

## Phosphoinositide Kinases as Enzymes that Produce Versatile Signaling Lipids, Phosphoinositides

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**Phosphoinositide kinases comprise a unique family of enzymes that catalyze the phosphorylation of phosphatidylinositol and its phosphorylated metabolites to produce seven phosphoinositides. Recent advances have revealed that these phosphoinositides have specific physiological functions, such as actin cytoskeletal reorganization, membrane transport, cell proliferation and survival, in eukaryotic cells and that each phosphoinositide kinase is differently and precisely regulated. Here we describe the diverse regulation and physiological functions of phosphoinositide kinases involving their products.**

**Key words:** phosphoinositide kinases, phosphoinositides, signal transduction.

Phosphatidylinositol (PI) is phosphorylated separately or at all possible combinations of the D-3, D-4, and D-5 positions of the inositol ring to produce biologically significant phosphoinositides (Fig. 1). So far, seven phosphoinositides have been identified in mammalian cells. The phosphorylation of PI and its metabolites is catalyzed by multiplex phosphoinositide kinases, each of which phosphorylates at specific positions of hydroxyl groups of the inositol ring (Fig. 1). Phosphoinositide kinases so far identified are classified into two families, PI kinases and PI phosphate (PIP) kinases, fundamentally based on their substrate specificities and the similarity in their sequences (Fig. 2). The PI kinase family comprises PI 3-kinases, which phosphorylate at the D-3 position and include three classes of isozymes with different substrate specificities, and PI 4-kinases, which phosphorylate at the D-4 position and are further classified into two types of the enzymes, types II and III. The PIP kinase family consists of PI 4-phosphate 5-kinases [PI(4)P 5-kinases], PI 5-phosphate 4-kinases [PI(5)P 4-kinases], and PI 3-phosphate [PI(3)P] 5-kinase [PI(3)P 5-kinase], which phosphorylate PI(4)P at the D-5 position, PI(5)P at the D-4 position, and PI(3)P at the D-5 position, respectively (Fig. 1). These phosphoinositide kinases are activated in response to a wide variety of agonists, such as hormones, growth factors, and neurotransmitters, to produce the signaling lipids, phosphoinositides, shown in Fig. 1, and therefore are the central players in cell signaling pathways. This review summarizes our current knowledge on the structures, characteristics, regulations, and functions of these phosphoinositide kinases, especially mammalian enzymes other than PI 3-kinase (see another section of this series of reviews).

### Phosphatidylinositol 4-kinases (PI 4-kinases)

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**Structures, characteristics, and regulations.** PI kinases were initially classified into three categories, termed types I to III, based on the results of chromatographic purification of their activities (1, 2). Type I was subsequently identified as PI 3-kinase (3), and types II and III as PI 4-kinases with different properties (Fig. 2), the exciting developments regarding PI 3-kinases are covered in a separate chapter and will not be discussed further here. The type II PI 4-kinases, which were classically characterized as membrane-associated 45–55 kDa proteins, are potently activated by nonionic detergents and inhibited by adenosine, while the type III enzymes with higher molecular weights are soluble or loosely associated with membranes, less activated by detergents, and insensitive to adenosine (2, 4). Three isozymes for the type II PI 4-kinases, *i.e.* PI 4-kinase  $\alpha$  of 97 kDa (5), and PI 4-kinase  $\Pi\alpha$  and  $\Pi\beta$  of 52–55 kDa (6, 7), and two isozymes for the type III ones, *i.e.* PI 4-kinase  $\text{III}\alpha$  of 210–230 kDa (8) and  $\text{III}\beta$  of 92–110 kDa (9, 10), have so far been identified; 97 kDa PI 4-kinase  $\alpha$  is a spliced variant of PI 4-kinase  $\text{III}\alpha$ , although they have different biochemical properties (5, 8, 11). Interestingly, PI 4-kinase  $\Pi\alpha$  and  $\Pi\beta$  do not possess the lipid kinase unique domain of unknown function or the kinase domain that are commonly found in other PI 4-kinases (Fig. 2). In addition to these domains, 97 kDa PI 4-kinase  $\alpha$  of type II, PI 4-kinase  $\text{III}\alpha$ , and a yeast homologue of PI 4-kinase  $\text{III}\alpha$ , STT4, possess a pleckstrin homology (PH) domain, while the  $\beta$  isozymes and a yeast homologue of PI 4-kinase  $\text{III}\beta$ , PIK1, do not.

