

# THE CONCISE GUIDE TO PHARMACOLOGY 2021/22: Ion channels

Stephen PH Alexander<sup>1</sup> , Alistair Mathie<sup>2</sup> , John A Peters<sup>3</sup> , Emma L Veale<sup>4</sup> , Jörg Striessnig<sup>5</sup> ,  
Eamonn Kelly<sup>6</sup>, Jane F Armstrong<sup>7</sup> , Elena Faccenda<sup>7</sup> , Simon D Harding<sup>7</sup> , Adam J Pawson<sup>7</sup> ,  
Christopher Southan<sup>7</sup> , Jamie A Davies<sup>7</sup> , Richard W. Aldrich<sup>8</sup> , Bernard Attali<sup>9</sup> , Austin M Baggetta<sup>10</sup> ,  
Elvir Becirovic<sup>11</sup> , Martin Biel<sup>11</sup> , Roslyn M. Bill<sup>12</sup> , William A. Catterall<sup>13</sup> , Alex C. Conner<sup>14</sup> , Paul Davies<sup>15</sup>,  
Markus Delling<sup>16</sup> , Francesco Di Virgilio<sup>17</sup> , Simonetta Falzoni<sup>17</sup>, Stefanie Fenske<sup>11</sup> , Chandy George<sup>18</sup>,  
Steve A. N. Goldstein<sup>19</sup> , Stephan Grissmer<sup>20</sup>, Kotdaji Ha<sup>16</sup> , Verena Hammelmann<sup>11</sup>, Israel Hanukoglu<sup>21</sup> ,  
Mike Jarvis<sup>22</sup>, Anders A. Jensen<sup>23</sup>, Leonard K. Kaczmarek<sup>24</sup> , Stephan Kellenberger<sup>25</sup> , Charles Kennedy<sup>26</sup> ,  
Brian King<sup>27</sup> , Philip Kitchen<sup>12</sup> , Joseph W. Lynch<sup>28</sup>, Edward Perez-Reyes<sup>29</sup> , Leigh D. Plant<sup>10</sup> , Lachlan Rash<sup>30</sup> ,  
Dejian Ren<sup>31</sup>, Mootaz M. Salman<sup>32</sup> , Lucia G. Sivilotti<sup>27</sup>, Trevor G. Smart<sup>27</sup>, Terrance P. Snutch<sup>33</sup> ,  
Jinbin Tian<sup>34</sup> , James S. Trimmer<sup>35</sup>, Charlotte Van den Eynde<sup>36</sup> , Joris Vriens<sup>36</sup> , Aguan D. Wei<sup>13</sup>, Brenda T. Winn<sup>10</sup>,  
Heike Wulff<sup>35</sup>, Haoxing Xu<sup>37</sup> , Lixia Yue<sup>38</sup> , Xiaoli Zhang<sup>37</sup> , and Michael Zhu<sup>34</sup> 



<sup>1</sup>School of Life Sciences, University of Nottingham Medical School, Nottingham, NG7 2UH, UK, <sup>2</sup>School of Engineering, Arts, Science and Technology, University of Suffolk, Ipswich, IP4 1QJ, UK, <sup>3</sup>Neuroscience Division, Medical Education Institute, Ninewells Hospital and Medical School, University of Dundee, Dundee, DD1 9SY, UK, <sup>4</sup>Medway School of Pharmacy, The Universities of Greenwich and Kent at Medway, Anson Building, Central Avenue, Chatham Maritime, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TB, UK, <sup>5</sup>Pharmacology and Toxicology, Institute of Pharmacy, University of Innsbruck, A-6020 Innsbruck, Austria, <sup>6</sup>School of Physiology, Pharmacology and Neuroscience, University of Bristol, Bristol, BS8 1TD, UK, <sup>7</sup>Centre for Discovery Brain Science, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, EH8 9XD, UK, <sup>8</sup>Stanford University, Austin, USA, <sup>9</sup>Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel, <sup>10</sup>Northeastern University, Boston, MA, USA, <sup>11</sup>Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Munich, Germany, <sup>12</sup>Aston University, Birmingham, UK, <sup>13</sup>University of Washington, Seattle, USA, <sup>14</sup>University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK, <sup>15</sup>Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, MA, USA, <sup>16</sup>University of California San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, USA, <sup>17</sup>University of Ferrara, Ferrara, Italy, <sup>18</sup>Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, Singapore, <sup>19</sup>University of California Irvine, Irvine, USA, <sup>20</sup>Ulm University, Ulm, Germany, <sup>21</sup>Ariel University, Ariel, Israel, <sup>22</sup>University of Illinois, Chicago, USA, <sup>23</sup>University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark, <sup>24</sup>Yale University, New Haven, USA, <sup>25</sup>University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland, <sup>26</sup>Strathclyde University, Glasgow, UK, <sup>27</sup>University College London, London, UK, <sup>28</sup>University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia, <sup>29</sup>University of Virginia, Charlottesville, USA, <sup>30</sup>University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Australia, <sup>31</sup>University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA, <sup>32</sup>University of Oxford, Oxford, UK, <sup>33</sup>University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, <sup>34</sup>University of Texas at Houston, Houston, TX, USA, <sup>35</sup>University of California Davis, Davis, USA, <sup>36</sup>Catholic University of Leuven, Leuven, Belgium, <sup>37</sup>University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA, <sup>38</sup>University of Connecticut, Farmington, CT, USA

**Abstract**

The Concise Guide to PHARMACOLOGY 2021/22 is the fifth in this series of biennial publications. The Concise Guide provides concise overviews, mostly in tabular format, of the key properties of nearly 1900 human drug targets with an emphasis on selective pharmacology (where available), plus links to the open access knowledgebase source of drug targets and their ligands ([www.guidetopharmacology.org](http://www.guidetopharmacology.org)), which provides more detailed views of target and ligand properties. Although the Concise Guide constitutes over 500 pages, the material presented is substantially reduced compared to information and links presented on the website. It provides a permanent, citable, point-in-time record that will survive database updates. The full contents of this section can be found at <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/bph.15539>. Ion channels are one of the six major pharmacological targets into which the Guide is divided, with the others being: G protein-coupled receptors, nuclear hormone receptors, catalytic receptors, enzymes and transporters. These are presented with nomenclature guidance and summary information on the best available pharmacological tools, alongside key references and suggestions for further reading. The landscape format of the Concise Guide is designed to facilitate comparison of related targets from material contemporary to mid-2021, and supersedes data presented in the 2019/20, 2017/18, 2015/16 and 2013/14 Concise Guides and previous Guides to Receptors and Channels. It is produced in close conjunction with the Nomenclature and Standards Committee of the International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (NC-IUPHAR), therefore, providing official IUPHAR classification and nomenclature for human drug targets, where appropriate.

**Conflict of interest**

The authors state that there are no conflicts of interest to disclose.

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**Overview:** Ion channels are pore-forming proteins that allow the flow of ions across membranes, either plasma membranes, or the membranes of intracellular organelles [407]. Many ion channels (such as most Na, K, Ca and some Cl channels) are gated by voltage but others (such as certain K and Cl channels, TRP channels, ryanodine receptors and IP<sub>3</sub> receptors) are relatively voltage-insensitive and are gated by second messengers and other intracellular and/or extracellular mediators. As such, there is some blurring of the boundaries between "ion channels" and "ligand-gated channels" which are compiled separately in the Guide. Resolution of ion channel structures, beginning with

K channels [260] then Cl channels [278] and most recently Na channels [827] has greatly improved understanding of the structural basis behind ion channel function. Many ion channels (e.g., K, Na, Ca, HCN and TRP channels) share several structural similarities. These channels are thought to have evolved from a common ancestor and have been classified together as the "voltage-gated-like (VGL) ion channel channel" (see [1204]). Other ion channels, however, such as Cl channels, aquaporins and connexins, have completely different structural properties to the VGL channels, having evolved quite separately.

Currently, ion channels (including ligand-gated ion channels) represent the second largest target for existing drugs after G protein-coupled receptors [808]. However, the advent of novel, faster screening techniques for compounds acting on ion channels [270] suggests that these proteins represent promising targets for the development of additional, novel therapeutic agents for the near future.

**Family structure**

S159	Ligand-gated ion channels	S190	Cyclic nucleotide-regulated channels	S225	Aquaporins
S160	5-HT <sub>3</sub> receptors	S192	Potassium channels	S227	Chloride channels
S162	Acid-sensing (proton-gated) ion channels (ASICs)	S193	Calcium- and sodium-activated potassium channels	S228	ClC family
S165	Epithelial sodium channel (ENaC)	S195	Inwardly rectifying potassium channels	S230	CFTR
S166	GABA <sub>A</sub> receptors	S199	Two-pore domain potassium channels	S231	Calcium activated chloride channel
S172	Glycine receptors	S201	Voltage-gated potassium channels	S232	Maxi chloride channel
S175	Ionotropic glutamate receptors	S204	Ryanodine receptors	S233	Volume regulated chloride channels
S180	IP <sub>3</sub> receptors	S205	Transient Receptor Potential channels	S234	Connexins and Pannexins
S181	Nicotinic acetylcholine receptors	S219	Voltage-gated calcium channels	S236	Piezo channels
S185	P2X receptors	S222	Voltage-gated proton channel	S237	Sodium leak channel, non-selective
S187	ZAC	S223	Voltage-gated sodium channels	–	Store-operated ion channels
S188	Voltage-gated ion channels	–	Other ion channels	S238	Orai channels
S188	CatSper and Two-Pore channels				

## Ligand-gated ion channels

[Ion channels](#) → [Ligand-gated ion channels](#)

**Overview:** Ligand-gated ion channels (LGICs) are integral membrane proteins that contain a pore which allows the regulated flow of selected ions across the plasma membrane. Ion flux is passive and driven by the electrochemical gradient for the permeant ions. These channels are open, or gated, by the binding of a neurotransmitter to an orthosteric site(s) that triggers a conformational change that results in the conducting state. Modulation of gating can occur by the binding of endogenous, or exogenous, modulators to allosteric sites. LGICs mediate fast synaptic transmission, on a millisecond time scale, in the nervous system and at the somatic neuromuscular junction. Such transmission involves the release of a neurotransmitter from a pre-synaptic neurone and the subsequent activation of post-synaptically located receptors that mediate a rapid, phasic, electrical signal (the excitatory, or inhibitory, post-synaptic potential). However, in addition to their traditional role in

phasic neurotransmission, it is now established that some LGICs mediate a tonic form of neuronal regulation that results from the activation of extra-synaptic receptors by ambient levels of neurotransmitter. The expression of some LGICs by non-excitatory cells is suggestive of additional functions. By convention, the LGICs comprise the excitatory, cation-selective, nicotinic acetylcholine [146, 714], 5-HT<sub>3</sub> [57, 1116], ionotropic glutamate [634, 1071] and P2X receptors [468, 1018] and the inhibitory, anion-selective, GABA<sub>A</sub> [77, 796] and glycine receptors [652, 1196]. The nicotinic acetylcholine, 5-HT<sub>3</sub>, GABA<sub>A</sub> and glycine receptors (and an additional zinc-activated channel) are pentameric structures and are frequently referred to as the Cys-loop receptors due to the presence of a defining loop of residues formed by a disulphide bond in the extracellular domain of their constituent subunits [718, 1046]. However, the prokaryotic ancestors of these

receptors contain no such loop and the term pentameric ligand-gated ion channel (pLGIC) is gaining acceptance in the literature [403]. The ionotropic glutamate and P2X receptors are tetrameric and trimeric structures, respectively. Multiple genes encode the subunits of LGICs and the majority of these receptors are heteromultimers. Such combinational diversity results, within each class of LGIC, in a wide range of receptors with differing pharmacological and biophysical properties and varying patterns of expression within the nervous system and other tissues. The LGICs thus present attractive targets for new therapeutic agents with improved discrimination between receptor isoforms and a reduced propensity for off-target effects. The development of novel, faster screening techniques for compounds acting on LGICs [270] will greatly aid in the development of such agents.

## 5-HT<sub>3</sub> receptors

[Ion channels](#) → [Ligand-gated ion channels](#) → [5-HT<sub>3</sub> receptors](#)

### Overview: The 5-HT<sub>3</sub> receptor (nomenclature as agreed by the NC-IUPHAR Subcommittee on

**5-Hydroxytryptamine (serotonin) receptors [430]**) is a ligand-gated ion channel of the Cys-loop family that includes the zinc-activated channels, nicotinic acetylcholine, GABA<sub>A</sub> and strychnine-sensitive glycine receptors. The receptor exists as a pentamer of 4TM subunits that form an intrinsic cation selective channel [57]. Five human 5-HT<sub>3</sub> receptor subunits have been cloned and homo-oligomeric assemblies of 5-HT<sub>3</sub>A and hetero-oligomeric assemblies of 5-HT<sub>3</sub>A and 5-HT<sub>3</sub>B subunits have been characterised in detail. The 5-HT<sub>3</sub>C (*HTR3C*, *Q8WXA8*), 5-HT<sub>3</sub>D (*HTR3D*, *Q70Z44*) and 5-HT<sub>3</sub>E (*HTR3E*, *A5X5Y0*) subunits [506, 764], like the 5-HT<sub>3</sub>B subunit, do not form functional homomers, but are reported to assemble with the 5-HT<sub>3</sub>A subunit to influence its functional expression rather

than pharmacological profile [419, 766, 1115]. 5-HT<sub>3</sub>A, -C, -D, and -E subunits also interact with the chaperone RIC-3 which predominantly enhances the surface expression of homomeric 5-HT<sub>3</sub>A receptor [1115]. The co-expression of 5-HT<sub>3</sub>A and 5-HT<sub>3</sub>C-E subunits has been demonstrated in human colon [500]. A recombinant hetero-oligomeric 5-HT<sub>3</sub>AB receptor has been reported to contain two copies of the 5-HT<sub>3</sub>A subunit and three copies of the 5-HT<sub>3</sub>B subunit in the order B-B-A-B-A [62], but this is inconsistent with recent reports which show at least one A-A interface [633, 1050]. The 5-HT<sub>3</sub>B subunit imparts distinctive biophysical properties upon hetero-oligomeric 5-HT<sub>3</sub>AB versus homo-oligomeric 5-HT<sub>3</sub>A recombinant receptors [208, 267, 377, 470, 512, 847, 997], influences the potency of channel blockers, but generally has only a modest effect upon the apparent affinity of agonists, or the affinity of antagonists

([107], but see [206, 225, 267]) which may be explained by the orthosteric binding site residing at an interface formed between 5-HT<sub>3</sub>A subunits [633, 1050]. However, 5-HT<sub>3</sub>A and 5-HT<sub>3</sub>AB receptors differ in their allosteric regulation by some general anaesthetic agents, small alcohols and indoles [433, 916, 990]. The potential diversity of 5-HT<sub>3</sub> receptors is increased by alternative splicing of the genes *HTR3A* and *E* [115, 424, 763, 765, 766]. In addition, the use of tissue-specific promoters driving expression from different transcriptional start sites has been reported for the *HTR3A*, *HTR3B*, *HTR3D* and *HTR3E* genes, which could result in 5-HT<sub>3</sub> subunits harbouring different N-termini [470, 763, 1076]. To date, inclusion of the 5-HT<sub>3</sub>A subunit appears imperative for 5-HT<sub>3</sub> receptor function.

### Further reading on 5-HT<sub>3</sub> receptors

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Nomenclature	<b>5-HT<sub>3</sub>AB</b>	<b>5-HT<sub>3</sub>A</b>
Subunits	<b>5-HT<sub>3</sub>A, 5-HT<sub>3</sub>B</b>	<b>5-HT<sub>3</sub>A</b>
Agonists	<b>CSTI-300</b> (Partial agonist) [899]	<b>CSTI-300</b> (Partial agonist) [899]
Selective agonists	–	<i>meta</i> -chlorphenylbiguanide [76, 208, 577, 724, 725], <i>2</i> -methyl-5-HT [76, 208, 577, 724], SR57227A [280] – Rat, 1-phenylbiguanide [76]
Antagonists	–	<b>vortioxetine</b> (pK <sub>i</sub> 8.4) [52], <b>metoclopramide</b> (pK <sub>i</sub> 6–6.4) [107, 425]
Selective antagonists	–	<b>palonosetron</b> (pK <sub>i</sub> 10.5) [735], <b>alosetron</b> (pK <sub>i</sub> 9.5) [410], ( <i>S</i> )- <b>zacopride</b> (pK <sub>i</sub> 9) [107], <b>granisetron</b> (pK <sub>i</sub> ~8.6–8.8) [425, 724], <b>tropisetron</b> (pK <sub>i</sub> 8.5–8.8) [577, 724], <b>ondansetron</b> (pK <sub>i</sub> ~7.8–8.3) [107, 425, 724]
Channel blockers	<b>picROTOXININ</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.2) [1045], <b>bilobalide</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 2.5) [1045], <b>ginkgolide B</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 2.4) [1045]	<b>picROTOXININ</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5) [1044], <b>TMB-8</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.9) [1016], <b>diltiazem</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.7) [1044], <b>bilobalide</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.3) [1044], <b>ginkgolide B</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.1) [1044]
Labelled ligands	–	[ <sup>3</sup> H] <b>ramosetron</b> (Antagonist) (pK <sub>d</sub> 9.8) [724], [ <sup>3</sup> H] <b>GR65630</b> (Antagonist) (pK <sub>d</sub> 8.6–9.3) [410, 577], [ <sup>3</sup> H] <b>granisetron</b> (Antagonist) (pK <sub>d</sub> 8.9) [107, 425], [ <sup>3</sup> H] <b>(S)-zacopride</b> (Antagonist) (pK <sub>d</sub> 8.7) [817], [ <sup>3</sup> H] <b>LY278584</b> (Antagonist) (pK <sub>d</sub> 8.5) [3]
Functional Characteristics	γ = 0.4–0.8 pS [+ 5-HT <sub>3</sub> B, γ = 16 pS]; inwardly rectifying current [+ 5-HT <sub>3</sub> B, rectification reduced]; n <sub>H</sub> 2–3 [+ 5-HT <sub>3</sub> B 1–2]; relative permeability to divalent cations reduced by co-expression of the 5-HT <sub>3</sub> B subunit	γ = 0.4–0.8 pS [+ 5-HT <sub>3</sub> B, γ = 16 pS]; inwardly rectifying current [+ 5-HT <sub>3</sub> B, rectification reduced]; n <sub>H</sub> 2–3 [+ 5-HT <sub>3</sub> B 1–2]; relative permeability to divalent cations reduced by co-expression of the 5-HT <sub>3</sub> B subunit

### Subunits

Nomenclature	<b>5-HT<sub>3</sub>A</b>	<b>5-HT<sub>3</sub>B</b>	<b>5-HT<sub>3</sub>C</b>	<b>5-HT<sub>3</sub>D</b>	<b>5-HT<sub>3</sub>E</b>
HGNC, UniProt	<b>HTR3A, P46098</b>	<b>HTR3B, O95264</b>	<b>HTR3C, Q8WXA8</b>	<b>HTR3D, Q70Z44</b>	<b>HTR3E, ASXS0Y</b>
Functional Characteristics	γ = 0.4–0.8 pS [+ 5-HT <sub>3</sub> B, γ = 16 pS]; inwardly rectifying current [+ 5-HT <sub>3</sub> B, rectification reduced]; n <sub>H</sub> 2–3 [+ 5-HT <sub>3</sub> B 1–2]; relative permeability to divalent cations reduced by co-expression of the 5-HT <sub>3</sub> B subunit	γ = 0.4–0.8 pS [+ 5-HT <sub>3</sub> B, γ = 16 pS]; inwardly rectifying current [+ 5-HT <sub>3</sub> B, rectification reduced]; n <sub>H</sub> 2–3 [+ 5-HT <sub>3</sub> B 1–2]; relative permeability to divalent cations reduced by co-expression of the 5-HT <sub>3</sub> B subunit	–	–	–

**Comments:** Quantitative data in the table refer to homo-oligomeric assemblies of the human 5-HT<sub>3</sub>A subunit, or the receptor native to human tissues. Significant changes introduced by co-expression of the 5-HT<sub>3</sub>B subunit are indicated in parenthesis. Although not a selective antagonist, **methadone** displays multimodal and subunit-dependent antagonism of 5-HT<sub>3</sub> receptors [225]. Similarly, **TMB-8**, **diltiazem**, **picROTOXININ**, **bilobalide** and **ginkgolide B** are not selective for 5-HT<sub>3</sub> receptors

(*e.g.* [1045]). The anti-malarial drugs **mefloquine** and **quinine** exert a modestly more potent block of 5-HT<sub>3</sub>A versus 5-HT<sub>3</sub>AB receptor-mediated responses [1047]. Known better as a partial agonist of nicotinic acetylcholine α4β2 receptors, **varenicline** is also an agonist of the 5-HT<sub>3</sub>A receptor [648]. Human [76, 724], rat [450], mouse [681], guinea-pig [577] ferret [726] and canine [473] orthologues of the 5-HT<sub>3</sub>A receptor subunit have been cloned that exhibit intraspecies variations in receptor

pharmacology. Notably, most ligands display significantly reduced affinities at the guinea-pig 5-HT<sub>3</sub> receptor in comparison with other species. In addition to the agents listed in the table, native and recombinant 5-HT<sub>3</sub> receptors are subject to allosteric modulation by extracellular divalent cations, alcohols, several general anaesthetics and 5-hydroxy- and halide-substituted indoles (see reviews [22, 23, 818, 1048, 1049, 1116]).

## Acid-sensing (proton-gated) ion channels (ASICs)

[Ion channels](#) → [Ligand-gated ion channels](#) → [Acid-sensing \(proton-gated\) ion channels \(ASICs\)](#)

**Overview:** Acid-sensing ion channels (ASICs, **nomenclature as agreed by NC-IUPHAR [22, 23, 511]**) are members of a Na<sup>+</sup> channel superfamily that includes the epithelial Na<sup>+</sup> channel (ENaC), the FMRF-amide activated channel (FaNaC) of invertebrates, the degenerins (DEG) of *Caenorhabditis elegans*, channels in *Drosophila melanogaster* and 'orphan' channels that include BLINaC [921] and INaC [936] that have also been named BASICs, for bile acid-activated ion channels [1150]. ASIC subunits contain 2 TM domains and assemble as homo- or hetero-trimers [45, 345, 469, 1015, 1198, 1199] to form proton-gated, voltage-insensitive, Na<sup>+</sup> permeable, channels that are activated by levels of acidosis occurring in both physiological and pathophysiological conditions with ASIC3 also playing a role in mechanosensation (reviewed in [171, 362, 511, 906, 1147]). Splice variants of ASIC1 [termed ASIC1a (ASIC, ASIC $\alpha$ , BNaC2 $\alpha$ ) [1109], ASIC1b (ASIC $\beta$ , BNaC2 $\beta$ ) [156] and ASIC1b2 (ASIC $\beta$ 2) [1078]; note that ASIC1a is also permeable to Ca<sup>2+</sup>] and ASIC2 [termed ASIC2a (MDEG1, BNaC1 $\alpha$ , BNC1 $\alpha$ ) [329, 869, 1110] and ASIC2b (MDEG2, BNaC1 $\beta$ ) [620]] have been cloned and differ in the first third of the protein. Unlike ASIC2a (listed

in table), heterologous expression of ASIC2b alone does not support H<sup>+</sup>-gated currents. A third member, ASIC3 (DRASIC, TNaC1) [1108] is one of the most pH-sensitive isoforms (along with ASIC1a) and has the fastest activation and desensitisation kinetics, however can also carry small sustained currents. ASIC4 (SPASIC) evolved as a proton-sensitive channel but seems to have lost this function in mammals [650]. Mammalian ASIC4 does not support a proton-gated channel in heterologous expression systems but is reported to downregulate the expression of ASIC1a and ASIC3 [14, 255, 361, 616]. ASIC channels are primarily expressed in central (ASIC1a, -2a, 2b and -4) and peripheral neurons including nociceptors (ASIC1-3) where they participate in neuronal sensitivity to acidosis. They have also been detected in taste receptor cells (ASIC1-3), photoreceptors and retinal cells (ASIC1-3), cochlear hair cells (ASIC1b), testis (hASIC3), pituitary gland (ASIC4), lung epithelial cells (ASIC1a and -3), urothelial cells, adipose cells (ASIC3), vascular smooth muscle cells (ASIC1-3), immune cells (ASIC1, -3 and -4) and bone (ASIC1-3) (ASIC distribution is well reviewed in [235, 617]). A neurotransmitter-like function of protons has been suggested,

involving postsynaptically located ASICs of the CNS in functions such as learning and fear perception [264, 558, 1233], responses to focal ischemia [1170] and to axonal degeneration in autoimmune inflammation in a mouse model of multiple sclerosis [322], as well as seizures [1234] and pain [99, 236, 237, 249, 1147]. Heterologously expressed heteromultimers form ion channels with differences in kinetics, ion selectivity, pH-sensitivity and sensitivity to blockers that resemble some of the native proton activated currents recorded from neurones [43, 61, 292, 620]. In general, the known small molecule inhibitors of ASICs are non-selective or partially selective, whereas the venom peptide inhibitors have substantially higher selectivity and potency. Several clinically used drugs are known to inhibit ASICs, however they are generally more potent at other targets (e.g. [amiloride](#) at ENaCs, [ibuprofen](#) at COX enzymes) [803, 891]. The information in the tables below are for the effects of inhibitors on homomeric channels, for information of known effect on heteromeric channels see the comments below.

### Further reading on Acid-sensing (proton-gated) ion channels (ASICs)

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Nomenclature	<b>ASIC1</b>	<b>ASIC2</b>
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">ASIC1</a> , <a href="#">P78348</a>	<a href="#">ASIC2</a> , <a href="#">Q16515</a>
Endogenous activators	Extracellular <b>H<sup>+</sup></b> (ASIC1a) (pEC <sub>50</sub> ~6.2–6.8), Extracellular <b>H<sup>+</sup></b> (ASIC1b) (pEC <sub>50</sub> ~5.1–6.2)	Extracellular <b>H<sup>+</sup></b> (pEC <sub>50</sub> ~4.1–5)
Channel blockers	<b>Pi-hexatoxin-Hi1a</b> (ASIC1a) (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~9.3) [114], <b>psalmotoxin 1</b> (ASIC1a) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 9) [292], <b>Pi-theraphotoxin-Hm3a</b> (ASIC1a) (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~8.5) [287], <b>Zn<sup>2+</sup></b> (ASIC1a) (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~8.2) [177], <b>JNJ-799760</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.6) [630], <b>compound 5b</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.6) [121], <b>JNJ-67869386</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.5) [630], <b>mambalgin-1</b> (ASIC1a) (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~7.3) [249], <b>mambalgin-1</b> (ASIC1b) (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~7) [58], <b>diminazene</b> (ASIC1a & ASIC1b) (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~6.5) [555, 586, 941], <b>NS383</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.4) [739], <b>Pb<sup>2+</sup></b> (ASIC1b) (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~5.8), <b>A-317567</b> (ASIC1a) (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~5.7) [266] – Rat, <b>Pb<sup>2+</sup></b> (ASIC1a) (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~5.4) [1127], <b>compound 5b</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.2) [121], <b>amiloride</b> (ASIC1a) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5), <b>benzamil</b> (ASIC1a) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5) [1109], <b>ethylisopropylamiloride</b> (ASIC1a) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5) [1109], <b>nafamostat</b> (ASIC1a) (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~4.9) [1077], <b>amiloride</b> (ASIC1b) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.6–4.7) [1109], <b>flurbiprofen</b> (ASIC1a) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.5) [1098] – Rat, <b>ibuprofen</b> (ASIC1a) (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~3.5) [651, 1098]	<b>diminazene</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~6.1) [586], <b>amiloride</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.6) [1110], <b>A-317567</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~4.5) [266], <b>nafamostat</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~4.2) [1077], <b>Cd<sup>2+</sup></b> (Partial inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~3) [996]
Labelled ligands	[ <sup>125</sup> I]psalmotoxin 1 (ASIC1a) (pK <sub>d</sub> 9.7) [926]	–
Functional Characteristics	<b>ASIC1a:</b> $\gamma$ = 14 pS P <sub>Na</sub> /P <sub>K</sub> = 5–13, P <sub>Na</sub> /P <sub>Ca</sub> = 2.5 rapid activation rate (5.8–13.7 ms), rapid inactivation rate (1.2–4 s) @ pH 6.0, slow recovery (5.3–13s) @ pH 7.4 <b>ASIC1b:</b> $\gamma$ = 19 pS P <sub>Na</sub> /P <sub>K</sub> = 14.0, P <sub>Na</sub> ≫ P <sub>Ca</sub> rapid activation rate (9.9 ms), rapid inactivation rate (0.9–1.7 s) @ pH 6.0, slow recovery (4.4–7.7 s) @ pH 7.4	$\gamma$ = 10.4–13.4 pS P <sub>Na</sub> /P <sub>K</sub> = 10, P <sub>Na</sub> /P <sub>Ca</sub> = 20 rapid activation rate, moderate inactivation rate (3.3–5.5 s) @ pH 5
Comments	ASIC1a and ASIC1b are activated by the heteromeric Texas coral snake toxin MitTx, with pEC <sub>50</sub> values of 8 and 7.6 respectively [99].	ASIC2 is also blocked by other diarylamidines [164].

Nomenclature	<b>ASIC3</b>
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">ASIC3</a> , <a href="#">Q9UHC3</a>
Endogenous activators	Extracellular <b>H<sup>+</sup></b> (transient component) (pEC <sub>50</sub> ~6.2–6.7), Extracellular <b>H<sup>+</sup></b> (sustained component) (pEC <sub>50</sub> ~3.5–4.3)
Activators	<b>GMQ</b> (largly non-desensitizing; at pH 7.4) (pEC <sub>50</sub> ~3) [1206], <b>arcaine</b> (at pH 7.4) (pEC <sub>50</sub> ~2.9) [608], <b>agmatine</b> (at pH 7.4) (pEC <sub>50</sub> ~2) [608]
Channel blockers	<b>APETx2</b> (transient component only) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.2) [248], <b>diminazene</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~6.5) [586], <b>A-317567</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6) [563], <b>NS383</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.7) [739], <b>nafamostat</b> (transient component) (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~5.6) [1077], <b>Ugr 9-1</b> (transient component) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5) [804], <b>amiloride</b> (transient component only - sustained component enhanced by 200 μM amiloride at pH 4) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.2–4.8) [1108], <b>Gd<sup>3+</sup></b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.4) [43], <b>Zn<sup>2+</sup></b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.2) [477], <b>aspirin</b> (sustained component) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4) [1098], <b>diclofenac</b> (sustained component) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4) [1098], <b>salicylic acid</b> (sustained component) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.6) [1098]
Functional Characteristics	$\gamma$ = 13–15 pS; biphasic response consisting of rapidly inactivating transient and sustained components; very rapid activation (<5 ms) and inactivation (0.4 s); fast recovery (0.4–0.6 s) @ pH 7.4, transient component partially inactivated at pH 7.2
Comments	ASIC3 is activated by Mit-Toxin (pEC <sub>50</sub> 6.1) [99].

**Comments:** **Psalmotoxin 1** (PcTx1) inhibits ASIC1a by increasing the affinity to H<sup>+</sup> and promoting channel desensitization [162, 292]. PcTx1 has little effect on ASIC2a, ASIC3 or ASIC1a expressed as a heteromultimer with either ASIC2a, or ASIC3 but does inhibit ASIC1a expressed as a heteromultimer with ASIC2b [963]. PcTx1 and  $\pi$ -Hm3a potentiate ASIC1b currents [163, 287]. ASIC1-containing homo- and heteromers are inhibited by Mambalgins, toxins contained in the black mamba venom, which induce in ASIC1a an acidic shift of the pH dependence of activation [249].  $\pi$ -Hi1a is highly selective for ASIC1a with very little activity at ASIC1b. It inhibits channel activation and is very slowly reversible [148]. **APETx2** most potently blocks homomeric ASIC3 channels, but also ASIC2b+ASIC3, ASIC1b+ASIC3, and ASIC1a+ASIC3 heteromeric channels with IC<sub>50</sub> values of 117 nM, 900 nM and 2  $\mu$ M, respectively. **APETx2** has no effect on ASIC1a or ASIC2a+ASIC3, however, it does potentiate ASIC1b and ASIC2a homomers in the low micromolar range (1-10  $\mu$ M) [248, 250, 586]. **APETx2** however also inhibits voltage-gated Na<sup>+</sup> channels [93, 836]. IC<sub>50</sub> value for **A-317567** was determined using high throughput electrophysiology on human ASIC3 expressed in HEK293 cells [563]. For some of the newer small molecule inhibitors it is not known whether they inhibit ion channels in addition to ASICs [121, 630, 739]. The effects of several compounds are pH-dependent, displaying higher potencies at more alkaline pH [121, 630, 739]. The pEC<sub>50</sub> values for proton activation of ASIC channels are influenced by numerous factors including extracellular di- and poly-valent ions, Zn<sup>2+</sup>, protein kinase C and

serine proteases (reviewed in [511, 1147]). Rapid acidification is required for activation of ASIC1 and ASIC3 due to fast inactivation/desensitization. pEC<sub>50</sub> values for H<sup>+</sup>-activation of either transient, or sustained, currents mediated by ASIC3 vary in the literature and may reflect species and/or methodological differences [44, 213, 1108]. The transient ASIC current component is Na<sup>+</sup>-selective (PNa/PK of about 10) [1108, 1189] whereas the sustained current component that is observed with ASIC3 and some ASIC heteromers is non-selective between Na<sup>+</sup> and K<sup>+</sup> [213]. The reducing agents dithiothreitol (DTT) and glutathione (GSH) increase ASIC1a currents expressed in CHO cells and ASIC-like currents in sensory ganglia and central neurons [32, 176] whereas oxidation, through the formation of intersubunit disulphide bonds, reduces currents mediated by ASIC1a [1216]. ASIC1a is also irreversibly modulated by extracellular serine proteases, such as trypsin, through proteolytic cleavage [1103]. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are direct inhibitors of ASIC currents (reviewed in [59]). Extracellular Zn<sup>2+</sup> potentiates proton activation of homomeric and heteromeric channels incorporating ASIC2a, but not homomeric ASIC1a or ASIC3 channels [60]. However, removal of contaminating Zn<sup>2+</sup> by chelation reveals a high affinity block of homomeric ASIC1a and heteromeric ASIC1a+ASIC2 channels by Zn<sup>2+</sup> indicating complex biphasic actions of the divalent [177]. Nitric oxide potentiates submaximal currents activated by H<sup>+</sup> mediated by ASIC1a, ASIC1b, ASIC2a and ASIC3 [123]. The positive modulation of

homomeric, heteromeric and native ASIC channels by the peptide **FMRFamide** and related substances, such as neuropeptides FF and SF, is reviewed in detail in [1089]. Inflammatory conditions and particular pro-inflammatory mediators such as **arachidonic acid** induce overexpression of ASIC-encoding genes and enhance ASIC currents [237, 677, 979]. The sustained current component mediated by ASIC3 is potentiated by hypertonic solutions in a manner that is synergistic with the effect of **arachidonic acid** [237]. ASIC3 is partially activated by the lipids lysophosphatidylcholine (LPC) and arachidonic acid [682]. Mit-Toxin, which is contained in the venom of the Texas coral snake, activates several ASIC subtypes [99]. Selective activation of ASIC3 by GMQ at a site separate from the proton binding site is potentiated by mild acidosis and reduced extracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> [1206].

*Additional notes on the channels:* Until recently they were thought to be vertebrate specific channels, however are now known to have evolved over 600 million years ago and appear to be conserved throughout the superphylum of animals known as deuterostomes (which includes vertebrates, tunicates, starfish, sea urchins, sea cucumbers and acorn worms) [650]. Recently an ion-conducting-independent signaling mechanism has been revealed for ASIC1a whereby the acidosis-activated channel recruits RIPK1 to its C-terminus resulting in RIPK1 phosphorylation and activation of necroptosis. This pathway is suggested to be the primary cause of ASIC-mediated neuronal cell death in ischemic stroke [1123, 1135].

## Epithelial sodium channel (ENaC)

[Ion channels](#) → [Ligand-gated ion channels](#) → [Epithelial sodium channel \(ENaC\)](#)

**Overview:** The epithelial sodium channels (ENaC) are located on the apical membrane of epithelial cells in the kidney tubules, lung, respiratory tract, male and female reproductive tracts, sweat and salivary glands, placenta, colon, and some other organs [125, 268, 379, 380, 957]. In these epithelia, Na<sup>+</sup> ions flow from the extracellular fluid into the cytoplasm of epithelial cells *via* ENaC. The Na<sup>+</sup> ions are then pumped out of the cytoplasm into the interstitial fluid by the Na<sup>+</sup>/K<sup>+</sup> ATPase located on the basolateral membrane [857]. As Na<sup>+</sup> is one of the major electrolytes in the extracellular fluid (ECF), osmolarity change initiated by the Na<sup>+</sup> flow is accompanied by a flow of water accompanying Na<sup>+</sup> ions

[105]. Thus, ENaC has a central role in regulating ECF volume and blood pressure, primarily *via* its function in the kidney [909]. The expression of ENaC subunits, hence its activity, is regulated by the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system, and other factors involved in electrolyte homeostasis [536, 909].

In the respiratory tract and female reproductive tract, large segments of the epithelia are composed of multi-ciliated cells. In these cells, ENaC is located along the entire length of the cilia that cover the cell surface [286]. Ciliary location greatly increases ENaC density per cell surface and allows ENaC to serve as a sensitive regulator of osmolarity of the periciliary fluid

throughout the whole depth of the fluid bathing the cilia [286]. In contrast to ENaC, CFTR (ion transporter defective in cystic fibrosis) is located on non-ciliary cell-surface [286]. In the vas deferens segment of the male reproductive tract, the luminal surface is covered by microvilli and stereocilia projections with backbones composed of actin filament bundles [957]. In these cells, both ENaC and the water channel aquaporin AQP9 are localized on these projections and also in the basal and smooth muscle layers [957]. Thus, ENaC function is also essential for the clearance of respiratory airways, transport of germ cells, fertilization, implantation, and cell migration [286, 380].

### Further reading on Epithelial sodium channel (ENaC)

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Nomenclature	ENaC $\alpha\beta\gamma$
Subunits	ENaC $\alpha$ , ENaC $\beta$ , ENaC $\gamma$
Activators	S3969 (pEC <sub>50</sub> 5.9) [645]
Channel blockers	P552-02 (pIC <sub>50</sub> 8.1), benzamil (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~8), amiloride (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.7–7), triamterene (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~5.3) [126, 510]

### Subunits

Nomenclature	ENaC $\alpha$	ENaC $\beta$	ENaC $\gamma$	ENaC $\delta$
HGNC, UniProt	SCNN1A, P37088	SCNN1B, P51168	SCNN1G, P51170	SCNN1D, P51172

# GABA<sub>A</sub> receptors

Ion channels → Ligand-gated ion channels → GABA<sub>A</sub> receptors

**Overview:** The GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor is a ligand-gated ion channel of the Cys-loop family that includes the nicotinic acetylcholine, 5-HT<sub>3</sub> and strychnine-sensitive glycine receptors. GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor-mediated inhibition within the CNS occurs by fast synaptic transmission, sustained tonic inhibition and temporally intermediate events that have been termed 'GABA<sub>A</sub>, slow' [134]. GABA<sub>A</sub> receptors exist as pentamers of 4TM subunits that form an intrinsic anion selective channel. Sequences of six  $\alpha$ , three  $\beta$ , three  $\gamma$ , one  $\delta$ , three  $\rho$ , one  $\epsilon$ , one  $\pi$  and one  $\vartheta$  GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor subunits have been reported in mammals [796, 797, 967, 969]. The  $\pi$ -subunit is restricted to reproductive tissue. Alternatively spliced versions of many subunits exist (e.g.  $\alpha$ 4- and  $\alpha$ 6- (both not functional)  $\alpha$ 5-,  $\beta$ 2-,  $\beta$ 3- and  $\gamma$ 2), along with RNA editing of the  $\alpha$ 3 subunit [205]. The three  $\rho$ -subunits, ( $\rho$ 1-3) function as either homo- or hetero-oligomeric assemblies [155, 1217]. Receptors formed from  $\rho$ -subunits, because of their distinctive pharmacology that includes insensitivity to bicuculline, benzodiazepines and barbiturates, have sometimes been termed GABA<sub>C</sub> receptors [1217], **but they are classified as GABA<sub>A</sub> receptors by NC-IUPHAR on the basis of structural and functional criteria [56, 796, 797].**

Many GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor subtypes contain  $\alpha$ -,  $\beta$ - and  $\gamma$ -subunits with the likely stoichiometry 2 $\alpha$ .2 $\beta$ .1 $\gamma$  [548, 796]. It is thought that the majority of GABA<sub>A</sub> receptors harbour a single type of  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -subunit variant. The  $\alpha$ 1 $\beta$ 2 $\gamma$ 2 hetero-oligomer constitutes

the largest population of GABA<sub>A</sub> receptors in the CNS, followed by the  $\alpha$ 2 $\beta$ 3 $\gamma$ 2 and  $\alpha$ 3 $\beta$ 3 $\gamma$ 2 isoforms. Receptors that incorporate the  $\alpha$ 4-  $\alpha$ 5- or  $\alpha$ 6-subunit, or the  $\beta$ 1-,  $\gamma$ 1-,  $\gamma$ 3-,  $\delta$ -,  $\epsilon$ - and  $\vartheta$ -subunits, are less numerous, but they may nonetheless serve important functions. For example, extrasynaptically located receptors that contain  $\alpha$ 6- and  $\delta$ -subunits in cerebellar granule cells, or an  $\alpha$ 4- and  $\delta$ -subunit in dentate gyrus granule cells and thalamic neurones, mediate a tonic current that is important for neuronal excitability in response to ambient concentrations of GABA [77, 302, 727, 952, 985]. GABA binding occurs at the  $\beta$ +/ $\alpha$ -subunit interface and the homologous  $\gamma$ +/ $\alpha$ -subunits interface creates the benzodiazepine site. A second site for benzodiazepine binding has recently been postulated to occur at the  $\alpha$ +/ $\beta$ -interface [884]; reviewed by [968]. The particular  $\alpha$ - and  $\gamma$ -subunit isoforms exhibit marked effects on recognition and/or efficacy at the benzodiazepine site. Thus, receptors incorporating either  $\alpha$ 4- or  $\alpha$ 6-subunits are not recognised by 'classical' benzodiazepines, such as flunitrazepam (but see [1200]). The trafficking, cell surface expression, internalisation and function of GABA<sub>A</sub> receptors and their subunits are discussed in detail in several recent reviews [168, 458, 649, 1092] but one point worthy of note is that receptors incorporating the  $\gamma$ 2 subunit (except when associated with  $\alpha$ 5) cluster at the postsynaptic membrane (but may distribute dynamically between synaptic and extrasynaptic locations), whereas as those

incorporating the  $\delta$  subunit appear to be exclusively extrasynaptic.

