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# Polyubiquitination Events Mediate PMMA Particles Activation of NF- $\kappa$ B Pathway

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Running Title: PMMA activate NF- $\kappa$ B through ubiquitination

The pathologic response to implant wear-debris constitutes a major component of inflammatory osteolysis and remains under intense investigation. Polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA) particles, which are released during implant wear and loosening, constitute a major culprit by virtue of inducing inflammatory and osteolytic responses by macrophages and osteoclasts, respectively. Recent work by several groups has identified important cellular entities and secreted factors that contribute to inflammatory osteolysis. In previous work, we have shown that PMMA particles contribute to inflammatory osteolysis through stimulation of major pathways in monocytes/macrophages, primarily NF- $\kappa$ B and MAP kinases. The former pathway requires assembly of large IKK complex encompassing IKK1, IKK2, and IKK $\gamma$ /NEMO. We have shown recently that interfering with the NF- $\kappa$ B and MAPK activation pathways, through introduction of inhibitors and decoy molecules, impedes PMMA-induced inflammation and osteolysis in mouse models of experimental calvarial osteolysis and inflammatory arthritis. In this study, we report that PMMA particles activate the upstream transforming growth factor beta activated kinase-1 (TAK1) which is a key regulator of signal transduction cascades leading to activation of NF- $\kappa$ B and AP-1 factors.

More importantly, we found that PMMA particles induce TAK1 binding to NEMO and UBC13. In addition, we show that PMMA particles induce TRAF6 and UBC13 binding to NEMO and that lack of TRAF6 significantly attenuates NEMO ubiquitination. Altogether, these observations suggest that PMMA particles induce ubiquitination of NEMO, events likely mediated by TRAF6, TAK1 and UBC13. Our findings provide important information for better understanding of the mechanisms underlying PMMA particle-induced inflammatory responses.

## INTRODUCTION

Inflammatory osteolysis is a devastating clinical challenge that undermines and deteriorates skeletal integrity and stability. One of the principal causes of inflammatory osteolysis that attends orthopedic implant failure is implant-derived wear debris that activates and recruits macrophages and osteoclasts around and at the implant-host interface (1-3). These cells mediate and accelerate the inflammatory and osteolytic responses leading to loosening and failure of bone implants. Subsequent revision surgery of the failing joint implant, is often more difficult, and associated with increased morbidity and mortality especially among aging patients with compromised bones. Thus, better understanding of the processes and mechanisms underlying pathologic and osteolytic events leading to joint failure is

essential to provide appropriate preventive and therapeutic countermeasures.

Using cell culture and *in vivo* animal models, it was established that orthopedic particles such as polyethylene (PE), titanium alloy, and polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA) particles contribute to inflammatory osteolysis through stimulation of major pathways in monocytes/macrophages, i.e. osteoclast precursors, primarily NF- $\kappa$ B and MAP kinase pathways (2, 4-6). The transcription factor NF- $\kappa$ B family which is crucial for osteoclastogenic and inflammatory responses is activated by phosphorylation events mediated by an IKK complex. The predominant IKK complex found in most cells contains two catalytic subunits, IKK1 (also known as IKK $\alpha$ ), IKK2 (IKK $\beta$ ), and a regulatory subunit IKK $\gamma$ /NEMO (7-9). Whereas the catalytic serine kinases IKK1 and IKK2 were found to target I $\kappa$ B $\alpha$  and p100NF- $\kappa$ B, the role of NEMO was identified as a scaffold subunit. NEMO contains several protein interaction motifs with no apparent catalytic domains but is essential for staging the assembly of the IKK signalsome (10-12).

Gene-disruption studies indicate that IKK activity and classical NF- $\kappa$ B activation are absolutely dependent on the integrity of NEMO (10, 13). Further, NEMO is critical for pro-inflammatory activation of the IKK complex (13, 14). Although the precise mechanism of NEMO action is poorly understood, it was speculated that it recruits the IKK complex to ligated cytokine receptors and facilitates trans-phosphorylation events (10, 12). More intriguingly, NEMO may facilitate the recruitment of upstream IKK activators such as kinases that specifically target the activation loops within the catalytic domains of the IKK subunits (15, 16). Mutagenesis of NEMO indicates that several distinct domains are critical for its function (12, 15). These include an amino-terminal 100 amino acids that mediate direct interaction with IKK2, carboxyl-terminus that recruit upstream kinases and molecules to the IKK complex, and two coiled-coil motifs that

mediate oligomerization and are necessary for kinase activation.

