



## Coupling of $\beta_1$ -adrenergic receptor to type 5 adenylyl cyclase and its physiological relevance in cardiac myocytes



Takashi Tsunematsu<sup>a</sup>, Satoshi Okumura<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Yasumasa Mototani<sup>b</sup>, Yoshiaki Ohnuki<sup>b</sup>, Huiling Jin<sup>a</sup>, Wenqian Cai<sup>a</sup>, Kenji Suita<sup>a</sup>, Itaru Sato<sup>a</sup>, Masanari Umemura<sup>a</sup>, Utako Yokoyama<sup>a</sup>, Motohiko Sato<sup>a,c</sup>, Takayuki Fujita<sup>a</sup>, Yoshihiro Ishikawa<sup>a,\*\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Cardiovascular Research Institute, Yokohama City University Graduate School of Medicine, Yokohama 236-0004, Japan

<sup>b</sup> Department of Physiology, Tsurumi University School of Dental Medicine, Yokohama 230-8501, Japan

<sup>c</sup> Department of Physiology, Aichi Medical University, Nagakute, 480-1195, Japan

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### ABSTRACT

Myocardial  $\beta$ -adrenergic receptor ( $\beta$ -AR)  $\beta_1$ - and  $\beta_2$ -subtypes are highly homologous, but play opposite roles in cardiac apoptosis and heart failure, as do cardiac adenylyl cyclase (AC) subtypes 5 (AC5) and 6 (AC6):  $\beta_1$ -AR and AC5 promote cardiac remodeling, while  $\beta_2$ -AR and AC6 activate cell survival pathways. However, the mechanisms involved remain poorly understood. We hypothesized that AC5 is coupled preferentially to  $\beta_1$ -AR rather than  $\beta_2$ -AR, and we examined this idea by means of pharmacological and genetic approaches. We found that selective inhibition of AC5 with 2'-5'-dideoxyadenosine significantly suppressed cAMP accumulation and cardiac apoptosis induced by selective  $\beta_1$ -AR stimulation, but had no effect on cAMP accumulation and cardiac apoptosis in response to selective  $\beta_2$ -AR stimulation. The results of selective stimulation of  $\beta_1$ -AR and  $\beta_2$ -AR in neonatal cardiac myocytes prepared from wild-type and AC5-knockout mice were also consistent with the idea that  $\beta_1$ -AR selectively couples with AC5. We believe these results are helpful for understanding the mechanisms underlying the different roles of AR subtypes in healthy and diseased hearts.

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### 1. Introduction

Myocardial  $\beta$ -adrenergic receptors ( $\beta$ -AR) show developmentally specific subtype expression: for example, in rats,  $\beta_1$ -AR is the predominant adult isoforms ( $\beta_1$  vs.  $\beta_2$  59% vs. 41%), whereas  $\beta_2$ -AR is more highly expressed in the neonate ( $\beta_1$  vs.  $\beta_2$  36% vs. 64%) [1]. Thus, in adults under normal physiological conditions, catecholamine actions are mediated predominantly by  $\beta_1$ -AR acting via the  $G_{s\alpha}$ -adenylyl cyclase (AC) pathway; on the other hand, the contribution of  $\beta_2$ -AR to catecholamine responsiveness is most prominent in neonatal ventricle, which lacks sympathetic

innervation, and in failing/aged hearts, in which  $\beta_1$ -AR is selectively down-regulated. More importantly, chronic stimulation of  $\beta_1$ -AR and  $\beta_2$ -AR elicits opposing effects on cardiac myocytes [2]. Chronic  $\beta_1$ -AR stimulation by elevated plasma catecholamines and subsequent activation of the  $G_{s\alpha}$ -AC-cyclic AMP (cAMP)-dependent signal transduction pathway play a crucial role in the development of heart failure [1,3]. Conversely,  $\beta_2$ -AR couples concurrently to  $G_{s\alpha}$  and  $G_{i\alpha}$ , and activates cell survival pathways. Over the past decade, compelling evidence has accumulated that  $\beta_2$ -AR- $G_{i\alpha}$  mediates a powerful cell survival pathway through activation of phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase (PI3-K)/Akt signaling in the heart [2,4–6]. However, the role of  $\beta_2$ -AR- $G_{s\alpha}$  in cell survival remains poorly understood.

