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## The role of protein kinase C alpha translocation in radiation-induced bystander effect

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Ionizing radiation is a well known human carcinogen. Evidence accumulated over the past decade suggested that extranuclear/extracellular targets and events may also play a critical role in modulating biological responses to ionizing radiation. However, the underlying mechanism(s) of radiation-induced bystander effect is still unclear. In the current study, A<sub>L</sub> cells were irradiated with alpha particles and responses of bystander cells were investigated. We found out that in bystander A<sub>L</sub> cells, protein kinase C alpha (PKC $\alpha$ ) translocated from cytosol to membrane fraction. Pre-treatment of cells with PKC translocation inhibitor chelerythrine chloride suppressed the induced extracellular signal-regulated kinases (ERK) activity and the increased cyclooxygenase 2 (COX-2) expression as well as the mutagenic effect in bystander cells. Furthermore, tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF $\alpha$ ) was elevated in directly irradiated but not bystander cells; while TNF $\alpha$  receptor 1 (TNFR1) increased in the membrane fraction of bystander cells. Further analysis revealed that PKC activation caused accelerated internalization and recycling of TNFR1. Our data suggested that PKC $\alpha$  translocation may occur as an early event in radiation-induced bystander responses and mediate TNF $\alpha$ -induced signaling pathways that lead to the activation of ERK and up-regulation of COX-2.

A major paradigm shift in radiation biology in the past decade has resulted from the studies of bystander effect<sup>1,2</sup>. Radiation-related bystander effect is defined as the induction of biological effects in cells that are not directly traversed by a charged particle but are in close proximity to cells that are, or have received signals from these irradiated cells. In such a scenario, extranuclear and/or extracellular events may also contribute to the final biological consequences of radiation<sup>3</sup>. Bystander effect-induced damages have been clearly established in cell culture systems, and quite a few reports have demonstrated that bystander effect occurs *in vivo* as well<sup>4</sup>. Although bystander effect has been well described, our knowledge on the mechanisms of the process is still limited. Gap junction-mediated cell–cell communications may be important in mediating bystander effect in confluent cultures of either human<sup>5</sup> or rodent cells<sup>6</sup>, while in subconfluent cultures, it has been shown that reactive oxygen species, nitric oxide, and cytokines such as tumor growth factor beta (TGF $\beta$ ) are involved<sup>7–9</sup>. Several signaling pathways including the mitogen-activated protein kinases (MAPK) signaling cascade<sup>10</sup>, the NF $\kappa$ B pathway<sup>11,12</sup> and phosphor-inositide-3-kinase (PI3K)-AKT pathway<sup>13</sup> were demonstrated to mediate the bystander responses.

Protein kinase Cs (PKCs) are serine/threonin kinases that play important regulatory roles in cell cycle progression, differentiation, apoptosis, cytoskeletal remodeling, modulation of ion channels and secretion<sup>14,15</sup>. The activation and translocation of PKC in response to radiation has been demonstrated in different cells lines including smooth muscle cell<sup>16</sup>, mouse normal and neoplastic epidermal cells<sup>17</sup>, and rat hepatocytes<sup>18</sup>. Inhibition of PKC was shown to increase cell sensitivity to ionizing radiation, implicating a critical role of PKC in cellular responses to radiation<sup>19</sup>. Study using medium transfer method also indicated that different PKC isoforms including PKC- $\beta$ II, PKC- $\theta$ , PKC $\alpha$ / $\beta$  translocate from cytosol to the nuclear fraction in bystander as well as irradiated cells<sup>20</sup>. PKC $\alpha$  is a classical form of PKC. It is predominantly cytosolic but translocates to the membrane fraction in response to PKC activator phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate (PMA)<sup>21</sup>. However, exact subcellular location of PKC differs among cell lines and stimuli. Activation of PKC $\alpha$  has been related with the induction of MAPK, NF- $\kappa$ B, AP-1 and the secretion of TNF $\alpha$ , IL-6, and IL-10<sup>22</sup>.

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In the present study, we demonstrated that translocation of PKC $\alpha$  from cytosol to cell membrane is involved in bystander effect induced by  $\alpha$ -particles. Inhibition of PKC led to suppression of extracellular signal-regulated kinases (ERK) activity and cyclooxygenase 2 (COX-2) expression as well as a significantly reduced mutagenic effect. Further studies revealed that cytokine TNF $\alpha$  and its receptor TNFR1 may play a role in the process.

