1	Capturing the interplay of membrane lipids and structural transitions in human ABCA7
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14	Abstract
15	Phospholipid extrusion by ABC subfamily A (ABCA) exporters is central to cellular physiology,
16	although the specifics of the underlying substrate interactions and transport mechanisms remain
17	poorly resolved at the molecular level. Here we report cryo-EM structures of lipid-embedded
18	human ABCA7 in an open state and a nucleotide-bound, closed state at resolutions between 3.6-
19	4.0 Å. The former reveals an ordered patch of bilayer lipids traversing the transmembrane domain
20	(TMD), while the latter reveals a lipid-free, closed TMD with a small extracellular opening. These
21	structures offer a structural framework for both substrate entry and exit from the ABCA7 TMD
22	and highlight conserved rigid-body motions that underlie the associated conformational

transitions. Combined with functional analysis and molecular dynamics (MD) simulations, our data also shed light on lipid partitioning into the ABCA7 TMD and localized membrane perturbations that underlie ABCA7 function and have broader implications for other ABCA family transporters.

27

28 Introduction

29 ABCA family exporters mediate efflux of phospholipids and sterols from cells, 30 contributing to membrane homeostasis, bilayer structure and asymmetry, and the formation of 31 serum lipoproteins, among other key physiological processes¹. Their dysfunction therefore underlies several human diseases²⁻⁴. The molecular details governing the ABCA exporter substrate 32 33 transport cycle are not fully resolved. To fill this knowledge gap, here we present the structural 34 and functional analysis of human ABCA7, whose dysfunction has been strongly linked to Alzheimer's Disease (AD)⁵⁻¹², in a lipid environment. Deficient ABCA7 activity leads to 35 36 alterations in both brain lipid profiles and fatty acid and phospholipid biosynthetic pathways¹³, impaired memory, and reduced immune responses^{14,15}. Both in vitro lipid flipping¹⁶ and lipid 37 extrusion to apolipoproteins by cells over-expressing ABCA7¹⁷ have been demonstrated, although 38 39 the correlation between the two processes, if any, remains unclear. To date, no direct structural 40 information exists for ABCA7. Understanding the molecular details of the ABCA7 transport cycle 41 and how its dysfunction alters inflammatory and immune responses, lipid homeostasis, and 42 phagocytosis, which all contribute to AD progression¹⁸⁻²², may therefore pave the way for novel 43 therapeutics for AD.

44 ABCA7 encodes a 2146 amino acid membrane transporter found in many tissues and 45 blood, hippocampal neurons, macrophages, and microglia^{23,24}. Like the phospholipid and sterol

46 exporter ABCA1 and retinal importer ABCA4, with which it shares 54% and 59% sequence 47 similarity, respectively, ABCA7 comprises two halves assembled as a full transporter. Each half 48 consists of a TMD, with the first two transmembrane helices (TMs) of each separated by a large 49 extracellular domain (ECD), and a nucleotide binding domain (NBD) attached to a cytoplasmic regulatory domain (RD). To visualize its ATP-dependent conformational cycle in a lipid 50 51 environment, we resolved the structures of human ABCA7 in multiple conformations in lipid and 52 detergent environments using cryo-EM and probed its lipid interactions using ATPase assays and 53 MD simulations. Our data allow us to directly visualize lipid partitioning into the TMDs and the 54 associated conformational changes in ABCA7 that provide insights into its mechanisms of 55 substrate entry and export that likely hold true for other members of the ABCA family.

56 **Results**

57 Dependence of ABCA7 ATPase activity on its lipid environment

58 Human ABCA7 expressed in a tetracycline inducible stable HEK293 cell line was 59 reconstituted in liposomes and nanodiscs comprising 80% brain polar lipids (BPL) and 20% 60 cholesterol (Chol) and its ATPase activity was measured (Figure 1A, Figure S1A). Although ATP 61 hydrolysis was slowest in nanodiscs, it followed Michaelis-Menten kinetics similar to ABCA7 in 62 detergent or liposomes comprising the same lipid/cholesterol composition and Michaelis constant 63 (K_M) values for all three were in the 0.5-0.8 mM range. ATPase rates for a hydrolysis-deficient 64 mutant carrying E965Q and E1951Q substitutions (ABCA7_{EQ}) were drastically reduced compared 65 to wildtype in both nanodiscs and detergents, demonstrating that the observed activity was specific 66 (Figure S1A).

To analyze the effect of different lipid headgroups on ATPase activity, we compared
 ATPase rates of ABCA7 in BPL/Chol nanodiscs to those in which BPL was replaced by either

brain polar phosphatidylethanolamine (PE), phosphatidylserine (PS) or phosphatidylcholine (PC) as well 100% BPL nanodiscs. As seen in Figure 1B, ATPase rates were highest in PE and PS nanodiscs followed by 100% BPL nanodiscs lacking cholesterol and, lastly, PC nanodiscs that showed a marginal increase. These results largely match previous findings¹⁶, although differences exist in extent of ATPase rate stimulation that are likely due to the divergent lipid formulations used for reconstitution. Overall, they demonstrate that lipids modulate ABCA7 activity in a species dependent manner and that cholesterol has an inhibitory effect on ATPase activity of ABCA7.

76 Cryo-EM structures of ABCA7 in nanodiscs reveal an asymmetric, open TMD

77 To visualize ABCA7 in a lipid environment, we determined its cryo-EM structures in 78 BPL/Chol nanodiscs (ABCA7_{BPL}) at 3.6 Å resolution (Figure 1C, Figure S1B-E). Despite the 79 addition of the non-hydrolysable ATP analog adenosine-5'-o-(3-thio-triphosphate) (ATP γ S), the 80 transporter adopted an open conformation with separated NBDs and a wide open TMD pathway. 81 We observed density features consistent with a patch of ordered lipids from both bilayer leaflets 82 traversing the width of TMD as expanded upon below. A second, higher-resolution 3D class 83 displayed more complete density for the ECD tunnel region but comparatively lower quality of 84 EM density for TMD2-NBD2 and the entire RD, indicating greater conformational disorder, which 85 was therefore not analyzed further (Figure S1D-E). Analysis of TMD-ECD interfaces in the 86 ABCA7_{BPL} structures revealed more extensive contacts between the ECD and TMD1 (buried 87 surface area (BSA) of 790 Å²) compared to TMD2 (330 Å² BSA). Both TMD1 and TMD2 made 88 contacts with the opposite ECD subunits, leading to a domain swapped arrangement. The TMD1-89 ECD2 interface (BSA 565 Å²) was significantly larger than that of TMD1-ECD1 (BSA 223 Å²) 90 and both interfaces comprised an extensive network of polar and electrostatic interactions. The RD

91 adopted a domain-swapped arrangement similar to that in ABCA4 structures²⁵, with RD1 and RD2 92 associated with the opposite NBDs. To see whether structural changes could rationalize the 93 enhanced ATPase activity observed in ABCA7_{PE} compared to ABCA7_{BPL}, we also determined the 94 cryo-EM structure of the former to 4.0 Å resolution (Figure 1D, Figure S2). Interestingly, both 95 structures were nearly identical to each other (r.m.s.d 0.31Å), although only a single high 96 resolution 3D class was resolved for ABCA7_{PE} (Figure S2). Compared to ABCA7_{BPL}, density for 97 TMD lipids was more homogenous, despite its comparatively lower resolution, as described 98 below, indicating overall decreased conformational heterogeneity. For both ABCA7_{BPL} and 99 ABCA7_{BPF}, greater positional disorder was observed for TMD2-NBD2 compared to TMD1 and 100 NBD1 as indicated by relatively weaker EM density quality (Figure S3).

101 The ABCA7 TMD lumen is accessible to an ordered file of bilayer lipids

102 Our ABCA7_{BPL/PE} structures are distinguished from available structures of ABCA1 and 103 ABCA4 (all resolved in a detergent environment) by the wider open TMD lumen that is almost 104 completely occupied by lipids. The observed lipids are continuous with the surrounding membrane 105 except at the cytoplasmic leaflet near residues L655 and T1646 from TM5 and TM11, respectively 106 (Figure 1E-F). EM density for the modeled lipids is recognizable by gaps between the extracellular 107 and cytoplasmic leaflets and the two acyl chains of a single file of phospholipids in the two lipid 108 leaflets. Towards the extracellular end, ECD residues R475, K478, R482, K1407 and TMD1 109 residues R544 and R548 form a cluster of positively charged side chains oriented towards the 110 luminal lipids (Figure 1G). Overall, the luminal lipids are more closely associated with TMD1, 111 with residues from TM2, TM5, and TM11 within 5 Å of the modeled acyl chains compared to only 112 residues from TM11 from TMD2.

113 To compare the architecture of ABCA7 in the presence or absence of lipids, we also 114 determined its structure in the detergent digitonin (Figure 2A-B, Figure S4A-E). This 115 ABCA7_{DIGITONIN} structure revealed a similar overall conformation to that seen in structures of 116 ABCA1²⁶ and ABCA4^{25,27,28} (Figure S4F) with a more complete map for the ECD compared to 117 ABCA7_{BPL/PE}. As expected, no EM density for TMD lipids was visible, and only isolated density 118 features attributable to detergent molecules associated with TMD1 were observed, although only 119 at a contour level below where much of the surrounding detergent micelle was visible (Figure 120 2A,C). This is in contrast to ABCA7_{BPL/PE} structures where TMD lipid density was much stronger 121 than that of the bulk nanodisc (Figure 2D-E), further validating our assignment of bilayer lipids. 122 Compared to structures in nanodiscs, the TMDs in this ABCA7_{DIGITONIN} structure were arranged 123 more symmetrically with respect to each other with a narrower lumen. Interestingly, EM density 124 for TMD2 was still weaker than that of TMD1, in contrast to structures of ABCA4^{25,27,28} and 125 ABCA1²⁶ (Figure S4D) indicating that a more mobile TMD2-NBD2 pair may be a unique feature 126 of ABCA7.

