

# Dual Role of Protein Kinase C in the Regulation of cPLA<sub>2</sub>-mediated Arachidonic Acid Release by P<sub>2U</sub> Receptors in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> Cells: Involvement of MAP Kinase-dependent and -independent Pathways

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## Abstract

Defining the mechanism for regulation of arachidonic acid (AA) release is important for understanding cellular production of AA metabolites, such as prostaglandins and leukotrienes. Here we have investigated the differential roles of protein kinase C (PKC) and mitogen-activated protein (MAP) kinase in the regulation of cytosolic phospholipase A<sub>2</sub> (cPLA<sub>2</sub>)-mediated AA release by P<sub>2U</sub>-purinergic receptors in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells. Treatment of cells with the P<sub>2U</sub> receptor agonists ATP and UTP increased PLA<sub>2</sub> activity in subsequently prepared cell lysates. PLA<sub>2</sub> activity was inhibited by the cPLA<sub>2</sub> inhibitor AACOCF<sub>3</sub>, as was AA release in intact cells. Increased PLA<sub>2</sub> activity was recovered in anti-cPLA<sub>2</sub> immunoprecipitates of lysates derived from nucleotide-treated cells, and was lost from the immunodepleted lysates. Thus, cPLA<sub>2</sub> is responsible for AA release by P<sub>2U</sub> receptors in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells. P<sub>2U</sub> receptors also activated MAP kinase. This activation was PKC-dependent since phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate (PMA) promoted down-regulation of PKC-eliminated MAP kinase activation by ATP or UTP. Treatment of cells with the MAP kinase cascade inhibitor PD098059, the PKC inhibitor GF109203X, or down-regulation of PKC by PMA treatment, all suppressed AA release promoted by ATP or UTP, suggesting that both MAP kinase and PKC are involved in the regulation of cPLA<sub>2</sub> by P<sub>2U</sub> receptors. Differential effects of GF109203X on cPLA<sub>2</sub>-mediated AA release and MAP kinase activation, however, were observed: at low concentrations, GF109203X inhibited AA release promoted by ATP, UTP, or PMA without affecting MAP kinase activation. Since GF109203X is more selective for PKC $\alpha$ , PKC $\alpha$  may act independently of MAP kinase to regulate cPLA<sub>2</sub> in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells. This conclusion is further supported by data showing that PMA-promoted AA release, but not MAP kinase activation, was suppressed in cells in which PKC $\alpha$  expression was decreased by antisense transfection. Based on these data, we propose a model whereby both MAP kinase and PKC are required for cPLA<sub>2</sub>-mediated AA release by P<sub>2U</sub> receptors in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub>

cells. PKC plays a dual role in this process through the utilization of different isoforms: PKC $\alpha$  regulates cPLA<sub>2</sub>-mediated AA release independently of MAP kinase, while other PKC isoforms act through MAP kinase activation. This model contrasts with our recently demonstrated mechanism (*J. Clin. Invest.* 99:1302–1310.) whereby  $\alpha_1$ -adrenergic receptors in the same cell type regulate cPLA<sub>2</sub>-mediated AA release only through sequential activation of PKC and MAP kinase. (*J. Clin. Invest.* 99:805–814.) Key words: purinergic receptors • phospholipase • eicosanoid • ATP • epithelial cells

## Introduction

Arachidonic acid (AA) and its eicosanoid metabolites play critical roles in the initiation or modulation of a broad spectrum of physiological as well as pathological (e.g., inflammatory) responses in mammalian cells (1, 2). AA release, which is the limiting step in the biosynthesis of eicosanoids in response to stimulation by membrane receptors, is primarily mediated by phospholipase A<sub>2</sub>s (PLA<sub>2</sub>s).<sup>1</sup> Several types of mammalian PLA<sub>2</sub>s have been characterized, including the 14-kD Ca<sup>2+</sup>-dependent secreted PLA<sub>2</sub>s, the 85-kD Ca<sup>2+</sup>-dependent and sn-2 arachidonyl-specific cytosolic PLA<sub>2</sub> (cPLA<sub>2</sub>), and the Ca<sup>2+</sup>-independent PLA<sub>2</sub>s (3). Among these PLA<sub>2</sub>s, cPLA<sub>2</sub> appears to be responsible for AA release mediated by many receptors (4, 5). A current model to explain activation of cPLA<sub>2</sub> (largely based on in vitro experiments using recombinant proteins) is that stimulation of receptors leads to activation of mitogen-activated protein kinase/extracellular signal-regulated kinase (MAP kinase), phosphorylating cPLA<sub>2</sub> and consequently activating the lipase (6, 7). Studies using protein kinase C (PKC) inhibitors or activators or using PKC down-regulation strategies have suggested that PKC is also involved in the regulation of cPLA<sub>2</sub> activation and AA release in numerous cell types. Because PKC can activate MAP kinase (8, 9), it has been hypothesized that sequential activation of PKC and, in turn, MAP kinase, is the principal mechanism for receptor-stimulated activation of cPLA<sub>2</sub> and AA release. Whether PKC regulates cPLA<sub>2</sub> independently of MAP kinase is an important but unresolved issue. Moreover, although a role of MAP kinase has been implicated in the regulation of endogenous cPLA<sub>2</sub> by certain receptors (10, 11), in other systems (12–14) a causal relationship between activation of endogenous cPLA<sub>2</sub> and AA release and activation of MAP kinase has not been established. Recent studies have suggested a dissociation between the activation of cPLA<sub>2</sub> and that of MAP kinase (15–

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Received for publication 13 September 1996 and accepted in revised form 9 December 1996.

*J. Clin. Invest.*

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0021-9738/97/02/0805/10 \$2.00

Volume 99, Number 4, February 1997, 805–814

1. *Abbreviations used in this paper:* AACOCF<sub>3</sub>, arachidonyl trifluoromethyl ketone; MAP kinase, mitogen-activated protein kinase; MDCK cells, Madin-Darby canine kidney cells; PKC, protein kinase C; PLA<sub>2</sub>, phospholipase A<sub>2</sub>.

17). Such results suggest that one cannot yet precisely define the relationships between activation of PKC and MAP kinase in the regulation of cPLA<sub>2</sub> by cellular receptors, particularly G protein-linked receptors.

In the present study we have used Madin-Darby canine kidney cells (MDCK-D<sub>1</sub>) cells as a model system to investigate the mechanism whereby G protein-linked P<sub>2U</sub>-purinergic receptors regulate cPLA<sub>2</sub> activation and AA release. We demonstrate that in these cells P<sub>2U</sub> receptors regulate AA release through activation of cPLA<sub>2</sub>. We further show that both PKC and MAP kinase are required for cPLA<sub>2</sub>-mediated AA release by P<sub>2U</sub> receptors, and that PKC plays a dual role in this process, perhaps through different isoforms: PKC<sub>α</sub> regulates cPLA<sub>2</sub>-mediated AA release independently of MAP kinase while other PKC isoforms act through the activation of MAP kinase.

## Methods

**Materials.** 1-stearoyl-2-[1-<sup>14</sup>C] arachidonyl-L-3-phosphatidylcholine ([<sup>14</sup>C]PC) (specific activity, 55 mCi/mmol), horseradish peroxidase-linked donkey anti-rabbit Ig and ECL Western blotting detection reagents were bought from Amersham Intl. (Buckinghamshire, England). [<sup>3</sup>H]AA (specific activity, 100 Ci/mmol) and [γ-<sup>32</sup>P]ATP (specific activity, 3,000 Ci/mmol) were purchased from DuPont-NEN (Boston, MA). Okadaic acid was obtained from Gemini Bio-Products Inc. (Calabasas, CA) or from Calbiochem, (La Jolla, CA). Leupeptin, pepstatin A, PMSF, A23187, PMA, AACOCF<sub>3</sub>, GF109203X, and anti-PKC<sub>α</sub> antibody were bought from Calbiochem. Potato acid phosphatase, Na<sub>3</sub>VO<sub>4</sub>, sodium pyrophosphate, levamisole, protein A-sepharose, benzamide, myelin basic protein (MBP), diisopropyl fluorophosphate (DIFP), PBS tablet, and arachidonic acid were purchased from Sigma Chemical Co. (St. Louis, MO). PKI (6-22 amide), a protein kinase A inhibitor, was bought from Gibco-BRL (Gaithersburg, MD). Immobilon-P PVDF transfer membrane (0.45 μm) was purchased from Millipore Corp. (Milford, MA). P-81 phosphocellulose paper was from Whatman Inc. (Clifton, NJ). TLC silica gel plates were from Analtech Inc. (Newark, DE). Anti-cPLA<sub>2</sub> serum was obtained from Genetics Institute (Cambridge, MA) (6). Anti-p42-MAP kinase (ERK<sub>2</sub>) serum was obtained from Dr. Y. Wang (18). The MAP kinase cascade inhibitor PD098059 was provided by Dr. A.R. Saltiel at Parke-Davis (Ann Arbor, MI) (19).