## Results

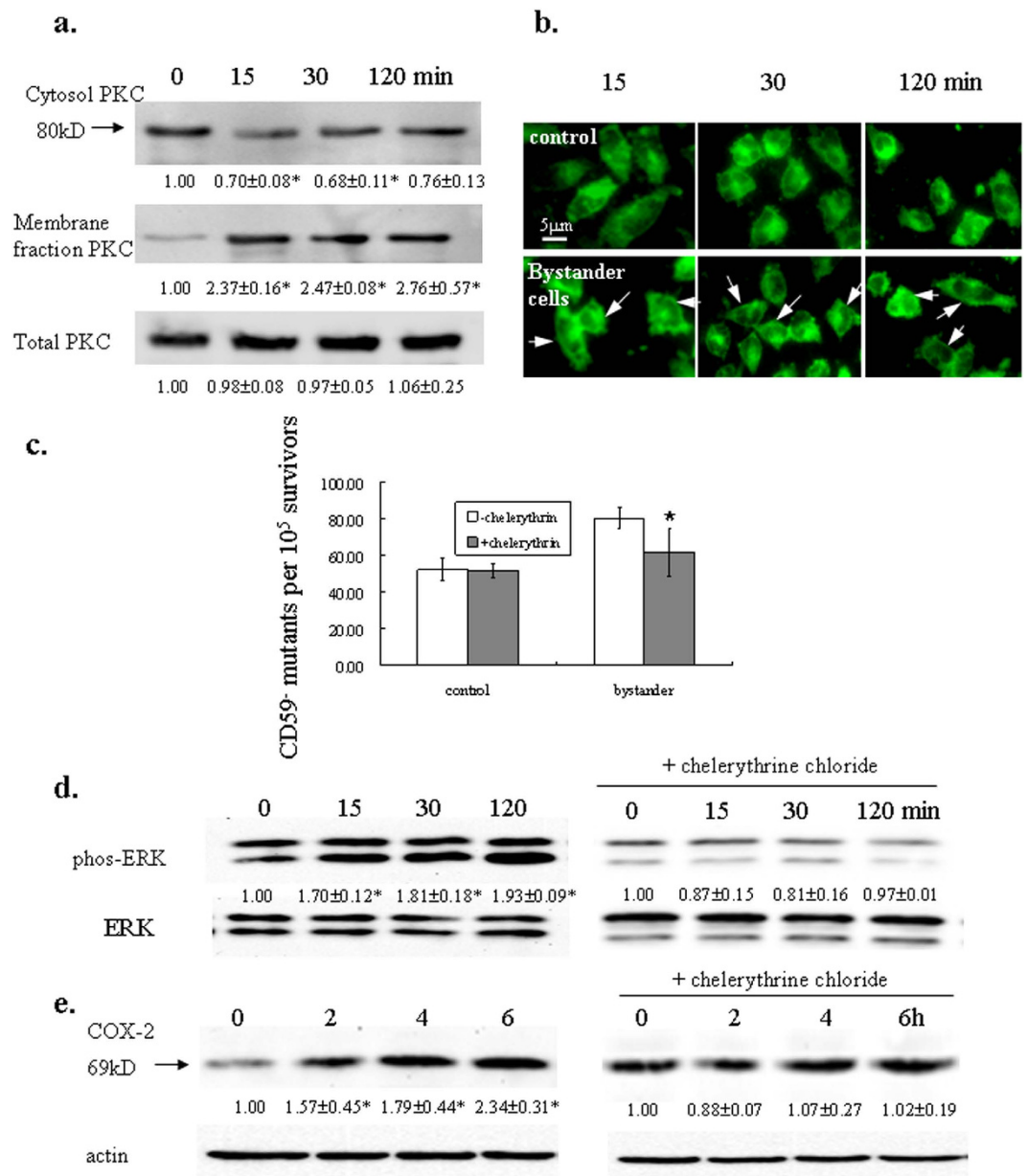
**PKC $\alpha$  translocated from cytosol to membrane in bystander cells.** PKC translocation has been implicated in the responses of multiple stimuli including ionizing radiation. It was shown that gamma-radiation could induce apoptosis, growth arrest through activation and translocation of PKC $\alpha$ , PKC $\epsilon$  and PKC $\delta$ <sup>16,23</sup>. To see if PKC $\alpha$  translocates in bystander responses, we investigated PKC $\alpha$  level in different cellular fraction of bystander A<sub>L</sub> cells. As shown in Fig. 1a, PKC $\alpha$  level in cytosol decreased while its level in the membrane fraction increased significantly in bystander cells, suggesting the responsiveness of PKC $\alpha$  in bystander effect. PKC $\alpha$  level changed as early as 15 min after irradiation and sustained as long as 2 hrs. Immunocytochemistry analysis also showed that PKC $\alpha$  translocates from cytosol to cell membrane in bystander cells. PKC $\alpha$  distributed homogeneously before irradiation within A<sub>L</sub> cells, while its signal intensified along the cell membrane in bystander cells after irradiation (Fig. 1b).

**PKC inhibitor chelerythrine suppressed CD59<sup>-</sup> mutant fraction in bystander A<sub>L</sub> cells.** To further evaluate the involvement of PKC translocation in bystander effect, we then compared the CD59<sup>-</sup> mutant yield in bystander A<sub>L</sub> cells pre-treated with PKC inhibitor chelerythrine chloride and the untreated cells. Chelerythrine is a benzophenanthridine alkaloid that has been shown to inhibit PKC translocation from cytosol to membrane in isolated ileal synaptosomes<sup>24</sup>. As shown in Fig. 1c, there was a 1.5 fold increase in CD59<sup>-</sup> mutant fraction in bystander A<sub>L</sub> cells. The pre-treatment of chelerythrine chloride resulted in statistically significant reduction of CD59<sup>-</sup> mutant yield ( $p = 0.03$ ), which confirmed that PKC translocation is involved in radiation-induced bystander effect.

