

# Determinants of phosphatidylinositol-4-phosphate 5-kinase type I $\gamma$ 90 uropod location in T-lymphocytes and its role in uropod formation

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## ABSTRACT

We have previously identified phosphatidylinositol-4-phosphate 5-kinase type I (PIPKI) $\gamma$ 90 as a T cell uropod component. However, the molecular determinants and functional consequences of its localization remain unknown. In this report, we seek to better understand the mechanisms involved in PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 uropod targeting and the role that PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 plays in T cell uropod formation. During T cell activation, PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 cocaps with the membrane microdomain-associated proteins flotillin-1 and -2 and accumulates in the uropod. We report that the C-terminal 26 amino acid extension of PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 is required for its localization to the uropod. We further use T cells from PIPKI $\gamma$ 90<sup>-/-</sup> mice and human T cells expressing a kinase-dead PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 mutant to examine the role of PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 in a T cell uropod formation. We find that PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 deficient T cells have elongated uropods on ICAM-1. Moreover, in human T cells overexpression of PIPKI $\gamma$ 87, a naturally occurring isoform lacking the last 26 amino acids, suppresses uropod formation and impairs capping of uropod proteins such as flotillins. Transfection of human T cells with a dominant-negative mutant of flotillin-2 in turn attenuates capping of PIPKI $\gamma$ 90. Our data contribute to the understanding of the molecular mechanisms that regulate T cell uropod formation.

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## INTRODUCTION

Migrating leukocytes establish a polarized morphology with an actin-rich leading edge and a uropod protruding from the trailing edge. This polarization is essential for efficient crawling. The uropod is a plasma membrane protrusion that contains specific organelles along with cytoskeletal, adhesion and signaling proteins (*Serrador et al., 1997; Sánchez-Madrid & Serrador, 2009*). Flotillins, membrane microdomain scaffolding proteins, are also enriched in leukocyte uropods and are involved in uropod formation (*Rossy et al., 2009; Ludwig et al., 2010; Affentranger et al., 2011; Baumann, Affentranger &*

*Niggli, 2012*). Recent in vivo data using inhibition of uropod formation by suppressing Rho-kinase activity suggest that the uropod is especially important for T cell migration through constricted spaces (*Soriano et al., 2011*).

During leukocyte migration, Rac2 mediated actin polymerization at the leading edge drives cell protrusion, while RhoA activation controls myosin II dependent uropod retraction (*Xu et al., 2003*). This process of protrusion and retraction is exquisitely coordinated to support efficient cell migration. Phosphoinositides are important signaling lipids regulating these processes. Research has focused especially on phosphatidylinositol (4,5) biphosphate (PI(4,5) P<sub>2</sub>) and phosphatidylinositol (3,4,5) trisphosphate. Production of the former lipid is regulated by phosphatidylinositol-4-phosphate 5-kinase type I (PIPKI) isoforms and that of the latter lipid by phosphoinositide 3-kinase (*Ward, Westwick & Harris, 2011; Sun et al., 2013*). Previously, we identified the enzyme PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 enriched in the neutrophil and the T cell uropod (*Lokuta et al., 2007*). PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 has been implicated in the regulation of integrin activity and endocytosis (*Calderwood et al., 2004; Bairstow et al., 2006; Sekine et al., 2007*). Two isoforms of PIPKI $\gamma$  that differ by a 26 amino acid C-terminal extension are expressed in T cells; a 635 amino acid (87 kDa) isoform, PIPKI $\gamma$ 87, and a 661 amino acid (90 kDa) isoform, PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 (*Wernimont et al., 2010*). Neutrophils lacking both PIPKI $\gamma$  isoforms have impaired neutrophil adhesion and trafficking to sites of infection. PIPKI $\gamma$ 87 lacks the sequence required for uropod targeting as observed in neutrophils (*Xu et al., 2010*). In T cells, siRNA knockdown of both PIPKI $\gamma$  isoforms is associated with decreased integrin mediated T cell adhesion in response to chemokine signaling (*Bolomini-Vittori et al., 2009*), whereas T cells from PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 deficient mice have increased integrin mediated adhesion in response to T cell receptor-mediated signaling (*Wernimont et al., 2010*), indicating that the two isoforms have distinct functions.

In this report, we seek to better understand how uropod location of PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 is controlled in T cells, and its role in T cell uropod formation. By over-expressing GFP-tagged PIPKI $\gamma$  in murine D10 T cells and in human freshly isolated T cells, we find that the 26 amino acid extension of PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 is required for its localization to the uropod. We moreover observe that PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 deficient murine T cells and human T cells expressing kinase-dead PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 have elongated uropods. These findings show that similar mechanisms control uropod targeting of PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 in both neutrophils (*Xu et al., 2010*) and T cells (this work), and that PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 is involved in uropod retraction in both cell types. We also provide novel data on the interrelationship between flotillins and PIPKI $\gamma$ 90.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Ethics Statement

We received approval for this study from the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (protocol number MO1570-0-06-07).

## Mice

PIPKI $\gamma$ 90<sup>-/-</sup> mice were generated as previously described and fully backcrossed onto the C57/Black6 background ([Wernimont et al., 2010](#)).

## Reagents

Antibodies for immunofluorescence and immunoblotting:

Phospho ezrin (Thr567)/radixin (Thr564)/moesin (Thr558) (P-ERM) (Cell Signaling Technology, Beverly, MA); flotillin-2 (Sigma, F-1680).

Recombinant proteins: human stromal cell-derived factor-1 (SDF-1 alpha), recombinant murine intercellular adhesion molecule-1 (rmICAM-1) and recombinant human ICAM-1 (rhICAM-1) were purchased from R and D systems (Minneapolis, MN).

