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Lipid-mediated membrane binding properties of Disabled-2

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ABSTRACT

Disabled-2 (Dab2) is an adaptor protein involved in several biological processes ranging from endocytosis to 21 platelet aggregation. During endocytosis, the Dab2 phosphotyrosine-binding (PTB) domain mediates protein 22 binding to phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate (PtdIns(4,5)P₂) at the inner leaflet of the plasma 23 membrane. As a result of platelet activation, Dab2 is released from α -granules and associates with both the 24 α IIb β 3 integrin receptor and sulfatide lipids on the platelet surface through its N-terminal region including 25 the PTB domain (N-PTB), thus, modulating platelet aggregation. Thrombin, a strong platelet agonist, prevents 26 Dab2 function by cleaving N-PTB within the two basic motifs required for sulfatide association, a reaction that 27 is prevented when Dab2 is bound to these sphingolipids. We have characterized the membrane binding 28 properties of Dab2 N-PTB using micelles enriched with Dab2 lipid ligands, sulfatides and PtdIns(4,5)P₂. 29 Remarkably, NMR spectroscopy studies suggested differences in lipid-binding mechanisms. In addition, we 30 experimentally demonstrated that sulfatide- and PtdIns(4,5)P2-binding sites overlap in Dab2 N-PTB and that 31 both lipids stabilize the protein against temperature-induced unfolding. We found that whereas sulfatides 32 induced conformational changes and facilitated Dab2 N-PTB penetration into micelles, Dab2 N-PTB bound to 33 PtdIns(4,5)P2 lacked these properties. These results further support our model that platelet membrane 34 sulfatides, but not PtdIns(4,5)P2, protect Dab2 N-PTB from thrombin cleavage. 35

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41 **1. Introduction**

Disabled (Dab) was originally identified as a protein that plays a 42crucial role in Drosophila neural development [1]. Dab proteins contain 43a phosphotyrosine-binding (PTB) domain located at the N-terminus 44 and a proline-rich SH3 domain located at the C-terminus, indicating 45that these proteins function primarily as adaptor proteins. Dab2 can 46 47mediate endocytosis by association with clathrin [2], the clathrin adaptor protein-2 [3], and myosin VI [4]. Moreover, Dab2 can bind to 48 cell surface receptors that transport cargo, including the low-density 49lipoprotein (LDL) receptor [3], and the type 1 and 2 transforming 5051growth factor- β receptors [5]. In addition, Dab2 binds to integrin receptors, an association that is important for coordinating changes in 52cell adhesion, platelet aggregation, membrane trafficking, and cell 5354signaling [6–10].

The PTB domain belongs to the Pleckstrin Homology (PH) superfamily of structures implicated in signaling transduction, membrane trafficking, and cytoskeletal organization [11]. As defined by its name,

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the PTB domain was originally identified as a module that recognizes 58 tyrosine-phosphorylated NPXY motifs [12]. However, the Dab2 PTB 59 domain preferentially interacts with non-phosphorylated NPXY-contain- 60 ing proteins [13], including LDL receptor protein 1 [3] and Dishevelled-3 61 [14]. Dab2 PTB plays a key role in LDL receptor internalization as Dab2 co- 62 localizes with clathrin coats on the cell membrane during endocytosis 63 [2,3]. The three dimensional structures of mouse Dab1 and Dab2 PTB 64 domains have been solved by X-ray crystallography in ligand-free form 65 and in complex with both NPXY-containing peptides and phosphatidy- 66 linositol 4,5-bisphosphate (PtdIns(4,5)P₂) [15,16]. The Dab1 PTB 67 structure contains seven central β -strands, which form two antiparallel 68 β -sheets capped with a long C-terminal α -helix and a short N-terminal 69 α -helix [15,16]. A basic patch on the surface of Dab1 PTB faces opposite 70 the NPXY motif site and is involved in PtdIns $(4,5)P_2$ recognition [15–17]. 71 In addition to their presence at the inner leaflet of the plasma membrane, 72 phosphoinositides have recently been implicated in extracellular 73 mechanisms in plant and animal cells [18]. Thus, given the ability of 74 Dab2 to localize both intra- and extracellularly [8,19,20] and to recognize 75 PtdIns(4,5)P₂, it is plausible that phosphoinositide recognition may be 76 necessary for Dab2 membrane targeting on either side of the plasma 77 membrane. The Dab2 PTB residues Lys53 and Lys90 have been shown to 78 be critical for phosphoinositide recognition [2]; each of these lysine side 79 chains forms hydrogen bonds with the 4- and 5-phosphates of the 80 phosphoinositide [15]. 81

Sulfatides, the sulfuric ester of galactosylceramides at the C3 of the 82 galactose residue, are present in lipid rafts at the cell surface 83

Abbreviations: CD, circular dichroism; Dab2, Disabled-2; DDM, N-dodecyl-β-Dmaltopyranoside; NMR, nuclear magnetic resonance; N-PTB, N-terminal region of Dab2 containing the PTB domain; PtdIns(4,5)P₂, phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate; PTB, phosphotyrosine-binding domain; SPR, surface plasmon resonance

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(intracellular sulfatide concentration is ~100 nmol/g; [21]) and are 84 85 thought to influence the activity of integral membrane proteins [22]. Sulfatides interact with several molecules specifically participating in 86 87 hemostasis, cell adhesion, differentiation, and signal transduction [23]. Sulfatide surface levels increase upon platelet activation [24], 88 which facilitate sulfatide binding to pro- and anti-coagulant proteins 89 including von Willebrand Factor (vWF) [25], P-selectin [26], and Dab2 90 91 [20]. We have recently shown that the N-terminal Dab2 region 92 containing the PTB domain (N-PTB) specifically binds sulfatides 93 through the Lys25, Lys49, Lys51, and Lys53 residues located in two consensus sulfatide-binding motifs [20]. Sulfatide binding protects 94Dab2 from thrombin cleavage and sequesters it from integrin binding, 95partitioning Dab2 into two pools at the platelet surface and serving as 96 a mechanism to govern Dab2 availability during platelet aggregation 97 [20]. We have also shown that sulfatide recognition by Dab2 is 98 required for the protein to regulate the surface expression of P-99 selectin, which is critical for homo- and heterotypical interactions 100 with leukocytes [27]. 101