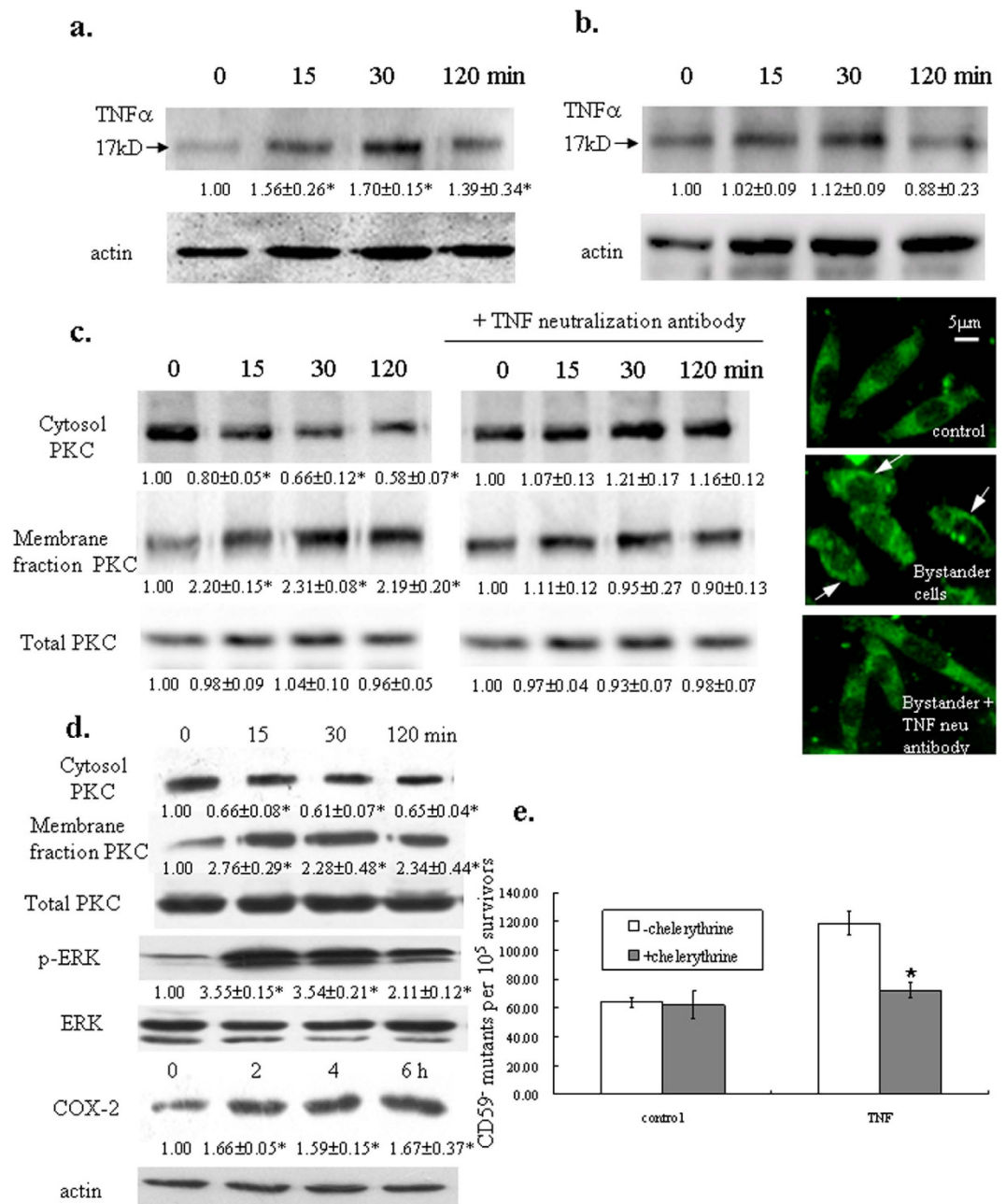
**Chelerythrine chloride inhibited ERK activation and COX-2 induction.** Numerous studies have showed that exposure of cells to ionizing radiation as well as other toxic stresses can induce simultaneous compensatory activation of different MAPK pathways<sup>25</sup>. It was demonstrated that in normal human lung fibroblasts system, both  $\alpha$ -irradiated and bystander cells exhibited increased expression of COX-2, and that as an upstream event, up-regulation of phosphor-ERK levels was observed<sup>10</sup>. We also observed an elevated ERK activity and COX-2 expression in bystander A<sub>L</sub> cells. However, when cells were treated with 10  $\mu$ M chelerythrine chloride before irradiation, the activation of ERK (Fig. 1d) and induction of COX-2 (Fig. 1e) were suppressed. These results suggested that inhibition of PKC translocation may inhibit bystander responses through the ERK pathway, which in turn attenuated the up-regulation of COX-2. To confirm such an effect was PKC $\alpha$ -specific, we also pretreated A<sub>L</sub> cells with PKC $\alpha$ -specific inhibitor Gö6976. Gö6976 is a potent and selective PKC inhibitor for conventional PKC isoforms PKC $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ 1, with IC<sub>50</sub> values of 2.3 nM and 6.2 nM, respectively. We therefore used a concentration of 5 nM to differentiate the effect caused by PKC $\alpha$  or  $\beta$ 1. It was found out that 5 nM Gö6976 also suppressed ERK activation and COX-2 expression (Supplementary Fig. S1).