Gey's solution contained 138 mM NaCl, 6 mM KCl, 100  $\mu$ M EGTA, 1 mM Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>, 5 mM NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, 5.5 mM glucose and 20 mM HEPES (pH 7.4).

## Isolation, cell culture and retroviral transfection of murine T cells

Murine D10 T cells (ATCC) were retrovirally transduced with GFP or GFP-PIPKI $\gamma$ 87, GFP-PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 or GFP-PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 kinase dead (KD) as previously described ([Lokuta et al., 2007](#); [Wernimont et al., 2010](#)). Following retroviral transduction, fluorescent cells were sorted by FACS. T cells were maintained in complete RPMI supplemented with IL-2 (Chiron).

Single cell suspensions of primary mouse T cells were made from lymph nodes and spleen from control and PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 knockout mice that were between 6 and 10 weeks of age. Following red blood cell lysis, CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells were isolated from cell suspension by negative selection and automacs sorting (Miltenyi). Isolated CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells were then stimulated 1:1 with anti-CD3/CD28 coated beads according to the manufacturer's instructions (Invitrogen) and maintained in RPMI supplemented with IL-2 (Chiron). These anti-CD3/CD28 bead activated cells were used for in vitro assays days 7 to 10 following isolation.

## Isolation and transient transfection of human T cells

T-lymphocytes were isolated from buffy coats of healthy donor blood using the Pan T Cell Isolation Kit II (Miltenyi Biotec) and separation on LD columns (Miltenyi Biotec) according to the manufacturer's instructions. The buffy coats were obtained from the Central Laboratory of the Swiss Red Cross, Bern, Switzerland. For details see [Affentranger et al. \(2011\)](#).

For transient transfections,  $5 \times 10^6$  freshly isolated T cells were resuspended in 100  $\mu$ l human T cell nucleofector solution (Amaxa, Köln, Germany) diluted 1:2 with PBS and 1–2  $\mu$ g of DNA per construct was added, followed by nucleofection (Amaxa Nucleofector, program U-14). Constructs encoding for flotillin-2 and -1 C-terminally tagged with mCherry were prepared as described ([Rossy et al., 2009](#); [Affentranger et al., 2011](#)). Constructs encoding for PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 and PIP5K $\gamma$ 87 N-terminally tagged with GFP and subcloned in a pcDNA3.1 vector were prepared as described ([Lokuta et al., 2007](#)).

The point mutation D253A was introduced into the wild type enzyme using the Quick Change Mutagenesis kit from Stratagene.

Immediately after transfection, 500  $\mu$ l of RPMI with 20% FCS was added and the cells were transferred to a prewarmed 12-well plate containing 2.5 ml of RPMI with 20% FCS, followed by incubation at 37°C in a CO<sub>2</sub> incubator for 4–6 h. Transfected cells were subsequently washed and resuspended in Gey's solution.

### Immunofluorescence staining of murine T cells

Murine wild type and PIPKI $\gamma$ 90<sup>-/-</sup> T cells were allowed to migrate on rmICAM-1 coated coverslips for 15 min at 37°C prior to fixing with 3% paraformaldehyde (PFA) (Electron Microscopy Services) for 15 min at 25°C. Cells were permeabilized with 0.2% Triton X-100, blocked in goat serum and stained with anti-P-ERM antibody (Santa Cruz), DAPI and rhodamine phalloidin (Invitrogen) along with FITC conjugated anti-rabbit secondary antibodies (Jackson Labs). Images were acquired on a laser scanning confocal microscope (Olympus) using a 60 $\times$  Plan Apo/1.45 oil immersion objective with a 10 $\times$  zoom factor and captured into Fluoview software (FV10-ASW version 01.07; Olympus).

### Immunofluorescence staining of human T cells

The transfected cells were resuspended in Gey's medium containing 1 mM MgSO<sub>4</sub>, 1.1 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub> and plated on glass coverslips coated with 3  $\mu$ g hrICAM-1/ml, incubated at 37°C and 5% CO<sub>2</sub> for 45 min followed by addition of SDF-1 (40 ng/ml) and a further incubation for 15 min. Cells were fixed with 3.7% PFA for 15 min followed by staining with rhodamine phalloidin (Molecular Probes) and Hoechst 33342 dye (Sigma) or with an antibody recognizing flotillin-2 as described (*Affentranger et al., 2011*). Pictures were acquired on a confocal microscope (Olympus FV 1000) equipped with an 60 $\times$  Plan Apo/1.45 oil immersion objective and captured into Fluoview software (FV10-ASW version 01.7).

Flotillin- and PIPKI $\gamma$ 90-enriched aggregates located at the plasma membrane of at least 1  $\mu$ m or larger (maximally approximately 4  $\mu$ m) were defined as “caps”. For analysis of shape and protein localization, 50–100 T cells were analysed per sample and experiment.

### Statistical analysis

Data were analyzed with the Graph Pad Prism software (version 5.04) using ANOVA with Tukey's post hoc testing or with the student's t-test, depending on the experiment, as detailed in the figure legends. *P* values <0.05 were considered significant. Data correspond to the mean  $\pm$  sem.

