tion in the presence of apoptotic stimuli may lower the anti-apoptotic threshold of tumors to provide a more effective treatment against resistant forms of cancer. Additionally, the inhibition of NF-κB function in association with TNF treatment may broaden the limited ability of this cytokine to function in an anti-tumor manner.

Note added in proof. Wu et al. (18) recently demonstrated that NF-κB blocks apoptosis in B cells.

REFERENCES AND NOTES

1. A. Baldwin, Annu. Rev. Immunol. 14, 649 (1996); I. Verma, J. Stevenson, E. Schwarz, D. Van Antwerp, S. Miyamoto, Genes Dev. 9, 2723 (1995); U. Siebenlist, G. Franzoso, K. Brown, Annu. Rev. Cell Biol. 10, 405 (1994); P. Baeuerle and T. Henkel, Annu. Rev. Immunol. 12, 141 (1994); H. C. Liou and D. Baltimore, Curr. Opin. Cell Biol. 5, 477 (1993).
2. A. Beg, W. Sha, R. Bronson, S. Ghosh, D. Baltimore, Nature 376, 167 (1995).
3. H. Holtmann, T. Hahn, D. Wallach, Immunobiology 177, 7 (1988).
4. C.-Y. Wang and A. S. Baldwin Jr., unpublished data.
5. J. Brockman et al., Mol. Cell. Biol. 15, 2809 (1995); K. Brown et al., Science 267, 1485 (1995); E. Traenckner et al., EMBO J. 14, 2876 (1995); J. DiDonato et al., Mol. Cell. Biol. 16, 1295 (1996).
6. V. Palombello, O. Rando, A. Goldberg, T. Maniatis, Cell 78, 773 (1994); Z. Chen et al., Genes Dev. 9, 1586 (1995).
7. A. A. Beg and D. Baltimore, Science 274, 782 (1996).
8. D. E. Fisher, Cell 78, 539 (1994).
9. S. Singh and M. Lavin, Mol. Cell. Biol. 10, 5279 (1990); M. Brach et al., J. Clin. Invest. 88, 691 (1991).
10. L. Tartaglia and D. Goeddel, Immunol. Today 13, 151 (1992); P. Vandenabeele, W. Declercq, R. Beyaert, W. Fiers, Trends Cell. Biol. 5, 392 (1995); H. Hsu, J. Xiong, D. Goeddel, Cell 81, 495 (1995); H. Hsu, H.-B. Shu, M.-P. Pan, D. Goeddel, ibid. 84, 299 (1996); A. Chinnaiyan, K. O'Rourke, M. Tewardi, V. Dixit, ibid. 81, 505 (1995); M. Muzio et al., ibid. 85, 817 (1996); M. Boldin, T. Goncharov, Y. Goltsev, D. Wallach, ibid., p. 803; H. Hsu, J. Huang, H.-B. Shu, V. Baichwal, D. Goeddel, Immunity 4, 387 (1996).
11. R. Bose et al., Cell 82, 405 (1995); J.-P. Jaffrezou et al., EMBO J. 15, 2417 (1996); A. Haimovitz-Freedman et al., J. Exp. Med. 180, 525 (1994); P. Santana et al., Cell 86, 189 (1996).
12. R. Kolesnick and D. Golde, Cell 77, 325 (1994).
13. L. Obeid, C. Linardic, L. Karolak, Y. Hannun, Science 259, 1769 (1993).
14. M. Jung, Y. Zhang, S. Lee, A. Dritschilo, ibid. 268, 1619 (1995); K.-I. Lin et al., J. Cell Biol. 131, 1149 (1995); S. Grimm, M. Bauer, P. Baeuerle, K. Shulze-Osthoff, ibid. 134, 1 (1996).
15. A. Slater, M. Kimland, S. Jiang, S. Orrenius, Biochem. J. 312, 844 (1995); R. Bessho et al., Biochem. Pharm. 48, 1883 (1994).
16. A. Ray and K. Prefontaine, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 91, 752 (1994); N. Mukaida et al., J. Biol. Chem. 269, 13289 (1994); R. Scheinman et al., Mol. Cell. Biol. 15, 943 (1995); E. Caldenhoven et al., Mol. Endocrinol. 9, 401 (1995); R. Scheinman, P. Cogswell, A. Lofquist, A. Baldwin, Science 270, 283 (1995); N. Auphan, J. DiDonato, C. Rosette, A. Helmberg, M. Karin, ibid., p. 286.
17. V. Devita, S. Hubbard, D. Longo, Cancer Res. 47, 5810 (1987); R. Schartzman and J. Cidlowski, Endocrinol. Rev. 14, 133 (1993).
18. M. Wu et al., EMBO J. 15, 4662 (1996).
19. P. Mehlen, C. Kretz-Remy, X. Preville, A.-P. Arrigo, EMBO J. 15, 2695 (1996).
20. T. Graeber et al., Nature 379, 88 (1996).
21. T. Finco, A. Beg, A. Baldwin, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 91, 11884 (1994).
22. We thank I. Verma, A. Beg, and D. Baltimore for

