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The inositol-3-phosphate synthase biosynthetic enzyme has distinct catalytic and metabolic roles

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Running Head: Distinct catalytic and metabolic roles of Ino1

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ABSTRACT

Inositol levels, maintained by the biosynthetic enzyme inositol-3-phosphate synthase (Ino1), are altered in a range of disorders including bipolar disorder and Alzheimer's disease. To date, most inositol studies have focused on the molecular and cellular effects of inositol depletion without considering Ino1 levels. Here we employ a simple eukaryote, *Dictyostelium*, to demonstrate distinct effects of loss of Ino1 and inositol depletion. We show that loss of Ino1 results in inositol auxotrophy that can only be partially rescued by exogenous inositol. Removal of inositol supplementation from the *ino1*$^{-}$ mutant results in a rapid 56% reduction in inositol levels, triggering the induction of autophagy, reduced cytokinesis and substrate adhesion. Inositol depletion also caused a dramatic generalised decrease in phosphoinositide levels that was rescued by inositol supplementation. However, loss of Ino1 triggered broad metabolic changes consistent with the induction of a catabolic state that was not rescued by inositol supplementation. These data suggest a metabolic role for Ino1 independent of inositol biosynthesis. To characterise this role, an Ino1 binding partner containing SEL1L1 domains (Q54IX5) was identified with homology to mammalian macromolecular complex adaptor proteins. Our findings therefore identify a new role for Ino1, independent of inositol biosynthesis, with broad effects on cell metabolism.

INTRODUCTION

Myo-inositol, a stereoisomer of inositol, is present in a variety of cell types and is obtained from three major sources: *de novo* synthesis from glucose-6-phosphate, sequential dephosphorylation of phosphoinositides, or membrane transport from extracellular fluid (15). Disruption of inositol homeostasis has been associated with a number of illnesses, including bipolar disorder (3,4,61,76), Alzheimer's disease (2,41,68,74), bulimia (26), metabolic syndrome (39), diabetes

(30,52), and epilepsy (7). Understanding the cellular and metabolic changes resulting from inositol depletion will provide insight into the mechanisms underlying these diseases.

Inositol-3-phosphate synthase (Ino1, EC 5.5.1.4) is crucial in the *de novo* biosynthesis of inositol, as an isomerase that converts glucose-6-phosphate to inositol-3-phosphate, which is then dephosphorylated to inositol (33)(Fig 1A). Inositol is an essential precursor of a large family of phosphoinositides (14), with one of these, phosphoinositide 4,5 bisphosphate (PIP2), used in the production of inositol phosphates. These molecules are important for a range of cellular functions, including motility (42), activation of signal transduction pathways (18), membrane trafficking and vesicular transport (15), protein secretion, and transcriptional regulation (62). Despite these broad functions, few studies have compared the physiological effects of reducing inositol levels and reducing Ino1 levels, therefore it remains unclear if these two effects have distinct roles.

Dictyostelium discoideum is a single-celled eukaryote found in forest soils, where it survives by consuming bacteria. *Dictyostelium* is used as a research model in a variety of disciplines including biomedicine. We previously employed *Dictyostelium* in a 3Rs approach (animal reduction, replacement and refinement) for biomedical research, to investigate the effects of epilepsy treatments on modulating phosphoinositide signalling and seizure control (6,7) and the effects of bipolar disorder treatments on the level of inositol phosphates (19,76). These findings were successfully translated to mammalian disease models (7,19,60). *Dictyostelium* was also used to identify targets for compounds involved in bitter tastant detection (50,73) and conserved roles of homologues of human proteins (38,50), to investigate mitochondrial disease (25), Huntington's disease (75) and centrosomal organisation and function (29,66). These studies suggest that *Dictyostelium* can inform our understanding of cellular function relevant to human disease.

Dictyostelium has previously been employed to investigate the role of Ino1 in cell function (24), where insertional mutagenesis of *ino1* produced an inositol auxotrophic phenotype with a concomitant decrease in inositol trisphosphate. Here, we independently deleted a key region of the *ino1* gene in an isogenic cell line, and find that growth of the *ino1*$^-$ mutant can only be partially rescued by exogenous inositol, suggesting a non-biosynthetic role for the protein. We further show that the previously described 'inositol-less death' is likely to lead to an upregulation of autophagy, loss of substrate adhesion and reduced cytokinesis resulting from inositol depletion. We also show that inositol depletion leads to a generalised reduction of phosphoinositide levels, without gross changes in metabolic profile. Surprisingly, we show that the greatest metabolic change is caused by loss of Ino1, and not by inositol depletion *per se*, since broad metabolic changes are not rescued by exogenous inositol, suggesting distinct effects of Ino1 loss and inositol depletion on cellular function. Finally, we identified a range of potential Ino1 binding partners, and confirmed direct Ino1 binding to a protein with mammalian homologues that serve as adaptors involved in the attachment to macromolecular complexes, providing a potential link to regulating inositol-independent cellular functions.

Materials and Methods

Materials - Axenic medium and LowFlo medium was purchased from ForMedium Co. Ltd (Hunstanton, UK). All restriction enzymes and First Strand cDNA synthesis kit were purchased from Fermentas (St Leon-Rot, Germany). Trizma hydrochloride (Tris-HCl), sodium chloride (NaCl), ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), 4′,6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI), cyclic adenosine monophosphate (cAMP), potassium phosphate monobasic (KH_2PO_4), potassium phosphate dibasic (K_2HPO_4), *myo*-inositol, and methanol were purchased from Sigma (Dorset, UK). The High Pure RNA isolation kit was purchased from Roche (Welwyn

Garden City, UK). Penicillin-streptomycin and blasticidin were purchased from Life Technologies (Gibco, UK). The DNase free kit was purchased from Ambion (Austin, TX). The anti-RFP antibody [5F8], anti-GFP [3H9] and RFP-Trap or GFP-Trap agarose beads (ChromoTek) werepurchased from ChromoTek GmbH (Planegg-Martinsried, Germany). The anti-FLAG M2 antibody (F3165) was obtained from Sigma (Dorset, UK).

Cell culture, strains and plasmids - All *Dictyostelium* axenic strains were grown at 22 °C in Axenic medium containing 100 µg/ml penicillin and 100 µg/ml streptomycin. *Dictyostelium* transformants with a disrupted *ino1* gene were cultured in axenic medium with 10 µg/ml blasticidin and 500 µM *myo*-inositol.

Knock-out constructs were created by amplifying 5′ and 3′ fragments within the *ino1* gene by PCR from genomic DNA of *Dictyostelium discoideum* axenic 2 (AX2) strain. The 5′ and 3′ PCR fragments were cloned into the pLPBLP expression vector (21), using BamHI-PstI and NcoI-KpnI restriction sites, respectively. The knock-out cassette was transformed into wild-type (AX2) cells and transformants were selected in axenic medium containing blasticidin (10 µg/ml). Independent clones of transformants resistant to blasticidin were screened for homologous integration by PCR. Loss of gene transcription was confirmed by reverse transcription PCR. For this purpose, RNA was extracted from the independent clones using the High Pure RNA isolation kit according to the manufacturer's instructions. Contaminating DNA was removed using the DNasefree kit, followed by cDNA synthesis using the First Strand cDNA synthesis kit with 1 µg of RNA per sample. The cDNA was analysed by PCR to confirm loss of gene transcription (primers: GCTGCAAATCAAAAGGATCGTGCC and AAGGTGTTTTGTGGTGAACCATTGATG).

The Ino1-RFP overexpression construct was prepared using the full-length *ino1* (gene ID: DDB_G0285505) open reading frame. The gene was amplified from genomic DNA using

EcoRI and BamHI as flanking restriction sites (primers: GAGCGAATTCATGTCAGCACAAATGTTTGAATC and TATGGATCCTAATCTTTGTTCTAATAACATG). The PCR products were cloned into an mRFPmars expression vector (389-2) under the control of the actin15 promoter (courtesy of Dr Annette Müller-Taubenberger (1,23)). Constructs were transformed into the *ino1*$^-$ cell line by electroporation and selected for neomycin resistance (10 µg/ml). Expression of Ino1-RFP was confirmed by fluorescence microscopy and western blot analysis using anti-RFP antibodies. *ino1* gene expression was confirmed using reverse transcription PCR using the same method as described for generating an *ino1* knock-out cell line.

