3$/MeOH

extraction as indicated. For extraction, MeOH:CHCl$_3$ (2:1) was added to RIPA cell

lysates to form the protein precipitate. Soluble phases in MeOH and CHCl$_3$ were

aspirated out and the protein flake was dried using a speed vacuum. Protein samples

were then resuspended and solubilized in PBS with sonication. SDS-PAGE samples

were excised from the gel and each lane was either further sectioned or treated as a

whole and dissolved in 30% H$_2$O$_2$ before liquid scintillation counting (LSC). Dissolved gel

samples or resuspended protein samples from the CHCl$_3$/MeOH extraction were added

to LSC vials with LSC cocktail (#6013319, PerkinElmer) before being processed by

PerkinElmer Tri-Carb 4910 TR liquid scintillation analyzer. Analysis and DPM calculation

were automated using QuantaSmart software.

Lenti-CRISPR Gene Editing

CRISPR-Cas9 genome-editing was used to knockout the gene encoding PITPβ in MDA-

MB-231 cells. First a Cas9 expressing stable cell line was generated by transducing cells

with viral particles (#LVCAS9BST, Sigma Aldrich) at the multiplicity of infection (MOI) of

0.5. Transduction was performed in complete media containing 8μg/mL polybrene. After

24 h incubation, Cas9-expressing cells were selected with 10μg/mL blasticidin

(#DSB12150; Dot Scientific) for 1 week and expression was confirmed. To generate

PITPβ KO cells, viral particles containing the guide RNA sequence for PITPβ (5'-

CAATCATCCTCACGAATGC-3') and negative control (5'-

CGCGATAGCGCGAATATATT-3') were purchased from Sigma Aldrich. Sequences were

cloned into LV21 lentiviral vectors (Sigma Aldrich). Cas9-expressing cells were then

transduced with viral particles at a MOI of 0.5 and incubated for 24 h. Transduction was

performed in the presence of 8μg/mL polybrene in complete media. Media was removed

24 h after viral transduction and 1500 µg/mL geneticin (#10131035; Sigma Aldrich) was

added for selection. After 1 week of selection in antibiotics, single cells were isolated in

the 96-well tissue culture dish by BD FACS AriaII. Cells were expanded and positive

colonies were selected by immunoblotting.

Nuclear Fractionation

Nuclear fractionation was used to analyze compartmentalized protein expression. MDA-

MB-231 cells were processed using the NE-PER nuclear and cytoplasmic extraction

reagents (#78833, Thermo) according to manufacturers instructions. Cells were manually

removed from their culture dishes into suspension and the cytosolic extraction reagent

was used to isolate cytosolic fractions. Then, the nuclear extraction reagent was used to

produce the nuclear fraction. Samples were then further processed by WB.

Statistics and Reproducibility

Two-tailed unpaired *t*-tests were used for pair-wise significance and one-way ANOVA

was used for group significance with Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test used for

significance within grouped samples. We note that no power calculations were used.

Sample sizes were determined based on previously published experiments where

significant differences were observed[17, 18]. Each experiment was repeated at least three

times independently, and the number of repeats is defined in each figure legend. We used

at least three independent experiments or biologically independent samples for statistical

analysis.

Resource and Data Availability

655   All data supporting the findings of this study are available from the corresponding authors

656   on reasonable request.

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    FIGURE LEGEND

Figure 1. PITPs are required for the nuclear PIP$_n$ pool

a, Domains of PITP class I and II protein family members. PITD, PI transfer domain; FFAT,

two phenylalanines in an acidic tract; DDHD, Asp-Asp-His-Asp motif; LNS2,

Lipin/Nde1/Smp2 domain.

b-c, Confocal images of IF staining against PITPα/PITPβ/PITPNC1 and PI4,5P$_2$ in MDA-

MB-231 cells treated with vehicle or 30 μM cisplatin for 24 h. The nuclei were

counterstained by DAPI. The nuclear levels of PITPs and PI4,5P$_2$ were quantified by

ImageJ (**c**). n=3, 15 cells from each independent experiment. *p* value denotes two-sided

paired t-test. See expanded images in Extended Data Fig. 1a.

d, Confocal IF of PITPα or PITPβ overlaid with the nuclear envelope marker Lamin A/C

in MDA-MB-231 cells treated with vehicle or 30 μM cisplatin for 24 h. The nuclei were

counterstained by DAPI. n=3 independent experiments.

e-f, MDA-MB-231 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against PITPα,

PITPβ, PITPNC1, or both PITPα and PITPβ. After 24 h, cells were treated with 30 μM

cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h before being processed for IF staining. The nuclear PI4,5P$_2$

level was quantified by ImageJ (**f**). n=3, 15 cells from each independent experiment. *p*

value denotes ANOVA with Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test. See KD validation in

Fig. 4a and expanded images in Extended Data Fig. 5a.

g, MDA-MB-231 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against both

PITPα and PITPβ. After 24 h, cells were treated with 30 μM cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h

before being processed for IF staining against PI4P/PI3,4,5P$_3$ and the shared

epitope of PITPα and PITPβ. The nuclei were counterstained by DAPI. The

nuclear PI4P and PI3,4,5P3 levels were quantified by ImageJ. n=3, 15 cells from each

independent experiment. *p* value denotes two-sided paired t-test. See KD validation in

Fig. 4a and expanded images in Extended Data Fig. 5b.

h-i, A549, BT-549, MCF10A, and SUM1315 cells were transfected with control siRNAs

or siRNAs against both PITPα and PITPβ. After 24 h, cells were treated with 30 µM

cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h before being processed for IF staining against $PI4,5P_2$ and

the shared epitope of PITPα and PITPβ. The nuclei were counterstained by DAPI. The

nuclear $PI4,5P_2$ levels were quantified by ImageJ (**i**). n=3, 15 cells from each independent

experiment. *p* value denotes two-sided paired t-test. See KD validation in Extended Data

Fig. 5c and expanded images in Extended Data Fig. 5d.

j, Models showing stress-induced nuclear translocation of PITPα/β to regulate nuclear

PIP_n pools.

