

# Supplementary Information

## The GPR139 reference agonists 1a and 7c, and tryptophan and phenylalanine share a common binding site

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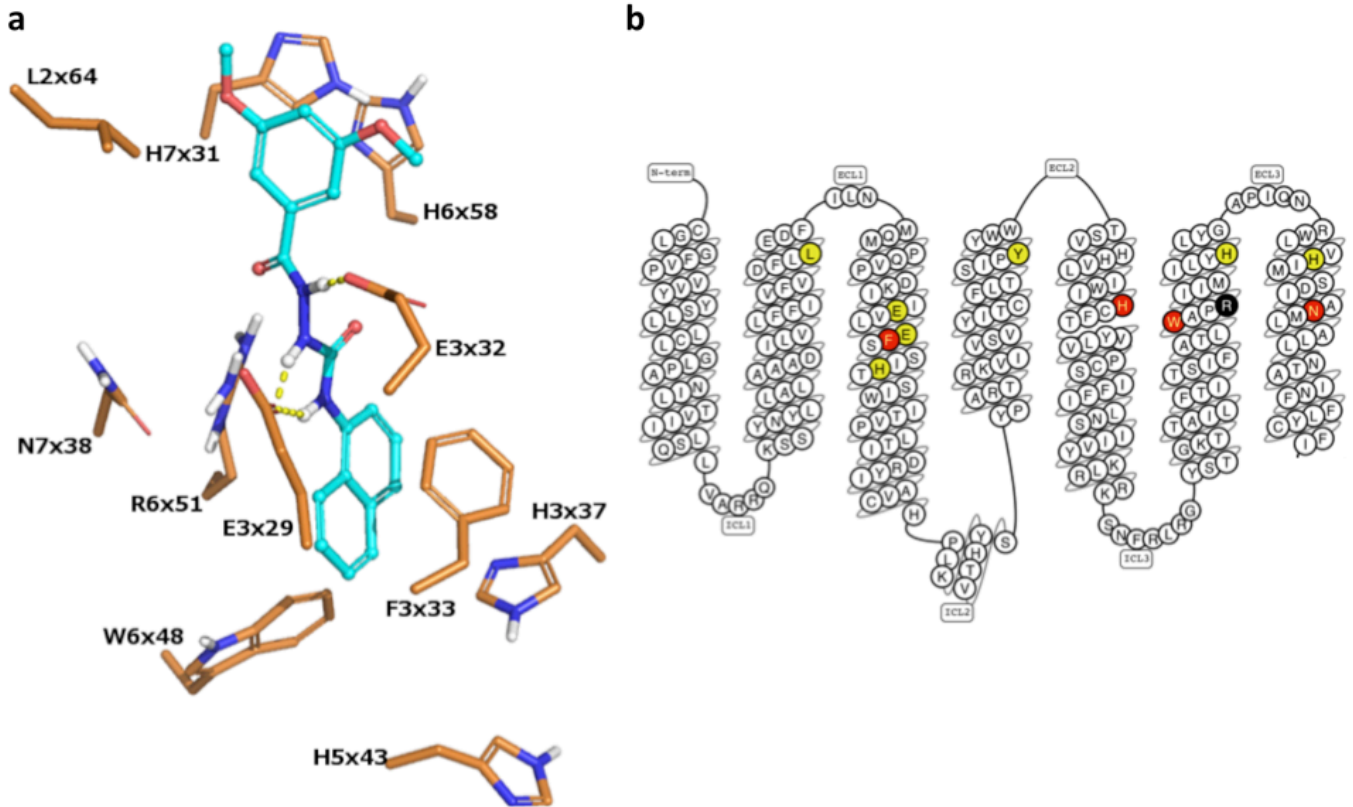
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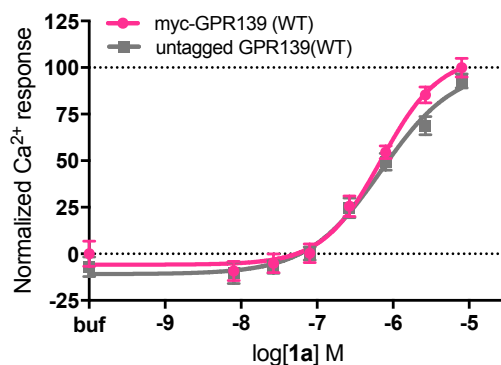
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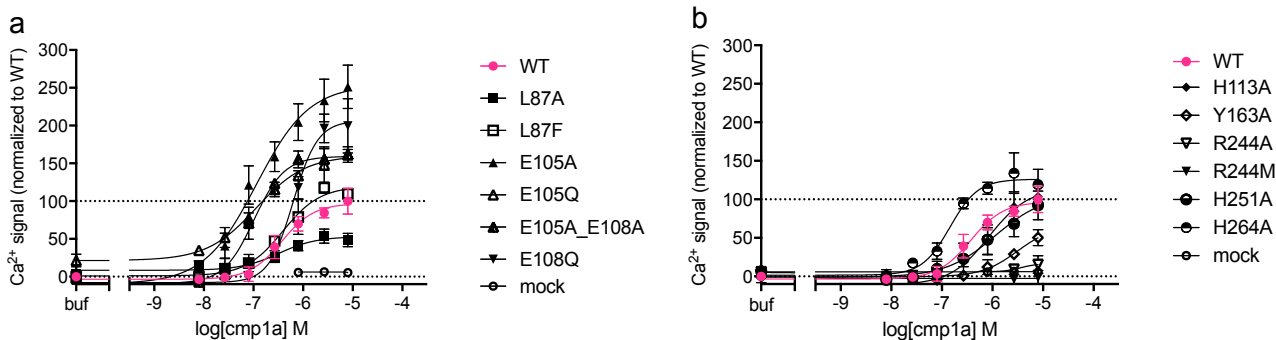
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**Supplementary Figure 1. Docking of 1a into the initial GPR139 model to suggest binding site residues.** Twelve residues (18 mutations) in the predicted orthosteric binding site of GPR139 were chosen for mutagenesis studies. Top: **a**) **1a** (cyan) docked and potential interacting residues are highlighted (orange) **b**): Snake plot diagram<sup>4,5</sup> of GPR139 showing the twelve mutated residues in red (hot spot), yellow (no effect), and black (very low expression).