AC is a membrane-bound enzyme that catalyzes the conversion of ATP to cAMP [7,8]. At least 10 isoforms are known [7,9,10], of which 7 are expressed in the heart, although type 5 (AC5) and type 6 (AC6) are the major AC isoforms in the heart [8,11]. Both are calcium ( $Ca^{2+}$ )- and Gi-inhibitable and share most, if not all, of their biochemical properties [7,9,12]. AC5 was shown to be an adult isoform, whereas AC6 is more highly expressed in the neonate in

\* Corresponding author. Department of Physiology, Tsurumi University School of Dental Medicine, 2-1-2 Tsurumi, Tsurumi-ku, Yokohama 230-8501, Japan. Fax: +81 45 585 2889.

\*\* Corresponding author. Cardiovascular Research Institute, Yokohama City University Graduate School of Medicine, 3-9 Fukuura, Kanazawa-ku, Yokohama 236-0004, Japan. Fax: +81 45 788 1470.

E-mail addresses: [okumura-s@tsurumi-u.ac.jp](mailto:okumura-s@tsurumi-u.ac.jp) (S. Okumura), [yishikaw@yokohama-cu.ac.jp](mailto:yishikaw@yokohama-cu.ac.jp) (Y. Ishikawa).

rats [1,8,13,14]. We have previously demonstrated that disruption of AC5 did not alter the expression of  $\beta$ -AR/Gs $\alpha$ /AC/protein kinase A, but significantly inhibited both myocyte apoptosis and development of heart failure in response to chronic catecholamine or pressure-overload stress [11,15]. Conversely, disruption of AC6 promoted the development of myocyte apoptosis and heart failure in response to chronic catecholamine or pressure-overload stress [16–18].

Considering these findings, together with the facts that chronic  $\beta_1$ -AR stimulation plays an important role in the pathogenesis of heart failure, while chronic  $\beta_2$  stimulation promotes cell survival, in addition to activating PI3-K/Akt signaling via Gi [5,6,19], we hypothesized that  $\beta_1$ -AR couples preferentially to AC5. Here, we examined this idea by means of both pharmacological and genetic studies in cardiac myocytes.

## 2. Materials and methods

### 2.1. Reagents

All chemicals were purchased from Sigma–Aldrich, except trypsin 1:250 (Difco), ITS (insulin-transferrin-selenium; GIBCO), [ $^3$ H]adenine (GE Healthcare), trichloroacetic acid (Wako) and 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole, dihydrochloride (DAPI; Molecular Probes).

### 2.2. Myocyte preparation

Primary cultures of neonatal mouse cardiomyocytes were prepared from the heart of a 1-day-old mouse, as described previously with some modifications [20,21]. Briefly, cardiomyocytes were obtained by trypsinization and collagenization, and maintained at 37 °C in humidified air containing with 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. To reduce the number of contaminating non-myocytes, dissociated cells were preplated on 100-mm culture dishes in minimum essential medium with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS) containing 1% penicillin-streptomycin for 2 h. The nonattached cardiomyocyte-rich fraction was plated on plastic dishes. The culture medium was changed 24 h after seeding to minimum essential medium containing ITS with 1% penicillin-streptomycin.