Suppression of TNF-α–Induced Apoptosis by NF-κB

Daniel J. Van Antwerp, Seamus J. Martin,* Tal Kafri, Douglas R. Green, Inder M. Verma†

Tumor necrosis factor α (TNF-α) signaling gives rise to a number of events, including activation of transcription factor NF-κB and programmed cell death (apoptosis). Previous studies of TNF-α signaling have suggested that these two events occur independently. The sensitivity and kinetics of TNF-α–induced apoptosis are shown to be enhanced in a number of cell types expressing a dominant-negative IκBα (IκBαM). These findings suggest that a negative feedback mechanism results from TNF-α signaling in which NF-κB activation suppresses the signals for cell death.

The relation between TNF-α signals for NF-κB activation and apoptosis suggests that the two pathways are independent, diverging early in the TNF-α signaling cascade (1). Because TNF-α–induced apoptosis is enhanced in the absence of de novo RNA or protein synthesis (2), and NF-κB rapidly activates target gene transcription upon TNF-α stimulation, we investigated whether the absence of NF-κB–induced genes alone might enhance TNF-α–induced apoptosis. To test this hypothesis on various cell types, we generated a transdominant-negative mutant of IκBα (3). Many signal transduction pathways resulting in NF-κB activation culminate in a serine phosphorylation of IκBα on residues 32 and 36 (4). Phosphorylation of the COOH-terminal PEST sequence has been implicated in constitutive turnover of IκBα (5). We combined the NH_2- and COOH-terminal phosphorylation mutants into a single cDNA (IκBαM) and examined its ability to inhibit NF-κB signaling. We then generated stable transformants expressing IκBαM (6) in primary mouse and human fibroblasts, a human lymphoma cell line (Jurkat), and a well-characterized TNF-α–resistant cell line (T24, human bladder carcinoma) (7).

Infection with IκBαM retrovirus resulted in a loss of NF-κB inducibility (Figs. 1 and 2).

D. J. Van Antwerp, Laboratory of Genetics, Salk Institute, La Jolla, CA 92037, and Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of California, San Diego, CA 92093, USA.
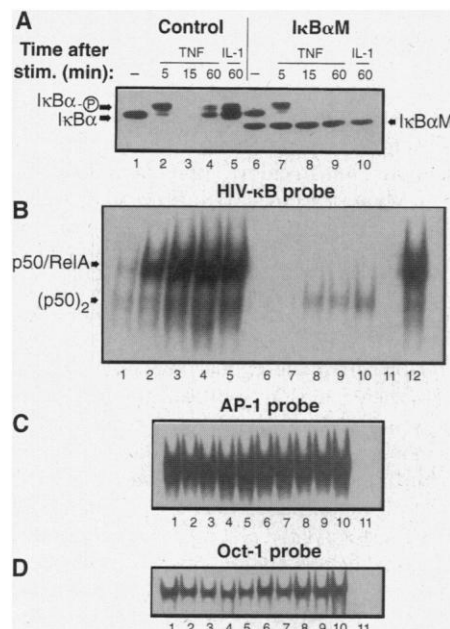S. J. Martin and D. R. Green, La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology, San Diego, CA 92121, USA.
T. Kafri and I. M. Verma, Laboratory of Genetics, Salk Institute, La Jolla, CA 92037, USA.