Here, we describe the structural basis by which the Dab2 N-PTB 102 region interacts with biological membranes using mimics such as 103 micelles and liposomes enriched with Dab2 lipid ligands. We experi-104 mentally demonstrate that sulfatides and PtdIns(4,5)P₂ compete with 105 106 each other for Dab2 N-PTB binding, which can be critical for cellular function when both lipids are simultaneously found in the same 107 membrane compartment. We also show that both PtdIns(4,5)P₂ and 108 sulfatides stabilize Dab2 N-PTB as observed by an increased tolerance of 109 the protein to temperature-induced unfolding. Remarkably, and unlike 110 111 PtdIns(4,5)P₂, sulfatides contribute to membrane penetration of Dab2 N-PTB, which is accompanied by a conformational change in the protein. 112 Sulfatide-mediated membrane insertion of Dab2 may explain the 113 protection of the protein from thrombin cleavage in the presence of 114 the sphingolipid. 115

116 **2. Material and methods**

117 2.1. Chemicals

The following is a list of chemicals used and their suppliers: brain 118 sulfatides, 1,2-dioleoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine (PC), 1,2-dio-119 leoyl-sn-glycero-3-phospho-L-serine (PS), 1,2-dipalmitoyl-sn-glycero-1203-phosphoethanolamine (PE), L-Myristoyl-2-Hydroxy-sn-Glycero-3-121 122 phosphocholine (LMPC) (Avanti-Lipids); N-dodecylphosphocholine (DPC), N-dodecyl- β -D-maltopyranoside (DDM) (Anatrace/Affymetrix); 123 PtdIns(4,5)P₂, (Cayman Chemicals), and isopropyl B-D-thiogalactopyr-124 anoside (IPTG) (Research Products International). All other chemicals 125were analytical reagent grade. 126

127 2.2. Cloning, expression, and purification of Dab2 constructs

The human Dab2 N-PTB (residues 17-185) cDNA was cloned into a 128pGEX6P1vector (GE Healthcare). Site-directed mutagenesis of Dab2 129130N-PTB was performed using QuikChange (Stratagene) and proteins 131 were expressed in Escherichia coli (Rosetta; Stratagene). Bacterial cells were grown in Luria-Bertani media at 37 °C until they reached an 132optical density of ~0.8. Induction of glutathione S-transferase (GST) 133fusion proteins resulted from the addition of 1 mM IPTG followed by 1342-h incubation at 25 °C. ¹⁵N labeled proteins were produced in 135minimal media supplemented with ¹⁵NH4Cl (Cambridge Isotope 136 Laboratory Inc.) as the source of nitrogen. Proteins were purified using 137 glutathione beads as described [28]. Purity of proteins was over 95% as 138 judged by SDS-PAGE analysis. 139

140 2.3. Liposome-binding assay

Lipid mixtures were prepared as we previously described [20], and contained lipid molar ratios similar to those described in related reports [2,29]. Lipid films were generated by lyophilization and 143 hydrated in 20 mM Tris–HCl (pH 6.8) and 100 mM NaCl to 1 mg/ml at 144 67 °C for 1 h and freeze-thawed three times. Liposomes were 145 sonicated, pelleted, and suspended at 2.5 mg/ml in the same buffer. 146 Ten µg of protein was incubated with 125 µg of total lipid for 30 min at 147 23 °C. Liposome-bound and free-protein samples were separated by 148 centrifugation and analyzed by SDS–PAGE.

2.4. Circular dichroism spectroscopy

Far-UV (190-240 nm) circular dichroism (CD) spectra were 151 recorded using a Jasco J-815 spectropolarimeter, equipped with a 152 Jasco PFD-425 S temperature control unit at 10 µM Dab2 N-PTB in 153 Q1 5 mM Tris-HCl (pH 6.8), 100 mM KF, and 100 µM dithiothreitol (DTT), 154 in the absence and presence of each of the detergent micelles under 155 investigation (DDM, LMPC, and DPC) in their free state or enriched 156 with either PtdIns $(4,5)P_2$ or sulfatides. Five CD spectral accumulations 157 were collected at a 1-nm bandwidth with a response time of 1 s and at 158 a scan speed of 20 nm/min at 23 °C. Buffer spectra were also acquired 159 under the same experimental conditions and subtracted from the 160 protein spectra before analysis. Spectra were deconvoluted to 161 estimate the secondary structure content with the online server 162 DICHROWEB [30] using the CDSSTR algorithm [31]. Ten accumulated 163 near-UV CD spectra of Dab2 N-PTB (100 µM), in the absence and 164 presence of micelles and/or lipid ligands, were collected using a 0.1-165 cm path length at 20 nm/min between 350 and 250 nm with a 166 response time of 1 s and a data pitch of 0.5 nm. The temperature 167 dependence of ellipticity at 222 nm was measured from 4 to 90 °C at 168 1 °C/min scan rate using 1.5 nm bandwidth and 120 s delayed time. 169

2.5. NMR spectroscopy

Lipid binding was monitored by comparing ¹H, ¹⁵N heteronuclear 171 single quantum coherence (HSQC) spectra of 200 μ M ¹⁵N-labeled 172 Dab2 N-PTB in 20 mM d₁₁-Tris–HCl (pH 6.8), 100 mM KCl, 1 mM 173 NaN₃, 1 mM d₁₀-DTT, and 10% D₂O at 25 °C on a Bruker Avance 174 600 MHz spectrometer. Micelle interactions were monitored by 175 adding 250 μ M DDM into samples containing 200 μ M ¹⁵N-labeled N- 176 PTB and these mixtures further titrated with dihexanoyl (c6)-PtdIns 177 (4,5)P₂ or sulfatides at the indicated molar ratios. The Dab2 N-PTB 178 protein was also titrated with soluble c6-PtdIns(4,5)P₂ under similar 179 experimental conditions. Spectra were processed with NMRPipe [32] 180 and analyzed using nmrDraw [33].

