

# A systematic screen for protein–lipid interactions in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*

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**Protein–metabolite networks are central to biological systems, but are incompletely understood. Here, we report a screen to catalog protein–lipid interactions in yeast. We used arrays of 56 metabolites to measure lipid-binding fingerprints of 172 proteins, including 91 with predicted lipid-binding domains. We identified 530 protein–lipid associations, the majority of which are novel. To show the data set’s biological value, we studied further several novel interactions with sphingolipids, a class of conserved bioactive lipids with an elusive mode of action. Integration of live-cell imaging suggests new cellular targets for these molecules, including several with pleckstrin homology (PH) domains. Validated interactions with Slm1, a regulator of actin polarization, show that PH domains can have unexpected lipid-binding specificities and can act as coincidence sensors for both phosphatidylinositol phosphates and phosphorylated sphingolipids.**

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**Keywords:** interactome; lipid–array; network; pleckstrin homology domains; sphingolipids

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## Introduction

Biological function emerges from the concerted action of numerous interacting biomolecules. Deciphering the molecular mechanisms behind cellular processes requires the systematic charting of the multitude of interactions between all cellular components. While protein–protein and protein–DNA networks have been the subject of many systematic surveys, other critically important cellular components, such as lipids, have to date rarely been studied in large-scale interaction screens.

Lipids are one of the most abundant classes of cellular metabolites, with a wide range of structural and functional diversity. Their metabolism and transport account for about 5% of all coding genes in eukaryotes (van Meer, 2005). They are essential building blocks of biological membranes and some also function as anhydrous stores of energy. Besides these house-keeping functions, growing numbers of lipids are known to operate as signaling molecules, including phosphatidylinositol phosphates (PtdInsPs) and sphingolipids.

Many of these functions, such as the recruitment of proteins to the membrane via binding to PtdInsPs, are conserved from yeast to human. Lipids are unevenly distributed among the various cell membranes. Their correct partitioning relies on a tight spatial organization of the enzymes involved in lipid metabolism, which suggests extensive lipid–lipid and protein–lipid interactions. The importance of these interactions is evident from the variety of protein domains that have evolved to bind particular lipids (Lemmon, 2008) and from the large list of disorders arising from altered protein–lipid interactions. Human pathologies, such as cancer and bipolar disorder, have been linked to mutations in genes involved in PtdInsPs synthesis (Lee *et al*, 2007) or in domains specialized in their recognition, such as the pleckstrin homology (PH) domain (Di Paolo and De Camilli, 2006; Carpten *et al*, 2007). These interactions are attractive targets for pharmaceutical drug development. For instance, small molecule inhibitors of phosphatidylinositide 3-kinases are currently in clinical trials as anti-cancer drugs (Raynaud *et al*, 2007).

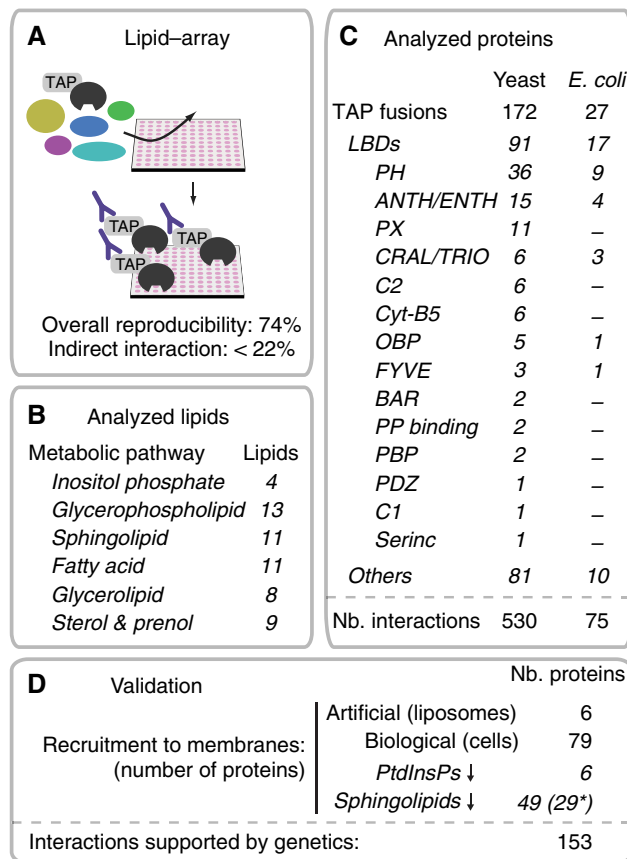
The current understanding of protein–lipid recognition comes from the study of a limited number of lipids, principally PtdInsPs (Zhu *et al*, 2001), and lipid-binding domains (LBDs) in isolation (Dowler *et al*, 2000; Yu and Lemmon, 2001; Yu *et al*, 2004). For some signaling lipids, such as sphingolipids, intracellular targets and molecular mechanisms are only partially understood (Hannun and Obeid, 2008). The importance of lipids in biological processes and their under-representation in current biological networks suggest the need for systematic, unbiased biochemical screens (Dippold *et al*, 2009). Here, we describe the use of miniaturized arrays for the study of protein–lipid interactions and report the lipid-binding profiles for 172 soluble proteins. The screen successfully recovers known protein–lipid-binding events and uncovers many others not yet reported, several of which we validated using a variety of other techniques. Many of the new interactions promise to illuminate greatly the current understanding of lipids in signaling and other cell processes.

## Results

### Profiling of protein–lipid interactions in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*

To screen protein–lipid interactions, we adapted a lipid overlay assay (Kanter *et al*, 2006) (Figure 1). We developed miniaturized nitrocellulose arrays that contained duplicated sets of 51 lipids and their metabolic intermediates that cover the main lipid classes in yeast as defined in the KEGG database of metabolic pathways (Kanehisa *et al*, 2008). For comparison, we also included five non-physiological analogs that are not synthesized in yeast (Supplementary Table S1A). We focused on the lipids that are exposed to cytosolic proteins and excluded complex sphingolipids, such as inositol phosphoceramide, mannosyl-inositolphosphoceramide and mannosyl-diinositolphosphoceramide, which localize in the extra-cellular leaflet of yeast membranes. We used the arrays to determine the binding profiles of 172 soluble proteins, expressed as carboxy-terminal tandem-affinity-purification (TAP)-tag fusion proteins in *S. cerevisiae* (Gavin *et al*, 2006). Bound proteins were immunodetected with an antibody that recognizes the TAP tag (see Materials and methods; Supplementary information). The selection included 91 proteins that were available from the collection of TAP fusions and which contained one or several possible LBDs as defined by SMART (Letunic *et al*, 2006), Pfam (Finn *et al*, 2008) or SuperFamily (Gough *et al*, 2001). The set of 91 covered 78% of all yeast proteins predicted or known to have an LBD. We also selected 32 soluble lipid-regulated proteins and enzymes involved in lipid metabolism, along with a set of 49 arbitrarily chosen soluble proteins (unclassified) (Figure 1; Supplementary Table S1B).

We applied standardized protocols that gave an average reproducibility of 74%, measured on the repeated analysis of 26 different TAP fusions (Supplementary Table S2). We also expressed a subset of proteins in a heterologous system, *Escherichia coli* (Figure 1), which provides additional evidence for the interactions found in yeast. This also approximates the fraction of the direct interactions, that is not mediated by endogenous yeast proteins that will be absent in *E. coli*. Importantly, as many mechanisms might account for failure to recapitulate binding in *E. coli* (protein mis-folding or incorrect



**Figure 1** Identification of protein–lipid interactions in *S. cerevisiae* using lipid-arrays and live-cell imaging. **(A)** Charting protein–lipid interactions with lipid-arrays. **(B)** Summary of the different lipids analyzed. Lipids are grouped according to their metabolic pathways. Numbers of different lipids analyzed for each pathway are indicated. **(C)** Summary of the different proteins analyzed. Proteins are grouped according to their LBDs. For each category, the numbers of proteins analyzed are indicated. **(D)** Summary of the validation procedure. The number of proteins analyzed in each assay is represented. Asterisk points to the series of 29 proteins that bound PtdInsPs (and not sphingolipids) and that we used as control.

post-translational modifications), reproducibility in *E. coli* provides a lower limit for the fraction of direct interactions. Bacterially expressed proteins recovered 58% of the associations initially observed with TAP fusions produced in yeast ( $P \ll 0.000001$ ; Supplementary Table S2). Assuming that the assay reproducibility is the same in yeast and *E. coli*, this suggests that a minimum of 78% (58%/74%) of the total observed interactions in yeast are direct.

We captured interactions with reported dissociation constants ranging from the high nanomolar to the mid-micromolar range (Supplementary Tables S1B and S3). We detected the weak interactions taking place between the yeast tricalbin Tcb3 and PtdInsPs at low calcium concentration (Schulz and Creutz, 2004), interactions that were specifically enhanced by the addition of calcium (data not shown).

