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Supplementary Figure 2. Both amide and ester local anaesthetics activate and sensitize recombinant TRPV1 expressed in HEK293t cells. **A** – **C**. TRPV1-currents activated by the amides mepivacaine (A), articaine (B) and bupivacaine (C). **D** – **E**. TRPV1-currents activated by the esters procaine (D) and tetracaine (E). The holding potential (V<sub>h</sub>) was -60 mV. Current traces are representative samples out of 3- 4 cells examined for each LA. **F**, **G**. Representative heat-evoked inward currents of TRPV1 in control solution and in the presence of (F) 3 mM articaine (increase by 7.0 ± 1.2-fold, n = 7) and (G) 3 mM procine (increase by 5.3 ± 0.4-fold, n = 6). **H**. Mean changes in fluorescence ratios ( $\Delta$ ratio (F340/F380)) induced by 30 mM lidocaine, procaine, or articaine in rat DRG neurons.

**Supplementary Figure 3.** The extracellular proton-binding sites E600 and E648 are not crucial for the lidocaine-sensitivity of TRPV1. **A**, **B**. Representative current traces of E600A (A) and E648A (B) activated by 30 mM lidocaine and pH 5.0. **C**. Mean ratios of lidocaine- (30 mM) to proton-activated (pH 5.0) currents of TRPV1-WT, TRPV1-E600A (n= 5) and TRPV1-E648A (n= 5). **D**. **– F**. The membrane impermeable lidocaine-

derivative QX-314 blocks capsaicine-evoked inward and outward currents. **D**, **E**. TRPV1 currents evoked by 10  $\mu$ M capsaicin in cells held at -60 mV or + 60 mV. 30 mM QX-314 (D) or 30 mM lidocaine (E) were co-applied with 10  $\mu$ M capsaicin after currents were activated by 10  $\mu$ M capsaicin alone. Experiments were performed in Ca<sup>2+</sup>-free extracellular solution to avoid Ca<sup>2+</sup>-dependent desensiziation. **F**. Mean block ± SEM of capsaicin-evoked inward (V<sub>h</sub> = -60 mV) and outward currents (V<sub>h</sub> = +60 mV) by 30 mM QX-314 and 30 mM lidocaine (unpaired Student's *t*-test).

**Supplementary Figure 4.** Human TRPV1 is activated by lidocaine. **A.** Representative current traces of human TRPV1 activated by 30 mM lidocaine and 10  $\mu$ M capsaicin. **B.** Mean ratios of lidocaine- (30 mM) to capsaicin-evoked (10  $\mu$ m) currents of TRPV1-WT and human TRPV1 (n= 6). **C.** Mean ratios of lidocaine- (30 mM) to proton-activated (pH 5.0) currents of TRPV1-WT and human TRPV1 (n= 7).

Supplementary Figure 5. The PLC-blocker U73122 reduces lidocaine-sensitivity and is able to activate and sensitize TRPV1. **A**, **B**. Lidocaine-evoked inward currents activated in control solution (B) or after a 3 min-long treatment with the PLC-blocker U73122 (A). Note the small inward currents activated by U73122 indicated by the arrow **C**. Mean current amplitudes  $\pm$  SEM measured in experiments described in A and B with 30 mM lidocaine (n= 9) or with 10  $\mu$ M capsaicin (n= 9) (unpaired Student's *t*-test). **D**, **E**. Representative ramp currents of TRPV1 in control solution and in 5  $\mu$ M U73122 (D, n= 12) or in 5  $\mu$ M U73433 (E, n= 4). Cells were held at -60 mV and currents were measured during 500 ms long voltage-ramps from -100 to +100 mV. Note the typical outward-rectification of TRPV1 with U73122. **F**. Representative currents demonstrating the sensitizing effect of U73122 on TRPV1-currents activated by 30 nM capsaicin (n= 5). In

A- F, experiments were performed in Ca<sup>2+</sup>-free extracellular solution and cells were held at -60 mV.

**Supplementary Figure 6.** The putative  $PI(4,5)P_2$ -binding site within the distal C terminus of TRPV1 is not required for lidocaine-sensitivity. **A.** Representative current traces of TRPV1- $\Delta$ E767-738 activated by 30 mM lidocaine and 10 µm capsaicin. **B, C.** Typical effect of 3 mM lidocaine on capsaicin-evoked (B) and heat-evoked (C) currents of TRPV1. In A- C, experiments were performed as described under Fig. 1 and 2.

**Supplementary Figure 7.** Phosphorylation by PKC is not required for lidocaine-evoked activation and sensitization of TRPV1 but sensitizes TRPV1 to lidocaine. **A.** Representative currents of TRPV1-S502A/S800A activated by 30 mM lidocaine and 10  $\mu$ M capsaicin. **B.** Effect of 3 mM lidocaine on capsaicin-evoked TRPV1- S502A/S800A-currents. **C.** Currents of TRPV1 activated by 10 mM lidocaine before and after treatment with the PKC-activator PMA. Currents were activated every 3 min in Ca<sup>2+</sup>-free extracellular solution. **D.** Mean increase of current amplitudes ± SEM of lidocaine-activated TRPV1-WT (18.7 ± 7.3-fold, n= 6) and TRPV1-S502A/S800A (1.7 ± 0.2-fold, n= 11) after treatment with 1  $\mu$ M PMA. Current amplitudes were normalized to the value obtained with the first application of lidocaine (unpaired Student's *t*-test).