Chronic lysosome damage boosts interferon responses to Palbociclib dependent
upon the mitochondrion

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Keywords: lysosome; Palbociclib; lysophagy; immunogenic nucleic acid; interferons; autophagy

Abstract

Acute lysosome damage triggers the endolysosome damage response (ELDR) in order to co-ordinate

vesicle repair or removal by autophagy (lysophagy). However, it is unclear whether persistent damage,

as occurs after chronic challenge to lysosome integrity, triggers wider cellular responses. Here, we

show that longitudinal treatment with a lysosomotropic cancer therapeutic, the CDK4/6 inhibitor

Palbociclib, invokes chronic lysosome damage in breast and lung cancer cells. Autophagy ameliorates

but does not avert this phenotype, which persists over days. Damaged lysosomes form contacts with

mitochondria, which correlates with mitochondrial stress and cytosolic efflux of immunostimulatory

mitochondrial nucleic acids. Importantly, mitochondrial nucleic acid release is necessary for the anti-

cancer interferon response to Palbociclib. In conclusion, chronic lysosome damage rewires cellular

signalling responses in a mitochondrion-dependent manner and this effect should be considered when

assessing the cellular actions of cancer therapeutics.

Summary statement

Bozic *et al* suggest that lysosome damage can trigger interferon responses dependent upon
mitochondrial release of immunogenic nucleic acid. This is associated with damaged lysosome-
mitochondrion contacts and is prevented by autophagy.

Introduction

Lysosomes are single membrane-bound hydrolytic organelles that act at the termini of endocytic and
autophagic pathways [1]. Although rupture of pathogen-containing phagolysosomes is a feature of some
infections [2], it is also well established that, in a sterile context, widespread loss of integrity of
lysosomes can result in toxic leakage of hydrolytic proteases to the cytoplasm and subsequent cell
death [3]. However, acute, sublethal loss of lysosome membrane integrity typically induces the
endolysosome damage response (ELDR), a collective term for pathways facilitating membrane
stabilisation and repair [4-6], new lysosome biogenesis [7] or lysophagy [8], the latter being the process of
selective degradation of the damaged lysosome via autophagy [9]. Lysophagy requires evolutionarily-
conserved core autophagy proteins that facilitate generation of nascent autophagosome vesicles and
the concurrent sequestration of damaged lysosome cargo therein [10,11]. Mature autophagosomes fuse
with healthy lysosomes to facilitate degradation of sequestered cargo. Damaged lysosomes are
initially recognised for degradation via "eat-me" signals [8,12]. These include recruitment of galectin
proteins, for instance Galectin 8 (GAL8) [2,13], to glycosylated lysosomal membrane proteins, and
conjugation of polyubiquitin chains to lysosomal proteins [14,15].

Mechanistically, acute damage to lysosomes leads to galectin- and polyubiquitin-mediated
recruitment of molecules that mediate lysophagy [2,7,13,16-21], in particular adaptors that bind directly to
ATG8 (LC3/GABARAP) proteins conjugated to nascent autophagosome membranes [22] and which also
recruit additional factors upstream of ATG8 conjugation [23-26]. Indeed, deletion of *ATG5* (Autophagy
Related 5)*, which prevents ATG8 conjugation to autophagosomal (and lysosomal) membranes, is
effective in stabilising damaged lysosomes by ablating lysophagy and also by compromising ATG8-
mediated recruitment of repair factors [27,28]. Importantly, the removal and repair responses described
above are engaged acutely, within minutes of lysosomal damage.

Notably, while extensive lysosome damage provokes cell death, linked to neurodegeneration [1,3] and
disorders in other tissues such as kidney [9], it is known that lysosome damage *per se* is not necessarily
lethal to cells [29], and the broader cellular consequences of chronic — yet sublethal — damage are
unclear. This is particularly true in the context where the acute restorative ELDR functions, such as
those dependent upon *ATG5*, are overwhelmed. Recent data indicate that programmed signalling
responses to lysosome damage may exist [13]. For instance, lysosome rupture triggers RNA stress
granule formation via Protein Kinase R (PKR) activation, which may maintain cell survival, over at least

the first four hours of lysosomal challenge [30,31]. However, on the whole, mechanistic studies have

focussed heavily on acute damage after treatment with tool compounds, such as the membrane lytic

peptide L-Leucyl-L-Leucine methyl ester (LLOMe) [9]. Importantly, numerous cancer therapeutics

accumulate within lysosomes in either the cancer cells or other cell types. Generally, this phenomenon

is viewed as detracting from therapeutic output by sequestering molecules from their primary targets.

Nonetheless, it is possible that this may be consequential for the mechanism of the drugs. For

instance, exposure of primary myeloid cells with lysosomotropic tyrosine kinase inhibitors may trigger

lysosome damage and inflammasome activation, potentially contributing to treatment efficacy [32].

Palbociclib (Pb) is an important anti-cancer drug that is sequestered from its enzymatic target, the

cell-cycle progression kinase CDK4/6 (cyclin-dependent kinase 4/6), due to lysosomal trapping [33].

Strikingly, in addition to cell-cycle inhibition, Palbociclib also engages an anti-tumoural interferon

response [34-36]. Signalling occurs via detection of immunostimulatory moieties, purportedly from

nuclear-derived double-stranded (ds) RNA [37], by cytosolic pattern recognition receptors (PRRs) [38],

including RIG-I (retinoic-acid inducible gene 1) working in tandem with MAVS (mitochondrial antiviral

signaling protein) [39-42]. This action of Palbociclib has been shown to drive anti-tumour immunity [34].

Indeed, discovering triggers and mechanisms of sterile interferon responses via PRRs is an important

research goal in cancer therapy [43,44]. Other potential triggers could include exogenous DNA, nuclear

DNA, and mitochondrial DNA or dsRNA [45-48].

Here, we reveal a link between chronic lysosome damage and interferon signalling. We show that

chronic lysosome damage can be provoked by Palbociclib, independently of CDK4/6, as well as the

tool compound LLOMe. Chronic lysosome damage results in persistent interorganellar contacts

between ruptured lysosomes and mitochondria. Lysosome damage is associated with stress responses

within mitochondria and, ultimately, accumulation of immunostimulatory mitochondrial nucleic acid

in the cytosol, which we show is a requisite event for productive interferon responses. However, in

the case of Palbociclib the interferon responses are synergistically facilitated by concomitant CDK4/6

inhibition. Overall, our data show that mitochondria act as priming hubs in triggering of sterile

interferon responses associated with chronic lysosome damage. This molecular mechanism has

implications for understanding of — and for amelioration or enhancement of — the cellular response

to various chronic insults, including cancer therapeutics.

Results

Palbociclib induces chronic lysosome damage and ELDR

We hypothesised that Palbociclib (Pb) might trigger lysophagy since it accumulates in lysosomes and

causes swelling [33], i.e., potentially indicative of lysosome damage. Importantly, cancer treatments are

applied chronically, over days and weeks, rather than on the acute minute-to-hour scales typically

employed in lysophagy studies. We thus examined engagement of lysophagy flux by 24 h treatment

with Pb, alongside the established lysosome-damaging compound LLOMe; these assays were

performed using a new, sensitive reporter consisting of GAL8 fused to the C-terminus of SRAI (signal-

retaining autophagy indicator, Fig. 1A) [49,50]. Similar to LLOMe, Pb treatment was discovered to trigger

lysophagy flux in A549 lung and MCF7 breast cancer cells (Figs. 1B, C, S1). Corroborating this, we also

tested GAL8 fused to the conventional mRFP-GFP autophagy flux probe, and enumerated discrete

individual autolysosomes containing damaged lysosome remnants ($mRFP^+$ GFP^- galectolysosomes,

wherein the acidic lysosome environment quenches the GFP signal, Fig. 1D, E). Again, these were

induced by Pb treatment; additionally, consistent with elevated lysophagy flux, they were dependent

upon *ATG5* (non-targeted wild-type, NT, compared with Δ*ATG5* cells, Fig. 1D, E).

