

The structure and activity of cyclic AMP-dependent protein kinase A

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ABSTRACT

Recent data concerning the activity of protein kinase A (cyclic adenosine 3',5' monophosphate-dependent protein kinase) in processes associated with gene expression and regulation, as well as general information concerning protein kinase A structure, synthesis and activity are presented in this article. Protein kinase A is a tetrameric protein comprising two regulatory and two catalytic subunits. The enzyme is activated by binding cAMP to the regulatory subunit, dissociation of the holoenzyme, and liberation of free catalytic subunits. Cyclic AMP is synthesized after adenylyl cyclase is activated by extracellular stimuli. Two types of protein kinase A are known, protein kinase A I and protein kinase A II. They differ in their regulatory subunits, R I and R II. Each regulatory subunit may occur in two isoforms, R I α , R I β , R II α and R II β . Three variants of catalytic subunits exist, C α , C β and C γ ; the C β subunit may occur in three subisoforms, C β 1, C β 2 and C β 3. The R I α , R II α , and C α subunits are expressed ubiquitously, while the R I β , R II β , C β and C γ subunits are expressed in endocrine, neuroendocrine, neural and leukemic tissues. The activity of protein kinase A depends on cellular localization, which determines the access of the enzyme to cAMP and substrate, and on the proportions of the regulatory and catalytic subunits. Protein kinase A II is associated with cellular structures through the regulatory subunit R II, which is bound to protein kinase A anchor proteins (AKAP) or to microtubule-associated protein (MAP-2). Protein kinase A I is soluble in cellular cytosol. The protein kinase A subunits, R I α , R I β , R II α , R II β , C α , C β , and C γ are encoded by separate genes whose promoters are activated by cAMP and bind Sp 1; they lack TATA and CAAT sequences and have several transcription start sites. Protein kinase A is involved in the expression of various proteins through the regulation of the activity and synthesis of transcription factors, cyclin A, cyclin-dependent protein kinase inhibitors, and phosphorylation of microtubule-associated proteins. Protein kinase A is involved in hormone synthesis and secretion. Basal cellular metabolism is affected by protein kinase A through phosphorylation and regulation of the activity of protein kinases, phosphorylases, phosphatases, protease inhibitors, and through

influencing their synthesis. The cellular compartmentalization of diverse isoforms of protein kinase A, differing in activity and substrate specificity, brings about a variety of cAMP-mediated cellular responses to different hormonal stimuli.

KEY WORDS: cyclic AMP, regulatory subunit, catalytic subunit, structure, biosynthesis, transcriptional activation

ABBREVIATIONS

AKAP, protein kinase A anchor protein

AP-1, activator protein 1

AP-2, activator protein 2

ATP, adenosine 5'-triphosphate

C, catalytic subunit of protein kinase A

CAP, catabolite gene activator protein

cAMP, cyclic adenosine 3',5'-monophosphate

cDNA, complementary DNA

CBP, CREB binding protein

cdk, cyclin dependent protein kinase

CRE, cAMP response element

CREB, CRE binding protein

Ht 31, a 31 kDa human thyroid anchor protein

MAP, mitogen activated protein kinase

MAP-2 microtubule associated protein 2

mRNA, messenger RNA

p75, bovine; p150, rat brain proteins binding protein kinase A, with respective molecular weights of 75 kDa and 150 kDa

Protein kinase A, adenosine 3',5'-monophosphate-dependent protein kinase (ATP-protein phosphotransferase, EC 2.7.1.37)

R, regulatory subunit of protein kinase A

TF, transcription factor;

TBP, TATA-box binding protein

INTRODUCTION

Adenosine 3',5'-monophosphate-dependent protein kinase (protein kinase A, ATP-protein phosphotransferase; EC 2.7.1.37) is known to play an important regulatory role in many biochemical processes. The enzyme is activated by cAMP binding to its regulatory (R) subunit, which results in the dissociation of protein kinase A and liberation of active, catalytic (C) subunit. Cyclic AMP is accumu-

lated following stimulation of membrane receptor adenylyl cyclase coupled to the stimulatory G protein α subunit or $\beta\gamma$ subunits of membrane receptors (Tausing and Gilman, 1995; Daaka et al., 1997; Dessauer and Gilman, 1997; Dessauer et al., 1997; Bayewitch et al., 1998). Protein kinase A mediates the effects of cAMP through phosphorylation of specific protein substrates. A general review of protein phosphorylation was presented earlier (Ostrowska, 1987), and new data concerning cAMP-mediated phosphorylation and regulation of transcriptional processes have recently been published in Polish literature (Ostrowska, 1999).

PROTEIN KINASE A STRUCTURE AND ISOENZYMES

Protein kinase A is a tetrameric holoenzyme comprising two regulatory and two catalytic subunits (Gill and Garren, 1970; Hofmann et al., 1975; McKnight et al., 1988; Taylor et al., 1990). A diagrammatic representation of protein kinase A structure is presented in Figure 1. Each of the four known R subunit retains the general features of the molecule. The amino-terminal (N-terminal) region of the R subunit contains a dimer interaction site encompassing approximately eighty amino acid residues, rich in hydrophilic and charged amino acids. These are followed by two antigenic sites separated by a „hinge”, a pseudo-substrate region. The hinge region is an auto-inhibitor substrate-like site in which the R subunit binds to the C subunit. The carboxyl-terminal (C-terminal) part of the R subunit contains two tandem cAMP-binding sites, A and B. Site A is located inside of the molecule, site B is situated at the C-terminal. The spatial structure of the cAMP-binding sites is similar to catabolite gene activator protein (CAP) from *Escherichia coli* (CAP binds to the lac promoter in the presence of cAMP, thus promoting the transcription of the lac gene). The model of cAMP binding sites in the R subunit was built by fitting the R subunit amino acid sequence into the crystallographic coordinates of CAP. The cAMP-binding site is a β -barrel composed of eight β -strands and environed by three α -helices. Cyclic AMP is bound inside of the β -barrel due to interactions between glycine, glutamic acid and arginine (see section cAMP-binding sites), located on the strands of β -barrel and exocyclic oxygen of the phosphate moiety and 2-OH' of the ribose of cAMP (Taylor et al., 1990; Ostrowska, 1999). Recently, a crystallographic study of the fragment of the R subunit of protein kinase A revealed a similar structure for the A cAMP binding site. Site B, located at the C-terminal, is less shielded by β -strands and more accessible to cAMP (Gibson and Taylor, 1997).

The catalytic subunit is a slightly elongated molecule comprising two lobes, smaller and larger, separated by a deep cleft. The smaller lobe is associated primarily with the binding of MgATP. It corresponds to the N-terminal segment

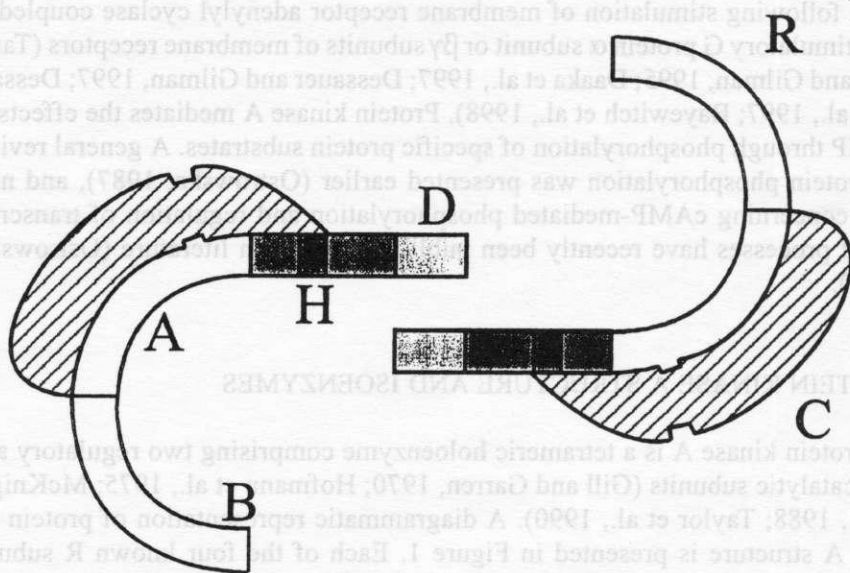


Figure 1. The scheme of protein kinase A structure. R, regulatory subunit, C, catalytic subunit, D, dimerization domain, H, hinge region, A and B, the sites binding cAMP (according to data presented by McKnight et al., 1988; Scott et al., 1990; Taylor et al., 1990; Gibson and Taylor, 1997 and as presented in Ostrowska, 1999)

(residues 15-127). This domain is dominated by a β -sheet consisting of five anti-parallel β -strands. The only helical element is inserted between β -strands 3 and 4. The N-terminal of the C subunit begins with an amphipathic α helix that lies primarily along the surface of the larger lobe and is not visible in the crystal structure. In mammalian species, the N-terminal glycine is myristoylated. The myristoyl group stabilizes the C subunit (Taylor et al., 1990).

The larger lobe is associated with peptide substrate binding and catalysis. It is predominantly helical and has seven α -helices. The only β structure region is located on the surface of the cleft at the interface between the two lobes where four anti-parallel strands form a sheet. The regions important for recognition of the peptide and catalysis are located within this large lobe (from Glu 127 to Glu 331). The seventy C-terminal amino acids (281-350) extend over a large portion of the surface of the enzyme from the bottom of the larger lobe to the top of the smaller one. A part of this region appears to participate in the recognition of both the protein substrate and ATP. The catalytic subunit contains several phosphorylation sites Ser 14, Ser 139, Thr 197, Ser 338. The interaction between R and C subunits occurs through amino acids located in the pseudo-substrate region and cAMP-binding site A of the regulatory subunit and His 87, Trp 196, Lys 213 of the cata-

lytic subunit (Knighton et al., 1991; Taylor et al., 1992; Gibson et al., 1997; Gibson and Taylor, 1997).

