Ribosome Protein L4 is essential for Epstein–Barr Virus Nuclear Antigen 1 function

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Epstein–Barr Virus (EBV) Nuclear Antigen 1 (EBNA1)-mediated origin of plasmid replication (oriP) DNA episome maintenance is essential for EBV-mediated tumorigenesis. We have now found that EBNA1 binds to Ribosome Protein L4 (RPL4). RPL4 shRNA knockdown decreased EBNA1 activation of an oriP luciferase reporter, EBNA1 DNA binding in lymphoblastoid cell lines, and EBV genome number per lymphoblastoid cell line. EBV infection increased RPL4 expression and redistributed RPL4 to cell nuclei. RPL4 and Nucleolin (NCL) were a scaffold for an EBNA1-induced oriP complex. The RPL4 N terminus cooperated with NCL-K429 to support EBNA1 and oriP-mediated episome binding and maintenance, whereas the NCL C-terminal K380 and K393 induced oriP DNA H3K4me2 modification and promoted EBNA1 activation of oriP-dependent transcription. These observations provide new insights into the mechanisms by which EBV uses NCL and RPL4 to establish persistent B-lymphoblastoid cell infection.

EBNA1 | RPL4 | NCL | EBV | oriP

Epstein–Barr virus (EBV) was recognized as an oncogenic human pathogen after the discovery of its causal associations with B-cell lymphomas (BLs), nasopharyngeal carcinomas, and gastric carcinomas. EBV infects B-lymphocytes and epithelial cells and converts resting B cells into lymphoblastoid cell lines (LCLs). LCL maintenance requires expression of EBV nuclear antigens (EBNAs), latency-associated membrane proteins (LMPs), and noncoding RNAs (1). EBNA1 is the only EBV gene expressed in all types of EBV-infected cells and has a key role in EBV genome maintenance, replication, postmitotic EBV genome segregation, and LCL growth (1, 2). EBNA1-mediated episome maintenance depends on EBNA1 binding to the EBV origin of genome replication (oriP), which has two essential components, a dyad symmetry (DS) element and a family of repeats (FR) (3). Despite a 2.4-Å resolution crystal structure of the EBNA1 DNA binding domain bound to its cognate DNA element (4), mechanistic insights into EBNA1 and oriP-mediated episome maintenance mainly come from genetic studies using EBV recombinants and biochemical studies of EBNA1's association with cell proteins, including CTCF, Bromodomain Protein 4 (BRD4), Nucleosome Assembly Protein 1 (NAP1), the cell Origin Recognition Complex, and the Mini Chromosome Maintenance complex (5–8). Recent studies indicate that EBNA1 may use complex strategies for episome maintenance (9–16).

EBNA1-associated ribosome biogenesis factors Nucleophosmin (NPM1) and Nucleolin (NCL) have been implicated in EBNA1 and oriP-dependent functions (17, 18). Other viruses also use ribosomal proteins (RPs), such as RPL4, RPS19, and RPL40, to enhance virus protein translation (19–21). Indeed “extraribosomal functions” of RPs were discovered through RPS1 involvement in bacteriophage Q β -mediated genome replication (22). Moreover, the noncoding EBV RNA, EBEB1, causes RPL22 redistribution from the nucleolus to the nucleoplasm and stimulates cell proliferation (23, 24). We have now found complex protein interactions among EBNA1, RPL4, and NCL and have examined the

role of these interactions in EBNA1 and oriP-mediated episome maintenance and transcription activation (25).

