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Subunit interactions influence the biochemical and biological properties of Hsp104

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Point mutations in either of the two nucleotide-binding domains (NBD) of Hsp104 (NBD1 and NBD2) eliminate its thermotolerance function in vivo. In vitro, NBD1 mutations virtually eliminate ATP hydrolysis with little effect on hexamerization; analogous NBD2 mutations reduce ATPase activity and severely impair hexamerization. We report that high protein concentrations overcome the assembly defects of NBD2 mutants and increase ATP hydrolysis severalfold, changing $V_{\text{max}}$ with little effect on $K_m$. In a complementary fashion, the detergent 3-(3-cholamidopropyl)dimethylammonio)-1-propanesulfonate inhibits hexamerization of wild-type (WT) Hsp104, lowering $V_{\text{max}}$ with little effect on $K_m$. ATP hydrolysis exhibits a Hill coefficient between 1.5 and 2, indicating that it is influenced by cooperative subunit interactions. To further analyze the effects of subunit interactions on Hsp104, we assessed the effects of mutant Hsp104 proteins on WT Hsp104 activities. An NBD1 mutant that hexamerizes but does not hydrolyze ATP reduces the ATPase activity of WT Hsp104 in vitro. In vivo, this mutant is not toxic but specifically inhibits the thermotolerance function of NBD1 mutant that hexamerizes but does not hydrolyze ATP reduces the ATPase activity of WT Hsp104 in vitro. In vivo, this mutant is not toxic but specifically inhibits the thermotolerance function of NBD1 mutant that hexamerizes but does not hydrolyze ATP reduces the ATPase activity of WT Hsp104 in vitro. In vivo, this mutant is not toxic but specifically inhibits the thermotolerance function of NBD1 mutant that hexamerizes but does not hydrolyze ATP reduces the ATPase activity of WT Hsp104 in vitro. In vivo, this mutant is not toxic but specifically inhibits the thermotolerance function of NBD1 mutant that hexamerizes but does not hydrolyze ATP reduces the ATPase activity of WT Hsp104 in vitro. In vivo, this mutant is not toxic but specifically inhibits the thermotolerance function of WT Hsp104. Thus, interactions between subunits influence the ATPase activity of Hsp104, play a vital role in its biological functions, and provide a mechanism for conditionally inactivating Hsp104 function in vivo.

The HSP100/Clp family of chaperone proteins plays a wide variety of important cellular roles in different organisms, including survival of environmental stress, regulation of genetic competence, transposition, proteolysis, and control of a protein-based genetic element (prion). These seemingly unrelated roles are unified by a common remarkable biochemical mechanism; the proteins promote the disassembly of aggregated proteins and higher-order protein complexes (reviewed in refs. 1 and 2). Several biochemical properties are shared by HSP100 proteins and are required for their biological functions, suggesting that these properties are important to the complex phenomenon of protein disassembly. These properties include an ATP-hydrolyzing activity (3–10) and the ability to self-assemble into oligomers, primarily hexamers (11–13).

A member of the HSP100 family from Saccharomyces cerevisiae, Hsp104, is critical for survival after exposure to extreme temperatures (50°C) (14) or high concentrations of ethanol (20%) (15). These stresses cause protein denaturation, and Hsp104 promotes survival by facilitating the resolubilization of heat-damaged, aggregated proteins (reviewed in refs. 1 and 2). At normal temperatures, Hsp104 plays a critical role in the inheritance of the novel proteinaceous genetic element [PSI+] (often called a yeast prion), an ordered aggregate of the trans-

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Abbreviations: NBD, nucleotide-binding domain; WT, wild-type; CHAPS, 3-(3-cholamidopropyl)dimethylammonio)-1-propanesulfonate.

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sequences were inserted behind the yeast glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase promoter in pRS305 for integration at the LEU2 locus. The WT HSP104 coding sequence was placed under Gal1 regulation in pRS316 (cen6/ars4, URA3; 104Imm). pHCA/GAL4(1–93),ER,VP16, which encodes a β-estradiol-activated inducer of Gal1-regulated genes (24), was the gift of D. Picard. Late in the course of these studies, we found that one of the mutants, K218T, had acquired an additional mutation producing K218T:A315T. This mutant behaved similarly to K218T alone when retested for assembly and ATP hydrolysis.

