

# Ligand internalization by cloned neuropeptide Y Y<sub>5</sub> receptors excludes Y<sub>2</sub> and Y<sub>4</sub> receptor-selective peptides

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## Abstract

In human embryonic kidney-293 (HEK-293) cells, the cloned human neuropeptide Y Y<sub>5</sub> receptor saturably internalized agonists, with the rank order of neuropeptide Y-(19-23)-[Gly<sup>1</sup>,Ser<sup>3</sup>,Gln<sup>4</sup>,Thr<sup>6</sup>,Ala<sup>31</sup>,Aib<sup>32</sup>,Gln<sup>34</sup>]human pancreatic polypeptide (neuropeptide Y-Aib-pancreatic polypeptide)>human neuropeptide Y>porcine peptide YY>[Pro<sup>34</sup>]human peptide YY>[Leu<sup>31</sup>,Pro<sup>34</sup>]human peptide YY>human peptide YY-(3-36). Human pancreatic polypeptide competed [<sup>125</sup>I]neuropeptide Y binding and internalization in neuropeptide Y Y<sub>5</sub> receptor-expressing cells, but itself showed no internalization. The internalization was strongly dependent on temperature. The surface binding, and especially the internalization, of human neuropeptide Y were highly sensitive to the clathrin network inhibitor phenylarsine oxide, and to the cholesterol-complexing antibiotic filipin III. The internalized ligands were present in particles corresponding to secondary endosomes in Percoll gradients, but especially in particles banding with the acid hexosaminidase lysosomal marker. At any temperature tested, internalization of the neuropeptide Y Y<sub>5</sub> receptor driven by human neuropeptide Y in HEK-293 cells was much slower than the internalization of the neuropeptide Y Y<sub>1</sub> receptor reported in the same cells, or in Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells. The neuropeptide Y Y<sub>5</sub> receptor subtype could be the metabotropic receptor responding to protracted challenges by neuropeptide Y-like peptides, and its density could be little sensitive to concentration of extracellular agonists.

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## 1. Introduction

Two neuropeptide Y receptors most frequently identified as stimulators of feeding, the Y<sub>1</sub> and Y<sub>5</sub> subtypes (Kalra et al., 1999), share significant similarities of primary structure (Wraith et al., 2000), which may lead to a similar pattern of metabolic processing, including sequestration and internalization. The long third intracellular segment of the Y<sub>5</sub> receptor possesses large oligobasic sequences, similar to some ion channel-associated rhodopsin-like receptors, e.g. the muscarinic acetylcholine m<sub>1</sub> receptor (Allard et al., 1987), which is characterized by a high rate of agonist-induced internalization, and even of down-regulation linked to repeated processing (e.g. Vogler et al., 1999). The Y<sub>1</sub>

receptor strongly internalizes the bound agonist peptides in several cell types, including native expression of the human receptor in neuroblastoma SK-N-MC cells (Fabry et al., 2000), clonal expression of the guinea-pig receptor in Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells (Parker et al., 2001c; Parker et al., 2002d), and clonal expression of the human receptor in human embryonic kidney-293 (HEK-293) cells (Gicquiaux et al., 2002).

While the muscarinic m<sub>1</sub> receptor possesses significant oligoacidic sequences in intracellular segments that could promote internalization by interaction with dynamin-like motors by analogy with SH3 sequences (Okamoto et al., 1997), or with phosphorylation promoters (Vogler et al., 1999), this is not encountered with the Y<sub>5</sub> receptor. Interaction with motor proteins and endocytotic sorting could be assisted by oligoaliphatic tracts in the first and second intracellular loops of the Y<sub>1</sub> receptor, by analogy with the EGF receptor (Kil et al., 1999). Such motifs are less

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prominent in intracellular segments of the  $Y_5$  receptor. Also, the  $Y_5$  binding site might use centrally placed short epitopes as well as the C-terminal segments of agonist peptides (see e.g. Keire et al., 2001). This can reduce or even prevent secondary associations that apparently follow the primary interaction of neuropeptide Y via N- and C-termini with the  $Y_1$  site, and can support the inward vectorial drive that helps the massive internalization of the  $Y_1$  receptor–ligand complex (Gicquiaux et al., 2002; Parker et al., 2002d). It should also be noted that the cytoplasmic ‘tail’ of the  $Y_5$  receptors is short (about 18 residues in all reported  $Y_5$  sequences, as opposed to 60 or 61 in the published  $Y_1$  receptor sequences), which, by analogy with e.g. the gonadotropin releasing hormone receptor (Hislop et al., 2001), may serve to limit the internalization rate of the  $Y_5$  receptor. In view of the above, one can expect a lower rate of internalization for the neuropeptide Y  $Y_5$  receptor compared to the neuropeptide Y  $Y_1$  receptor, and even to the pancreatic polypeptide  $Y_4$  receptor. This study indeed finds a low rate of internalization for the cloned neuropeptide Y human  $Y_5$  receptor expressed in HEK-293 cells.

## 2. Experimental procedures

### 2.1. Chemicals

The non-peptide  $Y_5$  competitor Hu 296 (*N*4-phenyl-*N*2-(4-piperidin-1-yl-phenyl)quinazoline-2,4-diamine trihydrochloride) was synthesized according to Rueger et al. (1997). Hybrid  $Y_5$ -receptor selective Y peptide, neuropeptide Y-(19-23)-[Gly<sup>1</sup>,Ser<sup>3</sup>,Gln<sup>4</sup>,Thr<sup>6</sup>,Ala<sup>31</sup>,Aib<sup>32</sup>,Gln<sup>34</sup>] human pancreatic polypeptide (Cabrele et al., 2000) and  $Y_1$  receptor-selective non-peptide antagonist BIBP-3226 (diphenylacetyl-D-Arg-4-hydroxybenzylamide) were purchased from Bachem (Los Angeles, CA). The Y peptides human neuropeptide Y, porcine peptide YY, [Leu<sup>31</sup>,Pro<sup>34</sup>] human peptide YY, [Leu<sup>31</sup>,Pro<sup>34</sup>] human neuropeptide Y, [Pro<sup>34</sup>] human peptide YY and human pancreatic polypeptide were obtained from the American Peptide (San Diego, CA), and [D-Trp<sup>34</sup>] human neuropeptide Y was synthesized as described by Parker et al. (2000). Filipin III and phenylarsine oxide were purchased from Sigma (St. Louis, MO). Cholesteryl hemisuccinate was obtained from Calbiochem (La Jolla, CA). Filipin III and phenylarsine oxide were dissolved in dimethylsulfoxide and stored aliquoted at  $-80^\circ\text{C}$ . ‘Filipin complex’ (Sigma; a mixture of three isomers of filipin) was only about 25% as active as filipin III, and hence was not used. Cholesteryl hemisuccinate was prepared as a water emulsion and also stored at  $-80^\circ\text{C}$ .

### 2.2. Labeled peptides

All iodinations of Y peptides were performed as described (Parker et al., 1998b). Radiolabeled and sepa-

rated by our procedure, the radioactive Y peptides were 85–90% monoiodinated and had specific activities in the range of 1800–1950 Ci/mmol (70–80% theoretical), as deduced by comparison in saturation assays with high performance liquid chromatography-purified monoiodinated [<sup>125</sup>I]-labeled Y peptides human neuropeptide Y, [Leu<sup>31</sup>,Pro<sup>34</sup>]human peptide YY and human peptide YY(3-36), supplied by PerkinElmer, Cambridge, MA (specific activity 2170 Ci/mmol). Human transferrin (Sigma) was iodinated by the same protocol as the  $Y_5$  peptides.

