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Regulation of apical constriction via microtubule-dependent Fog signaling activity and apical enrichment of apical/junctional proteins during tissue invagination

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Abstract

The formation of an epithelial tube is a fundamental process for organogenesis. During *Drosophila* embryonic salivary gland (SG) invagination, Folded gastrulation (Fog)-dependent Rho-associated kinase (Rok) promotes contractile apical myosin formation to drive apical constriction. Microtubules (MTs) are also crucial for this process and are required for forming and maintaining apicomedial myosin. However, the underlying mechanism that coordinates actomyosin and MTs networks is still unclear. Here, we show that MT-dependent intracellular trafficking has regulates apical constriction during SG invagination. Key components involved in protein trafficking, such as Rab11 and Nuclear fallout (Nuf), are apically enriched near the SG invagination pit in a MT-dependent manner. Disruption of the MT networks or intracellular trafficking impairs apicomedial myosin formation and apical constriction. We show that MTs and dynein motors regulate Fog signaling activity. We further show that MTs are required for apical enrichment of key apical and junctional proteins in the SG, including the apical determinant protein Crumbs (Crb), the key adherens junction protein E-Cadherin (E-Cad) and the scaffolding protein Bazooka/Par3. Targeted knockdown of these genes in the SG disrupts apical myosin networks and results in apical constriction defects. Our data suggests a role of MT-dependent intracellular trafficking in regulating actomyosin networks and cell junctions, to coordinate cell behaviors during tubular organ formation.

Introduction

Formation of three-dimensional tubes by invagination of flat epithelial sheets is a fundamental process in forming organs such as the lungs and kidneys (Andrew and Ewald, 2010). To enter the third dimension, cells must change their shapes and positions relative to each other. A major cellular process during epithelial tube formation is apical constriction, a universal cell shape change that is linked to tissue bending, folding and invagination (Martin and Goldstein, 2014; Sawyer et al., 2010). During apical constriction, the apical side of an epithelial cell constricts, causing a columnar or cuboidal cell to become wedge-shaped (Martin and Goldstein, 2014; Sawyer et al., 2010). Manipulation of apical constriction in a group of cells impacts both local and global tissue shape directly, suggesting a critical role for apical constriction in forming proper tissue architecture (Chung et al., 2017; Guglielmi et al., 2015; Izquierdo et al., 2018).

Apical constriction is driven by actin filament (F-actin) networks and the molecular motor non-muscle myosin II (hereafter referred to as myosin). Over the past decade, important functions of different actomyosin structures in epithelial tissue morphogenesis have been discovered. Particularly, studies in *Drosophila* revealed a distinct population of pulsatile apical medial actomyosin (hereafter referred to as apicomedial myosin) that generates a pulling force that exerts on adherens junctions to drive apical constriction (Booth et al., 2014; Chung et al., 2017; Martin et al., 2009; Rauzi et al., 2010). In early *Drosophila* embryos, apicomedial myosin is created in response to signaling by the Folded gastrulation (Fog) ligand and its G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs) (Kerridge et al., 2016; Manning et al., 2013), and is regulated by apical Rho-associated kinase (Rok) (Mason et al., 2013). Apical junctions and apical determinants also have an important role in the formation of functional actomyosin complexes. During *Drosophila* dorsal closure, the apical polarity regulators Par-6, aPKC and Bazooka/Par3 (Baz/Par3) (altogether known as the Par complex) regulate pulsed actomyosin contractions in amnioserosa cells (David et al., 2010). In the *Drosophila* embryonic trachea, the apical protein Crumbs (Crb) is required for proper organization of the actomyosin complex (Letizia et al., 2011).

Emerging evidence suggests that microtubules (MTs) play a critical role in tissue invagination (Booth et al., 2014; Ko et al., 2019). MTs serve as tracks in intracellular transport, raising the possibility that MTs regulate apical constriction through the endo- and exocytosis of membrane receptors and adhesion molecules (Khanal et al., 2016; Le Droguen et al., 2015). Several lines of evidence suggest the importance of the endocytic pathway, including the molecular motor dynamin and the vesicle trafficking Rab proteins, in apical constriction in both in vitro and in vivo systems. During *Xenopus* gastrulation, disrupting endocytosis with dominant-negative dynamin or Rab5 perturbs apical constriction and invagination of cell sheets (Lee and Harland, 2010). During *Drosophila* gastrulation, the apical surface of cells is reshaped via Rab35 and RabGEF Sbf, which direct the plasma membrane to Rab11-positive recycling endosomes through a dynamic interaction with Rab5 endosomes to reshape actomyosin networks (Miao et al., 2019). Moreover, in the developing neural tube in *Xenopus*, asymmetric enrichment of Rab11 at the medial apical junctions is critical for apical constriction, suggesting that membrane trafficking has a key role in apical constriction (Ossipova et al., 2014). However, exactly how membrane trafficking, MTs, and actomyosin networks are linked remains to be discovered.

To determine how these three cellular attributes contribute to tissue invagination, we use the *Drosophila* embryonic salivary gland (SG) as a model. We and others showed that apical constriction is regulated in a highly coordinated and spatiotemporally controlled manner during epithelial tube formation (Booth et al., 2014; Chung et al., 2017; Myat and Andrew, 2000; Sanchez-Corrales et al., 2018). The *Drosophila* embryo forms two SG tubes via invagination of two epithelial placodes on the ventral surface (Chung et al., 2014). Before invagination, a small group of cells in the dorsal/posterior region of each SG placode begin to constrict. As those cells internalize to form the invagination pit, more cells anterior to the pit undergo clustered apical constriction in a Fog signaling-dependent manner (Chung et al., 2017) (Figure 1A). In the absence of *fog*, SG cells fail to accumulate Rok and myosin in the apicomedial region of the cells. MTs aid in the formation and maintenance of the apicomedial myosin network during SG invagination (Booth et al., 2014). The MT cytoskeleton near the invagination pit forms a network of longitudinal MT bundles, with the minus ends of MTs facing the apical domain of the cells and interacting

with the apicomedial myosin (Booth et al., 2014). Disruption of MTs causes loss of
apicomedial myosin and disrupted apical constriction during SG invagination (Booth et
al., 2014). However, it is still unknown how intracellular trafficking affects these two
processes.

In this study, we demonstrate that key proteins involved in intracellular trafficking -
including Rab11, its binding partner Nuclear fallout (Nuf), and dynein heavy chain - are
enriched in the apical domain of SG cells during invagination. Moreover, this
accumulation is MT-dependent. Our data suggest that apical enrichment of several
proteins, including the apical determinant protein Crb, the key adherens junction protein
E-Cadherin (E-Cad), and the scaffolding protein Baz/Par3, is compromised when the MT
networks are disrupted. We further show that disruption of MTs or reducing dynein heavy
chain leads to a decrease of Rok and myosin in the apical domain and causes
uncoordinated apical constriction in the SG. Altogether, our work mechanistically links
MT-dependent intracellular trafficking to the regulation of actomyosin networks during
tubular organ formation.

Results

Intracellular trafficking components are apically enriched near the invagination pit

To test a role for the intracellular trafficking machinery in spatially biased signaling
activation and protein accumulation during SG invagination, we analyzed the subcellular
localization of proteins that are involved in vesicle trafficking in the SG. Several endosome
markers were tested, including Rab5 (an early endosome marker) (Gorvel et al., 1991),
Rab7 (a late endosome marker) (Meresse et al., 1995; Wichmann et al., 1992), Rab11 (a
recycling endosome marker) (Ullrich et al., 1996), Nuclear fallout (Nuf, a putative binding
partner for Rab11) (Riggs et al., 2003), and Sec15 (an exocyst complex component and
effector for Rab11) (Langevin et al., 2005; Zhang et al., 2004). We observed enrichment
of Rab11, Nuf, and Sec15 at and near the SG invagination pit, suggesting active
trafficking activities in the region where cells are apically constricting (Figure 1C-1D', 1G-

1H'; Figure S1A-S1C). Compared to a more uniform distribution of Rab11 and Nuf in the entire apical domain, Sec15 signals appeared to be enriched at adherens junctions (Figure S1B). Using labeling with E-Cad, an adherens junction marker, and CrebA, a SG nuclear marker, we segmented apical cell outlines (Figure 1B and 1B'). Intensity mean of Rab11 or Nuf in the apical domain of each cell showed a negative correlation with the apical area of cells in the entire SG (Figure 1E), further supporting the conclusion that increased trafficking and apical constriction are closely linked.

