

Capacitative Ca^{2+} Entry via Orai1 and Stromal Interacting Molecule 1 (STIM1) Regulates Adenylyl Cyclase Type 8

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ABSTRACT

Capacitative Ca^{2+} entry (CCE), which occurs through the plasma membrane as a result of Ca^{2+} store depletion, is mediated by stromal interacting molecule 1 (STIM1), a sensor of intracellular Ca^{2+} store content, and the pore-forming component Orai1. However, additional factors, such as C-type transient receptor potential (TRPC) channels, may also participate in the CCE apparatus. To explore whether the store-dependent Ca^{2+} entry reconstituted by coexpression of Orai1 and STIM1 has the functional properties of CCE, we used the Ca^{2+} -calmodulin stimulated adenylyl cyclase type 8 (AC8), which responds selectively to CCE, whereas other modes of Ca^{2+} entry, including those activated by arachidonate and the ionophore ionomycin, are ineffective. In addition, the Ca^{2+} entry mediated by previous CCE candidates,

diacylglycerol-activated TRPC channels, does not activate AC8. Here, we expressed Orai1 and STIM1 in HEK293 cells and saw a robust increment in CCE, and a proportional increase in CCE-stimulated AC8 activity. Inhibitors of the CCE assembly process ablated the effects on cyclase activity in both AC8-overexpressing HEK293 cells and insulin-secreting MIN6 cells endogenously expressing Ca^{2+} -sensitive AC isoforms. AC8 is believed to be closely associated with the source of CCE; indeed, not only were AC8, Orai1, and STIM1 colocalized at the plasma membrane but also all three proteins occurred in lipid rafts. Together, our data indicate that Orai1 and STIM1 can be integral components of the cAMP and CCE microdomain associated with adenylyl cyclase type 8.

The complexity of signaling by the ubiquitous second messenger cAMP is enhanced by multiple regulatory susceptibilities of its synthesis by adenylyl cyclases (AC) and degradation by phosphodiesterases. Indeed, ACs receive regulatory signals from multiple sources, such as G-proteins, protein kinases, growth factors, and Ca^{2+} (for review, see Sunahara et al., 1996; Willoughby and Cooper, 2007). Nine transmembrane AC isoforms have been identified, four of which are sensitive to Ca^{2+} ; the cation stimulates AC1 and AC8 via calmodulin and inhibits AC5 and AC6 directly. AC8 is an

archetypal calmodulin-stimulated enzyme, employing a disinhibitory activation mechanism (Gu and Cooper, 1999; Simpson et al., 2006). However, AC8 is extremely discerning in its responsiveness to elevation of the cytoplasmic Ca^{2+} concentration ($[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$). For example, release of Ca^{2+} from intracellular stores is relatively ineffective (Fagan et al., 1996). Even more remarkably, the substantial entry of Ca^{2+} at the plasma membrane mediated by arachidonate (Shuttleworth and Thompson, 1999), the diacylglycerol analog 1-oleyl-2-acetyl-*sn*-glycerol (OAG) (Martin and Cooper, 2006), and the ionophore ionomycin (Fagan et al., 1996) are also ineffective. In nonexcitable cells, only capacitative Ca^{2+} entry (CCE), which is triggered by the depletion of intracellular Ca^{2+} stores, can activate AC8 (Fagan et al., 1996).

The selective activation of AC8 by CCE is proposed to arise from a close apposition between the enzyme and CCE channels (Fagan et al., 1996; Gu and Cooper, 2000). Moreover,

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ABBREVIATIONS: AC, adenylyl cyclase; OAG, 1-oleyl-2-acetyl-*sn*-glycerol; CCE, capacitative Ca^{2+} entry; STIM1, stromal interacting molecule 1; HEK, human embryonic kidney; ER, endoplasmic reticulum; 2-APB, 2-aminoethoxydiphenyl borate; YFP, yellow fluorescent protein; HA, hemagglutinin; PCR, polymerase chain reaction; CRAC, Ca^{2+} release-activated Ca^{2+} ; AEBSF, 4-(2-aminoethyl)benzenesulfonyl fluoride; SES, standard external solution; RT, room temperature; TG, thapsigargin; TBS, Tris-buffered saline; TTBS, Tris-buffered saline/Tween 20; MES, 2-(*N*-morpholino)ethanesulfonic acid; PBS, phosphate-buffered saline; FRET, fluorescence resonance energy transfer; CFP, cyan fluorescent protein; bp, base pair(s); ANOVA, analysis of variance; Epac1-camps, Epac1-based fluorescent cAMP sensor; TRPC, C-type transient receptor potential.

AC8 is confined to lipid raft microdomains of the plasma membrane (Smith et al., 2002), which are enriched in cholesterol and sphingolipids (Simons and Ikonen, 1997) that seem to play an essential role in juxtaposing interacting signaling molecules. Indeed, disrupting lipid rafts by depleting cellular cholesterol prevents the regulation by CCE of both the endogenous Ca²⁺-inhibitable AC6 of C6–2B cells (Fagan et al., 2000) and heterologously expressed Ca²⁺-stimulable AC8 in human embryonic kidney (HEK) 293 cells (Smith et al., 2002).

The molecular identity and activation mechanism of the CCE channel has been elusive; however, key proteins of the CCE pathway have recently been identified. Stromal interacting molecule 1 (STIM1) has a single transmembrane-spanning domain, it is expressed in the membrane of the endoplasmic reticulum (ER), and its luminal domain contains a Ca²⁺-binding EF hand motif that enables it to respond to the Ca²⁺ content of intracellular stores (Liou et al., 2005; Roos et al., 2005). Upon store depletion, STIM1 clusters within the ER membrane (Stathopoulos et al., 2006) to form puncta in regions close to the plasma membrane (Wu et al., 2006). Consequently, STIM1 is proposed to be the Ca²⁺ store-sensing component of the CCE pathway (Zhang et al., 2005). Shortly after the discovery of STIM1, Orai1, also termed Ca²⁺ release-activated Ca²⁺ (CRAC) modulator 1 or CRACM1, a previously unknown protein, was put forward as a key CCE channel component (Feske et al., 2006). This widely expressed protein, which has four transmembrane-spanning domains, is localized in the plasma membrane. Although it has no sequence homology to other known ion channels, mutation of conserved residues in its putative pore region alters the properties of CCE (Prakriya et al., 2006; Vig et al., 2006; Yeromin et al., 2006).

Coexpression of Orai1 and STIM1 amplifies both CCE and the CRAC current, which suggests that these two proteins are the only rate-limiting components of the CCE pathway (Mercer et al., 2006; Peinelt et al., 2006; Soboloff et al., 2006). However, the members of the TRPC family of Ca²⁺ channels have received much attention as CCE candidates in the past and are still proposed to play a role in this pathway. Not only have interactions between TRPCs and Orai1 been detected (Liao et al., 2007; Ong et al., 2007; Jardin et al., 2008; Liao et al., 2008) but also regulation of TRPCs by STIM1 has been reported (Huang et al., 2006; López et al., 2006). Thus, although it is established that Orai1 and STIM1 produce store-dependent Ca²⁺ entry, it is unclear whether this Ca²⁺ entry displays all the functional properties of CCE.

In this study, AC8 was used as a discerning physiological reporter of CCE to assess the Ca²⁺ entry reconstituted by coexpression of Orai1 and STIM1 in HEK 293 cells. Pharmacological blockade of the translocation of STIM1 from the ER to the plasma membrane markedly suppressed Ca²⁺-dependent cAMP formation, supporting a role of STIM1 in mediating CCE-dependent stimulation of AC8. Similar results were obtained from insulin-secreting MIN6 cells endogenously expressing AC8. Furthermore, AC8, Orai1 and STIM1 were all found to colocalize in lipid rafts. These findings underline the utility of AC8 to identify functional CCE in native and non-native systems; they substantiate the proposed role of Orai1 and STIM1 as essential elements of CCE and suggest an intimate association between Ca²⁺-sensitive ACs and elements of the CCE apparatus.

Materials and Methods

Materials. Fura-2/acetyoxymethyl ester and Pluronic F-127 were purchased from Invitrogen (Paisley, UK). DNase was from GE Healthcare (Chalfont St. Giles, Buckinghamshire, UK). Thapsigargin, 2-aminoethoxydiphenyl borate (2-APB), and 1-(5-chloronaphthalene-1-sulfonyl) homopiperazine, HCl (ML-9) were purchased from Calbiochem (Nottingham, UK). All other chemicals and culture media were from Sigma (Poole, UK), BDH (Poole, UK), or Thermo Fisher Scientific (Loughborough, UK).

cDNA Plasmid Constructs. Full-length human STIM1 in pcDNA3.1/Zeo was a gift from Kenneth Stauderman (University of California, Irvine, CA). STIM1 tagged at the N terminus with YFP was a gift from Tobias Meyer (Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, CA). Human Orai1 was purchased from Origene (Rockville, MD) and cloned into pcDNA3.1/myc (Invitrogen) between the restriction sites KpnI and EcoRI. An HA tag was added to the C terminus of rat AC8 by PCR, and this insert was cloned into pcDNA 3.0 between the restriction sites KpnI and XbaI. To generate an N-terminally CFP-tagged AC8 construct, AC8 was cloned between the restriction sites ApaI and XbaI of pECFP-C1. Epac1-based fluorescent cAMP sensor (Epac1-camps) was a gift from Martin Lohse (Universität Würzburg, Würzburg, Germany).