Development assays and cell image acquisition - Filter assays were used to develop *Dictyostelium* cells as described previously (76). Briefly, cells grown in the presence or absence (24 hours) of inositol (500 µM) were harvested in log-phase growth, and 1×10^7 cells/ml were plated on a 47 mm nitrocellulose filter (Millipore, Watford, UK). Filters were incubated for 24 hours at 22°C prior to imaging.

Substrate adhesion assay - *ino1*$^-$ or Ino1-RFP-expressing *ino1*$^-$ cells grown in HL5 media in the presence of inositol (500 µM) were plated into 6-well plates, and the medium was replaced with HL5 media in the absence or presence of inositol (500 µM). After 24 hours the medium was gently removed with an aspirator to dispose of the non-adherent cells. Fresh medium was added and cells were immediately re-suspended and counted, and the processes was repeated for later time-points.

Chemotaxis, Autophagy, and Cytokinesis assays - Chemotaxis assays were carried out using a Dunn chamber (Hawksley, Sussex, UK) as previously described (49). Images were recorded every 15 seconds over a 15 min period. Autophagy was measured in *ino1*$^-$ cells transformed with the *atg8-GFP* construct (Dictybase.org) (46). Cells were grown in Axenic medium with

shaking for 72 hours (- inositol condition had inositol removed for 24 hours prior to the experiment), with 16 hour incubation in LoFlo medium to reduce the background autofluorescence. Cytokinesis defects were measured in cells cultured in shaking suspension for 72 hours, and inositol was removed where indicated 24 hours before the start of an assay, and cells were fixed with 100% methanol at −20°C for 15 minutes, prior to labelling with 4′,6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI).

Immunoprecipitation - Initial co-immunoprecipitations were performed with the *ino1*$^-$ cell line constitutively expressing the *ino1-RFP* gene; *ino1*$^-$ cells constitutively expressing the *mRFPmars* gene on its own was used as a control (for 2 of 3 repeats) or wild-type (AX2) cell lysate as a control. The presence of Ino1-RFP and RFP was confirmed by Western blot analysis with anti-RFP antibody. The gel was stained with Coomassie blue and the protein bands specific to Ino1-RFP (and absent in the RFP control) were evaluated by mass spectrometry and the data was analysed using Scaffold3 software.

The *ino1*$^-$ cell line co-transformed with *ino1-RFP* construct and *FLAG-gpmA*, *FLAG-pefB*, or *FLAG-Q54IX5* was used to perform a co-immunoprecipitation with anti-RFP coated beads to examine a direct interaction between Ino1 and these proteins. Ino1-GpmA and Ino1-Q54IX5 interactions were detected by Western blot analysis with anti-RFP and anti-FLAG antibodies. The *ino1*$^-$ cell line co-transformed with the *ino1-RFP* construct and either *GFP-gpmA* or *GFP-Q54IX5* was used to perform co-immunoprecipitation with anti-GFP coated beads to confirm a direct interaction between Ino1 and these proteins; *ino1*$^-$ cells co-expressing *mRFPmars* and either *GFP-gpmA* or *GFP-Q54IX5* was used as a control for these experiments. The Ino1-Q54IX5 interaction was confirmed by western blot analysis with anti-GFP and anti-RFP antibodies.

Cells (3 x 10^8 per experiment) were washed with phosphate buffer, treated with 2.5 mM caffeine for 20 min with shaking, and lysed (0.5% NP40, 40 mM Tris-HCl, 20 mM NaCl, 5 mM EGTA, 5 mM EDTA, 10 mM DTT, 1 mM PMSF, 2x protease and 2x phosphatase cocktail inhibitor (Roche – cat no. 11836170001 and 04906837001)) on ice and the lysate was incubated with RFP-Trap or GFP-Trap agarose beads as per manufacturer's instructions. Briefly, the lysate was incubated with the beads for 1 hour at 4°C, then collected and washed twice (10 mM Tris-HCl, 150 mM NaCl, 0.5 mM EDTA, 1 mM PMSF, 2x protease and 2x phosphatase cocktail inhibitor). The non-bound fraction was collected after this step. Immunocomplexes were dissociated from the beads by incubating at 70°C for 10 min in 4x TruPAGE LDS Sample Buffer (Sigma, PCG3009) and collected by centrifugation (the bound fraction) prior to the SDS-PAGE electrophoresis using either Sigma TruPAGE or BioRad pre-cast gel system. Protein presence was detected with anti-GFP or anti-RFP antibodies, or a monoclonal anti-FLAG M2 antibody, and recorded using the Odyssey Sa infrared imaging system.

NMR Spectrometry - Freeze-dried cell pellets were resuspended in 1 mL of Water/Methanol (1:2) and vortexed for polar metabolite extraction. Samples were then centrifuged at 2,400 g for 5 min and supernatants were kept for drying using a vacuum concentrator for 4.5 h at 45 °C. Once dried, samples were resuspended in 80 µL of phosphate buffer (in 90 % D_2O and 0.05 % sodium 3-(tri-methylsilyl) propionate-2,2,3,3-d4 (TSP) as a 1H NMR reference) and 50 µL of the solution was transferred into 1.7 mm capillary NMR tubes. Spectra were acquired at 300ºKon a Bruker Avance DRX 700 MHz NMR Spectrometer (Bruker Biopsin, Rheinstetten, Germany) operating at 700.19 MHz and equipped with a CryoProbe™ from the same manufacturer. All spectra were acquired using a 1-dimensional noesy pulse sequence [recycle delay – 90º - t1 – 90º - tm – 90º - acquire free induction decay (FID)] with water suppression applied during RD of 2 s, a mixing time (tm) of 100 ms and a 90º pulse set at 7.70 µs. For each spectrum, 512 scans were accumulated over a spectral width of 9803.9 Hz, and all FIDs were

multiplied by a broadening line function of 0.3 Hz prior to Fourier transformation. All spectra were manually phased, baseline-corrected and calibrated to the TSP standard at δ 0.000 using the software MestReNova© (version 10.0.1, Mestrelab Research S.L., Spain).

Phospholipid Analysis - Glycerophospholipid levels were analysed by mass spectroscopy as previously described (9).

RESULTS

Ino1 protein is conserved from Dictyostelium to humans - To investigate the role of the *Dictyostelium* Ino1 protein, we first compared the *Dictyostelium* (Q54N49) and human (Q9NPH2-1) protein sequences (Fig 1B,C). The proteins share 59% sequence identity throughout their length, are of similar size and show common conserved NAD-binding and catalytic domains (Fig 1B) that are present in Ino1 proteins from species across distant biological kingdoms (Fig 1C), suggesting a highly conserved catalytic role of Ino1 throughout evolution and supporting the use of *Dictyostelium* to analyze Ino1 function.

ino1⁻ is an inositol auxotroph - To analyse the effect of Ino1 loss and inositol depletion on *Dictyostelium* cell growth and development, we ablated 19% of the *ino1* coding sequence, including two regions encoding highly conserved amino acid motifs, by homologous integration of a knockout cassette (Fig 1B-F). The resultant *ino1⁻* cells were unable to grow in liquid medium without inositol supplementation above 50 μM (Fig 2A), consistent with that shown previously (24). However, unlike this previous study, inositol supplementation did not fully restore the *ino1⁻* growth rate to that of the wild-type, reaching a maximal level of growth at 300 μM with higher concentrations not increasing growth.

In *Dictyostelium,* starvation triggers cell differentiation and morphogenesis to form spore-bearing fruiting bodies. We thus investigated the effect of Ino1 loss, with and without inositol supplementation, on multicellular development. Wild-type and *ino1⁻* cells were starved on

nitrocellulose filters for 24 hours, and fruiting body morphology was recorded (Fig 2B). *ino1*$^-$ cells grown in the absence of inositol for 24 hours prior to nutrient deprivation were able to aggregate but formed aberrant fruiting bodies (Fig 2B), a phenotype not observed for *ino1*$^-$ cells in an earlier report (24); however, inositol supplementation (500 μM) prior to the assay enabled *ino1*$^-$ cells to produce mature fruiting bodies with wild-type morphology.