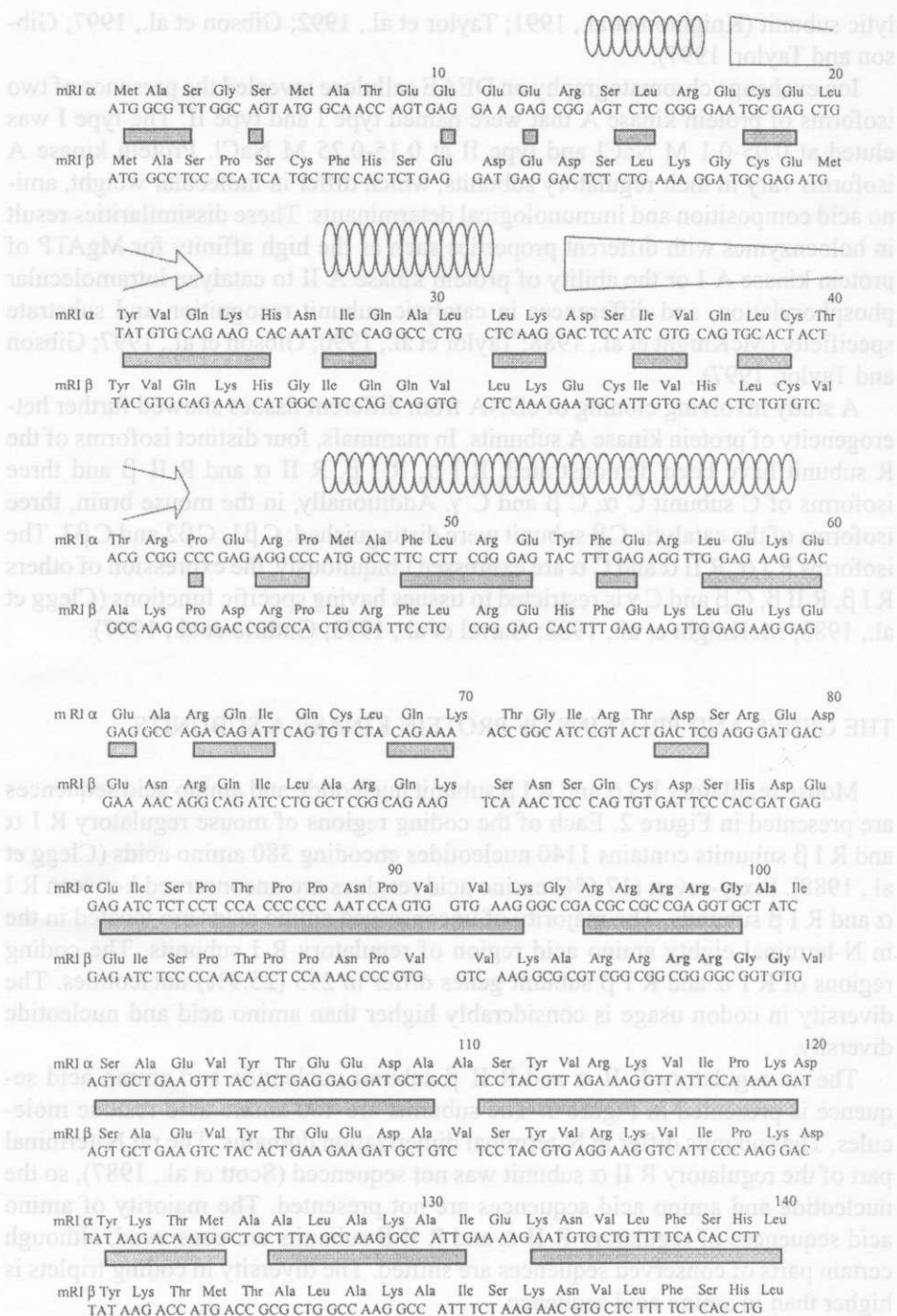
Ion exchange chromatography on DEAE cellulose revealed the presence of two isoforms of protein kinase A that were named type I and type II. The type I was eluted at 0.05-0.1 M NaCl and type II at 0.15-0.25 M NaCl. Protein kinase A isoforms vary in their regulatory subunits, which differ in molecular weight, amino acid composition and immunological determinants. These dissimilarities result in holoenzymes with different properties such as the high affinity for MgATP of protein kinase A I or the ability of protein kinase A II to catalyze intramolecular phosphorylation, and differences in catalytic subunit recognition and substrate specificity (McKnight et al., 1988; Taylor et al., 1990; Gibson et al., 1997; Gibson and Taylor, 1997).

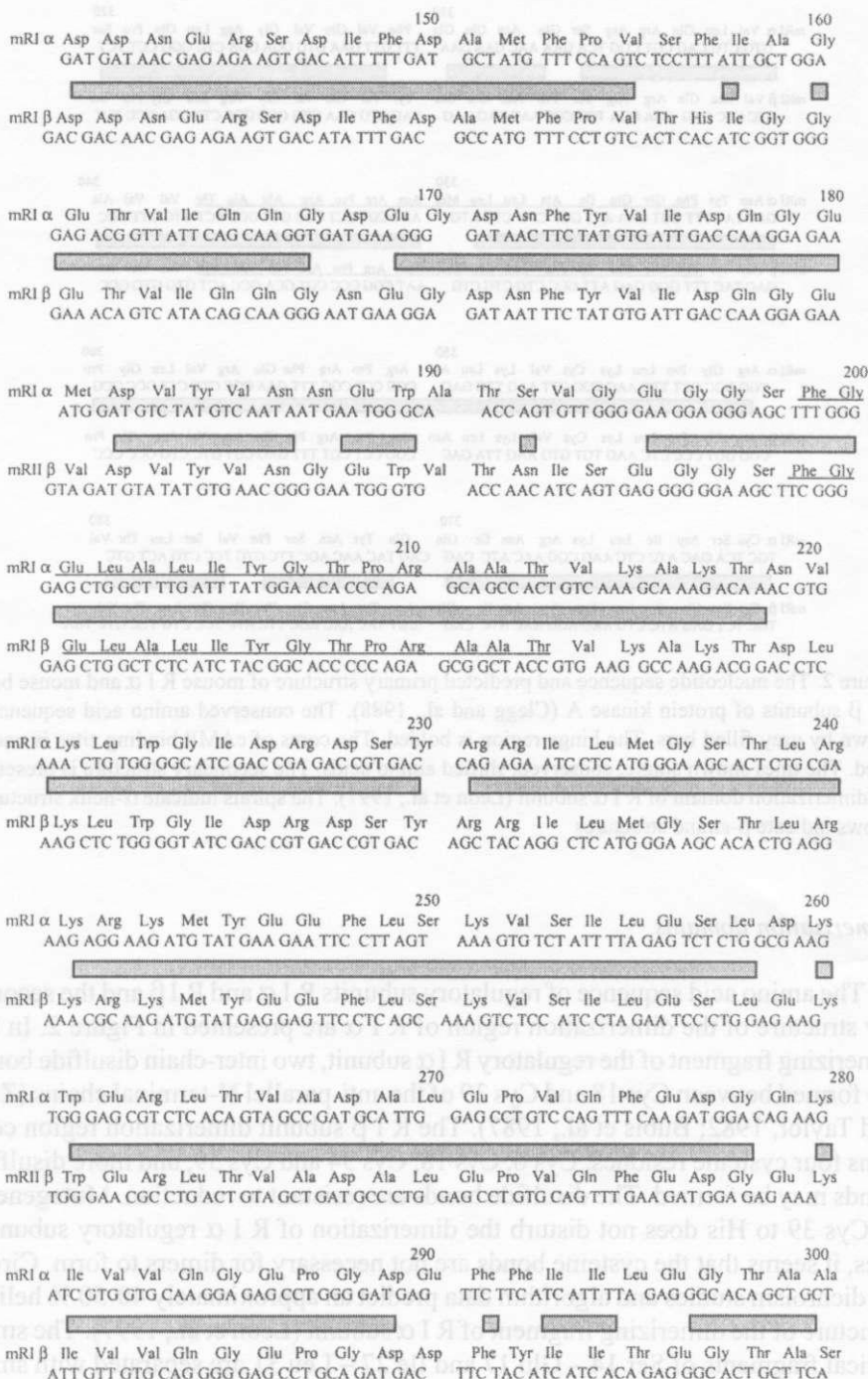
A study involving cloning of cDNA from different tissues showed further heterogeneity of protein kinase A subunits. In mammals, four distinct isoforms of the R subunit have been demonstrated, R I α , R I β , R II α and R II β and three isoforms of C subunit C α , C β and C γ . Additionally, in the mouse brain, three isoforms of the catalytic C β subunit were distinguished: C β 1, C β 2 and C β 3. The isoforms R I α , R II α and C α are expressed ubiquitously, the expression of others R I β , R II β , C β and C γ is restricted to tissues having specific functions (Clegg et al., 1988; McKnight et al., 1988; Garrel et al., 1993; Guthrie et al., 1997).

THE GENES AND PROTEINS OF PROTEIN KINASE A SUBUNITS

Mouse regulatory R I α and R I β subunit nucleotide and amino acid sequences are presented in Figure 2. Each of the coding regions of mouse regulatory R I α and R I β subunits contains 1140 nucleotides encoding 380 amino acids (Clegg et al., 1988). Sixty-seven (17.6%) amino acid residues are unconserved between R I α and R I β subunits. The majority of unconserved amino acids are located in the N-terminal eighty amino acid region of regulatory R I subunits. The coding regions of R I α and R I β subunit genes differ in 295 (25.9%) nucleotides. The diversity in codon usage is considerably higher than amino acid and nucleotide diversity.

The rat regulatory R II α and R II β subunit nucleotide and amino acid sequence is presented in Figure 3. The subunits are 400 amino acid residue molecules. The subunits differ in N-terminal dimerization domains. The rat N-terminal part of the regulatory R II α subunit was not sequenced (Scott et al., 1987), so the nucleotide and amino acid sequences are not presented. The majority of amino acid sequences of regulatory R II α and R II β subunits are conserved, although certain parts of conserved sequences are shifted. The diversity in coding triplets is higher than in amino acid sequence.