### 2.3. [ $^3$ H]adenine labeling and cAMP accumulation assay

Assay of cAMP accumulation assays in neonatal myocytes was performed with [ $^3$ H]adenine as described previously with some modifications [21,22]. Briefly, the cells were incubated with [ $^3$ H]adenine (3  $\mu$ Ci/well) for 24 h in humidified air containing 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. Cells were washed three times with 20 mM HEPES-balanced serum-free minimum essential medium and incubated for 20 min at 37 °C, then pretreated with the same medium containing 0.5 mM IBMX with/without 10<sup>−7</sup> M ICI118.551/10<sup>−7</sup> M CGP20712A for 15 min at room temperature (RT). Reactions were started by the addition of isoproterenol (ISO) with/without dd-Ado (5  $\mu$ M) for 5 min at RT and terminated by the addition of 12% (w/v) trichloroacetic acid, 0.25 mM ATP, and 0.25 mM cAMP. [ $^3$ H]ATP and [ $^3$ H]cAMP were separated on acidic alumina as described previously [23]. The cAMP production was calculated as [ $^3$ H]cAMP/([ $^3$ H]cAMP + [ $^3$ H]ATP)  $\times$  10<sup>4</sup>.

### 2.4. Terminal transferase dUTP nick endlabelling (TUNEL) staining

In situ labeling of fragmented DNA in cardiomyocytes was performed with a TACS 2-Tdt Blue Apoptosis Detection kit (Trevigen, Inc.) according to the manufacturer's instructions, as described previously by us and other groups [21,24,25].

### 2.5. Statistical analysis

Data were expressed as means  $\pm$  SEM. The statistical significances of differences in cAMP accumulation in cardiac myocytes (Figs. 1 and 3A) and TUNNEL-positive cardiac myocytes (Figs. 2 and 3B) was determined by one-way ANOVA with Tukey's test. The criterion of significance was taken as  $P < 0.05$ .

## 3. Results

### 3.1. Effect of ICI118.551 or CGP20712A on ISO-promoted cAMP accumulation

We first examined the effects of ISO (10<sup>−8</sup> to 10<sup>−6</sup> M) on cAMP accumulation in neonatal cardiac myocytes in the presence and absence of 2',5'-dideoxyadenosine (dd-Ado; 5  $\mu$ M), a specific AC5 inhibitor [21]. cAMP accumulation was significantly increased from baseline by ISO (10<sup>−7</sup> or 10<sup>−6</sup> M), but the magnitude of the increase was significantly suppressed (by approximately 29%) by dd-Ado (Fig. 1A).

We next examined the effect of pretreatment with ICI118.551 (10<sup>−7</sup> M), a  $\beta_2$ -selective antagonist, on the ISO-promoted cAMP accumulations in neonatal cardiac myocytes (Fig. 1B). Under these conditions ( $\beta_1$ -selective stimulation), cAMP accumulation was significantly increased from baseline by ISO, and after ICI118.551 pretreatment the increase was approximately two-thirds of that in the absence of ICI118.551. The magnitude of the increase was significantly smaller (by approximately 39%) in the presence of dd-Ado.

We also examined the effect of pretreatment of CGP20712A (10<sup>−7</sup> M), a  $\beta_1$ -selective antagonist, on the ISO-promote cAMP accumulation (Fig. 1C). Under these conditions ( $\beta_2$ -selective stimulation), cAMP accumulation was significantly increased from baseline by ISO (10<sup>−6</sup> M), but the increase after CGP20712A pretreatment was only approximately one-third of that in the absence of CGP20712A (compare Fig. 1A). In this case, dd-Ado had no effect on the magnitude of the increase.

These data indicate that ISO-promoted cAMP accumulation is predominantly mediated by  $\beta_1$ -AR.

