

ACCELERATED COMMUNICATION

Evidence for Nucleoside Diphosphokinase-Dependent Channeling of Guanosine 5'-(γ -Thio)triphosphate to Guanine Nucleotide-Binding Proteins

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SUMMARY

Agonist binding to guanine nucleotide-binding protein (G protein)-coupled receptors in membranes of myeloid differentiated human leukemia (HL-60) cells is inhibited by guanine nucleotides, most potently by the GTP analog guanosine 5'-(γ -thio)triphosphate (GTP γ S). In order to study whether GTP γ S formed locally from adenosine 5'-(γ -thio)triphosphate (ATP γ S) and GDP by nucleoside diphosphokinase has any advantage over exogenously added GTP γ S in binding to and activating G proteins, regulation of complement component 5a (C5a) binding to its receptors, as well as formation of GTP γ S, was studied in membranes of HL-60 cells. GTP γ S added to HL-60 membranes potently inhibited binding of 125 I-C5a (IC_{50} about 3 nM), an effect not influenced by addition of either GDP or ATP γ S. When HL-60 membranes were

incubated with the combination of ATP γ S and GDP, a marked potentiation (up to 300-fold) of the inhibition caused by either GDP or ATP γ S alone was observed. By measuring nucleoside diphosphokinase-catalyzed formation of GTP γ S and inhibition of 125 I-C5a binding in the presence of GDP and ATP γ S under identical assay conditions, it was found that formed GTP γ S inhibited binding of 125 I-C5a with an IC_{50} value of about 0.3 nM, thus being about 10-fold more potent than exogenously added GTP γ S. These data suggest that the GTP γ S-forming nucleoside diphosphokinase is closely associated with the C5a receptor-G protein complex and channels the formed GTP γ S into the G protein.

Membranes of myeloid differentiated human leukemia (HL-60) cells contain large numbers of receptors for different chemotactic stimuli such as formyl peptides and C5a. These peptide agonists induce chemotaxis and respiratory burst apparently through the same signal transduction cascade involving pertussis toxin-sensitive G proteins, of which the G_{i2} and G_{i3} subtypes interacting with formyl peptide receptors have been identified (1-4). Binding of agonists to these G_i protein-coupled receptors is inhibited by guanine nucleotides, most potently by the GTP analog GTP γ S, as demonstrated for formyl peptide receptors in macrophage and HL-60 cell membranes (5, 6) and for C5a receptors in membranes of polymorphonuclear leukocytes (7). Recent cloning data confirmed that these two receptor types belong to the superfamily of seven-transmembrane region G protein-coupled receptors (8-10).

We have recently reported that in HL-60 membranes GTP γ S can be formed from ATP γ S and GDP by nucleoside diphosphokinase and that the GTP γ S thus formed inhibits the bind-

ing of the agonist fMet-Leu-Phe to formyl peptide receptors (11, 12). If this transfer reaction is of any physiological relevance for G protein regulation, either G protein-bound GDP has to be thiophosphorylated to GTP γ S *in situ* by nucleoside diphosphokinase or, alternatively, GTP γ S formed by nucleoside diphosphokinase has to be channeled into the G protein, i.e., has an advantage over GTP γ S just being present in the solution. In order to study the latter hypothesis, we measured the formation of GTP γ S from ATP γ S and GDP by nucleoside diphosphokinase in membranes of HL-60 cells and, under identical conditions, we compared the regulation of C5a receptor binding by nucleoside diphosphokinase-formed and exogenously added GTP γ S. We report herein that formed GTP γ S potently and efficiently regulates the binding of C5a to its receptors present in HL-60 membranes. Most importantly, GTP γ S locally formed by nucleoside diphosphokinase was about 10-fold more potent in inhibition of C5a receptor binding than exogenously added GTP γ S; these data suggest a close association of nucleoside diphosphokinase and receptor-G protein complex.

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ABBREVIATIONS: C5a, complement component 5a; fMet-Leu-Phe, *N*-formylmethionyl-leucyl-phenylalanine; G protein, guanine nucleotide-binding protein; ATP γ S, adenosine 5'-(γ -thio)triphosphate; GTP γ S, guanosine 5'-(γ -thio)triphosphate.