Proximal activation of the IKK complex remains poorly understood. Nonetheless, it has been established that osteoclastogenic and inflammatory mediators including RANKL, TNF, and IL-1 $\beta$  prompt formation of large signaling complexes that encompass key mediators, molecules, and kinases. In this regard, it has been established that TGF- $\beta$ -activated kinase 1 (TAK1), a member of the MAPKKK family, TAK1 adaptor proteins (TABs), TRAF2, TRAF6, RIP1, upstream MAP kinases, and members of the IKK complex are present in these signaling complexes (13, 17-20). The exact repertoire of IKK activation is not fully understood, however recent evidence suggests that the IKK complex can be activated by polyubiquitination through mechanisms independent of proteosomal degradation (14, 21, 22). Specifically, it has been shown that polyubiquitination of signaling molecules, through lysine-63-linked polyubiquitin chains, plays a key role in the activation of TAK1 and kinases of the NF- $\kappa$ B pathway. TAK1 directly phosphorylates IKK2 and MKK6 resulting with activation of their respective pathways (19). This process of TAK1-mediated signaling is directly regulated by K63-linked polyubiquitination. Conversely, TAK1 teams up with the intermediary molecules Ubc13, Uev1A, and the RING domain ubiquitin ligase TRAF6, and this complex catalyzes formation of K63-linked polyubiquitin chains that mediate NEMO/IKK complex activation (21, 23). NEMO has been recognized recently as an ubiquitin receptor that preferentially binds to K63-linked (22, 24, 25) but not K48-linked polyubiquitin chains. Several stimuli are known to induce NEMO ubiquitination, including TNF $\alpha$ , T-cell receptor (TCR) signaling, and genotoxic stress. Consistent with a fundamental role in IKK signalsome activation via these stimuli, NEMO ubiquitination is necessary for full NF- $\kappa$ B activity.

Ubc13 is an E2 ubiquitin-conjugating enzyme responsible for non-canonical

ubiquitination of TNF receptor-associated factor (TRAF)-family adapter proteins involved in Toll-like receptor (TLR) and TNF-family cytokine receptor signaling, which are regulators of innate immunity. Whereas homozygous *ubc13* gene disruption resulted in embryonic lethality, haploinsufficient *Ubc13*<sup>+/-</sup> mice were resistant to lipopolysaccharide-induced lethality, and demonstrated reduced in vivo ubiquitination of TRAF6 (26, 27). Macrophages and splenocytes isolated from *Ubc13*<sup>+/-</sup> mice exhibited reduced lipopolysaccharide-inducible cytokine secretion and impaired activation of TRAF-dependent signal transduction pathways (NF- $\kappa$ B, JNK, and p38 MAPK) (28). These findings document a critical role for Ubc13 in inflammatory responses and suggest that agents reducing Ubc13 activity could have therapeutic utility.

The inflammatory process is regulated by deubiquitination (DUB) enzymes which restore this response to its basal state and attenuate inflammatory responses. CYLD and A20 are two of the best-studied deubiquitinating enzymes that negatively regulate NF- $\kappa$ B upstream of IKK. CYLD is a tumor suppressor protein implicated in the development of familial cylindromatosis, a human skin tumor (29). CYLD contains an ubiquitin- carboxy-terminal-hydrolase (UCH) domain. Through this UCH domain, CYLD removes K63-linked polyubiquitin chains from several proteins, such as TRAF2, TRAF6 and NEMO, thereby suppressing NF- $\kappa$ B activation. The induction of CYLD by NF- $\kappa$ B provides a negative feedback loop to regulate NF- $\kappa$ B activity.

In this study, we found that PMMA particles activate TAK1 which is a key regulator of signal transduction cascades leading to activation of NF- $\kappa$ B and AP-1 factors. We provide novel evidence that PMMA particles induce TAK1, NEMO, Ubc13, and JNK expression. More importantly, we detect binding of TRAF6 to NEMO as well as TAK1 to NEMO and Ubc13 in response to PMMA treatment. Furthermore, ubiquitination of NEMO was

reduced in TRAF6-depleted cells. Altogether, these observations underscore the significance of PMMA-induced signal transduction that potentially amplifies inflammatory osteolysis in an ubiquitination dependent manner.

## EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

**Reagents:** All cytokines were purchased from R&D industries. Antibodies were purchased from Santa Cruz Biotech (Santa Cruz, CA) and Cell Signaling Biotech (Danvers, MA). All other chemicals are from Sigma (St. Louis, MO).

**Mice:** TAK1 floxed mice were kindly provided by Dr. Michael Schneider.

**Polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA) particles:** Spherical PMMA particles (Polysciences, Inc., Warrington, PA) 1-10  $\mu$ m in diameter (6.0  $\mu$ m mean diameter, 95%<10 $\mu$ m) were used for all experiments as previously reported (30-34). Particles are rinsed in ethanol four times, sterilized in ethanol overnight, and then rinsed 4 times with PBS. Particles are resuspended in serum-free MEM and stored at -20°C. All particle preparations tested negative for endotoxin contamination with a Limulus Amebocyte Lysate assay (BioWhittaker, Inc.). For cell culture experiments the optimal particle concentration (0.2mg/ml) represents  $1 \times 10^7$  particles per  $5 \times 10^5$  plated cells.

**Cell isolation and purification:** Marrow macrophages/osteoclast precursors are isolated from whole bone marrow of 4-6 wk mice and incubated in tissue culture plates, at 37°C in 5% CO<sub>2</sub>, in the presence of 10ng/ml M-CSF (35). After 24 hours in culture, the non-adherent cells are collected and layered on a Ficoll-Hypaque gradient. Cells at the gradient interface are collected and plated in  $\square$ -MEM, supplemented with 10% heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum, at 37°C in 5% CO<sub>2</sub> in the presence of 10ng/ml

M-CSF, and plated according to each experimental conditions.

**Immunoprecipitations and immunoblots** have been described (36).

**siRNA knockdown:** Marrow macrophages were infected with siRNAs using RNA nucleotides in a retrovirus pSilencer vector (Ambion inc., Austin, Tx). Lipofectamine reagent was used in conjunction with GFP to optimize infection. Cells were maintained in culture for 72 hours followed by stimulation with PMMA particles.

**Retrovirus vector construction and transduction in marrow macrophages:** pMX-retrovirus (obtained from Dr. Takeshita, Japan) has been described (37). We have modified the cloning cassette of this vector for convenient cloning through multiple sites. Generation and transduction of retroviral particles in monocytes/macrophages have been described (36).

**Kinase Assay:** TAK1 immunoprecipitates were incubated with 2  $\mu$ g of myelin basic protein and 10  $\mu$ Ci of [ $\gamma$ -<sup>32</sup>P]ATP (3,000 Ci/mmol) in 10  $\mu$ l of the kinase buffer containing 10 mM HEPES (pH 7.4), 1 mM dithiothreitol, 5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub> at 30 °C for 5 min. Samples were separated by 10% SDS-PAGE, and <sup>32</sup>P incorporated into myelin basic protein was detected by autoradiography on x-ray film.

## RESULTS

*PMMA particles activation of NF- $\kappa$ B and MAP kinase pathways requires the upstream MAP kinase TAK1.* The precise pathway(s) underlying PMMA-induced inflammatory osteolysis remains elusive. In an effort to better clarify signal transduction steps underlying PMMA particle stimulation of inflammatory osteolysis-based events, we examined regulation of key components of the signaling cascade which we suspect are part of the response network to PMMA in

monocytes/macrophages. In this regard, we have established previously that PMMA particles activate NF- $\kappa$ B and c-Jun N-terminal kinase (JNK) pathways in monocytes/macrophages, also referred to as osteoclast precursors (ref). In this study, we show that PMMA particles are potent inducer of TAK1, the upstream activator of NF- $\kappa$ B and MAP kinase pathway (fig 1). To further support the role of TAK1 in this response, using retroviral-cre recombinase, we deleted TAK1 from marrow macrophages obtained from mice in which the TAK1 gene has been flanked with lox-p sites (38, 39). Using this approach, we provide evidence that whereas PMMA particles stimulation of wild type macrophages/osteoclast progenitors led to phosphorylation of JNK and I $\kappa$ B consistent with TAK1 activation, these effects were diminished in cells in which TAK1 was deleted (Fig 2A). Efficiency of TAK1 deletion in vitro was approximately 90% as shown in figure 2B. These findings suggest that TAK1 is required for PMMA activation of NF- $\kappa$ B and MAP kinase pathways in macrophages/osteoclast precursors.