**NC-IUPHAR [22, 23, 56, 796]** class the GABA<sub>A</sub> receptors according to their subunit structure, pharmacology and receptor function. Currently, eleven native GABA<sub>A</sub> receptors are classed as conclusively identified (*i.e.*,  $\alpha$ 1 $\beta$ 2 $\gamma$ 2,  $\alpha$ 1 $\beta$  $\gamma$ 2,  $\alpha$ 3 $\beta$  $\gamma$ 2,  $\alpha$ 4 $\beta$  $\gamma$ 2,  $\alpha$ 4 $\beta$ 2 $\delta$ ,  $\alpha$ 4 $\beta$ 3 $\delta$ ,  $\alpha$ 5 $\beta$  $\gamma$ 2,  $\alpha$ 6 $\beta$  $\gamma$ 2,  $\alpha$ 6 $\beta$ 2 $\delta$ ,  $\alpha$ 6 $\beta$ 3 $\delta$  and  $\rho$ ) with further receptor isoforms occurring with high probability, or only tentatively [796, 797]. It is beyond the scope of this Guide to discuss the pharmacology of individual GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor isoforms in detail; such information can be gleaned in the reviews [56, 324, 482, 548, 560, 728, 796, 797, 967] and [38, 39]. Agents that discriminate between  $\alpha$ -subunit isoforms are noted in the table and additional agents that demonstrate selectivity between receptor isoforms, for example via  $\beta$ -subunit selectivity, are indicated in the text below. The distinctive agonist and antagonist pharmacology of  $\rho$  receptors is summarised in the table and additional aspects are reviewed in [155, 483, 761, 1217].

Several high-resolution cryo-electron microscopy structures have been described in which the full-length human  $\alpha$ 1 $\beta$ 3 $\gamma$ 2L GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor in lipid nanodiscs is bound to the channel-blocker picrotoxin, the competitive antagonist bicuculline, the agonist GABA ( $\gamma$ -aminobutyric acid), and the classical benzodiazepines alprazolam and diazepam [687].

## Further reading on GABA<sub>A</sub> receptors

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Nomenclature	GABA <sub>A</sub> receptor $\alpha$ 1 subunit	GABA <sub>A</sub> receptor $\alpha$ 2 subunit
HGNC, UniProt	GABRA1, P14867	GABRA2, P47869
Agonists	gaboxadol [GABA site], isoguvacine [GABA site], isonipecotic acid [GABA site], muscimol [GABA site], piperidine-4-sulphonic acid [GABA site]	gaboxadol [GABA site], isoguvacine [GABA site], isonipecotic acid [GABA site], muscimol [GABA site], piperidine-4-sulphonic acid [GABA site]
Selective antagonists	bicuculline [GABA site], gabazine [GABA site]	bicuculline [GABA site], gabazine [GABA site]
Channel blockers	TBPS, picrotoxin	TBPS, picrotoxin
Endogenous allosteric modulators	5 $\alpha$ -pregnan-3 $\alpha$ -ol-20-one (Potentiation), Zn <sup>2+</sup> (Inhibition), tetrahydrodeoxycorticosterone (Potentiation)	5 $\alpha$ -pregnan-3 $\alpha$ -ol-20-one (Potentiation), Zn <sup>2+</sup> (Inhibition), tetrahydrodeoxycorticosterone (Potentiation)
Allosteric modulators	flumazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Antagonist) (pK <sub>i</sub> 9.1) [435], clonazepam (Positive) (pK <sub>i</sub> 8.9) [870], flunitrazepam [benzodiazepine site] (Positive) (pK <sub>i</sub> 8.3) [372], diazepam [benzodiazepine site] (Positive) (pK <sub>i</sub> 7.8) [870], alprazolam [benzodiazepine site] (Positive) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 7.4) [17], $\alpha$ 3IA [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), $\alpha$ 5IA [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), DMCM [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist)	flumazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Antagonist) (pK <sub>i</sub> 9.1) [435], clonazepam (Positive) (pK <sub>i</sub> 8.8) [870], flunitrazepam [benzodiazepine site] (Positive) (pK <sub>i</sub> 8.3) [372], alprazolam [benzodiazepine site] (Positive) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 7.9) [17], diazepam [benzodiazepine site] (Positive) (pK <sub>i</sub> 7.8) [870], $\alpha$ 3IA [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), $\alpha$ 5IA [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), DMCM [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist)
Selective allosteric modulators	zolpidem (Positive) (pK <sub>i</sub> 7.4–7.7) [373, 943], L838417 [benzodiazepine site] (Antagonist), ZK93426 [benzodiazepine site] (Antagonist), indiplon [benzodiazepine site] (Full agonist), ocinaplon [benzodiazepine site] (Full agonist)	L838417 [benzodiazepine site] (Partial agonist), TPA023 [benzodiazepine site] (Partial agonist)
Labelled ligands	[ <sup>11</sup> C]flumazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Antagonist), [ <sup>18</sup> F]fluoroethylflumazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Antagonist), [ <sup>35</sup> S]TBPS [anion channel] (Channel blocker), [ <sup>3</sup> H]CGS8216 [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Mixed), [ <sup>3</sup> H]flunitrazepam [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Positive), [ <sup>3</sup> H]gabazine [GABA site] (Antagonist), [ <sup>3</sup> H]muscimol [GABA site] (Agonist), [ <sup>3</sup> H]zolpidem [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Positive)	[ <sup>11</sup> C]flumazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Antagonist), [ <sup>18</sup> F]fluoroethylflumazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Antagonist), [ <sup>35</sup> S]TBPS [anion channel] (Channel blocker), [ <sup>3</sup> H]CGS8216 [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Mixed), [ <sup>3</sup> H]flunitrazepam [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Full agonist), [ <sup>3</sup> H]gabazine [GABA site] (Antagonist), [ <sup>3</sup> H]muscimol [GABA site] (Agonist)
Comments	Zn <sup>2+</sup> is an endogenous allosteric regulator and causes potent inhibition of receptors formed from binary combinations of $\alpha$ and $\beta$ subunits, incorporation of a $\delta$ or $\gamma$ subunit causes a modest, or pronounced, reduction in inhibitory potency, respectively [559]	Zn <sup>2+</sup> is an endogenous allosteric regulator and causes potent inhibition of receptors formed from binary combinations of $\alpha$ and $\beta$ subunits, incorporation of a $\delta$ or $\gamma$ subunit causes a modest, or pronounced, reduction in inhibitory potency, respectively [559]

Nomenclature	GABA <sub>A</sub> receptor $\alpha$ 3 subunit	GABA <sub>A</sub> receptor $\alpha$ 4 subunit
HGNC, UniProt	GABRA3, P34903	GABRA4, P48169
Agonists	gaboxadol [GABA site], isoguvacine [GABA site], isonipecotic acid [GABA site], muscimol [GABA site], piperidine-4-sulphonic acid [GABA site]	gaboxadol [GABA site], isoguvacine [GABA site], muscimol [GABA site], piperidine-4-sulphonic acid [GABA site] (low efficacy)
Selective agonists	–	isonipecotic acid [GABA site] (relatively high efficacy)
Selective antagonists	bicuculline [GABA site], gabazine [GABA site]	bicuculline [GABA site], gabazine [GABA site]
Channel blockers	TBPS, picrotoxin	TBPS, picrotoxin
Endogenous allosteric modulators	5 $\alpha$ -pregnan-3 $\alpha$ -ol-20-one (Potentiation), Zn <sup>2+</sup> (Inhibition), tetrahydrodeoxycorticosterone (Potentiation)	5 $\alpha$ -pregnan-3 $\alpha$ -ol-20-one (Potentiation), Zn <sup>2+</sup> (Inhibition), tetrahydrodeoxycorticosterone (Potentiation)
Allosteric modulators	flumazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Antagonist) (pK <sub>i</sub> 9) [435], clonazepam (Positive) (pK <sub>i</sub> 8.7) [870], flunitrazepam [benzodiazepine site] (Positive) (pK <sub>i</sub> 7.8) [372], diazepam [benzodiazepine site] (Positive) (pK <sub>i</sub> 7.8) [870], alprazolam [benzodiazepine site] (Positive) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 7.2) [17], $\alpha$ 5IA [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), DMCM [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist)	–
Selective allosteric modulators	$\alpha$ 3IA [benzodiazepine site] (higher affinity), L838417 [benzodiazepine site] (Partial agonist), Ro19-4603 [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), TP003 [benzodiazepine site] (Partial agonist), TPA023 [benzodiazepine site] (Partial agonist)	Ro15-4513 [benzodiazepine site] (Full agonist), bretazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Full agonist)
Labelled ligands	[ <sup>11</sup> C]flumazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Antagonist), [ <sup>18</sup> F]fluoroethylflumazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Antagonist), [ <sup>35</sup> S]TBPS [anion channel] (Channel blocker), [ <sup>3</sup> H]CGS8216 [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Mixed), [ <sup>3</sup> H]flunitrazepam [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Full agonist), [ <sup>3</sup> H]gabazine [GABA site] (Antagonist), [ <sup>3</sup> H]muscimol [GABA site] (Agonist)	[ <sup>11</sup> C]flumazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Partial agonist), [ <sup>18</sup> F]fluoroethylflumazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Antagonist), [ <sup>35</sup> S]TBPS [anion channel] (Channel blocker), [ <sup>3</sup> H]CGS8216 [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Mixed), [ <sup>3</sup> H]Ro154513 [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Full agonist), [ <sup>3</sup> H]gabazine [GABA site] (Antagonist), [ <sup>3</sup> H]muscimol [GABA site] (Agonist)
Comments	Zn <sup>2+</sup> is an endogenous allosteric regulator and causes potent inhibition of receptors formed from binary combinations of $\alpha$ and $\beta$ subunits, incorporation of a $\delta$ or $\gamma$ subunit causes a modest, or pronounced, reduction in inhibitory potency, respectively [559]	Diazepam and flunitrazepam are not active at this subunit. Zn <sup>2+</sup> is an endogenous allosteric regulator and causes potent inhibition of receptors formed from binary combinations of $\alpha$ and $\beta$ subunits, incorporation of a $\delta$ or $\gamma$ subunit causes a modest, or pronounced, reduction in inhibitory potency, respectively [559]. [ <sup>3</sup> H]Ro154513 selectively labels $\alpha$ 4-subunit-containing receptors in the presence of a saturating concentration of a 'classical' benzodiazepine (e.g. diazepam)

Nomenclature	GABA <sub>A</sub> receptor $\alpha 5$ subunit	GABA <sub>A</sub> receptor $\alpha 6$ subunit
HGNC, UniProt	GABRA5, P31644	GABRA6, Q16445
Agonists	gaboxadol [GABA site], isoguvacine [GABA site], isonipecotic acid [GABA site], muscimol [GABA site], piperidine-4-sulphonic acid [GABA site]	gaboxadol [GABA site], isoguvacine [GABA site], muscimol [GABA site], piperidine-4-sulphonic acid [GABA site] (low efficacy)
Selective agonists	–	isonipecotic acid [GABA site] (relatively high efficacy)
Selective antagonists	bicuculline [GABA site], gabazine [GABA site]	bicuculline [GABA site], gabazine [GABA site]
Channel blockers	TBPS, picrotoxin	TBPS, picrotoxin
Endogenous allosteric modulators	5 $\alpha$ -pregnan-3 $\alpha$ -ol-20-one (Potentiation), Zn <sup>2+</sup> (Inhibition), tetrahydrodeoxycorticosterone (Potentiation)	5 $\alpha$ -pregnan-3 $\alpha$ -ol-20-one (Potentiation), Zn <sup>2+</sup> (Inhibition), tetrahydrodeoxycorticosterone (Potentiation)
Allosteric modulators	flumazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Antagonist) (pK <sub>i</sub> 9.2) [435], flunitrazepam [benzodiazepine site] (Positive) (pK <sub>i</sub> 8.3) [372], alprazolam [benzodiazepine site] (Positive) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 8) [17], $\alpha 3IA$ [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), DMCM [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist)	flumazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Partial agonist) (pK <sub>i</sub> 6.8) [435], bretazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Full agonist)
Selective allosteric modulators	$\alpha 5IA$ [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), L655708 [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), L838417 [benzodiazepine site] (Partial agonist), MRK016 [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), RO4938581 [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), RY024 [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist)	Ro15-4513 [benzodiazepine site] (Full agonist)
Labelled ligands	[ <sup>3</sup> H]RY80 [benzodiazepine site] (Selective Binding) (pK <sub>d</sub> 9.2) [974] – Rat, [ <sup>11</sup> C]flumazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Antagonist), [ <sup>18</sup> F]fluoroethylflumazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Antagonist), [ <sup>35</sup> S]TBPS [anion channel] (Channel blocker), [ <sup>3</sup> H]CGS8216 [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Mixed), [ <sup>3</sup> H]L655708 [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Inverse agonist), [ <sup>3</sup> H]flunitrazepam [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Full agonist), [ <sup>3</sup> H]gabazine [GABA site] (Antagonist), [ <sup>3</sup> H]muscimol [GABA site] (Agonist)	[ <sup>11</sup> C]flumazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Partial agonist), [ <sup>18</sup> F]fluoroethylflumazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Antagonist), [ <sup>35</sup> S]TBPS [anion channel] (Channel blocker), [ <sup>3</sup> H]CGS8216 [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Mixed), [ <sup>3</sup> H]Ro154513 [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Full agonist), [ <sup>3</sup> H]gabazine [GABA site] (Antagonist), [ <sup>3</sup> H]muscimol [GABA site] (Agonist)
Comments	Zn <sup>2+</sup> is an endogenous allosteric regulator and causes potent inhibition of receptors formed from binary combinations of $\alpha$ and $\beta$ subunits, incorporation of a $\delta$ or $\gamma$ subunit causes a modest, or pronounced, reduction in inhibitory potency, respectively [559]	Diazepam and flunitrazepam are not active at this subunit. Zn <sup>2+</sup> is an endogenous allosteric regulator and causes potent inhibition of receptors formed from binary combinations of $\alpha$ and $\beta$ subunits, incorporation of a $\delta$ or $\gamma$ subunit causes a modest, or pronounced, reduction in inhibitory potency, respectively [559]. [ <sup>3</sup> H]Ro154513 selectively labels $\alpha 6$ -subunit-containing receptors in the presence of a saturating concentration of a 'classical' benzodiazepine (e.g. diazepam)

Nomenclature	GABA <sub>A</sub> receptor β1 subunit	GABA <sub>A</sub> receptor β2 subunit	GABA <sub>A</sub> receptor β3 subunit
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">GABRB1, P18505</a>	<a href="#">GABRB2, P47870</a>	<a href="#">GABRB3, P28472</a>
Channel blockers	TBPS, picrotoxin	TBPS, picrotoxin	TBPS, picrotoxin
Allosteric modulators	–	–	etazolate (Binding) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.5) [1215]
Comments	Zn <sup>2+</sup> is an endogenous allosteric regulator and causes potent inhibition of receptors formed from binary combinations of α and β subunits, incorporation of a δ or γ subunit causes a modest, or pronounced, reduction in inhibitory potency, respectively [559]		

Nomenclature	GABA <sub>A</sub> receptor γ1 subunit	GABA <sub>A</sub> receptor γ2 subunit	GABA <sub>A</sub> receptor γ3 subunit
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">GABRG1, Q8N1C3</a>	<a href="#">GABRG2, P18507</a>	<a href="#">GABRG3, Q99928</a>
Channel blockers	TBPS, picrotoxin	TBPS, picrotoxin	TBPS, picrotoxin
Comments	Zn <sup>2+</sup> is an endogenous allosteric regulator and causes potent inhibition of receptors formed from binary combinations of α and β subunits, incorporation of a δ or γ subunit causes a modest, or pronounced, reduction in inhibitory potency, respectively [559]		

Nomenclature	GABA <sub>A</sub> receptor δ subunit	GABA <sub>A</sub> receptor ε subunit	GABA <sub>A</sub> receptor θ subunit	GABA <sub>A</sub> receptor π subunit
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">GABRD, O14764</a>	<a href="#">GABRE, P78334</a>	<a href="#">GABRQ, Q9UN88</a>	<a href="#">GABRP, O00591</a>
Selective agonists	gaboxadol [GABA site]	–	–	–
Channel blockers	TBPS, picrotoxin	TBPS, picrotoxin	TBPS, picrotoxin	TBPS, picrotoxin
Comments	Zn <sup>2+</sup> is an endogenous allosteric regulator and causes potent inhibition of receptors formed from binary combinations of α and β subunits, incorporation of a δ or γ subunit causes a modest, or pronounced, reduction in inhibitory potency, respectively			

Nomenclature	GABA <sub>A</sub> receptor $\rho$ 1 subunit	GABA <sub>A</sub> receptor $\rho$ 2 subunit	GABA <sub>A</sub> receptor $\rho$ 3 subunit
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">GABRR1</a> , <a href="#">P24046</a>	<a href="#">GABRR2</a> , <a href="#">P28476</a>	<a href="#">GABRR3</a> , <a href="#">A8MPY1</a>
Agonists	isoguvacine [GABA site] (Partial agonist), muscimol [GABA site] (Partial agonist)		
Selective agonists	$(\pm)$ -cis-2-CAMP [GABA site], 5-Me-IAA [GABA site]		
Antagonists	gaboxadol [GABA site], isonipecotic acid [GABA site], piperidine-4-sulphonic acid [GABA site]		
Selective antagonists	cis-3-ACBPBA [GABA site], trans-3-ACBPBA [GABA site], TPMPA [GABA site], aza-THIP [GABA site]		
Channel blockers	TBPS, picrotoxin		
Comments	Bicuculline is not active at these subunits		

**Comments:** The potency and efficacy of many GABA agonists vary between GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor isoforms [324, 505, 560]. For example, gaboxadol is a partial agonist at receptors with the subunit composition  $\alpha$ 4 $\beta$ 3 $\gamma$ 2, but elicits currents in excess of those evoked by GABA at the  $\alpha$ 4 $\beta$ 3 $\delta$  receptor where GABA itself is a low efficacy agonist [87, 113]. The antagonists bicuculline and gabazine differ in their ability to suppress spontaneous openings of the GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor, the former being more effective [1053]. The presence of the  $\gamma$  subunit within the heterotrimeric complex reduces the potency and efficacy of agonists [1004]. The GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor contains distinct allosteric sites that bind barbiturates and endogenous (e.g., 5 $\alpha$ -pregnan-3 $\alpha$ -ol-20-one) and synthetic (e.g., alphaxalone) neuroactive steroids in a diastereo- or enantio-selective manner [78, 397, 427, 1084]. Picrotoxinin and TBPS act at an allosteric site within the chloride channel pore to negatively regulate channel activity; negative allosteric regulation by  $\gamma$ -butyrolactone derivatives also involves the picrotoxinin site, whereas positive allosteric regulation by such compounds is proposed to occur at a distinct locus. Many intravenous (e.g., etomidate, propofol) and inhalational (e.g.,

halothane, isoflurane) anaesthetics and alcohols also exert a regulatory influence upon GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor activity [102, 795]. Specific amino acid residues within GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -subunits that influence allosteric regulation by anaesthetic and non-anaesthetic compounds have been identified [394, 427]. Photoaffinity labelling of distinct amino acid residues within purified GABA<sub>A</sub> receptors by the etomidate derivative, [<sup>3</sup>H]azietomidate, has also been demonstrated [604] and this binding subject to positive allosteric regulation by anaesthetic steroids [603]. An array of natural products including flavonoid and terpenoid compounds exert varied actions at GABA<sub>A</sub> receptors (reviewed in detail in [482]). In addition to the agents listed in the table, modulators of GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor activity that exhibit subunit dependent activity include: salicylidene salicylhydrazide [negative allosteric modulator selective for  $\beta$ 1- versus  $\beta$ 2-, or  $\beta$ 3-subunit-containing receptors [1054]]; fragrant dioxane derivatives [positive allosteric modulators selective for  $\beta$ 1- versus  $\beta$ 2-, or  $\beta$ 3-subunit-containing receptors [955]]; loreclezole, etomidate, tracazolate, mefenamic acid, etifoxine, stiripentol, valerenic acid amide [positive

allosteric modulators with selectivity for  $\beta$ 2/ $\beta$ 3- over  $\beta$ 1-subunit-containing receptors [314, 519, 548]]; tracazolate [intrinsic efficacy, i.e., potentiation, or inhibition, is dependent upon the identity of the  $\gamma$ 1-3-,  $\delta$ -, or  $\epsilon$ -subunit co-assembled with  $\alpha$ 1- and  $\beta$ 1-subunits [1052]]; amiloride [selective blockade of receptors containing an  $\alpha$ 6-subunit [315]]; furosemide [selective blockade of receptors containing an  $\alpha$ 6-subunit co-assembled with  $\beta$ 2/ $\beta$ 3-, but not  $\beta$ 1-subunit [548]]; La<sup>3+</sup> [potentiates responses mediated by  $\alpha$ 1 $\beta$ 3 $\gamma$ 2L receptors, weakly inhibits  $\alpha$ 6 $\beta$ 3 $\gamma$ 2L receptors, and strongly blocks  $\alpha$ 6 $\beta$ 3 $\delta$  and  $\alpha$ 4 $\beta$ 3 $\delta$  receptors [113, 935]]; ethanol [selectively potentiates responses mediated by  $\alpha$ 4 $\beta$ 3 $\delta$  and  $\alpha$ 6 $\beta$ 3 $\delta$  receptors versus receptors in which  $\beta$ 2 replaces  $\beta$ 3, or  $\gamma$  replaces  $\delta$  [1113], but see also [547]]; DS1 and DS2 [selectively potentiate responses mediated by  $\delta$ -subunit-containing receptors [1105]]. It should be noted that the apparent selectivity of some positive allosteric modulators (e.g., neurosteroids such as 5 $\alpha$ -pregnan-3 $\alpha$ -ol-20-one for  $\delta$ -subunit-containing receptors (e.g.,  $\alpha$ 1 $\beta$ 3 $\delta$ ) may be a consequence of the unusually low efficacy of GABA at this receptor isoform [77, 87].

# Glycine receptors

Ion channels → Ligand-gated ion channels → Glycine receptors

**Overview:** The inhibitory glycine receptor (**nomenclature as agreed by the NC-IUPHAR Subcommittee on Glycine Receptors**) is a member of the Cys-loop superfamily of transmitter-gated ion channels that includes the zinc activated channels, GABA<sub>A</sub>, nicotinic acetylcholine and 5-HT<sub>3</sub> receptors and Zn<sup>2+</sup>-activated channels. The receptor is expressed either as a homo-pentamer of  $\alpha$  subunits, or a complex now thought to harbour 2 $\alpha$  and 3 $\beta$  subunits [83, 360], that contain an intrinsic anion channel. Four differentially expressed isoforms of the  $\alpha$ -subunit ( $\alpha 1$ - $\alpha 4$ ) and one variant of the  $\beta$ -subunit ( $\beta 1$ , *GLRB*, P48167) have been identified by genomic and cDNA cloning. Further diversity originates from alternative splicing of the primary gene transcripts for  $\alpha 1$  ( $\alpha 1^{\text{NS}}$  and  $\alpha 1^{\text{del}}$ ),  $\alpha 2$  ( $\alpha 2\text{A}$  and  $\alpha 2\text{B}$ ),  $\alpha 3$  ( $\alpha 3\text{S}$  and  $\alpha 3\text{L}$ ) and  $\beta$  ( $\beta\Delta 7$ ) subunits and by mRNA

editing of the  $\alpha 2$  and  $\alpha 3$  subunit [282, 702, 790]. Both  $\alpha 2$  splicing and  $\alpha 3$  mRNA editing can produce subunits (*i.e.*,  $\alpha 2\text{B}$  and  $\alpha 3\text{P185L}$ ) with enhanced agonist sensitivity. Predominantly, the adult form of the receptor contains  $\alpha 1$  (or  $\alpha 3$ ) and  $\beta$  subunits whereas the immature form is mostly composed of only  $\alpha 2$  subunits. The  $\alpha 4$  subunit is a pseudogene in humans. High resolution molecular structures are available for the  $\alpha 1$  and  $\alpha 3$  homomeric receptors [263, 436]. As in other Cys-loop receptors, the orthosteric binding site for agonists and the competitive antagonist *strychnine* is formed at the interfaces between the subunits' extracellular domains. Inclusion of the  $\beta$ -subunit in the pentameric glycine receptor contributes to agonist binding, reduces single channel conductance and alters pharmacology. The  $\beta$ -subunit also anchors the receptor, *via* an amphipathic sequence within the large intracellular loop region,

to gephyrin. This a cytoskeletal attachment protein that binds to a number of subsynaptic proteins involved in cytoskeletal structure and thus clusters and anchors hetero-oligomeric receptors to the synapse [525, 537, 734]. G protein  $\beta\gamma$  subunits enhance the open state probability of native and recombinant glycine receptors by association with domains within the large intracellular loop [1194, 1195]. Intracellular chloride concentration modulates the kinetics of native and recombinant glycine receptors [858]. Intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> appears to increase native and recombinant glycine receptor affinity, prolonging channel open events, by a mechanism that does not involve phosphorylation [325]. Extracellular Zn<sup>2+</sup> potentiates GlyR function at nanomolar concentrations [717], and causes inhibition at higher micromolar concentrations (17).

## Further reading on Glycine receptors

Burgos CF *et al.* (2016) Structure and Pharmacologic Modulation of Inhibitory Glycine Receptors. *Mol Pharmacol* **90**: 318-25 [PMID:27401877]  
Dutertre S *et al.* (2012) Inhibitory glycine receptors: an update. *J Biol Chem* **287**: 40216-23 [PMID:23038260]  
Lynch JW. (2004) Molecular structure and function of the glycine receptor chloride channel. *Physiol Rev* **84**: 1051-95 [PMID:15383648]

Perkins DI *et al.* (2010) Molecular targets and mechanisms for ethanol action in glycine receptors. *Pharmacol Ther* **127**: 53-65 [PMID:20399807]  
Yevenes GE *et al.* (2011) Allosteric modulation of glycine receptors. *Br J Pharmacol* **164**: 224-36 [PMID:21557733]

Nomenclature	glycine receptor $\alpha 1$ subunit	glycine receptor $\alpha 2$ subunit	glycine receptor $\alpha 3$ subunit	glycine receptor $\alpha 4$ subunit ( <i>pseudogene in humans</i> )
HGNC, UniProt	<i>GLRA1</i> , P23415	<i>GLRA2</i> , P23416	<i>GLRA3</i> , O75311	<i>GLRA4</i> , Q5JXX5
Selective agonists (potency order)	glycine > $\beta$ -alanine > taurine	glycine > $\beta$ -alanine > taurine	glycine > $\beta$ -alanine > taurine	–
Selective antagonists	ginkgolide X (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.1), pregnenolone sulphate (pK <sub>i</sub> 5.7), nifedipine (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.5), bilobalide (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.7), tropisetron (pK <sub>i</sub> 4.1), colchicine (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.5), HU-308 (weak inhibition), PMBA, strychnine	HU-210 (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7), WIN55212-2 (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.7), HU-308 (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6), ginkgolide X (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.6), pregnenolone sulphate (pK <sub>i</sub> 5.3), bilobalide (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.1), tropisetron (pK <sub>i</sub> 4.9), colchicine (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.2), 5,7-dichlorokynurenic acid (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.7), PMBA, strychnine	HU-210 (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.3), HU-308 (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7), WIN55212-2 (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7), (12E,20Z,18S)-8-hydroxyvariabilin (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.2), nifedipine (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.5), strychnine	–
Channel blockers	ginkgolide B (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.1–6.2), cyanotriphenylborate (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.9) [914], picrotin (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.3), picrotoxinin (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.3), picrotoxin (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.2)	picrotoxinin (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.4), picrotoxin (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.6), ginkgolide B (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.9–5.4), picrotin (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.9), cyanotriphenylborate (pIC <sub>50</sub> >4.7) [914]	picrotoxinin (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.4), ginkgolide B (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.7), picrotin (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.2), picrotoxin (block is weaker when $\beta$ subunit is co-expressed)	–
Endogenous allosteric modulators	Zn <sup>2+</sup> (Potentiation) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 7.4), Cu <sup>2+</sup> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.8–5.4), Zn <sup>2+</sup> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.8), Extracellular H <sup>+</sup> (Inhibition)	Zn <sup>2+</sup> (Potentiation) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 6.3), Cu <sup>2+</sup> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.8), Zn <sup>2+</sup> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.4)	Cu <sup>2+</sup> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5), Zn <sup>2+</sup> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.8)	–
Selective allosteric modulators	anandamide (Potentiation) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 7.4), HU-210 (Potentiation) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 6.6), $\Delta^9$ -tetrahydrocannabinol (Potentiation) (pEC <sub>50</sub> ~5.5)	$\Delta^9$ -tetrahydrocannabinol (Potentiation) (pEC <sub>50</sub> ~6)	$\Delta^9$ -tetrahydrocannabinol (Potentiation) (pEC <sub>50</sub> ~5.3)	–
Labelled ligands	[ <sup>3</sup> H]strychnine (Antagonist)	[ <sup>3</sup> H]strychnine (Antagonist)	[ <sup>3</sup> H]strychnine (Antagonist)	–
Functional Characteristics	$\gamma$ = 86 pS (main state); (+ $\beta$ = 44 pS)	$\gamma$ = 111 pS (main state); (+ $\beta$ = 54 pS)	$\gamma$ = 105 pS (main state); (+ $\beta$ = 48 pS)	–

Nomenclature	glycine receptor $\beta$ subunit
HGNC, UniProt	<i>GLRB</i> , P48167
Selective antagonists	nifedipine (when co-expressed with the $\alpha$ 1 subunit) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.9), pregnenolone sulphate (when co-expressed with the $\alpha$ 1 subunit) (pK <sub>i</sub> 5.6), tropisetron (when co-expressed with the $\alpha$ 2 subunit) (pK <sub>i</sub> 5.3), pregnenolone sulphate (when co-expressed with the $\alpha$ 2 subunit) (pK <sub>i</sub> 5), nifedipine (when co-expressed with the $\alpha$ 3 subunit) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.9), bilobalide (when co-expressed with the $\alpha$ 2 subunit) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.3), bilobalide (when co-expressed with the $\alpha$ 1 subunit) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.7), ginkgolide X (when co-expressed with the $\alpha$ 1 subunit) (pIC <sub>50</sub> > 3.5), ginkgolide X (when co-expressed with the $\alpha$ 2 subunit) (pIC <sub>50</sub> > 3.5)
Channel blockers	ginkgolide B (when co-expressed with the $\alpha$ 2 subunit) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.1–6.9), ginkgolide B (when co-expressed with the $\alpha$ 1 subunit) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.6–6.7), ginkgolide B (when co-expressed with the $\alpha$ 3 subunit) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.3), cyanotriphenylborate (when co-expressed with the human $\alpha$ 1 subunit) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.6) [914] – Rat, cyanotriphenylborate (when co-expressed with the human $\alpha$ 2 subunit) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.1) [914] – Rat, picrotoxinin (when co-expressed with the $\alpha$ 3 subunit) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.1), picrotin (when co-expressed with the $\alpha$ 1 subunit) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.6), picrotin (when co-expressed with the $\alpha$ 3 subunit) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.6), picrotoxinin (when co-expressed with the $\alpha$ 1 subunit) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.6), picrotoxin (when co-expressed with the $\alpha$ 2 subunit) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.5), picrotoxin (when co-expressed with the $\alpha$ 1 subunit) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.7)
Endogenous allosteric modulators	Zn <sup>2+</sup> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.9), Zn <sup>2+</sup> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.7)
Comments	Ligand interaction data for hetero-oligomer receptors containing the $\beta$ subunit are also listed under the $\alpha$ subunit

**Comments:** Data in the table refer to homo-oligomeric assemblies of the  $\alpha$ -subunit, significant changes introduced by co-expression of the  $\beta$ 1 subunit are indicated in parenthesis. Not all glycine receptor ligands are listed within the table, but some that may be useful in distinguishing between glycine receptor isoforms are indicated (see detailed view pages for each subunit:  $\alpha$ 1,  $\alpha$ 2,  $\alpha$ 3,  $\alpha$ 4,  $\beta$ ). Pregnenolone sulphate, tropisetron and colchicine, for example, although not selective antagonists of glycine receptors, are included for this purpose. Strychnine is a potent and selective competitive glycine receptor antagonist with affinities in the range 5–15 nM. RU5135 demonstrates comparable potency, but additionally blocks GABA<sub>A</sub> receptors. There are conflicting reports concerning the ability of cannabinoids to inhibit [641], or potentiate and at high concentrations activate [12, 233, 392, 1169, 1191] glycine receptors. Nonetheless, cannabinoid analogues may hold promise in distinguishing between glycine receptor subtypes [1191]. In addition, potentiation of glycine receptor activity by cannabinoids has been claimed to contribute to cannabis-induced analgesia relying on Ser296/307 ( $\alpha$ 1/ $\alpha$ 3) in M3 [1169]. Several analogues of muscimol and piperidine act as agonists and antagonists of both glycine and GABA<sub>A</sub> receptors.

Picrotoxin acts as an allosteric inhibitor that appears to bind within the pore, and shows strong selectivity towards homomeric receptors. While its components, picrotoxinin and picrotin, have equal potencies at  $\alpha$ 1 receptors, their potencies at  $\alpha$ 2 and  $\alpha$ 3 receptors differ modestly and may allow some distinction between different receptor types [1192]. Binding of picrotoxin within the pore has been demonstrated in the crystal structure of the related *C. elegans* GluCl Cys-loop receptor [401]. In addition to the compounds listed in the table, numerous agents act as allosteric regulators of glycine receptors (comprehensively reviewed in [578, 653, 1142, 1196]). Zn<sup>2+</sup> acts through distinct binding sites of high- and low-affinity to allosterically enhance channel function at low (<10  $\mu$ M) concentrations and inhibits responses at higher concentrations in a subunit selective manner [716]. The effect of Zn<sup>2+</sup> is somewhat mimicked by Ni<sup>2+</sup>. Endogenous Zn<sup>2+</sup> is essential for normal glycinergic neurotransmission mediated by  $\alpha$ 1 subunit-containing receptors [411]. Elevation of intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> produces fast potentiation of glycine receptor-mediated responses. Dideoxyforskolin (4  $\mu$ M) and tamoxifen (0.2–5  $\mu$ M) both potentiate responses to low glycine concentrations (15  $\mu$ M), but act as inhibitors at higher glycine concentrations (100  $\mu$ M). Additional modulatory agents

that enhance glycine receptor function include inhalational, and several intravenous general anaesthetics (e.g. minaxolone, propofol and pentobarbitone) and certain neurosteroids. Ethanol and higher order n-alcohols also enhance glycine receptor function although whether this occurs by a direct allosteric action at the receptor [686], or through  $\beta\gamma$  subunits [1193] is debated. Recent crystal structures of the bacterial homologue, GLIC, have identified transmembrane binding pockets for both anaesthetics [785] and alcohols [429]. Solvents inhaled as drugs of abuse (e.g. toluene, 1-1-1-trichloroethane) may act at sites that overlap with those recognising alcohols and volatile anaesthetics to produce potentiation of glycine receptor function. The function of glycine receptors formed as homomeric complexes of  $\alpha$ 1 or  $\alpha$ 2 subunits, or hetero-oligomers of  $\alpha$ 1/ $\beta$  or  $\alpha$ 2/ $\beta$  subunits, is differentially affected by the 5-HT<sub>3</sub> receptor antagonist tropisetron (ICS 205-930) which may evoke potentiation (which may occur within the femtomolar range at the homomeric glycine  $\alpha$ 1 receptor), or inhibition, depending upon the subunit composition of the receptor and the concentrations of the modulator and glycine employed. Potentiation and inhibition by tropeines involves different binding modes [672]. Additional tropeines, including atropine, modulate glycine receptor activity.

# Ionotropic glutamate receptors

[Ion channels](#) → [Ligand-gated ion channels](#) → [Ionotropic glutamate receptors](#)

**Overview:** The ionotropic glutamate receptors comprise members of the NMDA (N-methyl-D-aspartate), AMPA ( $\alpha$ -amino-3-hydroxy-5-methyl-4-isoxazolepropionic acid) and kainate receptor classes, named originally according to their preferred, synthetic, agonist [246, 634, 1071]. Receptor heterogeneity within each class arises from the homo-oligomeric, or hetero-oligomeric, assembly of distinct subunits into cation-selective tetramers. Each subunit of the tetrameric complex comprises an extracellular amino terminal domain (ATD), an extracellular ligand binding domain (LBD), 3TM domains (M1, M3 and M4), a channel lining re-entrant 'p-loop' (M2) located between M1 and M3 and an intracellular carboxy-terminal domain (CTD) [491, 565, 693, 749, 1071]. The X-ray structure of a homomeric ionotropic glutamate receptor (GluA2 - see below) has recently been solved at 3.6Å resolution [987] and although providing the most complete structural information current available may not be representative of the subunit arrangement of, for example, the heteromeric NMDA receptors [502]. It is beyond the scope of this supplement to discuss the pharmacology of individual ionotropic glutamate receptor isoforms in detail; such information can be gleaned from [158, 197, 246, 289, 465, 466, 515, 810, 811, 812, 1071, 1166]. Agents that discriminate between subunit isoforms are, where appropriate, noted in the tables and additional compounds that distinguish between receptor isoforms are indicated in the text below.

**The classification of glutamate receptor subunits has been re-addressed by NC-IUPHAR [190].** The scheme developed recommends a nomenclature for ionotropic glutamate receptor subunits that is adopted here.

## NMDA receptors

NMDA receptors assemble as obligate heteromers that may be drawn from GluN1, GluN2A, GluN2B, GluN2C, GluN2D,

GluN3A and GluN3B subunits. Alternative splicing can generate eight isoforms of GluN1 with differing pharmacological properties. Various splice variants of GluN2B, 2C, 2D and GluN3A have also been reported. Activation of NMDA receptors containing GluN1 and GluN2 subunits requires the binding of two agonists, glutamate to the S1 and S2 regions of the GluN2 subunit and glycine to S1 and S2 regions of the GluN1 subunit [159, 288]. The minimal requirement for efficient functional expression of NMDA receptors *in vitro* is a di-heteromeric assembly of GluN1 and at least one GluN2 subunit variant, as a dimer of heterodimers arrangement in the extracellular domain [327, 502, 693]. However, more complex tri-heteromeric assemblies, incorporating multiple subtypes of GluN2 subunit, or GluN3 subunits, can be generated *in vitro* and occur *in vivo*. The NMDA receptor channel commonly has a high relative permeability to  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  and is blocked, in a voltage-dependent manner, by  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  such that at resting potentials the response is substantially inhibited.

## AMPA and Kainate receptors

AMPA receptors assemble as homomers, or heteromers, that may be drawn from GluA1, GluA2, GluA3 and GluA4 subunits. Transmembrane AMPA receptor regulatory proteins (TARPs) of class I (i.e.  $\gamma 2$ ,  $\gamma 3$ ,  $\gamma 4$  and  $\gamma 8$ ) act, with variable stoichiometry, as auxiliary subunits to AMPA receptors and influence their trafficking, single channel conductance gating and pharmacology (reviewed in [293, 457, 719, 1062]). Functional kainate receptors can be expressed as homomers of GluK1, GluK2 or GluK3 subunits. GluK1-3 subunits are also capable of assembling into heterotetramers (e.g. GluK1/K2; [595, 844, 855]). Two additional kainate receptor subunits, GluK4 and GluK5, when expressed individually, form high affinity binding sites for **kainate**, but lack function, but can form heteromers when

expressed with GluK1-3 subunits (e.g. GluK2/K5; reviewed in [465, 844, 855]). Kainate receptors may also exhibit 'metabotropic' functions [595, 904]. As found for AMPA receptors, kainate receptors are modulated by auxiliary subunits (Neto proteins, [596, 844]). An important function difference between AMPA and kainate receptors is that the latter require extracellular  $\text{Na}^+$  and  $\text{Cl}^-$  for their activation [106, 864]. RNA encoding the GluA2 subunit undergoes extensive RNA editing in which the codon encoding a p-loop glutamine residue (Q) is converted to one encoding arginine (R). This Q/R site strongly influences the biophysical properties of the receptor. Recombinant AMPA receptors lacking RNA edited GluA2 subunits are: (1) permeable to  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ; (2) blocked by intracellular polyamines at depolarized potentials causing inward rectification (the latter being reduced by TARPs); (3) blocked by extracellular argitoxin and Joro spider toxins and (4) demonstrate higher channel conductances than receptors containing the edited form of GluA2 [448, 951]. GluK1 and GluK2, but not other kainate receptor subunits, are similarly edited and broadly similar functional characteristics apply to kainate receptors lacking either an RNA edited GluK1, or GluK2, subunit [595, 844]. Native AMPA and kainate receptors displaying differential channel conductances,  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permeabilities and sensitivity to block by intracellular polyamines have been identified [196, 448, 628]. GluA1-4 can exist as two variants generated by alternative splicing (termed 'flip' and 'flop') that differ in their desensitization kinetics and their desensitization in the presence of cyclothiazide which stabilises the non-desensitized state. TARPs also stabilise the non-desensitized conformation of AMPA receptors and facilitate the action of **cyclothiazide** [719]. Splice variants of GluK1-3 also exist which affects their trafficking [595, 844].

