Activation of Rac1 by Src-dependent phosphorylation of Dock180\(^{Y1811}\) mediates PDGFR\(\alpha\)-stimulated glioma tumorigenesis in mice and humans

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*J Clin Invest.* 2011;121(12):4670-4684. [https://doi.org/10.1172/JCI58559](https://doi.org/10.1172/JCI58559).

Two hallmarks of glioblastoma multiforme, the most common malignant brain cancer in humans, are aggressive growth and the ability of single glioma cells to disperse throughout the brain. These characteristics render tumors resistant to current therapies and account for the poor prognosis of patients. Although it is known that oncogenic signaling caused by overexpression of genes such as *PDGFRA* is responsible for robust glioma growth and cell infiltration, the mechanisms underlying glioblastoma malignancy remain largely elusive.

Here, we report that PDGFR\(\alpha\) signaling in glioblastomas leads to Src-dependent phosphorylation of the guanine nucleotide exchange factor Dock180 at tyrosine 1811 (Dock180\(^{Y1811}\)) that results in activation of the GTPase Rac1 and subsequent cell growth and invasion. In human glioma cells, knockdown of Dock180 and reversion with an RNAi-resistant Dock180\(^{Y1811F}\) abrogated, whereas an RNAi-resistant Dock180\(^{WT}\) rescued, PDGFR\(\alpha\)-promoted glioma growth, survival, and invasion. Phosphorylation of Dock180\(^{Y1811}\) enhanced its association with CrkII and p130\(^{Cas}\), causing activation of Rac1 and consequent cell motility. Dock180 also associated with PDGFR\(\alpha\) to promote cell migration. Finally, phosphorylated Dock180\(^{Y1811}\) was detected in clinical samples of gliomas and various types of human cancers, and coexpression of phosphorylated Dock180\(^{Y1811}\), phosphorylated Src\(^{Y418}\), and PDGFR\(\alpha\) was predictive of extremely poor prognosis of patients with gliomas. Taken together, our findings provide insight into PDGFR\(\alpha\)-stimulated gliomagenesis and suggest that phosphorylated Dock180\(^{Y1811}\) contributes to activation of Rac1 in […]

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Activation of Rac1 by Src-dependent phosphorylation of Dock180\textsuperscript{Y1811} mediates PDGFR\textsubscript{α}-stimulated glioma tumorigenesis in mice and humans

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Two hallmarks of glioblastoma multiforme, the most common malignant brain cancer in humans, are aggressive growth and the ability of single glioma cells to disperse throughout the brain. These characteristics render tumors resistant to current therapies and account for the poor prognosis of patients. Although it is known that oncogenic signaling caused by overexpression of genes such as PDGFRA is responsible for robust glioma growth and invasion, the mechanisms underlying glioblastoma malignancy remain largely elusive. Here, we report that PDGFRA signaling in glioblastomas leads to Src-dependent phosphorylation of the guanine nucleotide exchange factor Dock180 at tyrosine 1811 (Dock180\textsuperscript{Y1811}) that results in activation of the GTPase Rac1 and subsequent cell growth and invasion. In human glioma cells, knockdown of Dock180 and reversion with an RNAi-resistant Dock180\textsuperscript{Y1811F} abrogated, whereas an RNAi-resistant Dock180\textsuperscript{WT} rescued, PDGFR\textsubscript{α}-promoted glioma growth, survival, and invasion. Phosphorylation of Dock180\textsuperscript{Y1811} enhanced its association with CrkII and p130\textsuperscript{Cas}, causing activation of Rac1 and consequent cell motility. Dock180 also associated with PDGFR\textsubscript{α} to promote cell migration. Finally, phosphorylated Dock180\textsuperscript{Y1811} was detected in clinical samples of gliomas and various types of human cancers, and coexpression of phosphorylated Dock180\textsuperscript{Y1811}, phosphorylated Src\textsuperscript{Y418} and PDGFR\textsubscript{α} was predictive of extremely poor prognosis of patients with gliomas. Taken together, our findings provide insight into PDGFR\textsubscript{α}-stimulated gliomagenesis and suggest that phosphorylated Dock180\textsuperscript{Y1811} contributes to activation of Rac1 in human cancers with PDGFRA amplification.

Introduction
Glioblastoma multiforme (GBM), the most common malignant brain cancer in humans, is characterized by high proliferation rates, extensive single-cell infiltration into the adjacent and distant brain parenchyma, and robust neoangiogenesis, which together inevitably confer resistance to current treatment modalities (1–3). Recently, coordinated genomic analyses of large cohorts of clinical GBM specimens rank PDGFR\textsubscript{α} third among the top 11 amplified genes in GBMs (4, 5). Further integrated analysis revealed that PDGFR\textsubscript{α} is preferentially amplified within a clinically relevant subtype of glioblastomas (6). Overexpression of PDGFR\textsubscript{α} and its ligand, PDGF-A, in clinical gliomas is associated with a poor prognosis and shorter survival time for patients (1–3). PDGFR\textsubscript{α} signaling promotes cell proliferation, survival, and motility through the PI3K, Src, and PLC\textsubscript{γ} pathways (7). Recently, we reported that activation of PDGFR\textsubscript{α} signaling drives gliomagenesis of Ink4a/Arf-deficient mouse astrocytes and human glioma cells in the brain (8).

Conflict of interest: The authors have declared that no conflict of interest exists.

Citation for this article: J Clin Invest. 2011;121(12):4670–4684. doi:10.1172/JCI58559.

Rac1 is a small Rho GTPase and a molecular switch essential for controlling cell movement, survival, and other cellular functions (9). Rac1 is activated by guanine nucleotide exchange factors (GEFs) that promote the exchange of GDP to GTP. There are 2 distinct families of Rho GEFs, those that contain a Dbl-homology (DH) domain and those that are devoid of it. The dedicator of cytokinesis (Dock) family of GEFs, with 11 members in humans, lacks DH domains, but instead has Dock-homology region–1 (DHR-1) and DHR-2 domains (10). Dock1 orthologs in C. elegans, Drosophila, and mammals (in which it is known as Dock180) modulate cell migration, myoblast fusion, dorsal closure, and cytoskeletal organization through activation of Rac1 (11). Dock180 facilitates GDP/GTP exchange of Rac1 through its DHR-2 domain, but requires formation of a complex with engulfment and cell motility 1 (ELMO1). This bipartite GEF complex synergistically functions upstream of Rac1 and promotes Rac1-dependent cell migration and phagocytosis (11). In cancers, Rac1 mediates tumor cell growth, survival, and invasion in response to various stimuli (9). Although neither Rac1 nor its GEFs, such as Dock180, are known to be overexpressed or mutated in human cancers (10), aberrant and constitutive activation of Rac1 might be involved in tumorigenesis and invasion.

