

**Ecto-F<sub>0</sub>/F<sub>1</sub> ATPase as a novel candidate of prothymosin  $\alpha$  receptor in G $\alpha_i$ -rich lipid rafts of retinal cells**

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## **ABSTRACT**

**Objectives:** Prothymosin  $\alpha$  (ProT $\alpha$ ) was reported to inhibit the neuronal necrosis by facilitating the plasma membrane localization of endocytosed glucose transporter 1/4 through an activation of putative G<sub>i</sub>-coupled receptor. The present study aims to identify a novel ProT $\alpha$  target, which may lead to an activation of G<sub>i</sub>-coupled receptor.

**Methods:** We used G<sub>i</sub>-rich lipid rafts fraction of retinal cell line N18-RE-105 cells for affinity cross-linking. The biological confirmation that F<sub>0</sub>/F<sub>1</sub> ATPase is a target protein complex was performed by cell-free experiments using ELISA-based binding assay, surface plasmon resonance assay and quartz crystal microbalance assay, and cell-based experiments to measure extracellular ATP level in the HUVECs culture.

**Results:** From the cross-linking study and above-mentioned protein-protein interaction assays, ATP5A1 and ATP5B, F<sub>1</sub> ATPase subunits were found to ProT $\alpha$  binding target proteins. In the culture of HUVEC cells, furthermore, ProT $\alpha$  increased the extracellular ATP levels in a reversible manner by anti-ATP5A1- and ATP5B-antibodies.

**Conclusion:** The present study suggests that ProT $\alpha$  may activate ecto-F<sub>0</sub>/F<sub>1</sub> ATPase and produced ATP. This study leads to next subjects whether produced ATP and its metabolites, ADP or adenosine may activate corresponding G<sub>i</sub>-coupled receptors.

## Introduction

Prothymosin  $\alpha$  (ProT $\alpha$ ) is a highly acidic nuclear protein, which was discovered from thymosin fraction V of calf thymus tissue[1]. ProT $\alpha$  is found in the nuclei of virtually all mammalian cells. ProT $\alpha$  is generally thought to be an oncoprotein that is correlated with cell proliferation by sequestering anti-coactivator factor, a repressor of estrogen receptor activity, in various cells. In view of the history of discovery, a lot of immune-related studies on ProT $\alpha$  have been reported[2, 3, 4]. Independently, we have first identified ProT $\alpha$  from the conditioned medium of primary culture of cortical neurons as an anti-necrosis factor[5]. In this study, we demonstrated the evidence for mechanisms underlying the unique necrosis-inhibition by ProT $\alpha$ . Under the serum-free starving condition, there was a rapid decrease in cellular ATP levels and underlying glucose influx due to transporter 1/4 endocytosis. ProT $\alpha$  reverses these mechanisms through an activation of putative G<sub>i</sub>-coupled receptor, phospholipase C and protein kinase C  $\beta$ 2. Based on these findings, we have attempted to search for the G<sub>i</sub>-coupled ProT $\alpha$  receptor by use of affinity cross-linkage strategy, but it was not successful. Instead, it was found and we confirmed that toll-like receptor 4 (TLR4) is a functional and binding target for ProT $\alpha$ [6, 7]. Significant, but not complete protective actions of ProT $\alpha$  against the retinal ischemia-induced damage were found to be TLR4 and TRIF (downstream Toll, interleukin-1 receptor and resistance protein domain-containing adaptor inducing interferon- $\beta$ )-mediated[8], being consistent to with the report using macrophage[6]. As the post-ischemic treatment of ProT $\alpha$  shows complete protective action through a necrosis inhibition, as seen in the case with primary culture of cortical neurons[5] or in vivo retinal model[9], however, we speculated that ProT $\alpha$  may cause G<sub>i</sub>-coupled receptor functions through indirect mechanisms. This speculation has been accelerated by the preceding report that ecto-F<sub>1</sub> ATPase could be a receptor candidate of thymosin  $\beta$ 4 (Th $\beta$ 4), which is also a member of thymosin 5 peptides as well as ProT $\alpha$ . Freeman et al. (2011) reported that Th $\beta$ 4 binds to and increases extracellular ATP levels through

ecto-F<sub>1</sub> ATPase in HUVEC cells, and they proposed that Thβ<sub>4</sub> migrates HUVEC cells through an action of ATP on P2X<sub>4</sub> receptor[10]. In the present study, we attempted to see whether ProTα may also use this target, since ProTα also have beneficial action against vascular damage[11], like in the case with vascular actions of Thβ<sub>4</sub>.

**Keywords:** prothymosin α, ecto-F<sub>0</sub>/F<sub>1</sub> ATPase, N18-RE-105 cells, HUVEC, protein-protein interaction

## **Materials and methods**

### **Cell lines**

We used N18-RE105 cell line (passage 9), which had been purchased from JCRB Cell Bank of National Institute of Biomedical Innovation, Health and Nutrition (Osaka, Japan) to identify the binding target for ProT $\alpha$ , since we have observed that ProT $\alpha$  shows the translocation of glucose transporter 4 to plasma membranes of the same cell line under the ischemic condition[12], being consistent to the original finding using cortical neurons from the embryonic rat brain. The culture of mouse neuroblastoma clone N18TG-2 x Fisher rat 18-day embryonic neural retina hybrid N18-RE105 cells were carried out in DMEM with 5% fetal bovine serum (FBS) and 100 mM hypoxanthine, 1 mM aminopterin, 16 mM thymidine at 37°C in 5% CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. We also used human umbilical vein endothelial cells (HUVECs) on the analogy of vascular actions of Th $\beta$ 4. HUVEC cells (passage 8), which had been purchased from Kohjin Bio (Saitama, Japan) were cultured in an RPMI-1640 medium with 10% FBS, 10 ng/mL of EGF and 70 ng/mL of ECGF at 37°C were plated in a number of  $1 \times 10^4$  cells/well of a 96 well plate one day before the ATP measurement assay.