Rab5, an early endosome marker, was also upregulated near the invagination pit, suggesting active endocytosis in this region (Figure S1B and S1B'). Dynein heavy chain 64C, a subunit of the dynein motor complex that transports cargos along MTs toward their minus ends, also showed upregulation near the invagination pit (Figure 1J and 1J'). Rab7, a late endosome marker, however, did not show any enrichment but localized as large punctate structures in the cytoplasm of the entire SG placode (Figure 1L and 1L'), suggesting that trafficking from early to late endosomes or between late endosomes to lysosomes is not upregulated near the pit during SG invagination. Overall, our results suggest active intracellular trafficking, possibly both endo- and exocytosis, near the invagination pit during SG invagination.

MT-dependent vesicular transport is required for apical constriction in the SG

Strong apical enrichment of Rab11 and Nuf in the SG cells near the invagination pit led us to test whether these vesicle markers are associated with vertically aligned MTs that could facilitate their polarized distribution. As in many epithelial cells, MT minus- and plus-ends face the apical and the basal domain of the SG cells, respectively (Booth et al., 2014; Myat and Andrew, 2002). Indeed, co-immunostaining of tyrosinated α-tubulin, a marker of dynamic or newly polymerized MTs, and Rab11 showed a partial overlap of the two proteins at the apical region of the SG cells (Figure 2A'-2B''). Mander's overlap coefficients of Rab11 and tyrosinated α-tubulin revealed that 59% of Rab11 signals overlapped with tyrosinated α-tubulin labeling and 34% of tyrosinated α-tubulin signals co-localized with Rab11 signals (Figure 2C).

To test whether Rab11 apical enrichment in SG cells is dependent on MT networks, we

disrupted MTs in the SG by overexpressing spastin, a MT-severing protein (Sherwood et

al., 2004), using the SG-specific *fkh-Gal4* driver. In control SGs, tyrosinated α-tubulin and

acetylated α-tubulin, a marker of stable and longer-lived MTs (Westermann and Weber,

2003), were observed abundantly in the apical domain of cells in the whole placode

(Figure 2D'' and 2D'''; Figure S2). In spastin-overexpressing SGs, both tyrosinated and

acetylated α-tubulin signals were strongly reduced, revealing loss of MT filaments (Booth

et al., 2014) (Figure 2E'', 2E''' and S2B''); the upregulation of Rab11 near the invagination

pit (Figure 2D') was also abolished and Rab11 was mislocalized basolaterally (Figure 2E'

and 2F'). Quantification of Rab11 localization showed that SGs with disrupted MTs

showed much lower intensity in the apical domain near the invagination pit compared to

control SGs (Figure 1C' versus Figure 2G'). Similar patterns were observed for Nuf

(Figure 2F-2H). These data suggest that MT networks are required for apical enrichment

of Rab11 and Nuf during SG invagination.

We next asked if specific modulation of Rab11 levels could compromise apical

constriction. To test this possibility, we disrupted the function of Rab11 by overexpressing

a dominant-negative form of Rab11 (Rab11S25N-YFP; hereafter referred to as Rab11-

DN) in the SG. Compared to controls (Figure 3A), SGs overexpressing Rab11-DN

showed more cells with larger apical area (Figure 3B and 3F), suggesting a role for Rab11

in apical constriction during SG invagination.

As dynein heavy chain was also enriched near the invagination pit (Figure 1J and 1J''),

we hypothesized that dynein motors may traffic key proteins along MTs to control apical

constriction during SG invagination. Indeed, zygotic knockdown of *Dynein heavy chain*

64C (*Dhc64C*) in the SG resulted in more cells with larger apical areas during

invagination, suggesting defective apical constriction (Figure 3C, 3C' and 3F). Since

Dhc64C has strong maternal expression and is essential for oogenesis and early embryo

development (Li et al., 1994), we tried to reduce Dhc64C levels still further by knocking

down *Dhc64C* both maternally and zygotically, using a maternal driver *matα-Gal4* along

with the SG-specific *fkh-Gal4*. Embryos with reduced maternal and zygotic pools of

Dhc64C showed a range of morphological defects in the entire embryo, some of which

were severely distorted (data not shown). In embryos with more subtle morphological defects, SG cells still invaginated and formed a tube. However, SGs showed a range of phenotypes, from relatively normal but with slightly larger apical areas in individual cells (Figure 3G; mild), to an enlarged invagination pit (Figure 3G; intermediate), to quite distorted (Figure 3G; severe).

Klarsicht (Klar), the *Drosophila* Klarsicht-Anc-Syne Homology (KASH) domain protein, mediates apical transport in the SG (Myat and Andrew, 2002) via the MT motor cytoplasmic dynein (Gross et al., 2000). We therefore predicted that *klar* would also influence apical constriction during SG invagination. Indeed, *klar* mutant embryos showed SGs with mild apical constriction defects compared to wild type controls (Figure 3D-3E' and 3F). Overall, our data suggest essential roles of Rab11 trafficking and MT- and dynein-dependent transport in regulating apical constriction during SG invagination.

Reduced dynein motor activity leads to failure in accumulation of apicomedial Rok and reduction of apicomedial myosin formation in SG cells

The apicomedial myosin structure generates the pulling force to drive apical constriction in SG cells (Booth et al., 2014; Chung et al., 2017), and spastin overexpression inhibits formation of apicomedial myosin during SG invagination (Booth et al., 2014). We therefore tested whether apicomedial myosin formation is affected in SG cells when dynein-dependent transport is compromised. In control SGs, sqh-GFP (a functional GFP-tagged version of the myosin regulatory light chain) (Royou et al., 2004) showed a strong apicomedial myosin web in constricting cells near the invagination pit (Figure 4A-4A''''). Knockdown of *Dhc64C* caused a significant reduction of apicomedial myosin (Figure 4B-4B'''' and 4C), suggesting its role in forming and/or maintaining apicomedial myosin.

Consistent with previous studies (Chung et al., 2017; Roper, 2012), a myosin pool that is closely associated with adherens junctions, junctional myosin, also showed strong signals in wild type SG cells, often with stronger signals at vertices (Figure 4A-4A'''). Intriguingly, the intensity of junctional myosin was also reduced upon *Dhc64C* knockdown (Figure 4B-

4B''' and 4C). The ratio of apicomedial to junctional myosin was significantly reduced in

Dhc64C RNAi SGs (Figure 4C), suggesting a more significant effect on apicomedial than

on junctional myosin upon *Dhc64C* knockdown. Similar to *Dhc64C* knockdown, reduction

of apicomedial and junctional myosin was observed in *klar* mutant SGs (Figure 4D-4F).

Our data suggests that defective apical constriction in *Dhc64C* RNAi and *klar* mutant SGs

could be due to failure in proper organization of myosin structures, primarily in the

apicomedial region of SG cells.

We previously showed that Fog signaling-dependent accumulation of apical medial Rok

is required for apicomedial myosin formation for coordinated apical constriction in SG

cells (Chung et al., 2017). To test whether Rok accumulation is dependent on MTs, we

quantitatively analyzed Rok distribution using a ubiquitously expressed GFP-tagged Rok

transgene (Rok-GFP) (Abreu-Blanco et al., 2014) in wild type and MT-disrupted SGs.

Disruption of MTs by overexpression of spastin abolished the apicomedial accumulation

of Rok in cells near the invagination pit, found in control SGs (Figure 5A-5B'' and 5G).

We also tested for accumulation of apicomedial Rok-GFP signals in *Dhc64C* RNAi and

klar mutant SGs. Similar to spastin overexpression, reduction of *Dhc64C* levels led to

more dispersed Rok signals along the apical domain of SG cells near the pit (Figure 5C-

5C'' and 5G). In *klar* mutants, Rok-GFP tended to accumulate less profoundly and less

uniformly in the apicomedial region of SG cells (Figure 5E-5E'') although not statistically

significant compared to control (Figure 5H). Overall, our data suggest that MT- and

dynein-dependent apical accumulation of Rok and apicomedial myosin formation during

SG invagination.

