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## The open-gate of the AMPA receptor forms a Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding site critical in regulating ion transport

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### Abstract

$\alpha$ -amino-3-hydroxyl-5-methyl-4-isoxazole-propionic acid receptors (AMPA) are cation-selective ion channels that mediate most fast excitatory neurotransmission in the brain. Although their gating mechanism has been studied extensively, understanding how cations traverse the pore has remained elusive. Here, we investigated putative ion and water densities in the open pore of Ca<sup>2+</sup>-permeable AMPARs (rat GRIA2 *flip-Q* isoform) at 2.3-2.6Å resolution. We show that the ion-permeation pathway attains an extracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding site (Site-G) when the channel gate moves into the open configuration. Site-G is highly selective for Ca<sup>2+</sup> over Na<sup>+</sup> favoring the movement of Ca<sup>2+</sup> into the selectivity filter of the pore. Seizure related N619K mutation, adjacent to site-G, promotes channel opening, but attenuates Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding and thus diminishes Ca<sup>2+</sup> permeability. Our work identifies the importance of site-G which coordinates with the Q/R-site of the selectivity filter to ensure the preferential transport of Ca<sup>2+</sup> through the channel pore.

### Introduction

AMPA receptors mediate most of the fast excitatory synaptic transmission in the central nervous system<sup>1</sup>. The neurotransmitter, L-glutamate, activates postsynaptic AMPARs, which triggers channel gating and ion permeation, causing dendritic membrane depolarization. AMPARs are non-selective cation channels that are able to permeate various cations, however, Na<sup>+</sup> and Ca<sup>2+</sup> are the main permeating ions in the context of synaptic transmission. Ca<sup>2+</sup>-permeable

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and - impermeable AMPARs (CP- and CI-AMPARs) are present in the brain, typically associated with auxiliary subunits that modulate their function<sup>2</sup>. CP-AMPARs regulate neuronal excitability but also transport the second messenger  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  to augment signal transduction<sup>3</sup>. Although they are less abundant than CI-AMPARs, CP-AMPARs are critical for synaptic plasticity underlying learning and addiction, excitatory synaptic transmission at the afferent synapses of inhibitory neurons, and synaptic maintenance mediated by glial cells, while their dysfunctions are related to developmental epilepsy, glioma, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and excitotoxicity<sup>3</sup>. Despite the importance in elucidating brain physiology and designing therapeutics that could control synaptic activity, the structural basis for ion permeation in AMPARs remains elusive.

The AMPAR ion channel assembles as homo- or hetero-tetramers of homologous subunits GluA1-4<sup>2</sup>; each subunit consists of an amino terminal domain (NTD), a ligand-binding domain (LBD), a transmembrane domain (TMD), and a cytoplasmic domain (CTD) (Fig. 1A). The NTD and LBD build the pseudo-2-fold symmetric extracellular architecture, while the TMDs form a pseudo-4-fold symmetric ion channel<sup>4-6</sup>. The TMD contains three membrane spanning helices (M1, M3, and M4), a re-entrant helix (M2), and a selectivity filter (SF). The pore is made exclusively by the M2, M3, and the SF (Fig. 1B–D). At the extracellular entrance of the pore, the M3 helices converge and form the channel gate. Binding of L-glutamate to the LBD induces a domain closure that transduces to the TMD<sup>7-11</sup>, which dilates the gate into a 2-fold symmetric architecture<sup>9-11</sup> (Fig. 1C and D). According to the symmetry, the B/D (or A/C) subunits are geometrically equivalent<sup>4</sup> (Fig. 1B). The LBDs in the B/D subunits are pivotal for dilation, as they pull and kink the M3, whereas the M3 remains straight in the A/C subunits (Fig. 1C and D)<sup>9-11</sup>. The ion permeation path below the gate is subdivided into the upper vestibule and the SF (Fig. 1C). The SF is surrounded by the lateral vestibule (Fig. 1C).

CI-AMPARs arise from RNA editing that converts the encoding of amino acid at the Q/R-site in the SF of GluA2 (residue 586 in rat) from neutral glutamine (Q) to a positively charged arginine (R)<sup>3,12</sup>. The unedited homotetrameric GluA2 *flip*(Q) isoform (A2iQ), a frequently used model for the CP-AMPAR, has a linear current-voltage relationship in the absence of polyamines<sup>13</sup>. When the permeating cations on both sides of the membrane are the same, the AMPAR conductance is near identical at a wide range of voltages with a reversal potential of 0mV. Therefore, in the absence of voltage, the distribution of permeating cations and water in the open pore is predicted to provide critical insights into the mechanism of conductance and ion permeation<sup>14,15</sup>.

### Cryo-EM structures of the open pore

To facilitate, and potentially stabilize, the energetically unstable open state, the wild type (WT) A2iQ was co-expressed with the K52E/K53E (KKEE) mutant of auxiliary subunit TARP $\gamma$ 2 ( $\gamma$ 2) which substantially slows the rate of AMPAR desensitization<sup>16</sup>. The KKEE mutations are in the flexible extracellular  $\beta$ 1- $\beta$ 2 loop, unresolved in all TARP structures, but predicted to make transient contacts with the LBD<sup>9,11,17,18</sup>. To capture the open pore conformation, the agonist (100mM L-glutamate) and an inhibitor of desensitization (330 $\mu$ M cyclothiazide (CTZ)) were co-applied to the purified receptor prior to vitrification. The

cryo-EM structures, at overall resolution in the range of 2.28-2.59Å, were obtained in various concentrations of Na<sup>+</sup> and Ca<sup>2+</sup> to identify ion specific features (Table 1, Extended Data Fig. 1–4, and Supplementary Table 1). It was critical to use large number of particles, approximately 600,000 to 1,000,000 particles, in the final refined map to reveal the signals of non-protein features in the open pore. When necessary, NMDG was supplemented to maintain ionic strength (Fig. 1E). Large cation NMDG<sup>+</sup> permeates AMPAR substantially less (~2%) compared to small cations<sup>19</sup>, and thus the probability of finding NMDG<sup>+</sup> in the pore is expected to drop accordingly and be negligible.

The specific cation conditions examined (followed by the name of obtained structure) are; 110mM Na<sup>+</sup>/140mM NMDG<sup>+</sup> (Open-Na110), 260mM Na<sup>+</sup> (Open-Na260), 610mM Na<sup>+</sup> (Open-Na610), 10mM Ca<sup>2+</sup>/110mM Na<sup>+</sup>/140mM NMDG<sup>+</sup> (Open-Ca10), 10mM Ca<sup>2+</sup>/260mM Na<sup>+</sup>/1mM Mg<sup>2+</sup> (Open-CaNaMg), and 150mM Ca<sup>2+</sup>/110mM Na<sup>+</sup> (Open-Ca150) (see Fig. 1E). The concentrations listed above include the extra 110mM Na<sup>+</sup> from the agonist solution, because the L-glutamate stock solution is titrated at pH7.4 using NaOH (see Methods). For example, the particles in Open-Na110 were purified in 140mM NMDG<sup>+</sup> and adding the L-glutamate stock solution that contains Na<sup>+</sup> made the final ionic condition of 110mM Na<sup>+</sup>/140mM NMDG<sup>+</sup> (see Methods for other conditions). Some conditions contain 1mM Mg<sup>2+</sup> but its effect was not systematically explored. Additionally, a reference structure of the closed state (Closed-CaNaMg) was obtained in the presence of antagonist (100µM CNQX) and 330µM CTZ in 10mM Ca<sup>2+</sup>/150mM Na<sup>+</sup>/1mM Mg<sup>2+</sup>.

The architectures of the complexes in both the open and closed states were at the stoichiometry of A2iQ:γ2(KKKEE)=4:4 and agree with the WT complex<sup>10</sup> (Fig. 1B and Extended Data Fig. 5F–H). The extracellular region spanning the KKKEE mutations is flexible and unresolved, like the WT (Extended Data Fig. 1G–H). Gating is accompanied with global motions of the γ2(KKKEE) equivalent to those observed in TARPγ8<sup>11</sup> (Extended Data Fig. 5I–N). The core gating machinery of the A2iQ/γ2(KKKEE) complex is virtually identical to the WT complexes<sup>9,10</sup>. In all open structures, the LBDs were closed, fully occupied with CTZ and L-glutamate. The dimer-of-dimers organization of the tetrameric LBD (LBD gating ring) adopts alternative architectures characterized by small displacements between the two LBD dimers (Extended Data Fig. 5A–E and Supplementary Table 1), consistent with the mobile nature of the LBDs. The cytoplasmic half of the SF, at residues G588 and C589, was more flexible than the surroundings based on the lower local resolution (Extended Data Fig. 3I–L). Consistently, alternative side chain orientation was observed at C589 under a subset of ion conditions.

### Identification of a novel Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding site

Numerous non-protein densities occupy the gate, vestibules, and SF (Fig. 1F–G and Extended Data Fig. 6–7), with the majority being interpreted as putative water molecules, although, we cannot fully exclude the possibility that some are ions or even noise. The large densities at site-G (i.e., at the gate residues T617/A618), as well as at site-Q586/7 and site-C590 within the SF (Fig. 1F–G), if present, were consistent in the half-maps and regardless of applying C2 symmetry (Extended Data Fig. 3–4). In fact, the density accumulation at the upper SF, around site-Q586/7, has been observed in previously reported open structures that

were resolved at around 3-3.5Å resolution<sup>10,20</sup>. With improved resolution, we extend the previous observations and find that the pore-occupying densities in the upper SF often form parallel vertical columns (Fig. 1F and Extended Data Fig. 6–7), indicative of energetically equivalent ion conduction pathways, contrasting with the single file configuration observed in potassium channels<sup>14</sup>. The distribution of putative ion and water density within the SF was variable between ion condition and morphologically complex (Fig. 1F–G and Extended Data Fig. 6–7), making it difficult to identify features that are specific to any cations. In contrast, the positions of many putative waters in the lateral vestibule match between structures, highlighting their common accumulation points (Extended Data Fig. 8). The distribution of the putative water in the lateral vestibule may suggest their role in providing structural flexibility to the SF.

While it was challenging to interpret the non-protein densities in the lower ion permeation path, robust cation specific features were identifiable at the upper element of the pore. The central pore axis density at site-G was present only in ionic conditions that included Ca<sup>2+</sup> (i.e., Open-Ca10, Open-CaNaMg, and Open-Ca150), regardless of imposing symmetry, while the surrounding polypeptides adopt virtually identical conformations, in all cases (Fig. 2A–F, H, and Extended Data Fig. 4C–E). Therefore, the correlation between the density and ion composition suggests that the central density contains Ca<sup>2+</sup>. The higher local resolution of the density in 150mM Ca<sup>2+</sup> (Open-Ca150) compared to 10mM Ca<sup>2+</sup> (Open-Ca10 and Open-CaNaMg) is consistent with more stable Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding at site-G at higher Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentrations (Extended Data Fig. 3I–K). Although the central density should be regarded as an ensemble of Ca<sup>2+</sup> and water due to their dynamic nature and the limited resolution, it is possible to place a Ca<sup>2+</sup> surrounded by four waters at 2.4Å spacing, partially fulfilling the requirements for the hydration shell<sup>21</sup> (Fig. 2H–I). Importantly, the central pore occupying density at site-G did not emerge even when the Na<sup>+</sup> concentration was raised from 110mM (in Open-Na110) to 610mM (in Open-Na610) (compare Fig. 2C and E), indicative of high selectivity of site-G for Ca<sup>2+</sup> over Na<sup>+</sup>. In the open-gate conformation, site-G is located immediately outside of the membrane, thus it may be viewed as an extracellular vestibule immediately outside of the membrane electric field. The vestibule is formed only in the open state and thus site-G is a transient state-dependent Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding site (Extended Data Fig. 6A–C, and H). Furthermore, site-G is in the C-terminal portion of the M3 helix encoded by the evolutionary-conserved amino acid sequence, SYTANLAAF, making it likely to be a common structural element in almost all ionotropic glutamate receptors (iGluRs) (Fig. 2G).

### External Ca<sup>2+</sup> block predicted from the open structures

Given that 10mM Ca<sup>2+</sup> can dominate the occupancy of site-G even in the presence of excess Na<sup>+</sup> (Fig. 2A and B), we postulated that Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding to site-G would cause block by excluding Na<sup>+</sup> from entering the pore. Since Site-G lies outside the membrane electric field, the mechanism of block would be expected to be voltage-independent. To test this, we recorded steady-state membrane currents evoked by 10 mM L-glutamate with 100 μM CTZ on outside-out patches expressing A2iQ/γ2 receptors using external solution of 150 mM NaCl with varying concentrations of added Ca<sup>2+</sup> (0.1-108mM). L-Glutamate was applied in the presence of cyclothiazide (100 μM), to attenuate AMPAR desensitization, and the steady-state response observed at each concentration of external Ca<sup>2+</sup> was ramped from

–100 mV to +100 mV. As anticipated, we observed block of AMPAR-mediated membrane currents by external  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  in a dose-dependent manner over a wide range of membrane potentials (Fig. 3A). At –100mV, the apparent affinity for inhibition ( $\text{IC}_{50}$ ) and steady-state response ( $G_{\text{min}}$ ) was estimated to be  $5.21 \pm 0.64$  mM and 19.67 % ( $n=8$ ), respectively (Fig. 3B and Supplementary Table 2). Interestingly, although site-G is in an extracellular location, external  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -block was voltage-dependent whose data points were well fit by a single permeant ion blocker model<sup>22</sup> with estimated  $Kd_{(0\text{mV})}$  of 3.2 mM at physiological  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  levels (Fig. 3C and Supplementary Table 3). This latter point suggests that external  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  not only impedes the flow of  $\text{Na}^+$  at site-G but also hinders  $\text{Na}^+$  permeation at another location within the membrane that is sensitive to voltage. In keeping with this there is a large density accumulation in the SF of Open-Ca150 (Extended Data Fig. 6C and 7C), implying that the SF also traps  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  that interferes with the passage of  $\text{Na}^+$ , accounting for the voltage-dependent component of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  block.

To explore this point further, we repeated experiments with  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -impermeable GluA2 $\text{flip(R)}$ /TARP $\gamma 2$  (A2iR/ $\gamma 2$ ) receptors, which do not permeate  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  beyond the SF but may allow  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  to access and bind to site-G. Here, we observed that external  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  was still effective in blocking A2iR mediated  $\text{Na}^+$  currents (Fig. 3E), though the mechanism was now voltage-independent (Fig. 3F). The apparent affinity for inhibition ( $\text{IC}_{50}$ ,  $11.27 \pm 0.93$  mM,  $n=6$ ) was lower, suggesting there may be coupling between site-G and the SF in A2iQ/ $\gamma 2$  receptors, or alternatively, the R586 residue may weaken the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  affinity at site-G in A2iR/ $\gamma 2$  receptors. Conductance was negligible at the highest  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  concentration (108 mM), which would be expected since A2iR receptors poorly conduct  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  (Fig. 3E and Supplementary Table 2). Collectively, both voltage-dependent and -independent mechanisms contribute to external  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  block of A2iQ receptors, consistent with the involvement of an upper vestibular structure, site-G, that lies outside the electrostatic field generated by the membrane potential.

### The N619K mutation reveals site-G function

To further test if  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  block is mediated by site-G, the N619 residue (Fig. 2G, black dot) adjacent to site-G was interrogated. The N619K mutation in GluA2 corresponds to seizure related N650K mutation in GluN1 subunit of NMDA receptor (NMDAR)<sup>23</sup>. The cryo-EM structure of N619K mutation of A2iQ in complex with  $\gamma 2$ (KKEE) (Open-CaNaMg/N619K), in the same ionic condition as the WT (Open-CaNaMg) (Fig. 1E and 4A), revealed that its open conformation lacks the M3 kink present in the WT receptor (Fig. 4B black arrowhead and Extended Data Fig. 2M–N, 6G, 7G, Table 1, and Supplementary Table 1), while the predicted pore radius along the permeation path was similar (Extended Data Fig. 9). In the B/D subunits of WT, a cavity with a density that can accommodate three water molecules is found at the rear side of site-G next to N619 (RG pocket), contributing to the M3 kink by disrupting the  $\alpha$ -helix fold (Fig. 4B and Extended Data Fig. 7A–F). The mutated residue, K619, is space occupying and prevents the RG pocket from forming, which may keep the M3 intact (Fig. 4A and Extended Data Fig. 7G).

Focused classification and refinement of the LBD gating ring (Fig. 4D) revealed that the LBDs are fully liganded like the WT, but the mutant gate adopts an alternative open

conformation (Fig. 4A). Substituting the intrinsically dynamic water in the RG pocket with the well-structured side chain of K619, that is greater in size than the N619 in WT (Fig. 4A and B), may contribute to stabilizing the alternative open conformation in the N619K mutant complex. In fact, the N619K mutant A2iQ bound to  $\gamma 2$  (N619K/ $\gamma 2$ ) spontaneously opens to about 30% of the peak agonist response (Fig. 5A, D, Extended Data Fig. 10A–F, and Supplementary Table 4–6). Interestingly, the leak current was weakly sensitive to AMPAR antagonists, GYKI-52466 and NBQX (Extended Data Fig. 10G–L, and Supplementary Table 4–6), as well as being sensitive to block by cytoplasmic spermine, which is a hallmark of the open pore of the AMPAR (Extended Data Fig. 10A–F). Unlike  $\gamma 2$ -bound WT A2iQ (WT/ $\gamma 2$ ), the N619K/ $\gamma 2$  receptors fail to desensitize in the continued presence of the agonist and exhibit slow agonist off-kinetics suggesting that they have a much higher affinity for L-glutamate (Fig. 5A–F). Interestingly, the leak and agonist evoked responses of the N619K/ $\gamma 2$  receptor have differing affinities and voltage-sensitivity to cytoplasmic polyamine block suggesting that the N619K mutation profoundly affects ion transport through the pore (Extended Data Fig. 10B, C, E, F and Supplementary Table 7).

A closer examination of site-G in the N619K mutant reveals that it is narrower in the B/D subunit axis (distances of T617 Ca of B/D; 12.38Å in N619K vs. 13.57Å in WT) and wider in the A/C axis (distances of T617 Ca of A/C; 11.84 in N619K vs. 11.56Å in WT) compared to the WT (Fig. 4C). These structural changes were correlated with the absence of central  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  density with the mutant lacking the structural signature for  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  binding to site-G (Fig. 4A and B). In keeping with this, external  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exhibited a substantially reduced ability to block both the leak or agonist-evoked responses of N619K/ $\gamma 2$  receptors with  $G_{\text{min}}$  values of 52.18 % (leak) and 66.07 % (Agonist) (n=6), respectively (Fig. 5G–J and Supplementary Table 2). The residual external  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  block in N619K/ $\gamma 2$  may be caused by the interaction between the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  with elements in the ion permeation pathway other than site-G. Considering that the external  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  block is only weakly voltage-dependent in the N619K/ $\gamma 2$  (Fig. 5J), and that the polyamine sensitivity is substantially altered in N619K/ $\gamma 2$  compared to WT/ $\gamma 2$  (Extended Data Fig. 10), as described above, there may be a weak voltage-dependent interaction between  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  and the SF of N619K/ $\gamma 2$  contributing to the residual external  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  block. Long-range allosteric coupling between the architectures surrounding the gate and the M2<sup>11,20</sup>, which is adjacent to the SF, could potentially explain the mechanism by which the cytoplasmic polyamine block affinity is affected in the N619K mutant.

Importantly, the mutant N619K/ $\gamma 2$  receptors exhibited markedly reduced  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permeability compared to WT/ $\gamma 2$  receptors (Fig. 6 and Supplementary Table 8), with an estimated  $P_{\text{Ca}^{2+}}/P_{\text{Na}^{+}}$  ratio of  $0.32 \pm 0.04$  (n=10) for N619K/ $\gamma 2$  receptors compared to  $5.28 \pm 0.21$  (n=8) for WT/ $\gamma 2$  receptors (unpaired t-test, p-value < 0.001, Fig. 6D and Supplementary Table 8), which is consistent with the observation in GluA2 receptors expressed in the absence of auxiliary subunits<sup>24</sup>. The K619 side chains point away from the pore, their negatively charged  $\epsilon$ -amino group (pKa=9.5) engaged by the carbonyl oxygens in the S785 residue within 3Å distance, and therefore unlikely to produce strong charge repulsion to the permeating cations (Fig. 4A). Positive charge at position 619 is unlikely to be the determinant because mutating N619 to a neutral cysteine also attenuates  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permeability<sup>24</sup>.

Collectively, we suggest that site-G is a  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  binding site that is a key determinant of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permeability in AMPARs.

