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The histone demethylase LSD1/KDM1A promotes the DNA damage response

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Histon demethylase is known to regulate transcription, but its role in other processes is largely unknown. We report a role for the histone demethylase LSD1/KDM1A in the DNA damage response (DDR). We show that LSD1 is recruited directly to sites of DNA damage. H3K4 dimethylation, a major substrate for LSD1, is reduced at sites of DNA damage in an LSD1-dependent manner. The E3 ubiquitin ligase RNF168 physically interacts with LSD1 and we find this interaction to be important for LSD1 recruitment to DNA damage sites. Although loss of LSD1 did not affect the initial formation of pH2A.X foci, 53BP1 and BRCA1 complex recruitment were reduced upon LSD1 knockdown. Mechanistically, this was likely a result of compromised histone ubiquitylation preferentially in late S/G2. Consistent with a role in the DDR, knockdown of LSD1 resulted in moderate hypersensitivity to γ-irradiation and increased homologous recombination. Our findings uncover a direct role for LSD1 in the DDR and place LSD1 downstream of RNF168 in the DDR pathway.

Introduction

A double-stranded DNA break (DSB) represents a challenging problem for the cell, and its proper repair is critical for cell survival and the prevention of oncogenic transformation. In eukaryotes, DSBs initiate a signaling cascade on chromatin that coordinates ordered recruitment of specific factors to the damaged region, promotes cell cycle arrest, and affects DNA repair (Jackson and Bartek, 2009; Ciccia and Elledge, 2010). Studies in recent years have provided significant insight into the signaling cascade that mediates the DNA damage response (DDR), but the chromatin modifications important for DDR regulation remain incompletely understood.

The DDR cascade begins with the detection of DSBs by the MRN (MRE11–RAD50–NBS1) complex, which recruits and activates the ataxia telangiectasia mutated (ATM) kinase at DSBs to phosphorylate the variant histone H2A.X (Jackson and Bartek, 2009; Ciccia and Elledge, 2010). The formation of this phosphorylated histone (also known as γH2A.X) recruits the large scaffold phosphoprotein MDC1 to irradiation-induced foci (IRIF; Stewart et al., 2003; Stucki et al., 2005). MDC1 recruits the E3 ubiquitin ligase RNF8, which promotes ubiquitylation events near DSBs (Huen et al., 2007; Kolas et al., 2007; Mailand et al., 2007). This ubiquitylation is further amplified by a second E3 ligase, RNF168, although recent evidence also suggests that RNF8 functions both upstream as well as downstream of RNF168 (Mattioli et al., 2012). RNF168-mediated ubiquitylation promotes the recruitment of various downstream effector complexes (Doil et al., 2009; Stewart et al., 2009). One such complex includes BRCA1, which promotes repair primarily by homologous recombination (HR; Huen et al., 2010). A second effector is 53BP1, which promotes XRCC4-dependent nonhomologous end joining (Xie et al., 2007). Both BRCA1 and 53BP1 serve as tumor suppressors, at least partly because of their roles...
LSD1 is recruited to sites of DNA damage. (a) UV laser microirradiation was performed on U2OS cells, incubated at 37°C for 10 min, stained for endogenous LSD1, and analyzed by confocal microscopy. (b) U2OS cells were microirradiated as in panel a, and then stained for CoREST or BHC80 and pH2A.X as indicated. Bar, 10 µm. (c) PCR was performed using rDNA or GAPDH primers with LSD1 ChIP material after DSBs were induced with retroviral I-PpoI in U2OS cells. The indicated time points represent the length of 4-OH-tamoxifen (4HT) treatment to induce DSBs. Shown is the change of LSD1 rDNA ChIP quantified and normalized to input. (d) U2OS cells transduced with control or I-PpoI-expressing virus and were treated with 4HT for 4 h. ChIP was then performed using antibodies against 53BP1 or LSD1, and real-time qPCR was done on the ChIP material using rDNA primers.

Figure 1.

Results

LSD1 is recruited to sites of DNA damage

Recent studies have suggested that H3K4 methylation plays a role in controlling the DDR and recombination events (Cheung et al., 2010; Daniel and Nussenzweig, 2012). Specifically, H3K4 methylation appears to be tightly associated with regions of increased HR and crossovers during meiosis (Borde et al., 2009; Sommermeyer et al., 2013). We therefore wished to determine whether or not LSD1 plays a role outside of transcription remains unknown.

Here, we provide evidence that LSD1 plays a direct role in the DDR. We show that LSD1 is recruited to sites of DSBs in vivo, concomitant with a reduction of H3K4 dimethylation (H3K4me2), which occurs primarily in late S/G2 cells and is dependent on LSD1. Furthermore, recruitment of the downstream effector protein 53BP1 to IRIF is dependent on LSD1 in a subset of cells, which are also in the late S/G2 phase of the cell cycle. The mechanism of this appears to be reduced H2A/H2A.X ubiquitylation in the absence of LSD1, and, consistently, BRCA1 and Rap80 foci are also reduced upon LSD1 knockdown. We demonstrate that the E3 ubiquitin ligase RNF168 physically interacts with LSD1 and is important for recruitment of LSD1 to sites of DNA damage. Our findings further suggest a potential cross talk between H3K4 demethylation mediated by LSD1 and H2A/H2A.X ubiquitylation in the DDR.

