HIV-1 RNA genomes initiate host protein packaging in the cytosol independently

of Gag capsid proteins

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ABSTRACT

HIV-1 RNA genomes interact with diverse RNA binding proteins (RBPs) in the cytoplasm

including antiviral factor APOBEC3G (A3G) that, in the absence of viral Vif proteins, is

packaged into virions. Where and when HIV-1-A3G interactions are initiated for

packaging inside the cell is unknown, and the relative contributions of genome vs. Gag

capsid proteins to this process remains controversial. Here we visualized A3G responses

to HIV-1 infection over an entire replication cycle using long-term (up to 72 h) live single

cell imaging. We show that Vif-deficient HIV-1 dramatically shifts A3G and a second RNA

surveillance factor, MOV10, from the cytoplasm to virus particle assembly sites with little

to no net discernible effects on general markers of cytoplasmic processing bodies

(DCP1A), stress granules (TIA-1), or a marker of the nonsense-mediated decay

machinery (UPF1). Using a new live cell RNA-protein interaction assay based on RNA

tethering (the in-cell RNA-protein interaction protocol, or IC-IP), we provide evidence that

A3G- and MOV10- genome interactions are selective, strong, occur in presence or

absence of Gag, and are initiated in the cytosol soon if not immediately after genome

nuclear export. Finally, although Gag is sufficient to package A3G into virions even in the

absence of genomes, single virion imaging indicates that selective A3G-genome

interactions promote much more consistent per virion delivery of A3G to assembly sites.

Collectively, these studies suggest a paradigm for early, strong, and persistent cytosolic

detection of select HIV-1 RNA signatures by A3G, MOV10 and other host RBPs that are

enriched in virions.

IMPORTANCE

Host-pathogen interactions determine the success of viral replication. While extensive

work has identified many interactions between HIV-1 and cellular factors, our

understanding of where these interactions in cells occur during the course of infection is

incomplete. Here, we show that multiple RNA-binding proteins (including the antiviral

restriction factor, APOBEC3G, and MOV10 helicase) bind HIV-1 RNA genomes in the

cytoplasm and co-traffic with them into progeny virions. Furthermore, we show that these

interactions with HIV-1 RNA occur in the absence of Gag and are sufficiently strong to

recruit these to otherwise non-native subcellular locales. Together, these data begin to

illuminate the intracellular trafficking pathways shared by host RNA binding proteins and

the viral RNAs they preferentially bind.

INTRODUCTION

The human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) hijacks a diverse set of host cellular RNA binding proteins (RBPs) to carry out viral RNA transcription, nuclear export, translation, and trafficking (1–4). Select host RBPs are packaged into virions and exhibit antiviral properties, with the best-characterized example being members of the Apolipoprotein B mRNA editing enzyme, catalytic polypeptide-like 3 (APOBEC3) family. A subset of APOBEC3 proteins (A3F, A3G, and A3H) can be packaged into virions to abolish infectivity by deaminating cytidines on the nascent minus-sense DNA strand of the viral genome, thereby generating G-to-A mutations in the DNA provirus (5–8). During productive infection, however, APOBEC3 proteins are counteracted by viral infectivity factor (Vif) proteins that facilitate their proteasome-mediated degradation prior to the onset of virus particle production (9–11). Additional host factors that are unaffected by Vif are packaged into virions, some of which, *e.g.*, RNA helicases MOV10 and UPF1, have been implicated as regulatory factors influencing virion infectivity (12–16).

How APOBEC proteins evolved to ensure encapsidation into virions remains a poorly understood aspect of the cell-intrinsic host defense. HIV-1 virions are, in essence, transmissible ribonucleoprotein (RNP) complexes, with their assembly driven by viral Gag capsid proteins that multimerize on an RNA scaffold consisting of host-derived RNA molecules and two dimerized viral RNA genomes, with Gag-RNA binding mediated by Gag's C-terminal Nucleocapsid (NC) domain [reviewed in (17, 18)]. In the absence of viral genomes, Gag expression is sufficient to drive formation of non-infectious virus-like particles containing cellular RNAs, packaged in proportion to their relative abundance in the cell (19, 20). A3G's incorporation into virions has been shown, for most cell types, to

be both RNA- and NC-dependent (21–26)(22, 27). However, the relative contributions of

viral genomes vs. host RNAs to this process remains controversial. On the one hand,

A3G can incorporated into virus particles through promiscuous interactions with host RNA

even when packageable genomes are not expressed (23, 25, 27). On the other hand,

A3G incorporation levels can be enhanced by genomes (16, 21); and A3G exhibits

selective RNA-binding characteristics (25, 28) including a reported preference for G-rich

segments of the HIV-1 genome (26). One or more additional host factors may contribute

to A3G packaging including the 7SL non-coding RNA component of the signal recognition

particle (29–32).

Where and when A3G and other packaged RBPs interface with Gag and/or

genomes in the cell has also been under investigation for some time, with conflicting

results. At steady-state, A3G is distributed throughout the cytosol (the aqueous phase of

the cytoplasm) and accumulates to high levels at non-membranous cytoplasmic sites of

mRNA decay known as processing bodies (PBs) (33, 34). Cytosolic A3G will also rapidly

re-localize to sites of translational repression known as stress granules (SGs) in response

to heat shock or oxidative stress (33, 34). Although early studies suggested a functional

link between PBs and A3G's antiviral activity (34–36); we have not observed viral

genomes and Gag to be overtly associated with P bodies (37–39), and dissolution of

these structures by depleting P body structural components has no effect on HIV-1

replication (37, 40). Because HIV-1 Gag and genomes fill the cytoplasm in a non-localized

fashion prior to virion assembly (38, 39, 41, 42), we predicted that the virus-host

interactions precipitating A3G packaging were most likely to occur ubiquitously

throughout the fluid phase of the cytosol. However, such a scenario has yet to be formally

demonstrated.

To gain greater understanding of the subcellular dynamics of HIV-1 RNA

trafficking, virion production, and host cellular response to infection, herein we carried out

a comprehensive analysis of the coordinated behaviors of HIV-1 RNA genomes, Gag,

A3G, and markers of PBs, SGs, and the NMD machinery in single cells using single cell

video microscopy, in conjunction with a new tethering-based intracellular RNA-protein

interaction assay (the in-cell RNA-protein interaction protocol, or IC-IP. Collectively, our

results indicate that viral genomes exhibit markedly strong and selective interactions with

A3G and at least one additional host RBP, MOV10; that these interactions are Gag-

independent; and that these interactions occur throughout the cytosol and are initiated

soon if not immediately after viral genome nuclear export.

RESULTS

Single cell imaging using RBP biosensor cell lines to track HIV-1 replication and detect host protein packaging.

To study real-time RBP responses to HIV-1 in single cells over an entire round of viral replication, we generated biosensor HeLa cell lines stably expressing fluorescent protein-tagged versions of A3G (YFP-A3G) (Fig. 1A) and, as comparators, cell lines constitutively expressing YFP-MOV10 (Fig. 1I), YFP-UPF1 (a component of the NMD machinery) (Fig. 1I), TIA-1-YFP (a marker of SGs) (Fig. 2A) or CFP-DCP1A (a marker of PBs) (Fig. 2E) (33, 63). To address the role(s) of Vif, cells were infected with either Vif-competent (Vif+) HIV-1$_{NL4-3}$ CFP reporter virus or viruses rendered Vif-minus (Vifxx) due to the insertion of two stop codons in the *vif* reading frame (see cartoon depiction in Fig. 1B) (mutation based on ref. (52)). In the absence of infection, YFP-A3G was localized to the cytoplasm and accumulated in bright PBs (Fig. 1A, left panel), with induction of oxidative stress using 250 µM sodium arsenite (Ars) causing re-localization of YFP-A3G to SGs, as anticipated (64)(Fig. 1A, right panel). We also confirmed that our YFP-A3G fusion protein was packaged into Vifxx virus particles and retained antiviral activity using single-round assembly and infectivity assays (Fig. 1C).

Hela.YFP-A3G cells were infected with Vif+ virus at a MOI of <1 so that infected and uninfected cells would be visualized side-by-side over an entire round of replication, requiring >48 hours of continuous single cell imaging. Viral gene expression (based on the CFP reporter) was initiated 16-20 hours post-infection (hpi), followed by gradual loss of YFP-A3G from 20-25 hpi consistent with Vif-driven degradation (decay rate of 24.5% per h +/-6.0%; n=33; Fig. 1D, Movie S1, and quantification in Fig. 1E). YFP-A3G was

depleted from both diffuse cytosolic and PB pools simultaneously, with levels suppressed

to near background with little to no discernible fluctuations to Vif activity after 24h (Fig.

1D and Fig. 1E showing kinetics over the entire 48h time course). CFP+ cells ultimately

became rounded after 40 hpi, consistent with Vif-induced cell cycle arrest (65, 66) (Fig.

1D and Movie S1, see 48 h time point).

