

Histidine Residues 912 and 913 in Protein Associated with Myc Are Necessary for the Inhibition of Adenylyl Cyclase Activity

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ABSTRACT

We reported previously that protein associated with Myc (PAM) interacts with the C2 domain of type V adenylyl cyclase (ACV-C2) and that purified PAM is a potent inhibitor of $G_{\alpha s}$ -stimulated ACV activity (*J Biol Chem* **276**:47583–47589, 2001). The present study was conducted to identify the region in PAM that inhibits ACV activity and to determine whether its binding with the ACV-C2 is necessary and sufficient to inhibit the enzyme. Coexpression of ACV and full-length PAM or its N-terminal third (PAM-N) in COS-7 cells inhibited isoproterenol-stimulated cAMP accumulation. Deletion of the RCC1 homology domains in PAM-N abolished its ability to inhibit isoproterenol-stimulated cAMP formation in cells. Purified GST fusion protein of the second RCC1 homology domain (RHD2) of PAM was sufficient

to bind with ACV-C2 and inhibit $G_{\alpha s}$ -stimulated ACV activity. In addition, deletion of 11 amino acids in GST-RHD2 obliterated its ability to bind with and inhibit ACV. The C terminus of the RHD2 domain bound with ACV-C2 without inhibiting enzyme activity. Furthermore, substitution of His912 and His913 with alanine in the GST-RHD2 obliterated its ability to inhibit ACV without altering binding to ACV-C2. Likewise, H912/913A mutants of both PAM-N and full-length PAM did not inhibit cAMP formation in cells. Thus, the RHD2 domain of PAM is sufficient to inhibit $G_{\alpha s}$ -stimulated ACV activity and the binding of RHD2 to ACV-C2 is necessary but not sufficient for this inhibition. Moreover, His912 and His913 in PAM are critical for inhibiting ACV.

Adenylyl cyclase (AC) catalyzes the conversion of ATP to the second messenger cyclic AMP, which plays a crucial role in regulating a variety of physiological functions in response to hormones and neurotransmitters. Nine distinct and two splice variant forms of membrane-bound mammalian ACs have been cloned and characterized so far (for review, see Smit and Iyengar, 1998; Defer et al., 2000; Patel et al., 2001a). All these enzymes are activated by the GTP-bound α subunit of the stimulatory GTP-binding protein ($G_{\alpha s}$) and, except for ACIX, also by the synthetic diterpene forskolin (for review, see Tang and Gilman, 1992; Smit and Iyengar, 1998; Defer et al., 2000; Patel et al., 2001a). All of the membrane-bound isoforms of adenylyl cyclase share a characteristic structure, consisting of a short variable N terminus followed

by two sets of six transmembrane spans that are separated by a large cytosolic domain (C1) (for review, see Tang and Gilman, 1992; Smit and Iyengar, 1998; Defer et al., 2000; Patel et al., 2001a). A cytoplasmic C-terminal domain (C2) follows the second set of transmembrane domains (for review, see Tang and Gilman, 1992; Smit and Iyengar, 1998; Defer et al., 2000; Patel et al., 2001a). The C1 and C2 domains of all isoforms share significant amino acid sequence homology and are sufficient to form a catalytic core with AC activity (Tang and Gilman, 1995; Yan et al., 1996; Scholich et al., 1997a,b; Wittpoth et al., 1999). Indeed, the separately expressed C1 and C2 domains, when mixed together, can reconstitute AC activity (Yan et al., 1996; Wittpoth et al., 1999). Both the C1 and C2 domains also contribute to the regulation of AC by several modulators. For example, $G_{\alpha i}$, bacterial *cis*-transpeptidylprolyl isomerase and regulator of G protein signaling 2 have been demonstrated to inhibit AC activity by interaction with C1 domain (Dessauer et al., 1998; Wittpoth et al., 1999; Patel et al., 2001b; Sinnarajah et al., 2001; Yan et al., 2001); forskolin and $G_{\alpha s}$ stimulate AC

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ABBREVIATIONS: AC, adenylyl cyclase (roman numeral after AC represents isoform type of the enzyme); $G_{\alpha s}^*$, constitutively active (Q213L) mutant of the short splice variant of the α subunit of the stimulatory GTP binding protein of adenylyl cyclase; ACV-C2, C2 domain of type V adenylyl cyclase; PAM, protein associated with c-Myc; RCC1, regulator of chromosome condensation; RHD, RCC1 homology domain; PAM-N, N-terminal third of PAM; PCR, polymerase chain reaction; aa, amino acid(s); GST, glutathione S-transferase; PBS, phosphate-buffered saline; DTT, dithiothreitol; DMEM, Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium; PAGE, polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis.

activity by interaction with both C1 and C2 domains (Tang and Gilman, 1995; Yan et al., 1996; Scholich et al., 1997a,b; Sunahara et al., 1997; Yan et al., 1997; Wittpoth et al., 1999).

In a previous study, we identified, using the yeast two-hybrid assay, a short portion of the protein associated with c-Myc (PAM) that interacts with the C2 domain of type V adenylyl cyclase (ACV) (Scholich et al., 2001). We also demonstrated that PAM purified from HeLa cells is a very potent inhibitor on some isoforms of AC, including ACI, ACV, and ACs expressed in S49 cell membranes (Scholich et al., 2001). In addition, we showed that a region of PAM comprising aa 446-1062 that contains the two regulator of chromosome condensation (RCC1)-homology domains (RHD1 and RHD2) was as potent as full-length PAM at inhibiting ACV activity (Scholich et al., 2001). In addition to inhibiting AC activity, PAM has also been shown to interact with c-Myc through a c-Myc binding domain (Guo et al., 1998). Mammalian PAM, by inhibiting adenylyl cyclase activity, seems to play an important role in decreasing nociception (Ehnert et al., 2004). Furthermore, by translocating to the plasma membrane, mammalian PAM may also provide the longer term inhibition of adenylyl cyclase that is observed with sphingosine-1-phosphate (Pierre et al., 2004). These findings underscore the need to better understand the interactions between human PAM and adenylyl cyclases.

