Rab10 regulates neuropeptide release by maintaining Ca^{2+} homeostasis and protein synthesis

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Abstract

Dense core vesicles (DCVs) transport and release various neuropeptides and neurotrophins that control diverse brain functions, but the DCV secretory pathway remains poorly understood. Here, we tested a prediction emerging from invertebrate studies about the crucial role of the intracellular trafficking GTPase Rab10, by assessing DCV exocytosis at single-cell resolution upon acute Rab10 depletion in mature mouse hippocampal neurons, to circumvent potential confounding effects of Rab10's established role in neurite outgrowth. We observed a significant inhibition of DCV exocytosis in Rab10-depleted neurons, whereas synaptic vesicle exocytosis was unaffected. However, rather than a direct involvement in DCV trafficking, this effect was attributed to two ER-dependent processes, ER-regulated intracellular Ca^{2+} dynamics and protein synthesis. Gene ontology analysis of differentially expressed proteins upon Rab10 depletion identified substantial alterations in synaptic and ER/ribosomal proteins, including the Ca^{2+}-pump SERCA2. In addition, ER morphology and dynamics were altered, ER Ca^{2+} levels were depleted and Ca^{2+} homeostasis was impaired in Rab10-depleted neurons. However, Ca^{2+} entry using a Ca^{2+} ionophore still triggered less DCV exocytosis. Instead, leucine supplementation, which enhances protein synthesis, largely rescued DCV exocytosis deficiency. We conclude that Rab10 is required for neuropeptide release by maintaining Ca^{2+} dynamics and regulating protein synthesis. Furthermore, DCV exocytosis appeared more dependent on (acute) protein synthesis than synaptic vesicle exocytosis.

Introduction

Dense core vesicles (DCVs) transport and release neuromodulators (neuropeptides, neurotrophic factors, and catecholamines) that play crucial roles in modulating diverse brain functions, including sleep, mood, memory, and learning (e.g., Cawley et al., 2016; Malva et al., 2012; Poo, 2001; Salio et al., 2006). Deficits in neuropeptide signaling pathways have been associated with several human disorders and diseases, including anxiety, depression, and obesity (Beck, 2000; Sah and Geracioti, 2013; Barde et al., 2022). Neuropeptides are synthesized in the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) and subsequently packaged into immature DCVs in the Golgi complex (Tooze et al., 2001). DCVs are transported along the neurites and undergo activity-dependent membrane fusion with the plasma membrane to release their content (Farina et al., 2015; Heidelberger et al., 1994; Nassal et al., 2022; Thomas et al., 1993; van de Bospoort et al., 2012). Despite the critical role of neuropeptides in brain functions, the regulatory mechanisms governing their secretion are not fully understood. We have shown previously that Rab3 is an essential regulator in the last steps of the DCV secretory pathway in mammalian neurons (Persoon et al., 2019). However, studies in invertebrates have also implicated other Rab proteins, including Rab2, Rab5, and Rab10, in the DCV secretory pathway: (Ailion et al., 2014; Azouz et al., 2014; Edwards et al., 2009; Hannemann et al., 2012; Lund et al., 2020; Sasidharan et al., 2012; Sumakovic et al., 2009).

Among these Rab proteins, Rab10 deficiency produces the strongest inhibition of neuropeptide release in *C. elegans* (Sasidharan et al., 2012). With its subcellular localization in many vesicular organelles, such as plasmalemmal precursor vesicles (PPVs), GLUT4 transport vesicles, and recycling endosomes, Rab10 regulates various aspects of intracellular membrane trafficking, including vesicle formation, transport, and fusion (Chen et al., 2006; Larance et al., 2005; Mîinea et al., 2005; Sano et al., 2007; Taylor et al., 2015). Rab10 deficiency leads to deficits in these pathways, resulting in impaired neuronal outgrowth and disrupted retrograde axonal transport of signaling factors (Lazo and Schiavo, 2023). How these deficits relate to the strong inhibition of DCV exocytosis remains unknown.

Deletion of Rab10 expression or inhibiting its functions by overexpression of an inactive mutant (Rab10T23N) leads to abnormal ER morphology (English and Voeltz, 2013; Lv et al., 2015; Shih and Hsueh, 2016). Since the ER is a crucial organelle involved in protein synthesis, Ca^{2+} buffering, and lipid metabolism, alterations in its structure and function can

directly or indirectly affect neuronal secretory pathways. Indeed, several studies have

suggested the roles of the ER in the DCV pathway, such as the involvement of ER stress and

lipid levels in DCV production in *C. elegans* (Laurent et al., 2018; Valadas et al., 2018), and

the roles of ER Ca^{2+} as an internal Ca^{2+} source regulating somatodendritic dopamine release

in mouse substantia nigra neurons (Patel et al., 2009). Additionally, Rab10 mutations, altered

expression levels, or phosphorylation states are firmly associated with CNS disorders (Agola

et al., 2011; Cheng et al., 2005; Ishida et al., 2016; Kiral et al., 2018). Hence, the strong

inhibition of neuropeptide accumulation in coelomocytes in nematode Rab10 mutants may be

a direct or indirect effect of Rab10 loss of function on DCV exocytosis and Rab10-dependent

disease processes may (in part) be explained by DCV exocytosis impairment.

In the present study, we investigated the involvement of Rab10 in regulated secretion of

neuropeptides in mammalian neurons. We directly assessed DCV exocytosis at single-cell

resolution in mouse hippocampal neurons and confirmed that Rab10 is a crucial regulator of

DCV exocytosis also in mammalian systems, while not affecting synaptic vesicle (SV)

exocytosis. However, instead of having a direct role in the DCV secretory pathway, we

observed that Rab10 is involved in DCV exocytosis through ER-dependent processes,

especially reduced ER Ca^{2+} homeostasis and impaired global protein synthesis.

Supplementation with leucine known to boost protein synthesis, rescued the defects in DCV

exocytosis. We therefore conclude that Rab10 plays a central role in regulating DCV

exocytosis by maintaining Ca^{2+} homeostasis and protein synthesis.

Results

Rab10 regulates neuronal outgrowth but is dispensable for synaptogenesis and SV exocytosis under intense stimulation

To study the role of Rab10 in regulated secretion, we utilized a knockdown strategy since complete knockout of Rab10 results in lethality at cell and organismal levels (Lv et al., 2015). We selected two specific shRNA sequences, shRNA#9, and shRNA#11, to deplete Rab10 expression, and a scrambled sequence as control. In mouse cortical neurons infected with either shRNA#9 or shRNA#11 at day in vitro 0 (DIV0), we observed a 75-95% decrease in Rab10 expression at DIV14 (Figure 1A). Previous studies have shown that Rab10 regulates neuronal outgrowth (Fukuda, 2008; Hutagalung and Novick, 2011). Consistent with these findings, we observed a significantly reduced dendrite and axon length in neurons infected with shRNA#9 at DIV0 (Figure 1B-D, 1G).

To test the effects of Rab10 depletion on synaptogenesis, synaptic vesicles (SVs) were quantified using the endogenous marker synaptophysin-1 (Syp1). Syp1 staining exhibited a punctate distribution at DIV14, indicating the accumulation of SVs in boutons/synapses, and no changes in the number of puncta per μm neurite or the intensity of Syp1 puncta (Figure 1E-F). These data confirm that Rab10 regulates neurite outgrowth, but we found no evidence for a role in synaptogenesis.

To test whether Rab10 depletion affects SV exocytosis, hippocampal neurons were infected with the SV exocytosis reporter Synaptophysin-pHluorin (SypHy; Figure 1H; Granseth et al., 2006). SV exocytosis was triggered by high-frequency electrical stimulation (HFS, 5s 40-Hz). The total vesicle pool was measured by briefly superfusing Tyrode's solution containing 50 mM NH_4Cl. The fraction of fused SVs, determined by the ratio of SypHy intensity upon HFS to the maximum intensity upon NH_4Cl superfusion, was comparable in the two groups (Figure 1I-J). In addition, SV endocytosis, measured by the fluorescence decay of SypHy after HFS, was unaffected by Rab10 depletion (Figure 1K). Therefore, we conclude that Rab10 is dispensable for SV exocytosis under intense stimulation.

Rab10 is a major regulator of DCV exocytosis.

To investigate the role of Rab10 in neuropeptide release, we depleted Rab10 levels at DIV0, expressed the DCV exocytosis reporter NPY-pHluorin at DIV9-10, and performed live-cell

imaging at DIV14. Our previous studies have demonstrated that NPY-pHluorin almost

exclusively localizes to DCVs as indicated by its strong co-localization with endogenous

markers of DCVs, such as BDNF and the chromogranins CHGA and CHGB (Arora et al.,

2017; Dominguez et al., 2018; Persoon et al., 2019). To achieve single-vesicle resolution

analysis of DCV exocytosis, we used single cultured hippocampal neurons on glial micro-

islands. Neurons were stimulated by 16 trains of 50 action potentials (APs) at 50 Hz, a

protocol known to trigger robust DCV exocytosis (Balkowiec and Katz, 2002; Emperador-

Melero et al., 2018; Gärtner and Staiger, 2002; Hartmann et al., 2001; Moro et al., 2021;

Persoon et al., 2019). Fusion events were detected as a rapid appearance of fluorescent puncta

(Figure 2—figure supplement 1A-B). DCV exocytosis in Rab10 KD neurons was

significantly reduced by 60% compared to control neurons (Figure 2—figure supplement 1C-

D). Furthermore, the total number of DCVs was reduced by 30% in Rab10 KD neurons

(Figure 2—figure supplement 1E). The fusion fraction, which represents the number of DCV

fusion events relative to the remaining DCV pool after stimulation, was also significantly

decreased by 50% in Rab10 KD neurons (Figure 2—figure supplement 1F). Overexpression

of wild-type, knockdown-resistant Rab10 rescued DCV exocytosis deficits in Rab10 KD

neurons (Figure 2—figure supplement 1C-F).