Next, we examined the steady-state abundance of damaged lysosomes over both acute and chronic

treatment regimens. YFP-GAL8 foci, indicative of undegraded and unrepaired damaged lysosomes,

were observed in response to chronic 48 h Pb treatment in A549 cells (Fig. 2A), in particular within the

autophagy-deficient Δ*ATG5* cells. These YFP-GAL8 foci co-stained with the lysosomal maker lysosomal-

associated membrane protein 2 (LAMP2), as expected (Fig. 2B). Quantifying these foci at multiple time

points of treatment, it was observed that treatment with Pb provoked a biphasic response in wild-

type A549 (NT) cells; a single dose invoked YFP-GAL8 foci accumulation within 1 h, peaking at 24 h,

but then resolving by 48 h (Fig. 2C), whereas in Δ*ATG5* cells damaged lysosomes persisted at 48 h. A

similar trend was observed for single dose LLOMe treatment, although the peak abundance of

damaged lysosomes was observed earlier and, while still evident at 8 h, was completely resolved by

24 h in wild-type (NT) cells (Fig. 2D). Broadly similar responses to Pb and LLOMe were seen in wild-

type MCF7 cells, although Palbociclib-induced lysosome damage was still evident at 48 h here,

suggesting a lower capacity than A549 cells for *ATG5*-dependent damage resolution (Fig. 2E, F). Finally,

the lysosome damaging effect of Pb was observed to be independent of its nucleocytoplasmic targets,

CDK4 and CDK6; A549 Δ*ATG5* cells were stably knocked out for CDK4 (Δ*CDK4*) and then CDK6 was

acutely knocked out (g*CDK6*), immediately prior to Pb treatment (in order to avoid confounding

senescence engaged by double knockout) (Fig. 2G), yet this did not alter YFP-GAL8 focus induction by

Pb (Fig. 2H).

Considering the above data together, we propose a new role for Pb in inducing chronic lysosome

damage and lysophagy, independently of its primary target, CDK4/6. Moreover, the stabilisation of

damaged lysosomes in A549 *ΔATG5* cells, after single treatment with Pb, provides a facile

experimental setting for unpicking the events downstream of chronic lysosome damage.

Damaged lysosomes associate with mitochondria

Under basal conditions, unperturbed lysosomes form transient interorganellar contacts with

mitochondria [51]. Given reports that Pb may also perturb mitochondrial physiology [52], we hypothesised

that damaged lysosomes could associate with mitochondria. To explore this, we first performed

transmission electron microscopy (TEM) of Pb-treated A549 cells (Fig. 3A). Here, particularly in *ATG5*-

deficient cells, the presence of swollen, electron-lucent lysosomes was apparent when compared to

untreated controls. The increased mass of the lysosomal compartment was corroborated by flow

cytometry with Lysotracker Red (LTR) (Fig. 3B) and morphometric quantification of the TEM images

(Fig. 3C). The latter analysis also revealed that interorganellar contacts between lysosomes and the

mitochondrial network were increased (Fig. 3D, see also arrowheads in zoom panel in Fig. 3A). Thus,

we inferred that swollen lysosomes induced by Pb were in contact with the mitochondrial network,

although it was not possible to determine if any of these were damaged *per se*. Thus, next, using super-

resolution immunofluorescence microscopy, we determined that YFP-GAL8 lysosome foci induced by

Pb were indeed associated with — and enwrapped — the mitochondrial network (demarcated by

Translocase of Outer Mitochondrial Membrane, TOM20, Fig. 3E, Movie S1). The non-random nature

of this association was quantified by analysing the distances of YFP-GAL8 foci from the outer surface

of the mitochondrial network and comparing to those observed after YFP-GAL8 foci were

computationally shuffled to random positions within the cytoplasmic space (Fig. 3F). Finally, foci

dynamics were observed by super-resolution radial fluctuation (SRRF) time-lapse microscopy (Fig. 3G,

Movies S2, 3). YFP-GAL8 structures persistently resided along the mitochondrial network, with no or

few dissociation events observed over recording times of 10 minutes (Fig. 3G, Movies S2, 3). Taking

the above data together, we conclude that chronic damage by Pb results in ruptured lysosomes — or

fragments thereof — becoming stably associated with the mitochondrial network.

Lysosome damage triggers stereotypical markers of mitochondrial nucleic acid stress

Recently, nucleic acid efflux from the mitochondrion has been described as a signal that triggers

interferon responses. This phenomenon frequently correlates with evidence of mitochondrial nucleic

acid stress, as visualised by the aggregation of mitochondrial genome nucleoids [53-55]. We hypothesised

that contact between damaged lysosomes and mitochondria might be associated with such

mitochondrial nucleic acid stress. Indeed, we observed the formation of large TFAM (mitochondrial

transcription factor A)- and DNA-positive foci in the mitochondrial network in response to chronic Pb

treatment, indicative of aggregated mitochondrial nucleoids (Fig. 4A, B, C, D). This was greatest in

Δ*ATG5* cells, underscoring the relationship between sustained presence of damaged lysosomes and

the mitochondrial response to Pb. Corroborating the nucleoid imaging data, similar results were

obtained when aggregated nucleoids were alternately imaged by staining for FAST kinase domains 2

(FASTKD2), which marks nucleoid-associated RNA processing granules [56] (Fig. 4E, F). Further

consolidating the lysosomal association with the mitochondrial stress response, chronic treatment

with LLOMe also engendered nucleoid aggregation (Fig. 4G, H). Finally, robust mitochondrial nucleic

acid stress responses were also detected in wild-type MCF7 cells treated with Pb or LLOMe (Fig. 4I, J).

Taken together, the above data demonstrate that chronic lysosome damage is associated with

mitochondrial stress responses.

Palbociclib treatment triggers mitochondrial nucleic acid release into the cytosol and interferon

responses

Given the detection of mitochondrial nucleic acid stress upon Pb-mediated lysosome damage, we next

sought to directly detect immunostimulatory nucleic acid release from mitochondria. We prepared

mitochondrion-free cytosolic extracts (Fig. 5A) from cell clones deleted for Δ*ATG5* or rescued by

reintroduction of *GFP-ATG5* [57]; use of these paired lines diminished potential clonal variation that

might have obscured subtle mitochondrial nucleic acid fluctuations. Cytosolic mitochondrial DNA and

RNA were found to be elevated in the cytosol in response to chronic Pb; again, this was more

prominent in Δ*ATG5* cells where lysosome damage is more poorly resolved (Fig. 5B, C). Given that Pb

is known to induce interferon responses, we set out to interrogate whether lysosome damage played

a role (and potentially thus cytoplasmic accumulation of mitochondrial nucleic acids). Firstly, we first

established that chronic Pb triggers interferon signalling, analysing hallmarks such as phosphorylation

of STAT1 (signal transducer and activation of transcription 1) and transcriptional activation of type III

interferons, i.e., *IFNL1*, and interferon response genes (IRGs), i.e., *ISG15*, *IFIT1* and *CXCL10*. Pb indeed

induced phosphorylation of STAT1 (Figs. 6A, B, S2) and transcriptional activation (Fig. 6C) in A549 cells

over 48 h, most prominently in ∆*ATG5* cells, correlating with the persistent lysosome damage known

to occur here. Furthermore, phosphorylation of STAT1 was seen when testing lower doses of Pb akin

to steady-state plasma concentrations achieved during clinical treatment, although with greater

latency (one week) (Fig. 6D). Also corroborating the link with lysosome damage, chronic LLOMe

treatment also induced interferon responses over 48 h (Fig. 6E, F). Finally, wild-type MCF7 cells also

exhibited interferon responses to chronic treatment with either Pb or LLOMe (Fig. 6G, H, I, J). Taken

together, the above data indicate that chronic lysosome damage is a contributor to induction of

interferon responses.

