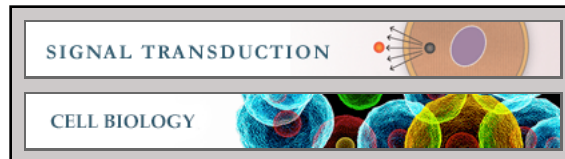


**Signal Transduction:**

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## THE BCL-2 FAMILY MEMBER BOK BINDS TO THE COUPLING DOMAIN OF INOSITOL 1,4,5-TRISPHOSPHATE RECEPTORS AND PROTECTS THEM FROM PROTEOLYTIC CLEAVAGE

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Running title: Bok binds to IP<sub>3</sub> receptors

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**Background:** Bok is a Bcl-2 protein family member, with largely unknown properties.

**Results:** Bok binds constitutively to IP<sub>3</sub> receptors and protects them from proteolysis, but does not appear to alter their Ca<sup>2+</sup> channel activity.

**Conclusion:** Bok is novel component of IP<sub>3</sub> receptor complexes.

**Significance:** A new locus for studies on IP<sub>3</sub> receptor and apoptosis regulation has been defined.

### SUMMARY

**Bok is a member of the Bcl-2 protein family that controls intrinsic apoptosis. Bok is most closely related to the pro-apoptotic proteins Bak and Bax, but in contrast to Bak and Bax, very little is known about its cellular role. Here we report that Bok binds strongly and constitutively to inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate receptors (IP<sub>3</sub>Rs), proteins that form tetrameric calcium channels in the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) membrane and govern the release of ER calcium stores. Bok binds most strongly to IP<sub>3</sub>R1 and IP<sub>3</sub>R2, and barely to IP<sub>3</sub>R3, and essentially all cellular Bok is IP<sub>3</sub>R bound in cells that express substantial amounts of IP<sub>3</sub>Rs. Binding to IP<sub>3</sub>Rs appears to be mediated by the putative BH4 domain of Bok and the docking site localizes to a small region within the coupling domain of IP<sub>3</sub>Rs (amino acids 1895-1903 of IP<sub>3</sub>R1) that is adjacent to numerous regulatory sites, including sites for proteolysis. With regard to the possible role of Bok-IP<sub>3</sub>R binding, the following was observed: (i) Bok does not appear to control the ability of IP<sub>3</sub>Rs to release ER calcium stores, (ii) Bok regulates IP<sub>3</sub>R expression, (iii) persistent activation of inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate-dependent cell**

**signaling causes Bok degradation by the ubiquitin-proteasome pathway, in a manner that parallels IP<sub>3</sub>R degradation, and (iv) Bok protects IP<sub>3</sub>Rs from proteolysis, either by chymotrypsin *in vitro* or by caspase-3 *in vivo* during apoptosis. Overall, these data show that Bok binds strongly and constitutively to IP<sub>3</sub>Rs and that the most significant consequence of this binding appears to be protection of IP<sub>3</sub>Rs from proteolysis. Thus, Bok may govern IP<sub>3</sub>R cleavage and activity during apoptosis.**

The Bcl-2 protein family governs the intrinsic (mitochondrial) apoptotic pathway, and contains members that are anti-apoptotic (e.g. Bcl-2 and Mcl-1), and also members that are pro-apoptotic (e.g. Bax and Bak); complex interactions between these proteins control apoptosis and cell viability [1,2]. These proteins contain conserved Bcl-2 homology (BH) domains, and it has been generally thought that pro-apoptotic proteins like Bax and Bak contain three BH domains (BH1, BH2 and BH3), whereas anti-apoptotic proteins like Bcl-2 and Mcl-1 contain four (BH1, BH2, BH3 and BH4), with the BH4 domain conferring anti-apoptotic activity [1,2]. An additional group of pro-apoptotic BH3-only proteins (e.g. Bim and Bad) completes the family [1,2]. This canonical view is not settled, however, as it appears that pro-apoptotic proteins like Bax and Bak may also contain a BH4 domain [2,3].

Bax and Bak are closely related proteins that, when active, induce permeabilization of the outer mitochondrial membrane, cytochrome c release, caspase activation and, ultimately, apoptosis [1-3]. Interestingly, while knockout of either Bax or Bak has little effect on mouse

physiology (although  $Bax^{-/-}$  males are sterile),  $Bax/Bak$  knockout mice exhibit various severe defects, indicating redundancy of function for  $Bax$  and  $Bak$  [1].  $Bok$ , which was originally identified as an  $Mcl-1$ -binding protein, is similar in sequence to  $Bax$  and  $Bak$  and has the same arrangement of domains [4-6], but has been investigated much less thoroughly [1-3].  $Bok$  is expressed in many, and perhaps all, mammalian cell types [7,8] and, like  $Bax$  and  $Bak$  [3,5,6], its over-expression in cultured cells causes apoptosis [4-9]. Mice lacking  $Bok$  are phenotypically normal and hematopoietic cells derived from these mice respond normally to apoptotic stimuli [7], again indicative of redundancy among the  $Bok/Bax/Bak$  group. However, it is important to note that the existence of severe defects in  $Bax/Bak$  knockout mice show that  $Bok$  cannot compensate for the absence of  $Bak$  and  $Bax$  [1], and suggest that it has unique properties. Indeed, the pro-apoptotic effect of  $Bok$  is not seen in cells lacking  $Bak$  and  $Bax$ , indicating that it acts in concert with or upstream of  $Bak$  and  $Bax$  [8]. Further, the atypical transmembrane domain of  $Bok$  appears to direct it towards the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) and Golgi, rather than to the mitochondrial outer membrane, which is the more typical location for many other  $Bcl-2$  family members [8]. How this distribution contributes to the cellular role of  $Bok$  remains unclear, however [8]. Finally, the  $Bok$  gene region is frequently deleted in cancer, suggesting that it might be a tumor suppressor [10].

An extensive, but confusing, literature exists regarding the regulation of inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate ( $IP_3$ ) receptors ( $IP_3Rs$ ) by  $Bcl-2$  family proteins [11,12].  $IP_3Rs$  are ~300kDa proteins that form tetrameric,  $IP_3$ - and  $Ca^{2+}$ -gated  $Ca^{2+}$  channels in ER membranes of mammalian cells and play a key role in cell signaling [13,14]. There are three highly homologous  $IP_3R$  types in mammals,  $IP_3R1$ ,  $IP_3R2$  and  $IP_3R3$ , and although their tissue distribution varies, they have similar properties, are often co-expressed, and form heteromers [13-15].  $IP_3$ , in concert with  $Ca^{2+}$  binding, induces yet to be defined conformational changes in the tetrameric channel that allow  $Ca^{2+}$  to flow from stores within the ER lumen into the cytosol to increase cytosolic  $Ca^{2+}$  concentration [13,14].  $IP_3Rs$  also play a role in controlling mitochondrial  $Ca^{2+}$  uptake and metabolism, and intrinsic apoptosis, and myriad effects of  $Bcl-2$

family members on  $IP_3R$  activity and ER  $Ca^{2+}$  content have been described [11,12,16]. Perhaps most significantly, it has been reported that  $Bcl-2$  promotes pro-survival  $Ca^{2+}$  signals, while inhibiting pro-apoptotic  $Ca^{2+}$  signals [17-20,11,12], and similar effects have been reported for  $Bcl-xL$  and  $Mcl-1$  [19,21,11,12]; it remains controversial, however, whether this is due to a direct effect of  $Bcl-2$  etc on the  $Ca^{2+}$  releasing properties of  $IP_3Rs$ , or because they also reduce ER  $Ca^{2+}$  content [11,12,16]. Conversely, it has been reported that  $Bax$  and  $Bak$  increase ER  $Ca^{2+}$  content [22,23], and it has been proposed that this reflects the fact that  $Bcl-2$  family members regulate  $IP_3R$  phosphorylation and thus  $Ca^{2+}$  leak from the ER [11,16,22]. Physical interactions between anti-apoptotic  $Bcl-2$  family proteins and  $IP_3Rs$  have been described [18-21], and, at least for  $Bcl-2$ , this is mediated by the BH4 domain [20,24-26]. In contrast, to date, there is no clear evidence for direct binding of pro-apoptotic proteins to  $IP_3Rs$  [22,23,11].

Here we report that  $Bok$  interacts robustly with  $IP_3Rs$ , that this interaction is by far the strongest among the  $Bcl-2$  family, that the binding site is in the coupling domain of  $IP_3Rs$  adjacent to other regulatory sites, and that the most significant consequence of this binding appears to be protection of  $IP_3Rs$  from proteolysis.

## EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

*Materials* —  $\alpha T3$  cells, HeLa cells, and HEK 293T cells were cultured as described [15,27,28]. SV40 large T antigen-immortalized wild-type (C57BL/6) and  $Bok^{-/-}$  (C57BL/6) mouse embryonic fibroblasts (MEFs) [8] were cultured in DMEM plus 5% fetal bovine serum and antibiotics (100 units penicillin and 100 $\mu$ g streptomycin/ml). Antibodies raised in rabbits were: anti- $IP_3R1$ , raised against amino acids 2731-2749 of  $IP_3R1$  [15]; anti- $IP_3R1^{326-341}$ , a kind gift from Dr Suresh Joseph, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA; anti- $IP_3R1^{1829-1848}$  (Affinity Bioreagents, Inc.); anti- $IP_3R2$  and anti- $IP_3R3$  [15]; anti-erlin2 [28]; anti-HA epitope [30]; anti- $Mcl-1$  D35A5, anti- $Bcl-xL$  54H6, anti-caspase-3 9662 and anti- $Bcl-2$  50E3 (Cell Signaling Technology); anti- $Bak$  06-536 (Millipore); anti- $Bax$  N-20 (Santa Cruz Biotechnology Inc.); and anti- $Bok$ , raised against amino acids 19-32 of mouse  $Bok$  [7,8]. Mouse monoclonal antibodies were: anti- $IP_3R3$ , raised

against amino acids 22-230 of human IP<sub>3</sub>R3 (BD Transduction Labs.); anti-ubiquitin clone FK2 (BioMol International); anti-HA epitope clone HA11 (Covance), and anti-FLAG epitope clone M2 (Sigma). Rat monoclonal anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R1<sup>679-727</sup> clone 4C11 was a kind gift from Dr Katsuhiko Mikoshiba, RIKEN, Japan. Horse radish peroxidase-conjugated secondary antibodies, raised in goat, were obtained from Sigma. Gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH), oleoyl-L- $\alpha$ -lysophosphatidic acid (LPA), *N*-ethylmaleimide, ATP, IP<sub>3</sub>, protease inhibitors, Triton X-100, CHAPS, chymotrypsin type I-S and digitonin were purchased from Sigma. DTT, Precision Plus<sup>TM</sup> Protein Standards, and SDS-PAGE reagents were from Bio-Rad. Protein A-Sepharose CL-4B was from Amersham Biosciences. MG132 was from Biomol. Staurosporine was from Enzo Life Sciences.

*Cell lysis, immunoprecipitation, SDS-PAGE, and mass spectrometry* — To prepare cell lysates for SDS-PAGE or for immunoprecipitation, cells were harvested with ice-cold lysis buffer (150 mM NaCl, 50 mM Tris-HCl, 1 mM EDTA, 1% CHAPS or 1% Triton X-100, 10  $\mu$ M pepstatin, 0.2 mM phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride, and 0.2  $\mu$ M soybean trypsin inhibitor, pH 8.0) usually supplemented with 1 mM DTT. When IP<sub>3</sub> receptor polyubiquitination was assessed in MEFs, cells were harvested with DTT-free lysis buffer, then 5 mM *N*-ethylmaleimide was added to the lysates for 30 min, followed by 5 mM DTT. Lysates were incubated on ice for 30 min and clarified by centrifugation at 16,000 x *g* for 10 min at 4°C. To immunoprecipitate specific proteins, clarified lysates were incubated with antisera and Protein A-Sepharose CL-4B for 4-16 h at 4°C, and immunoprecipitates were washed thoroughly with lysis buffer, resuspended in gel-loading buffer [29], incubated at 37°C for 30 min, subjected to SDS-PAGE, and either transferred to nitrocellulose for immunoblotting, or silver stained as described [30]. Immunoreactivity was detected and mass spectrometry was performed as described [30].

*Analysis of exogenous Bok and IP<sub>3</sub>Rs* - A vector encoding mouse Bok tagged at the N-terminus with a triple FLAG epitope (3F-Bok) was created by inserting the mouse Bok cDNA sequence [8] into the KpnI / BamHI sites of p3xFLAG-CMV-10 (Sigma). This provided the template for the creation by PCR (primers available upon request)

of vectors encoding 3F-Bok with N-terminal deletions and point mutations (Figure 4A). Likewise, a vector encoding mouse IP<sub>3</sub>R1 tagged at the C-terminus with an HA epitope [27] was the origin of N-terminal deletion mutants (Figure 4C). Vectors encoding IP<sub>3</sub>R1-3 have been described [31]. The authenticity of all cDNAs was confirmed by DNA sequencing. HEK 293T cells seeded at 3-4 x 10<sup>5</sup> / 9.6cm<sup>2</sup> well, were transfected ~24h later with 1-2  $\mu$ g cDNAs and 6-9 $\mu$ l Superfect (Qiagen), and ~24h later were harvested with ~ 0.4ml/well 1% CHAPS lysis buffer. Lysates were then incubated without or with anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R1, anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R2, anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R3, anti-HA or anti-FLAG, and immunoprecipitates and input lysates were subjected to SDS-PAGE.

*Ca<sup>2+</sup> mobilization* - Cytosolic Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentration ([Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>c</sub>) was measured essentially as described [29]. Cells were harvested with HBSE [29], centrifuged (500 x *g* for 5min), resuspended in DMEM, recentrifuged, and finally resuspended at 2mg protein / ml in DMEM plus 10% fetal bovine serum and 10 $\mu$ M Fura 2-AM. After 1h at 37°C, cells were centrifuged (500 x *g* for 1min), were washed once with KHB [29], were resuspended in KHB at 1mg protein / ml and [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>c</sub> was measured at room temperature [29]. To prepare permeabilized cells, cells were harvested with HBSE, were centrifuged (1500 x *g* for 5min), were resuspended and incubated at 37°C for 10min in DMEM plus 10% fetal bovine serum, were recentrifuged, were resuspended in ice-cold cytosol buffer (120 mM KCl, 2 mM KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 2 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 2 mM ATP, 20 mM HEPES, pH 7.3), were recentrifuged, and finally were incubated at ~6mg protein / ml in cytosol buffer with 100 $\mu$ g/ml digitonin for 10min at 4°C. The permeabilized cells were then centrifuged (2000 x *g* for 2min at 4°C), were resuspended in cytosol buffer, 1 $\mu$ M Fura-2 was added and [Ca<sup>2+</sup>] in the suspension was measured [29].

*Data analysis* — All experiments were repeated at least once (*n* = the number of independent experiments) and representative images of gels and traces are shown. Quantitated data are graphed as mean  $\pm$ SEM.

## RESULTS

*Bok associates with IP<sub>3</sub> receptors* - Several proteins that regulate IP<sub>3</sub>Rs have been identified by co-immunoprecipitation; for example, 3 proteins

(erlin1, erlin2 and RNF170) that mediate the degradation of activated IP<sub>3</sub>Rs by the ubiquitin-proteasome pathway (UPP) were discovered on the basis of their association with IP<sub>3</sub>R1 immunoprecipitated from GnRH-stimulated  $\alpha$ T3 mouse pituitary cells [28,30,32-34]. Additional analysis of anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R1 immunoprecipitates from  $\alpha$ T3 cells revealed the presence of a 23kDa co-immunoprecipitating protein that was shown by mass spectral analysis to be Bok (Fig 1A).

$\alpha$ T3 cells respond to GnRH with a robust increase in IP<sub>3</sub> formation [35] and IP<sub>3</sub>R degradation by the UPP [27,28,32-35], mediated by the erlin1/2 complex and RNF170, which rapidly associate with activated IP<sub>3</sub>R1 [30,32-34]. However, in contrast to erlin2, Bok co-immunoprecipitation with IP<sub>3</sub>R1 was unaltered by acute exposure to GnRH, indicating that Bok is constitutively associated with IP<sub>3</sub>R1, irrespective of the activation state of IP<sub>3</sub>R1 (Fig 1B). Since, in principle, the presence of Bok in anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R1 immunoprecipitates could be an artifact of unanticipated cross-reactivity of Bok with anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R1 (the epitope for which is amino acids 2731-2749 of IP<sub>3</sub>R1), we also examined whether other antibodies raised against different IP<sub>3</sub>R1 epitopes could recover Bok. This was indeed the case, as antibodies raised against amino acids 326-341 and 1829-1848 of IP<sub>3</sub>R1 also efficiently recovered Bok (data not shown). Furthermore, in MEFs, which express substantial amounts of both IP<sub>3</sub>R1 and IP<sub>3</sub>R3 (Figure 7), immunoprecipitation with either anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R1 or anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R3 recovered Bok (Fig 1C). Thus, Bok association with IP<sub>3</sub>Rs is not dependent upon how IP<sub>3</sub>Rs are immunoprecipitated and is seen in multiple cell types. Interestingly, and somewhat surprisingly given the extensive literature on the topic [11,12,16-21,24-26], other members of the Bcl-2 family did not detectably co-immunoprecipitate with IP<sub>3</sub>R1 (Figure 1D); this was the case for all of the family members examined, whether anti-apoptotic (Mcl-1, Bcl-2 and Bcl-xL), or pro-apoptotic (Bak and Bax). Overall, these data indicate that among the Bcl-2 family, Bok exhibits by far the strongest interaction with IP<sub>3</sub>Rs.