2.6. Competition lipid-protein overlay assay

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Lipid strips were prepared by spotting 1 µl of the indicated amount 183 of sulfatide dissolved in chloroform:methanol:water (1:2:0.8) onto 184 Hybond-C extra membranes (GE Healthcare). Membrane strips 185 containing the immobilized sulfatide were blocked with buffer A 186 [3% fatty acid-free BSA (Sigma) in 20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8), 150 mM 187 NaCl, 0.1% Tween-20] for 1 h at room temperature. The Dab2 N-PTB 188 $(0.1 \,\mu\text{g/ml})$ protein was pre-incubated in the absence and presence of 189 a 10-molar fold excess of the indicated phosphoinositide for 30 min at 190 room temperature. Then, membranes were incubated with either the 191 Dab2 N-PTB or lipid-protein mixtures in buffer A without BSA 192 overnight at 4 °C. Following washes with the same buffer, bound 193 proteins were consecutively probed with rabbit anti-GST antibody 194 (Santa Cruz Biotech) and donkey anti-rabbit-horse-radish peroxidase 195 (HRP) (GE Healthcare). Protein binding was detected using an 196 enhanced chemiluminescence reagent (Pierce). 197

2.7. Surface plasmon resonance competition assay

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Surface plasmon resonance (SPR) competition experiments were 199 performed on a BIAcore X instrument using L1 sensorchips coated 200

with ~0.5 mM of sulfatide-containing 100 nm size-calibrated lipo-201 202 somes. The first flow cell was used as the control surface (liposomes without sulfatides), whereas the second flow cell (sulfatide lipo-203 204somes) was employed as the active surface as described [20]. The Dab2 N-PTB binding experiments were performed in 10 mM Tris-HCl 205(pH 7.4) and 100 mM NaCl. This buffer was used during the 206 equilibration, association, and dissociation phases. Dab2 N-PTB 207(5 µM) was pre-incubated for 20 min at room temperature in the 208209absence and presence of dioctanoyl PtdIns(4,5)P₂ at the indicated concentrations. The free- and lipid-bound protein was then injected 210211on both flow cell sensor chip surfaces at a flow rate of 30 µl/min. 212Sensorgrams were obtained for each of the indicated $PtdIns(4,5)P_2$ 213concentrations. Association and dissociation times for each protein 214injection were set at 120 and 600 s, respectively. Regeneration of the lipid bilayer after the dissociation phase was carried out using 20 mM 215 NaOH 216

217 2.8. Fluorescence spectroscopy

Intrinsic tryptophan fluorescence spectroscopy measurements 218 were performed using a J-815 Jasco spectropolarimeter at 23 °C in a 219 1-cm path length cuvette. Three accumulated fluorescence spectra 220 221 (310-410 nm) of Dab2 N-PTB (1 µM) in 5 mM Tris-HCl (pH 6.8), 100 mM KF, and 100 µM DTT was collected in the absence and 222 presence of DDM micelles and/or lipid ligands using an excitation 223wavelength of 295 nm. Acrylamide quenching was obtained by 224increasing the concentration of acrylamide in the protein sample 225226 from 12.5 to 500 mM. The Stern–Volmer constant (K_{sv}) was determined using the following equation: 227

 $\mathbf{F}^{\circ}/\mathbf{F} = K_{sv}[\mathbf{Q}] + 1$

229 where F° and F are the fluorescence intensities of the sample in the absence and presence of the quencher, respectively, and [Q] is the molar concentration of the quencher [34].

232 2.9. Statistical analysis

Statistical analysis was conducted using Kaleidagraph, version 4.03, Synergy software. Statistical significance was determined using ANOVA and the Fisher's least significance difference test for all K_{sv} values from each acrylamide quenching experiment. K_{sv} values are expressed as mean values at a 95% confidence level.

238 3. Results

239 3.1. CD spectroscopy of Dab-2 N-PTB in detergent micelles

Our original Dab2 N-PTB construct (amino acids 1-241) [20] 240exhibited poor resolution at the NMR scale and behaved poorly in 241detergent micelles (data not shown). Therefore, we designed a shorter 242243construct of this region, which included a higher degree of amino acid 244conservation (amino acids 17-185; Fig. 1a and b) that was more suitable for structural studies with micelles. Phylogenetic analyses 245indicate that the N-PTB region is a highly conserved module in Dab 246247proteins among lineages (Fig. 1b), suggesting that this region has a 248 comparatively recent common ancestor. To determine whether the shorter Dab2 N-PTB construct conserves its sulfatide- and PtdIns(4,5) 249P₂-binding properties, we used liposomes that closely resembled 250physiological membranes. The shorter Dab2 N-PTB construct exhibited 251similar sulfatide- and PtdIns(4,5)P₂-binding characteristics (Fig. 2a) 252compared with our previously reported data for the Dab2 N-PTB larger 253construct [20]. Accordingly, mutations in the corresponding sulfatide 254and PtdIns(4,5)P₂-binding residues abolished lipid binding (Fig. 2a). 255Thus, the shorter Dab2 N-PTB construct was functional and is named 256257Dab2 N-PTB from here on for simplicity.

Given the role of Dab2 in membrane targeting, we structurally 258 characterized Dab2 N-PTB in the far- and near-UV CD regions in the 259 presence of detergent micelles (DDM, LMPC, and DPC). As shown in the 260 representative spectra, Dab2 N-PTB is an α/β protein, as observed by 261 the presence of bands at 190 and 208 and a slight shoulder at 222 nm 262 (Fig. 2b). Addition of the detergent micelles did not lead to changes in 263 the secondary structure content of the protein when characterized by 264 far-UV (Fig. 2b and Table 1). However, near-UV CD analysis, which 265 measures chirality around aromatic residues providing information 266 about tertiary structure, indicates that the protein had changed its 267 tertiary structure in the presence of either LMPC or DPC micelles 268 (Fig. 2c). Moreover, Dab2 N-PTB exhibited poorly resolved peaks at the 269 NMR scale in the presence of these detergents (data not shown). On the 270 other hand, the tertiary structure of Dab2 N-PTB was conserved in the 271 presence of 0.25 mM DDM (Fig. 2c and Fig. S1) (CMC = 0.18 mM; [35]), 272 a result that supports the use of this micellar system as a membrane 273 mimic for our structural studies. 274

