### Type I Collagen Limits VEGFR-2 Signaling by a SHP2 Protein-Tyrosine Phosphatase–Dependent Mechanism 1

Stefania Mitola, Barbara Brenchio, Marco Piccinini, Leon Tertoolen, Luca Zammataro, Georg Breier, Maria Teresa Rinaudo, Jeroen den Hertog, Marco Arese, Federico Bussolino

*Abstract*—During angiogenesis, a combined action between newly secreted extracellular matrix proteins and the repertoire of integrins expressed by endothelial cells contributes in the regulation of their biological functions. Extracellular matrix-engaged integrins influence tyrosine kinase receptors, thus promoting a regulatory cross-talk between adhesive and soluble stimuli. For instance, vitronectin has been reported to positively regulate VEGFR-2. Here, we show that collagen I downregulates VEGF-A—mediated VEGFR-2 activation. This activity requires the tyrosine phosphatase SHP2, which is recruited to the activated VEGFR-2 when cells are plated on collagen I, but not on vitronectin. Constitutive expression of SHP2<sup>C459S</sup> mutant inhibits the negative role of collagen I on VEGFR-2 phosphorylation. VEGFR-2 undergoes internalisation, which is associated with dynamin II phosphorylation. Expression of SHP2<sup>C459S</sup> impairs receptor internalisation suggesting that SHP2-dependent dephosphorylation regulates this process. These findings demonstrate that collagen I in provisional extracellular matrix surrounding nascent capillaries triggers a signaling pathway that negatively regulates angiogenesis. (*Circ Res.* 2006;98:45-54.)

Key Words: endothelial cell ■ extracellular matrix ■ tyrosine kinase receptor ■ tyrosine phosphatase

ngiogenesis takes place during development, tissue growth and repair, and aberrantly in several pathological settings. During angiogenesis, endothelial cells (ECs) modify their genetic program. The final consequences are the assumption of a migratory phenotype, cell cycle activation, and the secretion of proteases and proteins of the extracellular matrix (ECM).<sup>1</sup> Changes in ECM physico-chemical features are crucial for EC biological functions.<sup>2,3</sup> In the resting vasculature, ECM is mainly composed by collagens, laminin, tenascin, proteoglycans, and perleclan;4 such environment favors cell-cell adhesion, survival, and inhibits cell proliferation and migration.<sup>2,3</sup> In contrast, provisional ECM surrounding angiogenic ECs include new proteins such as fibronectin, fibrin, vitronectin, collagen I, and thrombospondin. Furthermore, this ECM contains proteolytic cleavage products of laminin, fibronectin, and collagens generated by metalloproteinases released by activated ECs.<sup>2,3</sup> A balance between negative and positive cues triggered by provisional ECM is permissive for neovascularization.<sup>2,3</sup> For example, collagen I<sup>5</sup> and thrombospondin-1<sup>6</sup> prevent angiogenesis, whereas fibronectin shows opposite activities.7 Furthermore, the proteolytic of laminin, collagen, and fibronectin generates pro- and antiangiogenic fragments.<sup>2,3</sup>

Coordinated with these ECM modifications, ECs adapt their repertoire of integrins to allow adhesion to new ECM

components and to receive instructive signals from surrounding microenvironment.<sup>2,3</sup> In particular, the induction of an angiogenic phenotype is associated with the expression of  $\alpha_{v}\beta_{3}$ ,  $\alpha_{v}\beta_{5}$ , and  $\alpha_{5}\beta_{1}$ .<sup>8–10</sup> Actually, vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF)-A and fibroblast growth factor-2 induce angiogenesis that is, respectively, inhibited by blocking  $\alpha_{v}\beta_{5}$  and  $\alpha_{v}\beta_{3}$  function.<sup>11</sup>

VEGF-A represents a rate-limiting step for physiologic and pathologic angiogenesis.12 VEGF-A activates VEGF receptor (R) R-1 and VEGFR-2, the latter being the principal target of the ligand in adult life. Different mechanisms are involved in the fine-tuning of VEGFR-2 signaling:<sup>12,13</sup> (1) VEGFR-2 transcription is regulated by soluble molecules and hypoxia; (2) the catalytic activity of VEGFR-2 may be negatively regulated by VEGFR-1, tissue inhibitor of metalloproteases (TIMP)-2 and dopamine; (3) the association of VEGFR-2 with neuropilin-1 is instrumental for increasing its affinity VEGF-A<sub>165</sub>; and (5) the localization in specific plasma membrane domains is another mechanism to control VEGFR-2 function. For example, in confluent ECs, VEGFR-2 is mainly associated with adherens junctions and mediates survival signals.14 On the contrary, during VEGF-A-mediated EC migration, VEGFR-2 forms a complex with  $\alpha_{v}\beta_{3}$  integrin.<sup>15–17</sup> Finally, caveolae depletion results in an increase of VEGFR-2 phosphorylation but leads to the inhibition of downstream signals and EC motility.18

Circulation Research is available at http://circres.ahajournals.org

Original received February 15, 2005; revision received May 31, 2005; final revision received November 22, 2005; accepted November 29, 2005. From the Institute for Cancer Research and Treatment (S.M., B.B., L.Z., M.A., F.B.), Department of Oncological Sciences (S.M., B.B., L.Z., M.A.,

F.B.), Department of Medicine and Experimental Oncology (M.P., M.T.R.), University of Torino, Torino, Italy; Netherlands Institute for Developmental Biology (L.T., J.d.H.), Utrecht, The Netherlands; Max Planck Institute for Physiological and Clinical Research (G.B.), D-61231 Bad Nauheim, Germany; University Clinic Carl Gustav Carus (G.B.), Dresden, Germany.

Correspondence to Federico Bussolino, MD, IRCC, Strada provinciale 142, Km 3.95. 10060 Candiolo, Italy. E-mail federico.bussolino@ircc.it © 2006 American Heart Association, Inc.

Here, we demonstrate that fibrillar collagen I is a negative modulator of VEGFR-2 activation via the recruitment of the cytosolic Src homology-2 domain-containing protein tyrosine phosphatase (SHP2)<sup>19,20</sup> to the receptor. SHP2 dephosphory-lates VEGFR-2 and favors its internalization. These findings extend previous observations on the opposite effects exerted by proteins of ECM on EC functions<sup>21,22</sup> and provide new insights into how ECM surrounding nascent vessels could generate regulatory signals that are critical for EC response to VEGF-A.

#### **Materials and Methods**

For details on reagents and plasmids, cells, cell motility, and immunoprecipitation and immunoblotting, please see the online data supplement available at http://circres.ahajournals.org.

#### **Tyrosine Phosphatase Assay**

Tyrosine phosphatase activity was measured on EC immunoprecipitates anti-SHP1 and anti-SHP2 by HitHunter Fluorescence detection tyrosine phosphatase assay kit (Discover, Fremont, Calif). Alternatively, VEGFR-2 was immunoprecipitated as described from 10<sup>7</sup> human ECs stimulated with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> (0.23 nmol/L) and beads were washed twice in 50 mmol/L 2-(N-morpholino)ethanesulphonic acid, pH 6.5. VEGFR-2 immunoprecipitate was used as substrate and incubated with the aforementioned immunoprecipitates in 2-(Nmorpholino)ethanesulphonic acid buffer for 1 hour at 37°C. At the end of incubation, proteins were denatured, separated by SDS-PAGE, and probed with mAb anti-pY or Ab anti–VEGFR-2.

#### **VEGFR-2** Internalization

VEGFR-2 internalization was determined by evaluating the amount of receptor that was resistant to trypsinization<sup>23</sup> or by evaluating the ratio between the amount of [<sup>125</sup>I-VEGF-A internalized and bound to the cell surface.<sup>24</sup> The methods are detailed in the online supplementary materials.

#### **Fluorescence Resonance Energy Transfer Analysis**

For fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET), PAE cells carrying VEGFR-2-CFP and YFP-SHP2 were observed by a Leitz orthoplan upright microscope (Leitz GMBH, Wetzlar, Germany) equipped with an epi-illumination fluorescence detection system and a temperature-controlled specimen holder at 33°C. Measurements were made in a DMEM containing 2% fetal calf serum and 10 mmol/L HEPES (pH 7.4) exactly as previously described.<sup>25</sup> Further details are described online.