## Discussion

### State dependent $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ binding site critical for ion transport

In this work, we have presented high resolution cryo-EM structures of the open pore of the AMPAR in complex with the gain-of-function mutant of TARP $\gamma$ 2(KKEE). The difference observed in pore occupying densities with and without  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  revealed a novel  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  binding site (i.e., site-G) at the open gate that lies outside the membrane electric field (Fig. 7). Importantly, site-G is formed only when the channel enters the open state, making it a transient state-dependent  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  binding site. Occupancy of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  at site G offers a mechanism whereby  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  preferentially accumulates at the open gate to ensure  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  entry to the pore and SF, even though the physiological extracellular concentration and diffusion coefficient of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  are 70-fold and 2-fold lower than those of  $\text{Na}^+$ , respectively (Fig. 7). Increase in external  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  concentration promotes  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  occupancy at site-G that, in turn, blocks the passage of  $\text{Na}^+$  (Fig. 7). Furthermore, the function of site-G was disrupted by introducing the N619K mutation immediately next to site-G (Fig. 7). Collectively, site-G offers a structural explanation for the: (1) facilitation of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permeation in CP-AMPAR, and (2) dose-dependent external  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  block of AMPARs which is a new pharmacological observation.

### Significance of extracellular vestibules in $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ permeation

In AMPARs, gate-opening removes the physical obstruction for ion permeation<sup>9–11,20</sup>. This simple view is revised by our identification of site-G in CP-AMPARs. The gate-opening and ion binding is in fact coupled because the pore dilation not only creates a sieve for ions and water to pass through, but also reveals a surface that preferentially capture  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  over  $\text{Na}^+$ , which facilitates  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permeation. More generally, negatively charged surfaces exist at the extracellular vestibules of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -selective ion channels to efficiently capture extracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , such as seen in the L5-6 loops of calcium channel  $\text{Ca}_v1.1$ <sup>25</sup>, extracellular vestibule of engineered  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -selective bacterial ion channel  $\text{Ca}_v\text{Ab}$ <sup>26</sup>, and divalent cation recruitment site (D517, E518, and D547) in the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -selective transient receptor potential channel V6 (TRPV6)<sup>27</sup>. We suggest that site-G in the AMPAR/ $\gamma$ 2 complex performs an analogous role as the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -accumulating extracellular vestibules found in other  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -selective channels. Since the gate is highly conserved amongst all iGluR families (Fig. 2G), site-G may be critical in providing sufficient influx of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  through  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permeable iGluRs, such as CP-AMPARs and NMDA receptors (NMDAR), to trigger intracellular signaling<sup>28</sup>. In the case of NMDARs, dilation of the SF and additional  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  binding sites are proposed to account for their greater  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permeability compared to AMPARs<sup>29–31</sup>.

### Site-G and Q/R site are key determinants to $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ permeation

Previous work in AMPARs emphasized the sole role of the Q/R site that sits at the top of the SF in determining  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permeability<sup>28</sup>. Accordingly, recent structural analysis and molecular dynamic simulation has focused on the role of the Q/R-site and SF in their modelling and theoretical framework<sup>32–34</sup>. However, site-G was not among the ion binding

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sites predicted by molecular dynamic simulations in the iGluR pore<sup>32,35</sup>, which highlights the importance of taking experimental approach to identifying pore ion binding sites (Note: Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding Site 4 in reference<sup>32</sup> differs from Site-G). In fact, previous experimental observations have implicated that factors outside of the Q/R-site and SF may be critical for Ca<sup>2+</sup> permeation. First, N619K and N619C mutations in the extracellular vestibule of GluA2, which is adjacent to site-G, substantially attenuate Ca<sup>2+</sup> permeability<sup>24</sup>, indicative of a structural element outside the Q/R-site crucial for Ca<sup>2+</sup> permeability. Second, a hypothetical Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding site in the upper pore has been proposed to explain for the external Ca<sup>2+</sup> block in NMDARs<sup>36,37</sup>. The postulate was based on the observation that the block was insensitive to applied voltage and, therefore, the hypothetical Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding site must be outside the membrane electric field. Subsequently, it was shown that the DRPEER motif, present only in the GluN1 subunit and located in the extracellular vestibule, plays a substantial role to facilitating Ca<sup>2+</sup> permeability and captures putative Ca<sup>2+</sup> before entering the pore<sup>31,38</sup>. However, disruption of DRPEER motif could not fully eliminate Ca<sup>2+</sup> permeation, indicating the involvement of another Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding site<sup>31</sup>. Our work offers an explanation to these finding by providing the structural basis for a novel Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding site (i.e., site-G) at the vestibule of the AMPAR pore, which is located in the evolutionary-conserved SYTANLAAF motif and upstream of the well-established pore Q/R-site in the SF that determines Ca<sup>2+</sup> permeability<sup>28</sup> (Fig. 7).

Whether Ca<sup>2+</sup> block of AMPARs fulfills a physiological role in regulating glutamatergic synapses is not immediately clear. Assuming an extracellular calcium concentration ([Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>ex</sub>) of 2 mM, which is typical of brain slice experiments, AMPARs would be blocked by about 20%. Measurements have shown that in human brain the physiological [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>ex</sub> is ~1.2mM, lower than what is used in slice physiology experiments<sup>39</sup>. The [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>ex</sub> decreases by 0.45mM in seizures or following high activity<sup>40</sup>. These reported variations in [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>ex</sub> may impact the amplitudes of the AMPAR mediated response by less than ~10% through the external calcium block reported in this work, which does not offer a sizeable range for regulation. Perhaps a more plausible explanation is that the modest block exerted by physiological levels of Ca<sup>2+</sup> is a necessary tradeoff to allow the selective transport of Ca<sup>2+</sup> through the open pore of unedited AMPARs over the more abundant Na<sup>+</sup> ions. This line of reasoning is consistent with our current understanding of NMDARs which are similarly blocked in a voltage-dependent manner by extracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> (see Figs 7 and 8 of<sup>41</sup>) with the added distinction that they are also blocked by Mg<sup>2+</sup><sup>42,43</sup> which permits them to act as coincident detectors at glutamatergic synapses. By extension, we predict that the more abundantly expressed edited AMPARs, which do not transport Ca<sup>2+</sup>, also exhibit Ca<sup>2+</sup> block, not because it plays a significant role in the selective transport of divalent ions, but rather by virtue of possessing an extracellular vestibule (i.e. site-G) which is common to all AMPARs.

### Ca<sup>2+</sup> recognition site outside the SF

The SF plays a central role in controlling ion transport in the cation permeating pore-loop ion channel family with four-fold (pseudo)symmetry<sup>44</sup>, which includes, potassium channels, calcium channels, sodium channels, cyclic nucleotide gated (CNG) channels, iGluRs, and TRP channels. In potassium channels, to achieve high selectivity to K<sup>+</sup>, the SF maintains an optimal architecture for dehydrated K<sup>+</sup> but deforms into a non-permeating conformation



with other cations<sup>14</sup>. In contrast, selectivity for Ca<sup>2+</sup> in calcium channels is achieved by the negatively charged glutamic acid side chain in the SF that forms a high affinity Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding site<sup>26</sup>. The presence of Ca<sup>2+</sup> in the pore prevents Na<sup>+</sup> from entering, while Na<sup>+</sup> permeates efficiently in the absence of Ca<sup>2+</sup>, exhibiting anomalous mole-fraction effect<sup>15</sup>. The Ca<sup>2+</sup> in the SF must be knocked-off by a charge repulsion from another Ca<sup>2+</sup> entering the pore<sup>26</sup>. A similar mechanism is proposed for the Ca<sup>2+</sup>-selective TRPV6 channel<sup>27</sup>. The CNG channel is non-selective, permeable to both Ca<sup>2+</sup> and Na<sup>+</sup>, but exhibit Ca<sup>2+</sup> mediated channel block<sup>45,46</sup>, whose characteristic ion conduction properties is also supported by the mechanism within the SF<sup>47</sup>. In contrast, our observation in CP-AMPA suggests that efficient Ca<sup>2+</sup> transport requires the preferential capture of Ca<sup>2+</sup> at the open gate in the upper pore prior to Ca<sup>2+</sup> reaching the SF in the lower pore. We suggest that site-G is a weak Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding site compared to those found in the SF of Ca<sup>2+</sup>-selective channels, because the surrounding side chains are neutral in site-G whereas in highly Ca<sup>2+</sup>-selective channels they are acidic. The Ca<sup>2+</sup> remains hydrated at site-G but with only four water molecules resolved at the distance (2.4Å) of a primary hydration shell (Fig. 2I), which is consistent with a weak binding site. Indeed, the hydration of Ca<sup>2+</sup> at site-G contrasts from the octameric oxygen coordination offered by four carboxylic acidic side chains in the high affinity Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding site in the SF of Ca<sub>v</sub>1.1, Ca<sub>v</sub>3.1, and TRPV6<sup>25,27,48</sup>. In the case of Ca<sub>v</sub>Ab, it is proposed that the high affinity binding of Ca<sup>2+</sup> to the SF is mediated indirectly by the hydration shell that consists of eight water molecules<sup>26</sup>, which agrees with the idea that coordination of Ca<sup>2+</sup> by only four water molecule at site-G would form a weaker binding site.

### Does Site-G have a shared function in the iGluR family?

Given the prevalence of the SYTANLAAF motif in all mammalian iGluR subfamilies, it may be envisaged that Site-G fulfills a common role in Ca<sup>2+</sup> permeation. However, site-G may not convert to a Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding site in all cases, based on the precedence of de-coupling between gating and Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding observed in the N619K mutant (Fig. 7). We predict Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding to site-G, and thus the coupling, is less efficient in a subset of invertebrate iGluRs that encode lysine (K) at the position equivalent to N619 in rat GluA2<sup>49</sup>. The efficacy of open gate converting to an efficient Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding site may depend on how close the open conformation approaches those that are optimal for Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding. We suggest that the exact open gate architecture, and by implication the composition of subunits and dynamics associated with gating, determines whether site-G converts to an efficient Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding site. In this context, gate-opening and Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding may not be coupled at site-G in kainate-type iGluRs (KARs), given its low divalent permeability. The NMDARs have greater Ca<sup>2+</sup> permeability than CP-AMPA and the gate of both receptors is encoded by the identical amino acid sequence (SYTANLAAF). Thus, given that NMDARs are subject to external Ca<sup>2+</sup> block that may be mediated by a Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding site in the upper pore, as discussed above, it seems natural to presume that the gate of NMDARs would adopt a conformation similar to site-G with efficient Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding capacity. Taken together, future work is necessary to solve the open state structure of KARs and examine whether alternative conformations exist for the open gate of NMDARs other than those that are currently known<sup>50,51</sup>.

In conclusion, we have identified that the gate of the AMPAR contains a transient  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  binding site, site-G, that is revealed only in the open state. The evidence for ion recognition and regulation of ion permeation mediated by site-G, outside of the selectivity filter, advances our understanding on the nature of divalent cation permeation in AMPARs as well as non-selective cation channels, in general.

## Methods

### Expression and purification

The cDNA construct of rat GluA2 $\text{flipQ}$  isoform was tagged with a FLAG epitope near its C-terminal, as described<sup>52,53</sup>. Rat TARP $\gamma$ 2 (stargazin) KKEE mutant construct was generated as described<sup>16</sup> and a 1D4 tag was fused at the very C-terminal. The two cDNAs were cloned into the DualTetON plasmid<sup>54</sup> to generate a plasmid named DualTetON-A2iQFLAG-KKEE1D4, which DOX dependently expresses both proteins simultaneously. The two proteins were co-expressed without using any tether (Extended Data Fig. 1A). A stable TetON HEK cell line was generated by co-transfecting DualTetON-A2iQFLAG-KKEE1D4 and a plasmid that confers hygromycin (hyg) resistance, using established method<sup>52-54</sup>. Clone was isolated in the presence of 30 $\mu\text{M}$  NBQX and 120 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  hyg. Clone#53 was chosen, based on its growth rate and expression level of the complex, and adapted to FreeStyle293 media (Gibco/ThermoFisher) in suspension.

The N619K mutation was introduced using site directed mutagenesis to the wild type GluA2 $\text{flipQ}$  construct. DualTetON-A2iQ(N619K)FLAG-KKEE1D4 plasmid was used to generate a stable cell line (clone#8) that co-expresses GluA2 $\text{flipQ}$ (N619K)-FLAG and TARP $\gamma$ -2 (stargazin) KKEE-1D4, DOX dependently. The expression level of the mutant complex was comparable to the WT complex. The biochemical property was indistinguishable from WT, and thus identical purification protocol was used for both complexes.

Approximately 1.2L to 2.4L of near saturating suspension culture of clone#53 (or clone#8 in the case of N619K) in FreeStyle293 media supplemented with 30 $\mu\text{M}$  NBQX and 1:500 diluted anti-clumping agent (Gibco, ThermoFisher, Cat#0010057DG) was used as a starting material for each experiment. Cells were induced with 7.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  DOX, 1mM sodium butylate, and 1%FCS for 28hrs as described<sup>53</sup>. Following procedures were conducted on ice or at 4 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Cells were centrifuged at 931 $\times\text{g}$  for 10 min, washed with D-PBS once, centrifuged again, and the pellet flash frozen in liquid nitrogen for storage. Approximately 10-12ml of frozen pellets was resuspended in Resuspend buffer (25mM TrisHCl pH8.0, 150mM NaCl, 2mM TCEP, 15 $\mu\text{M}$  NBQX, and protease inhibitors: 1mM PMSF, 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  aprotinin, 0.5mM benzamidine, 1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  pepstatin A, 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  leupeptin), making the final volume 90ml. 10ml of 10 $\times$ digi (25mM TrisHCl pH8.0, 150mM NaCl, 7.5% digitonin) was added and the mixture was nutated at 4 $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 2.5hr to dissolve the membrane. The large debris was removed by low-speed centrifuge (3000rpm, 10min, at 4 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and its supernatant was ultracentrifuged at 235,400 $\times\text{g}$  in 45Ti rotor (Beckman) for 1hr. The resulting supernatant was incubated in batch with 1ml of FLAG M2 agarose beads (Sigma) for 2 hr. The beads were collected by centrifugation at 58 $\times\text{g}$  for 5min and transferred into an empty column. The beads were washed for 6 column volumes with wash buffer (0.03%

GDN, 20mM TrisHCl pH8.0, 150mM NaCl). The proteins were eluted using 6ml of wash buffer containing 0.5mg/ml FLAG peptide. The eluate was concentrated down to 0.55ml using Ultrafree 100KDa MWKO ultrafiltration (Millipore). The concentrated sample was ultracentrifuged at 75,325xg for 15 min and applied to Superdex200 Increase column (GE Healthcare) equilibrated with GF buffer (For Open-Na260; 0.03% GDN, 20mM TrisHCl pH8.0, 150 mM NaCl. For Open-Na610; 0.03% GDN, 20mM TrisHCl pH8.0, 500 mM NaCl. For Open-CaNaMg, Closed-CaNaMg, and Open-CaNaMg(N619K); 0.03% GDN, 20mM TrisHCl pH8.0, 150 mM NaCl, 10mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 1mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>. For Open-Ca150; 0.03% GDN, 20mM TrisHCl pH8.0, 150 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>. For Open-Na110 and Open-Ca10; 0.03% GDN, 20mM TrisHCl pH8.0, 140 mM NMDG). 1M NMDG was buffered with HCl to pH8.0 and used as a stock solution to prepare other buffers. The isocratic elution (0.5ml per fraction) was conducted at flow rate 0.5 ml/min (Extended Data Fig. 1C). The peak fractions were combined and concentrated down to 30 $\mu$ l using Ultrafree 100KDa MWKO ultrafiltration. Purity was checked by SDS-PAGE (Extended Data Fig. 1B). To prepare Open-Ca10, complex prepared in NMDG was mixed with 1M CaCl<sub>2</sub> at 9:1 ratio. The final protein concentration ranged from 7mg/ml to 14mg/ml.

### Grid preparation

To prepare samples in the open states, one volume of proteins was mixed with 0.1 volume of 3.3mM CTZ for 30min and, before freezing, 0.1 volume of 1M L-glutamate (pH7.4) was added. The 1M L-glutamate solution contains 1.1M NaOH, thus the final concentration of Na<sup>+</sup> increases by 110mM after adding the agonist to the purified receptors. To prepare samples in the closed state, one volume of proteins was mixed with 0.1 volume of 3.3mM CTZ and 0.1 volume of 100mM CNQX disodium salt (Tocris) and incubated for 15min prior to freezing.

2 $\mu$ l of protein solution was applied to Quantifoil1.2/1.3 (300 mesh, Cu grid, holy carbon membrane) and plunged into liquid ethane using Vitrobot Mark4 (ThermoFisher). The standard parameters were, blot force=12, blot time=4.5 sec, temp=4 °C, humidity=100%, wait time=30sec, and drain time=none. The samples containing 140mM NMDG or greater than 500mM NaCl were more viscous than the others, so the filter papers were doubled, and blot time was extended to 6~7 sec. Optimal freezing condition were determined by inspecting the grids using TF20 (FEI/ThermoFisher) or Glacios (ThermoFisher).

### Cryo-EM imaging

All data was collected using TitanKriosG4i (ThermoFisher) equipped with BioQuantumK3 detector at Vanderbilt University cryo-EM facility. Images were collected at 50 frames/movie. Aberration free image shift function was used in EPU (ThermoFisher) semiautomated data collection software. The microscope is equipped with fringe free optics which enables smaller beam diameter for imaging. Objective aperture was not used. Data collection was completed from one grid in a single imaging session that lasted for 3.5 to 5 days. Detector dose rate was at 15.3-15.7e<sup>-</sup>/pix/sec (measured over ice). Total dose was at 50-56 e<sup>-</sup>/Å<sup>2</sup> (measured over vacuum). Each movie contained 50 frames. At 105kx, 2 shots per hole were taken. At 130kx, 3-4 shots per hole were taken. A representative raw motion corrected micrograph of Open-Na260 is shown in Extended Data Fig. 1D.

Detailed parameters used for data collection in each sample are summarized in Table 1 and Supplementary Table 1.

### Common image processing pipeline

The image processing of each dataset follows a common pipeline. Minor modifications were made when necessary. All image processing in the current work was done using Relion3<sup>55</sup>. Each raw movie stack (50 frames) was motion corrected (at 4x4 patches) and dose weighted using Motioncorr2<sup>56</sup>. CTFFIND4 was used to estimate CTF from non-dose weighted images using 1024x1024 pixel tiles<sup>57</sup>. All dataset produced excellent statistics in  $\text{rlnCtfMaxResolution}$  and  $\text{rlnCtfFigureOfMerit}$ . C2 symmetry was imposed only at the last step of 3D refinement. The NTD, which is flexible relative to the rest of the architecture<sup>5</sup>, was included in the 2D and initial 3D classification, but was outside the mask used for the focused classification and refinement in 3D. EMD-2680 was used as initial model. The LBD adopted multiple conformations in all datasets except for the Open-Ca150, which was noticeable as ill-defined LBDs when the particles were aligned using the mask containing LBD-TMD and TARP $\gamma$ -2(KKEE). The alignment was guided towards improving the resolution of the membrane embedded region at the cost of degrading the alignment of the LBD, because the former contains many bundles of alpha helices that generate strong signals. The heterogeneity of LBD conformations was resolved by further focused classification and refinement imposing C2 symmetry and using the LBD mask, which contains the LBD gating ring (the tetrameric assembly of the LBD). The particles contained in the final refinement of the TMD-STG were used as input to the LBD classification. The differences between the LBD conformations were characterized as translation and rotation between the two LBD dimers (Extended Data Fig. 5), which were small conformational differences in the organization of the LBDs in the gating ring<sup>9</sup>. When necessary, the composite maps made of LBD map plus TMD-STG map were generated using EMDA<sup>58</sup>. The local resolution of the map was estimated using Relion3 and ResMap<sup>59</sup>. The overall resolutions of the maps were estimated by FSC=0.143 cutoff in Relion<sup>60</sup> (Extended Data Fig. 2). The image processing and model statistics are summarized in Table 1 and Supplementary Table 1. Angular distributions of assigned angles were inspected to ensure the coverage of the Fourier space. Visual inspection of the map showed no signs of artifacts.

### Image processing of Open-Na260

The workflow is summarized graphically in the Extended Data Fig. 1F, which follows the general procedure described above. 5,409,247 particles were selected using Autopick with templates obtained from 2D class averages generated from manually picked ~3000 particles. Particles were extracted at box size 360pixel and reduced to 64pixel. The extracted particles were divided into four subsets. Each subset was subject to 2D classification, specifying 160 classes (Extended Data Fig. 1E). After two rounds of 2D classification, 2,110,000 particles contributed to generating well-defined class averages that contain features of AMPARs and were subject to further 3D classification. For 3D classification, particles were re-extracted at box size 360pixel and reduced to 180pixel, resulting in a binning factor of 2. Particles were classified into 6 classes without mask and without imposing symmetry (C1) for 40 iterations. Additional 20 iteration was conducted by applying a mask covering the LBD and TMD

(LBD-TMD) with regularization parameter at  $T=15$ . Three well-defined classes (class3, 4, and 6) were selected, totaling 1,240,685 particles (Extended Data Fig. 1F1).