### 2.3. Cell cultures and labeling

All cell types were cultured in F12/D-MEM medium (Gibco, Long Island, NY, USA) at 250  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  of geneticin and 2 mM GlutaMax1 (Gibco). The cloned human  $Y_5$  receptor was expressed in the human embryonic kidney-293 cells (human  $Y_5$ -HEK-293; Dumont et al., 2000) and also in human endometrial carcinoma cells (human  $Y_5$ -Hec-1B; Moser et al., 2000). Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells were used to express the neuropeptide Y guinea-pig  $Y_1$  receptor (guinea-pig  $Y_1$ -CHO; Berglund et al., 1999), the neuropeptide Y guinea-pig  $Y_2$  receptor (guinea-pig  $Y_2$ -CHO; Sharma et al., 1998) and the pancreatic polypeptide rat  $Y_4$  receptor (rat  $Y_4$ -CHO; Lundell et al., 1996). All cell lines used in this study had stable particulate receptor density, at the level of 6–12 fmol/100,000 cells, over up to 40 transfers in F12/Dulbecco’s modified Eagle medium with 250  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  of geneticin (Gibco). At full confluence, the cell count was 200,000–235,000/ $\text{cm}^2$ . Most kinetic and inhibition studies were done with 48-well (0.8  $\text{cm}^2/\text{well}$ ) plates, while the cells for gradient characterization experiments were cultured in six-well (9.4  $\text{cm}^2/\text{well}$ ) plates, or in individual 35-mm Petri dishes of similar surface area (supplied by Corning/Costar, Ithaca, NY, USA). The labeling with [<sup>125</sup>I]Y peptides was done at 50 pM, using 1  $\mu\text{M}$  non-labeled peptides for non-saturating (or non-specific) binding correction. The non-saturable binding was defined as the difference between the binding of 50 pM [<sup>125</sup>I]-labeled peptide without and with 1  $\mu\text{M}$  unlabeled peptide.

### 2.4. Receptor characterization

Particulate receptors were assayed as described (Parker et al., 2001a). Briefly, the assay buffer contained 8% sucrose, 0.2% proteinase-free bovine serum albumin, 0.025% bacitracin, 1 mM diisopropylfluorophosphate (Sigma), 4 mM  $\text{CaCl}_2$ , 2 mM  $\text{MgCl}_2$ , 20 mM HEPES. NaOH (pH 7.4) and 50  $\mu\text{M}$  ATP, the particle concentration was 100–125  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ , the assay volume was 0.2 ml, and the incubation time was 90 min at 23–24  $^\circ\text{C}$ , with or without competitors or inhibitors. The assay was terminated by centrifugation for 15 min at  $16,000 \times g_{\text{max}}$  at 4  $^\circ\text{C}$ , the supernatants were discarded, and the pellets surface-

washed by cold assay buffer prior to counting in a  $\gamma$ -scintillation counter. The binding properties of the cell-surface receptors were characterized on monolayer cultures in Opti-Mem<sup>®</sup> medium (Gibco). Iodinated Y peptides were input at 50 pM, and competed by up to nine concentrations of homologous or isologous peptides in the range of  $3 \times 10^{-11}$ – $1 \times 10^{-6}$  M. Polyethyleneglycol precipitation of particulates was done as described (Parker et al., 1998b), in some cases after solubilizing the particulates with 10 mM sodium cholate at 0–4 °C over 10 min. Binding parameter calculations were done in the LIGAND program (Munson and Rodbard, 1980), assuming a single specific component. Projections of the maximum specific binding of labeled peptides in the absence of unlabeled competitor were derived in the LIGAND program by hyperbolic fitting to the Michaelis–Menten equation (see Parker and Waud, 1971).

### 2.5. Percoll gradient centrifugation experiments

In experiments employing Percoll gradients to separate the endosomal and lysosomal particulates, the cells were incubated for indicated periods at 37 °C with appropriate drugs and radioactive Y peptides, then washed three times in ice with cold incubation medium, and once with cold 0.25 M sucrose–10 mM HEPES NaOH (pH 7.4). The cells were then scraped into the cold sucrose solution (2 ml per well of 9.4 cm<sup>2</sup>), and the suspensions homogenized by nitrogen cavitation, and subjected to Percoll gradient fractionation as recently described (Parker et al., 2002a). Acid hexosaminidase assay was also performed as described in Parker et al. (2002a).

## 3. Results

### 3.1. Saturating and non-saturating human neuropeptide Y Y<sub>5</sub> receptor binding in HEK-293 cells compared to neuropeptide Y guinea pig Y<sub>1</sub> receptor binding in CHO cells

The agonist-competed surface binding (i.e. the peptide radioactivity extracted at pH 2.6 and 0–4 °C by 0.2 M CH<sub>3</sub>COOH–0.5 M NaCl) of 50 pM [<sup>125</sup>I]human neuropeptide Y or [<sup>125</sup>I]neuropeptide Y-Aib-pancreatic polypeptide to human Y<sub>5</sub> receptor expressed in HEK-293 cells appeared to be more than 50% saturated within 90 min at 24 °C or 60 min at 37 °C (Table 1 and Fig. 1). Longer intervals of incubation especially at 37 °C resulted in significant degradation of the labeling peptides (>20% as detected by Bio-Gel P-4 chromatography Parker et al., 1998a), thus precluding longer kinetic comparisons. The cell-surface binding of human neuropeptide Y to Y<sub>5</sub> receptor-expressing cells was low even after 2 h at 15 °C, or over 8 h at 4 °C (in the absence of a significant loss of the [<sup>125</sup>I]-labeled agonist peptide). Similar profiles were obtained with Hec-1B cells. The surface binding to guinea pig Y<sub>1</sub>-CHO cells (used since the human

Y<sub>1</sub>-HEK-293 cells, which are similar in most of the binding parameters to this Y<sub>1</sub> receptor expression in CHO cells (compare Gicquiaux et al., 2002; Parker et al., 2002d) were not available for this study) reached >60% saturation within 4 h even at 4 °C, highlighting the large ligand-binding affinity and the relative constancy of cell-surface neuropeptide Y Y<sub>1</sub> receptor complement (Table 1). It is of interest to note that even at 37 °C the detected numbers of saturable surface Y<sub>5</sub> sites were less than 50% of the measured Y<sub>1</sub> sites (while the  $B_{\max}$  values in competition assays using particulates were similar; legend of Table 1), which obviously relates to the difference in receptor affinity. No activation of the surface or internal (acid saline-resistant) Y<sub>5</sub> receptor binding could be achieved by pretreatment of the cells with digitonin, or by agents previously shown to activate the Y<sub>2</sub> (and to some extent also the Y<sub>1</sub> and the Y<sub>4</sub>) receptors of CHO cells or rat brain cells (Parker et al., 2002c).

As expected, the cold acid saline-resistant specific or saturable human neuropeptide Y intake at 24 °C was much slower than at 37 °C (Table 1). The saturably internalized Y<sub>5</sub> tracer was quite low at 15 °C, and essentially absent at 4 °C (Table 1). At 15–37 °C, HEK-293 cell internalization of the Y<sub>5</sub> tracer was at least 10 times lower than the corresponding specific Y<sub>1</sub>-CHO cell intake of [<sup>125</sup>I]human neuropeptide Y (Fig. 1 and Table 1), and did not saturate in 90 min at 37 °C (Fig. 1A). This is in a large contrast to

Table 1

Compared specific and non-specific binding of [<sup>125</sup>I]human neuropeptide Y to human Y<sub>5</sub>-HEK-293 and Y<sub>1</sub>-CHO cells at various temperatures

Cells and conditions	Surface non-saturable	Surface specific	Internal non-saturable	Internal specific
4 °C, 240 min				
Y <sub>5</sub> HEK-293	0.438 ± 0.027	0.327 ± 0.029	0.322 ± 0.086	0.025 ± 0.06
Y <sub>1</sub> CHO	0.477 ± 0.03	1.99 ± 0.07	0.362 ± 0.06	0.188 ± 0.03
15 °C, 180 min				
Y <sub>5</sub> HEK-293	0.420 ± 0.034	0.462 ± 0.021	0.395 ± 0.012	0.128 ± 0.011
Y <sub>1</sub> CHO	0.695 ± 0.012	2.07 ± 0.016	0.229 ± 0.01	6.24 ± 0.02
24 °C, 90 min				
Y <sub>5</sub> HEK-293	0.481 ± 0.09	1.12 ± 0.096	0.443 ± 0.09	0.247 ± 0.011
Y <sub>1</sub> CHO	0.639 ± 0.12	2.09 ± 0.09	0.43 ± 0.11	8.74 ± 0.16
37 °C, 60 min				
Y <sub>5</sub> HEK-293	0.601 ± 0.05	1.24 ± 0.048	0.277 ± 0.05	0.481 ± 0.021
Y <sub>1</sub> CHO	0.679 ± 0.09	2.44 ± 0.15	0.415 ± 0.032	5.22 ± 0.33