The RHD1 and RHD2 domains, but not the c-Myc-binding domain, are also present in the PAM homologues in *Drosophila melanogaster* (HIW) and in *Caenorhabditis elegans* (RPM-1) (Schaefer et al., 2000; Wan et al., 2000; Zhen et al., 2000). These PAM homologues in *D. melanogaster* and *C. elegans* have been shown to be important in synaptogenesis at neuromuscular junctions (Schaefer et al., 2000; Wan et al., 2000; Zhen et al., 2000). Moreover, the RHD2 domain of RPM-1 seems to be crucial for its role in synaptogenesis because replacement of a histidine with an alanine (H778A) within this domain failed to rescue the RPM-1 mutant phenotype (Zhen et al., 2000). This histidine corresponds to His912 and His913 in human PAM. Herein, we report that overexpression of full-length PAM or its N-terminal third (PAM-N) decreases the formation of cAMP in COS-7 cells stimulated by isoproterenol. The inhibitory effect of PAM is attributed to RHD2 domain. In addition, the C2-binding region in RHD2 is necessary but not sufficient for the inhibition of AC activity. Furthermore, the H912/913A mutation in the RHD2 domain, PAM-N, and full-length PAM impairs the ability of these proteins to inhibit AC.

Materials and Methods

Plasmid Constructs. The 14-kb full length of human PAM cDNA was pieced together from the cDNA fragments that were generated by reverse transcription-PCR using HeLa cell mRNA. The N-terminal fragment (nucleotides 1-4512) was amplified with primers flanked by restriction sites BamHI and SpeI (blunted) and was ligated into plasmid pCMV-Tag 1 at the BglII and EcoRV sites to gain the N-terminal FLAG tag and a C-terminal Myc epitope. This construct was then digested with NotI and PvuI (NotI site blunted with Klenow) and cloned into the PmeI site of plasmid pcDNA 3.1. This generated the construct PAM-N that encodes for aa 1 to 1504 and has an N-terminal FLAG tag. The PCR product for nucleotides 4468 to 9300 with 3' primer containing XhoI site was digested with XbaI and XhoI and inserted in the plasmid pcDNA 3.1 containing PAM-N. Finally, the PCR product corresponding to nucleotides 9191

to 13,923 of PAM was generated using a 3' primer that contained a XhoI site and this was then inserted in the pcDNA 3.1 construct described above at the AflIII and XhoI site. The full-length PAM cDNA was checked for sequence authenticity and in-frame cloning with the FLAG and Myc tags. For expression of proteins in bacteria (*Escherichia coli*), PAM fragments were synthesized by PCR and cloned between BamHI and XhoI sites in the vector pGEX-4T-3, generating constructs expressing GST fusion proteins. The H912A, H913A, and H912/913A mutations as well as deletion of 11 residues (1042-1052) of PAM or its regions were created using the QuikChange site-directed mutagenesis kit (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA). All constructs were confirmed by sequencing. The full-length PAM and its derivative constructs used in our studies are shown in Fig. 1.

Immunocytochemistry. COS-7 cells (80,000 cells) were grown in tissue tech chambers (Nalge Nunc International, Naperville, IL) and transfected with 0.5 μ g of each of the constructs PAM-N (Fig. 1) or PAM-N Δ RCC1 using LipofectAMINE. The next day, the medium was withdrawn and cells were fixed with 100% ethanol for 10 min at -20°C . This was followed by incubating the cells at room temperature for 1 min with a 1:1 mixture of methanol/acetone. After washing with PBS, the cells were permeabilized with 0.3% Triton in PBS for five min and blocked with 10% normal goat serum in PBS containing Mg^{2+} and Ca^{2+} for 1 h at room temperature. Thereafter, the cells were incubated overnight at 4°C with the monoclonal anti-FLAG antibody (M2 from Sigma Chemicals, St. Louis, MO; 1:250 dilution). After three rinses (5 min each) with PBS, the cells were incubated with goat anti-mouse antibody conjugated with Alexa fluor 594 (1:500 dilution with 10% goat serum in PBS; Molecular Probes, Eugene, OR). This step was followed by three rinses (5 min each) with PBS, and slides were mounted with medium that contains 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (Vector Labs, Inc., Burlingame, CA).

Purification of Bacterially Expressed Recombinant Gas* and C1 or C2 Domains of ACV. The His₆-tagged constitutively active (Q213L) form of the short Gas (Gas*) was expressed in *E. coli* strain BL21(DE3) and purified as we described previously (Scholich et al., 1997a; Wittpoth et al., 1999). As monitored by guanosine 5'-O-(3-[³⁵S]thio)triphosphate binding, 20% of the Gas* was active. The C1 and C2 domains of ACV were expressed in BL21(DE3) strain of *E. coli* as inclusion bodies. The inclusion bodies were extensively washed with buffer containing 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, and 1 mM EDTA. The resulting clean pellet was resuspended with 6 M guanidine HCl and the solubilized proteins (20 ml, 1 mg/ml) were refolded

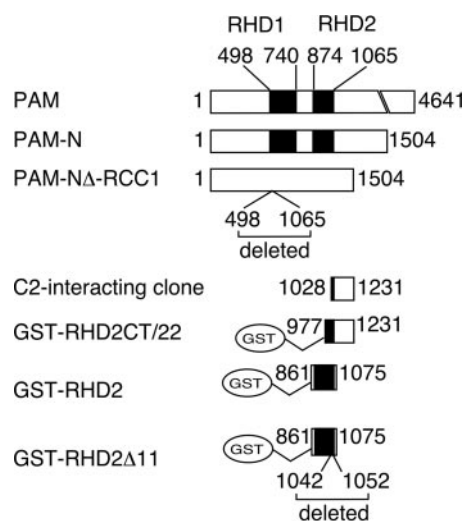


Fig. 1. Schematic representation of the full-length PAM and other PAM constructs used in the present study. The numbers denote the amino acid residues in human PAM. The C2 interacting clone refers to the partial clone of PAM that was isolated in our previous study (Scholich et al., 2001).

at 4°C by slow infusion (1.5 ml/h) into 2 liters of a solution containing 10 mM Na₃PO₄, pH 7.4, 10 mM sodium pyrophosphate, 1 mM DTT, 0.1 mM MgCl₂, 0.1 mM MnCl₂, and 20% glycerol. After centrifugation (20,000g for 20 min), the refolded proteins were absorbed onto a HiTrap Q column and eluted with a gradient of 100 to 500 mM NaCl in 25 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, 1 mM DTT, and 20% glycerol. The fractions containing C1 or C2 were identified by Coomassie blue staining and pooled, and the buffer was exchanged using Centricon (quantitative molecular weight limit, 10 kDa; Orbital Biosciences, Topsfield, MA) with 50 mM Tris-HCl, 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM DTT, 50 mM NaCl, and 20% glycerol. The resulting purified C1 and C2 proteins, when mixed together, demonstrated significant adenylyl cyclase activity and were frozen at -80°C.