Experimental Procedures

Materials. Recombinant human ^{125}I -C5a (2200 Ci/mmol) and $[\text{S}]$ GTP γ S (1200–1400 Ci/mmol) were obtained from DuPont New England Nuclear (Bad Homburg, FRG). $[\text{S}]$ $[\text{S}]$ -GDP (10 Ci/mmol) was from Amersham Buchler (Braunschweig, FRG). Unlabeled recombinant human C5a was from Sigma (Deisenhofen, FRG). Unlabeled guanine nucleotides were from Boehringer Mannheim (Mannheim, FRG). All other materials were from previously described sources (6, 11, 12).

Preparation of HL-60 membranes. HL-60 cells were grown in suspension culture and were induced to differentiate into mature myeloid forms by cultivation in the presence of 1.25% (by volume) dimethylsulfoxide for 5 days. Membranes were prepared by nitrogen cavitation and differential centrifugation, as described (6). Before assays, membrane aliquots were thawed, diluted with 10 mM triethanolamine-HCl, pH 7.4, containing 5 mM EDTA, centrifuged for 10 min at $30,000 \times g$, and resuspended in 10 mM triethanolamine-HCl, pH 7.4, at the appropriate membrane concentration.

C5a receptor binding assay. HL-60 membranes (1–3 μg of protein/tube) were incubated in a reaction mixture containing 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 5 mM MgCl_2 , 1 mM EDTA, and the indicated nucleotide additions, in a total volume of 90 μl , for 60 min at 30° . Thereafter, 10 μl of ^{125}I -C5a (final concentration about 20 pM; dissolved in a buffer containing 10 mM triethanolamine-HCl, pH 7.4, and 25 mg/ml bovine serum albumin) were added to initiate the binding reaction. The incubation was continued for 30 min at 30° , under which conditions binding equilibrium was reached. The reaction was terminated by rapid filtration through glass fiber filters (Whatman GF/C) soaked in a buffer containing 0.33% (by volume) polyethyleneimine, 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, and 5 mM MgCl_2 . The filters were washed five times with 2.5 ml each of an ice-cold buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 5 mM MgCl_2) and were counted in a γ -radiation counter. Nonspecific binding was defined as the binding not competed for by 100 nM unlabeled C5a.

Measurement of GTP γ S formation. Formation of $[\text{S}]$ GTP γ S was measured in a total volume of 50 μl of a reaction mixture containing 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 5 mM MgCl_2 , 1 mM EDTA, 0.1 μM $[\text{S}]$ $[\text{S}]$ -GDP, and the indicated concentrations of ATP γ S. The reaction was started by addition of HL-60 membranes (about 3 μg of protein/tube) to the prewarmed reaction mixture and was conducted for 90 min at 30° . The enzymatic reactions were terminated by addition of 5 μl of a 33% (by mass) perchloric acid solution, leading to denaturation of proteins and release of protein-bound nucleotides. After 15 min at room temperature, the samples were neutralized with a solution (about 5 μl) containing 4.6 M KOH, 100 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, and 100 mM EDTA and were centrifuged for 3 min at $8800 \times g$. Twenty microliters of the resulting supernatant were analyzed for $[\text{S}]$ $[\text{S}]$ GTP γ S formation by thin layer chromatography, as described (11).

Results

The binding of C5a to its receptors in HL-60 membranes was very sensitive to regulation by GTP γ S. When HL-60 membranes were incubated with GTP γ S at increasing concentrations, followed by measurement of binding of ^{125}I -C5a to its receptors, a concentration-dependent inhibition of agonist binding was observed (Figs. 1 and 2). Half-maximal and maximal inhibition was obtained at about 3 nM and 30–100 nM GTP γ S, respectively. These numbers are about 3-fold lower than those reported for inhibition of fMet-Leu-Phe binding to HL-60 membranes (6) and of C5a binding to membranes of polymorphonuclear leukocytes by GTP γ S (7).

We have recently reported that in HL-60 membranes nucleoside diphosphokinase can contribute to the regulation of fMet-Leu-Phe receptor binding by formation of GTP γ S from ATP γ S and GDP (12). Similarly, a marked potentiation of the inhibi-