For all panels, data are represented as mean ± SD. Scale bar, 5 µm.

Figure 2. PITPα/β bind p53 and their interaction is regulated by cellular stress

a-b, PLA of p53-PITPα/PITPβ/PITPNC1/PITPNM1/PITPNM2 in MDA-MB-231 cells

treated with vehicle or 30 µM cisplatin for 24 h. The nuclear p53-PITP foci were quantified

(**b**). n=3, 10 cells from each independent experiment. *p* value denotes two-sided paired

t-test. See expanded images in Extended Data Fig. 6a.

c, PLA of p53-PITPα/PITPβ/PITPNC1 overlaid with the nuclear envelope marker Lamin

A/C in MDA-MB-231 cells treated with vehicle or 30 µM cisplatin for 24 h. The nuclei were

counterstained by DAPI.

d-g, Co-IP of PITPα/PITPβ/Hsp27 with p53 from MDA-MB-231 cells treated with vehicle

or 30 µM cisplatin for 24 h. PITPα IP-ed by p53 (**e**), PITPβ IP-ed by p53 (**f**), and Hsp27

IP-ed by p53 (**g**), as well as PITPNC1/PITPNM1/PITPNM2 were analyzed by WB. n=3

independent experiments. *p* value denotes two-sided paired t-test.

h-k, Co-IP of p53/Hsp27/αB-crystallin (αBC) with the shared epitope of PITPα/β from

MDA-MB-231 cells treated with vehicle or 30 μM cisplatin for 24 h. p53 IP-ed by PITPα/β

(**i**), Hsp27 IP-ed by PITPα/β (**j**), and αBC IP-ed by PITPα/β (**k**) were analyzed by WB. n=3

independent experiments. *p* value denotes two-sided paired t-test.

l-o, *In vitro* binding of recombinant p53 with PITPα or PITPβ. p53 immobilized on anti-

p53 agarose was incubated with PITPα or PITPβ protein. p53 was IP'ed and p53-bound

PITPα (**l,m**) or PITPβ (**n,o**) was analyzed by WB and quantified by ImageJ. n=3

independent experiments.

p, Model showing stress-induced formation of nuclear PITPα/β, p53, and small heat

shock protein (sHSP) complexes.

For all panels, data are represented as mean ± SD. Scale bar, 5 μm.

Figure 3. PITPα/β regulate PIP$_n$ interactions with p53

a-c, MDA-MB-231 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against p53,

PITPα, PITPβ, PITPNC1, or both PITPα and PITPβ. After 24 h, cells were treated with 30

μM cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h before being processed for PLA to detect p53-PI4,5P$_2$/-

PI3,4,5P$_3$ complexes (**b,c**). n=3, 10 cells from each independent experiment. *p* value

denotes ANOVA with Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test. See KD validation in Fig. 4a

and expanded images in Extended Data Fig. 8a,b.

d-f, A549 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against PITPα, PITPβ, or

both PITPα and PITPβ. After 24 h, cells were treated with 30 μM cisplatin or vehicle for

24 h before being processed for PLA to detect p53-PI4,5P$_2$/PI3,4,5P$_3$ complexes (**e,f**).

n=3, 10 cells from each independent experiment. *p* value denotes ANOVA with

Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test. See KD validation in Fig. 4b and expanded

images in Extended Data Fig. 8c.

g, MDA-MB-231 cells were treated with 30 µM cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h before being

processed for IP against p53. p53-bound PI4P/PI4,5P$_2$/PI3,4,5P$_3$ were examined by

fluorescent WB. n=3 independent experiments. See quantification in Extended Data Fig.

8d.

h-k, MDA-MB-231 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against PITPα,

PITPβ, or both PITPα and PITPβ. After 24 h, cells were treated with 30 µM cisplatin or

vehicle for 24 h before being processed for IP against p53. p53-bound

PI4P/PI4,5P$_2$/PI3,4,5P$_3$ were examined by fluorescent WB and quantified by ImageJ (**i-**

k). n=3 independent experiments. *p* value denotes ANOVA with

Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test. See KD validation in Fig. 4a.

l-m, MDA-MB-231 cells were cultured from low confluency in media containing [^{3}H]*myo*-

inositol or unlabeled *myo*-inositol. After 72 h of growth to confluency, cells were treated

with 30 µM cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h before being processed for IP against p53. p53

and PI4,5P$_2$ were confirmed by flourecent WB (**l**) before samples were resolved by SDS-

PAGE and the gel lane was excised and sectioned. Gel sections were then dissolved and

analyzed by liquid scintillation counting (LSC) (**m**). n=3 independent experiments, error

bar denotes SD, t-test, p<0.01*, p<0.001**

n-o, A549 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against PITPα, PITPβ,

or both PITPα and PITPβ. After 24 h, cells were treated with 30 µM cisplatin or vehicle

for 24 h before being processed for IP against p53. The PI4,5P$_2$ level on IPed p53 was

quantified by ImageJ (**o**). n=3 independent experiments. *p* value denotes ANOVA with

Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test. See KD validation in Fig. 4b.

For all graphs, data are presented as the mean ± SD. Scale bar, 5 μm.

Figure 4. PITPα/β regulate p53 stability and PIP$_n$ linkage to protein targets

a, MDA-MB-231 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against p53,

PITPα, PITPβ, PITPNC1, or both PITPα and PITPβ. After 24 h, cells were treated with

30 μM cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h before being processed for WB to validate the KD.