127 Closed TMD lumen and exit pocket for lipid extrusion in ATP bound ABCA7

To gain insight into possible mechanisms of lipid extrusion from the ABCA7 TMD, we used the hydrolysis-deficient ABCA7_{EQ} mutant reconstituted in BPL/Chol nanodiscs and determined its structure in a closed, ATP-bound state at 3.7 Å resolution (Figure 3A and Figure S5). This ABCA7_{EQ-ATP} structure revealed closely interacting TMD-NBD pairs and a largely occluded TMD lumen (Figure 3B). However, at the extracellular end of the TMD lumen, we observed a small central opening to the extracellular space/ECD that may represent an 'exit pocket' (Figure 3C,D) akin to that seen in the yeast pleiotropic drug resistance transporter Pdr5²⁹ that could 135 likely accommodate two acyl chains, (Figure 3D). TMD closure involves formation of a 4-TM 136 bundle comprising TMs 2, 5, 8, and 11 that occludes the cytoplasmic bilayer leaflet. The exit 137 pocket is comprised largely of hydrophobic residues, except for R548, which is part of a cluster of 138 positively charged residues including R475, K478, R482 and R678 identified in our ABCA7_{BPL/PE} 139 structures that may aid in directing a negatively charged phospholipid headgroup towards the ECD. 140 Side chain density for this group of basic residues was poor compared to that in ABCA7_{BPL/BPE} 141 structures, indicating greater disorder. TMD closure is accompanied by a rearrangement of both 142 TMD-ECD interfaces compared to the open state structures (Figure S6). Compared to the 143 ABCA7_{BPL} structure, both TMD1 and TMD2 interfaces with ECD1 increased from BSAs of 190 Å² to 331 Å² and from 76 Å² to 285 Å², respectively. Conversely, the BSAs of TMD1 and TMD2 144 with ECD2 decreased from 543 $Å^2$ to 275 $Å^2$ and from 317 $Å^2$ to 192 $Å^2$, respectively. As 145 146 expected, the ABCA7_{EO-ATP} structure shows a canonical NBD sandwich dimer with bound ATP 147 (Figure 3E). In contrast to the ATP bound ABCA4 structure, RD density was too weak for accurate 148 placement. However, contoured at lower thresholds, the available density features were more 149 compatible with a rigid body shift rather than a conformational rearrangement of RD, with RD2 150 appearing to maintain contact with NBD1, but RD1 disengaged from NBD2.

151 Rigid-body motions of the TMDs define ABCA7 conformational transitions

Despite significant overall conformational differences, the individual TMDs in ABCA7_{BPL/PE}, ABCA7_{DIGITONIN}, and ABCA7_{EQ-ATP} remain largely unaltered (Figure 4A). Moreover, the TMD-NBD pairs move as rigid body units from the fully open ABCA7_{BPL} structure to that of ABCA7_{DIGITONIN}, which we assert is akin to an intermediate open state between the fully open ABCA7_{BPL/PE} state and the closed ABCA7_{EQ-ATP} states. The transition from open to

intermediate open involves a rigid-body rotation of 9° and translation of 2 Å for TMD2-NBD2. 157 158 The transition to the closed state involves a further 6° rotation and 15 Å translation of TMD2-159 NBD2 (Figure 4B-C), albeit with a greater alteration in the NBDs owing to a movement of their 160 recA like domains upon ATP binding and dimerization. Rigid body movements were also observed 161 for the entire RD in all three structures. The RD of ABCA7_{DIGITONIN} maintained molecular 162 interactions with both NBD1 (RD2) and NBD2 (RD1), whereas the RD of ABCA7_{BPL/PE} separated 163 from NBD2 while maintaining contact with NBD1. Finally, the ECD base region transitioned 164 through a rigid body rotation of 34° and translation of 6.3 Å going from the open to closed states, 165 whereas the tunnel and lid regions displayed greater heterogeneity.

166 To establish whether the concerted TMD-NBD rigid body motions outlined above may extend to other ABC transporters of the Type-V ABC transporter/Type II ABC exporter fold³⁰, we 167 168 extended our analysis of individual TMD-NBD pairs to members of the G family for which the 169 first structures of open and closed states were available, namely ABCG2 and ABCG5/G8 (Figure S7A)^{31,32}. As shown in Figure S7B, the TMD-NBD pairs from both the apo and ATP-bound closed 170 171 states of ABCG2, as well as from both halves of ABCG5/G8, all shared a similar overall 172 architecture. Despite the divergent topologies of ABCG and ABCA transporters, with the former 173 are arranged in an NBD-TMD configuration compared to TMD-NBD for the latter, the individual 174 TMD-NBD pairs from ABCA7 shared very strong structural similarities with those of ABCG2, 175 further establishing the role of rigid body movements of the TMDs to affect large scale 176 conformational changes in these transporters.

177 Lipid partitioning in the ABCA7 TMD captured with MD simulations

178 To gain additional molecular insight into the TMD-mediated lipid partitioning, membrane 179 perturbation, and lipid extrusion from ABCA7, we performed multi-microsecond MD simulations 180 of the open conformation of ABCA7_{PE} after embedding into two distinct lipid bilayers, one 181 containing PE/Chol (4:1) and the other PC/Chol (4:1) (Figure 5, Figure S8). Each simulation was 182 performed for 2 µs using a system including four copies of the protein (Figure 5A), resulting in an 183 aggregate 8 us sampling of lipid-protein interactions for each lipid composition. Interestingly, 184 during the simulations, we observed PE and PC phospholipids penetrating the TMD cavity in both 185 the cytoplasmic and extracellular leaflets in all four protein replicas (Figure 5A, insets). We 186 quantified the number of phospholipids within the TMD cavity by counting the lipid headgroups 187 (Figure S8C), revealing that on average, ABCA7 accommodated a larger number of PE lipids 188 compared to PC (Figure 5B). To further quantify ABCA7-mediated deformation of the lipid 189 bilayer bridging the TMDs, the average heights of phospholipid headgroups were calculated with 190 respect to the midplane of the bilayer. We captured both a tendency for lipids to move towards the 191 cytoplasmic gate and the formation of a dome-shaped phospholipid arrangement within the TMD 192 lumen (Figure 5C-E, Figure S8A-B). Interestingly, our MD simulations showed an accumulation 193 of phospholipid headgroups in the vicinity of residues R475, K478, R482, R544, and R548, with 194 R482 and R548 displaying the most frequent lipid contacts (Figure S8D-E), corroborating our 195 structural observations. Analysis of the cytoplasmic leaflet highlighted a continuous distribution 196 of phospholipids with the surrounding membrane, except near TM5 and TM11 around residues 197 L655 and T1646 (Figure 5D-E), which correlated well with the bilayer-like density in the 198 ABCA7_{BPL} and ABCA7_{PE} cryo-EM maps (Figure 1C-D) that we modeled with acyl chains.

199 **Discussion**

200 A mechanistic model derived from our results is shown in Figure 6. We establish that the 201 TMD lumen of ABCA7 is accessible to bilayer lipids in the open state (ABCA7_{BPL/PE}), providing 202 a basis for substrate entry from both the extracellular and cytoplasmic leaflets. These ordered lipids 203 are akin to those observed in the TMD cavity of AcrB, where they have been suggested to be 204 important for functional integrity³³. We identify a network of positively charged residues at the 205 extracellular periphery of TMD1 and the base of the ECD directed towards the TMD luminal 206 lipids. Our MD simulations support a role for these residues in interacting with phospholipid 207 headgroups, consistent with our structural data. In ABCA7, R475 mutations have been identified 208 in AD³⁴ patients, and mutation of R638 in ABCA1 (equivalent to R548 in ABCA7) is associated 209 with reduced serum HDL³⁵ (Figures S9 and S10). While further studies are needed to pinpoint the 210 specific roles, if any of these residues, in ABCA7 function, they remain largely conserved in 211 ABCA1, ABCA4, and ABCA7. The upward protrusion of both bilayer leaflets within the TMD 212 lumen suggested by MD simulations may, upon TMD closure, aid in sequestering phospholipids 213 in the identified exit pocket to be primed for extrusion towards the ECD. Membrane deformations 214 similar to those highlighted here have also been observed in the signal peptidase complex³⁶, and 215 further evidence the influence membrane proteins have on local membrane bilayer structure. 216 ABCA7 could thus play a role in changing its membrane lipid environment by flipping 217 cytoplasmic leaflet lipids to the extracellular leaflet and also extruding them back out into the bulk 218 bilayer environment and/or to apolipoproteins. The reported defects in the phagocytotic activity of 219 cells that express dysfunctional ABCA7^{37,38} could be related to ABCA7's influence on the asymmetric distribution of bilayer lipids³⁹, as enrichment of PS, shown to be flipped by ABCA7¹⁶, 220 221 at the extracellular surface is linked to phagocytosis and phagocytosis-associated proteins within 222 the membrane 40-42.

223 Despite significant progress in our mechanistic understanding of ABCA transporter 224 function, several questions remain open. First, it is unclear to what extent ABCA7 interacts with 225 apolipoproteins in a physiologically relevant manner and, more broadly, the structural basis for 226 apolipoprotein interactions with ABCA7 or ABCA1 is unknown. Second, while our structures 227 provide a potential basis for lipid entry into and extrusion from the ABCA7 TMD, the mechanism 228 whereby lipids get flipped, remains unresolved. Third, while our data point to a potential 229 preference for PE over PC for TMD partitioning, the exact mechanism whereby ABCA1 or 230 ABCA7 achieve lipid specificity are unknown. The observed enhancement in conformational 231 homogeneity, quality of lipid density, and ATPase activity of our ABCA7_{PE} sample may be, in 232 part, due to the smaller PE headgroup, which has been shown to aid in folding and stabilization of 233 membrane proteins⁴³. Finally, it is unknown how the opposite direction of substrate transport for 234 ABCA4 is achieved considering similarities in ATP bound closed and open state structures of 235 ABCA4 and ABCA7. Overall, our data will help devise better in vitro and in silico models to 236 answer these questions, which will further aid in dissecting the unique roles these proteins play in 237 cellular physiology.