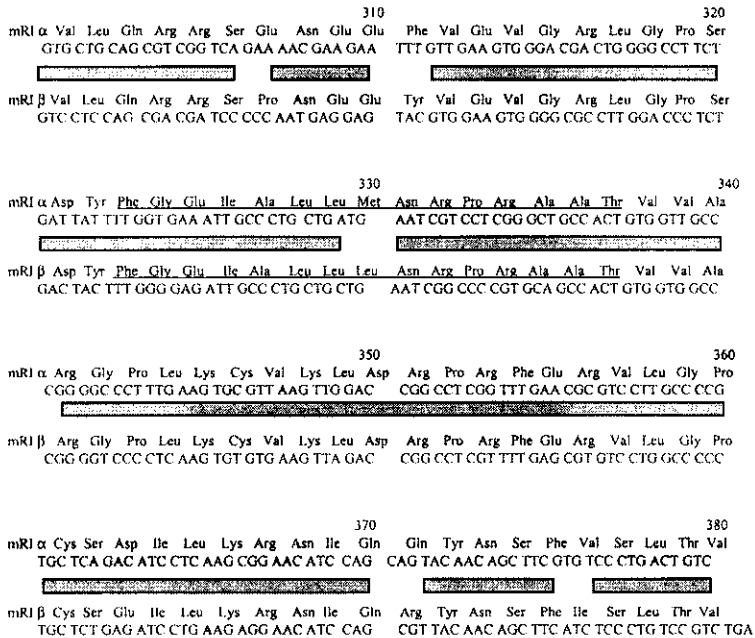


Figure 2. The nucleotide sequence and predicted primary structure of mouse R I α and mouse brain R I β subunits of protein kinase A (Clegg and al., 1988). The conserved amino acid sequence is shown by grey filled bars. The hinge region is bolded. The cores of cAMP binding sites is underlined. The lines shown single, conserved, shifted amino acids. The secondary structure is presented for dimerization domain of R I α subunit (Leon et al., 1997). The spirals indicate α -helix structures, arrows indicate β -strand structures

Dimerization domains

The amino acid sequence of regulatory subunits R I α and R I β and the secondary structure of the dimerization region of R I α are presented in Figure 2. In the dimerizing fragment of the regulatory R I α subunit, two inter-chain disulfide bonds are formed between Cys 18 and Cys 39 of the anti-parallel N-terminal chains (Zick and Taylor, 1982; Bubis et al., 1987). The R I β subunit dimerization region contains four cysteine residues, Cys 6, Cys 18, Cys 34 and Cys 39, and more disulfide bonds may be formed. The disulfide bonds are resistant to reduction. Mutagenesis of Cys 39 to His does not disturb the dimerization of R I α regulatory subunits, thus, it seems that the cysteine bonds are not necessary for dimers to form. Circular dichroism studies and algorithm data predict an approximately 40-50 % helical structure of the dimerizing fragment of R I α subunit (Leon et al., 1997). The small helical fragments of Ser 14 – Glu 17 and Ile 27 – Leu 31 are separated with small

10 20

rRIIβ Phe Thr Val Glu Val Leu Arg His Gln Pro Ala Asp Leu Leu Glu Phe Ala Leu Gln His
TTC ACG GTG GAG GTG CTG AGG CAC CAG CCC GCC GAC CTGCTG GAG TTC GCG CTG CAG CAC

30 40

rRIIα Phe Ala Val Gly Tyr Phe Thr Arg Leu Arg
T TC GCG GTG GAG TAC TTC ACA CGC CCT CGC

rRIIβ Phe Thr Arg Leu Gln Gln Glu Asn Glu Arg Lys Gly Ala Ala Arg Ser Ala Met Arg Ala
TTC ACG CGG CTG CAG CAG GAG AAG GAG CGC AAG GGC GCC GCG CGT TCG GCC ATG AGG GCA

50 60

rRII α Glu Ala Arg Arg Gln Glu Ser Asp Ser Phe Ile Ala Pro Pro Thr Thr Phe His Ala Gln
GAG GCC CGC CGC CAG GAA TCA GAC TCG TTC ATC GCC CCC CCG ACG ACC TTT CAC GCG CAG

60

rRII β Gly Pro Gly Gly Thr Arg Ala Gln Pro Arg Ala Glu Glu Pro Ser Lys Gly Val Asn Phe
GGT CCT GGG GGG ACG CGG GCG CAG CCG CGG GGG CGA ACC CCC AGT AAG GGT GTC AAC TTC

70 80

rRII α Glu Ser Ser Gly Val Pro Val Ile Glu Glu Asp Gly Gln Ser Glu Ser Pro Ser Asp Asp
GAG TCC AGC GGG GTC CCC GTC ATC GAG GAG GAC GGG CAG AGT GAA TCG CAC TCG GAC GAT

80

rRII β Ala Glu Glu Pro Met Arg Ser Asp Ser Glu Asn Gly Glu Glu Glu Glu Ala Ala Glu Ala
GCC GAG GAG CCC ATG CGC TCC GAT TCC GAG AAC GGC GAA GAG GAG GAG GCC GCG GAA GCA

90 100

rRII α Glu Asp Leu Glu Val Pro Ile Pro Ala Lys Phe Thr Arg Arg Val Ser Val Cys Ala Glu
GAG GAT CTG GAA GTT CCG ATT CCA GCA AAA TTT ACT AGA CGA GTA TCA GTC TGT GCA GAA

100

rRII β Gly Ala Phe Asn Ala Pro Val Ile Asn Arg Phe Thr Arg Arg Ala Ser Val Cys Ala Glu
GGG GCG TTC AAC GCT CCA GTT ATA ACC CGG TTC ACA AGG CGT GCC TCG GTA TGT GCA GAA

110 120

rRII α Thr Phe Asn Pro Asp Glu Glu Glu Asp Asn Asp Pro Arg Val Val His Pro Lys Thr Asp
AAG TTT AAC CCT GAT GAA GAA GAA GAT AAT GAT CCA AGG GTG GTT CAC CCA AAA GAC GAC

120

rRII Ala Tyr Asn Pro Asp Glu Glu Glu Asp Asp Ala Glu Ser Arg Ile Ile His Pro Lys Thr
β GCT TAT AAT CCT GAT GAA GAA GAA GAT GAT GCA GAG TCC AGG ATA ATA CAT CCC AAA ACT

130 140

rRII α Glu Gln Arg Cys Arg Leu Gln Gln Ala Cys Lys Asp Ile Leu Leu Phe Lys Asn Leu Asp
GAG CAG AGG TGC AGA CTT CAG GAA GCC TGT AAA GAC ATT CTG CTG TTC AAA AAC CTG GAT

140

rRII β Asp Asp Gln Arg Asn Arg Leu Gln Glu Ala Cys Lys Asp Ile Leu Leu Phe Lys Asn Leu
GAC GAT CAA AGA AAC AGA TTG CAA GAA GCC TGC AAA GAC ATC CTG CTG TTT AAG AAC CTG

150 160

rRII α Gln Glu Gln Leu Ser Gln Val Leu Asp Ala Met Phe Lys Arg Ile Val Lys Thr Asp Glu
CAG GAA CAG CTT TCT CAA GTT CGT GAC GCC ATG TTC AAA AGG ATA GTC AAA ACT GAC GAG

160

rRII β Asp Pro Glu Gln Met Ser Gln Val Leu Asp Ala Ala Met Phe Glu Lys Leu Val Lys Glu Gly
GAT CCA GAA CAG ATG TCT CAA GTA TTA GAT GCC ATG TTT GAA AAA TTG GTC AAA GAA GGG

170 180

rRII α His Val Ile Asp Gln Gly Asp Asp Gly Asp Asn Phe Tyr Val Ile Glu Arg Gly Thr Tyr
CAT GTC ATT GAC GAA GGA CAT GAT GGA GAC AAC TTT TAT GTC ATA GAA AGG GGA ACC TAT

180

rRII β Glu His Val Ile Asp Gln Gly Asp Asp Gly Asp Asn Phe Tyr Val Ile Asp Arg Gly Thr
GAA CAC GTA ATC GAT CAA GGT GAT GAT GGT GAC AAC TTT TAC GTC ATC GAC AGA GGA AGA



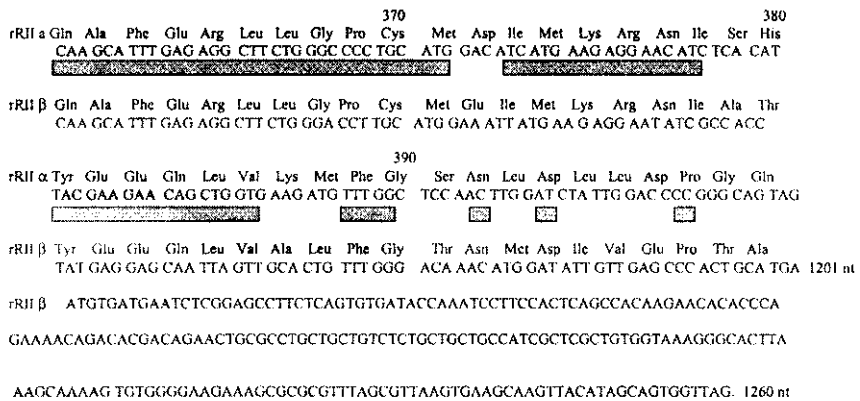


Figure 3. The nucleotide sequence and predicted primary structure of rat R II α (Scott et al., 1987) and R II β (Jahnsen et al., 1987) subunits. The hinge region is bolded. The cores of cAMP binding sites A and B are underlined. The conserved amino acid sequence is shown by grey filled bars. Shifted, conserved, sequence is shown by unfilled bars. The lines shown single, conserved, shifted amino acids.