The p53 level was quantified by ImageJ. n=3 independent experiments. *p* value denotes

ANOVA with Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test.

b, A549 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against PITPα, PITPβ, or

both PITPα and PITPβ. After 24 h, cells were treated with 30 μM cisplatin or vehicle for

24 h before being processed for WB. The p53 level and protein-bound PI4,5P$_2$ level were

quantified by ImageJ. n=3 independent experiments. *p* value denotes ANOVA with

Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test.

c-d, MDA-MB-231 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against p53,

PITPα, PITPβ, PITPNC1, or both PITPα and PITPβ. After 24 h, cells were treated with 30

μM cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h before being processed for triple fluorescent WB for

detecting p53 (Red), GAPDH (Blue), and protein-bound PI4,5P$_2$ (Green) simultaneously.

The protein-bound PI4,5P$_2$ levels were quantified by ImageJ (**d**). n=3 independent

experiments. *p* value denotes ANOVA with Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test. See

KD validation in Fig. 4a.

e-f, A549 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against PITPα or PITPβ.

After 24 h, cells were treated with 30 µM cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h before being

processed for WB. The protein-bound PIP_n levels were quantified by ImageJ (**f**). n=3

independent experiments. *p* value denotes two-sided paired t-test.

g, MDA-MB-231 cells were cultured from low confluency in media containing in [^{3}H]*myo*-

inositol or unlabeled *myo*-inositol. After 48 h, cells were transfected with control siRNAs

or siRNAs against PITPα and PITPβ. 24 h later, cells were treated with 30 µM cisplatin

or vehicle for another 24 h. KD and loading was confirmed by WB before the protein

fraction was extracted with $CHCl_3$/MeOH or resolved by SDS-PAGE and the gel lane was

excised. Extracted samples and dissolved gel sections were then analyzed by LSC. n=3

independent experiments. *p* value denotes two-sided paired t-test. See experimental

approach in Extended Data Fig. 10a and expanded images in Extended Data Fig. 10b.

For all graphs, data are presented as the mean ± SD.

Figure 5. PI4KIIα and PITPα/β interact and are necessary to generate p53-PIP_n

complexes

a-b, MDA-MB-231 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against PI4KIIIα,

PI4KIIIβ, PI4KIIα, PI4KIIβ or both PI4KIIα and PI4KIIIα. After 24 h, cells were treated with

30 µM cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h before being processed for PLA to detect p53-PI4P

complexes (**b**). n=3, 15 cells from each independent experiment. *p* value denotes ANOVA

with Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test. See KD confirmation in Fig. 5c and expanded

images in Extended Data Fig. 10c.

c, MDA-MB-231 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against PI4KIIIα,

PI4KIIIβ, PI4KIIα, PI4KIIβ or both PI4KIIα and PI4KIIIα. After 24 h, cells were treated with

30 µM cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h before being processed for WB. p53 levels were

quantified by ImageJ. n=3 independent experiments. *p* value denotes ANOVA with

Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test.

d, A549 and MDA-MB-231 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against

PI4KIIIα, PIPKIα or both PI4KIIα and PIPKIα. After 24 h, cells were treated with 30 µM

cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h before being processed for WB. p53 levels were quantified by

ImageJ. n=3 independent experiments. *p* value denotes ANOVA with

Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test.

e,f, MDA-MB-231 and A549 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against

PI4KIIIα, PIPKIα or both PI4KIIα and PIPKIα. After 24 h, cells were treated with 30 µM

cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h before being processed for PLA to detect p53-PI4P complexes.

n=3, 15 cells from each independent experiment. *p* value denotes ANOVA with

Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test. See KD confirmation in Fig. 5d and expanded

images in Extended Data Fig. 10h.

h, MDA-MB-231[Cas9] cells with PITPβ KO and control non-targeted KO were transfected

with control siRNAs or siRNAs against PI4KIIα, PITPα or both PI4KIIα and PITPα. After

24 h, cells were treated with 30 µM cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h before being processed

for WB. n=3 independent experiments.

i, MDA-MB-231 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against PI4KIIα.

After 24h, cells were treated with 30 µM cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h before being

processed for PI4KIIα and PI4,5P_2 IF staining. n=3, 15 cells from each independent

experiment. See expanded images in Extended Data Fig. 11f and quantification in

Extended Data Fig. 11g.

j, Model showing PITPα/β cooperation with PI4KIIα in generating p53-PI4P complexes

that participate in further signaling.

For all panels, data are represented as mean ± SD. Scale bar, 5 μm.

Figure 6. PITPα/β regulate p53-dependent nuclear Akt activation and cell survival

a-b, MDA-MB-231 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against PITPα,

PITPβ, PITPNC1, or both PITPα and PITPβ. After 24h, cells were treated with 30 μM

cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h before being processed for IF staining against pAkt^{S473}. The

nuclear pAkt^{S473} levels were quantified by ImageJ (**b**). n=3, 15 cells from each

independent experiment. *p* value denotes ANOVA with

Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test. Scale bar, 5 μm.

c-e, BT-549, SUM159, and SUM1315 cells with the indicated p53 status were transfected

with control siRNAs or siRNAs against both PITPα and PITPβ. After 24 h, cells were

treated with 30 μM cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h before being processed for IF staining

against pAkt^{S473}. The nuclei were counterstained by DAPI. The nuclear pAkt^{S473} levels

were quantified (**d**). n=3, 15 cells from each independent experiment. *p* value denotes

two-sided paired t-test. Scale bar, 5 μm. The double KD of PITPα and PITPβ in SUM159

cells was validated by WB (**e**). See KD validation for BT-549 and SUM1315 cells in

Extended Data Fig. 5c.

f-g, MDA-MB-231 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against p53,

PITPα, PITPβ, PITPNC1, or both PITPα and PITPβ. After 24 h, cells were treated with 30

μM cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h before being processed for Crystal Violet viability assay.