**Cell culture and maintenance.** MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells were cultured and passaged every 3–4 days by trypsinization using trypsin/EDTA as previously described (20). Cells were routinely used for experiments at about 70% confluence, which was usually achieved 2–3 d after the subculture.

**[<sup>3</sup>H]Arachidonic acid release in intact cells.** Cells were labeled with [<sup>3</sup>H]AA by incubation with 0.5 μCi [<sup>3</sup>H]AA/ml per well for approximately 20 h in 24-well plates. Before stimulation of [<sup>3</sup>H]AA release, [<sup>3</sup>H]AA-labeled cells were washed four times with serum- and NaHCO<sub>3</sub>-free DMEM supplemented with 5 mg/ml BSA and 20 mM Hepes, pH 7.4, and then were incubated in the same medium at 37°C for 15–20 min to equilibrate the temperature. Treatment of cells with agents of interest was initiated by replacing the incubation medium with 1 ml of 37°C medium containing the specified agents. To quantify released [<sup>3</sup>H]AA after agonist treatment, the incubation medium was quickly aspirated and transferred to ice-cold tubes containing EGTA and EDTA (final concentration 5 mM each). The mixture was centrifuged to eliminate cell debris, and the radioactivity in the supernatant was determined by scintillation spectrophotometry. The resultant pellets were combined with the cells left attached to the plate, which were scraped with 0.2% Triton X-100 and counted as cell-associated radioactivity. Because the cell number and labeled radioactivity were not exactly the same in each well, release of [<sup>3</sup>H]AA was normalized as percent of incorporated radioactivity (the released radio-

activity plus the cell-associated radioactivity at the end of stimulation) for comparison of different treatment conditions.

**In vitro assay of PLA<sub>2</sub> activity in cell lysates.** MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells cultured in 75-cm<sup>2</sup> flasks were washed five times with serum- and NaHCO<sub>3</sub>-free DMEM supplemented with 2 mg/ml BSA and 20 mM Hepes, (pH 7.4) and equilibrated by incubation with the same medium for 1 h at 37°C. Stimulation was started by adding the specified agonists to the cells, and after 10 min stopped by rapidly aspirating away the incubating medium, replacing it with an ice-cold washing buffer containing 250 mM sucrose, 50 mM Hepes, (pH 7.4), 1 mM EGTA, 1 mM EDTA, phosphatase inhibitors (200 μM Na<sub>3</sub>VO<sub>4</sub>, 1 mM levamisole) and protease inhibitors (500 μM PMSF, 8 μM pepstatin A, 16 μM leupeptin, and 1 mM DIFP). After washing four times with this ice-cold washing buffer, we scraped cells into an ice-cold PLA<sub>2</sub> assay buffer that was the same as the washing buffer except that sucrose was omitted, and the buffer was supplemented with 100 nM okadaic acid and 1 mM DTT. After a 20 min incubation on ice, the scraped cells were broken by sonication, followed by centrifugation at 4°C for 10 min at 500 g to eliminate unbroken cells. The supernatants, defined as cell lysates, were assayed for cPLA<sub>2</sub> activity using a previously described protocol with some modifications (21). In brief, the substrate [<sup>14</sup>C]PC was dried under nitrogen, resuspended in DMSO, vigorously vortexed for 2 min, and resuspended in the assay buffer containing 10 mg/ml BSA and 10 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>. The reaction was started by adding 100 μl cell lysate to an equal volume of substrate in a shaking 37°C water bath. The final concentrations of the components in the assay mixture were 10 μM [<sup>14</sup>C]PC, 5 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 1 mM EGTA, 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM DTT, 50 mM Hepes (pH 7.4), 10–30 μg protein (determined using a Bradford protein assay kit from Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA), and the phosphatase and protease inhibitors as specified above. After incubating for 30–40 min, the reaction was stopped by adding 750 μl of 1:2 (vol/vol) chloroform/methanol. The total lipids were then extracted following the method of Bligh and Dyer (22) and subjected to TLC, as previously described (14), using as running solvent the upper phase of the mixture of ethyl acetate/isooctane/water/acetic acid (33:45:60:6, vol/vol). The TLC plates were stained with iodine, and the bands containing [<sup>14</sup>C]AA that comigrated with AA standards were scraped and counted. Under these conditions, less than 3% of the substrates were typically hydrolyzed.

**Immunoprecipitation of the 85-kDa cPLA<sub>2</sub> and assay of its activity in immunoprecipitates.** Immunoprecipitation of cPLA<sub>2</sub> was performed as described (10). Briefly, 500 μl cell lysate prepared in DTT-free PLA<sub>2</sub> assay buffer (supplemented with protease and phosphatase inhibitors as described above) was incubated in the presence of 1% NP-40 with 1–2 μl of normal or anti-cPLA<sub>2</sub> serum for 1 h, followed by incubation with 24 mg BSA-precipitated protein A-Sepharose for 1 h. The mixture was then centrifuged and the supernatant was saved for assay of PLA<sub>2</sub> activity, as described above. The resultant antigen-antibody-protein A complex pellets were washed two times with the PLA<sub>2</sub> assay buffer containing 0.5% NP-40, and three times with the same buffer without NP-40. The final pellet was resuspended in assay buffer supplemented with DTT (5 mM) and assessed for PLA<sub>2</sub> activity. All the procedures were performed at 4°C until the final PLA<sub>2</sub> activity assay, which was conducted at 37°C.

**Phosphorylation-induced mobility shift, SDS-PAGE, and Western blotting of MAP kinase.** Cells cultured in 6-well plates were washed five times with serum- and NaHCO<sub>3</sub>-free DMEM, supplemented with 2 mg/ml BSA and 20 mM Hepes (pH 7.4), and incubated for 1 h at 37°C in the same medium followed by stimulation with specified agonists for indicated times. The stimulation was stopped by quickly aspirating the medium and washing the cells four times with an ice-cold solution consisting of 10% glycerol, 62.5 mM Tris-HCl (pH 6.8) and protease and phosphatase inhibitors as specified for PLA<sub>2</sub> activity assay. Cells were then scraped and lysed into SDS-PAGE loading buffer, followed by boiling for 5 min. Samples were then subjected to SDS-PAGE using 7.5% acrylamide, followed by transfer to Immobilon-P PVDF membrane. After blocking for 1 h with 5% non-fat dry milk dissolved in PBS, the membrane was incubated with 1:2,000-

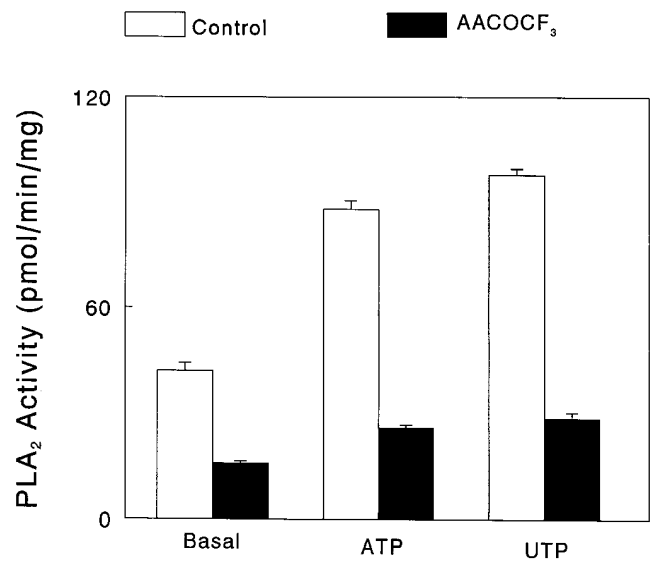
3,000 diluted anti-p42 MAP kinase rabbit serum for 1.5 h and then with 1:2,000 diluted horseradish peroxidase-linked donkey anti-rabbit Ig for 1 h, both in 5% non-fat dry milk dissolved in PBS. Each antibody incubation was followed by washing four times with PBS for 5 min. The bands of MAP kinase in the membrane were visualized using the ECL Western blotting detection reagents as instructed by the manufacturer.