The particles combined from the 3 classes were re-extracted at box size 360pixel without binning. After CTF refinement, Refine3D and PostProcess were conducted again followed by Bayesian polishing. Shiny particles were subject to a second round of CTF refinement. Duplicate particles were removed, a total of 1,093,405 particles proceeding to final Refine3D. Refinement and PostProcess were first conducted with C1 (no symmetry) using the TMD-STG mask, that covers the TMD of GluA2 and TARP $\gamma$ -2(KKEE), generating a map with overall resolution of 2.38Å. LBD-TMD mask was also used to generate a 2.50Å overall resolution map, whose LBDs were ill-resolved due to conformational heterogeneity. The final refinement, Refine3D and PostProcess, were done, imposing C2, using the TMD-STG mask resulting in a map with overall resolution of 2.29Å. The angular distributions of the assigned angles show that the side views were the most abundant (Extended Data Fig. 1F2).

To resolve the heterogeneity of the LBDs, the particles were classified into 4 classes ( $T=50$ ) using a mask that covers the LBD gating ring (LBD mask) (Extended Data Fig. 1F3). Three classes (Class 1, 2, and 4, which will be referred to as conf1, 2, and 3, respectively) produced well-defined map beyond 3.5Å resolution. The remaining class was ill-defined, indicating substantial heterogeneity of conformations. The LBDs of conf1, 2, and 3 were subject to Refine3D and PostProcess, producing maps with overall resolutions of 3.01Å, 3.43Å, and 3.04Å, respectively (Extended Data Fig. 1F4). The angular distributions of the assigned angles were very similar in L1-3 and consistent with the distribution of the consensus reconstruction described above, indicating that the classification of the LBD is based on conformation rather than angular distribution.

The 3D classification and refinement from the binned images (boxsize=180pixels) resulted in a 4.4Å map containing the NTD. The tetrameric NTD, organized in dimer-of-dimers, was positioned in the asymmetric (AS) orientation relative to the rest of the particle as described previously<sup>53</sup> and no classes adopted pseudo symmetric (PS) orientation. Atomic models of the LBD, TMD, TARP $\gamma$ -2(KKEE) generated below and the GluA2-NTD (PDB:6U6I) were rigid body fit into the 4.4Å map to generate Fig. 1B.

### Image processing of Open-CaNaMg

The common pipeline was followed with minor modification during the first 3D classification. Motion correction and CTF estimation was done as described. ~5,000,000 particles were selected using Autopick with templates obtained from 2D class averages generated from manually picked ~3000 particles. Particles were extracted at box size 456pixel and reduced to 64pixel. The extracted particles were divided into four subsets. Each subset was subject to 2D classification, specifying 160 classes. After two rounds of 2D classification, ~1,200,000 particles contributed to generating well-defined class averages and were subject to further 3D classification. For 3D classification, particles were re-extracted at box size 456pixel and reduced to 180pixel. Particles were classified into 6 classes without mask and without imposing symmetry for 37 iterations with regularization parameter at  $T=6$ . Four well-defined classes (class2=235,679particles, class3=217,442particles,

class5=130,488particles, and class4=238,429particles) were selected, totaling 822,038 particles. The particles were re-extracted at 456pixel and rescaled to 360pixel, which results in  $\text{apix}=0.819\text{\AA}/\text{pix}$  equivalent to the  $\text{apix}$  in Open-Na260. Refine3D and PostProcess using the TMD-STG mask resulted in a reconstruction of an overall resolution of 2.61Å. After CTF refinement, Refine3D and PostProcess were conducted again, producing a 2.63Å map (the resolution was reduced but map quality improved). The particles were subject to Bayesian polishing, training followed by polishing. Refine3D and PostProcess produced a map at overall resolution of 2.59Å. LBD-TMD mask was also used to generate a 2.63Å overall resolution map, whose LBDs were ill-resolved due to conformational heterogeneity. The final refinement, Refine3D and PostProcess, were done, imposing C2, using the TMD-STG mask, producing a map with overall resolution of 2.44Å.

To resolve the heterogeneity of the LBDs, the particles were classified into 4 classes (T=50) using the LBD mask for 40 iterations. Two classes (class2=204,515particles, and class3=210,811particles which will be referred to as conf1 and 2, respectively) produced well-defined map beyond 3.5Å resolution. The remaining class was ill-defined, indicating substantial heterogeneity of conformations. The LBDs of conf1, and 2 were subject to Refine3D and PostProcess, producing maps with overall resolutions of 2.78Å and 3.14Å, respectively.

### Image processing of Open-Na610

The common pipeline was followed with minor modification during the first 3D classification. Motion correction and CTF estimation was done as described. About 5,100,000 particles were selected using Autopick with templates used for Open-Na150. Particles were extracted at box size 360pixel and reduced to 64pixel. The extracted particles were divided into four subsets, and each subset was subject to 2D classification, specifying 160 classes. Well-defined classes selected during the first round was re-extracted and re-scaled to 180pixel box size. After the second round of 2D classification, ~2,285,000 particles contributed to generating well-defined class averages and were subject to further 3D classification. For 3D classification, particles were re-extracted at box size 456pixel and reduced to 180pixel. Particles were classified into 6 classes without mask and without imposing symmetry for 36 iterations with regularization parameter at T=4. Then, the classification was continued up to 60 iterations using the LBD-TMD mask with T=15. Three well-defined classes (class1=244,459particles, class3=300,808particles, and class4=355,887particles) were selected, totaling 901,154 particles. The particles were re-extracted at box size 360pixel without rescale. Refine3D and PostProcess using the LBD-TMD mask was conducted (C1) for 21 iterations, generating a reconstruction of an overall resolution of 2.79Å. The focused refinement was then continued from iteration 19 using the TMD-STG mask, generating a reconstruction of an overall resolution of 2.59Å. After CTF refinement, Refine3D and PostProcess were conducted (C1) again in two steps using both masks, producing maps of overall resolution of 2.66Å and 2.61Å with the LBD-TMD mask and TMD-STG mask, respectively. The resolution was reduced but map quality improved by the CtfRefine. The particles were subject to Bayesian polishing, training followed by polishing. The Refine3D and PostProcess produced C1 maps of overall resolution of 2.57Å and 2.50Å, using the LBD-TMD mask and TMD-STG mask, respectively.

In the map generated using the LBD-TMD mask, the LBDs were ill-resolved due to conformational heterogeneity. The final focused refinement, Refine3D and PostProcess, were done, imposing C2, in two steps using both the LBD-TMD mask and TMD-STG mask, resulting in maps with overall resolution of 2.46Å and 2.40Å, respectively.

To resolve the heterogeneity of the LBDs, the particles were classified, imposing C2, into 4 classes (T=50) using the LBD mask for 40 iterations. Three classes (class1=207,914particles, class2=220,191 particles, and class4=299,853particles, which will be referred to as conf1, 2 and 3, respectively) produced well-defined map beyond 3.5Å resolution. The remaining class was ill-defined, indicating substantial heterogeneity of conformations. The LBDs of conf1, 2, and 3 were subject to Refine3D and PostProcess, producing maps with overall resolutions of 3.08Å, 2.98Å, and 3.01Å, respectively.

### Image processing of Open-Ca150

The common pipeline was followed with minor modification during the first 3D classification. Motion correction and CTF estimation was done as described. ~5,573,000 particles were selected using Autopick with templates used in Open-CaNaMg. Particles were extracted at box size 456pixel and reduced to 64pixel. The extracted particles were divided into four subsets. Each subset was subject to 2D classification, specifying 160 classes. After 2D classification, ~1,640,000 particles contributed to generating well-defined class averages and were subject to further 3D classification. For 3D classification, particles were re-extracted at box size 456pixel and reduced to 180pixel. Particles were classified into 3 classes without mask and without imposing symmetry for 40 iterations with regularization parameter at T=4. Then the classification was continued up to 60 iterations using the LBD-TMD mask with T=15. The well-defined class1, containing 540,796particles, was selected. The particles were re-extracted at 456pixel and rescaled to 360pixel, which results in apix=0.819Å/pix equivalent to the apix in Open-Na260. Refine3D and PostProcess using the LBD-TMD mask was conducted (C1) and converged in 24 iterations, generating a reconstruction of an overall resolution of 3.04Å. The focused refinement was then continued from iteration 13 using the TMD-STG mask, generating a reconstruction of an overall resolution of 2.86Å. After CTF refinement, Refine3D and PostProcess were conducted (C1) again in two steps using both masks, producing maps of overall resolution of 2.95Å and 2.84Å with the LBD-TMD mask and TMD-STG mask, respectively. The particles were subject to Bayesian polishing, training followed by polishing. The Refine3D and PostProcess produced C1 maps of overall resolution of 2.84Å and 2.78Å, using the LBD-TMD mask and TMD-STG mask, respectively. In the map generated using the LBD-TMD mask the LBDs were ill-defined. The final focused refinement, Refine3D and PostProcess, were done imposing C2 in two steps using both the LBD-TMD mask and TMD-STG mask, resulting in maps with overall resolution of 2.73Å and 2.58Å, respectively. The overall yield of particle and resolution was lower than the other dataset, possibly due to stronger beam induced motion which may be caused by using the 150mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>.

To resolve the heterogeneity of the LBDs, the particles were classified, imposing C2, into 3 classes (T=50) using the LBD mask for 40 iterations. One classes (class3=192,490particles) produced well-defined map beyond 3.5Å resolution. The remaining class was ill-defined,

indicating substantial heterogeneity of conformations. Refine3D and PostProcess, produced maps with overall resolutions of 3.14Å.

### Image processing of Open-Na110

The common pipeline was followed with minor modification during the first 3D classification. Motion correction and CTF estimation was done as described. ~8,603,000 particles were selected using Autopick with templates used in Open-CaNaMg. Particles were extracted at box size 456pixel and reduced to 64pixel. The extracted particles were divided into six subsets. Each subset was subject to 2D classification, specifying 160 classes. After two rounds of 2D classification, ~2,892,000 particles contributed to generating well-defined class averages and were subject to further 3D classification. For 3D classification, particles were extracted at box size 456pixel and reduced to 180pixel, and classified into 3 classes without mask and without imposing symmetry (C1) for 18 iterations with regularization parameter at T=4. The classification continued with the LBD-TMD mask up to 40 iterations with T=20. One well-defined class was selected, totaling 692,680 particles. The particles were re-extracted at 456pixel and rescaled to 360pixel, which results in apix=0.819Å/pix equivalent to the apix in Open-Na260. Refine3D and PostProcess using the LBD-TMD mask and TMD-STG mask resulted in C1 maps of overall resolution of 2.59Å and 2.46Å, respectively. After CTF refinement, Refine3D and PostProcess was conducted (C1) again in two steps using both masks, producing maps of overall resolution of 2.59Å and 2.52Å with the LBD-TMD mask and TMD-STG mask, respectively. The particles were subject to Bayesian polishing, training followed by polishing.

The Refine3D and PostProcess produced C1 maps of overall resolution of 2.46Å and 2.42Å, using the LBD-TMD mask and TMD-STG mask, respectively. In the map generated using the LBD-TMD mask the LBDs were ill-defined. The final focused refinement, Refine3D and PostProcess, were done, imposing C2, in two steps using both the LBD-TMD mask and TMD-STG mask, resulting in maps with overall resolution of 2.38Å and 2.34Å, respectively.

To resolve the heterogeneity of the LBDs, the particles were classified into 3 classes (T=50) using the LBD mask for 40 iterations. Two classes (class2=189,181particles, and class3=218,818particles which will be referred to as conf1 and 2, respectively) produced well-defined map beyond 3.5Å resolution. The remaining class was ill-defined, indicating substantial heterogeneity of conformations. The LBDs of conf1, and 2 were subject to Refine3D and PostProcess, producing maps with overall resolutions of 3.11Å and 3.35Å, respectively.

### Image processing of Open-Ca10

The common pipeline was followed with minor modification during the first 3D classification. Motion correction and CTF estimation was done as described. ~7,059,000 particles were selected using Autopick with templates used in Open-CaNaMg. Particles were extracted at box size 456pixel and reduced to 64pixel. The extracted particles were divided into four subsets. Each subset was subject to 2D classification, specifying 160 classes. After two rounds of 2D classification, ~1,952,000 particles contributed to generating well-defined class averages that contain features of AMPARs and were subject to further



3D classification. For 3D classification, particles were extracted at box size 456pixel and reduced to 180pixel, and classified into 3 classes without mask and without imposing symmetry (C1) for 31 iterations with regularization parameter at T=4. The classification continued with the LBD-TMD mask up to 50 iterations with T=20. One well-defined class was selected, totaling 986,075 particles. The particles were re-extracted at 456pixel and rescaled to 360pixel, which results in apix=0.819Å/pix equivalent to the apix in Open-Na260. Refine3D and PostProcess using the LBD-TMD mask and TMD-STG mask resulted in C1 maps of overall resolution of 2.56Å and 2.46Å, respectively. After CTF refinement, Refine3D and PostProcess were conducted (C1) again in two steps using both masks, producing maps of overall resolution of 2.59Å and 2.56Å with the LBD-TMD mask and TMD-STG mask, respectively. The particles were subject to Bayesian polishing, training followed by polishing. The Refine3D and PostProcess produced C1 maps of overall resolution of 2.52Å and 2.48Å, using the LBD-TMD mask and TMD-STG mask, respectively. In the map generated using the LBD-TMD mask the LBDs were ill-defined. The final focused refinement, Refine3D and PostProcess, were done, imposing C2, in two steps using both the LBD-TMD mask and TMD-STG mask, resulting in a map with overall resolution of 2.44Å and 2.36Å, respectively.

To resolve the heterogeneity of the LBDs, the particles were classified into 4 classes (T=50) using the LBD mask for 40 iterations. Two classes (class 1=215,389particles, and class 2=278,786particles which will be referred to as conf1 and 2, respectively) produced well-defined map beyond 3.5Å resolution. The remaining class was ill-defined, indicating substantial heterogeneity of conformations. The LBDs of conf1, and 2 were subject to Refine3D and PostProcess, producing maps with overall resolutions of 3.01Å and 3.14Å, respectively.

### Image processing of Open-CaNaMg/N619K

The common pipeline was followed with minor modification during the first 3D classification. Motion correction and CTF estimation was done as described. 2D class averages were generated from 109,101 particles that were selected using Autopick with the template used in Open-CaNaMg. A subset of well-defined class averages was further used as templates to select ~7,006,000 particles using Autopick from all micrographs. Particles were extracted at box size 456pixel and reduced to 64pixel. The extracted particles were divided into five subsets. Each subset was subject to 2D classification, specifying 160 classes. After two rounds of 2D classification, ~1,957,000 particles contributed to generating well-defined class averages and were subject to further 3D classification. For 3D classification, particles were re-extracted at box size 456pixel and reduced to 180pixel. Particles were classified into 6 classes without mask and without imposing symmetry (C1) for 40 iterations with regularization parameter at T=4. The classification continued with the LBD-TMD mask up to 60 iterations with T=15. Two well-defined classes (class1=357,587particles and class5=336,348particles) were selected, totaling 693,935 particles. The particles were re-extracted at 456pixel and rescaled to 360pixel, which results in apix=0.819Å/pix equivalent to the apix in Open-Na260. Refine3D and PostProcess using the LBD-TMD mask and TMD-STG mask resulted in C1 maps of overall resolution of 2.61Å and 2.44Å, respectively. After CTF refinement, Refine3D and PostProcess were conducted (C1) using TMD-STG

mask, producing a map of overall resolution of 2.61Å. The particles were subject to Bayesian polishing, first the training and then the actual polishing. The Refine3D and PostProcess produced C1 maps of overall resolution of 2.59Å and 2.50Å, using the LBD-TMD mask and TMD-STG mask, respectively. In the map generated using the LBD-TMD mask the LBDs were ill-defined. The final focused refinement, Refine3D and PostProcess, were done, imposing C2, in two steps using both the LBD-TMD mask and TMD-STG mask, resulting in maps with overall resolution of 2.48Å and 2.38Å, respectively.

To resolve the heterogeneity of the LBDs, the particles were classified into 4 classes (T=50) using a mask that covers the LBD gating ring (LBD mask) for 40 iterations. Two classes (class 1=203,784particles, and class 3=210,604particles which will be referred to as conf1 and 2, respectively) produced well-defined map beyond 3.5Å resolution. The remaining class was ill-defined, indicating substantial heterogeneity of conformations. The LBDs of conf1, and 2 were subject to Refine3D and PostProcess, producing maps with overall resolutions of 3.14Å and 3.17Å, respectively.

### Image processing of Closed-CaNaMg

The common pipeline was followed with minor modification during the first 2D and 3D classification. The data processing was initiated for the first 14,999 micrographs when it became available during the session after the first two days of data collection. The remaining 19,554 micrographs were processed upon completion of the entire session. As described above, the entire dataset derives from single grid, and thus splitting the data into two batches is for the purpose of initiating data processing sooner, and to evaluate if prolonged imaging of the identical grid would cause any deterioration to the image quality, which turned out to be no issues as described in the following. Motion correction and CTF estimation was done as described for Open-Na260. ~3,900,000 particles (batch1) and ~4,600,00 particles (batch2) were selected using Autopick. Particles were extracted at box size 456pixel and reduced to 64pixel. The extracted particles were subject to 2D classification, resulting in ~1,020,000 particles (batch1) and ~1,007,00 particles (batch2) contributing to generating well-defined class averages that contain features of AMPARs. Each batch was subject to identical 3D classification, refinement, and PostProcess separately and produced maps of the TMD-STG with similar overall resolution of 2.66Å (Batch1) and 2.56Å (Batch2).

Particles of two batches after 2D classification were combined (~2,027,000 particles) and re-extracted at box size 456pixel and re-scaled to 180pixel. Particles were classified into 6 classes without mask and without imposing symmetry (C1) for 40 iterations with regularization parameter at T=6. Two well-defined classes (class3=484,918particles and class4=362,460particles) were selected, totaling 847,378 particles. The particles were re-extracted at 456pixel and rescaled to 360pixel, which results in apix=0.819Å/pix equivalent to the apix in Open-Na260. Refine3D and PostProcess using the STG-TMD mask resulted in C1 maps of overall resolution of 2.57Å. After CTF refinement, Refine3D and PostProcess were conducted (C1) using TMD-STG mask, producing a map of overall resolution of 2.59Å. The particles were subject to Bayesian polishing, training followed by polishing. The Refine3D and PostProcess produced C1 maps of overall resolution of 2.52Å and 2.42Å, using the LBD-TMD mask and TMD-STG mask, respectively. In the map generated using

the LBD-TMD mask the LBDs were ill-defined. The final focused refinement, Refine3D and PostProcess, were done, imposing C2, using the TMD-STG mask, resulting in a map with overall resolution of 2.32Å.

The heterogeneity of the LBDs was resolved by classifying the particles into 4 classes (T=50) using LBD mask for 40 iterations. Two classes (class 1=215,404 particles, and class 3=262,250 particles which will be referred to as conf1 and 2, respectively) produced well-defined map beyond 3.5Å resolution. The remaining class was ill-defined, indicating substantial heterogeneity of conformations. The LBDs of conf1, and 2 were subject to Refine3D and PostProcess, producing maps with overall resolutions of 2.76Å and 2.81Å, respectively.

## Modeling

The reference model, PDB 5weo, was divided into domains and rigid body fit into the EM density map using Chimera<sup>61</sup>. The fit was further adjusted using the jiggle fit function in Coot<sup>62</sup>. Further manual adjustment with real space refine zone function in Coot was used to generate an atomic model. H<sub>2</sub>O was modeled manually to densities that are in hydrogen bond distance to potential acceptors and donors. The pore occupying densities in the Open-Na110 (i.e., containing 140mM NMDG<sup>+</sup> and 110mM Na<sup>+</sup>) were interpreted to be all water. Although some may be Na<sup>+</sup> ions, we did not have sufficient experimental basis to assign them as ions. In addition, none of the densities were large enough to accommodate NMDG. The Open-Na110 provided the reference to find waters in other structures. In fact, many waters were found within 1.2Å distance from where they were found in the Open-Na110 (for example see Extended Data Fig. 8). In addition, the knowledge on their average intermolecular distance (2.8Å) and average neighbors (4.4) were used when a network of H<sub>2</sub>O was observed<sup>15</sup>. Validation was conducted using Coot. The generated model was further refined using the real\_space\_refine tool in Phenix<sup>63</sup>. Real space refinement was conducted by imposing secondary structure restraints by annotating helices and sheets in the PDB file. To prevent overfitting of the models into the density, refinement was run for five cycles with strict geometric restraints of 0.005-0.01 for bond length and 0.5-1 for bond angle while non-crystallographic symmetry (NCS) consistent with C2 symmetry of the map was imposed when necessary. With the default restraints library provided by real\_space\_refine, the distances between Ca<sup>2+</sup> and nearest water was in the range of 2.5-2.6Å. The refinement outcome was virtually identical when custom geometry restraints of target distance 2.39±0.1Å was imposed<sup>21</sup>, which resulted in 2.4Å spacing between Ca<sup>2+</sup> and nearest water. Ca<sup>2+</sup> was modeled and refined without conflict at site-G in Open-Ca10, Open-CaNaMg, and Open-Ca150. In addition, model refinement was successful when Ca<sup>2+</sup> was placed at site-Q586/7 in Open-Ca150. FCS of model vs map was output by Mtriage. Cryo-EM validation tools MolProbity and Mtriage were used for validation (Table 1 and Supplementary Table 1). The maps containing both the LBD and the TMD-STG were interpreted by rigid body fitting the atomic models of individual fragments. To interpret the connection between the fragments, composite maps were used. Pymol (Schrödinger) and Chimera<sup>61</sup> were used to further analyze the structure and generate figures. The pore radius accessible to solvent was estimated using CHAP software<sup>64</sup>.