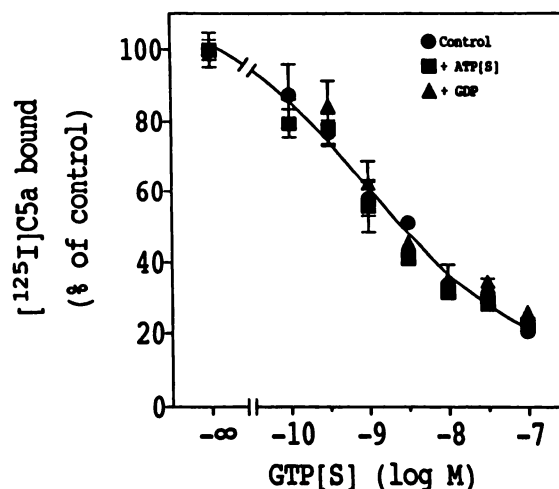


Fig. 1. GTP γ S regulation of C5a binding in HL-60 membranes. HL-60 membranes (1.2 μg of protein/tube) were incubated for 1 hr at 30° with the indicated concentrations of GTP γ S in the absence (●) or presence of either 10 μM ATP γ S (■) or 0.1 μM GDP (▲). Then, ^{125}I -C5a (final concentration, 29 pM) was added and the incubation was continued for 30 min at 30° . The amount of specifically bound ^{125}I -C5a was determined as described in Experimental Procedures. Means \pm standard deviations of assay triplicates are given.

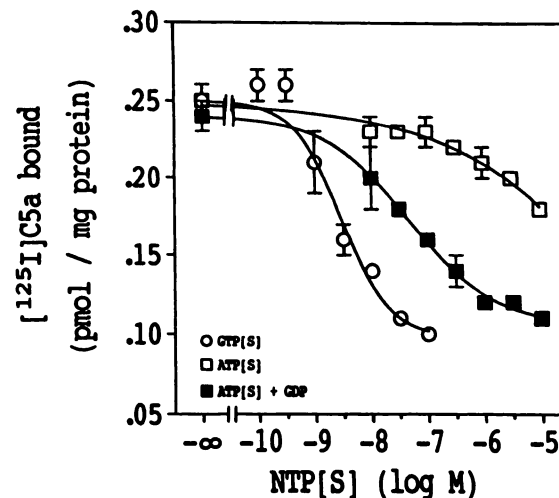


Fig. 2. Potentiation of ATP γ S-induced inhibition of C5a binding by GDP and comparison with GTP γ S-induced inhibition. HL-60 membranes (3.3 μg of protein/tube) were incubated for 1 hr at 30° with the indicated concentrations of GTP γ S (○), ATP γ S (□), or ATP γ S plus 0.1 μM GDP (■). Then, ^{125}I -C5a (final concentration, 24 pM) was added and the incubation was continued for 30 min at 30° . Means \pm standard deviations of specifically bound ^{125}I -C5a from assay triplicates are given.

tion of ^{125}I -C5a binding was observed when HL-60 membranes were incubated with combinations of ATP γ S and GDP, compared with the inhibition caused by one of these nucleotides alone. Incubation of the membranes with GDP alone inhibited the binding of ^{125}I -C5a half-maximally at about 0.5 μM , similarly as described for inhibition of fMet-Leu-Phe binding (6, 12) (Fig. 3). In the additional presence of 0.1 μM ATP γ S, which by itself caused no or only marginal inhibition, the potency of GDP to inhibit the binding of ^{125}I -C5a was enhanced about 10-fold. Half-maximal inhibition was observed at about 50 nM GDP. Conversely, the potency of ATP γ S to inhibit binding of ^{125}I -C5a was increased by about 300-fold in the presence of 0.1 μM GDP (Fig. 2). In the absence and presence of GDP, half-

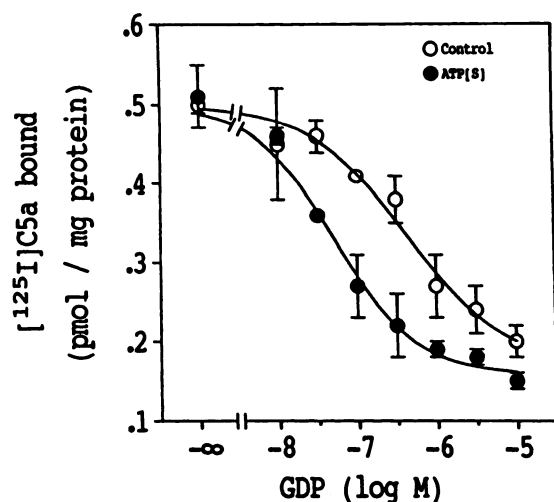


Fig. 3. Potentiation of GDP-induced inhibition of C5a binding by ATP γ S. HL-60 membranes (2.4 μ g of protein/tube) were incubated for 1 hr at 30° with the indicated concentrations of GDP in the absence (○) or presence (●) of 0.1 μ M ATP γ S. Then, 125 I-C5a (final concentration, 25 pM) was added and the incubation was continued for 30 min at 30°. Means \pm standard deviations of specifically bound 125 I-C5a from assay triplicates are given.

maximal inhibition of 125 I-C5a binding was observed at about 30 μ M and 0.1 μ M ATP γ S, respectively. These data are similar to those described before for inhibition of fMet-Leu-Phe receptor binding, with the exception that about 10-fold less ATP γ S is required for potentiation of GDP-induced inhibition of C5a than of fMet-Leu-Phe receptor binding (12). On the other hand, the potencies of GDP and ATP γ S added alone were similar with regard to regulation of C5a and fMet-Leu-Phe receptor binding (6, 12).

