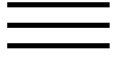


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Review

# Intercellular junctions and cellular polarity: the PAR-aPKC complex, a conserved core cassette playing fundamental roles in cell polarity

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## Abstract

Two PDZ-domain-containing adapter-like proteins, PAR-3 and PAR-6, and a protein kinase, atypical protein kinase C (PKC), cooperate together to establish cell polarity in a variety of biological contexts. These include asymmetric cell division in early *Caenorhabditis elegans* embryo and *Drosophila* neuroblasts, as well as the establishment and maintenance of apical-basal polarity in *Drosophila* and mammalian epithelial cells. Recent studies on the role of this PAR-aPKC complex in epithelial cell polarization provide new insights into the molecular basis of epithelial junctional



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## Keywords

PAR; PKC; atypical PKC; tight junctions; adherens junctions; epithelial cells; cell polarity; Cdc42; PDZ

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