238 METHODS

239 **METHODS**

240 **Protein Purification**

We utilized the Flp-In TREX system (Thermo Fisher Scientific) for tetracycline inducible expression of human ABCA7. In short, a codon optimized synthetic gene construct (GeneArt/Thermo Fisher Scientific) of isoform 1 of ABCA7 (Uniprot ID Q8IZY2-1), harboring a C-terminal eYFP-Rho1D4 tag⁴³ with a 3C/precision protease site between the protein and 245 purification tags, was cloned into a PCDNA5.1 FRT/TO vector between BamHI and NotI 246 restriction sites and a stable cell line was generated as per manufacturer's protocol (Flp-InTM T-247 RexTM Core Kit, Thermo Fisher Scientific). The resulting HEK293 based stable cells were grown 248 and maintained in adherent cell culture in Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM, Thermo 249 Fisher Scientific) supplemented with 9% Fetal Bovine Serum (FBS, Gibco) and a 250 penicillin/streptomycin mixture (Thermo Fisher Scientific) at 37°C with 5% carbon dioxide (CO₂) 251 under humidified conditions. For protein production, cells were induced with 0.6 µg ml⁻¹ 252 tetracycline at a confluency of 80% in fresh DMEM supplemented with 2% FBS under otherwise 253 identical conditions for an additional 72 hours before being washed with Phosphate Buffered 254 Saline (PBS), harvested, and flash frozen in liquid nitrogen.

255 For purification, thawed cells were resuspended in a lysis buffer (Buffer L) comprising 25 256 mM Hepes pH 7.5, 150 mM sodium chloride (NaCl), 20% glycerol, 1 cOmplete EDTA free 257 protease inhibitor tablet (Roche) per 50 ml Buffer L, 800 µM phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride 258 (PMSF) and 20 µg ml⁻¹ soybean trypsin inhibitor (both Sigma), and mechanically cracked using 259 a dounce homogenizer before addition of a 0.5%/0.1% w:v mixture of dodecyl maltoside (DDM) 260 and cholesteryl hemisuccinate (CHS) (both Anatrace). Protein extraction was allowed to proceed 261 for 90 minutes at 4°C with gentle agitation, after which, the suspension was centrifuged at 48,000 262 r.c.f for 30 minutes and the supernatant applied to rho-1D4 antibody (University of British 263 Columbia) coupled Sepharose resin (Cytiva). Binding was allowed to proceed for 3 hours before 264 the unbound fraction was discarded and beads rinsed with 4 x 10 bed volumes (BVs) of wash 265 buffer (25 mM Hepes pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 20% glycerol, 0.02%/0.004% w:v DDM/CHS). 266 Protein was eluted by incubation with 3 BVs elution buffer (wash buffer supplemented with either 267 3C protease (1:10 w:w 3C:ABCA7) or 0.5 mg ml⁻¹ 1D4 peptide (GenScript)) for 2-18 hours.

268 The EQ variant of ABCA7 contained two site mutations, E965Q and E1951Q. The E965Q 269 site was created within the ABCA7 construct using site directed mutagenesis by PCR with the 270 primers: A7eq1for 5'-GGTCATCCTGGATCAACCTACAGCAGGCGTGG-3' and A7eq1rev 271 5'-GCCTGCTGTAGGTTGATCCAGGATGACCACC-3'. E1951Q was generated using a 272 synthesized dsDNA block and the enzymes NheI and BsiWI. ABCA7_{EO} with C-terminal eYFP-273 Rho1D4 tag was then transferred to a pCAG vector using KpnI and NotI restriction sites. The 274 HEK293T cells were grown in Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM, Scientific) 275 supplemented with 9% FBS (Gibco), penicillin/streptomycin mixture (Scientific) and antimycotic 276 (Gibco) at 37°C and 5% CO₂ under humidified conditions. A mixture of 37.5 µg of ABCA7_{EO} 277 plasmid and 75 µg of polyethyleneimine (PEI, Sigma) was incubated for 15 min at room 278 temperature before being applied to 15 ml plates of HEK293T cells at a confluency of 60 - 80% 279 to initiate transfection and expression. The cells were further cultured for 72 hours before being 280 washed with PBS, harvested and flash frozen in liquid nitrogen. ABCA7_{EO} was purified in the 281 same approach of ABCA7; and eluted by incubation with 3 BVs elution buffer with either 3C protease for ATPase assay or with 0.25 mg ml⁻¹ of 1D4 peptide in an additional 2 mM ATP and 282 283 10 mM MgCl₂ for nanodisc reconstitution.

Membrane scaffold protein D1 (MSP1D1, addgene) and apoA1 were purified using established protocols for MSP⁴⁴ with the following modifications: A synthetic construct of apoA1 bearing a 3C protease cleavable N-terminal deca-histidine tag (GeneArt/Thermo Fisher Scientific) was cloned into a pET28a vector (Addgene) and transformed in *E. coli* BL21 DE3 cells (New England Biolabs). One-liter cultures of Terrific Broth (TB) supplemented with 50 ug ml⁻¹ kanamycin were grown from 10 ml overnight cultures from single colonies grown in LB. Cells were grown to an OD600 of 0.8 in a shaking incubator at 37 °C and induced with 1 mM isopropyl

291 β -d-1-thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG). Protein expression was allowed to proceed at 20°C for 12 292 hours. Cells were centrifuged at 12,000 r.c.f, and pellets were flash frozen in liquid nitrogen and 293 stored at -80°C until required. Frozen pellets were resuspended in 8 ml/ gram cell pellet 294 resuspension buffer comprising 25 mM Hepes pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl and 1 mM 295 phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride (PMSF) and sonicated. The suspension was spun down at 16,000 296 r.c.f at 4 °C for 30 min and the supernatant was applied 5 ml Ni-NTA resin (Qiagen)/ L culture 297 medium. After discarding the flowthrough, the resin was washed with 25 mM Hepes pH 7.5, 298 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM PMSF and 20 mM imidazole until a pre-established baseline A280 reading 299 was achieved. ApoA1 was eluted in 4 BVs of 25 mM Hepes pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM PMSF 300 and 200 mM imidazole, concentrated using a 10 kDa molecular weight cutoff (MWCO) Amicon 301 filter (Millipore-Sigma) and desalted using a PD10 column (Cytiva) into 25 mM Hepes pH 7.5, 302 150 mM NaCl. The concentration of apoA1 was adjusted to 1 mg ml⁻¹ for flash freezing in liquid 303 nitrogen and storage at -80°C.

ABCA7 and ABCA7_{EQ} nanodisc and proteoliposome preparation

305 For nanodisc reconstitution, peptide eluted or 3C cleaved ABCA7 was mixed with 306 MSP1D1 and a mixture of BPL (brain polar lipid extract from Avanti) and cholesterol (80:20 w:w) 307 with 0.5%/0.1% DDM:CHS using a 1:10:350 (ABCA7:MSPD1:lipid mix) molar ratio in nanodisc 308 buffer (25 mM Hepes pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl) that contained up to 4% glycerol for 30 minutes at 309 room temperature (RT). Nanodisc reconstitution was induced by removing detergent with 0.8 mg 310 ml⁻¹ pre-washed Biobeads SM-2 (Bio-Rad) for 2 hours with gentle agitation at RT. For different 311 phospholipid compositions, BPL was replaced with brain PE, PS, or PS (all from Avanti Polar 312 Lipids). For structural studies, nanodisc-reconstituted ABCA7 bearing the eYFP-Rho1D4 tag was 313 bound to rho-1D4 resin for an additional 2 hours, washed with 4 BV of nanodisc buffer, and eluted with 3C protease for 2 hours at 4°C. The eluted ABCA7 nanodiscs were concentrated using a 100,000 MWCO kDa Amicon filter and further purified by size exclusion chromatography using a G4000swxl column (TOSOH biosciences) equilibrated with nanodisc buffer at 4°C. Figure S1A shows a SEC chromatogram for pure ABCA7 placed into BPL/Ch nanodiscs, while a SEC chromatogram for ABCA7 in PE/Ch nanodiscs is in Figure S2A. Generally, three fractions were pooled from the main resultant peak.

ABCA7_{EQ} was reconstituted in nanodiscs for cryo-EM preparation using the same approach of ABCA7; except that an additional 2 mM ATP and 10 mM MgCl₂ were present until the end of the purification procedure prior to grid preparation. A SEC chromatogram for ABCA7_{EQ} in BPL/Ch nanodiscs is shown in Figure S5A, where the trace is affected by the additional ATP added during the run.

325 ABCA7 proteoliposomes were generated by mixing detergent purified ABCA7 with 326 liposomes at a protein: liposome ratio of 1:10 w:w. Liposomes were prepared by extruding a 20 327 mg ml⁻¹, 80:20 w:w BPL/Ch lipid mixture 11 times using a previously described protocol ⁴⁵. 328 Briefly, detergent purified ABCA7 and liposomes were added to 0.14% and 0.3% Triton X100 329 (Sigma), respectively, then incubated for 30 minutes at RT. These two samples were mixed and 330 incubated for 60 minutes. Detergent was removed by adding 40 mg fresh Biobeads SM2 (Bio-331 Rad) per ml reaction mixture during five successive incubation steps, 30 minutes at RT, 60 minutes 332 at 4°C, overnight at 4°C, and two periods of 60 minutes at 4°C with gentle agitation. The 333 suspension was centrifuged at 80,000 rpm for 20 minutes in an ultracentrifuge. The supernatant 334 was removed, and the liposomal pellet was washed once with reconstitution buffer containing 150 335 mM NaCl, 25 mM Hepes pH 7.5. The ABCA7-liposome suspension was then centrifuged to

remove the supernatant, and the proteoliposomes were resuspended at a final concentration of
0.5 - 1 mg ml⁻¹ for ATPase assays.

338 ABCA7_{DIGITONIN} preparation

339 For the digitonin solubilized ABCA7 purification, ABCA7 was extracted from the cell in 340 a lysis buffer (Buffer L) using the same approach above, and the supernatant was applied to rho-341 1D4 resin for a 3-hour binding period. Then, the resin was rinsed with the 4 x 10 BVs of wash 342 buffer containing 25 mM Hepes pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 20% glycerol (v/v), and 0.06% digitonin 343 (w/v). Protein was eluted by incubation with 3 BVs elution buffer, which was wash buffer 344 supplemented with 3C protease (1:10 w:w 3C:ABCA7). Interestingly we obtained better particle 345 distribution and ice quality with addition of a 1:2.5 molar excess of apoA1, prepared in house, to 346 3C cleaved ABCA7 prior to grid preparation. The mixture was concentrated by a 100,000 MWCO 347 kDa Amicon filter (Millipore) and further purified by size exclusion chromatography using a 348 G4000swxl column (TOSHOH biosciences) equilibrated with a buffer containing 25 mM Hepes 349 pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 0.035% digitonin (w/v), as shown in Figure S4A. Peak fractions were 350 pooled and concentrated for cryo-EM grid preparation.