Mitochondrial nucleic acids are required for the interferon response to chronic lysosome damage

To test whether the observed release of mitochondrial nucleic acid triggers the interferon signalling

associated with Pb-induced lysosome damage, we next depleted mitochondrial genomes from A549

control (Rescue) and ∆*ATG5* cells, via chronic dideoxy-cytidine treatment, generating "Rho0" cultures

(Fig. S3A). Importantly, mitochondrial nucleic acid depletion inhibited engagement of downstream

markers of interferon production by Pb, including phosphorylation of STAT1 (Fig. 7A, B), and

transcriptional upregulation of *IFNL1* and *ISG15* (Fig. 7C). Two modes of nucleic acid efflux from

mitochondria have been postulated in the prior literature. The first is associated with stereotypical

markers of mitochondrial nucleic acid stress, as observed in Fig. 3, and can be blocked using the VDAC

channel inhibitor VBIT-4 [53-55]. The second is characterised by a requirement for mitochondrial BAK

(BCL2 antagonist/killer 1) and BAX (BCL2-associated X, apoptosis regulator) pore-forming proteins [58,59].

We found that interferon responses to Pb were indeed abrogated by VBIT-4 treatment (Fig. 7D, E) but

not *BAK* and *BAX* double knockout (Fig. S3B). This observation further corroborates the link between

the mitochondrial nucleic acid stress induced by lysosome damage and interferon signalling. In line

with this, chronic LLOMe treatment was also unable provoke phosphorylation of STAT1 in Rho0 cells

(Fig. 7F, G). Finally, given the association of mitochondrial depolarisation with at least some forms of

mitochondrial perturbation, we assessed this; however, ∆*ATG5* cells did not show depolarisation as

assessed by flow cytometry with JC-10 dye, whereas they did respond in this manner to a positive

control drug, GTTP (Gamitrinib-triphenylphosphonium) [60] (Fig. 7H). Taken together with our prior

findings, the above data demonstrate that lysosome damage triggers accumulation of mitochondrial

nucleic acid in the cytosol, and that this drives interferon responses. However, Pb also reportedly

triggers interferon responses by suppressing CDK4/6-mediated silencing of nuclear genome-derived

dsRNA [34]. Given that we observe that CDK4/6-independent lysosome damage is associated with

mitochondrial nucleic acid release, we hypothesised co-operation between on-target (kinase activity)

and off-target (lysosomal-mitochondrial) effects of Pb. Indeed, *CDK4/6* deletion, while insufficient to

engage robust interferon responses alone, synergised with Pb treatment to induce a maximal

response (Fig. 7I, J). Taking the above data together, we conclude that sustained suppression of

CDK4/6 kinase activity has the potential to engage interferon signalling via non-mitochondrial routes

[34], but that the lysosome-mitochondrion axis must co-operate to fully realise the interferon effect, at

least in the context of Pb treatment.

238   **Discussion**

Our findings support the following model (Fig. 8). In response to chronic exposure to the

lysosomotropic cancer therapeutic Palbociclib (Pb), persistent lysosome rupture is invoked. Acute

lysosome damage typically leads to repair, removal and/or replacement of the damaged organelle.

These responses are at the core of the ELDR. We propose that in cells where chronic lysosome damage

is insufficient to trigger cell death, propagation of stress signalling via lysosome-mitochondrion

association leads to accumulation of cytosolic, self-derived immunostimulatory nucleic acids,

triggering interferon signalling. Indeed, other recent data have hinted that stress signals emanating

from acutely damaged lysosomes trigger wider changes in cell physiology [30-32].   However, we

acknowledge that – despite the triggering of such mitochondrial phenomena also by the tool

compound LLOMe – it is possible that direct effects of Palbociclib on mitochondria contribute to this

phenotype.. It is also possible the involvement of other organelles that form contacts with both

mitochondria and lysosomes – such as the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) [61] – could be involved in

lysosome-mitochondrial communication, but this remains to be tested.

In the case of Pb treatment, the mitochondrial response associated with lysosome damage is required

for interferon signalling but maximal stimulation occurs in co-operation with the known CDK4/6-

inhibitory activity of the drug, explaining fully this important anti-cancer facet of Pb action.

Instructively, mitochondrial nucleic acids may similarly be required to license interferon responses

after *Salmonella* infection [62]. This is suggestive when one considers that bacterial phagosome damage

by infectious agents can also engage selective autophagy mechanisms with molecular parallels to

lysophagy [2]. Furthermore, it has been recently suggested that damage to lysosomes invoked by

pathogens effects broad changes in mitochondrial proteome, secondarily to vesicular rupture [63].

Taking these observations together, we speculate that mitochondrial responses associated with

lysosome damage may have initially evolved to consolidate infection responses by priming interferon

responses, but not in itself triggering maximal signalling, i.e., co-operating with additional stimuli such
as nucleic acids or other patterns physically derived from the infectious agent. However, these ideas
require future exploration.

Our data show that the lysosome damage-induced interferon response depends on chronic
perturbation. For instance, A549 cells deleted for ΔATG5, which are deficient in the ELDR, show a more
robust response to Pb and LLOMe, which correlates with more sustained lysosome damage. Similarly,
wild-type MCF7 cells show evidence of resolution of lysosome damage but more slowly than wild-type
A549 cells, and this again correlates with a more readily detectable interferon response. However, it
is possible that other functions of *ATG5* in autophagy pathways, for instance degradation of PRRs,
could also contribute to the observed *ATG5*-dependency in A549 cells [64-67]. Similarly, the loss of
mitophagy in these *ATG5*-deficient cells could also contribute to high levels of interferon response [68].
Overall, our data nonetheless still establish an association between lysosome damage and
engagement of interferon responses via mitochondrial release of nucleic acid.

Finally, our results highlight an important consideration when investigating small-molecule
therapeutics for cancer. The lysosome is sometimes considered a passive problem for therapy, in that
it sequesters basophilic drugs from their site of action [33]. Although the mitochondrion is implicated
here in response to Pb, it is unlikely that it will ultimately prove to be the only consequential signalling
hub responding to chronic lysosome damage. Indeed, we would suggest that off-target signalling
effects of cancer therapeutic drugs consequent from chronic accumulation in the lysosome should be
factored into cell-based drug action studies in future. This will facilitate holistic understanding of
therapeutic compound action and thus, ultimately, promote refinement of clinical applications.

Acknowledgements

We thank Richard Youle, Viktor Korolchuk, Noor Gammoh, Felix Randow for reagents. We thank Noor

Gammoh and Alex von Kriegsheim for feedback. We thank Steven Mitchell for assistance with electron

microscopy. For the purpose of open access, the author has applied a CC-BY public copyright licence

to any Author Accepted Manuscript version arising from this submission.

Funding

This work was supported by a Cancer Research UK (C20685/A29576 to S.W.).

Methods

Cell culture and cell lines

Cells were cultured in DMEM supplemented with 10% FBS, 2 mM L-glutamine and 10 U ml^{-1} 10 µg ml^{-1}

^{1} penicillin/streptomycin, at 37°C under 5% CO_2. At monthly intervals all cells in culture were tested

for the presence of mycoplasma. A549 NT, $\Delta ATG5$ and Rescue ($\Delta ATG5$ + GFP-ATG5) lines were

described previously by the authors and are a derivative of the A549:EcoR parental cell line, which is

A549 human lung adenocarcinoma cells derivatised to express Ecotropic receptor to enable

transduction with retrovirus with murine tropism [69]. MCF7:EcoR cells were newly generated, by the

same protocol, in this study, from parental MCF7 cells. Parental A549:EcoR and MCF7 breast

carcinoma lines were from the authors' laboratory and were verified by microsatellite genotyping.

