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## **Structural Basis of the Activation of Heterotrimeric Gs-protein by Isoproterenol-bound** β**1-Adrenergic Receptor**

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## **SUMMARY**

Cardiac disease remains the leading causes of morbidity and mortality worldwide. The  $\beta_1$ adrenergic receptor  $(\beta_1 - AR)$  is a major regulator of cardiac functions and is down-regulated in the majority of heart failure cases. A key physiological process is the activation of heterotrimeric Gprotein Gs by  $\beta_1$ -ARs, leading to increased heart rate and contractility. Here we use cryo-electron microscopy and functional studies to investigate the molecular mechanism by which  $\beta_1$ -AR activates Gs. We find that the tilting of α5-helix breaks an ionic lock between the sidechain of His373 in the C-terminal α5-helix and the backbone carbonyl of Arg38 in the N-terminal αN-

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**AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**: M.S. expressed and purified  $\beta_1$ -AR,  $Ga_5$ ,  $G\beta_1\gamma_2$ , Nb35 and the protein complexes, made cryo-EM grids, performed cryo-EM screening, data collection, image processing, and determined the EM density map. L.Z. made cryo-EM grids and performed data collection and image processing, as well as functional studies of the mutant  $β_1$ -ARs. Y.Z. made cryo-EM grids and performed image processing and determined the EM density map under the supervision of T.W. N.P. and R.K.H. performed image processing and determined the EM density map of the data presented in the final version of this paper. R.D. and J. R. M. performed image processing. J. H. generated the  $\beta_1$ -AR and Gs constructs. M.L. and D.W. performed data collection. K.D.J. and E.T.E. performed negative-stain EM and data collection. O.P.E. provided advice regarding experimental design and manuscript review and editing. W.L. supervised the project, and performed data collection and interpretation. X.Y.H. supervised the project, interpreted data and wrote the manuscript. All authors contributed towards the final version of the manuscript.

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helix of Ga<sub>s</sub>. Together with the disruption of another interacting network involving Gln59 in the α1-helix, Ala352 in the β6-α5 loop, and Thr355 in the α5-helix, these conformational changes might lead to the deformation of the GDP-binding pocket. Our data provide molecular insights into the activation of G-proteins by G-protein-coupled receptors.

## **Graphical Abstract**



## **eTOC Blurb:**

Su et al. report the cryo-EM structure of the complex of isoproterenol-bound  $β_1$ -adrenergic receptor and heterotrimeric Gs-protein. The structural and functional studies reveal insights into the activation of Gs by  $\beta_1$ -adrenergic receptor. This work advances our understanding of the control of heart rate and contractility by the nervous system and hormones.

## **INTRODUCTION**

A structurally diverse repertoire of ligands elicit their physiological functions by activating G-protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs) (Fredriksson et al., 2003; Rosenbaum et al., 2009; Sakmar, 2002; Strange, 2008; Weis and Kobilka, 2018). GPCRs comprise a large and diverse superfamily of transmembrane proteins, and family members have been identified in organisms as evolutionarily distant as yeast and human. Critically, GPCRs constitute the protein class that has been most successfully targeted by drugs, and accordingly are the focus of intense mechanistic study (Strange, 2008). Canonically, GPCRs signal directly to

heterotrimeric G-proteins which in turn relay the signals to downstream pathways (Bourne et al., 1990; Gilman, 1987; Simon et al., 1991). These G-proteins are composed of Gα, Gβ, and  $G\gamma$  subunits, with the G $\beta$  and  $G\gamma$  subunits tightly associating such that they can be regarded as one functional unit (Gβγ). G-proteins function as molecular binary switches with their biological activity determined by the bound nucleotide (Lappano and Maggiolini, 2012; Oldham and Hamm, 2008; Sprang, 1997). Activated GPCRs function as a guaninenucleotide exchange factor (GEF), promoting the release of GDP bound on the Gα subunit of G-proteins and creating the thermally labile, transition state of Gα without a bound nucleotide (Bourne, 1997). The subsequent binding of GTP leads to the dissociation of the Gα subunit from the Gβγ dimer resulting in two functional subunits (Gα and Gβγ). Both the Gα and Gβγ subunits signal to various cellular pathways. Based on the sequence and functional homologies, G-protein heterotrimers are categorized into four families:  $G_s$ ,  $G_i$ ,  $G_q$ , and  $G_{12/13}$  (Simon et al., 1991). The molecular mechanisms by which GPCRs activate these G-proteins are incompletely understood.

The  $\beta_1$ -adrenergic receptor ( $\beta_1$ -AR) is a member of the GPCR family. In the adult human heart,  $β_1$ -AR is the predominantly expressed  $β$ -AR isoform (70~85%) (Benovic, 2002; Post et al., 1999). The receptor binds and is activated by the catecholamines, norepinephrine and epinephrine, which triggers Gs-protein activation and increased cardiac cAMP levels. These molecular events manifest physiologically as increased heart rate, increased conduction, reduced refractoriness within the atrioventricular node, increased contractility and increased cardiac output (Lohse et al., 2003). Down-regulation of  $\beta_1$ -ARs has been described in most cases of heart failure which is one of the main causes of mortality in the developed world (Lohse et al., 2003). Inhibitors of β-ARs (beta-blockers) are used to treat high blood pressure and heart failure, to manage abnormal heart rhythms, and to protect against myocardial infarction (Frishman, 2008). The molecular mechanism by which  $β₁$ -AR catalyzes the guanine-nucleotide exchange on Gs, thus activating Gs, is not completely clear. Here we use cryo-electron microscopy and functional studies to investigate the activation of Gs by  $\beta_1$ -AR. We find that, during its activation by isoproterenol-bound  $\beta_1$ -AR, the  $\alpha$ helical domain of Gs rotates away from its Ras-like domain. The rotational opening of the α-helical domain is by ~96° and the distance between mass centers is ~38 Å. These rotation angle and translational distance are different from those observed in the crystal structure of the BI-167107 (a high affinity agonist)-bound  $β_2$ -AR–Gs complex. This α-helical domain rotation, together with the structural rearrangements (including the tilting) in the C-terminal α5-helix and the GDP-binding pocket, result in the GDP release. These results provide structural insights into the activation of Gs by  $\beta_1$ -AR.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **Molecular recognition of Gs by** β**1-AR**

