SAC1 Degrades its Lipid Substrate PtdIns4*P* in the Endoplasmic Reticulum to Maintain a Steep Chemical Gradient with Donor Membranes

James P. Zewe, Rachel C. Wills, Sahana Sangappa, Brady D. Goulden and Gerald R. V.

5 Hammond

⁶ University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Department of Cell Biology (Pittsburgh, PA,
⁷ United States)

8 Abstract

Gradients of PtdIns4P between organelle membranes and the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) 9 are thought to drive counter-transport of other lipids via non-vesicular traffic. This novel 10 pathway requires the SAC1 phosphatase to degrade PtdIns4P in a "cis" configuration at 11 the ER to maintain the gradient. However, SAC1 has also been proposed to act in "trans" 12 at membrane contact sites, which could oppose lipid traffic. It is therefore crucial to 13 determine which mode SAC1 uses in living cells. We report that acute inhibition of SAC1 14 causes accumulation of PtdIns4P in the ER, that SAC1 does not enrich at membrane 15 contact sites, and that SAC1 has little activity in "trans", unless a linker is added between 16 its ER-anchored and catalytic domains. The data reveal an obligate "cis" activity of SAC1, 17 supporting its role in non-vesicular lipid traffic and implicating lipid traffic more broadly in 18 inositol lipid homeostasis and function. 19

20 Keywords

21 Phosphatidylinositols, PI4P, PIP2, membrane junctions,

22 Introduction

Phosphatidylinositol-4-phosphate (PtdIns4P) is arguably the most functionally diverse lipid 23 molecule in eukaryotic cells. Firstly, PtdIns4P is a crucial metabolic intermediate in the 24 synthesis of the plasma membrane inositol lipids $Ptdlns(4,5)P_2$, $PtdlnsP_3$ and 25 PtdIns $(3,4)P_2$ (Brockerhoff and Llou, 1962; Stephens et al., 1991; Posor et al., 2013), each 26 with their own array of cellular functions (reviewed in (Balla, 2013)). Secondly, PtdIns4P 27 binds to and thereby recruits and/or activates many proteins involved in cellular traffic (Tan 28 and Brill, 2013). These include proteins regulating vesicular traffic at the endoplasmic 29 reticulum (ER), late endosomes/lysosomes(LEL) and Golgi (Wang et al., 2007; 2003; Jović 30 et al., 2012; 2014; Klinkenberg et al., 2014), as well as non-vesicular lipid transport at the 31 plasma membrane (PM), LEL and Golgi (Mesmin et al., 2013; Chung et al., 2015; von 32 Filseck et al., 2015a; Zhao and Ridgway, 2017). 33

Such a cardinal role in controlling membrane function throughout the secretory and 34 endocytic pathways implies the existence of exquisite homeostatic mechanisms that 35 control PtdIns4P abundance. PtdIns4P is synthesized by two families of PI 4-kinases, 36 each with their own unique modes of regulation (Boura and Nencka, 2015). However, 37 much recent attention has focused on control of PtdIns4P through regulation of its 38 degradation. The primary route of the lipid's catabolism is via removal of the 4-phosphate 39 by SAC family lipid phosphatases (Balla, 2013). The principle enzyme in budding yeast is 40 the highly conserved SAC1 enzyme (Guo et al., 1999; Rivas et al., 1999; Hughes et al., 41 2000). SAC1 is an integral membrane protein with two C-terminal transmembrane helices 42 (Whitters et al., 1993; Konrad et al., 2002; Nemoto et al., 2000), which localizes primarily 43 to the ER but is also able to traffic to the Golgi depending on the growth status of the cell 44 (Faulhammer et al., 2007; Blagoveshchenskaya et al., 2008). The ER localization at first 45 seemed counter-intuitive, given functions of PtdIns4P at the Golgi, PM and endosomes; 46 but the realization that the ER makes extensive membrane contact sites (MCS) with all of 47

these organelles raised a tantalizing possibility as to how ER-localized SAC1 could control 48 PtdIns4P abundance: that it could perhaps localize to these MCS and "reach across" the 49 gap to degrade PtdIns4P in a "trans" configuration (Phillips and Voeltz, 2015). Indeed, the 50 crystal structure of SAC1 revealed an approximately 70 amino acid region between the N-51 terminal catalytic domain and C-terminal transmembrane domains that was disordered in 52 the crystal; this stretch was proposed to be able to span the 15-20 nm gap between ER 53 and organelle at MCS and confer "trans" activity (Manford et al., 2010). Subsequently, 54 targeting of SAC1 to ER-PM MCS by the Osh3 protein was proposed to allow 55 dephosphorylation of PM PtdIns4P by cortical ER-localized SAC1 in "trans", hence 56 controlling plasma membrane inositol lipid synthesis and function (Stefan et al., 2011). 57 More recently, dynamic localization of SAC1 to ER-PM MCS has been proposed to 58 regulate PM inositol lipid function in mammalian cells (Dickson et al., 2016). 59

The picture is complicated by a recently proposed novel mode of action for PtdIns4P: that 60 its synthesis on cellular membranes can be used to drive counter-transport of other lipids 61 against their concentration gradients (de Saint-Jean et al., 2011). In this model, oxysterol 62 binding protein (OSBP)-related lipid transfer proteins operating at MCS collect their lipid 63 cargoes from the ER (where they are synthesized) and transfer them to the destination 64 membrane (such as the PM or Golgi). The lipid transfer domain then avoids a futile 65 reverse transfer reaction because it preferentially collects and back-traffics a PtdIns4P 66 molecule instead. Crucially, futile traffic of PtdIns4P from the ER back to the destination 67 membrane is prevented because the PtdIns4P is degraded by ER-localized SAC1, acting 68 in this case in a "cis" configuration. Therefore, the transporter must traffic a cargo lipid 69 back to the destination in the next cycle, and the vectorial nature of the transfer is 70 conserved. Ultimately, the energy of ATP hydrolysis by PI4K during PtdIns4P synthesis is 71 harnessed to build and maintain a steep chemical gradient of PtdIns4P at the destination 72 membrane with respect to the ER. Flow of PtdIns4P down this concentration gradient via 73

OSBPs thus powers counter-transport of other lipids against their own chemical gradients.
We think of this cycle as a "phosphoinositide-motive force" (PPInMF), since it is
conceptually related to the proton-motive force and other ionic gradients that drive
counter-transport of ions and small solutes across membranes (Mesmin et al., 2013).
Direct evidence for PPInMF-driven transfer reactions have now been presented at the
trans-Golgi network (TGN) for sterols (Mesmin et al., 2013; von Filseck et al., 2015b) and
at the PM for phosphatidylserine (von Filseck et al., 2015a; Chung et al., 2015).

A critical requirement for the PPInMF is that SAC1 acts in a "cis" configuration in the ER; 81 "trans" activity would act to dissipate the PtdIns4P gradients at MCS and make counter-82 transport much less efficient. In vitro experiments have demonstrated that SAC1 can 83 indeed act in the required "cis" configuration (Mesmin et al., 2013; vo Filseck et al., 84 2015b). However, an obligate "cis" acting SAC1 makes it much harder to understand how 85 PtdIns4P abundance is regulated with respect to its other metabolic and trafficking 86 functions, especially at the PM. Therefore, a central question in understanding the 87 regulation of protein and lipid traffic is whether SAC1 activity in cells occurs in an 88 obligatory "cis" or "trans" configuration, or whether the enzyme can switch between 89 modes. We address this crucial question here. We present evidence for "cis" activity in 90 mammalian cells, show that SAC1 fails to enrich at ER-PM MCS and, finally, we show that 91 SAC1 does not possess a conformation that allows it to traverse ER-PM MCS and act in 92 "trans". Collectively, our results support a central role for SAC1 in driving the PPInMF, and 93 implicate non-vesicular PtdIns4P traffic in the control of inositol lipid metabolism and 94 function more generally. 95

96 **Results**

97 Evidence for a "cis" acting SAC1

Loss of SAC1 "trans" activity would cause accumulation of its PtdIns4P substrate in 98 membranes like the PM and Golgi where the lipid is synthesized, whereas loss of "cis" 99 activity predicts accumulation of PtdIns4P in the ER (figure 1D). Saccharomyces 100 cerevisiae with deletions of their Sac1 gene show 6-10 fold increases in PtdIns4P mass 101 (Rivas et al.; Hughes et al., 2000; Guo et al., 1999), with PtdIns4P reported at both the PM 102 (Roy and Levine, 2004; Stefan et al., 2011) and the ER (Roy and Levine, 2004; Tahirovic 103 et al., 2005; Cai et al., 2014), depending on the probe used. RNAi of SAC1 in mammalian 104 causes 1-2 fold accumulation of PtdIns4P (Cheong et al., 2010; Dickson et al., 2016; Goto 105 et al., 2016), with accumulation reported in the ER (Cheong et al., 2010; 106

Blagoveshchenskaya et al., 2008). On the other hand, acute knock-out of SAC1 in HeLa 107 cells with CRISPR/Cas9 was reported to induce PtdIns4P accumulation on the PM and 108 endosomes (Dong et al., 2016). However, these experiments are hard to interpret, since 109 the SACM1L gene is essential to the survival of single mammalian cells (Blomen et al., 110 2015; Wang et al., 2015; Liu et al., 2008). Phenotypes in RNAi and knock-out experiments 111 are therefore observed during the rundown of SAC1 protein levels before the cells die. The 112 phenotype observed may thus be exquisitely sensitive to the precise amount of SAC1 113 protein remaining in the cell at the time of the experiment. 114

As an alternative approach, we exploited acute chemical inhibition of SAC1. As a member of an especially redox-sensitive family of lipid phosphatases, SAC1 is inherently sensitive to inhibition by oxidizing compounds including bis-peroxovanadates (bpVs) and hydrogen peroxide (Rosivatz et al., 2006; Ross et al., 2007). In fact, treatment of cells with 500 μ M peroxide was shown to induce a massive 7-fold accumulation of PtdIns4*P* in mammalian cells (Ross et al., 2007). We therefore sought to determine where such PtdIns4*P*

accumulations occur, using our unbiased probe GFP-P4M that detects all cellular pools of
 PtdIns4*P* (Hammond and Balla, 2015; Hammond et al., 2014).