### Data filtering and specificity of the lipid–array assay

We considered several potential sources of false negatives and false positives in the lipid–array assay (see Supplementary

information): biases owing to (i) desorption of the lipids from the nitrocellulose membranes, (ii) promiscuous lipids or proteins and (iii) non-specific interactions solely due to the TAP tag, to hydrophobic or electrostatic nature of some proteins or lipids. Based on the first two considerations, we eliminated eight most water-soluble metabolites (ethanolamine phosphate, CDP-choline, CDP-ethanolamine, CoA, acetyl-CoA, acetoacetyl-CoA, 3-OH-3methylglutaryl-CoA and L-serine) that showed little or no binding to proteins, and might have desorbed from the nitrocellulose membrane, and four promiscuous lipids (phosphatidic acid, phosphatidylserine, phosphatidylglycerol and desmosterol) that bound to > 34% of the proteins screened (Supplementary Figure S1). The cut-offs were set to ensure best coverage of the literature-derived reference data set (see below). Regarding the third possibility, the level of expression of individual TAP fusions was not found to correlate with lipid-binding frequencies (data not shown). The set of proteins that bound lipids was not biased for hydrophobic (Supplementary Figure S2) or abundant (Ghaemmaghami *et al*, 2003) (data not shown; see Supplementary information) proteins and binding frequency was not dependent on lipid hydrophobicity or ionic state (Supplementary Figure S1). Overall, this illustrates that the assay did not produce general biases due to the presence of the TAP tag or the hydrophobic or electrostatic nature of some proteins or lipids. Rather, the binding profiles of related metabolites, such as different intermediates in a metabolic pathway or the five non-physiological analogs, revealed that discrete changes in lipid head groups affected protein specificity (Supplementary Figures S3 and S4). As might be expected, non-physiological lipid analogs tend generally to bind to fewer proteins than their natural counterparts. Lipids with similar structures do tend to share target proteins, but some discrete changes in lipid head groups can confer distinct protein-binding specificities. For example, for two metabolites of phosphatidylethanolamine, phosphatidyl-*N*-methylethanolamine and phosphatidyl-*N*-dimethylethanolamine, the presence of methyls in the head group affected protein binding (Supplementary Figure S3A). Similarly, we observed mutually exclusive binding for dihydrosphingosine-1P (DHS-1P) and a non-physiological analog unsaturated at position 4–5, sphingosine-1P (Supplementary Figure S3B). A double bond at this position affects the degree of freedom of the head group, likely accounting for the different binding properties. Head group phosphorylation also contributed to binding specificities of sphingolipids (Supplementary Figure S3B) and PtdInsPs. Phosphorylation of the latter at position three on the inositol ring conferred distinctive protein-binding profiles (Supplementary Figure S4) (Lemmon, 2008). Consistent with previous observations (Narayan and Lemmon, 2006), this suggests that lipids arrayed on nitrocellulose membranes have their hydrophilic head groups accessible for biomolecular interactions.

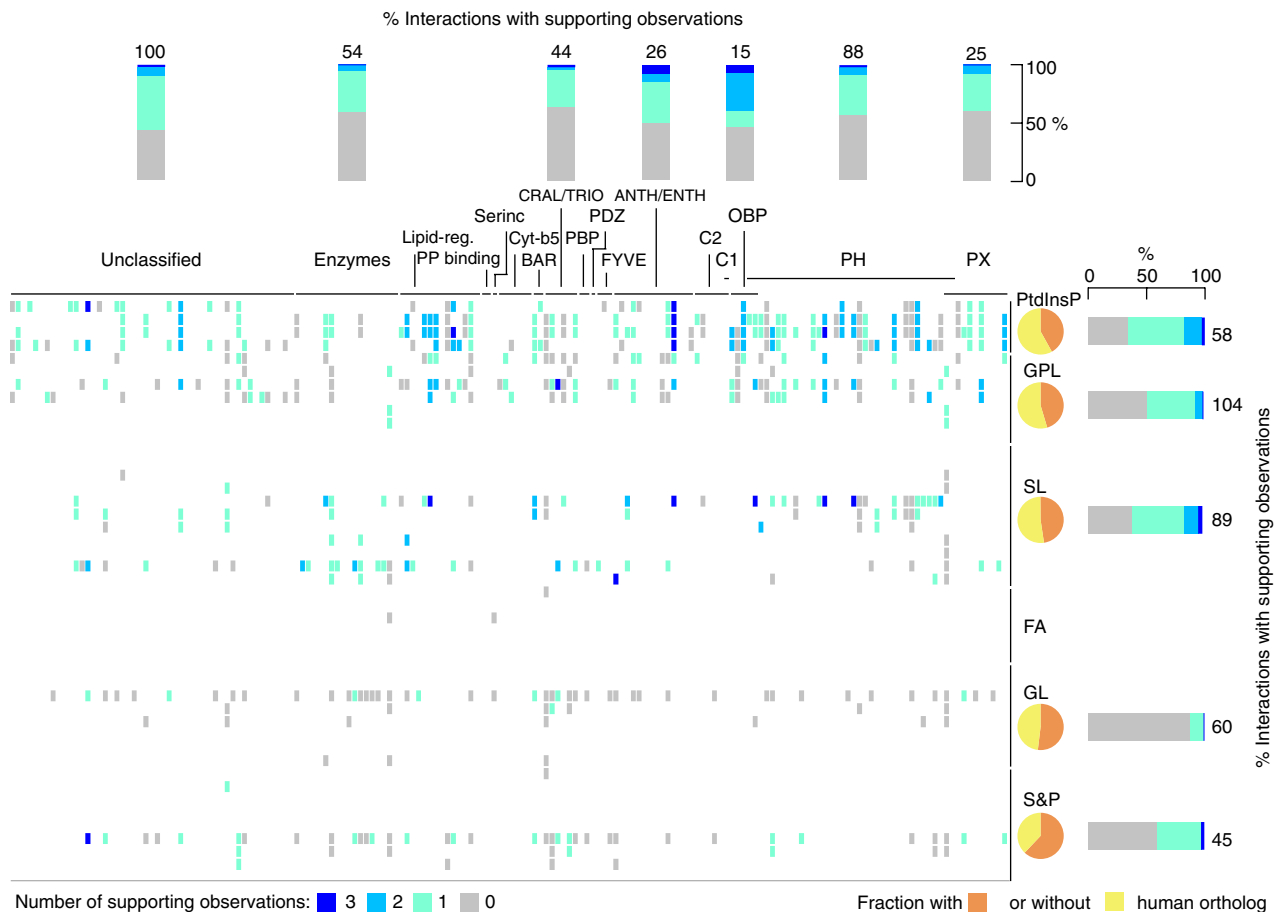
### Assessment of overall data quality

After data filtering (i.e. removal of the four promiscuous and the eight most water-soluble lipids; see above), we obtained 530 interactions, among 124 proteins and 30 lipids (Figure 2; Supplementary Table S2B). Among all lipids studied, PtdInsPs were the most frequent binders (Figure 2; Supplementary

Figure S5): 79% of the lipid-regulated proteins and 58% of the proteins with an LBD interacted with one or more PtdInsPs. Proteins with an LBD generally bound lipids more frequently: 66% were bound to more than one lipid. Proteins with an LBD bound to a median of three lipids, whereas unclassified proteins bound to one ( $P=0.032$ ; Supplementary Figure S6).

We further assessed the quality of the data by comparing the results with known protein–lipid interactions (Figure 3A). We measured the false negative rate (fraction of true interactions missed) by comparison with a set of 40 protein–lipid interactions obtained from the literature and the STITCH database (Kuhn *et al*, 2008) (Supplementary Table S3A and B). The lipid–array data recovered 60% of this literature-derived reference data set ( $P \ll 0.000001$ ). Missed interactions include those requiring additional binding events unlikely to occur *in vitro*. For example, in higher eukaryotes, the interaction between C1 domains and diacylglycerol entails both deep insertion of the domain in the membranes and the binding of basic residues to phosphatidylserine head groups (Kazanietz *et al*, 1995). For comparison, we also used a set of 31 interactions between enzymes or transporters in lipid metabolism and their substrates or products. Only 29% of those were captured, illustrating the method's limited ability to recover labile enzyme/substrate-binding events as well as interactions that imply binding in the hydrophobic pocket of lipid transfer proteins. We also compared with a published set of interactions measured in yeast using proteome arrays and PtdInsPs (Zhu *et al*, 2001). Of the 152 proteins common to both analyses, 77 interacted with PtdInsPs in either data set, our screen identified 76. The study of Zhu *et al* found five, of which four were also found in our analysis (5.2% overlap). It is important to emphasize that the Zhu *et al* data set (150 lipid-binding proteins) recovers none of the interactions from the literature-derived reference data set and that it is largely devoid of interactions involving LBDs. Instead, it is enriched in hydrophobic and often unknown proteins (Supplementary Figure S2), suggesting that this different assay has captured an interaction space different from that charted here.

A fraction of genetic networks are known to coincide with physical interaction networks (Kelley and Ideker, 2005; Fraser and Plotkin, 2007), a property we exploited as an estimate of accuracy. From SGD (<http://www.yeastgenome.org>) and the literature (Nash *et al*, 2007; Costanzo *et al*, 2010), we assembled a list of 328 genetic interactions (for example, synthetic or suppressive genetic interactions; Figure 3A) between 96 enzymes involved in lipid metabolism and the 172 analyzed proteins (Supplementary Table S3C). We defined positive overlaps (between genetic and physical interactions) as those in which a lipid from a physical protein–lipid interaction resided inside a pathway containing one or more genes sharing a genetic interaction with the protein (Figure 3A; see also Materials and methods; Supplementary information). If the lipid–array and the literature-derived reference data sets are comparable in terms of quality and biological relevance, they should be similarly covered by genetic interactions (Figure 3B). Using the genetic coverage of the literature-derived reference data set, mainly implying PtdInsPs (Supplementary Table S3A and B), we extrapolated the fraction of true interactions (accuracy) across all lipid classes in our