Results

EBNA1 Binds to RPL4. RPL4 is highly conserved in all domains of life. Eukaryotic RPL4s have an extended C terminus (26) (Fig. S1A). RPL4 was identified as a FLAG-EBNA1 (FEBNA1)-associated protein in BJAB B-lymphoma cells (BJAB-FEBNA1) by immune precipitation, liquid chromatography, and tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) (18) (Fig. S1B). Coimmunoprecipitation (co-IP) assays were used to verify an interaction of FEBNA1 with RPL4 in BJAB-FEBNA1 cells. FEBNA1 bound RPL4, and the association was not affected by nuclease treatment (Fig. 1A). Similarly, EBNA1 was efficiently precipitated by FLAG RPL4 (FRPL4) from BJAB cells transiently transfected with FRPL4 expression plasmids (Fig. 1B). Using IB4 LCLs, EBNA1, NCL, and RPL4 could precipitate each other but not an IgG negative control (Fig. 1C). Confocal immunofluorescence microscopy visualized the nuclear colocalization of EBNA1 with RPL4 in two independent LCLs, LCL1 and LCL2, and of FEBNA1 with RPL4 in BJAB-FEBNA1 cells (Fig. 1D).

To identify the RPL4 domains that bind to EBNA1, we transiently expressed FRPL4 deletion mutants with EBNA1 in

Significance

Epstein–Barr Virus (EBV) Nuclear Antigen 1 (EBNA1) is essential for establishing long-term EBV infection in human cells and is implicated in EBV-related malignancies. The maintenance of the EBV genome and viral gene expression from the episome are specifically driven by EBNA1 through binding to origin of plasmid replication (oriP). This study finds that EBNA1 complexes with Ribosome Protein L4 (RPL4) and Nucleolin to stabilize EBNA1 binding to oriP. Cooperation of RPL4's N terminus with Nucleolin K429 is necessary for EBNA1 oriP binding and episome maintenance, whereas RPL4's C-terminal K380 and K393 induce H3K4me2, which promotes EBNA1 transactivation of oriP. These discoveries enhance our understanding of the complexity of EBNA1's interactions with host proteins and EBV episomes and reveal new targets for inhibition of EBV genome persistence.

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Fig. 1. RPL4 binds to EBNA1. (A) BJAB-FEBNA1 stable cells were lysed and treated with DNase/RNase (+) or left untreated. EBNA1 was immunoprecipitated with anti-FLAG antibody. RPL4 was detected by Western blotting. Also shown was 2% of input. (B) BJAB cells were transiently transfected with FLAG-tagged RPL4 alone or with EBNA1. FRPL4 was immunoprecipitated with anti-FLAG antibody. EBNA1 was detected by Western blotting. (C) IB4 LCL lysates were immunoprecipitated with antibodies against EBNA1, RPL4, and NCL, with IgG as a negative control. The precipitated proteins were blotted with the indicated antibodies, and 2% input was shown. (D) EBNA1 and RPL4 immunofluorescent staining in LCL1, LCL2, and BJAB-FEBNA1 stable cells. EBNA1 was visualized with a FITC-conjugated secondary antibody, whereas RPL4 was visualized by a rhodamine-conjugated secondary antibody.

BJAB cells. All FRPL4 deletion mutants were expressed at similar levels and precipitated with anti-FLAG antibody conjugated to agarose beads. Full-length FRPL4 and deletion mutants $\Delta 1-60$, $\Delta 238-281$, $\Delta 264-333$, and $\Delta 333-428$ precipitated $\sim 2-5\%$ of input EBNA1. In contrast, FRPL4 deletion mutants $\Delta 62-170$ and $\Delta 170-238$ failed to precipitate EBNA1 (Fig. S1C). Reciprocal experiments found FRPL4 efficiently precipitated full-length EBNA1 or EBNA1 deletion mutant $\Delta 387-450$ but failed to precipitate EBNA1 $\Delta 102-325$, even though these EBNA1 proteins were expressed at similar levels (Fig. S1D). These data indicate that EBNA1 aa 102–325 and RPL4 aa 62–238 are essential for stable interaction.