β -strands Cys 18 – Gln 23 and Asp 33 – Pro 43, which are followed by a larger α -helix containing the fragment from Met 47 to Glu 60. The eighty amino acid dimerization regions of regulatory R I α and R I β subunits differ in thirty-five (45%) amino acids, however, all cysteine residues are located on β -strands, and the majority of leucine residues are conserved in α -helices.

The N-terminal fragment of the regulatory R II subunit also plays the role of a cellular protein anchor. The first fourteen amino acids are essential for regulatory R II subunit dimerization and for protein anchoring. A R II α regulatory subunit mutant lacking these amino acids is unable to dimerize and to bind MAP 2. The first thirty N-terminal amino acids seem to be sufficient for regulatory R II subunit dimerization but not for cellular protein binding. The protein fusion of thirty N-terminal amino acids and protein carrier is able to form a dimer, but it can not bind MAP 2 (Scott et al., 1990). Additionally, Phe 36 is thought to be necessary for dimer formation (Li and Rubin, 1995).

The amino acid sequence of bovine regulatory R II α and R II β subunit dimerization /anchoring domains is presented in Figure 4 A, and the secondary and tertiary structure of this region of the R II α subunit is presented in Figure 4 B. The region is constructed of β -strand (residues 1-5), β -turn I (residues 6-9), α -helix I (residues 10-23), β -turn II (residues 24-28) and α -helix II (residues 29-42). The dimerization domain is maintained by intra- and inter-subunit interactions of the aromatic ring of phenylalanine residues, and the hydrogens of residues of valines and leucines. The intra-subunit interactions are between Val 20 of α -helix I and

Phe 31 of α -helix II. The inter-subunit interactions are between Phe 36 of α -helix II of one of the R II α subunit molecule and Val 20 and Leu 13 of the α -helix I of other R II α subunit molecule (Hausken et al., 1994, 1996; Newlon et al., 1997).

The anchor protein binding domain is supposed to be located in a larger regulatory R II subunit N-terminal fragment, comprising forty-four (Lou et al., 1990; Hausken et al., 1994) or eighty-two (Scott et al., 1990) amino acid residues. Isoleucine residues 3 and 5 are required for binding anchoring proteins (Hausken et al., 1994, 1996). The amino acids of β -turns, Pro 7 and Pro 26 in regulatory R II α subunit and Ala 7 and Ala 26 in R II β subunit are thought to be responsible for the specificity of R II α and R II β subunit binding to anchor proteins. The amino acids known to be necessary for dimers to form, Leu 9, Leu 13, Val 20, Phe 31 and

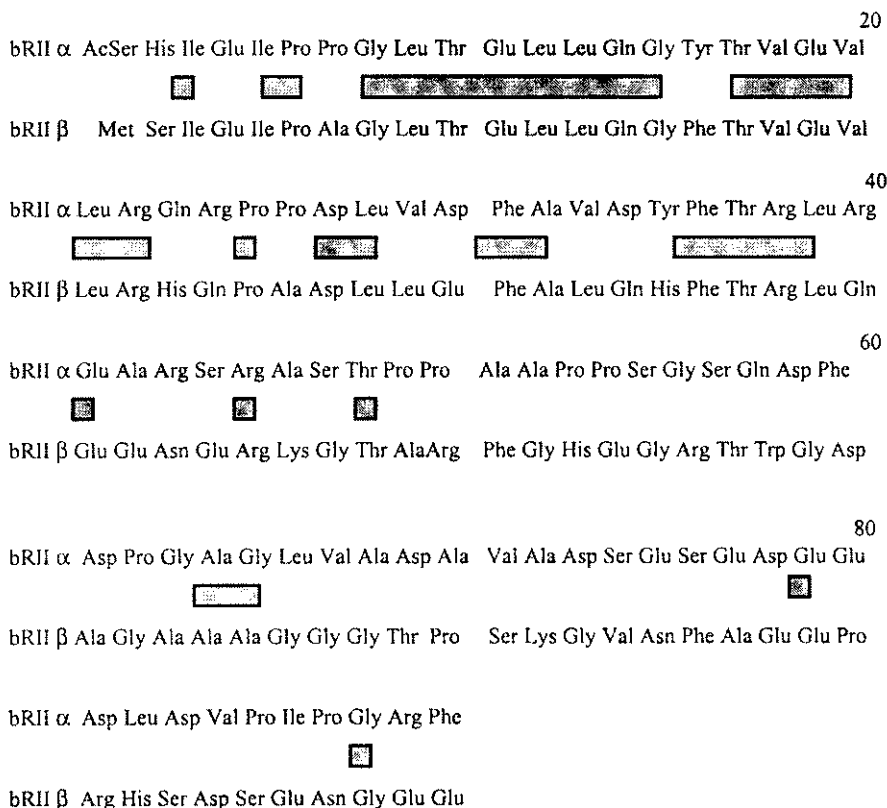


Figure 4. A. Amino acid sequence of the dimerization domains of bovine cardiac muscle regulatory R II α (Takio et al., 1982) and bovine brain R II β (Luo et al., 1990) subunits. The conserved amino acid sequence is indicated by grey filled bars

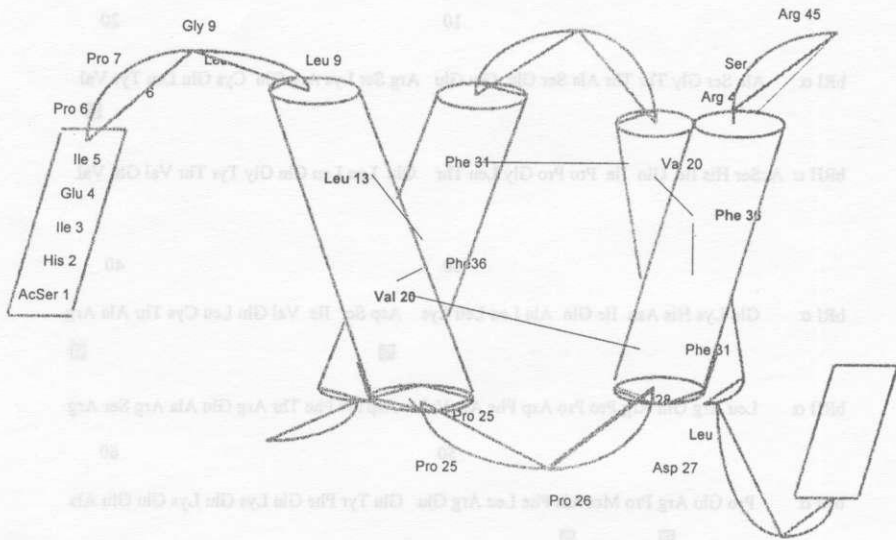


Figure 4. B. The secondary and tertiary structure of the dimerization domain of R II α subunit predicted using circular dichroism analysis and nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy (according to Newlon et al., 1997). The arrows indicate β -strands, the arcs indicate β -turns and cylinders indicate helices

Phe 36 and for cellular protein anchoring, Ile 3 and Ile 5, are conserved in both R II α and R II β regulatory subunits. The amino acids of the β -turn involved in the specific binding to cellular structures differ.

The amino acid sequences of the dimerization regions of bovine R I α and R II α and mouse R I β and R II β subunits are compared in Figures 5 A and B, respectively. The amino acid sequence is not conserved in the dimerization regions between the cytoplasmic soluble R I and cellular structure-bound R II subunits in both α and β isoenzymes. The regulatory R I α subunit does not contain phenylalanine residues in their forty amino acid N-terminal region, which maintain the dimer structure in regulatory R II subunits. The leucine residues separated by charged amino acids occur in both R I and R II subunits and may form leucine zipper-like structures one with another, or with other cellular proteins. The isoleucine residues (3 and 5), required for target protein anchoring in the regulatory R II α and R II β subunits are absent in R I α and R I β subunits. All isoforms of regulatory subunits, R I α , R I β , R II α and R II β contain of serine and threonine residues that may be potential phosphorylation sites that may influence subunit-subunit and subunit-cellular protein interactions.

Two antigenic sites separated by a „hinge”, pseudo-substrate region are located next.



Figure 5. A. The amino acid sequence of the dimerization domains of bovine regulatory R I α (Titani et al., 1984) and R II α (Takio et al., 1982) subunits

