

Z4-2657 Načrtovanje fosforilacijske signalne poti v sesalskih celicah Phosphorylation signaling pathway design in mammalian cells

Vodja projekta:

dr. Tina Fink

1. VSEBINSKI OPIS PROJEKTA:

Odziv na zunanje in notranje signale je bistvena lastnost vseh celic, saj celicam omogoča ustrezen odziv na pogoje v okolju in / ali znotrajcelične signale. Eden izmed pomembnih ciljev sintezne biologije je vnos novih signalnih poti, kot je primer inovativne imunoterapije s celicami CAR T za zdravljenje raka. Večina doslej zasnovanih celičnih vezij temelji na regulaciji transkripcije, kar so omogočili številni dejavniki prepisovanja genov. Glavna pomanjkljivost regulacije transkripcije je, da je to počasen proces. Signalne poti, ki celicam omogočajo hiter odziv pa temeljijo na proteinskih interakcijah ali modifikacijah. Pred kratkim smo predstavili prvi primer de novo zasnovane hitre signalne poti, ki temelji na proteinskih interakcijah z obvitimi vijačnicami ter modifikacijah proteinov s proteolizo (Fink in sod., Nat.Chem.Biol., 2019). V naravi pa hiter prenos signalov temelji predvsem na fosforilacijskih / defosforilacijskih kaskadah, vendar pa de novo načrtovana fosforilacijska kaskada ostaja nerešen izziv sinteze biologije. V projektu predlagamo oblikovanje sintetične fosforilacijske kaskade v sesalskih celicah, katera bo imela dve pglavitni prednosti, in sicer (i) hiter odziv na signale iz okolja ter (ii) reverzibilnost. Osnovna ideja predlaganega projekta je uravnavanje aktivnosti tarčnega proteina s fosforilacijo. To bomo dosegli z uvedbo substratnega peptida ter domene za vezavo fosfopeptida v tarčni protein. Z opisano manipulacijo bomo dosegli, da je tarčni protein v osnovnem stanju neaktiven, fosforilacija le-tega z izbrano kinazo pa mu aktivnost povrne. Slednje so potrdili tudi naši preliminarni rezultati. Sistem je zasnovan modularno, to pomeni, da je razširljiv in omogoča načrtovanje logičnih funkcij, fosforilacijskih kaskad ter pozitivnih in negativnih povratnih zank. Slednje bomo uporabili za oblikovanje sintetične, za imunoterapijo relevantne, fosforilacijske kaskade.

Response to external and internal signals is an essential feature of all cells, enabling fast and appropriate response to the environmental conditions and/or intracellular signals. We aim to endow cells with new processing and sensing logic that is required for innovative therapies, such as e.g. in CAR T- cell cancer immunotherapy for biotechnological production or sensing. So far, designed cell circuits were based on transcriptional regulation, based on the modular DNA recognition and transcriptional effector domains. Transcriptional regulation is however inherently slower than pathways based on protein interaction and modification. Recently we presented a fast designed signaling pathway, based on proteolysis and coiled-coil interactions (Fink et al., Nat.Chem.Biol. 2019). Fast signal processing in cells is mainly performed by phosphorylation cascades catalyzed by protein kinases and phosphatases, which remains a challenge. Here we propose to design a novel phospho-regulated signaling pathway in mammalian cells which will combine two major advantages: (i) fast signal processing and (ii) reversibility. The underlying idea of the proposed project is to regulate the activity of the target proteins by introducing the phospho-peptide binding domain and the specific kinase substrate peptide into the target protein in such a way that the targeted protein is inactivated and regains its activity in the presence of the selected kinase, which has been confirmed by our preliminary results. Modular design of the proposed system will allow the construction of phosphorylation cascades, logic functions and positive/negative feedback loops, which will be used to design synthetic immunotherapy-relevant phosphorylation signaling cascade in mammalian cells.

a. osnovni podatki glede financiranja:

Projekt sofinancira ARRS s 1700 letnimi urami cenovnega razreda B za obdobje 2 let. Pričetek financiranja je 1. 9. 2020.

b. sestava projektne skupine s povezavami na SICRIS

Na Kemijskem inštitutu v projektni skupini sodelujejo:

35277 **dr. Tina Fink** <http://www.sicris.si/search/rsr.aspx?lang=slv&id=40263>

2. faze projekta in njihova realizacija

Projekt bo potekal 2 leti in bo zajemal 4 faze:

1. Izbira primernih kinaz in njihovih pripadajočih fosfopeptidnih vezavnih domen in peptidnih substato
2. Preizkušanje različnih modularnih arhitektur efektorskih proteinov
3. Implementacija logičnih vrat na osnovi fosforilacije v sesalskih celicah
4. Razvoj sintetičnih signalnih kaskad na osnovi fosforilacije v sesalskih celicah, ki bi bile pomembne za imunoterapijo

Aims of the proposal:

1. Selection of appropriate kinases and their corresponding phospho-peptide binding domains and substrate peptides
2. Testing different modular architectures of the effector protein
3. Implementation of phosphorylation-based logic gates in mammalian cells
4. Development of an immunotherapy-relevant synthetic phosphorylation-based signaling cascade in mammalian cells

3. bibliografske reference, ki izhajajo neposredno iz izvajanja projekta

FINK, Tina, JERALA, Roman. Designed protease-based signaling networks. Current opinion in chemical biology. Apr. 2022, 68, 1-8, ISSN 1367-5931.

<https://dirros.openscience.si/IzpisGradiva.php?id=15108>, DOI: [10.1016/j.cbpa.2022.102146](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cbpa.2022.102146).

[COBISS.SI-ID [108341507](https://www.cobiss.si/urn:nbn:si:coibis:108341507)]

PRAZNIK, Arne, **FINK, Tina**, FRANKO, Nik, LONZARIĆ, Jan, BENČINA, Mojca, JERALA, Nina, PLAPER, Tjaša, ROŠKAR, Samo, JERALA, Roman. Regulation of protein secretion through chemical regulation of endoplasmic reticulum retention signal cleavage. Nature communications. 14 Mar. 2022, vol. 13, str. 1-14, ISSN 2041-1723, DOI: [10.1038/s41467-022-28971-9](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-022-28971-9). [COBISS.SI-ID [101106947](https://www.cobiss.si/urn:nbn:si:coibis:101106947)]

4. logotip ARRS in drugih sofinancerjev



ARRS

JAVNA AGENCIJA ZA RAZISKOVALNO DEJAVNOST
REPUBLIKE SLOVENIJE