### **Preparation of membrane proteins from G $\alpha_i$ -containing lipid rafts**

Purification of lipid rafts from N18-RE-105 cells in the absence of detergent was carried out using OptiPrep™ (60% iodixanol solution; AXIS-SHIELD, Oslo, Norway), and method was in accordance with its Application Sheet S34, 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Briefly, the cells were washed once in PBS and twice isolation medium (0.25 M sucrose, 1 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 1mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 20 mM Tris-HCl, pH7.8), and then scraped into isolation medium. Cells were pelleted by centrifugation for 2 min at 250 g and resuspended in 1 mL isolation medium containing protease inhibitor cocktail (Nacalai Tesque, Kyoto, JAPAN). The cells were then lysed by passage through at 22G syringe needle 20 times.

Lysates were centrifuged at 1,000 *g* for 10 min. The postnuclear supernatant was collected and transfer to a new tube. The pellet was again lysed by the addition of 1 ml isolation medium containing protease inhibitors. Second postnuclear supernatant was combined with the first. OptiPrep™ density gradient centrifugation was performed, according to the report demonstrating the preparation of detergent-free lipid rafts[13]. Gradients (0% – 20% iodixanol) were centrifuged for 90 min at 52,000 *g* using an SW-41 rotor in a Beckman ultracentrifuge. After centrifugation, gradients were fractionated and the distribution of G $\alpha_i$  in fractions was assessed by Western blotting. The G $\alpha_i$ -positive fractions were numbered from 1 to 16.

### **Pull-down assay**

Membrane proteins in these fractions were solubilized in 1% CHAPS and used for the binding experiment of rat ProT $\alpha$  by use of sulfosuccinimidyl-2-[6-(biotin-amido)-2-(p-azidobenzamido)hexanoamido]ethyl-1,3'-dithiopropionate (Sulfo-SBED, Pierce™, IL), which is a a biotin-encapsulated reagent capable of cross-linking with the target proteins. SBED-ProT $\alpha$  was incubated with the G $\alpha_i$ -positive fractions for 4 h at 4°C. SBED-ProT $\alpha$ -target proteins complex was cross-linked by UV irradiation for 10 min. This cross-linking is cleaved in the reduction process and biotin is transferred to the target protein. Target protein was purified and isolated with streptavidin sepharose (GE Healthcare Bio-Science Corp.). For ProT $\alpha$ -binding protein solution in each fraction, fractions 1-5, 6-11, and 12-16 were combined and concentrated by ultrafiltration. ATP5B, but not ATP5A1 was identified by using one-dimensional electrophoresis with in-gel digestion of bands followed by MALDI-TOF using an Ultraflex™ TOF/TOF system (Blucker Daltonics Inc, MA).

### **ELISA-based binding assay**

Anti-Flag (MBL Co., Ltd. Nagoya, JAPAN) was immobilized on a 96 well ELISA plate to 100  $\mu\text{L}/\text{well}$  with 2  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  (in 0.05 M Sodium carbonate buffer, pH 9.6) at 4°C for O/N. The plate was washed 3 times with interaction buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.6, 15 mM NaCl, 140 mM KCl, 0.5 mM  $\text{MgCl}_2$ ). Host proteins: Flag-tagged human ATP5A1 (Flag-ATP5A1), and Flag-tagged human ATP5B (Flag-ATP5B) and their complex proteins were kindly provided from Dr. S. Yokoyama (RIKEN Structural Biology Laboratory, Kanagawa, JAPAN). Flag-ATP5A1 (5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ , 100 $\mu\text{L}$ ) or Flag-ATP5B (5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ , 100  $\mu\text{L}$ ) or their complex (10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ , 100 $\mu\text{L}$ ) was immobilized on the plate for 2 h at RT and unbound host proteins were washed 3 times with interaction buffer. Various concentration of SBED-human ProT $\alpha$ , a guest protein was treated into the plate, incubated for 2 h at RT and washed 3 times with interaction buffer. Host-guest proteins complex was cross-linked by UV irradiation for 10 min. After 1 h blocking with 1% BSA/interaction buffer, Streptavidin-HRP (1/2000 dilution in interaction buffer) was incubated for 2 h at RT and washed 3 times with interaction buffer. The amount of protein binding to ProT $\alpha$  was measured using o-phenylenediamine as a substrate, and the absorbance at 490 nm was read with an ARVO<sup>TM</sup>MX 1420 Multilabel Counter (PerkinElmer JAPAN Co., Ltd, Kanagawa, JAPAN). Binding unit (BU) represents the value calculated from the observed absorbance at 490 nm ( $\text{Abs}_{490}$ ) in the presence of guest protein –  $\text{Abs}_{490}$  in the absence of guest protein. For kinetic analysis,  $K_D$  was calculated from the Double-Reciprocal Plot:  $1/\text{BU} = K_D/\text{BU}_{\text{max}} \times 1/[\text{Conc. of hProT}\alpha] \times \text{BU}_{\text{max}}$ .