YFP-GAL8 expressing retrovirus (see **Plasmids**) was used to generate stable A549 line pool, as

described previously [69]; pools of transductants were selected with 10 µg ml^{-1} blasticidin for 10 days.

Stable MCF7 cell pools expressing YFP-GAL8 were similarly generated from parental MCF7-EcoR cells

(selection in 50 µg ml^{-1} blasticidin). A549-EcoR cells stably expressing mRFP-GFP-GAL8 were made by

lentivirus transduction (see **Plasmids**) and a pool of transductants selected with 10 µg ml^{-1} blasticidin.

A549-EcoR and MCF7 cells stably expressing SRAI-GAL8 were created by lentiviral transduction (see

Plasmids) and selection with 10 µg ml^{-1} blasticidin. Then, cell populations expressing high YPet and

TOLLES fluorescent levels were enriched using a FACSAria II (BD Bioscience, San Jose, CA). To enable

both pooled and single clone CRISPR/Cas9 knockouts in A549-EcoR cell lines, stable expression of Cas9

was achieved by transducing lentivirus made from LentiCas9-Blast template and selection with 10 µg

ml^{-1} blasticidin. CRISPR/Cas9-mediated knockout in the resulting lines expressing Cas9 was performed

using lentiviral delivery of gRNA. Non-targeting/targeting sgRNA was cloned into lentiGuide-puro for

lentivirus production, and transductants selected for with 2.5 µg ml^{-1} puromycin. gRNA sequences

were: GFP (NT): GTGAACCGCATCGAGCTGAA; Luciferase (NT-2): AACGGCGGCGGGAAGTTCAC; MAVS:

TCTTCAATACCCTTCAGCGG; CDK4: TGTAGTGATGCGCGACGACA; CDK6: CTATTACTGAGCTCGATGTG;

BAX: GGCGGTGATGGACGGGTCCG; BAK: GGAACTCTGAGTCATAGCGT. Where single cell clones were

used, this was achieved via limiting dilution. All lentivirus was packaged in HEK293T cells according to

standard protocols; briefly, viral vector was co-transfected with pMD2.G and psPAX2 packaging

plasmids using Lipofectamine 2000.

Drug treatments

Seeding density was normalised per experiment treatment requirements. Cells were plated to be

approaching confluency, but not yet confluent, at the point of analysis. Typically, one third of the

number of cells to be treated with higher doses (e.g. 10 μM) Pb (Pb-HCL, Cayman #16273, dissolved

in DMSO) were seeded relative to the cognate DMSO vehicle treatments for 48 h treatments, and one

half for 24 h treatments, to compensate the cytostatic effect of Pb. For 10 μM Pb treatment, treatment

was applied once for the entire duration. For longer term treatments using 500 nM Pb, cells were

plated on day 0, treatment was initiated on day 1, and medium was refreshed with new drug or vehicle

at day 4. LLOMe (LLOMe-HCL, Cayman #16008, dissolved in DMSO) was dosed at 700 μM. VBIT-4

(Selleckchem #S3544) was dissolved in DMSO and used at 10 μM.

Mitochondrial genome depleted cultures

To generate paired Rho$^+$ and Rho0 cultures, cells were cultured in standard medium supplemented

with 200 μM uridine (Sigma #U3750) and, for Rho0 culture, with an additional 10 μM ddC (2',3'-

dideoxycytidine, Sigma #D5782) for 14 consecutive days [48]. Cells were then maintained in culture for

a maximum of another week in medium still supplemented with ddC.

Plasmids

See Table S1 for full list. Where Gateway cloning was performed this was as per standard protocols

using BP clonase II and LR clonase II (Invitrogen). sgRNA cloning into lentiGuide-puro vector was

performed using restriction digestion as per the standard protocols available from Addgene. Detailed

sequence maps are available from authors upon request.

Immunoblotting

Cells were lysed in 4% SDS lysis buffer (4% SDS, 50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5 and 150 mM NaCl), followed

by pulse sonication. Protein concentration was measured by BCA protein assay, using the Pierce™ BCA

protein assay kit (Thermo Fisher, #23225). Normalised protein samples were diluted in Laemmli buffer

(4% SDS, 20% glycerol, 10% 2-mercaptoethanol, 0.125 M Tris-HCl pH 6.8, bromophenol blue) and

briefly heated to 95°C. SDS-PAGE was carried out using either 4-12% NuPage™ Bis-Tris Precast mini,

or 4-12% Novex™ Tris-Glycine precast midi gels (Thermo Fisher), in 1x NuPage™ MOPS SDS running

buffer (Thermo Fisher) or Pierce™ Tris-Glycine SDS running buffer (Thermo Fisher), respectively. Wet

transfer was used to transfer protein from mini gels, performed onto 0.2 μm nitrocellulose membrane

(GE Life Sciences), and semi-wet transfer system (Trans-blot turbo, Bio-Rad) was used to transfer

proteins from midi gels. Membranes were blocked in 5% BSA (Sigma) in PBS for 1 h at room

temperature (RT). All washes were performed three times in TBS - 0.1% Tween 20 (TBST), for 10 min

each at RT. Primary antibody dilution was in 0.1% BSA in PBS with 0.05% sodium azide, typically at

1:1000 except for α-Tubulin (1:50000). Membranes were incubated in primary antibody solution

overnight at 4 °C. The following antibodies were used: anti-ATG5 (Sigma, #A0731), anti-Calnexin (Cell

Signalling Technology [CST], #2679), anti-CDK4 (CST, #12790), anti-CDK6 (CST, #3136), anti-ISG15 (CST,

#2743), anti-MAVS (CST, #3993), anti-phosho-Y701-STAT1 (CST, #9167), anti-STAT1 (CST #9176), anti-

TOM20 (Santa Cruz, #sc-17764), anti-Cytochrome C apoptosis antibody cocktail (Abcam, #ab110415)

and anti-α-Tubulin (Sigma, #T9026). Secondary antibody solution was 0.1% powdered milk in TBST in

1:3000 dilution. Membranes were incubated with cognate HRP-linked secondary antibody (CST) for 1

h at RT. For detection, membranes were incubated in ECL reagent (ECL prime, Western blotting

reagent, GE Life Sciences) for 5 min at RT, or ECL reagent (1 M Tris-HCl pH 8.5, 250 mM luminol, 90

mM coumaric acid and 0.002% H_2O_2) for 1 min at RT, followed by film exposure and development

(AGFA automated developer), or chemiluminescent imaging (Amersham ImageQuant 800, software

v1.2.0). Relative protein band intensities were quantified using FIJI (v2.1.0). For P-STAT1, this is given

as a ratio to tubulin, as STAT1 itself is an interferon stimulated gene. Uncropped blots are shown in

Figs. S4-6.

Immunostaining

For immunofluorescence experiments, cells were typically seeded onto round 16 mm cover glass

(Fisher Scientific) except for super-resolution microscopy where cells were seeded on high-precision

cover glass (Zeiss™, Fisher Scientific). Cells were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA) / PBS for 10 min

at RT and washed once in PBS. Permeabilization was performed for 10 min at RT using 0.25% Triton X-

100 (Sigma) / PBS, followed by another PBS wash. Primary and secondary antibody solution was

diluted in PBS / 1% BSA, typically at 1:200 (except p62 used at 1:1000). Secondary antibody solution

typically contained DAPI at 1:2500. Cells were incubated with primary antibody solution for 1 h, at RT,

followed by 3 x 5 min PBS washes. The following antibodies were used: anti-DNA (EMD Milipore,

#CBL186), anti-FASTKD2 (Proteintech, #17464-1-AP), anti-LAMP2 (Abcam, #ab25631), anti-TFAM (CST,

#8076), anti-TOM20 (CST, #42406) (used when co-staining with mouse antibodies), anti-TOM20 (Santa

Cruz, #sc-17764) (used when co-staining with rabbit antibodies and YFP-GAL8) and anti-DNA (Merck-

Millipore, #CBL186). Secondary antibody was cognate fluorophore linked secondary antibody (Thermo

Fisher, Alexa Fluor). Secondary antibody solution was applied to cells for 45 min, at RT, followed by 3

x 5 min PBS washes. Regular cover glass was mounted onto a microscope slide using DAKO

fluorescence mounting medium. High-precision cover glass super-resolution microscopy was

mounted using Fluoromount™ aqueous mounting medium (Sigma).