We next infected HeLa.YFP-A3G cells with Vif-deleted (Vifxx) reporter virus. As

expected, YFP-A3G expression was maintained in the cytoplasm and at PBs throughout

the entire course of infection, and cell cycle arrest was not observed (Fig. 1F,

quantification in Fig. 1E and Movie S2). Strikingly, however, in infected cells much of the

YFP-A3G signal coalesced into large, up to 4 µm diameter (based on current resolution)

clusters at 30-48 hpi (Fig. 1F, white arrows highlight growing clusters); unlikely to be PBs

or SGs due to their proximity to the plasma membrane and real-time observations of

cluster release and transfer to neighboring cells (Fig. 1F, 32h time point, and Movie S2).

YFP-A3G clusters stained positive for both HIV-1 Gag/Gag-Pol and viral genome

(unspliced RNA encoding the *gagpol* reading frame) but not *yfp-a3g* mRNA (negative

control) detected using a 4-color combined anti-p24^{Gag} immunofluorescence / RNA

fluorescence in situ hybridization (IF/FISH) protocol, thus indicating that the clusters most

likely represented YFP-A3G recruited to sites of virus particle assembly (Fig. 1G). Thin

section electron microscopy confirmed the presence of clusters of virus particles at the

surface of HeLa.YFP-A3G cells at 48 hpi for both Vif+ and Vifxx conditions, consistent

with this hypothesis (Fig. 1H).

For comparison, we also monitored Vif+ and Vifxx infection in cells expressing

YFP-MOV10, a superfamily 1 (SF1) RNA helicase and PB protein that is also efficiently

packaged into virions and interacts with RNA but, unlike A3G, is not targeted for

proteosomal degradation by Vif (13, 14); and cells stably expressing another YFP-tagged

SF1 helicase, UPF1, that plays a key role in NMD and is also packaged into virions (12,

67) (Fig. 1I, Fig. S1A, and Movie S3). We observed very similar effects of HIV-1 infection

on YFP-MOV10 as for YFP-A3G, with large amounts of signal transferred to large plasma

membrane clusters at later time points post-infection; both in the presence or absence of

Vif (Figs. 1I, S1B, S1C, and Movie S3). By contrast, YFP-UPF1, that exhibits a diffuse

distribution in the cytoplasm, was largely unaffected by HIV-1 (Figs. 1I, S1C, and Movie

S3); consistent with it being less efficiently packaged into virions relative to YFP-MOV10

(Fig. S1A).

Taken together, these experiments validated both YFP-A3G and YFP-MOV10 as

proxy biosensors for detecting and monitoring HIV-1 infection, with A3G providing for

single cell measurements of Vif-induced A3G degradation and cell cycle arrest; and both

YFP-A3G (in the absence of Vif) and YFP-MOV10 allowing for direct detection of HIV-1

virus particle assembly and host protein packaging as it occurs.

HIV-1 replication has no overall effect on processing bodies or stress granules.

Because A3G and MOV10 are enriched in SGs and PBs (33, 34, 37, 40), to address

specificity and determine if there are transitional effects of HIV-1 on SGs and PBs over

time we next studied biosensor cell lines expressing YFP-TIA-1 or CFP-DCP1A (Fig. 2);

validated markers of SGs and PBs, respectively [reviewed in (63)]. We first confirmed that

the YFP-TIA-1 "stress" biosensor formed SGs in response to sodium arsenite treatment

(Ars) (Fig. 2A, right panel) or in response to infection by using rhinovirus A16 (RVA16), a

positive-strand RNA virus we had studied previously (68) and discovered to cause

rampant SG formation as early as 4h post-infection (Fig. 2B and Movie S4). CFP-DCP1A

was enriched in bright punctae throughout the cytoplasm consistent with PBs, as

expected (Fig. 2E).

Unlike for RVA16, neither Vif+ nor Vifxx HIV-1 triggered SG formation in either YFP-

TIA-1 or YFP-A3G cells over 48h of continuous imaging, a time window sufficient to

encompass an entire round of viral replication (Fig. 2C with quantification in Fig. 2D). HIV-

1 also had no discernible effects on PB number or morphology in CFP-DCP1A biosensor

cells; with PB number being remarkably consistent and stable for individual cells under

all conditions (typically 6-9 PBs per cell, Fig. 2E with quantification in Fig. 2F). Unlike

YFP-A3G and YFP-MOV10, neither YFP-TIA-1 or CFP-CDP1A were shifted to the

plasma membrane over the imaging time course. Based on these observations, we

conclude that despite HIV-1's marked effects on YFP-A3G and YFP-MOV10 as shown in

Figure 1, net modulation of PBs or induction of SGs are unlikely to be intrinsic features of

the HIV-1 replication cycle.

HIV-1 Gag has been reported to inhibit SG formation (69–72), so that we also tested

the effects of treating HeLa.YFP-A3G or HeLa.YFP-TIA-1 biosensor cells with sodium

arsenite at 31 hpi when NL4-3 Gag expression in HeLa cells is relatively high (*e.g.*, see

ref.(66)). Contrary to our expectations, both YFP-A3G and YFP-TIA-1 accumulated in

SGs in Ars-treated cells with or without infection, for both Vif+ and Vifxx viruses (Fig. 2G

with quantification in Fig. 2H). To localize viral genomes under these conditions, we again

performed combined *gagpol* FISH and Gag IF, finding the bulk of the HIV-1 *gagpol* signal

markedly co-localized with YFP-A3G in Ars-induced SGs (Fig. 2I, compare YFP-A3G

panels to *gagpol* FISH panels). By contrast, the cytoplasmic pool of Gag was largely

excluded from these complexes (Fig. 2I, compare YFP-A3G panels to Gag anti-p24

panels). SGs are induced after kinase R-mediated phosphorylation of translation initiation

factor EIF2A, triggering aggregation of scaffolding proteins TIA-1, TIAR, and G3BP1 in

complex with mRNAs bound to translation initiation factors and polysome-associated

proteins [reviewed in (63, 73)]. Accordingly, marked co-localization of YFP-A3G viral

unspliced RNA in SGs would be consistent with A3G co-trafficking with genomes and/or

gagpol mRNAs in a cytosolic phase that contains free polysomes.

Evidence for strong genome-A3G interactions in the cytosol based on FRAP

In order to be able to directly track genomes and Gag in conjunction with YFP-A3G and YFP-MOV10, we next engineered two-color visible HIV-1 viruses expressing Gag-CFP from "self-tagging" RNA genomes bearing 24 copies of the MS2 RNA binding loop (located in the *gag-pol* open reading frame) and encoding an RFP-tagged MS2 bacteriophage (MS2-RFP) coat protein expressed from the viral *nef* locus (Vif+ and Vifxx Gag-CFP/MS2-RFP viruses, see cartoon depictions in Figs. 3A and 3C). When plasmids encoding visible HIV-1 were transfected into cells, Gag-CFP expression allowed for single cell measurement of viral late gene expression, with genomes tracked over time using the MS2-RFP proxy. Expression of Vif+ or Vifxx Gag-CFP/MS2-RFP viruses recapitulated effects seen during infection with CFP reporter viruses (see Fig. 1); including rapid, Vif-dependent down-regulation of YFP-A3G (decay rate = 25.9% per hour +/- 7.0%; n = 31, Fig. 3B, green, with quantification in Figs. 3E and 3F, see also Movie S5) and, for Vif-deficient (Vifxx) conditions, co-clustering of YFP-A3G, MS2-RFP-tagged genomes, and Gag-CFP to assembly sites at the plasma membrane (Fig. 4D, arrows, Movie S6; and see Fig. 4D for an example at higher magnification). Vif-induced YFP-A3G degradation occurred prior to the onset of virus particle assembly (Fig. 3B, compare 2 h and 3 h time points) but >1h after genomes populated the cytoplasm (Fig. 3D, compare 1h and 4h time points). A "Genome only" variant was also generated wherein we mutated the *gag* start codon to abolish Gag synthesis (mutation previously described in ref. (39)) (Fig. 3G). We also generated a version wherein we deleted the Rev response element (RRE) in the second major intron in order to abolish genome nuclear export (see Fig. 5F).