To overcome the potential confounding effects of impaired neurite outgrowth (Figure 1) and

reduced total DCV pool (Figure 2—figure supplement 1) upon Rab10 depletion starting at

DIV0, we adopted a more acute approach to interfere with Rab10 function, and late enough

not to affect neuronal morphology and the total DCV pool. Neurons were transfected with

shRNA against Rab10 at DIV7, fixed at DIV14, and stained with markers for dendrites

(MAP2), axons (SMI312), and SVs (Syp1). Rab10 expression was reduced by 70% after 7

days of infection (Appendix 1—figure 3). No significant alterations in total dendrite length,

axon length (Figure 2A-C, 2E), or synapse density (Figure 2D) were observed in Rab10 KD

neurons under these conditions. Therefore, to eliminate confounding effects on

morphological parameters, we reevaluated DCV exocytosis and all further experiments in

neurons infected with shRNA at DIV7. DCV exocytosis in Rab10 KD neurons remained

significantly lower by 50% compared to control neurons (Figure 2F-I). The fusion fraction

was also significantly reduced by 65% in Rab10 KD neurons (Figure 2K). Overexpression of

wild-type Rab10 rescued DCV exocytosis deficits. No significant differences in the total

number of DCVs (Figure 2J), DCV transport (Figure 2—figure supplement 2A-2B, 2E), or

cargo loading (Figure 2—figure supplement 2F-K) were observed. Moreover, only 10% of

DCVs co-transport with Rab10 (Figure 2—figure supplement 3). Thus, these data indicate

that Rab10 depletion specifically inhibits activity-dependent neuropeptide release in

hippocampal neurons, without effects on DCV biogenesis, cargo loading, and transport and

independent of Rab10's established role in neuronal outgrowth.

Proteins involved in synaptic transmission and translation are severely dysregulated

upon Rab10 depletion.

To comprehensively investigate Rab10 function in mature neurons, mass spectrometry

proteomics was performed on Rab10 KD and control neurons at DIV14. A total of

approximately 5400 unique proteins were identified and quantified in two biological

replicates. The complete list of proteins quantified in this study is presented in Appendix 1-

figure 3. Only differentially expressed proteins detected with high confidence characterized

by a log2(fold change) > 0.56, and q-value < 0.01, were included in the subsequent analysis.

Among the dysregulated proteins, 71% were upregulated, while 29% were downregulated,

resulting in a significant dysregulation of 19% of the total protein pool in Rab10 KD neurons.

These data indicate that Rab10 depletion leads to major neuronal proteome dysregulation

within 7 days after initiating knockdown (Figure 3A).

To gain insights into the functional consequences of Rab10 depletion, we performed Gene

Ontology (GO) analysis using ClueGO (Bindea et al., 2009). This analysis revealed that

biological processes related to chemical synaptic transmission were notably affected by

Rab10 depletion (Figure 3B). In addition, several biological processes related to protein

synthesis, such as cytoplasmic translation and ribosomal large subunit biogenesis, were

among the top 5 terms with the lowest *p*-values (Figure 3B). Subcellular localization analysis

of these dysregulated proteins upon Rab10 depletion showed that cytosolic ribosomal

proteins were the most significantly affected, followed by dendritic proteins (Figure 3C).

Further characterization of the dysregulated synaptic proteins was performed using SynGO

(Koopmans et al., 2019). Among the 391 significantly dysregulated proteins annotated in

SynGO, 205 were classified as presynaptic proteins and 237 as postsynaptic proteins. GO

enrichment analysis revealed that biological processes in metabolism were most dysregulated

upon Rab10 depletion. Among them, both pre and postsynaptic translation were significantly

dysregulated (Figure 3D). Consistent with the ClueGO analysis, SynGO highlighted a

significant dysregulation of presynaptic (34 of 391) and postsynaptic ribosomal proteins (44

of 391), supporting the involvement of Rab10 in the regulation of neuronal protein synthesis

(Figure 3E). Interestingly, all dysregulated ribosomal proteins were upregulated upon Rab10

depletion, which contrasts with the mostly downregulated expression observed in the other

classes of proteins (such as synaptic and cytoskeletal proteins) (Figure 3F-G). Taken

together, GO analysis with both ClueGO and SynGO indicates a dysfunction of protein

translation in Rab10 KD neurons.

Loss of Rab10 expression has been associated with altered ER morphology in mouse

embryonic cells (Lv et al., 2015), which may explain the selective upregulation of proteins

involved in ribosome function in our proteomics data. Indeed, ER proteins were dysregulated

substantially upon Rab10 depletion. Specifically, several rough ER proteins showed

differential regulation, with SEC61A1 being upregulated, SEC61G being downregulated, and

CLIMP remaining unchanged (Figure 3H). Most tubular ER proteins, such as RTN3/4 and

VAPB, were robustly decreased. Interestingly, one of the ER membrane Ca^{2+} channels,

SERCA2, showed a 50% reduction upon Rab10 depletion (Figure 3H).

Taken together, these analyses reveal that Rab10 depletion leads to major changes in protein

expression, especially synaptic and ribosomal proteins, the latter all upregulated in Rab10-

depleted neurons which suggests that protein synthesis is dysregulated, potentially due to

altered ER function.

Rab10 regulates ER morphology and ribosomal protein levels.

Given the substantial dysregulation of synapse and ribosome/ER proteins, we investigated

synapses and ER further using electron microscopy (Figure 4). These analyses revealed an

apparently normal synapse morphology in Rab10 depleted neurons with many SVs clustered

at the active zone, while DCVs were sparsely distributed along neurites and near the active

zone (Figure 4A). The length of the active zone (AZ) and postsynaptic density (PSD) were

both decreased by 10% upon Rab10 depletion (Figure 4C-D). However, other parameters of

synaptic ultrastructure, such as the diameter of SVs or DCVs, and the number of SVs per

synapse, were unchanged in Rab10 KD neurons (Figure 4E-H). Hence, despite substantial

dysregulation of synaptic proteins, overall synapse morphology was hardly affected.

Tubular ER was also observed in some presynaptic sections, consistent with previous studies

(Deng et al., 2021; Droz et al., 1975; Wu et al., 2017). The percentage of synaptic sections

containing tubular ER was decreased by 24% (37% in Control versus 28% in Rab10 KD).

Rough ER (rER) was also studied in the somata of Rab10 depleted and control neurons

(Figure 4I). The diameter of rER tubes was reduced by 15% in Rab10 KD neurons. Hence,

the substantial dysregulation of ribosomal and ER proteins in Rab10-depleted neurons was

accompanied by changes in the abundance of synaptic ER and small changes in ER

morphology in the soma.

To study these effects on ER abundance and morphology further, we performed

immunofluorescence staining for two endogenous ER markers, KDEL and RTN4. The

average fluorescence intensity of RTN4 and KDEL staining was significantly decreased by

35% and 25% respectively in Rab10 KD neurons (Figure 4—figure supplement 1A-C). The

relative distributions of RTN4 and KDEL in neurites, as calculated by the intensity ratio of

these two proteins in neurites over their somatic intensity, were reduced by 25% and 13%,

respectively (Figure 4—figure supplement 1D-E). In conclusion, the ultrastructural changes

in ER abundance and morphology upon Rab10 depletion were accompanied by altered

distribution of axonal ER, without affecting the ultrastructure of SVs and DCVs.

Finally, given the dynamic nature of ER tubular networks and the involvement of Rab10 in

ER tubule extension in COS- 7 cells (English and Voeltz, 2013), we tested ER dynamics in

Rab10 KD and control neurons expressing the luminal ER marker mCherry-ER3 using live-

cell imaging at DIV8, and performed FRAP experiments at DIV14. The recovery of

mCherry-ER3 intensity after photobleaching was significantly slower in Rab10 KD neurons

with only 50% recovery within three minutes, compared to 80% recovery in control neurons

(Figure 4—figure supplement 2C). Collectively, these data indicate that Rab10 depletion

leads to reduced levels of ER-resident proteins altered ER abundance and morphology, and

impaired ER dynamics.

Rab10 regulates SERCA2 levels and ER Ca^{2+} homeostasis.

The ER is the largest internal Ca^{2+} source in neurons and plays a crucial role in maintaining

neuronal Ca^{2+} homeostasis (Karagas and Venkatachalam, 2019). The maintenance of ER

Ca^{2+} primarily relies on the Sarco Endoplasmic Reticulum Calcium ATPase (SERCA), a Ca^{2+}

pump. Among the three major paralogs of SERCA, SERCA2 is particularly enriched in

neurons (Britzolaki et al., 2018; Periasamy and Kalyanasundaram, 2007; Xu and Van

Remmen, 2021). Consistent with the proteomic analysis which revealed a reduced SERCA2

expression upon Rab10 depletion (Figure 3), immunoblotting confirmed the reduction of

SERCA2 levels, showing a 50% reduction in Rab10 KD neurons (Figure 5A-5B). Therefore,

ER alternations in Rab10 KD neurons may disrupt Ca^{2+} homeostasis, which is essential for

DCV exocytosis.

