IRE1 drives a homeostatic response to reduced protein influx into the endoplasmic reticulum

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Abstract

IRE1, alongside ATF6 and PERK, orchestrates the Unfolded Protein Response, a network of signaling pathways that maintains endoplasmic reticulum (ER) homeostasis. Two modes of IRE1 activation are known: i) in response to an accumulation of unfolded proteins in the ER lumen and ii) in response to compositional changes to the ER membrane that alter its physical properties. Here we identify a third, independent mode of IRE1 activation: ER co-translational translocation deficits activate IRE1 through a mechanism that relies on the release of IRE1 molecules from unoccupied translocons. We define this mechanism as TRES for "TRanslocon Engagement Surveillance". TRES leads to spontaneous activation of IRE1 and bypasses its unfolded protein- and ER membrane composition-sensing functions. Inhibiting translation initiation similarly activates IRE1 by TRES, as it leads to a decline in ER protein import, thus linking the Integrated Stress Response to IRE1 signaling. TRES drives IRE1 activation without activating ATF6 or PERK, resulting in a distinct gene expression program that feeds back by boosting the co-translational translocation machinery to rebalance the ER protein load. Our findings thus demonstrate that monitoring and adjusting the rates of protein translocation are critical for maintaining ER homeostasis.

Introduction

Surveillance of protein targeting and import across organelle membranes is a fundamental process that ascertains that the protein folding load and the available protein folding machinery are properly balanced. In the endoplasmic reticulum (ER), protein targeting is facilitated by the signal recognition particle (SRP), which delivers translating ribosomes synthesizing signal sequence-bearing peptides to the translocon, initiating the co-translational translocation of nascent polypeptide chains into the ER lumen (1–3). The translocon is a multiprotein complex composed of SEC61α, β, and γ subunits and accessory factors (4). Dedicated ER quality control mechanisms counterbalance deviations from homeostasis to maintain proper ER physiology and adjust the organelle's functions according to need. A key ER quality control mechanism is the Unfolded Protein Response (UPR). The UPR is a signaling network that detects protein folding defects ("unfolded protein stress") as well as changes in ER membrane composition and fluidity ("lipid bilayer stress") to activate transcriptional programs that rebalance ER function (5–7). In animals, the UPR is governed by three ER membrane-resident sensors: the kinase PERK, the transcription factor ATF6, and the kinase/RNase IRE1. Of the three sensors, only IRE1 interacts with the SRP, the ribosome, and the translocon (8, 9), yet the functional implications of these associations remain largely unclear (8–15).

Current models posit that IRE1 activation results from the direct binding of unfolded protein ligands to its ER lumenal domain (16–19), the reversible dissociation of the lumenal ER chaperone BiP/GRP78 from IRE1 (20), and the sensing of lipid bilayer stress by IRE1's transmembrane domain (21–23). In response to these perturbations, IRE1 molecules self-associate and *trans*-autophosphorylate, both a prerequisite for awakening its endoribonuclease activity. Active IRE1 initiates the non-conventional splicing of the *X-box binding protein 1* (*XBP1*) mRNA to generate the central UPR transcription factor XBP1s ("s" for spliced) (24) that upregulates the transcription of genes involved in protein folding, protein export, ER-associated degradation (ERAD), and lipid biosynthesis (25–29) in order to rebalance the ER's functional capacity. In

addition, activated IRE1 degrades ER-localized mRNAs through RIDD (regulated IRE1-

dependent decay) (*30*) and RIDDLE (RIDD Lacking Endomotif) (*31*), thereby reducing

the flux of proteins entering the ER. Through these actions, IRE1 mitigates ER stress

(*32–34*). If this cannot be achieved and ER stress remains unmitigated, sustained IRE1

activity induces cell death (*35–37*). Given its fundamental role in making life/death

decisions, it comes as no surprise that maladaptive IRE1 signaling is linked to the

pathophysiology of multiple neurodegenerative, metabolic, and malignant diseases (*7*).

Along with RIDD and RIDDLE, the flux of proteins entering the ER lumen can

also be adjusted by controlling protein synthesis. A prominent mechanism governing

protein synthesis rates is the Integrated Stress Response (ISR). The ISR is a

homeostatic signaling network that detects a myriad of stresses, including unfolded

protein stress, and temporarily curtails protein synthesis by attenuating translation

initiation (*38*). Translational control via the ISR can be imposed on a rapid time scale

and thus provides the cell with enough time to adapt through changes in gene

expression. The ISR is thus intimately intertwined with the UPR, as both stress

responses share a common sensor, PERK. Besides PERK, three additional ISR stress-

sensing kinases, GCN2, HRI and PKR, converge on phosphorylating the alpha subunit

of eukaryotic initiation factor 2 (eIF2α). Phosphorylation of eIF2α leads to the

translational suppression of the vast majority of mRNAs and consequently limits the

protein load inside the ER (*38, 39*).

Here, we describe TRES (for TRanslocon Engagement Surveillance) as a third

and heretofore unrecognized mode of IRE1 activation that operates independent of

IRE1's unfolded protein and lipid bilayer stress sensing modalities. TRES couples IRE1

activation to decreased ER protein influx. IRE1 activation by TRES results from co-

translational translocation deficits elicited by insufficient ER protein targeting, translocon

dysfunction, and fluctuating translation initiation rates, as occur upon induction of the

ISR. These deficits dissociate IRE1 from the translocon, allowing for its activation. The

transcriptional output resulting from TRES-activated IRE1 signaling is distinct from that

of the classically defined UPR. The discovery of TRES thus expands the concept of ER

stress to include conditions resulting in ER *under*loading. These findings establish that

disrupted protein translocation into the ER is a distress signal sensed by IRE1.

Results

Dissociation from the translocon derepresses IRE1 during TRES.

To elucidate the functional interplay between IRE1α (IRE1 hereafter) and the ER co-

translational translocation machinery, we generated four mNeonGreen-tagged and

doxycycline (Dox)-inducible expression constructs (Fig. 1A):

i)   IRE^{WT} (wild-type IRE1);

ii)   IRE1^{TAD} (for "translocon association deficient"). IRE1 with a ten amino acid

112   deletion, ΔE434-D443, that reduces its association with the translocon (*10*) (Fig.

113   S1A);

114   iii)   IRE1^{DAB} (for "deaf and blind"). IRE1 with a core lumenal domain deletion, ΔI19-

115   D408, which blocks its ability to bind to unfolded proteins and BiP ("blind"),

116   combined with a point mutation, W457A, that renders it unable to sense lipid

117   bilayer stress ("deaf") (*22, 23*) (Fig. S1B); and

118   iv)   IRE1^{BTAD} (for "blind and translocon association deficient"). IRE1 with a large

119   deletion that removes its entire lumenal portion, including its translocon-binding

120   motif, ΔI19-D443, which prevents unfolded protein, BiP, and translocon binding

121   but retains lipid bilayer stress sensing (Fig. S1C).

122   The constructs were integrated into *IRE1$^{-/-}$* U-2 OS (osteosarcoma) cells at a defined

123   genomic locus using the Flp-In system (*40*), thereby allowing comparable and regulated

124   transgene expression. Dox treatment (5 ng/mL) induced robust expression of the

125   transgenes, which we estimated to be between ~8- and ~16-fold over endogenous

126   IRE1 protein levels observed in parental U-2 OS cells (Fig. S1D-E) (*41*).

128   We monitored the dynamics of IRE1 activation in *IRE1$^{-/-}$* cells expressing IRE1^{WT}

or IRE1^{TAD} by challenging them with the *N*-linked glycosylation inhibitor tunicamycin

(Tm), an ER stress-inducing agent that promotes the buildup of unfolded proteins in the

ER lumen. Expression of IRE1^{WT} led to a basal *XBP1* mRNA splicing (26±9%) (Fig. 1B;

lane 2, Fig. S1F). This signal, observed in the absence of ER stress, is a result of the

overexpression level of the transgene. As expected from previous observations, *XBP1*

mRNA splicing was boosted after Tm treatment (82±8% at 4 hours) (Fig. 1B; lane 5,

Fig. S1F), before attenuating back to baseline (28±14% at 24 hours) (Fig. 1B; lane 7,

Fig. S1F) (*42*). Unexpectedly, expression of IRE1^{TAD} in the absence of ER stress led to

high *XBP1* mRNA splicing (77±4%) (Fig. 1B, lane 9, Fig. S1F). By contrast to the *XBP1*

mRNA splicing fold-changes (~4-fold) observed for IRE1^{WT} (Fig. 1B, compare lanes 2

and 5, Fig. S1F), ER stress induction in cells expressing IRE1^{TAD} did not induce

substantive *XBP1* mRNA splicing (~1.1-fold over wild-type) (Fig. 1B; compare lanes 9

and 12, Fig. S1F). Moreover, IRE1^{TAD} activity remained elevated and, surprisingly, did

not attenuate as observed for IRE1^{WT} (Fig. 1B; compare lanes 9 and 14, Fig. S1F). Both

IRE1^{WT} and IRE1^{TAD} abundance gradually decreased to similar degrees over the time

course of the experiment. Thus, a decrease in IRE1 protein levels does not explain the

differences in activity observed between the wild type and TAD mutant.

To assess the contributions of IRE1's unfolded protein and ER membrane stress

sensing, we next expressed IRE1^{BTAD} and IRE1^{DAB} and measured *XBP1* mRNA splicing.

The expression of IRE1^{BTAD}, which cannot bind to the translocon, was necessary and

sufficient to induce *XBP1* mRNA splicing both in the absence and after induction of ER

stress. However, splicing was less prominent than shown above for IRE1^{TAD} (28±2%)

(Fig. 1C, lanes 4-6, Fig. S1G), consistent with the notion that the lumenal domain

potentiates IRE1 multimerization, which results in signal amplification (*18*, *19*). By

contrast, the expression of IRE1^{DAB}, which can bind to the translocon, failed to induce

XBP1 mRNA splicing both in the absence and after induction of ER stress (Fig. 1C;

lanes 1 – 3, Fig. S1G).

Together, the data presented so far suggest that IRE1 is derepressed upon dissociation

from the translocon (IRE1^{TAD} and IRE1^{BTAD}) and that the activity resulting from this

brake-release is independent of IRE1's lumenal unfolded protein sensing domain.

IRE1 senses co-translational translocation defects during TRES.

Previous work indicated that depleting SEC61 subunits or clogging translocons with

artificial reporter constructs activate IRE1 (*12, 15*). Accordingly, translocon inhibitors

induce IRE1 activation in cells (*43–46*). To address whether a reduction of co-

translational translocation into the ER results in IRE1 activation by way of its

dissociation from the translocon, we disrupted ER co-translational translocation and

measured *XBP1* mRNA splicing resulting from IRE1 activation.