#### Results

# Effect of Type I Collagen and Vitronectin on VEGF-A<sub>165</sub>–Induced EC Chemokinesis

Previous works demonstrated that ECM proteins modulate the autophosphorylation activity of VEGFR-2 and its biological responses.<sup>16,17,26</sup> To further support this hypothesis, EC chemokinesis-stimulated by VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> was evaluated on cells plated on collagen I or vitronectin by time-lapse video microscopy of individual cells (Figure 1). ECs exhibited a baseline mean migration speed of 17.31±0.09 µm/hour on vitronectin and 14.51±0.12 µm/hour on collagen I (P<0.001; *t* test). In presence of VEGF-A<sub>165</sub>, EC speed increased to 36.09±0.13 µm/hour (P<0.0001 versus unstimulated cells) and to 22.25±0.08 µm/hour (P<0.0002 versus unstimulated cells) on vitronectin and collagen I, respectively. VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> stimulation resulted in higher directional persistence of cell migration<sup>27</sup>; in contrast unstimulated ECs moved in random directions. The VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> effect was



**Figure 1.** Tracks of ECs plated on vitronectin or collagen I. Panels represent paths of cells (n=9) tracked by video-lapse microscopy in presence of VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> (10 ng/mL) or vehicle over a period of 5 hours. Cell paths are replotted such that all paths start from the origin. The unit of measure on axes is  $\mu$ m/h.

more evident in cells plated on vitronectin. Unstimulated cells on collagen I and on vitronectin showed a similar directional persistence (vitronectin:  $0.12\pm0.06$ ; collagen I:  $0.10\pm0.02$ ), whereas VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> increased this parameter in a greater extent in cells on vitronectin ( $0.43\pm0.05$ ) than on collagen I ( $0.19\pm0.04$ ) (*P*<0.0001) (Figure 1).

To exclude that the observed effects were caused by different levels of VEGFR-2 expression, the high-affinity binding sites of VEGF-A on the surface of EC plated on collagen I or vitronectin were studied. Scatchard analysis indicated that the type of ECM did not influence the number of receptors and their affinity (supplemental Figure I).

#### Type I Collagen Inhibits VEGFR-2 Phosphorylation by Activating SHP2 Tyrosine Phosphatase

When VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> stimulated ECs on vitronectin, VEGFR-2 phosphorylation was markedly higher as compared with cells on collagen I,<sup>17</sup> suggesting a modulating role of tyrosine phosphatases.<sup>13,28–30</sup> In particular, both SHP1 and SHP2 have been demonstrated to negatively regulate VEGFR-2.<sup>13,28</sup>

Therefore, we measured phosphatase activity in SHP1 and SHP2 immunocomplexes from VEGF-A<sub>165</sub>–stimulated ECs adherent on native ECM. VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> promoted a rapid activation of SHP2 that peaked at 10 minutes and then declined (Figure 2A). SHP-1 activity increased, but in slight manner, without reaching a well-defined peak within 20



**Figure 2.** VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> activates SHP2. A and B, ECs ( $2 \times 10^7$ ) grown on native ECM were stimulated with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> (solid line) (0.23 nmol/L) or vehicle alone (dashed line) for the indicated times. Cell lysates were immunoprecipitated with anti-SHP2 ( $\blacklozenge$ ) or anti-SHP1 ( $\blacktriangle$ ) for phosphatase assay (mean±SD; n=5) (A). Alternatively SHP2 immunocomplexes were incubated for 1 hour at 37°C with phosphorylated VEGFR-2 immunopurified from ECs activated by its ligand as detailed in Methods. Denatured proteins were separated by SDS-PAGE and blotted as indicated. Lane C indicates the initial level of VEGFR-2 phosphorylation incubated with a nonimmune anti-rabbit lg immunocomplex from ECs stimulated for 10 minutes with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> (B). C, ECs ( $2 \times 10^7$ ) grown on native ECM were stimulated as before and SHP2 was immunoprecipitated. Solubilized proteins were processed as described in (A and B). D, SHP2 phosphatase assay on unstimulated (dashed line) or VEGF-A<sub>165</sub>-(0.23 mmol/L) stimulated (solid line) ECs plated on collagen I ( $\blacklozenge$ ) or vitronectin ( $\blacktriangle$ ). Mean±SD of five experiments. E, Tyrosine phosphorylation of immunoprecipitated with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> (5 minutes; 0.23 mmol/L). B, C, and E, Representative of at least 3 experiments. Densitometric analysis of (B,C, E) are in supplemental Figure II.

minutes. On the basis of this observation and previous data indicating that SHP2 is involved in GAS6 inhibition of VEGFR-2,<sup>28</sup> we pointed to this phosphatase. Our hypothesis was further confirmed by the ability of SHP2 immunocomplexes isolated from VEGF-A<sub>165</sub>–stimulated ECs to dephosphorylate in vitro phosphorylated VEGFR-2 (Figure 2B; supplemental Figure II). VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> rapidly phosphorylated SHP2 in tyrosine residues, an event known to be associated with SHP2 catalytic activity<sup>19</sup> (Figure 2C; supplemental Figure II). Both catalytic activity (Figure 2D) and tyrosine phosphorylation (Figure 2E; supplemental Figure II) stimulated by VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> were more pronounced in cells on collagen I than on vitronectin.

#### SHP2 Binds VEGFR-2

Figure 3A shows that SHP2 associated with activated VEGFR-2 immunoprecipitated from ECs on native ECM. To further analyze this interaction, we performed a far Western blot analysis using SHP2-GST fusion protein. Figure 3B and supplemental Figure III show that phosphorylated VEGFR-2



IP: α-VEGFR-2

Figure 3. SHP2 binds VEGFR-2. A and B, ECs (3×07) were grown on native ECM and stimulated with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> (0.23 nmol/L) or vehicle alone. Cell lysates were immunoprecipitated with Ab anti-VEGFR-2. Immunoprecipitate was divided in 2 (A) or 3 (B) aliquots and probed with the indicated Abs or with GST-SHP2 protein. Results are representative of 4 experiments and the densitometric analysis of panel B is reported in supplemental Figure III. C, FRET analysis of PAE cells coexpressing VEGFR-2-CFP and SHP2- YFP with a ratio 1:1 or 1:2 and stimulated with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> for the indicated length of times. Degree of FRET efficiency was indicated by scale color from blue to yellow. D, From the images in C, the FRET efficiency in a membrane portion was calculated. C and D, Representative of 25 cells, each obtained from 3 independent transfections. Variations within single experiments do not exceed 3% and between different experiments do not exceed 7%. E, ECs (3×107) were plated for 90 minutes on collagen I or on vitronectin and stimulated for the indicated times with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> (0.23 nmol/L). Cell lysates were immunoprecipitated, divided in 3 aliquots and blotted as indicated. Results are representative of 3 experiments and the densitometric analysis is reported in supplemental Figure III.

bound SHP2-GST in a time dependent-manner. To follow this interaction in living cells, we analyzed FRET of VEGFR-2-CFP and YFP- SHP2 in PAE stimulated with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub>. Figure 3C and 3D shows that FRET occurred at the plasma membrane level and disappeared when VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> was removed from medium.

#### **Type I Collagen Elicits SHP2 Interaction** With VEGFR-2

Next, we investigated whether ECM could modulate the association of SHP2 with VEGFR-2. VEGFR-2 was immunoprecipitated from ECs on collagen I or on vitronectin and the association with SHP2 was analyzed. The amount of



Figure 4. Effect of overexpression of SHP2<sup>C459S</sup> on VEGFR-2 activation. A. ECs were infected with a retroviral vector encoding SHP2<sup>C459S</sup> and the expression of the proteins was analyzed on cell lysate by immunoblot. B, Infected cells  $(2 \times 10^7)$  plated on collagen I were stimulated for the indicated times with VEGF-A165 (0.23 nmol/L). Cell lysates were immunoprecipitated as indicated. C, Densitometric analysis of the experiment shown in (B). Mean ± SD of 4 experiments. ANOVA was F=77.55. §P<0.05 vs unstimulated cells. \*P<0.05 vs cells carrying vector alone. White and black bars, respectively, indicate EC-PINCO and EC-SHP2<sup>C459S</sup>. D, Cells plated on collagen I or on vitronectin were pretreated with orthovanadate (1 mmol/L, 15 minutes) and then treated VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> (0.23 nmol/L) for 10 minutes. After immunoprecipitation, samples were divided in 2 aliquots, run in two gels, and immunoblotted as indicated. E, Densitometric analysis of the experiment shown in (D). Mean±SD of 5 experiments. Before ANOVA (F=31.04) data were normalized according to z score §P<0.05 vs unstimulated cells plated on collagen I or vitronectin. \*P<0.05 vs cells plated on collagen I and stimulated with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub>. White and black bars, respectively, indicate EC-Pinco and EC-SHP2<sup>C459S</sup>.

associated SHP2 with VEGFR-2 in cells on vitronectin was much reduced compared with cells on collagen I (Figure 3E; supplemental Figure III). In these experiments EC adhesion to ECM substrates was similar, thus excluding the possibility that the observed effect could be caused by differences in cells adhesion (not shown).