Cell Culture and Transient Transfection of Cells. HEK293 cells were cultured in Eagle's minimal essential medium, supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum, 50 µg/ml penicillin, 50 µg/ml streptomycin, 100 µg/ml neomycin and 2 mM L-glutamine. Mouse insulin-secreting MIN6 β-cells were cultured in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium containing 4500 mg/ml glucose, supplemented with 15% fetal bovine serum, 100 U/ml penicillin, 100 µg/ml streptomycin, 2 mM L-glutamine, and 50 µM 2-mercaptoethanol. All cells were maintained at 37°C in a humidified atmosphere of 5% CO₂/95% air. One day before transient transfection with STIM1, Orai1-myc or Epac1-camps, cells were plated on 100-mm diameter dishes or on 25-mm poly-L-lysine-coated coverslips at ~60% confluence. The Lipofectamine 2000 method of transfection (Invitrogen) was adopted, following the manufacturer's instructions and using 1 or 0.5 µg total cDNA for 100-mm dishes or 25-mm coverslips, respectively. Cells were used 2 days after transfection.

Generation of Stable Cell Lines. To generate cells stably expressing AC8 or AC8-HA, HEK293 cells were plated on 100-mm dishes at ~50% confluence 1 day before transfection with 2 µg of AC8 or AC8-HA cDNA with the Ca₃(PO₄)₂ method (Chen and Okayama, 1987). Two days after transfection, the culture medium was replaced with fresh medium containing 800 µg/ml G-418 disulfate (Formedium Ltd., Hunstanton, Norfolk, UK) to select transfected cells. After selection, cells were maintained in medium containing 400 µg/ml G-418.

Preparation of HEK293 Cell Membranes. Crude membranes were prepared, as described previously (Nakahashi et al., 1997), from HEK293 cells coexpressing AC8-HA, Orai1-myc, and STIM1. In brief, cells were sheared by passage through a 21-gauge needle, 10 times, in homogenization buffer (2 mM MgCl₂, 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM AEBSF, 1 mM benzamidine, 1 µg of DNase, and 50 mM Tris, pH 7.4). Membranes were collected by centrifugation (23,000g, 15 min, 4°C), resuspended in buffer containing 40 mM Tris-Cl, 800 µM EGTA, 0.25% bovine serum albumin (fraction V), pH 7.4, and stored in liquid nitrogen.

Preparation of HEK293 Cell Lysate. Cells coexpressing AC8-HA, Orai1-myc, and STIM1 were washed in standard external solution (SES; 150 mM NaCl, 0.5 mM KCl, 0.5 mM MgCl₂, 1 mM CaCl₂, 10 mM glucose, and 10 mM HEPES, pH 7.4). Cells were incubated for 3 min at room temperature (RT) with SES containing 1 µM thapsigargin (TG), then washed in SES. Cells were washed on ice with chilled phosphate-buffered saline containing 1× protease inhibitor cocktail (Sigma), after which 1 ml of radioimmunoprecipitation assay buffer was applied [1% (v/v) Nonidet P-40, 1% (v/v) deoxycholate, 0.1% (w/v) SDS, 150 mM NaCl, 50 mM Tris-HCl, and 1×

protease inhibitor cocktail]. Cells were scraped, stored overnight at -80°C , lysed using a 21-gauge needle and centrifuged at $100,000g$, 4°C for 30 min. Protein content of the supernatant was estimated using the bicinchoninic acid assay kit (Sigma).

Western Blotting. Proteins were resolved using 6, 8, and 12% (w/v) SDS-polyacrylamide gels for AC8-HA, STIM1, and Orai1-myc, respectively. Proteins were transferred to a nitrocellulose membrane for 90 min at 300 mA. Membranes were then incubated in TBS (20 mM Tris, pH 7.5, and 150 mM NaCl) containing 5% (w/v) nonfat dry milk for 30 min, followed by three 5-min washes in TBS supplemented with 0.05% (v/v) Tween 20 (TTBS). Membranes were incubated overnight at RT with anti-HA monoclonal antibody (1:5000; Sigma), anti-STIM1 monoclonal antibody (1:250; BD Transduction Laboratories, Lexington, KY), anti-myc monoclonal antibody (1:1000; Santa Cruz Biotechnology), anti-caveolin polyclonal antibody (1:5000; BD Transduction Laboratories), or anti- β -adaplin polyclonal antibody (1:5000; Santa Cruz Biotechnology) in TTBS containing 1% nonfat dry milk. The membranes were washed (three times for 5 min each) in TTBS and then incubated with goat anti-mouse IgG conjugated to horseradish peroxidase (1:5000; Promega, Madison, WI) or Trueblot anti-mouse antibody (1:2500; Insight Biotechnology Ltd., Wembley, Middlesex, UK) for immunoprecipitated samples, in TTBS/1% milk for 1 h. Finally, the membranes were washed in TTBS (3×5 min), rinsed in TBS, and visualized with ECL Plus reagent (GE Healthcare).

Membrane Fractionation. Lipid raft and nonlipid raft membranes were separated by a procedure that exploited their different buoyancies as described previously (Crossthwaite et al., 2005). After treatment with $0.1 \mu\text{M}$ TG for 5 min, transfected HEK293 cells were pelleted and resuspended in ice-cold sodium carbonate solution (500 mM Na_2CO_3 , pH 11) before sonication (Sonic Dismembrator; Thermo Fisher Scientific). After homogenization, the suspension was adjusted to 40% sucrose by the addition of 60% sucrose in MES buffer (50 mM MES, 150 mM NaCl, and 250 mM Na_2CO_3 , pH 6.4). The extract was placed below a 5% and 30% discontinuous sucrose gradient prepared in ice-cold MES buffer and centrifuged in a rotor (SW55; Beckman Coulter, Fullerton, CA) at 24,000 rpm for 16 h at 4°C . Fractions (10×0.5 ml) were collected from the top of the gradient, diluted in 5 volumes of MES buffer and centrifuged in the Beckman SW55 rotor at 50,000 rpm for 1 h at 4°C . Pelleted membranes were resuspended in 1% SDS containing 8 M urea, suspended in loading buffer, heated to 37°C for 30 min, and stored (-80°C).

Confocal Imaging. Cells were plated onto 25 mm poly-L-lysine-coated coverslips, transfected as indicated, and incubated for 5 min at RT in extracellular buffer (140 mM NaCl, 4 mM KCl, 0.2 mM MgCl_2 , 11 mM D-glucose, and 10 mM HEPES, pH 7.4) supplemented with 0.1 mM EGTA and $0.2 \mu\text{M}$ TG. Cells were then fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde for 15 min. For the detection of Orai1-myc by immunocytochemistry, cells were permeabilized in 0.1% Triton X-100 for 15 min, blocked in 10% goat serum for 1 h, and incubated for 2 h at RT with anti-myc monoclonal antibody ($1 \mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$; Santa Cruz Biotechnology) diluted in PBS supplemented with 1.5% goat serum. Cells were washed three times in PBS before incubation for 1 h at RT with Alexa Fluor 555-conjugated anti-mouse goat secondary antibody ($10 \mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$; Invitrogen) diluted in PBS supplemented with 1.5% goat serum, followed by three washes in PBS. Primary and secondary antibody controls were performed by the addition of either the primary or the secondary antibody alone; no significant autofluorescence or nonspecific binding was detected for either antibody. Images were captured with a Leica SP5 confocal microscope running LAS AF 1.6.0 software using a $63\times$ plan apochromat 1.4 numerical aperture oil immersion objective. Cells expressing CFP-AC8 and YFP-Stim1 were visualized using the 458 nm and 514 nm laser lines, respectively, and cells expressing Orai1-myc were visualized with the 514 nm line after immunodetection of the epitope-tag as described above. Cells expressing single chromophores were used to adjust the laser intensity and the emission collection range to eliminate bleed-through into different channels.

Measurement of $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ in Single Cells. HEK293 were plated onto 25 mm poly-L-lysine coated coverslips, transfected as indicated and loaded with fura-2/acetoxymethyl ester ($2 \mu\text{M}$) and 0.02% Pluronic F-127 for 40 min at room temperature in extracellular saline containing 140 mM NaCl, 4 mM KCl, 0.2 mM MgCl_2 , 11 mM D-glucose, and 10 mM HEPES, pH 7.4, supplemented with 1 mM CaCl_2 . MIN6 cells were loaded with fura-2 in the same manner using an extracellular saline containing 125 mM NaCl, 4.8 mM KCl, 1.2 mM MgCl_2 , 3 mM D-glucose, and 25 mM HEPES, pH 7.4, supplemented with 1.3 mM CaCl_2 . After loading either cell type, cells were washed several times and then briefly equilibrated in Ca^{2+} -free extracellular buffer containing 0.1 mM EGTA. Cells were imaged using a CoolSNAP-HQ charge-coupled device camera (Photometrics, Tucson, AZ) and monochromator system (Cairn Research, Kent, UK) attached to a Nikon TMD microscope ($40\times$ objective; Nikon, Tokyo, Japan). Emission images (D510/80M) at 340 nm and 380 nm excitation were collected every second using MetaFluor software (Molecular Devices, Sunnyvale, CA). Data were plotted as 340/380 nm ratio changes relative to the fluorescence ratio before the addition of extracellular Ca^{2+} ($\Delta 340/380$).