Dock180 mediates PDGFRα-stimulated glioma cell migration in vitro. (A) IB assays of endogenous PDGFRα expression in glioma cells. (B) LN443 and LN444 glioma cells were transiently transfected with a pool of Dock180 siRNA (D1) or a control siRNA (C). Rac-GTP levels were determined by GTPase activation assays. (C) In vitro cell migration assays were performed with a Boyden chamber using cells generated from B under serum-starvation conditions. Data are normalized with cell proliferation index (not shown) and presented as percent unstimulated control cells. *P < 0.05. Data (± SD) represent 3 independent experiments with similar results.

Results
Dock180 mediates PDGFRα-stimulated glioma cell migration and survival in vitro and tumor growth, survival, and invasion in the brain. To establish the role of Dock180 in PDGFRα-stimulated glioma growth, survival, and invasion, we first examined the expression of endogenous PDGFRα in various human glioma cell lines. The LN7308, LN319, LN443, LN444, and SNB19 glioma lines endogenously expressed PDGFRα at moderate to high levels, whereas U87, U251, U373, T98G, LN18, and LN235 glioma lines had lower-level expression of PDGFRα (Figure 1A). To correlate expression levels of PDGFRα proteins with PDGFRα gene status in these glioma cells, we performed quantitative PCR analyses. Consistent with the levels of PDGFRα protein, increased copy numbers of the PDGFRα gene were found in LNZ308, LN319, LN443, LN444, and SNB19 glioma cells. Additionally, in agreement with a previous report (17), PDGFRα gene amplification was observed in primary human glioma GBMs but not in GBM6 cells, GBM14 cells, or other cell lines examined (Supplemental Table 1; supplemental material available online with this article; doi:10.1172/JCI85395DS1). Heterogeneous levels of PDGFRα expression in various glioma cell lines reflect preferential amplification of PDGFRα in the clinically relevant proneural subtype of glioblastomas, but not in other subclasses (6). Moreover, LN443 and LN444 cells also expressed a group of genes that were statistically similar to a subgroup of signature genes in the proneural subtype of clinical GBMs, such as Sox3, Gabra3, Galnt13, Mapt, and NRXN2 (Supplemental Table 1 and ref. 6).

To determine whether Dock180 mediates PDGFRα-stimulated glioma cell growth and migration, we assessed the effect of Dock180 inhibition on PDGFRα stimulation. Knockdown of endogenous Dock180 by a pool of siRNAs markedly impaired basal and PDGFRα-stimulated Rac1 activities and in vitro cell migration of LN443 and LN444 cells (Figure 1, B and C). These data suggest that Dock180 is critical for PDGFRα/PDGFRα-stimulated Rac1 activation and glioma cell migration.

To determine the function of Dock180 in PDGFRα-stimulated tumorigenesis in vivo, we stably knocked down Dock180 in LN444/PDGFRα gliomas using 2 shRNAs (shRNA1 and shRNA2). Overexpression of PDGFRα by LN444 cells that express endogenous PDGFRα (referred to herein as LN444/PDGFRα cells) promoted the expression of a subgroup of the proneural signature genes (Supplemental Table 1) and gliomagenesis in the brain (8). Knockdown of Dock180 in LN444/PDGFRα cells did not affect expression of exogenous PDGFRα, endogenous PDGFRα, Akt, and Erk1/2 proteins, but reduced the PDGFRα-stimulated phosphorylation of Akt and Erk1/2 compared with the control (Figure 2A). Knockdown of Dock180 by 2 separate shRNAs in LN444/PDGFRα cells had a minimal effect on the population doubling times of cells cultured in media containing 10% FBS, compared with that of LN444/GFP or control shRNA (shControl) cells (Figure 2B). However, knockdown of Dock180 markedly decreased PDGFRα/PDGFRα-stimulated cell survival (Figure 2C; apoptotic index at 48 hours with starvation) and migration (data not shown). These data suggest that depletion of Dock180 inhibits PDGFRα-stimulated Rac1/MAPK and Rac1/Akt signaling as well as glioma cell survival and migration in vitro.

Next, we separately implanted LN444/PDGFRα/shControl, LN444/PDGFRα/Dock180-shRNA1 (referred to herein as shDock180-1), and LN444/PDGFRα/Dock180-shRNA2 (shDock180-2) cells into the brains of mice. Compared with control LN444/GFP gliomas, overexpression of PDGFRα by LN444 gliomas significantly enhanced tumor growth, survival, and invasion (8), whereas knockdown of Dock180 markedly suppressed PDGFRα-stimulated gliomagenesis in the brains of mice (Figure...
When various brain sections from the different tumors were examined by immunohistochemical (IHC) staining, ectopically expressed PDGF-A enhanced cell proliferation compared with the control (Figure 2, H, I, and R, and Supplemental Figure 2, I and J). However, depletion of Dock180 significantly decreased LN444 tumor cell proliferation compared with shControl tumors (Figure 2, I–K and R, and Supplemental Figure 2, J–L). To a similar extent, compared with LN444/GFP, overexpression of PDGF-A resulted in a marked decrease in cell apoptosis (Figure 2, L, M, and S, and Supplemental Figure 2, N and M). Knockdown of Dock180 in LN444/PDGF-A tumors also significantly increased cell apoptosis compared with shControl tumors (Figure 2, M–O and S, and Supplemental Figure 2, N–P). Taken together, these results suggest that specific activation of Dock180 mediates PDGFα-stimulated glioma cell survival in vitro, tumor growth, and invasion in the brain. (A) Effect of knockdown of Dock180 with shRNA1 (#1), shRNA2 (#2), or shControl (C) on expression of PDGF-A, p-Y PDGFRα, p-AKT, and p-Erk1/2 in LN444 cells expressing PDGF-A or GFP. (B) Cell proliferation assays. (C) Cell viability, determined by TUNEL assays after 48-hour serum starvation. (D–O) Dock180 depletion inhibited PDGFRα-promoted LN444 glioma growth and invasion in the brain. Shown is representative H&E (D–G), Ki-67 (H–K), and TUNEL (L–O) staining of brain sections from 5 mice per group. Arrows denote invasive tumor cells (E), noninvasive tumor borders (D, F, and G), and positively stained tumor cells (H–O). Scale bars: 200 μm (D–G); 50 μm (H–K); 100 μm (L–O). (P–S) Quantification of tumor size (P), percent of tumors showing invasive fingers (Q), Ki-67 staining (R), and TUNEL staining (S). Data (± SD) represent 3 independent experiments with similar results. *P < 0.05.
PDGFRα by PDGF-A enhances glioma growth, survival, and invasion and that Dock180 is required for PDGFRα-promoted glioma genesis in the brain.