Both prior to and during virus particle assembly, Vifxx visible genomes and YFP-

A3G were co-distributed in a non-localized fashion throughout the cytoplasm, with YFP-

A3G but not genome or Gag-CFP accumulating at PBs (Fig. 3D, 2 and 3 h time points

post-onset of viral MS2-RFP gene expression). To begin to test if genomes and YFP-A3G

were interacting in the cytosolic fluid, we performed fluorescence recovery after

photobleaching (FRAP) analysis to measure rates of YFP-A3G recovery with or without

genomes and in the presence or absence of Gag (Fig. 3H, and quantification in Fig. 3I);

according to the hypothesis that interactions with bulky genomes would slow YFP-A3G

movements in the cytoplasm. To establish a baseline, we first infected cells with a Vif-

deficient HIV-1 reporter virus (Vifxx HIV mCherry), and confirmed that infection indeed

markedly reduced rates of YFP-A3G recovery ($t_{1/2}$ = 34.4 s +/- 5.3 s; n=8 cells) relative to

the uninfected (YFP-A3G alone) control ($t_{1/2}$ = 27.0 s +/- 13.5 s; n=14 cells). Interestingly,

we also observed incomplete recovery of YFP-A3G in infected cells (~75% recovery

compared to nearly 90% for untreated control cells Fig. 3I); consistent with the notion that

infection actually immobilized a significant fraction of the YFP-A3G pool within the

cytoplasm (74). To next dissect the relative contributions of genomes vs. Gag, we

compared YFP-A3G recovery after expressing genomes alone (Gagx/Vifxx visible HIV;

"Genome Only") to a "Gag Only" condition wherein we expressed mCherry-tagged Gag

from an mRNA modified to lack 5' and 3' viral regulatory RNA sequences and codon-

optimized to further reduce the potential for contributions of viral *cis*-acting RNA elements

located in the *gag* open reading frame (see cartoon depiction in Fig. 3G). The "Genome

Only" condition yielded markedly slower YFP-A3G recovery ($t_{1/2}$ = 70.8 s +/- 27.6 s; n=6

cells) relative to the no virus control (YFP-A3G Alone) and (COGag-mCh; $t_{1/2}$ = 30 s +/-

8.9 s; *n=7* cells) (Fig. 3I). Combined, because expression of genomes but not Gag slowed

YFP-A3G movements in the cytoplasm based on FRAP analysis, we postulated that

genome-YFP-A3G interactions are initiated in the cytoplasm independently of Gag

expression and well prior to the onset of virus particle assembly.

RNA tethering confirms genome-A3G interactions to be selective, Gag-independent, and initiated soon after RNA nuclear export.

Because FRAP does not distinguish between direct or indirect genome-A3G interactions, we endeavored to develop a single cell assay based on RNA tethering that would allow us to make more direct measurements of RNA-RBP interactions in the cytoplasm; dubbed the In-Cell RNA-Protein Interaction Protocol (IC-IP) (depicted in Fig. 4A). The IC-IP was based on the principle that, should RNA-protein interactions be sufficiently strong and selective, tethering an RNA of interest to unnatural sites in the cytoplasm (*e.g.*, membranes or the actin cytoskeleton) will shift the subcellular localization of the RBPs that are strongly and persistently associated with that RNA.

For genome-A3G IC-IPs, MSL-bearing genomes served as "bait" for YFP-A3G "prey", as depicted in Fig. 4A. Genome retargeting was achieved by co-expressing "targeter" MS2 coat proteins modified to tether MSL-tagged genomes to either membranes (Src-MS2; MS2 bearing an N-terminal 10 amino-acid membrane targeting signal) or the actin cytoskeleton (Lifeact-MS2; bearing an N-terminal 17 amino acid F-actin targeting signal) (Fig. 4B). Src-MS2 and Lifeact-MS2 targeters were expressed fused to iRFP670 so that we could co-visualize the targeter with visible 2-color HIV-1 expressing Gag-CFP and genomes labelled with the self-tagging MS2-RFP "tracker" (see cartoon depiction in Fig. 4C).

Co-expression of visible Vifxx Gag-CFP/MS2-RFP genomes as bait with the Src-MS2-iRFP or Lifeact-MS2-iRFP targeters caused moderate re-localization of Gag-CFP proteins from the cytosolic pool to intracellular vesicles (Fig. 4D, compare panels iv. and ix.) or F-actin filaments (Fig. 4D, compare panels iv. to xiv.), respectively; consistent with

a subset of Gag proteins co-trafficking with their genome substrate in the cytosol as we

have previously shown (39). Effects on YFP-A3G, however, were more striking, with

>50% of the net YFP-A3G per cell fluorescent signal relocalized to intracellular vesicles

or F-actin filaments (Fig. 4D, compare panels ii., viii., and xiii., and see YFP-A3G regions-

of-interest; ROI; with quantification in Figs. 4E and 4F). Consistent with our FRAP

analyses (Figs. 3H and 3I), "Genome Only" bait was sufficient to recruit >50% of YFP-

A3G to intracellular vesicles as directed by Src-MS2, indicating that genome-A3G

cytosolic interactions are widespread and occur independently of Gag (Figs. 5A and 5B).

By contrast, tethering a control mRNA expressing codon-optimized version of CFP-

tagged Gag ("Gag Only") had no effect on YFP-A3G cytoplasmic distribution (Figs. 5C

and 5D), confirming specificity. Collectively, these results suggested that HIV-1 genome-

A3G interactions in the cytoplasm are strong, specific, and occur in the absence of Gag.

A useful feature of the IC-IP is that it can be carried out in live cells and coupled to

video microscopy to determine the timing of genome-RBP interactions relative to the

onset of RNA nuclear export. Live cell imaging of cells co-expressing Src-MS2-iRFP670

with a "Genome Only" RNA bait demonstrated YFP-A3G almost fully re-localized to

vesicles within two hours of the onset of viral gene expression and observations of

genomes exiting the nucleus (Fig. 5E, compare 1h and 2h time points, and see Movie S7

for detail). Accordingly, strong genome-A3G interactions are initiated concomitantly with

or very soon after genome nuclear export, and these interactions do not require Gag

expression.

To further address specificity, we performed similar experiments using Src- or

Lifeact-tethered genomes as bait for a variety of alternative co-expressed YFP-tagged

RBP preys including YFP-MOV10 and YFP-UPF1 (Figs. 5F and 5G and see Fig. S2 for

a compilation of representative images). Of this panel, only YFP-MOV10 exhibited a

particularly marked re-localization equivalent to if not more pronounced than YFP-A3G.

YFP-UPF1 localization was shifted by genome, but to a lesser extent (Figs. 5F and 5G).

Tethering A3G to membranes arrests HIV-1 genome trafficking and inhibits virus particle production.

We reasoned that if A3G's interactions with genomes are sufficiently strong, then tethering A3G to membranes would, as a corollary, arrest HIV-1 genome mobility in the cytosol and abolish genome trafficking to sites of virus particle assembly. To test this concept, we carried out the "reciprocal" IC-IP experiment outlined in Fig. 6A, wherein YFP- or CFP-tagged A3G was modified to bind membranes using the same N-terminal Src-derived myristoylation signal used for Src-MS2-directed RNA tethering. These fusion proteins were co-expressed with two-color Vif-deficient visible HIV-1 (Vifxx Gag-CFP/MS2-RFP) (Fig. 6B) or "Genome Only" (Vifxx Gagx/MS2-RFP) genomes (Fig. 6C). As would be anticipated for a strong interaction, Src-FP-A3G expression induced marked clustering of MS2-RFP-tagged genomes to perinuclear vesicles with (Fig. 6B) or without (Fig. 6C) Gag expression, with genomes co-localizing with Src-FP-A3G in both instances. To address the more relevant scenario of natively infected cells, we generated a stable cell line constitutively expressing Src-YFP-A3G (HeLa.Src-YFP-A3G cells) and infected these cells with Vifxx reporter virus (Fig. 6D). As expected, we genomes (and, to a lesser extent, Gag) co-accumulated with Src-YFP-A3G at cytoplasmic vesicles at 24 hpi, detected using combined IF/FISH (Fig. 6D, bottom, white arrows). Co-expression of Src-YFP-A3G or a Src-MS2 control with MSL-tagged 2-color genome (Gag-BFP in this experiment) yielded dose-dependent reduction to cytosolic Gag level and net efficiency of virus particle release (Fig. 6E). Taken together, these experiments demonstrate that A3G-genome interactions in the cytosol are sufficiently strong so that altering A3G

329   trafficking effectively repurposes this antiviral factor as a physical inhibitor of HIV-1

330   genome trafficking.

A3G-genome interactions promote more consistent per virion delivery of A3G to sites of virus particle assembly.

Combined, the above experiments suggested that A3G preferentially recognizes one or more HIV-1 genome RNA signatures even in the absence of Gag. However, a remaining conundrum was that A3G is known to be encapsidated by Gag into virus particles even in the absence of packageable genomes (23–25). In an effort to better rationalize prior observations of A3G genome specificity vs. promiscuity, we performed comparative single virion analysis (SVA) of A3G delivery into virus particles using a technique pioneered by the Hu and Pathak groups wherein fluorescently-labeled virus-like particles (VLPs) are harvested from HEK293T cells (that produce a greater quantity of particles relative to HeLa) and subjected to sub-micron quantitative multicolor fluorescence imaging to measure relative levels of per particle genome and/or A3G incorporation (42, 75) (Fig. 7). For this analysis, we compared per particle levels of YFP-A3G for four independent Gag/genome scenarios (depicted in Fig. 7A); (1) "Gag-Only" mRNAs encoding codon-optimized Gag-CFP (COGag-CFP = "Gag-Only"), viral (2) Vif+ or (3) Vifxx 2-color HIV Gag-CFP/MS2-RFP genomes, or (4) mRNAs encoding codon-optimized Gag-CFP wherein the NC RNA-binding domain was replaced by a leucine zipper (∆NCzip) to abolish Gag-RNA binding (based on (75, 76)). As expected, YFP-A3G packaging was only observed for the COGag and the Vifxx HIV-1 conditions (Fig. 7B).