Thus, the identification of PI 4-kinase isozymes has rapidly progressed, whereas elucidation of the activation mechanisms of PI 4-kinases has lagged behind. Although there is indirect evidence of regulation of type II PI 4-kinase activity by serine and tyrosine residue phosphorylation (12, 13), receptor association (14, 15), and heterotrimeric G-proteins (16), PI 4-kinase  $\text{III}\beta$  seems to be activated by the small G protein ADP-ribosylation factor (ARF), which is known to regulate the structure and function of the Golgi complex and membrane traffic: PI 4-kinase  $\text{III}\beta$ ,

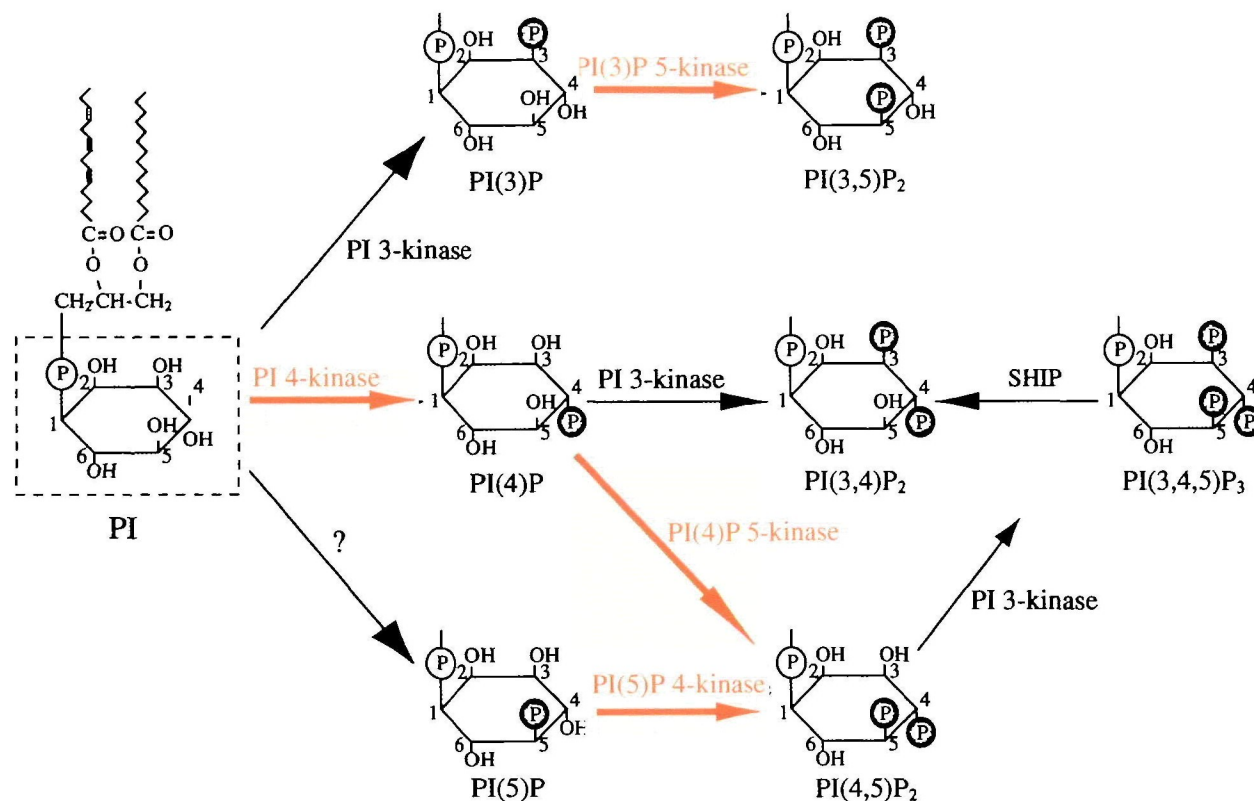


Fig 1 **Synthetic pathways for phosphoinositides with phosphoinositide kinases.** To date, seven phosphoinositides, which are indicated in blue, have been identified. The phosphoinositide kinases and reactions catalyzed by them described in this review are shown in red. PI(3,4)P<sub>2</sub> is predominantly produced from PI(3,4,5)P<sub>3</sub> through the action of SHIP, which dephosphorylates PI(3,4,5)P<sub>3</sub> at the D-5 position.