Purification of GST-Fused PAM Proteins. GST-tagged PAM proteins, GST-RHD2 (residues 861-1075), GST-RHD2-H912A, GST-RHD2-H913A, GST-RHD2-H912/913A, GST-RHD2Δ11, and GST-RHD2CT/22 were all expressed in *Escherichia coli* strain BL21. A schematic of these constructs is provided in Fig. 1. The expression was induced with 0.1 mM isopropyl β-D-thiogalactoside at 20°C for 15 h. Bacteria were lysed by sonication in lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, 1 mM EDTA, 5 mM DTT, 1 mM phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride, 1 mM benzamidine, and 10 μg/ml each of aprotinin, leupeptin, and soybean trypsin inhibitor). After clarification by centrifugation, the lysate was supplemented with NaCl and Triton X-100 so that the final concentrations of these ingredients were 200 mM and 0.3% (v/v), respectively, before loading onto a glutathione affinity column. The column was washed twice with 10 volumes of lysis buffer containing 200 mM NaCl and 0.1% Triton X-100 and once with 10 volumes of lysis buffer containing 20 mM NaCl. Proteins were eluted with 50 mM Tris-HCl, 2 mM DTT, 20 mM NaCl, and 10 mM glutathione. The entire eluate was directly applied to Mono Q 5/5 column and washed with the starting elution buffer. Proteins were eluted with a gradient of 0 to 500 mM NaCl in 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 1 mM EDTA, and 1 mM DTT. Fractions containing the proteins of interest were identified by Coomassie blue staining, pooled, and buffer was exchanged with 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM DTT and 50 mM NaCl, and 10% glycerol using Centricon (quantitative molecular weight limit, 10 kDa; Orbital Biosciences).

Expression of ACV in Sf9 Cells. Sf9 cells were infected with recombinant baculovirus derived from ACV cDNA as described previously (Scholich et al., 1997a; Patel et al., 2001b). Sixty hours after infection, the cells were harvested in PBS containing 1 mM benzamidine and 10 μg/ml each of aprotinin, leupeptin, and soybean trypsin inhibitor. The cells were lysed in 25 mM HEPES, pH 7.4, 1 mM EGTA, 10% sucrose with protease inhibitors and aliquots were stored at -80°C until use.

Adenylyl Cyclase Assay. The adenylyl cyclase activity was assayed as we have described previously (Nair et al., 1989; Sun et al., 1995). The reaction was carried out in 100 μl in the presence of 5 mM of MgCl₂. Recombinant GST-PAM polypeptides or GST (control) were preincubated on ice for 20 min with membranes (10 μg of protein) from Sf9 cells expressing ACV. This mixture was added to the assay reaction with either 50 nM of active Gas* that had been activated with guanosine 5'-O-(3-thio)triphosphate or 100 μM of forskolin. AC activity was monitored over 15 min.

Cyclic AMP Formation in Cells. The method used was that of Salomon (1991). COS-7 cells were cultured in 24-well plates in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM) with 10% fetal bovine serum and 1% penicillin and streptomycin. Using LipofectAMINE (Invitrogen), cells were cotransfected with 0.1 μg/well of pcDNA3-ACV together with 0.1 μg of plasmid encoding PAM fragments (for expression of full-length PAM, 0.15 μg of plasmid construct was used). Forty hours after transfection, cells were labeled with [³H]adenine (1 μCi/well) for 4 h in DMEM without serum. Cells were then washed twice with DMEM and preincubated for 30 min with DMEM containing the phosphodiesterase inhibitor 3-isobutyl-1-methylxanthine (0.2 mM) before the addition of agonist, isoproterenol, or forskolin for 5 min at the concentrations indicated in figures or figure

legends. Incubations were terminated by addition of 10% ice-cold trichloroacetic acid containing [¹⁴C]cAMP as an internal standard to correct for recovery. cAMP in the trichloroacetic acid extract was isolated by using two sequential columns as described for adenylyl cyclase assay. The cAMP formation was calculated and expressed as a percentage of conversion of total [³H]adenine uptake in the cells. For each experiment, in parallel samples, the expression of FLAG-PAM, FLAG-PAM-N, FLAG-PAM-N-ΔRCC1, FLAG-PAM-N-H912/913A, and FLAG-PAM-H912/913A were determined by Western blotting using biotinylated anti-FLAG antibody (Sigma).

Protein Binding Assay. The binding assay was conducted in vitro using purified C1 or C2 domains of ACV along with pure GST-tagged PAM proteins. Clarified bacterial lysates containing GST-tagged PAM proteins were first incubated with glutathione resin and washed three times with 10 resin volumes of binding buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, 50 mM NaCl, 5 mM MgCl₂, 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM DTT, and 0.1% Triton X-100). The amount of GST-tagged protein bound to the resin was determined by SDS-PAGE and Coomassie staining using bovine serum albumin as a standard. Ten microliters of the resin bound to GST-tagged PAM proteins was added to 200 μl of binding buffer (described above) containing 0.15 μM each of either C1 or C2 and incubated for 1 h at 4°C. After extensive washing with the binding buffer, the bound proteins were released from beads with Laemmli sample buffer and separated by SDS-PAGE. The anti-Xpress epitope tagged C1 or C2 were detected by immunoblotting with anti-Xpress antibody (Invitrogen).

Results and Discussion

In our previous report, using in vitro assays, we demonstrated that PAM purified from HeLa cells inhibited Gas-stimulated activity of ACI and ACV as well as the ACs present in S49 cell membrane (ACVI and ACVII) (Scholich et al., 2001). Moreover, we also showed that a large region encompassed by aa 446 to 1062 of PAM was as potent an inhibitor of ACV as the full-length PAM (Scholich et al., 2001). In that study, using anti-sense oligodeoxynucleotides, we showed that decreased expression of PAM in HeLa cells increased the ability of vasoactive intestinal peptide to increase cAMP accumulation (Scholich et al., 2001). However, this was not complemented by opposite findings in cells transfected to overexpress PAM because of the lack of a full-length (14 kb) clone of the PAM cDNA. Therefore, our initial approach was to construct the full-length PAM cDNA, to express the full-length protein along with ACV in COS-7 cells, and to determine whether the basal or agonist-stimulated cAMP formation was altered. ACV coexpression was necessary because transfection of PAM alone inhibited neither forskolin- nor isoproterenol-stimulated activity of endogenous adenylyl cyclases in COS-7 cells (data not shown). The lack of an effect of PAM on endogenous AC activity in COS-7 cells suggests that type VII and IX isoforms of AC that are expressed endogenously in COS-7 cells (Premont et al., 1996) are not inhibited by PAM. Because cAMP formation in the cells is monitored in the presence of the cAMP phosphodiesterase inhibitor 3-isobutyl-1-methylxanthine, this assay actually measures intracellular AC activity (Salomon, 1991). As shown in Fig. 2A, the expression of full-length PAM together with ACV in COS-7 cells decreased the ability of isoproterenol (1 μM) to stimulate cAMP formation; in controls transfected with empty plasmid, the isoproterenol-stimulated cAMP accumulation was not altered (Fig. 2A). However, expression of the full-length PAM did not alter the ability of forskolin to stimulate cAMP formation in intact

