Original Article



Group V Secretory Phospholipase A₂ Regulates Endocytosis of Acetylated LDL by Transcriptional Activation of PGK1 in RAW264.7 Macrophage Cell Line

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Aims: It was suggested that group V secretory phospholipase A₂ (sPLA₂-V) existed in the nucleus. This study examined whether nuclear sPLA₂-V plays a role in endocytosis of acetylated low-density lipoprotein (AcLDL) in monocyte/macrophage-like cell line RAW264.7 cells.

Methods: RAW264.7 cells were transfected with shRNA vector targeting sPLA₂-V (sPLA₂-V-knockdown [KD] cells) or empty vector (sPLA₂-V-wild-type [WT] cells). AcLDL endocytosis was assessed by incubation with ¹²⁵I-AcLDL or AcLDL conjugated with pHrodo. Actin polymerization was assessed by flow cytometry using Alexa Fluor 546-phalloidin.

Results: In immunofluorescence microscopic studies, sPLA₂-V was detected in the nucleus. ChIP-Seq and ChIP-qPCR analyses showed binding of sPLA₂-V to the promoter region of the *phosphoglycerate kinase 1 (Pgk1)* gene. In the promoter assay, sPLA₂-V-KD cells had lower promoter activity of the *Pgk1* gene than sPLA₂-V-WT cells, and this decrease could be reversed by transfection with a vector encoding sPLA₂-V-H48Q that lacks enzymatic activity. Compared with sPLA₂-V-WT cells, sPLA₂-V-KD cells had decreased PGK1 protein expression, beclin 1 (Beclin1) phosphorylation at S30, and class III PI3-kinase activity that could also be restored by transfection with sPLA₂-V-H48Q. sPLA₂-V-KD cells had impaired actin polymerization and endocytosis, which was reversed by introduction of sPLA₂-V-H48Q or PGK1 overexpression. In sPLA₂-V-WT cells, siRNA-mediated depletion of PGK1 suppressed Beclin1 phosphorylation and impaired actin polymerization and intracellular trafficking of pHrodo-conjugated AcLDL.

Conclusions: Nuclear sPLA₂-V binds to the *Pgk1* gene promoter region and increases its transcriptional activity. sPLA₂-V regulates AcLDL endocytosis through PGK1-Beclin1 in a manner that is independent of its enzymatic activity in RAW264.7 cells.

Key words: Group V secretory phospholipase A2, Endocytosis, Phosphoglycerate kinase 1, Actin polymerization, Macrophage

Introduction

Phospholipase A2s (PLA2) participate in diverse biological events mainly through the generation of a

variety of lipid mediators¹⁾. Mammalian PLA₂ enzymes are classified into three main categories based on their biochemical features and primary structures¹⁾: intracellular cytosolic PLA₂ (cPLA₂), Ca²⁺

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Received: November 25, 2020 Accepted for publication: February 7, 2021

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-independent PLA₂ (iPLA₂), and secretory PLA₂ (sPLA2). The sPLA2 class comprises 11 sPLA2s that are present in the secretory granule matrix, perinuclear region, or Golgi apparatus^{1, 2)}. After secretion, extracellular sPLA2s promote release of arachidonic acid and other fatty acids from plasma membrane phospholipids or non-cellular lipid components^{1, 2)}. Previous reports suggested that some sPLA₂s including group V sPLA₂ (sPLA₂-V) localized within the nucleus³⁻⁵⁾. However, whether their nuclear localization has pathophysiological relevance is unclear. Notably, hydrolytic enzyme activity of sPLA2s requires Ca²⁺ concentrations in the millimolar range¹⁾, and the Ca²⁺ concentration in both the nucleus and cytosol is at most a few µM⁶. Therefore, functional roles for sPLA2s in the nucleus are likely mediated by non-enzymatic activities.

PLA2s have been reported to participate in innate immune functions through the regulation of phagocytosis⁷⁾. Macrophages contribute to the innate immune response by ingesting pathogens, internalizing them in phagosomes that later recruit lysosomal proteins to form phagolysosomes in which pathogens are killed⁸. sPLA₂-V was previously shown to regulate phagocytosis of microorganisms independently of its effects on eicosanoid generation in cultured murine macrophages^{9, 10)}. The precise mechanisms by which sPLA2s regulate phagocytosis are unclear. Endocytosis of modified low-density lipoproteins (LDL) through clathrin or non-clathrinmediated pathways¹¹⁾ is thought to be central to the formation of foam cells, which are the basis for generation of atherosclerotic lesions. Whether sPLA2-V may also play a role in endocytosis of modified LDLs such as acetylated LDL (AcLDL) also remains to be determined.

While searching for the biological role of sPLA2-V in the nucleus of macrophages, we unexpectedly found that sPLA2-V bound to the promoter region of phosphoglycerate kinase 1 (Pgk1) gene and promoted Pgk1 transcriptional activity in a non-enzymatical manner using the chromatin immunoprecipitation sequencing (ChIP-Seq) assay and the promotor assay. PGK1 is a key enzyme in the glycolytic pathway in which it catalyzes the reversible conversion of 1,3-biphosphoglycerate to 3-phosphoglycerate. PGK1 was recently shown to directly phosphorylate beclin 1 (Beclin1)¹²⁾, a protein that plays a key role in autophagy. Thus, PGK1 can act as a protein kinase to enhance autophagy, a novel role that is distinct from its glycolytic function¹³⁾. Beclin1 is not only a key player in autophagy, but also serves non-autophagy functions including those involved in endocytic trafficking and phagocytosis^{14, 15)}.

Using the monocyte/macrophage-like cell line RAW264.7 cells, in this study we tested the hypothesis that sPLA₂-V in the nucleus can regulate PGK1 expression that leads to enhanced endocytic activity of AcLDL.

Materials and Methods

Materials

FBS, RPMI 1640 medium, penicillin/ streptomycin solution, Alexa FluorTM 488 AcLDL, Alexa FluorTM 546 phalloidin, and pHrodoTM Indicator were purchased from Thermo Fisher Scientific (Waltham, MA, USA). AcLDL was from Alfa Diagnostic International (San Antonio, TX, USA). Sodium [¹²⁵I]-iodine (carrier-free, 3.7GBq/ml) was purchased from Perkin Elmer Japan (Yokohama, Kanagawa, Japan). Paraformaldehyde solution and saponin were from Sigma (Tokyo, Japan). EcoRI and BamHI restriction enzymes were obtained from New England Biolabs Japan (Tokyo, Japan). Rabbit monoclonal antibody against c-Src (clone no. 32G6; catalog. no. 2123), rabbit monoclonal antibody against phospho-c-Src at the active site (Tyr416; clone no. D49G4; cat. no. 6943), mouse and rabbit monoclonal antibody against Myc-tag (clone no. 9B11 and 71D10, cat. no. 2276 and 2278, respectively), rabbit monoclonal antibody against Beclin1 (clone no. D40C5; cat. no. 3495), rabbit polyclonal antibody against phospho-Beclin1 at the active site (Ser30) (cat. no. 54101), rabbit monoclonal antibodies against Rab5 (clone no. C8B1; cat. no. 3547) and Rab7 (clone no. D95F2; cat. no. 9367), rabbit polyclonal antibody against Lamin (cat. no. 2032), and rabbit monoclonal antibody against β -tubulin (clone no. 9F3; cat. no. 2128) were purchased from Cell Signaling Technology Japan (Tokyo, Japan). Rabbit polyclonal antibody to sPLA2-V for immunofluorescence study was purchased from Abcam Japan, Tokyo (cat. no. ab23709). Mouse monoclonal antibody against GAPDH (clone no. 3E12; cat. no. bsm-0978M) was from Bioss (Woburn, MA, USA). Rabbit polyclonal antibody against PGK1 (cat. no. LS-C482333) was obtained from LSBio (Seattle, WA, USA). Rat monoclonal antibody against Scavenger receptor class A member 1 (SR-A1) conjugated with FITC (clone no. 268318; cat. no. FAB1797F) was purchased from R and D systems (Minneapolis, MN, USA). Other chemicals were purchased from Sigma unless otherwise indicated.

Cell Culture

The RAW264.7 cell line, which is a monocyte/ macrophage-like cell line derived from BALB/C mice, was obtained from the American Type Culture Collection (Manassas, VA, USA; ATCC no. TIB-71). The cells were cultured in RPMI 1640 medium containing 10% FBS, 100 units/mL penicillin, and 100 μ g/mL streptomycin in an atmosphere of 5% CO₂ at 37°C. Cells were passaged at 90% confluency and used for experiments within passage number 15.

Details regarding the generation and characterization of sPLA2-V knockout (KO) mice with a C57BL/6J background (systemically deficient in sPLA₂-V) are described in our previous report¹⁶. sPLA₂-V KO male mice (20-25 wks-old) were used in the present study. Littermates of the sPLA₂-V wildtype (WT) males served as a WT group. Peritoneal macrophages were isolated from sPLA₂-V KO and WT mice by flushing the peritoneal cavities of mice with 5 mL ice-cold RPMI 1640 medium. The isolated peritoneal macrophages were washed and resuspended with RPMI 1640 medium containing 10% FBS, 100 units/mL penicillin, and 100 µg/mL streptomycin, and then plated on 24- or 48-well tissue culture plates. The cells were incubated overnight at 37° with 5% CO₂. Nonadherent cells were removed by washing three times with PBS. Peritoneal macrophages isolated as adherent Mac-2-positive cells were obtained at > 95% purity. The experimental protocol was approved by the University of Yamanashi Animal Care and Use Committee (approval reference no. A28-37), and procedures were carried out in accordance with the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals published by the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH Publication, 8th Edition, 2011).

Stable Knockdown (KD) of sPLA₂-V with Short Hairpin RNA (shRNA) in RAW264.7 Cells and Transfection of Small Interfering RNAs (siRNAs)

Predesigned short hairpin RNA (shRNA) specifically targeting sPLA2-V was cloned into the pLKO.1 vector (Sigma). The shRNA sequence was: 5'-CCGGGCTAGAACTCAAGTCCATGATCTCG AGATCATGGACTTGAGTTCTAGCTTTTTG-3' (cat. no. TRCN0000222633). The negative control shRNA (cat. no. SHC002V) sequence was: 5'-CCGG CAACAAGATGAAGAGCACCAACTCGAGTTGG TGCTCTTCATCTTGTTGTTTTT-3'. Stable knockdown (KD) of sPLA2-V in RAW264.7 cells was established as previously described¹⁷⁾. Briefly, cells cultured on a 24-well plate were transfected with 0.8 µg of the shRNA targeting sPLA₂-V using FuGENE HD transfection reagent (Promega Japan, Tokyo, Japan) according to the manufacturer's instructions. After selection of transfected cells with puromycin (final concentration $3 \mu g/mL$), some monoclonal cell populations were isolated from the stable cell pool by

limiting dilution. Some cells from each clone were collected for RT-PCR screening of sPLA₂-V mRNA knockdown. Meanwhile, the same procedure was used to isolate stable controls (RAW264.7 cells with WT sPLA₂-V) from cells transfected with the negative control shRNA vector. Efficiency of gene knockdown was confirmed by quantitative real-time (RT) PCR and immunoblotting.

Predesigned small interfering RNAs (siRNAs) specific for mouse PGK1, Beclin1, vacuolar protein sorting 34 (VPS34), and sPLA2-IID, -IIE, and XIIA were obtained from Sigma. The sense strand sequences are listed in **Supplementary Table 1**. The sequence of negative control siRNA (cat. no. SIC002) was not provided. RAW264.7 cells were transiently transfected with 30 nM siRNAs using Lipofectamine RNAiMAX reagent (Thermo Fishier Scientific), and the cells were used for experiments within 48 hr after the transfection. The efficacy of the siRNA-mediated suppression was confirmed by RT-PCR and western blot.

Transfection of shRNA, siRNAs, or any cDNA constructs was not performed using peritoneal macrophages due to the low transfection efficiency of primary macrophages with DNA constructs¹⁸.