but not PI 4-kinase III $\alpha$ , is recruited to the Golgi complex by the GTP-bound, active form of ARF, and thereby the synthesis of PI(4)P is potentially stimulated (17, 18). In addition to ARF, neuronal calcium sensor-1 (NCS-1) and its yeast homologue, Frq1, have quite recently been identified as direct activators of PI 4-kinase III $\beta$  and the yeast homologue of the PI 4-kinase III $\beta$ , Pik1, respectively (19, 20). However, the relationship between ARF and NCS-1 activation of PI 4-kinase III $\beta$  and the activation mechanisms of other PI 4-kinase isozymes remain to be clarified.

**Physiological functions.** In the classically defined PI turnover pathway, the PI 4-kinase product, PI(4)P, is further phosphorylated at the D-5 position to produce phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate [PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub>] (for the details see below), which serves as a substrate for phospholipase C, which produces two well-known intracellular messengers, inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate and diacylglycerol: the former is a stimulator of intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> release and the latter an activator of certain protein kinase C isoforms (21–23). Therefore, PI 4-kinases were first recognized as the enzymes that provide the substrate for the synthesis of the biologically important phosphoinositide PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub>.

Interestingly, it has more recently been reported that PI 4-kinase III $\beta$  activity, but not PI 4-kinase III $\alpha$ , is required to create and maintain the structural integrity of the Golgi complex (17), consistent with the predominant localization of PI 4-kinase III $\alpha$  and III $\beta$  to the endoplasmic reticulum and Golgi membrane, respectively (24). This function of PI 4-kinase III $\beta$  appears to be conserved from yeast to mammals, as the *pik1* mutant of *S. cerevisiae* has a defect in the

Golgi function (25, 26). However, it is not yet clear whether the PI 4-kinase product PI(4)P itself or its subsequent metabolite, PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub>, is essential for the function described above, inasmuch as a still unidentified PI(4)P 5-kinase is coordinately recruited with PI 4-kinase III $\beta$  to the Golgi complex in an ARF-regulated manner (17). The elucidation of the precise mechanisms through which PI 4-kinase III $\beta$  regulates the structural integrity of the Golgi complex and the physiological functions of other PI 4-kinase isozymes remains a challenge for future studies.

### Phosphatidylinositol 4-phosphate 5-kinases [PI(4)P 5-kinases]

**Structures, characteristics, and regulations.** PI(4)P 5-kinases catalyze the phosphorylation of PI(4)P at the D-5 position of the inositol ring to produce the versatile phosphoinositide PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub> (Fig. 1). Three isozymes of mammalian PI(4)P 5-kinase,  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ , and  $\gamma$ , have thus far been identified (Fig. 2) (27, 28). The nomenclature for isozymes of this enzyme is very confusing, since mouse isozymes of the enzyme,  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ , and  $\gamma$ , with 539–661 amino acid residues correspond to human PI(4)P 5-kinase  $\beta$ ,  $\alpha$ , and  $\gamma$ , respectively (27, 29); therefore, we hereinafter use the nomenclature for mouse isozymes. Sequence similarity among the three members of the PI(4)P 5-kinase family is restricted to a central “kinase core” domain separated by an insert domain, N- and C-terminal regions outside this domain with unknown functions being specific to each isozyme.

In general, PI(4)P 5-kinase isozymes are all activated by phosphatidic acid (PA) *in vitro* (27, 28, 30). Recently, the