351 ATPase assays

ATPase assays were based on a molybdate based colorimetric assay⁴⁶. Protein concentrations used were in the range of 0.05-0.1 mg ml⁻¹. Assays were started by the addition of either 2mM ATP, except for experiments in Figure 1B where 6.25mM ATP was used, in the presence of 10 mM magnesium chloride (MgCl₂), incubated for 30 minutes at 37°C, then stopped by addition of 6% SDS. The assay was also performed in the presence of ABCA7 inhibitors as additives, such as 5 mM ATP γ S or sodium orthovanadate. For ATP K_M measurements, a range of ATP concentrations was used. Statistical analysis was done using GraphPad Prism 9. ATPase rates

were measured using simple linear regression, and the K_M of detergent, liposome, and nanodisc reconstituted ABCA7 were determined from the fit to the Michaelis-Menten equation of the corresponding rates. ABCA7 concentrations were measured using gel densitometry analyzed in ImageStudio Lite (LI-COR Biosciences) based on detergent purified ABCA7 standards with known concentrations determined by A280 measurements. All reaction components were mixed with ABCA7 in detergent or reconstituted in nanodiscs and liposome in the absence of ATP, incubated for 10 minutes at 37 °C prior to addition of ATP to start the reaction.

366 Cryo-electron microscopy grid preparation

367 For ABCA7 reconstituted in nanodisc prepared in 80:20 w:w BPL/cholesterol and 368 PE/cholesterol, SEC purified protein was mixed with 5 mM ATPyS (TOCRIS) and 5 mM MgCl₂ 369 for 20 minutes at room temperature and concentrated to 0.5 - 1.0 mg ml⁻¹. Peak fractions from SEC 370 already containing 2 mM ATP (Sigma) and 10 mM MgCl₂ were pooled and concentrated to 0.5 -371 1 mg ml⁻¹ for nanodisc reconstituted ABCA7_{FO-ATP}. For ABCA7 in digitonin, peak fractions were 372 pooled and concentrated between 2 to 5 mg ml⁻¹. 4 µl samples were applied to glow discharged 373 Ouantifoil R1.2/1.3 grids (Electron Microscopy Sciences, Hatfield, PA, USA) using a Vitrobot 374 Mark IV (Thermo Fisher Scientific) with a 4s blotting time and 0 blotting force under >90% 375 humidity at 4°C, then plunge frozen into liquid ethane. For the nanodisc reconstituted ABCA7_{EO-} 376 ATP and ABCA7 in digitonin, two sample droplets were applied to glow discharged grids to obtain 377 more particles per hole.

378 Cryo-electron microscopy data collection and processing

379 Grids were clipped as per manufacturer guidelines and cryo-EM data was collected using 380 a Titan Krios electron microscope operating at 300kV and equipped with a Falcon 3EC direct 381 electron detector (Thermo Fisher Scientific.). Automated data collection was carried out using

382 EPU 2.8.0.1256REL software package (Thermo Fisher Scientific) over multiple sessions in 383 counting mode at a nominal magnification of 96,000x, corresponding to a calibrated pixel size of 384 0.895 Å for nanodisc reconstituted ABCA7_{BPL}. Image stacks comprising 60 frames were collected at a defocus range of -0.6 to -2.6 µm and estimated dose rate of 1 electron/Å²/frame and further 385 386 processed in Relion-3.1 (beta). Motion correction was done using Motioncor2 (Relion implementation)⁴⁷ and contrast transfer function (CTF) correction was performed using Gctf 1.06 387 388 ⁴⁸. A summary of the overall data processing scheme and the quality was presented in Figure S1C-389 E. In brief, 11802 micrographs were used for template free picking of 6725108 particles, followed 390 by particle extraction at a 3x binned pixel size of 2.685 Å/pix. The dataset was processed in two 391 batches. After 2-3 rounds of 2D classification 1259324 particles from Set 1 and 1088487 particles 392 from Set 2 were selected for independent 3D classification steps (number of classes (K)=8 for 393 both). The structure of human ABCA1 (EMDB6724) was used as a 3D reference for an initial 3D 394 classification of a subset of the total data to yield an initial sub-nanometer resolution map of 395 ABCA7 that was used as a 3D reference for the full datasets. After 1 round of 3D classification, 396 both sets of data vielded a similar ensemble of classes. A total of 113291 particles from similar 397 looking classes (black boxes) were subjected to an additional round of classification (K=3), ~80% 398 of which fell into a high-resolution class that yielded a 3.6 Å map after refinement and particle 399 polishing steps. Similarly, 124114 particles from a second set of two similar classes (red boxes in 400 Figure S1D) were selected for subsequent refinement, particle polishing, and post processing to 401 vield a 3.1 Å map. All resolution estimates were based on the gold standard 0.143 cutoff criterion 402 ⁴⁹. Datasets of ABCA7_{PE}, ABCA7_{EO-ATP}, and ABCA7_{DIGITONIN} were collected at a nominal 403 magnification of 96,000x corresponding to a calibrated pixel size 0.889 Å, and image stacks 404 containing 40 frames were collected a defocus range of -0.8 to -2.6 µm with an estimated dose rate 405 of 1 electron/Å²/frame and further processed using the same software versions as for the 406 ABCA7_{BPL} dataset unless otherwise indicated.

407 For ABCA7_{PE}, a total of 2849251 particles were picked from 9218 ctf corrected (Gctf) 408 micrographs in Relion ver. 3.1 in two batches at a 3-fold binned pixel size of 2.667 Å/pixel (Figure 409 S2B-D). Of these, 783655 particles and 413330 particles were selected from Batch 1 and Batch 410 2, respectively and independently subjected to 3D classification (K=8) using a low pass filtered 411 (60 Å) map of our ABCA7_{BPL} structure as a reference. A single highest resolution class from each 412 was selected and their particles combined and subjected to an additional round of 2D classification. 413 2024649 particles were subjected to another round of 3D classification (K=8). A single, highest 414 resolution class containing 50704 particles was refined to 5.4 Å. Particles were re-extracted using 415 refined coordinates and unbinned (pixel size 0.889 Å/pixel) and subjected to a round of 3D 416 refinement, Bayesian Polishing, and postprocessing/B-factor sharpening to yield a final map 4.0 417 Å resolution and its local resolution filtered variant calculated using Relion's own algorithm. Local 418 resolution maps are shown for ABCA7_{BPL} (Map1 & Map2) and ABCA7_{PE} in Figure S3.

419 For the ABCA7_{DIGITONIN} dataset (Figure S4B-E), a total of 7437149 particles were picked 420 from 16213 ctf corrected and motion corrected micrographs and extracted at a 3-fold binned pixel 421 size of 2.667 Å/ pixel. After 2D classification, 1220497 particles were subjected to 3D 422 classification (K=8) using a low pass filtered (60 Å) map of our ABCA7_{BPL} structure as a reference. 423 A single class comprising 324727 particles was refined to 5.4 Å. The refined coordinates were 424 then used to re-extract unbinned particles (0.889 Å/pixel), subjected to 3D refinement, and 425 Bayesian polishing. Further 3D classification (K=5) was performed and two similar classes 426 containing 149590 particles were picked for 3D refinement and postprocessing/B-factor Sharpening to yield a 3.9 Å map. 427

428 For the ABCA7_{EO-ATP} dataset, an initial set of 2660267 particles were picked from 4914 429 ctf corrected micrographs (Figure S5B-E). After 2D classification, 469397 particles were subjected 430 to initial model building. This model was used as a 3D reference to perform 3D classification 431 (k=5). A single class comprising 174415 particles was refined to 5.4 Å, the corresponding particles 432 unbinned and re-refined. The nanodisc density was subtracted within Relion, followed by 3D 433 classification (k=3). The highest resolution class comprising 51780 particles was refined to 4.3 Angstroms and used for 3D reference-based particle picking for a larger data set comprising the 434 435 initial 4914 movies and a new set of 4474 ctf corrected micrographs. A total of 3773280 particles 436 were picked and subjected to multiple rounds of 2D classification in Relion 4.0-beta. 898916 437 particles were subjected to 3D classification (K=3) and a single highest resolution class consisting 438 of 407424 particles was refined to 5.4 Å. The refined coordinates were then used to re-extract the 439 respective particles without binning (0.889 Å/ pixel) and refined again before 3D classification 440 (K=5). A single class comprising 177230 particles was selected and subjected to 3D refinement, 441 Bayesian polishing, and postprocessing/B-factor sharpening to yield a final map at 3.7 Å.

442

Model building and refinement

Model building was done in coot 0.9.5⁵⁰ using a combination of Map 1 and its local 443 444 resolution filtered variant and Map 2. Both Map 1 and Map 2 displayed significant conformational 445 heterogeneity in the second half of ABCA7, with the quality of density in Map 1 allowing 446 placement of a TMD2 model guided in part by the homologous ABCA1 structure. Density 447 attributed to inter-TMD phospholipids was clearest in Map 1. Map 2 revealed very poor and 448 discontinuous density for TMD2-NBD2 but significantly better density for TMD1-NBD1 and the 449 majority of ECD1 and ECD2, allowing for de novo model building. The model for ECD was also 450 guided by the presence of nine glycosylation sites (N78, N98, N312, N340, N1335, N1381, N1386,

451 N1457, & N1518) as well as 4 disulfide bond pairs. Density for the lid region of the ECD was 452 missing in both maps. Model building for both NBDs was guided by structures of the homologous 453 transporters TM287⁵¹, ABCG2, and ABCA1, where density features did not allow for de novo 454 model building. We observed extra density at the nucleotide binding sites for both NBDs despite 455 their open conformation. The structure of the RD was based on a homology model of the predicted 456 RD structure in ABCA4²⁵. The quality of density for the ABCA7 RD allowed rigid body placement 457 for the entire domain. Restrained real space refinement of the model was carried out in Phenix 458 1.19.1⁵² using automatically generated secondary structure restraints. Structural figures were 459 prepared in UCSF Chimera v. 1.13.153, ChimeraX v. 1.2.554, and PyMOL 2.4.1 (The PyMOL 460 Molecular Graphics System, Version 1.8 Schrödinger, LLC).