**Strains.** The integration constructs described above and their parent vector, pRS305 (cleaved with AflIII), were integrated into yeast strain MD104–1U in which 80% of the HSP104 coding sequence is deleted. These strains were subsequently transformed with two plasmids: pHCA/GAL4(1–93),ER,VP16 and either pRS316 or 104Imm. This generated strains with the following combinations of integrated glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase-regulated (constitutive)/plasmid β-estradiol-regulated genes: vector/vector, K218T:A315T/vector, vector/WT, K218T:A315T/WT, K620T/vector, and K620T/WT.

**Protein Purification.** Hsp104 was purified from yeast and E. coli as described (11, 25). To compare mutant and WT, proteins were first dialyzed against reaction buffer 1 with 2 mM DTT were adjusted to the pH and strength buffers did so (Fig. 1), which fail to assemble at ATP concentrations at which the assembly of Hsp104 into hexamers is driven by the addition of adenine nucleotides (11). In the absence of added nucleotide, Hsp104 forms hexamers if salt concentrations are low (i.e., 20 mM; ref. 10). We sought additional conditions that would promote assembly in the absence of ATP and found that increasing the protein concentration in physiological ionic strength buffers did so (Fig. 1). When Hsp104 was cross-linked with glutaraldehyde at a protein concentration of 0.1 to 0.5 mg/ml, most of the protein migrated on SDS/PAGE as a hexamer (this is apparent from counting the steps in the ladder of species obtained by cross-linking with glutaraldehyde at shorter incubation times). When Hsp104 was cross-linked at a concentration of 0.01 mg/ml, most of the protein migrated as a monomer. When ATP was present, cross-linking yielded hexamers at all of these protein concentrations. Gel filtration chromatography and multiance light scattering confirmed that Hsp104 was hexameric at high protein concentrations and existed as a combination of monomers and dimers at low protein concentrations (D. Hattendorf and S.L., unpublished results). For simplicity, we refer to the latter state as “unassembled.”

Next, we asked if overcoming the assembly defect could overcome the oligomerization defects of Hsp104 NBD2 point mutants (Fig. 1B), which fail to assemble at ATP concentrations at which the WT protein is fully assembled (10, 11). One of these, K620T, carries a threonine substitution in the conserved lysine of the P-loop motif that interacts directly with the β- and γ-phosphates of bound nucleotide in other nucleotide-binding proteins with this motif (21); the other, G619V, is a glycine to valine substitution in residue 619 (Fig. 1B). Previously, only K620T was tested at a protein concentration of 0.01 mg/ml. It was unassembled even in the presence of 5 mM ATP (10, 11). Here, for both of these mutants, some assembly was observed at a protein concentration of 0.05 mg/ml; at 0.5 mg/ml, nearly all of the protein was hexameric (Fig. 1C and data not shown). Note that proteins carrying analogous mutations in NBD1, K218T, G217V, and a new double mutant K218T:A315T with severe defects in ATPase activity assembled in the presence of ATP even at low protein concentrations (Fig. 1C and data not shown).

**Thermotolerance Assays.** Cells were grown to equal logarithmic-phase densities, the 104Imm plasmid was induced with 100 nM β-estradiol for 2 h, and aliquots were moved directly to 50°C for 4 min and then plated on noninducing media to determine survival rates as described (27). During the heat shock, additional aliquots were taken for protein quantitation by Western analysis as described (27), except that immune complexes reacted with 125I-labeled protein A were quantified by using a Molecular Dynamics PhosphorImager and IMAGEQUANT software.

**Results.**

The Relationship Between Hexamerization and ATP Hydrolysis in the NBD2 Mutants. Next, we asked if overcoming the assembly defect of NBD2 mutants would also overcome their ATP hydrolysis defects. At protein concentrations of 0.01 to 0.02 mg/ml and an ATP concentration of 5 mM, the K620T and G619V proteins hydrolyzed ATP at ~1/20th the rate of WT Hsp104 (10). At

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did not exhibit an assembly defect. Unlike the other NBD2 mutants, the T621A mutant concentrations, but the K620T and G619V mutants hexamerize only at high protein concentrations. The K218T:A315T and G217V mutants, like WT, hexamerize at all protein concentrations, but the low hydrolysis by the K620T and G619V mutants increased more than 10-fold at high protein concentrations. No change occurred in the T621A mutant, which was oligomerized at all protein concentrations.

