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4 Human cytomegalovirus tropism modulator UL148 interacts with SEL1L, a cellular factor
5 that governs ER-associated degradation of the viral envelope glycoprotein, gO.

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15 Running Head: ER-associated degradation of HCMV glycoprotein O

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20 **ABSTRACT.**

21 UL148 is a viral endoplasmic reticulum (ER)-resident glycoprotein that contributes to
22 human cytomegalovirus (HCMV) cell tropism. The influence of UL148 on tropism
23 correlates with its potential to promote the expression of glycoprotein O (gO), a viral
24 envelope glycoprotein that participates in a heterotrimeric complex with glycoproteins H
25 and L that is required for infectivity. In an effort to gain insight into mechanism, we used
26 mass spectrometry to identify proteins that co-immunoprecipitate from infected cells
27 with UL148. This approach led us to identify an interaction between UL148 and SEL1L,
28 a factor that plays key roles in ER-associated degradation (ERAD). In pulse-chase
29 experiments, gO was less stable in cells infected with a *UL148*-null mutant HCMV than
30 during wild-type infection, suggesting a potential functional relevance for the interaction
31 with SEL1L. To investigate whether UL148 regulates gO abundance by influencing
32 ERAD, siRNA silencing of either SEL1L or its partner, Hrd1, was carried out in the
33 context of infection. Knockdown of these ERAD factors strongly enhanced levels of gO,
34 but not other viral glycoproteins, and the effect was amplified in the presence of UL148.
35 Furthermore, pharmacological inhibition of ERAD showed similar results. Silencing of
36 SEL1L during infection also stabilized an interaction of gO with the ER lectin OS-9,
37 which likewise suggests that gO is an ERAD substrate. Taken together, our results
38 identify an intriguing interaction of UL148 with the ERAD machinery, and demonstrate
39 that gO behaves as a constitutive ERAD substrate during infection. These findings have
40 implications for understanding the regulation of HCMV cell tropism.

41 **IMPORTANCE.**

42 Viral glycoproteins in large part determine the cell types that an enveloped virus can
43 infect, and hence play crucial roles in transmission and pathogenesis. The glycoprotein
44 H/L heterodimer (gHgL) is part of the conserved membrane fusion machinery that all
45 herpesviruses use to enter cells. In human cytomegalovirus, gHgL participates in
46 alternative complexes in virions, one of which is a trimer of gHgL with glycoprotein O
47 (gO). Here, we show that gO is constitutively degraded during infection by the
48 endoplasmic reticulum-associated degradation (ERAD) pathway, and that UL148, a viral
49 factor that regulates HCMV cell tropism, interacts with the ERAD machinery and slows
50 gO decay. Since gO is required for cell-free virus to enter new host cells, but
51 dispensable for cell-associated spread that resists antibody neutralization, our findings
52 imply that the post-translational instability of a viral glycoprotein provides a basis for
53 viral mechanisms to modulate tropism and spread.

54

55 **INTRODUCTION.**

56 Human cytomegalovirus (HCMV) is a β -herpesvirus that establishes life-long infection in
57 the human host and causes significant morbidity and mortality in immunocompromised
58 patients. The virus exhibits a remarkably broad cell tropism, infecting a wide array of cell
59 types that include epithelial cells, endothelial cells, fibroblasts, smooth muscle cells,
60 hepatocytes, leukocytes, and hematopoietic cells [reviewed in (1, 2)]. Primary infection
61 is thought to commence with viral replication in mucosal epithelia. The virus then
62 transfers to circulating leukocytes to establish latent infection in hematopoietic
63 progenitor cells (3-5). For horizontal transmission, HCMV productively infects the
64 epithelium of several secretory tissues, allowing for the release of virus into bodily fluids
65 including saliva, breastmilk, and urine (2, 6).

66 HCMV expresses two alternative envelope glycoprotein H / glycoprotein L (gHgL)
67 complexes that impact its cell tropism: gHgLgO (“trimer”) and gHgL/UL128-UL130-
68 UL131 (“pentamer”) [reviewed in (7)]. Although the pentamer is dispensable for infection
69 of fibroblasts, it is required to infect epithelial cells, endothelial cells, and leukocytes (8-
70 10). Recently, Murrell *et al.* showed that the pentamer promotes cell-to-cell spread that
71 is resistant to antibody neutralization (11). On the other hand, the trimer appears to be
72 essential for the infectivity of cell-free HCMV virions, since *gO*-null mutant viruses are
73 defective for entry into all cell types (12, 13). While the platelet-derived growth factor
74 receptor alpha has been identified as a cellular receptor for the trimer that is required for
75 infection of fibroblasts (14-16), pentamer receptor(s) remain to be demonstrated.
76 Evidence from the murine cytomegalovirus (MCMV) *in vivo* infection model suggests

77 that the MCMV ortholog of the HCMV trimer (gHgL with m74) promotes initial infection
78 of tissues via a cell-free route but is dispensable for subsequent intratissue spread (17).
79 While these and other studies have significantly advanced the understanding of HCMV
80 envelope glycoprotein complexes involved in cell-type specific entry, the mechanisms
81 driving production of virions with distinct glycoprotein profiles remain unclear, despite
82 previous reports that imply that such mechanisms exist (18, 19).

83 In 2015, we reported the identification of a viral regulator of HCMV envelope
84 gH/gL complexes encoded by the *UL148* gene (20). Disruption of *UL148* in strain
85 TB40/E led to markedly enhanced tropism for epithelial cells accompanied by reduced
86 levels of trimer on virions, and an overall reduction in virion levels of gHgL. These
87 findings, together with results from two studies by Zhou et al. (21, 22), imply that HCMV
88 cell tropism might be influenced by the ratio of pentamer-to-trimer in the viral envelope,
89 and/or by the overall amount of gH complexes in virions. Although our previous work
90 suggested that *UL148* increases the amount of trimer that matures beyond the
91 endoplasmic reticulum (ER) to the post-Golgi compartments where virions acquire their
92 infectious envelopes, the molecular details have remained unknown. *UL148* localizes
93 exclusively to the ER, and *UL74* (gO) transcript levels were unaffected by disruption of
94 *UL148* (20). Hence, it seems likely that *UL148* acts within the ER to either stabilize gO
95 or promote assembly of the trimer. To gain more detailed information concerning
96 potential mechanisms, we embarked to identify proteins that interact with *UL148* during
97 infection. Here, we show that *UL148* interacts with SEL1L, a core element of the
98 cellular ER-associated degradation (ERAD) pathway. Furthermore, results of

99 experiments carried out to address the functional relevance of the interaction reveal that
100 gO behaves as a constitutive ERAD substrate during HCMV infection.

101

102 **RESULTS**

103 **HCMV tropism factor UL148 physically associates with the ERAD adapter SEL1L**

104 **during infection.** To investigate the mechanism by which UL148 promotes gO
105 expression, we sought to identify its interaction partners. To this end, we infected
106 primary human foreskin fibroblasts (HFF) with a recombinant HCMV strain TB40/E that
107 expresses an HA-epitope tagged UL148 (TB_148^{HA}). A parallel infection was
108 conducted using a control virus, TB_16^{HA}, which expresses HA-tagged UL16. Like
109 UL148, UL16 is an ER resident glycoprotein with type I transmembrane topology (23).
110 Infected cells were harvested for anti-HA immunoprecipitation (IP) at 72 h post infection
111 (hpi). After resolving eluates by SDS-PAGE, we excised silver-stained bands for protein
112 identification by mass spectrometry (MS) analysis (Fig. 1A). The full list of cellular
113 proteins identified from IPs of TB_148^{HA} infections in two independent experiments, but
114 not from IPs of TB_16^{HA}, is shown in Table S1. We were intrigued to observe peptides
115 that mapped to factors in the ERAD pathway, including SEL1L, XTP3-B, and OS-9.

116 Although co-IP experiments failed to validate several of the putative hits (not
117 shown), we found evidence that suggested a physical association between UL148 and
118 SEL1L (Fig. 1). Results of co-IP experiments from HCMV infected fibroblasts (Fig. 1B),
119 and from plasmid transfected 293T cells (Fig. 1C) supported the possibility that UL148
120 associates with endogenous SEL1L. HCMV US11, a viral immune-evasin that was

121 included as a positive control known to interact with SEL1L (24), was readily detected in
122 anti-SEL1L IPs, as was UL148. However, detection of SEL1L was less pronounced
123 following IP of HA-tagged US11 than following IP of HA-tagged UL148, which may
124 indicate a more robust interaction with UL148. UL16 and SEL1L were found to co-IP
125 each other poorly or undetectably, consistent with the negative result from infected cells
126 (Fig. 1B-1C). From these results, we concluded that UL148 may physically associate
127 with SEL1L, or with a protein complex that contains it.

128

129 **Pulse-chase analysis of gO during WT- and *UL148*-null HCMV infection.**

130 SEL1L plays key roles in the degradation of misfolded ER proteins [reviewed in
131 (25, 26)]. In the canonical ERAD pathway, SEL1L acts as an adapter between the ER
132 lectins OS-9 and XTP3-B and the Hrd1 complex (27), of which SEL1L is a stable
133 component (28, 29). The ER lectins are posited to deliver terminally misfolded
134 glycoproteins to the SEL1L-Hrd1 complex, which mediates ubiquitination and
135 translocation of ERAD substrates to the cytosol for proteasomal degradation (27). Given
136 that UL148 is required for high level expression of gO during infection (20) and appears
137 to physically associate with SEL1L (Fig. 1), we sought to determine (i) whether the
138 ERAD pathway targets gO for degradation and (ii) whether UL148 limits degradation of
139 gO.

140 We therefore carried out pulse-chase experiments to compare gO stability
141 between WT and *UL148*-null HCMV infected cells, using recombinant viruses that
142 express an S-peptide tag at the C-terminus of gO in a manner that avoids disruption of

143 the overlapping *UL73* gene encoding gN (Fig. S1A). Importantly, the *UL148*-null mutant
144 virus used herein, which carries nonsense codons in *UL148*, phenocopied the
145 enhanced epithelial cell tropism of the previously characterized *UL148* deletion mutant
146 (20) (Fig. S2). Further, incorporation of the S-tag, which allows for S-affinity purification
147 (S-AP) of gO during pulse-chase experiments, had no effect on viral replication kinetics
148 even during low MOI infection (Fig. S1B). To visualize the global stability of gO, and to
149 discriminate between immature and mature gO glycoforms, we subjected S-AP eluates
150 to PNGase F and endoglycosidase H (endoH) digestion, respectively. After resolving S-
151 AP eluates by SDS-PAGE following pulse-chase and subjecting dried gels to
152 autoradiography, we quantified the ~55 kD bands that corresponded to
153 endoglycosidase-digested gO (Fig. 2).

154 Notably, we found that gO decayed approximately 2-fold more rapidly during
155 infection with the *UL148*-null virus, TB_148_{STOP}_gO-S (Fig. 2, “norm” signal in both
156 endoH and PNGase F treatments). We also observed that infections with the wild-type
157 (WT) comparator virus, TB_gO-S, exhibited higher absolute levels of labeled gO than
158 TB_148_{STOP}_gO-S (Fig. 2, “abs” signal), even at the earliest chase time point (0 h).
159 Weaker baseline signals for ERAD substrates have also been observed by others
160 during conditions of more rapid decay, e.g. (30). We thus interpreted these results to
161 indicate that gO undergoes accelerated ERAD in the absence of UL148.

162

163 **Knockdown of SEL1L leads to an increase in steady-state gO levels.**

164 We next sought to investigate whether gO is subjected to SEL1L-dependent
165 ERAD during HCMV infection. To deplete cells of SEL1L, we transfected cells with
166 siRNA pools targeting *SEL1L*, and then infected with either wild-type (TB_WT) or
167 *UL148*-null mutant (TB_148_{STOP}) HCMV strain TB40/E viruses. Depletion of SEL1L led
168 to a robust increase in steady-state gO levels, while levels of other viral proteins such
169 as pp150 and UL44 were found to be decreased or unaffected (Fig. 3). SEL1L
170 knockdown likewise failed to stabilize any of the other three viral glycoproteins whose
171 expression we monitored, gB, gH, and gL, and instead appeared to decrease their
172 expression (Fig. 3). The observed decrease in levels of other viral gene products may
173 due to the unfolded protein response (UPR), which can be activated during SEL1L
174 depletion (31). Intriguingly, stabilization of gO in response to SEL1L siRNA treatment
175 was more pronounced during WT virus infection than in the *UL148*-null setting.

176 Endoglycosidase H (EndoH) treatment, which removes N-linked glycans to cause
177 ER glycoforms of gO to migrate as single species of $M_r \sim 50$ kD, confirmed that the
178 major immunoreactive bands we detected during SEL1L depletion were indeed gO, and
179 also indicated that SEL1L knockdown stabilized endoH-sensitive ER forms of gO, as
180 would be consistent with the interpretation that gO is an ERAD substrate (Fig. S3A).
181 Similar results were also seen when S-tag antibodies were used to detect SEL1L
182 knockdown stabilization of gO in TB_gO-S infected cells (Fig. S3B). Arguing against
183 the possibility that the effects of SEL1L depletion on gO levels might be a strain-specific
184 phenomena, we found similar results for the HCMV laboratory strain AD169 [which lost
185 *UL148* and several other viral genes during tissue culture adaptation (32)], and as was

186 the case in WT vs. *UL148*-null TB40/E, we likewise observed amplified gO stabilization
187 for an AD169 derivative restored for *UL148* (Fig. S4). Finally, siRNA knockdown of the
188 SEL1L partner protein, the E3 ubiquitin ligase Hrd1, led to increased gO levels, as
189 would be expected based on the effects of SEL1L knockdown (Fig. S5). We interpreted
190 these results to strongly suggest that gO is a constitutive ERAD substrate during HCMV
191 infection.