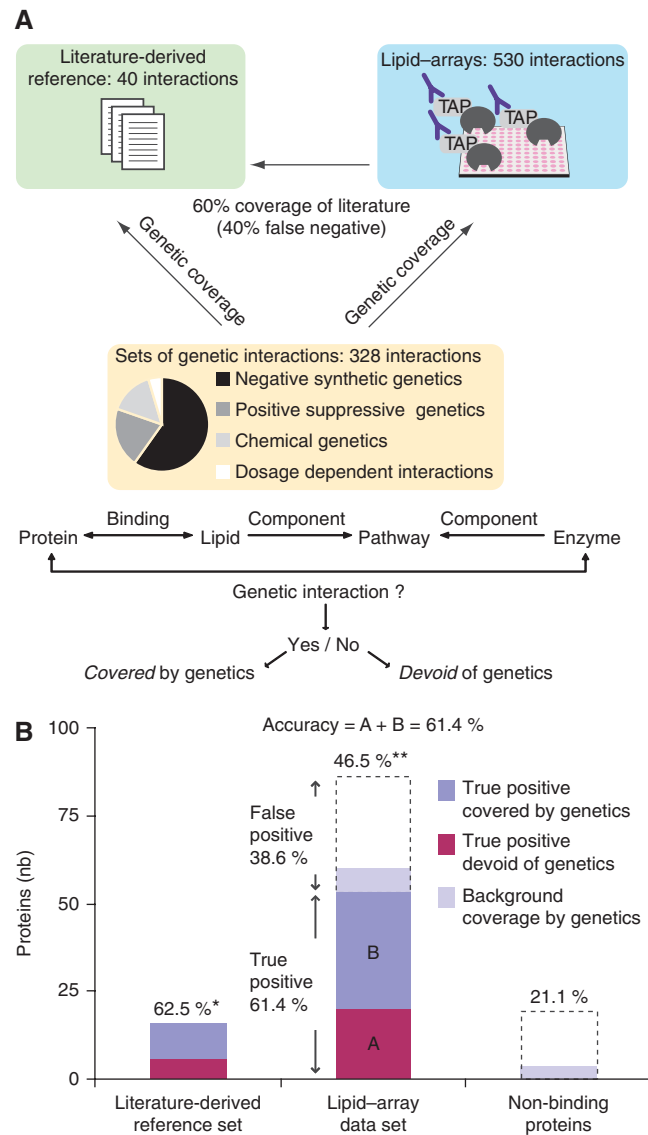
**Figure 2** Protein–lipid map in yeast. The table displays all interactions color coded according to the number of experimental supports: reproducibility with proteins expressed in homologous and heterologous systems, binding to artificial (liposome) and biological (live-cell imaging) membranes and genetic interactions. The data set is provided as Supplementary information (Supplementary Tables S2C and S4; see also Supplementary Data 1). The bar charts show the fraction of novel interactions per lipid or protein classes for which supporting evidence is available. The total numbers of novel interactions are displayed next to each bar. The pie charts represent the fraction of conserved proteins. PtdInsP, phosphatidylinositol phosphate; GPL, glycerophospholipid; SL, sphingolipid; FA, fatty acid; GL, glycerolipid; S&P, sterol and prenol.

data to 61.4% (see Materials and methods; Supplementary information). We found that the agreement between the lipid–array and the genetic data sets is significant ( $P < 0.01$ ). In particular, the literature-derived reference data set and the proteins interacting with PtdInsPs on the lipid–array show a similar threefold ( $P = 0.015$ ) and twofold ( $P = 0.035$ ) enrichment in genetically consistent interactions, respectively. This is consistent with the view that the lipid–array interactions were often functionally informative. Overall, the set of lipid–array interactions shows similar quality in terms of false positives and false negatives as those previously reported for large protein–protein interaction sets (von Mering *et al*, 2002; Tarassov *et al*, 2008).

### Multiple validations of the protein–lipid data set

To determine whether the protein–lipid pairs measured *in vitro* could represent true interactions *in vivo*, we related the *in vitro* binding profiles to physiologically derived *in vivo* data. We first integrated genetic interactions (see above); the lipid–array data set provides a molecular hypothesis for 136 genetic

interactions previously identified (41% of the genetic data set;  $P < 0.01$ ). This is considerably more than could be inferred from the literature-derived reference data set that contributed a basis for only 14 interactions (4.2% of genetic data set). For 10 proteins (representing 34 protein–lipid pairs) selected because they represented intriguing novelties or specificities, we used more physiological assays (Table I): protein recruitment to liposomal (Supplementary Figure S7A–E) and biological (Supplementary Figure S7F and G) membranes. We could verify 24 interactions involving eight proteins Ecm25, Ira2, Slm1, Ypk1, Rvs161, Rvs167, Las17 and Pkh2 (Table I). For example, we confirmed the interaction initially observed between Pkh2, a serine/threonine protein kinase required for endocytosis, and PtdIns, PtdIns(4)P and PtdIns(4,5)P<sub>2</sub>, but not PtdIns(3)P (Supplementary Figure S7A). Pkh2 recruitment to liposomal and biological membranes requires specific PtdInsPs and involves a predicted globular domain at the C-terminus of Pkh2 that might act as a new type of LBD. For one lipid, PtdIns(4,5)P<sub>2</sub>, specificity was further assessed. Specifically, the soluble analog of PtdIns(4,5)P<sub>2</sub>, inositol(1,4,5)P<sub>3</sub>, inhibited binding of the C-terminal domain of Pkh2 to



**Figure 3** Assessment of the lipid-array data quality. **(A, B)** Comparison with sets of literature curated and genetic interactions. **(A)** Summary of the two reference data sets and strategies used to assess quality. Genetic coverage is defined as the percentage of physical protein–lipid interactions covered by the data set of genetic interactions. **(B)** Estimation of accuracy based on PtdInsPs metabolic pathway. The left column shows the number of proteins in the literature-derived reference set that are covered (dark blue) or not (magenta) by the data set of genetic interactions. The right column shows the fraction of proteins devoid of LBD and that did not bind PtdInsPs in the lipid-array that interact genetically with enzymes involved in the synthesis of these lipids (light blue, background coverage by genetics). The central column shows the estimation of accuracy (fraction of true positives) in the lipid-array data set assuming that genetic coverage results from the combination of true positives (that will have the same genetic coverage as the literature-derived reference data set, in dark blue) and false positive (with a background coverage, in light blue). The estimated fraction of true positive that is not covered by genetics is shown in magenta. Numbers on top of the columns are overall genetic coverage for each set of proteins (\* $P=0.015$  and \*\* $P=0.035$ ).

PtdIns(4,5)P<sub>2</sub>-containing liposomes. Interestingly, for the human homolog of Pkh2, the kinase PDK1, a C-terminal PH domain fulfills a similar binding function. We also confirmed the selective binding of Las17, a member of the WASP/WAVE family that regulates the Arp2/3 complex and actin function, to PtdIns(3,5)P<sub>2</sub> and PtdIns(3,4,5)P<sub>3</sub> (a non-physiological analog in yeast), and not PtdIns(4,5)P<sub>2</sub> (Supplementary Figure S7B). In human, similar binding profiles have been reported for WAVE2, another member of the WASP/WAVE family (Oikawa *et al*, 2004), illustrating the conservation of lipid binding across considerable evolutionary distances. As a substantial

fraction (45%) of the analyzed proteins were conserved in humans (Figure 2), the protein–lipid data set will have functional implications for higher eukaryotes and thus for human biology.

We integrated the validations in a scoring system that ranks all interactions by considering the number of experimental supporting observations (Figure 2). This also included further validation of the selected set of 49 proteins that bound sphingolipids (see below). Overall, 54% of interactions were supported by additional evidence (Supplementary Tables S2C and S4; see also Supplementary Data 1).



**Table 1** Summary of protein–lipid interactions selected for validation

Protein name	Lipid	Validation assay	
Ecm25	PtdIns	Liposomes	
Ecm25	PtdIns(3,4,5)P <sub>3</sub>	Liposomes	
Ira2	PtdIns(3,4,5)P <sub>3</sub>	Liposomes	
Las17	PtdIns(3,5)P <sub>2</sub>	Liposomes/ <i>mss4<sup>ts</sup></i>	
Las17	PtdIns(3,4,5)P <sub>3</sub>	Liposomes	
Pkh2	PtdIns	Liposomes	
Pkh2	PtdIns(4)P	Liposomes/ <i>mss4<sup>ts</sup></i>	
Pkh2	PtdIns(3,4)P <sub>2</sub>	Liposomes	
Pkh2	PtdIns(3,5)P <sub>2</sub>	Liposomes/ <i>mss4<sup>ts</sup></i>	
Pkh2	PtdIns(4,5)P <sub>2</sub>	Liposomes/ <i>mss4<sup>ts</sup></i>	
Slm1	PtdIns(4,5)P <sub>2</sub>	Liposomes/ <i>mss4<sup>ts</sup></i>	
Rvs167	PtdIns(4,5)P <sub>2</sub>	Liposomes/ <i>mss4<sup>ts</sup></i>	
Slm1	DHS-1P	Liposomes/myriocin	Pkh1/2 independent
Rvs167	DHS-1P	Liposomes/myriocin	Pkh1/2 independent
Slm1	PtdIns(4)P	<i>mss4<sup>ts</sup></i>	
Rvs167	PtdIns(4)P	<i>mss4<sup>ts</sup></i>	
Rvs161	PtdIns(3)P	<i>mss4<sup>ts</sup></i>	
Ypk1	PtdIns(4)P	<i>mss4<sup>ts</sup></i>	
	PtdIns(4,5)P <sub>2</sub>		
Ecm25 <sup>a</sup>	PHS-1P, Sph, Sph-1P	Myriocin	Pkh1/2 independent
Las17	PHS-1P, Sph-1P	Myriocin	Pkh1/2 dependent
Mss4 <sup>a</sup>	DHS-1P	Myriocin	Pkh1/2 independent
Rvs167	PHS-1P	Myriocin	Pkh1/2 independent
Ypk1	DHCer, PHCer-C18	Myriocin	Pkh1/2 independent
Spo14 <sup>a</sup>	PHS, Sph, DHCer, PHCer-C8, PHCer-C18, Cer	Myriocin	

<sup>a</sup>Protein–lipid interactions that could not be confirmed. Liposomes, binding to liposomes; *mss4<sup>ts</sup>*, perturbation of cellular PtdInsPs using an *mss4<sup>ts</sup>* mutant; myriocin, perturbation of cellular sphingolipids using myriocin.