*The majority of Bok is IP<sub>3</sub>R-associated* - In addition to demonstrating that Bok associates with IP<sub>3</sub>R1, the data in Fig 1D also suggest that a large proportion of cellular Bok is IP<sub>3</sub>R associated, since the relatively weak Bok signal seen in cell lysates

is enhanced in IP<sub>3</sub>R1 immunoprecipitates to an extent similar to that seen for IP<sub>3</sub>R1. The extent to which Bok is IP<sub>3</sub>R associated was more carefully assessed in  $\alpha$ T3 cells, and also in HeLa cells and MEFs (Figure 2). In all cell types anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R1 recovered Bok, and interestingly HeLa cell Bok migrated as a single band at 22kDa, rather than as the doublet at 23/21kDa seen in  $\alpha$ T3 cells and MEFs (upper panels, lanes 2, 4 and 6). Importantly, anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R1 depleted the vast majority of IP<sub>3</sub>R1 immunoreactivity from  $\alpha$ T3 and HeLa cell lysates and caused a similar decrease in Bok immunoreactivity (lower panels, lanes 1-4), indicating that in these cell types most, and perhaps all, Bok is IP<sub>3</sub>R associated. A similar situation exists in MEFs, in which IP<sub>3</sub>R immunoprecipitation was less efficient (for a reason that remains unclear), but in which IP<sub>3</sub>R1 immunodepletion was again equivalent to that seen for Bok (lower panels, lanes 5 and 6).

*Bok binds preferentially to IP<sub>3</sub>R1 and IP<sub>3</sub>R2* - To examine whether Bok binds equally well or differentially to IP<sub>3</sub>R1, IP<sub>3</sub>R2 and IP<sub>3</sub>R3, HEK 293T cells were co-transfected to express 3F-Bok and each receptor type, followed by assessment of interactions by co-immunoprecipitation (Figure 3). Previous studies have shown that exogenous IP<sub>3</sub>Rs are expressed at high levels in HEK 293T cells, such that the contribution of endogenous IP<sub>3</sub>Rs to biochemical measurements (e.g. IP<sub>3</sub>R phosphorylation) is negligible or undetectable [31]. Immunoprecipitation of IP<sub>3</sub>R1 and IP<sub>3</sub>R2 recovered a considerable amount of 3F-Bok (Figure 3A, lanes 2 and 4), while much less was recovered when IP<sub>3</sub>R3 was immunoprecipitated (lane 6). Note that lane 6 also shows that Bok does not bind non-specifically to IgG (also shown in Figure 4D, lane 1). Importantly, conditions were arranged such that similar amounts of each receptor type were expressed and immunoprecipitated, as demonstrated by Coomassie staining of duplicate gels (Figure 3A, top panel). Further, the observed interaction between IP<sub>3</sub>Rs and 3F-Bok represents a physiological phenomenon, rather than an event that occurs after cell lysis, since mixing lysates from cells expressing either IP<sub>3</sub>R1 or 3F-Bok did not result in co-immunoprecipitation of 3F-Bok (Figure 3B, lane 2). The preferential binding of Bok to IP<sub>3</sub>R1 and IP<sub>3</sub>R2 was confirmed by immunoprecipitating 3F-Bok from the co-

transfected cells (Figure 3C); this led to the recovery of a substantial amount of IP<sub>3</sub>R1 and IP<sub>3</sub>R2 (lanes 2 and 6), but much less IP<sub>3</sub>R3 (lane 10). Thus, Bok binds selectively to IP<sub>3</sub>R1 and IP<sub>3</sub>R2.

*Determinants of Bok-IP<sub>3</sub>R binding* - To define the region of Bok that binds to IP<sub>3</sub>Rs, Bok was initially truncated from the N-terminus to remove specific regions (Figure 4A) and binding to IP<sub>3</sub>R1 was assessed by co-immunoprecipitation (Figure 4B). That 3F-Bok<sup>Δ1-14</sup> co-immunoprecipitates well, but 3F-Bok<sup>Δ1-45</sup> does not (Figure 4B, lanes 3 and 4), indicates that the region between amino acids 15-45 of Bok mediates binding to IP<sub>3</sub>Rs, and suggests that the putative BH4 domain might be responsible. This notion was examined further with a mutant in which residues of the putative BH4 domain were replaced with alanine (Figure 4A); that 3F-Bok<sup>A34-38</sup> does not co-immunoprecipitate (Figure 4B, lane 6) provides additional evidence that the BH4 domain mediates binding to IP<sub>3</sub>Rs, although the possibility remains that deletion/disruption of the BH4 domain perturbs another region of Bok that is the true mediator of binding.

Conversely, to define the IP<sub>3</sub>R region that binds to Bok, IP<sub>3</sub>R1 was truncated from the N-terminus to remove specific regions, guided by knowledge of the domain structure of IP<sub>3</sub>Rs [13,14,32] (Figure 4C). That 3F-Bok co-immunoprecipitates with IP<sub>3</sub>R1HA<sup>Δ1-1581</sup> as well as it does with IP<sub>3</sub>R1HA<sup>WT</sup> (Figure 4D, lanes 3 and 4), but not with IP<sub>3</sub>R1HA<sup>Δ1-2268</sup> (lane 8), initially indicated that Bok binds between residues 1582-2268 (i.e. to the C-terminal part of the coupling domain). More subtle truncations were used to locate the exact binding site; 3F-Bok bound strongly to both IP<sub>3</sub>R1HA<sup>Δ1-1884</sup> and IP<sub>3</sub>R1HA<sup>Δ1-1894</sup> (lanes 5 and 6), but not to IP<sub>3</sub>R1HA<sup>Δ1-1903</sup> (lane 7), indicating that Bok binds between residues 1895-1903 (amino acid sequence PSRKKAKEP). Interestingly, this highly charged sequence is completely conserved in IP<sub>3</sub>R1 from other species (e.g. rat and human), but not in IP<sub>3</sub>R2 and IP<sub>3</sub>R3. However, a sequence with a very similar charge distribution is found in the corresponding region of IP<sub>3</sub>R2 (PRMRVRDS), and is completely conserved in mouse, rat and human.

#### *The significance of Bok binding to IP<sub>3</sub>Rs*

To examine the significance of the Bok-IP<sub>3</sub>R interaction, we initially compared the

properties of SV40 large T antigen-immortalized wild-type (WT) and Bok<sup>-/-</sup> MEFs. Analysis of lysates showed that the absence of Bok did not alter the levels of other Bcl-2 family proteins (Figure 5A), and analysis anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R1 immunoprecipitates showed that the absence of Bok did not facilitate the binding of other Bcl-2 family proteins to IP<sub>3</sub>R1 (Figure 5B). Interestingly, however, IP<sub>3</sub>R levels were altered by the absence of Bok, with IP<sub>3</sub>R1 levels increasing, and IP<sub>3</sub>R2 and IP<sub>3</sub>R3 levels decreasing (Figure 5A; also see Figure 7A).

Examination of [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>c</sub> showed that LPA, which has previously been reported to stimulate IP<sub>3</sub> formation in fibroblasts [36], induced essentially identical responses in WT and Bok<sup>-/-</sup> MEFs (Figure 6A). In these experiments, EGTA was added just prior to LPA to chelate extracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> and block Ca<sup>2+</sup> entry [37], such that changes in [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>c</sub> are a measure of the release of intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> stores. Thus, Bok does not appear to regulate IP<sub>3</sub>R-mediated Ca<sup>2+</sup> store release in intact cells under these conditions. To more directly assess IP<sub>3</sub>R function, IP<sub>3</sub>-induced Ca<sup>2+</sup> mobilization was assessed in suspensions of permeabilized cells, in which exogenous IP<sub>3</sub> can gain access to IP<sub>3</sub>Rs and release ER Ca<sup>2+</sup> stores. Again, however, Ca<sup>2+</sup> mobilization was the same in WT and Bok<sup>-/-</sup> MEFs (Figure 6B), indicating that the Ca<sup>2+</sup> mobilizing function of IP<sub>3</sub>Rs is not governed by Bok. Further, re-uptake of the Ca<sup>2+</sup> released by IP<sub>3</sub> was identical in WT and Bok<sup>-/-</sup> MEFs, indicating that ER Ca<sup>2+</sup> storage is also not regulated by Bok (Figure 6B).