## RESULTS

### PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 specifically localizes to the T cell uropod independent of its kinase activity but dependent on its 26 residue C-terminal extension

Previous work from our lab with murine T cells has identified PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 as a uropod component in neutrophils and murine T cells (*Lokuta et al., 2007*). We studied kinetics

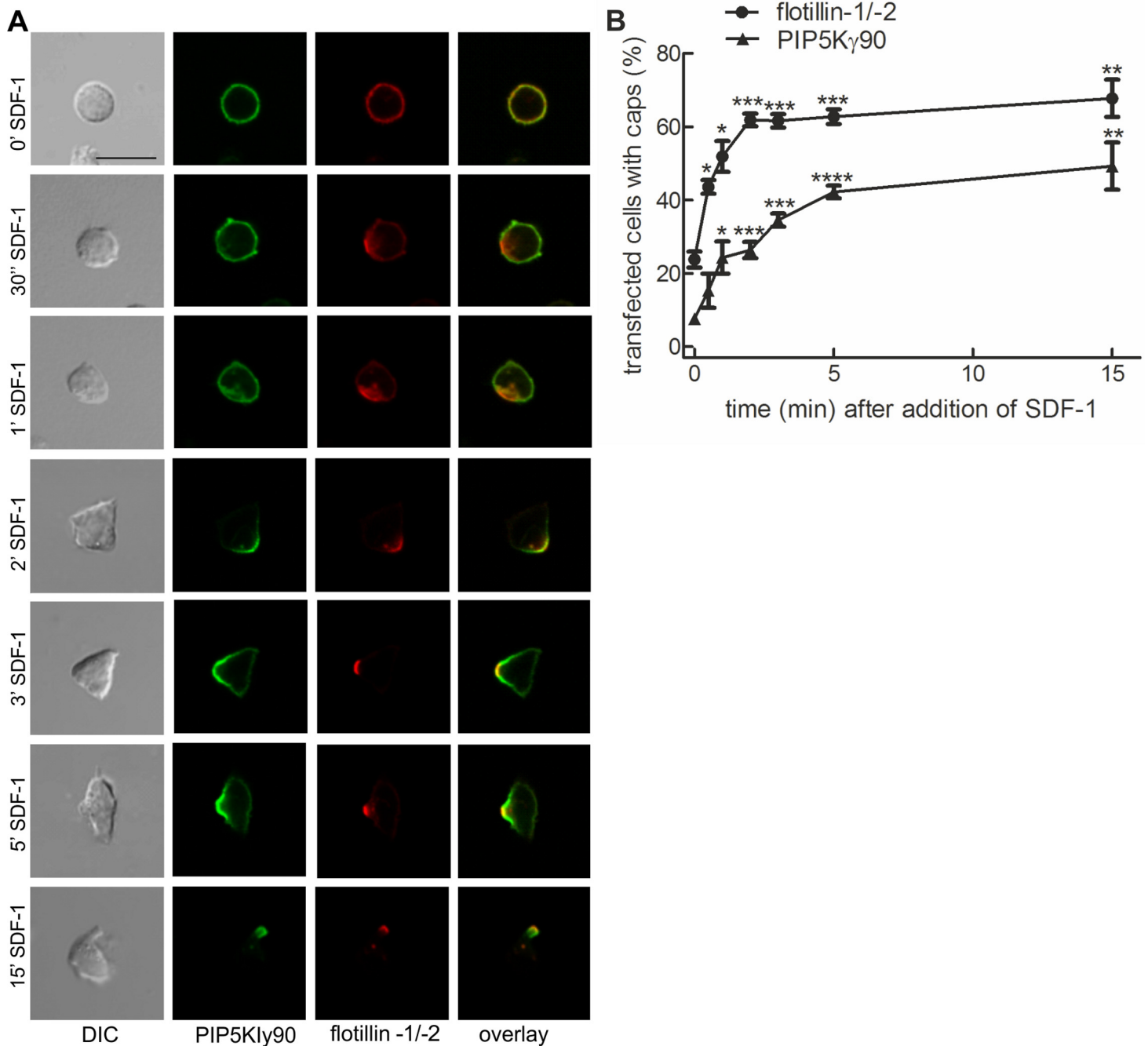
of uropod recruitment of PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 in human freshly isolated T cells stimulated with the chemokine SDF-1. As known T cell uropod components we used the raft proteins flotillin-1 and -2 (Affentranger *et al.*, 2011; Baumann, Affentranger & Niggli, 2012). As shown in Fig. 1A, flotillins and PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 are mostly uniformly distributed in the spherical resting cells, but cap rapidly and arrive together in the uropod upon chemokine addition. Capping especially of flotillins precedes formation of the uropod. Capping of PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 lags slightly behind that of flotillins ( $t_{1/2}$  for flotillin: approximately 1 min;  $t_{1/2}$  for PIPKI $\gamma$ 90: approximately 2 min), and the percentage of fully polarized cells with flotillin caps is higher than that of cells with PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 caps (Fig. 1B).

We now studied mechanisms involved in uropod targeting of this enzyme by expressing GFP-tagged wild type and mutated PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 in freshly isolated human T cells. The constructs used in this study are shown in Fig. 2A. We found that wild type PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 locates to the uropod of freshly isolated human T cells randomly migrating on ICAM-1 in the presence of SDF-1 (Fig. 2B), as well as in murine D10 T cells migrating on ICAM-1 (Fig. S1). In neutrophils the PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 kDa isoform specifically localizes to the uropod while the 87 kDa isoform is uniformly distributed around the cell cortex (Lokuta *et al.*, 2007; Xu *et al.*, 2010), suggesting that its localization is regulated by the 26 residue C-terminal extension.