Both growth and development phenotypes were due to lack of the Ino1 protein. This was shown by expression of Ino1 linked to a C-terminal red fluorescent protein (RFP) tag in *ino1*$^-$ cells, which was localised in the cytosol and restored wild-type growth and development (Fig 2 D,E,F,G). Interestingly, since exogenous inositol did not fully restore the wild-type growth rate in *ino1*$^-$ cells, but Ino1-RFP did, it is likely that cells require the Ino1 protein for normal growth. *ino1*$^-$ cells were also unable to grow on a bacterial lawn (Fig 2G), as reported previously (29), even with inositol supplementation. These results confirm a vital role of inositol in *Dictyostelium* growth and development, consistent with that shown in a variety of organisms throughout the kingdoms of life (40).

Ino1 loss triggers inositol depletion - We then quantified inositol levels by NMR in the *ino1*$^-$ and wild-type cells in the presence or absence of added inositol (Fig 3A). Wild-type cells grown in un-supplemented medium contained 1.5 ± 0.1 μM inositol, and this significantly increased to 3.4 ± 0.1 μM following inositol supplementation ($p < 0.0001$), and returned to baseline following removal of inositol (Fig 3A). In contrast, *ino1*$^-$ cells grown with inositol supplementation had an intermediate level of inositol (1.8 ± 0.1 μM) that significantly decreased to 0.8 ± 0.1 μM following removal of exogenous inositol for 12 hours ($p = 0.0013$). A reduced level was maintained following 24 hour starvation (1.2 ± 0.1 μM), and returned to 2.0 ± 0.1 μM following re-introduction of inositol (Fig 3B). These data confirm that in *ino1*$^-$ cells, inositol was depleted following withdrawal of exogenous inositol, and this trend is consistent with that reported earlier (24). In addition, this data suggests that the *ino1*$^-$ mutant

supplemented with inositol has similar intracellular inositol levels to wild-type cells (without supplementation), and that differences between these cell types are likely to arise from an absence of the enzyme, enabling a range of experiments to provide new insights into the distinct cell and metabolic changes caused by inositol depletion and loss of Ino1.

Ino1 loss causes a pleiotropic phenotype - We first investigated potential changes in cell movement during chemotaxis toward cAMP (Fig 3B). In these experiments, wild-type cells showed a velocity of 9.6 ± 1.5 µm/min, with an elongated shape (aspect), and tendency for single directional movement (directness) of 0.87 ± 0.14. Loss of Ino1, with inositol supplementation, caused a significant loss of elongated shape, suggesting an Ino1-dependent change. In contrast, inositol depletion in *ino1*$^-$ cells significantly reduced cell speed, whilst the loss of shape that was also observed for Ino1 deletion was retained, and triggered increased persistence. These data suggest distinct effects specific to Ino1 loss (related to loss of cell shape) and to inositol depletion (loss of velocity).

We then examined the mechanism leading to the block in cell growth caused by loss of Ino1 in the absence of exogenous inositol, previously termed ‘“inositol-less death” (56). Since autophagy can lead to cell death in response to cell stress or nutrient depletion (34), we tested whether inositol depletion triggered an autophagic response. In *Dictyostelium*, formation of autophagosomes can be visualised by the incorporation of a fluorescently-tagged autophagy-related protein 8 (Atg8) into autophagosomal membranes (46). The *ino1*$^-$ strain, grown in the absence of inositol for 24 hours, showed a four–fold increase in autophagosome number per cell compared to the wild-type strain (Fig 3C,D). These data suggest that inositol depletion triggered an autophagic response in *ino1*$^-$ cells.

We also examined the effect of Ino1 loss and inositol depletion on substrate attachment and cytokinesis. To assess changes in cell adhesion, the number of cells attached to plates was

quantified up to 72 hours after the removal of exogenous inositol from the *ino1*$^-$ mutant. In the presence of inositol (500 μM), *ino1*$^-$ cells proliferated up to 24 hours and remained adherent (Fig 3E). Upon removal of exogenous inositol, *ino1*$^-$ cell number decreased to 88.5% of inositol-supplemented cells after 24 hours, and to 33.5% after 72 hours. *ino1*$^-$ cells expressing *ino1-RFP* did not lose adhesion in the absence of exogenous inositol. We then assessed cytokinesis by comparing the number of nuclei per cell in the *ino1*$^-$ and wild-type strains, in the presence of inositol or following inositol depletion, using a DAPI nuclear stain (Fig 3F,G) (47). In these experiments, *ino1*$^-$ cells showed a significant ($p < 0.001$) increase in nuclei number following inositol depletion compared to the wild-type strain. Under inositol depletion conditions, 24.7% of the *ino1*$^-$ cells accumulated ≥ 3 nuclei compared to 7.7% of the wild-type cells. This effect was rescued by growing *ino1*$^-$ cells in the presence of inositol (500 μM) (9.7% of cells accumulated ≥ 3 nuclei) or by overexpressing *ino1*-RFP (Fig 3F,G) (10% of cells accumulated ≥ 3 nuclei). These data suggest that inositol depletion leads to an increase in autophagy, a loss of cell-substrate adhesion and a reduction in cytokinesis, but loss of Ino1 *per se* did not trigger these responses.

Inositol depletion regulates phospholipid levels - Since inositol is a precursor to a family of inositol phospholipids (Fig 4A, B), we examined changes in phospholipid levels due to both the loss of Ino1 and as a result of inositol depletion. In *Dictyostelium*, two types of phospholipids are present, diacyl phospholipids containing two acyl linkages to the glycerol backbone, and the recently reported ether/acyl phospholipids containing a glycerol backbone linked to a fatty alcohol at position 1 (9) (Fig 4A). We quantified the levels of both phospholipid species in wild-type and *ino1*$^-$ cells grown in the presence and absence of inositol (Fig 4C-Q). Separation of distinct phospholipid species was limited to those of different molecular weights. We first examined levels of the phospholipid precursor phosphatidic acid (PA), which comprises a glycerol backbone and two fatty acid tails. Both diacyl-linked and ether-linked PA levels

decreased during early inositol depletion in *ino1*$^{-}$ cells (Fig 4C,D). Phosphatidylinositol (PI), which is formed by the addition of the inositol head group to PA, decreased following inositol depletion (in *ino1*$^{-}$), with the greatest reduction seen in diacyl-linked PI (Fig 4E,F,). A similar effect was seen for the diacyl phosphatidylinositol monophosphate (PIP) (Fig 4G,H). Surprisingly, inositol depletion induced a reduction in diacyl phosphatidylinositol bisphosphate (PIP2) but not in ether/acyl PIP2 (Fig 4I,J). For phosphatidylinositol trisphosphate (PIP3), only ether/acyl PIP3 was detectable in *ino1*$^{-}$ cells, and was reduced compared to wild-type cells, independent of exogenous inositol supply (Fig 4K). The reintroduction of inositol for 12 hours after 24 hour starvation restored the levels of the majority of ether/acyl and diacyl phospholipids. These data suggest that the pool of diacyl phospholipids is more sensitive to inositol depletion than ether/acyl species, and that cellular ether/acyl PIP2 levels are maintained during these conditions.

Since a reduction in inositol synthesis attenuates the production of phosphoinositides, and causes a transient reduction of PA, we then monitored changes in other phospholipids during inositol depletion and rescue. No change in phosphatidylserine (PS) was seen in wild-type cells under any condition tested; however, diacyl phosphatidylserine levels were significantly increased in the *ino1*$^{-}$ cells after 24-hour inositol starvation followed by inositol re-supplementation (Fig 4L,M). Phosphatidylcholine levels did not change significantly in wild-type or *ino1*$^{-}$ cells under any condition (Fig 4P,Q), while the ether/acyl phosphatidylethanolamine level was decreased in *ino1*$^{-}$ cells under 12-hour inositol starvation (Fig 4O).

