

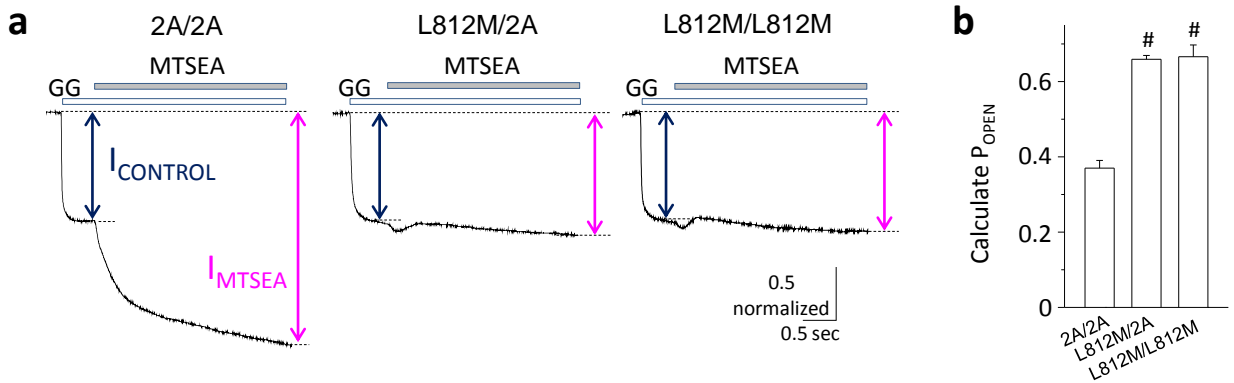
**Supplementary Figure 1.** L812M mutation does not significantly alter the relative calcium permeability.

**(a)** Representative current-voltage curves recorded in 1.8 mM extracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  are shown for WT GluN2A, GluN2A(L812M), and WT GluN2D (upper: representative traces; lower: fitted traces). The average values of  $V_{\text{rev}(\text{Ca})}$  for L812M ( $-25 \pm 1.4$  mV;  $n = 7$ ) are not significantly different from those obtained for WT 2A ( $-27 \pm 1.0$  mV;  $n = 7$ ) ( $p = 0.74$ , one way ANOVA, Tukey post hoc), whereas WT 2D has more negative  $V_{\text{rev}(\text{Ca})}$  ( $-35 \pm 1.3$  mV;  $n = 7$ ;  $p < 0.001$ , one way ANOVA, Tukey post hoc).

**(b)** Representative current-voltage traces in 143 mM extracellular  $\text{Cs}^+$  of WT GluN2A, GluN2A(L812M), and WT GluN2D (upper: original traces; lower: fitted traces). Average values of  $V_{\text{rev}(\text{Cs})}$  are  $6.8 \pm 1.6$  mV ( $n = 7$ ) for WT 2A,  $5.5 \pm 0.8$  mV ( $n = 7$ ) for L812M, and  $6.0 \pm 1.6$  mV ( $n = 7$ ) for WT 2D. There is no significant difference of average values of  $V_{\text{rev}(\text{Cs})}$  between the three receptors ( $p = 0.80$ , one way ANOVA, Tukey post hoc).

**(c)** The relative  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permeability of GluN2A(L812M) ( $P_{\text{Ca}}/P_{\text{Cs}}$   $8.2 \pm 0.5$ ,  $n = 7$ ) is not significant different from WT GluN2A ( $7.2 \pm 0.4$ ,  $n = 7$ ,  $p = 0.52$ , one way ANOVA, Tukey post hoc). We also determined the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permeability for WT GluN2D, which has a significant lower  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permeability ( $5.0 \pm 0.3$ ,  $n = 7$ ;  $p < 0.001$ , one way ANOVA, Tukey post hoc) compared with the WT GluN2A. Relative permeability values obtained for WT GluN2A and GluN2D are similar to those described by Siegler Retchless et al <sup>67</sup>.

All data were expressed as Mean  $\pm$  SEM. Error bars in figure are SEM.