To understand the molecular mechanism by which  $\beta_1$ -AR activates Gs, we first investigated how  $β_1$ -AR recognizes Gs during the activation process. We solved the cryo-EM structure of the complex of isoproterenol-bound  $β_1$ -AR and Gs, at an overall resolution of 2.6 Å (Figure 1, Figures S1 and S2, Table 1). As revealed by this structure,  $β_1$ -AR recognizes both Gα<sub>s</sub> (1049 Å<sup>2</sup> buried area) and G $\beta$  (153 Å<sup>2</sup> buried area), yielding a large interaction surface area

(1202  $\AA^2$ ) (Figures 1 and 2, Figure S3). On  $\beta_1$ -AR, the interacting elements involve transmembrane domain (TM) 3, TM5, TM6, and intracellular loop (ICL) 2 (Figure 2 A-D, Figure S4). On  $Ga_s$ , the N-terminal  $\alpha$ N-helix and its structurally adjacent regions (the  $\alpha$ Nβ1 loop and the β2-β3 loop), as well as the C-terminal  $\alpha$ 5-helix are interacting with  $\beta_1$ -AR (Figure 2 A-D, Figure S4).

We first explored how  $\beta_1$ -AR undergoes structural changes to accommodate Gs binding, and then the structural changes on Gs upon  $\beta_1$ -AR interaction and during its activation process. Since the Gs interacting surface is on the cytoplasmic side of  $\beta_1$ -AR we focused on the structural changes of  $\beta_1$ -AR on its cytoplasmic side upon Gs binding (Figure 2 E-H). In the  $β<sub>1</sub> - AR - Gs$  complex with the full agonist isoproterenol,  $β<sub>1</sub> - AR$  adopts an active state conformation (Figure 2E). For comparative analysis between active and inactive state models, we used our new cryo-EM active state structure, and our previously reported  $\beta_1$ -AR inactive state structure (PDB: 4GPO) (Huang et al., 2013) (Figure 2 E-H). We note that this inactive state structure is globally similar to other reported structures resolved in the same functional state (Warne et al., 2008). Comparison of the models reveals salient conformational differences (Figure 2 E-H). The overall root-mean-square deviation between the structures of  $β_1$ -AR in the active and inactive states is ~3 Å over 276 Cα atoms. The largest structural changes upon Gs engagement occur in the cytoplasmic side of  $\beta_1$ -AR, with an outward rotation of TM6 by ~14 Å (measured at the C $\alpha$  of Glu285), a helix extension in TM5, and an inward ~5 Å movement of TM7 (measured at the Cα of Tyr343) (Figure 2F).

Gs-bound active  $\beta_1$ -AR undergoes critical conformational changes in the conserved D(E)RY motif on TM3 and the conserved NPxxY motif on TM7 to recognize Gs (Figure 2 G and H). In the inactive  $\beta_1$ -AR structure, Arg139 within the D(E)RY motif forms a salt bridge (or the ionic lock) with Glu285 (on TM6) (Figure 2G). This salt bridge stabilizes the inactive state of family A GPCRs, although it is absent in the structure of the inactive state of  $\beta_2$ -AR (likely due to the high basal activity of  $\beta_2$ -AR) (Cherezov et al., 2007). In the active state of  $β<sub>1</sub> - AR$ , this ionic lock is broken, and the C-terminal end of  $α<sub>5</sub>$ -helix of  $Ga<sub>s</sub>$  occupies the space originally occupied by Glu285 in the inactive state (Figure 2G). The new position for Glu285 in the active state is  $\sim$  14 Å outwards (Figure 2G). Arg139 (in TM3) now forms a packing interaction with Tyr377 in the  $\alpha$ 5-helix of  $Ga<sub>s</sub>$  (Figure 2G). Furthermore, TM7 rotates around the conserved motif NPxxY (Figure 2H). This moves Tyr343 toward the position that was occupied by TM6 in the inactive structure (Figure 2H). Also, the last turn of the helix in TM7 in the inactive structure unravels in the active  $\beta_1$ -AR, and TM7 has a small inward movement (Figure 2H). Therefore,  $\beta_1$ -AR recognizes Gs by forming extensive interactions with Gs. Reciprocally, Gs binding stabilizes the structural changes in the active  $β<sub>1</sub> - AR$  by moving into places originally occupied by the inactive  $β<sub>1</sub> - AR$ .

#### **Structural rearrangements of the C-terminal** α**5-helix of G**α**s.**

After examining how  $\beta_1$ -AR undergoes structural changes to recognize Gs during Gs activation by  $β_1$ -AR, we next explored the structural changes on Gs after its interaction with  $β<sub>1</sub> - AR$ . Both the N-terminal αN-helix and the C-terminal α5-helix of  $Ga<sub>s</sub>$  are critically involved in interacting with  $β_1$ -AR (Figures 1 and 2). We examined the C-terminal α5-helix first since it contributes most of the interacting buried surface, suggesting that interactions in

this region provide the major binding energy for the formation of the complex (Figure 3A).  $\beta_1$ -AR primarily uses the surface formed by TM3, TM5, TM6, and ICL2 to interact with Gs (Figure 3A). This surface resembles a saddle that cradles the C-terminal α5-helix of the Raslike domain of  $Ga_s$  (Figure 3A). The C-terminal tail of the  $a5$ -helix is critical for GPCR–Gprotein coupling specificity, and replacement of the last four amino acid residues of  $Ga<sub>q</sub>$  by Ga<sub>i</sub> enabled Gq to couple to an otherwise Gi-coupled GPCR (Conklin and Bourne, 1993; Conklin et al., 1993). The last four amino acids (Tyr377 to Leu380) of  $Ga_s$  form a Cterminal  $a<sub>L</sub>$  capping motif which stabilizes helix ends, prevents helix fraying and imposing a substantial restriction on the set of allowed conformations (Aurora and Rose, 1998; Aurora et al., 1994)(Figure 3B). This capping motif interacts extensively with the cytoplasmic ends of TM3 and TM6 (Figure 3 C-E).