## Further reading on Ionotropic glutamate receptors

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 Huettner JE. (2015) Glutamate receptor pores. *J Physiol (Lond.)* **593**: 49-59 [PMID:25556787]

- Iacobucci GJ *et al.* (2017) NMDA receptors: linking physiological output to biophysical operation. *Nat Rev Neurosci* **18**: 236-249 [PMID:28303017]  
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- Millerud S *et al.* (2017) Lessons from crystal structures of kainate receptors. *Neuropharmacology* **112**: 16-28 [PMID:27236079]
- Yuzaki M *et al.* (2017) A GluD Coming-Of-Age Story. *Trends Neurosci* **40**: 138-150 [PMID:28110935]
- Zhou HX *et al.* (2017) Advancing NMDA Receptor Physiology by Integrating Multiple Approaches. *Trends Neurosci* **40**: 129-137 [PMID:28187950]
- Zhuo M. (2017) Ionotropic glutamate receptors contribute to pain transmission and chronic pain. *Neuropharmacology* **112**: 228-234 [PMID:27543416]

Nomenclature	<a href="#">GluA1</a>	<a href="#">GluA2</a>	<a href="#">GluA3</a>	<a href="#">GluA4</a>
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">GRIAT1</a> , <a href="#">P42261</a>	<a href="#">GRIA2</a> , <a href="#">P42262</a>	<a href="#">GRIA3</a> , <a href="#">P42263</a>	<a href="#">GRIA4</a> , <a href="#">P48058</a>
Agonists	<a href="#">(S)-5-fluorowillardiine</a> , <a href="#">AMPA</a>			
Selective antagonists	<a href="#">ATPO</a> , <a href="#">GYKI53655</a> , <a href="#">GYKI53784</a> (active isomer, non-competitive), <a href="#">NBQX</a> , <a href="#">tezampanel</a>	<a href="#">ATPO</a> , <a href="#">GYKI53655</a> , <a href="#">GYKI53784</a> (active isomer, non-competitive), <a href="#">NBQX</a> , <a href="#">tezampanel</a>	<a href="#">ATPO</a> , <a href="#">GYKI53655</a> , <a href="#">GYKI53784</a> (active isomer, non-competitive), <a href="#">NBQX</a> , <a href="#">tezampanel</a>	<a href="#">ATPO</a> , <a href="#">GYKI53655</a> , <a href="#">GYKI53784</a> (active isomer, non-competitive), <a href="#">NBQX</a> , <a href="#">tezampanel</a>
Channel blockers	extracellular <a href="#">argiotoxin</a> , extracellular <a href="#">joro toxin</a> (selective for channels lacking GluA2)	extracellular <a href="#">argiotoxin</a>	extracellular <a href="#">argiotoxin</a> , extracellular <a href="#">joro toxin</a> (selective for channels lacking GluA2)	extracellular <a href="#">argiotoxin</a> , extracellular <a href="#">joro toxin</a> (selective for channels lacking GluA2)
Allosteric modulators	<a href="#">LY392098</a> (Positive) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 5.8) [723], <a href="#">LY404187</a> (Positive) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 5.2) [723], <a href="#">cyclothiazide</a> (Positive) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 4.7) [723], <a href="#">CX516</a> (Positive), <a href="#">CX546</a> (Positive), <a href="#">IDRA-21</a> (Positive), <a href="#">LY503430</a> (Positive), <a href="#">S18986</a> (Positive), <a href="#">aniracetam</a> (Positive), <a href="#">piracetam</a> (Positive)	<a href="#">LY404187</a> (Positive) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 6.8) [723], <a href="#">LY392098</a> (Positive) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 6.7) [723], <a href="#">cyclothiazide</a> (Positive) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 5.7) [723], <a href="#">CX516</a> (Positive), <a href="#">CX546</a> (Positive), <a href="#">IDRA-21</a> (Positive), <a href="#">LY503430</a> (Positive), <a href="#">S18986</a> (Positive), <a href="#">aniracetam</a> (Positive), <a href="#">piracetam</a> (Positive)	<a href="#">LY404187</a> (Positive) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 5.8) [723], <a href="#">LY392098</a> (Positive) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 5.7) [723], <a href="#">cyclothiazide</a> (Positive) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 4.9) [723], <a href="#">CX516</a> (Positive), <a href="#">CX546</a> (Positive), <a href="#">IDRA-21</a> (Positive), <a href="#">LY503430</a> (Positive), <a href="#">S18986</a> (Positive), <a href="#">aniracetam</a> (Positive), <a href="#">piracetam</a> (Positive)	<a href="#">LY392098</a> (Positive) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 6.7) [723], <a href="#">LY404187</a> (Positive) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 6.7) [723], <a href="#">cyclothiazide</a> (Positive) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 5.4) [723], <a href="#">CX516</a> (Positive), <a href="#">CX546</a> (Positive), <a href="#">IDRA-21</a> (Positive), <a href="#">LY503430</a> (Positive), <a href="#">S18986</a> (Positive), <a href="#">aniracetam</a> (Positive), <a href="#">piracetam</a> (Positive)
Labelled ligands	<a href="#">[<sup>3</sup>H]AMPA</a> (Agonist), <a href="#">[<sup>3</sup>H]CNQX</a> (Antagonist)	<a href="#">[<sup>3</sup>H]AMPA</a> (Agonist), <a href="#">[<sup>3</sup>H]CNQX</a> (Antagonist)	<a href="#">[<sup>3</sup>H]AMPA</a> , <a href="#">[<sup>3</sup>H]CNQX</a>	<a href="#">[<sup>3</sup>H]AMPA</a> (Agonist), <a href="#">[<sup>3</sup>H]CNQX</a>
Comments	<a href="#">Piracetam</a> and <a href="#">aniracetam</a> are examples of pyrrolidinones. <a href="#">Cyclothiazide</a> , <a href="#">S18986</a> , and <a href="#">IDRA-21</a> are examples of benzothiadiazides. <a href="#">CX516</a> and <a href="#">CX546</a> are examples of benzylpiperidines. <a href="#">LY392098</a> , <a href="#">LY404187</a> and <a href="#">LY503430</a> are examples of biarylpropylsulfonamides. Also blocked by intracellular polyamines			

Nomenclature	<a href="#">GluD1</a>	<a href="#">GluD2</a>
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">GRID1</a> , <a href="#">Q9ULK0</a>	<a href="#">GRID2</a> , <a href="#">O43424</a>

**Comments:** GluD1 and GluD2 comprise, on the basis of sequence homology, an ‘orphan’ class of ionotropic glutamate receptor subunit. They do not form a functional receptor when expressed solely, or in combination with other ionotropic glutamate receptor subunits, in transfected cells [1208]. However, GluD2 subunits bind [D-serine](#) and [glycine](#) and GluD2 subunits carrying the mutation A654T form a spontaneously open channel that is closed by [D-serine](#) [753].

Nomenclature	GluK1	GluK2	GluK3	GluK4	GluK5
HGNC, UniProt	<i>GRIK1</i> , P39086	<i>GRIK2</i> , Q13002	<i>GRIK3</i> , Q13003	<i>GRIK4</i> , Q16099	<i>GRIK5</i> , Q16478
Agonists	dysiherbaine [922] – Rat, <i>SYM2081</i> [834], kainate [976], (S)-4-AHCP, (S)-5-iodowillardiine, 8-deoxy-neodysiherbaine, ATPA, domoic acid	dysiherbaine [922] – Rat, domoic acid [130], <i>SYM2081</i> [1227] – Rat, kainate [130, 976]	<i>SYM2081</i> [920] – Rat, kainate (low potency) [920] – Rat, dysiherbaine	<i>SYM2081</i> , domoic acid, dysiherbaine, kainate	<i>SYM2081</i> , domoic acid, dysiherbaine, kainate
Selective agonists	LY339434 [976]	–	–	–	–
Selective antagonists	2,4-epi-neodysiherbaine, ACET, LY382884, LY466195, MSVIII-19, NS3763 (non-competitive), UBP302, UBP310	2,4-epi-neodysiherbaine	–	–	–
Allosteric modulators	concanavalin A (Positive)	concanavalin A (Positive)	–	–	–
Labelled ligands	[ <sup>3</sup> H]UBP310 (Antagonist) (pK <sub>d</sub> 7.7) [40], [ <sup>3</sup> H]SYM2081 (Agonist), [ <sup>3</sup> H]kainate (Agonist)	[ <sup>3</sup> H]kainate (Agonist) [1227] – Rat, [ <sup>3</sup> H]SYM2081 (Agonist)	[ <sup>3</sup> H]UBP310 (Antagonist) (pK <sub>d</sub> 6.3) [40], [ <sup>3</sup> H]SYM2081 (Agonist), [ <sup>3</sup> H]kainate (Agonist)	[ <sup>3</sup> H]SYM2081 (Agonist), [ <sup>3</sup> H]kainate (Agonist)	[ <sup>3</sup> H]SYM2081 (Agonist), [ <sup>3</sup> H]kainate (Agonist)
Comments	–	Intracellular polyamines are subtype selective channel blockers (GluK3 » GluK2)	Domoic acid and concanavalin A are inactive at the GluK3 subunit. Intracellular polyamines are subtype selective channel blockers (GluK3 » GluK2)	–	–

**Comments:** All AMPA receptors are additionally activated by kainate (and domoic acid) with relatively low potency, (EC<sub>50</sub> 100 μM). Inclusion of TARPs within the receptor complex increases the potency and maximal effect of kainate [457, 719]. AMPA is weak partial agonist at GluK1 and at heteromeric assemblies of GluK1/GluK2, GluK1/GluK5 and GluK2/GluK5 [465]. Quinoxalinediones such as CNQX and NBQX show limited selectivity between AMPA and kainate receptors.

Tezampanel also has kainate (GluK1) receptor activity as has GYKIS3655 (GluK3 and GluK2/GluK3) [465]. ATPO is a potent competitive antagonist of AMPA receptors, has a weaker antagonist action at kainate receptors comprising GluK1 subunits, but is devoid of activity at kainate receptors formed from GluK2 or GluK2/GluK5 subunits. The pharmacological activity of ATPO resides with the (S)-enantiomer. ACET and UBP310 may block GluK3, in addition to GluK1 [40, 843].

(2S,4R)-4-methylglutamate (*SYM2081*) is equipotent in activating (and desensitising) GluK1 and GluK2 receptor isoforms and, via the induction of desensitisation at low concentrations, has been used as a functional antagonist of kainate receptors. Both (2S,4R)-4-methylglutamate and LY339434 have agonist activity at NMDA receptors. (2S,4R)-4-methylglutamate is also an inhibitor of the glutamate transporters EAAT1 and EAAT2.

Nomenclature	GluN1
HGNC, UniProt	<i>GRIN1</i> , Q05586
Endogenous agonists	D-aspartic acid [glutamate site], D-serine [glycine site], L-aspartic acid [glutamate site], glycine [glycine site]
Agonists	(+)-HA966 [glycine site] (Partial agonist), (RS)-(tetrazol-5-yl)glycine [glutamate site], NMDA [glutamate site], homoquinolinic acid [glutamate site] (Partial agonist)
Selective antagonists	L701324 [glycine site] (pIC <sub>50</sub> 8.7) [564] – Rat, GV196771A [glycine site] (pK <sub>i</sub> 8.1–8.4) [174] – Rat, L689560 [glycine site] (pIC <sub>50</sub> 8.1) [590] – Rat, 5,7-dichlorokynurenic acid [glycine site]
Labelled ligands	[ <sup>3</sup> H]MDL105519 [glycine site] (Antagonist) (pK <sub>d</sub> ~8.5) [154] – Rat, [ <sup>3</sup> H]CGP39653 [glutamate site] (Selective Antagonist), [ <sup>3</sup> H]CGP61594 [glycine site] (Antagonist), [ <sup>3</sup> H]CGS19755 [glutamate site] (Antagonist), [ <sup>3</sup> H]CPP [glutamate site] (Selective Antagonist), [ <sup>3</sup> H]L689560 [glycine site] (Antagonist), [ <sup>3</sup> H]dizocilpine [cation channel] (Antagonist), [ <sup>3</sup> H]glycine [glycine site] (Agonist)

Nomenclature	<b>GluN2A</b>	<b>GluN2B</b>
HGNC, UniProt	<i>GRIN2A</i> , Q12879	<i>GRIN2B</i> , Q13224
Endogenous agonists	<b>D-aspartic acid</b> [glutamate site] (GluN2D > GluN2C = GluN2B > GluN2A), <b>D-serine</b> [glycine site] (GluN2D > GluN2C > GluN2B > GluN2A), <b>L-aspartic acid</b> [glutamate site] (GluN2D = GluN2B > GluN2C = GluN2A), <b>glycine</b> [glycine site] (GluN2D > GluN2C > GluN2B > GluN2A)	
Agonists	<b>(+)-HA966</b> [glycine site] (Partial agonist), <b>(RS)-(tetrazol-5-yl)glycine</b> [glutamate site] (GluN2D > GluN2C = GluN2B > GluN2A), <b>NMDA</b> [glutamate site] (GluN2D > GluN2C > GluN2B > GluN2A), <b>homoquinolinic acid</b> [glutamate site] (GluN2B ≥ GluN2A ≥ GluN2D > GluN2C; partial agonist at GluN2A and GluN2C)	
Selective antagonists	<b>5,7-dichlorokynurenic acid</b> [glycine site], <b>CGP37849</b> [glutamate site], <b>GV196771A</b> [glycine site], <b>L689560</b> [glycine site], <b>L701324</b> [glycine site], <b>LY233053</b> [glutamate site], <b>NVP-AAM077</b> [glutamate site] (GluN2A > GluN2B (human), but weakly selective for rat GluN2A versus GluN2B) [41, 306, 323, 760], <b>UBP141</b> [glutamate site] (GluN2D ≥ GluN2C > GluN2A ≥ GluN2B) [733], <b>conantokin-G</b> [glutamate site] (GluN2B > GluN2D = GluN2C = GluN2A), <b>d-AP5</b> [glutamate site], <b>d-CCPene</b> [glutamate site] (GluN2A = GluN2B > GluN2C = GluN2D), <b>selfotel</b> [glutamate site]	
Channel blockers	<b>Mg<sup>2+</sup></b> (GluN2A = GluN2B > GluN2C = GluN2D), <b>N<sup>1</sup>-dansyl-spermine</b> (GluN2A = GluN2B ≫ GluN2C = GluN2D), <b>amantadine</b> (GluN2C = GluN2D ≥ GluN2B ≥ GluN2A), <b>dizocilpine</b> , <b>ketamine</b> , <b>phencyclidine</b>	
Labelled ligands	<b>[<sup>3</sup>H]CGP39653</b> [glutamate site] (Antagonist), <b>[<sup>3</sup>H]CGP61594</b> [glycine site] (Antagonist), <b>[<sup>3</sup>H]CGS19755</b> [glutamate site] (Antagonist), <b>[<sup>3</sup>H]CPP</b> [glutamate site] (Antagonist), <b>[<sup>3</sup>H]L689560</b> [glycine site] (Antagonist), <b>[<sup>3</sup>H]MDL105519</b> [glycine site] (Antagonist), <b>[<sup>3</sup>H]dizocilpine</b> [cation channel] (Channel blocker), <b>[<sup>3</sup>H]glycine</b> [glycine site] (Agonist)	

Nomenclature	<b>GluN2C</b>	<b>GluN2D</b>
HGNC, UniProt	<i>GRIN2C</i> , Q14957	<i>GRIN2D</i> , O15399
Endogenous agonists	<b>D-aspartic acid</b> [glutamate site] (GluN2D > GluN2C = GluN2B > GluN2A), <b>D-serine</b> [glycine site] (GluN2D > GluN2C > GluN2B > GluN2A), <b>L-aspartic acid</b> [glutamate site] (GluN2D = GluN2B > GluN2C = GluN2A), <b>glycine</b> [glycine site] (GluN2D > GluN2C > GluN2B > GluN2A)	
Agonists	<b>(RS)-(tetrazol-5-yl)glycine</b> [glutamate site] (GluN2D > GluN2C = GluN2B > GluN2A), <b>NMDA</b> [glutamate site] (GluN2D > GluN2C > GluN2B > GluN2A), <b>homoquinolinic acid</b> [glutamate site] (GluN2B ≥ GluN2A ≥ GluN2D > GluN2C; partial agonist at GluN2A and GluN2C)	
Selective antagonists	<b>5,7-dichlorokynurenic acid</b> [glycine site], <b>CGP37849</b> [glutamate site], <b>GV196771A</b> [glycine site], <b>L689560</b> [glycine site], <b>L701324</b> [glycine site], <b>LY233053</b> [glutamate site], <b>UBP141</b> [glutamate site] (GluN2D ≥ GluN2C > GluN2A ≥ GluN2B) [733], <b>conantokin-G</b> [glutamate site] (GluN2B > GluN2D = GluN2C = GluN2A), <b>d-AP5</b> [glutamate site], <b>d-CCPene</b> [glutamate site] (GluN2A = GluN2B > GluN2C = GluN2D), <b>selfotel</b> [glutamate site]	
Channel blockers	<b>phencyclidine</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.1) [261], <b>ketamine</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.2) [261], <b>amantadine</b> (GluN2C = GluN2D ≥ GluN2B ≥ GluN2A) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.7) [261], <b>Mg<sup>2+</sup></b> (GluN2A = GluN2B > GluN2C = GluN2D), <b>N<sup>1</sup>-dansyl-spermine</b> (GluN2A = GluN2B ≫ GluN2C = GluN2D), <b>dizocilpine</b>	<b>Mg<sup>2+</sup></b> (GluN2A = GluN2B > GluN2C = GluN2D), <b>N<sup>1</sup>-dansyl-spermine</b> (GluN2A = GluN2B ≫ GluN2C = GluN2D), <b>amantadine</b> (GluN2C = GluN2D ≥ GluN2B ≥ GluN2A), <b>dizocilpine</b> , <b>ketamine</b> , <b>phencyclidine</b>
Labelled ligands	<b>[<sup>3</sup>H]CGP39653</b> [glutamate site] (Antagonist), <b>[<sup>3</sup>H]CGP61594</b> [glycine site] (Antagonist), <b>[<sup>3</sup>H]CGS19755</b> [glutamate site] (Antagonist), <b>[<sup>3</sup>H]CPP</b> [glutamate site] (Antagonist), <b>[<sup>3</sup>H]L689560</b> [glycine site] (Antagonist), <b>[<sup>3</sup>H]MDL105519</b> [glycine site] (Antagonist), <b>[<sup>3</sup>H]dizocilpine</b> [cation channel] (Channel blocker), <b>[<sup>3</sup>H]glycine</b> [glycine site] (Agonist)	<b>[<sup>3</sup>H]CGP39653</b> [glutamate site] (Antagonist), <b>[<sup>3</sup>H]CGP61594</b> [glycine site] (Antagonist), <b>[<sup>3</sup>H]CGS19755</b> [glutamate site] (Antagonist), <b>[<sup>3</sup>H]CPP</b> [glutamate site] (Antagonist), <b>[<sup>3</sup>H]L689560</b> [glycine site] (Selective Antagonist), <b>[<sup>3</sup>H]MDL105519</b> [glycine site] (Antagonist), <b>[<sup>3</sup>H]dizocilpine</b> [cation channel] (Channel blocker), <b>[<sup>3</sup>H]glycine</b> [glycine site] (Agonist)

Nomenclature	<a href="#">GluN3A</a>	<a href="#">GluN3B</a>
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">GRIN3A</a> , <a href="#">Q8TCU5</a>	<a href="#">GRIN3B</a> , <a href="#">O60391</a>
Comments	See the main comments section below for information on the pharmacology of GluN3A and GluN3B subunits	See the main comments section below for information on the pharmacology of GluN3A and GluN3B subunits

**Comments:** Potency orders unreferenced in the table are from [158, 261, 289, 566, 812, 1071]. In addition to the glutamate and glycine binding sites documented in the table, physiologically important inhibitory modulatory sites exist for  $Mg^{2+}$ ,  $Zn^{2+}$ , and protons [197, 246, 1071]. Voltage-independent inhibition by  $Zn^{2+}$  binding with high affinity within the ATD is highly subunit selective (GluN2A  $\gg$  GluN2B > GluN2C  $\geq$  GluN2D; [812, 1071]). The receptor is also allosterically modulated, in both positive and negative directions, by endogenous neuroactive steroids in a subunit dependent manner [426, 673]. Tonic proton blockade of NMDA receptor function is alleviated by polyamines and the inclusion of exon 5 within GluN1 subunit splice variants, whereas the non-competitive antagonists [ifenprodil](#) and [traxoprodil](#) increase the fraction of receptors blocked by protons at ambient concentration. Inclusion of exon 5 also abolishes potentiation by polyamines and inhibition by  $Zn^{2+}$  that occurs through binding in the ATD [1070]. [Ifenprodil](#), [traxoprodil](#),

[haloperidol](#), [felbamate](#) and [Ro 8-4304](#) discriminate between recombinant NMDA receptors assembled from GluN1 and either GluN2A, or GluN2B, subunits by acting as selective, non-competitive, antagonists of heterooligomers incorporating GluN2B through a binding site at the ATD GluN1/GluN2B subunit interface [502]. [LY233536](#) is a competitive antagonist that also displays selectivity for GluN2B over GluN2A subunit-containing receptors. Similarly, [CGP61594](#) is a photoaffinity label that interacts selectively with receptors incorporating GluN2B versus GluN2A, GluN2D and, to a lesser extent, GluN2C subunits. TCN 201 and TCN 213 have recently been shown to block GluN2A NMDA receptors selectively by a mechanism that involves allosteric inhibition of glycine binding to the GluN1 site [82, 279, 378, 698]. In addition to influencing the pharmacological profile of the NMDA receptor, the identity of the GluN2 subunit co-assembled with GluN1 is an important determinant of biophysical properties that include sensitivity to block by  $Mg^{2+}$ , single-channel conductance and maximal open

probability and channel deactivation time [197, 288, 341]. Incorporation of the GluN3A subunit into tri-heteromers containing GluN1 and GluN2 subunits is associated with decreased single-channel conductance, reduced permeability to  $Ca^{2+}$  and decreased susceptibility to block by  $Mg^{2+}$  [142, 396]. Reduced permeability to  $Ca^{2+}$  has also been observed following the inclusion of GluN3B in tri-heteromers. The expression of GluN3A, or GluN3B, with GluN1 alone forms, in *Xenopus laevis* oocytes, a cation channel with unique properties that include activation by glycine (but not NMDA), lack of permeation by  $Ca^{2+}$  and resistance to blockade by  $Mg^{2+}$  and NMDA receptor antagonists [149]. The function of heteromers composed of GluN1 and GluN3A is enhanced by  $Zn^{2+}$ , or glycine site antagonists, binding to the GluN1 subunit [661].  $Zn^{2+}$  also directly activates such complexes. The co-expression of GluN1, GluN3A and GluN3B appears to be required to form glycine-activated receptors in mammalian cell hosts [986].

## IP<sub>3</sub> receptors

**Ion channels** → **Ligand-gated ion channels** → **IP<sub>3</sub> receptors**

**Overview:** The inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate receptors (IP<sub>3</sub>R) are ligand-gated Ca<sup>2+</sup>-release channels on intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> store sites (such as the endoplasmic reticulum). They are responsible for the mobilization of intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> stores and play an important role in intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> signalling in a wide variety of cell types. Three different gene products (types I-III) have been isolated, which assemble as large tetrameric structures. IP<sub>3</sub>R<sub>s</sub> are closely associated with certain proteins: **calmodulin** (*CALM1 CALM2 CALM3, P62158*) and FKBP (and calcineurin *via* FKBP). They are phosphorylated by PKA, PKC, PKG and CaMKII.

### Further reading on IP<sub>3</sub> receptors

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Nomenclature	IP <sub>3</sub> R1	IP <sub>3</sub> R2	IP <sub>3</sub> R3
HGNC, UniProt	<i>ITPR1, Q14643</i>	<i>ITPR2, Q14571</i>	<i>ITPR3, Q14573</i>
Endogenous activators	cytosolic ATP (< mM range), cytosolic Ca <sup>2+</sup> Concentration range: <7.5×10 <sup>-4</sup> M, IP <sub>3</sub> (endogenous; nM - μM range)	cytosolic Ca <sup>2+</sup> (nM range), IP <sub>3</sub> (endogenous; nM - μM range)	cytosolic Ca <sup>2+</sup> (nM range), IP <sub>3</sub> (endogenous; nM - μM range)
Activators	adenophostin A (pharmacological; nM range), inositol 2,4,5-trisphosphate (pharmacological; also activated by other InsP <sub>3</sub> analogues)	adenophostin A (pharmacological; nM range), inositol 2,4,5-trisphosphate (pharmacological; also activated by other InsP <sub>3</sub> analogues)	–
Antagonists	PIP <sub>2</sub> (μM range), caffeine (mM range), decavanadate (μM range), xestospongin C (μM range)	decavanadate (μM range)	decavanadate (μM range)
Functional Characteristics	Ca <sup>2+</sup> : (P <sub>Ba</sub> /P <sub>K</sub> 6) single-channel conductance 70 pS (50 mM Ca <sup>2+</sup> )	Ca <sup>2+</sup> : single-channel conductance 70 pS (50 mM Ca <sup>2+</sup> ) 390 pS (220 mM Cs <sup>+</sup> )	Ca <sup>2+</sup> : single-channel conductance 88 pS (55 mM Ba <sup>2+</sup> )
Comments	IP <sub>3</sub> R1 is also antagonised by calmodulin at high cytosolic Ca <sup>2+</sup> concentrations	–	–

**Comments:** The absence of a modulator of a particular isoform of receptor indicates that the action of that modulator has not been determined, not that it is without effect.

# Nicotinic acetylcholine receptors

Ion channels → Ligand-gated ion channels → Nicotinic acetylcholine receptors

**Overview:** Nicotinic acetylcholine (ACh) receptors are members of the Cys-loop family of transmitter-gated ion channels that includes the GABA<sub>A</sub>, strychnine-sensitive glycine and 5-HT<sub>3</sub> receptors [18, 714, 970, 1033, 1163]. All nicotinic receptors are pentamers in which each of the five subunits contains 4TM domains. Genes encoding a total of 17 subunits ( $\alpha$ 1-10,  $\beta$ 1-4,  $\gamma$ ,  $\delta$  and  $\epsilon$ ) have been identified [492]. All subunits with the exception of  $\alpha$ 8 (present in avian species) have been identified in mammals. All  $\alpha$  subunits possess two tandem cysteine residues near to the site involved in acetylcholine binding, and subunits not named  $\alpha$  lack these residues [714]. The orthosteric ligand binding site is formed by residues within at least three peptide domains on the  $\alpha$  subunit (principal component), and three on the adjacent subunit (complementary component). Nicotinic ACh receptors contain several allosteric modulatory sites. One such site, for positive allosteric modulators (PAMs) and allosteric agonists, has been proposed to reside within an intrasubunit cavity between the 4TM domains [342, 1201] (see also [401]). The high resolution crystal structure of the molluscan ACh binding protein, a structural homologue of the extracellular binding domain of a nicotinic receptor pentamer, in complex with several nicotinic receptor ligands (*e.g.* [144]) and the crystal structure of the extracellular domain of the  $\alpha$ 1 subunit bound to  $\alpha$ -bungarotoxin at 1.94 Å resolution [228], has revealed the

orthosteric binding site in detail (reviewed in [147, 492, 913, 970]). Nicotinic receptors at the somatic neuromuscular junction of adult animals have the stoichiometry ( $\alpha$ 1)<sub>2</sub> $\beta$ 1 $\delta\epsilon$ , whereas an extrajunctional ( $\alpha$ 1)<sub>2</sub> $\beta$ 1 $\gamma\delta$  receptor predominates in embryonic and denervated skeletal muscle and other pathological states. Other nicotinic receptors are assembled as combinations of  $\alpha$ (2-6) and  $\beta$ (2-4) subunits. For  $\alpha$ 2,  $\alpha$ 3,  $\alpha$ 4 and  $\beta$ 2 and  $\beta$ 4 subunits, pairwise combinations of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  (*e.g.*  $\alpha$ 3 $\beta$ 4 and  $\alpha$ 4 $\beta$ 2) are sufficient to form a functional receptor *in vitro*, but far more complex isoforms may exist *in vivo* (reviewed in [348, 349, 714]). There is strong evidence that the pairwise assembly of some  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  subunits can occur with variable stoichiometry [*e.g.* ( $\alpha$ 4)<sub>2</sub>( $\beta$ 2)<sub>2</sub> or ( $\alpha$ 4)<sub>3</sub>( $\beta$ 2)<sub>2</sub>] which influences the biophysical and pharmacological properties of the receptor [714].  $\alpha$ 5 and  $\beta$ 3 subunits lack function when expressed alone, or pairwise, but participate in the formation of functional hetero-oligomeric receptors when expressed as a third subunit with another  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  pair [*e.g.*  $\alpha$ 4 $\alpha$ 5 $\alpha$ 3 $\beta$ 2,  $\alpha$ 4 $\alpha$ 3 $\beta$ 2 $\beta$ 3,  $\alpha$ 5 $\alpha$ 6 $\beta$ 2, see [714] for further examples]. The  $\alpha$ 6 subunit can form a functional receptor when co-expressed with  $\beta$ 4 *in vitro*, but more efficient expression ensues from incorporation of a third partner, such as  $\beta$ 3 [1188]. The  $\alpha$ 7,  $\alpha$ 8, and  $\alpha$ 9 subunits form functional homo-oligomers, but can also combine with a second subunit to constitute a hetero-oligomeric assembly (*e.g.*  $\alpha$ 7 $\beta$ 2 and  $\alpha$ 9 $\alpha$ 10). For functional

expression of the  $\alpha$ 10 subunit, co-assembly with  $\alpha$ 9 is necessary. The latter, along with the  $\alpha$ 10 subunit, appears to be largely confined to cochlear and vestibular hair cells. Comprehensive listings of nicotinic receptor subunit combinations identified from recombinant expression systems, or *in vivo*, are given in [714]. In addition, numerous proteins interact with nicotinic ACh receptors modifying their assembly, trafficking to and from the cell surface, and activation by ACh (reviewed by [34, 485, 713]).

The nicotinic receptor Subcommittee of **NC-IUPHAR** has recommended a nomenclature and classification scheme for nicotinic ACh receptors based on the subunit composition of known, naturally- and/or heterologously-expressed nACh receptor subtypes [647]. Headings for this table reflect abbreviations designating nACh receptor subtypes based on the predominant  $\alpha$  subunit contained in that receptor subtype. An asterisk following the indicated  $\alpha$  subunit denotes that other subunits are known to, or may, assemble with the indicated  $\alpha$  subunit to form the designated nACh receptor subtype(s). Where subunit stoichiometries within a specific nACh receptor subtype are known, numbers of a particular subunit larger than 1 are indicated by a subscript following the subunit (enclosed in parentheses - see also [190]).

## Further reading on Nicotinic acetylcholine receptors

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Nomenclature	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor $\alpha 1$ subunit	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor $\alpha 2$ subunit	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor $\alpha 3$ subunit	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor $\alpha 4$ subunit
HGNC, UniProt	<i>CHRNA1</i> , P02708	<i>CHRNA2</i> , Q15822	<i>CHRNA3</i> , P32297	<i>CHRNA4</i> , P43681
Commonly used antagonists	$(\alpha 1)_2\beta 1\gamma\delta$ and $(\alpha 1)_2\beta 1\delta\epsilon$ : $\alpha$ -bungarotoxin > pancuronium > vecuronium > rocuronium > tubocurarine (IC <sub>50</sub> = 43 - 82 nM)	$\alpha 2\beta 2$ : DH $\beta$ E ( $K_B$ = 0.9 $\mu$ M), tubocurarine ( $K_B$ = 1.4 $\mu$ M); $\alpha 2\beta 4$ : DH $\beta$ E ( $K_B$ = 3.6 $\mu$ M), tubocurarine ( $K_B$ = 4.2 $\mu$ M)	$\alpha 3\beta 2$ : DH $\beta$ E ( $K_B$ = 1.6 $\mu$ M, IC <sub>50</sub> = 2.0 $\mu$ M), tubocurarine ( $K_B$ = 2.4 $\mu$ M); $\alpha 3\beta 4$ : DH $\beta$ E ( $K_B$ = 19 $\mu$ M, IC <sub>50</sub> = 26 $\mu$ M), tubocurarine ( $K_B$ = 2.2 $\mu$ M)	$\alpha 4\beta 2$ : DH $\beta$ E ( $K_B$ = 0.1 $\mu$ M; IC <sub>50</sub> = 0.08 - 0.9 $\mu$ M), tubocurarine ( $K_B$ = 3.2 $\mu$ M, IC <sub>50</sub> = 34 $\mu$ M); $\alpha 4\beta 4$ : DH $\beta$ E ( $K_B$ = 0.01 $\mu$ M, IC <sub>50</sub> = 0.19 - 1.2 $\mu$ M), tubocurarine ( $K_B$ = 0.2 $\mu$ M, IC <sub>50</sub> = 50 $\mu$ M)
Selective agonists	succinylcholine (selective for $(\alpha 1)_2\beta 1\gamma\delta$ )	–	–	varenicline [186], rivanicline [252], TC-2559 ( $\alpha 4\beta 2$ ) [166]
Selective antagonists	$\alpha$ -bungarotoxin, $\alpha$ -conotoxin GI, $\alpha$ -conotoxin MI, pancuronium, waglerin-1 (selective for $(\alpha 1)_2\beta 1\delta\epsilon$ )	–	$\alpha$ -conotoxin AulB ( $\alpha 3\beta 4$ ), $\alpha$ -conotoxin MII ( $\alpha 3\beta 2$ ), $\alpha$ -conotoxin PnIA ( $\alpha 3\beta 2$ ), $\alpha$ -conotoxin TxIA ( $\alpha 3\beta 2$ ), $\alpha$ -conotoxin-GIC ( $\alpha 3\beta 2$ )	–
Channel blockers	gallamine ( $(\alpha 1)_2\beta 1\gamma\delta$ and $(\alpha 1)_2\beta 1\delta\epsilon$ ) (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~6), mecamlamine ( $(\alpha 1)_2\beta 1\delta\epsilon$ ) (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~5.8)	hexamethonium, mecamlamine	mecamlamine ( $\alpha 3\beta 4$ ) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.4), mecamlamine ( $\alpha 3\beta 2$ ) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.1), A-867744 ( $\alpha 3\beta 4$ ) [676], NS1738 ( $\alpha 3\beta 4$ ) [1056], hexamethonium ( $\alpha 3\beta 4$ ), hexamethonium ( $\alpha 3\beta 2$ )	mecamlamine ( $\alpha 4\beta 4$ ) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.3–6.5), mecamlamine ( $\alpha 4\beta 2$ ) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.4–5.4), hexamethonium ( $\alpha 4\beta 2$ ) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.5–5.2), hexamethonium ( $\alpha 4\beta 4$ ) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4), A-867744 ( $\alpha 4\beta 2$ ) [676], NS1738 ( $\alpha 4\beta 2$ ) [1056]
Allosteric modulators	–	LY2087101 (Positive) [110]	–	LY2087101 (Positive) [110]
Selective allosteric modulators	–	–	–	NS9283 (Positive) [583]
Labelled ligands	[ <sup>125</sup> I] $\alpha$ -bungarotoxin (Selective Antagonist), [ <sup>3</sup> H] $\alpha$ -bungarotoxin (Selective Antagonist)	[ <sup>125</sup> I]epibatidine (Agonist), [ <sup>3</sup> H]epibatidine (Agonist), [ <sup>3</sup> H]cytisine (Agonist)	[ <sup>125</sup> I]epibatidine (Agonist), [ <sup>3</sup> H]epibatidine (Agonist), [ <sup>125</sup> I]epibatidine (Agonist), [ <sup>3</sup> H]epibatidine (Agonist), [ <sup>3</sup> H]cytisine (Agonist)	[ <sup>125</sup> I]epibatidine (Agonist), [ <sup>3</sup> H]epibatidine (Agonist), [ <sup>3</sup> H]cytisine (Agonist), [ <sup>125</sup> I]epibatidine (Agonist), [ <sup>3</sup> H]epibatidine (Agonist) – Rat, [ <sup>3</sup> H]cytisine (Agonist)
Functional Characteristics	$(\alpha 1)_2\beta 1\gamma\delta$ : P <sub>Ca</sub> /P <sub>Na</sub> = 0.16 - 0.2, P <sub>f</sub> = 2.1 - 2.9%; $(\alpha 1)_2\beta 1\delta\epsilon$ : P <sub>Ca</sub> /P <sub>Na</sub> = 0.65 - 1.38, P <sub>f</sub> = 4.1 - 7.2%	$\alpha 2\beta 2$ : P <sub>Ca</sub> /P <sub>Na</sub> 1.5	$\alpha 3\beta 2$ : P <sub>Ca</sub> /P <sub>Na</sub> = 1.5; $\alpha 3\beta 4$ : P <sub>Ca</sub> /P <sub>Na</sub> = 0.78 - 1.1, P <sub>f</sub> = 2.7 - 4.6%	$\alpha 4\beta 2$ : P <sub>Ca</sub> /P <sub>Na</sub> = 1.65, P <sub>f</sub> = 2.6 - 2.9%; $\alpha 4\beta 4$ : P <sub>f</sub> = 1.5 - 3.0 %

Nomenclature	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor $\alpha 5$ subunit	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor $\alpha 6$ subunit	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor $\alpha 7$ subunit
HGNC, UniProt	<i>CHRNA5</i> , P30532	<i>CHRNA6</i> , Q15825	<i>CHRNA7</i> , P36544
Commonly used antagonists	–	$\alpha 6/\alpha 3\beta 2\beta 3$ chimera: <b>DH<math>\beta</math>E</b> (IC <sub>50</sub> = 1.1 $\mu$ M)	( $\alpha 7$ ) <sub>5</sub> : <b>DH<math>\beta</math>E</b> (IC <sub>50</sub> = 8 - 20 $\mu$ M); ( $\alpha 7$ ) <sub>5</sub> : <b>tubocurarine</b> (IC <sub>50</sub> = 3.1 $\mu$ M)
Selective agonists	–	–	<b>encenicline</b> (Partial agonist) [694, 780], <b>AQW051</b> ([125I] $\alpha$ -bungarotoxin binding assay) [442], <b>4BP-TQS</b> (allosteric) [342], <b>A-582941</b> (( $\alpha 7$ ) <sub>5</sub> ) [91], <b>PHA-543613</b> (( $\alpha 7$ ) <sub>5</sub> ) [1154], <b>PHA-709829</b> (( $\alpha 7$ ) <sub>5</sub> ) [9], <b>PNU-282987</b> (( $\alpha 7$ ) <sub>5</sub> ) [97], <b>bradanicline</b> (( $\alpha 7$ ) <sub>5</sub> ) [388]
Selective antagonists	<b><math>\alpha</math>-conotoxin MII</b> , <b><math>\alpha</math>-conotoxin PnIA</b> , <b><math>\alpha</math>-conotoxin TxIA</b> , <b><math>\alpha</math>-conotoxin-GIC</b>	<b><math>\alpha</math>-conotoxin MII</b> ( $\alpha 6\beta 2^*$ ), <b><math>\alpha</math>-conotoxin MII [H9A, L15A]</b> ( $\alpha 6\beta 2\beta 3$ ), <b><math>\alpha</math>-conotoxin PIA</b> ( $\alpha 6/\alpha 3\beta 2\beta 3$ chimera)	<b><math>\alpha</math>-bungarotoxin</b> (( $\alpha 7$ ) <sub>5</sub> ), <b><math>\alpha</math>-conotoxin Arib</b> (( $\alpha 7$ ) <sub>5</sub> ), <b><math>\alpha</math>-conotoxin lml</b> (( $\alpha 7$ ) <sub>5</sub> ), <b>methyllycaconitine</b> (( $\alpha 7$ ) <sub>5</sub> )
Channel blockers	–	<b>mecamylamine</b> ( $\alpha 6/\alpha 3\beta 2\beta 3$ chimera) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5), <b>hexamethonium</b> ( $\alpha 6/\alpha 3\beta 2\beta 3$ chimera) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4)	<b>mecamylamine</b> (( $\alpha 7$ ) <sub>5</sub> ) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.8)
Allosteric modulators	–	–	<b>A-867744</b> (Positive) [676], <b>LY2087101</b> (Positive) [110], <b>NS1738</b> (Positive) [1056]
Selective allosteric modulators	–	–	<b>BNC375</b> (Positive) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 5.6) [1128], <b>JNJ1930942</b> (Positive) [247], <b>PNU-120596</b> (Positive) [441]
Labelled ligands	–	<b>[<sup>3</sup>H]epibatidine</b> (Agonist) – Chicken, <b>[<sup>125</sup>I]<math>\alpha</math>-conotoxin MII</b> (Antagonist)	<b>[<sup>3</sup>H]epibatidine</b> (Agonist), <b>[<sup>3</sup>H]A-585539</b> (Agonist) [26], <b>[<sup>3</sup>H]AZ11637326</b> (Agonist) [347], <b>[<sup>125</sup>I]<math>\alpha</math>-bungarotoxin</b> (Selective Antagonist) (pK <sub>d</sub> 8.3–9.1), <b>[<sup>3</sup>H]<math>\alpha</math>-bungarotoxin</b> (Selective Antagonist) (pK <sub>d</sub> 8.3–9.1), <b>[<sup>3</sup>H]methyllycaconitine</b> (Antagonist) (pK <sub>d</sub> 8.7) – Rat
Functional Characteristics	–	–	P <sub>Ca</sub> /P <sub>Na</sub> = 6.6-20, P <sub>f</sub> = 8.8 - 11.4%

Nomenclature	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor $\alpha 8$ subunit (avian)	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor $\alpha 9$ subunit	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor $\alpha 10$ subunit
HGNC, UniProt	–, Q03481	<i>CHRNA9</i> , Q9UGM1	<i>CHRNA10</i> , Q9GZZ6
Commonly used antagonists	( $\alpha 8$ ) <sub>5</sub> : <b><math>\alpha</math>-bungarotoxin</b> > <b>atropine</b> $\geq$ <b>tubocurarine</b> $\geq$ <b>strychnine</b>	( $\alpha 9$ ) <sub>5</sub> : <b><math>\alpha</math>-bungarotoxin</b> > <b>methyllycaconitine</b> > <b>strychnine</b> > <b>tropisetron</b> > <b>tubocurarine</b> ; $\alpha 9\alpha 10$ : <b><math>\alpha</math>-bungarotoxin</b> > <b>tropisetron</b> = <b>strychnine</b> > <b>tubocurarine</b>	$\alpha 9\alpha 10$ : <b><math>\alpha</math>-bungarotoxin</b> > <b>tropisetron</b> = <b>strychnine</b> > <b>tubocurarine</b>
Selective antagonists	–	<b><math>\alpha</math>-bungarotoxin</b> ( $\alpha 9\alpha 10$ ), <b><math>\alpha</math>-bungarotoxin</b> (( $\alpha 9$ ) <sub>5</sub> ), <b><math>\alpha</math>-conotoxin RglA</b> ( $\alpha 9\alpha 10$ ), <b>muscarine</b> ( $\alpha 9\alpha 10$ ), <b>muscarine</b> (( $\alpha 9$ ) <sub>5</sub> ), <b>nicotine</b> ( $\alpha 9\alpha 10$ ), <b>nicotine</b> (( $\alpha 9$ ) <sub>5</sub> ), <b>strychnine</b> (( $\alpha 9$ ) <sub>5</sub> ), <b>strychnine</b> ( $\alpha 9\alpha 10$ )	<b><math>\alpha</math>-bungarotoxin</b> ( $\alpha 9\alpha 10$ ), <b><math>\alpha</math>-conotoxin RglA</b> ( $\alpha 9\alpha 10$ ), <b>muscarine</b> ( $\alpha 9\alpha 10$ ), <b>nicotine</b> ( $\alpha 9\alpha 10$ ), <b>strychnine</b> ( $\alpha 9\alpha 10$ )
Labelled ligands	<b>[<sup>3</sup>H]epibatidine</b> (( $\alpha 8$ ) <sub>5</sub> ) (pK <sub>d</sub> 9.7), <b>[<sup>125</sup>I]<math>\alpha</math>-bungarotoxin</b> (native $\alpha 8^*$ ) (pK <sub>d</sub> 8.3), <b>[<sup>3</sup>H]<math>\alpha</math>-bungarotoxin</b> (native $\alpha 8^*$ ) (pK <sub>d</sub> 8.3)	<b>[<sup>3</sup>H]methyllycaconitine</b> (Antagonist) (pK <sub>d</sub> 8.1), <b>[<sup>125</sup>I]<math>\alpha</math>-bungarotoxin</b> (Antagonist), <b>[<sup>3</sup>H]<math>\alpha</math>-bungarotoxin</b> (Antagonist)	<b>[<sup>3</sup>H]methyllycaconitine</b> (Antagonist) (pK <sub>d</sub> 8.1)
Functional Characteristics	–	( $\alpha 9$ ) <sub>5</sub> : P <sub>Ca</sub> /P <sub>Na</sub> = 9; $\alpha 9\alpha 10$ : P <sub>Ca</sub> /P <sub>Na</sub> = 9, P <sub>f</sub> = 22%	$\alpha 9\alpha 10$ : P <sub>Ca</sub> /P <sub>Na</sub> = 9, P <sub>f</sub> = 22%

Nomenclature	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor $\beta$ 1 subunit	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor $\beta$ 2 subunit	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor $\beta$ 3 subunit	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor $\beta$ 4 subunit	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor $\gamma$ subunit	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor $\delta$ subunit	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor $\epsilon$ subunit
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">CHRN1</a> , <a href="#">P11230</a>	<a href="#">CHRN2</a> , <a href="#">P17787</a>	<a href="#">CHRN3</a> , <a href="#">Q05901</a>	<a href="#">CHRN4</a> , <a href="#">P30926</a>	<a href="#">CHRN7</a> , <a href="#">P07510</a>	<a href="#">CHRN8</a> , <a href="#">Q07001</a>	<a href="#">CHRN9</a> , <a href="#">Q04844</a>
Antagonists	–	–	–	–	–	PhTX-11 (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.2–6.3) [1010]	–
Comments	Ligand interaction data for hetero-oligomeric receptors containing the $\beta$ 1 subunit are listed under the $\alpha$ 1 subunits	Ligand interaction data for hetero-oligomeric receptors containing the $\beta$ 2 subunit are listed under the $\alpha$ subunits	Ligand interaction data for hetero-oligomeric receptors containing the $\beta$ 3 subunit are listed under the $\alpha$ subunits	Ligand interaction data for hetero-oligomeric receptors containing the $\beta$ 4 subunit are listed under the $\alpha$ subunits	Ligand interaction data for hetero-oligomeric receptors containing the $\gamma$ subunit are listed under the $\alpha$ 1 subunits	Ligand interaction data for hetero-oligomeric receptors containing the $\delta$ subunit are listed under the $\alpha$ 1 subunits	Ligand interaction data for hetero-oligomeric receptors containing the $\epsilon$ subunit are listed under the $\alpha$ 1 subunits

**Comments:** Commonly used agonists of nACh receptors that display limited discrimination in functional assays between receptor subtypes include [A-85380](#), [cytisine](#), [DMPP](#), [epibatidine](#), [nicotine](#) and the natural transmitter, [acetylcholine](#) (ACh). A summary of their profile across differing receptors is provided in

[349] and quantitative data across numerous assay systems are summarized in [471]. Quantitative data presented in the table for commonly used antagonists and channel blockers for human receptors studied under voltage-clamp are from [120, 153, 814, 815, 825, 1162]. Type I PAMs increase peak agonist-evoked

responses but have little, or no, effect on the rate of desensitization of  $\alpha$ 7 nicotinic ACh receptors whereas type II PAMs also cause a large reduction in desensitization (reviewed in [1151]).