Using SVA, Vif+ and Vifxx viruses exhibited high efficiency MS2-RFP incorporation (~89 and ~88% of Gag-CFP particles scoring positive for MS2-RFP, respectively), consistent with a prior report of HIV-1 genome packaging efficiency (77). Vifxx Gag-CFP/MS2-RFP particles exhibited a similar frequency of YFP-A3G incorporation (86% of

total Gag-CFP particles) (Fig. 7C and quantification in 7D). However, for "Gag-Only"

(COGag-CFP) particles, the frequency of detectable YFP-A3G incorporation was lower

(57% efficiency), intermediate to Vifxx HIV-1 vs. the ΔNCzip "no-RNA" negative control

(Fig. 7C and quantification in 7D). COGag particles also exhibited reduced per virion

levels of YFP-A3G fluorescence when compared to full-length, Vifxx HIV (Fig. 7C and

quantification in 7E). In sum, these data indicated that, although genomes are not

essential for YFP-A3G delivery to virus particles, selective genome-A3G interactions

promote a more consistent and more enriched per virion delivery of A3G to virus particle

assembly sites.

DISCUSSION

Herein we studied HIV-1 replication from the host cell perspective, using RBP biosensor cell lines, visible HIV-1 viruses, and single-cell RNA-protein interaction assays. On a technical level, our long-term imaging demonstrates that tagged RBP biosensors can be used to detect and measure multivariate aspects of HIV-1 infection. For example, YFP-A3G allows for measurements of Vif-mediated A3G degradation (Fig. 1D and Movie S1), with movies demonstrating Vif's capacity to degrade A3G is potent, occurs ubiquitously throughout the cell, and is remarkably persistent; lasting hours to days with little to no evidence of fluctuations to Vif activity prior to induction of cell cycle arrest (Figs. 1D, E and Movie S1). We also confirmed that NL4-3 Vif completes its degradation of A3G prior to the onset of virion assembly (Fig. 3B), a result consistent with compelling recent work from Holmes *et al*. who used a similar imaging-based approach to show that Gag's trafficking to the plasma membrane is delayed until Vif has sufficient time to inactivate A3G (78). Not all Vif alleles degrade A3G (79) or induce cell cycle arrest (80–82). Thus, the A3G biosensor is emerging as a useful tool for categorizing single-cell Vif activities found in circulating HIV strains and subtypes (83).

In the absence of Vif, HeLa.YFP-A3G cells were also able to detect virus particle assembly (Figs. 1F, 1G, S1 and Movies S2, S3), a feat that could also be accomplished using YFP-MOV10 even in the presence of Vif expression (Figs. 1I, S1, and Movie S3). While it was not unexpected that A3G and/or MOV10 would be detected at sites of virus particle assembly, based on prior studies (13, 75, 84), we were surprised to observe such a massive re-distribution of YFP-A3G and YFP-MOV10 into large (assumed to be >2µm diameter at current resolution) clusters of virus particles that remained associated with

the cell surface for hours to days, and could be transferred to neighboring cells (see

Movies S2 and S3). This clustering phenotype could be attributable, at least in part, to the

effects of BST2/Tetherin; a host restriction factor expressed constitutively in HeLa cells

that tethers enveloped virus particles to plasma membrane during and after budding (85,

86). However, our viruses encode an intact NL4-3 *vpu* gene that should antagonize

BST2/Tetherin. Alternatively, clustering may reflect interactions with charged surface

factors such as glycosaminoglycans, that we have previously shown to cause retroviral

particle co-clustering and cell retention ("surfacing") after budding; driven by electrostatic

interactions (87). Regardless, to our knowledge this is the first demonstration that HIV-1

assembly and transmission dynamics can be easily recorded using a proxy biosensor

(*i.e.*, without having to modify native viruses).

Despite HIV-1's marked effects on YFP-A3G and YFP-MOV10, we observed no

discernible effects of infection on canonical markers of SGs or PBs monitored using our

YFP-TIA-1 or CFP-DCP1A biosensors, respectively; with or without Vif expression (Fig.

2). We also observed no major changes to the distribution of NMD factor UPF1 (Fig. 1I,

Fig. S1, and Movie S3). These results confirm that HIV-1's effects on A3G and MOV10

subcellular trafficking are specific; and reinforce that HIV-1 does not modulate visible PBs

or induce the formation of SGs, even transiently. The underlying significance of A3G and

MOV10's localization to PBs and SGs remains unknown, but doing so positions these

proteins proximal to cytoplasmic mRNA surveillance machines that mediate miRNA-

dependent mRNA decay (PBs) or mRNA "triage" during stress responses (SGs) (33–35).

In theory, all successful viruses are adapted to subvert, suppress, or avoid such

responses; and HIV-1 (88, 89), other retroviruses (90, 91), and endogenous

retroelements including LINEs (92) and yeast Ty elements (93) hijack discrete

cytoplasmic RNP complexes as a means to compartmentalize key activities including

mRNA translation and genome packaging. Regarding suppression, Mouland and

colleagues have shown that HIV-1 and other retroviruses actively inhibit SG formation to

reduce the potential for cell stress initiated by promiscuous Gag NC binding to host RNAs

(69–71). Although we did not observe overt suppression of sodium arsenite-induced SGs

by HIV-1 in this study (Fig. 2G-I), the dynamics of these processes over the course of

infection warrant further investigation, and it is reasonable to posit that retroviruses must

avoid SGs to promote the fluid flow of genomes to capsid assembly sites. Overall,

however, our results are most consistent with a model wherein HIV-1's general *modus*

operandi is avoidance of PBs and SGs; with the key interactions underpinning host

protein packaging occurring ubiquitously throughout the cytosolic fluid.

Our FRAP and IC-IP results also demonstrate that HIV-1 genomes affect A3G

movements in the cytoplasm whether or not Gag capsid proteins are being expressed

(Figs. 3-6). Moreover, our data indicate that, in the context of natural infection, A3G (and

other RBPs such as MOV10) compete effectively with Gag for genome binding. For

example, more than 50% of cytosolic YFP-A3G and MOV-10 were recruited to

membranes or F-actin by Src- or Lifeact-MS2-tethered genomes, respectively (Fig. 4F);

effects less evident for Gag-CFP, not observed in the absence of genomes (Figs. 5D and

5G), and detected soon if not immediately after genome nuclear export (Fig. 5E). As to

why A3G-genome binding is selective, single virion analyses (Fig. 7) demonstrated an

~90% frequency of A3G incorporation into genome-containing virions relative to "Gag-

only" particles, wherein the frequency of A3G incorporation was less than 60%. Taken

together, these results suggest that A3G combines both promiscuous (25) and targeted

(26) RNA binding mechanisms to ensure efficient packaging into HIV-1 virions, with the

targeted component enhancing per virion delivery and likely thereby maximizing A3G's

antiviral potential. Regarding the RNA signature detected by A3G, a prior study from York

et al. suggested a preference for A3G's binding to G-rich genome sequences (26), and

recent advances in viral epitranscriptomics shows that HIV-1 genomes are enriched

relative to host mRNAs in post-transcriptional regulatory marks including N^6

methyladenosine (m6a) (94–96); and also 5-methylcytosine (m5c) and 2'O-methylation

(97). The live cell tools described herein, in particular the IC-IP, should be useful for

further dissecting the extent of these interactions as they are occurring in cells.

In sum, our study confirms that the core, essential nature of viral RNA genome

trafficking in the cytosol occurs by diffusion in dynamic association with RNP complexes

that are smaller than PBs, with some proteins (*e.g.*, A3G and MOV10) more strongly

and/or more numerously associated with HIV-1 genomes than others. Because artificially

tethering A3G to membranes restricts HIV-1 genome trafficking and virus particle

production (Fig. 6), it also remains a possibility that these selective genome binding

features could ultimately be exploited in the context of an antiviral strategy.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Cell culture, plasmids, and stable cell lines. Human HeLa and HEK293T cell lines (obtained from ATCC) were cultured in DMEM (Sigma-Aldrich) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (heat-inactivated, filter-sterilized), 1% L-glutamine, and 1% penicillin-streptomycin. HeLa.YFP-A3G, HEK293T.YFP-A3G, HeLa.Src-YFP-A3G, HeLa.YFP-TIA-1, HeLa.CFP-DCP1A, HeLa-YFP-MOV10, and HeLa.YFP-UPF1 cell lines were generated as previously described (39, 43). Briefly, relevant cDNAs were inserted into a MIGR1-derived retroviral vector (pCMS28) (8) upstream of sequence encoding an internal ribosome entry site (IRES) and a second reading frame encoding Puromycin-N-acetyltransferase. Cells were selected by limiting dilution in the presence of 2µg/mL puromycin. YFP, YFP-A3G, and Src-YFP-A3G as well as CFP versions of construct were also generated using the pcDNA3.1 transient expression vector backbone (Invitrogen). RBP expression constructs were cloned similarly into pCMS28, pcDNA3.1, or the pSYFP2-C1 plasmid vector (a gift from Dorus Gadella, Addgene plasmid #22878; http://n2t.net/addgene:22878; RRID:Addgene_22878) using cDNAs generated directly from HeLa cell mRNA (RPL9, or RPS6, CBP80) or derived from the following sources: DCP1A, TIA-1, and PABPC1 (28, 33, 44), MOV10 (a gift of Thomas Tuschl, Addgene plasmid #10977) (45), UPF1 (a gift of Hal Dietz, Addgene plasmid #17708) (46), DDX3x (47), and CRM1/XPO1 (48).