Prolonged activation of IP<sub>3</sub>Rs triggers their down-regulation by the UPP; they are first polyubiquitinated, and then transferred to the proteasome for degradation [32,33,38]. To examine whether these events are influenced by Bok, MEFs were exposed to LPA, and IP<sub>3</sub>R levels were monitored. LPA caused a decline in IP<sub>3</sub>R1-3 levels in WT MEFs in a manner that was partially blocked by the proteasome inhibitor MG132 (Figure 7A, lanes 1-6), indicating that IP<sub>3</sub>Rs are down-regulated by the UPP under these conditions [27,32]. However, very similar down-regulation was seen in Bok<sup>-/-</sup> MEFs (lanes 7-12), indicating that Bok is not required for this process (this was true for IP<sub>3</sub>R1 and IP<sub>3</sub>R3, whereas IP<sub>3</sub>R2 was undetectable). Consistent with this conclusion, IP<sub>3</sub>R polyubiquitination, the other hallmark of IP<sub>3</sub>R

processing by the UPP [27,32], was not inhibited by the absence of Bok (Figure 7B). In fact, IP<sub>3</sub>R polyubiquitination was slightly greater in the Bok<sup>-/-</sup> MEFs, but this is most likely due to the increased expression of IP<sub>3</sub>R1 and its presence in immunoprecipitates (compare lanes 4 vs. 2, and 8 vs. 6).

Interestingly, Bok expression was reduced in parallel to IP<sub>3</sub>Rs expression in stimulated cells. This was apparent in LPA-stimulated WT MEFs and, again, was partially blocked by MG132 (Figure 7A, lanes 1-6), suggesting that it is via the UPP. Additional experiments with  $\alpha$ T3 cells confirmed that Bok down-regulation occurs as IP<sub>3</sub>R levels decline (Figure 7C, upper two panels), and also that as Bok levels decline, the amounts of other Bcl-2 family proteins and erlin2 are unaffected (lower panels). Analysis of the time-dependence of GnRH effects showed that IP<sub>3</sub>R1 and Bok decline at similar rates, and, again, that MG132 partially blocks the declines (Figure 7D). Further, GnRH induced the formation of high molecular mass Bok immunoreactivity (e.g. at 26-27kDa) that was enhanced by MG132, suggesting that Bok might be ubiquitinated (Figure 7D, lane 2 and lanes 7-10). Further evidence that Bok is ubiquitinated in stimulated  $\alpha$ T3 cells came from analysis of anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R1 immunoprecipitates (Figure 7E). As expected, Bok co-immunoprecipitates strongly with IP<sub>3</sub>R1 (lanes 4 and 5), and the high molecular mass anti-Bok immunoreactive bands seen in the presence of GnRH at 26-27kDa and above (lane 5), were also found to be anti-ubiquitin immunoreactive (lane 2). This selective ubiquitination and down-regulation of Bok and IP<sub>3</sub>Rs, together with the finding that a large proportion of cellular Bok is IP<sub>3</sub>R associated, suggests that they may be processed by the UPP as a combined unit.

Finally, we examined whether Bok might regulate IP<sub>3</sub>R1 proteolysis, since its binding site is adjacent to the site cleaved by caspase-3 during apoptosis [13,39,40] and to one of the chymotrypsin-sensitive sites that is thought to be a flexible, exposed loop [13,32,41,42] (Figure 4C). Interestingly, we found that Bok markedly inhibited chymotrypsin-induced IP<sub>3</sub>R1 proteolysis *in vitro*, as gauged by the production of fragments IV and V (Figure 8). Exposure of IP<sub>3</sub>R1 immunopurified from transfected cells to chymotrypsin generated free fragments V and IV

at ~90 and ~40kDa, respectively (Figure 8A, lanes 2 and 6), and this was almost completely blocked when 3F-Bok was co-expressed with IP<sub>3</sub>R1 (lanes 4 and 8). Instead, an ~130kDa fragment was formed that was recognized by both fragment IV- and V-specific antisera, and thus appears to be a cleavage product composed of fragments IV+V (lanes 4 and 8). An analogous result was obtained when IP<sub>3</sub>R1 was immunopurified from WT and Bok<sup>-/-</sup> MEFs; in this case, the generation of free fragments V and IV was much more efficient for material immunopurified from Bok<sup>-/-</sup> MEFs (Figure 8B, lanes 4 and 8), than for material immunopurified from WT MEFs, in which a band corresponding to fragments IV+V was again observed (lanes 2 and 6). Remarkably, then, it appears that the association of Bok with IP<sub>3</sub>Rs inhibits chymotrypsin-induced cleavage at the fragment IV-V junction.

We also examined the sensitivity of IP<sub>3</sub>R1 to caspase-3, by monitoring IP<sub>3</sub>R1 cleavage in cells undergoing apoptosis (Figure 8C). In response to the kinase inhibitor staurosporine and other pro-apoptotic agents, caspase-3 is activated and IP<sub>3</sub>R1 is cleaved into two major fragments, a C-terminal, ~95kDa fragment that may form “leaky” channels, and an ~170kDa fragment that accounts for the remainder of the protein [39,40,43,44]. In the presence of staurosporine, both of these fragments were much more readily visible in Bok<sup>-/-</sup> MEFs than in WT MEFs, while caspase-3 activation was approximately the same in both cell types (Figure 8C, lanes 3 and 4). Thus, Bok appears to protect IP<sub>3</sub>R1 from the proteolytic activity of caspase-3.

Overall, these data indicate that despite binding strongly to IP<sub>3</sub>Rs and regulating their expression, Bok does not appear to regulate the Ca<sup>2+</sup> gating function of IP<sub>3</sub>Rs, or the ability of IP<sub>3</sub>Rs to be degraded by the UPP. However, Bok is selectively degraded by the UPP in parallel to IP<sub>3</sub>Rs and, most importantly, protects IP<sub>3</sub>Rs from the proteolytic effects of chymotrypsin *in vitro* and caspase-3 *in vivo* during apoptosis.

## DISCUSSION

In summary, we find (i) that Bok binds constitutively to IP<sub>3</sub>Rs, (ii) that the determinants of binding appear to be the BH4 domain of Bok and a small peptide in a highly-regulated region of the coupling domain of IP<sub>3</sub>Rs, (iii) that the binding of Bok does not seem to regulate the Ca<sup>2+</sup> mobilizing

function of the channels formed by IP<sub>3</sub>Rs, (iii) that Bok is degraded by the UPP in parallel to the degradation of IP<sub>3</sub>Rs that occurs when IP<sub>3</sub>-dependent cell signaling is persistently activated, and, most importantly, (iv) that Bok protects IP<sub>3</sub>Rs from proteolysis *in vitro* and *in vivo* during apoptosis. Overall, these data show that Bok is tightly associated with IP<sub>3</sub>Rs and that one of its cellular roles is to control IP<sub>3</sub>R proteolysis.

The strength of Bok binding to IP<sub>3</sub>Rs is surprising. Clear co-immunoprecipitation of Bok with IP<sub>3</sub>Rs was seen using either CHAPS or Triton X-100 as detergents, and remarkably, most, if not all, cellular Bok was found to be IP<sub>3</sub>R bound, since Bok was immunodepleted in parallel to IP<sub>3</sub>Rs when IP<sub>3</sub>Rs were immunoprecipitated. Further, under conditions that allowed for robust Bok binding, the binding of other Bcl-2 family proteins was not detectable. This is perplexing in view of the extensive literature indicating that anti-apoptotic Bcl-2 family members bind to IP<sub>3</sub>Rs [11,12,16-21,24-26]. However, evaluation of that literature suggests only relatively weak binding of endogenous pro-apoptotic Bcl-2 family members to endogenous IP<sub>3</sub>Rs [18,21,22,45,46], and reveals that many of the studies were conducted with over-expressed proteins, or with purified recombinant protein fragments [18-21,24,26], which may not faithfully mimic physiological interactions. Such relatively weak binding may be beyond the limits of detection under the experimental conditions used herein, which were geared towards the assessment of the particularly strong Bok-IP<sub>3</sub>R interaction.

Our studies with Bok and IP<sub>3</sub>R mutants indicate that the putative BH4 domain of Bok [3,47] mediates binding to IP<sub>3</sub>Rs and that the Bok binding site is located within a small sequence (PSRKKAKEP) found in a highly-regulated region of IP<sub>3</sub>Rs, that is likely a surface-exposed loop [32,33,41]. Interestingly, the BH4 domain of Bcl-2 also appears to mediate its binding to IP<sub>3</sub>Rs [20,24-26], although the Bcl-2 binding site is located within a completely different IP<sub>3</sub>R region (amino acids 1389-1408 of IP<sub>3</sub>R1) [25,26]. It has also been shown that the BH4 domain of Bcl-xL binds much more weakly to IP<sub>3</sub>Rs than does the Bcl-2 BH4 domain, because it contains an aspartic acid residue instead of a lysine at position X<sub>2</sub> of the BH4 consensus sequence [20] (Figure 4A). Overall, this information indicates that the BH4

domain of Bok and some other Bcl-2 family proteins is critical for mediating binding to IP<sub>3</sub>Rs, but that different modes of interaction are possible. Since Bax and Bak also contain a very similar putative BH4 domain (Figure 4A), it is puzzling that they too do not bind to IP<sub>3</sub>Rs. The explanation may be that Bok is more localized to the ER and Golgi than Bax and Bak, apparently because of differences in their TM regions [8]. This would place Bok in the proximity of IP<sub>3</sub>R receptors, which are also predominantly localized to the ER [13,14], but are also present in the Golgi [48].