## P2X receptors

[Ion channels](#) → [Ligand-gated ion channels](#) → [P2X receptors](#)

**Overview:** P2X receptors (**nomenclature as agreed by the NC-IUPHAR Subcommittee on P2X Receptors [190, 517]**) have a trimeric topology [475, 509, 762] with two putative TM domains, gating primarily Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup> and Ca<sup>2+</sup>, exceptionally Cl<sup>-</sup>. The Nomenclature Subcommittee has recommended that for P2X receptors, structural criteria should be the initial criteria for nomenclature where possible. X-ray crystallography indicates that functional P2X receptors are trimeric and three agonist

molecules are required to bind to a single receptor in order to activate it [345, 387, 509, 679]. Native receptors may occur as either homotrimers (*e.g.* P2X1 in smooth muscle) or heterotrimers (*e.g.* P2X2:P2X3 in the nodose ganglion [1104], P2X1:P2X5 in mouse cortical astrocytes [570], and P2X2:P2X5 in mouse dorsal root ganglion, spinal cord and mid pons [191, 933]. P2X2, P2X4 and P2X7 receptor activation can also lead to influx of large cationic molecules, such as NMDG, Yo-Pro, ethidium or

propidium iodide [837]. The hemi-channel pannexin-1 was initially implicated in the action of P2X7 [838], but not P2X2, receptors [151], but this interpretation is probably misleading. Convincing evidence now supports the view that the activated P2X7 receptor is immediately permeable to large cationic molecules, but influx proceeds at a much slower pace than that of the small cations Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, and Ca<sup>2+</sup> [240].

### Further reading on P2X receptors

Di Virgilio F *et al.* (2017) The P2X7 Receptor in Infection and Inflammation. *Immunity* **47**: 15-31

[[PMID:28723547](#)]

Di Virgilio F *et al.* (2018) The Elusive P2X7 Macropore. *Trends Cell Biol* **28**: 392-404

[[PMID:29439897](#)]

Habermacher C *et al.* (2016) Molecular structure and function of P2X receptors.

*Neuropharmacology* **104**: 18-30 [[PMID:26231831](#)]

Jacobson KA *et al.* (2016) Medicinal chemistry of adenosine, P2Y and P2X receptors.

*Neuropharmacology* **104**: 31-49 [[PMID:26686393](#)]

Khakh BS *et al.* (2001) International union of pharmacology. XXIV. Current status of the nomenclature and properties of P2X receptors and their subunits. *Pharmacol Rev* **53**: 107-18

[[PMID:11171941](#)]

North RA. (2016) P2X receptors. *Philos Trans R Soc Lond, B, Biol Sci* **371**: [[PMID:27377721](#)]

Stokes L *et al.* (2017) P2X4 Receptor Function in the Nervous System and Current Breakthroughs in Pharmacology. *Front Pharmacol* **8**: 291 [[PMID:28588493](#)]

Nomenclature	P2X1	P2X2	P2X3	P2X4	P2X5	P2X6	P2X7
HGNC, UniProt	<i>P2RX1</i> , P51575	<i>P2RX2</i> , Q9UBL9	<i>P2RX3</i> , P56373	<i>P2RX4</i> , Q99571	<i>P2RX5</i> , Q93086	<i>P2RX6</i> , O15547	<i>P2RX7</i> , Q99572
Endogenous agonists	–	ATP [460] – Rat	ATP [461]	ATP [461]	ATP [461] – Rat	ATP [461] – Rat	ATP [461]
Agonists	$\alpha\beta$ -meATP, BzATP, L- $\beta\gamma$ -meATP	–	$\alpha\beta$ -meATP, BzATP	–	–	–	–
Antagonists	TNP-ATP (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~8.9) [1091], I <sub>ps</sub> I (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~8.5) [522], NF023 (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~6.7) [992], NF449 (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~6.3) [507]	NF770 (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7–8) [783], NF778 (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7–8) [783], PSB-10211 (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~7) [783]	TNP-ATP (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~8.9) [1091], AF-906 (pIC <sub>50</sub> 8.9) [463], gefapixant (pIC <sub>50</sub> 8.5) [463], A317491 (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~7.5) [467]	5-BDBD (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5–6) [463, 783], BX-430 (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5–6) [463, 783], PSB-12062 (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5–6) [463, 783], paroxetine (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5–6) [463, 783]	–	–	AZ10606120 (pK <sub>d</sub> 8.9) [705], A804598 (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~8), brilliant blue G (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~8) [476], A839977 (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~7.7) [256, 258, 422], A740003 (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.4) [423], decavanadate (pA <sub>2</sub> = 7.4) (pA <sub>2</sub> 7.4) [710], A438079 (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~6.9) [256], AZ11657312 (salt free) (pA <sub>2</sub> 6.1) [37]
Selective antagonists	–	–	–	–	–	–	JNJ-47965567 (pK <sub>i</sub> 7.9) [85]
Allosteric modulators	–	–	–	–	–	–	AZ10606120 (Negative) [705], GW791343 (Negative) [705, 707], GW791343 (Positive) [705, 707] – Rat, LL-37 (CAMP, P49913) (Positive) [1059], clemastine (Positive) [781], polymyxin B (Positive) [309]
Selective allosteric modulators	MRS 2219 (Positive) [462]	–	–	ivermectin (Positive) (pEC <sub>50</sub> ~6.6) [518] – Rat	–	–	chelerythrine (Negative) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.2) [959], AZ11645373 (Negative) [708, 1003], KN62 (Negative) [333, 959], ivermectin (Positive) [782]
Comments	–	–	–	–	–	–	Effects of the allosteric regulators at P2X7 receptors are species-dependent.

**Comments:** A317491 and RO3 also block the P2X2:P2X3 heteromultimer [319, 467]. NF449, A317491 and RO3 are more than 10-fold selective for P2X1 and P2X3 receptors, respectively. Agonists listed show selectivity within recombinant P2X receptors of *ca.* one order of magnitude. A804598, A839977, A740003 and A438079 are at least 10-fold selective for P2X7 receptors and show similar affinity across human and rodent receptors [256, 258, 422]. Several P2X receptors (particularly P2X1 and P2X3) may be inhibited by desensitisation using stable agonists (*e.g.*  $\alpha\beta$ -meATP); suramin and PPADS are non-selective antagonists at rat and human P2X1-3,5 and hP2X4, but not rP2X4,6,7 [119], and can also inhibit ATPase activity [193]. I<sub>ps</sub>I is inactive at

rP2X2, an antagonist at rP2X3 (pIC<sub>50</sub> 5.6) and enhances agonist responses at rP2X4 [522]. Antagonist potency of NF023 at recombinant P2X2, P2X3 and P2X5 is two orders of magnitude lower than that at P2X1 receptors [992]. The P2X7 receptor may be inhibited in a non-competitive manner by the protein kinase inhibitors KN62 and chelerythrine [959], while the p38 MAP kinase inhibitor GTP $\gamma$ S and the cyclic imide AZ11645373 show a species-dependent non-competitive action [257, 708, 709, 1003]. The pH-sensitive dye used in culture media, phenol red, is also reported to inhibit P2X1 and P2X3 containing channels [523]. Some recombinant P2X receptors expressed to high density bind [<sup>35</sup>S]ATP $\gamma$ S and [<sup>3</sup>H] $\alpha\beta$ -meATP, although the latter can also bind

to 5'-nucleotidase [706]. [<sup>3</sup>H]A317491 and [<sup>3</sup>H]A804598 have been used as high affinity antagonist radioligands for P2X3 (and P2X2/3) and P2X7 receptors, respectively [258]. Several high affinity radioligands for the P2X7 receptor have been recently synthesized [301, 639, 1040, 1223]. Gefapixant has shown clinical efficacy in reducing refractory chronic cough [2]. Oxidized ATP covalently binds un-protonated lysine residues in the vicinity of the ATP-binding site and irreversibly inhibits the P2X7 receptor. Other plasma membrane receptors exposing available lysines may also be blocked by oATP [75, 239]. The cryoelectron microscopy structures of full-length rP2X7 receptor in apo and ATP-bound states has been recently resolved [695].

## ZAC

[Ion channels](#) → [Ligand-gated ion channels](#) → [ZAC](#)

**Overview:** The zinc-activated channel (ZAC, **nomenclature as agreed by the NC-IUPHAR Subcommittee for the Zinc Activated Channel**) is a member of the Cys-loop family that includes the nicotinic ACh, 5-HT<sub>3</sub>, GABA<sub>A</sub> and strychnine-sensitive glycine receptors [209, 428, 1069]. The

channel is likely to exist as a homopentamer of 4TM subunits that form an intrinsic cation selective channel equipermable to Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup> and Cs<sup>+</sup>, but impermeable to Ca<sup>2+</sup> and Mg<sup>2+</sup> [1069]. ZAC displays constitutive activity that can be blocked by [tubocurarine](#) and high concentrations of Ca<sup>2+</sup> [1069]. Although

denoted ZAC, the channel is more potently activated by protons and Cu<sup>2+</sup>, with greater and lesser efficacy than Zn<sup>2+</sup>, respectively [1069]. ZAC is present in the human, chimpanzee, dog, cow and opossum genomes, but is functionally absent from mouse, or rat, genomes [209, 428].

### Further reading on ZAC

Collingridge GL *et al.* (2009) A nomenclature for ligand-gated ion channels. *Neuropharmacology* **56**: 2-5 [PMID:18655795]  
Peralta FA *et al.* (2016) Zinc as Allosteric Ion Channel Modulator: Ionotropic Receptors as Metalloproteins. *Int J Mol Sci* **17**: [PMID:27384555]

Trattnig SM *et al.* (2016) Copper and protons directly activate the zinc-activated channel. *Biochem Pharmacol* **103**: 109-17 [PMID:26872532]

Nomenclature	<a href="#">ZAC</a>
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">ZACN</a> , <a href="#">Q401N2</a>
Endogenous agonists	<a href="#">H<sup>+</sup></a> [1069], <a href="#">Cu<sup>2+</sup></a> [1069], <a href="#">Zn<sup>2+</sup></a> [209, 1069]
Antagonists	<a href="#">tubocurarine</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.2) [209], <a href="#">Ca<sup>2+</sup></a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 2) [1069]
Functional Characteristics	Outwardly rectifying current (both constitutive and evoked by Zn <sup>2+</sup> )

**Comments:** The ZAC subunit does not appear to exist in the mouse or rat genomes [209]. Although tabulated as an antagonist, it is possible that [tubocurarine](#) acts as a channel blocker. Antagonism by Ca<sup>2+</sup> is voltage-independent. ZAC is not activated (at 1 mM) by transition metals including Fe<sup>2+</sup>, Co<sup>2+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup>, or Al<sup>3+</sup> [1069]. The concentration response relationship to Cu<sup>2+</sup> is biphasic, with concentrations exceeding 30 μM being associated with reduced activation [1069].

## Voltage-gated ion channels

[Ion channels](#) → [Voltage-gated ion channels](#)

**Overview:** The voltage-gated ion channels and their structural relatives comprise a superfamily encoded by at least 143 genes in the human genome and are therefore one of the largest superfamilies of signal transduction proteins, following the G protein-coupled receptors and the protein kinases in number [139]. In addition to their prominence in signal transduction, these ion channels are also among the most common drug

targets. As for other large protein superfamilies, understanding the molecular relationships among family members, developing a unified, rational nomenclature for the ion channel families and subfamilies, and assigning physiological functions and pharmacological significance to each family member has been an important challenge. Some of the ion channels placed under the 'Voltage-gated' umbrella are not in fact gated by voltage, but for

the reasons mention above it is useful to consider them within this superfamily. The Inwardly rectifying potassium channels, Two-pore domain potassium channels, ryanodine receptors and transient receptor potential channels are those that are NOT voltage-gated.

## CatSper and Two-Pore channels

[Ion channels](#) → [Voltage-gated ion channels](#) → [CatSper and Two-Pore channels](#)

**Overview:** CatSper channels (CatSper1-4, **nomenclature as agreed by NC-IUPHAR [184]**) are putative 6TM, voltage-gated, alkalization-activated calcium permeant channels that are presumed to assemble as a tetramer of  $\alpha$ -like subunits and mediate the current  $I_{\text{CatSper}}$  [524]. In mammals, CatSper subunits are structurally most closely related to individual domains of voltage-activated calcium channels ( $\text{Ca}_v$ ) [892]. CatSper1 [892], CatSper2 [880] and CatSper3 and 4 [478, 632,

875], in common with a putative 2TM auxiliary CatSper $\beta$  protein [626] and two putative 1TM associated CatSper $\gamma$  and CatSper $\delta$  proteins [179, 1118], are restricted to the testis and localised to the principle piece of sperm tail. The novel cross-species CatSper channel inhibitor, RU1968, has been proposed as a useful tool to aid characterisation of native CatSper channels [893].

Two-pore channels (TPCs) are structurally related to CatSper,  $\text{Ca}_v$ s and  $\text{Na}_v$ s. TPCs have a 2x6TM structure with twice the

number of TMs of CatSper and half that of  $\text{Ca}_v$ s. There are three animal TPCs (TPC1-TPC3). Humans have TPC1 and TPC2, but not TPC3. TPC1 and TPC2 are localized in endosomes and lysosomes [124]. TPC3 is also found on the plasma membrane and forms a voltage-activated, non-inactivating  $\text{Na}^+$  channel [127]. All the three TPCs are  $\text{Na}^+$ -selective under whole-cell or whole-organelle patch clamp recording [128, 129, 1167]. The channels may also conduct  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  [731].

### Further reading on CatSper and Two-Pore channels

Clapham DE *et al.* (2005) International Union of Pharmacology. L. Nomenclature and structure-function relationships of CatSper and two-pore channels. *Pharmacol Rev* **57**: 451-4 [PMID:16382101]

Grimm C *et al.* (2017) Two-Pore Channels: Catalyzers of Endolysosomal Transport and Function. *Front Pharmacol* **8**: 45 [PMID:28223936]

Kintzer AF *et al.* (2018) On the structure and mechanism of two-pore channels. *FEBS J* **285**: 233-243 [PMID:28656706]

Nomenclature	CatSper1	CatSper2	CatSper3	CatSper4
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">CATSPER1</a> , <a href="#">Q8NECS</a>	<a href="#">CATSPER2</a> , <a href="#">Q96P56</a>	<a href="#">CATSPER3</a> , <a href="#">Q86XQ3</a>	<a href="#">CATSPER4</a> , <a href="#">Q7RTX7</a>
Activators	CatSper1 is constitutively active, weakly facilitated by membrane depolarisation, strongly augmented by intracellular alkalinisation. In human, but not mouse, progesterone (EC <sub>50</sub> 8 nM) also potentiates the CatSper current (I <sub>CatSper</sub> ). [622, 1012]	–	–	–
Channel blockers	<a href="#">ruthenium red</a> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5) [524] – Mouse, <a href="#">HC-056456</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.7) [136], <a href="#">Cd<sup>2+</sup></a> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.7) [524] – Mouse, <a href="#">Ni<sup>2+</sup></a> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.5) [524] – Mouse	–	–	–
Selective channel blockers	<a href="#">NNC55-0396</a> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.7) [-80mV – 80mV] [622, 1012], <a href="#">mibefradil</a> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.4–4.5) [1012]	–	–	–
Functional Characteristics	Calcium selective ion channel (Ba <sup>2+</sup> > Ca <sup>2+</sup> >> Mg <sup>2+</sup> >> Na <sup>+</sup> ); quasilinear monovalent cation current in the absence of extracellular divalent cations; alkalinization shifts the voltage-dependence of activation towards negative potentials [V <sub>1/2</sub> @ pH 6.0 = +87 mV (mouse); V <sub>1/2</sub> @ pH 7.5 = +11 mV (mouse) or pH 7.4 = +85 mV (human)]; required for I <sub>CatSper</sub> and male fertility (mouse and human)	Required for I <sub>CatSper</sub> and male fertility (mouse and human)	Required for I <sub>CatSper</sub> and male fertility (mouse)	Required for I <sub>CatSper</sub> and male fertility (mouse)

Nomenclature	TPC1	TPC2
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">TPCN1</a> , <a href="#">Q9ULQ1</a>	<a href="#">TPCN2</a> , <a href="#">Q8NHX9</a>
Activators	<a href="#">phosphatidyl (3,5) inositol bisphosphate</a> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 6.5) [128]	<a href="#">phosphatidyl (3,5) inositol bisphosphate</a> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 6.4) [1129]
Channel blockers	<a href="#">verapamil</a> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.6) [128], <a href="#">Cd<sup>2+</sup></a> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.7) [128]	<a href="#">verapamil</a> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5) [1129]
Functional Characteristics	Organelle voltage-gated Na <sup>+</sup> -selective channel (Na <sup>+</sup> >> K <sup>+</sup> >> Ca <sup>2+</sup> ); Required for the generation of action potential-like long depolarization in lysosomes. Voltage-dependence of activation is sensitive to luminal pH (determined from lysosomal recordings). $\psi_{1/2}$ @ pH4.6 = +91 mV; $\psi_{1/2}$ @ pH6.5 = +2.6 mV. Maximum activity requires PI(3,5)P2 and reduced [ATP], or depletion of extracellular amino acids.	Organelle voltage-independent Na <sup>+</sup> -selective channel (Na <sup>+</sup> >> K <sup>+</sup> >> Ca <sup>2+</sup> ). Sensitive to the levels of PI(3,5)P2. Activated by decreases in [ATP] or depletion of extracellular amino acids

**Comments:** CatSper channel subunits expressed singly, or in combination, fail to functionally express in heterologous expression systems [880, 892]. The properties of CatSper1 tabulated above are derived from whole cell voltage-clamp recordings comparing currents endogenous to spermatozoa isolated from the *corpus epididymis* of wild-type and *Catsper1*<sup>(-/-)</sup> mice [524] and also mature human sperm [622, 1012]. I<sub>CatSper</sub> is also undetectable in the spermatozoa of *Catsper2*<sup>(-/-)</sup>, *Catsper3*<sup>(-/-)</sup>, *Catsper4*<sup>(-/-)</sup>, or CatSper $\delta$ <sup>(-/-)</sup> mice, and CatSper 1 associates with CatSper 2, 3, 4,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$ , and  $\delta$  [179, 626, 875]. Moreover, targeted disruption of *Catsper1*, 2, 3, 4, or  $\delta$  genes results in an identical phenotype in which spermatozoa fail to exhibit the hyperactive

movement (whip-like flagellar beats) necessary for penetration of the egg *cumulus* and *zona pellucida* and subsequent fertilization. Such disruptions are associated with a deficit in alkalinization and depolarization-evoked Ca<sup>2+</sup> entry into spermatozoa [137, 179, 875]. Thus, it is likely that the CatSper pore is formed by a heterotetramer of CatSper1-4 [875] in association with the auxiliary subunits ( $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$ ,  $\delta$ ) that are also essential for function [179]. CatSper channels are required for the increase in intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentration in sperm evoked by egg *zona pellucida* glycoproteins [1167]. Mouse and human sperm swim against the fluid flow and Ca<sup>2+</sup> signaling through CatSper is required for the rheotaxis [712]. *In vivo*, CatSper1-null

spermatozoa cannot ascend the female reproductive tracts efficiently [180, 413]. It has been shown that CatSper channels form four linear Ca<sup>2+</sup> signaling domains along the flagella, which orchestrate capacitation-associated tyrosine phosphorylation [180]. The driving force for Ca<sup>2+</sup> entry is principally determined by a mildly outwardly rectifying K<sup>+</sup> channel (KSper) that, like CatSper, is activated by intracellular alkalinization [754]. Mouse KSper is encoded by *mSlo3*, a protein detected only in testis [684, 754, 1214]. In human sperm, such alkalinization may result from the activation of H<sub>v</sub>1, a proton channel [623]. Mutations in CatSper are associated with syndromic and non-syndromic male infertility [402]. In human

ejaculated spermatozoa, progesterone (<50 nM) potentiates the CatSper current by a non-genomic mechanism and acts synergistically with intracellular alkalinisation [622, 1012]. Sperm cells from infertile patients with a deletion in CatSper2 gene lack  $I_{\text{CatSper}}$  and the progesterone response [980]. In addition, certain prostaglandins (*e.g.*  $\text{PGF}_{1\alpha}$ ,  $\text{PGE}_1$ ) also potentiate CatSper mediated currents [622, 1012].

In human sperm, CatSper channels are also activated by various small molecules including endocrine disrupting chemicals and proposed as a polymodal sensor [108, 108]. TPCs are the major  $\text{Na}^+$  conductance in lysosomes; knocking out TPC1 and TPC2 eliminates the  $\text{Na}^+$  conductance and renders the organelle's membrane potential insensitive to changes in  $[\text{Na}^+]$  (31). The channels are regulated by luminal pH [128],  $\text{PI}(3,5)\text{P}_2$

[1129], intracellular ATP and extracellular amino acids [129]. TPCs are also involved in the NAADP-activated  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  release from lysosomal  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  stores [124, 731]. Mice lacking TPCs are viable but have phenotypes including compromised lysosomal pH stability, reduced physical endurance [129], resistance to Ebola viral infection [923] and fatty liver [355]. No major human disease-associated TPC mutation has been reported.

## Cyclic nucleotide-regulated channels

[Ion channels](#) → [Voltage-gated ion channels](#) → [Cyclic nucleotide-regulated channels](#)

**Overview: Cyclic nucleotide-gated (CNG) channels** are responsible for signalling in the primary sensory cells of the vertebrate visual and olfactory systems. CNG channels are voltage-independent cation channels formed as tetramers. Each subunit has 6TM, with the pore-forming domain between TM5 and TM6. CNG channels were first found

in rod photoreceptors [311, 508], where light signals through rhodopsin and transducin to stimulate phosphodiesterase and reduce intracellular cyclic GMP level. This results in a closure of CNG channels and a reduced 'dark current'. Similar channels were found in the cilia of olfactory neurons [750] and the pineal gland [262]. The cyclic nucleotides bind to a domain in the C

terminus of the subunit protein: other channels directly binding cyclic nucleotides include HCN, ether-a-go-go and certain plant potassium channels.

**A standardised nomenclature for CNG and HCN channels has been proposed by the NC-IUPHAR Subcommittee on voltage-gated ion channels [416].**

### Further reading on Cyclic nucleotide-regulated channels

James ZM *et al.* (2018) Structural insights into the mechanisms of CNBD channel function. *J Gen Physiol* **150**: 225-244 [PMID:29233886]  
Michalakis S *et al.* (2018) Retinal Cyclic Nucleotide-Gated Channels: From Pathophysiology to Therapy. *Int J Mol Sci* **19**: [PMID:29518895]  
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Santoro B *et al.* (2020) Hyperpolarization-Activated Cyclic Nucleotide-Gated Channels as Drug Targets for Neurological Disorders. *Annu Rev Pharmacol Toxicol* **60**: 109-131 [PMID:31914897]  
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Wahl-Schott C *et al.* (2014) HCN channels: new roles in sinoatrial node function. *Curr Opin Pharmacol* **15**: 83-90 [PMID:24441197]

Nomenclature	<a href="#">CNGA1</a>	<a href="#">CNGA2</a>	<a href="#">CNGA3</a>	<a href="#">CNGB1</a>	<a href="#">CNGB3</a>
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">CNGA1, P29973</a>	<a href="#">CNGA2, Q16280</a>	<a href="#">CNGA3, Q16281</a>	<a href="#">CNGB1, Q14028</a>	<a href="#">CNGB3, Q9NQW8</a>
Activators	cyclic GMP (EC <sub>50</sub> 30 μM) ≫ cyclic AMP	cyclic GMP > cyclic AMP (EC <sub>50</sub> 1 μM)	cyclic GMP (EC <sub>50</sub> 30 μM) ≫ cyclic AMP	–	–
Channel blockers	dequalinium (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.7) [0mV] [908], L-(cis)-diltiazem (Antagonist) (pK <sub>i</sub> 4) [-80mV – 80mV] [161]	dequalinium (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.6) [0mV] [907]	L-(cis)-diltiazem (high affinity binding requires presence of CNGB subunits)	–	L-(cis)-diltiazem (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.5) [0mV] [337] – Mouse
Functional Characteristics	γ = 25-30 pS P <sub>Ca</sub> /P <sub>Na</sub> = 3.1	γ = 35 pS P <sub>Ca</sub> /P <sub>Na</sub> = 6.8	γ = 40 pS P <sub>Ca</sub> /P <sub>Na</sub> = 10.9	–	–
Comments	–	–	–	L-(cis)-diltiazem acts as a channel blocker when CNGB1 is co-expressed with CNGA1.	–

**Comments:** CNGA1, CNGA2 and CNGA3 express functional channels as homomers. Three additional subunits [CNGA4](#) (Q8IV77), [CNGB1](#) (Q14028) and [CNGB3](#) (Q9NQW8) do not, and are referred to as auxiliary subunits. The subunit composition of the native channels is believed to be as follows. Rod: CNGA1<sub>3</sub>/CNGB1<sub>a</sub>; Cone: CNGA3<sub>2</sub>/CNGB3<sub>2</sub> [245]; Olfactory neurons: CNGA2<sub>2</sub>/CNGA4/CNGB1b [839, 1146, 1221, 1222, 1225].

## Hyperpolarisation-activated, cyclic nucleotide-gated (HCN)

[Ion channels](#) → [Voltage-gated ion channels](#) → [Hyperpolarisation-activated, cyclic nucleotide-gated \(HCN\)](#)

**Overview:** HCN channels are cation channels that are activated by hyperpolarisation at voltages negative to -50 mV. The cyclic nucleotides [cyclic AMP](#) and [cyclic GMP](#) directly bind to the cyclic nucleotide-binding domain of HCN channels and shift their activation curves to more positive voltages, thereby enhancing

channel activity. HCN channels underlie pacemaker currents found in many excitable cells including cardiac cells and neurons [244, 813]. In native cells, these currents have a variety of names, such as *I<sub>h</sub>*, *I<sub>q</sub>* and *I<sub>f</sub>*. The four known HCN channels have six transmembrane domains and form tetramers. It is believed that

the channels can form heteromers with each other, as has been shown for HCN1 and HCN4 [24]. High resolution structural studies of CNG and HCN channels has provided insight into the gating processes of these channels [581, 582, 606].

Nomenclature	<a href="#">HCN1</a>	<a href="#">HCN2</a>	<a href="#">HCN3</a>	<a href="#">HCN4</a>
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">HCN1, O60741</a>	<a href="#">HCN2, Q9UL51</a>	<a href="#">HCN3, Q9P1Z3</a>	<a href="#">HCN4, Q9Y3Q4</a>
Activators	cyclic AMP > cyclic GMP (both weak)	cyclic AMP > cyclic GMP	–	cyclic AMP > cyclic GMP
Channel blockers	MEL57A (pEC <sub>50</sub> 6.5) [-80mV] [227] – Mouse, ivabradine (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.7) [1000], ZD7288 (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.7) [999], EC18 (pEC <sub>50</sub> 4.7) [227] – Mouse, Cs <sup>+</sup> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.7) [-40mV] [999]	ivabradine (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.6) [1000] – Mouse, clonidine (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.1) [-40mV] [535] – Mouse, MEL57A (pEC <sub>50</sub> 4.9) [227] – Mouse, EC18 (pEC <sub>50</sub> 4.7) [227] – Mouse, ZD7288 (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.4) [999], Cs <sup>+</sup> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.7) [-40mV] [999]	ivabradine (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.7) [1000], ZD7288 (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.5) [999], Cs <sup>+</sup> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.8) [-40mV] [999]	ivabradine (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.7) [1000], EC18 (pEC <sub>50</sub> 5.4) [-80mV] [227], clonidine (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5) [-40mV] [535] – Mouse, ZD7288 (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.7) [999], MEL57A (pEC <sub>50</sub> 4.1) [227], Cs <sup>+</sup> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.8) [-40mV] [999]

**Comments:** HCN channels are permeable to both Na<sup>+</sup> and K<sup>+</sup> ions, with a Na<sup>+</sup>/K<sup>+</sup> permeability ratio of about 0.2. Functionally, they differ from each other in terms of time constant of activation with HCN1 the fastest, HCN4 the slowest and HCN2 and HCN3 intermediate. The compounds ZD7288 [103] and ivabradine [118] have proven useful in identifying and studying functional HCN channels in native cells. Zatebradine and cilobradine are also useful blocking agents.

# Potassium channels

[Ion channels](#) → [Voltage-gated ion channels](#) → [Potassium channels](#)

**Overview:** Activation of potassium channels regulates excitability and can control the shape of the action potential waveform. They are present in all cells within the body and can influence processes as diverse as cognition, muscle contraction and hormone secretion. Potassium channels are subdivided into

families, based on their structural and functional properties. The largest family consists of potassium channels that activated by membrane depolarization, with other families consisting of channels that are either activated by a rise of intracellular calcium ions or are constitutively active. A standardised

nomenclature for potassium channels has been proposed by the **NC-IUPHAR Subcommittees** on potassium channels [344, 371, 562, 1144], which has placed cloned channels into groups based on gene family and structure of channels that exhibit 6, 4 or 2 transmembrane domains (TM).

## Further reading on Potassium channels

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# Calcium- and sodium-activated potassium channels

[Ion channels](#) → [Voltage-gated ion channels](#) → [Potassium channels](#) → [Calcium- and sodium-activated potassium channels](#)

**Overview:** Calcium- and sodium- activated potassium channels are members of the 6TM family of K channels which comprises the voltage-gated  $K_v$  subfamilies, including the KCNQ subfamily, the EAG subfamily (which includes hERG channels), the

$Ca^{2+}$ -activated Slo subfamily (actually with 6 or 7TM) and the  $Ca^{2+}$ - and  $Na^+$ -activated SK subfamily (**nomenclature as agreed by the NC-IUPHAR Subcommittee on Calcium- and sodium-activated potassium channels** [490]). As for

the 2TM family, the pore-forming subunits form tetramers and heteromeric channels may be formed within subfamilies (*e.g.*  $K_v1.1$  with  $K_v1.2$ ; KCNQ2 with KCNQ3).

## Further reading on Calcium- and sodium-activated potassium channels

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Nomenclature	<a href="#">K<sub>Ca</sub>1.1</a>
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">KCNMA1</a> , <a href="#">Q12791</a>
Activators	<a href="#">NS004</a> , <a href="#">NS1619</a>
Inhibitors	<a href="#">paxilline</a> (pK <sub>i</sub> 8.7) [0mV] [929] – Mouse
Channel blockers	<a href="#">charybdotoxin</a> , <a href="#">iberiotoxin</a> , <a href="#">tetraethylammonium</a>
Functional Characteristics	Maxi K <sub>Ca</sub>

Nomenclature	<a href="#">K<sub>Ca</sub>2.1</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>Ca</sub>2.2</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>Ca</sub>2.3</a>
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">KCNN1</a> , <a href="#">Q92952</a>	<a href="#">KCNN2</a> , <a href="#">Q9H2S1</a>	<a href="#">KCNN3</a> , <a href="#">Q9UGI6</a>
Activators	<a href="#">EBIO</a> (Agonist) Concentration range: $2 \times 10^{-3}$ M [-80mV] [ <a href="#">831</a> , <a href="#">1141</a> ], <a href="#">NS309</a> (Agonist) Concentration range: $3 \times 10^{-8}$ M- $1 \times 10^{-7}$ M [-90mV] [ <a href="#">1009</a> , <a href="#">1141</a> ]	<a href="#">NS309</a> (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 6.2) Concentration range: $3 \times 10^{-8}$ M- $1 \times 10^{-7}$ M [ <a href="#">830</a> , <a href="#">1009</a> , <a href="#">1141</a> ], <a href="#">EBIO</a> (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 3.3) [ <a href="#">830</a> , <a href="#">1141</a> ], <a href="#">EBIO</a> (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 3) Concentration range: $2 \times 10^{-3}$ M [ <a href="#">132</a> , <a href="#">831</a> ] – Rat	<a href="#">EBIO</a> (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 3.8) [ <a href="#">1141</a> , <a href="#">1156</a> ], <a href="#">NS309</a> (Agonist) Concentration range: $3 \times 10^{-8}$ M [ <a href="#">1009</a> , <a href="#">1141</a> ]
Inhibitors	<a href="#">UCL1684</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 9.1) [ <a href="#">1008</a> , <a href="#">1141</a> ], <a href="#">apamin</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.9–8.5) [ <a href="#">956</a> , <a href="#">1002</a> , <a href="#">1008</a> ]	<a href="#">UCL1684</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 9.6) [ <a href="#">300</a> , <a href="#">1141</a> ], <a href="#">apamin</a> (pK <sub>d</sub> 9.4) [ <a href="#">464</a> ]	<a href="#">apamin</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.9–9.1) [ <a href="#">1041</a> , <a href="#">1156</a> ], <a href="#">UCL1684</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 8–9) [ <a href="#">300</a> , <a href="#">1141</a> ]
Channel blockers	<a href="#">tetraethylammonium</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 2.7) [ <a href="#">1141</a> ]	<a href="#">tetraethylammonium</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 2.7) [ <a href="#">1141</a> ]	<a href="#">tetraethylammonium</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 2.7) [ <a href="#">1141</a> ]
Functional Characteristics	SK <sub>Ca</sub>	SK <sub>Ca</sub>	SK <sub>Ca</sub>
Comments	The rat isoform does not form functional channels when expressed alone in cell lines. N- or C-terminal chimeric constructs permit functional channels that are insensitive to <a href="#">apamin</a> [ <a href="#">1141</a> ]. Heteromeric channels are formed between K <sub>Ca</sub> 2.1 and 2.2 subunits that show intermediate sensitivity to <a href="#">apamin</a> [ <a href="#">183</a> ].	–	–

Nomenclature	<a href="#">K<sub>Ca</sub>3.1</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>Na</sub>1.1</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>Na</sub>1.2</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>Ca</sub>5.1</a>
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">KCNN4</a> , <a href="#">O15554</a>	<a href="#">KCNT1</a> , <a href="#">Q5JUK3</a>	<a href="#">KCNT2</a> , <a href="#">Q6UVM3</a>	<a href="#">KCNU1</a> , <a href="#">A8MYU2</a>
Activators	<a href="#">NS309</a> (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 8) [-90mV] [ <a href="#">1009</a> , <a href="#">1141</a> ], <a href="#">SKA-121</a> (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 7) [ <a href="#">188</a> ], <a href="#">SKA-111</a> (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 6.9) [ <a href="#">188</a> ], <a href="#">EBIO</a> (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 4.1–4.5) [-100mV – -50mV] [ <a href="#">831</a> , <a href="#">1025</a> , <a href="#">1141</a> ]	<a href="#">bithionol</a> (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 5–6) [ <a href="#">1185</a> ] – Rat, <a href="#">niclosamide</a> (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 5.5) [ <a href="#">92</a> ], <a href="#">loxapine</a> (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 5.4) [ <a href="#">92</a> ]	<a href="#">niflumic acid</a> (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 8.7) [ <a href="#">201</a> , <a href="#">332</a> ]	–
Gating inhibitors	–	<a href="#">bepiridil</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5–6) [ <a href="#">1185</a> ] – Rat	–	–
Channel blockers	<a href="#">charybdotoxin</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.6–8.7) [ <a href="#">472</a> , <a href="#">484</a> ]	<a href="#">quinidine</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4) [ <a href="#">84</a> , <a href="#">1185</a> ] – Rat	<a href="#">Ba<sup>2+</sup></a> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3) [ <a href="#">84</a> ], <a href="#">quinidine</a> (Inhibition) Concentration range: $1 \times 10^{-3}$ M [ <a href="#">84</a> ] – Rat	<a href="#">quinidine</a> Concentration range: $2 \times 10^{-5}$ M [ <a href="#">1036</a> , <a href="#">1160</a> ] – Mouse
Selective channel blockers	<a href="#">TRAM-34</a> (Inhibition) (pK <sub>d</sub> 7.6–8) [ <a href="#">543</a> , <a href="#">1165</a> ], <a href="#">senicapoc</a> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 8) [ <a href="#">1001</a> ]	–	–	–
Functional Characteristics	IK <sub>Ca</sub>	K <sub>Na</sub>	K <sub>Na</sub>	Sperm pH-regulated K <sup>+</sup> current, KSPER

## Inwardly rectifying potassium channels

[Ion channels](#) → [Voltage-gated ion channels](#) → [Potassium channels](#) → [Inwardly rectifying potassium channels](#)

**Overview:** The 2TM domain family of K channels are also known as the inward-rectifier K channel family. This family includes the strong inward-rectifier K channels ( $K_{ir}2.x$ ) that are constitutively active, the G-protein-activated inward-rectifier K channels ( $K_{ir}3.x$ ) and the ATP-sensitive K channels ( $K_{ir}6.x$ , which combine with sulphonylurea receptors (SUR1-3)). The pore-forming  $\alpha$  subunits form tetramers, and heteromeric channels may be formed within subfamilies (*e.g.*  $K_{ir}3.2$  with  $K_{ir}3.3$ ).

Nomenclature	<a href="#">K<sub>ir</sub>1.1</a>
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">KCNJ1</a> , <a href="#">P48048</a>
Ion Selectivity and Conductance	$NH_4^+$ [62pS] > $K^+$ [38. pS] > $Tl^+$ [21pS] > $Rb^+$ [15pS] (Rat) [ <a href="#">173</a> , <a href="#">412</a> ]
Channel blockers	<a href="#">tertiapin-Q</a> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 8.9) [ <a href="#">480</a> ], $Ba^{2+}$ (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 2.3–4.2) Concentration range: $1 \times 10^{-4} M$ [voltage dependent 0mV – -100mV] [ <a href="#">412</a> , <a href="#">1226</a> ] – Rat, $Cs^+$ (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 2.9) [voltage dependent -120mV] [ <a href="#">1226</a> ] – Rat
Functional Characteristics	$K_{ir}1.1$ is weakly inwardly rectifying, as compared to classical (strong) inward rectifiers.