Firstly, we wanted to verify that bpVs and peroxide would inhibit SAC1 in the reducing 123 environment of a living cell's cytoplasm (Figure 1A). To this end, we over-expressed a 124 soluble SAC1 fragment missing the C-terminal transmembrane domain (Δ TMD). SAC1 $^{\Delta$ TMD 125 expression in COS-7 cells greatly reduced PM localization of P4M, indicating PtdIns4P 126 was depleted, whereas a catalytically inactive C389S mutant was without effect (Figure 127 **1**B). Acute treatment of these cells with 500 μ M peroxide led to a rapid (< 1 minute) 128 recovery of PM PtdIns4P, followed by an accumulation of P4M internally (see following 129 paragraph for an explanation); treatment with 10 µM bpV(HOpic) caused a somewhat 130 slower recovery of PM PtdIns4P over approximately 5 min (Figure 1C). Clearly, the over-131 expressed SAC1 $^{\Delta TMD}$ could be inhibited in the context of a living cell. 132

Inhibition of SAC1 with these oxidative stress-inducing compounds is likely to induce an
ER-stress response, which could potentially lead to disrupted ER-PM MCS (van Vliet et
al., 2017). However, under our experimental conditions, ER-PM MCS marked with GFPORP5 (that would be responsible for PtdIns4*P* traffic) were unaffected by peroxide
treatment (**Figure 1**E).

We then sought to inhibit endogenous SAC1 with these compounds. Cells were treated 138 with peroxide or bpV(HOpic) for one hour, which stimulated a rapid (commencing within 5 139 minutes) accumulation of ER PtdIns4P with peroxide and a slower, but robust 140 accumulation in the ER with bpV(HOpic) (Figure 1F). ER localization of the accumulated 141 PtdIns4*P* pool was verified by co-expression with iRFP-tagged Sec61β (Figure 1F). We 142 observed a similar accumulation of ER-signal with a second, high affinity PtdIns4P 143 biosensor GFP-P4C (Weber et al., 2014) as shown in Figure 1G. The rapid accumulation 144 at the ER explains the internal accumulation seen in SAC1^{ΔTMD} over-expressing cells in 145

Figure 1B. The most parsimonious explanation for these data is that upon acute inhibition
of SAC1, transfer of PtdIns4*P* to the ER continues, but SAC1 is unable to dephosphorylate
it, leading to massive accumulation of the lipid in this compartment (Ross et al., 2007).
These data are therefore consistent with previous observations (Cheong et al., 2010;
Blagoveshchenskaya et al., 2008) that SAC1 exhibits "cis" activity in the ER of mammalian
cells, though they do not rule out the occurrence of additional "trans" activity *a priori*.

152 SAC1 does not enrich at ER-PM MCS

Dynamic recruitment of SAC1 to ER-PM MCS was recently proposed as a mechanism to modulate "trans" activity of the enzyme (Dickson et al., 2016). Although this is not inconsistent with the firmly established localization of SAC1 throughout the ER (Rohde et al., 2003; Nemoto et al., 2000), most proteins known to function at MCS are enriched at them too (Gatta and Levine, 2017). Therefore, a clue as to SAC1's preferred mode of activity may be gleaned from a careful analysis of its enrichment (or lack of enrichment) at MCS.

We attempted to use immunofluorescence to localize SAC1, though we failed to identify 160 conditions whereby ER morphology was well enough preserved and specific antibody 161 signal was strong enough to localize SAC1 at high resolution. Instead, we turned to gene 162 editing technology to tag the endogenous SAC1 gene, specifically using a "split GFP" 163 approach (Cabantous et al., 2004; Leonetti et al., 2016; Figure 2A). We engineered an 164 HEK-293A cell line to stably over-express GFP1-10 (designated 293A^{GFP1-10} cells from 165 hereon). We then edited these cells to introduce the GFP11 tag to the N-termini of either 166 the SAC1 protein, the ER-resident Sec61β or the MCS protein Extended Synaptotagmin 1, 167 E-Syt1 (Giordano et al., 2013). Genotyping was performed in edited cells using GFP11-168 specific forward primers and reverse primers corresponding to a ~200 bp upstream region 169 in exon 1. In each case, the predicted 200 bp amplicon was produced in the edited cells 170

but not in the un-edited 293A^{GFP1-10} cells (Figure 2B), though we did observe some longer
non-specific PCR products. Sanger sequencing of amplicons spanning the edited site in
each case was accomplished with GFP11 primers to verify insertion of the tag in frame.

Confocal imaging revealed the expected ER/Golgi localization of GFP11-SAC1 in edited 174 cells, showing co-localization with the ER marker VAPB and the cis/medial Golgi marker 175 Mannosidase II (Figure 2C). Medial confocal optical sections of GFP11-E-Syt1 and GFP-176 11-Sec61β also revealed exclusively ER localization (Figure 2C), consistent with previous 177 reports (Saheki et al., 2016; Leonetti et al., 2016). To look for ER-PM MCS, we used total 178 internal reflection fluorescence (TIRF) microscopy. Like GFP11-Sec61β, GFP11-SAC1 179 exhibited a reticular distribution, though unlike Sec61ß, it also showed juxta-nuclear 180 enrichment likely corresponding to the bottom of the Golgi (Figure 2D). GFP11-E-Syt1 181 also revealed a reticular distribution by TIRF, but with numerous bright puncta that are 182 most likely ER-PM MCS (Figure 2D). Quantitative analysis of the ratio of fluorescence 183 intensity via TIRF imaging (selective for signal within ~100 nm of the coverslip) vs 184 conventional epi-illumination (exciting fluorescence throughout the entire volume of the 185 cell) revealed no enrichment of GFP11-SAC1 close to the basal PM as compared to ER-186 localized GFP11-Sec61β, whereas GFP11-E-Syt1 showed a marked enrichment (Figure 187 2D). So, it appeared we could not detect enrichment of SAC1 at ER-PM MCS. 188

To produce a more quantitative, rigorous comparison of MCS vs non-MCS localization of 189 SAC1, we turned to expression of GFP-SAC1 in COS-7 cells, since expressed SAC1 190 exhibits an identical localization to the endogenous protein (Rohde et al., 2003). We 191 expressed GFP-SAC1 along with GFP-ORP5 (Chung et al., 2015), GFP-E-Syt2 (Giordano 192 et al., 2013) and MAPPER (Chang et al., 2013) as positive controls for proteins that 193 localize to ER-PM MCS, along with GFP-calreticulin and GFP-Sec61ß as negative 194 controls. For each protein, we co-expressed mCherry-MAPPER as a marker for MCS and 195 iRFP-Sec61β to label the total ER. After acquiring TIRF images of the cells, we 196

background-subtracted the images and compared co-localization of the test protein to both 197 Sec61β and MAPPER to give an "MCS index" (see Methods). Figure 2E shows results 198 from 90 cells across three independent experiments, along with representative images 199 (selected on the basis of values close to the median). As can be seen, GFP-SAC1 200 localizes to the total ER with a distribution indistinguishable from calreticulin or Sec61ß, 201 whereas the contact site proteins all exhibit punctate distributions coinciding with 202 MAPPER, although the association between MAPPER and E-Syt2 is not as tight as it is 203 with ORP5 (Figure 2E). Collectively, these data show that, in the resting state, SAC1 does 204 not specifically localize at ER-PM MCS. 205

Dynamic recruitment of SAC1 to ER-PM MCS has been proposed as a mechanism by 206 which cells can modulate SAC1 "trans" activity and thereby PM inositol lipid abundance 207 (Dickson et al., 2016). We therefore used time-lapse TIRF microscopy to follow the 208 dynamic recruitment of ER-resident proteins to MCS during stimulation of cells with 209 phospholipase C (PLC) coupled agonists. PLC induces the hydrolysis of PM PtdIns $(4,5)P_2$ 210 to produce the calcium-mobilizing messenger, $InsP_3$. The resulting calcium release from 211 ER stores triggers transient recruitment of E-Syt1 to ER-PM MCS (Giordano et al., 2013), 212 which may facilitate early re-synthesis of inositol lipid (Saheki et al., 2016). Subsequently, 213 calcium release leads to depletion of ER calcium, triggering aggregation of the ER calcium 214 sensor STIM1 and its recruitment to ER-PM MCS to activate store-operated calcium entry 215 across the PM (Liou et al., 2005). Finally, the continued breakdown of PtdIns $(4,5)P_2$ yields 216 diacylglycerol, which is converted to phosphatidic acid and exchanged for ER-derived 217 PtdIns by MCS-recruited Nir2, facilitating PtdIns(4,5)P₂ replenishment (Chang et al., 2013; 218 Kim et al., 2015). We expressed GFP-tagged ER and MCS proteins in COS-7 cells for six 219 hours in order to achieve low levels of expression (Figure 3A). Stimulation of endogenous 220 PLC-coupled P2Y receptors (Hughes et al., 2007) with 100 µM ATP triggered GFP-E-Syt1 221 to rapidly (peaking within 30 s) and transiently (returning to baseline within 2 min) recruit to 222

punctate ER-PM MCS, whereas STIM1 exhibited a slower (peaking within 2 min) transient
recruitment. GFP-Nir2 exhibited a much slower (5 min) recruitment that was sustained
during the 10 min experiment. GFP-SAC1, on the other hand, showed no change in its
localization close to the PM, nor did the ER-resident proteins GFP-calreticulin or GFPSec61β (Figure 3A).