In order to compare the potency of GTP γ S locally formed by nucleoside diphosphokinase with that of exogenously added GTP γ S, we measured formation of GTP γ S and inhibition of 125 I-C5a binding in parallel experiments using identical assay conditions. First, the efficiency of the elution procedure for membrane-bound nucleotides, as described in Experimental Procedures, and the stability of GTP γ S during this treatment were analyzed. For this, [35 S]GTP γ S (2.5 nM) was incubated for 90 min at 30° in a total volume of 50 μ l of the reaction mixture used for GTP γ S formation, with or without HL 60 membranes (5 μ g of protein/tube). Thereafter, the samples were treated with or without perchloric acid and were analyzed by thin layer chromatography for [35 S]GTP γ S. As shown in Table 1, treatment of [35 S]GTP γ S with perchloric acid did not lower the amount of radioactivity detected in the GTP γ S spot. Most importantly, the recovery of [35 S]GTP γ S was not lowered by preincubation of the nucleotide with HL-60 membranes. Although 40–50% of the added [35 S]GTP γ S was bound to membranes under this condition (data not shown), it was apparently completely released as intact nucleotide by the subsequent elution procedure. These data indicated that GTP γ S is not hydrolyzed by the acid treatment and, most importantly, that all GTP γ S formed, even when bound to membrane G proteins, can be detected by the method used.

Formation of [3 H]GTP γ S by HL-60 membrane nucleoside diphosphokinase was measured at increasing concentrations of ATP γ S with 0.1 μ M [3 H]GDP as nucleoside diphosphate substrate (Fig. 4). [3 H]GTP γ S formation was concentration-dependently increased by ATP γ S. At the maximal concentration

TABLE 1

Recovery of GTP γ S from HL-60 membranes

[35 S]GTP γ S (2.5 nM) was incubated for 90 min at 30° in a reaction mixture containing 50 mM Tris·HCl, pH 7.5, 5 mM MgCl₂, and 1 mM EDTA in the absence and presence of 5 μ g of HL-60 membranes, in a total volume of 50 μ l. Then, to the samples containing no membranes either 10 μ l of a buffer containing 50 mM Tris·HCl, pH 7.5, and 50 mM EDTA or 5 μ l of perchloric acid (33% by mass) were added. Incubation of samples containing membranes was terminated by addition of 5 μ l of perchloric acid. After 15 min at room temperature, samples treated with perchloric acid were neutralized with 5 μ l of 4.6 M KOH, 100 mM Tris·HCl, pH 7.5, and 100 mM EDTA. After pelleting of the membranes, the supernatants were analyzed for [35 S]GTP γ S by thin layer chromatography, as described in Experimental Procedures. Means \pm standard deviations of triplicates are given.

| Treatment | [35 S]GTP γ S recovered cpm |
|----------------------------------|---|
| No membranes, no perchloric acid | 13,998 \pm 2,738 |
| No membranes, perchloric acid | 14,555 \pm 1,060 |
| Membranes, perchloric acid | 13,638 \pm 317 |

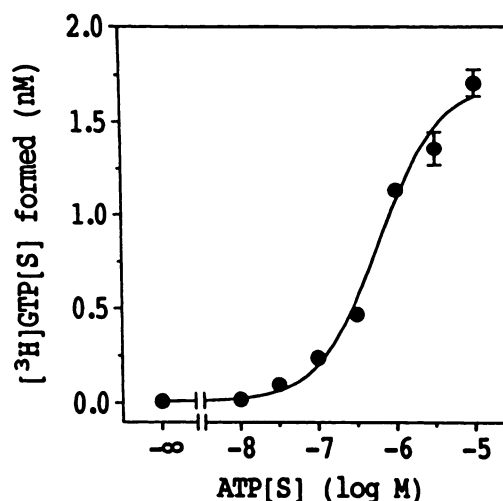


Fig. 4. Formation of GTP γ S from ATP γ S and GDP. HL-60 membranes (3.3 μ g of protein/tube) were incubated with 0.1 μ M [3 H]GDP and the indicated concentrations of ATP γ S for 90 min at 30°. After acid denaturation and pelleting of the proteins, the supernatant was analyzed for [3 H]GTP γ S by thin layer chromatography, as described in Experimental Procedures. Means \pm standard deviations of assay triplicates are given.