*PMMA particles induce association of TAK1 with the IKK complex.* It has been suggested previously that TAK1 activates IKKs in various cells types (19, 40, 41). To further examine the molecular basis of PMMA induction of NF- $\kappa$ B activation, we examined potential direct interaction of TAK1 with NEMO which is the scaffold member of the IKK complex and is crucial for canonical NF- $\kappa$ B activation. The data depicted in figure 3 demonstrate that PMMA particles induce association of NEMO with TAK1 in a time-dependent manner as evident by reciprocal immunoprecipitations. Furthermore, PMMA particles activate TAK1 as evident by in vitro phosphorylation of its substrate myelin. We further show that the TAK1-associated IKK complex is capable of phosphorylating exogenous GST-I $\kappa$ B, suggesting that activated IKK2 is present in the TAK1-NEMO complex.

*PMMA particles induce ubiquitination of NEMO.* TAK1, NEMO and other accessory proteins such as TAB1, TAB2, UBCs, and ligases are considered the building blocks of ubiquitination reactions culminating, based on the type of ubiquitination, with either destructive signal termination through proteasome-dependent degradation or constructive signal enhancement (19, 25). Numerous studies have suggested that TAK1 and NEMO are primary components of the ubiquitination response (19, 25, 40). Thus, we examined if PMMA-induced association of NEMO with TAK1 affects its ubiquitination profile. Using whole cell lysate we show that PMMA particles induce ample ubiquitination in a time-dependent manner (fig 4A). More specifically, we detect abundant ubiquitination of immunoprecipitated NEMO in response to PMMA particles as well as in response to RANKL and TNF (Fig 4B).

*UBC13 expression and association with NEMO are induced by PMMA particles.* To further entertain the PMMA-induced ubiquitination of NEMO, we examined the expression of UBC13, an ubiquitin-conjugating enzyme which has been described as responsible for ubiquitination of adapter proteins involved in Toll-like receptor and TNF family signal transduction pathways, and mediates inflammatory responses (ref). We find that levels of UBC13 protein are elevated in PMMA and RANKL-treated marrow macrophages in a time-dependent fashion as detected by Western blot of whole cell lysates (fig 5A) and UBC13 immunoprecipitates (Fig 5B). To further interrogate potential relevance of this response to NEMO, UBC13 and NEMO were co-immunoprecipitated from the lysates of PMMA and RANKL-treated cells. Consistent with its known function as ubiquitin-conjugating enzyme and with the observation that both UBC13 and NEMO are induced and the latter is ubiquitinated, we detected association of UBC13 with NEMO which was greatly induced when cells were co-stimulated with RANKL and PMMA (fig 6). This finding suggests that

RANKL and PMMA-induced signals in macrophages, the combination of which typically favor induction of inflammatory osteoclastogenesis, are key inducers of UBC13-mediated ubiquitination. These observations provide the first evidence that PMMA particles induce UBC13 and enhance RANKL-primed UBC13 association with NEMO.

*NEMO ubiquitination in response to PMMA particles is TRAF6 dependent event.* Ligases play a crucial role to catalyze ubiquitination reactions. TRAF6 is a well characterized E3 RING ligase involved in Toll-like receptor, RANK, and IL-1R signaling transduction pathways. More importantly, it has been shown recently that TRAF6 undergoes autoubiquitination and promotes K63-linked ubiquitination of target proteins (40, 42). Thus, we probed the involvement of TRAF6 in the PMMA-induced ubiquitination events of NEMO. First, we show that TRAF6 associates with NEMO in response to treatment with PMMA particles (Fig 7A). Second, strikingly, knockdown of TRAF6 significantly reduced overall ubiquitination of PMMA-induced ubiquitination of NEMO (Fig 7B). These findings suggest that TRAF6 plays a crucial role as the PMMA-induced E3 ligase leading to NEMO ubiquitination.

*Inhibition of PMMA-induced ubiquitination terminates IKK activity.* We have shown earlier that PMMA induction of TAK1-NEMO/IKK complex association resulted with enhanced activity of the IKK complex evident by phosphorylation of GST-I $\kappa$ B in vitro. Thus, we set out to examine whether this response will be attenuated if ubiquitination is inhibited. To accomplish this goal, we infected cells with the de-ubiquitination enzyme CYLD (full-length) or its inactive mutated form (residues 1-932) (Fig 8A). The results depicted in figure 8B provide clear evidence that whereas the mutated inactive form of CYLD failed to impact activation of the IKK complex, wild type CYLD efficiently attenuated this response. This de-ubiquitination activity of

CYLD confirms that PMMA particles induce ubiquitin-mediated activation of NEMO/IKK pathway and that CYLD is sufficient to halt this PMMA-induced activation.

