Supplementary Information for:

2	Structural mechanisms for the activation of human cardiac KCNQ1				
3	channel by electro-mechanical coupling enhancers				
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36 Supplementary Materials and Methods

37 **Protein expression and purification**

The full-length human KCNQ1 gene was synthesized and cloned into the modified pEZT-BM 38 vector with a C-terminal strep tag. The human CaM gene was cloned into pEZT-BM vector 39 with a C-terminal Histidine tag. KCNQ1 and CaM complex were heterologously expressed in 40 Human Embryonic Kidney (HEK) 293S suspension cells (Life Technologies) maintained at 41 30 °C in SMM 293-TI complete medium (Sino Biological Inc.) supplemented with 2% fetal 42 bovine serum (FBS, Yeasen Biotechnology (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.). The P3 baculovirus was 43 generated via the BacMam system (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and used for expression when 44 cell density reached 3.5×10⁶ cells/mL. P3 baculovirus mixture of KCNQ1: CaM (6:1) was used 45 for transduction of HEK293S cells for protein expression. To boost protein expression, 10 mM 46 sodium butyrate was added 12 h post-transduction. Cells were harvested after 48 h, then flash-47 frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80 °C until needed. 48

Cells were resuspended and lysed by sonication in buffer A (20 mM Tris, pH 8.0, 150 mM 49 KCl, 3 mM DTT) supplemented with a protease inhibitor cocktail (2 µg/mL DNase I, 50 51 0.5 µg/mL pepstatin, 2 µg/mL leupeptin, 1 µg/mL aprotinin, and 1 mM PMSF). The lysate was then solubilized with 1.5% n-dodecyl-β-D-maltoside (DDM, Anatrace) and 0.3% cholesteryl 52 hemisuccinate tris salt (CHS, Anatrace) at 4°C for 3 h. The insoluble cell fragment was 53 removed by centrifugation at 48,000g for 50 min at 4°C. The supernatant was incubated with 54 Strep-Tactin Sepharose resin (IBA) at 4°C for 1.5 h with gentle rotation. Beads were loaded 55 onto a gravity column and washed with buffer B (buffer A supplemented with 0.05% DDM and 56 0.01% CHS) for 4 CVs (column volumes), followed by washing with buffer C (buffer A 57 supplemented with 0.03% GDN) for 16 CVs. The protein was then eluted with buffer C plus 58 10 mM d-Desthiobiotin (Sigma) and further purified on a Superose 6 gel filtration column (GE 59 Healthcare) in buffer D (buffer A supplemented with 4mM EGTA). The peak fraction was 60 collected and concentrated for cryo-EM sample preparation. The typical yield of KCNQ1-CaM 61 is about 3.4 mg from 1 L HEK293S cell culture. For KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277} structure, the purified 62 protein was incubated with 0.125 mM ML277 (MedChemExpress), for KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277-PIP2} 63 structure, the protein was incubated with 0.125 mM ML277 and 1 mM PIP₂. The PIP₂ we used 64

is 1,2-dioctanoyl-sn-glycero-3-phospho-(1'-myo-inositol-4',5'-bisphosphate) (ammonium salt)
purchased from Avanti.

67

68 Cryo-EM sample preparation and data acquisition

For grids preparation, 3 µL concentrated protein was loaded onto glow-discharged R1.2/1.3 69 Quantifoil grids at 4°C under 100% humidity. Grids were blotted for 4.5 seconds and plunge-70 frozen in liquid ethane using a Vitrobot Mark IV (FEI). Micrographs were acquired on a Titan 71 72 Krios microscope (FEI) operated at a voltage of 300 kV with a K2 summit direct electron detector (Gatan) via SerialEM (1) following standard procedure. A calibrated magnification of 73 49310× was used for imaging, yielding a pixel size of 1.014 Å. The defocus range was set from 74 -1.1 µm to -1.3 µm. Micrographs were dose-fractionated to 40 frames with a dose rate of 8 75 $e^{-/pixel/s}$ and a total exposure time of 8 s, corresponding to a total dose of ~64 e^{-/A^2} . 76

77

78 Image processing

Motion correction and CTF parameters estimation were performed with the MotionCorr2 (2)
and the GCTF (3) programs, respectively. All image processing steps were carried out with
RELION 3.0 (4).