Measurement of $[\text{cAMP}]_i$ in Single Cells by FRET. $[\text{cAMP}]_i$ was monitored in single cells by measuring the fluorescence of transiently expressed Epac1-camps (Nikolaev et al., 2004). HEK293 cells or MIN6 cells were equilibrated for 30 min at RT in extracellular saline (see *Measurement of $[\text{cAMP}]_i$ in Single Cells* for composition). Fluorescence measurements were performed using an Ixon+ camera (Andor, Belfast, Northern Ireland) and an Optosplit (505DC) to separate CFP (470 nm) and YFP (535 nm) emission images (Cairn Research, Kent, UK). For dual-emission ratio imaging, cells were excited at 436 nm with a monochromator (Cairn Research) and 51017 filter set (Chroma Technology Corp., Brattleboro, VT) attached to a Nikon eclipse TE2000-S microscope ($40\times$ objective). Emission images at 470 nm and 535 nm were collected every 3 s (250-ms integration time) and then background-subtracted and analyzed with Metamorph imaging software (Molecular Devices). Cells in which the CFP and YFP fluorescence intensity was less than twice the background fluorescence were excluded, as were cells with excessive expression of the fluorescent probe. FRET data are plotted as changes in background subtracted 470 nm versus 535 nm (CFP/YFP) emission ratio for each individual cell.

Semiquantitative PCR on MIN6 cDNA. Total RNA was prepared from MIN6 cells using the RNeasy Plus Mini Kit (QIAGEN, Hilden, Germany) according to the manufacturer's instructions. One μg of total RNA was transcribed into cDNA using SuperScript II Reverse Transcriptase (Invitrogen). Primers specific for both the mouse and the rat genes were designed to amplify DNA fragments of defined lengths from AC8 (745 bp), AC6 (834 bp), and AC2 (888 bp). Primer sequences are given from 5' to 3'. AC8, 5'(GCCAGAGGCGCAAATCGG) and 3'(GGTAAATCCTTTGACATCTGC); AC6, 5'(GCATCCTAGCAGCCGTGC) and 3'(CAGACATCAAACCTGCCATTTTC); AC2, 5'(GTTCTGGCAGATACTGGCC) and 3'(CAGAGTGTGTGCGAGGTCTG). The DNA fragments were amplified from 400 ng of MIN6 cDNA using the KOD Hot-Start DNA polymerase (Novagen). Reactions containing 1 ng of plasmid DNA, encoding the respective full-length cDNAs of AC8(rat), AC6(rat), or AC2(rat), were carried out as positive controls.

Amplified fragments were separated on a 1% agarose gel and visualized with SafeView nucleic acid stain (NBS Biologicals). Digital images were generated with the Gene Flash imaging station (Syngene Bioimaging, Frederick, MD), and analyzed using the ImageJ software (<http://rsbweb.nih.gov/ij/>). Band intensities of the fragments amplified from MIN6 cDNA were related to the intensities of the respective positive controls, and finally normalized to AC2. Averages \pm S.D. were calculated from three independent experiments.

Results

AC8, Orai1, and STIM1 Are Colocalized in Lipid Raft Domains of the Plasma Membrane. This study investigates the ability of Orai1 and STIM1 to reconstitute functional CCE by using AC8 as a physiological sensor of CCE. Although Orai1 and STIM1 are endogenously expressed in HEK293 cells, the present study relies partly on overexpression of these proteins in conjunction with AC8. To facilitate detection, the proteins were fused to epitope tags, the type and position of which were chosen to minimize hindrance; C-terminally myc-tagged Orai1 and N-terminally YFP-tagged STIM1 have been well characterized (Liou et al., 2005; Prakriya et al., 2006; Gwack et al., 2007), and both C-terminally HA-tagged and N-terminally CFP-tagged AC8 displayed activity identical to untagged AC8 (data not shown).

Coexpression of AC8-HA, Orai1-myc, and untagged STIM1 was verified by Western blot analysis of cellular membranes (Fig. 1A). AC8-HA and Orai1-myc were detected using the antibodies directed against their epitope tags; hence no sig-

nal was present in samples from untransfected cells. The anti-STIM1 antibody, however, revealed endogenous STIM1 in untransfected samples. STIM1, Orai1, and AC8 are all post-translationally glycosylated, which may account for the fact that doublets are observed (Williams et al., 2002; Gwack et al., 2007; A. C. L. Martin and D. M. F. Cooper, unpublished observations, respectively).

The selective regulation of AC8 by CCE seems to arise from a close apposition of the enzyme and the CCE channel (Fagan et al., 1996; Gu and Cooper, 2000). Confocal analysis of cells coexpressing CFP-AC8, YFP-STIM1, and Orai1-myc revealed that all three proteins are colocalized at the plasma membrane after store depletion (Fig. 1B); Orai1 and AC8 are localized to the plasma membrane regardless of intracellular Ca²⁺ store-filling, whereas the distribution of STIM1 is initially punctate throughout the cell, becoming more concentrated in the cell periphery, presumably at points of contact between the ER and the plasma membrane after depletion of intracellular stores with TG. The degree of expression of Orai1-myc and YFP-STIM1 is not detectably different

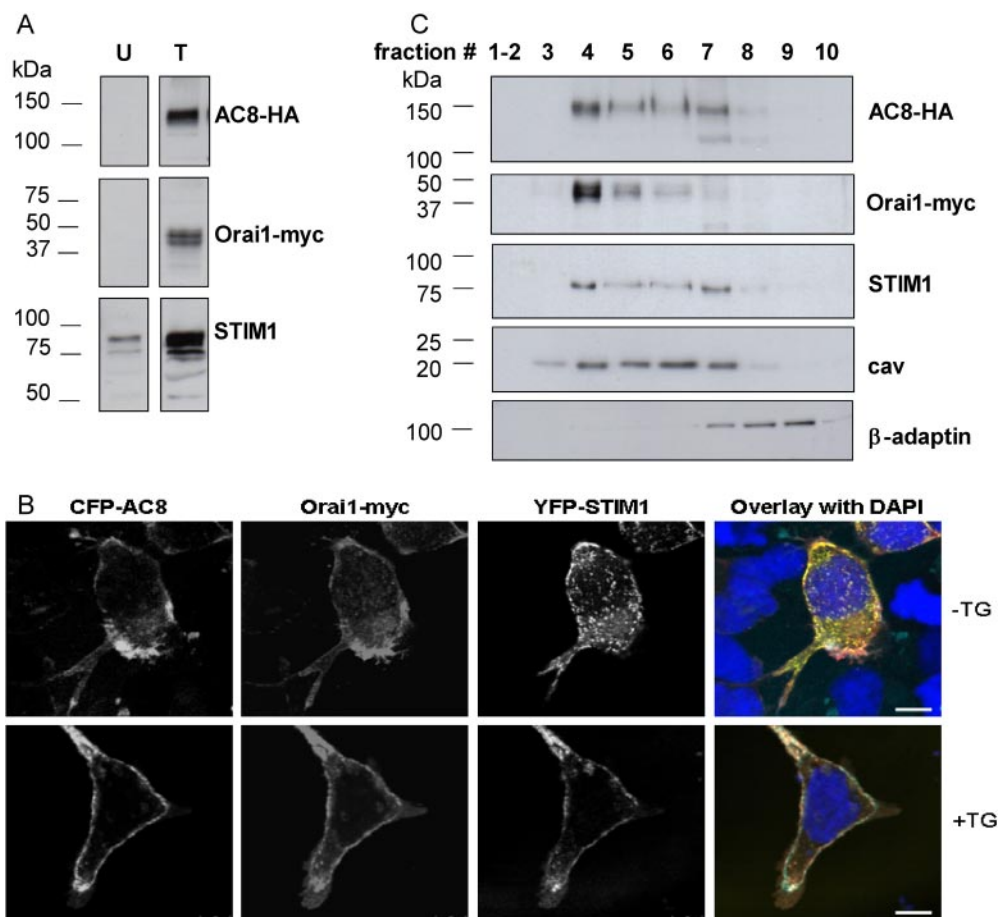


Fig. 1. Coexpressed Orai1, STIM1, and AC8 are colocalized in lipid raft domains of the plasma membrane. A, cellular membranes, prepared from either untransfected HEK293 cells (U) or HEK293 cells coexpressing AC8-HA, Orai1-myc, and STIM1 (T), were analyzed by SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis. Antibodies raised against the epitope-tags of AC8-HA and Orai1-myc confirmed their successful expression; the anti-STIM1 antibody detected endogenous STIM1 in untransfected samples and the increased signal in transfected samples confirmed that this protein is also successfully expressed. All three proteins migrated as doublets as a result of post-translational glycosylation. B, confocal analysis of cells coexpressing Orai1-myc, YFP-STIM1, and CFP-AC8 before and after intracellular Ca²⁺ store depletion with thapsigargin (TG). Orai1-myc and CFP-AC8 typically colocalize at the plasma membrane. YFP-STIM1 is localized throughout the cell in store-replete conditions and translocates to the plasma membrane in response to store depletion. In the overlay image, Orai1-myc is shown in red, YFP-STIM1 in yellow, AC8-CFP in cyan, and 4,6-diamidino-2-phenylindole staining of the nucleus is in dark blue. C, cellular membranes from cells coexpressing AC8-HA, Orai1-myc, and STIM1 were fractionated on a sucrose gradient to separate lipid raft from nonraft membranes. The three overexpressed proteins were present in lipid raft fractions of the gradient, as indicated by the lipid raft marker caveolin (cav), and absent from nonlipid raft fractions, highlighted by β -adaplin.

against a control or AC8-stable expressing background (not shown). Because AC8 is localized in lipid raft microdomains of the plasma membrane, and its presence there is a requirement for its regulation by CCE (Smith et al., 2002), we sought to determine whether the same was true of Orai1 and STIM1. After TG treatment and cell sonication, membranes from HEK293 cells coexpressing AC8-HA, Orai1-myc, and STIM1 were separated on a sucrose gradient, on which lipid rafts are more buoyant. Successful fractionation was verified by probing the fractions of the gradient for caveolin, an established marker of lipid rafts, and for β -adaplin, a marker of nonlipid raft membranes (Crosssthaite et al., 2005). AC8-HA, Orai1-myc, and STIM1 were all enriched in the same fractions as caveolin, indicating that all these proteins are present in lipid rafts (Fig. 1C).