We also obtained comparable results in human T cells (Figs. 2B and 2C). Kinase-dead PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 also localizes to the T cell uropod indicating that localization is not kinase dependent (Figs. 2B and 2C). Similar data were obtained for murine D10 T cells (Fig. S1). In human T cells expressing GFP-tagged PIPKI $\gamma$ 87 and plated on ICAM-1 in the presence of the chemokine SDF-1, formation of contracted uropods was almost completely abolished. Capping of the uropod component flotillin-2 was also markedly reduced (Figs. 2B and 2C). Similarly uropod capping of the adhesion receptor PSGL-1 was inhibited (V Niggli and S Affentranger, unpublished data). This inhibitory effect was less striking in the murine D10 T cell clone (Fig. S1), possibly because these cells are already activated and polarized in the absence of stimuli, whereas freshly isolated T cells are mainly spherical in the absence of chemokine (Fig. 1A). In the latter situation, transfection with the PIPKI $\gamma$ 87 construct prevents polarization whereas for the D10 T cell clone already existing uropods may be resistant to disruption. Our findings suggest a role of PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 in uropod formation, possibly as a scaffolding protein.

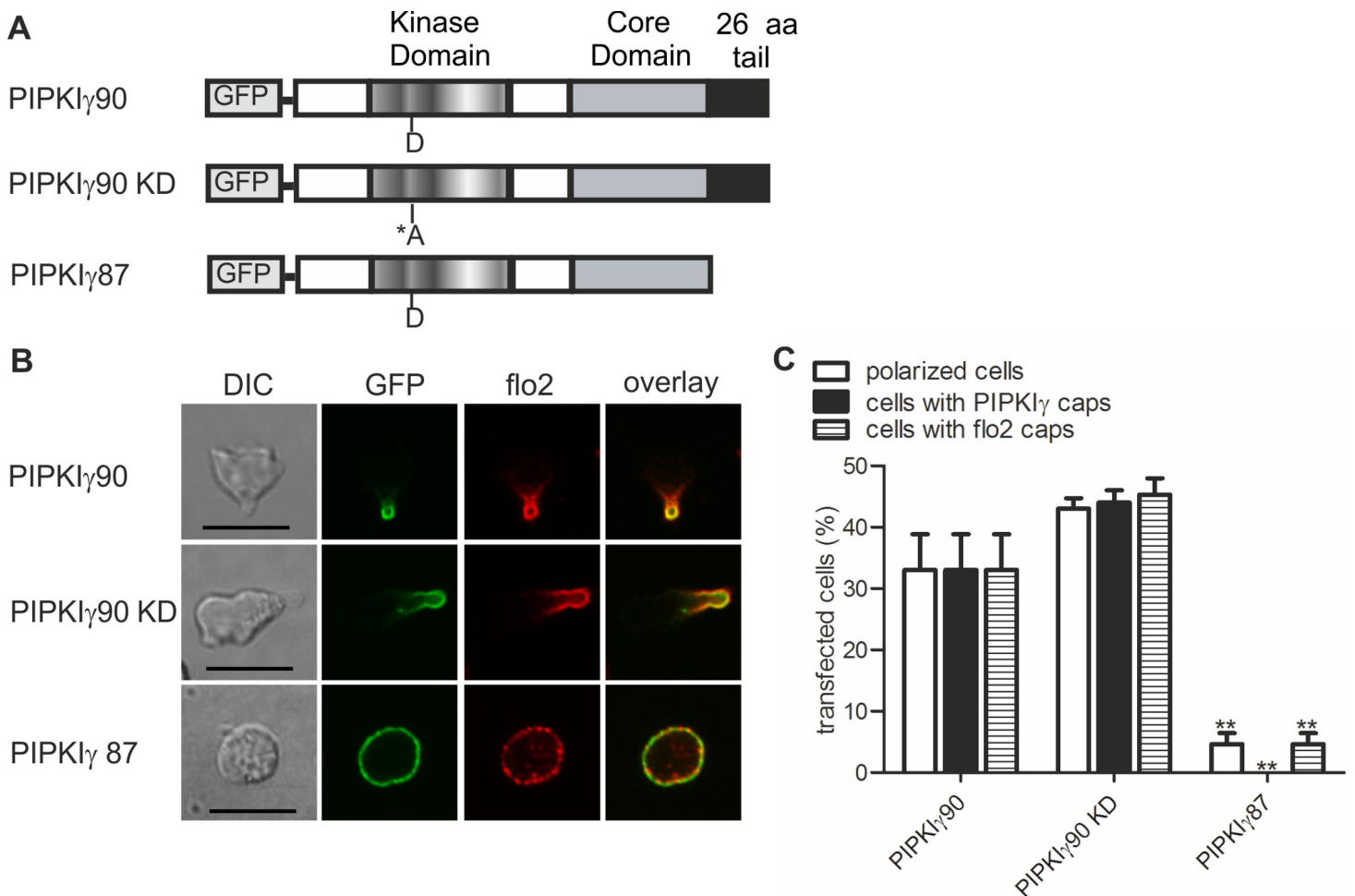
### **Transfection of human T cells with a dominant-negative mutant of flotillin-2 impairs capping of PIPKI $\gamma$ 90**

We have previously shown that flotillins are involved in T cell uropod formation and that transfection of human T cells with a dominant-negative mutant of flotillin-2 (flotillin-2-G2A) impairs uropod formation and capping of uropod proteins such as PSGL-1 (Affentranger *et al.*, 2011). Similarly, transfection of human T cells with this mutant significantly reduced chemokine-induced capping of PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 by  $64 \pm 2\%$  ( $n = 3$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) (Figs. 3A and 3B), suggesting that flotillins and PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 cooperate as scaffolding proteins in the uropod. Cell polarity was also inhibited by  $41 \pm 2\%$



**Figure 1** PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 cocaps with flotillins in human T cells during SDF-1-induced uropod formation. T cells were co-transfected with GFP-tagged wild type PIPKI $\gamma$ 90, flotillin-1-mCherry and flotillin-2-mCherry, followed by incubation at 37°C for 30 min in suspension. Note that singly expressed flotillin-1 or -2 do not cap (Affentranger et al., 2011). Cells were then treated with SDF-1 (40 ng/ml) for the indicated times and fixed in suspension with 3.7% PFA. (A) Fluorescence pictures. Scale bar 10  $\mu$ m. (B) Quantitative evaluation of (A). The percentage of transfected cells with capped flotillins or PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 were derived from  $n = 3$  independent experiments (mean  $\pm$  sem) (\* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ , \*\*\*\* $p < 0.0001$  for differences to cells not exposed to SDF-1, obtained with Anova and Tukey's multiple comparison test). 50 cells were counted per sample and experiment.