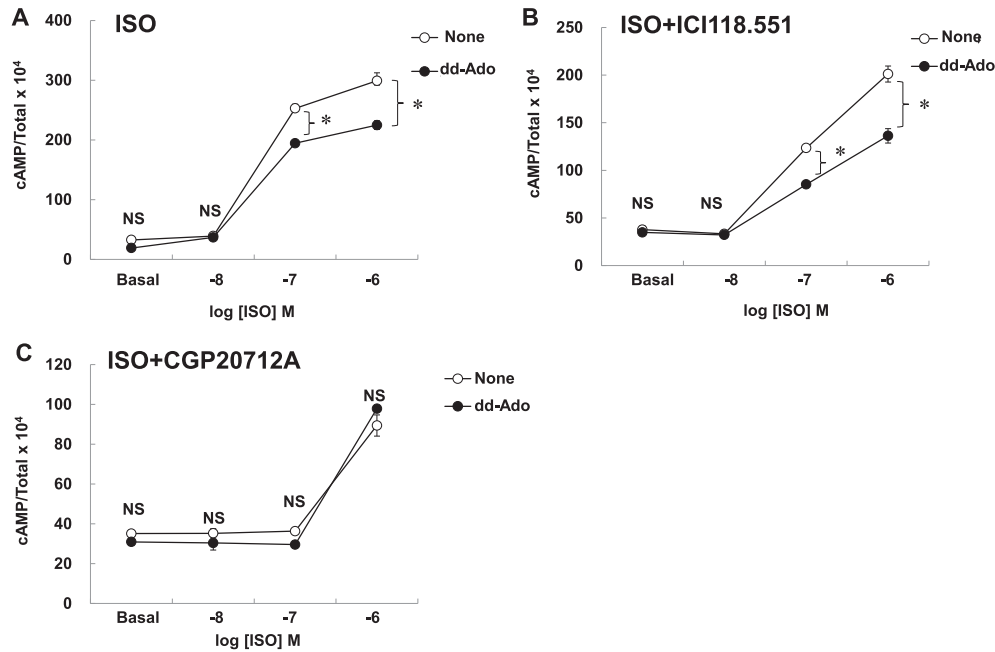
### 3.2. Effect of ICI118.551 or CGP20712A on ISO-mediated apoptosis of cardiac myocytes

ISO is known to induce cardiac apoptosis through the activation of  $\beta$ -AR, but the downstream regulatory mechanisms remains poorly understood [5,8,11,21,25]. We thus examined the mechanism of ISO-mediated cardiac apoptosis.

We first examined the effect of subtype-specific stimulation of  $\beta$ -AR on ISO-mediated cardiac apoptosis (Fig. 2). Cardiac apoptosis was significantly increased by approximately 1.5-fold from baseline by ISO (Baseline vs. ISO 14  $\pm$  0.9 vs. 23  $\pm$  0.2%,  $P < 0.01$ ,  $n = 4$ ). Pretreatment with ICI118.551 (10<sup>−7</sup> M) did not significantly reduce ISO-mediated cardiac apoptosis (21  $\pm$  0.8%,  $n = 4$ ), whereas pretreatment with CGP20712A (10<sup>−7</sup> M) completely suppressed it (11  $\pm$  1.3%,  $P < 0.01$  vs. ISO,  $n = 4$ ). These data indicated that ISO-mediated cardiac apoptosis is mediated by activation of  $\beta_1$ -AR.

### 3.3. $\beta_1$ -AR preferentially associates with AC5

We previously demonstrated that knockout of AC5 (AC5KO) decreased total AC activity by 30–40% in the mouse heart, but AC5KO was less susceptible to stresses, such as chronic ISO infusion or chronic pressure overload [8,11,12,21]. To confirm the results of pharmacological inhibition of AC5 with dd-Ado in cardiac myocytes (Fig. 1), we employed cardiac myocytes prepared from AC5KO.



**Fig. 1.** Effects of AC5 inhibitor dd-Ado on cAMP accumulation in response to subtype-selective  $\beta$ -AR stimulation in cardiomyocytes. cAMP accumulation in neonatal cardiac myocytes treated with ISO (non-selective  $\beta$ -AR subtype stimulation) (A), ISO + ICI118.551 ( $10^{-7}$  M) ( $\beta_1$ -AR subtype selective stimulation) (B), or ISO + CGP20712A ( $10^{-7}$  M) ( $\beta_2$ -AR subtype selective stimulation) (C) was evaluated in the presence and absence of dd-Ado ( $5 \mu\text{M}$ ), a selective AC5 inhibitor. cAMP accumulation induced by ISO ( $10^{-7}$  or  $10^{-6}$  M) or ISO ( $10^{-7}$  or  $10^{-6}$ ) + ICI118.551 ( $10^{-7}$  M) was significantly decreased by dd-Ado, but no inhibitory effect was observed in the case of ISO + CGP20712A ( $*P < 0.01$ ,  $n = 5-6$ ).