The nature of the Bok binding region in IP<sub>3</sub>R1 is intriguing. It is obvious that the sequence is highly polar (5 of 9 residues are charged), and it is tempting to speculate that this could drive the interaction with the Bok BH4 domain, which also contains charged residues (Figure 4A). A similar sequence is found in the corresponding region of IP<sub>3</sub>R2 (4 of 8 residues are charged), but no such charge density is found in the corresponding region of IP<sub>3</sub>R3, which is very different from IP<sub>3</sub>R1 and IP<sub>3</sub>R2 in this area. This diversity may well account for the ability of Bok to bind strongly to IP<sub>3</sub>R1 and IP<sub>3</sub>R2, but not to IP<sub>3</sub>R3.

The challenge now is to determine the significance of the Bok-IP<sub>3</sub>R interaction. The data from MEFs, either replete with or lacking Bok, indicate that Bok does not regulate the ability of IP<sub>3</sub>Rs to act as Ca<sup>2+</sup> channels, or the ability of the ER to sequester Ca<sup>2+</sup>, at least in unperturbed cells. Further, the processing of activated IP<sub>3</sub>Rs by the UPP was not dependent upon the presence of Bok, indicating that it does not play a role in this homeostatic phenomenon [32,33]. Bok did, however, regulate IP<sub>3</sub>R expression. This was seen in MEFs, in which lack of Bok increased IP<sub>3</sub>R1 expression, but decreased IP<sub>3</sub>R2 and IP<sub>3</sub>R3 expression. Effects of exogenous Bcl-2 family proteins on IP<sub>3</sub>R expression have been seen in other cell types [46,49], although not always [45]. While the basis for these expression changes remains to be defined, overall our results indicate that Bok is not critical to the central function of IP<sub>3</sub>Rs, which is to act as IP<sub>3</sub>-gated Ca<sup>2+</sup> channels.

Interestingly, in cells in which IP<sub>3</sub>-dependent signaling was persistently activated, Bok was degraded by the UPP, while the levels of other Bcl-2 family protein remained unaltered. It is well known that IP<sub>3</sub>Rs are degraded by the UPP under these conditions [32,33] and the finding that



Bok is degraded in parallel is consistent with the notion that endogenous Bok and IP<sub>3</sub>Rs are constitutively associated. Bok and IP<sub>3</sub>Rs may well be extracted from the ER membrane, ubiquitinated and degraded as a unit [38], and it will be interesting to see whether the proteins that mediate IP<sub>3</sub>R ubiquitination (the erlin1/2 complex and the ubiquitin ligase RNF170 [30,34]) also mediate Bok ubiquitination. IP<sub>3</sub>R degradation by the UPP is seen to be a homeostatic response to persistent cell stimulation that allows cells to reduce the sensitivity of their Ca<sup>2+</sup> stores to IP<sub>3</sub> and thus suppress Ca<sup>2+</sup> mobilization [32,33]. That Bok should be degraded in parallel is currently of unknown significance, but given that Bok is generally considered to be pro-apoptotic, loss of Bok could well influence the viability of the stimulated cells.

The most significant effect of Bok binding appears to be inhibition of IP<sub>3</sub>R proteolysis by chymotrypsin *in vitro* at the fragment IV-V junction (at amino acid ~1932), and by caspase-3 *in vivo* during apoptosis (at amino acid 1891). It seems entirely plausible that this could result from steric hindrance by Bok of the ability of chymotrypsin and caspase-3 to access their cleavage sites. This inhibitory effect of Bok may well be biologically relevant, as the C-terminal

IP<sub>3</sub>R1 fragment resulting from caspase-3 cleavage has been proposed to form an IP<sub>3</sub>-insensitive, “leaky” channel that contributes towards the apoptotic cascade [40,43], although this notion is controversial [44,50,51]. Indeed, a very recent study shows that the IP<sub>3</sub>R1 fragments generated by caspase-3 remain associated and form functional channels fully capable of responding to IP<sub>3</sub> and contributing towards apoptosis [44]. Thus, the significance of the inhibitory effect of Bok on IP<sub>3</sub>R proteolysis will be better understood when the significance of IP<sub>3</sub>R cleavage by caspase-3 is fully elucidated.

The cellular role of Bok has been an enigma since its discovery [1,2,7]. Based on its similarity to Bax and Bak and over-expression studies, it has been assumed that Bok is pro-apoptotic [4-9] and, indeed, very recent evidence from Bax<sup>-/-</sup> Bok<sup>-/-</sup> mice indicates that it can act pro-apoptotically in ovaries [52]. Interestingly, however, Bok can also act anti-apoptotically; Bok<sup>-/-</sup> cells undergo apoptosis more readily than control cells in response to brefeldin A, a drug that inhibits ER to Golgi transport and causes ER stress [8]. Determining the role played by IP<sub>3</sub>R binding in these effects of Bok will be a fascinating topic for future studies and should help unravel the subtleties of Bok action.

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## FOOTNOTES

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The abbreviations used are: IP<sub>3</sub>, inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate; IP<sub>3</sub>R, inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate receptor; ER, endoplasmic reticulum; UPP, ubiquitin-proteasome pathway; GnRH, gonadotropin-releasing hormone; LPA, oleoyl-L-α-lysophosphatidic acid; BH, Bcl-2 homology; MEF, mouse embryonic fibroblast; [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>c</sub>, cytosolic Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentration.

## FIGURE LEGENDS

**Figure 1. Bok co-immunoprecipitates with IP<sub>3</sub>Rs** Cells were harvested with 1% CHAPS lysis buffer, and immunoprecipitates were prepared and subjected to SDS-PAGE (n=2). A) The 20-25kDa region of a silver-stained gel of an anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R1 immunoprecipitate from  $\alpha$ T3 cells is shown and the 23 kDa band marked with an arrow was identified by mass spectrometry as Bok. B)  $\alpha$ T3 cells were treated for the indicated times with 100nM GnRH, and anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R1 immunoprecipitates (lanes 2-4) and controls (lanes 1 and 5) were probed in immunoblots for IP<sub>3</sub>R1, erlin2 and Bok. C) Using MEFs, anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R1 and anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R3 immunoprecipitates (lanes 2 and 3), and a control (lane 1) were probed in immunoblots for IP<sub>3</sub>R1, IP<sub>3</sub>R3, erlin2 (negative control) and Bok. Note that because of IP<sub>3</sub>R heterotetramerization [13,15], anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R1 recovers some IP<sub>3</sub>R3, and anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R3 recovers some IP<sub>3</sub>R1. Mouse monoclonal anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R3 was used for these experiments. D) Using  $\alpha$ T3 cells, anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R1 immunoprecipitates and input cell lysates were probed in immunoblots for the proteins indicated.

**Figure 2. Immunodepletion of IP<sub>3</sub>R1 causes equivalent immunodepletion of Bok.** Cells were harvested with 1% CHAPS lysis buffer, lysates were incubated without or with anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R1, and immunoprecipitates and post-immunoprecipitation lysates were subjected to SDS-PAGE. Immunoblots were then probed for IP<sub>3</sub>R1 and Bok, and for erlin2, which served as a loading control for cell lysates (n=2).

**Figure 3. Bok binds selectively to IP<sub>3</sub>R1 and IP<sub>3</sub>R2**

HEK 293T cells were transfected with cDNAs encoding 3F-Bok and/or each IP<sub>3</sub>R type and 24h later were harvested with 1% CHAPS lysis buffer, lysates were incubated with anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R1, anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R2, anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R3, or anti-FLAG, and immunoprecipitates and input lysates were subjected to SDS-PAGE (n=3). Gels were then either stained with Coomassie blue, or immunoblots were probed for IP<sub>3</sub>R1-3 (with anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R1-3) or 3F-Bok (with anti-FLAG). A. Assessment of 3F-Bok binding to immunoprecipitated IP<sub>3</sub>R1, IP<sub>3</sub>R2 and IP<sub>3</sub>R3. B. Demonstration that 3F-Bok and IP<sub>3</sub>R1 do not co-immunoprecipitate when lysates from cells expressing either IP<sub>3</sub>R1 or 3F-Bok are mixed and then incubated with anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R1 to immunoprecipitate IP<sub>3</sub>R1. C. Assessment of IP<sub>3</sub>R binding to immunoprecipitated 3F-Bok.