## Multiple sequence alignment

Clustal Omega<sup>65</sup> was used to align the iGluR sequences from various species.

## Cell culture and transfection for electrophysiology

HEK293T-TetON cells were maintained in DMEM high glucose containing glutamine and without sodium pyruvate. The media was supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (Gibco) and 1% Penicillin and Streptomycin stock solution (Gibco, 10,000 units/ml of penicillin and 10,000  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  of streptomycin). Cells were plated at low density ( $1.6 \times 10^4$  cells/ml) on poly-D-lysine-coated, 35-mm, plastic dishes and were transiently transfected 48 h later using the calcium phosphate technique, as previously described<sup>66</sup>. To promote synthesis of GluA2(Q)- $\gamma$ 2, GluA2(R)- $\gamma$ 2, GluA2(Q)<sub>(N619K)</sub>- $\gamma$ 2, all flip isoforms, encoded in the plasmids, doxycycline was added approximately 24 hours before performing experiments at a final concentration of 2  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ .

## Electrophysiology

Experiments were performed 24 hours after adding doxycycline to transfected cells. Agonist or antagonist solutions were rapidly applied to outside-out patches excised from transfected cells using a piezoelectric stack (Physik Instrumente). Solution exchange (10–90% rise time of 250–350  $\mu\text{s}$ ) was determined by measuring the liquid junction current at the end of an experiment. All recordings were performed using an Axopatch 200B (Molecular Devices) with thick-walled, borosilicate glass pipettes (3–6 M $\Omega$ ) coated with dental wax to reduce electrical noise. Series resistance (3–12 M $\Omega$ ) was compensated by 95%. To study calcium block in AMPA receptors voltage ramps were recorded at range of holding potentials from –100 to +100 mV. Data acquisition was performed using pClamp10 software (Molecular Devices) and was tabulated using Excel (Microsoft Corp.). All experiments were performed at room temperature.

All chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, unless otherwise indicated. The external solution contained (in mM) 150 NaCl, 5 HEPES, and 0.1 CaCl<sub>2</sub>, at pH 7.3–7.4. The internal solution contained (in mM) 115 NaCl, 10 NaF, 5 HEPES, 5 Na<sub>4</sub>BAPTA (Life Technologies), 1 MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.5 CaCl<sub>2</sub>, and 10 Na<sub>2</sub>ATP, pH 7.3–7.4. The osmotic pressure of all solutions was adjusted to 295–300 mOsm with sucrose, if necessary. For polyamine block experiments, instead of 10 mM Na<sub>2</sub>ATP, 30  $\mu\text{M}$  spermine was included in the internal solution. For calcium block experiments, external Ca<sup>2+</sup> was added into 150 mM NaCl to give a final concentration of either 0.3, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 or 30 mM, except for the highest (108 mM) Ca<sup>2+</sup> solution which contained only 108 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub> (+ HEPES) with no added NaCl. In all cases, cyclothiazide was added at a final concentration 100  $\mu\text{M}$  to the control and agonist external solutions to reduce receptor desensitization. Currents recorded in control solution were used to leak-subtract experimental records. For calcium permeation experiments (Fig. 6), high concentration external Ca<sup>2+</sup> contained (in mM) 108 CaCl<sub>2</sub> and 5 HEPES (in mM) at pH 7.3–7.4 (pH adjusted with Ca (OH)<sub>2</sub>).

Concentrated (10 $\times$ ) agonist stock solutions were prepared by dissolving L-glutamate in the appropriate external solution and adjusting the pH to 7.3–7.4 and were stored frozen

at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Stocks were thawed on the day of the experiment and used to prepare agonist-containing external solutions.

### Single permeant blocker model for external $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ and internal polyamines

Conductance-voltage (G-V) relationships of block by external  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  or internal polyamines were fit using Origin Pro 2020 (OriginLab) with the following equation from <sup>22</sup>:

$$G = \frac{G_{max}}{1 + \frac{[blocker]}{K_d}}$$

eq. 1

$K_d$  is the dissociation constant at 0 mV and it is defined as:

$$K_d = \frac{k_{off} + k_{perm}}{k_{on}} = \frac{\text{sum of exit rates}}{\text{binding rate}}$$

eq. 2

And redefined as shown:

$$K_d = g \cdot \exp\left(\frac{v}{h}\right) + L \cdot \exp\left(\frac{v}{h}\right)$$

eq. 3

Where  $h$  and  $k$  represent the voltage dependence of  $g$  ( $k_{off}/k_{on}$ ) and  $L$  ( $k_{perm}/k_{on}$ ), respectively.

### Calcium permeability

I-V relationships were used to calculate reversal potentials in 150mM external  $\text{Na}^+$  and in 108 mM external  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  solutions. Fittings were calculated with a polynomial function with order of 4. The x-intercept of the polynomial fit was determined to be the reversal potential ( $V_{rev}$ ).  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permeability relative to  $\text{Na}^+$  ratio ( $P_{\text{Ca}}/P_{\text{Na}}$ ) was calculated by the equation:

$$\frac{P_{\text{Ca}}}{P_{\text{Na}}} = \frac{[\text{Na}^+]_i \left(1 + e^{\frac{V_{rev(\text{Ca})} * F}{RT}}\right)}{4[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_o \left(e^{\frac{(V_{rev(\text{Ca})} - V_{rev(\text{Na})}) * F}{RT}}\right)}$$

eq. 4

Where  $P_{\text{Ca}}$  and  $P_{\text{Na}}$  are the permeability coefficients for  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Na}^+$ , respectively.  $F$  is Faraday's constant,  $R$  is the gas constant, and  $T$  is the temperature in Kelvin.

### Kinetics

Gating properties of AMPA receptors was assessed by applying a single voltage ramp (40 ms) from 0mV to -100 mV to assess the leak current and then followed by 250 ms application of L-glutamate (10 mM) to measure the steady-state equilibrium of agonist-

induced receptor desensitization and the time constant of deactivation (indicated as off kinetics in Fig. 5). Off kinetics ( $\tau_{\text{off}}$ ) were fit using a mono- or bi-exponential function as described previously<sup>67</sup> and presented as weighted means.

### Inhibition plots of external $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ block

Dose-inhibition curves of external  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  block were fit using a single binding site isotherm function as described previously<sup>68</sup>:

$$G = G_{\min} + \frac{1 - G_{\min}}{1 + \left(\frac{[\text{Ca}]}{IC_{50}}\right)^N}$$

eq. 5

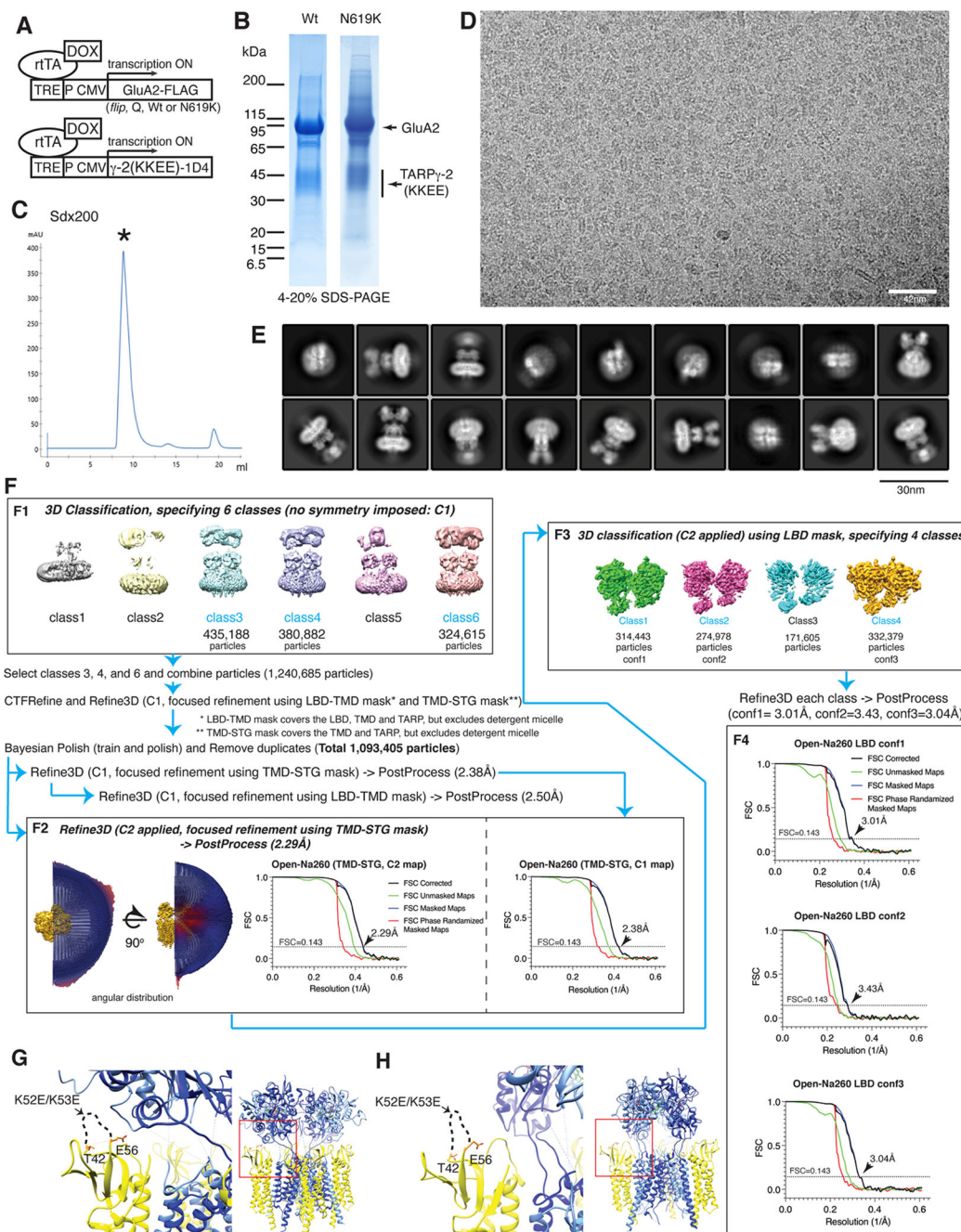
Where  $IC_{50}$  is the concentration of external  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  that elicits half-maximal block,  $N$  is the slope and  $G_{\min}$  is the steady-state response.

### Statistics

Results are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SEM. Values for  $n$  refer to the numbers of individual patches. Statistical analysis was performed using Origin Pro 2020 (Originlab). Two-tailed unpaired t-test with Welch correction was performed on the populations where normal distribution assumption could not be rejected (Shapiro-Wilk analyses,  $ps > 0.15$ , Fig 5E, F and Fig 6D). Mann-Whitney U-test was performed on the population that was not normally distributed (Fig 5D).  $ps < 0.05$  were considered to be statistically significant. \*\*\* indicates  $ps < 0.001$ .

All data were illustrated using Origin Pro 2020 and Adobe Illustrator CS5.

## Extended Data

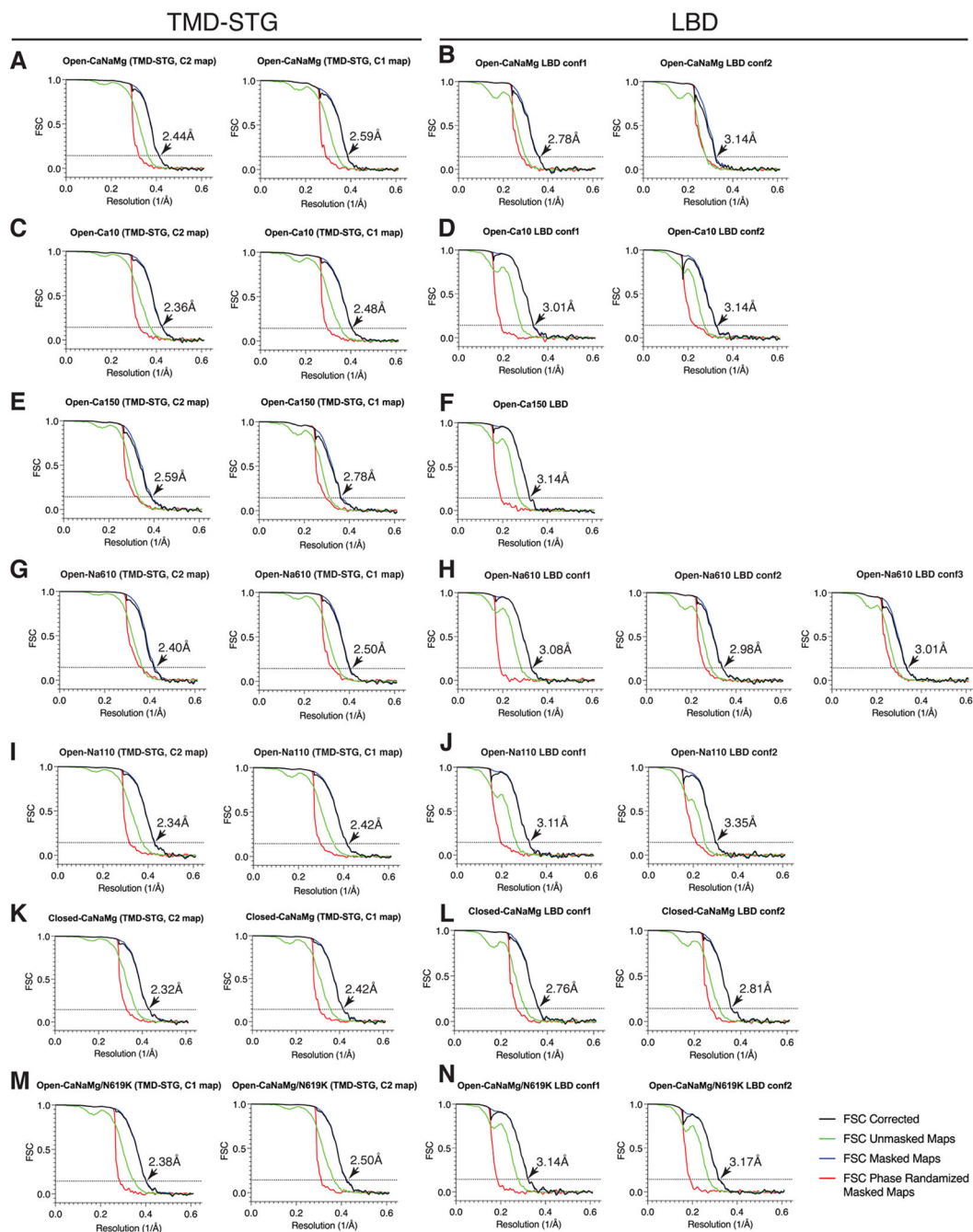


Extended Data Fig. 1. Expression, purification, and cryo-EM data processing.

A. DOX inducible expression scheme used in stable HEK cell line. In clone#53, GluA2(*flip*-Q isoform) and TARP $\gamma$ -2(KKEE) were stably co-expressed, independently without tether. Clone #8 expresses the GluA2(*flip*-Q isoform, N619K mutant) and TARP $\gamma$ -2(KKEE). TARP $\gamma$ -2 is abbreviated as  $\gamma$ -2. **B**. Purified complex resolved in SDS-PAGE. **C**. Superdex200 (Sdx200) size exclusion chromatograph in the final step of purification. The

peak with asterisk contains the complex formed of GluA2(*flip*-Q) and TARP $\gamma$ -2(KKKEE). The N619K mutant complex exhibit identical chromatography profile and not shown. **D.** A representative motion corrected cryo-EM image of purified GluA2/TARP $\gamma$ -2(KKKEE) complex of Open-Na260. The displayed image is representative among a total of ~16,000 micrographs. **E.** A set of representative 2D class averages obtained during the image processing of Open-Na260. The class averages displayed are from 1/4 of the total dataset. **F.** Image processing of Open-Na260. Other structures were obtained using similar procedures and described in the methods. **G-H.** The atomic model of Open-Na260. GluA2=blue, TARP $\gamma$ -2(KKKEE)=yellow. TARP $\gamma$ -2(KKKEE) in the A'/C' positions (G) and B'/D' positions (H) are shown. The zoomed views (left panels) correspond to the red square in the right panels. In all the structures determined in this work (see Table1), the regions containing the KKKEE mutations were unresolved due to structural flexibility of the extracellular loop.

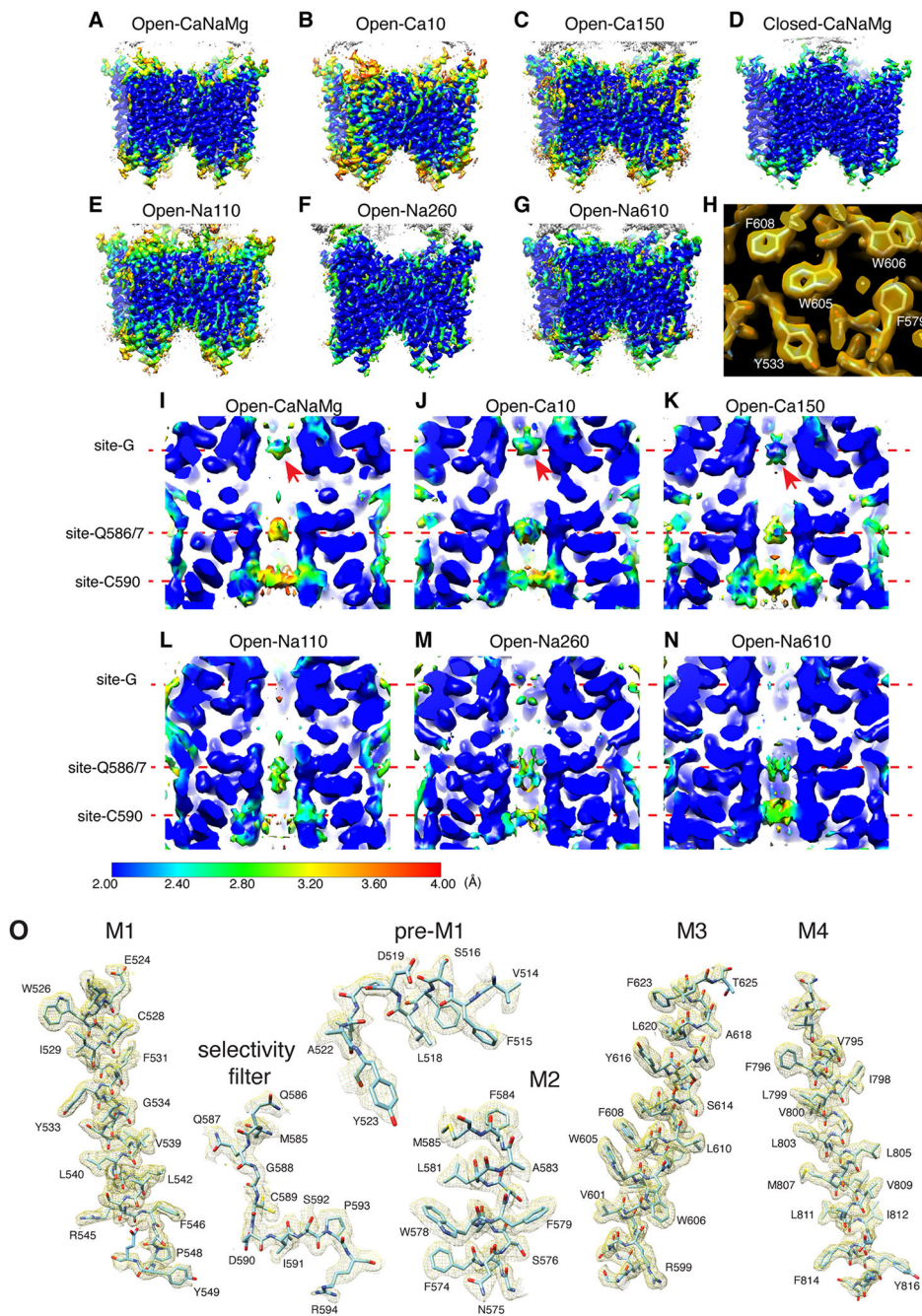




### Extended Data Fig. 2. Fourier Shell Correlation (FSC) curves.

The FSC curves of the GluA2/TARP complexes presented in this work. The membrane embedded portion of the structures were refined using the TMD-STG mask, with (C2) and without (C1) imposing symmetry (**A, C, E, G, I, K, and M**). The LBDs were refined using the LBD mask with C2 symmetry imposed (**B, D, F, H, J, L, and N**). **A-B**. Open-CaNaMg. **C-D**. Open-Ca10. **E-F**. Open-Ca150. **G-H**. Open-Na610. **I-J**. Open-Na110. **K-L**. Open-CaNaMg/N619K. **M-N**. Closed-CaNaMg. The FSCs and final resolutions were calculated using Relion. FSC=0.143 is indicated by dashed line. Resolution is indicated by