cells that were expressing ACV (Fig. 2A). Because the β -adrenoreceptor agonist isoproterenol stimulates AC activity in intact cells via activation of $G_{\alpha s}$ (for review, see Gether et al., 2002; Slotkin et al., 2003), these findings in intact cells (Fig. 2A) are in agreement with our previous *in vitro* AC activity data (Scholich et al., 2001) in that PAM inhibits AC activity stimulated by $G_{\alpha s}$ but not by forskolin.

PAM is a large protein of 510 kDa that contains a number of potentially functional domains (Guo et al., 1998). Because the N-terminal fragment of PAM, PAM-N (residues 1–1504), contains the region (aa 446–1062; see Fig. 1) that we showed could inhibit ACV activity *in vitro* (Scholich et al., 2001), we investigated whether PAM-N inhibited AC activity in intact cells. As shown in Fig. 2B, the dose-response curve of isoproterenol-stimulated cAMP formation in cells expressing PAM-N was shifted to the right. Thus, like the full-length PAM, PAM-N also inhibited cAMP formation in response to the β -adrenoreceptor agonist isoproterenol. It is notable that PAM-N also inhibited the ability of maximally effective concentrations of isoproterenol (10 μ M) to inhibit cAMP accumulation (Fig. 2B, inset), indicating that the inhibition of cAMP formation by PAM-N is not reversed by high concentrations of isoproterenol. On the other hand, the ability of different concentrations of forskolin to stimulate AC activity in COS-7 cells was not altered by the expression of PAM-N (Fig. 2C). In these experiments, that were performed in parallel, by Western analyses with anti-FLAG antibody, we ensured that PAM-N was expressed to equivalent levels in cells treated with isoproterenol or forskolin (see representative blots in Fig. 2, B and C). In previous *in vitro* studies, we demonstrated that the full-length PAM and its RCC1-like domain (aa 446–1062) are equipotent at inhibiting ACV. However, from the data in Fig. 2, A and B, it would seem that the full-length PAM is less potent than PAM-N at inhibiting ACV activity. This apparent discrepancy is explained by the fact that in the intact cell experiments, the expression of the full-length PAM (4641 amino acids) is always lower than that of the 1504 amino acid long PAM-N (data not shown); therefore, the concentration of the full-length protein in cells may be lower. Thus, the data from experiments concerning expression of PAM-N and full-length PAM cannot be directly

compared with each other. It should also be noted that expression of PAM or its N-terminal third (PAM-N) does not alter the expression of ACV, because the forskolin-stimulated activity was the same whether or not PAM or its derivative PAM-N was expressed (Fig. 2, A and C).

PAM contains two regions, RHD1 (aa 498–740) and RHD2 (aa 874–1065), that are similar to two parts of the RCC1. RCC1 is a guanine nucleotide exchange factor for the small G protein, Ran (Bischoff and Ponstingl, 1991; Carazo-Salas et al., 1999); its structure, a seven-bladed propeller, is similar to the β subunit of heterotrimeric G proteins (Sondek et al., 1996). In previous *in vitro* assays, we demonstrated that a protein corresponding to the region of PAM that contained both the RHD1 and RHD2 domains could inhibit ACV activity *in vitro* (Scholich et al., 2001). Therefore, to determine whether the RCC1-like region of PAM is necessary for inhibition of AC activity in intact cells, we transfected cells with PAM-N or its deletion mutant lacking the RHD1 and RHD2 regions (PAM-N Δ RCC1). As shown in Fig. 3, although PAM-N and PAM-N Δ RCC1 were expressed to the same level (Fig. 3A), the expression of PAM-N, but not PAM-N Δ RCC1, inhibited the ability of submaximal concentration of isoproterenol to stimulate cAMP formation in COS-7 cells. In parallel experiments, neither PAM-N nor PAM-N Δ RCC1 altered the ability of forskolin to stimulate cAMP accumulation in cells (Fig. 3C). These findings are consistent with our previous *in vitro* experiments (Scholich et al., 2001), which showed that the RCC1-like region of PAM is necessary to observe the inhibition of isoproterenol-stimulated AC activity in intact cells. The lack of inhibition of ACV by PAM-N Δ RCC1 is not caused by ectopic localization of the protein in some compartment of the cells, which is shown by the fact that both PAM-N and PAM-N Δ RCC1 were distributed similarly in cells (Fig. 3D). In these experiments (Fig. 3D), specificity of the anti-FLAG antibody for the FLAG-tagged proteins is shown by the fact that the untransfected cells showed nuclear staining alone (Fig. 3D) indicating that the anti-FLAG antibody does not recognize cellular proteins in a nonspecific manner. The lack of inhibition of ACV by PAM-N Δ RCC1 (Fig. 3B) cannot be explained by alterations in the expression of ACV because