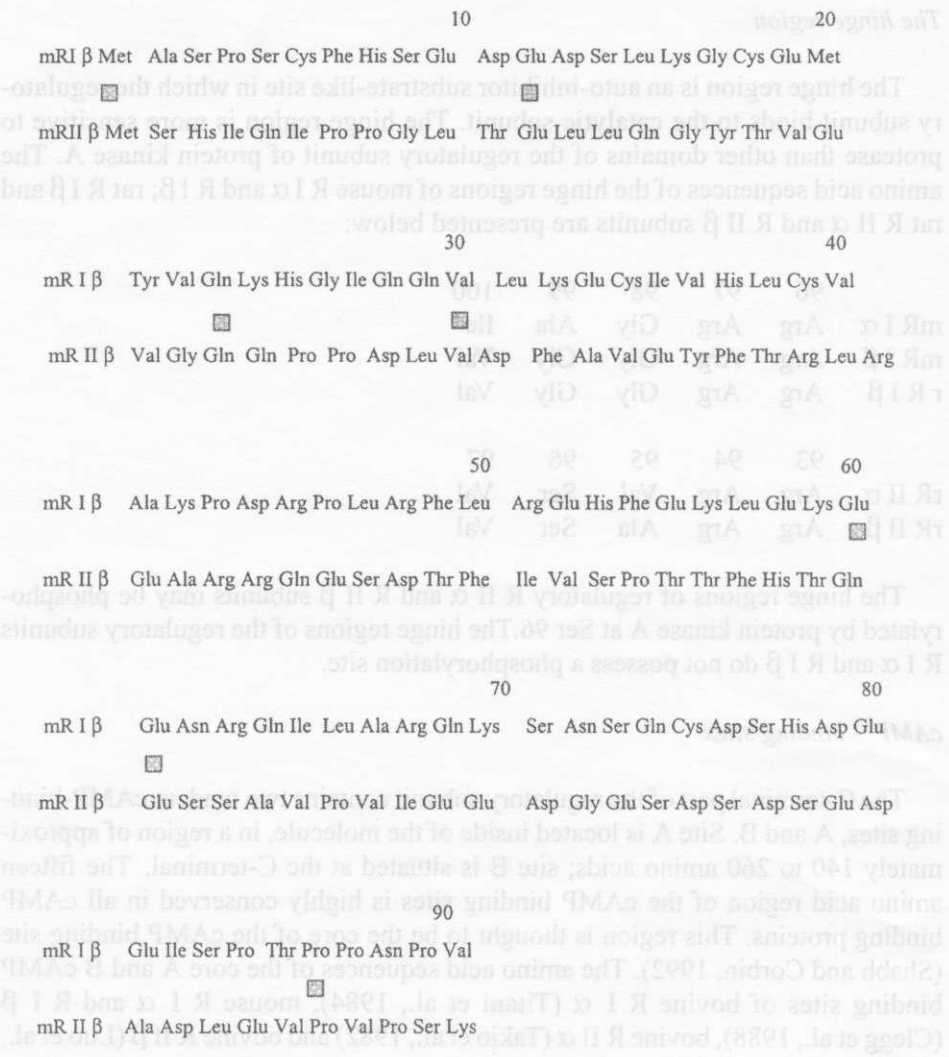


Figure 5 B. The amino acid sequence of the dimerization domains of mouse regulatory R I β (Clegg et al., 1988) and R II β (Scott et al., 1987) subunits

The hinge region

The hinge region is an auto-inhibitor substrate-like site in which the regulatory subunit binds to the catalytic subunit. The hinge region is more sensitive to protease than other domains of the regulatory subunit of protein kinase A. The amino acid sequences of the hinge regions of mouse R I α and R I β ; rat R I β and rat R II α and R II β subunits are presented below:

	96	97	98	99	100
mR I α	Arg	Arg	Gly	Ala	Ile
mR I β	Arg	Arg	Gly	Gly	Val
r R I β	Arg	Arg	Gly	Gly	Val
	93	94	95	96	97
rR II α	Arg	Arg	Val	Ser	Val
rR II β	Arg	Arg	Ala	Ser	Val

The hinge regions of regulatory R II α and R II β subunits may be phosphorylated by protein kinase A at Ser 96. The hinge regions of the regulatory subunits R I α and R I β do not possess a phosphorylation site.

cAMP – binding sites

The C-terminal part of the regulatory subunit contains two tandem cAMP-binding sites, A and B. Site A is located inside of the molecule, in a region of approximately 140 to 260 amino acids; site B is situated at the C-terminal. The fifteen amino acid region of the cAMP binding sites is highly conserved in all cAMP binding proteins. This region is thought to be the core of the cAMP binding site (Shabb and Corbin, 1992). The amino acid sequences of the core A and B cAMP binding sites of bovine R I α (Titani et al., 1984), mouse R I α and R I β (Clegg et al., 1988), bovine R II α (Takio et al., 1982) and bovine R II β (Luo et al., 1990) are presented below.

cAMP binding site A

	198		212
bR I α	Phe Gly Glu Leu Ala Leu Ile Tyr Gly Thr Pro Arg Ala Ala Thr		
	199		213
mR I α	Phe Gly Glu Leu Ala Leu Ile Tyr Gly Thr Pro Arg Ala Ala Thr		
	GGA GAG		AGA
mR I β	Phe Gly Glu Leu Ala Leu Ile Tyr Gly Thr Pro Arg Ala Ala Thr		
	GGG GAG		AGA

203		217
bRII α Phe Gly Glu Leu Ala Leu <u>Met</u> Tyr <u>Asn</u> Thr Pro Arg Ala Ala Thr		
221		226
bR II β Phe Gly Glu Leu Ala Leu <u>Met</u> Tyr <u>Asn</u> Thr Pro Arg Ala Ala Thr		
	GGC GAA	AGA
cAMP binding site B		
322		336
bR I α Phe Gly Glu <u>Ile</u> Ala Leu <u>Leu</u> <u>Met</u> Asn <u>Arg</u> Pro Arg Ala Ala Thr		
323		337
mR I α Phe Gly Glu <u>Ile</u> Ala Leu <u>Leu</u> <u>Met</u> Asn <u>Arg</u> Pro Arg Ala Ala Thr		
	GGT GAA	CGT
mR I β Phe Gly Glu <u>Ile</u> Ala Leu <u>Leu</u> <u>Met</u> <u>Asn</u> <u>Arg</u> Pro Arg Ala Ala Thr		
	GGG GAG	CGG
332		346
bRII α Phe Gly Glu <u>Leu</u> Ala Leu <u>Val</u> <u>Thr</u> Asn <u>Lys</u> Pro Arg Ala Ala <u>Ser</u>		
350		364
bRII β Phe Gly Glu <u>Leu</u> Ala Leu <u>Val</u> <u>Thr</u> Asn <u>Lys</u> Pro Arg Ala Ala <u>Ser</u>		
	GTC GAA	CGA

The amino acid residues that interact with exocyclic phosphate and ribose hydroxyl group of cAMP, Gly, Glu and Arg (bolded) are conserved in both A and B cAMP binding sites in R I α , R I β , R II α and R II β subunits. The amino acid sequence is conserved in cAMP binding site A between α and β isoforms of the same, R I or R II, regulatory subunit. The differences between site A cores of R I and R II subunits are in two amino acids (Ile/Met and Gly/Asn, underlined). The differences between site B cores of R I and R II subunits are in five amino acids (underlined). Sites A and B of all isoforms of regulatory subunits contain threonine or serine residues that may be phosphorylation sites. The site B core of R I α and R I β subunits contains one threonine residue, while other cAMP binding site cores (sites A and B of R II α and R II β , and site A of R I α and R I β) contain two amino acid residues that may be phosphorylated. The pattern of phosphorylation of cytosol soluble R I subunit may differ from that of membrane-bound R II subunit.

The conserved amino acid sequence in cAMP binding sites A and B may suggest that the sites A and B originate from a gene duplication. The amino acids known to be involved in cAMP binding are encoded by the same or different nucleotide triplets in sites A and B. The triplets coding for Gly (GGG) and Glu (GAG) are the same in sites A and B of the mR I β , and the triplets coding for Glu (GAA) are conserved in sites A and B of the bR II β subunit. However, site A Arg is encoded by AGA in mR I α , mR I β and bR II β and site B Arg is encoded by CGT

in mR I α , CGG in mR I β and CGA in bR II β . The coding triplets are partially conserved, partially changed. Gene duplication of cAMP binding sites in the regulatory subunit of protein kinase A during evolution can not be excluded.

Catalytic subunit

The nucleotide and amino acid sequences of mouse catalytic subunits C α and C β and their isoforms, C β 2 and C β 3 are presented in Figure 6. In the 240-nucleotide promoter region of the C α subunit gene, five transcription start sites and three DNA sequences binding Sp 1 transcription factor have been found. In the same promoter region of the C β subunit gene, four transcription start sites have been found and one Sp 1 binding sequence. Three additional Sp 1 regulated sequences are located in the region extended to -390 nucleotides of the 5'-untranslated region.

The exon-intron composition of the mouse catalytic C α subunit is presented in Table 1, and a diagram of the gene is shown in Figure 7. The C α subunit gene comprises ten exons and nine introns. The first exon also contains 350 nucleotides of the 5'-untranslated promoter sequence (Chrivia et al., 1988).

Two polyadenylation AATAAA signals have been found in the 3'-untranslated region at 2057-2062 and 2076-2081 nucleotides in the C α subunit gene (Chrivia et al., 1988), however, the polyadenylation signals are absent in the 3'-untranslated region of the C β subunit gene (Uhler et al., 1986a).

The amino acid homology between C α and C β is 91%, the weakest homology is in the N-terminal part of the molecule, 70% identity over 70 N-terminal amino acids (Uhler et al., 1986a,b). Mouse brain C β catalytic isoforms C β 2 and C β 3

TABLE I
The exon/intron structure of catalytic C α subunit of protein kinase A (according to Chrivia et al., 1988)

Exon/intron number	Exon size nt	Intron size nt
I	330 + 45	8900
II	62	500
III	132	5200
IV	83	1500
V	83	2400
VI	127	200
VII	96	300
VIII	123	3900
IX	165	400
X	123	

mCβ (Cβ1) 5'-CAGA GGGGCTCCCG CCCGCCGGGG GGCTTGACCGG CGTCACTTCCC

-350

mCβ GGGCGGCCCG CCCCGGAAAG AGGCGGAGGT CGCAGTCCGG GTGTGGCGGT

-300

mCβ CCTGGGGACG CCCCGTGTG GGGACGCGCG TGGAGGGCGG GCTCGGGAAG

-250

mCα 5'-G TAACCAATGGG CGGTGGGCTG CGGGGGCG7C ACGGACAGAG

mCβ GGGAGTGTG CGCGCGCCG CGTCCCGCC GCCGCCACCG CCGCCACCGC

-200

mCα GACTTGGGCT GAGGCTCCCG CGCGGGCGGG C GCAGAGAGA CCGGGGAAGC

mCβ CGCCACC GCCGTCGCCG TCTCTGCCGA GAG CTC CAG CATCTCTGCC

-150

mCα AGGGGCTGGG CGGGGGTCGTG GCGCGCAGC CAGCGCAGCC AGCCCCAGGG

mCβ GGACACCCAG CCCCTCCGTG CAGCCGGACG CCGCGTCTA GGGTCTGCGG

-100

mCα GCCGCCGCCTC CGTGCCCGAG CGCGCTCCGG GCCGCCGGC CACCTTAGCA

mCβ GAGCCTAGCC AAAGCCTAGC CAAAATTGCT CCGACTGCC GGGCGGCCGG

-50

mCα CCCGCCCGGT CGCAGCTCCG GGACTGGCCC CGGCCGCGCA CGCCGCCG

mCβ GGGACGGCCC CGGTCCCTCC CTCGTCATC CCGTCTTG CG GACTCCGGTC

10

20

mCα Met Gly Asn Ala Ala Ala Ala Lys Lys Gly Ser Glu Gln Glu Ser // Val Lys Glu Phe Leu Ala

