Mutual Antagonism of Target of Rapamycin and Calcineurin Signaling*  

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**Abstract**

Growth and stress are generally incompatible states. Stressed cells adapt to an insult by restraining growth, and conversely, growing cells keep stress responses at bay. This is evident in many physiological settings, including for example, the effect of stress on the immune or nervous system, but the underlying signaling mechanisms mediating such mutual antagonism are poorly understood. In eukaryotes, a central activator of cell growth is the protein kinase target of rapamycin (TOR) and its namesake signaling network. Calcineurin is a conserved, Ca2+/calmodulin-dependent protein phosphatase and target of the immunosuppressant FK506 (tacrolimus) that is activated in yeast during stress to promote cell survival. Here we show yeast mutants defective for TOR complex 2 (TORC2) or the essential homologous TORC2 effectors, SLM1 and SLM2, exhibited constitutive activation of calcineurin-dependent transcription and actin depolarization. Conversely, cells defective in calcineurin exhibited SLM1 hyperphosphorylation and enhanced interaction between TORC2 and SLM1. Furthermore, a mutant SLM1 protein (SLM1ΔC14) lacking a sequence related to the consensus calcineurin docking site (PxIxIT) was insensitive to calcineurin, and SLM1ΔC14 slm2 mutant cells were hypersensitive to oxidative stress. Thus, TORC2-SLM signaling negatively regulates calcineurin, and calcineurin negatively regulates TORC2-SLM. These findings provide a molecular basis for the mutual antagonism of growth and stress.

TORα is a serine/threonine kinase and a central controller of cell growth. TOR is found in two structurally and functionally distinct, evolutionarily conserved protein complexes, TORC1 and TORC2 (1-3). TORC1 is rapamycin-sensitive and controls several growth-related processes including transcription, translation, ribosome biogenesis, nutrient transport, and autophagy in response to nutrient, energy, and (in metazoans) growth factor signals (3). TORC2 is rapamycin-insensitive and controls polarization of the actin cytoskeleton via a ROM2-RHO-PKC1-MPK1/SLT2 effector pathway (4, 5). Thus, TOR via its two complexes integrates temporal and spatial control of cell growth.

In the yeast Saccharomyces cerevisiae, calcineurin promotes cell survival upon environmental stress (6). In response to a stress-induced increase in cytoplasmic calcium, calcineurin dephosphorylates and activates several cytoplasmic targets. The calcineurin docking site in target proteins consists of the consensus sequence PxIxIT. The best characterized calcineurin target in yeast is the transcription factor CRZ1/TCN1/HAL8 (7-9). Dephosphorylated CRZ1 translocates into the nucleus and activates target genes containing a calcineurin-dependent response element. These genes are involved mainly in ion homeostasis, vesicular transport, and cell wall maintenance. Independent of transcription, calcineurin also mediates stress-induced depolarization of the actin cytoskeleton and a delay in the G2-M transition of the cell cycle (10, 11). Calcineurin is a heterodimer composed of a positive regulatory subunit (CNB1) and in S. cerevisiae, one of the redundant catalytic subunits CNA1 and CNA2.

Cells respond to environmental stress by down-regulating energy demanding growth processes and up-regulating survival processes. How do cells counter-regulate growth and stress responses? A functional interaction between calcineurin and TOR has been suggested by a two-hybrid interaction between CNA (CNA1 or CNA2) and the TORC2 phosphorylation substrates SLM1 and SLM2 (12). The homologous SLM1 and SLM2 are redundant, essential proteins that control polarization of the actin cytoskeleton by an unknown mechanism (13, 14). In this study we show that TORC2 and calcineurin inhibit each other via the SLM proteins. Our findings provide a molecular mechanism for the mutual antagonism of growth-promoting and growth-inhibiting signaling pathways. Furthermore, we show that TORC2 controls transcription and has a pivotal role in the negative regulation of calcineurin-dependent stress signaling, in addition to controlling organization of the actin cytoskeleton.

**EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES**

**Strains, Plasmids, and Media**—The S. cerevisiae strains and plasmids used in this study are listed in Table 1. All strains are isogenic derivatives of TB50 or JK9-3d. Medium (YPD/YPGal) was prepared as described previously (15, 16). YPD containing 0.2 m CaCl2 was prepared by adding the required volume of a 1 m stock of CaCl2 to 1.25-fold concentrated, autoclaved YPD. FK506 was added to a final concentration of...
2 μg/ml from a 1 mg/ml stock in 90% ethanol-10% Tween 20. FK506 treatment was for 30 min. H₂O₂ was added from a 1 mg/ml stock in 90% ethanol-10% Tween 20.

RNA Isolation, Microarray, and Northern Blot Analysis—For the microarray experiment, S. cerevisiae strains SH100 and SH121 (19) were grown at nonpermissive temperature (37 °C) for 6 h, as described (20). Total RNA was extracted using a hot buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 1 mM MgCl₂, 1 M sorbitol, 0.1% Nonidet P-40) instead of phosphate-buffered saline buffer. The slurry of IgG beads containing SL1-TAP was washed with CP -palmitoylamine (digoxygenin labeling and detection, Roche).

Coimmunoprecipitation, TAP Purification, and Immunoblotting—Coimmunoprecipitations and the TAP pulldown assays were performed as described (17). HA- and Myc-tagged proteins were precipitated or detected with mouse anti-HA antibody (clone 12CA5) or mouse anti-Myc antibody (clone 9E10). Phospho-SLM1-TAP was detected by immunoblotting with anti-phosphothesine (Q7, Qiagen) and anti-phosphoserine (Q5, Qiagen) antibodies. Total SLM1-TAP was detected with anti-TAP (protein A) antibody. Horseradish peroxidase-conjugated anti-mouse antibody and ECL reagents were used for immunoblots (Amersham Biosciences). Proteins coprecipitating in TAP pulldowns were excised from a 5–20% gradient gel and identified by mass spectrometry as described (1).
was performed in a total volume of 100 µl in CP buffer containing 500 units of recombinant human calcineurin (Calbiochem) and 2600 units of calmodulin (Sigma) as described (22). Where indicated, CaCl₂ and EGTA were added to a final concentration of 40 and 10 mM, respectively. Phosphatase reactions were incubated at 30 °C for 30 min. Phospho-SLM1-TAP and total SLM1-TAP were detected as described above.

Microscopy—Frescence microscopy and indirect immunofluorescence imaging on whole fixed cells were performed as described (23). An anti-Myc (9E10) antibody was used to visualize CRZ1-Myc. Control experiments with wild type cells showed that the unspecific signal was negligible in our strain. For actin cytoskeleton or DNA staining, we used a modification of the method described in (1), eliminating the phosphate buffer to avoid calcium phosphate precipitation. Cells from the indicated YPD cultures were fixed in formaldehyde (3.7%) and stained with tetramethyl rhodamine isothiocyanate-phalloidin (Sigma) to visualize actin or 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole to stain DNA and visualize nuclei. Actin cytoskeleton organization was assessed in several hundred cells as described (19).

RESULTS
TORC2 Negatively Controls Calcineurin-dependent Transcription—TORC2, because of its rapamycin insensitivity, is less well characterized than TORC1. To further investigate TORC2, we performed a genome-wide transcriptome analysis on an S. cerevisiae strain (SH121) containing the thermosensitive tor2–21 (tor2ts) allele (19). This strain is defective for TORC2 but not for TORC1 (1, 17). At nonpermissive temperature, ~90 genes were up-regulated (≥2-fold induction), and no genes were significantly down-regulated in the tor2ts mutant, compared with wild type (Fig. 1). This suggests that TORC2 controls transcription, mainly negatively. Further analysis revealed that ~50% of the genes inhibited by TORC2 overlapped with a set of genes, the expression of which was dependent on calcineurin and CRZ1 (24) (Fig. 1). The overlapping genes include those most dependent on calcineurin and CRZ1 for expression (≥5.5-fold induction upon calcineurin activation). These findings suggest that TORC2 inhibits calcineurin and CRZ1.