**MAP kinase activity assay.** Cells cultured in 75-cm<sup>2</sup> flasks were washed and equilibrated in DMEM as described above for preparation of cell lysates for PLA<sub>2</sub> activity assay, followed by stimulation with agonists for the indicated times. The stimulation was stopped by aspirating away the medium and washing the cells four times with ice-cold PBS supplemented with 2 mM EGTA, 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM benzamide, 5 mM sodium pyrophosphate, and other protease and phosphatase inhibitors, as specified above for PLA<sub>2</sub> activity assay. Cells were then scraped into MAP kinase buffer consisting of 30 mM  $\beta$ -glycerophosphate, 20 mM Hepes (pH 7.4), 4  $\mu$ M PKI (6–22 amide), 2 mM EGTA, 1 mM EDTA, and the protease and phosphatase inhibitors, as described above. The scraped cells were broken by sonication, followed by centrifugation at 4°C. The resulting supernatant was used as the protein sample for the MAP kinase activity assay. To start the assay for MAP kinase activity, 10  $\mu$ l of the protein sample was added to an equal volume of substrates and MgCl<sub>2</sub> in MAP kinase buffer pre-warmed at 30°C, generating (final concentrations) 10 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 2  $\mu$ M PKI (6–22 amide), 40  $\mu$ M ATP, 2  $\mu$ Ci [ $\gamma$ -<sup>32</sup>P]ATP, and 10  $\mu$ g MBP. After a 20 min incubation at 30°C with constant agitation, the reaction was stopped by spotting 10 ml of the reaction mixture to P81 phosphocellulose membrane (2  $\times$  1.5 cm), followed by washing 6 times for 5 min each in 125 mM phosphoric acid. The radioactivity associated with the membrane, which represented the phosphorylation of MBP by MAP kinase, was determined by scintillation spectrophotometry. In some experiments, immunoprecipitation of MAP kinase was performed, and MAP kinase activity associated with immunoprecipitates was similarly assayed. The procedures were the same for the immunoprecipitation of cPLA<sub>2</sub> described above, except that MAP kinase buffer and anti-MAP kinase (ERK<sub>2</sub>) antiserum were used instead.

**Data presentation.** Unless otherwise specified, the data shown in the figures are mean  $\pm$  SD of triplicate measurements, and are representative of results obtained in two to four experiments.

## Results

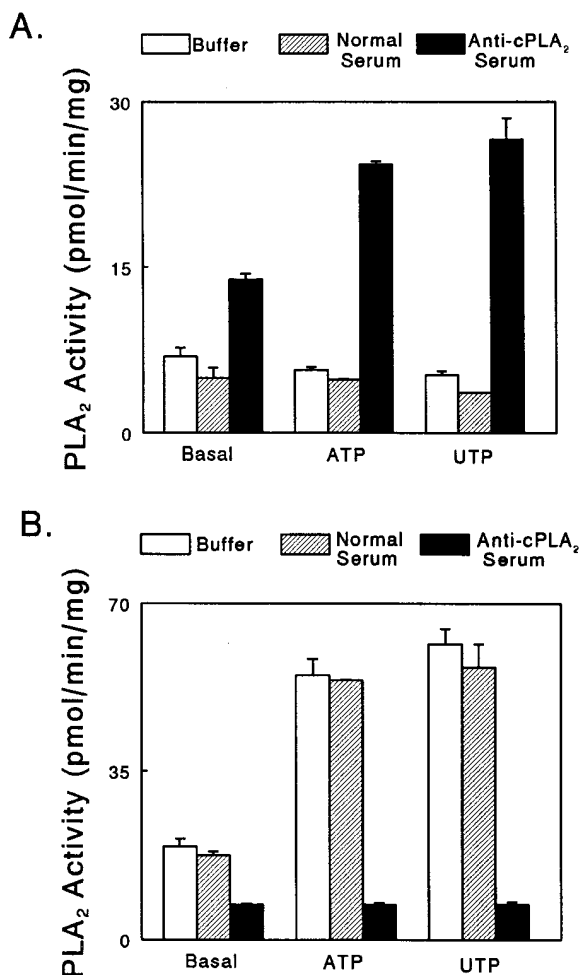
**Activation of cPLA<sub>2</sub> is responsible for P<sub>2U</sub> receptor-mediated AA release in a phosphorylation-dependent manner in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells.** MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells are a subclone of parental MDCK cells, an epithelial cell line derived from the distal tubule and collecting duct of the canine kidney (23, 24). Recent work from this laboratory has demonstrated the co-existence of P<sub>2U</sub> and P<sub>2Y</sub> receptors in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells, both of which are coupled to AA release (25). This cellular release of AA results from activation of PLA<sub>2</sub> by P<sub>2</sub>-purinergic receptors, as shown by an increase in PLA<sub>2</sub> activity in lysates prepared from cells treated with ATP or UTP (Fig. 1). To determine which type of PLA<sub>2</sub> was coupled to P<sub>2</sub> receptors in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells, we examined the effect of arachidonyl trifluoromethyl ketone (AACOCF<sub>3</sub>) on PLA<sub>2</sub> activities. AACOCF<sub>3</sub> is a trifluoromethyl ketone analogue of arachidonoyl acid that can inhibit the 85-kD cPLA<sub>2</sub>, but not the 14-kD low molecular weight secretory form of PLA<sub>2</sub>s (26). As shown in Fig. 1, both basal and stimulated PLA<sub>2</sub> activities in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cell lysates were inhibited by AACOCF<sub>3</sub>. AACOCF<sub>3</sub> has also been shown to inhibit Ca<sup>2+</sup>-independent PLA<sub>2</sub> (27). However, PLA<sub>2</sub> activity in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells is Ca<sup>2+</sup>-dependent (10), and ATP- or UTP-promoted AA release in intact MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells is dependent on Ca<sup>2+</sup> (25).



**Figure 1.** Effect of AACOCF<sub>3</sub> on ATP- or UTP-mediated activation of PLA<sub>2</sub> in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells. Cells were treated with 100  $\mu$ M ATP or UTP or the corresponding vehicle (*Basal*) for 10 min, followed by preparation of lysate protein samples. PLA<sub>2</sub> activities of the cell lysates were assessed in the absence (*Control*) or presence of 30  $\mu$ M AACOCF<sub>3</sub>. The experimental details for cell lysate preparation and PLA<sub>2</sub> activity assay are described in Methods.