# Effect of SHP2<sup>C459S</sup> Overexpression on VEGFR-2 Activation

To investigate the involvement of SHP2 in VEGFR-2 signaling, ECs were infected with a retroviral vector carrying  $SHP2^{C459S}$  dominant-negative mutant<sup>31</sup> (Figure 4A), plated on collagen I, and stimulated with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> for different lengths of time. The amount of VEGFR-2 was not modified by the constitutive expression of the transgene (supplemental Figure IV), suggesting that the results obtained were not dependent on a modification of the basal expression of VEGFR-2. The expression of SHP2<sup>C459S</sup> mutant enhanced VEGFR-2 phosphorylation after 15 minutes of stimulation with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> as compared with ECs infected with vector alone (Figure 4B and 4C).

When EC infected with vector alone (EC-Pinco) were plated on collagen I (Figure 4D and 4E) VEGFR-2 phosphorylation triggered by VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> was lower than on vitronectin. The pre-incubation with orthovanadate resulted in increase VEGFR-2 phosphorylation, which was particularly evident in stimulated cells on collagen I. Accordingly, SHP2<sup>C459S</sup> overexpression abrogated the increased VEGFR-2



**Figure 5.** Effect of overexpression of SHP2<sup>C459S</sup> on EC chemokinesis. Panels represent paths of EC-Pinco and EC- SHP2<sup>C459S</sup> plated on collagen I (n=9) in presence of VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> as detailed in legend to Figure 1. The unit of measure on axes is  $\mu$ m/h.

phosphorylation caused by orthovanadate. When EC-SHP2<sup>C459S</sup> were plated on vitronectin, VEGFR-2 phosphorylation was completely unaffected by orthovanadate treatment (Figure 4D and 4E). These data support the concept type I collagen modulates VEGFR-2 through SHP2.

Because the chemokinetic activity of VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> was low on EC plated on collagen I (Figure 1), we investigated the rescuing effect of the expression of SHP2<sup>C459S</sup>. The baseline migration speed on EC-Pinco and EC-SHP2<sup>C459S</sup> was similar (13.92±0.22 µm/hour and 14.21±0.42 µm/hour, respectively) and was increased  $\approx 1.5$ - to 2-fold by VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> (EC-Pinco:  $20.33 \pm 0.26 \ \mu m/hour;$  EC-SHP2<sup>C459S</sup>:  $25.82\pm0.28$  µm/hour). Analysis of directional persistence demonstrated that the expression of the mutant did not modify the resting values (EC-Pinco: 0.09±0.04; EC-SHP2<sup>C459S</sup>:  $0.12\pm0.08$ ), whereas it allowed VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> to be more efficient (EC-Pinco: 0.20±0.06; EC-SHP2<sup>C459S</sup>:  $0.32\pm0.07$ ) (Figure 5). The expression of SHP2<sup>C459S</sup> did not affect the chemokinetic parameters of unstimulated or stimulated cells plated on vitronectin, which were completely comparable to those shown in Figure 1(data not shown).

#### SHP2 Regulates VEGFR-2 Internalization

On engagement with its ligands, VEGFR-2 is internalized.<sup>18,24,32,33</sup> Recent data suggest that dephosphorylation of tyrosine kinase receptors by protein phosphatases is involved in their downregulation through internalization.<sup>34–36</sup>

Therefore, we looked at the internalisation of VEGFR-2 in ECs overexpressing SHP2<sup>C459S</sup>. To discriminate between the

receptor exposed on cell membrane and the internalized fraction, cell surface was treated with trypsin23,35 and VEGFR-2 was immunoprecipitated with an Ab raised against its cytosolic portion. This method allows a direct analysis of receptor endocytosis by means trypsin-directed proteolysis of the membrane-exposed receptor. The internalized VEGFR-2 is in fact the only one retaining the original mass, whereas the receptor molecules that remain on the cell surface are cleaved by trypsin. This assay is an indirect indication of endocytosis, even though it does not offer any indication of the intracellular fate of the receptor.23,35 VEGFR-2 endocytosis was detectable 10 minutes after stimulation and reached the peak at 15 minutes (Figure 6A and 6B). Very little amount of internalized VEGFR-2 was detected in ECs overexpressing SHP2<sup>C459S</sup>. These results were confirmed by internalisation analysis of [125]VEGF-A. Expression of SHP2C4598 reduced the internalisation of the ligand (Figure 6C).

The GTPase dynamin II is a regulator of both clathrin- and caveolae-dependent endocytosis and its activity is positively regulated by tyrosine phosphorylation.<sup>37,38</sup> In ECs dynamin II is a substrate of Src kinase,<sup>39</sup> which is activated by VEGF-A.<sup>33,40</sup> Furthermore, SHP2 regulates Src by controlling phosphorylation of its inhibitory tyrosine 529.<sup>41</sup> If SHP2 contributes to the VEGFR-2 endocytosis, Src and dynamin II should be inhibited in cells carrying SHP2<sup>C4598</sup>. Indeed, VEGF-A<sub>165</sub>-evoked tyrosyl phosphorylation of dynamin II and phosphorylation of Src Tyr-416 were impaired in these cells (Figure 6D and 6E; supplemental Figure V). These data demonstrate that SHP2 stimulation by VEGFR-2 modulates dynamin II activation, probably through Src kinase activation.

# SHP2 Binds Directly to Tyrosine 1173 in the VEGFR-2

C-terminal Tyr-1212 and -1173 are the two major VEGF-A– dependent autophosphorylation sites<sup>42</sup> and their removal impairs VEGFR-2 downregulation,<sup>43</sup> suggesting that one of these Tyr residues could binds SHP2. VEGFR-2 and its mutants VEGFR-2<sup>Y1173F</sup> and VEGFR-2<sup>Y1212F</sup> were immunoprecipitated from transfected PAE cells and the association with SHP2 was analyzed by immunoblot. The VEGF-A<sub>165</sub>–dependent tyrosine phosphorylation of the receptor was lower in PAE carrying VEGFR-2<sup>Y1173F</sup> and VEGFR-2<sup>Y1212F</sup> mutants than in cells transfected with wild type receptor accordingly to the relevance of these residues in the autophosphorylation event (Figure 7A). Mutation in tyrosine 1173 abrogated the interaction with SHP2, suggesting that this reside is crucial for SHP2 binding to VEGFR-2 (Figure 7B).

#### Discussion

Our study establishes a role for collagen I, a protein released within the provisional ECM by angiogenic ECs, as a negative regulator of VEGFR-2 through activation of tyrosine phosphatase SHP2. This concept parallels the observation that  $\alpha_1\beta_1$  integrin engaged by collagen activates the T-cell protein tyrosine phosphatase function that inhibits epidermal growth factor receptor signaling.<sup>44</sup>

We demonstrated that EC adhesion to collagen I reduces VEGF- $A_{165}$ -induced VEGFR-2 autophosphorylation by recruiting SHP2 to the phosphorylated tyrosine 1173. This



**Figure 6.** Effect of overexpression of SHP2<sup>C459S</sup> on VEGFR-2 internalization, dynamin II, and Src phosphorylation. ECs  $(2 \times 10^7)$  overexpressing SHP2<sup>C459S</sup> were plated on collagen I and stimulated for the indicated times with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> (0.23 nmol/L). A, Cells were submitted to trypsin treatment as described in Methods, and cell lysates were immunoprecipitated with an Ab anti the C-terminus of VEGFR-2 and immunoblotted with an Ab anti-VEGFR-2. B, Densitometric analysis of the experiment shown in (A). Mean $\pm$ SD of 4 experiments. ANOVA was F=21.50. §*P*<0.05 vs unstimulated cells. \**P*<0.05 vs SHP2<sup>C459S</sup> cells stimulated for 15 minutes with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub>. White, black, and hatched bars, respectively, indicate EC, EC-Pinco, and EC-SHP2<sup>C459S</sup>. C, EC overexpressing SHP2<sup>C459S</sup> (**A**) or vector alone ( $\blacklozenge$ ) were incubated, then incubated at 37°C with [<sup>125</sup>]/VEGF-A. Internalization was monitored as outlined in Methods. Mean $\pm$ SD of three samples in one experiment of two. D, Cell lysates were immunoprecipitated with Ab anti-dynamin II, divided in 2 aliquots, separated by SDS-PAGE and blotted as indicated. E, Total amount of Src and pY416 Src was detected by immunoblotting on cell lysates. Results are representative of 7 (C) and 4 (D) experiments, respectively. Densitometric analysis of (C) and (D) is reported in supplemental Figure VI.

observation explains our previous data showing that EC proliferation stimulated by VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> is lower on collagen I than on vitronectin.<sup>17</sup> Moreover, we provide evidences that: (1) EC motility induced by VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> is enhanced on

vitronectin as compared with collagen I; (2) SHP2 activity and tyrosine residue phosphorylation are activated by VEGF-A when ECs adhere on native ECM or on vitronectin; however, these effects are greatly increased when EC adhere



**Figure 7.** SHP2 interacts with Y1173 of VEGFR2. Wild-type and mutant VEGFR-2 cDNAs were transiently transfected in PAE cells that were stimulated with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub>. Lysates were immunoprecipitated with anti-VEGFR-2 Ab and immunoblotted with anti-pY (A) or anti-SHP2 (B). Results are representative of at least 3 experiments.

on collagen I; (3) constitutive expression of SHP2<sup>C459S</sup> blocks the inhibition of VEGFR-2 phosphorylation observed in cells adhering to collagen I; (4) VEGFR-2 is a substrate of SHP2; (5) in living cells VEGFR-2 closely interacts with SHP2 in proximity of plasma membrane of ECs; and (6) VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> dependent association of VEGFR-2 with SHP2 occurs when ECs are plated on collagen I, but not on vitronectin.