The cells were imaged by EVOS M5000 microscope (**f**) and quantified based on the

extracted dye using a plate reader (**g**). n=3 independent experiments. *p* value denotes

ANOVA with Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test. Scale bar, 300 μm.

h, MDA-MB-231^{Cas9} cells with PITPβ KO and control non-targeted KO were transfected

with control siRNAs or siRNAs against PITPα, PITPβ or both PITPα and PITPβ. After 24

h, cells were treated with 30 μM cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h before being processed for

Crystal Violet viability assay. The cells were imaged by EVOS M5000 microscope. Scale

bar, 300 μm. n=3 independent experiments. See quantification in Extended Data Fig. 11i.

i, MDA-MB-231 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against p53, PITPα,

PITPβ, PITPNC1, or both PITPα and PITPβ. After 24h, cells were treated with 30 μM

cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h before being processed for caspase 3 activity assay. n=3

independent   experiments.   *p*   value   denotes   ANOVA   with

Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test. See quantification in Extended Data Fig. 11i.

For all graphs, data are presented as the mean ± SD.

Figure 7. PITPα/β initiate the p53-PIP$_n$ signalosome by a PI binding-dependent

mechanism

a, HEK293FT cells were co-transfected with either HA-tagged wild-type PITPα or PI

binding-defective mutant T59D PITPα together with Flag-tagged p53^{wt}. After 48 h, cells

were processed for IP against Flag-tag and analyzed by WB. n=3 independent

experiments. *p* value denotes two-sided paired t-test.

b-e, MDA-MB-231 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against the

3'UTR of both PITPα and PITPβ for 24 h. Then the cells were transfected with either HA-

tagged wild-type PITPα/β or PI binding-defective mutant T59D PITPα/β. After 24 h, cells

were treated with 30 µM cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h before being processed for WB (**b**)

and IF staining against HA-tag with PI4,5P$_2$ or pAkt^{S473} (**c**). The nuclear PI4,5P$_2$ and

pAkt^{S473} levels in HA-positive cells were quantified by ImageJ (**d, e**). n=3, 15 cells from

each independent experiment. *p* value denotes two-sided paired t-test. Scale bar, 5 µm.

f-i, Pearson's correlation coefficient (Pearson's r) quantified the correlations between

nuclear PI4,5P$_2$ or pAkt^{S473} with HA-PITPα$^{wt/T59D}$ levels. n=100 cells pooled from 3

independent experiments.

j-k, MDA-MB-231 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against the 3'UTR

of both PITPα and PITPβ for 24 h. The cells were then transfected with either HA-tagged

wild-type PITPα or PI binding-defective mutant T59D PITPα. After 24 h, cells were treated

with 30 µM cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h before being processed for Crystal Violet viability

assay. The cells were imaged by EVOS M5000 microscope (**j**) and quantified based on

the extracted dye using a plate reader (**k**). n=3 independent experiments. *p* value denotes

two-sided paired t-test. Scale bar, 300 µm.

l-m, MDA-MB-231 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against the

3'UTR of both PITPα and PITPβ for 24 h. The cells were then transfected with either HA-

tagged wild-type PITPα or PI binding-defective mutant T59D PITPα. After 24 h, cells were

serum starved for an additional 24 h and then scored for invasion through Laminin-coated

transwell inserts with 8 µm pores using 10 ng/ml EGF as a chemoattractant for 16 h. The

invading cells at the insert bottom were stained with Crystal Violet, imaged (**l**), and

quantified (**m**) based on the extracted dye using a plate reader. n=3 independent

experiments. *p* value denotes two-sided paired t-test. Scale bar, 300 µm.

n, A model of the stress-induced nuclear accumulation of class I PITPs and PITP-

dependent initiation of the p53-PI signalosome which promotes cell proliferation, survival,

and invasion.

For all graphs, data are presented as the mean ± SD.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Extended Data Figure 1. Cisplatin induces the nuclear accumulation of PITPs

a, Confocal images of IF staining against PITPα/PITPβ/PITPNC1 and PI4,5P2 in MDA-

MB-231 cells treated with vehicle or 30 μM cisplatin for 24 h. The nuclei were

counterstained by DAPI. See quantification in Fig. 1c.

b, Ratio calculation of IF staining against PITPα/PITPβ in MDA-MB-231 cells treated

with vehicle or 30 μM cisplatin for 24 h to determine % PITP signal in the nucleus. *p*

value denotes two-sided paired t-test. See expanded images in Fig. 1b and Extended

Data Fig. 1a.

c, Pearson's correlation coefficient (Pearson's r) quantified the correlations between

nuclear PI4,5P$_2$ with endogenous PITPβ levels. n=100 cells pooled from 3 independent

experiments.

d, MDA-MB-231[Cas9] cells with PITPβ KO and control non-targeted KO were transfected

with control siRNAs or siRNAs against PITPα and processed for IF staining against PITPα.

n=3 independent experiments.

e, MDA-MB-231[Cas9] cells with PITPβ KO and control non-targeted KO were transfected

with control siRNAs or siRNAs against PITPβ and processed for IF staining against PITPβ.

n=3 independent experiments.

f, MDA-MB-231^{Cas9} cells with PITPβ KO and control non-targeted KO were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against PITPα and processed for WB against PITPα and PITPβ. n=3 independent experiments.

g, MDA-MB-231 cells were treated with vehicle or cisplatin for 24 h. Cells were then fractionated using a detergent-based extraction to produce lysates from cytosolic and nuclear fractions and analyzed via WB. n=3 independent experiments.

For all graphs, data are presented as the mean ± SD.

Extended Data Figure 2. PITPα/β accumulate in the non-membranous nucleoplasm

a-b, 3D sections of IF staining against PITPα in MDA-MB-231 cells treated with vehicle or 30 μM cisplatin for 24 h. The nuclei were counterstained by DAPI. Each frame of the 3D sections was over a 0.2 μm thickness.

c-d, 3D sections of IF staining against PITPβ in MDA-MB-231 cells treated with vehicle or 30 μM cisplatin for 24 h. The nuclei were counterstained by DAPI. Each frame of the 3D sections was over a 0.2 μm thickness.