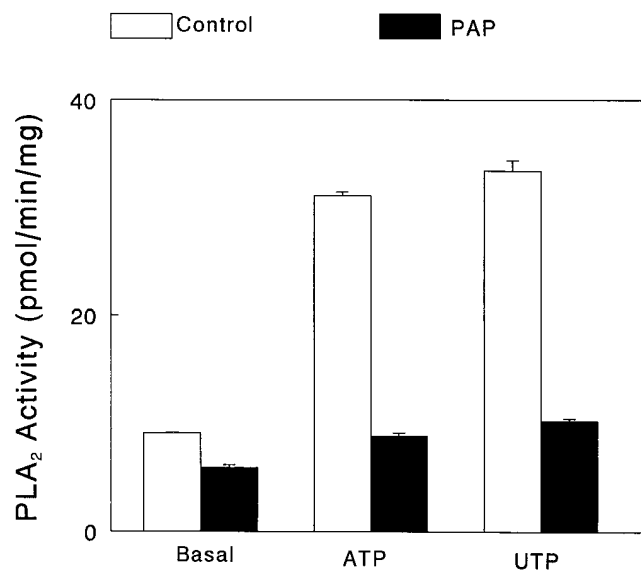
Therefore, Ca<sup>2+</sup>-independent PLA<sub>2</sub> appears not to contribute to P<sub>2</sub> receptor-promoted PLA<sub>2</sub> activity and AA release in these cells. Furthermore, anti-cPLA<sub>2</sub> serum immunoprecipitated increased PLA<sub>2</sub> activity from cells stimulated by ATP or UTP in parallel with a depletion of PLA<sub>2</sub> activity in the cell lysate (Fig. 2). Recovery of PLA<sub>2</sub> activity was associated with immunoprecipitates obtained with anti-cPLA<sub>2</sub> serum but not with normal serum. In addition, SDS-PAGE and immunoblotting studies showed that cPLA<sub>2</sub> protein was associated with immunoprecipitates obtained with anti-cPLA<sub>2</sub> serum but not with normal serum (10). Although the effect of ATP observed in the present study might be mediated through both P<sub>2U</sub> and P<sub>2Y</sub> receptors, the effect of UTP is mediated by P<sub>2U</sub> receptors (25). Thus, these data (taken together with the finding that AACOCF<sub>3</sub> also inhibits ATP- or UTP-promoted AA release in intact MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells) (25) demonstrate that cPLA<sub>2</sub> is the PLA<sub>2</sub> species present in these cells that is responsible for AA release mediated by P<sub>2U</sub>-purinergic receptors.

Since phosphorylation is thought to be an important mechanism for cPLA<sub>2</sub> activation (4, 5), we asked whether such a mechanism is involved in the activation of cPLA<sub>2</sub> by P<sub>2U</sub> receptors in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells by incubating lysates (prepared from MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells treated with ATP or UTP with potato acid phosphatase) and then assessing PLA<sub>2</sub> activity. As shown in Fig. 3, treatment of cell lysates with phosphatase decreased basal cPLA<sub>2</sub> activity, suggesting that a basal phosphorylation state maintains cPLA<sub>2</sub> activity at a higher level. Treatment of cell lysates with phosphatase also inhibited ATP- or UTP-stimulated activity of cPLA<sub>2</sub>. Treatment of cell lysates with potato acid phosphatase did not affect the quantity of cPLA<sub>2</sub> protein, as determined by SDS-PAGE and immunoblotting studies. Thus, phosphorylation is involved in the activation of cPLA<sub>2</sub> by P<sub>2U</sub> receptors.



**Figure 2.** PLA<sub>2</sub> activity in immunoprecipitates and immunodepleted lysates of MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells. Lysates derived from cells treated with vehicle (*Basal*) or 100  $\mu$ M ATP or UTP for 10 min were subjected to immunoprecipitation with buffer, normal serum, or anti-cPLA<sub>2</sub> serum, followed by the assay of PLA<sub>2</sub> activity associated with the resulting immunoprecipitates (*A*) or in the immunodepleted lysates (*B*) as described in Methods. In some experiments the normal serum partially inhibited PLA<sub>2</sub> activity in cell lysates (data not shown).

*PKC-dependent activation of MAP kinase by P<sub>2U</sub> receptors in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells.* Subsequent studies were focused on the nature of kinases involved in activation of cPLA<sub>2</sub>. We first examined whether P<sub>2U</sub> receptors are coupled to activation of MAP kinase in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells. As shown in Fig. 4, treatment of cells with ATP or UTP increased MAP kinase activity measured in subsequently prepared cell lysates. The activation was time-dependent, and the peak response occurred 3 min after treatment with agonists. Immunoprecipitated MAP kinase, particularly ERK<sub>2</sub> (which is the type of MAP kinase that has been specifically shown to phosphorylate and activate recombinant cPLA<sub>2</sub> in vitro [7]) showed increased enzyme activity in response to stimulation by ATP or UTP. A molecular weight shift of MAP kinase resolved by SDS-PAGE was also observed in response to stimulation by ATP or UTP. As shown in the inset of Fig. 4, this molecular shift occurred in a time-dependent manner and, as with the increase in enzyme activity, the maximal shift occurred 3 min after stimulation with

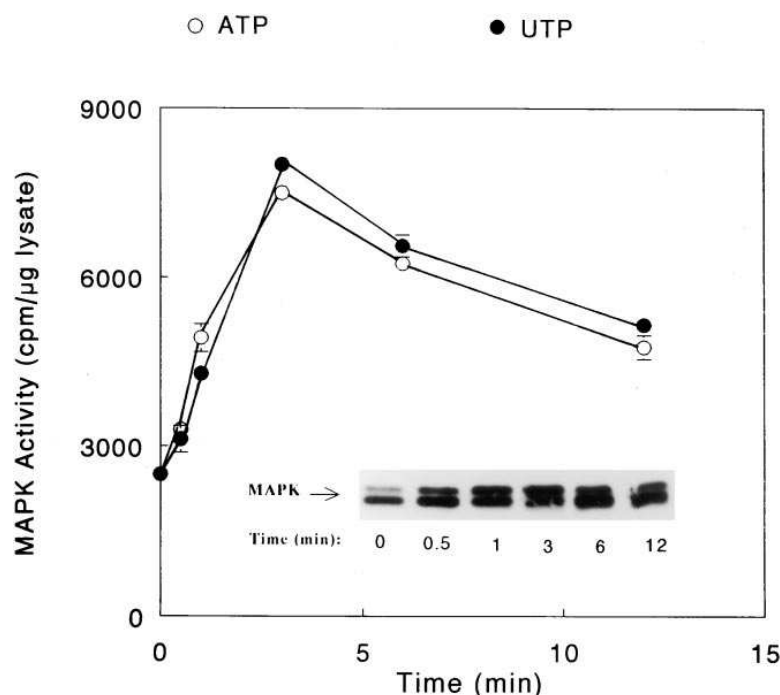


**Figure 3.** Effect of potato acid phosphatase on cPLA<sub>2</sub> activities in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cell lysates. Lysates were prepared from cells incubated with vehicle (*Basal*) or 100  $\mu$ M ATP or UTP for 10 min and treated without (*Control*) or with 1 U/ml potato acid phosphatase (*PAP*) at 30°C (pH 6.4) for 30 min in the absence of phosphatase inhibitors and in the presence of protease inhibitors, as defined in Methods. The control samples were treated identically except for the omission of phosphatase. After the pH of the lysates was brought to 7.4 and the phosphatase inhibitors were added back to the cell lysates, PLA<sub>2</sub> activities were assessed at 37°C, as described in Methods.

ATP. UTP induced a similar time-dependent molecular shift of MAP kinase (data not shown). The molecular shift of MAP kinase has been shown to be due to kinase phosphorylation (9), a conclusion consistent with results obtained for ATP-, UTP- or PMA-induced molecular shift of MAP kinase in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells, and with the abolition of this shift by treatment of protein samples with potato acid phosphatase (Fig. 5 *A*). Activation of PKC by PMA increased MAP kinase activity in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells (10), and induced a phosphorylation-dependent molecular shift of this kinase (Fig. 5 *A*). As shown in Fig. 5 *B*, the molecular weight shift of MAP kinase induced by ATP or UTP (or PMA as a positive control) was blocked by down-regulation of PKC by overnight treatment of cells with PMA. These data, therefore, suggest that coupling of P<sub>2U</sub> receptors to MAP kinase is dependent on PKC in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells.