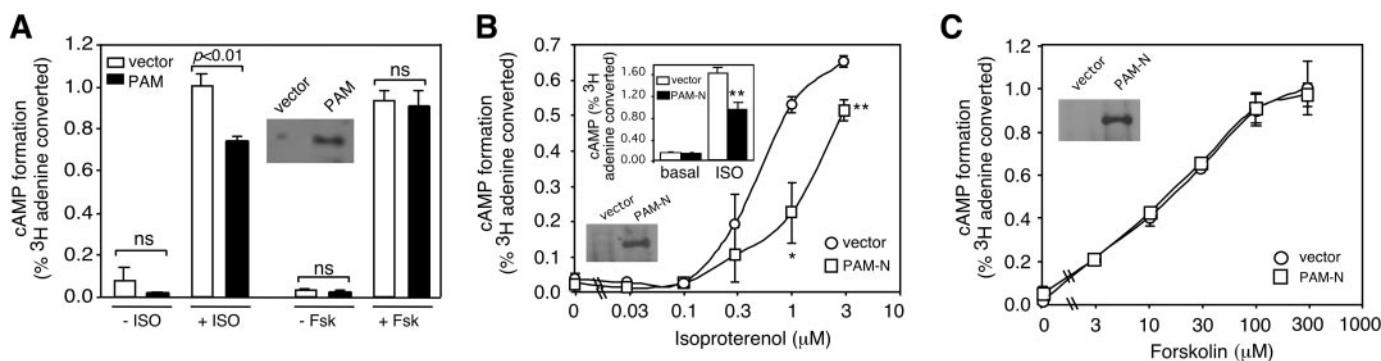


Fig. 2. Full-length PAM and its N terminus (PAM-N; aa 1–1504) inhibit cAMP accumulation stimulated by isoproterenol but not by forskolin. COS-7 cells (4×10^4 cells/well in a 24-well plate) were cotransfected with plasmid expressing ACV along with empty vector or constructs to express the FLAG-tagged full-length PAM (A) or its N terminus (PAM-N) (B and C) in plasmid pcDNA3.1. Forty hours after transfection, cells were serum-starved and labeled with 1 μ Ci/well of [3 H]adenine in DMEM for 4 h, followed by 30 min of incubation with 3-isobutyl-1-methylxanthine (0.2 mM). cAMP formation was stimulated with either 1 μ M isoproterenol (A), 10 μ M isoproterenol (inset in B), or various concentrations of the β -adrenoreceptor agonist (B) for 5 min. Likewise, cells were treated with either 100 μ M (A) or varying concentrations of forskolin (C) for 5 min. cAMP formation was determined as described under *Materials and Methods*. Expression of full-length PAM and PAM-N was monitored by Western analyses using anti-FLAG antibody (insets in A–C). The data are presented as the mean \pm S.E. and are representative of three experiments each performed in triplicate. *, $p < 0.05$; **, $p < 0.01$, Student's unpaired t test.

the forskolin-stimulated activities in cells transfected with PAM-N and PAM- Δ RCC1 were similar (Fig. 3C).

Within the RCC1-like region, the RHD1 and RHD2 domains correspond to the first four and the last three β -propeller blades of RCC1, respectively. In the yeast two-hybrid screen that we performed with the C2 domain of ACV (ACV-C2) as bait, the positive clones contained the cDNA corresponding to aa 1028 to 1231 of PAM (Scholich et al., 2001). This latter region contains the C-terminal 38 amino acids (aa 1028–1065) of the RHD2 domain that form part of the seventh propeller blade (Fig. 1). Therefore, the next series of experiments were performed to address the hypothesis that the RHD2 domain of PAM, or a part thereof, was necessary for interactions with ACV-C2 and/or inhibition of AC activity.

To determine whether the RHD2 domain of PAM could inhibit ACV activity, the ability of the purified GST fusion protein containing the RHD2 region and its flanking amino acids (aa 861–1075 of PAM; Fig. 1) to inhibit ACV activity was monitored. For this purpose, membranes of Sf9 cells infected to express ACV were used. The forskolin- or *Gas*-stimulated endogenous AC activity in Sf9 cell membranes was not inhibited by GST-RHD2 (data not shown). As shown in Fig. 4A, GST-RHD2, but not GST alone, inhibited the *Gas**-stimulated ACV activity in Sf9 cell membranes in a concentration-dependent manner. As expected from our pre-

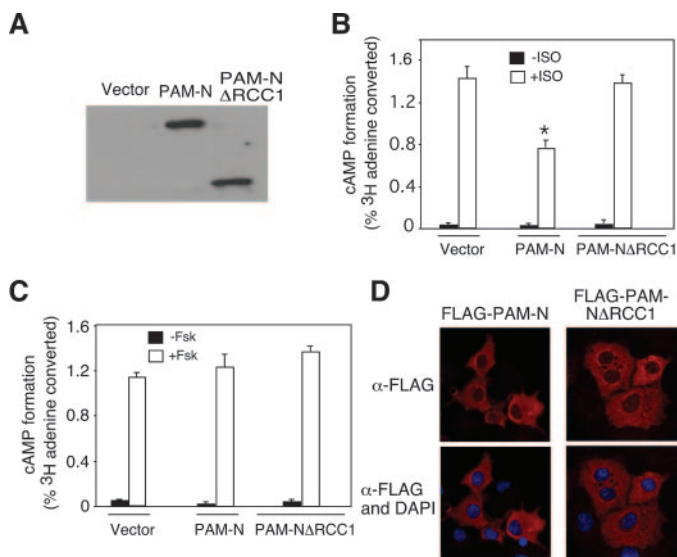


Fig. 3. Deletion of RCC1-like domains (498–1065) in PAM-N abolishes its ability to inhibit isoproterenol-stimulated cAMP accumulation. COS-7 cells (4×10^4 cells/well in a 24-well plate) were transfected with constructs expressing ACV along with either empty vector, pcDNA3.1-FLAG-PAM-N, or pcDNA3.1-FLAG-PAM- Δ RCC1, as indicated. Expression of the proteins in cells was determined by Western analyses with anti-FLAG antibody (A). cAMP formation was stimulated with 1 μ M isoproterenol (ISO) (B) or 100 μ M forskolin (Fsk) (C) for 5 min and monitored as described under *Materials and Methods*. The data are presented as the means \pm S.E. and are representative of at least three experiments, each performed in triplicate. *, $p < 0.01$, compared with vector + ISO, Student's unpaired t test. D, PAM-N and PAM- Δ RCC1 were transfected into COS-7 cells, and their intracellular localization was monitored using anti-FLAG antibody as described under *Materials and Methods*. The images shown are at $400\times$ magnification. PAM-N and PAM- Δ RCC1 are shown by Alexa fluor 594 (red) and nuclei are shown by 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole staining (blue). Note the absence of both proteins in nucleus and the similar distribution. Also note that only cells expressing the FLAG-tagged proteins showed the red color (untransfected cells are seen by nuclear staining only), indicating that the staining with the anti-FLAG antibody is specific.

vious findings (Figs. 1 and 2) (Scholich et al., 2001), neither GST-RHD2 nor GST alone inhibited the forskolin-stimulated activity of ACV. It is interesting that, compared with the RCC1-like domain (aa 446–1062) (Scholich et al., 2001), the RHD2 domain (aa 861–1075) was less potent at inhibiting ACV activity. These data suggest that additional residues in the N terminus of the RHD2 domain are involved in increasing the potency of the inhibition. We and others have shown that *Gas* and forskolin together can stimulate the activity of ACV to a greater level than either agent alone (Scholich et al., 1997a). Thus, we investigated whether the RHD2 domain inhibited the activity of ACV that was maximally stimulated with a combination of forskolin and *Gas*. As shown in Fig. 4B, when *Gas* and forskolin were present together, the activity of ACV was stimulated to a greater extent than either agent alone. Although the forskolin-stimulated activity of ACV was not inhibited, the GST-RHD2 inhibited the *Gas* plus forskolin-stimulated ACV activity (Fig. 4B). These data suggest that the GST-RHD2 inhibits *Gas*-stimulated component of the activity that is maximally stimulated by forskolin plus *Gas*.