RPL4 Is Essential for EBNA1 Transcription Activation, EBNA1 Binding to oriP, and EBV Genome Maintenance. In BJAB cells, Lentivirus-expressed shRPL4 #1 or #2 targeting the RPL4 3' untranslated region (UTR) knocked down RPL4 more than $>90\%$, whereas a scrambled control shRNA (Scr.) did not affect RPL4 expression (Fig. 2A). These cells were transiently transfected with an EBNA1 expression plasmid together with an oriP luciferase reporter, oriP-SV40-Luc (oriP-Luc) (18). Luciferase activities were determined 24 h after transfection. EBNA1 activated oriP Luciferase ~ 10 -fold in control shRNA-treated cells. In contrast, EBNA1 did not activate oriP luciferase in RPL4 knockdown cells. The RPL4 knockdown did not affect EBNA2 activation of an LMP1-Luc reporter plasmid, indicative of an EBNA1-specific effect (Fig. S2A). FRPL4 overexpression increased EBNA1 activation of oriP-Luc by $\sim$ twofold in BJAB cells (Fig. S2B). Interestingly, overexpression of FRPL4 deletion mutants $\Delta 62-170$, $\Delta 170-238$, $\Delta 264-333$, and $\Delta 333-428$ did not increase EBNA1 activation of oriP-Luc (Figs. S1C and S2B). These data indicate

that RPL4 aa 62–238 and 264–428 are important for RPL4 enhancement of EBNA1 activation of oriP transcription.

Streptavidin agarose DNA pulldown assays were used to further investigate the role of RPL4 in EBNA1 and oriP DNA binding (Fig. S2C). Biotin-labeled oriP DNA efficiently precipitated EBNA1 from BJAB-FEBNA1 stable cells and BJAB-FEBNA1 stable cells expressing scrambled control shRNA, whereas biotin-labeled LMP1 promoter control DNA did not bind EBNA1. RPL4 shRNA knockdown in BJAB-FEBNA1 stable cells reduced EBNA1 binding to oriP DNA by 50–60%.

Fig. 2. RPL4 is essential for EBNA1 transcription activation and binding of oriP and LCL growth. (A) BJAB cells were transduced with lentiviruses expressing short hairpins targeting RPL4, shRPL4 #1 or shRPL4 #2, or Scr. RPL4 depletion was shown by Western blot. These cells were then transfected with EBNA1 expression plasmid and oriP luciferase reporter plasmid and used to assay for EBNA1-dependent transcription of the oriP-Luc reporter plasmid. Luciferase activities were represented as mean $\pm$ SD from three independent experiments here and all of the following transfection luciferase reporter assays described elsewhere in this article. (B) RPL4 was depleted from LCL1 with shRNA. Antibodies against EBNA1 or control were used in ChIP assays to precipitate oriP DNA from LCLs. oriP DNA precipitation was quantitated by qPCR and presented as % of input DNA (mean $\pm$ SD) from three independent experiments and for all following ChIP experiments. (C) EBV copy number was determined by qPCR in LCL depleted for RPL4 or shRNA control, with untreated LCL set to 1. DNA was normalized to GAPDH genomic DNA. (D) Cells were counted for 5 d after shRNA knockdown. Dead cells were excluded by trypan blue staining.

Chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP) followed by quantitative PCR (ChIP-qPCR) was used to evaluate the effect of RPL4 knockdown on EBNA1 binding to oriP in LCLs. shRPL4 #1 and #2 efficiently knocked down RPL4 in LCLs, whereas control shRNA had no effect. Anti-EBNA1 antibody efficiently precipitated oriP DNA from normal or control shRNA-treated LCLs. RPL4 knockdown abolished most EBNA1 binding to oriP DNA in two different LCLs (Fig. 2B and Fig. S2D).

To evaluate if EBNA1 can recruit RPL4 to oriP DNA, FRPL4 was coexpressed with EBNA1 in BJAB cells with oriP-Luc plasmid. Anti-FLAG antibody was used to precipitate FRPL4 together with oriP DNA in ChIP-qPCR (Fig. S2E). FRPL4 only bound to oriP DNA when EBNA1 was coexpressed. FRPL4 deletion mutants were also tested for their abilities to bind to oriP in the presence of EBNA1. FRPL4 Δ 1–60, Δ 238–281, Δ 264–333, and Δ 333–428 bound oriP DNA, whereas FRPL4 EBNA1-binding null mutants Δ 62–170 and Δ 170–238 did not bind oriP DNA. These data indicate that EBNA1 can recruit RPL4 to oriP DNA.