For KCNQ1-CaM_{apo}, 2,957 micrographs were collected and 1,683,616 particles were autopicked and extracted with a binning factor of 3 for 2D classification. The following two rounds of 3D classification with 1,370,276 selected particles were performed using the map of human KCNQ1-CaM complex (PDB: 6UZZ) (5) as a reference. After 3D classification, selected particles were combined and re-extracted to the pixel size of 1.014 Å for 3D refinement with a *C4* symmetry and Bayesian polishing via RELION 3.0. The final resolution of the EM map by 3D reconstruction of 169,344 particles was 3.5 Å.

For KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277}, 2,058 micrographs were collected and 1,197,453 particles were auto-picked and extracted with a binning factor of 3 for 2D classification. The following three rounds of 3D classification with 941,138 selected particles were performed using the map of KCNQ1-CaM_{apo} as a reference. After 3D classification, selected particles were combined and re-extracted to the pixel size of 1.014 Å for 3D refinement with a *C4* symmetry and Bayesian polishing via RELION 3.0. The final resolution of the EM map by 3D reconstruction of 200,556
particles was 2.6 Å.

For KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277-PIP2-A} and KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277-PIP2-B}, 1,803 micrographs were 96 collected and 1,018,488 particles were auto-picked and extracted with a binning factor of 3 for 97 2D classification. The following two rounds of 3D classification with 750,461 selected 98 particles were performed using the map of KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277} as a reference. After 3D 99 classification, two different conformational 3D reconstructions were obtained, named KCNQ1-100 CaM_{ML277-PIP2-A} and KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277-PIP2-B}, respectively. Then the selected particles were 101 combined and re-extracted to the pixel size of 1.014 Å for 3D refinement with a C4 symmetry 102 and Bayesian polishing via RELION 3.0. The final resolution of the EM map by 3D 103 reconstruction of KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277-PIP2-A} (103,745 particles) was 3.1 Å, and the resulting 3D 104 reconstruction of KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277-PIP2-B} (257,550 particles) was 2.5 Å, 105

106 The resolution was estimated by applying a soft mask around the protein density and the 107 gold-standard Fourier shell correlation (FSC) = 0.143 criterion. Local resolution maps were 108 calculated with RELION 3.0.

109

110 Model building, refinement, and validation

De novo atomic models were built in Coot (6) based on the 2.6 Å resolution map of KCNQ1-111 CaM_{ML277}. The amino acid assignment was achieved based on the clearly defined density for 112 bulky residues (Phe, Trp, Tyr, and Arg) and the model of KCNQ1-CaM complex (PDB: 6UZZ) 113 (5) was used as a reference. PHENIX (7) was utilized for model refinement against cryo-EM 114 maps using real-space refinement, with secondary structure restraints and non-crystallography 115 symmetry applied. The models of KCNQ1-CaMapo, KCNQ1-CaMML277-PIP2-A, and KCNQ1-116 CaM_{ML277-PIP2-B} were built using the model of KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277} as a template. The 117 MolProbity (8) was used for model geometry statistics generation. The Van der Waals radii of 118 the pore were calculated using HOLE (9). All figures were prepared in PyMoL (The PyMOL 119 Molecular Graphics System, Version 1.8 Schrödinger, LLC.) and Chimera (10). 120

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122 Electrophysiology

Constructs and mutagenesis: Overlap extension and high-fidelity PCR were used for generating
KCNQ1 point mutations. Each mutation was verified by DNA sequencing. The mMessage T7
polymerase kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific) was then used for synthesizing cRNA of WT
KCNQ1 and its mutations.