Dock180 is specifically phosphorylated at Y1811 by PDGFRα stimulation in glioma cells. Since Dock180 activates Rac1 (11) and mediates PVR-induced cell migration in vivo (14), we hypothesized that PDGFRα signaling promotes glioma cell growth, survival, and invasion through p-Y of Dock180, leading to activation of Rac1. To test this hypothesis, we first examined whether PDGF-A stimulation induces p-Y of endogenous Dock180 in glioma cells. PDGFR-A stimulation of LN443 or LN444 glioma cells induced distinct p-Y of PDGFRα, p-Y of Dock180, and activation of Rac1, whereas inhibition of PDGF-A stimulation by a PDGFR inhibitor, AG1296 (which selectively inhibits RTK activities of PDGFRα and PDGFRβ and PDGF-mediated signaling in cells; ref. 18), impaired PDGFR-A-induced p-Y of PDGFRα, p-Y of Dock180, and Rac1 activation in glioma cells (Figure 3A).

Next, we computationally examined potential p-Y sites of the Dock180 protein (using the SCANSITE tool, http://scansite.mit.edu; and the NetPhosK 1.0 server, http://www.cbs.dtu.dk/services/NetPhosK) and identified 27 hypothetical p-Y sites, including Y1811, a residue in Dock180 predicted to be a target of Src and other kinases. To determine whether PDGFRα stimulation induces p-Y of Dock180 at the Y1811 residue, Dock180 WT or the indicated Dock180 mutants and PDGFRαΔ8,9 were cotransfected into HEK293T cells. (E) Y1811 was a major PDGFRα-induced p-Y site. Experiments were similar to C, except Dock180 WT or Dock180 WTΔY1811F was used. (F) Y1811 is conserved in Dock180 from various species. (A and C–E) p-Y of Dock180 was detected with a pan-phosphotyrosine antibody (4G10). Data represent 2 independent experiments with similar results.
PDGFRαΔ8,9 mutant (19), into human HEK293T cells. Coexpression of PDGFRαΔ8,9 with Dock180WT induced p-Y of Dock180. Deletions of the DHR-1 (ΔDHR1) or DHR-2 (ΔDHR2) domain from the Dock180 peptide that interacts with PIP₃ or Rac1, respectively (11), had no effect on PDGFRαΔ8,9-induced p-Y of Dock180 (Figure 3, C and D). However, removal of a C-terminal segment, including the DHR2 domain (WT-ApaI), markedly reduced PDGFRαΔ8,9-induced p-Y, whereas an N-terminal segment lacking the DHR-1 domain
(ΔDHR1-Apal) further diminished the induced p-Y of Dock180, suggestive of a major p-Y site located at the C terminus. Examination of potential p-Y sites within the targeted domain of Dock180 identified a single p-Y candidate site at Y1811 (Figure 3B). To ascertain that Y1811 is a major p-Y site of Dock180 induced by PDGFRα, Y1811 was mutated to phenylalanine (F) in the full-length Dock180 protein. PDGFRαΔ8,9-induced p-Y was markedly reduced for Dock180Y1811F compared with the stimulated p-Y of Dock180WT (Figure 3E). Incomplete abrogation of PDGFRα-induced p-Y of Dock180 corroborates with the results in Figure 3E, which indicates that there is a minor p-Y site in the DHR-1 domain of Dock180 protein. When we examined aa sequences surrounding Y1811 in Dock180 of various species and Dock family members, we found that Y1811 and most of its surrounding aa residues were highly conserved in Dock180 among these species (Figure 3F), but not other members of the Dock family (Supplemental Figure 3). Taken together, these results suggest Y1811 of Dock180 as a major p-Y site that is specifically phosphorylated by PDGFRα in glioma cells.

**Figure 5**  

*p*-Y of Dock180Y1811 is required for PDGFRα-stimulated glioma cell migration and survival in vitro and tumor growth, survival, and invasion in the brain. We generated a rabbit polyclonal antibody that specifically recognizes the *p*-Dock180Y1811 protein. This anti-*p*-Dock180Y1811 antibody detected a strong signal of *p*-Y of endogenous Dock180 in U87, U373, SNB19, and LN444 glioma cells stimulated with PDGF-A, but weak or absent signal in these glioma cells treated with EGF or HGF, compared with the control (Figure 4A), indicative of its selectivity for PDGFRα-induced *p*-Dock180Y1811. Next, we stably reexpressed an shRNA-resistant Dock180WT* or Dock180Y1811F* in poorly tumorigenic LN444/PDGF-A/shDock180-2 cells in which endogenous Dock180 had been stably depleted (Figure 2A). The exogenous Dock180WT* or Dock180Y1811F* proteins were expressed at levels comparable to those of endogenous Dock180 in shControl-expressing cells (Figure 4B). The anti-*p*-Dock180Y1811 antibody detected *p*-Y of Dock180WT*, but not Dock180Y1811F*, proteins in these cells. Moreover, Dock180WT*, but not Dock180Y1811F*, rescued the PDGFRα-induced phosphorylation of Erk1/2. However, both Dock180WT* and Dock180Y1811F*...
rescued the PDGF-A–induced phosphorylation of Akt (Figure 4B), which suggests that p-Dock180Y1811 is important for Rac1/1MAPK signaling. Although no appreciable effect was seen on cell population doubling (Supplemental Figure 4A), reexpression of Dock180WT, but not Dock180Y1811F, in poorly tumorigenic LN444/PDGF-A/shDock180-2 cells restored PDGF-A–stimulated cell viability and migration in vitro (Supplemental Material Figure 4, B and C). Importantly, when various engineered LN444 cells were implanted into the brains of mice, restoration of Dock180WT, but not Dock180Y1811F, in poorly tumorigenic LN444/PDGF-A/shDock180-2 cells rescued PDGFRα-promoted tumor growth, survival, and invasion (Figure 4, C–E, I, and M, and Supplemental Figure 5, A–F). Additionally, reexpression of Dock180WT, but not Dock180Y1811F, in LN444/PDGF-A/shDock180-2 gliomas also rescued PDGFRα-induced cell proliferation and inhibited cell apoptosis (Figure 4, F–K, N, and O, and Supplemental Figure 5, G–L). In addition, compared with the control or Dock180Y1811F reexpression of Dock180WT by LN444/PDGF-A/shDock180-2 gliomas also significantly increased tumor angiogenesis and microglia growth, but had a minimal effect on the tumor infiltration of macrophages (Supplemental Figure 6). Taken together, these data suggest that p-Y of Dock180Y1811 is necessary for PDGFRα-stimulated glioma growth, survival, and invasion in the brain.
p-Dock180Y1811 mediates PDGFRα-stimulated recruitment of CrkII and p130Cas and Rac1 activation. Y1811 is located at the C-terminal domain of Dock180, which interacts with CrkII and mediates Dock180/CrkII/p130Cas/Rac1 signaling in promoting cell motility (Figure 3B and ref. 11). Thus, we sought to determine whether p-Dock180Y1811 is critical for PDGFRα-induced formation of a Dock180/CrkII/p130Cas complex and activation of Rac1 in glioma cells. WT PDGFRα and CrkII were coexpressed with
either Flag-tagged Dock180WT or Flag-tagged Dock180Y1811F in HEK293T cells. PDGF-A stimulation induced p-Y of WT PDGFRα and Dock180WT and association of Dock180WT with CrkII and p130Cas (Figure 5A). In contrast, co-IP experiments showed that the Dock180Y1811F mutation substantially attenuated PDGFRα-induced p-Y of Dock180 and interaction of Dock180 with CrkII and p130Cas, whereas no effect on p-Y of PDGFRα was observed. Treatment of LN443 or LN444 cells with exogenous PDGF-A or ectopic PDGF-A expression induced the association of Dock180 with CrkII and p130Cas and activated Rac1 (Figure 5B). However, restoration of Dock180Y1811F, but not Dock180WT, in LN444/PDGFA/shDock180 cells in which endogenous Dock180 had been depleted impeded PDGFRα-induction of p-Dock180Y1811, association of Dock180 with CrkII, and activation of Rac1 (Figure 5C). These results indicate that p-Dock180Y1811 mediates PDGFRα-induced association of Dock180 with CrkII and p130Cas and activation of Rac1 in glioma cells.

