may modify the voltage activation threshold of this channel towards more physiological conditions. Flavonoid Naringenin (Nar) is present in all plant species where it plays a central role in the flavonoid biosynthetic pathway. Nar is stored in the vacuoles in glycosylated form. To confirm the presence of non-glycosylated Nar in the cytoplasm we isolated the gene encoding for Arabidopsis glycosyltransferase (AtGT) which glycosilates Nar. AtGT gene was cloned in fusion with yellow fluorescent protein (YFP) and was used for localization studies. When Naringenin was added to cytosolic bath solution, we recorded a dose-dependent reversible decrease in SV channel activity described by a half block concentration of 0.44 mM. Investigating Nar effects on the voltage dependence of the channel, we observed that the activation threshold of the SV channel is shifted towards more positive voltages and that Nar does not affect the single channel conductance. Investigating the effects of Nar at varying pH, we observed an increase in current inhibition with the decrease of the pH. When Naringin, the glycosylated form of Nar, was applied at the cytosolic or at the vacuolar side it did not modify the channel activity. We are currently investigating the role of the phospholipid composition of the membrane in this modulation.

Acknowledgement: This research was supported by EU Research Training Network 'VaTEP' (CT-2006-035833).

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Effects of Cannabinoids on Ion Channels of Pancreatic Beta Cells

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The function of the beta cell of the pancreatic islet is to sense minute changes in blood glucose levels and secrete insulin to maintain euglycemia. Though this secretion is governed chiefly by glucose, other chemical factors such as insulin itself and the incretin hormones also modulate this function. Peliminary evidence in our lab indicates that endocannabinoids are important negative regulators of insulin secretion. Beta cells are electrically excitable and undergo depolarization upon glucose stimulated insulin secretion resulting from closure of the K(ATP) channels. As a consequence, the calcium channels open, intracellular levels of calcium rise and exocytosis of the insulin secretory granules occurs. In addition to the K(ATP) channels and the calcium channels, beta cells also possess an array of ion channels that generate the complex electrical waveforms and participate to varying degrees in the regulation of the membrane potential.

Using rodent beta cells we investigated the effects of cannabinoids on some of these ion channels. Thus, 10 μM 2-arachidonylglycerol (2-AG) decreased the amplitude of the delayed rectifier current by about 40%. Simple washing did not reverse this blockade, and the addition of the cannabinoid receptor 1 (CB1) antagonist AM 251 (1 μ) also had no effect. However, the blockade was completely reversed by washing with lipid free bovine serum albumin. Moreover, the CB1 agonist, WIN-55,212-2(1 μM), an indole derivative structurally unrelated to the lipid 2-AG, had no antagonistic effect on the delayed rectifier. Taken together, these results suggest that the block was independent of the CB1 receptor and was mediated instead via the plasma membrane. Cannabinoid blockade of both sodium and HVA calcium currents were similar to the effects on the delayed rectifier.

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Effects of Small Molecule Kv1.3 and K(Ca)3.1 Inhibitors on T_{EM}-Cell Proliferation

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The homotetrameric forms of the voltage- or calcium-activated Kv1.3 and K(Ca)3.1 channels are the predominant potassium channels in T-lymphocytes and play an important role in membrane potential regulation of these cells. Since several years Kv1.3 has been suggested as a promising target for addressing autoimmune diseases because Kv1.3^{high}/K(Ca)3.1^{low}phenotype T-lymphocyte subsets (activated T_{EM} cells) are thought to play an important role in the mediation of the pathologic effects.

We developed several small-molecule compounds with Kv1.3 or K(Ca)3.1 inhibitory properties in the nanomolar range determined by manual patch-clamp experiments. To further test the efficacy of the compounds on a cellular level we tried to suppress T_{EM} subtype specific anti-CD3 induced proliferation of freshly isolated PBM, T, and T_{EM} cells (fraction of purified T and T_{EM} cells characterized by FACS detection of CD45RO and CCR7 antigens). Inhibition of proliferation was either essayed by exclusive application of 4SC or reference Kv1.3 inhibitors or by co-application in combination with a K(Ca)3.1 inhibitor. In all cases inhibition of Kv1.3 potassium channels alone did not or only weakly abolish cell proliferation. However, co-inhibition of Kv1.3 and K(Ca)3.1 channels widely suppressed proliferation to various degrees. Furthermore we observed that the degree of block seemed to be strongly dependent on the donor and/or the individual's immunological status. This potentially T-cell subset unspecific inhibition has recently been suggested as a novel strategy in preventing kidney allograft rejection (*Transplant. Proc.* (2009) **41**:2601-2606).