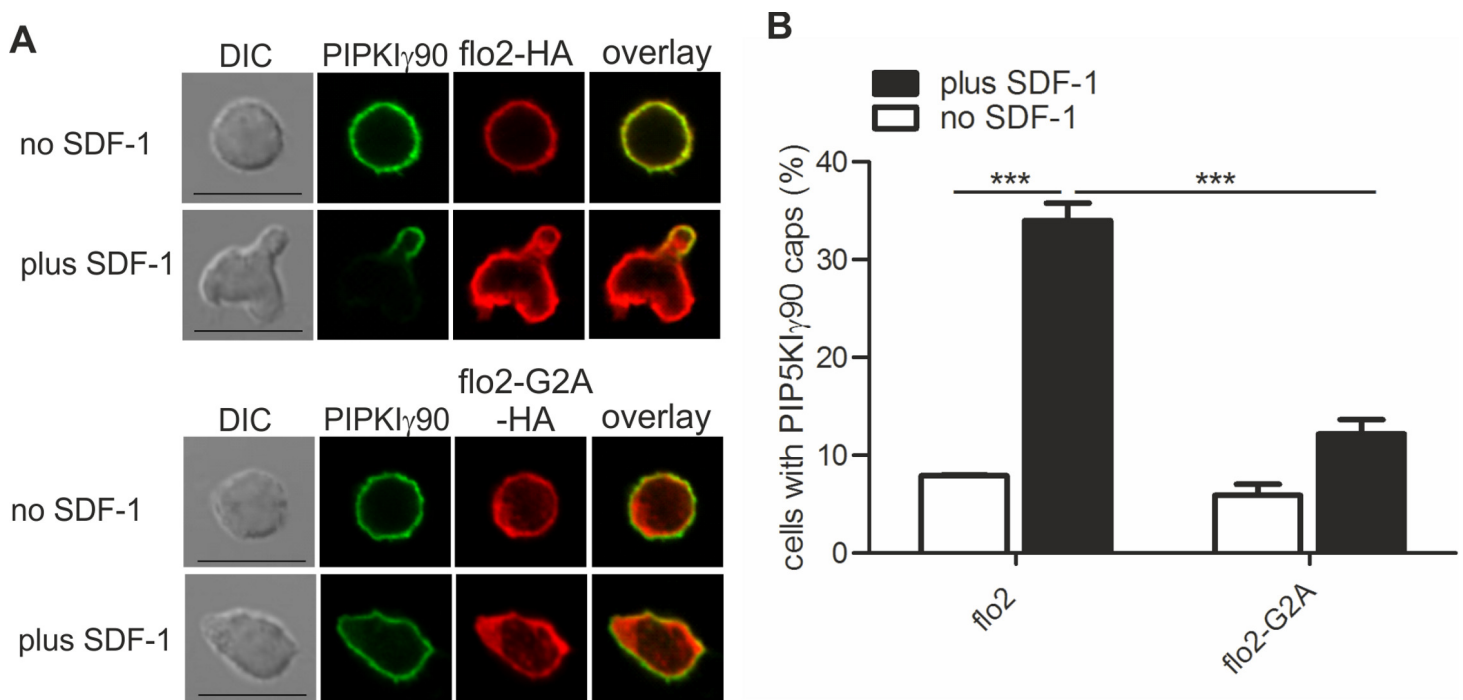


**Figure 2** Determinants of uropod targeting of PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 in human T cells. (A) Scheme showing the structure of PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 and of the constructs used in this work. (B, C) Human freshly isolated T cells were transiently transfected with GFP-tagged wild type or the indicated mutant PIPKI $\gamma$  constructs, followed by plating on ICAM-1, and, after a 45 min incubation at 37°C, stimulation with 40 ng SDF-1/ml for 15 min. Cells were then fixed with PFA and stained for endogenous flotillin-2 (flo2) with a rabbit polyclonal antibody. (B) Representative immunofluorescence pictures showing the location of GFP tagged wild type and mutant PIPKI $\gamma$  (green) and flotillin-2 (red). Scale bar 10  $\mu$ m. (C) Quantitative evaluation of the experiment shown in (B) concerning the % of transfected polarized cells and the % of transfected cells with PIPKI $\gamma$  and flotillin-2 (flo2) caps. Mean  $\pm$  sem of 3 experiments (\*\* $p < 0.01$  as compared to cells transfected with wild type PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 obtained by ANOVA and Tukey's multiple comparison test). 50 cells were counted per sample and experiment.

( $n = 3, p < 0.01$ ) in SDF-1-stimulated cells, in agreement with previous data on human T-lymphoblasts (Affentranger et al., 2011).