Ino1 loss causes a shift to catabolic metabolism - We next investigated the metabolic consequences of both the loss of Ino1 and inositol depletion using wild-type and *ino1*$^{-}$ cells grown in the presence and absence of inositol (Fig 5). Both ablation of *ino1* and inositol treatment induced specific metabolic changes. Principal component (PC) analysis of metabolic

314 profiles suggested that the greatest metabolic change was observed between the wild-type and
315 *ino1*$^{-}$ cells independent of exogenous inositol provision (Fig 5A,B), where *ino1* ablation
316 accounted for 53% of the total variance as observed in PC1. The mutation resulted in an
317 increase in amino acids and compounds related to amino acid breakdown (alanine, aspartate,
318 isoleucine, lysine, methionine, GABA, putrescine), in energy-related metabolites (fumarate,
319 lactate), in adenosine phosphorylated derivatives (5'-AMP, 3'-AMP, ATP, cAMP) and in sn-
320 glycero-3-phosphocholine (GPC), a potent osmolyte (Fig 5B). In contrast, inositol treatment
321 accounted for only 12% of the variance between the metabolic profiles of wild-type and *ino1*$^{-}$
322 cells as observed in PC2 (Fig 5A,C). In *ino1*$^{-}$ cells, inositol treatment resulted in increased
323 amino acid levels (leucine, methionine, tyrosine). These data suggest a dominant role for the
324 presence of the Ino1 protein (rather than inositol levels) in metabolic regulation (Fig 5).

325 Ino1 absence caused a major shift in metabolic profile, and we therefore specifically examined
326 changes caused by Ino1 loss (Fig 6A,B). This analysis showed changes in many of the
327 metabolic products found in the initial PC analysis. In contrast to a loss of Ino1, inositol
328 depletion caused limited changes to metabolic profiles. Here we specifically compared *ino1*$^{-}$
329 cells grown in the presence or absence of inositol (12 and 24h treatments were combined since
330 they resulted in similar metabolic changes and inositol levels) (Fig 6C,D) to show that inositol
331 supplementation led to an increase of inositol and lipids, consistent with the phosphoinositide
332 analysis (Fig 4). Interestingly, reintroduction of inositol for 12 hours after 24 hour inositol
333 depletion changed the metabolic profile of *ino1*$^{-}$ cells (Fig 6E,F).

334 Supervised analysis was then used to specifically evaluate the impact of Ino1 loss on cell
335 metabolism (Fig 7). This approach suggested that Ino1 loss was associated with a significant
336 increase in some amino acids (alanine, aspartate, glycine, GABA, isoleucine, lysine,
337 methionine), and in metabolites associated with regulation of the cell cycle and DNA

338 metabolism (guanosine, ATP, deoxy-ADP, 5'AMP, 3'AMP, UTP, and β-alanine, a biomarker
339 of the degradation of pyrimidines (17)). Putrescine was also significantly increased, consistent
340 with a reduction in cell proliferation, as previously demonstrated in *Dictyostelium* (35). An
341 increase in lactate was also observed, which suggests an increase in the $NADH+H^+/NAD^+$ ratio
342 that stimulates the activity of the lactate dehydrogenase. An increase in $NADH+H^+/NAD^+$ ratio
343 would simultaneously inhibit the citrate synthase and slow down the Krebs cycle, resulting in an
344 accumulation of some intermediates. This is consistent with the accumulation of acetate,
345 derived from the spontaneous hydrolysis of oxaloacetate, and of fumarate and succinate, two
346 other intermediates of the Krebs cycle. Finally, sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine (GPC) was greatly
347 increased, suggesting that the lack of Ino1 was compensated by the production of a strong
348 osmolyte. The increased $NADH+H^+/NAD^+$ ratio is a signature of catabolic reactions. Together,
349 these data suggest that the loss of Ino1 shifts cells into a catabolic state, and further support the
350 autophagic phenotype of *ino1*$^-$ mutants, even when supplemented with inositol.

351 Supervised analysis was also used to evaluate the impact of inositol depletion on individual
352 metabolites (Fig 7). This approach suggested that inositol depletion resulted in changes in some
353 amino acids (increases in alanine, GABA, glycine, and valine, and a decrease in phenylalanine),
354 an increase in lactate, fumarate, and succinate, and a decrease in 3'AMP, guanosine, and
355 glycogen. No effect on the metabolic profile was shown due to the selection antibiotic
356 (blasticidin) for the *ino1*$^-$ cells (O-PLS model parameters: $R^2Y = 0.18$ and $Q^2Y = 0$). Although
357 we observed that the mutants were already in a catabolic state, the addition of inositol tended to
358 moderate this metabolic phenotype, since indicators of anabolism (glycogen and lipids) were
359 higher in cells supplemented with inositol, while those not supplemented were associated with
360 markers of catabolism (i.e. lactate and succinate). However, the absence of Ino1, rather than
361 inositol depletion, triggered broader metabolic changes.

Mutation of an Ino1 catalytic residue reduces growth, independent of exogenous inositol - To investigate a role for Ino1 that is independent of catalytic activity, we expressed a mutated Ino1 lacking a key catalytic aspartic acid (D342A) that is conserved throughout the tree of life (40). Wild-type cells expressing this construct showed strongly reduced growth, either in the presence or absence of inositol (500 μM; Fig 8A), suggesting a dominant negative effect of the protein. *ino1*$^{-}$ cells expressing this construct retained the inositol auxotrophic phenotype, confirming a lack of catalytic activity of the mutated protein, but additionally showed strongly reduced growth in the presence of inositol (500 μM).

Ino1 binds a possible macromolecular complex linker protein - To investigate a mechanism for Ino1 in regulating cell function independent of catalytic activity, Ino1 binding partners were isolated by co-immunoprecipitation. Ino1-RFP was expressed in *ino1*$^{-}$ cells, bound to anti-RFP antibody-coated agarose beads, and were purified by co-immunoprecipitation, followed by SDS-PAGE separation and mass spectrometry analysis (Fig 8B). This approach identified 104 potential binding partners from three independent experiments, that were divided into six major groups: actin-related, immunity and stress, metabolism, nucleic acid related (translation, transcription, regulation of gene expression and DNA recombination), protein catabolism, modification and transport, and others encompassing signal transduction, ATP hydrolysis and proton transport (including V-type proton ATPase catalytic subunits A and B) (Supplementary data). We extended our analysis for three potential Ino1 binding proteins: GpmA, a phosphoglycerate mutase protein that catalyses the production of 2,3-bisphospho-D-glycerate (2,3BPG), which was found to accumulate in *ino1*$^{-}$ cells starved of inositol (24); PefB, a penta-EF hand domain-containing protein, linked to neurodegenerative and lysosomal diseases (71,72); and Q54IX5, an uncharacterised protein with three Sel1-like repeats, which was present in all three independent immunoprecipitation experiments (Fig 8C,D). These proteins tagged with a FLAG epitope were co-expressed in cells with Ino1-RFP, and Ino1-RFP was

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immunoprecipitated from cell lysates with RFP antibody linked to agarose beads. The bound protein fractions were then analysed for the presence of each FLAG-tagged protein, demonstrating that GpmA-FLAG bound weakly, whereas Q54IX5-FLAG bound strongly to Ino1-RFP (Fig 8C). The Q541X5-Ino1 interaction was confirmed using the reverse approach, where Q54IX5-GFP was coexpressed with Ino1-RFP, and immunoprecipitated with a GFP antibody linked to agarose beads; co-immunoprecipitated Ino1-RFP was detected by Western blot with an RFP antibody (Fig 8D). These approaches confirmed that Q54IX5 binds strongly to Ino1.