*Present address: Molecular Cell Biology Laboratory, Department of Biology, Maynooth College, Maynooth, County Kildare, Ireland.
†To whom correspondence should be addressed.

Each cell line represented pools of infected cells to avoid artifacts arising from clonal analysis. Human embryo fibroblasts (HEF) either alone or expressing IκBαM were stimulated for various time periods to examine NF-κB inducibility (Fig. 1). Protein immunoblotting (8) (Fig. 1A) shows the expression of murine IκBαM, which migrated faster on SDS–polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (PAGE) than the endogenous human IκBα (4). The expression of IκBαM was only modestly higher than that of endogenous IκBα, demonstrating the ability of IκBαM to inhibit NF-κB. After TNF-α stimulation in both control and IκBαM cells, endogenous IκBα was phosphorylated and degraded with similar kinetics, demonstrating that in IκBαM-expressing cell lines, the signal transduction pathway upstream of NF-κB activation was not blocked (Fig. 1A). IκBαM was not degraded, presumably because it was not phosphorylated. Because the IκBα gene is induced

Table 1. Annexin V–FITC flow cytometric analysis of Jurkat cells stably transduced with IκBαM. Normal or IκBαM Jurkat cells were treated with TNF-α (100 ng/ml) for the indicated times and stained with FITC-labeled annexin V. The cells were then analyzed by flow cytometry as described (14). Five thousand cells were analyzed under each condition.

Time (hours)	Percent annexin V binding	
	Control	IκBαM
0	10.4	12.3
3	13.7	26.6
7	24.1	39.9
24	28.2	62.3
48	30.1	86.3

by NF-κB (9), inhibition of NF-κB would result in a lack or delay of IκBα resynthesis. Although endogenous IκBα protein was re-synthesized in control cells (Fig. 1A), in IκBαM cells, no new IκBα was synthesized. The lack of IκBα resynthesis was not due to induction of cell death because similar results were obtained with a noncytotoxic cytokine, interleukin 1α (IL-1α) (Fig. 1A). Gel mobil-ity-shift experiments with HIV-κB site as a probe (10) (Fig. 1B) showed that in control HEF cells after treatment with TNF-α or IL-1α, both the p50/RelA and (p50)₂ dimers could be observed, whereas little or no κB binding activity was observed in cells contain-ing IκBαM. Specificity for DNA binding was tested by the use of excess wild-type and mutant κB probe. The same extracts did not effect binding to AP-1 or Oct-1 probes (Fig. 1, C
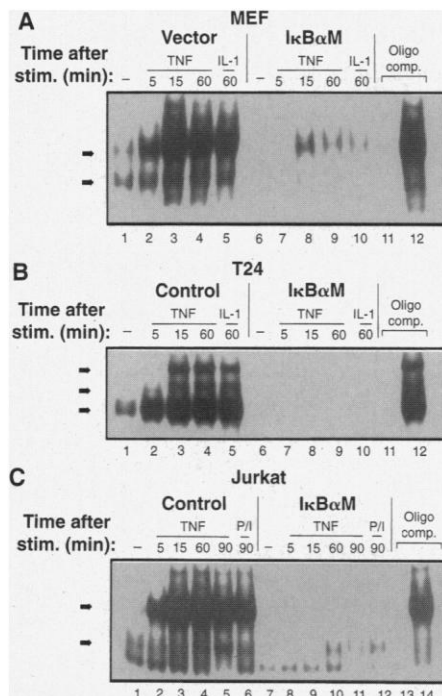
and D). Virtually no NF-κB gel shift was detectable upon activation in a variety of other cell lines (Fig. 2).