ATG GGC AAC GCC GCC GCC AAG AAG GGC AGC GAG CAG GAG AGC G // TG AAA GAG TTC CTA GCC

mCβ Met Gly Asn Thr Ala Ile Ala Lys Lys Gly Ser Glu Val Glu Ser // Val Lys Glu Phe Leu Ala

ATG GGG AAC ACT GCG ATC GCC AAG AAA GGC AGC GAA GTG GAG AGC G // TG AAA GAG TTT CTA GCC

Cβ2 Met Asn Val

ATG AAT G TG

Cβ3 Met Gly Leu Leu

ATG GGC TTG T TG

30

40

mCα Lys Ala Lys Glu Asp Phe Leu Lys Lys Trp Glu // Asp Pro Ser Gln Asn Thr Ala Gln Leu

AAA GCC AAG GAA GAT TTC CTG AAA AAA TGG GAA/GAC CCC TCT CAG AAT ACA GCC CAG TTG

mCβ Lys Ala Lys Glu Asp Phe Leu Arg Lys Trp Glu // Asn Pro Pro Pro Ser Asn Ala Gly Leu

AAA GCC AAA GAA GAC TTT CTG AGG AAA TGG GAG//AAC CCT CCC CCG AGT AAT GCT GGG CTT

50 60

mC α Asp Gln Phe Asp Arg Ile Lys Thr Leu Gly Thr Gly Ser Phe Gly Arg Val Met Leu Val
 GAT CAG TTT GAT AGA ATC AAG ACC CTT GGC ACC GGC TCC TTT GGG CGA GTG ATG CTG GTG

mC β Glu Asp Phe Glu Arg Lys Lys Thr Leu Gly Thr Gly Ser Phe Gly Arg Val Met Leu Val
 GAG GAT TTT GAG AGG AAG AAA ACC CTC GGG ACG GGT TCC TTT GGA AGA GTC ATG TTG GTG

70 80

mC α Lys His Lys Glu Ser Gly Asn His Tyr Ala Met Lys Ile Leu Asp Lys Gln Lys//Val Val
 AAG CAC AAG GAG AGT GGG AAC CAC TAC GCC ATG AAG ATC TTA GAC AAG CAG AAG//GTG GTG

mC β Lys His Lys Ala Thr Glu Gln Tyr Tyr Ala Met Lys Ile Leu Asp Lys Gln Lys//Val Val
 AAG CAT AAA GCC ACT GAG CAG TAC TAC GCC ATG AAG ATC TTA GAC AAG CAG AAG//GTT GTT

90 100

mC α Lys Leu Lys Gln Ile Glu His Thr Leu Asn Glu Lys Arg Ile Leu Gln Ala Val Asn Phe
 AAG CTA AAG CAG ATC GAG CAC ACT CTG AAT GAG AAG CGC ATC CTG CAG GCC GTC AAC TTC

mC β Lys Leu Lys Gln Ile Glu His Thr Leu Asn Glu Lys Arg Ile Leu Gln Ala Val Glu Phe
 AAG CTG AAG CAA ATA GAG CAC ACT CTG AAT GAG AAG AGA ATC CTG CAG GCC GTG GAG TTC

110 120

mC α Pro Phe Leu Val Lys Leu Glu Phe Ser Phe Lys Asp Asn Ser Asn Leu Tyr Met Val Met
 CCG TTC CTG GTC AAA CTT GAA TTC TC₂ TTC AAG GAC AAC TCA AAC CTG TAC ATG GTC ATG

mC β Pro Phe Leu Val Arg Leu Glu Tyr Ser Phe Lys Asp Asn Ser Asn Leu Tyr Met Val Met
 CCG TTC CTT GTG CGG CTG GAG TAC TCT TTT AAG GAT AAT TCT AAT TTA TAC ATG GTT ATG

130 140

mC α Glu Tyr Val Ala Gly Gly Glu Met Phe Ser His Leu Arg Arg Ile Gly Arg Phe Ser//Glu
 GAG TAT TCA GCT GGT GGC GAG ATG TTC TCC CAC CTA CGG CGG ATT GGA AGG TTC AG//CGAG

mC β Glu Tyr Val Pro Gly Gly Glu Met Phe Ser His Leu Arg Arg Ile Gly Arg Phe Ser//Glu
 GAA TAC GTC CCT GGG GGA GAG ATG TTC TCA CAT CTG AGA AGA ATT GGA AGG TTC AG//TGAG

150 160

mC α Pro His Ala Arg Phe Tyr Ala Ala Gln Ile Val Leu Thr Phe Glu Tyr Leu His Ser Leu
 CCC CAT GCC CGT TTC TAC GCGGCG CAG ATC GTC CTG ACC TTT GAG TAT CTG CAC TCC CTG

mC β Pro His Ala Arg Phe Tyr Ala Ala Gln Ile Val Leu Thr Phe Glu Tyr Leu His Ser Leu
 CCC CAC GCC CGT TTC TAT GCAGCC CAG ATT GTG CTA ACA TTT GAG TAC CTT CAT TCC CTC

170 180

mC α Asp Leu Ile Tyr Gln Asp Leu Lys Pro Glu Asn Leu Leu Ile Asp Glu Glu Gly Tyr Ile
 GAC CTC ATC TAC CGG GAC CTG AAG CCC GAG AAT CTT CTC ATC GAC CAG CAG GGC TAT ATT

mC β Asp Leu Ile Tyr Arg Asp Leu Lys Pro Glu Asn Leu Leu Ile Asp His Gln Gly Tyr Ile
 GAC CTC ATC TAC AGA GAT CTC AAG CCG GAA AAC CTC TTA ATT GAC CAC CAG GGT TAC ATC

190 200
 mC α Gln// Val Thr Asp Phe Gly Phe Ala Lys Arg Val Lys Gly Arg Thr Trp Thr Leu Cys Gly
 CAG//GTG ACA GAC TTT GGG TTT GCC AAG CGT GTG AAA GGC CGT ACT TGG ACC TTG TGT GGG

mC β Gln// Val Thr Asp Phe Gly Phe Ala Lys Arg Val Lys Gly Arg Thr Trp Thr Leu Cys Gly
 CAG//GTC ACA GAT TTC GGG TTC GCC AAA AGA GTC AAG GGC AGG ACA TGG ACA TTG TGT GGC

210 220
 mC α Thr Pro Glu Tyr Leu Ala Pro Glu Ile Ile Leu Ser Lys// Gly Tyr Asn Lys Ala Val Asp
 AAC CCT GAG TAC TTG GCC CCC GAG ATT ATC CTC AGC AAA //GGC TAC AAC AAG GCT GTG GAC

mC β Thr Pro Glu Tyr Leu Ala Pro Glu Ile Ile Leu Ser Lys// Gly Tyr Asn Lys Ala Val Asp
 AAC CCA GAG TAC CTG GCCCG GAG ATC ATC CTC AGC AAG //GGT TAC AAT AAG GCG GTG GAC

230 240
 mC α Trp Trp Ala Leu Gly Val Leu Ile Tyr Glu Met Ala Ala Gly Tyr Pro Pro Phe Phe Ala
 TGG TGG GCT CTC GGA TTC CTC ATC TAC GAG ATG GCT GCT GGT TAC CCA CCC TTC TTC GCT

mC β Trp Trp Ala Leu Gly Val Leu Ile Tyr Glu Met Ala Ala Gly Tyr Pro Pro Phe Phe Ala
 TGG TGG GCA CTG GGC TTG CTG ATC TAT GAG ATG GCT GCT GGC TAC CCT CCA TTC TTT GCT

250 260
 mC α Asp Gln Pro Ile Gln Ile Tyr Glu Lys Ile Val Ser Gly Lys// Val Arg Phe Pro Ser His
 GAC CAG CCT ATC CAG ATC TAT GAG AAA ATC GTC TCT GGG AAG//GTG CGG TTC CCA TCC CAC

mC β Asp Gln Pro Ile Gln Ile Tyr Glu Lys Ile Val Ser Gly Lys// Val Arg Phe Pro Ser His
 GAC CAG CCA ATT CAG ATC TAT GAG AAG ATT GTC TCT GGA AAG//GTC CGG TTC CCA TCA CAC

270 280
 mC α Phe Ser Ser Asp Leu Lys Asp Leu Leu Arg Asn Leu Leu Glu Val Asp Leu Thr Lys Arg
 CTT AGC TCT GAC TTG AAG GAC CTG CTG CGG AAC CTT CTG CAG GTG GAT CTA ACC AAG CGC

mC β Phe Ser Ser Asp Leu Lys Asp Leu Leu Arg Asn Leu Leu Glu Val Asp Leu Thr Lys Arg
 TTC AGC TCG GAT CTC AAG GAC CTT CTG CGG AAC CTG CTG CAG GTG GAT CTG ACA AAG CGA

290 300
 mC α Phe Gly Asn Leu Lys Asp Gly Val Asn Asp Ile Lys Asn His Lys Trp Phe Ala Thr Thr
 TTT GGA AAC CTC AAG GAC GGG GTC AAT GAC ATC AAG AAC CAC AAG TGG TTT GCC ACG ACT

mC β Phe Gly Asn Leu Lys Asn Gly Val Ser Asp Ile Lys Thr His Lys Trp Phe Ala Thr Thr
 TTC GGG AAC CTG AAG AAC GGC GTG AGT GAC ATA AAG ACC CAC AAG TGG TTT GCC ACA ACT