To test this, we next measured the Ca^{2+} concentration in ER ($[Ca^{2+}]_{ER}$) using the ER Ca^{2+}

indicator ER-GCaMP6 (de Juan-Sanz et al., 2017). We observed a reduction in $[Ca^{2+}]_{ER}$ in

soma from 130 μM in control neurons to about 70 μM in Rab10-depleted neurons (Figure

5C). $[Ca^{2+}]_{ER}$ in neuritis was also reduced by 15% in Rab10 KD neurons (Figure 5D). The

reduction of $[Ca^{2+}]_{ER}$ was rescued by the expression of a knockdown-resistant Rab10

construct. To validate this observation, we assessed ER Ca^{2+} homeostasis indirectly by

measuring the effect of caffeine on cytosolic Ca^{2+} concentration. As expected, in the absence

of extracellular Ca^{2+}, caffeine application (1 μM) triggered an increase in cytosolic Ca^{2+} due

to Ca^{2+} release from the ER in both wild-type and Rab10 depleted neurons. However, the

peak and the area of the caffeine-induced Ca^{2+} response curves were both reduced by 30% in

Rab10 KD neurons (Figure 5—figure supplement 1).

Furthermore, we examined ER Ca^{2+} dynamics following a 10-minute caffeine treatment.

Caffeine activates the ryanodine receptor (RyR), leading to the depletion of ER Ca^{2+} (Endo,

1975; Fujimoto et al., 1980). As expected, perfusion with caffeine-induced ER

Ca^{2+} depletion, followed by recovery towards pre-stimulation levels (Figure 5F-G). In wild-

type neurons, Ca^{2+} levels were recovered by 90% at T=190 s. However, the refilling of ER

Ca2+ was significantly delayed in Rab10 KD neurons or GDP-Rab10 expressing neurons.

Ca2+ levels were only recovered by 50% at T=190 s (Figure 5G-H) in these neurons.

Finally, to investigate the consequence of the ER Ca^{2+} depletion on neuronal Ca^{2+}

homeostasis in Rab10 KD neurons, we measured cytosolic Ca^{2+} responses triggered by action

potentials (AP) using the Ca^{2+} indicator Fluo5F (Figure 6A-C) and the genetically encoded

Synaptophysin-GCaMP6 (Figure 6D-F). The AP-induced Ca^{2+} responses in the soma, as

measured by Fluo5F, were reduced by 40% upon Rab10 depletion (Figure 6C). Similarly, the

AP-induced Ca^{2+} responses in presynaptic nerve terminals, measured by Synaptophysin-

GCaMP6, were also reduced (20%, Figure 6F), although this effect was smaller than the

effects of Rab10 KD on ER Ca^{2+} levels and Caffeine-induced ER Ca^{2+} depletion (Figure 5).

Taken together, these data suggest that Rab10 knockdown leads to ER Ca^{2+} depletion and

impairs neuronal Ca^{2+} homeostasis, which may be attributed to the reduced levels of

SERCA2 level and slower ER Ca^{2+} refilling and may contribute to the impaired DCV

exocytosis.

Rab10 depletion impairs ionomycin-induced DCV exocytosis.

To determine whether the impaired Ca^{2+} signaling explains the DCV exocytosis deficiency in

Rab10 KD neurons, we stimulated DCV exocytosis using the Ca^{2+} ionophore ionomycin.

This approach bypasses cellular Ca^{2+} homeostasis and artificially increases the intracellular

Ca^{2+} concentration enough to trigger DCV exocytosis (Persoon et al., 2019). Unexpectedly,

DCV exocytosis was still reduced in Rab10 KD neurons (Figure 7A-B). Although the

reduction was substantial, 45%, this impairment was not as substantial as observed for action

potential-induced DCV exocytosis (65%, Figure 2K). The total number of DCV was nearly

identical between control and Rab10 KD neurons (Figure 7D). Thus, although a minor

fraction of the DCV exocytosis deficits may be explained by impaired Ca^{2+} signaling

(difference between 45% and 65%), other deficits explain most of the DCV exocytosis

deficiency in Rab10 KD neurons.

Rab10 regulates neuronal protein synthesis.

Since significant dysregulation of ER markers and ribosomal proteins was observed upon

Rab10 depletion, we investigated the effects of Rab10 on protein synthesis using SUnSET to

detect nascent peptides formed during puromycin pulse labeling (Schmidt et al., 2009).

SUnSET analysis revealed that global protein synthesis was reduced by 30% upon Rab10

depletion (Figure 8A-B).

Protein synthesis impairments may be rescued by supplementation with leucine, a branched-

chain amino acid, that promotes protein synthesis by activating the mTOR pathway

(Ananieva et al., 2016). To test this in Rab10 KD neurons, additional L-leucine was added to

the culture medium to increase the concentration to 5 mM for three days. Indeed, 5mM

leucine supplementation significantly restored global protein synthesis deficits caused by

Rab10 depletion (Figure 8A-B).

Finally, a similar impairment in global protein synthesis was observed when a loss-of-

function mutant of Rab10 (Rab10T23N) was overexpressed in wild-type neurons (Figure 8A-

B). The deficit in protein translation is unlikely attributable to the upregulated mTORC1

signaling as the relative phosphorylation level of pS6K1 was unaffected in Rab10 KD

neurons (figure 8-figure supplement 1). Thus, Rab10 depletion or Rab10T23N expression reduces global protein synthesis in neurons, probably by dysregulation of ER and ribosomal function.

Leucine supplementation restores normal DCV exocytosis.

We hypothesized that protein synthesis deficits in Rab10-depleted neurons explain most of the impaired DCV exocytosis (in addition to a minor fraction explained by disturbed Ca^{2+}-homeostasis, see above) and tested whether leucine supplementation could rescue the DCV exocytosis deficits in Rab10 KD neurons. Rab10 depleted neurons expressing NPY-pHluorin were treated with 5mM leucine three days before live-cell imaging, or with dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) as a control. Leucine supplementation restored DCV exocytosis by 80% caused by Rab10 depletion but did not alter DCV exocytosis in control neurons (Figure 8C-F). However, leucine supplementation failed to rescue the defects in ER morphology in Rab10 KD neurons (figure 8-figure supplement 2).

These results suggest that impaired protein synthesis is a major factor contributing to DCV exocytosis deficits in Rab10-depleted neurons.

Discussion

In this study, we investigated the function of Rab10 in neuropeptide release in mature mouse hippocampal neurons. We found that DCV exocytosis triggered by action potential trains was reduced by 65% upon Rab10 depletion, whereas SV exocytosis was unaffected. In addition, we observed a depleted ER Ca^{2+} pool and an impaired action potential-induced Ca^{2+} response in Rab10 KD neurons. However, DCV exocytosis triggered by Ca^{2+}-ionophore ionomycin, a triggering method independent of Ca^{2+} channels and internal Ca^{2+}-stores, was also impaired, albeit to a lesser extent. Furthermore, ribosomal proteins were massively dysregulated, and protein synthesis was impeded upon Rab10 depletion. Finally, the DCV exocytosis deficit in Rab10 KD neurons was largely rescued by leucine supplementation. We conclude that the strong inhibition of DCV exocytosis upon Rab10 depletion is mostly due to protein synthesis deficiency and to a lesser extent by dysregulation of Ca^{2+} channels or internal Ca^{2+}-stores.

Rab10 regulates neurite outgrowth but not membrane homeostasis in mature neurons.

Rab10 is highly enriched in neurons and plays crucial roles in neuronal development (Taylor

et al., 2015; Wang et al., 2011; Xu et al., 2014). Consistent with these previous findings, we

observed a reduction of axonal and dendritic outgrowth in Rab10-depleted neurons. Also

consistent with previous findings in invertebrates (Sasidharan et al., 2012), we observed that

the endogenous levels of SV markers are unchanged, indicating that SV biogenesis was

unaffected. However, morphological characterization of neurons infected with shRNAs after

the first week in culture did not identify changes in the total length of dendrites or axons,

indicating that membrane homeostasis in mature neurons was unaffected by Rab10

knockdown. Therefore, the strong deficit in neuropeptide release in DIV7-infected neurons is

unlikely to be confounded by Rab10-dependent aspects of neuronal development.

Rab10 is crucial for DCV exocytosis.

In *C. elegans*, neuropeptide release was abolished in Rab10 deletion mutants (Sasidharan et

al., 2012). We observed a 60% reduction in neuropeptide release in Rab10-depleted mature

mouse hippocampal neurons. The difference in effect size could be explained by the

incomplete Rab10 depletion with shRNA silencing or by redundant pathways in mammals,

e.g. Rab10 and Rab8 are closely related paralogs and share many common effectors (Homma

et al., 2020).

Unlike Rab3, which travels together DCVs and exhibits a reduction of over 90% in DCV

exocytosis in its quadruple knock-out neurons (Persoon et al., 2019), Rab10 does not

typically travel with DCVs (Figure 2—figure supplement 3). In addition, no changes in DCV

size, puncta intensity, puncta distribution, travel velocity, or distance were detected in Rab10

KD neurons. We conclude that DCV exocytosis deficiency in Rab10-depleted neurons is not

caused by alterations in DCV biogenesis or transport and that Rab10 is not required for DCV

trafficking.

