Divergent Protein Kinase A contributes to the regulation of flagellar waveform of the

motile flagellum of *Leishmania mexicana*

Running Head: PKA modulates flagellar waveforms in *Leishmania*

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Abstract

Protein kinase A (PKA) is one of the most studied eukaryotic signal transducers and a key target

of the second messenger cAMP. Kinetoplastids, a branch of early diverging eukaryotes, possess

homologues of catalytic and regulatory PKA subunits that, unusually, are insensitive to cAMP

with uncertainty about the endogenous activating ligand. While previous evidence has

implicated both cAMP and PKA in the regulation of flagellar motility in kinetoplastids, the

specific contributions of the two regulatory (PKAR) and three catalytic (PKAC) subunits of

PKA remain unclear. Here we conducted a systematic study combining reverse genetics and

microscopy analysis to investigate PKAC and PKAR subcellular localisations, pairing

preferences, and the effect of PKA gene deletions on swimming speed and flagellar waveforms

in *Leishmania mexicana* promastigotes. *Lmx*PKAC1, *Lmx*PKAC2 and *Lmx*PKAR1 are

enriched in the flagellum and upon detergent extraction, the *Lmx*PKAR1 and *Lmx*PKAC1

signals remained associated with the cytoskeleton. The flagellar *Lmx*PKAC1 and *Lmx*PKAC2

signals were, however, greatly diminished by removal of *Lmx*PKAR1, consistent with an

anchoring function for the R-subunit. Previous work identified the *Streptomyces* antimetabolite

toyocamycin, activated the divergent PKA of *Trypanosoma brucei*. The patterns of sequence

divergence within the phosphate binding cassettes of *Lmx*PKAR1 and *Lmx*PKAR3 suggest both

are divergent from *T. brucei*. We therefore tested the effect of toyocamycin and a similarly

structured compound of the purine metabolism pathway, inosine, on the localisation of

*Lmx*PKAC1 and found that the *Lmx*PKAC1 mNG signal was lost from the cytoskeletal fraction

following treatment with either toyocamycin or inosine. *Lmx*PKAC3 and *Lmx*PKAR3 were

localised to the cell cortex. Upon removal of *Lmx*PKAR3, *Lmx*PKAC3 was lost from the cortex

and became distributed throughout the cell, including an increased presence in the flagellum.

Assessing motility phenotypes, we found this increase of *Lmx*PKAC3 signal in the flagellum

correlated with an increase in swimming speed. Whereas the deletion of *Lmx*PKAC3 resulted

in flagella beating at significantly reduced frequencies and a resulting decrease in population

swimming speed. Moreover, *Lmx*PKAC1 null mutants showed a significantly reduced

swimming speed and cells were unable to produce symmetric flagellar waves. Taken together

these data indicate that the divergent PKA pathway in *Leishmania* modulates flagellar motility.

Author Summary

Many cells use whip-like cellular appendages, called flagella, for swimming. Regulating the

rhythm and strength of the flagellar beat is important to determine the speed at which cells

swim and in what direction they move. How this regulation is accomplished is not fully

understood. Here we examined the role of protein kinase A (PKA) in flagellar motility of the

unicellular parasite Leishmania. Leishmania have three catalytic PKA proteins, which

transduce upstream signals through protein phosphorylation, and two regulatory PKA proteins

that serve to anchor the catalytic subunits to specific locations within the cell. We show that

two catalytic and one regulatory subunit are part of the flagellar cytoskeleton, while the other

regulatory subunit docks its catalytic subunit to the cytoskeleton surrounding the cell body.

Removal of individual PKA proteins perturbed the flagellar beat in different ways. We found

that cells that lacked the catalytic subunit PKAC1 could only beat their flagella in an

uncoordinated manner and as a consequence swam more slowly. These findings suggest that

Leishmania PKA proteins are part of a pathway that regulates flagellar beating.

Introduction

Motile cilia and flagella are dynamic specialised organelles comprised of soluble, membrane-associated and cytoskeletal components. Over 700 proteins (1–4) form the microtubule axoneme, which typically consists of nine outer doublet microtubules and two central singlet microtubules (called the central pair, CP). Radial spoke complexes (RS) project from the outer doublets to the CP and nexin linkages connect adjacent doublets radially. Two rows of dynein motor protein complexes, the outer dynein arms (ODA) and inner dynein arms (IDA), are studded with 96 nm periodicity along the outer doublet microtubules (5). Dyneins are part of a family of ATPases which hydrolyse ATP in order to iteratively bind, pull and release along adjacent microtubule structures (6). This sliding is converted to bending via the sliding restrictions imposed by basal body anchoring and inter-microtubule nexin linkages (7) While eukaryotic flagella generally rely on the same fundamental mechanism and a set of conserved core structures and protein complexes, important open questions still remain about how flagellar beats are propagated and modulated. Moreover, little is known of how different types of cells translate specific cues from the local environment into appropriate flagellar beating patterns.

Calcium and cAMP are the two main second messengers that have been linked to changes in flagellar beating behaviours in diverse types of cilia and flagella, including mammalian respiratory cilia (8), human sperm (9,10) bull sperm (11,12), hamster sperm (13,14) and sea urchin sperm (15–17), the green algae *Chlamydomonas* (18–20), *Paramecium* (21,22), Euglena (23) and *Leishmania* (24,25).

Increases in intraciliary cAMP concentration have been observed to correlate with increased beat frequency in mammalian cilia (26,27). The second messenger signal is transmitted through kinases, phosphatases and calcium-binding proteins that are thought to be incorporated into core axoneme structures (17,28–31). A key transducer of cAMP signals is cAMP-dependent protein kinase (PKA), a highly conserved protein of the AGC kinase subgroup, owing to its similarities to cGMP-dependent protein kinase (PKG) and protein kinase C (PKC) (16). The paradigm for eukaryotic PKA signal transduction involves a heterotetrameric holoenzyme composed of two PKA catalytic subunit (PKAC) and two PKA regulatory subunit (PKAR), (C_2R_2). In its inactive state, unbound to cAMP, the autoinhibitory domain (AI) of PKAR occupies and inhibits the catalytic core of the PKAC subunit (33). Upon binding of two cAMP molecules to each of the PKAR subunits, the PKAC is then released to phosphorylate its substrates. In vertebrates, A-kinase anchoring proteins (AKAPs) bind the PKA heterotetrameric

holoenzyme via the RII domains in the PKAR, creating local micro-signalosomes (34).

Flagellar ODAs are thought to represent an important target of PKA (35,36).

Flagellate protozoa of the genera *Leishmania* and *Trypanosoma* are well-studied due to their

importance as parasites of humans and livestock. They also provide genetically tractable study

models for eukaryotic flagella in a lineage that is distinct from humans, green algae

(*Chlamydomonas*) and ciliates (e.g. *Tetrahymena*, *Paramaecium*). Trypanosomatid signal

transduction pathways remain poorly defined and whilst cAMP signalling has been linked to

flagellar waveform modulation (24), there is considerable uncertainty how signals are

transduced within trypanosomatid flagella.

All available kinetoplastid genomes, asides from the aflagellate endosymbiont *Perkinsela*,

encode three PKAC genes that share some canonical features of eukaryotic PKAs, such as the

conserved phosphoresidue located in the activation loop (37) along with a conserved catalytic

core sequence (38). Intriguingly, however it has been established that PKA in trypanosomes

forms C_1R_1 heterodimers and does not respond to cAMP (38,39). Instead, analogues of 7-

deazaadenosine (tubercidin), including toyocamycin were shown to activate *T. brucei* PKA

(TbPKA) by binding TbPKAR. The highest activation and binding activity was shown for the

compound 7-cyano-7-deazainosine (7-CN-7-C-Ino) (38), but the identity of the physiological

ligand remains to be confirmed. Interestingly, when the known mammalian PKA

phosphorylation substrate vasodilator-stimulated protein (VASP) was exogenously expressed

in *T. brucei* it was phosphorylated on serine-157 by endogenous parasite PKA (38), suggesting

that although *Trypanosoma* PKA homologues are not regulated by cyclic nucleotides, some

downstream targets may still be shared across eukaryotic species.

Several lines of evidence point towards the trypanosomatid flagellum as a key site for PKA

function. First, flagellar localisation has been demonstrated for PKAC1/2 and PKAR subunits,

in flagellar proteomes of *T. brucei* and *L. mexicana* (40,41), by labelling *L. donovani*

promastigote forms and *T. brucei* with PKAR1-specific antibodies (42) and in protein tagging

screens (41,43,44). Moreover, the flagellar localisation of TbPKAR1 was shown to depend on

IFT (45). Second, loss-of-function mutations altered parasite motility patterns: Depletion of

TbPKAR1 by RNAi in bloodstream forms reduced the cells' capacity for forward motility (40).

Knockout of PKAR1 or a partial deletion of PKAC1 slowed the swimming speeds of *L.*

mexicana promastigotes (41). Finally, the developmental regulation of transcripts and activity

in *Leishmania* spp. reflects the presence or absence of a motile flagellum: *L. major*

promastigotes, which possess a motile flagellum showed much higher transcript levels (46)

than the amastigote form which only have a short, non-motile cilium (42,47) and proteome-

wide the phosphorylation kinetics of the PKA target motif (RXXS*/T*) in *L. donovani* during

promastigote to amastigote differentiation consistently detected the highest signal in

promastigote forms (42) suggesting a promastigote-specific function for PKA activity.