of ATP γ S studied (10 μ M), a final concentration of about 2 nM [3 H]GTP γ S formed was measured, corresponding to about 30 pmol of [3 H]GTP γ S formed per mg of protein. In the parallel experiment, the inhibition of 125 I-C5a binding by increasing concentrations of exogenously added GTP γ S was compared with the inhibition caused by increasing concentrations of ATP γ S in the absence and presence of 0.1 μ M GDP (Fig. 2). As mentioned above, exogenously added GTP γ S was about 30- and 10,000-fold more potent than ATP γ S in the presence and absence of GDP, respectively, in inhibiting 125 I-C5a receptor binding. However, when the binding data obtained from the combination of ATP γ S and GDP were plotted against the GTP γ S concentration measured in the GTP γ S formation experiment and compared with the binding data obtained with exogenously added GTP γ S, it was evident that GTP γ S locally formed from ATP γ S and GDP was about 10-fold more potent in the regulation of 125 I-C5a binding than was the exogenously added nucleotide (Fig. 5). The half-maximally inhibitory concentration was estimated to be about 0.3 nM and 3 nM for formed and added GTP γ S, respectively. This higher potency of formed GTP γ S was not due to the additional presence of GDP and ATP γ S. First, at the concentrations studied, GDP and ATP γ S had only minor effects by themselves and, second,

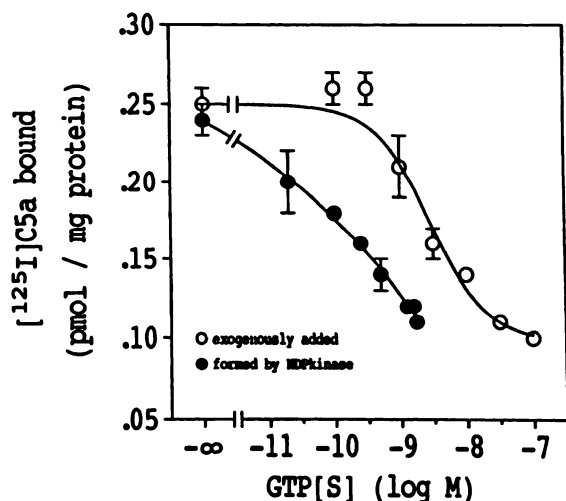


Fig. 5. Comparison of the potencies of exogenously added and nucleoside diphosphokinase-formed $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ to inhibit C5a receptor binding. Plotted are the ^{125}I -C5a binding data obtained from the combination of $\text{ATP}\gamma\text{S}$ (various concentrations) and GDP ($0.1\ \mu\text{M}$) against the $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ concentration measured in the parallel $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ formation experiment (●) and compared with the binding data obtained with exogenously added $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ (○). Data are from Figs. 2 and 4.

TABLE 2

Binding to HL-60 membranes of $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ formed from $\text{ATP}\gamma\text{S}$ and GDP

HL-60 membranes ($3.2\ \mu\text{g}$ of protein/tube) were incubated with $0.1\ \mu\text{M}$ ^3H -GDP and $10\ \mu\text{M}$ $\text{ATP}\gamma\text{S}$ for 90 min at 30° . Thereafter, one aliquot of membranes was pelleted by centrifugation for 10 min at $30,000 \times g$ and the supernatant was removed. The pellet was resuspended in $50\ \mu\text{l}$ of triethanolamine-HCl, pH 7.4. Supernatant, resuspended membranes, and the original membrane suspension (total) were subjected to acid denaturation and analyzed for ^3H - $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ by thin layer chromatography, as described in Experimental Procedures. Means \pm standard deviations of triplicates, in pmol of ^3H - $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ formed per mg of membrane protein, are given.

| | ^3H - $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ formed | |
|-------------|--|------------|
| | pmol/mg of protein | % of total |
| Total | 28.8 ± 3.4 | 100.0 |
| Pellet | 22.2 ± 3.6 | 77.1 |
| Supernatant | 3.4 ± 0.6 | 11.8 |

addition of GDP and $\text{ATP}\gamma\text{S}$ at the highest concentrations present in the combination experiment ($0.1\ \mu\text{M}$ and $10\ \mu\text{M}$, respectively) to exogenous $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ did not alter the potency of the GTP analog to inhibit ^{125}I -C5a receptor binding (see Fig. 1). Furthermore, as shown in Table 2, about 80% of the $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ formed from GDP ($0.1\ \mu\text{M}$) and $\text{ATP}\gamma\text{S}$ ($10\ \mu\text{M}$) was bound to the membranes, presumably to membrane G proteins. Taken together, these data indicate that the observed inhibition is due to formed and subsequently bound $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$.