Although Rab10 is found in subcellular fractions enriched in synaptic vesicles (Takamori et

al., 2006; Taoufiq et al., 2020), it is dispensable for SV exocytosis. Evoked postsynaptic

currents (EPSCs) were unaffected in Rab10 mutants in *C. elegans* (Sasidharan et al., 2012).

In line with this, SV exocytosis was unaffected in Rab10-depleted hippocampal neurons.

These results indicate that Rab10 is selectively required for DCV exocytosis, not for SV

exocytosis. Strikingly, many synaptic proteins, including many involved in SV exocytosis,

are among the most severely dysregulated proteins upon Rab10 depletion. SV exocytosis may

be more resilient to acute protein changes (Sinha et al., 2011) than DCVs. In addition, vesicle

secretion properties are different for DCVs and SVs. Unlike SVs, which are secreted upon a

single electrical stimulation, DCVs need prolonged or more intense stimulation for the

induction of fusion. Thus, the regulatory effects of Rab10 on DCV exocytosis might be

amplified under prolonged stimulation.

Ca^{2+} homeostasis deficits contribute to DCV exocytosis deficits in Rab10 KD neurons.

Rab10 KD neurons showed depleted ER Ca^{2+} and impaired cytosolic Ca^{2+} responses. These

effects may contribute to the observed DCV exocytosis deficits. Ca^{2+} released from the ER

promotes DCV mobility and potentiates neuropeptide release via activating the CaMKII

pathway in *Drosophila* (Shakiryanova et al., 2007). However, this might not be the case in

mouse neurons since most axonal ER takes Ca^{2+} up from cytosol, instead of releasing it (de

Juan-Sanz et al., 2017). Secondly, triggering Ca^{2+} release from the ER did not alter DCV

transport and fusion (unpublished data from our lab). Finally, a previous study from our lab

has shown that CaMKII deficiency does not alter DCV exocytosis (Moro et al., 2020).

Hence, dysregulation of ER Ca^{2+} dynamics may not directly explain the observed DCV

exocytosis deficits in Rab10-depleted neurons. However, ER Ca^{2+} also regulates Ca^{2+} influx

by modulating L-type voltage-gated Ca^{2+} channels at the plasma membrane via a STIM1-

based feedback loop (de Juan-Sanz et al., 2017). Given the importance of Ca^{2+} influx for

DCV exocytosis, dysregulation of ER Ca^{2+} dynamics may indirectly explain DCV exocytosis

deficiency upon Rab10 depletion. However, Ionomycin-triggered DCV exocytosis, which

bypasses voltage-gated Ca^{2+} channels, was still reduced, albeit to a lesser extent compared to

action potential trains. This difference in effect size is consistent with a limited contribution

for dysregulation of Ca^{2+} dynamics and voltage-gated Ca^{2+} channels to explain the impaired

DCV exocytosis in Rab10 KD neurons, while the majority of this phenotype is explained by

deficits downstream of protein synthesis.

A role of Rab10 in protein synthesis largely explains DCV exocytosis deficiency in

Rab10 KD neurons.

In line with the previous study (Lv et al., 2015), which indicated alteration in ER morphology

in Rab10 KO embryonic cells. We observed impaired ER morphology and upregulated

ribosomal proteins upon Rab10 depletion. The upregulation of ribosomal proteins might be a

compensatory response to altered ER structure as mutation of other ER-shaping proteins,

such as VCP and ALT1, causes similar ribosomal abnormalities as Rab10 depletion (Shih

and Hsueh, 2016). Protein homeostasis is vital for neuronal function and deficiency in protein

translation is related to several CNS disorders (Cajigas et al., 2010; Holt et al., 2019; Koga et

al., 2011; Laguesse and Ron, 2020).

Dysregulation of ribosomes and ER is probably sufficient to explain the impaired protein

translation in Rab10 KD neurons. Depleted ER Ca^{2+} may induce ER stress (Arruda and

Hotamisligil, 2015; Fu et al., 2011) which may also contribute to protein translation

inhibition, but ATF4 levels are unaffected in Rab10 KD neurons, suggesting that ER stress is

at best limited (Figure 4—figure supplement 3A-B). In addition, Rab10 regulates the

retrograde transport of TrkB signaling endosomes (Lazo and Schiavo, 2023), which may

activate the CREB/mTOR pathway and promote protein synthesis (Moya-Alvarado et al.,

2023). Hence, impaired TrkB transport may also contribute to impaired protein translation in

addition to dysregulated ribosomes in Rab10 KD neurons. We found that restoring protein

synthesis with leucine efficiently increased protein synthesis and largely restored DCV

exocytosis deficiency in Rab10-depleted neurons. We conclude that dysregulation of protein

synthesis results in DCV exocytosis deficits in these neurons.

In conclusion, our data demonstrate the importance of Rab10 in neuropeptide release and ER

homeostasis. We observed altered ER morphology, reduced ER Ca^{2+} concentration, impaired

protein synthesis, and impaired neuropeptide release in Rab10-depleted neurons. These

observations shed light on the pathogenesis of Rab10-related disease. In addition, we have

shown leucine can largely rescue deficiency in protein synthesis and neuropeptide release in

Rab10-depleted neurons, providing a potential treatment for disorders associated with

neuropeptide abnormalities such as depression and anxiety.

Contributions

Conceptualization: JD, RT, MV

Methodology: JD, MC, RD, JW, KWL, ABS, RT, MV

Investigation: JD, RT, MV

Visualization: JD, MC, KWL, JW, RT, MV

Funding acquisition: RT, MV

Supervision: RT, MV

Writing – original draft: JD, RT, MV

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Figures and figure legends

Figure 1: Rab10 is required for neuronal outgrowth but dispensable for SV exocytosis

evoked by intense stimulations.

(A) Representative immunoblotting showing knockdown and rescue of Rab10 expression in

cultured primary neurons infected with shRNA against Rab10 or rescue constructs (upper)

and quantification of Rab10 levels (bottom).

483  (B) Example images of control or Rab10 KD hippocampal neurons (DIV14) stained for the

484    dendrite marker MAP2 (blue), the synapse marker Syp1 (red), and the axonal marker SMI312

485    (green). Scale bar: 50 μm (upper) and 10 μm (bottom).

486  (C) Quantification of the dendritic length (MAP2).

487  (D) Quantification of the axonal length (SMI312).

488  (E) Quantification of Syp1 intensity per synapse per neuron.

489  (F) Quantification of the Syp1-positive synapse density in MAP2-positive dendrites.

490  (G) Sholl analysis showing the mean number of dendritic branches against the distance from the

491    soma.

492  (H) Example neurons infected with the SV fusion marker SypHy (upper), typical kymographs of

493    neurites showing SypHy intensity increase during stimulation and upon NH_4Cl superfusion

494    (bottom).

495  (I) The average signal SypHy from active synapses, normalized from baseline to maximum

496    fluorescence upon NH_4Cl superfusion.

497  (J) SV exocytosis determined as the ratio of the maximum SypHy intensity during stimulation to

498    the maximum during NH_4Cl stimulation.

499  (K) SV endocytosis determined as the SypHy signal decay time constant τ in the 60 s after field

500    stimulation.

501 All Data are plotted as mean±s.e.m. (A) N = 4, n = 4, one sample t-test. (C-G) Control: N = 3, n = 35;

502 ShRNA#9: N = 3, n = 32. (J, K) Control: N = 3, n = 56; ShRNA#9: N = 3, n = 56. (C-F, J, K) A one-

503 way ANOVA tested the significance of adding experimental group as a predictor . **** = p<0.0001,

504 ** = p<0.01, ns = not significant.

Figure 2: Rab10 is a major regulator of DCV exocytosis.

(A) Example images of control and Rab10 KD hippocampal neurons (DIV14) stained for MAP2 (blue), Syp1 (red) and SMI312 (green). Scale bar: 30 μm.

(B) Quantification of the dendritic length (MAP2).

(C) Quantification of the axonal length (SMI312).

(D) Quantification of the Syp1-positive synapse density in MAP2-positive dendrites.

(E) Sholl analysis showing the mean number of dendritic branches against the distance from the soma.

(F) Schematic representation of DCV fusion assay. DCVs are labeled with NPY-pHluorin, and neurons are stimulated with one train of 16 bursts of 50 APs at 50 Hz (light blue bars).

(G) Representative neurons during electrical stimulation superimposed with NPY-pHluorin fusion events (green dots). Scale bar: 5 μm.

(H) Cumulative plot of DCV fusion events per cell. Light blue bars represent the stimulation trains.

(I) Summary graph of DCV fusion events per cell.

(J) The total number of DCVs (total pool) of neurons analyzed in Figure 2H, measured as the number of NPY-pHluorin puncta upon NH_4Cl perfusion.

(K) Fraction of NPY-pHluorin-labeled DCV fusing during stimulation.

All Data are plotted as mean±s.e.m. (B-D) Control: N = 3, n = 31; ShRNA#9: N = 3, N = 28; ShRNA#11: N = 3, n = 31. (I-K) Control: N = 4, n = 36; shRNA#9: N = 4, N = 37; shRNA#11: N = 4, n = 30; Rescue: N = 4, n = 34. A one-way ANOVA tested the significance of adding experimental group as a predictor. **** = $p<0.0001$, *** = $p<0.001$, ** = $p<0.01$, * = $p <0.05$, ns = not significant.