First, we pharmacologically inhibited the translocon with the small-molecule

inhibitor SEC61-IN-1 (compound A317 in (*47*)) in cells expressing IRE1^{WT}. These

experiments showed a dose-dependent increase in *XBP1* mRNA splicing (~2-fold to

~3.5-fold over baseline) (Fig. 1D; lanes 3-6, Fig. S2A) with an accompanying reduction

in the association between IRE1 and SEC61α (Fig. 1E; compare lanes 2, 4, and 5). By

contrast, Tm treatment induced *XBP1* mRNA splicing without affecting the interaction

between IRE1 and SEC61α, as previously described (*9, 48*) (Fig. 1E; lanes 2-3).

Strikingly, SEC61-IN-1 treatment also induced *XBP1* mRNA splicing in *IRE1$^{-/-}$* cells

expressing IRE1^{DAB} (25±3%) (Fig. 1D, lanes 11-12, Fig. S2A), similar to that observed

upon expression of IRE1^{BTAD} (28±2%) (compare Fig. 1C, lanes 5 and 6, with Fig. 1D

lanes 11 and 12). Taken together, these data indicate that neither unfolded-protein

binding, nor BiP-dissociation, nor lipid bilayer stress sensing is required for IRE1 activity

upon treatment with SEC61-IN-1.

To confirm these conclusions, we treated cells with a different translocon

inhibitor, cyclotriazadisulfonamide (CADA), for which the molecular mechanism of action

has been defined structurally (*49*). Molecular docking onto SEC61α shows that CADA

occupies a pocket nested between the plug and the lateral gate of the channel (Fig.

S2B, top), as does SEC61-IN-1 (Fig. S2B, bottom). These analyses suggest that both

drugs occupy a similar pocket and stabilize the translocon in a conformation

incompatible with translocation. Indeed, CADA activated IRE1^{WT}, as shown by IRE1

autophosphorylation and the accumulation of XBP1s protein (Fig. 1F). These

observations were not restricted to our transgene experiments, as SEC61-IN-1 and

CADA induced XBP1s protein accumulation in parental U-2 OS cells expressing

endogenous IRE1 (Fig. S2C).

IRE1 activation involves the formation of higher order oligomers (*42*). Whereas

Tm treatment expectedly induced IRE1 foci (Fig. S3, arrows) in U-2 OS cells expressing

fluorescently tagged IRE1^{WT}, treatment with SEC61-IN-1 did not (Fig. S3). These

results suggest that large IRE1 assemblies do not form during TRES.

To orthogonally test the notion that inhibiting translocon activity induces IRE1, we

disrupted co-translational translocation by depleting the SRP subunit SRP54 in a

different cell line solely relying on endogenous levels of IRE1. We reasoned that

preventing ribosome targeting to the translocon in cells depleted of SRP would lead to

IRE1 activation. Indeed, SRP54 depletion with small interfering RNAs in H4

neuroglioma cells resulted in *XBP1* mRNA splicing (32±8%) (Fig. 1G, S2D),

corroborating previous results (*12*).

In a third orthogonal approach, we reduced ER translocation by interrupting

general translation initiation which impedes co-translational ribosome targeting to the

ER. To this end, we treated cells with the translation initiation inhibitors rocaglamide A

(RocA) and silvestrol, which clamp the eIF4A RNA helicase to 5' untranslated regions of

mRNAs and prevent efficient 43S ribosomal subunit scanning (*50, 51*). Treatment with

RocA resulted in a reduced ribosome density on ER membranes, as confirmed by

electron microscopy (Fig. S4A). RocA treatment led to the dissociation of IRE1^{WT} from

the translocon and from ribosomal proteins (Fig. 2A), with a corresponding induction of

XBP1 mRNA splicing (95±5%) (Fig. 2B, lane 5, Fig. S4B). RocA treatment similarly led

to the dissociation of IRE1^{DAB} from the translocon and ribosomal proteins (Fig. 2C) and

IRE1^{DAB} dependent *XBP1* mRNA splicing (45±5%, lane 5) (Fig. 2D, Fig. S4C).

Notably, RocA treatment minimally affected the already high *XBP1* mRNA

splicing activity of the translocon-binding-deficient IRE1^{TAD} mutant (Fig. 2E, Fig. S4D),

indicating that IRE1 dissociation from the translocon is sufficient for high IRE1 activity.

Accordingly, RocA treatment increased *XBP1* mRNA splicing by IRE1^{WT} to a degree

comparable to that elicited by Tm treatment (Fig. 2F, compare lanes 4-6), suggesting

that disrupting co-translational translocation activates IRE1^{WT} to the same extent as ER

stress. Indeed, RocA treatment induced IRE1 autophosphorylation (Fig. 2G) and XBP1s

protein accumulation (Fig. 2G, S4E), and RIDD (Fig. S4F). As we observed upon

SEC61-IN-1 treatment, RocA did not induce prominent IRE1 foci (Fig. S4H). High RocA

concentrations (1 µM) did not elevate XBP1s protein levels despite inducing *XBP1*

mRNA splicing due to a strong translation initiation block (Fig. S4G).

Similar to our experiments with SEC61-IN-1 and CADA, RocA treatment of U-2

OS cells expressing endogenous IRE1 elicited *XBP1* mRNA splicing, albeit modestly

when compared to IRE1^{WT} overexpression (Fig. 2F, compare lanes 1 and 3, and lanes

2 and 4). Treatment with Tm, however, induced high *XBP1* mRNA splicing in these cells

(Fig. 2F, compare lanes 1 to 2 and 5 to 6). We obtained similar results in H4

neuroglioma cells treated with silvestrol (Fig. S5A) and in *ex vivo* liver tissues of mice

treated with Zotatifin, a synthetic RocA analogue (Fig. S5B). Notably, and by contrast to

our observations with RocA and silvestrol, we detected no *XBP1* mRNA splicing after

treating U-2 OS cells with the elongation inhibitors cycloheximide (CHX) and emetine

(EME), which would stabilize ribosome-nascent chain complexes on translocons (*52*)

(Fig. S5C).

Notably, neither ATF6 nor PERK were activated by RocA, SEC61-IN-1 or CADA

(Fig. S5D), which as expected were both activated by the classical UPR inducer

dithiothreitol (DTT), a reducing agent that disrupts disulfide bonds, as indicated by ATF6

proteolytic processing and a change in PERK's electrophoretic mobility in SDS-PAGE

due to its autophosphorylation (Fig. S5D). We noted that the highest concentration of

SEC61-IN-1 reduced the protein levels of GFP-ATF6 and PERK (Fig. S5D, lane 12), but

not IRE1 (Fig. S2C, lane 5). It is possible that PERK and ATF6 molecules are no longer

inserted into the ER membrane under these conditions (*53*) or that they are selectively

degraded.

Taken together, our genetic and pharmacological experiments converge on a

model in which co-translational translocation defects preferentially activate IRE1 by

promoting its dissociation from SEC61. This activation modality is independent of

IRE1's canonical unfolded protein binding or lipid bilayer stress-sensing.

The Integrated Stress Response selectively activates IRE1 by TRES.

The findings above demonstrate that reduced translation initiation activates IRE1.

These observations raise the intriguing possibility that the ISR, which operates as a

master regulator of translation initiation and intimately connects to the UPR, could

activate IRE1. To address this notion, we activated the ISR directly using FKBP-PKR,

an engineered ISR kinase that can be activated by the drug-like small molecule FKBP

homodimerizer AP-20187 and leads to suppression of translation initiation (Fig. 3A,

S6A) (*54*, *55*). We chose PKR because it responds to viral infection and not to unfolded

protein buildup.

Indeed, FKBP-PKR activation with AP-20187 (referred to as ISR^{ON} hereafter)

activated IRE1 as assessed by multiple lines of evidence:

i)   it disrupted the IRE1-translocon interaction (Fig. 3B, compare lanes 3 and 4);

ii)   it induced IRE1 autophosphorylation (Fig. 3C – lanes 4 and 5);

iii) it induced *XBP1* mRNA splicing (Fig. 3C – lanes 4 and 5; S6B – lanes 5 and 6)

and upregulated XBP1s transcriptional target genes (Fig. S6C,D); and

iv)   it activated RIDD, which was suppressed upon co-treatment with the IRE1

RNase inhibitor 4μ8C (Fig. 3D).

Because the ISR signals through eIF2 phosphorylation *(38)*, and to rule out

potential off-target effects of FKBP-PKR activation, we next overexpressed a

phosphomimetic mutant of the α-subunit of eIF2 bearing the S51D mutation, eIF2α^{S51D}

(*54*). As occurred with our ISR^{ON} approach, overexpression of eIF2α^{S51D} (Fig. S6E) was

sufficient to induce IRE1 autophosphorylation and *XBP1* mRNA splicing (Fig. 3E),

upregulate XBP1s transcriptional targets (Fig. S6F, G), and activate RIDD (Fig. 3F),

corroborating that the ISR activates IRE1. Accordingly, treatment with ISRIB, a small

molecule that renders cells refractory to the effects of eIF2 phosphorylation (*56*),

reduced *XBP1* mRNA splicing (Fig. 3G) and XBP1s target expression (Fig. S6H, I), and

diminished RIDD (Fig. 3H) in ISR[ON] cells.

As a third approach to induce the ISR, we induced mitochondrial stress to

activate the ISR kinase HRI with mitochondrial uncouplers (oligomycin and BTdCPU)

(*57–59*). We observed induction of *XBP1* mRNA splicing that was reduced by treatment

with ISRIB and 4µ8C (Fig. S6J, K). We note that ISR activation increased total *XBP1*

mRNA levels, in addition to activating *XBP1* mRNA splicing (Fig. 3C, 3E); both these

effects were dampened by ISRIB treatment (Fig. 3G). These results indicate that *XBP1*

mRNA abundance is autoregulated by the ISR (*25*), in addition to being regulated by

ATF6 upon UPR induction (*24*).

To rule out potential involvement of the other UPR sensors under ISR[ON]

conditions, we measured the electrophoretic mobility of PERK and the induction of

ATF6's canonical target genes (*HSPA5/BiP* and *GRP94*). We observed no changes in

PERK's electrophoretic mobility in SDS-PAGE (Fig. 3I), suggesting that PERK does not

become phosphorylated. Similarly, the level of the *GRP94* mRNA remained unchanged

(Fig. S6L). By contrast, ISR[ON] elevated *HSPA5* mRNA levels (Fig. 3J and S6C). This

result is easily reconciled because *HSPA5* transcription is regulated by both ATF6 and

XBP1s (*25*, *26*, *60*). To demonstrate directly the lack of ATF6's involvement in ISR[ON],

we depleted ATF6 using CRISPRi or alternatively blocked its activation with Ceapin-A7,

a small molecule ATF6 inhibitor (Fig. 3J) (*61*). Neither manipulation affected the *HSPA5*

mRNA levels upon ISR[ON] induction (Fig. 3J, right panel - compare bar 2 to bars 3 and

6). As expected for the effect solely resulting from ISR activation, ISRIB treatment

blunted *HSPA5* mRNA upregulation upon ISR[ON] (Fig. S6I) confirming that ISR[ON] does

not activate PERK or ATF6. Further supporting these conclusions, ISR[ON] led to *XBP1*

mRNA splicing by IRE1[DAB] (Fig. 3K) and did not induce IRE1[WT] foci (Fig. S6M).