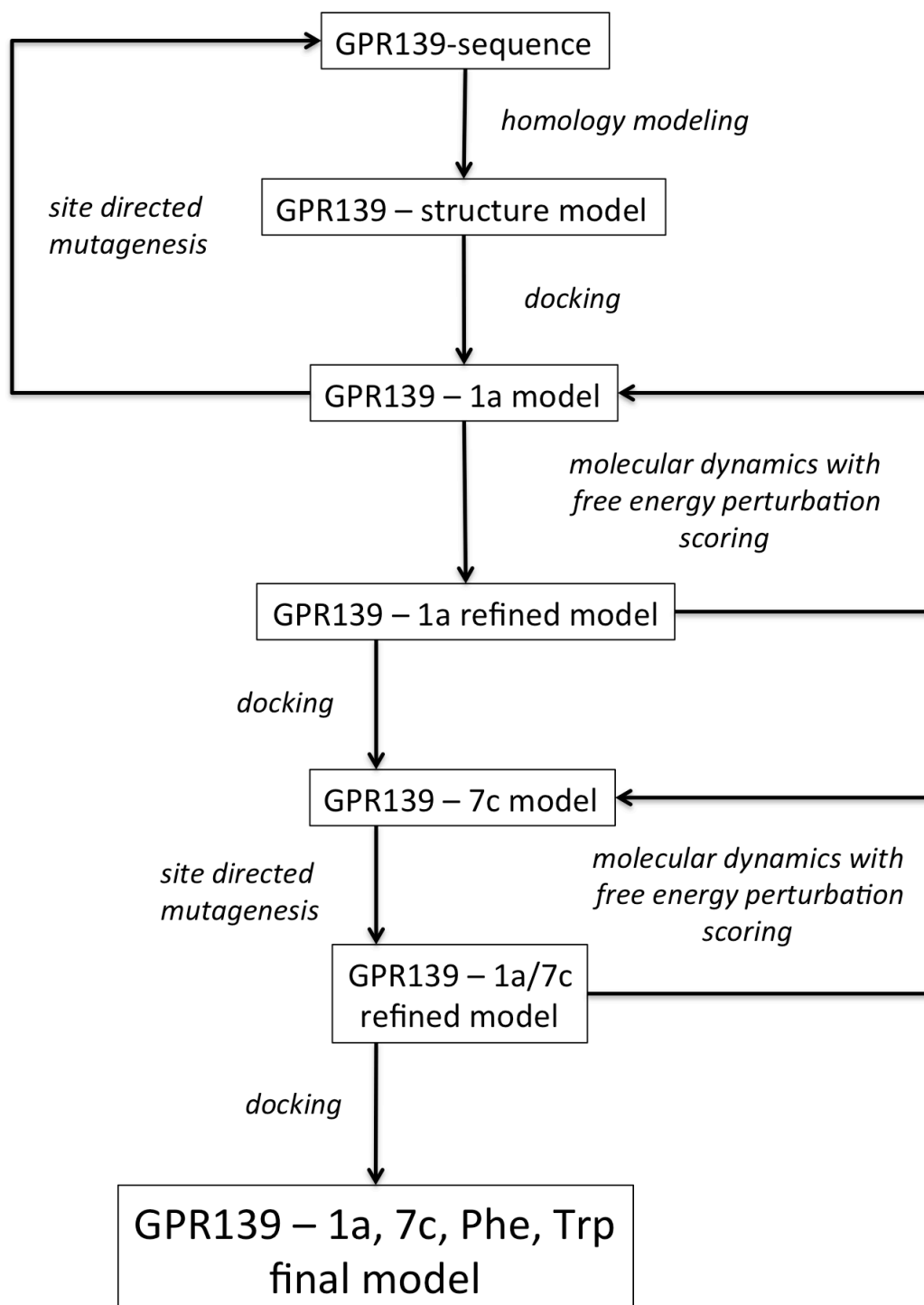
**Supplementary Figure 2. Myc-tagged GPR139(WT) and untagged GPR139(WT) have similar pharmacology.** The pharmacology of myc-GPR139(WT) and untagged GPR139(WT) was accessed measuring the Ca<sup>2+</sup> response from the receptors when stimulating with **1a**. The Ca<sup>2+</sup> response was normalized to the response from buffer (0%) and 8 μM **1a** (100%) on the myc-GPR139 (WT). All data are means ± SEM of three independent experiments conducted in triplicates on the NovoStar.



