

Activation of TRPC1 by STIM1 in ER-PM microdomains involves release of the channel from its scaffold caveolin-1

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Store-operated Ca²⁺ entry (SOCE) is activated by redistribution of STIM1 into puncta in discrete ER-plasma membrane junctional regions where it interacts with and activates store-operated channels (SOCs). The factors involved in precise targeting of the channels and their retention at these specific microdomains are not yet defined. Here we report that caveolin-1 (Cav1) is a critical plasma membrane scaffold that retains TRPC1 within the regions where STIM1 puncta are localized following store depletion. This enables the interaction of TRPC1 with STIM1 that is required for the activation of TRPC1-SOCE. Silencing Cav1 in human submandibular gland (HSG) cells decreased plasma membrane retention of TRPC1, TRPC1-STIM1 clustering, and consequently reduced TRPC1-SOCE, without altering STIM1 puncta. Importantly, activation of TRPC1-SOCE was associated with an increase in TRPC1-STIM1 and a decrease in TRPC1-Cav1 clustering. Consistent with this, overexpression of Cav1 decreased TRPC1-STIM1 clustering and SOCE, both of which were recovered when STIM1 was expressed at higher levels relative to Cav1. Silencing STIM1 or expression of Δ ERM-STIM1 or STIM1^(684EE685) mutant prevented dissociation of TRPC1-Cav1 and activation of TRPC1-SOCE. However expression of TRPC1-(639KK640) with STIM1^(684EE685) restored function and the dissociation of TRPC1 from Cav1 in response to store depletion. Further, conditions that promoted TRPC1-STIM1 clustering and TRPC1-SOCE elicited corresponding changes in SOCE-dependent NF κ B activation and cell proliferation. Together these data demonstrate that Cav1 is a critical plasma membrane scaffold for inactive TRPC1. We suggest that activation of TRPC1-SOC by STIM1 mediates release of the channel from Cav1.

Sore-operated calcium entry (SOCE) is activated by depletion of endoplasmic reticulum (ER) Ca²⁺ stores and regulates a variety of critical cellular functions (1). Ca²⁺ depletion in the ER lumen is detected by the Ca²⁺-binding protein STIM1, which oligomerizes into puncta and relocates to discrete ER-plasma membrane (ER-PM) junctional regions (2, 3) where it associates with and activates store-operated channels including Orai1 and TRPC1, which are components of CRAC and SOC channels, respectively (4–13). Therefore, the location of these channels in the plasma membrane is likely to be critical for their interaction with peripheral STIM1 and activation. However, mechanisms involved in the precise targeting and retention of the channels at the domains where STIM1 puncta are located are not well-understood.

Distinct regions of STIM1 determine aggregation and targeting of the protein to ER-PM junctional domains as well as its clustering with and gating of Orai1 and TRPC1 at these sites. The SAM and coiled-coiled domains are involved in STIM1 aggregation while the polybasic C-terminal region of STIM1 is suggested to target STIM1 to ER-PM junctional regions, which is the likely site for SOCE in native cells (3, 9–11, 14). Thus, it can be predicted that SOCs are either localized in this region or in close proximity to it so that they can be readily recruited

following store depletion. Clustering of STIM1 in ER-PM junctional regions results in relatively high local concentrations of STIM1 at these sites, which appears to be sufficient to drive the diffusion of Orai1 into this region where it binds to STIM1, resulting in CRAC channel activation (11, 12).

STIM1 also associates with and regulates store-operated TRPC channels, including TRPC1-SOC (6–8, 13, 15–19). Several studies show that association between TRPC1 and STIM1 increases following store depletion (6, 16, 19, 20), although a recent study was unable to demonstrate this (21). While the ezrin/radixin/moesin (ERM) domain of STIM1 appears to bind to TRPC1, the C-terminal ⁶⁸⁴KK⁶⁸⁵ residues are involved in gating the channel via electrostatic interaction with TRPC1(⁶³⁹DD⁶⁴⁰) (8, 13). We have reported earlier that lipid raft domains (LRD) provide a platform for regulation of TRPC1-SOCE (22). Further, we demonstrated that peripheral STIM1 puncta are anchored in LRD which facilitates TRPC1-STIM1 association required for activation of TRPC1-SOCE (6). This has now been suggested in several other studies (10, 18, 23). The role of LRD in the regulation of TRPC1-SOC suggested by these recent findings are consistent with previous reports which showed that plasma membrane localization of TRPC1 depends on its association with the cholesterol-binding protein caveolin-1 (Cav1), which promotes retention of TRPC1 within the LRD (6, 18, 22–25). Together, these findings suggest a critical role for Cav1 and LRD in the association of TRPC1 with STIM1 within ER-PM junctional regions that is required for SOCE (10, 26–28). However, the precise molecular interactions involving Cav1, STIM1, and TRPC1 that are triggered by store depletion and are critical for TRPC1-SOCE have not yet been defined.