### **Surface Plasmon Resonance (SPR) assay**

Experiments to measure surface plasmon resonance (SPR) were performed using a BIACORE<sup>®</sup> X (GE Healthcare Bio-Science Corp. Piscataway, NJ) with a running buffer of HBS-EP (10 mM HEPES, 150 mM NaCl, 3 mM EDTA, and 0.005% Tween-20). GST-human ATP5A1 (GST-ATP5A1, Novus Biologicals, CO, USA) immobilized onto sensor chip was used as an

analyte and run at  $25 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ . All sensorgram data of interaction between human ProT $\alpha$  and GST-ATP5A1 show the resonance unit (RU) value. For the kinetic analysis, the changes in RU value induced by applied different concentrations of ProT $\alpha$  were fitted to the formula.  $K_D$  (dissociation constant) was calculated from the Double-Reciprocal Plot:  $1/\text{RU} = K_D/\text{RU}_{\text{max}} \times 1/[\text{Conc. of ProT}\alpha] + 1/\text{RU}_{\text{max}}$ .

### **Quartz crystal microbalance (QCM) assay**

Real-time protein-protein interactions were detected using AffinixQ system (Initium Inc., Tokyo, JAPAN), a quartz crystal microbalance (QCM) sensor device. Briefly, AT-cut quartz crystals coated with a thin gold surface layer with a fundamental frequency of 27 MHz were used. Immediately before use, the gold surface of the quartz resonator was cleaned with piranha solution ( $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ : 30%  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ =3:1) for 5 min, and thoroughly washed with double-distilled water. Anti-Flag was applied to the resonator for 30 min to obtain a layer for direct immobilization. Next, the resonator was rinsed with interaction buffer, immersed in interaction buffer (8 ml). The protein-protein interactions were determined from the frequency changes ( $\Delta F$  in Hz) owing to changes in the mass on the electrode at the sub-nanogram level, upon application of a small volume of protein solution. Based on the Sauerbrey formula, a decrease of 1 Hz is calculated as an interaction of 30.38 pg of a molecule with the biosensor. In all immobilizations of Flag-human ATP5A1/5B on the resonator, it was confirmed that  $\sim 83$  femto moles of ATP5A1/5B was immobilized as an absolute amount (a decrease of Hz: 300 Hz). All experiments were carried out at  $25 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ . All sensorgram data show the  $\Delta F$  value following the association phase. For kinetic analysis, frequency changes induced by each concentration of human ProT $\alpha$  were curve-fitted to the formula  $\Delta F/X = -K_D \times \Delta F + \Delta F_{\text{Max}}/K_D$  (Scatchard plot).  $K_D$  and X denote dissociation constant and concentration of the added protein, respectively.

### **Measurement of extracellular ATP level in the HUVECs culture**

For the ATP measurement assay, the cells were washed 3 times with serum-free RPMI and then incubated in a volume of 50  $\mu$ L for 4 h at 37°C. After the total supernatant of culture was replaced with fresh serum-free RPMI with or without mouse ProT $\alpha$ [11], the cells were incubated for 10 min. The supernatant (20  $\mu$ L) from each well was used for the measurement of ATP level by bioluminescence using ATP lite 1 step (PerkinElmer JAPAN Co., Ltd., Kanagawa, Japan). *D*-luciferin-luciferase signals were detected in ARVO<sup>TM</sup>MX 1420 Multilabel Counter (PerkinElmer JAPAN Co., Ltd, Kanagawa, JAPAN). In some experiments 1  $\mu$ g of anti-ATP synthase alpha/ATP5A1 or anti-ATP synthase beta/ATP5B antibody (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc., MA) was added to the incubation medium 4 h before the addition of ProT $\alpha$ .

### **Statistical analysis**

Results are shown as means  $\pm$  standard error of the mean (S.E.M.). The differences in multiple groups were compared using Dunnett multiple comparison post hoc test after a one-way ANOVA.  $p < 0.05$  was considered statistically significant.

## **Results**

### **F<sub>1</sub> ATPase as a ProTα binding protein**

In our previous attempts to identify GPCR-type ProTα binding proteins by use of affinity-cross-linkage to brain membranes, we have failed to detect any GPCR-like protein bands from brain membranes. In the present study, we chose the Gα<sub>i</sub>-rich lipid rafts preparation as the source of ProTα-target proteins of N18-RE105 cells. Fig. 1A showed that Gα<sub>i</sub>-like immunoreactivities were abundantly found in lanes 6-11. On the analogy of previous report on Thβ4 protein, we performed the western blotting experiments of streptavidin sepharose-purified biotinylated ProTα-binding proteins by use of anti-ATP5A1 or anti-ATP5B antibody. For this purpose we used Sulfo-SBED, a trifunctional cross-linking reagent having biotin covalently attached to a heterobifunctional reagent. In this reaction, the first step was the replacement of sulfonated N-hydroxysuccinimide moiety with ProTα followed by the photo-affinity crosslink with target binding proteins for ProTα. After the reduction of reacted products, biotinylated target binding proteins were separated by SDS-PAGE. As seen in Fig. 1B, significant immunoreactive signals by anti-ATP5B antibody were observed at 58 kDa in lanes 13-16, while any significant signals by anti-ATP5A1 antibody were not observed at ~55 kDa in these lanes. However, the possibility that ProTα may bind to other target proteins cannot be excluded, since no attempt to detect immunoreactive biotinylated proteins has been done. Pooled samples (fractions 1-5, 6-11 and 12-16), which have been pulled-down by use of streptavidin sepharose were separated on SDS-PAGE and silver-stained. A major band at ~55 kDa was digested by trypsin and analyzed by MALDI-TOF-MS/MS. From the data of 14 digested peptides (Fig. 1D), it was identified to be F<sub>1</sub>-ATPase β-subunit ATP5B.