To determine whether TORC2 indeed inhibits CRZ1, we examined CRZ1-dependent transcription directly in a tor2 mutant and in a mutant defective for the TORC2-specific subunit AVO3. Transcripts corresponding to the CRZ1 target genes CMK2, DIA1, YLR194c, and YOR385w were probed by Northern analysis in strains conditionally expressing TOR2 or AVO3 from the galactose-inducible and

FIGURE 1. Microarray analysis of a tor2 mutant defective in TORC2. A, summary of DNA microarray analysis. Genes induced in a calcineurin/CRZ1-dependent manner (24) and those induced in a tor2ts mutant are compared. B, names and brief descriptions of the genes included in the diagram intersection in A. Raw microarray data files can be found in the NCBI GEO repository under the series number GSE1814.
TORC2 Inhibits Calcineurin via the SLM Proteins—The observation that the TORC2 substrates SLM1 and SLM2 interact with the catalytic subunit of calcineurin (CNA1 or CNA2), as revealed by a genome-wide two-hybrid study (12), suggests that TORC2 inhibits calcineurin via the SLMs. To investigate this possibility, we examined CRZ1-dependent transcription and CRZ1 localization in a slm1 slm2 double mutant (slm1,2). We also observed calcineurin-dependent response element (CDRE)-dependent expression of lacZ upon TOR2 or AVO3 depletion (data not shown). These experiments confirm the results of the transcriptome analysis with the tor2ts mutant and indicate that the expression changes observed with the tor2ts mutant are not necessarily because of heat stress. Thus, TORC2 inhibits CRZ1-dependent transcription under normal growth conditions, i.e. in the absence of stress.

Calcineurin dephosphorylates CRZ1 and thereby triggers nuclear localization and activation of CRZ1 (25). To investigate whether TORC2 regulates calcineurin, we examined CRZ1 localization in the tor2 and avo3 mutants by indirect immunofluorescence on whole fixed cells (Fig. 2B). In both tor2 and avo3 mutant cells, CRZ1 was exclusively (15–20% of cells) or mainly (45–50% of cells) nuclear, whereas in wild type cells CRZ1 was exclusively or mainly cytoplasmic. Thus, TORC2 inhibits nuclear accumulation of CRZ1. To investigate the calcineurin-dependence of CRZ1 nuclear localization in the tor2 and avo3 mutants, cells were treated with the calcineurin inhibitor FK506. A short treatment (30 min) with FK506 restored cytoplasmic localization of CRZ1 in tor2 and avo3 cells (Fig. 2B). Similar suppression of the CRZ1 localization defect was obtained upon deletion of CNB1 encoding the positive regulatory subunit of calcineurin (data not shown). Thus, CRZ1 nuclear localization in the tor2 and avo3 mutants was calcineurin-dependent. The above findings suggest that TORC2 negatively regulates calcineurin. However, these experiments do not distinguish whether the TORC2 inhibits calcineurin directly or indirectly.

The CRZ1 dependence of the examined transcripts was determined by deleting CRZ1 in the tor2 and avo3 strains (Fig. 2A). We also observed calcineurin-dependent response element (CDRE)-dependent expression of lacZ upon TOR2 or AVO3 depletion (data not shown). These experiments confirm the results of the transcriptome analysis with the tor2ts mutant and indicate that the expression changes observed with the tor2ts mutant are not necessarily because of heat stress. Thus, TORC2 inhibits CRZ1-dependent transcription under normal growth conditions, i.e. in the absence of stress.
TOR and Calcineurin Signaling

Because the SLMs are essential, strains containing a slm1 deletion and conditionally expressing slm2 from the GAL1 promoter were used for these experiments. In a slm1,2 mutant, CRZ1 accumulated in the nucleus in a calcineurin-dependent (FK506 sensitive) manner and activated transcription of target genes (data not shown for Y OR385w) even in the absence of stress (Fig. 2, C and D). In addition, inhibition of calcineurin by treatment with FK506 or by deletion of CNB1 suppressed the growth and actin defects of a slm1,2 mutant (Fig. 2, E and F). Thus, calcineurin appears to be constitutively active in a slm1,2 mutant, like in TORC2 mutants (tor2 and avo3) and the cause of lethality of a slm1,2 mutation. These observations suggest that TORC2 negatively regulates calcineurin via the SLMs. Furthermore, the suppression of the slm1,2 actin defect by CNB1 deletion or by FK506 treatment suggests that the SLMs mediate actin polarization via inhibition of calcineurin.