Induction of apoptosis in Jurkat and mouse embryo fibroblast (MEF) cells treated for 18 hours with TNF-α was analyzed by staining morphology (11) (Fig. 3). Jurkat cells were normally very resistant to TNF-α–induced apoptosis (Fig. 3A), with only 4% showing loss of nuclear structure. In IκBαM-expressing cells, however, there was a pronounced in-

crease in the sensitivity to TNF-α (Fig. 3B), with apoptosis visualized in 44% of the cells. MEF cells showed a similar increase in sensi-tivity to TNF-α, from 8% in normal MEF cells (Fig. 3C) to 67% in IκBαM-expressing cells (Fig. 3D). An early event in apoptosis is the migration of the phospholipid phosphati-dylserine (PS) from the inner to the outer leaflet of the plasma membrane (12). An-nexin V is a protein that binds specifically to PS (13). Table 1 compares the values for

Fig. 1. Inhibition of NF-κB in HEF cells by IκBαM. (**A**) Immunoblot analysis of HEF cells stimulated with TNF-α (10 ng/ml) or IL-1α (2 ng/ml). Lanes 1 to 5, normal HEF cells; lanes 6 to 10, cells transduced with IκBαM retrovirus. Cells were stimulated for the indi-cated times, cytoplasmic extracts were prepared, and 50 μg were analyzed by SDS-PAGE. After trans-fer to nitrocellulose, the blots were probed with IκBα-specific antiserum. Arrows indicate positions of en-dogenous IκBα, its phosphorylated form, and IκBαM. (**B**) Gel-shift analysis of nuclear extracts pre-pared from the same cells as in (A) with ³²P end-labeled HIV-κB oligonucleotide probe. Samples and lane numbers are as in (A). Lanes 11 and 12, com-petition controls performed on the same extract used in lane 3 (HEF cells, TNF-α, 15 min) with excess unlabeled wild-type and mutant oligonucleotide, respectively. (**C**) Gel shift of the same nuclear ex-tracts as in (B) with the AP-1 consensus probe. Lane 11, competition with excess unlabeled oligo-nucleotide with the extract from lane 4. (**D**) Gel shift of the same nuclear extracts as in (B) with the Oct-1 probe. Lane 11, wild-type competition with the extract from lane 1.


Fig. 2. Gel-shift analysis of various cell lines ex-pressing IκBαM. Cell lines were stimulated with TNF-α, IL-1α, or PMA plus ionomycin. Nuclear extracts were prepared and analyzed for NF-κB activation by gel shift with ³²P end-labeled HIV-κB oligonucleotide. (**A**) Cells transduced with either empty LXSN vector or IκBαM were treated with TNF-α (10 ng/ml) or IL-1α (2 ng/ml). Lanes 1 to 5, control MEF cells; lanes 6 to 10, IκBαM MEF cells. (**B**) T24 cells were stimulated and treated as in (A). (**C**) Normal and IκBαM Jurkat cells treated with TNF-α (20 ng/ml) or PMA (40 ng/ml) plus ionomy-cin (1 μM). Lanes 1 to 6, control cells; lanes 7 to 12, IκBαM cells. Arrows indicate the shift (or shifts) corresponding to NF-κB. In each instance, mu-tant and wild-type unlabeled oligonucleotide com-petition was performed on the 15-min TNF-α–stimulated control sample.
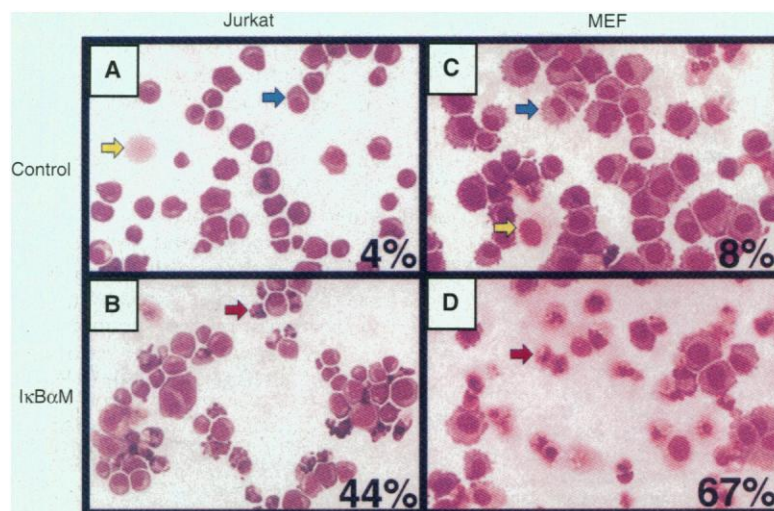
Fig. 3. Cytospin analysis of apoptosis. Cells were treated with TNF-α (100 ng/ml) for 18 hours, centrifuged onto slides, and stained with eosin–methylene blue to identify cells that had lost nuclear structure. Colored arrows indicate cells scored as apoptotic (red), necrotic (yellow), and viable (blue). (**A** and **C**) Control Jurkat and MEF cells, respectively. (**B** and **D**) Jurkat and MEF cells, respectively, transduced with IκBαM. The percentage of cells identified as apoptotic is indicated in the lower right of each panel. These values were obtained by averaging the results from two independent experiments in which five fields per slide with an average of ~100 cells per field were counted.