3.2. Dab2 N-PTB lipid-binding properties 275

To examine the structural perturbations of the backbone residues 276 that occur upon binding to micelles and lipid ligands, the Dab2 N-PTB 277 region was ¹⁵N-labeled and ¹⁵N, ¹H HSQC spectra were recorded. This 278 NMR experiment was collected in two dimensions, where each amino 279 acid (except proline) results in one signal (chemical shift) that 280 corresponds to the N-H amide group of the backbone residues as 281 well as the N-H side chains of tryptophan, glutamine, and asparagine. 282 These chemical shifts can be tracked by perturbations in their chemical 283 environments to interactions with physiological ligands or even changes 284 in structure or dynamics. The scatter of the NMR backbone resonances of 285 N-PTB is consistent with a structure rich in β -sheets and helices. There 286 are ~158 strong, resolved peaks, representing the majority of the 287 expected 166 backbone ¹⁵N-¹H groups in Dab2 N-PTB. Addition of 288 DDM micelles induced line broadening of several resonances (Fig. S1), 289 consistent with the formation of a protein-micelle slower tumbling 290 complex (the molecular mass of DDM micelles ranges between 56 291 and 72 kDa; [35]). Nonetheless, the overall spectrum of the protein 292 exhibits the same chemical shift dispersion, indicative that the protein 293 retains its overall structure, which is consistent with our CD studies 294 (Fig. 2b and c). The ligand interactions of Dab2 N-PTB were investigated 295 using two-dimensional NMR spectroscopy. Addition of sulfatides 296 embedded in DDM micelles caused a further decrease in resonance 297 intensity, which may indicate that sulfatides increase the affinity of the 298 protein to micelles (Fig. 3a). A soluble form of PtdIns(4,5)P₂ binds to 299 Dab2 N-PTB in a fast exchange regime (Fig. 3b), a result that is consistent 300 with the phosphoinositide-binding properties of the mouse Dab1 PTB 301 domain [17]. Curiously, the addition of c6-PtdIns(4,5)P₂ to Dab2 N-PTB 302 in DDM micelles reversed the line broadening effects induced by 303 micelles and only selective line broadening of resonances was detected 304 (Fig. 3c). Nonetheless, PtdIns(4,5)P₂-enriched DDM micelles induced 305 chemical shift perturbations of the Dab2 N-PTB region that were 306 indistinguishable to those observed with the free phosphoinositide, 307 indicating that the detergent is capable of maintaining the native-like 308 function of the protein. 309

Our previous studies indicate that Dab2 N-PTB requires Lys53 to 310 bind to both sulfatides and PtdIns(4,5)P₂ [20]. Given the possibility 311 that both lipids could be found simultaneously in the same membrane 312 compartment, we asked whether sulfatides and PtdIns(4,5)P₂ 313 compete with each other for binding to Dab2 N-PTB using a 314 protein–lipid overlay competition assay. Pre-incubation of the Dab2 315 N-PTB with a 10-molar fold excess of PtdIns(4,5)P₂ reduced sulfatide 316 binding by at least 60% (Fig. 4a). This observation was further 317 confirmed by competing sulfatides and PtdIns(4,5)P₂ for Dab2 N-PTB 318 binding using SPR. Pre-incubation of Dab2 N-PTB with PtdIns(4,5)P₂ 319 reduced protein sulfatide-binding with an IC_{50} of ~10.1 μ M (Fig. 4b). 320

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Fig. 1. Modular organization and lipid-binding residues of Dab2. (a) Schematic representation of the Dab2 primary structure with the boundaries of each of the key lipid- and protein-binding regions indicated at the bottom. The NPF and DPF represent the Asn-Pro-Phe and Asp-Pro-Phe motifs, respectively. The red arrow indicates the putative thrombin cleavage site. PRD: proline-rich domain. (b) Sequence alignment of the N-PTB region of the following proteins: *Homo sapiens* Dab2 (Genbank entry AAF23161.1), *Mus musculus* Dab2 (Genbank entry NP_077073), *Xenopus laevis* Dab2 (Genbank entry ABC96762.1), *Homo sapiens* Dab1 (Genbank entry NP_077073), *Xenopus laevis* Dab2 (Genbank entry ABC96762.1), *Homo sapiens* Dab1 (Genbank entry NP_96933.2), *Ratus novergicus* Dab1 (Genbank entry NP_705885), *Gallus gallus* Dab1 (Genbank entry NP_989569.1). The secondary structural elements determined for the mouse Dab2 PTB domain is shown on top of the sequence alignment. The conserved XBBXBX and BXBXBX sulfatide-binding motifs are boxed. The RGD motif, responsible for integrin binding, is boxed in red. Residues Lys53 and Lys90, engaged in PtdIns(4,5)P₂ recognition, are boxed in orange. The conserved Trp94, a residue used in the fluorescence experiments, is boxed in black. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

Taken together, this data suggests that sulfatide- and PtdIns(4,5)P₂binding sites overlap in Dab2 N-PTB.

323 3.3. Structural features of Dab2 N-PTB induced by sulfatides

Since Dab2 proteins present a single and conserved Trp residue 324 (Trp94; Fig. 1b and 4c) in their N-PTB region, the fluorescence of its 325side chain can be used as a chromophore, thus, providing information 326 about changes in its local environment. The fluorescence spectrum of 327 Dab2 N-PTB exhibits a maximum at ~343 nm, indicative that Trp94 328 resides on the protein surface (Fig. 5a). The protein spectrum remains 329 unchanged after adding DDM micelles, indicating the absence of local 330 conformational changes around Trp94 under these conditions. In the 331 presence of sulfatides, however, the protein fluorescence intensity is 332 increased, indicative that Trp94 becomes less solvent-exposed 333 (Fig. 5a). This change in spectrum is not due to direct contact of 334 Trp94 to sulfatides since mutation of this residue to leucine did not 335 affect sulfatide binding (Fig. 2a). Rather, it may be a consequence of a 336 337 conformational change of the protein. The conformation of Dab2 N- PTB in the absence and presence of sulfatides was assessed by far- and 338 near-UV CD analyses. Incubation of Dab2 N-PTB with an excess of 339 sulfatide-enriched DDM micelles resulted in minor changes in the far- 340 UV CD spectra (Fig. 5b and Table 1). The near-UV CD spectrum 341 exhibited a more negative signal after the addition of an excess of 342 sulfatide-enriched micelles (Fig. 5c). Signals in the 250-270 nm 343 region are generally associated with Phe, whereas those at 270- 344 290 nm and 280-300 nm are generally attributed to Tyr and Trp, 345 respectively. The Dab2 N-PTB region contains 6 Phe, 4 Tyr, and 1 Trp 346 (Fig. 1b). Thus, the negative signals from 250 to 270 nm are likely due 347 to changes in the environment of the Phe residues, whereas the two 348 negative peaks at ~278 and ~282 nm likely arise from the Tyr side 349 chains of Dab2 N-PTB (Fig. 5c). Alternatively, the new peak at 282 nm 350 could be a consequence of conformational changes around the Trp94 351 side chain of the protein. 352