DISCUSSION

Inositol and inositol-containing compounds are vital cellular components, and a range of studies have identified pleiotropic effects of inositol depletion on cell function, but have not considered complications due to altered levels of the biosynthetic enzyme, Ino1. To distinguish between the effects of inositol depletion and a loss of Ino1 on cell function and metabolism, we ablated the inositol biosynthetic enzyme, Ino1, in *Dictyostelium*, and compared wild-type cells and cells without Ino1 in the presence and absence of inositol. Loss of Ino1 produced an inositol auxotroph phenotype during growth and blocked development, confirming an earlier *Dictyostelium* study (24), and results from diverse organisms ranging from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (13) to mice (45), demonstrating the essential conserved role of inositol in cellular function. We show that the *myo*-inositol levels decreased in the *ino1*$^{-}$ mutant by 36-56% (depending upon starvation time), and return to pre-depletion levels following inositol replenishment. This inositol depletion response is consistent with an obligate role for inositol production catalysed by Ino1. We show that inositol depletion resulting from *ino*1 ablation blocks development, reduces cell velocity, upregulates autophagy, and inhibits cytokinesis, consistent with a range of studies in other systems (12, 24, 37, 51, 62), and confirming the validity of this model to study Ino1 function. All of these phenotypes, except growth and cell

shape, are rescued by provision of exogenous inositol, and are thus likely to be due to inositol depletion rather than loss of Ino1.

Dysregulation of inositol levels has been reported in a wide range of biomedical and clinical studies, relating to both disease conditions and as a result of medicinal treatment, although few studies have addressed specific changes in Ino1 protein levels. A range of structurally independent bipolar disorder drugs, including carbamazepine, valproate and lithium, act via an inositol depletion mechanism (76), and induce autophagy *in vitro* and *in vivo* (43,67), to promote survival by recycling cellular components (12,51). Altered inositol levels have also been demonstrated in patient studies of bipolar disorder (58), major depressive disorder (10), and schizophrenia (59). For these reasons, modulating inositol levels was proposed as a therapy in the treatment of bipolar disorder (8), depression, and panic disorders (48). In addition, Ino1 activity and protein levels are elevated in post-mortem brains of Alzheimer's patients (57), although studies showed pathologically-lowered inositol levels and mitochondrial dysfunction in mouse models of Alzheimer's disease (68) that could be linked to autophagy (36). However, no distinction has been made in these studies between altered inositol levels and altered Ino1 levels. In our present study, we have separated the effects caused by altered Ino1 levels and inositol depletion, to provide a unique approach to monitor cellular and metabolic changes relating to inositol levels.

Since phosphoinositide production is the first step of inositol incorporation into cell signalling, we examined the effect of loss of Ino1 and inositol depletion on this family of chemicals, analysing both diacyl-linked and ether/acyl-linked compounds independently (9). Inositol depletion induced a rapid reduction in both species of PI and PIP, and strongly reduced diacyl PIP2 levels, but had little effect on ether/acyl PIP2. Surprisingly, PIP3 was greatly reduced in the *ino1*$^{-}$ mutant, under all conditions, independent of exogenous inositol. Overall, the greater reduction in diacyl-phosphoinositides, comprising under 5% of the inositol phospholipids (9),

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437 may be due to the preferential metabolism of these species above that of the ether/acyl
438 derivatives as precursors of inositol phosphates. Alternatively, these compounds may provide a
439 more labile signalling component, giving rise to more rapid metabolism compared to ether-
440 derived compounds, and further research could investigate these alternatives. Nevertheless, this
441 data shows a critical effect of inositol depletion in regulating phosphoinositides.

442 These results also support an important role for diacyl PIP2 in vesicle formation and transport
443 (32) and in membrane trafficking at the neuronal synapse (11). In *Dictyostelium,* ablation of a
444 PIP2 biosynthetic enzyme PIP5 kinase (PikI) led to a 90% reduction in PIP2 levels, and
445 disorientated cell movement (22). The pivotal role of PIP2 in these processes suggests a
446 requirement for cells to maintain the levels of this essential molecule during inositol starvation.
447 Cytokinesis is also critically dependent upon an increase in PIP2 levels (37), and a 65%
448 reduction in diacyl PIP2 levels following 24-hour inositol depletion is consistent with a block in
449 cytokinesis giving rise to the multinucleate phenotype of *ino1*$^{-}$ cells. In a similar manner, PIP2
450 is involved in substrate attachment by regulating actin polymerisation and depolymerisation
451 (37) that may result in a reduced cell-substrate adhesion. Overall, the data suggest that inositol
452 depletion has a fundamental and rapid effect on phosphoinositide regulation that is likely to
453 result in wide-ranging changes in cellular function and cell health.

454 Interestingly, Ino1 may play a role in regulating PIP3 levels regardless of inositol level, since
455 the *ino1*$^{-}$ mutant grown in inositol-supplemented medium showed reduced PIP3 levels, even
456 though intracellular *myo*-inositol levels were comparable to those of wild-type cells. Previous
457 studies in *Dictyostelium* demonstrated that a complete block in PIP3 production, by deletion of
458 all five phosphoinositide 3-kinase enzymes, resulted in poor growth and developmental defects
459 (27). Combined, these findings suggest that loss of the Ino1 protein leads to a loss of PIP3
460 production, resulting in poor cell growth.

We also examined metabolic changes caused by loss of the Ino1 protein and during inositol depletion. Surprisingly, the greatest metabolic change observed here was due to an absence of Ino1 which gave rise to elevated amino acids, energy-related components, DNA regulation and osmolytes. This metabolic shift was not due to altered inositol levels *per se*, since cellular inositol levels are consistent between the mutant and wild-type cells during inositol supplementation, but rather an absence of the Ino1 protein. These changes are likely to have a major effect on cellular function, and suggest an important non-catalytic role for the protein in metabolic regulation, shifting metabolism towards an autophagic response, with increased levels of putrescine, amino acids and nucleotide derivatives (31). In contrast, inositol depletion caused general changes in lipids, and variable changes in a few amino acids. This suggests inositol depletion has little metabolic effect in the short timescale examined in this study.

Since inositol supplementation did not fully restore *ino1*$^{-}$ growth, we expressed a mutant protein Ino1-D342A in these cells and assessed growth. This mutation is likely to disrupt catalytic activity and is conserved in all known Ino1 proteins. Expression of Ino1-D342A did not rescue the inositol auxotrophy resulting from Ino1 loss, and thus does not catalyse inositol biosynthesis. In contrast, expression of the protein reduced growth in all strains, independently of exogenous inositol provision. Further studies will be necessary to determine if this response is due to the depletion of the Ino1 substrate, inactivation of a potential Ino1 multimeric complex, or by other mechanisms.

To identify new roles for Ino1 in regulation of cellular function, we isolated a number of potential Ino1 binding partners. These included proteins related to cytoskeletal organisation, mitochondrial function, DNA and protein regulation, and metabolism, including fatty acid, glycolysis and purine metabolism and vacuolar ATPase; consistent with those identified in *S. cerevisiae* (16,63,64) and in humans (20). From the list of potential binding partners, we independently confirmed Ino1-GpmA binding, where GpmA catalyses the production of 2,3-

bisphosphoglycerate (2,3BPG) from 2- or 3-phosphoglycerate. Importantly, 2,3 BPG potently inhibits the dephosphoryation of $InsP_3$ and $InsP_2$ (70), relating to the effect of lithium on the dephosphorylation of IP_1 (74) and is elevated following *ino1* loss in *Dictyostelium* (24). The binding of Ino1-GpmA thus provides a potentially crucial link between loss of Ino1 and a mechanism of inositol depletion similar to that of lithium. We also confirmed strong Ino1-Q54IX5 binding, where this protein contains a tetratricopeptide repeat (TPR) that mediates protein-protein interactions, often during the assembly of multiprotein complexes (5). Although the function of an Ino1-Q54IX5 interaction remains to be examined, the potential human orthologue of Q54IX5 is the SEL1L protein that is involved in the movement of misfolded proteins from the ER to the cytosol and in protein ubiquitination (44), and thus dysregulation of this protein in the *ino1*$^-$ mutant may have far-reaching effect on cell function.