Downregulation of tyrosine kinase receptors by phosphotyrosine phosphatases could be considered a simpler and faster way to modify their behavior and functions as compared with clathrin-mediated or caveolae-dependent endocytosis or to proteasome-mediated degradation.45 SHP2 has been generally considered a positive downstream signal activated by membrane receptors.46 However, emerging evidences suggest that it may positively or negatively regulate signaling pathways depending on the specific type of signaling network. For example, SHP2 may act as a negative regulator of platelet-derived growth factor receptor by inducing dephosphorylation of the receptor itself or of its cognate substrates.<sup>47–49</sup> However, SHP2 is also implicated in positive regulation of this receptor through regulation of Ras or focal adhesion kinase.50,51 Similarly, SHP2 exerts both negative and positive influences on T-cell receptor<sup>52,53</sup> and JAKs/ STATs pathway.54,55 Finally, SHP2 exclusively acts as negative regulator in angiotensin II receptor A1-mediated signals.56

Here, we do not investigate the precise mechanism by which collagen I favors SHP2-mediated VEGFR-2 dephosphorylation. Recently, we have demonstrated that SHP2 is involved in the negative control of VEGFR-2 triggered by GAS6-dependent Axl stimulation.<sup>28</sup> Furthermore, our observation parallels the results that VEGFR-2 may be negatively regulated by TIMP-2 through SHP1.<sup>13</sup> In ECs stimulated by TIMP-2, SHP1 shifts from  $\alpha_3\beta_1$  integrin to VEGFR-2, which is dephosphorylated.

It has been reported that in vascular smooth muscle cells  $\beta$ 3 engagement by vitronectin results in tyrosine phosphorylation of its cytosolic domain and recruitment of SHP2, which modulate insulin growth factor I receptor.<sup>57</sup> Thus, we hypothesize a protective role on VEGFR-2 signaling by vitronectinengaged  $\alpha_v\beta_3$ , which recruits SHP2 and preserves the receptor from phosphatase activity. In contrast, EC adhesion on collagen I, which does not depend on  $\alpha_v\beta_3$  integrin, could allow SHP2 interacting with VEGFR-2. Preliminary evidences demonstrate that a phosphatase activity is associated to  $\beta$ 3 in ECs plated on vitronectin and stimulated by VEGF-A<sub>165</sub>. However,  $\beta$ 1 immunocomplexes do not contain any phosphatase activity both in cells plated on collagen I and vitronectin (S. Mitola, unpublished).

Then we showed that SHP2 plays a relevant role in VEGFR-2 internalisation. VEGFR-2 undergoes endocytosis by a Cbl-dependent ubiquitination process<sup>58</sup> or through a mechanism caveolin-1–dependent.<sup>18</sup> Here, we extend these observations by showing overexpression of SHP2<sup>C459S</sup> dramatically decreases VEGFR-2 internalization, suggesting that dephosphorylation is involved in regulating its trafficking.

VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> induced tyrosyl phosphorylation of dynamin II, a GTPase regulator of vesicle fission required for the control of both clathrin- and caveolae-mediated endocytosis.<sup>38</sup> Pre-

vious studies showed that Src-dependent dynamin II phosphorylation is required for endocytosis.<sup>39,59,60</sup> Furthermore, SHP2 activates Src kinase by inhibiting the recruitment of C-terminal Src kinase, which exerts its inhibitory role by phosphorylating Tyr-529 of Src.<sup>41</sup> Here, we show that overexpression of SHP2<sup>C459S</sup> significantly reduced the effect of VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> on dynamin II phosphorylation and Src activation. These data suggest that SHP2 activation dephosphorylates VEGFR-2 and concomitantly activates Src kinase, which triggers a dynamin-dependent receptor internalization. SHP2 binds Tyr-1173 of stimulated VEGFR-2. This residue seems important in internalisation process as demonstrated by studying truncated receptors lacking Tyr-1173 and Tyr-1212.61 This process occurs in ECs growing on native ECM, as demonstrated by the data showing that this phosphatase is also activated by VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> in ECs adherent to this ECM (Figures 2A, 2B, and 3) as well as in cells on collagen I. Here, we did not address the behavior of the internalized VEGFR-2 in EC adhering on collagen I. VEGFR-2 could either be accumulated in the endosomal compartment and degraded or recycled to the membrane, thus allowing a different degree of EC activation or a modified spatial regulation of the signal. It is known that tyrosine kinase receptors may be translocated to the nucleus.<sup>62</sup> Notably, it has been recently reported that VEGF-A through VEGFR-2 may be transferred to the nucleus of migrating ECs.32 We may speculate that collagen I mediated internalization of VEGFR-2 results in attenuation of VEGFR-2-mediated signals or in activation of undefined EC responses and that a modulation of SHP2-dependent mechanism of internalization by ECM characterizes specific steps of angiogenesis.

#### Acknowledgments

This study was supported by Associazione Italiana per la Ricerca sul Cancro, Istituto Superiore di Sanità. (AIDS and Stem Cells National Projects), Ministero dell' Università e della Ricerca (MIUR) (60% and PRIN 2004 projects), Fondi incentivazione della Ricerca di Base (RBNE0184P, RBNE01MAWA, RBNE01T8C8), Ministero della Salute (Ricerca Finalizzata 2002 and 2003 to M.A. and F.B.), Regione Piemonte, and European Community (LSHM-CT-2003-503251) (http:://www.engv.org). We thank Letizia Lanzetti, Luca Primo, and Guido Serini for their suggestions, and Vincenzo Bagnardi for statistical analysis.

#### References

- 1. Jain RK. Molecular regulation of vessel maturation. *Nat Med.* 2003;9: 685–693.
- Kalluri R. Basement membranes: structures, assembly and role in tumor angiogenesis. *Nature Rev Cancer*. 2003;3:422–433.
- 3. Stupack DG, Cheresh DA. ECM remodeling regulates angiogenesis: endothelial integrins look for new ligands. *Sci STKE*. 2002;2002:E7.
- Bosman TF, Stamenkoovic I. Functional structure and composition of the extracellular matrix. J Pathol. 2003;200:423–428.
- Seandel M, Noack-Kunnaman K, Zhu D, Aimes RT, Quigley JP. Growth factor-induced angiogenesis in vivo requires specific cleavage of fibrillar type I collagen. *Blood.* 2001;97:2323–2332.
- Dameron KM, Volpert OV, Tainsky MA, Bouch N. Control of angiognesis in fibroblasts by regulation of thrombospondin-1. *Science*. 1994;265:1582–1585.
- George EL, Baldwin HS, Hynes RO. Fibronectins are essential for heart and blood vessel morphogenesis but are dispensable for initial specification of precursor cells. *Blood.* 1997;90:3073–3081.
- Brooks PC, Montgomery AMP, Rosenfeld M, Reisfeld RA, Hu T, Klier G, Cheresh DA. Integrin avb3 antagonists promote tumor regression by

inducing apoptosis of angiogenic blood vessels. *Cell.* 1994;79: 1157–1164.