The comparison of the  $\alpha$ 5-helix in the complex of  $\beta_1$ -AR-Gs and in the G $\alpha_s$  alone  $(Ga_s:GTP\gamma S)$  structure determined by X-ray crystallography (PDB: 1AZT) reveals significant structural rearrangements of the  $\alpha$ 5-helix during Gs activation by  $\beta_1$ -AR (Figure  $3 F$  and G). In G $\alpha_s$  alone, the last 3 amino acid residues (E378 to L380) of the C-terminal capping motif of α5-helix were disordered and unresolved in the structure (Figure 3F). In the  $β_1$ -AR–Gs complex, residues L374 to Q376 form a helix extension and interact extensively with  $\beta_1$ -AR (Figure 3 C-E). These additional helix extension and translation extend  $\alpha$ 5-helix by ~6 Å. Furthermore,  $\alpha$ 5-helix undergoes a rotation around Phe362 (Figure 3F). In addition, there is a tilting by ~30° of the  $\alpha$ 5-helix from its position in G $\alpha_s$ alone to the position in the  $\beta_1$ -AR–Gs complex (Figure 3 F and G). The helix tilting, together with the helix extension and rotation, might provide α5-helix as a molecular force buffer transducing  $\beta_1$ -AR signal to the GDP/GTP-binding pocket. Computational simulations indicate that α5-helix conformation changes are mainly associated with GDP release (Dror et al., 2015). Hence the structural rearrangements of the C-terminal α5-helix of  $Ga_s$  upon  $\beta_1$ -AR binding are critical to the guanine-nucleotide exchange on Gs.

#### **Rotational opening of** α**-helical domain of Gs**

Gα subunits consist of two domains: a Ras-like GTPase domain and an α-helical domain (Dohlman and Jones, 2012; Sprang et al., 2007) (Figure 4 A and B). These two domains are connected by Linkers 1 and 2. Between these two domains lies a deep cleft within which GDP or GTP is tightly bound. The nucleotide is essentially occluded from the bulk solvent (Coleman et al., 1994; Noel et al., 1993). Comparing the conformation of  $Ga_s$  in our  $\beta_1$ -AR–Gs complex structure with the crystal structure of  $Ga_s$  alone (PDB: 1AZT) (Sunahara et al., 1997) (Figure 4B), the principal change is a large rotation of the α-helical domain by  $\sim$ 96° (Figure 4, A and B). The distance between mass centers is  $\sim$ 38 Å (Figure 4B). The maximum rotation was limited by the presence of  $G\beta\gamma$ , and the rotated  $\alpha$ -helical domain was in contact with  $G\beta\gamma$  and could not rotate any further (Figure 4 C and D). Hence, the observed location of the α-helical domain in the  $β_1$ -AR–Gs complex likely represents the fully open state (Figure 4, C and D). From all the reported structures of the complexes of GPCR–G-protein trimers, only two structures include the α-helical domains of Gα subunits (Draper-Joyce et al., 2018; Kang et al., 2018; Koehl et al., 2018; Liang et al., 2018; Liang et al., 2017; Rasmussen et al., 2011; Zhang et al., 2017). The positions of the α-helical domains in these two structures are different from that observed in the  $\beta_1$ -AR–Gs structure

reported here (Figure 5). A comparison between the isoproterenol-bound  $β_1$ -AR–Gs and the crystal structure of BI-167107-bound  $β_2$ -AR–Gs (PDB: 3SN6) reveals that, in  $β_2$ -AR–Gs, the α-helical domain appears to rotate farther towards the receptor and the membrane (Figure 5 A and B). This difference might be due to the crystal lattice contact in the crystal structure of  $\beta_2$ -AR–Gs (Hilger et al., 2018). In the constitutively active rhodopsin–Gi structure, the α-helical domain is also in a different position from the α-helical domain in  $\beta_1$ -AR–Gs; this might be due to the different G-proteins used (Gs vs. Gi) or the utilization of an antibody to bind and stabilize the α-helical domain and Gβ simultaneously in the rhodopsin–Gi structure (Kang et al., 2018) (Figure 5 A and B). It is worth noting that the relatively weak density for the α-helical domain in the EM map suggests the dynamic nature of the α-helical domain. Hence, the structural data point to the rotational opening of the αhelical domain during G-protein activation that creates an egress route for GDP.

#### **Deformation of the GDP-binding pocket**

In the  $\beta_1$ -AR–Gs complex, the GDP/GTP binding pocket is conformationally deformed, and the pocket is empty without GDP. Relative to the Ras-like domain in the structure of Gα<sub>s</sub>:GTPγS, most of the conformational changes of the Ras-like domain in the complex of  $\beta_1$ -AR–Gs occur surrounding the GDP/GTP-binding pocket, while leaving the remainder of the Ras-like domain largely unperturbed (Figure 6 A-E). The modified regions include the P-loop (the β1-α1 loop, involved in binding of the diphosphate of the guanine nucleotide) (Figure 6 A), the TCAT motif (the β6-α5 loop, involved in the coordination of the purine ring of the bound nucleotide) (Figure 6D), and the Switch II and III regions (Figure 6 B and C). The cryo-EM map density for these modified regions is poor, indicating dynamic conformations. The binding between the β-phosphate of GDP and the P-loop is critical since GMP binds much weaker  $({\sim}10^6$ -fold lower affinity) than GDP (John et al., 1990). In fact, GEFs for Ras-superfamily of GTPases promote GDP release by disrupting the interaction between the β-phosphate of GDP and the P-loop (Bos et al., 2007). In Gα<sub>s</sub>:GTPγS, residues from the P-loop (including Glu50, Ser51, Gly52, Lys53, and Ser54) interact with the βphosphate (Figure 6E). In the complex of  $β_1$ -AR–Gs, this region is disordered (Figure 6A). The disruption of this P-loop would markedly reduce the GDP binding. Hence  $\beta_1$ -AR likely promotes GDP release by disrupting the interaction between the β-phosphate of GDP and the P-loop. Furthermore, Thr190 in Linker 2 is involved in binding of the  $\gamma$ -phosphate of GTP (Figure 6E). In the  $\beta_1$ -AR-Gs structure, Linker 2 is disordered (Figure 4A). Additionally, Leu184 and Arg185 in αF-helix (part of the α-helical domain) interact with the pentose sugar in  $Ga_s$ : GTP $\gamma S$ , but move away as part of the  $\alpha$ -helical domain during the rotational opening in the  $β_1$ -AR–Gs complex (Figure 6E, Figure 4A). Linker 2 and αF-helix are essential for GDP/GTP binding, and are also required to stabilize the GTP binding after GDP/GTP exchange, and to coordinate the  $\gamma$ -phosphate binding (Lambright et al., 1996; Wall et al., 1995). Therefore, the conformation of the GDP-binding pocket in  $\beta_1$ -AR–Gs complex is modified with the effect of weakening the interaction between GDP and  $Ga_s$ . This provides a structural basis for the release of GDP.