Oocyte expression: Stage V (or VI) oocytes were obtained from Xenopus laevis by 127 laparotomy surgery, following the protocol approved by the Animal Studies Committee of 128 Macau University of Science and Technology (Protocol #: MUST-NSFC-2021022601HPP). 129 Oocytes were digested by collagenase (0.5 mg/ml, Sigma Aldrich, St Louis, MO) to remove 130 the follicle membrane. KCNQ1 cRNAs (9.2 ng) were injected into each oocyte with a 131 microinjector (RWD R-480 model). After injection, oocytes were kept in the ND96 solution 132 (in mM): 96 NaCl, 2 KCl, 1.8 CaCl₂, 1 MgCl₂, 5 HEPES, 2.5 CH₃COCO₂Na, 1:100 Pen-Strep, 133 pH 7.6) at 18°C for 2-6 days to allow sufficient KCNQ1 channel expression. All chemicals 134 were purchased from Sigma Aldrich. 135

Two-electrode voltage clamp (TEVC): After channel expression, oocytes were transferred 136 to a TEVC platform (Warner OC-725D amplifier + HEKA Patchmaster acquisition software) 137 138 for whole-oocyte current recordings. Currents were sampled at 1 kHz and filtered at 2 kHz. Microelectrodes were made with a Sutter puller (P-1000) with resistances at $\sim 1 M\Omega$ when filled 139 with 3 M KCl. For ML277 experiments, ML277 stock (Sigma Aldrich, in DMSO) was added 140 to the bath and diluted to 1 μ M. All recordings were performed at room temperature (21–23 °C). 141 Electrophysiology Data analysis: Data were analyzed with Clampfit (Axon Instruments, 142 Inc., Sunnyvale, CA), Sigmaplot (SPSS, Inc., San Jose, CA), and IGOR (Wavemetrics, Lake 143 Oswego, OR). G–V curves were fitted a Boltzmann equation $1/(1+\exp(-z^*F^*(V-V_{50})/RT))$, 144 where V is the voltage, z is the equivalent valence, V_{50} is the half-maximal voltage, F is the 145 Faraday constant, R is the gas constant, and T is the absolute temperature. For activation (τ_f 146 and τ_s) and deactivation (τ_d) time constants of KCNQ1 currents in Figure 1, KCNQ1 activation 147 currents were fitted with a double exponential equation to get the τ_f and τ_s for control, and were 148 149 fitted separately with a single exponential function to get the τ_f and τ_s for currents after adding 150 ML277.



- 153 Fig. S1. Structure determination of KCNQ1-CaMapo.
- 154 (A) Size-exclusion chromatography of KCNQ1-CaM_{apo} on Superose 6 (GE Healthcare) and
- 155 SDS-PAGE analysis of the final sample.

- 156 (B) Representative cryo-EM micrograph of KCNQ1-CaM_{apo}.
- 157 (C) Flowchart of image processing for KCNQ1-CaM_{apo} particles.
- 158 (D) The density map of KCNQ1-CaM_{apo} colored by local resolution. The local resolution was
- 159 estimated with RELION 3.0 and generated in Chimera.

- 160 (E) The Gold-standard Fourier shell correlation (FSC) curves of the final 3D reconstruction of
- 161 KCNQ1-Ca M_{apo} , and the FSC curve for cross-validation between the map and the model of
- 162 KCNQ1-CaM_{apo}.
- 163 (F) Euler angle distribution of KCNQ1-CaM_{apo} particles used in the final 3D reconstruction,
- 164 with the heights of the cylinders corresponding to the number of particles.
- 165 (G) Sample maps of the KCNQ1-CaM_{apo} structure. The S4 and C-terminal half of S3 seem
- 166 dynamic and are resolved in a relatively lower resolution.



- 169 Fig. S2. Structure determination of KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277}.
- 170 (A) Size-exclusion chromatography of KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277} on Superose 6 (GE Healthcare) and
- 171 SDS-PAGE analysis of the final sample.