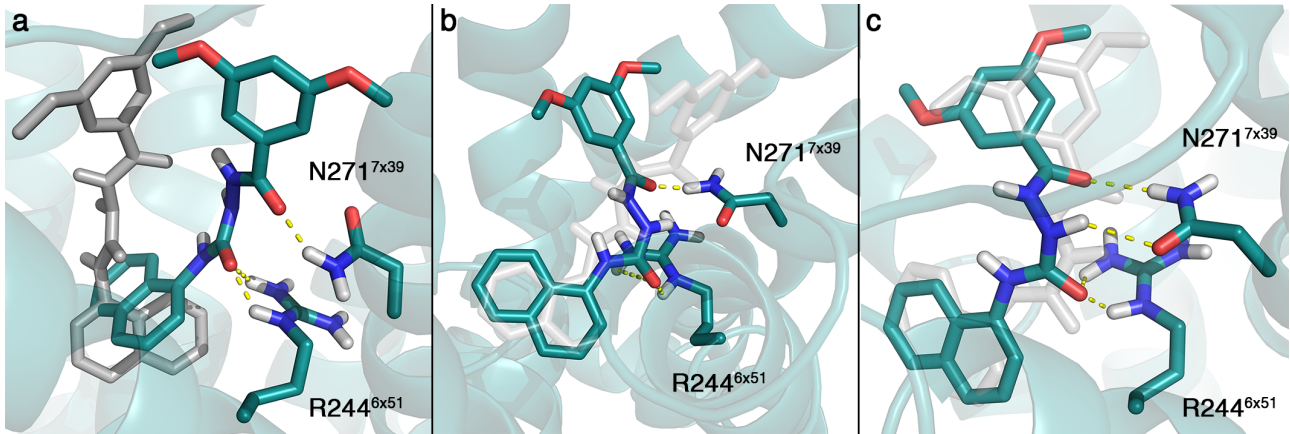
**Supplementary Figure 3. 1a on GPR139 mutants.** Concentration-response curves of **1a** on all GPR139 mutants. The graphs are one representative out of three independent experiments and are normalized to the response from buffer (0%) and 8  $\mu$ M **1a** (100%). The data points are mean  $\pm$  S.D. The results are summarized in table\_invitro\_all and Supplementary\_Table\_1a