Generation and Transfection of cDNA Constructs Encoding Mouse sPLA₂-V, sPLA₂-V- H48Q, Myctagged sPLA₂-V, Myc-tagged sPLA₂-V-H48Q, GFPtagged sPLA₂-V, and Mouse PGK1 and c-Src

pCMV6-Entry vector encoding a C-terminal Myc-tagged mouse sPLA₂-V (accession no. NM_011110.4) was purchased from OriGene Technologies (Rockville, MD, USA). At first, we generated cDNA encoding a mutant of sPLA2-V to transfect into RAW264.7 cells having shRNAmediated knockdown of sPLA2-V. Site-specific mutations were introduced using mismatched primer PCR with Pfu DNA polymerase and Dpn I restriction enzyme and a plasmid vector encoding a C-terminal Myc-tagged mouse sPLA₂-V as a template according to the manufacturer's instructions (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA). The primers for the mutations of nucleotides without any changes of amino acids are described in **Supplementary Table 1**. Then, cDNA construct of mouse sPLA₂-V lacking the Myc-tag was generated by the similar way using the respective primers (Supplementary Table 1). cDNA constructs of mouse sPLA₂-V encoding the activityablated mutant H48Q¹⁹⁾, with and without the Myctag, were also produced with a site-specific mutation method and a pCMV6-Entry vector carrying mouse sPLA2-V cDNA with or without Myc-tag as a template. The primers for generation of the H48Q mutant are described in **Supplementary Table 1**. A GFP-tagged mouse sPLA2-V expression vector was generated by subcloning mouse sPLA2-V cDNA into the pAcGFP1-N1 vector (Takara Bio, Kusatsu, Shiga, Japan) using the EcoRI and AgeI restriction sites. The pAcGFP1-N1-empty vector was used as a GFPexpression control vector. A mouse PGK1 expression vector (accession no. NM_008828) was purchased from Origene Technologies. A mouse c-Src expression vector (accession no. NM_001025395) was purchased from Origene Technologies. RAW264.7 cells were transiently transfected with each of these expression vectors using FuGENE HD transfection reagent (Promega Japan), and the cells were used within two days of transfection. Expression efficacy was analyzed by RT-PCR and immunoblotting.

ChIP-Seq and Quantitative ChIP-PCR in RAW264.7 Cells

ChIP-Seq was performed using truChIP Chromatin Shearing Kit (Covaris, Woburn, MA, USA) and iDeal ChIP-seq kit for Transcription Factors (Diagenode, Seraing, Belgium) according to the manufacturer's instructions and our previous report²⁰. Since we previously had technical problems due to unavailability of antibodies that specifically detect sPLA2-V in tissues by immunoblotting¹⁶, we used a monoclonal antibody against the Myc-tag and analyzed sPLA2-V KD RAW264.7 cells with re-constitutive expression of Myc-tagged sPLA₂-V or Myc-tagged sPLA2-V-H48Q as well as sPLA2-V KD RAW264.7 cells transfected with empty vector. Briefly, RAW264.7 cells $(4 \times 10^6 \text{ cells}/10 \text{ cm dish})$ were crosslinked in 1% formaldehyde for 5 min at room temperature. The reaction was quenched by addition of glycine to a final concentration of 0.125 M and incubation for 5 min at room temperature. After quenching, the cells were washed and collected in PBS before incubation with lysis buffer to prepare the nuclei. The nuclei were pelleted and resuspended with shearing buffer for sonication of chromatin using a Covaris M220 Focused-ultrasonicator (Covaris, Woburn, MA, USA) that sheared the chromatin into 200–700 bp fragments (75 W peak power, 10% duty factor, 200 cycles/burst, for 20 s). The lysate was kept cold at all times during sonication. A portion of the chromatin lysate was set aside as an input control. The remainder of the chromatin lysate was used for the ChIP experiment using mouse monoclonal antibody against Myc-tag (1:100 dilution; clone no. 9B11, catalog no. 2276, Cell Signaling Technology Japan, Tokyo, Japan). Normal mouse IgG (cat. no. 015-000-003, Jackson ImmunoResearch Laboratories, West Grove, PA, USA) was used as a negative control.

Chromatin-antibody complexes were pulled down using protein A-coated magnetic beads. The isolated DNA was purified and Illumina sequencing libraries were prepared using an Illumina TruSeq DNA Sample prep Kit (Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA). Libraries were PCR amplified for 18 cycles. Several libraries were pooled on one NovaSeq6000 lane and sequenced. Fastq files were first trimmed using Trimmomatic to remove poor quality reads and adapters. Reads from the trimmed Fastq files were aligned to the reference mouse genome (mm10) using Bowtie to produce sam files. Duplicate reads were then removed using Picard tools. ChIP-Seq peaks were called using the MACS2 algorithm, then annotated using ChIPseeker.

Data obtained after ChIP-Seq was validated by ChIP-quantitative PCR (qPCR). Immunoprecipitated DNA samples using mouse anti-Myc-tag monoclonal antibody and control mouse IgG were amplified and quantitated using Pgk1 primers (Supplementary Table 1). Amplification reactions (20 µL total volume) contained 1 µL DNA (Input/ChIP), 500 nM of the respective primers and SYBR Green Master Mix (Toyobo, Osaka, Japan). Data were calculated by normalizing relative to input sample (percentage of input).

Assay of *Pgk1* Gene Promoter Activity in RAW264.7 Cells

We used secreted luciferase from Cypridina. The Pgk1 promoter (-648 to -50) was amplified from mouse genomic DNA by PCR and cloned into the Cypridina luciferase reporter plasmid pMCS-Cypridina Luc (Thermo Fisher Scientific) at the XhoI and BamHI restriction sites. sPLA2-V-WT and sPLA2-V KD cells as well as sPLA2-V KD cells expressing sPLA2-V-H48Q were transfected with Cypridina luciferase reporter vector using FuGENE HD Transfection Reagent (Promega) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Renilla luciferase expression vector (pTK-Green Renilla Luc, Thermo Fisher Scientific) was co-transfected to serve as an internal control. At 24 hr post transfection, the culture medium and the cells were harvested. Cypridina luciferase activity in the harvested culture medium was measured using a SpectraMax L luminometer (Molecular Devices, San Jose, CA, USA) and a Pierce Cypridina Luciferase Glow Assay Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Renilla luciferase activity in cellular lysates was measured on the luminometer using coelenterazine as a substrate. Cypridina luciferase activity was normalized to Renilla luciferase activity. Data are represented as fold-induction by normalizing the luciferase activity of the tested sample to that of the corresponding control sample.

Assay of Class III Phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase (PI3-kinase) Activity in RAW264.7 Cells

RAW264.7 cells were incubated with 20 µg/mL AcLDL or PBS as a vehicle for 2 hr, washed with cold PBS, and lysed with lysis buffer (Sigma). Vacuolar protein sorting 34 (VPS34) protein complexes in the cell lysates were immunoprecipitated using rabbit anti-VPS34 monoclonal antibody (clone no. D9A5; cat no. 4263, Cell Signaling Technology Japan) or IgG as a control (cat. no. 011-000-003, Jackson Immuno Research Laboratories). VPS34 protein complexes were pulled down with protein G magnetic beads and washed with PBS/0.02% Tween 20. The enzyme activity of the VPS34 protein complex was determined using Class III PI3-Kinase Kit (K-3000; Echelon BioSciences, Salt Lake City, UT, USA) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Briefly, 12.5 µL kinase reaction buffer (20 mM Tris at pH 8.0, 200 mM NaCl, 2 mM EDTA, 20 mM MnCl₂, 100 µM ATP) was added to the immune complex bound to beads and incubated at 30°C for 3 hr. The reaction was terminated by adding 5 µL 100 mM EDTA. The quenched reaction mixture and phosphatidylinositol 3-phosphate (PI[3]P) detector protein (provided with the kit) were mixed in a PI(3)P-coated microplate for competitive binding to the PI(3)P detector protein. The amount of PI(3)P detector protein bound to the plate was determined using colorimetric detection of absorbance at 450 nm. The concentration of PI(3)P remaining in the reaction mixture was calculated based on the amount of PI(3)P detector protein bound to the plate.

Binding, Internalization, and Degradation Assays for AcLDL in RAW264.7 Cells and Mouse Peritoneal Macrophages

AcLDL was labeled with Na125I (Parkin Elmer Japan, Yokohama, Japan) in pre-coated iodination tubes (Thermo Fisher Scientific) to yield a specific activity of 100-150 kBq/µg AcLDL protein. For the binding study, cultures of RAW264.7 cells or peritoneal macrophages on 24-well culture plates were incubated for 2 hr at 4°C with the indicated concentrations of ¹²⁵I-labeled AcLDL in RPMI 1640 medium containing 0.1% BSA in the absence or presence of 50-fold excess unlabeled AcLDL. After the reaction was stopped by rapid removal of the medium, the cells were washed three times with ice-cold PBS, and then the cell-associated radioactivity was counted after solubilization with 1 N NaOH. The specific binding is defined as the difference between binding in the presence and absence of unlabeled AcLDL. To assess AcLDL internalization and degradation, cultures of RAW264.7 cells or peritoneal macrophages on 24-well culture plates were incubated for 2 hr at 4°C

with 20 µg/mL ¹²⁵I-labeled AcLDL in RPMI 1640 medium containing 0.1% BSA in the absence or presence of 50-fold excess unlabeled AcLDL. The supernatants were removed, washed with ice-cold PBS, then further incubated in RPMI 1640 medium containing 0.1% BSA for the indicated times at 37° C. At the end of the incubation at 37°C, the culture medium was collected and kept on ice for the later measurement of degradation. The cells were treated with an acidic buffer (50 mM glycine, 0.1 M NaCl, pH 3.0) for 10 min at 4°C to remove AcLDL associated with the cell surface. After washing with PBS, the internalized radioactivity was measured with a gamma counter after solubilization of the cells with 1 N NaOH. The specific internalization is defined as the difference between the internalized radioactivity in the presence and absence of the unlabeled AcLDL. To measure AcLDL degradation, the collected culture medium as described before was precipitated with 10% trichloroacetic acid (TCA). The TCA-soluble radioactivity was measured with a gamma counter. The specific degradation is defined as the difference between the TCA-soluble radioactivity in the presence and absence of unlabeled AcLDL.

To evaluate whether the translocation of AcLDL from the early endosome compartment to the late endosome/lysosome was impaired in sPLA2-V KD cells, a pulse-chase experiment was performed. Briefly, cells were incubated for the indicated time for up to 1 hr with ¹²⁵I-AcLDL at 18°C with or without 50-fold excess of unlabeled AcLDL. At this temperature, AcLDL degradation is inhibited by suppression of endosome-lysosome fusion²¹⁾ and internalized AcLDL accumulates in the early-endosomal compartments. After the cells were washed with PBS to remove unbound AcLDL, a portion of the cultured cells was harvested and the cell internalized radioactivity was measured as described above. The remaining cells were further incubated for the indicated time up to 1 hr at 37°C at which time point the culture medium was collected and precipitated with 10% TCA. The TCAsoluble radioactivity as AcLDL degradation was measured as described above. The degradation efficiency was expressed as the percentage of the TCAsoluble radioactivity relative to the specific cell internalized radioactivity after 1 hr incubation at 18°C (=100%). The degradation efficiency reflects the rate of translocation of the internalized AcLDL to the late endosome/lysosome compartment.

Detection of Rab5 and Rab7 Recruitment to Endosomes Containing AcLDL and Translocation of Internalized AcLDL to Lysosomes

Fluorescein-labeled AcLDL (Thermo Fisher

Scientific) was incubated with RAW264.7 cells at 4° for 2 hr in 24-well plates with cover slips, then removed, and the cells were washed with ice-cold PBS twice and further incubated at 37°C for the indicated times in RPMI 1640 medium containing 0.1% BSA. Then, cells were fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde for 15 min at room temperature. The fixed cells were permeabilized with 0.025% saponin and incubated with a primary antibody against Rab5 or Rab7 followed by Alexa Fluor 546-coujugated anti-rabbit IgG (cat. no. A11010, Thermo Fisher Scientific) for confocal microscopy.

Translocation of internalized AcLDL to lysosomes was detected using AcLDL conjugated with pHrodo (Thermo Fisher Scientific), a pH indicator that emits green fluorescence under acidic conditions such as those found in lysosomes. RAW264.7 cells were incubated with 20 µg/mL AcLDL conjugated with pHrodo at 37° C for the indicated time, and confocal microscopy and flow cytometry were carried out. For flow cytometry, data were collected as histograms representing the distribution of cell fluorescence intensities, and geometrical means of each histogram were used to assess the degree of translocation of internalized AcLDL to lysosomes. For each sample, 50,000 cells were analyzed by flow cytometry.

The level of lysosomal acidification was examined using LysoTracker Red (Thermo Fisher Scientific) that emits red fluorescence after accumulation in acidic compartments such as lysosomes. RAW264.7 cells at baseline were incubated with 50 nM LysoTracker Red at 37°C for 30 min in RPMI medium and used for confocal microscopy. The area of red fluorescence in each cell was measured using ImageJ and expressed as the percentage of area showing red fluorescence relative to the cell-surface area, and averaged over at least 20 cells.