- 9. Kim S, Bell K, Mousa SA, Varner JA. Regulation of angiogenesis *in vivo* by ligation of  $\alpha_5\beta_1$  with the cell-binding domain of fibronectin. *Am J Pathol.* 2000;156:1345–1362.
- Suzuma K, Takagi H, Otani A, Honda Y. Hypoxia and vascular endothelial growth factor stimulate angiogenic integrin expression in bovine retinal microvascular endothelial cells. *Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci.* 1998; 39:1028–1035.
- Friedlander M, Brooks PC, Shaffer RW, Kincaid CM, Varner JA, Cheresh DA. Definition of two angiogenic pathways by distinct αv integrins. *Science*. 1995;270:1500–1502.
- Ferrara N, Gerber HP, LeCouter J. The biology of VEGF and its receptors. *Nat Med.* 2003;9:669–676.
- Seo DW, Li H, Guedez L, Wingfield PT, Diaz T, Salloum R, Wei BY, Stetler-Stevenson WG. TIMP-2 mediated inhibition of angiogenesis: an MMP-independent mechanism. *Cell*. 2003;114:171–180.
- 14. Carmeliet P, Lampugnani MG, Moons L, Breviario F, Compernolle V, Bono F, Balconi G, Spagnuolo R, Oostuyse B, Dewerchin M, Zanetti A, Angellilo A, Mattot V, Nuyens D, Lutgens E, Clotman F, de Ruiter MC, Gittenberger-de Groot A, Poelmann R, Lupu F, Herbert JM, Collen D, Dejana E. Targeted deficiency or cytosolic truncation of the VE-cadherin gene in mice impairs VEGF-mediated endothelial survival and angiogenesis. *Cell.* 1999;98:147–157.
- Dardik R, Loscalzo J, Eskaraev R, Inbal A. Molecular mechanisms underlying the proangiogenic effect of Factor XIII. *Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol.* 2005;25:526–532.
- Borges E, Jan Y, Ruoslahti E. Platelet-derived growth factor receptor beta and vascular endothelial growth factor receptor 2 bind to the beta 3 integrin through its extracellular domain. J Biol Chem. 2000;275: 39867–39873.
- Soldi R, Mitola S, Strasly M, Defilippi P, Tarone G, Bussolino F. Role of alphavbeta3 integrin in the activation of vascular endothelial growth factor receptor-2. *Embo J*. 1999;18:882–892.
- Labrecque L, Royal I, Surprenant DS, Patterson C, Gingras D, Beliveau R. Regulation of vascular endothelial growth factor receptor-2 activity by caveolin-1 and plasma membrane cholesterol. *Mol Biol Cell*. 2003;14: 334–347.
- 19. Tonks NK, Neel BG. From form to function: signaling by protein tyrosine phosphatases. *Cell*. 1996;87:365–368.
- Feng G. Shp-2 tyrosine phosphatase: signaling one cell or many. *Exp Cell Res.* 1999;253:47–54.
- Whelan MC, Senger DR. Collagen I initiates endothelial cell morphogenesis by inducing actin polymerization through suppression of cyclic AMP and protein kinase A. J Biol Chem. 2003;278:327–334.
- Kim S, Bakre M, Yin H, Varner JA. Inhibition of endothelial cell survival and angiogenesis by protein kinase A. J Clin Invest. 2002;110:933–941.
- Ceresa BP, Kao AW, Santeler SR, Pessin JE. Inhibition of clathrinmediated endocytosis selectively attenuates specific insulin receptor signal transduction pathways. *Mol Cell Biol.* 1998;18:3862–3870.
- Dougher M, Terman BI. Autophosphorylation of KDR in the kinase domain is required for maximal VEGF-stimulated kinase activity and receptor internalization. *Oncogene*. 1999;18:1619–1627.
- Tertoolen LG, Blanchetot C, Jiang G, Overvoorde J, Gadella TW Jr, Hunter T, den Hertog J. Dimerization of receptor protein-tyrosine phosphatase alpha in living cells. *BMC Cell Biol.* 2001;2:8–15.
- 26. Wijelath ES, Murray J, Rahman S, Patel Y, Ishida A, Strand K, Aziz S, Cardona C, Hammond WP, Savidge GF, Rafii S, Sobel M. Novel vascular endothelial growth factor binding domains of fibronectin enhance vascular endothelial growth factor biological activity. *Circ Res.* 2002;91: 25–31.
- Gu J, Tamura M, Pankov R, Danen EH, Takino T, Matsumoto K, Yamada KM. Shc and FAK differentially regulate cell motility and directionality modulated by PTEN. *J Cell Biol.* 1999;146:389–403.
- Gallicchio M, Mitola S, Valdembri D, Fantozzi R, Varnum B, Avanzi GC, Bussolino F. Inhibition of vascular endothelial growth factor receptor 2-mediated endothelial cell activation by Axl tyrosine kinase receptor. *Blood.* 2005;105:1970–1976.
- Kroll J, Waltenberger J. The vascular endothelial growth factor receptor KDR activates multiple signal transduction pathways in porcine aortic endothelial cells. J Biol Chem. 1997;272:32521–32527.
- 30. Huang L, Sankar S, Lin C, Kontos CD, Schroff AD, Cha EH, Feng SM, Li SF, Yu Z, Van Etten RL, Blanar MA, Peters KG. HCPTPA, a protein tyrosine phosphatase that regulates vascular endothelial growth factor

receptor-mediated signal transduction and biological activity. J Biol Chem. 1999;274:38183–38188.

- Zhao Z, Tan Z, Wright J, Diltz C, Shen S, Krebs E, Fischer E. Altered expression of protein-tyrosine phosphatase 2C in 293 cells affects protein tyrosine phosphorylation and mitogen-activated protein kinase activation. *J Biol Chem.* 1995;270:11765–11769.
- Li W, Keller G. VEGF nuclear accumulation correlates with phenotypical changes in endothelial cells. J Cell Sci. 2000;113(Pt 9):1525–1534.
- 33. Meyer RD, Dayanir V, Majnoun F, Rahimi N. The presence of a single tyrosine residue at the carboxyl domain of vascular endothelial growth factor receptor-2/FLK-1 regulates its autophosphorylation and activation of signaling molecules. J Biol Chem. 2002;277:27081–27087.
- Ostman A, Bohmer FD. Regulation of receptor tyrosine kinase signaling by protein tyrosine phosphatases. *Trends Cell Biol.* 2001;11:258–266.
- Chiarugi P, Cirri P, Taddei ML, Talini D, Doria L, Fiaschi T, Buricchi F, Giannoni E, Camici G, Raugei G, Ramponi G. New perspectives in PDGF receptor downregulation: the main role of phosphotyrosine phosphatases. J Cell Sci. 2002;115:2219–2232.
- Haj FG, Verveer PJ, Squire A, Neel BG, Bastiaens PI. Imaging sites of receptor dephosphorylation by PTP1B on the surface of the endoplasmic reticulum. *Science*. 2002;295:1708–1711.
- Hinshaw JE. Dynamin and its role in membrane fission. Annu Rev Cell Dev Biol. 2000;16:483–519.
- Orth JD, McNiven MA. Dynamin at the actin-membrane interface. Curr Opin Cell Biol. 2003;15:31–39.
- Shajahan AN, Timblin BK, Sandoval R, Tiruppathi C, Malik AB, Minshall RD. Role of Src-induced dynamin-2 phosphorylation in caveolae-mediated endocytosis in endothelial cells. *J Biol Chem.* 2004; 279:20392–20400.
- He H, Venema VJ, Gu X, Venema RC, Marrero MB, Caldwell RB. Vascular endothelial growth factor signals endothelial cell production of nitric oxide and prostacyclin through flk-1/KDR activation of c-Src. *J Biol Chem.* 1999;274:25130–25135.
- 41. Zhang SQ, Yang W, Kontaridis MI, Bivona TG, Wen G, Araki T, Luo J, Thompson JA, Schraven BL, Philips MR, Neel BG. Shp2 regulates SRC family kinase activity and Ras/Erk activation by controlling Csk recruitment. *Mol Cell*. 2004;13:341–355.
- Takahashi T, Yamaguchi S, Chida K, Shibuya M. A single autophosphorylation site on KDR/Flk-1 is essential for VEGF-A-dependent activation of PLC-gamma and DNA synthesis in vascular endothelial cells. *Embo J.* 2001;20:2768–2778.
- Meyer RD, Singh AJ, Rahimi N. The carboxyl terminus controls liganddependent activation of VEGFR-2 and its signaling. *J Biol Chem.* 2004; 279:735–742.
- Mattila E, Pellinen T, Nevo J, Vuoriluoto K, Arjonen A, Ivaska J. Negative regulation of EGFR signalling through integrin-alfa1beta1mediated activation of protein tyrosine phosphatase TCPTP. *Nat Cel Biol.* 2005;7:78–85.
- Haglund K, Di Fiore PP, Dikic I. Distinct monoubiquitin signals in receptor endocytosis. *Trends Biochem Sci.* 2003;28:598–603.
- Tonks NK, Neel BG. Combinatorial control of the specificity of protein tyrosine phosphatases. *Curr Opin Cell Biol.* 2001;13:182–195.
- Meng TC, Fukada T, Tonks NK. Reversible oxidation and inactivation of protein tyrosine phosphatases in vivo. *Mol Cell*. 2002;9:387–399.
- Klinghoffer RA, Kazlauskas A. Identification of a putative Syp substrate, the PDGF beta receptor. J Biol Chem. 1995;270:22208–22217.
- Cossette LJ, Hoglinger O, Mou L, Shen SH. Localization and downregulating role of the protein tyrosine phosphatase PTP2C in membrane ruffles of PDGF-stimulated cells. *Exp Cell Res.* 1996;223:459–466.
- Bennett AM, Tang TL, Sugimoto S, Walsh CT, Neel BG. Proteintyrosine-phosphatase SHPTP2 couples platelet-derived growth factor receptor beta to Ras. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 1994;91:7335–7339.
- Qi JH, Ito N, Claesson-Welsh L. Tyrosine phosphatase SHP-2 is involved in regulation of plateled-derived growth factor-induced migtation. *J Biol Chem.* 1999;274:14455–14463.
- Marmor MD, Yarden Y. Role of protein ubiquitylation in regulating endocytosis of receptor tyrosine kinases. *Oncogene*. 2004;23:2057–2070.
- 53. Frearson JA, Alexander DR. The phosphotyrosine phosphatase SHP-2 participates in a multimeric signaling complex and regulates T cell receptor (TCR) coupling to the Ras/Mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK) pathway in Jurkat T cells. J Exp Med. 1998;187:1417–1426.
- Yu CL, Jin YJ, Burakoff SJ. Cytosolic tyrosine dephosphorylation of STAT5. Potential role of SHP-2 in STAT5 regulation. J Biol Chem. 2000;275:599-604.