Posttranslational modifications of histones, including methylation, acetylation, phosphorylation, and ubiquitylation, among others (Strahl and Allis, 2000), represent an important aspect of epigenetic regulation. Histone methylation, which occurs on both lysine and arginine residues, plays important roles in transcriptional activation and repression (Bedford and Clarke, 2009; Mosammaparast and Shi, 2010). The histone demethylase LSD1 (lysine-specific demethylase 1) mediates demethylation of histone H3K4me1/2 (dimethylated histone H3 lysine 4) and in so doing functions to repress transcription (Shi et al., 2004). Consistently, LSD1 is a component of transcriptional corepressor complexes containing histone deacetylases (You et al., 2001; Hakimi et al., 2002; Hakimi et al., 2003). LSD1 has also been shown to associate with the NuRD chromatin-remodeling corepressor complex (Wang et al., 2009). LSD1 also participates in transcriptional activation when associated with nuclear hormone receptors, i.e., androgen and estrogen receptors (Metzger et al., 2005; Garcia-Bassets et al., 2007), but the underlying molecular mechanism in this context is unclear. Notably, whether or not LSD1 plays a role outside of transcription remains unknown.

in DNA repair. It is well known that loss of BRCA1 significantly increases the risk of human breast and ovarian tumors, and mice bearing BRCA1 hypomorphic alleles are tumor prone (Huen et al., 2010). 53BP1 knockout mice are also prone to developing tumors in a variety of organ systems (Ward et al., 2005). Consistently, cells lacking 53BP1 harbor many signs of genomic instability, including hypersensitivity to genotoxic agents, increased aneuploidy, and loss of DNA damage–induced cell cycle arrest (FitzGerald et al., 2009). Localization of 53BP1 to IRIF is crucial for these functions, and the aforementioned upstream factors, particularly H2A/H2A.X ubiquitylation as well as dimethylation of histone H4 at lysine 20 (H4K20), are required for its recruitment (FitzGerald et al., 2009). Additional chromatin modifications associated with the DDR include Tip60-mediated histone acetylation (van Attikum and Gasser, 2009), as well as deacetylation of H3K56 (Miller et al., 2010). However, the entire spectrum of chromat modifications and the associated enzymes required for the recruitment of 53BP1 or other IRIF factors to DNA damage sites are far from being completely understood.

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Here, we provide evidence that LSD1 plays a direct role in the DDR. We show that LSD1 is recruited to sites of DSBs in vivo, concomitant with a reduction of H3K4 dimethylation (H3K4me2), which occurs primarily in late S/G2 cells and is dependent on LSD1. Furthermore, recruitment of the downstream effector protein 53BP1 to IRIF is dependent on LSD1 in a subset of cells, which are also in the late S/G2 phase of the cell cycle. The mechanism of this appears to be reduced H2A/H2A.X ubiquitylation in the absence of LSD1, and, consistently, BRCA1 and Rap80 foci are also reduced upon LSD1 knockdown. We demonstrate that the E3 ubiquitin ligase RNF168 physically interacts with LSD1 and is important for recruitment of LSD1 to sites of DNA damage. Our findings suggest that LSD1 may play a direct role, possibly downstream of RNF168 but upstream of 53BP1 and BRCA1, in the DDR. Our findings further suggest a potential cross talk between H3K4 demethylation mediated by LSD1 and H2A/H2A.X ubiquitylation in the DDR.
we found that H3K4me2 is lost in a significant population of cells upon laser microirradiation (Fig. 2 a, top). Profiling of the immuno-fluorescent signal confirmed an inverse correlation between pH2A.X and H3K4me2 (Fig. 2 b). We termed this loss of H3K4me2 at laser stripes as H3K4me2 antistripes. LSD1 has also been reported to demethylate H3K9me2 (Metzger et al., 2005), but we did not observe loss of H3K9me2 signal at pH2A.X stripes (Fig. 2 a, bottom). Furthermore, we did not observe loss of total H3 upon microirradiation (unpublished data). Collectively, these findings suggest that LSD1 may be responsible for the H3K4me2 reduction at DNA damage sites.

To confirm the aforementioned finding, we again turned to the I-PpoI system discussed earlier. As a positive control, we initially assessed acetylation at H4K5 after I-PpoI induced damage and found this mark dramatically increased (Fig. 2 c), consistent with the previously described recruitment of the histone acetyltransferase Tip60 to DNA damage foci, which acetylates H4K5 (Murr et al., 2006). Importantly, we observed a significant decrease in H3K4me2 (Fig. 2 c), consistent with the micro-irradiation results. Thus, LSD1 and H3K4me2 demethylation appear to mark sites of DNA damage in vivo.

H3K4me2 demethylation marks sites of DNA damage and occurs primarily in late S/G2
The fact that LSD1 is specifically recruited to sites of DNA damage suggested that a reduction of H3K4 methylation may be observed at sites of DNA damage. Consistent with this prediction, we found that H3K4me2 is lost in a significant population of cells upon laser microirradiation (Fig. 2 a, top). Profiling of the immuno-fluorescent signal confirmed an inverse correlation between pH2A.X and H3K4me2 (Fig. 2 b). We termed this loss of H3K4me2 at laser stripes as H3K4me2 antistripes. LSD1 has also been reported to demethylate H3K9me2 (Metzger et al., 2005), but we did not observe loss of H3K9me2 signal at pH2A.X stripes (Fig. 2 a, bottom). Furthermore, we did not observe loss of total H3 upon microirradiation (unpublished data). Collectively, these findings suggest that LSD1 may be responsible for the H3K4me2 reduction at DNA damage sites.