We also checked for transient re-localization of SAC1 in our endogenous labelled 228 293A^{GFP1-10} cells. In this case, stimulation with 100 µM carbachol was used to stimulate 229 PLC via endogenously expressed muscarinic M3 receptors (Luo et al., 2008). Carbachol 230 elicited a typical, transient elevation of cytosolic calcium (measured with Fura-red) with a 231 sustained plateau that was unchanged by tagging endogenous proteins with GFP11 232 (Figure 3B). Stimulation caused the rapid, transient recruitment of GFP11-E-Syt1 to 233 puncta (Figure 3C), as seen previously with endogenously tagged GFP-E-Syt1 in HeLa 234 cells (Saheki et al., 2016). However, no change in the localization of endogenous GFP11-235 SAC1 or GFP11-Sec61β was observed (Figure 3C). 236

Together, these results show that SAC1 is not specifically enriched at (nor depleted from)
 ER-PM MCS, even when other proteins are being recruited to these sites to facilitate
 calcium and inositol lipid homeostasis. The limited and unchanging localization of SAC1 at
 MCS therefore appears co-incidental with its well-known distribution throughout the ER.

²⁴¹ *"Cis" and "trans" activity of SAC1 in cells*

Although the data presented so far failed to show compelling evidence for "trans" activity
of SAC1, neither could we completely exclude it. Notably, SAC1 was not excluded from
ER-PM MCS, so the possibility remained that SAC1 may, given the right circumstances,
be able to operate in a "trans" configuration at MCS. We decided to devise experiments to
deduce whether such activity is possible in living cells.

To this end, we designed a strategy utilizing chemically-induced dimerization of FK506-247 binding protein (FKBP12) and the FKBP and rapamycin binding (FRB) domain of mTOR 248 (Ho et al., 1996). PM-anchored FKBP and ER-anchored FRB can be induced to form 249 ectopic ER-PM MCS using this system (Várnai et al., 2007), so we reasoned this approach 250 could be used to target SAC1 to ER-PM MCS and assay for "trans" activity (Figure 4A). 251 Likewise, "cis" activity could be tested simply by replacing the C-terminal TMDs with FKBP 252 (Figure 4A), similarly to how the enzyme has been introduced in vitro (von Filseck et al., 253 2015b; Stefan et al., 2011; Mesmin et al., 2013). A caveat to this approach was that we 254 had already found that expressing SAC1^{ΔTMD}-FKBP leads to reduced PM PtdIns4P, 255 preventing us from measuring further PtdIns4P hydrolysis with our GFP-P4M biosensor 256 (Figure 1A). To circumvent this, we turned to a higher-avidity tandem dimer of this 257 domain, GFP-P4Mx2 (Hammond et al., 2014; Levin et al., 2016). This reporter was able to 258 detect residual PtdIns4P in the PM of SAC1^{ΔTMD}-FKBP over-expressing COS-7 cells 259 (Figure 4B), allowing us to assay for recruitment-induced PtdIns4P depletion. 260

The results of these experiments are presented in **Figure 4**C. Overall, there were 261 substantial differences in PM PtdIns4P changes reported by GFP-P4Mx2 depending on 262 the SAC1 chimera used ($P < 10^{-4}$, repeated-measures two-way ANOVA). A fusion of 263 FKBP to the N-terminus of SAC1 showed robust recruitment of the enzyme to ER-PM 264 MCS within 1 minute of rapamycin addition (see the inset graphs), and we detected a very 265 subtle decline of PM PtdIns4P as compared to the catalytically inactive C389S control. 266 though this did not reach statistical significance (P = 0.15, Tukey's multiple comparison 267 test). Fusion of FKBP to the C-terminus of the protein produced a greater depletion of 268 PtdIns4*P* relative to its C389S control (P = 0.007), perhaps because this C-terminal fusion 269 could pull the catalytic domain closer to the PM after complex formation. Therefore, we 270 could induce a very limited "trans" activity of over-expressed SAC1. 271

Replacement of the TMD with FKBP permitted SAC1 recruitment to the PM in a "cis" 272 configuration. This protein expressed poorly in cells, and recruited much less robustly than 273 the "trans" acting fusions of full-length SAC1; the insets to the graphs in Figure 4C show 274 275 the change in absolute gray levels from identical exposures of the mCherry-tagged GFPfusions acquired under the same excitation intensity, and therefore represent a relative 276 indication of the mass of protein recruited. An order of magnitude less SAC1^{ΔTMD}-FKBP 277 was recruited than full-length FKBP-SAC1 or SAC1-FKBP. Nevertheless, recruitment was 278 still accomplished in < 1 minute, and the effect on PM PtdIns4P was much more dramatic 279 than seen with either full-length fusion or the catalytically inactive C389S mutant of this 280 construct ($P < 10^{-4}$). Fusion of FKBP to the N-terminus of SAC1^{Δ TMD} produced better 281 expression and more robust recruitment than the C-terminal fusion, and also a slightly 282 more efficient depletion of PtdIns4P (P = 0.0008), demonstrating that fusion of FKBP to 283 the N- or C-termini did not disrupt SAC1 activity. Note that with both Δ TMD fusions, the 284 extent of depletion is most likely an underestimate, since the high avidity P4Mx2 construct 285 translocated to other PtdIns4P-replete compartments, such as the Golgi and endosomes, 286 after release form the PM (Levin et al., 2016). Many of these compartments are visible in 287 the evanescent field of flat COS-7 cells (Figure 4C), causing an underestimate in the 288 depletion of PM PtdIns4P, which is measured from total fluorescence intensity in the 289 evanescent field. 290

It has previously been reported that the ~70 amino acid region between the N-terminal
catalytic domain and the TMD of SAC1 are essential for substrate recognition and
catalysis (Cai et al., 2014). We tested a similar truncation (removing residues 452-587
including these 70 amino acids and the TMD) fused C-terminally to FKBP. Although the
protein recruited to the PM robustly, it failed to induce any PtdIns4*P* depletion (Figure 4C),
consistent with the prior study.

Collectively, these results demonstrate that SAC1 has very robust activity when it meets 297 its substrate in a "cis" configuration in the cellular environment, with much less activity in 298 "trans". We hypothesized that this could reflect insufficient length of the cytosolic N-299 terminal region to orient the catalytic domain for efficient "trans" catalysis. We further 300 hypothesized that increasing the length between the TMD and the cytosolic domain could 301 overcome this deficit (Figure 5A). To this end, we generated chimeras of our FKBP-SAC1 302 constructs containing repeats of the helical linker sequence EAAAR (Yan et al., 2007). 303 Each repeat of this sequence, when forming an α -helix, should have a length of 304 approximately 75Å; our tandem repeats of (EAAAR)₂₋₁₀ (termed HLx2-10) therefore have 305 predicted lengths of 1.5-7.5 nm. 306

As shown in **Figure 5**B and C, all of these helical linker SAC1 chimeras were efficiently 307 recruited to ER-PM MCS within 1 min of the addition of rapamycin. Insertion of 2-6 repeats 308 did not produce a significant enhancement of PM PtdIns4P hydrolysis (Figure 5B and D; P 309 ≥ 0.44, 57 WT or 30 HLxN cells, Tukey's multiple comparisons test after a repeated 310 measure 2-way ANOVA, $P < 10^{-4}$). However, insertion of 8 helical repeats produced 311 substantial depletion of PM PtdIns4*P* after recruitment to ER-PM MCS ($P < 10^{-4}$), which 312 was not enhanced by the addition of a further 2 helical repeats to produce HLx10 (P =313 0.96, 30 cells each). No depletion of PtdIns4*P* was observed with a catalytically inactive 314 C389S mutant SAC1 containing the HLx8 linker (P = 0.96, 30 cells). Clearly, the addition 315 of between 6 and 7.5 nm of additional linker between the catalytic domain and the TMD 316 endows a robust "trans" catalytic activity on SAC1. 317

These experiments demonstrated a weak capacity of SAC1 chimeras to act in "trans" when they were forced into a conformation spanning the ER-PM junction by heterodimerization. This is likely a poor representation of the physiologic state, wherein other proteins would mediate ER-PM MCS tethering and SAC1 would not be subject to such conformational constraints. To test for the propensity of SAC1 to act in "trans" at ER-