2763-Pos

Effects of PKC on Closed-State Inactivation in Kv4.3 Isoforms

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Kv4.3 is expressed as two isoforms, a short form and a long form, that has a 19 aa insertion downstream from S6 in the C terminus which has a putative PKC phosphorylation site at T504. To understand the role of PKC on modulation of closed-state inactivation (CSI), we expressed channels mutated in putative PKC phosphorylation sites and compared their response to PKC activation with PMA to the responses of WT Kv4.3 isoforms. PMA had similar effects on Kv4.3-S and Kv4.3-L open-state inactivation. However, PMA induced opposite effects on CSI in the two channel splice variants: the magnitude of CSI in Kv4.3-S was reduced, while there was an increase in CSI in Kv4.3-L, an effect was abolished by mutation of the long form T504 to alanine. To understand the structural basis of the reduction of CSI in Kv4.3-S, we constructed several mutants of putative PKC phosphorylation sites in the N terminus. Of these, the largest effect on PKC modulation of CSI occurred in the T53A mutant in both Kv4.3-S and Kv4.3-L; Kv4.3-S mutants lacking threonine at position 53 showed no or minimal response to PKC. These data show that isoform-specific modulation of CSI by PKC in Kv4.3 involves complex interactions of the cytoplasmic N and C termini of the channels.

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Ca^{2+}-Dependent PKC Facilitates Voltage-Dependent Activation of IKs Through Phosphorylation of An Isoform Specific Site on the KCNE1 Subunit

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Protein kinase C (PKC) regulates heart inotropy and chronotropy in both physiological and pathophysiological states. In human heart, at least 6 PKC isofoms are expressed, with the Ca^{2+} dependent isoforms (classic PKCs, cPKCs) being the most abundant. However, little is known about the effect of cPKC on heart rhythm and cardiac ion channel regulation. The slow delayed rectifier current (IKs) is one of the main currents responsible for cardiomyocyte repolarization. In this study, we investigated the regulation of human IKs regulation by cPKC.Human IKs channel (KCNQ1 and KCNE1) and α_1-adrenergic receptor were co-expressed in HEK293T cells. IKs was measured by conventional whole-cell and perforated patch-clamp techniques. The selective α_1-adrenergic agonist phenylephrine (30 μM) activated IKs by both shifting the voltage dependence of activation ($V_{1/2}$) to the left, ~ −20 mV, and increasing in the maximal conductance (Gmax), ~ 175%. Pretreatment with cell-permeable cPKC inhibitory peptide selectively blocked the agonist-induced voltage shift, but not the increase in Gmax. Application of a cell-permeable cPKC activator peptide mimicked the agonist-induced leftward shift in $V_{1/2}$, and showed no increase in Gmax. A mutation in a putative PKC phosphorylation site in the auxiliary subunit, KCNE1(S102A), abolished the cPKC-mediated voltage shift. Expression of the phosphorylation-mimicking mutant, KCNE1(S102E), produced channels that had a leftward shift in $V_{1/2}$ compared to KCNE1(S102A). Our data indicate that cPKC phosphorylation of KCNE1(S102) facilitates voltage-dependent activation of IKs . In addition, we showed that a mutation associated with Long QT type1 at the S4-S5 linker of KCNQ1 and associated with high cardiac risk, also abolished cPKC activation of this channel. Our results suggest that KCNE1(S102) phosphorylation is transduced through the KCNQ1(S4-S5) linker to modulate channel voltage sensing and thereby facilitate channel opening.

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Ancillary Subunits Regulate PKC Mediated Effects on Closed-State Inactivation of Kv4.3

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Kv4 channels are expressed with a variety of ancillary subunits in vivo. The most prominent of these proteins are the KChIPs, a family of cytoplasmic proteins that modulate channel gating and act as chaperones. We have previously shown that heterologously expressed Kv4.3 is regulated by PKC. After induction of PKC by PMA, current expression level is reduced. PKC also influences closed-state inactivation (CSI) in an isoform dependent manner; CSI is decreased upon PKC induction in Kv4.3-S, and increased in PKC-L. To understand the role of PKC on modulation of Kv4-based currents, we expressed channels in the presence of three KChIP2 isoforms and compared their responses to PKC. Two KChIP2 isoforms, KChIP2a and 2b, negated PKC influence on channel gating, kinetics, and expression levels in both Kv4.3-S and