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We noticed that only about half of the cells that were positive for pH2A.X stripes had H3K4me2 antistripes (Fig. 2 a and see the quantitation in the following section). We hypothesized that this may be the result of a cell cycle-dependent process. To address
data suggest that LSD1 is a major player that mediates H3K4me2 demethylation at sites of DNA damage, although involvement of another H3K4 demethylase in this process cannot be excluded. Recruitment of LSD1 to sites of DNA damage is dependent on RNF168. We next wished to determine the mechanism by which LSD1 is recruited to sites of DNA damage. We first considered whether LSD1 recruitment is dependent on the ATM or ataxia telangiectasia and Rad3 related (ATR) kinase pathways. Comparable numbers of cells treated with either the ATM inhibitor KU55933 or DMSO control displayed visible HA-LSD1 stripes overlapping with the pH2AX signal upon DNA damage (Fig. 3, a and c). There was also no change in LSD1 recruitment using an ATR inhibitor (Toledo et al., 2011; Fig. S1 g). At the concentrations used, both inhibitors were indeed functional (Fig. S2 a). Similarly, the loss of H2A.X did not affect LSD1 recruitment (Fig. S2, a–c). Interestingly, certain chromatin-associated factors, such as 53BP1, have rapid recruitment to sites of DNA damage even in the absence of H2A.X, but are not retained without H2A.X (Celeste et al., 2003). We then asked whether 53BP1 or a key factor responsible for its recruitment, RNF168, are important for LSD1 recruitment. Laser microirradiation experiments did not reveal a difference in the recruitment of LSD1 in 53BP1−/− MEFs (Fig. 3, d and f). However, knockdown of H3K4me2 demethylation at sites of DNA damage is LSD1 dependent Is the loss of H3K4me2 at sites of DNA damage dependent on LSD1? We found that although loss of the H3K4me2 signal was readily observed upon UV laser microirradiation in wild-type mouse embryonic fibroblast (MEF) cells, the H3K4me2 signal was still present at pH2A.X laser stripes in LSD1−/− MEFs (Fig. 2 f and Fig. S1 f). Quantitation revealed that 54% of the wild-type MEFs had visible loss of H3K4me2 at pH2A.X stripes, whereas only 14% of LSD1−/− MEFs had H3K4me2 antistripes. These
RNF168 (Fig. S2 d) caused a significant reduction in the recruitment of LSD1 to sites of DNA damage (Fig. 3 e). Quantitation revealed only ~40% of pH2A.X-positive stripes were positive for LSD1 stripes upon RNF168 knockdown, as opposed to >90% in control knockdown cells (Fig. 3 f). RNF168 knockdown also reduced recruitment of HA-tagged LSD1 to microirradiation sites (unpublished data).

Retention of LSD1 at microirradiation sites is transient

Many other chromatin-associated factors, such as KAP1 and CHD4, are recruited rapidly to sites of DNA damage but become dissociated quickly after their recruitment (Ziv et al., 2006; Polo et al., 2010), whereas other factors, such as 53BP1, are retained for hours (Celeste et al., 2003). We wished to determine the retention kinetics of LSD1 at sites of DNA damage. Although over 90% of cells had visible LSD1 stripes 10 min after microirradiation, this was reduced significantly 60 min after microirradiation (Fig. 4, a and b). We conclude that LSD1 is recruited to sites of DNA damage but that its retention is relatively transient.

Rapid, transient recruitment of RNF168 to damage sites is H2A.X independent

The aforementioned results were surprising because localization of RNF168 to sites of DNA damage is thought to be H2A.X dependent, but LSD1 recruitment is H2A.X independent although apparently RNF168 dependent. We noticed that most studies on RNF168 and the requirement of H2A.X for its recruitment to sites of damage were done using longer time scales, typically 1–4 h after irradiation (Doil et al., 2009; Stewart et al., 2009), whereas our microirradiation studies on LSD1 were done on a shorter timescale because of its transient retention described in the previous section. Therefore it was possible that RNF168 is rapidly recruited to sites of damage in a manner independent of H2A.X, but that its retention is H2A.X dependent, as previously described for 53BP1 (Celeste et al., 2003). Indeed, we found that GFP-RNF168 recruitment to sites of laser-induced damage is clearly seen in the absence of H2A.X 10 min after irradiation (Fig. 4 c). Although 100% of H2A.X+/+ cells had visible GFP-RNF168 recruitment at microirradiation sites, 100% of H2A.X−/− cells also had GFP-RNF168 recruitment (using 53BP1 as the microirradiation site indicator). We could also observe the recruitment of RNF168 to IR-induced foci (IRIF) in the same cells 10 min after irradiation (Fig. 4 d). We should note that GFP-RNF168 formed very distinct foci in H2A.X+/+ cells, whereas some background GFP-RNF168 nucleoplasmic staining was noticeable in H2A.X−/− cells, whose foci were somewhat smaller. Consistent with the previously published data, RNF168 was not retained at sites of DNA damage in the absence of H2A.X 1 h after irradiation (Fig. 4 e; Doil et al., 2009; Stewart et al., 2009).
Therefore, like 53BP1, an H2A.X-independent mechanism exists for the initial recruitment of RNF168 to sites of DNA damage. We should note that a recent study suggested that the H2A.X-independent rapid recruitment of 53BP1 to IRIF is dependent on RNF168 (Bohgaki et al., 2011). Thus, it appears that both LSD1 and 53BP1 may depend on RNF168 for this initial rapid recruitment to DNA damage sites.