PM MCS under unconstrained conditions, we capitalized on the observation that extended 323 synaptotagmins expand MCS when over-expressed (Giordano et al.; Fernández-324 Busnadiego et al., 2015; figure 6A). These expanded contact sites would be expected to 325 present more endogenous "trans" acting SAC1 to the plasma membrane, thus depleting 326 PM PtdIns4P (Dickson et al., 2016). However, we found that expanded ER-PM MCS 327 induced by E-Syt2 over-expression had no effect on PtdIns4P biosensor localization at the 328 PM (figure 6B). In contrast, extensive depletion was observed after over-expression of 329 ORP5, which is known to deplete PtdIns4P by transferring it back to the ER (Chung et al., 330 2015; Sohn et al., 2016). 331

For a more acute interrogation of "trans" activity, we next induced dimerization between 332 PM targeted FRB and an ER-localized FKBP (fused to the membrane anchor of 333 cytochrome B5A; Komatsu et al., 2010) to generate new ER-PM MCS (figure 6A). These 334 induced contact sites formed in under a minute at existing ER-PM MCS marked by GFP-335 E-Syt2 or GFP-ORP5 (figure 6C). In fact, as soon as they formed, the induced contact 336 sites forced E-Syt2 and ORP5 to the periphery, indicating that the newly formed contacts 337 were too narrow to accommodate native contact site proteins (figure 6C). This "squeezing 338 out" of the contact site markers was dependent on ER-PM bridging, since GFP-Sec61β, 339 which is not constrained to the PM-facing side of the ER, was not pushed to the periphery 340 (figure 6C). 341

We next tested PM PtdIns4*P* abundance after inducing these ER-PM MCS in cells expressing either endogenous SAC1 (and mCherry as a control), or over-expressing mCherry-tagged SAC1, SAC1-HLx8 or SAC1^{C389S}-HLx8 (**Figure 6**A). Addition of rapamycin produced robust formation of ER-PM MCS in all cases (**Figure 6**D), but with strikingly different results on PM PtdIns4*P* (**Figure 6**D): co-expression of WT SAC1, SAC1^{C389S}-HLx8 or mCherry alone did not produce a noticeable change in PM PtdIns4*P*, and were not significantly different from one another ($P \ge 0.51$ Tukey's multiple

comparisons test, 29-30 cells after a repeated measures two-way ANOVA comparing proteins, $P < 10^{-4}$); whereas SAC1-HLx8 produced a robust and rapid depletion of PtdIns4*P* relative to the other proteins ($P < 10^{-4}$, 30 cells) after induction of ER-PM MCS. We interpret these data to mean that SAC1 has robust "trans" activity only when an extended helical linker is introduced between the TMD and catalytic regions; it follows that the native enzyme is unable to produce a conformation that orients the catalytic domain for efficient "trans" catalysis at ER-PM MCS *in vivo*.

356 **Discussion**

We undertook this study to answer the simple question: does the ER-resident SAC1 lipid 357 phosphatase act in "cis" or "trans" in the cellular context? This question is important, since 358 a "cis" acting SAC1 spatially segregates PtdIns4P metabolism, allowing it to drive a 359 PPInMF, whilst a "trans" acting SAC1 could explain the control of PtdIns4P biosynthesis 360 that regulates other metabolic and trafficking functions of the lipid. We demonstrated that: 361 (i) agents that acutely inhibit SAC1 activity in cells produce the accumulation of PtdIns4P 362 substrate in the ER; (ii) under either resting or MCS forming conditions, SAC1 fails to 363 enrich at ER-PM MCS, the would-be sites of "trans" activity; (iii) SAC1 has robust "cis" 364 activity but very poor "trans" activity in living cells; (iv) for appreciable "trans" activity, an 365 additional ~6 nm linker between the ER localized TMD and the catalytic domain must be 366 introduced. Collectively, these data demonstrate that the enzyme's mode of activity inside 367 a living, mammalian cell is in "cis". 368

How can these data be reconciled with previous assertions of "trans" activity? *In vitro*reconstitution approaches have yielded convincing evidence for both "cis" and "trans"
activity (Stefan et al., 2011; Mesmin et al., 2013). However, these approaches are unlikely
to faithfully recapitulate the cellular environment, with all of its constraints inherent to the
complex molecular milieu. Therefore, a conclusive picture will only emerge from studies of

intact cellular systems. "Trans" activity of SAC1 was previously reported to be supported in 374 yeast by the protein Osh3p at ER-PM MCS (Stefan et al., 2011), though this protein is now 375 believed to facilitate PtdIns4P transfer, and so these data can equally be interpreted as 376 supporting "cis" activity of SAC1 (Wong et al., 2017). Similarly, dynamic recruitment of 377 SAC1 to ER-PM MCS was recently proposed to modulate PM inositol lipid synthesis as a 378 feedback mechanism (Dickson et al., 2016): it was shown that dynamic relocation of SAC1 379 from ER-PM MCS during PLC activation functioned as a rheostat, reducing PtdIns4P 380 catabolism and hence supporting PtdIns $(4,5)P_2$ re-synthesis. Although a "trans" activity of 381 SAC1 was suggested to be at work, we suggest that a "cis" acting SAC1 is equally 382 capable of supporting such a mechanism: notably, PLC activity after activation of highly 383 expressed muscarinic receptors reduces both PM PtdIns(4,5) P_2 and PtdIns4P (Horowitz et 384 al., 2005), which will disrupt attachment of the ER-PM tethering E-Syt2 protein (Giordano 385 et al., 2013) as well as the PtdIns4P-transporting ORP5 and ORP8 proteins (Chung et al., 386 2015). Therefore, the dynamic relocation of SAC1 from ER-PM MCS is most likely 387 coincidental to the loss of ER-PM MCS proteins that support PtdIns4P transport to a "cis" 388 acting ER SAC1. 389

Over-expression of full-length SAC1 was shown to both reduce steady-state PtdIns4P 390 levels at the PM and Golgi (Hammond et al., 2014) and accelerate its rate of degradation 391 from the PM (Sohn et al., 2016). These data are most easily interpreted as being due to 392 "trans" activity. However, we believe these observations can be reconciled with a "cis" 393 acting SAC1. The yeast homologues of ORP5 and ORP8 that facilitate PM PtdIns4P 394 transport, Osh6p and Osh7p, have a higher affinity for their inositol lipid ligand than for 395 their cargo lipid, phosphatidylserine (von Filseck et al., 2015a). Given that in mammalian 396 cells, most of this cargo lipid is present in the lumenal leaflet of the ER (Fairn et al., 2011), 397 its abundance will be low in the cytosolic leaflet. Since we now show that SAC1 appears 398 not to be enriched at ER-PM MCS, it therefore seems likely that ORP5 and 8 (or Osh6p 399

and Osh7p) may be able to back-traffic PtdIns4*P* before it is degraded by SAC1, i.e. futile
cycles of PtdIns4*P* transfer from PM to ER and back can occur. SAC1 over-expression
would therefore be expected to decrease such futile reactions and thus deplete PM
PtdIns4*P*. A similar mechanism could be at work at other PtdIns4*P*-replete membranes.

Our data clearly demonstrate that SAC1 has "cis" activity in mammalian cells. However, 404 we also showed that the only way to stimulate "trans" activity was to either artificially tether 405 the protein to contact sites, which resulted in poor activity (Figure 4), or to extend the 406 linker between TMD and catalytic domain by ~6 nm (Figure 5, Figure 6), yielding more 407 robust activity. SAC1's "reach" in its native form was recently proposed to be no more than 408 ~7 nm (Gatta and Levine, 2017), whereas the dimensions of native ER-PM MCS vary from 409 15-25 nm in COS-7, depending on the tethers involved (Fernández-Busnadiego et al., 410 2015). We measured SAC1 recruitment at ER-PM MCS that were artificially induced and 411 appear to have dimensions significantly shorter than this, yet the enzyme still did not 412 produce robust "trans" activity. It therefore seems clear that SAC1 would be unable to 413 exhibit "trans" activity at native ER-PM MCS. 414

What are the implications for an obligatory "cis" acting SAC1? First and foremost, it meets 415 a strict requirement for the enzyme's role in generating a PPInMF that can drive non-416 vesicular lipid transport (Mesmin et al., 2013). A SAC1 unable to dephosphorylate 417 PtdIns4P in "trans" at a MCS, but able to efficiently degrade ER PtdIns4P in "cis" ensures 418 the maintenance of a steep concentration gradient of the lipid between target membrane 419 and the ER. The potential energy of this gradient can then be efficiently harnessed to drive 420 vectorial transfer of other lipid cargos. In short, 1 mol of ATP (per mol PtdIns4P 421 synthesized) is expended for each mol of lipid transferred with a "cis" acting SAC1, 422 whereas unconstrained "trans" SAC1 activity would force the ratio of ATP expenditure to 423 lipid transfer to increase. 424

Another important implication of an obligate "cis" acting SAC1 is how the enzyme can 425 participate in PtdIns4P homeostasis and function more generally. To fully appreciate the 426 implications, it is necessary to consider the other SAC domain containing proteins 427 executing PtdIns4*P* catabolism. These included SAC2, Synaptojanin (Synj) 1 and Synj2 428 (Chung et al., 1997; Hsu et al., 2015; Nakatsu et al., 2015; Khvotchev and Südhof, 1998). 429 SAC2 has recently been identified as operating on early and recycling endosomes (Hsu et 430 al., 2015; Nakatsu et al., 2015), whereas Synj isoforms appear to participate in clathrin-431 mediated endocytosis (Perera et al., 2006; Rusk et al., 2003). Together with a "cis" acting 432 SAC1, it thus appears that PM PtdIns4P degradation occurs only when the lipid leaves the 433 PM via vesicular (SAC2, Synjs) or non-vesicular traffic (SAC1). In effect, traffic is a key 434 regulator of PM PtdIns4P metabolism. 435