Src mediates PDGFRα stimulation of p-Dock180Y1811 and glioma cell migration. In addition to the potential p-Y sites of Dock180, our computational analysis also suggested Dock180Y1811 as a putative substrate site for Src. Src is a non-RTK that plays a crucial role in tumor progression and tumorigenesis promoted by aberrant activation of RTK signaling, including PDGFR (20). Thus, we hypothesized that PDGFRα promotes glioma tumorigenesis and invasion through Src stimulation of p-Dock180Y1811 and activation of Rac1. To test this hypothesis, LN444 cells were pre-treated with or without the Src inhibitor PP2, its PP3 inactive stereoisomer, or SU6656, a structurally unrelated Src inhibitor, either Flag-tagged Dock180WT or Flag-tagged Dock180Y1811F in HEK293T cells. PDGF-A stimulation induced p-Y of WT PDGFRα and Dock180WT and association of Dock180WT with CrkII and p130Cas (Figure 5A). In contrast, co-IP experiments showed that the Dock180Y1811F mutation substantially attenuated PDGFRα-induced p-Y of Dock180 and interaction of Dock180 with CrkII and p130Cas, whereas no effect on p-Y of PDGFRα was observed. Treatment of LN443 or LN444 cells with exogenous PDGF-A or ectopic PDGF-A expression induced the association of Dock180 with CrkII and p130Cas and activated Rac1 (Figure 5B). However, restoration of Dock180Y1811F, but not Dock180WT, in LN444/PDGFA/shDock180 cells in which endogenous Dock180 had been depleted impeded PDGFRα-induction of p-Dock180Y1811, association of Dock180 with CrkII, and activation of Rac1 (Figure 5C). These results indicate that p-Dock180Y1811 mediates PDGFRα-induced association of Dock180 with CrkII and p130Cas and activation of Rac1 in glioma cells.

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Figure 8
Inhibition of p-Dock180Y1811 by inhibitors of PDGFRα or Src, or by Dock180 siRNA, impairs PDGFRα-stimulated Dock180 association with p130Cas, CrkII, p-Akt, p-Erk1/2, and Rac1 activities as well as cell migration in GBM5 cells with PDGFRα overexpression. (A) PDGF-A stimulation promoted p-Y of Dock180Y1811 in GBM5 cells. (B) PDGFRα or Src inhibitors blocked PDGFRα-stimulated p-Y of Dock180Y1811 as well as Dock180 association with p130Cas, CrkII, p-Akt, p-Erk1/2, and Rac1 activities in GBM5 cells. (C) Knockdown of Dock180 by siRNA inhibited PDGFRα-stimulated p-Y of Dock180Y1811 and Dock180 association with p130Cas, CrkII, p-Akt, p-Erk1/2 and Rac1 activities in GBM5 cells. C, control siRNA; D1, Dock180 siRNA pool. (D) Treatment with PDGFRα or Src inhibitors or Dock180 siRNA inhibited PDGFRα-stimulated cell migration in GBM5 cells. (A–C) An anti–p-Dock180Y1811 antibody was used to detect p-Dock180Y1811 (p-Y1811). Data (± SD) represent 3 independent experiments with similar results. *P < 0.05.
prior to stimulation with PDGF-A. Treatment of LN444 cells with PP2 or SU6656, but not vehicle control or PP3, markedly decreased PDGF-A–induced p-Y of Dock180, p-SrcY418, and Rac1 activity (Figure 6A). Of note, the PDGF-A–induced p-Y of PDGFRα remained unchanged in the presence or absence of the Src inhibitors. When various treated LN444 cells were analyzed for in vitro migration, inhibition of Src by PP2 or SU6656, but not the control or PP3, significantly abrogated PDGF-A–induced cell migration (Figure 6B). The incomplete inhibition of PDGF-A–induced p-Y at this minor site could be due to a minor p-Y site in Dock180 (Figure 3), which suggests that other kinases, such as PI3K, may contribute to p-Y of Dock180. To test this possibility, we treated LN444 cells with the PI3K inhibitor LY294002 prior to PDGF-A stimulation. We found that inhibition of PI3K did not affect PDGF-A–induced p-Y of Dock180, whereas coexpression of KD Src markedly inhibited PDGF-A–induced p-Y of Dock180, with no effect on PDGF-A–induced p-Y of Dock180 (Figure 6D). Furthermore, Dock180pY1811F significantly prevented PDGF-A–stimulated p-Y of Dock180, but not p-Y of PDGFRα. Coexpression of KD Src with Dock180pY1811F further diminished

To determine whether Src phosphorylates Dock180pY1811, we separately cotransfected cDNAs of Flag-tagged Dock180WT or Flag-tagged Dock180Y1811F together with Src WT, a kinase-dead (KD) mutant, or a CA mutant (Y527F) into HEK293T cells. Without stimulation, CA Src, but not WT or KD Src, induced p-Y of Dock180, whereas no Dock180pY1811 was detected when WT or KD Src were coexpressed in HEK293T cells. To validate that Src mediates PDGF-A stimulation of p-Dock180, we cotransfected Flag-tagged Dock180WT and KD Src mutant into HEK293T cells. After 48 hours, cells were serum starved and stimulated with PDGF-A. Treatment with PDGF-A induced p-Y of PDGFIRα and Dock180, whereas coexpression of KD Src markedly inhibited PDGF-A–induced p-Y of Dock180, with no effect on PDGF-A–induced p-Y of PDGFRα (Figure 6D). Furthermore, Dock180pY1811F significantly prevented PDGF-A–stimulated p-Y of Dock180, but not p-Y of PDGFRα.