**LSD1 interacts with RNF168**

Reminiscent of CHD4 and its dependency on physical interaction with RNF8 for recruitment to damage sites (Luijsterburg et al., 2012), it was possible that the recruitment of LSD1 to sites of DNA damage was dependent on physical interaction with RNF168. To test this, we first took an unbiased approach by generating a stable cell line expressing Flag-tagged RNF168 and immunoprecipitating the tagged RNF168 and its associated proteins from irradiated and nonirradiated cells for mass spectrometry analysis. Indeed, LSD1 was present in both samples, along with many other interactors (Table S1). We then confirmed the presence of LSD1 in the Flag-purified RNF168 complex by Western blotting (Fig. 5 a). We further demonstrated by reciprocal immunoprecipitation that HA-LSD1 effectively co-immunoprecipitated myc-tagged RNF168 (Fig. 5 b). Although immunoprecipitation of Flag–RNF168 from asynchronous cells demonstrated its association with LSD1, this interaction seems to be enhanced in nocodazole-arrested cells, at least partly because there was greater RNF168 present (Fig. S2 e). Whether the endogenous, untagged RNF168 is similarly enriched at the G2 phase of the cell cycle remains to be determined. As a control, we failed to identify an association between LSD1 and the other damage-associated E3 ligase RNF8 under the same conditions (Fig. 5 c). Using coimmunoprecipitation, we also confirmed the physical interaction between endogenous LSD1 and RNF168 (Fig. S2 f).

Is the catalytic activity of RNF168 important for the recruitment of LSD1 to sites of DNA damage? We first asked whether LSD1 may associate with a catalytically inactive RNF168. In fact, immunoprecipitation of Flag-LSD1 effectively coimmunoprecipitated both wild type and a catalytically inactive form of RNF168 (Fig. S2 g). Expression of an shRNA-resistant, wild-type form of RNF168 rescued the ability of LSD1 to be recruited to laser-induced DNA damage sites after endogenous RNF168 knockdown (Fig. S3, a and b). Interestingly, a catalytically inactive form of RNF168 was also capable of rescuing LSD1 recruitment to sites of DNA damage (Fig. S3, a and b). These experiments strongly suggested that the catalytic activity of RNF168 is not required for the recruitment of LSD1 to DNA damage sites.
the CoREST complex in the hope of isolating a mutant that would selectively abrogate its recruitment to sites of DNA damage (see examples of mutants tested in Fig. S3 c). One mutant form of LSD1 that we constructed was an N-terminal deletion removing the first 171 amino acids of LSD1 (NΔ-LSD1). This deletion mutant retains catalytic activity and was previously used for co-crystallization with CoREST (Yang et al., 2006). Strikingly, in comparison to wild-type LSD1, NΔ-LSD1 was recruited to sites of DNA damage relatively poorly (Fig. 5 d). 15 min after laser microirradiation, 77% of cells had visible recruitment of wild-type LSD1, compared with only 35% of cells expressing NΔ-LSD1. This suggested a requirement of the N-terminal region for effective LSD1 recruitment to DNA damage sites. Interestingly, the same N-terminal region also appears to be required for physical interaction with RNF168, as NΔ-LSD1 displayed a significantly reduced interaction with RNF168 (Fig. 5 e). Importantly, this LSD1 mutant immunoprecipitated an equal amount of CoREST compared with wild-type LSD1 (Fig. 5 e), suggesting that the loss of interaction with RNF168 is most likely not because of improper folding of the truncated LSD1, which is consistent with a previous structural study (Yang et al., 2006). Collectively, these results strongly suggest that the recruitment of LSD1 to sites of DNA damage is mediated primarily by physical interaction with RNF168 and is independent of RNF168 activity.

Loss of LSD1 causes γ-irradiation (γ-IR) hypersensitivity and increased HR

Cells lacking factors directly involved in the DDR, such as 53BP1 and MDC1, are hypersensitive to γ-IR (FitzGerald et al., 2009; Coster and Goldberg, 2010). Therefore, we tested whether this was the case with LSD1. LSD1 was knocked down using lentiviral-mediated shRNA, and knockdown of 53BP1 was also performed in parallel as a positive control (Fig. 6 a). These cells were then used in a colony formation assay, which showed that knockdown of LSD1 caused a moderate sensitivity to γ-IR (approximately two- to threefold at 5 Gy; Fig. 6 a). This degree of γ-IR hypersensitivity, although modest, is similar to what is observed for certain other chromatin-modifying factors that have recently been shown to play a role in the DDR, such as components of the NuRD–CHD4 chromatin remodeling complex (Chou et al., 2010; Larsen et al., 2010; Polo et al., 2010; Smeenk et al., 2010).

As suggested earlier, H3K4 methylation has been shown to mark recombination hotspots (Cheung et al., 2010). Whether or not this modification is causative in promoting HR is unknown. Our evidence suggested that LSD1 can demethylate H3K4 at sites of DNA damage, and if in fact H3K4 methylation promotes HR, LSD1 may act to inhibit HR. We therefore tested whether knockdown of LSD1 affects HR using the established I-SceI HR reporter assay (Weinstock et al., 2006). Indeed, we found that loss of LSD1 modestly increased HR in these cells (Fig. 6 b). As a positive control we showed that loss of 53BP1 also increased HR, consistent with previous findings (Xie et al., 2007; Bunting et al., 2010).