### PIP KI $\gamma$ 90<sup>-/-</sup> murine T cells or human T cells expressing kinase-dead PIP KI $\gamma$ 90 have elongated uropods

Given the specific localization of PIP KI $\gamma$ 90 to the T cell uropod, and the negative impact of PIP KI $\gamma$ 87 on uropod formation in human T cells, we explored the role of PIP KI $\gamma$ 90 in uropod formation using CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells from PIP KI $\gamma$ 90<sup>-/-</sup> mice. These cells were fixed while migrating on ICAM-1 and stained with antibodies recognizing phosphorylated ERM proteins as uropod markers along with DAPI and rhodamine phalloidin to visualize the



**Figure 3** Coexpression of dominant-negative flotillin-2-G2A inhibits capping of GFP-PIP5KI $\gamma$ 90 in human T cells. T cells were co-transfected with wild type flotillin-2-HA and GFP-tagged wild type PIP5KI $\gamma$ 90 or flotillin-2-G2A-HA and GFP-tagged wild type PIP5KI $\gamma$ 90 and incubated at 37°C for 30 min. Cells were then stimulated with SDF-1 (40 ng/ml) for 15 min, fixed with 3.7% PFA (final concentration) in suspension and stained for HA. (A) Fluorescence pictures. Scale bar 10  $\mu$ m. (B) Quantitative evaluation of A: % of cells with PIP5KI $\gamma$ 90 caps in transfected cells were derived from  $n = 3$  independent experiments (mean  $\pm$  sem) (\*\*\*)  $p < 0.001$  obtained by ANOVA and Tukey's multiple comparison test). 100 cells counted per sample.

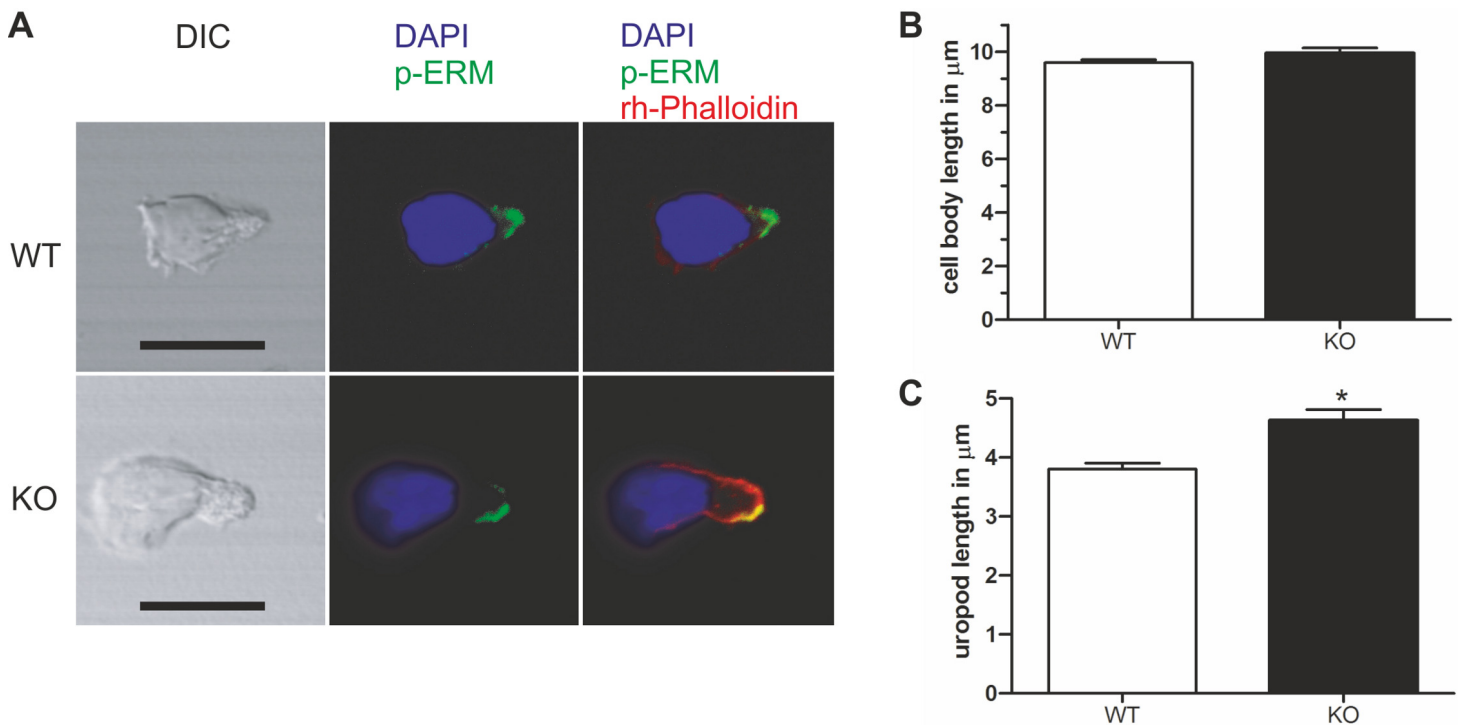
nucleus and actin cytoskeleton respectively. As shown in Fig. 4, T cells from PIP5KI $\gamma$ 90 knockout mice were longer than control cells. Quantification of the cell body length, defined as the length from the leading edge to the trailing edge of the nucleus, was not different between control and knockout cells. Rather, the difference in cell length was attributable to an approximately 30% increase in uropod length (measured from the trailing edge of the nucleus to the end of the uropod).

As shown in Fig. 2, expression of kinase-dead PIP5KI $\gamma$ 90 in human T cells did not affect cell polarization and capping of uropod proteins such as flotillins. However during SDF-1-stimulated migration on ICAM-1, freshly isolated human T cells transfected with kinase-dead PIP5KI $\gamma$ 90 had elongated uropods as compared to cells expressing wild type PIP5KI $\gamma$ 90 or EGFP. We observed a 27% increase in uropod length when comparing human T cells transfected with EGFP to cells expressing kinase-dead PIP5KI $\gamma$ 90 (Figs. 5A–5C).