- 172 (B) Representative cryo-EM micrograph of KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277}.
- 173 (C) Flowchart of image processing for KCNQ1-Ca M_{ML277} particles.
- 174 (D) The density map of KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277} colored by local resolution. The local resolution
- 175 was estimated with RELION 3.0 and generated in Chimera.
- 176 (E) The Gold-standard Fourier shell correlation (FSC) curves of the final 3D reconstruction of
- 177 KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277}, and the FSC curve for cross-validation between the map and the model of
- 178 KCNQ1-Ca M_{ML277} .
- 179 (F) Euler angle distribution of KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277} particles used in the final 3D reconstruction,
- 180 with the heights of the cylinders corresponding to the number of particles.
- 181 (G) Sample maps of the KCNQ1-Ca M_{ML277} structure.
- 182



184 Fig. S3. Structure determination of KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277-PIP2}.

- 185 (A) Representative cryo-EM micrograph of KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277-PIP2}.
- 186 (B) Flowchart of image processing for KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277-PIP2} particles.
- 187 (C) The density map of KCNQ1-Ca $M_{ML277-PIP2-A}$ colored by local resolution. The local
- 188 resolution was estimated with RELION 3.0 and generated in Chimera.
- (D) The Gold-standard Fourier shell correlation (FSC) curves of the final 3D reconstruction of
- 190 KCNQ1-Ca $M_{ML277-PIP2-A}$, and the FSC curve for cross-validation between the map and the
- 191 model of KCNQ1-Ca $M_{ML277-PIP2-A}$.
- 192 (E) Euler angle distribution of KCNQ1-Ca $M_{ML277-PIP2-A}$ particles used in the final 3D
- 193 reconstruction, with the heights of the cylinders corresponding to the number of particles.
- 194 (F) The density map of KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277-PIP2-B} colored by local resolution. The local
- resolution was estimated with RELION 3.0 and generated in Chimera.
- 196 (G) The Gold-standard Fourier shell correlation (FSC) curves of the final 3D reconstruction of
- 197 KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277-PIP2-B}, and the FSC curve for cross-validation between the map and the
- 198 model of KCNQ1-Ca $M_{ML277-PIP2-B}$.
- 199 (H) Euler angle distribution of KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277-PIP2-B} particles used in the final 3D
- 200 reconstruction, with the heights of the cylinders corresponding to the number of particles.
- 201 (I) Sample maps of the KCNQ1-Ca $M_{ML277-PIP2-A}$ structure.
- 202 (J) Sample maps of the KCNQ1-Ca $M_{ML277-PIP2-B}$ structure.



Fig. S4. Structure determination of KCNQ1-CaM_{PIP2}.

- 206 (A) Flowchart of image processing for KCNQ1-CaM_{PIP2} particles.
- 207 (B) Map comparisons of KCNQ1-CaM_{apo} (gray) and KCNQ1-CaM_{PIP2-A} (yellow), KCNQ1-

- 208 CaMapo (gray) and KCNQ1-CaMPIP2-B (cyan), and KCNQ1-CaMPIP2-B (cyan) and KCNQ1-
- 209 CaM_{ML277-PIP2-B} (salmon). While KCNQ1-CaM_{PIP2-A} adopts an attached conformation like
- 210 KCNQ1-CaM_{apo}, KCNQ1-CaM_{PIP2-B} is in an intermediate conformation between the attached
- 211 (KCNQ1-CaM_{apo}) and detached conformation (KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277-PIP2-B}).



- 213 Fig. S5. Structural comparison of KCNQ1-CaMapo and KCNQ1-CaMapo-6UZZ.
- 214 (A) Structural comparison between KCNQ1-CaM_{apo} (wheat) and KCNQ1-CaM_{apo-6UZZ} (green)
- 215 in the side view (left) and top view (right).
- 216 (B) Superposition of VSDs in KCNQ1-CaM_{apo} (wheat) and KCNQ1-CaM_{apo-6UZZ} (green) in
- 217 top view (left) and side view (right).