## DISCUSSION

Inflammatory osteolysis resulting from PMMA particle debris ensuing from periprosthetic implant loosening remains a formidable clinical challenge. The mechanisms underlying this inflammatory and osteolytic response remain complex and unclear. Numerous studies have suggested that mechanical and cellular responses are involved (2, 43). The biological response involves local and systemic factors that lead to the development of a prolonged inflammatory response. This is accompanied with persistent and continuous recruitment of immune cells, macrophages, and osteoclasts ultimately increasing bone resorption around implants, an activity that leads to loosening and failure of implants.

Therapeutic intervention to halt or slow down orthopedic implant-induced inflammation and osteolysis has been lagging owing to poor understanding of the contribution of cells and factors to the pathology of this disease. In this regard, numerous studies have focused on identifying culprit cells and factors that contribute to the development of implant-induced osteolysis. Naturally, investigating the myeloid lineage of which macrophages and osteoclasts arise has provided a wealth of useful information. We and others have shown that PMMA particles, a material widely used in orthopedic implants, elicit a strong inflammatory response by macrophages and enhance osteoclast formation and activity (2, 44-47). Relying on osteoclast biology, we have established

previously that PMMA particles are potent inducers of the NF- $\kappa$ B pathway which is considered important mediator of inflammatory responses and essential for osteoclast differentiation and function.

Activation of NF- $\kappa$ B entails recruitment of protein and kinase complexes embedded in a vast network of ubiquitinated proteins that direct the appropriate signal transduction pathways (21, 25). Herein, we provide pilot evidence that PMMA particles induce formation of a signaling complex comprised of TAK1, NEMO, UBC13, and TRAF6. Our data point out that TAK1, UBC13, and TRAF6 associate with NEMO in response to PMMA particles and that deletion of TAK1 or knockdown of TRAF6 diminish NEMO ubiquitination and halt downstream signaling of NF- $\kappa$ B. Although not demonstrated directly, our findings suggest that PMMA particles elicit a constructive ubiquitination reaction manifested by elevated cellular response rather than destructive event. Our observations are consistent with earlier reports describing the role of TRAF6 as a key ubiquitin ligase and TAK1 and NEMO as major ubiquitinated pillars that facilitate recruitment of signaling molecules (21, 25). In support of this notion, recent evidence points to the paradigm that TRAF6-mediated ubiquitination is an important step for the formation and activation of a signaling complex that includes UBC13, TAK1 and its adaptors TAB1 and TAB2 (40, 48-51). In a more recent study, Walsh et al., (42) showed that the RING finger of TRAF6 is required for the activation of TAK1, and TRAF6 was found to interact with TAK1. Most importantly, TRAF6 was found to induce ubiquitination of NEMO, which in turn contributes to TRAF6-mediated activation of NF- $\kappa$ B. Other studies

have also shown that NEMO ubiquitination activates the IKK complex (24).

Interestingly, we find that PMMA particles induce binding of UBC13 to NEMO/IKK complex in RANKL-primed cells. Association of UBC13 to NEMO is considered part of the E2-E3 reaction complex. Formation of similar complexes such as NEMO-UBC13-Bcl10 has been widely described (27, 52, 53). Supporting the role of UBC13 in this response, which also includes recruitment of TAK1 and TRAF6, it was previously reported that UBC13 binds to RING domains of TRAFs, especially TRAF6, and promotes activation of TAK1 and subsequently NF- $\kappa$ B (PNAS 2007). Thus, we propose that PMMA particles elicit a cellular response that recruits UBC13 to TRAF6. This complex ubiquitinates TAK1 and NEMO resulting with the formation of a large kinase complex that facilitates the inflammatory and osteolytic functions of PMMA particles. A recent study by Akira's laboratory (27, 53), has demonstrated that UBC13-induced activation of MAP kinases requires ubiquitination of NEMO. It was further demonstrated that ubiquitination of NEMO was abolished in the absence of UBC13.