Flow Cytometric Analysis

The magnitude of actin polymerization was assessed by measuring the relative content of F-actin in cells by flow cytometry²²⁾. At the indicated time after addition of AcLDL, cells were fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde and permeabilized with 0.025% saponin. Then, the fixed and permeabilized cells were incubated with Alexa Fluor 546-phalloidin (Thermo Fisher Scientific) for 30 min on ice. A portion of the cells was analyzed by confocal microscopy. The remaining cells were washed, scraped from the plate, and analyzed by flow cytometry using a FACSCalibur instrument (FACSCalibur, BD Biosciences, San Jose, CA, USA). To assess the magnitude of cell-surface expression of Scavenger receptor class A member 1 (SR-A1), a main AcLDL receptor, RAW264.7 cells were incubated with FITC-conjugated anti-SR-A1 monoclonal antibody (1:100 dilution, clone no. 268318; cat. no. FAB1797F, R and D systems) and analyzed by flow cytometry.

Data are presented as histograms showing the distribution of cell fluorescence intensities, and geometrical means of each histogram were used to assess actin polymerization or SR-A1 expression. For each sample, 50,000 cells were analyzed by flow cytometry.

Immunofluorescence Study

When nuclear localization of sPLA2-V and MycsPLA₂-V was examined, cells were treated for 10 min with 20 µg/mL of AcLDL or PBS as a vehicle in 24-well plates with cover slips, washed with PBS, fixed with 2% paraformaldehyde, and permeabilized with 0.1% Triton X-100. The fixed cells were incubated with anti-sPLA₂-V polyclonal antibody (1:100 dilution, cat. no. ab23709, Abcam) or anti-Myc-tag monoclonal antibody (1:500 dilution, clone no. 71D10, cat. no. 2278, Cell Signaling Technology) followed by incubation with Alexa Fluor 488-conjugated anti-rabbit IgG (cat. no. A11008, Thermo Fisher Scientific). Nuclei were stained with 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI). Immunofluorescence study for the intracellular presence of Rab5 and Rab7 was described before.

Confocal Microscopy in Cells

Images were acquired with an Olympus FluoView 1000 confocal microscope system (Olympus, Tokyo, Japan) and processed using FV10-ASW software version 1.0 (Olympus) using appropriate wavelength of excitation laser and bandpass filter for emitted light according to the manufacture's instruction. Images of the cells were taken consecutively with 1 µm intervals from the bottom edge to the top edge of the nucleus. The number of images captured was approximately 5-7 per cell. Among them, the single image that represents the most center of the nucleus was selected. Thus, the images of the nucleus do not include cytosolic staining above and below the nucleus. Images of sPLA2-V KD RAW264.7 cells with expression of GFP alone or GFP-sPLA₂-V were taken after fixation with 4% paraformaldehyde. When pHrodo indicator or LysoTracker Red was used, cells were incubated with pHrodo-conjugated AcLDL or Lysotracker Red, and unfixed cells containing pHrodo or LysoTracker Red were viewed using the same confocal microscopy system.

Immunostaining of Isolated Nuclei

Nuclei were isolated by cell lysis buffer using

Nuclei EZ Prep Nuclei Isolation Kit (Nuc-101, Sigma) according to the manufacture's instruction. Cells were lysed by ice-cold Nuclei EZ Lysis Buffer. After centrifugation at $500 \times g$ for 5 min at 4°C, the nuclei pellet was washed with the same lysis buffer, followed by the centrifugation for 5 min at 4°C to remove remaining cytoplasmic contents. The final nuclear pellet was resuspended in Nuclei EZ Storage Buffer, being seeded on the silane-coated slides by cytospin centrifugation, fixed with 2% paraformaldehyde, and permeabilized with 0.1% Triton X-100. The fixed nuclei were served to immunofluorescence and confocal microscopic studies with similar procedure performed with whole cells, as described before.

Western Blotting Analysis

Protein (15 µg) from extracts of cultured cells was applied to a 4-20% SDS-PAGE gel (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Tokyo, Japan) under reducing conditions and subsequently transferred to a polyvinylidene difluoride membrane. The membrane was treated with blocking buffer at room temperature for 1 hr and then incubated at 4°C overnight with primary antibody. After washing, the membrane was incubated at room temperature for 1 h with HRP-conjugated goat anti-mouse or anti-rabbit IgG as the secondary antibody (dilution 1:10,000; cat. no. 115-035-146 and 111-035-003, respectively, Jackson ImmunoResearch Laboratories). Protein bands were visualized with Amersham ECL prime western blotting detection reagents (Cytiva, Tokyo, Japan). Samples were normalized relative to the intensity of the GAPDH or β-tubulin bands.

Real-time Quantitative PCR (RT-PCR)

The efficiency of the transfection of vectors encoding sPLA₂-V and sPLA₂-V-H48Q with or without Myc-tag, and GFP-tagged sPLA₂-V as well as the efficiency of knockdown of sPLA₂-V were evaluated by RT-PCR. Total RNA was isolated from cell homogenates with TRI Reagent (Sigma), reversetranscribed into cDNA (ReverTra Ace qPCR RT Kit; Toyobo, Osaka, Japan), and assayed by qPCR using a 7500 Real Time PCR System (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and SYBR Green/ROX Master Mix (Toyobo). The ratio of each mRNA relative to the GAPDH mRNA was calculated using the $\Delta\Delta CT$ method. Primer pairs for respective genes are listed in **Supplementary Table 1**.

Statistics

All data are expressed as means ± SE. Statistical analysis was performed using GraphPad Prism

software (version 5.01, GraphPad, La Jolla, CA). Differences between two groups were assessed by using an unpaired *t*-test. Analysis of more than two groups was carried out either by one-way ANOVA or two-way ANOVA followed by a Scheffe test for post hoc comparison of group means. P < 0.05 was considered significant.

Results

Nuclear Localization of sPLA₂-V and Myc-sPLA₂-V in RAW264.7 Cells and Peritoneal Macrophages

Fluorescence microscopy using an antibody against sPLA2-V showed that the immunoreactivity of sPLA₂-V was detected in the nucleus as well as cytoplasmic area of sPLA₂-V knockdown (KD) RAW264.7 cells with re-constitutive expression of sPLA₂-V (Fig. 1A). The immunoreactivity of MycsPLA₂-V was also detected in the nucleus as well as cytoplasmic area of sPLA2-V KD RAW264.7 cells with re-constitutive expression of Myc-sPLA₂-V using an anti-Myc-tag antibody (Fig.1B). The immunoreactivity was not detected in sPLA2-V KD RAW264.7 cells transfected with empty vector (lower panels in Figs. 1A and 1B). In addition, endogenous sPLA₂-V was detected using an antibody against sPLA₂-V in the nucleus as well as cytoplasmic area of the peritoneal macrophages from sPLA2-V WT mice, but the immunoreactivity was not detected in cells from sPLA₂-V KO mice (Fig. 1C). In these immunofluorescence microscopies, extent of the immunoreactivity of sPLA2-V or Myc-sPLA2-V in the nucleus appeared to be lower than that in the cytoplasmic area. In Fig. 1D, immunofluorescence study using anti-sPLA₂-V antibody shows cell images taken consecutively with 1 µm intervals from the bottom edge to the top edge of the nucleus in peritoneal macrophages from sPLA2-V WT mice. The images in Fig. 1D show that the immunoreactivity of endogenous sPLA2-V existed within the nucleus as well as in the cytoplasmic area of the peritoneal macrophages. GFP-tagged sPLA₂-V protein was detectable in the nuclear region as well as in the cytoplasmic region (Fig. 2A). When the cells were stimulated with AcLDL, the extent of expression of sPLA2-V, Myc-sPLA2-V, and GFP- sPLA2-V in the nucleus showed no remarkable changes (Figs. 1A, 1B, 1C, and 2A). In agreement with these immunofluorescence studies using whole cells, immunoreactivity of sPLA2-V or Myc-sPLA2-V was detected in the isolated nuclei from sPLA2-V KD RAW264.7 cells with re-constitutive expression of each of them and from peritoneal macrophages of sPLA₂-V WT mice (Supplementary Fig. 1). Since we



Fig. 1. Immunofluorescence microscopic studies using antisPLA₂-V antibody or anti-Myc-tag antibody for nuclear localization of sPLA₂-V

Scale bars were 10 µm. Nuclei were visualized with 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI) (blue). A and B, Immunoreactivity (green) of sPLA2-V and Myc-sPLA2-V was detected in the nucleus as well as in the cytoplasmic area in sPLA2-V KD RAW264.7 cells with re-constitutive expression of sPLA₂-V or Myc-sPLA₂-V, respectively, 10 min after addition of 20 µg/mL of AcLDL or PBS as a vehicle. Their immunoreactivities in the nucleus appeared to be lower than those in the cytoplasmic area. The immunoreactivity was not detected in sPLA2-V KD RAW264.7 cells transfected with empty vector (lower panels). C, Immunoreactivity of endogenous sPLA2-V was detected in the nucleus as well as in the cytoplasmic area of primary peritoneal macrophages from sPLA2-V wild-type (WT) mice but not from sPLA2-V knockout (KO) mice. D, In peritoneal macrophages from sPLA2-V WT mice, confocal microscopic images of the cells were taken consecutively at 1 µm intervals from the bottom edge to the top edge of the nucleus. Immunoreactivity of endogenous sPLA2-V was detected within nucleus as well as in the cytoplasmic area.



Fig. 2. Nuclear localization of GFP-tagged sPLA₂-V and Myc-sPLA₂-V and efficacy of knockdown of sPLA₂-V by shRNA and transfection of various types of sPLA₂-V in sPLA₂-V KD RAW264.7 cells

A, sPLA2-V KD RAW264.7 cells were transfected with plasmid vectors encoding GFP alone or GFP-tagged sPLA₂-V. GFP-tagged sPLA₂-V was detected in the nucleus as well as in the cytoplasmic area. Scale bars were 10 µm. B, Immunoblotting analysis of nuclear (NE) and cytoplasmic (CE) fractions from sPLA2-V KD cells transfected with empty vector and sPLA2-V KD cells expressing Myc-tagged sPLA2-V and Myc-tagged sPLA2-V H48Q using anti-Myc-tag antibody, anti-Lamin antibody (nucleus marker), and anti- β tubulin (cytoplasmic marker). Duplicate experiments were performed (exp. 1, exp. 2) in cells at baseline. C, RT-PCR shows successful knockdown of sPLA2-V after transfection with shRNA for sPLA2-V and re-constitutive expression of sPLA2-V, sPLA2-V-H48Q, Myc-tagged sPLA2-V, Myc-tagged sPLA2-V-H48Q, or GFP- sPLA2-V in sPLA2-V KD RAW264.7 cells. D, Evaluation of efficacy of shRNA targeting sPLA2-V. Immunoblotting study using anti-Myc-tag antibody showed that shRNA targeting sPLA2-V effectively abolished expression of the transfected Myc-tagged nonmutant original sPLA2-V in sPLA2-V KD RAW264.7 cells.