Fig. 1. Assembly of Hsp104 proteins. (A) Effect of high protein concentrations on the assembly of WT Hsp104 into hexamers. WT Hsp104 protein at different concentrations was incubated at 37°C with glutaraldehyde in the presence or absence of ATP for 2 or 12 min. Cross-linked proteins were separated on SDS/3.5% polyacrylamide gels and stained with silver. Intramolecular cross-links increased the mobility of monomers indicated by brackets. In the absence of ATP, most Hsp104 was unassembled when cross-linked at low protein concentrations but hexameric (indicated by asterisks) when cross-linked at high protein concentrations. In the presence of ATP, Hsp104 was hexameric at both protein concentrations. (B) General structural features of Hsp104 and the location of mutations used in this study. Sequence regions that are highly conserved in the HSP100 family, including the Walker A and B motifs, are indicated by thicker lines. The P-loop (Walker A) consensus sequences are given, and positions of mutations therein are indicated by arrows.

Fig. 2. Effects of protein concentration on the ATPase activity of mutant Hsp104 proteins. ATPase assays were performed with 5 mM ATP, using the Malachite Green colorimetric assay to measure released phosphate. The same buffer conditions were used as in cross-linking studies with different concentrations of Hsp104. The endpoints of reactions were varied to keep them in the linear range of the assay and subsequently adjusted to min⁻¹. Mutant activity is shown as the % of WT activity in the same experiment; mean and standard deviations are shown. WT Hsp104 released 0.67, 0.77, 1.10, 0.89, 1.02, and 0.80 nmol of P1/min⁻¹ µg⁻¹, respectively, at 0.01, 0.02, 0.05, 0.1, 0.25, and 0.5 mg/ml. ATP hydrolysis by the K218T:A315T and G217V mutants was negligible at all protein concentrations, but the low hydrolysis by the K620T and G619V mutants increased more than 10-fold at high protein concentrations. No change occurred in the T621A mutant, which was oligomerized at all protein concentrations.

Kinetic Analysis of Mutant and WT Proteins. To determine what parameters of ATP hydrolysis are affected by assembly, the Vmax and Km values for ATP hydrolysis were determined at different protein concentrations. At the highest and lowest concentrations, linearity was lost over the broad range of ATP concentrations required for these assays, but at protein concentrations between 0.02 and 0.1 mg/ml, ATPase activity remained linear from 500 µM to 25 mM. As determined by cross-linking, most K620T or G619V protein was in the unassembled form at 0.02 mg/ml; most was in the hexameric form at 0.1 mg/ml (data not shown). For WT Hsp104 at 0.1 and 0.02 mg/ml, the Km and Vmax values were similar (Fig. 3; Table 1). For K620T, the Vmax increased at the higher protein concentration. However, no further increase in Vmax occurred when the protein concentration was further increased from 0.1 to 0.25 mg/ml (ATPase activity remained in the linear range for K620T at 0.25 mg/ml). That is, once this mutant protein assembled, Vmax did not continue to increase as the protein concentration increased.

Because WT Hsp104 forms hexamers even at very low protein concentrations when ATP is present, we used a different experimental approach to examine the effects of assembly on ATP hydrolysis. As determined by glutaraldehyde cross-linking (Fig. 4A) and by sizing chromatography (J. R. Glover and S.L., unpublished observations), the assembly of WT Hsp104, in the presence of ATP, can be manipulated with the zwitterionic detergent CHAPS. WT Hsp104 assembles into hexamers in 2

higher protein concentrations, the rate of ATP hydrolysis increased dramatically, reaching 40–80% of WT levels at 0.5 mg/ml (Fig. 2 and data not shown).