**TNF $\alpha$  level increased in directly irradiated cells but not in bystander cells.** Tumor necrosis factor  $\alpha$  (TNF $\alpha$ ) is a pleiotropic cytokine that mediates various biological responses in different cell lines. TNF $\alpha$  can inhibit cell growth, induce differentiation and apoptosis, modify gene expression and activate protein phosphorylation pathways. It was suggested that PKC translocation may play an important role in TNF signal transduction in Jurkat, K562 and U937 cells<sup>26</sup>. In directly irradiated A<sub>L</sub> cells, we observed an increase in mature TNF $\alpha$  (17KD) level 15 min after  $\alpha$  particle irradiation, the increase sustained for at least 30 min, and decreased at the 2 hr time point (Fig. 2a). However, there was no significant change in TNF $\alpha$  level in bystander A<sub>L</sub> cells over the time frame we investigated (Fig. 2b). To further evaluate the relationship of TNF $\alpha$  and PKC translocation in radiation-induced bystander effect, we used TNF $\alpha$  neutralization antibody to pre-treat cells and analyzed PKC distribution after irradiation. As shown in Fig. 2c, blockage of the TNF $\alpha$  effect resulted in inhibition of PKC translocation. Activation of ERK and the up-regulation of COX-2 were suppressed by TNF $\alpha$  neutralization antibody as well (Supplementary Fig. S2). On the other hand, when A<sub>L</sub> cells were subjected to TNF $\alpha$  treatment, PKC was observed to accumulate along cell membrane. ERK was activated and COX-2 expression was up-regulated as well (Fig. 2d). In addition, mutagenic yield of A<sub>L</sub> cells was significantly increased after TNF $\alpha$  treatment but was attenuated by pre-treatment of PKC translocation inhibitor chelerythrine chloride (Fig. 2e). These results suggested that elevated TNF $\alpha$  level in the irradiation system may be responsible for the re-distribution of PKC $\alpha$  and activation of the downstream pathways.

**TNFR1 level was increased in bystander cells.** Cellular response to TNF $\alpha$  is mediated through interaction with two TNF receptors TNFR1 and TNFR2. TNFR1 is expressed in various tissues and cytotoxicity elicited by TNF mostly acts through TNFR1; while TNFR2 is typically found in cells of the immune system, and mainly responds to the membrane-bound form of TNF $\alpha$ <sup>27,28</sup>. We therefore examined the expression of TNFR1 in bystander A<sub>L</sub> cells and found an increased level of TNFR1 in the membrane fraction (Fig. 3a, left panel). We further performed biotinylation labeling and western blotting to confirm the location of accumulated TNFR1 and found out that the receptor was accumulated on plasma membrane. When cells were pretreated with chelerythrine chloride before they were subjected to irradiation, suppression of such an increment was observed (Fig. 3a, right panel), suggesting a link between PKC translocation and the accumulation of TNFR1 along the cell membrane. We next wanted to see whether the accumulation of TNFR1 in A<sub>L</sub> cell surface was due to PKC activation. When A<sub>L</sub> cells were treated with PMA, an activator of PKC, PKC level was elevated in the membrane fraction (Supplementary Fig. S3). The level of TNFR1 was increased as well (Fig. 3b). When cells were co-treated with