Moreover, the interacting network between the N-terminal part of  $Ga_s$  and the C-terminal part of G $a_s$  observed in the structure of G $a_s$ :GTP $\gamma$ S is broken in the structure of the  $\beta_1$ -AR–Gs complex (Figure 6F). In the  $Ga_s$ :GTP $\gamma S$ , there is an ionic lock between the

sidechain of His373 in the α5-helix and the backbone carbonyl of Arg38 in the αN-helix (Figure 6F). This contact would tighten together the N- and C-terminal ends of  $Ga_s$ . In the complex of  $β_1$ -AR–Gs, the tilting and translation of the α5-helix move His373 away and break this ionic lock (Figure 6F). Moreover, there is another interacting network involving Gln59 in the  $\alpha$ 1-helix in the structure of  $Ga_s$  alone (Figure 6F). The sidechain of Gln59 forms a hydrogen bond with the backbone carbonyl of Ala352 in the β6-α5 loop, as well as interacts with the sidechain of Thr355 in the α5-helix (Figure 6F). In the complex of  $\beta_1$ -AR–Gs, this contacting network is broken, leading to the disordering of the α1-helix, the Ploop and the TCAT motif (Figure 6F). As these regions contribute to the majority of the binding of GDP (Figure 6 A, D and E) , the disruption of these regions would certainly lead

#### **Functional studies of the activation of Gs by** β**1-AR**

to GDP release.

From the structure of  $\beta_1$ -AR–Gs complex, there are two principle routes from  $\beta_1$ -AR to the GDP/GTP-binding pocket (Figures 1 and 2). One route is through the C-terminal  $\alpha$ 5-helix of  $Ga_s$  and the β6–α5 loop which engages the guanine ring (Figure 6D). The role of α5helix in G-protein activation by GPCRs has been well documented (Hilger et al., 2018). The second route is through ICL2 of  $\beta_1$ -AR which interacts with the N-terminal  $\alpha$ N-helix (Figure 7A). This signal is transmitted through β1 to the P-loop which coordinates the βphosphate of the guanine nucleotide (Figure 6A). From the  $β_1$ -AR–Gs structure, Arg38 in the N-terminal  $\alpha$ N-helix of  $Ga_s$  interacts with Gln150 in ICL2 of  $\beta_1$ -AR (Figure 7A). This interaction stabilizes a helical conformation of ICL2, which positions Pro146 and Phe147 in ICL2 to form hydrophobic interactions with Ile369, Arg366, and Phe362 in α5-helix, Val203 in the  $\beta_2$ - $\beta_3$  loop, and His41 in the  $\alpha$ N- $\beta$ 1 loop of G $\alpha_s$  (Figure S4). For G $\alpha_{i1}$ , the αN-β1 loop was shown to be critical for the nucleotide-exchange catalysis (Herrmann et al., 2006). We have performed functional studies of residues on  $\beta_1$ -AR that interact with G $\alpha_s$ based on our cryo-EM structure of the complex of  $\beta_1$ -AR and Gs. As shown in Figure 7 A and B, residues Pro146, Phe147, and Gln150 in ICL2 of  $\beta_1$ -AR are involved in interacting with  $Ga_s$ . Val230, Glu233, and Gln237 in TM5, as well as Thr291 in TM6 interact with the  $\alpha$ 5-helix of G $\alpha_s$ . We mutated these residues to Ala, and the functions of these  $\beta_1$ -AR mutants were examined by their ability to activate Gs in cells as quantified by the cellular cAMP production (Figure 7, C-E). Comparing with wild-type  $\beta_1$ -AR, these  $\beta_1$ -AR mutants had reduced efficacy in activating Gs (Figure 7 C and D). These functional studies support our structural data, and confirm the importance of the  $\beta_1$ -AR–Gs interactions (revealed by the structural study) in the activation of Gs by  $\beta_1$ -AR.

## **CONCLUSION**

We have investigated the structural basis for the activation of Gs by  $\beta_1$ -AR. The cryo-EM structure of the complex of  $\beta_1$ -AR–Gs reveals the conformation of the active state of  $\beta_1$ -AR, the molecular recognition of Gs by the active  $\beta_1$ -AR, the direct interaction between ICL2 of  $\beta_1$ -AR and the N-terminal  $\alpha$ N-helix of  $Ga_s$ , and the structural changes of Gs upon the coupling to  $β_1$ -AR. The principal mechanism for  $β_1$ -AR as a GEF for Gs is to deform the GDP/GTP-binding pocket and to accelerate GDP release from Gs.  $\beta_1$ -AR induces a tilting of the α5-helix, the break of the ionic lock between His373 in the α5-helix and Arg38 in the

 $\alpha$ N-helix, the disruption of the interacting networks involving Gln59 in the  $\alpha$ 1-helix, Ala352 in the β6-α5 loop, and Thr355 in the α5-helix, the rotational opening of the αhelical domain from the Ras-like domain, and the deformation of the GDP/GTP-binding pocket. All these conformational changes lead to the GDP release. It is worth noting that the Ras-like domain of  $Ga_s$ , purified as an isolated recombinant protein, had been shown to be able to bind to GDP and GTP, and to stimulate the activity of adenylyl cyclase which could be further enhanced by the addition of the separately purified recombinant α-helical domain of  $Ga_s$  (Markby et al., 1993). Indeed, in the  $\beta_1$ -AR-Gs structure, even when the Ras-like and α-helical domains are separated, some of the residues involved in GDP/GTP binding do not change their relative locations (Figure 6E), thus providing the possibility of a subsequent binding of GTP (albeit weakly). This initial weak binding of GTP is likely strengthened by the subsequent re-closing of the α-helical domain. Reciprocally, GTP binding promotes the association of the Ras-like domain and the α-helical domain, and the α-helical domain accelerates GTP hydrolysis, thus completing one cycle of the guanine nucleotide-exchange on G $\alpha_s$ . Altogether, our studies advance the understanding of Gs activation by  $\beta_1$ -AR, and the activation of G-proteins by GPCRs in general.