The two proteins that carried analogous P-loop substitutions in NBD1, K218T and G217V (10) failed to hydrolyze detectable amounts of ATP at any protein concentration tested (Fig. 2 and data not shown). The same was true for the double mutant K218T:A315T. Another mutant, not previously described, carried a threonine to alanine substitution adjacent to the P-loop lysine in NBD2, T621A. In the presence of ATP, this mutant assembled into hexamers, even at low protein concentrations (Fig. 1C). Its ATPase activity was lower than WT protein but did not change at any of the concentrations tested (Fig. 2). These data suggest that the increase in ATP hydrolysis with the G619V and K620T proteins at high concentrations results from overcoming their assembly defects.
mM CHAPS (below the critical micelle concentration) but not in 10 mM CHAPS (just above the critical micelle concentration). When assembly of WT Hsp104 was inhibited with CHAPS, ATP hydrolysis was reduced, albeit not as strongly as in the unassembled K620T (Fig. 4B). Notably, however, reducing the CHAPS concentration to 2 mM to promote assembly had the same effect as increasing the protein concentration of the K620T protein; it increased the rate of hydrolysis by increasing $V_{\text{max}}$ severalfold. Together, these data indicate it is the rate of turnover that is most affected when Hsp104 assumes a hexameric form rather than the affinity for ATP (at least at the site, or sites, responsible for the majority of ATP hydrolysis under these conditions).

**ATP Hydrolysis Is Cooperative in Hexameric Hsp104.** One mechanism by which the interaction between Hsp104 subunits might increase the rate of ATP hydrolysis is through cooperativity, with ATP hydrolysis at one site increasing the likelihood of hydrolysis at another. Positive cooperativity should produce a Hill coefficient greater than 1. A series of kinetic assays were performed over a broad range of ATP concentrations (10 µM to 40 mM) at a concentration where both WT Hsp104 and K620T were hexameric. For each protein, the Hill coefficient was repeatedly between 1.5 and 2 (Fig. 5). Apparently, subunit interactions in Hsp104 produce cooperativity in ATP hydrolysis, identifying at least one factor that influences the rate of hydrolysis upon assembly. They further indicate that oligomerization restores some of the basic parameters of cooperative hydrolysis in the K620T mutant.

**The Role of Cooperativity in Hsp104 Function.** To investigate the importance of cooperative subunit interactions in vivo, we sought conditions by which it could be blocked in a biological context. The mutant K218T:A315T was the logical choice to pursue this aim. It virtually eliminated ATP hydrolysis, yet it efficiently assembled into hexamers, both on its own and in the presence of WT Hsp104 protein (by glutaraldehyde cross-linking, data not shown).

**Table 1.** $K_m$ and $V_{\text{max}}$ values calculated for the K620T and WT proteins at two different protein concentrations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protein</th>
<th>Conc., mg/ml</th>
<th>$K_m$, mM</th>
<th>$V_{\text{max}}$, nmol min$^{-1}$ µg$^{-1}$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K620T</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WT</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>1.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>1.28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$V_{\text{max}}$ is in nmol of Pi released per min per µg of protein.

**Fig. 3.** Kinetic analysis of ATP hydrolysis. K620T and WT proteins at different protein concentrations. Phosphate released was determined after 4 min at the high protein concentration (0.1 mg/ml) and after 16 min at the low protein concentration (0.02 mg/ml) to ensure that reactions were within the linear range of the assay. Assays were performed in the same buffer as cross-linking and ATPase activities of WT Hsp104 (0.02 mg/ml) during the first 5 min of incubation with ATP at various concentrations. $K_m$ and $V_{\text{max}}$ values were determined by least squares fitting to the Michaelis–Menten equation by using the KALEIDAGRAPH program (Synergy Software). Kinetic properties of the WT protein are similar at both protein concentrations, but for the K620T mutant $V_{\text{max}}$ values increased 4-fold at the higher protein concentration.

**Fig. 4.** Effects of the zwitterionic detergent CHAPS on the hexamerization and ATPase activities of WT Hsp104. (A) Cross-linking assays were performed as in Fig. 1A, in the presence of 2 mM or 10 mM CHAPS. Assembly was inhibited at the higher detergent concentration. (B) Kinetic analysis of WT Hsp104 in the presence of CHAPS. WT Hsp104 (0.02 mg/ml) was incubated for 16 min and $K_m$ and $V_{\text{max}}$ values were calculated as in Fig. 3. In different experiments, the $V_{\text{max}}$ for ATP hydrolysis was 2- to 4-fold less in 10 mM CHAPS (hexameric, dashed line) than in 2 mM CHAPS (unassembled), whereas $K_m$ was changed less than 2-fold.