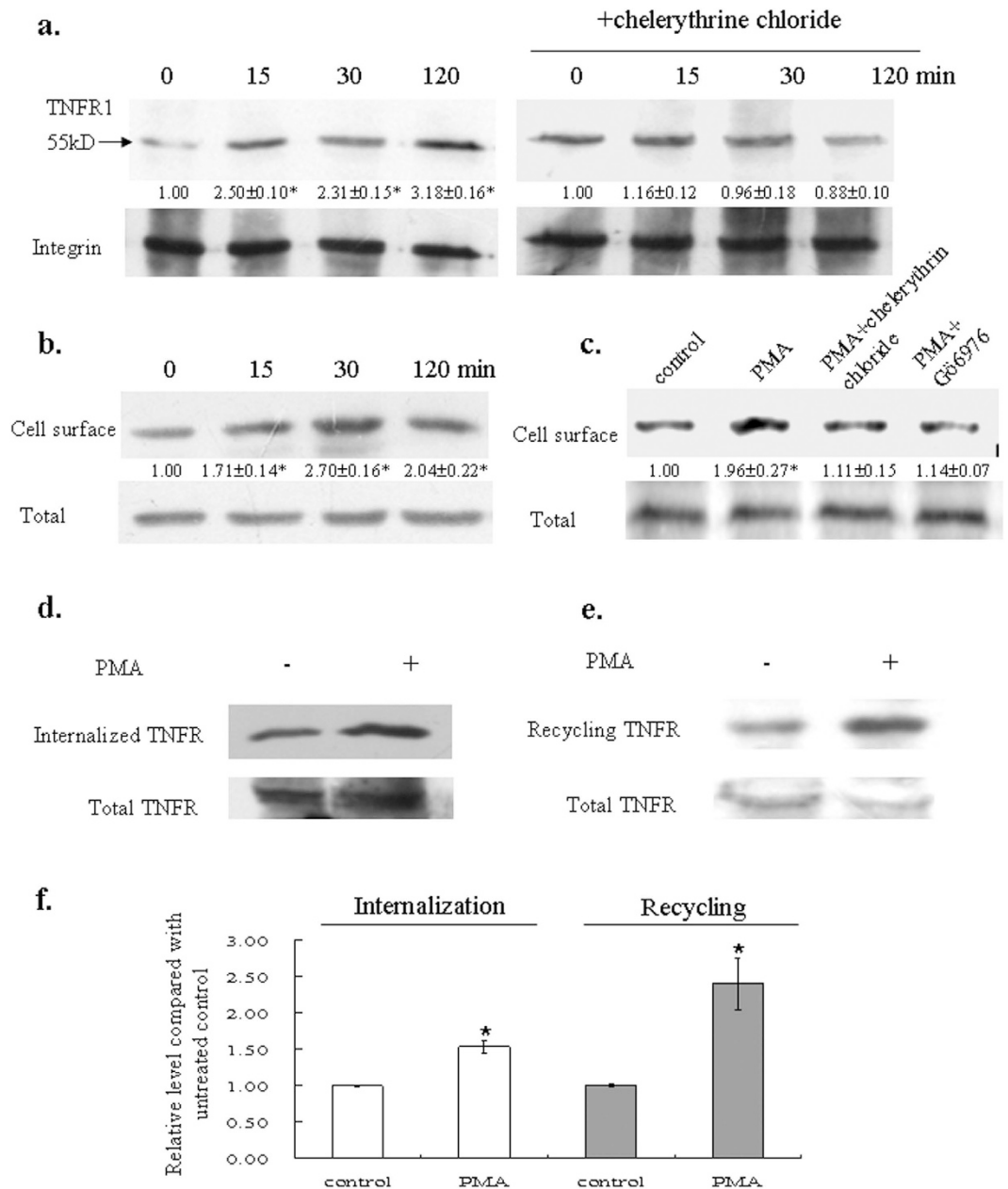


**Figure 1. PKC translocation is involved in radiation-induced bystander effect.** (a,b) PKC $\alpha$  expression in different fractions of bystander A<sub>L</sub> cells. Cells were irradiated with a 50-cGy dose and cells on the aluminum-wrapped half of the dish were collected at time points indicated. Membrane fraction proteins were extracted and separated with SDS-PAGE, transferred to PVDF membrane and probed with PKC $\alpha$  antibody (a). Three independent experiments were performed and a representative blot was shown. Ratios of the corresponding band intensity compared with that of untreated control were measured and calculated with Image J and indicated under each band. Asterisk indicates significant difference between untreated control and the treated groups ( $p < 0.05$ ). In (b), cells were fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde, probed with PKC $\alpha$  antibody followed by detection with Alexa Fluor 488 secondary antibody. (c) Effect of PKC inhibitor chelerythrine chloride on the mutagenicity of bystander cells. Exponentially growing A<sub>L</sub> cells were irradiated as described above. Chelerythrine chloride (10  $\mu$ M) was added into the cultures 1 hr before irradiation. Data are pooled from four independent experiments. Bars indicate  $\pm$  S.D. of means. Asterisk indicates significant difference between the treated and untreated control ( $p = 0.03$ ). (d,e) Effect of chelerythrine chloride on ERK activity and COX-2 expression. Proteins from bystander cells were extracted with RIPA buffer at the indicated time points after irradiation and probed with phosphor-ERK1/2 or COX-2 antibody. Left panels, untreated controls; right panels, cells were treated with chelerythrine chloride before irradiation. Three independent experiments were performed and a representative blot was shown. Ratios of the corresponding band intensity compared with that of untreated control were measured and calculated with Image J and indicated under each band. Asterisk indicates significant difference between untreated control and the treated groups ( $p < 0.05$ ).