- 55. Kim H, Baumann H. Dual signaling role of the protein tyrosine phosphatase SHP-2 in regulating expression of acute-phase plasma proteins by interleukin-6 cytokine receptors in hepatic cells. *Mol Cell Biol.* 1999;19: 5326–5338.
- Doan T, Farmer P, Cooney T, Ali MS. Selective down-regulation of angiotensin II receptor type 1A signaling by protein tyrosine phosphatase SHP-2 in vascular smooth muscle cells. *Cell Signal*. 2004;16:301–311.
- 57. Ling Y, Maile LA, Clemmons DR. Tyrosine phosphorylation of the beta3-subunit of the alphaVbeta3 integrin is required for embrane association of the tyrosine phosphatase SHP-2 and its further recruitment to the insulin-like growth factor I receptor. *Mol Endocrinol.* 2003;17: 1824–1833.
- Duval M, Bedard-Goulet S, Delisle C, Gratton JP. Vascular endothelial growth factor-dependent down-regulation of Flk-1/KDR involves Cbl-

mediated ubiquitination. Consequences on nitric oxide production from endothelial cells. J Biol Chem. 2003;278:20091–20097.

- Kim YN, Bertics PJ. The endocytosis-linked protein dynamin associates with caveolin-1 and is tyrosine phosphorylated in response to the activation of a noninternalizing epidermal growth factor receptor mutant. *Endocrinology*. 2002;143:1726–1731.
- Sterling H, Lin DH, Gu RM, Dong K, Hebert SC, Wang WH. Inhibition of protein-tyrosine phosphatase stimulates the dynamin-dependent endocytosis of ROMK1. J Biol Chem. 2002;277:4317–4323.
- Meyer AN, Gastwirt RF, Schlaepfer DD, Donoghue DJ. The cytoplasmic tyrosine kinase Pyk2 as a novel effector of fibroblast growth factor receptor 3 activation. J Biol Chem. 2004;279:28450–28457.
- Wells A, Marti U. Signalling shortcuts: cell-surface receptors in the nucleus. *NatRev Mol Cell Biol*. 2002;3:697–702.





#### Type I Collagen Limits VEGFR-2 Signaling by a SHP2 Protein-Tyrosine Phosphatase– Dependent Mechanism 1

Stefania Mitola, Barbara Brenchio, Marco Piccinini, Leon Tertoolen, Luca Zammataro, Georg Breier, Maria Teresa Rinaudo, Jeroen den Hertog, Marco Arese and Federico Bussolino

Circ Res. 2006;98:45-54; originally published online December 8, 2005; doi: 10.1161/01.RES.0000199355.32422.7b Circulation Research is published by the American Heart Association, 7272 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX 75231 Copyright © 2005 American Heart Association, Inc. All rights reserved. Print ISSN: 0009-7330. Online ISSN: 1524-4571

The online version of this article, along with updated information and services, is located on the World Wide Web at:

http://circres.ahajournals.org/content/98/1/45

Data Supplement (unedited) at:

http://circres.ahajournals.org/content/suppl/2005/12/08/01.RES.0000199355.32422.7b.DC1

**Permissions:** Requests for permissions to reproduce figures, tables, or portions of articles originally published in *Circulation Research* can be obtained via RightsLink, a service of the Copyright Clearance Center, not the Editorial Office. Once the online version of the published article for which permission is being requested is located, click Request Permissions in the middle column of the Web page under Services. Further information about this process is available in the Permissions and Rights Question and Answer document.

**Reprints:** Information about reprints can be found online at: http://www.lww.com/reprints

**Subscriptions:** Information about subscribing to *Circulation Research* is online at: http://circres.ahajournals.org//subscriptions/

#### **Supplemental Methods**

#### **Reagents and Plasmids**

Rabbit polyclonal antibodies (Ab) VEGFR-2 (N-terminal: N931; C-terminal: C-1158), anti-SHP1,

anti-SPH2, anti-dynamin II were purchased from Santa Cruz (Santa Cruz Biotecnology, Inc., Santa Cruz, CA), anti-src and anti-phospho(Tyr-416) src from Cell Signaling Technology, (Beverly, MA), mAb anti-phosphotyrosine (pY) from Upstate Biotechnology (Lake Placid, NY).

SHP2<sup>C459S</sup> cDNA mutant, in which Cys 459 is substituted by Ser<sup>1</sup>, was subcloned into the BamHI/EcoRI site of a modified Pinco retroviral vector and expressed under the control of the two long terminal repeats<sup>2</sup>. ECs were infected by Pinco retroviral vector encoding SHP2 <sup>C459S</sup>. Expression of transgene was evaluated by western blot analysis with Ab anti-SHP2. Infection conditions did not modify EC morphology and cell cycle, which was analysed by propidium iodide fluorescence with FACS flow cytometer (FACS Advantage SE, Mountain View, CA).

SHP2 cDNA was inserted between the BamH1 and EcoRI sites of pGEX2TK (Pharmacia Biotech, Piscataway, NJ) to yield GSH - *S*- transferase (GST) fusion protein and expressed in *E. coli*. Protein was purified by GST-sepharose affinity chromatography (Pharmacia-Biotech).

VEGFR-2 and SHP2 cDNAs were respectively cloned in ClaI and StuI sites of pCS2MT-CFP and in XhoI/ and NotI sites of pCS2MT-YFP to create constructs encoding the labeled fusion proteins VEGFR-2-CFP and YFP- SHP2, respectively.

VEGFR-2Y1173F and VEGFR-2Y1212F were generated by PCR site-directed mutagenesis. The antisense oligonucleotide for VEGFR-2Y949F was CCAG GGC AAG GAC <u>TTC</u> GTT GGG GAA CTC, for VEGFR-2Y994F GCT TCT GAA GAA CTG <u>TTT</u> AAA GAC TTC CTG, for VEGFR-2Y1052-1057F GAC ATT <u>TTT</u> AAG GAT CCG GAT <u>TTT</u> GTC AGA AAA, for VEGFR-2Y1173F GCAG GAT GGC AAA GAC <u>TTT</u> ATT GTC CTT CCA. These mutants were cloned in KpnI and XhoI sites of pCDNA3.1. Porcine aorta ECs cells were grown in Hams-F12 medium

Mitola et al.

with 10% FCS (BioWhittaker Walkersville, MD) and transfected with VEGFR-2 mutants, VEGFR-2-CFP and YFP- SHP2 by Lipofectamine Plus reagent technique (Invitrogen Ltd, Paisley, UK).

#### Cells

Experiments were performed with human ECs from umbilical cord veins<sup>3</sup> in two different conditions: *a*) cells grown on gelatin for 3-5 days to allow them to produce a native ECM and then starved for 20 h in M199 containing 1% foetal calf serum (FCS) and 1% human serum albumin; *b*) cells treated as in *a*) detached by trypsin-EDTA solution (Sigma) (2 min at 4°C), except when differently indicated, and then plated for 90-120 min on human collagen I or vitronectin (Sigma-Aldrich). Trypsin treatment does not modify expression of VEGFR-2,  $\alpha v$ ,  $\alpha 2$ ,  $\beta 1$ ,  $\beta 2$  and  $\beta 5$  integrin subuints, as monitored by FACS analysis. Cells were stimulated with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> (0,23 nmol/L) (R&D System Minneapolis, MN). Plastic surface was coated with ECM proteins at 10 µg/ ml phosphate-buffered saline (PBS).