Mutant	% SE	1a	
		pEC <sub>50</sub> $\pm$ SEM	E <sub>max</sub> $\pm$ SEM
WT	100	6.63 $\pm$ 0.08	100
L87A <sup>2x64</sup>	52	6.32 $\pm$ 0.09	75 $\pm$ 17
L87F <sup>2x64</sup>	71	6.37 $\pm$ 0.24	97 $\pm$ 14
E105A <sup>3x29</sup>	145	6.89 $\pm$ 0.15	288 $\pm$ 27
E105Q <sup>3x29</sup>	155	6.84 $\pm$ 0.13	177 $\pm$ 36
E108Q <sup>3x32</sup>	107	5.82 $\pm$ 0.34	217 $\pm$ 21
E108A <sup>3x29</sup> +E105A <sup>3x32</sup>	118	6.70 $\pm$ 0.15	196 $\pm$ 25
H113A <sup>3x37</sup>	92	6.07 $\pm$ 0.03	97 $\pm$ 9
Y163A <sup>4x61</sup>	51	<5.1	60 $\pm$ 10 *
R244A <sup>6x51</sup>	15	not expressed	not expressed
R244M <sup>6x51</sup>	16	not expressed	not expressed
H251A <sup>6x58</sup>	80	6.09 $\pm$ 0.34	84 $\pm$ 11
H264A <sup>7x31</sup>	111	6.60 $\pm$ 0.21	148 $\pm$ 15

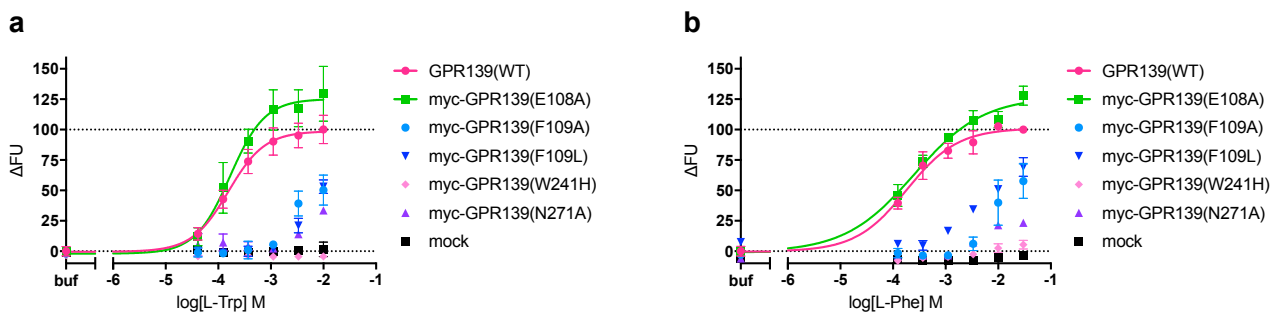
**Supplementary Table 1. 1a activity on mutants that showed no significant change in potency that was 10-fold or more decreased.** SE = surface expression relative to WT (100%). The potencies are presented as mean pEC<sub>50</sub>  $\pm$  SEM and mean E<sub>max</sub>  $\pm$  SEM. The potency of **1a** are three independent experiments conducted in triplicates normalized to the response from buffer (0%) and 8  $\mu$ M **1a** (100%). (\*) at 8  $\mu$ M, (NA) not applicable, since there was no response.



**Supplementary Figure 4. Flowchart of the binding site characterisation.** An initial homology model of GPR139 was created based on a 5-HT<sub>2B</sub> template (PDB: 4IB4) and **1a** was docked into this model. Site directed mutagenesis (SDM) was done based on this model. A new GPR139 receptor model was built based on the obtained SDM data and a new more homologous template, the kappa-opioid receptor (PDB: 4DJH). An iterative approach of ligand-steered model optimisation was used with correlation of free energy perturbation shifts in binding affinity and SDM potency data as a scoring function for **1a**. The residues shown to be most important for **1a** binding were also tested on **7c** by experimental and computational mutagenesis. This final optimized model was validated using **1a**, **Phe** and **Trp**.



**Supplementary Figure 5. Investigated binding poses and correlating energies for 1a.** a) Initial docking based binding mode of **1a** (iteration 1 Table\_XX\_FEP). During equilibration **1a** moves away from R244<sup>6x51</sup> and N271<sup>7x38</sup> as a consequence of the downward movement of the naphthyl ring (grey). b) Redocked pose of **1a** (iteration 2 Table\_XX\_FEP) in grey the original docking pose. c) Ligand **1a** MD optimized pose after an extended equilibration (iteration 3 Table\_XX\_FEP). The ligand conformation in the binding pocket remained similar, indicating that the system was converged. Differences in binding affinity as compared to iteration 2 were caused by subtle changes in side chain conformation, solvation of the pocket and increased sampling.



**Supplementary Figure 6. Concentration-response curves of a) L-Trp and b) L-Phe on GPR139 mutants.** The graph is one representative out of four independent experiments (except E108A n=1) performed in duplicates. All responses are normalized to the Ca<sup>2+</sup> response of buffer (0%) or 10 mM L-Trp or 30 mM L-Phe (100%), respectively on myc-GPR139(WT).