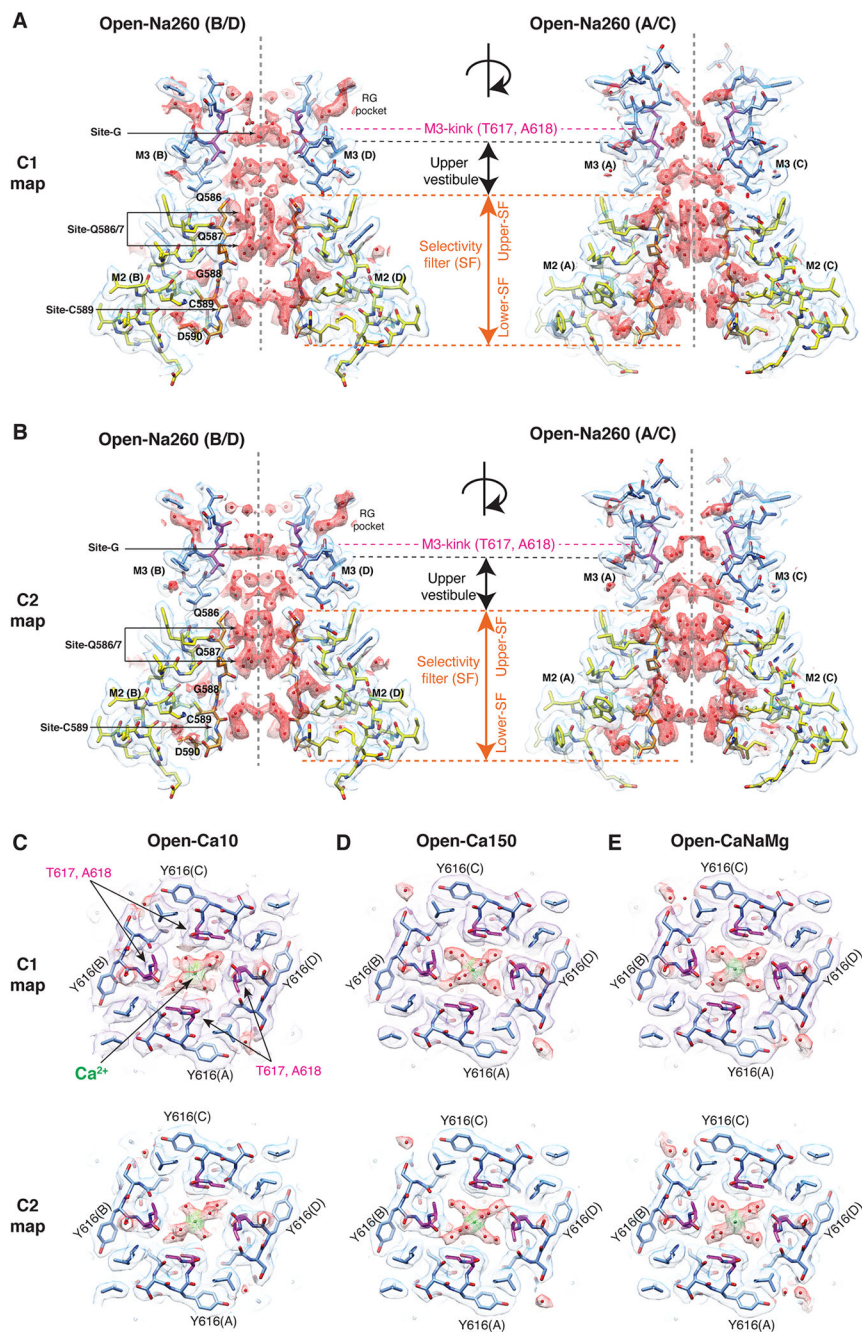
the arrows and numbers. Note: FSC curves of Open-Na260 are provided in Extended Data Fig. 1 F2 and F4.



**Extended Data Fig. 3. Local resolution and representative fit between map and model.**

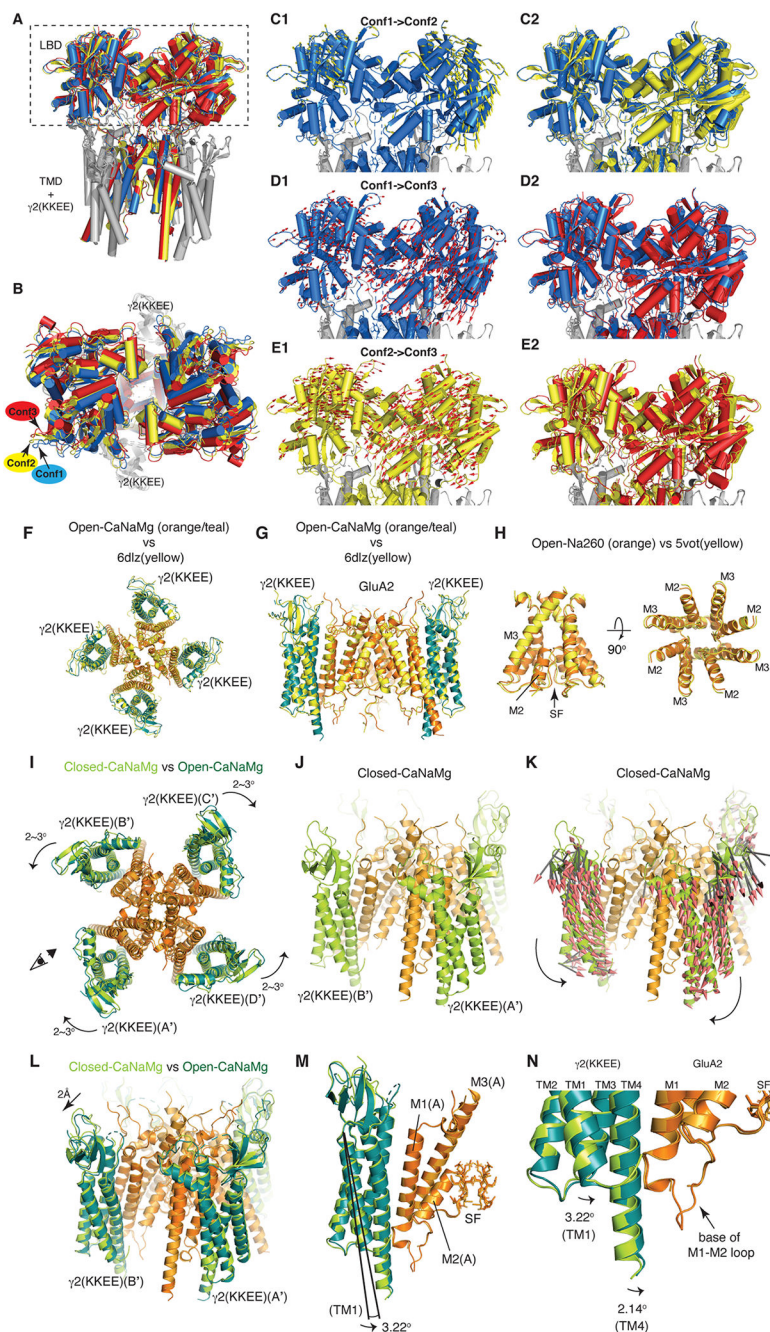
**A-G.** Local resolution was estimated by ResMap<sup>59</sup>, using as input the half maps generated by 3D refinement in Relion. The heatmap for resolution is shown on the bottom right. Side view of each indicated structure. **H.** Overlay of map and model in a subregion of M1-3 helices. With an optimal threshold, the holes in the aromatic sidechains are discernible.

**I-N.** Cross sections of local resolution heatmaps of the open pores. The arrows in **I-K** are the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  density at site-G. Note higher local resolution of the density in 150mM  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  (Open-Ca150) compared to 10mM  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  (Open-Ca10 and Open-CaNaMg), consistent with more binding at higher concentration. Note, the maps displayed are half-maps that are unfiltered/unsharpened, and thus the resolution appear lower than the full-maps displayed in other figures. **O.** Representative overlay of map and model in the TMD. Open-Na260 is shown. Others were at similar quality. Also see Extended Data Fig. 5-6.



**Extended Data Fig. 4. Consistency of pore densities between the C1 and C2 maps**

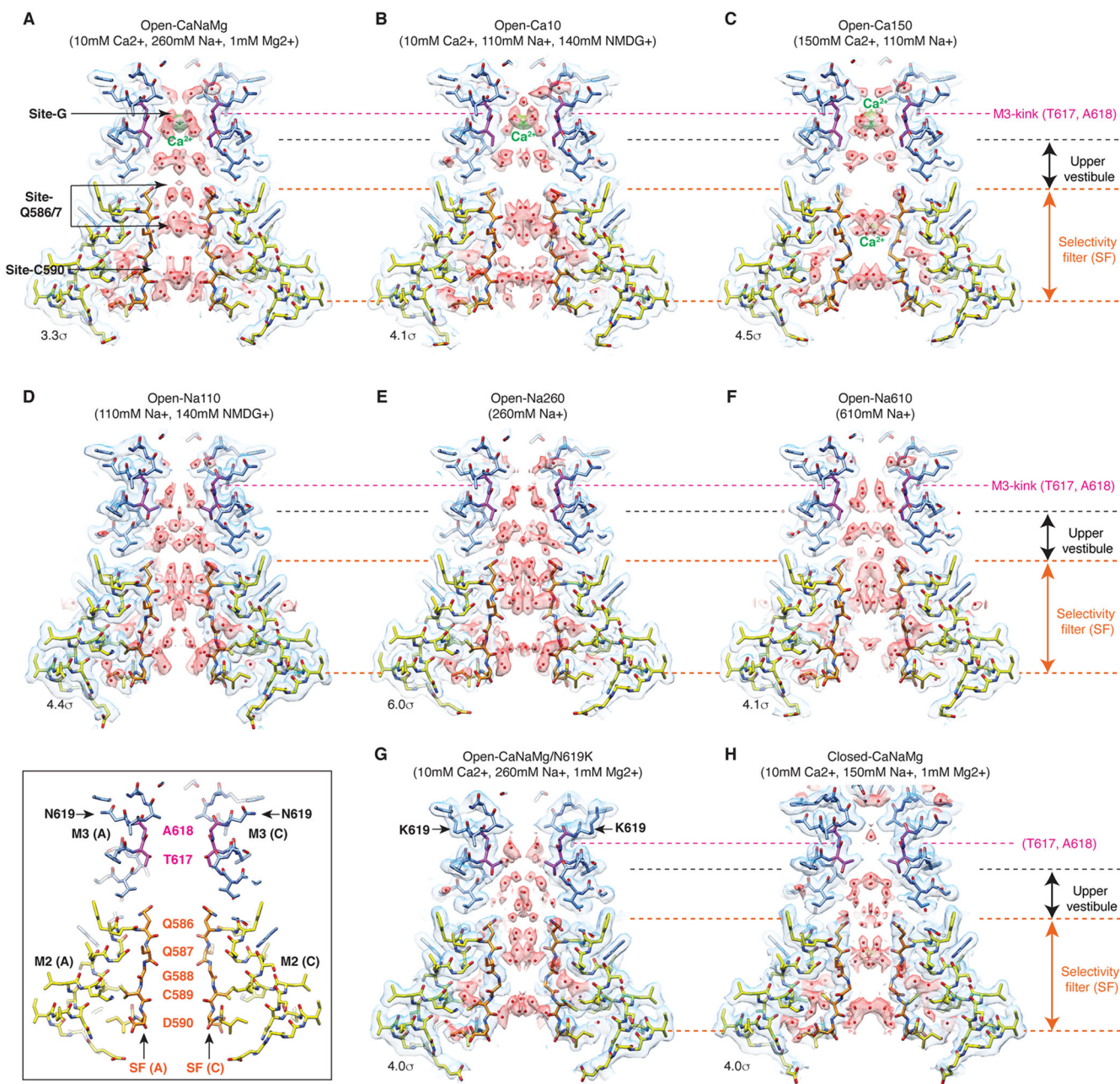
**A-B.** Cross sections of the pores of Open-Na260. (A) C1 maps. (B) C2 maps. All maps were filtered according to the local resolution calculated by Relion. The cryo-EM density map (mesh) and the atomic model are superimposed. The atomic models were built based on the C2 map and superimposed into the C1 map in A. Putative water and calcium ion are in red mesh. The atomic models of the polypeptides of M2, SF, and M3 are shown in yellow, orange, and sky blue, where elements are colored according to oxygen=red, nitrogen=blue, and sulfate=yellow. Residues that define the gate in the M3 of each structure are colored magenta. **C-E.** Overlay of the model and map at site-G are shown. **C.** Open-Ca10. **D.** Open-Ca150. **E.** Open-CaNaMg. Top: C1 map. Bottom: C2 map. The C1 map was filtered using the local resolution function in Relion. T617 and A618 are in magenta. The Ca<sup>2+</sup> is green.



**Extended Data Fig. 5. Global structures of the A2iQ/γ2(KKEE).**

**A-E.** Conformational heterogeneity of the LBD gating ring in Open-Na260. **A.** LBD-TMD sectors were reconstructed from particles that produced LBD Conf1, Conf2, and Conf3. The LBD-TMD were aligned and superimposed using the cytoplasmic half of the SF. The TMD and γ2(KKEE) are nearly perfectly aligned as expected; there was no obvious global conformational heterogeneity of the TMD and γ2(KKEE). Blue=Conf1, Yellow=Conf2, and Red=Conf3. The rectangle indicates the regions that are highlighted in panels C-E. **B.** The LBD gating ring of the aligned and superimposed structure shown in panel A is viewed

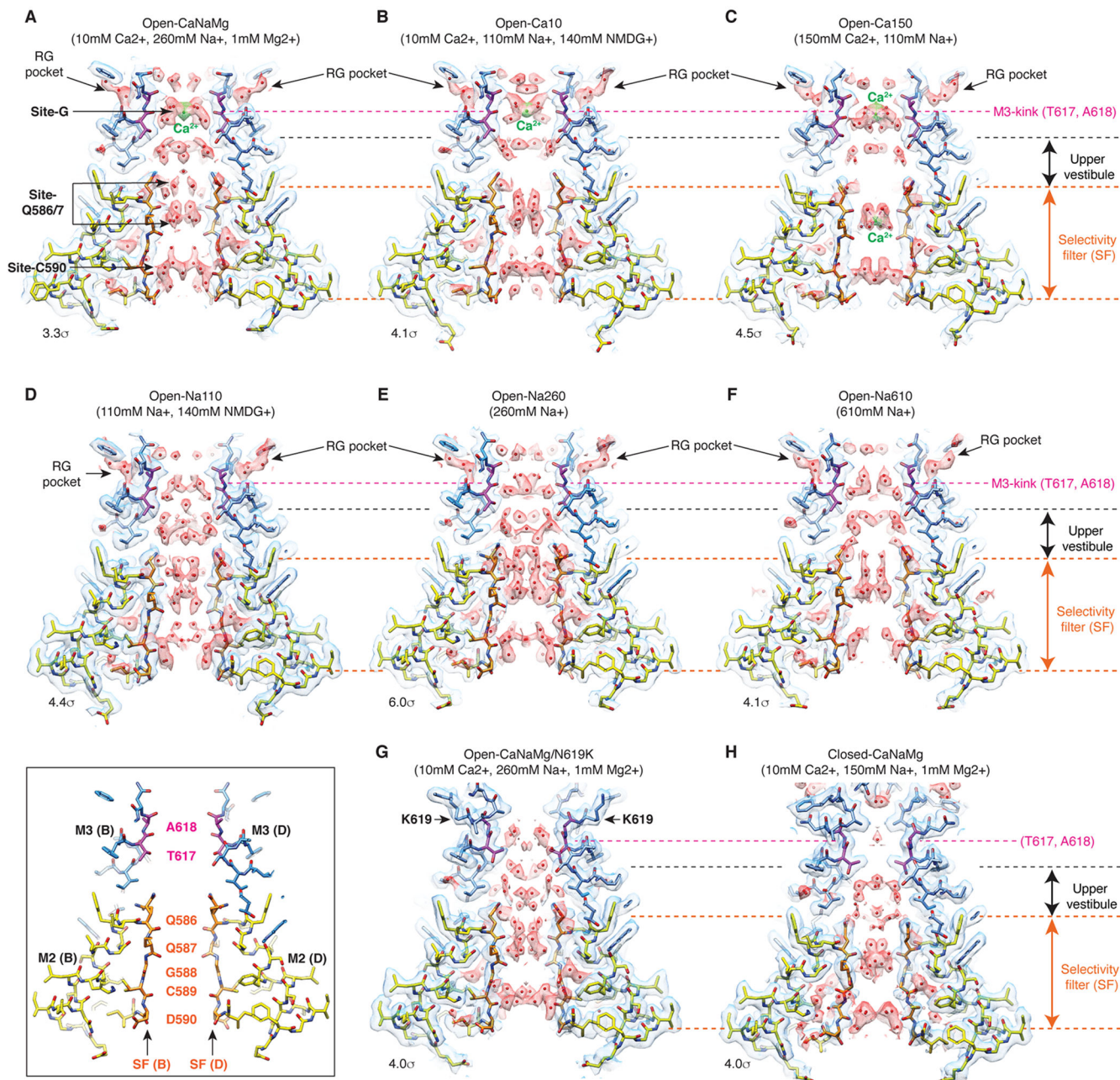
from above. The helices of the LBDs do not superimpose. **C.** Conformational transition from Conf1 to Conf2. The Conf1 conformation is shown with the mode vectors (yellow arrows) that schematically represent the displacements of the C $\alpha$  during the conformational transition from Conf1 to Conf2 (panel C1). The lengths of the vectors are increased by 50% than actual displacements for clarity. The Conf1 and Conf2 conformations are superimposed in the same view as in panel C1. **D and E.** The transition from Conf1 to Conf3 (panels D1 and D2) and from Conf2 to Conf3 (panels E1 and E2) are shown as in panel C. **F-N.** Global architecture of A2iQ/ $\gamma$ -2(KKKEE). **F and G.** The atomic model of Open-CaNaMg at 2.4Å resolution, where  $\gamma$ 2(KKKEE) in teal and GluA2 in orange, is superimposed to the A2iQ/ $\gamma$ 2 wild-type complex in yellow (PDB:6dlz, 3.9Å resolution). The root mean square deviation (RMSD) of the C $\alpha$  is 1.909Å. Top view (A) and cross section side view (B). **H.** The pore (i.e., M2, SF, and M3) of Open-Na260 at 2.3Å resolution is superimposed to the A2iQ/ $\gamma$ 2 wild-type complex in yellow (PDB:5vot, 4.9Å resolution). The RMSD of C $\alpha$  of the M3 in B/D subunit pairs is 0.642Å. **I.** Conformational difference between Closed-CaNaMg and Open-CaNaMg. The two structures were aligned at the cytoplasmic half of M3 (residue 597-610) at RMSD=0.3Å. GluA2 are colored in orange and light orange in Open-CaNaMg and Closed-CaNaMg, respectively. The four  $\gamma$ 2(KKKEE)s of Open-CaNaMg are colored in teal, while in Closed-CaNaMg they are in light green. The position of the  $\gamma$ 2(KKKEE)s relative to the GluA2 are indicated by the A'-D' labels, as defined in Fig1B. The  $\gamma$ 2(KKKEE)s undergo counter rotations of 2-3° within the A'/B' and C'/D' pairs (curved arrows). The eye and arrow indicate the viewpoint of the structures in J-K. **J.** Closed-CaNaMg without the mode vector arrows. **K.** Closed-CaNaMg with the mode vector arrows that describe the directions and magnitudes of displacement of the C $\alpha$  between Closed-CaNaMg and Open-CaNaMg. Arrows are shown for all motion greater than 0.5Å. The counter rotation of the  $\gamma$ 2(KKKEE)s in the A'/B' pairs are shown. **L.** Superposition of the Open-CaNaMg and Closed-CaNaMg shows the ~2Å outward motion of the extracellular domain of the TARPs. **M and N.** The activation is also accompanied by a 2-3° tilt of the TARPs, which brings close the cytoplasmic extension of TM4 of  $\gamma$ 2(KKKEE) to the base of M1-M2 loop of GluA2. In the magnified view (I), the difference in the tilt angle in TM1 and TM4 of  $\gamma$ 2(KKKEE) is shown.