Here we present a systematic analysis of three PKAC and two PKAR isoforms of *L. mexicana*,

using CRISPR-Cas9 gene deletions and microscopy to discover how gene loss affects flagellar

beat dynamics. Localisation of fluorescently tagged proteins showed distinct subcellular

localisation patterns and dependencies, from which we infer pairing preferences for

*Lmx*PKAC1 and *Lmx*PKAC2 with *Lmx*PKAR1 in the flagellum, and *Lmx*PKAC3 with

*Lmx*PKAR3 along the cell cortex. Targeted gene deletion of subunits individually and in

combination showed that none are essential for promastigote growth. Assessment of swimming

speed, and measurement of flagellar waveform parameters showed that disruption of

*Lmx*PKAC or *Lmx*PKAR subunits affected motility and we show that *Lmx*PKAC1 is essential

for the generation of a symmetrical tip-to base flagellar beat.

Results

***Leishmania* spp. have three PKAC and two PKAR subunits.**

BLAST searches with the three PKAC and the single PKAR sequences from *Trypanosoma*

brucei (38) identified syntenic *Leishmania mexicana* orthologues for all four genes (Table 1)

(48). Analysis of the *L. mexicana* PKAC sequences confirmed overall conservation of the

trypanosomatid PKAC repertoire: The highly similar *Lmx*PKAC1 and *Lmx*PKAC2 are located

on chromosome 34, not in a tandem array but separated by four other genes. This locus is

syntenic with the locus of *T. brucei* and *T. cruzi* PKAC1 and PKAC2, but the designation of

these PKACs as -1 or -2, respectively, varies between species (Table 1, Supplementary Figure

1A). *Lmx*PKAC1 and *Lmx*PKAC2, but not *Lmx*PKAC3, have variable N-terminal extensions

which harbour a predicted disordered domain (Supplementary Figure 2A, B) and both the active

sites and peptide binding sites within all *Leishmania* PKAC1 and PKAC2 are identical

(Supplementary Figure 2C, D). Catalytic activity of eukaryotic PKAC have been shown to be

modulated by phosphorylation of several residues, such as threonine-197 in the activation loop

which is particularly involved in biological activity (49,50), and is conserved across

trypanosomatid PKAC (Supplementary Figure 2E). At the C-terminus, trypanosomatid PKAC1

and PKAC3 have a conserved FXXF sequence, where mutating either phenylalanine was

shown to diminish catalytic activity (51,52). *Lmx*PKAC2 lacks the first of these phenylalanines

(Supplementary Figure 2F). All trypanosomatid PKAC3, including *Lmx*PKAC3, have an 8

amino acid C-terminal extension of unknown function (46) (Supplementary Figure 2F).

Several reports have highlighted the existence of a second PKAR-like protein within the

trypanosomatids (53,54), which was recently given the name PKAR3 in *L. donovani* (55); for

consistency, we adopt this terminology here. *L. mexicana* has a syntenic orthologue of PKAR3

(Table 1) (Supplementary Figure 1D). All trypanosomatid PKAR3s share a similar protein

architecture as canonical PKARs (Figure 1A), with two CNBDs towards the C-terminus,

preceded by a so-called autoinhibitory domain (AI) sequence that mimics the phosphorylation

targets of PKAC and functions to inhibit the catalytic kinase subunits. This short sequence is

typically RRXA(G) in Type I PKARs (PKAR-I) and RRXS(T) in Type II PKARs (PKAR-II)

(Figure 1B). In Type I PKARs the alanine (A) or Glycine (G) replaces the phosphorylatable

serine (S) or threonine (T) residues found in target downstream substrate sites (56,57).

Trypanosomatid PKAR1 sequences all have an RRXT sequence that aligns with the

autophosphorylatable RRXS motif in human PKAR-II. The *Leishmania* PKAR3 sequences

share the RGAIS motif of the canonical mammalian RRRRGAISAE sequence of the PKAR-

Iα AI, but notably are missing the first arginine residue of the Type I PKAR motif RRXA

(Figure 1B).

Deviations from the canonical PKAR architecture are found at the N-termini (Figure 1A):

trypanosomatid PKAR1 proteins lack the dimerization/docking domain (DD) that holds

canonical eukaryotic PKA heterotetramer together and anchors it to the amphipathic helix

region of an A-kinase anchoring protein (AKAP) (58). Instead, they contain a predicted leucine

rich repeat (LRR; IPR032675). PKAR3 sequences, lack a recognisable DD domain or an LRR

and instead, there is a short coil domain predicted near the N-terminus of all examined PKAR3

sequences. This suggests that the family of divergent kinetoplastid PKAR have evolved

subcellular anchoring mechanisms distinct from AKAP.

The cyclic nucleotide binding domains of Leishmania PKAR subunits deviate from the

canonical cAMP binding domain of mammalian PKAR.

Structural studies showed that in all trypanosomatid PKAR1s, there are substitutions to key

residues in the phosphate binding cassette (PBC) that impede docking of the cAMP molecule

(38): a conserved alanine (A) is replaced by a negatively charged glutamate (E), which is

predicted to clash with the phosphate group on the cAMP molecule, and the arginine (R) residue

required to dock the exocyclic phosphate has been switched to polar uncharged (R/TN) or

aliphatic (R/AV) residues. These changes have been linked to the loss of cAMP activation in *T.*

cruzi and *T. brucei* PKAR1s, and they are conserved in *Leishmania* PKAR1 sequences (38)

(Figure 1C). These findings prompted us to examine in detail the nucleotide binding sites of the

PKAR3 subunits. Key residue switches are evident in the parasite PKAR3 CNBDs but with

some notable deviations from the PKAR1 patterns (Figure 1C). The first alanine (A) in CNBD-

A has been switched to a glycine (G), which depending on pH of the environment, can exist as

net positive, neutral or negative from low to high pH respectively. Thus, it is hard to predict if

this residue would clash with cAMP docking in the same manner as the glutamate in PKAR1,

defined by (38). The alanine on CNBD-B of PKAR3 has been substituted for a glutamate,

identical to PKAR1 sequences, and the arginine residues have also been substituted in PKAR3

CNBD-A and CNBD-B with polar uncharged (R/STN) or hydrophobic side chains (R/A). Most

surprisingly is that the conserved initial glutamate within the PBC (G**E**LAL), which forms a

hydrogen bond with the 2'-OH moiety on the ribose sugar of cAMP, has been switched to an

aspartic acid (D) in PKAR3 CNBD-A and aspartic acid or glutamine (D/Q) in all PKAR3

CNBD-B asides from *Lmx*PKAR3. These changes suggest that PKAR3, like PKAR1, has

diverged from cAMP binding, but raise the question whether the same or different ligands bind

to these sites.

All parasite sequences for PKAR1 and PKAR3 have an extended C-terminus end relative to the

canonical mammalian PKAR reference sequence (Figure 1A). Two tyrosine (Y) and two valine

(V) residues were implicated in forming a parasite specific hydrophobic pocket documented in

*Tc*PKAR1 (denoted by orange asterisks in Figure 1C and D), interactions with which were

shown to increase the binding affinity and activation potential of certain nucleoside analogues

(38). All parasite PKAR1 sequences, contain at least two of these YV residues. Contrastingly,

in PKAR3 sequences, *Leishmania* only have one Y and one V, where *Tc*PKAR3 has three of

the four hydrophobic residues. Taken together these data indicate that a divergent PKAR1 is

conserved in all trypanosomatids, and an additional PKAR3 is found in *Leishmania* spp. and *T.*

cruzi, with an unknown ligand specificity, that shares in its CNBD sequences some of the

divergent features of PKAR1.

L. mexicana PKACs and PKARs show distinct localisation patterns in the flagellar axoneme

and cell body cortex.

To establish the subcellular localisation of the different PKAC and PKAR subunits in *L.*

mexicana in different cell- and life cycle stages, we inserted fluorescent protein fusion tags

(mNeonGreen, mNG) at the endogenous gene loci, producing mutants expressing either N- or

C-terminal fusion products for each PKA subunit.

mNG::PKAC1 localised to the flagellar axoneme in non-dividing cells (1 kinetoplast, 1 nucleus,

1 flagellum (1K1N1F) (59), a signal that remained strong in 0.1% NP-40 detergent-extracted

cytoskeletons (Figure 2A). Through the cell division cycle, the signal abundance diminished in

the axoneme and increased within the nucleus (Supplementary Figure 3A), corroborating the

nuclear localisation that was reported for this protein in a *L. mexicana* kinase localisation screen

(60). Strikingly, within the nucleus, the *Lmx*PKAC1 signal intensity was consistently strongest

in areas of low Hoechst staining (Supplementary Figure 3A'), suggesting association with the

nucleolus specifically. The *Lmx*PKAC1 signal re-appeared in the axonemes of both the old and

the newly growing flagellum at cytokinesis. In axenic amastigotes, the mNG::PKAC1 signal

appeared greatly diminished, with weak variable cytoplasmic signal (Figure 2A). Fusion of

mNG to PKAC1 at the C-terminus disrupted the localisation to the axoneme (Supplementary

Figure 4A), as previously reported (41).