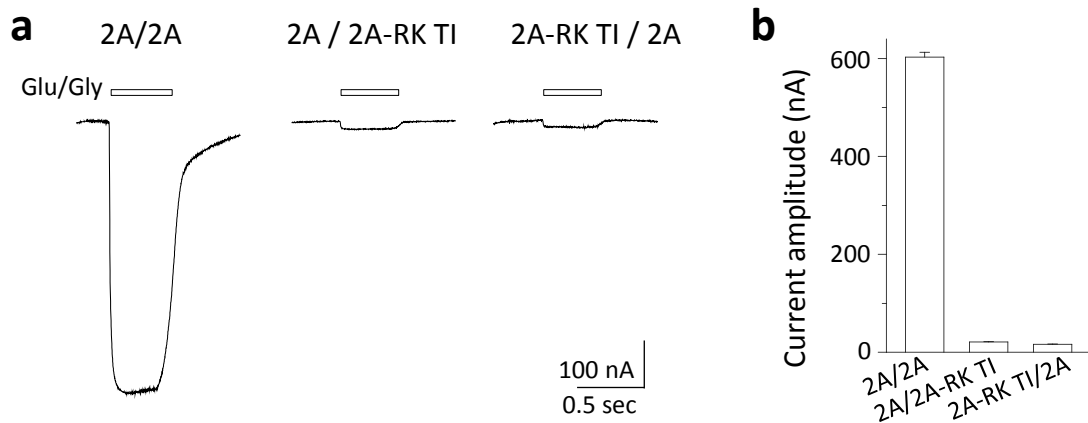
**Supplementary Figure 2.** A single copy of the mutant L812M receptor changes open probability measured by the degree of MTSEA (methanethiosulfonate ethylammonium) potentiation.

**(a)** Representative current traces evoked by agonists (100  $\mu\text{M}$  glutamate and glycine) followed by 200  $\mu\text{M}$  MTSEA were determined by TEVC recordings from *Xenopus* oocytes expressing tri-heteromeric GluN1-A652C/GluN2A/GluN2A (2A/2A) receptors, GluN1-A652C/GluN2A-L812M/GluN2A (L812M/2A) receptors, and GluN1-A652C/GluN2A-L812M/GluN2A-L812M (L812M/L812M) receptors.

**(b)** Summary of calculated  $P_{\text{OPEN}}$  of 2A/2A ( $0.37 \pm 0.02$ ,  $n = 11$ ), L812M/2A ( $0.66 \pm 0.01$ ,  $n = 8$ ), and L812M/L812M ( $0.67 \pm 0.03$ ,  $n = 8$ ). We conclude that one copy of the mutant GluN2A subunit has a dominant effect on channel open probability.

All data were expressed as Mean  $\pm$  SEM. Error bars in figure are SEM.

# compared to 2A/2A; one way ANOVA, Tukey post hoc



**Supplementary Figure 3.** Control experiments evaluating the escape of non-tri-heteromeric receptors from ER retention.

**(a)** Representative current traces evoked by agonists (100  $\mu$ M glutamate and 100  $\mu$ M glycine) were determined by TEVC recordings from *Xenopus* oocytes expressing tri-heteromeric GluN1/GluN2A/GluN2A (2A/2A) receptors, GluN1/GluN2A/GluN2A-R518K,T690I (2A/2A-RK TI) receptors, and GluN1/GluN2A-R518K,T690I/GluN2A (2A-RK TI/2A) receptors. The R518K,T690I double mutations are located in the glutamate binding pocket and abolish glutamate binding, thereby rendering NMDA receptors with one or two mutated GluN2A subunits non-functional. Any current responses observed for oocytes expressing 2A-RK TI/2A or 2A/2A-RK TI are mediated by receptors that have escaped ER retention.

**(b)** Summary of current amplitude of 2A/2A ( $603 \pm 8.8$  nA,  $n = 18$ ), 2A/2A-RK TI ( $20 \pm 0.2$  nA,  $n = 16$ ), and 2A-RK TI/2A ( $16 \pm 0.1$  nA,  $n = 16$ ). We conclude that less than 4% of the recorded currents arises from diheteromeric receptors that escape the engineered ER retention signal.

All data were expressed as Mean  $\pm$  SEM. Error bars in figure are SEM.