Fluorescence Microscopy

For widefield immunofluorescence microscopy, images were taken with Olympus BX51 fluorescent

microscope (Cell^F software). For confocal microscopy, images were taken using a Nikon A1R laser-

scanning confocal microscope. Images are presented as maximum projection Z-stacks. Super-

resolution images were acquired using Super Resolution Optical Photon Reassignment Microscopy on

a Nikon Eclipse Ti2 inverted microscope stand and a SR Apo TIRF 100x 1.49NA oil lens (Nikon

Instruments). The CMOS cameras used for acquisition were Teledyne Photometrics Prime 95B

(Teledyne Photometrics 3440 E.Britannia Drive, Tucson AZ) and 405, 488, 561, 640nm laser lines.

Acquisition of images and deconvolution was carried out using Nikon NIS-Elements Advanced

Research software (v5.21-03). For imaging SRAI-GAL8, cells were plated on glass bottom 96 well plates

(P96-1.5H-N, Cellvis) at 70-90% confluency. Cells were fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde in PBS, pH 7.2

at room temperature for 10 mins. Cells were then washed twice with PBS and kept at 4°C. Cells were

imaged 1-3 days after fixation while immersed in PBS. Images were captured with a Nikon Eclipse Ti-

E inverted microscope (Nikon Instruments UK Ltd, Kingston Upon Thames, UK) using a 40X objective.

Widefield illumination for this was provided by a CoolLED PE-4000 LED light source (CoolLED Ltd,

Andover, UK) combined with LED-CFP/YFP/mCherry-3X-A (Pinkel) filter sets (IDEX Health & Science,

LLC, Center of Excellence, 1180 John Street, Rochester, New York 14586, United States). Images were

acquired with a Photometrics Prime BSI sCMOS camera (Teledyne Photometrics, 3440 E. Britannia

Drive, Suite 100, Tucson, AZ 85706). Conditional imaging was setup and controlled using the Nikon

Nis-Elements JOBS module. The JOB (script) incorporates automated two wavelength capture of 3D

images (Z stacks for CFP and YFP filters) from an array of imaging sites (XY positions) using a motorised

XY stage within user selected wells (a total of 7 fields per well were imaged). SRAI-GAL8 images are

shown as z-projections from 5 z-steps.

SRRF Time-lapse videomicroscopy

Time-lapse videomicroscopy was performed by exchanging full medium for phenol-red free medium

containing 0.132 µg ml^{-1} MitoTracker Red and fresh Pb 30 mins prior to imaging. Images were acquired

on the multimodal Imaging Platform Dragonfly (Andor technologies, Belfast UK) equipped with 405,

445, 488, 514, 561, 640 and 680nm lasers built on a Nikon Eclipse Ti-E inverted microscope body with

Perfect focus system (Nikon Instruments, Japan). Super Resolution Radial Fluctuations (SRRF) data

were acquired using the iXon 888 EMCCD camera and a 100x SR Apo TIRF 1.49NA objective lens.

Environmental control of the cultured cells was maintained during imaging with an Okolab bold line

stage top incubation chamber incorporating temperature and humidified CO2 control (Okolab S.R.L,

Ottaviano, NA, Italy).

Transmission electron microscopy (TEM)

Fixative solution was prepared by mixing fresh aqueous 16% paraformaldehyde (from methanol-free

powder, Sigma) and fresh 25% EM grade glutaraldehyde (Merck) to final concentration 2%

paraformaldehyde, 2.5% glutaraldehyde in 0.1 M PHEM buffer (120 mM PIPES, 50 mM HEPES, 4 mM

$MgCl_2$ and 20 mM EGTA, pH 6.9). Two 15 cm dishes per condition of cells were used and cells pelleted

by centrifugation 200 g for 3 min in a 15 mL tube. Cells were resuspended in the fixative solution and

incubated for 20 min at room temperature, on a slow-motion roller bank. Cells were then centrifuged,

supernatant removed, and fresh fixative solution added. The second fixative solution was incubated

with cells for 4 h at room temperature, on a slow-motion roller bank. The cells were washed 3 times

with 0.1 M PHEM buffer and stored in 0.1 M PHEM until embedding in EPON resin at 4°C (2-3 days).

Sections were co-stained with uranyl acetate and lead citrate to provide membrane contrast. TEM

images were taken by JEOL JEM-1400 series, 120 kV transmission electron microscope.

Image analyses

From SRAI-GAL8 images, a TOLLES:YPet index was obtained using an ImageJ macro that calculates the

percent area of pixels with TOLLES:YPet ratio above a given ratio over the total area that the

fluorophore occupies within the field [50]. A ratio of 1.75 was used. Substructures in cells (foci,

lysosomes, nuclei) were generally counted manually using ImageJ cell counter plug-in. In the specific

instance of TFAM nucleoid aggregates, these were counted using the ImageJ Particle Analysis tool

(automated particle count with a minimum detected particle area threshold of 0.7 μm^2. Parameters

from TEM images (cytosol area, lysosome area, mitochondria-lysosome contact length) were

measured using the ImageJ ROI manager. The number of galectolysosomes formed in mRFP-GFP-

Galectin-8 cells were determined by counting GFP quenched, mRFP positive foci using the ImageJ

MitoQC plug-in [70].

Images obtained by SoRa were 3D deconvoluted using NIS elements imaging software (Nikon, v5.21-
03) and further analysed using Imaris software (v9.9.1). YFP-GAL8 foci were modelled as centroids.
Similarly, the mitochondria network surface masking was applied according to the intensity of TOM20
fluorescent signal. The same modelling settings were used on all images acquired. Standard Imaris
measurements were extracted showing the distance from the YFP-GAL8 foci to the rendered
mitochondrial network, measured from the centre of modelled YFP-GAL8 centroids to the outer
surface of the modelled mitochondrial network, with the radius of the centroid then subtracted. To
assess association of YFP-GAL8 foci with the mitochondrial network, they were compared with a
shuffled control. In these controls, an ImageJ plug-in was created to randomly shuffle the YFP-GAL8
foci within the cytosolic area on a per cell basis (cytosolic area as outlined by the reach of the
mitochondrial network).

Cytosol fractionation for nucleic acid quantification

Methods were adapted from previously published protocols [47,71]. Cells were trypsinised and fresh
medium added to inactivate trypsin, then centrifuged at 200 g at 4 °C. The supernatant was then
aspirated, and cells washed by gentle pipetting in 1 ml of ice-cold PBS. The centrifugation and PBS
wash was repeated once more. The pellet was then resuspended in 500 μl (per 60 mm dish) of ice-
cold fractionation buffer (50 mM HEPES pH 7.4, 150 mM NaCl, 25 μg ml^{-1} fresh digitonin (Sigma,
#11024-24-1) and 1 X Complete Protease Inhibitor Cocktail with EDTA, Roche). When RNA was to be
isolated from the cytosolic fractions 4 U RNase inhibitor (Promega, #N2111) was added to the
fractionation buffer. The suspensions were incubated end-over-end for 10 mins at 4 °C to allow
selective plasma membrane permeabilization, then centrifuged at 1000 g for 3 min to pellet cells
(insoluble fraction). The cytosolic supernatant was transferred to a fresh tube, pelleted at 1000 g for
3 mins, and the resulting cleared supernatant transferred to a fresh tube. This cytosolic supernatant
was finally centrifuged at 17000 g for 10 min to pellet any remaining non-cytosolic cellular material or
debris. The cytosolic fraction was transferred to a fresh tube. The insoluble fraction was solubilised in
in 4% SDS lysis buffer (4% SDS, 50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5 and 150 mM NaCl), 300 μL of lysis buffer per 60
mm dish, and pulse sonicated.