Here we have examined the contribution of Cav1 and STIM1 in the regulation of TRPC1-SOCE that occurs within the ER-PM junctional region in response ER-Ca²⁺ store depletion. We report that Cav1 is a critical plasma membrane scaffold that retains TRPC1-SOC within the ER-PM region where STIM1 puncta are localized following store depletion. Retention of TRPC1 in this region facilitates the interaction of STIM1 with the channel that is required for activation of SOCE. Activation of TRPC1 by STIM1 also releases the channel from Cav1.

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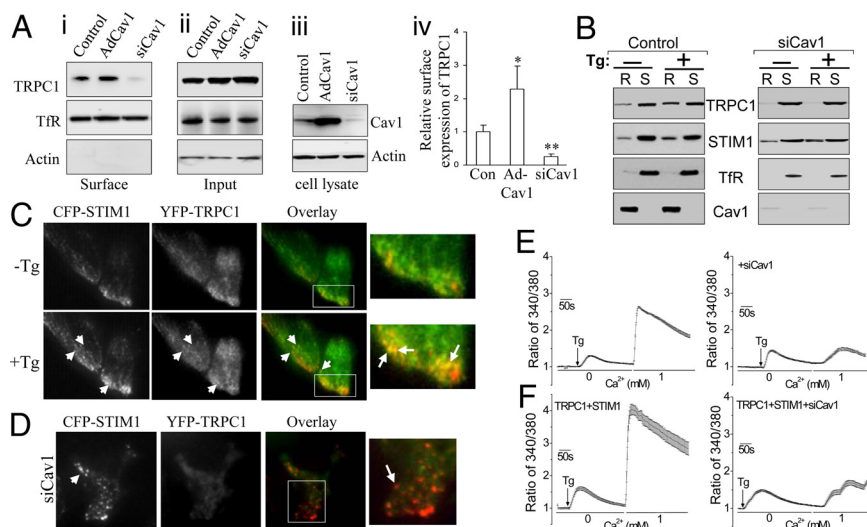


Fig. 1. Cav1 is required for plasma membrane expression of TRPC1 and clustering with STIM1. (*A i–iii*) Biotinylation of TRPC1 in control, Cav1-expressing (Ad-Cav1) and Cav1-silenced (siCav1) HSG cells. (*iv*) Relative surface expression of TRPC1, normalized to expression of transferrin receptor (Tfr). * and ** represent significant differences relative to control (Con), $P < 0.05$, and 0.01 , respectively. (*B*) Tg-mediated recruitment of TRPC1 and STIM1 into lipid raft domains in control or siCav1 cells (R, insoluble fraction representing LRD; S, soluble fractions representing non-rafts). (*C*) TIRFM imaging of CFP-STIM1 (red) and YFP-TRPC1 (green) in resting (-Tg) and stimulated (+Tg) cells. Co-localization, yellow, is seen in overlay images (arrows indicate TRPC1-STIM1 clusters, enlarged areas shown; also see [Movie S1](#)). (*D*) Localization of CFP-STIM1 and YFP-TRPC1 in siCav1-treated cells after Tg stimulation (arrows indicate STIM1 puncta, red, which are not seen before stimulation). (*E* and *F*). Fura 2 fluorescence measurements in control and TRPC1+STIM1 expressing HSG cells (siCav1 treatment is indicated in traces on right). Each trace represents the average obtained from at least 50 cells.