HIV-1 reporter virus plasmids were derived from a modified version of the pNL4-3 X4-tropic HIV-1 molecular clone (49) bearing inactivating mutations in *env*, *vpr*, and expressing a green fluorescent protein (GFP) reporter from the *nef* locus (E-R-/GFP) (50); with the GFP reporter replaced with either cerulean fluorescent protein (CFP) or mCherry

(mCh). Vif-minus HIV-1 reporter virus plasmids (Vifxx CFP and Vifxx mCherry) were

generated by changing *vif* codons 26 and 27 to stop codons informed by refs. (51, 52).

Two-color visible HIV-1 reporter viruses (Gag-CFP/MS2-RFP) were generated by

replacing the *gag* reading frame in Vif+ and Vifxx reporter viruses with *gag-CFP* just

upstream of sequence encoding 24 copies of the MS2 bacteriophage RNA stem loop

(MSL) (53), and inserting sequence encoding the MS2 coat protein fused to a red

fluorescence protein (RFP, either mApple or mCherry) and bearing an SV40 nuclear

localization signal (MS2-RFP). Gag was alternatively fused to mTagBFP2 for select

experiments (*e.g.*, Fig. 6E) in order to avoid cross-detection when immunoblotting for Src-

YFP-A3G using anti-GFP/YFP antisera. In all cases, mutated versions of full-length HIV-

1 were generated using overlapping PCR as previously described (39). Src-MS2-CFP,

Src-MS2-RFP, and Src-MS2-iRFP targeting constructs encoding an amino-terminal

membrane targeting signal derived from the Src kinase (MGSSKSKPKD) were generated

by overlapping PCR and subcloned into pcDNA3.1. mTagBFP2, mTurquoise2 (CFP), and

mApple (RFP) were gifts of Michael Davidson (Addgene plasmids # 54843, 54747, and

55302, respectively) (54, 55). iRFP670 cDNA (56) was amplified from the ColorfulCell

expression plasmid, a gift of Pierre Neveu (Addgene plasmid # 62449) (57).

Retroviral assembly and infectivity assays. Cells at 30-40% confluency were

transfected with 2µg DNA in six well plates using polyethylenimine (PEI; #23966,

Polysciences Inc.). pcDNA3.1 or pBlueScript were used as empty vector controls. Culture

media were replaced at 24 hours post-transfection and cell lysates and supernatants were

harvested for immunoblot analysis at 48 hours as previously described (58). Briefly, 1mL

of harvested culture supernatant was filtered, overlaid on 20% sucrose (w/v) in PBS,

subjected to centrifugation at >21,000g for two hours at 4ºC, and viral pellets were

resuspended in 35µL dissociation buffer (62.5 mM Tris-HCl, pH 6.8, 10% glycerol, 2%

sodium dodecyl sulfate [SDS], 5% β-mercaptoethanol). Cells were harvested in 500µL

radioimmunoprecipitation assay (RIPA) lysis buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 150 mM

NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 0.1% SDS, 1% Triton X-100, 1% sodium deoxycholate), homogenized

by passage through a 26G needle, subjected to centrifugation at 1,500g for 20 minutes

at 4ºC, and liquid supernatant fraction was combined 1:1 with 2X dissociation buffer.

Proteins were resolved by sodium dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis

(SDS-PAGE) and transferred to 0.2 µm nitrocellulose membranes. Gag was detected

using a mouse monoclonal antibody recognizing HIV-1 capsid/p24 (183-H12-5C; 1:1000

dilution) from Dr. Bruce Chesebro and obtained from the NIH AIDS Research and

Reference Reagent Program (Bethesda, MD, USA) (59) and anti-mouse secondary

antibodies conjugated to an infrared fluorophore (IRDye680LT, 1:10000 dilution, Li-Cor

Biosciences) for quantitative immunoblotting. As loading controls, heat shock protein

90A/B (HSP90) was detected using a rabbit polyclonal antibody (H-114, 1:2500 dilution,

Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Santa Cruz, CA, USA) or glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate

dehydrogenase (GAPDH) was detected using a mouse monoclonal antibody (6C5,

1:2500 dilution, Santa Cruz Biotechnology) and anti-rabbit or anti-mouse secondary

secondary antibodies conjugated to an infrared fluorophore (IRDye800CW, 1:7500

dilution, Li-Cor Biosciences). YFP-containing proteins (*e.g.*, YFP-A3G) were detected

using a rabbit polyclonal antibody recognizing GFP (FL sc-8334, 1:1000 dilution, Santa

Cruz Biotechnology) and anti-rabbit secondary antibodies conjugated to an infrared

fluorophore (IRDye800CW). For infectivity assays, supernatants containing single-round

infectious HIV-1 virions (pseudo-typed with VSV-G) were filtered and then added to target

HeLa cells in the presence of 10μg/mL polybrene. Approximately 36 hours later, target

HeLa cells were scanned using a BioTek Cytation5 to detect reporter CFP (455nm/510nm

excitation/emission filter) expression following infection.

Microscopy, immunofluorescence, and fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH).

Cells were plated in 24-well glass-bottom plates (Eppendorf) or 8-well microslides (IBIDI)

and transfected using PEI or infected with HIV-1 reporter viruses. Transfection mixes

contained 1μg (24-well) or 333ng (IBIDI) total plasmid DNA, respectively. Infections were

performed with VSV-G pseudo-typed HIV-1 reporter viruses produced in HEK293T cells

and titered on HeLa cells to determine MOI of 0.5-1, thereby ensuring that ~33-66% of

the cells would be infected per experiment. Fixed-cell experiments were performed on a

Nikon Ti-Eclipse inverted wide-field microscope (Nikon Corporation, Melville, NY, USA)

using a 100x Plan Apo oil objective (numerical aperture [NA], 1.45). Transfected cells

were fixed 24 – 32 hours post-transfection and infected cells were fixed 42 hours post-

infection using 4% paraformaldehyde. If treated with 250 μM sodium arsenite (Sigma-

Aldrich), drug or an equivalent volume of dimethyl sulfoxide were added to cell culture

wells at approximately one hour prior to fixation and returned to incubation at 37ºC. Live-

cell imaging experiments were also performed on a Nikon Ti-Eclipse inverted wide-field

microscope using a 20x Plan Apo objective lens (NA, 0.75) with images acquired every

60 minutes (except where otherwise indicated) over a time course of 16 to 90 hours.

Images were acquired using an ORCA-Flash4.0 CMOS camera (Hammatsu Photonics)

and the following excitation/emission filter sets (nanometer ranges): BFP (402/455), CFP

(430/470), YFP (510/535), mApple (555/605), mCherry (572/632), and iRFP (645/705).

All images were processed and analyzed using FIJI/ImageJ2 (60). For IC-IP

colocalization analysis, ~10 targeter single cell iRFP+/RFP+ channel ROIs were chosen

at random, used to build ~1 µM z-stack max intensity projections prior to comparing the

overlap of iRFP (targeter) and YFP (RBP) channels using the Coloc2 plugin in

FIJI/ImageJ2.

For fixed-cell experiments using FISH, cells were plated as described as above

and previously (39). At 42 hours post-infection or after 24 hours plated (for uninfected

cells), cells were washed, fixed in 4% formaldehyde, and permeabilized in 70% ethanol

for at least 4 hours at 4ºC. Custom Stellaris FISH probes were designed to recognize

NL4-3 HIV-1 *gag-pol* reading frame nucleotides 386-4456 using the Stellaris RNA FISH

Probe Designer 4.1 (Biosearch Technologies, Inc.) available online. To detect *yfp*

mRNAs, we used a DesignReady Probe set specific to eGFP. Both probe sets were

labeled with CAL Fluor Red 590 Dye (Biosearch Technologies, Inc.). Samples were

hybridized with the *gag/gag-pol* probe set according to the manufacturer's instructions

available online. Simultaneous immunofluorescence to detect Gag used a mouse

monoclonal antibody specific to p24 (#24-2, a gift of Dr. Michael Malim). Imaging

experiments were performed as described above on a Nikon Ti-Eclipse inverted wide-

field microscope using a 100x Plan Apo objective lens.