## Discovery of cryptic LBDs

Overall, 68% of all interactions were novel (i.e. absent from the literature-derived reference) or unexpected from either protein sequences or known LBDs specificities (Figure 2). For example, we found Ecm25, a RhoGAP of unknown function, associated to several different lipids, with a binding profile usually indicative of the presence of an LBD (Supplementary Figure S6; Supplementary Table S2B). Using sequence searches for remote homologs of known LBDs, we found that Ecm25 has a cryptic CRAL/TRIO domain that was previously undetected (Figure 4; see Materials and methods; Supplementary information). Another example is the RasGAP Ira2. The partial structure of the human ortholog, the tumor suppressor neurofibromatosis type 1, revealed the presence of an unexpected bipartite lipid-binding module that consists of both a CRAL/TRIO (Sec14) and a PH-like domains (D'Angelo *et al*, 2006). Our observation of Ira2 binding to PtdInsPs (Supplementary Table S2B) is consistent with a structure-based alignment that reveals that the CRAL/TRIO and PH-like domains are probably conserved in Ira2 (D'Angelo *et al*, 2006). These predictions were further tested in a more physiological assay measuring protein recruitment to liposomal membranes. Using recombinant, purified domains, we could confirm that the cryptic Ecm25-CRAL/TRIO and the Ira2-CRAL/TRIO/PH

domains alone are responsible for lipid binding (Figure 4B; Table 1; see also Supplementary Figure S7C). This illustrates that some LBDs have only weak sequence similarity to canonical examples found in databases like SMART (Letunic *et al*, 2006) or Pfam (Finn *et al*, 2008). Their annotation requires supporting biochemical measurements such as those in the data set presented here. This extended repertoire of protein–lipid interactions can be used as the basis for more detailed mechanistic or structural studies.

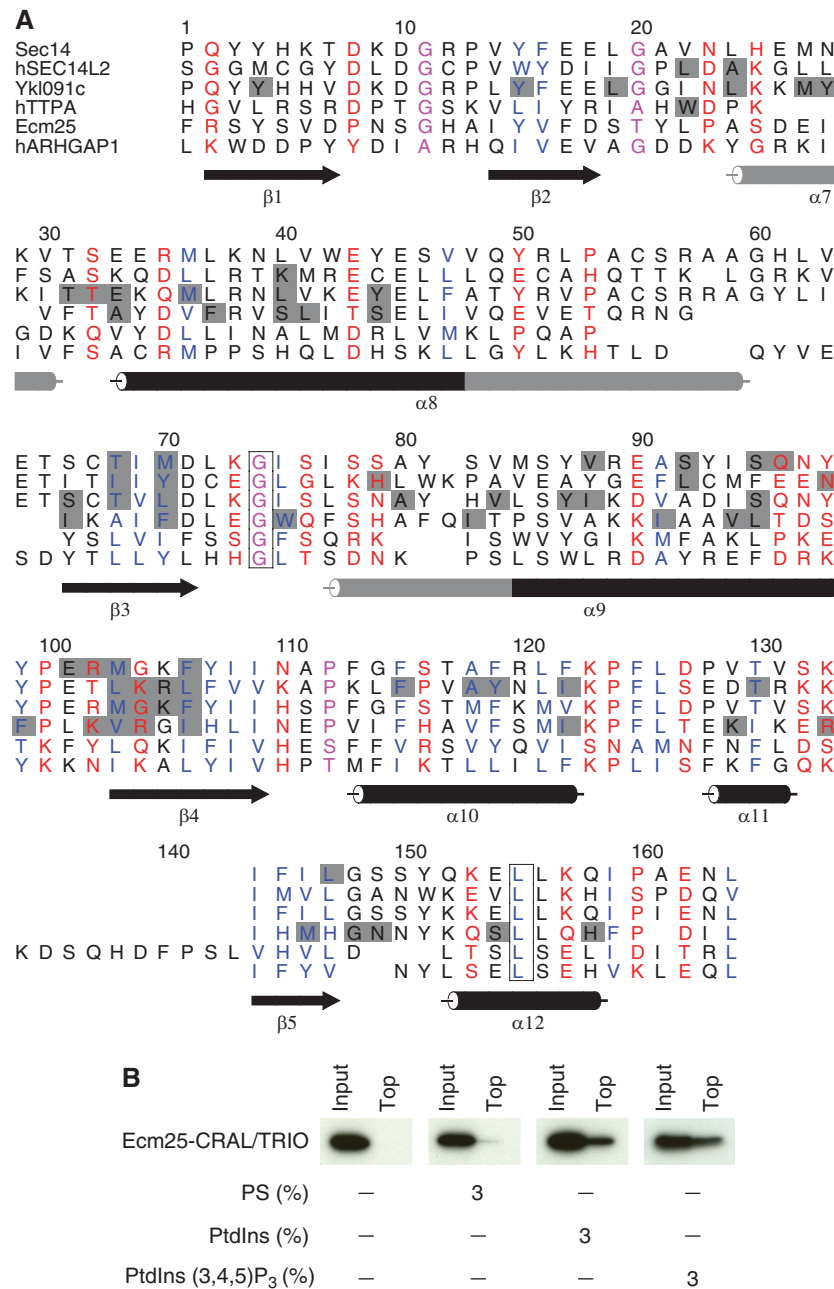
## New effectors of sphingolipids signaling validated *in vivo* by live-cell imaging

We extended the biological validation *in vivo* to the set of proteins that bound sphingolipids, a class of bioactive lipids that play important signaling functions in yeast and higher eukaryotes. The exact mode of action for these lipids remains elusive (Hannun and Obeid, 2008) and the data set points to series of new cellular targets. We identified 63 proteins that interacted with sphingoid long-chain bases (LCBs), ceramides or phosphorylated LCBs (Figure 5; Supplementary Table S5).

These proteins included the five previously known sphingolipid effectors in yeast: the LCBs-responsive kinases Pkh1/Pkh2 and Ypk1/Ypk2 (Friant *et al*, 2001; Liu *et al*, 2005) (orthologs of the human PDK1 and SGK, respectively) that we found associated with LCBs or phosphorylated LCBs, as well as phospholipase D (Spo14), a known target of sphingolipids in mammals (Abousalham *et al*, 1997). The cellular functions of the proteins targeted by sphingolipids included endocytosis, cell polarity and lipid metabolism (Figure 5).

Using live-cell imaging, we determined the effect of perturbation of sphingolipid metabolism with the antibiotic myriocin on the cellular localization of 49 candidate sphingolipid targets fused to GFP. The specificity of the myriocin effect was assessed by the addition of a metabolite (DHS) that bypasses its inhibitory effect and restores sphingolipid synthesis (Figure 5A). As controls, we used a series of 29 proteins that bound PtdInsPs only, as well as three other proteins localized to the membrane and cell cortex (Figure 5B; Supplementary Figure S8A). We quantified the effects of myriocin using a standardized method for 32 proteins that showed similar punctate localization patterns (Supplementary Figure S8B; see Supplementary information). For the remaining 49 GFP fusions that had more diverse localization patterns, we assessed the effects qualitatively (Supplementary Table S6). Importantly, interactions induced upon cell stimulation or stress, as well as those that might affect protein properties other than localization (e.g. activity), are not traceable in this assay. Nevertheless, proteins that bound sphingolipids *in vitro* were nearly four times more frequently sensitive to myriocin treatment than the set of controls ( $P < 0.009$ ; Figure 5) and the effect of myriocin was not mimicked by the inhibition of the known effectors of sphingolipid in yeast, the Pkh1/Pkh2 pathway (Supplementary Figure S7G). Overall, this is consistent with proteins that bound sphingolipids *in vitro* also being direct sphingolipid targets *in vivo*.

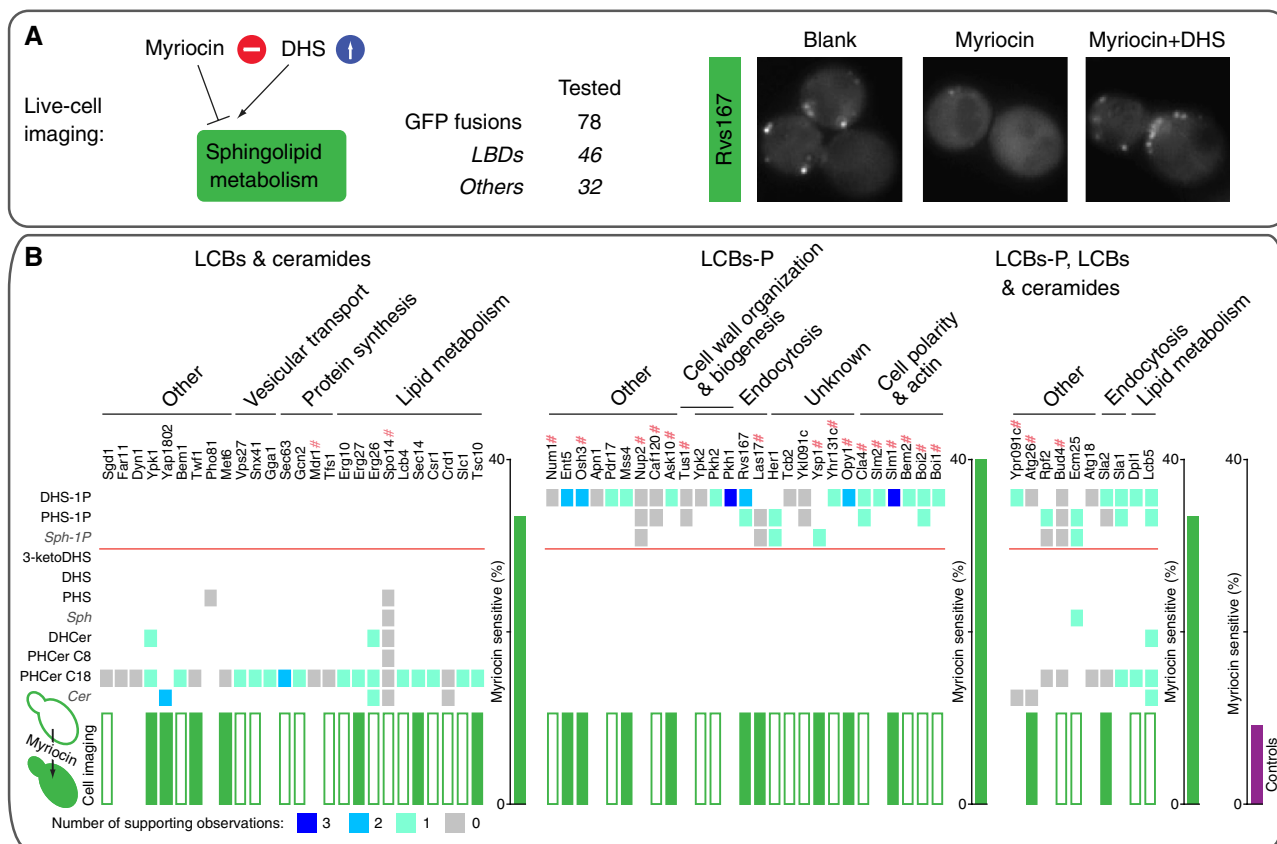
Examples involving proteins conserved in higher eukaryotes were frequent (Figure 2). The two actin-associated proteins, Rvs161 and Rvs167, homolog of the mammalian