Genes	Binding	Chromosome	Distance to TSS (kb)
Pgk1	WT, H48Q	Х	0
4930467E23Rik	WT	8	33
6530403H02Rik	KD, WT, H48Q	3	169
Atp8b5	KD, WT, H48Q	4	34
Dlgap1	H48Q	17	179
Elavl2	H48Q	4	-236
F9	H48Q	Х	-69
Frem3	KD, WT, H48Q	8	30
Gm5458	KD, WT, H48Q	14	185
Inpp4b	KD	8	-19
Lrrc4c	WT, H48Q	2	1199
Mapk10	KD	5	-29
Mdfic	H48Q	6	482
Mir101c	H48Q	9	38
Mir101c	H48Q	9	35
Mir101c	H48Q	9	18
Poc5	KD, WT, H48Q	13	-28
Sel1l	KD, WT	12	-322
Slc22a22	WT, H48Q	15	57
Slc22a26	H48Q	19	-17
Zic3	H48Q	Х	308

 Table 1. ChIP-Seq peak annotations

ChIP-Seq peaks were called using the MACS2 algorithm with a *P* value of < 0.05 and then annotated using ChIPseeker. The input sample was used by MACS and PeakSeq as a negative control when scoring significant peaks. WT, nucleus of sPLA₂-V knockdown (KD) RAW 264.7 cells with re-constitutive expression of Myc-tagged sPLA₂-V; H48Q, nucleus of sPLA₂-V KD RAW 264.7 cells with expression of Myc-tagged sPLA₂-V H48Q; KD, nucleus of sPLA₂-V KD RAW 264.7 cells with empty vector.

previously experienced technical problems partly due to unavailability of antibodies that specifically detect sPLA₂-V in tissues by immunoblotting¹⁶, we performed immunoblotting analyses using an anti-Myc-tag antibody in sPLA2-V KD RAW264.7 cells that had re-constitutive expression of C-terminally Myc-tagged sPLA2-V (KD + Myc-sPLA2-V) or Myctagged sPLA2-V-H48Q (KD+Myc-sPLA2-V-H48Q). In agreement with the results obtained by immunofluorescence and fluorescence microscopic studies, immunoblotting of subcellular fractions revealed that Myc-tagged sPLA2-V and Myc-tagged sPLA2-V-H48Q protein was detected in the nuclear fraction as well as the cytoplasmic fraction, although their expression levels in the nuclear fraction appeared to be much lower than those in the cytoplasmic fraction (Fig. 2B). The successful purification of nuclear extracts was confirmed by the absence of β -tubulin, a cytoplasmic marker, in the nuclear extract (Fig. 2B). RT-PCR showed successful knockdown of sPLA₂-V after transfection of RAW264.7 cells with shRNA specific for sPLA₂-V and successful expression of sPLA2-V, sPLA2-V-H48Q, Myc-tagged sPLA2-V,

Myc-tagged sPLA₂-V-H48Q, and GFP-sPLA₂-V in sPLA₂-V KD RAW264.7 cells after transfection with the respective plasmid vectors (**Fig. 2C**). Immunoblotting study using anti-Myc-tag antibody showed that shRNA targeting sPLA₂-V effectively abolished expression of the transfected Myc-tagged non-mutant original sPLA₂-V in sPLA₂-V KD RAW264.7 cells (**Fig. 2D**).

ChIP-Seq and ChIP-qPCR in RAW264.7 Cells

The results showing nuclear localization of sPLA₂-V prompted us to examine a role for sPLA₂-V in the nucleus by testing whether sPLA₂-V binds to DNA in the nucleus using ChIP-sequence (seq) and ChIP-quantitative PCR (qPCR). ChIP-Seq peaks were called using the MACS2 algorithm with a *P*-value of <0.05, and then annotated using ChIPseeker (**Table 1 and Supplementary Table 2**; data are available at the NCBI Gene Expression Omnibus under accession number GSE156528). Upon selecting peaks with a *P*-value cutoff of 0.05 and an enrichment >2-fold over input, significant enrichment of 8, 8, and 16 peaks in the nucleus of sPLA₂-V KD RAW264.7 cells transfected with empty

vector, sPLA2-V KD RAW264.7 cells with re-constitutive expression of Myc-tagged sPLA₂-V, and sPLA₂-V KD RAW264.7 cells expressing Myc-tagged sPLA₂-V-H48Q, respectively, was seen (Supplementary Table 2). Among the significant peaks, the region corresponding to -375 - +6 from the transcriptional start site of the Pgk1 gene was the strongest binding peak in the nucleus of both sPLA2-V KD cells expressing Myc-tagged sPLA2-V (fold-enrichment [FE] = 222.82965, *P*-value $< E^{-1000}$) and sPLA₂-V KD cells expressing Myc-tagged sPLA2-V-H48Q $(FE=113.3403, P-value < E^{-300}; Fig. 3A, and$ **Supplementary Table 2**). The other genes that had a significant peak had FE <10 (Supplementary Table 2). Meanwhile, the *Pgk1* gene was not identified as a significant peak in the nucleus of sPLA2-V KD cells transfected with empty vector (Supplementary Table 2). Myc-tagged sPLA₂-V binding at the locus was validated by ChIP-qPCR (Fig. 3B). The primers covered the binding regions obtained from ChIP-Seq. The *Pgk1* gene showed enrichment in the ChIP using an antibody against Myc-tag as compared to the control IgG (Fig. 3B). Thus, sPLA2-V might bind to the upstream region of the *Pgk1* gene in the nucleus.

Pgk1 Gene Promoter Activity in RAW264.7 Cells

Next, we examined whether sPLA₂-V in the nucleus can regulate transcriptional activity of the Pgk1 gene. A comparison of the relative luciferase activity showed that sPLA₂-V KD RAW264.7 cells had lower promoter activity compared to sPLA₂-V WT RAW264.7 cells (**Fig. 3C**). This result indicated that the transcriptional activity of Pgk1 was inhibited in sPLA₂-V KD RAW264.7 cells. The inhibition of the relative luciferase activity in sPLA₂-V KD cells was reversed by re-constitutive expression of sPLA₂-V or sPLA₂-V-H48Q that lacks enzymatic activity¹⁹) (**Fig. 3C**). Taken together, these results indicate that sPLA₂-V promoted transcriptional activity of the Pgk1 gene independently of its enzymatic activity in RAW264.7 cells.

Binding, Internalization, and Degradation Assay of AcLDL in RAW264.7 Cells

Next, we determined whether sPLA₂-V may have a role in endocytosis of AcLDL in RAW264.7 cells. The specific binding activity of ¹²⁵I-labeled AcLDL was similar in sPLA₂-V WT and sPLA₂-V KD cells (**Figs.4A and 4B**). The amount of specific internalization of ¹²⁵I-labeled AcLDL after 1 hr incubation at 37°C was lower in sPLA₂-V KD cells compared with sPLA₂-V WT cells (**Fig.4C**). The assay of internalization was affected by simultaneous lysosomal degradation of the internalized AcLDL. The



Fig. 3. ChIP-seq and ChIP-qPCR analysis and promoter assay in RAW264.7 cells

A, Representative profile of peaks obtained for the Pgk1 gene by ChIP-Seq. ChIP-seq was performed using sPLA2-V KD cells transfected with empty vector, sPLA2-V KD cells expressing Myctagged sPLA2-V, and sPLA2-V KD cells expressing Myc-tagged sPLA2-V-H48Q using an anti-Myc-tag mouse monoclonal antibody. Input of sPLA2-V KD cells expressing Myc-tagged sPLA2-V was used as a ChIP-seq control. ChIP-seq analysis showed a Myc-tagged sPLA2-V-binding peak at the upstream region of Pgk1 gene locus. B, ChIP-qPCR validation of Myc-tagged sPLA2-V binding to the Pgk1 gene. Data are shown as a percentage expression of input control. The amplification sites (binding site and unrelated site) for PCR are indicated in panel A (ChIP-seq). Each bar represents the mean ± SEM of 2-3 independent experiments. C, Promoter assay for Pgk1 gene transcriptional activity. sPLA2-V WT cells, sPLA2-V KD cells, and sPLA2-V KD cells with re-constitutive expression of sPLA2-V or sPLA2-V-H48Q were transfected with Cypridina and Renilla luciferase expression vectors. The promoter activity is expressed as the relative luciferase activity normalized to Renilla activity. Values in each bar were normalized to that of WT (=1). Each bar represents the mean ± SEM of 6–9 independent experiments. **, $P \le 0.01$ vs. WT. ^{††}, P<0.01 vs KD. Upper panel shows a schematic illustration of the promoter construct used in this Cypridina luciferase reporter assay.

magnitude of the specific internalization of ¹²⁵I-labeled AcLDL continued to be lower in sPLA₂-V KD cells compared to sPLA₂-V WT cells, even when bafilomycin A1 (Baf A), a lysosomal inhibitor, was co-incubated to block simultaneous degradation of the internalized ¹²⁵I-labeled AcLDL (**Fig. 4D**). The specific degradation of AcLDL was significantly lower in sPLA₂-V KD cells compared to sPLA₂-V WT cells



Fig. 4. Impairment of AcLDL internalization and degradation in sPLA2-V KD RAW264.7 cells

Each bar represents the mean ± SEM of 5-8 independent experiments. Details of the methods are described in the text. A, Dose-response binding of ¹²⁵I-labeled AcLDL to the cell surface of sPLA2-V WT cells (left panel) and sPLA2-V KD cells (right panel) after incubation for 2 hr. B, sPLA2-V WT and -KD cells show similar degrees of cell surface-specific binding of ¹²⁵I-labeled AcLDL after incubation with 20 µg 125I-labeled AcLDL for 2 hr. n.s. indicates statistically not significant. C, Comparison of specific internalization of 125I AcLDL in sPLA2-V WT cells, sPLA2-V KD cells, and sPLA2-V KD cells with re-constitutive expression of sPLA2-V WT or sPLA2-V-H48Q that lacks enzymatic activity. *, P<0.05, **, P<0.01 vs. WT. †, P<0.05, ††, P<0.01 vs KD. D, Effect of the lysosomal inhibitor bafilomycin A1 (Baf A) on specific internalization of ¹²⁵I AcLDL. Cells were similarly incubated with ¹²⁵I AcLDL for 2 hr at 4°C, washed, and then further incubated for the indicated time at 37 °C in the presence or absence of 1 μ M Baf A. The specific internalization was compared. **, P<0.01 vs. WT. †, P< 0.05, ^{††}, P<0.01 vs WT + Baf A. E, Comparison of the specific degradation of AcLDL at the indicated time after incubation with AcLDL. **, P<0.01 vs. WT.[†], P<0.05, ^{††}, P<0.01 vs KD. F, Comparison of magnitude of cell surface expression of SR-A1 between sPLA2-V WT and KD cells. MFI indicates mean fluorescence intensity. G, Pulse chase experiment in RAW264.7 cells. Intracellular processing of internalized ¹²⁵I AcLDL for lysosomal degradation. Cells were incubated for the indicated time up to 1 hr with ¹²⁵I-AcLDL at 18°C. The cells were then washed and a portion of the cells was taken to measure specific internalization of AcLDL. The remaining cells were further incubated for the indicated time up to 1 hr at 37°C, and TCA-soluble radioactivity was measured at each time point. The amount of the internalized and degraded AcLDL (per cell protein) at each time point was normalized to that of internalized AcLDL after incubation for 1 hr at 18°C (=100%). The mean amount of internalized AcLDL after the incubation for 1 hr at 18°C was 481 ng/mg protein and 378 ng/mg protein for sPLA2-V WT cells and sPLA2-V KD cells, respectively. The data are representative of three experiments. H, Comparison of degradation relative to internalized ¹²⁵I-AcLDL after 1 hr incubation at 18°C on the pulse chase experiment (panel G) between sPLA2-V WT cells and sPLA2-V KD cells. sPLA2-V KD cells had lower rate (percentage) of degraded AcLDL after 1 hr incubation at 37°C relative to the amount of the specific internalized AcLDL after 1 hr incubation at 18°C. The rate reflects translocation of internalized AcLDL to the lysosome compartment. n=5 in each experiment. **, P < 0.01 vs. WT.

(Fig. 4E). Impairment of internalization and degradation of AcLDL in sPLA₂-V KD cells was reversed by re-constitutive expression of sPLA₂-V WT

or sPLA₂-V-H48Q (Figs. 4C and 4E). Magnitude of cell-surface expression of SR-A1, a main AcLDL receptor, was comparable between sPLA₂-V WT and

sPLA₂-V KD cells (**Fig. 4F**), a result that was comparable with that regarding the binding activity of ¹²⁵I AcLDL. Together, sPLA₂-V in RAW264.7 cells has a crucial role in the internalization and degradation of AcLDL that may be mediated via a mechanism that is independent of its enzymatic activity.

Pulse-chase Experiment in RAW264.7 Cells

Next, we examined a role for sPLA2-V in intracellular processing of internalized AcLDL. RAW264.7 cells were incubated with ¹²⁵I AcLDL at 18°C for the indicated time up to 1 hr. At this temperature, ¹²⁵I AcLDL bound to cell-surface receptors will be internalized and accumulate in early endosomes without further processing or fusion of early endosomes to late endosome/lysosomes²¹) (Fig. 4G). After incubation at 18°C, the treated cells were washed to remove unbound ¹²⁵I AcLDL and chased at 37°C for the indicated time up to 1 hr. The amount of the internalized and degraded AcLDL (per cell protein) at each time point was normalized to that of the internalized AcLDL after incubation for 1 hr at 18°C (=100%). Intracellular processing of internalized AcLDL for lysosomal degradation was defined as percentage of the amount of degraded ¹²⁵I AcLDL after incubation for 1 hr at 37°C relative to that of the internalized ¹²⁵I AcLDL after incubation for 1 hr at 18°C. After shifting the temperature to 37°C, sPLA₂-V KD cells had a lower rate of AcLDL degradation compared with sPLA₂ -V WT cells (Fig. 4H). These results indicated an impairment of intracellular processing of internalized AcLDL for lysosomal degradation in sPLA₂-V KD RAW264.7 cells.