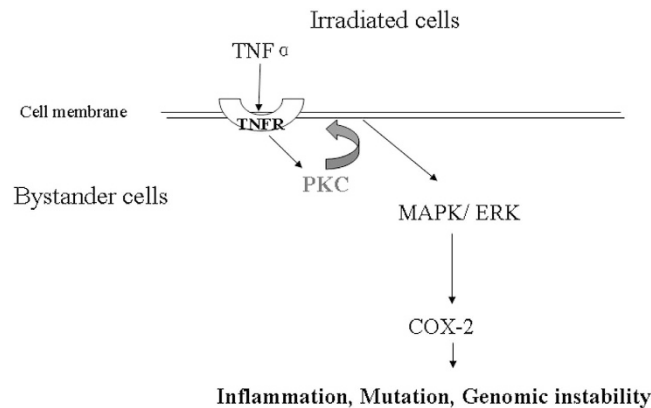
**Figure 2.** TNF alpha released by irradiated cells caused translocation of PKC and the related bystander effect. TNF $\alpha$  levels in irradiated (a) and bystander cells (b). Proteins from directly irradiated or bystander cells were isolated and probed with TNF $\alpha$  antibody. (c) Neutralization of TNF $\alpha$  suppressed PKC translocation in bystander cells. 30 ng/ml TNF $\alpha$  neutralization antibody was added 1 h before cells were subjected to irradiation. Membrane fraction proteins were isolated and detected with PKC $\alpha$  antibody. (d) TNF $\alpha$  caused translocation of PKC and resulted in ERK activation and COX-2 up-regulation. Cells were treated with 10 ng/ml TNF $\alpha$  for the indicated time period. Proteins were then isolated as described before and subjected to western blotting. For all western blottings, three independent experiments were performed and a representative blot was shown. Ratios of the corresponding band intensity compared with that of untreated control were measured and calculated with Image J and indicated under each band. Asterisk indicates significant difference between untreated control and the treated groups ( $p < 0.05$ ). (e) Inhibition of PKC translocation suppressed TNF $\alpha$ -induced mutagenic effect. Exponentially growing A<sub>L</sub> cells were treated with TNF $\alpha$  alone or in combination with chelerythrine chloride. Data are pooled from three independent experiments. Bars indicate  $\pm$  S.D. of means. Asterisk indicates significant difference between chelerythrine chloride treatment and the untreated control ( $p = 0.0003$ ).

PMA and PKC inhibitors chelerythrine chloride or Gö6976, the elevation of TNFR1 on cell membrane was attenuated (Fig. 3c), implicating that activation of PKC may increase TNFR1 level on plasma membrane.



**Figure 3. PKC activation affected TNFR1 distribution within  $A_1$  cells.** (a) TNFR1 expression in bystander cells. Membrane fraction of the bystander cells was isolated, subjected to western blotting and probed with TNFR1 antibody. Integrin was used as loading control. (b) Accumulation of TNFR1 in membrane fraction after PKC activation. Cells were treated with 1  $\mu$ M PKC activator PMA and analyzed as described before. (c) PKC inhibitors suppressed TNFR1 accumulation along cell membrane. Cells were treated with 1  $\mu$ M PMA for 30 min without or with PKC inhibitors chelerythrine chloride (10  $\mu$ M) or Gö6976 (5 nM). For all western blottings, three independent experiments were performed and a representative blot was shown. Ratios of the corresponding band intensity compared with that of untreated control were measured and calculated with Image J and indicated under each band. Asterisk indicates significant difference between untreated control and the treated groups ( $p < 0.05$ ). (d,e) PMA accelerated internalization and recycling of TNFR1. Cells were labeled with biotin, then treated without or with 1  $\mu$ M PMA for 30 min at 37  $^{\circ}$ C for protein internalization and recycling as described in the “Methods” section. Biotin-labeled proteins were pull-downed by streptavidin beads, separated by SDS-PAGE, followed by western blotting. (f) Relative level of internalized and recycled TNFR1 after PKC activation. Data are pooled from three independent experiments. Bars indicate  $\pm$  S.D. of means. Asterisk indicates significant difference between PMA treatment and the untreated control ( $p = 0.004$  for internalization and  $p = 0.0005$  for recycling).

To further investigate the role of PKC in the elevated TNFR1 level, we applied a method previously utilized by us and others<sup>29,30</sup> to examine the internalization and recycling of TNFR1 when PKC was activated by PMA. As



**Figure 4.** Proposed scheme of PKC-mediated pathway in bystander responses.

shown in Fig. 3d,e, PMA increased both internalization and recycling of TNFR1. However, the effect on recycling was more significant than on TNFR1 internalization ( $p = 0.008$ ), which resulted in a higher amount of the receptor present on cell surface after activation of PKC (Fig. 3f).

## Discussion

PKCs can be activated by many extracellular signals and in turn modify the activities of downstream cellular proteins such as receptors, enzymes, cytoskeletal proteins, and transcription factors<sup>31</sup>. Upon stimulation, PKC $\alpha$  can be translocated from cytosol to plasma membrane, nuclei, focal adhesions, and regions of cell-cell contact<sup>32</sup>. Our results showed that PKC translocated from cytosol to cell membrane in bystander cells. The translocation of PKC occurred as early as 15 min after irradiation and declined at 2 hr post irradiation, suggesting PKC translocation may occur as a relative early event in the radiation-induced bystander response. In bystander cells, exogenous signals from irradiated cells are first perceived on the cell membrane, it is therefore likely that regulatory proteins such as PKC $\alpha$  translocates to plasma membrane in response to these signals and subsequently activate a series of downstream pathways. Indeed, our study showed that inhibition of PKC translocation with chelerythrine chloride led to suppression of ERK activity and COX-2 up-regulation as well as reduction of mutagenic yield in bystander cells. It was demonstrated that COX-2 signaling pathway plays an important role in the bystander process, and the activation of MAPK pathways is essential for the induction of COX-2<sup>10</sup>. The inhibitory effect of chelerythrine chloride on ERK and COX-2 implicated that PKC may act upstream of the ERK/MAPK cascade, suggesting that translocation of PKC serves as an early response in bystander effects.