192

193 **Kifunensine treatment increases steady-state gO levels.** We next tested whether
194 pharmacological inhibition of ERAD would similarly stabilize gO. Kifunensine (KIF) is a
195 potent inhibitor of ER mannosidase I (33), which demannosylates the N-linked glycans
196 on misfolded glycoproteins to target them for recognition by ER lectins such as OS-9
197 and XTPB-3, which in turn deliver the misfolded glycoproteins to the SEL1L-Hrd1
198 complex for ERAD [(27), reviewed in (26)]. After treating HCMV-infected fibroblasts
199 with KIF at 72 hpi and harvesting lysates at 96 hpi, we observed a robust, dose-
200 dependent increase in the abundance of an intermediate-size gO glycoform that
201 migrated at ~90 kD SDS-PAGE (Fig. 4, Fig. S6). Furthermore, as in the SEL1L and
202 Hrd1 knockdown experiments, the presence of *UL148* appeared to further enhance gO
203 levels in both control and KIF-treated cells. In contrast to SEL1L depletion, however, we
204 observed no significant decrease in levels of gH or gB after KIF treatment, suggesting
205 that KIF may be less toxic to infected cells than siRNA depletion of SEL1L or Hrd1.
206 These results further suggested to us that gO is a constitutive ERAD substrate during
207 infection.

208

209 **Pulse-chase analysis of gO during SEL1L and Hrd1 depletion.**

210 To evaluate how blockade of ERAD would affect gO decay in the presence versus the
211 absence of UL148, we carried out pulse-chase experiments in fibroblasts that were
212 siRNA depleted for SEL1L or Hrd1 and subsequently infected with WT or *UL148*-null
213 viruses expressing S-tagged gO. To fully resolve gO from gH, we subjected S-AP
214 eluates to PNGase F digestion. As expected, gO decayed more slowly during
215 knockdown of either SEL1L or Hrd1 compared to non-targeting control (NTC)
216 conditions, regardless of whether UL148 was present (Fig. 5A-B). Absolute levels of gO,
217 however, were most markedly amplified—by up to 7-fold at the 4 h chase time point,
218 when knockdown of either Hrd1, or to a lesser extent, SEL1L, occurred in presence of
219 UL148 (Fig. 5B). The remarkable degree of gO stabilization during Hrd1 siRNA
220 treatment made the roughly 2- to 3-fold effect of UL148 on gO stability, as seen in NTC
221 treatments at 4 h post chase, appear modest by comparison (Fig. 5A-B). The
222 observation that UL148 appeared to amplify stabilization of gO during ERAD blockade
223 may suggest that UL148 acts upstream of Hrd1/SEL1L. Alternatively, this effect may
224 simply reflect that substantial amounts of gO are still getting degraded by residual levels
225 of SEL1L/Hrd1, despite efficient siRNA knockdown (Figs. 3, S4, S5), and that these
226 residual levels of ERAD are readily squelched by UL148, which would be present at
227 higher ratio to Hrd1 during the siRNA treatment. The latter possibility would be
228 consistent with a functional relevance for the SEL1L interaction. Overall, these data
229 corroborate the hypothesis that gO is targeted by ERAD during infection, and depending

230 on the interpretation, might be taken to suggest that UL148 functions to inhibit ERAD of
231 gO.

232

233 **Knockdown of SEL1L stabilizes an association between gO and the ER lectin OS-**
234 **9.**

235 As a final complementary approach to verify whether gO behaves as an ERAD
236 substrate during infection, we asked whether gO associates with an ER lectin involved
237 in upstream events during ERAD. Depletion of SEL1L is known to stabilize what is
238 otherwise a transient association of the ER lectin OS-9 with ERAD substrates (27). We
239 thus tested whether gO associates with OS-9 during knockdown of SEL1L in the context
240 of the HCMV infected cell. We failed to observe co-purification of OS-9 with S-tagged
241 gO from infected cells that were treated with non-targeting control siRNA (NTC) (Fig. 5).
242 In contrast, we repeatedly detected co-purification of OS-9 with gO-S from infected cells
243 that were knocked down for SEL1L (e.g., Fig. 5). Furthermore, gB failed to co-IP OS-9
244 during either NTC or SEL1L knockdown, further arguing that the association that we
245 detected between OS-9 and gO is specific. That we were able to detect co-purification
246 of endogenous OS-9 with a putative ERAD substrate is notable. To our knowledge,
247 recovery of detectable levels of endogenous OS-9 in this type of experiment has been
248 observed only in one other study (34); most studies using this approach have relied
249 upon OS-9 over-expression to enhance the sensitivity of the assay (27, 31, 35, 36).
250 Overall, we interpreted this result to suggest that a physical association occurs between

251 gO and OS-9 during HCMV infection, which further argues that gO is an ERAD
252 substrate.

253 **DISCUSSION**

254 Despite that this study was initiated to address the mechanisms underlying the
255 influence of UL148 on trimer (gHgLgO) expression, one of the most striking findings is
256 the unexpectedly large role for ERAD in regulating gO expression. Newly synthesized
257 gO appears to be very unstable within the ER, much more so than other viral
258 glycoproteins, as we did not find that pharmacologic or siRNA mediated inhibition of
259 ERAD to stabilize any other viral glycoproteins. In fact, siRNA knockdown of either
260 SEL1L or Hrd1 each led to decreased expression of gH, gL, and gB (Fig. 3) but
261 amplified gO levels by up to 7-fold (Fig. 5B). Although the literature also suggests the
262 existence of post-ER processes that regulate virion incorporation of gHgL complexes
263 (37), because gO participates in alternative gHgL complexes that contribute to HCMV
264 cell tropism, our findings underscore the large potential for ERAD to sculpt the
265 glycoprotein composition of the virion envelope, and hence, to influence the infectivity of
266 HCMV for different cell types.

267

268 **Why would gO be an ERAD substrate?** gO is a heavily glycosylated protein, with at
269 least half of its ~100 kD molecular mass derived from N-linked glycans. Although the
270 exact number varies between HCMV strains, its primary amino acid sequence contains
271 approximately 20 N-x-(S/T) sequons that might serve as sites for N-linked glycosylation.
272 Such a large degree of glycosylation may serve a number of purposes. For instance,
273 gO also been reported to attenuate antibody-mediated neutralization of gH and gB (38).
274 Hence, analogous to the “glycan shield” provided by gp120 in HIV (39), extensive

275 glycosylation may contribute to the capacity of gO to protect the viral fusion machinery
276 from neutralizing antibodies. However, given the roles that N-linked glycans play in
277 glycoprotein quality control (26), the heavy degree of glycosylation may also predispose
278 gO to be especially susceptible to ERAD targeting by ER mannosidases.

279 Additionally, inefficient folding may be an inherent property of the gO polypeptide.
280 Previous pulse-chase studies have shown that gH forms a complex with gL within 30
281 min of its de novo synthesis, but that assembly of gHgLgO does not occur until
282 approximately 2 h (40). This observation may imply that folding of gO occurs slowly and
283 may be rate limiting for trimer assembly. Moreover, because gO must assemble into
284 trimer in order to traffic further through the secretory pathway, the relatively slow
285 kinetics of trimer assembly might compel a certain degree of constitutive degradation.
286 Indeed, orphan subunits of multisubunit complexes, such as the T-cell receptor, are
287 retained in the ER and destroyed via ERAD (41, 42). Competition with the pentamer-
288 specific subunits UL128, UL130 and UL131 for assembly onto gHgL (9, 43-45) may
289 further increase levels of unassembled gO that would be targeted for disposal. Accordingly,
290 upon repair of pentamer expression to HCMV strain AD169, Wang and Shenk showed
291 decreased amounts of gO co-immunoprecipitated with gH [(9), Fig. 1C], and Zhou *et al.*
292 found transcriptional suppression of the *UL128* locus to increase levels of gHgLgO in
293 virions (21). It thus seems likely that both of these mechanisms, intrinsic instability and
294 inefficient trimer assembly, may contribute to limiting trimer expression during HCMV
295 infection.

296 Notably, we find that the homologs of gO from murine cytomegalovirus (MCMV)
297 and rhesus cytomegalovirus also appear to be stabilized in infected cells during
298 treatment with ERAD inhibitors or SEL1L knockdown (Zhang, H and Kamil, JP;
299 unpublished results). Therefore, constitutive ERAD of gO homologs may prove to be a
300 conserved feature among β -herpesviruses. Since the expression of alternative gHgL
301 complexes is also shared across the β -herpesvirus subfamily, the intrinsic instability of
302 gO and its homologs could provide a basis for mechanisms to modulate the composition
303 of alternative gHgL complexes in a cell-type specific manner.

304

305 **How does UL148 influence ERAD of gHgLgO?** Our results suggest that gO is
306 targeted by ERAD during infection, and that UL148 limits its degradation, with
307 implications for HCMV cell tropism that are summarized in our model (Fig. 7). UL148
308 could accomplish its effects on gO by at least two distinct but related mechanisms: (i) by
309 promoting the folding and/or assembly of gO into mature trimer complexes, thereby
310 preventing gO from being shunted to ERAD, or (ii) by dampening the ERAD pathway
311 generally, perhaps through an interaction with SEL1L. The first mechanism would be
312 consistent with our previous data suggesting that UL148 interacts with immature gHgL
313 complexes during their transit through the ER (20). Although we cannot yet exclude the
314 second possibility, determining whether UL148 stabilizes classical ERAD substrates is a
315 foremost experimental priority. Moreover, the two mechanisms are not mutually
316 exclusive. For instance, UL148 may bind to the gHgL dimer and inhibit the ERAD
317 machinery to allow time for gO to assemble onto the complex. Interestingly, we

318 consistently observed a UL148-dependent increase in the absolute levels of gO,
319 whether or not ERAD was disrupted, which might be taken to favor the possibility that
320 UL148 enhances gO levels via mechanisms upstream of ERAD. On the other hand, the
321 observation of enhanced gO stabilization when UL148 is present during ERAD blockade
322 may simply reflect an influence of UL148 against the residual levels of ERAD that
323 remain after siRNA- or pharmacologic disruption.

324

325 **Implications of gO instability and trimer regulation by UL148.** Tissue culture models
326 have consistently demonstrated the importance of gHgLgO for infection of several cell
327 types (12, 13, 22). However, *in vivo* studies using MCMV suggest that while the
328 analogous complex of m74 with gHgL is required for initial infection of tissues by cell-
329 free virions, it is dispensable for subsequent intra-tissue spread (17). By analogy, it
330 seems plausible that *in vivo* most HCMV-infected cells constitutively degrade gO to
331 promote “immunologically covert” cell-associated modes of virus spread that are driven
332 by the pentameric gHgL complex (11), thereby mimicking the *UL148*-null phenotype
333 shown in our model (Fig. 7). In cell types relevant for horizontal spread, however,
334 UL148 expression or activity may be enhanced to promote higher levels of gO, as would
335 be consistent with previous reports suggesting that the type of cell producing virions
336 influences the processing of virion components and virion assembly to yield distinct
337 virus populations (18, 19). In support of this notion, the repaired HCMV strain Merlin
338 (46)—which is thought to recapitulate features of HCMV that are rapidly lost during
339 adaptation to growth in cultured cells, and which expresses trimer very poorly, is found

340 to express UL148 at much lower levels than a HCMV clinical strain known to express
341 high levels of trimer (47). Given that HCMV is highly cell-associated *in vivo* (2), it is
342 intriguing to consider that UL148 abundance might be regulated so that trimer-rich
343 virions are produced only in settings such as glandular or ductal epithelial cells where
344 production of cell-free virions would be necessary for horizontal spread.

345

346 **MATERIALS AND METHODS.**

347 **Cells.** Human foreskin fibroblasts (HFF) were immortalized by transducing primary
348 HFFs (ATCC #SCRC-1041) with lentivirus encoding human telomerase (hTERT) to
349 yield HFFT cells (see below). 293T cells were purchased from Genhunter Corp.
350 (Nashville, TN). ARPE-19 retinal pigment epithelial cells were purchased from ATCC
351 (CRL-2302). All cells were cultured in Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium (DMEM,
352 Corning) supplemented with 25 µg/mL gentamicin (Invitrogen), 10 µg/mL ciprofloxacin
353 (Genhunter), and either 5% fetal bovine serum (FBS, Sigma #F2442) or 5% newborn
354 calf serum (NCS, Sigma #N4637).

355 **Viruses.** Virus was reconstituted by electroporation of HCMV bacterial artificial
356 chromosomes (BACs) into HFFTs, as described previously (20, 48). HCMV strain
357 AD169rv repaired for *UL131* (ADr131) (20) and recombinants derived from it were
358 amplified at low MOI on ARPE-19 cells until 100% cytopathic effect (CPE) was
359 observed. Virus-containing culture supernatants were then subjected to centrifugation
360 (1000g) for 10 minutes to pellet any cellular debris. The supernatant was then
361 ultracentrifuged (85,000g, 1 h, 4°C) through a 20% sorbitol cushion, and the resulting

362 virus pellet was resuspended in DMEM containing 20% NCS. For TB40/E and related
363 recombinants, virus was grown on HFFTs until 100% CPE was observed. Cell-
364 associated virus was then released by Dounce-homogenization of pelleted infected
365 cells, clarified of cell debris by centrifugation (1000g, 10 min), and combined with the
366 cell-free medium before ultracentrifugation and resuspension as above.

367 **Virus titration.** Infectivity of virus stocks and samples were determined by the tissue
368 culture infectious dose 50% (TCID₅₀) assay. Briefly, serial dilutions of virus were used to
369 infect multiple wells of a 96-well plate. After 9 days, wells were scored as positive or
370 negative for CPE, and TCID₅₀ values were calculated according to the Spearman-
371 Kärber method (49, 50).