Nomenclature	K <sub>ir</sub> 2.1	K <sub>ir</sub> 2.2	K <sub>ir</sub> 2.3	K <sub>ir</sub> 2.4
HGNC, UniProt	KCNJ2, P63252	KCNJ12, Q14500	KCNJ4, P48050	KCNJ14, Q9UNX9
Endogenous activators	PIP <sub>2</sub> (Agonist) Concentration range: 1×10 <sup>-5</sup> M-5×10 <sup>-5</sup> M [-30 mV] [434, 890, 991] – Mouse	–	–	–
Endogenous inhibitors	–	Intracellular Mg <sup>2+</sup> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5) [40 mV] [1183]	–	Intracellular Mg <sup>2+</sup>
Gating inhibitors	–	Ba <sup>2+</sup> (Antagonist) Concentration range: 5×10 <sup>-5</sup> M [-150mV – -50mV] [1027] – Mouse, Cs <sup>+</sup> (Antagonist) Concentration range: 5×10 <sup>-6</sup> M-5×10 <sup>-5</sup> M [-150mV – -50mV] [1027] – Mouse	–	–
Endogenous channel blockers	spermine (Antagonist) (pK <sub>d</sub> 9.1) [voltage dependent 40mV] [454, 1187] – Mouse, spermidine (Antagonist) (pK <sub>d</sub> 8.1) [voltage dependent 40mV] [1187] – Mouse, putrescine (Antagonist) (pK <sub>d</sub> 5.1) [voltage dependent 40mV] [454, 1187] – Mouse, Intracellular Mg <sup>2+</sup> (Antagonist) (pK <sub>d</sub> 4.8) [voltage dependent 40mV] [1187] – Mouse	–	Intracellular Mg <sup>2+</sup> (Antagonist) (pK <sub>d</sub> 5) [voltage dependent 50mV] [636], putrescine (Antagonist) Concentration range: 5×10 <sup>-5</sup> M-1×10 <sup>-3</sup> M [-80mV – 80mV] [636], spermidine (Antagonist) Concentration range: 2.5×10 <sup>-5</sup> M-1×10 <sup>-3</sup> M [-80mV – 80mV] [636], spermine (Antagonist) Concentration range: 5×10 <sup>-5</sup> M-1×10 <sup>-3</sup> M [-80mV – 80mV] [636]	–
Channel blockers	Ba <sup>2+</sup> (Antagonist) (pK <sub>d</sub> 3.9–5.6) Concentration range: 1×10 <sup>-6</sup> M-1×10 <sup>-4</sup> M [voltage dependent 0mV – -80mV] [16] – Mouse, Cs <sup>+</sup> (Antagonist) (pK <sub>d</sub> 1.3–4) Concentration range: 3×10 <sup>-5</sup> M-3×10 <sup>-4</sup> M [voltage dependent 0mV – -102mV] [6] – Mouse	–	Ba <sup>2+</sup> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5) Concentration range: 3×10 <sup>-6</sup> M-5×10 <sup>-4</sup> M [-60mV] [671, 867, 1037], Cs <sup>+</sup> (Antagonist) (pK <sub>i</sub> 1.3–4.5) Concentration range: 3×10 <sup>-6</sup> M-3×10 <sup>-4</sup> M [0mV – -130mV] [671]	Cs <sup>+</sup> (Antagonist) (pK <sub>d</sub> 3–4.1) [voltage dependent -60mV – -100mV] [438], Ba <sup>2+</sup> (Antagonist) (pK <sub>d</sub> 3.3) [voltage dependent 0mV] [438]
Functional Characteristics	IK <sub>1</sub> in heart, 'strong' inward-rectifier current	IK <sub>1</sub> in heart, 'strong' inward-rectifier current	IK <sub>1</sub> in heart, 'strong' inward-rectifier current	IK <sub>1</sub> in heart, 'strong' inward-rectifier current
Comments	K <sub>ir</sub> 2.1 is also inhibited by intracellular polyamines	K <sub>ir</sub> 2.2 is also inhibited by intracellular polyamines	K <sub>ir</sub> 2.3 is also inhibited by intracellular polyamines	K <sub>ir</sub> 2.4 is also inhibited by intracellular polyamines

Nomenclature	<a href="#">K<sub>ir</sub>3.1</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>ir</sub>3.2</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>ir</sub>3.3</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>ir</sub>3.4</a>
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">KCNJ3, P48549</a>	<a href="#">KCNJ6, P48051</a>	<a href="#">KCNJ9, Q92806</a>	<a href="#">KCNJ5, P48544</a>
Endogenous activators	<a href="#">PIP<sub>2</sub></a> (Agonist) (pK <sub>d</sub> 6.3) Concentration range: 5×10 <sup>-5</sup> M [physiological voltage] [434]	<a href="#">PIP<sub>2</sub></a> (Agonist) (pK <sub>d</sub> 6.3) Concentration range: 5×10 <sup>-5</sup> M [physiological voltage] [434]	<a href="#">PIP<sub>2</sub></a> [404]	<a href="#">PIP<sub>2</sub></a> [64, 404]
Gating inhibitors	–	<a href="#">pimozide</a> (Antagonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 5.5) [-70mV] [540] – Mouse	–	–
Channel blockers	<a href="#">tertiapin-Q</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.9) [479], <a href="#">Ba<sup>2+</sup></a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.7) [207] – Rat	<a href="#">desipramine</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.4) [-70mV] [541] – Mouse	–	<a href="#">tertiapin-Q</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.9) [479]
Functional Characteristics	G protein-activated inward-rectifier current	G protein-activated inward-rectifier current	G protein-activated inward-rectifier current	G protein-activated inward-rectifier current
Comments	K <sub>ir</sub> 3.1 is also activated by G <sub>βγ</sub> . K <sub>ir</sub> 3.1 is not functional alone. The functional expression of K <sub>ir</sub> 3.1 in <i>Xenopus oocytes</i> requires coassembly with the endogenous <i>Xenopus</i> K <sub>ir</sub> 3.5 subunit. The major functional assembly in the heart is the K <sub>ir</sub> 3.1/3.4 heteromultimer, while in the brain it is K <sub>ir</sub> 3.1/3.2, K <sub>ir</sub> 3.1/3.3 and K <sub>ir</sub> 3.2/3.3.	K <sub>ir</sub> 3.2 is also activated by G <sub>βγ</sub> . K <sub>ir</sub> 3.2 forms functional heteromers with K <sub>ir</sub> 3.1/3.3.	K <sub>ir</sub> 3.3 is also activated by G <sub>βγ</sub>	K <sub>ir</sub> 3.4 is also activated by G <sub>βγ</sub>

Nomenclature	<a href="#">K<sub>ir</sub>4.1</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>ir</sub>4.2</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>ir</sub>5.1</a>
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">KCNJ10, P78508</a>	<a href="#">KCNJ15, Q99712</a>	<a href="#">KCNJ16, Q9NPI9</a>
Channel blockers	<a href="#">Ba<sup>2+</sup></a> (Antagonist) Concentration range: 3×10 <sup>-6</sup> M-1×10 <sup>-3</sup> M [-160mV – 60mV] [546, 1030, 1035] – Rat, <a href="#">Cs<sup>+</sup></a> (Antagonist) Concentration range: 3×10 <sup>-5</sup> M-3×10 <sup>-4</sup> M [-160mV – 50mV] [1030] – Rat	<a href="#">Ba<sup>2+</sup></a> (Antagonist) Concentration range: 1×10 <sup>-5</sup> M-1×10 <sup>-4</sup> M [-120mV – 100mV] [829] – Mouse, <a href="#">Cs<sup>+</sup></a> (Antagonist) Concentration range: 1×10 <sup>-5</sup> M-1×10 <sup>-4</sup> M [-120mV – 100mV] [829] – Mouse	<a href="#">Ba<sup>2+</sup></a> (Antagonist) Concentration range: 3×10 <sup>-3</sup> M [-120mV – 20mV] [1034] – Rat
Functional Characteristics	Inward-rectifier current	Inward-rectifier current	Weakly inwardly rectifying

Nomenclature	<a href="#">K<sub>ir</sub>6.1</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>ir</sub>6.2</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>ir</sub>7.1</a>
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">KCNJ8, Q15842</a>	<a href="#">KCNJ11, Q14654</a>	<a href="#">KCNJ13, O60928</a>
Associated subunits	SUR1, SUR2A, SUR2B	SUR1, SUR2A, SUR2B	–
Activators	<a href="#">cromakalim</a> , <a href="#">diazoxide</a> (Agonist) Concentration range: $2 \times 10^{-4}$ M [-60mV] [ <a href="#">1180</a> ] – Mouse, <a href="#">minoxidil</a> , <a href="#">nicorandil</a> (Agonist) Concentration range: $3 \times 10^{-4}$ M [-60mV – 60mV] [ <a href="#">1180</a> ] – Mouse	<a href="#">diazoxide</a> (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 4.2) [physiological voltage] [ <a href="#">444</a> ] – Mouse, <a href="#">cromakalim</a> (Agonist) Concentration range: $3 \times 10^{-5}$ M [-60mV] [ <a href="#">445</a> ] – Mouse, <a href="#">minoxidil</a> , <a href="#">nicorandil</a>	–
Inhibitors	<a href="#">glibenclamide</a> , <a href="#">tolbutamide</a>	<a href="#">glibenclamide</a> , <a href="#">tolbutamide</a>	–
Channel blockers	–	–	<a href="#">Ba<sup>2+</sup></a> (Antagonist) (pK <sub>i</sub> 3.2) [ <i>voltage dependent</i> -100mV] [ <a href="#">259</a> , <a href="#">554</a> , <a href="#">568</a> , <a href="#">820</a> ], <a href="#">Cs<sup>+</sup></a> (Antagonist) (pK <sub>i</sub> 1.6) [ <i>voltage dependent</i> -100mV] [ <a href="#">259</a> , <a href="#">554</a> , <a href="#">820</a> ]
Functional Characteristics	ATP-sensitive, inward-rectifier current	ATP-sensitive, inward-rectifier current	Inward-rectifier current

## Two-pore domain potassium channels

[Ion channels](#) → [Voltage-gated ion channels](#) → [Potassium channels](#) → [Two-pore domain potassium channels](#)

**Overview:** The 4TM family of K channels mediate many of the background potassium currents observed in native cells. They are open across the physiological voltage-range and are regulated by a wide array of neurotransmitters and biochemical mediators. The pore-forming  $\alpha$ -subunit contains two pore loop (P) domains and two subunits assemble to form one ion conduction pathway

lined by four P domains. It is important to note that single channels do not have two pores but that each subunit has two P domains in its primary sequence; hence the name two-pore domain, or  $K_{2P}$  channels (and not two-pore channels). Some of the  $K_{2P}$  subunits can form heterodimers across subfamilies (*e.g.*  $K_{2P3.1}$  with  $K_{2P9.1}$ ). The nomenclature of 4TM K channels in

the literature is still a mixture of IUPHAR and common names. The suggested division into subfamilies, described in the [More detailed introduction](#), is based on similarities in both structural and functional properties within subfamilies and this explains the "common abbreviation" nomenclature in the tables below.

### Further reading on Two-pore domain potassium channels

Gada K *et al.* (2019) Two-pore domain potassium channels: emerging targets for novel analgesic drugs: IUPHAR Review 26. *Br J Pharmacol* **176**: 256-266 [PMID:30325008]

Jin X *et al.* (2020) Targeting Two-Pore Channels: Current Progress and Future Challenges. *Trends Pharmacol Sci* **41**: 582-594 [PMID:32679067]

Mathie A *et al.* (2021) Two-Pore Domain Potassium Channels as Drug Targets: Anesthesia and Beyond. *Annu Rev Pharmacol Toxicol* **61**: 401-420 [PMID:32679007]

Nomenclature	$K_{2P1.1}$	$K_{2P2.1}$	$K_{2P3.1}$	$K_{2P4.1}$
Common abbreviation	TWIK1	TREK1	TASK1	TRAAK1
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">KCNK1, O00180</a>	<a href="#">KCNK2, O95069</a>	<a href="#">KCNK3, O14649</a>	<a href="#">KCNK4, Q9NYG8</a>
Endogenous activators	–	<a href="#">arachidonic acid</a> (studied at 1-10 $\mu$ M) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 5) [824]	–	<a href="#">arachidonic acid</a> (studied at 1-10 $\mu$ M) [312]
Activators	–	<a href="#">GI-530159</a> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 6.1) [640], <a href="#">BL-1249</a> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 5.3) [865], <a href="#">chloroform</a> (studied at 1-5 mM) Concentration range: $8 \times 10^{-3}$ M [823], <a href="#">halothane</a> (studied at 1-5 mM) [823], <a href="#">isoflurane</a> (studied at 1-5 mM) [823]	<a href="#">halothane</a> (studied at 1-10 mM) [579]	<a href="#">riluzole</a> (studied at 1-100 $\mu$ M) [271]
Inhibitors	–	<a href="#">norfluoxetine</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.1) [513]	–	–
Channel blockers	–	–	<a href="#">R-(+)-methanandamide</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~6.2) [667], <a href="#">anandamide</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~6.2) [667]	–
Functional Characteristics	Background current	Background current	Background current	Background current
Comments	$K_{2P1.1}$ is inhibited by acid pH <sub>o</sub> external acidification with a pK <sub>a</sub> 6.7 [860]. $K_{2P1}$ forms heterodimers with $K_{2P3}$ and $K_{2P9}$ [861].	$K_{2P2.1}$ is also activated by membrane stretch, heat and acid pH <sub>i</sub> [666, 668]. $K_{2P2}$ can heterodimerize with $K_{2P4}$ [94] and $K_{2P10}$ [600].	Knock-out of the <i>kcnk3</i> gene leads to a prolonged QT interval in mice [217] and disrupted development of the adrenal cortex [391]. $K_{2P3.1}$ is inhibited by acid pH <sub>o</sub> with a pK <sub>a</sub> of 6.4 [637]. $K_{2P3}$ forms heterodimers with $K_{2P1}$ [861] and $K_{2P9}$ [200].	$K_{2P4}$ is activated by membrane stretch [665], and increased temperature (12 to 20-fold between 17 and 40°C [496]) and can heterodimerize with $K_{2P2}$ [94].

Nomenclature	<a href="#">K<sub>2p</sub>5.1</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>2p</sub>6.1</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>2p</sub>7.1</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>2p</sub>9.1</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>2p</sub>10.1</a>
Common abbreviation	TASK2	TWIK2	–	TASK3	TREK2
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">KCNC5, O95279</a>	<a href="#">KCNC6, Q9Y257</a>	<a href="#">KCNC7, Q9Y2U2</a>	<a href="#">KCNC9, Q9NPC2</a>	<a href="#">KCNC10, P57789</a>
Endogenous activators	–	–	–	–	<a href="#">arachidonic acid</a> (studied at 1-10 $\mu$ M) [597]
Activators	–	–	–	<a href="#">halothane</a> (studied at 1-5 mM) [1032]	<a href="#">GI-530159</a> [640], <a href="#">halothane</a> (studied at 1-5 mM) [597]
Inhibitors	–	–	–	<a href="#">R-(+)-methanandamide</a> (studied at 1-10 $\mu$ M) [882], <a href="#">anandamide</a> (studied at 1-10 $\mu$ M) [882]	–
Functional Characteristics	Background current	Unknown	Unknown	Background current	Background current
Comments	K <sub>2p</sub> 5.1 is activated by alkaline pH <sub>o</sub> [895]. Knockout of the <i>kcnc5</i> gene in mice is associated with metabolic acidosis, hyponatremia and hypotension due to impaired bicarbonate handling in the kidney [1136], as well as deafness [143]. The T108P mutation is associated with Balkan Endemic Nephropathy in humans [1063].	–	–	K <sub>2p</sub> 9.1 is also inhibited by acid pH <sub>o</sub> with a pK <sub>a</sub> of 6 [882]. Imprinting of the <i>KCNC9</i> gene is associated with Birk Barel syndrome [55]. K <sub>2p</sub> 9 can form heterodimers with K <sub>2p</sub> 1 [861] or K <sub>2p</sub> 3 [200].	K <sub>2p</sub> 10.1 is also activated by membrane stretch [597] and can heterodimerize with K <sub>2p</sub> 2 [600].

Nomenclature	<a href="#">K<sub>2p</sub>12.1</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>2p</sub>13.1</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>2p</sub>15.1</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>2p</sub>16.1</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>2p</sub>17.1</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>2p</sub>18.1</a>
Common abbreviation	THIK2	THIK1	TASK5	TALK1	TALK2	TRESK
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">KCNC12, Q9HB15</a>	<a href="#">KCNC13, Q9HB14</a>	<a href="#">KCNC15, Q9H427</a>	<a href="#">KCNC16, Q96T55</a>	<a href="#">KCNC17, Q96T54</a>	<a href="#">KCNC18, Q7Z418</a>
Endogenous inhibitors	–	–	–	–	–	<a href="#">arachidonic acid</a> (studied at 10-50 $\mu$ M) [930]
Inhibitors	–	<a href="#">halothane</a> (studied at 5 mM) [95]	–	–	–	–
Functional Characteristics	Does not function as a homodimer [881] but can form a functional heterodimer with K <sub>2p</sub> 13 [95].	Background current	Unknown	Background current	Background current	Background current
Comments	–	Forms a heterodimer with K <sub>2p</sub> 12 [95].	–	K <sub>2p</sub> 16.1 current is increased by alkaline pH <sub>o</sub> with a pK <sub>a</sub> of 7.8 [497].	K <sub>2p</sub> 17.1 current is increased by alkaline pH <sub>o</sub> with a pK <sub>a</sub> of 8.8 [497].	A frame-shift mutation (F139WfsX24) in the <i>KCNC18</i> gene, is associated with migraine with aura in humans [569].

**Comments:** The K<sub>2p</sub>6, K<sub>2p</sub>7.1, K<sub>2p</sub>15.1 and K<sub>2p</sub>12.1 subtypes, when expressed in isolation, are nonfunctional. All 4TM channels are insensitive to the classical potassium channel blockers [tetraethylammonium](#) and [fampridine](#), but are blocked to varying degrees by Ba<sup>2+</sup> ions.

## Voltage-gated potassium channels

Ion channels → Voltage-gated ion channels → Potassium channels → Voltage-gated potassium channels

**Overview:** The 6TM family of K channels comprises the voltage-gated K<sub>V</sub> subfamilies, the EAG subfamily (which includes hERG channels), the Ca<sup>2+</sup>-activated Slo subfamily (actually with 7TM, termed BK) and the Ca<sup>2+</sup>-activated SK subfamily. These channels possess a pore-forming α subunit that comprise tetramers of identical subunits (homomeric) or of different subunits (heteromeric). Heteromeric channels can only be formed within subfamilies (e.g. K<sub>V</sub>1.1 with K<sub>V</sub>1.2; K<sub>V</sub>7.2 with K<sub>V</sub>7.3). The pharmacology largely reflects the subunit composition of the functional channel.

Nomenclature	K <sub>V</sub> 1.1	K <sub>V</sub> 1.2	K <sub>V</sub> 1.3	K <sub>V</sub> 1.4	K <sub>V</sub> 1.5	K <sub>V</sub> 1.6	K <sub>V</sub> 1.7
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">KCNA1, Q09470</a>	<a href="#">KCNA2, P16389</a>	<a href="#">KCNA3, P22001</a>	<a href="#">KCNA4, P22459</a>	<a href="#">KCNA5, P22460</a>	<a href="#">KCNA6, P17658</a>	<a href="#">KCNA7, Q96RP8</a>
Associated subunits	K <sub>V</sub> 1.2, K <sub>V</sub> 1.4, K <sub>V</sub> β1 and K <sub>V</sub> β2 [189]	K <sub>V</sub> 1.1, K <sub>V</sub> 1.4, K <sub>V</sub> β1 and K <sub>V</sub> β2 [189]	K <sub>V</sub> 1.1, K <sub>V</sub> 1.2, K <sub>V</sub> 1.4, K <sub>V</sub> 1.6, K <sub>V</sub> β1 and K <sub>V</sub> β2 [189]	K <sub>V</sub> 1.1, K <sub>V</sub> 1.2, K <sub>V</sub> β1 and K <sub>V</sub> β2 [189]	K <sub>V</sub> β1 and K <sub>V</sub> β2	K <sub>V</sub> β1 and K <sub>V</sub> β2	K <sub>V</sub> β1 and K <sub>V</sub> β2
Channel blockers	<a href="#">α-dendrotoxin</a> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 7.7–9) [359, 440] – Rat, <a href="#">margatoxin</a> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 8.4) [63], <a href="#">tetraethylammonium</a> (Inhibition) (pK <sub>d</sub> 3.5) [359] – Mouse	<a href="#">margatoxin</a> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 11.2) [63], <a href="#">α-dendrotoxin</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.8–9.4) [359, 440] – Rat, <a href="#">noxiustoxin</a> (pK <sub>d</sub> 8.7) [359] – Rat, <a href="#">xM-conotoxin R111K</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.6) [0mV] [308]	<a href="#">margatoxin</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 10–10.3) [331, 339], <a href="#">noxiustoxin</a> (pK <sub>d</sub> 9) [359] – Mouse, <a href="#">maurotoxin</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.8) [901], <a href="#">tetraethylammonium</a> (pK <sub>d</sub> 2) [359] – Mouse	<a href="#">fampridine</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 1.9) [1013] – Rat	<a href="#">fampridine</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.3) [304]	<a href="#">α-dendrotoxin</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.7) [363], <a href="#">tetraethylammonium</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 2.2) [363]	<a href="#">noxiustoxin</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.7) [494] – Mouse, <a href="#">fampridine</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.6) [494] – Mouse
Selective channel blockers	–	–	<a href="#">correolide</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.1) [305]	–	–	–	–
Functional Characteristics	K <sub>V</sub>	K <sub>V</sub>	K <sub>V</sub>	K <sub>A</sub>	K <sub>V</sub>	K <sub>V</sub>	K <sub>V</sub>
Comments	–	–	Resistant to dendrotoxins	Resistant to dendrotoxins	Resistant to external TEA	–	–

Nomenclature	<a href="#">K<sub>v</sub>1.8</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>v</sub>2.1</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>v</sub>2.2</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>v</sub>3.1</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>v</sub>3.2</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>v</sub>3.3</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>v</sub>3.4</a>
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">KCNA10, Q16322</a>	<a href="#">KCNB1, Q14721</a>	<a href="#">KCNB2, Q92953</a>	<a href="#">KCNC1, P48547</a>	<a href="#">KCNC2, Q96PR1</a>	<a href="#">KCNC3, Q14003</a>	<a href="#">KCNC4, Q03721</a>
Associated subunits	K <sub>v</sub> β1 and K <sub>v</sub> β2	K <sub>v</sub> 5.1, K <sub>v</sub> 6.1-6.4, K <sub>v</sub> 8.1-8.2 and K <sub>v</sub> 9.1-9.3	K <sub>v</sub> 5.1, K <sub>v</sub> 6.1-6.4, K <sub>v</sub> 8.1-8.2 and K <sub>v</sub> 9.1-9.3	–	–	–	MiRP2 is an associated subunit for K <sub>v</sub> 3.4
Gating inhibitors	–	<a href="#">RY796</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.6) [398], <a href="#">RY785</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.9) [398], <a href="#">GxTx-1E</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 2) [399]	<a href="#">GxTx-1E</a> (pK <sub>d</sub> 8.6) [399], <a href="#">RY796</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.1) [398], <a href="#">RY785</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.7) [398]	–	–	–	–
Channel blockers	<a href="#">fampridine</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 2.8) [575]	<a href="#">tetraethylammonium</a> (Pore blocker) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 2) [390] – Rat	<a href="#">fampridine</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 2.8) [940], <a href="#">tetraethylammonium</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 2.6) [940]	<a href="#">fampridine</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.5) [359] – Mouse, <a href="#">tetraethylammonium</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.7) [359] – Mouse	<a href="#">fampridine</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.6) [612] – Rat, <a href="#">tetraethylammonium</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.2) [612] – Rat	<a href="#">tetraethylammonium</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.9) [1082] – Rat	<a href="#">tetraethylammonium</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.5) [894, 947] – Rat
Selective channel blockers	–	–	–	–	–	–	<a href="#">sea anemone toxin BDS-I</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.3) [251] – Rat
Functional Characteristics	K <sub>v</sub>	K <sub>v</sub>	–	K <sub>v</sub>	K <sub>v</sub>	K <sub>A</sub>	K <sub>A</sub>

Nomenclature	<a href="#">K<sub>v</sub>4.1</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>v</sub>4.2</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>v</sub>4.3</a>
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">KCND1, Q9NSA2</a>	<a href="#">KCND2, Q9NZV8</a>	<a href="#">KCND3, Q9UK17</a>
Associated subunits	KChIP 1-4, DPP6, DPP10	KChIP 1-4, DPP6, DPP10, K <sub>v</sub> β1, NCS-1, Na <sub>v</sub> β1	KChIP 1-4, DPP6 and DPP10, MinK, MiRPs
Channel blockers	<a href="#">fampridine</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 2) [449]	–	–
Functional Characteristics	K <sub>A</sub>	K <sub>A</sub>	K <sub>A</sub>

Nomenclature	<a href="#">K<sub>v</sub>5.1</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>v</sub>6.1</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>v</sub>6.2</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>v</sub>6.3</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>v</sub>6.4</a>
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">KCNF1, Q9H3M0</a>	<a href="#">KCNG1, Q9UIX4</a>	<a href="#">KCNG2, Q9UJ96</a>	<a href="#">KCNG3, Q8TAE7</a>	<a href="#">KCNG4, Q8TDN1</a>

Nomenclature	<a href="#">K<sub>v</sub>7.1</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>v</sub>7.2</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>v</sub>7.3</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>v</sub>7.4</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>v</sub>7.5</a>
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">KCNQ1, P51787</a>	<a href="#">KCNQ2, O43526</a>	<a href="#">KCNQ3, O43525</a>	<a href="#">KCNQ4, P56696</a>	<a href="#">KCNQ5, Q9NR82</a>
Activators	<a href="#">ML277</a> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 6.6) [692]	<a href="#">retigabine</a> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 5.6) [1039]	<a href="#">gabapentin</a> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 8.3) [680], <a href="#">retigabine</a> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 6.2) [1039]	<a href="#">retigabine</a> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 5.2) [1039]	<a href="#">retigabine</a> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 5) [272]
Selective activators	–	–	–	<a href="#">retigabine derivative 10g</a> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 6) [1124]	<a href="#">gabapentin</a> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 8.7) [680], <a href="#">retigabine derivative 10g</a> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 6) [1124]
Inhibitors	<a href="#">XE991</a> (pK <sub>d</sub> 6.1) [1121], <a href="#">linopirdine</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.4) [791] – Mouse	<a href="#">XE991</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.2) [1122], <a href="#">linopirdine</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.3) [1122]	<a href="#">linopirdine</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.4) [1122] – Rat	<a href="#">XE991</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.3) [988], <a href="#">linopirdine</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.9) [988]	<a href="#">linopirdine</a> (pK <sub>d</sub> 4.8) [594]
Sub/family-selective inhibitors	–	–	–	–	<a href="#">XE991</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.2) [946]
Channel blockers	<a href="#">JNJ303</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.2) [1066]	<a href="#">tetraethylammonium</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.5–3.9) [374, 1149]	–	<a href="#">tetraethylammonium</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 1.3) [49]	–
Functional Characteristics	cardiac I <sub>K5</sub>	M current as a heteromer between K <sub>v</sub> 7.2 and K <sub>v</sub> 7.3	M current as heteromeric K <sub>v</sub> 7.2/K <sub>v</sub> 7.3 or K <sub>v</sub> 7.3/K <sub>v</sub> 7.5	–	M current as heteromeric K <sub>v</sub> 7.3/K <sub>v</sub> 7.5
Comments	The PUFA (polyunsaturated fatty acid) analogue DHA-glycine is a selective activator of I <sub>K5</sub> with pEC <sub>50</sub> 5.2 [98].	–	–	–	–

Nomenclature	<a href="#">K<sub>v</sub>8.1</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>v</sub>8.2</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>v</sub>9.1</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>v</sub>9.2</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>v</sub>9.3</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>v</sub>10.1</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>v</sub>10.2</a>
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">KCNV1, Q6PIU1</a>	<a href="#">KCNV2, Q8TDN2</a>	<a href="#">KCNS1, Q96KK3</a>	<a href="#">KCNS2, Q9ULS6</a>	<a href="#">KCNS3, Q9BQ31</a>	<a href="#">KCNH1, O95259</a>	<a href="#">KCNH5, Q8NCM2</a>

Nomenclature	<a href="#">K<sub>v</sub>11.1</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>v</sub>11.2</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>v</sub>11.3</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>v</sub>12.1</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>v</sub>12.2</a>	<a href="#">K<sub>v</sub>12.3</a>
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">KCNH2, Q12809</a>	<a href="#">KCNH6, Q9H252</a>	<a href="#">KCNH7, Q9NS40</a>	<a href="#">KCNH8, Q96L42</a>	<a href="#">KCNH3, Q9ULD8</a>	<a href="#">KCNH4, Q9UQ05</a>
Associated subunits	minK (KCNE1) and MiRP1 (KCNE2)	minK (KCNE1)	minK (KCNE1)	minK (KCNE1)	minK (KCNE1) and MiRP2 (KCNE3)	–
Channel blockers	<a href="#">astemizole</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 9) [1230], <a href="#">terfenadine</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.3) [885], <a href="#">disopyramide</a> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4) [514]	–	–	–	–	–
Sub/family-selective channel blockers	<a href="#">E4031</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 8.1) [1229]	–	–	–	–	–
Selective channel blockers	<a href="#">dofetilide</a> (Inhibition) (pK <sub>i</sub> 8.2) [971], <a href="#">ibutilide</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.6–8) [514, 846]	–	–	–	–	–
Functional Characteristics	cardiac I <sub>KR</sub>	–	–	–	–	–
Comments	<a href="#">RPR260243</a> is an activator of K <sub>v</sub> 11.1 [499].	–	–	–	–	–

# Ryanodine receptors

**Ion channels** → **Voltage-gated ion channels** → **Ryanodine receptors**

**Overview:** The ryanodine receptors (RyRs) are found on intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> storage/release organelles. The family of RyR genes encodes three highly related Ca<sup>2+</sup> release channels: RyR1, RyR2 and RyR3, which assemble as large tetrameric structures. These RyR channels are ubiquitously expressed in many types of cells and participate in a variety of important Ca<sup>2+</sup> signaling

phenomena (neurotransmission, secretion, *etc.*). In addition to the three mammalian isoforms described below, various nonmammalian isoforms of the ryanodine receptor have been identified [1019]. The function of the ryanodine receptor channels may also be influenced by closely associated proteins such as the tacrolimus (FK506)-binding protein, calmodulin

[1181], triadin, calsequestrin, junctin and sorcin, and by protein kinases and phosphatases. Recent studies solving the structure of the ryanodine receptor have shed light on the structural basis of ryanodine receptor function [see, for example, Samsó (2017) [928] and Meissner (2017) [703]].

## Further reading on Ryanodine receptors

Dulhunty AF *et al.* (2017) Physiology and Pharmacology of Ryanodine Receptor Calcium Release Channels. *Adv Pharmacol* **79**: 287-324 [PMID:28528672]

Meissner G. (2017) The structural basis of ryanodine receptor ion channel function. *J Gen Physiol* **149**: 1065-1089 [PMID:29122978]

O'Brien F *et al.* (2015) The ryanodine receptor provides high throughput Ca<sup>2+</sup>-release but is precisely regulated by networks of associated proteins: a focus on proteins relevant to phosphorylation. *Biochem Soc Trans* **43**: 426-33 [PMID:26009186]

Samsó M. (2017) A guide to the 3D structure of the ryanodine receptor type 1 by cryoEM. *Protein Sci* **26**: 52-68 [PMID:27671094]

Van Petegem F. (2015) Ryanodine receptors: allosteric ion channel giants. *J Mol Biol* **427**: 31-53 [PMID:25134758]

Zalk R *et al.* (2017) Ca<sup>2+</sup> Release Channels Join the 'Resolution Revolution'. *Trends Biochem Sci* **42**: 543-555 [PMID:28499500]

Nomenclature	RyR1	RyR2	RyR3
HGNC, UniProt	<i>RYR1</i> , P21817	<i>RYR2</i> , Q92736	<i>RYR3</i> , Q15413
Endogenous activators	cytosolic ATP (endogenous; mM range), luminal Ca <sup>2+</sup> (endogenous), cytosolic Ca <sup>2+</sup> (endogenous; μM range)	cytosolic ATP (endogenous; mM range), cytosolic Ca <sup>2+</sup> (endogenous; μM range), luminal Ca <sup>2+</sup> (endogenous)	cytosolic ATP (endogenous; mM range), cytosolic Ca <sup>2+</sup> (endogenous; μM range)
Activators	caffeine (pharmacological; mM range), ryanodine (pharmacological; nM - μM range), suramin (pharmacological; μM range)	caffeine (pharmacological; mM range), ryanodine (pharmacological; nM - μM range), suramin (pharmacological; μM range)	caffeine (pharmacological; mM range), ryanodine (pharmacological; nM - μM range)
Endogenous antagonists	cytosolic Ca <sup>2+</sup> Concentration range: >1×10 <sup>-4</sup> M, cytosolic Mg <sup>2+</sup> (mM range)	cytosolic Ca <sup>2+</sup> Concentration range: >1×10 <sup>-3</sup> M, cytosolic Mg <sup>2+</sup> (mM range)	cytosolic Ca <sup>2+</sup> Concentration range: >1×10 <sup>-3</sup> M, cytosolic Mg <sup>2+</sup> (mM range)
Antagonists	dantrolene	–	dantrolene
Channel blockers	procaine, ruthenium red, ryanodine Concentration range: >1×10 <sup>-4</sup> M	procaine, ruthenium red, ryanodine Concentration range: >1×10 <sup>-4</sup> M	ruthenium red
Functional Characteristics	Ca <sup>2+</sup> : (P <sub>Ca</sub> /P <sub>K6</sub> ) single-channel conductance: 90 pS (50 mM Ca <sup>2+</sup> ), 770 pS (200 mM K <sup>+</sup> )	Ca <sup>2+</sup> : (P <sub>Ca</sub> /P <sub>K6</sub> ) single-channel conductance: 90 pS (50 mM Ca <sup>2+</sup> ), 720 pS (210 mM K <sup>+</sup> )	Ca <sup>2+</sup> : (P <sub>Ca</sub> /P <sub>K6</sub> ) single-channel conductance: 140 pS (50 mM Ca <sup>2+</sup> ), 777 pS (250 mM K <sup>+</sup> )
Comments	RyR1 is also activated by depolarisation <i>via</i> DHP receptor, calmodulin at low cytosolic Ca <sup>2+</sup> concentrations, CaM kinase and PKA; antagonised by calmodulin at high cytosolic Ca <sup>2+</sup> concentrations	RyR2 is also activated by CaM kinase and PKA; antagonised by calmodulin at high cytosolic Ca <sup>2+</sup> concentrations	RyR3 is also activated by calmodulin at low cytosolic Ca <sup>2+</sup> concentrations; antagonised by calmodulin at high cytosolic Ca <sup>2+</sup> concentrations

**Comments:** The modulators of channel function included in this table are those most commonly used to identify ryanodine-sensitive Ca<sup>2+</sup> release pathways. Numerous other modulators of ryanodine receptor/channel function can be found in the reviews listed below. The absence of a modulator of a particular isoform of receptor indicates that the action of that modulator has not been determined, not that it is without effect. The potential role of cyclic ADP ribose as an endogenous regulator of ryanodine receptor channels is controversial. A region of RyR likely to be involved in ion translocation and selection has been identified [328, 1220].

Searchable database: <http://www.guidetopharmacology.org/index.jsp>

Full Contents of ConciseGuide: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/bph.15539/full>

Ryanodine receptors S204

## Transient Receptor Potential channels

[Ion channels](#) → [Voltage-gated ion channels](#) → [Transient Receptor Potential channels](#)

**Overview:** The TRP superfamily of channels (**nomenclature as agreed by NC-IUPHAR [185, 1164]**), whose founder member is the *Drosophila* Trp channel, exists in mammals as six families; TRPC, TRPM, TRPV, TRPA, TRPP and TRPML based on amino acid homologies. TRP subunits contain six putative TM domains and assemble as homo- or hetero-tetramers to form cation selective channels with diverse modes of activation and varied permeation properties (reviewed by [809]). Established, or potential, physiological functions of the individual members of the TRP families are discussed in detail in the recommended reviews and in a number of books [285, 455, 770, 1231]. The established, or potential, involvement of TRP channels in disease

is reviewed in [528, 768] and [772], together with a special edition of *Biochemica et Biophysica Acta* on the subject [768]. Additional disease related reviews, for pain [730], stroke [1218], sensation and inflammation [1083], itch [138], and airway disease [350, 1148], are available. The pharmacology of most TRP channels has been advanced in recent years. Broad spectrum agents are listed in the tables along with more selective, or recently recognised, ligands that are flagged by the inclusion of a primary reference. See Rubaiy (2019) for a review of pharmacological tools for TRPC1/C4/C5 channels [910]. Most TRP channels are regulated by phosphoinositides such as  $PtIns(4,5)P_2$  although the effects reported are often complex,

occasionally contradictory, and likely to be dependent upon experimental conditions, such as intracellular ATP levels (reviewed by [773, 905, 1094]). Such regulation is generally not included in the tables. When thermosensitivity is mentioned, it refers specifically to a high Q10 of gating, often in the range of 10-30, but does not necessarily imply that the channel's function is to act as a 'hot' or 'cold' sensor. In general, the search for TRP activators has led to many claims for temperature sensing, mechanosensation, and lipid sensing. All proteins are of course sensitive to energies of binding, mechanical force, and temperature, but the issue is whether the proposed input is within a physiologically relevant range resulting in a response.

### Further reading on Transient Receptor Potential channels

Aghazadeh Tabrizi M *et al.* (2017) Medicinal Chemistry, Pharmacology, and Clinical Implications of TRPV1 Receptor Antagonists. *Med Res Rev* **37**: 936-983 [PMID:27976413]  
Basso L *et al.* (2017) Transient Receptor Potential Channels in neuropathic pain. *Curr Opin Pharmacol* **32**: 9-15 [PMID:27835802]  
Ciardo MG *et al.* (2017) Lipids as central modulators of sensory TRP channels. *Biochim Biophys Acta* **1859**: 1615-1628 [PMID:28432033]  
Clapham DE *et al.* (2003) International Union of Pharmacology. XLIII. Compendium of voltage-gated ion channels: transient receptor potential channels. *Pharmacol Rev* **55**: 591-6 [PMID:14657417]  
Diaz-Franulic I *et al.* (2016) Allosterism and Structure in Thermally Activated Transient Receptor Potential Channels. *Annu Rev Biophys* **45**: 371-98 [PMID:27297398]  
Emir TLR. (2017) Neurobiology of TRP Channels *Neurobiology of TRP Channels* [PMID:29356487]

Grayson TH *et al.* (2017) Transient receptor potential canonical type 3 channels: Interactions, role and relevance - A vascular focus. *Pharmacol Ther* **174**: 79-96 [PMID:28223224]  
Nilius B *et al.* (2014) Mammalian transient receptor potential (TRP) cation channels. Preface. *Handb Exp Pharmacol* **223**: v - vi [PMID:25296415]  
Rubaiy HN. (2019) Treasure troves of pharmacological tools to study transient receptor potential canonical 1/4/5 channels. *Br J Pharmacol* **176**: 832-846 [PMID:30656647]  
Wu LJ *et al.* (2010) International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology. LXXVI. Current progress in the mammalian TRP ion channel family. *Pharmacol Rev* **62**: 381-404 [PMID:20716668]  
Zhu MX. (2011) Various TRP Channels (*CRC Press/Taylor & Francis*) [PMID:22593967]  
Zierler S *et al.* (2017) TRPM channels as potential therapeutic targets against pro-inflammatory diseases. *Cell Calcium* **67**: 105-115 [PMID:28549569]

## TRPA (ankyrin) family

[Ion channels](#) → [Voltage-gated ion channels](#) → [Transient Receptor Potential channels](#) → [TRPA \(ankyrin\) family](#)

**Overview:** TRPA1 is the sole mammalian member of this group (reviewed by [330]). TRPA1 activation of sensory neurons contribute to nociception [486, 699, 1005]. Pungent chemicals such as mustard oil (AITC), allicin, and cinnamaldehyde activate TRPA1 by modification of free thiol groups of cysteine side chains, especially those located in its amino terminus [66, 409, 658, 660]. Alkenals with  $\alpha, \beta$ -unsaturated bonds, such as

propenal (acrolein), butenal (crotylaldehyde), and 2-pentenal can react with free thiols *via* Michael addition and can activate TRPA1. However, potency appears to weaken as carbon chain length increases [30, 66]. Covalent modification leads to sustained activation of TRPA1. Chemicals including carvacrol, menthol, and local anesthetics reversibly activate TRPA1 by non-covalent binding [503, 591, 1172, 1173]. TRPA1 is not

mechanosensitive under physiological conditions, but can be activated by cold temperatures [226, 504]. The electron cryo-EM structure of TRPA1 [826] indicates that it is a 6-TM homotetramer. Each subunit of the channel contains two short 'pore helices' pointing into the ion selectivity filter, which is big enough to allow permeation of partially hydrated  $Ca^{2+}$  ions.

Nomenclature	<a href="#">TRPA1</a>
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">TRPA1</a> , <a href="#">O75762</a>
Chemical activators	Isothiocyanates (covalent) and 1,4-dihydropyridines (non-covalent)
Oxidative stress compounds	4-oxo-nonenal: pEC <sub>50</sub> 5.7, H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> : pEC <sub>50</sub> 3.6 (Mouse) [ <a href="#">28</a> , <a href="#">934</a> ]
Physical activators	Cooling (<17°C) (disputed) [ <a href="#">486</a> , <a href="#">746</a> , <a href="#">1081</a> ]
Activators	<a href="#">polygodial</a> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 6.4) [ <a href="#">291</a> ], <a href="#">acrolein</a> (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 5.3) [physiological voltage] [ <a href="#">66</a> ], <a href="#">allicin</a> (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 5.1) [physiological voltage] [ <a href="#">67</a> ], <a href="#">Δ<sup>9</sup>-tetrahydrocannabinol</a> (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 4.9) [-60mV] [ <a href="#">486</a> ], <a href="#">nicotine</a> (non-covalent) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 4.8) [-75mV] [ <a href="#">1031</a> ], <a href="#">thymol</a> (non-covalent) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 4.7) Concentration range: 6.2×10 <sup>-6</sup> M-2.5×10 <sup>-5</sup> M [ <a href="#">588</a> ], <a href="#">URB597</a> (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 4.6) [ <a href="#">767</a> ], <a href="#">(-)-menthol</a> (Partial agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 4–4.5) [ <a href="#">503</a> , <a href="#">1168</a> ], <a href="#">cinnamaldehyde</a> (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 4.2) [physiological voltage] [ <a href="#">50</a> ] – Mouse, <a href="#">icilin</a> (Agonist) Concentration range: 1×10 <sup>-4</sup> M [physiological voltage] [ <a href="#">1005</a> ] – Mouse
Selective activators	<a href="#">JT010</a> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 9.2) [ <a href="#">1028</a> ], <a href="#">chlorobenzylidene malononitrile</a> (covalent) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 6.7) [ <a href="#">112</a> ], <a href="#">ASP7663</a> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 6.3) [ <a href="#">544</a> ], <a href="#">formalin</a> (covalent. This level of activity is also observed for rat TRPA1) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 3.4) [ <a href="#">660</a> , <a href="#">699</a> ] – Mouse
Channel blockers	<a href="#">AP18</a> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.5) [ <a href="#">849</a> ], <a href="#">ruthenium red</a> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.5) [-80mV] [ <a href="#">746</a> ] – Mouse, <a href="#">HC030031</a> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.2) [ <a href="#">699</a> ]
Selective channel blockers	<a href="#">AM-0902</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.7) [ <a href="#">938</a> ]
Functional Characteristics	γ = 87-100 pS; conducts mono- and di-valent cations non-selectively (P <sub>Ca</sub> /P <sub>Na</sub> = 0.84); outward rectification; activated by elevated intracellular Ca <sup>2+</sup>
Comments	miRNA-711 is a selective activator of TRPA1 (pEC <sub>50</sub> 5.0) [ <a href="#">376</a> ].