In those instances where the cytosolic fraction was to be used for DNA abundance quantification, an
additional step was introduced into the above procedure where, after initial cell trypsinisation, one-
third of the cell suspension was separately pelleted and lysed by addition of 400 μl of 50 μM NaOH,

followed by heating at 95°C for 30 min to solubilise DNA, and neutralised by adding 50 μl 1 M Tris-HCL

(pH 8.0). These extracts served as normalisation controls (*ACTB* qPCR, see below)

Nucleic acid purification

For total cell RNA isolation, cells were lysed directly in RLT lysis buffer with added β-mercaptoethanol

as per manufacturer's protocol (Qiagen, RNeasy kit), and RNA was isolated using by spin-column RNA

extraction kit (Qiagen, RNeasy kit). For RNA isolation from cytosolic fractions (above), Trizol /

chloroform extraction was performed. Briefly, cytosolic fractions were mixed with Trizol (Thermo

Fisher, #15596026) in a 1:1 ratio and incubated for 5 min. 0.2 mL of chloroform per 1 mL of Trizol was

added to the mixture and vortexed vigorously for 15 seconds, followed by incubation at room

temperature for 2 min. The mixture was centrifuged at 12,000 g for 15 min at 4°C. Following

centrifugation, the upper aqueous phase was transferred carefully into a fresh RNase-free tube. 25 μg

of GlycoBlue coprecipitant (Thermo Fisher, #AM9516) was added and RNA precipitated by mixing with

0.5 mL of isopropanol per 1 ml of original Trizol reagent used, then incubation at room temperature

for 10 min, followed by centrifugation at 12,000 g for 10 min at 4°C. The supernatant was removed

completely and discarded. The RNA pellet was washed once with 1 ml of 75% ethanol per 1 ml of

original Trizol reagent used, and subsequent centrifugation at 7,500g for 5 min at 4°C. The ethanol

wash was then fully removed, and the cleaned RNA pellet air-dried for 10 min, then re-dissolved in

nuclease free water. To remove trace DNA, samples were treated with DNase-I using the RNAqueous

DNase kit (Thermo Fisher), according to the manufacturer's protocol. For DNA isolation from cytosolic

fractions (above), a spin-column DNA isolation kit (QIAamp, Qiagen) was used, according to the

manufacturer's protocol. DNA was eluted in nuclease-free water. Nucleic acid concentration and

purity was measured using a NanoDrop 2000c spectrophotometer (Thermo Scientific).

Quantitative PCR (qPCR)

Reverse transcription from RNA isolated from total cell lysates was done using QScript cDNA SuperMix

(QuantaBio #95048), according to the manufacturer's protocol. Reverse transcription from RNA

isolated from cytosolic fractions (above) was performed using the SuperScript III reverse transcriptase

(Thermo Fisher, cat.no 18080093). In both instances, random DNA hexamers were used for priming.

qPCR was performed using SYBR Select Master Mix (Applied Biosystems, #4472908), according to the

manufacturer's protocol, on a StepOne Real-Time PCR System instrument (ThermoFisher). For cDNA

from total cell RNA samples, transcripts were quantified using the ΔΔCt method, while standard curve

methodology was used to quantify cDNA/DNA obtained from cytosolic fractions. Each independent

replicate data point is typically the mean of 3 technical replicates. Primers used are listed in Table S2.

Flow cytometry

$\Delta ATG5$ A549 cells were plated in 6-well plates. The following day, cells were treated with DMSO or 10

µM Pb for 24 h. 4h 20 µM Gamitrinib TPP (GTPP, MedChemExpress, HY-102007A) treatment was

performed on the following day prior to incubation with JC-10. After corresponding times, cells were

incubated with 15 µM JC-10 (Enzo, #ENZ-52305) or 50 nM LysoTracker™ Red DND-99 (Invitrogen,

#L7528) in non-phenol red DMEM media (Gibco, #31053028) (supplemented with 10% FBS, 2 mM L-

glutamine and 10 U ml^{-1} 10 µg ml^{-1} penicillin/streptomycin) for 30 min at 37°C. Cells were then washed

with PBS, trypsinised for 5 min and fresh flow cytometry buffer (non-phenol red DMEM media

supplemented with 1% FBS, 2 mM L-glutamine and 10 U ml^{-1} 10 µg ml^{-1} penicillin/streptomycin) was

added to stop the reaction. Cells were centrifuged at 150 g for 3 min, resuspended in 500 µl of flow

cytometry buffer and kept on ice until analysed in a Cytoflex S flow cytometer (Beckman Coulter). JC-

10 monomeric was excited by a 488 nm laser line and emission collected through a 525/40BP. JC-

aggregates were excited with a 561 nm laser line and emission was collected through 585/42BP. To

quantify the changes in mitochondrial membrane potential the fluorescent ratio of

aggregating/monomeric JC-10 was used. Lysotracker red was excited by a 561 nm laser line and its

emission was collected through 610/20BP. Data was exported and analysed using FlowJo v10.10

software.

Statistical analyses

All statistical analysis was carried out using GraphPad (Prism) (version 9.5.1). Sample size for

experiments to provide adequate power were predicted based upon prior experience of the

experimenter and/or pilot data sampling. All independent biological replicates are represented with

standard error of the mean (s.e.m.). In the case of electron microscopy image analyses, individual cells

are represented as data points and variance described as standard deviation (s.d.). Tests are detailed

in figure legends. In general, an assumption of normality was made and all tests were two-sided. Thus,

where pairwise comparisons between two samples are performed, this is performed with an unpaired

Student's t-test or a one-sample t-test (latter instance when comparing against the normalisation

control). In a minority of cases where a non-normal distribution was clearly observed, a one-sample

Wilcoxon test was instead used for pairwise comparison (as indicated in figure legends). When

multiple comparisons were performed in instances where there was only one independent variable,

we generally used one-way ANOVA with Holm-Šídák testing. Where multiple comparisons were

performed in instances of two independent variables in data set (e.g., cell line identity and/or drug

application) we generally performed two-way ANOVA with Holm-Šídák testing. In the case of cytosolic

RNA/DNA analysis, ratio paired t-tests were performed. Replicates containing outliers as detected by

the Grubb's test were removed prior to the ratio paired t-test. Comparison of pairs of frequency

distributions were performed by the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test for each of three replicates, and a *P*-

value for each replicate generated individually.

Code availability

The custom FIJI (ImageJ) plug-in macro to shuffle galectin-8 foci within cell space is reproduced below:

```
561   1. # get current image, a image with labelled objects

562   2. plus=WindowManager.getCurrentImage()

563   3. # wrap ImagePlus into 3D suite image format

564   4. img=ImageInt.wrap(plus)

565   5. # create a population of 3D objects

566   6. pop=Objects3DPopulation(img)

567   7. # create a mask where to shuffle objects

568   8. # here same as input image

569   9. IJ.selectWindow("mask");

570   10. plus2=WindowManager.getCurrentImage()

571   11. maskimg=ImageInt.wrap(plus2)

572   12. obj=Object3Dvoxels(maskimg)

573   13. pop.setMask(obj)

574   14. # get the shuffled objects and build a population from them

575   15. listObjects=pop.shuffle()

576   16. pop2=Objects3Dpopulation(listObjects)

577   17. # draw the results

578   18. res = ImageShort("res", img.sizeX, img.sizeY, img.sizeZ)
```

579 `19. pop2.draw(res)`

580 `20. res.show("shuffle")`

Data Availability

583 All relevant data and details of resources can be found within the article and its supplementary

584 information. Uncropped blots are shown in Figs. S4-6. Raw data not included in this manuscript are

585 available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request. Plasmids, cell lines and other

586 reagents are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

Additional Information

589 The author(s) declare no competing interests.

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Author contributions

Study conception and funding acquisition by SW. Experiments designed by MB and SW. Experiments

performed by MB, with additional data generated by CSC, AK, AJK, TEL, KWI and NJM. Refinement of

mitochondrial nucleic acid analysis and mitochondrial genome depletion experiments by AD. FIJI

macro for GAL8-mitochondrion image analysis written by LM. Time-lapse video microscopy by AW. All

data analysis by MB, TEL, CSC and AK. Manuscript drafted by MB and SW. Editing performed by MB,

NJM and SW.