A "cis" acting SAC1 is easier to reconcile with respect to Golgi PtdIns4P metabolism. A 436 PPInMF acting at the (TGN) has been implicated in sterol traffic from the ER into the 437 secretory pathway (Mesmin et al., 2013; von Filseck et al., 2015b), necessitating a lack of 438 SAC1 activity in the TGN. However, PtdIns4P's selective enrichment at the TGN has been 439 shown to be controlled by the traffic of SAC1 to cis/medial Golgi membranes (Cheong et 440 al., 2010), where it is activated by Vps74/GOLPH3 (Cai et al., 2014; Wood et al., 2012). A 441 lack of proliferative signals stimulates traffic of SAC1 from ER to Golgi, causing reduction 442 of TGN PtdIns4P pools and a block of secretory vesicular traffic (Blagoveshchenskaya et 443 al., 2008). Under these conditions, the resulting ablation of the TGN-associated PPInMF 444 and shut down of sterol egress would make sense. 445

Turnover of LEL PtdIns4*P* may also be dependent on PtdIns4*P* transfer to ER-associated
SAC1, since SAC2 and the Synj isoforms are not poised to operate at this compartment.
Recently, the PtdIns4*P* transfer activity of LEL-localized ORP1L was shown to be critical
for sterol transfer (Zhao and Ridgway, 2017); however, operation of a LEL PPInMF does
not make sense in this context, since the sterol concentration in lysosomal membranes is

expected to be high and flux into the ER would be down a concentration gradient (Zhao
and Ridgway, 2017); lysosomal PtdIns4*P* would actually compete with sterol efflux.
Instead, a reciprocal relationship between LEL sterol content and PtdIns4*P* synthesis is
expected, which is not consistent with the activation of LEL-associated PI4KIIα by sterols
(Waugh et al., 2006). Clearly, the relationship between LEL PtdIns4*P* turnover and lipid
traffic is incompletely understood at present.

To conclude, we present evidence that SAC1 is an obligate "cis" acting enzyme, 457 competent to degrade its PtdIns4P substrate only in its resident ER and Golgi membranes. 458 When considered in the context of MCS-localized OSBP-related PtdIns4P transfer 459 proteins, this "cis"-acting SAC1 can account for all of the currently assigned functions for 460 this enzyme, including driving a PPInMF between recipient organelles and the ER, as well 461 as controlling PtdIns4P abundance in different organelles. It does, however, implicate a 462 role for non-vesicular transport of inositol lipids in their homeostasis and regulation of their 463 downstream functions. 464

465 Materials and methods

466 Cell Culture and Transfection

467 COS-7 African Green monkey fibroblasts were obtained from ATCC (CRL-1651; RRID:

468 CVCL_0224) and 293A cells (a HEK 293 subclone with flat morphology;

469 RRID:CVCL_6910) were obtained from ThermoFisher (R70507). Cell lines were handled

independently to prevent cross-contamination, and were screened regularly for

- 471 mycoplasma contamination with Hoechst staining. Cell lines were propagated to no more
- than passage 30. They were cultivated in growth medium consisting of DMEM (low
- 473 glucose, glutamax supplement, pyruvate; ThermoFisher 10567022) supplemented with
- 10% heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum (ThermoFisher 10438-034), 100 u/ml penicillin,
- ⁴⁷⁵ 100 μg/ml streptomycin (ThermoFisher 15140122) and 0.1% chemically-defined lipid

supplement (ThermoFisher 11905031) in 75 cm² vented tissue culture flasks. Twice per
week, almost confluent cultures were rinsed in PBS and suspended with 1 ml TrpLE
Express (no phenol red; ThermoFisher 12604039) and diluted 1:5 for propagation in fresh
flasks. For experiments, cells were seeded at 12.5-50% confluence on 10 µg/ml fibronectin
(ThermoFisher 33016-015)-coated 35 mm dishes containing 20 mm #1.5 glass bottoms
(CellVis D35-22-1.5-N) in 2 ml growth medium.

Cells were transfected 1-24 hours after seeding, once they had reached 25% (TIRF) or
50% (confocal) confluence. 0.5-1 µg plasmid DNA was complexed with 3 µg Lipofectamine
2000 (ThermoFisher 11668019) in 200 µl Opti-MEM (ThermoFisher 51985091) for > 5 min
before adding to the cells. Cells were then used for experiments 6 or 18-24 hours post
transfection.

487 *Reagents*

Rapamycin (Fisher Scientific BP2963-1) was dissolved in DMSO to 1 mM. ATP (Sigma 488 10127523001) was dissolved to 100 mM in 200 mM Tris base with 100 mM MgCl₂. 489 Carbachol (Fisher Scientific AC10824-0050) was dissolved in water to 50 mM. bpV(HOpic) 490 (EMD Millipore 203701) was dissolved in DMSO at 10 mM. All were stored as aliguots at -491 20°C. Hydrogen peroxide (30% solution; EMD Millipore HX0635-3) was stored at 4°C and 492 diluted fresh before use. Fura-red -AM (ThermoFisher F3021) was dissolved in 20% 493 pluronic F-127 (ThermoFisher P3000MP) to 1 mg/ml before use and stored at -20°C. 494 CellMask deep red (ThermoFisher C10046) was stored at -20°C and thawed before 495 dilution. 496

497 Plasmids

Plasmids were constructed in the former Clontech pEGFP-C1 and -N1 backbones. For the
most part, the following fluorescent protein fusions were utilized: Unless stated, EGFP
refers to *Aequorea victoria* GFP with F64L and S65T mutations (Cormack et al., 1996)

- with human codon optimization. mCherry is an optimized *Discoma* DsRed monomeric
- variant (Shaner et al., 2004). iRFP is the iRFP713 variant of *Rhodopseudomonas palustris*
- 503 bacteriophytochrome BphP2-derived near-infrared fluorescent protein (Shcherbakova and
- 504 Verkhusha, 2013). mTagBFP2 is an optimized blue-fluorescing mutant of the sea anemone
- 505 Entacmaea quadricolor GFP-like protein eqFP578 (Subach et al., 2011).
- ⁵⁰⁶ Plasmids in **Table 1** were constructed using NEB HiFi assembly (New England Biolabs
- 507 E5520S) or standard restriction cloning.
- 508

| Plasmid | Backbone | Insert | Ref |
|---|----------------------|---|--|
| APX1-GFP1-10 | APX1 | super-folder GFP | This study |
| CDV-hvPBase | pigg | <i>piggyBAC</i> transposase | (Yusa et al., 2011) |
| NES-EGFP-P4Mx1 | pEGFP-C1 | X.leavis map2k1.L(32-44):EGFP:L. pneumophila SidM(546-647) | This study |
| FKBP-mCherry | pmCherry- N1 | <i>FKBP1A</i> (isoform a, 3-108):mCherry | This Study |
| SAC1 ^{ATMD} -FKBP-mCherry | pmCherry- N1 | SACM1L(1-521):FKBP1A(3-108):mCherry | This study |
| SAC1 ^{C3895aTMD} -FKBP-mCherry | pmCherry- N1 | SACM1L(C389S; 1-521):FKBP1A(3-108):mCherry | This study |
| iRFP-Sec61β | piRFP-C1 | iRFP:SEC61B | This study |
| mKO-ManII | pmKO-N1 | Kusabira Orange 2:Man2a(1-102) | Tamas Balla |
| mCherry-VAPB | pmCherry- C1 | mCherry:VAPB | This study |
| mCherry-MAPPER | pmCherry- C1 | mCherry:MAPPER | (Chang et al., 2013) |
| EGFP-MAPPER | pEGFP-C1 | EGFP:MAPPER | (Chang et al., 2013) |
| GFP-ORP5 | pEGFP-C1 | EGFP: OSBPL5(isoform a) | (Sohn et al., 2016) |
| GFP-E-Syt2 | pEGFP-C1 | EGFP:ESYT2 | (Giordano et al., 2013) Addgene plasmid #66831 |
| EGFP-SAC1 | pEGFP-C1 | EGFP:SACM1L | (Sohn et al.) |
| mEmerald-N16-Calreticulin | pmEmerald -N1 | mEmerald:CALR | Michael Davidson (Addgene plasmid #54023) |
| GFP-Sec61β | pAcGFP- C1-Sec61β | Aequorea coerulescens GFP:SEC61B | (Voeltz et al., 2006) Addgene plasmid #15108 |
| EGFP-E-Syt1 | pEGFP-C1 | EGFP-ESYT1 | (Giordano et al., 2013) Addgene plasmid #66830 |
| EGFP-STIM1 | pEGFP-C1 | STIM1(isoform 1 1-22):EGFP:STIM1(23-791) | (Várnai et al., 2007) |
| EGFP-Nir2 | pEGFP-N1 | EGFP:PITPNM1(isoform 2) | (Kim et al., 2015) |
| EGFP-P4Mx2 | pEGFP-C1 | EGFP:L. pneumophila SidM(546-647):SidM(546-647) | (Hammond et al., 2014) |
| Lyn ₁₁ -FRB-iRFP | piRFP-N1 | <i>LYN</i> (1-11): <i>MTOR</i> (2021-2113):iRFP | (Hammond et al., 2014) |
| mCherry-FKBP | pmCherry- C1 | mCherry:FKBP1A(3-108):[GGSA],GG | (Hammond et al., 2014) |
| mCherry-FKBP-SAC1 | pmCherry- C1 | mCherry:FKBP1A(3-108):[GGSA],GG:SACM1L | This study |
| mCherry-FKBP-SAC1 ^{C3895} | pmCherry- C1 | mCherry:FKBP1A(3-108):[GGSA],GG:SACM1L ^{coss} | This Study |
| mCherry-SAC1-FKBP | pmCherry- C1 | mCherry:SACM1L:FKBP1A(3-108) | This study |
| mCherry-SAC1 ^{C3885} -FKBP | pmCherry- C1 | mCherry:SACM1L ^{cuss} :FKBP(3-108) | This study |
| SAC1 ⁴⁴⁵²⁻⁵⁸⁷ -FKBP-mCherry | pmCherry- N1 | SACM1L(1-451):FKBP1A(3-108):mCherry | This study |
| mCherry-FKBP-SAC1 | pmCherry- | mCherry:FKBP1A(3-108):[GGSA].GG:SACM1L(1-521) | This study |