**Fig. 5.** Cooperativity of ATP hydrolysis. Kinetic analysis of K620T mutant and WT Hsp104 (0.25 mg/ml) ATP hydrolysis at ATP concentrations ranging from 20 µM to 32 mM. ATP hydrolysis was cooperative, yielding a Hill coefficient of −2.2 (standard error 0.2) for K620T and −1.7 (standard error 0.2) for WT. The rate of hydrolysis was calculated during the first 4 min of incubation with ATP for WT and 7 min for K620T to ensure that reaction products were measurable within the linear range of the assay. The Hill coefficients were calculated by fitting the nonlinear curves from plotting millimolar ATP vs. nmol of Pi released min$^{-1}$ µg$^{-1}$ to the Michaelis–Menten equation by using the Grafit 4 graphics program (Erithacus Software) and were similar to those calculated from the slope of the linear Hill plots shown.
produced by WT Hsp104 after heat shock. Growth in the absence of heat shock but blocked the increase in survival by 50°C. Constitutive expression of K218T:A315T had no adverse effect on growth in the absence of heat shock but blocked the increase in survival produced by WT Hsp104 after heat shock.

Next, we examined the effects of excess K218T:A315T on WT Hsp104 in vivo. We have previously shown that K218T is unable to provide thermotolerance in the absence of WT Hsp104 but has no deleterious effects on growth (20). Cells coexpressing K218T and WT Hsp104 at similar levels had normal levels of thermotolerance (D. A. P arschell and S.L., unpublished observations). However, very little functional Hsp104 is required for thermotolerance (28, 29). Thus, those Hsp104 hexamers that do not contain sufficient K218T:A315T to block cooperative ATP hydrolysis by WT Hsp104 could well be sufficient for thermotolerance. In light of our observation that a 5-fold excess of K218T:A315T is required to maximize the effects of this mutant on the ATPase activity of WT Hsp104 in vitro (Fig. 6A), we engineered the expression of K218T:A315T such that the K218T:A315T:WT ratio would be ~5 in vivo. In this case, thermotolerance was reduced dramatically. In the absence of heat shock, high levels of the K218T:A315T protein had no adverse effect on growth in either cells expressing WT Hsp104 or cells carrying an HSP104 deletion (Fig. 6B, NO HS; data not shown). Moreover, the K218T:A315T mutant did not reduce the low level of residual thermotolerance that is present in hsp104 deletion cells after a conditioning preheat treatment (data not shown). Because the K218T:A315T mutant had no deleterious effects on its own, we suggest that the decrease in thermotolerance it produces in the presence of WT Hsp104 is due to the ability of this mutant to alter the activity of the WT protein in mixed oligomers.

The K620T mutant was also assayed in vivo. In the absence of WT Hsp104, overexpressing K620T had no deleterious effects on growth. However, overexpression of K620T in the absence of WT Hsp104 caused some growth inhibition at normal temperatures (data not shown), preventing testing of the effect of K620T on the thermotolerance function of WT Hsp104. Nonetheless, it provides independent evidence of the importance of subunit interactions in regulating Hsp104 function in vivo.

### Discussion

We have shown that the activities of Hsp104 are strongly influenced by subunit interactions, both in vitro and in vivo. In experiments where the hexameric form of WT Hsp104 was controlled by the detergent CHAPS or the hexameric form of NBD2 mutants was controlled by protein concentration, ATP hydrolysis was higher in the assembled state than in the nonassembled state by about 4-fold. In both cases, this was primarily due to an increase in $V_{max}$. We have also determined that hydrolysis is cooperative in Hsp104, thereby identifying a contributing factor for increased hydrolysis in the assembled state. Our data further suggest that cooperativity and subunit interactions are vital to the thermotolerance function of Hsp104 in vivo.