Coexpression of Orai1-myc and STIM1 Enhances CCE. Previous reports showed that coexpression of Orai1 and STIM1 amplifies CCE in HEK293 cells (Mercer et al., 2006; Soboloff et al., 2006). We sought to replicate this observation by cotransfecting Orai1-myc and STIM1 in HEK293 cells stably expressing AC8 (HEK-AC8 cells). We monitored the cytoplasmic Ca^{2+} concentration ($[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$) of individual cells loaded with the fluorescent Ca^{2+} indicator, fura-2. CCE was triggered by depletion of intracellular Ca^{2+} stores with TG (0.2 μM) in Ca^{2+} -free conditions, followed by addition of extracellular Ca^{2+} .

The typical response of a control HEK-AC8 cell, transfected with empty pcDNA vector, is shown in Fig. 2A, in both store-depleted and store-replete conditions. After treatment with TG (first Ca^{2+} peak), a rapid and robust increase in $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ (second Ca^{2+} peak) was observed upon addition of extracellular Ca^{2+} (2 mM). In the absence of TG treatment, a modest, slow rise in $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ occurred. Images of representative cells transfected with pcDNA vector are shown at key points of the time course (Fig. 2B). Control experiments were also performed to confirm that overexpression of AC8 did not significantly affect CCE in the HEK293 cells (CCE in HEK-AC8 cells was $101.7 \pm 2.9\%$ of that seen in wild-type HEK293 cells ($n = 42$)).

The same protocol for triggering CCE was applied to HEK-AC8 cells expressing Orai1 alone, STIM1 alone, and Orai1 and STIM1 in combination (Fig. 2C). Images of representative HEK-AC8 cells coexpressing Orai1 and STIM1 are shown in Fig. 2B. Effects of protein expression on the Ca^{2+} peak attained upon addition of Ca^{2+} to the extracellular medium and the rate of Ca^{2+} entry were quantified and are summarized in Fig. 2D. Coexpression of Orai1 and STIM1 increased the magnitude of CCE by $\sim 50\%$, which is consistent with the proposal that these two proteins reconstitute CCE. Individual transfection of each protein, however, also affected CCE. Expression of Orai1 alone caused a $\sim 20\%$ decrease in both the amplitude of the CCE response and the rate of Ca^{2+} entry, compared with pcDNA transfected controls, whereas STIM1 expression resulted in an increase of $\sim 25\%$. The observed decrease of CCE in the presence of overexpressed Orai1 and modest increase in the presence of STIM1 is in agreement with previous reports (Mercer et al., 2006; Soboloff et al., 2006).

To address the possibility that Orai1 and STIM1 expression may affect store-independent Ca^{2+} entry, the effect of these proteins on the plasma membrane Ca^{2+} permeability

in store-replete conditions was measured (Fig. 2, E and F). Overexpression of STIM1, both in the presence and absence of Orai1, caused only a very modest increase in Ca^{2+} leak, which cannot account for the observed increase in CCE. Further characterization of the CCE signal observed in HEK-AC8 cells coexpressing Orai1 and STIM1 revealed that Ca^{2+} entry was completely blocked using 1 μM Gd^{3+} (data not shown) a well-established inhibitor of store-operated channels (Broad et al., 1999; Luo et al., 2001). The ability of Gd^{3+} to inhibit TG-induced Ca^{2+} entry in HEK293 cells overexpressing Orai1 and STIM1 accords with previous work by Mercer et al. (2006).

Ca^{2+} Entry Resulting from Orai1 and STIM1 Overexpression Regulates AC8. We used the selective activation of AC8 by CCE in nonexcitable cells as a physiological sensor of CCE, to determine whether Orai1 and STIM1 coexpression reconstitutes functional CCE. HEK293 cells stably expressing AC8 were transfected with either pcDNA vector as a control, Orai1 alone, STIM1 alone, or both Orai1 and STIM1 together. In addition, the cytosolic FRET-based cAMP sensor, comprising the cAMP binding domain of an exchange protein directly activated by cAMP (Epac1-camps) (Nikolaev et al., 2004), was cotransfected to monitor the intracellular cAMP concentration ($[\text{cAMP}]_i$) in individual cells. No Ca^{2+} -stimulated ACs are expressed endogenously in HEK293 cells; hence, an increase in cAMP production in response to CCE should reflect AC8 activity (Fagan et al., 1996). Cells were also treated with a low concentration of the G_s -activator, prostaglandin E_1 (10 nM) to potentiate the responsiveness of AC8 to Ca^{2+} (Willoughby and Cooper, 2006). CCE-activation of AC8 typically displays a clear dose dependence on the extracellular Ca^{2+} concentration ($[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_o$). To avoid saturation of the highly sensitive Epac1-camps probe in cells expressing Orai1 and STIM1, $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_o$ was adjusted to 1 mM (similar -fold changes in $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ were seen with 1 and 2 mM extracellular Ca^{2+} ; data not shown).

The typical responses of pcDNA-transfected control HEK-AC8 cells, in store-depleted and store-replete conditions, are depicted in Fig. 3A. In the absence of Ca^{2+} , there was little response to prostaglandin E_1 . Addition of extracellular Ca^{2+} in store-depleted conditions produced a rapid increase in $[\text{cAMP}]_i$ consistent with CCE-dependent stimulation of AC8 activity. In contrast, the Ca^{2+} entry occurring upon addition of extracellular Ca^{2+} in store-replete conditions did not activate AC8.

In store-depleted conditions (Fig. 3, C and D), expression of Orai1 practically abolished the activation of AC8 (80% inhibition), STIM1 caused a significant increase in both the amplitude and rate of activation (1.6- and 2.3-fold increases, respectively), whereas coexpression of Orai1 and STIM1 caused the greatest increase in cAMP production and rate of activation (2.2- and 2.8-fold increases, respectively). This result confirms that Orai1 and STIM1 reconstitute CCE and stimulate AC8 activity. Pseudocolor FRET ratio images from representative cells transfected with pcDNA or cotransfected with Orai1 and STIM1 are shown at key points of the time course and show enhanced CCE-mediated stimulation of AC8 in cells overexpressing Orai1 and STIM1 compared with pcDNA controls (Fig. 3B).

The contribution of the Ca^{2+} leak to the activation of AC8 was minimal in all conditions tested (Fig. 3, E and F).