### **ELISA-based interaction between ProTα and F<sub>1</sub> ATPase subunits**

As F<sub>1</sub>-ATPase contains three copies each of the alpha and beta subunits that form the catalytic core [14], we tested whether ProT $\alpha$  has an affinity to  $\beta$ -subunit as well as  $\alpha$ -subunit by use of ELISA-based assay as described under Materials and methods, the kinetic analysis between SBED-ProT $\alpha$  and Flag-hATP5A1, Flag-hATP5B or their complex was performed (Fig. 2A). The K<sub>D</sub> value for the interaction was  $67.98 \pm 9.89$ ,  $241.33 \pm 15.93$  or  $55.78 \pm 11.87$  nM (n=4, each), respectively (Fig. 2B).

### **SPR method-based interaction between ProT $\alpha$ and ATP5A1**

In the SPR method, the addition of various concentrations of hProT $\alpha$  at 0.1 – 3  $\mu$ M to GST-hATP5A1 immobilized to the biosensor, the resonance signal immediately increased in a concentration manner, and it was rapidly declined after the replacement with vehicle-containing solution (washout process), suggested the fast dissociation kinetics between proteins (Fig. 3). The K<sub>D</sub> was calculated as  $0.16 \pm 0.02$   $\mu$ M (n=6). However, the binding of ProT $\alpha$  to ATP5A1 was retained in a concentration-dependent manner even in the washout process. The residual binding levels may be related to the time consuming for enzyme activity control, though further studies to evidence this speculation will be the next subject.

### **QCM-based interaction between ProT $\alpha$ and F<sub>1</sub> ATPase $\alpha/\beta$ -subunit complex**

As shown in Fig. 4A, the reduction of fundamental frequency derived from quartz crystal is dependent on the mass of protein or protein complex loaded on the electrode at the sub-nanogram level, upon application of a small volume of protein solution. The addition of aliquots (8  $\mu$ L) of ProT $\alpha$  solution to Flag-ATP5A1/5B immobilized on the electrode showed a concentration-dependent decrease in the frequency (Fig. 4B). Scatchard plot analysis revealed the K<sub>D</sub> was  $28.08 \pm 0.40$  nM (n=4).

### **ProT $\alpha$ -induced ATP production in HUVEC cells**

On the analogy of the previous report that Th $\beta$ 4 induces ATP production, which was reversed by the addition of neutralizing antibody against F<sub>1</sub> ATPase  $\alpha$  or  $\beta$ -subunit[10], we attempted to see effects of ProT $\alpha$  on ATP production in the HUVEC cell culture. From the time course study of ProT $\alpha$  increased the extracellular levels of ATP in the conditioned medium, we adopted the time for incubation at 10 min. As shown in Fig. 5A, ProT $\alpha$  at 0.01 – 1  $\mu$ M concentration-dependently increased the ATP levels. The ProT $\alpha$  (1  $\mu$ M)-induced increase of ATP levels were significantly inhibited by further addition with 1  $\mu$ g of antibody against anti-ATP5A1- or ATP5B-antibody (Fig. 5B).

## Discussion

We have reported that TLR4-TRIF system is involved in the mechanisms underlying the preconditioned ProT $\alpha$ -induced protection from retinal ischemia-reperfusion-induced damage[8], but the mechanisms underlying TLR4-independent and more potent protective action by ProT $\alpha$  given after the retinal ischemia have remained elusive. Furthermore, we have demonstrated that ProT $\alpha$ -induced inhibition of neuronal necrosis is explained by the plasma membrane transport of glucose transporter1/4 through an activation of putative G<sub>i</sub>-coupled receptor, phospholipase C and protein kinase C  $\beta$ [5], though underlying receptor mechanisms have remained to be determined.

In the present study, we observed the findings that ProT $\alpha$  binds to F<sub>1</sub>-ATPase on the analogy of the case with the Th $\beta$ 4-binding protein[10]. The successful study was enabled by use of G<sub>i</sub>-rich fractions derived from lipid rafts of N18-RE-105 cells, where ProT $\alpha$  stimulation transfers the GLUT4 internalized by the ischemic stress into plasma membranes[12], as described above in the case of primary culture of neurons[5]. The pull-down and ELISA studies using sulfonyl-SBED-modified ProT $\alpha$  reagent indicated that modified ProT $\alpha$  first binds to ATP5A1, an  $\alpha$  subunit of F<sub>1</sub> ATPase, followed by the second photo-affinity cross-linking to ATP5B, its  $\beta$  subunit through an azide reaction. The lower K<sub>D</sub> value (28.08 nM) for the interaction between ProT $\alpha$  and ATP5A1/ATP5B complex may support that ProT $\alpha$ -binding pocket is located in between ATP5A1 and ATP5B. The rapid action of ProT $\alpha$  to increase the extracellular levels of ATP in HUVEC cells was blocked by the neutralizing anti-ATP5A1 or ATP5B antibody, suggesting that ProT $\alpha$  may cause an ATP synthesis, as proposed in the case with Th $\beta$ 4[10]. In the case with Th $\beta$ 4, it was suggested that produced ATP causes a HUVEC cell migration through P2X4 activation. On the other hand, we are interested in the G<sub>i</sub>-coupled receptor functions, as above-mentioned. Therefore it is very interesting to speculate that unknown ecto-ATPases may convert the produced ATP to ADP or adenosine, which in turn stimulates G<sub>i</sub>-coupled P2Y<sub>12/13</sub> or adenosine A<sub>1</sub>-receptors. Alternatively,