Together, these data indicate that the translation initiation block and

consequential co-translational protein translocation deficits imposed by the ISR lead to

a selective activation of IRE1 that do not require IRE1's canonical ER stress-sensing

modalities or the formation of large IRE1 oligomers.

The IRE1-induced gene expression program differs between TRES and the UPR.

The selective activation of IRE1 in response to co-translational translocation

deficits prompted us to ask whether IRE1 induces customized gene expression

programs to match specific physiological requirements. To address this concept, we

compared the IRE1-dependent gene expression programs of IRE1 knockout cells and

IRE1-expressing cells driven by unfolded protein buildup (elicited by Tm) with those

driven by ER translocation disruptions (elicited by RocA). We then corroborated the

results in a different cell line, ISR^{ON} H4 cells, in the absence or presence of 4µ8C.

Expectedly, a targeted analysis of *XBP1* mRNA reads in our RNA sequencing

datasets indicated the splicing of *XBP1* mRNA induced by both RocA and ISR^{ON}

treatments, thus orthogonally validating the RT-PCR results described above (Fig. S7A

– B).

Gene ontology (GO) term analyses of a subset of 1,495 mRNAs whose

expression levels changed significantly (Abs log$_2$FC > 0.5) upon RocA treatment in

IRE1^{WT} cells compared to knockout controls revealed an enrichment of genes involved

in translation and ER protein quality control. These processes included pathways that

regulate protein synthesis, targeting and translocation, folding, glycosylation, and export

(Fig. 4A, Fig. S8A). Similarly, comparing ISR^{ON} cells to 4µ8C-treated controls revealed

an enrichment of the same processes (Fig. 4B, Fig. S8B). These analyses reveal a

heretofore unrecognized IRE1-dependent gene expression program in response to co-

translational translocation deficits.

To ascertain that this IRE1-dependent gene expression program is distinct from

the IRE1 program induced by the UPR, we compared the expression changes of

mRNAs induced by RocA and dependent on IRE1 to those induced by Tm, focusing on

representative mRNAs in the prevalent GO categories. These analyses revealed unique

TRES- or UPR-specific gene expression programs in addition to a common TRES/UPR

gene expression program. The TRES-specific IRE1 program regulates genes involved

in post-transcriptional gene expression, including those encoding components of mRNA

splicing, maturation, export and decay, as well as ribosome assembly (Fig. 4C).

Notably, the TRES program also induced genes involved in regulating SRP-dependent

co-translational targeting and translocation, including those encoding translocon

subunits (*SEC61A1*, *SEC61B*, *SEC61G*), signal sequence receptor (*SSR1/2/3/4*), SRP

(*SRP68/72*), SRP receptor (*SRPRA*), signal peptidase (*SPCS1/2*) and the translocation-

associated membrane protein *TRAM1* (Fig. 4D). Conversely, the common TRES/UPR

gene expression program includes genes encoding chaperones, foldases, trafficking

machinery, and ERAD components (e.g., *HSPA5*, *HSP90B1*, *HYOU1*, *FICD*, *SYVN1*,

SEC22B, *SEC24D*, *EDEM1*, *DERL2*) (Fig. S8C). Notably, the activation of this common

program was exclusively dependent on IRE1 during TRES as several of these genes

are known XBP1s targets. During the UPR, however, IRE1 signaling was largely

dispensable for the upregulation of *RAB33B*, *HSP90B1*, *HYOU1*, *MANF* and *HSPA5*

(Fig. S8C).

These data suggest that IRE1 controls specific homeostatic programs that

prepare the ER and the secretory pathway to match particular physiological needs.

These programs address fluctuations in ER function resulting from upsurges in ER

protein-folding demands (UPR) or a reduction in ER protein influx upon co-translational

translocation deficits (TRES).

Discussion

IRE1 is known for its two detection and response modes to deviations from ER

homeostasis that are triggered by ER protein folding perturbations and lipid bilayer

stress, respectively. Here, we describe a hitherto third mode for IRE1 activation dubbed

TRES: the sensing and responding to co-translational translocation deficits. Despite

lowering the ER's protein-folding burden akin to RIDD and RIDDLE, disrupted co-

translational translocation and the subsequent reduction in ER protein influx imbalances

the ER's protein folding load and capacity. Fluctuations in protein synthesis, and

consequently, oscillations in co-translational translocation occur, for example, during the

maturation of B cells into antibody-producing plasma cells (*62*) and during normal

functions of the endocrine pancreas, which are notably mediated by the ISR (*63*).

Indeed, IRE1 and a primary product resulting from its activation, XBP1s, are essential to

maintain the optimal secretory function of these cell types (*32*, *64*, *65*). We propose that

a properly balanced ER function is defined by a "Goldilocks zone" in which homeostasis

is optimized to the physiological needs of the cell. Displaying a U-shaped response to

imbalances on either side, IRE1 emerges as the key ER homeostasis sentinel (Fig. 5,

inset).

IRE1 follows distinct activation modes in response to ER stress resulting from ER

overloading and underloading.

Our observations support distinct IRE1 activation modes in response to

fluctuations in ER load versus capacity, i.e., deviations from homeostasis. In one

activation mode, increases in ER protein load cause BiP to dissociate from IRE1,

enabling unfolded protein ligands in the ER lumen to bind to IRE1's lumenal domain.

Unfolded protein accumulation in the ER lumen promotes IRE1 oligomerization without

dissociation from the translocon (see Fig. 1E, compares lanes 2 and 3), possibly by

templated and spatially restricted IRE1 self-association. In contrast to this model, it has

been proposed that IRE1's association with the translocon regulates the attenuation of

its signaling output (*10*, *48*). How IRE1 escapes attenuation imposed by SEC61 binding

during unfolded protein stress remains an unresolved question.

During TRES, co-translational translocation deficiencies result in empty

translocons that are conformationally distinct from those in an open state (*66–69*). We

propose that the closure of the SEC61 channel evicts, and consequentially,

derepresses IRE1 (Fig. 5). Our observations that disrupting co-translational

translocation by inhibiting the channel, blocking translation initiation, or depleting SRP,

induce *XBP1* mRNA splicing bolster this interpretation (Figs.1-3) and support a brake-

release model for IRE1 activation upon dissociation from the translocon. Our findings

are also consistent with earlier observations, indicating that depleting SEC61 translocon

subunits activates IRE1 (*12*).

IRE1 activation by TRES is unconventional and defined by specific characteristics.

IRE1 activation in response to co-translational translocation defects has three

unique characteristics: (i) it is independent of IRE1's conventional ER stress sensing

capabilities (Figs. 1-3), (ii) it sidesteps formation of large high-order oligomers visible as

foci (Figs. S3, S4H, S6M), and (iii) it is muted in proportion to stress elicited by unfolded

protein accumulation (Figs. 1C-D, 2D, 2F - compare lanes 3 and 5, 3K). TRES does not

require IRE1's lumenal domain or its transmembrane stress sensing domain. However,

the lumenal domain amplifies signaling during TRES, perhaps due to the increased

oligomerization potential of the intact protein. TRES activation of IRE1 does not result in

formation of visible foci and is lower in magnitude compared to that observed in Tm-

induced ER stress. Therefore, substantial *XBP1* mRNA splicing activity can result in the

absence of visible foci. It is possible that as stress progresses to an irresolvable state

(as would occur with Tm), continued IRE1 self-association leads to the larger

assemblies that may be a preamble for IRE1 disposal by degradative means.

The proportionally muted response of TRES suggests IRE1 is less sensitive to

co-translational translocation defects than to unfolded protein accumulation. The vast

excess of translocons over IRE1 (back-of-the-envelope calculations indicated by

~2,000-fold (*70*)) implies that IRE1 may sample a specialized subpopulation of

translocons dedicated to challenging ER clients. This notion is supported by our

previous finding that IRE1 preferentially associates with mRNAs encoding

transmembrane proteins (*9*). Distinct translocon-associated factors could confer such

specificity (*71*, *72*).

IRE1 regulates different outputs in response to ER overload or underload.

The distinct IRE1-dependent gene expression programs induced by UPR or

TRES activation (Fig. 4) suggest that IRE1 activation modes are tuned to distinct

physiological needs to reestablish homeostasis. The tuning can be achieved by

combinatorial regulation via transcription factors. The UPR involves cooperation

between XBP1s and ATF6-N (the cleaved nuclear form of ATF6, containing its

transcription factor moiety) to induce gene expression programs (*27*, *60*) that mitigate

ER overload. Conversely, TRES rebalances an underloaded ER by inducing XBP1s

alone. ATF6/XBP1s heterodimers and XBP1s homodimers bind to distinct *cis*-regulatory

elements, resulting in varied gene expression programs (*29*, *73*). In support of this

notion, depleting SEC61 components, SRP machinery, eIF2 subunits, and eIF2B

subunits—all of which disrupt co-translational translocation and hinder ER protein

import—activates an XBP1s transcriptional reporter built with XBP1s-responsive *cis*-

acting elements (*12*). It is also possible that XBP1s partners with other, yet-to-be-

identified, transcription factors induced by TRES to induce a tailored gene expression

program.

TRES is integral to the ISR.

TRES links IRE1 activity to the cell-wide attenuation of protein synthesis resulting

from the diminished translation initiation that occurs upon eIF2 phosphorylation. Thus,

TRES may fulfill an anticipatory role: IRE1 activation downstream of the ISR may

prepare the cell for an incoming flux of secretory cargo once the ISR terminates and

protein synthesis is restored. Other processes leading to decreased protein synthesis

do not have the same impact on IRE1 activation, as indicated by experiments with the

elongation inhibitors CHX and EME (Fig. S5C), which freeze ribosomes on their

respective mRNAs and hence do not empty translocons. In this case, stalled ribosomes

docked onto occupied translocons do not lead to IRE1 eviction from the translocon,

preventing its activation. Thus, translational regulation by other means that stabilize

existing polysomes would not engage TRES, while we predict that mechanisms that

destabilize polysomes will activate it.

TRES has pathophysiological implications.

477   Mutations in *SEC63*, which encodes a protein that associates with the

translocon, are linked to autosomal dominant polycystic liver disease (ADPLD), a

genetic disease characterized by the formation of hepatic cysts, causing organ failure

(*74*). Deletion of *Sec63* in mice, which recapitulates cyst formation in the kidney and

liver, selectively activates IRE1 (*75*). In support of our findings on the homeostatic

nature of IRE1 activation by TRES, *Xbp1* depletion in these mice exacerbates cyst

formation while *Xbp1s* overexpression mitigates the disease (*75*). Moreover, IRE1

activation by TRES may have a role in oncological indications. For example, a SEC61

inhibitor (KZR-261) and Zotatifin are currently in clinical trials for advanced malignant

solid tumors (NCT05047536 and NCT04092673), and Zotatifin is in clinical trials for

estrogen receptor–positive HER2–negative breast cancer (NCT05101564) and low-

grade serous ovarian cancer (NCT03675893). Considering IRE1's adaptive roles and

the dependence of some cancers on IRE1 activity (*7*), our results may inform on the

therapeutic efficacy (or lack thereof) of targeting co-translational translocation in

conjunction with IRE1 modulation to treat cancers. Importantly, given that dysregulation

of the ISR is prominently linked to neurodegeneration (*38*), and the ISR inhibitors

fosigotifator and DNL343 are in clinical trials (NCT05757141; NCT04948645;

NCT06618118; NCT04297683; NCT05842941), it remains to be determined whether

IRE1 activity is modulated in these conditions, and if targeting it would have additional

therapeutic benefits. Taken together, the discovery of a third modality of IRE1 activation

significantly expands our understanding of ER stress in physiology and pathology.