Since we show that the absence of Ino1 and inositol depletion have different molecular and metabolic effects, we question whether these effects are interrelated. Inositol depletion has been shown to activate *ino1* expression in a wide range of models (55,69), including *Dictyostelium* (76), and mice (54); this effect is likely to elevate Ino1 levels. Many studies have relied on using inositol depleting drugs prescribed as bipolar disorder treatments, which act through multiple targets (28,53,65,77), and hence these studies are likely to be complicated by secondary effects. In contrast, our study did not utilise drug treatments, and suggest that short-term inositol depletion does not cause large metabolic changes in *Dictyostelium*, enabling a subsequent increase in *ino1* transcription acting to reverse this deficit (76). This responsive regulation would protect cells against a transient reduction in inositol levels without triggering large metabolic changes, with a dysregulation of this responsive mode resulting from a reduction of Ino1 levels, causing wide-ranging metabolic effects.

To sum up, our studies show that a loss of the crucial inositol biosynthetic enzyme Ino1 and inositol depletion cause discrete cellular, molecular and metabolic effects. Although inositol

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depletion alters cell physiology, triggering an autophagic response, loss of substrate adhesion, reduction in cell division, and a rapid reduction in a range of phospholipids, it does not trigger a large change in metabolic profile. In contrast, the Ino1 protein itself plays an important role in cell growth and shape and metabolic regulation, regardless of inositol level, including the binding to a linker protein, Q54IX5, suggesting further roles of this protein.

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Conflict of interests

None.

Author Contributions

RSBW and AF planned the experiments. AF, JC, CLR, GPO, GC, SPC, PH, LS, SL, PT, RI carried out all experimental procedures and data analysis. RSBW and AF wrote the paper.

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FIGURE 1. Inositol Signalling, and the Conservation of the Ino1 Protein in *Dictyostelium* and Humans. (A) Inositol metabolism. Ino1 converts glucose 6-phosphate to inositol-3-phosphate, which is a rate-limiting step in inositol production. (B) Sequence homology between the human (Q9NPH2-1) and *Dictyostelium* (Q54N49) Ino1 is present throughout the proteins. Identical amino acids are shown in dark blue. The NAD binding and catalytic domains are among the four regions that are highly conserved in eukaryotic Ino1 proteins: GWGGNNG (yellow), LWTANTERY (blue), SYNHLGNNDG (green) and NGSPQNTFVPGL (purple). The tetramerisation domain containing a putative catalytic site (with the conserved amino acid residues SYNHLGNNDG) is shown in red. The amino acids that were ablated in *Dictyostelium* Ino1 are shown by the horizontal black line. (C) Alignment of the conserved regions of Ino1 proteins from various species, where '*' denotes identity, ':' high conservation, '.' low conservation levels. (D) Schematic representation of the strategy used to prepare the *ino1* knock-out construct. N- and C-terminal portions of the *ino1* gene were cloned into knock-out vector flanking blasticidin resistance (*bsr*) gene and the knock-out cassette was transformed into *Dictyostelium* cells, where homologous recombination deleted a portion of the *ino1* gene and disrupts the open reading frame. (E) PCR screening strategy to identify *ino1*$^-$ mutants, showing primers locations for genomic and vector controls, the diagnostic knock-out product, and spanning the inserted *bsr* gene present in the *ino1*$^-$ knock-out. (F) PCR results showing the ablation of part of the *ino1* gene in the *ino1*$^-$ mutant, in comparison to wild-type cells. Ino1 - inositol 3-phosphate synthase; IMPase - inositol monophosphatase; IPPase - inositol polyphosphate 1-phosphatase; IP2 - inositol bisphosphate; IP3 - inositol trisphosphate; PLC - phospholipase C; PI – phosphatidylinositol; PIP - phosphatidylinositol phosphate; PIP2 - phosphatidylinositol bisphosphate; PIP3 - phosphatidylinositol trisphosphate; *bsr* – blasticidin resistance gene; G – genomic control; V – vector control; KO – knock-out; 5' – region corresponding to the transcription initiation site

804 of the *ino1* gene; 3' –region corresponding to the transcription termination site of the *ino1*
805 gene

806

807 **FIGURE 2. Ablating *ino1* in *Dictyostelium* Causes Inositol Auxotrophy**. (A)
808 *Dictyostelium* cells grown in liquid medium show rapid growth up to a stationary phase (at
809 168h). Ablation of *ino1* blocks cell growth in the absence of exogenous inositol, with only
810 partial restoration of wild-type growth by the addition of either 300 μM or 500 μM inositol.
811 (B) During starvation, wild-type *Dictyostelium* forms fruiting bodies without inositol pre-
812 treatment. Under the same conditions, *ino1*$^-$ cells are unable to form fruiting bodies. Fruiting
813 body formation in *ino1*$^-$ cells is restored when the cells are grown with inositol
814 supplementation prior to the assay. (C) Expressing *ino1-RFP* in *Dictyostelium ino1*$^-$ cells was
815 confirmed by reverse transcription PCR (RTPCR); with an *ig7* gene control, and Western blot
816 analysis to show the full length protein (with a ladder in kDa), that (D) restores growth rate
817 and (E) is present in the cytosol and (F) restores development in the absence of exogenous
818 inositol. (G) *ino1*$^-$ cells are unable to grow on agar plates seeded with bacteria, and
819 expressing *ino1-RFP* in these cells restores bacterial growth. (A,D) statistical significance
820 was determined by a two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post-test ***$p < 0.001$; error bars
821 represent S.E.M; experimental repeats = 3.

822

823 **FIGURE 3. Inositol Depletion Causes a Change in Velocity and Cell Shape, an**
824 **Activation of Autophagy, a Loss in Cell-Substrate Adhesion and a Reduction in**
825 **Cytokinesis in *Dictyostelium ino1*$^-$ Cells.** (A) The level of *myo*-inositol analysed by NMR in
826 the wild-type and *ino1*$^-$ cells grown with (+ 500 μM) or without (-) exogenous inositol for 12
827 or 24 hours, or following inositol re-introduction (+/-) shown ± S.E.M. Inositol levels were

828 reduced in the *ino1*$^-$ mutant following inositol depletion for 12 and 24 hours, and restored to
829 basal levels following reintroduction for 12 hours. (B) Average velocity, aspect and
830 persistence of aggregation-competent *ino1*$^-$ cells (grown with (+) 500 μM inositol or without
831 (-) inositol for 24 hours prior to imaging) or wild-type cells during chemotaxis towards
832 cAMP. Velocity shows the distance travelled by cells over time. Aspect refers to the
833 roundness of cells (1 = perfectly round). Directness is a ratio of the distance travelled by a
834 cell compared to the total direct distance, where 1 represents a straight line. (C)
835 Autophagosomes were visualised in wild-type and *ino1*$^-$ cells expressing Atg8-GFP and (D)
836 quantified in the presence or absence (24 hours) of inositol treatment. (E) Cell adhesion was
837 monitored in wild-type and *ino1*$^-$ cells, and in *ino1*$^-$ cells expressing *ino1*-RFP, in the
838 presence (500 μM) and absence of inositol for at least 24 hours. (F) Cytokinesis was
839 examined in wild-type and *ino1*$^-$ cells, and in *ino1*$^-$ cells expressing *ino1*-RFP, using DAPI
840 nuclear stain to label cell nuclei, and (G) the number of nuclei per cell was quantified.
841 Statistical significance was determined by (A&B,D,E) an unpaired two-tailed *t*-test, where in
842 (A&B,D) each condition was compared separately to the wild-type (-inositol) and (D) *ino1*$^-$
843 (+inositol); (E,G) 2-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post-test, *$p < 0.05$, **$p < 0.01$, ***$p <$
844 0.001; error bars represent S.E.M; (A) experimental repeats = 4; (B) $n \geq 20$ cells analysed per
845 condition in 3 experimental repeats; (D) $n \geq 117$ cells analysed per condition in 3
846 experimental repeats; (E) experimental repeats = 3; (G) $n \geq 386$ cells analysed per condition
847 in 3 experimental repeats.