Maturation of Endosomes Containing AcLDL and Its Translocation to Lysosomes in RAW264.7 Cells

To evaluate maturation of endosomes containing AcLDL, we examined whether the intracellularly internalized AcLDL co-localized with endosomal proteins that are recruited to maturing endosomes in RAW264.7 cells. In the immunofluorescence study, intracellular AcLDL co-localized with Rab5, an early endosome marker, 5 min after incubation with AcLDL (Fig. 5A). Sequentially, AcLDL co-localized with Rab7, a late endosomal marker, 5-30 min after incubation with AcLDL. Next, to evaluate translocation of the intracellularly internalized AcLDL to lysosomes, we incubated RAW264.7 cells with AcLDL conjugated with pHrodo, a pH indicator that emits green fluorescence under acidic conditions. Green fluorescence from pHrodo conjugated to AcLDL appeared in the RAW264.7 cells 30 and 60 min after co-incubation (Fig. 5B). These results

indicated that endosomes containing AcLDL had matured and were translocated to lysosomes. Compared with sPLA2-V WT cells, sPLA2-V KD cells had lower amounts of fluorescence emission from pHrodo conjugated to AcLDL, and this decrease was restored by re-constitutive expression of sPLA₂-V or sPLA₂-V-H48Q that lacks catalytic enzymatic activity (Fig. 5C). We further examined lysosomal acidification using LysoTracker Red that is membrane permeable and accumulates in acidic organelles including lysosomes (Figs. 5D and 5E). After incubation for 30 min with 50 nM LysoTracker Red, the extent of red fluorescence from LysoTracker was similar between sPLA₂-V WT and KD cells (Fig. 5D), suggesting that both cell types had similar lysosomal acidification. Thus, the low fluorescence intensity of pHrodo conjugated to AcLDL in sPLA2-V KD cells could be attributed to impaired translocation of AcLDL conjugated with pHrodo to the lysosome but not dysfunctional lysosomal acidification. Taken together, sPLA2-V knockdown impaired translocation of the intracellularly internalized AcLDL to the lysosome, and sPLA2-V played a role in the translocation of internalized AcLDL to the lysosome independently of its enzymatic activity. These results were also consistent with those obtained for the pulsechase experiment using ¹²⁵I AcLDL.

Reduced Actin Polymerization in sPLA₂-V KD RAW264.7 Cells

We assessed the degree of actin polymerization in response to AcLDL by flow cytometry using Alexa Fluor 546-phalloidin²²⁾ in RAW264.7 cells because actin polymerization has an important role in the early stage of endocytic vesicle internalization and translocation of cargo from early endosomes to late endosomes/lysosomes^{23, 24)}. The degree of actin polymerization in response to AcLDL was lower in sPLA2-V KD cells compared to sPLA2-V WT cells (Figs. 6A and 6B). The impairment of actin polymerization in response to AcLDL in sPLA2-V KD cells was reversed by re-constitutive expression of sPLA2-V or sPLA2-V-H48Q after transfection with the respective expression vectors (Fig. 6B). Thus, sPLA₂-V appears to have a crucial role in actin polymerization in response to AcLDL via mechanisms that are independent of its enzymatic activity in RAW264.7 cells.

PGK1 Expression, Beclin1 Phosphorylation and class III PI3-kinase Activity and Their Relation with Actin Polymerization and Translocation of Internalized AcLDL to Lysosomes in RAW264.7 Cells

It was shown that PGK1 phosphorylates Beclin1



Fig. 5. Maturation of endosomes containing AcLDL and fusion of endosomes and lysosomes in RAW264.7 cells

A, Immunofluorescence images showing colocalization of Alexa FluorTM 488 AcLDL (green) with Rab5 and Rab7 (red) after incubation with AcLDL for the indicated times in sPLA2-V WT and KD cells. Scale bars were 10 µm. The data are representative of three experiments. B, Fluorescence images of AcLDL conjugated with pHrodo (green) to visualize acidic cell compartments after incubation for the indicated times are also shown. Scale bars were 10 µm. Right panels are phase contrast images corresponding to the respective fluorescence images of AcLDL conjugated with pHrodo. The data are representative of three experiments. C, Comparison of the mean fluorescence intensity (MFI) of pHrodo at the indicated time after incubation with AcLDL conjugated with pHrodo for sPLA2-V WT cells, sPLA2-V KD cells, and sPLA2-V KD cells with re-constitutive expression with sPLA2-V or sPLA₂-V-H48Q that lacks enzymatic activity. n=5-7 in each experiment. **, P < 0.01 vs. WT. [†], P <0.05, ^{††}, P < 0.01 vs. KD. D, Comparison of the area exhibiting LysoTracker Red fluorescence that represents acidic cell compartments between sPLA2-V WT and -KD cells. Cells were incubated with 50 nM LysoTracker Red for 30 min in RPMI medium. The area of red fluorescence in each cell was measured using ImageJ and expressed as the percentage of red fluorescence area relative to the cell surface area, and averaged over at least 20 cells. n=5 in each experiment. n.s. indicates statistically not significant. E, Panel shows representative confocal microscopic images. Scale bars are 10 µm.





A, Confocal microscopy of F-actin polymerization detected by Alexa Fluor 546-phalloidin (red) at baseline (0 min) and 5 min after incubation with Alexa Fluor 488-labelled AcLDL (green) in sPLA2-V WT and -KD cells. Cell protrusions probably due to actin polymerization are seen 5 min after incubation with AcLDL. Scale bars were 10 µm. B, Comparison of mean fluorescence intensity (MFI) of F-actin polymerization using flow cytometry after incubation with AcLDL for the indicated time for sPLA2-V WT, sPLA2-V KD, and sPLA2-V KD cells with re-constitutive expression of sPLA₂-V or sPLA₂-V-H48Q. n=5-7 in each experiment. **, P < 0.01 vs. WT. ^{††}, P < 0.01 vs. KD.

40

20

0

0 10 20 Incubation time with AcLDL (min)



Fig. 7. PGK1 expression, Beclin1 S30 phosphorylation, and PI3-kinase activity in RAW264.7 cells

A, Suppression of Beclin1 phosphorylation at S30 (p-Beclin1/Beclin1) by siRNA (#1 and #2)-mediated reduction of PGK1 expression. Values were normalized to that of control siRNA after incubation with PBS as a vehicle (=1). n=5 in each experiment. **, P < 0.01 vs. control siRNA. B, Representative immunoblots for panel A. C, Successful suppression of PGK1 expression by siRNA confirmed by immunoblotting. D, E, F, Comparison of PGK1 expression (D), Beclin1 phosphorylation at S30 (E), and PI3-kinase activity (F) after incubation for 2 hr with 20 µg/mL AcLDL or PBS as a vehicle in sPLA2-V-WT and KD cells, and sPLA2-V KD cells with re-constitutive expression of sPLA2-V or sPLA2-V-H48Q. G, Representative immunoblots showing PGK1 expression and Beclin1 phosphorylation in various types of RAW264.7 cells. Values in panels D and E were normalized to that of WT after incubation with PBS as a vehicle (=1). Each bar represents the mean ± SEM of 5–6 independent experiments. *, P < 0.05, **, P < 0.01 vs. WT, †, P < 0.05, ††, P < 0.01 vs. KD.

at the active site (S30), leading to enhancement of Beclin1-VPS34 complex (class III PI3-kinase) activity toward phosphatidylinositol 3-phosphate (PI[3]P) production^{12, 13)}. In agreement with these previous reports^{12, 13)}, reduction of PGK1 expression by siRNA suppressed Beclin1 S30 phosphorylation in sPLA2-V WT cells (Figs. 7A and 7B). Successful suppression of PGK1 expression by siRNA was confirmed by immunoblotting (Fig. 7C). Compared with sPLA2-V WT cells, sPLA2-V KD cells had lower levels of PGK1 expression (Fig. 7D), Beclin1 S30 phosphorylation (Fig. 7E), and class III PI3-kinase activity (Fig. 7F), and these levels were restored by re-constitutive expression of sPLA2-V or sPLA2-V-H48Q. Representative immunoblots to assess PGK1 expression and Beclin1 phosphorylation are shown in Fig. 7G. Taken together, sPLA2-V regulates the PGK1Beclin1-class III PI3-kinase pathway in a manner that is independent of its enzymatic activity in RAW264.7 cells.

In sPLA₂-V WT cells, suppression of PGK1 or Beclin1 expression by respective siRNAs impaired actin polymerization in response to AcLDL (**Fig. 8A**) and translocation of internalized AcLDL to lysosomes (**Fig. 8B**) as estimated by flow cytometry using Alexa Fluor 546-phalloidin and pHrodo-conjugated AcLDL, respectively. Successful suppression of Beclin1 expression by siRNA was confirmed by immunoblotting (**Fig. 8C**). The impairment of actin polymerization and translocation of AcLDL to lysosomes in sPLA₂-V KD RAW264.7 cells was reversed by overexpression of PGK1 (**Figs. 8D and 8E**). An immunoblotting analysis confirmed successful expression of PGK1 after transfection of a plasmid



Fig. 8. Role of PGK1-Beclin1 in actin polymerization and translocation of AcLDL to lysosomes in RAW264.7 cells

A and B, siRNA-mediated reduction in PGK1 or Beclin1 expression (#1 and #2) inhibited actin polymerization (A) and translocation of internalized AcLDL conjugated with pHrodo (B). Actin polymerization was assessed by detection of F-actin polymerization with Alexa Fluor 546-phalloidin. Translocation of AcLDL to lysosomes was assessed using flow cytometry of pHrodo-conjugated AcLDL. Details of the methods are described in the text. Each bar represents the mean ± SEM of 5 independent experiments. **, P < 0.01 vs. control siRNA. C, Reduction of Beclin1 protein expression by siRNAs (#1 and #2). Values were normalized to that of control siRNA (=1). Upper panel shows representative immunoblots. D and E, Transfection of an expression vector to overexpress PGK1 reversed a decrease in actin polymerization (D) and translocation of internalized AcLDL conjugated with pHrodo (E). Details of methods are described in the text. Each bar represents the mean ± SEM of 5 independent experiments. **, P < 0.01 vs. WT, [†], P < 0.05, ^{††}, P < 0.01 vs. KD. F, Successful overexpression of PGK1 protein by transfection of a potential mechanism for sPLA₂-V mediated endocytosis of AcLDL in RAW264.7 cells.

vector encoding the *Pgk1* gene in sPLA₂-V KD cells (**Fig. 8F**). Thus, the PGK1-Beclin1 pathway appears to regulate actin polymerization in response to AcLDL and translocation of internalized AcLDL to lysosomes in RAW264.7 cells. Moreover, sPLA₂-V contributes to actin polymerization and translocation of internalized AcLDL to lysosomes through the PGK1-Beclin1 pathway in RAW264.7 cells (**Fig. 8G**).

Role of c-Src in Actin Polymerization and Translocation of AcLDL to Lysosome

Endocytosis is an actin-dependent process^{23, 24}, and a variety of intracellular signals can converge to modulate actin reassembly at endocytosis. When we

searched for intracellular signals that could contribute to reducing actin polymerization in sPLA₂-V KD RAW264.7 cells, we observed reduced levels of c-Src phosphorylation at the active site (Y416) in sPLA₂-V KD cells compared with that seen in sPLA₂-V WT cells (**Figs. 9A and 9B**). Overexpression of c-Src relieved impairment of actin polymerization in response to AcLDL and translocation of intracellularly internalized pHrodo-conjugated AcLDL to lysosomes in sPLA₂-V KD cells (**Figs. 9C and 9D**, respectively). The immunoblotting analysis confirmed successful expression of c-Src after transfection of a plasmid vector encoding c-Src in sPLA₂-V KD cells (**Fig. 9E**). Suppression of PGK1, Beclin1, or VPS34 by the



Fig. 9. c-Src phosphorylation and its role in actin polymerization and translocation of internalized AcLDL to lysosomes in RAW264.7 cells

A, Ratio of c-Src phosphorylation at the active site (Y416) relative to total c-Src in response to AcLDL was reduced in sPLA₂-V KD cells compared with that for sPLA₂-V WT cells. Data are expressed as values relative to the value of sPLA₂ -V WT cells at baseline (incubation time 0) (=1). n=5 in each experiment. *, P<0.05, vs. WT. B, Representative immunoblots for panel A. C and D, Overexpression of c-Src after transfection with an expression vector encoding the *c-Src* gene reversed an impairment of actin polymerization (C) and transport of internalized AcLDL conjugated with pHrodo to lysosomes (D) in sPLA₂-V KD RAW264.7 cells. Details of the methods are described in the text. n=5 in each experiment. *, P<0.05, **, P<0.01 vs. WT, ^{††}, P<0.01 vs KD. E, Immunoblotting showing successful expression of c-Src protein driven by an expression vector used to transfect sPLA₂-V KD RAW264.7 cells. Values were normalized to that of WT (=1). F, siRNA (#1 and #2)-mediated reduction of PGK1 suppressed c-Src phosphorylation at Y416 in response to AcLDL in sPLA₂-V WT RAW264.7 cells. I, Representative immunoblots for panel H. Values in panels F and H were normalized to that of control siRNA at baseline (incubation time 0)(=1). n=5 in each experiment, *, P<0.01 vs. control siRNA.

respective siRNAs was associated with a reduction in c-Src phosphorylation at Y416 in sPLA₂-V WT cells (Figs. 9F, 9G, 9H, 9I, 10A, and 10B). Successful suppression of VPS34 expression by siRNA was confirmed by immunoblotting (Fig. 10C). Taken together, reduction of c-Src phosphorylation at Y416 was an additional mechanism that mediated decreases in actin polymerization and translocation of internalized AcLDL to lysosomes in sPLA₂-V KD RAW264.7 cells (Fig. 8G). PGK1-Beclin1-VPS34 may regulate c-Src phosphorylation at Y416 in RAW264.7 cells (Fig. 8G).