The data represent fmol [<sup>125</sup>I]human neuropeptide Y (input at 50 pM) bound per 100,000 cells ± 1 S.E.M. ( $n=6$ ). The non-saturable binding was defined at 1  $\mu$ M human neuropeptide Y, and subtracted from the binding at 50 pM in the absence of non-labeled peptide to obtain the specific binding shown. With particulate receptors, the  $K_d$  (nM) and  $B_{\max}$  (fmol/mg particle protein) values were  $0.157 \pm 0.011$  and  $118 \pm 22$  for CHO-Y<sub>1</sub> cells, and  $1.29 \pm 0.26$  and  $132 \pm 26$  for human Y<sub>5</sub>-HEK-293 cells ( $n=3$  for both lines). Under saturating conditions, 1 fmol/100,000 cells corresponds to about 6000 receptors per cell, or a binding of 7–7.5 fmol/mg total cell protein. The rates of Y<sub>1</sub> receptor internalization in CHO and HEK-293 cells are essentially similar (compare Parker et al., 2002d; Gicquiaux et al., 2002).

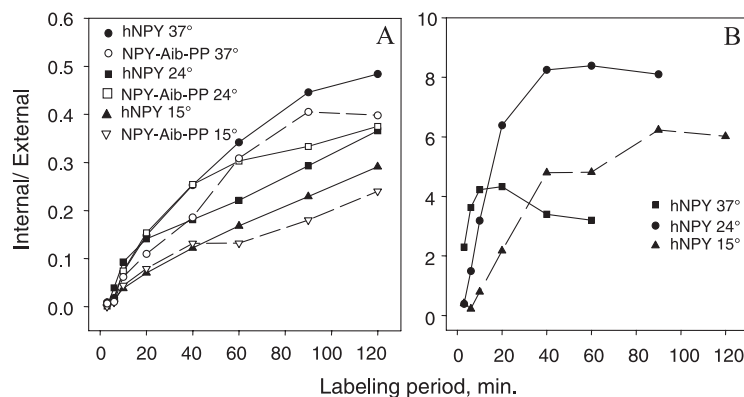


Fig. 1. Kinetics of receptor-linked internalization of  $Y_5$  and  $Y_1$  receptor ligands. The change in ratio of internalized to surface bound (external) ligand (cold acid saline-extracted and residual, respectively) was followed in human  $Y_5$ -HEK-293 cells and guinea-pig  $Y_1$ -CHO cells at 15, 24 and 37 °C. (A) Ratios of internal and external binding of [ $^{125}$ I]human neuropeptide Y ('hNPY') and [ $^{125}$ I]neuropeptide Y-Aib-pancreatic polypeptide ('NPY-Aib-PP') in human  $Y_5$ -HEK-293 cells. Profiles obtained with the above ligands in human  $Y_5$ -Hec-1B cells were quite similar. The estimates for human  $Y_5$ -HEK-293 half-periods of saturation (min) are presented below.

	15 °C hNPY	15 °C Aib	24 °C hNPY	24 °C Aib	37 °C hNPY	37 °C Aib
External	$58 \pm 4.6$	$42 \pm 8.5$	$18 \pm 4.5$	$10.6 \pm 0.9$	$9.1 \pm 0.9$	$7.6 \pm 0.6$
Internal	$37 \pm 5.5$	$45 \pm 5.9$	$63 \pm 18$	$39 \pm 1.3$	$36 \pm 3.9$	$26 \pm 1.6$

(B) Ratios of internal to external binding of [ $^{125}$ I]human neuropeptide Y ('hNPY') in guinea pig  $Y_1$ -CHO cells. The estimated half-periods of saturation (in min) are presented below. The large periods of half-saturation for internal human neuropeptide Y at 15 and 24 °C reflect intracellular accumulation of undegraded neuropeptide Y.

	15 °C	24 °C	37 °C
External	$3.4 \pm 0.8$	$3.4 \pm 1.0$	$11.7 \pm 1.8$
Internal	$48 \pm 14$	$28 \pm 12$	$8.9 \pm 3.4$

guinea pig  $Y_1$ -CHO cell internalization of [ $^{125}$ I]human neuropeptide Y, which saturated even at 15 °C (Fig. 1B). Since the density of particulate receptors was quite similar in the cell lines compared (legend of Table 1), this difference obviously reflected a much lower rate of receptor-linked human neuropeptide Y internalization in  $Y_5$  cells, probably connected to an about eight-fold lower binding affinity (legend of Table 1). The internalization of [ $^{125}$ I]human transferrin via its natively expressed receptor proceeded at quite similar rates in the HEK-293 and CHO lines used (with the respective half-periods of  $5.8 \pm 0.86$  and  $4.34 \pm 0.65$  min ( $n = 3$  for each)).

The non-saturable acid saline-resistant binding of [ $^{125}$ I]human neuropeptide Y to either  $Y_5$  or  $Y_1$  cells did not differ much over the temperature range studied. No significant accumulation of intracellular neuropeptide Y was found in human  $Y_5$ -expressing cells at any temperature, as opposed to very significant accumulation of internalized peptide in  $Y_1$ -CHO cells at 15 or 24 °C (Fig. 1B and Table 1). In  $Y_1$  receptor expressing cells, at least 30% of internalized human neuropeptide Y was physically associated with internal  $Y_1$  receptors at any time point.

After 20 min of labeling at 37 °C, about 30% of the HEK-293  $Y_5$  ligand that was associated with an endosomal fraction in Percoll gradients (density 1.05–1.06; see Fig. 4)

was precipitated by polyethyleneglycol following membrane solubilization at 10 mM cholate (at 0–4 °C), indicating presence of receptor-bound ligand in these particulates. After 20 min of labeling at 37 °C, close to 70% of neuropeptide Y associated with plasma membrane fraction (density  $\sim 1.015$ ) was precipitated with polyethylene glycol following this solubilization (see Table 3).

### 3.2. Compared internalization of various [ $^{125}$ I]-labeled peptidic ligands of the neuropeptide Y $Y_5$ receptor

The neuropeptide Y  $Y_5$  receptor is known to accept neuropeptide Y receptor ligands that non-selectively attach to various subtypes of the neuropeptide Y receptor, including neuropeptide Y and peptide YY, as well as the peptidic ligands which prefer  $Y_1$ ,  $Y_2$  and  $Y_4$  receptors. It was therefore of interest to compare the extent of internalization of such Y receptor ligands in HEK-293 cells expressing the  $Y_5$  receptor (Fig. 2). The interval of labeling at 37 °C was set to 60 min for all ligands (to avoid artifacts due to peptide degradation, which with the above length of incubation was less than 20% for any peptide tested). The internalized fraction of  $Y_5$  receptor-selective agonist neuropeptide Y-Aib-pancreatic polypeptide and human neuropeptide Y was similar (35% and 39%, respectively; Table 2).