This model is supported by our finding that expression of the de-ubiquitinase CYLD, but not its inactive form, abrogates the downstream activity, namely activation of

NF- $\kappa$ B. Specifically, we provide proof of concept that expression of the de-ubiquitin CYLD in macrophages significantly attenuates PMMA-induced induction of IKK manifested by reduced phosphorylation of GST- $\kappa$ B substrate. This observation is supported by the recent finding by Jin Wei and colleagues (54) according to which CYLD deletion resulted with hyper-ubiquitination of TRAF6 leading to exacerbated osteoclastogenesis secondary to elevated activation of NF- $\kappa$ B signaling.

In summary, our study provides evidence that PMMA particles induce traditional ubiquitination events leading to formation of signaling complexes that facilitate its inflammatory activity through activation of NF- $\kappa$ B signaling. It remains unclear, however, whether PMMA particles require unique elements to assemble this response and additional studies are required to clarify this point. Nevertheless, the findings of our study clearly identify ubiquitination events involving TAK1, TRAF6, and NEMO as potential therapeutic targets to modulate the cellular response to PMMA particles.

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### Figure legends:

**Figure 1: PMMA particles induce expression of TAK1.** Marrow macrophages/osteoclast precursors were treated with PMMA particles (0.2mg/ml), or TNF (10 ng/ml) for the time points shown. Cells were lysed and quantified using BCA (Peirce). Equal amount of lysates (0.1mg) were analyzed by SDS-PAGE and were probed TAK1 and beta-actin (loading control) expression using the following respective antibodies; anti TAK1 (Santa Cruz), and anti-actin (Sigma).

**Figure 2: TAK1 is essential for PMMA-induced cellular responses.** Wild type and TAK1-floxed marrow macrophages were infected with retroviral pMx-Cre. TAK1 deletion efficiency is shown in panel B. Wild type and TAK1-null cells were then stimulated with PMMA as indicated. Expression levels of JNK/pJNK and I $\kappa$ B/plkB were measured by immunoblots using specific antibodies.

**Figure 3: PMMA particles induce TAK1 activation and binding to NEMO.** Marrow macrophages were treated with PMMA particles (0.2mg/ml) for the time points shown. Pre-cleared lysates (with  $\gamma$ -bind beads; 30ul) were immunoprecipitated (IP) with either TAK1 (Santa Cruz) or NEMO (Santa Cruz) antibodies and 40ul  $\gamma$ -bind Sepharose beads. Reciprocal immunoblots (IB) with anti NEMO and TAK1 antibodies were then carried out to detect protein-protein binding as shown. Kinase activity of TAK1 was performed using TAK1 immunoprecipitates which was then incubated with 2 ug of myelin basic protein, resolved on SDS-PAGE and <sup>32</sup>P incorporated into myelin was detected by autoradiography (see methods for details)

**Figure 4: PMMA particles induce ubiquitination of NEMO.** Marrow macrophages were treated with PMMA (0.2mg/ml), RANKL (20ng/ml), or TNF (20ng/ml) as shown. A) Total cell lysates (0.1mg) were probed with ubiquitin antibody (Santa Cruz). B)  $\gamma$ -bind Sepharose (30ul) pre-cleared cell lysates (1mg) were immunoprecipitated with NEMO antibody (Santa Cruz) and blotted with ubiquitin antibody. Lower panel in "B" represents NEMO expression. C) Cell lysis and IP buffers were supplemented with 1%SDS to reduce protein-protein binding. Samples were boiled in sample buffer containing reducing agent ( $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol) and 10% SDS. Electrophoresis was conducted in the presence of 10% SDS.

**Figure 5: PMMA particles induce expression of Ubc13.** Marrow macrophages were treated with PMMA particles (0.2mg/ml), or RANKL (20 ng/ml) for the time points shown. Cells were lysed and protein concentration was quantified. Equal amount of lysates (0.1mg) were analyzed by SDS-PAGE and were probed for Ubc13 (Santa Cruz). B) Cells were treated with RANKL as shown, lysed, pre-cleared with IgG+Sepharose beads followed by immunoprecipitation with anti Ubc13 antibody. A fraction of the total lysate (TL) was used as a positive control.

**Figure 6: PMMA particles augment basal and RANKL-induced binding of Ubc13 and NEMO, synergistically.** Marrow macrophages were treated with RANKL (20ng/ml), PMMA (0.2mg/ml), or a combination of both agents, consecutively (first RANKL followed by PMMA) for the indicated time points. Lysates (1mg) were then pre-cleared with IgG and Sepharose beads followed by immunoprecipitation with anti-Ubc13 antibody and immunoblot with NEMO antibody. A fraction of the total lysates (0.1mg) was immunoblotted with beta-actin antibody.