Results

Caveolin-1 Is Required for Plasma Membrane Expression of TRPC1 and Clustering with STIM1. Compared to the surface expression of TRPC1 in control HSG cells overexpression of Cav1 increased (>2-fold), while silencing Cav1 expression decreased (>60%) surface expression of TRPC1 in HSG cells (Fig. 1*A i–iii* show representative blots and *iv* shows quantitation). Further, partitioning of TRPC1 into LRD, but not that of STIM1, in response to store depletion was decreased in cells treated with siCav1 (Fig. 1*B*). We characterized the Cav1 binding site in further detail and show that Cav1 interacts with an N-terminal region of TRPC1 (Fig. S1). Directed mutation of this domain ablated binding of TRPC1 to Cav1, decreased but did not eliminate plasma membrane localization of the channel; and reduced SOCE. Thus, scaffolding of TRPC1-SOC by Cav1 is important for its activation by store depletion.

Activation of TRPC1 in response to store depletion is dependent on the association of the channel with SOCE regulatory protein, STIM1 (8, 6, 13, 16). Here we show that thapsigargin (Tg) stimulation of HSG cells induced clustering of YFP-TRPC1 and CFP-STIM1 (YFP-TRPC1-green; CFP-STIM1-red) (Fig. 1*C*; see [Movie S1](#)). Notably, TRPC1-STIM1 clustering was dramatically reduced in cells treated with siCav1 (Fig. 1*D*) which was primarily due to decrease of YFP-TRPC1 in the plasma membrane region (compare TRPC1 localization in Fig. 1*C* and *D*). Note that STIM1 puncta was not affected by siCav1. Consistent with the effect on TRPC1-STIM1 clustering, knock-down of Cav1 in HSG cells reduced TRPC1-mediated SOCE (Fig. 1*E*). SOCE was also reduced to the same level in cells expressing TRPC1+STIM1 (Fig. 1*F*). Together these data suggest that Cav1 determines plasma membrane expression of TRPC1 in LRD in unstimulated cells, which is critical for clustering of the channel with STIM1 following Ca^{2+} store depletion. It was recently suggested (18) that STIM1 regulates localization of TRPC1 in LRD. However, since STIM1 associates with LRD only after stimulation, it is unlikely to be involved in TRPC1 localization within LRD in unstimulated cells.

Functional Consequence of Cav1-TRPC1 Association. The relative contributions of STIM1 and Cav1 in TRPC1-SOCE were assessed by examining localization and interactions between these proteins within the ER-PM domains where SOCE is activated. Fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) signal was detected in the periphery of resting cells expressing YFP-TRPC1 and CFP-Cav1 (Fig. 2*A i* and *ii*, quantitation is shown in *iii*). TIRFM was used to determine the localization of TRPC1, STIM1, and Cav1 in the ER-PM junctional region, imaging was done using YFP-TRPC1/CFP-Cav1 or YFP-TRPC1/CFP-STIM1 (TRPC1 shown in green, CFP-Cav1 and -STIM1 shown in red). In cells expressing YFP-TRPC1 and CFP-Cav1 together with HA-STIM1, TRPC1, and Cav1 were co-localized in clusters in the ER-PM junctional region of cells before stimulation and this did not change in response to Tg stimulation (Fig. 2*B*). When Cav1 was expressed together with YFP-TRPC1 and CFP-STIM1, although STIM1 puncta were formed after Tg stimulation (see enlarged images), clustering of TRPC1-STIM1 normally observed in stimulated cells was greatly reduced (compare Figs. 1*C* and *2C*; see [Movie S2](#)). Expression of Cav1, which reduced TRPC1-STIM1 clustering, attenuated endogenous SOCE and I_{SOC} in HSG cells (Fig. 2*D* and *E*). These findings suggest that although overexpression of Cav1 increases plasma membrane expression of TRPC1, the function of the channel is dependent on its interaction with STIM1.

Ca^{2+} Store Depletion Induces STIM1-Dependent Dissociation of TRPC1 from Cav1. The data presented above demonstrate that Cav1 scaffolds TRPC1 in ER-PM domains but does not activate it. We hypothesized that inactive TRPC1 is retained by Cav1 in the plasma membrane, and that following store depletion, STIM1 relocates to these domains resulting in channel activation. In cells overexpressing Cav1, although more inactive TRPC1 can be expected to accumulate in the plasma membrane by scaffolding to Cav1, the amount of STIM1 is low relative to Cav1 and insufficient to fully activate TRPC1-SOCE. To confirm this, we examined the effect of stimulating the cells on the interactions between endogenous TRPC1, STIM1, and Cav1. A key finding