#### **Limitations:**

As shown in the local resolution map (Figure S2), the complex of isoproterenol–β1-AR–Gs was well-resolved in most regions. However, similar to many other cryo-EM density maps, some regions of the map, including the  $\alpha$ -helical domain of  $Ga_s$ , are weaker than other regions. This weak density reflects the highly dynamic nature of the α-helical domain in the nucleotide-free state. To interpret this density, the isoproterenol– $β₁$ -AR–Gs density map was low-pass filtered to 6 Å and then the α-helical domain from the X-ray crystal structure of  $\beta$ <sub>2</sub>-AR–Gs (PDB 3SN6) was manually docked and rigid-body refined. While the density for the α-helical domain is weaker and the high-resolution features are blurred out due to its increased disorder, it is not absent and its position is clearly resolved in the low-pass filtered map. Without high-resolution features, we are limited in modeling its structure to rigid-body fitting into the low-pass filtered map. Therefore, we only used the information about the relative position of the  $\alpha$ -helical domain of  $Ga_s$  in the complex in this paper and future studies will be required to understand the dynamics of the α-helical domain of Gα.

## **STAR**★**Methods**

#### **RESOURCE AVAILABILITY**

**LEAD CONTACT—**Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and will be fulfilled by the Lead Contact, Xin-Yun Huang (xyhuang@med.cornell.edu).

**MATERIALS AVAILABILITY—**All unique reagents generated in this study will be made available on request by the Lead Contact with a completed Materials Transfer Agreement (MTA).

**DATA AND CODE AVAILABILITY—**The cryo-EM reconstructions of the isoproterenol– β1-AR–Gs complex have been deposited in the Electron Microscopy Data Bank (EMDB)

under ID codes EMDB: EMD-22357. The corresponding atomic model has been deposited in the Protein Data Bank (PDB) under ID codes PDB: 7JJO.

**EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS—Turkey β<sub>1</sub>-AR, bovine Gβ<sub>1</sub> and** bovine  $G\gamma_2(C68S)$  were expressed in Sf9 insect cells (Expression Systems) infected with recombinant baculovirus. Bovine  $Ga<sub>s</sub>$  and Nb35 were expressed in E. coli strain BL21(DE3) (New England Biolabs). CHO-K1 cells overexpressing wild-type and mutant  $\beta_1$ -ARs were used in cAMP functional assays.

#### **METHODS DETAILS**

**Expression and purification of** β**1-AR, G**α**<sup>s</sup> , G**β**1, G**γ**<sup>2</sup> and Nb35:** β1-AR protein was purified as described previously (Huang et al., 2013). The turkey  $β_1$ -AR construct  $β_1$ - $AR(H12)$  used in this study was similar to the functional  $\beta_1$ -AR(H0) construct described previously with some modifications (Huang et al., 2013). A signal peptide, FLAG tag, PreScission protease cleavage site and T4 lysozyme were fused to the N-terminus with a doublealanine linker, and another PreScission protease cleavage site and  $His<sub>6</sub>$  tag were added to the C-terminus.  $\beta_1$ -AR was expressed and purified from Sf9 insect cells grown in ESF 921 protein-free medium (Expression Systems). Cells were grown to 2 to 3 million cells per ml before 200 ml of baculoviruses were added for infection. 48 hrs later, cells were harvested by centrifugation, flash frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at −80 °C until use. For membrane preparation, cell pellets were lysed by sonication in a buffer containing 20 mM Tris, pH 8, 1 mM EDTA and protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche) and washed once more using the same buffer. Purified membranes were resuspended in 20 mM Tris, pH 8, 0.2 mM EDTA, and protease inhibitor cocktail and flash frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at −80 °C. For protein purification, membrane preparations were first thawed in 20 mM Tris, pH 8, 350 mM NaCl, and protease inhibitor cocktail. 1 mM isoproterenol (Sigma) was then added and the mixture was stirred for 1 hr at  $4 \degree C$  and the membranes were then solubilized in 20 mM Tris, pH 8, 350 mM NaCl, 1% n-Dodecyl-β-D-Maltopyranoside (DDM, Anatrace), 1 mM isoproterenol and protease inhibitor cocktail for 1 hr at 4°C. The DDM concentration was then reduced to 0.5% by adding equal volume of 20 mM Tris, pH 8, 350 mM NaCl, and 1 mM isoproterenol and the mixture was stirred for another 1 hr at 4°C. The preparation was clarified by ultracentrifugation at 142,000 g for 30 min at  $8^{\circ}$ C. The supernatant was then incubated with Ni-NTA resin (Qiagen) with stirring at 4 °C with 8 mM imidazole. After 4 hrs, the resin was collected by centrifugation and washed three times with 20 mM Tris, pH 8, 500 mM NaCl, 0.02% DDM, 1 mM isoproterenol, and 8 mM imidazole and one time with 20 mM Tris, pH 8, 100 mM NaCl, 0.02% DDM, 1 mM isoproterenol, and 8 mM imidazole.  $\beta_1$ -AR was then eluted from the resin with 20 mM Tris, pH 8, 100 mM NaCl, 0.02% DDM, 1 mM isoproterenol, and 120 mM imidazole. The elution was concentrated and further purified by size-exclusion chromatography using a Superdex 200 Increase 10/300 column (GE Healthcare) pre-equilibrated with 20 mM Tris, pH 8, 100 mM NaCl, 0.02% Lauryl Maltose Neopentyl Glycol (LMNG, Anatrace), 1 mM isoproterenol. Purified  $\beta_1$ -AR was concentrated to 4 mg/ml and either used immediately for complex assembly or flash frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at −80 °C.