**Extended Data Fig. 6. Comparison of cryo-EM maps and models in the pores in the cross-section containing the A/C subunits.**

Cross sections containing A/C subunits of the pores of Open-CaNaMg (A), Open-Ca10 (B), Open-Ca150 (C), Open-Na110 (D), Open-Na260 (E), Open-Na610 (F), Open-CaNaMg/N619K (G), and Closed-CaNaMg (H) are displayed. The cryo-EM density map (mesh) and the atomic model are superimposed. The cryo-EM maps are displayed using the indicated sigma values. Putative water and calcium ion are in red and green spheres, respectively. The atomic models of the polypeptides of M2, SF, and M3 are shown in yellow, orange, and sky blue, where elements are colored according to oxygen=red, nitrogen=blue, and sulfate=yellow. Residues that define the gate in the M3 of each structure are colored magenta.

The left bottom inset shows the locations of the key residues in the wild type open pore. C2 maps are displayed (also see Table 1).

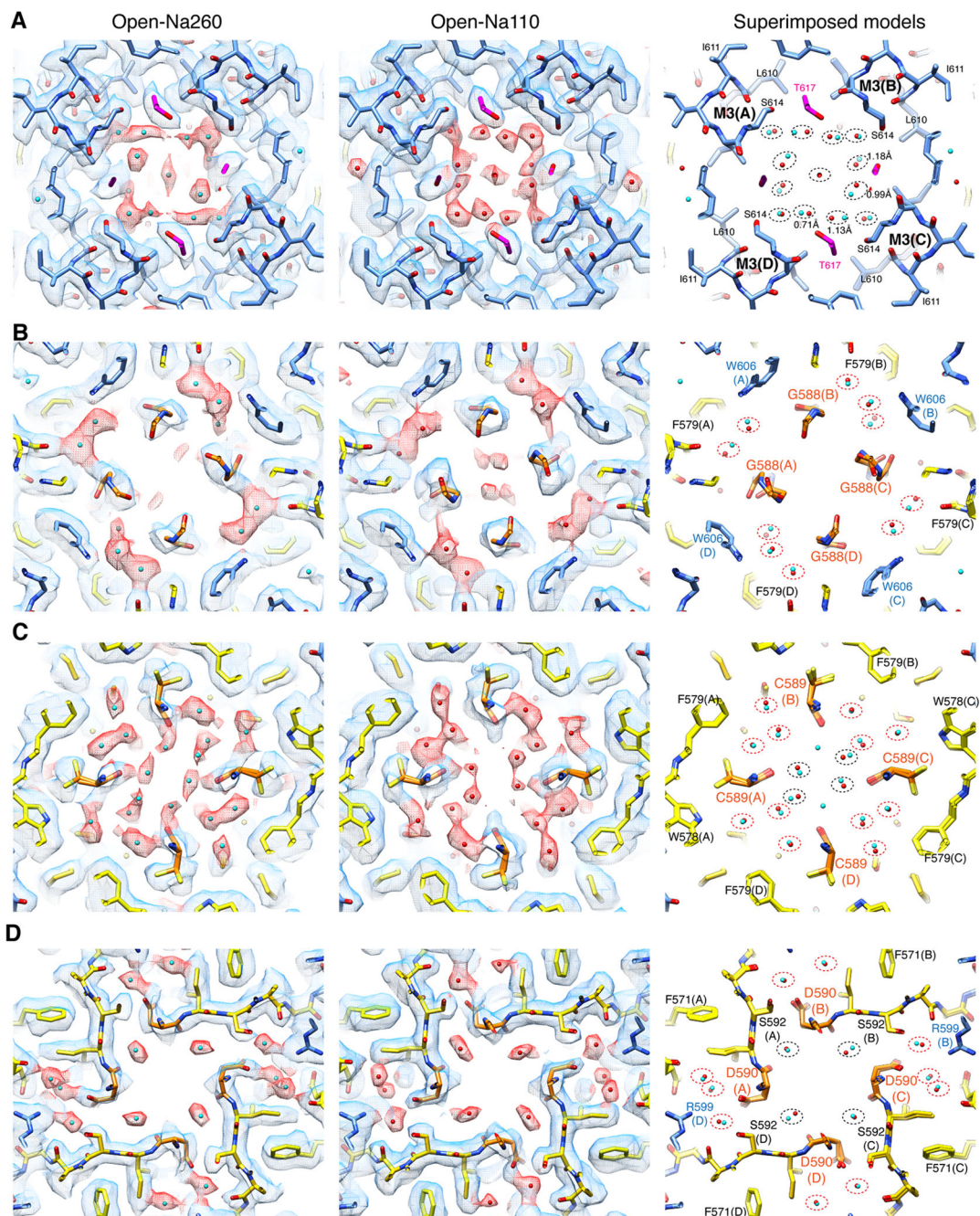


**Extended Data Fig. 7. Comparison of cryo-EM maps and models in the pores in the cross-section containing the B/D subunits.**

Cross sections containing B/D subunits of the pores of Open-CaNaMg (**A**), Open-Ca10 (**B**), Open-Ca150 (**C**), Open-Na110 (**D**), Open-Na260 (**E**), Open-Na610 (**F**), Open-CaNaMg/N619K (**G**), and Closed-CaNaMg (**H**) are displayed. The cryo-EM density map (mesh) and the atomic model are superimposed. The cryo-EM maps are displayed using the indicated sigma values. Putative water and calcium ion are in red and green spheres, respectively.

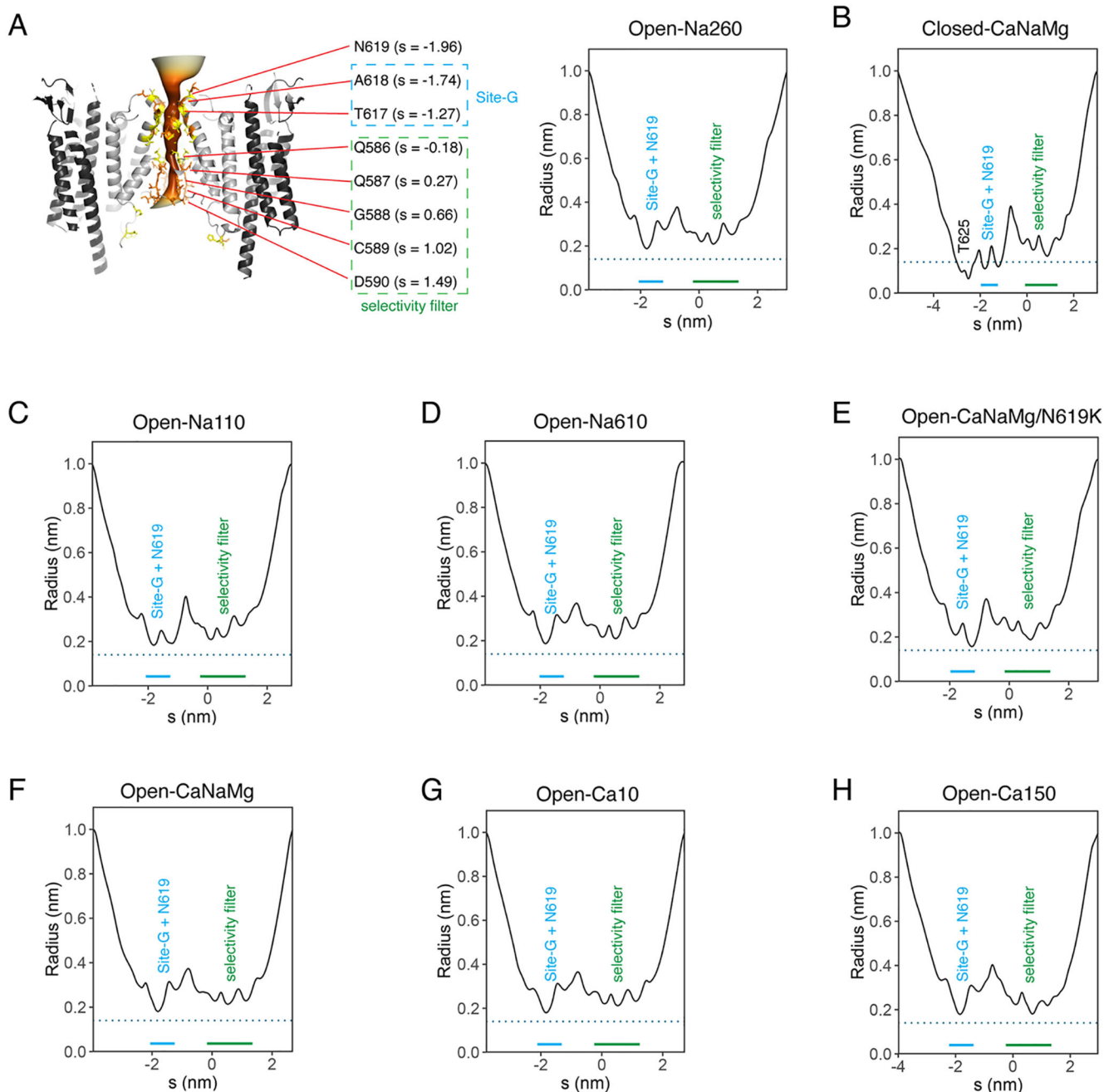


The atomic models of the polypeptides of M2, SF, and M3 are shown in yellow, orange, and sky blue, where elements are colored according to oxygen=red, nitrogen=blue, and sulfate=yellow. Residues that define the gate in the M3 of each structure are colored magenta. The left bottom inset shows the locations of the key residues in the wild type open pore. Each view is the orthogonal to the corresponding structure shown in the previous figure. C2 maps are displayed (also see Table1).



**Extended Data Fig. 8. Putative water in the vestibules that are common in Open-Na260 and Open-Na110.**

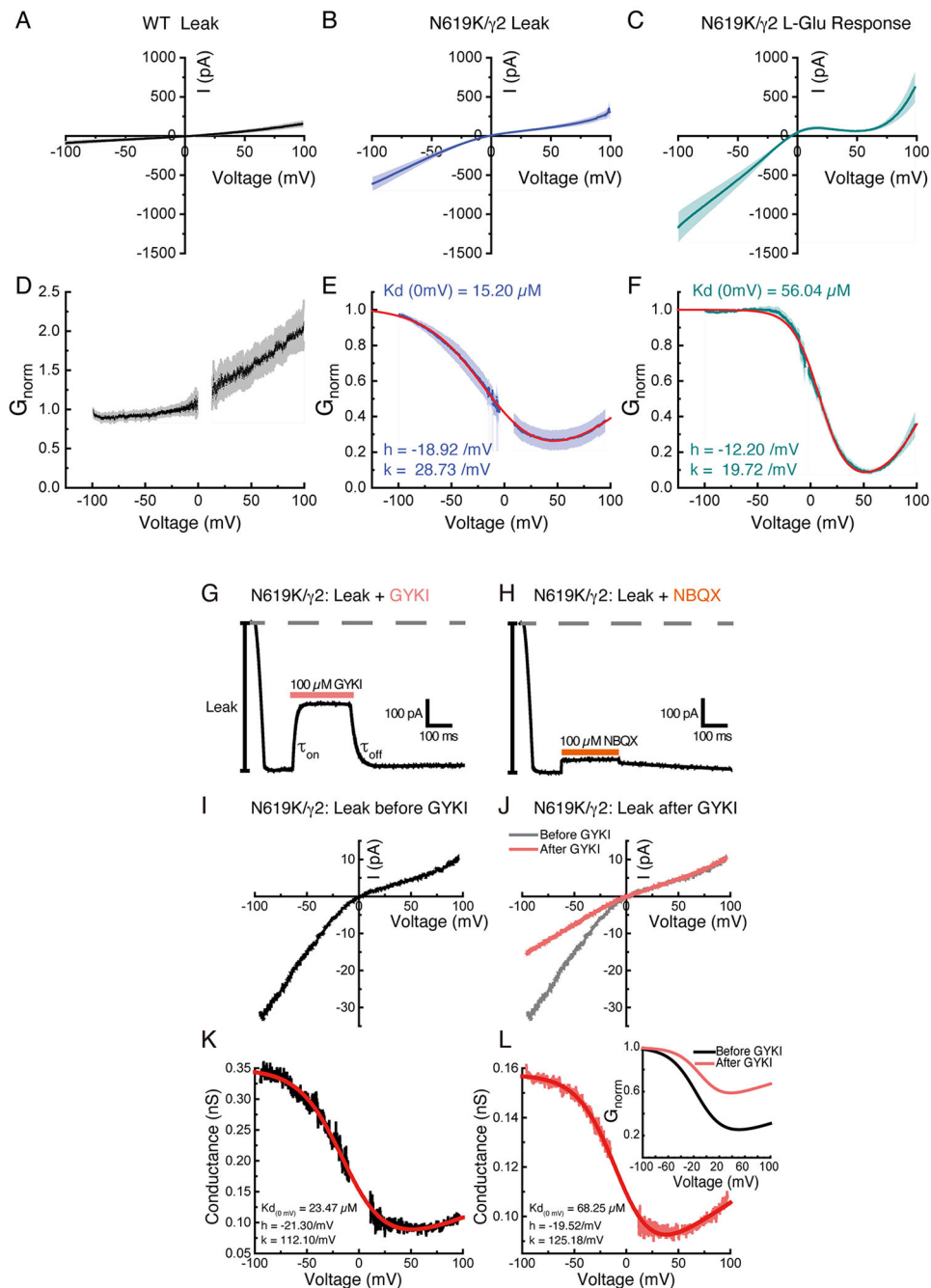
The horizontal sections through the upper (**A**) and lateral vestibule (**B-D**). The sections were made at different levels that contain residue S614 (**B**), G588 (**B**), C589 (**C**), and D590 (**D**) of the SF. In each row, Open-Na260 (left), Open-Na110 (middle), and superimposed models of two structures are displayed. Blue and red mesh are density map of polypeptides and putative water, respectively. The M3 (blue model), M2 with M2-M3 linker (yellow model), and SF (orange model) are shown. Cyan and red spheres are putative water in Open-Na260 and Open-Na110, respectively. The location of putative water is nearly identical in both structures, as indicated by dotted ovals surrounding the cyan and red water pairs in the right panels. The water surrounded by the red dashed oval are the ones in the lateral vestibules. Cyan-red sphere pair distances were below 1 Å in most cases. In **A** (right) the actual distances are provided next to the oval for subset of cyan-red sphere pairs. The densities in the lateral vestibule interpreted as water, described above, are unlikely to be cation because these is always a nearby - NH group within 3 Å distance.



### Extended Data Fig. 9. Solvent accessible pore radius.

The pore radius accessible to solvent was estimated using CHAP software<sup>64</sup>. **A.** (Left) The surface representation of the accessible pore is shown with the ribbon diagram of Open-Na260. GluA2: light gray. TARP $\gamma$ -2: dark gray. Pore facing and pore lining residues are in yellow and orange, respectively. The darkness of orange surface correlates with narrower radius of the pore. The value of  $s$  is the coordinate along the pore pathway, whose origin is set at the center of mass of the pore forming residues. The relations between the key pore residues and the value of  $s$  (in the unit of nm) are shown. (right) Radius vs.  $s$  plot. The

location of the site-G plus N619 and SF are in blue and green, respectively. The dashed line indicates  $1.4\text{\AA}$ . The radius of closed pore (Closed-CaNaMg) plotted in **B** crosses below the  $1.4\text{\AA}$  radius but the open pores don't. Radius vs.  $s$  plots are shown for Open-Na110 (**C**), Open-Na610 (**D**), Open-CaNaMg/N619K (**E**), Open-CaNaMg (**F**), Open-Ca10 (**G**), and Open-Ca150 (**H**).



**Extended Data Fig. 10. Characterization of A2iQ(N619K)/γ2 complex**

**A-C.** Averaged ramp currents (I-V) recorded in excised patches expressing wild-type A2iQ/ $\gamma$ 2 prior to agonist stimulation (**A**, black), N619K/ $\gamma$ 2 leak (**B**, blue) and agonist-evoked (**C**, dark cyan) responses using an internal patch solution containing 30  $\mu$ M spermine. Dim colours show the SEM. The I-V plots both show bi-rectifying I-V relationships demonstrating that cytoplasmic spermine blocks the leak (**B**) and agonist-gated state (**C**) of the mutant A2iQ(N619K)/ $\gamma$ 2 receptors. Data are presented as mean values  $\pm$  SEM. (also see Supplementary Table 4). **D-F.** Conductance-voltage (G-V) plots converted from **A-C** for wild-type leak (**D**, black), N619K/ $\gamma$ 2 leak (**E**, blue) and agonist-evoked (**F**, dark cyan) responses. In dim colours it is shown the SEM of the averaged conductance curves, respectively. Red lines in **E** and **F** are the fit for the G-V relationships for leak and agonist-evoked responses of N619K/ $\gamma$ 2 receptors, respectively, using the single permeant blocker model (eq.1). Data are presented as mean values  $\pm$  SEM. (Also see Supplementary Table 7) **G and H.** Fast jumps experiments comparing the ability of the AMPAR negative allosteric modulator, GYKI 52466 (100  $\mu$ M) (**G**, Patch # 221129p3) or the competitive antagonist, NBQX (100  $\mu$ M) (**H**, Patch # 221129p3) to block the leak currents mediated by N619K/ $\gamma$ 2 receptors. The onset and off kinetics of GYKI (**G**) were estimated as  $\tau_{on} = 12.7 \pm 0.9$  ms (n=10) and  $\tau_{off} = 37.1 \pm 3.9$  ms (n=10), respectively (also see Supplementary Table 5 and 6). **I.** I-V plot of the leak current of N619K/ $\gamma$ 2 receptors with an internal patch solution containing 30  $\mu$ M spermine in the absence of agonist. **J.** Typical I-V plots of leak currents of N619K/ $\gamma$ 2 receptors before (grey) and after (pink) applying 100  $\mu$ M GYKI (Patch # 221201p4), in the absence of agonist and containing 30  $\mu$ M spermine in the internal solution. **K and L.** Conductance-voltage (G-V) plots of the leak N619K/ $\gamma$ 2 receptors, converted from **J** (Patch # 221201p4), before (**K**, black) and after (**L**, pink) applying 100  $\mu$ M GYKI. The G-V curves are fit (red in **K** and **L**) using a single permeant ion blocker model (eq. 1). **L.** (inset) Normalized G-V plots before (black) and after (pink) the application of GYKI are superimposed.

## Supplementary Material

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## Data and materials availability:

The structural data in this work is deposited to PDB (and EMDB) under the accession numbers: 8FQF(EMD-29386), 8FP9(EMD-29360), 8FQ1(EMD-29737), 8FP4(EMD-29359), 8FQB(EMD-29382), 8FQ5(EMD-29378), 8FPS(EMD-29369), 8FPG(EMD-29363), 8FQG(EMD-29387), 8FQH(EMD-29388), 8FQ0(EMD-29394), 8FPC(EMD-29361), 8FPH(EMD-29364), 8FQ6(EMD-29379), 8FPV(EMD-29370),

8FPY(EMD-29371), 8FPZ(EMD-29372), 8FQD(EMD-29384), 8FQE(EMD-29385), 8FQ8(EMD-29380), 8FQA(EMD-29381), 8FQ2(EMD-29375), 8FQ3(EMD-29376), 8FPK(EMD-29367), 8FPL(EMD-29368). The C1 maps are associated with each entry. Request for materials (plasmids and cell lines) will be fulfilled for reasonable inquiries and should be addressed to Terunaga Nakagawa.