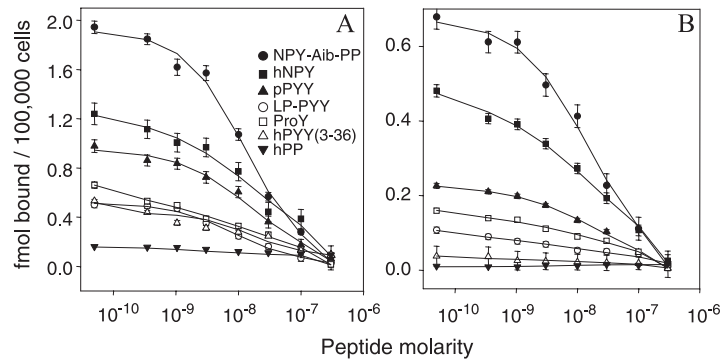


Fig. 2. Compared surface binding and internalization of seven [ $^{125}$ I]-labeled Y receptor agonists in human Y<sub>5</sub>-HEK-293 cells over 60 min at 37 °C. Data are averages of four independent experiments. The [ $^{125}$ I]-labeled peptides were input at 50 pM, and the nonspecific binding correction was taken at 1  $\mu$ M of the respective non-labeled peptides. The  $K_i$  and  $B_{max}$  values for the above competitions are presented in Table 2. See Moser et al. (2000) for  $K_i$  values with particulate receptors in competition of [ $^3$ H]human neuropeptide Y binding, and Table 2 and Parker et al. (2001a) for  $K_i$  values in competition of [ $^{125}$ I][Leu<sup>31</sup>,Pro<sup>34</sup>]binding. Abbreviations in the graph: NPY-Aib-PP, hNPY: see the caption of Fig. 1; pPYY, porcine peptide YY; LP-PYY, [Leu<sup>31</sup>,Pro<sup>34</sup>]human peptide YY; ProY, [Pro<sup>34</sup>]human peptide YY; hPYY(3-36), human peptide YY-(3-36); hPP, human pancreatic polypeptide.

The internalized fraction for peptide YY-related 36 peptides was similar (21–24%), and significantly lower than for neuropeptide Y-aminoisobutyrate-pancreatic polypeptide or human neuropeptide Y (Table 2). Among full-length peptide YY-related peptides, there was a clear labeling preference for porcine peptide YY over [Leu<sup>31</sup>,Pro<sup>34</sup>]human peptide YY (which also internalized much less than porcine peptide YY, and even significantly less than [Pro<sup>34</sup>]human peptide YY).

The Y<sub>2</sub>-selective agonist human peptide YY-(3-36), which also acts as a Y<sub>5</sub> competitor (e.g. Parker et al., 2001b), displayed a strong surface binding of relatively high affinity (Table 2 and Fig. 2A), but internalized poorly, at less than 20% of the rate for [Leu<sup>31</sup>,Pro<sup>34</sup>]human peptide YY, the most slowly internalized of the full-length peptide YY-like peptide that were tested (Fig. 2B). In a control experiment, the surface binding and internalization of 50

pM [ $^{125}$ I]human peptide YY-(3-36) with guinea-pig Y<sub>2</sub>-CHO cells saturated in 40 min/37 °C at about 4.5 and 1.1 fmol/100,000 cells, respectively.

The Y<sub>4</sub> receptor agonist [ $^{125}$ I]human pancreatic polypeptide showed a low surface binding and essentially no internalization (Fig. 2 and Table 2), and this was confirmed with human Y<sub>5</sub>-Hec-1B cells (data not shown). In a control experiment, surface binding and internalization of 50 pM [ $^{125}$ I]human pancreatic polypeptide with rat Y<sub>4</sub>-CHO cells saturated in 60 min/37 °C at, respectively, 7.5 and 4.6 fmol peptide specifically bound/100,000 cells. At 37 °C and 50 pM of input, the non-saturable binding of [ $^{125}$ I]human pancreatic polypeptide in human Y<sub>5</sub>-HEK-293 cells was (in fmol/100,000 cells)  $0.058 \pm 0.002$  (cell-surface) and  $0.0032 \pm 0.0035$  (internal), i.e. about an order of magnitude lower than found with an equimolar input of [ $^{125}$ I]human neuropeptide Y (see Table 1).

Table 2

Surface binding and internalization of peptides competing the Y<sub>5</sub> receptor of intact HEK-293 cells compared with particulate binding of the same peptides

[ $^{125}$ I] peptide	IC <sub>50</sub> , nM surface	fmol bound/10 <sup>5</sup> cells surface	IC <sub>50</sub> , nM internal	fmol bound/10 <sup>5</sup> cells internal	% Internalized at 60 min	$K_i$ , nM particulate receptor	$B_{max}$ , fmol particulate receptor
Neuropeptide Y-Aib-pancreatic polypeptide	$1.28 \pm 0.16$	$1.94 \pm 0.05$	$1.57 \pm 0.34$	$0.679 \pm 0.033$	$35.0 \pm 1.28$	$0.781 \pm 0.14$	$146 \pm 39$
Human neuropeptide Y	$2.19 \pm 0.6$	$1.24 \pm 0.09$	$2.06 \pm 0.31$	$0.481 \pm 0.017$	$38.8 \pm 1.83$	$1.29 \pm 0.26$	$132 \pm 26$
Porcine peptide YY	$1.63 \pm 0.41$	$0.979 \pm 0.05$	$2.37 \pm 0.42$	$0.226 \pm 0.007$	$23.0 \pm 1.07$	$1.10 \pm 0.08$	$116 \pm 15$
[Pro <sup>34</sup> ]human peptide YY	$2.23 \pm 0.72$	$0.661 \pm 0.026$	$7.06 \pm 1.9$	$0.160 \pm 0.025$	$24.2 \pm 1.36$	$1.18 \pm 0.11$	$202 \pm 36$
[Leu <sup>31</sup> ,Pro <sup>34</sup> ]human peptide YY	$0.887 \pm 0.16$	$0.501 \pm 0.024$	$1.25 \pm 0.36$	$0.107 \pm 0.009$	$21.4 \pm 5.7$	$0.521 \pm 0.08$	$111 \pm 26$
Human peptide YY-(3-36)	$7.9 \pm 2.1$	$0.533 \pm 0.1301$	$14,000 \pm 3610$	$0.0374 \pm 0.027$	$7.1 \pm 1.4$	$2.94 \pm 0.16$	$76 \pm 22$
Human pancreatic polypeptide	$9.1 \pm 0.71$	$0.065 \pm 0.017$		$<0.01$			

All labeled peptides were input at 50 pM. The corresponding unlabeled peptides were input at seven concentrations in the range of  $3 \times 10^{-11}$ – $3 \times 10^{-7}$  M. The binding profiles are shown in Fig. 2. The  $K_i$  values were derived by logistic or exponential curve fitting from data corrected for the binding at 1  $\mu$ M of human neuropeptide Y. The data for fmol bound/100,000 cells are the estimates of the maximum specific binding of the unlabeled peptide in the absence of unlabeled competitor, derived by hyperbolic fitting (Parker and Waud, 1971). The data for particulate Y<sub>5</sub> binding were derived from competition of 50 pM of the indicated [ $^{125}$ I]-labeled peptide by 8–10 different concentrations of the corresponding unlabeled peptide in the range of 0.03–100 nM (see Section 2). Both the binding to intact cells and particulate binding of [ $^{125}$ I]neuropeptide Y-Aib-human pancreatic polypeptide and [ $^{125}$ I]human neuropeptide Y were inhibited by non-peptidic Y<sub>5</sub> receptor competitor Hu 296 with a  $K_i$  of about 60 nM.

### 3.3. Compared activity of non-selective and $Y_5$ receptor-selective agonists in $Y_5$ receptor-linked internalization of [ $^{125}$ I]human neuropeptide Y

In view of the results presented above, it was of interest to examine the competition of the binding and internalization of the natural ligand of the human  $Y_5$  receptor, [ $^{125}$ I]human neuropeptide Y, by the mixed  $Y_2/Y_5$  receptor ligand, human peptide YY(3-36), and the mixed  $Y_4/Y_5$  receptor ligand, human pancreatic polypeptide, as well as by high- and medium-affinity  $Y_5$  receptor-selective agonists neuropeptide Y-Aib-pancreatic polypeptide (Cabrele et al., 2000) and [ $D$ -Trp $^{34}$ ]human neuropeptide Y (Parker et al., 2000).

The high-affinity agonist neuropeptide Y-Aib-pancreatic polypeptide competed [ $^{125}$ I]human neuropeptide Y with a larger efficacy, especially at higher molarities, resulting in about 40% lower  $IC_{50}$  for internalized counts. Both the surface binding and the internalization of [ $^{125}$ I]human neuropeptide Y were also competed by the  $Y_5$ -selective agonist [ $D$ -Trp $^{34}$ ]human neuropeptide Y (Parker et al., 2000) ( $IC_{50}$  94 nM for surface binding, 164 nM for internalization). All agonists showed larger  $IC_{50}$  values for competition of the internalized binding relative to the cell-surface binding, indicating a significant agonist-driven acceleration of the intake.