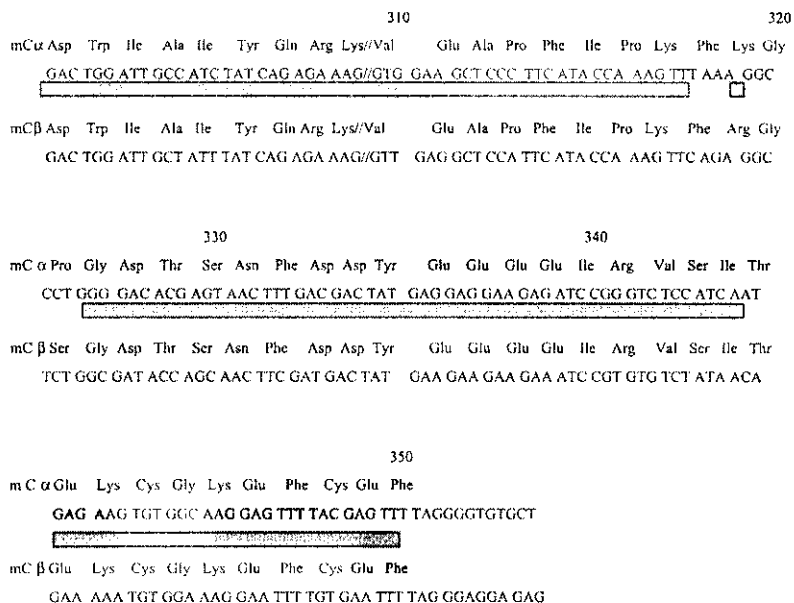


Figure 6. The nucleotide sequence and primary structure of the mouse catalytic C α and C β (Uhler et al., 1986 A and B; Chrivia et al., 1988) subunits and C β 2 and C β 3 subunit isoforms (Guthrie et al., 1997) of protein kinase A. The conserved amino acid sequence is shown by grey filled bars. The Sp1 consensus sequences are underlined. The transcription start sites are indicated by arrows. The gaps indicate the sites of intron insertions



Figure 7. The scheme of mouse catalytic C α subunit gene of protein kinase A. The lines represent the exon localization, the rectangles represent intron sizes (Chrivia et al., 1988)

differ from C β 1 (C β) in the length of the protein chain and N-terminal amino acid composition. The C β 2 and C β 3 proteins are not myristoylated, unlike the other catalytic subunits (Guthrie et al., 1997).

SYNTHESIS OF PROTEIN KINASE A SUBUNITS

The regulatory R I α , R I β , R II α , R II β and catalytic C α , C β and C γ subunits of protein kinase A are expressed from single genes (Uhler and McKnight, 1987; Clegg et al., 1988; McKnight et al., 1988; Oyen et al., 1988; Landmark et al.,

1991; Garrel et al., 1993). The isoforms of mouse C β subunit, C β 1, C β 2 and C β 3 originate from the same gene (Guthrie et al., 1997). The genes of protein kinase A share some common characteristics: they belong to the class of genes whose promoters are GC-rich, lack TATA boxes, and initiate transcription at multiple sites. Most of them are activated by cAMP.

The expression of the R II β regulatory subunit is induced hormonally and limited to specific tissues such as endocrine, neuroendocrine, neural and leukemic. The DNA for the R II β subunit was isolated from genomic libraries of the mouse (Singh et al., 1991) and rat (Kurten et al., 1992) and sequenced. The 5'-flanking, 4530 nucleotide non-coding region of the rat liver R II β gene has been sequenced and characterized. The core of the promoter region starting from nucleotide -400 is presented below (Kurten et al., 1992).

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-390      -380      -370      -360      -350      -340      -330
GAGCTCAGGT GGAGCGCGCG GCCTCGC CCC CACGCCCCAG GC GCCCGCTG CCTCCACCT TAGGCCACTT

-320      -310      -300      -290      -280      -270      -260
GAGAGGCGGC AGCGCTCCCG CCCGCCGGT TGCCATGGTT TCCGGGATC ACGTGGGCGC GCGGGCGGGG

-250      -240      -230      -220      -210      -200      -190
GCGGGGCGCC GCGCGGGGGG GGGGGCGGTG CAGCGCGGCG GGGAGCGGA GCGGGAGGAG CTGGAGAGTC

-180      -170      -160      -150      -140      -130      -120
TGCCAAACCT CCCC GGTTG TGCTCGCTCT GCTGCCCG CCGCACGGAG CAGCCTCGCC GGGGGCCAG

-110      -100      -90      -80      -70      -60      -50
TGCGCCGCGC TCGACGCCG TAGCGCCCG GCGCTCGCT CGGGGGCCGC GCAGCCCAAG ACCCGACCCG