**Figure 4** Identification of a new cryptic lipid-binding domain in Ecm25. **(A)** Structure-based alignment of Ecm25 and five known CRAL/TRIO domain. Conserved hydrophobic sites are colored blue, polar sites are red, invariant residues are boxed, sites occupied by small residues are magenta and the ligand-binding sites of the structures are colored gray. Secondary structure elements are numbered according to the canonical C-terminal CRAL/TRIO domain structure of Sec14 (PDB:1aua), and grayed out when disrupted or absent in some of the structures. Sequences prefixed with 'h' are from human; all others are from *S. cerevisiae*. **(B)** The truncated Ecm25-CRAL/TRIO binds to artificial membranes in flotation assays. Liposomes contain 1 mM 1-palmitoyl-2-oleoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine (POPC) and phosphatidylserine (PS), PtdIns or PtdIns(3,4,5)P<sub>3</sub>, as indicated (3%, molar). Ecm25-CRAL/TRIO was analyzed by western blot.

amphiphysins, form a protein complex involved in endocytosis. They both possess a Bin/Amphiphysin/Rvs-homology domain that generates and senses membrane curvature by binding negatively charged lipid head groups (Lemmon, 2008). *In vitro*, we found Rvs167 associated with PtdInsPs and phosphorylated LCBs; interactions that were confirmed using artificial membranes (Supplementary Figure S7D). Consistent with these interactions having a role *in vivo*, inhibition of either PtdInsPs or sphingolipid synthesis speci-

fically perturbed Rvs161 and Rvs167 association with punctate structures at the plasma membrane (Figure 5A; Supplementary Figure S7F and G). Protein levels were unaffected by the treatments (data not shown). These results provide a molecular explanation for several genetic interactions previously reported between amphiphysins and enzymes in sphingolipid metabolism (Desfarges *et al*, 1993) and support a direct targeting role of sphingolipids in endocytosis that might be conserved in higher eukaryotes.



**Figure 5** Lipid-arrays and live-cell imaging identify new series of sphingolipid effectors. **(A)** The effect of the perturbation of sphingolipid metabolism on GFP-fusion localization was monitored in yeast cells treated with myriocin, myriocin and dihydroshingosine (DHS) or untreated (Blank). **(B)** The proteins-binding sphingolipids *in vitro* are grouped according to their sphingolipid-binding specificities, and ordered by function. The symbol # points to proteins with a PH domain. Interactions are color coded as in Figure 2, but excluding live-cell imaging. The green boxes label the proteins selected for further analysis by live-cell imaging. Those sensitive to 2 h myriocin treatments are represented with filled green boxes. For each sphingolipid-binding group, the histogram next to the matrix summarizes the overall sensitivities to myriocin. For comparison, myriocin sensitivity of 32 controls is also shown in magenta. Non-physiological lipids in *S. cerevisiae* are in gray and italic. DHS-1P, dihydroshingosine-1-phosphate; PHS-1P, phytosphingosine-1-phosphate; Sph-1P, sphingosine-1-phosphate; 3-ketoDHS, 3-ketodihydroshingosine; DHS, dihydroshingosine; PHS, phytosphingosine; Sph, sphingosine; DHCer, dihydroceramide; PHCer C8, phytoceramide C8; PHCer C18, phytoceramide C18.

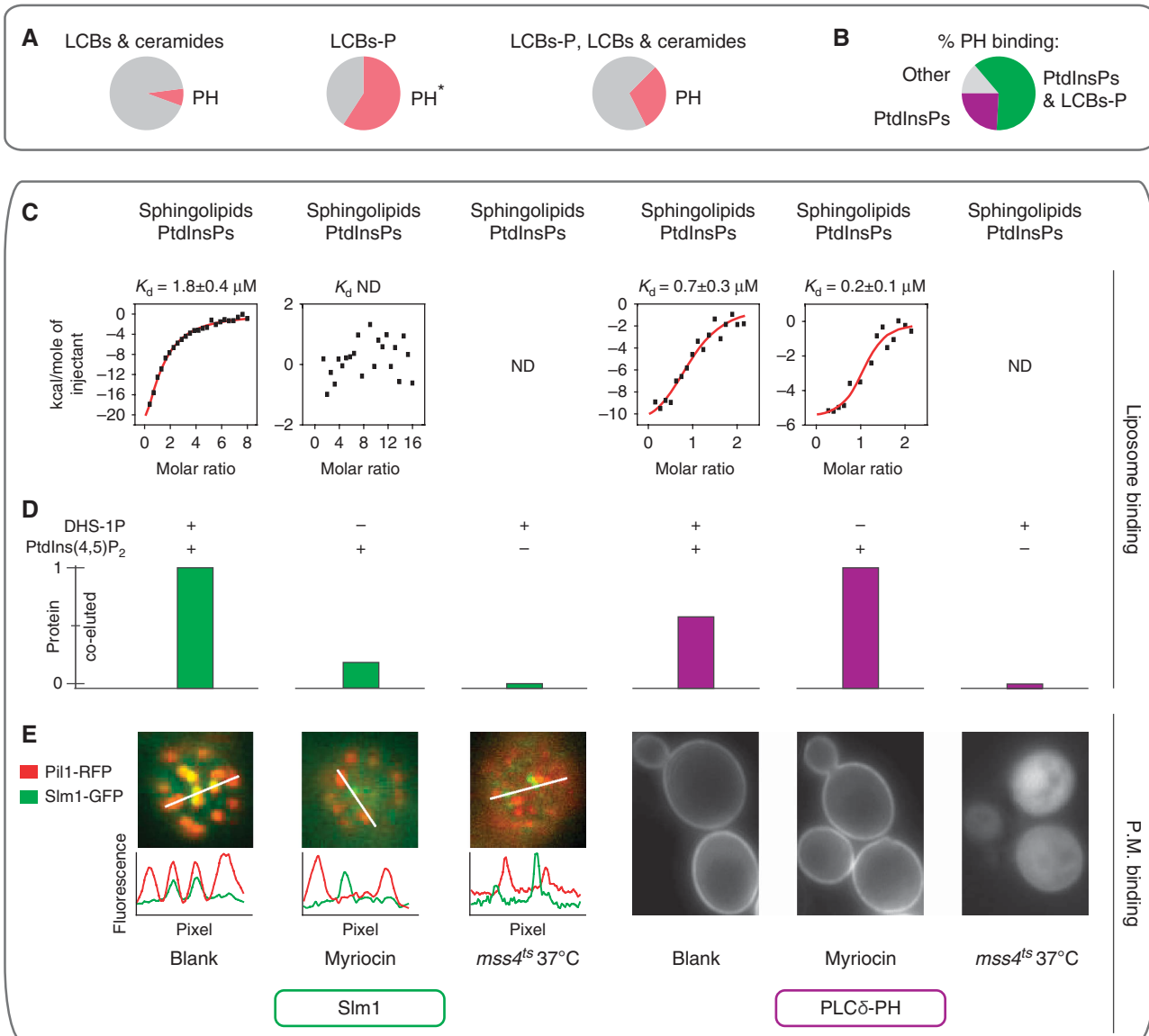
### Discovery of new ligands for PH domains

Despite the importance of sphingolipids in signaling processes, only a few domains, such as START or Saposins, have been reported to specifically bind these lipids in higher eukaryotes, and none of them have been found in yeast. Interestingly, almost 60% of proteins binding to phosphorylated LCBs in our assay also contained a PH domain and bound PtdInsPs (Figure 6A). Overall, 18 proteins with PH domains, out of the 29 that bound lipids on the array, bound phosphorylated PtdInsPs and LCBs (Figure 6B). These associations to phosphorylated LCB were often physiological; the proteins that bound both PtdInsPs and phosphorylated LCB were four times more sensitive to myriocin treatment than those that bound only PtdInsPs (42 versus 10%;  $P < 0.02$ ). This suggests that some PH domains might have unanticipated ligands and also have a function in sphingolipid recognition.

To test this hypothesis further in more physiological assays, that is the binding to artificial membranes *in vitro* and to cellular membranes *in vivo*, we selected two PH domains with

different specificities: that from Slm1 (Slm1-PH), a component of the TORC2 signaling pathway (Fadri *et al*, 2005) that bound both DHS-1P and PtdInsPs (Supplementary Table S2B), and the more prototypic PH domain of PLC $\delta$  (PLC $\delta$ -PH) known to recognize PtdIns(4,5)P $_2$  (Lemmon *et al*, 1995). As expected from its known specificity, the efficient recruitment of the PLC $\delta$ -PH to both artificial ( $K_d = 0.2 \mu\text{M}$ ; Figure 6C and D; see also Supplementary Figure S9) and biological (Figure 6E; Supplementary Figure S8C) membranes required only PtdIns(4,5)P $_2$ . In contrast, Slm1-PH showed an unusual behavior. Its targeting to liposomal membranes depends on the specific presence of both PtdIns(4,5)P $_2$  and DHS-1P ( $K_d = 1.8 \mu\text{M}$ ; Figure 6C and D; see also Supplementary Figure S9). Other similar, negatively charged lipids, such as phosphatidylserine, have no effect illustrating specificity for DHS-1P (Supplementary Figure S7E). Finally, *in vivo*, both PtdIns(4,5)P $_2$  and sphingolipid metabolisms are required for Slm1 association with specific membrane microdomains, the eisosomes (Figure 6E; Supplementary Figure S8D; Supplementary Movies S1 and S2). Other Slm1 locations such as its assembly in very dynamic membrane domains, distinct