**Figure 4. Analysis of the determinants of Bok-IP<sub>3</sub>R binding**

A. 3F-Bok constructs used to map the region that binds to IP<sub>3</sub>Rs. Shown are the N-terminal triple FLAG tag (grey box), the position of the BH1-4 domains [5,6], the transmembrane (TM) region, and the sequence of the putative BH4 domain of mouse Bok, together with that for Bcl-2, Bcl-xl, Bax and Bak. These approximate to the consensus sequence  $\Phi_1\Phi_2X_1X_2\Phi_3\Phi_4$ , where X is any residue,  $\Phi$  is a hydrophobic residue, and  $\Phi_3$  is an aromatic residue [3,47]. Also shown is the point mutant used to further resolve the binding site. B. HEK 293T cells were transfected with cDNAs encoding 3F-Bok constructs and IP<sub>3</sub>R1, and 24h later were harvested with 1% CHAPS lysis buffer, lysates were incubated without or with anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R1, immunoprecipitates and input lysates were subjected to SDS-PAGE, and immunoblots were probed for IP<sub>3</sub>R1 or the 3F-Bok constructs (n=3). C. IP<sub>3</sub>R1HA constructs used to map the region that binds to Bok. Shown are the C-terminal HA tag (thick black line), the positions of the 3 functional domains (the ligand-binding domain, the coupling domain, and the channel domain) [13,14,32], two of the sites (at ~1583 and ~1932) susceptible to proteolysis by chymotrypsin (CT) and two of the proteolytic fragments (IV and V) [13,32,41,42], and the caspase-3 cleavage site (at 1891) [13,39,40]. Numbering is according to the mouse sequence. D. HEK 293T cells were transfected with cDNAs encoding IP<sub>3</sub>R1HA constructs and 3F-Bok, and 24h later were harvested with 1% CHAPS lysis buffer, lysates were incubated without or with rabbit polyclonal anti-HA, immunoprecipitates and input lysates were subjected to SDS-PAGE, and immunoblots were probed for 3F-Bok or the IP<sub>3</sub>R1HA constructs with mouse monoclonal anti-FLAG or anti-HA (n=3).

**Figure 5. Bcl-2 family members in WT and Bok<sup>-/-</sup> MEFs**

Cells were harvested with 1% Triton lysis buffer, lysates (A) and anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R1 immunoprecipitates (B) were prepared, samples were subjected to SDS-PAGE, and immunoblots were probed for the proteins indicated (n=3). Additional probing of immunoprecipitates did not reveal any binding of Bcl-xL, Bcl-2 or Bak to IP<sub>3</sub>R1 in WT or Bok<sup>-/-</sup> MEFs (data not shown)

Figure 6. Ca<sup>2+</sup> signaling in WT and Bok<sup>-/-</sup> MEFs

A. Cells in suspension were loaded with Fura 2, were exposed to 1μM LPA (arrow) and [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>c</sub> was calculated from the 340/380 nm fluorescence ratio. EGTA (3mM) was added 1min prior to LPA to reduce extracellular [Ca<sup>2+</sup>] to ~100nM [37] and eliminate Ca<sup>2+</sup> entry (n>10). B. Suspensions of permeabilized cells were exposed to increasing IP<sub>3</sub> concentrations in the presence of Fura-2, and [Ca<sup>2+</sup>] was calculated from the 340/380 nm fluorescence ratio (n=2).

Figure 7. Degradation of IP<sub>3</sub>Rs and Bok by the UPP in MEFs and αT3 cells

A. MEFs were incubated with 10μM LPA and 10μM MG132 for the times indicated, were harvested with 1% Triton lysis buffer, lysates were prepared, samples were subjected to SDS-PAGE, and immunoblots were probed with anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R1-3 and anti-Bok as indicated. The histograms show combined quantitated IP<sub>3</sub>R1-3 and Bok immunoreactivity normalized to WT t=0 values from multiple independent experiments (n≥3). B. MEFs were incubated without or with 10μM LPA for 50min, in the absence or presence of 10μM MG132 (which was added 10min prior to LPA), were harvested with 1% Triton lysis buffer, anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R1 immunoprecipitates were prepared, samples were subjected to SDS-PAGE, and immunoblots were probed with anti-ubiquitin, anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R1 and anti-Bok as indicated (n=2). C. αT3 cells were incubated without or with 1μM GnRH for 2h, were harvested with 1% CHAPS lysis buffer, lysates were prepared, samples were subjected to SDS-PAGE, and immunoblots were probed for the proteins indicated (n=2). D. αT3 cells were incubated with 1μM GnRH for the times indicated in the absence or presence of MG132 (which was added 30min prior to GnRH), and were processed as in C. The histograms show combined quantitated IP<sub>3</sub>R1 or Bok immunoreactivity from multiple independent experiments (n=3). E. αT3 cells were incubated without or with 1μM GnRH for 15min, in the presence of 10μM MG132 (which was added 30min prior to GnRH), were harvested with 1% CHAPS lysis buffer, anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R1 immunoprecipitates were prepared, samples and controls (lanes 3 and 6) were subjected to SDS-PAGE, and immunoblots were probed with anti-ubiquitin and anti-Bok as indicated (n=2).

Figure 8. Effects of Bok on IP<sub>3</sub>R1 proteolysis.

A and B. Anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R1 immunoprecipitates, prepared from transfected HEK 293T cells or MEFs with 1% CHAPS lysis buffer, were washed with ice-cold PBS, were incubated with 1μg/ml chymotrypsin (CT) for 15 minutes at 25°C, were boiled for 5 minutes in gel-loading buffer [29], samples were subjected to SDS-PAGE, and immunoblots were probed for fragment V with anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R1<sup>2731-2749</sup> and fragment IV with anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R1<sup>1829-1848</sup> (n=2). IP<sub>3</sub>R1-derived immunoreactive bands are indicated with arrows, as is cross-reacting IgG heavy chain at ~50kDa, and a probable IgG-derived fragment at ~35kDa. C. Cells were incubated with 1μM staurosporine (SST) for 14h, were harvested with 1% Triton lysis buffer, lysates were subjected to SDS-PAGE, and immunoblots were probed with anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R1<sup>2731-2749</sup> and anti-IP<sub>3</sub>R1<sup>679-727</sup> to detect C- and N-terminal IP<sub>3</sub>R1 fragments, respectively, and for the other proteins indicated. Erlin2 served as a loading control (n=2).