The recombinant wild-type bovine  $Ga_s$  was purified from E. coli strain BL21(DE3) (New England Biolabs) (Huang et al., 2015). This  $Ga_s$  construct had an N-terminal GST tag that was removable through a PreScission protease cleavage site. Cells were grown in 2×YT medium (MP Biomedicals) at 37 °C until OD $_{600}$  reached 0.6. Protein expression was then induced by 75  $\mu$ M IPTG (GoldBio) and continued for 16 hrs at 16 °C. Cells were harvested by centrifugation, flash frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at −80 °C. For protein purification, cell pellets were thawed in a lysis buffer containing 20 mM HEPES, pH 7, 150 mM NaCl, 10% glycerol, 5 mM β-mercaptoethanol, 2 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 1 mM EDTA, 10 μM GDP (Sigma), 0.1 mg/ml lysozyme, 0.2 mM PMSF and protease inhibitor cocktail, and further lysed by sonication. Cell debris was removed by centrifugation at 20,000 g for 40 min 4 °C. Supernatant was then collected and incubated with Glutathione resin (Pierce) with stirring for 1 hr at 4 °C. Resin was then washed four times with 20 mM HEPES, pH 7, 150 mM NaCl, 10% glycerol, 5 mM β-mercaptoethanol, 2 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 1 mM EDTA, and 10 μM GDP. To remove the GST tag, PreScission protease was added to the beads at 1:10 (w:w) protease: GST-G $a_s$  ratio and the mixture was rocked overnight at 4 °C with 2 mM DTT. Untagged  $Ga_s$  was concentrated and further purified by size-exclusion chromatography using a Superdex 200 Increase 10/300 column pre-equilibrated with 20 mM HEPES, pH 7, 150 mM NaCl, 10% glycerol, 5 mM β-mercaptoethanol, 1 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 1 mM EDTA, 20 μM GDP. Purified  $Ga_s$  was concentrated to 6 mg/ml, flash frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at −80 °C.

Bovine  $G\beta_1$  and bovine His<sub>6</sub>-tagged soluble  $G\gamma_2(C68S)$  were co-expressed and purified from Sf9 insect cells. 25 ml of each baculovirus were co-infected into Sf9 cells when the insect cell culture reached a cell density at 3 million cells per ml. 48 hrs post infection, cells were harvested by centrifugation, flash frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at −80 °C. Cell pellets were thawed in 25 mM HEPES pH 7, 150 mM NaCl, 10% glycerol, 2 mM βmercaptoethanol, 5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub> and protease inhibitor cocktail. Cells were lysed by sonication and cell debris were removed by centrifugation at 142,000 g for 30 min. Supernatant was collected and incubated with Ni-NTA resin with stirring for 1.5 hrs at 4 °C. Resin was then washed three times with 25 mM HEPES pH 7, 150 mM NaCl, 10% glycerol, 2 mM β-mercaptoethanol, and 25 mM imidazole, and  $Gβ<sub>1</sub>γ<sub>2</sub>$  was eluted as a complex with 25 mM HEPES pH 7, 150 mM NaCl, 10% glycerol, 2 mM β-mercaptoethanol, and 250 mM imidazole. Eluted protein was concentrated and further purified using a Superdex 200 Increase 10/300 column pre-equilibrated with 25 mM HEPES pH 7, 150 mM NaCl, and 2 mM β-mercaptoethanol. Purified  $Gβ_1γ_2$  protein was concentrated to 8 mg/ml, flash frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at −80 °C.

Nb35-His<sub>6</sub> was expressed in the periplasm of E. coli strain BL21(DE3). Cells were grown in LB medium (MP Biomedicals) at 37 °C until  $OD_{600}$  reached 0.6. Protein expression was then induced by 75 μM IPTG and Nb35 was further expressed for 18 hrs at 16 °C. Cells were then harvested, flash frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at −80 °C. For protein purification, cells were lysed by sonication in a lysis buffer containing 20 mM HEPES pH 7, 100 mM NaCl, 5 mM  $MgCl<sub>2</sub>$ , 0.1 mM lysozyme, and protease inhibitor cocktail. After removal of the cell debris by centrifugation at 20,000 g for 30 min, supernatant was collected and incubated with Ni-NTA resin with stirring for 1.5 hrs at  $4^{\circ}$ C. Resin was then washed three times with 20 mM HEPES pH 7, 100 mM NaCl, and 25 mM imidazole. Nb35

was eluted with 20 mM HEPES pH 7, 100 mM NaCl, and 250 mM imidazole. Eluted Nb35 protein was dialyzed against 1 L of 20 mM HEPES pH 7, 100 mM NaCl overnight at 4 °C. Dialyzed protein was concentrated to 3 mg/ml, flash frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored in −80 °C.

**Protein complex assembly and purification:** To assemble the  $\beta_1$ -AR-Gs-Nb35 complex, Ga<sub>s</sub>,  $G\beta_1\gamma_2$  and Nb35 were mixed at 1:1:1.5 molar ratios in the presence of 2 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>. The mixture was incubated for 30 min at room temperature and then mixed with  $\beta_1$ -AR at 1.2:1 ratio. The mixture was diluted with 160 μl buffer containing 10 mM HEPES pH 7, 100 mM NaCl,  $0.1$  mM TCEP,  $0.02\%$  LMNG, 1 mM isoproterenol, and 2 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub> to bring the volume to 600 μl. This mixture was incubated for another 30 min at room temperature before 0.4 U Apyrase (Sigma) was added. After additional 30 min room temperature incubation with Apyrase, the mixture was centrifuged at 16,000 g for 10 min to remove any precipitants. The supernatant was then loaded onto a Superdex 200 Increase 10/300 column pre-equilibrated with 10 mM HEPES pH 7, 100 mM NaCl, 0.1 mM TCEP, 0.02% LMNG and 40 uM isoproterenol. The elution fractions from a single peak containing pure  $\beta_1$ -AR-Gs-Nb35 complex was concentrated to  $\sim$  1.5 mg/ml and used directly for making cryo-EM grids.