372 **Virus growth kinetics.** For viral yield on fibroblasts (HFFT) vs ARPE-19 epithelial cells
373 (Fig. S1), cells were seeded in a 24-well plate at 6.5×10^4 cells per well. For multi-cycle
374 growth kinetics of TB_gO-S (Fig. S3), HFFT were seeded at 1.5×10^5 cells per well.
375 Wells were then infected in duplicate at the indicated MOIs in 0.3 mL per well, and
376 back-titration of the inocula was initiated in parallel. Inocula were removed after 16 hr,
377 and the cells were washed three times with 1 mL of Dulbecco's phosphate-buffered
378 saline (DPBS, Lonza Biowhittaker, Inc.). Cell-free supernatants were collected at
379 indicated times post-infection and stored at -80°C until analysis. Infectivity titers
380 (TCID₅₀) were determined in parallel.

381 **Antibodies.** Mouse monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) specific for gH (AP86) (51), gB (27-
382 156) (52), and pp150 (53) were generous gifts from William J. Britt (University of
383 Alabama, Birmingham). Additional gB and UL44 mouse mAbs were purchased from

384 Virusys (#P1201 and #P1202-2). Rabbit antibodies were used to detect the following
385 proteins: UL148 (20), SEL1L (Sigma #S3699), OS-9 (Cell Signaling Tech #12497), HA
386 epitope tag: YPYDVPDYA (Bethyl #A190-108A), S-peptide: KETAAAKFERQHMD
387 (Bethyl #A190-135A). Additional rabbit sera immunoreactive to gL, and to gO variants
388 from HCMV strains TB40/E and AD169 were generous gifts from Brent J. Ryckman
389 (University of Montana, Missoula, MT) (21).

390 **Construction of recombinant viruses.** Synthetic dsDNAs (gBlocks) and
391 oligonucleotides were purchased from Integrated DNA Technologies (Coralville, IA); full
392 sequence details are provided in Table S2. New recombinant HCMVs were constructed
393 in the context of the infectious bacterial artificial chromosome (BAC) clones of HCMV
394 strains TB40/E, TB40-BAC4 (54), and AD169, AD169rv (55), as previously described
395 (20, 48, 56), with full details provided in Supplemental Text S1. Briefly, two-step Red
396 “*en passant*” recombination (57, 58) was used in conjunction with GS1783 *E. coli* (a gift
397 of Greg Smith, Northwestern University) harboring BAC-cloned HCMV genomes.
398 Recombinant BACs were confirmed by Sanger-sequencing (Genewiz, Inc.) of modified
399 loci (not shown), and by BamHI and EcoRI restriction analysis (not shown) to exclude
400 spurious rearrangements.

401 *TB40/E* expressing *UL148^{HA}* or *UL16^{HA}*. TB_148^{HA} was described previously (20). Text
402 S1 describes construction of recombinant TB_UL16^{HA}.

403 *UL148-null recombinant TB_148_{STOP}*. TB_148_{STOP} was constructed by replacement of
404 the UL148 coding sequence (CDS) with a synthetic version in which all in-frame
405 methionine codons were replaced with nonsense codons.

406 *TB40/E* and *TB_148_{STOP}* expressing *S*-tagged *gO*. To add a bovine pancreatic
407 ribonuclease A S-peptide tag (S-tag) (59) (KETAAAKFERQHMS) to the *UL74* (*gO*)
408 ORF without disrupting the overlapping gene, *UL73* (*gN*), a codon-optimized sequence
409 encoding the following elements was inserted between nucleotides 139966 and 139967
410 (numbering per Genbank Accession #EF2999921.1): (i) the 30 C-terminal amino acids
411 of *gO*, (ii) triple (Gly-Gly-Gly-Ser) linker, and (iii) the S-tag, followed by a tandem pair of
412 stop codons.

413 *ADr131* expressing *UL148^{HA}*. Repair of *UL131* in strain AD169rv (*ADr131*) was
414 described previously (20). *ADr131_148* was constructed by replacing the vestigial
415 *UL148* remnant with full-length *UL148* from HCMV strain *TB40/E*.

416 **Plasmids.**

417 The construction of new plasmids for this study is described in Text S1.

418 **hTERT lentivirus production and transduction.** hTERT lentivirus was isolated and
419 used to transduce HFF according to a modified version of the Addgene pLKO.1
420 protocol, as described previously (48). See Text S1 for details.

421 **siRNA treatments.** siGenome SMARTpool siRNAs targeting SEL1L, Hrd1, and non-
422 targeting control (NTC) siRNA were purchased from Dharmacon. Details are provided in
423 Table S3. siRNAs were reverse-transfected into cells using Lipofectamine RNAiMAX
424 reagent (Thermo Fisher) as per the manufacturer's instructions. Briefly, two mixes were
425 prepared separately: Mix #1 was prepared by adding 30 pmol of siRNA to 150 μ L non-
426 supplemented OptiMEM medium (Thermo Fisher) and gently mixing. Mix #2 was
427 prepared by adding 9 μ L of RNAiMAX reagent to 150 μ L non-supplemented OptiMEM.

428 Mix #1 and #2 were then combined and immediately transferred to an empty well of a 6-
429 well plate and incubated at room temperature for 5 min. Approximately 1.0 million cells
430 were then added to the well in 2.2 mL of DMEM containing 5% NCS (10 nM siRNA
431 final).

432 **Endoglycosidase H analysis.** EndoH digestion of 20 μ g total protein was performed
433 according to the manufacturer's instructions (New England Biolabs).

434 **Pulse-chase.** 4×10^6 HFFTs were infected at an MOI of 1 TCID₅₀ per cell with TB_gO-
435 S and TB_148_{STOP}_gO-S. In experiments involving knockdown of SEL1L or Hrd1, the
436 cells were first reverse-transfected with siRNAs targeting SEL1L, Hrd1, or NTC, as
437 described above; at 8 hours post-transfection (hpt), the cells were washed with DPBS
438 and infected as above. At 96 hpi, the cells were washed twice with 10 mL DPBS and
439 incubated for 30 mins in 5 mL of Met/Cys starving medium [DMEM lacking Met, Cys,
440 and Glu (Gibco #21013024) plus 2 mM glutamate and 5% dialyzed FBS (Sigma
441 #F0392)]. Cells were then pulsed for 20 mins with 2 mL of starving medium plus 200
442 μ Ci/mL ³⁵S-Met/Cys (PerkinElmer #NEG772). To quench radiolabeling, 6 mL of chase
443 medium [DMEM (Corning #10013CV) plus 2 mM Met, 2 mM Cys, and 5% NCS] was
444 added directly to each dish. At the indicated time-points, the chase medium was
445 replaced with ice-cold PBS. Cells were scraped, pelleted (4000g for 1 min), and lysed in
446 RIPA buffer containing 25 mM HEPES (pH 7.5), 400 mM NaCl, 0.1% SDS, 0.5%
447 sodium deoxycholate, 1% NP-40, 1% bovine serum albumin (BSA), and 1X protease
448 inhibitor cocktail (PIC, CST #5871). Lysis continued for 1 h (4°C with rotation), and

449 lysates were clarified of insoluble material by centrifugation (20,000g, 30 mins) and
450 discarding of the pellet.

451 To quantify radiolabel incorporation into protein, 10 μ L of lysate was added to 1 mL of
452 10% trichloroacetic acid (TCA) in triplicate, vortexed, and incubated on ice for 30 mins.

453 Lysate/TCA solution was pipetted onto a glass disk (Whatman #1821025), and the disk
454 was washed with 10 mL ice-cold 10% TCA and 10 mL ice-cold 100% ethanol. Disks
455 were air-dried for 30 mins and shaken overnight in 5 mL scintillation fluid (Fisher
456 #SX12-4). Counts per minute (CPMs) were measured on a scintillation counter
457 (Beckman LS 6500) and averaged across triplicates.

458 *S-protein affinity purification of radiolabeled gO.* Equal CPMs of lysate were combined
459 with 30 μ L of S-protein agarose bead slurry (EMD Millipore) and RIPA buffer to a final
460 volume of 400 μ L. S-AP mixes were rotated overnight at 4°C. Beads were pelleted
461 (1500g, 5 mins) and washed twice with 400 μ L RIPA buffer containing 1% BSA, then
462 washed twice with 400 μ L RIPA buffer without BSA.

463 *Endoglycosidase-digestion of S-AP eluates and autoradiography.* To more effectively
464 resolve co-purified gO and gH during SDS-PAGE, S-AP eluates were first digested with
465 either peptide:N-glycosidase F (PNGase F, NEB) or endoglycosidase H (Endo H, NEB)
466 as follows. After the final wash of S-AP above, the beads were boiled (85°C, 5 min) in
467 1X glycoprotein denaturing buffer, chilled on ice, then incubated with PNGase F or Endo
468 H digestion mix (final volume 21 μ L, 37°C, 1 h) according to the manufacturer's
469 instructions. 10 μ L of 4X Laemmli buffer containing 20% β -mercaptoethanol (BME) was
470 added to each sample, followed by boiling (85°C, 5 mins). Samples were resolved by

471 sodium dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE), as described
472 previously (48). Gels were dried using a Bio-Rad Model 583 Gel Dryer, and radioactive
473 signal was captured on a storage phosphor screen for a minimum of 72 h prior to data
474 acquisition on Bio-Rad Molecular Imager FX. Band intensities were quantified using
475 Quantity One 1-D Analysis Software (Bio-Rad). In brief, volume rectangles were drawn
476 closely around the 55 kD gO band to generate a report of adjusted volume (CNT*mm²)
477 values after local background subtraction. These values were normalized and reported
478 as “gO signal”.

479 **Mass spectrometry.** 2×10^7 fibroblasts (HFF) were infected at an MOI of 1 TCID₅₀ per
480 cell with TB_148^{HA}. Cells were lysed at 120 hpi in modified RIPA lysis buffer [50 mM
481 HEPES (pH 7.5), 1% TritonX-100, 400 mM NaCl, 0.5% sodium deoxycholate, 10%
482 glycerol, and 1X PIC]. Anti-HA magnetic beads (Pierce #8837) were incubated (rotation
483 overnight, 4°C) with lysates plus 100 µg/mL BSA, washed three times with lysis buffer,
484 and eluted by boiling in Laemmli buffer (65°C, 5 min). Eluate was resolved by SDS-
485 PAGE, and the gel was silver-stained according to the manufacturer’s protocol
486 (ThermoFisher #24600). Silver-stained bands were excised from SDS-PAGE gels and
487 sent to the Taplin Biological Mass Spectrometry Facility at Harvard Medical School
488 (Boston, MA). Processing of gel slices for trypsin digestion, and resolution of peptides
489 by nano-scale capillary reverse-phase HPLC are described in SI Methods. Eluted
490 peptides were subjected to electrospray ionization and entered an LTQ Orbitrap Velos
491 Pro ion-trap mass spectrometer (Thermo Fisher). Peptides were fragmented, and
492 specific fragment ions were detected to generate a tandem pass spectrum for each

493 peptide. Each spectrum was matched to a fragmentation pattern database by the
494 program Sequest (Thermo Fisher) to determine the sequence of each peptide and
495 hence protein identity (60). All databases included forward and reverse versions of
496 peptide sequences, and data was filtered on a 1-2% peptide false discovery rate.

497 **Immunoprecipitation from transfected cells.**

498 5×10^5 293T cells were transfected with 2.5 μg of pEF1 α V5 C vector (Invitrogen)
499 encoding codon-optimized *US11^{HA}*, *UL16^{HA}*, or *UL148^{HA}* using Mirus TransIT-2020
500 (#MIR 5404) according to the manufacturer's instructions. At 48 hpt, cells were lysed in
501 300 μL of lysis buffer [50 mM HEPES (pH 7.5), 400 mM NaCl, 0.5% sodium
502 deoxycholate, and 1X PIC]. 200 μL of lysate was rotated overnight (4°C) with 25 μL of
503 anti-HA magnetic bead slurry (Pierce #8837). Beads were washed three times with lysis
504 buffer and eluted by heating (50°C, 10 min) in 2X Laemmli buffer containing 5% (v/v)
505 BME. Eluates and whole cell lysates were analyzed by western blot.

506 **OS-9 co-purification assay.** 1×10^6 HFFT were reverse-transfected with siRNAs
507 targeting SEL1L or NTC, as above. At 48 hpt, cells were infected with TB_gO-S virus at
508 an MOI of 1 TCID₅₀ per cell. At 96 hpi, cells were lysed in 50 mM HEPES (pH 7.5), 1%
509 TritonX-100, 400 mM NaCl. Equal μg of protein (determined by Pierce BCA assay) were
510 subjected to S-AP [30 μL of S-protein agarose slurry] or glycoprotein B (gB)-IP [30 μL
511 Protein G magnetic bead slurry (EMD Millipore) plus anti-gB mAb 27-156 (52)]. After
512 overnight rotation (4°C), beads were washed three times with lysis buffer and eluted in
513 1X Laemmli buffer plus 5% BME. Eluates and whole cell lysates were analyzed by
514 western blot.

515

516

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524 Author contributions are as follows: C.C.N. performed the majority of experiments.
525 C.C.N. and J.P.K. designed experiments, interpreted results, and wrote the manuscript.
526 J.P.K. designed HCMV recombinants. M.N.S. constructed recombinant TB_148_{STOP},
527 performed UL148/SEL1L and gO/OS-9 co-purification studies, and prepared samples
528 for MS analysis. H.Z. constructed recombinant viruses TB_gO-S and TB_148_{STOP}_gO-S
529 and assisted with replication of virus yield experiments.