461 The model for ABCA7_{PE} was generated by rigid body placement of the ABCA7_{BPL} model 462 followed by real space refinement in phenix as described above. The model for ABCA7_{DIGITONIN} 463 was generated by rigid body fitting each TMD, NBD, ECD, and RD into its postprocessed map 464 followed my manual adjustment of sidechains as allowed for the map. Non proteinaceous EM 465 density was modeled as a CHS and Digitonin (ligand ID Y01) molecule. The corrected model was real space refined against the postprocessed map. The model for ABCA7_{EQ-ATP} was built starting 466 467 with a homology model based on the ATP bound structure of ABCA4 (PDB 7LKZ), followed by 468 manual adjustment of the structure as required and permitted by the map. The ECD was replaced 469 by a rigid body fitted model of the ECD from the ABAC7_{Digitonin} structure. This model was then 470 refined against both the postprocessed map, and its local resolution filtered counterpart.

471 **MD simulations**

We employed MD simulations to capture the arrangement and dynamics of the lipid bilayer induced by the experimentally derived open conformation of ABCA7_{PE}, which was used as the

474 starting model in all the simulations. For system setup, a C-terminal carboxylate capping group, 475 an N-terminal ammonium capping group and all the hydrogen atoms were added using the PSFGEN plugin of VMD (Visual Molecular Dynamics)⁵⁶. The resulting all-atom (AA) model was then 476 477 converted to a coarse-grained (CG) Martini model using the MARTINIZE protocol 478 (http://www.cgmartini.nl/), using an elastic network on atom pairs within a 10-Å cutoff. The Orientations of Proteins in Membranes (OPM) database⁵⁷ was used to identify and align the 479 480 transmembrane region of the protein with the membrane normal. The protein was embedded in 481 two distinct lipid bilayers (palmitoyl-oleoyl-phosphatidyl-ethanolamine (POPE) and cholesterol 482 with a molar ratio of 4:1 (POPE/Chol), and palmitoyl-oleoyl-phosphatidyl-choline (POPC) and 483 cholesterol with a molar ratio of 4:1 (POPC/Chol), respectively). The protein secondary structure 484 was defined from the AA model and was maintained throughout the CG simulations by the applied 485 elastic network. To increase the sampling of lipid-protein interactions and improve statistics, four 486 independent copies of the CG protein were placed at a distance of 200 Å in a large lipid bilayer 487 $(400 \times 400 \text{ Å}^2)$. The system was then solvated and ionized with 150 mM salt using INSANE⁵⁸.

The systems were simulated employing GROMACS 2021.3^{59,60}. A 20-fs timestep was 488 489 employed in all the simulations. The temperature was maintained at 310 K with a velocity-490 rescaling thermostat⁶¹ employing a coupling time constant of 1 ps. A semi-isotropic 1 bar pressure was maintained using the Berendsen barostat ⁶² with a compressibility and relaxation time constant 491 492 of 3×10^{-4} bar and 5 ps, respectively. The systems were energy minimized for 1,000 steps, followed 493 by short equilibration runs of 18 ns, while restraints were applied to lipid bilayer headgroups and 494 protein backbones. During this time the restraints on bilayer headgroups were reduced gradually from $k = 200 \text{ kJ.mol}^{-1}$.nm⁻² to zero, whereas the protein backbones' restraints ($k = 1,000 \text{ kJ.mol}^{-1}$ 495 496 ¹.nm⁻²) were kept constant. Each system was then simulated for 2 μ s, with restraints only applied

497 to the protein backbones, resulting in an aggregate sampling of 8 μ s (4 copies × 2 μ s). All the 498 systems were simulated following the same MD protocol.

All the molecular images were generated using VMD⁵⁶. The membrane deformation 499 500 induced by ABCA7 was quantified by calculating the z distance of the lipid phosphate moieties 501 (PO₄ bead type in MARTINI) with respect to the bilayer midplane, over the last 1 μ s of each 502 trajectory. The generated histogram (binned in 2×2 Å² bins) in each leaflet illustrates the spatial 503 distribution of the height of the lipid head groups within each leaflet. We quantified the differential 504 movement of POPE and POPC within the protein lumen by calculating the number of 505 phospholipids located within the TMDs. If the PO₄ bead of a phospholipid was within 22.5 Å and 506 12.5 Å in x and y, respectively, with respect to a protein's center in the x-y plane (membrane plane), 507 then the phospholipid was considered to be within the TMD lumen (Figure S9C).

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520 Author Contributions

- 521 AA conceived the research. LTML, JRT, and AA performed all experiments. MD simulations
- 522 were conducted and analyzed by SD, SP, and ET. TK participated in assay design. LTML, JRT,
- 523 and AA wrote the manuscript with input from all other authors.

524 Declaration of Interests

- 525 SP is currently an employee of Loxo Oncology @ Lilly and is a shareholder of stock in Eli Lilly
- 526 and Co. The rest of the authors declare no competing interests.

527 Data and materials availability:

- 528 The cryo-EM Maps have been deposited at the Electron Microscopy Databank (EMDB) under
- 529 accession codes EMD-AAAAA (ABCA7_{BPL} Map 1), EMD-BBBBB (ABCA7BPL Map 2), EMD-
- 530 CCCCC (ABCA7_{PE}), EMD-DDDDD (ABCA7_{EQ-ATP}), and EMD-EEEEE (ABCA7DI_{GITONIN}). The
- associated atomic coordinates have been deposited at the Protein Data bank (PDB) under accession
- 532 codes 1WWW (ABCA7_{BPL}), 2XXX(ABCA7_{PE}), 3YYY, (ABCA7_{EQ-ATP}), and 4ZZZ
- 533 (ABCA7DI_{GITONIN}).

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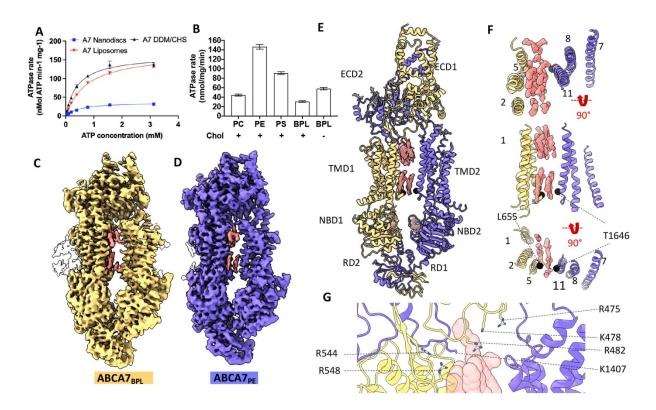
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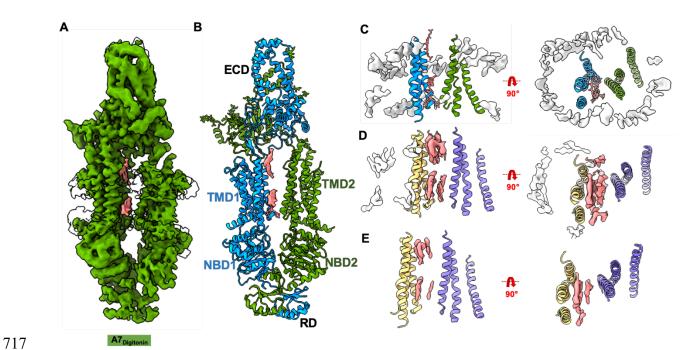
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699

701 Figures and Legends



703 Figure 1. Functional characterization and structure of human ABCA7 incorporated in 704 nanodiscs (A) ATPase activity of ABCA7 at different ATP concentrations and (B) different 705 nanodisc phospholipid/cholesterol compositions. Cholesterol (20%) presence is indicated by + or 706 -. Experimental replicates (n)=3 and error bars represent standard deviation (s.d). (C) Cryo-EM 707 map of ABCA7_{BPL} (vellow) at 3.6 Å resolution and (**D**) ABCA7_{PE} at 4.0 Å resolution(purple). 708 Density for protein is shown in yellow (0.025 contour) and that for modeled lipid acyl chains 709 (0.035 contour) shown in pink (TMD luminal lipids) and white (peripherally associated lipids). 710 (E) ABCA7_{PE} shown in ribbon format with Half 1 colored yellow and Half 2 purple, along with 711 density for TMD lipids (pink 0.025 contour) and bound nucleotide (yellow 0.035 contour). Acyl 712 chains and glycans are shown as pink and grey sticks, respectively. (F) TMD lumen with density 713 for TMD lipids (pink 0.025 contour) viewed from the extracellular side (top), membrane plane 714 (middle) and cytoplasmic side (bottom). Ca atoms for the cytoplasmic gate are shown as black 715 spheres. (G) View of the TMD-ECD interface with select residues oriented towards lipids 716 (transparent red spheres) shown.



718 Figure 2. Cryo-EM structure of ABCA7_{DIGITONIN}. (A) Cryo-EM map of human ABCA7_{Digitonin} 719 at 3.9 Å with density for protein shown in green (0.013 contour) and extraneous density likely 720 belonging to detergent shown in pink (0.013 contour). (B) Cryo-EM structure of human 721 ABCA7_{DIGITONIN} shown in ribbon format with each half colored differently (blue and green). (C) 722 TMD lumen of ABCA7_{DIGITONIN} with density for bulk micelle shown in white at 0.015 contour 723 where detergent density inside TMDs disappears. Sticks for unmodeled detergent molecules are 724 shown for which density is visible at the lower contour of 0.013. (D) TMD lumen of ABCA7_{PE} 725 with density (0.035 contour) for TMD lipids (pink) and peripherally associated ordered lipids 726 (white) shown. (E) Same as D with higher density contour of 0.046 where density of peripherally 727 associated lipids is absent but that of luminal lipids remains.