annexin V binding of control and IκBαM Jurkat cells obtained over time in the presence of a high dose of TNF-α (100 ng/ml) (14). Normal Jurkat cells showed only a slight increase in annexin V binding even at the longest incubation time, from 10.4% without stimulation to 30.1% after 48 hours. In contrast, the percentage of apoptotic IκBαM-expressing Jurkat cells increased from 12.3 to 39.9% in 7 hours, culminating in over 80% by 48 hours. The data on apoptosis were confirmed by use of light-scatter flow cytometric analysis (15). We further extended our results by showing that RelA (−/−) embryo fibroblasts (16) were more sensitive to TNF-α–induced apoptosis than either normal or p50 (−/−) fibroblasts (17–19).

By two independent criteria—the block of short- and long-term induction as shown by gel shift (Figs. 1B and 2) and the inhibition of endogenous IκBα resynthesis (Fig. 1A)—we have shown that IκBαM is a potent dominant-negative inhibitor of NF-κB activation. The finding that cells with a block in NF-κB signaling are more susceptible to TNF-α–induced apoptosis is consistent with observations that TNF-α cytotoxicity can be greatly enhanced by the addition of inhibitors of protein and RNA synthesis (for example, cyclohexamide and actinomycin D) (2). The same synergy of cell death signals has also been reported for Fas-induced cell death (20). Fas can induce NF-κB gel-shift activity in certain, but not all, cell types. T24, one of the cell lines shown to be capable of Fas-induced NF-κB activity, is also sensitive to Fas cytotoxity only in the presence of inhibitors of RNA or protein synthesis (21). We examined the effect of Fas activation on T24 cells expressing IκBαM and observed no appreciable cell death (18). Thus, it appears that the molecular mechanisms of Fas- and TNF-α–mediated cell death may be different, in that the activation of NF-κB can induce target gene expression that can rescue TNF-α–, but not Fas-mediated, apoptosis.

Inhibition of NF-κB may be used by organisms as a means of killing TNF-α–targeted cells. Inhibitors of NF-κB activation, such as glucocorticoids (22), antioxidants (23), and Cu²⁺ (24), may fall in this category. Substantial therapeutic gains are possible if natural and synthetically derived inhibitors of NF-κB can be used in combination with TNF-α to treat conditions in which certain cells need to be cleared, such as cancer and bacterial and viral infection.