530

531

532 **FIG. 1. Viral tropism factor UL148 associates with ERAD adapter SEL1L during**
533 **infection.** (A) Silver stain. Fibroblasts (HFF) infected with TB_148HA were lysed at 72
534 hpi and subjected to HA-IP. Visible silver-stained bands were excised and analyzed by
535 mass spectrometry. The putative association between UL148 and SEL1L was
536 confirmed by HA-IP and western blot of UL148HA complexes from (B) infected cells or
537 (C) 293T cells transfected with plasmids expressing the indicated HCMV ER-resident
538 proteins.

539

540 **FIG. 2. Pulse-chase analysis of gO during *UL148*-null HCMV infection.** Fibroblasts
541 (HFFTs) were infected at an MOI of 1 TCID₅₀ per cell with TB40/E-derived recombinant
542 TB_gO-S expressing S-tagged gO (WT) or its *UL148*-null derivative, TB_148_{STOP}_gO-S
543 (148_{STOP}). At 96 hpi, the cells were pulsed for 20 mins with 200 μ Ci/mL ³⁵S-Met/Cys and
544 chased for the indicated times before lysis. Equal TCA-precipitable CPMs of each
545 sample were subjected to S-AP, followed by endoglycosidase digestion and SDS-
546 PAGE. The dried gel was exposed to a phosphor screen to produce an autoradiograph.
547 The densities of the indicated gO bands (*) were calculated and expressed either as
548 absolute signal (“abs”) in relation to the WT/0 h band or as signal normalized (“norm”)
549 across WT or *UL148*-null conditions relative to the respective 0 h band.

550

551 **FIG. 3. Depletion of SEL1L in HCMV-infected cells increases steady-state gO**
552 **levels.** (A) Fibroblasts (HFFTs) were reverse-transfected with siRNA targeting SEL1L
553 (SEL) or non-targeting control (NTC). At 48 h post transfection, the cells were infected

554 with HCMV strain TB40/E (WT) or its *UL148*-null derivative, TB_148_{STOP} (148_{STOP}) at an
555 MOI of 1 TCID₅₀ per cell. HCMV glycoprotein levels at 96 hpi were analyzed by western
556 blot.

557

558 **FIG. 4. Treatment of HCMV-infected cells with an ERAD inhibitor increases**

559 **steady-state gO levels.** Fibroblasts (HFFTs) were infected at an MOI of 1 TCID₅₀ per

560 cell with TB_gO-S (WT), TB_148_{STOP}_gO-S (148_{STOP}), or mock infection (M). Cells

561 were treated with kifunensine (KIF) at 2.5 μ M or carrier-alone (water) at 72 hpi. At 96

562 hpi, HCMV glycoprotein levels were analyzed by western blot.

563

564 **FIG. 5. Depletion of SEL1L or Hrd1 in HCMV-infected cells stabilizes gO during**

565 **WT and *UL148*-null infection.** Fibroblasts (HFFTs) were reverse-transfected with

566 siRNAs targeting (A) SEL1L or (B) Hrd1. At 6 hpt, the cells were infected at an MOI of 1

567 TCID₅₀ per cell with TB_gO-S (WT) or TB_148_{STOP}_gO-S (148_{STOP}). At 96 hpi, the cells

568 were pulsed for 20 mins with 200 μ Ci/mL ³⁵S-Met/Cys and chased for the indicated

569 times before lysis. Equal TCA-precipitable CPMs of each sample were subjected to S-

570 AP, followed by PNGase F digestion to allow better resolution of gH and gO by SDS-

571 PAGE. The dried gel was exposed to a phosphor screen to produce an autoradiograph.

572 The densities of gO bands were calculated and expressed either as absolute signal

573 (“abs”) in relation to the WT/NTC/0 h band or as normalized signal (“norm”) for each

574 virus condition relative to the respective NTC/0 h band.

575

576 **FIG. 6. Depletion of SEL1L in HCMV-infected cells stabilizes a physical**
577 **association between gO and ER lectin OS-9.** Fibroblasts (HFFTs) were reverse-
578 transfected with siRNAs targeting SEL1L (SEL) or NTC. 48 h later, the cells were
579 infected with TB_gO-S at an MOI of 1 TCID₅₀ per cell. At 96 hpi, cell lysates were
580 subjected to S-AP or gB-IP and analyzed by western blot.

581

582 **FIG. 7. Model.** HCMV gO, either through unfavorable folding or inefficient assembly
583 onto gH/gL, is targeted for destruction by ERAD, which is mediated by SEL1L/Hrd1.
584 UL148, perhaps through a functional interaction with SEL1L, slows the degradation of
585 gO.

586

587

588 **SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL**

589 TEXT S1: Supplemental Methods and Supplementary Figure Legends.

590 FIG. S1: Construction and characterization of TB_gO-S.

591 FIG. S2: Growth kinetics of TB_148^{HA} and TB_148^{STOP} on HFFT and ARPE-19 cells.

592 FIG. S3: EndoH analysis and detection of gO levels during SEL1L knockdown.

593 FIG. S4: Depletion of SEL1L in HCMV strain AD169-infected cells recapitulates effects
594 on HCMV glycoproteins.

595 FIG. S5: Hrd1 depletion in HCMV-infected cells increases gO levels.

596 FIG. S6: Dose-responsive effect of kifunensine on HCMV gO levels.

597 TABLE S1: Mapping of peptide hits from UL148HA-IP eluates to human gene products.

598 TABLE S2: Synthetic DNAs used in the construction and sequence-confirmation of BAC
599 recombinants and plasmids

600 TABLE S3: Dharmacon SMARTpool siRNA sequences used in this study.

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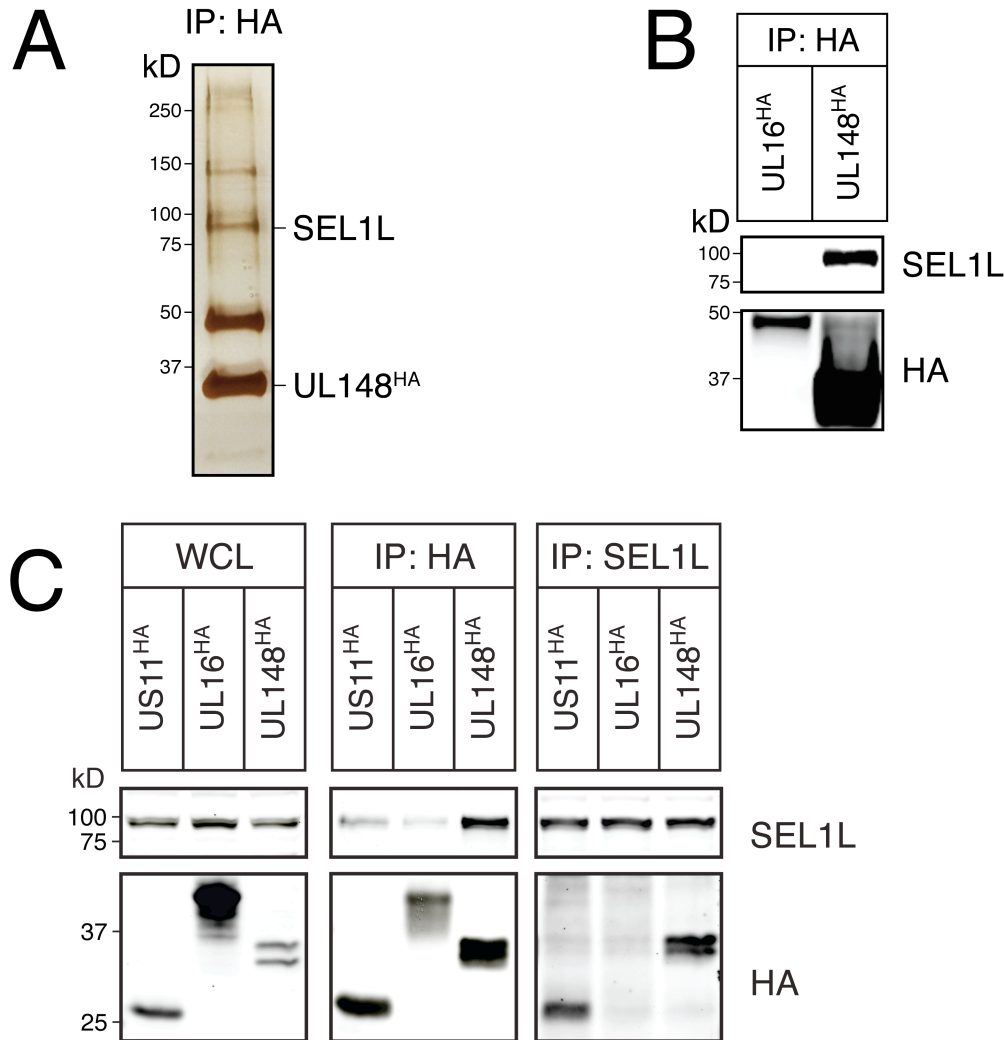


FIG. 1. Viral tropism factor UL148 associates with ERAD adapter SEL1L during infection. (A) Silver stain. Fibroblasts (HFF) infected with TB_148^{HA} were lysed at 72 hpi and subjected to HA-IP. Visible silver-stained bands were excised and analyzed by mass spectrometry. The putative association between UL148 and SEL1L was confirmed by HA-IP and western blot of UL148^{HA} complexes from (B) infected cells or (C) 293T cells transfected with plasmids expressing the indicated HCMV ER-resident proteins.

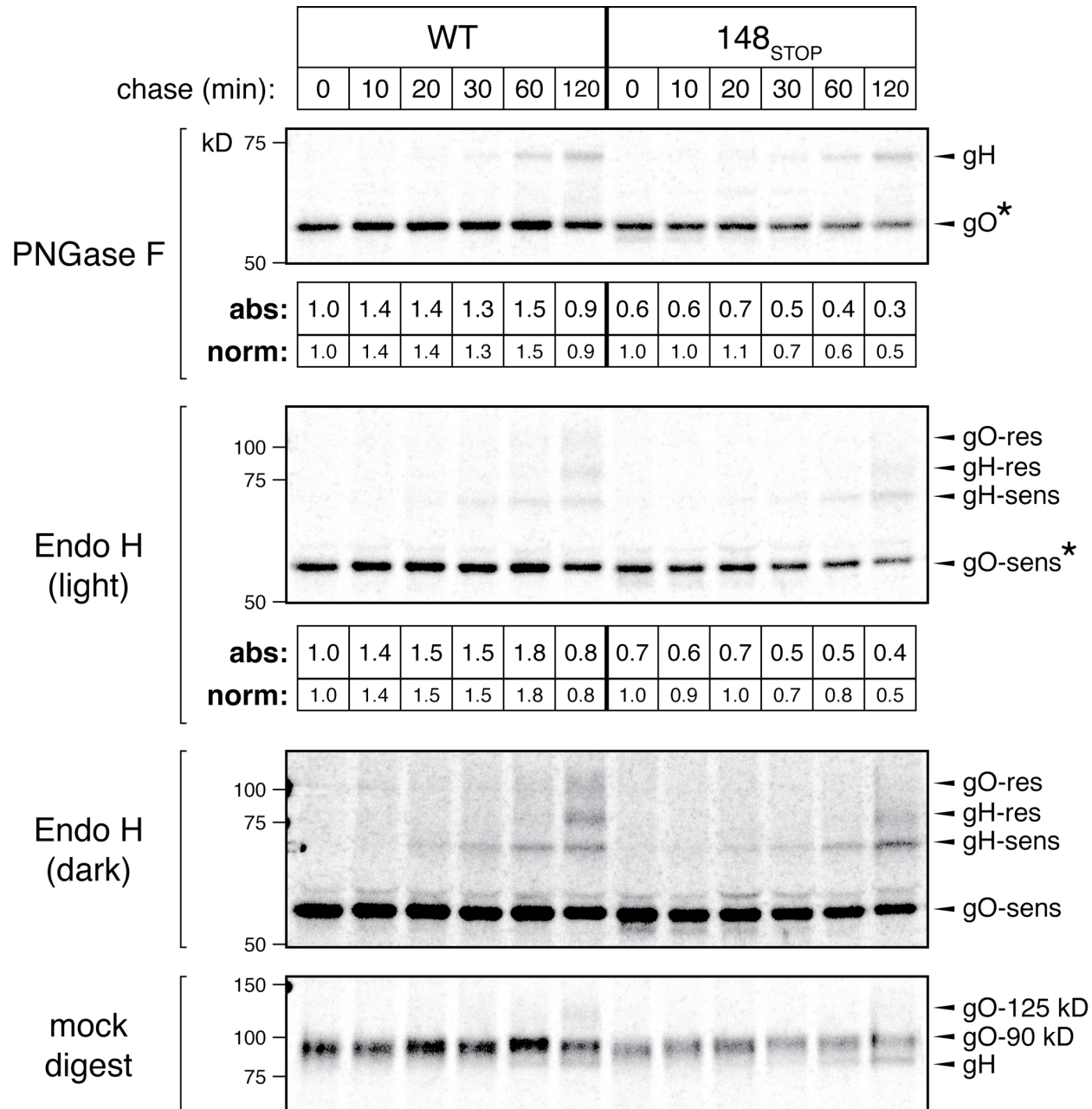


FIG. 2. Pulse-chase analysis of gO during *UL148*-null HCMV infection. Fibroblasts (HFFTs) were infected at an MOI of 1 TCID₅₀ per cell with TB40/E-derived recombinant TB_gO-S expressing S-tagged gO (WT) or its *UL148*-null derivative, TB_148_{STOP}_gO-S (148_{STOP}). At 96 hpi, the cells were pulsed for 20 mins with 200 μ Ci/mL ³⁵S-Met/Cys and chased for the indicated times before lysis. Equal TCA-precipitable CPMs of each sample were subjected to S-AP, followed by endoglycosidase digestion and SDS-PAGE. The dried gel was exposed to a phosphor screen to produce an autoradiograph. The densities of the indicated gO bands (*) were calculated and expressed either as absolute signal (“abs”) in relation to the WT/0 h band or as signal normalized (“norm”) across WT or *UL148*-null conditions relative to the respective 0 h band.