Main Text Figure Legends

Figure 1. Disrupted ER translocation activates IRE1. (A) Schematic representation of the different IRE1 constructs used in this study. Solid red triangle (a.a. E434-D443): translocon association motif; orange dot: W457A. Each doxycycline-inducible transgene was inserted as a single copy using the Flp-In system in U-2 OS *IRE1α^-/-* cells. (B) RT-PCR of *XBP1* and *GAPDH* mRNAs (top), immunoblotting of IRE1α, and vinculin (VCL) (bottom) in lysates obtained from U-2 OS *IRE1α^-/-* cells expressing mNeonGreen-tagged IRE1α^WT and IRE1α^TAD upon addition of 5 ng/mL doxycycline (Dox). Cells were treated with 5 µg/mL tunicamycin (Tm) for the indicated times. u - unspliced; s - spliced *XBP1* mRNA amplicons, respectively. The asterisk indicates a hybrid amplicon generated by annealing of one strand of *XBP1u* and one strand of *XBP1s* during the PCR. *GAPDH*, VCL: loading controls. Quantification of the percentage of *XBP1* mRNA splicing is shown in Fig. S1F. Data are representative of three independent experiments. (C) RT-PCR and immunoblots in lysates obtained from U-2 OS *IRE1α^-/-* cells expressing mNeonGreen-tagged IRE1α^DAB and IRE1α^BTAD upon addition of 5 ng/mL Dox. Cells were treated with 5 µg/mL Tm for 4 hours where indicated. Quantification of the percentage of *XBP1* mRNA splicing is shown in Fig. S1G. Data are representative of three independent experiments. (D) RT-PCR and immunoblots in lysates obtained from U-2 OS *IRE1α^-/-* cells expressing mNeonGreen-tagged IRE1α^WT and IRE1α^DAB upon addition of 5 ng/mL doxycycline (Dox). Cells were treated with SEC61-IN-1 for 16 hours at the indicated concentrations. Quantification of the percentage of *XBP1* mRNA splicing is shown in Fig. S2A. Data are representative of three independent experiments. (E) Immunoprecipitation of mNeonGreen-tagged IRE1α^WT in U-2 OS *IRE1α^-/-* cells expressing IRE1α^WT upon addition of 5 ng/mL Dox. Cells were treated with 5 µg/mL Tm for 6 hours or 1 µM SEC61-IN-1 for 6 and 16 hours as indicated. Immunoblotting was performed using antibodies against SEC61α and IRE1α. Lanes are cropped from images of the same gel. Data are representative of two independent experiments. (F) Immunoblots of phosphorylated and total IRE1α (top) and spliced XBP1 protein and vinculin (bottom) in lysates obtained from U-2 OS *IRE1α^-/-* cells expressing mNeonGreen-tagged IRE1α^WT upon addition of 5 ng/mL Dox. Cells were treated with CADA for 16 hours at the indicated concentrations. The quantification of the proportion of phosphorylated IRE1 and spliced XBP1 are shown below the

immunoblots. Data are representative of two independent experiments. VCL: loading

control. (G) RT-PCR of *XBP1* mRNA in H4 cells depleted of *SRP54* by RNA

interference. Quantification of the percentage of *XBP1* mRNA splicing is shown in Fig.

S2D. Data are representative of three independent experiments. Bottom panel: extent of

SRP54 knockdown measured by RT-qPCR and normalized internally to *GAPDH*. Mean

± SEM expressed as fold change over the levels in mock-transfected controls (N=3).

Figure 2. Translation initiation inhibition activates IRE1. (A) Immunoprecipitation of

mNeonGreen-tagged IRE1α^{WT} in U-2 OS *IRE1α$^{-/-}$* cells expressing IRE1α^{WT} upon

addition of 5 ng/mL Dox. Cells were treated with 500 nM RocA for 16 hours as

indicated. Immunoblotting was performed using antibodies against SEC61α, RPL9, and

IRE1α. Data are representative of two independent experiments. (B) RT-PCR of *XBP1*

and *GAPDH* mRNAs (top), immunoblotting of IRE1α, and VCL (bottom) in lysates

obtained from U-2 OS *IRE1α$^{-/-}$* cells expressing mNeonGreen-tagged IRE1α^{WT} upon

addition of 5 ng/mL Dox. Cells were treated with RocA for 16 hours at the indicated

concentrations or 5 µg/mL Tm for 4 hours. u - unspliced; s - spliced *XBP1* mRNA

amplicons, respectively. The asterisk indicates a hybrid amplicon generated by

annealing of one strand of *XBP1u* and one strand of *XBP1s* during the PCR. *GAPDH*,

VCL: loading controls. Quantification of the percentage of *XBP1* mRNA splicing is

shown in Fig. S4B. Data are representative of three independent experiments. (C)

Immunoprecipitation of mNeonGreen-tagged IRE1α^{DAB} as in panel A. (D-E) RT-PCR

and immunoblotting as in panel B of lysates obtained from U-2 OS *IRE1α$^{-/-}$* cells

expressing mNeonGreen-tagged IRE1α^{DAB} (D), and mNeonGreen-tagged IRE1α^{TAD} (E).

Quantification of the percentage of *XBP1* mRNA splicing is shown in Figs. S4C-D. Data

are representative of three independent experiments. (F) RT-PCR of *XBP1* and *GAPDH*

mRNAs in lysates obtained from U-2 OS *IRE1α$^{+/+}$* cells and U-2 OS *IRE1α$^{-/-}$* cells

expressing IRE1α^{WT} cells upon addition of 5 ng/mL Dox. Cells were treated with 100 nM

RocA for 16 hours or 5 µg/mL Tm for 4 hours as indicated. Data are representative of

three independent experiments. (G) Immunoblots of phosphorylated and total IRE1α

(top) and spliced XBP1 protein and VCL (bottom) in lysates obtained from U-2 OS

IRE1α$^{-/-}$ cells expressing mNeonGreen-tagged IRE1α^{WT} upon addition of 5 ng/mL Dox.

Cells were treated with RocA for 16 hours at the indicated concentrations or 5 µg/mL

Tm for 4 hours as indicated. The quantification of the proportion of phosphorylated IRE1

and spliced XBP1 are shown below the immunoblots. Data are representative of three

independent experiments. GAPDH: loading control.

Figure 3. Synthetic activation of the ISR induces IRE1. (A) Schematic representation

of FKBP-PKR. The homodimerizer is shown in red. The FKBP^{F36V} domain (light blue) is

adjoined to the PKR kinase domain (dark blue) by PKR's unstructured linker. (B) Co-

immunoprecipitation of IRE1α and SEC61α in lysates obtained from H4 cells expressing

FKBP-PKR and treated with the homodimerizer for 16 hours. (C) Immunoblot of IRE1α

phosphorylation (IRE1α-P) and RT-PCR of *XBP1* mRNA and *28S* ribosomal RNA in

lysates obtained from H4 cells expressing FKBP-PKR and treated with the

homodimerizer for the indicated times. Loading control: *28S* ribosomal RNA. Data are

representative of five independent experiments. (D) RT-qPCR of *BLOC1S1* and

SCARA3 mRNAs in H4 cells expressing FKBP-PKR and treated with the homodimerizer

for 16 hours with or without co-treatment with 10 µM of the IRE1 RNase inhibitor 4µ8C.

Data: Mean ± SEM of fold changes normalized to the levels in untreated controls (N≥3).

(E) Immunoblot of IRE1α phosphorylation (IRE1α-P) and RT-PCR of *XBP1* and *GFP*

mRNAs in lysates obtained from H4 cells expressing eIF2α^{S51D} hosted in a construct

that also expresses GFP, for the indicated times. *GFP* mRNA: transfection and loading

control. Data are representative of three independent experiments. The ◊ indicates a

non-specific band in the immunoblot (top) and * denotes the hybrid *XBP1* amplicon in

the RT-PCR (bottom). (F) RT-qPCR of *BLOC1S1* and *SCARA3* mRNAs in H4 cells

expressing eIF2α^{S51D} for 16 hours. Data: Mean ± SEM of fold changes normalized to the

levels in untreated controls (N = 3). (G) RT-PCR of *XBP1* mRNA and *28S* ribosomal

RNA in H4 cells expressing FKBP-PKR and treated with the homodimerizer for 16 hours

with or without co-treatment with 800 nM ISRIB. Data are representative of three

independent experiments. (H) RT-qPCR of the expression levels of the *BLOC1S1*

mRNA in H4 cells expressing FKBP-PKR, treated with the homodimerizer for 16 hours

with or without addition of 800 nM ISRIB. Data: Mean ± SEM of fold changes

normalized to the respective levels in untreated controls (N = 3). **p-value < 0.01,

Student's t-test. (I) Immunoblots of PERK and ATF4 in lysates obtained from H4 cells

expressing FKBP-PKR and treated with the homodimerizer for the indicated times and 5

µg/ml Tm for 4 hours. Actin: loading control. (J) left panel: RT-qPCR of the *ATF6* mRNA

in H4 cells with CRISPRi-mediated knockdown of *ATF6* (sgATF6); right panel: *HSPA5*

mRNA in H4 cells expressing FKBP-PKR cells under the following conditions: 2.5 µg/ml

Tm for 16 hours, 5 nM Ceapin-A7, and homodimerizer treatment for 16 hours, as

indicated, or in cells with CRISPRi-mediated knockdown of ATF6 (sgATF6). For the

right panel data: Mean ± SEM of fold changes normalized to the levels in untreated

controls. **p-value <0.01, Student's t-test; n.s. - not significant. (K) RT-PCR of *XBP1*

and *GAPDH* mRNAs in U-2 OS *IRE1α$^{-/-}$* cells expressing FKBP-PKR and mNeonGreen-

tagged IRE1α^{DAB} treated with 20 ng/mL Dox for 48 hours, 5 µg/mL Tm for 4 hours as

indicated, and the homodimerizer for the indicated times. Data are representative of

three independent experiments. The asterisk indicates the hybrid *XBP1* amplicon in the

RT-PCR.