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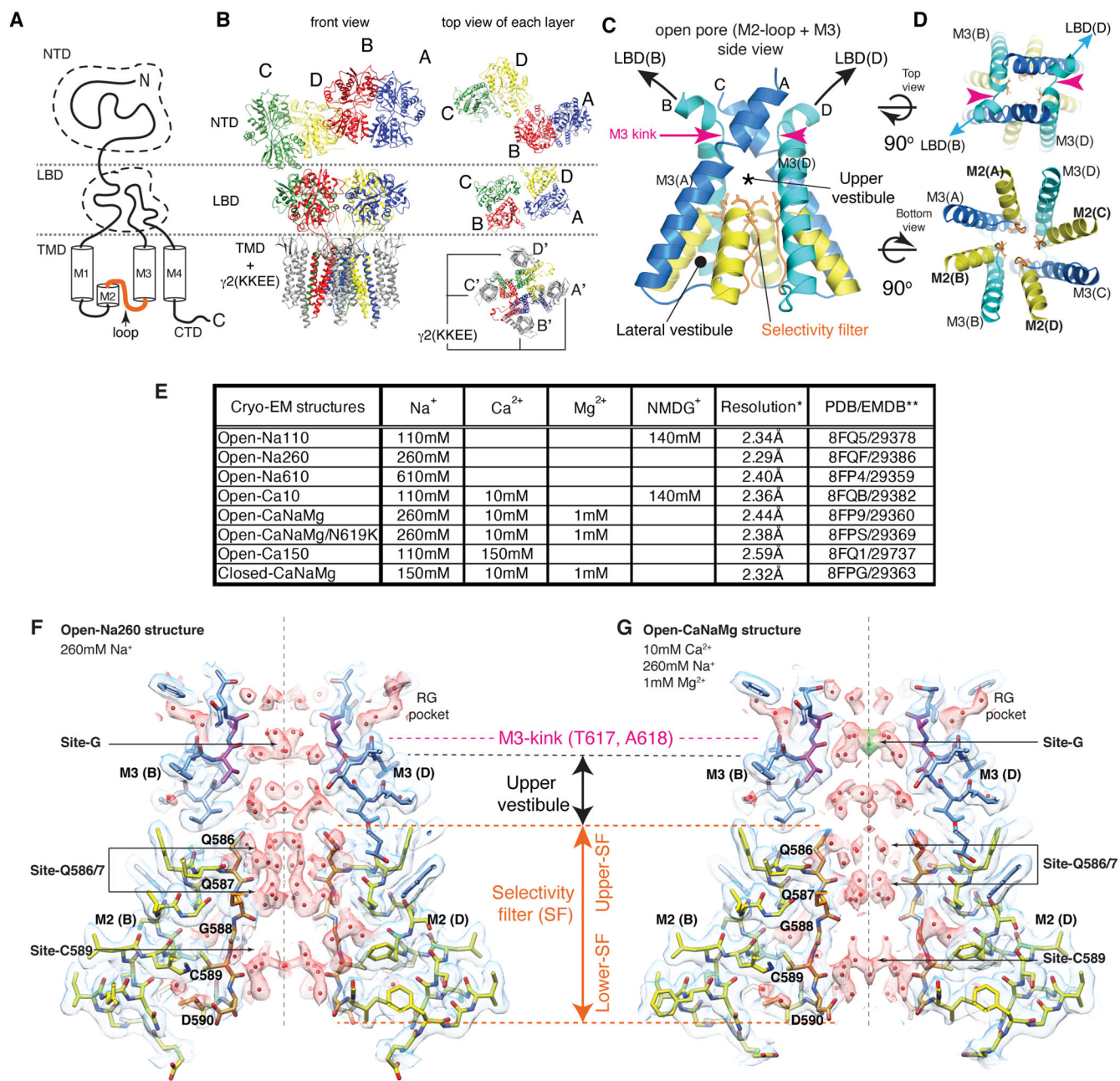
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**Figure 1. The ion permeation path of A2iQ/γ2(KKKEE).**

**A.** Domain organization of AMPAR subunit. The orange loop contains the selectivity filter.

**B.** Tetrameric assembly of A2iQ/γ2(KKKEE), whose global structure is indistinguishable

from the WT complex. GluA2 subunits; A=blue, B=red, C=green, and D=yellow. Four

γ2(KKKEE)s are in gray and their positions are labeled A', B', C' and D'.

**C.** Architecture of the open pore. Blue=M3 of A/C subunits, cyan=M3 of B/D subunits, yellow=M2,

and orange=selectivity filter.

**D.** Top: The open pore viewed from the extracellular space.

Bottom: The selectivity filter viewed from the cytoplasmic side.

**E.** Summary of ion conditions used in each cryo-EM structure. (\*) C2 map resolutions of the transmembrane

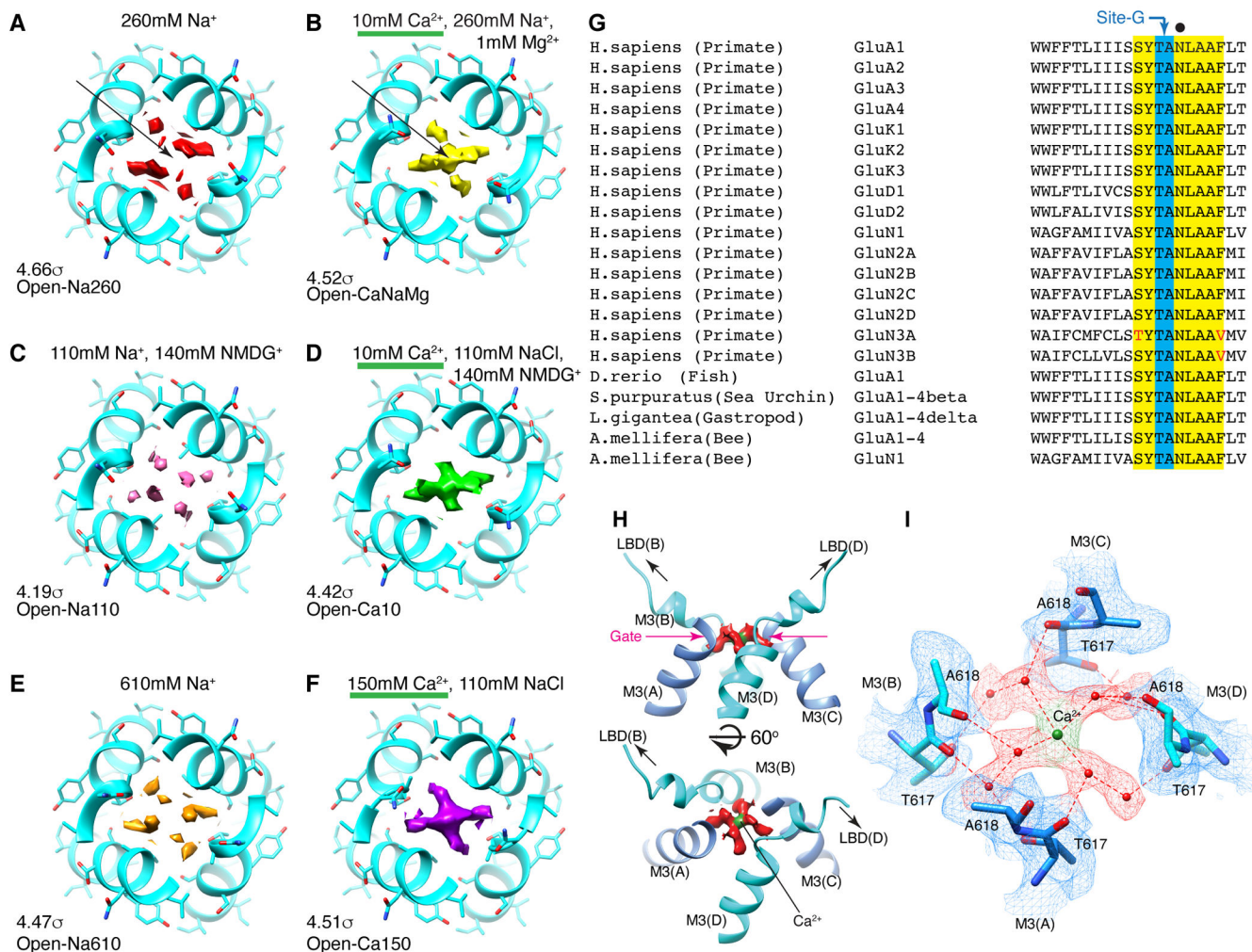
region are listed. See Table 1 and Supplementary Table 1 for details of refinement statistics. (\*\* ) PDB/EMDB codes are for the transmembrane region. **F and G**. The central slices of the pore of Open-Na260 (E, map threshold=6.0 $\sigma$ ) and Open-CaNaMg (F, map threshold=3.3 $\sigma$ ). The cryo-EM density map (mesh) and the atomic model are superimposed. Putative water and Ca<sup>2+</sup> are in red and green spheres, respectively. Regions of intense density accumulation are indicated as sites-G, -Q586/587, and -C589. Dashed gray lines are pore symmetry axes. The RG pocket indicates a cavity filled with water that is on the rear side of site-G and commonly found in the open structures.

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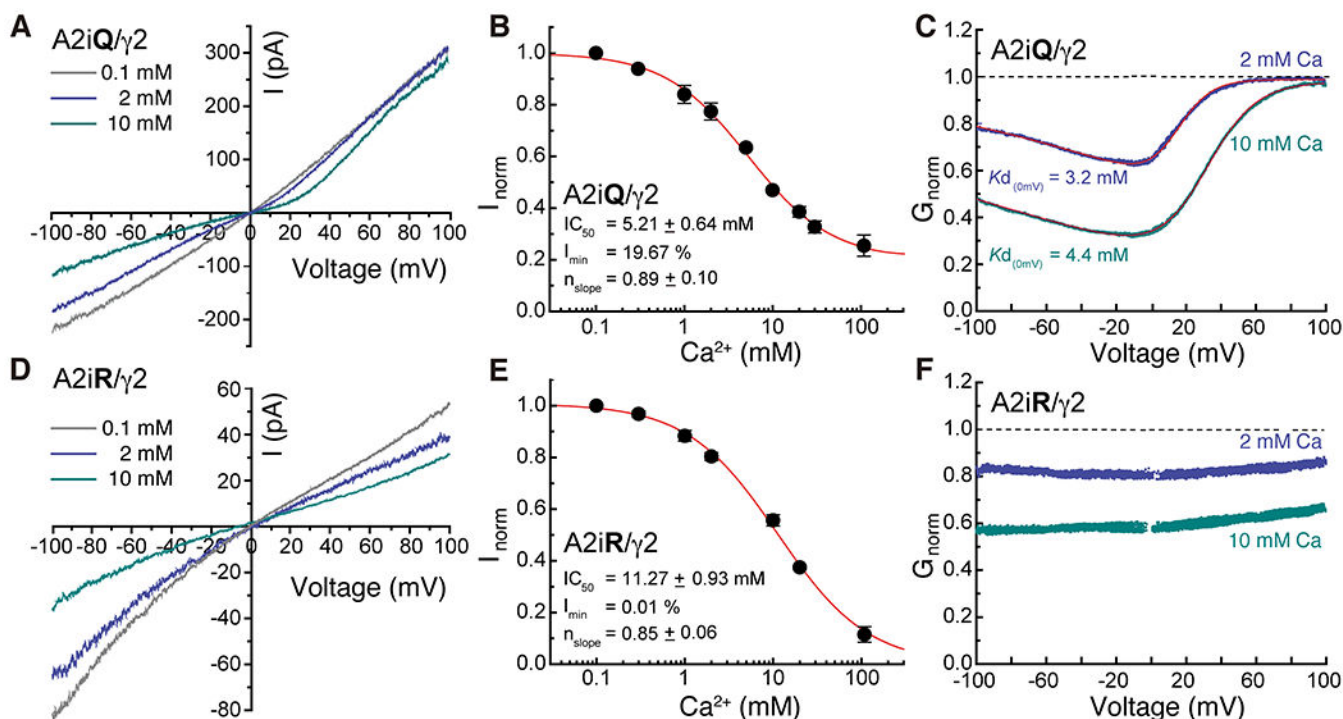
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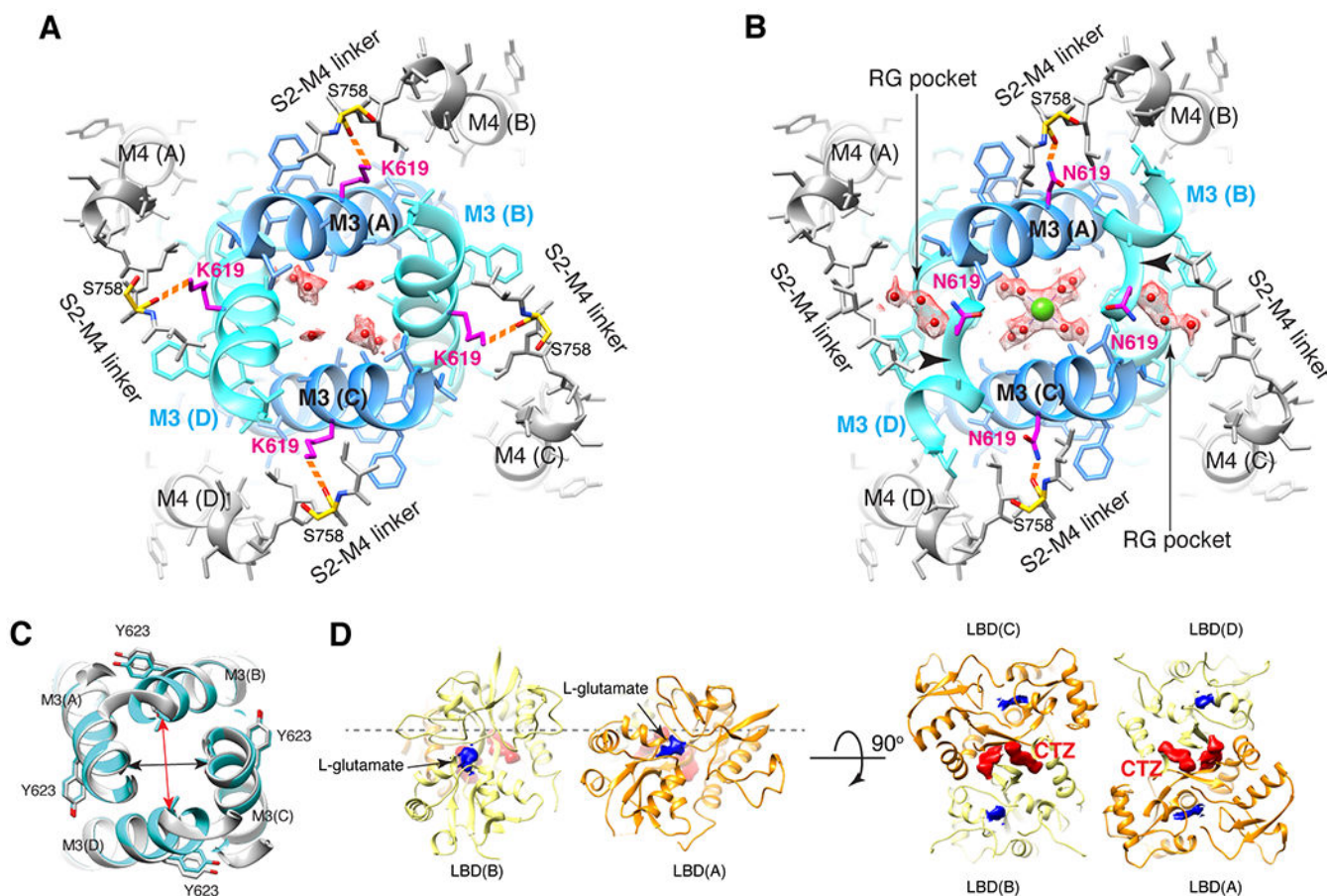
**Figure 2. Site-G as a Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding site at the gate.**

**A-F.** The top views of site-G in the open gates under different ionic conditions. The M3 helices in cyan. Pore occupying densities are in red (**A.** Open-Na260), yellow (**B.** Open-CaNaMg), pink (**C.** Open-Na110), green (**D.** Open-Ca10), orange (**E.** Open-Na610), and purple (**F.** Open-Ca150). The sigma values indicate display thresholds. Overall density occupying site-G is stronger when Ca<sup>2+</sup> is present. For example, compare the arrows in **A** and **B**. See Extended Data Fig. 6-7 for sideview. **G.** Alignment spanning the SYTANLAAF motif. Atypical residue in red. The non-vertebrate subunit nomenclature follows reference<sup>49</sup>. **H.** Side (top) and diagonal (bottom) view of site-G in Open-CaNaMg. The M3 helices in cyan and blue. The EM density map of putative water and putative Ca<sup>2+</sup> are in red and green, respectively. **I.** T617 and A618 make site-G. The atomic model and density map are superimposed. The dashed red lines are the putative hydrogen bonds and ion-water interactions.



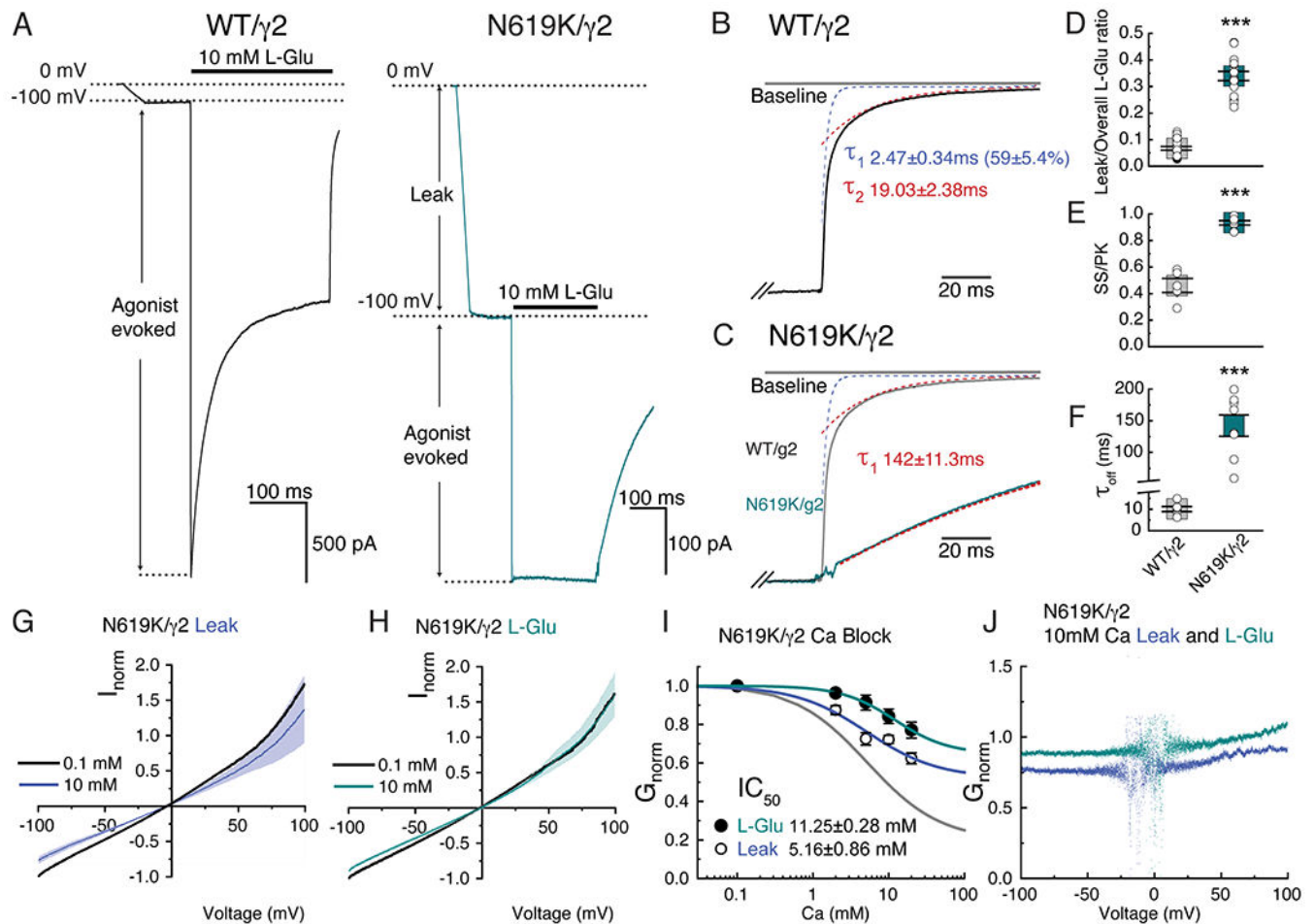
**Figure 3. External  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  block of GluA2/ $\gamma$ 2 and its voltage dependence.**

**A and D.** Current records observed in presence of 10mM glutamate and 100 $\mu$ M CTZ at a voltage range of  $-100$  to  $+100$  mV in presence of 0.1mM (gray), 2mM (light blue) and 10mM (dark blue)  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  for A2iQ/ $\gamma$ 2 (Patch # 220914p7) and A2iR/ $\gamma$ 2 (Patch # 221025p2) receptors. **B and E.** Inhibition plots of block by external  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  of A2iQ/ $\gamma$ 2 (**B**,  $n=8$ ) and A2iR/ $\gamma$ 2 (**E**,  $n=6$ ) receptors at  $-100$  mV. Data are presented as mean values  $\pm$  SEM. **C and F.** Conductance-voltage plots of block by 2 mM or 10 mM external  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  of A2iQ/ $\gamma$ 2 (**C**) and A2iR/ $\gamma$ 2 (**F**) receptors. The voltage-dependence of block of A2iQ/ $\gamma$ 2 receptors was well fit by a single permeant ion blocker model (red line) whereas block of A2iR/ $\gamma$ 2 receptors was voltage-insensitive.