RPL4 effects on EBNA1 binding to oriP DNA likely enable EBV episome maintenance and LCL survival. shRPL4 #1 and #2 depleted RPL4 60–70% in two independent LCLs (Fig. 2C). RPL4-depleted LCL1 and LCL2 had 70–90% reduced EBV genome copies and 70% reduced cell viability, compared with a control shRNA (Fig. 2D).

EBV Infection Increased RPL4 Expression and Nuclear Localization. RPL4's role in ribosome assembly links RPL4 to cell proliferation (27). Indeed, uninfected resting B lymphocytes express RPL4 at low levels. EBV infection significantly increased RPL4 expression over 7 d (Fig. 3A and Fig. S3A). EBNA1 and EBNA2 expression also increased, as did RPL4 mRNA levels, which increased by two-, 3.5-, and fivefold at 1, 3, and 7 d postinfection (dpi) (Fig. S3B). RPL4 expression levels in proliferating BJAB B-lymphoma cells, EBV-infected BJAB cells, and LCLs were remarkably higher than in resting B cells (Fig. 3B).

With EBV infection, RPL4 immune fluorescence signals substantially increased in EBV-infected versus noninfected cells (Fig. 3C). EBV-infected cells expressed increasingly higher levels of EBNA1 and RPL4 from 1 to 3 dpi. RPL4 subsequently redistributed from the cytoplasm to the nucleus and partially colocalized with EBNA1 in nuclei of EBV-infected cells by 5 dpi, whereas LCL-like nuclear colocalization was apparent by 7 dpi (Figs. 1D and 3C). These data indicate that RPL4 relocates to the nucleus following EBV infection.

The cytosolic-dominant distribution of RPL4 in BJAB or BJAB-E2 differed from its nuclear localization in BJAB-FE1 or LCL cells (Fig. S4A and B). RPL4 and NCL also colocalized in LCLs and BJAB-FE1 cells (Fig. S4B). Bimolecular Fluorescence Complementation (BiFC) assays were used to further evaluate the nuclear colocalization of EBNA1 and RPL4. YFP C terminus fused with a flag epitope (FYC)-RPL4 and its deletion mutants were expressed at levels similar to endogenous RPL4 (Fig. S4C and D). When FYN (YFP N terminus fused with a flag epitope)-EBNA1 was cotransfected, FYC-RPL4 or Δ 333–428 elicited nuclear BiFC signals. RPL4 EBNA1-binding null mutants FYC-RPL4 Δ 62–170 and Δ 170–238 did not elicit BiFC signals (Fig. S4D) (18). Nuclear and cytoplasm fractionation followed by Western blotting were also used to determine the RPL4 nuclear localization. Nearly equal RPL4 levels were detected in both nuclear and cytosolic fractions of BJAB-E1 or LCLs, whereas RPL4 was only detected in cytosolic fractions of BJAB or BJAB-E2 cells (Fig. S4E). These findings indicate that EBNA1 determines RPL4's nuclear localization.

RPL4 and NCL Complexes Enhance EBNA1 oriP DNA Binding. To further define the interactions between RPL4 and NCL, FNCL and FNCL deletion mutants were expressed in BJAB cells. Anti-FLAG

A EBV infection/primary B cells

B

C

Fig. 3. EBV infection induces RPL4 expression and nuclear relocation in B cells. (A) Resting primary B lymphocytes were infected with EBV. The expression of RPL4 and EBNA1 was determined by flow cytometry at 0, 1, 3, 5, and 7 dpi. (B) The expression levels of RPL4, EBNA1, or actin internal control in EBV-associated B-lineage cells were determined by Western blotting. (C) Resting primary B lymphocytes were infected with EBV. Confocal microscopy was used to evaluate the EBNA1 and RPL4 expression and localization in EBV-infected cells. The nuclei were indicated by DAPI staining (blue). The individual or merge images were shown. EBNA1 was shown in green, and RPL4 was shown in red. Cells infected with EBV were indicated as (+), whereas uninfected cells were indicated as (-).

antibodies immune-precipitated FNCL together with RPL4. FNCL mutants deleted for their N or C termini precipitated RPL4, whereas FNCL mutants deleted for the NCL RNA binding domain (Δ RBD) did not bind to RPL4 (Fig. S4F). Reciprocal immune precipitation revealed FRPL4 EBNA1-binding null mutants Δ 62–170 and Δ 170–238 failed to associate with endogenous NCL (Fig. S4G). These data indicate that RPL4, NCL, and EBNA1 are closely associated in LCLs (Fig. S4H).