FRAP experiments were performed using a Nikon Ti-Eclipse inverted A1R+

resonant/galvano hybrid confocal line-scanning microscope. Images were captured using

a 20x Plan Apo objective lens (NA, 0.75) and GaAsP multi-detector for 488 and 560nm

channels. YFP-A3G was imaged using the 488nm laser at a low arbitrary intensity and

photobleached using the laser's maximum intensity. MS2-RFP and COGag-mCherry

were imaged using the 560nm laser at a low arbitrary intensity. Cells were maintained in

an environmental chamber (Pathology Devices, Inc.) at 37ºC, 5% CO_2, and 50% humidity.

Cells were imaged every 30 seconds for 4 frames prior to photobleaching (3 rapid

ablations of cytoplasmic ROIs 10µm in diameter) followed by imaging every 5 seconds

for a minute, every 15 seconds for four minutes, and every 30 seconds for 5 minutes. This

time frame was sufficient for fluorescence recovery to reach a plateau. FRAP analysis

was performed using the FIJI plugin FRAP Profiler (61) that adjusts for incidental field

photobleaching outside the ROI but within the cell of interest.

Single virion analyses (SVA) were performed largely as described by Chen *et al.*

(42). Virus particles were produced as described above for western blotting in

HEK293T.YFP-A3G cells to maintain consistent levels of YFP-A3G as compared to co-

transfection. Filtered culture supernatants (750µL) were purified by sucrose centrifugation

as described above and resuspended in 100µL 1x PBS (Sigma-Aldrich). 24-well plates

were pre-coated with 2% FBS diluted in 1x PBS for at least 30 minutes, this solution was

removed, and the resuspended concentrated virus particles were added to wells. Images

were acquired on a Nikon Ti-Eclipse inverted wide-field microscope using a 100x Plan

Apo objective lens (NA, 1.45). These images were processed and analyzed using

Analyze Particles plugin in FIJI/ImageJ2 (60).

Thin-section electron microscopy. HeLa.YFP-A3G were infected with Vif+ CFP or

Vifxx CFP HIV-1 viruses and fixed at 48 hours for chemical processing as previously

described (62). Samples were sectioned into 100nm slices and with sections collected on

copper thin-bar grids. Sections were observed with a Phillips CM120 transmission

electron microscope, and images were collected with a MegaView III (Olympus-SIS,

Lakewood, CO, USA) side-mounted digital camera. All images were processed and

analyzed using FIJI/ImageJ2 (60).

Statistics. For assembly assays (e.g., Figs. 1C and 6E), results were obtained from three

independent biological replicates; defined as cells plated and processed on different days.

Graphs plot the mean value with error bars representing the standard deviation of the

mean with the exception of Fig. 5G, that shows the second and third quartiles and Fig.

7E, a violin plot showing all data points with the mean (solid line) and quartiles (dashed

lines) indicated. All statistical comparisons were carried out using the two-tailed

Student's *t* test and performed using Microsoft Excel or Graphpad Prism.

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 FIGURE LEGENDS

Figure 1. Tracking the HIV-1 replication cycle using a YFP-A3G biosensor cell line. **(A)**

HeLa.YFP-A3G cells showing diffuse and punctate (processing bodies, PB, white arrows)

distribution of YFP-A3G at steady-state (left) and accumulation into stress granules (SGs,

magenta arrows) following 250 μM arsenite treatment (right, Ars). **(B)** Schematic of Vif-

competent (Vif+) or Vif-deficient (Vifxx) HIV-1 NL4-3 Env-, Vpr-, CFP reporter virus

genome. **(C)** Single-round infection confirms YFP-A3G-mediated restriction of HIV-1 in

the absence of Vif. 293T.YFP-A3G cells were transfected to generate the indicated HIV-

1 reporter viruses with or without co-expression of Vif-mCherry. Cells and virus particles

(*n*=3) were harvested at 48 h post-transfection and analyzed by quantitative immunoblot

using anti-p24^{Gag}, anti-YFP, and anti-HSP90 (loading control) antisera. **(D)**

Representative images from long-term time-lapse imaging showing degradation of YFP-

A3G after HIV-1 Vif+ CFP infection and Vif-dependent G2/M arrest at later (~48h) time

points. Figure corresponds to Supplementary Movie 1. **(E)** Quantification of movies

(IntDen) represented in (D) (Vif+, solid lines) and (Vifxx, dashed lines). Cells from 3

independent experiments (*n*=33) with $\geq$16 hours per cell (1 image/hour). **(F)**

Representative images from long-term time-lapse imaging of YFP-A3G upon HIV-1 Vifxx

CFP infection. Magenta boxes highlight regions of interest (ROIs) shown below and white

arrows indicate YFP-A3G clustering at PM. Figure corresponds to Supplementary Movie

2. **(G)** Fixed cell images show Gag and *gagpol* mRNA (viral RNA genomes) accumulating

with YFP-A3G at the cell periphery. White arrows highlight cell-peripheral clusters of YFP-

A3G, Gag, and genome. **(H)** TSEM images showing virus particles clustering in the

extracellular space after budding from HeLa.YFP-A3G cells infected with either Vif+ or

Vifxx viruses. All scale bars in fluorescent images = 10µm and in TSEM = 100nm. Error

bars represent standard deviation of the mean. **(I)** Representative images from long-term

time-lapse imaging showing YFP-A3G, YFP-MOV10, and YFP-UPF1 upon HIV-1 Vifxx

and Vif+ infection. Arrows highlight PM clusters. Figure corresponds to Movie S3.

Figure 2. HIV-1 infection has little to no impact on P-bodies or stress granules. **(A)**

HeLa.YFP-TIA-1 cells showing steady-state distribution (H_20 vehicle, left) and

accumulation into SGs (magenta arrows) following arsenite treatment (right, Ars). **(B)**

Representative images from time-lapse imaging showing induction of SGs during

infection by RVA16 (MOI=10). Figure corresponds to Movie S4. **(C)** Time-lapse images

showing no effect on YFP-TIA-1 distribution following Vifxx CFP infection, quantified in

(D) for >400 HeLa.YFP-A3G (black bars) and HeLa.YFP-TIA-1 (gray bars) cells per

condition, combined from three independent experiments. **(E)** Time-lapse images

showing no effect on CFP-DCP1A following Vifxx mCh infection, quantified in **(F)** for 30

cells from 3 movies at ~18 hpi (YFP-A3G, black bars; CFP-DCP1A, white bars). **(G)**

HeLa.YFP-A3G infected with Vifxx CFP and treated with Ars to induce SGs at 24 hpi and

quantified in **(H)** for >100 infected cells from three independent experiments. Magenta

arrows highlight SGs present in infected cells. **(I)** Simultaneous FISH/IF to detect *gagpol*

mRNA and Gag show HIV RNA genomes accumulating in SGs in HIV infected cells

following Ars treatment. Magenta arrows highlight SGs present in infected cells. All scale

bars in fluorescent images = 10µm. Error bars represent standard deviation of the mean.

Figure 3. HIV-1 RNA genomes but not Gag regulate A3G subcellular localization. **(A)** and

(C) Schematics of Vif+ and Vifxx two-color self-tagging viruses encoding Gag-CFP,

24xMSL, and MS2-RFP. **(B)** and **(D)** Time-lapse images of cells expressing Vif+ and Vifxx

two-color HIV virus showing nuclear export of MS2-RFP tagged genomes, YFP-A3G

degradation (Vif+ in **(B)**) or localization with MS2-RFP (Vifxx in **(D)**), and Gag-CFP

expression and accumulation in virus particles at the PM (white arrows). Figure

corresponds to Movies S4 and S5. **(E)** and **(F)** Quantification of YFP-A3G degradation

and MS2-RFP cytoplasmic accumulation **(E)** and Gag-CFP expression **(F)** in single cells

during expression of Vif+ two-color HIV-1. Analysis includes cells that could be tracked

for at least 17 h (1 image/hour) extracted from three independent experiments (*n*=31).

Black lines highlight the ~3 h window of YFP-A3G degradation. T=0 represents onset of

MS2-RFP expression. **(G)** Schematic of "genome only" and "Gag only" RNA constructs

used for fluorescence recovery after photobleaching (FRAP) analysis. **(H)** Representative

images from prior to (top) and after (before) photobleaching regions of HeLa.YFP-A3G

cells expressing HIV-1 genomes in the absence of Gag ("genome only" condition). White

dashed circles represent regions of targeted photobleaching. **(I)** Quantification of YFP-

A3G FRAP experiments and zoomed inset of time period over first 80 seconds after

photobleaching. Incomplete recovery is best explained by an immobilized fraction of YFP-

A3G. All scale bars in fluorescent images = 10μm. Error bars represent standard deviation

of the mean.