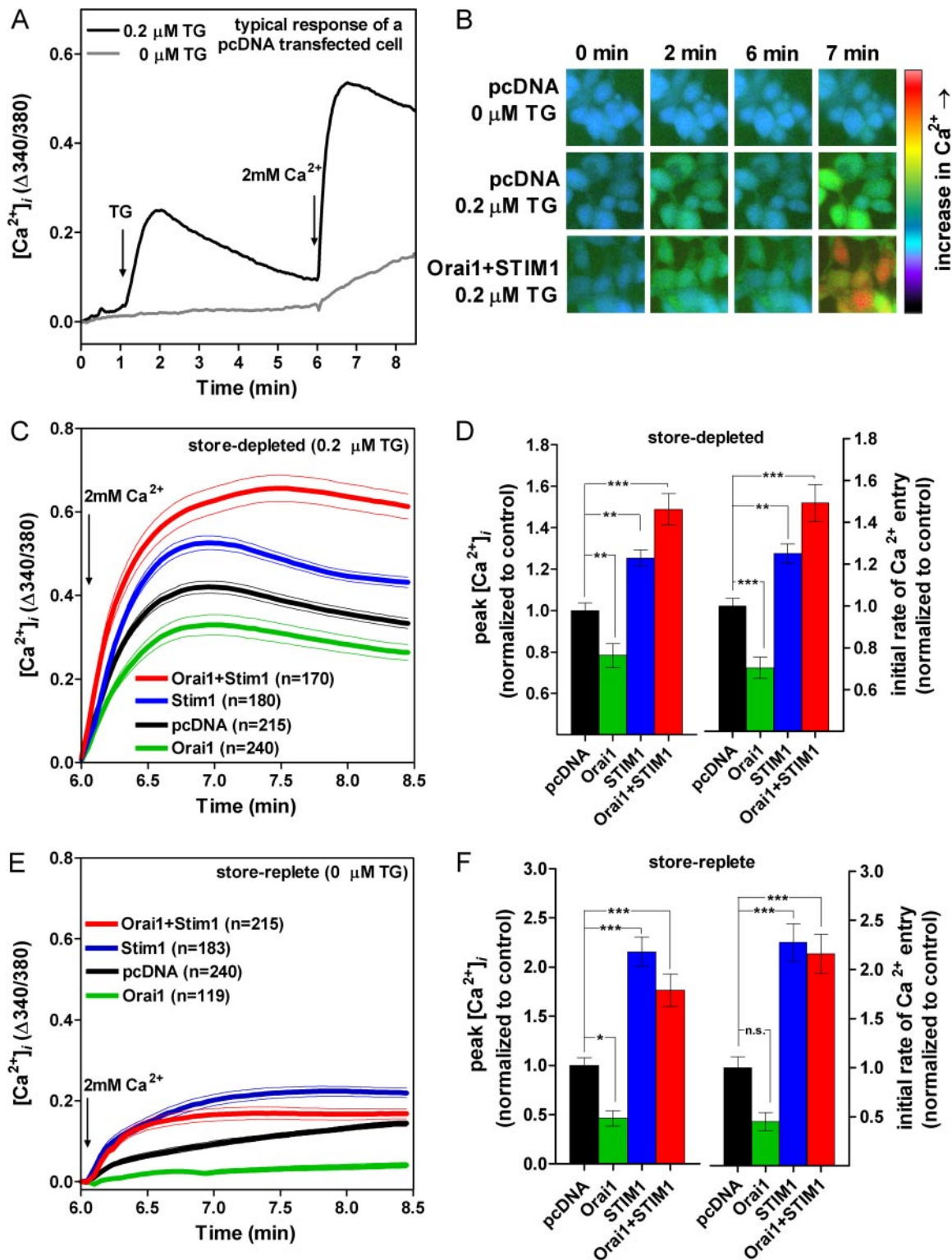


Fig. 2. Coexpression of Orai1-myc and STIM1 enhances CCE in HEK293 cells. **A**, $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ was monitored in HEK-AC8 cells coexpressing Orai1-myc and STIM1. Individual traces of typical pcDNA-transfected control cells are shown. Stores were depleted with 0.2 μM TG to prime the cells for CCE, which was then triggered by addition of 2 mM Ca^{2+} . In the absence of TG treatment, a small component of noncapacitative Ca^{2+} entry occurred. **B**, pseudocolor images of the fura-2 340/380 ratio at various time points of the stimulation protocol described in **A**. **C**, average traces \pm S.E.M. of the CCE response of HEK-AC8 cells transfected with pcDNA, Orai1, STIM1, or Orai1 and STIM1 together. **D**, the peak $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ response was quantified at 7 min, and the initial rates of Ca^{2+} entry of the traces depicted in **C** were calculated between 6 and 6.5 min, and normalized to that of control cells expressing empty pcDNA vector. **E**, average traces \pm S.E.M. of the Ca^{2+} entry occurring upon addition of extracellular Ca^{2+} in the absence of TG pretreatment. **F**, the peak $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ response and the initial rate of Ca^{2+} entry of the traces depicted in **E** were quantified as in **D** and normalized to that of control cells expressing empty pcDNA vector. ***, $p < 0.001$; **, $p < 0.01$; *, $p < 0.05$; and n.s., $p > 0.05$ relative to pcDNA transfected controls in a one-way ANOVA followed by Newman-Keuls' post test.

It is noteworthy, however, that when STIM1 was overexpressed on its own, the Ca^{2+} leak caused a small but significant activation of AC8. This result suggests that overexpressing STIM1 gives rise to a component of consti-

tutive CCE. Coexpressing Orai1 with STIM1 reduced this effect, as the Ca^{2+} entry occurring in store-replete conditions in the presence of both proteins did not significantly activate AC8.

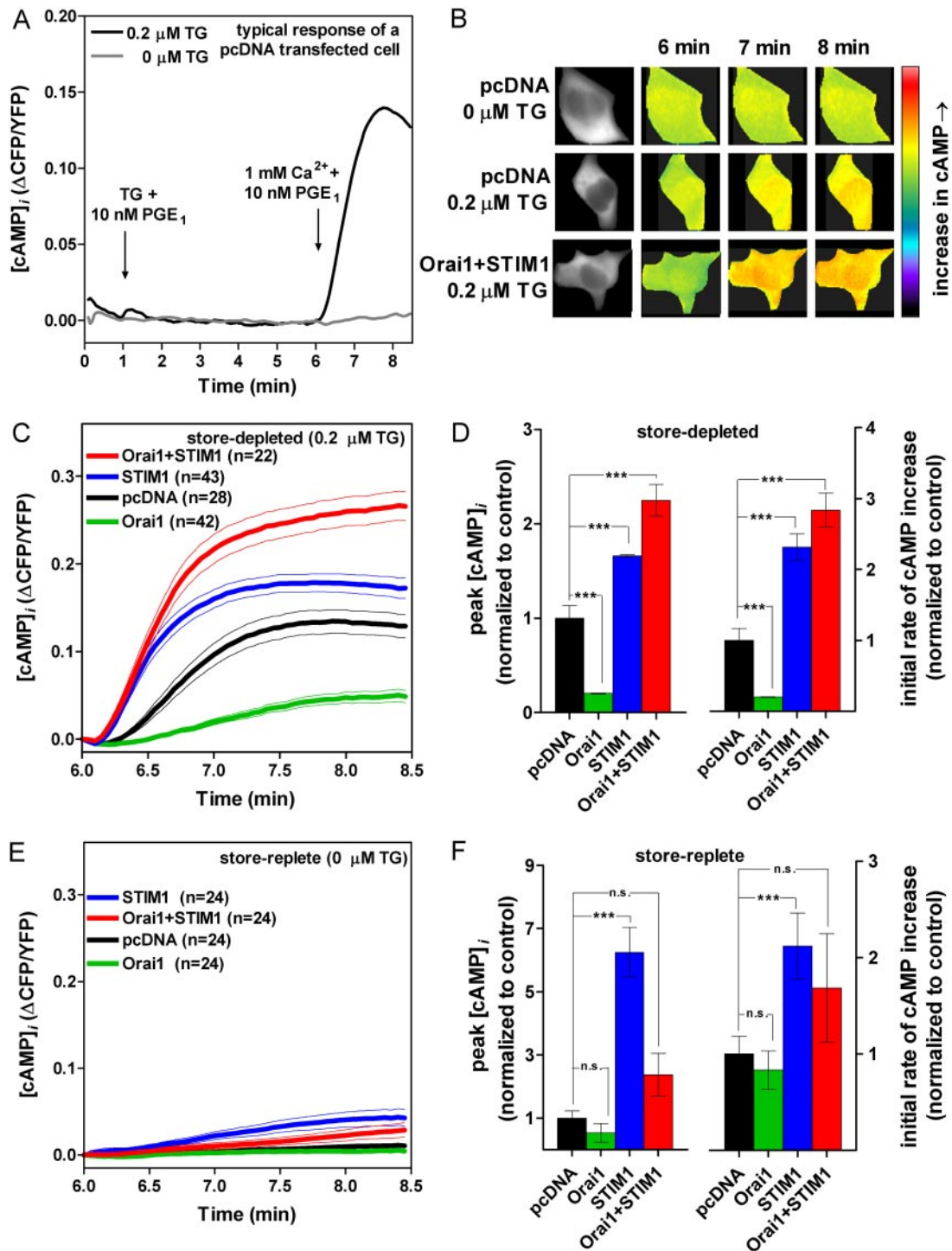


Fig. 3. Ca^{2+} entry resulting from the coexpression of Orai1 and STIM1 regulates AC8. A, $[\text{cAMP}]_i$ was monitored in control HEK-AC8 cells; individual traces of typical cells are shown. In store-depleted conditions, AC8 is activated by CCE. In store-replete conditions, no activation of AC8 occurs. B, pseudocolor images of the FRET emission ratio at various time points of the stimulation protocol shown in A. C, average traces \pm S.E.M. of the activation of AC8 in HEK-AC8 cells transfected with Orai1, STIM1, or Orai1 and STIM1 together. D, the peak $[\text{cAMP}]_i$ response at 7 min and the initial rate of AC8 activation between 6.2 and 6.7 min of the traces depicted in C were quantified and normalized to that of control HEK-AC8 cells transfected with empty pcDNA vector. E, average traces \pm S.E.M. of AC8 activation occurring upon addition of extracellular Ca^{2+} in the absence of TG pretreatment. F, the peak $[\text{cAMP}]_i$ response and the initial rate of AC8 activation of the traces depicted in E were quantified as in D and normalized to that of control HEK-AC8 cells transfected with empty pcDNA vector. ***, $p < 0.001$; **, $p < 0.01$; and n.s., $p > 0.05$ relative to pcDNA-transfected controls in a one-way ANOVA followed by Newman-Keuls' post test.

ML-9, an Inhibitor of STIM1 Puncta Formation and CCE, Prevents the Activation of AC8 in HEK293 Cells.

The lipid raft colocalization of AC8 with Orai1 and STIM1 (Fig. 1), together with the enhanced activation of AC8 by Ca²⁺ entry in cells overexpressing Orai1 and STIM1 (Fig. 3), provides evidence for a close association between these three signaling molecules. To further examine the interaction between STIM1 and the Ca²⁺ regulated AC, a pharmacological tool was used to disrupt translocation of endogenous STIM1 to the plasma membrane in response to store depletion. ML-9, a piperazine-based MLCK inhibitor has previously been shown to inhibit CCE (Watanabe et al., 1996; Norwood et al., 2000; Tran et al., 2001). The effects of ML9 on CCE suggested a role for MLCK in store-mediated Ca²⁺ entry. ML9 has shown to inhibit CCE in HEK293 cells by its inhibition of STIM1 recruitment (Smyth et al., 2008). Here, the effect of ML-9 was examined both on CCE and on the associated degree of AC8 activation.