FIG. 2. Accelerated gO decay in the absence of UL148.

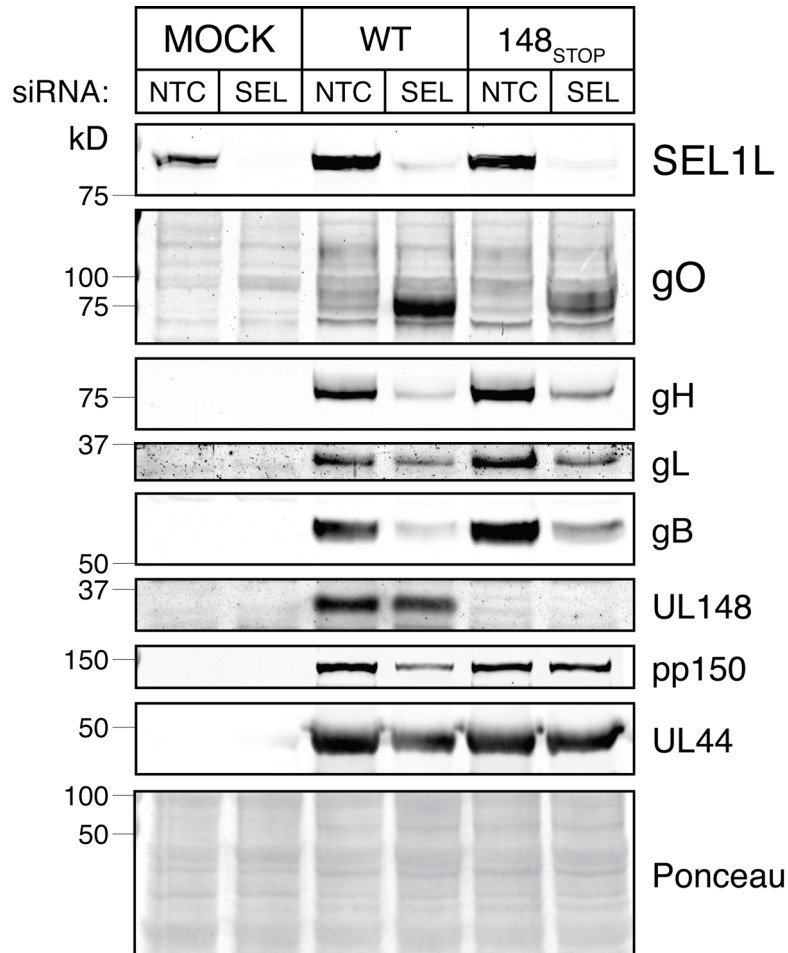


FIG. 3. Depletion of SEL1L in HCMV-infected cells increases steady-state gO levels. (A) Fibroblasts (HFFTs) were reverse-transfected with siRNA targeting SEL1L (SEL) or non-targeting control (NTC). At 48 h post transfection, the cells were infected with HCMV strain TB40/E (WT) or its *UL148*-null derivative, TB_148_{STOP} (148_{STOP}) at an MOI of 1 TCID₅₀ per cell. HCMV glycoprotein levels at 96 hpi were analyzed by western blot.

FIG. 3. SEL1L depletion increases gO levels.

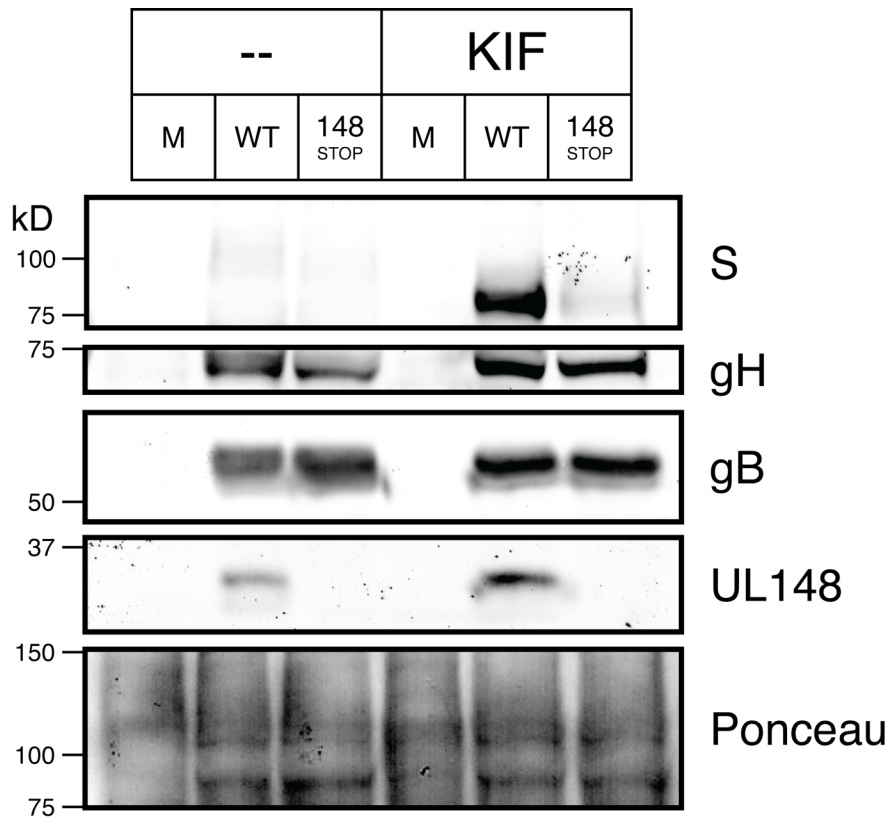


FIG. 4. Treatment of HCMV-infected cells with an ERAD inhibitor increases steady-state gO levels. Fibroblasts (HFFTs) were infected at an MOI of 1 TCID₅₀ per cell with TB_gO-S (WT), TB_148_{STOP}_gO-S (148_{STOP}), or mock infection (M). Cells were treated with kifunensine (KIF) at 2.5 μ M or carrier-alone (water) at 72 hpi. At 96 hpi, HCMV glycoprotein levels were analyzed by western blot.

FIG. 4. KIF treatment increases gO levels.

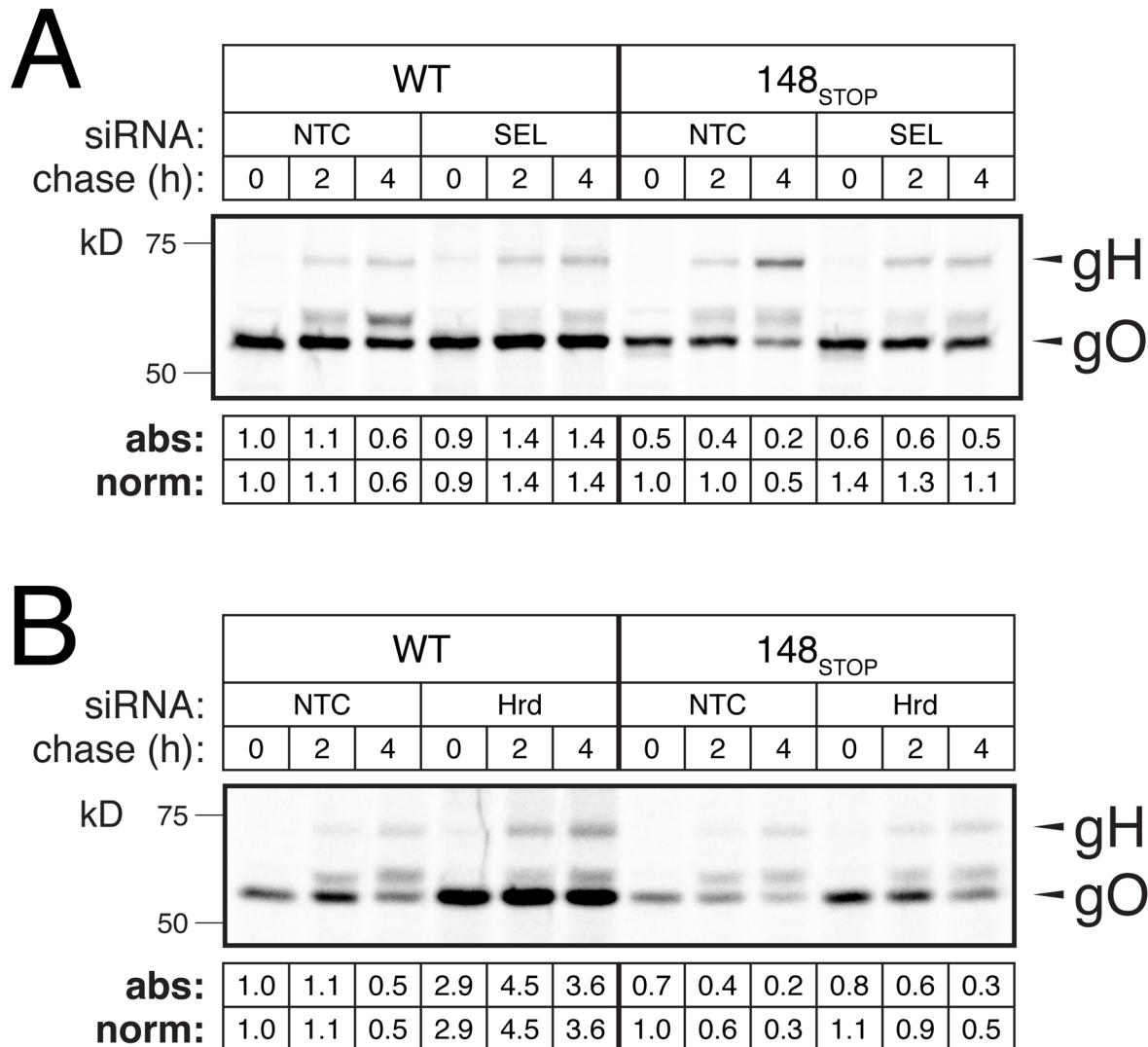


FIG. 5. Depletion of SEL1L or Hrd1 in HCMV-infected cells stabilizes gO during WT and *UL148*-null infection. Fibroblasts (HFFTs) were reverse-transfected with siRNAs targeting (A) SEL1L or (B) Hrd1. At 6 hpt, the cells were infected at an MOI of 1 TCID₅₀ per cell with TB_gO-S (WT) or TB_148_{STOP}_gO-S (148_{STOP}). At 96 hpi, the cells were pulsed for 20 mins with 200 μ Ci/mL ³⁵S-Met/Cys and chased for the indicated times before lysis. Equal TCA-precipitable CPMs of each sample were subjected to S-AP, followed by PNGase F digestion to allow better resolution of gH and gO by SDS-PAGE. The dried gel was exposed to a phosphor screen to produce an autoradiograph. The densities of gO bands were calculated and expressed either as absolute signal (“abs”) in relation to the WT/NTC/0 h band or as normalized signal (“norm”) for each virus condition relative to the respective NTC/0 h band.

FIG. 5. Depletion of SEL1L or Hrd1 stabilizes gO.

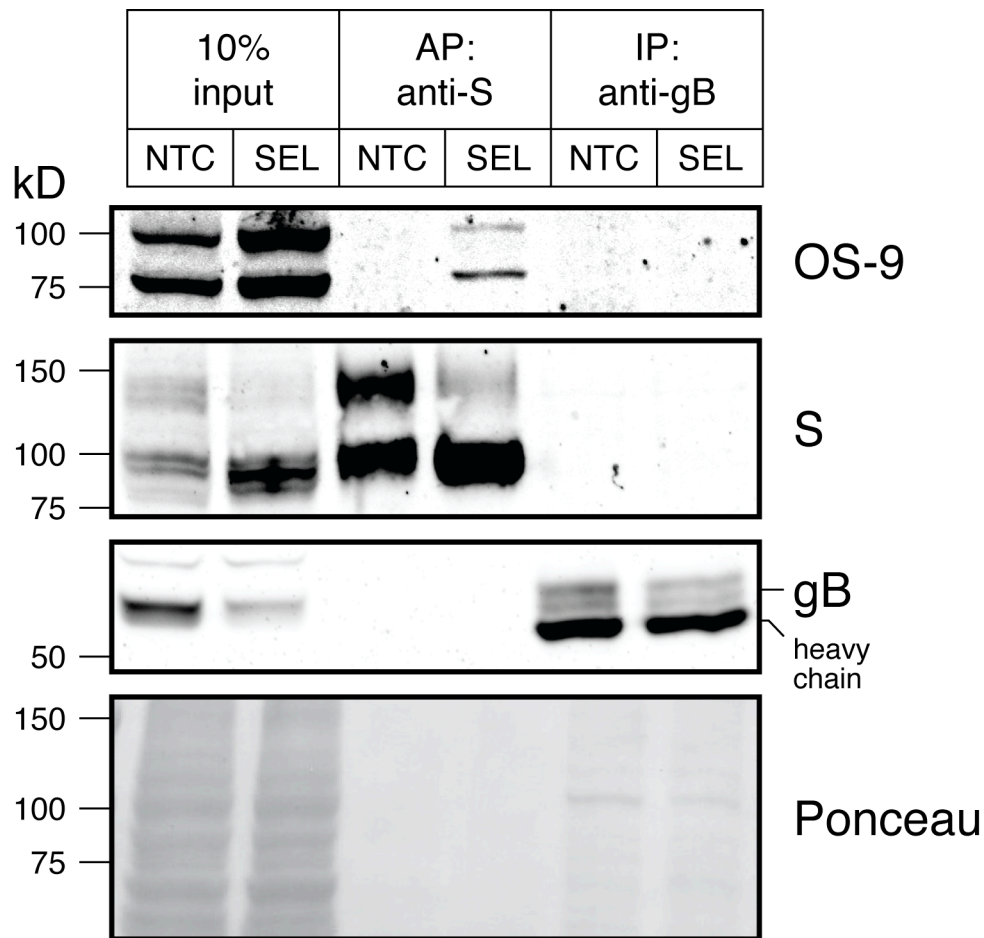


FIG. 6. Depletion of SEL1L in HCMV-infected cells stabilizes a physical association between gO and ER lectin OS-9. Fibroblasts (HFFTs) were reverse-transfected with siRNAs targeting SEL1L (SEL) or NTC. 48 h later, the cells were infected with TB_gO-S at an MOI of 1 TCID₅₀ per cell. At 96 hpi, cell lysates were subjected to S-AP or gB-IP and analyzed by western blot.