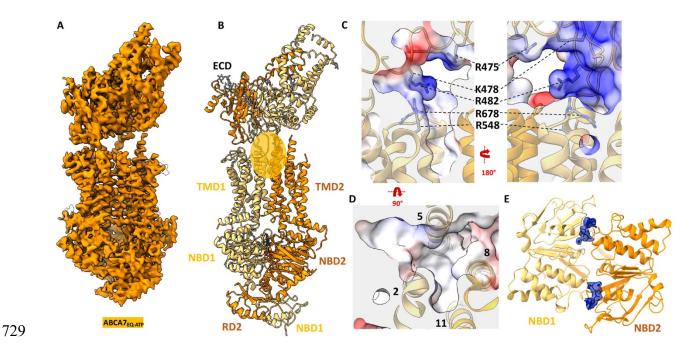
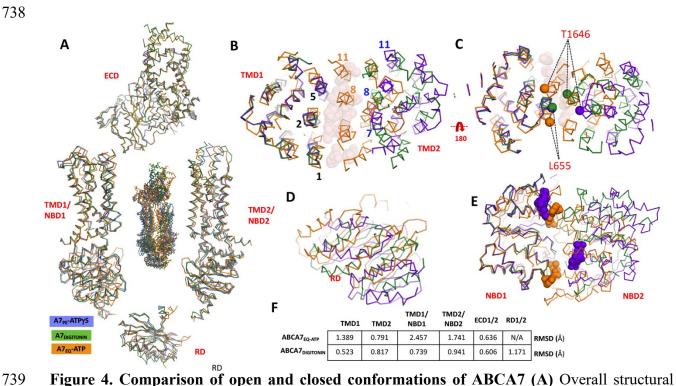
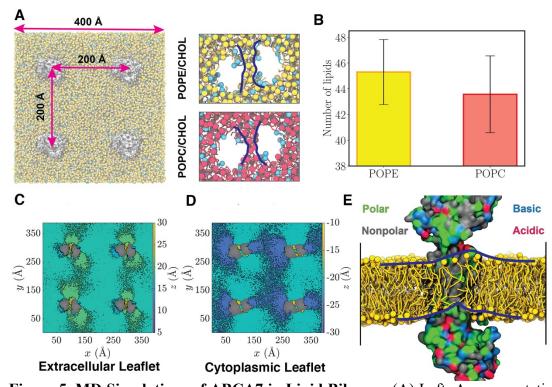


Figure 3. Cryo-EM structure of ABCA7_{EQ-ATP}. (A) Cryo-EM map of human ABCA7_{EQ-ATP} in BPL/Chol nanodiscs at 3.7 Å resolution (orange density, 0.02 contour). (B) Cryo-EM structure of ABCA7_{EQ-ATP} shown in ribbon format with half 1 and half 2 colored yellow and orange, respectively. The transparent orange oval demarcates the observed exit pocket. (C) Central slice of electrostatic surface map showing surface details of exit pocket in two different orientations (D) 4-TM bundle forming the exit pocket. (E) NBDs viewed from the extracellular side with density for bound nucleotide (blue sticks) shown in blue (0.02 contour).



739 740 alignment of the three ABCA7 conformations (center) along with individual alignments of rigid 741 body pairs TMD1-NBD1, TMD2-NBD2, ECD, and RD (B) Overall alignment of the three ABCA7 742 conformations showing only TMD1 and TMD2 viewed from the extracellular side using the 743 TMD1-NBD1 pair as an alignment reference. TMs lining the TMD pathway are numbered (C) 744 Same as panel B, viewed from the cytoplasmic side with $C\alpha$ atoms of gate forming residues shown 745 as spheres (D) Same as panels B/C showing only RDs viewed from the cytosolic side. (E) Same 746 as panel D showing just NBDs and bound nucleotides viewed from the extracellular side. ATPyS and ATP-Mg²⁺ are shown as purple and orange spheres, respectively. (F) Root mean square 747 deviations (RMSD) of aligned atoms of ABCA7_{BPE} vs ABCA7_{EQ-ATP} and ABCA7_{DIGITONIN}. 748



750 Figure 5. MD Simulations of ABCA7 in Lipid Bilayers. (A) Left: A representative simulation 751 system with four copies of ABCA7 (silver), taken from the POPE/cholesterol (yellow/cyan) lipid 752 patch. Right: the phospholipid belt (blue lines) formed in (top) the POPE/cholesterol (yellow/cyan) 753 and (bottom) POPC/cholesterol (red/cyan) membranes $(t = 2 \mu s)$. (B) The total count of 754 phospholipids (sum of all four simulated proteins in a patch) partitioned in the TMD lumen for 755 POPE/cholesterol and POPC/cholesterol bilayers (averaged over time ± standard deviation). (C/D) 756 Heatmaps representing the average height (z values) of POPE headgroup with respect to the 757 membrane midplane in the extracellular (C) and cytoplasmic (D) leaflets. Phospholipids are 758 observed to climb the protein and form a dome-like configuration in the TMD lumen. (E) Snapshot 759 of lipids partitioned in the TMD lumen, taken from the POPE trajectory at $t = 2 \mu s$. Polar, nonpolar, 760 basic, and acidic residues are colored green, gray, blue, and red, respectively. TMD2 is hidden for 761 a clearer view of the luminal dome-like lipid configuration (outlined by blue lines).

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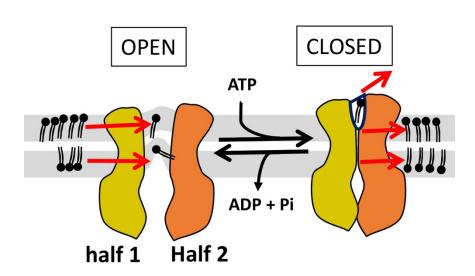




Figure 6. Proposed model of ABCA7 conformational transitions and lipid interactions. The
membrane bilayer leaflets are shown in grey. Red arrows indicate movement of lipids (black)
under the influence of TMD conformation. The ECD and RD have been omitted for simplicity as
has any reference to potential lipid flipping from the cytoplasmic to extracellular leaflets.

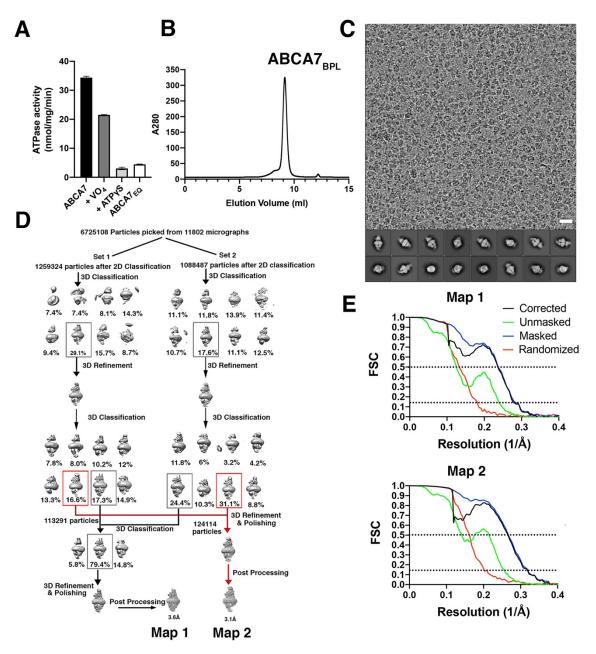


Figure S1. ABCA7_{BPL} characterization and Cryo-EM data processing. A ATPase data for nanodisc reconstituted ABCA7 with and without sodium orthovanadate (VO4) or ATP γ S. N=3 and error bars represent s.d B SEC peak of ABCA7_{BPL} sample for cryo-EM. C Representative cryo-EM micrograph at -2.5 µm defocus. Scale bar = 20 nm. D cryo-EM processing workflow. Boxes indicate 3D classes used for further refinement for both Map 1 and Map 2 (red). E Fourier shell correlation (FSC) curves for Map 1 (top) and Map 2 (bottom) Dotted lines indicate position 0. 143 and 0.5 cutoff criteria for resolution estimates.

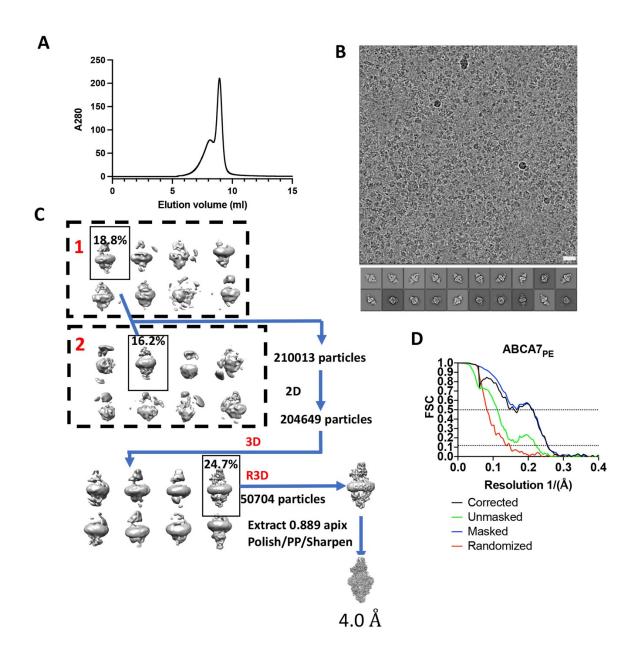
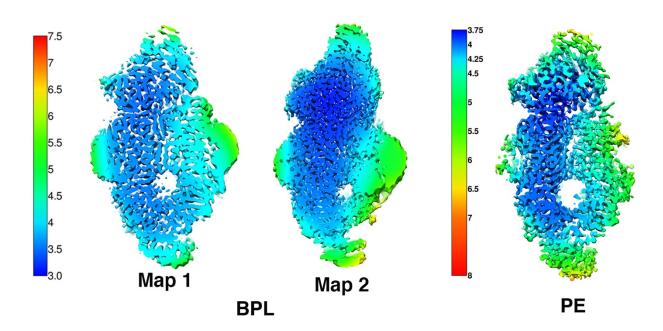
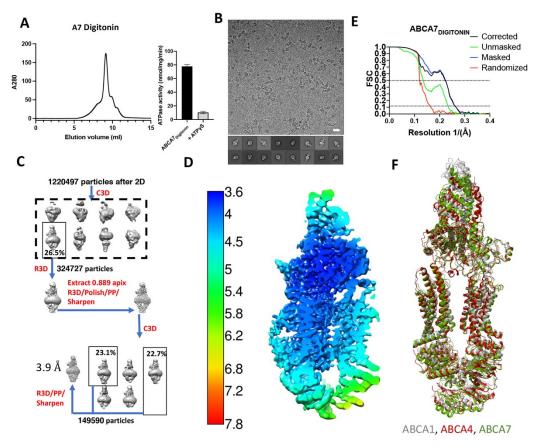