Figure 9 p-Dock180pY1811, p-SrcpY418, and PDGFRα are coexpressed in primary human glioma specimens. (A–F) In total, 134 clinical primary glioma specimens, including WHO grades II–IV, were analyzed by IHC staining for PDGFRα, p-SrcpY418, and p-Dock180pY1811. Specimens expressing PDGFRα and/or p-Dock180pY1811 are listed in Supplemental Table 2. Representative images of serial sections of a WHO grade IV GBM tissue using anti-PDGFRα (A and D), anti-p-SrcpY418 (B and E), and anti-p-Dock180pY1811 (C and F) antibodies are shown. (A–C) Invasive border area. (D–F) Central region. Insets show isotype-matched IgG controls of the identical area (original magnification, ×400). Arrows denote positive staining. Scale bars: 50 μm. (G) Expression of PDGFRα, p-SrcpY418, p-Dock180pY1811 (using the specific anti-p-Dock180pY1811 antibody), and p-PAK1/2 (p-PAK1T242/PAK2T245) in a separate and independent cohort of a total of 38 snap-frozen GBM specimens. Dock180 and β-actin were used as loading controls. (H and I) Kaplan-Meier analyses of patients with high PDGFRα/p-Dock180pY1811–expressing tumors versus low PDGFRα/p-Dock180pY1811–expressing tumors in IHC staining (H) and IB (I) assays of WHO grade II–IV gliomas. P values were calculated by log-rank test. Data represent 2 independent experiments with similar results.
PDGF-A–induced association of Dock180 with PDGFRα is necessary for cell migration. We sought to determine whether endogenous Dock180 also associates with PDGFRα in glioma cells by separately treating SNB19, LN444, and LN443 cells with PDGF-A. Treatment with PDGF-A induced an association of Dock180 with PDGFRα in all 3 cell lines (Figure 7A). To identify which region or domain in Dock180 mediates its association with PDGFRα, we generated several deletion mutants lacking various functional binding domains (Figure 3B and Figure 7B). When these Dock180 deletion mutants were separately cotransfected with PDGFRαΔ8,9 into HEK293T cells, all Dock180 deletion mutants — as well as a short fragment of Dock180, 1–159 mutant — were able to interact with CA PDGFRαΔ8,9 (Figure 7, C and D). This suggests that the N-terminal region of aa residues 1–159 of Dock180 protein is involved in its association with activated PDGFRα. To confirm this, we coexpressed PDGFRαΔ8,9 with a Flag-tagged Dock180 deletion mutant that lacks its N-terminal 1–159 aa residues (Dock180Δ160) in HEK293T cells and found that the induced Dock180 association with PDGFRαΔ8,9 was abrogated in cells (Figure 7E), whereas the Dock180Δ160* mutant did not affect Dock180 association with PDGFRαΔ8,9 (Supplemental Figure 8). To further examine whether this association affects PDGFR-A stimulation of p-Y of Dock180 and glioma cell migration, we used LN444/ PDGFR-A/shDock180-2 cells, in which PDGFRα was activated by PDGFR-A expression and endogenous Dock180 was stably depleted (Figure 2A). When a shRNA-resistant Dock180WT or a shRNA-resistant Dock180Δ160* mutant were separately reexpressed, Dock180WT+ restored PDGFR-A–induced association of Dock180 and ELMO1 with WT PDGFRα and activation of Rac1, whereas Dock180Δ160* markedly inhibited its association with PDGFRα and ELMO1 as well as Rac1 activation (Figure 7F). Furthermore, restoration of Dock180WT+ enhanced PDGFR-A–stimulated LN444/PDGFR-A/shDock180-2 cell migration, whereas reexpression of the Dock180Δ160* mutant was unable to render the cells responsive to PDGFR-A stimulation of cell migration (Figure 7G). Finally, reexpression of a shRNA-resistant Dock180Δ160*Y1811F* mutant (which lacks both the N-terminal 1–159 aa residues and the Y1811 phosphorylation site) attenuated PDGFR-A stimulation of Rac1 activities and had an additive effect on reducing cell migration compared with that caused by individual mutations (Figure 7H). Together, these results demonstrated that the N-terminal region of Dock180 (aa residues 1–159) formed a complex with PDGFRα and ELMO1 and modulated PDGFR-A–stimulated glioma cell migration without affecting the induced p-Y of Dock180.

Src-dependent p-Dock180Δ181+1191+ is important for PDGFR-A–induced Dock180 association with p130Cas and CrkII; activation of Akt, Erk1/2, and Rac1; and cell migration of primary GBM cells with PDGFRα amplification. To determine whether Src-dependent p-Y of Dock180Y1811+ is required for Rac1 activation and cell migration in primary GBM cells with PDGFRα overexpression, we used primary GBM5 (PDGFRα gene amplification), GBM6 (EGFR gene amplification and EGFRvIII overexpression), and GBM14 (no PDGFRα or EGFR gene amplification) cells (Supplemental Figure 1 and refs. 17, 24). PDGFR-A stimulation of primary GBM5 cells with PDGFRα overexpression increased p-Y of Dock180Y1811+ and Rac1 activities compared with GBM6 and GBM14 cells (Figure 8A). Consistent with our results in Figure 4A, GBM6 cells with EGFRvIII overexpression minimally increased p-Y of Dock180Y1811+ and increased Rac1 activities with or without PDGFR-A stimulation. PDGFRα stimulation also promoted the association among Dock180, p130Cas, CrkII, p-Akt, p-Erk1/2, and Rac1 activities in GBM5 cells, whereas AG1296, PP2, and SU6656 attenuated PDGFR-A–induced p-Y of Dock180Y1811+ and activation of Rac1 activities and glioma migration.
the association of Dock180, p130Cas, CrkII, p-Akt, p-Erk1/2, Rac1 activities, and cell migration of GBM5 cells (Figure 8, B and D). To further define this signaling, we transiently transfected GBM5 cells with a Dock180 siRNA pool or control siRNA. Knockdown of Dock180 also inhibited PDGF-A stimulation of these biochemical and cellular behaviors in GBM5 cells (Figure 8, C and D). Therefore, these results recapitulated our in vitro and in vivo observations in LN443 and LN4444 cells, which further suggests that Src-dependent p-Dock180Y1811 is critical for PDGFReceptor-stimulated Dock180 association with p130Cas, CrkII, p-Akt, p-Erk1/2, Rac1 activities, and cell migration in glioma cells.