LSD1 promotes 53BP1 foci formation primarily in late S/G2 cells

Numerous studies have suggested that RNF168 plays an important role in the recruitment of 53BP1 to sites of DNA damage (Doil et al., 2009; Stewart et al., 2009). Because LSD1 can interact with RNF168, is recruited to sites of damage in an RNF168-dependent manner, and regulates HR like 53BP1, we investigated whether LSD1 plays a role in the recruitment of 53BP1 to IRIF. We used lentiviral shRNA constructs to knock down LSD1 in U2OS cells (Fig. S1 a). These cells were then treated with γ-IR (10 Gy) and IRIF was assessed by immunofluorescence microscopy. Knockdown of LSD1 did not affect induction of pH2A.X or MDC1 foci in response to γ-IR (Fig. 7 a, left), suggesting that the initial signaling events related to the DDR are intact and not LSD1 dependent. In contrast, knockdown of LSD1 with three different shRNAs, but not two control shRNAs, had a noticeable effect on the formation of 53BP1 IRIF in a subset of cells (Fig. 7 a and not depicted). Some LSD1 knockdown cells had significantly more diffuse nucleoplasmic 53BP1 signal, while
other cells lacked 53BP1 foci. These data suggest that LSD1 plays a role in the recruitment of 53BP1 to IRIF downstream of MDC1 and pH2A.X.

Because of the cell cycle–specific nature of LSD1 expression and H3K4me2 demethylation during DNA damage, we wished to determine whether the 53BP1 foci defect was also cell cycle specific. We knocked down LSD1 in U2OS-FUCCI cells and analyzed 53BP1 foci formation after γ-IR. Loss of LSD1 affected 53BP1 foci formation primarily in cells that were in late S/G2 (Fig. 7, b and c). With LSD1 knockdown, ∼40% of cells in late S/G2 had <10 53BP1 foci, whereas <10% of control knockdown cells had the same phenotype (Fig. 7 c).

A more modest reduction in foci (i.e., from >20 to the 10–19-foci/cell nucleus range) was observed in other phases of the cell cycle upon LSD1 knockdown. In contrast, knockdown of RNF8 affected 53BP1 foci formation in all stages of the cell cycle (Fig. S3, d and e). This cell cycle–specific phenotype associated with LSD1 was not likely to be caused by a major difference in the cell cycle distribution of cells upon LSD1 knockdown, as this was unchanged relative to control knockdown cells, consistent with previously published data (Scoumanne and Chen, 2007; unpublished data).

Is the catalytic activity of LSD1 important for its role in promoting 53BP1 foci formation in late S/G2? To address this issue, we stably expressed tagged, shRNA-resistant wild-type or catalytically inactive LSD1 (K661A; Lee et al., 2005) in U2OS-FUCCI cells, followed by knockdown of the endogenous LSD1 (Fig. S4 a). Importantly, the wild-type and catalytically inactive versions of LSD1 were both recruited to laser-induced DNA damage sites (Fig. S4 b). These cells were then treated with γ-IR, and 53BP1 foci formation was assessed in late S/G2 cells. Wild-type LSD1, but not the catalytically inactive form, improved the percentage of late S/G2 cells that had 53BP1 foci, although not to the same degree as control knockdown (Fig. S4, c and d). This may be because of the N-terminal tag of the exogenously expressed LSD1 or the presence of multiple LSD1
isoforms (Zibetti et al., 2010). Nevertheless, the difference between control rescue and wild-type LSD1 rescue was statistically significant. These results suggest that the catalytic activity of LSD1 promotes 53BP1 foci formation in late S/G2 cells.

**LSD1 promotes H2A/H2A.X ubiquitylation downstream of RNF168 recruitment**

RNF168 is an E3 ligase that promotes H2A/H2A.X ubiquitylation, and this activity is important for the recruitment of 53BP1 to sites of damage (Doil et al., 2009; Stewart et al., 2009). Our data suggested that LSD1 is associated with RNF168 and promotes 53BP1 recruitment. Therefore, we next determined whether IR-induced H2A/H2A.X ubiquitylation is affected in the absence by LSD1 late in the cell cycle. Cells were synchronized in late G2 using sequential thymidine-nocodazole block after transduction with control or LSD1-specific shRNA, followed by γ-IR treatment (Fig. 8, a and b). LSD1 knockdown did not significantly alter IR-induced pH2A.X, consistent with the lack of observable difference in pH2A.X foci formation (Fig. 7 a). However, there was a reduced signal corresponding to ubiquitylated H2A.X and ubiquitylated pH2A.X, particularly upon γ-IR (Fig. 8 b). Global levels of H2A ubiquitylation appeared to be significantly affected only with γ-IR (Fig. 8 b, bottom, compare lanes 1 and 4), suggesting that LSD1 does not play a significant role in H2A ubiquitylation in the absence of DNA damage. 53BP1 recruitment may also be affected by dimethylation of H4K20, but we did not observe a difference in the global methylation status of H4K20me2 before or after γ-IR (Fig. 8 c).

To determine whether histone ubiquitylation was reduced at DNA damage foci, we analyzed IRIF formation using a monoclonal antibody specific for ubiquitylated H2A (H2A-Ub). In fact, H2A-Ub foci were reduced in upon LSD1 knockdown (Fig. 8, d and e). Other DNA damage factors, particularly BRCA1 and Rap80, also depend on ubiquitylation at damage sites for their recruitment (Huen et al., 2010). Consistently, loss of LSD1
also affected the recruitment of these two factors to IRIFs, albeit modestly (Fig. S5, a and c). We also observed a modest reduction in ubiquitin conjugate formation at IRIFs upon LSD1 knockdown, which was similarly cell cycle dependent (Fig. S5 d).