In BJAB-FEBNA1 cells, depletion of RPL4 led to decreased FEBNA1 and NCL association, and NCL knockdown also decreased RPL4 and FEBNA1 association (Fig. S5A), suggesting that the formation of a ternary complex may stabilize the protein–protein interactions. Moreover, loss of FEBNA1/NCL association in RPL4-depleted BJAB-FEBNA1 cells was readily restored by FRPL4 rescue with wild type and FRPL4 Δ 264–333 or Δ 333–428 deletion mutants, whereas FRPL4 Δ 62–170 and Δ 170–238 mutants, which do not bind to EBNA1, failed to rescue RPL4 depletion (Fig. S5B). The reciprocal experiments showed that loss of FEBNA1/RPL4 association in NCL-depleted BJAB-FEBNA1 cells was readily restored by NCL rescue with wild type and FNCL Δ N, Δ C, K610A, and K624/627A mutants, whereas the EBNA1-binding mutants (18) Δ RBD and K429A failed to rescue NCL depletion (Fig. S5C). Furthermore, NCL depletion also reduced RPL4 nuclear localization (Fig. S5D). In NCL-depleted cells, EBNA1 and RPL4 did not colocalize in BiFC assays. Rescue by wild-type NCL but not the NCL K429A mutant, an ATP-binding null mutant, restored the EBNA1 and

A FRPL4s

348 364 374/375 383/384 393/394 405/406 416/417
1. **K-K-K-K-K-K-K-K-K-K-K-K-K-K-K-K** (WT)
353 368 380/381 390/391 399/400 411/412 423/424

2. Δ62-170
3. Δ170-238
4. Δ264-333
5. Δ333-428

6. K₆₁A
7. K₁₁A
8. K₁₁₁A
9. K₁₇₄A

10. K₃₈₀A
11. K₃₈₃A
12. K₃₉₀A
13. K₃₉₃A

KI
KII
KIII

B BJAB/shRPL4

C BJAB-FE1/oriP-meDNA

D BJAB/RPL4 vs. H3K4me2

Fig. 4. The N terminus of RPL4 is involved in EBNA1 and oriP-dependent episomal DNA maintenance, whereas the C-terminal K383 and K390 have a specific role in EBNA1 and oriP-mediated transcription. (A) Schematic diagrams of FRPL4 and its deletion or point mutants. (B) RPL4 was depleted in BJAB cells by shRPL4 #1. FLAG-tagged EBNA1 and oriP luciferase reporter plasmids were cotransfected with FLAG-tagged wild-type RPL4 or its deletion and point mutants. shRPL4 knockdown greatly reduced EBNA1 activation of oriP luciferase. Wild-type RPL4 rescued RPL4 shRNA knockdown effect and restored EBNA1 activation of oriP luciferase. Protein expression was determined by Western blotting. * $P < 0.05$; * $P > 0.05$ versus control. (C) shRPL4 was used to deplete RPL4 in BJAB cells stably expressing EBNA1 and maintain mini-EBV episome DNA (oriP-meDNA) (28). qPCR was used to determine the mini-EBV episome copy number. RPL4 knockdown greatly reduced the mini-EBV episome copy number, whereas FLAG tagged wild-type RPL4 rescue restored the mini-EBV episome copy number. RPL4 deletion and point mutants were also tested for their effects. GAPDH genomic DNA was

RPL4 nuclear colocalization (Fig. S5 E and F). These data indicate that EBNA1-mediated RPL4 nuclear relocalization requires NCL-K429 (Table S1).