# FIGURE 1

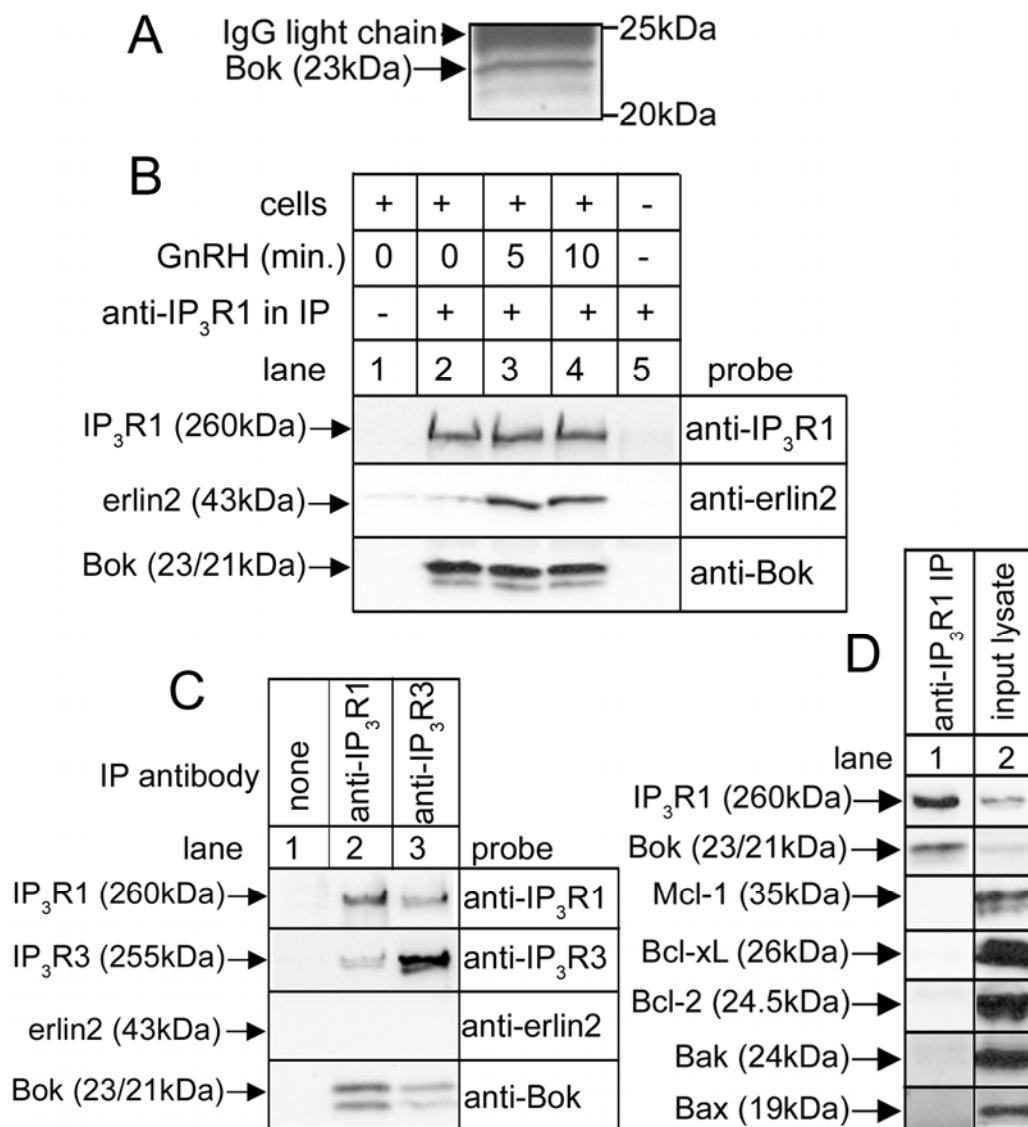
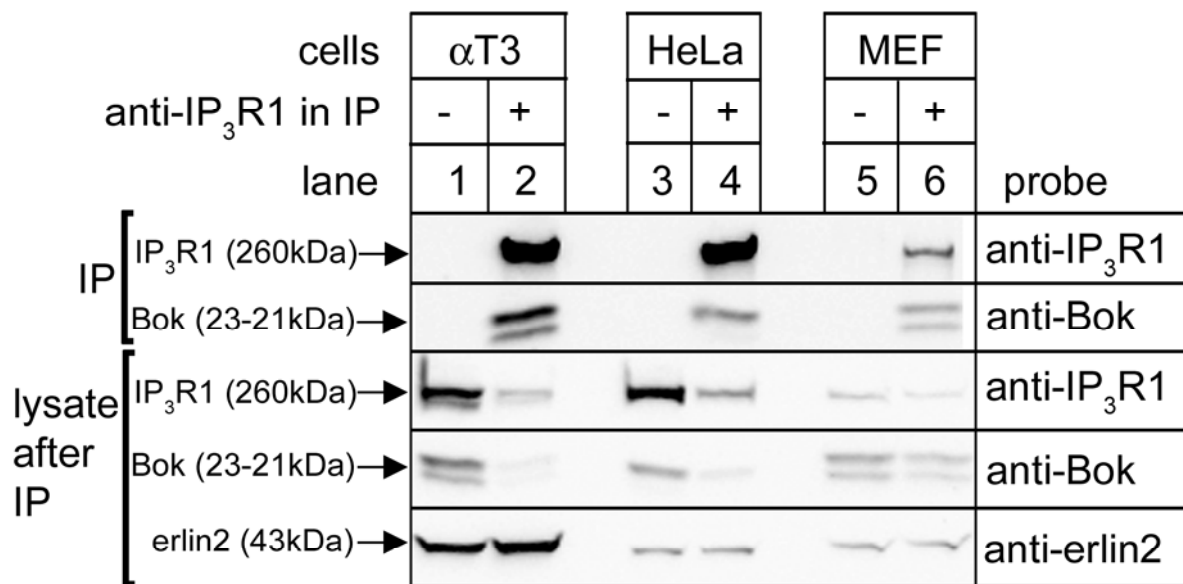
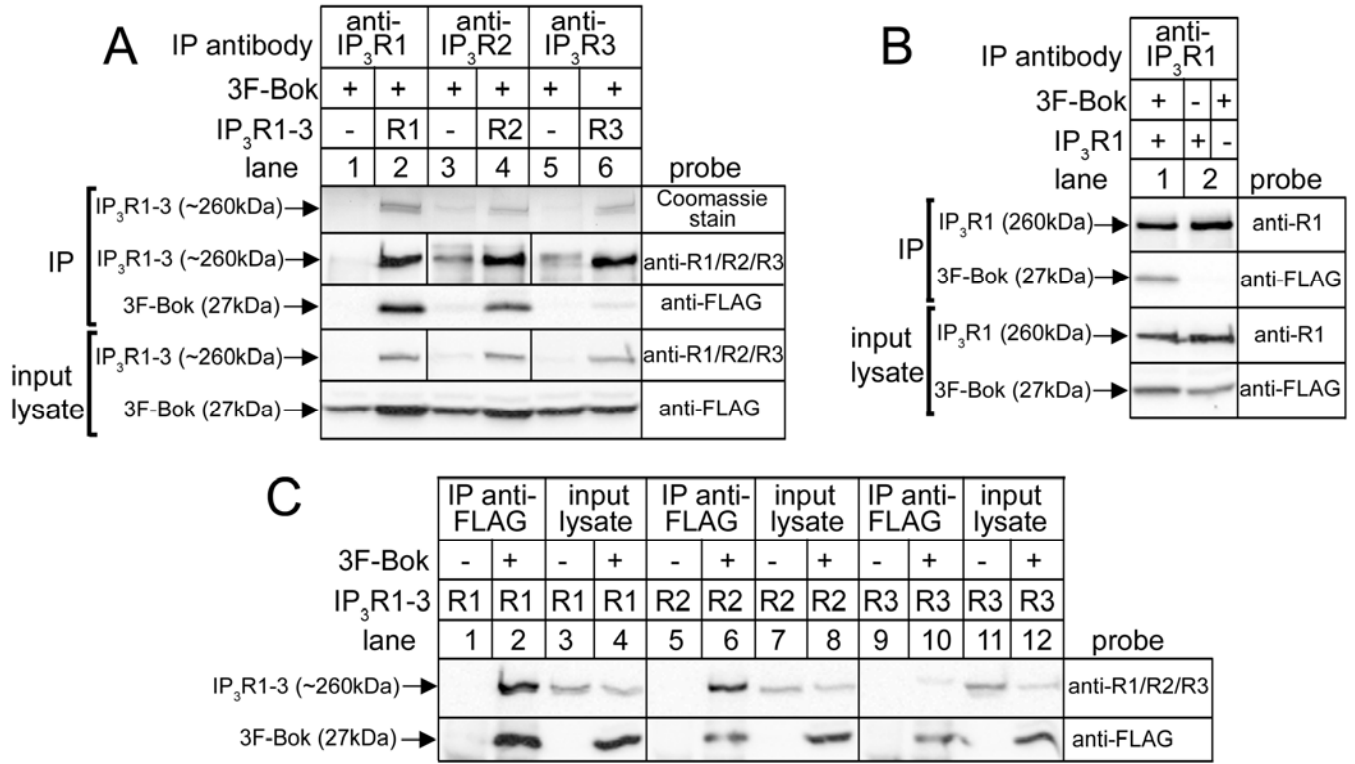