FIG. 6. gO associates with OS-9 during SEL1L KD.

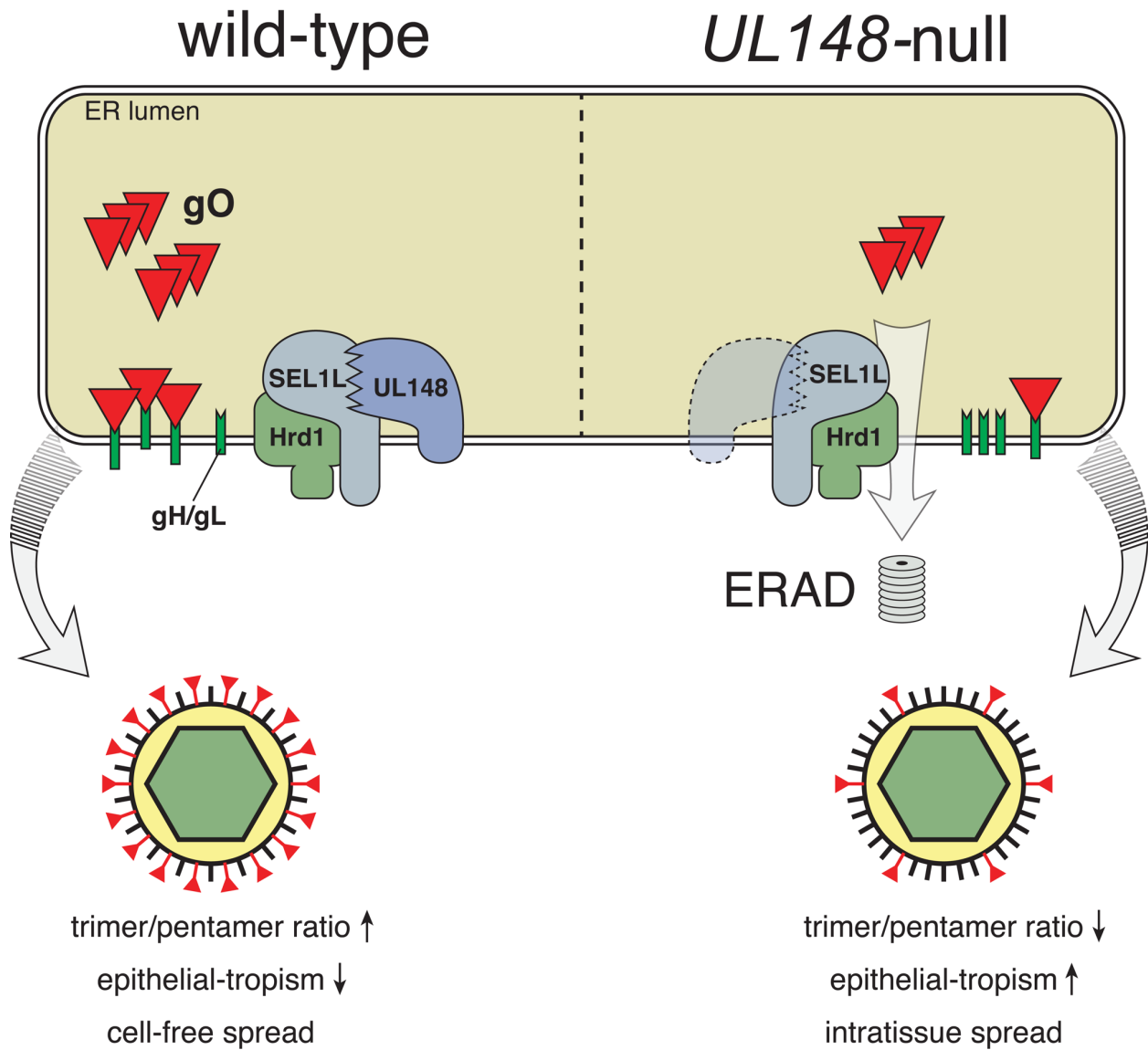


FIG. 7. Model. HCMV gO, either through unfavorable folding or inefficient assembly onto gH/gL, is targeted for destruction by ERAD, which is mediated by SEL1L/Hrd1. UL148, perhaps through a functional interaction with SEL1L, slows the degradation of gO.

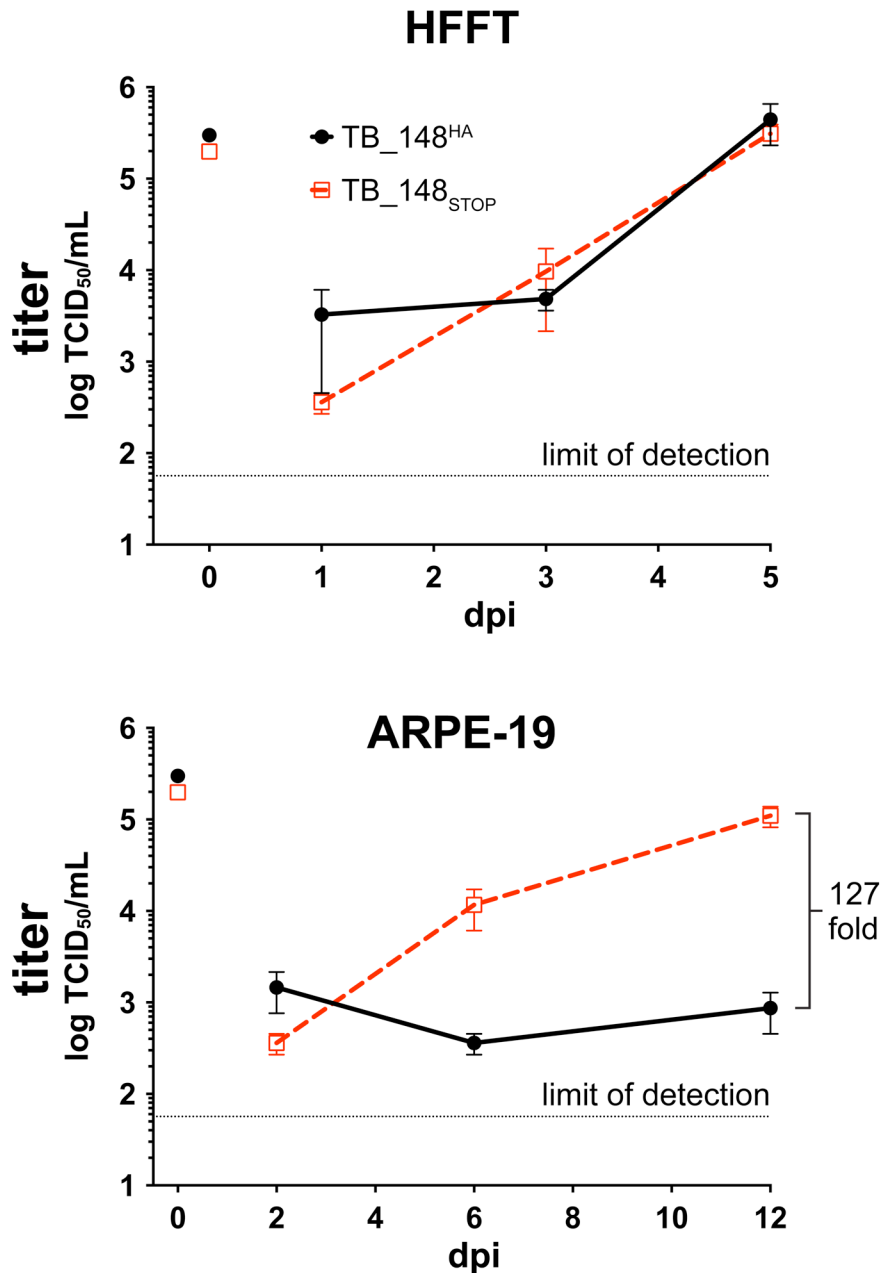


FIG. S1. Growth kinetics of TB_148^{HA} and TB_148^{STOP} on HFFT and ARPE-19 cells.

Fibroblasts (HFFT) and ARPE-19 cells were infected with TB_148^{HA} and TB_148^{STOP} at an MOI of 1 TCID₅₀ per cell according to virus stock titers calculated on HFFTs. Cell-free supernatants were collected at the indicated dpi and titered in parallel by TCID₅₀ assay on HFFTs. Back-titration of the original infectious inocula is depicted at the 0 dpi time-point. The dataset shown is one of two independent experiments. Error bars depict SEM calculated from duplicate infected wells.

FIG. S1. TB_148^{STOP} growth kinetics.

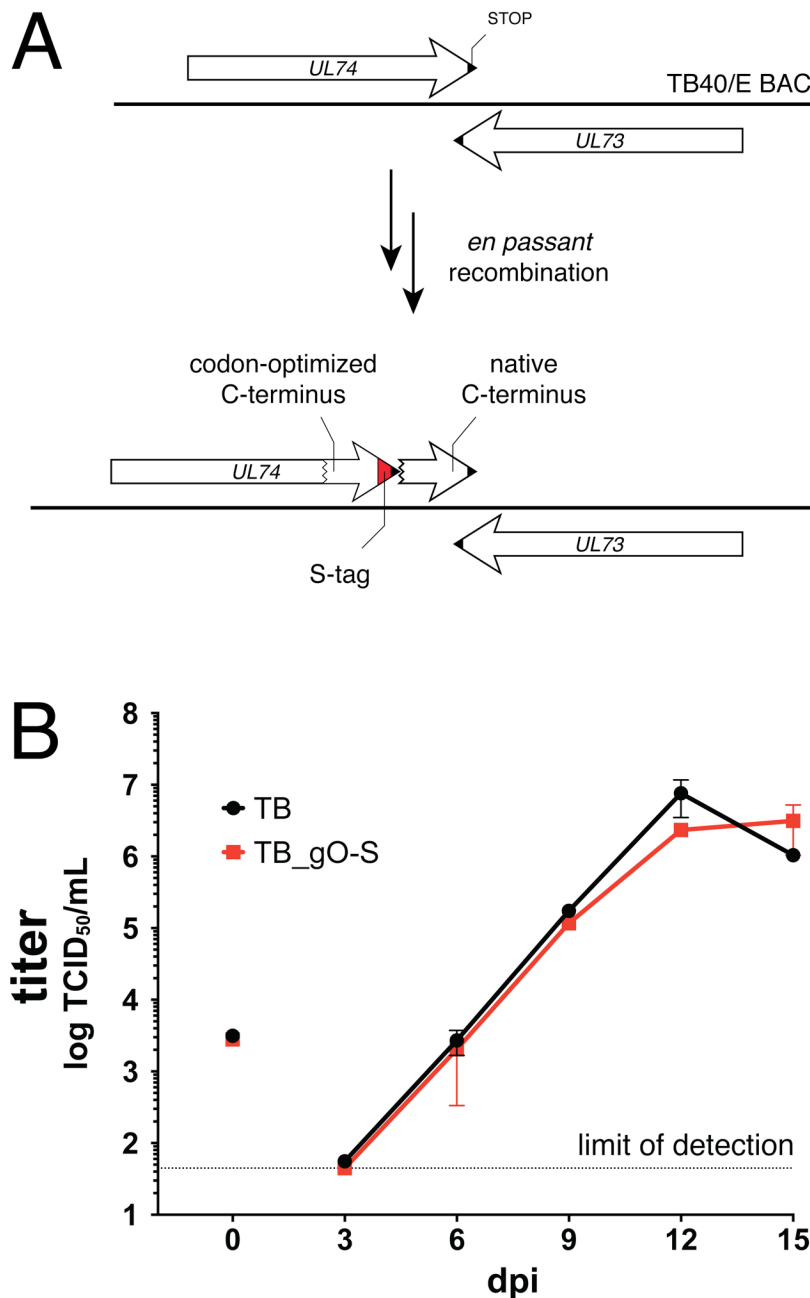


FIG. S1. Construction and characterization of TB_gO-S. (A) Strategy for adding a C-terminal S-tag to the *UL74* (gO) ORF with minimal disruption of essential ORF *UL73*. (B) Multi-cycle growth kinetics of TB_gO-S. Fibroblasts (HFFT) were infected with TB40/E (TB) or TB_gO-S at an MOI of 0.005 TCID₅₀ per cell. Cell supernatants were collected at the indicated dpi and titered in parallel by TCID₅₀ assay. Back-titration of the original infectious inocula is depicted at the 0 dpi time-point. Error bars depict SEM calculated from duplicate infected wells. Dataset depicts one of two independent experiments.