-40      -30      -20      -10
GGATAGGAGG CGAGGCGCGC GTCCAGGCGC CTCGGCGTGC ACAGGCAGG ATG

```

The promoter region is GC-rich and does not contain TATA nor CAAT boxes. Nucleotide sequence analysis shows two tandem AP2 consensus sequences (boxed) and five Sp1 binding sites (underlined). RNase protection experiments indicated the presence of 11 transcription initiation sites, indicated by arrows. A transfection study of rat granulosa cells using different constructs of R II β promoter and mobility shift assay carried out on nuclear extracts of rat brain, ovary and liver showed that the region induced by cAMP was localized between 394 and 176 nucleotides of the promoter region. The sequences distal and proximal to this region are involved in the basal gene expression (Kurten et al., 1992). The AP2 binding sites confers cAMP inducibility. The GC-rich sequences are activated by Sp1 protein and may be activated by cAMP (Ahlgren et al., 1999). In the mouse, the AP-1 sequence located 1180 bases upstream from the ATG initiation codon has been

identified. This site may be additionally regulated by cAMP (Singh et al., 1991). The polyadenylation signals AATAAA were found in the regions: 1508-1513; 1761-1766; 3041-3046; and 3058-3064 nucleotides in the 3'-end of the rat ovary R II β subunit cDNA (Jahnsen et al., 1986).

In the anterior pituitary gland, mRNAs of all known regulatory subunits, R I α , R I β , R II α and R II β and two catalytic subunits, C α and C β of protein kinase A are expressed. The expression of mRNAs of R II β and C α subunits is activated by cAMP. This activation is supposed to be mediated via cAMP induced protein(s) that are involved in the induction of R II β and C α genes (Garrel et al., 1993).

ACTIVATION AND REGULATION OF PROTEIN KINASE A ACTIVITY

Protein kinase A is activated by cAMP binding to its R subunit followed by dissociation of the C subunit. Since the protein kinase A complex is composed of two regulatory and two catalytic subunits and each of them contains two cAMP binding sites, the activation of one molecule of the enzyme requires four molecules of cAMP. The kinetic study of cAMP binding to regulatory subunits mutated in the A or B cAMP-binding sites has shown that the cyclic nucleotide binds first to site B, causing conformational changes that make site A accessible to cAMP. The liberation of the catalytic subunit results in uncovering its active center that had been blocked by an auto-inhibitory region of the regulatory subunit, which has an amino acid sequence similar to the substrate sequence recognized by catalytic subunit (McKnight et al., 1988; Taylor et al., 1990).

Protein kinase A anchoring proteins

The activity of protein kinase A is compartmentalized to specific regions of the cell; compartmentalization is determined by subcellular localization of the regulatory subunit. The regulatory R I subunit is found primarily in cytoplasm, while the regulatory R II subunit binds to membrane structures such as plasma membranes, Golgi complexes, centrosomes, mitotic spindle poles and nuclear proteins (Nigg et al., 1985; Meinkoth et al., 1990; Podesta et al., 1991; Coghlan et al., 1994; Faux and Scott, 1996; Dell'Acqua and Scott, 1997; Colledge and Scott, 1999).

Two types of regulatory R II subunit anchoring proteins are known, microtubule-associated protein 2 (MAP-2) and protein kinase A anchor protein (AKAP). The MAP-2 (270-300 kDa) copurifies with brain microtubules. It appears as a projection on the microtubule surface and also has the property of promoting microtubule assembly *in vitro* (Vallee, 1980; Majewska, 1995).

At the beginning, AKAPs were isolated from bovine (p75) and rat (p150) brains and thereafter from other animal tissues and species. These proteins bind calmo-

dulin. More than forty regulatory R II α subunit binding bands, ranging in size from 25 to 300 kDa have been detected electrophoretically in various tissues (Carr et al., 1992). Several AKAPs have been cloned and well characterized, AKAP-75 from bovine brain (Hirsch et al., 1992), Ht31 from human thyroid (Carr et al., 1992), AKAP-84 from hepatic cells (Chen et al., 1997), AKAP-550 from *Drosophila melanogaster* (Han et al., 1997) and AKAP-95 from rat pituitary GH₄C₁ cells (Coghlan et al., 1994). The latter AKAP has been shown to be an ubiquitous nuclear regulatory RII subunit anchoring protein also having a DNA binding domain. It has been suggested that AKAP-95 plays a role in promoting the binding of transcriptional factors to DNA, affecting chromatin structure and activating transcription.

In the regulatory R II subunit, the domain binding MAP-2 and AKAPs is located within the eighty amino acid N-terminal. Dimerization of the regulatory R II β subunit is required for binding anchoring protein (Hausken et al., 1994; Dell'Acqua and Scott, 1997). The MAP-2 protein binds the regulatory R II subunit at a site near its N-terminal and, in AKAPs, the R II binding site is located at the C-terminal part of the molecule (Carr et al., 1992; Hirsch et al., 1992; Coghlan et al., 1994; Chen et al., 1997). The regions binding the R II subunit in AKAPs and MAP-2 do not have a conserved primary structure. Studies of the secondary and tertiary structures of the regulatory R II subunit and its anchoring proteins, and assay of mutated R II subunit and mutated proteins anchoring the R II subunit revealed that hydrophobic surfaces at the tethering sites of AKAPs and complementary surfaces on R II subunit dimers are essential for formation of stable AKAP-protein kinase A complexes (Hausken et al., 1994, 1996; Li and Rubin, 1995; Newlon et al., 1997).

Proportions of regulatory and catalytic subunits

The endogenous activity of protein kinase A depends on the proportions of the regulatory and catalytic subunits and combination of their isoforms. Maintaining cAMP-dependent control of protein kinase A activity is due to a certain excess of the regulatory subunit in relation to the catalytic subunit. In an excess of catalytic subunit, the cell would lose the effect of cAMP on kinase activation and would have a continuously active protein kinase A. The cell is protected against an excess of catalytic subunit via a compensation mechanism of the regulatory subunit. This mechanism was observed in S49 cells overproducing the catalytic subunit. In these cells, the level of regulatory R I α subunit increased exceeding the catalytic subunit level (the level of R II subunit remained constant). It has been postulated that this compensation results from an increase in the stability and rate of translation of regulatory R I α subunit mRNA and stabilization of R I α protein (McKnight et al., 1988; Knutsen et al., 1991). On the

other hand, the associated holoenzyme is protected against proteolysis. The catalytic subunit dissociated from the regulatory subunit easily undergoes proteolysis (Hemmings, 1986). Thus, the excess of regulatory over catalytic subunits provides a threshold for cAMP concentration-dependent protein kinase A activation and establishes protection of protein kinase A activity.

THE ROLE OF PROTEIN KINASE A IN CELLULAR METABOLISM

Protein kinase A is involved in various cellular processes. Protein synthesis is affected by protein kinase A at the transcription level. Genes are regulated via phosphorylation and activation of cAMP response element binding protein (CREB) interacting with cAMP response element (CRE). The CREB is a 45 kDa protein which dimerizes after cAMP dependent phosphorylation and binds CRE located in the promoter regulatory regions of cAMP-activated genes (Montminy and Bilezikian, 1987; Gonzalez et al., 1989). It recruits basal transcriptional factors TFIIB, TFIID, TATA-box binding protein (TBP) to the promoter (Ferreri et al., 1994; Kwok et al., 1994; Parker et al., 1996; Nakajima et al., 1997a). Phosphorylated CREB dimerizes by a leucine zipper structure, forming a homodimer, or, if it dimerizes with another transcriptional factor, a heterodimer is formed. Phosphorylation and activation of CREB promote binding a large 265 kDa protein, CREB binding protein (CBP). The CBP binds histone acetyltransferase and itself possesses intrinsic histone acetyltransferase and helicase activity (Bannister and Kouzarides, 1996; Nakajima et al., 1997b). This complex recruits RNA polymerase II to the promoter and activates transcription (Ferreri et al., 1994; Kwok et al., 1994; Liang and Hai, 1997; Nakajima et al., 1997a,b). It is suggested that CRE is also activated by the R II β regulatory subunit of protein kinase A (Srivastava et al., 1998). Another cAMP-regulated element is the AP-2 sequence (CCCCAGGC consensus) activated by AP-2 protein (Johnson et al., 1997; Wang et al., 1997).

Protein kinase A is involved in the synthesis and release of hormones (Roesler et al., 1988; Counis, 1990; Kato et al., 1992; Puttagunta et al., 1992; Inukai et al., 1993; Counis et al., 1993; Sladek and Gallagher, 1993; Jacob and Stanley, 1994; Johnson et al., 1997; Spiro and McMurray, 1997; Klemm et al., 1998), synthesis of adrenergic receptors (Thomas et al., 1992; Razik et al., 1997), enzymes synthesizing neurotransmitters (Nagamoto-Combs et al., 1997; Swanson et al., 1997) and melanin (Bertolotto et al., 1998), ferritin (Bevilacqua et al., 1997), it participates in the activation of the immediate-response genes (Ramirez et al., 1997), and the expression of interleukine-2 gene in T-lymphocytes (Butscher et al., 1998).

Recently, a role for protein kinase A in cell cycle regulation has been reported. Protein kinase A functions as a positive regulator of the cycline A gene

promoter. Cyclin A associates with cyclin-dependent protein kinases (cdks) during phases of the cell cycle and is required for DNA replication in the S phase (Desdouets et al., 1995). Protein kinase A-dependent phosphorylation interferes with the tyrosine kinase phosphorylation of growth receptors and Ras-stimulated activation of Raf-1 kinase, resulting in the inhibition of MAP kinase and alteration of cell proliferation (Giasson et al., 1997; York et al., 1998). Protein kinase A downregulates oncoprotein Op 18 (metablastin or stathmin), the protein destabilizing microtubules, which diminishes oncoprotein activity (Gradin et al., 1998). Furthermore, protein kinase A is involved in the arrest of virus multiplication and cell transformation by induction of p27 and p21, proteins that inhibit viral promoter activation and tumor development (Chinery et al., 1997; Deleu et al., 1998). Protein kinase A phosphorylates cytoplasmic and membrane protein substrates that influence the movement of proteins in the cytoplasm and ion channel permeability, and is involved in the secretion processes (Vallee, 1980; Carr et al., 1992; Hirsch et al., 1992; Kurashima et al., 1997).

Changes in the phosphorylation of key enzymes of metabolic pathways affect basal cellular metabolism leading to intensification of catabolic processes (Cohen and Hardie, 1991; Jakubowicz and Gąsior, 1993). Phosphorylation of glycogen phosphorylase activates the enzyme, while phosphorylation of glycogen synthase inhibits it, leading to a decrease in glycogen synthesis. The phosphorylation of acetyl CoA carboxylase and 3-hydroxy-3-methyl-glutamyl CoA reductase diminishes the synthesis of fatty acids and cholesterol, respectively (Cohen and Hardie, 1991; Mounier et al., 1997). Increased phosphorylation of these enzymes is not associated with their direct enzymatic phosphorylation, but is a consequence of the inhibition of the activity of phosphoprotein phosphatases by cAMP-dependent phosphorylation (Cohen and Hardie, 1991). The activity of proteases is regulated by protein kinase A through phosphorylation and activation of calpastatin, a protease inhibitor, and cAMP-dependent activation of the calpastatin gene (Salamino et al., 1994; Cong et al., 1998).

CONCLUSIONS

Protein kinase A mediates the regulation of a great variety of cAMP-dependent processes. The enzyme is involved in growth and development, cell proliferation and basal cellular metabolism. Protein kinase A regulates transcription factors by direct phosphorylation or by stimulation of its synthesis or synthesis of proteins activating the expression of transcription factors, influences the activity of cyclin-dependent protein kinases by activating cyclin A and cdk inhibitor genes, phosphorylates proteins that are involved in microtubule formation, and affects the activity of mitogen-activated protein kinase.

Protein kinase A occurs as several isoenzymes due to the presence of diverse isoforms of its subunits. The isoenzymes of protein kinase A differ in the substrate specificity and activity. The expression of protein kinase A subunits is tissue- and hormone-specific. The tissue specificity of protein kinase A isoforms and compartmentalization in the cell, which determine access to cAMP and substrate, is the reason why protein kinase A may be involved in many cellular processes and its activation leads to various cellular responses to stimulation mediated by cAMP.

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STRESZCZENIE

Kinaza białkowa A. Struktura i aktywność

W artykule przedstawiono najnowsze wyniki badań dotyczące roli kinazy białkowej A (kinazy białkowej zależnej od cAMP) w ekspresji genów i ogólne informacje dotyczące struktury, syntezy i aktywności kinazy białkowej A. Kinaza białkowa A jest tetramerycznym białkiem, złożonym z dwu podjednostek regulacyjnych i dwu podjednostek katalitycznych. Aktywowanie kinazy białkowej A następuje przez związanie cAMP z podjednostką regulacyjną i uwolnienie aktywnej podjednostki katalitycznej. Cykliczny AMP jest syntetyzowany przez cyklazę adenylnową, aktywowaną przez stymulację dochodzącą z poza komórki. Znane są dwa typy kinazy białkowej A, typ I i typ II, różniące się podjednostkami regulacyjnymi R I i R II, z których każda występuje w dwu izoformach, R I α i R I β oraz R II α i R II β . Podjednostka katalityczna występuje w trzech wariantach, C α , C β i C γ . Istnieją trzy izoformy podjednostki C β : C β 1, C β 2 i C β 3. Podjednostki R I α , R II α i C α występują we wszystkich tkankach, natomiast podjednostki R I β , R II β , C β i C γ są syntetyzowane tylko w tkankach endokrynnej, neuroendokrynej, nerwowej i krwiotwórczej. Aktywność kinazy białkowej A zależy od rozmieszczenia enzymu w komórce, co określa dostęp do cAMP i substratu, a także od proporcji podjednostek regulacyjnych i katalitycznych. Kinaza białkowa A II jest związana ze strukturami komórkowymi przez podjednostkę regulacyjną R II, która wiąże się z białkami zakotwiczącymi (AKAP) lub z białkami powiązаныmi z mikrotubulami (MAP-2). Kinaza białkowa A I jest rozpuszczona w cytosolu komórkowym. Geny podjednostek kinazy białkowej A posiadają w części promotorowej sekwencje aktywowane przez cAMP, miejsca wiążące białko Sp 1, są pozbawione sekwencji TATA i sekwencji CAAT i posiadają wiele miejsc początku transkrypcji. Kinaza białkowa A wpływa na ekspresję białek poprzez regulowanie aktywności i syntezy czynników transkrypcji, cykliny A, inhibitorów kinaz białkowych zależnych od cyklin, fosforylacje białek związanych z mikrotubulami. Kinaza białkowa A ma wpływ na podstawowy metabolizm komórkowy poprzez fosforylacje innych kinaz białkowych, fosforylaz, fosfataz białkowych, inhibitorów proteaz i regulowanie ich syntezy. Kinaza białkowa A wpływa na syntezę i sekrecję hormonów. Rozmieszczenie kinazy białkowej A w różnych przedziałach komórkowych, określające dostęp enzymu do cAMP i substratu, obecność różnych form izoenzymatycznych o różnej aktywności i specyficzności substratowej decyduje o różnorodności efektów kinazy białkowej A w odpowiedzi na hormonalne stymulacje.