For all panels, Scale bar, 5 μm.

Extended Data Figure 3. Cisplatin induces the nuclear accumulation of PITPs in multiple cell lines

a-b, Confocal images of the IF staining against PITPα/β in wild-type and mutant p53 expressing cells, including MCF10A (WT), A549 (WT), HCT116 (WT), BT-549 (R249S), Cal33 (R175H), HS578T (V157F), SUM159 (R158InL), and SUM1315 (C135F). The

nuclei were counterstained by DAPI. Nuclear PITPα and PITPβ levels were quantified by

ImageJ (**b**). *p* value denotes two-sided paired t-test. n=3 independent experiments.

For all graphs, data are presented as the mean ± SD. Scale bar, 5 µm.

Extended Data Figure 4. Cell stress induces the non-membranous nuclear

accumulation of PITPs in multiple cell lines

a-b, MDA-MB-231 cells were treated with 30 µM cisplatin, 20 µM erastin, 100 µM tBHQ,

100 µM etoposide, 100 µM hydroxyurea, or vehicle for 24 h. The cells were then

processed for IF staining against PITPα or PITPβ and $PI4,5P_2$. The nuclei were

counterstained by DAPI. The nuclear levels of PITPs and $PI4,5P_2$ were quantified by

ImageJ (**b**). *p* value denotes two-sided paired t-test. n=3, 15 cells from each independent

experiment.

c, Confocal IF of PITPα or PITPβ overlaid with the nuclear envelope marker Lamin A/C

in A549 and MDA-MB-231 cells treated with vehicle or 30 µM cisplatin for 24 h. The nuclei

were counterstained by DAPI. n=3 independent experiments.

d-e, Confocal IF of PITPα or PITPβ overlaid with the nuclear envelope marker Lamin A/C

in MCF10A, A549, SUM1315, BT-549, HCT116, Cal33, HS578T and SUM159 cells

treated with vehicle or 30 µM cisplatin for 24 h. The nuclei were counterstained by DAPI.

n=3 independent experiments.

For all graphs, data are presented as the mean ± SD. Scale bar, 5 µm.

Extended Data Figure 5. PITPs regulate nuclear PIP_ns

a, MDA-MB-231 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against PITPα or

PITPβ. After 24 h, cells were treated with 30 μM cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h before being

processed for IF staining. See quantification in Fig. 1f. n=3 independent experiments.

b, MDA-MB-231 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against both

PITPα and PITPβ. After 24 h, cells were treated with 30 μM cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h

before being processed for IF staining against PI4P/PI3,4,5P$_3$ and the shared

epitope of PITPα and PITPβ. The nuclei were counterstained by DAPI. n=3, independent

experiments. See quantification in Fig. 1g.

c, A549, BT-549, MCF10A, and SUM1315 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or

siRNAs against both PITPα and PITPβ. After 24 h, cells were treated with 30 μM cisplatin

or vehicle for 24 h before being processed for WB. n=3 independent experiments.

d, MCF10A, and SUM1315 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against

both PITPα and PITPβ. After 24 h, cells were treated with 30 μM cisplatin or vehicle for

24 h before being processed for IF staining against PI4,5P$_2$ and the shared epitope of

PITPα and PITPβ. The nuclei were counterstained by DAPI. n=3 independent

experiments. See quantification in Fig. 1i.

Scale bar, 5 μm.

Extended Data Figure 6. Stress induces PITPα/β association with p53 in the

nucleoplasm

a, PLA of p53-PITPNM1/PITPNM2 in MDA-MB-231 cells treated with vehicle or 30 μM

cisplatin for 24 h. See quantification in Fig. 2b.

b-c, PLA of p53-PITPα/PITPβ/PITPNC1/PITPNM1/PITPNM2 in A549 cells treated with

vehicle or 30 μM cisplatin for 24 h. The nuclear p53-PITP PLA foci were quantified by

ImageJ (**c**). *p* value denotes two-sided paired t-test. n=3, 10 cells from each independent

experiment.

d, PLA of p53-PITPα/PITPβ/PITPNC1/PITPNM1/PITPNM2 overlaid with the nuclear

envelope marker Lamin A/C in A549 cells treated with vehicle or 30 μM cisplatin for 24 h.

The nuclei were counterstained by DAPI.

e, PLA of p53-PITPNM1/PITPNM2 overlaid with the nuclear envelope marker Lamin A/C

in MDA-MB-231 treated with vehicle or 30 μM cisplatin for 24 h. The nuclei were

counterstained by DAPI.

f, 3D sections of p53-PITPβ PLA foci overlaid with Lamin A/C in MDA-MB-231 treated

with vehicle or 30 μM cisplatin for 24 h. The nuclei were counterstained by DAPI. Each

frame of the 3D sections was over a 0.2 μm thickness.

For all graphs, data are presented as the mean ± SD. Scale bar, 5 μm.

Extended Data Figure 7. Stress induces PITPα/β association with p53

a-d, Co-IP of p53/Hsp27/αB-crystallin (αBC) with the shared epitope of PITPα/β in

MCF10A cells treated with vehicle or 30 μM cisplatin for 24 h. p53 immunoprecipitated

(IPed) by PITPα/β (**b**), Hsp27 IPed by PITPα/β (**c**), and αBC IPed by PITPα/β (**d**) were

analyzed by WB. n=3 independent experiments.

e-f, Co-IP of p53 with the shared epitope of PITPα/β in A549 cells treated with vehicle or

30 μM cisplatin for 24 h. p53 IPed by PITPα/β was analyzed by WB (**f**). n=3 independent

experiments.

g-h, Co-IP of p53 with the shared epitope of PITPα/β in HCT116 cells treated with vehicle

or 30 μM cisplatin for 24 h. p53 IPed by PITPα/β was analyzed by WB (**h**). n=3

independent experiments.

i-n, Co-IP of PITPα/PITPβ with p53 in BT549, Cal33, HS578T, SUM159, SUM1315 cells

treated with vehicle or 30 µM cisplatin for 24 h. PITPα/PITPβ IPed by p53 (**n**) as well as

PITPNC1/PITPNM1/PITPNM2 were analyzed by WB. n=3 independent experiments.