Figures

Figure 1 Palbociclib induces lysophagy

A) Schematic of SRAI (signal-retaining autophagy indicator)-Galectin 8 (GAL8) reporter for lysophagy.

In the cytosol, Ypet emission is low because TOLLES acts as a FRET donor. Conversely, upon completion

of lysophagy, Ypet is quenched by low pH and TOLLES fluorescence is apparent.

B-C) A549- or MCF7-SRAI-GAL8 cells were treated with DMSO, 0.7 mM LLOMe or 10 μM Palbociclib

(Pb) for 24 h then imaged by widefield fluorescence. **B)** Representative A549 images (also see **Fig. S1**).

C) Quantifications of TOLLES:Ypet (lysophagy flux) indices (n = 3 independent replicates, mean values

± s.e.m., 50-100 cells per condition per replicate, *** = $P < 0.001$, **** = $P < 0.0001$, 1-way ANOVA ,

Holm-Šídák comparisons vs. DMSO).

D-E) A549 NT (non-targeted) or $\Delta ATG5$ cells expressing mRFP-GFP-GAL8 were treated with DMSO or

10 μM Pb for 24 h prior to imaging by widefield fluorescence. **D)** Representative images, dotted lines

demarcate zoom areas. **E)** Quantifications of GFP⁻ mRFP⁺ galectolysosomes (n = 3 independent

replicates, mean values ± s.e.m., > 90 cells per condition per replicate, ** = $P < 0.01$, * = $P < 0.05$, 2-

way ANOVA, Holm-Šídák comparisons).

Scale bars = 20 μm.

28

Figure 2   Palbociclib induces chronic lysosome damage

A-B) A549 NT or Δ*ATG5* cells expressing YFP-GAL8 were treated with DMSO or 10 μM Pb for 48h. **A)** Representative widefield images, dotted lines demarcate zoom areas, arrows indicate foci. **B)** Representative confocal fluorescence images of LAMP2 co-staining, arrows indicate co-localisation foci in zoom area, dotted line delineates the intensity trace (below).

C-F) A549 NT, A549 Δ*ATG5* cells and MCF7 cells expressing YFP-GAL8 were treated for indicated time points with 10 μM Pb or 0.7 mM LLOMe, prior to imaging by widefield fluorescence. YFP-GAL8 foci quantifications are presented in **C), D)** and **F)** (*n* = 3 independent replicates, mean values ± s.e.m., > 100 cells per condition per replicate, **** = *P* < 0.0001, *** = *P* < 0.001, ** = *P* < 0.01, * = *P* < 0.05, coloured asterisks indicate significance vs. 0 h for a given treatment, black asterisks indicate

significance between different treatments, mixed-effects analysis, Holm-Šídák comparisons).

Representative images of MCF7 cells at 24 h shown in **E)**.

G-H) A549 $\Delta ATG5$ cells or $\Delta ATG5$ $\Delta CDK4$ derivatives, stably expressing Cas9 and YFP-GAL8, were

transduced with non-targeting sgRNA (gNT) or g*CDK6*. 72 h post gRNA transduction, cells were treated

with DMSO (-) or 10 µM Pb (+), for 24 h and either **G)** immunoblotted or **H)** fixed for widefield

fluorescence microscopy quantification of YFP-GAL8 foci, comparing *CDK4/6* intact controls ($\Delta ATG5$

gNT) with *CDK4/6* double knockout cultures ($\Delta ATG5$/g$\Delta CDK4$ g*CDK6*) (*n* = 3 independent replicates,

mean values ± s.e.m., > 110 cells per condition per replicate, ** = *P* < 0.01, * = *P* < 0.05, 2-way ANOVA,

Holm-Šídák comparisons).

Scale bars = 20 µm.

835 **Figure 3** **Damaged lysosomes are associated with the mitochondrial network**

836 **A)** A549 NT (non-targeted) or ∆*ATG5* cells were treated with DMSO or 10 µM Palbociclib (Pb) for 48 h

837 then analysed by TEM, representative images shown here (*n* = 20 images per condition). Dotted lines

838 delineate a zoom area showing swollen lysosomes contacting mitochondria (arrowheads delimit a

839 contact site, defined as continuous membrane opposition of < 30 nm).

840 **B)** Δ*ATG5* A549 treated with DMSO or 10 μM Pb for 24 h were incubated for 30 min with Lysotracker

841 Red (LTR, 50 nM) (no LTR in case of Pb alone control). Lysosomal content was analysed by flow

842 cytometry and median fluorescence intensity (MFI) was quantified. (n = 3 independent replicates,

843 mean ± s.e.m., **** = *P* < 0.0001, two-tailed t-test vs DMSO).

844 **C-D)** Quantifications of TEM shown in **A)**. **C)** The proportional cross-sectional area of lysosomes within

845 the cytoplasm. **D)** The length of lysosome-mitochondria (LM) contact sites per unit area of cytoplasm

846 (*n* = 20 images, * = *P* < 0.05, **= *P* < 0.01, *** = *P* < 0.001, 2-way ANOVA, Holm-Šídák comparisons).

847 Scale bars, 0.5 μm.

848 **E-F)** A549 Δ*ATG5* cells expressing YFP-GAL8 were treated with 10 μM Pb for 24 h, then stained for

849 TOM20 (mitochondrion) and imaged by Super Resolution Optical Photon Reassignment Microscopy

850 (SoRA). **E)** Representative raw images in upper panels, dotted lines (1-3) delineate the zoom areas in

851 the row below and the cognate mitochondrial surface rendered images in the bottom row. **F)** Relative

852 frequency distribution of distances between YFP-GAL8 foci and rendered mitochondria (Actual),

853 compared with *in silico* shuffling of these foci within the cytoplasm (Random) (*n* = 400 measurements

854 from 5 cells, Kolmogorov-Smirnov test, *P* < 0.0001, representative of 3 independent experiments). See

855 also **Movie S1**. Scale bars, 5 μm (merge), 1 μm (zooms).

856 **G)** A549 Δ*ATG5* cells expressing YFP-GAL8 were treated with 10 μM Pb for 6 h, then MitoTracker-Red

857 added 30 mins prior to super-resolution radial fluctuation (SRRF) processing-facilitated time-lapse

858 microscopy. White arrows: YFP-GAL8 positive membranes associated with the mitochondrial network.

859 See also: **Movies S2, 3**. Scale bars, 2 μm. Representative of *n* = 4 movies (technical replicates).

Figure 4   Lysosome damage is associated with stereotypical mitochondrial nucleic acid stress markers

A-F) A549 NT (non-targeting wild-type) or Δ*ATG5* cells were treated with DMSO or 10 μM Palbociclib (Pb) for 48 h. Cells were stained for mitochondria (TOM20) and mitochondrial nucleoids using **A,C)** anti-TFAM; **B,D)** anti-DNA; **E,F)** anti-FASTKD2 antibodies. **A,B)** Representative SoRA and **E)** confocal microscopy images. **C-D,F)** Wide-field fluorescence microscopy was used to quantify the aggregated nucleoids (TFAM foci with > 0.7 μm^2 cross-sectional area or prominent DNA/FASTKD2 foci) (n =3 independent replicates, mean values ± s.e.m., > 250 cells per condition per replicate, ns = non-significant, * = $P < 0.05$, **= $P < 0.01$, **** = $P < 0.0001$, 2-way ANOVA, Holm-Šídák comparisons DMSO vs. Pb). Dotted lines delineate zoom areas.