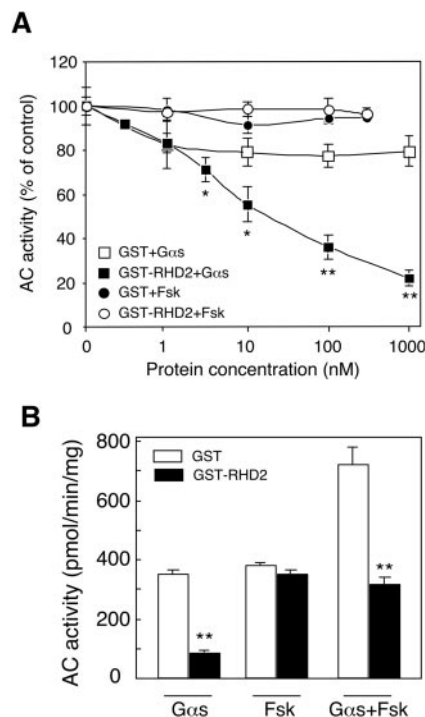


Fig. 4. RHD2 domain of PAM inhibits *Gas**- but not forskolin-stimulated ACV activity. Amino acid residues (861–1065) encompassing the RHD2 domain of PAM were expressed as a GST fusion protein and purified from *E. coli* as described under *Materials and Methods*. The effect of different concentrations of GST or GST-RHD2 on AC activity in 10 μ g of Sf9 membrane expressing ACV was examined. A, GST and GST-RHD2 were preincubated with the membranes and then assayed for AC activity in the presence of 50 nM of guanosine 5'-O-(3-thio)triphosphate-activated *Gas** or 100 μ M forskolin for 15 min at room temperature. Adenylyl cyclase activities were determined as described under *Materials and Methods*. Control (100%) activity in the presence of *Gas* or forskolin alone were 377.5 ± 32.2 and 378.8 ± 15.6 pmol/min/mg, respectively. Data presented are percent of these control activities \pm S.E. of three experiments each performed in triplicate. *, $p < 0.05$; **, $p < 0.01$ compared with control in the absence of GST-RHD2. B, same as A, except that the ACV activities were monitored at 100 nM GST-RHD2 and included experiments with both *Gas** (50 nM) and forskolin (100 μ M). Data shown are the mean \pm S.E. ($n = 3$). **, $p < 0.01$ compared with control without GST-RHD2.

Next, we investigated whether the RHD2 domain interacted with the C1 or C2 regions of ACV. In these experiments, the ability of GST or GST-RHD2 to bind the purified C1 and C2 domains of ACV was investigated. Figure 5A shows that the RHD2 domain interacts with ACV-C2 but not the C1 domain of the enzyme; GST alone (control) did not interact with either of the two ACV domains (Fig. 5A). As mentioned above, the N terminus of the clone that interacted with ACV-C2 in the yeast two-hybrid assay (aa 1028–1231) (Scholich et al., 2001) has 38 amino acids that overlap with the C terminus of the RHD2 domain of PAM (Fig. 1). Because both these proteins bind ACV-C2 (Fig. 5A) (Scholich et al., 2001), we reasoned that these overlapping 38 amino acids form the ACV-C2 binding region on PAM. Therefore, to address the question of whether the binding of GST-RHD2 to ACV-C2 was necessary for inhibition of ACV activity, we deleted 11 amino acids (aa 1042–1052) in the middle of the 38-aa overlapping region in the construct GST-RHD2 to gen-

erate the protein GST-RHD2 Δ 11 (Fig. 1). Indeed, as shown in Fig. 5A, GST-RHD2 Δ 11 did not bind with ACV-C2, indicating that these amino acids reside in the ACV-C2 binding region of PAM. Moreover, the ability of GST-RHD2 Δ 11 to inhibit *Gas**-stimulated ACV activity was markedly decreased; significant inhibition was observed only at the maximal concentration (300 nM) tested (Fig. 5B). In contrast, the GST-RHD2 inhibited *Gas**-stimulated activity with an EC_{50} of approximately 10 nM. These findings (Fig. 5) demonstrate that the binding of the GST-RHD2 to ACV-C2 is necessary for inhibition of ACV activity.

To determine whether the binding of a region of PAM to ACV-C2 is by itself sufficient to inhibit enzyme activity, we made another GST-fusion protein comprising aa 977 to 1231 of PAM. This construct (GST-RHD2CT/22) contains the entire region (aa 1028–1231) encoded by the clone that interacted with ACV-C2 in the yeast two-hybrid assay (Scholich et al., 2001) plus 52 additional amino acids in the C terminus of the RHD2 domain (Fig. 1). As expected, GST-RHD2CT/22 bound ACV-C2, but not the C1 region of ACV (Fig. 5A). However, compared with GST-RHD2, the ability of GST-RHD2CT/22 to inhibit *Gas**-stimulated ACV activity was markedly diminished (Fig. 5B). These latter findings suggest that the binding of the C terminus of RHD2 to the ACV-C2 domain is not sufficient to observe inhibition of ACV activity and that the N terminal part of RHD2 is necessary for this effect.