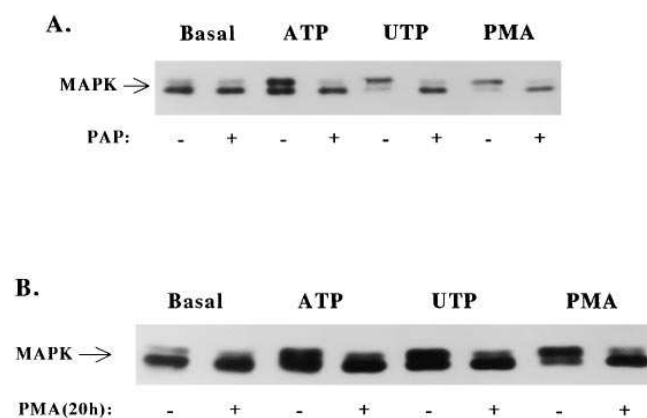
It has been established that phosphorylation of MAP kinase is an obligatory step in the activation of this kinase (9). Indeed, the phosphorylation state of MAP kinase closely correlated with its activity state in response to agonist stimulation in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells (Fig. 4, *inset*). The phosphorylation-based molecular weight shift of MAP kinase, which has been used by many investigators (10, 14, 28, 29) as a convenient and reliable indication of MAP kinase activation, was used in the following studies as a measure of activation of this kinase.

*MAP kinase and PKC are both required for cPLA<sub>2</sub>-mediated arachidonic acid release by P<sub>2U</sub> receptors in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells.* To determine if MAP kinase was required for cPLA<sub>2</sub>-mediated AA release by P<sub>2U</sub> receptors in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells, we tested the effect of the MAP kinase cascade inhibitor



**Figure 4.** Enzyme activation and molecular weight shift of MAP kinase in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells. For MAP kinase activity assay, lysates were prepared from cells incubated in the absence (0 time point) or presence of 100  $\mu$ M ATP or UTP for the indicated times. Cell lysates were then subjected to MAP kinase activity assay, as described in Methods. For the evaluation of molecular weight shift (Inset), cells were similarly treated without (0 time point) or with 100  $\mu$ M ATP for the indicated times, followed by lysis into SDS loading buffer, boiling for 5 min, SDS-PAGE, immunoblotting with anti-p42 MAP kinase serum, and detection by ECL as described in Methods. Note the double band of MAP kinase (MAPK). Compared with basal state (0 time point), the intensity of the upper band was increased by treatment of cells with ATP. This increase occurred maximally at 3 min of treatment.

PD098059 (19) on ATP- or UTP-mediated MAP kinase activation, and AA release in these cells. As shown in Fig. 6 A, ATP- or UTP-promoted MAP kinase activation was blocked by 30  $\mu$ M PD098059. Under the same conditions, AA release promoted by ATP or UTP was suppressed by  $82 \pm 11\%$  and  $68 \pm 11\%$  (mean  $\pm$  SD of three experiments performed in duplicate), respectively. Fig. 6 B shows a representative experiment.

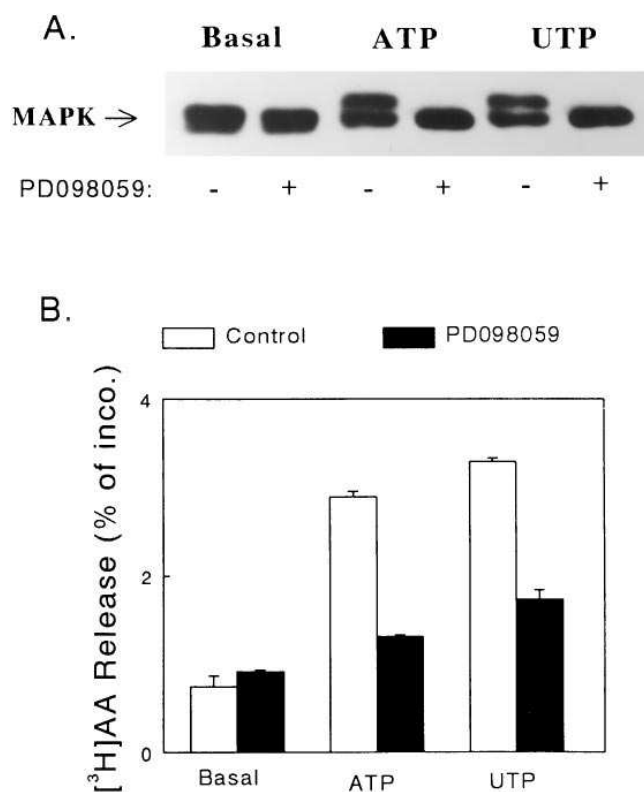


**Figure 5.** Effect of potato acid phosphatase (A) and PKC down-regulation (B) on molecular weight shift of MAP kinase in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells. (A) Lysates derived from cells incubated with vehicle (Basal) or 100  $\mu$ M ATP or 100  $\mu$ M UTP or 100 nM PMA for 3 min were treated in the absence (–) or presence (+) of potato acid phosphatase (PAP) as described in the legend to Fig. 3. The lysates were then mixed with appropriately concentrated SDS loading buffer, boiled, and subjected to SDS-PAGE and immunoblotting as described in the legend to Fig. 4. (B) Cells were treated with vehicle (–) or 200 nM PMA (+) overnight (20 h) to down-regulate PKC. Cells were then incubated with the indicated agonists for 3 min, followed by preparation of protein sample in SDS loading buffer, SDS-PAGE, and immunoblotting.

These data thus suggest that MAP kinase is at least partially required for cPLA<sub>2</sub>-mediated AA release promoted by P<sub>2U</sub> receptors in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells.

To determine whether PKC is required for the activation of cPLA<sub>2</sub> by P<sub>2U</sub> receptors, we next examined the effects of PKC down-regulation and treatment of cells with the PKC inhibitor GF109203X (30, 31) on P<sub>2U</sub> receptor-mediated AA release. Both PKC down-regulation (Fig. 7 A) and GF109203X (Fig. 7 B) suppressed ATP- or UTP-mediated AA release. AA release promoted by the Ca<sup>2+</sup> ionophore A23187 was not inhibited by PKC down-regulation or treatment of cells with GF109203X (Fig. 7), suggesting that inhibition of ATP- or UTP-promoted AA release by these experimental strategies was specific for these nucleotides. Therefore, in addition to MAP kinase, PKC is also required for P<sub>2U</sub> receptor regulation of cPLA<sub>2</sub>-mediated AA release in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells.

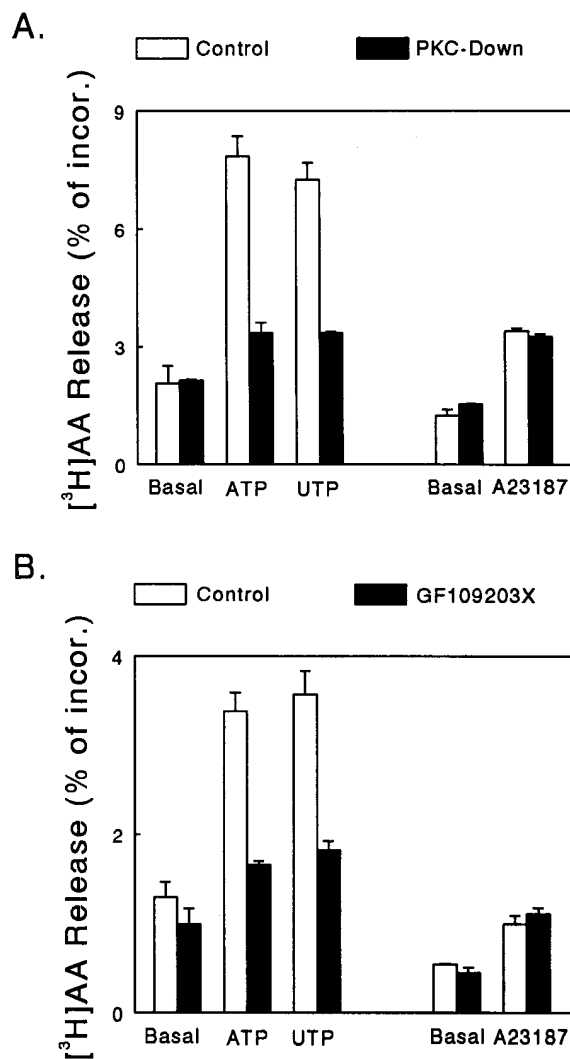
*PKC is independently required for cPLA<sub>2</sub>-mediated AA release through a pathway in parallel to MAP kinase activation.* Since activation of MAP kinase by P<sub>2U</sub> receptors was PKC-dependent (Fig. 5 B) and activation of cPLA<sub>2</sub> by this receptor involved MAP kinase (Fig. 6), the involvement of PKC in cPLA<sub>2</sub> regulation appears to be at least partially through activation of MAP kinase in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells. However, the data presented above do not rule out the possibility that PKC may also play a role independent of MAP kinase in the regulation of cPLA<sub>2</sub>. Indeed, we have obtained evidence for such a role for PKC in P<sub>2U</sub> receptor-mediated AA release. This evidence includes the different concentration-response relationships of the PKC inhibitor GF109203X on MAP kinase activation and AA release. As shown in Fig. 8 A, GF109203X inhibited both ATP- and UTP-promoted AA release in a concentration-dependent manner. About 50% of ATP- or UTP-promoted response was inhibited by this inhibitor at 3  $\mu$ M. However, the inhibitory effect of GF109203X on MAP kinase activation by these nucleotides was not as dramatic (Fig. 8 B): at 3  $\mu$ M, this inhibitor