Interestingly, inhibition of calcineurin did not suppress the lethality of a tor2 or avo3 mutation (data not shown). Furthermore, multicopy ROM2 or RHO2, strong suppressors of tor2 or avo3 lethality (1, 4), failed to suppress either the growth defect or the CRZ1 nuclear localization phenotype of the slm1,2 mutant (data not shown) (14). Overexpression of ROM2 or slm1-cna1 interaction (Fig. 4A) (data not shown for FK506). To study further the slm1-cna1 interaction, we examined whether Slm1 contained a PxixIT calcineurin docking site. Although we did not detect a consensus PxixIT sequence, a related sequence (PNIYIQ) was detected in the C-terminal 14 amino acids of Slm1 (PNIYIQ TPINDFKS). To determine whether this PxixIT-related sequence is a calcineurin docking site, the C-terminal 14 amino acids of Slm1 were deleted, and the truncated protein (slm1(C14)) was assayed by coimmunoprecipitation in a wild type strain were unsuccessful. As this could be because of CNA1 dephosphorylating and thereby releasing Slm1, we then investigated an Slm1-CNA1 interaction in a wild type strain under standard growth conditions, unlike the slm1 slm2 double mutant (data not shown). The above findings indicate that calcineurin interacts directly with Slm1. Interestingly, the observation that Slm1(C14) is functional despite its inability to interact with calcineurin suggests that Slm1 has a function independent of its direct interaction with calcineurin.

Calcineurin Antagonizes TORC2-SLM Signaling—TORC2 positively controls polarization of the actin cytoskeleton. In contrast, activation of calcineurin causes depolarization of the actin cytoskeleton (Fig. 2F and Fig. 3). Furthermore, calcineurin causes depolarization of the actin cytoskeleton independently of CRZ1 (Fig. 3). These observations suggest that calcineurin may antagonize the ability of TORC2 to signal via the SLMs. To address this suggestion, we first investigated whether calcineurin (CNA1) interacts with Slm1 as suggested previously by a genome-wide two-hybrid analysis (12). Our efforts to detect, by coimmunoprecipitation, an Slm1-Cna1 interaction in a wild type strain were unsuccessful. As this could be because of Cna1 dephosphorylating and thereby releasing Slm1, we then investigated an Slm1-Cna1 interaction under conditions in which calcineurin was inactive. Inhibition of calcineurin by a cnb1 mutation or by treatment of cells with FK506 indeed resulted in detection of an Slm1-Cna1 interaction (Fig. 4A) (data not shown for FK506). To study further the Slm1-Cna1 interaction, we examined whether Slm1 contained a PxixIT calcineurin docking site. Although we did not detect a consensus PxixIT sequence, a related sequence (PNIYIQ) was detected in the C-terminal 14 amino acids of Slm1 (PNIYIQ TPINDFKS). To determine whether this PxixIT-related sequence is a calcineurin docking site, the C-terminal 14 amino acids of Slm1 were deleted, and the truncated protein (Slm1(C14)) was assayed by coimmunoprecipitation for interaction with Cna1. Slm1(C14) failed to interact with Cna1 even upon inhibition of calcineurin (Fig. 4A), suggesting that the PxixIT-related sequence in Slm1 was a calcineurin binding site. The Slm1(C14) mutant protein was functional other than in its ability to interact with Cna1 because a Slm1(C14) slm2 double mutant grew like a wild type strain under standard growth conditions, unlike the slm1 slm2 double mutant (slm1,2), which was nonviable (data not shown). The above findings indicate that calcineurin interacts directly with Slm1. Interestingly, the observation that Slm1(C14) is functional despite its inability to interact with calcineurin suggests that Slm1 has a function independent of its direct interaction with calcineurin.

