

氏 名 Mohamed Asgar, Nur Farehan Binte

学位(専攻分野) 博士(理学)

学位記番号 総研大甲第 1867 号

学位授与の日付 平成28年9月28日

学位授与の要件 生命科学研究科 生理科学専攻  
学位規則第6条第1項該当

学位論文題目 The role of AMP-kinase during myogenesis in C2C12 cells

論文審査委員 主 査 教授 深田 正紀  
教授 箕越 靖彦  
教授 西田 基宏  
准教授 山内 敏正 東京大学

論文内容の要旨  
Summary of thesis contents

Myogenesis is a highly coordinated multi-step process that begins with the commitment of progenitor cells, known as myoblasts, to proliferate and subsequently differentiate to form multi-nucleated myotubes. The process of myogenesis is controlled by several myogenic transcription factors that act as terminal effectors of signaling cascades, producing appropriate developmental stage-specific transcripts. For example, MyoD is expressed during the early stage of myogenesis, while myogenin and muscle creatine kinase (MCK) are expressed during the early and late stages of differentiation respectively.

AMP-activated protein kinase (AMP-kinase or AMPK) plays a key role as a master regulator of cellular energy homeostasis and it exists as heterotrimeric complexes, comprising of the catalytic  $\alpha$  subunit and regulatory  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  subunits. Previous studies have shown that lack of AMPK $\alpha$ 2 in skeletal muscle results in lower exercise tolerance and voluntary activity. On the other hand, lack of AMPK $\alpha$ 1 is associated with reduced satellite cell activation and impaired muscle regeneration, suggesting an isoform-specific role of AMPK in myogenesis. However, the link between AMPK and myogenesis still remains elusive. Thus, using C2C12 murine myoblast cells lines, I elucidated the isoform-specific roles of AMPK during myogenesis.

Lentiviruses expressing both EGFP and shRNA for AMPK $\alpha$ 1, AMPK $\alpha$ 2 and both  $\alpha$ 1- and  $\alpha$ 2 isoforms (PanAMPK) were infected into intact C2C12 myoblasts to generate stable cell lines. The infected myoblasts were subjected to fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS) to isolate EGFP positive cells that were used for subsequent cultures. shRNAs for AMPK $\alpha$ 1 and  $\alpha$ 2 decreased mRNA abundance of AMPK $\alpha$ 1 and  $\alpha$ 2, respectively, and shRNA for PanAMPK (AMPK $\alpha$ 1 plus AMPK $\alpha$ 2) decreased both of AMPK $\alpha$ 1 and  $\alpha$ 2. Expression profiles indicated that while AMPK $\alpha$ 1 mRNA and protein expressions remained constant, those of AMPK $\alpha$ 2 increased during 6 days of differentiation. I examined the cell proliferation rate of the FACS-sorted myoblasts. Selective knockdown of AMPK $\alpha$ 1 as well as PanAMPK, but not AMPK $\alpha$ 2, resulted in a dramatic reduction of cell proliferation rate, suggesting that AMPK $\alpha$ 1 is necessary for cell proliferation of C2C12 myoblasts.

I next studied the effects of isoform-specific depletion of AMPK $\alpha$ 1 and  $\alpha$ 2 on differentiation. At 6 days of differentiation, shAMPK $\alpha$ 2 as well as shPanAMPK myotubes were significantly thinner, while shAMPK $\alpha$ 1 myotubes were thicker than

(別紙様式 2)  
(Separate Form 2)

that of the control. Knockdown of AMPK $\alpha$ 1 and PanAMPK significantly decreased the peak expression of myogenin at 72hrs of differentiation. Contrarily, AMPK $\alpha$ 2 knockdown resulted in a dramatic reduction in the mRNA expressions of MCK and genes involved in mitochondrial biogenesis including peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma coactivator 1-alpha (PGC-1 $\alpha$ ). I examined the staining of C2C12 myotubes at 6 days of differentiation with tetramethylrhodamine methyl ester (TMRM), which is a cell-permeant, fluorescent dye that is readily sequestered by active mitochondria. AMPK $\alpha$ 2 knockdown reduced TMRM staining in C2C12 cells. These data suggest that AMPK $\alpha$ 1 is essential during early-stage differentiation, while AMPK $\alpha$ 2 is critical for muscle maturation during the late stage of differentiation. AMPK $\alpha$ 1 and  $\alpha$ 2 reciprocally regulate the width of C2C12 myotubes during the late stage of differentiation.