Figure 2—figure supplement 1: Rab10 depletion at DIV0 impedes DCV fusion.

(A) Schematic representation of DCV fusion assay. DCVs are labeled with NPY-pHluorin, and
neurons are stimulated with one train of 16 bursts of 50 APs at 50 Hz (light blue bars).

(B) Representative neurons during electrode stimulation superimposed with NPY-pHluorin fusion
events (green dots). Scale bar: 10 μm.

(C) Cumulative plot of DCV fusion events per cell.

(D) Summary graph of DCV fusion events per cell.

(E) Total number of DCVs (total pool) of neurons, measured as the number of NPY-pHluorin
puncta upon NH_4Cl perfusion.

(F) Fraction of NPY-pHluorin-labeled DCV fusing during stimulation.

All Data are plotted as mean±s.e.m. (D-F) Control: N = 3, n = 26; Rab10 KD: N = 3, n = 47; Rescue:
N = 3, n = 22. (D-F) A one-way ANOVA tested the significance of adding experimental group as a
predictor. *** = p<0.001, ** = p<0.01, * = p <0.05.

DCV transport

A

NPY-mCherry

Control   Rab10 KD

10 s

10 μm

B

ns

Velocity (μm/s)

Control   Rab10 KD

C

ns

Distance (μm)

Control   Rab10 KD

D

% Vesicles

■ Control
■ Rab10 KD

Velocity (μm/s)

E

% Vesicles

■ Control
■ Rab10 KD

Distance moved (μm)

NPY-pHluorin properties

F

b

s

b

s

Max

Min

I

NPY-pHluorin ΔF/F₀

— Control   — Rab10 KD

Time (s)

J

ns

Baseline NPY-pHluorin (a.u.)

Control   Rab10 KD

K

ns

NPY-pHluorin fusion intensity

Control   Rab10 KD

Figure 2—figure supplement 2: Rab10 depletion does not affect DCV transport or

cargo loading.

(A) Representative kymographs illustrating the transport of NPY-mCherry labeled DCVs in

control and Rab10 KD neurons.

(B) Quantification of average velocity (μm/s) of control and Rab10 KD neurons.

(C) Quantification of average distance moved from the start (μm) of control and Rab10 KD

neurons.

(D) Histogram of average velocity (μm/s) of control and Rab10 KD neurons.

(E) Histogram of average distance moved from the start (μm) of control and Rab10 KD neurons.

(F) Typical neurite expressing NPY-pHluorin during baseline (b), and during stimulation (s).

(G) Average traces of NPY-pHluorin fusion events aligned at the moment of fusion (0 seconds).

(H) Quantification of NPY-pHluorin baseline fluorescence before stimulation.

(I) Quantification of average NPY-pHluorin fusion intensity per cell.

All Data are plotted as mean±s.e.m. (B, C) Control: N = 3, n = 18; Rab10 KD: N = 3, n = 17. (H, I)

Control: N = 3, n = 37; Rab10 KD: N = 3, n = 35. A one-way ANOVA tested the significance of

adding experimental group as a predictor. ns = not significant.

Figure 2—figure supplement 3: Rab10 does not typically co-transport together with

DCVs.

(A) Representative kymographs of neurons co-infected with Rab10-GFP and NPY-mCherry.

(B) Percentage moving DCVs that co-transport with Rab10. Data are plotted as mean±s.e.m (N =

3, n = 22).

Data are plotted as mean±s.e.m.

Figure 3: Depletion of Rab10 leads to dysregulation of proteins enriched in presynaptic transmission and cytosolic translation.

(A) Volcano plots showing significantly dysregulated proteins in Rab10 depleted neurons.

(B) GO enrichment analysis of functional pathways of the significant hits with ClueGO. Shown are the Bonferroni corrected p-values.

(C) GO enrichment analysis of subcellular localization of the significant hits with ClueGO. Shown are the Bonferroni corrected p-values.

(D) Sunburst plot showing the annotation in synaptic function of the altered proteins in Rab10 depleted neurons.

(E) Sunburst plot showing the annotation in synaptic location of the altered proteins in Rab10 depleted neurons.

(F) Log2 fold changes of synaptic proteins within SynGO terms. Downregulated proteins are
shown in blue and upregulated proteins are shown in black.
(G) Examples of proteins that are significantly affected by Rab10 depletion grouped by their
subcellular localization. Heat maps represent the degree of up- or downregulation.
(H) Selective MS data analysis of ER-related proteins in Rab10 KD neurons. Bars show the fold
change of the indicated peptides compared to the control.
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Figure 4: **Rab10 regulates synapse size and ER morphology.**
(A) Representative EM pictures showing the ultrastructure of synapses. Scale bar 100 nm.
Synaptic ER is indicated by red dotted lines.
(B) Representative EM pictures showing the ultrastructure of soma. Rough ER (rER) is indicated
by red dotted lines. M: mitochondrion, G: Golgi. Scale bar: 100 nm.
(C) Quantification of the length of active zone and postsynaptic density (PSD).
(D) Quantification of the length of postsynaptic density (PSD).
(E) Quantification of SV number per synapse and SV diameter.
(F) Quantification of SV diameter.
(G) Quantification of DCV diameter.
(H) Frequency distribution of DCVs by diameter.
(I) Quantification of the diameter of rough ER (rER).

Data are plotted with Superplot (Figure. 4C-G, I), where averages from three independent cultures are shown as large circles and single observations are shown as dots. Horizontal lines represent the means of the averages from three weeks. Data from different cultures are grouped with different colors. (C-D) Control: N = 3, n = 184; shRNA#9: N = 3, n = 187. (E) Control: N = 3, n = 189; shRNA#9: N = 3, n = 188. (F) Control: N = 3, n = 1770; shRNA#9: N = 3, n = 1803. (G) Control: N = 3, n = 137; shRNA#9: N = 3, n = 122. (I) Control: N = 3, n = 63; shRNA#9: N = 3, n = 64. (C-G, I) linear mixed model analysis. *** = p<0.001, * = p <0.05, ns = not significant.

Figure 4—figure supplement 1: Altered ER morphology in Rab10 KD neurons.

(A) Example images of control or Rab10 KD hippocampal neurons (DIV14) stained for the
dendrite marker MAP2 (green), two ER markers KDEL (red) and RTN4 (magenta). Scale bar:
50 μm.

(B) Quantification of RTN4 intensity in MAP2-positive dendrites.

(C) Quantification of KDEL intensity in MAP2-positive dendrites.

(D) The ratio of neuritic to somatic RTN4 intensity (N/S).

(E) The ratio of neuritic to somatic KDEL intensity (N/S).

618 All Data are plotted as mean±s.e.m. (B-D) Control: N = 3, n = 18; Rab10 KD: N = 3, n = 18; (B-D) A

619 one-way ANOVA tested the significance of adding experimental group as a predictor. **** =

620 p<0.0001, *** = p<0.001, ** = p<0.01, * = p <0.05.

Figure 4—figure supplement 2: Impaired ER dynamics in Rab10 KD neurons.

(A) Representative time-lapse of ER-mCherry3 signal before (upper), upon (middle) and after
(bottom) photobleaching.

(B) Average normalized ER-mCherry3 fluorescence recovery after photobleaching in control and
Rab10 KD hippocampal neurons.

(C) Normalized ER-mCherry3 fluorescence recovery after photobleaching at T = 220 s in control
and Rab10 KD hippocampal neurons.

All Data are plotted as mean±s.e.m. (B, C) Control: N = 3, n = 23; Rab10 KD: N = 3, n = 23; (B, C) A

one-way ANOVA tested the significance of adding experimental group as a predictor. **** =

p<0.0001.

Figure 4—figure supplement 3: Rab10 depletion does not increase ER stress.

(A) Representative images of wild-type (WT) neurons treated with vehicle (top) or tunicamycin
    (TM, middle) and Rab10 KD neurons treated with vehicle (bottom). Neurons were stained for
    ATF4 and MAP2. Scale bar: 50 μm.

(B) Quantification of ATF4 intensity in soma from each condition. All data are presented as
    mean±s.e.m. WT + vehicle: N = 2, n = 25; WT + vehicle: N = 2, n = 30; Rab10 KD + vehicle:
    N = 2, n = 14. A one-way ANOVA tested the significance of adding experimental group as a
    predictor. **** = p<0.0001, ns = not significant.

Figure 5: Reduced SERCA2 levels and impaired ER Ca^{2+} homeostasis in Rab10 KD neurons.

(A) Typical immunoblot showing reduced SERCA2 levels in Rab10 KD hippocampal neurons.

(B) Quantification of protein levels in Rab10 KD neurons normalized to control.

(C) Quantification of somatic ER Ca^{2+} concentration.

(D) Quantification of dendritic ER Ca^{2+} concentration.

(E) Representative image of a neuron infected with ER-GCaMP6-150 displayed with a pseudo

line. Scale bar: 3 μm.

(F) Typical kymographs of the somatic intensity of ER-GCaMP6-150 showing the intensity

decrease upon caffeine superfusion (red line), and the recovery in intensity after caffeine

washout. Scale bar: 10 s.