Fog signaling activity is reduced when MTs are disrupted

Since Rok accumulation, apicomedial myosin formation, and subsequent coordinated

apical constriction in the SG are Fog-dependent (Chung et al., 2017), we tested whether

the roles of Fog signaling and MT trafficking in apical constriction were dependent on

each other. Although the existing Fog antibody (Fuse et al., 2013) detected the

endogenous Fog protein in the SG lumen at later stages, the signals at stage 11 were not

strong enough to show precise subcellular localization of Fog in the SG. We therefore

overexpressed Fog in the SG to saturate the transport system and test a role of MTs in

transporting Fog in this sensitized background. Consistent with our previous data that Fog

signal mediates apicomedial Rok accumulation and apicomedial myosin formation

(Chung et al., 2017), Fog-overexpressing SG cells over-accumulated Rok in the

apicomedial region and dramatically increased apicomedial myosin (Figure 6B and 6B').

This Fog gain-of-function effect on over-accumulation of Rok and increased apicomedial

myosin was suppressed by spastin overexpression or *Dhc64C* knockdown (Figure 6C-

6D', 6G-6H', 6J and 6L). Interestingly, we also observed highly ruffled SG cell junctional

morphology in almost all SG cells when Fog was overexpressed (Figure 6I and 6I').

Similar cell distortions, albeit in a moderate level, have been observed during apical

constriction in mesodermal cells (Martin et al., 2009) and in SG cells (Chung et al., 2017)

when apicomedial myosin exerts the pulling force on adherens junctions. Indeed,

increased apicomedial myosin was connected with E-Cad signals at distorted cell

junctions (Figure 6I and 6I'), suggesting that this ruffled junctional phenotype is due to

increased pulling forces generated by high levels of apicomedial myosin upon increased

Fog signaling activity. This convoluted junctional phenotype was suppressed by spastin

overexpression or *Dhc64C* knockdown (Figure 6G-6H' and 6K). Taken together, our data

suggest that MTs and dynein motors are necessary for Fog signaling activity and its

downstream targets Rok and myosin.

Enrichment of key apical and junctional proteins is MT-dependent and is required

for apical constriction during SG invagination

Transport of several key apical and junctional proteins is dependent on MTs and Rab11

(Jouette et al., 2019; Khanal et al., 2016; Le Droguen et al., 2015). One such protein is

an apical transmembrane protein Crb, and Rab11 helps maintain apical Crb in the

Drosophila ectoderm (Roeth et al., 2009). In the *Drosophila* SG and follicle cells, Crb is

apically transported along MTs by the dynein motor (Myat and Andrew, 2002) (Aguilar-

Aragon et al., 2019). Importantly, in *Drosophila* tracheae, loss of *crb* impairs apical

constriction during the internalization process (Letizia et al., 2011). Two key junctional

proteins, E-Cad and Baz/Par3, are also trafficked by MTs in *Drosophila* embryonic

trachea (Le Droguen et al., 2015). During apical constriction, contractile forces generated

by the actomyosin complex are exerted on adherens junctions, with E-Cad being a core

component that integrates contractile forces to generate tension (Martin et al., 2009).

During amnioserosa apical constriction at *Drosophila* dorsal closure, Baz/Par3 in the Par

complex regulates pulsed actomyosin contractions (David et al., 2010).

We therefore asked if MTs have a role in apical enrichment of Crb, E-Cad and Baz in the

SG during invagination. Consistent with previous studies (Myat and Andrew, 2002; Roper,

2012), Crb was upregulated near the invagination pit during SG invagination (Figure 7A).

E-Cad and Baz were also upregulated near the invagination pit (Figure 7A' and 7E).

Disruption of MTs resulted in reduction of Crb, E-Cad and Baz signals compared to control

(Figure 7A-7B'' and 7E-7I). Moreover, spastin overexpression caused discontinuous Crb

signals along the junctions (Figure 7D). Whereas the number of gaps was not significantly

different between control and spastin-overexpressing SGs (Figure 7K), quantification of

the ratio of length of gaps to junctional length revealed increased gap length in spastin-

overexpressing SGs (Figure 7J). These data suggest that apical enrichment of Crb, E-

Cad and Baz in the SG is dependent on MTs.

We further tested MT-dependent apical transport of Crb in the SG using the same genetic

suppression strategy as we used for testing a role of MTs in Fog trafficking (Figure 6C-

6C'). We co-overexpressed Crb and spastin in the SG to test whether disruption of MTs

affects apical transport of Crb. A similar approach was taken in a recent study, where

overexpression of Crb provided a highly sensitive genetic background for identifying

components involved in Crb trafficking (Aguilar-Aragon et al., 2019). Consistent with

previous findings that Crb expression expands apical membranes in epithelial cells

(Chung and Andrew, 2014; Chung et al., 2017; Myat and Andrew, 2002; Wodarz et al.,

1993), overexpression of Crb resulted in enlarged apical areas of SG cells during

invagination (Figure S3B-S3B'). Unlike control SG cells, Crb-overexpressing SG cells

also showed over-accumulation of Crb on the apical surface (Figure S3A-S3B'). Co-

overexpression of spastin and Crb suppressed this accumulation of Crb (Figure S3C and

S3C'), further supporting the idea that apical transport of Crb in the SG is dependent on

MTs.

To test for a role of Crb, E-Cad and Baz in regulating apical constriction during SG

invagination, we knocked down each gene in the SG using RNAi. Knockdown of *crb, E-*

Cad or *baz* resulted in reduction of junctional Crb, E-Cad or Baz levels, respectively,

compared to control (Figure S4A-S4C''). Reduction of *crb, E-Cad* or baz increased the

number of cells that have larger apical areas compared to control (Figure 7L-7N').

Quantification of the percentage of cells and cumulative percentage of cells of different

apical areas showed a significant decrease in the number of constricting cells in *crb* and

baz knockdown SGs (Figure 7O). *E-Cad* knockdown SGs also displayed a similar trend

although with less statistical significance (Figure 7O). Overall, our data suggest a role of

Crb, E-Cad and Baz in regulating apical constriction during SG invagination.

Apical localization of Crb, E-Cad and Baz is MT- and Rab11-dependent in the SG

throughout development

To further investigate the role of MTs in apical trafficking of Crb, E-Cad and Baz in the

SG, we overexpressed spastin throughout development and analyzed late stage SGs,

where apical trafficking is more easily detected in elongated SG cells. Analysis of spastin-

overexpressing SGs at stage 16 revealed that disruption of MTs resulted in short SG

tubes with a thin lumen compared to control SGs of the same stage (Figure S5A and

S5B). Strikingly, whereas the majority of Rab11- and Nuf-positive vesicles localized in the

apical region of control SG cells (Figure S5A-S5A'''), Rab11 and Nuf were observed as

large aggregates in the cytoplasm in spastin-overexpressing cells, overlapping with each

other (Figure S5B-S5B'''). Our data suggest that MTs are required for apical enrichment

of Rab11/Nuf vesicles throughout SG tube formation.

Using the same co-overexpression strategy that we used for stage 11 (Figure S3B-S3C'),

we tested whether MTs and Rab11 are required for apical trafficking of Crb, E-Cad and

Baz also at stage 16. Consistent with previous studies (Chung and Andrew, 2014; Wodarz et al., 1993), Crb overexpression in the SG caused a dramatic increase of the apical membrane as well as mislocalization of Crb basolaterally along the entire membrane (Figure S5C-S5C'''). Overexpression of E-Cad alone using UAS-Shotgun-GFP (Shg, *Drosophila* E-Cad; Rorth, 2014) did not result in overt morphological defects in the SG, and punctate E-Cad signals mostly overlapped with Nuf signals at and near adherens junctions (Figure S5E-S5E'''). Overexpression of Baz using UAS-Baz-GFP (Benton and St Johnston, 2003) in the SG caused a slightly enlarged lumen (Figure S5G-S5G'''). Baz-GFP signals were detected mostly at adherens junctions, but small punctate structures were also detected in the cytoplasm (Figure S5G').

Co-overexpression of spastin along with Crb or Baz suppressed the overexpression phenotypes for Crb or Baz (Figure S5D-S5D''' and S5H-S5H''). Importantly, in SGs that co-overexpressed spastin along with any of these three apical/junctional proteins, each protein mislocalized as cytoplasmic aggregates near the basolateral domain, which were largely overlapping with mislocalized Rab11/Nuf (Figure S5D-S5D''', S5F-S5F''' and S5H-S5H'''). Overall, our data suggest that several key proteins, including Crb, E-Cad and Baz, are trafficked apically in a MT- and Rab11-dependent manner in the SG throughout tube formation.