Fura2-based [Ca²⁺]_i measurements in HEK-AC8 cells were used to obtain dose-response data for the effectiveness of ML9 on CCE inhibition (Fig. 4B). ML9 (100 μM) produced ~79% inhibition of CCE in response to 2 mM Ca²⁺, after a 10-min pretreatment with 200 nM TG in Ca²⁺-free conditions. The IC₅₀ for ML9 with respect to CCE was ~10 μM (see Fig. 4, B and E). Treatment with ML-9 did not markedly affect the amplitude of TG response, which suggested that the inhibitor did not significantly affect release of Ca²⁺ from intracellular stores (data not shown). Both the peak rise in intracellular [Ca²⁺] and the initial rate of Ca²⁺ entry via CCE channels were dramatically attenuated by pretreatment with 10 or 100 μM ML-9 (Fig. 4E). The ability of 100 μM ML-9 to preclude the translocation of YFP-STIM1 to the plasma membrane upon Tg-mediated store depletion in HEK-AC8 cells was confirmed in confocal imaging experiments (Fig. 4A).

To examine the effects of ML9 on CCE-stimulated AC8 activity, parallel single-cell cAMP measurements in HEK-AC8 cells transiently expressing the cAMP sensor Epac1-camps were performed. On average, cells exhibited a ~90% reduction in the peak increase and initial rate of CCE-evoked AC8 activity after pretreatment with 100 μM ML-9 (Fig. 4, D and F). Consistent with our fura-2 data, 10 μM ML9 attenuated CCE-mediated cAMP production by around 57% compared with controls. These data support a dependence of Ca²⁺-stimulated AC8 activity on the translocation of STIM1 to the plasma membrane upon store depletion, and the activation of STIM1-associated CCE.

Effect of CCE Inhibitors on the Regulation of Ca²⁺-Dependent ACs in an Endogenous System. To address whether AC8 can act as a reliable sensor for CCE in its native environment, we examined the effect of CCE inhibitors on the regulation of Ca²⁺-dependent ACs by CCE in a system in which all proteins are expressed endogenously. Insulin-secreting MIN6 cells were chosen because AC8 is endogenously expressed in pancreatic β-cells and is thought to provide a key site for cross-talk between cAMP and Ca²⁺ signaling pathways in the control of insulin release (Delmeire et al., 2003). Furthermore, cultured MIN6 cells have previous been shown to be suitable for expression of the Epac1-camps sensor (Landa et al., 2005). Semiquantitative PCR of MIN6 cell cDNA was performed to establish the presence of both AC6 and AC8 mRNA in this cell type (Fig. 5A, lane 2 and lane 3,

respectively) as shown previously for the orthologous rat INS-1 pancreatic β-cells (Delmeire et al., 2003). Primers for AC2 were used as a negative control and, as expected, no band was detected for AC2 mRNA. Relative mRNA expression levels of 43.4 ± 3.7 and 5.8 ± 0.5 for AC6 and AC8, respectively were estimated from a semiquantitative PCR analysis (see *Materials and Methods*).

To examine whether Ca²⁺ could regulate endogenous AC activity in the MIN6 cells, CCE was induced upon addition of 2.5 mM Ca²⁺ to the bath solution, after prior store depletion with 1 μM Tg in Ca²⁺-free conditions. Fura-2 Ca²⁺ measurements confirmed that robust increases in cytosolic Ca²⁺ levels were triggered using this protocol (Fig. 5B). A recent study by Tamarina et al. (2008) established that STIM1 is expressed in MIN6 cells and that it translocates to the cell periphery upon store depletion, which suggests that it is an important component of CCE within this cell type. However, although pretreatment of MIN6 cells with 100 μM ML-9 significantly reduced the initial rate of CCE, the amplitude of the CCE response evoked by 2.5 mM Ca²⁺ addition was not significantly attenuated (Fig. 5C). These data suggest that ML-9, although an effective inhibitor of CCE in HEK293 cells (see Fig. 4 and Smyth et al., 2008), is a relatively poor inhibitor of CCE events in MIN6 cells.

On the other hand, the study by Tamarina et al. (2008) showed that 2-APB effectively inhibits STIM1 translocation and subsequent CCE in the MIN6 cells. Furthermore, 2-APB has recently been found to inhibit STIM1 puncta formation in HEK293 cells (DeHaven et al., 2008). We therefore tested the ability of 2-APB to inhibit CCE and the responses of the endogenous AC activity to CCE in our MIN6 cells. Consistent with the study of Tamarina et al. (2008), pretreatment with 100 μM 2-APB significantly reduced CCE in the MIN6 cells (Fig. 5 B and C). Cells were also treated with 10 μM nifedipine to assess whether any of the effects seen were due to changes in L-type Ca²⁺ channel activity. Data in Fig. 5, B and C reveal that 1) voltage-gated calcium channel activity did not contribute significantly to the Ca²⁺ entry using the CCE protocol in MIN6 cells and 2) the inhibitory effects of 2-APB were independent of L-type Ca²⁺ channel activity. We cannot exclude the possibility that 2-APB might partially inhibit TRPC cation channels directly via an extracellular site (Lievremont et al., 2005; Xu et al., 2005) in the MIN6 cells. Such TRPC channels may form associations with STIM1 and Orai as part of the CCE apparatus (Ambudkar et al., 2007). Nevertheless, we can conclude that CCE in MIN6 cells is significantly inhibited (by ~65%) after 2-APB pretreatment compared with controls.

Having established that 2-APB was an effective inhibitor of CCE in MIN6 cells, we examined the effects of this compound on CCE-evoked AC activity in the cells using the cytosolic Epac1-camps sensor. As before, cells were treated with 1 μM TG in Ca²⁺ free conditions (± 100 μM 2APB), and 10 min later CCE was evoked by addition of 2.5 mM Ca²⁺. Twenty nanomolar forskolin and 100 μM 3-isobutyl-1-methylxanthine were added from 1 min onward to amplify the cAMP signal. FRET measurements revealed a small increase in cAMP signal (~1.5% CFP/YFP ratio shift) under control conditions (Fig. 5D). One likely explanation for the relatively modest degree of AC stimulation in response to CCE is the endogenous expression of the Ca²⁺-inhibited AC6 in MIN6 cells (Fig. 5A, lane 2), which

may counter any stimulatory effects of CCE on AC8 activity. Nevertheless, the rise in cAMP production evoked by CCE was significantly reduced in cells pretreated with 2APB (see Fig. 5 D&F). In an attempt to further enhance the cAMP signal, experiments were performed using 5 mM

Ca²⁺ to evoke CCE. However, this gave rise to a predominantly inhibitory effect on cAMP production, which was presumably mediated via the coexisting AC6 (Fig. 5E). This inhibitory response was also significantly attenuated by pretreatment with 2-APB (Fig. 5, E and F).