The mNG::PKAC2 signal was partitioned between the flagellum, the cell body and cortex

throughout in the promastigote, with variations in relative intensity in the different

compartments at different cell cycle stages (Figure 2B and Supplementary Figure 3B). Notably,

in early promastigote division (2F1N1K), the *Lmx*PKAC2 signal appeared enriched in the new

growing flagellum and a strong cell cortex signal was seen during mitosis (Supplementary

Figure 3B). The *Lmx*PKAC2 axonemal signal was lost from detergent-extracted cytoskeletons,

and only a weak variable cytoplasmic signal was seen in axenic amastigotes (Figure 2B). Fusion

of mNG to the C-terminus hindered protein localisation to the axoneme (Supplementary Figure

4B).

The mNG::PKAC3 signal was associated with the cell body cortex in non-dividing cells, with

a signal that was strongest at the central region of the cell body and tapering off towards the

posterior pole (Figure 2C). In 95% of non-dividing cells, a distinctive 'edge effect' was evident

(Figures 2C and 3A) (61). A faint detergent-soluble signal was also present in the flagellum,

with an intensity gradient decreasing towards the distal flagellum (Figure 3F). In dividing

promastigotes, the *Lmx*PKAC3 signal appeared more uniform across the cell body cortex, with

an accumulation at the anterior end of the developing cleavage furrow and a reduced flagellar

signal (Supplementary Figure 3C). The promastigote cortex signal disappeared in detergent

treated cells and showed a weak variable cytoplasmic signal in the cell body of axenic

amastigotes (Figure 2C).

PKAR1::mNG showed a strong flagellar axoneme signal in promastigote forms, with a fainter

diffuse cell body signal throughout all stages of promastigote cell division (Figure 2D, F). Upon

membrane extraction with 0.1% NP-40, the fluorescent signal remained in the axonemal

cytoskeleton. Fusion of mNG to the N-terminus of PKAR1 resulted in a reticulated cell body signal, suggesting that blocking the LRR domain may affects protein targeting (Supplementary Figure 4D). After induction of axenic amastigote differentiation for three days, a strong PKAR1::mNG signal was observed in the cytoplasm of axenic amastigotes (Figure 2D).

Both N- and C-terminally tagged *Lmx*PKAR3 localised exclusively to the cell body cortex in live promastigotes (Figure 2E and Supplementary Figure 4E). This signal was detergent extractable (Figure 2E), suggesting *Lmx*PKAR3 is anchored weakly to the cortical cytoskeleton, or is associated with the plasma membrane. In axenic amastigotes, the *Lmx*PKAR3 signal persisted at the cell body cortex (Figure 2E). Closer examination of the different cell cycle stages showed that in non-dividing (1F1N1K), and early dividing (2F1N1K) promastigote cells, the cortical *Lmx*PKAR3 signal was most intense in the cell body mid-zone and tapered off towards the posterior pole (Figure 2G, quantified in Figure 3F). In late division (2F2K1N / 2F2K2N), the *Lmx*PKAR3 signal intensity became more uniform along the cortex, occasionally appearing enriched at the posterior pole (Figure 2G).

Overall, these data show that PKA concentrations in *L. mexicana* vary across sub-cellular space and over time, with two dominant PKA structures being the promastigote flagellum (dominated by *Lmx*PKAC1, -C2 and -R1) and the cell cortex of promastigotes and amastigotes (*Lmx*PKAC3 and -R3). Within these dominant structures, there were cell-cycle stage dependent changes in signal intensity and also a transient shift of the *Lmx*PKAC1 signal in dividing cells into the nucleus and away from the flagellum.

Localisation dependencies.

Given the striking similarities in the localisation of *Lmx*PKAC3 and *Lmx*PKAR3 at the cell cortex (Figure 2C, 2E), and the strong axonemal localisation of *Lmx*PKAC1 and *Lmx*PKAR1, the question arose whether there were specific PKAC-PKAR pairings in different cellular compartments. To test whether the localisation of any PKAC subunit was dependent on the expression of specific PKARs, we deleted the *Lmx*PKAR1 or *Lmx*PKAR3 genes in cells expressing tagged *Lmx*PKAC1, *Lmx*PKAC2 or *Lmx*PKAC3. Following deletion of *Lmx*PKAR1, promastigotes no longer showed the strong axonemal *Lmx*PKAC1 signal that was seen in the parental cell line (Figure 3B). Similarly, the flagellar signal from *Lmx*PKAC2 was also diminished upon deletion of *Lmx*PKAR1 (Figure 3C). By contrast, deletion of *Lmx*PKAR1 had no visible effect on *Lmx*PKAC3 localisation at the cell cortex (Figure 3D). We then tested whether loss of *Lmx*PKAR3 would affect *Lmx*PKAC3 localisation and found that the distinct cortical signal of *Lmx*PKAC3 became diminished and the signal appeared to become more

widely distributed throughout the cell body (Figure 3E). This change in signal distribution was quantified over a cross-section of the cell body, between the kinetoplast and the nucleus. This showed a complete loss of the edge effect for *Lmx*PKAC3 signal after *Lmx*PKAR3 was deleted (Figure 3A, iii). Secondly, the change in signal distribution along the axis of the cell was assessed using a 6-point quantitation technique for fluorescent intensity (Figure 3F). In a parental background, the signal profile of *Lmx*PKAC3 was at its lowest at the distal flagellum, gradually increasing in intensity towards the pocket region (Figure 3F). Following deletion of *Lmx*PKAR3 the *Lmx*PKAC3 signal increased in the flagellum and the cell body gradient was decreased (Figure 3F). Taken together, these data suggest that in non-dividing promastigotes, *Lmx*PKAR1 anchors *Lmx*PKAC1 and *Lmx*PKAC2 in the flagellar axoneme, whilst *Lmx*PKAR3 docks *Lmx*PKAC3 at the cell body cortex.

Finally, as several publications reported an association of PKA with the radial spokes of the flagellar axoneme, e.g. via the AKAP domain of RSP3 in *Chlamydomonas* (62–64), we asked whether the *Lmx*PKAR1 was associated with the radial spokes of the *Leishmania* axoneme. We deleted radial spoke proteins of the head (RSP9), and stalk (RSP3 and RSP11) (65) in the PKAR1::mNG expressing cell line to see if the axonemal signal disappeared. A PKAR1::mNG signal was still observed in the axoneme of the examined RSP knockouts, including the short axonemes that are characteristic of RSP3 deletion mutants (Supplementary Figure 4F-I). These data suggest that flagellar PKA localisation does not depend on the integrity of the radial spokes in *Leishmania*, consistent both with the lack of a DD domain in *Lmx*PKARs and the recognition that whilst the RSP3 AKAP domain is homologous to PKA-binding AKAP sequences, its function in the axoneme is docking of non-PKA RII domain proteins (66,67).

Toyocamycin exposure dissociates PKAC1 signal from the axonemal cytoskeleton.

To determine whether *Lmx*PKAR1 could be pharmacologically activated by toyocamycin as was shown in *Trypanosoma* spp. (38), cytoskeletons from mNG::PKAC1 expressing cells were incubated with cAMP or toyocamycin prior to imaging and quantification of axonemal fluorescence (Figure 4). In addition to these, we tested the effect of inosine, considering that it is similar in structure to toyocamycin (which derives from *Streptomyces* (68)) but perhaps more biologically relevant since it is present endogenously as part of purine metabolism pathways (69).

The axonemal mNG::PKAC1 signal remained strong after treatment with cAMP, up to 100 μM (Figure 4B), however quantification revealed a small but significant decrease in fluorescent signal relative to untreated cytoskeleton controls (Figure 4E). By contrast, the mNG::PKAC1

signal was diminished after treatment with 1 μM toyocamycin and completely lost in most cells upon addition of 100 μM toyocamycin (Figure 4C, 4E). Loss of the mNG::PKAC1 signal was also observed upon treatment with 1 μM and 100 μM inosine, with a greater reduction of fluorescence intensity at each concentration, compared to toyocamycin (Figure 4D, 4E).

LmxPKAC1 plays an important role in flagellar motility.