**Figure 4. N619K mutation reduces  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  binding at site-G, external  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  block, and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permeability.**

**A-B.** The site-G of the mutant A2iQ(N619K)/ $\gamma$ 2(KKEE) (**A**) and WT A2iQ/ $\gamma$ 2(KKEE) (**B**) viewed from the extracellular side. The M3 kink (arrowhead in **B**) is only present in WT. The central pore density is absent in the mutant, while the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  (green sphere) is found in the WT. Water in red sphere. Density map in mesh. The side chains of mutated K619 and WT counterpart N619 are in magenta. The S758 in yellow. The K619 interacts with the carbonyl oxygens of S758 (orange dashed lines). In WT the RG pocket filled with water occupies the space between N619 and S758 in the B/D subunits. In A/C subunits, the N619 interacts with the carbonyl oxygens of S758 (orange dashed lines). **C.** Overlay of site-G of WT (light gray) and N619K (cyan) receptors, aligned using the M3 segment residues 610-615. The pore is narrower in the B/D subunit axis (red arrow: distances of T617 Ca of B/D; 12.38Å in N619K vs. 13.57Å in WT) and wider in the A/C axis (black arrow: distances of T617 Ca of A/C; 11.84 in N619K vs. 11.56Å in WT). **D.** The ribbon model of LBD gating ring of LBDconf1 in A2iQ(N619K)/ $\gamma$ 2(KKEE) complex (Supplementary Table 1) displayed at two orthogonal views. LBD monomers of A/C and B/D subunits in orange and light yellow, respectively. The densities for glutamate and CTZ are in blue and red, respectively. The conf2 is also fully liganded as in conf1 (not shown).



**Figure 5. N619K mutation promotes opening and alters kinetic properties of the ion channel.**

**A.** Example traces of leak and agonist-evoked responses of WT (in black, Patch # 200121p2) and mutant N619K (in cyan, Patch # 221201p5) receptors at  $-100$  mV. Note the substantial leak current in the mutant. **B.** Example of deactivation kinetics of WT (black trace) fit by bi-exponential function (blue and red dashed lines are the  $\tau_1$  and  $\tau_2$  component, respectively). **C.** Example of deactivation kinetics of N619K superimposed with the WT example from panel B. N619K deactivation kinetics was fit by mono-exponential function. Trace response (cyan) and model fit (red). **D-F.** Scatter plots showing all data points from each group. Average represented with grey and cyan squares with SEM. **D.** Ratio of leak over overall evoked currents (ratio leak current of overall current WT:  $0.07 \pm 0.01$ ,  $n=6$ ; N619K:  $0.34 \pm 0.02$ ,  $n=8$ ; two-sided Mann-Whitney test,  $p$ -value  $< 0.001$ ). **E.** Steady state current over peak current ratio (WT:  $0.46 \pm 0.05$ ,  $n=8$ ; N619K:  $0.93 \pm 0.02$ ,  $n=8$ ; unpaired two-sided t-test with Welch correction,  $p$ -value  $< 0.001$ ). **F.** Deactivation kinetics measured using the offset kinetics. Off kinetics in WT and N619K were fit to bi-exponential ( $\tau_1$  and  $\tau_2$ ) and mono-exponential functions, respectively (WT:  $10.10 \pm 1.18$ ,  $n=6$ ; N619K:  $142.00 \pm 11.30$ ,  $n=8$ ; unpaired two-sided t-test with Welch correction,  $p$ -value  $< 0.001$ ). Also see in Supplementary Table 4. **G and H.** Normalized I-V currents recorded in N619K/ $\gamma 2$  mutant at holding potential ranging from  $-100$  mV to  $+100$  mV. Black; average response from all

recordings in 0.1 mM Ca solution. Blue; average responses in 10 mM  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  for leak current (n=6). Cyan; 10 mM glutamate and 100 $\mu\text{M}$  CTZ evoked responses (n=6). SEM of leak and evoked currents in dim colors. **I.** Inhibition plots of external  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  block for leak (open circles, n=6) and agonist-evoked (filled circles, n=6) responses in N619K receptors at  $-100$  mV. Data are presented as mean values  $\pm$  SEM. (Also see in supplementary table 3) **J.** Conductance-voltage plots of block by 10 mM external  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  for the agonist-evoked curve (cyan) and the leak curve (blue).

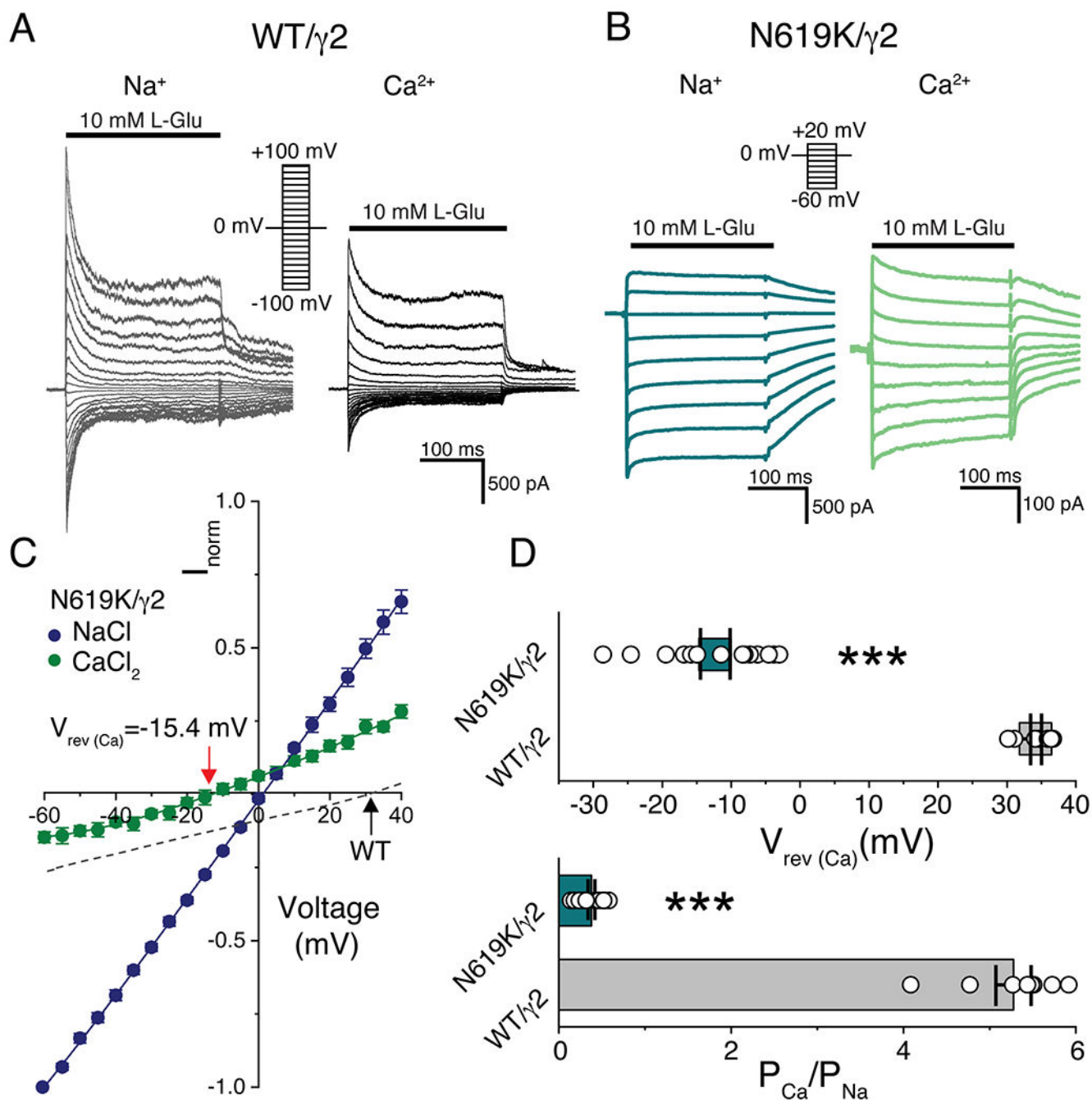
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**Figure 6. Calcium block and permeation are affected by N619K mutation.**

**A and B.** Example traces of responses from WT/ $\gamma$ 2 (grey in Na<sup>+</sup>, black in Ca<sup>2+</sup>) and N619K/ $\gamma$ 2 (dark cyan in Na<sup>+</sup>, green in Ca<sup>2+</sup>) at various membrane potentials (in 10 mV increments) in absence of spermine. Receptors were activated with 10mM L-glutamate. The external solutions; Na<sup>+</sup> = 150mM Na<sup>+</sup> recording solution (patch # 190117p5 for WT/ $\gamma$ 2, patch # 221124p2 for N619K/ $\gamma$ 2), and Ca<sup>2+</sup> = 108 mM Ca<sup>2+</sup> recording solution (patch # 190117p5 for WT/ $\gamma$ 2 and # 221124p2 for N619K/ $\gamma$ 2). **C.** Current-voltage (I-V) plots of mutant N619K/ $\gamma$ 2 receptors (n=10) in external 150 mM Na<sup>+</sup> (blue circles) or 108 mM

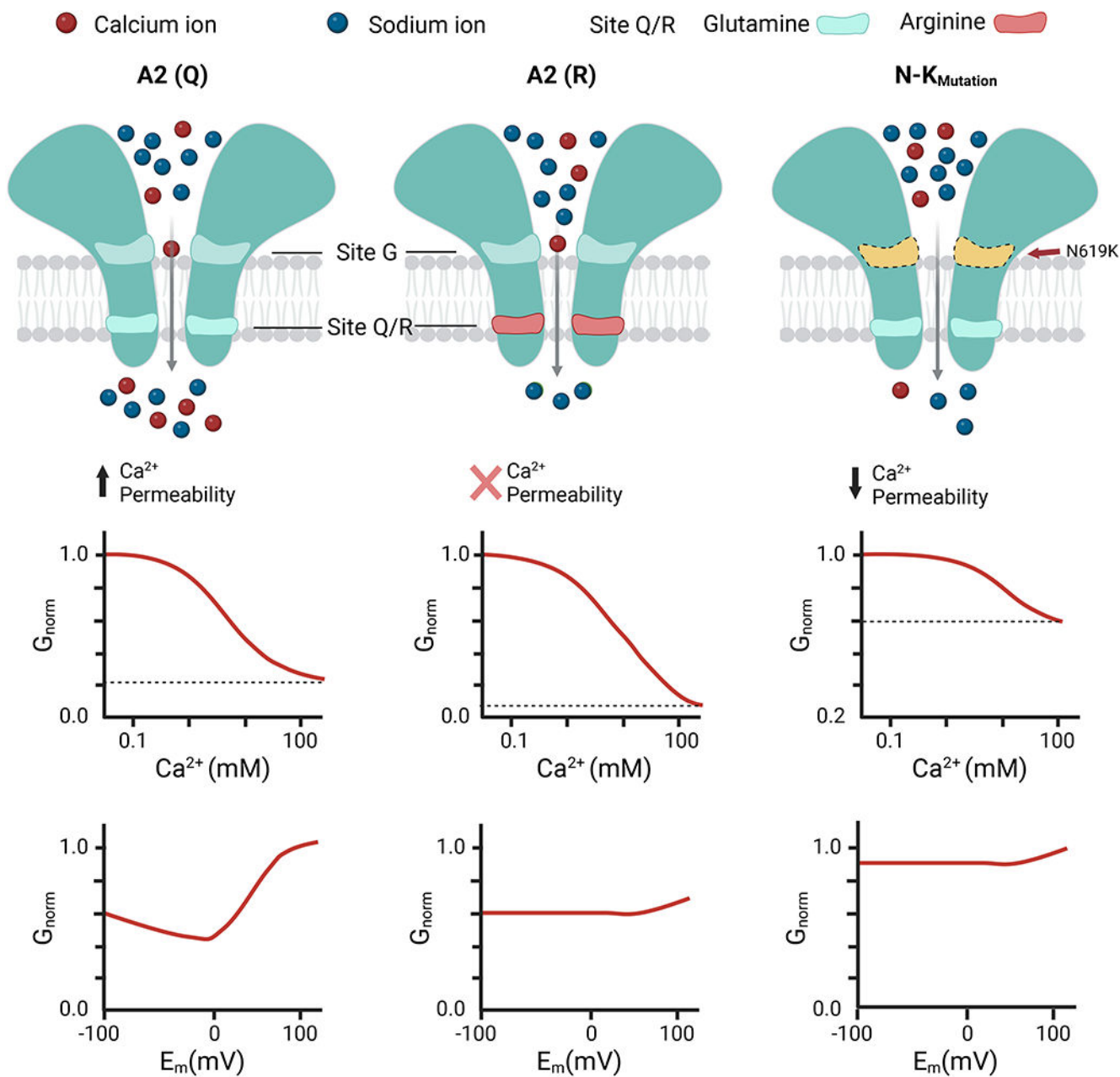
Ca<sup>2+</sup> (green circles). In dashed black line it is shown IV plot of WT/ $\gamma$ 2 receptors (n=8) in 108 mM Ca<sup>2+</sup> (dotted line). Data are presented as mean values  $\pm$  SEM. **D. (Top)** Scatter plot comparing the reversal potential in 108 mM Ca<sup>2+</sup> from WT/ $\gamma$ 2 and N619K/ $\gamma$ 2. Grey (WT/ $\gamma$ 2) and cyan (N619K/ $\gamma$ 2) squares indicate average with SEM ( $V_{rev} = 34.1 \pm 0.8$  mV for WT/ $\gamma$ 2, n=8;  $V_{rev} = -15.4 \pm 2.3$  mV N619K/ $\gamma$ 2, n=10; unpaired two-sided t-test with Welch correction, p-value < 0.001). **D. (Bottom)** Comparison of the relative divalent permeabilities ( $P_{Ca^{2+}}/P_{Na^{+}}$ ) of WT/ $\gamma$ 2 and mutant N619K/ $\gamma$ 2 receptors ( $P_{Ca^{2+}}/P_{Na^{+}} = 5.28 \pm 0.21$  for WT/ $\gamma$ 2, n=8;  $P_{Ca^{2+}}/P_{Na^{+}} = 0.32 \pm 0.04$  for N619K/ $\gamma$ 2, n=10) unpaired two-sided t-test with Welch correction, p-value < 0.001). (Also see in Supplementary Table 8)

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**Figure 7. Schematic model for the function of site-G.**

Transport of Ca<sup>2+</sup> through the AMPAR pore requires both Site-G and the Q/R site. Site-G is at the channel gate outside the membrane electric field, while the Q/R site of the selectivity filter sits within the membrane electric field. (left) When Ca<sup>2+</sup> binds to site-G it partially prevents the passage of Na<sup>+</sup>, causing external Ca<sup>2+</sup> block of currents carried by Na<sup>+</sup>. Due to this arrangement, Ca<sup>2+</sup> entry to the Q/R site is maintained even though physiological external Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentration is about 50-fold lower than Na<sup>+</sup>. This distinction accounts for the efficient divalent permeability in GluA2-iQ (A2(Q)) channels. (middle) In GluA2-iR (A2(R)), Ca<sup>2+</sup> can still access site-G but cannot permeate beyond the Q/R site. External Ca<sup>2+</sup> block is present, and *voltage-independent*, consistent with site-G being

located outside the membrane electric field. (right) For GluA2-iQ N619K mutant channels (N-K mutant), site-G can no longer bind  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , and thus external  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  block is weak. Attenuated site-G reduces the ability of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  to reach the Q/R site, ultimately leading to lower  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permeability.

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Table 1.

Cryo-EM data collection, refinement, and validation statistics

	Open-Na260, TMD-STG (EMDB-29386) (PDB 8FQF)	Open-CaNaMg, TMD-STG (EMDB-29360) (PDB 8FP9)	Open-Ca150, TMD-STG (EMDB-29737) (PDB 8FQ1)	Open-Na610, TMD-STG (EMDB-29359) (PDB 8FP4)	Open-Ca10, TMD-STG (EMDB-29382) (PDB 8FQB)	Open-Na110, TMD-STG (EMDB-29378) (PDB 8FQ5)	Open-CaNaMg/N619K, TMD-STG (EMDB-29369) (PDB 8FPS)	Closed-CaNaMg, TMD-STG (EMDB-29363) (PDB 8FTG)
<b>Data collection and processing</b>								
Magnification	105,000x	130,000x	130,000x	105,000x	130,000x	130,000x	130,000x	130,000x
Voltage (kV)	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Electron exposure (e-/Å <sup>2</sup> )	51	50	50	50	53	52	54.6	56
Defocus range (µm)	-0.7 to -2.1	-0.5 to -1.5	-0.8 to -2.0	-0.8 to -2.0	-0.8 to -2.0	-0.6 to -2.0	-0.8 to -2.0	-0.8 to -1.8
Pixel size (Å)	0.820	0.8195#	0.8195#	0.820	0.8195#	0.8195#	0.8195#	0.8195#
Energy filter band width (eV)	20	15	20	20	20	20	20	15
Number of micrographs	16,096	32,662	28,472	23,493	28,505	30,384	34,729	34,553
Initial particle images (no.)	5,409,247	5,075,710	5,573,868	5,140,390	7,059,177	4,655,266	6,655,184	3,905,978
Final particle images (no.)	1,093,405	822,038	540,796	901,154	986,075	692,680	693,935	847,436
Symmetry imposed	C1	C1	C1	C1	C1	C1	C1	C1
Map resolution (Å)	2.38	2.59	2.78	2.50	2.48	2.42	2.50	2.42
Map resolution with LBD* (Å)	2.50	2.63	2.84	2.57	2.52	2.46	2.59	2.52
FSC threshold	0.143	0.143	0.143	0.143	0.143	0.143	0.143	0.143
Map resolution range (Å)	2.3-3.7	2.5-4.1	2.6-4.3	2.4-3.9	2.4-4.1	2.3-4.0	2.4-4.2	2.3-3.9
<b>Refinement (C2)<sup>†</sup></b>								
Initial model used (PDB code)	5WEO	5WEO	5WEO	5WEO	5WEO	5WEO	5WEO	5WEO
Model resolution (Å)	2.0/2.3 (masked)	2.2/2.5 (masked)	2.2/2.7 (masked)	2.2/2.4 (masked)	2.1/2.5 (masked)	2.1/2.4 (masked)	1.9/2.6 (masked)	2.0/2.4 (masked)
FSC threshold	0.143/0.5	0.143/0.5	0.143/0.5	0.143/0.5	0.143/0.5	0.143/0.5	0.143/0.5	0.143/0.5
Map sharpening <i>B</i> factor (Å <sup>-2</sup> )	-56.0	-69.5	-72.1	-70.8	-64.9	-58.3	-62.8	-62.0
<b>Model composition</b>								
Non-hydrogen atoms	10,895	10,851	10,876	10,876	10,823	10,876	10,602	10,674
Protein residues	1,366	1,366	1,366	1,366	1,366	1,366	1,338	1,348

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	Open-Na260, TMD-STG (EMDB-29386) (PDB 8FQF)	Open-Na260, TMD-STG (EMDB-29386) (PDB 8FQF)	Open-CaNaMg, TMD-STG (EMDB-29360) (PDB 8FP9)	Open-Ca150, TMD-STG (EMDB-29737) (PDB 8FQ1)	Open-Na610, TMD-STG (EMDB-29359) (PDB 8FP4)	Open-Ca10, TMD-STG (EMDB-29382) (PDB 8FQB)	Open-Na110, TMD-STG (EMDB-29378) (PDB 8FQ5)	Open-CaNaMg/N619K, TMD-STG (EMDB-29369) (PDB 8FPS)	Closed-CaNaMg, TMD-STG (EMDB-29363) (PDB 8FPG)
Ligands	CL:2	CA:2	CA:1, CL:4	CA:2	CL:2	CA:1, CL:2	CL:4	CL:4	CL:4
Water	231	170	190	170	218	176	220	152	187
<i>B</i> factors (Å <sup>2</sup> )									
Protein	38.03	55.01	57.87	55.01	40.64	41.01	39.99	35.33	42.86
Ligand	59.77	87.40	76.98	87.40	73.02	75.39	63.98	66.30	71.43
Water	25.84	45.02	44.19	45.02	36.14	33.39	37.15	27.41	38.77
R.m.s. deviations									
Bond lengths (Å)	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.003
Bond angles (°)	0.428	0.403	0.478	0.403	0.421	0.451	0.441	0.370	0.489
Validation									
MolProbity score	1.30	1.21	1.13	1.21	1.36	1.45	1.23	1.12	1.73
Clashscore	4.62	3.70	3.35	3.70	4.15	4.96	3.44	3.32	4.90
Poor rotamers (%)	0.54	1.17	0.98	1.17	1.25	1.79	1.16	1.01	1.84
Ramachandran plot									
Favored (%)	97.72	98.01	98.03	98.01	97.57	98.10	97.80	98.76	96.00
Allowed (%)	2.28	1.99	1.97	1.99	2.43	1.90	2.20	1.24	4.00
Disallowed (%)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

<sup>#</sup>The pixel size (Å) was 0.647 at the detector level prior to binning

<sup>\*</sup>Resolution of the map generated by focused refinement of the LBD-TMD-STG

<sup>^</sup>Model refinement was conducted against the C2 map of TMD-STG

n.d. Not determined