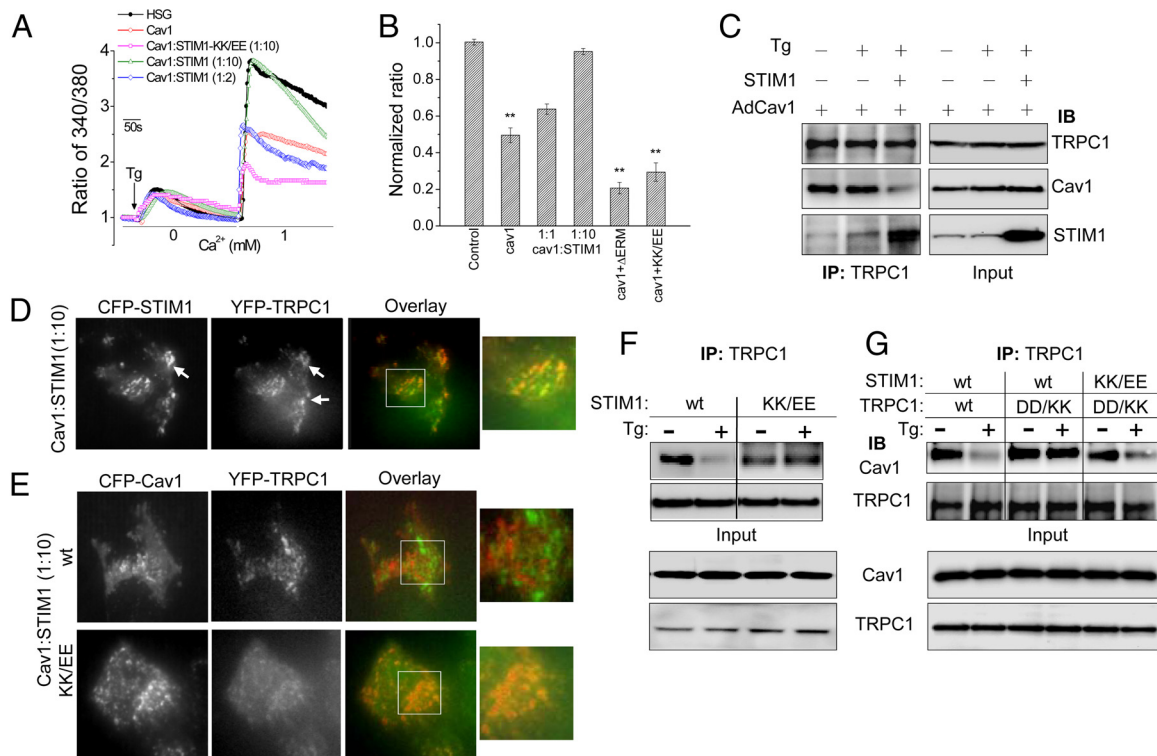


Fig. 4. Overexpression of functional STIM1 induces recovery of TRPC1-SOCE. (A and B) Fura 2 measurements in HSG cells expressing Cav1, Cav1+wt-STIM1 (1:2 cDNA ratio), Cav1+wt-STIM1 (1:10 cDNA ratio), Cav1+ Δ ERM-STIM1, and STIM1-KK/EE (each at 1:10 cDNA ratio of Cav1 relative to STIM1). ** indicates statistically significant ($P < 0.05$) difference from control values. (C) Co-immunoprecipitation of TRPC1 and Cav1 from cells expressing Cav1 alone or with STIM1 in resting and Tg-stimulations. (D) Localization of CFP-STIM1+YFP-TRPC1 in HA-Cav1-expressing cells. (E) Localization of CFP-Cav1+YFP-TRPC1 in wt-STIM1 or STIM1-KK/EE expressing cells (in D and E STIM1:Cav1 was used at 10:1). (F) Immunoprecipitation of TRPC1 from cells expressing either wt-STIM1 or STIM1-KK/EE. Input protein levels are shown in the lower blots. (G) Immunoprecipitation of TRPC1 from cells expressing wt-STIM1 with wt-TRPC1; wt-STIM1 with TRPC1-DD/KK; or STIM1-KK/EE with TRPC1-DD/KK. Input protein levels are shown in the lower blots. Anti-TRPC1 was used for IP in Fig. 4 F and G.