For all panels, data are represented as mean ± SD, *p* value denotes two-sided paired t-

test.

Extended Data Figure 8. PITPα/β and PI4KIIα regulate p53-PIP$_n$ signaling in

response to stress

a-b, MDA-MB-231 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against p53,

PITPα, PITPβ, PITPNC1, or both PITPα and PITPβ. After 24 h, cells were treated with 30

µM cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h before being processed for PLA to detect p53-PI4,5P$_2$ (**a**)

and p53-PI3,4,5P$_3$ (**b**) complexes. n=3 independent experiments. See KD validation in

Fig. 4a, expanded images in Fig. 3a, and quantification in Fig. 3b,c.

c, A549 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against PITPα, PITPβ, or

both PITPα and PITPβ. After 24 h, cells were treated with 30 µM cisplatin or vehicle for

24 h before being processed for PLA to detect p53-PI4,5P$_2$/PI3,4,5P$_3$ complexes. n=3

independent experiments. See KD validation in Fig. 4b, expanded images in Fig. 3d, and

quantification in Fig. 3e,f.

d, MDA-MB-231 cells were treated with 30 µM cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h before being

processed for IP against p53. p53-bound PI4P/PI4,5P$_2$/PI3,4,5P$_3$ were examined by

fluorescent WB in Fig. 3g. n=3 independent experiments. *p* value denotes two-sided

paired t-test.

e, MDA-MB-231 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against both PITPα

and PITPβ. After 24 h, cells were treated with 10 µM Nutlin 3a or vehicle for 24 h before

being processed for WB and analyzed using ImageJ. *p* value denotes two-sided paired t-test. n=3 independent experiments.

f, MDA-MB-231 cells were treated with 30 µM cisplatin and lysates were made at the indicated timepoints along a 24 h time course. Whole cell lysates were then processed for WB. n=3 independent experiments

g, MDA-MB-231^{Cas9} cells with PITPβ KO and control non-targeted KO were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against PITPα, PITPβ or both PITPα and PITPβ. After 24 h, cells were treated with 30 µM cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h before being processed for WB. PI4,5P$_2$ lane signal was quantified using ImageJ. *p* value denotes ANOVA with Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test. n=3 independent experiments.

For all panels, data are represented as mean ± SD. Scale bar, 5 µm.

Extended Data Figure 9. PI4P is linked to the p53^{6Q} mutant which disrupts PI4,5P$_2$ binding

a-b, MDA-MB-231 cells were cultured from low confluency in media containing [^{3}H]*myo*-inositol or unlabeled myo-inositol. After 48 h, cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against PITPα and PITPβ. 24 h later, cells were treated with 30 µM cisplatin or vehicle for another 24 h. KD and loading was confirmed by WB. Dissolved gel sections were then analyzed by LSC (**a**). n=3 independent experiments. See expanded images and LSC quantification in Fig. 4g.

c-d, H1299 cells transfected with constructs expressing p53 WT, WT6Q, 175H, 175H6Q, 248Q and 248Q6Q were treated with 30 µM cisplatin for 24 h. Then the cells were processed for PLA to detect p53-PI4P complexes (**d**). Nuclei were counterstained by DAPI. *p* value denotes two-sided paired t-test. n=3 independent experiments.

e-f, H1299 cells transfected with constructs expressing p53 WT, WT6Q, 175H, 175H6Q,

248Q, and 248Q6Q were treated with 30 µM cisplatin for 24 h. Then the cells were

processed for PLA to detect p53-PI3,4,5P_3 complexes (**f**). Nuclei were counterstained by

DAPI. *p* value denotes two-sided paired t-test. n=3 independent experiments.

For all panels, data are represented as mean ± SD. Scale bar, 5 µm.

Extended Data Figure 10. PITPs and PI4KIIα generate Protein-PIP$_n$ complexes

a, MDA-MB-231 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against PI4KIIIα,

PI4KIIIβ, PI4KIIα, PI4KIIβ or both PI4KIIα and PI4KIIIα. After 24 h, cells were treated with

30 µM cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h before being processed for PLA to detect p53-PI4P

complexes. n=3, 15 cells from each independent experiment. See KD confirmation in Fig.

5c, expanded images in Fig. 5a, and quantification in Fig. 5b.

b-c, MDA-MB-231 cells were treated with vehicle or cisplatin in combination with DMSO

as a control, PI-273, or NC03 for 24 h before being processed for PLA to detect p53-PI4P

complexes and analyzed using ImageJ (**c**). *p* value denotes two-sided paired t-test. n=3,

15 cells from each independent experiment.

d-e, MDA-MB-231 cells were treated with vehicle or cisplatin in combination with DMSO

as a control, PI-273, or NC03 for 24 h before being processed for PLA to detect p53-

PI3,4,5P_3 complexes and analyzed using ImageJ (**e**). *p* value denotes two-sided paired

t-test. n=3, 15 cells from each independent experiment.

f, MDA-MB-231 and A549 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against

PI4KIIIα, PIPKIα or both PI4KIIα and PIPKIα. After 24 h, cells were treated with 30 µM

cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h before being processed for PLA to detect p53-PI4P complexes.

n=3, 15 cells from each independent experiment. See KD confirmation in Fig. 5d,

expanded images in Fig. 5e, and quantification in Fig. 5f.

For all panels, data are represented as mean ± SD. Scale bar, 5 μm.