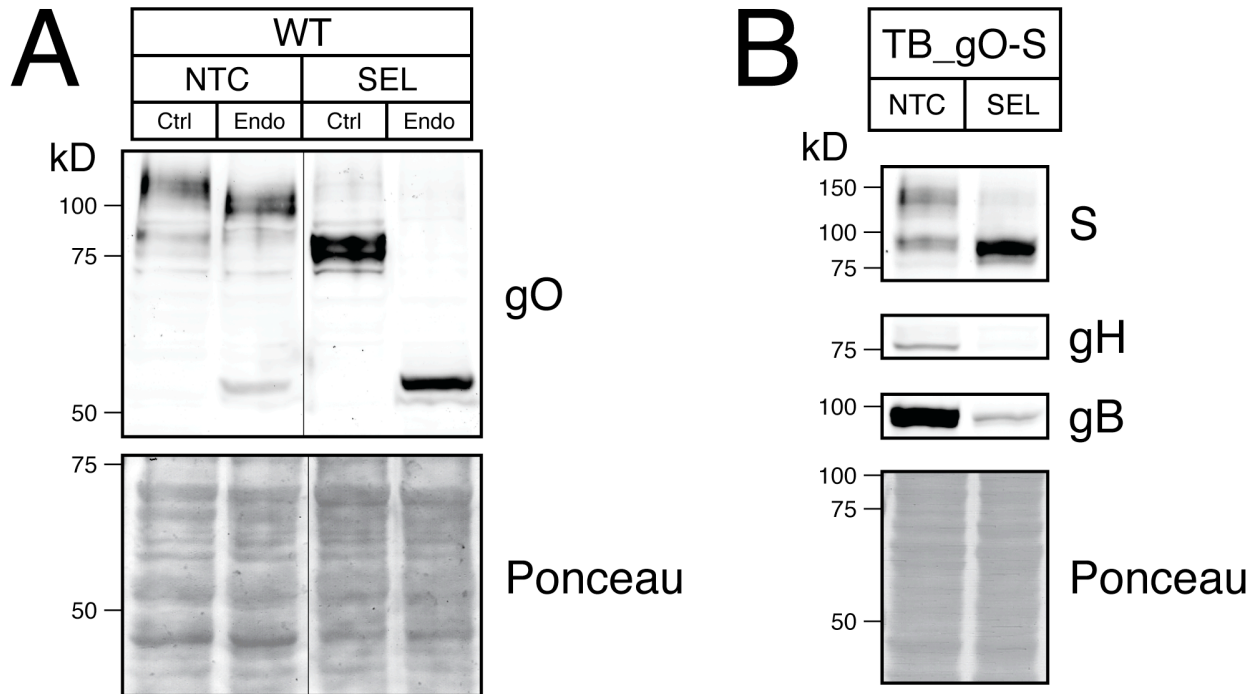


FIG. S3. EndoH analysis and detection of gO levels during SEL1L knockdown (A)

Lysates from TB_WT-infected, siRNA-transfected cells (Fig. 3) were treated with EndoH or

mock-digest. Extraneous lanes from this blot have been cropped from the image. (B) S

western blot analysis of HCMV-infected cells depleted of SEL1L. Fibroblasts (HFFFT) were

reverse-transfected and infected as in Fig. 3 with TB_gO-S. Lysates were harvested at 96 hpi

and analyzed by western blot.

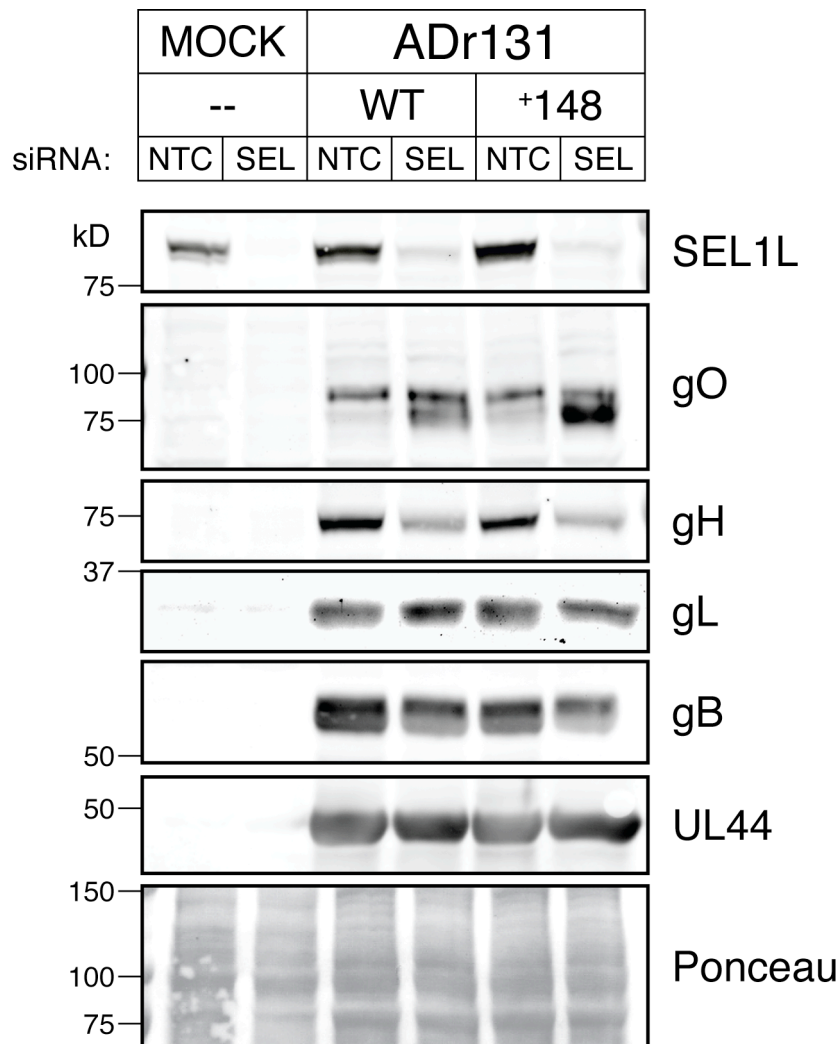


FIG. S4. Depletion of SEL1L in HCMV strain AD169-infected cells recapitulates effects on HCMV glycoproteins. Fibroblasts (HFFTs) were reverse-transfected and infected as in Fig. 3 with recombinant derivatives of HCMV strain AD169: ADr131 (WT) or ADr131_148 (+148). Lysates were harvested at 96 hpi and analyzed by western blot.

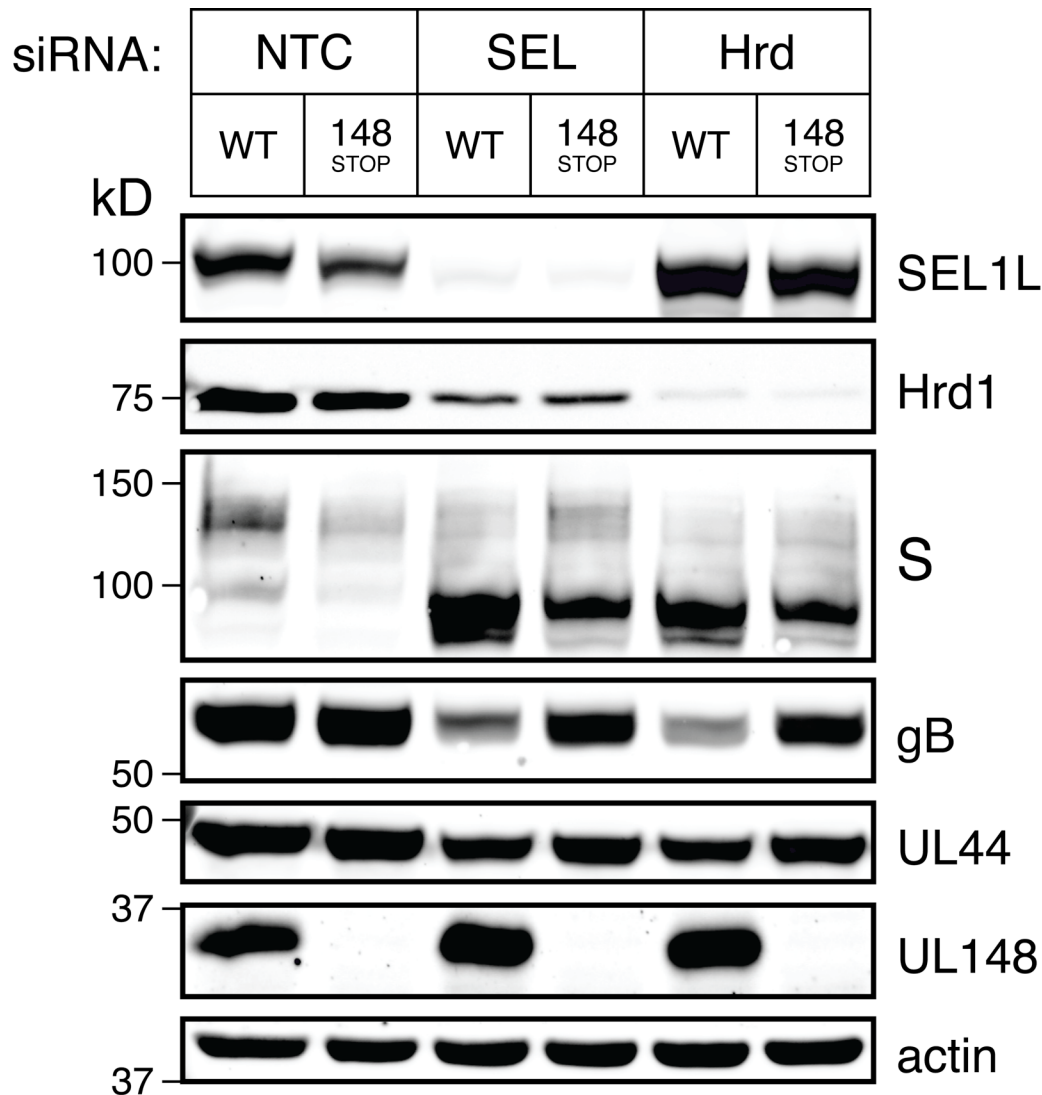


FIG. S5. Hrd1 depletion in HCMV-infected cells increases gO levels. Fibroblasts (HFFIT) were reverse-transfected siRNAs against NTC, SEL1L (SEL), or Hrd1 (Hrd) and infected with TB_gO-S (WT) or TB_148_{STOP}_gO-S (148_{STOP}), as in Fig. 3. Lysates were harvested at 96 hpi and analyzed by western blot.

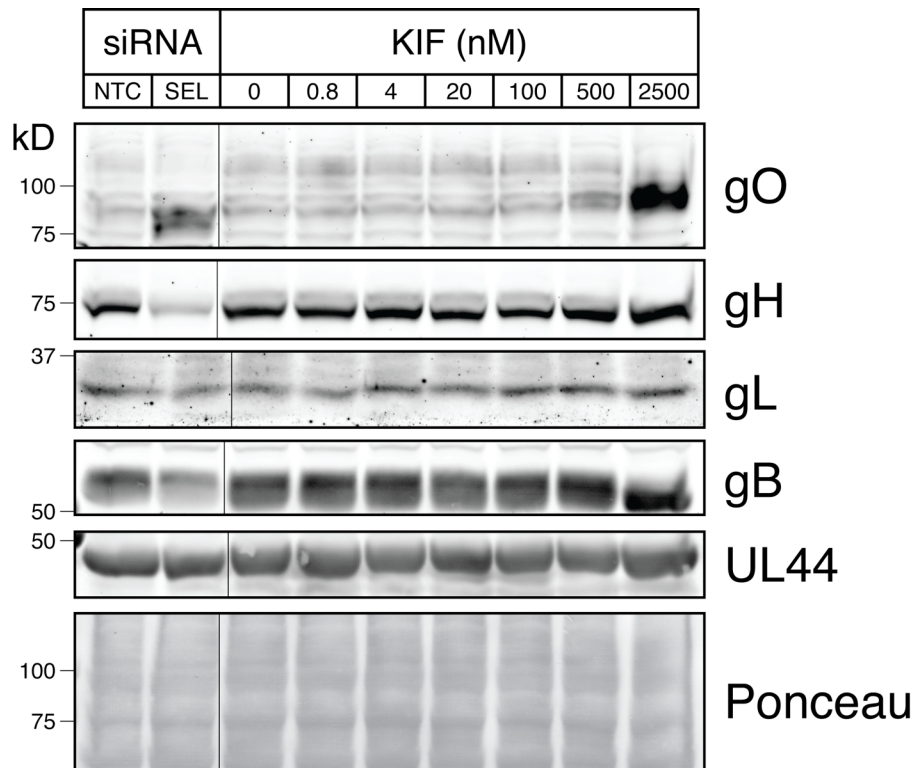


FIG. S6. Dose-responsive effect of kifunensine on HCMV gO levels. Fibroblasts (HFFT) were infected with HCMV strain TB40/E at an MOI of 1 TCID₅₀ per cell. At 72 hpi, fresh medium containing the indicated concentrations of KIF were added to the cells. Lysates were harvested at 96 hpi and analyzed by western blot. gO was visualized by antiserum against TB40/E gO. As a positive control for steady-state gO increase, cells were reverse-transfected with anti-SEL1L siRNAs as in Fig. 3, were infected, and analyzed in parallel. Extraneous lanes have been cropped out of the image. Concentrations above 2500 nM did not further increase gO levels (data not shown).