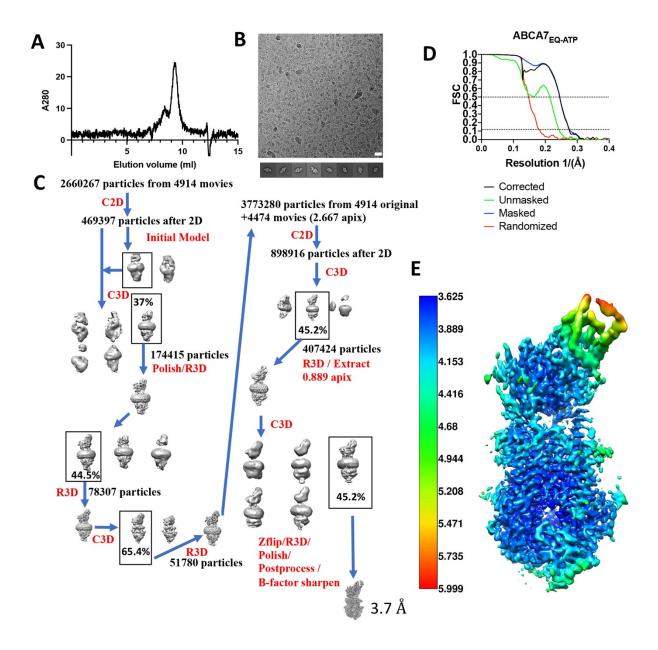
Figure S2. ABCA7_{PE} **Cryo-EM data processing.** A Size exclusion chromatography micrograph of cryo-EM sample showing monodisperse ABCA7_{PE} nanodisc (main peak). **B** Representative micrograph at -2.5 μ m defocus and 2D classes. Scale bar = 20 nm. **C** cryo-EM processing workflow. Dashed boxes demarcate Subsets 1 and 2. Solid boxes indicate 3D classes used for further refinement. C2D = 2D Classification, C3D=3D classification, R3D = 3D refinement **D** Fourier shell correlation (FSC) curves for ABCA7_{PE} Dotted lines indicate position 0.143 and 0.5 cutoff criteria for resolution estimates.



- 791 Figure S3. ABCA7_{BPL} and ABCA7_{PE} local resolution filtered maps. Color keys are indicated
- on the left of each set of maps with numbers representing resolution (Å).
- 793

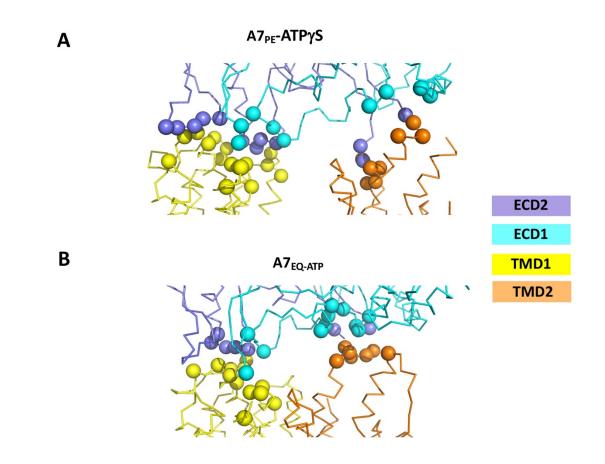


794 795 Figure S4 ABCA7_{DIGITON} cryo-EM processing A SEC profile of ABCA7_{DIGITONIN} and its ATPase 796 activity with and without ATPyS. B Representative micrograph at -2.5 µm defocus and 2D classes. 797 Scale bar = 20 nm. C cryo-EM processing workflow. C2D = 2D Classification, C3D=3D classification, R3D = 3D refinement. **D** Local resolution colored EM map of ABCA7_{DIGITONIN}. **E** 798 799 Fourier shell correlation (FSC) curves for ABCA7_{DIGITONIN}. Dotted lines indicate position 0.143 800 and 0.5 cutoff criteria for resolution estimates. F Superposition of ABCA7 (green, this manuscript), 801 ABCA1 (grey, PDB 5XJY), and ABCA4 (red, PDB 7LKP) structures in digitonin. 802



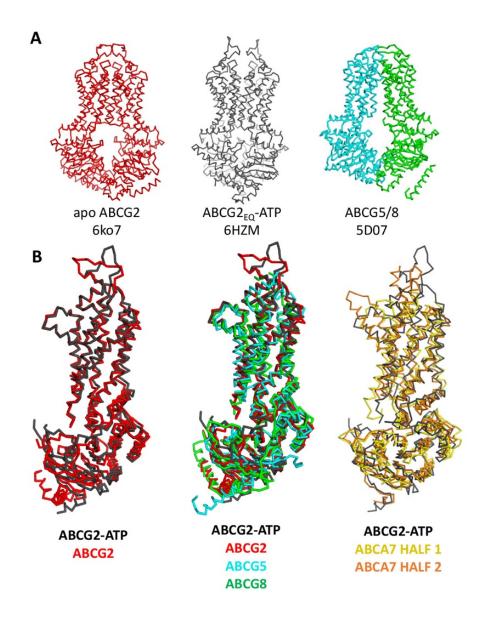
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Figure S5. ABCA7_{EQ-ATP} cryo-EM processing. (A) SEC peak for $ABCA7_{EQ-ATP}$ in nanodiscs. B Representative EM micrograph (-2.5 defocus) and rep 2D classes for $ABCA7_{EQ-ATP}$ sample. C Cryo-EM data processing pipeline. C2D = 2D Classification, C3D=3D classification, R3D = 3Drefinement. D FSC curves. E Local resolution colored EM map.



810 Figure S6. TMD-ECD interfaces of open and closed form ABCA7. (A) The TMD-ECD binding

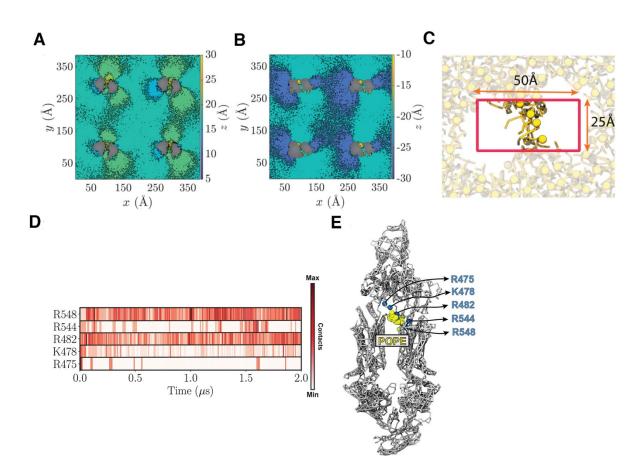
- 811 interfaces of ABCA7_{PE} with TMD1 and TMD2 and with C α for residues in TMD1 and TMD2
- 812 within 5Å of either ECD or vice versa shown as spheres. (B) The same analysis for the TMD-ECD
- 813 binding interfaces of ABCA7_{EQ-ATP} with closed cavity.
- 814



815

Figure S7. Conservation of ABCA and ABCG family structural elements (A) Ribbon representation of select ABCG family transporter structures and their respective PDB IDs including apo open ABCG2 (red), closed ATP bound structure of $ABCG2_{EQ}$ (black), and ABCG5/G8 (cyan and green, respectively) (B) Alignment of NBD-TMD pairs from open and closed conformations of ABCG2 (left), ABCG2 and ABCG5/G8 (center), and closed ABCG2 with TMD-NBD pairs from ABCA7 half 1 (gold) and half 2 (orange).

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824 Figure S8. Lipid configuration induced by protein copies in a POPC bilayer and criteria used 825 for identifying luminal lipids in MD simulations. (A/B) POPC headgroup height calculated for 826 extracellular (A) and cytoplasmic (B) leaflets. (C) Dimension and position of the box used to 827 calculate the number of phospholipids (yellow) partitioned in the TMD leaflets. The box is centered at the protein center and has dimensions of 50 Å and 25 Å in x and y directions, 828 829 respectively. The ABCA7 transporter is hidden for clarity. (D) Contact map, based on the number 830 of POPE headgroups in proximity of each residue throughout the simulation. (E) Accumulation of 831 POPE headgroups (yellow spheres) in close proximity of most frequently contacted residues 832 throughout the simulation.

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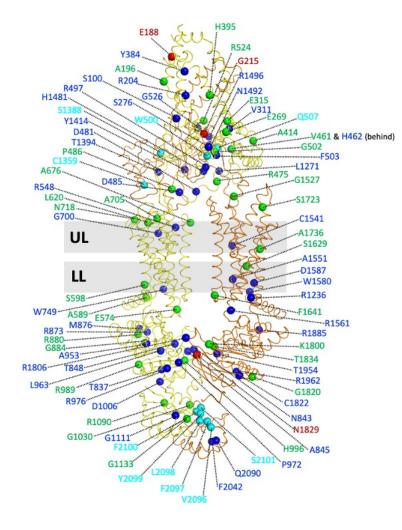
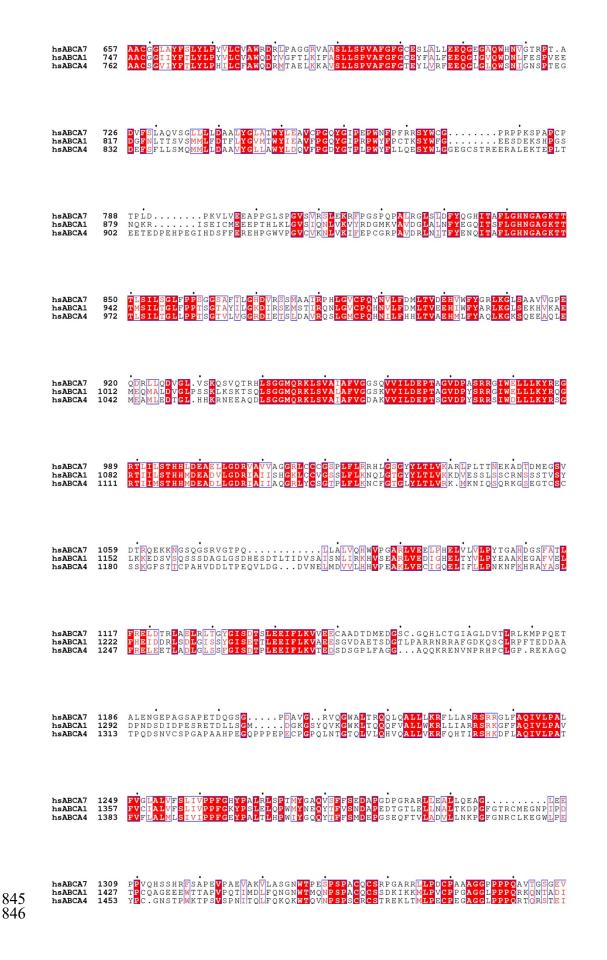
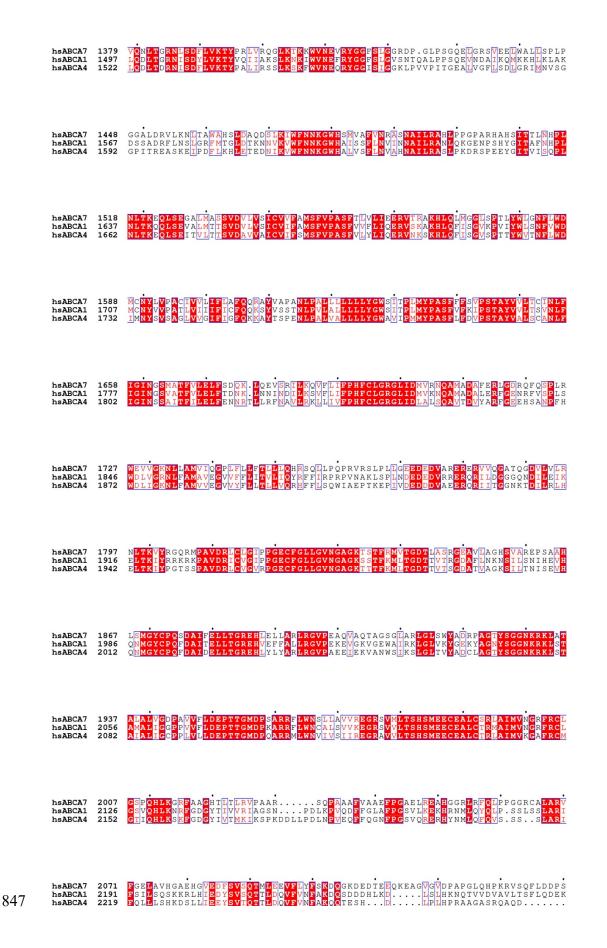