Figure 4. Viral RNA genome-A3G interactions are sufficiently strong to redistribute A3G

to unnatural subcellular locales. **(A)** Schematic description of the new In Cell RNA-protein

Interaction Protocol (IC-IP). **(B)** Schematic of MS2-iRFP constructs used for "targeting"

(top) and representative images of MS2-iRFP and YFP-A3G localization in the absence

of mRNAs encoding MSL cassettes. White arrows point to characteristic subcellular

targets of Src- (vesicles) or Lifeact- (filamentous actin) MS2-iRFP. **(C)** Schematic of the

IC-IP RNA bait used to study YFP-A3G; a Vifxx two-color self-tagging HIV genome. **(D)**

Representative images showing "Free" MS2-iRFP-NLS, YFP-A3G, and Gag-CFP

accumulating at PM-adjacent assembly sites consistent with the native assembly pathway

(top). (Middle) Src-MS2-iRFP accumulating at intracellular/perinuclear vesicles and

recruiting MS2-RFP-tagged RNA genomes, YFP-A3G, and Gag-CFP to these vesicles.

(Bottom) Lifeact-MS2-iRFP accumulating at F-actin filaments and recruiting MS2-RFP-

tagged RNA genomes, YFP-A3G, and Gag-CFP to these F-actin filaments. Regions of

interest (ROIs) show YFP-A3G signal in dashed white boxes with arrows highlighting

YFP-A3G localization at assembly sites (top) or genome-dependent re-localization to

vesicles (middle), or linear F-actin filaments (bottom). **(E)** Single cell quantification of YFP-

A3G localization phenotypes (*n* = > 90 cells per condition) in the presence of NLS, Src-,

and Lifeact-MS2 targeting constructs. Asterisks demarcate p-values as follows: *≤0.05,

≤0.005, *≤0.0005. **(F)** Percentages of total YFP-A3G per cell fluorescence (IntDen)

re-localized by Src- or Lifeact-MS2 constructs for a subset of cells per condition (*n* > 6).

All scale bars in fluorescent images = 10µm, except for YFP-A3G ROIs (1µm). Error bars

represent standard deviation of the mean.

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1001   **Figure 5.** Recruitment of YFP-A3G and MOV10 is selective for HIV-1 RNA genomes,

1002   Gag-independent, and occurs long before the onset of virus particle assembly. **(A)** and

1003   **(C)** Schematics of "genome only" and "Gag only" IC-IP bait constructs, respectively, used

in these experiments. **(B)** Representative images showing co-distribution of MS2-RFP tagged RNA genomes and YFP-A3G under native expression conditions (top) vs. retargeting of YFP-A3G to intracellular vesicles when RNA genomes are tethered to vesicles by Src-MS2-iRFP (bottom). **(D)** Representative images showing specificity, wherein Src-MS2-RFP has no effect on YFP-A3G in the presence of "Gag-only" codon-optimized IC-IP bait mRNAs (white arrow). CFP (blue) channel confirms high-level "Gag-only" mRNA expression based on Gag-CFP synthesis. **(E)** Time-lapse images of cells expressing MS2-RFP-tagged HIV-1 genomes in the absence of Gag ("genome only" construct) and being retargeted by Src-MS2-iRFP over a period of 4 hours. T=0 represents the first detection of the MS2-RFP genome proxy. Arrow shows accumulation of YFP-A3G at Src-MS2-iRFP+ vesicles as early as 2 hours after the onset of MS2-RFP expression. All scale bars in fluorescent images = 10µm. **(F)** Representative IC-IP images of HIV genomes and the indicated RBPs retargeted by Lifeact-MS2-iRFP. ROIs *i-iv* shown below in black and white show re-localization of YFP-A3G and YFP-MOV10 to F-actin filaments by HIV-1 genomes even in the absence of Gag ("genome only). The dRRE control expressed an HIV-1 genome wherein the Rev response element (RRE) is deleted to prevent genome export from the nucleus (see MS2-RFP signal). **(G)** Unbiased quantification of IC-IP interactions based on colocalization analysis of Lifeact-MS2-iRFP targeter and YFP-A3G, YFP-MOV10, or YPF-UPF1 RBP prey for the indicated RNA baits. Non-thresholded Pearson's coefficients were calculated, comparing targeter & RBP overlap from ROIs for ~10 cells chosen at random per conditions. Error bars represent standard deviation from the mean. Asterisks demarcate p-values as follows: *≤0.05, **≤0.005, ***≤0.0005.All scale bars in fluorescent images = 10µm.

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Figure 6. Membrane-targeted APOBEC3G recruits HIV-1 RNA genomes and can inhibit

virus particle production. **(A)** Schematic of "Reciprocal IC-IP" experimental set-up to test

if Src-YFP-A3G recruits viral genomes to intracellular membranes. **(B)** Schematic of Vifxx

2-color genome and accumulation of MS2-RFP-tagged genomes and Gag-CFP at

intracellular vesicles (white arrows) when co-expressed with Src-YFP-A3G. **(C)** As for (B),

but using a "Genome only" construct co-expressed with Src-CFP-A3G in YFP-A3G cells.

(D) Schematic of Vifxx Luc HIV infectious single-cycle (no MSL) virus used to infect

HeLa.Src-YFP-A3G cells and representative images of FISH/IF detecting *gag-pol* mRNA

and Gag p-24, respectively. White arrows highlight sites where Src-YFP-A3G recruited

bona fide HIV RNA genomes to vesicles. **(E)** Western blot showing dose-dependent

inhibition of HIV virus particle assembly and production from HEK293T cells transfected

to co-express Vifxx two-color HIV-1 with Src-MS2-YFP (lanes 1 and 2), YFP-A3G (lane

3) or Src-YFP-A3G (lanes 4 and 5). Graph shows relative virus particle release efficiency

measured as the relative ratio of Gag in virus-like particles (VLPs) to Gag in cellular

lysates ("release factor") quantified from three independent experiments. All scale bars in

fluorescent images = 10µm. Error bars represent standard deviation of the mean.

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Figure 7. Cytoplasmic A3G-genome interactions promote consistent per virion delivery

of A3G into progeny virions. **(A)** Schematics of constructs used for our single virion

analysis (SVA) studies. **(B)** Western blot confirming expression and packaging of YFP-

A3G only for Vifxx and Gag-only conditions. **(C)** Representative images of single

fluorescent virions harvested from our HEK293T.YFP-A3G cell line (see Figure 1C).

Scale bar = 500nm. **(D)** Quantification of SVA for each of the four constructs showing

percent of virions with MS2-RFP signal (pink) and YFP-A3G (green). Error bars represent

standard deviation of the mean (n > 13,000 virions per condition). **(E)** Relative YFP-A3G

signal per virion or virus-like particle derived from Vifxx two-color or COGag conditions.

Relative values are normalized to the mean value for Vifxx with means (solid lines) and

25th and 75th quartiles (dashed lines) indicated.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIGURE LEGENDS

Figure S1. HIV-1 infection alters shifts MOV10 but not UPF1 from the cytoplasm to the plasma membrane. **(A)** Overexpression screen of YFP-tagged RBPs. 293T cells were transfected to generate PR-minus HIV-1 VLPs with co-expression of the indicated YFP-RBP proteins (or YFP as a control, lane 12), with lysates and supernatants harvested at 48 h. GAPDH served as a loading control. (**B-D).** Representative images from time-lapse imaging showing relocalization of YFP-A3G and YFP-MOV10 but not YFP-UPF1 during infection with HIV-1 Vifxx CFP virus. Black and white ROIs highlight >1 μm clusters of YFP-A3G and YFP-MOV10 enriched at the plasma membrane of infected cells at later time points, not observed for YFP-UPF1. **(E)** Select images from time lapse videos showing YFP-MOV10 clusters at the plasma membrane both in the presence and absence of Vif expression. Size bars represent 10 μm.

Figure S2. Cellular RBPs are recruited by HIV-1 RNA genomes. (A) Representative images showing co-distribution of MS2-RFP tagged RNA genomes (pink) and YFP-RBPs (green) under native expression conditions. CFP-DCP1A is shown in blue. Top panel shows images from transfections in cells stably expressing YFP-RBPs. Bottom panel shows images from co-transfection of YFP-RBPs with self-tagging HIV genome. (B) Representative images showing co-distribution of MS2-RFP tagged RNA genomes (pink) and YFP-RBPs (green) during retargeting to intracellular vesicles when RNA genomes are tethered to vesicles by Src-MS2-iRFP. Arrows indicate intense recruitment of MOV10 and (to a lesser degree) PABPc1. Other RBPs show minimal (XPO1, UPF1, DDX3) or no (RPL9, TIA-1, DCP1A, CBP80) recruitment to Src-MS2-iRFP retargeted HIV genomes.

 SUPPLEMENTAL MOVIE LEGENDS

1080 **Movie S1. Time-lapse imaging of HeLa-.YFP-A3G cells infected with Vif+ HIV-1/CFP**

1081 **virus.** Multi-channel images of HeLa.YFP-A3G cells were acquired every 60 minutes for

1082 49h after infection. In the highlighted cell, viral gene expression (cyan) is detected ~16hpi

1083 with YFP-A3G (green) degradation at 21hpi. Cell rounds at 28 hpi consistent with Vif-

1084 induced G2/M cell cycle arrest.