848

849 **FIGURE 4. Inositol Depletion Affects Phosphoinositides Levels in *Dictyostelium*.** (A) The
850 structure of phosphoinositol showing diacyl or ether/acyl fatty acid linkages to a glycerol
851 backbone and inositol head group. (B) Metabolic pathway depicting phospholipid production
852 from phosphatidic acid (PA) as an example. (C-Q) To monitor phospholipids in wild-type

and the *ino1*$^{-}$ mutant, cells were grown in the presence of inositol (500 µM, denoted '+'), or with inositol followed by inositol withdrawal (for 12 or 24h; denoted '+/-') or with inositol added after a 24h depletion period (500 µM for 12h; denoted '+/-/+') and control denotes without inositol supplementation. The levels of ether/acyl (C34:1ea) or diacyl (C36:3aa) phospholipids are shown as a percentage relative to phospholipid levels present in the wild-type strain grown in the absence of inositol. Inositol depletion reduced the levels of diacyl PI, PIP and PIP2 phosphoinositides; the level of PIP3 was undetectable, and reduced the levels of ether/acyl PIP and PIP3. Statistical analysis was carried out comparing two groups at a time: wild-type (+ inositol) vs *ino1*$^{-}$ (+ inositol), wild-type (+ inositol) vs *ino1*$^{-}$ (+/- 12 hour inositol), wild-type (+ inositol) vs *ino1*$^{-}$ (+/- 24 hour inositol), and wild-type (+ inositol) vs *ino1*$^{-}$ (+/-24 hour/+12 hour inositol) by unpaired two-tailed *t*-test to illustrate the significance of changes due to the loss of the Ino1 protein, shown as "*", *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001; error bars represent S.E.M.; experimental repeats = 3.

FIGURE 5. Comparison of Metabolic Profiles of *Dictyostelium* Following Ino1 Loss and Inositol Depletion. To monitor metabolic profiles in the wild-type and the *ino1*$^{-}$ mutant, cells were grown in the presence of inositol (500 µM, denoted '+'), or with inositol followed by inositol withdrawal (12 or 24h; denoted '+/-') or with inositol added after a 24h depletion period (500 µM for 12h; denoted '+/-/+'), and control denotes without inositol supplementation. (A) Metabolic variations existing between cell type and *myo*-inositol exposure were assessed by principal component analysis (PCA) generated from the ^{1}H-NMR spectra of the *Dictyostelium* metabolic fingerprints. The main source of variation (53%) was driven by the mutation while inositol depletion accounted for approximately 12% of the metabolic variation in this dataset. (B) Loadings plot associated with PC1 (red peaks pointing

upwards are positively associated with PC1 while those pointing downwards are negatively associated with PC1). (C) Loadings plot associated with PC2. Experimental repeats = 5

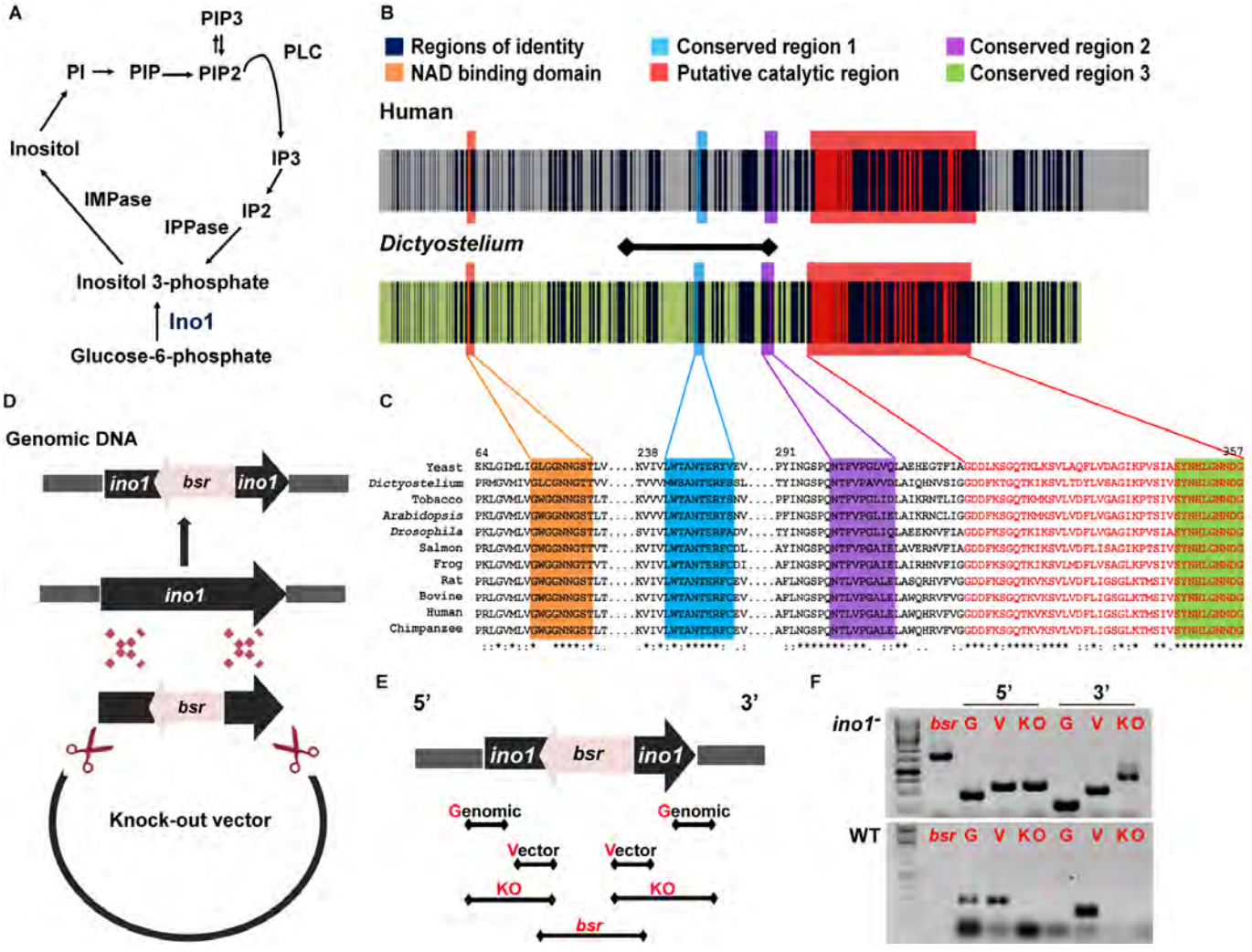
FIGURE 6. Metabolic profile analysis of the *ino1*$^-$ mutant. Cells were grown in the presence of inositol (500 µM, denoted '+'), or with inositol followed by inositol withdrawal (12 or 24h; denoted '+/-') or with inositol added after a 24h depletion period (500 µM for 12h; denoted '+/-/+'). (A,B) Metabolic changes induced by *ino1* ablation. Orthogonal projection to latent structure discriminant analysis (O-PLS DA) was used in order to determine the specific impact of the mutation on cell metabolism. (A) Plot of the scores against the cross-validated scores generated by the O-PLS DA (R^2Y = 0.89, Q2 = 0.88 and *p* value for 500 random permutations = 0.002) using the ^{1}H-NMR spectra of the *Dictyostelium* wild-type and *ino1*$^-$ cells (except +/-24/+12h inositol exposure) as a matrix of independent variables and mutation as predictor. (B) Loadings plot of the O-PLS DA model (peaks in red indicate increased metabolite levels in response to the mutation). (C,D) Effect of inositol treatment on the metabolism of the *ino1*$^-$ mutant. (C) Plot of the scores against the cross-validated scores generated by the O-PLS DA (R^2Y = 0.67, Q^2Y = 0.51 and *p* value for 500 permutations = 0.002) using the ^{1}H-NMR spectra of the *ino1*$^-$ cells (-12h and -24h inositol vs + inositol) as a matrix of independent variables and depletion of *myo*-inositol as a predictor. (D) Loadings plot of the O-PLS DA model (peaks in red indicate increased metabolite levels in response to the presence of inositol). (E,F) Reintroduction of *myo*-inositol post deprivation induces a metabolic shift. (E) Plot of the scores against the cross-validated scores generated by the O-PLS DA (R^2Y= 0.90, Q^2Y = 0.86 and *p* value for 500 permutations = 0.002) using the ^{1}H-NMR spectra of the *ino1*$^-$ cells (-12h and -24h inositol vs +/-/+ inositol) as a matrix of independent variables and *myo*-inositol reintroduction as a predictor. (F) Loadings plot of the