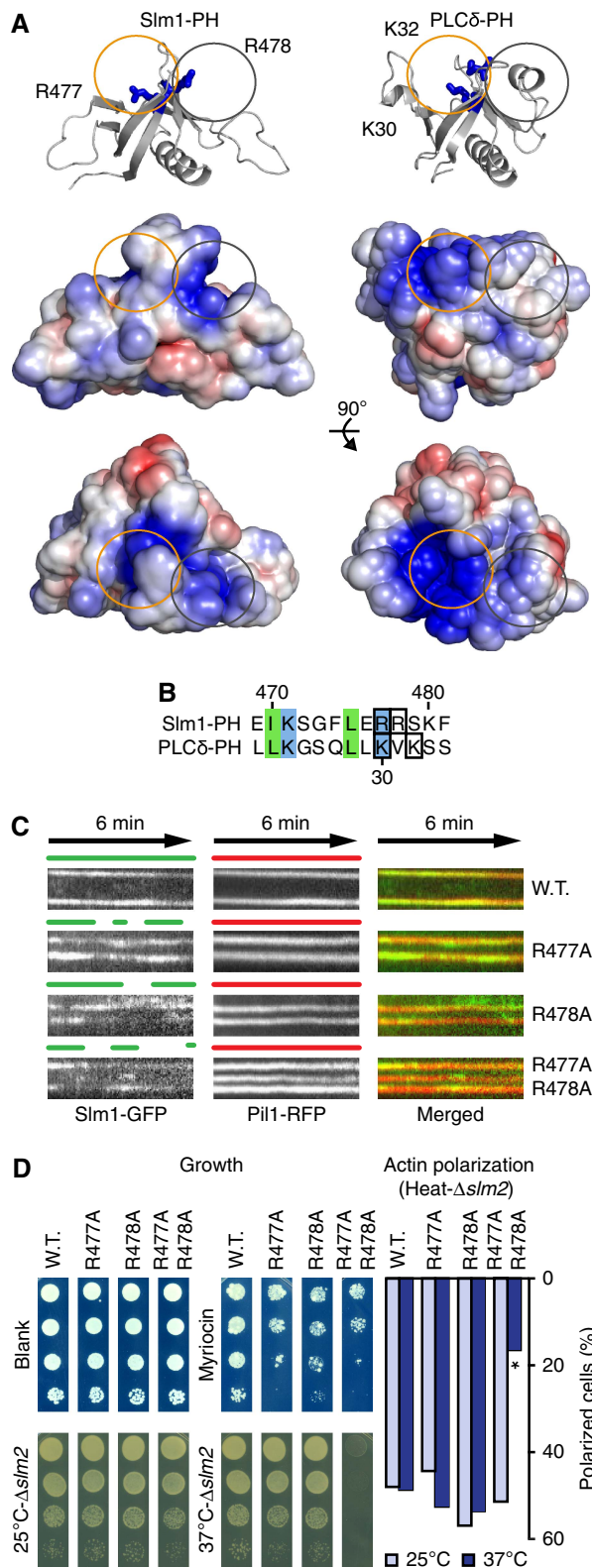
**Figure 6** The PH domain of Slm1 cooperatively binds PtdInsPs and phosphorylated sphingolipids. **(A)** A significant fraction of proteins-binding phosphorylated LCBs also contained a PH domain. For each sphingolipid-binding group, the pie chart shows the fraction of proteins with a PH domain ( $^*P < 0.00001$ ). **(B)** Lipid-binding specificities of PH-domain containing proteins; more than half of those binding PtdInsPs also interacted with LCB-P. Proteins that did not show any binding were omitted. **(C, D)** Recruitment of Slm1-PH and PLCδ-PH to liposome membranes of different compositions: 3% (molar) PtdIns(4,5)P<sub>2</sub> and/or 3% (molar) DHS-1P. **(C)** Quantitative measurement of liposome binding by isothermal titration calorimetry. Points represent heat evolved per mol of injected protein. ND: not determined. **(D)** Monitoring of Slm1-PH and PLCδ-PH co-eluting with liposomes by size exclusion chromatography and western blot. **(E)** Role of PtdInsPs and sphingolipids in the recruitment of Slm1 and PLCδ-PH to biological membranes *in vivo*. On the left, Slm1 fused to GFP (Slm1-GFP) co-localizes with eisosomes (Pil1-RFP). Interference with PtdIns(4,5)P<sub>2</sub> metabolism using a temperature-sensitive mutant of the phosphatidylinositol 4-phosphate 5-kinase (*mss4<sup>ts</sup>*). Intensity plot profiles were extracted from the area represented by the respective white lines. On the right, localization of PLCδ-PH fused to GFP. Cell treatments are as in Figure 5A.

from the eisosomes, were apparently unaffected by metabolic perturbations (Supplementary Movies S1 and S2).

Overall, the observations above suggest cooperative lipid-binding by Slm1-PH. Consistent with these observations, the structure of Slm1-PH, which we solved by X-ray crystallography at 2 Å resolution, suggests the presence of an additional positively charged cavity in Slm1-PH (Figure 7A; Supplementary Table S7). The two putative Slm1-PH-binding pockets considerably vary in size. Manual docking with DHS-1P and PtdIns(4,5)P<sub>2</sub> supports the view that the two

lipids with head groups of different sizes (PtdIns(4,5)P<sub>2</sub> is substantially bigger than DHS-1P) can simultaneously bind Slm1-PH. Interestingly, the aliphatic chains of the two lipids point toward two conserved hydrophobic residues (F481 and L482), surprisingly exposed in the loop that separates the two putative binding sites. We also identified two positively charged residues, often conserved among PH domains that point to the canonical binding site in PLCδ-PH (Figure 7A and B; Supplementary Figure S10) and were found to each contribute to one putative binding site in Slm1-PH (Figure 7A).

Mutation of these residues to alanine affects the number of positive charges in each predicted Slm1-PH-binding site and specifically destabilizes the membrane association of Slm1



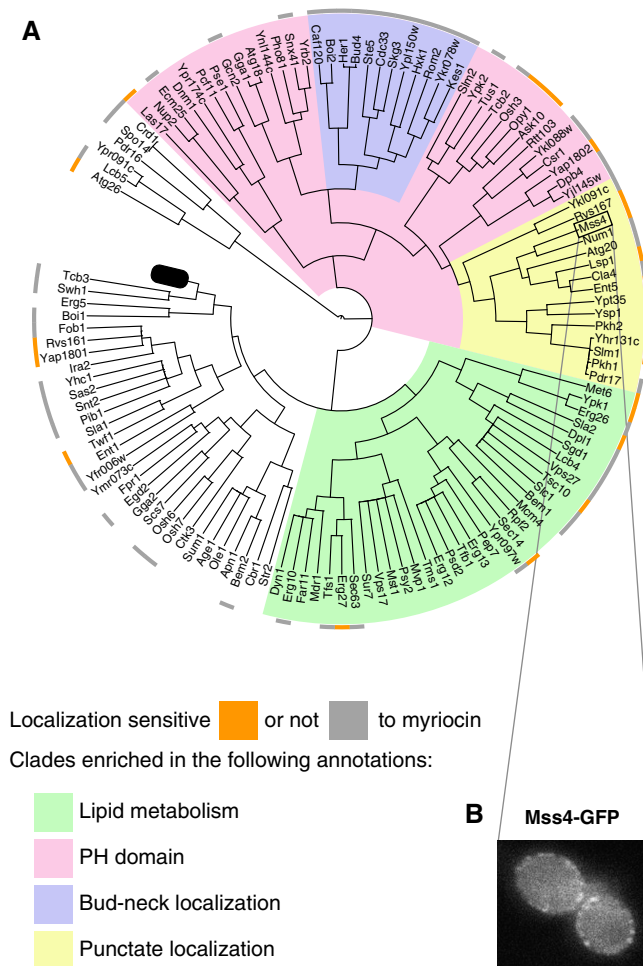
with the eisosome (Figure 7C). These point mutations also cause significant ( $P < 0.01$ ) cumulative defects in Slm1 function: yeast growth and actin polarization (Figure 7D). The stronger and apparently additive defect of the double mutant suggest that both positively charged sites are required for proper Slm1 functioning.

Collectively, these results indicate that the PH domain of Slm1 might work as a coincidence sensor to integrate both PtdInsP and sphingolipid signaling pathways. It might contribute to the cross-talk between the signaling of these two lipids that has been previously inferred based on genetic interactions in yeast (Tabuchi *et al*, 2006). Although the structural and mechanistic details for this binding remain to be fully characterized, recent structural data similarly support the existence of a second, non-canonical binding site in certain PH domains (Ceccarelli *et al*, 2007). Our results also reinforce the emerging notion that cooperative mechanisms have important functions in PH domains functioning (Maffucci and Falasca, 2001). These mechanisms initially described between PtdInsPs and proteins can now be extended to new lipid classes, illustrating the benefit of unbiased and systematic analyses.

### Lipid-binding profiles as predictor for protein recruitment to biological membranes

Having shown the accuracy and *in vivo* relevance of the detected lipid-binding profiles, we sought to use this information as a fingerprint for predicting other protein properties such as protein localization. In the past, pioneering attempts to use PtdInsP-binding profiles for predicting membrane targeting or sub-cellular localization had limited success (Yu *et al*, 2004; Park *et al*, 2008). While PtdInsP-binding certainly has an important function, targeting to biological membranes *in vivo* also requires additional, often

**Figure 7** The 2.0 Å X-ray structure of Slm1-PH reveals two putative binding sites required for Slm1 function *in vivo*. **(A)** Comparison of the structures of Slm1-PH with that of PLCδ-PH (Protein Data Bank (PDB) entry 1mai). The two structures are represented in the same orientations. PLCδ-PH binds lipid within a positively charged canonical site conserved in Slm1 (orange circle). Slm1 presents an additional positively charged cavity (gray circle). Two key residues (R477 and R478) were identified that contribute to both positively charged binding sites in Slm1. Side chain of analogous residues in PLCδ (K30 and K32) point exclusively to the canonical binding site. Electronegative regions are colored red and electropositive regions blue. **(B)** Sequence alignment of Slm1-PH and PLCδ-PH. Mutated amino acids in Slm1 (R477 and R478) and their analogous in PLCδ are boxed in black. Conserved residues are blue if positively charged and green if hydrophobic. **(C)** The two putative Slm1-PH-binding sites are required for Slm1 membrane association with the eisosome. Kymograph representations of Slm1-GFP and Pil1-RFP (1 frame per 1.5 s). Green lines above the kymograph represent the association dynamics of Slm1-GFP with the Pil1-RFP (red lines). Mutations affecting clusters of positive charges in one (R477A or R478A) or both (R478A/R477A) resulted in specific destabilization of Slm1 association with Pil1-containing microdomains. **(D)** The two putative Slm1-PH-binding sites are required for Slm1 function *in vivo*. Strains carrying Slm1 mutations in one (R477A or R478A) or both (R477A/R478A) putative lipid-binding sites show cumulative phenotypic defects. Upper panels show growth defect in the presence of myriocin; lower panels during heat stress. The bar chart shows actin polarization defects following heat stress. \*Decrease for the double mutants is significant compared with wild-type ( $P < 0.01$ ), R477A ( $P < 0.01$ ) and R478A ( $P < 0.01$ ) single mutants. The mutations have no effect on Slm1 expression levels (western blot not shown).