NF- κ B Activation and Cell Proliferation Is Inhibited by Cav1 Expression, but Rescued by STIM1. Functional consequences of Cav1 and STIM1 on SOCE were further examined by measuring NF- κ B-driven luciferase reporter activity, NF- κ B (p65 subunit) nuclear translocation, and cell proliferation, both of which are regulated by SOCE (29, 30). Store depletion promoted nuclear translocation of p65 subunit of NF- κ B, which was enhanced by TRPC1 expression, but was inhibited by La³⁺ (Fig. S3E). Similarly, TRPC1 expression significantly increased the NF- κ B-driven luciferase reporter activity (>3–4-fold), which was decreased by TRPC1 silencing (Fig. 5A and Fig. S3A). Further, graded-expression of Cav1 decreased reporter activity in control cells and those expressing TRPC1 (Fig. 5A and B, expression levels of the protein is shown in Fig. S3C) are consistent with decreased SOCE under these conditions. Importantly, expression of wt-STIM1 but not STIM1-KK/EE, significantly activated NF- κ B in cells expressing TRPC1 alone or TRPC1+Cav1 (Fig. 5B; see Fig. S3B for basal activity), reflecting the SOCE measured under these conditions (STIM1 expression is shown in Fig. S3D). Cell proliferation is yet another parameter to evaluate the physiological impact of SOCE. BrdU labeling of cells (indicative of G1-S phase transition in cell cycle) was increased by expression of TRPC1 and suppressed by Cav1 expression (Fig. 5C). Cell proliferation was also increased by TRPC1-expression but inhibited by TRPC1-knockdown or expression of Cav1 (Fig. 5D). Further, expression of wt-STIM1 but not STIM1-KK/EE significantly enhanced cell proliferation that was inhibited by Cav1. Thus, SOCE-dependent cellular functions accurately reflect the level of TRPC1-SOCE.

Discussion

The data presented above demonstrate that interaction of TRPC1 with Cav1 targets and retains the channel within the ER-PM regions where STIM1 puncta are formed in response to Ca²⁺ store depletion. Our previous studies and several other reports (5, 6, 9, 10, 22, 26–28) provide strong evidence that the microdomains involved in regulation of TRPC1-SOCE are plasma membrane LRD. Here we show that TRPC1 clusters with Cav1 in LRD before stimulation of the cells while after Ca²⁺-store depletion, the channel clusters with STIM1. Importantly, these findings reveal that this molecular rearrangement involving TRPC1 (i.e., that store depletion induces association of TRPC1-STIM1 and dissociation of TRPC1-Cav1) is involved in the activation of TRPC1-SOCE by STIM1. A major finding of this study is that dissociation of TRPC1 from Cav1 is an essential step in the activation of TRPC1-SOCE. Further, our data show that this dissociation is dependent on the localization of STIM1 in the ER-PM junctional regions following Ca²⁺-store depletion. Together, these findings demonstrate that SOCE activation is dependent on interaction of STIM1 with TRPC1 and not on TRPC1-Cav1 interaction per se. Most significantly, we have identified that C-terminal⁶⁸⁴KK⁶⁸⁵ residues of STIM1 that are involved in gating TRPC1 (13) also mediate release of the channel from Cav1. Since STIM1-KK/EE has an intact ERM domain, these data also suggest that binding of ERM domain to TRPC1 is insufficient to dissociate the TRPC1-Cav1 complex. How exactly the interaction of STIM1 with TRPC1 results in Cav1 dissociation from the channel is not yet clearly understood. The STIM1 binding domains on TRPC1 are in the C-terminal region of the channel while the scaffolding action of Cav1 is