We first examined the effects of ISO ( $10^{-6}$  M) on cAMP accumulation in neonatal cardiac myocytes prepared from WT and AC5KO. cAMP accumulation was increased from baseline by ISO in both WT and AC5KO myocytes, but the increase was significantly suppressed in AC5KO myocytes (by approximately 26% versus WT,  $P < 0.01$ ).

We next examined the effects of ICI118.551 ( $10^{-7}$  M) and CGP20712A ( $10^{-7}$  M) on ISO ( $10^{-6}$  M)-promoted cAMP accumulation in cardiac myocytes. cAMP accumulation was reduced by approximately 26% and 43% by ICI118.551 pretreatment in WT and AC5KO myocytes, respectively. However, CGP20712A pretreatment reduced cAMP accumulation to the baseline level (Fig. 3A).

We also examined the effects of ISO on cardiac apoptosis in WT and AC5KO myocytes by TUNEL staining. The number of TUNEL-

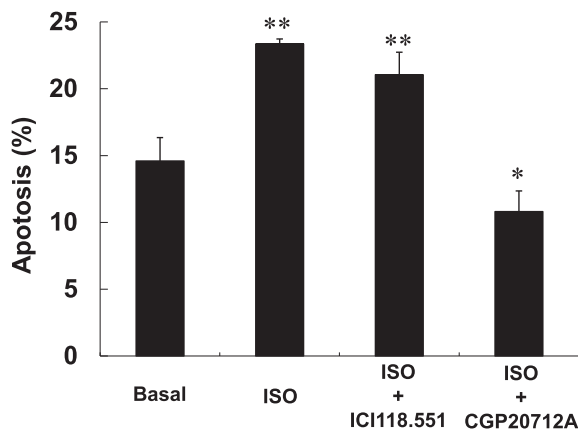
positive cardiac myocytes was increased by approximately 1.6-fold from baseline in WT myocytes, but this increase was blocked in AC5KO myocytes, in the presence or absence of ICI118.551 or CGP20712A (Fig. 3B).

Since AC5 is known to play an important role in cardiac apoptosis [8,11,21], these data support the idea that  $\beta_1$ -AR is coupled preferentially to AC5.