Finally, we asked whether LSD1 affects histone ubiquitylation by promoting recruitment of RNF168 or RNF8. We did not observe a change in the localization of RNF168 to laser stripes upon LSD1 knockdown (Fig. 8, f and g). Furthermore, we did not observe a reduction in RNF8 IRIF formation upon LSD1 knockdown (Fig. S5 e). Collectively, our results suggest that LSD1 promotes histone ubiquitylation at sites of DNA damage downstream of E3 ligase recruitment.

Discussion

LSD1 was discovered in 2004 as the first histone demethylase that mediates H3K4me1/2 demethylation and promotes transcriptional repression (Shi et al., 2004). Since then, it has become clear from work done by various groups that LSD1 has a multitude of functions associated with transcription (Klose and Zhang, 2007; Cloos et al., 2008; Mosammiparast and Shi, 2010). However, besides the recently described noncatalytic role of JMJ2A (Mallette et al., 2012), there is little evidence in the literature that any histone demethylase plays a direct role in the DDR. Previous work had suggested that the Caenorhabditis elegans LSD1 homologue SPR-5 plays a role in meiotic DSB repair, but the precise molecular mechanism or its functional evolutionary conservation were not clear (Notte et al., 2011). In this study, we provide numerous lines of evidence supporting the notion that human LSD1 plays a direct role in the DDR. First, endogenous LSD1 colocalizes with pH2A.X at sites of UV laser microirradiation, coincident with H3K4me2 demethylation (Figs. 1 and 2). We did not observe LSD1 at IR-induced foci, possibly because most of the cellular LSD1 has functions associated with transcription and therefore the background binding to chromatin does not allow a sufficient difference between the signal and the noise to allow LSD1 to be seen at these foci. Consistent with the laser microirradiation data, DSBs induced by I-PpoI endonuclease recruit LSD1 and reduce H3K4me2 (Figs. 1 and 2). Furthermore, H3K4me2 demethylation at sites of DNA damage is promoted by LSD1 (Fig. 5). Finally, LSD1 interacts with RNF168 and its recruitment to sites of DNA damage is RNF168 dependent (Figs. 3–5). Collectively, these results strongly suggest that LSD1 plays a direct role in the DDR pathway.

Our results suggest that LSD1 is recruited to sites of DNA damage in a manner dependent on RNF168 but independent of H2A.X and ATM signaling (Fig. 3). This recruitment is also independent of RNF168 catalytic activity (Fig. S3), reminiscent of the mechanism by which NuRD–CHD4 is recruited to sites of DNA damage, which is also H2A.X independent and relies at least partially on physical association with RNF8 (Luijsterburg et al., 2012). Thus it appears that these E3 ligases, like 53BP1, may be recruited transiently to sites of DNA damage in a manner independent of H2A.X, but their retention therein requires H2A.X. Further work is necessary to determine the mechanism behind the rapid transient recruitment of RNF168 to DNA damage sites.

Previous work had suggested that LSD1 plays at least an indirect role in the DDR by demethylating p53, thereby inhibiting the activation function of p53 (Huang et al., 2007). However, other work suggested that p53-independent mechanisms play a role in the altered cell cycle response to DNA damaging agents in the absence of LSD1, although transcriptional mechanisms could not be ruled out (Scoumanne and Chen, 2007). The work described here may help explain at least some of the p53-independent functions of LSD1 in the DDR. As suggested earlier, recent studies have identified H3K4 methylation as a mark of meiotic DSB formation and crossovers in yeast and mice, respectively (Borde et al., 2009; Cheung et al., 2010). Furthermore, the H3K4 methyltransferase PRDM9 has been suggested to regulate the methylation status at these sites to promote meiotic recombination (Cheung et al., 2010). Our finding that loss of LSD1 causes an increase in HR is consistent with these data. Thus, the status of H3K4 methylation may serve as a regulator in determining whether HR is deployed for DNA repair.

Our work suggests that LSD1 participates in the DDR by promoting H2A/H2A.X ubiquitylation events at sites of damage during late S/G2. This suggests a possible cross talk between H3K4 demethylation and H2A/H2A.X ubiquitylation. What could be the mechanism behind this potential cross talk? Recent evidence has suggested that two distinct histone ubiquitylation events occur at sites of DNA damage. These include H2A K119 ubiquitylation, which is mediated by polycomb repressive complex 1 (PRC1; Ismail et al., 2010; Ginjala et al., 2011), as well as H2A K13/15 ubiquitylation, which is mediated by RNF168 (Gatti et al., 2012; Mattioli et al., 2012). Very recent work has demonstrated that the latter modification acts in concert with methylation at H4K20 to promote recruitment of 53BP1 (Fradet-Turcotte et al., 2013). Our data, which demonstrates that LSD1 interacts with RNF168, and that 53BP1 recruitment is reduced in the absence of LSD1 in late S/G2, suggests that RNF168 ubiquitylation events are affected by LSD1. However, our antibody-based approach in the analysis of H2A ubiquitylation events in vivo is limited, as it does not discriminate between H2A-K13 and H2A-K119 ubiquitylation events. Given that PRC1-mediated ubiquitylation of H2A-K119 has been suggested to affect 53BP1 recruitment (Ismail et al., 2010), it is formally possible that LSD1 may affect ubiquitylation events through mechanisms that are both RNF168 dependent and independent (i.e., through PRC1). Lastly, we note that LSD1 appears to affect other ubiquitylation events at sites of DNA damage as well because BRCA1/Rap80 and ubiquitin chain (FK2) formation are also reduced in the absence of LSD1 (Fig. S5). Recent work has also suggested that removal of ubiquitylated proteins by p97/VCP (such as L3MBTL1) promotes 53BP1 recruitment to sites of DNA damage (Acs et al., 2011; Meerang et al., 2011). It is formally possible that LSD1 functions to promote 53BP1 recruitment via such an alternative mechanism. However, the reduction of H2A/H2A.X ubiquitylation, as well as reduction of other damage foci proteins that depend on these ubiquitylation events, make these alternative mechanisms appear less likely.