## DISCUSSION

The work presented here shows that PIP5KI $\gamma$ 90 is specifically localized to the T cell uropod, whereas the PIP5KI $\gamma$ 87 isoform shows a diffuse location, implicating the 26 amino acid C-terminal extension in uropod targeting, similar to findings in neutrophils. Additionally, we show that PIP5KI $\gamma$ 90 regulates adhesion of the T cell uropod since in its absence murine



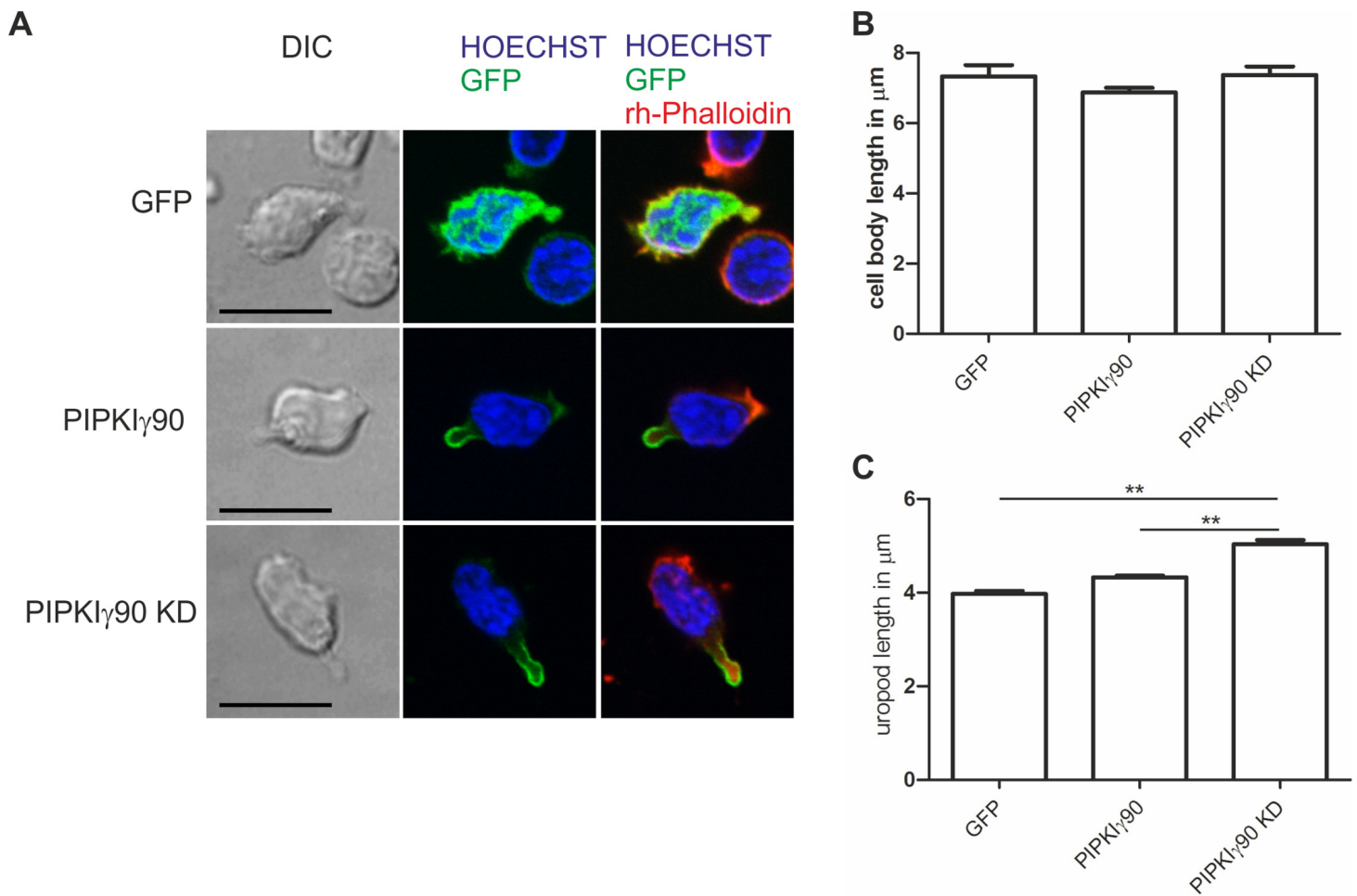


**Figure 4** Murine PIPKI $\gamma$ 90<sup>-/-</sup> T-cells have elongated uropods. Wild type and knockout murine T cells were fixed while migrating on an ICAM-1 coated coverslip and stained with DAPI, rhodamine phalloidin, and antibodies specific for P-ERM. (A) Representative immunofluorescence pictures showing the location of DAPI (blue), F-actin (red) and P-ERM (green). Scale bar 10  $\mu$ m. (B) Quantification of cell body length defined as the distance in  $\mu$ m from the leading edge to the trailing edge of the nucleus. (C) Quantification of uropod length-defined as the length in  $\mu$ m from the trailing edge of the nucleus to end of the uropod which is enriched in P-ERM. \* =  $p < 0.001$  by students t test (mean  $\pm$  sem from 40 cells per condition from 3 independent experiments).

T cells have elongated uropods, very likely due to impaired de-adhesion of the rear of the cell. Comparable findings were obtained for human T cells transfected with kinase dead PIPKI $\gamma$ 90. Moreover our data suggest novel scaffolding functions of PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 in the uropod.

Our data indicate divergent functions for the 87 and 90 kDA PIPKI $\gamma$  isoforms. This is not entirely unexpected, since previous work has shown that they differently regulate calcium signaling and integrin mediated adhesion. For instance, PIPKI $\gamma$ 87 is the isoform responsible for generating the PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub> required for calcium signaling (Wang et al., 2004), whereas specific knockdown of PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 actually increases adhesion of T cells to ICAM-1 (Wernimont et al., 2010).