The PAM homologues in *C. elegans* (RPM-1) and in *D. melanogaster* (HIW) contain the RHD regions (Schaefer et al., 2000; Wan et al., 2000; Zhen et al., 2000). In *C. elegans*, RPM-1 mutant exhibited a phenotype that resulted in defective synaptogenesis and neuromuscular junction formation (Zhen et al., 2000). This defect could be rescued by wild-type RPM1 but not its mutant carrying a single H778A substitution, suggesting the crucial role of the histidine residue (Zhen et al., 2000). This histidine residue is located in the RHD2 domain of RPM-1 (Zhen et al., 2000). It is interesting that human PAM contains two adjacent histidines (His912 and His913) that are located within its RHD2 domain and correspond to His778 of RPM1 (Fig. 1). Therefore, we investigated whether either or both of these histidine residues in human PAM play any role in the inhibition of ACV activity. To begin, we made single and double mutants of GST-RHD2 and examined their ability to inhibit *Gas**-stimulated ACV activity. As shown in Fig. 6A, when His912 or His913 were individually mutated to alanine, the ability of the RHD2 domain to inhibit ACV activity was attenuated by approximately 50%. However, the substitution of both His912 and His913 with alanine obliterated the ability of RHD2 domain of PAM to inhibit ACV (Fig. 6A). These findings demonstrate that both His912 and His913 play an essential role in inhibition of *Gas*-stimulated ACV activity. It is notable that mutation of histidines 912 and 913 to alanine in the GST-RHD2 (GST-RHD2-His912/913A) did not alter its binding to ACV-C2 (Fig. 6B) and did not inhibit ACV activity even at high concentrations (Fig. 6B, bottom). These data confirm the notion that binding of RHD2 to ACV-C2 is not sufficient to inhibit ACV activity. Moreover, the data in Fig. 6 demonstrate that the His912 and His913 in PAM are critical in mediating the inhibition of ACV activity and confirm the contention that the N terminus of the RHD2 domain of PAM is necessary for inhibition of ACV activity.

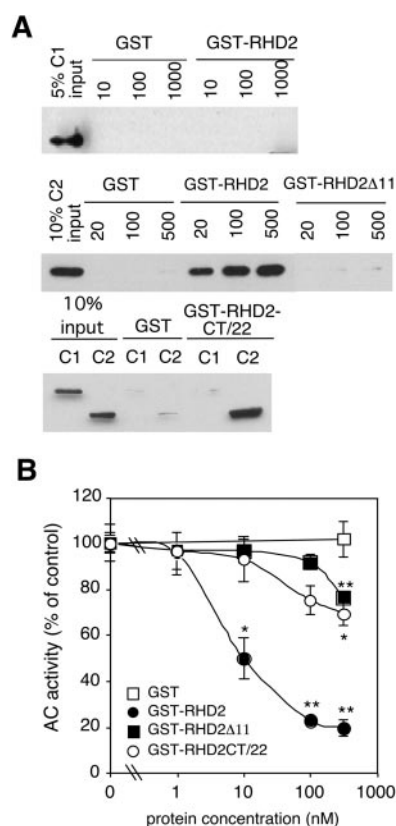


Fig. 5. The binding of the RHD2 domain of PAM to the C2 region of ACV is required but not sufficient for its inhibitory effect on ACV. **A**, purified C1 and C2 domains (0.15 μ M each) of ACV containing an N-terminal Xpress tag were incubated with GST, GST-RHD2 (residues 861–1075), GST-RHD2 Δ 11, and GST-RHD2-CT/22 (residues 977–1231) proteins as described under *Materials and Methods*. The numbers in the figure indicate the concentrations of GST fusion proteins (nanomolar) in the binding mixture. After incubation for 1 h at 4°C and extensive washing, the bound C1 and C2 proteins were separated by SDS-PAGE and detected by immunoblotting using anti-Xpress antibody. **B**, the effect of various indicated concentrations of GST and GST fusion proteins derived from PAM on AC activity in membranes of Sf9 cells expressing ACV was monitored. Membranes of Sf9 cells expressing ACV were preincubated with the proteins at the indicated concentrations and then assayed in the presence of 50 nM of *Gas** for 15 min at room temperature. Control (100%) activity in the presence of *Gas** alone was 428 ± 19.1 pmol/min/mg. Data are presented as percentage of this control \pm S.E. of three experiments each performed in triplicate. *, $p < 0.05$; **, $p < 0.01$; Student's unpaired t test.

To examine the importance of the His912 and His913 residues in the RHD2 region in the context of a larger protein, the experiments shown in Fig. 7 were performed. COS-7 cells were transfected with PAM-N or full-length PAM and their point mutants, PAM-N-H912/913A and PAM-H912/913A. The expression of the proteins and their mutants to equal levels was confirmed by Western analyses (Fig. 7, top) and the ability of isoproterenol or forskolin to stimulate cAMP formation was determined. As observed with the RHD2 domains in ACV activity assays (Fig. 6), PAM-N and PAM, but not PAM-N-H912/913A or PAM-H912/913A, inhibited the ability of isoproterenol to increase cAMP accumulation in intact cells (Fig. 7). As expected, neither protein altered the ability of forskolin to stimulate cAMP accumulation. The finding that mutations of His912 and His913 in the small RHD2 construct as well as the longer PAM-N or full-length

PAM constructs obliterated the ability of the proteins to inhibit AC activity confirms that these amino acids play a pivotal role in modulating *Gas*-stimulated AC activity.

The precise mechanisms by which PAM or its RHD2 domain decreases the ability of *Gas** to stimulate AC activity are presently unclear. However, because we used the constitutively active mutant of *Gas* (Q213L, *Gas**) in our assays, it is unlikely that PAM or its RHD2 domain acts as a GTPase-activating protein to decrease the ability of *Gas** to activate AC activity. Consistent with this notion is our earlier observation that *Gas**-stimulated activity of type II AC is not inhibited by PAM (Scholich et al., 2001). It is also not likely that interaction of PAM with the C2 domain of ACV interferes with the interactions of *Gas** with this region of ACV because the mutation of His912 and His913 in the RHD2 domain that does not alter its binding to C2 is ineffective at altering the ability of *Gas** to stimulate AC activity. These data also suggest that the binding of PAM to C2 domain of ACV per se does not alter catalytic activity of the enzyme and that the region N terminus to the binding domain on PAM in some manner inhibits *Gas*-stimulated activity. Because PAM inhibits the isoforms of AC that are inhibited by *Gai* (ACV, ACVI, and ACI), it is tempting to speculate that the protein binds the C2 domain and that, akin to the mechanism of *Gai* inhibition, its N terminus somehow alters the interactions between the C1 and C2 domains to inhibit *Gas*-stimulated activity. However, this mode of inhibition has to be different from that of *Gai*, because forskolin-stimulated