TNF $\alpha$  has been implicated in various cellular functions such as apoptosis, proliferation, survival, and differentiation<sup>33</sup>. Our present study showed that over the time frame examined, TNF $\alpha$  level only increased in directly irradiated but not in bystander cells, though this does not rule out the possibility that TNF $\alpha$  may elevate at a later time point, when related pathways are activated in bystander cells. We found that TNF $\alpha$  activated the translocation of PKC, which implicated that increased level of TNF $\alpha$  in the irradiated system may be involved in the re-distribution of PKC. Indeed, when A<sub>L</sub> cells were pre-treated with TNF $\alpha$  neutralization antibody, PKC translocation in bystander cells was suppressed. On the other hand, we also found that PKC inhibitor chelerythrine chloride had an inhibitory effect on TNFR1 expression in the membrane fraction of bystander cells. These results suggested that PKC translocation may play a role in the increased expression of TNFR1 in cell membrane. Further investigation revealed that PKC activation accelerated both internalization and recycling of TNFR1, though its effect on the receptor recycling was much more significant and thus may explain the increased expression of TNFR1 on the plasma membrane of bystander cells.

Although bystander effect has been well documented over the past decade, its underlying mechanism is still poorly understood. Here we focused our study within an early time frame after irradiation, and found out that within 15 min, PKC translocated from cytosol to membrane fraction in bystander cells, possibly in response to the increased level of TNF $\alpha$  in the irradiated system. In turn, the translocation (and thus activation) of PKC accelerated the internalization and recycling of TNFR1, which resulted in increased amount of the TNFR1 present on the cell surface. These events thus enable bystander cells to perceive signals secreted by directly irradiated cells and subsequently lead to activation of ERK and elevated COX-2 expression (Fig. 4). Our current data suggested a critical role of PKC in bystander responses, especially at early time points after irradiation. The identification of PKC as a positive mediator for the TNF $\alpha$  induced signaling pathways helps us better understand the molecular and cellular mechanisms of radiation-induced bystander effect.

## Methods

**Cell culture.** The human-hamster hybrid A<sub>L</sub> cell line which contains a standard set of CHO-K1 chromosomes and a single copy of human chromosome 11 was used<sup>34</sup>. The CD59 (also known as *MIC1*) gene is located at 11p13.5, which encodes the CD59 cell-surface antigen marker (formerly known as S1) that renders A<sub>L</sub> cells sensitive to killing by the monoclonal antibody E7 in the presence of rabbit serum complement (EMD Biosciences, Inc., La Jolla, CA). Antibody specific to the CD59 antigen was produced from a hybridoma culture. Cells were cultured in Ham's F12 medium supplemented with 8% heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum (Invitrogen, Carlsbad,

CA), 200  $\mu$ M glycine, and 25  $\mu$ g/ml gentamycin at 37 °C in a humidified 5% CO<sub>2</sub> incubator. All the chemicals are from Sigma (St. Louis, MO) except where otherwise indicated. All the antibodies used for western blotting are from Beyotime Biotechnology (Jiangsu, China) except otherwise indicated.

**Irradiation Procedure.** Radiation was carried out with an alpha particle emitter assembled at Hefei Institute of Physical Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences. The emitter delivers  $\alpha$  particles derived from <sup>241</sup>Am (with a source energy of 5.48 MeV and attenuated by a 2 cm air column to a peak energy of 3.5 MeV) at a dose rate of 1 cGy per second<sup>35</sup>. Exponentially growing A<sub>L</sub> cells were plated on a 3- $\mu$ m-thick mylar sheet 24 h before irradiation. Half of the plate was wrapped with aluminum foil before irradiation. Because the  $\alpha$  particles can not penetrate through the aluminum foil, cells grown on this section of the plate would effectively become the bystander cells, being seeded right next to the cells that were directly irradiated. A total of 50-cGy dose was delivered to the cells. After irradiation, at different time points, cells were washed three times with cold phosphate-buffered saline (PBS), the mylar sheet was removed from the dish, cut in half along where aluminum foil was wrapped to separate the bystander cells from directly irradiated cells. Cells on the mylar sheet were then gently scraped down with a plastic scraper, and collected for further analysis.