As also expected (Michel et al., 1998; Moser et al., 2000; Parker et al., 2002b), and in a contrast to its low activity at the human  $Y_5$ -HEK-293 receptor (Fig. 2), the mixed  $Y_4/Y_5$  receptor competitor human pancreatic polypeptide did in-

hibit the binding of [ $^{125}$ I]human neuropeptide Y to  $Y_5$ -HEK-293 cells, as well as the internalization of labeled human neuropeptide Y in these cells (Fig. 3). Similar results were obtained with [ $^{125}$ I]neuropeptide Y-Aib-pancreatic polypeptide in human  $Y_5$ -Hec-1B cells (not shown). However, the competition of [ $^{125}$ I]human neuropeptide Y internalization by human pancreatic polypeptide was shallow, with less than 54% inhibition at 1  $\mu$ M pancreatic polypeptide, and the  $IC_{50}$  value was in excess of 100 nM. Also, not more than 80% of human neuropeptide Y surface binding was inhibited at 1  $\mu$ M human pancreatic polypeptide. As also anticipated, the mixed  $Y_2/Y_5$  receptor ligand human peptide YY(3-36) inhibited the binding and internalization of [ $^{125}$ I]human neuropeptide Y. The surface binding was inhibited by about 85% at an  $IC_{50}$  close to 8 nM (legend of Fig. 3), very similar to the value obtained in the isologous inhibition (Table 2). The internalization of [ $^{125}$ I]human neuropeptide Y, however, was inhibited only about 50% ( $IC_{50}$  82 nM for the affected portion of the intake), as also found with human pancreatic polypeptide.

### 3.4. Sensitivity of ligand attachment and internalization to inhibitors of receptor internalization

Among the internalization inhibitors tested, a large sensitivity was found for filipin III, a polyene antibiotic known to act in receptor internalization by complexing membrane cholesterol (Subtil et al., 1999). This compound produced more than 50% inhibition of  $Y_5$  internalization at

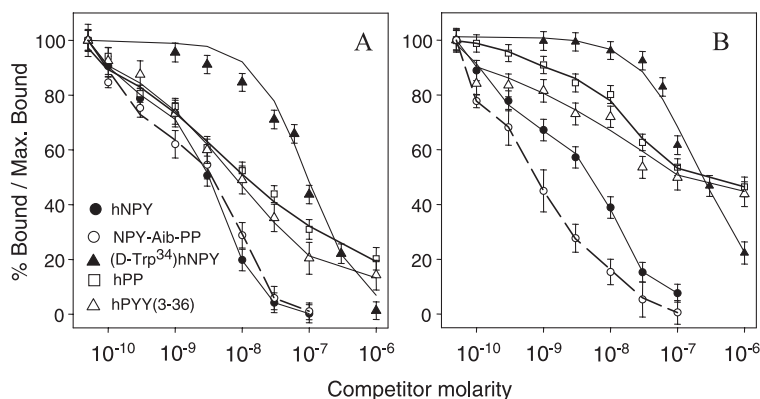


Fig. 3. Surface binding and internalization of [ $^{125}$ I]human neuropeptide Y in human  $Y_5$ -HEK-293 cells competed by three mixed  $Y$  receptor competitor peptides and two  $Y_5$  receptor-selective peptide competitors. The binding of [ $^{125}$ I]human neuropeptide Y (50 pM) was done over 60 min at 37 °C in standard conditions (see Section 2.3), followed by extraction with cold acid saline to separate the surface-bound and internalized radioactive agonist. Non-labeled human neuropeptide Y, human peptide YY(3-36) and human pancreatic polypeptide were used at nine molarities from  $3 \times 10^{-11}$  to  $1 \times 10^{-6}$  M. Non-labeled [ $D$ -Trp $^{34}$ ]human neuropeptide Y was used at eight molarities between  $1 \times 10^{-9}$  and  $1 \times 10^{-6}$  M. The non-specific binding in all cases was defined at 1  $\mu$ M cold human neuropeptide Y. All data are averages of six measurements in two independent experiments, shown  $\pm$  S.E.M. See Moser et al. (2000) for  $K_i$  values with particulate receptors in competition of [ $^3$ H]human neuropeptide Y binding, and Parker et al. (2001a) for  $K_i$  values in competition of [ $^{125}$ I](Leu $^{31}$ ,Pro $^{34}$ )binding. (A) Profiles of surface binding of [ $^{125}$ I]human neuropeptide Y. The  $IC_{50}$  values (nM,  $\pm$  S.E.M.) are followed by percent specific binding displaced at 1  $\mu$ M corresponding peptide (100 nM in the case of human neuropeptide Y): human neuropeptide Y,  $3.01 \pm 0.53$  (99.8%); neuropeptide Y-Aib-pancreatic polypeptide,  $2.18 \pm 0.56$  (99%); human pancreatic polypeptide,  $4.73 \pm 0.51$  (79.7%); human peptide YY(3-36),  $7.73 \pm 2.1$  (85.7%); [ $D$ -Trp $^{34}$ ]human neuropeptide Y,  $94.2 \pm 6.7$  (79.2%). Abbreviations in the graph: hNPY, NPY-Aib-PP: see the caption of Fig. 1; hPP, hPYY(3-36): see the caption of Fig. 2; ( $D$ -Trp $^{34}$ )hNPY, [ $D$ -Trp $^{34}$ ]human neuropeptide Y. (B) Profiles of internalization of [ $^{125}$ I]human neuropeptide Y. The  $IC_{50}$  values (nM,  $\pm$  S.E.M.) listed below are followed by percent specific binding displaced at 1  $\mu$ M corresponding peptide (100 nM in the case of human neuropeptide Y): human neuropeptide Y,  $2.92 \pm 0.96$  (92.4%); neuropeptide Y-Aib-pancreatic polypeptide,  $0.948 \pm 0.28$  (99%); human pancreatic polypeptide,  $114 \pm 20$  (53.6%); human peptide YY(3-36),  $82 \pm 9.6$  (49.2%); [ $D$ -Trp $^{34}$ ]human neuropeptide Y,  $164 \pm 16$  (77.9%).

3  $\mu\text{M}$  (Fig. 4A), a molarity that did not cause a large decrease of the labeling of cell surface sites, or of the binding to the  $Y_5$  receptor in isolated particulates (caption of Fig. 4A). The activity of filipin could be completely prevented by cholesteryl hemisuccinate at equimolar inputs (Fig. 4A). It should be noted, however, that filipin III also strongly reduced the binding of  $Y_5$  ligands to either the cell-surface or the isolated particulate  $Y_5$  sites, with an  $\text{IC}_{50}$  of about 6  $\mu\text{M}$ . As expected, the macrolide also prevented internalization of [ $^{125}\text{I}$ ]human transferrin, at molarities slightly above those inhibiting the intake of  $Y_5$  receptor agonists ( $\text{IC}_{50}$  4.3  $\mu\text{M}$ ;  $n=4$ ). Effects of the polyene antibiotic upon  $Y_5$  internalization could not be reversed by washing and reincubation without filipin for 20 min at 37  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  in the medium used (results not shown).

The vicinal cysteine-bridging arsenical phenylarsine oxide was an even more potent inhibitor of  $Y_5$  internalization. The  $\text{IC}_{50}$  for phenylarsine oxide inhibition of [ $^{125}\text{I}$ ]human neuropeptide Y internalization was only 0.8  $\mu\text{M}$ , with little change in surface binding, or the binding to isolated particulates (Fig. 4B). However, a significant drop in surface

or particulate binding was already apparent at 6  $\mu\text{M}$  phenylarsine oxide. The internalization of [ $^{125}\text{I}$ ]human transferrin in  $Y_5$  cells was significantly inhibited above 10  $\mu\text{M}$  of phenylarsine oxide ( $\text{IC}_{50}$  12.4  $\mu\text{M}$ ;  $n=3$ ). Inhibition of the  $Y_5$  internalization at 3  $\mu\text{M}$  phenylarsine oxide could be counteracted by 300  $\mu\text{M}$  of a disulfide disruptor, dithiothreitol (Fig. 4B). Effects of phenylarsine oxide were not reversed by washing and reincubation without phenylarsine oxide for up to 60 min at 37  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  in the medium employed.