Family/Member	Type/Class	Substrate	Product	Mammalian homologue	Structure	Predicted $M_r$
<b>PI kinases</b>						
PI 3-kinase	I <sub>A</sub>	PI(4,5)P <sub>2</sub>	PI(3,4,5)P <sub>3</sub>	p110 $\alpha/\beta/\delta$		119-123 kDa
	I <sub>B</sub>	PI(4,5)P <sub>2</sub>	PI(3,4,5)P <sub>3</sub>	p110 $\gamma$		120 kDa
	II	PI/PI(4)P	PI3P/PI(3,4)P <sub>2</sub>	PI3K-C2 $\alpha/\beta/\gamma$		170-210 kDa
	III	PI	PI(3)P	VPS34		101 kDa
PI 4-kinase	II	PI	PI(4)P	97 kDa PI 4-kinase $\alpha$		97 kDa
				PI 4-kinase II $\alpha$		54 kDa
				PI 4-kinase II $\beta$		55 kDa
	III	PI	PI(4)P	PI 4-kinase III $\alpha$		231 kDa
				PI 4-kinase III $\beta$		92 kDa
<b>PIP kinases</b>						
PI(4)P 5-kinase		PI(4)P	PI(4,5)P <sub>2</sub>	PI(4)P 5-kinase $\alpha$		61 kDa
				PI(4)P 5-kinase $\beta$		60 kDa
				PI(4)P 5-kinase $\gamma$		70-72 kDa
PI(5)P 4-kinase		PI(5)P	PI(4,5)P <sub>2</sub>	PI(5)P 4-kinase $\alpha$		47 kDa
				PI(5)P 4-kinase $\beta$		47 kDa
				PI(5)P 4-kinase $\gamma$		47 kDa
PI(3)P 5-kinase		PI(3)P	PI(3,5)P <sub>2</sub>	PIKfyve		233 kDa

Fig 2 **Phosphoinositide kinases.** Phosphoinositide kinases that were cloned from mammalian cells and tissues, and their substrates, products, and structures are shown. 97 kDa PI 4-kinase  $\alpha$  is a spliced variant of PI 4-kinase III $\alpha$ .

small G-proteins, RhoA and Rac1, have been demonstrated to activate PI(4)P 5-kinase in lysates of mouse fibroblasts and permeabilized human platelets, respectively (31, 32). Furthermore, it has also been reported that the RhoA target protein, Rho-kinase (ROCK), activates PI(4)P 5-kinase  $\beta$  (33). However, the interaction of these small G-proteins with PI(4)P 5-kinase is independent of the presence of GTP or GDP (34). Thus, the molecular mechanisms underlying the PI(4)P 5-kinase activation by these small G-proteins remain to be clarified. Interestingly, we and others have demonstrated that another small G-protein, ARF, activates PI(4)P 5-kinase  $\alpha$  in the reconstituted system with the purified recombinant proteins and permeabilized HL-60 cells, respectively (35, 36). Under our reconstituted conditions, neither RhoA nor Rac1 activates the three isoforms of PI(4)P 5-kinases, suggesting that these small G-proteins indirectly activate the enzymes or alternatively are involved in the activation of a still unidentified PI(4)P 5-kinase, although the possibility of direct activation of the enzymes by ROCK cannot be totally ruled out. In addition, we found that the activation by ARF of PI(4)P 5-kinase  $\alpha$  is dependent of the presence of PA under certain conditions (35). Although the requirement of PA for the activation of PI(4)P 5-kinase  $\alpha$  is controversial (18), a recent report suggested that the phospholipase D-catalyzed PA production is, at least in part, involved in the activation mechanism for the enzymes (37). PI(4)P 5-kinases may also be negatively regulated through phosphorylation. PI(4)P 5-kinase  $\alpha$  is phosphorylated by cyclic AMP-dependent protein kinase, which results in inhibition of the enzyme activity, and dephosphorylation by protein phosphatase 1 activates the enzyme (38). It would be of interest to determine how small

G-proteins and phosphorylation/dephosphorylation coordinately regulate PI(4)P 5 kinase  $\alpha$ .