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Movie S2. Time-lapse imaging of HeLa.YFP-A3G cells infected with Vifxx HIV-1/CFP

virus. Multi-channel images were acquired every 60 minutes for 49h after infection. In the

highlighted cell, viral gene expression (cyan) is detected ~19hpi with detection of YFP-

A3G (green) at virus particles (arrows) starting at ~25hpi. An example of a transfer event

wherein a large cluster of YFP-A3G+ virus particles is released from an infected cell is

highlighted (arrows) at 32-36hpi.

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Movie S3. Time-lapse imaging of HeLa.YFP-MOV10 and HeLa-YFP-UPF1 cells

infected with Vifxx HIV-1/CFP virus. Multi-channel images were acquired every 60

minutes for 96hpi with Vif+ or Vifxx HIV-1/CFP viruses. A 72h time window is shown,

initiating ~3 hours prior to the onset of viral gene expression (cyan). Vif+ HIV-1 degrades

YFP-A3G (top left panel, green) while Vifxx HIV-1 triggers relocalization of YFP-A3G

(bottom left panel, green) to plasma membrane clusters (arrows). YFP-MOV10 (central

panels, green) is re-localized to plasma membrane clusters (arrows) with or without Vif

expression. YFP-UPF1 was largely unaffected by HIV-1 in the presence or absence of Vif, but with some rare instances of cytoplasmic granule formation.

Movie S4. Time-lapse imaging of HeLa.YFP-TIA-1 cells infected with Rhinovirus A16. Multi-channel images were acquired every 30 minutes after addition of RVA16 (MOI~10). The first instances of SG formation (YFP-TIA-1 in green) are evident at ~11hpi.

Movie S5. Time-lapse imaging of HeLa.YFP-A3G cells expressing the two-color Vif+ Gag-CFP/MS2-RFP HIV-1 reporter virus. Multi-channel images were acquired every 60 minutes for 24h beginning ~4h post-transfection. Left panel shows genome tracked using MS2-RFP (magenta), with nuclear export detected at T=4h just prior to the onset of Gag-CFP (cyan) expression (right panel) and YFP-A3G (green) degradation (center panel).

Movie S6. Time-lapse imaging of HeLa.YFP-A3G cells expressing the two-color Vifxx Gag-CFP/MS2-RFP HIV-1 reporter virus. Multi-channel images were acquired every 60 minutes for 24 hours beginning ~4 hours post-transfection. Left panel shows genome tracked using MS2-RFP (magenta), with nuclear export detected at T=6h just prior to the onset of Gag-CFP (cyan) expression (right panel) and co-accumulation of YFP-A3G (green, center panel) with genome (MS2-RFP) and Gag-CFP at the plasma membrane (at putative sites of virus particle assembly).

Movie S7. Time-lapse imaging of HeLa.YFP-A3G cells co-expressing "genome

only" MS2-RFP HIV-1 reporter virus with the Src-MS2-iRFP targeter (orange). Multi-

channel images were acquired every 60 minutes for 15h starting ~4h post-transfection.

MS2-RFP tracked genomes (magenta, central panel) are first observed at T=0, with both

genomes and YFP-A3G (green, right panel) immediately recruited to perinuclear vesicles,

co-localizing with the Src-MS2-iRFP targeter (yellow, left panel). Video demonstrates that

genomes have marked effects on YFP-A3G trafficking in the cytosol even at the earliest

time points post-genome nuclear export.

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

A — *in cellulo* RNA-protein Interaction Protocol (IC-IP)

Normal Bait | Retargeted Bait | Retargeted Bait

Normal Prey | Recruited Prey | Non-specific Prey

Colocalization | Interaction | No Interaction

B

CONTROL (FREE) | MEMBRANE TARGETER | ACTIN TARGETER

MS2 iRFP -NLS | Src- MS2 iRFP | Lifeact- MS2 iRFP

MS2-FP

Vesicles | Filaments

YFP-A3G

A3G ROI

Free (NLS) — Assembly Sites

Membrane (Src) — Vesicles

Actin (Lifeact) — Filaments

C — IC-IP RNA Bait: Vifxx HIV Gag-CFP/MS2-RFP

gag-cfp — Ψ — MSL — *vif* — *vpu* — *tat rev* — RRE — *MS2-RFP* — AAAA

D

Targeter: MS2-iRFP | Tracker: MS2-RFP | Prey: YFP-A3G | Gag-CFP | Merge

TARGET

Free (NLS): i. ii. iii. iv. v.

Membrane (Src): vi. vii. viii. ix. x.

Actin (Lifeact): xi. xii. xiii. xiv. xv.

E

% Cells with A3G phenotype

NLS | Src | Lifeact

p = 0.0485   p = 0.000139   * ***

■ Diffuse ▨ Vesicles □ Actin

F

% A3G Relocalized

Src | Lifeact

Figure 5

A IC-IP Bait: Gagx Vifxx HIV MS2-RFP (Genome Only)

gag Ψ *MSL* *vif* *vpu* *tat rev* RRE **MS2-RFP** AAAA

C IC-IP Bait: COGag-CFP mRNA (Gag Only)

cogag-cfp *MSL* AAAA

B TARGET

Free (NLS) / Membrane (Src)

Targeter: MS2-iRFP | Tracker: MS2-RFP | Prey: YFP-A3G | A3G ROI

Vesicles

D TARGET

Free (NLS) / Membrane (Src)

Targeter: MS2-RFP | Prey: YFP-A3G | Gag Only (Gag-CFP) | Merge

E 0 1 2 3 4 hours

Targeter: Membranes (Src) / Tracker: MS2-RFP / YFP-A3G

Early YFP-A3G Recruitment to Vesicles by Gagx Vifxx HIV MS2-RFP

T = 0

T = 5 h

F

dRRE HIV | Gagx HIV

YFP-A3G | YFP-A3G | YFP-MOV10 | YFP-UPF1

Targeter: Actin (Lifeact) MS2-iRFP

Tracker: MS2-RFP

Prey:

ROI

i. P Bodies | *ii.* F-Actin | *iii.* F-Actin | *iv.* Predominantly Diffuse

G

dRRE HIV | Gagx HIV | Gag Only

YFP-A3G | YFP-A3G | YFP-MOV10 | YFP-UPF1 | YFP-A3G

Pearson's (Targeter & RBP)

p=0.0001 p=0.33 p=0.002

*** ns **

Figure 6

A Reciprocal *in cellulo* RNA-protein Interaction Protocol (IC-IP)

Normal A3G   Retargeted A3G   Retargeted A3G

Normal Prey   Recruited Prey   Non-specific Prey

Colocalization   Interaction   No Interaction

B Vifxx Gag-CFP/MS2-RFP

gag-cfp   ~~vif~~   vpu   *tat rev*   **MS2-RFP**   AAAA

Ψ   *MSL*   RRE

MS2-RFP   Src-YFP-A3G   Gag-CFP   Merge

C Vifxx Gagx/MS2-RFP (Genome Only)

~~gag~~   ~~vif~~   vpu   *tat rev*   **MS2-RFP**   AAAA

Ψ   *MSL*   RRE

MS2-RFP   YFP-A3G   Src-CFP-A3G   Merge

D Vifxx Luc

gag   *vifxx*   *vpu*   *tat rev*   **luc**   AAAA

Ψ   *pol*   RRE

gRNA FISH   Src-YFP-A3G

Gag α-p24   Merge

E

Release Factor

p = 0.00141   **   **   p = 0.00265

Src-MS2   YFP-A3G   Src-A3G

VLPs — Gag-BFP, YFP

Lysates — Gag-BFP, YFP, GAPDH

1   2   3   4   5

Figure 7

A

COGag-CFP (Gag Only) — *cogag-cfp* AAAA

Vif+ HIV Gag-CFP/MS2-RFP — *gag-cfp* Ψ *MSL* *vif* *vpu* *tat rev* **MS2-RFP** AAAA RRE

Vifxx HIV Gag-CFP/MS2-RFP — *gag-cfp* Ψ *MSL* *vif* *vpu* *tat rev* **MS2-RFP** AAAA RRE

COGag ΔNCzip-CFP — *ΔNCzip-cfp* AAAA

B

	COGag	Vif+ HIV	Vifxx HIV	ΔNCzip	
VLPs					Gag-CFP
					YFP-A3G
Lysates					Gag-CFP
					YFP-A3G
					HSP90
	1	2	3	4	

C

COGag-CFP | Vifxx HIV

Gag-CFP
YFP-A3G
MS2-RFP
Merge

Scale bar = 0.5 µm

D

% Virions

*** p = 0.000956

Vif+ HIV | Vifxx HIV | COGag | ΔNCzip

■ % MS2-RFP+   ■ % YFP-A3G+

E

Relative YFP-A3G MFI per particle

*** p < 0.0001

Vifxx | COGag

Figure S1

Figure S2

A TARGET: Free (NLS)

B TARGET: Membrane (Src)