**Comments:** Agents activating TRPA1 in a covalent manner are thiol reactive electrophiles that bind to cysteine and lysine residues within the cytoplasmic domain of the channel [[409](#), [657](#)]. TRPA1 is activated by a wide range of endogenous and exogenous compounds and only a few representative examples are mentioned in the table: an exhaustive listing can be found in [[53](#)]. In addition, TRPA1 is potently activated by intracellular zinc (EC<sub>50</sub> = 8 nM) [[29](#), [431](#)]. A gain-of-function mutation in TRPA1 was found to cause familial episodic pain syndrome [[557](#)].

## TRPC (canonical) family

Ion channels → Voltage-gated ion channels → Transient Receptor Potential channels → TRPC (canonical) family

**Overview:** Members of the TRPC subfamily (reviewed by [[5](#), [25](#), [72](#), [90](#), [321](#), [526](#), [821](#), [874](#)]) fall into the subgroups outlined below. TRPC2 is a pseudogene in humans. It is generally accepted that all TRPC channels are activated downstream of G<sub>q/11</sub>-coupled receptors, or receptor tyrosine kinases (reviewed by [[862](#), [1072](#), [1164](#)]). A comprehensive listing of G-protein coupled receptors that activate TRPC channels is given in [[5](#)]. Hetero-oligomeric complexes of TRPC channels and their association with proteins to form signalling complexes are detailed in [[25](#)] and [[527](#)]. TRPC channels have frequently been proposed to act as store-operated channels (SOCs) (or components of multimeric complexes that form SOC), activated by depletion of intracellular calcium stores (reviewed by [[25](#), [69](#), [169](#), [170](#), [800](#), [833](#), [866](#), [925](#), [1207](#)]). However, the weight of the

evidence is that they are not directly gated by conventional store-operated mechanisms, as established for Stim-gated Orai channels. TRPC channels are not mechanically gated in physiologically relevant ranges of force. All members of the TRPC family are blocked by 2-APB and SKF96365 [[383](#), [384](#)]. Activation of TRPC channels by lipids is discussed by [[72](#)]. Important progress has been recently made in TRPC pharmacology [[101](#), [516](#), [720](#), [910](#)]. TRPC channels regulate a variety of physiological functions and are implicated in many human diseases [[73](#), [335](#), [998](#), [1131](#)].

### TRPC1/C4/C5 subgroup

TRPC1 alone may not form a functional ion channel [[242](#)]. TRPC4/C5 may be distinguished from other TRP channels by

their potentiation by micromolar concentrations of La<sup>3+</sup>. TRPC2 is a pseudogene in humans, but in other mammals appears to be an ion channel localized to microvilli of the vomeronasal organ. It is required for normal sexual behavior in response to pheromones in mice. It may also function in the main olfactory epithelia in mice [[615](#), [798](#), [799](#), [1197](#), [1202](#), [1205](#), [1238](#)].

### TRPC3/C6/C7 subgroup

All members are activated by diacylglycerol independent of protein kinase C stimulation [[384](#)].

Nomenclature	TRPC1	TRPC2	TRPC3	TRPC4
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">TRPC1</a> , <a href="#">P48995</a>	<a href="#">TRPC2</a> , –	<a href="#">TRPC3</a> , <a href="#">Q13507</a>	<a href="#">TRPC4</a> , <a href="#">Q9UBN4</a>
Chemical activators	NO-mediated cysteine S-nitrosylation	Diacylglycerol (SAG, OAG, DOG): strongly inhibited by Ca <sup>2+</sup> /CaM once activated by DAG [993]	diacylglycerols	NO-mediated cysteine S-nitrosylation, potentiation by extracellular protons
Physical activators	membrane stretch (likely direct)	DAG kinase; regulates DAG concentration in vomeronasal sensory neurons	–	–
Endogenous activators	–	Intracellular Ca <sup>2+</sup>	–	–
Activators	–	DOG (Agonist) Concentration range: 1×10 <sup>-4</sup> M [-80mV] [646] – Mouse, SAG (Agonist) Concentration range: 1×10 <sup>-4</sup> M [-80mV] [646] – Mouse	pyrazolopyrimidine 4n (pEC <sub>50</sub> 7.7) [878], GSK1702934A (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 7.1) [1179]	(-)englerin A (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 7.9) [13], tonantzitolone (pEC <sub>50</sub> 6.9) [912], La <sup>3+</sup> (μM range)
Channel blockers	2-APB (Antagonist) [-70mV] [1011], Gd <sup>3+</sup> (Antagonist) Concentration range: 2×10 <sup>-5</sup> M [-70mV] [1237], La <sup>3+</sup> (Antagonist) Concentration range: 1×10 <sup>-4</sup> M [-70mV] [1011]	2-APB (Antagonist) Concentration range: 5×10 <sup>-5</sup> M [-70mV – 80mV] [646] – Mouse, U73122 (Antagonist) Concentration range: 1×10 <sup>-5</sup> M – Mouse	GSK2833503A (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.7) [80mV] [953], GSK417651A (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.1) [1137], Gd <sup>3+</sup> (Antagonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 7) [-60mV] [375], SAR7334 (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.6) [664], BTP2 (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.5) [-80mV] [389], Pyr3 (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.2) [532], Pyr10 (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.1) [939], norgestimate (pK <sub>i</sub> ; 5.5) [711], La <sup>3+</sup> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.4) [-60mV] [375], clemizole (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5) [896], 2-APB (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5) [physiological voltage] [613], Ni <sup>2+</sup> , SKF96365	HC-070 (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.3) [488], ML204 (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.5) [715], M084 (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.3) [1232], clemizole (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.2) [896], La <sup>3+</sup> (mM range), SKF96365, niflumic acid (Antagonist) Concentration range: 3×10 <sup>-5</sup> M [-60mV] [1112] – Mouse
Functional Characteristics	It is not yet clear that TRPC1 forms a homomer. It does form heteromers with TRPC4 and TRPC5	γ = 42 pS linear single channel conductance in 150 mM symmetrical Na <sup>+</sup> in vomeronasal sensory neurons. P <sub>Ca</sub> /P <sub>Na</sub> = 2.7; permeant to Na <sup>+</sup> , Cs <sup>+</sup> , Ca <sup>2+</sup> , but not NMDG [798, 1202]	γ = 66 pS; conducts mono and di-valent cations non-selectively (P <sub>Ca</sub> /P <sub>Na</sub> = 1.6); monovalent cation current suppressed by extracellular Ca <sup>2+</sup> ; dual (inward and outward) rectification	γ = 30 -41 pS, conducts mono and di-valent cations non-selectively (P <sub>Ca</sub> /P <sub>Na</sub> = 1.1 - 7.7); dual (inward and outward) rectification

Nomenclature	<b>TRPC5</b>	<b>TRPC6</b>	<b>TRPC7</b>
HGNC, UniProt	<b>TRPC5, Q9UL62</b>	<b>TRPC6, Q9Y210</b>	<b>TRPC7, Q9HCX4</b>
Chemical activators	NO-mediated cysteine S-nitrosylation (disputed), potentiation by extracellular protons	Diacylglycerols	diacylglycerols
Physical activators	Membrane stretch	Membrane stretch	–
Endogenous activators	intracellular $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ (at negative potentials) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 6.2), <b>lysophosphatidylcholine</b>	<b>20-HETE, arachidonic acid, lysophosphatidylcholine</b>	–
Activators	<b>(-)-englerin A</b> (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 8.1) [13], <b>tonantzilolone</b> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 7.1) [912], <b>BTD</b> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 5.8) [71], <b>riluzole</b> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 5) [897], <b>methylprednisolone</b> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 4.9) [71], <b>rosiglitazone</b> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 4.5) [670], <b>Gd<sup>3+</sup></b> Concentration range: $1 \times 10^{-4}$ M, <b>La<sup>3+</sup></b> ( $\mu$ M range), <b>Pb<sup>2+</sup></b> Concentration range: $5 \times 10^{-6}$ M, <b>genistein</b> (independent of tyrosine kinase inhibition) [1158]	<b>GSK1702934A</b> (Agonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.4) [1179], <b>pyrazolopyrimidine 4n</b> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 5.9) [878], <b>flufenamate, hyp 9</b> [598], <b>hyperforin</b> [599]	<b>pyrazolopyrimidine 4n</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.1) [878]
Channel blockers	<b>Pico145</b> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 8.9) [911], <b>HC-070</b> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 8) [488], <b>AM12</b> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.6) [755], <b>galangin</b> (pK <sub>i</sub> 6.3) [755], <b>clemizole</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6) [896], <b>KB-R7943</b> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.9) [550], <b>M084</b> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.1) [1232], <b>ML204</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~5) [715], <b>2-APB</b> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.7) [-80mV] [1177], <b>La<sup>3+</sup></b> (Antagonist) Concentration range: $5 \times 10^{-3}$ M [-60mV] [487] – Mouse	<b>GSK2833503A</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 8.5) [80mV] [953], <b>SAR7334</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 8) [664], <b>larixyl acetate</b> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7) [1080], <b>GSK417651A</b> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.4) [1137], <b>clemizole</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.9) [896], <b>Gd<sup>3+</sup></b> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.7) [-60mV] [446] – Mouse, <b>SKF96365</b> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.4) [-60mV] [446] – Mouse, <b>norgestimate</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.3) [711], <b>La<sup>3+</sup></b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~5.2), <b>amiloride</b> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.9) [-60mV] [446] – Mouse, <b>Cd<sup>2+</sup></b> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.6) [-60mV] [446] – Mouse, <b>2-APB, ACAA, GsMTx-4, Extracellular H<sup>+</sup>, KB-R7943, ML9</b>	<b>SAR7334</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.7) [664], <b>2-APB, La<sup>3+</sup></b> (Antagonist) Concentration range: $1 \times 10^{-4}$ M [-60mV] [793] – Mouse, <b>SKF96365</b> (Antagonist) Concentration range: $2.5 \times 10^{-5}$ M [-60mV] [793] – Mouse, <b>amiloride</b>
Selective channel blockers	<b>AC1903</b> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.8) [1228]	–	–
Functional Characteristics	$\gamma$ = 41-63 pS; conducts mono- and di-valent cations non-selectively ( $P_{\text{Ca}}/P_{\text{Na}}$ = 1.8 - 9.5); dual rectification (inward and outward) as a homomer, outwardly rectifying when expressed with TRPC1 or TRPC4	$\gamma$ = 28-37 pS; conducts mono and divalent cations with a preference for divalents ( $P_{\text{Ca}}/P_{\text{Na}}$ = 4.5-5.0); monovalent cation current suppressed by extracellular $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ and $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ , dual rectification (inward and outward), or inward rectification	$\gamma$ = 25-75 pS; conducts mono and divalent cations with a preference for divalents ( $P_{\text{Ca}}/P_{\text{Cs}}$ = 5.9); modest outward rectification (monovalent cation current recorded in the absence of extracellular divalents); monovalent cation current suppressed by extracellular $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ and $\text{Mg}^{2+}$

## TRPM (melastatin) family

[Ion channels](#) → [Voltage-gated ion channels](#) → [Transient Receptor Potential channels](#) → [TRPM \(melastatin\) family](#)

**Overview:** Members of the TRPM subfamily (reviewed by [316, 383, 833, 1224]) fall into the five subgroups outlined below.

### TRPM1/M3 subgroup

In darkness, glutamate released by the photoreceptors and ON-bipolar cells binds to the metabotropic glutamate receptor 6, leading to activation of Go. This results in the closure of TRPM1. When the photoreceptors are stimulated by light, glutamate release is reduced, and TRPM1 channels are more active, resulting in cell membrane depolarization. Human TRPM1 mutations are associated with congenital stationary night blindness (CSNB), whose patients lack rod function. TRPM1 is also found in melanocytes. Isoforms of TRPM1 may be present in melanocytes, melanoma, brain, and retina. In melanoma cells, TRPM1 is prevalent in highly dynamic intracellular vesicular structures [447, 786]. TRPM3 (reviewed by [789]) exists as multiple splice variants which differ significantly in their biophysical properties. TRPM3 is expressed in somatosensory neurons and may be important in development of heat hyperalgesia during inflammation (see review [1043]). TRPM3 is frequently coexpressed with TRPA1 and TRPV1 in these neurons. TRPM3 is expressed in pancreatic beta cells as well as brain, pituitary gland, eye, kidney, and adipose tissue [788, 1042]. TRPM3 may contribute to the detection of noxious heat [1101].

### TRPM2

TRPM2 is activated under conditions of oxidative stress (respiratory burst of phagocytic cells) and ischemic conditions.

However, the direct activators are ADPR(P) and calcium. As for many ion channels,  $PIP_2$  must also be present (reviewed by [1182]). Numerous splice variants of TRPM2 exist which differ in their activation mechanisms [265]. The C-terminal domain contains a TRP motif, a coiled-coil region, and an enzymatic NUDT9 homologous domain. TRPM2 appears not to be activated by NAD, NAAD, or NAADP, but is directly activated by ADPRP (adenosine-5'-O-disphosphoribose phosphate) [1065]. TRPM2 is involved in warmth sensation [950], and contributes to neurological diseases [80]. Recent study shows that 2'-deoxy-ADPR is an endogenous TRPM2 superagonist [317].

### TRPM4/5 subgroup

TRPM4 and TRPM5 have the distinction within all TRP channels of being impermeable to  $Ca^{2+}$  [1164]. A splice variant of TRPM4 (*i.e.* TRPM4b) and TRPM5 are molecular candidates for endogenous calcium-activated cation (CAN) channels [365]. TRPM4 is active in the late phase of repolarization of the cardiac ventricular action potential. TRPM4 deletion or knockout enhances beta adrenergic-mediated inotropy [690]. Mutations are associated with conduction defects [459, 690, 994]. TRPM4 has been shown to be an important regulator of  $Ca^{2+}$  entry in mast cells [1085] and dendritic cell migration [54]. TRPM5 in taste receptor cells of the tongue appears essential for the transduction of sweet, amino acid and bitter stimuli [614]. TRPM5 contributes to the slow afterdepolarization of layer 5 neurons in mouse prefrontal cortex [592]. Both TRPM4 and

TRPM5 are required for transduction of taste stimuli [276].

### TRPM6/7 subgroup

TRPM6 and 7 combine channel and enzymatic activities ('chanzymes'). These channels have the unusual property of permeation by divalent ( $Ca^{2+}$ ,  $Mg^{2+}$ ,  $Zn^{2+}$ ) and monovalent cations, high single channel conductances, but overall extremely small inward conductance when expressed to the plasma membrane. They are inhibited by internal  $Mg^{2+}$  at 0.6 mM, around the free level of  $Mg^{2+}$  in cells. Whether they contribute to  $Mg^{2+}$  homeostasis is a contentious issue. When either gene is deleted in mice, the result is embryonic lethality. The C-terminal kinase region is cleaved under unknown stimuli, and the kinase phosphorylates nuclear histones. TRPM7 is responsible for oxidant-induced  $Zn^{2+}$  release from intracellular vesicles [4] and contributes to intestinal mineral absorption essential for postnatal survival [722].

### TRPM8

Is a channel activated by cooling and pharmacological agents evoking a 'cool' sensation and participates in the thermosensation of cold temperatures [68, 187, 238] reviewed by [538, 631, 675, 1095].

Nomenclature	<b>TRPM1</b>	<b>TRPM2</b>
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">TRPM1</a> , <a href="#">Q7Z4N2</a>	<a href="#">TRPM2</a> , <a href="#">O94759</a>
Chemical activators	–	Agents producing reactive oxygen (e.g. H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> ) and nitrogen (e.g. GEA 3162) species
Physical activators	–	Heat 35°C
Endogenous activators	<a href="#">pregnenolone sulphate</a> [572]	intracellular <a href="#">cADPR</a> (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 5) [-80mV – -60mV] [70, 545, 1057], intracellular <a href="#">ADP ribose</a> (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 3.9–4.4) [-80mV] [845], intracellular <a href="#">Ca<sup>2+</sup></a> (perhaps <i>via</i> calmodulin), <a href="#">H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub></a> (Agonist) Concentration range: 5×10 <sup>-7</sup> M–5×10 <sup>-5</sup> M [physiological voltage] [318, 381, 552, 981, 1143], membrane <a href="#">PIP<sub>2</sub></a> [1064], <a href="#">arachidonic acid</a> (Potentiation) Concentration range: 1×10 <sup>-5</sup> M–3×10 <sup>-5</sup> M [physiological voltage] [381]
Activators	–	<a href="#">GEA 3162</a>
Endogenous channel blockers	<a href="#">Zn<sup>2+</sup></a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6)	<a href="#">Zn<sup>2+</sup></a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6), extracellular <a href="#">H<sup>+</sup></a>
Channel blockers	–	<a href="#">2-APB</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.1) [-60mV] [1058], <a href="#">ACAA</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.8) [physiological voltage] [551], <a href="#">clotrimazole</a> (Antagonist) Concentration range: 3×10 <sup>-6</sup> M–3×10 <sup>-5</sup> M [-60mV – -15mV] [406], <a href="#">econazole</a> (Antagonist) Concentration range: 3×10 <sup>-6</sup> M–3×10 <sup>-5</sup> M [-60mV – -15mV] [406], <a href="#">flufenamic acid</a> (Antagonist) Concentration range: 5×10 <sup>-5</sup> M–1×10 <sup>-3</sup> M [-60mV – -50mV] [405, 1058], <a href="#">miconazole</a> (Antagonist) Concentration range: 1×10 <sup>-5</sup> M [-60mV] [1058]
Functional Characteristics	Conducts mono- and di-valent cations non-selectively, dual rectification (inward and outward)	γ = 52–60 pS at negative potentials, 76 pS at positive potentials; conducts mono- and di-valent cations non-selectively (P <sub>Ca</sub> /P <sub>Na</sub> = 0.6–0.7); non-rectifying; inactivation at negative potentials; activated by oxidative stress probably <i>via</i> PARP-1, PARP inhibitors reduce activation by oxidative stress, activation inhibited by suppression of APDR formation by glycohydrolase inhibitors.
Comments	–	Additional endogenous activators include 2'-deoxy-ADPR, 3'-deoxy-ADPR, 2'-phospho-ADPR, 2-F-ADPR and ADP-ribose-2'-phosphate (ADPRP) [317, 1065]. 8-Br-cADPR acts as a gating inhibitor [545].

Nomenclature	TRPM3	TRPM4
HGNC, UniProt	TRPM3, Q9HCF6	TRPM4, Q8TD43
Other channel blockers	–	Intracellular nucleotides including ATP, ADP, adenosine 5'-monophosphate and AMP-PNP with an IC <sub>50</sub> range of 1.3-1.9 μM
Physical activators	heat (Q <sub>10</sub> = 7.2 between 15 - 25°C), hypotonic cell swelling [357, 1101, 1102]	Membrane depolarization (V <sub>1/2</sub> = -20 mV to + 60 mV dependent upon conditions) in the presence of elevated [Ca <sup>2+</sup> ] <sub>i</sub> , heat (Q <sub>10</sub> = 8.5 @ +25 mV between 15 and 25°C)
Endogenous activators	pregnenolone sulphate (pEC <sub>50</sub> 4.9) [1106], sphingosine (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 4.9) [physiological voltage] [358], dihydrosphingosine (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 4.7) [358], epipregnanolone sulphate [669]	intracellular Ca <sup>2+</sup> (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 3.9–6.3) [-100mV – 100mV] [771, 775, 776, 1029]
Activators	CIM0216 (pEC <sub>50</sub> 6.1) [393, 1043], nifedipine	BTP2 (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 8.1) [-80mV] [1029], decavanadate (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 5.7) [-100mV] [775]
Gating inhibitors	2-APB (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4) [1177]	flufenamic acid (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.6) [100mV] [1079] – Mouse, clotrimazole (Antagonist) Concentration range: 1×10 <sup>-6</sup> M-1×10 <sup>-5</sup> M [100mV] [779]
Endogenous channel blockers	Mg <sup>2+</sup> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 2) [787] – Mouse, extracellular Na <sup>+</sup> (TRPM3α2 only)	–
Channel blockers	isosakuranetin (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.3) [1006], primidone (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.2) [561], maprotiline (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.8) [561], diclofenac (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.2) [1020], liquiritigenin (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.2) [1006], naringenin (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.2) [1006, 1007], Gd <sup>3+</sup> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4) [357, 587], La <sup>3+</sup> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4) [357, 587]	9-phenanthrol (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.6–4.8) [351], spermine (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.2) [100mV] [777], adenosine (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.2)
Functional Characteristics	TRPM3 <sub>1235</sub> : γ = 83 pS (Na <sup>+</sup> current), 65 pS (Ca <sup>2+</sup> current); conducts mono and di-valent cations non-selectively (P <sub>Ca</sub> /P <sub>Na</sub> = 1.6) TRPM3α1: selective for monovalent cations (P <sub>Ca</sub> /P <sub>CS</sub> 0.1); TRPM3α2: conducts mono- and di-valent cations non-selectively (P <sub>Ca</sub> /P <sub>CS</sub> = 1-10); In- and outwardly rectifying currents by co-application of pregnenolone sulphate and clotrimazole or single application of CIM0216 [393, 1100].	γ = 23 pS (within the range 60 to +60 mV); permeable to monovalent cations; impermeable to Ca <sup>2+</sup> ; strong outward rectification; slow activation at positive potentials, rapid deactivation at negative potentials, deactivation blocked by decavanadate
Comments	G protein βγ subunits can act as endogenous inhibitors of TRPM3 channel activity [46, 232, 879].	–

Nomenclature	<a href="#">TRPM5</a>	<a href="#">TRPM6</a>
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">TRPM5</a> , <a href="#">Q9NZQ8</a>	<a href="#">TRPM6</a> , <a href="#">Q9BX84</a>
EC number	–	<a href="#">2.7.11.1</a>
Other chemical activators	–	constitutively active, activated by reduction of intracellular $Mg^{2+}$
Physical activators	membrane depolarization ( $V_{1/2} = 0$ to + 120 mV dependent upon conditions), heat ( $Q_{10} = 10.3$ @ -75 mV between 15 and 25°C)	–
Endogenous activators	intracellular $Ca^{2+}$ (Agonist) ( $pEC_{50}$ 4.5–6.2) [-80mV – 80mV] [ <a href="#">417</a> , <a href="#">625</a> , <a href="#">1079</a> ] – Mouse	extracellular $H^+$ (Potentiation), intracellular $Mg^{2+}$
Activators	–	<a href="#">2-APB</a> (Agonist) ( $pEC_{50}$ 3.4–3.7) [-120mV – 100mV] [ <a href="#">605</a> ]
Endogenous channel blockers	–	$Mg^{2+}$ (inward current mediated by monovalent cations is blocked) ( $pIC_{50}$ 5.5–6), $Ca^{2+}$ (inward current mediated by monovalent cations is blocked) ( $pIC_{50}$ 5.3–5.3)
Channel blockers	<a href="#">flufenamic acid</a> ( $pIC_{50}$ 4.6), intracellular <a href="#">spermine</a> ( $pIC_{50}$ 4.4), Extracellular $H^+$ ( $pIC_{50}$ 3.2)	<a href="#">ruthenium red</a> ( $pIC_{50}$ 7) [ <i>voltage dependent</i> -120mV]
Functional Characteristics	$\gamma = 1.5$ -25 pS; conducts monovalent cations selectively ( $P_{Ca}/P_{Na} = 0.05$ ); strong outward rectification; slow activation at positive potentials, rapid inactivation at negative potentials; activated and subsequently desensitized by [ $Ca^{2+}$ ]	$\gamma = 40$ -87 pS; permeable to mono- and di-valent cations with a preference for divalents ( $Mg^{2+} > Ca^{2+}$ ; $P_{Ca}/P_{Na} = 6.9$ ), conductance sequence $Zn^{2+} > Ba^{2+} > Mg^{2+} = Ca^{2+} = Mn^{2+} > Sr^{2+} > Cd^{2+} > Ni^{2+}$ ; strong outward rectification abolished by removal of extracellular divalents, inhibited by intracellular $Mg^{2+}$ ( $IC_{50} = 0.5$ mM) and ATP
Comments	TRPM5 is not blocked by <a href="#">ATP</a>	–

Nomenclature	<a href="#">TRPM7</a>	<a href="#">TRPM8</a>
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">TRPM7</a> , <a href="#">Q96QT4</a>	<a href="#">TRPM8</a> , <a href="#">Q7Z2W7</a>
EC number	<a href="#">2.7.11.1</a>	–
Chemical activators	–	agonist activities are temperature dependent and potentiated by cooling
Physical activators	–	depolarization ( $V_{\frac{1}{2}}$ +50 mV at 15°C), cooling (< 22-26°C)
Endogenous activators	Extracellular $H^+$ (Potentiation)	–
Activators	<a href="#">2-APB</a> Concentration range: $>1 \times 10^{-3} M$ [ <a href="#">745</a> ] – Mouse, <a href="#">naltriben</a> [ <a href="#">418</a> ]	<a href="#">icilin</a> (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 6.7–6.9) [physiological voltage] [ <a href="#">27</a> , <a href="#">74</a> ] – Mouse, <a href="#">(-)-menthol</a> (inhibited by intracellular $Ca^{2+}$ ) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 4.6) [-120mV – 160mV] [ <a href="#">1093</a> ]
Selective activators	–	<a href="#">WS-12</a> (Full agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 4.9) [physiological voltage] [ <a href="#">654</a> , <a href="#">962</a> ] – Rat
Selective antagonists	–	<a href="#">KPR-5714</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.6) [ <a href="#">751</a> ]
Channel blockers	<a href="#">spermine</a> (Inhibition) (pK <sub>i</sub> 5.6) [-110mV – 80mV] [ <a href="#">549</a> ] – Rat, <a href="#">2-APB</a> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.8) [-100mV – 100mV] [ <a href="#">605</a> ] – Mouse, <a href="#">carvacrol</a> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.5) [-100mV – 100mV] [ <a href="#">819</a> ] – Mouse, <a href="#">Mg<sup>2+</sup></a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 2.5) [80mV] [ <a href="#">745</a> ] – Mouse, <a href="#">La<sup>3+</sup></a> (Antagonist) Concentration range: $2 \times 10^{-3} M$ [-100mV – 100mV] [ <a href="#">915</a> ] – Mouse	<a href="#">BCTC</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.1) [physiological voltage] [ <a href="#">74</a> ] – Mouse, <a href="#">2-APB</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.9–5.1) [100mV – -100mV] [ <a href="#">432</a> , <a href="#">756</a> ] – Mouse, <a href="#">capsazepine</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.7) [physiological voltage] [ <a href="#">74</a> ] – Mouse
Selective channel blockers	–	<a href="#">PF-05105679</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7) [voltage dependent] [ <a href="#">31</a> ]
Functional Characteristics	$\gamma = 40-105$ pS at negative and positive potentials respectively; conducts mono- and di-valent cations with a preference for monovalents ( $P_{Ca}/P_{Na} = 0.34$ ); conductance sequence $Ni^{2+} > Zn^{2+} > Ba^{2+} = Mg^{2+} > Ca^{2+} = Mn^{2+} > Sr^{2+} > Cd^{2+}$ ; outward rectification, decreased by removal of extracellular divalent cations; inhibited by intracellular $Mg^{2+}$ , $Ba^{2+}$ , $Sr^{2+}$ , $Zn^{2+}$ , $Mn^{2+}$ and $Mg$ .ATP (disputed); activated by and intracellular alkalinization; sensitive to osmotic gradients	$\gamma = 40-83$ pS at positive potentials; conducts mono- and di-valent cations non-selectively ( $P_{Ca}/P_{Na} = 1.0-3.3$ ); pronounced outward rectification; demonstrates desensitization to chemical agonists and adaptation to a cold stimulus in the presence of $Ca^{2+}$ ; modulated by lysophospholipids and PUFAs
Comments	<a href="#">2-APB</a> acts as a channel blocker in the $\mu M$ range. Recent study shows cAMP inhibits TRPM7-mediated $Ca^{2+}$ influx [ <a href="#">111</a> ]. <a href="#">Waixenicin-A</a> specifically inhibits TRPM7 [ <a href="#">1235</a> ].	<a href="#">Cannabidiol</a> and $\Delta^9$ - <a href="#">tetrahydrocannabinol</a> are examples of cannabinoid activators. TRPM8 is insensitive to <a href="#">ruthenium red</a> . <a href="#">Icilin</a> requires intracellular $Ca^{2+}$ for full agonist activity.

**Comments:**  $Ca^{2+}$  activates all splice variants of TRPM2, but other activators listed are effective only at the full length isoform [[265](#)]. Inhibition of TRPM2 by [clotrimazole](#), [miconazole](#), [econazole](#), [flufenamic acid](#) is largely irreversible. Co-application of pregnenolone sulphate and clotrimazole caused TRPM3 currents to acquire an inwardly rectifying component at negative voltages, resulting in a biphasic conductance-voltage relationship. Evidence was presented that the inward current might reflect the permeation of cations through the opening of a non-canonical pore [[1100](#)]. TRPM3 activity is impaired in chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis patients

suggesting changes in intracellular  $Ca^{2+}$  concentration, which may impact natural killer cellular functions [[122](#)]. TRPM4 exists as multiple splice variants: data listed are for TRPM4b. The sensitivity of TRPM4b and TRPM5 to activation by  $[Ca^{2+}]_i$  demonstrates a pronounced and time-dependent reduction following excision of inside-out membrane patches [[1079](#)]. The  $V_{\frac{1}{2}}$  for activation of TRPM4 and TRPM5 demonstrates a pronounced negative shift with increasing temperature. Activation of TRPM8 by depolarization is strongly temperature-dependent via a channel-closing rate that decreases

with decreasing temperature. The  $V_{\frac{1}{2}}$  is shifted in the hyperpolarizing direction both by decreasing temperature and by exogenous agonists, such as [\(-\)-menthol](#) [[1093](#)] whereas antagonists produce depolarizing shifts in  $V_{\frac{1}{2}}$  [[674](#)]. The  $V_{\frac{1}{2}}$  for the native channel is far more positive than that of heterologously expressed TRPM8 [[674](#)]. It should be noted that [\(-\)-menthol](#) and structurally related compounds can elicit release of  $Ca^{2+}$  from the endoplasmic reticulum independent of activation of TRPM8 [[663](#)]. Intracellular pH modulates activation of TRPM8 by cold and [icilin](#), but not [\(-\)-menthol](#) [[27](#)].

## TRPML (mucolipin) family

Ion channels → Voltage-gated ion channels → Transient Receptor Potential channels → TRPML (mucolipin) family

**Overview:** The TRPML family [195, 871, 876, 1176, 1211] consists of three mammalian members (TRPML1-3). TRPML channels are probably restricted to intracellular vesicles and mutations in the gene (*MCOLN1*) encoding TRPML1 (mucolipin-1) cause the neurodegenerative disorder

mucopolidosis type IV (MLIV) in man. TRPML1 is a cation selective ion channel that is important for sorting/transport of endosomes in the late endocytotic pathway and specifically, fission from late endosome-lysosome hybrid vesicles and lysosomal exocytosis [927]. TRPML2 and TRPML3 show

increased channel activity in low extracellular sodium and are activated by similar small molecules [356]. A naturally occurring gain of function mutation in TRPML3 (*i.e.* A419P) results in the varitint waddler (*Va*) mouse phenotype (reviewed by [774, 876]).

	TRPML1	TRPML2	TRPML3
Nomenclature	TRPML1	TRPML2	TRPML3
HGNC, UniProt	<i>MCOLN1</i> , Q9GZU1	<i>MCOLN2</i> , Q8IZK6	<i>MCOLN3</i> , Q8TDDS
Endogenous activators	phosphatidyl (3,5) inositol bisphosphate (Also activates other TRPMLs) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 7.3) [254]	–	–
Activators	ML SA1 (pEC <sub>50</sub> 7.3) [-140mV] [960], MK6-83 (pEC <sub>50</sub> 7) [-200mV] [157], SF-22 (pEC <sub>50</sub> 6.3) [-200mV] [157], SF-51 (pEC <sub>50</sub> 4.5) [960] TRPML1 <sup>Va</sup> : Constitutively active, current potentiated by extracellular acidification (equivalent to intralysosomal acidification)	ML SA1 Concentration range: 1×10 <sup>-5</sup> M [-140mV] [960], phosphatidyl (3,5) inositol bisphosphate Concentration range: 1×10 <sup>-6</sup> M [-140mV] [254] TRPML2 <sup>Va</sup> : Constitutively active, current potentiated by extracellular acidification (equivalent to intralysosomal acidification)	ML SA1 Concentration range: 1×10 <sup>-5</sup> M [-140mV] [960], phosphatidyl (3,5) inositol bisphosphate Concentration range: 1×10 <sup>-6</sup> M [-140mV] [254]
Selective activators	–	ML2-SA1 (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 5.9) [-100mV] [863]	–
Channel blockers	–	–	Gd <sup>3+</sup> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.7) [-80mV] [747] – Mouse
Functional Characteristics	TRPML1 <sup>Va</sup> : $\gamma$ = 40 pS and 76–86 pS at very negative holding potentials with Fe <sup>2+</sup> and monovalent cations as charge carriers, respectively; conducts Na <sup>+</sup> > K <sup>+</sup> > Cs <sup>+</sup> and divalent cations (Ba <sup>2+</sup> > Mn <sup>2+</sup> > Fe <sup>2+</sup> > Ca <sup>2+</sup> > Mg <sup>2+</sup> > Ni <sup>2+</sup> > Co <sup>2+</sup> > Cd <sup>2+</sup> > Zn <sup>2+</sup> >> Cu <sup>2+</sup> ); monovalent cation flux suppressed by divalent cations ( <i>e.g.</i> Ca <sup>2+</sup> , Fe <sup>2+</sup> ); inwardly rectifying	Conducts Na <sup>+</sup> ; monovalent cation flux suppressed by divalent cations; inwardly rectifying	TRPML3 <sup>Va</sup> : $\gamma$ = 49 pS at very negative holding potentials with monovalent cations as charge carrier; conducts Na <sup>+</sup> > K <sup>+</sup> > Cs <sup>+</sup> with maintained current in the presence of Na <sup>+</sup> , conducts Ca <sup>2+</sup> and Mg <sup>2+</sup> , but not Fe <sup>2+</sup> , impermeable to protons; inwardly rectifying Wild type TRPML3: $\gamma$ = 59 pS at negative holding potentials with monovalent cations as charge carrier; conducts Na <sup>+</sup> > K <sup>+</sup> > Cs <sup>+</sup> and Ca <sup>2+</sup> (P <sub>Ca</sub> /P <sub>K</sub> $\cong$ 350), slowly inactivates in the continued presence of Na <sup>+</sup> within the extracellular (extracytosolic) solution; outwardly rectifying
Comments	TRPML1 current is potentiated by acidic pH and sphingosine [960].	–	Current is activated by Na <sup>+</sup> -free extracellular (extracytosolic) solution, and is inhibited by extracellular acidification (equivalent to intra-lysosomal acidification). Channel blockers include the ML-S1 series of compounds ( <i>e.g.</i> ML-S11; concentration range 5×10 <sup>-5</sup> M; -120mV) [704].

**Comments:** Data in the table are for TRPML proteins mutated (*i.e.* TRPML1<sup>Va</sup>, TRPML2<sup>Va</sup> and TRPML3<sup>Va</sup>) at loci equivalent to TRPML3 A419P to allow plasma membrane expression when expressed in HEK-293 cells and subsequent characterisation by patch-clamp recording [253, 354, 520, 747, 1174]. Data for wild

type TRPML3 are also tabulated [520, 521, 747, 1174]. It should be noted that alternative methodologies, particularly in the case of TRPML1, have resulted in channels with differing biophysical characteristics (reviewed by [871]). Initial functional characteristics of TRPML channels are performed on their *Va*

mutations of TRPMLs at loci equivalent to TRPML3 A419P. Current pharmacological characterization of channel activators and blockers are conducted on wild-type channel proteins using endolysosomal patch-clamp [157, 254, 863, 960].

## TRPP (polycystin) family

**Ion channels** → Voltage-gated ion channels → Transient Receptor Potential channels → TRPP (polycystin) family

**Overview:** The TRPP family (reviewed by [229, 231, 340, 415, 1157]) or PKD2 family is comprised of PKD2 (PC2), PKD2L1 (PC2L1), PKD2L2 (PC2L2), which have been renamed TRPP1, TRPP2 and TRPP3, respectively [1164]. It should also be noted

that the nomenclature of PC2 was TRPP2 in old literature. However, PC2 has been uniformed to be called TRPP2 [382]. PKD2 family channels are clearly distinct from the PKD1 family, whose function is unknown. PKD1 and PKD2 form a

hetero-oligomeric complex with a 1:3 ratio. [1014]. Although still being sorted out, TRPP family members appear to be 6TM spanning nonselective cation channels.

Nomenclature	TRPP1	TRPP2	TRPP3
HGNC, UniProt	<i>PKD2</i> , Q13563	<i>PKD2L1</i> , Q9P0L9	<i>PKD2L2</i> , Q9NZM6
Activators	–	Calmidazolium (in primary cilia): 10 $\mu$ M	–
Channel blockers	–	phenamil (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.9), benzamil (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6), ethylisopropylamiloride (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5), amiloride (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.8), Gd <sup>3+</sup> Concentration range: 1×10 <sup>-4</sup> M [-50mV] [165], La <sup>3+</sup> Concentration range: 1×10 <sup>-4</sup> M [-50mV] [165], flufenamate	–
Functional Characteristics	TRPP1 (PKD2) is a cation channel found in primary cilia of inner medullary collecting duct (IMCD) cells, but not at the plasma membrane; conducts K <sup>+</sup> >Na <sup>+</sup> >Ca <sup>2+</sup> (1:0.4:0.025). PKD2 shows a large outward conductance (90-117 pS) [629, 841]. Activators or channel blockers remain to be investigated.	Currents have been measured directly from primary cilia and also when expressed on plasma membranes. Primary cilia appear to contain heteromeric TRPP2 + PKD1-L1, underlying a gently outwardly rectifying nonselective conductance (P <sub>Ca</sub> /P <sub>Na</sub> 6: PKD1-L1 is a 12 TM protein of unknown topology). Primary cilia heteromeric channels have an inward single channel conductance of 80 pS and an outward single channel conductance of 95 pS. Presumed homomeric TRPP2 channels are gently outwardly rectifying. Single channel conductance is 120 pS inward, 200 pS outward [215]. TRPP2 (PKD2L1) displays calcium dependent activation. Calcium accumulation due to prolonged channel activity may lead to outward-moving Ca <sup>2+</sup> ions to close the channel [216].	The functional characteristics of PKD2L2(PC2L2) has not been established yet.

**Comments:** Data in the table are extracted from [202, 231] and [964]. Broadly similar single channel conductance, mono- and di-valent cation selectivity and sensitivity to blockers are

observed for TRPP2 co-expressed with TRPP1 [230]. Ca<sup>2+</sup>, Ba<sup>2+</sup> and Sr<sup>2+</sup> permeate TRPP3, but reduce inward currents carried by

Na<sup>+</sup>. Mg<sup>2+</sup> is largely impermeant and exerts a voltage dependent inhibition that increases with hyperpolarization.

## TRPV (vanilloid) family

**Ion channels** → Voltage-gated ion channels → Transient Receptor Potential channels → TRPV (vanilloid) family

**Overview:** Members of the TRPV family (reviewed by [1086]) can broadly be divided into the non-selective cation channels, TRPV1-4 and the more calcium selective channels TRPV5 and TRPV6.

### TRPV1-V4 subfamily

TRPV1 is involved in the development of thermal hyperalgesia following inflammation and may contribute to the detection of noxious heat (reviewed by [854, 995, 1026]). Numerous splice

variants of TRPV1 have been described, some of which modulate the activity of TRPV1, or act in a dominant negative manner when co-expressed with TRPV1 [949]. The pharmacology of TRPV1 channels is discussed in detail in [367] and [1099]. TRPV2 is probably not a thermosensor in man [816], but has recently been implicated in innate immunity [621]. TRPV3 and TRPV4 are both thermosensitive. There are claims that TRPV4 is also mechanosensitive, but this has not been established to be within

a physiological range in a native environment [131, 611].

### TRPV5/V6 subfamily

TRPV5 and TRPV6 are highly expressed in placenta, bone, and kidney. Under physiological conditions, TRPV5 and TRPV6 are calcium selective channels involved in the absorption and reabsorption of calcium across intestinal and kidney tubule epithelia (reviewed by [211, 303, 744, 1155]).