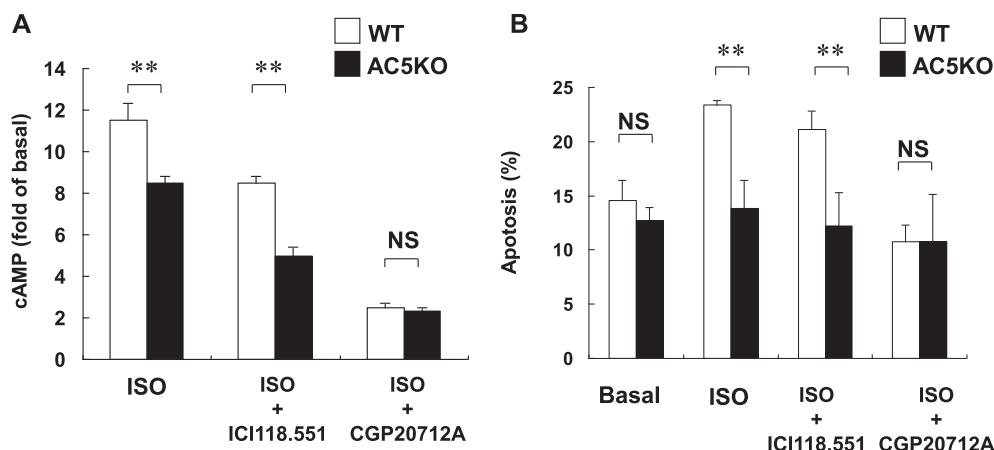
#### 4. Discussion

In order to examine the mechanism underlying the opposing effects of  $\beta_1$ -AR and  $\beta_2$ -AR on cardiac myocytes [2], we adopted two approaches. Firstly, we examined the effects of dd-Ado, a specific AC5 inhibitor [21] on cAMP accumulation and cardiac apoptosis induced by ISO under conditions of selective  $\beta_1$ -AR or  $\beta_2$ -AR stimulation. Secondly, we examined cAMP accumulation and cardiac apoptosis using cardiac myocytes from AC5KO under conditions of selective  $\beta_1$ -AR or  $\beta_2$ -AR stimulation. Both approaches indicated that cAMP accumulation and cardiac apoptosis in response to selective  $\beta_1$ -AR stimulation were significantly suppressed by inhibition or knockout of AC5, whereas no decrease was observed in the case of selective  $\beta_2$ -AR stimulation. These results are consistent with our hypothesis that  $\beta_1$ -AR associates preferentially with AC5.

Caveolin-3, a major subtype in the heart, acts as a scaffolding protein by direct interaction with and modulation of the activity of G-protein-coupled receptor signaling components [26]. We and other groups have reported colocalization of caveolin-3 with G-protein-coupled receptor signaling components including  $\beta_1$ -AR,  $\beta_2$ -AR, and AC5/6 in cardiac myocytes [27–29]. However, caveolin-3 is distributed in both surface sarcolemma and long membrane invaginations known as transverse tubules (t-tubules) in cardiac myocytes [30]. More recently, subtype-specific subcellular distribution of  $\beta$ -AR and cardiac AC isoforms (AC5/6) within the plasma membrane was demonstrated by means of electrophysiological techniques: AC5 is localized mainly at t-tubules and AC6 is localized



**Fig. 2.** Apoptosis induced by subtype-selective  $\beta$ -AR stimulation. Induction of TUNEL-positive cardiomyocytes in response to subtype-selective  $\beta$ -AR stimulation: ISO (non-selective  $\beta$ -AR subtype stimulation), ISO ( $10^{-6}$  M) + ICI118.551 ( $10^{-7}$  M) ( $\beta_1$ -AR subtype selective stimulation) or ISO ( $10^{-6}$  M) + CGP20712A ( $10^{-7}$  M) ( $\beta_2$ -AR subtype selective stimulation) ( $*P < 0.05$ ,  $**P < 0.01$ ,  $n = 4$ ).



**Fig. 3.** cAMP accumulation and apoptosis in AC5KO myocytes in response to subtype-selective  $\beta$ -AR stimulation. (A) cAMP accumulation in neonatal cardiac myocytes was compared between AC5KO and WT myocytes treated with ISO ( $10^{-6}$  M) (non-selective  $\beta$ -AR subtype stimulation), ISO ( $10^{-6}$  M) + ICI118.551 ( $10^{-7}$  M) ( $\beta_1$ -AR subtype selective stimulation), or ISO ( $10^{-6}$  M) + CGP20712A ( $10^{-7}$  M) ( $\beta_2$ -AR subtype selective stimulation). \*\* $P < 0.01$ ,  $n = 4$ . (B) Induction of apoptosis in AC5KO and WT myocytes was evaluated by TUNEL staining. The number of TUNEL-positive cardiac myocytes was increased 1.6-fold from baseline in ISO-treated WT myocytes, but the increase was suppressed in AC5KO myocytes, independently of the presence or absence of ICI118.551 or CGP20712A. \*\* $P < 0.01$ , NS, not significant,  $n = 4$ –6.

at surface sarcolemma, whereas  $\beta_1$ -AR is localized at t-tubules and surface sarcolemma and  $\beta_2$ -AR is localized only at surface sarcolemma [31,32]. These findings, together with the data obtained in the present study, may suggest that  $\beta_1$ -AR preferentially couples with AC5 at t-tubules, while  $\beta_2$ -AR might preferentially couple with AC6 at surface sarcolemma, and these subtype-specific couplings of  $\beta$ -AR and cardiac AC isoforms might account for opposing effects of  $\beta_1/\beta_2$ -AR and AC5/6 on cardiac myocytes [2]. Our present findings represent the first evidence in support of this explanation of the differential regulation and functionality of  $\beta$ -AR subtypes in healthy and diseased hearts.

### Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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