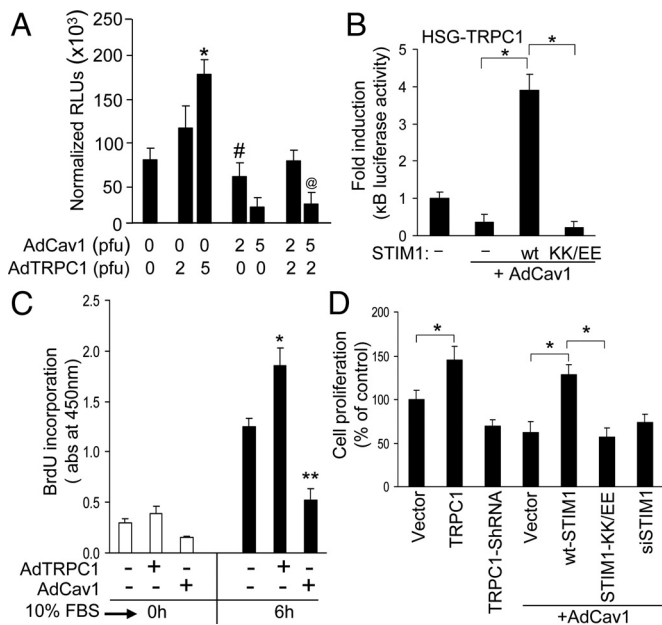


Fig. 5. Relative effects of STIM1 and Cav1 on TRPC1-SOCE dependent NF- κ B activation and cell proliferation. (A) NF- κ B activity in HSG cells expressing TRPC1, Cav1, or TRPC1+Cav1. Normalized relative luciferase units (RLUs) are plotted as mean \pm SD. *, $P < 0.01$ indicates value significantly different from control HSG cells without any exogenous expression. # and @ denote values significantly different ($P < 0.01$) from TRPC1-overexpressing cells and also significantly different ($P < 0.05$) from control cells. (B) NF- κ B activity in cells expressing wt-STIM1 or STIM1-KK/EE and Cav1. Under these expression conditions, the basal NF- κ B activities before serum stimulation are presented in Fig. S3B. Data are normalized to luciferase activity in control HSG cells. * $P < 0.01$ indicates difference of values compared to cells overexpressing Cav1 alone. (C) BrdU incorporation in control, TRPC1 and Cav1 over-expressing HSG cells. * and ** indicate values significantly different from control HSG cells ($P < 0.05$). (D) Cell proliferation (MTT assays) performed on asynchronously growing HSG cells transfected with the desired plasmids and AdCav1 (2 pfu). Relative cell proliferation is shown. *, $P < 0.05$ indicates values significantly different from corresponding vector controls.

mediated via an N-terminal domain (discussed above). It is interesting to note that a second putative Cav1 binding domain that we have previously described (22, 24) overlaps with the C-terminal TRPC1 domain involved in electrostatic interaction with STIM1 (26). Based on our findings we hypothesize that interaction of STIM1 with TRPC1 induces a conformational

change in the channel that results in its dissociation from Cav1 and STIM1-mediated gating of Ca^{2+} influx. However, further studies will be required to understand the structural details of this regulation.

Our findings suggest that differential effects of STIM1 and Cav1 on TRPC1 determine the magnitude of SOCE which correspondingly impacts downstream signaling events and cellular functions. We have shown that activation of NF- κ B as well as cell proliferation reflect changes in TRPC1-SOCE induced by Cav1 or STIM1. We also suggest that the relative levels of TRPC1-Cav1 or TRPC1-STIM1 complexes in LRD represent inactive and active channels respectively. Our data do not rule out an additional contribution of STIM1 in the retention of TRPC1 within LRD in stimulated cells since TRPC1 association with Cav1 is decreased under these conditions. However, further studies will be required to determine whether STIM1 or some other protein(s) is involved in retaining active TRPC1-SOCs within LRD.

In conclusion, the data presented herein show that clustering of TRPC1 with STIM1 and subsequent activation of TRPC1-SOCE are dependent on precise targeting of TRPC1-SOCs to the ER-PM domains where STIM1 puncta are located following store depletion. This is achieved by binding of the channel to Cav1 and its retention at these sites. Scaffolding of TRPC1 by Cav1 localizes TRPC1 within LRD which serve as a platform for STIM1 aggregation at the cell periphery as well as for STIM1 association with TRPC1-SOC. The activation of TRPC1 by STIM1 also mediates dissociation of the channel from Cav1. We suggest that targeting of the channels and STIM1 to the same microdomains governs both specificity and rate of interaction between these proteins that are essential for activation of SOCE.

Methods

Details of all materials and methods including cell culture, plasmids and transfection, calcium imaging, TIRFM, electrophysiology, as well as biochemical techniques such as immunoprecipitation, surface biotinylation, cell growth, and NF- κ B assays are described in the *SI Methods*.

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