| | C1 | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|---|---------------------|
| mCherry-FKBP-SAC1- | pmCherry- | mCherry:FKBP1A(3-108):[GGSA],GG::SACM1L(1- | This Study |
| HLx2 | C1 | 520):[EAAAR] ₂ :SACM1L(521-587) | |
| mCherry-FKBP-SAC1- | pmCherry- | mCherry:FKBP1A(3-108):[GGSA],GG::SACM1L(1- | This study |
| HLx4 | C1 | 520):[EAAAR],:SACM1L(521-587) | |
| mCherry-FKBP-SAC1- | pmCherry- | mCherry:FKBP1A(3-108):[GGSA].GG:SACM1L(1- | This study |
| HLx6 | C1 | 520):[EAAAR] ₆ :SACM1L(521-587) | |
| mCherry-FKBP-SAC1- | pmCherry- | mCherry:FKBP1A(3-108):[GGSA]4GG:SACM1L(1- | This study |
| HLx8 | C1 | 520):[EAAAR] _s :SACM1L(521-587) | |
| mCherry-FKBP-SAC1- | pmCherry- | mCherry:FKBP1A(3-108):[GGSA]4GG:SACM1L(1- | This study |
| HLx10 | C1 | 520):[EAAAR] ₁₀ :SACM1L(521-587) | |
| mCherry-FKBP-SAC1 ^{C3895} - | pmCherry- | mCherry:FKBP1A(3-108):[GGSA]_GG:SACM1L ^{C3995} (1- | This study |
| HLx8 | C1 | 520):[EAAAR] _s :SACM1L(521-587) | |
| mCherry | pmCherry- | mCherry | (Hammond et al., |
| | C1 | | 2014) |
| mCherry-SAC1 | pmCherry- | mCherry:SAC1ML | (Sohn et al., 2016) |
| | C1 | | |
| mCherry-SAC1-HLx8 | pmCherry- | mCherryLSACM1L(1-520):[EAAAR] _s :SACM1L(521-587) | This study |
| | C1 | | |
| mCherry-SAC1 ^{C3895} -HLx8 | pmCherry- | mCherry:SACM1L ^{C1895} (1-520):[EAAAR] ₈ :SACM1L(521- | This study |
| | C1 | 587) | |
| mTagBFP2-FKBP- | pmTagBFP | mTagBFP2:FKBP1A(3-108):[GGSA].GG:CYB5A(100-134) | This study |
| CYB5A ^{tail} | 2-C1 | | |

509

510 Table 1 Plasmids used in this study. Genes are human unless otherwise stated

All plasmids were verified by Sanger sequencing; plasmids generated in this study are available from Addgene (www.addgene.org). Note, the *SACM1L* gene used in this study and previous publications (Sohn et al., 2016) contains a missense mutation Y433F relative to the human genome reference sequence. However, the short Genetic Variations database (dbSNP) shows that this allele (rs1468542) represents approximately 60% of alleles present in the human population sampled to date. This allele can therefore be viewed as "wild-type".

518 Generation on 293A^{GFP1-10} cell line

To create a cell line stably expressing GFP-1-10 for complementation with GFP-11 tags, 519 the PiggyBac Transposon system was applied via transfection in 293A cells. Cells were 520 seeded onto 6-well plates and plasmid containing the GFP-1-10 sequence under a CAG 521 promoter and flanked by the proper inverted terminal repeats (APX1-GFP-1-10) was 522 transfected along with plasmid coding the PiggyBac Transposase (CDV-hyPBase) (0.7 µg 523 and 0.3 µg, respectively) as described above. Following overnight transfection, media was 524 replaced with fresh growth media and cells were propagated for 1 week to allow dilution of 525 any free plasmid. 8 independent samples were split in limiting 1:2 dilutions across 12 526 columns of a 96-well plate. After growth, populations were chosen from the last 4 columns 527

and a sample of each was screened using an mCherry-SACM1L-GFP-11 reporter plasmid to observe GFP-complementation and assess the efficiency of GFP-1-10 insertion. The polyclonal population of a single well that showed >90% GFP complementation of visibly transfected cells was chosen and propagated for use in future gene-editing experiments (named here as $293A^{GFP-1-10}$).

533 Generation of endogenously tagged cell lines

Single-guide RNA (sgRNA) and homologous-directed repair (HDR) template design
followed the method described by (Leonetti et al., 2016), utilizing the published sequences
available for targeting *SEC61B* and *SACM1L*. *ESYT1* sgRNA design was informed by the
published sequence used by (Saheki et al., 2016). All HDR templates included 70 bp
homology-arms and the following GFP-11 and flexible linker sequence for genomic
insertion

540 (CGTGACCACATGGTCCTTCATGAGTATGTAAATGCTGCTGGGATTACAGGTGGCGG

C). Single-stranded HDR templates were ordered from IDT as ultramers. ssDNA primers
to serve as templates for sgRNA production were ordered from ThermoFisher. Templates
were made by annealing published primers ML611, T25 and BS7 with each site-specific
primer following the procedure of Leonetti et al. Annealed products were column purified
using the GeneJet Gel Extraction and DNA Cleanup Micro Kit (Thermo Scientific,

⁵⁴⁶ #K0832). The GeneArt Precision gRNA Synthesis Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific, A29377)

was used for in vitro transcription of DNA templates to produce column-purified sgRNAs.

548 Purity was checked by agarose gel electrophoresis. Cas9 Ribonucleoprotein (RNP)

- formation and delivery followed the procedure outlined by New England BioLabs
- 550 (https://www.neb.com/protocols/2016/07/26/electroporation-of-cas9-rnp-ribonucleoprotein-
- into-adherent-cells-using-the-neon-electroporation). 2.1µL of GeneArt Platinum Cas9
- Nuclease (ThermoFisher, B25640) was incubated with 0.5 μL sgRNA (~10 μM) in Buffer R
- of the Neon Electroporation System (ThermoFisher, MPK1025) at room temperature for

20min to form Cas9 RNP complexes. Meanwhile 293A^{GFP-1-10} cells were prepared from 554 90% confluent T75 culture flasks to obtain 1-2x10⁶ cells suspended in 50 μL Buffer R. 2 μL 555 of HDR template (100mM) was then added to the incubating RNPs. 5 µL of the prepared 556 cells were then added to the RNP incubation tubes, and 10µL of this mixture was 557 aspirated with the Neon pipette and electroporated (1500 V, 20 ms, 1 pulse). Contents of 558 the Neon tip were then immediately transferred to a single well of a 6-well plate containing 559 2 mL of pre-warmed antibiotic-free complete DMEM and allowed to recover. After recovery 560 and growth, electroporated cells were screened with confocal microscopy. Populations 561 containing correctly edited cells were enriched by fluorescence-activated cells sorting 562 using a Rheum Aria sorter (University of Pittsburgh Flow Cytometry Core). After sorting, 563 genomic DNA was isolated using the PureLink Genomic DNA Mini Kit (ThermoFisher 564 K1820-01). A standard GFP-11 forward primer and gene-specific reverse primers were 565 used to compare the presence of~200 bp amplicons from each edited cell line to the non-566 edited 293A^{GFP-1-10} cells. Additionally, using gene-specific primers ~75 bp upstream of the 567 GFP-11 insertions, amplicons were produced and sequenced with the GFP-11 forward 568 primer to ensure correct in-frame addition of the cassettes. 569

570 Fluorescence microscopy

For imaging, cells were placed in complete imaging medium consisting of Fluorobrite 571 DMEM (ThermoFisher, A1896702), 10% heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum, 0.1% 572 chemically-defined lipid supplement, 2 mM Glutamax (ThermoFisher 35050061) and 25 573 mM NaHEPES, pH 7.4. Where indicated, cells were stained with 1 µg/ml CellMask deep 574 red in this medium for 3 minutes before exchanging for fresh media. For experiments in 575 Figure 3, serum was omitted from the media. Cells were imaged on a Nikon Eclipse TiE 576 inverted microscope using a 100x, plan apochromatic, 1.45 NA oil-immersion objective 577 lens (Nikon). Excitation in either imaging mode was achieved using a dual fiber-coupled 578 LUN-V 4-line laser launch with 405 nm (for TagBFP2), 488 nm (GFP), 561 nm (mCherry) 579

or 640 nm (iRFP, CellMask Deep Red) laser lines. Cells were imaged in 2 ml imaging
medium, or else 1.6 ml with the addition of 0.4 ml of imaging medium containing five-fold
the final concentration of agonist or inhibitor during time-lapse acquisition, as indicated. A
motorized stage (Nikon) was used to move between up to 16 consecutive positions in the
dish for each time point with high precision. Acquisition was controlled using "Elements"
software (Nikon) and raw data including metadata were saved in "nd2" format.