we should also consider the possibility of TLR4-involvement in the  $G_i$ -mediated neuronal necrosis inhibition, since there is a report that constitutively active TLR4-induced activation of ERK1/2-phosphorylation was abolished by pertussis toxin-treatment or dominant negative  $G_i$ -expression in HEK 293 cells or RAW 264.7 cells[5]. To investigate this possibility, we need to perform in further studies, whether ProT $\alpha$  also induces ATP production in N18-RE105 cells, TLR4- or  $G_i$ -inhibition affects the ProT $\alpha$ -induced ATP production in N18-RE105 cells or HUVECs, and ATP5A1- or ATP5B inhibition affects the ProT $\alpha$ -actions on ischemia-induced damage of N18-RE105 cells and HUVECs. In our previous study, we observed that ProT $\alpha$  showed TLR4-mediated beneficial actions against the retinal ischemia-induced damage when it was given 2 days before the ischemia[8]. However, we have preliminary finding that TLR4 is not involved in the survival activity by post-ischemic treatment with ProT $\alpha$  (in preparation). Accordingly, further studies to see involvements of  $F_1$ -ATPase, TLR4 and  $G_i$  in ProT $\alpha$ -induced biological activities should wait for the next in vivo and in vitro studies.

In conclusion, the present study demonstrates the successful identification of ProT $\alpha$ -binding protein by use of  $G_i$ -rich lipid rafts of N18-RE-105 cells. In addition, it was revealed that ProT $\alpha$  increased extracellular ATP levels in HUVEC cells through an activation of  $F_0/F_1$ -ATPase, which was reversed by anti-ATP5A1- or ATP5B-antibody.

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**Author contribution**

HU and HM designed the whole study and wrote the draft manuscript. HU, HM, YM, SM, RI were involved in the main study and gave substantial inputs to the plan for analysis. SY and MS prepared recombinant proteins. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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## Legends

### **Fig. 1 Identification of F<sub>1</sub> ATPase $\beta$ -subunit as a ProT $\alpha$ binding protein candidate in G $\alpha_i$ -rich retinal lipid raft membrane preparations**

**A:** G $\alpha_i$  expression in lipid rafts fractions of N18-RE-105 cell membranes. **B:** ATP5B expression in the samples after pull-down treatment. Proteins in each fraction were cross-linked with SBED-rat ProT $\alpha$  by UV irradiation, followed by removal of ProT $\alpha$  by reduction. Biotinylated ProT $\alpha$ -target proteins were separated by use of streptavidin sepharose, applied to SDS-PAGE and detected by western blot using anti-ATP5B antibody. **C:** Pooled samples were applied to SDS-PAGE and detected by silver stain. **D:** MALDI-TOF-MS/MS analysis of the protein at 58 kDa. Details are described in the text.

### **Fig. 2 Evidence for direct binding between ProT $\alpha$ and F<sub>1</sub> ATPase subunits in ELISA-based binding assay**

**A:** Schematic model for ELISA-based binding assay between ProT $\alpha$  and F<sub>1</sub> ATPase subunits. **B:** Double reciprocal plots for the interaction between SBED-human ProT $\alpha$  and Flag-tagged human ATP5A1, Flag-tagged human ATP5B or Flag-tagged human ATP5A1/ATP5B. Details are described in the text.

### **Fig. 3 Evidence for direct binding between ProT $\alpha$ and ATP5A1 in the SPR assay**

Results show representative traces of SPR assay-based interaction between immobilized GST-human ATP5A1 and various concentrations of human ProT $\alpha$ .

### **Fig. 4 High-affinity interaction between human ProT $\alpha$ and Flag-human ATP5A1/5B by QCM assay**

**A:** Representative traces of ProT $\alpha$  concentration-dependent decrease in quartz frequency. **B:** Scatchard plot analysis. Results show charts of representative data. More details are described in the text.

**Fig. 5 ATP5A1 or ATP5B-mediated ATP production by ProT $\alpha$  in the culture of HUVEC cells**

**A:** Concentration-dependent increase in extracellular ATP levels by ProT $\alpha$ . Results represent the % increase of vehicle control levels in each experiment, as mean  $\pm$  S.E.M. The number of experiments is indicated in the parenthesis. **B:** Blockade of ProT $\alpha$  (1 $\mu$ M)-induced increase in ATP levels by further addition of 1  $\mu$ g of anti-ATP5A1 (anti- $\alpha$ ) or anti-ATP5B (anti- $\beta$ ) antibody to the culture of HUVEC cells. Data are means  $\pm$  S.E.M., \*P<0.05.