G-H) A549 NT or Δ*ATG5* cells were treated with DMSO or 700 μM LLOMe for 24 h. Cells were analysed for aggregated mitochondrial nucleoids as in **A)-F)**, quantifications presented here (n = 3 independent

replicates, mean values ± s.e.m, > 220 cells per condition per replicate, ns = non-significant, * = $P <$

0.05, ** = $P < 0.01$, **** = $p < 0.0001$, 2-way ANOVA, Holm-Šídák comparisons DMSO vs. LLOMe).

I-J) MCF7 cells were treated with DMSO, 700 μM LLOMe or 10 μM Pb, for 24 h, then analysed for

aggregated TFAM-positive nucleoids as in **A)** and **C). I)** Representative widefield fluorescence images.

J) Quantifications (n = 3 independent replicates, mean values ± s.e.m, > 150 cells per condition per

replicate, * = $P < 0.05$, two-tailed t-tests vs. DMSO).

Scale bars, 10 μm.

Figure 5 Mitochondrial nucleic acids are released into the cytosol by Palbociclib

A) A549 Rescue (ΔATG5 + GFP-ATG5) and ΔATG5 cells were treated with DMSO (-) or 10 μM Palbociclib, Pb (+), for 48 h. Pure cytosolic fraction (Cytosol) was separated from remaining cellular material including mitochondria (Insoluble) using digitonin extraction and immunoblotted to confirm purity (mitochondrial markers: TOM20; Cytochrome C; ATP5A, ER marker: Calnexin). Cytochrome C and ATP5A are from a second immunoblot on same samples from the same replicate. Representative of *n* = 3 independent replicates.

893   **B-C)** Nucleic acids (**B**, DNA; **C**, RNA) were isolated from the cytosolic fraction and qPCR performed for

894   mitochondrial genes *ND1*, *ND6*, *CYTB* and *COII*, normalised to *ACTB* from whole cell DNA ($n = 4$

895   independent replicates, minimally, after outliers removed by Grubb's test, mean ± s.e.m.,

896   normalisation to Rescue + DMSO, ** = $P < 0.01$, *** = $P < 0.001$, two-tailed ratio paired t-tests).

Figure 6   Chronic lysosome damage triggers interferon responses

A-B) A549 NT (non-targeted wild-type) or Δ*ATG5* cells were treated with 10 μM Palbociclib (Pb) for the indicated time and then immunoblotted for interferon pathway activation (phospho-Y701 STAT1, P-STAT1, and ISG15). **A)** Representative blot. **B)** Quantifications (*n* = 3 independent replicates, mean ± s.e.m., outlier removed by Grubb's test, *** = *P* < 0.001, 2-tail t-tests vs. 0 h, Holm-Šídák correction).

C) A549 NT or Δ*ATG5* cells treated as in **A** and subjected to qRT-PCR for indicated genes (*n* = 3 independent replicates, mean ± s.e.m., relative to *18S*, normalised to NT + DMSO, ns = non-significant, ** = *P* < 0.01, *** = *P* < 0.001, 1-sample t-test for NT, 2-tailed t-test for Δ*ATG5*).

D) A549 Δ*ATG5* cells were treated with DMSO (-) or 500 nM Pb (+), for the indicated number of days
(d), then immunoblotted for P-STAT1 (*n* = 3 independent replicates, representative replicate shown).

E-F) A549 NT (non-targeted wild-type) or Δ*ATG5* cells were treated with 700 μM LLOMe for the
indicated times then immunoblotted for interferon pathway activation (P-STAT1, ISG15). **E)**
Representative blot. **F)** Quantifications (*n* = 3 independent replicates, mean $\pm$ s.e.m., * = *P* < 0.05, 2-
tail t-tests vs. 0 h, Holm-Šídák correction).

G-J) MCF7 cells were treated with 10 μM Palbociclib (Pb) (**G**-**H**) or 700 nM LLOMe (**I-J**) for the indicated
times then immunoblotted as shown. **G,I)** Representative blots. **H,J)** Quantifications (*n* = 3
independent replicates, mean $\pm$ s.e.m., * = *P* < 0.05, ** = *P* < 0.01, 1-sample t-tests).

Figure 7   Mitochondrial nucleic acids are required for interferon responses associated with chronic lysosome damage

A-C) A549 Rescue (Δ*ATG5* + GFP-*ATG5*) and Δ*ATG5* cells were treated to generate control (Rho+, +) or mitochondrial genome depleted (Rho0, 0) cells. Cells were treated with DMSO or 10 μM Palbociclib (Pb) for 48 h and immunoblotted for interferon activation (phospho-Y701-STAT1, P-STAT1, ISG15). **A)** Representative blot. **B)** Quantification for Pb-treated Δ*ATG5* cells (*n* = 3, mean ± s.e.m., normalised to Rho+, ** = *P* < 0.01, ns = non-significant, 1-sample t-test).

C) A549 Δ*ATG5* cells (Rho+ or Rho0) were treated with 10 μM Pb for 48 h and qRT-PCR performed for *IFNL1* and *ISG15* (*n* = 3 independent replicates, mean ± s.e.m., relative to *18S*, normalised to Rho+, ** = *P* < 0.01, **** = *P* < 0.0001, 1-sample t-tests).

D-E) A549 Rescue or Δ*ATG5* cells were treated with DMSO or 10 μM Pb +/- 15 μM VBIT-4, then

immunoblotted as shown. **D)** Representative blot. **E)** Quantification for Pb-treated Δ*ATG5* cells (n = 3

independent replicates, mean ± s.e.m, ns = non-significant, **** = P < 0.0001, 2-way ANOVA, Holm-

Šídák comparisons DMSO vs. VBIT-4).

F-G) A549 Δ*ATG5* cells, Rho+ (+) or Rho0 (0), were treated with DMSO or 700 μM LLOMe for 48 h, then

immunoblotted for P-STAT1. **F)** Representative blot. **G)** Quantification for LLOMe treated cells,

normalised to Rho+ (n = 3 independent replicates, mean ± s.e.m., **** = P < 0.0001, 1-sample t-test).

H) Δ*ATG5* A549 were treated with DMSO, Pb (10 μM, 24 h) or Gamitrinib TPP (GTPP, 20 μM, 4 h). Cells

were then incubated for 30 min with JC-10 (15 μM) prior to analysis by flow cytometry. Quantitative

fluorescent ratio of JC-10 (aggregating (red, em 585) versus monomeric (green, em 525)) was used to

assess mitochondrial membrane potential (MFI, median fluorescence intensity) (n = 3 independent

replicates, mean ± s.e.m., ** = P < 0.01, * = P < 0.05, 1-way ANOVA, Holm-Šídák comparisons vs.

DMSO).

I-J) A549 Δ*ATG5* cells or Δ*ATG5* Δ*CDK4* derivatives, stably expressing Cas9, were transduced with non-

targeting sgRNA (gNT) or g*CDK6*. 72 h post transduction, cells were treated with DMSO (-) or 10 μM

Pb (+) for 24h, then immunoblotted as shown. **I)** Representative blot. **J)** Quantifications comparing

CDK4/6 intact controls (Δ*ATG5* gNT) with CDK4/6 double knockout cultures (Δ*ATG5/ΔCDK4* g*CDK6*) (n

= 3 independent replicates, mean ± s.e.m., ** = P < 0.01, 2-way ANOVA, Holm-Šídák comparisons).

Figure 8   Model for response to chronic lysosome damage invoked by Palbociclib

See text for details. GAL8 = galectin 8. IFN = interferon. Blue dots depict mitochondrial nucleoids.