We previously showed that partial deletion of *Lmx*PKAC1 (*ΔLmxM.34.4010*) reduced promastigote swimming speed (41). Here we employed the same CRISPR-Cas9 knockout strategy to generate the full knockout cell lines *ΔLmxPKAC1*, *ΔLmxPKAC2* and *ΔLmxPKAC3* as well as *ΔLmxPKAR1* and *ΔLmxPKAR3* (Supplementary Figure 5) to measure precisely how the loss of each of these proteins affected flagellar motility. The null mutants were all viable as promastigotes, with comparable *in vitro* growth rates as the parental cell line (Supplementary Figure 6). The swimming behaviour of null mutant populations was measured with the same method used in (41) and the results (Figure 5A) confirmed that promastigotes lacking *Lmx*PKAC1 swam statistically slower (average 4.9 μm/s $\pm$ 0.035 standard deviation, unpaired t-test assuming equal variance ($p < 3.5 \times 10^{-14}$) than the parental cell line (7.4 μm/s $\pm$ 0.917). See Supplementary Table 1 for raw speed and directionality measurements and the respective p-values. A reduced mean population swimming speed was also observed for *ΔLmxPKAC3* and *ΔLmxPKAR1* (5.7 μm/s $\pm$ 0.032 and 5.4 μm/s $\pm$ 0.273, respectively); deletion of *LmxPKAR3* had the opposite effect and resulted in an elevated swimming speed (8.4 μm/s $\pm$ 0.775). By contrast, deletion of axonemal *Lmx*PKAC2 did not significantly alter parasite swimming speed (average 6.4μm/s $\pm$ 0.650, unpaired t-test, $p = 0.093$) (Figure 5A). To test what the combined effect was of deleting *Lmx*PKAC1 and either *Lmx*PKAR3 or *Lmx*PKAC2 in the same cells, the respective double null mutants were generated (Supplementary Figure 5B). These showed the same reduced swimming speed as the *ΔLmxPKAC1* population (Figure 5A), indicating that loss of *Lmx*PKAC1 was the dominant cause of the observed slow motility phenotype, which could not be rescued or further compounded by secondary gene deletion of *Lmx*PKAR3 or *Lmx*PKAC2.

LmxPKAC1 is required for the generation of symmetric flagellar waves.

Since swimming speed measurements report the average for a whole population, we next used high speed video microscopy, alongside semi-automated tracing scripts (70,71), to further dissect how deficiency of each PKA subunit was affecting the flagellar beat of individual cells.

First we used population overview waveform analysis (POWA), described in (72), capturing 0.5 seconds of high speed (200 Hz) low magnification (×20) videos to assess the relative proportions of the different waveforms that *L. mexicana* are known to generate: the tip-to-base symmetric flagellar waveform, the base-to-tip asymmetrical ciliary waveform (Figure 5B), or, an undefined aperiodic movement referred to as uncoordinated.

ΔLmxPKAC3 and *ΔLmxPKAR3* showed similar proportions of cells performing flagellar beats as the parental cells (~75%), however all PKA null mutants appeared to display fewer instances of ciliary beats and a greater proportion of cells (> 25%) moving in an uncoordinated manner (Figure 5C). *ΔLmxPKAC2* and *ΔLmxPKAR1* both displayed a lesser proportion of cells propagating the flagellar wave (< 65%). Strikingly, *ΔLmxPKAC1* cells were completely unable to propagate the typical tip-to-base symmetrical flagellar waveform and instead showed completely uncoordinated flagellum movements (Figure 5C). This observation demonstrates that *Lmx*PKAC is essential for producing a symmetric and rhythmic flagellar movement.

All PKAC subunits contribute in different ways to beat amplitude and frequency.

In order to dissect how the loss or dysregulation of PKA contributes to the overall waveform, we used cell tracing and Fourier analysis to extract the dominant beat frequency, amplitude and waves per flagellum comprising the tip-to-base flagellar waves (70,71). *L. mexicana* flagellar waves usually beat 20-35 times per second (Hz) with a maximum shear angle amplitude (relative to the flagellum base) between 40 to60 degrees along the flagellum (71,73). This was confirmed here for the parental control cell line (Figure 6, Table 2 with p-values listed in Supplementary Table 2). *ΔLmxPKAC1* were never observed propagating a rhythmic symmetric flagellar wave (Figure 6A). Our best effort to fit a dominant frequency of attempted tip-to-base movements showed a greatly diminished frequency (< 10 Hz), with shear angle amplitudes not exceeding 30 degrees (Figure 6B), indicating that *Lmx*PKAC1 is required for the generation of a normal flagellar beat. The flagellar length and wavelength are coupled in *Leishmania* spp., leading to tendency of ~1 wavelength per flagellum (74). We saw here that these parameters showed a positive correlation in all PKA knockout cell lines (Spearman's rank correlation coefficient, except *ΔLmxPKAC1* cells (Supplementary Figure 7). Flagellar waves from *ΔLmxPKAC2* displayed a slight but significantly diminished beat amplitude (Figure 6C). We also observed that *ΔLmxPKAC3* had significantly diminished beat frequencies (averaging 22 Hz), but otherwise displayed normal beat amplitudes (Figure 6D). *ΔLmxPKAR1* retained comparable flagellar wave parameters relative to parental control cells (Figure 6E). Lastly,

although *ΔLmxPKAR3* and *ΔLmxPKAC2* mutants showed a comparable average beat frequency
for flagellar waves to control populations, the measured values appear to show a bimodal
distribution, with a sub-population with low beat frequency (~15 Hz) and one with an
abnormally high beat frequency (> 40Hz) (Figure 6C, 6F). The normal average population
speed for *ΔLmxPKAC2* and elevated population swimming speed for *ΔLmxPKAR3* (Figure 5A)
could have arisen from the averaging of these extreme values. More cells would need to be
captured, and perhaps observed over longer time periods, to ascertain the true relative
proportions of these phenotypes in the population and assess whether individual flagella can
switch between abnormally low and high frequencies.
Taken together, these measurements show that removal of different PKA subunits perturbed
the flagellar beat of *L. mexicana* in specific ways. Removal of the catalytic subunit PKAC1,
which is normally docked to the flagellar cytoskeleton through association with PKAR1, had
the biggest effect; without PKAC1 the flagellar waveforms lost their symmetry and this
uncoordinated beating reduced the speed at which the cells swam.

Discussion

Protein kinase A is one of the most studied eukaryotic signal transducers, which is highly
conserved throughout the eukaryotes (excluding plants (75)). PKA signalling fine-tunes a
multitude of cellular processes and our interest centred on the role of PKA in the modulation
of flagellar beating. In kinetoplastids, converging evidence from proteomics and
transcriptomics datasets and mutant phenotypes suggested PKA may also have a role in
flagellar motility. Here, we used a genetic approach combined with fluorescence- and video-
microscopy, to dissect the localisations and paring preferences of the three *L. mexicana* PKAC
and two PKAR proteins and studied how gene deletions impacted cell swimming and
generation of flagellar waveforms. Our results corroborate recent reports of PKAC/R pairings
in *Leishmania* (55) and extend previous analyses on PKA function by providing multiple lines
of evidence for a vital function for *Lmx*PKAC1 in flagellar beat regulation. We found that there
are two regions of PKA concentration in promastigote forms: *Lmx*PKAC1, *Lmx*PKAC2 and
*Lmx*PKAR1 showed enrichment in the flagellum, while a strong cell body cortex signal was
detected for *Lmx*PKAC3 and *Lmx*PKAR3. These localisations were neither exclusive nor static
and examination of cells at different stages in the division cycle indicated dynamic
relocalisation of all three *Lmx*PKAC subunits and of *Lmx*PKAR3; only *Lmx*PKAR1 maintained
its dominant flagellar signal in all examined cells, and it was embedded within the axoneme

sufficiently strongly to withstand detergent extraction. Upon deletion of *Lmx*PKAR1, the
flagellar signal of *Lmx*PKAC1 was greatly diminished and we conclude that *Lmx*PKAR1 is the
anchor that holds *Lmx*PKAC1 in the axoneme. Based on all available knowledge of PKA
activation mechanisms, our assumption is that while bound to *Lmx*PKAR, *Lmx*PKAC is
inactive.

Analysis of the motility phenotypes of gene deletion mutants showed that *Lmx*PKAC1 was
essential for propagation of symmetric flagellar waveforms used for forward motility. All of
the PKA mutant cell lines were viable and remained motile (including the double deletion of
*Lmx*PKAC1 and *Lmx*PKAC2), but measurement of mean population swimming speeds showed
differences compared to the parental control line for all null mutants except the *ΔLmxPKAC2*.
ΔLmxPKAC1 showed the greatest reduction in swimming speed and this mutant was unique in
its complete inability to generate any symmetric tip-to-base flagellar waves, instead beating its
flagella in an uncoordinated manner characterised by a lack of rhythm, symmetry and a very
low dominant beat frequency and reduced amplitude compared to normal flagellar waveforms
of promastigotes. These data suggest *Lmx*PKAC1 is required within the axoneme to maintain
the appropriate spatio-temporal activation of axonemal dyneins, most likely as a component of
a signal transduction cascade that leads to the phosphorylation of either core axonemal proteins
that regulate dyneins, or of dynein subunits directly. The ODAs, which are important for beat
frequency (29), are thought to be a key target of cAMP-dependent protein kinase (PKA)
(models, reviewed in (17,36)). Outer dynein light chain proteins from the ciliates *Paramecium*
tetraurelia (p29 (76)) and *Tetrahymena* (p34 (28)) were shown to be phosphorylated upon
treatment with cAMP and RNAi knockdown of *P. tetraurelia* outer dynein light chain 1
(ODLC1) resulted in loss of phosphorylated p29 and rendered cilia unresponsive to cAMP (30).
The cAMP-independent PKA may be targeting the conserved homologous structures in
kinetoplastids. Phosphoproteomic data gained from exposing *T. brucei* parasites to a synthetic
PKA activator, 7-CN-7-C-ino, identified phosphopeptides for several proteins with known
functions in normal motility including several dynein intermediate chains (IC138), distal
docking complex 2 (dDC2) and nexin dynein regulatory complex-2 (38). Comparisons of
phosphorylation patterns in axonemes of *L. mexicana* PKA mutants and wild type controls
could further corroborate these strong candidates for *Lmx*PKAC1 phosphorylation substrates.
In addition to confirming the phosphorylation substrates, further dissection of the mechanism
will benefit from studies examining how the putative substrates affect flagellar waveform
modulation and how that would be altered if the phosphorylated residue were mutated to a
neutral or to a charged residue. Another fruitful avenue to defining the *Lmx*PKAC1 signalling