**Cryo-EM data collection:** 4 μl of protein complex was applied to a glow-discharged 400 mesh gold Quantifoil R1.2/1.3 holey carbon grids (Quantifoil Micro Tools), and subsequently vitrified using Vitrobot Mark IV (Thermo Fisher Scientific/FEI). Images were collected at liquid nitrogen temperature on a Titan Krios electron microscope (Thermo Fisher Scientific/FEI) operated at 300 kV accelerating voltage, at a nominal magnification of  $22,500\times$  using a Gatan K3 direct electron detector (Gatan, Inc.), corresponding to a superresolution pixel size of 0.532 Å/pixel at the detector. In total, 5633 micrographs with defocus values in the range of −1.0 μm to −2.3 μm were recorded. Images were recorded as 40 dose-fractionated frames with a total accumulated dose of 46 e<sup>-/ $\AA$ 2.</sup>

**Image processing, 3D reconstructions, modeling and refinement:** Super-resolution movies were aligned and two-times Fourier cropped using MotionCorr2 1.2.1 (Zheng et al., 2017) resulting in a final pixel size of 1.064 Å/pixel. Relion 3.0b2 (Zivanov et al., 2018) Laplacian-of-Gaussian picking with minimum and maximum dimensions of 76 Å and 119 Å was used to heavily over-pick at a rate of approximately 2300 particles per micrograph. False positives were excluded from the particle stack of 13 million particles through multiple rounds of heterogeneous classification using Fourier cropped particles in CryoSparc v2.12.4 (Punjani et al., 2017) (Figure S2). 2D classification was applied to confirm that the excluded particles corresponded to false positives, free receptors or free G-protein heterotrimers. Iterative classification resulted in a stack of intact complexes was 1.5 million particles. Starting from this point, multiple classification strategies in both Relion 3.0b2 and CryoSparc v2.12.4 were used to confirm that there was only one major conformation present in each data set. Further classification converged to a final high resolution stack of 452,312 particles that was then subjected to Local CTF Refinement procedures in CryoSparc v2.12.4 followed by Bayesian Polishing in Relion 3.0b2, and finally Global CTF Refinement in CryoSparc v2.12.4 to improve higher order aberrations (Figure S2). Final high-resolution

reconstructions were subjected to Local Refinement with Non-Uniform Refinement in CryoSparc v2.12.4 for  $\beta_1$ -AR and G-proteins independently. The Local Refinement maps showed significantly improved features over the consensus maps, both with resolutions at or below 2.6 Å (Figure S2). The resulting maps were super-sampled in Coot v0.8.9.2 (Emsley and Cowtan, 2004) to 0.532 Å per pixel with a 512 voxel box. The initial models of  $\beta_1$ -AR and  $G\beta_1\gamma_2$  were derived from the crystal structures of inactive  $\beta_1$ -AR (PDB ID: 4GPO) and Ga<sub>q</sub>-GRK2-G $\beta_1 \gamma_2$  complex (PDB ID: 2BCJ), respectively.

 $Ga<sub>s</sub>$  and Nb35 were derived from the crystal structures of  $\beta_2$ -AR-Gs complex (PDB ID: 3SN6). The models were manually rebuilt into the focus-refined density maps and refined in real space using Phenix v1.17.1-3660 (Adams et al., 2010). The density of the α-helical domain of  $Ga_s$  was poor; the  $\alpha$ -helical domain from PDB 3SN6 was manually docked into the density and rigid-body fit in COOT. Once refinement converged, enabling a final combined map was derived from the model and the two super-sampled local refinement maps using the Combine Focused Maps feature in Phenix v1.17.1-3660. Since all local and consensus refinements gave gold-standard FSC values of 2.6 Å, we approximate the resolution of this combined consensus map to be 2.6 Å as well (Figure S2). A final round of real space refinement in Phenix v1.17.1-3660 against the combined map yielded the final model.

**cAMP assay:** CHO-K1 (ATCC) cells were plated onto six-well plates and treated with 1 mM IBMX (Cayman) for 30 min. After washing twice with HEM buffer (20 mM HEPES, pH 7.4, 135 mM NaCl, 4.7 mM KCl, 1.2 mM MgSO<sub>4</sub>, 2.5 mM NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, 0.1 mM Ro-20-1724 (Sigma), 0.5 U/ml adenosine deaminase (Roche), and 1 mM IBMX), cells were treated with different concentrations of isoproterenol in HEM buffer for 5 min. After two more washes with HEM buffer, cells were harvested in 0.5% Triton X-100 (Sigma) containing 1 mM IBMX. The amount of cAMP was measured with the Direct Cyclic AMP Enzyme Immunoassay kit (Enzo Life Sciences).

**Quantification and Statistical Analysis:** In Figure 7C, the cAMP assays were repeated three times, and the data are represented as mean  $\pm$  SD of the three independent experiments. In Figure 7D, the analysis was done using the log(agonist) vs. response function of Prism 8 (GraphPad) as indicated in the figure legend. Cryo-EM data collection and refinement statistics are listed in Table 1.

#### **Supplementary Material**

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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## **Highlights:**

**•** Cryo-EM structure of β <sup>1</sup>-adrenergic receptor and Gs at 2.6 Å resolution

- Network of interactions within  $Ga_s$  are disrupted by  $\beta_1$ -AR
- Rotational opening of the α-helical domain of Gα<sub>s</sub> during its activation
- **•** Functional studies of critical residues on β <sup>1</sup>-AR involved in the activation of Gs



**Figure 1. Overall architecture of the structure of the isoproterenol–**β**1-AR–Gs complex.** (**A,B**) Orthogonal views of the cryo-EM density map of the isoproterenol–β1-AR–Gs complex colored by subunits ( $\beta_1$ -AR in magenta, Ras-like GTPase domain of G $\alpha_s$  in green, α-helical domain of Gα<sub>s</sub> in red (low-pass filtered to 6 Å for better presentation), Gβ in blue, Gγ in orange, and Nb35 in gray). (**C,D**) Cartoon diagrams of the isoproterenol–β1-AR–Gs complex are shown without Nb35 and the  $\alpha$ -helical domain of  $Ga_s$ . Color schemes are the same as in **A** and **B**. (**E,F**) Extracellular and cytoplasmic views of the isoproterenol–β1-AR– Gs complex.