For confocal imaging, a Nikon A1R confocal scan head was used operating in resonant
mode. 8 or 16 scans were integrated to improve signal to noise. To prevent cross-talk
between channels, blue (425-475 nm) and yellow/orange (570-620 nm) fluorescence was
acquired on a separate excitation scan to the green (500-550 nm) and far red (663-737
nm) channels. The confocal pinhole was set to 1.2x the size of the Airy disc of far-red
fluors.

For TIRF imaging, a TIRF illuminator arm (Nikon) was used to deliver wide-field
illumination at an acute angle. Emission for blue and yellow/orange (420-480 nm & 570620 nm) along with green and far red/infrared (505-550 nm & 650-850 nm) was acquired
using dual-pass filters (Chroma), mounted in adjacent positions in a Lamda 10-2 filter
wheel (Sutter). Images were collected with a Zyla 5.5 sCMOS camera (Andor).

597 Data Analysis

Images were imported into the open-access image analysis platform Fiji (Schindelin et al.
2012) for analysis. Quantitative image analysis of multiple positions on the dish was
performed in parallel by first assembling the images from each position into a single
montage, and then generating regions of interest (ROI) of each cell to be analyzed.

For analysis of fluorescence intensity changes at the ER or PM from confocal data,
images of the ER (using expressed iRFP-Sec61β) or the PM (using CellMask deep red)
were used to generate a binary mask through à trous wavelet decomposition (Olivo-Marin

2002) as described previously (Hammond et al. 2014), using an automated custom-written 605 ImageJ macro. Firstly, each image in the montage is normalized to the mean pixel 606 intensity of the cell ROIs, to adjust for differences in expression level. A smoothing filter 607 with a Gaussian approximation [1/16, 1/4, 3/8, 1/4, 1/16] is applied to the images to be 608 used as the mask over three progressively larger length scales (s) generating four images: 609 $I_0 - I_3$ (the original plus the three smoothed). These images I_s are used to compute the 610 wavelets of these images $W_s = I_s - I_{s-1}$. After eliminating negative pixel values, these 611 wavelet images W_s are then multiplied together, resulting in a filtered image. A binary 612 mask is then computed by thresholding at 3-fold the standard deviation of the filtered 613 image. This mask is used to measure the fluorescence intensity in the ER or PM for the 614 P4M-labelled images, after normalizing these to the mean pixel intensity of the cell ROIs 615 (which again adjusts for differing expression levels between cells). 616

For analysis of the change in fluorescence intensity from TIRF data, images were background subtracted and then the mean fluorescence intensity was measured for total cell ROI throughout the time lapse. Images at time t were normalized to the mean ROI intensity pre-stimulation, i.e. F_t/F_{pre} .

To calculate the "MCS index", images were recorded of each cell corresponding to 621 expression of a GFP test protein, mCherry-MAPPER (as an MCS marker) and iRFP-622 Sec61ß (as an ER marker). For each of these channels, pixel intensity was normalized to 623 the maximum pixel intensity in a given cell ROI, giving a range from 0 to 1. This results in 624 normalized images I_{MCS}, I_{ER} and I_{test}. The differences between test protein and the markers 625 is then computed, i.e. $dev_{MCS} = |I_{MCS} - I_{test}|$ and $dev_{ER} = |I_{ER} - I_{test}|$. Finally, MCS index was 626 computed as the difference between ER and MCS deviations, MCS index = dev_{ER} -627 dev_{MCS}. Therefore, for MCS-localized test proteins, the deviation from ER was large and 628 the deviation from MCS small, so MCS index is larger and positive. For ER-localized test 629

proteins, deviation from MCS is large and from ER is small, giving smaller and more
 negative values.

Data were exported into Prism 7 (Graphpad) for graphing and statistical analysis. Data were subject to D'Agostino and Pearson normality tests which showed significant deviation of the data from Guassian distributions for every data set. Therefore, we used the nonparametric Kruskall-Wallis test with appropriate post-hoc tests for multiple comparisons; for two-way ANOVA, data were transformed with the natural logarithm to approximate a normal distribution.

Representative images were selected on the basis of the cells having good signal to noise and a metric (such as MCS index or change in F_t/F_{pre}) close to the median. Linear adjustments to the displayed dynamic range were performed for clarity. For images showing F_t/F_{pre} , an average intensity projection of the pre-bleach frames was used to normalize the entire time-lapse; pixels outside the ROI were set to zero (since background was divided by background and has a signal ~1). All images are thus shown at the same intensity scale of 0.3-1.1 and are directly comparable.

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653 Impact statement

654 SAC1 is unable to adopt an efficient "trans" mode of action in living cells.

655 **Competing Interests**

⁶⁵⁶ The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

657 **Bibliography**

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969 Figure Legends

Figure 1 Inhibition of SAC1 causes PtdIns4P accumulation in the ER. (A) A soluble fragment of SAC1 970 (SAC1^{ΔTMD}) is inhibited by peroxide and bpV(HOpic). (B). SAC1 expression depletes PM PtdIns4P. 971 COS-7 cells transfected with GFP-P4M and either FKBP-mCherry (Ctrl), SAC1^{ΔTMD}-FKBP-mCherry or catalytically inactive SAC1^{ΔTMD/C389S}-FKBP-mCherry were imaged live by confocal microscopy. 972 973 Representative images are shown (bar = $10 \mu m$). The graph shows P4M intensity at the plasma membrane 974 (defined by CellMask deep red dye) normalized to total cell intensity; box and whisker plot shows quartiles 975 and 5-95 percentiles of 90 cells from three independent experiments. P values derive from Dunn's multiple 976 comparison test compared to Ctrl after a Kruskal-Wallis test (P<10⁻⁴). (C). Peroxide and bpV(HOpic) 977 inhibit SAC1 in live cells. COS-7 cells were transfected with P4M and SAC1^{ATMD} as in B and imaged by 978 979 time-lapse confocal microscopy. 500 µM peroxide or 10 µM bpV(HOpic) were added at time 0. P4M intensity was quantified as in B. Data are means ± s.e. of 44 or 45 cells from four independent experiments. Scale bar 980 = 10 µm. (D) Predicted PtdIns4P accumulation for "cis" and "trans" operation of SAC1. (E) peroxide 981 does not disrupt ORP5 localization at ER-PM MCS. Images show TIRF images of COS-7 cells expressing 982 GFP-ORP5 at the indicated times. Traces are means with s.e. shaded for 31-32 cells from three independent 983 experiments. (F-G). SAC1 inhibitors cause PtdIns4P accumulation in the ER. Time-lapse images of 984 representative COS-7 cells expressing GFP-P4M (F) or GFP-P4C (G) and treated with inhibitors at time 0. 985 986 The insets are 10 µm squares, and are expanded at right and show PtdIns4P accumulation relative to a coexpressed ER marker, iRFP-Sec61β. Graphs show P4M intensity at the ER (defined by iRFP-Sec61β) 987 normalized to total cell intensity; data are means ± s.e. of 38-41 (F) or 29-30 (G) cells from three (G) or four 988 989 (F) independent experiments.

Figure 2 Localization of SAC1 relative to ER-PM MCS and ER proteins. (A) Strategy for tagging 990 endogenous SAC1: a guide RNA is complexed with Cas9 protein and electroplated into HEK-293A cells 991 with a short single-stranded homology-directed repair (HDR) template. This adds a short tag encoding the 992 11th strand of the GFP beta barrel. When expressed, this strand assembles with co-expressed GFP1-10 to 993 994 make functional GFP. (B) Specificity of genomic tagging. 293A cells stably over-expressing GFP1-10 and edited with the indicated GFP11 tags were genotyped with GFP11 specific forward primers and a gene-995 specific reverse primer located ~200 bp downstream in exon 1. (C) Confocal images of GFP11 gene 996 edited cells co-expressing mKo-Manosidase II as a cis/medial Golgi marker, or mCherry-VAPB as an ER 997 998 marker. (D) ESyt-1 shows enrichment at the PM relative to SAC1 and Sec61ß. Cells were imaged in both 999 TIRF and epi-illumination, and the fluorescence intensity ratio of the two images was calculated. Boxes represent quartiles, whiskers 5-95 percentile. P values are from Dunn's Multiple Comparisons following a 1000 Kruskall-Wallis test (P < 10^{-4}). Data are from 180 (E-Syt1), 234 (SAC1) or 246 (Sec61 β) cells imaged across 1001 five independent experiments. Insets = 10 μm. (E) Expressed SAC1 is not enriched at ER-PM MCS in 1002 COS-7 cells. TIRF images of COS-7 cells transfected for 24 hours with the indicated GFP-tagged plasmid 1003 and mCherry-MAPPER to label ER-PM MCS along with iRFP-Sec61ß to label total ER. Scale bar = 10 µm. 1004 The MCS index is the "difference of differences" between GFP and iRFP-Sec61ß as well as GFP and 1005 MAPPER signals. P values are from Dunn's Multiple Comparison test relative to GFP-Sec61β, run as a post-1006 hoc to a Kruskal-Wallis test (P < 10^{-4}). Box and whiskers are quartiles with 10-90 percentiles of 90 (Sec61 β), 1007 92 (Calreticulin), 91 (SAC1), 93 (MAPPER) or 92 (ESyt2, ORP5) cells imaged across three independent 1008 1009 experiments.