The accessibility and environment of Trp94 were further examined 353 using the neutral water-soluble fluorescent quencher acrylamide [36]. 354 Stern–Volmer plots were linear under all conditions (data not 355 shown), consistent with dynamic quenching. Fig. 5d shows that 356

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Fig. 2. Function and structure of the Dab2 N-PTB region. (a) The Dab2 N-PTB, N-PTB^{4M}, and N-PTB^{W94L} proteins were incubated with liposomes without and with sulfatides (top panels). The Dab2 N-PTB, N-PTB^{K53A/K90A}, and N-PTB^{W94L} proteins were monitored for PtdIns(4,5)P₂-enriched liposome binding (bottom panels). P and S represent pellet and supernatant fractions, respectively, after centrifugation, SDS-PAGE, and coomassie blue staining. (b) Far-UV and (c) Near-UV CD spectra of Dab2 N-PTB in the absence and presence of DDM, DPC, and LMPC micelles. Dab2 N-PTB, N-terminal Dab2 (amino acids 17-185); Dab2 N-PTB^{4M}, Dab2 N-PTB Lys25Ala, Lys49Ala, Lys51Ala, and Lys53Ala; Dab2 N-PTB Trp94Leu.

acrylamide quenched ~90% of the Dab2 N-PTB Trp94 emission signal 357 with an average K_{sv} of 12.9 M⁻¹ (Fig. 6), in agreement with the 358 relatively high exposure of this residue to the aqueous environment 359 observed in the mouse Dab2 PTB domain [15]. Addition of DDM 360 micelles significantly reduced acrylamide quenching (Fig. 5e) with an 361 average K_{sv} of 7.9 M⁻¹ (Fig. 6). A priori, this result seems to be in 362 contrast to the observed absence of changes in the protein fluorescent 363 spectrum in the presence of micelles (Figs. 5a and 7a). However, an 364 365 elegant work using Trp octyl ester (TOE) as a Trp-containing protein mimic indicates that the DDM polar headgroup controls the 366 accessibility of TOE to water in detergent micelles [35]. The authors 367 demonstrate that TOE is less accessible to acrylamide guenchers in 368 369 DDM micelles compared to other micellar systems and that the 370 cohesion of the DDM headgroup plays a role in protecting protein

Table 1

Predicted secondary structure content of Dab2 N-PTB in different detergent micelles and in the absence and presence of sulfatides and PtdIns $(4,5)P_2$ using the CDSSTR algorithm [31].

								+1.0
Ligand	αR	αD	βR	βD	Turns	Unordered	NRMSD	t1.2 t1.3
-	8	10	18	10	23	31	0.012	t1.4
DDM	8	10	18	11	23	30	0.013	t1.5
LMPC	8	10	15	10	24	33	0.014	t1.6
DPC	6	11	17	11	23	32	0.013	t1.7
DDM/sulfatides	7	7	20	12	23	31	0.033	t1.8
PtdIns(4,5)P ₂	7	9	17	11	24	32	0.021	t1.9
DDM/PtdIns (4,5)P ₂	7	9	16	10	24	34	0.015	t1.10

function and stability of membrane proteins [35]. We believe that the 371 DDM polar headgroup prevents Dab2 N-PTB Trp94 from being fully in 372 contact with acrylamide, resulting in a reduced K_{sv} value. Remarkably, 373 addition of sulfatides significantly decreased acrylamide quenching 374 (Fig. 5f) as evidenced by a reduced average K_{sv} (4.8 M⁻¹; Fig. 6). 375 Overall, the data suggest that sulfatides contribute to the penetration 376 of Dab2 to membranes by interaction with its N-PTB region. 377

3.4. Structural features of Dab2 N-PTB induced by PtdIns(4,5)P₂ 378

The structural basis of PtdIns(4,5)P2-mediated membrane binding 379 of the Dab2 N-PTB region was also investigated. Given the proximity 380 of Trp94 to Lys90 (Fig. 4c), a key PtdIns(4,5)P2-binding residue 381 [15,20], a lower molar ratio of PtdIns $(4,5)P_2$ than the sulfatides was 382 needed to track conformational changes in Dab2 N-PTB. Addition of a 383 4-fold excess of the soluble phosphoinositide quenched the protein 384 fluorescence, suggesting that Trp94 moves to a more hydrophilic 385 environment (Fig. 7a). Addition of PtdIns(4,5)P2 at a lipid:protein 386 molar ratio higher than 4-fold did not cause further changes in the 387 fluorescent intensity of the protein (data not shown). Far- and near- 388 UV spectra indicate minor structural changes in Dab2 N-PTB upon 389 PtdIns(4,5)P₂ binding (Table 1 and data not shown). This observation 390 indicates that the changes observed in Trp fluorescence are due to 391 local conformational changes of the protein around the aromatic 392 residue upon soluble phosphoinositide binding. The contribution of a 393 membrane mimic in PtdIns(4,5)P₂ recognition was also studied. 394 Addition of the phosphoinositide to the micelle-embedded Dab2 N- 395 PTB did not alter the fluorescent signal of the protein (Fig. 7a). 396 Moreover, no major changes in both secondary and tertiary structures 397 of the protein were observed at the same lipid:protein molar ratio 398 (Fig. 7b and c and Table 1). Acrylamide quenching of the Dab2 N-PTB 399 was slightly reduced by the presence of $PtdIns(4,5)P_2$ (Fig. 7d), as 400 indicated by a decrease in the average K_{sv} value (10.2 M⁻¹; Fig. 6). 401 The presence of PtdIns(4,5)P2 in DDM micelles did not contribute to 402 any change in the average K_{sv} value (7.7 M⁻¹) when compared with 403 the protein in DDM micelles (7.9 M^{-1} ; Fig. 6). Taken together, these 404 data suggest that PtdIns(4,5)P2 is not necessary for Dab2 membrane 405 insertion. 406