FIGURE 3. Calcineurin mediates depolarization of the actin cytoskeleton independently of CRZ1. A, wt (TBS0a), cnb1 (JM304), and crz1 (JM256) cells were grown in YPD medium until mid-logarithmic phase and then transferred to fresh medium containing 0.2 m CaCl2, to activate calcineurin. At the indicated times, aliquots were removed, fixed, and stained for F-actin using rhodamine-phalloidin (ACTIN). Cells were visualized using Nomarski optics (NOM). B, quantitation of the actin depolarization induced by calcium. Small to medium budded cells (∼200) of wild type (squares), cnb1 (circles), and crz1 (triangles) strains were scored for their actin polarization state. Similar results were obtained in three separate experiments.

RHO2 also failed to suppress the CRZ1 nuclear localization phenotype of the tor2 mutant (data not shown). These observations suggest that TORC2 signals via SLM-calcineurin and ROM2-RHO-PKC-MPK1/SLT2 separately.
We detected a physical interaction between SLM1 and the calcineurin catalytic subunit CNA1 but only in the absence of calcineurin activity (see above). The observation that only inactive CNA1 forms a stable complex with SLM1 suggests that calcineurin may dephosphorylate SLM1. To investigate whether calcineurin dephosphorylates SLM1, we examined the phosphorylation status of SLM1 and SLM1\(^{AC14}\) in wild type and cnb1 mutant cells, treated and untreated with calcium. Affinity (TAP)-tagged SLM1 and SLM1\(^{AC14}\) were purified and then probed with anti-phosphoSer/Thr antibody. SLM1 was hyperphosphorylated in the cnb1 mutant compared with in a wild type strain (Fig. 4B). SLM1\(^{AC14}\), consistent with its inability to interact with calcineurin, was hyperphosphorylated under all conditions examined (Fig. 4B). These findings suggest that calcineurin dephosphorylates SLM1 in vivo. Furthermore, recombinant calcineurin (plus calmodulin) dephosphorylated purified phospho-SLM1-TAP in vitro (Fig. 4C). This observation, combined with the previous observation that SLM1 physically interacts with calcineurin, suggests that calcineurin dephosphorylates SLM1 directly.

To investigate the functional consequence of SLM1 hyperphosphorylation, we examined the interaction between SLM1 and TORC2 in wild type and cnb1 mutant cells. The TORC2-SLM interaction is weak (13, 14) and undetectable in our experimental conditions, as assayed by coimmunoprecipitation of SLM1 with AV03 or TOR2 (Fig. 5, A and B). Inhibition of calcineurin, upon introduction of a cnb1 mutation or treatment of cells with FK506, significantly enhanced the binding of SLM1 to both AV03 and TOR2 (Fig. 5, A and B) (data not shown for FK506). Furthermore, the SLM1\(^{AC14}\) variant that was unable to bind calcineurin also exhibited enhanced binding to AV03 and TOR2 (Fig. 5, A and B). Thus, calcineuron both dephosphorylates SLM1 and inhibits the TORC2-SLM1 interaction, suggesting that calcineurin antagonizes TORC2-SLM signaling.

To further investigate the physiological significance of SLM1 phosphorylation, we performed a more extensive phenotypic analysis of the SLM1\(^{AC14}\) slm2 mutant, which grew like wild type under normal growth conditions. The SLM1\(^{AC14}\) slm2 mutant was exposed to various stress conditions, including heat (37 °C), cold (15 °C), osmotic (1.8M sorbitol or 1M NaCl), lithium (0.3 m), calcium (0.2M CaCl\(_2\)), and oxidative (5 mM H\(_2\)O\(_2\)) stress. The SLM1\(^{AC14}\) slm2 was hypersensitive specifically to oxidative stress, as evidenced by a growth defect only in the presence of H\(_2\)O\(_2\) (Fig. 5C and data not shown). Thus, phosphorylated SLM1 prevents the cellular response to oxidative stress, suggesting that TORC2-SLM signaling inhibits the response to this stress. In other words, calcineurin inhibits the ability of TORC2-SLM signaling to keep the response to oxidative stress at bay. A crz1 mutation failed to confer hypersensitivity to oxidative stress, indicating that TORC2-SLM2 signaling inhibited the response to oxidative stress independently of CRZ1-dependent transcription.