Reducing apical and junctional proteins affects Rok accumulation and apicomedial myosin formation

To test whether apical constriction defects observed in *crb*, *E-Cad* and *baz* knockdown SGs (Figure 7L-7O) are linked to apicomedial myosin formation, we analyzed myosin levels in SGs with these knockdowns. Overall myosin levels were reduced in *crb* or *baz* knockdown SGs, both in the apicomedial region and at adherens junctions (Figure 8A-7A'', 8B-8B'', 8D-8D'' and 8E). The ratio of apicomedial to junctional myosin was also reduced (Figure 8E), suggesting that apical constriction defects in SGs depleted of *crb* or *baz* are, at least in part, due to failure of apicomedial myosin formation. In SGs depleted of *E-Cad*, myosin levels at each domain did not change significantly, but the ratio of

apicomedial myosin to junctional myosin was significantly reduced compared to control

(Figure 8C-8C'' and 8E). Therefore, the apical constriction defects caused by *E-Cad*

knockdown might be due to an imbalance of contractile forces.

Knockdown of *crb* or *baz* also resulted in Rok-GFP signals less accumulating in the apical

region of cells near the invagination pit (Figure 8G-8I''). Quantification of the areas

occupied by Rok-GFP puncta showed significant reduction in accumulation of

apicomedial Rok when *crb* or *baz* was knocked down (Figure 8J). Consistent with the

relatively mild effect of *E-Cad* knockdown on apicomedial myosin (Figure 8C-8C'' and

8E), Rok accumulation was not significantly affected by *E-Cad* knockdown. Several SG

cells, however, showed dispersed Rok-GFP signals in cells near the invagination pit,

which was not observed in control cells (Figure 8H-8H'' and 8J), suggesting some defects

in Rok accumulation. Taken together, our results suggest a role for Crb and Baz in

regulating apical constriction by mediating Rok accumulation and myosin activation

during SG invagination.

Discussion

MT-dependent intracellular trafficking during apical constriction

Using the *Drosophila* SG, we demonstrate that MT-dependent intracellular trafficking is

critical for apical constriction during tissue invagination. MTs have been shown to have a

crucial role in stabilizing apical myosin during epithelial morphogenesis both in early

Drosophila embryos and in the *Drosophila* SG (Booth et al., 2014; Ko et al., 2019).

Particularly in the SG, MTs interact with apicomedial myosin via Short stop, the

Drosophila spectraplakin, emphasizing a direct interplay between the MT and the apical

myosin networks (Booth et al., 2014). Our data reveals another role of MTs in regulating

protein trafficking to control the apical myosin networks during tissue invagination. During

SG invagination, a network of longitudinal MT bundles is observed near the invagination

pit (Booth et al., 2014). Our data shows apical enrichment of key endocytic markers in the

same area and that this enrichment is important for forming the apicomedial myosin

networks (Figure 1-4), suggesting a link between localized protein trafficking along MTs
to apical myosin regulation. Our data support a model that dynein- and Rab11-dependent
intracellular trafficking is crucial for organizing apical myosin networks during apical
constriction in the SG.

Interestingly, cytoplasmic dynein is associated with cellular structures and exerts tension
on MTs. For example, dynein tethered at the cell cortex can apply a pulling force on the
MT network by walking towards the minus end of a MT (Laan et al., 2012). In interphase
cells, force generated by dynein also regulates MT turnover and organization (Yvon et
al., 2001). Therefore, we do not rule out the possibility that reduced dynein functions could
affect MT organization and/or a pulling force on the MT networks regardless of its role in
intracellular trafficking, which will subsequently affect apical myosin structures during SG
invagination. However, we favor the apical trafficking model as we did not observe overt
changes in the MT networks in *Dhc64C* RNAi SGs (data not shown).

Integrating apical and junctional proteins with actomyosin networks during SG
invagination

During branching morphogenesis in *Drosophila* trachea, MTs and dynein motors have a
critical role in proper localization of junctional proteins such as E-Cad and Baz (Le
Droguen et al., 2015). This is consistent with our observations with MT-dependent
trafficking of Crb, E-Cad and Baz in both early (Figure 7) and late stage SG (Figure S5),
suggesting a conserved role of MT-dependent intracellular trafficking in junctional
remodeling and stabilization during epithelial tube formation. Our data suggests that
proper levels of apical and junctional proteins are also important for tissue invagination at
the beginning of epithelial tube formation. Dispersed Rok and less prominent apicomedial
myosin are observed in invaginating SGs upon knockdown of *crb*, *E-Cad* and *baz* (Figure
8), suggest a requirement of apical and junctional proteins in proper organization of apical
actomyosin networks during epithelial tube formation. We propose that MTs and Rab11
play a role in apical trafficking of these proteins during SG invagination and throughout
SG tube formation. Alternatively, MTs have a role in assembling/anchoring these apical

components, through regulation of unidentified molecules. Recent studies in *Drosophila*
mesoderm invagination showed that MTs help to establish actomyosin network linked to
cell junction to facilitate efficient force transmission to promote apical constriction (Ko et
al., 2019). In Ko et al., (2019), however, MT-interfering drugs and RNAi of CAMSAP end-
binding protein were used to prevent MT functions and the effect cannot be directly
compared to our data where spastin was used to sever existing MTs. Further work will be
needed to directly monitor MT-dependent transport of Crb, E-Cad and Baz during SG
invagination and clarify the mechanism.

When *crb* is knocked down using RNAi in the SG, overall intensity of myosin is decreased
near the invagination pit, for both apicomedial and junctional pools (Figure 8). It is possible
that proper Crb levels are required for modulating myosin activity both in the apical
domain and at junctions, which contribute to apical constriction and cell rearrangement
during SG invagination. Anisotropic localization of Crb and myosin was observed at the
boundary of the SG placode, where myosin accumulates at edges where Crb is lowest
(Roper, 2012). Planar polarization of Rok at this boundary is modulated through
phosphorylation by Pak1 downstream of Crb (Sidor et al., 2020). It will be interesting to
further test how Crb might affect junctional myosin dynamics and SG invagination.

As contractile actomyosin structures exert forces on adherens junction to drive apical
constriction, we speculate that slight reduction of apicomedial myosin upon *E-Cad* RNAi
might be due to reduction of cell adhesion. Also, decrease of apicomedial and junctional
myosin caused by *baz* knockdown is consistent with the role of the Par complex in
regulating pulsed actomyosin contraction during *Drosophila* dorsal closure (David et al.,
2010). It will be interesting to determine if coordination of apical and junctional proteins
and apical cytoskeletal networks through intracellular trafficking is conserved during
tubular organ formation in general.

Regulation of Fog signaling activity

The Fog pathway represents one of the best-understood signaling cascades controlling

epithelial morphogenesis (Manning and Rogers, 2014). Although best studied in

Drosophila, the pathway components have been also identified in other insects,

suggesting a more widely conserved role of Fog signaling in development (Benton et al.,

2019; Urbansky et al., 2016). The dorsal/posterior region of the SG where Dhc64C is

apically enriched (Figure 1) correlates with localized Fog signaling activity that promotes

clustered apical constriction (Chung et al., 2017). Disruption of MTs or *Dhc64C*

knockdown not only causes dispersed Rok and defective apicomedial myosin (Figure 5),

which is reminiscent of *fog* mutant phenotypes, but also suppresses the Fog gain-of-

function effect on Rok and myosin (Figure 6). We propose that dynein-dependent apical

trafficking is important for regulating Fog signaling activity to control apical constriction

during epithelial tube formation. A possible scenario is that dynein-dependent apically

targeted vesicles contain key components of the Fog signaling pathway, such as the Fog

ligand and/or the as yet unidentified SG receptor(s) of Fog.