Extended Data Figure 11. PI4KIIα interacts with PITPα/β and p53 to promote p53-

PIP$_n$ and protein-PIP$_n$ complex formation

a-c, *In vitro* binding of recombinant PI4KIIα and p53 (**a**), PI4KIIα and PITPα (**b**) and

PI4KIIα and PITPβ (**c**). p53, PITPα or PITPβ immobilized on the indicated antibody-

conjugated agarose was incubated with PI4KIIα protein. p53, PITPα or PITPβ was IPed

and p53-bound PI4KIIα (**a**), PITPα-bound PI4KIIα (**b**) and PITPβ-bound PI4KIIα (**c**) was

analyzed by WB and quantified by ImageJ. n=3 independent experiments.

d, MDA-MB-231 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against both PITPα

and PITPβ or PI4KIIα. After 24 h, cells were treated with 30 μM cisplatin or vehicle for 24

h before being processed for WB. n=3 independent experiments.

e, MDA-MB-231^{Cas9} cells with PITPβ KO and control non-targeted KO were transfected

with control siRNAs or siRNAs against PI4KIIα, PITPα or both PI4KIIα and PITPα. After

24 h, cells were treated with 30 μM cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h before being processed

for WB. n=3 independent experiments.

f-g, MDA-MB-231 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against PI4KIIα.

After 24h, cells were treated with 30 μM cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h before being

processed for IF staining. The nuclear PI4,5P$_2$ level was quantified by ImageJ (**g**). *p* value

denotes two-sided paired t-test. n=3, 15 cells from each independent experiment. See

expanded images in Fig. 5i.

h, MDA-MB-231 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against both PITPα

and PITPβ. After 24 h, cells were treated with 30 µM cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h before

being processed for WB. n=3 independent experiments.

i, MDA-MB-231^{Cas9} cells with PITPβ KO and control non-targeted KO were transfected

with control siRNAs or siRNAs against PITPα, PITPβ or both PITPα and PITPβ. After 24

h, cells were treated with 30 µM cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h before being processed for

Crystal Violet viability assay. Viability was quantified based on the extracted dye using a

plate reader. *p* value denotes ANOVA with Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test. n=3

independent experiments. See representative images in Fig. 6h.

For all panels, data are represented as mean ± SD. Scale bar, 5 µm.

Extended Data Figure 12. PITPα/β and mutant p53 inhibit genotoxic stress-induced

apoptosis

a-g, BT-549, SUM159, and SUM1315 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or

siRNAs against p53, PITPα, PITPβ, or both PITPα and PITPβ. After 24 h, cells were

treated with 30 µM cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h before being processed for Crystal Violet

viability assay. The cells were imaged by EVOS M5000 microscope (**a**) and quantified

based on the extracted dye using a plate reader (**b-d**). The KD was validated by WB (**e-**

g). *p* value denotes ANOVA with Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test. n=3 independent

experiments.

h-j, BT-549, SUM159, and SUM1315 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or

siRNAs against p53, PITPα, PITPβ, or both PITPα and PITPβ. After 24 h, cells were

treated with 30 µM cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h before being processed for caspase 3

activity assay. p value denotes ANOVA with Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test. n=3

independent experiments.

For all graphs, data are presented as the mean ± SD, and p values are from two-sided

paired t-tests. Scale bar, 300 µm.

k, HEK293FT cells were co-transfected with either HA-tagged wild-type PITPα or PI

binding-defective mutant T59D PITPα together with Flag-tagged mutant p53^{R175H}. After

48 h, cells were processed for IP against Flag-tag and analyzed by WB. p value denotes

two-sided paired t-test. n=3 independent experiments.

l, HEK293FT cells were co-transfected with either HA-tagged wild-type PITPβ or PI

binding-defective mutant T59D PITPβ together with Flag-tagged p53^{wt}. After 48 h, cells

were processed for IP against Flag-tag and analyzed by WB. p value denotes two-sided

paired t-test. n=3 independent experiments.

m, HEK293FT cells were co-transfected with either HA-tagged wild-type PITPβ or PI

binding-defective mutant T59D PITPβ together with Flag-tagged mutant p53^{R175H}. After

48 h, cells were processed for IP against Flag-tag and analyzed by WB. p value denotes

two-sided paired t-test. n=3 independent experiments.

n, MDA-MB-231 cells were transfected with control siRNAs or siRNAs against the 3'UTR

of both PITPα and PITPβ for 24 h. The cells were then transfected with either HA-tagged

wild-type PITPα or PI binding-defective mutant T59D PITPα. After 24 h, cells were treated

with 30 µM cisplatin or vehicle for 24 h before being processed for caspase 3 activity

assay. p value denotes two-sided paired t-test. n=3 independent experiments.

For all graphs, data are presented as the mean ± SD. Scale bar, 300 µm.

Table 1. Binding affinities of p53-PIP$_n$ signalosome components

The binding affinity of the protein-PIP$_n$ complex regulators and p53. The interaction of

recombinant fluorescently labelled p53, PI4KIIα, and PITPβ with other components was

quantitated by MST assay. A constant concentration of fluorescently labelled p53, PI4KIIα,

or PITPβ (target, 5 nM) was incubated with increasing concentrations of non-labelled

binding partners or ligands to calculate the binding affinity. The binding affinities

determined by MST are shown as indicated K_d values. MST was performed using a

Monolith NT.115 pico, and the binding affinity was autogenerated by MO. Control v.1.6

software. Data are presented as the mean ± SD; n = 3.

Supplementary Video 1

3D reconstitution of the p53-PITPβ complex in the nucleoplasm of MDA-MB-231

cells under basal conditions

MDA-MB-231 cells were treated with control vehicle for 24 h before being processed for

PLA between p53 and PITPβ (Red). Lamin A/C stained the nuclear envelope (Green),

and the nuclei were counter-stained with DAPI (Blue). The z-stack images were taken

with a Leica SP8 confocal microscope with each frame over a 0.2 μm thickness. The

video of the 3D reconstitution of a representative cell from three independent experiments

was generated by LASX.