Figure 4. IRE1 controls distinct gene expression programs in response to

reduced ER protein influx or increased unfolded protein buildup. (A-B) Bubble

plots showing enriched Reactome pathways to which IRE1-dependent transcripts

cluster as upregulated in (A) U-2 OS *IRE1α$^{-/-}$* cells expressing mNeonGreen-tagged

IRE1α^{WT} upon addition of 5 ng/mL Dox and treated with 100 nM RocA for 16 hours (log$_2$

FoldChange > 0.5 compared to DMSO controls), and (B) H4 cells with the activation of

FKBP-PKR for 16 hours and 24 hours (continuous enrichment test as compared to

controls). (C-D) Heatmaps showing log$_2$FoldChanges of specific transcripts in U-2 OS

IRE1α$^{-/-}$ cells, U-2 OS *IRE1α$^{+/+}$* cells, and U-2 OS *IRE1α$^{-/-}$* cells expressing

mNeonGreen-tagged IRE1α^{WT} upon addition of 5 ng/mL Dox. Cells were treated with

100 nM RocA for 16 hours as indicated. In parallel, U-2 OS *IRE1α$^{-/-}$* cells and U-2 OS

IRE1α$^{+/+}$ cells were treated with Tm for 4 hours. All log$_2$FoldChanges were calculated in

comparison to DMSO controls. The Reactome pathways to which the protein products

of the differentially expressed transcripts belong are highlighted on the left of each

panel.

Figure 5. Model for IRE1 activation by reduced ER protein influx. *Schematic model:* (1) Co-translational translocation of signal-peptide bearing proteins into the ER facilitates IRE1's association with the SEC61 translocon. These IRE1 species likely co-exist in a dynamic equilibrium. (2) The IRE1-SEC61 complex functions as an internal limiter of IRE1 activity when the ER protein load is optimal (the 'Goldilocks zone' (3) of ER protein load). (4) During TRES, disrupted co-translational translocation and reduced ER protein influx result in the closure of the SEC61 channel and the subsequent eviction of IRE1 from the translocon complex, leading to IRE1's derepression and TRES signaling. (5) IRE1-driven gene expression programs in-turn prepare the cell for increased rates of protein synthesis and translocation into the ER by upregulating components of the co-translational translocation machinery. *Inset:* U-shaped response of IRE1 activity as a function of ER protein load.

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Author disclosures

PW and DAA are co-inventors of ISRIB. A patent is held by the Regents of the University of California that describes ISRIB and its analogs. Rights to the invention have been licensed by UCSF to Calico. All authors affiliated with Altos Labs are option holders or shareholders in Altos Labs, Inc. All other authors declare no competing interests.

Author contributions

Conceptualization: F.Z., A.S., P.W., D.A-A.

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Data, code, and materials availability

The data and materials generated in this study are available upon request through

material and data transfer agreements with Altos Labs. The RNA sequencing datasets

have been deposited to the Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) server (accession

number: GSE323967). All data are available in the main text or the supplementary

materials.

Supplementary Materials

Figs. S1 to S8

Materials and Methods

<div align="center">Supplementary Materials for</div>

<div align="center">**IRE1 drives a homeostatic response to reduced protein influx**</div>

<div align="center">**into the endoplasmic reticulum**</div>

<div align="center">Zappa, Subramanian *et al.*</div>

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The PDF file includes:

Figs. S1 to S8

Materials and Methods

References

Supplementary Figure Legends

Figure S1. Functional characterization of IRE1 mutants used in this study. (A) Immunoprecipitation of mNeonGreen-tagged IRE1α^{WT} and IRE1α^{TAD} in lysates obtained from U-2 OS *IRE1α$^{-/-}$* cells expressing the respective constructs after the addition of 5 ng/mL Dox for 48 hours. Immunoblotting was performed using antibodies against SEC61α and IRE1α. (B-C) RT-PCR of *XBP1* and *GAPDH* mRNAs in lysates obtained from U-2 OS *IRE1α$^{-/-}$* cells expressing mNeonGreen-tagged IRE1α^{WT} and IRE1α^{DAB} (B) or mNeonGreen-tagged IRE1^{BTAD} (C) upon addition of 5 ng/mL doxycycline (Dox). Cells were treated with 5 µg/mL Tm for 4 hours, 500 µM palmitic acid for 6 hours, or 1 µM CVT-11127 for 24 hours as indicated. u - unspliced; s - spliced *XBP1* mRNA amplicons, respectively. The asterisk indicates a hybrid amplicon generated by annealing of one strand of *XBP1*u and one strand of *XBP1*s during the PCR. GAPDH: loading control. Data are representative of two independent experiments. (D) Immunoblots of IRE1α and tubulin in lysates obtained from U-2 OS (*IRE1α$^{+/+}$*) cells and U-2 OS *IRE1α$^{-/-}$* cells expressing mNeonGreen-tagged IRE1α^{WT}, IRE1α^{TAD}, IRE1α^{DAB}, and IRE1α^{BTAD} upon addition of 5 ng/mL doxycycline (Dox) for 48 hours (left). Relative protein expression levels of IRE1 were normalized to tubulin and quantified as a fold change of the mean ± SEM over endogenous IRE1α levels (right) (N=3). (E) RT-qPCR of *IRE1α* mRNA levels in lysates obtained from U-2 OS (*IRE1α$^{+/+}$*) cells and U-2 OS *IRE1α$^{-/-}$* cells expressing mNeonGreen-tagged IRE1α^{WT}, IRE1α^{TAD}, IRE1α^{DAB}, and IRE1α^{BTAD} upon addition of 5 ng/mL doxycycline (Dox) for 48 hours. Relative *IRE1α* mRNA expression levels were normalized internally to the reference gene *GAPDH* and expressed as $\log_2$(fold change) over the levels in U-2 OS (*IRE1α$^{+/+}$*) cells. Data: mean ± SEM (N=6). (F-G) Quantification of *XBP1* mRNA splicing from experiments shown in Fig. 1B (F) and Fig. 1C (G). Data: mean ± SD (N ≥ 2).

Figure S2. Inhibition of co-translational translocation activates IRE1. (A) Quantification of *XBP1* mRNA splicing from experiments shown in Fig. 1D. Data: mean ± SD (N ≥ 2). (B) Molecular docking of SEC61-IN-1 into the structure of the SEC61 translocon, and Cryo-EM structure of CADA bound to the SEC61 translocon (PDB:

8DO2). Panels on the right show the zoomed in views of the small molecules occupying

the central pore of SEC61α. (C) Immunoblots of XBP1s, Vinculin (VCL) and IRE1α in

lysates obtained from U-2 OS cells treated with CADA and SEC61-IN-1 for 16 hours at

the indicated concentrations. The quantification of the proportion of spliced XBP1

protein is indicated below. Immunoblots for each treatment were processed in parallel

on different gels. Data are representative of two independent experiments. (D)

Quantification of *XBP1* mRNA splicing from experiments shown in Fig. 1G. Data: mean

± SD (N ≥ 2).

Figure S3. SEC61 translocon inhibition does not induce large IRE1 foci.

Representative micrographs of U-2 OS *IRE1α*$^{-/-}$ cells expressing mNeonGreen-tagged

IRE1α^{WT} upon addition of 5 ng/mL doxycycline and treated with 1 μM SEC61-IN-1 or 5

μg/mL Tm for the indicated times. Arrowheads indicate high-order mNeonGreen-tagged

IRE1α foci observable by confocal fluorescence microscopy. Scale bar = 10 μm.

Figure S4. Inhibiting translation initiation activates IRE1. (A) Quantification of

ribosome density based on analysis of transmission electron micrographs of ER

membranes (shaded in purple) in U-2 OS cells treated with 100 nM RocA for 16 hours.

Electron dense ribosome particles are highlighted in blue. Data: Mean ± SEM (N=22

micrographs for control and N=17 micrographs for RocA). (B-D) Quantification of *XBP1*

mRNA splicing from experiments shown in Fig. 2B, 2D and 2E. Data: mean ± SD (N ≥

2). (E) Immunoblots of XBP1s, IRE1α, and Vinculin (VCL) in lysates obtained from U-2

OS cells treated with RocA for 16 hours at the indicated concentrations or 5 μg/mL Tm

for 4 hours. The quantification of the proportion of spliced XBP1 protein is indicated

below the immunoblots. Data are representative of three independent experiments. (F)

RT-qPCR of *SCARA3* and *COL6A1* mRNAs in H4 cells treated with 1 μM RocA for 16

hours. Expression levels were normalized internally to 28S ribosomal RNA. Values are

expressed as fold change over the levels in H4 cells treated with DMSO (indicated with

a dashed line). Data: Mean ± SEM (N = 3). (G) U-2 OS cells treated with RocA at the

indicated concentrations for 8 hours were subjected to puromycin pulse-chase analyses

to assess nascent protein synthesis rates. Immunoblotting of lysates was performed

using antibodies to puromycin and VCL. Data are representative of two independent experiments. Lanes were cropped from the same gel. (H) Confocal micrographs of U-2 OS *IRE1α^{-/-}* cells expressing mNeonGreen-tagged IRE1α^{WT} upon addition of 5 ng/mL Dox and treated with 100 nM RocA for the indicated times. Data are representative of two independent experiments. Scale bar = 10 μm.

Figure S5. Inhibiting co-translational translocation activates IRE1 but not ATF6 or PERK. (A) RT-PCR of *XBP1* mRNA in lysates obtained from H4 cells treated with RocA and silvestrol at the indicated concentrations for 16 hours. u/s unspliced and spliced *XBP1* amplicons, respectively. (B) RT-PCR of *XBP1* and *GAPDH* mRNAs in lysates obtained from liver tissues of mice treated with 1 mg/kg ZTF or 1 mg/kg Tm for 16 hours. *GAPDH*: loading control. The percentage of *XBP1* splicing is shown below the RT-PCR gels and represents Mean ± SEM of N = 8 mice per treatment. VHC - vehicle control. (C) RT-PCR of *XBP1* and *GAPDH* mRNAs in lysates obtained from U-2 OS cells treated with cycloheximide (CHX) and emetine (EME) at the indicated concentrations for 16 hours. *GAPDH*: loading control. (D) Immunoblots of GFP-ATF6 in lysates obtained from U-2 OS cells stably expressing ATF6-GFP (top) and PERK in lysates obtained from U-2 OS cells (bottom). Cells were treated with RocA, SEC61-IN-1 and CADA at the indicated concentrations for 16 hours, or 1 mM DTT for 1 hour. GFP-ATF6-N: cleaved ATF6 N-terminus. PERK-P: phosphorylated PERK. VCL: loading control. Immunoblots for each treatment were processed in parallel on different gels. Data are representative of two independent experiments.

Figure S6. ISR induction activates IRE1. (A) H4 cells expressing FKBP-PKR and treated with the homodimerizer for the indicated times were subjected to puromycin pulse-chase analyses to assess nascent protein synthesis rates. Immunoblotting was performed using antibodies to puromycin. Ponceau staining: loading control. Data are representative of three independent experiments. (B) RT-PCR of *XBP1* and *GAPDH* mRNAs in U-2 OS *IRE1α^{-/-}* cells expressing FKBP-PKR and mNeonGreen-tagged IRE1α^{WT}. IRE1α^{WT} expression was induced with 20 ng/mL doxycycline (Dox). Cells were treated with 5 μg/mL Tm for 4 hours or the homodimerizer for the indicated times.