#### Cell motility

ECs (150 cells/ mm<sup>2</sup>) motility plated on collagen I or vitronectin and stimulated in M199 with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> (0,23 nmol/L) or vehicle was analyzed by time-lapse videomicroscopy<sup>4</sup>. Cell paths were generated from centroid positions and migration parameters were computed with DIAS software (Solltech Inc., Oakdale, IA, USA). The x and y coordinates of the cell centroids were recorded every 10 min. The reported cell speed for each condition is an average of 100 cells. Directional persistence was calculated by determining the ration between the net path length and the total path length<sup>5</sup>.

#### Immunoprecipitation and immunoblotting

ECs were lysed as previously described <sup>3</sup> with the sole exception of the absence of phosphatase inhibitors. After pre-clearing, samples (1-3 mg of proteins) were immunoprecipitated with the

indicated Abs. Denatured proteins were separated by sodium dodecylsulphate polyacrilamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE) (8 or 10%) and probed with the indicated Abs or with the SHP2-GST recombinant protein. The enhanced chemiluminescence technique (PerkinElemer/Cetus, Norwalk, CT) was used for detection. Routinely, VEGFR-2 was immunoprecipitated by using an Ab raised against a N-terminal peptide and immunodetected by the same Ab.

Bands were analyzed by densitometric scanning (Bio-Rad, model GS-700) and were normalized for differences in protein loading per lane. Statistical analysis was performed by one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) and p value was calculated by Bonferroni's multiple comparison test (GraphPad Prism; GraphPad Prism Software).

#### Fluorescence resonance energy transfer analysis

For fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET), PAE cells carrying VEGFR-2-CFP and YFP-SHP2 were observed by a Leitz orthoplan upright microscope (Leitz GMBH, Wetzlar, Germany) equipped with an epi-illumination fluorescence detection system and a temperature-controlled specimen holder at 33°C. Measurements were made in a DMEM containing 2% FCS and 10 mmoles/L HEPES (pH 7.4) exactly as previously described<sup>6</sup>. As an excitation source, a SPEX Fluorolog fluorimeter (SPEX Industries, Edison, NJ) (slit width: 8 nm) with two excitation monochromators was used. Two filter sets (Ploemopak) were used, the "CFP" filter set (filter #1) with an RKP510 dichroic mirror and a 490 nm long-pass emission filter, and the "FRET" filter (filter #2), equipped with a dichroic mirror RKP510 (reflection short-pass filter) and a BP530-560 (band-pass) emission filter (Leitz GMBH, Wetzlar, Germany). Excitation of CFP and YFP was respectively performed at 430±2 and 490±2 nm. The YFP spectra were measured with a dichroic mirror >510 nm. Spectral data were recorded with an integration time of 0.5 s/nm, slit 8 nm. The fluorescence intensity was quantified with a Photon Counting Tube (type 9862, EMI Limited, Middlesex, England). The fluorescence intensities were corrected for differences in excitation light

intensities, using the reference photomultiplier. Real-time dual excitation measurements were made by alternating excitation at 430 and 490 nm and analysis of YFP emission at 535 $\pm$ 5 nm. Fluorescence intensities were recorded from single living cells and corrected for background, using adjacent non-transfected cells (Scion Imaging Software (Scion Corporation)). *E* is the FRET efficiency in a CFP and YFP labelled proteins, which is dependent on the distance and orientation of the fluorophores.  $\alpha$  is the degree of interaction, ranging from 0 (no interaction) to 1 (100% interaction)<sup>6</sup>. Cells were analized for 30 minutes before the addition of VEGF-A, and than FRET were recovered. All measurements were made with a Leitz 50x NA 1.0 water immersion objective.

#### **Binding Assay and Analysis**

For specific binding studies ECs were detached by ethylendiamine tetracetate sodium salt (1 mmol/L) in cold PBS and then plated at confluence on collagen I or vitronectin for 2 hours. ECs were incubated in an orbital shaker at 4° C for 2 h in 200µl/well of binding medium [medium 199 containing 20 mmoles/L 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid (Hepes) buffer, pH 7.4, 14 µmoles/L bovine serum albumin, 4,9 µmoles/L soybean trypsin inhibitor] with increasing concentrations of <sup>125</sup>I]-VEGF-A (44TBq/mmol, Amersham-Biotech-Pharmacia, Milano, I) in the presence of a 100-fold excess of unlabeled ligand. Cells were washed three times with ice-cold binding buffer and lysed in 200µl/well of sodium dodecyl sulphate 2% in phosphate buffered saline<sup>7</sup>. Triplicate samples under each condition were obtained for each experiment. Specific binding, calculated subtracting from the total cpm bound after incubation with a 100-fold excess of unlabeled ligand, was approximately 80%. The  $K_d$  was estimated by Scatchard plot using the Ligand program (Elseviere-Biosoft, Cambridge, UK).

#### VEGFR-2 internalization

Cells were washed twice with PBS and then incubated on ice for 7 min in ice-cold 20 mmol/L sodium acetate, pH 3.7. After washes, cells were incubated with trypsin (47 µmoles/L in PBS) in ice

for 30 min. Soybean trypsin inhibitor (49 μmoles/L) was added to stop the reaction. VEGFR-2 was immunoprecipitated as described below by using a Ab raised against the C-terminal domain and the trypsin resistant 205 kDa protein is the internalized receptor. Alternatively, confluent cells (12-well plate) were equilibrated for 1 hour in binding medium [medium 199 containing 20 mmoles/L 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid (Hepes) buffer, pH 7.4, 14 µmoles/L bovine serum albumin, 4.9 µmoles/L soybean trypsin inhibitor], twice washed witht the same medium and then incubated at 37°C with 0.1 nmole/L <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF-A (44TBq/mmol, Amersham-Biotech-Pharmacia, Milano, I) for the indicated times. Cells were put on ice to block further internalization and washed twice with PBS. Subsequently, cells were incubated for 5 min in 0.2 moles/L sodium acetate, pH 4.0, 0.5 moles/L NaCl. Samples were collected and cells were lysed in 1 mole/L NaOH for 10 min. Acid wash samples representing the membrane boud ligand fraction and cell lysates representing the internalized ligand fractions were counted. The ratio of internalized :surface radioactivity was plotted against time <sup>8</sup>.

#### References

- 1. Zhao R, Zhao ZJ. Tyrosine phosphatase SHP-2 dephosphorylates the platelet-derived growth factor receptor but enhances its downstream signalling. *Biochem J.* 1999;338:35-9.
- 2. Cutrupi S, Baldanzi G, Gramaglia D, Maffe A, Schaap D, Giraudo E, van Blitterswijk W, Bussolino F, Comoglio PM, Graziani A. Src-mediated activation of alpha-diacylglycerol kinase is required for hepatocyte growth factor-induced cell motility. *EMBO J.* 2000;19:4614-4622.
- 3. Soldi R, Mitola S, Strasly M, Defilippi P, Tarone G, Bussolino F. Role of alphavbeta3 integrin in the activation of vascular endothelial growth factor receptor-2. *Embo J*. 1999;18:882-892.
- 4. Serini G, Ambrosi D, Giraudo E, Gamba A, Preziosi L, Bussolino F. Modeling the early stages of vascular network assembly. *EMBO J*. 2003;22:1771-1779.
- 5. Gu J, Tamura M, Pankov R, Danen EH, Takino T, Matsumoto K, Yamada KM. Shc and FAK differentially regulate cell motility and directionality modulated by PTEN. *J. Cell. Biol.* 1999;146:389-403.
- 6. Tertoolen LG, Blanchetot C, Jiang G, Overvoorde J, Gadella TW, Jr., Hunter T, den Hertog J. Dimerization of receptor protein-tyrosine phosphatase alpha in living cells. *BMC Cell Biol*. 2001;2:8-15.
- 7. Giraudo E, Primo L, Audero E, Gerber HP, Koolwijk P, Soker S, Klagsbrun M, Ferrara N, Bussolino F. Tumor necrosis factor-alpha regulates expression of vascular endothelial

growth factor receptor-2 and of its co-receptor neuropilin-1 in human vascular endothelial cells. *J Biol Chem.* 1998;273:22128-22135.

- 8. Dougher M, Terman BI. Autophosphorylation of KDR in the kinase domain is required for maximal VEGF-stimulated kinase activity and receptor internalization. *Oncogene*. 1999;18:1619-1627.
- 9. Brogi E, Schatteman G, Wu T, Kim EA, Varticovski L, Keyt B, Isner JM. Hypoxia-induced paracrine regulation of vascular endothelial growth factor receptor expression. *J Clin Invest*. 1996;97:469-76.
- 10. Thomas KA. Vascular endothelial growth factor, a potent and selective angiogenic agent. *J. Biol. Chem.* 1996;271:603-606.