In addition to the effects of AMPK on gene expressions, AMPK stimulates fatty acid oxidation and autophagy by phosphorylating acetyl-CoA carboxylase (ACC) and Unc51-like autophagy activating kinase 1 (ULK1), respectively. The results showed that AMPK $\alpha$ 1 is the major contributor towards phosphorylation of ACC and ULK1 in C2C12 myotubes.

My findings indicate that AMPK $\alpha$ 1 and  $\alpha$ 2 have distinct roles in myogenic differentiation in C2C12 cells. AMPK $\alpha$ 1 is predominantly localised in the cytoplasm while AMPK $\alpha$ 2 is present in both nucleus and the cytoplasm. Moreover, a putative nuclear localisation sequence (NLS) has been identified in AMPK $\alpha$ 2 but not  $\alpha$ 1. I discovered that a portion of endogenous AMPK $\alpha$ 2 is localised in the nucleus during the late stage of differentiation. To examine the role of AMPK $\alpha$ 2 translocation into the nucleus during myogenic differentiation, I overexpressed WT-AMPK $\alpha$ 2 and its NLS-mutated form ( $\Delta$ NLS-AMPK $\alpha$ 2) in shAMPK $\alpha$ 2 C2C12 cells. AMPK activation by AICAR (5-Aminoimidazole-4-carboxamide ribonucleotide) or energy deprivation condition (addition of 2-deoxy-D-glucose into low glucose medium) increased the translocation of AMPK $\alpha$ 2 in WT-AMPK $\alpha$ 2 but not  $\Delta$ NLS-AMPK $\alpha$ 2 myoblasts. I found that WT-AMPK $\alpha$ 2 overexpression increased the mRNA abundance of MCK and PGC-1 $\alpha$  in shAMPK $\alpha$ 2 cells. I also found that while  $\Delta$ NLS-AMPK $\alpha$ 2 overexpression increased the amount of MCK mRNA to a similar extent with that of WT-AMPK $\alpha$ 2, it did not increase PGC-1 $\alpha$  mRNA expression. The width of shAMPK $\alpha$ 2 myotubes was recovered in WT-AMPK $\alpha$ 2-expressing cells and partially rescued in  $\Delta$ NLS-AMPK $\alpha$ 2-expressing cells. These results suggest that PGC-1 $\alpha$  mRNA expression, but not MCK expression, could be regulated by AMPK $\alpha$ 2 nuclear translocation.

(別紙様式 2)  
(Separate Form 2)

Taken together, my results indicate that AMPK $\alpha$ 1 and  $\alpha$ 2 have distinct roles in myogenic differentiation, with AMPK $\alpha$ 1 being necessary during the early stage, while AMPK $\alpha$ 2 and its changing subcellular localisation being indispensable during the late stage of differentiation.

Summary of the results of the doctoral thesis screening

本論文は、マウス横紋筋由来細胞株C2C12細胞の増殖、分化におけるAMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK)の調節作用を明らかにしたものである。