G Sequence alignment of S5

	200
KCNQ1	HRQELITT L YIGFLGLIFSSYFVYLAEK
KCNQ2	HSKELVTAWYIGFLCLILASFLVYLAEK
KCNQ3	HSKELITAWYIGFLTLILSSFLVYLVEK
KCNQ4	HSKELITAWYIGFLVLIFASFLVYLAEK
KCNQ5	HSKELITAWYIGFLVLIFSSFLVYLVEK

Sequence alignment of S6

	000
KCNQ1	WVGKTIASCFSVFAISFFALPAGILGSGFALKVQG
KCNQ2	WNGRLLAATFTLIGVSFFALPAGILGSGFALKVQE
KCNQ3	WEGRLIAATFSLIGVSFFALPAGILGSGLALKVQE
KCNQ4	WLGRVLAAGFALLGISFFALPAGILGSGFALKVQE
KCNQ5	WLGRLLSAGFALLGISFFALPAGILGSGFALKVQE

225

219

Fig. S6. Comparison of binding sites of ML277, retigabine (RTG), and ML213 in KCNQ

- channels.
- 222 (A) The ML277 binding site in KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277}. The side chain of Pro343 in S6 is shown
- as sticks.
- (B) The RTG binding site in KCNQ2-CaM_{RTG} (PDB: 7CR2). The side chain of Pro308 in S6
- is shown as sticks.
- 226 (C) The ML213 binding site in KCNQ4-CaM_{ML213} (PDB: 7VNQ). The side chain of Pro314 in
- 227 S6 is shown as sticks.
- 228 (D) The Phe335 and Leu266 in KCNQ1-Ca M_{ML277} .
- (E) The Ile300 and Trp236 in KCNQ2-Ca M_{RTG} (PDB: 7CR2).
- 230 (F) The Leu306 and Trp242 in KCNQ4-CaM_{ML213} (PDB: 7VNQ).
- 231 (G) Sequence alignment of S5 and S6 segments among human KCNQ family members.



233 Fig. S7. Structural comparison of KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277}, KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277}-PIP2-A and

- 234 КСNQ1-СаМмL277-рір2-в.
- 235 (A) Comparisons of overall structures of KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277} (pink) and KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277}.
- 236 PIP2-A (blue), and KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277} and KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277}-PIP2-B (green).
- 237 (B) Structural comparison of VSDs in KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277}, KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277-PIP2-A} and
- $238 \qquad KCNQ1\text{-}CaM_{ML277\text{-}PIP2\text{-}B}.$
- 239 (C) Structural comparison of PDs in KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277}, KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277-PIP2-A}, and
- 240 KCNQ1-Ca $M_{ML277-PIP2-B}$ in the bottom view.
- 241 (D) Structural comparison of the activation gates in KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277}, KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277}.
- 242 $_{PIP2-A}$, and KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277-PIP2-B} in the side view.



Fig S8. Structural comparison indicates that KCNE3 may alter interactions between

245 ML277 and KCNQ1.

- 246 (A) Structural comparison of KCNQ1-CaM_{apo-6UZZ} and KCNQ1-CaM-KCNE3_{apo-6V00}. Red
- arrows indicate the shift of S5 and S6 upon KCNE3 binding.
- 248 (B) Structural comparisons of KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277} and KCNQ1-CaM-KCNE3_{apo-6V00}. ML277
- would form clashes with the Phe335 side chain if it bound to the KCNQ1-CaM-KCNE3complex.



252 Fig S9. Structural comparison of KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277} and xKCNQ1-CaM_{ML277-7}CTI.

- 253 (A) ML277 bound in KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277}. Side chain of Phe335 is shown as sticks.
- 254 (B) ML277 bound in xKCNQ1-CaM_{ML277-7CTI}. The dashed line indicates the electrostatic
- repulsion between the carbonyl in ML277 and the mainchain carbonyl of Phe335.
- 256 (C) Structural differences of PDs in KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277} and xKCNQ1-CaM_{ML277-7TCI} in the
- 257 bottom view.