**DISCUSSION**

We have presented evidence that TORC2-SLM signaling inhibits calcineurin, and conversely, calcineurin inhibits TORC2-SLM signaling. According to this model (Fig. 6), TORC2 phosphorylated the SLM proteins (13, 14) and thereby inhibited calcineurin and calcineurin-mediated events such as actin cytoskeleton depolarization and CRZ1-dependent transcription. Conversely, calcineurin dephosphorylates the SLMs and thereby inhibits TORC2-SLM signaling to the oxidative stress response and possibly other effectors. Thus, TORC2 and calcineurin are mutually antagonistic. The logic of this mutual antagonism may be the need to cope with the conflicting states of growth and stress. TORC2 prevents the calcineurin-activated stress response during favorable conditions, and conversely, calcineurin prevents TOR-mediated growth during...
The inhibition of calcineurin by TORC2 also allows a cell to resume growth after a stress has been overcome. Finally, another noteworthy aspect of the model (Fig. 6), which is suggested by our finding that a \(cnb1\) mutation suppresses the \(slm1,2\) actin defect, is that the SLMs mediate actin cytoskeleton polarization via inhibition of calcineurin. The observation that the \(SLM1^{AC14}\) mutation has no effect on the actin cytoskeleton (data not shown) is further evidence for this notion. Although not shown in our model, the pleckstrin homology domain-containing SLM proteins also respond to the phosphatidylinositol-4-phosphate 5-kinase MSS4 (13, 14).

Is the mutual antagonism of calcineurin and TORC2-SLM direct or indirect? The observations that calcineurin binds the SLMs, and that calcineurin dephosphorylates SLM1 in vivo and in vitro suggest that calcineurin inhibits TORC2-SLM signaling by acting on SLM directly. The mechanism of inhibition in the other direction by which TORC2-SLM inhibits calcineurin is less clear. It seems unlikely that TORC2-SLM inhibits calcineurin directly because SLM1 in the \(SLM1^{H9004C14}\) mutant is unable to bind calcineurin, and yet this mutant grows normally and is thus still able to inhibit calcineurin. Furthermore, the observation that the \(SLM1^{H9004C14}\) mutant responds normally to salt stress (i.e. calcineurin activation) suggests that SLM dephosphorylation by calcineurin is not required to activate calcineurin. How might TORC2-SLM inhibit calcineurin indirectly? We were unable to detect a change in the concentration of cytoplasmic calcium in \(tor2\) and \(avo3\) mutants, as assayed with a calcium-specific dye (Fluo-3 AM) (data not shown), suggesting that TORC2-SLM inhibits calcineurin by a mechanism other than the modulation of cytoplasmic calcium. Another possibility is that TORC2-SLM modulates the activity of the calcineurin regulator RCN1 (26). Indeed, RCN1 transcription is up-regulated in the \(tor2^{ts}\) mutant at nonpermissive conditions.

![FIGURE 6. Model for mutual antagonism TORC2 and calcineurin signaling.](http://www.jbc.org/)

Stress induces a rise in cytoplasmic calcium that activates calcineurin. Activated calcineurin dephosphorylates the SLM proteins and CRZ1. Calcineurin-mediated dephosphorylation of SLM disrupts signaling to the oxidative stress response and possibly other targets. In the absence of stress, TORC2 signals through the SLMs to control calcineurin and the oxidative stress response. SLM1,2 is required to block calcineurin signaling in normal growth conditions.