Decreased EBNA1 Activation of oriP Luciferase by RPL4 Depletion Can Be Restored by Increased RPL4 Expression, and Both RPL4 N and C Termini Are Important for EBNA1 and oriP Functionality. Rescue by the expression of a cDNA that is not targeted by an shRNA can establish a direct causal relationship of the knockdown and its associated phenotype. FLAG-tagged RPL4 full-length or deletion mutant expression plasmids lacking RPL4 3' UTR were used to rescue RPL4 depletion by shRNA targeting the RPL4 3' UTR (Fig. 4A). In RPL4-depleted cells, transfected full-length FRPL4 readily restored EBNA1 activation of oriP luciferase activity (Fig. 4B). Among FRPL4 deletion mutants, only FRPL4 $\Delta 1-60$ or $\Delta 238-281$ rescued EBNA1 activation of oriP luciferase, whereas deletion mutants $\Delta 62-170$, $\Delta 170-238$, $\Delta 264-333$, and $\Delta 333-428$ failed to rescue (Fig. 4B and Fig. S6B and C). The RPL4 C-terminal region aa 333-428 are well conserved among *Homo sapiens*, *Rattus norvegicus*, and *Mus musculus*, but not in prokaryotes (26) (Figs. S1A and S6A). There are 24 lysines in this domain. The contribution of these residues to EBNA1-mediated oriP activation was evaluated. Four lysine residues between aa 333 and 369 (K_IA), 10 lysine residues between aa 370 and 400 (K_{II}A), and 10 lysine residues between aa 401 and 428 (K_{III}A) were mutated to alanine residues. Their abilities to rescue EBNA1 activation of oriP luciferase were tested. FRPL4 lysine point mutants K_IA or K_{III}A but not K_{II}A or $\Delta 333-428$ rescued EBNA1 activation (Fig. 4B). Individual lysine point mutants in K_IA were generated, and their abilities to rescue EBNA1 activation of oriP were tested. FRPL4K374A, K383A, and K390A restored full EBNA1 activity in RPL4-depleted BJAB cells, whereas K380A and K393A failed to restore EBNA1 activity. These data indicate that the RPL4 C-terminal polylysine K_{II} cluster is essential for EBNA1 activation of oriP-dependent transcription (Fig. 4B).

To further define RPL4 domains needed for episome maintenance, we evaluated the effects of RPL4 deletions on the persistence of a mini-EBV episome that depends on EBNA1 in a BJAB-FEBNA1/oriP-Luc stable cell line (28). RPL4 depletion reduced the mini-EBV episome copy number by >90% (Fig. 4C). In RPL4-depleted cells, transfected FRPL4 Δ 264–333 or Δ 333–428 restored 75% of the mini EBV episome copy number. In contrast, neither transfected FRPL4 Δ 62–170 nor Δ 170–238 rescued the mini EBV episome. The RPL4 C terminus was dispensable for EBNA1 association (Fig. S1C), and expression of each polylysine mutant rescued 75% of the mini EBV episome copy number (Fig. 4C, Fig. S6D, and Table S2). These data indicate that both the RPL4 N and C termini are important for oriP-mediated EBV episome maintenance and EBNA1 functionality.

RPL4 K383 and K393 Are Required for oriP DNA H3K4me2 Modification. H3K4me2 modifications are associated with oriP, whereas H3K4me3 and H3ac are linked to other EBNA1 binding sites (10). RPL4 depletion diminished H3K4me2 at oriP, whereas wild-type RPL4 restored H3K4me2 at oriP and RPL4 K380 and K393A failed to restore H3K4me2 at oriP (Fig. 4D). Parallel control

used to normalize the qPCR. oriP DNA in Scramble control cells was set to 1. The FEBNA1 and FRPL4 expressions were determined by Western blotting. (D) BJAB cells depleted for RBL4 expression by shRPL4 #1 or control cells were transfected with EBNA1 and oriP plasmids. Wild-type RPL4 or RPL4 lysine mutants were also cotransfected to rescue RPL4 knockdown. Antibodies against EBNA1, H3K4me2, H3K4me3, or control were used in ChIP assays to assess the oriP EBNA1 binding and histone modifications. oriP fold enrichment over input DNA was determined by qPCR.

experiments found H3K4me3 was not affected. Also, RPL4 depletion did not affect the overall abundance of these marks at the GAPDH promoter (Fig. S6E). These data indicate that RPL4 K380 and K393 are critical for oriP H3K4me2 modifications, which enable EBNA1-mediated transcription.