**Physiological functions.** In addition to the role of the PI(4)P 5-kinase product PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub> as a precursor of two second messengers, inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate and diacylglycerol, this phosphoinositide can be further phosphorylated by PI 3-kinase to produce phosphatidylinositol 3,4,5-trisphosphate [PI(3,4,5)P<sub>3</sub>] which plays a crucial role in cell proliferation and survival signaling pathways (39). PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub> by itself also functions in the binding to and regulation of a subset of PH domain-containing proteins, and control of reorganization of the actin cytoskeleton through its direct regulation of actin-binding proteins, such as gelsolin, profilin, and  $\alpha$ -actinin (40–42). Thus, the PI(4)P 5-kinase (and its product) seems to play a crucial role in cell signaling and cellular processes. First evidence of the involvement of PI(4)P 5-kinase in physiological cell functions was the identification of the enzyme as a priming exocytosis protein in the ATP-dependent step in Ca<sup>2+</sup>-activated secretion from PC12 cells (43). In conjunction with the regulation by PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub> of actin cytoskeletal reorganization, we recently demonstrated that the Rac1-dependent, actin-based membrane ruffle formation is attributable to an increase in the production of PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub> through the action of the activated PI(4)P 5-kinase  $\alpha$  (35). In the signaling pathway of the membrane ruffle formation, the activation of PI(4)P 5-kinase  $\alpha$  by the active form of Rac1 seems to be mediated by ARF6, inasmuch as a dominant negative ARF6 mutant inhibits the Rac1-dependent membrane ruffle formation, consistent with the observation of PI(4)P 5-kinase  $\alpha$  activation by ARF6 *in vitro* as described above (35). Furthermore, a more recent study demonstrated that

a novel functional domain found in endocytic proteins such as epsin, AP180, and Hip 1R, termed the epsin NH2-terminal homology (ENTH) domain, interacts with PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub>, the interaction of epsin with PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub> through its ENTH domain playing a crucial role in endocytosis mediated by clathrin-coated pits (44). In addition to these PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub> functions, the enzyme appears to play critical roles in the activation of phospholipase D (45–49), a guanine nucleotide exchange factor for ARF named ARNO (50, 51), and ARF GTPase-activating protein (52), through its product, PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub>. Thus, PI(4)P 5-kinases play important roles in a wide variety of cellular responses.

### Phosphatidylinositol 5-phosphate 4-kinases [PI(5)P 4-kinases]

**Structures, characteristics, and regulations.** PI(5)P 4-kinases were initially classified as type II PI(4)P 5-kinases based on their biochemical properties and sequence similarities (53), and quite recently found to catalyze the phosphorylation at the D-4 position of PI(5)P, which was also found to occur in mammalian fibroblasts (54). The earlier error in characterization of the activity of the PI(5)P 4-kinase was due to the contamination by PI(5)P of commercial preparations of PI(4)P. Thus, there are two pathways for the synthesis of PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub> in mammalian cells. So three isozymes of mammalian PI(5)P 4-kinases,  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ , and  $\gamma$ , with apparent molecular weights of 53, 47, and 47 kDa, respectively, have been identified (55–57). All isozymes of PI(5)P 4-kinases, like PI(4)P 5-kinases, possess the conserved kinase core domain and the disordered loop composed of 20–25 amino acid residues, termed the “activation loop,” in the C-terminal kinase core domain. The study with chimeric kinases containing reciprocal swaps of the activation loops of PI(5)P 4-kinase and PI(4)P 5-kinase elegantly demonstrated that the activation loops determine the substrate specificity and subcellular targeting of two closely related enzymes; while PI(4)P 5-kinase is predominantly located in the plasma membrane, PI(5)P 4-kinase is distributed in the nuclei and throughout the cytosol (58, 59).

The activity of PI(5)P 4-kinase is insensitive to PA and ARF (18, 30). It was recently reported that the activity of PI(5)P 4-kinase  $\alpha$  is regulated through tyrosine phosphorylation in rod outer segments, although it is not clear whether the enzyme itself is phosphorylated at tyrosine residue(s) or other tyrosine-phosphorylated protein(s) in rod outer segments stimulate the enzyme activity (60). PI(5)P 4-kinase  $\gamma$  also seems to be phosphorylated at serine residues in response to mitogenic stimulation; however, it is not clear whether or not serine phosphorylation of the enzyme regulates the enzymatic activity (57). Thus, the regulatory mechanisms for PI(5)P 4-kinase activity remain to be further investigated.