It should be noted that PRC1-mediated H2A K119 ubiquitylation has been known for some time to be a mark of gene silencing (Wang et al., 2004). This modification, and indeed the
presence and spreading of a transcriptionally silent region of chromatin, occurs near sites of DSBS in mammalian cells and is at least partially dependent on RNF168 (Shanbhag et al., 2010). Formation of silent chromatin marks, such as methylation of H3K9, and recruitment of the NuRD–CHD4 complex are two other examples of a transient, repressive chromatin state that appear to be critical for the DDR (Chou et al., 2010; Larsen et al., 2010; Polo et al., 2010; Smeenk et al., 2010; Chiolo et al., 2011). Indeed, several other groups have observed that loss of the NuRD–CHD4 also reduces H2A/H2A.X ubiquitylation during DNA damage (Larsen et al., 2010; Smeenk et al., 2010). It is likely that one function of LSD1-mediated demethylation in this pathway is to facilitate such a repressive chromatin environment near DSBS, which may repress transcription near these sites. Further work is necessary to elucidate the molecular mechanisms of cross talk between the formation of transcriptionally repressive chromatin and the recruitment of chromatin-associated factors, such as 53BP1 and BRCA1, which are thought to be critical in regulating the DDR.

Materials and methods

Plasmids

LSD1 cDNA was cloned into pMSCV-Flag-HA for retroviral expression or pHAGE-CMV-Flag-HA for lentiviral expression. RNF168 cDNA was provided by R. Greenberg, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA was cloned into pHAGE-CMV-Flag-HA, pHAGE-CMV-GFP, and pHAGE-CMV-myc. RNF8 cDNA (provided by S. Elledge, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA) was cloned into plHAGE-CMV-Flag-HA. The retroviral vector pBABE-HA-EPR-pPol was provided by M. Kastan (Duke University, Durham, NC; Berkovich et al., 2007). Lentiviral shRNA constructs for LSD1, 53BP1, RNF168, and RNF8 were obtained from Thermo Fisher Scientific [clones were used as follows: shLSD1: TRCN0000046072 #1 and TRCN0000046068 #2; sh53BP1: TRCN0000018865; shRNF168: TRCN0000034134; shRNF8: TRCN000003441]. Mutations in LSD1 and RNF168 were produced by site-directed mutagenesis and confirmed by sequencing.

Cell culture and viral transduction

HeLa, 293T, MEFs, and U2OS cells were maintained as previously described (Mulligan et al., 2008). The U2OS/RNF168 cells were made by lentiviral co-transduction of mC2t2-lC1 (30/12) and mAG-Gem (1/110) into U2OS cells and were provided by S. Eldridge. The U2OS/RNF168 cells were originally made by Capetillo (Spanish National Cancer Research Center, Madrid, Spain). For laser microirradiation, U2OS cells were grown on LabTek II chamber slides (Thermo Fisher Scientific) in the presence of 10 μM BrdU for 24–48 h before induction of DNA damage by a UVA laser using an inverted microscope [Observer.Z1; Carl Zeiss] with a Palm microbeam laser microdissection workstation or with an inverted microscope (IX-81; Olympus) with an M48 50×/0.90 microdissection objective (Chou et al., 2010). After incubation at 37°C (typically 10 min for LSD1 and histone modifications, unless otherwise indicated), cells were washed once with cold PBS, extracted with CSK buffer plus 0.5% Triton X-100 for 2–5 min, washed again with cold PBS, and fixed with PBS containing 3.2% paraformaldehyde for 20 min. CSK/Triton buffer extraction step was omitted when using U2OS-Fucci cells. For IRIF analysis, U2OS cells were infected with the indicated retroviral or lentiviral vectors and plated onto coverslips. The cells were then irradiated (10 Gy or as indicated) and incubated at 37°C for 1 h. After washing with PBS, cells were fixed with PBS containing 3.2% paraformaldehyde for 20 min, and then washed extensively with IF wash buffer (PBS containing 0.5% NP-40 and 0.02% NaN3). The fixed cells were then incubated with blocking buffer (IF wash buffer with 10% FBS) and stained with the indicated antibodies diluted in blocking buffer at room temperature for 1–2 h or at 4°C overnight. After staining with secondary antibodies, cells were washed with Alexa Fluor 350, 488, or 594 (Invitrogen: Blue; EMD Millipore) and Hoechst 33342 (Sigma-Aldrich), where indicated, samples were mounted using Prolong Gold mounting medium (Invitrogen). Confocal imaging was performed on a FluoView FV1000 laser scanning confocal system [Olympus] connected to an inverted microscope (IX81) equipped with PLAPON 60×/0 NA 1.42 objective. FV1-ASW version 2.1 software was used to acquire images and to quantify H3K4me2 antistripes. Epifluorescence microscopy was performed on a fluorescent microscope (Eclipse E600; Nikon) using a 60×/1.4 Plan-Apo oil immersion lens and PragRes CapturePro 2.7 software or a microscope [BX-53; Olympus] using an Apo 60×/1.49 NA oil immersion lens and cellSens Dimension software. Raw images were exported into Adobe Photoshop, and for any adjustments in image contrast or brightness, the levels function was applied in Photoshop using identical settings for all images. For quantification of laser stripes, ~30–100 microirradiated cells were analyzed. For foci quantitation in U2OS/Fucci cells, images of 150–300 total cells were analyzed in triplicate or as otherwise indicated.