**Figure 6.** Effect of PD098059 on MAP kinase activation (A) and cPLA<sub>2</sub>-mediated AA release (B) in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells. (A) Cells were treated with vehicle (–) or 30  $\mu$ M PD098059 (+) for 20 min and further treated with vehicle (Basal) or 100  $\mu$ M ATP or UTP for 3 min, followed by preparation of protein samples in SDS loading buffer, SDS-PAGE and immunoblotting as described in the legend to Figure 4. (B) [ $^3$ H]AA-labeled cells were treated with vehicle (Control) or 30  $\mu$ M PD098059 for 20 min, followed by assessment of [ $^3$ H]AA release in response to stimulation with vehicle (Basal) or 100  $\mu$ M ATP or UTP for 10 min, as described in Methods. PD098059 had no direct inhibitory effect on immunoprecipitated cPLA<sub>2</sub> activity (data not shown).

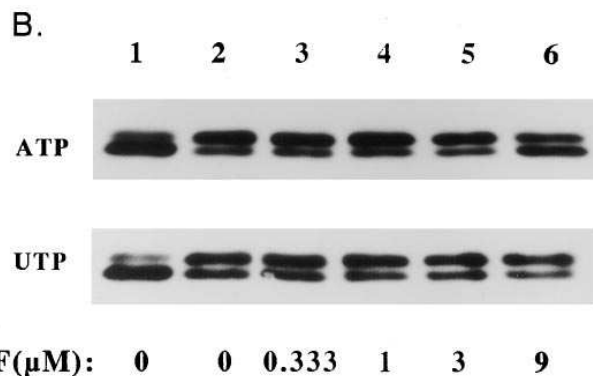
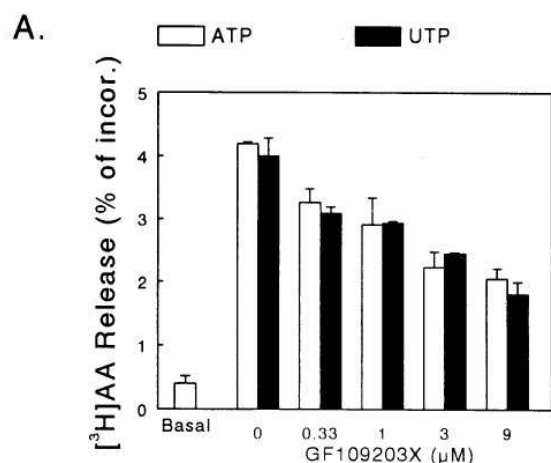
did not decrease the activation of MAP kinase mediated by ATP or UTP, although it showed a slight inhibitory effect at a higher concentration (9  $\mu$ M). A similar concentration response discrepancy was observed for the effects of GF109203X on PMA-promoted AA release and MAP kinase activation (Fig. 9), although the inhibitor seemed more potent in inhibition of the response mediated by PMA than in inhibition of that mediated by nucleotides. At 0.33  $\mu$ M, GF109203X inhibited greater than 50% of PMA-promoted AA release (Fig. 9 A), while it showed no effect on PMA-promoted MAP kinase activation at this concentration (Fig. 9 B). At 1  $\mu$ M, this inhibitor completely blocked PMA-promoted AA release, although it had only a minimal inhibitory effect on PMA-promoted MAP kinase activation (Fig. 9 B). These data demonstrate that even under the conditions where MAP kinase can be activated, inhibition of PKC still suppresses cPLA<sub>2</sub>-mediated AA release. Therefore, in addition to its involvement in MAP kinase activation required for cPLA<sub>2</sub> activation, PKC also may be independently required for cPLA<sub>2</sub> activation by P<sub>2U</sub> receptors in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells.

In previous work from this laboratory, stable PKC anti-



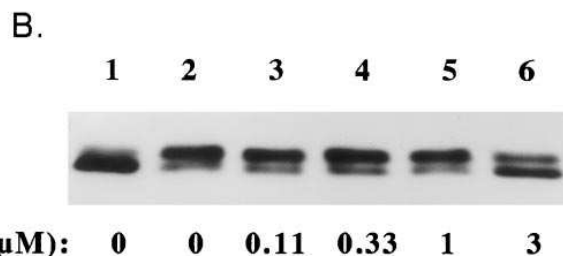
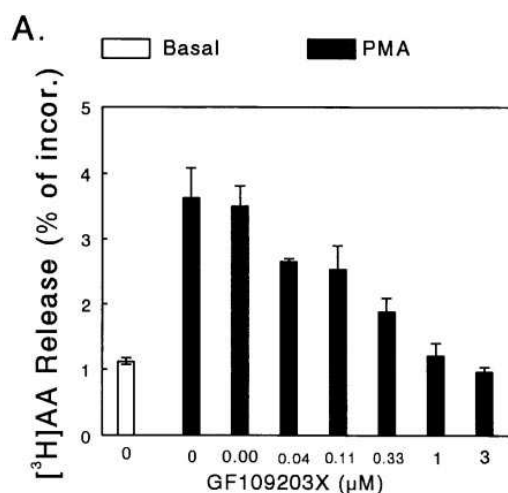
**Figure 7.** Effects of PKC down-regulation (A) and GF109203X (B) on cPLA<sub>2</sub>-mediated AA release in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells. (A) Cells without (Control) or with PKC down-regulation (PKC-Down) as described in the legend to Fig. 5 B were assessed for [ $^3$ H]AA release in response to treatment with vehicle (Basal), 100  $\mu$ M ATP or UTP, or 4  $\mu$ M A23187 for 10 min as described in Methods. (B) Cells were incubated with vehicle (Control) or 12  $\mu$ M GF109203X for 30 min, followed by assessment of [ $^3$ H]AA release in response to treatment with the vehicle or the indicated agonists for 10 min, as described in Methods. The data with A23187 treatment and the corresponding basal conditions were obtained from separate experiments. GF109203X had no direct inhibitory effect on immunoprecipitated cPLA<sub>2</sub> activity (data not shown).

sense transfectants of MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells were isolated that had decreased PKC $_{\alpha}$  protein, and which displayed a decrease in PMA-mediated AA release (32). As shown in Fig. 10 A, when we tested these transfectants in the present study, they had a 50% (as determined by densitometry) reduction of PKC $_{\alpha}$  protein compared with vector-transfected cells, but no change in MAP kinase protein level (Fig. 10 B). There were also no changes in the protein levels of PKC $_{\epsilon}$  and PKC $_{\zeta}$  (data not shown). The reduction of PKC $_{\alpha}$  protein level did not affect activation of MAP kinase by PMA (Fig. 10 C), although PMA-promoted AA release was inhibited by suppression of the ex-