Earlier work had indicated functional distinctions between the two NBDs of Hsp104 (10, 11); NBD1 mutations virtually eliminate hydrolysis without affecting assembly, whereas analogous mutations in NBD2 severely affect assembly while reducing hydrolysis ~10-fold. We now find that high protein concentrations overcome the assembly defects of NBD2 mutants and at the same time increase the rate of ATP hydrolysis to 40–80% that of the WT. Together with earlier data, these observations argue strongly that NBD1 is responsible for most of the ATPase activity of the protein, whereas nucleotide binding or hydrolysis at NBD2 regulates structural parameters that affect NBD1 activity (for example, in response to substrate and cofactor interactions). It remains possible that both sites contribute more equally to hydrolysis. If so, the ATPase activities of the two domains must be coupled in such a way that the basal activity of NBD2 strongly depends on the activity of NBD1, but the basal activity of NBD1 is relatively independent of NBD2 activity when the protein is assembled.

If most ATP hydrolysis occurs at NBD1, then the Hill coefficient of ~2 likely reflects cooperative hydrolysis between NBD1 subunits in the hexamer rather than between NBD1 and NBD2. This idea is further supported by the allosteric interactions we observed by inhibiting WT Hsp104 ATPase activity in mixed oligomers, an effect that has also been observed for the related ClpA protein (22). Furthermore, a residue in the C terminus that is highly conserved among all HSP100 proteins was shown to interact with a conserved P-loop residue of an adjacent subunit in oligomers of HslU, another member of the HSP100 protein family (30). And in separate work, we have found that the affinity of NBD2 for ATP is 100-fold greater than that of NBD1 (D. Hattendorf and S.L., unpublished results). Most of the kinetic parameters...
of ATP hydrolysis examined here reflect the effects of ATP binding to the lower affinity site, NBD1. Unlike Hsp104, which has only one NBD and a C-terminal region, Hsp104 has two NBDs flanked by N-terminal, middle, and C-terminal regions. Thus, a large number of interactions between domains and subunits is possible. Indeed, we have found that the rate of ATP hydrolysis increases substantially when polypeptides are bound to the C terminus of Hsp104 and that the middle region of Hsp104 appears to play an important role in mediating changes in NBD1 activity in response to C-terminal interactions (A. Cashikar, E.C.S., D.M.W., and S.L., unpublished data). This middle region of Hsp104 and other HSP100 proteins that function in thermotolerance is long, whereas that of the HSP100/Cip proteins that function in proteolysis is much shorter or absent; thus, the middle region’s effects on the ATPase reaction cycle may distinguish these functions. In separate work, we have found that the rate of ATP hydrolysis in assembled Hsp104 is increased in low salt buffers (10). In that case, the increase in hydrolysis specifically reflected a change in the $K_m$ measured by ATP hydrolysis. In contrast, the effects of oligomerization reported here specifically affect $V_{max}$. Taken together, this work suggests that the two NBDs of Hsp104 work together in a complex cycle that involves multiple ATP binding and hydrolysis states, which may be influenced by many interactions within the hexamer and with substrates.

In addition to demonstrating that cooperativity and oligomeric contacts influence the parameters of ATP hydrolysis by Hsp104, we have established that these contacts profoundly influence the function of the protein in living cells. Unlike many other chaperones, WT Hsp104 is not toxic to growth even when it is overexpressed at very high concentrations (28, 29). The fact that K620T slightly inhibits growth at normal temperatures, but only in the presence of WT protein, suggests correct subunit interactions are normally required to control the biological activities of Hsp104. Further, when the K218T:A315T mutant was expressed in the presence of WT Hsp104 at a ratio equivalent to that which maximally inhibits WT Hsp104 ATP hydrolysis in vitro, it strongly inhibited the thermotolerance function of WT Hsp104 in vivo. Yet, the K218T:A315T mutant had no toxic effects on its own. The observations reported here provide a biological confirmation of earlier biochemical suggestions that the two NBDs of Hsp104 have different functional roles. They also indicate that correct subunit interactions in the hexameric form are vital for thermotolerance function. This was by no means a forgone conclusion. K218T:A315T reduced the free-running ATPase activity of WT Hsp104 in mixed oligomers by only $\sim$2-fold, and we have previously shown that a very small quantity of Hsp104 is sufficient for thermotolerance (28). Yet, even larger quantities of WT Hsp104 are insufficient for thermotolerance when cooperative subunit interactions are perturbed by the induction of K218T:A315T. The conditional expression of this protein will provide an important tool for the analysis of Hsp104 function in the maintenance of yeast prions and the aggregation-prone human disease proteins such as huntingtin.

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