**Figure 8** Lipid-binding fingerprints as predictors of protein localization, domains and functions. **(A)** Proteins clustered according to their lipid-binding profiles. The wedge shapes highlight some groups that are enriched ( $P < 0.05$ ) in a particular annotation. The black oblong represents the group of proteins that did not bind any lipid in this study. This group is deficient in proteins annotated by SGD (Nash *et al*, 2007) as lipid binding. The violet cluster of 12 proteins from Caf120 to Kes1 is also enriched for myriocin-insensitive proteins ( $P = 0.01$ ). **(B)** Live-cell imaging of Mss4 fused to GFP reveals localization in punctate membrane structures.

cooperative interactions; this suggests roles for other ligands (Maffucci and Falasca, 2001) that might have been captured with the screen (see above).

We grouped proteins by first scoring the similarity between pairs of lipid-binding profiles using a metric that considers both lipid and protein promiscuity, and used these scores for complete linkage clustering. Proteins sharing similar lipid-binding profiles also showed a tendency to share attributes, such as the presence of PH domains or localization in punctate structures in membranes (Figure 8A). These include the phosphatidylinositol-4-phosphate 5-kinase Mss4, known to localize in the cytoplasm and the membrane (Huh *et al*, 2003). The Mss4-binding profile clustered with proteins localized in dotted structures, an observation we could confirm by high resolution live-cell imaging (Figure 8B) (Sun *et al*, 2007). Another example is a cluster of proteins that show similar localization at the yeast bud, all of which were also insensitive to myriocin treatment. This illustrates the promise for comprehensive lipid-binding profiles to contribute to the molecular rationale for protein localization or dynamic behavior at biological membranes.

## Discussion

Accurate representations of biological processes require systematic charting of the physical and functional links between all cellular components. There is a clear need to expand the current biomolecular networks beyond protein–protein or protein–nucleic acid interactions, and involve additional biomolecules. It is important to widen bottlenecks in biochemical characterization by large-scale approaches. This work shows the feasibility and benefits of large-scale analyses combining biochemical arrays and live-cell imaging for charting protein–lipid interactions.

The number of novel interactions discovered clearly shows that even major classes of metabolites, such as PtdInsPs and sphingolipids, have been insufficiently studied, calling for further system-wide analyses. Many of the binding events reported could not be inferred from sequence comparison and/or the presence of canonical LBDs, arguing that the sites and modalities of protein–lipid recognition are still largely elusive. Even for known LBDs, our data suggest additional binding to new ligands. The observation that some PH domains might

also orchestrate the input from other signaling and metabolic pathways involving sphingolipids adds to the view that PH domains can recognize other ligands besides PtdInsPs (Lemmon, 2004). Indeed, only 10% of the 234 human PH domain-containing proteins show strong and specific binding to PtdInsPs (Lemmon, 2008). Our data supports the notion that binding to several different lipids could well represent an attribute shared by other LBDs. Integration of different signals would ensure efficient, but also regulated targeting to biological membranes. Overall, the study has shown the importance of extending molecular interaction space from proteome- to metabolome-wide efforts and of systematic classifications of bioactive molecules based on their binding profiles. The data provided here represents an excellent resource to enhance the understanding of lipids function in eukaryotic systems.

## Materials and methods

### Lipid–arrays

The protocol to produce lipid–arrays was developed from Kanter *et al* (2006). Briefly, 1 mM solutions of lipids were prepared in adequate solvent mixtures. Using an argon flow, 0.1  $\mu$ l of each lipid was sprayed on a nitrocellulose membrane (Hybond-C Extra, GE Healthcare) with an ATS4S spotter (CAMAG). We also spotted a nitrobenzoxadiazole-labeled phosphatidylglycerol (Sigma) at different positions on the array and monitored the quality of the spotting procedure by scanning at 432 nm excitation (GenePix 4000B, Molecular Devices). The three different solvent mixtures used (chloroform, chloroform:methanol 1:1 and chloroform:methanol:water–HCl 1:1:0.2) were also sprayed as blank controls. All the samples were spotted in duplicate. The arrays were stored at 4°C under argon atmosphere and protected from light.

### Lipid overlay assay

The *S. cerevisiae* strains expressing the desired TAP-tagged protein were grown at 30°C to an OD<sub>600</sub> of 3.5–3.8. Pelleted cells were disrupted by glass beads beating. Cell extracts were obtained by a 30 min centrifugation at 22 000 r.p.m. at 4°C and filtration (HPF Millex<sup>®</sup>—0.45  $\mu$ m). The lipid overlay assay was adapted from Dowler *et al* (2000). The arrays were blocked for 1 h in 2 ml of blocking buffer (3% fatty-acid-free BSA, 150 mM NaCl, 10 mM Tris pH 7.4). The arrays were then incubated for 1 h in the presence of cell extracts, washed and the bound TAP-tagged proteins were immunodetected with PAP or with V5-specific antibodies (Invitrogen).

### Molecular biology and recombinant protein expression

All primers used are listed in Supplementary Table S8. TAP-tagged proteins selected for recombinant expression in *E. coli* (Supplementary Tables S1B and S2A) and the PH domain of Slm1 (Slm1-PH) were cloned in pET100-D/TOPO or pET101-D/TOPO vector (Invitrogen) following the manufacturer's instructions. Mutations in Slm1 were introduced using the QuikChange<sup>®</sup> lightning Site-Directed Mutagenesis kit (Stratagene). For detailed information on the cloning, mutagenesis, expression and purification of the recombinant proteins, as well as strains used in this study, see Supplementary information.

### Live-cell imaging

#### Perturbation of sphingolipid metabolism with myriocin

The localization of endogenously expressed proteins was examined using yeast strains expressing GFP fusions (Huh *et al*, 2003). Cells attached on 35 mm glass bottom culture dishes coated with Concanavalin A were treated with 5  $\mu$ M myriocin or 5  $\mu$ M myriocin

and 5  $\mu$ M DHS(Sigma). The effect of myriocin was measured after 2 h treatment, which represents the minimal exposure time that induced, in our experimental setting, the delocalization of two proteins that bound sphingolipids *in vitro*: Mss4 and Slm1. Under these conditions, cells remained perfectly viable (data not shown) and other membrane resident were unaffected (Figure 6E; Supplementary Figure S8A). For a more detailed description of the procedure, see Supplementary information.

Imaging was performed with an Olympus IX81 microscope equipped with 100 $\times$ /NA 1.45 objective lens and Hamamatsu Orca-ER camera.

For 49 GFP fusions that did not localize in punctate structures, the effect of myriocin was assessed qualitatively. Those proteins were considered sensitive to myriocin if the effect was restored by DHS. Yhr131c did not fulfill this requirement. We quantified the effects of myriocin using a standardized method for 32 proteins that showed similar punctate localization patterns (see Supplementary information).

### Perturbation of PtdIns(4,5)P<sub>2</sub> metabolism

The *mss4<sup>Δs</sup>* cells coding for the respective C-terminal GFP-tagged protein were grown and attached to dishes at 25°C, following the same protocol described above. Dishes were kept at the selected temperature (25 or 37°C) for 2 h and imaged immediately after. Same protocol was followed for PLC $\delta$ -PH-GFP. In this case, *mss4<sup>Δs</sup>* strain was transformed with the plasmid coding for PLC $\delta$ -PH-GFP.

### Perturbation of Pkh1/Pkh2 signaling pathway

The *pkh1<sup>Δs</sup>/Δpkh2* cells coding for the respective C-terminal GFP-tagged proteins were grown and attached to dishes at 25°C, following the same protocol described above. Dishes were kept at the selected temperature (25 or 37°C) for 1 h and imaged immediately after. At 37°C, *pkh1<sup>Δs</sup>/Δpkh2* cells are defective in actin polarization (Inagaki *et al*, 1999). One hour represents the first time point, in our experimental condition, in which we observed the delocalization of the actin-binding protein Abp1. Under these conditions, cells remained viable (data not shown).

### Cell based assays to assess Slm1-PH function

Actin polarization assay was performed as previously described (Fadri *et al*, 2005; see Supplementary information). Yeast wild-type strain and strains carrying point mutations in Slm1-PH domain were grown on SC plates containing 500 ng ml<sup>-1</sup> myriocin or equivalent amounts of methanol at 30°C for 3 days. Strains carrying Slm2 deletion (*Δslm2*) were grown in YPD plates at 25 or 37°C for 1 day.

### Liposome preparation

A mixture of the lipids was prepared in chloroform:methanol:water, 1:1:0.07, containing 0.03% HCl. We added 1-palmitoyl-2-oleoyl-*sn*-glycero-3-phosphocholine (Avanti Polar Lipids) to a final concentration of 3.8 mM. Where indicated, PtdIns, PtdIns(3)P, PtdIns(4)P, PtdIns(5)P, PtdIns(3,4)P<sub>2</sub>, PtdIns(3,5)P<sub>2</sub>, PtdIns(4,5)P<sub>2</sub>, PtdIns(3,4,5)P<sub>3</sub>, DHS-1P (Avanti Polar Lipids) and phosphatidylserine (Sigma) were also included. Lipid mixtures were dried under an argon stream followed by 30 min high vacuum. Dried mixtures were rehydrated in binding buffer (10 mM HEPES, 150 mM NaCl, pH 7.4) by mixing at 60°C for 2 h. Lipids were subjected to 5 min sonication and three snap-freeze/thaw cycles in liquid N<sub>2</sub> and shaking at 60°C. Finally, small unilamellar vesicles were generated using a mini-extruder (Avanti Polar Lipids) and a membrane pore size of 0.1  $\mu$ m.