3.5. Binding of Dab2 N-PTB to sulfatides and PtdIns(4,5)P₂ increases 407 protein stability 408

We next tested whether addition of lipid ligands affected the 409 conformational stability of Dab2 N-PTB. CD ellipticity was monitored 410 during thermal unfolding of the protein at 222 nm in the absence and 411 presence of DDM micelles, sulfatides, and PtdIns(4,5)P₂. Thermal 412 denaturation analysis indicated that Dab2 N-PTB exhibits two-state 413 melting transitions, with a highly cooperative unfolding transition 414 between ~35 and 60 °C and an apparent melting temperature (T_m) of 415 46.6 °C (Fig. 8a and Table S1). The midpoint of the conformational 416 transition was observed to decrease to 40.4 °C in the presence of 417 DDM micelles. Thus, DDM-induced local conformational changes in 418

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Dab2 N-PTB (Figs. 5c and 7c) may lead to a less stable protein. 419 420 Interestingly, addition of sulfatides into the DDM-embedded Dab2 N-PTB increased the $T_{\rm m}$ of the protein to 45.2 °C (Fig. 8a). The sulfatide 421 binding deficient Dab2 N-PTB^{4M} exhibits a similar $T_{\rm m}$ value to that 422 observed for the wild-type protein (46 °C), but becomes remarkably 423 less stable in the presence of DDM micelles ($T_{\rm m}$ = 36.7 °C; Fig. 8b and 424 Table S1). Importantly, mutations in the sulfatide-binding site did not 425alter their far-UV circular dichroism spectra compared to wild-type 426 Dab2 N-PTB [20], indicating that the substitutions do not perturb the 427 secondary structure of the protein. Further addition of sulfatides, 428 however, did not contribute to Dab2 N-PTB^{4M} stability as indicated by 429 its $T_{\rm m}$ value (34.2 °C; Fig. 8b and Table S1). Taken together, these data 430suggest that sulfatide-binding increases the stability of Dab2 N-PTB. 431Likewise, PtdIns(4,5)P2 increased the Dab2 N-PTB's thermal stability 432 with an estimated $T_{\rm m}$ value of 48.1 °C (Fig. 8c and Table S1). This 433 increase of protein stability was also observed when the phosphoinosi-434tide was embedded in DDM micelles, changing the $T_{\rm m}$ value from 40.4 435to 42.2 °C (Fig. 8c and Table S1). Accordingly, mutations in the two 436 critical PtdIns(4,5)P₂-binding residues (Lys53 and Lys90) impaired the 437 protein to increase its tolerance to temperature-induced unfolding in 438 the presence of the phosphoinositide (Fig. 8d and Table S1). This result 439is not a consequence of a perturbation of the structure of Dab2 N-PTB 440 441 since alanine substitutions for Lys53 and Lys90 do not disturb its secondary structure [20]. Thus, stabilization of Dab2 N-PTB by PtdIns 442 $(4,5)P_2$ is a consequence of direct contact of the protein with the 443 phosphoinositide. 444

445 4. Discussion

Peripheral proteins, such as Dab2, exhibit weak and reversible 446 membrane binding. To perform this function, Dab2 recognizes 447 sulfatides and phosphoinositides through binding sites located within 448 its N-PTB region [20]. To better understand the mechanism by which 449Dab2 interacts with membranes, we have screened micelles that are 450commonly used to study membrane-binding proteins. Here, we show 451that the structure and function of Dab2 are preserved in DDM micelles 452(Figs. 2 and 3). DDM micelles have been used to successfully purify 453membrane proteins for NMR studies [37], to preserve protein activity 454[38], and to study membrane-binding proteins [39,40]. 455

In hemostasis, it is well established that sulfatides serve as ligands 456 for several proteins such as P-selectin, vWF, and Dab2, to modulate 457platelet adhesion and aggregation events [20,24]. Upon platelet 458activation, membrane sulfatides not only sequester Dab2 for integrin 459binding but also facilitate Dab2 internalization in platelets, thus, 460 protecting it from thrombin cleavage [20]. Furthermore, sulfatide-461 bound Dab2 not only reduces the number and size of platelet 462 463 aggregates but also diminishes platelet P-selectin surface levels with a concomitant reduction of P-selectin-mediated cell-cell interactions, 464 which are usually triggered upon platelet activation [27]. Our data 465 indicate that sulfatide binding can be detected by NMR, in which Dab2 466 N-PTB forms a complex with sulfatide-embedded DDM micelles that 467 468 resulted in loss of resonance intensity (Fig. 3a). The ability of

Fig. 3. Dab2 N-PTB is functional in DDM micelles at the NMR scale. (a) DDM-enriched ¹⁵N-labeled Dab2 N-PTB (black) was subjected to ¹⁵N-HSQC analysis following addition of sulfatide-enriched DDM micelles (1:6 molar ratio; red). Resonances that exhibit reduced intensity are boxed. Several resonances are particularly broadened and perturbed by DDM micelles. Therefore, a lower contour level (4-fold) was used to depict the severely broadened resonances caused by the addition of the detergent. (b) An HSQC spectrum of ¹⁵N-labeled Dab2 N-PTB was collected in the absence (black) and presence of c6-PtdIns(4,5)P₂ (1:4 molar ratio; red). Perturbed chemical shifts are boxed. (c) An HSQC spectrum of DDM-enriched ¹⁵N-labeled Dab2 N-PTB was collected in the absence (black) and presence of PtdIns(4,5)P₂-enriched DDM micelles (4:1 molar ratio; red). Perturbed chemical shifts are boxed. A lower contour level (4-fold) was used (compared to the NMR spectrum of Dab2 N-PTB shown in panel *a*) to depict the severely broadened resonances caused by the addition of the detergent. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the we version of this article.)

sulfatides to be recognized by numerous proteins has been associated 469 with the presence of basic amino acid clusters, including the XBBXBX 470 (where B is a basic residue) and BXBXBX motifs [41]. We have 471 identified critical Dab2 N-PTB residues that specifically bind to 472 sulfatides and are located at two conserved sulfatide-consensus 473 motifs (Fig. 2a and [20]), which closely resemble those described in 474 other haemostatic proteins, including laminin-1 [42] and vWF [43].