pathway might be pinpointing where in the axoneme the *Lmx*PKAR1/C1 complex is docked, a
question that will require molecule-level resolution obtained from techniques such as cryo-
electron microscopy. Cells lacking *Lmx*PKAR1 also swam significantly slower, and this mutant
lost most of its flagellar *Lmx*PKAC1 signal. This is consistent with a model where axonemal
*Lmx*PKAR1 binds and concentrates PKAC1 along the flagellum, placing it in proximity to
axonemal proteins which are phosphorylated upon receipt of an activating signal.

Of course, it is not unusual for kinases to have pleotropic function and moreover, localisation
of proteins does not necessarily indicate function within that domain. Likewise with the
observed dual localisation of *Lmx*PKAC1, its localisation in the axoneme in non-dividing cells
could be, in part, a sequestration away from other targets within the cell body or nucleolus,
which may be involved in replication events. However, while the mutant analysis revealed a
clear motility phenotype upon loss of *Lmx*PKAC1, cell growth remained unaffected, arguing
against a key role in the regulation of cell division events. Alternatively, during division, where
forward swimming may need to be dampened, *Lmx*PKAC1 may be partitioned to the nucleus
until returning to the new and old flagella axonemes. Experiments involving pulse-chase
labelling of proteins would be required to assess the relationship between the different
*Lmx*PKAC1 populations fractions over the course of the cell cycle. In any case, the activation
status of *Lmx*PKAC1 in the nucleus remains an open question. *Lmx*PKAR1 was never observed
alongside its catalytic subunit in the nucleolus during division and this spatial uncoupling would
presumably populate the nucleolus with active *Lmx*PKAC or, if sequestration was the purpose,
require an alternative regulatory mechanism for *Lmx*PKAC inactivation.

*Lmx*PKAC1 and *Lmx*PKAC2 share 86% sequence identity and localisation data suggest
*Lmx*PKAR1 is required for both their enrichment in the flagellum. Unlike *Lmx*PKAC1,
however, *Lmx*PKAC2 was solubilised by treatment with 0.1% NP-40 while *Lmx*PKAC1
remained in the flagellar cytoskeletons. Furthermore, loss of *Lmx*PKAC2 had only a small
effect on flagellar beat dynamics when observed at the level of populations: *ΔLmxPKAC2*
displayed comparable population swimming speeds to parental controls, with only a small
increase in the proportion of cells exhibiting uncoordinated flagellar waveforms (Figure 5C).
The observation that the frequencies of flagellar waveforms of individual cells segregated into
two groups, low frequency or high frequency, suggests that *Lmx*PKAC2 may have a role in
maintaining a constant beat frequency. The POWA measurements represent snapshot
observations of flagella over a short time period. To study this further, it would be informative
to observe individual cells for a longer time to determine if periods of low frequency waves
alternate with high frequency waves in single flagella.

*Lmx*PKAC3 had a clearly distinct localisation, concentrated at the cell cortex, similar to

*Lmx*PKAR3. The peripheral enrichment was lost upon deletion of *Lmx*PKAR3, suggestive of a

*Lmx*PKAC3/R3 complex. A faint flagellar signal was also observed for *Lmx*PKAC3, which was

increased in the *ΔLmxPKAR3* deletion mutant. Interestingly, the motility phenotype of gene

deletion mutants correlated with changes of *Lmx*PKAC3 abundance in the flagellum: the

ΔLmxPKAC3 population swam more slowly and *ΔLmxPKAR3* swam faster than parental

controls. The slower swimming speed for *ΔLmxPKAC3* was likely the combined effect of the

increased proportion of cells showing uncoordinated beating and the slight decrease in the beat

frequency of flagellar waves. Additionally, there was a small reduction in average flagellum

length (Figure 5D). Interestingly, loss of *Lmx*PKAR3, which led to a re-distribution of

*Lmx*PKAC3 away from the cell cortex, resulted in more cells propagating flagellar beats

exceeding 40Hz and increased mean population swimming speed. It remains an open question

whether *Lmx*PKAC3 has bona-fide phosphorylation targets within the flagellum, or whether

the increased amount of soluble catalytic subunit in the *Lmx*PKAR3 deletion mutant causes off-

target phosphorylation events in the axoneme that affect motility, secondary to its main role

elsewhere. A recent report linked *Lmx*PKAR3 and *Lmx*PKAC3 to processes involved in cell

morphology in *L. donovani* (55). This may explain the shortened flagella in our *ΔLmxPKAC3*

cells but we did not observe any morphological changes in *ΔLmxPKAR3*. Moreover, all of our

L. mexicana PKA KO lines here showed normal cell growth and maintained the same mean

cell pseudo-diameter as the parental controls (Supplementary Figure 6B).

Owing to the high conservation of PKA, it has long been presumed that its activation

mechanism through cAMP was equally as conserved, until the recent discovery that

trypanosome PKA is insensitive to cAMP and instead activated by a different ligand (38).

Multiple lines of evidence indicate that this alternative PKA activation pathway also operates

in *L. mexicana*. First, the sequences of the *Lmx*PKAR1 and *Lmx*PKAR3 phosphate binding

cassettes showed the characteristic residue switches that were shown in Trypanosoma to

prevent cAMP binding. However, while *Lmx*PKAR1 and *Lmx*PKAR3 both have some of the

distinctive features of Trypanosoma PKAR1, the loss of a typically invariable glutamate in

most PKAR3 PBCs raises the question whether this subunit could bind a different ligand to the

kinetoplastid PKAR1. As this glutamate within the PBC is known to hydrogen bond with the

ribose hydroxyl group in cyclic nucleotide molecules (77), we could speculate that the unknown

ligand is not centred around a ribose sugar. Second, we showed that treatment of cytoskeletons

with cAMP had very little effect on the axonemal localisation of mNG: *Lmx*PKAC1 while

exposure to toyocamycin and inosine reduced the axonemal *Lmx*PKAC1 signal substantially

(Figure 4). This fits the model of the *T. brucei* PKAR1/C2 complex, where toyocamycin

binding to PKAR resulted in the release of the catalytic subunit and subsequent substrate

phosphorylation (38). These data together are consistent with a scenario whereby ligand binding

causes a conformational change in axonemal *Lmx*PKAR1 which releases *Lmx*PKAC1 into the

soluble fraction, and confirms published findings that the ligand for divergent parasite PKA is

likely not a cyclic nucleotide, but instead a nucleoside analogue either endogenously produced

or exogenously sourced. As inosine is an intermediate compound of the purine metabolism

pathway (69), it is tempting to speculate that the potential endogenous ligand for divergent

kinetoplastid signalling pathway is a derivative of this pathway.

Although the role of cAMP-responsive PKA in flagellar signalling has been established (78,79),

these data indicate that in kinetoplastids, the divergent (non-cAMP-responsive) PKA maintains

a function in motility regulation and suggests that the physiological ligand(s) of kinetoplastid

PKARs modulate the swimming behaviour of *Leishmania* promastigotes.

Methods

Cell culture

A *Leishmania mexicana* (WHO strain MNYC/BZ/62/M379) cell line expressing Cas9 and T7

RNA polymerase (80) was used as a parental cell line throughout this project unless stated

otherwise. Promastigote form cells were cultured exactly as described in (80). In brief, cells

were incubated at 28°C and maintained in M199 (Life Technologies) medium supplemented

with 2.2 g/L sodium bicarbonate between 1×10^5 and 2×10^7 cells/ml with regular sub-culturing.

Endogenous fluorescent tagging and gene deletion

Gene knockouts and cell lines expressing endogenously fused fluorescent gene products were

essentially created as outlined by Beneke *et al*., (80). An online resource for automated primer

design (www.LeishGEdit.net) was used to obtain primer sequences for the replacement of

target gene ORFs with drug resistance cassettes (pT plasmids used to create donor products) or

insertion of mNeonGreen (pPLOT plasmids used to create donor products) to the endogenous

gene locus (80). Promastigote populations transfected with DNA donor and guide constructs

were maintained in M199 medium supplemented with relevant selection drugs (either 20 μg/ml

puromycin, 5 μg/ml Blasticidin or 40 μg/ml G418) for 3 culture passages before performing a
PCR based knockout verification.

Diagnostic PCR for gene knockout validation.