Sucrose, a known inhibitor of clathrin network formation (e.g. Fire et al., 1991), inhibited the human neuropeptide Y internalization in  $Y_5$ -HEK-293 cells above 0.3 M (Fig. 4C), again similar to the inhibition of internalization of transferrin (which showed an  $\text{IC}_{50}$  of  $380 \pm 56$  mM;  $n=4$ ). The blockade of internalization by sucrose was quite selective relative to the surface binding and apparently developed over a narrow span of sucrose molarity, being essentially complete at 0.44 M. The effect of sucrose, however, could be completely reversed by washing and reincubation of 20 min at 37  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  in the OptiMem<sup>®</sup> medium (data not shown).

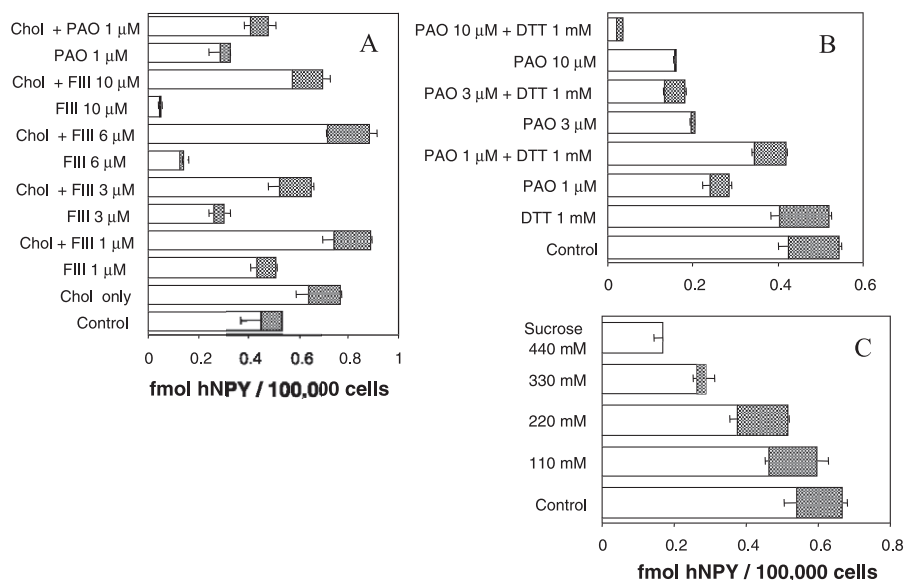


Fig. 4. Inhibition of [ $^{125}\text{I}$ ]human neuropeptide Y labeling in human  $Y_5$ -HEK-293 cells by three commonly employed inhibitors of receptor-linked neuropeptide internalization. The indicated agents were in all cases added to the cells 10 min before starting the labeling. The length of labeling at 37  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  was 60 min in all cases. (A) Inhibition by polyene antibiotic filipin III and its prevention by cholesterol. 'Chol' refers to cholesteryl hemisuccinate used at 10  $\mu\text{M}$ . 'FIII' = filipin III; 'PAO' = phenylarsine oxide. The  $\text{IC}_{50}$  values ( $\mu\text{M}$  filipin III) were  $3.7 \pm 0.23$  and  $2.9 \pm 0.12$  for external and residual [ $^{125}\text{I}$ ]human neuropeptide Y, respectively ( $n=3$ ). The binding of [ $^{125}\text{I}$ ]human neuropeptide Y to particulate HEK-293  $Y_5$  receptors was inhibited by filipin III with an  $\text{IC}_{50}$  of  $6.4 \pm 2$   $\mu\text{M}$  ( $n=3$ ). Inhibition of  $Y_5$  internalization by filipin III could not be reversed by reincubation for up to 60 min in filipin III-free medium. In guinea pig  $Y_1$ -CHO cells, filipin III inhibited internalization of human neuropeptide Y by 86% with an  $\text{IC}_{50}$  of  $0.95 \pm 0.3$   $\mu\text{M}$  ( $n=6$ ), without a clear inhibition of surface binding below 20  $\mu\text{M}$ , while the binding of human neuropeptide Y to particulate guinea pig  $Y_1$ -CHO receptors was inhibited with an  $\text{IC}_{50}$  of  $36 \pm 5.4$   $\mu\text{M}$  ( $68.2 \pm 2\%$  inhibition at 100  $\mu\text{M}$ ;  $n=3$ ). (B) Inhibition by the vicinal cysteine-bridging arsenical phenylarsine oxide and its prevention by disulfide-breaking agent dithiothreitol. The  $\text{IC}_{50}$  values ( $\mu\text{M}$  phenylarsine oxide) were  $5.9 \pm 2$  and  $0.749 \pm 0.07$  for external and internal [ $^{125}\text{I}$ ]human neuropeptide Y, respectively ( $n=3$ ). The binding of [ $^{125}\text{I}$ ]human neuropeptide Y to particulate HEK-293  $Y_5$  receptors was inhibited by phenylarsine oxide with an  $\text{IC}_{50}$  of  $14.6 \pm 4.3$   $\mu\text{M}$  ( $n=3$ ). The arsenical also inhibited the binding of [ $^{125}\text{I}$ ]human neuropeptide Y to particulates from  $Y_5$ -HEK-293 cells, with an  $\text{IC}_{50}$  of  $11 \pm 3$   $\mu\text{M}$ . In guinea pig  $Y_1$ -CHO cells, phenylarsine oxide inhibited internalization of human neuropeptide Y with an  $\text{IC}_{50}$  of  $2.4 \pm 0.5$   $\mu\text{M}$  (91.1% inhibition at 30  $\mu\text{M}$ ;  $n=6$ ), without clear inhibition of surface binding below 200  $\mu\text{M}$ , while the binding of human neuropeptide Y to particulate guinea-pig  $Y_1$ -CHO receptors was inhibited with a  $K_i$  of  $377 \pm 25$   $\mu\text{M}$  ( $72 \pm 4\%$  inhibition at 1 mM;  $n=3$ ). Above 1 mM, dithiothreitol was also inhibitory to  $Y_5$  binding, with either cell monolayers or particulates. Inhibition of  $Y_5$  internalization by phenylarsine oxide was not reversed by reincubation for up to 60 min in arsenical-free OptiMem<sup>®</sup> medium. (C) Inhibition by the clathrin network formation inhibitor sucrose. Inhibition of  $Y_5$  receptor internalization by sucrose was fully reversed by reincubation without the sugar for 30 min in OptiMem<sup>®</sup> medium. "DTT" = dithiothreitol.

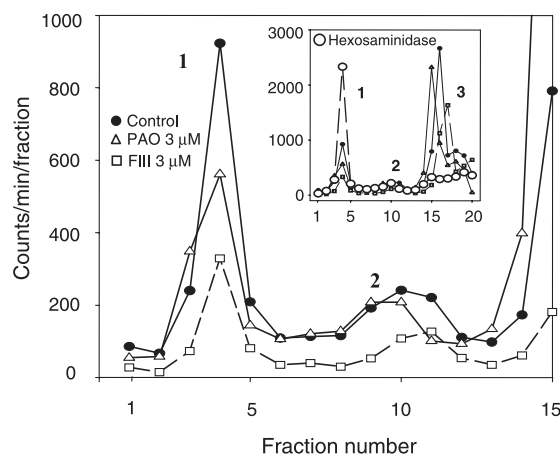


Fig. 5. Inhibition of the short-term incorporation of [ $^{125}$ I]neuropeptide Y-Aib-pancreatic polypeptide into endosomal and lysosomal particulates from human Y<sub>5</sub>-HEK-293 cells by filipin III and phenylarsine oxide. The cells were labeled with [ $^{125}$ I]neuropeptide Y-Aib-pancreatic polypeptide for 20 min at 37 °C, with pretreatment (10 min at 37 °C) and cotreatment with 3  $\mu$ M filipin III or 1  $\mu$ M phenylarsine oxide over the interval of labeling. The cells were washed, lysed by N<sub>2</sub> cavitation, loaded on Percoll pro-gradients and sedimented as described in Section 2.5. Acid hexosaminidase assay was also done as described in Section 2.5. Aliquots of the gradient fractions were precipitated by polyethyleneglycol protocol (without and with lysing at 10 mM cholate; see Section 2.5) prior to radioactivity counting. The data in the graphs are from polyethyleneglycol precipitation without detergent lysis of particulates. The comparison of the binding without and with cholate lysis is given in Table 3. Abbreviations in the graph are explained in the legend of Fig. 4.