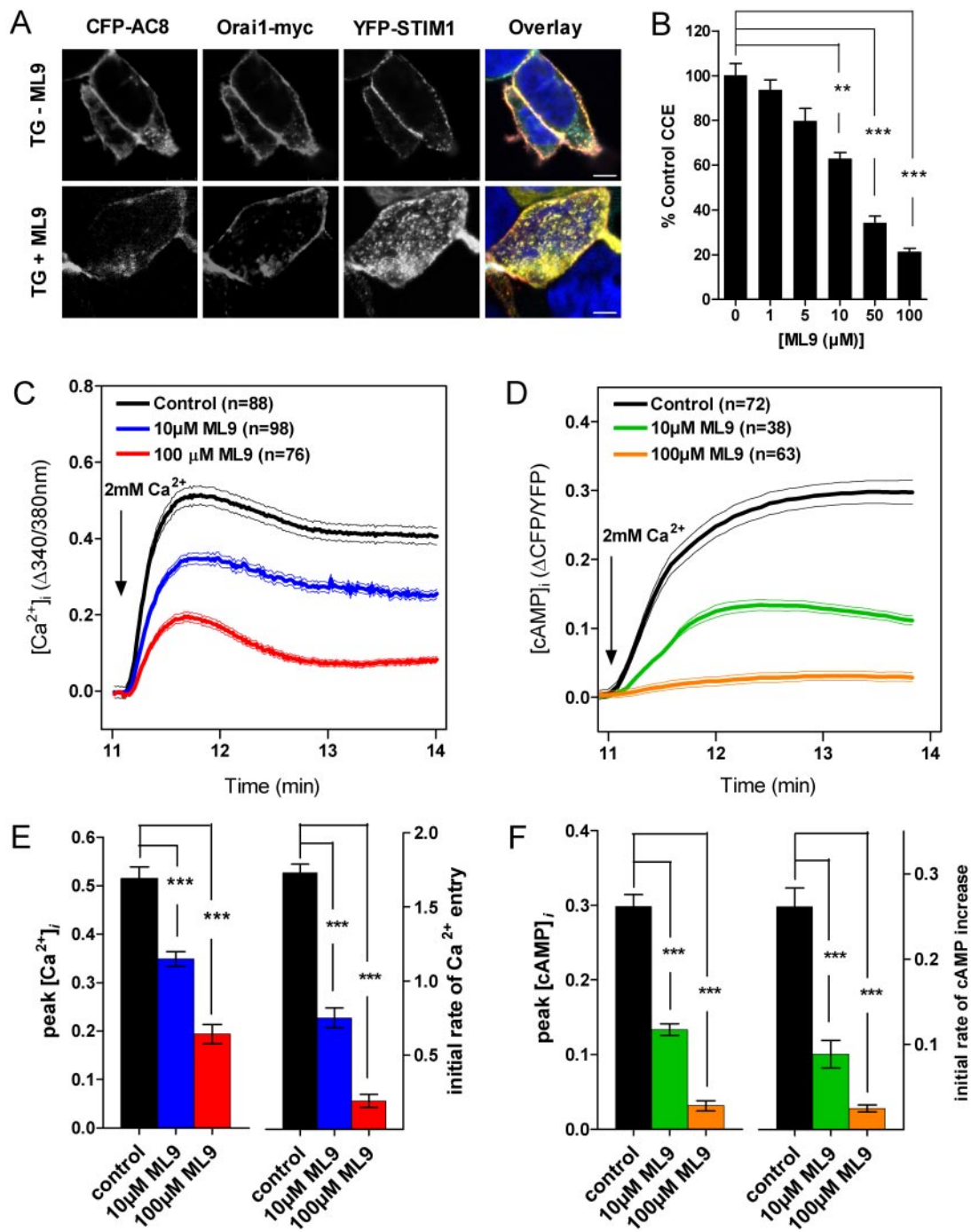


Fig. 4. ML-9, an inhibitor of CCE, prevents the activation of AC8 by STIM1-mediated Ca²⁺ entry in HEK293 cells. **A**, confocal analysis of HEK293 cells coexpressing Orai1-myc, YFP-STIM1, and CFP-AC8 after store depletion with 200 nM TG in the presence and absence of ML9. Pretreatment with 100 μM ML9 (lower panels) limits translocation of STIM1 to the plasma membrane. Orai1-myc is shown in red, YFP-STIM1 in yellow, AC8-CFP in cyan, and 4,6-diamidino-2-phenylindole staining of the nucleus is in dark blue. **B**, dose-dependent effects of ML9 pretreatment on CCE in Fura-2 loaded HEK-AC8 cells. Each bar represents peak Ca²⁺ entry during CCE relative to control conditions (mean ± S.E.M., *n* values range from 43–98). Cells were incubated in Ca²⁺-free conditions in the presence of 0.2 μM TG and the presence or absence of ML-9 for 10 min, followed by the addition of 2 mM Ca²⁺. **C**, comparison of the effects of 10 and 100 μM ML9 on CCE in Fura2-loaded HEK-AC8 cells. Average traces ± S.E.M. of the Ca²⁺ entry occurring upon addition of extracellular Ca²⁺ are shown. **D**, ML-9 pretreatment prevents the activation of AC8 by CCE in a dose-dependent manner. HEK-AC8 cells expressing the Epac1-camps sensor were stimulated as described in **A** to measure [cAMP]_i. Average traces ± S.E.M. are shown. **E**, the peak [Ca²⁺]_i response and the initial rate of Ca²⁺ entry of the traces depicted in **C** were calculated. **F**, the peak [cAMP]_i response and the initial rate of AC8 activation of the traces depicted in **D** were quantified. ***, *p* < 0.001 in a Student's *t* test.

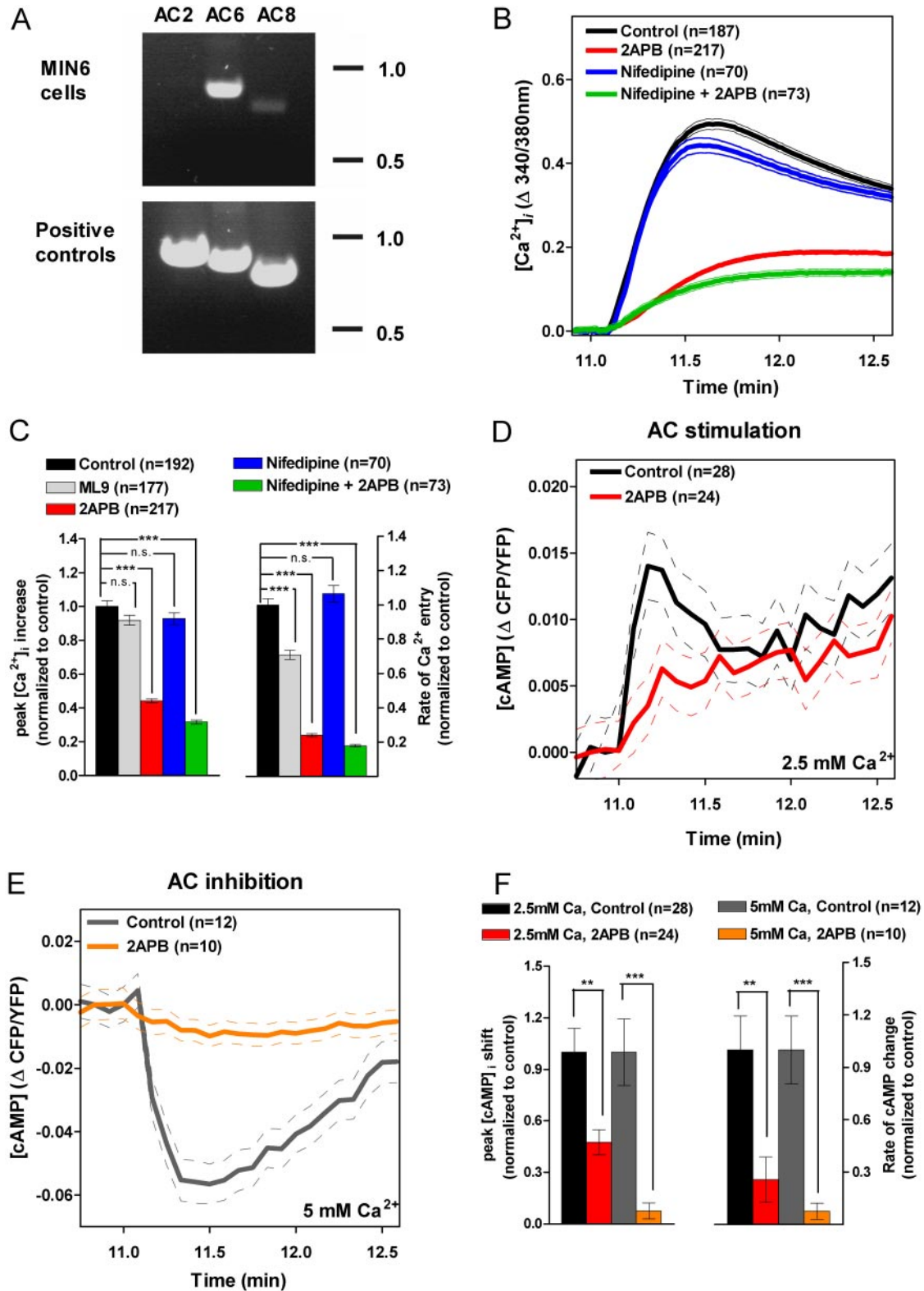


Fig. 5. Effect of CCE inhibitors on the regulation of Ca²⁺-dependent ACs in an endogenous system. **A**, reverse transcription PCR analysis to confirm the presence of mRNA for AC8 and AC6 in insulin-secreting MIN6 β cells. **B**, [Ca²⁺]_i measurements in MIN6 cells loaded with Fura-2 show the CCE response triggered by addition of 2.5 mM Ca²⁺ subsequent to store depletion with 1 μ M TG in Ca²⁺-free saline. Pretreatment with 100 μ M 2-APB significantly attenuates Ca²⁺ entry in the presence and the absence of the L-type Ca²⁺ channel inhibitor, 10 μ M nifedipine. **C**, the peak [Ca²⁺]_i response and initial rate of Ca²⁺ entry of the traces depicted in **B** were calculated. **D**, effect of 2-APB on cAMP levels in response to CCE triggered with 2.5 mM Ca²⁺ after store depletion with 1 μ M TG. **E**, effect of 2-APB on cAMP levels in MIN6 cells in response to CCE triggered with 5 mM Ca²⁺ after store depletion with 1 μ M TG. **F**, the peak [cAMP]_i response and initial rate of cAMP increase of the traces depicted in **D** and **E** were calculated. ***, $p < 0.001$; **, $p < 0.01$; and n.s., $p > 0.05$ relative to pcDNA-transfected controls in a Student's t test.

Discussion

STIM1 and Orai1 are proposed to reconstitute CCE (Mercer et al., 2006; Soboloff et al., 2006), STIM1 being the sensor of Ca^{2+} stores (Liou et al., 2005; Roos et al., 2005), which resides in the membrane of the ER. Upon store depletion, STIM1 clusters into puncta adjacent to the plasma membrane (Stathopoulos et al., 2006; Wu et al., 2006), where it activates Orai1, which forms the channel component (Feske et al., 2006; Prakriya et al., 2006; Yeromin et al., 2006). However, additional components, such as TRPC subunits (Liao et al., 2007; Ong et al., 2007), are proposed to contribute to the CCE apparatus, such that it is not clear whether Orai1 and STIM1 alone could reconstitute fully functional CCE. It is well established that AC8 is selectively activated by CCE over any other form of Ca^{2+} entry in nonexcitable cells, and this unique property has previously been used to distinguish arachidonate-activated (Shuttleworth and Thompson, 1999) and OAG-activated Ca^{2+} entry (Martin and Cooper, 2006) from CCE. In this study, we used this discriminating property of AC8 to try to determine whether the Ca^{2+} entry resulting from Orai1 and STIM1 expression could regulate Ca^{2+} -sensitive ACs.