Primers sequences targeting the open reading frames (ORF) of genes of interest (GOI) were
taken from the LeishGEdit primer database (www.LeishGEdit.net) and sourced from
ThermoFisher. Due to high sequence similarity, *LmxPKAC1* and *LmxPKAC2* gene deletion
verification, primers were manually designed using Primer3 (see Table 3 for primer sequences
and corresponding PCR amplicon sizes). To test for presence or absence of a GOI, the relevant
forward and reverse (F/R) primers (Table 3, Columns 3-4) were used to amplify a fragment of
the ORF from genomic DNA from the parental cell line (positive control) and genomic DNA
from the knockout mutant. A PCR reaction targeting a "housekeeping" gene, here PF16
(LmxM.20.1400), was run in parallel as a technical control. Master mixes for the PCR reactions
constituted the FastGene Optima HotStart Ready Mix sourced from Nippon Genetics
containing 4 ng/μl of the relevant gDNA and 2.5 μM each of the forward and reverse primers.
For all diagnostic PCRs, the following PCR program steps were used. Step 1: First denaturation
at 95°C for 3 minutes. Step 2: denaturation at 95°C for 15 seconds. Step 3: 58°C for 15 seconds.
Step 4: 72°C for 30 seconds. Step 5: repeat steps 2-4 for 30 cycles. Step 6: 72°C for 1 minute.

Detergent extraction of cell membranes.

Promastigote cytoskeletons were prepared from $1-5$ ml (depending on the cell culture density
assessed by eye) of mid-log cells. Cells were washed once with PBS and the washed pellet was
resuspended in 100 μl (or 1 ml if > 1E7 cells are in the sample) PEME [100 mM Pipes, 2 mM
EGTA, 1 mM MgSO4 and 100 nM EDTA] with 0.1% NP-40. Once homogenous and the
solution turns clear, the sample was spun at 2°C at 10,000g for 5 minutes. The supernatant was
removed and the pellets were washed with PEME and then resuspended in PEME or PBS with
10 μg/ml Hoechst 33342. For the experiments assessing the fluorescent *Lmx*PKAC1 signal in
cytoskeletons, the treatment substance was added to the PEME used during the final wash step
at a 1:1000 ratio from a stock solution at 1000x final concentration (cAMP (Sigma-Aldrich
A6885), at 1 and 100 mM in water; toyocamycin (Sigma-Aldrich T3580) at 1 and 100 mM in
DMSO; inosine (ThermoFisher Scientific A14459); 1 and 100 mM in water). If the substance
was dissolved in DMSO, then the respective amount of DMSO (0.1%) was added to the control
cytoskeletons in PEME buffer.

 Light microscopy.

For live cell fluorescence microscopy of promastigote cells, 1 ml of a mid-logarithmic culture

(between $1\times10^6 - 1\times10^7$ cells/ml) was spun at 800g for 5 minutes and the pellet resuspended in

100 μl of PBS and [10 μg/ml] Hoechst 33342 (ThermoFischer). A volume of 0.7 μl was spread

onto a poly-lysine coated glass slide, bordered (~ 5 x 2 cm rectangle) with a hydrophobic fat

pen (Dako). A glass coverslip, thickness 1 or 1.5 was used to cover the slide. Live cell imaging

was typically done with a Zeiss Axioimager.Z2 microscope with a Hamamatsu ORCA-Flash4.0

camera, x63 oil objective lens with numerical aperture (NA) 1.4, and phase contrast

illumination. Fluorescence channel was acquired with between 0.5 and 3 seconds of excitation

depending on the brightness of the fluorescent signal.

For live cell imaging of axenic amastigotes, 500 μl of mid-log promastigote culture was

inoculated into a vented 25 cm^3 flask (total 5 ml volume) containing Schneider's Drosophila

medium (Life Technologies) supplemented with 20% heat-inactivated foetal bovine serum

(FBS) (Gibco) and adjusted to pH 5.5 with concentrated HCl. Cultures were incubated at 34°C

with 5% CO_2 for 72 hours prior to imaging. 1 ml of sample culture was pelleted by

centrifugation at 800g for 5 minutes, pellet washed with PBS, spun again, then the washed

pellet resuspended in 50 μl of PBS plus Hoechst 33342 (final 10 μg/ml). A volume of 20 μl

was placed on the poly-lysine coated glass slide and left inside a humid chamber for 10 minutes

to settle. Excess liquid was gently removed by pipetting and the cover slide placed on top.

Population overview waveform analysis (POWA).

For POWA, 1 ml of exponential growth phase promastigote cells ($1\times10^6 - 1\times10^7$ cells/ml) was

centrifuged for 5 minutes at 800g. Between $600 - 900$ μl supernatant was removed and the cells

resuspended in the remaining $400 - 100$ μl of M199 medium, effectively concentrating the cells.

1 μl of 1:100 bead mix (Sigma 79633 polystyrene microparticle beads (5 μm size) in M199

medium) was added to cell suspension and mixed gently until homogenous. 1 μl of cell sample

was added to the centre of a glass microscope slide bordered by a Dako hydrophobic pen (~5

cm by 2 cm rectangle). A glass coverslip of 1.0 or 1.5 thickness bordered by a similar Dako

hydrophobic pen rectangle was placed gently on top of the sample slide, effectively creating a

sealed chamber. Videomicrographs of swimming cells under phase contrast illumination were

captured with an Andor Neo 5.5 camera at 200 frames/s for 0.5 seconds, using a x20 NA 0.3

objective lens on a Leica Inverted microscope. Manual categorisation of waveforms was

performed in ImageJ or Fiji (81,82) for non-dividing cells only. Categories include flagellar

wave tip-to-base (continuous and interrupted), ciliary asymmetric wave base-to-tip and uncoordinated which is neither flagellar nor ciliary. Flagellar length was measured from stills obtained from these videomicrographs, using the Fiji freehand line measuring tool.

Waveform parameter analysis.

The capture of videomicrographs for waveform analysis was exactly as above (POWA), with the exception of using a x100 NA 1.4 oil immersion objective and capturing for 5 seconds duration. All videomicrographs were captured within 10 minutes of making sample slides. Obtaining tangent angle kymographs from phase contrast videos was done as previously described (83). In brief, automated cell tracing scripts developed for phase contrast videos (Supplementary File 1A PhaseTrace.ijm) (84) were run in ImageJ. Resulting tangent kymographs were manually cropped to exclude the cell body and to a frame length of either 128 (0.64 seconds) or 256 (1.28 seconds). Each datapoint on the plots present a discrete unit of time (as above), where several datapoints (up to three) could derive from one cell. Fast Fourier transform (FFT) and PowerPlotter scripts (Supplementary File 1B, 1C respectively) were run to obtain the Fourier power spectrum, which was aggregated over the length of the flagellum. The dominant beat frequency was obtained by determining the highest frequency peak from the FFT output using a sliding window with a width of 10% of the measurable frequency range. Data obtained from Fourier analysis were compiled in Excel and plotted using GraphPad Prism 9. Angular amplitude measurements along each flagellum (computed for the identified dominant frequency from the FFT) were averaged and plotted against the dominant frequency. Waves per flagellum length was calculated in Excel by taking the difference in phase of the identified dominant frequency between the proximal and distal ends of flagella, then dividing the phase difference by 2π.

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Table 1. Accession numbers for all PKAR and PKAC orthologues found encoded in the
genomes of *L. mexicana, L. major, L. donovani, T. brucei* and *T. cruzi*. Each row represents
genes found in a syntenic locus across kinetoplastid species, as illustrated in Supplementary
Figure 1A-D.

	L. mexicana (Lmx)	*L. major (Lmj)*	*L. donovani (Ld)*		*T. brucei (Tb)*	*T. cruzi (Tc)*
PKAR1	LmxM.13.0160	LmjF.13.0160	LdCL_130006600	**PKAR1**	Tb927.11.4610	TcCLB.506227.150
PKAR3	LmxM.33.2820	LmjF.34.2820	LdCL_340034800	**PKAR3**	n/a	TcCLB.510879.50
PKAC1	LmxM.34.4010	LmjF.35.4010	LdCL_350045700	**PKAC2**	Tb927.9.11100	TcCLB.508461.310
PKAC2	LmxM.34.3960	LmjF.35.3960	LdCL_350045200	**PKAC1**	Tb927.9.11030	TcCLB.508461.280
PKAC3	LmxM.18.1080	LmjF.18.1080	LdCL_180016100	**PKAC3**	Tb927.10.13010	TcCLB.509805.10

Table 2. Flagellar waveform summary. For each null mutant cell line, the following numbers are shown: Number (n) of timepoints captured by high-speed video microscopy, where each timepoint represents 256 video frames, and n cells captured in total; the total time observed for each mutant dataset in seconds. The mean amplitude (amp) in degrees (deg); mean beat frequency (beats per second, bps; Hz); number of waves per flagellum (w/f); flagellum length in μm and n of cells for which length was measured. Mann-Whitney u test was used to ascertain significance of each dataset against that of the parental control measurements. Significant p-values are indicated as, *** = $p < 0.001$, ** = $p < 0.005$, * = $p < 0.05$. All p-values can be found in Supplementary Figure 7.

mutant Δ	n timepoints (n cells)	total time obs (s)	mean Hz (bps)	mean amp (deg)	waves per flagellum (w/f)	F-length (μm) (n cells)
ΔLmxPKAR1	24 (17)	32.6	28	37	0.84	15.5 (57)
ΔLmxPKAR3	15 (10)	20.4	33	39	0.91	15 (88)
ΔLmxPKAC1	25 (17)	34	4***	26***	1.01	14.6 (93)
ΔLmxPKAC2	13 (7)	17.7	32	34*	1.08*	13.9 (97)
ΔLmxPKAC3	25 (15)	34	22***	41	0.79	13*** (143)
parental	35 (21)	48	27	41	0.85	15.2 (75)

Table 3. Primer sequences used for PCR based gene deletion verification, including gene target and ID (columns 1-2), forward and reverse primer sequences (columns 3-4) and the expected PCR amplicon length in nucleotides (nt) (column 5).