**Physiological functions.** Although both PI(4)P 5-kinases and PI(5)P 4-kinases synthesize the same product, PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub>, they appear to be functionally nonredundant. Unlike PI(4)P 5-kinases, PI(5)P 4-kinases do not regulate actin cytoskeleton reorganization (28). How do PI(5)P 4-kinases function differently from PI(4)P 5-kinases? The cellular distribution of the substrates for these kinases may be distinct. Alternatively, the activation loops of these two enzymes may provide a clue for answering this question. As described above, the activation loops determine the subcellular targeting of PI(4)P 5-kinase and PI(5)P 4-kinase, re-

sulting in the localization of the former to the plasma membrane, and the latter in the nuclei and throughout the cytosol, which in turn may cause different spatial regulation of PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub> synthesis. Thus, the activation loop seems to be critical as to not only the substrate specificity and subcellular targeting but also the physiological functions of PI(5)P 4-kinases, although further investigations are required to elucidate the functions of the enzymes. Although there is no evidence of distinct functions of PI(4)P 5-kinases and PI(5)P 4-kinases, PI(5)P 4-kinase  $\alpha$  has been reported to be involved in Ca<sup>2+</sup>-induced  $\alpha$ -granule secretion from platelets (61).

### Phosphatidylinositol 3-phosphate 5-kinases [PI(3)P 5-kinases]

**Structures, regulations, and functions.** PI(3)P 5-kinases, which phosphorylate PI(3)P at the D-5 position of the inositol ring, have been cloned from yeast and mouse adipocytes, and are termed Fab1p and PIKfyve (phosphoinositide kinase for five position containing a fyve finger), respectively (62, 63). PIKfyve with a predicted molecular weight of 233 kDa, as well as Fab1p, contains an N-terminal FYVE (Fab1, YOTB, Vac1, and EEA1) domain, which functions to bind to the substrate PI(3)P, and the C-terminal kinase core domain. Although no direct regulators of PI(3)P 5-kinase have yet been identified, PIKfyve activity may be regulated through autophosphorylation at the serine residues: PIKfyve possesses intrinsic protein kinase activity as well as lipid kinase activity, and its autophosphorylation decreases its lipid kinase activity (64).

In mammalian cells, PIKfyve seems to play an essential role in maintaining cell morphology and endocytic membrane homeostasis, as overexpression of the kinase-deficient mutant of PIKfyve in COS-7 and HEK293 cells causes the progressive accumulation of multiple swollen vacuoles, which originated from late endosomes/multivesicular bodies (65). Although the *fab1* mutant causes swollen vacuoles and a vacuolar acidification defect, the physiological functions of Fab1p have not yet been clearly elucidated; it is plausible for this lipid kinase to play an important role in retrograde transport from vacuoles. Since the *vac7* mutant shows a very similar phenotype to that of the *fab1* mutant, such as swollen vacuoles and a vacuolar acidification defect, a concomitant decrease in the PI(3,5)P<sub>2</sub> level, Vac7 is a putative activator of Fab1p (66). In the  $\Delta vac7$  yeast strain, the retrograde transport out of vacuoles is inhibited, which consequently yields the enlarged vacuoles (67). These observations, taken together, indicate the functional conservation in mammalian and yeast PI(3)P 5-kinases. This function of PI(3)P 5-kinases seems to be attributable to the PI(3,5)P<sub>2</sub> production through its lipid kinase activity, since microinjection of PI(3,5)P<sub>2</sub> into COS-7 cells abolishes the endomembrane swelling induced by the kinase-deficient PIKfyve mutant (68).

### Perspective

Recent advances in phosphoinositide research have changed our understanding of the physiological functions of phosphoinositides. Based on the results of *in vitro* analyses, in particular, PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub> seems to play versatile roles in signal transduction and cellular regulation through its target proteins, such as proteins with PH domains, actin-binding proteins, phospholipase D (45–49), a guanine nucleotide ex-



change factor for ARF1, ARNO (50, 51), and ARF GTPase-activating protein. These observations in *in vitro* systems, however, do not reflect the physiological functions of PI-(4,5)P<sub>2</sub> in the living cell. Furthermore, thorough exploration has revealed a novel phosphoinositide kinase, PI(5)P 4-kinase, demonstrating that there are two pathways for the synthesis of PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub>. In addition, several isozymes of each phosphoinositide kinase have been identified. These discoveries clearly suggest that the physiological functions of phosphoinositide kinases and their products, notably PI-(4,5)P<sub>2</sub>, are more complex than previously thought. One of the approaches for clarifying the physiological functions of individual isozymes of phosphoinositide kinases may be temporal and spatial analyses of the enzymes themselves, their substrates and products in living cells. Closely related to this approach, the development of specific probes for detecting each substrate and product is required. Alternatively, analysis of mice lacking the gene of each phosphoinositide kinase may be useful.

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