#### LEGEND TO SUPPLEMENTAL FIGURES

# Figure 1S. Specific binding of radiolabeled VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> to EC plated on collagen I or vitronectin.

ECs were detached by ethylendiamine tetracetate sodium salt (1 mmol/L) in cold PBS and then plated at confluence on collagen I ( $\circ$ ---- $\circ$ ) or vitronectin ( $\bullet$ --- $\bullet$ ) for 2 hours *A*, specific ligand binding curve. The binding studies were performed at equilibrium by incubating endothelial cells with <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF-A concentrated to 50 pM or higher. This experimental condition excluded the analysis of the binding of VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> to VEGFR-1, which has a *K<sub>d</sub>* ranging from 9 to 16 pM<sup>9,10</sup>. Cells were incubated with indicated concentrations of <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF-A for 2 h at 4 C in the presence of a 100-fold excess of cold ligand. *B*, Scatchard plot of the data reported in *A* indicates that a *Kd* of 104 pmoles/L in ECs on collagen I and of 102 pmoles/L on vitronectin The number of binding sites expressed on cell surface was also similar in both conditions: on collagen I, *B*<sub>max</sub>=63 fmoles; on vitronectin, *B*<sub>max</sub>=61. The data shown are representative of three experiments.

#### Figure 2S. Densitometric analyses of experiments shown in Figure 2

<u>Panel A.</u> ECs  $(2x10^7)$  grown on native ECM were stimulated with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> for the indicated times and cell lysates were immunoprecipitated with anti-SHP2. SHP2 immunocomplexes were incubated for 1 hour a 37°C with phosphorylated VEGFR-2 immunopurified from ECs stimulated

with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> (0,23 nmol/L for 10 min). Denatured proteins were separated by SDS-PAGE and blotted with mAb anti-pY . Mean  $\pm$  S.D. of 5 experiments. ANOVA gave F=67,01.

<u>Panel B.</u> ECs  $(2x10^7)$  grown on native ECM were stimulated with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> (0,23 nmol) for the indicated times and cell lysates were immunoprecipitated by Ab anti-SHP2. Denatured proteins were separated by SDS-PAGE and blotted with mAb anti-pY. Mean ± S.D. of 3 experiments. ANOVA gave F=61,08.

<u>Panel C</u>. ECs (10<sup>7</sup>) plated for 90 minutes on collagen I or on vitronectin were stimulated with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> (0,23 nmol/L for 10 min). and cell lysates were immunoprecipitated by Ab anti-SHP2. Denatured proteins were separated by SDS-PAGE and blotted with mAb anti-pY. Mean  $\pm$  S.D. of 3 experiments. ANOVA gave F=105,00.

#### Figure 3 S. Densitometric analyses of experiments shown in Figure 3

<u>Panel A.</u> ECs  $(2x10^7)$  grown on native ECM were stimulated with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> and cell lysates were immunoprecipitated by Ab anti-VEGFR-2. Denatured proteins were separated by SDS-PAGE and probed with mAb anti-pY or with GST-SHP2 protein. Mean ± S.D. of 4 experiments. ANOVA performed on data about pY-VEGFR-2 gave F=26.97. §: p<0.05 *versus* ustimulated cells; \*: p<0.05 *versus* 3 min. VEGF-A<sub>165</sub>- stimulated cells; ^: p<0.05 *versus* 10 min. VEGF-A<sub>165</sub>stimulated cells.

ANOVA performed on data about SHP-GST bound to VEGFR-2 gave F=10.42.

p<0.05 versus ustimulated cells; \*: p<0.05 versus 10 min. VEGF-A<sub>165</sub>- stimulated cells.

<u>Panel B.</u> ECs ( $10^7$ ) plated for 90 minutes on collagen I or on vitronectin, were stimulated with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> (0,23 nmol/L). Cells were lysed, immunoprecipitated with anti-VEGFR-2. Denatured proteins were separated by SDS-PAGE and blotted with mAb anti-pY or with anti-SHP2. Mean  $\pm$  S.D. of 3 experiments.

ANOVA performed on data about pY-VEGFR-2 gave F=173.60. §: p<0.05 *versus* ustimulated cells plated on collagen I or vitronectin; \*: p<0.05 *versus* cells plated on collagen I and stimulated

for 5 min with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub>;  $^{p<0.05}$  versus cells plated on collagen I and stimulated for 15 min with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub>.

ANOVA performed on data about SHP2-bound to VEGFR-2 gave F=105.1.

§: p<0.05 *versus* unstimulated cells plated on collagen I or vitronectin; \*: p<0.05 *versus* cells plated on collagen I and stimulated for 5 min with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub>;  $^{p}$  p<0.05 *versus* cells plated on collagen I and stimulated for 15 min with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub>; + p<0.05 *versus* cells plated on collagen I and stimulated for 30 min with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub>.

#### Figure 4S. Effect of retroviral infection on VEGFR-2 expression.

Basal expression of VEGFR-2 in ECs overexpressing vector alone or SHP2<sup>C459S</sup> was detected by immunoprecipitation and immunoblotting with Ab - anti VEGFR-2. The data shown are representative of 5 experiments.

#### Figure 5 S. Densitometric analyses of experiments shown in Figure 6

<u>Panel A.</u> ECs  $(2x10^7)$  overexpressing SHP2<sup>C459S</sup> were plated on collagen I and stimulated for the indicated times with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> (0,23 nmol/L). Cells were lysed, immunoprecipitated with anti-dynamin II. Denatured proteins were separated by SDS-PAGE and blotted with mAb anti-PY. Mean  $\pm$  S.D. of 7 experiments. ANOVA gave F=87.89. §: p<0.05 *versus* ustimulated cells; \*: p<0.05 *versus* EC-PINCO stimulated for 10 min with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub>; ^ p<0.05 *versus* EC-PINCO stimulated for 10 min with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub>; ^ p<0.05 *versus* EC-PINCO stimulated for 10 min with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub>; ^ p<0.05 *versus* EC-PINCO stimulated for 10 min with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub>; ^ p<0.05 *versus* EC-PINCO stimulated for 10 min with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub>; ^ p<0.05 *versus* EC-PINCO stimulated for 10 min with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub>; ^ p<0.05 *versus* EC-PINCO stimulated for 10 min with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub>; ^ p<0.05 *versus* EC-PINCO stimulated for 10 min with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub>; ^ p<0.05 *versus* EC-PINCO stimulated for 10 min with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub>; ^ p<0.05 *versus* EC-PINCO stimulated for 10 min with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub>; ^ p<0.05 *versus* EC-PINCO stimulated for 10 min with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub>; ^ p<0.05 *versus* EC-PINCO stimulated for 10 min with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub>.

Panel B. ECs  $(2x10^7)$  overexpressing SHP2<sup>C459S</sup> were plated on collagen I and stimulated for the indicated times with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub> (0,23 nmol/L). Cells were lysed and denatured proteins separated by SDS-PAGE were blotted with mAb anti-pY416-Src. Mean ± S.D. of 4 experiments. ANOVA gave F=57.60. §: p<0.05 *versus* ustimulated cells; \*: p<0.05 *versus* EC-PINCO stimulated for 10 min with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub>; ^ p<0.05 *versus* EC-PINCO stimulated for 15 min with VEGF-A<sub>165</sub>.







Figure 1S; Mitola et al

Densitometric analysis of phosphorylated VEGFR-2 incubated with immunocomplexes anti-SHP2 (see Figure 2B)



В

Α

Densitometric analysis of phosphorylatedSHP2 immunoprecipitaed from ECs plated on native ECM (see Figure 2C)



С

Densitometric analysis of phosphorylatedSHP2 immunoprecipitaed from ECs plated on collagen I or vitronectin (see Figure 2E)



Densitometric analysis of phosphorylated VEGFR-2 and of the amount of SHP2-GST bound to VEGFR-2 in ECs plated on native ECM(see Figure 3B)



Α

Densitometric analysis of phosphorylated VEGFR-2 and of the amount of SHP2-GST bound to VEGFR-2 in ECs plated on collagen I or vitronectin (see Figure 3E)







#### WB:aVEGFR-2

#### IP: αVEGFR-2

Densitometric analysis of phosphorylated dynamin II in EC-PINCO and EC-SHP2<sup>C459S</sup> plated on collagen I (see Figure 6C).



В

Α

Densitometric analysis of pY416-Src in EC-PINCO and EC-SHP2<sup>C459S</sup> plated on collagen I (see Figure 6D).