**Fig. 1**

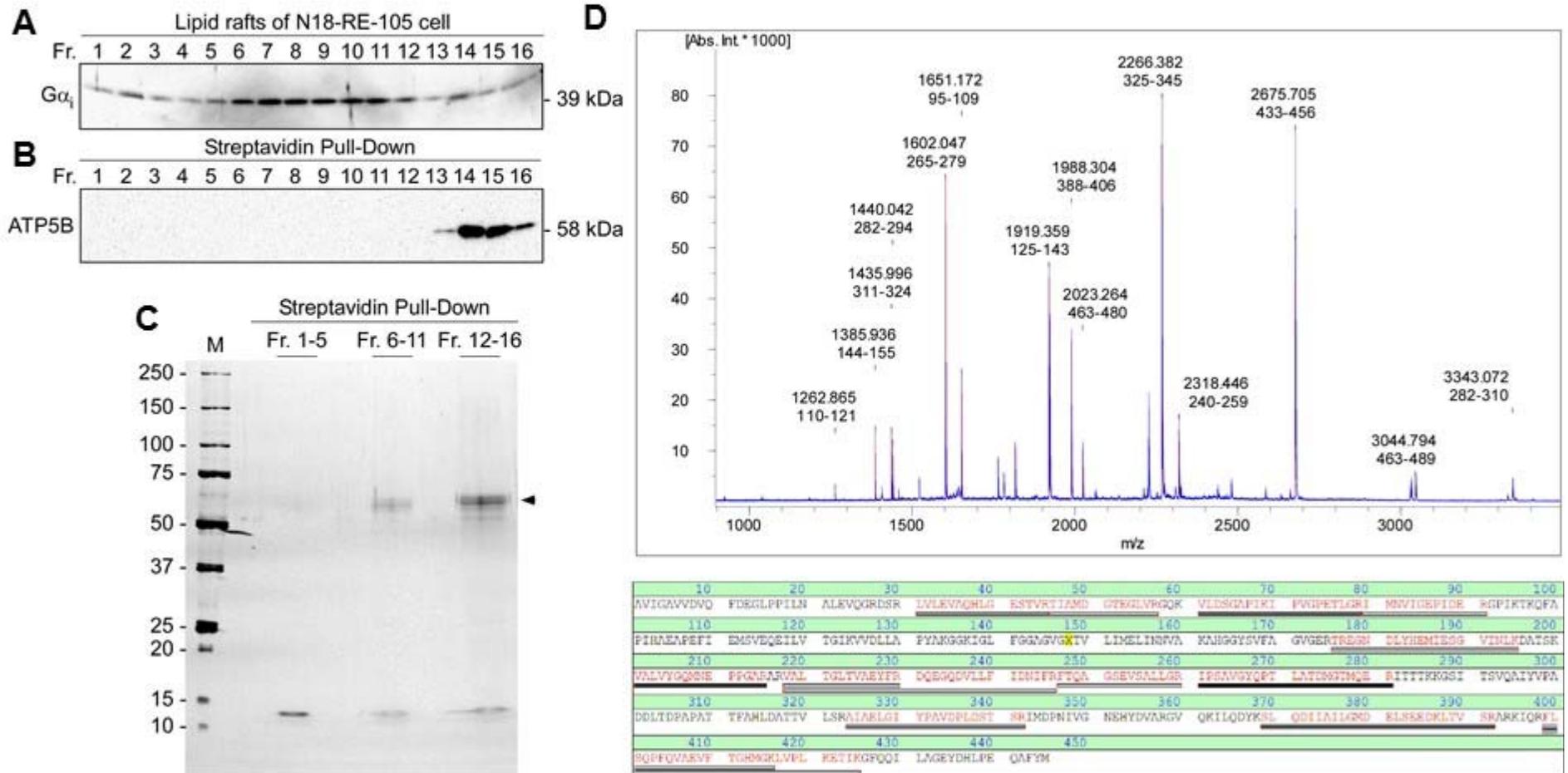


Fig. 2

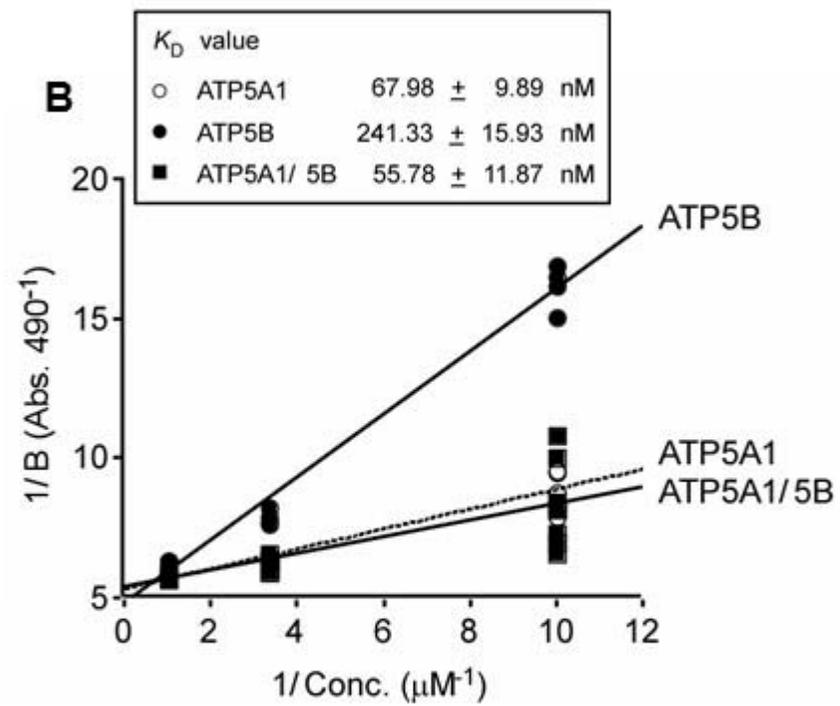
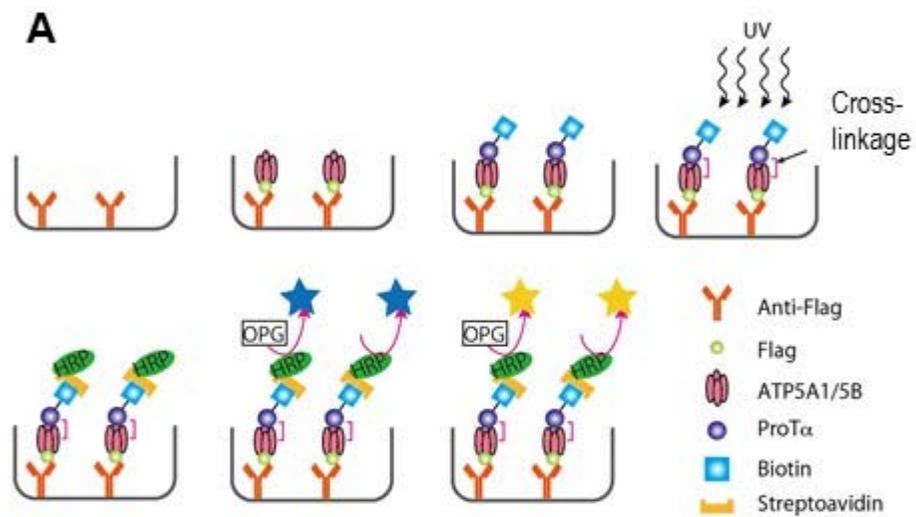