p-Dock180Y1811 is present with PDGFRα and p-SrcY418 in human clinical glioma specimens. Based on accumulating evidence supporting an important function of p-Dock180Y1811 in PDGFReceptor-stimulated glioma tumorigenesis, we sought clinical evidence for a link among p-Dock180Y1811, PDGFReceptor, and active Src. We immunostained a total of 134 clinical glioma tumor samples using an anti-PDGFRα antibody. PDGFReceptor proteins were detected in 3 of 26 WHO grade II gliomas (11.5%), 6 of 30 WHO grade III gliomas (20%), and 24 of 78 GBM specimens (30.8%), similar to previously reported frequencies (4, 6). Subsequently, we performed IHC analyses of these PDGFReceptor-expressing GBM specimens using anti-p-SrcY418 and our specific anti-p-Dock180Y1811 antibodies. PDGFReceptor protein was detected in both invasive and central regions in the GBM tumors and in WHO grade II and III tumors (Figure 9, A–F, Supplemental Figures 9 and 10, and data not shown). Notably, both p-SrcY418 and p-Dock180Y1811 were also expressed in the majority of PDGFReceptor-positive tumor cells in invasive and central regions of clinical glioma specimens (Figure 9, B, C, E, and F, Supplemental Figure 10, B, C, E, and F, and Supplemental Table 2). In contrast, minimal expression of PDGFReceptor, p-SrcY418, and p-Dock180Y1811 was found in normal brain and WHO grade I glioma specimens (Supplemental Figure 11 and data not shown). Spearman’s rank correlation analysis of the expression of PDGFReceptor and p-Dock180Y1811 in clinical glioma specimens by IHC staining corroborated the correlation coefficient between border and border regions ($r^2 = 0.9000$; $P < 0.05$), center and center regions ($r^2 = 0.9000$; $P > 0.05$), and invasion and invasion areas ($r^2 = 0.8721$; $P < 0.05$) (Supplemental Tables 3 and 4).

To further validate these findings, we examined expression of PDGFReceptor, p-SrcY418, and p-Dock180Y1811 by IB analyses in tumor lysates from a separate and independent cohort of 38 clinical GBM specimens. PDGFReceptor was overexpressed in 4 GBMs (tumors 4, 13, 14, and 30), and PDGFReceptor protein was detected at moderate to high levels in another 11 tumors (Figure 9G). Dock180 was detected at high levels in 25 of these 38 tumors, and p-SrcY418 and phosphorylated p21-activated kinase 1/2 (p-PAK1/2; activated by binding to p21-GTPases, including Rac1) were found in all tumors at different levels. Interestingly, p-Dock180Y1811 was coexpressed with p-SrcY418 and p-PAK1/2 in 8 PDGFReceptor-expressing GBMs (Figure 9G), which suggested activation of Src/Dock180/Rac1 signaling in these PDGFReceptor-expressing GBMs. Kaplan-Meier analysis showed that patients with high levels of both PDGFReceptor and p-Dock180Y1811 had significantly shorter overall survival compared with those with low PDGFReceptor and p-Dock180Y1811 (Figure 9, H and I). Finally, we searched for p-Dock180Y1811 in proteomic studies of p-Y proteins in human cancers and found that p-Dock180Y1811 has previously been detected in clinical specimens and cell lines of various types of human cancers, including gliomas, lung, breast, bladder, ovarian, oropharyngeal, and nonmelanoma skin cancers (http://www.phosphosite.org and ref. 25). Taken together, these data suggest that Dock180 is found phosphorylated at its Y1811 site, and p-Dock180Y1811 is coexpressed with PDGFReceptor and p-SrcY418 in clinical human glioma specimens and could be a clinically useful marker in the diagnosis and assessment of outcome in GBMs with PDGFReceptor overexpression.

Discussion

Here we report a mechanism by which Rac1, a key modulator of cell motility and growth, is activated by its GEF, Dock180, in PDGFReceptor-promoted glioma tumorigenesis (Figure 10). We found that Dock180 was not only required for PDGFReceptor-promoted glioma cell growth, survival, and invasion in vitro and in vivo, but was also specifically p-Y at Y1811 in an Src-dependent manner. p-Dock180Y1811 mediated PDGFReceptor stimulation of glioma tumorigenesis through association of Dock180 with CrkII and p130Cas and activation of Rac1. Additionally, Dock180 was associated with the PDGFReceptor receptor itself upon PDGF-A stimulation, and, without affecting induced p-Dock180Y1811, disruption of Dock180 association with PDGFReceptor impeded PDGFReceptor-promoted glioma cell migration. Furthermore, p-Dock180Y1811 and p-SrcY418 were coexpressed with PDGFReceptor in clinical glioma specimens, and p-Dock180Y1811 was detected in several types of human cancers, including gliomas. Additionally, expression of p-Dock180Y1811 and PDGFReceptor correlated with a very poor clinical prognosis in patients with gliomas. Taken together, our results suggest a critical role of activation of p-Dock180Y1811/Rac1 signaling in promoting cancer tumorigenesis.

Genetic studies have established a pathway of Dock180/CrckII/Rac in C. elegans (11) and placed Dock180/Rac1 downstream of PVR (the homolog of PDGF/VEGFR) in Drosophila (14, 26). In the present study, we further established that PDGF-A stimulation of PDGFReceptor induced Src-dependent p-Y of Dock180Y1811, leading to the formation of the Dock180/CrckII/p130Cas complex and activation of Rac1 signaling and thereby promoting glioma cell growth, survival, and invasion (Figure 10). Since Rac1 is a direct downstream target of Dock180 (11) and mediates cancer cell growth, survival, and motility (10, 15, 27), inhibition of Dock180 by siRNA knockdown or reversion with Dock180Y1811P abrogated PDGFReceptor-stimulated Rac1 activity and tumorigenic behaviors of glioma cells in vitro and in vivo. Moreover, inhibition of Dock180 attenuated PDGFReceptor activation of p-Erk1/2, but with less reduction of p-Akt. We recently demonstrated that in glioblastomas deficient in Inks4a/Arf, overexpressed PDGFReceptor promotes tumorigenesis through the PI3K/Akt/mTOR-mediated pathway regulated by SHP-2 (8). Since both PDGFReceptor/PI3K signaling and PDGFReceptor/Src/Dock180/Rac1 signaling stimulate p-Akt, inhibition of Dock180 only partially reduced p-Akt, but attenuated PDGFReceptor-promoted survival and growth of glioma cells. On the other hand, inhibition of PI3K by LY294002 did not affect PDGF-A-induced p-Y of PDGFReceptor and p-Y of Dock180, but abrogated PDGF-A stimulation of Rac1 activities and cell migration, corroborating a recent study showing that PI3K is upstream of Rac1 in PDGFreceptor-induced cell migration (21). Additionally, the requirement for both PI3K/Akt/SHP-2/mTOR and Src/Dock180/Rac1 signaling in PDGFReceptor-promoted glioma tumorigenesis (ref. 8 and the present study) recapitulates the heterogeneity of glioblastomas that engenders their malignancy through multiple pathways. This hypothesis is further supported by our data showing that activated PAK1/2 (p-PAK1/2) and active Src (p-SrcY418) were found in each of the 38 clinical GBM specimens analyzed, whereas active Dock180 (p-Dock180Y1811) was only observed in 10 of them. PAK1/2 is activated by several p21-GTPases, including Rac1 and Cdc42 (9). We also made a similar observation in our IHC, studies in which p-Dock180Y1811 was absent in a number of glioma samples that
express PDGFRα and/or p-Src<sup>Y418</sup>. Since PDGFRα and p-Src<sup>Y418</sup> are activated in glioblastomas (2, 3, 28), GBMs that lack p-Dock180<sup>Y1811</sup> might use alternative signaling pathways for their tumorigenesis. Taken together, our results not only corroborated with genetic studies showing that Dock180/Rac mediates cell migration induced by PDGF (PVR in Drosophila) (14), but also integrate PDGFRα activation of Src into p-Dock180<sup>Y1811</sup>/Rac1–promoted glioma cell growth, survival, and invasion (Figure 10).