Apical enrichment of Rab11/Nuf is also MT-dependent during SG invagination and

disruption of the Rab11 function inhibits apical constriction in SGs (Figure 3). Unlike other

apical or junctional proteins that we have tested (Crb, E-Cad and Baz) that colocalize with

Rab11/Nuf when mislocalized, mislocalized Fog did not co-localize with Rab11 or Nuf

(Figure S6). It could be explained by the fact that Rab11 is primarily associated with

recycling endosomes; when Fog is not used, it is most likely degraded rather than

recycled. As recycling of membrane receptors to the cell surface plays an important role

in the regulation of overall signaling activity, it is possible that Rab11 is also involved in

recycling of the Fog receptor(s) to regulate Fog activity in the SG. Indeed, several GPCRs

are recycled via Rab11 (Anborgh et al., 2000; Cerniello et al., 2017; Dale et al., 2004; Fan

et al., 2003; Hamelin et al., 2005; Hunyady et al., 2002; Innamorati et al., 2001; Volpicelli

et al., 2002). Further work needs to be done to fully understand the mechanisms

underlying trafficking of Fog and its receptor(s) and how the signaling pathway is able to

generate cellular forces to drive cell shape changes during epithelial morphogenesis.

Materials and Methods

Fly stocks and husbandry

Fly lines used in our experiments were listed in a separate table. All crosses were performed at 25°C, unless stated otherwise.

Antibody staining and confocal microscopy

Antibodies used in our experiments were listed in a separate table. Embryos were collected on grape juice-agar plates and processed for immunofluorescence using standard procedures. Briefly, embryos were dechorionated in 50% bleach, fixed in 1:1 heptane:formaldehyde for 40 min and devitellinized with 80% EtOH, then stained with primary and secondary antibodies in PBSTB (1X PBS, 0.1% Triton X-100, 0.2% BSA). For acetylated α-tubulin, tyrosinated α-tubulin staining, embryos were hand-devitellinized. All images were taken with a Leica SP8 confocal microscope.

Cell segmentation and apical area quantification

Embryos immunostained with E-Cad and CrebA were imaged using a Leica SP8 confocal microscope. Since Rok accumulation, apicomedial myosin and apical constriction depend on the depth of invagination in the SG, SGs that were invaginated within the range of 5.1-9.9 μm depth were used for quantification for proper comparison between different genotypes. Maximum intensity projection was generated from three apical focal planes with highest E-Cad signals for all genotypes, except for maternal/zygotic knockdown of *Dhc64C*, where 10 to 30 focal planes were used due to wavy epithelial morphology (0.3 μm apart for each focal plane). Cells were segmented along the E-Cad signals and cell areas were calculated using the Imaris Program (Bitplane). Since the Imaris Program calculated the areas of both the front and the back of the projected cell layer, we divided the measured areas by two to get the true values of apical areas of SG cells.

Negative correlation between apical area and Rab11/Nuf intensity

Cell segmentation for five WT SGs within the range of 5.1- 9.9 μm invagination was performed as described above. All experiments were carried out in the same condition and the same setting for confocal imaging was used. Intensity mean was measured for the entire Rab11/Nuf signals for each segmented cell using the Imaris Program (Bitplane) and plotted. Correlation (Pearson) and P values were calculated using the GraphPad Prism software.

To compare the enrichment of Rab11/Nuf near the invagination pit of the WT SG to the spastin overexpressed SG, the ratio of deviation of Rab11/Nuf intensity to median Rab11/Nuf intensity was used. Median value of Rab11/Nuf intensity is the average of Rab11/Nuf mean intensities in all SG cells. Deviation of Rab11/Nuf intensity is the difference between the mean intensity of each cell and the median value. Five WT SGs (690 cells) and four spastin-overexpressed SGs (396 cells) were analyzed and plotted. P values were calculated using the Mann-Whitney U test in the GraphPad Prism software.

Colocalization analysis

Colocalization analyses were performed with the JACOP plugin in Fiji software. Thresholded Manders' overlap coefficients were used to show the extent to which two proteins colocalize. Manders' coefficients, vary from 0 to 1, are indicators of overlap between two proteins and are independent of signal proportionality. The Manders' overlap coefficient for Rab11 is the proportional Rab11 that is colocalized with tyrosinated α-tubulin. The Manders' overlap coefficient for tyrosinated α-tubulin is the proportional tyrosinated α-tubulin that is colocalized with Rab11. For each SG, the dorsal/posterior region of 100 μm^2 where Rab11 is upregulated was tested. Six WT embryos were used for quantification.

Quantification of the intensity of myosin, Crb, E-Cad and Baz

A group of 30 (for control and spastin-overexpressing SGs in Figure 7) or 10 (for all other genotypes) cells in the dorsal/posterior region of SG placode near the invagination pit were selected for quantification. For myosin quantification, maximum intensity projections that span the apical and the junctional region of SG cells were used (Leica LasX) and measurements were performed using the Fiji software. Regions were drawn manually along the inner or outer boundary of E-Cad signals of each cell to calculate the mean gray value of apicomedial and junctional myosin. For background correction, mean gray values of apicomedial myosin in ten cells outside of the SG placode was measured. The average value of mean gray values of apicomedial myosin in these ten cells was used to subtract the background of the cells inside the placode from the same embryo. For each genotype, five SGs were used for quantification. P values were calculated using the Mann-Whitney U test in the GraphPad Prism software. Mean gray values of Crb, E-Cad and Baz were measured with the same method used for quantifying the mean gray value of junctional myosin.

Quantification of area of Rok puncta

A single confocal section that had the strongest medial Rok signals was selected. Cell boundaries were labeled by immunostaining with the antibody against E-Cad. To analyze Rok distribution, we performed particles analysis using the Fiji software. 15 cells in the dorsal/posterior region near the invagination pit were selected for quantification. Rok-GFP signals were converted into black-and-white using the *Threshold* tool in Photoshop before analysis. Using the *Analyze particles* tool in Fiji, Rok-GFP puncta with areas equal or larger than 0.02 μm^2 were measured. Five SGs were used for quantification. P values were calculated using the Mann-Whitney U test in the GraphPad Prism software.

Quantification of tortuosity

10 cells in the dorsal/posterior region near the invagination pit of the SG placode were

selected for quantification. Using the Fiji software, the actual length of a given adherens

junction (L) was calculated using the E-Cad signals. The tortuosity was calculated as the

ratio of the junctional length (L) and the shortest distance (L_o) between the two vertices

(tortuosity= L/L_o). Five SGs were used for quantification for each genotype. P values were

calculated using the Mann-Whitney U test in the GraphPad Prism software.

Quantification of length and number of gaps of junctional Crb

Length of gaps and junctional length were measured using the Fiji software. Gaps that

have the length equal or more than 0.2 µm were quantified. If there were more than one

gap per junction, the length of gaps was calculated as a sum of all gaps in a given junction.

For each SG, 10 cells in the dorsal/posterior region were used for quantification. For the

number of gaps, the total number of gaps in those 10 cells were counted. Four SGs (~90

junctions) were used for quantification.

Fly strains	Source	RRID	References
Rab11-EYFP	Bloomington Stock Center	62549	(Dunst et al., 2015)
Rab5-EYFP	Bloomington Stock Center	62543	Dunst et al., 2015
Rab7-EYFP	Bloomington Stock Center	62545	Dunst et al., 2015
UAS-Spastin (on II)	N. Sherwood, Duke		Sherwood et al., 2004
UAS-Spastin-CFP (on III)	N. Sherwood, Duke		Du et al., 2010
fkh-Gal4 (on II)	D. Andrew (John Hopkins University)		Chung et al., 2017
fkh-Gal4 (on III)	D. Andrew (John Hopkins University)		Chung et al., 2017
ubi-Rok-GFP	S. Parkhurst (Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center)		Abreu-Blanco et al., 2014
sqh-GFP			Royou et al., 2004

UAS-Rab11S25N-EYFP	Bloomington Stock Center	9792, 23261	
UAS-Dicer-2	Bloomington Stock Center	60008	
UAS-Dhc64C RNAi	Bloomington Stock Center Vienna *Drosophila* Resource Center	76941, 28749, v28053, v28054. 4 lines worked equally. v28054 was used for all of the data shown in this work.	
klar[1]	Bloomington Stock Center	3256	
klar[mCD4]	Bloomington Stock Center	25097	
klar[mCD4] ubi-Rok-GFP	Recombinant line generated from *klar[mCD4]* and *ubi-Rok-GFP*		
UAS-Crb RNAi	Bloomington Stock Center	38373, 38903, 40869, 34999.	