Because AC8 must reside in lipid raft microdomains of the plasma membrane to be regulated by CCE (Smith et al., 2002), and a body of evidence places this enzyme in very close apposition to CCE channels (Fagan et al., 1998; Gu and Cooper, 2000), we considered the possibility that Orai1 and STIM1 might also be expected in these microdomains. Confocal analysis of cells expressing CFP-AC8, YFP-STIM1, and Orai1-myc showed clear colocalization at the plasma membrane upon store depletion. In addition, a sucrose gradient-based fractionation of membranes from cells coexpressing AC8-HA, Orai1-myc, and STIM1 revealed that all three proteins cosedimented in the buoyant fractions with caveolin, a marker of lipid rafts. The presence of STIM1, an ER protein, in lipid raft domains may result from interactions with other proteins that are located in lipid rafts in the plasma membrane, or it may be due to its targeting to lipid raft-like domains of the ER (Browman et al., 2006). In either case, the colocalization after store-depletion of Orai1, STIM1, and AC8, both at the plasma membrane and in lipid rafts, provides one element of support for the selective effects of CCE on Ca^{2+} -regulated ACs. However, it should be noted that colocalization of proteins in raft fractions does not necessarily imply that these proteins are in the same rafts.

Coexpression of Orai1 and STIM1 in HEK-AC8 cells enhanced CCE relative to control cells (Fig. 2C). However, the magnitude of the amplification observed, though highly significant, was less dramatic (~ 1.5 -fold) than in other studies in HEK293 cells (Mercer et al., 2006; Soboloff et al., 2006). Because other components, such as TRPC subunits, have been suggested to form part of the CCE apparatus, it is conceivable that another component may be limiting in the HEK293 cells used in this study. Previous work has suggested the localization of TRPC1, TRPC3, TRPC4, and TRPC5 in lipid raft domains (Ambudkar et al., 2004; Brownlow and Sage, 2005; Ambudkar, 2006). The localization of TRPC1 in these rafts seems to be essential for its role in store-mediated Ca^{2+} entry, which was confirmed using caveolin knock-out mice (Murata et al., 1995). It is noteworthy that the targeting of TRPC1 to lipid rafts has recently

been linked to an association of the protein with STIM1, with both proteins accumulating in cholesterol-rich microdomains of the plasma membrane upon store depletion (Alicia et al., 2008; Pani et al., 2008). Thus, we must be open to the possibility that the components of the CCE complex regulating AC8 may include TRPC channels that are not limiting in the HEK293 background.

In any case, the increased Ca^{2+} entry resulting from coexpression of Orai1 and STIM1 significantly enhanced the activation of AC8, which provides further evidence that these two proteins reconstitute CCE. Moreover, the amplification of Ca^{2+} entry (~ 1.5 -fold) was comparable with that of AC8 activation (~ 2.2 -fold). Although the enhancement in Ca^{2+} entry was modest, it activated AC8 with even greater efficiency, reinforcing the ability of AC8 to function as a sensitive sensor of CCE. Investigating the effects of the individual expression of Orai1 and STIM1 also provided some useful insights into the mechanism of action of these proteins. Expression of Orai1 alone decreased Ca^{2+} entry (Fig. 2C), and this decrease was mirrored in a reduced activation of AC8 (Fig. 3C). This observation, consistent with the literature (Mercer et al., 2006; Soboloff et al., 2006), has been suggested to result from the likely requirement of several STIM1 molecules to activate an Orai1 molecule. In agreement with previous studies (Mercer et al., 2006; Soboloff et al., 2006), STIM1 expression alone caused a modest increase in CCE (Fig. 2C), which resulted in an increase in AC8 activation of similar amplitude (Fig. 3, C and D). This suggests that endogenous levels of STIM1 may be limiting in these HEK293 cells.

The effect of Orai1 and STIM1 expression on the Ca^{2+} leak, which occurs in store-replete conditions upon addition of extracellular Ca^{2+} , was also investigated. Similar to results from a previous report (Soboloff et al., 2006), Orai1 and STIM1 expression had only very modest effects on the Ca^{2+} entry in the absence of TG-treatment. These data confirm that Orai1 and STIM1 coexpression specifically enhances store-dependent Ca^{2+} entry. However, in the presence of STIM1, a small but significant activation of AC8 occurred in the absence of TG treatment (Fig. 3E and 4F), suggesting that overexpression of STIM1 gives rise to a small component of constitutive CCE. This may be due to saturation of STIM1 expression in the ER leading to an increased presence of STIM1 in subplasmalemmal puncta, even in store-replete conditions. When Orai1 and STIM1 are coexpressed, the Ca^{2+} leak is still increased relative to controls, in agreement with another report (Mercer et al., 2006) but to a lesser extent. It is conceivable that the increased expression of Orai1 may decrease the probability of sufficient STIM1 proteins to cluster and activate a channel.

To validate the ability of endogenously expressed STIM1 and Orai1 to regulate AC8 activity, the piperazine-based compound ML-9, which inhibits STIM1 translocation to the cell periphery (Smyth et al., 2008) (Fig. 4A) and thereby STIM1-dependent CCE, was assessed. ML-9 dramatically inhibited both CCE- and Ca^{2+} -dependent AC8 activation in HEK-AC8 cells in a dose-dependent manner (Fig. 4), strongly linking these two events. The efficacy of ML-9 raises an unresolved issue with regard to its mechanism of action. Although first identified as an MLCK inhibitor, a study by Smyth et al. (2008) suggested that ML-9 inhibited CCE independently of MLCK. On the other hand, Norwood et al.

(2000) and Watanabe et al. (1996) believed that ML-9 acted against CCE because of its inhibition of MLCK. These latter proposals resonate with the known requirement for STIM1 movement between the ER and the plasma membrane, which is thought to be facilitated by microtubules (Smyth et al., 2007) and supported by evidence that STIM1 acts as a microtubule growing end tracker (Grigoriev et al., 2008). Nevertheless, dissecting the precise role of the actomyosin framework in coupling dynamic CCE events to AC8 activity is a considerable experimental challenge.

Although the studies with overexpressed proteins in HEK293 cells strongly supported the interdependence of Orai1, STIM1, and AC8, a native setting can provide a more compelling argument for essential interdependences. We selected the insulin-secreting cell line MIN6, which by PCR analysis expressed both the Ca²⁺-stimulated AC8 and the Ca²⁺-inhibited AC6. Using 2-APB as a pharmacological tool to inhibit STIM1 translocation in the cells (Tamarina et al., 2008), we found that CCE-mediated stimulation of endogenous AC8 activity is also inhibited. As a bonus, we could monitor the responsiveness of the Ca²⁺-inhibitable AC6. Coexistence of AC8 and the relatively highly expressed AC6 in the MIN6 cells probably explains the modest degree of Ca²⁺-dependent stimulation of cAMP accumulation that was detected when CCE was evoked using 2.5 mM external Ca²⁺. Previous studies in C6–2B glioma cells showed that AC6 inhibition is also selective for CCE over other types of Ca²⁺ increase (Chiono et al., 1995) and so could also be expected to be a sensor for CCE in MIN6 cells. Indeed, CCE induced upon addition of 5 mM external Ca²⁺ evoked a predominantly inhibitory effect on cAMP production (presumably mediated via AC6); this inhibition was significantly attenuated after pretreatment with 2-APB.

The ability to demonstrate clear regulation of the Ca²⁺-sensitive ACs in their native environment significantly supports the hypothesis that AC8, and AC6, reside close to CCE channels. The fact that the Ca²⁺ entry resulting from Orai1 and STIM1 expression regulates AC8 prompts a consideration of the possibility that these proteins may form part of a larger signaling complex. The possibility of an AC-based signaling complex is being gradually strengthened by a growing list of proteins, reported to associate with ACs, such as A-kinase anchoring proteins (Bauman et al., 2006), phosphodiesterases (Willoughby et al., 2006), protein phosphatase 2A (Crossthwaite et al., 2006), caveolin (Head et al., 2005), and the guanine nucleotide exchange factor Ric8a (Wang et al., 2007). Thus it may not be too fanciful to consider a physical association between ACs and the elements of the CCE apparatus, although for the moment no “bridging mechanism” is apparent. Residence in lipid rafts alone is clearly not sufficient to ensure regulation of AC8 by a Ca²⁺ channel, because OAG-activated TRPC channels (such as TRPC3), which are also located in lipid rafts (Lockwich et al., 2000), do not activate AC8 (Martin and Cooper, 2006). However, we could not detect direct interactions between AC8 and Orai1 or STIM1 by coimmunoprecipitation when all three proteins were overexpressed in HEK293 cells (data not shown), which suggests that any interactions between these proteins may be weak or transient, or unable to withstand the solubilization conditions. Other strategies, not involving disruption of cells, may be more discerning, such as those involving Förster resonance energy transfer of tagged proteins, which has

recently been used to show direct interactions between Orai1 and STIM1 (Muik et al., 2008). We must also acknowledge that we cannot exclude a role for other channel partners in the CCE complexes. It is quite feasible that a background of, for instance, certain TRPC molecules might participate in the assembly of the CCE apparatus (Yuan et al., 2007; Ma et al., 2008) the regulatory consequences of which we are studying. However, whatever the background, it is clear that in the present experimental situation, the increment in CCE regulation of AC8 is due only to the expression of STIM1 and Orai1.

For the present, we may conclude that expression of Orai1 and STIM1 is sufficient to regulate AC8 in a heterologous system and that the same situation occurs in an endogenous system for both AC8 and AC6. These findings validate Orai1 and STIM1 as participants in CCE and at the same time reinforce ACs as discriminating sensors. Obviously mysteries remain in terms of the precise molecular events underlying the dynamic assembly and organization of CCE complexes, but regardless of the new details that will emerge, it seems likely that Ca²⁺-sensitive ACs will continue to remain intimate and informative associates.

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