Nomenclature	TRPV1	TRPV2
HGNC, UniProt	TRPV1, Q8NER1	TRPV2, Q9Y5S1
Other chemical activators	NO-mediated cysteine S-nitrosylation	–
Physical activators	depolarization ( $V_{\frac{1}{2}}$ 0 mV at 35°C), noxious heat (> 43°C at pH 7.4)	–
Endogenous activators	extracellular $H^+$ (at 37°C) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 5.4), <b>12S-HPETE</b> (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 5.1) [-60mV] [443] – Rat, <b>anandamide</b> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 5) [11], <b>LTB<sub>4</sub></b> (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 4.9) [-60mV] [443] – Rat, <b>5S-HETE</b>	–
Activators	<b>resiniferatoxin</b> (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 8.4) [physiological voltage] [977], <b>capsaicin</b> (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 7.5) [-100mV – 160mV] [1093], <b>piperine</b> (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 4.4–5) [-70mV] [700], <b>camphor</b> , <b>diphenylboronic anhydride</b> , <b>phenylacetylirivanil</b> [33]	<b>2-APB</b> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 5) [758, 877] – Rat, <b><math>\Delta^9</math>-tetrahydrocannabinol</b> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 4.8) [877] – Rat, <b>cannabidiol</b> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 4.5) [877], <b>probenecid</b> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 4.5) [51] – Rat, <b>2-APB</b> (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 3.8–3.9) [physiological voltage] [432, 489] – Mouse, <b>diphenylboronic anhydride</b> (Agonist) Concentration range: $1 \times 10^{-4}$ M [-80mV] [181, 489] – Mouse
Selective activators	<b>olvanil</b> (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 7.7) [physiological voltage] [977], <b>DkTx</b> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 6.6) [physiological voltage] [100] – Rat	–
Channel blockers	<b>5'-iodoresiniferatoxin</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 8.4), <b>6-iodo-nordihydrocapsaicin</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 8), <b>AMG 9810</b> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.8) [physiological voltage] [336], <b>BCTC</b> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.5) [150], <b>capsazepine</b> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.4) [-60mV] [697], <b>ruthenium red</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.7–7)	<b>ruthenium red</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.2), <b>TRIM</b> (Inhibition) Concentration range: $5 \times 10^{-4}$ M [489] – Mouse
Selective channel blockers	<b>AMG517</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 9) [96], <b>AMG628</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 8.4) [1120] – Rat, <b>A425619</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 8.3) [284], <b>A778317</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 8.3) [86], <b>SB366791</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 8.2) [369], <b>JYL1421</b> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 8) [1133] – Rat, <b>JNJ17203212</b> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.8) [physiological voltage] [1022], <b>SB452533</b> (Antagonist) (pK <sub>B</sub> 7.7), <b>SB705498</b> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.1) [368]	–
Labelled ligands	<b>[<sup>3</sup>H]A778317</b> (Channel blocker) (pK <sub>d</sub> 8.5) [86], <b>[<sup>125</sup>I]resiniferatoxin</b> (Channel blocker, Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 8.4) [-50mV] [1107] – Rat, <b>[<sup>3</sup>H]resiniferatoxin</b> (Activator)	–
Functional Characteristics	$\gamma$ = 35 pS at - 60 mV; 77 pS at + 60 mV, conducts mono and di-valent cations with a selectivity for divalents ( $P_{Ca}/P_{Na}$ = 9.6); voltage- and time- dependent outward rectification; potentiated by ethanol; activated/potentiated/upregulated by PKC stimulation; extracellular acidification facilitates activation by PKC; desensitisation inhibited by PKA; inhibited by $Ca^{2+}$ / calmodulin; cooling reduces vanilloid-evoked currents; may be tonically active at body temperature	Conducts mono- and di-valent cations ( $P_{Ca}/P_{Na}$ = 0.9-2.9); dual (inward and outward) rectification; current increases upon repetitive activation by heat; translocates to cell surface in response to IGF-1 to induce a constitutively active conductance, translocates to the cell surface in response to membrane stretch

Nomenclature	<b>TRPV3</b>	<b>TRPV4</b>
HGNC, UniProt	<b>TRPV3, Q8NET8</b>	<b>TRPV4, Q9HBA0</b>
Other chemical activators	NO-mediated cysteine S-nitrosylation	Epoxyeicosatrienoic acids and NO-mediated cysteine S-nitrosylation
Physical activators	depolarization ( $V_{1/2}$ +80 mV, reduced to more negative values following heat stimuli), heat (23°C - 39°C, temperature threshold reduces with repeated heat challenge)	Constitutively active, heat (> 24°C - 32°C), mechanical stimuli
Activators	<b>incensole acetate</b> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 4.8) [736] – Mouse, <b>2-APB</b> (Full agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 4.6) [-80mV – 80mV] [182] – Mouse, <b>diphenylboronic anhydride</b> (Full agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 4.1–4.2) [voltage dependent -80mV – 80mV] [181] – Mouse, <b>thymol</b> (Full agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 3.3) [1173] – Mouse, <b>eugenol</b> (Full agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 2.5) [1173] – Mouse, <b>camphor</b> (Full agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 2) [729] – Mouse, <b>(-)-menthol</b> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 1.7) [-80mV – 80mV] [659] – Mouse, <b>carvacrol</b> (Full agonist) Concentration range: 5×10 <sup>-4</sup> M [-80mV – 80mV] [1173] – Mouse	<b>phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate</b> (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 7.9) [physiological voltage] [1171], <b>arachidonic acid</b> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 5) [1138] – Mouse
Selective activators	<b>6-tert-butyl-m-cresol</b> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 3.4) [1097] – Mouse	<b>GSK1016790A</b> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 8.7) [physiological voltage] [1055], <b>4<math>\alpha</math>-PDH</b> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 7.1) [physiological voltage] [533] – Mouse, <b>4<math>\alpha</math>-PDD</b> (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 6.5) [1171], <b>RN1747</b> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 6.1) [physiological voltage] [1090], <b>bisandrographolide</b> (Agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 6) [-60mV] [982] – Mouse
Inhibitors	–	<b>Crotamiton</b> [531]
Channel blockers	<b>ruthenium red</b> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6) [835] – Mouse, <b>diphenyltetrahydrofuran</b> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5–5.2) [-80mV – 80mV] [181] – Mouse, <b>forsythoside B</b> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.2) [1219], <b>osthole</b> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.4) [1017]	<b>ruthenium red</b> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.7) [366] – Rat, <b>Gd<sup>3+</sup></b> , <b>La<sup>3+</sup></b>
Selective channel blockers	–	<b>HC067047</b> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.3) [-40mV] [298], <b>RN-9893</b> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.2) [1145], <b>RN1734</b> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.6) [physiological voltage] [1090]
Functional Characteristics	$\gamma$ = 197 pS at +40 to +80 mV, 48 pS at negative potentials; conducts mono- and di-valent cations; outward rectification; potentiated by arachidonic acid	$\gamma$ = 60 pS at -60 mV, 90-100 pS at +60 mV; conducts mono- and di-valent cations with a preference for divalents ( $P_{Ca}/P_{Na}$ =6-10); dual (inward and outward) rectification; potentiated by intracellular Ca <sup>2+</sup> via Ca <sup>2+</sup> / calmodulin; inhibited by elevated intracellular Ca <sup>2+</sup> via an unknown mechanism (IC <sub>50</sub> = 0.4 $\mu$ M)

Nomenclature	TRPV5	TRPV6
HGNC, UniProt	TRPV5, Q9NQAS	TRPV6, Q9H1D0
Other channel blockers	$Pb^{2+} = Cu^{2+} = Cd^{3+} > Cd^{2+} > Zn^{2+} > La^{3+} > Co^{2+} > Fe^{2+}$	–
Activators	constitutively active (with strong buffering of intracellular $Ca^{2+}$ )	2-APB (Potentiation) constitutively active (with strong buffering of intracellular $Ca^{2+}$ )
Channel blockers	ruthenium red (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.9), $Mg^{2+}$	ruthenium red (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5) [-80mV] [414] – Mouse, $Cd^{2+}$ , $La^{3+}$ , $Mg^{2+}$
Functional Characteristics	$\gamma = 59\text{--}78$ pS for monovalent ions at negative potentials, conducts mono- and di-valents with high selectivity for divalents ( $P_{Ca}/P_{Na} > 107$ ); voltage- and time- dependent inward rectification; inhibited by intracellular $Ca^{2+}$ promoting fast inactivation and slow downregulation; feedback inhibition by $Ca^{2+}$ reduced by calcium binding protein 80-K-H; inhibited by extracellular and intracellular acidosis; upregulated by 1,25-dihydrovitamin D3	$\gamma = 58\text{--}79$ pS for monovalent ions at negative potentials, conducts mono- and di-valents with high selectivity for divalents ( $P_{Ca}/P_{Na} > 130$ ); voltage- and time-dependent inward rectification; inhibited by intracellular $Ca^{2+}$ promoting fast and slow inactivation; gated by voltage-dependent channel blockade by intracellular $Mg^{2+}$ ; slow inactivation due to $Ca^{2+}$ -dependent calmodulin binding; phosphorylation by PKC inhibits $Ca^{2+}$ -calmodulin binding and slow inactivation; upregulated by 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D3

**Comments:** Activation of TRPV1 by depolarisation is strongly temperature-dependent via a channel opening rate that increases with increasing temperature. The  $V_{1/2}$  is shifted in the hyperpolarizing direction both by increasing temperature and by exogenous agonists [1093]. TRPV3 channel dysfunction caused by genetic gain-of-function mutations is implicated in the pathogenesis of skin inflammation, dermatitis, and chronic itch. In rodents, a spontaneous gain-of-function mutation of the TRPV3 gene causes the development of skin lesions with pruritus and dermatitis [36, 618]. In contrast to other thermoTRP channels, TRPV3 sensitizes rather than desensitizes, upon repeated stimulation with either heat or agonists [182, 624, 1175]. The sensitivity of TRPV4 to heat, but not  $4\alpha$ -PDD is lost upon patch excision. TRPV4 is activated by **anandamide** and **arachidonic**

**acid** following P450 epoxygenase-dependent metabolism to **5,6-epoxyeicosatrienoic acid** (reviewed by [778]). Activation of TRPV4 by cell swelling, but not heat, or phorbol esters, is mediated via the formation of epoxyeicosatrienoic acids. Phorbol esters bind directly to TRPV4. Different TRPV4 mutations lead to a broad spectrum of dominant skeletal dysplasias [553, 903] and spinal muscular atrophies and hereditary motor and sensory neuropathies [42, 234]. Similar mutations were also found in patients with Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease type 2C [574]. TRPV5 preferentially conducts  $Ca^{2+}$  under physiological conditions, but in the absence of extracellular  $Ca^{2+}$ , conducts monovalent cations. Single channel conductances listed for TRPV5 and TRPV6 were determined in divalent cation-free extracellular solution.  $Ca^{2+}$ -induced

inactivation occurs at hyperpolarized potentials when  $Ca^{2+}$  is present extracellularly. Single channel events cannot be resolved (probably due to greatly reduced conductance) in the presence of extracellular divalent cations. Measurements of  $P_{Ca}/P_{Na}$  for TRPV5 and TRPV6 are dependent upon ionic conditions due to anomalous mole fraction behaviour. Blockade of TRPV5 and TRPV6 by extracellular  $Mg^{2+}$  is voltage-dependent. Intracellular  $Mg^{2+}$  also exerts a voltage dependent block that is alleviated by hyperpolarization and contributes to the time-dependent activation and deactivation of TRPV6 mediated monovalent cation currents. TRPV5 and TRPV6 differ in their kinetics of  $Ca^{2+}$ -dependent inactivation and recovery from inactivation. TRPV5 and TRPV6 function as homo- and hetero-tetramers.

## Voltage-gated calcium channels

[Ion channels](#) → [Voltage-gated ion channels](#) → [Voltage-gated calcium channels](#)

**Overview:** Ca<sup>2+</sup> channels are voltage-gated ion channels present in the membrane of most excitable cells. The nomenclature for Ca<sup>2+</sup> channels was proposed by [290] and **approved by the NC-IUPHAR Subcommittee on Ca<sup>2+</sup> channels [141]**. Most Ca<sup>2+</sup> channels form hetero-oligomeric complexes. The  $\alpha$ 1 subunit is pore-forming and provides the binding site(s) for practically all agonists and antagonists. The 10 cloned  $\alpha$ 1-subunits can be grouped into three families: (1) the

high-voltage activated dihydropyridine-sensitive (L-type, Ca<sub>v</sub>1.x) channels; (2) the high- to moderate-voltage activated dihydropyridine-insensitive (Ca<sub>v</sub>2.x) channels and (3) the low-voltage-activated (T-type, Ca<sub>v</sub>3.x) channels. Each  $\alpha$ 1 subunit has four homologous repeats (I-IV), each repeat having six transmembrane domains (S1-S6) and a pore-forming region between S5 and S6. Voltage-dependent gating is driven by the membrane spanning S4 segment, which contains highly

conserved positive charges that respond to changes in membrane potential. All of the  $\alpha$ 1-subunit genes give rise to alternatively spliced products. At least for high-voltage activated channels, it is likely that native channels comprise co-assemblies of  $\alpha$ 1,  $\beta$  and  $\alpha$ 2- $\delta$  subunits. The  $\gamma$  subunits have not been proven to associate with channels other than the  $\alpha$ 1s skeletal muscle Ca<sub>v</sub>1.1 channel. The  $\alpha$ 2- $\delta$ 1 and  $\alpha$ 2- $\delta$ 2 subunits bind [gabapentin](#) and [pregabalin](#).

### Further reading on Voltage-gated calcium channels

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Nomenclature	<b>Ca<sub>v</sub>1.1</b>	<b>Ca<sub>v</sub>1.2</b>	<b>Ca<sub>v</sub>1.3</b>	<b>Ca<sub>v</sub>1.4</b>
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">CACNA1S</a> , <a href="#">Q13698</a>	<a href="#">CACNA1C</a> , <a href="#">Q13936</a>	<a href="#">CACNA1D</a> , <a href="#">Q01668</a>	<a href="#">CACNA1F</a> , <a href="#">O60840</a>
Activators	<a href="#">FPL64176</a> (pEC <sub>50</sub> ~7.8), <a href="#">(-)-(S)-BayK8644</a> (pEC <sub>50</sub> ~7.8)	<a href="#">(-)-(S)-BayK8644</a> (pEC <sub>50</sub> ~7.8), <a href="#">FPL64176</a> Concentration range: 1×10 <sup>-7</sup> M-1×10 <sup>-6</sup> M [ <a href="#">498</a> , <a href="#">627</a> ]	<a href="#">FPL64176</a> (pEC <sub>50</sub> ~7.8), <a href="#">(-)-(S)-BayK8644</a> (pEC <sub>50</sub> ~7.8)	<a href="#">(-)-(S)-BayK8644</a> (pEC <sub>50</sub> ~7.8)
Gating inhibitors	<a href="#">nifedipine</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.3) [ <i>voltage dependent</i> -90mV] [ <a href="#">571</a> ] – Rat, <a href="#">nimodipine</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~6) [-70mV]	<a href="#">amlodipine</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 9.3) [ <a href="#">437</a> ] – Rabbit, <a href="#">isradipine</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 8.8) [ <a href="#">802</a> ], <a href="#">nifedipine</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 8.1–8.7) [-40mV] [ <a href="#">842</a> , <a href="#">853</a> ] – Rat, <a href="#">isradipine</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 8.5) [ <a href="#">802</a> ], <a href="#">nimodipine</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.8) [-80mV] [ <a href="#">1178</a> ] – Rat	<a href="#">nitrendipine</a> (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 8.4) [ <a href="#">973</a> ], <a href="#">isradipine</a> (dopamine neuron-like activity; splice variant-dependent) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.8–8.2) [ <a href="#">802</a> ], <a href="#">nifedipine</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.7) [ <a href="#">973</a> ], <a href="#">nimodipine</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.7–6.6) [-80mV – -40mV] [ <a href="#">919</a> , <a href="#">1178</a> ] – Rat	<a href="#">nifedipine</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6) [-100mV] [ <a href="#">701</a> ], <a href="#">nimodipine</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~6) [-70mV], <a href="#">nitrendipine</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~6) [-70mV]
Channel blockers	<a href="#">verapamil</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~5) [100mV] [ <a href="#">1114</a> ] – Rabbit, <a href="#">diltiazem</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.2) [-100mV] [ <a href="#">1114</a> ] – Rabbit	<a href="#">verapamil</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.3–6.5) [ <a href="#">481</a> ] – Rat, <a href="#">diltiazem</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.3) [ <a href="#">495</a> ] – Ferret	<a href="#">verapamil</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.7) [-70mV] [ <a href="#">1038</a> ] – Mouse, <a href="#">diltiazem</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.5) [-70mV] [ <a href="#">1038</a> ] – Mouse	<a href="#">diltiazem</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4) [-80mV] [ <a href="#">65</a> ] – Mouse, <a href="#">verapamil</a> Concentration range: 1×10 <sup>-4</sup> M [-80mV] [ <a href="#">65</a> ] – Mouse
Sub/family-selective channel blockers	–	<a href="#">calciseptine</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.1–7.8) [ <a href="#">214</a> , <a href="#">1140</a> ]	–	–
Functional Characteristics	L-type calcium current: High voltage-activated, very slow voltage dependent inactivation	L-type calcium current: High voltage-activated, voltage- and calcium-dependent inactivation	L-type calcium current: more negative activation voltage range than Ca <sub>v</sub> 1.2, calcium-dependent inactivation	L-type calcium current: More negative activation voltage range than Ca <sub>v</sub> 1.2, no/weak calcium-dependent inactivation
Comments	Serves primarily as voltage-sensor for excitation contraction coupling in skeletal muscle.	Amlodopine, isradipine, nifedipine and nimodipine are examples of dihydropyridine calcium channel antagonists. Verapamil is a phenylalkylamine calcium channel blocker. Diltiazem is an example of a benzothiazepine calcium channel blocker. Inhibition by dihydropyridines ( <i>e.g.</i> nifedipine or isradipine) is voltage-dependent with a higher apparent affinity at more depolarised potentials; phenylalkylamines and diltiazem exhibit strong use-dependence with a higher apparent affinity at higher stimulation frequencies.	Ca <sub>v</sub> 1.3 is about 5-10 fold less sensitive to dihydropyridine antagonists.	Ca <sub>v</sub> 1.4 is less sensitive to dihydropyridine antagonists than other Ca <sub>v</sub> 1 channels

Nomenclature	<b>Ca<sub>v</sub>2.1</b>	<b>Ca<sub>v</sub>2.2</b>	<b>Ca<sub>v</sub>2.3</b>
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">CACNA1A, O00555</a>	<a href="#">CACNA1B, Q00975</a>	<a href="#">CACNA1E, Q15878</a>
Gating inhibitors	–	<a href="#">NP118809</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7) [-80mV] [1209] – Rat	–
Selective gating inhibitors	<a href="#">ω-agatoxin IVA</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7–8.7) [-100mV – -90mV] [104, 721] – Rat, <a href="#">ω-agatoxin IVB</a> (Antagonist) (pK <sub>d</sub> 8.5) [-80mV] [10] – Rat	–	<a href="#">SNX482</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.5–8) [physiological voltage] [759]
Channel blockers	–	–	<a href="#">Ni<sup>2+</sup></a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.6) [-90mV] [1153]
Sub/family-selective channel blockers	<a href="#">ω-conotoxin MVIIC</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 8.2–9.2) Concentration range: 2×10 <sup>-6</sup> M–5×10 <sup>-6</sup> M [physiological voltage] [601] – Rat	<a href="#">ω-conotoxin GVIA</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 10.4) [-80mV] [601] – Rat, <a href="#">ω-conotoxin MVIIC</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.1–8.5) [-80mV] [408, 601, 696] – Rat	–
Functional Characteristics	P/Q-type calcium current: High voltage-activated, moderate voltage-dependent inactivation	N-type calcium current: High voltage-activated, moderate voltage-dependent inactivation	R-type calcium current: Moderate voltage-activated, fast voltage-dependent inactivation
Comments	In many cell types, P and Q current components cannot be adequately separated and many researchers in the field have adopted the terminology 'P/Q-type' current when referring to either component. Both of these physiologically defined current types are conducted by alternative forms of Ca <sub>v</sub> 2.1. Ziconotide (a synthetic peptide equivalent to <a href="#">ω-conotoxin MVIIA</a> ) has been approved for the treatment of chronic pain [1152].	–	–

Nomenclature	<b>Ca<sub>v</sub>3.1</b>	<b>Ca<sub>v</sub>3.2</b>	<b>Ca<sub>v</sub>3.3</b>
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">CACNA1G, O43497</a>	<a href="#">CACNA1H, O95180</a>	<a href="#">CACNA1I, Q9P0X4</a>
Gating inhibitors	<a href="#">kurtoxin</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.3–7.8) [-90mV] [178, 966] – Rat	<a href="#">kurtoxin</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.3–7.6) [-90mV] [178, 966] – Rat	–
Channel blockers	<a href="#">Z944</a> (Pore blocker) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.3) [-80mV] [1073], <a href="#">TTA-A2</a> (Pore blocker) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7) [-75mV] [320], <a href="#">mibefradil</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6–6.6) [-110mV – -100mV] [683], <a href="#">Ni<sup>2+</sup></a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.6–3.8) [voltage dependent -90mV] [585] – Rat	<a href="#">TTA-A2</a> (Pore blocker) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 8) [-75mV] [320], <a href="#">mibefradil</a> (Pore blocker) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.9–7.2) [-110mV – -80mV] [683], <a href="#">Z944</a> (Pore blocker) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.8) [-75mV] [1073], <a href="#">Ni<sup>2+</sup></a> (Pore blocker) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.9–5.2) [voltage dependent -90mV] [585]	<a href="#">TTA-A2</a> (Pore blocker) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.5) [-75mV] [320], <a href="#">Z944</a> (Pore blocker) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7) [-75mV] [1073], <a href="#">mibefradil</a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.8) [-110mV] [683], <a href="#">Ni<sup>2+</sup></a> (Antagonist) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.7–4.1) [voltage dependent -90mV] [585] – Rat
Functional Characteristics	T-type calcium current: Low voltage-activated, moderate voltage-dependent inactivation		

## Voltage-gated proton channel

[Ion channels](#) → [Voltage-gated ion channels](#) → [Voltage-gated proton channel](#)

**Overview:** The voltage-gated proton channel (provisionally denoted H<sub>v</sub>1) is a putative 4TM proton-selective channel gated by membrane depolarization and which is sensitive to the transmembrane pH gradient [133, 218, 219, 888, 932]. The structure of H<sub>v</sub>1 is homologous to the voltage sensing domain (VSD) of the superfamily of voltage-gated ion channels (*i.e.* segments S1 to S4) and contains no discernable pore region [888, 932]. Proton flux through H<sub>v</sub>1 is instead most likely mediated by a hydrogen-bonded chain [220, 748] formed in a crevice of the

protein when the voltage-sensing S4 helix moves in response to a change in transmembrane potential [887, 1159]. Proton selective conduction requires an aspartate residue at the center of the pore [152, 743, 984]. Both selectivity and conduction may result from obligatory protonation by each conducted proton [221, 269]. H<sub>v</sub>1 expresses largely as a dimer mediated by intracellular C-terminal coiled-coil interactions [607] but individual promoters nonetheless support gated H<sup>+</sup> flux *via* separate conduction pathways [542, 589, 848, 1060]. Within dimeric

structures, the two protomers do not function independently, but display co-operative interactions during gating resulting in increased voltage sensitivity, but slower activation, of the dimeric, *versus* monomeric, complexes [346, 1061]. The otopetrin proteins appear to form proton-selective ion channels and to date 3 subtypes have been identified in eukaryotes; otopetrin 1 [886, 1075], otopetrin 2 [638] and otopetrin 3 [439].

### Further reading on Voltage-gated proton channel

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Okamura Y *et al.* (2015) Gating mechanisms of voltage-gated proton channels. *Annu Rev Biochem* **84**: 685-709 [PMID:26034892]

Nomenclature	H <sub>v</sub> 1
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">HVCN1</a> , <a href="#">Q96D96</a>
Channel blockers	Zn <sup>2+</sup> (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~5.7–6.3), Cd <sup>2+</sup> (pIC <sub>50</sub> ~5)
Functional Characteristics	Activated by membrane depolarization mediating macroscopic currents with time-, voltage- and pH-dependence; outwardly rectifying; voltage dependent kinetics with relatively slow current activation sensitive to extracellular pH and temperature, relatively fast deactivation; voltage threshold for current activation determined by pH gradient ( $\Delta\text{pH} = \text{pH}_\text{O} - \text{pH}_\text{i}$ ) across the membrane

**Comments:** The voltage threshold ( $V_{\text{thr}}$ ) for activation of H<sub>v</sub>1 is not fixed but is set by the pH gradient across the membrane such that  $V_{\text{thr}}$  is positive to the Nernst potential for H<sup>+</sup>, which ensures that only outwardly directed flux of H<sup>+</sup> occurs under physiological conditions [133, 172, 218, 219]. Phosphorylation of H<sub>v</sub>1 within the N-terminal domain by PKC enhances the gating of the channel [222, 223, 741]. Tabulated IC<sub>50</sub> values for

Zn<sup>2+</sup> and Cd<sup>2+</sup> are for heterologously expressed human and mouse H<sub>v</sub>1 [888, 932]. Zn<sup>2+</sup> is not a conventional pore blocker, but is coordinated by two, or more, external protonation sites involving [histamine](#) residues [888]. Zn<sup>2+</sup> binding may occur at the dimer interface between pairs of [histamine](#) residues from both monomers where it may interfere with channel opening [742]. Mouse knockout studies [283, 732, 889] support the view

that H<sub>v</sub>1 participates in both charge compensation and pH regulation in granulocytes during the respiratory burst of NADPH oxidase-dependent reactive oxygen species production that assists in the clearance of bacterial pathogens [224, 395, 501, 944]. Additional physiological functions of H<sub>v</sub>1 are reviewed by [133].

## Voltage-gated sodium channels

[Ion channels](#) → [Voltage-gated ion channels](#) → [Voltage-gated sodium channels](#)

**Overview:** Sodium channels are voltage-gated sodium-selective ion channels present in the membrane of most excitable cells. Sodium channels comprise of one pore-forming  $\alpha$  subunit, which may be associated with either one or two  $\beta$  subunits [456].  $\alpha$ -Subunits consist of four homologous domains (I-IV), each containing six transmembrane segments (S1-S6) and a pore-forming loop. The positively charged fourth transmembrane segment (S4) acts as a voltage sensor and is

involved in channel gating. The crystal structure of the bacterial NavAb channel has revealed a number of novel structural features compared to earlier potassium channel structures including a short selectivity filter with ion selectivity determined by interactions with glutamate side chains [827]. Interestingly, the pore region is penetrated by fatty acyl chains that extend into the central cavity which may allow the entry of small, hydrophobic pore-blocking drugs [827]. Auxiliary  $\beta$ 1,  $\beta$ 2,  $\beta$ 3 and

$\beta$ 4 subunits consist of a large extracellular N-terminal domain, a single transmembrane segment and a shorter cytoplasmic domain.

**The nomenclature for sodium channels was proposed by Goldin *et al.*, (2000) [343] and approved by the NC-IUPHAR Subcommittee on sodium channels (Catterall *et al.*, 2005, [139]).**

### Further reading on Voltage-gated sodium channels

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Nomenclature	Nav1.1	Nav1.2	Nav1.3	Nav1.4
HGNC, UniProt	SCN1A, P35498	SCN2A, Q99250	SCN3A, Q9NY46	SCN4A, P35499
Sub/family-selective activators	batrachotoxin, veratridine	batrachotoxin (Agonist) ( $pK_d$ 9.1) [physiological voltage] [619] – Rat, veratridine (Partial agonist) ( $pK_d$ 5.2) [physiological voltage] [140] – Rat	batrachotoxin, veratridine	batrachotoxin (Full agonist) Concentration range: $5 \times 10^{-6}$ M [-100mV] [1126] – Rat, veratridine (Partial agonist) Concentration range: $2 \times 10^{-4}$ M [-100mV] [1126] – Rat
Channel blockers	tetrodotoxin (Pore blocker) ( $pK_d$ 8) [-100mV] [983] – Rat	–	–	–
Sub/family-selective channel blockers	Hm1a [805] – Rat, saxitoxin (Pore blocker)	saxitoxin (Pore blocker) ( $pI_{C_{50}}$ 8.8) [-120mV] [109] – Rat, tetrodotoxin (Pore blocker) ( $pI_{C_{50}}$ 8) [-120mV] [109] – Rat, lacosamide (Antagonist) ( $pI_{C_{50}}$ 4.5) [-80mV] [1] – Rat	tetrodotoxin (Pore blocker) ( $pI_{C_{50}}$ 8.4) [167], saxitoxin (Pore blocker)	saxitoxin (Pore blocker) ( $pI_{C_{50}}$ 8.4) [-100mV] [840] – Rat, tetrodotoxin (Pore blocker) ( $pI_{C_{50}}$ 7.6) [-120mV] [145], $\mu$ -conotoxin GIIIA (Pore blocker) ( $pI_{C_{50}}$ 5.9) [-100mV] [145]
Functional Characteristics	Activation $V_{0.5}$ = -20 mV. Fast inactivation ( $\tau$ = 0.7 ms for peak sodium current).	Activation $V_{0.5}$ = -24 mV. Fast inactivation ( $\tau$ = 0.8 ms for peak sodium current).	Activation $V_{0.5}$ = -24 mV. Fast inactivation (0.8 ms)	Activation $V_{0.5}$ = -30 mV. Fast inactivation (0.6 ms)

Nomenclature	Nav1.5	Nav1.6	Nav1.7	Nav1.8	Nav1.9
HGNC, UniProt	SCN5A, Q14524	SCN8A, Q9UQD0	SCN9A, Q15858	SCN10A, Q9Y5Y9	SCN11A, Q9UI33
Sub/family-selective activators	batrachotoxin (Full agonist) (pK <sub>d</sub> 7.6) [physiological voltage] [958] – Rat, veratridine (Partial agonist) (pEC <sub>50</sub> 6.3) [-30mV] [1117] – Rat	batrachotoxin, veratridine	batrachotoxin, veratridine	–	–
Sub/family-selective channel blockers	tetrodotoxin (Pore blocker) (pK <sub>d</sub> 5.8) [-80mV] [194, 1212] – Rat	tetrodotoxin (Pore blocker) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 9) [-130mV] [243] – Rat, saxitoxin (Pore blocker)	tetrodotoxin (Pore blocker) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.6) [-100mV] [534], saxitoxin (Pore blocker) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.2) [1111]	tetrodotoxin (Pore blocker) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.2) [-60mV] [15] – Rat	tetrodotoxin (Pore blocker) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.4) [-120mV] [198] – Rat
Selective channel blockers	–	–	–	PF-01247324 (Pore blocker) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.7) [voltage dependent] [828]	–
Functional Characteristics	Activation V <sub>0.5</sub> = -26 mV. Fast inactivation (τ = 1 ms for peak sodium current).	Activation V <sub>0.5</sub> = -29 mV. Fast inactivation (1 ms)	Activation V <sub>0.5</sub> = -27 mV. Fast inactivation (0.5 ms)	Activation V <sub>0.5</sub> = -16 mV. Inactivation (6 ms)	Activation V <sub>0.5</sub> = -32 mV. Slow inactivation (16 ms)

**Comments:** Sodium channels are also blocked by local anaesthetic agents, antiarrhythmic drugs and antiepileptic drugs. In general, these drugs are not highly selective among channel subtypes. There are two clear functional fingerprints for

distinguishing different subtypes. These are sensitivity to tetrodotoxin (Nav1.5, Nav1.8 and Nav1.9 are much less sensitive to block) and rate of fast inactivation (Nav1.8 and particularly Nav1.9 inactivate more slowly). All sodium channels

also have a slow inactivation process that is engaged during long depolarizations (> 100 ms) or repetitive trains of stimuli. All sodium channel subtypes are blocked by intracellular QX-314.

**Comments on Voltage-gated ion channels:** The voltage-dependent anion channels (VDACs) plays a key role in regulating metabolic and energetic flux across the outer mitochondrial membrane. It is involved in the transport of ATP, ADP, pyruvate, malate, and other metabolites, and thus communicates extensively with enzymes from metabolic pathways. They are a class of porin ion channel located on the outer mitochondrial membrane. VDAC1, VDAC2 and VDAC3

are involved in the regulation of apoptosis, cell metabolism, mitochondrial apoptosis, and spermatogenesis [662, 965]. The calcium homeostasis modulator (CALHM) ion channels are apparently voltage- and extracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup>-gated, and constitute a novel ion channel family that is widely expressed in the brain and taste buds throughout vertebrates and in sensory neurons and body wall muscles in *C. elegans*. In humans, the CALHM family encompasses six paralogs, some of which function as

non-selective channels that are permeable to large substances such as ATP. CALHM channels are thought to play important roles in neuronal excitability, neurotransmission of tastes, and muscle cell function. The voltage- and extracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup>-dependent gating mechanisms, structural features that define the gate and ion permeation pathway and additional physiological roles, remain to be discovered [656]

## Other ion channels

[Ion channels](#) → [Other ion channels](#)

A number of ion channels in the human genome do not fit readily into the classification of either ligand-gated or voltage-gated ion channels. These are identified below.

## Aquaporins

[Ion channels](#) → [Other ion channels](#) → [Aquaporins](#)

**Overview:** Aquaporins and aquaglyceroporins are membrane channels that allow the permeation of water and certain other small solutes across the cell membrane, or in the case of AQP6, AQP11 and AQP12A, intracellular membranes, such as vesicles and the endoplasmic reticulum membrane [556]. Since the isolation and cloning of the first aquaporin (AQP1) [868], 12 additional mammalian members of the family have been identified, although little is known about the functional properties of one of these (AQP12A; Q8IXF9) and it is thus not tabulated. The other 12 aquaporins can be broadly divided into three families: orthodox aquaporins (AQP0,-1,-2,-4,-5, -6 and -8) permeable mainly to water, but for some additional solutes [210]; aquaglyceroporins (AQP3,-7 -9 and -10), additionally permeable to glycerol and for some isoforms urea [529], and superaquaporins (AQP11 and 12) located within cells [453].

Some aquaporins also conduct ammonia and/or H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> giving rise to the terms 'ammoniaporins' ('aquaammoniaporins') and 'peroxiporins', respectively. Aquaporins are impermeable to protons and other inorganic and organic cations, with the possible exception of AQP1, although this is controversial [529]. One or more members of this family of proteins have been found to be expressed in almost all tissues of the body [reviewed in Yang (2017) [1184]]. AQPs are involved in numerous processes that include systemic water homeostasis, adipocyte metabolism, brain oedema, cell migration and fluid secretion by epithelia. Loss of function mutations of some human AQPs, or their disruption by autoantibodies further underscore their importance [reviewed by Verkman *et al.* (2014) [1087], Kitchen *et al.* (2105) [529]]. Functional AQPs exist as homotetramers that are the water conducting units wherein individual AQP subunits (each a

protomer) have six TM helices and two half helices that constitute a seventh 'pseudotransmembrane domain' that surrounds a narrow water conducting channel [556]. In addition to the four pores contributed by the protomers, an additional hydrophobic pore exists within the center of the complex [556] that may mediate the transport through AQP1. Although numerous small molecule inhibitors of aquaporins, particularly AQP1, have been reported primarily from *Xenopus* oocyte swelling assays, the activity of most has subsequently been disputed upon retesting using assays of water transport that are less prone to various artifacts [294] and they are therefore excluded from the tables [see Tradtrantip *et al.* (2017) [1067] for a review].

### Further reading on Aquaporins

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Agre P. (2006) The aquaporin water channels. *Proc Am Thorac Soc* **3**: 5-13 [PMID:16493146]  
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Carbrey JM *et al.* (2009) Discovery of the aquaporins and development of the field. *Handb Exp Pharmacol* 3-28 [PMID:19096770]  
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Tesse A *et al.* (2018) Aquaporins as Targets of Dietary Bioactive Phytocompounds. *Front Mol Biosci* **5**: 30 [PMID:29721498]  
Tradtrantip L *et al.* (2017) Aquaporin-Targeted Therapeutics: State-of-the-Field. *Adv Exp Med Biol* **969**: 239-250 [PMID:28258578]  
Yang B. (2017) *In Advances in Experimental Medicine and Biology* Edited by Yang B: Springer: 1-276 [ISBN: 9789402410570]

Nomenclature	<a href="#">AQP0</a>	<a href="#">AQP1</a>	<a href="#">AQP2</a>	<a href="#">AQP3</a>
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">MIP, P30301</a>	<a href="#">AQP1, P29972</a>	<a href="#">AQP2, P41181</a>	<a href="#">AQP3, Q92482</a>
Endogenous activator	AQP0 is gated by calmodulin [ <a href="#">529</a> ]	cGMP (see comment)	–	–
Permeability	water (rat single channel permeability $0.25 \times 10^{-14} \text{cm}^3 \text{s}^{-1}$ ) (Rat) [ <a href="#">1186</a> ]	water (rat single channel permeability $6.0 \times 10^{-14} \text{cm}^3 \text{s}^{-1}$ ), ammonia, $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ [ <a href="#">338</a> , <a href="#">1186</a> ]	water (rat single channel permeability $3.3 \times 10^{-14} \text{cm}^3 \text{s}^{-1}$ ) [ <a href="#">655</a> ]	water (rat single channel permeability $2.1 \times 10^{-14} \text{cm}^3 \text{s}^{-1}$ ), glycerol, ammonia, $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ [ <a href="#">88</a> , <a href="#">338</a> , <a href="#">1186</a> ]
Inhibitors	$\text{Hg}^{2+}$	$\text{Ag}^+$ , $\text{Hg}^{2+}$ , pCMBS	$\text{Hg}^{2+}$	Auphen (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.1) [ <a href="#">685</a> ], Audien (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.8) [ <a href="#">685</a> ], $\text{Hg}^{2+}$
Channel blockers	–	5-Hydroxymethyl-2-furfural (Inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.4) [ <a href="#">175</a> ]	–	–
Comments	–	Permeability to $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ has been demonstrated for rat, but not human, AQP1 [ <a href="#">88</a> ]. Numerous small molecule inhibitors of AQP1 have been proposed, but re-evaluation indicates that they have no significant effect upon water permeability at concentrations in excess of their originally reported IC <sub>50</sub> values [ <a href="#">334</a> ]. A fifth pore located at the central axis of the tetrameric complex has, controversially, been described as a cation conductance activated by cGMP and phosphorylation by protein kinases A and C. Evidence in support and against this proposal is discussed in detail by Kitchen <i>et al.</i> (2015) [ <a href="#">529</a> ].	–	AQP3 is also inhibited by acid pH: permeability to urea is controversial [ <a href="#">529</a> ].

Nomenclature	<a href="#">AQP4</a>	<a href="#">AQP5</a>
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">AQP4, P55087</a>	<a href="#">AQP5, P55064</a>
Permeability	water (rat single channel permeability $24 \times 10^{-14} \text{cm}^3 \text{s}^{-1}$ ) [ <a href="#">1186</a> ]	water (rat single channel permeability $5.0 \times 10^{-14} \text{cm}^3 \text{s}^{-1}$ ), $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ [ <a href="#">493</a> ]
Inhibitors	–	$\text{Hg}^{2+}$
Comments	AQP4 is inhibited by PKC activation (although this is probably due to phosphorylation-dependent protein localisation rather than inhibition of the channel <i>per se</i> ), but not by $\text{HgCl}_2$ . AQP4 is predicted to be permeable to NO [ <a href="#">1134</a> ]. Recent work suggests that the membrane trafficking of AQP4 could be an alternative target to pore-blockers [ <a href="#">530</a> ].	AQP5 may conduct $\text{CO}_2$ [ <a href="#">338</a> ].

Nomenclature	<a href="#">AQP6</a>	<a href="#">AQP7</a>	<a href="#">AQP8</a>	<a href="#">AQP9</a>	<a href="#">AQP10</a>
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">AQP6</a> , <a href="#">Q13520</a>	<a href="#">AQP7</a> , <a href="#">O14520</a>	<a href="#">AQP8</a> , <a href="#">O94778</a>	<a href="#">AQP9</a> , <a href="#">O43315</a>	<a href="#">AQP10</a> , <a href="#">Q96PS8</a>
Permeability	water (zero, or very low basal, permeability is enhanced by low pH and in mouse and rat by Hg <sup>2+</sup> ), glycerol, ammonia, urea, anions [ <a href="#">338</a> , <a href="#">421</a> , <a href="#">529</a> , <a href="#">883</a> ]	water (high), glycerol, ammonia, urea [ <a href="#">338</a> , <a href="#">451</a> ]	water (mouse single channel permeability 8.2 × 10 <sup>-14</sup> cm <sup>3</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> ), ammonia, H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> [ <a href="#">88</a> , <a href="#">338</a> , <a href="#">529</a> , <a href="#">655</a> ]	water (low), glycerol, ammonia, urea, H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> , monocarboxylates [ <a href="#">338</a> , <a href="#">420</a> , <a href="#">883</a> , <a href="#">1139</a> ]	water (low), glycerol, urea [ <a href="#">452</a> ]
Activators	Hg <sup>2+</sup>	–	–	–	–
Inhibitors	–	<a href="#">Auphen</a> (Effective at 15 μM), Hg <sup>2+</sup>	Hg <sup>2+</sup>	Hg <sup>2+</sup> , <a href="#">phloretin</a>	Hg <sup>2+</sup>
Comments	AQP6 is an intracellular channel that localises to acid secreting intercalated cells of the renal collecting ducts. Notably, AQP6 is activated by Hg <sup>2+</sup> and by low pH and is unusually permeable to anions (with the permeability sequence NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> > I <sup>-</sup> >> Br <sup>-</sup> > Cl <sup>-</sup> >> F <sup>-</sup> ) as well as water, both through the monomeric pore [ <a href="#">529</a> , <a href="#">883</a> ].	AQP7 also transports silicon [ <a href="#">334</a> ].	Permeability to urea is controversial, but might be explained by differences between mouse and human caused by a pore-lining amino acid residue that differs between species [ <a href="#">529</a> ].	AQP9 may transport silicon [ <a href="#">334</a> ].	It is not known if AQP10 is permeable to ammonia. Permeability to silicon has been described [ <a href="#">334</a> ].

## Chloride channels

[Ion channels](#) → [Other ion channels](#) → [Chloride channels](#)

**Overview:** Chloride channels are a functionally and structurally diverse group of anion selective channels involved in processes including the regulation of the excitability of neurones, skeletal, cardiac and smooth muscle, cell volume regulation, transepithelial salt transport, the acidification of internal and extracellular compartments, the cell cycle and apoptosis

(reviewed in [[274](#)]). Excluding the transmittergated GABA<sub>A</sub> and glycine receptors (see separate tables), well characterised chloride channels can be classified as certain members of the voltage-sensitive ClC subfamily, calcium-activated channels, high (maxi) conductance channels, the cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) and volume

regulated channels [[1088](#)]. No official recommendation exists regarding the classification of chloride channels. Functional chloride channels that have been cloned from, or characterised within, mammalian tissues are listed with the exception of several classes of intracellular channels (*e.g.* CLIC) that are reviewed by in [[281](#)].

### Further reading on Chloride channels

Adkins GB *et al.* (2015) Potential role of cardiac chloride channels and transporters as novel therapeutic targets. *Pharmacol Ther* **145**: 67-75 [[PMID:25160469](#)]  
 Huang F *et al.* (2012) International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology. LXXXV: calcium-activated chloride channels. *Pharmacol Rev* **64**: 1-15 [[PMID:22090471](#)]  
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Peretti M *et al.* (2015) Chloride channels in cancer: Focus on chloride intracellular channel 1 and 4 (CLIC1 AND CLIC4) proteins in tumor development and as novel therapeutic targets. *Biochim Biophys Acta* **1848**: 2523-31 [[PMID:25546839](#)]  
 Sabirov RZ *et al.* (2016) The properties, functions, and pathophysiology of maxi-anion channels. *Pflugers Arch* **468**: 405-20 [[PMID:26733413](#)]  
 Zegarra-Moran O *et al.* (2017) CFTR pharmacology. *Cell Mol Life Sci* **74**: 117-128 [[PMID:27704174](#)]

## ClC family

Ion channels → Other ion channels → Chloride channels → ClC family

**Overview:** The mammalian ClC family (reviewed in [8, 160, 274, 277, 474]) contains 9 members that fall, on the basis of sequence homology, into three groups; ClC-1, ClC-2, hClC-Ka (rClC-K1) and hClC-Kb (rClC-K2); ClC-3 to ClC-5, and ClC-6 and -7. ClC-1 and ClC-2 are plasma membrane chloride channels. ClC-Ka and ClC-Kb are also plasma membrane channels (largely expressed in the kidney and inner ear) when associated with barttin (*BSND*, *Q8WZ55*), a 320 amino acid 2TM protein [295]. The localisation of the remaining members of the ClC family is likely to be predominantly intracellular *in vivo*, although they may traffic to the plasma membrane in overexpression systems.