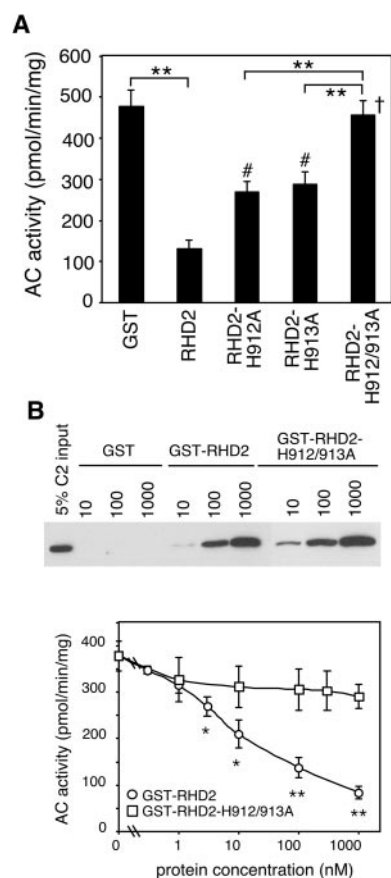


Fig. 6. Mutation of His912 and His913 to alanine in the RHD2 domain obliterates its ability to inhibit ACV activity but not its binding with the C2 domain of ACV. A, His912 and His913 in the RHD2 domain were mutated individually or together to alanine, and the ability of 100 nM each of the wild-type RHD2 or its mutants to inhibit *Gas**-stimulated ACV activity was monitored as described in the legend to Fig. 5. Data are the mean \pm S.E.M., and significance of the differences are shown ($n = 6$). #, $p < 0.01$ compared with GST alone; †, not significant compared with GST alone; **, $p < 0.01$ between conditions shown by bars. B, the binding of different concentrations (in nanomolar) of GST, GST-RHD2, or its mutant GST-RHD2-H912/913A to 0.15 μ M C2 domain of ACV was monitored as described in the legend to Fig. 5 and under *Materials and Methods*. After SDS-PAGE, the bound C2 was monitored by Western analyses with anti-Xpress antibody. The ability of different concentrations of GST-RHD2 or GST-RHD2-H912/913A to inhibit *Gas** (50 nM) stimulated ACV activity in 10 μ g of Sf9 membrane was also monitored as described in legend to Fig. 5 and under *Materials and Methods*. Data presented are the mean \pm S.E.M. of three experiments performed in triplicate. *, $p < 0.05$; **, $p < 0.01$, Student's unpaired t test.

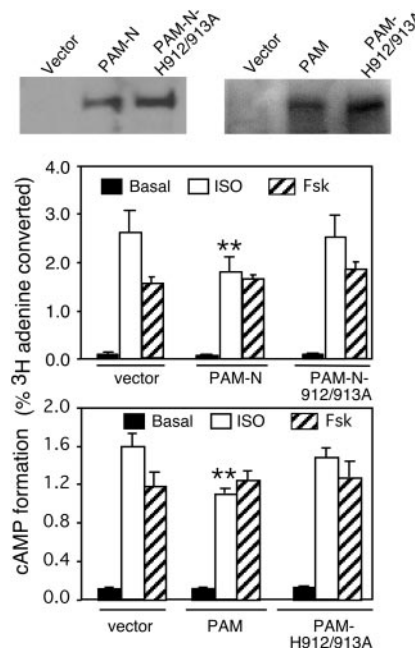


Fig. 7. The H912/913A mutations in PAM-N (the N terminus of PAM) and full-length PAM obliterate their ability to inhibit cAMP formation in intact cells. COS-7 cells were transfected with constructs expressing ACV and either pcDNA3.1 (vector) or pcDNA3.1 constructs expressing wild-type PAM-N and full-length PAM or their mutants PAM-N-H912/913A and PAM-H912/913A as indicated. Expression of these proteins was monitored by Western analyses with anti-FLAG antibody (top). Cells were stimulated with 1 μ M isoproterenol (ISO) or 100 μ M forskolin (Fsk) for 5 min, and cAMP production was measured as described in the legends to Figs. 1 and 2 and under *Materials and Methods*. The data presented are the means \pm S.E. of either three experiments each performed in triplicate (B) or quadruplicates from a representative experiment (C). **, $p < 0.01$, Student's unpaired t test.

activity is not inhibited by PAM. Whatever the mechanism, it is clear that the histidine residues (aa 912 and 913) in PAM play a critical role in the inhibition, and further analyses will be necessary to define the precise manner by which this inhibition occurs.

Because PAM is a large protein that contains many protein homology domains, including the c-Myc binding region (Guo et al., 1998), it may have multiple physiological functions. However, other than modulating AC activity and playing a role in nociception and long-term attenuation of AC activity by sphingosine-1-phosphate (Ehnert et al., 2004; Pierre et al., 2004) the other functions of mammalian PAM remain to be elucidated. A clue to the additional functions of mammalian PAM comes from its *D. melanogaster* and *C. elegans* homologues RPM-1 and HIW, which have been found to regulate synaptogenesis and neuromuscular junction formation (Schaefer et al., 2000; Wan et al., 2000; Zhen et al., 2000). To this end, our previous findings that PAM is distributed in certain areas of the mammalian brain and that its distribution changes with development (Yang et al., 2002) coupled with the fact that PAM also inhibits ACI (Scholich et al., 2001), a neuronal AC isoform, suggest that in mammals, PAM may also be important in synaptogenesis. The histidine residues in human PAM (PAM-N) correspond to the histidine in RPM-1 that is necessary to rescue function in the RPM-1 mutant of *C. elegans*; mutation of these residues obliterates the ability of the protein to inhibit AC, which tempts us to speculate that PAM may modulate synaptogenesis by regulating Gas-stimulated AC activity. The isoforms of AC present in synaptic terminals at neuromuscular junctions remain unknown. However, it should be noted that, in addition to ACV, PAM also inhibits ACI and ACVI (Scholich et al., 2001). In this respect, the findings presented here may be applicable to several other isoforms of AC isoforms, and the possibility that PAM regulates synaptogenesis at neuromuscular junctions by inhibiting AC activity needs to be formally addressed.

In conclusion, we have demonstrated that full-length PAM and its N-terminal third (PAM-N) can inhibit AC activity in intact cells. Using GST-fusion proteins representing smaller portions of PAM, we have demonstrated that the RHD2 domain of PAM is sufficient to inhibit ACV activity and that binding of this region to the C2 domain of ACV is necessary but not sufficient for inhibition of AC activity. Moreover, we have shown that in the context of both the short RHD2 domain and the larger PAM-N as well as full-length PAM proteins, the mutation of His912 and His913 obliterates the ability of PAM to inhibit AC activity in vitro as well as in intact cells. Future studies will investigate the mechanisms by which PAM and its RHD domain inhibit the ability of Gas to stimulate AC activity.

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