(G) Average normalized ER-GCaMP6-150 fluorescence recovery after caffeine treatment.

(H) Normalized ER-GCaMP6-150 fluorescence recovery after caffeine treatment at T = 190 s.

All Data are plotted as mean±s.e.m. (B) Control: N = 4, n = 4; Rab10 KD: N = 4, n = 4; (C-D)

Control: N = 3, n = 17; Rab10 KD: N = 3; n = 17; Rescue: N = 3, n = 17 (H) Control: N = 3, n = 23;

Rab10 KD: N = 3; n = 24; GDP-Rab10: n =3, n = 10; Rescue: N = 3, n = 24. A one-way ANOVA

tested the significance of adding experimental group as a predictor. **** = p<0.0001, *** = p<0.001,

** = p<0.01, ns = not significant.

Figure 5—figure supplement 1: Caffeine triggers less ER Ca^{2+} release in Rab10 KD neurons.

(A) Left: representative cytosolic Fluo-5 AM signals upon Caffeine perfusion. Right:

representative kymographs of cytosolic Fluo-5 AM signals upon caffeine perfusion in somas.

(B) Average traces of Fluo-5 AM signals.

(C) Quantification of the peak values of the Fluo-5 AM fluorescence traces upon caffeine

perfusion.

(D) Quantification of the area under the curve (AUC) of the Fluo-5 AM fluorescence traces upon

caffeine perfusion.

All Data are plotted as mean±s.e.m. (C, D) Control: N = 3, n = 44; Rab10 KD: N = 3, n = 35; (C, D)

A one-way ANOVA tested the significance of adding experimental group as a predictor. **** =

p<0.0001, ** = p<0.01.

Figure 6: Impaired neuronal Ca²⁺ influx triggered by electrical stimulation.

(A) Representative time-lapse of cytosolic Fluo-5 AM upon electrical stimulation (16 APs, 50Hz)

in somas of hippocampal neurons. Scale bar: 10 μm.

(B) Average normalized response of somatic Fluo-5 AM fluorescence upon stimulation (16 APs,

50Hz) in hippocampal neurons.

(C) Quantification of the area under the curve (AUC) of the Fluo-5 AM fluorescence traces.

(D) Typical neurons infected with Synaptophysin-GCaMP6 (upper), typical kymograph of a

neurite (bottom) showing Synaptophysin-GCaMP6 intensity increase upon electrical

stimulation (16 APs, 50Hz, blue bars). Scale bar: 5μm.

(E) Average normalized response of Synaptophysin-GCaMP6 fluorescence intensity at

presynaptic boutons upon stimulation (16 APs, 50Hz) in hippocampal neurons.

(F) Quantification of the area under the curve (AUC) of the Synaptophysin-GCaMP6

fluorescence traces in control and Rab10 KD neurons.

All Data are plotted as mean±s.e.m. (C) Control: N = 4, n = 24; Rab10 KD: N = 4, n = 30; Rescue: N

= 4, n = 27. (F) Control: N = 3, n = 33; Rab10 KD: N = 3; n = 27. A one-way ANOVA tested the

significance of adding experimental group as a predictor. ** = p<0.01, * = p <0.05, ns = not

significant.

Figure 7: Impaired DCV fusion induced by ionomycin in Rab10 KD neurons.

(A) Representative neurons during electrical stimulation superimposed with NPY- pHluorin

fusion events (green dots). Scale bar: 10 μm.

(B) Cumulative plot of DCV fusion events per cell.

(C) Fraction of NPY-pHluorin-labeled DCVs fusing during stimulation.

(D) The total number of DCVs (total pool) of neurons analyzed in Figure 7B, measured as the

number of NPY-pHluorin puncta upon NH_4Cl perfusion.

All Data are plotted as mean±s.e.m. (C, D) Control: N = 3, n = 20; Rab10 KD: N = 3, n = 21. (C, D)

A one-way ANOVA tested the significance of adding experimental group as a predictor. * = p <0.05,

ns = not significant.

Figure 8: Leucine supplementation ameliorates the deficits in protein synthesis and

neuropeptide release in Rab10 KD neurons.

(A) Representative western blot showing puromycinilated proteins as a measure for *de*

novo protein synthesis in each condition.

(B) Quantification of puromycin intensity in each condition.

(C) Representation of the DCV fusion assay. Leucine (5 μM) was added to the culture media and

incubated for 72 h before DCV fusion assay. DMSO (1‰) was used as a control.

(D) Cumulative plot of DCV fusion events per cell.

(E) Fraction of NPY-pHluorin-labeled DCVs fusing during stimulation.

(F) The total number of DCVs (total pool) of neurons analyzed in Figure 8D, E, measured as the
number of NPY-pHluorin puncta upon NH_4Cl perfusion.
All Data are plotted as mean±s.e.m. (B) All: N = 3, n = 3 (E, F) Control: N = 3, n = 47; Control + leu:
N = 3, n = 45; Rab10 KD: N = 3; n = 61; Rab10 + leu: N = 3, n = 54. Rab10 KD + Rab10: N = 3, n =
24. (B) One sample t-test. (E, F) A one-way ANOVA tested the significance of adding experimental
group as a predictor. ** = p<0.01, * = p <0.05, ns = not significant.

Figure 8—figure supplement 1: Rab10 depletion does not upregulate mTORC1 pathway
(A) Typical immunoblot showing pS6K1 levels in each condition.
(B) Quantification of relative pS6K1 levels in each condition. All Data are plotted as
mean±s.e.m. (B) Control, Control + Leu: N = 2, n = 2, Rab10 KD, Rab10 KD + Leu: N =
2, n = 4.

Figure 8—figure supplement 2: Leucine supplementation does not rescue ER

morphological deficiency in Rab10 KD neurons

(A) Typical examples showing the KDEL signals in each condition

(B) Quantification of RTN4 intensity in MAP2-positive dendrites.

(C) The ratio of neuritic to somatic RTN4 intensity (N/S).

All Data are plotted as mean±s.e.m. (B, C) Control: N = 3, n = 10; Rab10 KD: N = 3, n = 11; Rab10

KD + Leu: N = 3; n = 11. A one-way ANOVA tested the significance of adding experimental group

as a predictor. **** = p<0.0001, ns = not significant.

Figure 8—figure supplement 3: Overexpression of SERCA2 does not resuce the DCV fusion

deficits in Rab10 KD neurons.

(A)Typical examples showing the SERCA2 signals in each condition

(B) Cumulative plot of DCV fusion events per cell

(C) Summary graph of DCV fusion events per cell.

(D) Total number of DCVs (total pool) of neurons, measured as the number of NPY-pHluorin

puncta upon NH4Cl perfusion.

(E) Fraction of NPY-pHluorin-labeled DCV fusing during stimulation.

All Data are plotted as mean±s.e.m. (C-E) Control: N = 2, n = 10; Rab10 KD: N = 2, n = 13; SERCA2

OE: N = 2; n = 15. A one-way ANOVA tested the significance of adding experimental group as a

predictor. *** = p<0.001, ** = p<0.01, ns = not significant.

Materials and Methods

Key Resources Table

Reagent type (species) or resource	Designation	Source or reference	Identifiers	Additional information
gene (Mus musculus)	Rab10	NCBI	74173	
genetic reagent (Mus musculus)	C57BL/6 J	Charles River	Strain code 631	
genetic reagent (Rattus norvegicus)	Wistar (Crl:WI)	Charles River	Strain code 003	
antibody	MAP2 (chicken polyclonal)	Abcam	ab5392	1:200 (IF)
antibody	SMI312 (mouse polyclonal)	Eurogentec	SMI-312P-050	1:500 (IF)
antibody	synaptophysin 1 (guinea pig polyclonal)	Synaptic Systems	101004	1:500 (IF)
antibody	KDEL (mouse monoclonal)	Enzo Life Sciences	ADI-SPA-827-D	1:200 (IF)
antibody	RTN4 (rabbit polyclonal)	Novus Biologicals	NB100-56681	1:200 (IF)
antibody	SERCA2 (mouse monoclonal)	Santa Cruz	sc-376235	1:200 (IF)
antibody	Rab10	Protein Tech	11808-1-AP	1:2000 (WB)
antibody	Rab10	Abcam	Ab241060	1:2000 (WB)
antibody	Actin	Chemicon	MAB15	1:4000 (WB)
antibody	Puromycin	Bio Connect	MABE343	1:2500 (WB)

transfected construct (Mus musculus)	shRNA#9	This paper	-	Lentiviral construct to transfect and express the shRNA (see Materials and Methods)
transfected construct (Mus musculus)	shRNA#11	This paper	-	Lentiviral construct to transfect and express the shRNA (see Materials and Methods)
transfected construct (Mus musculus)	Control	This paper	-	Lentiviral construct to transfect and express the control (see Materials and Methods
recombinant DNA reagent	pLenti-Syn(pr)-NPY-pHluorin	PMID: 31679900	-	-
recombinant DNA reagent	pLenti-Syn(pr)-NPY-mCherry	PMID: 31679900	-	-
recombinant DNA reagent	pLenti-Syn(pr)-Synaptophysin-pHluorin	PMID: 34020952	-	-
recombinant DNA reagent	pLenti-Syn(pr)-Synaptophysin-GCaMP6	This paper	-	Generation of this reagent is described in Materials and Methods
recombinant DNA reagent	ER-GCaMP6-150	Addgene	#86918	-
recombinant DNA reagent	mCherry-ER3	Addgene	#55041	-
recombinant DNA reagent	EGFP-Rab10T23N	Addgene	#49545	-
peptide, recombinant protein	pLenti-Syn(pr)-Rab10-EGFP	This paper	-	Generation of this reagent is described in Materials and Methods

peptide, recombinant protein	2.5% trypsin	Gibco	15090046	-
peptide, recombinant protein	poly-L-ornithine	Worthington Biochemical Corporation	LS003127	-
peptide, recombinant protein	Laminin	Sigma Aldrich	L2020	-
peptide, recombinant protein	poly-D-lysine	Sigma Aldrich	P6407	-
peptide, recombinant protein	L-Leucine	Sigma Aldrich	L8000	-
peptide, recombinant protein	Tunicamycin	Sigma Aldrich	T7765-10MG	-
chemical compound, drug	Puromycin	Merck/Millipore	540222-25MG	-
chemical compound, drug	Ionomycin	Fisher Emergo	10429883	-
software, algorithm	TCE	Sigma Aldrich	115-20-8	-
software, algorithm	MATLAB	MathWorks	-	-
software, algorithm	Prism	GraphPad	-	-
other	Fiji/ImageJ	NIH	-	-