**Figure 7: TRAF6 binds to NEMO and is essential for its ubiquitination in response to PMMA particles.** A) Bone marrow macrophages were cultured and stimulated with PMMA particles for the time points shown. Cell lysates were immunoprecipitated with anti-TRAF6 and blotted with NEMO and TRAF6 antibodies. A fraction of the total cell lysate was probed for beta-actin antibody. B) TRAF6 was knocked down using siRNA retroviral approach. Control cells were infected with a scrambled construct. Marrow macrophages then treated with PMMA for the time points shown and immunoprecipitated with NEMO Ab followed by blotting with anti-ubiquitin antibody. Total lysates were probed for NEMO expression.

**Figure 8: Over-expression of CYLD attenuates PMMA-induced response in marrow macrophages.** Cells were infected with wild type (full length =FL) pMx-flag-CYLD or a mutant form (1-932). Protein expression is shown A. Cells were then treated with PMMA as indicated, immunoprecipitated with IKK antibody followed by in vitro kinase assay using GST-IκB as a substrate.

FIGURES:

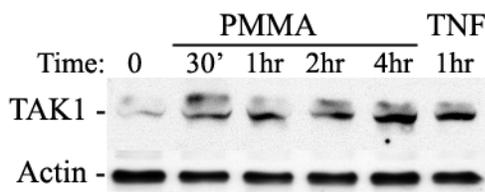


Fig 1

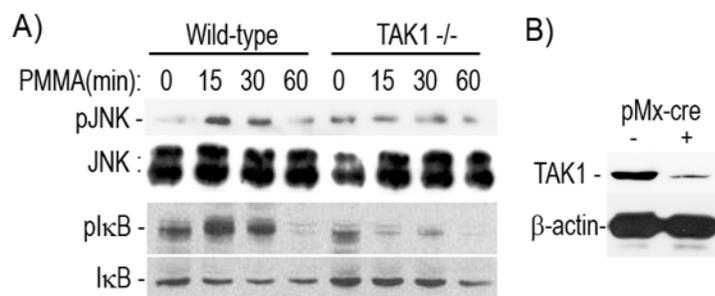


Fig 2

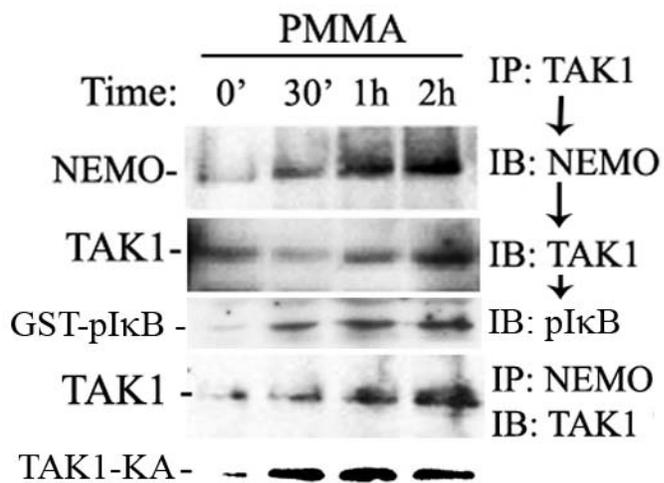


Fig 3

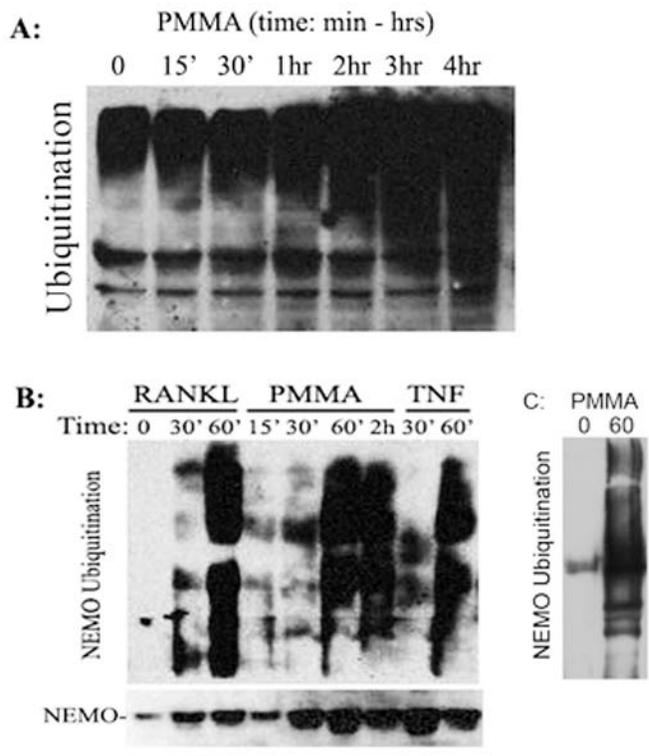


Fig 4

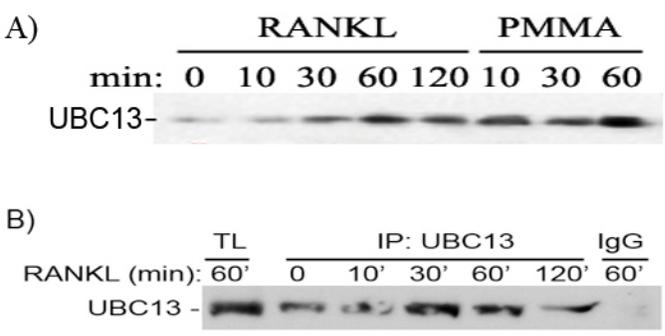


Fig 5

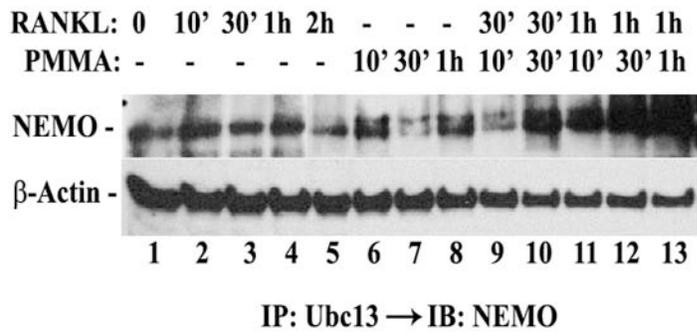
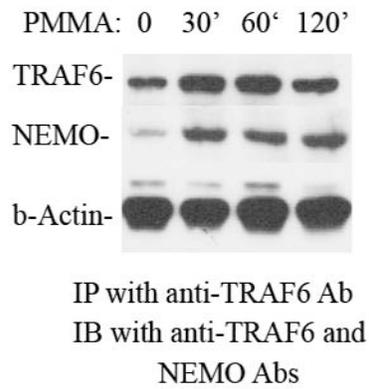


Fig 6

A)



B)

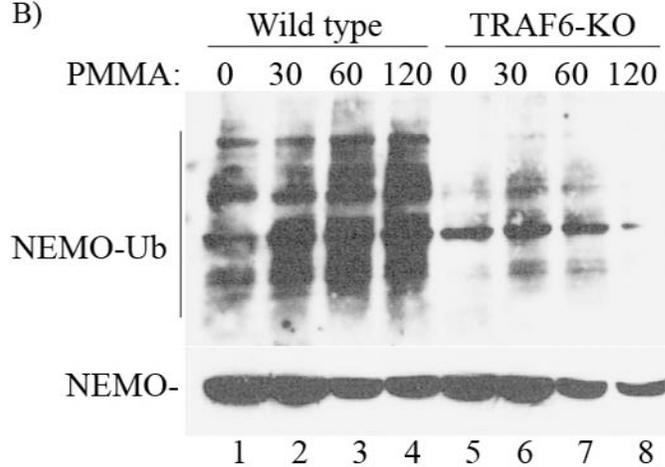


Fig 7

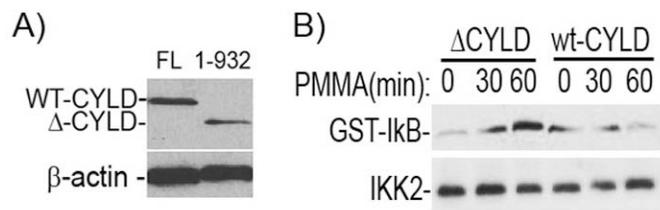


Fig 8