Discussion

The data presented herein indicate that HL-60 membranes contain a nucleoside diphosphokinase capable of catalyzing the formation of $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ from GDP and $\text{ATP}\gamma\text{S}$ and that the $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ thus formed can potently and efficiently inhibit agonist binding to C5a receptors, similarly as reported before for regulation of formyl peptide receptor binding by nucleoside diphosphokinase-formed $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ (12). Most importantly, by measuring formation of $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ under identical assay conditions and with a wide range of $\text{ATP}\gamma\text{S}$ concentrations, we provide evidence that the nucleoside diphosphokinase-formed

$\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ is about 10 times more potent in inhibiting C5a receptor binding than is exogenously added $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$. The observed higher potency of formed $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ suggests that there is a close association of nucleoside diphosphokinase and the C5a receptor-G protein complex in HL-60 membranes. Throughout the literature, several lines of evidence are available that imply an association of nucleoside diphosphokinase with various G proteins. Kimura and Shimada (13) reported that the stimulatory G protein of adenylyl cyclase can be precipitated in a form complexed with nucleoside diphosphokinase. In HeLa S3 cells and Ehrlich ascites tumor cells, nucleoside diphosphokinase was found to be associated with low molecular mass G proteins (14, 15). Furthermore, a preferential phosphorylation of GDP over ADP was reported when nucleoside diphosphokinase in its immediately phosphorylated form was combined with small or heterotrimeric G proteins (16). Finally, we provided evidence that activation of G proteins in human platelet membranes by nucleoside diphosphokinase-dependent formation of GTP or $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ can be regulated by agonist-liganded receptors (17, 18). All of these data support the notion that nucleoside diphosphokinase can be closely associated with G proteins and, as shown herein, thereby channel formed GTP or $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ into G proteins.

An hypothesis that may explain the observed high potency of nucleoside diphosphokinase-formed $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ is that the GDP bound in the α subunit of the inactive G protein is a substrate for nucleoside diphosphokinase. Such a reaction has been proposed for heterotrimeric G proteins; however, the authors retracted this conclusion because a dissociation of GDP from the α subunit, followed by its phosphorylation to GTP by nucleoside diphosphokinase and rapid rebinding of formed GTP to G proteins, could not be excluded (19, 20). Similarly, Randazzo *et al.* (21) recently reported that GDP bound to the low molecular mass G protein ADP-ribosylation factor is converted *in situ* into GTP by nucleoside diphosphokinase. Based on recently performed experiments, however, the same authors conclude that this interpretation is based on artifacts, particularly on underestimation of GDP release from G proteins.¹ The requirement of GDP addition for potentiation of the effect of $\text{ATP}\gamma\text{S}$ on C5a receptor binding appears to argue also against this hypothesis. However, GDP is only loosely bound to G_i proteins in HL-60 membranes and is rapidly released and degraded when membranes are incubated in the presence of Mg^{2+} at 30° (22). Thus, although formation of $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ from G protein-bound GDP by nucleoside diphosphokinase seems to be very unlikely, it cannot be excluded by our data.

The amount of formed $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ causing maximal inhibition of C5a receptor binding was about 30 pmol/mg of protein. This number is very similar to the amount of $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ bound to HL-60 membrane G proteins at a maximally effective concentration of exogenously added $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ ($100\ \text{nM}$) (23). These data suggested that the vast majority of nucleoside diphosphokinase-formed $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ is bound to G proteins. This assumption was confirmed by direct measurement, showing that about 80% of the formed $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ was found to be membrane bound. We, therefore, propose that $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ is formed by nucleoside diphosphokinase in HL-60 membranes in close association with the G proteins interacting with C5a receptors. More work has to be done in order to elaborate the mechanisms by which

¹ P. A. Randazzo, J. K. Northup, and R. A. Kahn, personal communication.

nucleoside diphosphokinase can apparently channel the formed guanine nucleoside triphosphate into G proteins.

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