		4 lines worked equally. 2 lines (38373, 34999) were used for the data shown in this work.	
UAS-Baz RNAi	Bloomington Stock Center	35002, 38213, 39072. 38213 provided the strongest phenotype and used for quantification in this work.	
UAS-E-Cad RNAi	Bloomington Stock Center	32904	
UAS-Shg-GFP	Bloomington Stock Center	58445	
UAS-Baz-GFP	Bloomington Stock Center	65845	
matα-Gal4 (*maternal Gal4*; on II)	Bloomington Stock Center	7062	

Antibody	Source	RRID	Dilution
α-E-Cad (rat)	DSHB (deposited by T. Uemura, Kyoto University)	DCAD2 (AB_528120)	1:50
α-CrebA (rat)	Andrew lab (John Hopkins University)		1:3000
α-CrebA (rabbit)	Andrew lab (John Hopkins University)		1:5000
α-Dhc (mouse)	DSHB (deposited by J.M. Scholey, University of California)	2C11-2 (AB_2091523)	1:50
α-Rab11 (rabbit)	Andrew lab (John Hopkins University)		1:500
α-Nuf (guinea pig)	Sotillos lab (CABD)		1:500
α-acetylated α-tubulin (mouse)	Invitrogen	32-2700 (AB_2533073)	1:1000
α-tyrosinated α-tubulin (rat)	Invitrogen	MA1-80017 (AB_2210201)	1:1000
α-GFP (chick)	Invitrogen	A10262 (AB_2534023)	1:500

α-β-galactosidase (rabbit)	Invitrogen	A11132 (AB_221539)	1:500
α-Crb (mouse)	DSHB (deposited by E. Knust, Max Planck Institute)	Cq4 (AB_528181)	1:10
α-Fog (rabbit)	N. Fuse (Fuse et al., 2013)		1:1000
α-Sec15 (guinea pig)	Bellen lab (Baylor College of Medicine)		1:2000
Alexa Fluor 488/568/647-coupled secondary antibodies	Invitrogen		1:500

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 Figure legends

Figure 1. Intracellular trafficking components are apically enriched near the
invagination pit. (A) A schematic drawing of the anterior region of the *Drosophila* embryo
for stage 11 (ventral and lateral views) and stage 16 (lateral view). Green, SGs. Top right,
magnified view of a SG placode. Purple area, the region where SG cells undergo
clustered apical constriction during invagination. (B-D) En face (top) and lateral (bottom)
views of a wild type SG immunostained for E-Cad, Rab11 and Nuf. Rab11 and Nuf show
apical upregulation near the invagination pit (yellow arrowheads). Red arrowheads,
Rab11 and Nuf signals near the segmental groove. (B'-D') Heat maps of apical area (B')
and intensity of Rab11 and Nuf (C', D'). Cells with small apical areas (dark blue cells in
B') near the invagination pit show high intensity of Rab11 and Nuf (red cells in C' and D').
(E) Negative correlation between Rab11/Nuf intensities and apical areas of SG cells. R,
Pearson correlation coefficient. $p < 0.0001$ for all samples (n=5 SGs; 690 cells). (F-H')
Rab11-EYFP (an EYFP insertion at the N-terminus under the control of Rab11 regulatory
sequences) SG labeled with antibodies against E-Cad (F), GFP (G) and Nuf (H) and
corresponding heat maps for apical areas (F') and intensity of GFP (G') and Nuf signals
(H'). Rab11-EYFP shows the same enrichment near the invagination pit (F'-H'). (I-J') En
face (top) and lateral (bottom) views of a wild type SG immunostained with E-Cad (I) and
Dhc64C (J) and corresponding heat maps for apical areas (I') and intensity of Dhc64C
signals (J'). Yellow arrowheads, apical upregulation of Dhc64C near the invagination pit.
(K-L') A *Rab7-EYFP* (an EYFP insertion at the N-terminus under the control of Rab7
regulatory sequences) SG immunostained with E-Cad (K) and GFP (L) and
corresponding heat maps for apical areas (K') and intensity of Rab7-EYFP (L'). Asterisks:
invagination pit. White lines: SG boundary.

Figure 1

Figure 2. Disruption of MTs results in uncoordinated apical constriction, reduction of apical vesicle numbers, and mislocalization of Rab11/Nuf. (A-A''') Co-localization of Rab11 and tyrosinated α-tubulin in SG cells during invagination. A wild type SG immunostained with Rab11 (green) and tyrosinated α-tubulin (purple; Tyr-α-Tub) is shown with higher magnification of the yellow boxed area (A'-A'''). Yellow arrowheads, co-localized Rab11 and tyrosinated α-tubulin. (B-B'') Z sections along the yellow line in (A). Yellow arrowheads, co-localized Rab11 and tyrosinated α-tubulin. (C) Thresholded Manders' colocalization coefficients show the extent to which two proteins colocalize (n= 6 SGs). (D-E''') Overexpression of spastin in the SG disrupts the MT networks and compromises enrichment of Rab11 near the invagination pit. (D-D''') En face (top) and lateral (bottom) views of a control SG show abundant levels of tyrosinated α-tubulin (D'') and acetylated α-tubulin (D'''; Ace-α-Tub). Rab11 is enriched in the apical domain near the invagination pit (yellow arrowheads). (E-E''') Overexpression of spastin by *fkh-Gal4* leads to a loss of MTs in the SG, labelled both by tyrosinated α-tubulin (E'') and acetylated α-tubulin (E'''). (E') Rab11 is not enriched near the invagination pit and mislocalizes basolaterally when spastin is overexpressed (red arrowheads). (F-F'') Confocal images of a spastin-overexpressing SG stained with Rab11 (F') and Nuf (F'') and corresponding heat maps for apical areas (G), intensities of Rab11 (G') and Nuf (G''). Compare to control SGs in Figure 1B-1H'. (H) A ratio of deviation of intensity to the median intensity of Rab11 (left) and Nuf (right) in all SG cells (n= 5 SGs; 690 cells). *, $p<0.01$. ****, $p<0.0001$, Mann-Whitney U test. Asterisks: invagination pit. White lines: SG boundary.

Figure 2

Figure 3. Rab11 and the dynein motor are required for coordinated apical constriction in the SG. (A-C) Confocal images of control (A), Rab11-DN-overexpressing (B) and *Dhc64C* RNAi (C) SGs immunostained with E-Cad. (A'-C') Heat maps corresponding to images shown in A-C. (D-E') Confocal images and corresponding heat maps of wild type (D, D') and *klar* mutant (E, E') SGs. (F, H) Percentage and cumulative percentage of cells with different apical areas. Mann-Whitney U test (for percentage of cells) and Kolmogorov-Smirnov test (for cumulative percentage of cells). n= 5 SGs (control (*fkh-Gal4/+*), 517 cells; *Rab11-DN*, 536 cells; zygotic *Dhc64C* RNAi, 499 cells; WT, 690 cells; *klar^1*, 705 cells; maternal/zygotic *Dhc64C* RNAi, 561 cells). **, p<0.01; ****, p<0.0001. (G) A range of phenotypes is observed when *Dhc64C* is knocked down both maternally and zygotically, including mild (uncoordinated apical constriction), intermediate (enlarged pit) and severe (deformed epithelial tissue and additional folds) phenotypes. Asterisks: invagination pit. White lines: SG boundary. (H) Percentage and cumulative percentage of cells with different areas in SGs that were knocked down *Dhc64C* both maternally and zygotically.

Figure 3

Figure 4. Compromised dynein functions lead to a reduction of apicomedial myosin formation in the SG cells. (A-B'''') sqh-GFP signals in control (A-A'''') and *Dhc64C* RNAi (B-B'''') SGs. (A''-B'''') Higher magnification of the yellow boxed area in A and B. *Dhc64C* knockdown leads to reduced apicomedial myosin (red arrowheads in B'') compared to strong signals of apicomedial myosin in A'' (yellow arrowheads). (C) Quantification of apicomedial myosin, junctional myosin and the ratio of apicomedial to junctional myosin in *Dhc64C* RNAi SG cells. (D-E'''') Myosin signals in control (D-D'''') and in *klar* mutant (E-E'''') SGs. (D''-E'''') Higher magnification of the yellow boxed area in D and E. *Dhc64C* knockdown leads to reduced apicomedial myosin (red arrowheads in E''); compare these to strong signals of apicomedial myosin in D'' (yellow arrowheads). (F) Quantification of apicomedial myosin, junctional myosin and the ratio of apicomedial to junctional myosin in control and *klar* mutant SG cells. n= 5 SGs for all genotypes; 10 cells in the dorsal/posterior region of each SG. *, p< 0.05. **, p< 0.01. ***, p< 0.001. ****, p<0.0001, Mann-Whitney U test. Asterisks: invagination pit.