Dock180 was identified as a binding protein for c-Crk through its C-terminal PxxP region (29). The PxxP domain–mediated formation of a Dock180/CrkII/p<sub>130<sup>Cas</sup></sub> complex is required for integrin stimulation of Rac1 and cell motility (11). Importantly, Y1811 is located within this PxxP domain (Figure 3B), which is highly conserved in Dock180 from opossum to humans, but not in other members of the Dock family (Figure 3F and Supplemental Figure 2). Since Dock180 activity is regulated by a conformational change upon ELMO1 association (11), it is possible that the PDGFRα-induced p-Dock180<sup>Y1811</sup> at its C-terminal PxxP domain and formation of the Dock180/CrkII/p<sub>130<sup>Cas</sup></sub> complex caused a further conformation change, resulting in increased Dock180 binding to Rac1 and Rac1 activation. This provides a rationale for the observed biological and biochemical consequences of the specific p-Dock180<sup>Δ<sub>160</sub>*</sub> in PDGFRα-stimulated gliomagenesis. Furthermore, overexpression of PDGFRα in clinical GBMs (4), co-overexpression of p-Dock180<sup>Y1811</sup> with PDGFRα and p-Src<sup>Y418</sup> in clinical glioma specimens, and the occurrence of p-Dock180<sup>Y1811</sup> in several types of human cancers (ref. 25 and http://www.phosphosite.org) suggest that p-Dock180<sup>Y1811</sup> could be specifically responsible for the activation of Rac1 that promotes tumorigenesis of human cancers.

PDGF induces Src association with PDGFRα at a specific p-Y docking site in the receptor (30). Moreover, upon stimulation of RTKs, Src induces p-Y of several GEFs, such as Vav2 (10), which suggests that Src-dependent p-Y of GEFs could be a mechanism in RTK-promoted tumorigenesis. Our data support this hypothesis. In contrast to a previous report of p-Y of ELMO1 by Src family kinase Hck (31), we did not detect p-Y of ELMO1 upon PDGFRα activation. However, p-Dock180<sup>Y1811</sup> was markedly induced in Dock180/A–stimulated glioma cells and primary GBM5 cells with PDGFRα overexpression, and inhibition of Src impaired PDGFRα-induced p-Dock180<sup>Y1811</sup>. In silico analyses identified Y1811 and other potential p-Y sites in Dock180 as Src substrate sites. Our data validated Y1811 as a PDGFRα-induced Src p-Y site. Additionally, there was a minor p-Y site of Dock180 that was induced by PDGFRα activation (Figure 3E), but was not affected by Src inhibitors (Figure 6A), suggestive of a Src-independent p-Y of Dock180 not involved in PDGFRα-stimulated cell migration (Figure 6B). Based on these data, it would be predicted that Src family kinase inhibitors such as Dasatinib or AZD0530 (20) could be effective to inhibit PDGFRα-promoted glioma tumorigenesis in the brains of animals. However, caution is in order with this idea, since the Src family kinase inhibitors PP2 and SU6665 were previously shown to have minimal or moderate impact on PDGFRα-stimulated anchor-age-independent growth of human glioma cells in vitro (8).

Multiple Rho GEFs interact with RTKs through various functional domains, affecting their GEF activities (12). We showed that PDGFRα induced an association of Dock180 with PDGFRα through its N-terminal domain (1-159 aa residues), which was critical for PDGFRα-stimulated Rac1 activity and glioma cell migration. The interaction region of Dock180 contains a SH3 domain that binds to ELMO1. Reexpression of shRNA-resistant Dock180<sup>A160<sup>T</sup></sub>, but not Dock180<sup>1811<sup>T</sup></sub>, in LN444/PDGF-A/shDock180 cells resulted in loss of interaction among Dock180<sup>A160</sup>, PDGFRα, and ELMO1, loss of Rac1 activity, and decreased glioma cell migration without affecting induction of p-Y of Dock180. Additionally, a double Dock180<sup>A160<sup>T</sup></sub>/Y418<sup>F</sup>/mutant showed an additive effect on the inhibition of PDGFRα stimulation. Our data could explain the previous observation that overexpression of Dock180 lacking the DHR-1 domain — which is a PtdIns(3,4,5)P3-binding domain — leads to activation of Rac1 (32) and does not require ELMO1 for this activity (11). We speculate that PDGF-A induces association of Dock180 with PDGFRα through the N-terminal region (1-159 aa residues) of Dock180, which probably is adjacent to or overlaps with the SH3 domain that binds to ELMO1, thereby opening the inhibitory folding configuration of Dock180 in unstimulated cells (11). Interaction of Dock180 with PDGFRα could additionally target Dock180 to the membrane in synergy with the DHR-1 domain, inducing formation of the Dock180/CrkII/p<sub>130<sup>Cas</sup></sub>-complex and stimulating Rac1 activities and cell motility (11). These data also support the hypothesis that DHR-1 plays a role in dynamic membrane targeting of the Rho GEF activity of Dock180 in PDGFRα-activated cells (33). On the other hand, we found that association of Dock180 to PDGFRα was independent of Src-induced p-Dock180<sup>Y1811</sup>, since the Dock180<sup>Y1811</sup> mutant was still able to bind to PDGFRα upon PDGF-A stimulation. Moreover, disruption of Dock180 binding to PDGFRα, a single Dock180<sup>Y1811F</sup> mutant, or a double Dock180<sup>A160<sup>T</sup></sub>/Y418<sup>F</sup> mutant abrogated PDGFRα activation of Rac1 and cell motility. The requirement of these 2 separate mechanisms fits well with a hypothetical 2-step model of bipartite GEF activation (11). Namely, in addition to association with ELMO1, PDGF-A–induced binding of Dock180 to PDGFRα targets Dock180 to the membrane, thereby facilitating interaction of ELMO1 and Dock180 with nucleotide-free Rac1. Since Y1811 is located farther away from the N-terminal SH3 domain of Dock180 and may not involve in the interaction of Dock180 with Rac1, it is possible that the PxxP domain with unphosphorylated Dock180<sup>Y1811</sup> could hinder the loading of GTP into nucleotide-free Rac1. Src-induced p-Dock180<sup>Y1811</sup> and formation of the Dock180/ CrkII/p<sub>130<sup>Cas</sup></sub>-complex caused a further conformation change of Dock180, thereby allowing GTP loading to nucleotide-free Rac1 and resulting in activation of Rac1 signaling and various cellular functions. However, this hypothesis warrants further investigation.