REFERENCES AND NOTES

1. H. Hsu, H. B. Shu, M. G. Pan, D. V. Goeddel, *Cell* **84**, 299 (1996).
2. B. Y. Rubin et al., *Cancer Res.* **48**, 6006 (1988).
3. IκBαM was generated by digestion of plasmids pCMX-IκBαS32/36A and pCMX-IκBαMutF with Eco NI and Bst EII and ligation of the small S32/36A fragment to the large vector/IκBαMutF fragment. The resulting expression plasmid, called pCMX-IκBαM, was confirmed by in vitro transcription and translation (TNT, Promega) with the T7 promoter present in pCMX followed by immunoprecipitation with IκBα-specific antibody. pCMX-IκBαS32/36A was constructed by removal of the Bam HI–Hind III fragment of pBS-IκBαS32/36A and ligation of the fragment into the Bam HI–Hind III sites in pCMX. pBS-IκBαS32/36A was constructed by site-directed mutagenesis of the plasmid pBS-IκBα and confirmed by sequencing. The construction of pCMX-IκBαMutF has been described (5). pLIκBαMSN was constructed by blunt insertion of the Eco RV fragment from pCMX-IκBαM into the Hpa I site of pLXSN (25).
4. K. Brown, S. Gerstberger, L. Carlson, G. Franzoso, U. Siebenlist, *Science* **267**, 1485 (1995); E. B. Traenckner et al., *EMBO J.* **14**, 2876 (1995).
5. R. Lin, P. Beauparlant, C. Makris, S. Meloche, J. Hiscott, *Mol. Cell. Biol.* **16**, 1401 (1996); E. M. Schwarz, D. J. Van Antwerp, I. M. Verma, ibid., p. 3554.
6. Mouse embryo fibroblasts were derived from Swiss Webster mice as described (26) and grown in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS). Human embryo fibroblasts were prepared and grown identically to MEF cells. Two hundred ninety-three cells expressing *gag* and *pol* were grown in DMEM, 10% FBS, and selection was maintained with blastacidin (20 μg/ml). T24 cells (American Type Culture Collection) and Jurkat cells were grown in RPMI 1640 in 10% FBS. All the pools of stable cells were produced in a similar manner. First, 293 cells stably expressing Moloney *gag* and *pol* under control of cytomegalovirus (CMV) promoter-enhancer were transiently transfected by CaPO₄ precipitation with 20 μg of pLXSN retroviral vector (3) and 5 μg of the plasmid pMDG (27) containing the vesicular stomatitis virus (VSVg) envelope downstream of the CMV promoter-enhancer. After 48 and 72 hours, the medium was removed, filtered, and either stored at −20°C or used immediately for infection. Infection was performed on ~0.5 × 10⁵ cells in 3 ml with Polybrene (8 μg/ml) for 8 to 12 hours. Cells were allowed to expand for 48 hours and were then selected for neomycin resistance. Amounts of G418 used in selecting the various cell types were as follows: MEF and HEF cells, 800 μg/ml; T24, 400 μg/ml; Jurkat, 1 mg/ml. Immunoblotting was then performed to analyze the expression of IκBαM.
7. T. J. Schall et al., *Cell* **61**, 361 (1990).
8. For immunoblot analysis, cytoplasmic extracts were prepared as described (28), and 50 μg (as determined by Bradford analysis) was applied to 12% SDS-PAGE gels and transferred to 0.2-μm pore nitrocellulose membranes (Schleicher & Schuell). Blots were probed for 12 hours with antibody raised against the NH₂-terminus of IκBα (C-15, Santa Cruz Biotech) and diluted 1:1000 in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) with 0.2% Tween-20 (Sigma) and 5% nonfat milk (Carnation). After washing, the blots were probed with horseradish peroxidase (HRP)–conjugated donkey antiserum to rabbit immunoglobulin G (Amersham) diluted 1:3000 for 2 hours. Bands were visualized by use of the Renaissance chemiluminescence kit (Dupont).
9. S. C. Sun, P. A. Ganchi, D. W. Ballard, W. C. Greene, *Science* **259**, 1912 (1993); P. J. Chiao, S. Miyamoto, I. M. Verma, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* **91**, 28 (1994).