Discussion

Ribosome and nucleolar proteins have recently been shown to have important roles in oncogenesis through their interactions with transcription machinery (12, 29–32). RPL4 can bind to the 5' regulatory region of MYC through cMYB (33), and NCL can bind to sites near the CCND1 gene in mantle cell lymphomas to activate CCND1 expression (34). In this study, we found that EBV exploits extra ribosomal RPL4 functions to establish latent EBV infection.

We propose a model based on our findings (Fig. S7) that (i) EBV infection induces RPL4 expression and causes RPL4 nuclear relocalization; (ii) EBNA1, NCL, and RPL4 form a complex in cells (RPL4 aa 62–238 bind to EBNA1 aa 102–325 and to the NCL RBD); (iii) EBNA1 induces RPL4 nuclear relocalization through NCL K429; (iv) RPL4's N-terminal aa 62–238 coordinate with NCL-K429 to facilitate EBNA1 binding to oriP DNA and EBV episome maintenance; and (v) RPL4 C-terminal K380 and K393 increase oriP H3K4me2 and enhance EBNA1 activation of oriP transcription.

NCL K429 is required for EBNA1 activation of oriP luciferase and for binding to oriP. A newly described NCL K429 function is to support EBNA1-mediated RPL4 nuclear relocalization. NCL K429 can bind ATP and provide ATP to enable RPL4 nuclear relocalization. Serum starvation can also induce RPL4 nuclear translocation (33).

RNAs have recently been reported to significantly affect sequence-specific transcription factor DNA binding. For example, EBV-encoded EBER RNA mediates PAX5 binding to EBV DNA (35). RNA also affects YY1 DNA binding (36). EBNA1 RG repeats bind to RNA (37), and RPL4 recruits RNA to oriP to facilitate EBNA1 DNA binding. Because EBNA1's NCL binding domain (aa 1–100) differs from RPL4's binding domain (aa 102–325), NCL and RPL4 may bind to EBNA1 to form a ternary complex.

Genome-wide and focused analyses have identified EBNA1 binding sites to be enriched for unique histone modifications (5, 10, 38). The EBNA1 N terminus specifically interacts with histone modifiers and nucleosome assembly proteins (2, 8). These histone modifications are likely associated with EBNA1-mediated transcription regulation of cell and virus genes. EBNA1 may recruit specific histone writers, readers, and erasers. For example, EBNA1 binds to the epigenetic reader BRD4, which binds to active H3K27ac and recruits P-TEFb to phosphorylate the RNA PolII C terminus (6). H3K4me2 is the first known histone modification at EBNA1 binding sites in the EBV genome (5). Our findings highlight the crucial role of RPL4 in H3K4me2 modification of oriP DNA. Although genomic H3K4me2-enriched regions mostly overlap with H3K4me3 near transcription start sites (39), we have found RPL4 to be able to mediate H3K4me3-independent modification of H3K4me2.

EBNA1 is the only EBV protein required for EBV persistence in host cells. Therapies targeting EBNA1 and its associated cell proteins may eradicate EBV and cure cancers caused by EBV. The findings here provide new potential targets for intervention.

Experimental Procedures

Cell Culture, EBV Infection, and Lentivirus-Mediated shRNA Knockdown. The experimental procedures for primary B cell isolation, virus infection, cell culture, and EBV infection have been described previously (40). Lentiviral plasmids of shRNA were purchased from the National RNAi Core Facility, Academic Sinica Taiwan, and the protocol for lentivirus production was provided by the manufacturer.

Immunofluorescence Microscopy, BiFC, and ChIP. The experimental procedures for these analytic methods have been described previously (18). Detailed experimental procedures are available in *SI Experimental Procedures* (along with Figs. S1–S7 and Tables S1–S3).

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