Role of Other sPLA₂ Isoforms in Intracellular Translocation of AcLDL and *Pgk1* Gene Expression in RAW264.7 Cells

We examined whether other sPLA₂ isoforms than sPLA₂-V may have a role in intracellular translocation of AcLDL to lysosomes and PGK1 expression in RAW264.7 cells. First, we measured expression levels



Fig. 10. Role of VPS34 in c-Src phosphorylation

A, siRNA-mediated reduction of VPS34 expression suppressed c-Src phosphorylation at Y416 in response to AcLDL in sPLA₂-V WT RAW264.7 cells. Values in panels were normalized to that of control siRNA at baseline (incubation time 0)(=1). n=5 in each experiment, **, P < 0.01 vs. control siRNA. B, Representative immunoblots for panel A. C, Reduction of VPS34 protein expression by siRNAs (#1 and #2). Values were normalized to that of control siRNA (=1). Upper panel shows representative immunoblots.

of all sPLA2s in RAW264.7 cells by quantitative RT-PCR using 0.5 µg of total RNA. In this study, we arbitrarily determined the significant expression of mRNA as cycle threshold (Ct) value of each sPLA₂ < Ct value of negative control. The Ct values of negative control were >31. Among sPLA2s, sPLA2-IID $(Ct=24.7\pm0.8)$, -IIE $(Ct=23.5\pm0.4)$, -V $(Ct=22.7\pm0.4)$ 0.1), and -XIIA ($Ct=22.1\pm0.1$) were significantly expressed in RAW264.7 cells on the basis of the Ct value. Next, we examined whether siRNA-mediated knockdown of sPLA2-IID, IIE, or -XIIA may reduce PGK1 expression and intracellular translocation of pHrodo-conjugated AcLDL to lysosomes in sPLA2-V WT Raw264.7 cells. As shown in Supplementary Fig. 2, knockdown of these sPLA₂s had no effects on intracellular translocation of pHrodo-conjugated AcLDL and *Pgk1* gene expression in RAW264.7 cells. Thus, other sPLA2s did not seem to have similar activities as sPLA₂-V.

Primary Cultures of Peritoneal Macrophages from sPLA₂-V KO Mouse Had an Impairment of Endocytosis of AcLDL and Actin Polymerization and Reduction of PGK1 Expression, Beclin1 Phosphorylation, and c-Src Phosphorylation

Primary cultures of peritoneal macrophages from sPLA2-V KO mice had impairments in internalization

(Fig. 11A) and degradation of ¹²⁵I AcLDL (Fig. 11B), yet had similar levels of cell-surface-specific binding as compared with peritoneal macrophages from sPLA₂-V WT mice (Fig. 11C). Flow cytometry using Alexa Fluor 546-phalloidin showed a lower degree of actin polymerization in response to AcLDL in sPLA2-V KO peritoneal macrophages compared with sPLA2-V WT cells (Fig. 11D). sPLA₂-V KO peritoneal macrophages showed a lower magnitude of mean fluorescence intensity (MFI) of pHrodo after incubation with pHrodo-conjugated AcLDL (Fig. 11E). Furthermore, levels of PGK1 expression and Beclin1 phosphorylation at S30 were reduced in peritoneal macrophages from sPLA2-V KO mice compared with those from sPLA₂-V WT mice (Figs. 11F and 11G). c-Src phosphorylation at Y416 was also decreased in peritoneal macrophages isolated from sPLA2-V KO mice compared to those from sPLA2-V WT mice (Fig. 11H). Representative immunoblots for panels G and H are shown in Fig. 11I.

Discussion

The present study is the first to demonstrate that sPLA₂-V in the nucleus binds to the promoter region of the *Pgk1* gene and increases its transcriptional activity in RAW264.7 cells. Similarly, sPLA₂-V-



Fig. 11. Experiments using primary cultures of peritoneal macrophages from sPLA2-V WT and knockout (KO) mice

A, B, and C, sPLA₂-V KO peritoneal macrophages had impaired specific internalization (A) and degradation (B) of ¹²⁵I AcLDL but a similar degree of cell surface-specific binding (C) compared to sPLA₂-V WT peritoneal macrophages. D and E, sPLA₂-V KO peritoneal macrophages had decreased amounts of actin polymerization (D) and translocation of internalized AcLDL conjugated with pHrodo (E) compared with sPLA₂-V WT macrophages. F, G, and H, PGK1 expression at baseline (F), Beclin1 phosphorylation at S30 (G), and c-Src phosphorylation at Y416 (H) were decreased in peritoneal macrophages from sPLA₂-V KO mice compared with those from sPLA₂-V WT mice. Values in panels F, G, and H were normalized to that of WT (incubation time 0 in panels G and H) (=1). Each bar represents the mean ± SEM of 5 independent experiments. *, P < 0.05, **, P < 0.01 vs. WT. I, Representative immunoblots in panels of G and H.

H48Q, which lacks enzymatic activity¹⁹, also bound and promoted transcriptional activity of the *Pgk1* gene. The hydrolytic activity of sPLA₂s requires mM concentrations of Ca^{2+1} , whereas the calcium concentration in both the nucleus and the cytosol is at most a few μ M⁶. In the present study, the suppressed expression of PGK1 in sPLA₂-V KD RAW264.7 cells could be restored by transfection with sPLA₂-V-H48Q. Taken together, sPLA₂-V could promote *Pgk1* gene transcription via a mechanism that does not involve enzymatic activity.

Immunofluorescence microscopic studies showed that immunoreactivity of sPLA₂-V and Myc-sPLA₂-V, that were re-constitutively expressed, was detected in the nucleus as well as cytoplasmic area of sPLA₂-V KD RAW264.7 cells. Also, immunoreactivity of endogenous sPLA₂-V was detected in the nucleus as well as cytoplasmic area of primary peritoneal macrophages. In addition, fluorescence microscopy showed nuclear localization of GFP-tagged sPLA₂-V in sPLA₂-V KD RAW264.7 cells. Furthermore, immunoreactivity of sPLA₂-V or Myc-sPLA₂-V was detected in the isolated nuclei from sPLA₂-V KD RAW264.7 cells with re-constitutive expression of each of them and from sPLA₂-V WT peritoneal macrophages, which may support the finding obtained with whole cells. In the immunoblotting, MycsPLA₂-V was shown in the nuclear subcellular

fractions of sPLA2-V KD RAW264.7 cells with expression of Myc-sPLA2-V. These studies showed that extent of expression of sPLA2-V and Myc- or GFPtagged sPLA₂-V localized in the nucleus appeared to be very lower than that in the cytoplasmic area. Thus, it may require further evaluation of nuclear localization of sPLA2-V using other methods. According to computational approaches, sPLA₂-V has neither DNA binding motifs nor sequence motifs corresponding to either nuclear localization signals or nuclear export signals. The mechanism underlying the nuclear localization of sPLA2-V is entirely unclear at the present time. sPLA₂-V has neither the group I and II sPLA2s -specific the disulfide bridge between cysteines 11 and 77, nor does it contain the 6-amino acid C-terminal extension characteristic of group II sPLA2s²⁵⁾. It is speculated that these structural characteristics of sPLA2-V that are different from those of other sPLA2s may be involved in the nuclear localization of sPLA2-V. In addition, since molecular weights of sPLA2-V and GFP-tagged sPLA2-V were approximately 14 kDa and 41 kDa, respectively, they are small enough to enter and exist in the nucleus by passive diffusion through nuclear pores²⁶⁾. The Pgk1 gene is constitutively expressed and is ubiquitously present in all somatic cells^{27, 28)}. The promoter region of *Pgk1* gene has multiple binding sites for transcriptional factors and possess constitutive enhance activity^{27, 28)}. It is fully unclear how the sPLA₂-V protein interacts with *Pgk1* promoter region to enhance the promoter activity. There is a possibility that sPLA2-V may presumably bind to unknown cytosolic proteins which could import to the nucleus, and that the protein complex with sPLA2-V may interact with the promoter region of *Pgk1* gene so that the transcription of *Pgk1* gene could proceed.

PGK1 is known to play a key role in the glycolysis pathway. Recently, PGK1 was shown to phosphorylate Beclin1 at the active site (S30) in a manner that is independent of its role in the glycolysis¹²⁾. This phosphorylation promotes activation of the Beclin1-VPS34 (class III PI3-kinase) complex¹²). Beclin1 is a core component of this class III PI3-kinase complex, and Beclin1 phosphorylated at S30 activates class III PI3-kinase to generate PI(3)P^{14, 15)}. PI(3)P in turn interacts with the early endosome antigen 1, Rab5, and Rab7 on the endosomal membrane and contributes to endosomal maturation²⁹⁾. PI(3)P is also required for actin polymerization during phagosome formation³⁰. On the basis of the present studies using approach of PGK1 overexpression and siRNA-mediated reduction of PGK1 and Beclin1 expression, PGK1-Beclin1 plays a role in actin polymerization and intracellular trafficking of internalized AcLDL in RAW264.7 cells, and that sPLA₂-V regulates AcLDL endocytosis through the PGK1-Beclin1 pathway (**Fig. 8G**). Since actin polymerization has an important role in the early stages of endocytic vesicle internalization and translocation of cargo from early endosomes to late endosome/lysosomes^{23, 24}, impairment of actin polymerization might contribute to the reduction of both internalization and intracellular trafficking of Ac-LDL to lysosomes in sPLA₂-V deficient cells. Previous clinical report described that PGK1 deficiency was associated with hemolytic anemia, rhabdomyolysis, and/or mental retardation³¹. It remains unclear whether the present findings may have a role in the pathogenesis of these disorders in humans.

The results of this study suggested that c-Src plays a regulatory role in sPLA₂-V- mediated internalization and intracellular trafficking of AcLDL to lysosomes in RAW264.7 cells. The Src family of protein tyrosine kinases is known to play key roles in receptor-mediated endocytosis and endosomal maturation via actin polymerization³²⁾. Suppressed expression of Beclin1 was previously shown to reduce c-Src phosphorylation at Y416 (the active site)^{33, 34)}. In agreement with these earlier findings^{33, 34)}, results of the present study showed that siRNA-mediated suppression of PGK1, Beclin1, or VPS34 inhibited c-Src phosphorylation at Y416. Thus, PGK1-Beclin1-VPS34 may play a role in c-Src activation in RAW264.7 cells (**Fig. 8G**).