758 WB: western blot; IF: Immunofluorescence

Laboratory animals and primary cultures

All animals were bred and housed according to Institutional and Dutch governmental

guidelines and regulations. The primary neuronal culture was done as described before (Moro

et al., 2021; Persoon et al., 2019). Briefly, hippocampi or cortices were extracted from E18

wild type (WT) embryos in Hanks' balanced salt solution (Sigma Aldrich), supplemented

with 10mM HEPES (Gibco) and were digested with 0.25% trypsin (Gibco) for 20 min at

37°C. neurons were washed three times and dissociated with fire-polished Pasteur pipettes.

Dissociated neurons were spun down at 1000 rpm for 5 mins and resuspended in Neurobasal

medium (Gibco) supplemented with 2% B-27 (Gibco), 1.8% HEPES, 0.25% Glutamax
(Gibco) and 0.1% penicillin/streptomycin. For continental culture, hippocampal neurons were
plated at a density of 30,000 on pre-grown rat glia cells, generated by adding 25,000 glia cells
on 18 mm glass coverslips coated with 0.1 mg/ml poly-d-lysine (Sigma Aldrich) in 12-well
plates. For island culture, a density of 1,500 hippocampal neurons was plated on pre-grown
micro-glia islands, generated by plating 6,000 glia cells on 18 mm glass coverslips coated
with agarose and stamped with a solution of 0.1 mg/ml poly-d-lysine (Sigma Aldrich) and
0.7 mg/ml rat tail collagen (BD Biosciences). For western blot, cortical neurons were plated
at a density of 300,000 on 6-well plates coated with a solution of 0.0005% poly-l-ornithine
and laminin (2.5 µg/ml) (Sigma Aldrich). Neurons were kept in supplemented Neurobasal at
$37°C$ and 5% $CO2$ for 14-16 days (DIV 14 -16).

Plasmid and lentiviral infection

NPY-pHluorin, NPY-mCherry, and Synaptophysin-pHluorin plasmids have been described
(Persoon et al., 2019). Synaptophysin-GCaMP6 was generated by adding GCaMP6 to the C
terminus of the mouse sequence of synaptophysin as previously reported as previously
reported (de Juan-Sanz et al., 2017). ER-GCaMP6-150, mCherry-ER3, and Rab10T23N were
purchased from Addgene (ER-GCaMP6-150: #86918; mCherry-ER3: #55041; Rab10T23N:
#49545). Rab10-EGFP construct was obtained from a mouse cDNA library by PCR and
labeled with EGFP at the C terminus. The target sequences of shRNA are as follows:
CGATGCCTTCAATACCACCTT (shRNA#9), GAGAGTTGTACCGAAAGGCAA
(shRNA#11), TTC TCCGAACGTGTCACGT (Control, scramble),
CGATGCATTTAACACAACCTT (Rab10 resistant to shRNA#9).
All plasmids were sequenced-verified and packed into lentiviral particles as described
previously (Naldini et al., 1996).

Immunocytochemistry

Neurons were fixed at DIV14-16 in freshly prepared 3.7% paraformaldehyde (EMS) for 20
min at room temperature and permeabilized with 0.5% Triton X-100 (Fisher Chemical) for 5
min, blocked with 0.1% TritonX-100 and 2% normal goat serum for 30 min. Incubation with
primary antibodies was done at room temperature for 2 h or overnight at 4 °C. After three
times of PBS washing, neurons were incubated with Alexa Fluor conjugated secondary

antibodies (1:1,000; Invitrogen) for 1 h at room temperature. Coverslips were mounted in

Mowiol (Sigma Aldrich) and imaged on a Zeiss LSM 510 confocal laser-scanning

microscope (40 × objective; NA 1.3) with LSM510 software (version 3.2 Zeiss) or on an A1R

Nikon confocal microscope with LU4A laser unit (40 × objective; NA 1.3) with NIS elements

software (version 4.60, Nikon). Images were acquired as Z-stack at a step of 0.5 μm. All

acquisition settings were kept constant for scans within each experiment. All solutions were

in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS; 137 mM NaCl, 2.7 mM KCl, 10 mM Na2HPO4, 1.8 mM

KH2PO4, pH 7.4). Primary antibodies used were: MAP2 (Abcam 1:200), SMI312

(Eurogentec, 1:500), synaptophysin 1 (SySy, 1:500), KDEL (Enzo life science, 1:200), RTN4

(NB100-56681, 1:200), ATF4 (CST, 1:200). To measure ATF4 intensity, neurons were

treated with 5 μg/ml tunicamycin (TM; Sigma Aldrich) or DMSO as vehicle for 24 h before

fixation. Analysis of staining intensity was done with ImageJ. Analysis of neuronal

morphology, synapses, or DCV number was performed using the custom-made software

SynD (Schmitz et al., 2011).

Western blotting

Cortical neurons were lysed at DIV 14. Lysates were run on a 10 % SDS-PAGE gel and

transferred to a polyvinylidene difluoride membrane (Bio-Rad). Membranes were blocked

with 5% milk (Merck) in PBS with 0.1% Tween 20 for 1 hour at room temperature and

incubated in primary antibodies overnight at 4 °C. Secondary alkaline phosphatase–

conjugated antibodies (1:10,000; Jackson ImmunoResearch) were incubated for 50 min at

room temperature. Membranes were visualized with AttoPhos (Promega) and scanned with

an FLA-5000 fluorescent image analyzer (Fujifilm). Band intensities of interests were

analyzed using Fiji and normalized to the intensity of a loading control (actin).

For *de novo*-synthesised proteins quantification, surface sensing of translation (SUnSET) was

performed as previously described (Schmidt et al., 2009). In brief, neurons were incubated

with 2μM puromycin (InvivoGen) for 30 min before harvesting lysates. Puromycinylated

proteins were detected with the anti-puromycin antibody by WB. To measure the total protein

level, 2,2,2-Trichloroethanol (TCE, Lot # BCBK5461V, Sigma Aldrich) was dissolved in the

gel buffer (0.5%) and gels were scanned with Gel Doc EZ Imager (BIO-RAD).

Antibodies used for WB: actin (1:4000; Chemicon), SERCA2 (Santa Cruz, 1:1000), Rab10

(Proteintech, 1:2000), Rab10 (Abcam, 1:2000), Puromycin (Bio Connect, 1:2500).

Proteomics

DIV14 cortical neurons were prepared as previously described (Gonzalez-Lozano et al.,

2019). In brief, neurons were washed three times with ice-cold PBS. Then, 500µl PBS

supplemented with a protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche) was added to each well and neurons

were collected by gentle scraping. Neurons were centrifuged for 5 mins at 3000 g at 4 °C and

the pellet was collected and lysed in Laemmli loading buffer (4%SDS, 100mM Tris pH 6.8,

200mM DTT, 20% glycerol, 0.04% bromophenol blue). In-gel digestion was performed

overnight at 37 °C with MS grade endo Trypsin/LysC (Promega). The digested peptides were

dried using a speedvac and stored at -20 °C until further processed. An SDS-PAGE LC-

MS/MS approach was used for peptide identification as previously reported. SWATH data

were analyzed using Spectronaut 8.0 (49). The spectral library was created from the merging

of two data-dependent analyses of non-transfected hippocampal neuron culture and

hippocampal synaptosomes containing spike-in iRT peptides from Biognosys. The retention

time prediction was set to dynamic iRT; the cross-run normalization based on total peak areas

was enabled. Peptide abundances were exported and analyzed using R language for statistical

computation. Only peptides present in both control and transfected groups and quantified

with high confidence were included (i.e. q-value $\leq 10^{-3}$ over all samples in either group,

allowing for one outlier within each condition). Protein abundances were computed using

Spectronaut normalized peak area, and Loess normalized using the 'normalizeCyclicLoess'

function from the limma R package (fast method and 10 iterations) (50). Proteins with an

adjusted FDR ≤ 0.01 and Log2 fold change ≥ 0.56 were defined as significant hints. The

proteomics experiment presented in Fig 3 was conducted with two independent cultures with

four technical replicates for each condition. For the analysis, we only included peptides that

were consistently detected across all samples.