Gene Symbol	Replicate 1		Replicate 2	
	Unique	Total	Unique	Total
ATP2A2	2	2	3	3
CALU	4	4	2	2
CAND1	3	3	7	7
CD58	1	1	1	1
CLPTM1	1	1	3	3
COPB1	1	1	2	2
COPG1	5	5	5	6
CTNND1	4	4	5	5
DDOST	5	5	4	4
DHCR7	5	6	4	4
DKK3	1	1	2	2
DNAJB11	3	3	2	2
DNAJC3	7	7	7	8
ERLEC1	4	4	3	3
ESYT2	2	2	2	2
FAF2	2	2	1	2
FAR1	3	3	4	4
GFPT1	1	1	3	3
HLA-A	2	2	1	1
HSPA5	1	1	3	3
LPCAT1	1	1	2	2
MAGT1	2	2	2	2
MLEC	2	2	2	2
NCLN	5	5	10	10
NCSTN	4	4	3	3
NOMO1	9	10	9	10
OS9	8	8	4	5
PDIA3	4	4	1	1
PSMD2	3	3	3	3
PTPLAD1	2	2	2	2
PTPN1	3	3	3	3
RCN3	2	2	1	1
RPN1	12	13	11	12
RPTOR	2	2	3	3
SDF4	2	2	2	2
SEC61A1	4	4	5	5
SEL1L	6	6	2	2
SFXN3	4	4	7	7
SIL1	2	2	5	5
SNX8	3	3	2	2
SPTLC1	2	2	1	1
ST7L	1	1	3	3
STT3A	2	2	6	6
STT3B	5	5	7	7
SURF4	6	6	4	4
TMEM131	1	1	3	3
TMEM59	2	2	3	3
TMX4	1	1	2	2
TTC13	4	4	4	4
UBAP2L	1	1	4	4
VCP	9	9	6	6

TABLE S1. Mapping of peptide hits from UL148HA-IP eluates to human gene products. Dataset depicts the unique and total hits mapping to the protein products of the human genes in the left column (HGNC Database)(1). Candidate genes were included in the list only if they appeared in both TB_148^{HA}-IP replicates and did not appear in the TB_UL16^{HA}-IP negative control.

1. Gray KA, Yates B, Seal RL, Wright MW, Bruford EA. 2015. Genenames.org: the HGNC resources in 2015. *Nucleic Acids Res* 43:D1079-85.

Target	Dharmacon pool ID	Individual siRNA ID	Target sequence
SEL1L	M-004885-01	D-004885-02	UAAGAAAGCUGCUGACAUG
		D-004885-03	GAAUUAAGCUCGGAGACUA
		D-004885-04	GGAGAGGAGUUCAAGUUA
		D-004885-05	GAGAGGAGUUCAAGUUAU
Hrd1	M-007090-01	D-007090-01	CAACAAGGCUGUGUACAUG
		D-007090-02	UGUCUGGCCUUCACCGUUU
		D-007090-03	GGAGAUGCCUGAGGAUGGA
		D-007090-04	CCAAGAGACUGCCCUGCAA
Non-targeting control	D-001206-14-05	N/A	UAAGGCUAUGAAGAGAUAC
			AUGUAUUGGCCUGUAUUAG
			AUGAACGUGAAUUGCUCAA
			UGGUUUACAUGUCGACUAA

TABLE S3. Dharmacon SMARTpool siRNA sequences used in this study.

SUPPLEMENTAL METHODS AND SUPPLEMENTAL FIGURE LEGENDS.

SUPPLEMENTAL METHODS.

Construction of recombinant viruses.

TB40/E expressing HA-tagged UL16.

TB40/E expressing HA-tagged UL16 (TB_UL16^{HA}) was constructed as follows: A PCR product containing an *ISceI* restriction site upstream of a kanamycin (KAN)-resistance cassette and 40bp flanks homologous to the native UL16 C-terminus was amplified using primers TB_UL16HA_FWD and TB_UL16HA_REV, and TB_148_ISceKan BAC DNA (1) as template. The gel-purified PCR product was electroporated into GS1783 *E. coli* carrying an infectious BAC clone of strain TB40/E BAC, TB40E-BAC4 (2), which was the generous gift of Christian Sinzger (University of Ulm, Germany). After isolating KAN-resistant colonies, the KAN expression cassette was “scarlessly” resolved by inducing expression of the *ISceI* homing endonuclease and Red recombinase. The final KAN-sensitive TB_UL16^{HA} recombinants were sequence-confirmed using primers TB_UL16HA_seq_FWD and TB_UL16HA_seq_REV.

UL148-null recombinant TB_148_{STOP}.

TB_148bla was first constructed by replacing the *UL148* ORF of TB_148^{HA} with a beta-lactamase (*bla*) cassette PCR-amplified from plasmid pSP72 (Promega, Inc., Madison, WI) using primers TB_148bla_FWD and TB_148bla_REV. Plasmid pSP72-148stop-ISceKan was then constructed by Gibson assembly of: (i) gBlock 148stop_1 (ii) gBlock 148stop_2 (iii) *ISceI* cassette PCR-amplified from TB_148_ISceKan using

primers ISceKan_FWD and ISceKan_REV, and (iv) EcoRV-digested pSP72. The final plasmid was sequence-confirmed using primers SP6_FWD and T7_seq_FWD. pSP72-148stop-ISceKan was digested by EcoRV to release a 2.1-kb fragment, which was recombined with TB_148bla. Carbenicillin (CARB)-sensitive, KAN-resistant recombinants were resolved of the ISceKan cassette as described above to yield TB_148_{STOP}, which was sequence-confirmed using primers TB_UL148_seq_FWD and TB_UL148orf_seq_REV.

TB40/E and TB_148_{STOP} expressing S-tagged gO.

pSP72-UL74-FLAG-ISceKan was constructed by Gibson Assembly (3) of: (i) EcoRV-digested pSP72, (ii) gBlock TB_UL74_FLAG_1, (iii) gBlock TB_UL74_FLAG_2, and (iv) ISceKan PCR product described above and sequence-confirmed using primers SP6_seq_FWD and T7_seq_FWD. To construct pSP72-UL74-S-ISceKan, pSP72-UL74-FLAG-ISceKan was digested with PpfMI and BglII, and the 3.4-kb fragment was combined with gBlock TB_UL74_S-tag in Gibson assembly to yield pSP72-UL74-S-ISceKan, which was sequence-confirmed using primer AphAI_3'_FWD. pSP72-UL74-S-ISceKan was digested with EcoRV, and the 1.4-kb fragment recombined with the TB40/E or TB_148_{STOP} BAC. KAN-resistant recombinants were resolved of ISceKan as described above to yield TB_gO-S and TB_148_{STOP}_gO-S, which were sequence-confirmed using primers TB_UL74_Cterm_FWD and TB_UL74_Cterm_REV.

ADr131 expressing UL148^{HA} from TB40/E.

The vestigial AD169rv *UL148* locus was replaced with *bla* cassette PCR-amplified from template TB_148bla with primers AD_RL13bla_FWD and AD_UL132bla_REV as described above. The ISceKan-disrupted *UL148^{HA}* locus from TB_148_ISceKan (1) was PCR-amplified using primers AD_147A_TB_FWD and AD_UL132_TB_REV, recombined in GS1783 *E. coli* with ADr131_148bla, and resolved to yield ADr131_148, which was sequence-confirmed using primers AD_148TB_seq_FWD and AD_148TB_seq_REV.

Plasmid construction.

pLenti PGK Neo hTERT. pLenti PGK Neo hTERT was constructed as follows. The *hTERT* ORF was released from pBABE Hygro hTERT (Addgene #1773) by EcoRI/Sall digestion and ligated to XhoI/Sall-digested pENTR1A-no-ccDB (Addgene #17398) to yield pENTR1A hTERT. The *hTERT* ORF was transferred by Gateway cloning to pLenti PGK Neo DEST (Addgene #19067) using LR Clonase II (ThermoFisher #11791-020), resulting in pLenti PGK Neo hTERT.

UL148^{HA}, US11^{HA}, and UL16^{HA} expression plasmids. pEF1α *UL148^{HA}* was constructed as follows. The *UL148^{HA}* ORF was amplified from TB_148^{HA} with primers UL148HA_subclone_FWD and UL148HA_subclone_REV, digested with BamHI /EcoRI, and ligated into pEF1α V5 His C (Invitrogen). pEF1α *US11^{HA}* and pEF1α *UL16^{HA}* were constructed by Gibson assembly of EcoRV-digested pEF1α V5 His C (Invitrogen) with

gBlock US11HA_opt or gBlock UL16HA_opt, respectively. Primers T7_seq_FWD and BGH_REV were used to sequence-confirm these constructs.

hTERT lentivirus production and transduction.

5×10^5 293T cells were co-transfected with pLenti PGK Neo hTERT, psPAX2 (Addgene #12260), and pMD2.G (Addgene #12259) using Mirus Transit-293 reagent according to the manufacturer's instructions. Lentiviral supernatant was collected at 2 and 3 d post-transfection, $0.45 \mu\text{m}$ -filtered, supplemented with polybrene ($8 \mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$), and added to subconfluent HFFs. The next day, inocula were removed and cells were washed three times with DPBS. Starting at 4 d post-transduction, cells were serially-passaged in medium containing $500 \mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ G418. The G418-resistant transduced HFFs that continued to undergo population doublings after control cells senesced were designated hTERT-immortalized HFFs.

Processing of samples for mass spectrometry analysis.

Bands were cut into roughly one cubic millimeter pieces and subjected to an in-gel trypsin digest(4). In brief, gel pieces were dehydrated by soaking in acetonitrile for 10 mins, followed by acetonitrile removal and drying by speed-vac. Gel pieces were rehydrated by addition of 50 mM ammonium bicarbonate containing $12.5 \text{ ng}/\mu\text{L}$ sequencing-grade trypsin (Promega) for 45 min at 4°C . Excess trypsin solution was removed, and ammonium bicarbonate solution was added to barely cover the gel pieces for overnight incubation at 37°C . Peptides were extracted with 50% acetonitrile/1%

formic acid solution, and extracts were dried for 1 hr in a speed-vac. Dried samples were stored at 4°C until analysis. Just before analysis, samples were reconstituted in 5-10 µL of 2.5% acetonitrile/0.1% formic acid solution (Solvent A).

For preparation of a nano-scale reverse-phase HPLC capillary column, a flame-drawn tip was used to pack 2.6 µm C18 silica beads into a 100 µm (inner diameter) × 30 cm fused silica capillary (5). The column was equilibrated with Solvent A, and a Famos auto sampler (LC Packings, San Francisco, CA) loaded each sample onto the column to allow formation of a gradient. Peptides were then eluted with increasing concentrations of 97.5% acetonitrile/0.1% formic acid.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIGURE LEGENDS

FIG. S1. Construction and characterization of TB_gO-S. (A) Strategy for adding a C-terminal S-tag to the *UL74* (gO) ORF with minimal disruption of essential ORF *UL73*.

(B) Multi-cycle growth kinetics of TB_gO-S. Fibroblasts (HFFT) were infected with TB40/E (TB) or TB_gO-S at an MOI of 0.005 TCID₅₀ per cell. Cell supernatants were collected at the indicated dpi and titered in parallel by TCID₅₀ assay. Back-titration of the original infectious inocula is depicted at the 0 dpi time-point. Error bars depict SEM calculated from duplicate infected wells. Dataset depicts one of two independent experiments.

FIG. S2. Growth kinetics of TB_148^{HA} and TB_148^{STOP} on HFFT and ARPE-19 cells.

Fibroblasts (HFFT) and ARPE-19 cells were infected with TB_148^{HA} and TB_148^{STOP} at an MOI of 1 TCID₅₀ per cell according to virus stock titers calculated on HFFTs. Cell-free supernatants were collected at the indicated dpi and titered in parallel by TCID₅₀ assay on HFFTs. Back-titration of the original infectious inocula is depicted at the 0 dpi time-point. The dataset shown is one of two independent experiments. Error bars depict SEM calculated from duplicate infected wells.

FIG. S3. EndoH analysis and detection of gO levels during SEL1L knockdown (A)

Lysates from TB_WT-infected, siRNA-transfected cells (Fig. 3) were treated with EndoH or mock-digest. Extraneous lanes from this blot have been cropped from the image. (B) S western blot analysis of HCMV-infected cells depleted of SEL1L. Fibroblasts (HFFT) were reverse-transfected and infected as in Fig. 3 with TB_gO-S. Lysates were harvested at 96 hpi and analyzed by western blot.

FIG. S4. Depletion of SEL1L in HCMV strain AD169-infected cells recapitulates

effects on HCMV glycoproteins. Fibroblasts (HFFT) were reverse-transfected and infected as in Fig. 3 with recombinant derivatives of HCMV strain AD169: ADr131 (WT) or ADr131_148 (+148). Lysates were harvested at 96 hpi and analyzed by western blot.

FIG. S5. Hrd1 depletion in HCMV-infected cells increases gO levels.

Fibroblasts (HFFT) were reverse-transfected siRNAs against NTC, SEL1L (SEL), or Hrd1 (Hrd) and infected with TB_gO-S (WT) or TB_148_{STOP}_gO-S (148_{STOP}), as in Fig. 3. Lysates were harvested at 96 hpi and analyzed by western blot.

FIG. S6. Dose-responsive effect of kifunensine on HCMV gO levels.

Fibroblasts (HFFT) were infected with HCMV strain TB40/E at an MOI of 1 TCID₅₀ per cell. At 72 hpi, fresh medium containing the indicated concentrations of KIF were added to the cells. Lysates were harvested at 96 hpi and analyzed by western blot. gO was visualized by antiserum against TB40/E gO. As a positive control for steady-state gO

increase, cells were reverse-transfected with anti-SEL1L siRNAs as in Fig. 3, were infected, and analyzed in parallel. Extraneous lanes have been cropped out of the image. Concentrations above 2500 nM did not further increase gO levels (data not shown).

TABLE S1. Mapping of peptide hits from UL148HA-IP eluates to human gene products. Dataset depicts the unique and total hits mapping to the protein products of the human genes in the left column (HGNC Database)(6). Candidate genes were included in the list only if they appeared in both TB_148^{HA}-IP replicates and did not appear in the TB_UL16^{HA}-IP negative control.

TABLE S2. Synthetic DNAs used in the construction and sequence-confirmation of BAC recombinants and plasmids.

TABLE S3. Dharmacon SMARTpool siRNA sequences used in this study.

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