### 3.5. Association of the internalized neuropeptide Y Y<sub>5</sub> receptor–ligand complex with endosome-like elements

Endosomal specializations of plasma membrane are known to carry many internalized receptor–ligand peptide complexes (for reviews see e.g. Mukherjee et al., 1997; Ceresa and Schmid, 2000), and can be separated from the bulk of plasma membrane fragments by density gradient

centrifugation (e.g. Urade et al., 1988; Tjelle et al., 1996). We have developed a Percoll gradient procedure (see Section 2.5) enabling a reproducible single-step isolation of an endosome-like fraction from homogenates of cell lines expressing Y<sub>1</sub>, Y<sub>2</sub>, Y<sub>4</sub> and Y<sub>5</sub> receptors, as well as transferrin receptors. With all receptors and cell types, these particulates (density 1.05–1.06 in Percoll gradients formed in 0.25 M sucrose) could be shown to carry up to 25% of short-term labeling of the cells by the respective [ $^{125}$ I] ligands, and this fraction could be significantly reduced by inhibitors of receptor internalization, including filipin III and phenylarsine oxide.

After 20 min of labeling with [ $^{125}$ I]neuropeptide Y-Aib-pancreatic polypeptide, sedimentation of human Y<sub>5</sub>-HEK-293 cell homogenates in self-generating Percoll gradients resulted in definition of three particulate zones containing the labeled ligand (Fig. 5). The particles banding at density of 1.10–1.11 (labeled as zone 1) contained most of the acid hexosaminidase activity associated with total homogenate, and a significant fraction of the internalized ligand (up to 25% after labeling of 20 min at 37 °C). Somewhat heterogeneous membrane material banding at density of 1.05–1.06 (buoyant zone 2) contained about a sixth of total particle-attached radioactivity. The plasma membrane/light endosome zone, buoyant at a low density (1.015; zone 3), contained most of the ligand in short-term labeling. With guinea pig Y<sub>1</sub>-CHO receptor, the radioactivity in zone 2 was much more prominent than that associated with zone 1. Solubilization of particulates in the cold by 10 mM sodium cholate followed by precipitation with polyethyleneglycol recovered up to 60% of radioactivity from zone 3, and about a third of radioactivity from zone 2, but essentially no radioactivity from zone 1 with human Y<sub>5</sub>-HEK-293 cells (Table 3). Lack of tracer precipitation by polyethyleneglycol indicates presence of the ligand physically separated from the receptor (as less than 5% of free [ $^{125}$ I]neuropeptide Y-Aib-pancreatic polypeptide or [ $^{125}$ I]human neuropeptide Y,

Table 3

Recovery of [ $^{125}$ I]human neuropeptide Y bound to hY<sub>5</sub>-HEK-293 cells or to guinea-pig Y<sub>1</sub>-CHO cells in Percoll gradient zones as related to treatment with inhibitors

Density zone	Control		Filipin III		Phenylarsine oxide	
	Y <sub>5</sub>	Y <sub>1</sub>	Y <sub>5</sub>	Y <sub>1</sub>	Y <sub>5</sub>	Y <sub>1</sub>
<i>Percent of radioactivity recovered from zones 1–3 by polyethyleneglycol without solubilization</i>						
1.10 (3)	24.5 $\pm$ 1.9	6.7 $\pm$ 0.4	13 $\pm$ 1.1	3.8 $\pm$ 0.4	14.5 $\pm$ 0.8	4.7 $\pm$ 0.7
1.05 (2)	13 $\pm$ 0.7	16.2 $\pm$ 0.25	10.2 $\pm$ 1	6.5 $\pm$ 1.4	10.4 $\pm$ 0.8	4.3 $\pm$ 0.8
1.015 (1)	62.5 $\pm$ 2.4	77.1 $\pm$ 0.72	76.8 $\pm$ 1.4	89.7 $\pm$ 0.8	75.1 $\pm$ 3.1	91 $\pm$ 4.3
<i>Percent recovery by polyethyleneglycol after solubilization at 10 mM cholate</i>						
1.10 (3)	<1	37.7 $\pm$ 1.7	<1	19.9 $\pm$ 2.6	<1	20.1 $\pm$ 1.2
1.05 (2)	26.6 $\pm$ 3.7	69.6 $\pm$ 3.6	19.5 $\pm$ 6	63.7 $\pm$ 4.3	23 $\pm$ 4	77.5 $\pm$ 5.5
1.015 (1)	67.6 $\pm$ 4.5	82.9 $\pm$ 3.4	64.1 $\pm$ 6	76.7 $\pm$ 3.9	58 $\pm$ 5.1	86.1 $\pm$ 1

The cells were pretreated by 1  $\mu$ M (Y<sub>5</sub>) or 3  $\mu$ M (Y<sub>1</sub>) filipin III, and by 3  $\mu$ M (Y<sub>5</sub>) or 30  $\mu$ M (Y<sub>1</sub>) phenylarsine oxide for 15 min at 37 °C, labeled with 50 pM [ $^{125}$ I]neuropeptide Y-Aib-pancreatic polypeptide for 20 min (Y<sub>5</sub>) or with 50 pM [ $^{125}$ I]human neuropeptide Y for 10 min (Y<sub>1</sub>) at 37 °C in the presence of inhibitors, washed, cavitated and sedimented through self-generated Percoll gradients for 55 min at 68,000  $\times$  g<sub>max</sub> (see Section 2.5). Aliquots of the gradient fractions were precipitated with polyethyleneglycol without or with prior lysis by 10 mM cholate (10 min at 0–4 °C) to assess the total and the receptor-associated radioactivity. The results are averages of four gradients (in two experimental runs) for each receptor.



input at up to 5 pM, was precipitated in the polyethylene-glycol procedure).

Filipin III at 3  $\mu$ M produced a large decrease in labeling especially of zone 2 (Table 3; presumably secondary endosome material, on which see e.g. Sako et al., 1990; Tjelle et al., 1996). This could also be shown at 3  $\mu$ M of phenylarsine oxide (Fig. 5). Filipin III also strongly decreased the labeling of zone 1 material (dense endosomes and primary lysosomes), which, however, was less pronounced with 3  $\mu$ M phenylarsine oxide (Table 3).

Profiles of the labeling by [ $^{125}$ I]human neuropeptide Y of guinea pig Y<sub>1</sub>-CHO receptor showed a very strong inhibition by either filipin III (at 3  $\mu$ M) or phenylarsine oxide (at 30  $\mu$ M) in lysosomal and endosomal bands, as well as a strong increase of plasma membrane labeling due to accumulation of surface receptors (Table 3 and Parker et al., 2002d). These results were reported in detail elsewhere (Parker et al., 2002d).

#### 4. Discussion

Our results show saturable internalization of full-length neuropeptide Y or peptide YY-like peptides in HEK-293 cells expressing the human Y<sub>5</sub> neuropeptide Y receptor. This intake is highly dependent on the length of incubation and temperature, and is competed by isologous and homologous peptides. The binding and especially the internalization of Y<sub>5</sub> ligands also show a large sensitivity to a cysteine-bridging agent and to a membrane fluidity modifier, which strongly favors assumption of a receptor-linked entry. Also, a substantial portion of the Y<sub>5</sub> ligand associated with endosome-like particulates is, after solubilization, precipitated in the polyethyleneglycol/bovine  $\gamma$ -globulin procedure, indicating association with the Y<sub>5</sub> receptor. This fraction is much larger for the Y<sub>1</sub> receptor, which has a more stable steady-state association with neuropeptide Y (Parker et al., 2002d), and comprises up to 90% of endosome-associated internalized Y<sub>4</sub> ligand (Parker et al., 2002a).