Data are representative of three independent experiments. (C-D) RT-qPCR of *DNAJB9*

(C) and *HSPA5* (D) mRNAs in H4 cells expressing FKBP-PKR and treated with the

homodimerizer. Data: Mean ± SEM of fold changes normalized to the levels in

untreated controls; N = 4 for (C), and N = 5 for (D). (E) Immunoblots of FLAG-tagged

eIF2α^{S51D}, ATF4, GADD34, and GFP in lysates obtained from H4 cells expressing

eIF2α^{S51D} hosted in a construct that also expresses GFP for 24 hours. GFP: loading

control. (F-G) RT-qPCR of *DNAJB9* (F) and *HSPA5* (G) mRNAs in H4 cells expressing

eIF2α^{S51D} hosted in a construct that also expresses GFP for the indicated times. Data:

Mean ± SEM of fold changes normalized to the levels in untreated controls (N ≥ 2). (H-I)

RT-qPCR of *DNAJB9* (H) and *HSPA5* (I) mRNAs in H4 cells expressing FKBP-PKR and

treated with the dimerizer, with or without co-treatment with 800 nM ISRIB, for 16 hours.

Data: Mean ± SEM of fold changes normalized to the levels in untreated controls (N =

3). *p-value < 0.05, **p-value < 0.01, Student's t-test. (J) RT-PCR of *XBP1* mRNA in H4

cells treated with 10 µM BtdCPU with or without co-treatment with 800 nM ISRIB for 24

hours. Data are representative of three independent experiments. (K) RT-PCR of *XBP1*

mRNA and *28S* ribosomal RNA in HEK-293 cells treated with 5 ng/µl (6.3 µM)

oligomycin (OMY) with or without co-treatment with either 10 µM 4µ8C or 800 nM ISRIB

for 16 hours. Data are representative of three independent experiments. (L) RT-qPCR

of *GRP94* mRNA in H4 cells expressing FKBP-PKR and treated with the homodimerizer

for 16 hours. Data: Mean ± SEM of fold changes normalized to the levels in control

cells. (M) Confocal micrographs of U-2 OS *IRE1α$^{-/-}$* cells expressing FKBP-PKR and

mNeonGreen-tagged IRE1α^{WT} and treated with 300 nM thapsigargin (Tg) for 4 hours or

the homodimerizer for 16 hours (N = 3). Scale bar = 10µm.

Figure S7. RNA sequencing reads validate *XBP1* splicing induction by RocA and

ISR^{ON} treatments. (A-B) RNA-sequencing based validation of *XBP1* mRNA splicing in

(A) U-2 OS *IRE1α$^{-/-}$* cells, U-2 OS *IRE1α$^{+/+}$* cells, and U-2 OS *IRE1α$^{-/-}$* cells expressing

mNeonGreen-tagged IRE1α^{WT} upon addition of 5 ng/mL Dox and treated with 100 nM

RocA for 16 hours or Tm for 4 hours as indicated; and (B) H4 cells expressing FKBP-

PKR and treated with the homodimerizer for the indicated times. Data: Proportion of

XBP1s (Ratio of counts per million *XBP1* reads).

**Figure S8. IRE1 regulates a common set of transcripts in response to RocA or
tunicamycin treatments.** (A-B) Bubble plots showing differentially enriched Reactome
pathways to which IRE1-dependent transcripts cluster as upregulated in (A) U-2 OS
IRE1α[-/-] cells expressing mNeonGreen-tagged IRE1α[WT] upon addition of 5 ng/mL Dox
and treated with 100 nM RocA for 16 hours ($\log_2$ FoldChange > 0.5 compared to DMSO
controls), and (B) H4 cells with the activation of FKBP-PKR for 16 hours and 24 hours
(continuous enrichment test as compared to controls). (C) Heatmap showing $\log_2$
FoldChanges of common UPR transcripts in U-2 OS *IRE1α*[-/-] cells, U-2 OS *IRE1α*[+/+]
cells, and U-2 OS *IRE1α*[-/-] cells expressing mNeonGreen-tagged IRE1α[WT] upon addition
of 5 ng/mL Dox. Cells were treated with 100 nM RocA for 16 hours. In parallel, U-2 OS
IRE1α[-/-] and U-2 OS *IRE1α*[+/+] cells were treated with Tm for 4 hours. All $\log_2$
FoldChanges are relative to DMSO controls.

Materials and Methods

Cell culture, genetic knockdown, transduction, and drug treatments

U-2 OS (ATCC HTB-96), H4 (ATCC HTB-148), and HEK-293 (ATCC CRL-1573) cells
were cultured in Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM) supplemented with 10%
fetal bovine serum (FBS) and 1X GlutaMax (Gibco). All cell lines used in the study
tested negative for Mycoplasma contamination when assayed with the Universal
Mycoplasma Detection Kit. The U-2 OS Flp-In *IRE1α*[-/-] cells were generated as
previously described (*41*). The Flp-In system was used to reconstitute U-2 OS *IRE1α*[-/-]
cells with mNeonGreen-tagged IRE1α variants. The parental cells were plated in 6-well
plates at a density of 17,000 cells/cm². The following day, they were co-transfected with
1.7 µg of the Flp recombinase expression vector, pOG44 (Thermo Fisher V600520),
and 300 ng of pcDNA5/FRT/TO encoding the tagged IRE1α variants (ThermoFisher
V652020). Cells with successful integration were selected with 50 µg/mL hygromycin B
(Thermo Fisher 10687010). IRE1α expression was induced by addition of doxycycline
for a total duration of 36 - 48 hours unless otherwise stated. U-2 OS mNeonGreen-

tagged *IRE1α$^{-/-}$* cells expressing IRE1α^{WT} or IRE1α$^{ΔI19-D408+W457A}$ and FKBP-PKR-P2A-

iRFP were obtained through lentiviral infection and were sorted using fluorescent-

activated cell sorting (FACS). H4 FKBP-PKR and Tet-On eIF2α S51D-expressing cells

were generated as previously described (*54, 55*). H4 cells expressing the CRISPRi

machinery (kind gift of Martin Kampman, UCSF) were used to establish the ATF6 KD

cell line by transduction with VSV-G pseudotyped lentiviruses encoding three small

guide RNAs. The sgRNA sequences were obtained from the human genome-scale

CRISPRi library developed by the laboratory of Jonathan Weissman (MIT, Whitehead

Institute). Seventy-two hours after infection, the cells were selected with 1 µg/ml of

puromycin (Sigma-Alrich). After selection, a sub-clonal population of cells expressing

the sgRNAs was sorted using FACS. Transient gene depletion was achieved through

RNA interference (RNAi) by transfecting pooled siRNAs (Dharmacon) using

Lipofectamine RNAi MAX (Invitrogen) according to the manufacturer's

recommendations. Subsequent analyses were conducted 72-96 hours after

transfection. All drugs used in this study are listed in Table 1. Drug concentrations and

treatment durations are indicated in the main text and figure legends.

Table 1. Drugs used in this study

Drug	Vendor	Catalogue number	Resuspension solvent	Concentration used (unless otherwise stated)
SEC61-IN-1 (A317)	MCE	HY-139615	DMSO (dimethyl sulfoxide)	0.01-10 µM
Rocaglamide	MCE	HY-19356	DMSO	1-1000 nM
Cycloheximide	Arcos (Fisher Scientific)	AC357420010	H$_2$O	0.01-100 µM

Silvestrol	Abcam	ab285419 (lot# GR3431087-2)	DMSO	0.1-1000 nM
Zotatifin	MCE	HY-112163	5% Dextrose in H_2O	1 mg/kg
Puromycin	Thermo Fisher	AAJ61278MC	DMSO	1 - 2 µg/mL
Cyclotriazadisulf onamide (CADA)	Sigma-Aldrich	5343370001	DMSO	0.001-10 µM
AP-20187 (FKBP homodimerizer)	Takara	635058	Ethanol	100 nM
Tunicamycin	Sigma-Aldrich	SML1287	DMSO	5 µg/mL 1 mg/kg
Thapsigargin	Adipogen Life Sciences	AG-CN2-0003	DMSO	300 nM
4µ8C	SelleckChem	S7272	DMSO	30 µM
DTT (Dithiothreitol)	Sigma-Aldrich	D0632	H_2O	1 mM
Trans-ISRIB	Torcis (Fisher Scientific)	5284	DMSO	800 nM
Ceapin-A7	Torcis (Fisher Scientific)	6955/10 (69-551-0)	DMSO	5 µM
Oligomycin	Sigma-Aldrich	O4876	DMSO	25 µM
BTdCPU	MCE	HY-118266	DMSO	10 µM
KIRA 8	CME	1630086-20-2	DMSO	1 µM

Doxycycline	Sigma-Aldrich	D9891	H$_2$O	5 - 20 ng/mL
CVT-11127	MCE	HY-113638	DMSO	1 µM
Sodium palmitate	Sigma-Aldrich	SLCN0277	0.1 M NaOH	500 µM

Puromycylation assay

For the experiments in Fig. S4G, U-2 OS cells were treated with 2 µg/ml puromycin for 10 minutes, followed by a wash with 1X PBS. The cells were chased with complete medium with or without RocA for 50 minutes, washed with 1X PBS, lysed with RIPA buffer (1% Triton X-100, 20 mM Tris–HCl pH 8.0, 0.1% SDS, 0.05% sodium deoxycholate, 150 mM NaCl, 10 mM Na3VO4, 40 mM β-glycerophosphate and 10 mM NaF), and the lysates subjected to immunoblotting. For the experiments in Fig. S6A, H4 cells were grown to ~70% confluency and incubated with 1 µg/ml puromycin for 20 minutes at 37 °C in complete media. After three washes with 1X PBS, the cells were lysed, and the samples were prepared for immunoblotting of puromycylated peptides.

Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM)

U-2 OS cells were grown on 35 mm plain-bottom MatTek dishes until they reached ~60-70% confluency, at which point they were fixed in a solution of 3% glutaraldehyde and 3% PFA in 1xPBS at pH 7.4 (EMS product 16538-06). Samples were processed for TEM by the Electron Microscope Lab at UC Berkeley, following their standard protocol (https://em-lab.berkeley.edu/EML/tem-generic-protocol). Ultrathin (60 nm) and thick (300 nm) sections were cut by microtome and collected onto formvar-coated copper slot grids. Imaging was performed on a Krios G4 TEM (Thermo Fisher Scientific) operated at 300 kV, equipped with a Selectris X energy filter and a Falcon 4i detector (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Images were acquired at a pixel size of 1-2 nm. Tilt series were collected from -60 to +60 at 2 increments using Tomography 5 software (Thermo Fisher Scientific). The tilt series were processed and reconstructed using TomoLive (Thermo

901 Fisher Scientific), and the 3D reconstructions were analyzed in Amira software (Thermo

902 Fisher Scientific). ER lengths were manually traced and quantified in 2D tomographic

903 slices, and ER-associated ribosomes were manually identified.