#### **Figure 2. Molecular recognition of Gs by** β**1-AR.**

(**A-D**) Different views of the interaction surface areas between  $\beta_1$ -AR (in magenta) and the Ras-like GTPase domain of Ga<sub>s</sub> (in green) are shown. (**E-H**) Comparison of the conformations of  $\beta_1$ -AR in the active state (magenta) as seen in the  $\beta_1$ -AR–Gs complex and with that of β1-AR in the inactive state (PDB: 4GPO) (cyan). (**E**) The overall alignment of the inactive β1-AR and the active β1-AR. (**F**) Major conformational changes in TM5, TM6 and TM7. (**G** and **H**) Conformational changes in the conserved D(E)RY motif on TM3 (**G**) and the conserved NPxxY motif on TM7 (**H**).



**Figure 3. Structural rearrangements of the** α**5-helix of G**α**s upon binding of** β**1-AR.** (**A)** β1-AR uses its cytoplasmic surface like a saddle to cradle the C-terminal α5-helix of the Ras-like domain of Gα<sub>s</sub>. (**B**) The last 4 amino acids (Tyr377 to Leu380) of α5-helix form a C-terminal αL capping motif with intra-chain interactions. (**C** and **D**) Interactions between β1-AR and the C-terminal tail loop of the α5-helix of Gα<sup>s</sup> . (**E**) Interactions between the middle of the  $\alpha$ 5-helix of G $\alpha_s$  and  $\beta_1$ -AR. (**F**) Structural comparison of the  $\alpha$ 5-helix of G $\alpha_s$ from the  $β_1$ -AR–Gs complex (colored in green) and from  $Ga_s$ -GTP $γS$  (colored in gray). (**G**) Tilting of the  $a$ 5-helix of  $Ga_s$  from  $Ga_s$ -GTP $\gamma S$  (colored in gray) to the  $\beta_1$ -AR-Gs complex (colored in green).



**Figure 4. Rotational opening of the** α**-helical domain of G**α**s during its activation by** β**1-AR.** (A) Structure of  $Ga_s$  in the complex of  $\beta_1$ -AR-Gs shows the open rotation of the  $\alpha$ -helical domain from the Ras-like domain. (**B**) Comparison of the structures of  $Ga_s$  in the complex of β1-AR–Gs (in green and red) and in the Gα<sup>s</sup> :GTPγS crystal structure (in gray). (**C**) View from the receptor towards the cytoplasmic end shows the rotation of the α-helical domain from the position in the Ga<sub>s</sub>:GTP $\gamma$ S crystal structure (in gray) to the location in the  $\beta_1$ -AR-Gs complex (in red). (**D**) View from Gβγ towards the Ras-like domain shows the position of the α-helical domain relative to Gβ.



**Figure 5. Comparison of the locations of the** α**-helical domains from the structures of the complexes of BI-167107-activated** β**2-AR–Gs (in skyblue), isoproterenol-activated** β**1-AR–Gs (in magenta), and constitutively active rhodopsin–Gi (in limon).** The Ras-like domains (in light green), Gβ (in light blue) and Gγ (in light orange) from the

three complexes were superimposed and presented in surface diagram. **A** and **B** show different views.



**Figure 6. Conformational changes of the GDP/GTP-binding pocket after** β**1-AR interaction.** (A) Comparison of the  $\beta_1$  strand,  $\alpha_1$ -helix and the  $\beta_1$ - $\alpha_1$  loop of the Ras-like domains from  $\beta_1$ -AR–Gs (in green) and from  $Ga_s:GTP\gamma S$  (in gray) when the Ras-like domains are superimposed. (**B**) Comparison of Switch II region from β<sub>1</sub>-AR-Gs and from Gα<sub>s</sub>:GTPγS. (**C**) Comparison of Switch III region from β1-AR–Gs and from Gα<sup>s</sup> :GTPγS. (**D**) Comparison of the regions from αG to α5-helix from β<sub>1</sub>-AR-Gs and from Gα<sub>s</sub>:GTPγS. (**E**) Comparison of all GTP-interacting residues of the Ras-like domains from  $\beta_1$ -AR–Gs and from Gα<sub>s</sub>:GTPγS. (**F**) Disruptions of intramolecular interactions of Gα<sub>s</sub> during Gs activation by  $β_1$ -AR. An ionic lock between the sidechain of His373 in the α5-helix and the backbone carbonyl of Arg38 in the αN-helix is broken. An interacting network involving the sidechain of Gln59 in the α1-helix, the backbone carbonyl of Ala352 in the β6-α5 loop, and the sidechain of Thr355 in the α5-helix is disrupted.



**Figure 7. Functional studies of specific interacting residues in Gs activation by** β**1-AR.** (**A** and **B**) Locations of the mutated residues in ICL2 and in the TM5-ICL3-TM6 region of β1-AR. (**C**) Dose-response data from cells expressing different β1-ARs after stimulation with isoproterenol. Data are represented as mean ± SD of three experiments. (**D**) Summary of the efficacy (the maximum cAMP level of a mutant receptor / the maximum cAMP level of the wild-type receptor) and  $EC_{50}$  values based on the cAMP assay data shown in **C**. Data are represented as mean  $\pm$  SD of three experiments. The analysis was done using the log(agonist) vs. response function of Prism 8 (GraphPad). (**E**) Western blots of same amounts of total proteins from membrane preparations of cells transfected with wild-type and mutant  $\beta_1$ -ARs with anti- $\beta_1$ -AR antibody show similar expression levels of the receptor proteins.

#### **Table 1.**

#### Cryo-EM data collection, refinement and validation statistics



## KEY RESOURCES TABLE