**Figure 8.** Concentration-response of the effects of GF109203X on  $P_{2U}$  receptor-mediated AA release (A) and MAP kinase activation (B) in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells. (A) Cells were treated with GF109203X at the indicated concentrations for 30 min, followed by assessment of [<sup>3</sup>H]AA release in response to stimulation with vehicle (*Basal*) or 100 μM ATP or UTP for 10 min, as described in Methods. (B) Cells were treated with GF109203X (*GF*) at the indicated concentrations for 30 min, followed by further treatment with vehicle (*lane 1*), or 100 μM ATP or UTP for 3 min (*lanes 2–6*) as indicated. Protein samples were then prepared in SDS loading (buffer, followed by SDS-PAGE and immunoblotting as described in the legend to Fig. 4.

pression of PKC $_{\alpha}$  (Fig. 10 D). Because PMA-promoted AA release is also mediated by cPLA<sub>2</sub> in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells (10), the present data obtained with PMA in these stable transfectants further support the idea that PKC, particularly the  $\alpha$  isoform, acts independently of MAP kinase to regulate cPLA<sub>2</sub> in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells. Studies of  $P_{2U}$  receptor-promoted AA release in these transfectants yielded inconsistent findings, perhaps because PKC $_{\alpha}$  may be involved in feedback regulation of  $P_{2U}$  receptor signaling as well as in the regulation of cPLA<sub>2</sub>. Alternatively, PKC $_{\alpha}$  in the transfectants used in the present study was only decreased by 50% (Fig. 10 A). This decrease might not be enough to significantly affect the coupling of  $P_{2U}$  receptors to AA release, but enough to affect the release of AA promoted by PMA. This difference in the sensitivity of AA release to the decrease in PKC $_{\alpha}$  protein is consistent with the data that the PKC $_{\alpha}$ -selective inhibitor GF109203X was more

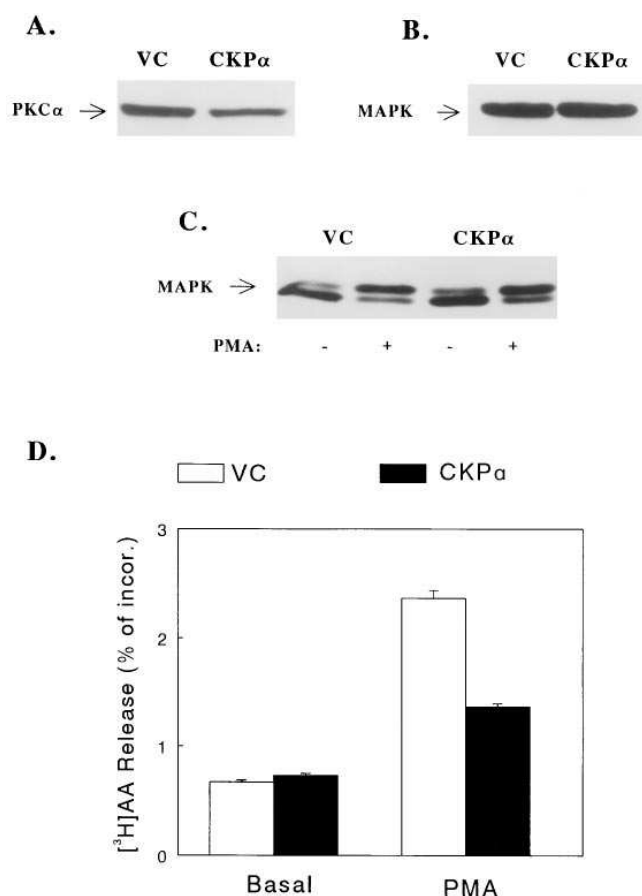


**Figure 9.** Concentration response of the effects of GF109203X on PMA-mediated AA release (A) and MAP kinase activation (B) in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells. The experimental procedures were same as described in the legend to Fig. 8, except that PMA was used as agonist.

potent in inhibiting PMA-promoted AA release than in inhibiting  $P_{2U}$  receptor-promoted AA release (Figs. 8 and 9).

## Discussion

Considerable attention has been devoted to defining signal transduction by the G protein-coupled  $P_{2U}/P_{2Y}$  receptors because of their wide distribution and involvement in a variety of biological activities (33, 34). One important consequence of stimulation of these receptors is AA release, which may play a key role in many of the physiological and pathological processes mediated by these receptors. AA release by  $P_{2U}/P_{2Y}$  receptors has been described in numerous cells, including, for example, astrocytes (35), neutrophils and neutrophil-like HL60 cells (14, 36), NG108-15 neuroblastoma cells (37), FRTL-5 thyroid cells (38), airway epithelium cells (39), Chinese hamster ovary cells (40), and MDCK cells (25, 41). Although considerable effort has been directed toward defining the molecular mechanism for  $P_2$ -purinergic receptor-mediated AA release, clear-cut information has not been provided. It has been hypothesized that cPLA<sub>2</sub> is responsible for  $P_2$ -purinergic receptor-mediated AA release (25), but definitive evidence for this hypothesis is lacking. Moreover, there is evidence suggesting that other types of PLA<sub>2</sub> (such as the Ca<sup>2+</sup>-independent



**Figure 10.** Effect of decreased expression of PKC $\alpha$  on the protein levels of PKC $\alpha$  (A) and MAP kinase (B), and on activation of MAP kinase (C) and AA release (D) in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells. MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> transfectants carrying the vector (VC) or PKC $\alpha$  antisense cDNA (CKP $\alpha$ ) were originally isolated as described (32). The protein levels of PKC $\alpha$  (A) and MAP kinase (B) in these transfectants were analyzed by SDS-PAGE and immunoblotting using anti-PKC $\alpha$  antibodies and anti-ERK<sub>2</sub> antibodies, respectively. To avoid the separation of the phosphorylated species from the dephosphorylated species of MAP kinase (and hence to more accurately compare the total protein of this kinase), in the experiment shown in B, 10%, instead of 7.5% acrylamide was used in the gel, and the gel was run for 2 h. (C) Cells were stimulated with vehicle (–) or 100 nM PMA (+) for 3 min, and activation of MAP kinase (in terms of molecular weight shift) was analyzed as described in the legend to Fig. 4. (D) Basal or 100 nM PMA-promoted [<sup>3</sup>H]AA release in vector- or PKC $\alpha$  antisense cDNA-transfected cells were assessed as described in Methods.

PLA<sub>2</sub> [42] and the secretory PLA<sub>2</sub> [43, 44]) can be responsible for AA release mediated by certain receptors. In view of these results, one of the goals of the present study was to use MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells as a model to define whether cPLA<sub>2</sub> mediates AA release promoted by P<sub>2</sub>-purinergic receptors, in particular P<sub>2U</sub> receptors. The present data demonstrate that AA release by P<sub>2U</sub> receptors in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells is mediated by cPLA<sub>2</sub>, a conclusion supported by the following findings: (a) PLA<sub>2</sub> activity in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cell lysates is Ca<sup>2+</sup>-dependent and sensitive to AACOCF<sub>3</sub> (10), suggesting that the cPLA<sub>2</sub> is the type of PLA<sub>2</sub> preferentially expressed in these cells; (b) P<sub>2U</sub> receptor-mediated AA release in intact cells (25) and activated PLA<sub>2</sub>

activity in cell lysates are AACOCF<sub>3</sub>-sensitive (Fig. 1); and (c) increased PLA<sub>2</sub> activity promoted by ATP or UTP is recovered in immunoprecipitates obtained using anti-cPLA<sub>2</sub> antibodies, and the PLA<sub>2</sub> activity is correspondingly lost in the immunodepleted cell lysates (Fig. 2).