Figure 3 Recruitment of proteins to ER-PM MCS (A). Transfected SAC1 does not dynamically re-1010 distribute to ER-PM MCS in COS-7 cells. Time-lapse TIRF microscopy of COS-7 cells transfected with the 1011 indicated GFP-tagged proteins for 6-7 hours. Cells were stimulated with 100 µM ATP as indicated. Insets = 1012 10 µm. The traces at right show $\Delta(F_t/F_{pre})$ and are means ± s.e. of 30 (Sec61 β , SAC1, Calreticulin), 27 1013 (STIM1), 29 (ESyt1) or 20 (Nir2) cells imaged across three independent experiments. (**B**) **Gene edited alleles do not perturb calcium signals**. Edited 293A^{GFP1-10} cells were loaded with Fura-red and the ratio of 1014 1015 1016 fluorescence intensity with respect to 405 and 488 nm excitation was measured. Cells were stimulated with 1017 carbachol (CCh) at 30 s to activate phospholipase C signaling. Data are grand means of four experiments 1018 (shaded regions represent s.e.). The P value represents results of a two-way ANOVA comparing cell lines. (C) Endogenous SAC1 does not recruit to ER-PM contact sites in 293A^{GFP1-10} cells. Images show 1019 representative gene-edited cells at the indicated times during time-lapse TIRF imaging. Carbachol was 1020

added to stimulate phospholipase C signaling time 0. Images are averages of 5 frames acquired over 10 s to
 improve signal to noise. Traces represent mean change in fluorescence intensity (normalized to pre stimulation levels) with s.e. of 40 (E-Syt1), 38 (SAC1) or 37 (Sec61β) cells imaged across five independent
 experiments.

Figure 4 SAC1 is much more active at the PM in "cis". (A) Strategy to recruit SAC1 to the PM in "cis" 1025 or "trans" using the FRB/FKBP12 heterodimerization system. (B) PM PtdIns4P is still detectable at the PM with P4Mx2 after transfection with SAC1^{ΔTMD}. COS-7 cells transfected with GFP-P4M and either FKBP-mCherry (Ctrl), SAC1^{ΔTMD}-FKBP-mCherry or catalytically inactive SAC1^{ΔTMD/C389S} were imaged live by 1026 1027 1028 confocal microscopy. Representative images are shown (bar = 20 µm). The graph shows P4M intensity at 1029 the plasma membrane (defined by CellMask deep red dye) normalized to total cell intensity; box and whisker 1030 plot shows guartiles and 5-95 percentiles of 90 cells from three independent experiments. P values derive 1031 from Dunn's multiple comparison test compared to Ctrl after a Kruskal-Wallis test (P<10⁻⁴). (C). Recruitment 1032 of SAC1 to the PM in "cis" is far more effective in depleting PtdIns4P than it is in "trans". TIRF 1033 images of COS-7 cells transfected with a Lyn11-FRB-iRFP PM recruiter, the indicated mCherry-tagged 1034 SAC1-FKBP or FKBP-SAC1, and GFP-P4Mx2. Graphs show means ± s.e. Images are representative of n 1035 cells, x independent experiments: 57, 6 (FKBP-SAC1); 41, 4 (FKBP-SAC1^{C389S}); 28, 3 (SAC1-FKBP); 30, 3 1036 (SAC1-FKBP); 57, 6 (SAC1-FKBP); 36, 4 (SAC1-FKBP); 26, 3 (FKBP-SAC1); 29, 3 (SAC1^{∆452-587}). Inset 1037 graphs show the raw change in signal intensity for the mCherry-FKBP tagged SAC1 chimeras. Images of 1038 GFP-P4Mx2 are normalized to the mean pre-stimulation pixel intensity, i.e. Ft/Fpre with the color coding 1039 reflected in the graph y-axis. Scale bar = $20 \mu m$. 1040

Figure 5 An extended helical linker confers "trans" activity to SAC1. (A) Helical linkers (HL) added to 1041 FKBP-SAC1 at the end of the first transmembrane domain. Each helical repeat consists of the amino 1042 acids EAAAR, expected to form a helix approximately 0.75 nm long. (B) TIRF imaging of PtdIns4P before 1043 and after direct recruitment of SAC1 to ER-PM MCS. TIRF images of COS-7 cells transfected with a 1044 Lyn11-FRB-iRFP PM recruiter, the indicated mCherry-tagged SAC1-FKBP and GFP-P4Mx2. Images are 1045 representative of 30 cells from three independent experiments. Images of GFP-P4Mx2 are normalized to the 1046 mean pre-stimulation pixel intensity, i.e. Ft/Fpre with the color coding reflected in the graph v-axis of D. Scale 1047 bar = 20 µm. (C) Helical linkers do not impair recruitment efficiency of FKBP-SAC1. (D) FKBP-SAC1-1048 1049 HLx8 and -HLx10 have "trans" activity. Graphs in C and D show fluorescence intensity in the TIRF 1050 footprint of each cell for mCherry-tagged FKBP-SAC1 or GFP-tagged P4Mx2, respectively. Data are means ± s.e., 30 cells for all except WT, with 57 cells. Data for the wild-type FKBP-SAC1 is re-plotted from fig. 4. 1051

Figure 6 An extended helical linker is required for "trans" activity of SAC1 at induced ER-PM MCS. 1052 1053 (A) Induction of artificial ER-PM MCS using rapamycin-induced dimerization of PM Lyn₁₁-FRB and ER FKBP-CYB5A^{tail}. (B) Over-expression of E-Syt2 does not deplete PtdIns4P. COS-7 cells over-expressing 1054 1055 GFP-tagged E-Syt2, ORP5 along with mCherry-P4Mx2; scale bar = 10 µm. Graph shows P4M intensity at the plasma membrane (defined by CellMask deep red dye) normalized to total cell intensity; box and whisker 1056 plot shows quartiles and 5-95 percentiles of 89-90 cells from three independent experiments. P values derive 1057 from Dunn's multiple comparison test compared to Ctrl after a Kruskal-Wallis test ($P < 10^{-4}$). (C) FKBP-1058 CYB5^{tail} induces narrower contact sites than those occupied by E-Syt2 or ORP5. COS-7 cells 1059 expressing the indicated GFP-fusion protein, Lyn11-FRB-iRFP or mCherry-FKBP-CYB5^{tail} (not shown), 1060 dimerization induced with Rapa as indicated. Graph shows the fraction of induced contact sites occupied by 1061 GFP-fluorescence after 5 min of rapa treatment; box and whisker plot shows guartiles and 5-95 percentiles 1062 of 14-19 cells from four independent experiments. P values derive from Dunn's multiple comparison test 1063 compared to Ctrl after a Kruskal-Wallis test (P<10⁻⁴). (D) An extended helical linker is required for robust 1064 "trans" activity of SAC1 at ER-PM MCS. Images of TagBFP2-tagged FKBP-CYB5 and GFP-P4Mx2 in 1065 COS-7 cells co-transfected with iRFP-tagged Lyn₁₁-FRB and the indicated mCherry-tagged SAC1 construct, 1066 or mCherry alone as control. Images of GFP-P4Mx2 are normalized to the mean pre-stimulation pixel 1067 intensity, i.e. F_t/F_{pre} with the color coding reflected in the graph y-axis. Scale bar = 20 μ m. Graphs show the 1068 fluorescence intensity of GFP-P4Mx2 in the TIRF footprint each cell (means ± s.e., 29-30 cells from three 1069 independent experiments) normalized to the mean pre-stimulation level (F_{pre}). 1070











Figure 3 Recruitment of proteins to ER-PM MCS (A). Transfected SAC1 does not dynamically re-distribute to ER-PM MCS in COS-7 cells Time-lapse TIRF microscopy of COS-7 cells transfected with the indicated GFP-tagged proteins for 6-7 hours. Cells were $F_{t}/\!F_{pre}$) and are means \pm s.e. of 30 (Sec61 β , SAC1, stimulated with 100 μ M ATP as indicated. Insets = 10 μ m. The traces at right show Δ (Calreticulin), 27 (STIM1), 29 (ESyt1) or 20 (Nir2) cells imaged across three independent experiments. (B) Gene edited alleles do not perturb calcium signals . Edited 293A GFP1-10 cells were loaded with Fura-red and the ratio of fluorescence intensity with respect to 405 and 488 nm excitation was measured. Cells were stimulated with carbachol (CCh) at 30 s to activate phospholipase C signaling. Data are grand means of four experiments (shaded regions represent s.e.). The P value represents results of a two-way ANOVA comparing cell lines. ($_{\rm GFP1-10}$ cells . Images show representative gene-edited cells at the Endogenous SAC1 does not recruit to ER-PM contact sites in 293A indicated times during time-lapse TIRF imaging. Carbachol was added to stimulate phospholipase C signaling time 0. Images are averages of 5 frames acquired over 10 s to improve signal to noise. Traces represent mean change in fluorescence intensity (normalized to pre-stim ulation levels) with s.e. of 40 (E-Syt1), 38 (SAC1) or 37 (Sec61β) cells imaged across five independent experiments.

C)





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