I-Ppol ChIP

ChIP studies on DSBS were performed using the previously described method (Berkovich et al., 2008) except that the ChIP-IT Express Kit (Active Motif) was used for the ChIP procedure. The antibodies used for ChIP are described in Table S2. Primers used for amplification of ChIP products are as follows: rRNA forward, 5′-TGGATCGAGAAGGGCAAAAGC-3′; rRNA reverse, 5′-TAGGAAAGGCGACATCGAAGG-3′; GAPDH forward, 5′-TGGCTTCGCTGCTTGTGC-3′; GAPDH reverse, 5′-CTCCATCTGCTTCTCCACTC-3′. For real-time analysis, the material from one ChIP was amplified and quantified using SYBR green in triplicate and expressed as fold change ± standard error.

Purification of RNF168 complex, MS/MS identification, and immunoprecipitation

The purification was performed as previously described (Nakatanai and Ogryzko, 2003; Mulligan et al., 2008), with the following modifications. Lentiviral Flag-HA–tagged RNF168 was stably expressed in 293T cells and incubation of cells in buffer A (10 mM Hepes, pH 7.6, 3 mM MgCl2, 10 mM KCl, 0.5% NP-40, and 5% glycerol) with phosphatase and protease inhibitors (Roche) for 10 min. After centrifugation, nuclear pellets were resuspended in buffer A containing 300 mM KCl. The nuclear extract was then diluted 1:1 with buffer A, incubated with anti-Flag (M2) beads (Sigma-Aldrich), washed extensively with buffer A, and eluted with Flag peptide (Sigma-Aldrich). The complex components were digested with trypsin, vacuum centrifuged to dryness, and resuspended in sample loading buffer (5% formic acid/5% acetonitrile). Samples were analyzed by HPLC (Eksigent NanoflC; AB Sciex) into PicoTips [New Objective] coupled to a LTQ ion trap mass spectrometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific) operated in positive ion mode. After a survey scan the six most abundant precursors was selected for fragmentation in CID mode. For identification, raw files were processed to mgf files using a user-written script, and ProteinPilot Software (version 4.5; AB Sciex) was used to search the data against a Universal database (XXP). An 1% false discovery rate for protein identifications was determined using the Perseus Error Probability algorithm integrated into ProteinPilot. Immunoprecipitation of Flag-tagged proteins in 293T cells was performed by lysis of cells in 50 mM Tris, pH 7.9, 150 mM NaCl, 1% Triton X-100, 5% glycerol, and protease and phosphatase inhibitor cocktails (Thermo Fisher Scientific). The lysate was cleared by centrifugation and incubated overnight at 4°C with M2-agarose beads. After extensive washing in the same buffer, bound material was eluted using Laemmli sample buffer and analyzed by Western blotting. Endogenous immunoprecipitation of RNF168 was performed using HeLa nuclear extracts essentially as previously described (Dango et al., 2011).
In brief, nuclear extract (~2 mg) was precleared with PrA-Sepharose [Thermo Fisher Scientific], and then incubated overnight at 4°C in the presence of 5 μg of antibody and 2.5 mg of BSA. The extract was then incubated with PrA-Sepharose for 1 h at 4°C, centrifuged, and washed extensively in TAP buffer [50 mM Tris, pH 7.9, 100 mM KCl, 5 mM MgCl₂, 0.2 mM EDTA, 0.1% NP-40, and 10% glycerol], and bound material was eluted using Laemmli sample buffer and analyzed by Western blotting.

**Colony formation assay and I-SceI recombination assay**

For colony formation assays, HeLa cells were infected with control shRNA or shRNA targeting LSD1 or 53BP1, selected with puromycin, plated at low density, and irradiated with the indicated doses of IR. The cells were incubated for 12–14 d, fixed, and stained with crystal violet. The experiment was performed in quadruplicate for each shRNA and IR dose. The I-SceI recombination assay was performed using the U2OS-DR-GFP cells as previously described [Weinstock et al., 2006]. In brief, the U2OS-DR-GFP cells were infected with the indicated lentiviral shRNAs. After selection, the cells were transfected with the pCBA-Scar plasmid [Weinstock et al., 2006] using Lipo-lectamine 2000 (Invitrogen). After incubation for 72 h, the cells were analyzed by FACS.

**Antibodies**

Antibodies used in this study are listed in Table S2.

**Online supplemental material**

Fig. S1 describes additional experiments demonstrating the recruitment of LSD1 to sites of DNA damage. Figs. S2 and S3 refer to experiments regarding the mechanism of LSD1 recruitment to sites of damage and its interaction with RNF168. Fig. S4 describes the role of the catalytic activity of LSD1 in 53BP1 formation. Fig. S5 relates to the mechanism of LSD1 in the DDR. Table S1 contains the proteomic data for the Flag-purified RNF168 complex. Table S2 contains information regarding the antibodies used in this study. Online supplemental material is available at http://www.jcb.org/cgi/content/full/jcb.201302092/DC1. Additional data are available in the JCB DataViewer at http://dx.doi.org/10.1083/jcb.201302092.dv.

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