The rates of human Y<sub>5</sub> receptor-linked internalization of neuropeptide Y in HEK-293 cells were much lower than found with the guinea pig Y<sub>1</sub>-CHO receptor, while the rate of internalization of human transferrin was similar in the two lines. Also, human Y<sub>1</sub> receptors expressed in HEK-293 cells show a fast internalization and recycling (Gicquiaux et al., 2002), similar to our results with guinea-pig Y<sub>1</sub> expression in CHO cells (Parker et al., 2001c, 2002d, and this study). This is also similar to the known fast recycling of another neuropeptide receptor, the V<sub>1A</sub> vasopressin receptor (Innamorati et al., 1999), and of the  $\beta_2$ -adrenoceptor (Barak et al., 1994).

The internalization rate difference between neuropeptide Y Y<sub>5</sub> and Y<sub>1</sub> receptors could principally result from a much lower affinity of Y<sub>5</sub> binding to the surface sites (also apparent with particulate receptors; compare e.g. Borowsky

et al., 1998; Criscione et al., 1998; Moser et al., 2000; Statnick et al., 1998 for the Y<sub>5</sub>, and Berglund et al., 1999; Gehlert et al., 1997; Parker et al., 1998a for the Y<sub>1</sub>). This type of mechanistic causality could be relatively little dependent on the cell strain. Recently, we were able to show that the rank order of human pancreatic polypeptide affinities is reflected in the internalization rates of three mammalian pancreatic polypeptide Y<sub>4</sub> receptors in CHO cells (Parker et al., 2002a).

Our results indicate a substantially higher internalization rate for neuropeptide Y and a hybrid neuropeptide Y and pancreatic polypeptide-related Y<sub>5</sub> receptor agonist (Cabrele et al., 2000) compared to peptide YY and related full-length Y peptides. This is similar to our recent findings with the Y<sub>1</sub> receptor, which also preferentially internalizes neuropeptide Y-related peptides over peptide YY and analogues (Parker et al., 2002d). The Y<sub>5</sub> receptor gene apparently arose through endoreduplication of the Y<sub>1</sub> receptor gene (Herzog et al., 1997), probably prior to the emergence of the peptide YY subfamily of Y peptides (Larhammar et al., 1998), and its protein product could be structurally attuned to handle neuropeptide Y rather than peptide YY. Also, most of the evolution of the Y<sub>1</sub>/Y<sub>5</sub> receptor gene tandem could be tied to neural environments, which in species now extant mainly express and process neuropeptide Y.

The low internalization of N-terminally truncated peptide YY derivative human peptide YY-(3-36) strongly contrasts the relatively high-affinity attachment of the peptide to surface Y<sub>5</sub> sites. This may indicate participation of N-terminal amino acids of neuropeptide Y in attachment(s) to endocytotic vehicles internalizing the Y<sub>5</sub> receptor–ligand peptide complex. The clipped peptide YY derivative could act as an antagonist (or a partial agonist) at the human Y<sub>5</sub>-HEK-293 site, in line with recent experiments indicating its ability to inhibit feeding (Batterham et al., 2002).

The Y<sub>4</sub> receptor ligand human pancreatic polypeptide was efficacious only as a competitor of neuropeptide Y, and not as an independent agonist-like ligand, and it also did not internalize via the Y<sub>5</sub> site, or non-saturably. The pancreatic polypeptide may act similar to certain opioid agonists (Whistler et al., 1999), however, presenting an exceptionally high relative [agonist] activity versus endocytosis (RAVE) value at the Y<sub>5</sub> receptor.

The low non-saturable binding found for human pancreatic polypeptide probably results from a low affinity for membrane lipids, and helps explain why this peptide does not pass the hematoencephalic barrier (Whitcomb et al., 1990), in contrast to neuropeptide Y (Kastin and Akerstrom, 1999). It is of interest that the related rat pancreatic polypeptide (which, however, displays a significant sequence difference with either the human or the bovine pancreatic polypeptide; see Parker et al., 2002b) was shown in several studies to poorly contest the Y<sub>5</sub> receptor binding of agonists such as neuropeptide Y or peptide YY (Gerald et al., 1996; Moser et al., 2000; Parker et al., 2002a), which in the present study were found to internalize significantly via the Y<sub>5</sub>

receptor. Both human pancreatic polypeptide and rat pancreatic polypeptide differ from full-length neuropeptide Y/peptide YY peptides by substitution of Ala for Tyr as the N-terminal residue, and by numerous other non-conservative substitutions in the N-terminal portion of their molecules (see Parker et al., 2002a). These substitutions obviously reduce both the binding of pancreatic polypeptides to the Y<sub>5</sub> site and the incidence of their internalization. As predictable from binding studies with particulate Y<sub>5</sub> receptors, our results with intact cells confirm the ability of human pancreatic polypeptide to modulate both the surface binding and the internalization of neuropeptide Y. This could indicate a concentration-related ability of pancreatic polypeptides to serve as partial antagonists of Y<sub>5</sub> receptors.

Internalization differences reported here could also reflect differences in receptor environment and organization, including membrane fluidity and cholesterol disposition (see e.g. Gimpl et al., 1997). The large sensitivity of cell surface or particulate Y<sub>5</sub> receptors to the cholesterol-complexing polyene filipin III underlines the conformational fragility of Y<sub>5</sub> binding site(s). This could further point to an important regulation of Y<sub>5</sub> receptor activity by osmotic changes and ion fluxes, especially in neuronal surroundings.

Both the cell-surface and particulate binding to Y<sub>5</sub> receptors is exceptionally sensitive to the cysteine-bridging arsenical, phenylarsine oxide. This could result from cross-linking of vicinal cysteines in the seventh transmembrane segment (paired in this domain of all Y<sub>5</sub> receptors, but not of any other Y receptor type). Bridging or alkylation of these residues might impart a large ligand dynamics to the binding site of the Y<sub>5</sub> receptor.

Evolution of Y<sub>5</sub> receptor function toward ligand sharing and a lower affinity of binding relative to other Y receptors might have added functionality also seen in the glucagon/secretin family of G-protein coupling receptors, which all accommodate numerous peptidic ligands (see e.g. Lundberg et al., 2001). The versatile utilization of ligand peptides across these receptors could provide a dynamic reserve necessary for coping with multiple metabolic demands. A binary Y<sub>1</sub>/Y<sub>5</sub> receptor functionality can help explain the long feeding stimulation induced by intracerebroventricular neuropeptide Y (Kalra et al., 1999).

From experiments presented in this study, the limited internalization or sequestration of Y<sub>5</sub> receptor ligands can be viewed as a tool for accommodating or containing the agonist potential. A large accumulation seen for the Y<sub>5</sub> receptor ligand in the lysosome/dense endosome fraction is not found with the Y<sub>1</sub> receptor ligand in CHO cells. This is reminiscent of differences e.g. between the endothelin-B receptor, metabolically consigned to processing via a lysosomal compartment (Oksche et al., 2000), and the faster-recycling endothelin-A receptor (Bremnes et al., 2000). Our results indicate separation of the Y<sub>5</sub> receptor from the internalized agonist prior to, or at the lysosomal stage, and the undamaged receptor might escape degradation. Also, the lysosomal sorting for a Y receptor could be

somewhat cell type-specific (although the available studies with the Y<sub>1</sub> receptor show no significant difference between the HEK-293; Gicquiaux et al., 2002; and the CHO expressions; Parker et al., 2001c, 2002d). The slow internalization of the Y<sub>5</sub>-HEK-293 receptor may largely reflect a non-cycling, degradative removal, which represents a much lower fraction of internalized traffic for the Y<sub>1</sub>-HEK-293 (Gicquiaux et al., 2002), or for the Y<sub>1</sub>-CHO receptor.

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