

The Role of ERGIC in the Dual Function of Autophagy

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Autophagy has been known as a catabolic process for bulk turnover of cytoplasmic components through lysosome degradation. In addition to degradation, autophagy was recently indicated to regulate protein secretion through a process called unconventional secretion. To achieve the dual function, double membrane autophagosomes need to be generated. However, the molecular mechanism has been a long-standing question in the field. In this talk, I will introduce our work on revealing a connection between the ER-Golgi intermediate compartment (ERGIC) and autophagosome biogenesis. In addition, I will talk about our recent progress in digging the mechanism of autophagy-mediated unconventional secretion, which surprisingly implicates the likelihood of a convergent role of the ERGIC in regulating both degradative and secretory autophagy.