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**FIGURE 5.** Calcineurin inhibits the interaction between TORC2 and SLM1. A, interaction of TORC2 component AVO3 with SLM1 is calcineurin-sensitive. Cells expressing epitope-tagged AVO3 (AVO3-HA) (RL42-1c), SLM1 (SLM1-Myc) (RL146-7d), both (RL164-2b and JM491), or AVO3 and an epitope-tagged version of SLM1\(^{AC14}\) (SLM1\(^{AC14}\)-Myc) (JM626) were grown to mid-logarithmic phase, harvested, and lysed, and cell extracts were subjected to immunoprecipitation with anti-HA (IP: AVO3). Immunoprecipitates were probed with anti-Myc to detect coimmunoprecipitated SLM1 protein (coIP: SLM1). AVO3 and SLM1 interacted in a \(cnb1\) mutant, or when the 14 C-terminal residues of SLM1 were deleted. B, interaction of TOR2 with SLM1 is calcineurin-sensitive. Lysates from wild type (mock purification), SLM1-TAP (RL209), SLM1-TAP \(cnb1\) (JM333), and SLM1\(^{AC14}\)-TAP (JM597) strains were subjected to TAP purification (IP: SLM1). Proteins were separated in a 5–20% gradient gel and stained with coomassie. TOR2 (coIP: TOR2) and SLM1 were identified by mass spectrometry. TOR2 and SLM1 interacted in a \(cnb1\) mutant, or when the C terminus of SLM1 was truncated. C, SLM1\(^{AC14}\) slm2 is sensitive to hydrogen peroxide. The indicated strains wt (RL209), \(cnb1\) (JM333), \(crz1\) (JM717), and SLM1\(^{AC14}\) slm2 (JM611) were grown to saturation in rich medium, serially diluted in water (1/10, 1/100, and 1/1000), and spotted on YPD agar or YPD agar containing the indicated compound. Growth was recorded after 48 to 72 h of incubation at 30 °C.
temperature (Fig. 1). The mechanism by which TORC2-SLM inhibits calcineurin remains to be determined.

We present evidence that TORC2 inhibits calcineurin/CRZ1-dependent transcription and the oxidative stress response. Furthermore, TORC2 seems to control these two new readouts independently of the previously characterized RHO-PKC-MPK1 effector pathway (Fig. 6). Although TORC1 has been known for some time to control several cellular processes via different effector pathways, TORC2 was thought to signal only to the actin cytoskeleton and only via the RHO-PKC-MPK1 pathway. TORC2, like TORC1, now appears to have multiple effectors and targets. The complexity of TORC2 signaling has been underestimated possibly because TORC2 is rapamycin-insensitive, and studies on TOR function have usually relied on rapamycin to inhibit TOR signaling. Interestingly, an important aspect of TORC1 signaling in both yeast and mammalian cells is the inhibition of type 2A and type 2A-related phosphatases (27). Our observations suggest that TORC2 also signals via inhibition of a phosphatase, in this case calcineurin.

How does TORC2-SLM signaling inhibit the oxidative stress response? Yokoyama et al. (28) have suggested that YAP1, a transcription factor mediating the oxidative stress response, is controlled by calcineurin. Thus, an appealing model is that TORC2-SLM signaling inhibits the oxidative stress response by inhibiting YAP1. In the absence of stress, SLM is phosphorylated and bound to TORC2 and could thereby serve as an adaptor presenting YAP1 to TORC2 for phosphorylation and inhibition. Alternatively, as YAP1 is regulated at the level of nuclear localization, phosphorylated SLM could simply bind and sequester YAP1. In response to stress, calcineurin dephosphorylates SLM and possibly YAP1, leading to activation of YAP1. Interestingly, at least three CRZ1-dependent YAP1 target genes (CTT1, ARG4, and LAP4) are up-regulated in the tor2Δ mutant at nonpermissive temperature (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo; accession number GSE1814). It is also interesting to note that TOR controls nuclear localization of several stress-related transcription factors, including GLN3, GAT1, MSN2/4, RTG1, RTG3, and as shown here, CRZ1 (15, 29, 30).

Does mTOR inhibit calcineurin in mammalian cells? mTOR promotes skeletal myotube hypertrophy in response to insulin-like growth factor-1, and this effect is enhanced by the calcineurin inhibitor cyclosporin A (31). Furthermore, mTORC2 mediates actin polymerization in mammalian cells (32, 33), and calcineurin induces F-actin destabilization in dendritic spines (34). Thus, mTORC2 may inhibit calcineurin also in mammalian cells. mTORC2 signaling, which like TORC2 signaling in yeast is rapamycin-insensitive, probably has a broader role in the control of cell growth than commonly appreciated.

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