### Liposome-binding assays: flotation assay and size exclusion chromatography and western blot

Flotation assay was performed as previously described (Miller *et al*, 2002) (see Supplementary information). Size exclusion chromatography



was performed on Pharmacia FPLC system by using Superdex 200 HR 10/30 column, equilibrated with binding buffer at the flow rate  $0.25 \text{ ml} \times \text{min}^{-1}$ . After 30 min incubation at  $22^\circ\text{C}$  with  $8 \mu\text{M}$  Slm1-PH or PLC $\delta$ -PH,  $250 \mu\text{l}$  of the different liposome solutions were injected. We collected 0.5 ml fractions that were then analyzed by SDS-PAGE and western blot. AV5-specific antibody produced in mouse (Invitrogen) was used to detect Slm1-PH. Total band intensity was integrated with Photoshop software and normalized versus the total amount of protein loaded. Presented results are the sum of all detected fractions of Slm1-PH or PLC $\delta$ -PH co-eluted with liposomes.

### Isothermal titration calorimetry

Isothermal titration calorimetry (ITC) was performed using a VP-ITC Microcal calorimeter (Microcal). Injectant (Slm1-PH or PLC $\delta$ -PH) was dialyzed extensively against binding buffer before all titrations. The experiments were performed at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ . A typical titration consisted of injecting 6–12  $\mu\text{l}$  aliquots of  $47 \mu\text{M}$  protein into the different solutions of liposomes, at intervals of 5 min to ensure that the titration peak returned to the baseline. The ITC data were corrected for the injectant dilution heat. To estimate  $K_d$ , we used the concentration of binding sites on liposome surface as a fitting parameter, assuming that the interactions occur in a stoichiometry of 1:1. The analysis was performed with the Origin 5.0 software.

### Slm1-PH crystallization and structure determination

Crystals were grown at  $20^\circ\text{C}$  by vapor diffusion using the sitting-drop method. For crystallization,  $0.5 \mu\text{l}$  of protein solution ( $9 \text{ mg ml}^{-1}$ ) were mixed with  $0.5 \mu\text{l}$  of precipitant solution ( $2 \text{ M (NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$ , 2% PEG 400, 0.1 M Hepes pH 7.5). A single crystal was cryo-protected in mother liquor supplemented with 30% glycerol and flash frozen in liquid nitrogen at 100 K. Diffraction data were collected at beamline ID14-2 of the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF, Grenoble France) using an ADSC Q4r CCD detector, and subsequently processed with XDS (Kabsch, 2010). The structure was solved by molecular replacement with the program PHASER (McCoy *et al*, 2007) using a search model obtained from the PDB entry 1btk (Hyvonen and Saraste, 1997) after conversion to polyalanine and removal of poorly conserved regions among PH domains. The search model included the following residues in the PDB entry 1btk: 5–14, 25–42, 53–57, 63–65, 101–104, 111–134. The initial solution was completed by iterative cycles of manual building in COOT (Emsley and Cowtan, 2004) and refinement using PHENIX (Adams *et al*, 2002), yielding a final model with  $R$  and  $R_{\text{free}}$  values of 22.1 and 27.1, respectively (Supplementary Table S7). The stereochemistry of the final model was checked with PROCHECK (Laskowski *et al*, 1993). The atomic coordinates and structure factors have been deposited in the Protein Data Bank under accession code 3nsu.

In Figure 7, the electrostatic potential calculated with APBS (Baker *et al*, 2001) is represented on the solvent-accessible surface. Blue and red indicate positive (+4 kT/e) and negative (−4 kT/e) potential, respectively. Images were generated using Pymol (DeLano, 2002).

### Estimation of accuracy based on interactions with PtdInsPs pathway

We thought to use the genetic coverage of the literature-derived reference data set to extrapolate the fraction of true interactions (accuracy) in our data (see below). We reasoned that if the lipid–array and the literature-derived reference data set are comparable in terms of quality and biological relevance, they should be similarly covered by genetic interactions. As the literature-derived reference data set mainly consists of PtdInsPs, we used accuracy measured for this lipid class as an approximation for the entire data set. For this analysis, intermediate cutoff was used for Costanzo *et al* (2010) data set along with data from SGD and literature (Supplementary Tables S2C and S4; see also Supplementary Data 1).

For different sets of proteins, we measured the fraction that interacts genetically with enzymes involved in the synthesis of PtdInsPs (Figure 3B):

(i) proteins that bound PtdInsPs in the literature-derived reference data set ( $10/16=62.5\%$ =reference genetic coverage); (ii) proteins that bound PtdInsPs in the lipid–array ( $40/86=46.5\%$ =experimental genetic coverage); (iii) a set of proteins defined as those proteins devoid of LBD and that did not bind PtdInsPs in the lipid–array ( $4/19=21.1\%$ =background genetic coverage). We observed that the literature-derived reference data set has significantly more genetic interactions than the background genetic coverage ( $P=0.015$ ). The same was true for proteins that bound PtdInsPs in the lipid–array versus the background genetic coverage ( $P=0.035$ ). Interestingly, the lipid–array data did not show any significant difference when compared with the literature-derived reference data set ( $P=0.18$ ). Fisher’s exact test was used to measure significance.

We can now interpolate the fraction of true interactions (accuracy) expected in the PtdInsPs lipid–array data set. The coverage of genetic interactions in our data set results from two different components: interactions of ‘true positive’ ( $x$ ) and ‘false positive’ ( $1-x$ ) proteins. Assuming that the ‘false positive’ will have a genetic coverage equal to the background genetic coverage and that ‘true positive’ will have a genetic coverage equal to the reference genetic coverage, we predict that 61.4% of the proteins are ‘true positives’ (see below). If all of the 86 proteins that bound PtdInsPs in the lipid–array are equally likely to be among the ‘true positives’, the ‘true positive’ rate among our protein–lipid interactions will also be 61.4% (Figure 3B).

$$\begin{aligned} \text{GC}_{\text{Exp}} &= \chi \cdot \text{GC}_{\text{Ref}} + (1 - \chi) \cdot \text{GC}_{\text{BG}} \rightarrow 40/86 \\ &= \chi \cdot 10/16 + (1 - \chi) \cdot 4/19 \rightarrow \chi = 61.4\% \end{aligned}$$

where

- $\chi$  = ‘true positive’ in the lipid–array data set (accuracy).
- $(1-\chi)$  = ‘false positive’ in the lipid–array data set.
- $\text{GC}_{\text{Exp}}$  = experimental genetic coverage.
- $\text{GC}_{\text{Ref}}$  = reference genetic coverage.
- $\text{GC}_{\text{BG}}$  = background genetic coverage.

### Prediction of a CRAL/TRIO in Ecm25

The putative CRAL/TRIO domain of Ecm25 was detected by running HHsearch (Soding, 2005) for all yeast proteins against the SCOP 1.69 database. For detailed information on the sequence-based alignment of the non-redundant set of structures annotated by Pfam as having a CRAL/TRIO domain, see Supplementary information.

### Clustering of proteins and lipids according to their binding profiles

For every protein, we calculated the fraction  $f_l$  of all the lipids with which it interacted and the fraction  $f_0$  of all the lipids with which it did not interact. Likewise, for every lipid, we calculated the fraction  $f_l$  of all the proteins with which it interacted and the fraction  $f_0$  of all the proteins with which it did not interact. Then at every position ( $i, j$ ) in the interaction matrix, we have a score  $s_{l_i, j}$  for an interaction between protein  $i$  and lipid  $j = \log(f_{l_i}) + \log(f_{l_j})$ , and a score  $s_{0_i, j}$  for no interaction =  $\log(f_{0_i}) + \log(f_{0_j})$ . Thus, an interaction between a promiscuous protein and a promiscuous lipid has a lower score than an interaction between a highly selective protein and lipid. We then scored the similarity between the lipid-binding profiles of all pairs of proteins  $i_1$  and  $i_2$  by summing the scores for every lipid  $j$  in the profile, where the score for lipid  $j =$

$$\begin{aligned} s_{l_{i_1, j}} + s_{l_{i_2, j}} & \text{when both proteins interact with lipid } j \\ s_{0_{i_1, j}} + s_{0_{i_2, j}} & \text{when neither protein interacts with lipid } j \\ -(s_{l_{i_1, j}} + s_{0_{i_2, j}}) & \text{protein } i_1 \text{ interacts with lipid } j, \text{ but protein } i_2 \\ & \text{does not} \\ -(s_{0_{i_1, j}} + s_{l_{i_2, j}}) & \text{protein } i_1 \text{ does not interact with lipid } j, \text{ but} \\ & \text{protein } i_2 \text{ does} \end{aligned}$$

We then clustered the proteins by complete linkage using the program OC (Barton, 2002), on the basis of these scores. We followed the same procedure to cluster the lipids on the basis of their protein-binding profiles. The calculation of the binomial probability for a significant deficiency or enrichment with a particular attribute and correction for testing for a particular feature in multiple places is described in Supplementary information.



For detailed description on other bioinformatic procedures (e.g. multiple sequence alignment), see Supplementary information.

## Supplementary information

Supplementary information is available at the *Molecular Systems Biology* website (<http://www.nature.com/msb>).

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*Author contributions:* OG, MKa and ACG designed the experiments. OG, JGJ, CM, CAG, PBA, KM, JT, VR performed the experiments. OG, MJB, SB, LJJ, MKu, RBR analyzed the data. OG, MJB, PB, RBR, ACG wrote the paper. OG, CFT, CWM determined Slm1-PH structure. Original idea was formulated by OG and ACG.

## Conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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