これまでの研究において、AMPK触媒サブユニット $\alpha 1$ と $\alpha 2$ の内、 $\alpha 2$ 遺伝子をノックアウトしたマウスは、自発運動量が低下すると共に、負荷の強い運動を完遂することができないことが示されている。これに対して、 $\alpha 1$ 遺伝子をノックアウトしたマウスは、骨格筋前駆細胞量が低下して筋再生が遅延することが報告されている。しかし、骨格筋細胞の増殖、分化において、AMPK $\alpha 1$ と $\alpha 2$ が実際にどのような分子に調節作用を及ぼすかは不明であった。出願者は $\alpha 1$ と $\alpha 2$ の両方(shPanAMPK)、および $\alpha 1$ と $\alpha 2$ の各々に作用するshRNA (shAMPK $\alpha 1$ 、shAMPK $\alpha 2$ )を安定的に発現するC2C12細胞を作出し、細胞増殖への効果と分化誘導後の筋細胞への分化に及ぼす効果を調べた。shPanAMPKは、AMPK $\alpha 1$ と $\alpha 2$ 両方の発現を有意に低下させた。また、shAMPK $\alpha 1$ とshAMPK $\alpha 2$ は、AMPK $\alpha 1$ と $\alpha 2$ の発現を各々選択的に低下させた。

出願者は、まず、AMPK $\alpha 1$ と $\alpha 2$ のmRNAと蛋白質量が、C2C12細胞の分化に伴いどのように変化するかを調べた。その結果、AMPK $\alpha 1$ の発現は、何れの時期においてもほぼ一定であった。これに対して、AMPK $\alpha 2$ は、分化誘導後に発現が増加した。また、AMPK $\alpha 1$ がC2C12細胞の増殖に必須であること、さらに、AMPKによる脂肪酸酸化とautophagyへの調節作用において、AMPK $\alpha 1$ が必須であることを明らかにした。

次に、筋細胞への分化において、各shRNAがどのような効果を及ぼすかを調べた。筋細胞の分化マーカーの一つであるMyogeninの発現(筋細胞の2次融合において発現がピークとなる)に、AMPK $\alpha 1$ が必須であること、これに対して、後期成熟マーカーであるMuscle creatine kinase (MCK)の発現に、AMPK $\alpha 2$ が必須であることを見出した。MCKは、C2C12細胞のエネルギー産生に関与する。そこで、エネルギー産生器官であるミトコンドリア合成の転写調節共役因子、PGC1- $\alpha$  (peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma coactivator 1-alpha)の発現と、ミトコンドリア量に及ぼすshAMPK $\alpha 2$ の効果を調べた。その結果、shAMPK $\alpha 2$ 、shPanAMPKは、共に、PGC1- $\alpha$ の発現とミトコンドリア量を有意に低下させた。また、shAMPK $\alpha 2$ とshPanAMPKを発現するC2C12細胞は、分化後の細胞直径が小さく、細いことを見出した。

AMPK $\alpha 2$ には核移行シグナルが存在するが、AMPK $\alpha 1$ には存在しない。実際に、AMPKを活性化しても、AMPK $\alpha 1$ は核移行せず細胞質に留まり、野生型AMPK $\alpha 2$ のみが核移行した。これに対して、核移行シグナルに変異を加えた変異型AMPK $\alpha 2$ は、活性化しても核移行しなかった。AMPK $\alpha 2$ の核移行が、MCKとPGC1- $\alpha$ の発現に関与するか否かを明らかにするため、野生型AMPK $\alpha 2$ 、または変異型AMPK $\alpha 2$ を、shAMPK $\alpha 2$ を発現させたC2C12細胞に各々過剰発現させた。その結果、野生型と変異型AMPK $\alpha 2$ は、共に、MCKの発現を有意に回復させた。しかし、PGC1- $\alpha$ は、野生型AMPK $\alpha 2$ によってのみ発現が回復した。このことから、PGC1- $\alpha$ の発現に、AMPK $\alpha 2$ の核移行が必須であることが明らかとなった。

(別紙様式 3)

(Separate Form 3)

以上のように、出願者は、C2C12 細胞の増殖及び分化において、AMPK $\alpha$ 1 と  $\alpha$ 2 が各々選択的に調節作用を営むことを証明した。本研究は、骨格筋細胞の増殖、分化に及ぼす AMPK の重要性を明らかにした優れた研究であり、今後の当該分野の発展に資するものと考えられる。従って、本論文は、学位論文として十分な内容を有すると審査委員会において全会一致で判定された。