Fig. 3

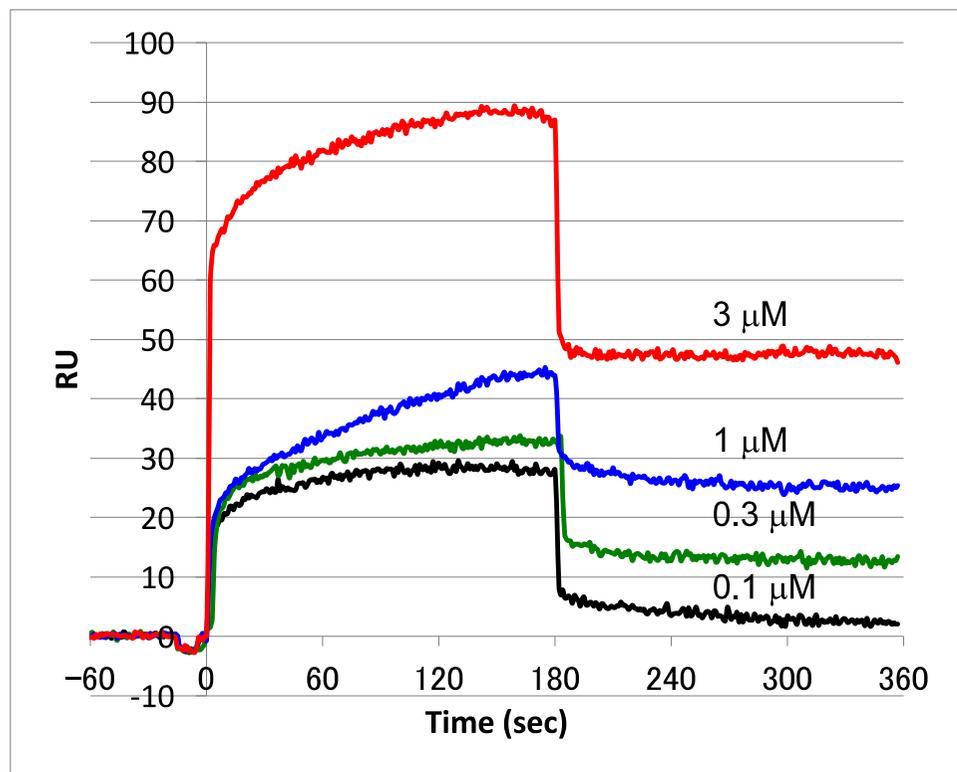


Fig. 4

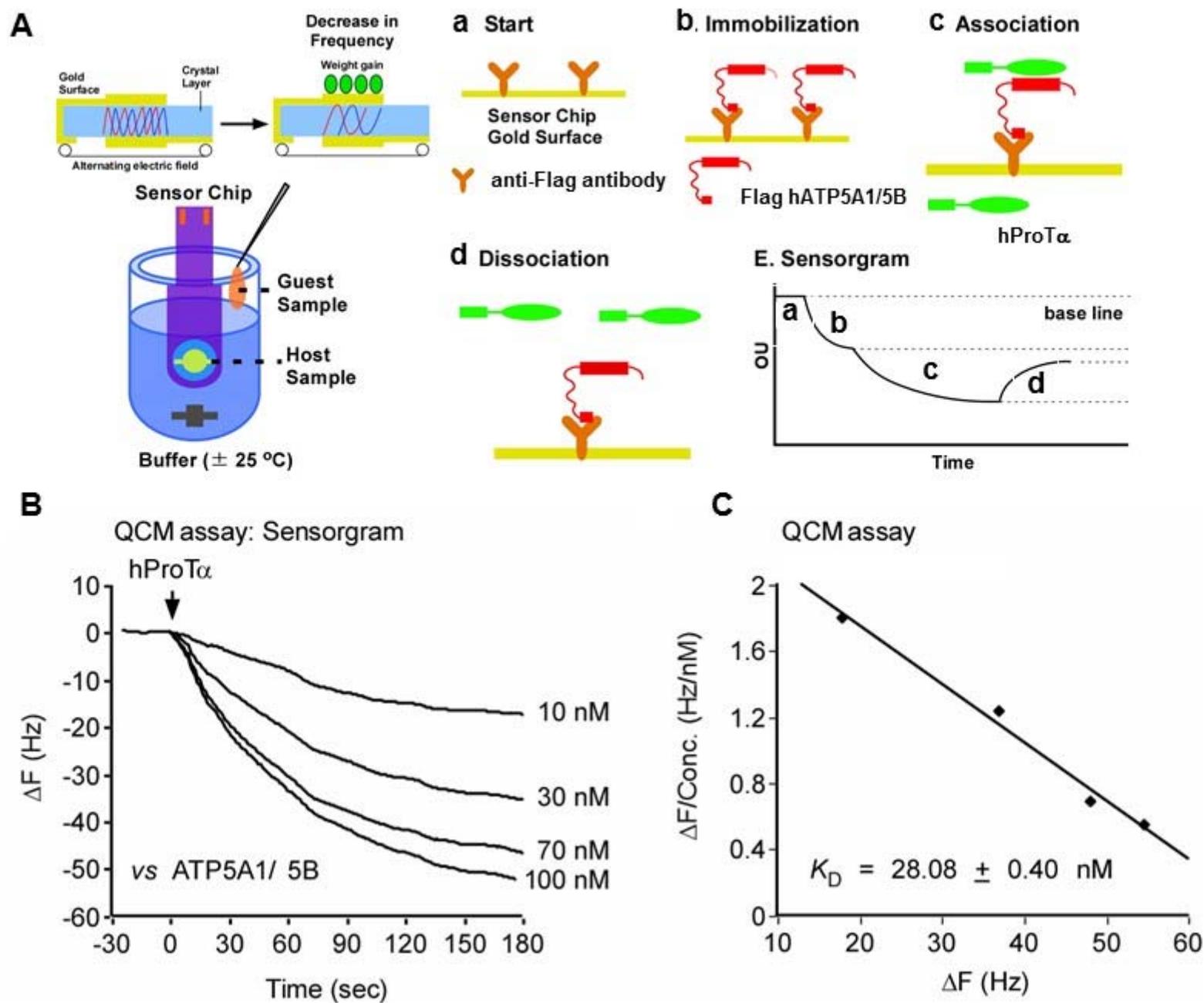
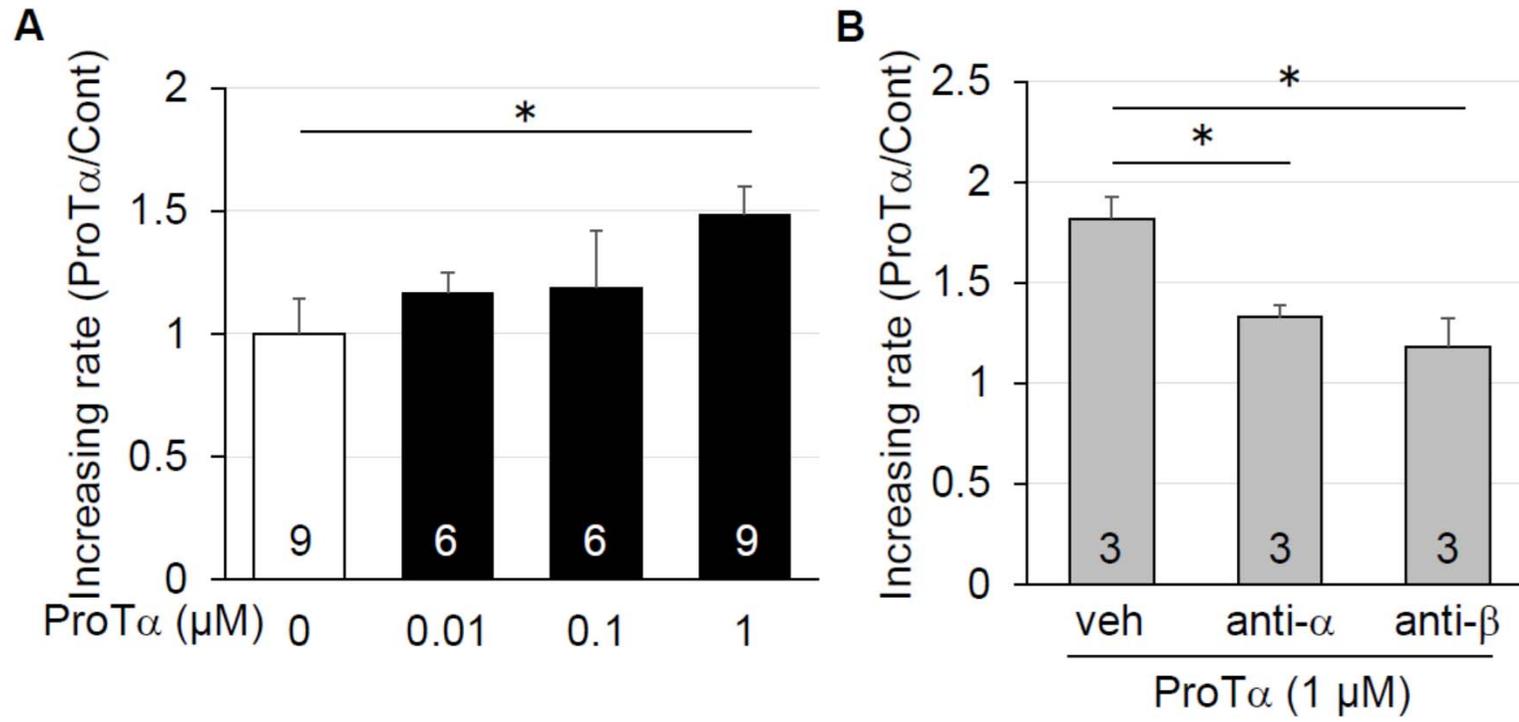


Fig. 5



## Supplementary Figure 1

**Structure and strategy of affinity cross-link of target binding proteins for ProT $\alpha$  using sulfo-SBED (sulfosuccinimidy1-2-[6-(biotinamido)-2-(p-azidobenzamido) hexanoamido]ethyl-1,3'-dithiopropionate)**