Phosphorylation has been implicated for the activation of both in vitro recombinant cPLA<sub>2</sub> (6, 7) and in vivo endogenous cPLA<sub>2</sub> (e.g., 10–12, 45). The coupling of P<sub>2U</sub> receptors to activation of cPLA<sub>2</sub> in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells is apparently also through a phosphorylation-dependent mechanism, as suggested by the ATP- or UTP-promoted increase in cPLA<sub>2</sub> activity in lysates (Figs. 1–3) and in anti-cPLA<sub>2</sub> immunoprecipitates (Fig. 2 A) prepared from treated cells, and as suggested by the sensitivity of this increase of cPLA<sub>2</sub> activity to phosphatase (Fig. 3). Previous work indicated that in neutrophil-like HL60 cells P<sub>2U</sub> receptors are coupled to both MAP kinase activation and AA release (14). However, a cause-effect relationship for the two responses was not established. The data in the present study show that MAP kinase is required for cPLA<sub>2</sub> activation by P<sub>2U</sub> receptors since inhibition of MAP kinase by PD098059 (Fig. 6 A) inhibited cPLA<sub>2</sub>-mediated AA release by P<sub>2U</sub> receptors (Fig. 6 B). In addition, PKC is also required for P<sub>2U</sub> receptor regulation of cPLA<sub>2</sub>-mediated AA release. This PKC involvement occurs in two ways: (a) it is required for MAP kinase activation because down-regulation of PKC blocks P<sub>2U</sub> receptor-promoted MAP kinase activation (Fig. 5 B), and (b) it is also required for cPLA<sub>2</sub>-mediated AA release through a pathway that is parallel to MAP kinase activation since we were able to inhibit PKC and suppress AA release without blocking MAP kinase activation (Figs. 8–10).

The PKC inhibitor GF109203X is more selective for the  $\alpha$  isoform than for other PKC isoforms (30, 31). Its differential effects on MAP kinase activation and cPLA<sub>2</sub>-mediated AA release observed in the present study could occur if different PKC isoforms are selectively involved in activation of MAP kinase and cPLA<sub>2</sub>. Thus, the PKC isoforms involved in the activation of MAP kinase by P<sub>2U</sub> receptors might be other than the  $\alpha$  type (as suggested in other systems [46, 47]), while PKC $\alpha$  would be required for activation of cPLA<sub>2</sub> through a pathway independent of MAP kinase. Thus, by selectively inhibiting PKC $\alpha$ , GF109203X at low concentrations would suppress cPLA<sub>2</sub>-mediated AA release, but not activation of MAP kinase. This idea is also supported by the data obtained with MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> transfectants with decreased PKC $\alpha$ , which showed inhibition of cPLA<sub>2</sub>-mediated AA release, but not of MAP kinase activation (Fig. 10). It should be pointed out that our interpretation of the requirement for PKC $\alpha$  and MAP kinase in the regulation of cPLA<sub>2</sub> is different from previous conclusions, which only emphasize the role of MAP kinase in the activation of cPLA<sub>2</sub> (6). We hypothesize that activation of both PKC (particularly the  $\alpha$  isoform) and MAP kinase (mediated by PKC isoforms other than the  $\alpha$  form) is required for maximal activation of cPLA<sub>2</sub>, because inhibition of either impaired cPLA<sub>2</sub>-mediated AA release (Figs. 6–10). This hypothesis of dual regulation of cPLA<sub>2</sub> by MAP kinase and PKC $\alpha$  for maximal activation is consistent with other observations, such as the demonstration that cPLA<sub>2</sub> possesses distinct phosphorylation sites for MAP kinase and PKC (6), and that in Chinese hamster ovary cells, transfection of a mutant G<sub>o12</sub> inhibits cPLA<sub>2</sub>-mediated AA release by P<sub>2</sub>-purinergic receptors without affecting MAP kinase activation and cPLA<sub>2</sub> phosphorylation by MAP kinase (40). In the latter studies, activation of



PKC by PMA was able to eliminate this inhibition and restore the coupling of P<sub>2</sub>-purinergic receptors to cPLA<sub>2</sub>, thus suggesting that this G<sub>α2</sub> mutant inhibited P<sub>2</sub>-purinergic receptor-coupled activation of PKC, and blocked activation of cPLA<sub>2</sub> by these receptors.

Direct phosphorylation and activation of cPLA<sub>2</sub> by MAP kinase has been consistently demonstrated by in vitro studies (6, 7). By contrast, in vitro studies are inconsistent with regard to the importance of PKC for the activation of cPLA<sub>2</sub>. One study showed a moderate increase in cPLA<sub>2</sub> activity after in vitro phosphorylation of this lipase by PKC (7), but two other studies failed to show activation of lipase activity after such phosphorylation (6, 48). Although there is no clear explanation for this inconsistency, the role of different PKC isoforms was not evaluated in these studies, nor was the MAP kinase-mediated phosphorylation level of cPLA<sub>2</sub> that existed prior to assessment of the function of phosphorylation by PKC. This could explain the inconsistency of the results in these studies, since we hypothesize that phosphorylation of cPLA<sub>2</sub> by both MAP kinase and PKC is required for maximal activation of this lipase.

In MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells, both α<sub>1</sub>-adrenergic receptors (10) and P<sub>2U</sub> receptors (present study) utilize MAP kinase to regulate cPLA<sub>2</sub>. However, unlike the regulation of cPLA<sub>2</sub> by P<sub>2U</sub> receptors (which utilize different PKC isoforms through MAP kinase-dependent and -independent pathways to achieve maximal activation of cPLA<sub>2</sub>), regulation of cPLA<sub>2</sub> by α<sub>1</sub>-adrenergic receptors occurs only through sequential activation of PKC and MAP kinase. Interestingly, in the same cell type, bradykinin receptors regulate cPLA<sub>2</sub> through a phosphorylation-dependent mechanism that does not involve MAP kinase and PKC, but may involve a tyrosine kinase (49). Several recent studies also show that certain receptors can promote phosphorylation-dependent activation of cPLA<sub>2</sub> without involvement of MAP kinase and PKC, but the kinases involved remain unidentified (15, 16). It appears, therefore, that the mechanisms and the protein kinases involved in the regulation of cPLA<sub>2</sub> vary with receptor types, even in the same cell type.

In summary, in the present study we demonstrate that in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells' P<sub>2U</sub>-purinergic receptors mediate AA release via activation of cPLA<sub>2</sub>. This cPLA<sub>2</sub>-mediated AA release by P<sub>2U</sub> receptors is through a phosphorylation mechanism which appears to require activation of both MAP kinase and PKC. In this process PKC plays a dual role: it is required for MAP kinase activation, and it also acts through a pathway independent of MAP kinase to regulate cPLA<sub>2</sub>-mediated AA release. Involvement of different PKC isoforms may explain this dual role of PKC. We speculate that dual phosphorylation of cPLA<sub>2</sub> by PKC<sub>α</sub> and MAP kinase (perhaps activated by PKC isoforms other than PKC<sub>α</sub>) is required for the maximal activation of cPLA<sub>2</sub> by P<sub>2U</sub> receptors in MDCK-D<sub>1</sub> cells. This dual requirement for PKC and MAP kinase in the activation of cPLA<sub>2</sub> is not consistent with previous ideas that have only emphasized the role of the sequential activation of PKC and MAP kinase in the regulation of cPLA<sub>2</sub>.

## Acknowledgments

We thank Dr. Yizheng Wang for providing us with the anti-p42 MAP kinase (ERK<sub>2</sub>) serum, Dr. Alan R. Saltiel (Parke-Davis, Ann Arbor) for providing us with PD098059, and the Genetics Institute, Cambridge, MA for providing anti-85-kD cPLA<sub>2</sub> serum. The contribution

of Dr. Catherine Godson to the construction of PKC antisense transfectants is greatly acknowledged. The technical assistance by Kelly Bell is also greatly appreciated.

This work has been supported by NIH grants GM31987 and HL35847. Mingzhao Xing is supported by a postdoctoral fellowship from the American Heart Association California Affiliate and a NRSA training grant, Bonnie Firestein is supported by a predoctoral fellowship from Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America Foundation, and Gregory H. Shen is supported by a NRSA training grant.

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