We investigated the functional role of PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 in uropod formation and show that murine T cells lacking this enzyme or human T cells expressing kinase-dead PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 have elongated uropods when migrating on ICAM-1, comparable to differentiated neutrophil-like HL-60 cells transfected with kinase-dead PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 (Lokuta et al., 2007). This suggests that de-adhesion of uropods is impaired in cells lacking PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 or expressing the kinase-dead mutant which may interfere with the function of the endogenous enzyme, for example by displacing it from interaction partners. Localized



**Figure 5** Transfection with kinase-dead PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 induces uropod elongation in human T cells. Human T cells were transiently transfected with GFP, GFP tagged wild type PIPKI $\gamma$ 90, or GFP tagged kinase dead PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 (PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 KD). Cells were incubated at 37°C for 30 min, incubated on ICAM-1-coated cover slips at 37°C for 45 min, stimulated with SDF-1 (40 ng/ml) for 15 min, fixed with 3.7% PFA and stained with Hoechst dye and rhodamine phalloidin. (A) Representative immunofluorescence pictures showing the location of the PIPKI $\gamma$  constructs (green), Hoechst dye (blue) and F-actin (red). Scale bar 10  $\mu$ m. (B) Quantification of cell body length defined as the distance in  $\mu$ m from the leading edge to the trailing edge of the nucleus. (C) Quantification of uropod length defined as the length in  $\mu$ m from the trailing edge of the nucleus to the end of the uropod. Data shown in (B) and (C) were derived from a total of 60 cells per condition obtained in 3 independent experiments (mean  $\pm$  sem) (\*\* $p$  < 0.01 obtained by ANOVA and Tukey's multiple comparison test).

increases in PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub> in the rear of the cell mediated by PIPKI $\gamma$  could lead to localized activation of ERM proteins, resulting in F-actin-membrane linkage and enhanced Rho activity inducing uropod contraction (Ivetic & Ridley, 2004). Knockdown of PIPKI $\gamma$  could thus result in a reduction of uropod contractility and therefore a decrease in uropod detachment.

Interestingly, expression of PIPKI $\gamma$ 87, which lacks the uropod targeting domain, in human T cells resulted in almost complete impairment of uropod formation and capping of uropod proteins (Fig. 2). These findings are similar to those previously obtained for the isoform PIPKI $\beta$  in neutrophil-like HL-60 cells (Lacalle et al., 2007). There, expression of kinase-dead PIPKI $\beta$  induced cell elongation, whereas expression of a truncated form of

PIPKI $\beta$  lacking the last 83 C-terminal amino acids, which does not locate to the uropod, had a much stronger phenotype and reduced cell polarization by about 80%. *Lacalle et al. (2007)* argue that the truncated PIPKI $\beta$  may act by sequestering proteins required for uropod formation and prevent their interaction with endogenous PIPKI $\beta$ , thus strongly impairing uropod formation. This could also explain the strong effects of the mutant PIPKI $\gamma$ 87 observed in this work. In the murine T cells lacking PIPKI $\gamma$ 90, other isoforms such as PIPKI $\beta$  could compensate for this loss and explain the relatively mild phenotype. Transfection with the kinase-dead PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 may only incompletely interfere with activity of the endogenous PIPKI $\gamma$  isoform. Both PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 and PIPKI $\beta$  may thus act as scaffolds to organize signaling at the rear of polarized leukocytes, together with the raft-associated flotillins. We show that flotillins, directly or indirectly, also are involved in PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 uropod targeting (Fig. 3). PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 and PIPKI $\beta$  have divergent C-terminal amino acid sequences and may be targeted to the uropod via different mechanisms. For example, PIPKI $\gamma$ 90, but not PIPKI $\beta$ , interacts with talin as shown in vitro (*Manes et al., 2010*).

## CONCLUSIONS

This work identifies a region of PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 necessary for its uropod localization in T cells, shows that T cells lacking PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 or expressing kinase-dead PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 have increased uropod length similar to findings in neutrophils, implicates flotillins in uropod targeting of PIPKI $\gamma$ 90 and provides novel data on possible scaffolding functions of PIPKI $\gamma$ .

### Abbreviations

PI(4,5)P <sub>2</sub>	phosphatidylinositol 4,5 bisphosphate
PIPKI	phosphatidylinositol-4-phosphate 5-kinase type I
ICAM-1	intercellular adhesion molecule 1
KD	kinase-dead
P-ERM	phosphorylated ezrin/radixin/moesin proteins
PFA	paraformaldehyde
rhICAM-1	recombinant human ICAM-1
rmICAM-1	recombinant murine ICAM-1
SDF-1	stromal cell-derived factor-1

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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND DECLARATIONS

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### Competing Interests

There are no competing interests.

### Author Contributions

- Lucia Mathis conceived and designed the experiments, performed the experiments, analyzed the data, wrote the paper.
- Sarah Wernimont conceived and designed the experiments, performed the experiments, analyzed the data, contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools, wrote the paper.
- Sarah Affentranger performed the experiments, analyzed the data.
- Anna Huttenlocher conceived and designed the experiments, analyzed the data, contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools, wrote the paper.
- Verena Niggli conceived and designed the experiments, analyzed the data, wrote the paper.

### Animal Ethics

The following information was supplied relating to ethical approvals (i.e., approving body and any reference numbers):

We received specific approval for this study from the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (protocol number MO1570-0-06-07).

### Supplemental Information

Supplemental information for this article can be found online at <http://dx.doi.org/10.7717/peerj.131>.

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