Bioinformatics

GO analysis on proteomics data was performed with Cytoscope plug-in ClueGO (Bindea et

al., 2009). The following settings were used for the biological process analysis in ClueGO:

Biological process (update: 25-05-2022), GO term grouping, GO tree interval was set 6-10,

GO term consists of min. 3 genes and min. 3% of the term. The GO fusion option was set as

true with a threshold of 50%. GO terms were grouped with a Kappa score threshold of 0.4

and named after the most significant GO term. Cellular component analysis: Cellular

component analysis (update: 25-05-2022), GO term grouping, GO tree interval was set 6-8,

GO term consists of min. 5 genes and min. 5% of the term. The GO fusion option was set as

true with a threshold of 50%. GO terms were grouped with a Kappa score threshold of 0.5

and named after the most significant GO term. All detected proteins were input as

background. Go analysis of synaptic proteins was done with SynGO as previously described

(Koopmans et al., 2019).

Electron microscopy

Hippocampal neurons plated on coated plates were infected with control or shRNA#9 at

DIV7 and fixed at DIV14 with 2.5% glutaraldehyde in 0.1 M cacodylate buffer (pH 7.4).

Samples were post-fixed for 1 h at room temperature in 1% osmium/1% ruthenium. After

dehydration by increasing ethanol concentrations (30%, 50%, 70%, 90%, 96% and 100%),

cells were embedded in EPON solution and polymerized for 72 h at 65°C. Glass coverslips

were removed by heating the sample with hot water. Regions with a high density of neurons

were selected under light microscopy and mounted on pre-polymerized EPON blocks.

Ultrathin sections (70-90 nm) were cut parallel to the cell monolayer and collected on single-

slot, formvar-coated copper grids, and stained in uranyl acetate and lead citrate (Leica EM

AC20). Sections were imaged in a JEOL1010 transmission electron microscope (JEOL) at 60

kV while being blinded for the experimental conditions. Synapses, somas, and DCV-rich

areas were photographed by a side-mounted Modera camera (EMSIS GmbH). For all

synaptic analyses, only synapses with intact synaptic plasma membranes with a recognizable

pre- and post-synaptic density and clear synaptic vesicle membranes were selected. DCV and

ER diameters were measured in iTEM software (Olympus) and synapse parameters were

quantified in a custom-written software running in MATLAB (MathWorks) while being

blinded for the experimental conditions.

Live-cell imaging

Neurons at DIV 14-16 were transferred to an imaging chamber and perfused with Tyrode's

solution (2 mM CaCl2, 2.5 mM KCl, 119 mM NaCl, 2 mM MgCl2, 30 mM glucose, 25 mM

HEPES; pH 7.4). Imaging was acquired on a custom build microscope (AxioObserver.Z1,

Zeiss) with 40 × oil objective (NA 1.3) and an EM-CCD camera (C9100-02; Hamamatsu,

pixel size 200 nm) unless otherwise specified. Electrode field stimulation was applied using a

stimulus generator (A-385, World Precision Instruments) controlled by a Master-8 (AMPI) to

deliver 1 ms pulses of 30 mA. Experiments were performed at room temperature.

For SypHy experiments, neurons were imaged for 30 s as a baseline and then stimulated with

electrical field stimulation for 5 s at 40 Hz. After 90 s, neurons were superfused with

modified Tyrode's solution containing NH_4Cl (2 mM $CaCl_2$, 2.5 mM KCl, 119 mM NaCl, 2

mM $MgCl_2$, 30 mM glucose, 25 mM Hepes, and 50 mM NH_4Cl (pH 7.4)) delivered by

gravity flow through a capillary placed above the neurons.

SV fusion analysis was performed as described previously (Moro et al., 2021). Briefly,

Regions of interest (ROIs) consisting of 6x6 pixels were placed on individual synapses

identified as increased signals after the NH_4Cl perfusion. Individual traces were analyzed

using a custom-made MATLAB (MathWorks) script. Synapses were quantified as active if

the maximum $\Delta F/F0$ value upon stimulation was $\geq 3 * StD(F0)$. Active synapses were pooled

per neuron. SV fusion fraction was calculated as the ΔFstimulation/ΔF NH_4Cl.

For DCV fusion experiments, the imaging included 30 s of baseline recording and then

stimulated with electrical field stimulation for 16 pulses of 50 AP at 50 Hz. Chemical

stimulation of 5 μM Ionomycin, (Fisher Emergo) dissolved in modified Tyrode's solution,

was applied through glass capillaries placed near the neuron by gravity flow. After 90s,

neurons were superfused with modified Tyrode's solution containing NH_4Cl. For the leucine

rescue experiment, neurons expressing NPY-pHluorin were treated with 5mM leucine three

days before live-cell imaging, or with dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) as a control.

DCV fusion events were analyzed as described previously (Persoon et al., 2019). Briefly,

DCV fusion events were detected by a rapid increase in fluorescence intensity. Regions of

interest (ROIs) consisting of 3x3 pixels were placed on the time-lapse recordings using a

custom-made script in Fiji. Resulting traces were evaluated using a custom-made script in

MATLAB, and only events with $F/F0 \geq 2$ SD and a rise time of less than 1 second were

recorded. F0 was calculated by averaging the first 10 frames of the time-lapse recording. The

total intracellular DCV pool was determined as the number of fluorescent puncta after the

superfusion of Tyrode's solution containing 50 mM NH_4Cl. The released fraction was

calculated by dividing the number of fusion events per neuron by the total intracellular pool

of DCVs.

For DCV transport experiments, neurons were imaged at DIV 14 in time-lapse recordings

(2Hz) at room temperature. Stacks were divided into 10x10 regions with the Grid function in

ImageJ, and transport was measured in five random regions (coordinates generated by

random number generation in MATLAB). Kymographs were generated in ImageJ

(MultipleKymograph, line width 3) and were analyzed with a deep learning-based software

(KymoButler) as previously described (Jakobs et al., 2019).

934 Ca²⁺ imaging

For cytosolic Ca^{2+} imaging, neurons were incubated with 1µM Fluo-5F-AM (Molecular

Probes, F14222; stock in DMSO) for 10 mins at 37 °C. For data shown in Figures 6D, E and

F neurons were perfused with normal Tyrode's solution and stimulated with the same pattern

used for DCV experiments.

For the caffeine-induced Ca^{2+} responses (Figure 5), neurons were perfused with Tyrode's

solution without Ca^{2+}. Fluorescent intensity in soma was measured with ImageJ. Normalized

$\Delta F/F0$ data was calculated per neuron after background subtraction.

For synaptic Ca^{2+} imaging, neurons were infected with Synaptophysin-GCaMP6 at DIV 8

and imaged at DIV 14. Neurons were perfused with normal Tyrode's solution and stimulated

with the same pattern used for DCV experiments. 20 neurite-located ROIs (6x6 pixels) and a

background ROI were measured per cell. Normalized $\Delta F/F0$ data was calculated per neuron

after background subtraction.

For ER Ca^{2+} measurement, neurons were infected with ER-GCAMP6-150 at DIV 8 and were

imaged at DIV 14 at room temperature. As previously described (de Juan-Sanz et al., 2017),

500 µM or 50 µM ionomycin was applied to saturate the ER-GCAMP6-150 signal in soma or

neurite respectively. $[Ca2+]_{ER}$ were calculated as follow:

$[Ca2+]_{ER}=Kd((Fr/Fmax-1/Rf)/(1-Fr/Fmax)^{1/}n$. Kd is the affinity constant of the indicator

(150 µM), Fr is the measured fluorescence at rest, Rf is the dynamic range (45) and n is the

Hill coefficient (1.6). Fmax values were not corrected for pH changes.

All Ca^{2+} imaging experiments were performed in an imaging buffer with an epifluorescence

microscope (Nikon Eclipse Ti) equipped with a 40X oil objective. Quantitative analysis and

image processing were performed using ImageJ.

962 Fluorescence recovery after photobleaching

Neurons were infected with mCherry-ER3 at DIV 9 and imaged at DIV 14 on a Nikon Ti-E

Eclipse inverted microscope controlled by NIS elements software. The acquisition was

performed with a 40X oil objective. After acquiring 10 pre-FRAP images (every 8.5 s), an

80-pixel long ROI on the proximal axon was photobleached with maximal laser power (10

iterations). Images were acquired for 300 s. The post-bleaching fluorescence intensity was

normalized to the baseline fluorescence (F0), which was defined as the average intensity of

10 frames before the onset of photobleaching.

Statistics

All Data are presented as mean ± SEM. Datasets on single neuron measurements consist of

several neuronal cultures (N = number of independent cultures). Within each culture,

different coverslips are infected with various viruses to create distinct experimental groups,

from which multiple observations (n = individual neurons) are taken. To account for the

nested nature of our datasets, a fixed linear regression was performed, in which culture was

included as a linear predictor. Possible outliers were identified using the ROUT method using

GraphPad Prism software and were excluded from the statistical analysis. A fixed linear

regression model was then fitted to the data using the lm() function in R. A one-way anova

(analysis of variance) was used to assess whether including the experimental group as a

second linear predictor (formula = y ~ Group + Culture) statistically improved the fit of a

model without group information (formula = y ~ 1 + Culture). Post-hoc analysis was

performed using emmeans() function with Turkey adjustment when more than two

experimental groups were present.

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