- 258 (D) Structural differences of the activation gates in KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277} and xKCNQ1-
- 259 $CaM_{ML277-7CTI}$ in the side view. The dashed lines show diagonal atom-to-atom distances
- $260 \qquad \text{between constriction-forming residues (in Å). The gate in KCNQ1-CaM_{ML277} opens up but in }$
- 261 xKCNQ1-CaM_{ML277-7CTI} remains closed.
- 262



Fig S10. Structural comparisons of KCNQ1-CaM-KCNE3apo-6v00 and KCNQ1-CaM-

- 265 KCNE3pip2-6v01.
- 266 (A) The overall structure of KCNQ1-CaM-KCNE3_{apo-6V00} and one copy of KCNQ1, CaM, and
- 267 KCNE3. S6 and HA are connected by a loop linker and the gate is closed.
- 268 (B) The overall structure of KCNQ1-CaM-KCNE3_{PIP2-6V01} and one copy of KCNQ1, CaM,
- KCNE3, and PIP₂. PIP₂ binds at the cleft formed by the S2-S3 linker, S3, S4, and S4-S5 linker.
- 270 Upon the PIP₂ binding, CTD and CaM undergo an almost 180° rotation, along with the
- formation of a continuous helix by S6 and HA and the opening of the activation gate.
- 272

	KONOL C-M	KCNQ1-	KCNQ1-	KCNQ1-
	KCNQ1-CaM _{apo}	CaM _{ML277}	CaM _{ML277-PIP2-A}	CaM _{ML277-PIP2-B}
Data collection and				
processing				
Magnification	49310	49310	49310	49310
Voltage (kV)	300	300	300	300
Electron exposure (e-/Å ²)	~ 64	~ 64	~ 64	~ 64
Defocus range (µm)	-1.1 to -1.3	-1.1 to -1.3	-1.1 to -1.3	-1.1 to -1.3
Pixel size (Å)	1.014	1.014	1.014	1.014
Symmetry imposed	<i>C4</i>	<i>C4</i>	<i>C4</i>	<i>C4</i>
Initial particle images (no.)	1,683,616	1,197,453	1,018,488	1,018,488
Final particle images (no.)	169,344	200,556	103,745	257,550
Map resolution (Å)	3.5	2.6	3.1	2.5
FSC threshold	0.143	0.143	0.143	0.143
Refinement				
Initial model used (PDB code)	KCNQ1-	61177		
mittai model used (i DD code)	CaM _{ML277}	OOLL		
Model resolution (Å)	3.4		3.3	2.7
FSC threshold	0.143	0.143	0.143	0.143
Map sharpening B factor (Å ²)	-70	-40	-60	-30
Model composition				
Non-hydrogen atoms	15716	15848	16040	14284
Protein residues	1968	1968	1968	1896
ligands	0	4	8	8
B factors (Å ²)				
Protein	176.52	104.94	109.05	118.18
R.m.s. deviations				
Bond lengths (Å)	0.012	0.020	0.013	0.025
Bond angles (°)	1.371	1.226	1.083	1.203
Validation				
MolProbity score	2.14	1.13	1.40	2.28
Clashscore	20.98	1.81	3.42	17.54
Rotamer outliers (%)	0.00	0.73	0.00	0.00
Ramachandran plot				
Favored (%)	95.30	96.90	96.13	90.45
Allowed (%)	4.49	3.10	3.87	9.55
Outliers (%)	0.21	0.00	0.00	0.00

Supplementary Table S1. Data collection and refinement statistics.

276	Supplementary Movies:
277	Movie S1. ML277-induced conformational changes of KCNQ1-CaM in the context of
278	the whole channel complex.
279	
280	Movie S2. ML277-induced conformational changes of one KCNQ1 subunit.
281	
282	Movie S3. ML277-induced opening of the activation gate of KCNQ1 in the bottom view.
283	
284	Movie S4. PIP2-induced structural rearrangement of CTD and CaM in the context of
285	the whole channel complex.
286	
287	Movie S5. PIP ₂ -induced structural rearrangement of CTD and CaM in one KCNQ1
288	subunit.
289	
290	Movie S6. PIP ₂ -induced structural rearrangement of CTD (HA, HB, and HC) in the top
291	view with the TMD omitted for clarity.

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