**Western Blotting.** Proteins were extracted from either irradiated or bystander cells by RIPA buffer (50 mM Tris, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1% SDS, 1% NP-40, protease inhibitors phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride, 200  $\mu$ g/ml, leupeptin, 3  $\mu$ g/ml, pH 7.4) or membrane fraction isolation buffer (250 mM sucrose, 20 mM HEPES, 1.5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 1 mM EDTA, pH 7.4, protease inhibitors phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride, 200  $\mu$ g/ml, leupeptin, 3  $\mu$ g/ml) and subjected to sonication with a Branson S450-D digital sonifier (Branson Ultrasonic, Danbury, CT). Protein concentrations were determined by Bio-Rad Protein Assay (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA). Equivalent amounts of protein were separated on a 7.5% SDS polyacrylamide gel, transferred to a polyvinylidene difluoride (PVDF) membranes (Millipore, Billerica, MA), and incubated with different antibodies. The band intensities were evaluated by Image J and normalized to the expression level of loading controls.

**Cell surface biotinylation.** Cell surface expression level of TNFR was examined using the membrane-impermeable biotinylation reagent NHS-SS-biotin as described before<sup>36</sup>. In brief, cells in 6-well plate were labeled with NHS-SS-biotin, lysed with RIPA lysis buffer and cell debris was removed by centrifugation. Streptavidin-agarose beads were added to the supernatant to bind the biotin-labeled proteins. Bound proteins were then released in Laemmli sample buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl pH 6.8, 2% SDS, 10% glycerol, 2.5%  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol and 0.02% bromophenol blue), loaded onto a 7.5% SDS-polyacrylamide gel, separated by electrophoresis, then transferred to a PVDF membrane and detected with anti-TNFR1 antibody (1:1000 dilution, Abcam, Cambridge, UK).

**Immunofluorescence of A<sub>L</sub> Cells.** Cells were washed three times with PBS, fixed for 20 min at room temperature in 4% (w/v) paraformaldehyde in PBS and washed again with PBS. The fixed cells were permeabilized with 0.1% Triton X-100 for 5 min. Cells were then incubated for 1 hr at room temperature in PBS containing 1% (v/v) bovine serum albumin, after which were incubated overnight at 4 °C in the same medium containing anti-PKC $\alpha$  antibody. The cells were washed and bound primary antibodies were detected by reaction with Alexa Fluor488 goat anti-rabbit IgG (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA), diluted 1:1000, for 1 h. Cells were thoroughly washed and the mylar stripe were mounted in Fluoromount mounting medium. Samples were examined using an Olympus IX83 inverted fluorescence microscope (Olympus Corporation, Tokyo, Japan).

**Mutation assay.** To determine the mutant yield, after a seven-day expression period,  $5 \times 10^4$  cells were plated into each of six 60 mm dishes in a total of 2 ml growth medium as described<sup>37</sup>. The cells were incubated in incubator for 2 hrs to allow cell attachment. Then 3% (v/v) CD59 antiserum and 1.6% (v/v) freshly thawed complement were added to each dish. The cultures were further incubated for 7–10 days before they were fixed, stained and scored for the number of CD59<sup>-</sup> mutants. The cultures from each treatment were tested for mutant yield for two consecutive weeks to ensure the full expression of the mutation. Mutant fractions were calculated as the number of surviving colonies divided by the total number of cells plated after correction for non-specific killing due to complement alone.

**Internalization and recycling assay.** Analysis for TNFR internalization and recycling after PKC activation was performed as described before<sup>29</sup>. Briefly, for internalization, monolayer cells were labeled with 1.0 mg/ml NHS-SS-biotin for 30 min. Then cells were rapidly warmed up to 37 °C by pre-warmed PBS with or without PMA (1  $\mu$ M). Internalization was stopped at 30 min and residual biotin on the cell surface was stripped off by incubating cells with 50 mM sodium 2-mercaptoethanesulfonate (MesNa) in NT buffer (150 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 0.2% bovine serum albumin, 20 mM Tris, pH 8.6). MesNa is a nonpermeant reducing agent that cleaves disulfide bond and thus liberates biotin from biotinylated proteins on the cell surface. The cells were then dissolved on ice for 1 h in RIPA buffer. After cell debris was removed by centrifugation, thirty microliters of cell lysate was transferred to a clean eppendorf tube and would be used as a TNFR1 total protein control. Streptavidin-agarose beads were added to the remaining cell lysate to bind the intracellular biotin-labeled proteins. Protein was then analyzed as described before. In the recycling experiments, cells were first biotinylated with 1.0 mg/ml NHS-SS-biotin at 4 °C for 30 min and then replaced with new NHS-SS-biotin (1.0 mg/ml, 37 °C). Biotinylation was stopped at 30 min and biotinylated proteins were subsequently pulled-down by streptavidin beads and analyzed as described above.

**Statistical Analysis.** Data were calculated as means and standard deviations. Comparisons were made by the Student's t tests. Differences between means are regarded as significant if  $p < 0.05$ .

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## Author Contributions

Z.h.F. and A.X. conducted the experiments. L.j.W. and T.k.H. analyzed the results. M.H. designed the experiments and wrote the manuscript. All authors reviewed the manuscript.



## Additional Information

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