In vivo studies

All animal procedures were approved by the Altos Labs Institutional Animal Care and

Use Committee (IACUC) under protocol 21-105-001. All experiments were conducted

strictly with the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (National Research

Council, 8th edition) and relevant national regulations. Male C57BL/6J mice (The

Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, ME, USA; Strain #000664), 9 weeks of age, were used

for the study. Animals were housed in individually ventilated cages with *ad libitum*

access to a standard chow diet (Teklad Irradiated Global Soy Protein-Free Extruded

Rodent Diet, Inotiv cat#2029X) and purified water. The housing environment was

maintained on a 12-hour light/dark cycle (lights on at 07:00 AM, lights off at 07:00 PM),

with controlled temperature (20-26 °C) and humidity (40-60%). Mice were acclimated to

the facility for 1 week before the start of experimental procedures. Animals were

randomly assigned to experimental groups. Experimenters were blinded to treatment

groups during drug administration, sample collection, and subsequent data analysis.

Tunicamycin (Sigma Aldrich Cat no. SML1287) was diluted 1:25 in 150 mM dextrose to

achieve a final concentration of 200 µg/mL. Zotatifin (MCE HY-112163) was

resuspended in 5% Dextrose in ddH$_2$O at a final concentration of 200 µg/mL. The

solutions were filter-sterilized using a 0.22 µm syringe filter. Animals received a single

intraperitoneal (IP) injection of equal volumes of vehicle control or drugs as follows:

Tunicamycin vehicle, 150 mM Dextrose in 4% DMSO; Zotatifin vehicle, 5% Dextrose

(278 mM Dextrose) via IP injection. At 16 hours post-injection, mice were terminally

anesthetized with isoflurane (2% for induction and 1.5% for maintenance), and their

livers were collected after a 1X PBS perfusion. Livers were rinsed in ice-cold PBS and

flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen before storage at -80 °C until further analysis.

Immunoblotting

For experiments in Fig. 1D, 3C, 3E, 3I and S6A, cell lysates were collected directly in

Laemmli SDS-PAGE sample buffer (62.5 mM Tris-HCl pH 6.8, 2% SDS, 10% glycerol,

and 0.01% bromophenol blue). Lysates were briefly sonicated and supplemented with

fresh 5% 2-mercaptoethanol before heat denaturation and separation by SDS-PAGE.

Lysates were separated on SDS-PAGE gels and transferred onto nitrocellulose

membranes for immunoblotting. Immunoreactive bands were detected by enhanced

chemiluminescence using horseradish peroxidase (HRP)-conjugated secondary

antibodies.

For all other experiments, the cells were washed three times with 1X PBS and

immediately collected at 4 °C in RIPA lysis buffer containing phosphatase inhibitors (1%

Triton X-100, 20 mM Tris–HCl pH 8.0, 0.1% SDS, 0.05% sodium deoxycholate, 150 mM

NaCl, 10 mM Na_3VO_4, 40 mM β-glycerophosphate and 10 mM NaF) and complete

protease inhibitors (Roche). The detergent-soluble supernatant fractions were

immediately processed for SDS-PAGE and immunoblotting. Antibodies are listed in

Table 2.

Table 2. Antibodies used in this study

Antibody	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
IRE1α Dilution: 1:3000	Cell Signaling Technology	Cat# 3294, RRID:AB_823545
Vinculin Dilution 1:5000	Abcam	Cat# ab18058, RRID:AB_444215

GAPDH Dilution: 1:10000	Proteintech	Cat# 60004-1-Ig, RRID:AB_2107436
SEC61α Dilution 1:3000	Cell Signaling Technology	Cat# 14868, RRID:AB_2722736
IRE1α-P Dilution: 1:3000	Kind gift from Avi Ashkenazi, Genentech	(76)
XBP1s Dilution: 1:3000	Cell Signaling Technology	Cat# 40435, RRID:AB_2891025
RPL9 Dilution: 1:3000	Proteintech	Cat# 68054-1-Ig, RRID:AB_2918795
GFP 1:3000	Santa Cruz Biotech	Cat# sc-9996, RRID:AB_627695
PERK Dilution: 1:3000	Cell Signaling Technology	Cat# 3192, RRID:AB_2095847

IRE1α-P Dilution: 1:1000	Abcam	Cat# ab124945, RRID:AB_11001365
ATF4 Dilution 1:2000	Cell Signaling Technology	Cat# 11815, RRID:AB_2616025
Actin Dilution: 1:10000	Cell Signaling Technology	Cat# 4967, RRID:AB_330288
Tubulin Dilution: 1:3000	Proteintech	Cat# 66240-1-Ig, RRID:AB_2881629
Puromycin Dilution: 1:3000	Millipore	Cat# MABE343, RRID:AB_2566826
FLAG Dilution: 1:5000	Thermo Fisher	Cat# MA5-48063, RRID:AB_3074506
GADD34 Dilution: 1:1000	Proteintech	Cat# 10449-1-AP, RRID:AB_2168724

| GFP | Invitrogen | Cat# A-11122, RRID:AB_221569 |
| Dilution: 1:10000 | | |

IRE1α immunoprecipitation

U-2 OS *IRE1α*$^{-/-}$ cells expressing mNeonGreen-tagged IRE1α^{WT} or IRE1α mutants upon

addition of 5 ng/mL doxycycline for 48 hours, or H4 cells expressing endogenous levels

of IRE1α were washed three times in cold 1X PBS and lysed in a buffer containing 50

mM TRIS pH = 8, 150 mM NaCl, 1% digitonin, and protease inhibitor by end-to-end

rotation for 30 minutes at 4 °C. The supernatant was collected after centrifugation of

lysates at 15,000 rpm for 15 min.

For mNeonGreen-tag affinity mediated immunoprecipitation, 500 μg of clarified lysate

was incubated with agarose or magnetic beads coupled to an mNeonGreen nanobody

(ChromTek) overnight in a rotary shaker at 4 °C. Beads were then washed three times

with a buffer containing 50 mM Tris pH 8, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1% digitonin, and protease

inhibitor. Proteins bound to the beads were eluted by boiling the beads in elution buffer

(20 μL of buffer containing 50 mM Tris pH 8, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1% digitonin, and

protease inhibitor + 10 μL of Laemmli buffer + 2% 2-mercaptoethanol). The eluates

were then subjected to SDS-PAGE and immunoblotting.

For endogenous IRE1α immunoprecipitation from H4 cells, lysates were first pre-

cleaned with Protein A sepharose beads (Cytiva Cat no. 95016-992) on a rotating

platform for 20 minutes at 4 °C. The samples were centrifuged at 5000 rpm for 5

minutes at 4 °C and the supernatant was collected. 500 μg of supernatant was then

incubated overnight, rotating at 4 °C, with 2.5 μg of the anti-IRE1α antibody (Cell

Signaling Technology). The beads were then washed 3 times with 800 µL of buffer

containing 50 mM Tris pH 8, 150 mM NaCl, 0.2% digitonin, and protease inhibitor. The

bound proteins were eluted from the beads by adding Laemmli buffer and boiling for 5

minutes at 95 °C. The eluates were then subjected to SDS-PAGE and immunoblotting.

Live cell imaging

Time-lapse imaging was performed on U-2 OS *IRE1α-/-* cells expressing mNeonGreen-

tagged IRE1α^{WT}. Imaging was conducted using a Nikon CREST confocal spinning-disk

system, equipped with a 40X water-immersion objective. Cells were maintained in a

humidified chamber at 37 °C with 5% CO_2 throughout the experiment. Images were

acquired every 30 minutes for a total experimental period of 16 hours.

RNA extraction, RT-PCR and quantification of *XBP1* mRNA splicing

To measure *XBP1* mRNA splicing in Figures 1D, 1G, S1B, S5A-B, 3C, 3E, 3G, 3K, S6B

and S6J-K, total RNA was isolated using the RNeasy RNA purification kit (Qiagen) or

the Promega Maxwell automated RNA extractor following the manufacturer's

recommendations. 1 µg of total RNA was reverse transcribed with SuperScript VILO

(Invitrogen) following the manufacturer's recommendations. The resulting cDNA was

diluted 1:10 and used as a template and PCR was performed using primers listed in

Table 3 and Hot Start Taq DNA polymerase (NEB). The PCR products were separated

on 3% TAE-agarose gel.

To measure *XBP1* mRNA splicing in all other experiments, total RNA was isolated using

the Direct-zol™ RNA Miniprep Plus kit (Zymo Research) according to the

manufacturer's protocols. The yield and the purity of RNA were determined by the

spectrophotometer NanoDrop 2000. For RT-PCR analyses, 1 µg of RNA was converted

to cDNA using the QuantiTect Reverse Transcription Kit (Qiagen). The cDNA was

diluted 1:25 in the PCR reaction tube and the PCR was performed using Promega Go

Taq (NEB). *XBP1* mRNA was amplified using the following primer pairs: *XBP1* Forward:

5'-TTACGAGAGAAAACTCATGGCC-3'; *XBP1* Reverse: 5'-

GGGTCCAAGTTGTCCAGAATGC-3'. *GAPDH* mRNA was amplified using the following

primer pairs: *GAPDH* Forward: 5'-ACCACAGTCCATGCCATC-3'; *GAPDH* Reverse: 5'-

TCCACCCTGTTGCTG-3'. The PCR conditions used were as follows: Step 1: 94 °C - 3

minutes; Step 2: 94 °C - 30s; Step 3: 55 °C - 30s; Step 4: 72 °C - 30s; Step 5 - 72 °C - 7

minutes. Steps 2, 3 and 4 were repeated for 35 cycles. The amplified products were

separated on a 3% TAE-agarose gel containing SYBR-Safe dye.

1012

The gels were imaged using a BioRAD ChemiDoc gel apparatus system, and images

were resized to enhance *XBP1*u and *XBP1*s band separation. For quantification, image

analysis was performed using Fiji (ImageJ). Before quantification, background

correction was applied, and a defined Region of Interest (ROI) was selected for each

lane, encompassing all bands (spliced, unspliced, and hybrid - marked as * in the figure

panels). The intensity was calculated for each band, and the percentage of spliced

XBP1 (*XBP1s*) was determined as follows: [(*XBP1*s + ½ *XBP1*h) / (*XBP1*s + *XBP1*u +

*XBP1*h)] x 100. The *XBP1* hybrid band is a slower-migrating band that represents a

hybrid DNA molecule. One strand of the hybrid is the unspliced (*XBP1*u) and the other

is the spliced (*XBP1*s) form of the transcript, formed during the PCR reaction itself.

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1024 **RNA-seq and Bioinformatics Analyses**

1025

1026 *Library preparation*

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1028 Libraries were prepared according to the Watchmaker mRNA Library Prep Kits

1029 (Watchmaker Genomics 7BK0001-096) protocol, using 200 ng of RNA input, and

1030 sequenced on a NextSeq 2000 using XLEAP-SBS chemistry.