Figure S9. Amino acid positions of ABCA7 with variants associated with risk of AD. Structure
of ABCA7 with Cα atoms shown for amino acid with known pathogenic variants (green),
protective variants (red), and ABCA7 residues conserved in ABCA1 with mutations known to
disrupt the latter's binding to apoA1 and/or phospholipid translocation (blue). Cyan spheres
highlight residue positions of ABCA1 mutations known to disrupt phospholipid efflux including
those equivalent to the VFVNFA motif within the ABCA1 RD. Grey bars indicate the upper
(extracellular) and lower (cytoplasmic) membrane bilayer leaflets (UL and LL, respectively).

hsABCA7	1	MAFWTQLMLLLWKNFMYRRROPVQLLVELLWPLFLFFILVAVRHSHPPLEHHECHFPNKPLPSAGTVPWL
hsABCA1	1	MacwpQlRLLLWKNLTFRRQTCQLLLEVAWPLFIFLILISVRLSYPPYEQHECHFPNKAMPSAGTDPWV
hsABCA4	1	MGFVRQLQLLLWKNWTLRKRQKIRFVVELVWPLSLFLVLIWURNANPLYSHHECHFPNKAMPSAGMDPWL
hsABCA7	71	QGLICNVNNTCFPQLTPGEBPGRESNFNDSLVSRELADARTVEGGASAHRTEAGEGKLTATERA
hsABCA1	71	QGIICNANNPCFRYPTPGEAFGVVGNFNKSIVARLFSDARREELYSQKDTSMKDMRKVERTEQQI
hsABCA4	71	QGIFCNVNNPCFQSPTPGESPGIVSNYNNSILARVYRDFQEEDMNAPESQHEGREWTEEHTESQFMDTER
hsABCA7	135	ARSTAQPQPTKQSPLEPPMLDVAEL.ITSILRTESL.
hsABCA1	136	KKSSSNLKLQDFLVDNETFSGFLYHNLSLPK <mark>S</mark> TVDKMLRADVILHKVFLQGYQ LHL TSL.CNGSKS
hsABCA4	141	THPERIAGRGIRIRDILKDEETLTLFLIKNIGLSD <mark>S</mark> VVYLLINSQVRPEQFAHGVPD L ALKDIACSEALL
hsABCA7 hsABCA1 hsABCA4	170 201 211	
hsABCA7	187	AEDIA <mark>QB</mark> LLALR <mark>S</mark> LVEIRALLQRPRGTSGPLE <mark>LISEALC</mark> SVRGPSTVGP <mark>SLNWYE</mark> ASDIMELV
hsABCA1	265	LGTLAOBLFSMRSWSDMRQEVMFLTNVNSSSSSTQIYQAVSRIVCGHPEGGGLKIKSLNWYEDNNYKALF
hsABCA4	280	MSPRI <mark>QB</mark> FIHRP <mark>SMQDL</mark> LWVTRPLMQNGGPETFTKLMG <mark>ILS</mark> DLLCGYPEGGGSRVL <mark>SFNWYE</mark> DNNYKAFL
hsABCA7	251	GQEPESALPDSSLSPACSELIGALDSHPLSRLLWRRLKPLILGKLLFAPDTBFTRKLMAQVNRTFE
hsABCA1	335	GGNGTEEDAETFYDNSTIPPYCNDLMKNLBSSPLSRIIWKALKPLVGKILYTPDTPATRQVMAEVNKTFQ
hsABCA4	350	GIDSTRKDPIYSYDRRTTSFCNALIQSLBSNPLTKIAWRAAKPLLMGKILYTPDSPAARRILKNANSTFE
hsABCA7	317	ELTLLRDVREVWEMLGPRIFTFMNDSSNVAMLORLLOMODEGRROPRPGGRDHMEALRSFLDPG
hsABCA1	405	ELAVFHDLEGMWEELSPKTWTFMENSOEMDLVRMLLDSRDNDHFWEQQLDGLDWTAQDIVAFLAKHPEDV
hsABCA4	420	ELEHVRKLVKAWEEVGPOTWYFFDNSTOMNMIRDTLGNPTVKDFLNRQLGEEGITAEAILNFLYKGPRES
hsABCA7	381	SGGYSWQDAHADVGHLVGTLGRVTECLSIDKLEAAPSEAALVSRALQLLAEHRFWAGVVFLGPEDS
hsABCA1	475	Qssngsvytwreafnetnoairtisrfmecynlnklepiatevnlinksmellderkfwagivf
hsABCA4	490	QaddmanfdwrdifnitdrtLrlvngyleclvLdkfesyndetqLtgraLsileenmfwagvvf
hsABCA7	447	SDPTEHPTPDLGPGHVRIKIRMDIDVVTRTNKIRDRFWDPGPAADPLTDLRYVWGGFVYLODLVERAAVR
hsABCA1	539	. TGITPGSIELPHHVKVKIRMDIDNVERTNKIKDGYWDPGPRADPFEDMRYVWGGFAYLODVVEQAIIR
hsABCA4	554	. PDMYPWTSSLPPHVKVKIRMDIDVVERTNKIKDRYWDSGPRADPVEDFRYIWGGFAYLODMVEQGITR
hsABCA7	517	VLSGANPRA <mark>GLYLQOMPYPOYVDDVFLRVLSR</mark> SLPLFLTLAWIYSVTLTVKAVVREKETRLRDTMRAMGT
hsABCA1	607	VLTGTEKKTGVYMQQMPYPOYVDDIFLRVMSRSMPLFMTLAWIYSVAVIIIKGIVYEKEARLKETMRIMGI
hsABCA4	622	SQVQAEAPVGIYLQQMPYPOFVDDSFMIILNRCFPIFMVLAWIYSVSMTVKSIVLEKELRLKETLKNOGV
hsABCA7	587	SRAVLWLGWFLSCLGPFLLSAALLVLVLKLCDILPYSHPGVVELFLAAFAVATVIOSFLLSAFFSRANLA
hsABCA1	677	DNSILWFSWFISSLIPLLVSAGLLVVILKLCNLLPYSDPSVVEVFLSVFAVVTILOCFLISTLFSRANLA
hsABCA4	692	SNAVIMCTWFLDSFSIMSMSIFLLTIFIMHGRILHYSDPFILELFLLAFSTATIMLCFLLSTFFSKASLA





hsABCA7	2141	TAETVL
hsABCA1	2256	VKESYV
hsABCA4		
	hsABCA1	

848

849 Figure S10 Sequence alignment of human (hs) ABCA7, ABCA1, and ABCA4.

Dataset	ABCA7 _{BPL}		ABCA7 _{PE}	ABCA7 _{DIGITONIN}	ABCA7 _{EQ-ATP}
Magnification	96k		96k	96k	96k
Pixel Size (Å)	0.895		0.889	0.889	0/889
Total Dose (e/Å ²)	60		40	40	40
Defocus Range (um)	-0.8 to 2.6		-0.8 to 2.6	-0.8 to 2.6	-0.8 to 2.6
Maps	Map 1	Map 2	Map3	Map4	Map5
EMDB ID	EMD- 22996	EMD- 22998	EMD-A	EMD-B	EMD-C
# Particles in final Class	91381	124114	50704	149590	177230
Resolution (Å) (0.143 threshold)	3.6	3.2	4.0	3.9	3.7
Sharpening B factor					
Refined Coordinates	ABCA7 _{BPL}		ABCA7 _{PE}	ABCA7 _{DIGITONIN}	ABCA7 _{EQ-ATP}
PDB ID	AAAA		BBBB	CCCC	DDDD
# Residues/Non-	1801/14761		1846/14749	1856/4662	1871/14748
hydrogen Atoms					
Glycans	16		16	26	16
Ligands	21		20		2
R.M.S deviations					
Bond Length (Å)	0.003		0.003	0.003	0.003
Bond Angles (°)	0.616		0.600	0.678	0.645
MolProbity Statistics					
MolProbity Score	1.68		1.72	1.83	1.77
Clashscore	8.05		8.16	11.40	9.83
Poor rotamers (%)	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
Ramachandran statistics					
Favored (%)	96.38		95.84	96.24	96.22
Allowed (%)	3.62		4.16	3.76	3.78
Outliers (%)	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00

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852

⁸⁵¹ Table S1 Data collection and refinement statistics.