Gene target	Gene ID	Primer sequences: forward / reverse		PCR amplicon length (nt)
LmxPKAC1	LmxM.34.4010	TCATTGGGCCAACTCAGCAGC	CATTTGGCGTGACAGCCCCCT	91
LmxPKAC2	LmxM.34.3960	TGGAGCCGAAACCTGAGGTGGC	CCGCGTACACTCGTCCTCCTGG	70
LmxPKAC3	LmxM.18.1080	GCACAAAGGAACAGGCCAGTAC	ACAGCCGGTTCTTGTCCATGTA	167

LmxPKAR1	LmxM.13.0160	AAACCTTCGAC AGCATCCTCGA	GTTCGAGATGGGGTT GTTGCTG	254
LmxPKAR3	LmxM.33.2820	GCGTTGAATCG GGAAAACTCGT	CCATCTCCTGACGTC CAAACCT	121
PF16	LmxM.20.1400	CCAGCACTGTGT CTACCTACCC	TGATGATCTGGATGG ACTCGGC	212

     Figure Legends

     Figure 1. Alignments of PKAR sequences.

     (A) Cartoon representation of trypanosomatid PKAR proteins *Ld*PKAR1

     (LdBPK.13.2.000160), *Lmj*PKAR1 (LmjF.13.0160), *Lmx*PKAR1 (LmxM.13.0160),

     *Tb*PKAR1 (Tb927.11.4610), *Tc*PKAR1 (TcCLB.506227.150), *Ld*PKAR3

     (LdBPK.34.2.002680), *Lmj*PKAR3 (LmjF.34.2820), *Lmx*PKAR3 (LmxM.33.2820),

     *Tc*PKAR3 (TcCLB.510879.50), and Homo sapiens cAMP-dependent protein kinase type I-

     alpha regulatory subunit PKAR-Iα (P10644, KAP0_HUMAN) and type II-alpha regulatory

     subunit PKAR-IIα (P13861|KAP2_HUMAN). LRR, leucine rich repeat; DD, dimerization

     docking domain; CNBD, cyclic nucleotide binding domains (PFAM ID: PF00027); AI,

     autoinhibitory domain sequence (56). **(B)** AI sequence alignment. Bold letters highlight the

     RRxA and RRxT motifs which form a pseudo-substrate or are autophosphorylated by docked

     catalytic subunits in mammalian PKA heterotetramers. A universally conserved arginine

     residue is highlighted in red. The conserved RGAIS residues in *Leishmania* PKAR3 proteins

     and the human AI sequence are underlined. **(C)** CNBD: Underlined is the canonical phosphate

     binding cassette (PBC) motif FGELAL[ILVM]xxxPRAA (35); residues matching the PBC are

     in bold black type. Highlighted in blue (asterisks) are residues associated with altered ligand

     specificity in trypanosomatid PKAR1 (38): the switch from alanine (position 5) in human PKA

     to glutamate in trypanosomatid and the switch from arginine (position 12) in human PKA to a

     alanine, valine, serine, threonine, or asparagine in the trypanosomatid PKAR sequences.

     Orange asterisk indicate a valine residue reported to form part of the trypanosomatid specific

     hydrophobic pocket. **(D)** Hydrophobic pocket: orange asterisk indicates a residue reported to

     form part of the *Trypanosoma* specific hydrophobic pocket. Highlighted in orange type is a

     lysine residue reported to increase affinity to binding synthetic nucleoside analogue 7-cyano-

     7-deazainosine (38).

     Figure 2. Localisations of tagged *L. mexicana* PKAC and PKAR subunits.

     Micrographs of cells expressing mNG-tagged PKAC or PKAR subunits. **(A)**

     mNG::*Lmx*PKAC1 (LmxM.34.4010), **(B)** mNG::*Lmx*PKAC2 (LmxM.34.3960), **(C)** mNG::

     *Lmx*PKAC3 (LmxM.18.1080), **(D)** *Lmx*PKAR1::mNG (LmxM.13.0160), **(E)**

     *Lmx*PKAR3::mNG (LmxM.33.2820). Panels in A-E show live promastigotes (left), detergent-

     extracted promastigote cytoskeletons (middle) and live axenic amastigotes (right). For each

     sample type a merged fluorescence with phase contrast image is shown, and the combined mNG

     and Hoechst fluorescence. **(F)** Promastigotes in different stages of the cell cycle, expressing

*Lmx*PKAR1::mNG and **(G)** mNG::*Lmx*PKAR3. F, flagella; N, nuclei; N*, dividing nucleus, K,

kinetoplasts, nol, nucleolus. Scale bar indicates 5 μm.

Figure 3. Localisation dependencies of *L. mexicana* PKAC and PKAR subunits.

(A) Measurement of the mNG fluorescent signal intensity across a line though the cell body

(cartoon) show a clear edge effect for the majority of mNG::*Lmx*PKAC3 cells (i) (black lines,

n = 11; red lines show a minority of cells (n = 3) with a diffuse cell body signal. An edge effect

was detected for all measured *Lmx*PKAR3::mNG cells (ii) (n = 12). The edge effect for

mNG::*Lmx*PKAC3 was lost following *Lmx*PKAR3 deletion (iii) (n = 10). **(B-E)** Micrographs

showing the localisation of mNG-tagged *Lmx*PKAC subunits following deletion of *Lmx*PKAR

subunits: **(B)** mNG::*Lmx*PKAC1 *ΔLmxPKAR1*; **(C)** mNG::*Lmx*PKAC2 *ΔLmxPKAR1*; **(D)**

mNG::*Lmx*PKAC3 *ΔLmxPKAR1*; **(E)** mNG::*Lmx*PKAC3 *ΔLmxPKAR3*. **(F)** Quantitation of

fluorescence signal intensity in cells expressing *Lmx*PKAR3::mNG, mNG::*Lmx*PKAC3 and in

cells expressing mNG::*Lmx*PKAC3 following *Lmx*PKAR3 deletion. Measurements were taken

at six points along the flagellum and cell body as shown in the cartoon.

Figure 4. Pharmacological displacement of *Lmx*PKAC1 signal from the axoneme.

Detergent-extracted promastigote cytoskeletons imaged by fluorescence microscopy: from

mNG::*Lmx*PKAC1-expressing cells **(A)** without treatment, **(B)** after treatment with cAMP **(C)**

toyocamycin and **(D)** inosine as indicated. Merged micrographs of fluorescence with phase

contrast are shown as well as just the mNG fluorescent signal pseudo-coloured in grey. For

each compound used, 1 μM and 100 μM concentrations were tested. **(D)** Quantification of the

cytoskeleton-associated mNG::*Lmx*PKAC1 signals. Background fluorescence was subtracted

from maximum intensity values. Each data point represents one cell. Horizontal bar indicated

mean corrected fluorescent intensity. Significance was determined using a paired t-test

assuming equal variance. *** represents a p-value < 0.001. n > 50 cell measured for each

condition. Scale bar indicates 10 μm.

Figure 5. Mutant population motility. (A) Scatter plot of mean population swim speed and

directionality (velocity/speed) of parental controls and null mutants for *Lmx*PKAC and

*Lmx*PKAR subunits and of dual knock outs of *Lmx*PKAC1/PKAC2 and *Lmx*PKAC1/PKAR3.

Swim speed measurement data from at least three replicates per population. Error bars indicate

one standard deviation of the speed and directionality measurements. Raw data with p-values

from unpaired t-tests for significance are summarised in Supplementary Table 1. **(B)** Phase

contrast micrographs overlaid with real traces of flagellar movement over one beat cycle, from

a cell propagating either the (upper) symmetric tip-to-base flagellar wave for forward motility,

or (lower) the asymmetric base-to-tip ciliary beat for tumbling/turning. On the right are cartoon

summaries of flagellar and ciliary waves with an hollow arrow indicating the direction of cell

displacement, and a filled grey arrow indicating direction of wave travel. **(C)** Relative

frequencies of the waveforms observed in *ΔLmxPKAC* and *ΔLmxPKAR* mutants and control

populations. **(D)** Quantification of flagellar length for *Lmx*PKAC and *Lmx*PKAR null mutants

and parental control populations where n > 70 for each population. Mann-Whitney U test for

significance of mutant flagellar lengths against parental control measurements.