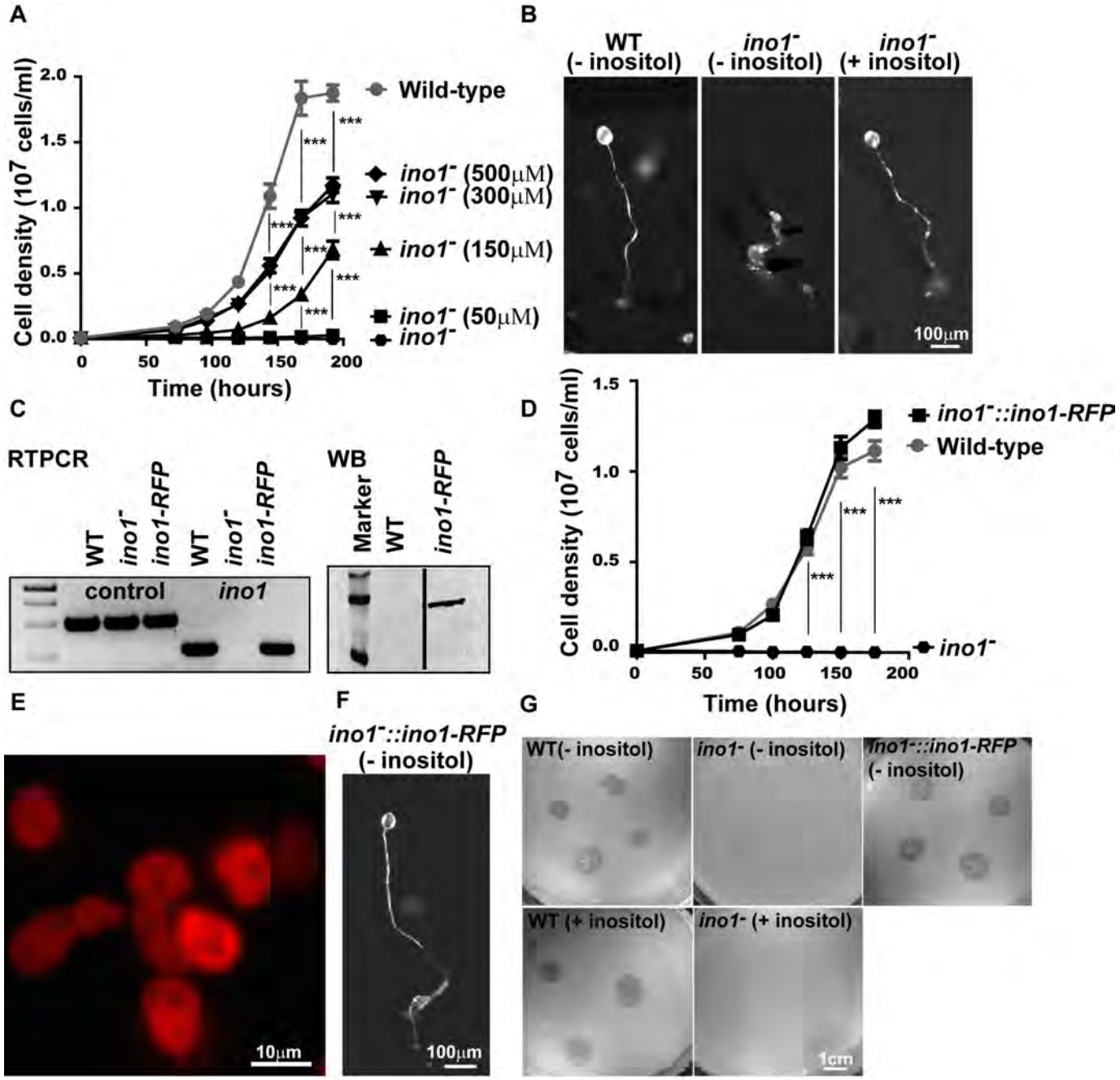
O-PLS DA model (peaks in red indicate increased metabolite levels in response to the depletion of *myo*-inositol), Experimental repeats = 4.

FIGURE 7. Levels of metabolites in wild-type and *ino1*$^-$ cells grown under varying inositol conditions. Metabolite levels, measured by NMR, were quantified using MATLAB and plotted to illustrate changes observed in wild-type and *ino1*$^-$ cells for (A) amino acids (B) cell cycle and DNA-related metabolites (C) other metabolites. Control denotes without inositol supplementation. Statistical analysis was carried out between two groups: wild-type (AX2) (+ inositol) vs. *ino1*$^-$ (+ inositol) by unpaired two-tailed *t*-test to illustrate the significance of changes due to the loss of Ino1 protein, shown as "*", *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001. A separate unpaired two-tailed *t*-test analysis was used to compare two groups: *ino1*$^-$ (+ inositol) vs. *ino1*$^-$ (- inositol 12h) and *ino1*$^-$ (+ inositol) vs *ino1*$^-$ (- inositol 24h), shown as "$^+$", $^+$p < 0.05, $^{++}$p < 0.01, $^{+++}$p < 0.001; error bars represent S.E.M.; experimental repeats = 5 per sample/per condition.

FIGURE 8. An Ino1 non-catalytic role in *Dictyostelium*. (A) Ino1-RFP protein with an aspartic acid to alanine substitution (*ino1D342A*) in a highly conserved region of a catalytic domain was overexpressed in the wild-type and *ino1*$^-$ cells. In the *ino1*$^-$ cells, the mutated protein was unable to rescue the *ino1*$^-$ inositol auxotrophy, consistent with a catalytically inactive protein. In the wild-type cells, expressing the mutant protein significantly decreased growth, while the addition of exogenous inositol partially rescued this phenotype.. Statistical analysis was carried out for each individual condition compared to wild-type (AX2) by unpaired two-tailed *t*-test, *p < 0.05, ***p < 0.001;error bars represent S.E.M; experimental repeats = 3 (B) Co-immunoprecipitation of the Ino1-RFP protein (or RFP only control)

925 expressed in *ino1*$^{-}$ cells, using anti-RFP coated beads, shown for bound (B) and non-bound
926 fractions (NB). SDS-PAGE gels were visualised following Coomassie staining (left) and
927 analysed by Western blot with an anti-RFP antibody (right). Bands specific to Ino1-RFP (and
928 absent from the RFP control) were analysed by mass spectrometry to identify potential Ino1
929 binding partners. (C) FLAG-tagged potential interacting proteins GpmA, PefB, and Q541X5,
930 were investigated by immunoprecipitation using Ino1-RFP and anti-RFP-coated beads,
931 followed by Western blot analysis with anti-RFP and anti-FLAG antibodies. (D) An Ino1-
932 Q54IX5 interaction was confirmed by immunoprecipitation of the GFP-Q54IX5 protein with
933 anti-GFP-coated beads in the presence of Ino1-RFP (or RFP only) and Western blot analysis
934 with anti-RFP and anti-GFP antibodies.





A

Cell Line	Treatment (500 µM inositol)	Concentration (µM) *myo*-inositol
WT (Ax2)	(-)	1.47 ± 0.12
	(+)	3.40 ± 0.16***
	(- 24 h)	1.60 ± 0.23
	(+/-12 h /+ 24h)	2.17 ± 0.22
ino1⁻	(+)	1.82 ± 0.22
	(- 12 h)	0.80 ± 0.13++
	(- 24 h)	1.15 ± 0.10
	(+/-12 h /+ 24h)	1.96 ± 0.41

B

Cell Line	Velocity (µm/min)	Aspect	Directness
WT (Ax2)	9.63 ± 1.49	2.96 ± 0.61	0.87 ± 0.14
ino1⁻ (- inositol)	4.97 ± 1.18***	1.76 ± 0.46***	1.68 ± 0.46*
ino1⁻ (+ inositol)	7.42 ± 3.32	1.63 ± 0.55***	1.12 ± 0.54