The findings obtained here support an important role of sPLA₂-V in actin polymerization and endocytosis of AcLDL in primary cultures of mouse peritoneal macrophages. In addition, sPLA2-V KO peritoneal macrophages had reductions in PGK1 expression, Beclin1 phosphorylation, and c-Src phosphorylation that were similar to those seen in sPLA₂-V KD RAW264.7 cells. Since primary macrophage cultures are difficult to be transfected with siRNA or cDNA constructs¹⁸⁾, the details of mechanisms associated with sPLA2-V could not be defined. Nevertheless, similar mechanisms as those seen for RAW264.7 cells, a mouse monocyte/ macrophage cell line, might be extended to explain the results obtained for peritoneal macrophages. Balestrieri et al. showed an impairment of endocytosis and intracellular trafficking of zymosan and Candida albicans after binding to their cell-surface receptor, dectin-1 and/or Toll-like receptors, in sPLA2-V KO murine macrophages in a manner that was independent of its enzymatic activity^{9, 10)}. In this context, the impairment of endocytosis and intracellular trafficking was shown in other ligandreceptor systems in sPLA2-V KO macrophages in a

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similar manner as observed in the present study. In addition, they showed that mice lacking sPLA2-V had an increased fungal burden in the kidney, liver, and spleen in an *in vivo* model of systemic candidiasis¹⁰. Thus, the findings at the cellular level were extended to those in an *in vivo* animal model. However, it remains unknown whether a decrease in PGK1 expression mediated by sPLA2-V deficiency may be involved in the mechanisms for the impairments of endocytosis and intracellular trafficking of zymosan and Candida albicans in in vitro macrophages and in vivo mice model.

It cannot be fully ruled out that enzymatic activity of sPLA2-V may be required for phagocytosis of microorganisms in macrophages. In human macrophages, ethanolamine lysophospholipid generated via sPLA2-V-mediated hydrolysis of membrane ethanolamine contributed to phagocytosis of microorganisms³⁵⁾. Moreover, studies using sPLA2-V-deficient mice have revealed that sPLA2-V-driven release of oleic and linoleic acids is crucial for polarization into M2-like macrophages, which have a greater phagocytic potential than M1-like macrophages^{36, 37)}, although the functions of M1 and M2 macrophages are context-specific.

It is unclear whether sPLA2-V-mediated endocytosis of modified LDL in macrophages has a beneficial or detrimental effect in atherosclerotic plaque progression and stability. Uptake of modified LDL protects macrophages against cytotoxicity of modified LDL but results in foam cell formation and plaque progression³⁸⁾. Although macrophage endocytosis/phagocytosis is necessary to remove proinflammatory apoptotic cells, strong proatherogenic properties are elicited upon endocytosis/phagocytosis of modified lipoproteins, erythrocytes and platelets³⁸⁾. Bostrom and his coworkers previously showed that sPLA₂-V KO macrophages had less atherogenicity in LDL receptor-deficient mice³⁹⁾. In this regard, sPLA2-V-mediated endocytosis of modified LDL by macrophages may be proatherogenic. It remains to be defined whether cholesterol ester accumulation induced by Ac-LDL may be decreased in sPLA2-V KD RAW264.7 cells. If the decrease occurs, it will be required to be determined whether the decrease in cholesterol ester accumulation may be restored by sPLA₂-V re-constitutive expression.

PGK1 translocates to mitochondria in response to hypoxic conditions and inhibits the pyruvate dehydrogenase complex, which in turn suppresses mitochondrial oxidative phosphorylation of pyruvate⁴⁰. Thus, PGK1 could promote the Warburg effects in the lesion macrophages in the hypoxic milieu such as that found in thickened arterial walls with highly advanced atherosclerosis. sPLA2-V plays a role in the inflammatory innate immune response in macrophages as previously described 9, 10. In this context, coordination of sPLA2-V and PGK1 might link the inflammatory innate immune response and changes in glucose metabolism in the lesion macrophages, thus providing a novel mechanism for immunometabolism^{41, 42)}.

In conclusion, sPLA2-V in the nucleus of RAW264.7 cells binds to the promoter region of the Pgk1 gene and increases its transcriptional activity. sPLA₂-V regulates endocytosis of AcLDL through PGK1-Beclin1 in a manner that is independent of its enzymatic activity. Although a non-enzymatic action of sPLA2s through the sPLA2 receptor on the plasma membrane has been demonstrated in previous studies^{43, 44)}, the present study provides a novel functional role for sPLA2-V as a transcriptional regulator in the nucleus.

Funding

This work was supported by AMED-CREST (JP17gm0710006), and JSPS KAKENHI Grant Number B2-19390209 and B-22390158.

Conflict of Interest

Kiyotaka Kugiyama has received scholarship donations from Takeda, Daiichi Sankyo, Astellas, Boehringer Ingelheim, MSD, Boston Scientific Japan, Abbott, Medtronic, Biotronik Japan, and St Jude Medical. The remaining authors declare no conflicts of interest.

Author Contribution

DF and KK contributed to design, analysis and interpretation of data and drafted the paper. YW performed experiments. TY, TN, MM and KM designed and supervised the study.

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qPCR primers	sense	antisense	cat. no.
Pla2g1b	5'-cga ctt aga cag gtg ctg cca g-3'	5'-ggc gct gca ggt gat ctc g-3'	
Pla2g2a	5'-cct ttg gct caa tac agg tcc-3'	5'-gtc atg agt aac aca gca ccg gtc-3'	
Pla2g2c	5'-cct tgt ctt cat ctt cta ctg gac-3'	5'-ccc agc agc acc tgt ctg tg-3'	
Pla2g2d	5'-cag act ggt gct gtc aga agc-3'	5'-ctc ccg ttg tca gag cac tg-3'	
Pla2g2e	5'-ctt tgc ctc ctg gtg ccc ctg-3'	5'-gac aac acc aat ccg tct cg -3'	
Pla2g2f	5'-gac tgg tgc tgc cat gcc cac-3'	5'-ctc att gag ctc agt gca gac-3'	
Pla2g3	5'-gtg acg cca ggt ttc aac ag-3'	5'-gcc ctg cac ccg ccc cac c- $3'$	
Pla2g5	5'-gac cgt tgt tat ggg caa-3'	5'-agg agt cgt gtt cgc aga tga-3'	
Pla2g10	5'-cag cga agc aac cag gag-3'	5'-gta gca gca cca gtc aat ggc-3'	
Pla2g12a	5'-gtg cag cga cgg atc gaa gc-3'	5'-gga agg gat acc tat gtt cag atg-3'	
Pla2g12b	5'-gtc gat atg gaa agg cgc cg-3'	5'-ggt cca tac ttc ctg gta cct tg-3'	
Src	5'-ggc tga gga gtg gta ctt tgg-3'	5'-cag aga ggc agt agg cac ctt ttg-3	
Gapdh	5'-tgc acc acc acc tgc tta g-3'	5'-gat gca ggg atg atg ttc-3'	
Pgk1	5'-aaa caa ggt taa agc tga gcc g-3'	5'-ttc aca ccc acc atg gag cta t-3'	
Becn1	5'-gac tca agg tca ctg gag-3'	5'-cca aac agc gtt tgt agt-3'	
ChIP-binding site	5'-cag gac gtg aca aat gga agt-3'	5'-cag aaa gcg aag gag caa ag-3'	
ChIP-unrelated site	5'-aag tgc tgg gat taa agg cg-3	5'-tca aag ggg aaa cta tgc aaa ca-3'	
siRNA			
Pla2g2d #1	5´-cag acu ggu gcu guc aga a-3´		SASI_Mm01_00195778
<i>Pla2g2d #2</i>	5'-ccu uca aac ucu ggu cuu u-3'		SASI_Mm01_00195777
<i>Pla2g2e #1</i>	5′-ccc ugc agu aca aug acu a-3′		SASI_Mm01_00059877
<i>Pla2g2e #2</i>	5'-gcg gga acc ugg ucc agu u-3'		SASI_Mm01_00059876
Pla2g12a #1	5′-ccu aau guu gcc uua guu u-3′		SASI_Mm02_00326922
Pla2g12a #2	5´-cau uua ggc ugc aag cca u-3´		SASI_Mm01_00175576
Pgk1 #1	5´-cag aca aga ucc agc uga u-3´		SASI_Mm01_00039220
Pgk1 #2	5´-gug uga auc ugc cac aga a-3´		SASI_Mm01_00039219
Becn1 #1	5´-cug aga aug aau guc aga a-3´		SASI_Mm01_00048143
Becn1 #2	5'-gaa aga ugc uuu aaa uua a-3'		SASI_Mm01_00048145
<i>Pik3c3 #1</i>	5′-cua caa ggc guu uag uac a-3′		SASI_Mm01_00099415
<i>Pik3c3 #2</i>	5'-cau cug acc acg auc uca a-3'		SASI_Mm01_00099414
mutagenesis primers			
avoidance of shRNA 1st	5'-ctg gag gaa aaa gac tgt gcc att cgg a	act caa agt tac gat tac aga tac aca aat ggc	cta gtc atc tg-3'
avoidance of shRNA 2nd	5'-act gtg cca ttc gga ctc aaa gtt acg al	tt ata ggt ata cga atg gcc tag tca tct g-3'	0 0
Myc deletion	5'-caa ctt cct ctg cta aac gcg tac gcg g	c-3′	
H48Q	5'-gtg ctg tca gat gca gga ccg ttg tta tg	gg g-3′	

Sup	plementary	Table 1.	Oligonucle	otide sequen	ces for qPCR	siRNA, and	mutagenesis
_							.,

Pre-designed siRNAs were obtained from Sigma. Pik3c3 corresponds to vacuolar protein sorting 34 (VPS34).



Supplementary Fig. 1. Immunofluorescence Microscopic Study of the Isolated Nuclei

Nuclei were visualized with 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI) (blue). Scale bars were 10 µm. Images of the nucleus (A, B, C, and E) were taken consecutively with 1 µm intervals from the bottom edge to the top edge of the nucleus. Among them, the single image that represents the most center of the nucleus was shown. A and B, Immunoreactivity (green) of sPLA2-V and Myc-sPLA2-V was detected in the nuclei isolated from sPLA2-V KD RAW264.7 cells with re-constitutive expression of sPLA2-V and Myc-sPLA2-V, respectively. No immunoreactivity was detected in the nuclei isolated from sPLA2-V KD RAW264.7 cells transfected with empty vector (lower panels). C, Immunoreactivity of endogenous sPLA2-V was detected in the nuclei isolated from primary peritoneal macrophages of sPLA2-V wild-type (WT) mice but not from sPLA2-V knockout (KO) mice. D, In the nuclei isolated from peritoneal macrophages of sPLA2-V WT mice, confocal microscopic images were taken consecutively at 1 µm intervals from the bottom edge to the top edge of the nucleus. E, The immunoreactivity (green) of GAPDH (cytoplasmic marker) was not detected in the isolated nuclei, suggesting little contamination by cytosolic proteins during procedure of nucleus isolation.

Supplementary Table 2. Child-Seq peak annotations (genome build mouse NCD138/mm)	Supplementar	tary Table 2. ChIP-See	g peak annotations (ger	nome build mouse NCBI38/mm10
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The table below contains ChIP-Seq peak annotations. ChIP-Seq peaks were called using the MACS2 algorithm with a P value of < 0.05, then annotated using ChIPseeker. The input sample was used by MACS and PeakSeq as a negative control when scoring significant peaks.