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Fig. 4. The sulfatide- and PtdIns(4,5)P₂-binding sites overlap in Dab2 N-PTB. (a) Sulfatide-bound spotted membranes were incubated with either free- or PtdIns(4,5)P₂-bound GST-Dab2 N-PTB. Quantification of the spots (right) was carried out using an AlphaImager. The figure shows data from a single experiment that was repeated three times with similar results. (b) Sulfatide-enriched liposomes were immobilized onto an SPR L1 sensor chip and Dab2 N-PTB (5 µM) was pre-incubated and loaded in the absence and presence of increasing concentrations of PtdIns(4,5)P₂ (left). Data was processed using BioDataFit (right) and they are representative of two independent experiments. (c) A view of the predicted tertiary structure of the human Dab2 PTB domain reproduced from the AL2TS site (http://proteinmodel.org/AS2TS/al2ts.html) using the mouse Dab2 PTB domain (PDB ID: 1M7E) as a template and depicted using Pymol. Experimentally determined sulfatide- (red), PtdIns(4,5)P₂- (yellow) and both lipid- (orange) binding residues are labeled on the protein surface. The location of residue W94 is displayed in green. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

476 A few recent studies have shown structural insights of sulfatidebinding proteins. The antigen-presenting human CD1 is a transmem-477 brane protein known to bind sphingolipids, such as sulfatides, which 478 are presented as antigens for the T-cell receptors during the immune 479response [44]. The crystal structure of several CD1 proteins indicate 480 481 that van der Waals contacts, rather than hydrogen bonds, play a major 482 role in the interaction with sphingolipids [23]. Micelles enriched with sulfatides were successfully employed to investigate the membrane-483 binding mechanism of Cobra Cardiotoxin (CTX) using NMR spectros-484 copy [45]. Data indicate that the sulfatide head group undergoes 485486 conformational changes from a bent shovel to an extended conformation upon CTX binding [45]. Similar to our proposed mechanism of 487 Dab2 recognition to membrane sulfatides, the three-dimensional 488 structure of the CTX-sulfatide complex in $C_{10}E_6$ detergent indicates 489that CTX penetrates membrane bilayers in a sulfatide-dependent 490manner by a mechanism that requires both CTX and sulfatide 491conformational changes to allow the peptide to oligomerize at the 492membrane bilayer interface [46]. 493

494 PtdIns $(4,5)P_2$ is the most abundant phosphoinositide at the 495 plasma membrane (1% of the total lipids; [47]) and plays a key role as a precursor to cellular second messengers and acts as a signaling 496 lipid. While it is well documented that PtdIns(4,5)P₂ is found at the 497 inner leaflet of the plasma membrane [48], recent findings indicate 498 that certain phosphoinositides are also present in the outer leaflet of 499 the plasma membrane of plant and animal cells, which are required 500 for pathogen protein effector entry in a mechanism that depends on 501 the presence of RXLR and dEER conserved lipid-interacting motifs 502 [18]. Therefore, it is possible that sulfatides and phosphoinositides can 503 co-localize at the cell membrane surface. Dab proteins can bind 504 phosphoinositides at the inner leaflet of the plasma membrane 505 through their PTB domain [2,49]. Among phosphoinositides, the Dab 506 PTB domain preferentially binds PtdIns(4,5)P2, although PtdIns(3,4,5) 507 P₃ has also been suggested to be a physiological ligand [17]. Dab2 is 508 proposed to participate in lipoprotein receptors sorting into clathrin- 509 coated pits that are required for endocytosis [2-4]. PtdIns(4,5)P₂ is 510 also critical for endocytosis since it may be clustered in lipid raft 511 regions of the plasma membrane [15] where Dab2 resides. Notably, 512 Dab2 is abundant in platelets [8] but the role of the protein in 513 recognizing platelet PtdIns(4,5)P2 still remains elusive. PtdIns(4,5)P2 514 contributes to platelet function, including platelet shape [50] and 515

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Fig. 5. Biophysical characterization of the association of Dab2 N-PTB to sulfatide-enriched micelles. (a) Tryptophan fluorescence, (b) Far-UV CD, and (c) Near-UV CD spectra of Dab2 N-PTB in the absence (black solid line) and presence of DDM micelles (gray solid line) or sulfatide-enriched DDM micelles (128:1 sulfatide:protein molar ratio; black dotted line). (d–f) Intrinsic Trp quenching of Dab2 N-PTB in the absence (d) and presence of DDM micelles (e) or sulfatide-enriched DDM micelles (f) followed by the addition of increasing concentrations of acrylamide.

spreading [51], and increases its levels by 10–40% at the membrane 516upon platelet activation [50,52–54]. Notably, PtdIns(4,5)P₂ mediates 517518 α -granule secretion [55] and concentrates at the membrane upon integrin receptor activation [54]. Since cytosolic phosphorylated Dab2 519has been shown to bind to the β 3 subunit of the integrin receptor [19]. 520we speculate that $PtdIns(4,5)P_2$ docks cytosolic Dab2 at the platelet 521522membrane facilitating its endocytic function. Both Dab2 Lys53 and Lys90 exhibit critical roles for PtdIns(4,5)P2 recognition (Fig. 2a and 523

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Fig. 6. Stern–Volmer calculations of the acrylamide quenching response of Dab2 N-PTB under the indicated experimental conditions. The correlation coefficients for each calculation ranged from 0.985 to 0.995. *, *P*<0.04.

[20]). Since phosphoinositide binding is mediated by electrostatic 524 interactions, a small number of Dab1 residues are engaged in lipid 525 recognition [17]. Indeed, we observed a set of chemical shift 526 perturbations in the Dab2 N-PTB NMR spectra after addition of 527 PtdIns(4,5)P₂ (Fig. 3b–c) without a drastic conformational change in 528 the protein (Fig. 7). We also found that sulfatides and PtdIns(4,5)P₂ 529 competed with each other for binding the Dab2 N-PTB region. This 530 finding was expected given the proximity of their binding sites 531 (Fig. 4c) and the fact that Lys53 is shared between these two lipids 532 [20]. On the other hand, the PTB domain of Dab1 and Dab2 is able to 533 simultaneously bind to different ligands, PtdIns(4,5)P₂ and an ApoER2 534 peptide, through independent sites located in opposite regions in the 535 protein domain [2,16].