Figure 4

Figure 5. Compromised MTs and dynein functions impair accumulation of apicomedial Rok within constricting cells during invagination. (A-A") A control SG shows accumulation of Rok-GFP signals (green) in the apicomedial region of cells near the invagination pit. E-Cad (magenta), cell boundary. Yellow arrowheads, accumulative Rok-GFP. (B-C") Rok-GFP signals are more dispersed in SG cells upon spastin overexpression (B-B") and knockdown of *Dhc64C* (C-C") (red arrowheads). (D) A control SG homozygous for ubi-Rok-GFP shows a huge accumulation of Rok-GFP in constricting cells (yellow arrowheads). (E) A mutation in *klar* results in slightly reduced accumulation of Rok-GFP in cells near the invagination pit (red arrowheads). (F) Representative images for how areas of Rok-GFP puncta were measured using the Fiji software. (G,H) Quantification of areas of Rok-GFP puncta. ****, p< 0.0001, Mann-Whitney U test. n= 5 SGs for all genotypes; 15 cells in the dorsal/posterior region for each SG.

Figure 5

Figure 6. Impairing MTs and dynein motors suppresses the over-active Fog signaling pathway. (A-A') Rok-GFP signals in constricting cells in a control SG (yellow arrowheads). (B-B') In Fog-overexpressing SGs, Rok-GFP is over-accumulated in cells (red arrowheads). (C-D') The Rok over-accumulation phenotype is suppressed when spastin is overexpressed or *Dhc64C* is knocked down (red arrows). (E-E') Apicomedial myosin in the control SG (yellow arrowheads). (F-F') Fog-overexpressing SG cells show increased apicomedial myosin (red arrowheads). (G-H') Upregulation of apicomedial myosin caused by Fog overexpression is inhibited when spastin is overexpressed or *Dhc64C* is knocked down (red arrows). (I-I') Fog overexpressing SG cells show wavy adherens junctions (E-Cad) signals. Cell junctions are deformed at the contact sites to apicomedial myosin (red arrowheads). (J) Quantification of areas of Rok-GFP puncta. (n= 5 SGs; 15 cells for each SG). (K) Left, a cartoon for how the tortuosity of a cell junction was measured. Right, quantification of the tortuosity (n= 5 SGs; 10 cells for each SG; ~280 junctions). (L) Quantification of apicomedial myosin, junctional myosin and the ratio of apicomedial to junctional myosin (n= 5 SGs; 10 cells for each SG). For all quantification, cells in the dorsal/posterior region of SG placode were used. *, p< 0.05. **, p< 0.01. ***, p< 0.001. ****, p< 0.0001, Mann-Whitney U test. Asterisks: invagination pit.

Figure 6

Figure 7. Crb, E-Cad and Baz have a role in regulating apical constriction during SG invagination. (A-B'') Control and spastin-overexpressing SGs immunostained with E-Cad and Crb. (C-D') Higher magnification of boxed areas in A' and B'. Crb staining shows gaps along the junctions in spastin-overexpressing SGs (yellow arrows). (E,F) Control and spastin-overexpressing SGs immunostained with Baz. (G-I) Quantification of junctional signals for Crb (G), E-Cad (H) and Baz (I). n= 3 SGs; 30 cells for each SG. (J, K) Quantification of the ratio of length of gaps to junctional length (J; Mann-Whitney U test) and the number of gaps (K; Student t-test) in SGs immunostained with Crb. n= 4 SGs; 10 cells for each SG. (L-O') Confocal images of SGs stained with E-Cad (L-O) and corresponding heat maps for apical areas (L'-O'). (H) Percentage and cumulative percentage of cells with different apical areas. Mann-Whitney U test (percentage of cells) and Kolmogorov-Smirnov test (cumulative percentage of cells). n= 5 SGs (control, 517 cells; *crb* RNAi, 583 cells; *E-Cad* RNAi, 712 cells; *baz* RNAi, 601 cells). *, $p<0.05$. **, $p<0.01$, ****, $p<0.0001$. Asterisks: invagination pit.

Figure 7

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Figure 8. Knockdown of *crb*, *E-Cad* or *baz* results in reduced apicomedial myosin formation and dispersed apicomedial Rok. (A-D") Compared to strong apicomedial myosin in control SGs (yellow arrowheads in A''), knockdown of *crb*, *E-Cad* or *baz* results in reduction of apicomedial myosin in SG cells near the invagination pit (red arrowheads in B''-D''). (A"-D") Higher magnification of yellow boxed areas shown in A-D. (E) Quantification of apicomedial myosin, junctional myosin and ratio of apicomedial to junctional myosin of SG cells from different genotypes shown in A-D (n=5 SGs for each genotype; 10 cells in the dorsal/ posterior region). **, p<0.01. ***, p< 0.001. ****, p<0.0001. Mann-Whitney U test. (F-I'') Compared to Rok accumulation in control SGs (yellow arrowheads in F''), reduction of *crb*, *E-Cad* or *baz* causes less accumulating Rok-GFP signals in the apical domain of cells near the pit (red arrowheads in G''-I''). (F''-I'') Higher magnification of yellow boxed areas shown in F-I. (J) Quantification of areas of Rok-GFP puncta in SG cells from different genotypes shown in F-I (n=5 SGs; 15 cells in the dorsal/posterior for each genotype). **, p< 0.01. ****, p< 0.0001. Mann-Whitney U test. Asterisks: invagination pit.

Figure 8

719 **Figure 9. A proposed model for MT-dependent trafficking to promote apical**
720 **constriction during SG invagination.** Vesicular transport is essential for apical
721 localization of Crb, E-Cad, and Baz to regulate apical myosin networks and subsequent
722 apical constriction. Fog signaling activity also depends on MTs and dynein motors.

Figure 9

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Figure S1. Sec15 and Rab5-EYFP are enriched near the invagination pit during SG

invagination. (A-B') Confocal images of a Rab5-EYFP SG stained with E-Cad (A) and

GFP (B). Rab5-EYFP is an EYFP insertion at the N-terminus under the control of Rab5

regulatory sequences. GFP signals are upregulated in the apical region near the

invagination pit. (A', B') Heat maps of apical areas (A') and intensity of Rab5-EYFP signals

(B'). Cells with small apical areas (dark blue cells in A') near the invagination pit show

high intensity of Rab5-EYFP (red cells in B'). (C) Negative correlation between Rab5-

EYFP intensity and apical areas of SG cells (n= 4 SGs; 396 cells). (D-E') Sec15 is

upregulated in the cells near the invagination pit. (D, E) Wild type embryo immunostained

with E-Cad and Sec15. (D', E') Heat maps of apical areas (D') and intensity of Sec15

signals (E'). (F) Negative correlation between intensity of Sec15 and apical areas of SG

cells (n= 5 SGs; 527 cells). Asterisks: invagination pit.

Supplemental Figure 1

741 **Figure S2. Overexpression of spastin results in loss of acetylated-α-tubulin in SG**
742 **cells.** (A-B'') Confocal images of a control (A-A'') and spastin-CFP-overexpressing SG
743 (B-B'') stained with phalloidin (red) and acetylated α-tubulin (magenta). Spastin-CFP
744 (green) signals show SG-specific overexpression of spastin by fkh-Gal4, which leads to
745 a loss of MTs in that region. Asterisks, invagination pit.

Supplemental Figure 2

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Supplemental Figure 3

Figure S4. Knockdown of *crb*, *E-Cad* and *baz* reduces Crb, E-Cad and Baz levels in

the SG. (A-C'') Compared to strong Crb, E-Cad and Baz signals in control SGs (A-C),

knockdown of *crb*, *E-Cad* and *baz* results in reduction of Crb, E-Cad and Baz levels in

SG cells near the invagination pit (A'-C'). (A''-C'') Quantification of junctional intensity of

Crb, E-Cad and Baz. n=5 SGs (10 cells in the dorsal/posterior region of each SG were

tested). ****, p< 0.0001 (Mann-Whitney U test). Asterisks, invagination pit.