FIGURE 2





**FIGURE 3**



# FIGURE 4

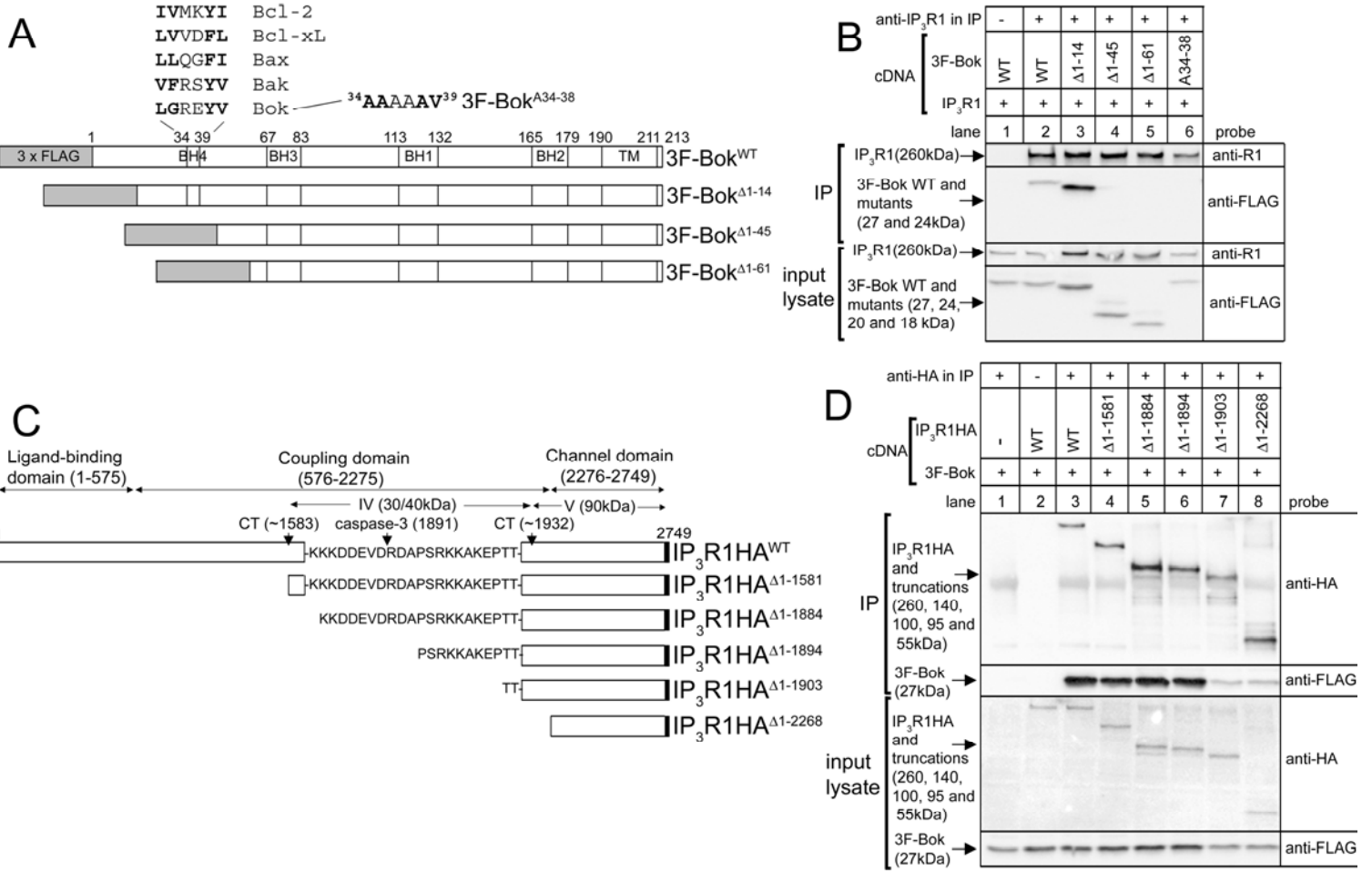


FIGURE 5

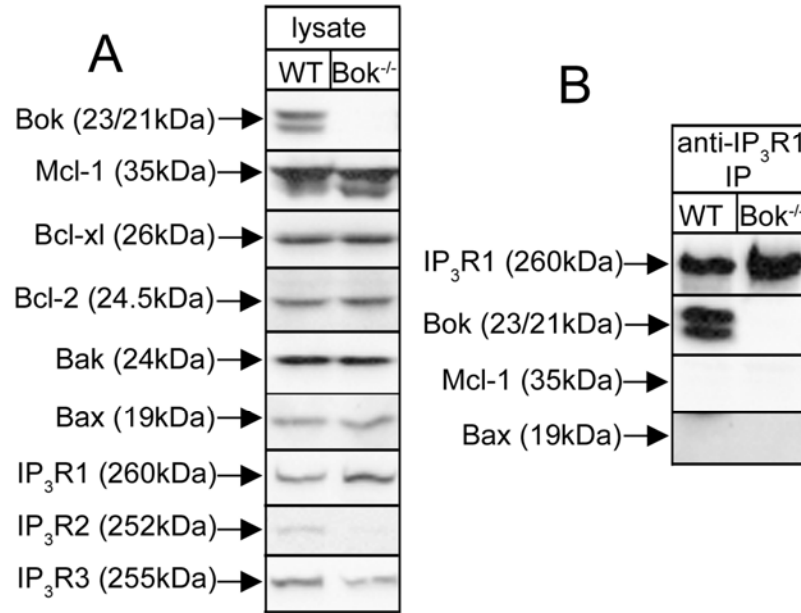
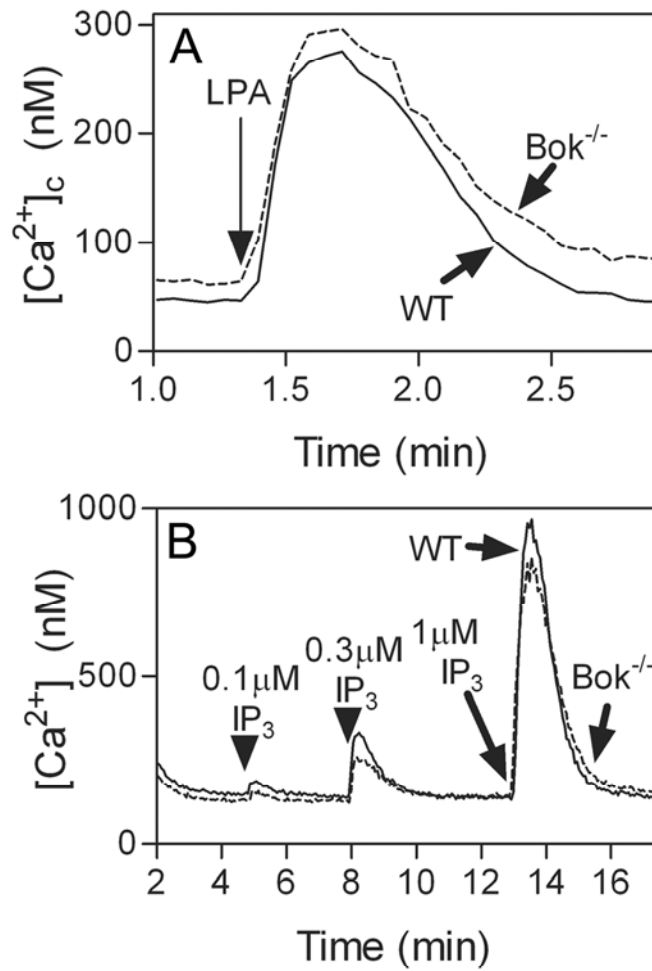
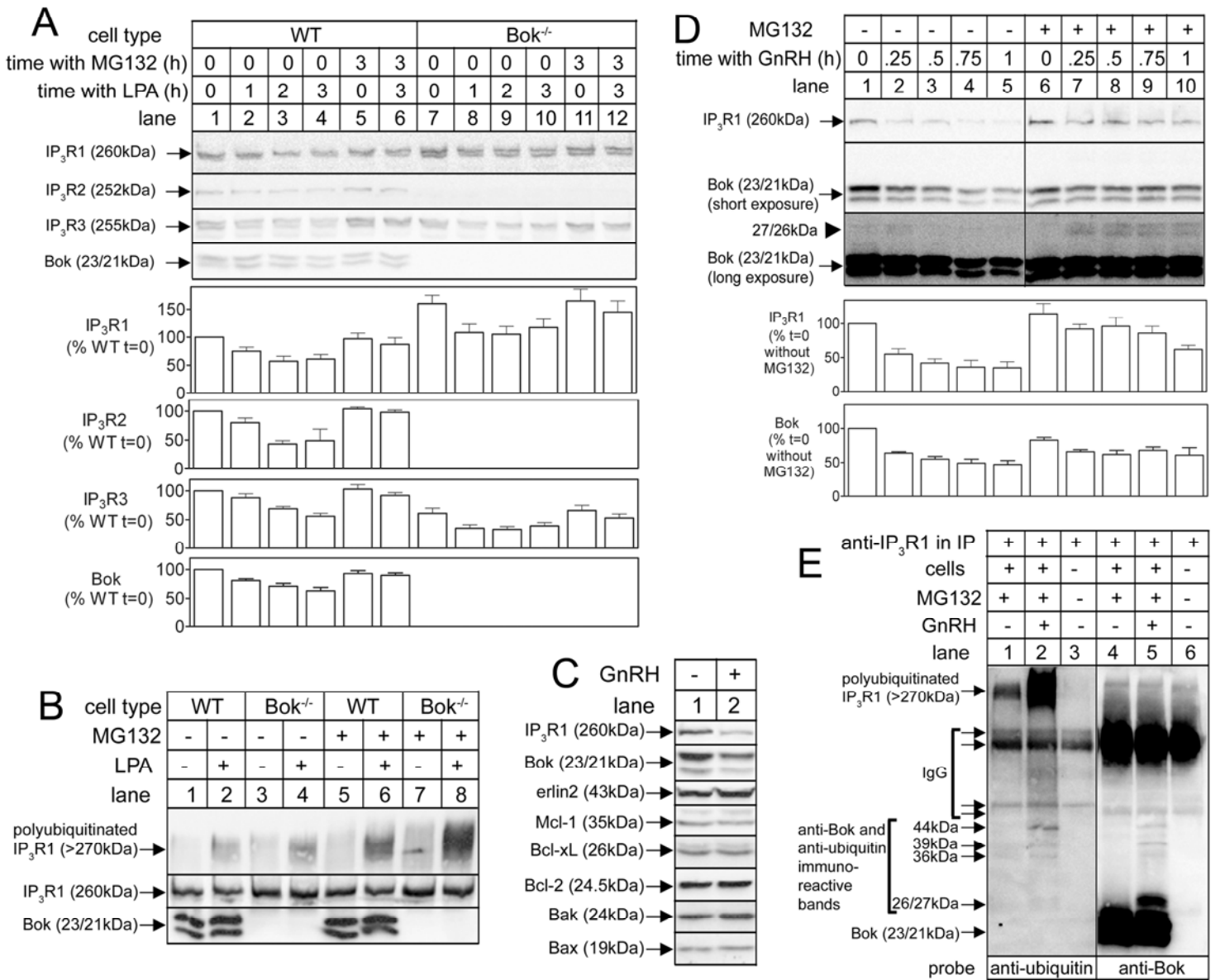


FIGURE 6



# FIGURE 7



# FIGURE 8