Figure 6. Flagellar wave amplitude and frequency parameters. Fourier decomposition of

the tip-to-base uncoordinated wave attempts of *ΔLmxPKAC1,* and the symmetric flagellar

waves of *ΔLmxPKAC2, ΔLmxPKAC3, ΔLmxPKAR1 and ΔLmxPKAR3.* **(A)** Computer-

generated beat reconstruction of flagellum movement exemplified for each mutant, highlighting

the lack of symmetry in *ΔLmxPKAC1* flagellar movement. **(B-F)** Scatter plots of the dominant

beat frequency in hertz (Hz) plotted against beat amplitude in degrees for all *Lmx*PKAC and

*Lmx*PKAR null mutant populations (purple diamonds) overlaid with measurements from

parental control cells (black filled circles). Each point represents one unit of time observed,

where total time and n cells observed are summarised in Table 2.

Legends for Supplementary Figures

Supplementary Figure 1. PKAC and PKAR gene synteny.

Cartoon representation of genomic regions for **(A)** PKAC1 and PKAC2, **(B)** PKAC3, **(C)**

PKAR1 and **(D)** PKAR3 in representative kinetoplastida species. Gene annotations taken from

TritrypDB release 56. The colour coding represents the open reading frames (ORF) of syntenic

genes within each genomic locus. Green shading highlights genes encoding our PKA subunits

of interest. Genomic loci are not to scale. Blunt end and pointed end of coloured bars represent

the transcription start and end of the ORFs respectively.

Supplementary Figure 2. PKAC alignments.

Cartoon representation of the classical protein architecture of *L. mexicana* PKAC subunits

compared to the *Homo sapiens* reciprocal best blasts (RBB) of *Lmx*PKAC1 and *Lmx*PKAC3

(accessions NP_001362493 and NP_005035 respectively). Protein domains are colour coded and information was sourced by using InterProScan. Binding site: IPR017441, active site: IPR008271, protein kinase domain: IPR000719, AGC-kinase: IPR000961. Protein sequence alignments of the **(B)** N-terminus extension, **(C)** binding domain, and **(D)** catalytic core across representative kinetospastid species. **(E)** C-terminus extension of PKAC3 homologues in comparison to *Lmx*PKAC1 and -C2 sequences. Underlined sequences in green indicated conservation across PKAC1 and -C2 in all representative species. Underlined residues in yellow indicates conservation across all PKAC3 sequences. Underlined residues in light blue indicates the FXXF feature in the AGC-kinase family (51).

Supplementary Figure 3. PKAC1, PKAC2 and PKAC3 localisation through the promastigote cell division cycle.

Promastigotes in different stages of the cell cycle, expressing **(A)** mNG::PKAC1, **(B)** mNG::PKAC2 and **(C)** PKAC3::mNG. The first column displays merged micrographs of fluorescence of Hoeschst DNA stain (magenta), mNG (green) and phase contrast, centre column shows the mNG fluorescent signal pseudo-coloured in grey with DNA stain and the last column displays mNG fluorescent signal pseudo-coloured in grey. F, flagella; N, nuclei; N*, dividing nucleus, K, kinetoplasts, nol, nucleolus. Scale bar indicates 5 μm.

Supplementary Figure 4. Localisations of *Leishmania* PKAC and PKAR subunits tagged at opposite end.

Fluorescent signal imaged in live promastigote cells expressing **(A)** PKAC1::mNG (LmxM.34.4010), **(B)** PKAC2::mNG (LmxM.34.3960), **(C)** PKAC3::mNG (LmxM.18.1080), **(D)** mNG::PKAR1 (LmxM.13.0160), **(E)** mNG::PKAR3 (LmxM.33.2820). Micrographs of cells expressing PKAR1::mNG with subsequent deletion of the radial spoke protein encoding genes **(F)** RSP11 (LmxM.09.1530) **(G)** RSP3 (LmxM.27.0520) and **(H)** RSP9 (LmxM.07.0930) with (I) Diagnostic PCR to test for loss of the respective RSP gene in the mutant cell lines. Lanes 1 and 12, DNA ladder; Lanes 2-5, genomic DNA from the parental cell line amplified with primers specific to the indicated ORFs; Lanes 6, 8 and 10, amplification of the PF16 ORF from the genomic DNA of the RSP mutants (PCR positive control); Lanes 7, 9 and 11, diagnostic PCR using genomic DNA from the respective RSP mutant cell line.

Supplementary Figure 5. **PCR validation of knock out mutants.**

For all gel layouts, the first panel represents a quality control of the primer pairs, whereby PCR

amplification using ORF primers listed in figure were used on the parental control genomic

DNA template. Following this, the alternation of PCR amplification of a fragment within PF16

locus (LmxM.20.1400) was used as positive control and within the ORF of the target gene of

deletion for **(A)** *ΔLmxPKAC3*, *ΔLmxPKA*C2, *ΔLmxPKA*C1, **(B)** *ΔLmxPKAR1*, *ΔLmxPKAR3*.

(C) double null mutants (i) *ΔLmxPKAC1/LmxPKAC2* and (ii) *ΔLmxPKAC1/LmxPKAR3* and

(D) *ΔLmxPKAR1* and *ΔLmxPKAR3* on parental cell lines expressing mNG C-terminally fused

PKAC subunits. The diagnostic primer sequences were taken from LeishGEdit for all but

*Lmx*PKAC1 and *Lmx*PKAC2, where a bespoke primer design was required due to sequence

similarity. All primer sequences and expected PCR amplicon sizes are listed in Table 3 of the

Methods section.

Supplementary Figure 6. Growth curve.

Promastigote cell cultures from *ΔLmxPKAR1, ΔLmxPKAR3, ΔLmxPKAC1, ΔLmxPKAC2* and

ΔLmxPKAC3 alongside parental controls were grown in triplicate flasks from densities 1×10^5

to 1×10^7 cells/ml. **(A)** Cell culture densities were recorded with the Cell Counter CASY TTT

(OMNI life science) in viable cells/ml every 24 hours from 0 hours to 96 hours. **(B)** Alongside

every cell count, the cell population pseudo-diametres in μm were recorded and plotted. **(C)**

We calculated the doubling time of the triplicate cell cultures for each population from 0 - 24hrs

and 24 - 48hrs then took the average, equating to a total of six doubling times for each null

mutant population. Error bars in all plots represent standard deviation from the mean.

Supplementary Figure 7. Summary p-values for flagellar waveform parameters.

P-values from a Mann-Whitney U test was used to test for significance between waveform

parameters derived from mutants and the parental control populations. Significance is indicated

by asterisks as follows, *** = $p < 0.001$, ** = $p < 0.005$, * = $p < 0.05$. Datasets analysed include

wave amplitude (amp), dominant frequency (Hz), waves per flagellum (w/f) and flagellum

length (F-length).

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Figure 1

Figure 2

A

live promastigotes

merged   mNG

B mNG::PKAC1 *ΔPKAR1*

C mNG::PKAC2 *ΔPKAR1*

D mNG::PKAC3 *ΔPKAR1*

E mNG::PKAC3 *ΔPKAR3*

(i) mNG::PKAC3

(ii) PKAR3::mNG

(iii) mNG::PKAC3 *ΔPKAR3*

fluorescent intensity (a.u.)

fractional distance

F

— PKAR3:mNG n=38
— mNG:PKAC3 n=54
— mNG:PKAC3 *ΔPKAR3* n=57

fluorescent intensity (a.u.)

F tip F mid F prox FP N CB tip

Figure 3

Figure 4

Figure 5

Figure 6

Supplementary Figure 1

Supplementary Figure 2

Supplementary Figure 3

C

	merged	mNG/DNA	mNG

1F1N1K

2F1N1K

2F1N*1K

2F2N2K

2F2N2K

mNG::PKAC3

Supplementary Figure 3

Supplementary Figure 4

A

PKA catalytic and regulatory subunit KO verification

B PKAC1/PKAC2 double   KO verification   PKAC1/PKAR3 double KO verification

C KO verification on top of mNG::PKAC expressing mutants

Supplementary Figure 5

Supplementary Figure 6

Supplementary Figure 7

Supplementary Table 2. Waveform parameters from mutants and the parental control populations were compared with a Mann-Whitney U test. The table shows the p-values, with significance indicated by asterisks as follows, *** = p < 0.001, ** = p < 0.005, * = p < 0.05. Datasets analysed include wave amplitude, dominant frequency (Hz), waves per flagellum (w/f) and flagellum length (F-length).

	ΔLmxPKAR1	*ΔLmxPKAR3*	*ΔLmxPKAC1*	*ΔLmxPKAC2*	*ΔLmxPKAC3*
amplitude	0.0538	0.3556	*** <0.001	* 0.0178	0.9881
frequency	0.2564	0.0551	*** <0.001	0.2659	** 0.0035
w/f	0.9664	0.2048	0.5357	* 0.0093	0.3456
F-length	0.4636	0.7211	0.4434	0.1858	* 0.0089