10. Electrophoretic mobility-shift assay was done as described (29). Briefly, 5 μg of nuclear extract were mixed with 0.5 μg of poly(dI-dC) and DNA binding buffer in a total volume of 10 μl and incubated on ice for 20 min. ³²P-labeled oligonucleotides (6000 cpm per sample) were then added to the binding reaction and incubated for 30 min at room temperature. Competition was performed by addition of 10 ng of unlabeled oligonucleotide (500-fold excess) during the incubation on ice followed by addition of labeled oligonucleotide. The HIV-κB oligonucleotide has been described (30). Oct-1 and AP-1 consensus oligonucleotides were purchased from Santa Cruz Biotech. All the oligonucleotides were end-labeled by use of T4 polynucleotide kinase and [γ-³²P] adenosine triphosphate (Dupont NEN). TNF-α, IL-1α, phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate (PMA), and ionomycin A23187 were obtained from Calbiochem.
11. Cytospin analysis was done as described (31). Briefly, cells were treated as described in the text, and a 100-μl sample was loaded into disposable chambers and centrifuged for 1 min onto glass slides in a cytocentrifuge (Shandon). The slides were allowed to dry and then stained with the Leukostat stain kit (Fisher Scientific). Staining was verified by visualization under a light microscope, and the slides were mounted with glass cover slips with the use of Permount mounting media (Fisher Scientific). The population of cells was categorized as either viable, apoptotic, or necrotic when analyzed by staining morphology. Counting was performed blind, meaning that each slide was given a number and the identity of each sample was not known during counting. The counting procedure made use of a light microscope at a magnification that allowed the incorporation of about 100 cells per field. Five fields were counted per slide, and each experimental condition was performed two times.
12. S. J. Martin et al., *J. Exp. Med.* **182**, 1545 (1995).
13. P. Thiagarajan and J. F. Tait, *J. Biol. Chem.* **265**, 17420 (1990).
14. Quantitation of apoptosis by annexin V binding was done as described (12). Briefly, MEF cells were plated onto 24-well plates and treated under the conditions indicated. The cells were trypsinized and resuspended in the original supernatant to ensure that both attached and nonattached cells were analyzed. The cells were washed once in PBS and resuspended in annexin V binding buffer. Fluorescein isothiocyanate (FITC)–conjugated annexin V was added, and the samples were analyzed by flow cytometry with a FACScan (Becton-Dickinson). Jurkat cells were plated onto 24-well dishes at an initial density of 10⁵ per milliliter and treated identically to MEF cells. Quantitation was done with Cell Quest software.
15. D. J. Van Antwerp, S. J. Martin, D. R. Green, I. M. Verma, unpublished results.
16. A. A. Beg, W. C. Sha, R. T. Bronson, S. Ghosh, D. Baltimore, *Nature* **376**, 167 (1995).
17. W. C. Sha, H.-C Liou, E. I. Toumanen, D. Baltimore, *Cell* **80**, 321 (1995).
18. D. J. Van Antwerp and I. M. Verma, unpublished data.
19. A. A. Beg and D. Baltimore, *Science* **274**, 782 (1996).
20. N. Itoh et al., *Cell* **66**, 233 (1991).
21. A. Ponton, M.-V. Clement, I. Stamenkovic, *J. Biol. Chem.* **271**, 8991 (1996).
22. N. Auphan, J. A. DiDonato, C. Rosette, A. Helmberg, M. Karin, *Science* **270**, 286 (1995); R. I. Scheinman, P. C. Cogswell, A. K. Lofquist, A. S. Baldwin Jr., ibid., p. 283.
23. R. Schreck, P. Rieber, P. A. Baeuerle, *EMBO J.* **10**, 2247 (1991).
24. H. Satake et al., *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.* **216**, 568 (1995).
25. A. D. Miller and G. J. Rosman, *Biotechniques* **7**, 980, 984, 989 (1989).
26. T. Palmer, G. J. Rosman, W. R. A. Osborne, A. D. Miller, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* **88**, 1330 (1991).
27. L. Naldini et al., *Science* **272**, 263 (1996).
28. S. Miyamoto, M. Maki, M. J. Schmitt, M. Hatanaka, I. M. Verma, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* **91**, 12740 (1994).
29. J. Inoue et al., ibid. **88**, 3715 (1991).
30. K. Cauley and I. M. Verma, ibid. **91**, 390 (1994).
31. A. J. McGahon et al., *Methods Cell Biol.* **46**, 153 (1995).