1031 *Pre-processing and QC*

1032

1033 Raw sequencing data were demultiplexed using bclconvert. RNA-seq FASTQ files were

1034 trimmed, aligned to the human reference genome (GRCh38, v108), and quantified using

1035   the nf-core/rnaseq pipeline with the star_salmon option (v3.12.0). Gene-level length-

1036   scaled counts were used for all downstream analyses.

1037

1038   *Differential gene expression*

1039

Differentially expressed genes (DEGs) between conditions at each time point were

identified within each dataset using the limma-voom framework. Raw length-scaled

counts were filtered to retain genes with a minimum of 10 counts within biological

groups and trimmed-mean of M-value (TMM) normalization factors were calculated.

Empirical Bayes estimates of the prior variances were robustified against outlier genes.

Thresholds of adjusted p-value < 0.05 after Benjamini-Hochberg correction and

absolute log-fold-change > 0 were used to identify differentially expressed genes.

Sample-wise quality weights were estimated and incorporated into the linear modeling

for the FKBP-PKR dataset using the voomWithQualityWeights function.

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1050   *Term Enrichment*

1051

Enriched Reactome terms within comparisons were identified using the continuous

CAMERA test in the FKBP-PKR dataset and a hypergeometric test in the RocA dataset

using the kegga function. The background for the hypergeometric test was all genes

that were tested for differential expression. Significant enrichments were identified with

an adjusted p-value < 0.05 after Benjamini-Hochberg correction. To find groups of

significantly enriched terms, we constructed a graph of Jaccard similarities between all

significant terms based on the number of constituent genes, removed edges with

similarities below 0.3, and performed Louvain clustering with a resolution of 1.

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1061   *XBP1 splicing*

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1063   To quantify XBP1 slicing (*XBP1s*) levels, salmon was run with 100 bootstraps for each

1064   sample, and transcript-level overdispersion parameters associated with quantification

1065   uncertainty were estimated using the catchSalmon function in edgeR. Raw counts were

corrected for overdispersion, transcripts with fewer than 10 counts across biological

groups were removed, and TMM normalization factors were calculated. Counts-per-

million (CPM) were calculated per sample, and slicing levels were measured as ratios of

CPMs between XBP1s (ENST00000344347) and the sum of all annotated Ensembl

XBP1 transcripts.

RT-qPCR analyses

Total RNA from sub-confluent H4 cells or from U-2 OS cells was isolated using the

RNeasy RNA purification kit (Qiagen) or the Promega Maxwell automated RNA

extractor following the manufacturer's recommendations. 1 µg of total RNA was reverse

transcribed with SuperScript VILO (Invitrogen) following the manufacturer's

recommendations. The resulting cDNA was diluted 1:10 and used as a template for

qRT-PCR using PowerUp SYBR Green Master Mix (Applied Biosystems) according to

the manufacturer's protocol. *GAPDH*, *ACTIN*, or 28S rRNA was used as a normalizing

control to estimate fold changes in mRNA expression.

Table 3. Primers used in this study

Target	Primer sequence (Fwd)	Primer sequence (Rev)
IRE1	5'-AATGCACACGGCAAGATCA-3'	5'-GAACGGGTGTTTGAGCACG-3'
GAPDH	5'-ACCACAGTCCATGCCATC-3'	5'-TCCACCCTGTTGCTG-3'
28S rRNA	5'-CTTACCAAAAGTGGCCCACTA-3'	5'-AAACTCTGGTGGAGGTCCGT-3'
BLOC1S1	5'-AGCTGGACCATGAGGTGAAG-3'	5'-CTGCAGCTGCCCTTTGTAG-3'

SCARA3	5'-CACATAACTGGGACCAGAGGA-3'	5'-CCTGAAATCGAAAGTATGTTTG G-3'
COL6A1	5'-CTGGGCGTCAAAGTCTTCTC-3'	5'-ATTCGAAGGAGCAGCACACT-3'
GRP94	5'-TGCCAAGGAAGGAGTGAAGT-3'	5'-TCTCCATGTTGCCAGACCAT-3'
GFP	5'-AGCTGTTCACCGGGGTG-3'	5'-GCTGAAGCACTGCACGCC-3'
XBP1	5'-GGAGTTAAGACAGCGCTTGG-3'	5'-ACTGGGTCCAAGTTGTCCAG-3'
SRP54	5'-ACTTCTTGGTATGGGCGACA-3'	5'-AAGATCTGACTGAAGGGGCC-3'
HSPA5	5'-CTATTGGGGTGTTTCGCGAG-3'	5'-GAGAGCTTCATCTTGCCAGC-3'
DNAJB9	5'-ACACTGGATCCAAGAAGCGT-3'	5'-TTGAGTGACAGTCCTGCAGT-3'
ATF6	5'-CCTGCTGTTACCAGCTACCAC-3'	5'-CCAAAGAAGGTGTTGGTTTGA-3'
Mouse XBP1	5'-GGTTGAGAACCAGGAGTTAAGA AC-3'	5'-CTCAGAATCTGAAGAGGCAACA G-3'

Mouse GAPDH	5'-CATTGTCATACCAGGAAATG-3'	5'-GGAGAAACCTGCCAAGTATG-3'

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1086 **Molecular docking of SEC61-IN-1 into the SEC61 translocon**

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The compatibility of SEC61-IN-1 (SEC61-IN-1/A317) to fit into the canonical SEC61

inhibitor site (*49*) was assessed using interactive docking by analogy to the existing

compounds ipomoeassin F (PDB ID pdb_0008do1) and eeyarestatin I (pdb_00008do3).

In brief, the protein component of the eeyarestatin I complex was prepared for

simulation in ISOLDE (*77*) by deleting the existing ligand, adding hydrogens, and

restraining the geometry with a web of local distance restraints using the "Isolde restrain

distances" command. SEC61-IN-1 was parameterised for simulation using the GAFF2

force field and placed as a rigid body just outside the binding pocket. The ligand was

then maneuvered into the pocket in an interactive physics-based simulation in implicit

solvent and allowed to settle into position without further restraints. The resulting model

buries approximately 460 Å^2 without significant change to the protein coordinates. We

note from existing structures that this site in SEC61 exhibits considerable

conformational flexibility; it is likely that binding of this compound would involve some

further rearrangement of the protein, but we have not attempted to model that here.

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1103 **References**

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Figure 4

Figure S4

A

DMSO RocA

450 nm

Ribosome density per µm of ER

DMSO RocA

B

U-2 OS *IRE1α⁻/⁻ + IRE1α^{WT}*

XBP1 mRNA splicing (%)

- - 10⁻³ 10⁻² 10⁻¹ 1 Tm

RocA (µM)
Dox

C

U-2 OS *IRE1α⁻/⁻ + IRE1α^{DAB}*

XBP1 mRNA splicing (%)

- - 10⁻³ 10⁻² 10⁻¹ 1 Tm

RocA (µM)
Dox

D

U-2 OS *IRE1α⁻/⁻ + IRE1α^{TAD}*

XBP1 mRNA splicing (%)

- - 10⁻³ 10⁻² 10⁻¹ 1 Tm

RocA (µM)
Dox

E

U-2 OS
RocA (µM)

- 10⁻³ 10⁻² 10⁻¹ 1 Tm

XBP1s   -55 kDa
IRE1α   -110 kDa
VCL   -117 kDa
XBP1s/VCL 1.0 0.7 2.6 15.4 1.4 100.4
Lanes 1 2 3 4 5 6

F

mRNA levels RocA/DMSO

SCARA3 COL6A1

G

+ Puromycin
RocA (µM)

- Control 10⁻³ 10⁻² 10⁻¹ 1

Puromycin   -150 kDa
                 -75 kDa
                 -37 kDa
VCL   -117 kDa
Lanes 1 2 3 4 5 6

H

IRE1α^{WT}-mNeonGreen + RocA (hr)

0 2 4 8 16

A

ISR^ON (hr)

0 2 4 8 16 24

Puromycin
-70 kDa
-45 kDa

Ponceau stain
-70 kDa
-45 kDa

Lanes 1 2 3 4 5 6

B

U-2 OS *IRE1α^{-/-} + IRE1α^{WT}*

Dox

ISR^ON (hr)

- - 4 8 16 24 Tm

XBP1 mRNA | u ▸ *
           | s ▸
-200 bp

GAPDH mRNA
-200 bp

Lanes 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

C

DNAJB9

Fold change

ISR^ON (hr): 4 8 16 24

D

HSPA5

Fold change

ISR^ON (hr): 4 8 16 24

E

eIF2α^{S51D}

DOX ○ ●

FLAG -42 kDa
ATF4 -50 kDa
GADD34 -115 kDa
GFP -30 kDa

F

DNAJB9

Fold change

eIF2α^{S51D} expression (hr): 4 8 16 24

G

HSPA5

Fold change

eIF2α^{S51D} expression (hr): 4 8 16 24

H

DNAJB9

Fold change

ISR^ON ● ●
ISRIB ○ ●

**

I

HSPA5

Fold change

ISR^ON ● ●
ISRIB ○ ●

*

J

BTdCPU ○ ● ●
ISRIB ○ ○ ●

XBP1 mRNA | u ▸
           | s ▸
-200 bp

K

OMY ○ ● ● ●
ISRIB ○ ○ ● ○
4μ8C ○ ○ ○ ●

XBP1 mRNA | u ▸
           | s ▸
-200 bp

28S rRNA -200 bp

L

GRP94

Fold change

n.s.

ISR^ON ○ ●

M

IRE1α^{WT}-mNeonGreen

CTRL   ISR^ON   Tg

Inset

CTRL   ISR^ON   Tg

A

B

A

IRE1-dependent pathways
upregulated by RocA treatment

−log$_{10}$(FDR)

4 8 12 16

Number of transcripts upregulated

● 10 ● 20 ● 30 ● 40 ● 50

- N−glycan trimming in the ER
- Calnexin/calreticulin cycle
- ER Quality Control Compartment
- COPI−dependent retrograde traffic
- Intra−Golgi and retrograde traffic
- Golgi−to−ER retrograde transport
- Antigen processing & presentation
- Ubiquitination & proteasome degradation
- Biosynthesis of the N−glycan precursor
- N−glycan biosynthesis

B

IRE1-dependent pathways
upregulated by ISR^{ON}

−log$_{10}$(FDR)

2 3 4 5

Number of upregulated
transcripts

● 50 ● 100 ● 150
● 200 ● 250

Time after treatment	16h	24h
Assembly of the ORC complex		
RNA Pol I promoter		
Pre−replicative complex		
Aggrephagy		
HSP90 chaperone cycle		
Selective autophagy		
Mitophagy		
Macroautophagy		
PINK1−PRKN Mediated Mitophagy		
Autophagy		
mRNA 3'−end processing		
Transport of mature mRNA		
RNA Pol II transcription termination		
Transport of transcript to cytoplasm		
Extracellular matrix organization		
Collagen formation		
Collagen biosynthesis		
Collagen chain trimerization		
Collagen degradation		
HSF1 activation		
Cellular response to heat stress		
HSF1−dependent transactivation		

C