Numerous recent reports indicate that ClC-4, ClC-5, ClC-6 and ClC-7 (and by inference ClC-3) function as Cl<sup>-</sup>/H<sup>+</sup> antiporters (secondary active transport), rather than classical Cl<sup>-</sup> channels [352, 593, 757, 851, 937]; reviewed in [8, 873]). It has recently been reported that the activity of ClC-5 as a Cl<sup>-</sup>/H<sup>+</sup> exchanger is important for renal endocytosis [784]. Alternative splicing increases the structural diversity within the ClC family. The crystal structure of two bacterial ClC proteins has been described [278] and a eukaryotic ClC transporter (CmClC) has recently been described at 3.5 Å resolution [307]. Each ClC subunit, with a complex topology of 18 intramembrane segments, contributes

a single pore to a dimeric 'double-barrelled' ClC channel that contains two independently gated pores, confirming the predictions of previous functional and structural investigations (reviewed in [160, 277, 474, 873]). As found for ClC-4, ClC-5, ClC-6 and ClC-7, the prokaryotic ClC homologue (ClC-ec1) and CmClC function as H<sup>+</sup>/Cl<sup>-</sup> antiporters, rather than as ion channels [7, 307]. The generation of monomers from dimeric ClC-ec1 has firmly established that each ClC subunit is a functional unit for transport and that cross-subunit interaction is not required for Cl<sup>-</sup>/H<sup>+</sup> exchange in ClC transporters [900].

Nomenclature	ClC-1	ClC-2
HGNC, UniProt	<i>CLCN1</i> , P35523	<i>CLCN2</i> , P51788
Endogenous activators	–	arachidonic acid
Activators	–	lubiprostone, omeprazole
Channel blockers	9-anthroic acid, S(-)CPB, S(-)CPP, Cd <sup>2+</sup> , Zn <sup>2+</sup> , fenofibric acid, niflumic acid	GaTx2 (pK <sub>d</sub> 10.8) [voltage dependent -100mV], Cd <sup>2+</sup> , NPPB, Zn <sup>2+</sup> , diphenylamine-2-carboxylic acid
Functional Characteristics	γ = 1-1.5 pS; voltage-activated (depolarization) (by fast gating of single protopores and a slower common gate allowing both pores to open simultaneously); inwardly rectifying; incomplete deactivation upon repolarization, ATP binding to cytoplasmic cystathionine β-synthase related (CBS) domains inhibits ClC-1 (by closure of the common gate), depending on its redox status	γ = 2-3 pS; voltage-activated by membrane hyperpolarization by fast protopore and slow cooperative gating; channels only open negative to E <sub>Cl</sub> resulting in steady-state inward rectification; voltage dependence modulated by permeant anions; activated by cell swelling, PKA, and weak extracellular acidosis; potentiated by SGK1; inhibited by phosphorylation by p34(cdc2)/cyclin B; cell surface expression and activity increased by association with Hsp90
Comments	ClC-1 is constitutively active	ClC-2 is also activated by amidation

Nomenclature	<b>CIC-Ka</b>	<b>CIC-Kb</b>	<b>CIC-3</b>	<b>CIC-4</b>
HGNC, UniProt	<b>CLCNKA, P51800</b>	<b>CLCNKB, P51801</b>	<b>CLCN3, P51790</b>	<b>CLCN4, P51793</b>
Activators	<b>niflumic acid</b> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 3–5)	<b>niflumic acid</b> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 3–5)	–	–
Channel blockers	<b>3-phenyl-CPP, DIDS, niflumic acid</b>	<b>3-phenyl-CPP, DIDS</b>	<b>phloretin</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.5)	<b>Zn<sup>2+</sup></b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.3) [806], <b>Cd<sup>2+</sup></b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.2) [806]
Functional Characteristics	$\gamma = 26$ pS; linear current-voltage relationship except at very negative potentials; no time dependence; inhibited by extracellular protons (pK = 7.1); potentiated by extracellular Ca <sup>2+</sup>	Bidirectional rectification; no time dependence; inhibited by extracellular protons; potentiated by extracellular Ca <sup>2+</sup>	Cl <sup>-</sup> /H <sup>+</sup> antiporter [691]; pronounced outward rectification; slow activation, fast deactivation; activity enhanced by CaM kinase II; inhibited by intracellular Ins(3,4,5,6)P4 and extracellular acidosis	Cl <sup>-</sup> /H <sup>+</sup> antiporter (2Cl <sup>-</sup> :1H <sup>+</sup> ) [19, 851, 937]; extreme outward rectification; voltage-dependent gating with midpoint of activation at +73 mV [801]; rapid activation and deactivation; inhibited by extracellular acidosis; non-hydrolytic nucleotide binding required for full activity
Comments	CIC-Ka is constitutively active (when co-expressed with barttin), and can be blocked by benzofuran derivatives	CIC-Kb is constitutively active (when co-expressed with barttin), and can be blocked by benzofuran derivatives	insensitive to the channel blockers <b>DIDS</b> , <b>NPPB</b> and <b>tamoxifen</b> (10 $\mu$ M)	–
Nomenclature	<b>CIC-5</b>		<b>CIC-6</b>	<b>CIC-7</b>
HGNC, UniProt	<b>CLCN5, P51795</b>		<b>CLCN6, P51797</b>	<b>CLCN7, P51798</b>
Channel blockers	–		<b>DIDS</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3)	<b>DIDS</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.4) [948], <b>NS5818</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.3) [948], <b>NPPB</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.8) [948]
Functional Characteristics	Cl <sup>-</sup> /H <sup>+</sup> antiporter (2Cl <sup>-</sup> :1H <sup>+</sup> ) [851, 937, 978, 1236]; extreme outward rectification; voltage-dependent gating with midpoint of activation of 116.0 mV; rapid activation and deactivation; potentiated and inhibited by intracellular and extracellular acidosis, respectively; ATP binding to cytoplasmic cystathionine $\beta$ -synthase related (CBS) domains activates CIC-5		Cl <sup>-</sup> /H <sup>+</sup> antiporter (2Cl <sup>-</sup> :1H <sup>+</sup> ) [757]; outward rectification, rapid activation and deactivation	Cl <sup>-</sup> /H <sup>+</sup> antiporter (2Cl <sup>-</sup> :1H <sup>+</sup> ) [352, 593, 948]; strong outward rectification; voltage-dependent gating with a threshold more positive than +20 mV; very slow activation and deactivation
Comments	Insensitive to the channel blockers <b>DIDS</b> (1 mM), <b>diphenylamine-2-carboxylic acid</b> (1 mM), <b>9-anthroic acid</b> (2 mM), <b>NPPB</b> (0.5 mM) and <b>niflumic acid</b> (1 mM)		–	active when co-expressed with Ostm1

**Comments:** CIC channels display the permeability sequence Cl<sup>-</sup> > Br<sup>-</sup> > I<sup>-</sup> (at physiological pH). CIC-1 has significant opening probability at resting membrane potential, accounting for 75% of the membrane conductance at rest in skeletal muscle, and is important for stabilization of the membrane potential. **S-(-)CPP**, **9-anthroic acid** and **niflumic acid** act intracellularly and exhibit a strongly voltage-dependent block with strong inhibition at negative voltages and relief of block at depolarized potentials ([609] and reviewed in [872]). Inhibition of CIC-2 by the peptide **GaTx2**, from *Leiurus quinquestriatus herbareus* venom, is likely to occur through inhibition of channel gating, rather than direct open channel blockade [1051]. Although CIC-2 can be activated by cell swelling, it does not correspond to the VRAC channel (see below). Alternative potential physiological functions for CIC-2 are reviewed in [859]. Functional expression of human CIC-Ka

and CIC-Kb requires the presence of barttin [295, 942] reviewed in [299]. The properties of CIC-Ka/barttin and CIC-Kb/barttin tabulated are those observed in mammalian expression systems: in oocytes the channels display time- and voltage-dependent gating. The rodent homologue (CIC-K1) of CIC-Ka demonstrates limited expression as a homomer, but its function is enhanced by barttin which increases both channel opening probability in the physiological range of potentials [295, 313, 942] reviewed in [299]. CIC-Ka is approximately 5 to 6-fold more sensitive to block by **3-phenyl-CPP** and **DIDS** than CIC-Kb, while newly synthesized benzofuran derivatives showed the same blocking affinity (<10  $\mu$ M) on both CLC-K isoforms [610]. The biophysical and pharmacological properties of CIC-3, and the relationship of the protein to the endogenous volume-regulated anion channel(s) VRAC [20, 364] are controversial and further

complicated by the possibility that CIC-3 may function as both a Cl<sup>-</sup>/H<sup>+</sup> exchanger and an ion channel [20, 851, 1130]. The functional properties tabulated are those most consistent with the close structural relationship between CIC-3, CIC-4 and CIC-5. Activation of heterologously expressed CIC-3 by cell swelling in response to hypotonic solutions is disputed, as are many other aspects of its regulation. Dependent upon the predominant extracellular anion (e.g. SCN<sup>-</sup> versus Cl<sup>-</sup>), CIC-4 can operate in two transport modes: a slippage mode in which behaves as an ion channel and an exchanger mode in which unitary transport rate is 10-fold lower [19]. Similar findings have been made for CIC-5 [1210]. CIC-7 associates with a  $\beta$  subunit, Ostm1, which increases the stability of the former [576] and is essential for its function [593].

# CFTR

[Ion channels](#) → [Other ion channels](#) → [Chloride channels](#) → [CFTR](#)

**Overview:** CFTR, a 12TM, ABC transporter-type protein, is a cAMP-regulated epithelial cell membrane Cl<sup>-</sup> channel involved in normal fluid transport across various epithelia. Of the 1700 mutations identified in CFTR, the most common is the deletion mutant ΔF508 (a class 2 mutation) which results in impaired trafficking of CFTR and reduces its incorporation into the plasma membrane causing cystic fibrosis (reviewed in [199]). Channels carrying the ΔF508 mutation that do traffic to the plasma membrane demonstrate gating defects. Thus, pharmacological restoration of the function of the ΔF508 mutant would require a

compound that embodies 'corrector' (*i.e.* facilitates folding and trafficking to the cell surface) and 'potentiator' (*i.e.* promotes opening of channels at the cell surface) activities [199]. In addition to acting as an anion channel *per se*, CFTR may act as a regulator of several other conductances including inhibition of the epithelial Na channel (ENaC), calcium activated chloride channels (CaCC) and volume regulated anion channel (VRAC), activation of the outwardly rectifying chloride channel (ORCC), and enhancement of the sulphonylurea sensitivity of the renal outer medullary potassium channel (ROMK2), (reviewed in

[769]). CFTR also regulates TRPV4, which provides the Ca<sup>2+</sup> signal for regulatory volume decrease in airway epithelia [35]. The activities of CFTR and the chloride-bicarbonate exchangers SLC26A3 (DRA) and SLC26A6 (PAT1) are mutually enhanced by a physical association between the regulatory (R) domain of CFTR and the STAS domain of the SCL26 transporters, an effect facilitated by PKA-mediated phosphorylation of the R domain of CFTR [539].

Nomenclature	CFTR
HGNC, UniProt	CFTR, P13569
Activators	felodipine (Potentiation) (pK <sub>i</sub> 8.4) [832], CBIQ (Potentiation), NS004 (Potentiation), UCCF-029 (Potentiation), UCCF-339 (Potentiation), UCCF-853 (Potentiation), apigenin (Potentiation), capsaicin (Potentiation), genistein (Potentiation), ivacaftor (Potentiation), nimodipine (Potentiation), phenylglycine-01 (Potentiation), sulfonamide-01 (Potentiation)
Selective inhibitors	crofelemer (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.2) [1068]
Channel blockers	glibenclamide (pK <sub>i</sub> 4.7) [961], intracellular CFTR <sub>inh</sub> -172 (intracellular application prolongs mean closed time), GaTx1, extracellular GlyH-101
Functional Characteristics	γ = 6-10 pS; permeability sequence = Br <sup>-</sup> ≥ Cl <sup>-</sup> > I <sup>-</sup> > F <sup>-</sup> , (P <sub>i</sub> /P <sub>Cl</sub> = 0.1-0.85); slight outward rectification; phosphorylation necessary for activation by ATP binding at binding nucleotide binding domains (NBD)1 and 2; positively regulated by PKC and PKGII (tissue specific); regulated by several interacting proteins including syntaxin 1A, Munc18 and PDZ domain proteins such as NHERF (EBP50) and CAP70
Comments	UCCF-339, UCCF-029, apigenin and genistein are examples of flavones. UCCF-853 and NS004 are examples of benzimidazolones. CBIQ is an example of a benzoquinoline. Felodipine and nimodipine are examples of 1,4-dihydropyridines. Phenylglycine-01 is an example of a phenylglycine. Sulfonamide-01 is an example of a sulfonamide. Malonic acid hydrazide conjugates are also CFTR channel blockers (see Verkman and Galletta, 2009 [1088])

**Comments:** In addition to the agents listed in the table, the novel small molecule, ataluren, induces translational read through of nonsense mutations in CFTR (reviewed in [975]). Corrector compounds that aid the folding of ΔF508CFTR to increase the amount of protein expressed and potentially delivered to the cell surface include VX-532 (which is also a potentiator), VRT-325, KM11060, Corr-3a and Corr-4a see [1088] for details and structures of Corr-3a and Corr-4a). Inhibition of

CFTR by intracellular application of the peptide GaTx1, from *Leiurus quinquestriatus herbareus* venom, occurs preferentially for the closed state of the channel [326]. CFTR contains two cytoplasmic nucleotide binding domains (NBDs) that bind ATP. A single open-closing cycle is hypothesised to involve, in sequence: binding of ATP at the N-terminal NBD1, ATP binding to the C-terminal NBD2 leading to the formation of an intramolecular NBD1-NBD2 dimer associated with the open

state, and subsequent ATP hydrolysis at NBD2 facilitating dissociation of the dimer and channel closing, and the initiation of a new gating cycle [21, 737]. Phosphorylation by PKA at sites within a cytoplasmic regulatory (R) domain facilitates the interaction of the two NBD domains. PKC (and PKGII within intestinal epithelial cells via guanylinstimulated cyclic GMP formation) positively regulate CFTR activity.

# Calcium activated chloride channel

[Ion channels](#) → [Other ion channels](#) → [Chloride channels](#) → [Calcium activated chloride channel](#)

**Overview:** Chloride channels activated by intracellular calcium (CaCC) are widely expressed in excitable and non-excitabile cells where they perform diverse functions [385]. The molecular nature of CaCC has been uncertain with both *CLCA*, *TWEETY* and *BEST* genes having been considered as likely candidates [274, 386, 635]. It is now accepted that CLCA expression products are unlikely to form channels *per se* and probably function as cell adhesion proteins, or are secreted [822]. Similarly, *TWEETY* gene products do not recapitulate the properties of endogenous CaCC. The bestrophins encoded by genes *BEST1-4* have a topology more consistent with ion channels [386] and form chloride channels that are activated by physiological

concentrations of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , but whether such activation is direct is not known [386]. However, currents generated by bestrophin over-expression do not resemble native CaCC currents. The evidence for and against bestrophin proteins forming CaCC is critically reviewed by Duran *et al.* [274]. Recently, a new gene family, TMEM16 (anoctamin) consisting of 10 members (TMEM16A-K; anoctamin 1-10) has been identified and there is firm evidence that some of these members form chloride channels [273, 567]. TMEM16A (anoctamin 1; Ano 1) produces  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -activated  $\text{Cl}^-$  currents with kinetics similar to native CaCC currents recorded from different cell types [135, 902, 945, 1190]. Knockdown of TMEM16A greatly reduces currents mediated by

calcium-activated chloride channels in submandibular gland cells [1190] and smooth muscle cells from pulmonary artery [678]. In TMEM16A<sup>(-/-)</sup> mice secretion of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -dependent  $\text{Cl}^-$  secretion by several epithelia is reduced [807, 902]. Alternative splicing regulates the voltage- and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -dependence of TMEM16A and such processing may be tissue-specific manner and thus contribute to functional diversity [310]. There are also reports that TMEM16B (anoctamin 2; Ano 2) supports CaCC activity (*e.g.*[852]) and in TMEM16B<sup>(-/-)</sup> mice Ca-activated  $\text{Cl}^-$  currents in the main olfactory epithelium (MOE) and in the vomeronasal organ are virtually absent [89].

Nomenclature	CaCC
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">ANO1</a> , <a href="#">Q5XXA6</a>
Endogenous activators	intracellular $\text{Ca}^{2+}$
Selective inhibitors	<a href="#">Ani9</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7) [954], <a href="#">crofelemer</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.2) [1068]
Endogenous channel blockers	<a href="#">Ins(3,4,5,6)P<sub>4</sub></a>
Channel blockers	<a href="#">9-anthroic acid</a> , <a href="#">DCDPC</a> , <a href="#">DIDS</a> , <a href="#">NPPB</a> , <a href="#">SITS</a> , <a href="#">flufenamic acid</a> , <a href="#">fluoxetine</a> , <a href="#">mibefradil</a> , <a href="#">niflumic acid</a> , <a href="#">tannic acid</a>
Functional Characteristics	$\gamma = 0.5\text{-}5$ pS; permeability sequence, $\text{SCN}^- > \text{NO}_3^- > \text{I}^- > \text{Br}^- > \text{Cl}^- > \text{F}^-$ ; relative permeability of $\text{SCN}^-:\text{Cl}^-$ 8. I-:Cl <sup>-</sup> 3, aspartate:Cl <sup>-</sup> 0.15, outward rectification (decreased by increasing $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ ); sensitivity to activation by $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ decreased at hyperpolarized potentials; slow activation at positive potentials (accelerated by increasing $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ ); rapid deactivation at negative potentials, deactivation kinetics modulated by anions binding to an external site; modulated by redox status
Comments	A CaCC (TMEM16A) potentiator compound (ETD002, undisclosed structure; acquired by Roche from Enterprise Therapeutics) has entered Phase 1 clinical evaluation as a novel approach that has potential to provide benefit to all patients with cystic fibrosis. Up-regulating chloride transport <i>via</i> CaCC is proposed to mitigate the effect of loss of chloride transport <i>via</i> CFTR in CF. See Enterprise Therapeutics' reports of CaCC potentiator ETX001 for more detailed background information [203, 204].

**Comments:** Blockade of  $I_{\text{Cl}(\text{Ca})}$  by [niflumic acid](#), [DIDS](#) and [9-anthroic acid](#) is voltage-dependent whereas block by [NPPB](#) is voltage-independent [385]. Extracellular [niflumic acid](#); [DCDPC](#) and [9-anthroic acid](#) (but not [DIDS](#)) exert a complex effect upon  $I_{\text{Cl}(\text{Ca})}$  in vascular smooth muscle, enhancing and inhibiting inwardly and outwardly directed currents in a manner dependent upon  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$  (see [580] for summary). Considerable crossover in pharmacology with large conductance  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -activated  $\text{K}^+$  channels also exists (see [353] for overview).

Two novel compounds, CaCC<sub>inh</sub>-A01 and CaCC<sub>inh</sub>-B01 have recently been identified as blockers of calcium-activated chloride channels in T84 human intestinal epithelial cells [212] for structures). Significantly, other novel compounds totally block currents mediated by TMEM16A, but have only a modest effect upon total current mediated by CaCC native to T84 cells or human bronchial epithelial cells, suggesting that TMEM16A is not the predominant CaCC in such cells [752]. CaMKII modulates CaCC in a tissue dependent manner (reviewed by

[385, 580]). CaMKII inhibitors block activation of  $I_{\text{Cl}(\text{Ca})}$  in T84 cells but have no effect in parotid acinar cells. In tracheal and arterial smooth muscle cells, but not portal vein myocytes, inhibition of CaMKII reduces inactivation of  $I_{\text{Cl}(\text{Ca})}$ . Intracellular [Ins\(3,4,5,6\)P<sub>4</sub>](#) may act as an endogenous negative regulator of CaCC channels activated by  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , or CaMKII. Smooth muscle CaCC are also regulated positively by  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -dependent phosphatase, calcineurin (see [580] for summary).

## Maxi chloride channel

[Ion channels](#) → [Other ion channels](#) → [Chloride channels](#) → [Maxi chloride channel](#)

**Overview:** Maxi Cl<sup>-</sup> channels are high conductance, anion selective, channels initially characterised in skeletal muscle and subsequently found in many cell types including neurones, glia, cardiac muscle, lymphocytes, secreting and absorbing epithelia, macula densa cells of the kidney and human placenta syncytiotrophoblasts [918]. The physiological significance of the maxi Cl<sup>-</sup> channel is uncertain, but roles in cell volume regulation

and apoptosis have been claimed. Evidence suggests a role for maxi Cl<sup>-</sup> channels as a conductive pathway in the swelling-induced release of ATP from mouse mammary C127i cells that may be important for autocrine and paracrine signalling by purines [275, 917]. A similar channel mediates ATP release from macula densa cells within the thick ascending of the loop of Henle in response to changes in luminal NaCl

concentration [79]. A family of human high conductance Cl<sup>-</sup> channels (TTYH1-3) that resemble Maxi Cl<sup>-</sup> channels has been cloned [1021], but alternatively, Maxi Cl<sup>-</sup> channels have also been suggested to correspond to the voltage-dependent anion channel, VDAC, expressed at the plasma membrane [47, 792].

Nomenclature	Maxi Cl <sup>-</sup>
Activators	cytosolic GTPγS, extracellular chlorpromazine, extracellular tamoxifen, extracellular toremifene, extracellular triflupromazine
Endogenous channel blockers	intracellular arachidonic acid
Channel blockers	DIDS (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.4) [948], extracellular Zn <sup>2+</sup> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 4.3) [806], NPPB (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.8) [948], extracellular Gd <sup>3+</sup> , SITS, diphenylamine-2-carboxylic acid
Functional Characteristics	γ = 280-430 pS (main state); permeability sequence, I > Br > Cl > F > gluconate (P <sub>Cl</sub> /P <sub>Cl</sub> = 1.5); ATP is a voltage dependent permeant blocker of single channel activity (P <sub>ATP</sub> /P <sub>Cl</sub> = 0.08-0.1); channel activity increased by patch-excision; channel opening probability (at steady-state) maximal within approximately ± 20 mV of 0 mV, opening probability decreased at more negative and (commonly) positive potentials yielding a bell-shaped curve; channel conductance and opening probability regulated by annexin 6
Comments	Maxi Cl <sup>-</sup> is also activated by G protein-coupled receptors and cell swelling. Tamoxifen and toremifene are examples of triphenylethylene anti-oestrogens

**Comments:** Differing ionic conditions may contribute to variable estimates of γ reported in the literature. Inhibition by arachidonic acid (and cis-unsaturated fatty acids) is voltage-independent, occurs at an intracellular site, and involves both channel shut down (K<sub>d</sub> = 4-5 μM) and a reduction of γ (K<sub>d</sub> = 13-14 μM). Blockade of channel activity by SITS, DIDS, Gd<sup>3+</sup>

and arachidonic acid is paralleled by decreased swelling-induced release of ATP [275, 917]. Channel activation by anti-oestrogens in whole cell recordings requires the presence of intracellular nucleotides and is prevented by pre-treatment with 17β-estradiol, bucladesine, or intracellular dialysis with GDPβS [241]. Activation by tamoxifen is suppressed by low concentrations of

okadaic acid, suggesting that a dephosphorylation event by protein phosphatase PP2A occurs in the activation pathway [241]. In contrast, 17β-estradiol and tamoxifen appear to directly inhibit the maxi Cl<sup>-</sup> channel of human placenta reconstituted into giant liposomes and recorded in excised patches [898].

# Volume regulated chloride channels

[Ion channels](#) → [Other ion channels](#) → [Chloride channels](#) → [Volume regulated chloride channels](#)

**Overview:** Volume activated chloride channels (also termed VSOAC, volume-sensitive organic osmolyte/anion channel; VRC, volume regulated channel and VSOR, volume expansion-sensing outwardly rectifying anion channel) participate in regulatory volume decrease (RVD) in response to cell swelling. VRAC may also be important for several other processes including the

regulation of membrane excitability, transcellular Cl<sup>-</sup> transport, angiogenesis, cell proliferation, necrosis, apoptosis, glutamate release from astrocytes, [insulin \(INS, P01308\)](#) release from pancreatic β cells and resistance to the anti-cancer drug, [cisplatin](#) (reviewed by [81, 738, 769, 794]). VRAC may not be a single entity, but may instead represent a number of different channels

that are expressed to a variable extent in different tissues and are differentially activated by cell swelling. In addition to CIC-3 expression products (see above) several former VRAC candidates including *MDR1* (ABCB1 P-glycoprotein), Icln, Band 3 anion exchanger and phospholemman are also no longer considered likely to fulfil this function (see reviews [769, 931]).

Nomenclature	VRAC
Activators	GTPγS
Endogenous channel blockers	intracellular Mg <sup>2+</sup> , arachidonic acid
Channel blockers	1,9-dideoxyforskolin, 9-anthroic acid, DCPIB, DIDS, IAA-94, NPPB, NS3728, carbenoxolone, clomiphene, diBA-(5)-C4, gossypol, mefloquine, mibefradil, nafoxidine, nordihydroguaiaretic acid, quinidine, quinine, tamoxifen
Functional Characteristics	γ = 10-20 pS (negative potentials), 50-90 pS (positive potentials); permeability sequence SCN <sup>-</sup> > I <sup>-</sup> > NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> > Br <sup>-</sup> > Cl <sup>-</sup> > F <sup>-</sup> > gluconate; outward rectification due to voltage dependence of γ; inactivates at positive potentials in many, but not all, cell types; time dependent inactivation at positive potentials; intracellular ionic strength modulates sensitivity to cell swelling and rate of channel activation; rate of swelling-induced activation is modulated by intracellular ATP concentration; ATP dependence is independent of hydrolysis and modulated by rate of cell swelling; inhibited by increased intracellular free Mg <sup>2+</sup> concentration; swelling induced activation of several intracellular signalling cascades may be permissive of, but not essential to, the activation of VRAC including: the Rho-Rho kinase-MLCK; Ras-Raf-MEK-ERK; PIK3-NOX-H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> and Src-PLCγ-Ca <sup>2+</sup> pathways; regulation by PKCα required for optimal activity; cholesterol depletion enhances activity; activated by direct stretch of β1-integrin
Comments	VRAC is also activated by cell swelling and low intracellular ionic strength. VRAC is also blocked by chromones, extracellular nucleotides and nucleoside analogues

**Comments:** In addition to conducting monovalent anions, in many cell types the activation of VRAC by a hypotonic stimulus can allow the efflux of organic osmolytes such as amino acids and polyols that may contribute to RVD.

## Comments on Chloride channels: Other chloride channels

In addition to some intracellular chloride channels that are not considered here, plasma membrane channels other than those listed have been functionally described. Many cells and tissues contain outwardly rectifying chloride channels (ORCC) that may correspond to VRAC active under isotonic conditions. A [cyclic AMP-activated Cl<sup>-</sup> channel](#) that does not correspond to CFTR has

been described in intestinal Paneth cells [1074]. A Cl channel activated by [cyclic GMP](#) with a dependence on raised intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> has been recorded in various vascular smooth muscle cells types, which has a pharmacology and biophysical characteristics very different from the 'conventional' CaCC [688, 856]. It has been proposed that [bestrophin-3 \(BEST3, Q8N1M1\)](#) is an essential component of the [cyclic GMP-activated channel](#)

[689]. A proton-activated, outwardly rectifying anion channel has also been described [573]. The chloride intracellular channel proteins (CLICs) are non-canonical ion channels with six homologs, distinct from most ion channels in that they have both soluble and integral membrane forms. The physiological role of CLICs appears to be maintenance of intracellular membranes, which is associated with tubulogenesis but may involve other substructures [370].

# Connexins and Pannexins

[Ion channels](#) → [Other ion channels](#) → [Connexins and Pannexins](#)

**Overview:** Gap junctions are essential for many physiological processes including cardiac and smooth muscle contraction, regulation of neuronal excitability and epithelial electrolyte transport [117, 192, 297]. Gap junction channels allow the passive diffusion of molecules of up to 1,000 Daltons which can include nutrients, metabolites and second messengers (such as IP<sub>3</sub>) as well as cations and anions. 21 connexin genes and 3 pannexin genes which are structurally related to the invertebrate innexin genes) code for gap junction proteins in humans. Each

connexin gap junction comprises 2 hemichannels or 'connexons' which are themselves formed from 6 connexin molecules. The various connexins have been observed to combine into both homomeric and heteromeric combinations, each of which may exhibit different functional properties. It is also suggested that individual hemichannels formed by a number of different connexins might be functional in at least some cells [400]. Connexins have a common topology, with four  $\alpha$ -helical transmembrane domains, two extracellular loops, a

cytoplasmic loop, and N- and C-termini located on the cytoplasmic membrane face. In mice, the most abundant connexins in electrical synapses in the brain seem to be Cx36, Cx45 and Cx57 [989]. Mutations in connexin genes are associated with the occurrence of a number of pathologies, such as peripheral neuropathies, cardiovascular diseases and hereditary deafness. The pannexin genes Px1 and Px2 are widely expressed in the mammalian brain [1096]. Like the connexins, at least some of the pannexins can form hemichannels [117, 838].

## Further reading on Connexins and Pannexins

Decrock E *et al.* (2015) Connexin and pannexin signaling pathways, an architectural blueprint for CNS physiology and pathology? *Cell Mol Life Sci* **72**: 2823-51 [PMID:26118660]  
 Esseltine JL *et al.* (2016) Next-Generation Connexin and Pannexin Cell Biology. *Trends Cell Biol* **26**: 944-955 [PMID:27339936]  
 Freund-Michel V *et al.* (2016) Expression and role of connexin-based gap junctions in pulmonary inflammatory diseases. *Pharmacol Ther* **164**: 105-19 [PMID:27126473]  
 Harris AL. (2018) Electrical coupling and its channels. *J Gen Physiol* **150**: 1606-1639 [PMID:30389716]

Navis KE *et al.* (2020) Pannexin 1 Channels as a Therapeutic Target: Structure, Inhibition, and Outlook. *ACS Chem Neurosci* **11**: 2163-2172 [PMID:32639715]  
 Sáez JC *et al.* (2015) Regulation of pannexin and connexin channels and their functional role in skeletal muscles. *Cell Mol Life Sci* **72**: 2929-35 [PMID:26084874]  
 Willebrords J *et al.* (2017) Inhibitors of connexin and pannexin channels as potential therapeutics. *Pharmacol Ther* **180**: 144-160 [PMID:28720428]

Nomenclature	Cx23	Cx25	Cx26	Cx30	Cx30.2	Cx30.3	Cx31
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">GJE1</a> , <a href="#">A6NN92</a>	<a href="#">GJB7</a> , <a href="#">Q6PEY0</a>	<a href="#">GJB2</a> , <a href="#">P29033</a>	<a href="#">GJB6</a> , <a href="#">O95452</a>	<a href="#">GJC3</a> , <a href="#">Q8NFK1</a>	<a href="#">GJB4</a> , <a href="#">Q9NTQ9</a>	<a href="#">GJB3</a> , <a href="#">O75712</a>
Endogenous inhibitors	extracellular Ca <sup>2+</sup> (blocked by raising external Ca <sup>2+</sup> )						
Inhibitors	carbenoxolone, flufenamic acid, octanol						

Nomenclature	Cx31.1	Cx31.9	Cx32	Cx36	Cx37	Cx40	Cx40.1
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">GJB5, O95377</a>	<a href="#">GJD3, Q8N144</a>	<a href="#">GJB1, P08034</a>	<a href="#">GJD2, Q9UKL4</a>	<a href="#">GJA4, P35212</a>	<a href="#">GJA5, P36382</a>	<a href="#">GJD4, Q96KN9</a>
Endogenous inhibitors	extracellular Ca <sup>2+</sup> (blocked by raising external Ca <sup>2+</sup> )						
Inhibitors	<a href="#">carbenoxolone</a> , <a href="#">flufenamic acid</a> , <a href="#">octanol</a>						

Nomenclature	Cx43	Cx45	Cx46	Cx47	Cx50	Cx59	Cx62
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">GJA1, P17302</a>	<a href="#">GJC1, P36383</a>	<a href="#">GJA3, Q9Y6H8</a>	<a href="#">GJC2, Q5T442</a>	<a href="#">GJA8, P48165</a>	<a href="#">GJA9, P57773</a>	<a href="#">GJA10, Q969M2</a>
Endogenous inhibitors	extracellular Ca <sup>2+</sup> (blocked by raising external Ca <sup>2+</sup> )						
Inhibitors	<a href="#">carbenoxolone</a> , <a href="#">flufenamic acid</a> , <a href="#">octanol</a>						

Nomenclature	Px1	Px2	Px3
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">PANX1, Q96RD7</a>	<a href="#">PANX2, Q96RD6</a>	<a href="#">PANX3, Q96QZ0</a>
Inhibitors	<a href="#">carbenoxolone</a> , <a href="#">flufenamic acid</a> (little block by flufenamic acid)		
Comments	Unaffected by raising external Ca <sup>2+</sup>		

**Comments:** Connexins are most commonly named according to their molecular weights, so, for example, Cx23 is the connexin protein of 23 kDa. This can cause confusion when comparing between species - for example, the mouse connexin Cx57 is orthologous to the human connexin Cx62. No natural

toxin or specific inhibitor of junctional channels has been identified yet however two compounds often used experimentally to block connexins are [carbenoxolone](#) and [flufenamic acid](#) [924]. At least some pannexin hemichannels are more sensitive to [carbenoxolone](#) than connexins but much less

sensitive to [flufenamic acid](#) [116]. It has been suggested that 2-aminoethoxydiphenyl borate (2-APB) may be a more effective blocker of some connexin channel subtypes (Cx26, Cx30, Cx36, Cx40, Cx45, Cx50) compared to others (Cx32, Cx43, Cx46, [48]).

## Piezo channels

[Ion channels](#) → [Other ion channels](#) → [Piezo channels](#)

**Overview:** Piezo proteins are the pore-forming subunits of trimeric mechanosensitive ion channels that open in response to mechanical stimuli such as shear stress and membrane stretch, allowing positively charged ions, including calcium, to flow into

the cell. Piezo orthologs have thus far been identified in numerous eukaryotes. Most vertebrates have two channel isoforms, Piezo1 and Piezo2. Across species, Piezos are very large proteins (2521 and 2752 amino acids for human Piezo1 and

human Piezo2, respectively) with numerous (>14) predicted TM domains per subunit and, strikingly, no homology to other known proteins [1161]. Piezo channels play a critical role in sensory neuron transduction [740, 1213]

### Further reading on Piezo channels

Chesler AT *et al.* (2018) Portraits of a pressure sensor. *Elife* **7**: [PMID:29376828]

Douquet D *et al.* (2019) Piezo Ion Channels in Cardiovascular Mechanobiology. *Trends Pharmacol Sci* **40**: 956-970 [PMID:31704174]

Ehmke H. (2018) The mechanotransduction of blood pressure. *Science* **362**: 398-399 [PMID:30361358]

Gottlieb PA *et al.* (2012) Piezo1: properties of a cation selective mechanical channel. *Channels (Austin)* **6**: 214-9 [PMID:22790400]

Kefauver JM *et al.* (2020) Discoveries in structure and physiology of mechanically activated ion channels. *Nature* **587**: 567-576 [PMID:33239794]

Murthy SE *et al.* (2017) Piezos thrive under pressure: mechanically activated ion channels in health and disease. *Nat Rev Mol Cell Biol* **18**: 771-783 [PMID:28974772]

Parpaite T *et al.* (2017) Piezo channels. *Curr Biol* **27**: R250-R252 [PMID:28376327]

Volkers L *et al.* (2015) Piezo channels: from structure to function. *Pflugers Arch* **467**: 95-9 [PMID:25037583]

Wu J *et al.* (2017) Touch, Tension, and Transduction - The Function and Regulation of Piezo Ion Channels. *Trends Biochem Sci* **42**: 57-71 [PMID:27743844]

Xiao B. (2020) Levering Mechanically Activated Piezo Channels for Potential Pharmacological Intervention. *Annu Rev Pharmacol Toxicol* **60**: 195-218 [PMID:31454291]

Zeng WZ *et al.* (2018) PIEZOs mediate neuronal sensing of blood pressure and the baroreceptor reflex. *Science* **362**: 464-467 [PMID:30361375]

Nomenclature	<a href="#">Piezo1</a>	<a href="#">Piezo2</a>
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">PIEZO1</a> , <a href="#">Q92508</a>	<a href="#">PIEZO2</a> , <a href="#">Q9H5I5</a>
Selective activators	<a href="#">Yoda1</a> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 4.6) [1024], <a href="#">Jedi2</a> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 3.8) [1132] – Mouse, <a href="#">Jedi1</a> [1132] – Mouse	–
Inhibitors	<a href="#">Dooku1</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.8) [296]	–
Functional Characteristics	Mechano-activated	Mechano-activated

**Comments:** [Yoda1](#) is a Piezo1 channel activator [296, 1125].

## Sodium leak channel, non-selective

[Ion channels](#) → [Other ion channels](#) → [Sodium leak channel, non-selective](#)

**Overview:** The sodium leak channel, non selective (**NC-IUPHAR tentatively recommends the nomenclature  $Na_{vi}2.1$ , W.A. Catterall, personal communication**) is structurally a member of the family of voltage-gated sodium channel family ( $Na_v1.1$ - $Na_v1.9$ ) [584, 1203]. In contrast to the latter,  $Na_{vi}2.1$ , is voltage-insensitive (denoted in the subscript

'vi' in the tentative nomenclature) and possesses distinctive ion selectivity and pharmacological properties.  $Na_{vi}2.1$ , which is insensitive to tetrodotoxin (10  $\mu$ M), has been proposed to mediate the tetrodotoxin-resistant and voltage-insensitive  $Na^+$  leak current ( $I_L$ -Na) observed in many types of neurone [642]. However, whether  $Na_{vi}2.1$  is constitutively active has been

challenged [1023].  $Na_{vi}2.1$  is widely distributed within the central nervous system and is also expressed in the heart and pancreas specifically, in rodents, within the islets of Langerhans [584, 642]. Recently,  $Na_{vi}2.1$  has been proposed to be a core effector for the action of inhibitory G proteins [850].

### Further reading on Sodium leak channel, non-selective

Cochet-Bissuel M *et al.* (2014) The sodium leak channel, NALCN, in health and disease. *Front Cell Neurosci* **8**: 132 [PMID:24904279]

Lu TZ *et al.* (2012) NALCN: a regulator of pacemaker activity. *Mol Neurobiol* **45**: 415-23 [PMID:22476981]

Philippart F *et al.* (2018) G<sub>i/o</sub> protein-coupled receptors in dopamine neurons inhibit the sodium leak channel NALCN. *Elife* **7**: [PMID:30556810]

Waxman SG *et al.* (2014) Regulating excitability of peripheral afferents: emerging ion channel targets. *Nat Neurosci* **17**: 153-63 [PMID:24473263]

Nomenclature	$Na_{vi}2.1$
HGNC, UniProt	NALCN, Q8IZF0
Activators	Constitutively active (Lu <i>et al.</i> , 2007), or activated downstream of Src family tyrosine kinases (SFKs) (Lu <i>et al.</i> , 2009; Swayne <i>et al.</i> , 2009); positively modulated by decreased extracellular $Ca^{2+}$ concentration (Lu <i>et al.</i> , 2010) [642, 643, 644, 1023]
Channel blockers	$Gd^{3+}$ (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.6), $Cd^{2+}$ (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.8), $Co^{2+}$ (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.6), verapamil (pIC <sub>50</sub> 3.4)
Functional Characteristics	$\gamma = 27$ pS (by fluctuation analysis), $P_{Na}/P_{Cs} = 1.3$ , $P_K/P_{Cs} = 1.2$ , $P_{Ca}/P_{Cs} = 0.5$ , linear current voltage-relationship, voltage-independent and non-inactivating

**Comments:** In native and recombinant expression systems  $Na_{vi}2.1$  can be activated by stimulation of NK<sub>1</sub> (in hippocampal neurones), neurotensin (in ventral tegmental area neurones) and M3 muscarinic acetylcholine receptors (in MIN6 pancreatic  $\beta$ -cells) and in a manner that is independent of signalling through G proteins [643, 1023]. Pharmacological and molecular biological evidence indicates such modulation to occur through a

pathway that involves the activation of Src family tyrosine kinases. It is suggested that  $Na_{vi}2.1$  exists as a macromolecular complex with M3 receptors [1023] and peptide receptors [643], in the latter instance in association with the protein UNC-80, which recruits Src to the channel complex [643, 1119]. By contrast, stimulation of  $Na_{vi}2.1$  by decreased extracellular  $Ca^{2+}$  concentration is G protein dependent and involves a

$Ca^{2+}$ -sensing G protein-coupled receptor and UNC80 which links  $Na_{vi}2.1$  to the protein UNC79 in the same complex [644].  $Na_{vi}2.1$  null mutant mice have severe disturbances in respiratory rhythm and die within 24 hours of birth [642].  $Na_{vi}2.1$  heterozygous knockout mice display increased serum sodium concentrations in comparison to wildtype littermates and a role for the channel in osmoregulation has been postulated [972].

## Orai channels

[Ion channels](#) → [Other ion channels](#) → [Store-operated ion channels](#) → [Orai channels](#)

**Overview:** Orai channels are pore forming proteins which underlie calcium release-activated calcium (CRAC) channels. When calcium is lost from the endoplasmic reticulum, they form complexes with STIM (stromal interaction molecule) proteins to trigger calcium entry following store depletion [602].

### Further reading on Orai channels

Lewis RS. (2020) Store-Operated Calcium Channels: From Function to Structure and Back Again. *Cold Spring Harb Perspect Biol* **12**: [PMID:31570335]

Nomenclature	<a href="#">Orai1</a>	<a href="#">Orai2</a>	<a href="#">Orai3</a>
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">ORAI1, Q96D31</a>	<a href="#">ORAI2, Q96SN7</a>	<a href="#">ORAI3, Q9BRQ5</a>
Comments	<i>ORAI1</i> is the gene that encodes the prototypical CRAC store-operated Ca <sup>2+</sup> entry (SOCE) channel. CRAC channels are activated by depletion of Ca <sup>2+</sup> in the endoplasmic reticulum that results from antigen-induced activation of a range of immunoreceptors/ (including TCRs, BCRs, Fc $\gamma$ and Fc $\epsilon$ receptors, chemokine GPCRs and some innate pattern-recognition receptors).	–	–

**Comments:** The pathophysiological effect of functional CRAC channel deficiency can be caused by loss-of-function mutations in *ORAI1* or STIM molecules. Such CRAC channelopathies are characterised by impaired immune cell function and have been identified as an underlying cause of primary immunodeficiency with predominant features that resemble severe combined immunodeficiency disease.

ORAI1 and ORAI2 proteins form heteromeric complexes that constitute the pore of Ca<sup>2+</sup> release-activated Ca<sup>2+</sup> (CRAC) channels. Mice with double *Orai1/Orai2* knockout have severely impaired T cell function.

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