Tryptophan fluorescence is sensitive to the environment polarity 537 around Trp residues. A reduction in fluorescence emission indicates 538 that the tryptophans come into more contact with the aqueous 539 solution. In all Dab2 proteins, the N-PTB region presents a conserved 540 Trp residue (Trp94; Fig. 1). We found intrinsic protein fluorescence 541 useful in our studies because Trp94 is located near the Dab2 N-PTB 542 sulfatide- and PtdIns(4,5)P2-binding sites, which makes Trp fluores- 543 cence very sensitive to local conformational rearrangements. Fluo- 544 rescence data show a maximum emission wavelength for Dab2 N-PTB 545 at 343 nm (Figs. 5 and 7). A maximum fluorescent emission of a 546 protein at ~325 nm is usually associated with a Trp residue able to 547 form a hydrogen bond to a water molecule, whereas a maximum at 548 ~347 nm, close to that observed for the Dab2 N-PTB, corresponds to a 549 Trp residue being exposed to a polar solvent [56]. Indeed, the 550 accessibility to the acrylamide quencher is consistent with a relatively 551 polar environment for Trp94 in Dab2 N-PTB. The average K_{sv} value of 552 the free protein was 12.9 M^{-1} , close to the value of the free Trp in 553 solution [57]. Unlike PtdIns(4,5)P₂, sulfatides promoted a conforma- 554 tional change in Dab2 N-PTB that led to an increase in fluorescent 555

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Fig. 7. Biophysical characterization of the association of Dab2 N-PTB to PtdIns(4,5)P₂-enriched micelles. (a) Tryptophan fluorescence, (b) Far-UV CD, and (c) Near-UV CD spectra of Dab2 N-PTB in the absence (black solid line) and presence of soluble PtdIns(4,5)P₂ (black broken line), DDM micelles (gray solid line) or PtdIns(4,5)P₂-enriched DDM micelles (black dotted line). (d–e) Intrinsic Trp quenching of Dab2 N-PTB in complex with soluble PtdIns(4,5)P₂ (d) or PtdIns(4,5)P₂-enriched DDM micelles (e) followed by the addition of increasing concentrations of acrylamide.

intensity, which indicates that the microenvironment surrounding
 the Dab2 N-PTB Trp94 indole side chain becomes more hydrophobic
 in sulfatide-embedded micelles. These findings correlate with the

observed reduction of the K_{sv} value of the protein in the presence of 559 sulfatides consistent with an altered accessibility of Trp94 to the 560 acrylamide quencher (Figs. 5F and 6). Alteration of quencher 561



Fig. 8. Lipid-mediated stability of Dab2 N-PTB. (a) CD monitoring of the thermal unfolding of Dab2 N-PTB in the absence (black) and presence of DDM micelles (red), or sulfatideenriched DDM micelles (green). (b) Same as (a) but using Dab2 N-PTB^{4M}. (c) CD monitoring of the thermal unfolding of Dab2 N-PTB in the absence (black) and presence of soluble PtdIns(4,5)P₂ (blue), DDM micelles (red), or PtdIns(4,5)P₂-enriched DDM micelles (green). (d) Same as (c) but using Dab2 N-PTB^{K53A/K90A}. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

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accessibility is not significant when Dab2 N-PTB is in contact with 562 563 PtdIns(4,5)P₂-embedded micelles (Fig. 6). However, our thermal denaturation analysis of Dab2 N-PTB suggests that both sulfatides and 564 565PtdIns(4,5)P₂ favor stabilization of the protein when embedded in micelles (Fig. 8). This result is similar to that observed for the 566prokaryotic potassium channel KcsA protein when embedded in DDM 567micelles, in which the thermal stability is also increased with anionic 568phospholipids [58]. Thus, it is possible that conformational changes 569570occur in Dab2 N-PTB in the presence of sulfatides, which allows the protein to increase its tolerance to temperature-induced unfolding. 571572Since PtdIns(4,5)P₂ does not induce drastic Dab2 N-PTB conforma-573tional rearrangements, these changes must occur locally in regions far 574from where Trp94 is located, given the absence of changes in 575fluorescent intensity and in secondary and tertiary structural changes of the protein in the presence of PtdIns(4,5)P2-enriched micelles 576(Fig. 7a-c). Taken together, these results suggest that sulfatides, but 577 not PtdIns(4,5)P₂, contribute to Dab2 conformational rearrangement 578and membrane insertion. Indeed, the proposed sulfatide-mediated 579insertion of Dab2 in membrane bilayers favors our initial model, in 580which Dab2 interacts with membrane sulfatides, which unlike PtdIns 581(4,5)P₂, promotes a protection of Dab2 from thrombin cleavage 582during platelet activation events [20]. Since Dab PTB domains are able 583584to interact with inositol 1,4,5-triphosphate, the PtdIns(4,5)P₂ head 585 group [15], Dab2 may require contact with the head group of the phosphoinositide to anchor to the plasma membrane, whose 586association may be critical for Dab2 involvement in clathrin-mediated 587 endocytosis. 588

589 5. Conclusions

590The significance of this investigation relies on the basis by which Dab2 interacts with membrane bilayers in a lipid-mediated fashion. 591Despite the overlap of sulfatide- and PtdIns(4,5)P₂-binding sites in 592Dab2 N-PTB and the fact that both lipids aid in the stabilization of the 593protein at the membrane, we observed differences in their mecha-594nism of recognition. Whereas sulfatides contributed to Dab2 mem-595 brane insertion, which is likely accompanied by a conformational 596 597change of the protein, the phosphoinositide contacts a select group of Dab2 residues without additional major changes in the protein 598structure. Thus, these findings demonstrate the versatility of Dab2 in a 599wide range of lipid-mediated cellular functions as diverse as platelet 600 aggregation and endocytic events. 601

602Supplementary materials related to this article can be found online603at doi:10.1016/j.bbamem.2011.07.029.

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