In summary, our data reveal a mechanism by which PDGFRα stimulates glioma tumorigenesis through PDGFRα-induced Src-dependent p-Y of Dock180<sup>Y1811</sup> as well as Dock180 association with activated PDGFRα, thereby activating the Dock180/CrkII/ p<sub>130<sup>Cas</sup></sub>/Rac1 pathway. This is underscored by coexpression of p-Dock180<sup>Y1811</sup> and p-Src<sup>Y418</sup> with overexpressed PDGFRα in clinical glioma specimens and a notable association with very poor patient survival. It also fits well with the occurrence of p-Dock180<sup>Y1811</sup> that is detected by proteomic analysis in various types of human cancers, including gliomas. Since p-Y of Rho GEFs is a common mechanism affecting GEF activity, and Src is aberrantly activated in human cancers, including gliomas, our study suggests that the PDGFRα/ Src/p-Dock180<sup>Y1811</sup>/Rac1 signaling axis could represent a novel and attractive therapeutic target for glioblastomas and other types of human cancer that overexpress PDGFRα.

Methods

Cell lines and reagents. HEK293T, glioma U87, U251, U373, and T98G cells (all from ATCC); SNB19, LNZ308, LN18, LN235, LN319, LN443, and LN444 cells; and unaltered primary human GBM cells were cultured as previously described (15, 24, 34). Rabbit polyclonal antibodies

to p-Dock180Y1811 were produced by immunizing animals with a synthetic phosphopeptide corresponding to residues surrounding human Dock180Y1811. The antibodies were then affinity purified. YOP PTP was from Enzo Life Science; recombinant Src protein was from Active Motif; and lentivirus-encoded Src shRNAs were from The Broad Institute. Flag-Dock180 was provided by M. Matsuda (Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan); PDGFRεY418F by L. Clarke (University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada); PDGF-A and PDGFRεx by C.-H. Heldin (Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden); CrkII by R. Birge (UMDNJ–New Jersey Medical School, Newark, New Jersey, USA); Src-WT, -KD, and -CA by S. Courtneidge (Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute, La Jolla, California, USA); pMXIgG by R. Pieper (UCSF, San Francisco, California, USA); and SNB19 cells by Y. Zhou (UCI, Irvine, California, USA).

Purification of recombinant proteins. Protein purifications were performed at 4°C. (His)₆-tagged Dock180WT and Dock180Y1811F proteins were purified from serum-starved HEK293T cells transiently transfected with pcDNA3-(His)₆-Dock180WT and -Dock180Y1811F, respectively. Cells were lysed and sonicated. The lysates were centrifuged, and the supernatants were loaded onto a Ni-NTA column in 10 mM imidazole buffer. After washing 2x, Ni-bound proteins were eluted with a 500 mM imidazole buffer followed by dialysis against PBS. The purified recombinant Dock180 proteins were examined by Coomassie blue staining and IB analyses. The aliquots were stored at 80°C until use.

In vitro Src Y and Rac1/Dock180 binding assays. 500 ng purified recombinant Dock180WT or Dock180Y1811F proteins were incubated with 200 μM cold ATP in the presence or absence of 100 ng recombinant active Src kinase (Active Motif) in 30 μl reaction buffer (60 mM Hepes-NaOH, pH 7.5, 3 mM MnCl₂, 3 mM MgCl₂, 3 M NaVO₃, 1.2 mM DTT, 1.5 μg PEG 20,000) at 30°C for 30 minutes and then chilled on ice. The reaction products were mixed with an equal volume of 2x SDS sample buffer and p-Dock180Y1811F, then examined by IB analyses using the specific anti–p-Dock180Y1811F antibody.

The effect of Src-induced p-Dock180Y1811F on Rac1 binding was determined as previously described (22, 23). Briefly, Flag-tagged Dock180WT or Dock180Y1811F-cDNAs were transfected into HEK293T cells for 48 hours. Cells were then lysed, and Flag-tagged Dock180WT or Dock180Y1811F proteins were subjected to IP using an anti-Flag antibody. The precipitates were then treated with 15 μM of a recombinant YOP PTP at 30°C for 1 hour in 1x YOP reaction buffer (50 mM citrate, pH 6.0, 100 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, and 1 mM DTT) containing 1 mg/ml BSA, washed 3x with PBS, and incubated with or without a recombinant Src kinase at 30°C for 30 minutes. The treated mixtures were washed again and incubated with total lysates prepared from HEK293T cells that were transfected with a EGFP-Rac1 cDNA with 10 mM EDTA at 4°C for 90 minutes. The reaction products were mixed with an equal volume of IP buffer or 2x SDS sample buffer and examined by IP and IB analyses.

IHC and IB analyses of human and mouse glioma specimens. In total, 134 primary human glioma specimens were collected from 2001 to 2008 at Saitama Medical University and Kyorin University. Specimens were examined and diagnosed by a neuropathologist, then analyzed by IHC using an anti-PDGFRα antibody (diluted 1:20) as we previously described (15). IHC analyses were further performed on 33 specimens that were positive for PDGFRα expression and 9 samples that were negative for PDGFRα expression using specific anti–p-Dock180Y1811F and anti–p-SrcY418 antibodies (diluted 1:20 and 1:10, respectively). Mouse brain sections with various tumors were analyzed by IHC using an anti–Ki-67 antibody (diluted 1:200) or a TUNEL staining kit. Images were captured using a microscope equipped with a digital camera. 5 random images per section of mouse brains were obtained, and percentage of Ki-67- or TUNEL-positive cells was quantified and statistically analyzed as previously described (8).