Supplemental Figure 4

Figure S5. MTs play a role in trafficking key apical and junctional proteins during SG formation. (A-B''') Overexpression of spastin results in mislocalization of Rab11 and Nuf in stage 16 SGs. (A-A''') In control, Rab11 and Nuf localize in the apical region of SG cells (red arrowheads). (B-B''') In spastin-overexpressing SGs, Rab11 and Nuf are mislocalized to aggregates in the cytoplasm of cells (yellow arrowheads). (C-C''') Overexpression of Crb causes mislocalization of Crb in all membrane domains and expands the membrane. Rab11 is still enriched in the apical domain (red arrowheads). (D-D''') Co-overexpression of spastin and Crb results in mislocalization of Crb to large aggregates in the cytoplasm, which overlap with Rab11 (yellow arrowheads). (E-E''') Overexpression of E-Cad causes a slight increase of the apical membrane, with the majority of E-Cad signals in the apical domain (red arrowheads) and only some punctate E-Cad signals in the basolateral region (blue arrows). (F-F''') Co-overexpression of E-Cad and spastin causes mislocalization of E-Cad to cytoplasmic aggregates, which overlap with Nuf (yellow arrowheads). (G-G''') Overexpression of Baz causes a slightly enlarged lumen. Red arrowheads, apical localization of Baz and Nuf. (H-H''') The enlarged lumen phenotype caused by Baz overexpression is suppressed when spastin is co-overexpressed. Blue arrows, a pool of mislocalized Nuf overlaps with mislocalized Baz. Yellow arrowheads, mislocalized Nuf that does not overlap with Baz. White dashed line, cell and nuclear boundaries (H) and apical membrane (I). Nu, nucleus.

Supplemental Figure 5

Figure S6: Fog does not colocalize with Nuf when MTs are disrupted. (A-A''') A stage
16 SG overexpressing Fog shows mislocalized Fog as cytoplasmic aggregates (yellow
arrowheads). Nuf is still apically localized (red arrowheads). (B-B''') When Fog and
spastin are co-overexpressed, mislocalized Fog is mainly observed in the basal region of
cells. Nuf is mislocalized to the basolateral region of cells but does not overlap with Fog
(yellow arrowheads). Nu: nucleus.

Supplemental Figure 6

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 Fly genotypes

Figures	Genotypes
Figure 1B-D', I-J'	Oregon R
Figure 1F-H'	*Rab11-EYFP*
Figure 1K-L'	*Rab7-EYFP*
Figure 2A-B''	Oregon R
Figure 2D-D'''	*fkh-Gal4/+*
Figure 2E-E''', F-G''	*fkh-Gal4/UAS-Spastin-CFP*
Figure 3A-A'	*fkh-Gal4/+*
Figure 3B-B'	*fkh-Gal4/UAS-Rab11-S25N-YFP*
Figure 3C-C'	*UAS-Dicer-2/+; fkh-Gal4/UAS-Dhc64C RNAi*
Figure 3D-D'	Oregon R
Figure 3E-E'	*klar^1*
Figure 3G, first left panel (top and bottom)	*fkh-Gal4/+*
Figure 3G, three right panels (top and bottom)	*matα-Gal4/+; fkh-Gal4/UAS-Dhc64C RNAi*
Figure 4A-A''''	*sqh-GFP/+; fkh-Gal4/+*
Figure 4B-B''''	*sqh-GFP/UAS-Dicer-2; fkh-Gal4/UAS-Dhc64C RNAi*
Figure 4D-D''''	*sqh-GFP; sqh^{AX3}*
Figure 4E-E''''	*sqh-GFP; klar^1*

Figure 5A-A''	*fkh-Gal4 ubi-Rok-GFP/+*
Figure 5B-B''	*UAS-Spastin; fkh-Gal4 ubi-Rok-GFP/+*
Figure 5C-C''	*UAS-Dicer-2/+; fkh-Gal4 ubi-Rok-GFP/UAS-Dhc64C RNAi*
Figure 5D-D''	*ubi-Rok-GFP*
Figure 5E-E''	*klar^{mCD4} ubi-Rok-GFP*
Figure 5F	*fkh-Gal4 ubi-Rok-GFP/+*
Figure 6A-A'	*fkh-Gal4 ubi-Rok-GFP/+*
Figure 6B-B'	*UAS-Fog/+; fkh-Gal4 ubi-Rok-GFP/+*
Figure 6C-C'	*UAS-Fog/+; fkh-Gal4 ubi-Rok-GFP/UAS-Spastin*
Figure 6D-D'	*UAS-Fog/+; fkh-Gal4 ubi-Rok-GFP/UAS-Dhc64C RNAi*
Figure 6E-E'	*sqh-GFP/+; fkh-Gal4/+*
Figure 6F-F'	*sqh-GFP/UAS-Fog; fkh-Gal4/+*
Figure 6G-G'	*sqh-GFP/UAS-Fog; fkh-Gal4/UAS-Spastin*
Figure 6H-H'	*sqh-GFP/UAS-Fog; fkh-Gal4/UAS-Dhc64C RNAi*
Figure 6I-I'	*sqh-GFP/UAS-Fog; fkh-Gal4/+*
Figure 7A-A'', C-C', E	*fkh-Gal4/+*
Figure 7B-B'', D-D', F	*fkh-Gal4/UAS-Spastin*

Figure 7L-L'	*fkh-Gal4/+*
Figure 7M-M'	*fkh-Gal4/UAS-Crb RNAi*
Figure 7N-N'	*fkh-Gal4/UAS-E-Cad RNAi*
Figure 7O-O'	*fkh-Gal4/UAS-Baz RNAi*
Figure 8A-A''	*sqh-GFP/+; fkh-Gal4/+*
Figure 8B-B''	*sqh-GFP/+; fkh-Gal4/UAS-Crb RNAi*
Figure 8C-C''	*sqh-GFP/+; fkh-Gal4/UAS-E-Cad RNAi*
Figure 8D-D''	*sqh-GFP/+; fkh-Gal4/UAS-Baz RNAi*
Figure 8F-F''	*fkh-Gal4 ubi-Rok-GFP/+*
Figure 8G-G''	*fkh-Gal4 ubi-Rok-GFP/UAS-Crb RNAi*
Figure 8H-H''	*fkh-Gal4 ubi-Rok-GFP/UAS-E-Cad RNAi*
Figure 8I-I''	*fkh-Gal4 ubi-Rok-GFP/UAS-Baz RNAi*
Figure S1A-B'	*Oregon R*
Figure S1D-E'	*Rab5-EYFP*
Figure S2A-A''	*fkh-Gal4/+*
Figure S2B-B''	*fkh-Gal4/UAS-Spastin-CFP*
Figure S3A-A'	*fkh-Gal4/+*
Figure S3B-B'	*UAS-Crb/+; fkh-Gal4/+*
Figure S3C-C'	*UAS-Crb/+; fkh-Gal4/UAS-Spastin*

Figure S4A,B,C	*fkh-Gal4/+*
Figure S4A'	*fkh-Gal4/UAS-Crb* RNAi
Figure S4B'	*fkh-Gal4/UAS-E-Cad* RNAi
Figure S4C'	*fkh-Gal4/UAS-Baz* RNAi
Figure S5A-A'''	*fkh-Gal4/+*
Figure S5B-B'''	*fkh-Gal4/UAS-Spastin*
Figure S5C-C'''	*UAS-Crb/+; fkh-Gal4/+*
Figure S5D-D'''	*UAS-Crb/+; fkh-Gal4/UAS-Spastin*
Figure S5E-E'''	*fkh-Gal4/UAS-Shg-GFP*
Figure S5F-F'''	*UAS-Spastin/+; fkh-Gal4/UAS-Shg-GFP*
Figure S5G-G'''	*fkh-Gal4/UAS-Baz-GFP*
Figure S5H-H'''	*UAS-Spastin/+; fkh-Gal4/UAS-Baz-GFP*
Figure S6A-A'''	*UAS-Fog/+; fkh-Gal4/+*
Figure S6B-B'''	*UAS-Fog/+; fkh-Gal4/UAS-Spastin*

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