Supplementary Video 2

3D reconstitution of the p53-PITPβ complex in the nucleoplasm of MDA-MB-231

cells under stress

MDA-MB-231 cells were treated with 30 μM cisplatin for 24 h before being processed for

PLA between p53 and PITPβ (Red). Lamin A/C stained the nuclear envelope (Green),

and the nuclei were counter-stained with DAPI (Blue). The z-stack images were taken

with a Leica SP8 confocal microscope with each frame over a 0.2 μm thickness. The

video of the 3D reconstitution of a representative cell from three independent experiments

was generated by LASX.

1332
1333

Table 1

Target Protein	Binding Affinity Kd (nM)		
	p53	**PI4KIIα**	**PITPβ**
PITPα	1.23 ± 0.05	189 ± 26	-
PITPα + PI (1µM)	15 ± 1	16 ± 2	-
PITPβ	19 ± 2	263 ± 12	-
PITPβ + PI (1µM)	5 ± 1	113 ± 11	-
PITPNC1	NBD	-	-
p53	-	8 ± 1	15 ± 1
PI4KIIα	4 ± 1	-	201 ± 2

"-" denotes values that were not tested

NBD = No Binding Detected

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

Fig. 4

Fig. 5

Fig. 6

Fig. 7

Extended Data Fig. 1

Extended Data Fig. 2

a MDA-MB-231 sections (0.2 μm) PITPα

Vehicle

Cisplatin

b MDA-MB-231 sections (0.2 μm) PITPα + DAPI

Vehicle

Cisplatin

c MDA-MB-231 sections (0.2 μm) PITPβ

Vehicle

Cisplatin

d MDA-MB-231 sections (0.2 μm) PITPβ + DAPI

Vehicle

Cisplatin

Extended Data Fig. 3

a

Extended Data Fig. 4

Extended Data Fig. 5

Extended Data Fig. 6

Extended Data Fig. 7

Extended Data Fig. 8

a MDA-MB-231 (R280K)

Vehicle | Cisplatin

PLA p53-PI4,5P₂ | Merge + DAPI | PLA p53-PI4,5P₂ | Merge + DAPI

sip53
siPITPα
siPITPβ

b MDA-MB-231 (R280K)

Vehicle | Cisplatin

PLA p53-PI3,4,5P₃ | Merge + DAPI | PLA p53-PI3,4,5P₃ | Merge + DAPI

siCon
sip53
siPITPα
siPITPβ
siPITPα+β
siPITPNC1

c A549 (WT)

PLA p53-PI4,5P₂ | Merge + DAPI | PLA p53-PI3,4,5P₃ | Merge + DAPI

Cisplatin: siPITPα, siPITPβ

d MDA-MB-231 (R280K)

PI4P/p53 — $P=3.77\times10^{-2}$
PI4,5P₂/p53 — $P=7.97\times10^{-3}$
PI3,4,5P₃/p53 — $P=3.20\times10^{-2}$
Cis − +

e MDA-MB-231 (R280K)

siCon | siPITPα+β

Nutlin 3a: − + − + | kDa

p53 — -50
PITPα — -35
PITPβ — -35
β-actin — -40

p53 levels
$P=1.03\times10^{-2}$
$P=0.85$

f MDA-MB-231 (R280K)

Cis (hrs): 0.5 1.0 2.0 3.0 4.0 12.0 24.0 | kDa

PI4,5P₂ — -150, -100, -75, -50, -37, -25, -20
β-actin — -40

g MDA-MB-231^Cas9

Control KO | PITPβ KO

Cis: + + + | + +
siPITPα: + + | +
siPITPβ: + |

kDa

PI4,5P₂ — -150, -100, -75, -50, -37, -25, -20
PITPα — -35
PITPβ — -35
β-actin — -40

PI4,5P₂
$P=4.20\times10^{-5}$
$P=1.66\times10^{-11}$
$P=7.08\times10^{-11}$

Extended Data Fig. 9

a

MDA-MB-231 (R280K)

[^{3}H]*myo*-inositol
treated media

-/+ siPITPα+β
-/+ Cis

MeOH/CHCl$_3$
precipitation

SDS-PAGE

Dissection &
LSC analysis

b

MDA-MB-231 (R280K)

	siCon		siPITPα+β	
Cis	−	+	−	+	kDa

PI4,5P$_2$

- −250
- −150
- −100
- −75
- −50
- −37
- −25
- −20

β-actin −55

c

H1299 (null)

	WT	175H	248Q

PLA p53-PI4P

Merge + DAPI

6Q

PLA p53-PI4P

Merge + DAPI

d

H1299 (null)

# of p53-PI4P foci

$P=3.82×10^{-15}$
$P=7.81×10^{-08}$
$P=4.18×10^{-05}$

Mutation	−	6Q	−	6Q	−	6Q

p53^{WT} p53^{R175H} p53^{R248Q}

e

H1299 (null)

	WT	175H	248Q

PLA p53-PI3,4,5P$_3$

Merge + DAPI

6Q

PLA p53-PI3,4,5P$_3$

Merge + DAPI

f

H1299 (null)

# of p53-PI3,4,5P$_3$ foci

$P=6.09×10^{-26}$
$P=1.03×10^{-36}$
$P=2.07×10^{-30}$

Mutation	−	6Q	−	6Q	−	6Q

p53^{WT} p53^{R175H} p53^{R248Q}

Extended Data Fig. 10

a

MDA-MD-231 (R280K)

b

MDA-MB-231 (R280K)

c

MDA-MB-231 (R280K)

d

MDA-MB-231 (R280K)

e

MDA-MB-231 (R280K)

f

Extended Data Fig. 11

Extended Data Fig. 12