						abs_	((-)log10	fold_	(-)log10	MACS_	
	chr	start e	end	width	length	summit	pileup ((pvalue)	enrichment	(qvalue)	peakID	annotation
sPLA2-V-KD	chr12	92171574	92171842	269	270	92171739	37	18.95476	5.86261	12.65206	sh_peak_1	Distal Intergenic
cells	chr13	96359708	96359959	252	253	96359829	60	23.54721	4.80526	17.15166	sh_peak_2	Distal Intergenic
transfected	chr14	19416996	19417280	285	286	19417111	1455	159.612	2.22361	152.00955	sh_peak_3	Exon (ENSMUST00000177817.1/ENSMUST00000177817.1, exon 3 of 6)
with empty	chr3	120717168	120717496	329	330	120717348	32	15.26837	5.2389	9.11603	sh_peak_4	Intron (ENSMUST00000182124.7/320739, intron 3 of 11)
vector	chr4	43301599	43301966	368	369	43301792	70	27.75038	4.95155	21.15615	sh_peak_5	Intron (ENSMUST00000056010.12/320571, intron 3 of 14)
	chr5	103128756	103129013	258	259	103128875	11	7.44066	4.97174	1.70774	sh_peak_6	Intron (ENSMUST00000170792.7/26414, intron 2 of 13)
	chr8	80640602	80640904	303	304	80640747	101	27.30578	3.61368	20.79199	sh_peak_7	Intron (ENSMUST00000039695.6/333315, intron 2 of 7)
	chr8	81323038	81323482	445	446	81323351	13	9.4069	5.80037	3.45964	sh_peak_8	Distal Intergenic
sPLA2-V-KD	chr12	92171593	92171852	260	261	92171703	31	16.94655	6.03379	10.8227	wt_peak_1	Distal Intergenic
cells with	chr13	96359691	96359981	291	292	96359831	60	28.88772	5.99171	22.46051	wt_peak_2	Distal Intergenic
re-constitutive	chr14	19417027	19417274	248	249	19417264	1117	29.237	1.4298	22.80464	wt_peak_3	Exon (ENSMUST00000177817.1/ENSMUST00000177817.1, exon 3 of 6)
expression of	chr15	57420094	57420331	238	239	57420244	68	18.52421	3.51174	12.35242	wt_peak_4	Intron (ENSMUST00000110196.7/210463, intron 2 of 11)
sPLA2-V	chr2	98666875	98667190	316	317	98666930	11913	9.48874	1.05873	3.59034	wt_peak_5	Exon (ENSMUST00000099683.1/ENSMUST00000099683.1, exon 2 of 5)
	chr3	120717159	120717502	344	345	120717346	25	12.24365	5.03874	6.21642	wt_peak_6	Intron (ENSMUST00000182124.7/320739, intron 3 of 11)
	chr4	43301610	43301951	342	343	43301772	50	18.62029	4.44569	12.41578	wt_peak_7	Intron (ENSMUST00000056010.12/320571, intron 3 of 14)
	chr8	19762394	19762647	254	255	19762607	12	9.48963	6.06022	3.59034	wt_peak_8	Distal Intergenic
	chr8	80640580	80640923	344	345	80640748	111	42.54018	5.00583	35.93259	wt_peak_9	Intron (ENSMUST00000039695.6/333315, intron 2 of 7)
	chrX	106186725	106187105	381	382	106186926	477	1047.27539	222.82965	1038.98657	wt_peak_10	Promoter (<=1kb)
sPLA2-V-KD	chr13	96359683	96359972	290	291	96359815	30	18.28156	6.78336	12.24	h48q_peak_1	Distal Intergenic
cells with	chr14	19416945	19417333	389	390	19417067	548	93.27022	2.77636	86.73123	h48q_peak_2	Exon (ENSMUST00000177817.1/ENSMUST00000177817.1, exon 3 of 6)
expression of	chr15	57420045	57420372	328	329	57420237	52	27.1149	6.42302	20.97153	h48q_peak_3	Intron (ENSMUST00000110196.7/210463, intron 2 of 11)
sPLA2-V-	chr17	70148376	70148612	237	238	70148492	25	15.59956	6.57162	9.64647	h48q_peak_4	Intron (ENSMUST00000133983.7/224997, intron 2 of 13)
H48Q	chr19	7819353	7819604	252	253	7819460	8	8.44895	5.99188	2.7315	h48q_peak_5	Distal Intergenic
	chr2	98666629	98667249	621	622	98666699	3686	109.84236	1.47859	103.24246	h48q_peak_6a	Exon (ENSMUST00000099683.1/ENSMUST00000099683.1, exon 1 of 5)
	chr2	98666629	98667249	621	622	98666955	7698	434.53357	1.74274	427.47702	h48q_peak_6b	Exon (ENSMUST00000099683.1/ENSMUST00000099683.1, exon 1 of 5)
	chr2	98666629	98667249	621	622	98667144	11178	1006.2702	2.05435	998.4787	h48q_peak_6c	Exon (ENSMUST00000099683.1/ENSMUST00000099683.1, exon 1 of 5)
	chr3	120717119	120717555	437	438	120717365	20	15.99121	8.02244	10.01955	h48q_peak_7	Intron (ENSMUST00000182124.7/320739, intron 3 of 11)
	chr4	43301636	43301940	305	306	43301778	24	11.64038	4.92899	5.79738	h48q_peak_8	Intron (ENSMUST00000056010.12/320571, intron 3 of 14)
	chr4	91635805	91636087	283	284	91635950	17	14.71	8.08194	8.78573	h48q_peak_9	Distal Intergenic
	chr6	16210133	16210453	321	322	16210292	11	9.33621	6.15927	3.58403	h48q_peak_10	Distal Intergenic
	chr8	80640572	80640923	352	353	80640764	57	28.57387	6.22891	22.3752	h48q_peak_11	Intron (ENSMUST00000039695.6/333315, intron 2 of 7)
	chr9	3000382	3000620	239	240	3000558	1395	24.41663	1.33377	18.32842	h48q_peak_12	Exon (ENSMUST00000181242.1/ENSMUST00000181242.1, exon 4 of 4)
	chr9	3000898	3001240	343	344	3000965	819	59.99938	1.8797	53.58644	h48q_peak_13	Exon (ENSMUS100000151376.2/ENSMUS100000151376.2, exon 1 of 4)
	chr9	3003379	3003656	2/8	2/9	3003521	202	35.2648	2./5254	28.9/036	h48q_peak_14	Exon (ENSMUS1000001///22.//ENSMUS1000001//722.7, exon 1 of 5)
	chr9	3020248	3020540	293	294	3020426	157	43.19518	3./6697	36.8365	h48q_peak_15	Exon (ENSMUS1000001/92/2.1/ENSMUS1000001/9272.1, exon 3 of 5)
	chrX	58559146	58559440	295	296	58539273	13	16.02/02	9.6802	10.042	n48q_peak_16	
	chrX	59930586	59930849	264	265	59930698	13	10.19175	6.28595	4.40914	h48q_peak_17	Distal Intergenic
	chrX	106186/25	10618/108	384	385	106186927	162	549.90/01	113.3403	342.95636	h48q_peak_18	Promoter (<=1kb)

(Cont. Supplementary Table 2)

gene			gene	gene			distance			
Chr	gene Start	gene End	Length	Strand	geneId	transcriptId	ToTSS	ENSEMBL	SYMBOL	GENENAME
12	91806043	91849157	43115	2	20338	ENSMUST00000178462.7	-322417	ENSMUSG0000020964	Sel11	sel-1 suppressor of lin-12-like (C. elegans)
13	96388294	96417737	29444	1	67463	ENSMUST00000099295.5	-28335	ENSMUSG0000021671	Poc5	POC5 centriolar protein
14	19594139	19602581	8443	2	432825	ENSMUST00000096121.11	185301	ENSMUSG0000095024	Gm5458	predicted gene 5458
3	120772730	120886691	113962	2	320739	ENSMUST00000182099.1	169195	NA	6530403H02Rik	RIKEN cDNA 6530403H02 gene
4	43267191	43326560	59370	1	320571	ENSMUST00000102953.3	34408	ENSMUSG0000028457	Atp8b5	ATPase, class I, type 8B, member 5
5	102907950	103100081	192132	2	26414	ENSMUST00000112848.7	-28675	ENSMUSG0000046709	Mapk10	mitogen-activated protein kinase 10
8	80611080	80695356	84277	1	333315	ENSMUST00000039695.6	29522	ENSMUSG00000042353	Frem3	Fras1 related extracellular matrix protein 3
8	81342556	81745902	403347	1	234515	ENSMUST00000172167.8	-19074	ENSMUSG0000037940	Inpp4b	inositol polyphosphate-4-phosphatase, type II
12	91806043	91849157	43115	2	20338	ENSMUST00000178462.7	-322436	ENSMUSG0000020964	Sel11	sel-1 suppressor of lin-12-like (C. elegans)
13	96388294	96417737	29444	1	67463	ENSMUST00000099295.5	-28313	ENSMUSG0000021671	Poc5	POC5 centriolar protein
14	19594139	19602581	8443	2	432825	ENSMUST00000096121.11	185307	ENSMUSG0000095024	Gm5458	predicted gene 5458
15	57243771	57477625	233855	2	210463	ENSMUST00000110196.7	57294	ENSMUSG0000022366	Slc22a22	solute carrier family 22 (organic cation transporter), member 22
2	97468089	97629063	160975	1	241568	ENSMUST00000170144.1	1198786	ENSMUSG0000050587	Lrrc4c	leucine rich repeat containing 4C
3	120772730	120886691	113962	2	320739	ENSMUST00000182099.1	169189	NA	6530403H02Rik	RIKEN cDNA 6530403H02 gene
4	43267191	43326560	59370	1	320571	ENSMUST00000102953.3	34419	ENSMUSG0000028457	Atp8b5	ATPase, class I, type 8B, member 5
8	19729576	19753527	23952	1	626415	ENSMUST00000098909.4	32818	ENSMUSG0000096265	4930467E23Rik	RIKEN cDNA 4930467E23 gene
8	80611080	80695356	84277	1	333315	ENSMUST00000039695.6	29500	ENSMUSG00000042353	Frem3	Fras1 related extracellular matrix protein 3
Х	106187100	106203699	16600	1	18655	ENSMUST0000081593.12	0	ENSMUSG0000062070	Pgk1	phosphoglycerate kinase 1
13	96388294	96417737	29444	1	67463	ENSMUST00000099295.5	-28322	ENSMUSG0000021671	Poc5	POC5 centriolar protein
14	19594139	19602581	8443	2	432825	ENSMUST00000096121.11	185248	ENSMUSG0000095024	Gm5458	predicted gene 5458
15	57243771	57477625	233855	2	210463	ENSMUST00000110196.7	57253	ENSMUSG0000022366	Slc22a22	solute carrier family 22 (organic cation transporter), member 22
17	69969421	70594408	624988	1	224997	ENSMUST00000130971.1	178955	ENSMUSG0000003279	Dlgap1	DLG associated protein 1
19	7781980	7802667	20688	2	236149	ENSMUST0000065634.7	-16686	ENSMUSG00000053303	Slc22a26	solute carrier family 22 (organic cation transporter), member 26
2	97468089	97629063	160975	1	241568	ENSMUST00000170144.1	1198540	ENSMUSG0000050587	Lrrc4c	leucine rich repeat containing 4C
2	97468089	97629063	160975	1	241568	ENSMUST00000170144.1	1198540	ENSMUSG0000050587	Lrrc4c	leucine rich repeat containing 4C
2	97468089	97629063	160975	1	241568	ENSMUST00000170144.1	1198540	ENSMUSG0000050587	Lrrc4c	leucine rich repeat containing 4C
3	120772730	120886691	113962	2	320739	ENSMUST00000182099.1	169136	NA	6530403H02Rik	RIKEN cDNA 6530403H02 gene
4	43267191	43326560	59370	1	320571	ENSMUST00000102953.3	34445	ENSMUSG0000028457	Atp8b5	ATPase, class I, type 8B, member 5
4	91250763	91399984	149222	2	15569	ENSMUST00000102799.9	-235821	ENSMUSG0000008489	Elavl2	ELAV like RNA binding protein 1
6	15727799	15770349	42551	1	16543	ENSMUST00000128849.2	482334	ENSMUSG00000041390	Mdfic	MyoD family inhibitor domain containing
8	80611080	80695356	84277	1	333315	ENSMUST0000039695.6	29492	ENSMUSG00000042353	Frem3	Fras1 related extracellular matrix protein 3
9	3038669	3038743	75	2	100628572	ENSMUST00000195989.1	38123	ENSMUSG00000106183	Mir101c	microRNA 101c
9	3038669	3038743	75	2	100628572	ENSMUST00000195989.1	37503	ENSMUSG00000106183	Mir101c	microRNA 101c
9	3038669	3038743	75	2	100628572	ENSMUST00000195989.1	35087	ENSMUSG00000106183	Mir101c	microRNA 101c
9	3038669	3038743	75	2	100628572	ENSMUST00000195989.1	18203	ENSMUSG00000106183	Mir101c	microRNA 101c
Х	58031010	58041736	10727	1	22773	ENSMUST0000088629.3	308136	ENSMUSG0000067860	Zic3	zinc finger protein of the cerebellum 3
Х	59999464	60030759	31296	1	14071	ENSMUST0000033477.4	-68615	ENSMUSG0000031138	F9	coagulation factor IX
Х	106187100	106203699	16600	1	18655	ENSMUST0000081593.12	0	ENSMUSG0000062070	Pgk1	phosphoglycerate kinase 1



Supplementary Fig. 2. Effects of siRNA-mediated knockdown of sPLA2-IID, -IIE, or -XIIA on Intracellular Translocation of AcLDL to Lysosomes and PGK1 Expression in sPLA2-V WT RAW264.7 Cells

A and B, siRNA-mediated reduction of expression of sPLA2-IID, -IIE, or -XIIA did not change translocation of pHrodo-conjugated AcLDL to lysosomes (A) and expression of Pgk1 mRNA at baseline (B). MFI indicates mean fluorescence intensity. n=5 in each experiment. Values in B were normalized to that of control siRNA (=1). C, Reduction of expression of sPLA2-IID, -IIE, or -XIIA mRNA by their respective siRNAs (#1 and #2). n=5 in each experiment. Values were normalized to that of control siRNA (=1).